



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668
February 3, 2011

Dear Federal Fisheries Permit Holder:

The purpose of this letter is to remind you of the compliance requirements for Pacific cod caught within State of Alaska (State) waters adjacent to the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI) and the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). As a Federal Fisheries Permit holder, you are responsible to know whether your catch is deducted from a Federal Total Allowable Catch (TAC) or from the State Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) and to comply with Federal fishery requirements when your Pacific cod catch will be deducted from the Federal TAC. If you harvest Pacific cod from State waters adjacent to the BSAI or GOA during the federal fishing season when fishing is closed to your gear or operation type under Federal regulations and your catch of Pacific cod is deducted from the Pacific cod TAC, you may be in violation of a Federal Pacific cod closure.

NMFS uses observer, eLandings, VMS, and other data to determine location and time of catch from each haul or delivery. Data on location and time of catch is combined with information on each groundfish management program to determine what groundfish catch is deducted from the applicable allocation for Pacific cod. For example, the observer and eLandings data that NMFS receives identifies the State statistical area where the catch occurred, and the date when fishing occurred. These data are linked to the State and Federally-managed fisheries accounts to deduct the appropriate amounts of Pacific cod.

Generally, any Pacific cod caught in State waters adjacent to the BSAI or GOA during a Federal fishing season is deducted from the Federal TAC, unless it was caught while participating in the State GHL Pacific cod fishery.

Should you have questions regarding Pacific cod catch accounting, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division, 907-586-7228.

Sincerely,

James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.
Administrator, Alaska Region

