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## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release:*  
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### Prince William Sound Area 2026 Directed Pollock Pelagic Trawl Fishery Opens Emergency Order # 2-GF-E-03-26

The 2026 Prince William Sound Area (PWS) directed pollock pelagic trawl fishery will open at 12:00 noon January 20 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 7.3 million pounds. **The registration deadline for this fishery is January 13 at 4:30 p.m.**

Registrations will only be issued to individuals who possess a 2026 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) miscellaneous saltwater finfish interim-use permit card for trawl gear. Permit card applications are available at Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices, CFEC, or online at [www.cfec.state.ak.us](http://www.cfec.state.ak.us).

Registrations are available online on the ADF&G website at:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.groundfish>, at ADF&G offices in Homer, Cordova, Anchorage, Soldotna and Kodiak and may be completed by fax or e-mail. Contact the Homer ADF&G office with groundfish regulatory and registration questions.

Registration packets may be emailed to participants or distributed through ADF&G offices in Homer and Kodiak; these packets include check-in and check-out requirements, log sheets and catch reporting procedures.

Total bycatch is limited to 5% or less of the total pollock harvested. The bycatch allowance is apportioned into the following three species groups:

	Species Group		
	Rockfish	Salmon	Shark, Squid, and Other
Bycatch Apportionment	0.50%	0.04%	4.46%
Annual Bycatch Cap	36,600 pounds	739 fish	327,000 pounds
60% Section Bycatch Cap	22,000 pounds	444 fish	NA

There is mandatory retention of all rockfish, salmon, and pollock. All bycatch in excess of allowed percentages listed in the table above must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket, and proceeds must be surrendered to the state. If bycatch in the fishery approaches or exceeds the above listed section or annual bycatch caps, the directed trawl fishery within that section or within PWS will be closed by emergency order (EO).

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The department remains concerned about the status of rockfish stocks and salmon bycatch and is seeking the assistance of fishery participants to set gear away from areas of known rockfish and salmon abundance.

As established by 5 AAC 28.070(e), a CFEC permit holder operating a vessel fishing for groundfish shall bring on board the vessel all walleye pollock caught while operating the vessel. The permit holder or a crew member may not take any action intended to discard or release walleye pollock before the fish is brought on board the vessel. Therefore, all pollock caught during the pollock pelagic trawl fishery must be brought on board the vessel and retained, even if this action results in a trip limit overage; excess pollock above the 300,000 pound trip limit must be weighed and reported as a trip limit overage on an ADF&G fish ticket.

Weekly or daily fishing periods may be adopted in-season to conduct an orderly fishery, ensuring that section and bycatch limits are not exceeded. Please contact Homer ADFG office at 907-235-8191 for more information.

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