

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Forrest R Bowers, Acting Director

Dutch Harbor Area Office
PO Box 920587
Dutch Harbor, AK 99692



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement

CONTACT:

Ethan Nichols, Area Management Biologist
Asia Beder, Asst. Area Management Biologist

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907-581-1239

Aleutian Islands State-Waters Sablefish Season Opening Announced

The state-waters sablefish season in the Aleutian Islands will open at 12:00 noon March 20, 2025 concurrent with the adjacent federal individual fishing quota (IFQ) sablefish season. The state-waters sablefish season will close when the GHL is reached or on December 7, 2025 concurrent with the federal IFQ sablefish season closure.

The Aleutian Islands state-waters sablefish registration area includes all state waters west of Scotch Cap Light (164° 44.72' W longitude) and south of Cape Sarichef (54° 36' N latitude). All vessels harvesting sablefish in state waters, including those participating in federal IFQ or Community Development Quota (CDQ) sablefish fisheries, must register with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) for the state-waters sablefish fishery.

Pot, longline, jig, and hand troll are the only legal gear types. Pot gear may be longlined in the Aleutian Islands and Western Districts.

Fishermen are required to submit a state-waters sablefish logbook to the ADF&G Dutch Harbor office within 7 days of each landing. Fishermen delivering east of Scotch Cap Light must check out of the state-waters sablefish registration area by contacting ADF&G in Dutch Harbor before departing the registration area and may be required to submit to an inspection at a point designated by the local representative of the department.

Sablefish may be taken as bycatch in state waters of the Aleutian Islands District and the Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula area. Bycatch may not exceed 1% by weight of the directed groundfish species and directed halibut on board a vessel. All vessels retaining sablefish, even as a bycatch species, must obtain a 2025 interim-use permit card for sablefish from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission.

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

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