

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



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**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT
COOK INLET STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON
CLOSES TO POT VESSELS GREATER THAN 58 FEET IN LENGTH
EO # 2-GF-H-04-17**

The Cook Inlet Area state-waters Pacific cod season will **close to vessels greater than 58 feet in length and fishing with pot gear effective 5:00 p.m. March 25, 2017**. The state-waters season for vessels less than or equal to 58 feet in length and fishing with pot gear will remain open until closed by emergency order.

The Cook Inlet Area state-waters Pacific cod season opened to pot gear at 12:00 noon, February 24 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 3,652,504 pounds allocated 85% or 3.10 million pounds to pot gear and 15% or 0.55 million pounds to jig gear. The Cook Inlet Pacific Cod Management Plan (5 AAC 28.367) also restricts the state-waters season Pacific cod harvest by vessels greater than 58 feet in length and fishing pot gear to 25% of the total guideline harvest level or approximately 0.91 million pounds. Based upon current and projected harvest levels, the harvest cap for pot vessels greater than 58 feet in length will be achieved. If there is GHL remaining after September 1, it may become available to all legal gear, with no vessel size restrictions, during a state-waters season.

Fishermen are reminded that all pots must be unbaited and doors open at the time of the closure. Pots must be removed from the water no later than five days following the closure. Fish must be landed within 24-hours following the closure.

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