

**Fishery Management Report No. 16-08**

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**Fishery Management Plan for the Dutch Harbor  
Subdistrict State-Waters and Parallel Pacific Cod  
Seasons, 2016**

by

**Justin M. Leon**

February 2016

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



## Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the *Système International d'Unités* (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Sport Fish and of Commercial Fisheries: Fishery Manuscripts, Fishery Data Series Reports, Fishery Management Reports, and Special Publications. All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figure or figure captions.

<b>Weights and measures (metric)</b>		<b>General</b>		<b>Mathematics, statistics</b>	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code	AAC	<i>all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations</i>	
deciliter	dL	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	alternate hypothesis	$H_A$
gram	g	all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	base of natural logarithm	$e$
hectare	ha	at	@	catch per unit effort	CPUE
kilogram	kg	compass directions:		coefficient of variation	CV
kilometer	km	east	E	common test statistics	(F, t, $\chi^2$ , etc.)
liter	L	north	N	confidence interval	CI
meter	m	south	S	correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
milliliter	mL	west	W	correlation coefficient (simple)	r
millimeter	mm	copyright	©	covariance	cov
		corporate suffixes:		degree (angular)	°
<b>Weights and measures (English)</b>		Company	Co.	degrees of freedom	df
cubic feet per second	ft <sup>3</sup> /s	Corporation	Corp.	expected value	$E$
foot	ft	Incorporated	Inc.	greater than	>
gallon	gal	Limited	Ltd.	greater than or equal to	≥
inch	in	District of Columbia	D.C.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
mile	mi	et al (and others)	et al.	less than	<
nautical mile	nmi	et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	less than or equal to	≤
ounce	oz	exempli gratia	e.g.	logarithm (natural)	ln
pound	lb	(for example)		logarithm (base 10)	log
quart	qt	Federal Information Code	FIC	logarithm (specify base)	log <sub>2</sub> , etc.
yard	yd	id est (that is)	i.e.	minute (angular)	'
		latitude or longitude	lat. or long.	not significant	NS
<b>Time and temperature</b>		monetary symbols (U.S.)	\$, ¢	null hypothesis	$H_0$
day	d	months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan, ..., Dec	percent	%
degrees Celsius	°C	registered trademark	®	probability	P
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	trademark	™	probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	$\alpha$
degrees kelvin	K	United States (adjective)	U.S.	probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	$\beta$
hour	h	United States of America (noun)	USA	second (angular)	"
minute	min	U.S.C.	United States Code	standard deviation	SD
second	s	U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)	standard error	SE
				variance	
<b>Physics and chemistry</b>				population sample	Var var
all atomic symbols					
alternating current	AC				
ampere	A				
calorie	cal				
direct current	DC				
hertz	Hz				
horsepower	hp				
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH				
parts per million	ppm				
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰				
volts	V				
watts	W				

***FISHERY MANAGEMENT REPORT NO. 16-08***

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SUBDISTRICT STATE-WATERS AND PARALLEL PACIFIC COD  
SEASONS, 2016**

by

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Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services  
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February 2016

The Fishery Management Reports series was established in 1989 by the Division of Sport Fish for the publication of an overview of management activities and goals in a specific geographic area, and became a joint divisional series in 2004 with the Division of Commercial Fisheries. Fishery Management Reports are intended for fishery and other technical professionals, as well as lay persons. Fishery Management Reports are available through the Alaska State Library and on the Internet: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications/>. This publication has undergone regional peer review.

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## ABSTRACT

This document provides an overview of regulations governing the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS) state-waters and parallel Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* seasons. The 2016 DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is scheduled to open 7 days after closure of the initial federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands hook-and-line and pot catcher vessel Pacific cod season for vessels less than 60 feet in overall length (OAL) sector. Vessels participating in the state-waters Pacific cod season may not exceed 58 feet OAL and may only use groundfish pot gear. No more than 60 pots may be operated from a vessel. The guideline harvest level for the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is 6.4% of the estimated acceptable biological catch of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea subarea. Effective inseason management is dependent upon timely and accurate communication between fishermen and fish processors with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). In the absence of reliable inseason harvest information, ADF&G will adopt conservative management measures that may result in lost fishing opportunity.

