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Advisory Announcement
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Prince William Sound
Pacific Cod Fishery
Vessels Allowed to Longline Pots

In January 2023, the Board of Fisheries (BOF) passed a proposal that allows pots to be longlined in the Prince William Sound Pacific Cod (PWS) fisheries. In addition, a companion gear marking proposal was adopted into regulation. These regulations will go into effect on March 26, 2023.

The first new regulation is 5AAC 28.230 (c) A groundfish pot may be attached to a line connected to another groundfish pot. Groundfish pots may be connected if each end of the buoy line is marked as specified in (d) of this section.

The BOF also modified gear marking regulations (**bold text**):

5AAC 28.230 (d) Groundfish pots must have the following: 1) at least one buoy on each groundfish pot must be legibly marked with the permanent ADF&G vessel license plate number of the vessel operating the gear; the buoy may bear only the number of the vessel operating the gear; the number must be placed on the top **one-half** of the buoy in numerals at least four inches high, one-half inch wide, and in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy; the buoy markings must be visible on the buoy above the water's surface when the buoy is attached to the groundfish pot; and

(2) each end of a groundfish pot longline must have a buoy attached and each buoy must be marked with the permanent ADF&G vessel license plate number of the vessel operating the groundfish longlined pot gear; each buoy must have the letters LP to designate the gear as longlined groundfish pot gear and each buoy may bear only the number of the vessel operating the gear; the numbers and letters must be marked on the top one-half of the buoy in numbers and letters that are at least 4 inches high, one-half inch wide, and in a color that contrasts with the color of each buoy; all buoy markings must be visible on the buoys above the water's surface when the buoy is attached to the longlined pot gear; for the purposes of this subsection, "longlined" means more than one groundfish pot is attached to the stationary, buoyed, and anchored line.

In the PWS Pacific cod pot state-waters fishery, there is a 60 pot limit, and tags are required. Fishers longlining pots need to adhere to the statewide regulation 5AAC 28.050 (f) (1), each pot must have an identification tag. Because only one tag is allowed to be placed on the main buoy or trailer buoy if more than one buoy is attached to the pot, tags should be placed on the pots themselves, one identification tag per pot.

If there are questions, please contact the groundfish staff at the Homer office (907) 235-8191.

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