

Fishery Management Report No. 12-50

**Fishery Management Plan for the Aleutian Islands
District State-Waters and Parallel Pacific Cod
Seasons, 2013**

by

Charles L. Trebesch

December 2012

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

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**FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS
DISTRICT STATE-WATERS AND PARALLEL PACIFIC COD SEASONS,
2013**

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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

This document provides fishery management information for the 2013 Aleutian Islands District state-waters and parallel Pacific cod fisheries. 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 Pacific cod season guideline harvest level (GHL) is based on three percent of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) acceptable biological catch. The state-waters fishery has an A and B season: A season is allocated 70 percent of the GHL and B season is allocated 30 percent of the GHL. Legal gear for the state-waters season includes non-pelagic trawl, groundfish pot, longline, mechanical jigging machine, and hand troll gear. Effective inseason management is dependent upon timely and accurate communication between fishermen, fish processors and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). 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*, Aleutian Islands District, guideline harvest level, state-waters season, parallel season, exclusive economic zone (EEZ), Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands (BSAI).

INTRODUCTION

AREA DESCRIPTION

The State of Alaska's Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Area consists of all state waters of Alaska (0-3 nautical miles) in the Bering Sea, and that portion of the North Pacific Ocean adjacent to the Aleutian Islands west of 170° W long.

The Aleutian Islands District of the BSAI consists of all state waters of Alaska south of the latitude of Cape Sarichef (54°36' N lat). The Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* fishery is prosecuted in state waters of the Aleutian Islands west of 170° W long (Figure 1).

FISHERY OVERVIEW

Two distinct Pacific cod fisheries occur within state waters (0–3 nmi) of the Aleutian Islands District: the parallel Pacific cod fishery and the state-waters Pacific cod fishery. A parallel fishery is prosecuted concurrent to federal Pacific cod seasons adjacent to the Aleutian Islands District. Parallel fisheries, managed by Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), adopt most National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regulations and inseason management actions. The state-waters Pacific cod fishery is independent of the parallel fishery and is managed exclusively by ADF&G under regulations developed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries. The Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod management plan is contained in 5 AAC 28.647. The purpose of this document is to provide specific fishery management information about the 2013 Aleutian Islands District state-waters and parallel Pacific cod fisheries.

PARALLEL SEASON

At the beginning of each year ADF&G issues an emergency order opening parallel groundfish fishing seasons in state waters (0–3 nmi) to coincide with opening of federal groundfish seasons in the adjacent Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ; 3–200 nmi). The initial federal Pacific cod season opens January 1 for vessels using fixed gear and January 20 for vessels using trawl gear. When a federal Pacific cod season is open to directed fishing, a concurrent parallel Pacific cod season is open in state waters except when a state-waters Pacific cod season is open. Unless specifically prohibited by state regulation, the same gear types, seasons, and bycatch limits in a federal Pacific cod season are allowed in a parallel season. With the exception of vessels using mechanical jigging machines, all vessels that participate in a parallel Pacific cod season must

have an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS; 5 AAC 28.087(c)). During a parallel Pacific cod season, vessels using longline gear may not be greater than 58 feet in overall length (OAL; 5 AAC 28.690(c)).

All vessels must be registered with ADF&G prior to fishing the parallel fishery. Vessel operators or agents may register by completing a Westward Region parallel groundfish registration form with the Dutch Harbor or Kodiak ADF&G office in person or via fax (Appendix A). Prior to registering for the parallel fishery, vessel operators must possess a 2013 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim use permit card for the appropriate gear type and vessel length. Vessel operators participating in the parallel Pacific cod fishery are not required by the state of Alaska to possess a federal fishing permit (FFP) or Pacific cod gear endorsement administered through the federal License Limitation Program. However, it is the responsibility of vessel operators who possess an FFP to understand applicable federal regulations, including regulations regarding observer coverage and logbook requirements. Vessel operators that relinquish possession of an FFP for the parallel fishery are responsible for understanding federal regulations for the FFP's reissue.

Pacific cod harvested during the parallel fishery accrue towards the federal total allowable catch (TAC). The federal/parallel Pacific cod season closes by sector when the TAC is met or bycatch limits for incidentally harvested species are exceeded. For additional information regarding federal Pacific cod fisheries contact NMFS (Appendix A).

STATE-WATERS SEASON

BACKGROUND

In February 2006, the Alaska Board of Fisheries created the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery. The regulatory management plan is *Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan* (5 AAC 28.647). The following is a description of regulations in effect for the 2013 season.

GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL

The state-waters Pacific cod season is managed using a guideline harvest level (GHL) based on three percent of the federal BSAI Pacific cod acceptable biological catch. 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 GHL available during the B season may not exceed 70 percent of the entire state-waters GHL. The A and B seasons will each close when the GHL is reached or at the regulatory season closure date, whichever occur first.

A SEASON

The state-waters A season opens January 1 in waters between 175° W long and 178° W long to vessels 60 feet OAL or less using trawl, pot, and jig gear, and vessels 58 feet OAL or less using longline gear. Harvests between 175° W long and 178° W long will accrue toward the GHL, while harvest in state waters east of 175° W long and west of 178° W long will initially be managed under parallel fishery regulations with harvest accruing toward federal TAC.

If sufficient state-waters GHL is available, all state waters of the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W long will open to the state-waters A season four days after the federal catcher-vessel

trawl fishery closes or on March 15, whichever occurs first. When the state-waters A season is open in all state waters west of 170° W long, vessels using trawl gear may not be greater than 100 feet OAL, vessels using groundfish pot gear may not be greater than 125 feet OAL, and vessels using mechanical jigging machine or longline gear may not be greater than 58 feet OAL.

If the state-waters A season GHL has not been taken by April 1, when the federal catcher-vessel trawl B season opens, the state-waters A season in waters east of 175° W long and west of 178° W long will close and a parallel fishery will immediately open in those waters.

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 OAL or less 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 in all waters west of 170° W long until the state-waters A season GHL is reached, or through June 9. During this time trawl vessels may not be greater than 100 feet OAL, pot vessels may not be greater than 125 feet OAL, and vessels using mechanical jig or longline gear not greater than 58 feet OAL.

B SEASON

The state-waters B season opens June 10 in all state waters west of 170° W long. 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 and vessels using all other legal 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 OAL. If state-waters B season GHL remains when the federal catcher-vessel pot fishery B season for vessels over 60 feet in OAL closes, the state-waters B season will reopen.

REGISTRATION

Registration for the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery is nonexclusive. Vessels registered for the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery may also register for any other nonexclusive or one other exclusive state-waters Pacific cod fishery; however, vessels that register for a superexclusive Pacific cod fishery may not register for the Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery within a calendar year. Registration in a state-waters Pacific cod fishery will not prohibit a vessel from participating in a parallel Pacific cod season.

A parallel fishery 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 2013 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. Tenders for Pacific cod must also register for the state-waters season prior to beginning operations.

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 ADF&G, 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, ADF&G adopts NMFS maximum retainable bycatch allowances 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 Pacific cod onboard the vessel. Notably, black and dark rockfish may be retained up to five percent by weight of landed Pacific cod. Sablefish bycatch is not allowed; however, with a state-waters sablefish registration, sablefish may be retained from May 15 to November 15. Retainable bycatch percentages are located on the NMFS Alaska Region website: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/> or by contacting ADF&G in Dutch Harbor (Appendix A).

CATCH REPORTING

ADF&G will initially manage the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season using fish ticket information; however, if vessel effort or catch rates warrant, ADF&G may request vessel operators report harvest information daily. If daily catch reports are warranted, catch reports will be taken by phone, single side-band, fax, or e-mail. Contact information is located in Appendix A. Should ADF&G require vessel operators to begin daily inseason reporting, a news release will be issued with a summary of reporting requirements and contact information. Reports will initially be taken at 10:00 AM daily and should include the area fished, effort, and pounds of Pacific cod retained for the previous 24-hour period (midnight to midnight). In the absence of reliable inseason harvest information, ADF&G 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 parallel or state-waters 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 located in Tables 4, 5, 6 and 12 to 50 CFR, Part 679, as amended through January 1, 2011, and are applicable during the parallel fishery, except where noted below. Federal regulations are posted on the NMFS website at <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/regs/default.htm>.

However, in state waters between 175° W long and 178° W long during a parallel Pacific cod season, the Steller sea lion protection measures will reflect those RPAs in place prior to 2011 (5 AAC 28.087(b)(3)) and are located 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/fr75865.pdf>) and Table 12 to 50 CFR Part 679 updated through January 2011, and posted on the NMFS website at <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/regs/default.htm>. During a parallel fishery in waters between 175° W long and 178° W long, no vessel using longline gear may be more than 58 feet OAL, and all other vessels may be no larger than 60 feet OAL.

