

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



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PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA SABLEFISH FISHERY UPDATE SEASON OPENING AND QUOTA ALLOCATIONS

The Prince William Sound Area (PWS) sablefish season will open April 15 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 134,000 pounds. The 2019 GHL was adjusted from the 2018 GHL by applying the relative change between the prior and current year of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Gulf of Alaska sablefish acceptable biological catch (ABC), which is derived from NMFS stock assessment surveys.

Fishing may occur only in the Inside District from April 15 through August 31. The fishery is managed by quota allocations among vessel size permit classes as specified in regulation 5 AAC 28.272. Registration for the PWS sablefish fishery closed at 5:00 p.m. April 1 with 54 permits registered. The table below indicates the number of registered permits, and quota allocations in pounds (lb) of round weight, bled weight, and dressed (eastern cut) weight by permit category.

Permit Category	Registered Permits	Quota Round (lb)	Quota Bled Wt (lb)	Quota Dressed Wt (lb)
A & B	4	4,345	4,258	2,737
C	36	2,550	2,499	1,606
D	14	1,774	1,739	1,118

Each permit holder's harvest total will be verified based on the sablefish weight as delivered. Accurate delivery condition code must be reported at the time of delivery as required by 5 AAC 39.130. To avoid any misunderstanding, processors are required to report the proper delivery condition code for the delivered pounds of fish: whole for unbled fish, eastern cut for dressed fish, or bled for fish when gills have been cut, shall be reported on the fish ticket. Pounds of fish delivered in either dressed or bled condition will be converted to round weight for fishery management (converted automatically in eLandings and printed on the bottom of the fish ticket).

Fishermen are reminded that a sablefish quota overage is illegal harvest and may be subject to prosecution. All sablefish in excess of an individual's quota allocation must be reported on the fish ticket as a "sablefish overage" and a check to the State of Alaska for the value of the overage must accompany the fish ticket.

Reporting requirements: Log sheets must be completed and returned within 7 days after each landing with the corresponding fish ticket for that trip. A person may not make a false entry in a log sheet. Log sheets must:

- 1) include the date, the specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude, the number of hooks fished or the number of pots fished (use log sheet specific to that gear type), the average depth, and the time gear is deployed and hauled, for each set;
- 2) include for the target species, and for each bycatch species, the number of fish retained and discarded for each set;
- 3) be updated not later than 11:59 p.m. local time on the day after the day of operation; and
- 4) be made available to a local representative of the department upon request.

Six-hour prior notice of landing for sablefish is required by calling (907) 424-7225 and reporting:

- 1) permit holder name and landing location;
- 2) name of the buyer or processor;
- 3) estimated time of arrival; and
- 4) estimated number of pounds of sablefish on board, and whether fish is dressed or whole.

Additional fishery regulations:

- 1) A vessel operator shall unload all sablefish taken in PWS, and a copy of the completed fish ticket must be submitted to ADF&G before taking sablefish in another area (5 AAC 28.272 (a)).
- 2) A vessel operator with sablefish on board that were taken in another registration area may not take sablefish in PWS (5 AAC 28.272 (b)).
- 3) When targeting sablefish in PWS, **copies of all completed PWS sablefish fish tickets issued to a sablefish permit holder for the current season must be retained on board the vessel** (5 AAC 28.272 (d)).
- 4) **During the PWS sablefish fishery or any PWS groundfish fishery, a person may have only one type of legal gear onboard the vessel.**

For additional information, contact ADF&G in Homer, at 907-235-8191.

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