

Regional Information Report 4K20-16

Fishery Management Plan for the Kodiak Area Commercial Black Rockfish Fishery, 2021

by

Kayla Bevaart

Cassandra Whiteside

and

Nathaniel Nichols

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries



Symbols and Abbreviations

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

REGIONAL INFORMATION REPORT 4K20-16

**FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE KODIAK AREA
COMMERCIAL BLACK ROCKFISH FISHERY, 2021**

by

Kayla Bevaart, Cassandra Whiteside, and Nathaniel Nichols
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Kodiak

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
351 Research Court, Kodiak, AK, 99615

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*Kayla Bevaart,
Cassandra Whiteside,
and
Nathaniel Nichols
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries,
351 Research Court, Kodiak, AK 99615, USA*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF FIGURES	ii
LIST OF APPENDICES	ii
ABSTRACT	1
INTRODUCTION	1
COVID-19 Mitigation	1
REGULATIONS	1
Overview	1
Area Description and Closed Waters.....	2
Fishing Season and Guideline Harvest Level	2
Vessel Registration Requirements	2
Legal Gear	2
Trip Limits.....	2
Landing Requirements.....	3
Logbook Requirements.....	3
Bycatch and Participation in Other Fisheries.....	3
Black Rockfish.....	3
Dark Rockfish.....	4
Pacific Cod	4
Dusky and Other Rockfish.....	4
Lingcod.....	4
INSEASON ANOUNCEMENTS	4
FIGURES	5
APPENDIX A: LIST OF FISHERY CONTACTS BY AGENCY AND LOCATION.....	9
APPENDIX B: BLACK, DARK, AND DUSKY ROCKFISH IDENTIFICATION GUIDE	11

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Kodiak Area and district boundaries for the commercial black rockfish fishery.	6
2. Statistical areas, districts, and closed waters for the Kodiak Area commercial black rockfish fishery.	7
3. Example of Kodiak Area commercial black rockfish logbook.....	8

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Page
A1. List of fishery contacts by agency and location.....	10
B1. Black, dark, and dusky rockfish identification guide.	12

ABSTRACT

This document provides an overview of regulations for the Kodiak Area commercial black rockfish *Sebastes melanops* fishery. Black rockfish are managed exclusively by Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) from shore to the 200 nautical mile boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone. The fishing season is from January 1 through December 31, unless closed by emergency order. Mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear are the only legal gear types during the directed fishery. A nonexclusive black rockfish Kodiak Area registration and district vessel registration are required prior to fishing. Logbooks are required for all jig gear vessels during the directed fishery and must be submitted to ADF&G after each delivery. Vessel operators may not simultaneously participate in the directed black rockfish fishery and parallel or state-waters Pacific cod fisheries. Jig gear catcher vessels may not have on board or sell more than 5,000 pounds of black rockfish within a consecutive 5-day period. Nonjig gear vessels may retain black rockfish as bycatch up to 5%, and jig gear vessels may retain black rockfish as bycatch up to 20%, by weight of the target groundfish species or halibut on board the vessel.

Due to health concerns related to COVID-19, vessel operators are encouraged to complete registration forms by contacting the Kodiak ADF&G office by phone, mail, email, or fax, however all fishery related documents are also available in-person at the ADF&G office in Kodiak.

Key words: Black rockfish, *Sebastes melanops*, dark rockfish, *Sebastes ciliatus*, Kodiak Area, jigging machine, management plan, regulations, Westward Region

INTRODUCTION

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has management authority for black *Sebastes melanops* and dark rockfish *S. ciliatus* from shore to the 200 nautical mile boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone. ADF&G annually establishes guideline harvest levels (GHLs) and bycatch limits for black rockfish in the Kodiak Area, with individual GHLs established for each district. ADF&G does not establish dark rockfish GHLs for a directed fishery; however, bycatch limits for dark rockfish are established annually by emergency order (EO).

