

**Fishery Management Report No. 09-50**

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**Fishery Management Plan for the State-Waters Pacific  
Cod Season in the South Alaska Peninsula Area, 2010**

by

**Mark A. Stichert**

December 2009

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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 *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.

<b>Weights and measures (metric)</b>		<b>General</b>		<b>Measures (fisheries)</b>	
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	<b>Mathematics, statistics</b>	
meter	m	south	S	<i>all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations</i>	
milliliter	mL	west	W	alternate hypothesis	H <sub>A</sub>
millimeter	mm	copyright	©	base of natural logarithm	<i>e</i>
		corporate suffixes:		catch per unit effort	CPUE
<b>Weights and measures (English)</b>		Company	Co.	coefficient of variation	CV
cubic feet per second	ft <sup>3</sup> /s	Corporation	Corp.	common test statistics	(F, t, $\chi^2$ , 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
<b>Time and temperature</b>		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 <sub>2</sub> , 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 <sub>0</sub>
second	s			percent	%
<b>Physics and chemistry</b>				probability	P
all atomic symbols				probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	$\alpha$
alternating current	AC			probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	$\beta$
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				

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by

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December 2009

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## **ABSTRACT**

The South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* season is scheduled to open seven days after the closure of the federal/parallel Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) Pacific cod season. Vessels may not be longer than 58 feet, and legal gear types are limited to pot and jig gear. Gear limits are 60 pots (buoy tags required) or 5 jig machines. The 2010 guideline harvest level (GHL) of 15.26 million pounds, is based upon 25% of the Western Gulf of Alaska Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for Pacific cod. The pot vessel GHL is capped at 85% of the total GHL or 12.97 million pounds. Effective management is dependent upon timely and accurate communication between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the fishing fleet. In the absence of reliable harvest information, ADF&G will adopt conservative management measures. In the past, these measures have resulted in lost fishing opportunity.

Key words: Pacific cod, *Gadus macrocephalus*, South Alaska Peninsula Area, harvest strategy, regulations

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **AREA DESCRIPTION**

The South Alaska Peninsula Area (Area M) for groundfish consists of all waters of the Pacific Ocean between a line extending 135° southeast from Kupreanof Point to a line extending south from 170° W long. near the westernmost point of Chuginadak Island (Figure 1).

### **OVERVIEW**

Two distinct Pacific cod fisheries occur within South Alaska Peninsula Area state waters (0-3 nmi). The first fishery is prosecuted concurrent with the federal Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) Pacific cod fishery and is referred to as the “parallel” season fishery. The parallel season is primarily managed by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under guidelines developed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). The second Pacific cod fishery is the state-waters season. The state-waters season is independent of the federal/parallel fishery and is managed exclusively by Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) under guidelines developed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF). The purpose of this document is to further define these fisheries and provide specific information on the 2010 South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season.

### **Parallel Season**

Each year, the federal WGOA Pacific cod season (3-200 nmi) opens January 1 to pots, longline and jig gear and January 20 to trawl gear. When the federal WGOA is open, the state opens a concurrent parallel season inside state waters (0-3 nmi). Unless specifically prohibited, the same gear types in the federal WGOA Pacific cod fishery are allowed in the parallel season although non-pelagic trawl vessels are prohibited inside most state waters. Exceptions to gear permitted inside state waters are described under 5 AAC 39.164, Non-Pelagic Trawl Gear Restrictions. With the exception of vessels using jig gear, all vessels that participate in the federal/parallel fishery must have an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS; 5 AAC 28.087). Steller sea lion restrictions during the parallel season generally match federal management measures (5 AAC 28.087), with the exception of the haul out at Caton Island.

During the parallel season, the holder of a Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) miscellaneous finfish permit may participate within state waters regardless of federal License Limitation Program (LLP) status after completing an ADF&G Westward Region parallel groundfish registration. However, vessels that possess a federal fisheries permit should be aware

that they must comply with federal regulations regarding observer coverage and logbook requirements when operating within state waters unless they relinquish their federal permit.

