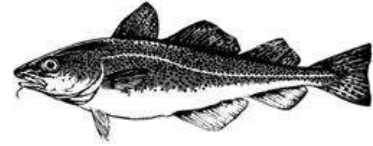


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner  
Scott Kelley, Director*



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**2018 Kodiak Area State-Waters Pacific Cod Season Opening for Pot Gear**

National Marine Fisheries Service announced closure of the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) pot gear sector A season effective at noon February 14, 2018. Therefore, the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear season will open at noon February 21, 2018. The 2018 state-waters season pot gear guideline harvest level (GHL) allocation is 1.12 million pounds. Vessels greater than 58 feet overall length are limited to 25% of the total GHL (559,000 pounds) while gear allocations are in effect.

Vessel operators must obtain a miscellaneous finfish pot gear interim-use permit card from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and an exclusive state-waters vessel registration from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) prior to participating in the state-waters season. Pot vessels may not operate more than 60 pots and buoy tags are required for all pot gear. Vessel registration and buoy tags are available at the ADF&G office in Kodiak.

Vessel operators participating in the parallel Pacific cod fishery may store open and unbaited groundfish pots at any depth during the seven days between the closure of the CGOA parallel season and the start of the Kodiak Area state-waters season. Once the state-waters season opens, only 60 groundfish pots with buoy tags attached may be fished. Untagged pots in excess of the 60 pot limit may be stored in waters less than 25 fathoms in depth or be on board the vessel for up to seven days after the state-waters season opening. After seven days, only 60 tagged groundfish pots may be in the water or on board a vessel participating in the state-waters fishery.

Tender vessel operators must obtain a tender vessel registration for the state-waters Pacific cod fisheries and must use the tLandings electronic reporting application to report all groundfish delivered to a tender vessel (5 AAC 28.033(a) and 5 AAC 39.130(b)).

For more information, contact ADF&G in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

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