Key words: Pacific cod, *Gadus macrocephalus*, Dutch Harbor Subdistrict, DHS, guideline harvest level, state-waters season, parallel season, Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands.

## INTRODUCTION

### AREA DESCRIPTION

The State of Alaska's Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Area for groundfish management consists of all state waters of Alaska (0–3 nmi) in the Bering Sea and that portion of the North Pacific Ocean adjacent to the Aleutian Islands west of 170° W long.

The Bering Sea District consists of all state waters of Alaska in the BSAI Area north of the latitude of Cape Sarichef (54°36' N lat.). The Aleutian Islands District consists of all state waters of Alaska in the BSAI Area south of the latitude of Cape Sarichef (54°36' N lat.).

The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS) consists of state waters of Alaska in the Aleutian Islands District east of 170° W long., state waters of the Bering Sea District west of 164° W long., and south of 55° 30' N lat. DHS is closed to fishing in Steller sea lion *Eumetopias jubatus* (SSL) protection areas, and closed to fishing south of 53° 06.11' N lat. (Figure 1).

### OVERVIEW

Two distinct Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* seasons occur within state waters of the DHS. First is a parallel fishery prosecuted concurrent to the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod season in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ; 3–200 nmi). The parallel season is managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) adopting most National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) rules and inseason management actions. The second Pacific cod season is the DHS state-waters season, which is an open-access fishery managed exclusively by ADF&G under the *Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan*, 5 AAC 28.648. The purpose of this document is to provide specific fishery management information for the 2016 DHS state-waters and parallel Pacific cod seasons.

### STELLER SEA LION CLOSURES

During the parallel Pacific cod season, current NMFS Steller sea lion (SSL) *Eumetopias jubatus* protection measures for Tables 5 and 12 will be in effect and are located at <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-679regs> or available from NMFS offices in Alaska.

During the state-waters Pacific cod season, SSL closures are as specified for the Bering Sea Area in Table 5, except the SSL haulouts for Umnak Island/Cape Aslik at 53° 25.00' N lat., 168° 24.50' W long., Uliaga at 53° 04.00' N lat., 169° 47.00' W long. to 53° 05.00' N lat., 169° 46.00' W long.,

and Kagamil at 53° 02.10' N lat., 169° 41.00' W long. are closed to the taking of Pacific cod within 3 nautical miles. In addition, during the state-waters season SSL protection measures are as specified in Table 12 of 50 CFR part 679.

## **BYCATCH**

In state waters, for species not actively managed by the State of Alaska, ADF&G adopts NMFS maximum retainable bycatch percentages applicable in the adjacent EEZ. Retainable bycatch percentages are subject to change and may differ between species. For groundfish species without a specified bycatch limit, up to 20% by weight of Pacific cod onboard the vessel may be retained. Black rockfish *Sebastes melanops* and dark rockfish *S. ciiatus* may only be retained up to 5% by weight of Pacific cod onboard the vessel. Federal BSAI retainable bycatch percentages are located in Table 11 of 50 CFR part 679 updated April 6, 2015, and are available on the NMFS website (<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-679regs>) or by contacting ADF&G in Dutch Harbor (Appendix A).

## **PARALLEL PACIFIC COD SEASON**

At the beginning of each year, ADF&G issues an emergency order opening parallel groundfish fishing seasons to coincide with federal groundfish seasons in the adjacent EEZ. The initial federal BSAI Pacific cod season opens January 1 for vessels using fixed gear and January 20 for vessels using trawl gear. When the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is open, the parallel season is closed to vessels 58 feet or less overall length (OAL) using pot gear.

Unless specifically prohibited by state regulation, the same gear types (except nonpelagic trawl gear is prohibited in specified waters of 5 AAC 39.164 (4)), seasons, and bycatch limits in the adjacent federal Pacific cod season apply in a parallel season (5 AAC 28.629 and 5 AAC 28.050). With the exception of vessels using mechanical jigging machines, all vessels that participate in a parallel Pacific cod season must have an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS; 5 AAC 28.087(c)). During a parallel Pacific cod season in the BSAI, vessels using longline gear may not exceed 58 feet in OAL (5 AAC 28.690(c)).

