

**Fishery Management Plan for the Dutch Harbor
Subdistrict State-Waters and Parallel Pacific Cod
Seasons, 2018**

by

Asia Beder

February 2018

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the Système International d'Unités (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Sport Fish and of Commercial Fisheries: Fishery Manuscripts, Fishery Data Series Reports, Fishery Management Reports, and Special Publications. All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figure or figure captions.

Weights and measures (metric)		General		Mathematics, statistics	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code		all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations	
deciliter	dL		AAC		
gram	g	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	alternate hypothesis	H _A
hectare	ha			base of natural logarithm	<i>e</i>
kilogram	kg	all commonly accepted		catch per unit effort	CPUE
kilometer	km	professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	coefficient of variation	CV
liter	L			common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
meter	m	at	@	confidence interval	CI
milliliter	mL	compass directions:		correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
millimeter	mm	east	E	correlation coefficient (simple)	r
Weights and measures (English)		north	N	covariance	cov
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	south	S	degree (angular)	°
foot	ft	west	W	degrees of freedom	df
gallon	gal	copyright	©	expected value	<i>E</i>
inch	in	corporate suffixes:		greater than	>
mile	mi	Company	Co.	greater than or equal to	≥
nautical mile	nmi	Corporation	Corp.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
ounce	oz	Incorporated	Inc.	less than	<
pound	lb	Limited	Ltd.	less than or equal to	≤
quart	qt	District of Columbia	D.C.	logarithm (natural)	ln
yard	yd	et alii (and others)	et al.	logarithm (base 10)	log
		et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ , etc.
Time and temperature		exempli gratia		minute (angular)	'
day	d	(for example)	e.g.	not significant	NS
degrees Celsius	°C	Federal Information Code	FIC	null hypothesis	H ₀
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	id est (that is)	i.e.	percent	%
degrees kelvin	K	latitude or longitude	lat or long	probability	P
hour	h	monetary symbols		probability of a type I error	
minute	min	(U.S.)	\$, ¢	(rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
second	s	months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan.,...,Dec	probability of a type II error	
Physics and chemistry		registered trademark	®	(acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
all atomic symbols		trademark	™	second (angular)	"
alternating current	AC	United States		standard deviation	SD
ampere	A	(adjective)	U.S.	standard error	SE
calorie	cal	United States of America (noun)	USA	variance	
direct current	DC	U.S.C.	United States Code	population sample	Var var
hertz	Hz				
horsepower	hp				
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH				
parts per million	ppm	U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations		
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰		(e.g., AK, WA)		
volts	V				
watts	W				

FISHERY MANAGEMENT REPORT NO. 18-05

**FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE DUTCH HARBOR
SUBDISTRICT STATE-WATERS AND PARALLEL PACIFIC COD
SEASONS, 2018**

by

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Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services
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The Fishery Management Reports series was established in 1989 by the Division of Sport Fish for the publication of an overview of management activities and goals in a specific geographic area, and became a joint divisional series in 2004 with the Division of Commercial Fisheries. Fishery Management Reports are intended for fishery and other technical professionals, as well as lay persons. Fishery Management Reports are available through the Alaska State Library and on the Internet: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications/>. This publication has undergone regional peer review.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF FIGURES	i
LIST OF APPENDICES	i
ABSTRACT	1
INTRODUCTION	1
Area Description.....	1
Overview	1
Steller Sea Lion Closures.....	1
Bycatch.....	2
PARALLEL PACIFIC COD SEASON.....	2
STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON	2
2018 Guideline Harvest Level	3
Season Dates.....	3
Vessel Size Restriction	3
Registration Requirements.....	3
Catch Reporting.....	4
Legal Gear, Pot Limit, and Buoy Tags	4
Buoy Marking Requirements.....	4
Pot Storage and Landing Requirements.....	4
INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	5
FIGURES	7
APPENDIX A. LIST OF FISHERY CONTACTS BY AGENCY AND LOCATION.....	9
APPENDIX B. EXAMPLE OF REPORTING WORKSHEETS.....	11

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict for state-waters Pacific cod.	8

