



Advisory Announcement

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CONTACT: Colton Lipka, Area Management Biologist
Lucas Stumpf, Assistant Area Management Biologist
(907) 262-9368

2023 Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Salmon Fishery Season Summary

The following is an overview of the 2023 Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) commercial salmon season. All data are preliminary. The 2023 Upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon total run of 6.5 million fish was 27% greater than the preseason forecast of 5.1 million fish (Table 1). The commercial salmon fishery harvest of 1.9 million salmon was 41% less than the recent 20-year average annual harvest of 3.1 million fish (Table 2). This is likely influenced by the closure of the East Side Set Net (ESSN) fishery for the entire season. The 2023 exvessel value of all salmon species was \$14.4 million and was 38% less than the previous 20-year average annual exvessel value of \$23.2 million (Table 3). Of the five species of Pacific salmon harvested in UCI, sockeye salmon accounted for 92% of the total exvessel value over the past 20 years (Table 3). The 2023 king salmon harvest of 732 fish and the coho salmon harvest of 83,912 fish are the lowest on record for each species respectively. Overall participation in UCI was less than in previous years with 488 permits making deliveries, which is 47% less than the 20-year average of 916 permits.

Escapement goals were met or exceeded in the five UCI sockeye salmon escapements monitored by the department in 2023. Fish Creek was within the sustainable escapement goal (SEG). Two systems exceeded their respective escapement goals: Larson Lake and Kasilof River. The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon exceeded the inriver goal. The Packers Creek (Kalgin Island) escapement estimate is not available at the time of this publication. The Judd Lake weir was not operated in 2023 due to staffing issues and the Chelatna Lake weir has not been operated since 2020 due to loss of funding.

In 2023, neither the Kenai River early-run nor the late-run large king salmon optimal escapement goals (OEG) were achieved. Of the three southern Kenai Peninsula king salmon systems, the SEG was not achieved at two systems (Anchor River and Ninilchik River wild run), and the Deep Creek king salmon run was not assessed due to lack of funding. In the Northern Cook Inlet region, the Little Susitna River king salmon SEG was not achieved, and the Deshka River king salmon biological escapement goal (BEG) was not achieved. The SEG on the Chuitna River in the West Cook Inlet area was not achieved. King salmon escapements for the Susitna River Drainage are currently undergoing post-season analysis but preliminary results from aerial surveys indicate low abundance of king salmon.

In 2023, UCI coho salmon weir counts on the Deshka and Little Susitna Rivers were considered incomplete due to flooding; however, it is likely the SEG's for these systems were not achieved. The SEGs for Jim and Fish creeks were achieved. The chum salmon SEG for Clear Creek in Chinitna Bay was achieved.

SOCKEYE SALMON

2023 Run and Fishery Summary

The 2023 UCI preseason total run forecast of 5.1 million sockeye salmon, comprised a harvest estimate (sport, personal use, and commercial) of 3.1 million fish. (Table 1). The 2023 preliminary total run estimate, which includes estimates of harvest as well as escapement, of 6.5 million sockeye salmon was 1.4 million fish or 27% above the preseason forecast (Table 1). The total run of sockeye salmon to the Kenai River was greater than forecasted by 1.0 million fish and the Kasilof River exceeded the forecast by 267,000 fish. The total run of sockeye salmon to Fish Creek was 6,000 fish less than forecasted. The Susitna River sockeye salmon total run estimate was 47,000 less fish than forecasted (Table 1). For all other systems combined (minor systems) total run was 153,000 fish greater than forecasted (Table 1).

The final passage estimated at the river mile 19 sonar of 2,343,976 sockeye salmon exceeded the Kenai River sockeye salmon middle tier inriver goal range (1,100,000–1,400,000 fish) (Table 4). The peak day of sockeye salmon passage in the Kenai River occurred on July 26 with an estimate of 195,029 fish. During the previous 20 years, the average date when 50% of the sonar passage occurred in the Kenai River was July 27. In 2023, the midpoint of total sockeye passage occurred on July 29, which is two days later than the previous 20-year average (2003–2022). Approximately 45% of the sockeye salmon run passed the sonar site during the month of August, which is above the recent 20-year average (2003–2022) of 41% of the run passing the sonar site in August.

The Kasilof River sockeye salmon sonar count of 933,145 fish exceeded the Kasilof River BEG of 140,000–320,000 fish and the OEG of 140,000–370,000 fish. The passage midpoint for Kasilof River sockeye salmon occurred on July 22, which was five days later than the 20-year average (2003–2022) midpoint of July 17. Peak daily Kasilof River sockeye salmon passage of 59,742 fish occurred on July 16.

The 2023 total UCI commercial harvest of 1.6 million sockeye salmon was 40% below the 2003–2022 average annual harvest of 2.6 million fish. Prices varied during the season but, based on an estimated average price of \$1.57 per pound, the total exvessel value for sockeye salmon harvested was \$13.7 million, or 95% of the total 2023 exvessel value of all salmon in UCI (Table 3).

East Side Set Net Fishery

The ESSN fishery did not open for the 2023 season due to a poor forecast of Kenai River late-run large king salmon, the department issued emergency order (EO) No. 2-KS-1-11-23 closing the king salmon sport fishery in the Kenai River beginning July 1, 2023. Consistent with paired restrictions of the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* (KRLKSMP; 5 AAC 21.359), EO 2S-01-23 was issued for the ESSN fishery on March 9, which closed the ESSN fishery prior to the start of the season and remained closed through the end of the season on August 15. The closure includes the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections of the Upper Subdistrict along with the Kasilof Special Harvest Area (Figure 1 and 2).

There was no commercial salmon harvest in the ESSN commercial fishery as it was closed for the 2023 season due to low abundance of Kenai River king salmon and provisions in the KRLKSMP.

Drift Gillnet Fishery

The drift gillnet fishery management fell into the provisions of the middle run size tier for sockeye salmon (2.3–4.6 million fish) but unlike the ESSN fishery, this fishery was not significantly impacted by the KRLKSMP. The drift gillnet fishery opened on June 19 for the 2023 season. The fishery was open districtwide except Chinitna Bay for regulatory Monday and Thursday fishing periods from the beginning of the season through July 8. Additional fishing opportunities were provided in the Kasilof Section (Figure 3) on June 24, June 26, and June 28. Additional fishing opportunities were provided district wide except Chinitna Bay on July 1, July 5, and July 8.

