

KODIAK AREA STATE MANAGED PACIFIC COD FISHERY
INFORMATION PACKET, 2000

By

Mike Ruccio
Dave Jackson
and
Wayne Donaldson

Regional Information Report¹ No. 4K00-10

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
211 Mission Road
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

February 2000

¹ The Regional Information Report Series was established in 1987 to provide an information access system for all unpublished division reports. These reports frequently serve diverse ad hoc informational purposes or archive basic uninterpreted data. To accommodate timely reporting of recently collected information, reports in this series undergo only limited internal review and may contain preliminary data; this information may be subsequently finalized and published in the formal literature. Consequently, these reports should not be cited without prior approval of the author or the Division of Commercial Fisheries.

AUTHORS

Mike Ruccio, Dave Jackson, and Wayne Donaldson are fisheries biologists for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, 211 Mission Road, Kodiak, AK 99615.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors thank the following staff from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game: Tom Dinnocenzo and Kim Phillips for compiling the frequently asked questions that served as a template for much of this report and Lucinda Neel who supplied final formatting and publication support.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
LIST OF FIGURES	i
LIST OF TABLES	i
LIST OF APPENDICES	i
INTRODUCTION.....	1
FISHERY HISTORY	1
PARALLEL SEASONS (NOT THE STATE MANAGED PACIFIC COD FISHERY).....	1
STATE MANAGED PACIFIC COD.....	2
IMPROVED RETENTION/ IMPROVED UTILIZATION, LINGCOD, OCTOPUS, AND BYCATCH	4
APPLICATION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN	4
2000 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL.....	5
INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS	6
PREREGISTRATION AND REGISTRATION.....	7
LEGAL GEAR AND POT LIMITS	7
BUOY TAGS	7
POT STORAGE.....	8
LANDING REQUIREMENTS	8
ONBOARD OBSERVERS.....	9
DOCKSIDE SAMPLING PROGRAM.....	9
TAGGED PACIFIC COD	9
TABLE	10
FIGURES.....	11
APPENDIX	13

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Catch and effort from the Kodiak Area state managed Pacific cod fisheries, 1997-1999.	10

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Catch by statistical area from the 1999 Kodiak state managed Pacific cod fishery... ..	11
2. The Kodiak area for state managed Pacific cod.....	12

LIST OF APPENDICES

<u>Appendix</u>	<u>Page</u>
A. 5 AAC 28.467 Kodiak area Pacific cod management plan.....	14
B. Listing of contact persons, by agency and location.....	17
C. State managed Pacific cod exclusive area registration form.....	18

INTRODUCTION

This information packet is designed to be used in conjunction with the 1999-2000 Groundfish Fishery Commercial Fishing Regulations. The purpose is to offer further clarity to existing regulations and provide answers to frequently asked questions regarding the state water Pacific cod fishery. However, do not rely on this information packet alone to guide you in regulatory compliance. Information within regulation may also be superseded by emergency orders, which are discussed under the inseason announcement section of this packet.

FISHERY HISTORY

In 1996, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted state water Pacific cod management plans in five groundfish areas: Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula. Harvest during the state water fisheries are limited to pot, mechanical jig, and hand troll gear types. The regulatory Kodiak area management plan, **5 AAC 28.467 Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan**, can be found in Appendix A. Harvest totals from previous years are shown in Table 1. The 1999 harvest from the Kodiak Area is shown by statistical area in Figure 1.

PARALLEL SEASONS (NOT THE STATE MANAGED PACIFIC COD FISHERY)

When the federal Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) is open the state will open a parallel season in state waters. Unless specifically prohibited, the use of the same gear types allowed in the federal CGOA Pacific cod fishery are permitted. Each year, the federal season opens January 1 to pots, longline, and jig gear and 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 caps. Pacific cod harvested in state waters during the parallel season are not counted against the state managed Pacific cod harvest allocation. Information regarding federal fisheries openings can be obtained by calling the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) at (907) 481-1700 or on their website <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/>. A comprehensive listing of contact persons, by agency, is provided in Appendix B.

The exceptions to gear permitted in the parallel season are as described under **5 AAC 28.050**, **5 AAC 28.430**, and **5 AAC 28.450**. The regulation **5 AAC 39.164** contains a listing of state waters closed to nonpelagic trawl gear in the Kodiak Area. Additional waters in proximity to Steller sea lion rookeries within the Kodiak Area have closures ranging from no transit zones to restrictions on trawling. For more information regarding closed areas, contact ADF&G or NMFS.

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 that they must comply with federal regulations regarding observer coverage and logbook requirements when operating within state waters unless they relinquish their federal permit. For additional information regarding requirements pertaining to holders of federal fisheries permits while operating within state waters contact NMFS or NMFS enforcement.