COVID-19 MITIGATION

Due to health concerns related to COVID-19, and to minimize contact between vessel operators, processor staff, and ADF&G staff, the vessel registration process for the 2021 black rockfish fishery has been streamlined and can be completed digitally. Vessel operators are encouraged to register by contacting the Kodiak ADF&G office by phone, mail, email, or fax. Contact information is provided in Appendix A1.

REGULATIONS

OVERVIEW

Regulations pertaining to the Kodiak Area black rockfish fishery begin on page 53 of the *2020–2021 Statewide Commercial Groundfish Fishing Regulations* booklet.¹ ADF&G manages the Kodiak Area black rockfish fishery in accordance with the *Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan* (5 AAC 28.466). Following is a summary of regulations that govern the Kodiak Area commercial black rockfish season.

¹ https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/pdfs/commercial/2020_2021_cf_groundfish_regs.pdf

AREA DESCRIPTION AND CLOSED WATERS

The Kodiak groundfish registration area consists of all waters south of the latitude from Cape Douglas, west of longitude 149°W, and east of a line extending south from the Alaska Peninsula near Kilokak Rocks (long 156°20.22'W; Figure 1). The Kodiak Area is further divided into 7 districts: Afognak, Northeast, Eastside, Southeast, Southwest, Westside, and Mainland (Figure 2). Full descriptions of Kodiak Area districts are described in 5 AAC 28.404. In the Northeast District of the Kodiak Area, Monashka Bay is closed to commercial rockfish fishing (5 AAC 28.450(b); Figure 2).

FISHING SEASON AND GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL

The Kodiak Area commercial black rockfish fishery opens by regulation on January 1 (5 AAC 28.410(e)). GHLS are announced annually by ADF&G advisory announcement for the seven Kodiak Area districts (Figures 1 and 2). The annual Kodiak Area rockfish GHL cannot exceed 120,000 pounds (5 AAC 28.466(h)). Individual Kodiak Area districts close by EO when GHLS have been achieved or December 31 if GHLS are not achieved.

VESSEL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

The Kodiak Area is a nonexclusive registration area (5 AAC 28.406(a)(2)). Once a vessel is validly registered for the Kodiak Area black rockfish fishery, that vessel may register for 1 or more nonexclusive and 1 exclusive registration area for black rockfish; that vessel may not be used to take black rockfish in a superexclusive registration area in the same calendar year. Conversely, a vessel previously registered for a superexclusive black rockfish fishery may not participate in the Kodiak Area black rockfish fishery in that same calendar year. A valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission interim-use miscellaneous finfish permit card for mechanical jigging machine or hand troll gear must be obtained prior to registration. Contact information is provided in Appendix A1.

Vessel operators must register for a specific Kodiak district before operating gear in the directed black rockfish fishery (5 AAC 28.406(d)). Vessels may not be registered for or target black rockfish in more than 1 district simultaneously. Vessel operators may register, unregister, or change districts by contacting the Kodiak ADF&G office during regular office hours, 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (Appendix A1). Vessel operators may not register, unregister, or change districts by voicemail, email, or text message, unless previously arranged.

LEGAL GEAR

Mechanical jigging machine and hand troll are the only legal gear types for directed harvest of black rockfish (5 AAC 28.430(e)). No more than 6 mechanical jigging machines may be operated from a vessel and no more than 30 hooks per line may be used (5 AAC 28.430(f)). Vessel operators are additionally limited to no more than 500 hooks total on board the vessel (5 AAC 28.430(g)).

TRIP LIMITS

While registered for the directed fishery, jig gear catcher vessels may not have on board or sell more than 5,000 pounds (whole fish weight) of black rockfish within a consecutive 5-day period (5 AAC 28.466(b)). Jig gear catcher-processor vessels may not have on board or sell more than 5,000 pounds (whole fish weight) of black rockfish within a consecutive 5-day period and may not exceed 10,000 pounds sold or on board within a 10-day period (5 AAC 28.466(c)).