Fishermen must possess a 2016 statewide Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim use permit card for the appropriate gear type and vessel length. Fishermen participating in the parallel Pacific cod season are not required by the State of Alaska to possess a federal fishing permit (FFP) or Pacific cod gear endorsement administered through the federal License Limitation Program (LLP). However, it is the responsibility of fishermen who possess an FFP to understand applicable federal regulations, including regulations regarding observer coverage and logbook requirements. Fishermen that relinquish possession of an FFP for the parallel season are responsible for understanding federal regulations for the FFP's reissue.

Pacific cod harvested during the parallel fishery accrue toward the federal total allowable catch (TAC). The parallel Pacific cod season closes by sector when the TAC is reached or when incidental species allowances are met. For additional information regarding federal Pacific cod fisheries contact NMFS (Appendix A).

## **STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON**

The DHS state-waters Pacific cod fishery is guided by 5 AAC 28.648 *Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan*. The following is a description of regulations in effect for the 2016 season.



## **2016 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL**

The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is 35,979,072 pounds; 6.4% of the estimated acceptable biological catch (ABC) of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea subarea.

## **SEASON DATES**

The DHS state-waters Pacific cod season will open by emergency order 7 days after closure of the initial federal BSAI Pacific cod season for the hook-and-line (HAL)/pot gear catcher vessel (CV) less than 60 feet OAL sector. The state-waters season will close when the GHL is achieved.

If the federal BSAI Pacific cod HAL/pot gear CV less than 60 feet OAL sector receives a TAC reallocation, the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season may close to provide for orderly fisheries. If GHL is available at the time of the federal BSAI Pacific cod HAL/pot gear CV less than 60 feet OAL sector reallocation closure, the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season may reopen.

After October 1, if a substantial portion of the state-waters GHL remains unharvested and the GHL is unlikely to be achieved by December 31, gear limits, vessel size restrictions and exclusive registration requirements may be removed. The state-waters season shall remain open until the GHL is achieved or at the regulatory season closure date of December 31, whichever occurs first. All inseason management actions will be announced by ADF&G news release.

## **VESSEL SIZE RESTRICTION**

Vessels participating in the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season may not exceed 58 feet OAL, unless announced by news release.

## **REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

The DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is an exclusive registration area. Vessels registered for the 2016 DHS state-waters Pacific cod season may not register for any other exclusive or superexclusive state-waters Pacific cod season during 2016, but they may also participate in a nonexclusive state-waters Pacific cod season in the same calendar year. Conversely, if a vessel has registered for any other exclusive or superexclusive state-waters Pacific cod season outside of the DHS during 2016, that vessel may not participate in the 2016 DHS state-waters Pacific cod season. However, exclusive registration does not apply to federal or parallel Pacific cod fisheries.

All vessels must register with ADF&G prior to participating in the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season. Registrations may be obtained at ADF&G offices in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak, and also may be available at local processors in Akutan and King Cove. Fishermen must possess a 2016 CFEC interim use statewide miscellaneous finfish permit card for pot gear prior to registration. Contact information for ADF&G offices and CFEC are located in Appendix A.

Vessels may not simultaneously participate in a Pacific cod state-waters season and any other concurrent Pacific cod season. Vessels registered for the DHS state-waters season must invalidate their registration prior to participating in any other Pacific cod season. Fishermen may validate or invalidate vessel registrations by contacting ADF&G in Dutch Harbor (Appendix A) during normal state business hours (Monday–Friday, 8 AM to 4:30 PM). All Pacific cod must be delivered prior to validating or invalidating a DHS Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod registration.

## CATCH REPORTING

ADF&G will manage the DHS state-waters Pacific cod pot season using inseason catch reports and fish tickets. Fishermen will be required to report regularly during the fishing season. Fishermen **must report** the statistical area of harvest, number of pot lifts, and pounds of Pacific cod retained during the reporting period determined by the department. Catch reports will be taken by satellite dispatch service, single sideband (code sheets will be provided upon request at registration), phone, fax or electronic mail (Appendices B and C). Fishermen will be asked for their preferred reporting method when registering, and reporting worksheets will be issued at that time. Catch report periods will be determined at time of registration. In the absence of reliable inseason harvest information, ADF&G will adopt conservative management measures which may result in lost fishing opportunity.

