

Alaska Sportfishing Charter Operator Survey

Pilot Project: July 30 through September 21, 2001



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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
List of Tables	3
List of Charts	4
List of Appendices	4
Acknowledgements	4
Online Resources	4
Responses and Methodology	4
Section I. Survey Responses and Methodology	5
I.A. Background.....	5
I.B. Methodology.....	6
I.C. Definitions.....	7
I.D. Survey Responses	7
Section II. Economics and Trip Cost Information	10
II.A. Participation by Payment Method	10
II.B. Charters Paid as a Group	11
II.C. Charters Paid by Individuals.....	13
II.D. Trip Costs	16
II.E. Services Provided on Charters	17
Section III. Catch Information	20
III.A. Catch Information by Target Species.....	20
III.B. Halibut Catch Information by Weight Class	26
III.C. Other Species Catch Information	30
Section IV. Distance and Length of Trips	31

List of Tables

Table 1. Response Category Descriptions	7
Table 2. Response Rates and Categories	8
Table 3. Response Category by Mailing Week	9
Table 4. Method of Payment.....	10
Table 5. Number of Clients per Vessel.....	10
Table 6. Number of Clients per Charter Trip.....	11
Table 7. Cost of Group Paid Charters	11
Table 8. Cost of Individually Paid Charters.....	13
Table 9. Halibut- Average price per person per trip	16
Table 10. King Salmon- Average price per person per trip.....	16
Table 11. Silver Salmon- Average price per person per trip	16
Table 12. Pink Salmon- Average price per person per trip.....	17
Table 13. Chum Salmon- Average price per person per trip	17
Table 14. Services Provided by Charter Operators.....	18
Table 15. Average Costs of Services Not Included in Charter Price.....	19
Table 16. Species Specifically Targeted.....	20
Table 17. Halibut Catch (number of fish).....	21
Table 18. King Salmon Catch (number of fish).....	22
Table 19. Silver Salmon Catch (number of fish)	23
Table 20. Pink Salmon Catch (number of fish)	24
Table 21. Chum Salmon Catch (number of fish).....	25
Table 22. Halibut Catch by Weight Class.....	26
Table 23. Halibut Catch by Weight Class for Half-Day Charters	27
Table 24. Halibut Catch by Weight Class for One-Day Charters.....	28
Table 25. Halibut Catch by Weight Class for Multi-Day Charters.....	29
Table 26. Other Species Catch.....	30
Table 27. Other Species Specifically Targeted.....	30
Table 28. Number of Trips by Trip Length	31
Table 29. Hours Spent Fishing.....	32
Table 30. Hours Fishing by Length of Trip	33
Table 31. Average Trip Distance in Miles by Species Targeted	34

List of Charts

Chart 1. Number of Charters by Average Client Cost for Group Paid Charters	12
Chart 2. Number of Clients by Average Client Cost for Group Paid Charters.....	13
Chart 3. Individually Paid-Average per Person Cost of Charter Trip.....	14
Chart 4. Number of Clients by Client Cost for Individually Paid Charters.....	15
Chart 5. Number of Trips by Round Trip Distance from Port.....	34
Chart 6. Average Distance Traveled by Length of Charter	35

List of Appendices

Appendix A. Map of Survey Area	Error! Bookmark not defined. 36
Appendix B. Pre-survey Letter	37
Appendix C. Notification Letter	38
Appendix D. Survey.....	39

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Online Resources

This document can be found online at http://www.psmfc.org/efin/docs/2001_alaskacharter.pdf

Section I. Survey Responses and Methodology

I.A. Background

Charter boat sportfishing in Alaska provides benefits to anglers, the charter industry, and many Alaska communities. In 2000, 1,154 charter vessels were registered in Alaska. They offer a wide range of trips throughout Alaska and target a wide variety of fish species. However, little is known about the charter operations. This research project is an attempt to gather information about charter operations and to test the feasibility of collecting data through weekly, telephone interviews. The survey was designed to collect a set of important economic data as well as characteristics of charter trips. The economic data includes the prices paid by clients of charters, pricing structures (groups paid trips and individually paid trips), number of clients per trips, and the services that are provided to clients. The survey also collected data about the catch of targeted and non-targeted species, weight of halibut caught, distance traveled and length of charter trips, and the number of hours fished per trip.

The survey was designed to collect important information that can be used by fishery managers, fishery participants, and fishery researchers. By design, the survey questionnaire is not comprehensive. In order to reduce the response burden, and, thus, increase participation rates, the survey length was limited to a ten-minute interview. The survey instrument and questions, and the administration protocols were developed by PSFMC and NOAA Fisheries staff. Question wording and comprehension were tested through consultations with charter operators and industry representatives.

As this is a pilot project to determine the feasibility of collecting charter information, data were collected during only the last half of the usual charter season, from the end of July 2001 through September 21, 2001. Thus the data collected are only representative of that time period.

The overall response rate (excluding operators who we were not able to contact) was quite high, 88%. However, we were not able to contact, during the two-week contact period, about 34% of the selected sample. Since charter operators are very busy during the season, perhaps this percentage is not too surprising. It is not known to what extent these operators and their trip data are different from the operators we were able to contact. Future survey projects may wish to investigate the possibility of allowing charter operators several different types of response options (e.g., telephone contact by the researcher as was done here, faxing in information, and a web based survey).

For sampling and reporting purposes, the state of Alaska was broken into two regions for this survey, the Southeast Region and the South Central Region. Appendix A contains a map showing the regions and ports. Ports were grouped into the two regions as follows:

Southeast:

Auke Bay, Craig, Elfin Cove, Gustavus, Hoonah, Juneau, Kake, Ketchikan, Klawock, Petersburg, Port Protection, Seal Bay, Sitka, Tenakee Springs, and Yakutat.

South Central:

Anchor Point, Anchorage, Angoon, Chenega Bay, Cordova, Deep Creek, Homer, Kenai, Kodiak, Larsen Bay Niniilchik, Port Lions, Seldovia, Seward, Soldotna, Valdez, and Wasilla.

I.B. Methodology

The sample frame for the 2001 Alaska Halibut Charter Survey was all charter boat operators that participated in the ADF&G logbook program in 2000. The sample frame consisted of 1,154 vessels. In order to inform the vessel operators about the survey and its purpose, each vessel operator was mailed a pre-survey letter (Appendix B) and a copy of the survey (Appendix D).

Each week during the seven-week survey, fifteen randomly selected vessels from the South Central Region and fifteen from the South East Region of Alaska were mailed notification letters (Appendix C) and sample surveys (Appendix D). The first sampled wave was July 30- Aug 10, 2001 and the last was September 10- September 21, 2001. Sampled vessel owners were informed in the letter they would be contacted via telephone during the following two weeks and asked survey questions regarding their most recently completed charter fishing trip. The initial contact was to the registered license holder. If the charter vessel was operated by someone else, we asked for the name and contact information of the vessel operator (see Appendix D, Screening question 'a'). Last trip information was recorded from all respondents regardless of the date of last trip as long as it occurred during 2004. Up to five telephone calls were attempted in order to make contact and complete the survey during the two-week sample window for each wave of mailings. Of the five telephone calls, up to three included leaving messages asking them to call a toll-free number at their convenience to complete the survey or to arrange a convenient time to reach them. The other two calls were conducted without leaving a message. Respondents were mailed a thank-you letter after completing the survey. Each mailing wave was treated as an independent sample; thus, once selected, the names were returned to the sample pool for possible re-selection in future waves.

I.C. Definitions

Throughout this summary we present data grouped by different variables. Those variables and their definitions are given below,

Individually Paid – Passengers paid on a per-head basis.

Group Paid – Passengers chartered the boat as a group.

Charter boat - A vessel that participated in the 2000 ADF&G logbook program and is paid to take clients fishing.

Client- A single person who pays for a fishing trip on a charter boat.

Trip- A single outing for a charter boat from when it leaves the dock until it returns.

I.D. Survey Responses

During each mailing wave, fifteen operators were randomly selected from each region (30 total). A total of 210 surveys were sent out during the seven waves between July 23rd and September 3rd. A total of 93 surveys were completed.