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Page
A1. List of fishery contacts by agency and location.	10
B1. Example of weekly reporting worksheet.	12
B2. Example of daily reporting worksheet.....	13

ABSTRACT

This document provides an overview of regulations governing the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS) state-waters and parallel Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* seasons. The 2018 DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is scheduled to open 7 days after closure of the initial federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands hook-and-line and pot catcher vessel Pacific cod season for vessels less than 60 feet in overall length (OAL) sector. Vessels participating in the state-waters Pacific cod season may not exceed 58 feet OAL and may only use groundfish pot gear. No more than 60 pots may be operated from a vessel. The guideline harvest level for the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is 6.4% of the estimated Pacific cod acceptable biological catch for the federal Bering Sea Subarea.

Key words: Pacific cod, *Gadus macrocephalus*, Dutch Harbor Subdistrict, DHS, guideline harvest level, state-waters season, parallel season, Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands

INTRODUCTION

AREA DESCRIPTION

The State of Alaska's Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Area for groundfish management consists of all state waters of Alaska (0–3 nmi) in the Bering Sea and that portion of the North Pacific Ocean adjacent to the Aleutian Islands west of 170° W long.

The Bering Sea District consists of all state waters of Alaska in the BSAI Area north of the latitude of Cape Sarichef (54° 36' N lat). The Aleutian Islands District consists of all state waters of Alaska in the BSAI Area south of the latitude of Cape Sarichef (54°36' N lat).

The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS) consists of state waters in the Aleutian Islands District east of 170° W long and state waters of the Bering Sea District west of 164° W long and south of 55° 30' N lat, except DHS is closed to fishing in Steller sea lion *Eumetopias jubatus* (SSL) protection areas south of 53° 06.11' N lat (Figure 1).

OVERVIEW

Two distinct Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* seasons occur within state waters of the DHS; parallel and the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters. The parallel fishery is prosecuted concurrent to the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod season in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ; 3–200 nmi). The parallel season is managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) by adopting most National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) rules and inseason management actions. The DHS Pacific cod state-waters season is an open-access fishery managed exclusively by ADF&G under the *Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan*, 5 AAC 28.648. The purpose of this document is to provide specific fishery management information for the 2018 DHS state-waters and parallel Pacific cod seasons.

STELLER SEA LION CLOSURES

During the parallel Pacific cod season, current NMFS SSL protection measures will be in effect and are located at <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-679regs> or available from NMFS offices in Alaska.

During the state-waters Pacific cod season, SSL closures as specified for the Bering Sea Area in Table 5 (<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/tab5.pdf>) are closed to the taking of Pacific cod within 3 nautical miles except the SSL haulouts at Umnak Island/Cape Aslik (53° 25.00' N lat, 168° 24.50' W long), Uliaga (53° 04.00' N lat, 169° 47.00' W long to 53° 05.00' N lat, 169° 46.00' W long), and Kagamil (53° 02.10' N lat, 169° 41.00' W long) are closed to the taking of

Pacific cod within 3 nautical miles. During the state-waters season, SSL protection measures specified in Table 12 of 50 CFR part 679 (<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/tab12.pdf>) are also in effect.

BYCATCH

In state waters, for species not actively managed by the State of Alaska, ADF&G adopts NMFS maximum retainable bycatch percentages applicable in the adjacent EEZ. For groundfish species without a specified bycatch limit, up to 20% by weight of Pacific cod onboard the vessel may be retained. Black rockfish *Sebastes melanops* and dark rockfish *S. ciliatus* may only be retained up to 20% by weight of Pacific cod onboard the vessel. Federal BSAI retainable bycatch percentages are located in Table 11 of 50 CFR part 679 updated April 6, 2015, and are available on the NMFS website (<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/tab11.pdf>) or by contacting ADF&G in Dutch Harbor (Appendix A).

PARALLEL PACIFIC COD SEASON

At the beginning of each year, ADF&G issues an emergency order opening parallel groundfish fishing seasons to coincide with federal groundfish seasons in the adjacent EEZ. The initial federal BSAI Pacific cod season opens January 1 for vessels using fixed gear and January 20 for vessels using trawl gear. When the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is open, the parallel season is closed to vessels 58 feet or less overall length (OAL) using pot gear.

