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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



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Contact:  
Andrew Olson

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Douglas Area Office  
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Douglas, AK 99824  
Date: October 21, 2016  
Time: 10:15 a.m.

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#### **CALL FOR VESSEL OWNERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST INSIDE WATERS (SSEI) SABLEFISH LONGLINE SURVEY**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) intends to charter two commercial fishing vessels to conduct a longline survey assessing relative abundance of sablefish in the Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistrict in May 2017. Chartered longline vessels will be contracted for up to 14 days beginning on May 16, 2017.

The survey encompasses 15 sets in the northern portion and 14 sets in the southern portion of Clarence Strait. Chartered vessels will fish one of two 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.

Vessel owners interested in participating in the survey can find bid packets online at: <http://notice.alaska.gov/183320>. Bid packets are due to Andrew Olson in the Douglas Area Office no later than 1:30 p.m., **Thursday, November 10, 2016**.

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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