Survey responses were categorized by their outcome into eight different categories. Table 1 lists and defines the eight possible response categories. Towards the end of the season many charter companies began closing down for the season, also September 11, 2001 slowed charter business. Many operators told surveyors they had customer cancellations or no-shows because of restrictions on airline flights or a lack of desire to travel at that time. The category “EXPIRED” was created for surveys where contact information was correct, messages were left with people answering the phone or on machines/voicemail but the correct person to answer the questions was not available.

Table 1. Response Category Descriptions

Response Category	Description
PARTICIPATED	Contacted and provided survey responses
DECLINED	Refused to participate in survey
EXPIRED	No completed survey in 2 weeks, good contact information
INELIGIBLE	Doesn't have boat anymore, never did fishing charters
INACTIVE	Doesn't do fishing charters
NO CONTACT	Old phone number, no new contact information
WRONG PERSON	Wrong contact information
CLOSED FOR SEASON	Hasn't had a trip in the last 2 weeks; end of season

Table 2 lists the response rates to the survey and the total number of responses. The response rate including the Expired samples (“Effective Response Rate including EXPIRED”) is 58%. If the Expired samples are excluded, the response rate is 88%. In total, 93 surveys were completed, with 40 surveys from the Southeast and 53 from the South Central.

Table 2. Response Rates and Categories

Response Rates	Alaska	Southeast	South Central
Effective Response Rate <u>including</u> EXPIRED*	58%	51%	65%
Effective Response Rate <u>excluding</u> EXPIRED**	88%	80%	95%
Number of Responses			
PARTICIPATED	93	40	53
DECLINED	13	10	3
EXPIRED	55	29	26
INELIGIBLE	16	8	8
INACTIVE	10	3	7
NO CONTACT	15	9	6
WRONG PERSON	1	1	0
CLOSED FOR SEASON	7	6	1

*Response Rate= Participated/(participated + declined + expired)

**Response Rate= Participated/(participated + declined)

Table 3 shows the status of the surveys from each weekly mailing. A total of 30 surveys were sent out prior to each week listed and the charter operators were contacted during the subsequent two weeks by telephone.

Table 3. Response Category by Mailing Week

Weeks	Status	Alaska	Southeast	South Central
July 30, 2001 - Aug 10, 2001	PARTICIPATED	11	5	6
	DECLINED	2	2	0
	EXPIRED	14	7	7
	INACTIVE	2	0	2
	WRONG PERSON	1	1	0
Aug 6, 2001- Aug 17, 2001	PARTICIPATED	14	6	8
	DECLINED	4	4	0
	EXPIRED	11	5	6
	INACTIVE	1	0	1
Aug 13, 2001 - Aug 24, 2001	PARTICIPATED	15	7	8
	DECLINED	1	0	1
	EXPIRED	9	5	4
	INELIGIBLE	3	2	1
	NO CONTACT	2	1	1
Aug 20, 2001 - Aug 31, 2001	PARTICIPATED	15	10	5
	DECLINED	2	1	1
	EXPIRED	6	1	5
	INELIGIBLE	5	1	4
	NO CONTACT	2	2	0
Aug 27, 2001 - Sept 7, 2001	PARTICIPATED	14	4	10
	DECLINED	1	0	1
	EXPIRED	6	6	0
	INACTIVE	1	0	1
	INELIGIBLE	3	1	2
	NO CONTACT	3	2	1
	CLOSED FOR SEASON	2	2	0
Sept 3, 2001 - Sept 14, 2001	PARTICIPATED	12	4	8
	DECLINED	3	3	0
	EXPIRED	6	3	3
	INACTIVE	4	3	1
	INELIGIBLE	1	1	0
	NO CONTACT	4	2	2
	CLOSED FOR SEASON	1	0	1
	VOLUNTEER	1	0	1
Sept 10, 2001 - Sept 21, 2001	PARTICIPATED	12	4	8
	EXPIRED	3	2	1
	INACTIVE	2	0	2
	INELIGIBLE	4	3	1
	NO CONTACT	4	2	2
	CLOSED FOR SEASON	4	4	0

Section II. Economics and Trip Cost Information

II.A. Participation by Payment Method

The survey asked how clients chartered the vessel, whether they paid for an individual spot on the boat (paid individually) or chartered the vessel as a whole group (group-paid). Two operators from the Southeast region did not report how their clients paid and are not included in Table 4.

Table 4. Method of Payment

Percentage of Charters by Payment Method	Alaska	Southeast	South Central
Vessel trips that were chartered as a group	49%	58%	43%
Vessel trips where clients paid individually	51%	42%	57%
Number of Customers by Payment Method			
Number of group-paying clients	191	83	108
Number of individually-paying clients	213	67	146
Total number of clients	400	146	254

The average and median numbers of clients on each charter trip are reported in Table 5. Most charters had four to five clients per trip.

Table 5. Number of Clients per Vessel.

	Alaska	Southeast	South Central
Summary Statistics			
Average number of clients	4.49	4.08	4.79
Median number of clients	4	4	4
Vessel trips chartered as a group			
Average number of clients	4.44	4.15	4.70
Median number of clients	4	4	4
Vessel trips where clients paid individually			
Average number of clients	4.64	4.20	4.87
Median number of clients	4	4	4.5

Table 6 shows the number of clients per chartered vessel trip. The table is based on the total of 409 passengers who were counted in the survey.

Table 6. Number of Clients per Charter Trip.

Number of clients per charter vessel trip	Number of vessel trips		
	Alaska	Southeast	South Central
1	1	0	1
2	7	2	5
3	12	4	8
4	37	24	13
5	13	5	8
6	19	3	16
15	1	0	1
16	1	0	1

II.B. Charters Paid as a Group

Table 7 shows the average and median cost of group paid charters. The per-person summaries below are weighted values, while the total cost per vessel values and group paid percents and numbers are not weighted. Weighted for the per person averages takes into account the proportional relevance of the number of people, rather than treating each charter equally. The average costs exclude additional fees (e.g., food and drink, or licenses). In the Southeast there were a total of 88 customers but nine of them did not have associated prices and were, thus, not included in the summaries.

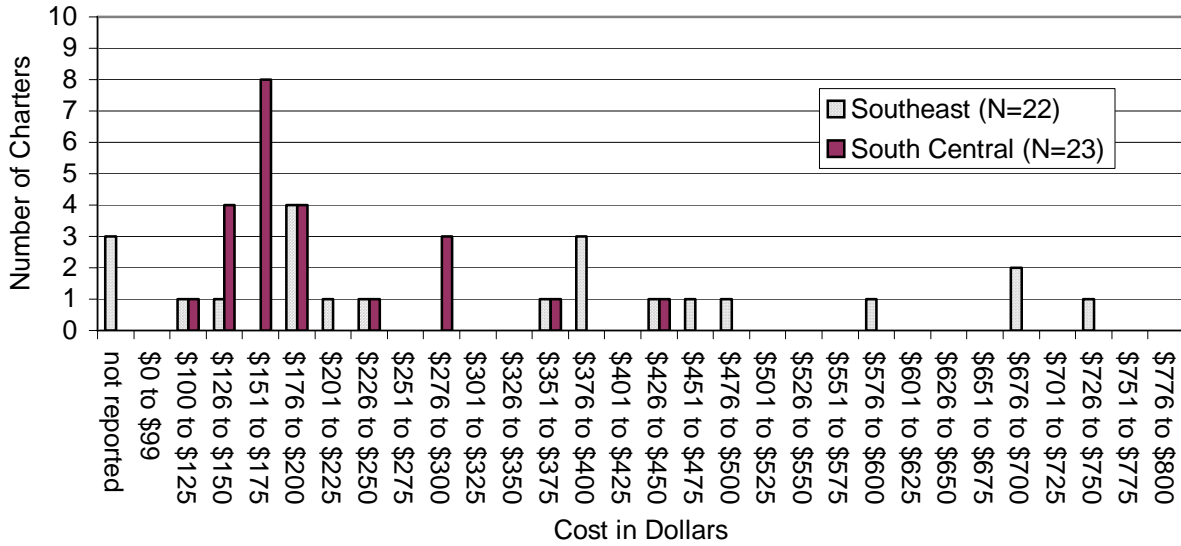
Table 7. Cost of Group Paid Charters

Group	Alaska	Southeast	South Central
Percent of vessels that were chartered as a group	49%	58%	43%
Number of group-paying passengers	196	88*	108
Charter cost (for entire charter)			
Average cost of group-paying charter	\$1,224.62	\$1,604.47	\$910.83
Median cost of group-paying charter	\$1,000.00	\$1,575.00	\$900.00
Cost per Person (weighted)*			
Average cost per person of group-paying charter	\$275.05	\$385.89	\$193.97
Median cost per person of group-paying charter	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$175.00

* The weighted average takes into account the proportional relevance of number of people per charter, rather than treating each charter equally

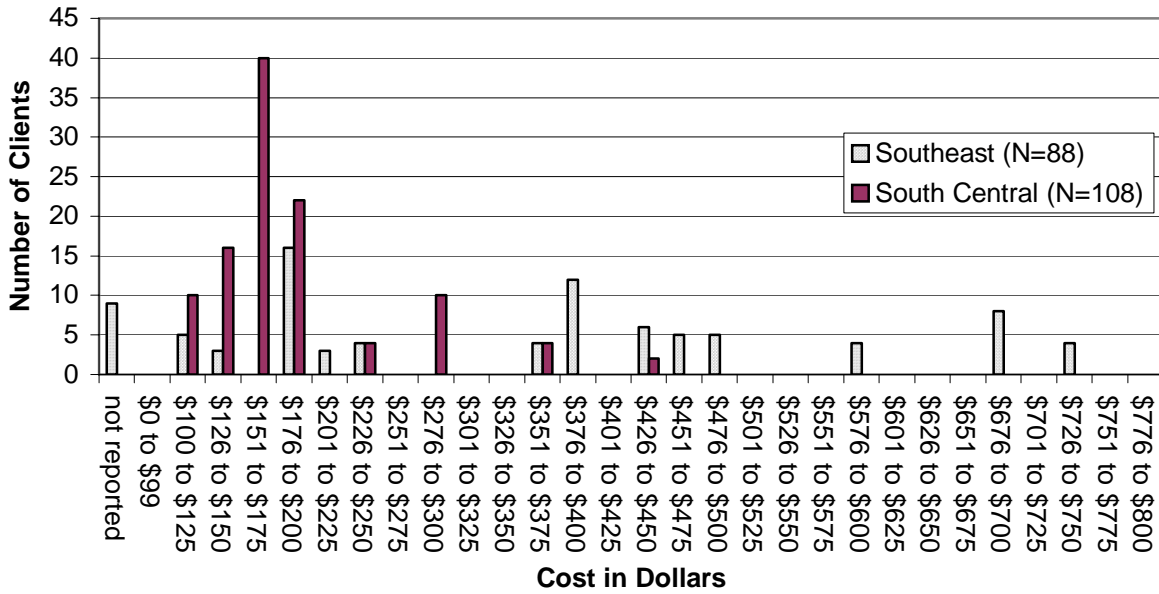
Chart 1 shows the average cost per person and the count of charters for those that paid as a group. The chart also reports the number of charters where no cost information was given. The values of “N” in the legend are the number of charters per region; there were 45 total charters that paid as a group.

Chart 1. Number of Charters by Average Client Cost for Group Paid Charters



While Chart 1 provides information on the number of charters by the average charter cost, Chart 2 shows the average cost per person for group paid charters and the count of clients at that price. The chart does show the charters where no cost information was given. The “N” value in the legend is the number of clients per region; there were a total of 196 clients that paid for their charters as a group.

Chart 2. Number of Clients by Average Client Cost for Group Paid Charters



II.C. Charters Paid by Individuals

Table 8 shows the average and median cost of individually paid charters. The values in the table are excluding additional fees, such as licenses, food and drink if they were not included in the charter cost. One charter in the Southeast did not give a price for their trip with four passengers, they have been left out of the charter cost and cost per person calculations.

Table 8. Cost of Individually Paid Charters

	Alaska	Southeast	South Central
Individually Paid Percents and Numbers			
Percent of vessels where clients paid individually	51%	42%	57%
Number of individually-paying customers	209	63	146
Charter cost (for entire charter)			
Average cost of individually-paying charter	\$1,141.09	\$1,602.80	\$910.23
Median cost of individually-paying charter	\$875.00	\$1,100.00	\$825.00
Cost per Person (weighted)			
Average cost per person of individually-paying charter	\$245.69	\$381.62	\$187.03
Median cost per person of individually-paying charter	\$175.00	\$275.00	\$167.50

Chart 3 shows the number of charters where the customers paid individually and how much they paid. The “N” value in the legend is the number of trips for that region; there were 46 total trips where the clients paid individually.

Chart 3. Individually Paid-Average per Person Cost of Charter Trip

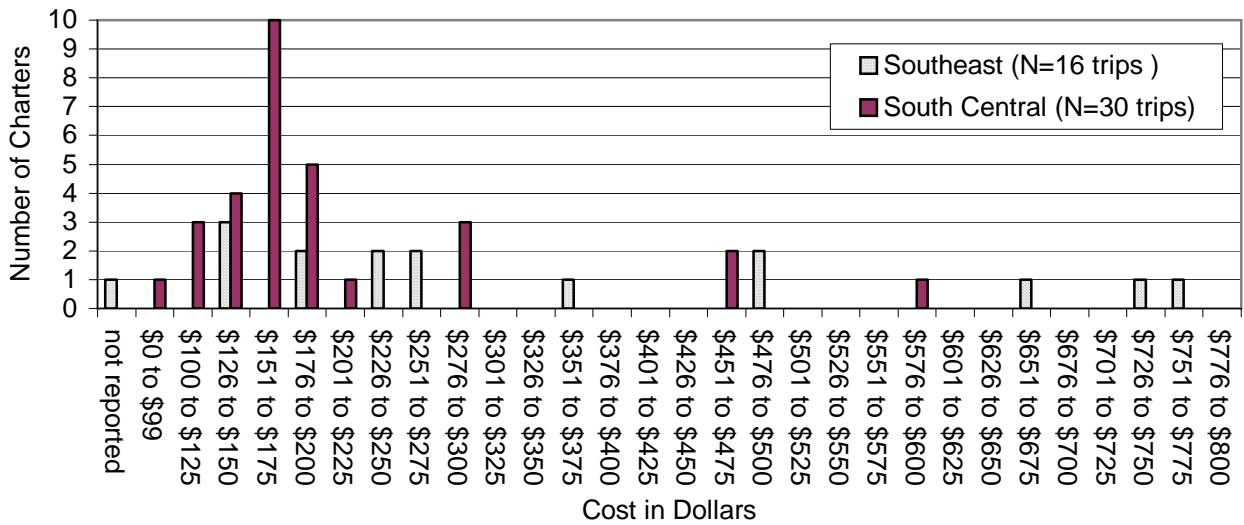
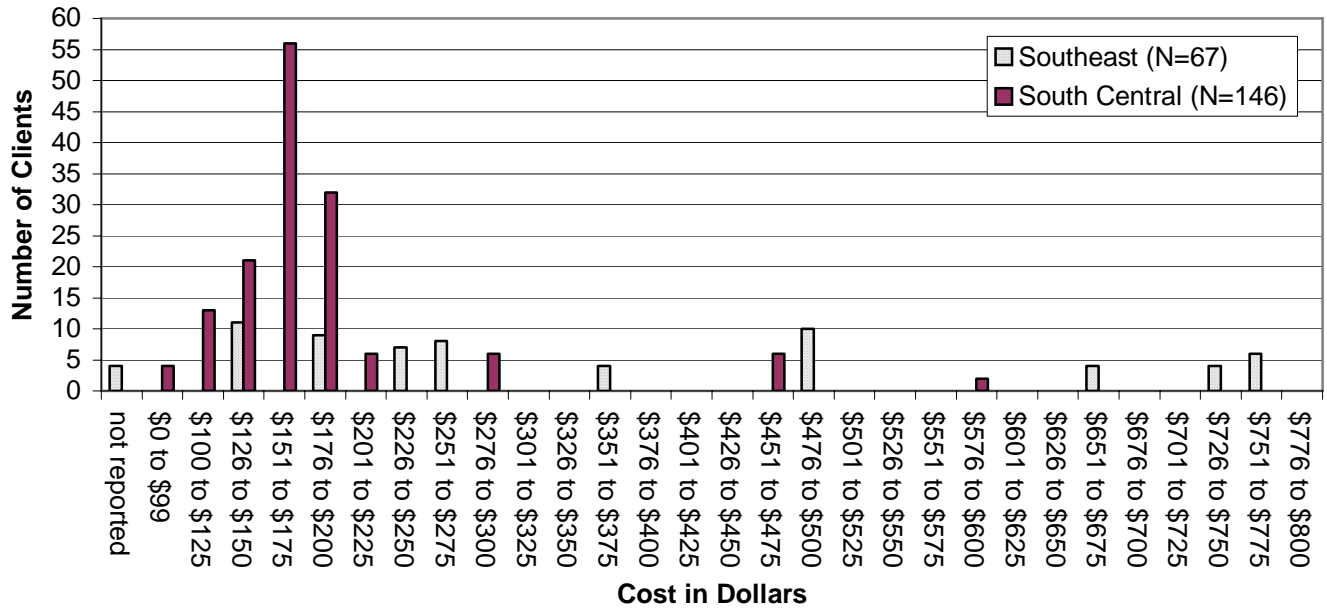