The federal Pacific cod fishery closes when the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is met or the incidental bycatch limit for Pacific halibut is exceeded. Pacific cod harvested in state waters during the parallel season are not counted against the state-waters Pacific cod GHL. For additional information regarding federal Pacific cod fisheries contact NMFS (907-481-1780) or NMFS enforcement (907-486-3298).

### **State-Waters Season**

In 1996, the BOF adopted state-waters Pacific cod management plans in three groundfish areas in the Westward Region: Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula. The first state-waters Pacific cod seasons in these areas occurred in 1997. State-waters Pacific cod seasons do not require participation in the federal LLP. However, state management plans do specify fishing time and area, allowable gear, and harvest allocations.

Vessel registration for the federal/parallel season *is not valid for the state-waters Pacific cod season*. A separate state-waters Pacific cod registration is required. The South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season is an exclusive registration fishery. Vessels registered for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season may not register for any other exclusive or superexclusive state-waters Pacific cod season during 2010. Alternatively, if a vessel registers for an exclusive or superexclusive state-waters Pacific cod season outside of the South Alaska Peninsula Area, that vessel may not participate in the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season. Tenders for Pacific cod must also register for the state-waters season prior to beginning tender operations.

Pacific cod registrations may be obtained at ADF&G offices in Kodiak, Dutch Harbor and seasonally in Sand Point and King Cove. They may also be obtained by fax from the Kodiak office at (907) 486-1824. Vessel operators must possess a 2010 CFEC interim use miscellaneous finfish permit card for the appropriate gear type prior to registration. CFEC and other fishery related contact information is located in Appendix A.

During the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season, vessels may register to simultaneously participate in WGOA walleye pollock openings in waters between 170° W. long. and Castle Cape (158° 20' W. long). Vessels intending to participate in groundfish fisheries outside of these waters must first invalidate their South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod registration and legally store all gear. Vessel operators may also simultaneously register and participate in the directed black rockfish fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

### **2010 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL**

The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the state-waters Pacific cod season is determined annually as a percentage of the WGOA Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for Pacific cod.

The percentage of the ABC for the WGOA allocated to the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod season is further described in 5 AAC 28.577 South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan (e)(1) and (e)(2). The 2010 GHL for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state managed Pacific cod fishery is 15.26 million pounds. By regulation, 85% of the total GHL, or 12.97 million pounds is allocated to the pot fleet. Although no formal GHL allocation exists

for jig fleet, ADF&G will manage jig gear harvests up to 15% or 2.29 million pounds of the total South Alaska Peninsula GHL.

## **BYCATCH**

In state waters (0-3 nmi), for species not actively managed by the State of Alaska, ADF&G adopts the NMFS maximum retainable bycatch percentages applicable in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ; 3-200 nmi) off Alaska. Retainable bycatch percentages are subject to change and may differ between species. Unless otherwise specified, the maximum bycatch limit for any species of groundfish is 20% by weight of the targeted groundfish species. Notably, lingcod and octopus may be retained up to 20% by weight of retained Pacific cod and must be landed on the miscellaneous finfish card required to harvest Pacific cod. Additionally, lingcod may only be retained from July 1 to December 31. Black and dark rockfish may be retained up to 5% by weight of landed Pacific cod. However, vessels that are concurrently registered for the directed black rockfish fishery may retain black rockfish in excess of the 5% bycatch limit when the South Alaska Peninsula Area is open to directed black rockfish fishing. 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 1).

