

**Fishery Management Plan for the Dutch Harbor  
Subdistrict State-Waters and Parallel Pacific Cod  
Seasons, 2023**

by

**Asia Beder**

December 2022

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries



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Weights and measures (metric)		General		Mathematics, statistics	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code		all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations	
deciliter	dL		AAC		
gram	g	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	alternate hypothesis	H <sub>A</sub>
hectare	ha			base of natural logarithm	<i>e</i>
kilogram	kg			catch per unit effort	CPUE
kilometer	km	all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	coefficient of variation	CV
liter	L			common test statistics	(F, t, $\chi^2$ , etc.)
meter	m	at	@	confidence interval	CI
milliliter	mL	compass directions:		correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
millimeter	mm	east	E	correlation coefficient (simple)	r
<b>Weights and measures (English)</b>		north	N	covariance	cov
cubic feet per second	ft <sup>3</sup> /s	south	S	degree (angular)	°
foot	ft	west	W	degrees of freedom	df
gallon	gal	copyright	©	expected value	<i>E</i>
inch	in	corporate suffixes:		greater than	>
mile	mi	Company	Co.	greater than or equal to	≥
nautical mile	nmi	Corporation	Corp.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
ounce	oz	Incorporated	Inc.	less than	<
pound	lb	Limited	Ltd.	less than or equal to	≤
quart	qt	District of Columbia	D.C.	logarithm (natural)	ln
yard	yd	et alii (and others)	et al.	logarithm (base 10)	log
<b>Time and temperature</b>		et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	logarithm (specify base)	log <sub>2</sub> , etc.
day	d	exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.	minute (angular)	'
degrees Celsius	°C	Federal Information Code	FIC	not significant	NS
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	id est (that is)	i.e.	null hypothesis	H <sub>0</sub>
degrees kelvin	K	latitude or longitude	lat or long	percent	%
hour	h	monetary symbols (U.S.)	\$, ¢	probability	P
minute	min	months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan.,...,Dec	probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	$\alpha$
second	s	registered trademark	®	probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	$\beta$
<b>Physics and chemistry</b>		trademark	™	second (angular)	"
all atomic symbols		United States (adjective)	U.S.	standard deviation	SD
alternating current	AC	United States of America (noun)	USA	standard error	SE
ampere	A	U.S.C.	United States Code	variance	
calorie	cal			population sample	Var var
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				

***REGIONAL INFORMATION REPORT NO. 4K22-14***

**FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE DUTCH HARBOR  
SUBDISTRICT STATE-WATERS AND PARALLEL PACIFIC COD  
SEASONS, 2023**

by  
Asia Beder

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Dutch Harbor

Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
Division of Commercial Fisheries,  
PO Box 920587  
Dutch Harbor, AK 99692

December 2022

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*Asia Beder,  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries,  
PO Box 920587, Dutch Harbor, AK 99692, USA*

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**For information on alternative formats and questions on this publication, please contact:**

ADF&G, Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services, 333 Raspberry Rd, Anchorage AK 99518 (907) 267-2375

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# ABSTRACT

The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS) state-waters Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* season is prosecuted in state waters of the Aleutian Islands District east of 170°W long and state waters of the Bering Sea District west of 162°30'W long and south of 55°30'N lat. and is closed to fishing south of 53°06.11'N lat. Legal gear for the state-waters seasons includes pot and mechanical jigging machine. The 2023 season guideline harvest level for pot gear is 38,316,000 pounds, which is 12% of the estimated Pacific cod acceptable biological catch for the federal Bering Sea Subarea. The 2023 season guideline harvest level for mechanical jigging machines is 100,000 pounds. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game also manages a parallel Pacific cod season in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict concurrent with adjacent federal Pacific cod seasons, except where a state-waters Pacific cod season is open. Harvest in the parallel season accrues toward the federal Pacific cod total allowable catch.