From July 10 through July 15, both regular fishing periods were open to Drift Gillnet Area 1 and the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof (Ex. Ken/Kas) sections (Figures 3 and 4). Additional fishing time was opened on July 12 in the Expanded Kasilof Section.

From July 16 through July 31, fishing during the first regular period of each week was limited to Drift Gillnet Area 1 and the Ex. Ken/Kas sections. The second regular period of each week was restricted to the Ex. Ken/Kas, and the Anchor Point sections. Additional fishing periods were allowed in the Ex. Ken/Kas sections and the Anchor Point Section on July 18, July 19, July 29, and July 30.

Monday and Thursday regulatory periods between August 1 and August 15 included Area 1, the Ex. Ken/Kas sections, and the Anchor Point Section. Additional fishing periods were allowed in the Ex. Ken/Kas sections and the Anchor Point Section on August 1 and August 2. On August 11, the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict was opened for drift gillnet fishing on Tuesdays and Fridays.

From August 15 through the remainder of the season, all drift gillnet commercial fisheries in UCI followed the regulatory periods of Monday and Thursday in Areas 3 and 4 only (Figure 5) along with openings in Chinitna Bay Subdistrict (Figure 1). All UCI commercial drift gillnet fisheries were closed by EO on September 14 for the 2023 season.

From June 19 through August 14, the drift gillnet fleet fished a total of 29 days as follows: 3 days in the Expanded Kasilof Section only, 8 days in the Ex. Ken/Kas and Anchor Point sections only, 9 days in Drift Gillnet Area 1 with some or all the expanded sections, and 9 days district wide. Beginning August 15, all Monday/Thursday regulatory drift gillnet fishing periods were restricted to Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4. The total UCI drift gillnet harvest of 1,366,534 sockeye salmon was below the 20-year average harvest of 1,420,938 fish. In 2023, 356 drift gillnet permits made deliveries for a season average harvest of approximately 3,839 sockeye salmon per permit. Participation was below the 20-year average of 432 drift gillnet permits (Table 5 and 6).

Western and Chinitna Bay Subdistricts Fisheries

The Western Subdistrict (Figure 1) set gillnet fishery opened for regulatory fishing periods on Monday, June 19. This fishery primarily harvests sockeye salmon returning to the Crescent River. When Crescent River sockeye salmon run indexes warrant additional harvest, an EO would be issued for an extra day in that portion of the Western Subdistrict south of the latitude of Redoubt Point. In 2023, catch per unit effort in the Western Subdistrict warranted additional hours to regular periods from July 15 through August 10. The Chinitna Bay subdistrict harvest is confidential due to the number of participants and processors. Approximately 47,402 sockeye salmon were harvested by set gillnetters in the Western and Chinitna Bay subdistricts. This was 14% above the average annual harvest of 41,661 fish during the most recent 20 years. Participation was near the 20-year average with 20 set gillnet permits making deliveries (Table 5 and 6).

Kustatan Subdistrict Fishery

The Kustatan Subdistrict includes those waters from the Drift River oil terminal to the Northern District boundary near the West Foreland (Figure 1). A portion of the Kustatan Subdistrict was open from June 2–23, allowing harvest for the Big River sockeye salmon fishery, which is an early season fishery limited to one net per permit holder and open 3 days per week. By regulation, the remaining Kustatan Subdistrict opened June 26. Approximately 23,037 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Kustatan Subdistrict in 2023, of which 4,973 sockeye salmon were harvested during the Big River fishery from June 1 through June 24. The 2023 sockeye salmon harvest for the Kustatan Subdistrict was substantially above the recent 20-year average harvest of 4,086 fish. Participation was near the 20-year average with 13 set gillnet permits making deliveries (Table 5 and 6).

Kalgin Island Subdistrict Fishery

The Kalgin Island Subdistrict (Figure 1) opened for regulatory Monday and Thursday fishing periods beginning June 26, 2023, except for the west side of Kalgin Island which was open for commercial fishing on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from June 2 through June 23 as part of the Big River sockeye salmon fishery. In 2023, 77,872 sockeye salmon were harvested from the Kalgin Island Subdistrict, with 18,107 of those fish taken during the Big River sockeye salmon fishery. The 2023 Kalgin Island subdistrict harvest is substantially above the recent 20-year average harvest 54,141 fish. Participation was near the 20-year average with 25 set gillnet permits making deliveries (Table 5 and 6).

Review of the Packers Creek video weir data is ongoing at the time of this publication. It is highly likely the SEG (15,000 – 30,000). was achieved or exceeded based on video recordings reviewed so far.

Northern District Fishery

The Northern District opened for sockeye salmon on June 26, immediately after the directed king salmon fishery, and closed on September 14. Commercial fishing periods were reduced from 12 hours to 8 hours on June 26 and July 3. From July 6 through July 17, commercial periods were open under the regulatory 7:00 am to 7:00 pm on Monday and Thursday periods. From July 20 through August 3, net restrictions were implemented during regulatory periods. In response to weak coho salmon abundance indicators, commercial periods were reduced to 8-hours on August 10 and August 14 in the General Subdistrict of the Northern District. Subsequent commercial periods were closed by emergency order until the UCI fishing season closed on September 14. In 2023, a total of 61,911 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Northern District. This harvest was 52% above the recent 20-year average harvest of 40,767 sockeye salmon. Participation was near the 20-year average with 74 set gillnet permits making deliveries (Table 5 and 6).

COHO SALMON

2023 Run and Fishery Summary

The 2023, the commercial harvest estimate of 83,912 coho salmon in UCI was 53% below the recent 20-year average of 178,919 fish (Table 2). The 2023 drift gillnet harvest of 49,801 coho salmon was 52% below the recent 20-year average of 102,703 fish (Table 5). The Northern District

set gillnet fishery harvested 23,525 coho salmon, which was 38% below the recent 20-year average of 37,924 fish.

