



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release:
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CONTACT:

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Prince William Sound Area Sablefish Fishery Season Opening and Quota Allocations

The Prince William Sound Area (PWS) sablefish season will open at 6:00 a.m. March 26, 2026 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 261,000 pounds. Fishing may occur only in the Inside District from 6:00 a.m. March 26 through December 31, unless closed by emergency order. Registration for the PWS sablefish fishery closed at 5:00 p.m. February 20, 2026 with 47 permits registered. The fishery is managed by quota allocations among vessel size permit classes as specified in regulation 5 AAC 28.272. The table below indicates the number of registered permits, and quota allocations in pounds of round weight, bled weight, and dressed (eastern cut) weight by permit category.

Permit Category	Registered Permits	Quota Round (lb)	Quota Bled Wt (lb)	Quota Dressed Wt (lb)
A & B	4	8,822	8,646	5,558
C	33	5,558	5,447	3,502
D	10	4,230	4,145	2,665

Each permit holder's harvest will be verified based on the sablefish weight as delivered. To avoid any errors, processors are required to report the proper delivery condition code on the fish ticket for the delivered pounds of fish: whole for unbled fish, eastern cut for dressed fish, or bled for fish when gills have been cut.

All sablefish in excess of an individual's quota allocation must be reported on the fish ticket as a "sablefish overage" and a check to the State of Alaska for the value of the overage must be submitted to ADF&G.

Reporting requirements: Log sheets must be completed and returned within 7 days after each landing with the corresponding fish ticket for that trip (5 AAC 28.272(f)). Log sheets are available on the [ADF&G website](#). Log sheets must:

- 1) Include the date, specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude, number of hooks fished or number of pots fished (use log sheet specific to that gear type), average depth, and time gear is deployed and hauled, for each set;
- 2) Include for the target species, and for each bycatch species, the number of fish retained and discarded for each set;
- 3) Be updated not later than 11:59 p.m. local time on the day after the day of operation; and

- 4) Be made available to a local representative of the department upon request.

Six-hour prior notice of landing for sablefish is required by calling (907) 424-7225 or setting up other contact methods with managers prior to fishing (5 AAC 28.272(e)). Prior notice of landing must include:

- 1) Vessel name and ADF&G number;
- 2) Date and location of landing;
- 3) Estimated time of delivery;
- 4) Buyer or processor; and
- 5) Estimated number of pounds of sablefish on board, and whether fish is dressed or whole.

Additional fishery regulations:

- 1) A vessel operator shall unload all sablefish taken in PWS, and a copy of the completed fish ticket must be submitted to ADF&G before taking sablefish in another area (5 AAC 28.272(a));
- 2) The operator of a fishing vessel may not take sablefish in the PWS Area while sablefish taken in another registration area are on board the vessel (5 AAC 28.272(b));
- 3) When targeting sablefish in PWS, copies of all completed PWS sablefish fish tickets issued to a sablefish permit holder for the current season must be retained on board the vessel (5 AAC 28.272(d));
- 4) During the PWS sablefish fishery a person may have both longline hook and longline pot gear onboard the vessel;
- 5) An operator of a vessel retaining sablefish in federal waters may not operate gear in state waters of PWS during the same trip.

For additional information, contact ADF&G in Homer, at 907-235-8191.

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