

**Fishery Management Plan for the Aleutian Islands
Subdistrict State-Waters and Parallel Pacific Cod
Seasons, 2017**

by

Justin M. Leon

December 2016

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the Système International d'Unités (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Sport Fish and of Commercial Fisheries: Fishery Manuscripts, Fishery Data Series Reports, Fishery Management Reports, and Special Publications. All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figure or figure captions.

| Weights and measures (metric) | | General | | Mathematics, statistics | |
|---|--------------------|---|---|--|-------------------------|
| centimeter | cm | Alaska Administrative Code | AAC | all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations | |
| deciliter | dL | all commonly accepted abbreviations | e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc. | alternate hypothesis | H _A |
| gram | g | all commonly accepted professional titles | e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc. | base of natural logarithm | <i>e</i> |
| hectare | ha | | | catch per unit effort | CPUE |
| kilogram | kg | | | coefficient of variation | CV |
| kilometer | km | at | @ | common test statistics | (F, t, χ^2 , etc.) |
| liter | L | | | confidence interval | CI |
| meter | m | | | compass directions: | correlation coefficient |
| milliliter | mL | east | E | (multiple) | R |
| millimeter | mm | north | N | correlation coefficient (simple) | r |
| Weights and measures (English) | | south | S | covariance | cov |
| cubic feet per second | ft ³ /s | west | W | degree (angular) | ° |
| foot | ft | copyright | © | degrees of freedom | df |
| gallon | gal | corporate suffixes: | | expected value | <i>E</i> |
| inch | in | Company | Co. | greater than | > |
| mile | mi | Corporation | Corp. | greater than or equal to | ≥ |
| nautical mile | nmi | Incorporated | Inc. | harvest per unit effort | HPUE |
| ounce | oz | Limited | Ltd. | less than | < |
| pound | lb | District of Columbia | D.C. | less than or equal to | ≤ |
| quart | qt | et alii (and others) | et al. | logarithm (natural) | ln |
| yard | yd | et cetera (and so forth) | etc. | logarithm (base 10) | log |
| Time and temperature | | exempli gratia | | logarithm (specify base) | log ₂ , etc. |
| day | d | (for example) | e.g. | minute (angular) | ' |
| degrees Celsius | °C | Federal Information Code | FIC | not significant | NS |
| degrees Fahrenheit | °F | id est (that is) | i.e. | null hypothesis | H ₀ |
| degrees kelvin | K | latitude or longitude | lat or long | percent | % |
| hour | h | monetary symbols | | probability | P |
| minute | min | (U.S.) | \$, ¢ | probability of a type I error | |
| second | s | months (tables and figures): first three | | (rejection of the null hypothesis when true) | α |
| Physics and chemistry | | letters | Jan,...,Dec | probability of a type II error | |
| all atomic symbols | | registered trademark | ® | (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false) | β |
| alternating current | AC | trademark | ™ | second (angular) | " |
| ampere | A | United States | | standard deviation | SD |
| calorie | cal | (adjective) | U.S. | standard error | SE |
| direct current | DC | United States of America (noun) | USA | variance | |
| hertz | Hz | U.S.C. | United States Code | population sample | Var var |
| horsepower | hp | | | | |
| hydrogen ion activity (negative log of) | pH | U.S. state | use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA) | | |
| parts per million | ppm | | | | |
| parts per thousand | ppt, ‰ | | | | |
| volts | V | | | | |
| watts | W | | | | |

FISHERY MANAGEMENT REPORT NO. 16-40

**FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS
SUBDISTRICT STATE-WATERS AND PARALLEL PACIFIC COD
SEASONS, 2017**

by
Justin M. Leon

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services
333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska, 99518-1565

December 2016

The Fishery Management Reports series was established in 1989 by the Division of Sport Fish for the publication of an overview of management activities and goals in a specific geographic area, and became a joint divisional series in 2004 with the Division of Commercial Fisheries. Fishery Management Reports are intended for fishery and other technical professionals, as well as lay persons. Fishery Management Reports are available through the Alaska State Library and on the Internet: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications/>. This publication has undergone regional peer review.