## LEGAL GEAR, POT LIMIT, AND BUOY TAGS

Groundfish pot gear is the only legal gear type during the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season. During the DHS state-waters season, groundfish pots of any size may be used to take Pacific cod, although pot gear individual tunnel eye openings must be 36 inches in perimeter or less (5 AAC 28.050(e)). All pots must be equipped with a biodegradable escape mechanism (5 AAC 39.145 *Escape mechanism for shellfish and bottomfish pots*), located on a sidewall and placed within 6 inches of the bottom of the pot leaving an opening 18 inches or greater in length. The escape mechanism must be laced, sewn, or secured together by a single length of untreated 100% cotton biodegradable twine no larger than 30 thread count.

No more than 60 groundfish pots may be operated from a vessel unless otherwise announced by news release. Buoy tags are required for pot gear when the 60-pot limit is in effect. Tags must be placed on the main buoy or trailer buoy (5 AAC 28.050 (f)). **Buoy tags (\$2.00 per tag) will be available at ADF&G offices in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak and may be available in Akutan.** Only cash and check are acceptable payment methods for purchasing buoy tags. A valid 2016 CFEC interim use statewide miscellaneous finfish permit card for pot gear is required to register. Contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor (Appendix A) for additional information on buoy tags.

If buoy tags are lost during the season, replacement tags may be obtained by contacting ADF&G. The vessel owner, operator, or agent must complete and submit an affidavit form to ADF&G describing how tags were lost, and provide location and unique number of each lost tag. Pots with lost tags may remain in the water but those pots must be secured open with bait and bait containers removed until replacement tags are obtained.

## BUOY MARKING REQUIREMENTS

Buoys attached to groundfish pots must be marked with the permanent ADF&G vessel number that corresponds with the ADF&G vessel number operating that gear (5 AAC 28.050(b)). The buoy containing the 5-digit ADF&G number may not be marked with any additional numbers; however, symbols and letters are acceptable on this buoy. Trailer buoys used to mark ownership or string sequence may be marked with any desired numbers, symbols, or letters.

## POT STORAGE AND LANDING REQUIREMENTS

Following closure of a parallel or state-waters Pacific cod season, groundfish pots may be stored with all bait and bait containers removed and doors secured fully open in waters greater than 25 fathoms for a maximum of 7 days. After 7 days, groundfish pots must be removed from the

water or in storage condition in waters 25 fathoms or less. Contact NMFS Enforcement (Appendix A) regarding gear storage in federal waters.

Vessels participating in the state-waters Pacific cod season must deliver their catch within 48 hours after a season closure. Vessels may have Pacific cod onboard after the 48-hour period following a closure only when the vessel has been delayed due to extraordinary circumstances, and the vessel operator has contacted an ADF&G representative within 48 hours following the closure and has been granted additional time.

## **INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The DHS state-waters Pacific cod season will be managed using information gathered inseason from vessels, processors, and fish tickets. All inseason management actions during the state-waters season will be distributed via the ADF&G news release system (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), relayed through participating processors, and communicated to the fleet. ADF&G will make every effort to provide sufficient time for fishermen to configure gear for storage or to place gear onboard before a closure; however, the potential exists for short advance notice of a closure. Interested parties may also sign up for electronic mail delivery of news releases through the ADF&G news release system.

Weekly non-confidential harvest updates will be released while the state-waters season is open and are available inseason on the ADF&G website at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareaaleutianislands.groundfish> or by contacting ADF&G.



