

Fishery Management Report No. 09-02

**Fishery Management Plan for the State-Waters Pacific
Cod Season in Kodiak Registration Area K, 2009**

by

Nicholas H. Sagalkin

February 2009

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



Symbols and Abbreviations

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

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

FISHERY MANAGEMENT REPORT NO. 09-02

**FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE STATE-WATERS PACIFIC
COD SEASON IN KODIAK REGISTRATION AREA K, 2009**

by

Nicholas H. Sagalkin

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Kodiak

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services
333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska, 99518-1565

February 2009

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.

*Nicholas H. Sagalkin,
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries,
211 Mission Road, Kodiak, AK 99615, USA*

This document should be cited as:

Sagalkin, N. H. 2009. Fishery management plan for the state-waters Pacific cod season in Kodiak Registration Area K, 2009. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 09-02, Anchorage.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) administers all programs and activities free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. The department administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility please write:

ADF&G ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042, Arlington, VA 22203

Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW MS 5230, Washington DC 20240

The department's ADA Coordinator can be reached via phone at the following numbers:

(VOICE) 907-465-6077, (Statewide Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) 1-800-478-3648, (Juneau TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-6078

For information on alternative formats and questions on this publication, please contact:

ADF&G Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage AK 99518 (907) 267-2375.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF FIGURES	ii
LIST OF APPENDICES	ii
ABSTRACT	1
INTRODUCTION	1
Area Description.....	1
Overview	1
Parallel Pacific Cod Season	1
State-Waters Pacific Cod Season.....	2
VOLUNTEER CATCH REPORTING	3
2009 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL.....	3
Bycatch	4
INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	4
LEGAL GEAR	4
Buoy Tags.....	5
Pot Storage.....	5
LANDING REQUIREMENTS	5
FIGURE.....	7
APPENDIX A. LISTING OF CONTACT PERSONS	9

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Kodiak Area for state-waters Pacific cod.....	8

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Page
A1 Listing of contact persons, by agency and location.....	10

ABSTRACT

The Kodiak Area is scheduled to open for a state-waters Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* season on February 3, 2009 at noon. The only legal gear types are pot and jig gear. Gear limits are 60 pots (buoy tags required) or 5 jig machines. The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the state-waters season is 8.69 million pounds. The GHL is split evenly between vessels using pot gear (50%) and jig gear (50%); however, vessels over 58 feet using pot gear are capped at 25% of the total GHL prior to September 1st. Managing the fishery close to the GHL is dependent upon the amount of communication between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the fishing fleet. In the absence of information, ADF&G makes conservative estimates.

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

INTRODUCTION

AREA DESCRIPTION

The Kodiak groundfish registration area, Area K, consists of all waters south of the latitude of Cape Douglas (58° 51.10' N lat.), north of 55° 30' N lat., west of the longitude of Cape Fairfield (149° W long.), and east of the longitude of Kilokak Rocks (156° 20.22' W long.; Figure 1).

OVERVIEW

There are two Pacific cod fisheries that occur inside state waters of Area K. During the federal Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) Pacific cod fishery (Area 620 and 630), the state opens a concurrent “parallel” season inside state waters. This fishery is separate from the state-waters Pacific cod season that occurs after the closure of the federal CGOA Pacific cod fishery.

In 1996, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted state-waters Pacific cod season management plans in five groundfish areas: Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, and the South Alaska Peninsula. Harvest during the state-waters season is limited to pot gear, mechanical jig, and hand troll gear types. The Kodiak Area Pacific cod management plan is contained in 5 AAC 28.467 on pages 41–43 of the 2008-2009 Statewide Commercial Groundfish Fishing Regulations.

Parallel Pacific Cod Season

When the federal CGOA Pacific cod fishery is open, the state opens a parallel season in state waters that mirrors the fishery season, gear, closed waters, and bycatch limits in the adjacent federal waters. Unless prohibited by state regulation, the same gear types in the federal CGOA Pacific cod fishery are allowed in the parallel fishery. Each year the federal season opens on January 1 to pots, longline, and jig gear, and on January 20 to trawl gear. The federal fishery is closed when the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is met or incidental bycatch of Pacific halibut exceeds pre-established limits. Pacific cod harvested in state waters during the parallel season are not counted against the state-waters season Pacific cod GHL. Information regarding federal fisheries openings can be obtained by calling the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) at (907) 481-1700 or on their web site <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov>.

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

relinquish their federal permit. For information regarding requirements pertaining to holders of federal fisheries permits while operating within state waters contact NMFS or NMFS enforcement (contacts listed in Appendix A1).