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ABSTRACT

The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* season, managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), is prosecuted in state waters of the Aleutian Islands west of 170° W long. The 2017 guideline harvest level (GHL) for the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict state-waters season is 27% of the estimated 2017 acceptable biological catch of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands subarea. Legal gear for the state-waters season includes nonpelagic trawl, groundfish pot, longline, mechanical jig, and hand troll gear. Effective inseason management is dependent upon timely and accurate communication between fishermen, fish processors, and ADF&G. In the absence of reliable inseason harvest information, ADF&G will adopt conservative management measures that may result in lost fishing opportunity.

ADF&G also manages a parallel Pacific cod season in the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict concurrent with adjacent federal Pacific cod seasons, except where a state-waters Pacific cod season is open. Harvest in the parallel season accrues toward the federal Pacific cod total allowable catch.

Key words: Pacific cod, *Gadus macrocephalus*, Aleutian Islands Subdistrict, guideline harvest level, state-waters season, parallel season, Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands

INTRODUCTION

AREA DESCRIPTION

The State of Alaska's Bering Sea–Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish management area consists of state waters (0–3 nmi) in the Bering Sea and that portion of the North Pacific Ocean adjacent to the Aleutian Islands west of 170° W long.

The Aleutian Islands District (AID) of the BSAI consists of all state waters of Alaska south of the latitude of Cape Sarichef (54° 36' N lat). The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS) consists of state waters in the AID west of 170° W long. The Adak Section of the AIS consists of state waters between 175° W long and 178° W long (Figure 1).

OVERVIEW

Two distinct Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* seasons occur within state waters of the AIS: the parallel Pacific cod season and the state-waters Pacific cod season. The parallel season is prosecuted concurrent with the adjacent federal Pacific cod season in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ; 3–200 nmi). The parallel season is managed by Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) by adopting most National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regulations and inseason management actions. The state-waters Pacific cod season is independent of the parallel season and is managed exclusively by ADF&G under the AIS Pacific cod management plan (5 AAC 28.647). The purpose of this document is to provide specific fishery management information for the 2017 AIS state-waters and parallel Pacific cod seasons.

STELLER SEA LION CLOSURES DURING PARALLEL SEASON

During the AIS parallel Pacific cod season outside of the Adak Section (east of 175° W long, and west of 178° W long), ADF&G adopts federal Steller sea lion *Eumetopias jubatus* protection measures for Pacific cod located in Tables 5 and 12 of 50 CFR part 679, available on the NMFS website at <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-679regs>.

Steller sea lion protection measures inside the Adak Section (between 175° W long and 178° W long) are located in Table 5 of 50 CFR part 679 (69 FR 75865, December 20, 2004) except that the Steller sea lion site at Kanaga/Ship Rock is only closed within 3 nautical miles (5 AAC

28.087(b)(3)). Additional information on sea lion closures can be found on the NMFS website at <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/finalrules/fr75865.pdf>.

STELLER SEA LION CLOSURES DURING STATE-WATERS SEASON

During the 2017 AIS state-waters Pacific cod season, current Steller sea lion closures will be in effect, including no fishing zones, no transit areas, and the Seguam foraging area except that the Steller sea lion site at Kanaga/Ship Rock is only closed within 3 nautical miles (5 AAC 28.647(g)(1),(2),and (3)). Descriptions of closures in effect during a state-waters season and their coordinates are located in Tables 5 and 12 of 50 CFR part 679 posted on the NMFS website <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-679regs>.

OTHER CLOSURES DURING PARALLEL AND STATE-WATERS SEASONS

The Aleutian Islands Coral Habitat Protection Areas (coral gardens) and the Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area are in effect in state waters of the AIS (5 AAC 28.647(g)(4) and 5 AAC 39.167(a)(1) and (2); Figures 2 and 3). The coral gardens consist of 6 separate federal protection areas that overlap with state waters. Coordinates for coral gardens are found in Appendix B. Each coral garden is closed to commercial fishing with nonpelagic trawl, scallop dredge, dinglebar troll, pot, and longline gear. The Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area applies only to nonpelagic trawl gear. A description of the Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area is located in Table 24 of 50 CFR part 679 and posted on the NMFS website: <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-679regs>.

BYCATCH DURING PARALLEL AND STATE-WATERS SEASONS

During parallel and state-waters Pacific cod seasons, ADF&G adopts NMFS maximum retainable bycatch allowances applicable in the adjacent EEZ for species not actively managed by the State of Alaska. Retainable bycatch percentages are subject to change and may differ between species. For groundfish species without a specified bycatch limit, up to 20% by weight of the Pacific cod onboard the vessel may be retained. Black rockfish *Sebastes melanops* and dark rockfish *S. ciliatus* may only be retained up to 5% by weight of the Pacific cod onboard the vessel. Sablefish *Anoplopoma fimbria* bycatch may be retained up to 1% by weight of the Pacific cod onboard the vessel while the directed state-waters sablefish season is open. BSAI retainable bycatch percentages are located in Table 11 of 50 CFR part 679, updated April 6, 2015, and are available on the NMFS website: <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-679regs>.

PARALLEL PACIFIC COD SEASON

At the beginning of each year, ADF&G issues an emergency order opening the parallel groundfish season in state waters to coincide with the opening of federal groundfish seasons in adjacent waters of the EEZ. The initial federal Pacific cod season opens January 1 for vessels using fixed gear and January 20 for vessels using trawl gear. When a federal Pacific cod season is open to directed fishing in waters of the EEZ, a concurrent parallel Pacific cod season is open in adjacent state waters, except when and where the state-waters season is open. Beginning January 1, state waters of the Adak Section are closed to the parallel Pacific cod season because the AIS state-waters Pacific cod season is open in those waters.

Unless specifically prohibited by state regulation, the same vessel lengths, gear types, seasons, and bycatch limits in a federal Pacific cod season are allowed in a parallel Pacific cod season.

With the exception of vessels using mechanical jigging machines, all vessels that participate in a parallel Pacific cod season must have an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS; 5 AAC 28.087(c)). During a parallel Pacific cod season in the Adak Section, no vessel using longline gear may be more than 58 feet overall length (OAL) (5 AAC 28.690(c)), and vessels using trawl, pot, and jig gear may be no more than 60 feet OAL (5 AAC 28.087(b)(3)).

Vessel operators must possess a 2017 statewide Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim use permit card for the appropriate gear type and vessel length. Vessel operators participating in the parallel Pacific cod season are not required by the State of Alaska to possess a federal fishing permit (FFP) or Pacific cod gear endorsement administered through the federal License Limitation Program (LLP). However, it is the responsibility of vessel operators who possess an FFP to understand applicable federal regulations, including regulations regarding observer coverage and logbook requirements. Vessel operators that relinquish possession of an FFP for the parallel season are responsible for understanding federal regulations for the FFP's reissue.

Pacific cod harvested during the parallel season accrue toward the federal total allowable catch (TAC). The parallel Pacific cod season closes by sector when the TAC is reached, when the Aleutian Islands subarea TAC for non-CDQ fishing is achieved, or when incidental species allowances are met. For additional information regarding federal Pacific cod fisheries contact NMFS (Appendix A).

STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON

The state-waters Pacific cod season is managed according to 5 AAC 28.647 *Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan*. The following regulations are in effect for the 2017 season.

2017 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL

The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod 2017 season is 12,797,703 pounds which is 27% of the 2017 acceptable biological catch of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands subarea.

INSEASON OPENINGS AND CLOSURES

The AIS state-waters season opens January 1 in the Adak Section. Harvest in the Adak Section accrues toward the GHL, while harvest in state waters east and west of the Adak Section will initially be managed under parallel season regulations with harvest accruing toward the federal TAC.

All state waters of the AIS will open to the state-waters season 4 days after the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands parallel catcher-vessel trawl A season closes or 4 days after the federal Aleutian Islands subarea non-CDQ season is closed, whichever occurs first. However, if all state waters west of 170° W long have not opened to the state-waters season by March 14, the parallel Pacific cod season will close by emergency order and the state-waters AIS Pacific cod season will open on March 15.

VESSEL LENGTH AND GEAR TYPES

When the state-waters season is only open in the Adak Section, vessels using trawl, pot, and jig gear must be 60 feet or less OAL and vessels using longline gear must be 58 feet or less OAL.

When the state-waters season is open in all state waters west of 170° W long, vessels using trawl gear may not exceed 100 feet OAL, vessels using groundfish pot gear may not exceed 125 feet OAL, and vessels using mechanical jig or longline gear may not exceed 58 feet OAL.

