Essential Fish Habitat project status report

Reporting date: 9/6/07

Project number: 18

Title: Food habits and small scale habitat utilization of Atka mackerel in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska

PIs: Sandra Lowe

Funding year: FY 2006

Funding amount: $13,761

Status: ☒ Complete ☐ Incomplete, on schedule ☐ Incomplete, behind schedule

Planned completion date if incomplete:

Reporting: Have the project results been reported? If yes, where were the results reported? Yes. An initial report is completed and we are revising this report for submission to the Alaska Fishery Research Bulletin.

Results: What is the most important result of the study? Atka mackerel feeding habits including diet composition and feeding intensity varied both spatially and temporally. Water column mixing and stratification seemed to play a significant role in feeding intensity at Seguam Pass and marginally near Amchitka Island. Trawl exclusion zone boundaries (disturbed and undisturbed habitat) appear to be significant in determining feeding intensity near Amchitka Island, as average stomach fullness was greater inside the trawl exclusion zones.