

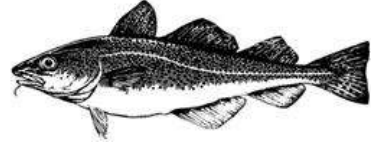
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2017 Chignik Area State-Waters Pacific Cod Opening Dates

By regulation, the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod season for pot gear opens at 12:01 a.m. March 1 or seven days after the closure of the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) federal/parallel Pacific cod pot gear sector A season, whichever is later. National Marine Fisheries Service announced closure of the CGOA Pacific cod pot gear sector A season effective at noon February 23, 2017. **Therefore, the 2017 Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear season will open seven days after the CGOA closure, at noon March 2, 2017.** The 2017 Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) is 8.52 million pounds. Pot vessels are allocated 90% of the GHL or 7.67 million pounds.

The 2017 Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear season will open 12:01 a.m. March 15, 2017. Jig vessels may operate no more than five mechanical jig machines and no more than 30 hooks per line. Jig vessels are allocated 10% of the GHL or 852,243 pounds.

Vessels participating in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod season may not exceed 58 feet in overall length. Vessel operators must obtain a miscellaneous finfish interim-use permit card for pot or jig gear from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and a superexclusive 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, Trident Seafoods in Sand Point, and the Chignik City Office.

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 groundfish pots may be stored on the fishing grounds at any depth; pot gear may not be baited until the state-waters pot season opens.

Vessel operators using pot gear are encouraged 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 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. daily by satellite dispatch (7894). Vessel operators may also report by phone (907-486-1840) or email (natura.richardson@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 more information, contact ADF&G in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

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