

Alaska Fisheries Science Center
Resource Ecology & Fisheries Management
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Building 4
Seattle, WA 98115-6349

August 15, 2003

CRUISE ANNOUNCEMENT

Vessel name: FT/Seafisher

ATKA MACKEREL TAG RECOVERY CRUISE

Scientists from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) will conduct an Atka Mackerel tag recovery survey in the areas of Amchitka Island, Tanaga Pass, and Seguam Pass to recover tagged Atka Mackerel released in June-August 1999-2003.

AREA AND PERIOD OF OPERATION

The cruise will begin in Adak or Dutch Harbor, AK (or in another port mutually agreeable to all parties). It will occur after the commercial fishery B-season for Atka mackerel is completed in the Aleutian Island areas. The cruise will begin on or around October 1, 2003. The work will take place on the chartered factory trawler *Seafisher*. The cruise will have two legs. Each leg will last approximately 2 weeks. During leg 1, the vessel will recover tagged Atka mackerel predominantly in the Amchitka Island area and Tanaga Pass area (NMFS statistical area 542). During leg 2 the vessel will recover Atka mackerel predominantly in the Seguam Pass area (NMFS statistical area 541). The vessel will depart from port and proceed directly to the study areas, conduct the tag recovery project, then return directly to port upon completion of each leg of the cruise. During the leg break, the vessel will offload product in port. If necessary, the vessel may schedule additional product offloads during this cruise.

METHODS

Trawling will proceed on a 24 hour basis aboard a factory trawler experienced in Atka Mackerel fishing and processing. The factory environment will allow AFSC scientists to observe entire catches of Atka Mackerel for orange spaghetti tags and environmental archival tags. The entire catch will be weighed using a flow scale and catch composition will be estimated using various sampling methods depending on catch composition. Fish numbers and weights of every catch will be recorded as well as sexed lengths of Atka Mackerel.

OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the cruise are to:

1. Gather information on Atka movement between areas open and closed to the commercial fishery.
2. Estimate Atka Mackerel abundance in the vicinity of Seguam and Tanaga Passes, Alaska, using tag release and recovery methods.

SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL

Leg 1:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Susanne McDermott | Field Party Chief |
| Kimberly Rand | Watch leader |
| To be announced | NMFS scientist |
| To be announced | NMFS scientist |

Leg 2:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Kimberly Rand | Field Party Chief |
| To be announced | Watch leader |
| To be announced | NMFS scientist |
| To be announced | NMFS scientist |

For further information contact Dr. Rich Marasco, Director, Resource Ecology and Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Building 4, BIN C15700, Seattle, WA 98115-0070 -- Telephone (206) 526-4172.