## **STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD MANAGEMENT PLAN**

ADF&G manages the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season in accordance with the South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan (5 AAC 28.577). The management plan is described in detail on pages 56-58 in the 2009-2010 Statewide Commercial Groundfish Fishing Regulations booklet. Following is a summary of important regulations that govern the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod season:

- The South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod season opens seven days after the initial federal/parallel Pacific cod season closes.
- The opening of the season will be delayed for 24 hours if the National Weather Service marine forecast for Area 155 (Castle Cape to Cape Sarichef) issued at 4:00 AM on the scheduled opening date contains gale force wind warnings for that day and night plus the following day and night. If, after the initial weather delay, the following day's 4:00 AM National Weather Service marine forecast contains gale warnings for that day and night plus the following day and night, the opening of the state-waters season will be delayed for an additional 24 hours. Weather delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis for seven days beyond the initial opening date.
- Vessels may not be longer than 58 feet overall length.
- Pot and jig gear are the only legal gear types in the state-waters season.
- Vessels may not use pot and jig gear at the same time. However, operators may change gear registration by written request, in person, or by fax to the Kodiak ADF&G office or in Sand Point or King Cove when staff are available.
- No more than 60 groundfish pots may be operated from a vessel, unless the pot limit has been rescinded by emergency order on October 30. Buoy tags are required when the 60 pot limit is in effect. Tags should be placed on the main buoy or trailer buoy and are

available from the Kodiak and Dutch Harbor ADF&G offices. Arrangements will be made to distribute buoy tags locally in Sand Point and King Cove prior to the fishery opening date. If tags are not available locally in Sand Point and King Cove, buoy tags or replacement tags can be obtained through the mail from the Kodiak office.

- No more than 5 mechanical jig machines may be operated from a vessel unless the jig limit has been rescinded by emergency order after October 30. Jig machines may not have more than five lines. Each of the five permissible lines may have no more than 30 hooks.
- Vessels may operate both hand troll and mechanical jig gear at the same time. Separate CFEC cards and fish tickets are required for each gear type at the time of landing.
- The allocation for pot gear is 85% of the total GHL. There is no regulatory allocation for mechanical jig/hand troll gear. The state will manage the jig fleet for the remainder of the total state-waters season GHL. If the remainder of the GHL is not harvested by the jig fleet by October 30, the season may be reopened to both pot and jig gear by emergency order.
- If a significant portion of the state-waters season GHL remains unharvested on or after October 30, the state-waters season may close and immediately reopen without gear limits and vessel size restrictions.
- During the state-waters season, a vessel owner or operator using pot gear must report daily the harvest location as well as the number of pot lifts and pounds of Pacific cod retained in the previous 24-hour period. Additional information on catch reporting is outlined below.

## CATCH REPORTING

ADF&G will manage the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season using inseason catch reports (Appendix B) provided by permit holders. Inseason catch reports allow the department to consider how changes in effort, fleet behavior, and weather influence harvest rates. Catch reports will be taken by satellite dispatch service, phone, or e-mail. **The ADF&G Kodiak office uses the Matrix<sup>1</sup> dispatch service. The Kodiak office Matrix number is 7894.** Vessel operators will be asked for their preferred reporting method when registering, and the appropriate reporting worksheet will be issued at that time.

Reports will initially be taken at 9:00 AM daily. Reports must include the area fished, number of pot lifts, and pounds of cod retained for the previous 24-hour period (midnight to midnight).

## INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS

The state-waters Pacific cod season will be managed throughout the season from information gathered from mandatory catch reports, weekly processor reports, dockside sampling information, and fish ticket data. All actions pertaining to regulatory changes in the state-waters season will be published in news releases and emergency orders as needed. ADF&G will make every effort to provide sufficient time for permit holders to configure gear for storage or to place gear onboard before a closure; however, the potential exists for short advance notice closures.

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

Weekly updates will be released each Monday after 4:00 PM while the state-waters season is open. News releases, emergency orders, and weekly catch updates may be obtained through the following methods:

- Available in the Kodiak ADF&G shellfish and groundfish management office, (2nd floor, 211 Mission Road) or on the ADF&G recorded message phone at 486-5176.
- Via FAX and e-mail to a list of recipients maintained by shellfish management staff in Kodiak.
- Posted on the ADF&G website at:  
<http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/finfish/grndfish/10groundfish.php>
- ADF&G will attempt to announce closures following the National Weather Service broadcast at 0800 and 1800 hrs on 4125 kHz SSB.
- Via telephone or FAX to participating processing facilities; processors typically inform the fleet and post news releases in their offices.

