

Fishery Management Plan for the Kodiak Area Commercial Black Rockfish Fishery, 2026

by

Cassandra Whiteside

December 2025

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries



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Weights and measures (metric)		General		Mathematics, statistics	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code		all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations	
deciliter	dL		AAC		
gram	g	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	alternate hypothesis	H _A
hectare	ha			base of natural logarithm	e
kilogram	kg	all commonly accepted		catch per unit effort	CPUE
kilometer	km	professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	coefficient of variation	CV
liter	L			common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
meter	m	at	@	confidence interval	CI
milliliter	mL	compass directions:		correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
millimeter	mm	east	E	correlation coefficient (simple)	r
Weights and measures (English)		north	N	covariance	cov
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	south	S	degree (angular)	°
foot	ft	west	W	degrees of freedom	df
gallon	gal	copyright	©	expected value	E
inch	in	corporate suffixes:		greater than	>
mile	mi	Company	Co.	greater than or equal to	≥
nautical mile	nmi	Corporation	Corp.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
ounce	oz	Incorporated	Inc.	less than	<
pound	lb	Limited	Ltd.	less than or equal to	≤
quart	qt	District of Columbia	D.C.	logarithm (natural)	ln
yard	yd	et alii (and others)	et al.	logarithm (base 10)	log
Time and temperature		et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ , etc.
day	d	exempli gratia (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 (U.S.)	\$, ¢	probability	P
minute	min	months (tables and figures): first three		probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
second	s	letters	Jan,...,Dec	probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
Physics and chemistry		registered trademark	®	second (angular)	"
all atomic symbols		trademark	™	standard deviation	SD
alternating current	AC	United States (adjective)	U.S.	standard error	SE
ampere	A	United States of America (noun)	USA	variance	
calorie	cal	U.S.C.	United States Code	population sample	Var var
direct current	DC	U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)		
hertz	Hz				
horsepower	hp				
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH				
parts per million	ppm				
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰				
volts	V				
watts	W				

REGIONAL INFORMATION REPORT NO. 4K25-07

**FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE KODIAK AREA
COMMERCIAL BLACK ROCKFISH FISHERY, 2026**

by
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December 2025

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This document should be cited as follows:

Whiteside, C. 2025. Fishery management plan for the Kodiak Area commercial black rockfish fishery, 2026. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report No. 4K25-07, Kodiak.

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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 (EEZ). Guideline harvest levels (GHLs) are established annually for seven districts in the Kodiak Area. The fishing season is from January 1 through December 31, unless closed by emergency order (EO). 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 a district vessel registration are required prior to fishing. Logbooks are required 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 a parallel or state-waters Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* fishery. Jig gear catcher vessels may not have onboard or sell more than 5,000 pounds of black rockfish within a consecutive five-day period. Jig gear vessels may retain black rockfish as bycatch up to 20%, by round weight of the directed groundfish species or halibut onboard a vessel. Trip limits and bycatch rates may be modified in season by EO.

Keywords: Black rockfish, *Sebastes melanops*, dark rockfish, *Sebastes ciliatus*, Kodiak Area, management plan, regulations, jigging machine

2INTRODUCTION

AREA DESCRIPTION

The Kodiak groundfish registration area consists of all waters south of the latitude of Cape Douglas (lat 58°51.10'N), 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). For black rockfish *Sebastes melanops* management, the Kodiak Area is further divided into 7 districts: Afognak, Northeast, Eastside, Southeast, Southwest, Westside, and Mainland (Figure 2). Kodiak Area districts are described in 5 AAC 28.404. In the Northeast District of Kodiak Area, Monashka Bay is closed to commercial rockfish fishing (5 AAC 28.450(b); Figure 2).

OVERVIEW

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has management authority for black and dark rockfish *Sebastes ciliatus* from shore to the 200 nautical mile boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). 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).

REGULATIONS

ADF&G manages the Kodiak Area black rockfish fishery in accordance with the *Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan* (5 AAC 28.466). Groundfish regulations for the Kodiak Area are available in the Statewide Commercial Groundfish Fishing Regulation booklet, which can be accessed online at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial> or obtained from local ADF&G offices.