Keywords: 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 in the Aleutian Islands District east of 170°W long and state waters of the Bering Sea District west of 162°30'W long and south of 55°30'N lat, except DHS is closed to fishing in Steller sea lion *Eumetopias jubatus* (SSL) protection areas south of 53°06.11'N lat (Figure 1).

### OVERVIEW

Three distinct Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* seasons occur within state waters of the DHS: parallel season, the DHS state-waters pot season, and the DHS state-waters jig season. The parallel fishery is 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) by adopting most National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) management measures and inseason management actions. The DHS Pacific cod state-waters season 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 summary fishery management information for the 2023 DHS state-waters and parallel Pacific cod seasons.

### STELLER SEA LION CLOSURES DURING PARALLEL SEASON

During the parallel Pacific cod season, current federal NMFS SSL protection measures will be in effect and are available from NMFS offices in Alaska. Stellar sea lion protection areas can be found in Tables 5 and 12 from Title 50, Part 679 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Code of Federal Regulations is available at [https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=463f261240cba04a4bde53859101a4e5&mc=true&node=pt50.13.679&rgn=div5%23ap50.13.679\\_1110.37%20](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=463f261240cba04a4bde53859101a4e5&mc=true&node=pt50.13.679&rgn=div5%23ap50.13.679_1110.37%20) (accessed November 30, 2021).

## STELLER SEA LION CLOSURES DURING STATE-WATERS SEASON

During the 2023 DHS state-waters Pacific cod season, current federal Steller sea lion closures will be in effect, including no-fishing zones and no-transit areas, except that the SSL haulouts at Umnak Island/Cape Aslik (53°25.00'N lat, 168°24.50'W long), Uliaga (53°04.00'N lat, 169°47.00'W long to 53°05.00'N lat, 169°46.00'W long), and Kagamil (53°02.10'N lat, 169°41.00'W long) are closed to the taking of Pacific cod within three nautical miles (5 AAC 28.648 (l)). Descriptions of closures in effect during a state-waters season and their coordinates can be found in Tables 5 and 12 of Title 50, Part 679 of the CFR.<sup>1</sup>

## BYCATCH DURING PARALLEL AND STATE-WATERS SEASONS

During parallel and state-waters Pacific cod seasons, ADF&G adopts NMFS maximum retainable bycatch allowances applicable in the adjacent EEZ for species not actively managed by the State of Alaska. For groundfish species without a specified bycatch limit, up to 20% by weight of Pacific cod onboard the vessel may be retained. State-managed black rockfish *Sebastes melanops* and dark rockfish *S. ciliatus* may only be retained up to 20% by weight of Pacific cod onboard the vessel. Federal BSAI retainable bycatch percentages are located in Table 11 of Title 50, Part 679 of the CFR.<sup>1</sup>

## PARALLEL PACIFIC COD SEASON

At the beginning of each year, ADF&G issues an emergency order opening parallel groundfish fishing seasons in state waters to coincide with the federal groundfish seasons in adjacent waters of the 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 a federal Pacific cod season is open to directed fishing in waters of the EEZ, a concurrent parallel Pacific cod season is open in adjacent state waters, except when and where the state-waters season is open. When the DHS state-waters season for Pacific cod for pot gear or mechanical jigging machines is open, the parallel season for the applicable gear type is closed to vessels 58 feet or less overall length (OAL).

Unless specifically prohibited by state regulation, the same gear types (except nonpelagic trawl gear, which is prohibited in waters specified in 5 AAC 39.164 (4)), seasons, and bycatch limits in the adjacent federal Pacific cod season apply during a parallel season. Except for 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)).

Harvesters must possess a 2023 statewide Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim use permit card for the appropriate gear type and vessel length. Harvesters 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 harvesters who possess an FFP to understand applicable federal regulations, including regulations regarding observer coverage and logbook requirements. Harvesters that relinquish possession of an FFP for the parallel season are responsible for understanding federal regulations for the FFP's reissue.