If a district GHL for black rockfish is not taken by August 15, trip limits may be increased to 7,000 pounds of black rockfish within a 5-day period for catcher vessels and 14,000 pounds within a 10-day period for catcher-processor vessels (5 AAC 28.466(d)(e)). All actions pertaining to changes in trip limits will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement email subscription service (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>).

LANDING REQUIREMENTS

Vessels participating in the Kodiak Area black rockfish fishery are required to deliver their catch within 48 hours after a closure unless 1) black rockfish were harvested as allowable bycatch in another directed fishery, or 2) the vessel is delayed due to extraordinary circumstances and the vessel operator has contacted an ADF&G representative within 48 hours following the closure and has been granted additional time to reach a port of landing (5 AAC 28.471).

All rockfish landed in excess of a legal limit established must be weighed, sold, and reported on a fish ticket with the proceeds surrendered to the State of Alaska.

Black rockfish harvest, fishery performance, and stock status are monitored through collection of biological data and logbooks. Vessel operators are strongly encouraged to contact the ADF&G dockside sampling program at 907-539-5954 when making rockfish landings. Dockside staff conduct confidential interviews with vessel operators to collect location and effort data; biological data, including length, weight, sex, and reproductive maturity, is collected by sampling the catch. Additionally, otoliths are collected for age determination. Dockside staff can also assist with rockfish species identification; many rockfish species look similar and new participants in the fishery often have difficulty with species identification (Appendix B1).

LOGBOOK REQUIREMENTS

Vessel operators participating in the directed black rockfish fishery must maintain and submit a complete fishing logbook after each delivery (5 AAC 28.485). Required logbook information includes the date, location of harvest, number of hooks and lines used, fishing depth, fishing time, and number of fish retained (bycatch and target species; Figure 3). Logbooks may be submitted to a local ADF&G representative, either in person at the Kodiak ADF&G office, given to an ADF&G dockside sampler upon delivery, or via email or fax (Appendix A1).

BYCATCH AND PARTICIPATION IN OTHER FISHERIES

Black Rockfish

For all nonjig gear vessels, black rockfish taken as bycatch may not exceed 5% by weight of the directed groundfish or halibut on board the vessel. For jig gear vessels, the bycatch rate is 20% by weight of the directed groundfish or halibut on board the vessel. Jig gear bycatch rates for individual districts may be reduced by EO inseason to prevent exceeding district GHLs. Therefore, black rockfish bycatch limits may vary by district. Jig gear vessel operators that retain black rockfish as bycatch to other directed groundfish fisheries should be aware of Kodiak Area black rockfish district boundaries and current district bycatch rates. All actions pertaining to changes in district bycatch limits will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement email subscription service (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>). For information on current district bycatch limits contact the Kodiak ADF&G office (Appendix A1).

Dark Rockfish

There is no directed fishery for dark rockfish in the Kodiak Area. Nonjig gear vessels may retain dark rockfish as bycatch up to 5% by weight of the directed groundfish species or halibut on board a vessel and jig gear vessels may retain dark rockfish as bycatch up to 20% by weight of the total target groundfish species or halibut on board a vessel.

Pacific Cod

A vessel validly registered for the Kodiak Area black rockfish fishery may not be registered for a state-waters or parallel Pacific cod fishery at the same time (5 AAC 28.406(d)). Vessels must deliver all black rockfish before registering for, or participating in, a state-waters or parallel Pacific cod fishery. Similarly, vessels must deliver all Pacific cod harvested in a state-waters or parallel Pacific cod fishery before registering for the Kodiak Area black rockfish fishery.

Contact ADF&G for information on Pacific cod bycatch regulations while participating in the Kodiak Area black rockfish fishery.