SEASON DATES AND GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVELS

The Kodiak Area black rockfish guideline harvest range is 0–120,000 pounds (5 AAC 28.466(h)), and district GHLs are announced annually by advisory announcement <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>. The Kodiak Area black rockfish

fishery opens by regulation on January 1 (5 AAC 28.410(e)). Each Kodiak Area district will close by EO when its GHL has been achieved or on December 31 if the GHL has not been met.

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. When participating in the directed black rockfish fishery, a vessel may not have more than 500 hooks total onboard.

PERMIT AND VESSEL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

A valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim-use miscellaneous finfish permit card for mechanical jigging or hand troll gear must be obtained prior to participating in the black rockfish fishery. Permits are obtained from CFEC online at <https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/> or by visiting a local ADF&G office (Appendix A1).

The Kodiak Area is a nonexclusive registration area (5 AAC 28.406(2)). Once a vessel is validly registered for the Kodiak Area black rockfish fishery, it may also register for one or more nonexclusive and one exclusive registration area for black rockfish. However, 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.

Vessel operators must register for a specific Kodiak district before operating gear in the directed black rockfish fishery (5 AAC 28.406(2)(d)). Vessels may not be registered for or target black rockfish in more than one 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 leaving messages on voicemail, text, or email, unless previously arranged.

TRIP LIMITS

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

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

LANDING AND LOGBOOK 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 the regulatory trip limit must be weighed, sold, and reported on a fish ticket, with the proceeds surrendered to the State of Alaska. Trip limit overages will be determined by round weight pounds, not bled weight pounds.

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, text, or fax (Appendix A1). All logbook data will remain confidential. Logbooks are not required for black rockfish harvested as bycatch.

BYCATCH

ADF&G establishes bycatch limits for black rockfish, dark rockfish, and lingcod *Ophiodon elongatus* from shore to the 200 nautical mile boundary. Bycatch rates may be modified in season by EO. Contact ADF&G for information on bycatch allowances prior to participating in the Kodiak Area black rockfish fishery (Appendix A1). Vessel operators should note that bycatch allowances are based on total round weight of all directed groundfish species on board the vessel.

In state waters (0–3 nmi), ADF&G adopts the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) maximum retainable bycatch percentages applicable in federal waters (3–200 nmi) for groundfish species that are not actively managed by the State of Alaska. Federal retainable bycatch status is subject to change and may differ between species. Contact NMFS Enforcement in Kodiak for current bycatch percentages and status (Appendix A1).

Pacific cod

A vessel validly registered for the Kodiak Area black rockfish fishery may not simultaneously participate in a state-waters or parallel Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* fishery (5 AAC 28.406(d)). Vessels must deliver all black rockfish before participating in a state-waters or parallel Pacific cod fishery. Similarly, vessels must deliver all Pacific cod harvested in a parallel or state-waters fishery before registering for a Kodiak Area black rockfish district to target black rockfish.

In state waters (0–3 nmi), Pacific cod may be retained as bycatch up to 20% by round weight of black rockfish unless the bycatch rate has been reduced by EO. In federal waters (3–200 nmi), NMFS maximum retainable bycatch percentages apply.

Lingcod

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. Vessels using jig gear may retain lingcod up to 20% by round weight of black rockfish onboard the vessel, unless modified by EO.

Dark rockfish

There is no directed fishery for dark rockfish in the Kodiak Area. A vessel using jig or hand troll gear may retain dark rockfish as bycatch up to 20% by round weight of the directed groundfish species or halibut onboard a vessel.

Dusky and other rockfish

Dusky rockfish *Sebastes variabilis* and all other rockfish (except black and dark rockfish) are managed by NMFS. For detailed information regarding federal rockfish fisheries including permit requirements and bycatch allowances, contact NMFS (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.

Black Rockfish harvested as bycatch

For jig gear vessels participating in another directed groundfish fishery, the black rockfish bycatch rate is 20% by round weight of the directed groundfish or halibut onboard the vessel. All black rockfish harvested by jig gear, either through directed effort or as bycatch to other jig gear fisheries (i.e., Pacific cod or dusky rockfish), accrue against district GHLs. Jig gear bycatch rates for individual districts may be reduced by EO in season 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 regarding changes to district bycatch limits will be communicated through the ADF&G Advisory Announcement email subscription service (<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>).

