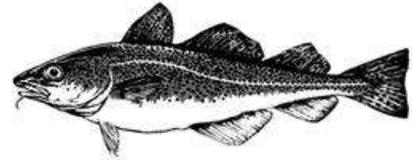


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director*



Contact:
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**2016 South Alaska Peninsula Area State-Waters Pacific Cod
Pot Gear Season Opening Date**

The South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear season will open noon March 7, 2016 unless delayed by marine weather forecast. Pot vessels may not operate 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 the fishing grounds at any depth; pot gear may not be baited until the pot season opens. The 2016 South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) is 26,788,149 pounds. Pot vessels are allocated 85% of the GHL or 22,769,927 pounds.

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. Vessel registration and buoy tags are available at ADF&G 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 are required to report the following information to ADF&G daily:

- 1) Fishing location;
- 2) Number of pot lifts in the previous 24-hour period; and
- 3) Number of pounds of Pacific cod retained in the previous 24-hour period.

Reports will be taken between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. daily by satellite dispatch (7894). Vessel operators may also report by phone (907-486-1840) or email (nathaniel.nichols@alaska.gov). Vessels without satellite service may relay confidentially coded 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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