

Fishery Management Report No. 11-63

**Fishery Management Plan for the Aleutian Islands
District State-Waters and Parallel Pacific Cod
Seasons, 2012**

by

Trent Hartill

December 2011

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 Syst me International d'Unit s (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)		General		Mathematics, statistics	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative		<i>all standard mathematical</i>	
deciliter	dL	Code	AAC	<i>signs, symbols and</i>	
gram	g	all commonly accepted		<i>abbreviations</i>	
hectare	ha	abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs.,	alternate hypothesis	H _A
kilogram	kg		AM, PM, etc.	base of natural logarithm	<i>e</i>
kilometer	km	all commonly accepted		catch per unit effort	CPUE
liter	L	professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D.,	coefficient of variation	CV
meter	m		R.N., etc.	common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
milliliter	mL	at	@	confidence interval	CI
millimeter	mm	compass directions:		correlation coefficient	
		east	E	(multiple)	R
		north	N	correlation coefficient	
		south	S	(simple)	r
		west	W	covariance	cov
Weights and measures (English)		copyright	©	degree (angular)	°
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	corporate suffixes:		degrees of freedom	df
foot	ft	Company	Co.	expected value	<i>E</i>
gallon	gal	Corporation	Corp.	greater than	>
inch	in	Incorporated	Inc.	greater than or equal to	≥
mile	mi	Limited	Ltd.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
nautical mile	nmi	District of Columbia	D.C.	less than	<
ounce	oz	et alii (and others)	et al.	less than or equal to	≤
pound	lb	et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	logarithm (natural)	ln
quart	qt	exempli gratia		logarithm (base 10)	log
yard	yd	(for example)	e.g.	logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ , etc.
		Federal Information		minute (angular)	'
Time and temperature		Code	FIC	not significant	NS
day	d	id est (that is)	i.e.	null hypothesis	H ₀
degrees Celsius	°C	latitude or longitude	lat. or long.	percent	%
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	monetary symbols		probability	P
degrees kelvin	K	(U.S.)	\$, ¢	probability of a type I error	
hour	h	months (tables and		(rejection of the null	
minute	min	figures): first three		hypothesis when true)	α
second	s	letters	Jan, ..., Dec	probability of a type II error	
		registered trademark	®	(acceptance of the null	
Physics and chemistry		trademark	™	hypothesis when false)	β
all atomic symbols		United States		second (angular)	"
alternating current	AC	(adjective)	U.S.	standard deviation	SD
ampere	A	United States of		standard error	SE
calorie	cal	America (noun)	USA	variance	
direct current	DC	U.S.C.	United States	population	Var
hertz	Hz		Code	sample	var
horsepower	hp	U.S. state	use two-letter		
hydrogen ion activity	pH		abbreviations		
(negative log of)			(e.g., AK, WA)		
parts per million	ppm				
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰				
volts	V				
watts	W				

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**FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS
DISTRICT STATE-WATERS AND PARALLEL PACIFIC COD SEASONS,
2012**

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Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services
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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.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications/>. This publication has undergone regional peer review.

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ABSTRACT

The Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* season is prosecuted in state waters of the Aleutian Islands west of 170° W long. The state-waters season guideline harvest level (GHL) is set annually based on three percent of the federal Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands total allowable catch. The state-waters GHL is available during an A and B season. The A season is allocated 70 percent of the GHL and the B season is allocated 30 percent of the GHL. Legal gear for the state-waters season includes non-pelagic trawl, pot, longline and mechanical jig gear. Effective inseason management is dependent upon timely and accurate communication between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Department) and the fishing fleet. In the absence of reliable inseason harvest information, the Department will adopt conservative management measures which may result in lost fishing opportunity.

Key words: Pacific cod, *Gadus macrocephalus*, Aleutian Islands District, guideline harvest level, state-waters season, parallel season, total allowable catch (TAC), exclusive economic zone (EEZ), Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands (BSAI).

INTRODUCTION

AREA DESCRIPTION

The Aleutian Islands District consists of all state-waters of Alaska (0–3 nautical miles) west of 170° W long (Figure 1).

FISHERY OVERVIEW

Two distinct Pacific cod seasons occur within state waters (0–3 nmi) of the Aleutian Islands District; the parallel Pacific cod season and the state-waters Pacific cod season. The parallel season is prosecuted concurrent with the federal Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Pacific cod season. During the parallel season, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (Department) adopts most National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regulations. The state-waters Pacific cod season is independent of the parallel season and is managed exclusively by the Department under regulations developed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF). The purpose of this document is to provide specific information about the 2012 Aleutian Islands District state-waters and parallel Pacific cod seasons.

