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Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Area Closes to Retention of Big Skate Emergency Order # 2-GF-E-17-25

The retention of big skates as bycatch to directed groundfish and Pacific halibut fisheries in the Western Section of the Outside District of Prince William Sound (PWS) Area will be prohibited effective 12:00 noon November 26, 2025 through 11:59 p.m. December 31, 2025 (see map below).

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced that retention of big skates in the federal Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) is prohibited effective 12:00 noon November 21, 2025. Big skate harvest in the Western Section of the Outside District of PWS accrues to the federal CGOA Total Allowable Catch (TAC). Therefore, in order to provide consistency with federal regulations the retention of big skates in the Western Section of the Outside District of PWS in directed groundfish and Pacific halibut fisheries is prohibited.

In conjunction with this closure is Advisory Announcement AA-12-GF-H-25 which closes the retention of big skates in the Cook Inlet Area. Please contact ADF&G in Homer at 907-235-8191 for further information.

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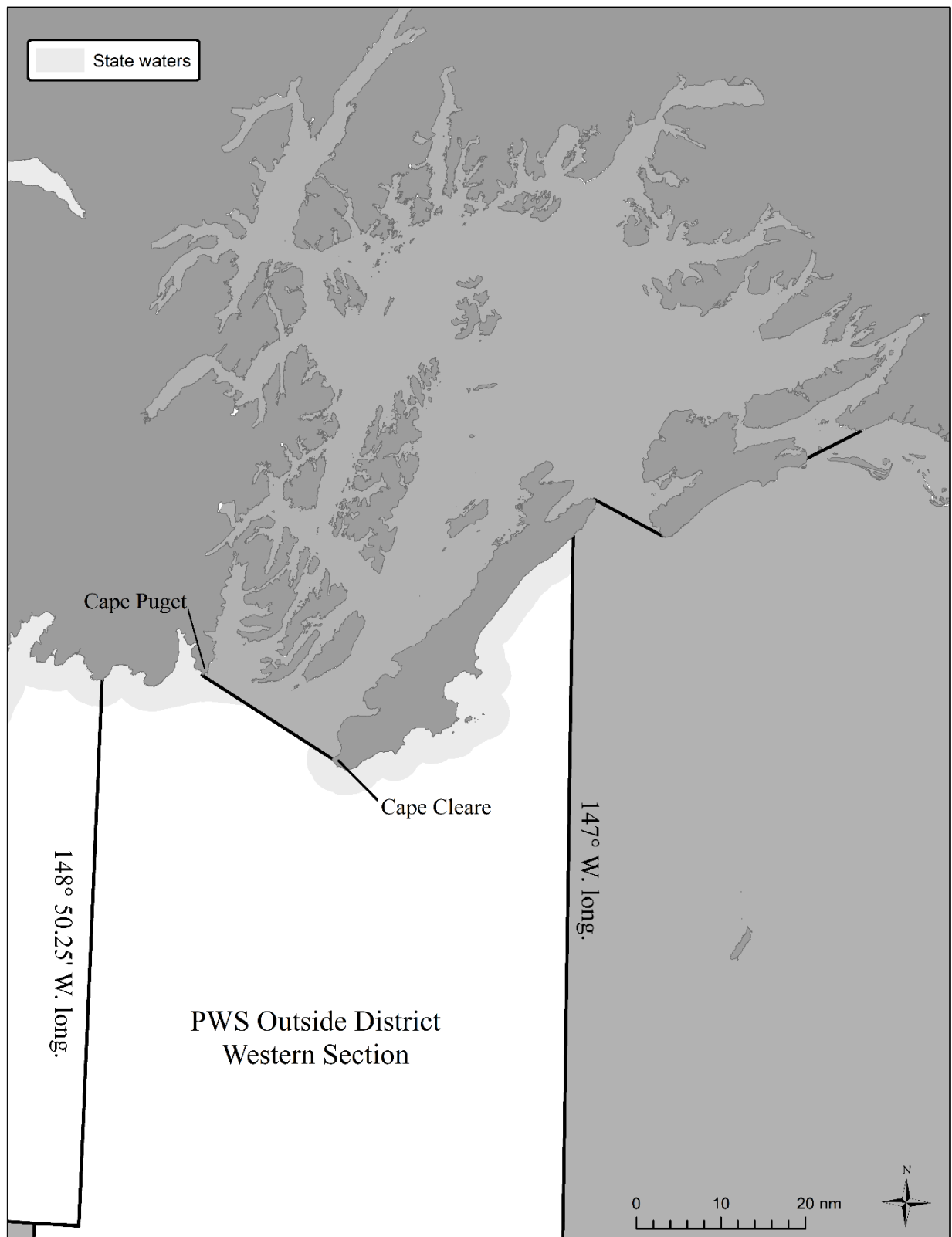


Figure 1. Prince William Sound Outside District Western Section state waters closed to retention of big skate.