REGISTRATION

Vessel operators must register with ADF&G prior to participating in the state-waters Pacific cod season. Vessel registration for the AIS state-waters Pacific cod season is nonexclusive. Vessels registered for the AIS state-waters Pacific cod season may also register for another nonexclusive and one exclusive state-waters Pacific cod season within the calendar year; however, vessels that register for a superexclusive Pacific cod season may not register for the AIS Pacific cod season within a calendar year. Registration in the AIS state-waters Pacific cod season does not prohibit a vessel from participating in a parallel Pacific cod season, but a vessel may not simultaneously participate in the AIS state-waters season and the parallel season concurrently. Tenders, motherships, and floating processors must also register with ADF&G prior to beginning operations.

Registrations may be obtained by electronic mail, fax, or in person at ADF&G offices in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak. Vessel operators must possess a 2017 CFEC interim use statewide miscellaneous finfish permit card prior to registration. Contact information for ADF&G offices and CFEC are located in Appendix A.

A vessel registered for the AIS state-waters Pacific cod season must invalidate their registration prior to participating in another Pacific cod season. Vessel operators may validate or invalidate vessel registration by contacting ADF&G in Dutch Harbor (Appendix A) during normal state business hours (Monday–Friday, 8 AM to 4:30 PM). All Pacific cod must be delivered prior to transitioning between state-waters or parallel seasons (5AAC 28.647(h)(1) and (2)).

TRIP LIMITS

During the AIS state-waters Pacific cod season, a vessel may harvest up to 150,000 pounds of Pacific cod per day and may have no more than 150,000 pounds of unprocessed Pacific cod on board the vessel at any time. All Pacific cod caught must be retained, and any overage must be immediately reported to ADF&G, with proceeds from the overage forfeited to the state.

CATCH REPORTING

ADF&G will initially manage the AIS state-waters Pacific cod season using fish ticket information; however, if vessel effort or catch rates warrant, ADF&G may require vessel operators to report harvest information daily. Should ADF&G require vessel operators to begin daily inseason reporting, a news release will be issued with a summary of reporting requirements and contact information. Catch reports will be taken by dispatch, phone, single side-band, fax, or electronic mail (Appendix A), between 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM daily and must include the area fished, effort (pot lifts), and pounds of Pacific cod retained during the previous 24-hour period (midnight to midnight; Appendix C). In the absence of reliable inseason harvest information, ADF&G will adopt conservative management measures that may result in lost fishing opportunity.

INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS

Inseason management actions during the state-waters season will be distributed via the ADF&G news release system (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), relayed through participating processors, and communicated to the fleet during catch reporting. ADF&G will make every effort to provide sufficient time for vessel operators to configure gear for storage or to place gear onboard before a closure; however, the potential exists for short advance notice of a closure. Interested parties may also sign up for electronic mail delivery of new releases here: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Weekly non-confidential harvest updates will be released each Monday after 4:00 PM while the state-waters season is open. Weekly harvest updates are available on the ADF&G website (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareaaleutianislands.groundfish>) or by contacting ADF&G.

FIGURES



Figure 1.—Aleutian Islands Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod management area.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS DISTRICT CORAL HABITAT PROTECTION AREAS

