

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



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**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COMMERCIAL
DIRECTED POLLOCK FISHERY OPENING
EMERGENCY ORDER # 2-GF-E-03-15**

The directed fishery for walleye pollock *Theragra chalcogramma* in the Prince William Sound (PWS) Registration Area will open at 12:00 noon January 20, 2015 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 9.94 million pounds (4,511 metric tons). **The registration deadline for this fishery is 5:00 p.m. Tuesday January 13, 2015.** Registrations for the PWS pollock trawl fishery will only be issued to individuals who possess a 2015 miscellaneous saltwater finfish permit card for trawl gear. Permit card applications are available at ADF&G offices, online at www.cfec.state.ak.us, or from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (907) 789-6160.

Registration packets are available only at ADF&G offices in Cordova, Homer, and Kodiak. Individuals who want to register by fax or email must contact the ADF&G Cordova office during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.). Details of the department's management strategy will be provided with the registration packet and include check-in and check-out requirements, logbooks, catch reporting procedures, and accommodation of department observers.

The PWS Pollock Pelagic Trawl Management Plan (5 AAC 28.263) limits the harvest from any one of the following three Inside District management sections to no more than 60% of the GHL:

- 1) Port Bainbridge Section: waters west of 148° W. long.
- 2) Knight Island Section: waters between 148° W. long. and 147° 20.00' W. long.
- 3) Hinchinbrook Section: waters east of 147° 20.00' W. long.

Bycatch is limited to no more than 5% of the total pollock harvested. The bycatch allowance is further apportioned into the following five species groups as follows:

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	Species Group					
	Rockfish	Salmon	Shark	Squid	Other	Total
Bycatch Apportionment	0.5%	0.04%	0.96%	3.00%	0.5%	5.00%
Annual Bycatch Cap (lb)	49,722	3,978	95,467	298,333	49,722	497,222
60% Section Bycatch Cap (lb)	29,833	2,387	57,280	179,000	29,833	298,333

Individual vessels should endeavor to remain below these percentage limits during each trip in order to facilitate an orderly prosecution of the fishery. There is mandatory retention of all rockfish. All bycatch in excess of the above listed percentage amounts in an individual landing must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket, and any 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.

Because high effort could compromise the department's ability to manage for both the section harvest and bycatch limits, it may be necessary to adopt weekly or daily fishing periods to assure a manageable fishery.

Once the allowable harvest level within a section is attained, the directed trawl fishery within that section will close by emergency order.

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