

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



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**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT  
COOK INLET AREA PACIFIC COD FISHERY  
STATE-WATERS SEASON CLOSES TO POT GEAR AND  
PARALLEL SEASON REOPENS TO POT GEAR  
EMERGENCY ORDER 2-GF-H-06-16**

The Cook Inlet Area (Area H) **state-waters Pacific cod season will close to vessels using pot gear effective 12:00 noon March 12, 2016 and the parallel Pacific cod season will immediately open to pot gear.** These actions coincide with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reopening of directed fishing for groundfish by pot gear in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and is necessary to fully use the A season allowance of the 2016 total allowable catch of Pacific cod specified for vessels using pot gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA.

There is a 24-hour delivery time requirement following closure of a groundfish fishery. Vessels participating in the state-waters Pacific cod season for pot gear must deliver all groundfish prior to participating in the parallel Pacific cod season.

Fishermen are reminded: 1) to obtain a Cook Inlet non-exclusive parallel season Pacific cod area registration from ADF&G prior to fishing; 2) of the requirement for fishermen using pot gear in parallel Pacific cod fisheries to have a functioning, activated, NMFS-approved vessel monitoring system (VMS) as described at [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/ak\\_faqs.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/ak_faqs.html) and; 3) to adhere to the seabird avoidance measures (SAM) required in all longline fisheries for groundfish in state waters except the Cook Inlet District of the Cook Inlet Area under regulation 5 AAC 28.055 and described at <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seabirds/guide.htm>.

The state-waters Pacific cod season will remain open to vessels using jig gear.

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