

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



Contact:  
Jan Rumble, Area Groundfish Management Biologist  
Elisa Russ, Assistant Area Management Biologist

Homer Area Office  
3298 Douglas Place  
Homer, Alaska 99603

Phone: (907) 235-8191  
Fax: (907) 235-2448

Date Issued: 4/04/2017

#### **FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### **PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA E**

#### **STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON CLOSING TO POT GEAR**

#### **PARALLEL PACIFIC COD SEASON OPENING TO POT GEAR**

#### **EMERGENCY ORDERS # 2-GF-E-05-17**

The Prince William Sound (PWS, Area E) **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 (5 AAC 28.271). 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 valid PWS non-exclusive parallel Pacific cod area registration from ADF&G in order to participate in the fishery and a vessel may only be registered to fish with a single gear type. 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.

-end-