Based on an average price per pound of \$0.58, the estimated exvessel value of the 2023 commercial coho salmon fishery was \$253,751 or 2% of the total exvessel value of all species in Upper Cook Inlet (Table 3). This was 66% below the recent 20-year average exvessel value of \$739,677 for coho salmon in UCI.

In UCI, there are four coho salmon systems with escapement goals. Fish Creek, the Little Susitna, and Deshka Rivers have weirs, while McRoberts Creek was assessed with foot surveys.

The Little Susitna weir was inundated by flood waters near the end of the coho season. Projected escapement was well below the SEG range when the weir was removed prior to a large rain event on August 26. Even though the season count towards escapement is incomplete, the SEG of 9,200–17,700 likely would not have been achieved. The weir count of 3,726 fish is considered an incomplete and minimum count.

Due to flood waters, the Deshka weir was removed on August 30. Through August 25, 1,817 coho salmon were counted which is considered an incomplete and minimum count. Projections of escapement through August 25 indicated the SEG of 10,200–24,100 fish would not have been achieved.

The weir at Fish Creek was removed on September 13. The coho salmon SEG of 1,200–4,400 fish was achieved with a final escapement count of 1,534 fish. The SEG for Jim Creek of 250–700 coho salmon is assessed post season by a foot survey of McRoberts Creek, a small spawning tributary within the Jim Creek system. The survey counted 378 coho salmon which achieved the SEG.

KING SALMON

2023 Run and Fishery Summary

The 2023 UCI commercial king salmon harvest of 732 fish was 93% below the recent 20-year average of 10,443 fish (Table 2). In UCI, there are two commercial fisheries where most king salmon are harvested. These include the set gillnet fisheries in the Northern District, and the ESSN fishery of the Central District. The king salmon harvests of the Northern District were managed under the *Northern District King Salmon Management Plan* (NDKSMP; 5 AAC 21.366), and king salmon harvest of the ESSN fishery was guided by the KRLKSMP. King salmon runs were expected to be below average across Southcentral Alaska for the 2023 season. As predicted, the 2023 king salmon runs across UCI were below average, leading to both preseason and inseason conservation-based management actions and closures in multiple river systems. Using the average price of \$3.87 per pound for king salmon, the estimated exvessel value of the 2023 harvest was \$40,434, or >1% of the total exvessel value of all salmon in UCI (Table 3).

In the Central District of UCI there are four monitored king salmon systems with escapement goals. The Kenai River is monitored with sonar, the Anchor River is monitored with a combination of sonar and weirs, and the Ninilchik River and Crooked Creek are monitored with weirs.

The total Kenai River large late-run king salmon passage through August 27, 2023, at the river mile 14 sonar was 13,922 large king salmon. ADF&G applies harvest and catch-and-release mortality estimates and spawning downstream of the sonar estimates to generate a preliminary spawning escapement estimate of 14,502 large fish. The midpoint of the run occurred on July 28

which is one day later than the mean historical midpoint. The OEG of 15,000 – 30,000 large fish was not achieved and the SEG of 13,500 – 27,000 large fish was achieved in 2023. The SEG has been achieved in four of the last seven years. The lower bound of the OEG has not been achieved since establishment in 2020.

The SEG (700–1,400) for wild run king salmon in Crooked Creek was not achieved in 2023 with a final weir count of 500 fish.

Of the three southern Kenai Peninsula king salmon systems, the SEG was not achieved at two systems and not assessed in the third. The Anchor River preliminary escapement estimate was 2,338 fish (SEG 3,800–7,600) and Ninilchik River wild run count was 330 fish (SEG 750–1,300). The Deep Creek king salmon run was not assessed due to lack of funding.

The Northern District of UCI there are two systems with escapement goals monitored for king salmon inseason using weirs and multiple streams from the westside of Cook Inlet and the Susitna River Drainage are evaluated by aerial surveys.

The final escapement estimate of king salmon in the Deshka River was 3,741 fish, which did not achieve the BEG of 9,000–18,000 fish. The Little Susitna River king salmon SEG of 2,100–4,300 was not achieved in 2023 with the final weir count of 796 king salmon. Aerial goals of the various other Susitna drainage king salmon systems pending analysis to determine whether goals have been achieved.

Northern District King Salmon Fishery

Northern District king salmon are primarily harvested during the directed fishery in late May and June. The 2023 preseason run forecast for Deshka River king salmon of 7,243 fish, suggested harvest must be limited to achieve the BEG. The department issued preseason restrictions that closed Units 1–6, excluding the Yentna River drainage, to king salmon sport fishing. Due to the low forecasted abundance of king salmon and closure of the Deshka River king salmon sport fishery, the commercial fishery was closed, per provisions in the NDKSMP. The commercial fishery remained closed through the end of the directed king salmon fishing season on June 24. King salmon conservation measures were further implemented through July 3 by reducing commercial fishing time and closure of periods in the general commercial salmon season.

The 2023 total commercial king salmon harvest was 263 fish and 87% below the previous 20-year average harvest of 2,007 fish.

ESSN King Salmon Fishery

The 2023 preseason forecast was for a total run of 13,630 large Kenai River late-run king salmon. Based on low preseason forecast, the 2023 late-run king salmon sport fishery was closed preseason and remained closed for the 2023 season. Subsequently, the ESSN commercial fishery did not open and remained closed through the end of the season on August 15, as per the KRLKSMP noted above.

PINK SALMON

Pink salmon runs in UCI are even-year dominant, with odd-year average harvests typically less than even-year harvests. The 2023 UCI commercial pink salmon harvest was 66,236 fish (Table 2), which was 20% below the average annual harvest of 82,486 fish from the most recent 20 years

of odd-year harvest (Table 5 and 6). Using an average price of \$0.20 per pound, the exvessel value for the 2023 pink salmon harvest was \$46,846 or >1% of the total exvessel value of salmon in UCI (Table 3).

