



---

## Fish News

March 2, 2011

---

### **ADF&G Says Only One-Third of Vessels Reporting Daily in South Alaska Peninsula Area P. Cod Fishery**

According to a press release from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), fewer than 35% of all participating vessels have reported daily since the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery opened on February 25, 2011. ADF&G said 48 vessels registered for the fishing season since February 28th. Without adequate in-season catch information, ADF&G will implement conservative management measures to ensure the harvest does not exceed the 2011 pot gear GHF allocation of 14.23 million pounds. Conservative management measures may result in lost fishing opportunities for pot vessels.



**ADF&G says only one-third of participating vessels are reporting daily in the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters P. cod fishery.**

The South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod season is managed based on daily harvest reports provided by participating vessels. By regulation, (5 AAC 28.571(j)) a vessel owner or operator using pot gear must report daily to ADF&G the number of pot lifts and pounds of Pacific cod retained in the previous 24-hour reporting period. All registered vessels must report, including vessels that are in port or not actively targeting Pacific cod.

For more information on in-season reporting, contact the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

---

## More News from ADF&G:



The 2011 A season inshore fishery for the Western GOA P. cod closed Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>. The 2011 A season inshore fishery for the Central GOA closed Jan. 29, 2011.

### Western GOA Pacific cod:

The 2011 A season inshore fishery closed February 16. The 2011 A season allocations are 12,304 mt for the inshore component and 1,367 mt for the offshore component. The 2011 inshore component catch by gear is:

pot 65%, hook-and-line gear 20% (17% freezer longliner and 3% catcher vessels), and trawl gear 15%.

### Central GOA Pacific cod:

The 2011 A season inshore fishery closed January 29. The 2011 A season allocations are 21,795 mt for inshore and 2,422 mt for offshore components. The 2011 inshore component catch by gear is: pot 47%, hook-and-line 23%, trawl 28% and jig 2%.



The 2011 inshore component catch by gear for the Western GOA Pacific cod is: pot 65%, hook-and-line gear 20% (17% freezer longliner and 3% catcher vessels), and trawl gear 15%.



## **AGREEMENT REACHED TO MAINTAIN LONGSTANDING STATE & FEDERAL BOUNDARIES FOR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN 2011**

(Juneau) - Responding to an appeal from Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Cora Campbell, the *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has stated that a new 3-mile line established on NOAA nautical charts has no impact on state and federal fisheries management this year. Fishing regulations based on the longstanding maritime boundary lines that determine state and federal jurisdiction will remain in effect for 2011.

“I am pleased that NOAA Fisheries has recognized the serious impact of enforcing the new boundary lines,” said Commissioner Campbell. “It is unfortunate that fishermen were displaced from some historical fishing grounds in recent cod fisheries, but now we are back to the established lines and regulations while we work to resolve outstanding issues.”

The new lines were established by NOAA Office of Coast Survey, under authority of the U.S. Baseline Committee, as part of a nationwide mapping project. The process for changing lines off Alaska did not provide for consultation with the state, and did not contemplate immediate changes in fisheries management. There are a number of unresolved legal and technical concerns over the new lines. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources is leading state efforts to work with the U.S. Baseline Committee on a review of the methodology used to establish the new lines off Alaska.

The issues involving fisheries jurisdiction came to the forefront through a decision by the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement in late December to begin enforcing fisheries regulations utilizing a new 3-mile boundary line that is shown on recent NOAA nautical charts. That decision, now overturned, affected fishery management measures and permit requirements that have been adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the federal North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). Fisheries for Pacific cod in the waters of Kachemak Bay and the Kodiak Island area were the first to be affected.

In a February 28, 2011 letter to Commissioner Campbell, Eric Schwaab, NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, stated that NOAA intends to proceed with fisheries management and enforcement for 2011 that recognizes the historical 3-mile lines. The NOAA Fisheries letter notes they will coordinate with the State of Alaska and the Council in considering what, if any, changes may be appropriate for long-term state and federal fisheries management.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) looks forward to working with NOAA Fisheries, the Alaska Board of Fisheries, and the Council to develop coordinated fisheries management solutions if changes are necessary.