Chart 4 shows the number of clients by how much they paid for an individually paid charter for both regions of Alaska. The “N” value is the number of clients in that region, 213 clients paid for their charters individually.

Chart 4. Number of Clients by Client Cost for Individually Paid Charters



II.D. Trip Costs

Tables 9-13 show the cost per person per trip by payment method and trip length for each of the five targeted species. The costs of other amenities (food, lodging, transportation), if provided, are included in the price. To preserve the confidentiality of the survey, it wasn't possible to report the unique services they provided. If a particular trip targeted several species, its cost information would show up in several of the following tables. The "N" value is the number of charter trips for each region and payment method.

Table 9. Halibut- Average price per person per trip

	Alaska	Southeast	South Central	Number of trips
Group Paid				
1/2 day	\$150.00	N/A	\$150.00	SE N=0, SC N=1
1 day trip	\$272.02	\$469.44	\$180.90	SE N=6, SC N=13
Multi day trip (avg. price/day)	\$113.24	\$119.58		SE N=6, SC N=4
Individually Paid				
1/2 day	N/A	N/A	N/A	SE N=0, SC N=0
1 day trip	\$288.00	\$434.20	\$224.43	SE N=10, SC N=23
Multi day trip (avg. price/day)	\$100.00	N/A	\$100.00	SE N=0, SC N=1

Table 10. King Salmon- Average price per person per trip

	Alaska	Southeast	South Central	Number of trips
Group Paid				
1/2 day	N/A	N/A	N/A	SE N=0, SC N=0
1 day trip	\$560.00	\$560.00	N/A	SE N=0, SC N=5
Multi day trip (avg. price/day)	\$126.81	\$126.81	N/A	SE N=4, SC N=0
Individually Paid				
1/2 day	N/A	N/A	N/A	SE N=0, SC N=0
1 day trip	\$404.40	\$404.40	N/A	SE N=5, SC N=0
Multi day trip (avg. price/day)	N/A	N/A	N/A	SE N=0, SC N=0

Table 11. Silver Salmon- Average price per person per trip

	Alaska	Southeast	South Central	Number of trips
Group Paid				
1/2 day	\$118.00	\$118.00	N/A	SE N=1, SC N=0
1 day trip	\$277.11	\$357.50	\$162.26	SE N=10, SC N=7
Multi day trip (avg. price/day)	\$98.40	\$93.58	\$105.14	SE N=7, SC N=5
Individually Paid				
1/2 day	\$125.83	\$145.00	\$106.67	SE N=3, SC N=3
1 day trip	\$367.00	\$437.45	\$256.29	SE N=11, SC N=7
Multi day trip (avg. price/day)	\$100.00	N/A	\$100.00	SE N=0, SC N=1

Table 12. Pink Salmon- Average price per person per trip

	Alaska	Southeast	South Central	Number of trips
Group Paid				
1/2 day	\$118.00	\$118.00	N/A	SE N=1, SC N=0
1 day trip	\$483.33	\$483.33	N/A	SE N=2, SC N=0
Multi day trip (avg. price/day)	\$63.49	\$63.49	N/A	SE N=2, SC N=0
Individually Paid				
1/2 day	N/A	\$135.00	N/A	SE N=1, SC N=0
1 day trip	\$378.00	\$447.33	\$170.00	SE N=3, SC N=1
Multi day trip (avg. price/day)	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Table 13. Chum Salmon- Average price per person per trip

	Alaska	Southeast	South Central	Number of trips
Group Paid				
1/2 day	N/A	N/A	N/A	SE N=0, SC N=0
1 day trip	\$766.67	\$766.67	N/A	SE N=1, SC N=0
Multi day trip (avg. price/day)	\$63.49	\$63.49	N/A	SE N=2, SC N=0
Individually Paid				
1/2 day	N/A	N/A	N/A	SE N=0, SC N=0
1 day trip	\$571.00	\$571.00	N/A	SE N=2, SC N=0
Multi day trip (avg. price/day)	N/A	N/A	N/A	SE N=0, SC N=0

II.E. Services Provided on Charters

Services provided by charter operators and lodges offering fishing charters varied by operator. Table 14 presents a summary of what services were provided with the cost of the charter. Under bait/tackle and gear there was one charter in the South Central area that did not know if they charged extra for this service or how much it would be if they did, they are not included below. Also, one charter in the Southeast for this same service did not answer or it was not applicable to them and it is not included as well. One Southeast charter did not have an answer for fish cleaning or filleting and was not included in the table below. Two charters in the Southeast were not included in the table below for fish packing. One charter in the South Central region provided raincoats but did not know whether or how much they charged for the service and are not included in Table 14. There were 28 charters from the Southeast and 23 charters from South Central that did not provide answers for “Other Items or Services Provided” and are not included in Table 14.

Table 14. Services Provided by Charter Operators

	Alaska	Southeast	South Central
Food and drinks provided?			
Yes - at no cost	59 (63%)	36 (88%)	23 (43%)
Yes - at additional cost	1 (1%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)
Not provided	34 (36%)	4 (10%)	30 (57%)
Lodging provided?			
Yes - at no cost	33 (35%)	20 (49%)	13 (24%)
Yes - at additional cost	6 (6%)	2 (5%)	4 (8%)
Not provided	55 (59%)	19 (46%)	36 (68%)
Bait/Tackle/Gear provided?			
Yes - at no cost	92 (100%)	40 (100%)	52 (100%)
Yes - at additional cost	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Not provided	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Fish cleaning or filleting provided?			
Yes - at no cost	78 (84%)	28 (70%)	50 (94%)
Yes - at additional cost	4 (4%)	2 (5%)	2 (4%)
Not provided	11 (12%)	10 (25%)	1 (2%)
Fish packing provided?			
Yes - at no cost	28 (30%)	20 (51%)	8 (15%)
Yes - at additional cost	7 (8%)	4 (10%)	3 (6%)
Not provided	57 (62%)	15 (39%)	42 (79%)
Other items or services provided?			
Yes - at no cost	3 (7%)	1 (8%) Camping gear	2 (7%) Transportation
Yes - at additional cost	3 (7%)	1 (8%) Evening meal	2 (7%) Transportation, lodging
Not provided	36 (86%)	11 (84%)	25 (86%)

Table 15 shows the cost and number of responses for services that were paid for above the cost of the charter. These detail some of the “No” responses in Table 14.

Table 15. Average Costs of Services Not Included in Charter Price

For all of Alaska	Average Cost	Number of survey responses	Description
Food/drinks	\$240.00	1	\$60.00/person
Lodging	\$125.00	5	per person/night
Bait/tackle/gear	0	0	
Fish cleaning or filleting	\$2.00	1	average price per lb
Fish packing	\$1.06	4	average price per lb
Other	\$83.33	3	evening meals, cabs to dock, other lodging.

Section III. Catch Information

III.A. Catch Information by Target Species

Charter trips were described as targeting Halibut or Salmon or a combination of both. Table 16 displays the breakout of trips that targeted Halibut only, Salmon only or a combination of the two. Only one trip in South Central Alaska was a sight seeing, non-species specific fishing trip. The most popular fishing trip offered in the Southeast was the Salmon and Halibut combination trip, the most common trip offered in the South Central was Halibut only. No Halibut only trips were offered in the Southeast.

