



## **AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT, MAY 5 and 6 Overview of ADF&G skate fishery management and data collection, 2003**

### *Skate fisheries in state waters:*

- ◆ Alaska Board of Fisheries requires a Commissioner's permit for vessels targeting skates in state waters (adopted 1998). Permit stipulations can:
  - ◆ Restrict depth of fishing operations
  - ◆ Specify season dates
  - ◆ Specify areas of fishing to district, subdistrict, or other portions of a management area
  - ◆ Establish minimum size limits
  - ◆ Specify legal gear types and configuration
  - ◆ Require completion of logbooks
  - ◆ Require other conditions determined to be necessary for conservation and management purposes. On our permits these include:
    - ◆ Vessels required to notify ADF&G of deliveries (to ensure dockside sampling can occur) when skates landed in state waters total more than 20% of the total skate poundage
    - ◆ ADF&G reserves the right to deploy staff as onboard observers
    - ◆ Bycatch limits mirror those in place for adjacent federal fisheries
    - ◆ Permits are valid for 90 days at a time
  
- ◆ To date, ADF&G has only issued skate permits for state waters when the 'other species' assemblage is open in adjacent federal waters and the gear type to be used is open. It is not ADF&G's intention to develop a state water fishery that operates independently of the federal TAC.

### *Shark Fisheries in state waters:*

- ◆ There is no open season for sharks, except sharks may be retained as bycatch in state waters (adopted 1998).
  - ◆ Any person that retains any shark species must sell or utilize the shark and the fins, head, and tail must be attached at the time of sale.
  
- ◆ ADF&G Sport fishing restrictions limit harvesters to two sharks per year.



**NOT VALID FOR REGISTRATION**

Commissioner’s Permit Requirements for Directed Skate Harvest

1. Valid CFEC interim-use permit card for miscellaneous finfish required.
2. This permit is valid for 90 days from issuance only if adjacent federal waters are open for the “other species” category and gear type operated. Bycatch allowances will mirror those in place for the federal fishery.
3. Fishing may only occur in the \_\_\_\_\_groundfish registration area as specified in 5AAC 28.\_\_\_\_\_.
4. A fishing logbook is required and must be submitted with the fish ticket at the time of landing directed fishing amounts of skates.  
Logbook must contain the following information:
  - Date fished
  - Each set location by latitude and longitude of beginning and ending location
  - Average depth of each set
  - Average soak time for each set
  - Number of skates per set
  - Number of hooks per skate
  - Number of skates, Pacific cod, pollock, halibut, dogfish, Pacific sleeper sharks, salmon sharks, other flat fish, sculpins, crabs and other fishes caught per set
5. Only longline, mechanical jig or hand line gear may be used.
6. ADF&G must be notified about all deliveries (including advance notice for evenings and weekends as needed, 486-1840 message phone) when skate poundage exceeds 20% of the delivery.
7. The department reserves the right to deploy ADF&G personnel as an onboard observer with cost borne by the department.
8. Failure to complete all fields requested in the fishing logbook, notify ADF&G of deliveries, or comply with the other stipulations specified above will result in revocation of this Commissioner’s permit.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Representative      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Operator      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vessel Name      ADF&G #

\_\_\_\_\_  
CFEC Permit Number

Table 1. Kodiak vicinity of the CGOA skate harvest from state and federal waters through April 21, 2003

Gear	State waters			Federal waters			Total		
	Pounds	Metric Tons	Vessels	Pounds	Metric Tons	Vessels	Pounds	Metric Tons	Vessels
Trawl	6,972	3	3	315,641	143	29	322,613	146	34
Longline	332,192	151	34	1,231,312	559	39	1,563,504	709	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>339,164</b>	<b>154</b>		<b>1,546,953</b>	<b>702</b>		<b>1,886,117</b>	<b>856</b>	

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game fish ticket database, 4/21/03

Table 2. Kodiak vicinity of the CGOA skate harvest from state and federal waters, 2002.

