Fishery Management Report No. 09-01

Fishery Management Plan for the State-Waters Pacific Cod Season in the South Alaska Peninsula Area, 2009

by

Mark A. Stichert

Feburary 2009

Alaska Department of Fish and Game **Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries**

Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the Système International d'Unités (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Sport Fish and of Commercial Fisheries: Fishery Manuscripts, Fishery Data Series Reports, Fishery Management Reports, and Special Publications. All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figure or figure captions.

Weights and measures (metric)

centimeter	cm
deciliter	dL
gram	g
hectare	ha
kilogram	kg
kilometer	km
liter	L
meter	m
milliliter	mL
millimeter	mm

Weights and measures (English)

cubic feet per second	ft^3/s
foot	ft
gallon	gal
inch	in
mile	mi
nautical mile	nmi
ounce	oz
pound	lb
quart	qt
yard	yd

Time and temperature

day	d
degrees Celsius	°C
degrees Fahrenheit	°F
degrees kelvin	K
hour	h
minute	min
second	s

Physics and chemistry

all atomic symbols	
alternating current	AC
ampere	A
calorie	cal
direct current	DC
hertz	Hz
horsepower	hp
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH
parts per million	ppm
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰
volts	V
watts	W

General

Alaska Administrative Code	AAC
all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.
all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.
at	@
compass directions:	
east	E
north	N
south	S
west	W
copyright	©
corporate suffixes:	
Company	Co.
Corporation	Corp.
Incorporated	Inc.
Limited	Ltd.
District of Columbia	D.C.
et alii (and others)	et al.
et cetera (and so forth)	etc.
exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.
Federal Information Code	FIC
id est (that is)	i.e.
latitude or longitude	lat. or long.
monetary symbols (U.S.)	$, ¢
months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan,...,Dec
registered trademark	®
trademark	™
United States (adjective)	U.S.
United States of America (noun)	USA
U.S.C.	United States Code
U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)

Measures (fisheries)

fork length	FL
mideye to fork	MEF
mideye to tail fork	METF
standard length	SL
total length	TL

Mathematics, statistics

all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations	
alternate hypothesis	H_A
base of natural logarithm	*e*
catch per unit effort	CPUE
coefficient of variation	CV
common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2, etc.)
confidence interval	CI
correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
correlation coefficient (simple)	r
covariance	cov
degree (angular)	°
degrees of freedom	df
expected value	*E*
greater than	>
greater than or equal to	≥
harvest per unit effort	HPUE
less than	<
less than or equal to	≤
logarithm (natural)	ln
logarithm (base 10)	log
logarithm (specify base)	$log_{2,}$ etc.
minute (angular)	'
not significant	NS
null hypothesis	H_O
percent	%
probability	P
probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
second (angular)	"
standard deviation	SD
standard error	SE
variance	
population	Var
sample	var

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The Fishery Management Reports series was established in 1989 by the Division of Sport Fish for the publication of an overview of management activities and goals in a specific geographic area, and became a joint divisional series in 2004 with the Division of Commercial Fisheries. Fishery Management Reports are intended for fishery and other technical professionals, as well as lay persons. Fishery Management Reports are available through the Alaska State Library and on the Internet: http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/statewide/divreports/html/intersearch.cfm. This publication has undergone regional peer review.

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ABSTRACT

The South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* season is scheduled to open seven days after the closure of the federal/parallel Western Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod season. Vessels may not be longer than 58 feet, and legal gear types are limited to pot and jig gear. Gear limits are 60 pots (buoy tags required) or 5 jig machines. The 2009 guideline harvest level (GHL) of 11.89 million pounds, is based upon 25% of the Western Gulf of Alaska Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for Pacific cod. The pot vessel GHL is capped at 85% of the total GHL or 10.1 million pounds. Effective management is dependent upon timely and accurate communication between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the fishing fleet. In the absence of reliable harvest information, ADF&G will adopt conservative management measures. In the past, these measures have resulted in lost fishing opportunity to portions of the fleet.

Key words: Pacific cod, *Gadus macrocephalus*, South Alaska Peninsula Area, harvest strategy, regulations

INTRODUCTION

AREA DESCRIPTION

The South Alaska Peninsula Area (Area M) for groundfish consists of all waters of the Pacific Ocean between a line extending 135° southeast from Kupreanof Point to a line extending 170° W long. near the westernmost point of Chuginadak Island (Figure 1).