Table 16. Species Specifically Targeted

	Alaska	Southeast	South Central
Halibut only	29 (31%)	0	29 (100%)
Salmon Only	24 (26%)	13 (54%)	11 (46%)
Salmon and Halibut	39 (42%)	27 (69%)	12 (31%)
No Species Specifically Targeted	1 (1%)	0	1 (100%)

Catch information for halibut and several species of salmon is contained in Tables 17-21. There is a separate table for each species. Each table describes the percent of trips that targeted that species, the total number of trips and the catch by trip length (half-day, one-day, or multiple-day).

Table 17. Halibut Catch (number of fish)

	Alaska		Southeast		South Central	
	Targeted	Not Targeted	Targeted	Not Targeted	Targeted	Not Targeted
Percent of Vessel Trips						
Percent of Vessel trips that targeted species by area during trip	73%	27%	67.5%	32.5%	77%	23%
Number of Vessel Trips						
Number of vessel trips that targeted this species	68	25	27	13	41	12
Half Day Trip						
Average number of fish kept per person	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00
Average number of fish kept for entire vessel	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	0.00
Average number of fish released for entire vessel	9.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	9.00	0.33
Full Day Trip						
Average number of fish kept per person	1.59	0.11	1.54	0.04	1.61	0.16
Average number of fish kept for entire vessel	7.09	0.57	6.15	0.14	7.63	1.00
Average number of fish released for entire vessel	3.42	0.07	2.90	0.00	3.71	0.14
Multi-day Trip (per day)						
Average number of fish kept per person	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.04	0.10	0.06
Average number of fish kept for entire vessel	0.14	0.11	0.10	0.20	0.63	0.18
Average number of fish released for entire vessel	0.10	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.14	0.00

Table 18. King Salmon Catch (number of fish)

	Alaska		Southeast		South Central	
	Targeted	Not Targeted	Targeted	Not Targeted	Targeted	Not Targeted
Percent of Vessel Trips						
Percent of Vessel trips that targeted species by area during trip	17%	83%	40%	60%	0%	100%
Number of Vessel Trips						
Number of vessel trips that targeted this species	16	77	16	24	0	53
Half Day Trip						
Average number of fish kept per person	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00
Average number of fish kept for entire vessel	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00
Average number of fish released for entire vessel	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	1.50
Full Day Trip						
Average number of fish kept per person	0.81	0.00	0.81	0.02	0.00	0.04
Average number of fish kept for entire vessel	3.55	0.02	3.55	0.06	0.00	0.19
Average number of fish released for entire vessel	0.91	0.14	0.91	0.25	0.00	0.10
Multi-day Trip (per day)						
Average number of fish kept per person	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Average number of fish kept for entire vessel	0.06	0.01	0.06	0.03	0.00	0.00
Average number of fish released for entire vessel	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.00	0.00

Table 19. Silver Salmon Catch (number of fish)

	Alaska		Southeast		South Central	
	Targeted	Not Targeted	Targeted	Not Targeted	Targeted	Not Targeted
Percent of Vessel Trips						
Percent of Vessel trips that targeted species by area during trip	65%	35%	92.5%	7.5%	43%	57%
Number of Vessel Trips						
Number of vessel trips that targeted this species	60	33	37	3	23	30
Half Day Trip						
Average number of fish kept per person	2.97	0.00	2.06	0.00	4.00	0.00
Average number of fish kept for entire vessel	12.71	0.00	8.25	0.00	18.67	0.00
Average number of fish released for entire vessel	0.14	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
Full Day Trip						
Average number of fish kept per person	3.99	0.44	4.42	2.50	3.42	0.28
Average number of fish kept for entire vessel	17.59	2.13	17.32	12.50	18.07	1.39
Average number of fish released for entire vessel	1.79	0.00	2.60	0.00	0.93	0.00
Multi-day Trip (per day)						
Average number of fish kept per person	0.10	0.55	0.14	1.75	0.29	0.42
Average number of fish kept for entire vessel	0.37	1.65	0.58	7.00	1.01	0.83
Average number of fish released for entire vessel	0.10	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.46	0.00

Table 20. Pink Salmon Catch (number of fish)

	Alaska		Southeast		South Central	
	Targeted	Not Targeted	Targeted	Not Targeted	Targeted	Not Targeted
Percent of Vessel Trips						
Percent of Vessel trips that targeted species by area during trip	12%	88%	25%	75%	2%	98%
Number of Vessel Trips						
Number of vessel trips that targeted this species	11	82	10	30	1	52
Half Day Trip						
Average number of fish kept per person	3.22	0.15	3.22	0.43	0.00	0.05
Average number of fish kept for entire vessel	14.50	0.67	14.50	1.50	0.00	0.25
Average number of fish released for entire vessel	4.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Full Day Trip						
Average number of fish kept per person	1.19	0.18	1.41	0.56	0.00	0.02
Average number of fish kept for entire vessel	5.17	0.84	6.20	2.18	0.00	0.12
Average number of fish released for entire vessel	0.67	0.83	0.80	2.18	0.00	0.10
Multi-day Trip (per day)						
Average number of fish kept per person	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
Average number of fish kept for entire vessel	0.20	0.00	0.20	0.01	0.00	0.00
Average number of fish released for entire vessel	0.88	0.05	0.88	0.11	0.00	0.10

Table 21. Chum Salmon Catch (number of fish)

	Alaska		Southeast		South Central	
	Targeted	Not Targeted	Targeted	Not Targeted	Targeted	Not Targeted
Percent of Vessel Trips						
Percent of Vessel trips that targeted species by area during trip	6%	94%	15%	85%	0%	100%
Number of Vessel Trips						
Number of vessel trips that targeted this species	6	87	6	34	0	53
Half Day Trip						
Average number of fish kept per person	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Average number of fish kept for entire vessel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Average number of fish released for entire vessel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Full Day Trip						
Average number of fish kept per person	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Average number of fish kept for entire vessel	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00
Average number of fish released for entire vessel	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00
Multi-day Trip (per day)						
Average number of fish kept per person	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
Average number of fish kept for entire vessel	0.08	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
Average number of fish released for entire vessel	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00

III.B. Halibut Catch Information by Weight Class

More specific questions were asked about halibut catch. Table 22 shows the average catch by halibut weight class for total halibut caught, halibut kept and halibut released. Two trips in the South Central region and one trip in the Southeast region targeted halibut, but did not have any catch. Those trips are included in the Table 22. Tables 23-25 show the same information broken down by trip length. The multi-day charter data in Table 25 is per person per day or per vessel per day not per trip.

Table 22. Halibut Catch by Weight Class

	Alaska (N=93)			Southeast (N=40*)			South Central (N=53**)		
	<25 lbs	26-100 lbs	>100 lbs	<25 lbs	26-100 lbs	>100 lbs	<25 lbs	26-100 lbs	>100 lbs
Average per Person									
Average number of Halibut caught per person	0.88	0.77	0.07	0.77	0.71	0.05	0.95	0.81	0.08
Average number of Halibut kept per person	0.44	0.72	0.06	0.43	0.67	0.03	0.44	0.76	0.08
Average number of Halibut released per person	0.51	0.07	0.01	0.41	0.05	0.02	0.57	0.08	0.00
Average per Charter									
Average number of Halibut caught per vessel	3.95	3.43	0.30	3.10	2.85	0.20	4.58	3.87	0.38
Average number of Halibut kept per vessel	1.96	3.23	0.27	1.75	2.70	0.13	2.11	3.62	0.38
Average number of Halibut released per vessel	2.29	0.31	0.03	1.65	0.20	0.08	2.77	0.40	0.00

*2 trips that targeted Halibut in the SC did not catch them (but are included above)