## **FIGURES**

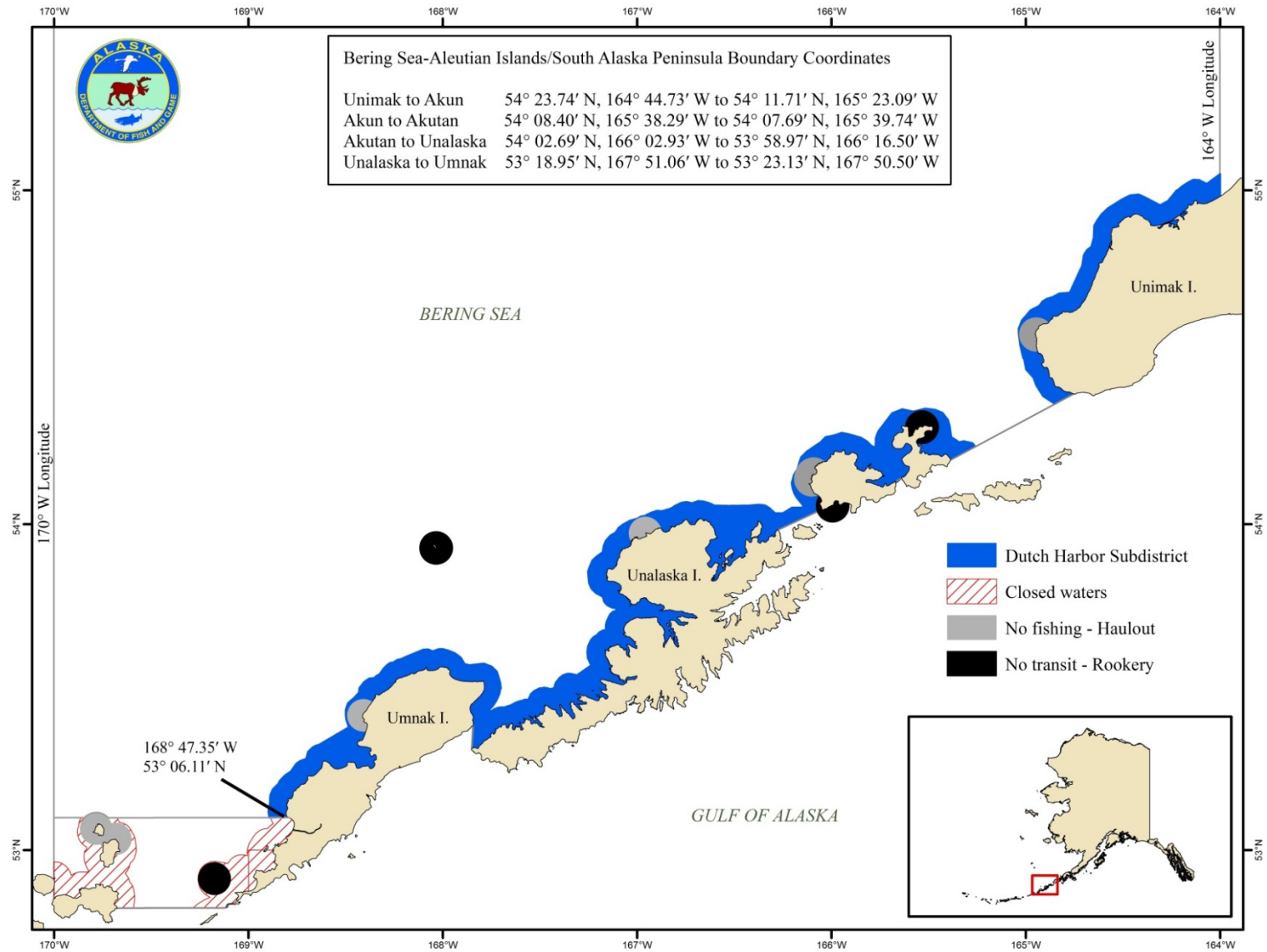


Figure 1.—Dutch Harbor Subdistrict for state-waters Pacific cod.

**APPENDIX A. LIST OF FISHERY CONTACTS BY AGENCY  
AND LOCATION**

Appendix A.–List of fishery contacts by agency and location.

