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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release:

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2026 South Alaska Peninsula Area State-Waters Pacific Cod Season Opening for Pot Gear

Emergency Order 4-GF-05-26

The South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear season will open at 12:00 noon March 7, 2026, unless delayed by weather. If the National Weather Service marine forecasts for either PKZ752 (Castle Cape to Cape Tolstoi; 0–15 nmi offshore) or PKZ754 (Cape Tolstoi to Cape Sarichef; 0–15 nmi offshore) issued at 4:00 a.m. on March 7, 2026 contain a gale warning, the season opening will be delayed 24 hours. Weather delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis for seven days, after which the season will open regardless of the weather forecast. The 2026 South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) is 6.31 million pounds. Pot vessels are allocated 85% of the GHL or 5.37 million pounds.

Vessels participating in the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery may not exceed 58 feet in overall length. Vessel operators must obtain a miscellaneous finfish pot gear interim-use permit card from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and an exclusive state-waters vessel registration from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) prior to participating in the state-waters fishery. Vessel registrations and buoy tags are available from the ADF&G office in Kodiak, Trident Seafoods in Sand Point, the Harbormaster's Office in King Cove, and Silver Bay Seafoods in False Pass.

Pot vessels may not operate more than 60 groundfish pots and buoy tags are required. Vessel operators may store open and unbaited groundfish pots at any depth starting March 1, 2026. Once the state-waters season opens, only 60 groundfish pots with buoy tags attached may be fished; untagged pots in excess of the 60-pot limit may be stored in waters less than 25 fathoms in depth or be on board the vessel for up to seven days after the state-waters season opening. After seven days, only 60 tagged groundfish pots may be in the water or on board a vessel participating in the state-waters fishery.

Tender vessel operators must obtain a tender vessel registration for the state-waters Pacific cod fisheries and must use the tLandings electronic reporting application to report all groundfish delivered to a tender vessel.

2026 Pacific Cod GHLs: Due to the lapse in federal appropriations during fall 2025, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) will review an updated Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod stock assessment in early February 2026. If federal catch limits are revised, ADF&G will issue updated GHLs in a subsequent advisory announcement.

For more information, contact ADF&G in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

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