Gear	State waters			Federal waters			Total		
	Pounds	Metric Tons	Vessels	Pounds	Metric Tons	Vessels	Pounds	Metric Tons	Vessels
Trawl	19,500	9	13	1,333,019	605	29	1,352,519	614	30
Longline	29,577	13	17	120,599	55	37	150,176	68	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,077</b>	<b>22</b>		<b>1,453,618</b>	<b>659</b>		<b>1,502,695</b>	<b>682</b>	

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game fish ticket database, 4/29/03

- This includes all skate information sampled before May 1, 2003

**Skate deliveries sampled**

State-waters only:	3
Federal waters only:	16
Mixed state and federal waters:	1
Total skate samples:	20

**Species and sex composition of samples**

Total skates: 962

♦ Big skates 79%  
 Females: 529 78%  
 Males: 148 22%  
 Total big skates: 677

♦ Longnose skates 21%  
 Females: 97 52%  
 Males: 88 48%  
 Total longnose skates: 185

♦ Bathyraja spp. skates  
 Females: 77  
 Male: 23  
 Total *Bathyraja* spp. skates: 100

} *These are sampled opportunistically, so the proportion sampled is not the same as the proportion in the catch and is not included in the overall percentages of big and longnose skates*

*Bathyraja* spp. breakdown

*Bathyraja aleutica*  
 Females: 63 79%  
 Males: 17 21%  
 Total *Bathyraja aleutica*: 80

*Bathyraja parmifera*

Females: 1

*Bathyraja* spp. (unidentified)

