

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 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The rules regarding the Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) and License Limitation Program license (LLP) are complex.

FFP's are issued on a 3-year cycle, which starts January 1 2012. If you surrender your FFP you will not get it back for 3 years. You 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., fax the completed 3-page form to the Restricted Access Management (RAM) division in Juneau, and RAM should mail the permit back to you in 1 -2 days.

Both the FFP and the LLP can have Pcod endorsements. If you hold an FFP, and you fish in the parallel fishery (inside 3 miles) you 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. If you don't hold a FFP, you do not need the LLP to fish in the parallel fishery. If you hold an LLP with a Pcod endorsement, you do not need an FFP to fish in the parallel fishery. In fact, if you hold an LLP, you don't need an FFP unless you are fishing for halibut or groundfish in federal waters.

Halibut and Sablefish IFQ fishermen are required to retain bycatch of Pcod less than 20%, and so 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. If you have an FFP and jig with 5 or less machines (as described above) in the parallel fishery, you 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 FFP's and LLP's 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
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 TAC	21,023 tons

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