Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: December 15, 2023

CONTACT: Martin Schuster and Andy Pollak
Groundfish Area Management Biologists
(907) 235-8191

Prince William Sound Area
Pollock Test Fishery Opportunity

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) is soliciting bids to contract a vessel(s) to conduct a test fishery using pelagic trawl gear to harvest up to 900,000 lb (408 tons) of walleye pollock in the Prince William Sound Area (PWS; Registration Area E). Eligible vessels must register for the 2024 PWS directed pollock pelagic trawl fishery; the area open to test fishing will be the same area open during the commercial fishery. Revenues generated from the pollock test fishery will be used to offset the cost of assessment and management in PWS.

The test fishery may occur the week before the regulatory opening of the PWS directed pollock pelagic trawl fishery between 12:00 noon January 12 and 12:00 noon January 19, or, the week following the closure of the commercial fishery, for which timing will depend on when/if the GHL is achieved.

The minimum bid price is $0.030/lb. Bids will be accepted for 3 individual lots of 300,000 lb each. Contracts will be awarded to the highest bidder(s) within three decimal places for each of three lots. In the event of a bidding tie, the contract will be awarded via random drawing. All costs associated with the test fishery are assumed by the successful bidder. Bids <u>must be received</u> at the Homer ADF&G office (fax: 907-235-2448) by **12:00 noon January 8, 2024**.

Vessel owners or processors interested in obtaining a request-for-quotation (RFQ) sheet may contact ADF&G in Homer at 907-235-8191 during regular business hours (Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m –4:30 p.m.), or e-mail andrew.pollak@alaska.gov to receive the packet by e-mail.

-end-

AA01-GF-E-24 PWS Pollock Test Fishery