**1 trip that targeted Halibut in the SE did not catch them (but are included above)

Table 23. Halibut Catch by Weight Class for Half-Day Charters

	Alaska (N=8)			Southeast (N=4)			South Central (N=4)		
	<25 lbs	26-100 lbs	>100 lbs	<25 lbs	26-100 lbs	>100 lbs	<25 lbs	26-100 lbs	>100 lbs
Average per Person									
Average number of Halibut caught per person	0.50	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.90	0.35	0.00
Average number of Halibut kept per person	0.22	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.20	0.00
Average number of Halibut released per person	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00
Average per Half-Day Charter									
Average number of Halibut caught per vessel	2.25	0.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.50	1.75	0.00
Average number of Halibut kept per vessel	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	0.00
Average number of Halibut released per vessel	1.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	2.50	0.00	0.00

Table 24. Halibut Catch by Weight Class for One-Day Charters

	Alaska (N=69)			Southeast (N=27)			South Central (N=42)		
	<25 lbs	26-100 lbs	>100 lbs	<25 lbs	26-100 lbs	>100 lbs	<25 lbs	26-100 lbs	>100 lbs
Average per Person									
Average number of Halibut caught per person	0.88	0.79	0.03	0.67	0.68	0.04	0.99	0.84	0.03
Average number of Halibut kept per person	0.46	0.76	0.03	0.44	0.68	0.04	0.47	0.80	0.03
Average number of Halibut released per person	0.50	0.07	0.00	0.31	0.02	0.00	0.59	0.09	0.00
Average per One-Day Charter									
Average number of Halibut caught per vessel	4.06	3.64	0.16	2.67	2.70	0.15	4.95	4.24	0.17
Average number of Halibut kept per vessel	2.12	3.49	0.16	1.74	2.70	0.15	2.36	4.00	0.17
Average number of Halibut released per vessel	2.29	0.30	0.00	1.22	0.07	0.00	2.98	0.45	0.00

Table 25. Halibut Catch by Weight Class for Multi-Day Charters

	Alaska (N=16)			Southeast (N=9)			South Central (N=7)		
	26-100			<25 lbs	26-100 lbs	>100 lbs	<25 lbs	26-100 lbs	>100 lbs
	<25 lbs	lbs	>100 lbs						
Average per Person									
Average number of Halibut caught per person	1.15	1.02	0.28	1.41	1.11	0.11	0.74	0.87	0.57
Average number of Halibut kept per person	0.47	0.92	0.23	0.62	0.95	0.03	0.22	0.87	0.43
Average number of Halibut released per person	0.75	0.13	0.05	0.89	0.16	0.08	0.52	0.09	0.00
Average per Multi-Day Charter									
Average number of Halibut caught per vessel	0.06	0.05	0.01	0.12	0.10	0.01	0.08	0.10	0.06
Average number of Halibut kept per vessel	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.05	0.08	0.00	0.02	0.10	0.06
Average number of Halibut released per vessel	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.00

III.C. Other Species Catch Information

Table 26 shows the catch of other fish species that were caught on fishing trips but not specifically targeted.

Table 26. Other Species Catch

	Number of trips	Percent of total trips
Rockfish		
Black Rockfish*	11	11.70%
Dusky Rockfish	2	2.13%
Misc. Rockfish	8	8.51%
Quillback Rockfish	2	2.13%
Yelloweye (red snapper)	10	10.64%
Yellowtail rockfish	1	1.06%
Sharks & skates		
Spiny Dogfish	4	4.26%
Salmon shark	2	2.13%
Misc. Skates	3	3.19%
Shark	2	2.13%
Misc. Fish		
Arrowtooth Flounder	2	2.13%
Pacific Cod	4	4.26%
Lingcod	19	20.21%
Sculpins	3	3.19%
Octopus	1	1.06%
Dolly Varden	2	2.13%

*Black Rockfish= Black Seabass

Table 27 listing the non-halibut and non-salmon species of fish that were specifically targeted on the trip.

Table 27. Other Species Specifically Targeted

Species	Number of Trips
Black Rockfish	1
Lingcod	1
Rockfish	1

Section IV. Distance and Length of Trips

This section describes the length of charter trips, how many miles the vessel traveled while fishing, and the number of hours actively engaged in fishing

Table 28 shows the number and percent for various trip lengths. Most of the trips were one-day trips. The longest trip was ten days.

Table 28. Number of Trips by Trip Length

Trip Length in Days	Number of trips with percents in brackets		
	Alaska (N=93)	Southeast (N=40)	South Central (N=53)
0.5	8	4 [4%]	4 [4%]
1	69	27 [29%]	42 [45%]
2	1	0 [0%]	1 [1%]
3	6	3 [3%]	3 [3%]
4	1	1 [1%]	0 [0%]
5	3	2 [2%]	0 [0%]
6	2	1 [1%]	1 [1%]
7	1	0 [0%]	1 [1%]
8	1	1 [1%]	0 [0%]
9	0	0 [0%]	0 [0%]
10	1	1 [1%]	0 [0%]
Average Trip Length			
Average trip length (days)	1.49	1.63	1.38

Table 29 shows the charter length in hours for half-day and one-day trips by region and species group.

Table 29. Hours Spent Fishing			
	Alaska	Southeast	South Central
All Species			
Half-Day Charter			
Count	8	4	4
Average	4:56	3:52	6:00
Minimum	3:30	3:30	4:30
Maximum	7:00	4:00	7:00
Median	4:15	4:00	6:15
One-Day Charter			
Count	69	27	42
Average	9:20	9:08	9:28
Minimum	5:00	7:00	5:00
Maximum	13:30	11:00	13:30
Median	9:00	9:00	9:15
Halibut			
Half-Day Charter			
Count	1	NA	1
Average	7:00	NA	7:00
Minimum	7:00	NA	7:00
Maximum	7:00	NA	7:00
Median	7:00	NA	7:00
One-Day Charter			
Count	55	20	35
Average	9:24	9:12	9:31
Minimum	5:00	7:00	5:00
Maximum	13:30	11:00	13:30
Median	9:00	9:00	9:00
Salmon			
Half-Day Charter			
Count	7	4	3
Average	4:38	3:52	5:40
Minimum	3:30	3:30	4:30
Maximum	6:30	4:00	6:30
Median	4:00	4:00	6:00
One-Day Charter			
Count	41	27	14
Average	9:12	9:08	9:19
Minimum	6:00	7:00	6:00
Maximum	11:00	11:00	11:00
Median	9:30	9:00	9:30

Table 30 shows the number of hours spent fishing with gear in the water by length of the charter. For the multi-day charters, hours spent fishing were divided by the number of days per trip.

Table 30. Hours Fishing by Length of Trip

Trip Length in Days	Alaska	Southeast	South Central
Half-Day			
Minimum	3.00	3.00	3.00
Maximum	5.00	4.00	5.00
Average	3.80	3.50	4.00
Median	4.00	3.50	4.00
One-Day			
Minimum	2.50	2.50	3.00
Maximum	9.00	9.00	9.00
Average	6.11	6.23	6.00
Median	6.25	6.50	6.00
Multi-Day (per day)			
Minimum	0.13	0.13	0.83
Maximum	8.00	7.00	8.00
Average	2.99	2.83	4.42
Median	2.08	2.00	4.42

The distance traveled by species targeted is listed in Table 31. If the charter targeted salmon and halibut the charter was included in each category. Salmon and Halibut charters are included in the All Species category. Multi day charters are for the whole trip, not distance traveled per day.

Table 31. Average Trip Distance in Miles by Species Targeted

Species	Alaska	Southeast	South Central
All Species			
Half-Day	15.4	13.0	17.8
One-Day	53.8	44.6	60.6
Multi-Day	130.3	151.0	102.7
Halibut			
Half-Day	22.0	NA	22.0
One-Day	57.3	48.1	62.4
Multi-Day	120.8	144.0	80.3
Salmon			
Half-Day	14.4	13.0	16.3
One-Day	46.0	43.1	51.3
Multi-Day	130.7	151.0	98.2

Chart 5 shows the number of charters by round trip distance from port. There were four charters that were not able to give a trip length. There are 89 charters that responded to this question.