Unless specifically prohibited by state regulation, the same gear types (except nonpelagic trawl gear which is prohibited in specified waters of 5 AAC 39.164 (4)), seasons, and bycatch limits in the adjacent federal Pacific cod season apply during a parallel season (5 AAC 28.629 and 5 AAC 28.050). With the exception of vessels using mechanical jigging machines, all vessels that participate in a parallel Pacific cod season must have an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS; 5 AAC 28.087(c)). During a parallel Pacific cod season in the BSAI, vessels using longline gear may not exceed 58 feet in OAL (5 AAC 28.690(c)).

Fishermen must possess a 2018 statewide Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim use permit card for the appropriate gear type and vessel length. Fishermen participating in the parallel Pacific cod season are not required by the State of Alaska to possess a federal fishing permit (FFP) or Pacific cod gear endorsement administered through the federal License Limitation Program (LLP). However, it is the responsibility of fishermen who possess an FFP to understand applicable federal regulations, including regulations regarding observer coverage and logbook requirements. Fishermen that relinquish possession of an FFP for the parallel season are responsible for understanding federal regulations for the FFP's reissue.

Pacific cod harvested during the parallel fishery accrue toward the federal total allowable catch (TAC). The parallel Pacific cod season closes by sector when the TAC is reached or when incidental species allowances are met. For additional information regarding federal Pacific cod fisheries contact NMFS (Appendix A).

STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON

The DHS state-waters Pacific cod fishery is guided by 5 AAC 28.648 *Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan*. The following is a description of regulations in effect for the 2018 season.

2018 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL

The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2018 DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is 28,360,000 pounds and is based on 6.4% of the estimated acceptable biological catch of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea subarea.

SEASON DATES

The DHS state-waters Pacific cod season will open by emergency order 7 days after closure of the initial federal BSAI Pacific cod season for the hook-and-line (HAL)/pot gear catcher vessel (CV) less than 60 feet OAL sector. The state-waters season will close when the GHL is achieved or at the regulatory season closure date of December 31, whichever occurs first.

If the federal BSAI Pacific cod HAL/pot gear CV less than 60 feet OAL sector receives a TAC reallocation, the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season may close to provide for orderly fisheries. If GHL is available at the time of the federal BSAI Pacific cod HAL/pot gear CV less than 60 feet OAL sector reallocation closure, the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season may reopen.

After October 1, if a substantial portion of the state-waters GHL remains unharvested and the GHL is unlikely to be achieved by December 31, gear limits, vessel size restrictions and exclusive registration requirements may be removed. All inseason management actions will be announced by ADF&G news release.

VESSEL SIZE RESTRICTION

Vessels participating in the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season may not exceed 58 feet OAL, unless modified by ADF&G news release after October 1.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

The DHS state-waters Pacific cod season is an exclusive registration area. Vessels registered for the 2018 DHS state-waters Pacific cod season may not register for any other exclusive or superexclusive state-waters Pacific cod season during 2018, but may participate in a nonexclusive state-waters Pacific cod season in the same calendar year. Conversely, if a vessel has registered for any other exclusive or superexclusive state-waters Pacific cod season outside of the DHS during 2018, that vessel may not participate in the 2018 DHS state-waters Pacific cod season. Exclusive registration does not apply to federal or parallel Pacific cod fisheries.

All vessels must register with ADF&G prior to participating in the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season. Registrations may be obtained at ADF&G offices in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak, and also may be available with ADF&G staff at processors in Akutan and King Cove. Fishermen must possess a 2018 CFEC interim use statewide miscellaneous finfish permit card for pot gear prior to registration. Contact information for ADF&G offices and CFEC are located in Appendix A.

Vessels may not participate in a Pacific cod state-waters season and any other Pacific cod season concurrently. Vessels registered for the DHS state-waters season must invalidate their registration prior to participating in any other Pacific cod season. Fishermen may validate or invalidate vessel registrations by contacting ADF&G in Dutch Harbor (Appendix A) during normal state business hours (Monday–Friday, 8 AM to 4:30 PM). All Pacific cod must be delivered prior to validating or invalidating a DHS Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod registration.

