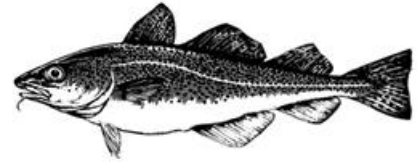


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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**SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA AREA
2012 STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has established the guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2012 South Alaska Peninsula Management Area state-waters Pacific cod season at 15.45 million pounds. By regulation, 85 percent or 13.13 million pounds of the total GHL is allocated to vessels using pot gear. Vessels using mechanical jigging and hand troll gear are allocated 15 percent or 2.32 million pounds of the total GHL.

The 2012 South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season for pot vessels will open seven days after closure of the federal Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) Pacific cod pot gear sector A-season or on March 7, whichever is later. The 2012 South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season for jig gear will open 48 hours after the WGOA federal/parallel jig gear sector A-season closes or on March 15 or later if the federal/parallel jig sector harvest allocation has not been harvested by March 15. If the federal/parallel jig sector A-season has not closed by March 15, ADF&G may close the parallel (0–3 nmi) jig gear sector A-season and open the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season for jig gear based on inseason assessment of effort, harvest rate, or remaining quota.

Vessels participating in the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery may not exceed 58 feet in overall length. Legal gear is limited to pot, mechanical jigging, and hand troll gear. Vessels may not operate more than 60 pots or 5 mechanical jigging machines. Buoy identification tags are required for all pot gear when pot limits are in effect. Vessel operators must obtain a state-waters Pacific cod vessel registration prior to participating in the state-waters fishery. Vessel registration and buoy tags can be obtained at ADF&G offices in Kodiak and Dutch Harbor and from local processors in Sand Point and King Cove.

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The South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery is an exclusive registration area fishery. Once a vessel is registered for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery that vessel may not register for any other exclusive or superexclusive state-waters Pacific cod fishery during 2012. Alternatively, if a vessel has registered for an exclusive or superexclusive state-waters Pacific cod fishery outside of the South Alaska Peninsula Area during 2012, that vessel may not register for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery during 2012.

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

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