STELLER SEA LION CLOSURES DURING A STATE-WATERS FISHERY

During the 2013 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 located 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/fr75865.pdf>) and Table 12 to 50 CFR Part 679 updated through January 2011, and posted on the NMFS website at <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/regs/default.htm>.

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, dinglebar troll, pot and longline gear. The Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area is only closed to non-pelagic trawl gear.

INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season will be managed using information gathered inseason from vessels, processors, dockside sampling, and fish ticket data. All inseason management actions 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 may 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

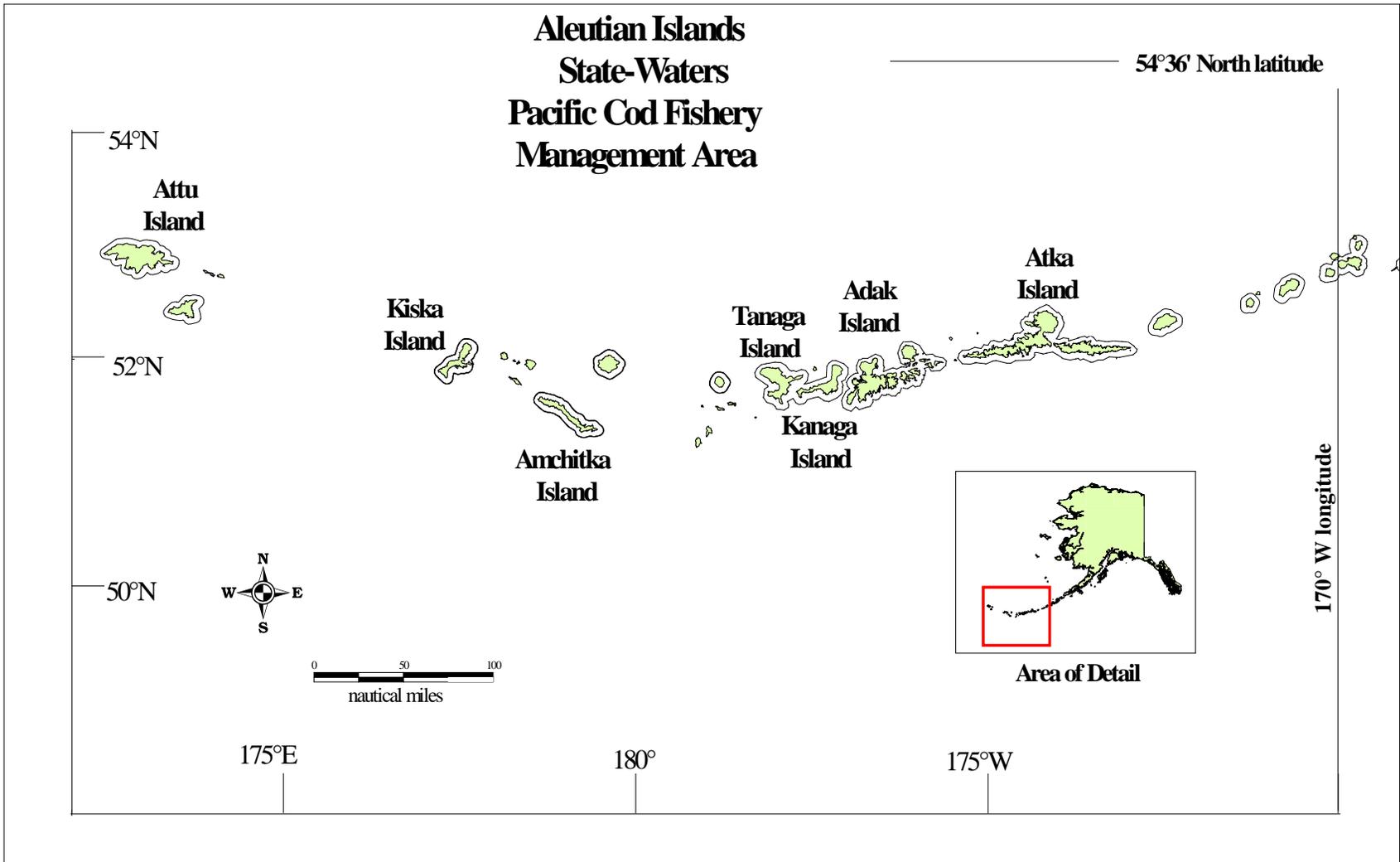


Figure 1.—Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod management area.