State-Waters Pacific Cod Season

The Central Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod season closed on January 27, 2009 at noon; therefore, the Kodiak Area state-waters season will open 7 days later on February 3, 2009 at noon. 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 exclusive or superexclusive Pacific cod registration area during a state-waters season. Exclusive area designations may be relaxed in the Kodiak Area after October 30 if a significant portion of the GHL remains unharvested.

- Operators must possess a 2009 CFEC interim use permit card for miscellaneous finfish for the gear type to be used.
- Registrations may be obtained at the ADF&G offices in Kodiak and Dutch Harbor, or via FAX to the Kodiak office (907) 486-1824. Please note that a Westward Region Parallel Groundfish Registration is different than the exclusive registration for the state-waters Pacific cod season in the Kodiak Area.
- Vessel operators may not use pot and jig gear at the same time (5 AAC 28.467 (e) (3)). However, operators may change to a different gear registration by written request, in person, or by FAX to the Kodiak ADF&G office.
- Vessel operators may operate both hand troll and mechanical jig gear at the same time. Separate fish tickets are required for each gear type at the time of landing.
- The GHL is split 50% for jig gear and 50% for pot gear. If the jig gear GHL is not harvested before September 1, the season may be opened to pot and jig gear by emergency order (5 AAC 28.467 (c) (2)).
- Vessels over 58 feet are capped at 25% of the total GHL until September 1 (5 AAC 28.467 (c) (4)).
- If a significant portion of the GHL remains to be harvested in the state-waters season after September 1, the limits on the number of pots and jig gear that may be fished will be lifted (5 AAC 28.467 (g) (1)).
- 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 September 1st. Buoy tags are required when the 60 pot limit is in effect. Tags are available from the Kodiak office and Dutch Harbor office (5 AAC 28.467 (e) (3) and 5 AAC 28.050 (f)).
- No more than 5 hand troll lines or mechanical jig machines may be operated from a vessel unless the jig limit has been rescinded on or after September 1 (5 AAC 28.467 (e) (3)).
- Tenders for Pacific cod in the state-waters season must obtain a registration prior to their operation. They may also actively fish with either gear type. In this scenario, tenders must register to fish and to tender. Separate fish tickets must be filled out for all fish landed and accepted as deliveries from other vessels (5 AAC 28.033).

- Vessels may be registered to use jig gear in the state-waters Pacific cod season and to simultaneously fish Dungeness or Tanner crab.
- Vessels may not be registered to use pot gear in the state-waters Pacific cod season and also fish for Tanner crab (5 AAC 35.053).

VOLUNTEER CATCH REPORTING

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

ADF&G will primarily manage the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod season from inseason catch reports provided by permit holders. Inseason management will allow for real-time fishery decisions and the ability to consider changes in effort, fleet behavior, and weather. ADF&G will try to provide permit holders sufficient time to configure gear for storage or to place gear onboard before a closure; however, the potential exists for a short advance-notice closure. Managing the fishery close to the GHL is dependent upon the amount of communication between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the fishing fleet. In the absence of information, ADF&G makes conservative estimates.

Catch reports will be taken using satellite dispatch system and e-mail. **The ADF&G office uses Matrix¹ dispatch services; the office number is 7894. The ADF&G office also uses Stratos¹ dispatch services; the office number is 0083.** 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 initially be taken daily from 8:00 to 8:30 AM.

Current fishery status will also be available on the ADF&G recorded message phone at 486-5176. Messages on the recorded message phone will be updated daily after the 8:30 AM update. Updates, changes to the reporting schedule, and closure announcements will be distributed via e-mail, FAX, and passed along to all participating processors.

2009 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL

The guideline harvest level for the state-waters Pacific cod season is determined annually as a percentage of the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for the CGOA. The ABC is submitted annually by the Plan Team for the Groundfish Fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). NMFS implements the final rule on federal harvest in the form of Total Allowable Catch (TAC). Additional information on the annual ABC derivation can be found in the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report published annually by the Plan Team and in updates furnished by the NPFMC.

The percentage of the ABC for the CGOA that is allocated to the Kodiak Area state-waters season Pacific cod fishery is contained in 5 AAC 28.467 Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan (e)(1) and (e)(2). The 2009 GHL for the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery is 8.69 million pounds.

