

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 CLOSURES TO POT GEAR AND

PARALLEL SEASON REOPENS TO POT GEAR

EMERGENCY ORDER 2-GF-H-05-17

The Cook Inlet Area (Area H) **state-waters Pacific cod season will close to vessels using pot gear effective 12:00 noon April 6, 2017 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 Pacific cod by pot gear in the federal Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) due to reallocating the projected unused amount of Pacific cod from the A season apportionment for catcher vessels using trawl gear to vessels using pot gear in the CGOA. It is necessary to allow the A season apportionment of the 2017 total allowable catch of Pacific cod to be harvested in the CGOA.

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. Pot limits and buoy tag requirements are not in effect during the parallel Pacific cod season.

Fishermen are reminded that they must possess a Cook Inlet Area non-exclusive parallel season Pacific cod area registration from ADF&G prior to fishing. Participants using pot gear in parallel Pacific cod fisheries must have a functioning, activated, NMFS-approved vessel monitoring system (VMS) as described at <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/cwm>.

The parallel Pacific cod season remains open to vessels using jig and longline gear.

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