Chart 5. Number of Trips by Round Trip Distance from Port

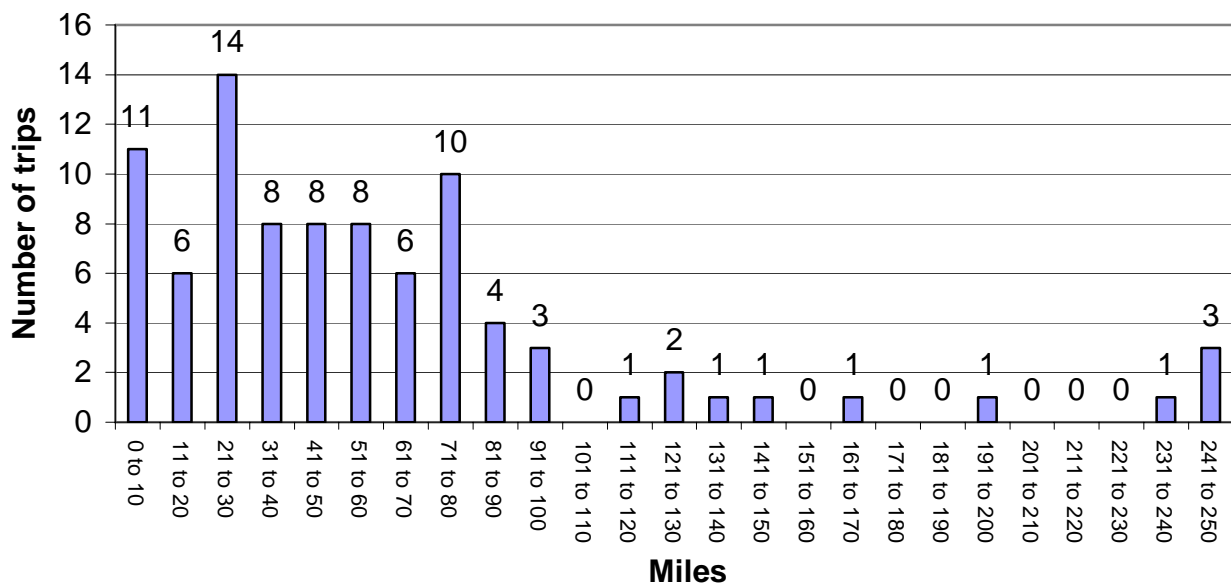
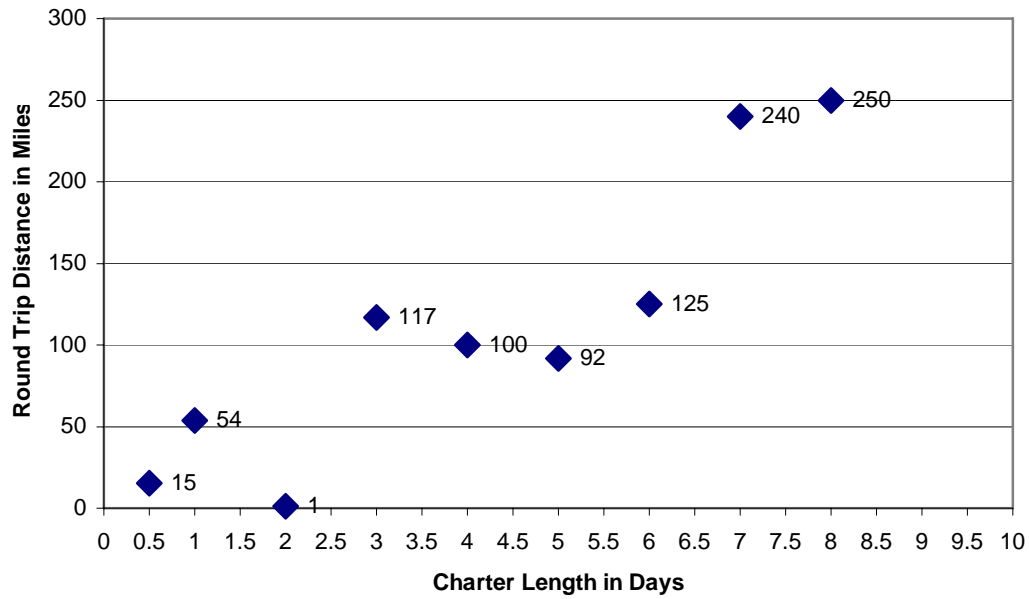
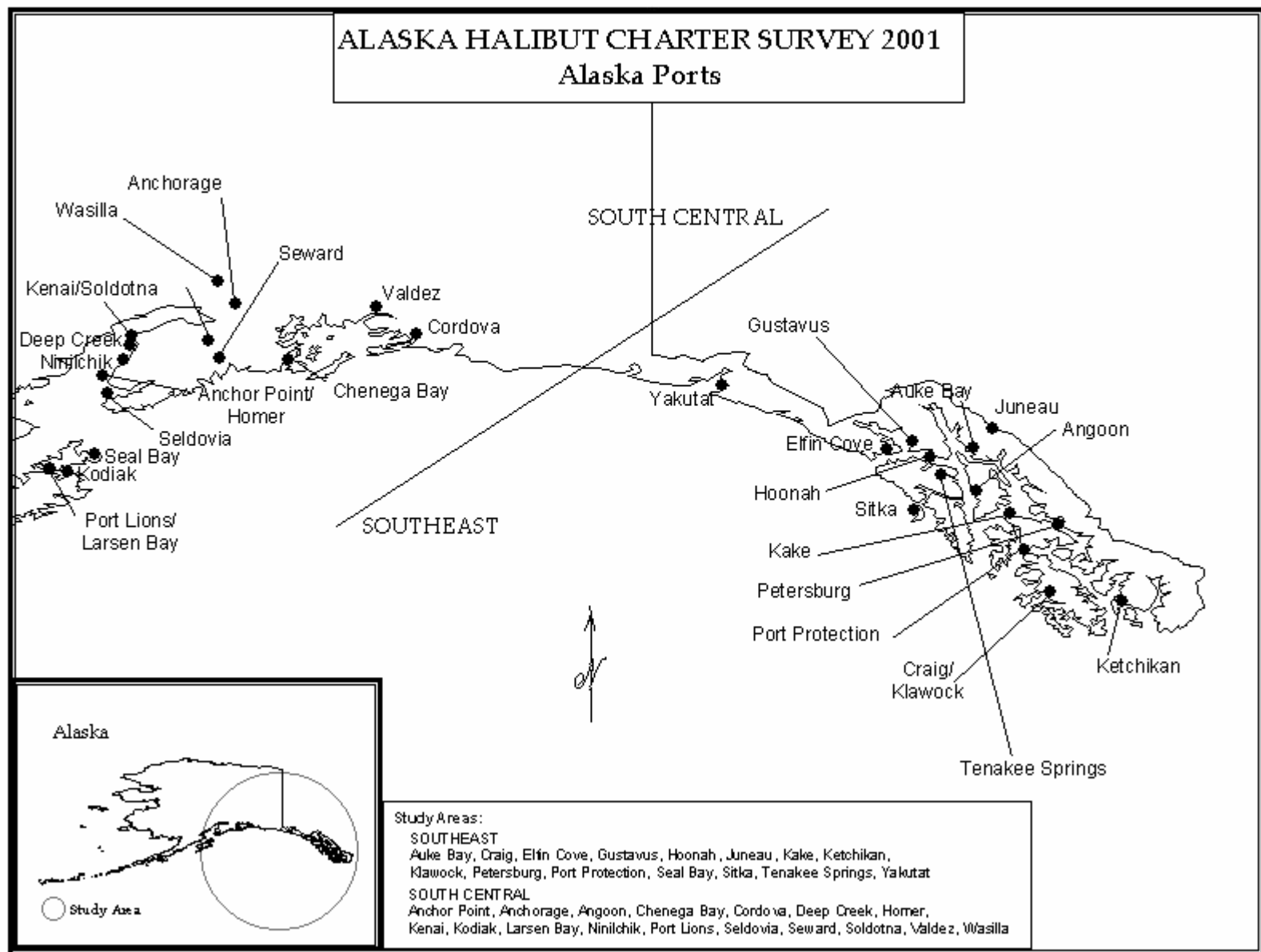


Chart 6 shows the Average Distance Traveled in miles by Length of Trip in days. The ten-day long charter did not give a distance traveled. The one two-day charter reported a distance traveled of only one mile.

