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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



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Contact:  
Mike Vaughn

Phone: (907) 747-6688  
Fax: (907) 747-6693

Sitka Area Office  
304 Lake St. Room 103  
Sitka, AK 99835  
Date: April 30, 2015  
Time: 8:45 a.m.

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#### **SOUTHEAST ALASKA AREA PERSONAL USE SABLEFISH FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Sitka. . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today that new regulations establishing annual harvest limits and gear limitations in the personal use sablefish fishery will become effective on May 9, 2015. A sablefish fishing permit has been required to take sablefish under personal use regulations in the Southeastern Alaska Area since 2012 (5 AAC 77.674). New regulations adopted at the 2015 Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting will restrict personal use harvest to an annual limit of 50 sablefish and set a vessel possession limit of no more than 200 personal use sablefish, when four or more personal use permit holders are on board that vessel. Additionally, a permit holder's longline gear may not have attached more than 350 hooks in aggregate. Multiple permit holders aboard a vessel that intend to fish in excess of 350 hooks from the vessel, must do so with individual sets not exceeding 350 hooks and must have unattended gear marked in accordance with 5 AAC 77.010(d).

These new regulations affect the personal use sablefish fishery only and do not apply to the subsistence sablefish permit fishery. In the Southeastern Alaska Area, the subsistence harvest of sablefish may only be prosecuted in those areas with a customary and traditional use finding (C&T) for bottomfish as described in 5 AAC 01.716. In areas without a C&T finding for bottomfish, personal use regulations apply. Subsistence and personal use sablefish fishery areas are detailed in Figure 1.

For additional information on groundfish fisheries, visit the Southeast Regional Groundfish Fisheries web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.groundfish>.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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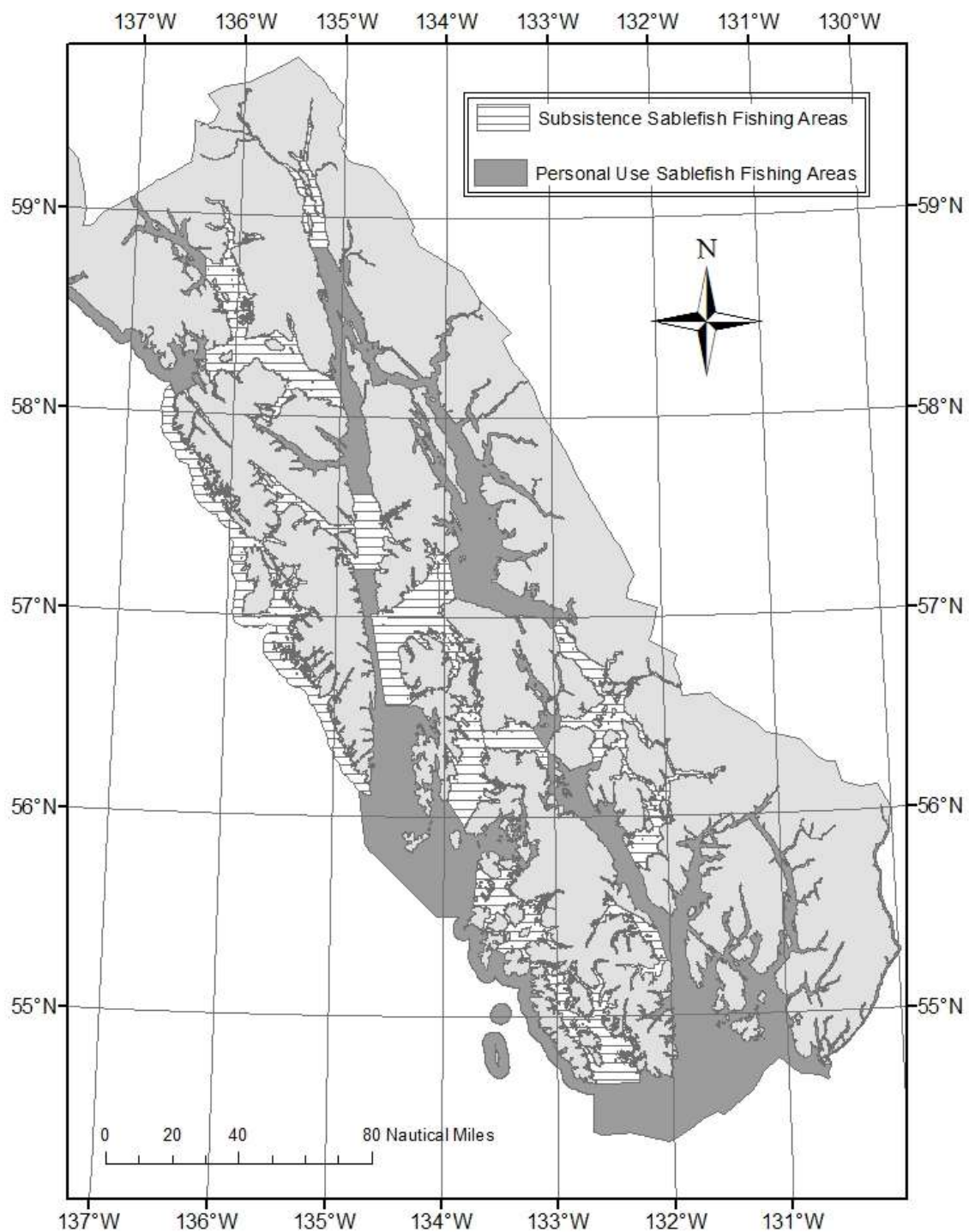


Figure 1. Southeast Alaska Area Sablefish Fishing Areas  
\*\*This map is for general information purposes only\*\*