<b>Alaska Department of Fish and Game</b>			website: <a href="http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/">http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/</a>
<u>Dutch Harbor Office</u>			
Mail Address: P.O. Box 920587 Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692	Physical Address: 2315 Airport Beach Road 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor, Suite 207 Dutch Harbor, Alaska	Phone: (907) 581-1239 Fax: (907) 581-1572 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov">dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov</a> Dispatch: #1234 SSB: 4125 kHz WIM76 Dutch Harbor	
Miranda Westphal, Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area Management Biologist		E-mail: <a href="mailto:miranda.westphal@alaska.gov">miranda.westphal@alaska.gov</a>	
Justin Leon, Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Asst. Area Management Biologist		E-mail: <a href="mailto:justin.leon@alaska.gov">justin.leon@alaska.gov</a>	
<u>Kodiak Office</u>			
Mail Address: 351 Research Court Kodiak, Alaska 99615	Physical Address: 351 Research Court Kodiak, Alaska	Phone: (907) 486-1840 Fax: (907) 486-1824	
Wayne Donaldson, Regional Groundfish Management Biologist		E-mail: <a href="mailto:wayne.donaldson@alaska.gov">wayne.donaldson@alaska.gov</a>	
Mark Stichert, Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Area Management Biologist		E-mail: <a href="mailto:mark.stichert@alaska.gov">mark.stichert@alaska.gov</a>	
Nathaniel Nichols, Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Asst. Area Management Biologist		E-mail: <a href="mailto:nathaniel.nichols@alaska.gov">nathaniel.nichols@alaska.gov</a>	
<b>Alaska Wildlife Troopers</b>			website: <a href="http://www.dps.state.ak.us/AWT/">http://www.dps.state.ak.us/AWT/</a>
<u>Dutch Harbor Office</u>			
Mail Address: P.O. Box 920848 Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692	Physical Address: 2315 Airport Beach Road, Suite 101 Dutch Harbor, Alaska	Phone: (907) 581-1432 Fax: (907) 581-1407	
Todd Machacek, Post Sergeant		E-mail: <a href="mailto:todd.machacek@alaska.gov">todd.machacek@alaska.gov</a>	
<b>Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC)</b>			website: <a href="http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/">http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/</a>
Mail Address: 8800 Glacier Highway Juneau, Alaska 99811-0302	Physical Address: 8800 Glacier Highway #109 Juneau, Alaska	Phone: (907) 789-6150 Fax: (907) 789-6170	
<b>National Marine Fisheries Service – Alaska Region</b>			website: <a href="http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/">http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/</a>
<u>Sustainable Fisheries Division</u>			
Krista Milani, Dutch Harbor Office		Phone: (907) 581-2062	
Mary Furuness, Juneau Office		Phone: (907) 586-7447	
<u>NOAA Fisheries Enforcement</u>			
Dutch Harbor Office		Phone: (907) 581-2061	
Anchorage Office		Phone: (907) 586-7225	
<u>NOAA Observer Program</u>			
Dutch Harbor Office		Phone: (907) 581-2060	
Seattle Office		Phone: (206) 526-4195	



## **APPENDIX B. EXAMPLE OF REPORTING WORKSHEETS**



**2016 Dutch Harbor Subdistrict State-waters  
Pacific Cod Inseason Reporting Worksheet**



Fishermen must report fishing information for the previous week (Monday to Sunday)  
WEEKLY on MONDAYS between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. to the Dutch Harbor Office.

**Do not combine reports.**

**If one or more reporting periods are missed, report each period individually.**

	Code Item 1	Code Item 2	Code Item 3
Date <sup>1</sup>	Statistical Area <sup>2</sup>	Pounds of Cod Retained <sup>3</sup>	Effort <sup>4</sup>

**WEEKLY TOTAL**

--	--	--	--

	Code Item 1	Code Item 2	Code Item 3
Date <sup>1</sup>	Statistical Area <sup>2</sup>	Pounds of Cod Retained <sup>3</sup>	Effort <sup>4</sup>

**WEEKLY TOTAL**

--	--	--	--

- <sup>1</sup> Previous 24 hours (midnight to midnight)
- <sup>2</sup> Area(s) fished in the past 24 hrs - stat areas if possible
- <sup>3</sup> Weight in pounds of retained cod in the past 24 hrs
- <sup>4</sup> Number of pots lifted in the past 24 hrs

**Inseason Reporting Contacts:**  
 ADF&G Dutch Harbor  
 Dispatch: #1234  
 Phone: (907) 581-1239  
 Fax: (907) 581-1572  
 SSB: 4125 kHz WIM 76 Dutch Harbor  
 E-Mail: dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov