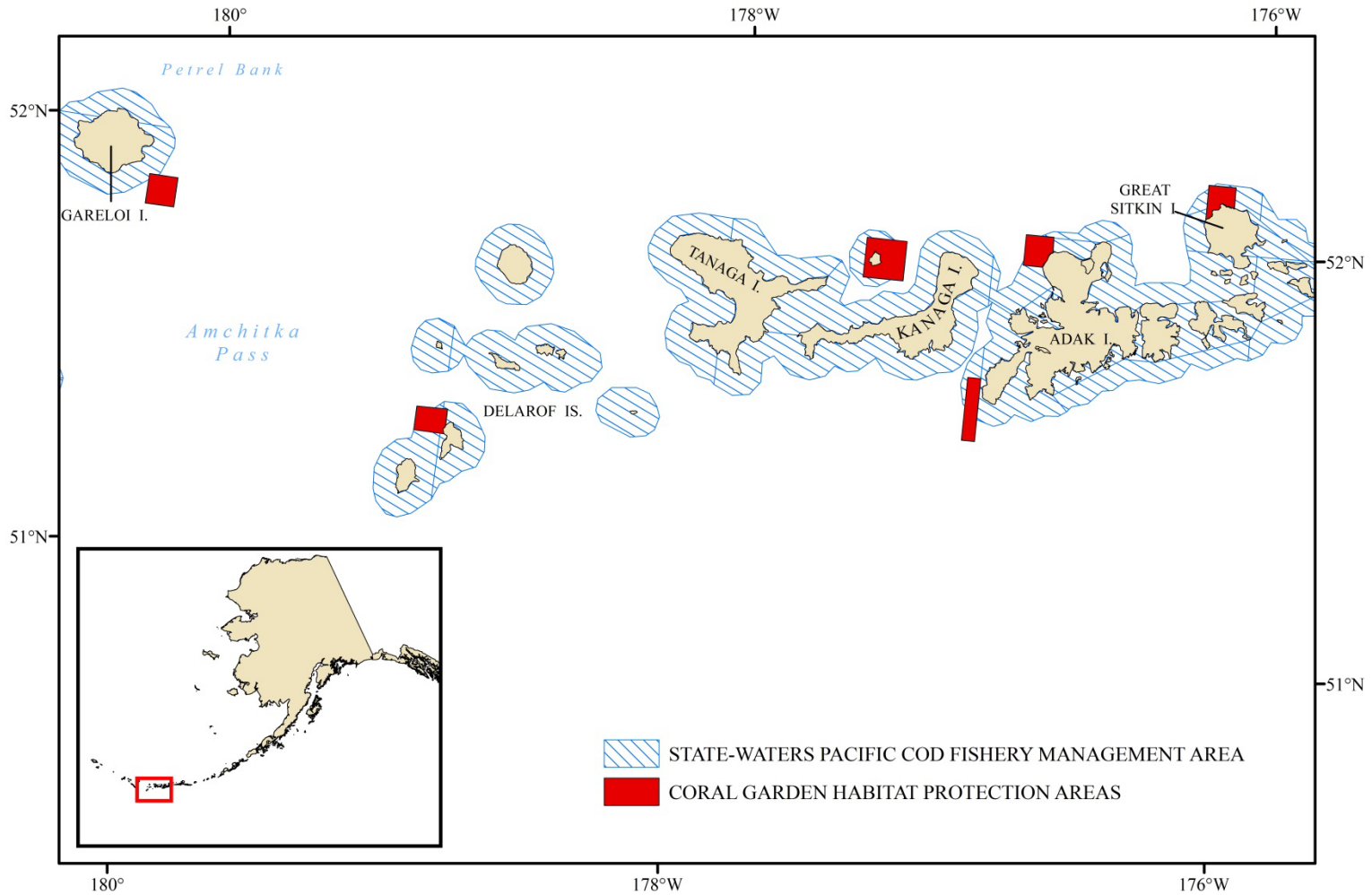


Figure 2.—Aleutian Islands Coral Habitat Protection Areas closed to bottom contact gear.