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<sup>1</sup> The Code of Federal Regulations is available at [https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=463f261240cba04a4bde53859101a4e5&mc=true&node=pt50.13.679&rgn=div5%23ap50.13.679\\_1110.37%20](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=463f261240cba04a4bde53859101a4e5&mc=true&node=pt50.13.679&rgn=div5%23ap50.13.679_1110.37%20) (accessed November 30, 2021).



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 A1).

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

The state-waters Pacific cod fishery is guided by 5 AAC 28.648, the *Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan*. The following regulations are effect for the 2023 season.

### **2023 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL**

The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2023 DHS state-waters Pacific cod season for pot gear is 38,316,000 pounds which is 12% of the estimated acceptable biological catch of Pacific cod in the federal Bering Sea subarea. The GHL for the 2023 DHS state-waters Pacific cod season for mechanical jigging machines is 100,000 pounds.

### **INSEASON OPENINGS AND CLOSURES**

#### **Pot Gear**

The DHS state-waters Pacific cod season for groundfish pot gear will open by emergency order seven 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 or at the regulatory season closure date of December 31, whichever occurs first.

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.

At the time of closure, all pots must be empty and in storage condition with all bait and bait containers removed, and doors secured fully open. Harvesters are not permitted to pull pots after the time of the closure until after their final delivery has been completed.

#### **Jig Gear**

The DHS state-waters Pacific cod season for mechanical jigging machines will open May 1. The state-waters season will close when the GHL is achieved or at the regulatory season closure date of December 31, whichever occurs first.

### **VESSEL LENGTH, GEAR TYPES, GEAR LIMITS, AND POT BUOY TAGS**

Vessels participating in the DHS state-waters Pacific cod seasons for pot gear or mechanical jigging machines may not exceed 58 feet OAL, unless allowable vessel lengths are modified by ADF&G advisory announcement after October 1. Groundfish pot gear and mechanical jigging machines are the only legal gear types during the DHS state-waters Pacific cod seasons. Vessels may not use pot and jig gear concurrently.

During the 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), located on a sidewall and placed within 6 inches of the bottom of the pot leaving an opening 18 inches or greater in length that 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 the pot limit is rescinded by ADF&G advisory announcement after October 1. 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 (\$1.50 per tag) will be available at ADF&G offices in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak and also may be available with processors in Akutan and King Cove. Buoy tags may be available from the Dutch Harbor office at other ports via USPS for vessels registering outside of Dutch Harbor, Kodiak, Akutan, and King Cove. Cash, check, and credit cards are acceptable payment methods for purchasing buoy tags. Contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor (Appendix A1) for additional information on buoy tags.

If buoy tags are lost during the season, replacement tags may be obtained by contacting ADF&G in Dutch Harbor. The vessel owner, operator, or agent must complete and submit a lost tag 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 containers removed until replacement tags are attached.

Vessels using mechanical jigging machines are restricted to using no more than 5 machines unless the gear limit is rescinded by ADF&G advisory announcement after October 1.

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. All inseason management actions will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement.

## **REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

Harvesters must register with ADF&G prior to participating in the state-waters Pacific cod season. The DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is an exclusive registration area for vessels using pot gear. Vessels registered for the 2023 DHS state-waters Pacific cod season using groundfish pots may not register for any other exclusive or superexclusive state-waters Pacific cod season during the 2023 calendar year but may 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 2023, that vessel may not participate in the 2023 DHS state-waters Pacific cod season. Exclusive registration does not apply to federal or parallel Pacific cod fisheries.

The DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is a nonexclusive registration area for vessels using mechanical jigging machines. Vessels registered for the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season using mechanical jigging machines may also register for another nonexclusive and one exclusive state-waters Pacific cod season within the 2023 calendar year; however, vessels that register for any superexclusive Pacific cod season may not register for the DHS Pacific cod season within the 2023 calendar year. Registration in the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season does not prohibit a vessel from participating in a parallel Pacific cod season, but a vessel may not participate in the DHS state-waters season and the parallel season concurrently.