Chart 6. Average Distance Traveled by Length of Charter



Appendix A. Map of Survey Area



Appendix B. Pre-Survey Letter

July 20, 2001

Mr or Mrs. Somebody
123 Somewhere
Anytown, ST 99999

Dear Boat Captain:

During the next few months we will be contacting captains in the Alaska halibut charter fleet by telephone to ask them a few questions. This is part of an important research project being conducted by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service. The purpose of the project is to provide information about the economic performance and significance of the halibut charter fleet in Alaska.

Your participation will enable us to provide an economic snapshot of the halibut charter fleet. This will provide important information to you and fishery managers. As you know, there is currently very little economic data available regarding halibut charter operations. This means that it is not possible to measure or predict the economic impact of regulations and policies. With a little bit of information from you, it will be possible to better describe and monitor economic impacts on the fleet. This project will be repeated every few years so that we can also measure trends.

Each week during the fishing season we are going to randomly select and contact a certain percentage of the fleet. If you are selected, we will notify you again in writing and then call you the following week to conduct the survey. We anticipate the questions should take about 10 minutes. There is a possibility that you will be contacted more than once during the season.

Enclosed is a sample copy of the questionnaire. It contains catch, effort, and economic questions with a single trip. Your individual responses will be kept confidential. At the end of the season a report will be made available that will contain only averages across the fleet. Your time and cooperation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me toll-free at 1-888-421-4251.

Sincerely,

Dave Colpo

Appendix C. Survey Notification Letter

June 5, 2001

Mr or Mrs. Somebody
123 Somewhere
Anytown, ST 99999

I am writing to ask your help in a study being conducted by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service. This study is part of an effort to learn more about the economics of the Alaska halibut charter fleet. Within the next week we will contact you by telephone to complete a 10-minute questionnaire. I am sending you a copy of the questionnaire in advance so you can look over the questions we will be asking.

Each week we randomly select 30 charter operators and ask them questions about their most recent trip. There is chance that you may be selected for more than one week this season.

Results from the study will be used to provide information about the economic performance and significance of the halibut charter fleet. Currently, there is very little information available. This means that it is not possible to conduct economic analyses or estimate the effect of changes in economic or regulatory conditions. This project is our attempt to rectify this situation. It is expected that the survey will be repeated every few years. With your help, this valuable economic data will be available when it is needed in the future. Your responses to this survey will provide baseline-data that can be used to evaluate some of the economic effects of management proposals, such as IFQ and GHL, if and when they take effect. In addition, with this information we will be better able to describe, monitor, and predict economic impacts on the fleet.

This is a voluntary survey and any information you provide as part of this survey will be treated as confidential. In an effort to protect your confidentiality we are assigning a unique random identifier to your vessel. Only Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission staff will have access to information linking this random number to your vessel. NMFS and Council staff will be provided with survey information identified only by the random number and will not have the information, such as your Coast Guard number or vessel name, necessary to link your survey to your vessel. At the end of the season a report will be made available that will contain only averages across the fleet.

If you have any questions or comments about this study, we would be happy to talk with you. Our toll-free number is 1-888-421-4251, or you can write to us at the Seattle address on the letterhead.

Thank you very much for helping with this important study.

Sincerely,

Dave Colpo

Appendix D. Survey Questionnaire

OMB Control # - Expires 04/30/2002

Telephone Survey Instrument for Alaska Halibut Charter Fishing Vessels
Effort and Economic Data Collection

VESSEL NAME AND NUMBER _____

VESSEL TYPE _____ VESSEL
BUROGH _____

CONTACT NAME _____ PHONE

INTERVIEWER NAME AND
NUMBER _____

Hello, this is (interviewer name) with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service. May I please speak with (name of operator)?

This phone call is a follow-up to a letter we sent you last week about our effort to collect some economic data on Alaska halibut charter operations. We have a few questions we'd like to ask you, okay?

SCREENING QUESTIONS

a) Are you still the operator of the name of vessel?

YES NO

if yes, continue

if no, **is the name of vessel currently being operated by someone else?**

YES NO _____ VESSEL INACTIVE

if **NO**, note that the vessel is inactive, thank respondent, and terminate interview.

if yes, **do you know the name and telephone number of the operator of the name of vessel during the last week?**

YES NO

NAME AND PHONE _____

if **YES**, take name and number, thank respondent, and terminate interview.

if **NO**, thank respondent and terminate interview.

c) When was the last trip with paying passengers that this vessel took? If within the season, continue. If not within the season, note that the vessel is inactive, thank respondent, and terminate interview.

DATE OF LAST TRIP _____

SEASON (DATE- DATE)

SURVEY QUESTIONS

I would like to ask you some questions about the trip on selected date. Some of information I will be asking for may be included in the vessel's Saltwater Charter Vessel Logbook. It may be helpful to refer to selected date's page in the logbook in order to answer these questions.

1) Was this trip scheduled as a

½ day trip?	¾ day trip?	one day trip?	multi-day trip? If so how many days?
1a) YES NO	1b) YES NO	1c) YES NO	1d)

2) When did the vessel depart for this trip, to the nearest half-hour?

RECORD AS MILITARY

TIME _____

3) When did the vessel return from this trip, to the nearest half-hour?

RECORD AS MILITARY

TIME _____

4) From what port did the trip originate?

RECORD BUREAU AND NAME OF

PORT _____

5) What was the total distance the vessel traveled during this trip?

RECORD IN NAUTICAL MILES OR OTHERWISE SPECIFY THE DISTANCE UNITS

Now I'd like to ask you about the catch on this trip. Please DO NOT include harvest from crew.

Species	Species Caught?	How many were kept: NUMBER	How many were released: NUMBER
Were any King Salmon caught?	6a) YES NO	6a1)	6a2)
Silver Salmon caught?	6b) YES NO	6b1)	6b2)
Pink Salmon caught?	6c) YES NO	6c1)	6c2)
Chum Salmon caught?	6d) YES NO	6d1)	6d2)
Were any Halibut caught?	6e) YES NO	6e1)	6e2)

How many Halibut were caught that weighed :	Number caught NUMBER	How many of those were kept? NUMBER	So, _____ (NUMBER) were released?
less than 25 pounds?	6e3)	6e4)	6e5)
26-100 lbs	6e6)	6e7)	6e9)
>100 lbs	6e10)	6e11	6e12

Were any other Species caught? list species names	How many were kept: NUMBER	How many were released: NUMBER
6f)	6f1)	6f2)
6g)	6g1)	6g2)
6h)	6h1)	6h2)

6I) What species did you actually target during the trip?	YES (CHECK BOX)	NO (CHECK BOX)
King Salmon	6I1)	6I2)
Silver Salmon	6I3)	6I4)
Pink Salmon	6I5)	6I6)
Chum Salmon	6I7)	6I8)
Halibut	6I9)	6I10)
6i11) Other _____	6i12)	6i13)
6i14) Other _____	6i15)	6i16)

7) What were the number of boat hours fished? That is hours spent with gear in the water.

HOURS SPENT WITH GEAR IN THE WATER _____

8) How many clients were on the trip?

NUMBER _____

9) How many clients fished?

NUMBER _____

10) Did passengers pay as:	CHECK MODE THAT APPLIES	
A GROUP CHARTER BOAT MODE Passengers chartered boat as a group	YES	11) what was the total cost of the charter?
INDIVIDUALLY PARTY BOAT MODE Passengers paid on per-head basis	YES	12) what was the average fare per passenger?

13) I am going to read you a list of items or services that you may have provided to clients during this trip. Please tell me which of these items or services were provided, whether it was included in the cost of the trip or if an additional fee was charged. (check all that apply if there was an additional price associated with the item/service, what was the charge for the item or service). Check to make sure the money went to charter business.

Was _____ provided?		Was there an extra fee associated with this item?	What was the fee? Total receipts in DOLLARS
13a) Food/Drinks?	13a1) YES NO	13a2) YES NO	13a3)
13b) Lodging?	13b1) YES NO	13b2) YES NO	13b3)
13c) Bait/Tackle/Gear?	13c1) YES NO	13c2) YES NO	13c3)
13d) Fish cleaning or Filletting?	13d1) YES NO	13d2) YES NO	13d3)
13e) Fish packing?	13e1) YES NO	13e2) YES NO	13e3)
13f) Other? (please list)	13f1) YES NO	13f2) YES NO	13f3)