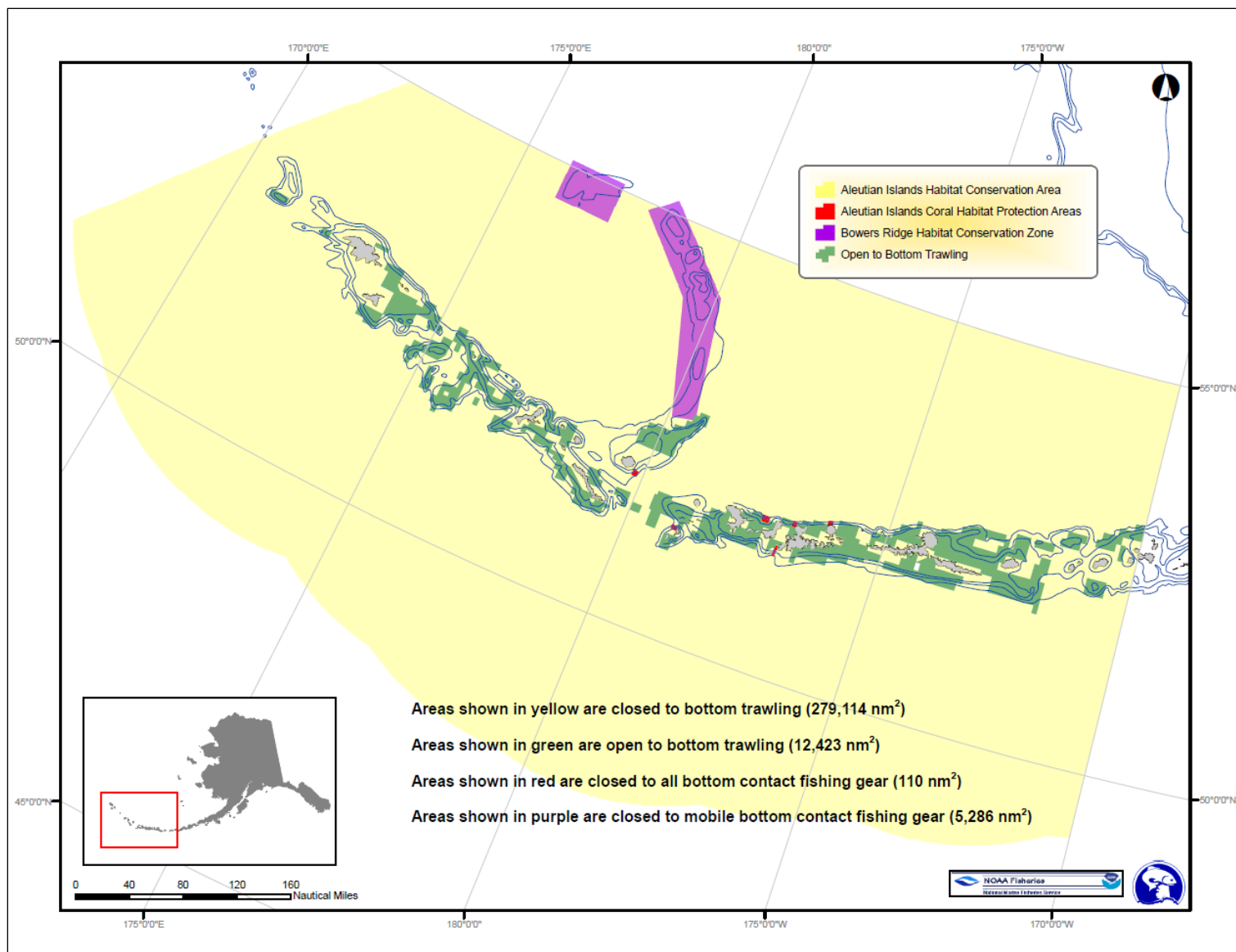


Figure 3.—Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Areas.

**APPENDIX A. LIST OF FISHERY CONTACTS, BY
AGENCY AND LOCATION**

Appendix A.–List of fishery contacts by agency and location.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game website: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/>
Dutch Harbor Office
 Mail Address: Physical Address: Phone: (907) 581-1239
 P.O. Box 920587 2315 Airport Beach Road Fax: (907) 581-1572
 Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692 2nd floor, Suite 207 E-mail: dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov
 SSB: 4125 kHz WIM76 Dutch Harbor Dispatch: #1234

Miranda Westphal: Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area Management Biologist E-mail: miranda.westphal@alaska.gov
 Justin Leon: Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Asst. Area Management Biologist E-mail: justin.leon@alaska.gov

Kodiak Office
 Mail Address: Physical Address: Phone: (907) 486-1840
 351 Research Court 351 Research Court Fax: (907) 486-1824
 Kodiak, Alaska 99615 Kodiak, Alaska

Mark Stichert, Regional Groundfish Management Biologist E-mail: mark.stichert@alaska.gov
 Nat Nichols, Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Area Management Biologist E-mail: nathaniel.nichols@alaska.gov
 Natura Richardson, Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Asst. Area Management Biologist E-mail: natura.richardson@alaska.gov

Alaska Wildlife Troopers website: <http://www.dps.state.ak.us/AWT/>

Dutch Harbor Office
 Mail Address: Physical Address: Phone: (907) 581-1432
 P.O. Box 920848 2315 Airport Beach Road, Suite 101 Fax: (907) 581-1407
 Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692 Dutch Harbor, Alaska

Todd Machacek: Post Sergeant E-mail: todd.machacek@alaska.gov

Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) website: <http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/>
 Mail Address: Physical Address: Phone: (907) 789-6150
 8800 Glacier Highway 8800 Glacier Highway #109 Fax: (907) 789-6170
 Juneau, Alaska 99811-0302 Juneau, Alaska