## **LANDING REQUIREMENTS**

Landing requirements are specified in 5 AAC 28.581 (1) and (2) Landing Requirements of the South Alaska Peninsula Area on page 58 in the groundfish regulations booklet. With two exceptions, vessels participating in the state-waters Pacific cod season are required to deliver their catch within 48 hours after a closure. Vessels may have Pacific cod onboard after the 48-hour period following a closure only when 1) the cod were harvested as allowable bycatch in another directed fishery, or 2) the vessel has been delayed due to extraordinary circumstances and the vessel operator has contacted a local representative of the department within 48 hours following the closure and has been granted additional time to reach the port of landing.

## **POT STORAGE**

Following the closure of the parallel or state-waters Pacific cod seasons, groundfish pots may be stored with all bait and bait containers removed and doors secured fully open on rectangular pots and doors not secured closed on pyramid and conical pots in waters at depth (25 fathoms or deeper) for up to seven days following the closure date. After seven days following a closure, groundfish pots must be removed from the water or stored open and unbaited in waters not more than 25 fathoms deep. Vessels that participate in the initial federal/parallel Pacific cod season prior to the opening of the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters season may leave their pots open and unbaited and at fishing depth for the seven days in between seasons. If the start of the state-waters season is delayed due to weather, the seven day pot storage requirement will be adjusted accordingly. No more than 60 pots may be in operation at the time of the state-waters season opening and those 60 pots must have buoy tags attached at the time of the opening.