STATE MANAGED PACIFIC COD

- ◆ The state managed Pacific cod fishery will open seven days following the closure of the directed federal Pacific cod season in the CGOA. The season will remain open until December 31 or the guideline harvest levels are attained, whichever comes first.

The Kodiak Area state managed Pacific cod fishery is designated as an exclusive registration area. This means that a vessel validly registered within the Kodiak Area may not be used to take Pacific cod in any other exclusive or superexclusive state managed Pacific cod area during a state waters season. After October 30, exclusive area designations may be removed from the state managed fisheries by emergency order.

Operators must obtain an exclusive area vessel registration and possess a 2000 CFEC interim use permit card for miscellaneous finfish for the gear type to be used. These permits will have the following leading numbers: MO5B for hand troll, M26B for mechanical jig gear, MO9B for pot vessels less than 60', and M91B for pot vessels greater than 60'. Please note that a Westward Region Groundfish Registration *is different* than the exclusive registration required for the state water Pacific cod fishery. Appendix C contains a copy of the exclusive area registration form for general information; it is not valid for registration.

Registrations for the Kodiak Area may be obtained at the department offices in Kodiak and Dutch Harbor year-round and seasonally in Sand Point and Chignik. They may also be obtained via FAX to the Kodiak office at (907) 486-1824.

- ◆ Any size vessel using pot, mechanical jig, or hand troll gear may participate in the Kodiak Area state managed fishery regardless of LLP status. 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 the state managed fishery unless they relinquish their federal permit. For additional information regarding requirements pertaining to holders of federal fisheries permits operating in the state managed fishery, contact NMFS or NMFS enforcement (contacts listed in Appendix B).
- ◆ Vessels may not use pot and jig gear at the same time. However, operators may change to a different gear registration by written request, in person, or by FAX at the ADF&G office in Kodiak at any time during the state managed season.
- ◆ Vessels 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.

- ◆ Mechanical jig/hand troll gears are allocated 50% of the guideline harvest level (GHL). The state managed season shall close when 50% of the GHL has been harvested by jigs or December 31, whichever occurs first. If 50% of the GHL is not harvested with jigs by September 1, the season may be reopened to pot gear by emergency order.

Fifty percent of the GHL is allocated to pot gear. However, the season for pot vessels greater than 58' length overall will close when 25% of the overall GHL allocation is met or December 31, whichever occurs first. The season will close to all remaining pot fishers when the balance of the pot GHL has been reached or December 31, whichever occurs first. The Alaska Board of Fisheries has adopted an agenda change request for their March 2000 meeting pertaining to the pot gear vessel size allocation.

On September 1, if the fishery has previously been closed to pot gear and the remaining 50% of the GHL has not been taken by jig gear, the fishery will close and immediately reopen to all legal gear types. This reopening will include reopening to pot fishers in both the large vessel (>58' LOA) and small vessel component in the Kodiak Area.

If a significant portion of the GHL remains to be harvested in the state managed fishery after October 30; the state managed fishery will close and immediately reopen with the limits on the number of pots and jig gear that may be fished being lifted. As previously mentioned, the Kodiak Area may also be designated as nonexclusive.

- ◆ No more than 60 groundfish pots may be operated from a vessel, unless the pot limit has been rescinded by an emergency order on or after October 31. Buoy tags are required when the 60 pot limit is in effect. Unique tags will be issued each year for each state managed Pacific cod registration area. Tags are available free of charge, year-round from the Kodiak and Dutch Harbor offices. Tags are available seasonally in the Sand Point, King Cove, Homer, and Chignik at either the ADF&G offices or at the local processing facilities.
- ◆ No more than 5 hand troll lines or mechanical jig machines may be operated from a vessel unless the jig limit has been rescinded by emergency order on or after October 31.
- ◆ The state water fishery shall close during any opening of the federal CGOA to pot and jig gear. Upon the closure of the federal CGOA, the state water fishery may immediately reopen.
- ◆ Tenders for Pacific cod in the state managed fishery must obtain an exclusive area registration prior to beginning tender operations. Tender vessels may also actively fish with either gear type. Tenders must procure a registration to fish and to tender in this scenario and must imprint separate fish tickets accounting for all fish landed and accepted as deliveries from other vessels.
- ◆ Vessels may not be registered for the state managed Pacific cod fishery while also fishing for salmon or herring.
- ◆ Vessels may be registered to use jig gear in the state managed Pacific cod fishery and to fish Dungeness crab.