CATCH REPORTING

ADF&G will manage the DHS state-waters Pacific cod pot season using inseason catch reports and fish tickets. Fishermen will be required to report regularly during the fishing season. Fishermen **must report** the statistical area of harvest, number of pot lifts, and pounds of Pacific cod retained during the reporting period determined by the department. Catch reports will be taken by satellite dispatch service, phone, fax, text, or electronic mail (Appendices B1 and B2). In the absence of reliable inseason harvest information, ADF&G will adopt conservative management measures which may result in lost fishing opportunity.

LEGAL GEAR, POT LIMIT, AND BUOY TAGS

Groundfish pot gear is the only legal gear type during the DHS state-waters Pacific cod season. Groundfish pots of any size may be used to take Pacific cod, although pot gear individual tunnel eye openings must be 36 inches in perimeter or less (5 AAC 28.050(e)). All pots must be equipped with a biodegradable escape mechanism (5 AAC 39.145), located on a sidewall and placed within 6 inches of the bottom of the pot leaving an opening 18 inches or greater in length. The escape mechanism must be laced, sewn, or secured together by a single length of untreated 100% cotton biodegradable twine no larger than 30 thread count.

No more than 60 groundfish pots may be operated from a vessel unless the pot limit is rescinded by AGF&G new release after October 1. Buoy tags are required for pot gear when the 60-pot limit is in effect. Tags must be placed on the main buoy or trailer buoy (5 AAC 28.050 (f)). **Buoy tags (\$1.50 per tag) will be available at ADF&G offices in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak and may be available in Akutan.** Only cash and check are acceptable payment methods for purchasing buoy tags. A valid 2018 CFEC interim use statewide miscellaneous finfish permit card for pot gear is required to register. Contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor (Appendix A) for additional information on buoy tags.

If buoy tags are lost during the season, replacement tags may be obtained by contacting ADF&G. The vessel owner, operator, or agent must complete and submit an affidavit form to ADF&G describing how tags were lost, and provide location and unique number of each lost tag. Pots with lost tags may remain in the water but those pots must be secured open with bait and bait containers removed until replacement tags are obtained.

BUOY MARKING REQUIREMENTS

Buoys attached to groundfish pots must be marked with the permanent ADF&G vessel number that corresponds with the ADF&G vessel number operating that gear (5 AAC 28.050(b)). The buoy containing the 5-digit ADF&G number may not be marked with any additional numbers; however, symbols and letters are acceptable on this buoy. Trailer buoys used to mark ownership or string sequence may be marked with any desired numbers, symbols, or letters.

POT STORAGE AND LANDING REQUIREMENTS

Following closure of a parallel or state-waters Pacific cod season, groundfish pots may be stored with all bait and bait containers removed and doors secured fully open in waters greater than 25 fathoms for a maximum of 7 days. After 7 days, groundfish pots must be removed from the water or in storage condition in waters 25 fathoms or less. Contact NMFS Enforcement (Appendix A) regarding gear storage in federal waters.

Vessels participating in the state-waters Pacific cod season must deliver their catch within 48 hours after a season closure. Vessels may have Pacific cod onboard after the 48-hour period following a closure only when the vessel has been delayed due to extraordinary circumstances, and the vessel operator has contacted an ADF&G representative within 48 hours following the closure and has been granted additional time.

INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS

The DHS state-waters Pacific cod season will be managed using information gathered inseason from vessels, processors, and fish tickets. All inseason management actions during the state-waters season will be distributed via the ADF&G news release system (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), relayed through participating processors, and communicated to the fleet. ADF&G will make every effort to provide sufficient time for fishermen to configure gear for storage or to place gear onboard before a closure; however, the potential exists for short advance notice of a closure.

Weekly non-confidential harvest updates will be released while the state-waters season is open and are available inseason on the ADF&G website at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareaaleutianislands.groundfish#harvest> or by contacting ADF&G.

