
Editorial

Susan M. Shirley

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FOCUS ISSUE ON GROUNDFISH RESEARCH

This issue of the *Alaska Fishery Research Bulletin* exclusively features research papers on groundfishes and groundfish fisheries in Alaska. The groundfishes are a speciose group, with vastly differing life histories, habitats, and ranges. Together they make up one of the most abundant and valuable fisheries resources in Alaska and the northeastern Pacific Ocean. The patchy distribution, extensive migrations, complex habitats, and very long life spans for some groundfish species require a different approach to managing sustainable fisheries, conserving the health of the resource, assessing population abundance, predicting year class strength and recruitment, and evaluating the effects of oceanic conditions and climatic change on groundfishes. In this issue the authors present new information on early life history, juvenile growth and diet, maximum groundfish ages, improved or alternate techniques for assessing abundance and identifying year class strength, and identification of fishing patterns that maximize bycatch limits of valuable groundfish species. The research in most of these, and many other, papers was presented at the 11th Western Groundfish Conference held in April 2000 in Sitka, Alaska. The AFRB is pleased to serve as a forum for publication of groundfish research as well as other fisheries research in Alaska.

Susan M. Shirley
Editor, Alaska Fishery Research Bulletin

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