OVERVIEW

Two distinct Pacific cod fisheries occur within South Alaska Peninsula Area state waters (0-3 nmi). The first fishery is prosecuted concurrent with the federal Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) Pacific cod fishery and is referred to as the "parallel" season fishery. The parallel season is primarily managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under guidelines developed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). The second Pacific cod fishery is the state-waters season. The state-waters season is independent of the federal/parallel fishery and is managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) under guidelines developed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF). The purpose of this document is to further define these fisheries and provide specific information on the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season.

Parallel Season

Each year, the federal/parallel WGOA Pacific cod season (3-200 nmi) opens January 1 to pots, longline and jig gear and January 20 to trawl gear. When the federal WGOA is open, the state opens a parallel season in state waters (0-3 nmi). Unless specifically prohibited, the same gear types in the federal WGOA Pacific cod fishery are allowed in the parallel season except for non-pelagic trawl gear which is prohibited inside most state waters. Exceptions to gear permitted inside state waters are described under 5 AAC 39.164, Non-Pelagic Trawl Gear Restrictions. With the exception of jig gear vessels, all vessels that participate in the federal/parallel fishery must have an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS; 5 AAC 28.087). Steller sea lion restrictions during the parallel season generally match federal management measures (5 AAC 28.087), with the exception of the haul out at Caton Island.

During the parallel season, the holder of a Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) miscellaneous finfish permit may participate within state waters regardless of federal License Limitation Program (LLP) status after completing a Westward Region parallel groundfish registration. However, vessels that possess a federal fisheries permit should be aware that they

must comply with federal regulations regarding observer coverage and logbook requirements when operating within state waters unless they relinquish their federal permit.

The federal Pacific cod fishery closes when the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is met or the incidental bycatch limit for Pacific halibut is exceeded. Pacific cod harvested in state waters during the parallel season are not counted against the state-waters Pacific cod GHL. For additional information regarding federal Pacific cod fisheries call NMFS (907-481-1780) or NMFS enforcement (907-486-3298).

State-Waters Season

In 1996, the BOF adopted state-waters Pacific cod management plans in three groundfish areas in the Westward Region: Kodiak, Chignik, and the South Alaska Peninsula. The first state-waters Pacific cod seasons in these areas occurred in 1997. State-waters Pacific cod seasons do not require participation in the federal LLP. However, state management plans do specify fishing time and area, allowable gear, and harvest allocations.

Vessel registration for the federal/parallel season *is not valid for the state-waters Pacific cod season.* A separate state-waters Pacific cod registration is required. The South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season is an exclusive registration fishery. Vessels registered for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season may not register for any other exclusive or superexclusive state-waters Pacific cod season during 2009. Alternatively, if a vessel registers for an exclusive or superexclusive state-waters Pacific cod season outside of the South Alaska Peninsula Area, that vessel may not participate in the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season. Tenders for Pacific cod must also register for the state-waters season prior to beginning tender operations.

Pacific cod registrations may be obtained at ADF&G offices in Kodiak, Dutch Harbor and seasonally at Sand Point and King Cove. They may also be obtained via fax from the Kodiak office at (907) 486-1824. Vessel operators must possess a 2009 CFEC interim use miscellaneous finfish permit card for the appropriate gear type prior to registration. CFEC and other fishery related contact information is located in Appendix A.

During the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season, vessels may register and simultaneously participate in WGOA walleye pollock openings in waters between 170° W. long. to Castle Cape (158° 20’ W. long). Vessels intending to participate in groundfish fisheries outside of these waters must first invalidate their South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod registration and legally store all gear. Vessel operators may also simultaneously register for the directed black rockfish fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

2009 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL

The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the state-waters Pacific cod season is determined annually as a percentage of the WGOA Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for Pacific cod.

The percentage of the ABC for the WGOA allocated to the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod season is further described in 5 AAC 28.577 South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan (e)(1) and (e)(2). The 2009 GHL for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state managed Pacific cod fishery is 11.89 million pounds. By regulation, 85% of the total GHL, or 10.1 million pounds is allocated to the pot fleet.

BYCATCH

In state waters (0-3 nmi), ADF&G adopts the NMFS maximum retainable bycatch percentages applicable in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ; 3-200 nmi) off Alaska. Retainable bycatch percentages are subject to change and may differ between species. Unless otherwise specified, the maximum bycatch limit for any species of groundfish is 20% by weight of the targeted groundfish species. Notably, lingcod and octopus may be retained up to 20% by weight of retained Pacific cod and must be landed on the miscellaneous finfish card required to harvest Pacific cod. Additionally, lingcod may only be retained from July 1 to December 31. Black and dark rockfish may be retained up to 5% by weight of landed Pacific cod. However, vessels that are concurrently registered for the directed black rockfish fishery may retain black rockfish in excess of the 5% bycatch limit when the South Alaska Peninsula Area is open to directed black rockfish fishing. Updated retainable bycatch percentages can be found on the NMFS Alaska Region website: **http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/** or by contacting ADF&G in Kodiak (Appendix 1).

STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD MANAGEMENT PLAN

ADF&G manages the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season in accordance with the South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan (5 AAC 28.577). The management plan is described in detail on pages 51-53 in the 2008-2009 Statewide Commercial Groundfish Fishing Regulations booklet. Following is a summary of important regulations that govern the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod season:

- The South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod season opens seven days after the initial federal/parallel Pacific cod season closes.
- The opening of the season will be delayed for 24 hours if the National Weather Service marine forecast (Castle Cape to Cape Sarichef) issued at 4:00 a.m. on the scheduled opening date contains gale force wind warnings for that day and night plus the following day and night. If, after the initial weather delay, the following day's 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service marine forecast contains gale warnings for that day and night plus the following day and night, the opening of the state-waters season will be delayed for an additional 24 hours. Weather delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis for seven days beyond the initial opening date.
- Vessels may not be longer than 58 feet overall length.
- Pot and jig gear are the only legal gear types in the state-waters season.
- Vessels may not use pot and jig gear at the same time. However, operators may change gear registration by written request, in person, or by fax to the Kodiak ADF&G office or in Sand Point or King Cove when staff are available.
- No more than 60 groundfish pots may be operated from a vessel, unless the pot limit has been rescinded by emergency order on or after October 30. Buoy tags are required when the 60 pot limit is in effect. Tags should be placed on the main buoy or trailer buoy and are available from the Kodiak and Dutch Harbor ADF&G offices. Arrangements will be made to distribute buoy tags locally in Sand Point and King Cove prior to the fishery opening date. If tags are not available locally in Sand Point and King Cove, buoy tags or replacement tags can be obtained through the mail from the Kodiak office.

- No more than 5 hand troll lines or 5 mechanical jig machines may be operated from a vessel unless the jig limit has been rescinded by emergency order on or after October 30. Jig machines may not have more than five lines. Each of the five permissible lines may have no more than 30 hooks.
- Vessels may operate both hand troll and mechanical jig gear at the same time. Separate CFEC cards and fish tickets are required for each gear type at the time of landing.
- The allocation for pot gear is 85% of the total GHL. There is no regulatory allocation for mechanical jig/hand troll gear. After the pot gear season is closed, the state will manage the jig fleet for the remainder of the total state-waters season GHL. If the remainder of the GHL is not harvested by the jig fleet on or after October 30, the season may be reopened to both pot and jig gear by emergency order.
- If a significant portion of the state-waters season GHL remains unharvested on or after October 30, the state-waters season may close and immediately reopen without gear limits and vessel size restrictions.
- During the state-waters season, a vessel owner or operator using pot gear must report daily the harvest location as well as the number of pot lifts and pounds of Pacific cod retained in the previous 24-hour period. Additional information on catch reporting is outlined below.

CATCH REPORTING

ADF&G will manage the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season using inseason catch reports (Appendix B) provided by permit holders. Inseason catch reports allow the department to consider how changes in effort, fleet behavior, and weather influence harvest rates. Catch reports will be taken by satellite dispatch service, phone, or e-mail. **The ADF&G Kodiak office uses both Matrix[1] and Stratos[1] dispatch services. The Kodiak office Matrix number is 7894. The Kodiak office Stratos number is 0083**. Vessel operators will be asked for their preferred reporting method when registering, and the appropriate reporting worksheet will be issued at that time.

Reports will initially be taken at 9:00 a.m. daily. Reports must include the area fished, number of pot lifts, and pounds of cod retained for the previous 24-hour period (midnight to midnight).

INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS

The state-waters Pacific cod season will be managed throughout the season from information gathered from mandatory catch reports, weekly processor reports, dockside sampling information, and fish ticket data. All actions pertaining to regulatory changes in the state-waters season will be published in news releases and emergency orders as needed. ADF&G will make every effort to provide sufficient time for permit holders to configure gear for storage or to place gear onboard before a closure; however, the potential exists for short advance notice closures.

[1]Use of trade names does not constitute an endorsement from ADF&G.