IMPROVED RETENTION/IMPROVED UTILIZATION, LINGCOD, OCTOPUS AND BYCATCH

- ◆ Included in **5 AAC 28.070 Groundfish Possession and Landing Requirements** and **5 AAC 28.075 Utilization of Pollock and Pacific Cod Taken in a Commercial Fishery** are specifications stating that participants in state managed groundfish fisheries shall retain all walleye pollock and Pacific cod caught when a directed fishery for those species is open. Operators shall retain the maximum retainable bycatch amount for those species when a directed fishery for walleye pollock or Pacific cod is closed; this is typically 20% by target species weight. The above-mentioned regulations mirror the intent of federal regulatory language in 50 CFR 679.B.27 which deals with improved retention/ improved utilization in federally managed fisheries.
- ◆ During the season for lingcod (July 1 to December 31) fish 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 may be retained up to 20% by weight. Lingcod may be targeted and retained in excess of 20% with a valid 2000 CFEC interim use permit for lingcod and a specific lingcod registration. Lingcod must not be mutilated or altered in such a manner that prevents determination of the minimum size. An individual fish ticket must be filled out for all directed lingcod landings.
- ◆ Black rockfish may be retained up to 100% when harvest occurs in areas that are open to directed fishing. After the directed fishery for black rockfish has been closed by emergency order in a section, black rockfish bycatch may be retained up to 5% by target species weight.
- ◆ Octopus may be retained up to 20% by weight and landed on the miscellaneous finfish card required to harvest Pacific cod. Vessels who wish to retain octopus in quantities greater than 20% must possess a valid 2000 CFEC interim use permit for octopus and procure a specific octopus registration. A separate fishticket must be filled out for directed octopus landings.
- ◆ NMFS determines bycatch percentages for all other groundfish species. Permissible bycatch percentages vary under the federal system, so it is advisable to check with NMFS management for the status of all species except black rockfish, blue rockfish and lingcod. (contacts listed in Appendix B).

APPLICATION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN

The department will apply the management plan to maximize harvest potential while maintaining standards consistent with maximum sustained yield. Every effort will be made to allow fishers sufficient opportunity to obtain the GHL. At the specified regulatory ‘mop up’ dates of September 1 and October 31, the department will take into consideration the following factors in determining if the GHL will be obtained by December 31 or if action shall be taken in an effort to increase harvest rates:

- ◆ Pounds remaining to be harvested to reach the GHL; predicted daily harvest rates must be low enough to allow for inseason management.

- ◆ Fishing power in relation to daily harvest rates at the specified gear limits versus removal of all or some gear restrictions.
- ◆ Potential fishing power if the area is designated as nonexclusive, particularly in relation to closures in other fisheries, either state or federally managed, that could result in dramatic increases in the number of vessels participating.
- ◆ Scheduled federal openings of the CGOA and consequential reopening of the parallel state water season.
- ◆ Previous years' state managed fishery fishing performance and historical monthly trends exhibited by the fleet.
- ◆ Known seasonal distribution of Pacific cod and their availability to the fishery being prosecuted within three miles of shore.
- ◆ Any other factors that the department deems sufficient grounds to reopen the fishery to pot or jig gear types, remove gear limits, or designate the area as nonexclusive.

See inseason announcement section of this plan for further information.

Figure 2 in the appendix section shows the Kodiak Area for the state managed Pacific cod fishery. Please note that only state waters, those areas out to three miles from shore, are open during the state managed season.

2000 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL

The guideline harvest level for the state managed Pacific cod season is determined annually as a percentage of the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for the CGOA. An ABC recommendation is submitted by the Plan Team for the Groundfish Fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). The NPFMC uses this information to set an annual ABC level. The NPMFC in determining the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and other management strategies for the fisheries consider the ABC recommendations, together with social and economic factors. Additional information on the annual ABC derivation can be found in the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) document 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 state water season Pacific cod fishery is contained in **5 AAC 28.467 Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan (e)(1) and (e)(2)**. The 1999 GHL was set at 10% of the ABC for the CGOA.

Because the 1999 harvest was within 10% of the established GHL 11.7 million pounds, the 2000 GHL will increase to 12.5% of the ABC for the CGOA. This is the maximum percentage of the ABC specified in regulation for the state water season GHL step up provisions. In 2000 and in all subsequent years, the Kodiak state water season fishery will receive 12.5% of the central Gulf of

Alaska's ABC of Pacific cod. The 2000 GHl for the Kodiak state water seasons Pacific cod fishery will be 12.5 million pounds.

INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS

The state managed Pacific cod fishery will be managed inseason with information gathered from weekly processor reports, dockside sampling, and fish ticket data. All actions pertaining to regulatory changes in the state managed fishery will be published in news releases and emergency orders as needed. Weekly updates composed from weekly processor reports will be available on each Monday that the state managed season is open. News releases, weekly catch updates, and emergency orders may be found at the following locations or obtained through the following methods:

- ◆ 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 shellfish management staff in Kodiak via e-mail, FAX, and standard mail.
- ◆ Posted on the ADF&G website at:
<http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/>
- ◆ Inseason closure announcements broadcasted following the National Weather Service broadcast at 0800 and 1800 hrs on 4125 kHz SSB.
- ◆ Management biologists will telephone or FAX processing facilities participating in the fishery and inform them of actions taken; these processors typically inform the fleet and post the releases in conspicuous places in their operational offices.
- ◆ Weekly harvest updates containing preliminary catch statistics are available after 1600 hours every Monday that the state water season fishery is open. Since the creation of these fishery updates requires information from all the processors participating in the fishery, it is often the case that, during the busiest times for processors, the updates may not be available until Tuesday morning.

Individuals wishing to be placed on the distribution list or to request information on the latest news release and emergency orders should contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

PREREGISTRATON AND REGISTRATION

There are no preregistraton requirements for participation in the Kodiak state water season Pacific cod fishery. Exclusive area registrations are required prior to engaging in fishing activities—note that this registration is different from the Westward Region Groundfish Registration used during the parallel fishery. An informational copy of the exclusive registration area form can be found in Appendix C. Operators also are required to have a current year and gear specific Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim use permit prior to registering.

LEGAL GEAR AND POT LIMITS

Pacific cod may be taken only with groundfish pots as defined in **5 AAC 39.105 legal types of gear, (11) pots and 5 AAC 39.145 (1) and (2) escape mechanism for shellfish and bottomfish pots**, mechanical jig gear as defined in **5 AAC 39.105 legal types of gear, (25) a mechanical jigging machine**, and hand troll gear as defined in **5 AAC 39.105 legal types of gear, (8) hand troll gear**. No more than 60 pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish Pacific cod in the state water season fishery; no more than 5 mechanical jig or hand troll lines may be operated from a vessel registered to fish Pacific cod in the state water season fishery. Vessels may not fish with pots and jig gear at the same time. Fishers may use hand troll and mechanical jig gear at the same time if they are in possession of both gear types' CFEC cards, registered to use both types, and process fish tickets for each gear type. Gear limits and exclusivity restrictions may be relaxed under the conditions specified in **5 AAC 28.467(g)(1) and (2)** under the Kodiak Pacific cod management plan after October 30 if the GHF will not be reached by December 31. The relaxation of gear limits, should it occur, will be announced by news release in early to mid October.

Lawful gear types are further discussed under **5 AAC 28.050 lawful gear for groundfish** and contain language as follows: all commercial gear buoys, or kegs and buoys for groundfish pots must be marked with the permanent ADF&G vessel license plate number of the vessel operating the gear. This number must include leading zeros as applicable. Also, a groundfish pot is a pot with individual tunnel eye openings with a perimeter 36 inches or less. This is achieved by placing rigid excluder bars across the tunnel eyes to prevent the entry of Pacific halibut into the pot. Each groundfish pot must be legibly marked with a permanent tag or label that displays the word “groundfish”.

BUOY TAGS

Within **5 AAC 28.050 Lawful gear for groundfish**, there is language pertaining to buoy tag requirements and lost tag replacement procedures.

Each pot used to fish for Pacific cod in the Kodiak state water season while the 60 pot limit is in effect is required to be tagged with a department-supplied buoy tag. Buoy tags are available

prior to the fishing season in the Kodiak and Dutch Harbor offices and seasonally in the Homer, Sand Point, Chignik, and King Cove 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 through the methods described in **5 AAC 28.050 lawful gear for groundfish**.

If pot limits are relaxed on October 31 the requirement for buoy tags is thereby eliminated.

POT STORAGE

5 AAC 28.432 Groundfish Pot Storage Requirements for the Kodiak Area states that 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.

Vessels that participate in the federal Pacific cod fishery prior to the opening of the Kodiak state water season fishery may leave their pots baited and at fishing depth in the 7 days between seasons. No more than 60 pots may be in operation and those 60 pots must have a buoy tag attached when the season opens. Pots may be stored legally during the state water season inside 25 fathoms as described above. Pots left beyond three miles are subject to applicable federal regulations.

LANDING REQUIREMENTS

The landing requirements are specified in **5 AAC 28.471 (1) and (2) landing requirements of the Kodiak area**. After 48 hours from the time of closure of the state managed Pacific cod fishery, 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 permissible percentage. If the vessel has been delayed due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the vessel's operator, and the vessel has contacted the department, 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.

When the state managed Pacific cod fishery is closed and immediately reopened by emergency order, vessels are not subject to compliance with the landing requirements listed above.

