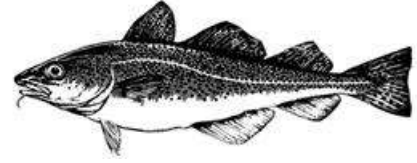


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:
Mark Stichert
Groundfish Management Biologist

Kodiak Office
351 Research Court
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Phone: (907) 486-1840
Fax: (907) 486-1824

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**2015 South Alaska Peninsula Area State-Waters Pacific Cod
Pot Gear Season Opening Date**

The South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season for vessels using pot gear will open at noon Saturday March 7, 2015 unless delayed by marine weather forecast. Pot vessels are restricted to operating no more than 60 groundfish pots. Buoy tags are required for all pot gear. During the seven days prior to the state-waters season opening, open and unbaited pot gear may be stored on fishing grounds at any depth. Pot gear may not be baited until the pot season opens. The 2015 South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) is 25,596,991 pounds. Pot vessels are allocated 85 percent of the GHL or 21,757,443 pounds.

All vessels participating in the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season may not exceed 58 feet in overall length. Vessel operators must obtain a miscellaneous finfish pot gear interim-use permit card from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and an exclusive area state-waters vessel registration from ADF&G prior to participating in the state-waters season. Registration and buoy tags are available at ADF&G offices in Kodiak and Dutch Harbor, the False Pass City Office, Trident Seafoods in Sand Point, and Peter Pan Seafoods in King Cove and Sand Point.

Vessel operators using pot gear during the state-waters Pacific cod season are required to report the following information to ADF&G daily;

- 1) Fishing location;
- 2) Number of pot lifts for the previous 24-hour reporting period; and
- 3) Pounds of Pacific cod retained for the previous 24-hour fishing period.

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Reports will be taken by ADF&G between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. daily by satellite dispatch (7894). Vessels operators may also report by phone (907-486-1840) or email (mark.stichert@alaska.gov). Vessels without satellite service may relay reports through other fishing vessels or local processors. Vessel operators interested in making alternative reporting arrangements are encouraged to contact ADF&G prior to the season opening.

For additional information, contact ADF&G in Kodiak at 486-1840.

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