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Advisory Announcement

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South Alaska Peninsula Area State-Waters Pacific Cod Pot Gear Season Weather Delay Update

The National Weather Service (NWS) announced changes to Alaska's marine forecast zones that will take effect on March 8, 2023. These changes affect the weather delay regulation for the South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod pot gear fishery which is scheduled to open at 12:00 noon March 7, 2023, unless delayed by weather. ADF&G is working to update regulations to accommodate the new NWS forecast zones, but these updates will not be complete prior to the 2023 season opening. Therefore, ADF&G will manage the season by applying the intent of the current weather delay regulation to the new forecast zones as follows:

- The current regulation states that if the NWS marine forecast for zone PKZ155 issued at 4:00 a.m. on March 7, 2023 contains a gale warning, the season opening will be delayed 24 hours. Weather delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis for seven days, after which the season will open regardless of the weather forecast (5 AAC 28.577(l)).
- On the afternoon March 8, 2023, zone PKZ155 will cease to exist and will be replaced by four smaller forecast zones (see map below); including two new nearshore zones (0–15 nmi offshore; PKZ752 and PKZ754) and two new coastal zones (15–100 nmi offshore; PKZ753 and PKZ755);
- Beginning March 9, 2023, ADF&G will use the nearshore zones (PKZ752 and PKZ754) to determine if the fishery opening will be delayed. If the 4:00 a.m. forecast for *either PKZ752 or PKZ754* contains a gale warning the season opening will be delayed for 24 hours. Gale warnings issued for the coastal zones (PKZ753 and PKZ755) will not delay the fishery opening.

For more information, contact ADF&G in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

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