CHUM SALMON

The 2023 harvest of 127,150 chum salmon was 2% below the recent 20-year average annual harvest of 129,201 fish (Table 5 and 6). Using the average price of \$0.49 per pound the exvessel value of the 2023 UCI commercial chum salmon harvest was \$412,463 or 2.9% of the total exvessel value of all salmon in UCI (Table 3). An aerial survey of Chinitna River/Clearwater Creek produced an estimate of 6,350 chum salmon within these streams, which was within the SEG range of 3,500–8,000 fish.

Table 1.–Upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon forecast and preliminary total run, by river system, 2023.

System	Forecast	Actual	% Difference
Kenai River	2,821,000	3,822,000	35%
Kasilof River	1,126,000	1,393,000	24%
Susitna River	340,000	293,000	-14%
Fish Creek	90,000	84,000	-7%
Minor Systems	743,000	896,000	21%
Overall Total	5,120,000	6,488,000	27%

Table 2.–Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest by species, 2003–2023.

Year	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
2003	18,503	3,476,161	101,756	48,789	120,767	3,765,976
2004	26,922	4,927,084	311,058	357,939	146,165	5,769,168
2005	27,667	5,238,699	224,657	48,419	69,740	5,609,182
2006	18,029	2,192,730	177,853	404,111	64,033	2,856,756
2007	17,625	3,316,779	177,339	147,020	77,240	3,736,003
2008	13,333	2,380,135	171,869	169,368	50,315	2,785,020
2009	8,750	2,045,794	153,210	214,321	82,808	2,504,883
2010	9,900	2,828,342	207,350	292,706	228,863	3,567,161
2011	11,248	5,277,995	95,291	34,123	129,407	5,548,064
2012	2,527	3,133,839	106,775	469,598	269,733	3,982,472
2013	5,398	2,683,224	260,963	48,275	139,365	3,137,225
2014	4,660	2,344,034	137,419	642,986	116,127	3,245,226
2015	10,798	2,649,667	216,032	48,004	275,960	3,200,461
2016	10,027	2,396,943	147,495	382,468	123,679	3,060,612
2017	7,660	1,849,243	303,642	167,842	243,600	2,571,987
2018	3,405	817,879	232,290	126,923	115,366	1,295,863
2019	3,149	1,720,559	163,863	70,827	129,176	2,087,574
2020	3,008	695,754	139,240	345,072	29,217	1,212,291
2021	3,973	1,410,854	147,607	81,360	70,243	1,714,037
2022	2,278	1,126,280	102,666	100,964	99,494	1,431,682
2023 ^a	732	1,576,756	83,912	66,236	127,150	1,854,786
2003-2022 Avg	10,443	2,625,600	178,919	210,056	129,065	3,154,082
2013-2022 Avg	5,436	1,769,444	185,122	201,472	134,223	2,295,696

^a 2023 data are preliminary

Table 3.– Approximate exvessel value and percentage of Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest by species, 2003–2023.

Year	King	%	Sockeye	%	Coho	%	Pink	%	Chum	%	Total
2003	\$ 358,886	2.8%	\$ 12,275,919	95.3%	\$ 132,059	1.0%	\$ 8,663	0.1%	\$ 99,783	0.8%	\$ 12,875,310
2004	\$ 673,088	3.3%	\$ 19,416,259	93.8%	\$ 416,071	2.0%	\$ 65,884	0.3%	\$ 129,791	0.6%	\$ 20,701,093
2005	\$ 688,993	2.2%	\$ 30,165,827	95.2%	\$ 708,620	2.2%	\$ 12,796	0.0%	\$ 101,106	0.3%	\$ 31,677,341
2006	\$ 617,278	4.4%	\$ 12,311,850	88.5%	\$ 679,463	4.9%	\$ 174,522	1.3%	\$ 121,265	0.9%	\$ 13,904,377
2007	\$ 629,643	2.7%	\$ 21,916,852	93.6%	\$ 682,747	2.9%	\$ 53,029	0.2%	\$ 141,097	0.6%	\$ 23,423,367
2008	\$ 544,042	3.3%	\$ 15,530,144	93.0%	\$ 482,298	2.9%	\$ 64,466	0.4%	\$ 75,766	0.5%	\$ 16,696,717
2009	\$ 266,548	1.8%	\$ 13,720,051	94.1%	\$ 399,704	2.7%	\$ 71,582	0.5%	\$ 115,969	0.8%	\$ 14,573,854
2010	\$ 359,184	1.1%	\$ 30,556,535	92.1%	\$ 1,090,191	3.3%	\$ 311,199	0.9%	\$ 851,004	2.6%	\$ 33,168,113
2011	\$ 634,836	1.2%	\$ 51,363,720	96.7%	\$ 406,726	0.8%	\$ 27,548	0.1%	\$ 688,878	1.3%	\$ 53,121,708
2012	\$ 121,626	0.3%	\$ 32,008,304	91.6%	\$ 480,119	1.4%	\$ 622,809	1.8%	\$ 1,723,098	4.9%	\$ 34,955,955
2013	\$ 210,638	0.5%	\$ 37,787,069	93.9%	\$ 1,362,395	3.4%	\$ 53,754	0.1%	\$ 828,113	2.1%	\$ 40,241,970
2014	\$ 206,119	0.6%	\$ 32,819,090	93.6%	\$ 778,672	2.2%	\$ 588,409	1.7%	\$ 687,214	2.0%	\$ 35,079,504
2015	\$ 359,903	1.5%	\$ 22,285,338	92.2%	\$ 753,078	3.1%	\$ 39,197	0.2%	\$ 726,696	3.0%	\$ 24,164,211
2016	\$ 491,323	2.2%	\$ 20,853,404	92.3%	\$ 557,531	2.5%	\$ 328,922	1.5%	\$ 351,248	1.6%	\$ 22,582,429
2017	\$ 634,666	2.7%	\$ 19,711,471	82.7%	\$ 2,168,036	9.1%	\$ 89,448	0.4%	\$ 1,234,825	5.2%	\$ 23,838,446
2018	\$ 207,901	1.7%	\$ 10,139,195	81.8%	\$ 1,367,047	11.0%	\$ 115,431	0.9%	\$ 569,659	4.6%	\$ 12,399,234
2019	\$ 172,899	0.9%	\$ 17,131,030	93.3%	\$ 684,442	3.7%	\$ 45,667	0.2%	\$ 321,909	1.8%	\$ 18,355,947
2020	\$ 69,730	1.4%	\$ 4,008,623	79.1%	\$ 591,193	11.7%	\$ 300,689	5.9%	\$ 96,539	1.9%	\$ 5,066,774
2021	\$ 124,439	0.9%	\$ 12,665,469	91.3%	\$ 684,272	4.9%	\$ 63,900	0.5%	\$ 327,161	2.4%	\$ 13,865,241
2022	\$ 93,634	0.7%	\$ 12,064,999	92.1%	\$ 368,873	2.8%	\$ 110,691	0.8%	\$ 461,507	3.5%	\$ 13,099,704
2023	\$ 40,434	0.3%	\$ 13,655,095	94.8%	\$ 253,751	1.8%	\$ 46,846	0.3%	\$ 412,463	2.9%	\$ 14,408,588
2003-2022											
Average	\$ 373,269	1.6%	\$ 21,436,557	92.4%	\$ 739,677	3.2%	\$ 157,430	0.7%	\$ 482,631	2.1%	\$ 23,189,565