Fish tickets are required of each landing made and are addressed in **5 AAC 39.130 reports required of processors, buyers, fishermen, and operators of certain commercial fishing vessels; transporting requirements**. Additional information on filling out fish tickets correctly can be found in the groundfish reporting requirements document on file with processing facilities and at ADF&G offices within the state.

ONBOARD OBSERVERS

Onboard observers are not required for vessels participating in the Kodiak state water season Pacific cod fishery. However, the department is actively seeking vessels of all sizes on which to deploy department personnel to gather biological data at sea on Pacific cod and incidental bycatch information. Vessels wishing to participate in the voluntary observer program can be compensated for the daily food costs of carrying department personnel; interested vessels should contact the ADF&G office in Kodiak at 486-1840.

DOCKSIDE SAMPLING PROGRAM

The department conducts dockside sampling on landings of Pacific cod, lingcod and black rockfish harvested from the state managed fisheries. This constitutes the primary source of biological information from these fisheries. Samplers will collect weights, length frequencies, age structures, and determine gonad and ovarian ripeness. The data gathered, paired with the confidential interviews, give the department critical information on these species' distribution, age, growth rates, and spawn timing. Please allow dockside samplers access to your catch and assist them by answering a few confidential questions regarding fishing effort and location.

TAGGED PACIFIC COD

The department began an intensive Pacific cod tagging project in 1998. Fish have been tagged in a number of trawl surveys and pot studies conducted from Kodiak to Unalaska Island. If you recover a Pacific cod with an orange tag looped through the flesh in front of the first dorsal fin, please record the following information: location in latitude and longitude, depth of fishing, length of fish, and date harvested. Send this information along with the tag to ADF&G in Kodiak (see Appendix B) and you will receive a tag reward hat. When possible, the entire fish may be returned to the Kodiak office of ADF&G.

Table 1. Catch and effort from the Kodiak Area state managed Pacific cod fisheries, 1997-1999.

Gear	Year	Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Price/Pound	Average Weight (lbs.)
Pots	1997	36	229	5,608,326	0.23	8.9
Jig		71	481	1,992,245	0.23	10.8
Total		105 ^a	710	7,600,571	0.23	9.1
Pots	1998	41	308	6,153,808	0.22	8.4
Jig		93	671	2,125,461	0.23	8.6
Total		128 ^b	979	8,279,269	0.23	8.5
Pots	1999	73	477	8,468,995	0.34	7.9
Jig		114	807	2,312,822	0.40	8.3
Total		179 ^c	1284	10,781,817	0.37	8.1

^a Two vessels fished both gear types.

^b Six vessels fished both gear types.

^c Eight vessels fished both gear types.

