
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director



Contact:
Andrew Olson

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Douglas Area Office
802 3rd ST
Douglas, AK 99824
Date: October 14, 2016
Time: 2:00 p.m.

CALL FOR VESSEL OWNERS AND PERMIT HOLDERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NORTHERN SOUTHEAST INSIDE WATERS (NSEI) SABLEFISH LONGLINE SURVEY

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) intends to charter three commercial fishing vessels to conduct a longline survey assessing relative abundance of sablefish in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict in July 2017. Chartered longline vessels will be contracted for up to 14 days beginning on July 29, 2017. This survey involves taking sablefish outside of the fishing season and NSEI permit holders participating in the survey will be authorized to sell an amount of sablefish equal to their 2017 Personal Quota Share (PQS).

Based on the amount of sablefish anticipated to be taken during the survey, up to nine NSEI sablefish permit holders may harvest their PQS during the survey, with a maximum of three NSEI sablefish permit holders per vessel. Participating permit holders must be present on the vessel while their PQS is being harvested and may disembark once their PQS is offloaded and recorded on a fish ticket (i.e. during the mid-trip offload to a tender).

The survey encompasses 14 sets each in the northern, middle, and southern portion of Chatham Strait. Chartered vessels will fish one of three survey portions with preferential choice given in the order of the lowest bids. The survey is expected to require approximately seven or eight days of fishing and travel time, but weather or mechanical problems could extend this time. Interested vessel owners must provide a vessel captain with a minimum of five (5) years of experience operating a longline fishing vessel in Alaskan waters with a minimum of three (3) years of experience as captain, in the type and size vessel specified for this contract. In addition, three crew members each with a minimum of three (3) years commercial longlining experience must be provided. The department will provide bait, hooks, and longline skates used on the survey. Survey vessels will be responsible for fuel and all other fishing gear.

Two department employees will be deployed on each chartered vessel to collect survey data. Meals and accommodations for each department employee onboard the vessel will be provided by each contract vessel for the duration of the survey. Chartered vessels must provide evidence of having successfully completed a United States Coast Guard Commercial Fisheries Vessel Safety Inspection in the 12 months preceding the start of the survey.

Permit holders and vessel owners interested in participating in the survey can find bid packets online at: <http://notice.alaska.gov/183236>. Bid packets are due to Andrew Olson in the Douglas Area Office no later than 4:30 p.m., **Monday, April 3, 2017**.

For additional information, 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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