National Marine Fisheries Service – Alaska Region website: <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/>

Sustainable Fisheries Division
 Krista Milani, Dutch Harbor Office Phone: (907) 581-2062
 Mary Furuness, Juneau Office Phone: (907) 586-7447

NOAA Fisheries Enforcement
 Dutch Harbor Office Phone: (907) 581-2061
 Anchorage Office Phone: (907) 586-7225
NOAA Observer Program Dutch Harbor Office Phone: (907) 581-2060
 Seattle Office Phone: (206) 526-4195

**APPENDIX B. COORDINATES FOR THE ALEUTIAN
ISLANDS CORAL HABITAT PROTECTION AREAS**



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

CLOSED STATE WATERS FOR ALEUTIAN ISLANDS CORAL HABITAT PROTECTION AREAS

State waters of the following 6 coral garden protection areas are closed to commercial fishing using: nonpelagic trawl, scallop dredge, dinglebar troll, longline, and pot gear.

Each closed area is delineated by connecting the coordinates in the order listed by straight lines. The last set of coordinates for each area is connected to the first set of coordinates for the area by a straight line.

| | <u>Latitude</u> | <u>Longitude</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Great Sitkin Island | 52° 09.56' N | 176° 06.14' W |
| Great Sitkin Island | 52° 09.56' N | 176° 12.44' W |
| Great Sitkin Island | 52° 04.69' N | 176° 12.44' W |
| Great Sitkin Island | 52° 06.59' N | 176° 06.12' W |
| Cape Moffett Island | 52° 00.11' N | 176° 46.65' W |
| Cape Moffett Island | 52° 00.10' N | 176° 53.00' W |
| Cape Moffett Island | 51° 55.69' N | 176° 53.00' W |
| Cape Moffett Island | 51° 55.69' N | 176° 48.59' W |
| Cape Moffett Island | 51° 57.96' N | 176° 46.52' W |
| Adak Canyon | 51° 39.00' N | 177° 00.00' W |
| Adak Canyon | 51° 39.00' N | 177° 03.00' W |
| Adak Canyon | 51° 30.00' N | 177° 03.00' W |
| Adak Canyon | 51° 30.00' N | 177° 00.00' W |
| Bobrof Island | 51° 57.35' N | 177° 19.94' W |
| Bobrof Island | 51° 57.36' N | 177° 29.11' W |
| Bobrof Island | 51° 51.65' N | 177° 29.11' W |
| Bobrof Island | 51° 51.71' N | 177° 19.93' W |
| Ulak Island | 51° 25.85' N | 178° 59.00' W |
| Ulak Island | 51° 25.69' N | 179° 06.00' W |
| Ulak Island | 51° 22.28' N | 179° 06.00' W |
| Ulak Island | 51° 22.28' N | 178° 58.95' W |
| Semisopochnoi Island | 51° 53.10' N | 179° 53.11' E |
| Semisopochnoi Island | 51° 53.10' N | 179° 46.55' E |
| Semisopochnoi Island | 51° 48.84' N | 179° 46.55' E |
| Semisopochnoi Island | 51° 48.89' N | 179° 53.11' E |

For further information, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

APPENDIX C. EXAMPLE OF REPORTING WORKSHEET



2017 Aleutian Islands Subdistrict State-waters Pacific Cod Inseason Reporting Worksheet



Fishermen must report fishing information for the previous week (Monday to Sunday)
WEEKLY on MONDAYS between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. to the Dutch Harbor Office.

Do not combine reports.

If one or more reporting periods are missed, report each period individually.

| | Code Item 1 | Code Item 2 | Code Item 3 |
|--|----------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Report Period End Date ¹ | Statistical Area(s) ² | Pounds of Cod Retained ³ | Effort ⁴ |
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¹ Weekly report period is Monday - Sunday

² Area(s) fished in the past week - stat areas if possible

³ Weight in pounds of retained cod in the past week

⁴ Number pots

Inseason Reporting Contacts:

ADF&G Dutch Harbor

Dispatch: #1234

Phone: (907) 581-1239

Fax: (907) 581-1572

SSB: 4125 kHz WIM 76 Dutch Harbor

E-Mail: dfg.dutchharbor@alaska.gov