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ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STAFF COMMENTS ON
FINFISH
REGULATORY PROPOSALS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE–GROUPS 1–4,
FOR

ALASKA PENINSULA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, AND CHIGNIK

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

February 23–29, 2016

Regional Information Report 4K16-01

The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting, February 23–29, 2016 in Anchorage, Alaska. The comments are forwarded to assist the public and board. The comments contained herein should be considered preliminary and subject to change, as new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral public testimony presented to the board.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

The following acronyms and abbreviations, and others approved for the Système International d'Unités (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Commercial Fisheries, Sport Fish, and Subsistence: All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figure or figure captions.

Weights and measures (metric)

centimeter	cm
deciliter	dL
gram	g
hectare	ha
kilogram	kg
kilometer	km
liter	L
meter	m
milliliter	mL
millimeter	mm

Weights and measures (English)

cubic feet per second	ft^3/s
foot	ft
gallon	gal
inch	in
mile	mi
nautical mile	nmi
ounce	oz
pound	lb
quart	qt
yard	yd

Time and temperature

day	d
degrees Celsius	°C
degrees Fahrenheit	°F
degrees kelvin	K
hour	h
minute	min
second	s

Physics and chemistry

all atomic symbols	
alternating current	AC
ampere	A
calorie	cal
direct current	DC
hertz	Hz
horsepower	hp
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH
parts per million	ppm
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰
volts	V
watts	W

General

Alaska Administrative Code	AAC
all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.
all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.
at	@
compass directions:	
east	E
north	N
south	S
west	W
copyright	©
corporate suffixes:	
Company	Co.
Corporation	Corp.
Incorporated	Inc.
Limited	Ltd.
District of Columbia	D.C.
et alii (and others)	et al.
et cetera (and so forth)	etc.
exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.
Federal Information Code	FIC
id est (that is)	i.e.
latitude or longitude	lat. or long.
monetary symbols (U.S.)	$, ¢
months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan,...,Dec
registered trademark	®
trademark	™
United States (adjective)	U.S.
United States of America (noun)	USA
U.S.C.	United States Code
U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)

Acronyms

Alaska Board of Fisheries	board
Alaska Department of Fish and Game	department
Biological Escapement Goal	BEG
Chignik Management Area	CMA
Commercial Fishery Entry Commission	CFEC
Emergency Order	EO
Federal Salmon Fishery Management Plan	FMP
Guideline Harvest Level	GHL
Inriver run goal	IRRG
Kodiak Management Area	KMA
Northwest Stepovak Section	NWSS
Southeastern District Mainland	SEDM
Sustainable Escapement Goal	SEG
Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program	WASSIP

REGIONAL INFORMATION REPORT 4K16-01

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ALASKA PENINSULA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, AND CHIGNIK

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

February 23–29, 2016

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries

February 2016

ABSTRACT

This document contains Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff comments on commercial, subsistence, and sport regulatory proposals for the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands, and Chignik finfish meeting. These comments were prepared by the department for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, February 23–29, 2016 in Anchorage, Alaska. The comments are forwarded to assist the public and board. The comments contained herein should be considered preliminary and subject to change, as new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral public testimony presented to the board.

Key words: Alaska Board of Fisheries (board), Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department), staff comments, regulatory proposals, fisheries, commercial, subsistence, sport, salmon, king, sockeye, coho, pink, chum

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Summary of department positions on regulatory proposals for the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands, and Chignik Finfish, Anchorage, February 21-29, 2016