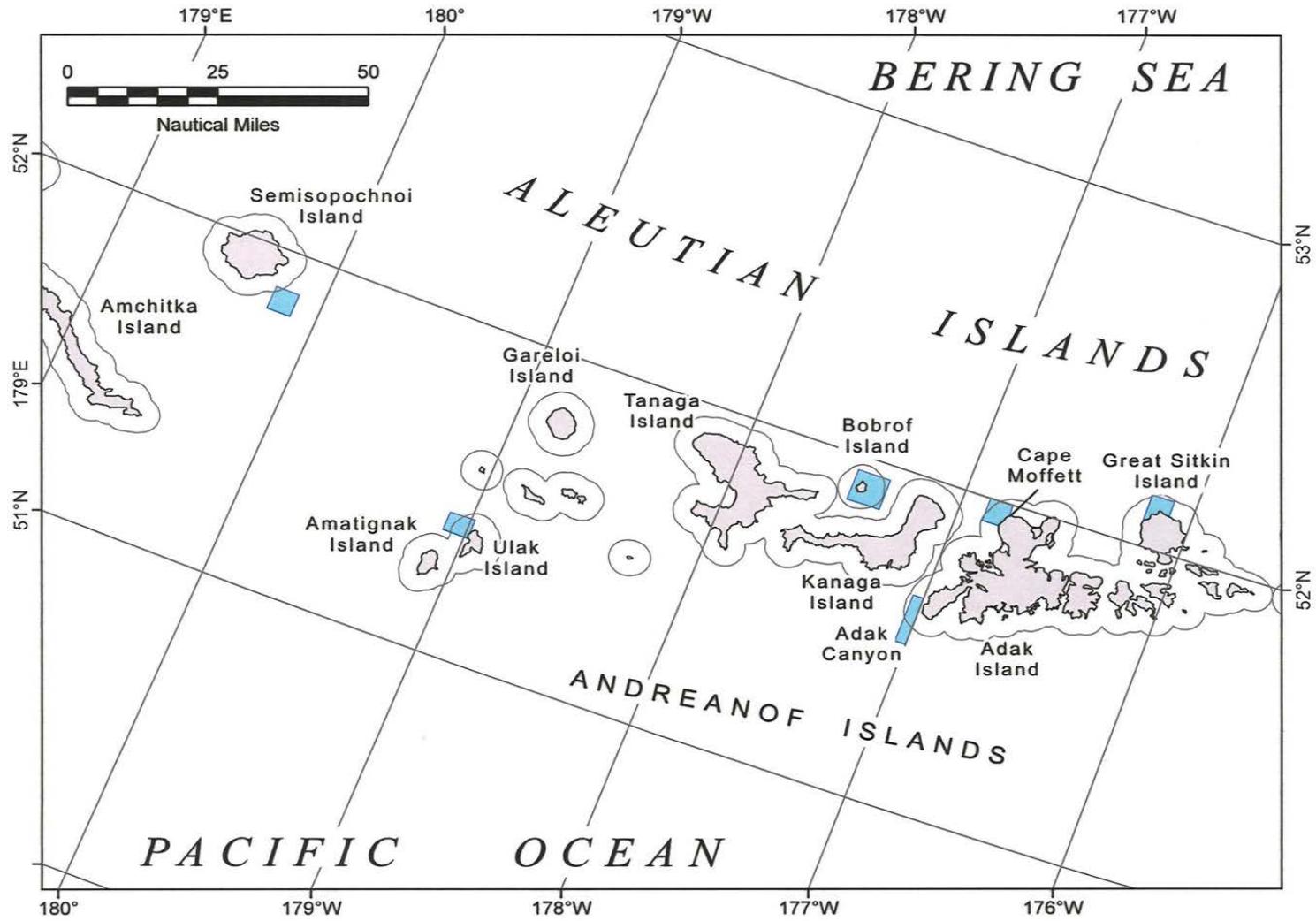


Figure 2.—Aleutian Islands Coral Habitat Protection Areas.