For all non-jig gear vessels, black rockfish taken as bycatch may not exceed 5% by round weight of the directed groundfish or halibut onboard the vessel. Black rockfish bycatch harvest from non-jig gear fisheries (e.g., trawl, longline, etc.) does not accrue against district GHLs.

CONCURRENT FISHERIES

Vessel operators may simultaneously participate in the Kodiak Area black rockfish fishery and another directed groundfish fishery (e.g., federal rockfish fishery) but *may not* simultaneously participate in parallel or state-waters Pacific cod fisheries. When the Kodiak Area black rockfish and Pacific cod fisheries are open concurrently:

- vessel operators must invalidate their Kodiak Area black rockfish registration prior to participating in a parallel or state-waters Pacific cod fishery;
- all black rockfish must be delivered prior to validating or invalidating a Kodiak state-waters registration; and
- vessel operators may validate or invalidate vessel registrations by contacting an ADF&G representative in Kodiak (907-486-1840) during normal business hours (Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

DOCKSIDE SAMPLING

In conjunction with other data sources, information collected by the Dockside Sampling Program is used by management to establish commercial fishery GHLs prior to each season. Black rockfish harvest, fishery performance, and stock status are monitored through the collection of biological data and logbooks. Vessel operators are strongly encouraged to contact the ADF&G dockside sampling program when making rockfish landings (Appendix A1). Dockside staff collects biological data, including length, weight, sex, and reproductive maturity by sampling the catch. Additionally, otoliths are collected for age determination.

Dockside staff are also available to assist with species identification. Black, dark, and dusky rockfish are similar in size and color making them susceptible to misidentification. An identification guide is provided in Appendix B1.

INSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notifications of directed fishery closures and changes in bycatch limits for the black rockfish jig gear season will be distributed via the ADF&G advisory announcement email subscription service (<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), communicated to the fleet by text, and relayed through participating processors. ADF&G will make every effort to provide sufficient advance notice for all actions pertaining to regulatory changes; however, short notice closures may still occur.

A weekly harvest update will be distributed each Monday while the black rockfish jig gear season is open. Weekly harvest updates are available on the ADF&G website at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=CommercialByAreaKodiak.groundfish#harvest> or from the ADF&G groundfish management office in Kodiak.