Females: 13 68%

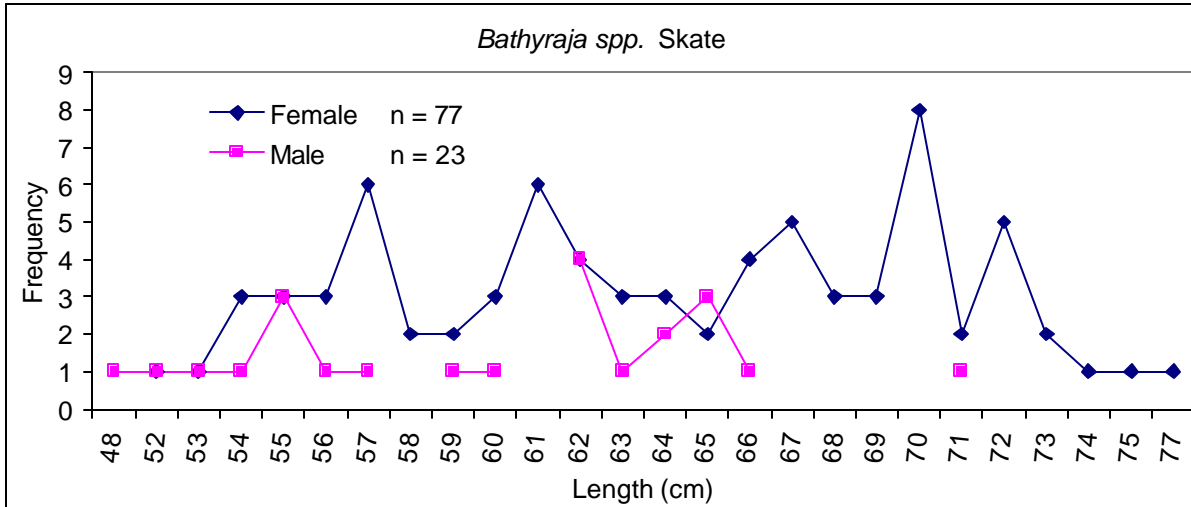
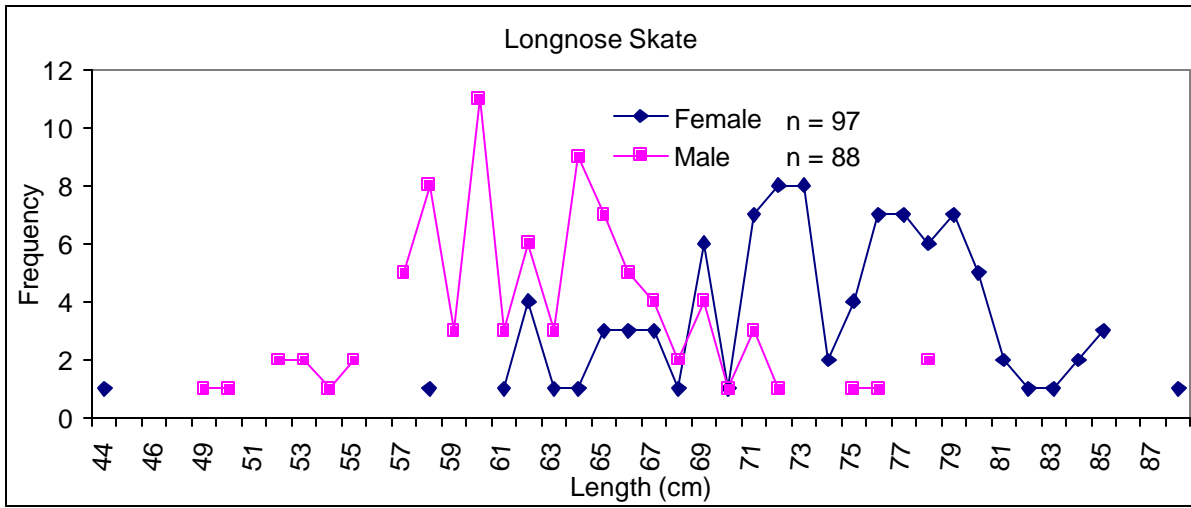
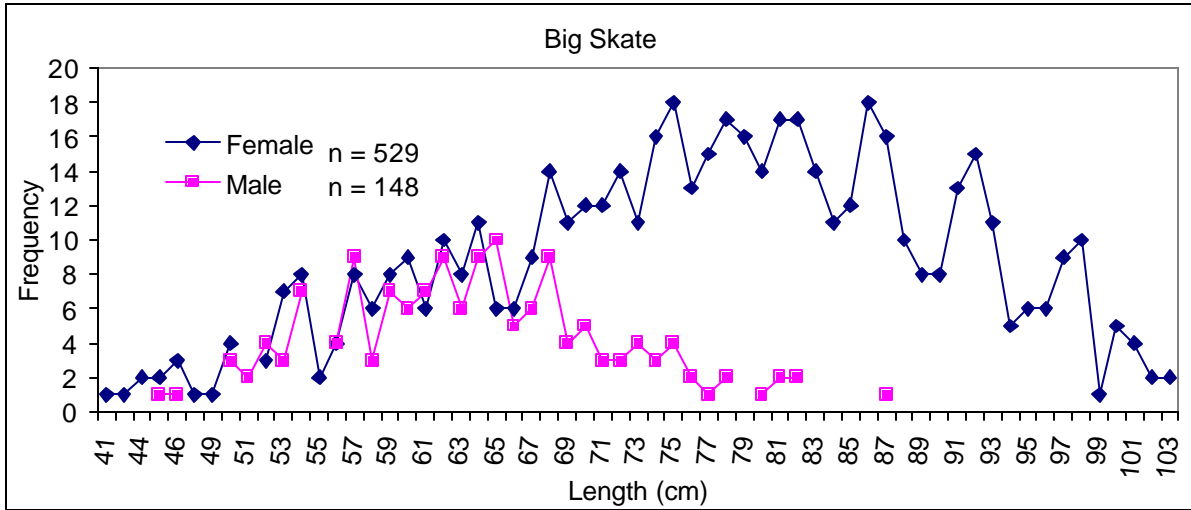
Males: 6 32%

Total *Bathyraja* spp.: 19

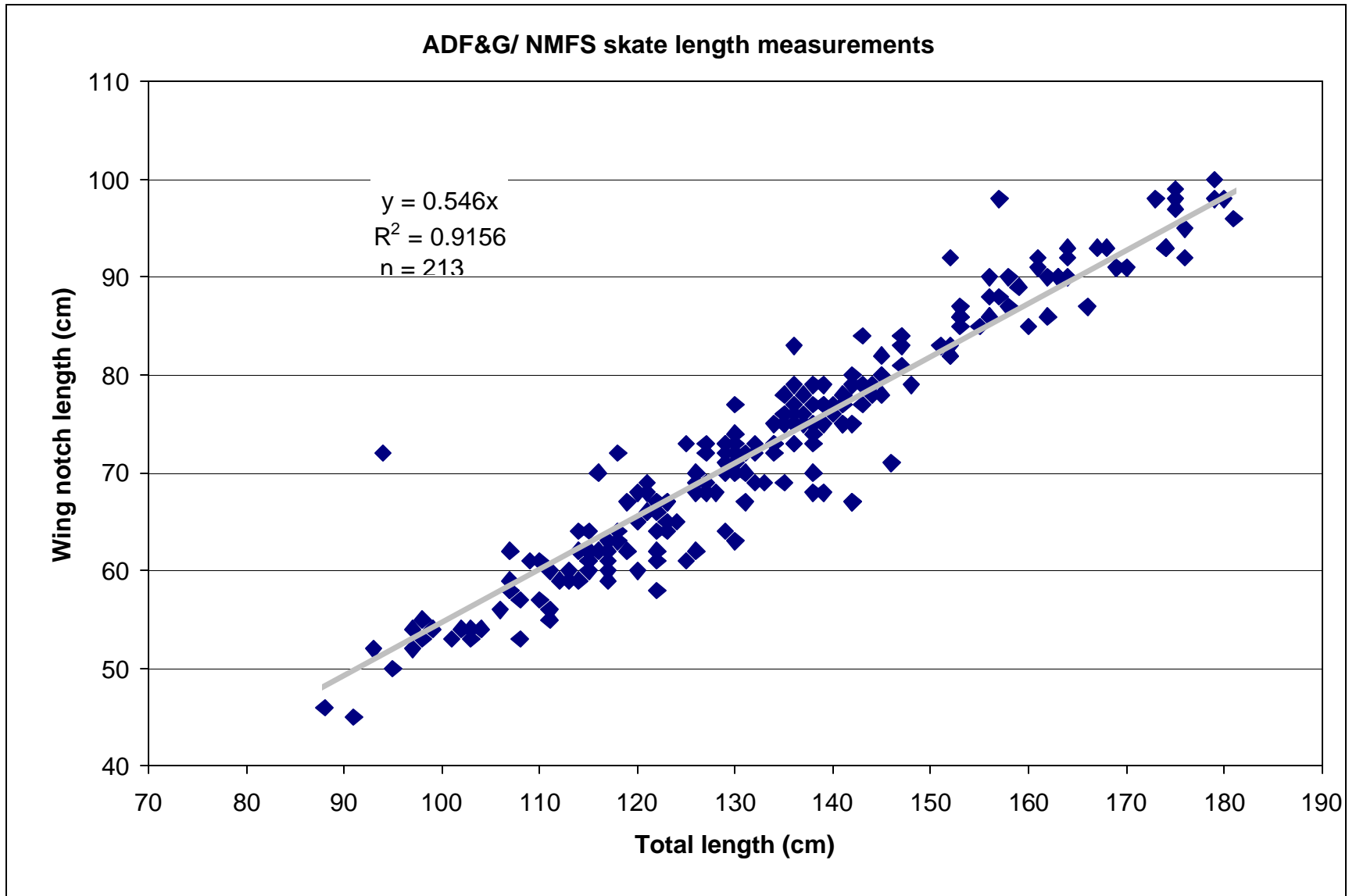
**Number of vertebrae collected**

Big skate:	29
Longnose skate:	16
<i>Bathyraja aleutica</i> :	15

**Deliveries with both F&G (wing notch) measurements and NMFS (total length) measurements taken: 5**



ADF&G collected skate length frequency samples, 2003.  
(Tip of snout to wing notch measurement)



Note- for all species of skates, includes five skates with damaged but not missing tails