*Note - 2023 data is preliminary

Table 4.—Upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon goals and passage (or counts), 2023.

System	2023 Estimate	Goal type	Lower bound	Upper bound
Kenai River	2,343,976	IRG	1,100,000	1,400,000
		SEG	750,000	1,300,000
Kasilof River	933,145	BEG	140,000	320,000
		OEG	140,000	370,000
Larson Lake	38,069	SEG	15,000	35,000
Judd Lake	ND	SEG	15,000	40,000
Fish Creek	44,764	SEG	15,000	45,000
Packers Creek	TBD	SEG	15,000	30,000

*Note: BEG= Biological Escapement Goal, SEG=Sustainable Escapement Goal, OEG=Optimum Escapement Goal, and IRG = Inriver Goal, ND = No Data, TBD = To Be Determined

Table 5. –Preliminary Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest by district and species, 2023.

Gear	District	Subdistrict	Permits ^a	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Drift	Central		356	108	1,366,534	49,801	57,907	113,523	1,587,873
Setnet	Central	Upper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Kalgin Island	25	245	77,872	4,548	830	2,059	85,554
		Western & Chinitna Bay	20	21	47,402	2,312	160	4,533	54,428
		Kustatan	13	95	23,037	3,726	138	132	27,128
Total Central District Set Harvest			58	361	148,311	10,586	1,128	6,724	167,110
Setnet	Northern	Eastern	36	41	26,990	6,614	4,863	1,375	39,883
		General	38	222	34,921	16,911	2,344	5,528	59,926
Total Northern District Set Harvest			74	263	61,911	23,525	7,207	6,903	99,809
Total UCI Harvest			488	732	1,576,756	83,912	66,242	127,150	1,854,792

^a Permit totals may be less than the sum of individual stat areas if the same permit was fished in multiple stat areas.

Table 6. Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest by district and species, 20-year average (2003–2022).

Gear	District	Subdistrict	Permits ^a	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink ^b	Chum	Total
Drift	Central		432	720	1,420,938	102,703	41,685	120,094	1,686,139
Setnet	Central	Upper	347	7,031	1,063,996	13,691	29,143	819	1,150,130
		Kalgin Island	26	367	54,141	15,864	2,076	1,589	75,522
		Western & Chinitna Bay	23	171	41,661	7,083	1,633	3,043	53,142
		Kustatan	11	146	4,086	1,455	186	16	5,785
Total Central District Set Harvest			408	7,715	1,163,893	38,378	33,049	5,848	1,248,883
Setnet	Northern	Eastern	30	364	20,632	13,951	2,621	390	37,957
		General	47	1,644	20,136	23,973	5,132	2,870	53,754
Total Northern District Set Harvest			77	2,007	40,767	37,924	7,753	3,259	91,711
Total UCI Harvest			916	10,443	2,625,598	179,004	82,486	129,201	3,026,733

^a Permit totals may be less than the sum of individual stat areas if the same permit was fished in multiple stat areas.

^b Pink salmon 20-year average is for odd years only.

