

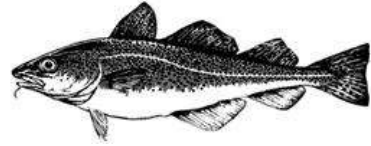
# **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

## **DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

### **NEWS RELEASE**



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



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#### **2018 Chignik Area State-Waters Pacific Cod Opening Dates**

By regulation, the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod season for pot gear opens at 12:01 a.m. March 1 or seven days after the closure of the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) federal/parallel Pacific cod pot gear sector A season, whichever is later. National Marine Fisheries Service announced closure of the CGOA Pacific cod pot gear sector A season effective at noon February 14, 2018. Therefore, the 2018 Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear season will open at 12:01 a.m. March 1, 2018. The 2018 Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) is 1.57 million pounds. Pot vessels are allocated 90% of the GHL or 1.41 million pounds.

Pot vessels may not operate more than 60 groundfish pots and buoy tags are required for all pot gear. During the seven days prior to the state-waters season opening, open and unbaited groundfish pots may be stored on the fishing grounds at any depth, but may not be baited until the state-waters pot season opens.

The 2018 Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear season will open 12:01 a.m. March 15, 2018. Jig vessels are allocated 10% of the GHL or 157,000 pounds. Jig vessels may operate no more than five mechanical jig machines and no more than 30 hooks per line.

Vessels participating in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod season may not exceed 58 feet in overall length. Vessel operators must obtain a miscellaneous finfish interim-use permit card for pot or jig gear from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and a superexclusive area state-waters vessel registration from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) prior to participating in the state-waters season. Vessel registration and buoy tags are available at ADF&G in Kodiak, Trident Seafoods in Sand Point, and the Chignik City Office.

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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