

**Division of Commercial Fisheries**  
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**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: 04/09/2021*

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**Aleutian Islands Subdistrict State-Waters Pacific Cod Season Closure**  
**and**  
**Opening of Parallel Pacific Cod Season**

**Emergency Order # 4-GF-14-21**

The state-waters Pacific cod season in the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict west of 170° W long, will close April 9, 2021 at 12:00 noon AKDT. Catch reports indicate the guideline harvest level (GHL) will be achieved at the time of the closure. All trawl, longline, and jig gear must be fully out of the water at the time of 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 April 9, 2021 at 12:00 noon AKDT, under parallel Pacific cod rules if a federal fishery is open in adjacent federal waters for a vessels gear type and size. 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, 2004, posted on the NMFS website <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2004-12-20/pdf/04-27698.pdf> and Table 12 of 50 CFR part 679 updated through January 2011, posted on the NMFS website <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=e928699f8903a416bed34b9bcaae6903&mc=true&node=pt50.13.679&rgn=div5>, 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.

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.

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