

Fishery Management Report No. 10-52

**Fishery Management Plan for the State-Waters Pacific
Cod Season in the South Alaska Peninsula Area, 2011**

by

Mark A. Stichert

December 2010

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



Symbols and Abbreviations

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Weights and measures (metric)		General		Mathematics, statistics	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code	AAC	<i>all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations</i>	
deciliter	dL	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	alternate hypothesis	H_A
gram	g	all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	base of natural logarithm	e
hectare	ha	at	@	catch per unit effort	CPUE
kilogram	kg	compass directions:		coefficient of variation	CV
kilometer	km	east	E	common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
liter	L	north	N	confidence interval	CI
meter	m	south	S	correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
milliliter	mL	west	W	correlation coefficient (simple)	r
millimeter	mm	copyright	©	covariance	cov
		corporate suffixes:		degree (angular)	$^\circ$
Weights and measures (English)		Company	Co.	degrees of freedom	df
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	Corporation	Corp.	expected value	E
foot	ft	Incorporated	Inc.	greater than	>
gallon	gal	Limited	Ltd.	greater than or equal to	\geq
inch	in	District of Columbia	D.C.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
mile	mi	et alii (and others)	et al.	less than	<
nautical mile	nmi	et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	less than or equal to	\leq
ounce	oz	exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.	logarithm (natural)	ln
pound	lb	Federal Information Code	FIC	logarithm (base 10)	log
quart	qt	id est (that is)	i.e.	logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ , etc.
yard	yd	latitude or longitude	lat. or long.	minute (angular)	'
		monetary symbols (U.S.)	\$, ¢	not significant	NS
Time and temperature		months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan, ..., Dec	null hypothesis	H_0
day	d	registered trademark	®	percent	%
degrees Celsius	°C	trademark	™	probability	P
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	United States (adjective)	U.S.	probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
degrees kelvin	K	United States of America (noun)	USA	probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
hour	h	U.S.C.	United States Code	second (angular)	"
minute	min	U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)	standard deviation	SD
second	s			standard error	SE
Physics and chemistry				variance	
all atomic symbols				population	Var
alternating current	AC			sample	var
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				

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COD SEASON IN THE SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA AREA, 2011**

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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 (WGOA) Pacific cod season. Vessels participating in the state-waters season may not exceed 58 feet in length, and legal gear is limited to pot and jig gear. No more than 60 pots or 5 mechanical jigging machines may be operated from a vessel. The 2011 guideline harvest level (GHL) of 16.74 million pounds, is equal to 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 14.23 million pounds. Effective inseason 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 inseason harvest information, ADF&G will adopt conservative management measures which may result in lost fishing opportunity.

Key words: Pacific cod, *Gadus macrocephalus*, South Alaska Peninsula Area, harvest strategy, regulations, guideline harvest level, state waters fishery, parallel fishery.

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 south from 170° W long near the westernmost point of Chuginadak Island (Figure 1).

OVERVIEW

Two distinct Pacific cod fisheries occur within state waters (0-3 nmi) of the South Alaska Peninsula Area. The first fishery is prosecuted concurrent with the federal Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* fishery and is referred to as the “parallel” fishery. The parallel fishery is managed by adopting most National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) rules. The second Pacific cod fishery is the state-waters fishery. The state-waters fishery is independent of the federal/parallel fishery and is managed exclusively by 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 2011 South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season.

Parallel Season

The federal 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 concurrent parallel season inside state waters (0–3 nmi). Unless specifically prohibited, the same gear types in the federal WGOA Pacific cod fishery are allowed in the parallel fishery although non-pelagic trawl vessels are 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 vessels using jig gear, all vessels that participate in the federal/parallel fishery must have an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS; 5 AAC 28.087). **All vessels targeting Pacific cod inside South Alaska Peninsula Area state waters (0–3 nmi) are restricted to a maximum of 58 feet in overall length.** Vessels over 58 feet in length are not restricted from fishing in federal waters (3–200 nmi). Steller sea lion restrictions during the parallel season generally match federal management measures (5 AAC 28.087), with the exception of the haulout at Caton Island.

