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Advisory Announcement

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2024 Aleutian Islands Black Rockfish Guideline Harvest Level Announced

The Aleutian Islands black rockfish *Sebastes melanops* fishery opens January 1, 2024 in state waters of the Aleutian Islands District of the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area and the Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

The 2024 guideline harvest level (GHL) for Aleutian Islands black rockfish fishery is 90,000 pounds, whole fish weight. The GHL is distributed between three sections: Akutan, Unalaska, and Western sections. Boundaries for the Akutan and Unalaska sections are shown in Figure 1. The fishery will close when section GHLs are achieved. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will assess inseason fishery effort and may close areas within each section by emergency order to prevent overfishing of rockfish. The maximum black rockfish bycatch allowance in other groundfish fisheries is 20%, by weight, of directed groundfish species or halibut on board the vessel. Bycatch of dark rockfish *Sebastes ciliates* is 20% by weight of directed groundfish species or halibut on board the vessel.

The Aleutian Islands black rockfish fishery is limited to mechanical jig and hand troll gear. Fishermen using mechanical jigging machines are limited to five machines per vessel. A vessel owner or operator must register with Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) prior to fishing. Fishermen are required to complete and submit a logbook to ADF&G following each trip. Logbooks will be provided at the time of registration. Additionally, fishermen are asked to notify ADF&G prior to delivery to facilitate dockside sampling.

Section descriptions and the GHL for each section are as follows:

<u>Akutan Section</u> : State waters west of 166° W long. to 166° 44.73' W long.	35,000 pounds
<u>Unalaska Section</u> : State waters between 166° W long. and 168° W long.	35,000 pounds
<u>Western Section</u> : All state waters west of 168° W long.	20,000 pounds

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

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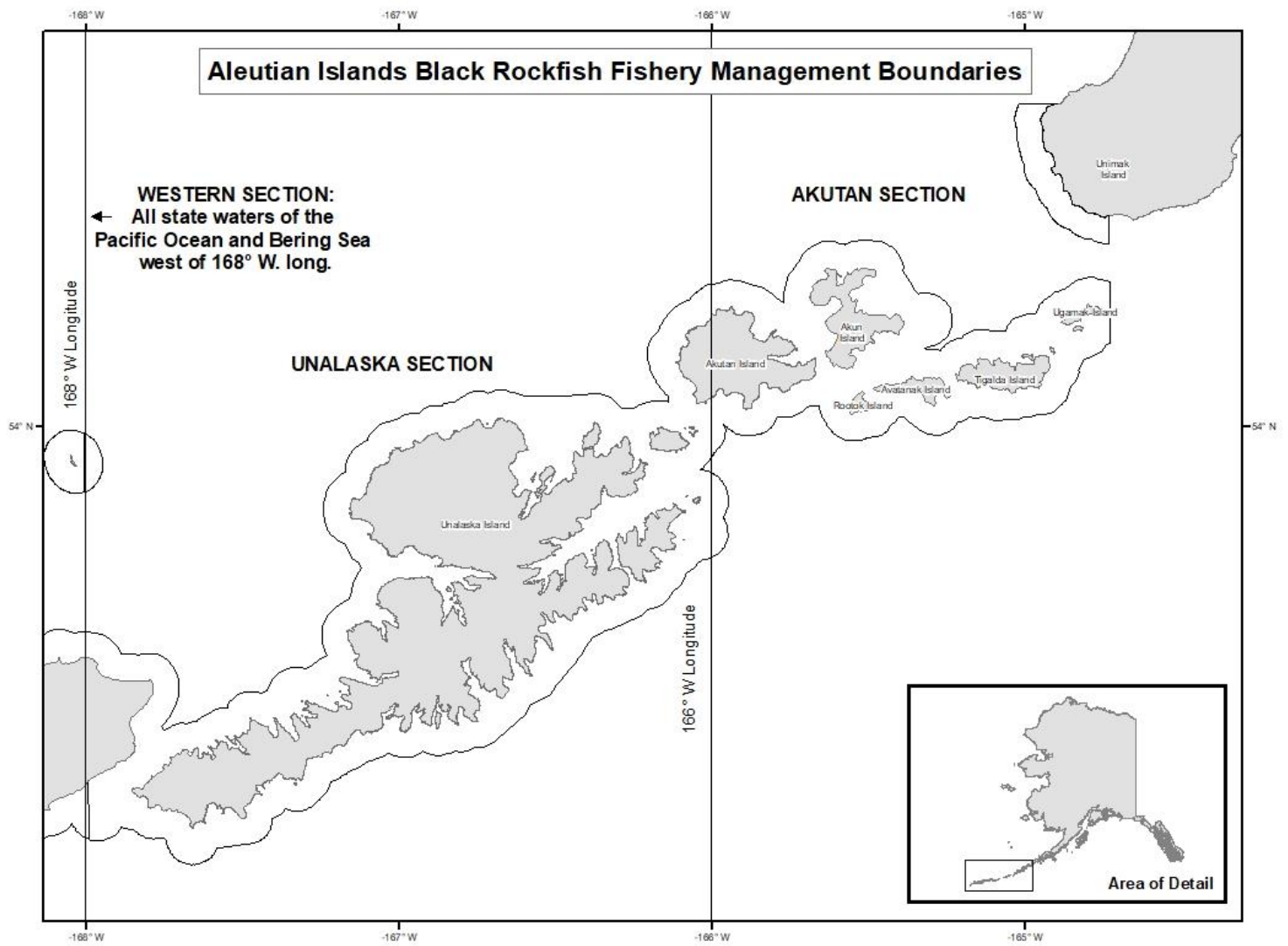


Figure 1. Unalaska and Akutan sections of the Aleutian Islands black rockfish fishery.