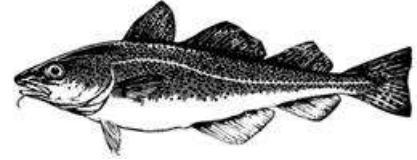


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**Closure of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Parallel Pacific Cod Jig Gear Season and
Opening of the State-Waters Pacific Cod Jig Gear Season**

Emergency Order 4-GF-07-15

By regulation, if the Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) federal/parallel A-season for jig gear has not closed by March 15, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) shall close the parallel (0 to 3 nautical miles) WGOA jig gear season in the South Alaska Peninsula Area and open the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters jig gear season to facilitate harvest of the state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL). Through March 10, 2015 approximately 92 percent of the federal/parallel WGOA A-season jig gear allocation remains unharvested. Therefore, the South Alaska Peninsula Area parallel Pacific cod jig gear season will close and the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear season will immediately reopen at 12:00 p.m. (noon) Sunday March 15, 2015.

Vessel operators currently participating in the federal/parallel WGOA Pacific cod jig season must deliver all catch prior to registering for the state-waters jig season. While the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters (0 to 3 nmi) jig gear season and the federal (3 to 200 nmi) WGOA jig gear seasons are open concurrently:

- A vessel may not participate in the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod jig season and any other Pacific cod season at the same time.
- A vessel's registration for the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters season must be invalidated before that vessel may participate in any other Pacific cod season.
- All Pacific cod must be delivered before a vessel may validate or invalidate a state-waters jig registration.

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- A state-waters vessel registration may be validated or invalidated by contacting ADF&G in Kodiak during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday).

The 2015 South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters jig gear GHJ allocation is 3.83 million pounds. Prior to participating in the state-waters jig fishery, vessel operators are required to obtain an exclusive state-waters Pacific cod vessel registration from ADF&G. The season opening date may be delayed due to weather based on criteria found in (5 AAC 28.577(l)). Vessels participating in the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod season may not exceed 58 feet in overall length.

For additional information on federal Pacific cod jig gear seasons, contact the National Marine Fisheries Service in Juneau at 907-586-7202. For information on state-waters Pacific cod jig gear seasons, contact ADF&G in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

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