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

BYCATCH

- Lingcod may be retained from July 1 to December 31 as bycatch up to 20% of Pacific cod catch by weight, unless modified by a subsequent news release. Retained fish must be at least 35” from tip of the snout to tip of the tail, or 28” from the front of the dorsal fin to the tip of the tail. Lingcod must not be mutilated or altered in such a manner that prevents determination of the minimum size.
- Skates may be retained as bycatch up to 20% of Pacific cod catch by weight.
- Black and dark rockfish may be retained up to 5% of Pacific cod catch by weight in the Kodiak Area. Jig vessels may register for incidental black rockfish harvest. Vessels registered for incidental harvest must register for a section, and may retain up to 1,000 pounds of black rockfish per trip in the Northeast, Afognak, Eastside, and Southeast districts, not to exceed 2,000 pounds in a five day period. The trip limit in the Southwest, Westside, and Mainland districts is 2,500 pounds, not to exceed 5,000 pounds in a five day period.
- Bycatch of octopus may be retained up to 20% of Pacific cod catch by weight and landed on the miscellaneous finfish card.
- The State adopts the NMFS bycatch percentages for all other species in state waters. Permissible bycatch percentages vary under the federal system, so it is advisable to check with NMFS management (www.fakr.noaa.gov/2008/status.htm) for the status of all species except black and dark rockfish and lingcod (contacts listed in Appendix A1).

INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS

The state-waters Pacific cod season will be managed inseason from information gathered from volunteer 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. Weekly harvest updates will be available each Monday that the state-waters season is open. News releases, weekly catch updates, and emergency orders are:

- ♦ Available in the shellfish and groundfish management offices, ADF&G office building 2nd floor, 211 Mission Road, Kodiak.
- ♦ Distributed to a list of recipients maintained by management staff in Kodiak via FAX, e-mail, and standard mail.
- ♦ Posted on the ADF&G website at:
www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/finfish/grndfish/grndhom4.php

LEGAL GEAR

Lawful gear types are defined under 5 AAC 28.050 Lawful Gear For Groundfish and contain the following:

All commercial groundfish pots must be marked with the permanent ADF&G vessel license plate number of the vessel operating the gear (5 AAC 28.050). This number must include leading zeros as applicable.

Tunnel eye openings of groundfish pots must have a perimeter 36 inches or less. This may be achieved for pots with larger tunnel eye openings by placing rigid excluder bars across the tunnel eyes to prevent the entry of Pacific halibut into the pot.

Some additional gear regulations are referenced in the following table:

Table 1. Some gear regulations for the Kodiak Pacific cod state-waters season.

Gear	Gear Limits	Regulations
Pots	60 pots	5 AAC 39.105 Types of Legal Gear (11) pots
	buoy tags	5 AAC 39.145 (1) (2) Escape Mechanisms For Shellfish and Bottomfish Pots 5 AAC 28.467 (3) Kodiak Pacific cod Management Plan
Jig	5 mechanical jigs	5 AAC 39.105 Types of Legal Gear (25) mechanical jigging machine
	5 lines per machine	5 AAC 28.467 (3) Kodiak Pacific cod Management Plan
	30 hooks per line	5 AAC 28.430 Lawful Gear for Kodiak Area

Some confusion exists over the regulation (5 AAC 28.430) that allows a single continuous line with not more than 150 hooks as legal gear; this regulation allows a circular loop of line to be fished around the vessel and only through the water column.

BUOY TAGS

Each pot used to fish for Pacific cod in the Kodiak Area state-waters season is required to be tagged with an ADF&G supplied buoy tag (5 AAC 28.050). Buoy tags are available prior to the fishing season in the Kodiak and Dutch Harbor offices. There is no charge for buoy tags at this time. Each tag should be placed on the main buoy or trailer buoy. If tags are lost, replacement tags are available at the offices listed above. If pot limits are relaxed on September 1, the requirement for buoy tags is eliminated.

POT STORAGE

Groundfish pots may be stored with all bait and bait containers removed and doors secured fully open on rectangular pots and with the doors not secured closed for pyramid and conical pots in water 25 fathoms or less (5 AAC 28.432 Groundfish Pot Storage Requirements for Kodiak Area).

Vessels that participate in the parallel Pacific cod ‘A’ season prior to the opening of the Kodiak state-waters season may leave their pots unbaited, doors open, and at fishing depth for the 7 days between seasons. No more than 60 pots may be in operation at the time of the state-waters season opening and those 60 pots must have a buoy tag attached. Gear in excess of the 60-pot limit may be in shallow water storage (less than 25 fathoms) or on the vessel for seven days after the state-waters season opens. After the seven-day period beyond the season opening, no more than 60 pots may be on the grounds or on the vessel.