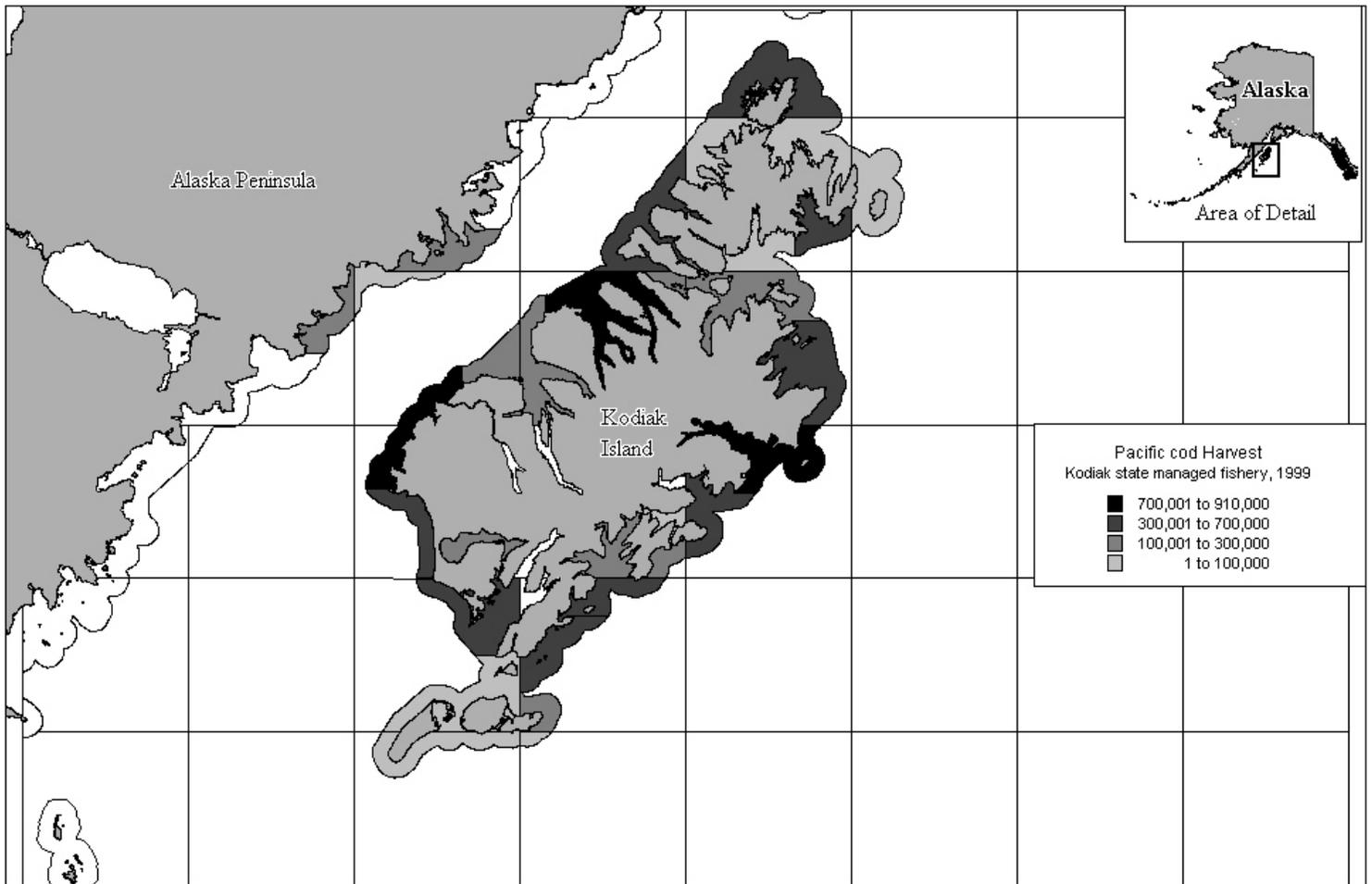


Figure 1. Catch by statistical area from the 1999 Kodiak state managed Pacific cod fishery.

