
**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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Time: 12:30 p.m.

**REWARD--\$1500
(Revision of Latitude/Longitude)**

**FOR THE RECOVERY AND RETURN OF A SUBSURFACE
OCEAN MOORING FROM SOUTHERN CHATHAM STRAIT**

Juneau...The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has been conducting research on acoustic tracking technology to monitor movements of groundfish. The research is being conducted with retrievable acoustic receivers attached to subsurface ocean moorings. The receivers detect and record transmissions from acoustic transmitter tags in the vicinity of the moored receivers. Moorings have been stationed at locations in Icy Strait, Frederick Sound, Chatham Strait and offshore of Cape Ommaney. All but one of the moorings have been retrieved as intended. Malfunction of acoustic releases prevented the remaining mooring from surfacing. **ADF&G is offering a reward of \$1,500 for the recovery and return of this mooring (i.e. 2 acoustic releases + tether + 2 acoustic receivers + 3 trawl floats).**

The mooring is anchored on the ocean bottom in southern Chatham Strait at **56° 8.6362' N. lat., 134° 25.5678' W. long.** at a depth of 320 fathoms. Three, 18-inch trawl floats at the top of the mooring (see Figure 1 below) may be seen on a vessel's depth sounder at depths ranging from 70, to as much as 100, fathoms below the surface, depending on tide and current.

The two acoustic releases securing the upper part of the mooring to the lower, anchored section have been partially released. Consequently it is likely that simply contacting the mooring with a drag line or grappling device may be sufficient to cause complete release and allow the mooring (i.e. acoustic releases, tether, acoustic receivers a trawl floats) to float to the surface. We have successfully used this approach two other times to recover moorings that had partially activated acoustic releases (see Figure 2). It was not necessary to snag the entire moorings - including anchors - and haul them to the surface.

If you recover this equipment please handle the acoustic receiver carefully to avoid damaging the receiver and possible loss of data.

Please contact Dave Carlile (907-465-4216) for further information or to return the mooring and collect the reward.

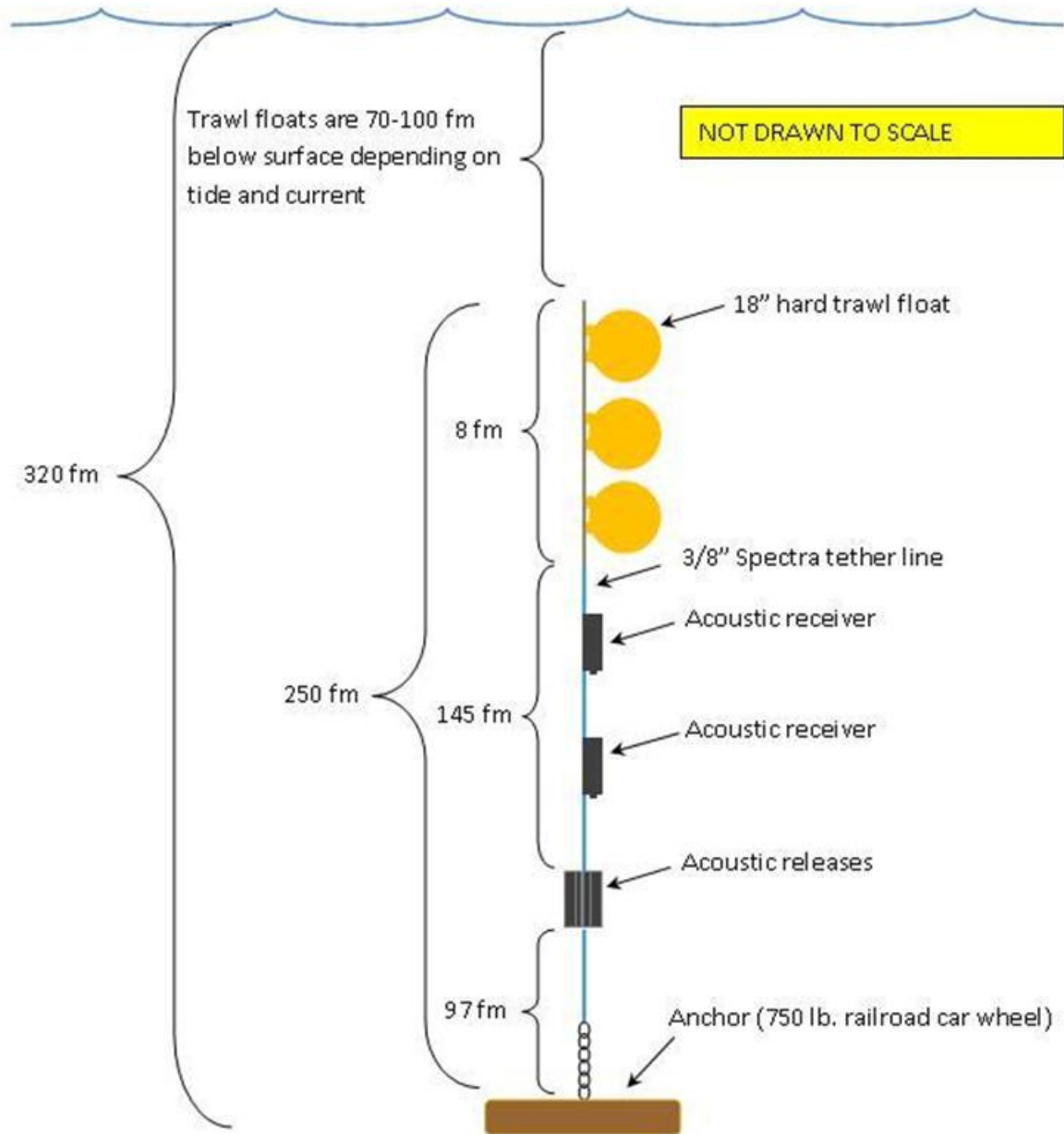


Figure 1. Schematic of subsurface acoustic ocean mooring.



Figure 2. Trawl floats, acoustic receiver, acoustic releases and tether line (blue) from acoustic subsurface mooring retrieved by dragging with grappling hook.