Proposal no.	Department position	Issue
172	N	Increase the passage of sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir to provide additional subsistence fishing opportunity.
173	O	Reduce waters closed to commercial fishing for salmon in Kujulik, Portage, and Ivanof bays in the Chignik Area.
174	N/O	In July and August close Chignik Area commercial salmon fisheries between Castle Cape and Kupreanof Peninsula when the Southeastern District Mainland is closed to commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear.
175	O	Create a pink salmon management plan in the Chignik Area.
2	N	Allow bycatch retention of Pacific cod in the Chignik Area salmon seine fishery.
194	N	Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to commercial fishing for groundfish with pelagic trawl gear.
195	S	Update logbook requirements for Aleutian Islands state-waters sablefish fishery.
196	N	Change the date fishermen using purse seine gear may access the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring gillnet allocation from July 25 to July 20.
188	O	Establish open commercial salmon fishing periods in the Unalaska District that coincide with the last two open fishing periods in July in the Shumagin Islands Section.
197	S	Clarify when commercial salmon fishing license holders may subsistence fish for salmon in the Alaska Peninsula Area.
198	O	Require non-retention of king Salmon in the Sandy River.
199	S	Amend the freshwater bag limit provisions for salmon species other than king salmon.
200	S	Close Swanson Lagoon and its tributaries to sport fishing for sockeye salmon.
201	S	Reduce the possession limit for coho salmon in Illiuliuk Creek.
22	N/O	Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area.
23	N/O	Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area.
24	N/O	Move all waters of the Northern District east of the latitude of Cape Seniavin from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area.
151	N/O	Consider the catch of non-local salmon as a factor in management of Northern District salmon fisheries.
152	O	From June 20 through July 20 manage the Northern District salmon fisheries jointly with Alaska Department of Fish and Game Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay staff.
153	N/O	Include information on the abundance of non-local stocks as a factor in managing Northern District commercial salmon fisheries.
154	O	Link management actions in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area commercial salmon fisheries to salmon abundance in adjacent Bristol Bay Area districts.
155	N/O	Close the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District to commercial salmon fishing.

N = Neutral; S = Support; O = Oppose; NA = No Action, WS = Withdrawn Support

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Summary of department positions on regulatory proposals for the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands, and Chignik Finfish, Anchorage, February 21-29, 2016

156	N/O	Close the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District to commercial salmon fishing.
159	N	Open waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District from one and one half miles to three miles offshore to commercial salmon fishing.
157	N	In the Inner and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District restrict commercial fishing for salmon to no more than four days in any seven day period.
147	N	Repeal sequential closures in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections.
158	N	Restrict commercial salmon fishing in the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District to no more than one and one-half miles offshore.
160	O	Close waters of the Bear River and Nelson Lagoon sections of the Northern District between zero to one and one-half miles offshore to commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnet gear until escapement objectives have been met.
161	N/O	Close waters of the Northern District between zero and one and one-half miles offshore to commercial fishing with drift gillnet gear when Bear River and/or Nelson River coho salmon escapements do not meet objectives.
162	N/O	Close waters of the Northern District between zero and one and one-half miles offshore to commercial fishing with drift gillnet gear when Bear River and/or Nelson River sockeye salmon escapements do not meet objectives.
169	N/S	Implement global positioning satellite coordinates for all district and section boundaries in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area.
170	N/S	Redefine the boundaries of the Outer Port Heiden Section using GPS coordinates.
171	N/S	Implement global positioning satellite coordinates for all district and section boundaries in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area.
150	S	Describe waters of Cinder Lagoon open to commercial salmon fishing.
148	N	Allow commercial fishing for salmon with drift gillnet gear in the Ilnik Section.
165	O	In the Nelson Lagoon Section allow the compliment of drift gillnet gear to be split into two 100 fathom nets that may be fished simultaneously.
163	O	Between the longitude of Three Hills and the northern boundary of the Outer Port Heiden Section restrict drift and set gillnets to 29 and one-half meshes depth.
166	N	Eliminate closed waters in Caribou Flats and allow drift gillnet fishing in Caribou Flats by emergency order if Nelson Lagoon escapement goals are achieved.
164	N/O	Manage commercial salmon fishing in the Black Hills Section and in Moffet Lagoon in the Izembek-Moffet Bay Section based on Moffet Lagoon escapement
167	O	Open the Urilia Bay Section of the Northwestern District to regular fishing periods.
168	O	Reduce closed waters in Christianson Lagoon.
149	N/S	Create a directed sockeye salmon fishery in the Cinder River Section.
176	N/O	Amend Southeastern District Mainland commercial salmon set gillnet fishery season opening times and fishing periods.
177	N/O	Revise the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear concurrent to the Chignik Area commercial sockeye salmon fishery.