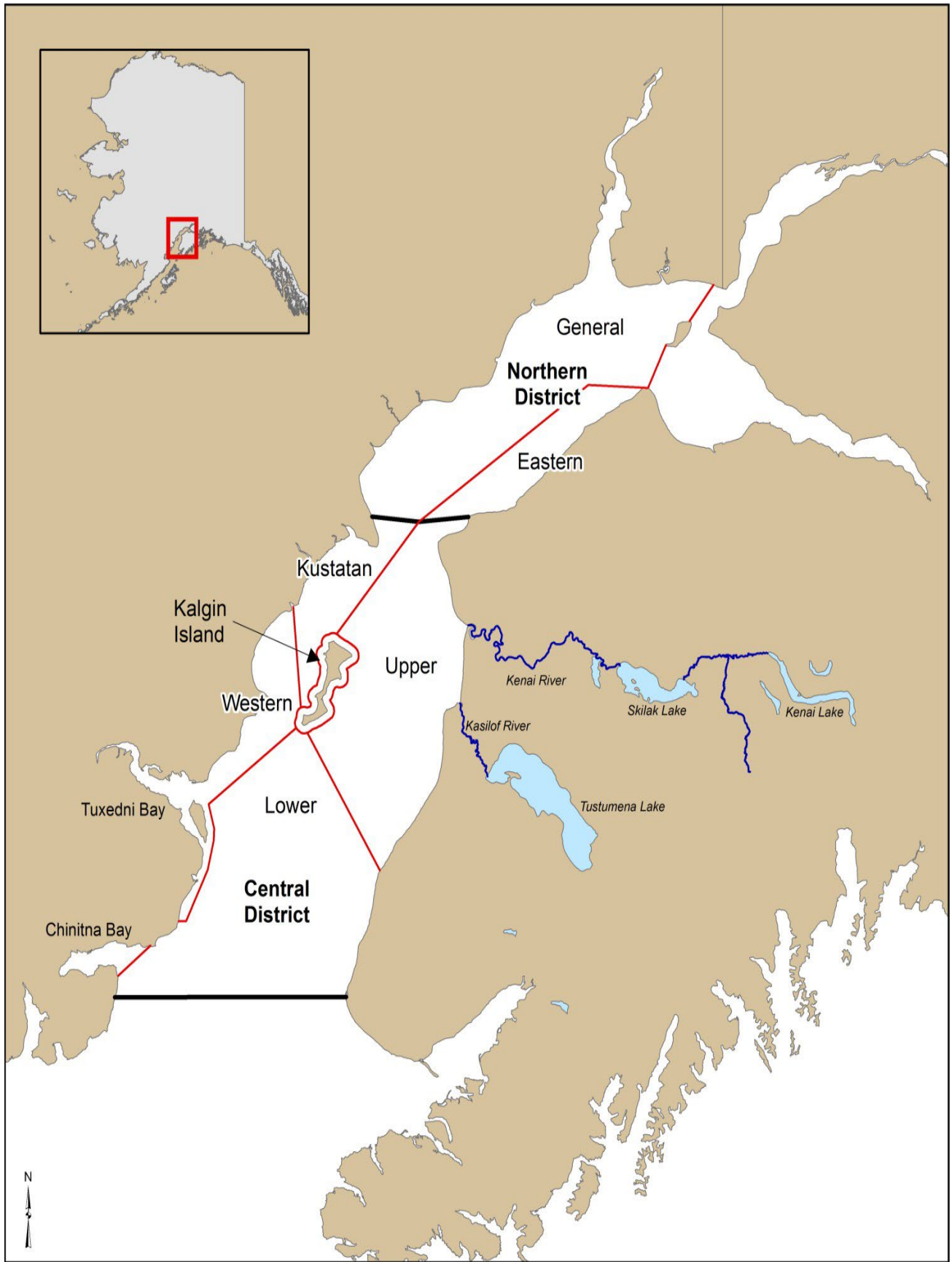


Figure 1.—Upper Cook Inlet commercial fisheries district and subdistrict fishing boundaries.

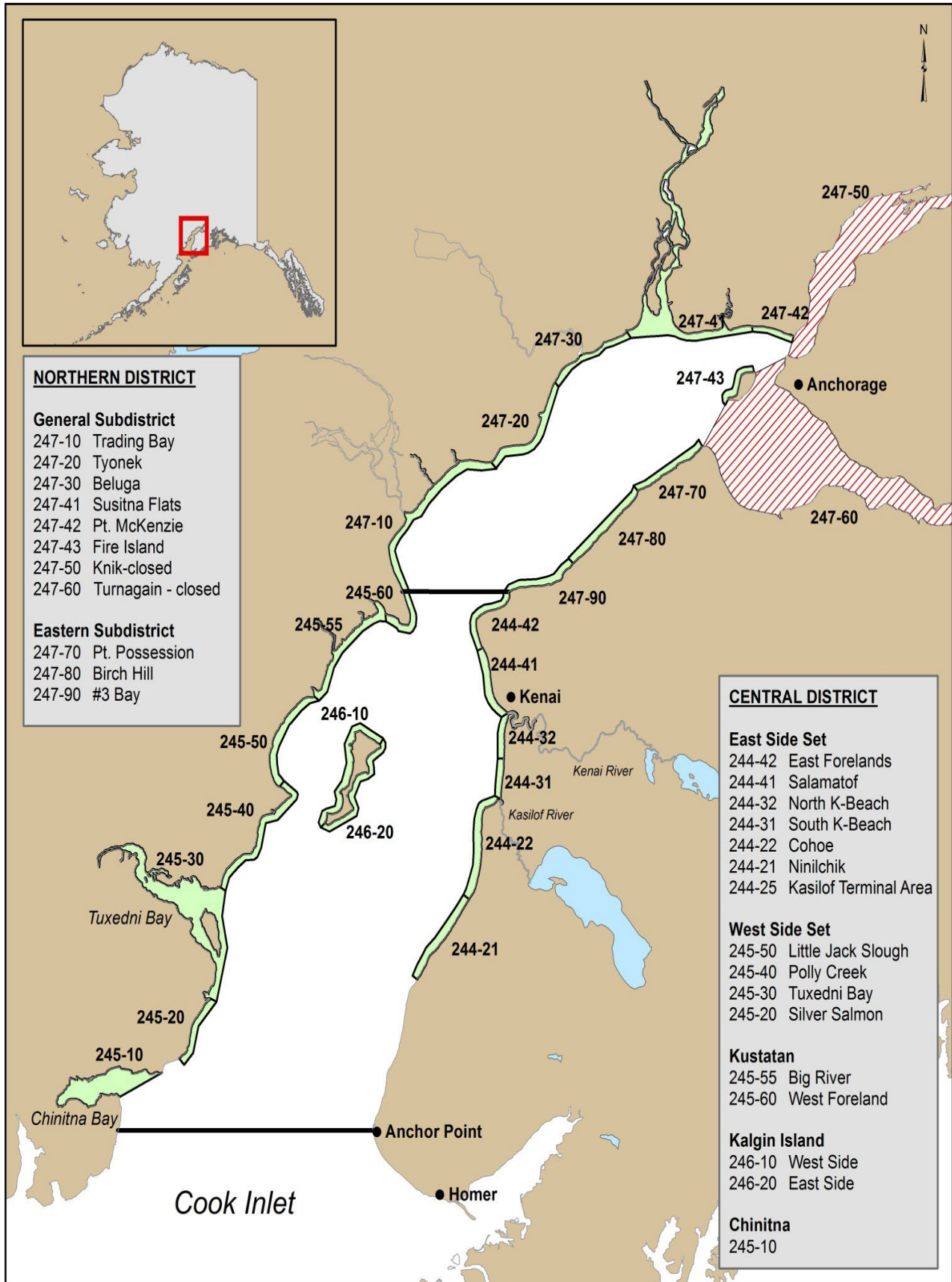


Figure 2.—Upper Cook Inlet commercial set gillnet statistical areas.