PARALLEL SEASON

The federal BSAI Pacific cod season in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ; 3–200 nmi) opens January 1 for vessels using fixed gear and January 20 to trawl gear. When the federal Pacific cod season is open to directed fishing, the state opens a concurrent parallel Pacific cod season inside state waters (0–3 nmi). Unless specifically prohibited by state regulation, the same gear types, seasons and bycatch limits in the federal BSAI Pacific cod season are allowed in the parallel season. With the exception of vessels using mechanical jigging gear, all vessels that participate in the parallel season must have an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS; 5 AAC 28.087(c)). During the parallel season, vessels using longline gear may not be larger than 58 feet in overall length (OAL; 5 AAC 28.690(c)).

Vessels fishing exclusively in the parallel Pacific cod season are not required to possess a federal fishing permit (FFP) or License Limitation Program (LLP) gear endorsement. However, all vessels must complete an Alaska Department of Fish & Game Westward Region parallel groundfish registration. It is the responsibility of vessel operators who possess an FFP and/or LLP to understand federal regulations regarding observer coverage and logbook requirements

when operating within state waters. For further information regarding federal regulation contact NMFS (Appendix A).

Pacific cod harvested during the parallel season accrue towards the federal BSAI total allowable catch (TAC). The federal Pacific cod season closes when the TAC is met or the incidental bycatch limit for Pacific halibut is exceeded. For additional information regarding federal Pacific cod fisheries contact NMFS (907-581-2062).

STATE-WATERS SEASON

BACKGROUND

In February 2006, the BOF created the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery. Since then, in every year except 2008, there has been at least one change made to the state-waters season regulations. The current Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan (5 AAC 28.647), is found on pages 63–66 of the 2011–2012 Statewide Commercial Groundfish Fishing Regulations booklet. The following is a description of the regulations in effect for the 2012 season.

GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL

The 2012 state-waters Pacific cod season is managed using a guideline harvest level (GHL) based on three percent of the federal BSAI Pacific cod TAC. The state-waters Pacific cod GHL is split between an A and B season, where the A season is allocated 70 percent of the GHL and the B season 30 percent. Unharvested A season GHL may be rolled over to the B season; however, the total GHL available during the B season may not exceed 70 percent of the entire state-waters GHL. The state-waters season is closed when the GHL has been reached.

A SEASON

The state-waters A season opens January 1 from 175° W long to 178° W long to vessels 60 feet OAL or less using trawl, pot, and jig gear, and vessels 58 feet or less OAL using longline gear. Harvest occurring between 175° W long to 178° W long will accrue toward the GHL, while harvest occurring in state waters outside of 175° W long to 178° W long will be managed under parallel rules and accrue toward the federal TAC. State waters outside of 175° W long to 178° W long will open for the state-waters A season four days after the federal catcher-vessel trawl fishery closes. If the federal catcher-vessel trawl fishery has not closed by noon March 14, and state-waters A season GHL remains, the parallel season outside of 175° W long to 178° W long will close and a state-waters season will open at noon on March 15. Beginning March 15 in state waters inside and outside of 175° W long to 178° W long, vessels using trawl gear may not be greater than 100 feet OAL, pot vessels may not be greater than 125 feet OAL, and mechanical jig vessels and longline vessels may not be greater than 58 feet OAL.

If the state-waters A season GHL has not been taken by April 1st, when the federal catcher-vessel trawl B season opens, the state-waters A season in the waters outside of 175° W long to 178° W long will close and a parallel fishery will immediately open. Within state waters from 175° W long to 178° W long the state-waters A season will remain open to vessels 60 feet OAL or less using trawl, pot, and jig gear, and vessels 58 feet or less OAL using longline gear. If state-waters A season GHL remains when the federal catcher-vessel trawl B season closes, the state-waters A season will reopen and remain open until the state-waters A season GHL is reached, or through

June 9. If the state-waters A season reopens, in state waters outside and within 175° W long to 178° W long, vessels using trawl gear may not be greater than 100 feet OAL, pot vessels 125 feet OAL, mechanical jig vessels and longline vessels 58 feet OAL.

B SEASON

The state-waters B season opens June 10. From June 10 through July 31 a vessel participating in the state-waters B season may be not greater than 60 feet OAL. Beginning August 1, pot vessels may not be more than 125 feet OAL; however, vessel length limits for all other gear types may not be greater than 60 feet OAL. If the state-waters B season GHL has not been taken by September 1, the state-waters B season will close and a parallel season will immediately open concurrent with the federal catcher-vessel pot fishery B season for vessels over 60 feet in length. If state-waters B season GHL remains when the federal catcher-vessel pot fishery B season for vessels over 60 feet in length closes, the state-waters B season will re-open. Vessel length restrictions from 175° W long to 178° W long during the state-waters A season do not apply to the state-waters B season.

REGISTRATION

Registration for the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season is non-exclusive. Vessels registered for the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season may also register for any other non-exclusive or one other exclusive state-waters Pacific cod season. Processors and tenders for Pacific cod are required to register for the state-waters season prior to beginning operations.

A separate vessel registration is required for the parallel season. The parallel registration is not valid for the state-waters Pacific cod season. Pacific cod registrations may be obtained at ADF&G offices in Kodiak and Dutch Harbor, and seasonally in Sand Point. Registrations may be obtained by fax or e-mail (Appendix A). Vessel operators must possess a 2012 Commercial Fisheries Commission (CFEC) interim use miscellaneous finfish permit card for the appropriate gear type and vessel length prior to registration. CFEC and other fishery related contact information is located in Appendix A.

TRIP LIMITS

During a state-waters season, a vessel may harvest up to 150,000 pounds of Pacific cod per day and may not have more than 150,000 pounds of unprocessed Pacific cod on board the vessel at any time. All Pacific cod caught must be retained, and any overage must be immediately reported to the Department, with proceeds from the overage forfeited to the state. Enforcement action against vessel operators who incur overages of the daily or trip limit will be pursued.

BYCATCH

In state waters, the Department adopts the NMFS maximum retainable bycatch percentages applicable in the EEZ for species not actively managed by the State of 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 percent by weight of the targeted groundfish species. Notably, black and dark rockfish may be retained up to five percent by weight of landed Pacific cod, and sablefish may only be retained from May 15 to November 15. Retainable bycatch percentages can be found on the NMFS Alaska Region website: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/> or by contacting ADF&G in Dutch Harbor (Appendix A).

CATCH REPORTING

The Department will initially manage the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season using fish ticket information. In addition, the Department will consider how changes in effort, fleet behavior, and weather influence harvest rates.

Depending on effort and rate of harvest, the Department may require vessel operators to report harvest information daily. Each day vessels would report to the Department daily catch (number of pounds), effort and total pounds on board the vessel. Catch reports will be taken by phone, single side-band, fax, or e-mail. Contact information can be found in Appendix A. Reports will initially be taken at 10:00 a.m. daily and should include the area fished, effort and pounds of Pacific cod retained for the previous 24-hour period (midnight to midnight). Should the Department require vessel operators to begin inseason reporting, a news release will be issued with a summary of reporting requirements and contact information. In the absence of reliable inseason harvest information, the Department will adopt conservative management measures which may result in lost fishing opportunity.

STELLER SEA LION CLOSURES

Steller sea lion protection measures in state waters depend on whether a state-waters or parallel season is open.

STELLER SEA LION CLOSURES DURING A PARALLEL FISHERY

Beginning January 1, 2011, NMFS implemented new Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives (RPAs) for Steller sea lions, resulting in additional commercial fishing closures throughout much of the Aleutian Islands. The closures implemented by the RPAs are found in Tables 4, 5, 6 and 12 to 50 CFR, Part 679, as amended through January 1, 2011. Federal regulations are posted on the NMFS website at <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/regs/default.htm>.

However, from 175° W long to 178° W long during a parallel Pacific cod season, the Steller sea lion protection measures will reflect those in place prior to 2011 (5 AAC 28.087(b)(3)). During a parallel fishery in these waters, no vessel may be larger than 60 feet OAL, except that vessels using longline gear must be no more than 58 feet OAL.

STELLER SEA LION CLOSURES DURING A STATE-WATERS FISHERY

During the 2012 Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season, Steller sea lion closures in place prior to 2011 will be in effect (5 AAC 28.647(g)(1) and (2)). Descriptions of closures in effect during a state-waters season and their coordinates are found in Table 5 to 50 CFR Part 679 (69 FR 75865, December 20, 2004), posted on the NMFS website (<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/index/frules/frules.asp?Yr=2004>) and Table 12 to 50 CFR Part 679 (73 FR 76136, December 15, 2008), also posted on the NMFS website at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/index/frules/frules.asp?Yr=2008>.

KANAGA ISLAND/SHIP ROCK

In March 2011, for the protection of Steller sea lions, the BOF adopted an emergency regulation prohibiting fishing within three nautical miles of Kanaga Island/Ship Rock (51°46.70 N, 177°20.72 W) during the state-waters Pacific cod fishery. This closure is in effect during both state-waters and parallel Pacific cod seasons.

OTHER CLOSURES

The Aleutian Islands Coral Habitat Protection Areas (Coral Gardens) and the Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Areas (5 AAC 39.167(a)(1) and (2); Figures 2 and 3) are in effect in state waters in the Aleutian Islands District. The Coral Gardens consist of six separate areas which overlap portions of state waters. Coordinates for these areas are found in Appendix B. Each Coral Garden area is closed to commercial fishing with non-pelagic trawl, scallop dredge, dinglebar troll, pot and longline gear. The Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area is only closed to non-pelagic trawl.

INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS

All opening and closures during the state-waters and parallel seasons will be published in news releases and relayed to participating processors. News releases and weekly catch updates may be obtained through the Dutch Harbor ADF&G management office at (907) 581-1239 or on the ADF&G website at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=%20commercialbyareaaleutianislands.groundfish>

Interested parties can also sign up for e-mail delivery of news releases, by species, region, fishery or gear type at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

FIGURES

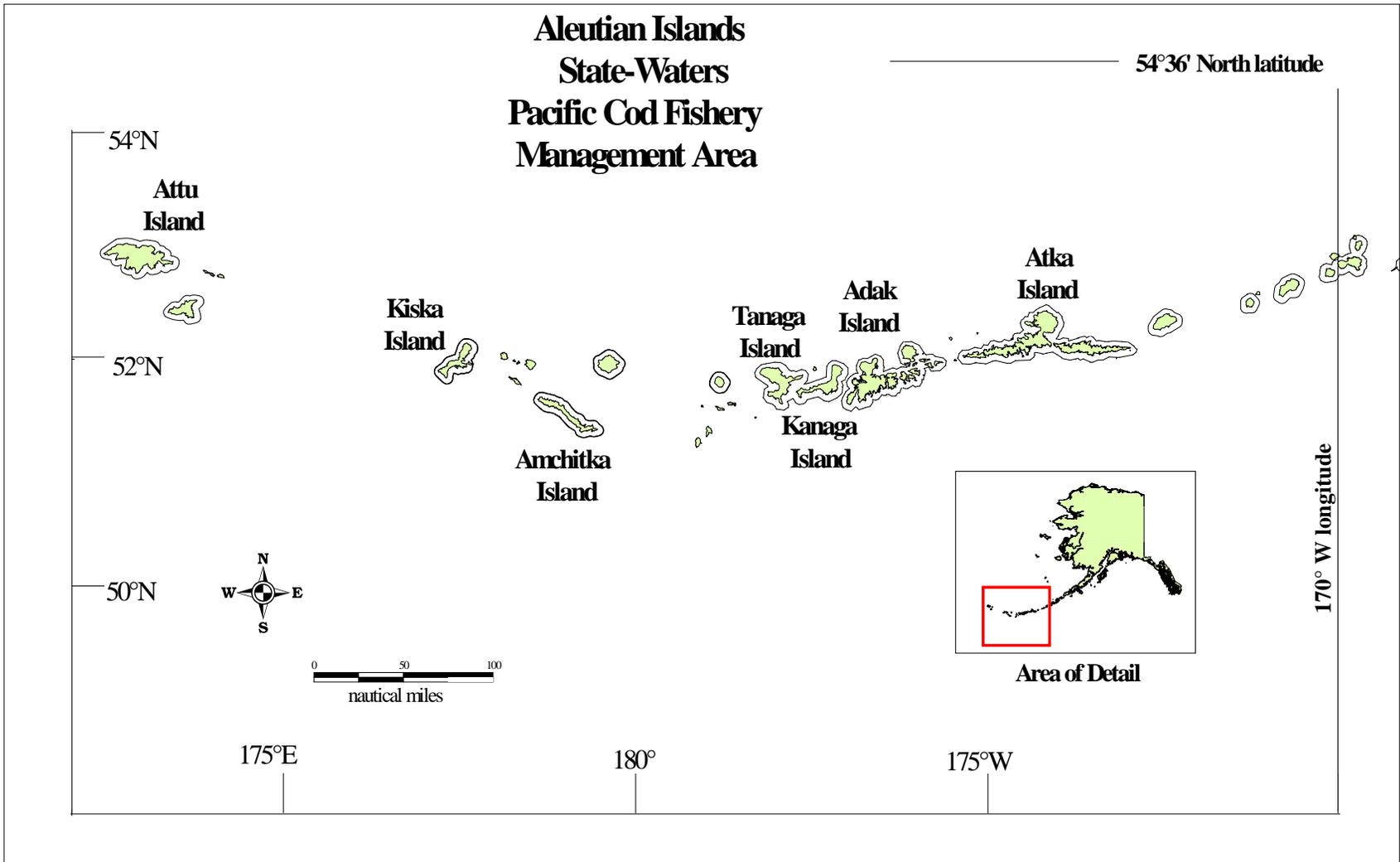


Figure 1.—Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod management area.

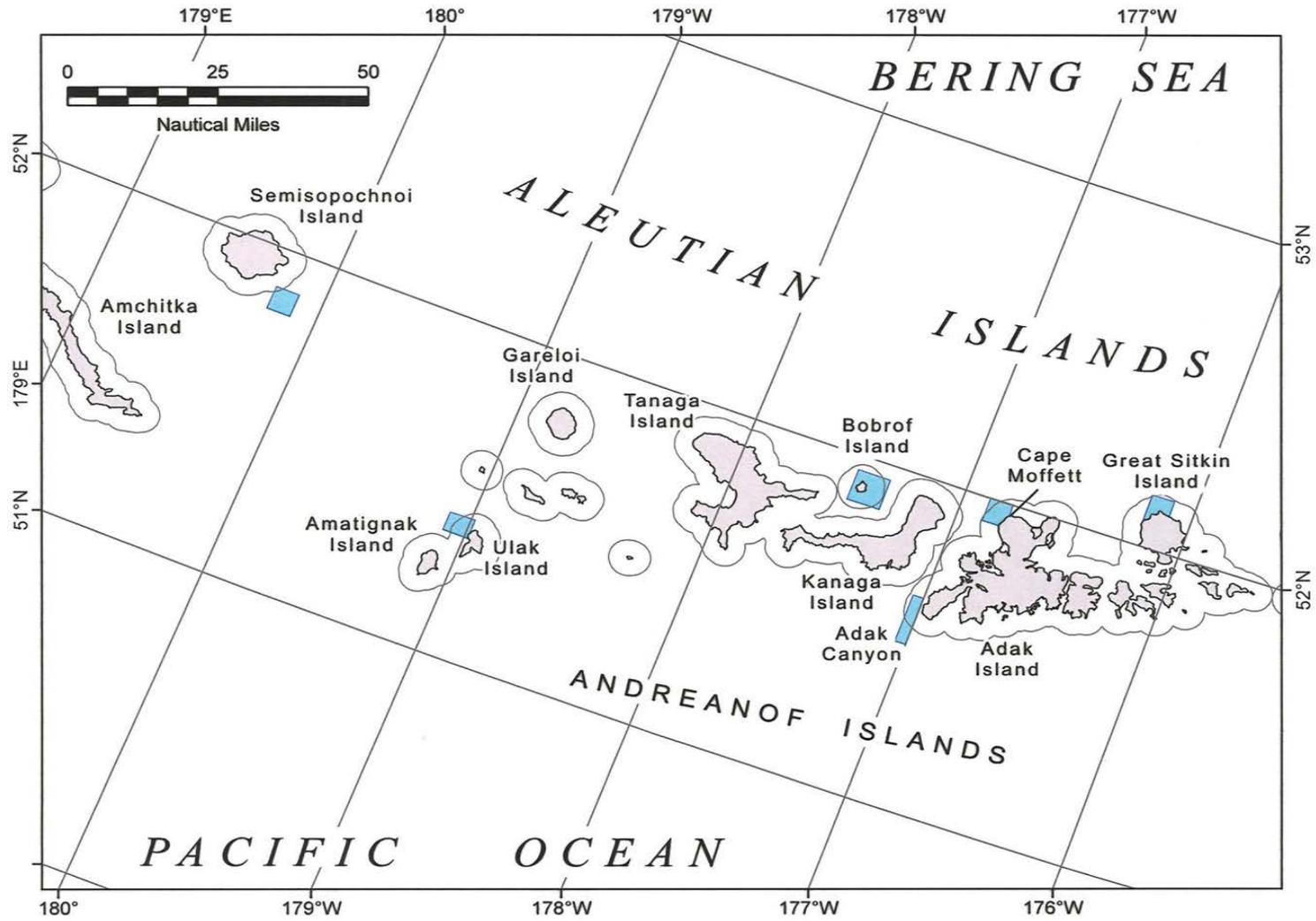


Figure 2.—Aleutian Islands Coral Habitat Protection Areas.

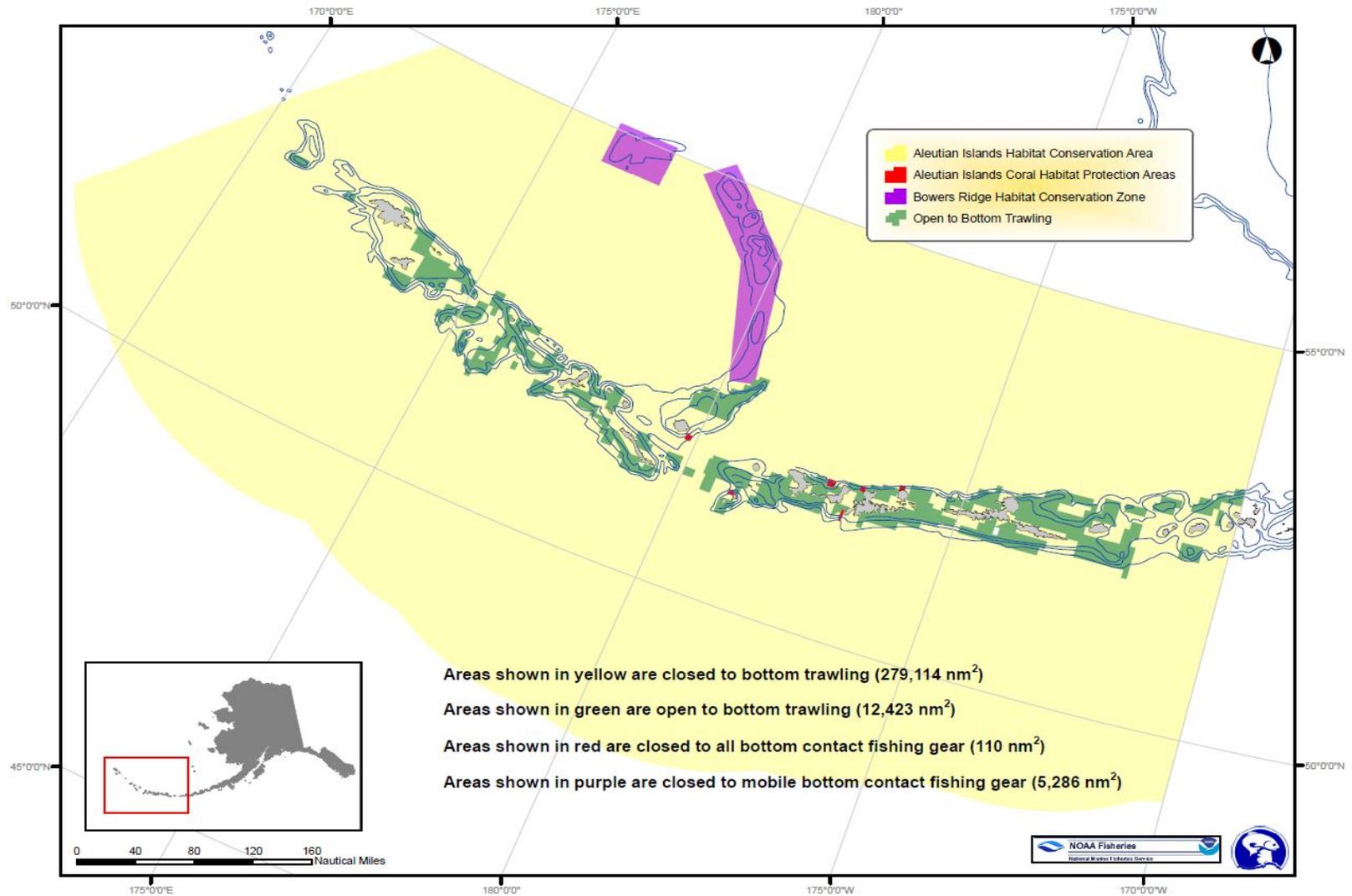


Figure 3.—Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Areas

**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.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingCommercialByArea.southwest>

Dutch Harbor Office

Mail Address: P.O. Box 920587
Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692

Physical Address: 2315 Airport Beach Road
2nd floor, Suite 100
Dutch Harbor, Alaska

Phone: (907) 581-1239
FAX: (907) 581-1572

Heather Fitch Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Area Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist heather.fitch@alaska.gov
Trent Hartill Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Groundfish Biologist trent.hartill@alaska.gov
Britta Baechler Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Shellfish Biologist britta.baechler@alaska.gov

Kodiak Office

Mail Address: 211 Mission Rd.
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Physical Address: 211 Mission Rd., 2nd floor
Kodiak, Alaska

Phone: (907) 486-1840
FAX: (907) 486-1824

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

Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers

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

Dutch Harbor Office

Mail Address: P.O. Box 920848
Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692

Physical Address: 2315 Airport Beach Road, Suite 101
Dutch Harbor, Alaska

Phone: (907) 581-1432
FAX: (907) 581-1407

Robin Morrisett Post Sergeant robin.morrisett@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 **Phone:** (907) 581-2061
Kodiak **Phone:** (907) 486-3298

**APPENDIX B. NEWS RELEASE DESCRIBING ALEUTIAN
ISLANDS CORAL HABITAT PROTECTION AREAS**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE



McKie Campbell, Commissioner

Denby S. Lloyd, Director
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Juneau



Contact: Forrest R. Bowers
Barbi Failor-Rounds
Area Groundfish Biologists

Westward Region
211 Mission Road
Kodiak, AK 99615

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Phone: (907) 581-1239
Fax: (907) 581-1572

Date: March 16, 2006

**CLOSED WATERS FOR ALEUTIAN ISLANDS DISTRICT
STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD FISHERY ANNOUNCED**

In addition to the previously announced Steller sea lion closures for the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery, the state-waters portion of the following six coral garden protection areas, are hereby closed effective at 3:00 p.m. Thursday March 16, 2006 to commercial fishing.

Each closed-water area is delineated by connecting the coordinates in the order listed by straight lines. The last set of coordinates for each area is connected to the first set of coordinates for the area by a straight line.

	Latitude		Longitude	
Great Sitkin Is	52° 9.56'	N	176° 6.14'	W
Great Sitkin Is	52° 9.56'	N	176° 12.44'	W
Great Sitkin Is	52° 4.69'	N	176° 12.44'	W
Great Sitkin Is	52° 6.59'	N	176° 6.12'	W
Cape Moffett Is	52° 0.11'	N	176° 46.65'	W
Cape Moffett Is	52° 0.10'	N	176° 53.00'	W
Cape Moffett Is	51° 55.69'	N	176° 53.00'	W
Cape Moffett Is	51° 55.69'	N	176° 48.59'	W
Cape Moffett Is	51° 57.96'	N	176° 46.52'	W

-continued-

Adak Canyon	51° 39.00'	N	177° 0.00'	W
Adak Canyon	51° 39.00'	N	177° 3.00'	W
Adak Canyon	51° 30.00'	N	177° 3.00'	W
Adak Canyon	51° 30.00'	N	177° 0.00'	W
Bobrof Is	51° 57.35'	N	177° 19.94'	W
Bobrof Is	51° 57.36'	N	177° 29.11'	W
Bobrof Is	51° 51.65'	N	177° 29.11'	W
Bobrof Is	51° 51.71'	N	177° 19.93'	W
Ulak Is	51° 25.85'	N	178° 59.00'	W
Ulak Is	51° 25.69'	N	179° 6.00'	W
Ulak Is	51° 22.28'	N	179° 6.00'	W
Ulak Is	51° 22.28'	N	178° 58.95'	W
Semisopchnoi Is	51° 53.10'	N	179° 53.11'	E
Semisopchnoi Is	51° 53.10'	N	179° 46.55'	E
Semisopchnoi Is	51° 48.84'	N	179° 46.55'	E
Semisopchnoi Is	51° 48.89'	N	179° 53.11'	E

For further information, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239 or Kodiak (907) 486-1842.

-end-