

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



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**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD FISHERY
SEASON CLOSES TO LONGLINE GEAR
EMERGENCY ORDER # 2-GF-E-07-12**

The Prince William Sound (PWS) Area E state-waters Pacific cod season will close to vessels fishing with longline gear effective **8:00 p.m. March 23, 2012**. The PWS state-waters Pacific cod season remains open to vessels fishing with pot and jig gear.

The PWS state-waters Pacific cod season opened to longline gear at 12:00 noon, March 17 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 1.45 million pounds. New regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries close the PWS state-waters Pacific cod season to longline gear when 85 percent (1.23 million lb) of the GHL is achieved. Based upon current and projected harvest levels, this harvest level will be achieved by 8:00 p.m. March 23, 2012.

Fishermen are reminded that there is a 24-hour delivery time requirement following closure of a groundfish fishery and that the PWS state-waters Pacific cod exclusive area vessel registration becomes invalid 24-hours following the season closure.

Any GHL remaining on September 1, will become available to all legal gear types. At that time, vessels must again obtain a PWS state-waters Pacific cod exclusive area vessel registration in order to lawfully participate in that season.

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