

Fishery Management Report No. 11-01

Fishery Management Plan for the Chignik Area State-Waters Pacific Cod Season, 2011

by

Mark A. Stichert

January 2011

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the *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		Mathematics, statistics	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code	AAC	<i>all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations</i>	
deciliter	dL	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	alternate hypothesis	H_A
gram	g	all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	base of natural logarithm	e
hectare	ha	at	@	catch per unit effort	CPUE
kilogram	kg	compass directions:		coefficient of variation	CV
kilometer	km	east	E	common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
liter	L	north	N	confidence interval	CI
meter	m	south	S	correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
milliliter	mL	west	W	correlation coefficient (simple)	r
millimeter	mm	copyright	©	covariance	cov
		corporate suffixes:		degree (angular)	°
Weights and measures (English)		Company	Co.	degrees of freedom	df
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	Corporation	Corp.	expected value	E
foot	ft	Incorporated	Inc.	greater than	>
gallon	gal	Limited	Ltd.	greater than or equal to	≥
inch	in	District of Columbia	D.C.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
mile	mi	et alii (and others)	et al.	less than	<
nautical mile	nmi	et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	less than or equal to	≤
ounce	oz	exempli gratia	e.g.	logarithm (natural)	ln
pound	lb	(for example)		logarithm (base 10)	log
quart	qt	Federal Information Code	FIC	logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ , etc.
yard	yd	id est (that is)	i.e.	minute (angular)	'
		latitude or longitude	lat. or long.	not significant	NS
Time and temperature		monetary symbols		null hypothesis	H_0
day	d	(U.S.)	\$, ¢	percent	%
degrees Celsius	°C	months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan, ..., Dec	probability	P
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	registered trademark	®	probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
degrees kelvin	K	trademark	™	probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
hour	h	United States (adjective)	U.S.	second (angular)	"
minute	min	United States of America (noun)	USA	standard deviation	SD
second	s	U.S.C.	United States Code	standard error	SE
		U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)	variance	
Physics and chemistry				population sample	Var var
all atomic symbols					
alternating current	AC				
ampere	A				
calorie	cal				
direct current	DC				
hertz	Hz				
horsepower	hp				
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH				
parts per million	ppm				
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰				
volts	V				
watts	W				

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WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON, 2011**

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Mark A. Stichert

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

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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.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/statewide/divreports/html/intersearch.cfm>. This publication has undergone regional peer review.

*Mark A. Stichert,
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries,
211 Mission Road, Kodiak, AK 99615, USA*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF FIGURES	i
LIST OF APPENDICES	i
ABSTRACT	1
INTRODUCTION	1
Area Description.....	1
Overview	1
Parallel Season.....	1
State-Waters Season	2
2011 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL.....	2
Bycatch.....	2
STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD MANAGEMENT PLAN	3
Catch Reporting.....	4
INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	4
LANDING REQUIREMENTS	4
Pot Storage.....	5
FIGURES	7
APPENDIX A. LIST OF FISHERY CONTACTS, BY AGENCY AND LOCATION.....	9
APPENDIX B. EXAMPLE OF REPORTING WORKSHEET	11

LIST OF FIGURES

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

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Page
A1. List of fishery contacts, by agency and location.....	10
B1. Example of reporting worksheet.	12

ABSTRACT

The Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* season is scheduled to open March 1, 2011. Vessels participating in the state-waters season may not exceed 58 feet in length, and legal gear is limited to pot and jig gear. No more than 60 pots or 5 mechanical jigging machines may be operated from a vessel. The 2011 guideline harvest level (GHL) of 10.38 million pounds, is equal to 8.75% of the Central Gulf of Alaska Acceptable Biological Catch for Pacific cod. Pot vessels are allocated 90% of the total GHL or 9.34 million pounds. Jig vessels are allocated 10% of the total GHL or 1.04 million pounds. Effective inseason 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 inseason harvest information, ADF&G will adopt conservative management measures which may result in lost fishing opportunity.

Key words: Pacific cod, *Gadus macrocephalus*, Chignik Area, harvest strategy, regulations, guideline harvest level, state waters fishery, parallel fishery.

INTRODUCTION

AREA DESCRIPTION

The Chignik Management Area (Registration Area L) for groundfish consists of all waters of Alaska on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula between 156°20.22' W long (the longitude of the southern entrance to Imuya Bay near Kilokak Rocks) and a line extending 135° southeast from Kupreanof Point (Figure 1).

OVERVIEW

Two distinct Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* fisheries occur within state waters (0–3 nmi) of the Chignik Area. The first fishery is prosecuted concurrent with 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) rules. The second Pacific cod fishery is the Chignik 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 purpose of this document is to further define these fisheries and provide specific information on the 2011 Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod season.