FIGURES

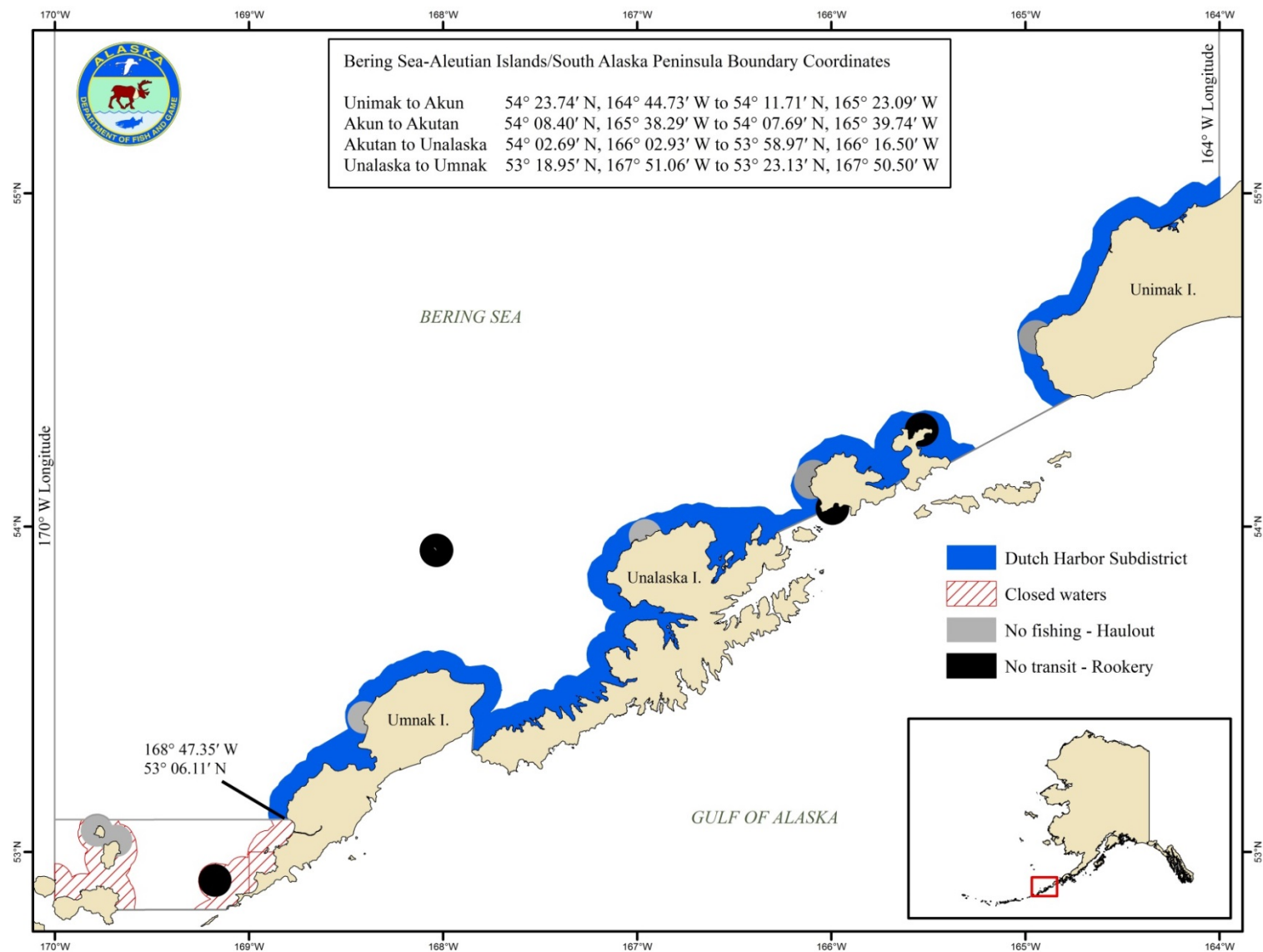


Figure 1.—Dutch Harbor Subdistrict for state-waters Pacific cod.

