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## **Annual Winter Fisheries Meeting held December 17th**

The Aleutians East Borough Natural Resources Department (NRD) hosted the annual Winter Fisheries meeting December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 virtually via Teams at AEB meeting sites, simulcast on KSDP radio. The meeting audio is archived here <https://apradio.org/mp3/2024-12-17-aebfish.mp3> . Alex Perry with NOAA Office of Law Enforcement assembled agency experts and moderated the event. Following are the meeting notes as compiled by AEB NRD.

Nat Nichols is ADF&G area manager for shellfish and groundfish. Cassie Whiteside is the Assistant manager – they can be contacted at (907) 486-1840. Fishermen are reminded of the importance of catch reporting and to facilitate the work of ADFG samplers to collect data.

### **South Peninsula Tanner Crab**

The 2025 South Peninsula District commercial Tanner crab guideline harvest level (GHL) will be 210,000 pounds in the Eastern Section. The Western Section will remain closed for the 2025 commercial Tanner crab season. The Tanner crab season will open at 12:00 noon on January 15, 2025 unless delayed by weather. The crab pot limit will be 20 pots per vessel. Vessels greater than 58 feet in overall length may not participate in the South Peninsula District commercial Tanner crab fishery. ADF&G has established subsection harvest targets for the 2025 commercial Tanner crab fishery in the Eastern Section of the South Peninsula District. The Eastern Section will be divided into two subsections (Pavlof and Shumagin) using the 161°W long line; both subsections will be managed using a 105,000-pound harvest target. Vessel operators must register to fish in either the Pavlof or Shumagin Subsection. Bouy tags will be available in the King Cove Harbor and the Sand Point Trident office. South Peninsula Tanner subsections announcement: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/dcfnewsrelease/1647771616.pdf>

## **State Waters Pacific Cod**

The South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear season will open at 12:00 noon March 7, 2025 or seven days after closure of the Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) federal/parallel Pacific cod pot gear sector A season, whichever is later. The South Pen Pcod GHl is similar to last year at 4,896,527 lbs for pot gear and 864,093 lbs for jig gear. GHl and opening notice:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/DCFnewsrelease/1646319235.pdf>.

The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod GHl for pot gear is set for 44,026,000 lbs, and will open 7 days after the federal BSAI under 60ft hook/line and pot gear season closure. The jig gear GHl is 100,000 lbs and the jig gear season will open May 1<sup>st</sup>. Tags and registration for the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict cod fishery can be obtained through the Dutch Harbor office. Notice:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/DCFnewsrelease/1646427159.pdf>.

Krista Milani is the NOAA Fisheries Manager in Dutch Harbor. Her contact info is [krista.milani@noaa.gov](mailto:krista.milani@noaa.gov), (907) 308-3284. Abby Jahn is a Fishery Management Specialist in Juneau. Her contact info is [abby.jahn@noaa.gov](mailto:abby.jahn@noaa.gov) (907) 586-7416. Fishermen are reminded to check fish tickets for accuracy of statistical areas fished and fishing trip start dates.

### **Federal fisheries**

Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands proposed 2025 groundfish harvest specifications, as presented in the [Federal Register](#). [Inseason Adjustment](#).

Gulf of Alaska proposed 2025 groundfish harvest specifications, as presented in the [Federal Register](#). [Inseason Adjustment](#) for pollock and Pacific cod.

‘A’ Season allowance for pollock in Area 610 – 5589mt

‘A’ Season allowance for Pacific cod WGOA trawl CV – 1856mt

‘A’ Season allowance for Pacific cod WGOA pot gear – 1165mt

The Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish fishery opens April 1<sup>st</sup> this year changed from May 1<sup>st</sup>. Pacific cod TACs similar to last year’s.

Josh Keaton supervises staff responsible for development and implementation of monitoring programs, in the NOAA Fisheries Sustainable Fisheries Division Monitoring Branch. His contact info is [josh.keaton@noaa.gov](mailto:josh.keaton@noaa.gov) (907) 586-7519.

Thanks in part to the Western Gulf trawl fleet and AEB's Fishery Analyst Charlotte Levy, Electronic Monitoring for trawl is implemented as a regulatory program in 2025, with near 100% participation, similar to the exempted fishery permit (EFP) program. A FAQ will be available soon. Components:

- Vessel Monitoring Plan – must be aboard vessel at all times paper or electronic copy.
- Logbooks required, eLogbook or paper copy.
- Vessels must communicate with processing plants.
- Program encourages best practice of retention of all catch – some discards allowed
- Every salmon is counted – no more extrapolation - provides more precise salmon accounting

Charlotte noted there will be an early January pre-season meeting to go over all changes to EM program.

Glenn Campbell with the Fisheries Analysis and Monitoring Division at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, provided a presentation titled “*2025 Updates to the Observer Declare and Deploy System (ODDS)*” linked here: <http://www.aebfish.org/2025ODDSOutreach.pdf>

Megan Smith and Haley Anderson are with the observer provider AIS. The ODDS Call Center is open 6AM to 10PM 7 days a week. Some phones in Sand Point apparently can't use the 1-855-747-6377 number, should try the alternate ODDS call-in number 206-673-3338. The ODDS website <http://odds.afsc.noaa.gov> is available 24/7 for logging trips.

Saltwater contacts

[nick.kroeger@saltwaterinc.com](mailto:nick.kroeger@saltwaterinc.com) or [stacey.hansen@saltwaterinc.com](mailto:stacey.hansen@saltwaterinc.com)

Technician Nick Kroeger will be in the field (Sand Point) for EM equipment no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>, also to King Cove, if needed.

Monica Thom, Tyler Jack and Claude Dykstra are with the International Pacific Halibut Commission.

The 101st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting will be held January 27-31, 2025 in Vancouver BC. Open request for tendering proposals for the 2025 Fishery Independent Setline Survey (FISS) - [Vessel Recruiting - IPHC](#)

Captain Dave Schaeffer of the United States Coast Guard was not able to connect to the call so Alex Perry provided information in his stead. Captain Schaeffer's contact info: (907) 428-4179 office, (907) 764-5071 cell. [david.g.schaeffer2@uscg.mil](mailto:david.g.schaeffer2@uscg.mil)

USCG Dockside Safety Examiners will be in the region the first week in June (Sand Point, King Cove and Port Moller if in operation) or in Kodiak or Dutch Harbor any time of year. Fishermen are advised to order any safety supplies needed early.

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement in Kodiak (907)486-3298, in Dutch Harbor, (907)581-2061. Call the Kodiak number to check your FFP endorsements. To check that your VMS is pinging, call (907)586-7225, 8AM-4:30PM.

## Happy New Year and Good Fishing!

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