



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: February 28, 2020

CONTACT: Rhea Ehresmann
Region I Groundfish Project Leader
(907) 747-6688

**CALL FOR VESSEL OWNERS AND PERMIT HOLDERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
NORTHERN SOUTHEAST INSIDE WATERS (NSEI) SABLEFISH LONGLINE
SURVEY**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) is seeking to charter one commercial fishing vessel to conduct a longline survey assessing relative abundance of sablefish in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict in early August 2020. The chartered longline vessel will be contracted for up to 14 days beginning on July 29, 2020. This survey involves taking sablefish outside of the fishing season, and one NSEI permit holder participating in the survey will be authorized to sell an amount of sablefish equal to their 2020 Personal Quota Share (PQS). The participating permit holder must be present onboard the vessel while their PQS is being harvested and may disembark once their PQS is offloaded and recorded on a fish ticket (i.e. during the midtrip offload to a tender).

The survey encompasses 14 sets in the southern portion of Chatham Strait and is expected to require approximately seven or eight days of fishing and travel time, but weather or mechanical problems could extend this time. Two department employees will be deployed on the chartered vessel to collect survey data. The department will provide bait, hooks, and longline skates used on the survey. Meals and accommodations for each department employee onboard the vessel will be provided by each contract vessel for the duration of the survey.

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 vessel type and size specified for this contract. In addition, at least three crew members must be provided, two of whom are required to each have a minimum of three (3) years commercial longlining experience. 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.

Permit holders and vessel owners interested in participating in the survey should contact Rhea Ehresmann at 907-747-6688 or Andrew Olson at 907-465-4250 to request a bid packet and detailed survey information. Bid packets are due to Rhea Ehresmann in the Sitka Area Office or Andrew Olson in the Douglas Area Office no later than 4:30 p.m. **Friday, March 13, 2020.**

For additional information, visit the Southeast Regional Groundfish Fisheries web site:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.groundfish>.

Advisory announcement website: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220
Groundfish Hotline				747-4882			