FIGURES

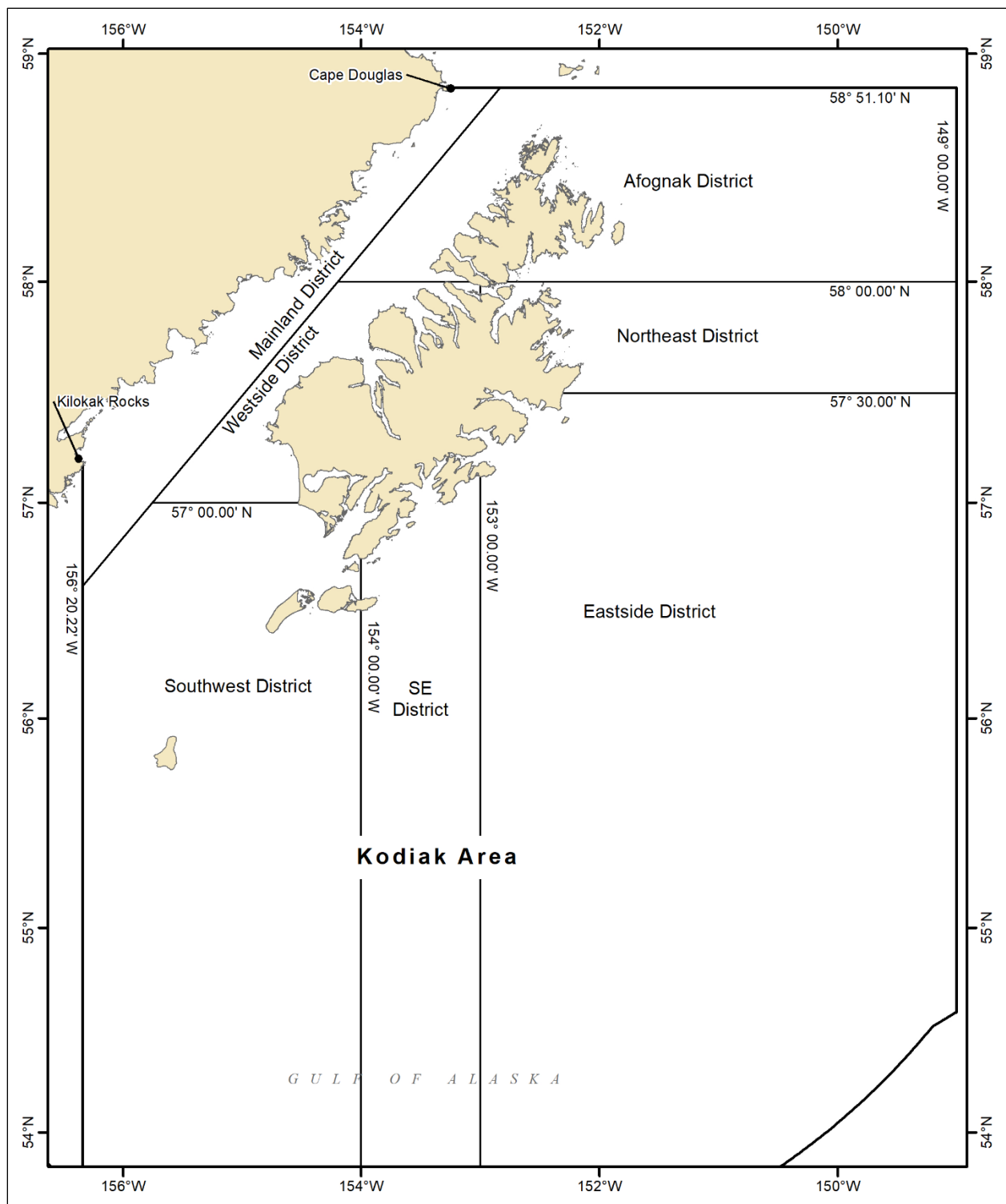


Figure 1.—Kodiak Area and district boundaries for the commercial black rockfish fishery.