## **FIGURES**

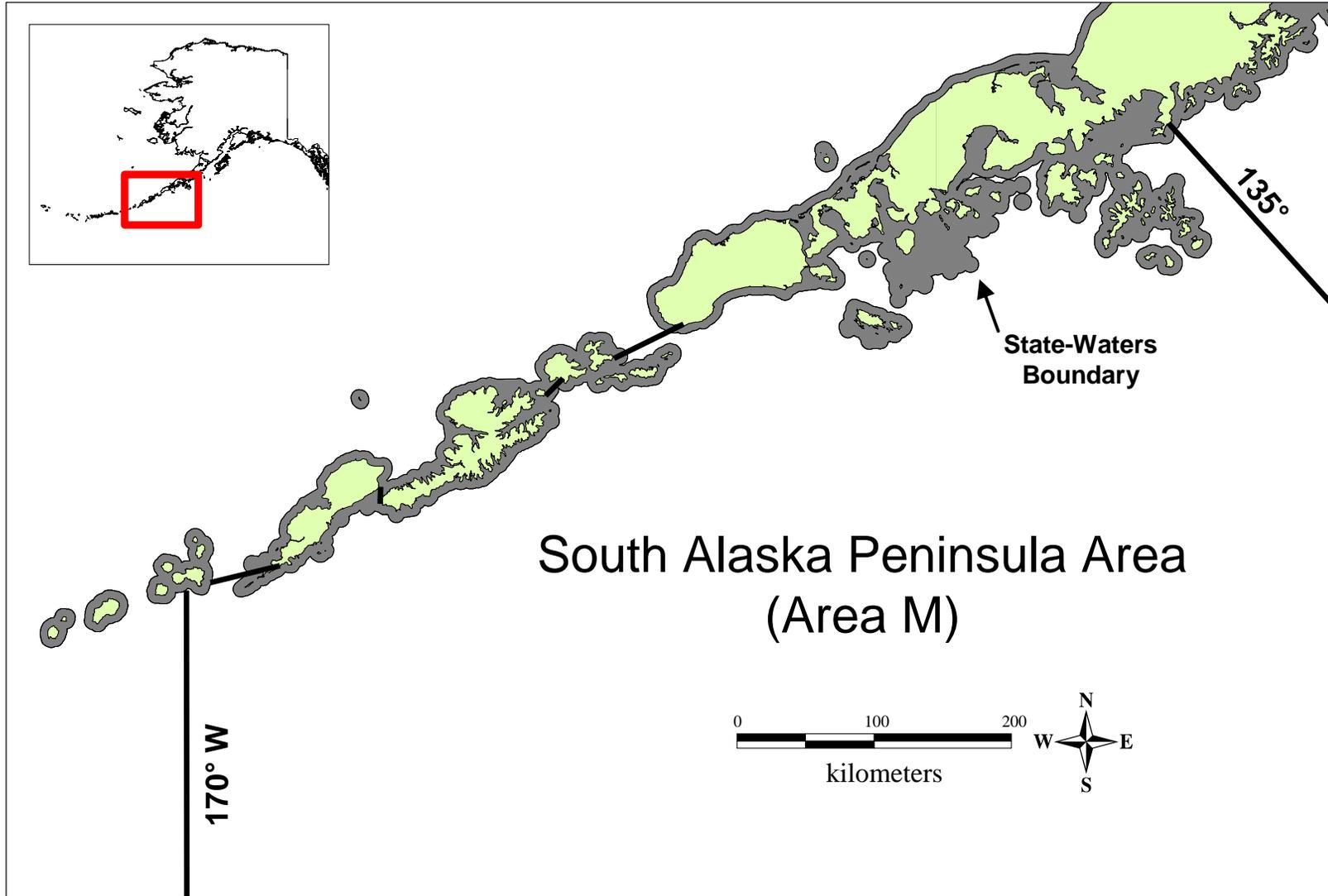


Figure 1.—South Alaska Peninsula Area for state-waters Pacific cod.

**APPENDIX A. LIST OF FISHERY CONTACTS, BY  
AGENCY AND LOCATION**

Appendix A1.–List of fishery contacts, by agency and location.

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**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**

[web site: http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/rgn4home.php](http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/rgn4home.php)

**KODIAK OFFICE**

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Mail Address:	211 Mission Road Kodiak, Alaska 99615	Physical Address:	211 Mission Road 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor, Kodiak	Phone:	(907) 486-1840	Record-A-Phone:	(907) 486-4559
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Wayne Donaldson	Westward Region Shellfish/Groundfish Management Supervisor	wayne.donaldson@alaska.gov
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Nick Sagalkin	Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Area Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist	nick.sagalkin@alaska.gov
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Mark Stichert	Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Asst. Area Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist	mark.stichert@alaska.gov
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**DUTCH HARBOR OFFICE**

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Mail Address:	P. O. Box 920587 Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692	Physical Address:	F.T.S. building, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Airport Beach Road, Dutch Harbor	Phone:	(907) 581-1239	FAX:	(907) 581-1572
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Forrest Bowers	Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Area Biologist	forrest.bowers@alaska.gov
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**Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers**

[web site: http://www.dps.state.ak.us/AWT/](http://www.dps.state.ak.us/AWT/)

**KODIAK OFFICE**

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Mail Address:	2921 A Mill Bay Road Kodiak, Alaska 99615	Physical Address:	2921 A Mill Bay Road Kodiak, AK	Phone:	(907) 486-4762	FAX:	(907) 486-5480
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Sargent Lonnie Gonzales	PostSargent	lonnie.gonzales@alaska.gov
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Paul Fussey	Trooper	paul.fussey@alaska.gov
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**Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission**

[web site: http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/](http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/)

**JUNEAU OFFICE**

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Mail Address:	P.O. Box 110302 Juneau, Alaska 99811-0302	Physical Address:	8800 Glacier Highway #109 Juneau, Alaska	Phone:	(907) 789-6150	FAX:	(907) 789-6170
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## **APPENDIX B. EXAMPLE OF REPORTING WORKSHEET**