All vessels must register with ADF&G prior to participating in DHS state-waters Pacific cod seasons. Registrations may be obtained at ADF&G offices in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak and may

be available with processors in Akutan and King Cove. Harvesters must possess a 2023 CFEC interim use statewide miscellaneous finfish permit card for pot gear or mechanical jigging machines prior to registration. Tenders, motherships, and floating processors must also register with ADF&G prior to beginning operations. Contact information for ADF&G offices and CFEC is listed in Appendix A1.

Vessels registered for the DHS state-waters season must invalidate their registration prior to participating in any other Pacific cod season. Harvesters may validate or invalidate vessel registrations by contacting ADF&G in Dutch Harbor (Appendix A1) during state business hours (Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM). All Pacific cod must be delivered prior to validating or invalidating a DHS Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod registration (5 AAC 28.648 (k)).

## **CATCH REPORTING**

ADF&G will manage the DHS state-waters Pacific cod pot season using inseason catch reports and fish tickets. Harvesters will be required to report regularly during the fishing season. Harvesters 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, phone, fax, text, or electronic mail. In the absence of reliable inseason harvest information, ADF&G will adopt conservative management measures which may result in lost fishing opportunity.

## **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 seven days, groundfish pots must be removed from the water or in storage condition in waters 25 fathoms or less. Contact NOAA Fisheries Enforcement (Appendix A1) 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 advisory announcement 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

Harvesters to configure gear for storage or to place gear onboard before a closure; however, the potential exists for short advance notice of a closure.

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 <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareaaleutianislands.groundfish#harvest> or by contacting ADF&G.