Weekly updates will be released each Monday after 4:00 p.m. while the state-waters season is open. News releases, emergency orders, and weekly catch updates may be obtained through the following methods:

- Available in the Kodiak ADF&G shellfish and groundfish management office, (2nd floor, 211 Mission Road) or on the ADF&G recorded message phone at 486-5176.
- Via FAX and e-mail to a list of recipients maintained by shellfish management staff in Kodiak.
- Posted on the ADF&G website at:

  http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/finfish/grndfish/09groundfish.php
- Management biologists will attempt to announce closures following the National Weather Service broadcast at 0800 and 1800 hrs on 4125 kHz SSB.
- Via telephone or FAX to participating processing facilities; processors typically inform the fleet and post the releases in their offices.

LANDING REQUIREMENTS

Landing requirements are specified in 5 AAC 28.581 (1) and (2) Landing Requirements of the South Alaska Peninsula Area on pages 52 and 53 in the groundfish regulations booklet. With two exceptions, vessels participating in the state-waters Pacific cod season are required to deliver their catch within 48 hours after a closure. Vessels may have Pacific cod onboard after the 48-hour period following a closure only when 1) the cod were harvested as allowable bycatch in another directed fishery, or 2) the vessel has been delayed due to extraordinary circumstances and the vessel operator has contacted a local representative of the department within 48 hours following the closure and has been granted additional time to reach the port of landing.

POT STORAGE

Following the closure of the parallel or state-waters Pacific cod seasons, groundfish pots may be stored with all bait and bait containers removed and doors secured fully open on rectangular pots and doors not secured closed on pyramid and conical pots in waters at depth (25 fathoms or deeper) for up to seven days following the closure date. After seven days following a closure, groundfish pots must be removed from the water or stored open and unbaited in waters not more than 25 fathoms deep. Vessels that participate in the initial federal/parallel Pacific cod season prior to the opening of the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters season may leave their pots open and unbaited and at fishing depth for the seven days in between seasons. If the start of the state-waters season is delayed due to weather, the seven day pot storage requirement will be adjusted accordingly. No more than 60 pots may be in operation at the time of the state-waters season opening and those 60 pots must have buoy tags attached at the time of the opening.

