

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director*



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**FISHERY UPDATE
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA
POLLOCK TEST FISHERY OPPORTUNITY**

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game is soliciting bids to contract a vessel to conduct a test fishery using pelagic trawl gear to harvest up to 900,000 lb (408 metric tons) of walleye pollock in the Prince William Sound Area (PWS). Eligible vessels must register for the 2018 PWS directed pollock pelagic trawl fishery; the area open to test fishing will be the same area open during the commercial fishery. The revenues generated from the pollock test fishery will be used to offset the cost of PWS groundfish assessment and management.

The test fishery may occur the week before the regulatory opening of the PWS directed pollock pelagic trawl fishery between 12:00 noon January 12 and 12:00 noon January 19, or potentially following the closure of the commercial fishery, timing will depend on when the GHL is achieved; fishing area restrictions may apply if harvest or bycatch caps have been achieved for one or more sections (see map in packet issued after registering for the commercial fishery).

The minimum bid price is \$0.030/lb. Bids will be accepted for 3 individual lots of 300,000 lb each. Contracts for each lot will be awarded to the highest bidder within three decimal places. In the event of a bidding tie, the contract will be awarded via a drawing. All costs associated with the test fishery are assumed by the successful bidder. Bids must be received at the **Homer ADF&G office** (fax: 907-235-2448) by **12:00 noon January 10, 2018**.

Vessel owners or processors interested in obtaining a request-for-quotation sheet should contact Jan Rumble or Elisa Russ at ADF&G in Homer or leave a voice mail request for the packet, including a contact fax number, at 907-235-8191.

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