## **FIGURES**

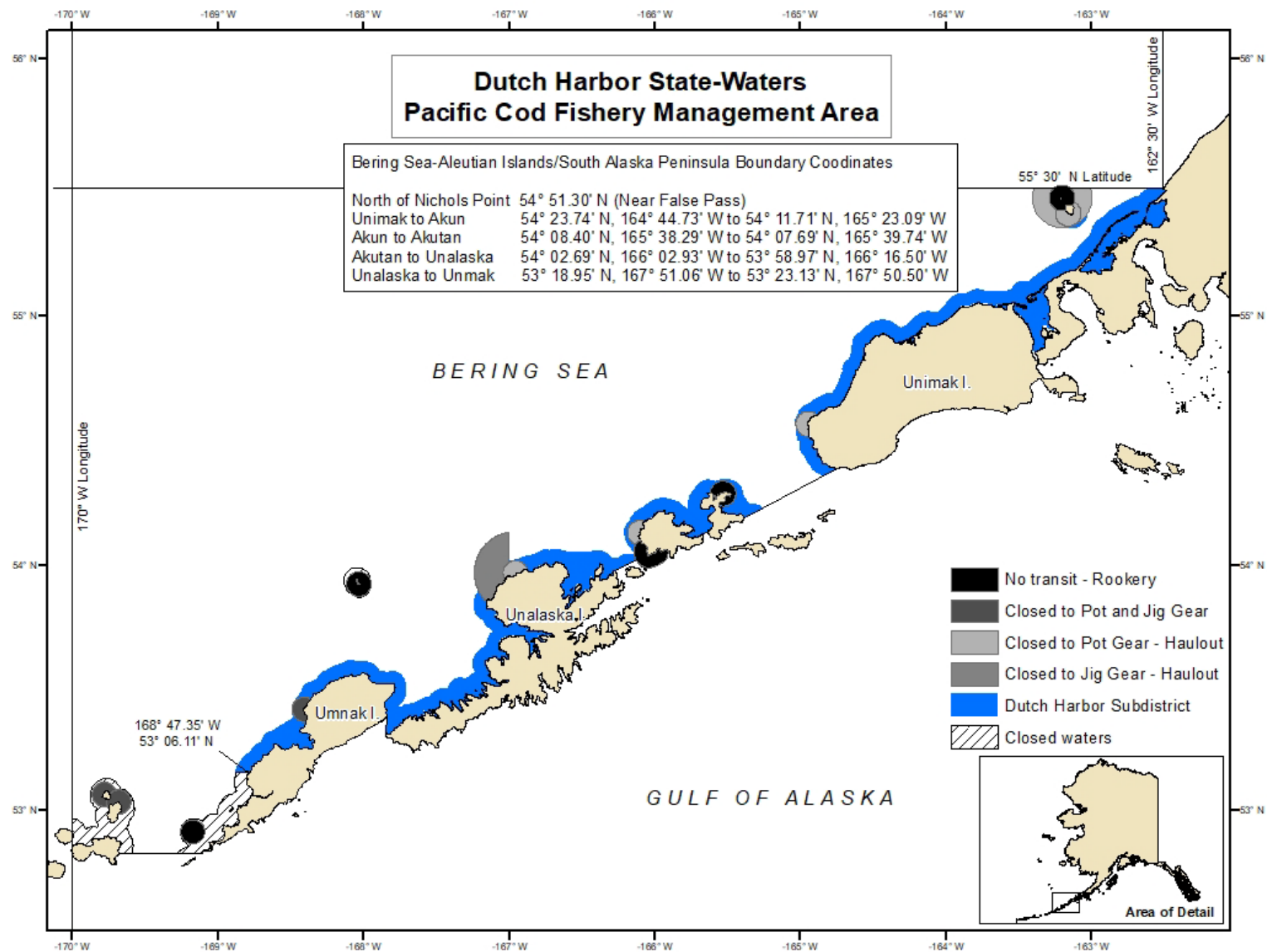


Figure 1.—Dutch Harbor Subdistrict for state-waters Pacific cod.

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

Appendix A1.–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:	Physical Address:	Phone: (907) 581-1239    Cell: (907) 512-7234
P.O. Box 920587	2315 Airport Beach Road	Fax: (907) 581-1572
Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692	2nd floor, Suite 207	E-mail: <a href="mailto:dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov">dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov</a>
	Dutch Harbor, Alaska	Dispatch: #1234
Miranda Westphal, Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area Management Biologist		E-mail: <a href="mailto:miranda.westphal@alaska.gov">miranda.westphal@alaska.gov</a>
Asia Beder, Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Asst. Area Management Biologist		E-mail: <a href="mailto:asia.beder@alaska.gov">asia.beder@alaska.gov</a>
<u>Kodiak Office</u>		
Mail Address:	Physical Address:	Phone: (907) 486-1840
351 Research Court	351 Research Court	Fax: (907) 486-1824
Kodiak, Alaska 99615	Kodiak, Alaska	
Mark Stichert, Regional Groundfish Management Biologist		E-mail: <a href="mailto:mark.stichert@alaska.gov">mark.stichert@alaska.gov</a>
Nat Nichols, Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Area Management Biologist		E-mail: <a href="mailto:nathaniel.nichols@alaska.gov">nathaniel.nichols@alaska.gov</a>
Cassie Whiteside, Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Asst. Area Management Biologist		E-mail: <a href="mailto:cassandra.whiteside@alaska.gov">cassandra.whiteside@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:	Physical Address:	Phone: (907) 581-1432
P.O. Box 920848	2315 Airport Beach Road, Suite 101	Fax: (907) 581-1407
Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692	Dutch Harbor, Alaska	
Jeremiah Baum: Post Sergeant		E-mail: <a href="mailto:jeremiah.baum@alaska.gov">jeremiah.baum@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:	Physical Address:	Phone: (907) 789-6150
P.O. Box 110302,	8800 Glacier Highway #109	Fax: (907) 789-6170
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0302	Juneau, Alaska	
<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