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Advisory Announcement

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2025 Prince William Sound Area State-Waters Pacific Cod Season Opening for Pot Gear

Emergency Order # 2-GF-E-04-25

The Prince William Sound Area (PWS) Pacific cod parallel season will close to vessels using pot gear at 12:00 noon on February 7 and the state-waters season will open to vessels using pot gear at 12:00 noon on February 8. The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the PWS Pacific cod state-waters season is 1,612,130 pounds and is allocated 50% to pot and jig gear combined (806,065 pounds) and 50% to longline hook gear (806,065 pounds). The parallel season will remain open to jig and longline hook gear. There is a 24-hour delivery time requirement following closure of a groundfish fishery. All fish harvested in the parallel pot season must be landed prior to participating in the state-waters pot season. All groundfish pot gear must be removed from the water except as provided in 5 AAC 28.232.

In the state-waters pot season no more than 60 groundfish pots may be operated from a vessel and each longlined pot must display a pot identification tag. If pots are not longlined each buoy must have a tag. Bycatch limits by species or species aggregate for PWS are set by Emergency Order 2-GF-E-01-25 and may be found in the Central Region Groundfish Fisheries Outlook Advisory Announcement.

Area registration for the state-waters season is exclusive and registrations may be obtained through ADF&G offices in Homer, Cordova, Anchorage, Soldotna, and Kodiak or by appointment in Seward (contact Homer ADF&G office) and buoy tags may be obtained at Homer and Anchorage ADF&G offices, Seward by appointment, or by mail.

Fishing area: Pacific cod may be taken in waters of PWS except for those waters of the Outside District east of 146° 15.12' W. long. (the latitude of Hook Point) (5 AAC 28.267 (e) (2)); see map in Figure 1.

Steller Sea Lion rookery closures: Directed fishing for all groundfish species is closed in waters within 3 nautical miles of two Steller sea lion rookeries within PWS (Figure 1). For specific regulatory language contact NMFS in Kodiak at (907) 481-1780 or <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/sslpm>.

For more information, contact ADF&G in Homer at (907) 235-8191.

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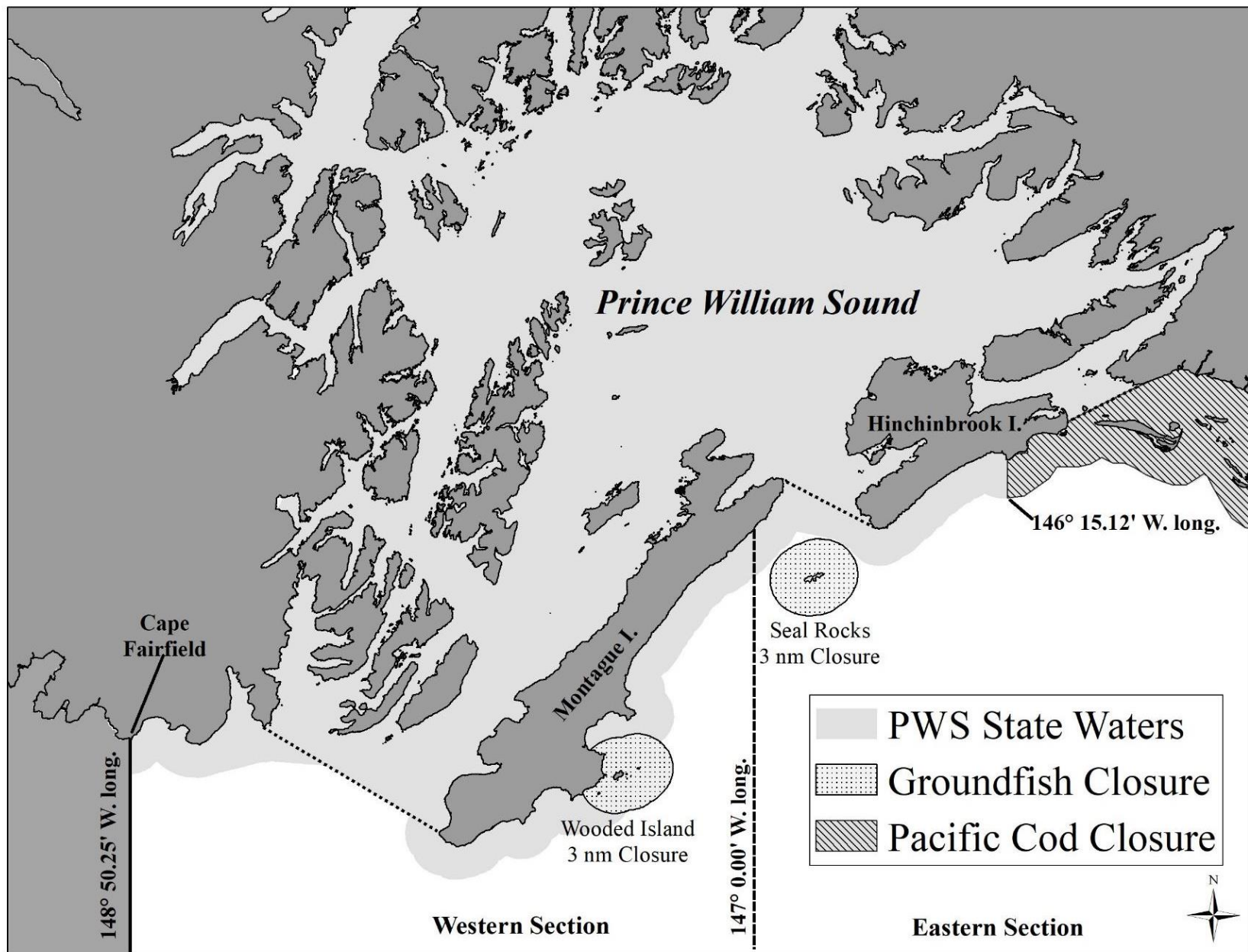


Figure 1. Prince William Sound Area groundfish closure areas and Pacific cod closure area.