LANDING REQUIREMENTS

The landing requirements are specified in 5 AAC 28.471 (1) and (2) Landing Requirements for Kodiak Area. 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. Vessels requesting additional time to arrive at their delivery locations must have departed the fishing grounds immediately after the closure and proceeded directly to their port of delivery or processing location. At the time of closure all gear must comply with applicable state and federal storage requirements (5 AAC 28.432)

FIGURE

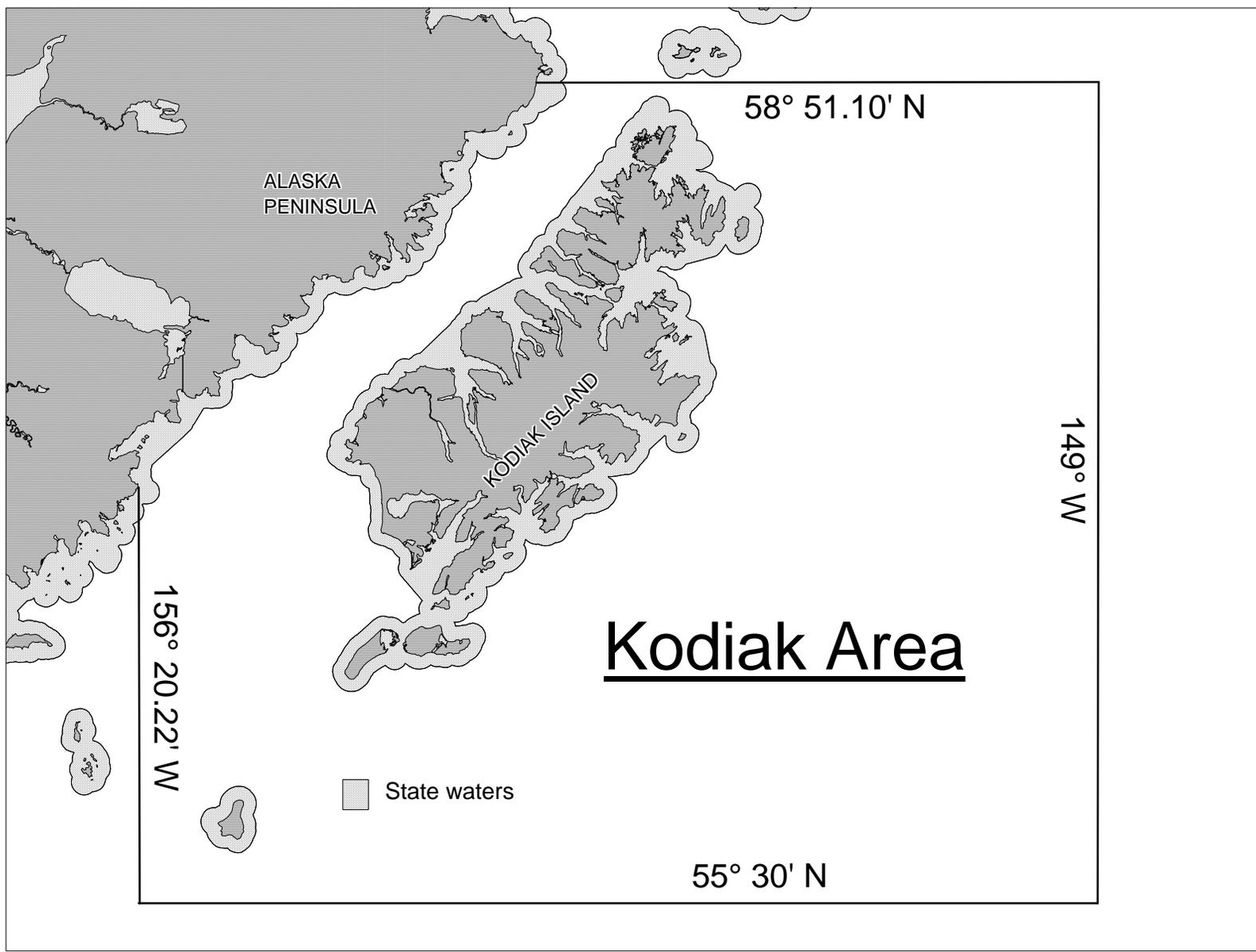


Figure 1.-Kodiak Area for state-waters Pacific cod.

APPENDIX A. LISTING OF CONTACT PERSONS

Alaska Department of Fish and Game web site: <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/rgn4home.php>

211 Mission Road
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907) 486-1840
FAX : (907) 486-1824

Wayne Donaldson Westward Region Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist
wayne.donaldson@alaska.gov

Nicholas Sagalkin Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Area Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist
nick.sagalkin@alaska.gov

Mark Stichert Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Asst. Area Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist
mark.stichert@alaska.gov

Kally Spalinger Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Shellfish Biologist
kally.spalinger@alaska.gov

Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers

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

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

Sargent Lonnie Gonzales Post Sargent
lonnie.gonzales@alaska.gov

National Marine Fisheries Service

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

P. O. Box 1638
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907) 481-1780
FAX : (907) 481-1701

Tom Pearson Gulf of Alaska Management Biologist
tom.pearson@noaa.gov

National Marine Fisheries Service Enforcement

Phone: (907) 486-3298

Ken Hansen Special Agent
kenneth.hansen@noaa.gov