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Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Area Parallel Pacific Cod Season Closes to Longline Gear State-Waters Pacific Cod Season Opens to Longline Gear Emergency Order # 2-GF-E-06-26

The Prince William Sound Area (PWS) Pacific cod parallel season will close to vessels using longline hook gear at 12:00 on February 15, 2026 and the PWS state-waters season will open to vessels using longline hook gear at 6:00 a.m. March 26, in conjunction with the halibut individual fishing quota (IFQ) season. The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the PWS state-waters season is 1,514,576 pounds and is allocated 45% to longline hook gear (681,559 pounds) and 55% to pot and jig gear combined (833,017 pounds). There is a 24-hour delivery time requirement following closure of a groundfish fishery. All fish harvested in the parallel season for longline hook gear must be landed prior to participating in the state-waters pot season. Bycatch limits by species or species aggregate for PWS are set by Emergency Order 2-GF-E-01-25 and may be found in the Central Region Groundfish Fisheries Outlook Advisory Announcement.

Area registration for the state-waters season is exclusive. Registrations may be obtained through the ADF&G website and emailed for validation. Alternatively, registrations may be filled out at ADF&G offices in Homer, Cordova, Anchorage, Soldotna, and Kodiak or by appointment in Seward (contact Homer ADF&G office).

Participants in the state-waters Pacific cod season are required to **check in with the department prior to each fishing trip** by telephoning (907) 424-7225 and reporting the following three items: 1) vessel name, 2) estimated date and time of departure for trip, and 3) estimated date of landing. This requirement is detailed on the area registration form and is required under 5 AAC 28.020(c).

Fishing area: Pacific cod may be taken in state waters of PWS except for those waters of the Outside District east of 146° 15.12' W. long. (the longitude of Hook Point) (Figure 1; 5 AAC 28.267(e)(2)).

Two Steller sea lion rookeries within PWS, Wooded Island (Fish Island) and Seal Rocks, remain closed to all FFP holders out to 3 nautical miles (Figure 1). For more information on sea lion closure areas contact NMFS in Kodiak at (907) 481-1780 or consult the NMFS website at <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/sslpm>.

For additional information, contact ADF&G in Homer at 907-235-8191.

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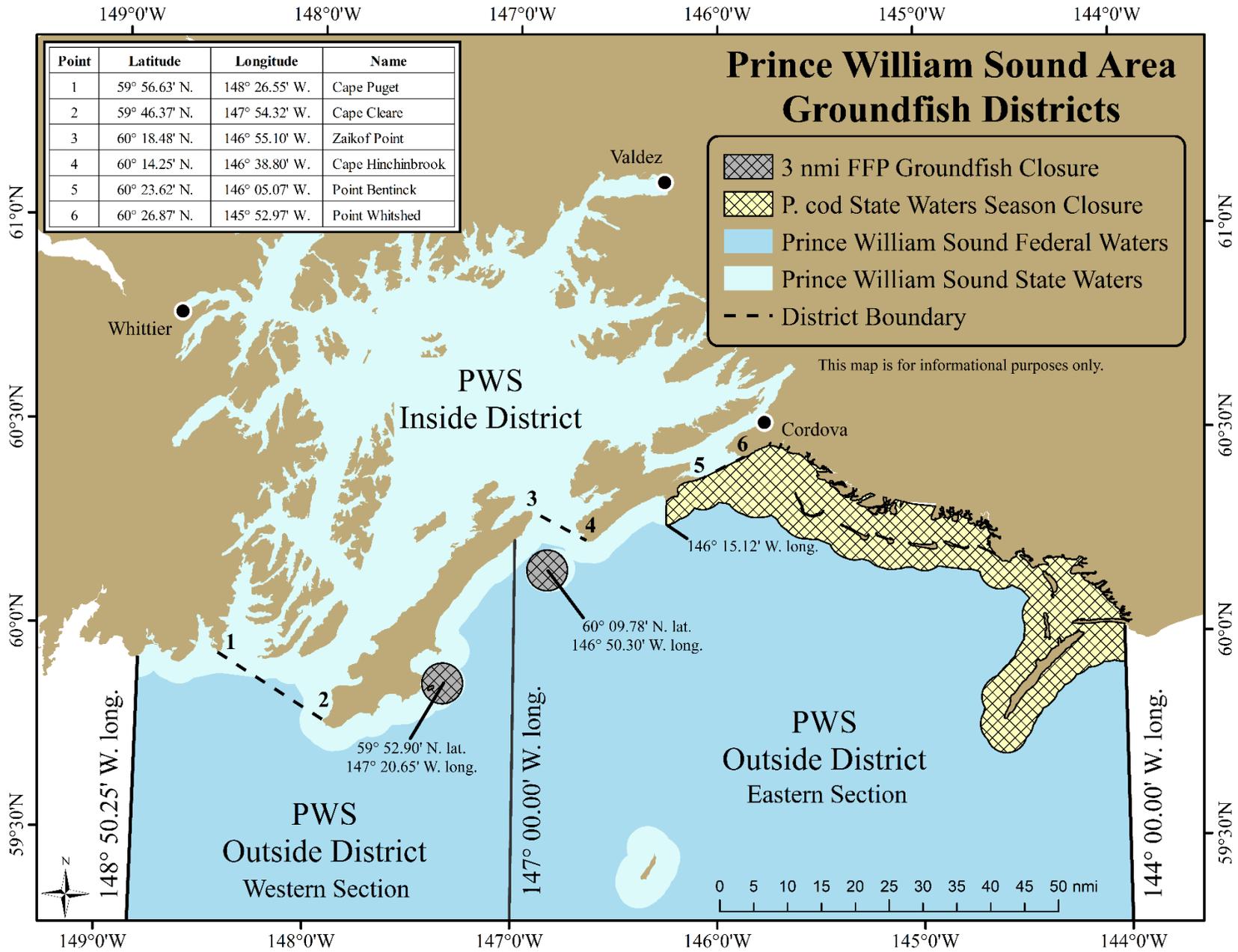


Figure 1. Prince William Sound districts, FFP groundfish closure areas and Pacific cod closed waters.