Dusky and Other Rockfish

Dusky rockfish *S. variabilis* and all other rockfish (except black and dark rockfish) are managed by the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS). ADF&G adopts the NMFS maximum retainable bycatch percentages applicable for groundfish species that are not actively managed by the State of Alaska. For detailed information regarding federal rockfish fisheries including permit requirements and bycatch allowances, contact NMFS Enforcement in Kodiak (Appendix A1).

Vessels participating in the Kodiak Area black rockfish fishery may simultaneously target and retain all dusky rockfish when the federal rockfish fishery is open.

Vessel operators should note that bycatch allowances for state managed groundfish (i.e., Pacific cod, dark rockfish, and black rockfish) are based on the total weight of all directed groundfish species on board the vessel.

Lingcod

Vessels using jig gear may retain lingcod *Ophiodon elongatus* up to 20% by weight of black rockfish on board the vessel, unless modified by EO. Lingcod may only be retained from July 1 to December 31, and all retained lingcod must be 35 inches or greater in length from tip of snout to tip of tail. Contact the ADF&G office in Kodiak (Appendix A1) regarding retainable bycatch percentages for state-managed species.

INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS

All actions pertaining to regulatory changes to the directed and bycatch black rockfish fisheries will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement email subscription service (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>). ADF&G will make every effort to provide sufficient advance notice prior to a closure or regulatory change; however, the potential exists for a short advance notice.

