

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



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**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT  
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA PACIFIC COD FISHERY  
PARALLEL SEASON CLOSES TO LONGLINE GEAR AND  
STATE-WATERS SEASON OPENS TO LONGLINE GEAR  
REGISTRATION DESIGNATED NONEXCLUSIVE  
EMERGENCY ORDER # 2-GF-E-15-14**

The Prince William Sound (PWS) Area E parallel Pacific cod season will close to longline gear effective 12:00 noon December 18, 2014. This coincides with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) closure of the Pacific cod less than 50 foot hook-and-line gear sector "B" season in the federal Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) area. Fishermen are reminded that they must deliver their harvest within 24-hours of the closure. The PWS parallel Pacific cod season will remain open to jig gear until closed by emergency order.

The PWS state-waters Pacific cod season will open to longline gear, with area registration designated as nonexclusive, effective 12:00 noon December 18, 2014. The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the PWS state-waters season for Pacific cod is 1.46 million pounds, and 1.33 million pounds have been harvested to date; approximately 134,000 pounds of the GHL remains to be harvested. The PWS Pacific Cod Management Plan (5 AAC 28.267) allows any GHL remaining after September 1 and following the closure of a parallel fishery to be made available to all legal gear types and also, after October 30, allows gear limits to be removed and registration to be designated as nonexclusive. The state-waters Pacific cod season remains open to pot gear.

Fishermen are reminded that they must deliver all parallel season harvest within 24-hours of the closure, and prior to participating in the state-waters season. Additionally they must possess a valid ADF&G PWS state-waters Pacific cod season area registration in order to participate in the PWS state-waters Pacific cod season. Area registrations may be obtained from ADF&G offices in Cordova, Anchorage, Homer, and Soldotna. Fishermen must possess a 2014 miscellaneous saltwater finfish interim use permit card in order to register.

Regulations protecting two Steller sea lion rookeries within PWS remain in effect. Directed fishing for all groundfish species is closed in waters within 3 nautical miles of Seal Rocks (60° 09.78' N. lat., 146° 50.30' W. long.), and Wooded Island (Fish Island) (59° 52.90' N. lat., 147° 20.65' W. long.).

Bycatch limits by species or species aggregate for the Prince William Sound Management Area state-waters Pacific cod season are set as follows by Emergency Order 2-GF-E-06-14 and Emergency Order 2-GF-E-13-14 as round weight of bycatch as a percentage of the round weight of the target species:

- (1) may retain 15 percent skate species in aggregate except;
  - (A) may not retain big skate after 12:00 noon February 6;
- (2) may retain 15 percent shark species in aggregate (includes spiny dogfish);
- (3) must retain all pollock;
- (4) must retain all rockfish (and thornyhead) as required by 5 AAC 28.265 and all rockfish in excess of 5 percent must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket;
  - (A) no rockfish landing or combination of landings may exceed the 5-day trip limit of 3,000 pounds;
- (5) may retain 20 percent other groundfish in aggregate;
- (6) may not retain lingcod prior to July 1; after July 1 may retain 20 percent lingcod.

For additional information, contact ADF&G in Cordova, at 907-424-3212.

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