For state-federal fisheries management boundary lines now in effect, see ADF&G groundfish/shellfish statistical area charts at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingCommercialByFishery.statmaps>

or ADF&G's regulatory definition of state waters at 5 AAC 39.975(13).

---

## **Council to Take Final Action on Gulf Chinook Restrictions in June**

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is scheduled to take final action on Chinook salmon bycatch restrictions governing the Gulf pollock trawl fleet at its June meeting in Nome. The alternatives, approved Feb. 5, 2011, would set a hard cap on Chinook bycatch and require membership in an area bycatch control cooperative to fish pollock in the Gulf.



**The Council plans to adopt a preliminary preferred alternative at its April meeting in Anchorage.**

The Council plans to adopt a preliminary preferred alternative at its April meeting in Anchorage. Under the proposal, pollock fishing boats less than 60 feet would be required to carry observers 30 percent of the time. Electronic monitoring devices (video cameras) may be part of the observer coverage proposal at some point. Current regulations waive the rule for boats less than 60 feet from observer coverage. The Council fast-tracked this issue after Chinook bycatch exceeded an estimated 43,000 fish

during the 2010 Gulf pollock season. That prompted a consultation under the Endangered Species Act, and the Council moved the issue to the top of its priorities during its December meeting in Anchorage.

The proposed hard cap would be divided between fleets in the western and central Gulf. Battles over allocations are expected to heat up. The Council experienced a small taste of that during its deliberations earlier this month in Seattle. According to the Alaska Journal of Commerce, Council Member John Henderschedt of Washington State moved that the Council drop two outlier years (the 2007 central Gulf total of 31,647 and the 2010 western Gulf total of 31,581).

The Journal also reported that Council member Sam Cotten of Eagle River spoke out for the small pollock fleet mostly harbored out of Sand Point and King Cove. He said dropping the two years would be “jiggling” the numbers to benefit one area. Henderschedt countered that his motion wouldn’t be advocating for one group, but to acknowledge the reality that two outlier years were skewing the averages.

Aleutians East Borough Mayor Stanley Mack recently sent a letter to the Council, asking members to take more time to reach a decision on the proposal so local fishermen will be able to participate in the process.

[Read more: Alaska Journal of Commerce story](#)

[February Newsletter - NPFMC](#)

---

## Calendar of Fish Meetings:

- **AK Board of Fisheries - King and Tanner Crab Statewide** (except Southeast/Yakutat) and Supplemental Issues - **March 22 - 26, 2011** - **Anchorage Hilton Hotel**. For more information, visit the link below:



### [BOF Meeting - King and Tanner Crab Statewide, and Supplemental Issues](#)

- **NPFMC Meeting: Week of March 28, 2011 - Anchorage**. For more information, visit this link: [NPFMC - 3 meeting outlook](#)



---

## **‘Fish Tax 101’ Workshop Deemed a Success**

The Borough’s recent “Fish Tax 101” workshop, held on Feb. 22, 2011 in Anchorage, has been called a success by participants. Approximately 25 people attended the workshop, including Borough staff members and AEB Assembly members. Three state officials provided presentations on how the fish tax is levied and distributed to Alaska fishing communities. Geron Bruce, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Director of Commercial Fisheries, explained why the fish tickets are an important management tool. Tim Cottongim, Fish Tax & Licensing Manager with Alaska Department of Revenue focused on the six types of fish taxes. Bill Rolfzen with the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, discussed which factors determine how the funding is distributed to fisheries management areas. Lamar Cotten, Lake and Peninsula Borough Manager, explained how his Borough’s local taxes differ from the AEB. He also outlined upcoming issues that could affect the AEB, Lake and Peninsula and the Bristol Bay Boroughs.

If you would like more information on the Fish Tax 101 workshop, please email [ltanis@aeboro.org](mailto:ltanis@aeboro.org) for notes and PowerPoint information.

---

*You are reading FISH NEWS, published quarterly by the Aleutians East Borough to help keep the lines of communication open among Alaska's commercial fishing interests. If you would like to have FISH NEWS delivered to you via e-mail subscription, send an e-mail message to [ltanis@aeboro.org](mailto:ltanis@aeboro.org). For more information about our fisheries, our people, and our communities, please visit us at [www.aleutianseast.org](http://www.aleutianseast.org) and check out our new blog at <http://aebfishblog.blogspot.com/>.*