FIGURES

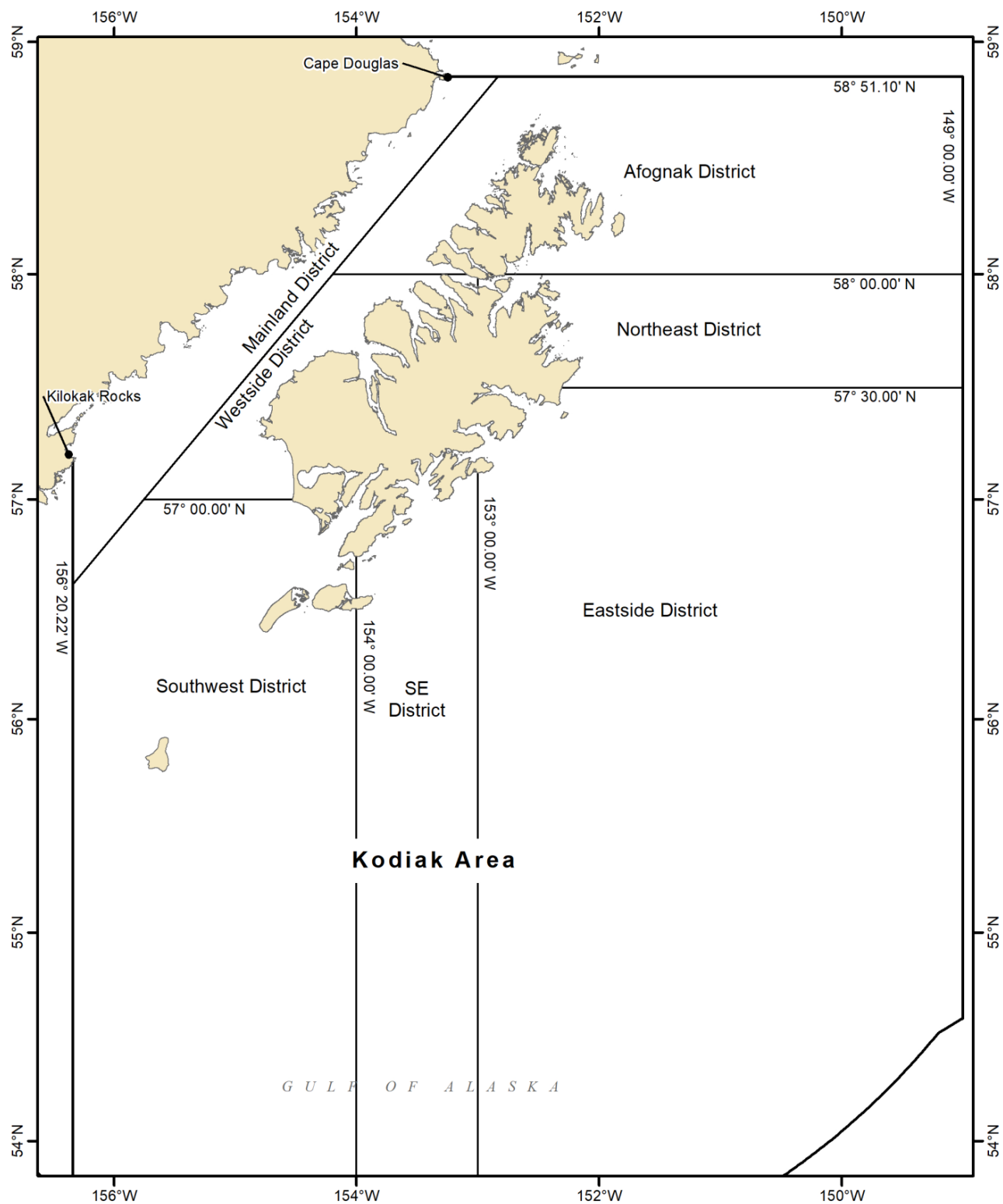


Figure 1.—Kodiak Area and district boundaries for the commercial black rockfish fishery.

[illegible]

Figure 3.—Example of Kodiak Area commercial black rockfish logbook.

APPENDIX A: LIST OF FISHERY CONTACTS BY AGENCY AND LOCATION

Appendix A1.–List of fishery contacts by agency and location.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME website: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingCommercialByArea.southwest>

Kodiak Office

Mail address:	351 Research Court Kodiak, Alaska 99615	Physical address:	351 Research Court 2nd floor, Kodiak, Alaska	Phone: (907) 486-1840 Dockside cell: (907) 539-5954 Text/InReach: (907) 512-5841 Fax: (907) 486-1824
Nathaniel Nichols	Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Area Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist			nathaniel.nichols@alaska.gov
Cassandra Whiteside	Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Assistant Area Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist			cassandra.whiteside@alaska.gov
Mark Stichert	Westward Region Shellfish/Groundfish Management Coordinator			mark.stichert@alaska.gov

DIVISION OF ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS

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

Kodiak Office

Mail address:	2921 A Mill Bay Road Kodiak, Alaska 99615	Physical address:	2921 A Mill Bay Road Kodiak, Alaska	Phone: (907) 486-4762 Fax: (907) 486-5480
Shane Nicholson, Sergeant				larry.nicholson@alaska.gov

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ENTRY COMMISSION

website: <http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/>

Mail address:	P.O. Box 110302 Juneau, Alaska 99811-0302	Physical address:	8800 Glacier Highway #109 Juneau, Alaska	Phone: (907) 789-6150 Fax: (907) 789-6170
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NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE - ALASKA REGION

website: <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/>

Sustainable Fisheries Division

Juneau Office	Phone: (800) 304-4846 #3
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NOAA Fisheries Enforcement

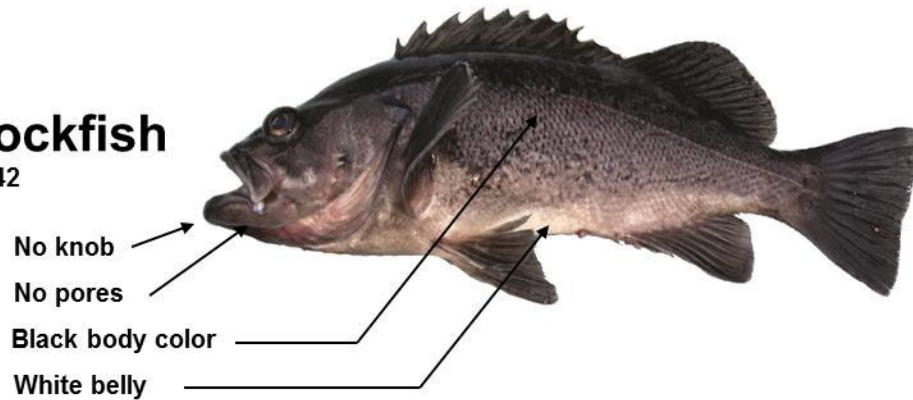
Kodiak Office	Phone: (907) 486-3298
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APPENDIX B: BLACK, DARK, AND DUSKY ROCKFISH IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Rockfish Guide

