

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



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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2012 CHIGNIK AREA STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON OPENINGS

The 2012 Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod season for vessels using pot gear will open at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, March 7, 2012. Pot vessels are restricted to operating no more than 60 pots. Buoy tags are required for all pot gear. Open and unbaited pots may be stored in waters less than 25 fathoms in depth prior to March 1. Beginning March 1, open and unbaited pot gear may be moved onto the fishing grounds (25 fathoms or greater); however pot gear may not be baited until the pot season opens on March 7. The 2012 Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) is 10.98 million pounds. Pot vessels are allocated 90 percent of the GHL or 9.88 million pounds.

The state-waters season for vessels using jig gear will open on March 15. Jig vessels may not operate more than 5 mechanical jig machines with no more than 30 hooks per line. Jig vessels are allocated 10 percent of the total GHL or 1.10 million pounds.

All 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 from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and a superexclusive state-waters vessel registration from ADF&G prior to participating in the state-waters season. Registration and buoy tags are available at ADF&G offices in Kodiak and Dutch Harbor, Trident Seafoods in Sand Point, and the City Office in Chignik.

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CATCH REPORTING

Vessel operators using pot gear during the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod season are encouraged to report the following information to ADF&G daily;

- 1) Fishing location;
- 2) Number of pot lifts for the previous 24-hour reporting period; and
- 3) Pounds of Pacific cod retained for the previous 24-hour fishing period.

Reports will be taken by ADF&G between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. daily by satellite dispatch (7894). Vessels operators may also report by phone (907-486-1840) or email (mark.stichert@alaska.gov). Vessels without satellite service may relay reports through other fishing vessels or local processors. Encrypted code sheets will be issued to vessels relaying catch information to maintain confidentiality. Vessel operators interested in making alternative reporting arrangements are encouraged to contact ADF&G prior to the season opening.

For more information, contact the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Kodiak at 486-1840.

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