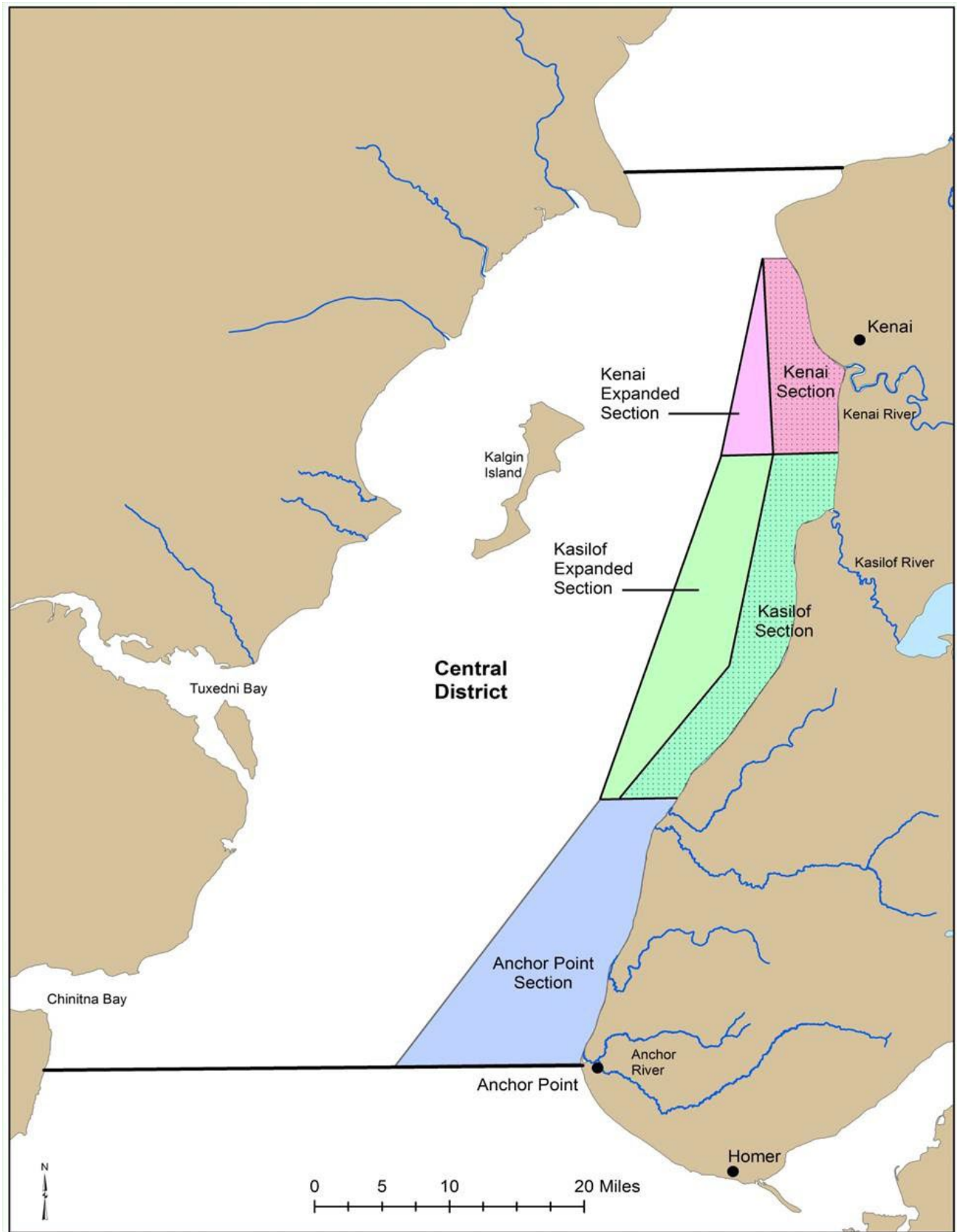


Figure 3.—Map of drift gillnet “corridor” boundaries, including the Kenai and Kasilof sections, Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections, and the Anchor Point Section.

Drift Gillnet Area 1 and Area 2 Descriptions

Area 2 Description and Coordinates

- A. Southwest Corner: 60° 20.43' N. lat, 151° 54.83' W. lon.
- B. Northwest Corner: 60° 41.08' N. lat., 151° 39.00' W. lon.
- C. Northeast Corner: 60° 41.08' N. lat., 151° 24.00' W. lon.
- D. Blanchard Line Corridor Boundary: 60° 27.10' N. lat., 151° 25.70' W. lon.
- E. Southeast Corner: 60° 20.43' N. lat., 151° 28.00' W. lon.