Black Rockfish

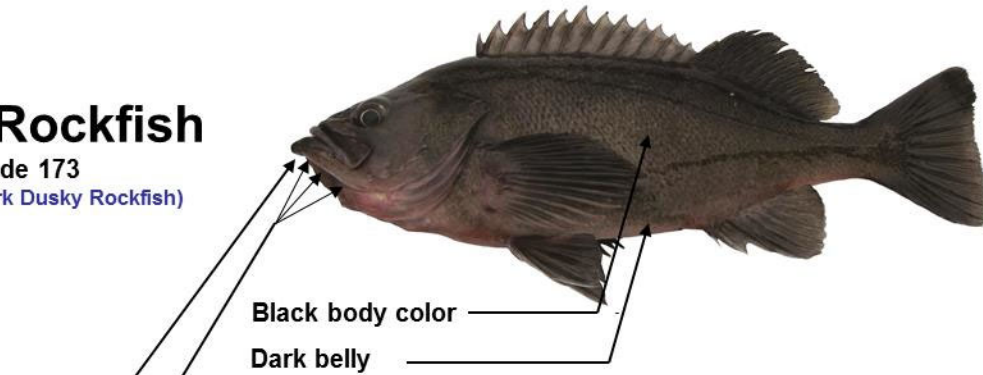
Species Code 142



Dark Rockfish

Species Code 173

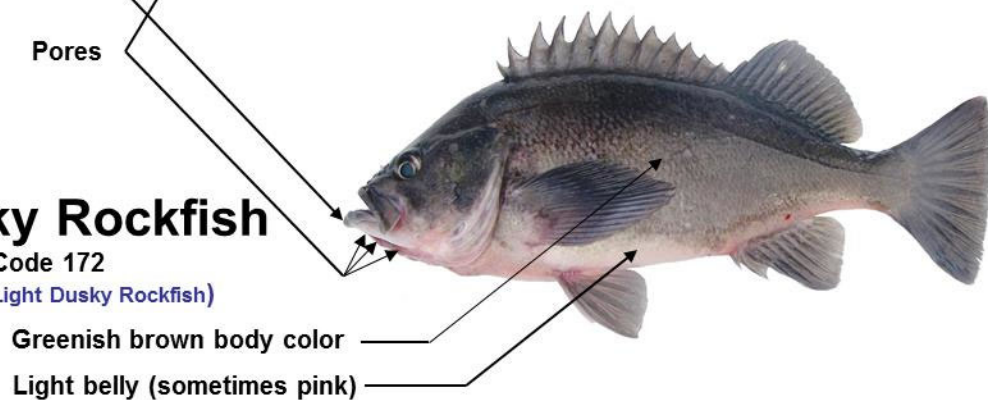
(Formerly Dark Dusky Rockfish)



Dusky Rockfish

Species Code 172

(Formerly Light Dusky Rockfish)



Please call ADF&G at 539-5954 or 486-1840 for help sorting Rockfish

-continued-

Species Differences



Black Rockfish



Dusky Rockfish



Dark Rockfish

Body Color	Black	Greenish brown	Uniformly black
Belly	White	Light (sometimes pink)	Dark
Lower Jaw Knob	Absent or weak	Present	Present
Lower Jaw Pores	Absent	Present	Present