Parallel Season

The federal CGOA Pacific cod season (3–200 nmi) opens January 1 to pots, longline and jig gear and January 20 to trawl gear. When the federal CGOA 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 CGOA Pacific cod fishery are allowed in the parallel fishery 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). **All vessels targeting Pacific cod inside Chignik Area state waters are restricted to a maximum of 58 feet in overall length.** Vessels over 58 feet in length are not restricted from fishing in federal waters (3–200 nmi). Steller sea lion restrictions during the parallel season match federal management measures (5 AAC 28.087).

Vessels fishing exclusively in the parallel Pacific cod fishery are not required to possess a federal fishing permit (FFP) or gear endorsement otherwise known as the License Limitation Program

(LLP). However all vessels must complete an ADF&G Westward Region parallel groundfish registration. Vessels that possess a federal fisheries permit 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 during the parallel fishery are counted against the federal CGOA TAC. 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 the South Alaska Peninsula. The first state-waters Pacific cod seasons in these areas occurred in 1997. State-waters Pacific cod fisheries are open access fisheries and are prosecuted independent of the federal/parallel fisheries.

Vessel registration for the federal/parallel fishery *is not valid for the state-waters Pacific cod season*; a separate state-waters Pacific cod registration is required. The Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod season is a superexclusive registration area fishery. Vessels registered for the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery may not register for any other state-waters Pacific cod season during 2011. Alternatively, if a vessel has registered for any state-waters Pacific cod fishery outside of the Chignik Area during 2011, that vessel may not participate in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery. 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. They may also be obtained by fax from the Kodiak office at (907) 486-1824 (Appendix A). Vessel operators must possess a 2011 Commercial Fisheries 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.

2011 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL

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

The percentage of the ABC for the CGOA allocated to the Chignik state-waters Pacific cod season is further described in 5 AAC 28.537 Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan (e)(2). **The 2011 GHL for the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery is 10.38 million pounds.** By regulation, 90% of the total GHL, or 9.34 million pounds is allocated to the pot fleet while 10% of the total GHL, or 1.04 million pounds is allocated to the jig fleet.

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% 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 state-waters Pacific cod and the directed black rockfish fishery may retain black rockfish in excess of the 5% bycatch limit when the Chignik Area directed black rockfish fishery is open. 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).

STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD MANAGEMENT PLAN

ADF&G manages the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod season in accordance with the Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan (5 AAC 28.537). The management plan is described in detail on pages 50–52 in the 2010–2011 Statewide Commercial Groundfish Fishing Regulations booklet. Following is a summary of important regulations that govern the Chignik state-waters Pacific cod season:

- The Chignik state-waters Pacific cod season opens by regulation on March 1.
- Vessels may not exceed 58 feet overall length.
- Pot and jig gear are the only legal gear types during the state-waters season.
- Vessels may not use pot and jig gear at the same time. However, operators may change gear registration by contacting the Kodiak ADF&G office (Appendix A).
- 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 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. Buoy tags may also be available by request in Chignik and Sand Point prior to the fishery opening date. No more than 60 pots may be in operation at the time of the state-waters season opening.
- No more than five mechanical jigging machines may be operated from a vessel unless the jig limit has been rescinded by emergency order after October 30. Jigging 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 90% of the total GHL. The allocation for jig gear is 10% of the total GHL. If jig gear GHL is not harvested by August 15 the season may close and immediately reopen 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, vessel operators using pot gear are strongly encouraged to report daily the harvest location, 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 Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod season using inseason catch reports (Appendix B) provided by vessel operators. 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, fax, or e-mail. **The ADF&G Kodiak office uses the Matrix¹ dispatch service. The Kodiak office Matrix number is 7894.** Vessel operators will be asked for their preferred reporting method when registering, and reporting worksheets will be issued at that time.

Reports will initially be taken at 10:00 a.m. daily. Reports should 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 using information gathered from vessel 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 place gear onboard before a closure; however, the potential exists for short advance notice closures.

Weekly harvest updates will be released each Monday after 4:00 p.m. 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 486-4559.
- Via e-mail to a list of recipients maintained by groundfish management staff in Kodiak.
- Posted on the ADF&G website at:
<http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/finfish/grndfish/11pcod.pdf>
- Via telephone 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 28.541 (1) and (2) on pages 52 and 53 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 an ADF&G representative within 48 hours following the closure and has been granted additional time to reach the port of landing.

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

POT STORAGE

Pot storage requirements are specified in 5 AAC 28.532 on page 50 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 at depth (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.