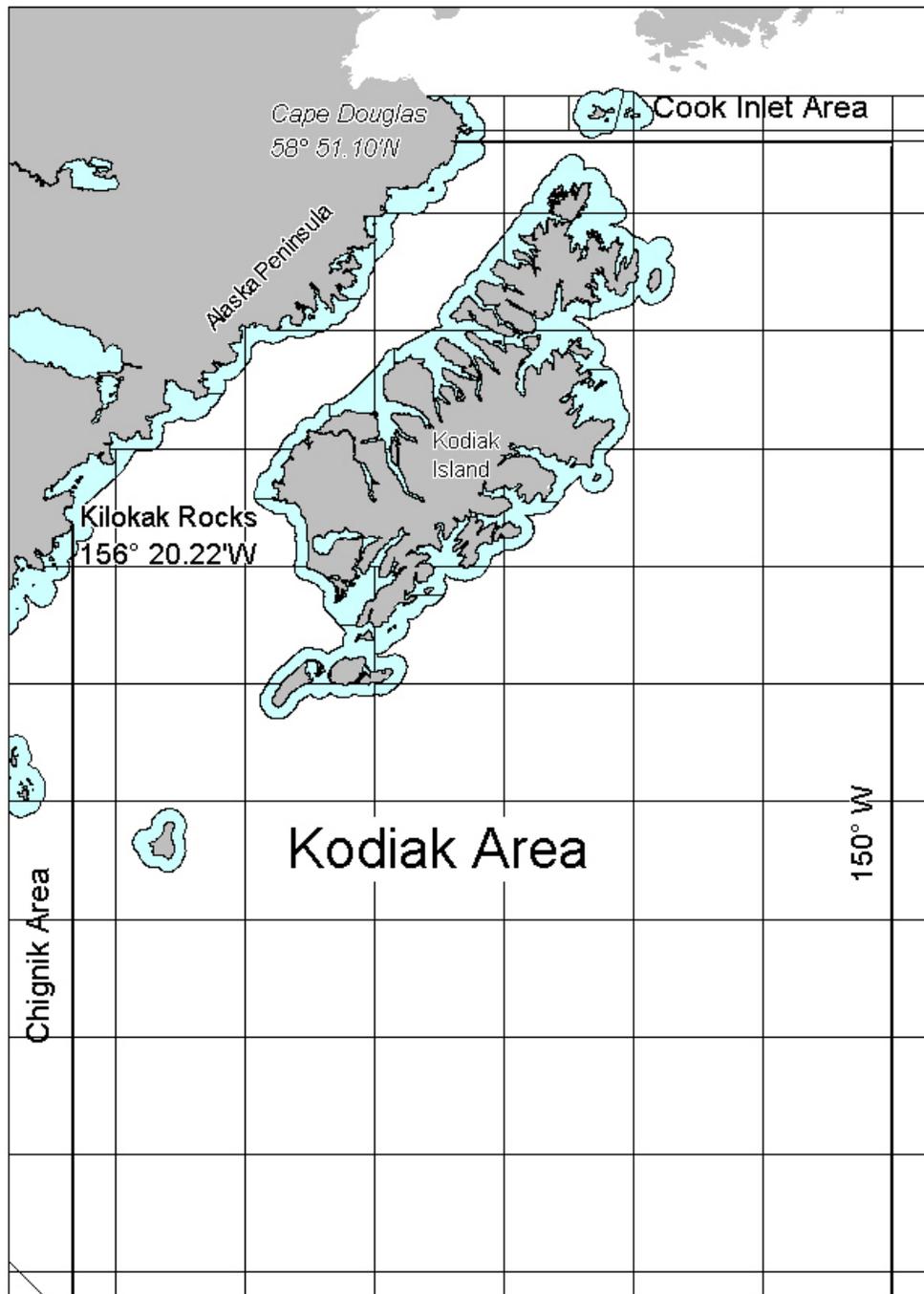


Figure 2. The Kodiak area for state managed Pacific cod.

APPENDIX

Appendix A. 5 AAC 28.467 Kodiak area Pacific cod management plan.

- (a) This management plan governs the harvest of Pacific cod in the Kodiak Area.
- (b) The commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, a parallel season in the Kodiak Area to coincide with the federal season in the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area. The commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, the parallel season during which the use of the same gear allowed in the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area Pacific cod season is permitted, unless use of that gear is prohibited under [5 AAC 28.050](#), [5 AAC 28.430](#), or [5 AAC 28.450](#).
- (c) The commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state waters season in the Kodiak Area seven days following the closure of the directed federal season in the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area and shall close, by emergency order, the state waters season, as follows:
- (1) for mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear, when 50 percent of the guideline harvest level is taken by mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear or December 31, whichever occurs first;
 - (2) for pots, when 50 percent of the guideline harvest level is taken by pot gear or December 31, whichever occurs first; if 50 percent of the guideline harvest level is not taken by mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear before September 1, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the fishing season and immediately reopen a fishing season during which all legal gear may be used, and shall close, by emergency order, the season on December 31 or when the guideline harvest level is reached, whichever occurs first;
 - (3) if the season is closed and immediately reopened under (2) of this subsection, a vessel participating in the state waters season when it was closed will not be required to comply with the landing requirements of [5 AAC 28.471](#) until the season is closed again;
 - (4) the fishing season for vessels longer than 58 feet in overall length fishing with pot gear when 25 percent of the guideline harvest level has been taken by those vessels or December 31, whichever occurs first, unless the pot gear season has already been closed under (2) of this subsection; in this paragraph "overall length" means the straight line length between the extremities of the vessel, excluding anchor rollers.
- (d) The commissioner may open and close, by emergency order, fishing seasons at times other than those specified in this management plan if the commissioner determines it is necessary to adapt to unanticipated openings of the federal season, to maintain sustained yield management, or to provide for orderly fisheries.

-Continued-

(e) During a state waters season,

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Kodiak Area is 7.5 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area;

(2) if the guideline harvest level specified in (1) of this subsection is reached in any calendar year, the guideline harvest level will be increased beginning the next calendar year to 10 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area; if the 10 percent guideline harvest level is reached in any calendar year after it has been implemented, the guideline harvest level will be increased beginning the next calendar year to 12.5 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area;

(3) Pacific cod may be taken only with groundfish pots, mechanical jigging machines, and hand troll gear, as follows:

(A) no more than 60 groundfish pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for Pacific cod;

(B) no more than five mechanical jigging machines may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for Pacific cod;

(C) in addition to the requirements of 5 AAC 28.020, a vessel must be registered to fish with pot gear or with mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear (jig gear), and may be registered to fish with only one of these two gear types; a vessel's gear registration may be changed during a state waters season to a different gear registration if the owner, or the owner's agent, submits a written request for a change in registration by mail, facsimile, or in person, to the department office in Kodiak, or other locations specified by the department, for validation, and that registration has been validated by the department.

(f) The Kodiak Area is an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod during a state waters season.

(g) If at any time after October 30, the commissioner determines that the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod will not be reached by December 31, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the fishing season and immediately reopen a state waters season during which the following shall be implemented to increase the harvest rate in an attempt to reach the guideline harvest level:

-Continued-

(1) limits on the number of groundfish pots and mechanical jigging machines that may be operated from a vessel are removed; or

(2) if needed, in addition to (1) of this subsection, designate the Kodiak Area as a nonexclusive registration area for Pacific cod.