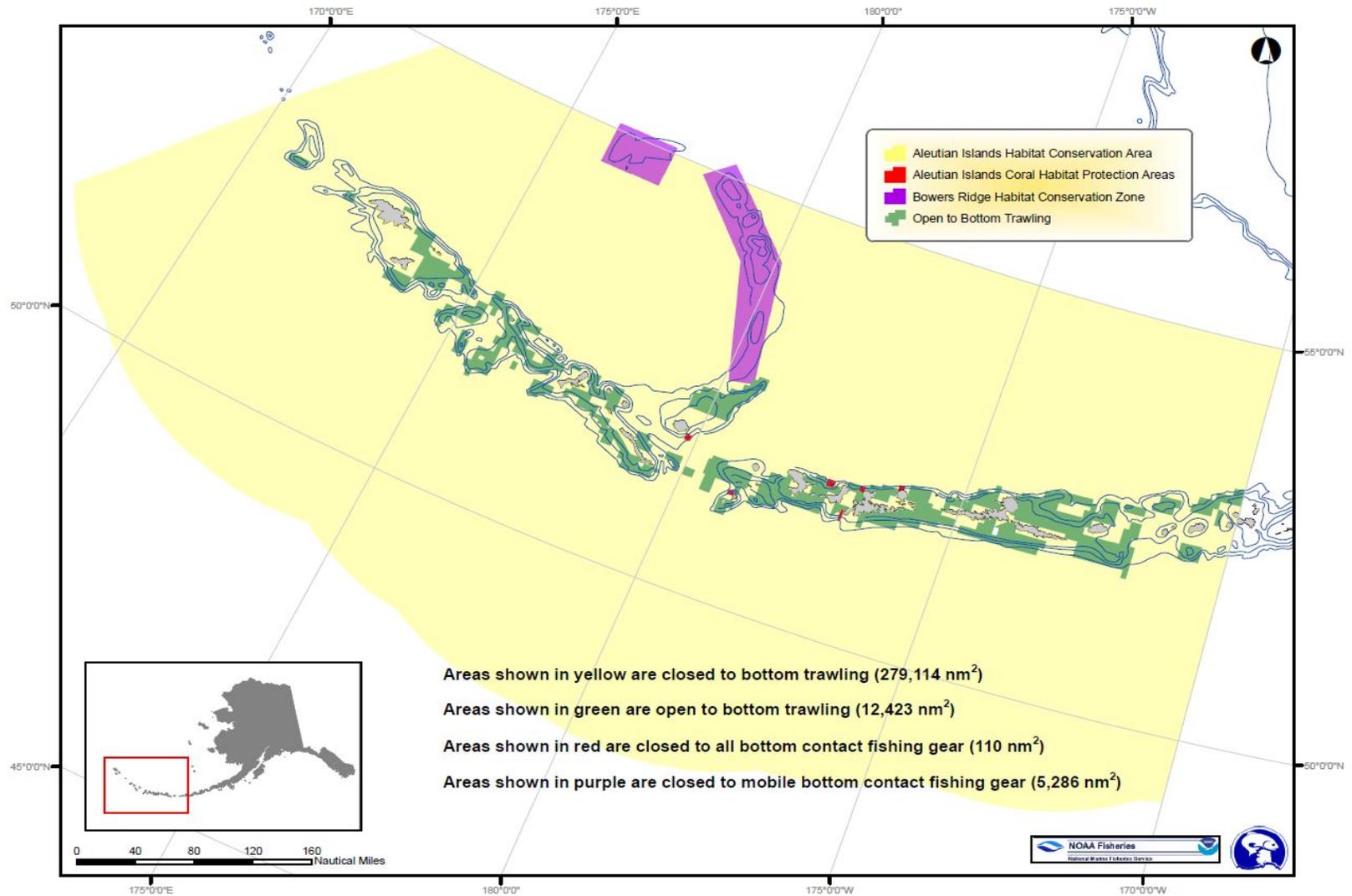


Figure 3.—Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Areas.

**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 website: <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 207
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
Charles L. Trebesch Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Assistant Area Groundfish Biologist charles.trebesch@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 Fish and Game Coordinator wayne.donaldson@alaska.gov
Mark Stichert Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Area Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist mark.stichert@alaska.gov
Trent Hartill Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Assistant Area Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist trent.hartill@alaska.gov

Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers

website: <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

website: <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

website: <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/>

Sustainable Fisheries Division

Dutch Harbor Office

Phone: (907) 581-2062

Juneau Office

Phone: (800) 304-4846 #3

Kodiak Office

Phone: (907) 481-1780

NOAA Fisheries Enforcement

Dutch Harbor

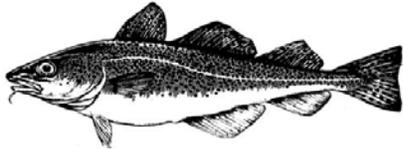
Phone: (907) 581-2061

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
Semisopochnoi Is	51° 53.10'	N	179° 53.11'	E
Semisopochnoi Is	51° 53.10'	N	179° 46.55'	E
Semisopochnoi Is	51° 48.84'	N	179° 46.55'	E
Semisopochnoi 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.