FIGURES

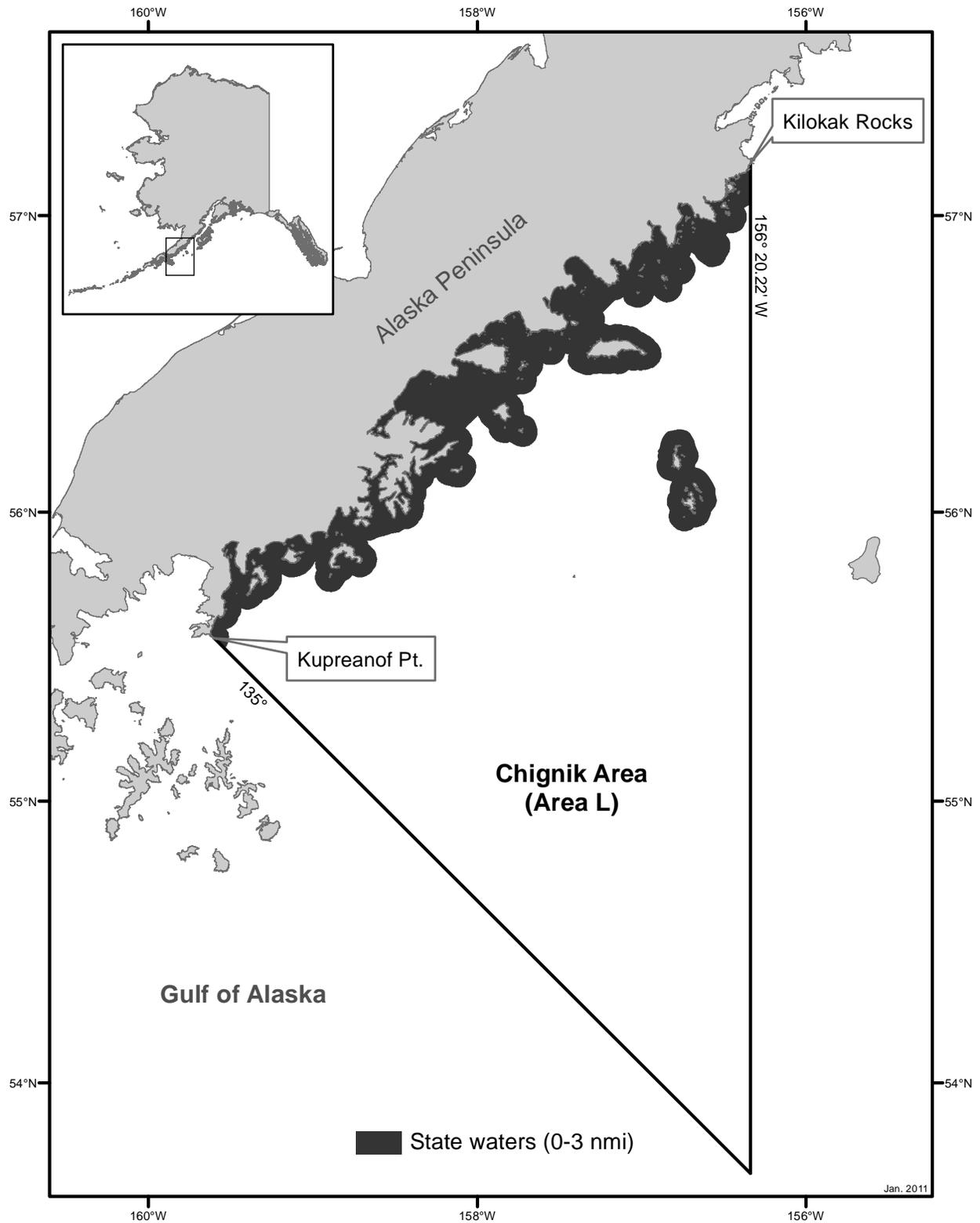


Figure 1.-Chignik Area for state-waters Pacific cod.

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

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

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

web site: <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/rgn4home.php>

Kodiak Office

Mail Address: 211 Mission Road
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Physical Address: 211 Mission Road
2nd floor, Kodiak, Alaska

Phone: (907) 486-1840
Record-A-Phone: (907) 486-4559
FAX: (907) 486-1824

Wayne Donaldson Westward Region Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist
Nick Sagalkin Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Area Groundfish Biologist
Mark Stichert Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Groundfish Biologist

wayne.donaldson@alaska.gov
nick.sagalkin@alaska.gov
mark.stichert@alaska.gov

Dutch Harbor Office

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

Physical Address: F.T.S. building, 2nd floor
Airport Beach Road, Dutch Harbor

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

Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers

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

Kodiak Office

Mail Address: 2921 A Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Physical Address: 2921 A Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, Alaska

Phone: (907) 486-4762
FAX: (907) 486-5480

Paul Fussey Post Sergeant

paul.fussey@alaska.gov

Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

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

Mail Address: 8800 Glacier Highway
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0302

Physical Address: 8800 Glacier Highway #109
Juneau, Alaska

Phone: (907) 789-6150
FAX: (907) 789-6170

National Marine Fisheries Service – ALASKA REGION

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

Sustainable Fisheries Division

Juneau Office

Phone: (800) 304-4846 #3

Dutch Harbor Office

Phone: (907) 581-2062

Kodiak Office

Phone: (907) 481-1780

NOAA Fisheries Enforcement

Dutch Harbor Office

Phone: (907) 581-2061

Kodiak Office

Phone: (907) 486-3298

APPENDIX B. EXAMPLE OF REPORTING WORKSHEET

