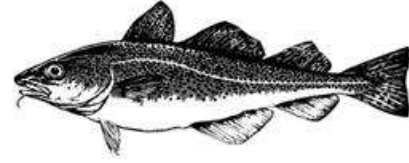


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



Sam Cotten, Commissioner

Scott Kelley, Director



Contact:

Asia Beder, BSAI Assistant Area Management Biologist
Miranda Westphal, BSAI Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 581-1239
Fax: (907) 581-1572

Dutch Harbor Area Office
P.O. Box 920587
Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692

Date Issued: 03/01/2018

**ALEUTIAN ISLANDS SUBDISTRICT STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD
SEASON OPENING FOR ALL STATE WATERS WEST OF 170° W LONGITUDE
and
CLOSURE OF THE PARALLEL SEASON FOR ALL STATE WATERS
WEST OF 170° W LONGITUDE
Emergency Order # 4-GF-05-18**

The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS) state-waters Pacific cod season will open in all state waters west of 170° W long to commercial fishing at 12:00 noon AKST on March 8, 2018. The parallel Pacific cod season will close for all gear types in all state waters of the AIS west of 170° W long on March 4, 2018 at 12:00 noon AKST.

The AIS state-waters Pacific cod season opened January 1, 2018 in the Adak Section (between 175° W long to 178° W long) to non-pelagic trawl, jig, or pot gear types vessels 60 feet or less overall length (OAL), and longline vessels 58 feet or less OAL. Beginning 12:00 noon March 8, 2018 the state-waters season will expand to include all state waters west of 170° W long to vessels 125 feet or less OAL using pot gear, vessels 100 feet or less OAL using nonpelagic trawl gear, and vessels 58 feet or less OAL using longline or jig gear.

All Pacific cod caught must be retained. The daily harvest limit for each vessel is 150,000 pounds (round weight) and no more than 150,000 pounds (round weight) of unprocessed Pacific cod may be on board a vessel at any time. All proceeds from overages will be surrendered to the state. Bycatch limits applicable in the parallel Pacific cod season will apply during the state-waters Pacific cod season.

Fishermen, tender operators, and processors, must register with the Dutch Harbor ADF&G office prior to participating in the state-waters season. Fishermen participating in the parallel Pacific cod season must complete a nonexclusive registration for the AIS state-waters Pacific cod season. Fishermen may not participate in federal and state-waters seasons concurrently.

Fisherman must report harvest to ADF&G on a daily basis unless otherwise instructed. Reports for the prior 24 hours (midnight to midnight) of fishing must be received by ADF&G in Dutch Harbor between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. every day. Reports will be taken by telephone (907-581-1239), text (907-512-7234), fax (907-581-1572), email (dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov), or satellite dispatch (1234).

During the 2018 AIS state-waters Pacific cod season, current Steller sea lion closures will be in effect, including no fishing zones, no transit areas, and the Seguam foraging area except that the Steller sea lion site at Kanaga/Ship Rock is only closed within 3 nautical miles (5 AAC 28.647(g)(1),(2),and (3)). Descriptions of closures in effect during a state-waters season and their coordinates are located in Tables 5 and 12 of 50 CFR part 679 posted on the NMFS website <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-679regs>.

For further information, contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

-end-

-end-