(h) If the season is closed and immediately reopened under (g) of this section, a vessel participating in the state waters season when it was closed will not be required to comply with the landing requirements of [5 AAC 28.471](#) until the season is closed again.

Appendix B. Listing of contact persons, by agency and location.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

web site: <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/finfish/grndfish/grndhom4.htm>

Kodiak office

Mail address: 211 Mission Road *physical address:* 211 Mission Road Phone: (907) 486-1840
Kodiak, Alaska 99615 2nd floor, Kodiak FAX : (907) 486-1824

Wayne Donaldson Westward region groundfish / shellfish biologist wayne_donaldson@fishgame.state.ak.us
Dave Jackson Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Area groundfish/ shellfish biologist dave_jackson@fishgame.state.ak.us
Mike Ruccio Kodiak, Chignik, Ak. Pen. Assistant Area groundfish/shellfish biologist mike_ruccio@fishgame.state.ak.us
Carrie Worton Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Staff biologist carrie_worton@fishgame.state.ak.us

Dutch Harbor office

Mail address: P. O. Box 920587 *physical address:* F.T.S. building, 2nd floor Phone: (907) 581-1239
Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692 Airport Beach Road, Dutch Harbor. FAX: (907) 581-1572

Rance Morrison Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Area biologist rance_morrison@fishgame.state.ak.us
Forrest Bowers Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Assistant Area biologist forrest_bowers@fishgame.state.ak.us
Robert 'Skip' Gish Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Groundfish biologist robert_gish@fishgame.state.ak.us

Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection

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

Kodiak office

Mail address: 211 Bartell *physical address:* 211 Bartell Phone: (907) 486-4761
Kodiak, Alaska 99615 2nd floor, Kodiak FAX: (907) 486-5480

Sargent Joanna Roop Post Sargent joanna_roop@dps.state.ak.us

National Marine Fisheries Service

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

Kodiak office-management

Mail address: P. O. Box 1638 *physical address:* 301 Research Court Phone: (907) 481-1780
Kodiak, Alaska 99615 Near Island, Kodiak FAX : (907) 481-1701

Tom Pearson Gulf of Alaska management biologist Tom.Pearson@noaa.gov

Kodiak office-enforcement

Mail address: 1211 Gibson Cove Rd. *Physical address:* Gibson Cove Complex Phone: (907) 486-3298
Kodiak, Alaska 99615 Gibson Cove, Kodiak FAX: (907) 486-6868

Ken Hansen Fisheries enforcement agent Kenneth.Hansen@noaa.gov

Appendix C. State managed Pacific cod exclusive area registration form.



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Division of Commercial Fisheries Management and Development
Exclusive Area Registration
State Managed Pacific Cod Fishery

VESSEL NAME _____ ADF&G # _____

REGISTERED LENGTH _____ NET TONS _____ H.P. _____

OPERATOR _____ --NOT VALID FOR REGISTRATION USE--

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

INTERIM USE PERMIT # _____ NO OF POTS _____ NO. JIG MACHINES _____

OTHER SPECIES _____ FOR OCTOPUS BYCATCH REGISTRATION

BUOY TAG ID NUMBER _____

REGISTRATION AREA _____ --NOT VALID FOR REGISTRATION USE--

REGISTRATION YEAR _____ EFFECTIVE DATE _____

INTENDED PORTS OF DELIVERY _____

AGREEMENT FOR USE PRIVILEGE

In return for receiving from the State of Alaska the use privilege of fishing for groundfish inhabiting waters subject to the jurisdiction of the state, the undersigned agrees:

- (1) to engage in fishing for a species of groundfish only in a registration area for which the vessel is validly registered for that species;
(2) to engage in fishing for a species for groundfish only in districts where the season is open for that species in registration areas that are subdivided into districts;
(3) to engage in fishing for a species of groundfish only if the season for that species in the registration area for which the vessel is validly registered for that species is open;
(4) to engage in fishing for a species of groundfish in a registration area in compliance with all regulations (including partial closures) governing that species in the registration area;
(5) to comply with the requirements of 5 AAC 39.130; and to comply with all other applicable regulations.

The undersigned further agrees that the above agreement shall have the force of regulation.

Department Representative _____

Signature of Operator/Authorized Agent _____

Date and Location of Issue _____

Printed Name Authorized Agent _____

Database Entry

--NOT VALID FOR REGISTRATION--

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game administers all programs and activities free from discrimination on the bases of 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 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, or if you desire further information please write to ADF&G, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfield Drive, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 or O.E.O., U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.

For information on alternative formats for this and other department publications, please contact the department ADA Coordinator at (voice) 907-465-4120, (TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-2440.