Vessels fishing exclusively in the parallel Pacific cod fishery are not required to possess a federal fishing permit (FFP) or gear endorsement (LLP). However all vessels must complete an ADF&G

Westward Region parallel groundfish registration. Vessels that possess a federal fisheries permit 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 during the parallel fishery are counted against the federal WGOA TAC. For additional information regarding federal Pacific cod fisheries contact 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 South Alaska Peninsula. The first state-waters Pacific cod seasons in these areas occurred in 1997. State-waters Pacific cod fisheries are open access fisheries that are independent of the federal/parallel fisheries.

Vessel registration for the federal/parallel fishery *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 fishery may not register for any other exclusive or superexclusive state-waters Pacific cod season during 2011. Alternatively, if a vessel has registered for an exclusive or superexclusive state-waters Pacific cod fishery outside of the South Alaska Peninsula Area, that vessel may not participate in the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery. 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 in Sand Point and King Cove. They may also be obtained by fax from the Kodiak office at (907) 486-1824. Vessel operators must possess a 2011 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 to simultaneously participate in WGOA walleye pollock openings in waters between 170° W long and Castle Cape (158°20' W long). Vessels actively participating in the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod fishery may leave baited pot gear on the fishing grounds while trawling for WGOA walleye pollock. However those vessels must contact ADF&G staff in Kodiak prior to entering and exiting the WGOA walleye Pollock. Vessel operators are reminded that all state-waters Pacific cod delivery and gear storage requirements apply in the event the state-waters Pacific cod season closes while vessels are targeting walleye pollock. Vessels intending to participate in groundfish fisheries outside of waters between 170° W long and Castle Cape (158°20' W long) must first invalidate their South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod registration and legally store all gear. Vessel operators may also simultaneously register and participate in the directed black rockfish fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

2011 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 2011 GHl for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery is 16.74 million pounds.** By regulation, 85% of the total GHl, or 14.23 million pounds is allocated to the pot fleet. Although no formal GHl allocation exists for the jig fleet, ADF&G will manage jig gear harvests up to 15% or 2.51 million pounds of the total South Alaska Peninsula GHl.

BYCATCH

Inside state waters (0-3 nmi), species that are not actively managed by the State of Alaska, 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 state-waters Pacific cod and the directed black rockfish fishery may retain black rockfish in excess of the 5% bycatch limit when the South Alaska Peninsula Area directed black rockfish fishery is open. 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 A).

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 55–58 in the 2010-2011 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 season opening date will be delayed 24 hours if the National Weather Service marine forecast for Area 155 (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 exceed 58 feet overall length.
- Pot and jig gear are the only legal gear types during 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 five mechanical jigging machines may be operated from a vessel unless the jig limit has been rescinded by emergency order after October 30. Jigging 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. 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 by 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, 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 vessel operators. 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, fax, or e-mail. **The ADF&G Kodiak office uses the Matrix¹ dispatch service. The Kodiak office Matrix number is 7894.** Vessel operators will be asked for their preferred reporting method when registering, and reporting worksheets 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 using 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

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

time for permit holders to configure gear for storage or place gear onboard before a closure; however, the potential exists for short advance notice closures.

Weekly harvest 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 486-4559.
- 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/11pcod.pdf>
- Via telephone or FAX to participating processing facilities; processors typically inform the fleet and post news releases in their offices.

LANDING REQUIREMENTS

Landing requirements are specified in 5 AAC 28.581 (1) and (2) on page 58 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 an ADF&G representative 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