N = Neutral; S = Support; O = Oppose; NA = No Action, WS = Withdrawn Support

-continued-

Summary of department positions on regulatory proposals for the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands, and Chignik Finfish, Anchorage, February 21-29, 2016

178	N/O	In the Southeastern District Mainland establish weekly fishing through July 10 for set gillnet gear and from July 11 through July 25 establish 48 hour open fishing periods and closures for set gillnet and purse seine gear.
179	N	Amend the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to establish that 40 percent of the sockeye salmon taken in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay sections are considered to be of Chignik River origin.
180	N	Require all salmon harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery to be landed within the Southeastern District.
181	N	Repeal the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.
182	N	Modify the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to shift the opening date for the drift gillnet fishery to coincide with the set gillnet fishery opening date.
183	N	Modify the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to stagger opening days for the drift and purse seine fisheries.
184	N	Repeal the current South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan and readopt the management plan in place during 2003-2004.
185	N	Establish a Dolgoi Island Section and Dolgoi Island Section Management Plan.
186	N	Establish a Dolgoi Island Section and Dolgoi Island Section June Management South Alaska
187	N/O	Modify the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for South Alaska Peninsula to provide the department authority to make openings for specific gear groups.
189	N	Allow for dual permit vessels and increased gear limits for dual permit vessels in the Alaska Peninsula Area commercial salmon purse seine fishery.
190	O	Change purse seine depth measurement standard from number of meshes deep to an equivalent depth measurement in feet and inches.
191	N	Repeal minimum mesh size standards for drift gillnet gear.
192	N	Allow commercial fishing for salmon with set gillnets in the area between Popof Head and Dark Cliffs any time the area is closed to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear.
193	S	Change the Southwestern and Unimak District seaward boundary.

N = Neutral; S = Support; O = Oppose; NA = No Action, WS = Withdrawn Support

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – GROUP 1: (5 PROPOSALS)

Chignik Area Salmon Management (4 Proposals): 172–175

PROPOSAL 172 – 5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: The federally recognized tribes of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Perryville and Port Heiden.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would change the inriver run goal for the Chignik River late sockeye salmon run to 75,000 fish in August and 75,000 fish from September 1–15.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* 5 AAC 15.357(b)(3)(B) states that the department must allow 50,000 sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir, in addition to late-run sockeye salmon escapement objectives to provide an inriver harvestable surplus for subsistence needs. In August, 25,000 of the 50,000 sockeye salmon must pass the weir and the remaining 25,000 fish must pass from September 1–15.

5 AAC 15.357(b)(2) during the period of transition from the predominance of the early-run sockeye salmon to that of the late-run sockeye salmon, usually late June through mid-July, the commissioner shall open and close, by EO, the fishing periods to harvest surplus early-run sockeye salmon without jeopardizing the late-run sockeye salmon escapement objectives.

The ANS for late-run sockeye salmon in Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern districts combined is 2,000–3,800 fish (5 AAC 01.466).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? If adopted, 75,000 sockeye salmon in August and 75,000 sockeye salmon from September 1–15 must be passed by the weir in addition to fish required to achieve escapement objectives in August and September.

Fishing time would need to be restricted in early August to achieve the proposed IRRG in addition to the 50,000 fish necessary for escapement in August. In late-August, fishing time would need to be restricted again to attempt to achieve the new September IRRG. This would likely necessitate more aggressive harvest on the early-portion of the late-run in July in an attempt to keep escapement low to avoid over-escapement by the end of September 15. If this proposal were adopted, escapement and harvest for the total late run would likely be redistributed to manage for the new IRRG. This management strategy could be further complicated if the early sockeye salmon run is struggling to meet the early run escapement goal. This proposal would essentially require 50 percent of the escapement goal be achieved well after the mid-point of the run.