FIGURES

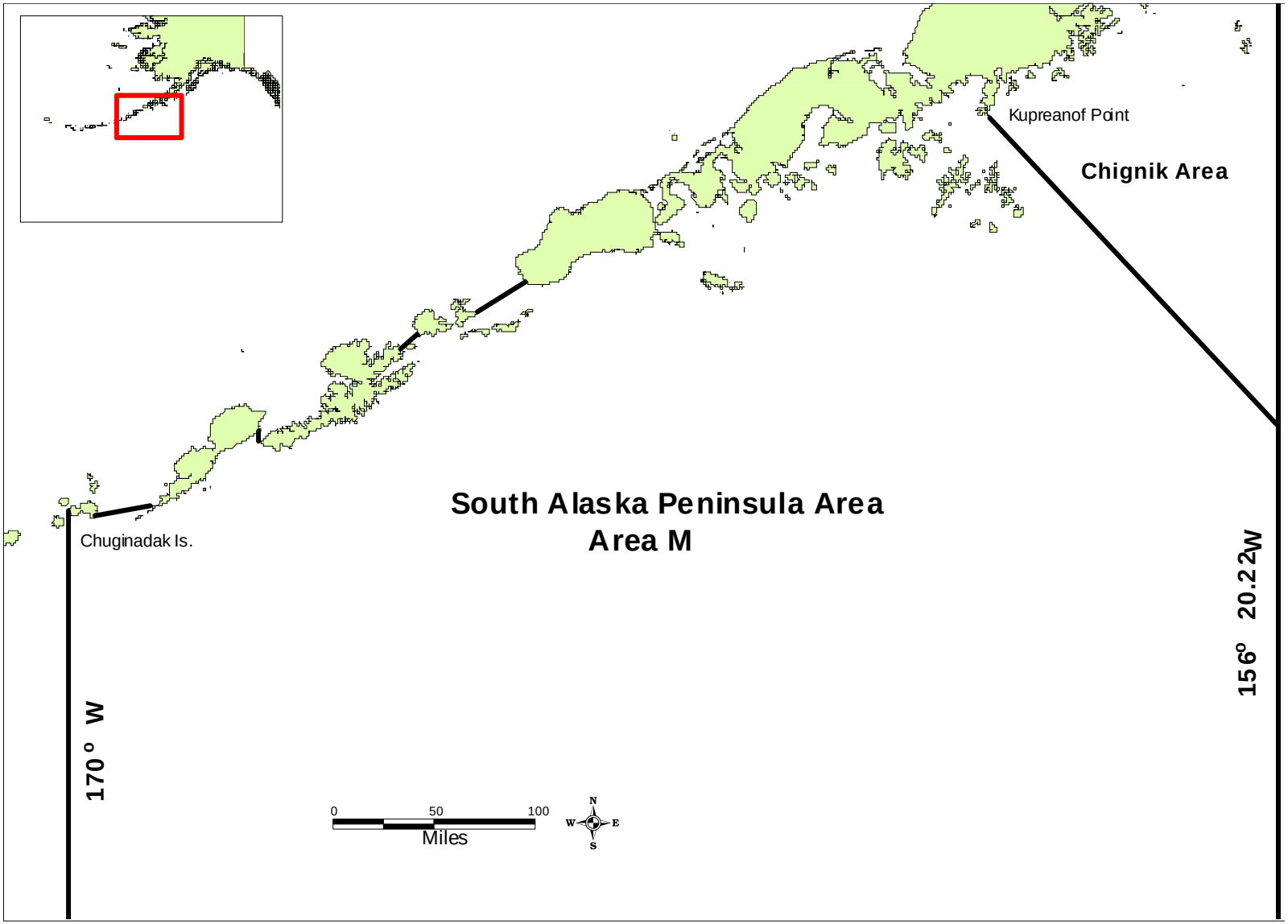

Figure 1.–South Alaska Peninsula Area for state-waters Pacific cod.

APPENDIX A. LIST OF FISHERY CONTACTS, BY AGENCY AND LOCATION

Appendix A1.–List of fishery contacts, by agency and location.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

web site: http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/rgn4home.php

KODIAK OFFICE

Mail Address:	211 Mission Road Kodiak, Alaska 99615	Physical Address: 211 Mission Road 2nd floor, Kodiak	Phone: (907) 486-1840 FAX : (907) 486-1824	Record-A-Phone: (907) 486-4559

Wayne Donaldson	Westward Region Shellfish/Groundfish Management Supervisor	wayne.donaldson@alaska.gov
Nick Sagalkin	Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Area Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist	nick.sagalkin@alaska.gov
Mark Stichert	Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Asst. Area Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist	mark.stichert@alaska.gov

DUTCH HARBOR OFFICE

Mail Address:	P. O. Box 920587 Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692	Physical Address: F.T.S. building, 2nd floor Airport Beach Road, Dutch Harbor.	Phone: (907) 581-1239 FAX: (907) 581-1572

Forrest Bowers	Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Area Biologist	forrest.bowers@alaska.gov

Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers

web site: http://www.dps.state.ak.us/AWT/

KODIAK OFFICE

Mail Address:	2921 A Mill Bay Road Kodiak, Alaska 99615	Physical Address: 2921 A Mill Bay Road Kodiak, AK	Phone: (907) 486-4762 FAX: (907) 486-5480

Sargent Lonnie Gonzales	Post Sargent	lonnie.gonzales@alaska.gov
Paul Fussey	Trooper	paul.fussey@alaska.gov

Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

web site: http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/

JUNEAU OFFICE

Mail Address:	P.O. Box 110302 Juneau, Alaska 99615	Physical Address: 8800 Glacier Highway #109 Juneau, Alaska	Phone: (907) 789-6150 FAX: (907) 789-6170

APPENDIX B. EXAMPLE OF REPORTING WORKSHEET

Appendix B1.–Example of reporting worksheet.

2009 South Alaska Peninsula Area State-Waters Pacific Cod Reporting Worksheet

Vessel Name:_____

Previous 24 Hour Period	**Item 1** *Area Fished*	**Item 2** *Number of Pots Lifted*	**Item 3** *Pounds of Cod Retained*
Date	**Closest Bay**	**Number**	**Number**

Instructions:

Report catch for the previous 24 hour period (Midnight - Midnight) to ADF&G Kodiak **daily** by any of the following methods:

*** Phone** (ADF&G Kodiak): 486.1840 or 486.1853

*** E-mail:** mark.stichert@alaska.gov

*** Fax:** 486.1824

*** Matrix Dispatch:** # 7894

*** Stratos Dispatch:** # 0083

Report **vessel name, area fished, number of pots lifted,** and **pounds of cod retained.**

Do not combine reports. If one or more reporting periods are missed, report each period individually.