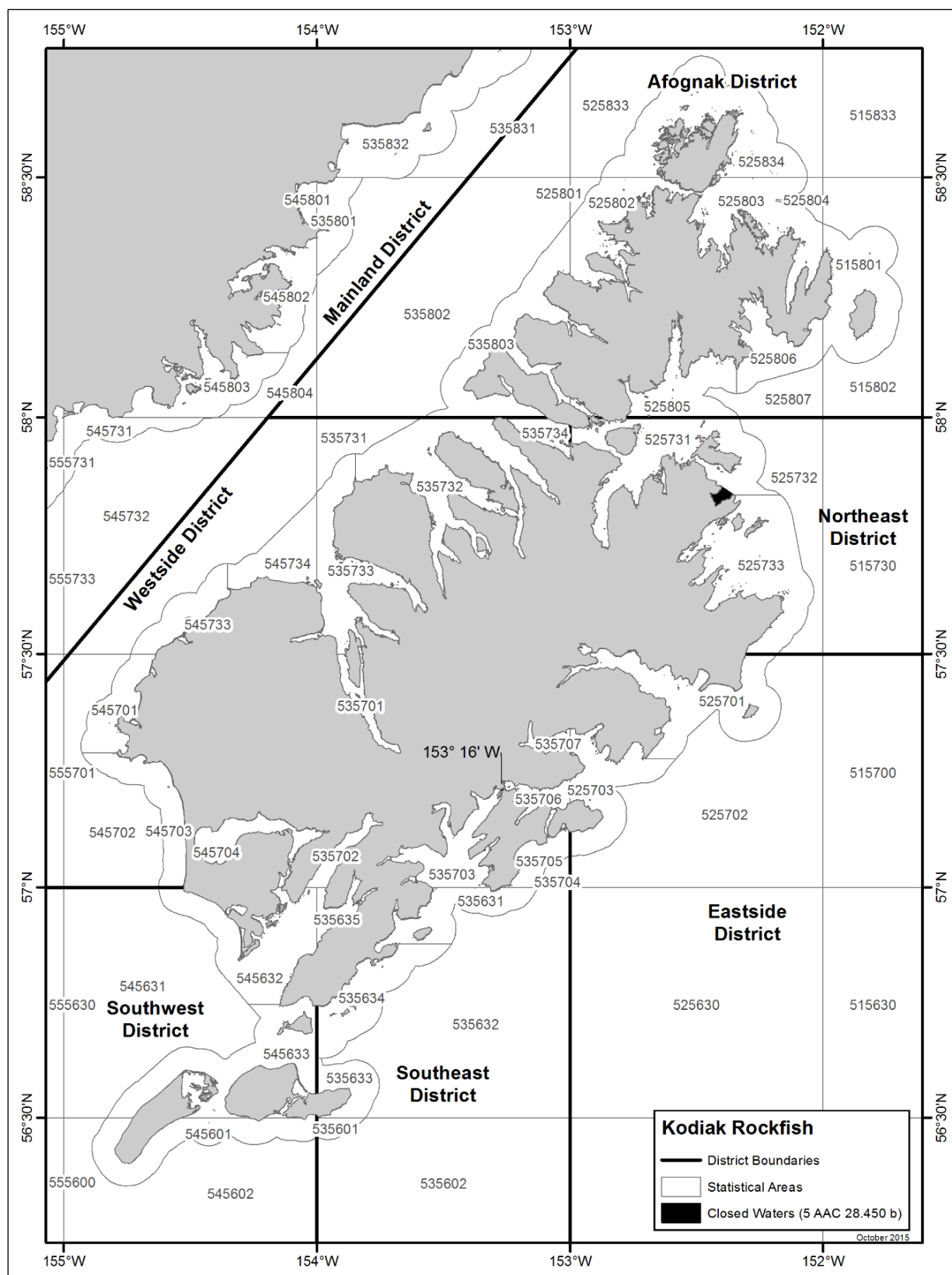


Figure 2.—Statistical areas, districts, and closed waters for the Kodiak Area commercial black rockfish fishery.

Figure 3.—Kodiak Area commercial rockfish logbook.

APPENDIX A: LIST OF FISHERY CONTACTS BY AGENCY AND LOCATION

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

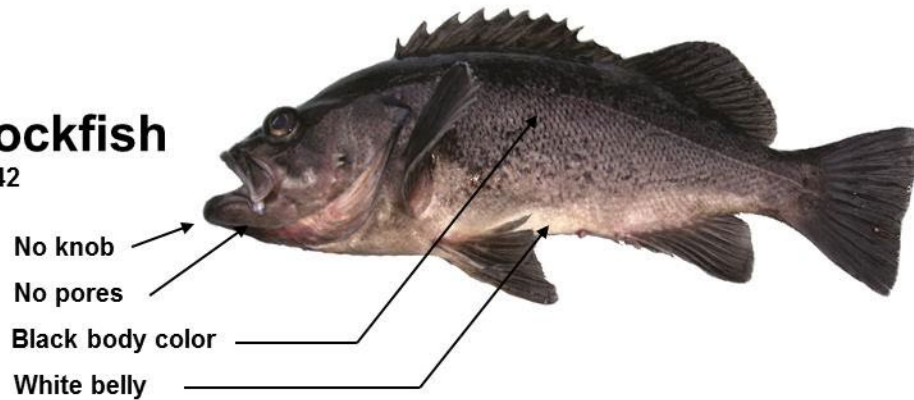
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME		website: https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingCommercialByArea.southwest	
<u>Kodiak Office</u>			
Mail address:	351 Research Court Kodiak, Alaska 99615	Physical address:	351 Research Court 2nd floor, Kodiak, Alaska
			Phone: (907) 486-1840 Text/inReach/WhatsApp: (907) 512-5841 Dockside cell: (907) 539-5954 Fax: (907) 486-1824
Nat Nichols	Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula Area Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist		nathaniel.nichols@alaska.gov
Cassie 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: https://dps.alaska.gov/awt/home	
<u>Kodiak Office</u>			
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 joshua.boyle@alaska.gov
Joshua Boyle, Sergeant			
COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ENTRY COMMISSION		website: https://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
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE - ALASKA REGION		website: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/alaska	
<u>Sustainable Fisheries Division</u>			
Juneau Office			Phone: (907) 586-7228
<u>NOAA Fisheries Enforcement</u>			
Kodiak Office			Phone: (907) 486-3298

