



Fish News

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AEB Fishermen Meet with NOAA Officials to Discuss Pcod Sector Split Changes

By Ernie Weiss, AEB Natural Resources Director

Aleutians East Borough (AEB) fishermen from King Cove, False Pass and Sand Point met telephonically with NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Brent Pristas and Ken Hansen on 12/28/11 to discuss changes in the Pacific cod (Pcod) fishery with the implementation of sector split beginning January 1, 2012. Also on the line were Nick Sagalkin and Mark Stichert from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The rules regarding the Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) and License Limitation Program (LLP) are complex.

FFP's are issued on a 3-year cycle, which started January 1, 2012. Fishermen who surrender their FFP will not get it back for 3 years. They may amend the FFP as many times as needed. For example, some FFP holders may wish to amend the FFP by removing the Pcod endorsement, thereby allowing the vessel operator to turn off the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). Pollock and Pcod are VMS fisheries, and pollock and Pcod endorsements on the FFP requires the vessel VMS to be on during those fishery openings.

To amend the FFP, the permit owner should download the form from the www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov website and fax the completed 3-page form to the Restricted Access Management (RAM) division in Juneau. RAM will mail the permit back within 1 -2 days.

Both the FFP and the LLP can have Pcod endorsements. Fishermen who hold an FFP, and fish in the parallel fishery (inside 3 miles) must also hold an LLP with a pcod endorsement applicable to the adjacent federal water fishery. The reason for this rule is to limit the fishing effort and to prevent other FFP holders from moving inside 3 miles and into the local parallel fishery. Fishermen who don't hold an FFP do not need the LLP to fish in the parallel fishery. Those who hold an LLP with a Pcod endorsement do not need an FFP to fish in the parallel fishery. In fact, fishermen who hold an LLP don't need an FFP unless they are fishing for halibut or groundfish in federal waters.

Halibut and Sablefish IFQ fishermen are required to retain bycatch of Pcod less than 20%. An FFP is required in federal waters, however, a Pcod endorsement is not required for halibut and sablefish.

Jig fishermen using 5 jig machines, one line per machine, and a maximum of 30 hooks per line, do not need an FFP to fish in the parallel fishery. Fishermen who have an FFP and jig with 5 or fewer machines (as described above) in the parallel fishery, do not need an LLP. Jig vessels need an FFP to fish in waters outside of 3 miles, and vessels that carry 6 or more machines must have an LLP with a jig endorsement.

Detailed information regarding FFPs and LLPs can be found in Federal Fisheries Regulations: 50 CFR 679.4 and at 50 CFR 679.7(b).

The above information is not intended to supplement or substitute fishery regulations, but is merely an attempt by AEB Staff to describe the explanations by NOAA Enforcement to AEB fishermen.

The following information regarding Western Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod and Pollock 2012 allocations is from NOAA Sustainable Fisheries in Kodiak:

Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) Pollock 2012 seasonal allocations

A season	5797 tons
B season	5797 tons
C season	9338 tons
D season	9338 tons
TOTAL	32,070 tons

Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) Pacific cod 2012 sector allocations by season

Jig gear sector receives 1.5% of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) in WGOA

Jig	A season 189 tons	B season 126 tons	Total 315 tons
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Hook and Line Catcher Vessel (HAL CV) A season 145 tons B season 145 tons
 Total 290 tons

Hook and Line Catcher Processor A season 2257 tons B season 1843 tons
 Total 4100 tons

Trawl CV A season 5736 tons B season 2216 tons
 Total 7952 tons

Trawl CP A season 186 tons B season 311 tons Total 497 tons

Pot CV / CP A season 4100 tons B season 3769 tons Total 7869 tons

TOTAL WGOA Pcod

TAC21,023 tons

Fisheries management will determine rollovers between sectors, usually in mid-November.

ADF&G Summary of 2012 State-Waters Pacific Cod Season Dates
 Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula Areas

Pacific Cod Season Opening Dates	Kodiak		Chignik		South Alaska Peninsula	
	Pot	Jig	Pot	Jig	Pot	Jig
Federal/Parallel A-Season (Pot and Jig Gear)	Jan 1 st	Jan 1 st	Jan 1 st	Jan 1 st	Jan 1 st	Jan 1 st
State-Waters GHL Season	7 days after Federal CGOA pot A-Season	48 hours after Federal CGOA jig A-Season*	7 days after CGOA pot A-Season or March 7, whichever is later	March 15 th	7 days after WGOA pot A-Season or March 7, whichever is later	48 hours after Federal WGOA jig A-Season**
Federal/Parallel B-Season (Pot and Jig Gear)	September 1 st	June 10 th	September 1 st	June 10 th	September 1 st	June 10 th
State-Waters GHL Rollover	Following Federal CGOA pot B-Season	Following Federal CGOA pot B-Season	Following Federal CGOA pot B-Season	Following Federal CGOA pot B-Season	Following Federal WGOA pot B-Season	Following Federal WGOA pot B-Season
State-Waters GHL	15,691,401 (whole pounds)		10,983,981 (whole pounds)		15,449,995 (whole pounds)	
GHL By Gear Type	7,845,701 (50%)	7,845,701 (50%)	9,885,583 (90%)	1,098,398 (10%)	13,132,496 (85%)	2,317,499 (15%)

Note: CGOA = Federal Central Gulf of Alaska Management Area; WGOA = Federal Western Gulf of Alaska Management Area

* If the CGOA federal/parallel A-season jig sector harvest allocation has not been achieved by March 15, the parallel (0-3 mmi) jig gear sector A-season may close and the Kodiak Area state-waters season for jig gear may open on March 15 or later depending on ADF&G's ability to provide for orderly fisheries based on inseason assessment of effort, harvest rate, or remaining quota.

** If the WGOA federal/parallel A-season jig sector harvest allocation has not been achieved by March 15, the parallel (0-3 mmi) jig gear sector A-season may close and the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters season for jig gear may open on March 15 or later depending on ADF&G's ability to provide for orderly fisheries based on inseason assessment of effort, harvest rate, or remaining quota.

This document is for general information purposes only, it is not intended to be a complete list of fishery regulations, nor does it replace or supercede any existing regulations. Vessel owners and operators are responsible for understanding all state and federal regulations. For additional information contact ADF&G in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840 or NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division at (800) 304-4846 option 3.

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