

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

Homer Area Office  
3298 Douglas Place  
Homer, Alaska 99603

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**PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COMMERCIAL  
SABLEFISH FISHERY UPDATE  
SEASON OPENING AND QUOTA ALLOCATIONS**

The 2017 Prince William Sound (PWS) sablefish season will open April 15 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 117,000 lb. The 2017 GHL was adjusted from the 2016 GHL by applying the relative change between 2016 and 2017 in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Gulf of Alaska sablefish acceptable biological catch (ABC), which is derived from NMFS stock assessment surveys.

Fishing may occur in **Inside District waters only** and season dates are **April 15 - August 31**. The fishery is managed by quota allocations among vessel size permit classes as specified in regulation 5 AAC 28.272. The table below indicates the number of registered permits, and quota allocations in round weight and dressed (eastern cut) weight by permit category.

Permit Category	Registered Permits	Quota Round (lb)	Quota Dressed (lb)
A & B	5	3,362	2,118
C	34	2,404	1,514
D	10	1,846	1,163

**Each permit holder's harvest total will be verified based on the sablefish weight as delivered.** Accurate delivery condition code must be reported at the time of delivery as required by 5 AAC 39.130. To avoid any misunderstanding, processors are required to report round weight pounds for all deliveries of whole (unbled) fish. Deliveries of dressed or bled fish shall be reported on the fish ticket in both dressed or bled weight and as a round weight conversion (converted automatically in eLandings and printed on the bottom of the fish ticket).

**Fishermen are reminded that a sablefish quota overage is an illegal harvest and may be subject to prosecution.** All sablefish in excess of an individual's quota allocation must be

reported on the fish ticket as a “sablefish overage” and a check to the State of Alaska for the value of the overage must accompany the fish ticket.

**Reporting requirements:** Logbook sheets must be completed and returned within 10 days after each landing. Logbook sheets may be submitted in person, by mail (ADF&G, P.O. Box 669, Cordova, AK 99574), by fax (907) 424-3235, or accompanying the fish ticket. Six-hour prior notice of landing for sablefish is required by calling (907) 424-7225 and reporting:

- 1) permit holder name and landing location;
- 2) name of the buyer or processor;
- 3) estimated time of arrival; and
- 4) estimated number of pounds of sablefish on board, and whether the fish is dressed or in the round.

**Additional fishery regulations:**

- 1) A vessel operator shall unload all sablefish taken in the PWS management area, and a copy of the completed fish ticket must be submitted to ADF&G before taking sablefish in another area (5 AAC 28.272.(a)).
- 2) A vessel operator with sablefish on board that were taken in another management area may not take sablefish in the PWS management area (5 AAC 28.272.(b)).
- 3) When targeting sablefish in PWS, **copies of all completed PWS sablefish fish tickets issued to a sablefish permit holder for the current season must be retained on board** (5 AAC 28.272.(d)).

For additional information, contact ADF&G in Homer, at 907-235-8191.

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