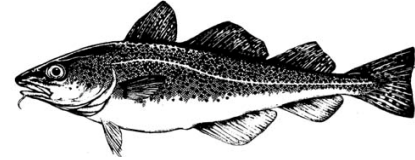


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2012 PARALLEL GROUND FISH FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN
KODIAK, CHIGNIK, SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA,
BERING SEA-ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AND CHUKCHI-BEAUFORT AREAS**

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game has issued an emergency order opening parallel groundfish fishing in state waters during 2012. Fishing seasons, bycatch limits, area closures, and allowable gear types for groundfish fisheries in territorial waters of the Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, and Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands areas that are not actively managed by the state will generally match federal fishery management measures in adjacent waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The Chukchi-Beaufort Area will remain closed to all groundfish fishing. Parallel fishery rules may be modified from those published in the federal register by subsequent emergency order to ensure resource conservation or management consistent with the interest of the economy and general well being of the state. Fishermen should be aware of exceptions to parallel fishery rules, where state-water rules differ from those imposed under federal management.

Federal sector allocations in the EEZ based on processing activity will not be recognized in parallel fisheries. Adjacent federal waters opened to a gear type, whether to both catcher-processor vessels and catcher vessels, or only one of those, will be considered open in state waters to both catcher vessels and catcher-processor vessels until closed to all vessels using the designated gear type.

The State of Alaska has adopted Steller sea lion protection measures under authority of 5 AAC 28.087 *Management Measures in Parallel Groundfish Fisheries for Protection of Steller Sea Lions*. Waters of Alaska that are described in the federal regulations implementing the Steller sea lion protection measures as closed to fishing or closed to gear types are so closed to all vessels, regardless of whether the vessel does or does not have a federal fishing permit.

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Except as noted below, federal regulations implementing Steller sea lion protection measures for Pacific cod, Atka mackerel and walleye pollock are located in 50 CFR 679.22 and in Tables 4, 5, 6 and 12 of 50 CFR 679 posted on the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) web site at <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/regs/default.htm> or available from NMFS offices in Alaska. Fishermen, except mechanical jigging machines or hand troll gear operators, are required to adhere to the vessel monitoring system requirements while fishing for walleye pollock, Pacific cod and Atka mackerel.

In the Aleutian Islands parallel Pacific cod fishery between 175° W long. to 178° W long. the state has adopted the federal regulations implementing Steller sea lion protection measures located in Table 5 to 50 CFR Part 679 (69 FR 75865, December 20, 2004) posted on the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) web site at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/index/frules/frules.asp?Yr=2004> or available from NMFS offices in Alaska. Vessels in the parallel Pacific cod fishery between 175° W long. to 178° W long. are restricted to 60 feet or less for trawl, pot, mechanical jigging machine gear, and hand troll; however, vessels using longline gear may not exceed 58 feet in overall length.

The state has adopted, under 5 AAC 28.055 *Seabird Avoidance Measures in Groundfish Fisheries*, the federal seabird avoidance regulations described in 50 C.F.R. 679.24 (revised as of April 27, 2009) are applicable in state waters for longline vessels greater than 26 feet in length. The federal seabird avoidance regulations are posted on the NMFS web site at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seabirds/guide.htm>

Commercial fishing gear is prohibited in certain areas to protect essential fish habitat (EFH). State waters surrounding specific EFH areas are closed by 5 AAC 39.167 *Commercial Fishing Gear Prohibited in Waters of Alaska Surrounding Essential Fish Habitat Areas*. EFH areas are described in federal regulation at 50 C.F.R. 679.22 (revised as of April 25, 2008).

Participants in parallel groundfish fisheries that purchase or process raw groundfish should be aware of electronic reporting and recordkeeping requirements in 5 AAC 39.130(h) that comply with federal electronic reporting and recordkeeping requirements in 50 CFR 679.5 (revised as of December 31, 2008).

The groundfish fisheries in 1 – 5 below are not managed under parallel regulations. Parallel rules are not adopted because these fisheries are actively managed by ADF&G.

1. The lingcod *Ophiodon elongates* fishery;
2. The black rockfish *Sebastes melanops* fishery in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula areas, and state waters of the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area;
3. The dark rockfish *Sebastes ciliatus* fishery;
4. The state-waters Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* seasons in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula areas, and the Aleutian Islands District of the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area;
5. The state-waters sablefish *Anoplopoma fimbria* fishery.

For more information contact ADF&G in Kodiak. -end-