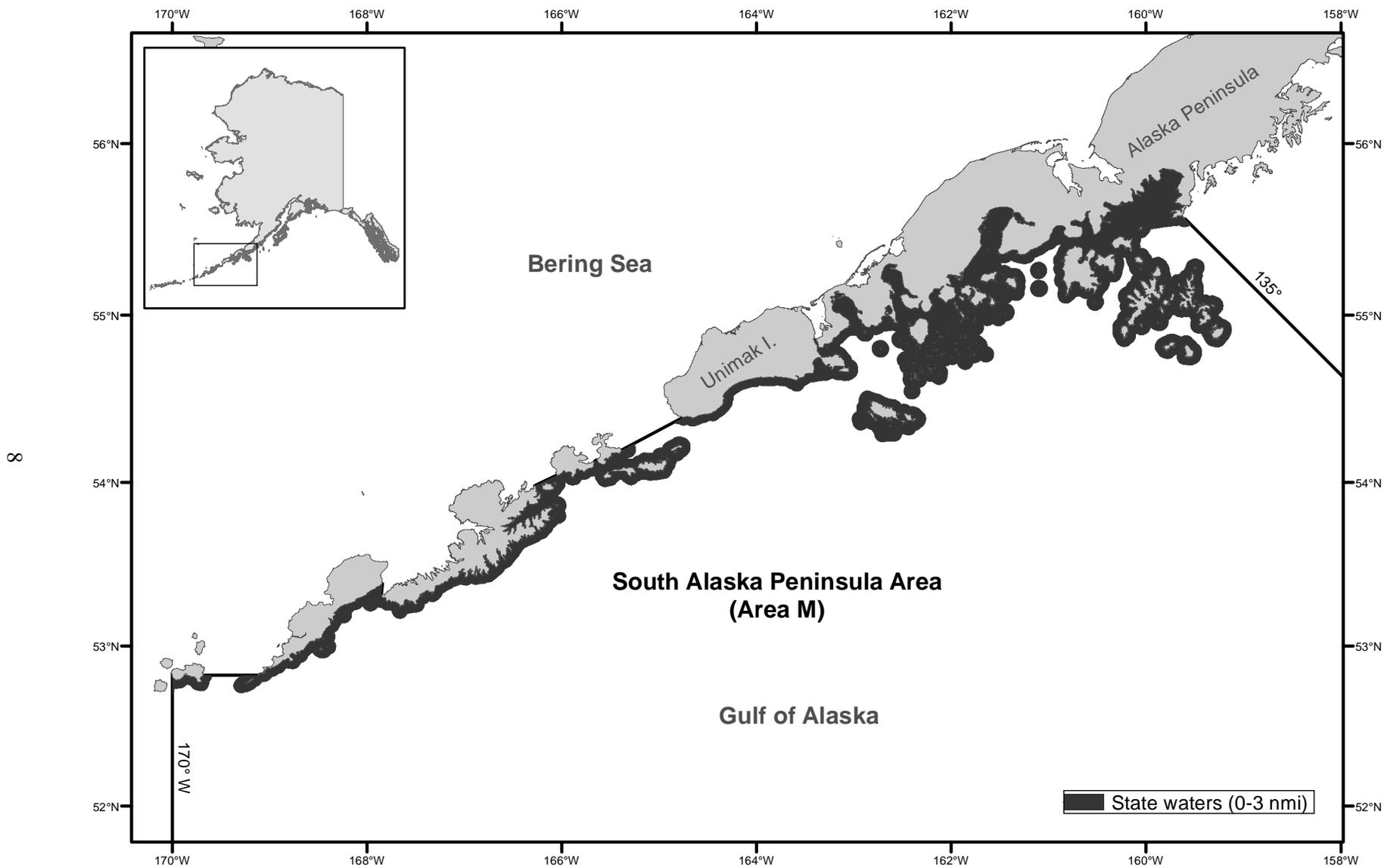


Figure 1.—South Alaska Peninsula Area for state-waters Pacific cod.

**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, Alaska

Phone: (907) 486-1840
Record-A-Phone: (907) 486-4559
FAX: (907) 486-1824

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

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, Alaska

Phone: (907) 486-4762
FAX: (907) 486-5480

Paul Fussey Post Sergeant paul.fussey@alaska.gov

Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

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

Mail Address: 8800 Glacier Highway
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0302

Physical Address: 8800 Glacier Highway #109
Juneau, Alaska

Phone: (907) 789-6150
FAX: (907) 789-6170

National Marine Fisheries Service – ALASKA REGION

web site: <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/>

Sustainable Fisheries Division

Juneau Office

Phone: (800) 304-4846 #3

Dutch Harbor Office

Phone: (907) 581-2062

Kodiak Office

Phone: (907) 481-1780

NOAA Fisheries Enforcement

Dutch Harbor Office

Phone: (907) 581-2061

Kodiak Office

Phone: (907) 486-3298

APPENDIX B. EXAMPLE OF REPORTING WORKSHEET

