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Advisory Announcement
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**Aleutian Islands Subdistrict State-Waters Pacific Cod Season Opening West of 170° W Longitude
and
Closure of the Parallel Season for All State Waters West of 170° W Longitude**

Emergency Order # 4-GF-03-20

The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS) state-waters Pacific cod season will open in all state waters west of 170° W long at 12:00 noon AKST on February 20, 2020. The parallel Pacific cod season will close for all gear types in all state waters of the AIS west of 170° W long on February 20, 2020 at 12:00 noon AKST. Beginning 12:00 noon AKST February 20, 2020 the state-waters season will open to vessels 125 feet or less OAL using pot gear, vessels 100 feet or less OAL using nonpelagic trawl gear, and vessels 58 feet or less OAL using longline or jig gear.

New regulations for the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan (5 AAC 28.647) will become effective February 28th. To coordinate the new regulations, all state-waters will close at 11:59 pm AKST on February 27 for vessels over 100 feet OAL using pot gear and over 60 feet OAL using trawl gear. All waters of the AIS will reopen to those vessels at 12:00 noon AKST on March 15, 2020, unless the state-waters guideline harvest level has been achieved.

All Pacific cod caught must be retained. The daily harvest limit for each vessel is 150,000 pounds (round weight) and no more than 150,000 pounds (round weight) of unprocessed Pacific cod may be on board a vessel at any time. All proceeds from overages will be surrendered to the state. Bycatch limits applicable in the parallel Pacific cod season will apply during the state-waters Pacific cod season.

Participating vessels and tenders must register with the Dutch Harbor ADF&G office prior to participating in the state-waters season. Fishermen must deliver all Pacific cod onboard prior to participating in the AIS state-waters Pacific cod season. Fishermen may not participate in federal and state-waters seasons concurrently. The AIS state-waters season is an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod.

Fisherman must report harvest to ADF&G weekly unless otherwise instructed. Reports for the prior week (midnight Monday to midnight Sunday) of fishing must be received by ADF&G in Dutch Harbor between 9:00 am and 10:00 am every Monday. Reports will be taken by telephone (907-581-1239), text (907-512-7234), email (dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov), or satellite dispatch (1234).

During the 2020 AIS state-waters Pacific cod season, current Steller sea lion closures will be in effect, including no fishing zones, no transit areas, and the Seguam foraging area except that the Steller sea lion site at Kanaga/Ship Rock is only closed within 3 nautical miles (5 AAC 28.647(g)(1),(2),and (3)). Descriptions of closures in effect during a state-waters season and their coordinates are located in Tables 5 and 12 of 50 CFR part 679 posted on the NMFS website: <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=e928699f8903a416bed34b9bcaae6903&mc=true&node=pt50.13.679&rgn=div5>.

For further information, contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.