

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



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Date Issued: 11/28/14

**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT
COMMISSIONERS PERMIT FISHERY IN COOK INLET FOR POLLOCK
USING SEINE GEAR**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will be conducting a test fishery for walleye pollock (*Gadus chalcogrammus*) using seine gear in the Cook Inlet Management Area. The purpose of the test fishery is to determine the effectiveness of seine gear for catching pollock. The fishery will be prosecuted from December 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015, unless closed earlier because the pollock harvest limit has been reached or for other conservation measures. Fisherman participating in this fishery will be issued a Commissioner's Permit and be required to accommodate department observers on every seine pollock trip to monitor bycatch and to record biological information from species caught. Other provisions of the permit include trip limits, a total harvest limit, and logbook requirements. The department has limited the amount of participants in this test fishery.

Last year the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) formed the Gulf of Alaska Pollock Workgroup with stakeholders from industry, State of Alaska, and federal government. The goal of this Workgroup is to provide the BOF with discussion on a state guideline harvest level (GHL) walleye pollock fishery and an explanation of whether and how a state-GHL walleye pollock fishery would protect and maintain Alaska's marine resources and maximize benefits of the state's Gulf of Alaska (GOA) walleye pollock resource. Fishermen expressed interest in using seine gear to fish for pollock. Therefore the decision was made to prosecute a test fishery in the Cook Inlet Area. Information collected from this test Fishery can potentially show the effectiveness of purse seine as a gear type for harvesting pollock.

Questions regarding the fishery should be directed to Jan Rumble or Elisa Russ at (907) 235-8191.

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