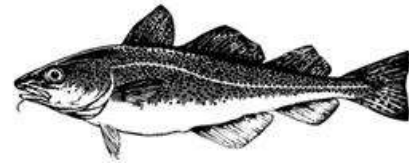


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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Date Issued: 03/21/2018

**Aleutian Islands Subdistrict State-Waters Pacific Cod Season Closure
and Opening of Parallel Pacific Cod Season
Emergency Order # 4-GF-06-18**

The state-waters Pacific cod season in the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict west of 170° W long, will close March 23, at 12:59 am AKDT. Catch reports indicate the guideline harvest level (GHL) will be achieved at the time of the closure. All groundfish pots must be open and unbaited at the time of the closure. Following the closure, open and unbaited pots may be stored at any depth for up to seven days. After seven days, all groundfish pots must be removed from the water or stored open and unbaited in waters 25 fathoms in depth or less.

State waters of the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict will immediately reopen to commercial fishing for Pacific cod at March 23, at 12:59 am AKDT, under parallel Pacific cod rules. Fishermen must deliver all Pacific cod retained during the state-waters season before participating in the parallel season.

During a parallel Pacific cod season in the Adak Section (175° W long to 178° W long), vessels may be no more than 60 feet overall length (OAL) using trawl, pot, mechanical jigging machine, and hand troll gear, and no more than 58 feet OAL for vessels using longline gear. Also within the Adak Section, Steller sea lion protection measures located in Table 5 of 50 CFR part 679 updated through November 25, 2014, posted on the NMFS website <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-11-25/pdf/2014-27658.pdf> and Table 12 of 50 CFR part 679 updated through January 2011, posted on the NMFS website <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-679regs>, are in effect except the Steller sea lion site at Kanaga/Ship Rock which is only closed within 3 nautical miles (5 AAC 28.087(b)(3)). Current NMFS Steller sea lion protection measures found in table 5 of 50 CFR part 679 updated through November 25, 2014 and Table 12 of 50 CFR part 679 updated through January 2011, apply to the remainder of the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict parallel Pacific cod fishery.

For further information, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

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