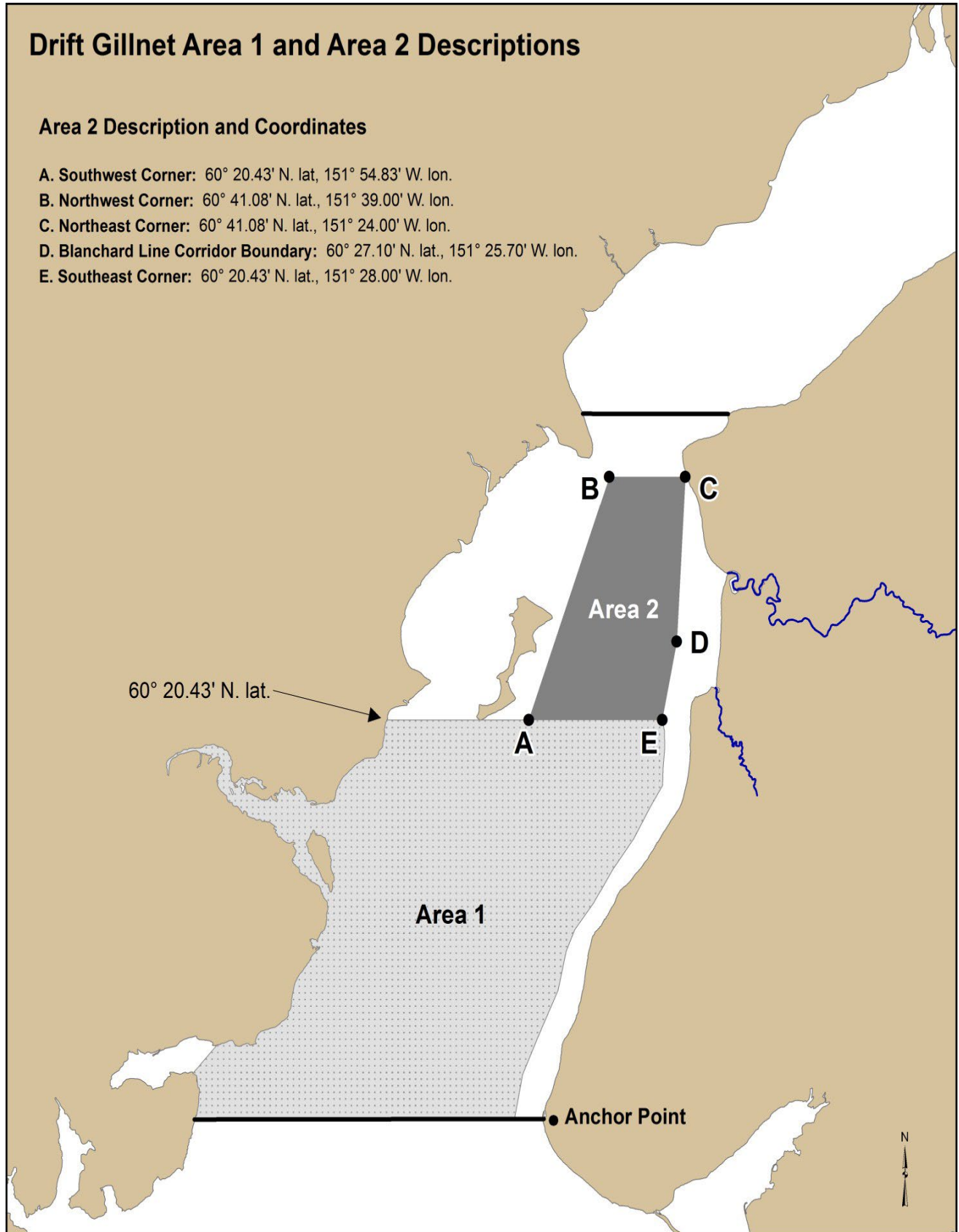


Figure 4.—Fishing boundaries for Drift Gillnet Areas 1 and 2.

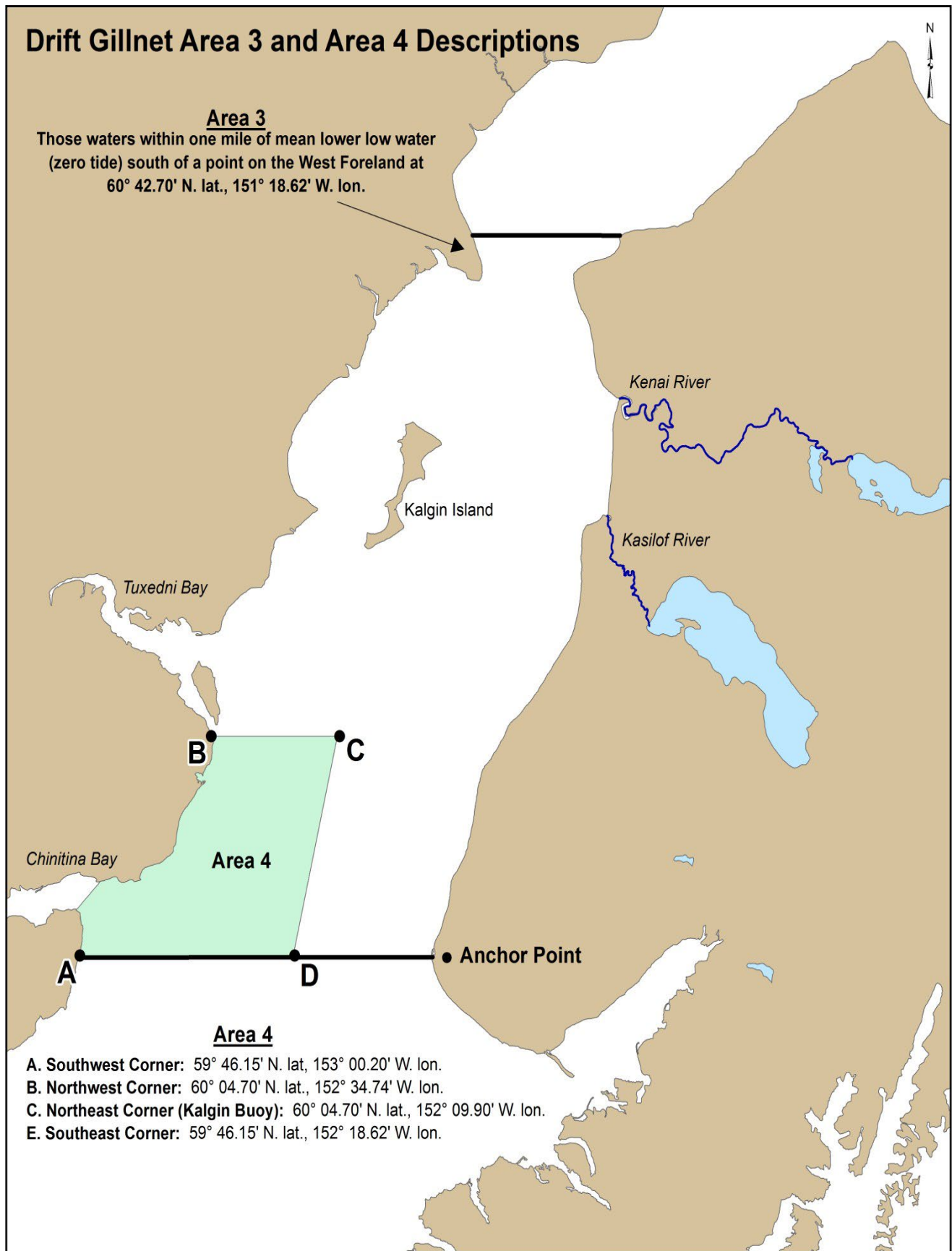


Figure 5.—Map of Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4.