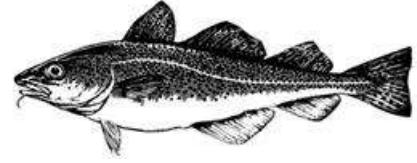


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner  
Jeff Regnart, Director*



---

Contact:  
Mark Stichert, Kodiak  
Charles Trebesch, Dutch Harbor  
Groundfish Management Biologists  
Phone: (907) 486-1840 Kodiak  
(907) 581-1239 Dutch Harbor  
Fax: (907) 486-1824 Kodiak  
(907) 581-1572 Dutch Harbor

Westward Region  
211 Mission Road  
Kodiak Alaska, 99615

Date Issued: 12/18/2012

**2013 Parallel Groundfish Fishery Registration Reminder**

Parallel groundfish fishing seasons will open in state waters of the Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula and Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands management areas on January 1, 2013.

Vessel owners and operators are reminded that a State of Alaska vessel registration is required for all vessels fishing during parallel seasons in territorial waters (0-3 nautical miles) of Alaska. Registration can be obtained in person at Alaska Department of Fish and Game offices in Kodiak and Dutch Harbor or by mail or FAX. Prior to registration, vessel operators must possess a 2013 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission interim-use permit for miscellaneous finfish and a 2013 vessel license. A separate State of Alaska registration is required for vessels participating in state-waters Pacific cod, black rockfish, lingcod, or Aleutian Islands state-waters sablefish fisheries.

Beginning January 1, 2013, the National Marine Fisheries Service will implement a new fisheries observer program for Alaska's federal commercial groundfish and halibut fisheries. The new Observer Program will change how observers are deployed, how observer coverage is funded, and modifies the pool of vessels and processors that must have some or all of their operations observed. Vessel operators participating in directed halibut, state-water parallel, and guideline harvest level (GHL) groundfish fisheries are encouraged to become familiar with how they may be affected by this new federal program. Information and frequently asked questions on the restructured observer program are available on the National Marine Fisheries Service website at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/observers/> or by contacting the Observer Program office in Seattle at: (206) 526-4195 or (206) 526-4194.

For additional information, contact ADF&G in Kodiak at 486-1840.

-end-