APPENDIX B: BLACK, DARK, AND DUSKY ROCKFISH IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Rockfish Guide

Black Rockfish

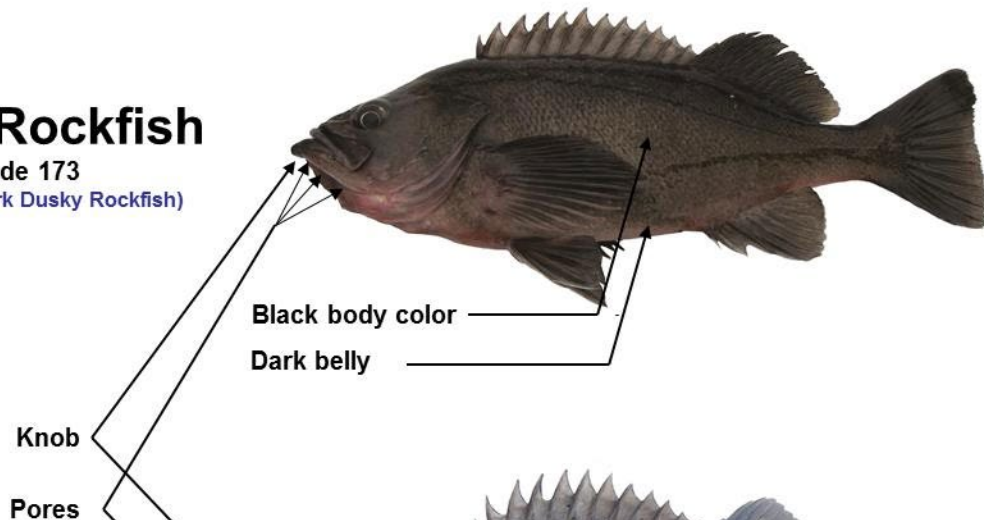
Species Code 142



Dark Rockfish

Species Code 173

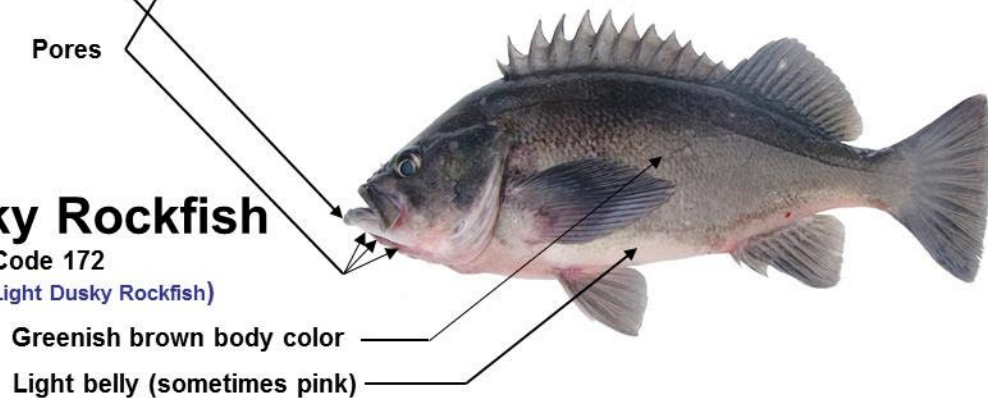
(Formerly Dark Dusky Rockfish)



Dusky Rockfish

Species Code 172

(Formerly Light Dusky Rockfish)



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