**APPENDIX A. LIST OF FISHERY CONTACTS BY AGENCY
AND LOCATION**

Appendix A1.–List of fishery contacts by agency and location.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game			website: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/
<u>Dutch Harbor Office</u>			
Mail Address:	Physical Address:		Phone: (907) 581-1239
P.O. Box 920587	2315 Airport Beach Road		Fax: (907) 581-1572
Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692	2 nd floor, Suite 207		E-mail: dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov
	Dutch Harbor, Alaska		Dispatch: #1234
Miranda Westphal, Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area Management Biologist			E-mail: miranda.westphal@alaska.gov
Asia Beder, Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Asst. Area Management Biologist			E-mail: asia.beder@alaska.gov
<u>Kodiak Office</u>			
Mail Address:	Physical Address:		Phone: (907) 486-1840
351 Research Court	351 Research Court		Fax: (907) 486-1824
Kodiak, Alaska 99615	Kodiak, Alaska		
Mark Stichert, Regional Groundfish Management Biologist			E-mail: mark.stichert@alaska.gov
Nat Nichols, Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Area Management Biologist			E-mail: nathaniel.nichols@alaska.gov
Natura Richardson, Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Asst. Area Management Biologist			E-mail: natura.richardson@alaska.gov
Alaska Wildlife Troopers			website: http://www.dps.state.ak.us/AWT/
<u>Dutch Harbor Office</u>			
Mail Address:	Physical Address:		
P.O. Box 920848	2315 Airport Beach Road, Suite 101		Phone: (907) 581-1432
Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692	Dutch Harbor, Alaska		Fax: (907) 581-1407
Todd Machacek, Post Sergeant			E-mail: todd.machacek@alaska.gov
Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC)			website: http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/
Mail Address:	Physical Address:		
8800 Glacier Highway	8800 Glacier Highway #109		Phone: (907) 789-6150
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0302	Juneau, Alaska		Fax: (907) 789-6170
National Marine Fisheries Service – Alaska Region			website: http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/
<u>Sustainable Fisheries Division</u>			
Krista Milani, Dutch Harbor Office			Phone: (907) 581-2062
Mary Furuness, Juneau Office			Phone: (907) 586-7447
<u>NOAA Fisheries Enforcement</u>			
Dutch Harbor Office			Phone: (907) 581-2061
Anchorage Office			Phone: (907) 586-7225
<u>NOAA Observer Program</u>			
Dutch Harbor Office			Phone: (907) 581-2060
Seattle Office			Phone: (206) 526-4195

APPENDIX B. EXAMPLE OF REPORTING WORKSHEETS



2018 Dutch Harbor Subdistrict State-waters Pacific Cod Inseason Reporting Worksheet



Fishermen must report fishing information for the previous week (Monday to Sunday)
WEEKLY on MONDAYS between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. to the Dutch Harbor Office.

Do not combine reports.

If one or more reporting periods are missed, report each period individually.

	Code Item 1	Code Item 2	Code Item 3
Report Period End Date ¹	Statistical Area ²	Pounds of Cod Retained ³	Effort ⁴

WEEKLY TOTAL

--	--	--	--

	Code Item 1	Code Item 2	Code Item 3
Report Period End Date ¹	Statistical Area ²	Pounds of Cod Retained ³	Effort ⁴

WEEKLY TOTAL

--	--	--	--

¹ Weekly report period is Monday - Sunday

² Area(s) fished in the past week - stat area if possible

³ Weight in pounds of retained cod in the past week

⁴ Number of pots lifted in the past week

Inseason Reporting Contacts:

ADF&G Dutch Harbor

Dispatch: #1234

Phone: (907) 581-1239

Fax: (907) 581-1572

E-Mail: dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov



2018 Dutch Harbor Subdistrict State-waters Pacific Cod Inseason Reporting Worksheet



Fishermen must report the previous 24-hour period (midnight to midnight)
DAILY between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. to the Dutch Harbor Office.

Do not combine reports.

If one or more reporting periods are missed, report each period individually.

	Code Item 1	Code Item 2	Code Item 3
Date ¹	Statistical Area ²	Pounds of Cod Retained ³	Effort ⁴

¹ Previous 24 hours (midnight to midnight)

² Area(s) fished in the past 24 hrs - stat areas if possible

³ Weight in pounds of retained cod in the past 24 hrs

⁴ Number of pots lifted in the past 24 hrs

Inseason Reporting Contacts:

ADF&G Dutch Harbor

Dispatch: #1234

Phone: (907) 581-1239

Fax: (907) 581-1572

E-Mail: dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov