

**Fishery Management Report No. 11-69**

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**Fishery Management Plan for the Kodiak Area State-Waters Pacific Cod Season, 2012**

by

**Nicholas H. Sagalkin**

December 2011

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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.

<b>Weights and measures (metric)</b>		<b>General</b>		<b>Mathematics, statistics</b>	
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 <sub>A</sub>
kilogram	kg		AM, PM, etc.	base of natural logarithm	e
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, $\chi^2$ , 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
<b>Weights and measures (English)</b>		copyright	©	degree (angular)	°
cubic feet per second	ft <sup>3</sup> /s	corporate suffixes:		degrees of freedom	df
foot	ft	Company	Co.	expected value	E
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 <sub>2</sub> , etc.
		Federal Information		minute (angular)	'
<b>Time and temperature</b>		Code	FIC	not significant	NS
day	d	id est (that is)	i.e.	null hypothesis	H <sub>0</sub>
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	
<b>Physics and chemistry</b>		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			
hydrogen ion activity	pH		use two-letter		
(negative log of)			abbreviations		
parts per million	ppm		(e.g., AK, WA)		
parts per thousand	ppt,				
	‰				
volts	V				
watts	W				

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**FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE KODIAK AREA STATE-  
WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON, 2012**

by  
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December 2011

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

Legal gear types for the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* season are pot, mechanical jigging machine, and hand troll gear. The pot season is scheduled to open 7 days after the closure of the federal/parallel Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) Pacific cod season. The mechanical jig and hand troll season is scheduled to open 48 hours after the closure of the federal/parallel CGOA Pacific cod season. If the CGOA federal jig gear sector A-season has not closed by March 15, ADF&G will close the parallel (0–3 nmi) jig sector season on or after March 15 and open the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod season for jig gear. Gear limits are 60 pots (buoy tags required) or 5 jigging machines. The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2012 state-waters season is 15.69 million pounds. The GHL is split evenly between vessels using pot and jig gear (50 percent); however, vessels over 58 feet using pot gear are capped at 25 percent of the total GHL prior to September 1. Managing the fishery close to the GHL is dependent upon communication between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the fishing fleet. In the absence of timely catch information, ADF&G makes conservative estimates of season length. This fishery management plan summarizes regulations, reporting requirements, and anticipated inseason management actions necessary to prosecute the state-waters Pacific cod season in the Kodiak Area.

Key words: Pacific cod, *Gadus macrocephalus*, Kodiak Area, harvest strategy, regulations, jigging machine, pot, guideline harvest level

## INTRODUCTION

### AREA DESCRIPTION

The Kodiak groundfish registration area consists of all waters south of the latitude of Cape Douglas (58°51.10' N lat) west of 149° W long, and east of a line extending south from the southern entrance of Imuya Bay near Kilokak Rocks (156°20.22' W long; Figure 1).

### OVERVIEW

Two distinct Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* fisheries occur within state waters (0–3 nmi) of the Kodiak Area. The first fishery is prosecuted concurrent to the federal Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) Pacific cod fishery and is referred to as the parallel fishery. The parallel fishery is managed by adopting most National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regulations and management actions. The second Pacific cod fishery is the Kodiak Area 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) recently established sector allocations within the federal/parallel Pacific cod fisheries that occur in the federal CGOA and Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) management areas. The NPFMC's action established unique Pacific cod harvest allocations for pot, jig, trawl, and longline gear sectors. Beginning in 2012, the federal Pacific cod season for each gear sector will be prosecuted independently of other Pacific cod gear sectors; this will likely result in staggered federal season closure dates depending on gear types. Prior to federal sector allocations, all gear types competed for Pacific cod during a single derby-style federal/parallel fishery.

As a result of federal Pacific cod sector allocations, the BOF modified aspects of the Kodiak Area Pacific cod management plan (5 AAC 28.467) during fall of 2011 to ensure state-waters Pacific cod fisheries continue to provide opportunity for fishery stakeholders. The purpose of this document is to further describe recent changes in Pacific cod regulations and provide specific information on the 2012 Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod season.

## **Parallel Season**

When the federal (3–200 nmi) CGOA area is open to directed Pacific cod fishing, the state opens a concurrent parallel season inside state waters (0–3 nmi). Unless specifically prohibited, the same gear types in the federal Pacific cod fishery are allowed in the parallel fishery although non-pelagic trawl vessels are prohibited inside most state waters. With the exception of vessels using jig gear, all vessels that participate in the parallel fishery must have an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS; 5 AAC 28.087(c)). Steller sea lion restrictions during the parallel fishery match federal management measures (5 AAC 28.087), except for Cape Barnabas haulout, which is open for pot and jig gear during the parallel season.

All vessel operators or agents must obtain a Westward Region parallel groundfish registration from ADF&G prior to fishing. Vessel operators that fish exclusively in the parallel Pacific cod fishery are not required to possess a federal fishing permit (FFP) or Pacific cod gear endorsement administered through the federal License Limitation Program (LLP). Vessel operators that possess a FFP or LLP and participate in the parallel fishery should be aware of federal regulations regarding observer coverage, logbook requirements, and other NMFS regulations.

The federal/parallel Pacific cod fisheries are divided into two seasons; the A-season and B-season. The federal/parallel Pacific cod A-season opens January 1 to pot, longline and jig gear sectors and January 20 to the trawl gear sector. Beginning in 2012, the federal/parallel Pacific cod jig sector B-season opens on June 10. The federal/parallel B-season for all other gear sectors begins September 1.

Federal/parallel Pacific cod A and B-seasons for pot, longline, and trawl gear sectors close when their respective sector harvest allocations are met or when incidental bycatch limits for Pacific halibut are exceeded. The federal/parallel Pacific cod A-season for the jig gear sector closes when the jig gear sector harvest allocation is achieved. However, if the federal/parallel A-season jig sector harvest allocation has not been achieved by March 15 the parallel jig gear sector A-season will close on or about March 15 to allow the Kodiak Area state-waters jig gear season to open.

Within each gear sector, Pacific cod harvested during the parallel and federal fisheries count against the same sector harvest allocation. For additional information regarding federal Pacific cod fisheries contact NMFS (907-481-1780) or NMFS enforcement (907-486-3298). For additional information regarding parallel Pacific cod fisheries contact ADF&G in Kodiak (907-486-1840).

## **State-Waters Season**

State-waters Pacific cod fisheries are open access fisheries and are prosecuted independent of the federal/parallel fisheries. Specific information pertaining to the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery is outlined below.

### **STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON**

The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod season is exclusive registration (5 AAC 28.406). A vessel validly registered for the state-waters Pacific cod season in the Kodiak Area may not be used to take Pacific cod in any other state-waters exclusive or superexclusive Pacific cod registration area.

## **2012 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL**

The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the state-waters Pacific cod season is based on 12.5 percent of the CGOA Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for Pacific cod. **The 2012 GHL for the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery is 15.69 million pounds.** By regulation, 50 percent of the total GHL, or 7.84 million pounds is allocated to the pot fleet while 50 percent of the total GHL, or 7.84 million pounds is allocated to the jig fleet.

## **SEASON DATES**

### **Pot Gear**

The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod season for pot gear will open seven days after closure of the CGOA federal/parallel Pacific cod pot gear sector A-season. The state-waters season for pot gear will close when 50 percent of the total Kodiak Area Pacific cod GHL has been harvested by pot vessels. Harvest by pot vessels over 58 feet is capped at 25 percent of the total GHL (1/2 of the pot allocation, 3.92). If the state-waters season is reopened after the federal CGOA pot sector B-season, the cap is removed.

If the state-waters pot gear GHL allocation has not been fully harvested by August 28, the state-waters pot gear season will close on August 28 to allow the CGOA parallel Pacific cod pot gear sector B-season to open on September 1.

### **Jig Gear**

The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod season for jig gear will open 48-hours after the closure of the CGOA federal/parallel Pacific cod jig gear sector A-season. If the CGOA federal/parallel jig gear sector A-season has not closed by March 15, ADF&G will close the parallel (0–3 nmi) jig sector season, on or after March 15 and open the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod season for jig gear. ADF&G will close the parallel season based on the department's ability to provide for an orderly fishery through an assessment of effort, harvest rate, or remaining Pacific cod quota.

If the state-waters jig season opens prior to closure of the federal jig sector season, the Kodiak Area state-waters season (0–3 nmi) would be prosecuted concurrent to the federal (3–200 nmi) CGOA jig gear sector Pacific cod A-season. Vessels that choose to participate in the Kodiak Area state-waters season will be subject to state fisheries regulations and all Pacific cod harvested will be deducted from the Kodiak Area state-waters jig gear GHL. Vessels that choose to participate in the federal CGOA jig gear sector A-season will be subject to federal fisheries regulations and all Pacific cod harvested will be deducted from the CGOA jig gear sector A-season harvest allocation.

When the Kodiak Area state-waters and CGOA federal Pacific cod seasons are open concurrently for the same gear:

- Vessels may not simultaneously participate in the Kodiak state-waters season and any other concurrent Pacific cod season.
- Vessels registered for the state-waters season must invalidate their Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod registration prior to participating in a federal CGOA jig gear sector season.
- All Pacific cod must be delivered prior to validating or invalidating a Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod registration.

The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod season for jig gear will close when 50 percent of the total Kodiak Area Pacific cod GHL has been harvested by jig vessels. If the Kodiak Area state-waters jig gear GHL allocation has not been fully harvested by June 8, the state-waters jig gear season may close on June 8 based on inseason assessment of effort, harvest rate, or remaining quota to allow the CGOA federal/parallel Pacific cod jig gear sector B-season to open on June 10. The state-waters season for jig gear will reopen after closure of the CGOA federal/parallel Pacific cod jig gear sector B-season if the Kodiak Area state-waters jig gear GHL allocation has not been achieved.

### **Rollover Provisions**

If the total Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod GHL has not been harvested at the time of the closure of the federal/parallel CGOA pot gear sector B-season, ADF&G may reopen the state-waters season to both pot and jig gear by emergency order.

If a substantial portion of the state-waters season GHL remains unharvested on or after September 1, gear limits may be removed by emergency order to facilitate full harvest of the GHL. After October 30, the Kodiak Area may be designated as a non-exclusive registration area.

### **REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS AND TENDER VESSELS**

Pacific cod registrations may be obtained in person or by FAX at ADF&G offices in Kodiak, and Dutch Harbor. Vessel operators must possess a 2012 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (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.

Tenders for Pacific cod must obtain a tender registration prior to their operation in the state-waters season (5 AAC 28.033). Tenders may also actively fish with either gear type. In this scenario, tenders must register to fish and register to tender. Separate fish tickets must be filled out for all fish landed by the tender vessel and deliveries from other vessels.

### **LEGAL GEAR, GEAR LIMITS, AND BUOY TAGS**

Pot and jig gear are the only legal gear types during the state-waters Pacific cod season. Vessels may not use pot and jig gear at the same time. However, vessel operators may change gear registration by contacting the Kodiak ADF&G office (Appendix A). During the state-waters season, groundfish pots of any size may be used to take Pacific cod although pot gear individual tunnel eye openings must measure 36 inches in perimeter or less. All pots must be equipped with a biodegradable escape mechanism as described in 5 AAC 39.145 *ESCAPE MECHANISM FOR SHELLFISH AND BOTTOMFISH POTS*. Pots must contain an opening 18 inches or greater in length placed within six inches of the bottom of the pot, laced, sewn, or secured together by a single length of untreated, 100 percent cotton twine no larger than 30 thread count. 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 for pot gear 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. A valid 2012 miscellaneous finfish CFEC permit card for pot gear is required to receive tags.

If buoy tags are lost during the season, replacement tags may be obtained by contacting ADF&G in Kodiak. The vessel owner, operator, or agent must complete and submit an affidavit form to

ADF&G describing how the tags were lost and supply the location and unique number(s) of each lost tag. Pots with lost tags may remain in the water but those pots must be secured open with bait and bait containers removed until replacement tags are obtained.

Jig vessels are restricted to using no more than five mechanical jigging machines or hand troll lines unless the jig limit has been rescinded by emergency order after September 1. 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.

## **BUOY MARKING REQUIREMENTS**

Buoys attached to pots must comply with 5 AAC 28.050 *LAWFUL GEAR FOR GROUND FISH*. All groundfish pots must be marked with the permanent ADF&G vessel number that corresponds with the ADF&G vessel number operating that gear. The buoy containing the five-digit ADF&G number may not be marked with any additional numbers; however, symbols and letters are acceptable on this buoy. Trailer buoys used to mark ownership or string sequence may be marked with any desired numbers, symbols, or letters.

## **POT STORAGE AND LANDING REQUIREMENTS**

Pot storage requirements are specified in 5 AAC 28.432 on page 45 in the groundfish regulations booklet. Following closure of a parallel or state-waters Pacific cod season, 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 25 fathoms or deeper for a maximum of seven days following the closure date. After seven days following a closure, groundfish pots must be removed from the water or stored in waters 25 fathoms or less.

During the seven days before the opening of the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod season for pot gear, groundfish pots 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 may be stored at depth (25 fathoms or deeper) on the fishing grounds.

The landing requirements are specified in 5 AAC 28.471 (1) and (2). After 48 hours from the time of closure of the state-waters Pacific cod season, vessels that have participated in the fishery may not have Pacific cod onboard unless cod has been designated as bycatch for another fishery and the amount onboard does not exceed the bycatch percentage limit. If the vessel has been delayed due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the vessel operator, and the vessel has contacted ADF&G, allowances may be made for additional time on a case-by-case basis. At the time of closure all gear must comply with applicable state storage requirements (5 AAC 28.432).

## **BYCATCH**

Inside state waters (0–3nmi), ADF&G adopts the NMFS maximum retainable bycatch percentages applicable in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ; 3–200 nmi) for species that are 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 Pacific cod onboard a vessel. Vessels using jig gear may retain lingcod and dark rockfish up to 20% by weight of retained Pacific cod and must be landed on the miscellaneous finfish card. Lingcod may only be

retained from July 1 to December 31 and must be 35 inches or greater in length from tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. Vessels using jig gear may retain black rockfish up to 20 percent by weight of landed Pacific cod. 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).

## VOLUNTEER CATCH REPORTING

ADF&G encourages fishery participants to provide volunteer catch reports to increase the amount of information used to manage this fishery. In recent years, the pot fleet has harvested the quota quickly.

Inseason management will allow for real-time fishery decisions and the ability to consider changes in effort, fleet behavior, and weather. Managing the fishery close to the GHL is dependent upon accurate inseason catch reporting from the fishing fleet. In the absence of information, ADF&G makes conservative estimates of season length.

Catch reports will be taken using satellite dispatch system and e-mail. **The ADF&G office uses Matrix<sup>1</sup> dispatch services; the office dispatch number is 7894.** Vessel operators will be issued a reporting worksheet during registration to participate in inseason reporting. Operators will be asked during the registration process which method they will use to submit daily reports. Reports will be taken daily from 8:00 to 8:30 AM.

## INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS

The state-waters Pacific cod season will be managed inseason from information gathered from volunteer daily catch reports, weekly processor reports, dockside sampling information, and fish ticket data. ADF&G will try to provide permit holders sufficient time to configure gear for storage or to place gear onboard the vessel before a closure; however, the potential exists for a short advance-notice closure. All inseason management actions pertaining to regulatory changes in the state-waters season will be published in news releases. Weekly harvest updates will be available each Monday during the state-waters season. News releases are available in the shellfish and groundfish management office, ADF&G office building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 211 Mission Road, Kodiak, and distributed via e-mail through web-subscription at:

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

Weekly catch updates are available in the shellfish and groundfish management office and posted on the ADF&G website at:

[http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/finfish/grndfish/grndhom4\\_kod.php](http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/finfish/grndfish/grndhom4_kod.php)

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<sup>1</sup> Use of trade names in this report does not constitute an endorsement from ADF&G.

**FIGURE**

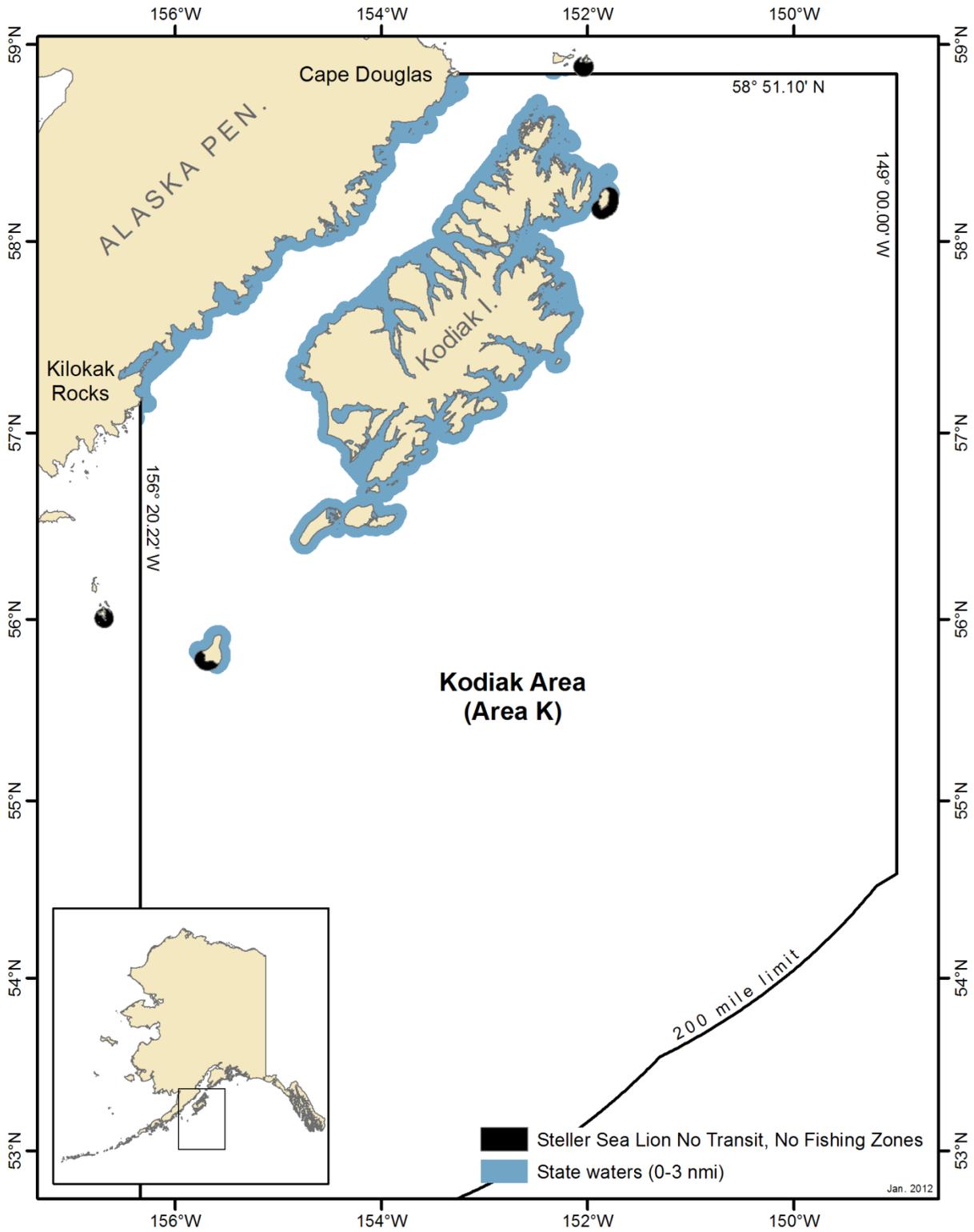


Figure 1.—Kodiak Area for state-waters Pacific cod.

## **APPENDIX A. LISTING OF CONTACT PERSONS**

## Alaska Department of Fish and Game

[www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=CommercialByAreaKodiak.groundfish](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=CommercialByAreaKodiak.groundfish)

Kodiak ADF&G  
211 Mission Road  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615  
(907) 486-1840  
FAX: (907) 486-1824  
DISPATCH: 7894

Dutch Harbor ADF&G  
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Dutch Harbor, AK 99692-0587  
(907) 581-1239  
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## Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers

2921 A Mill Bay Road  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615  
(907) 486-4762  
FAX: (907) 486-5480

## National Marine Fisheries Service

### Sustainable Fisheries Division

<i>Juneau Office</i>	<b>Phone:</b> (800) 304-4846 #3
<i>Dutch Harbor Office</i>	<b>Phone:</b> (907) 581-2062
<i>Kodiak Office</i>	<b>Phone:</b> (907) 481-1780

### NOAA Fisheries Enforcement

<i>Dutch Harbor Office</i>	<b>Phone:</b> (907) 581-2061
<i>Kodiak Office</i>	<b>Phone:</b> (907) 486-3298