

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Maria Wessel, Groundfish Management Biologist

Cordova Area Office
P.O. Box 669
Cordova, Alaska 99574

Phone: (907) 424-3212
Fax: (907) 424-3235

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**PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COMMERCIAL
POLLOCK FISHERY UPDATE**

The directed fishery for walleye pollock *Theragra chalcogramma* in the Prince William Sound (PWS) Registration Area will open at 12:00 noon January 20, 2012 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 2,770 metric tons (6.1 million pounds). **The registration deadline for this fishery is 5:00 p.m. January 13, 2012.** Registrations for the PWS pollock trawl fishery will only be issued to individuals who possess a 2012 miscellaneous saltwater finfish permit card for trawl gear. Permit card applications are available at ADF&G offices, online at www.cfec.state.ak.us or may be obtained from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (907) 789-6160.

Registration packets are available only at ADF&G offices in Cordova, Homer, and Kodiak. Individuals wishing to register by fax must contact the ADF&G Cordova office during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.). Details of the department's management strategy will be provided with the registration packet and include check-in and check-out requirements, logbook, catch reporting procedures, and accommodation of department observers.

The PWS Pollock Pelagic Trawl Management Plan (5 AAC 28.263) divides the Inside District into the following three management sections:

- 1) Port Bainbridge Section: waters west of 148° W. long.
- 2) Knight Island Section: waters between 148° W. long. and 147° 20.00' W. long.
- 3) Hinchinbrook Section: waters east of 147° 20.00' W. long.

The management plan restricts the harvest from any one management section to no more than 60% of the GHL. The department is concerned that high effort could compromise its ability to manage for the section harvest limits. Therefore, it may be necessary to adopt weekly or daily fishing periods to assure a manageable fishery. Once the allowable harvest level within a section is attained, the directed trawl fishery within that section will close by emergency order for the remainder of the 2012 season.

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