BACKGROUND: The current escapement goal range for the Chignik River late-run sockeye salmon (not including the current IRRG) is 200,000–400,000 fish (Table 172-1). To meet the minimum escapement goal as well as an IRRG of 150,000 fish (75,000 sockeye salmon in

August and 75,000 sockeye salmon in September), 275,000 fish must escape by August 31 and a total of 350,000 fish by September 15. This would leave 50,000 fish to achieve the late-run upper escapement goal once minimum escapement requirements and the IRRG are met. It is unlikely 75,000 sockeye salmon would be counted toward escapement in the September time period. Figure 172-2 illustrates the most recent 10-year average daily escapement and harvest for the Chignik River sockeye salmon late run While the total number of fish required to achieve the minimum escapement goal and the IRRG is within the late-run escapement goal range, the department would be required to aim near the upper range of the escapement goal range every season to ensure the IRRG is met.

Based on subsistence permit data, sockeye salmon constitute the majority of the subsistence harvest in the Chignik River watershed (Figure 172-1). The Division of Subsistence has observed that Chignik subsistence fishermen traditionally prefer to harvest sockeye salmon during two different time periods: late May to July and in late fall to early winter. Some subsistence users prefer to harvest late-season sockeye salmon during the second time period because of efficiency of effort, acquired taste, and better processing conditions for drying salmon.

Prior to 1995, the Chignik River weir was removed in early August (the average weir removal date was August 10). Once the weir was removed, active escapement monitoring was not available, and as a result the late-run sockeye salmon goal was targeted prior to weir removal. During the 10-year period prior to 1995, the late-run sockeye salmon escapement was often around 200,000 fish by late-July or early-August. Projecting that the late-run minimum escapement goal of 250,000 sockeye salmon would be met, the department typically established commercial fishing periods of four days per week in August for the Chignik Bay and Central districts while fishing time in the outer districts was more dependent on pink, chum, and coho salmon escapement. Additionally, a four or five day fishing period was usually implemented in the CMA in September and October, however, fishing typically ceased by late-September. Time series analysis of catch and escapement was used to estimate sockeye salmon escapement to the Chignik River after the weir was removed. In 1995, salmon were enumerated by the weir through late-August and then beginning in 1996, the weir was operated through early-September. Operating the weir longer allowed the department to more accurately monitor daily escapement throughout August and adjust harvest opportunities (fishing periods) accordingly. From 1985–1994, an average of 188,314 sockeye salmon was harvested in August and 40,260 fish in September (Table 172-2). From 1995–2004, the first 10 years of later weir removal, an average of 267,473 sockeye salmon were harvested in August and 38,403 sockeye salmon in September. The sockeye salmon harvest from 2005 through 2015 has averaged 147,248 fish in August and 4,747 fish in September.

In 1998, an escapement management objective of 25,000 sockeye salmon was implemented for the September 1–15 period, in addition to existing late-run escapement objectives, to address subsistence concerns over the late run. Although the August escapement objective from 1997–2001 was 50,000 sockeye salmon, the average August sockeye salmon escapement estimates were approximately 79,000 fish for this time period (Table 172-3). During the first three years of the Chignik Area Cooperative Purse Seine Salmon Fishery (2002-2004) the August sockeye salmon escapement estimates averaged approximately 58,000 fish. In 2004, subsistence fishermen reported difficulty in harvesting late-run sockeye salmon. The board agreed that

additional effort may be needed to harvest for subsistence needs since the August escapement from 2002–2004 was about 20,000 fish less than during prior years. As a result, the board adopted an escapement objective of an additional 25,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik River in August. The August escapement objective totaled 75,000 sockeye salmon with the adoption of this proposal (50,000 fish escapement objective and 25,000 additional fish for subsistence needs). In 2007, the board reclassified the two 25,000 fish management objectives as an IRRG and the total (50,000 fish) was added to the lower bound of the late-run escapement goal. At the 2013 Chignik board meeting, the board clarified that the intent of the 25,000 fish during August was in addition to escapement objective needs in August when the IRRG was first implemented. The IRRG was also officially put into regulation (5 AAC 15.357(b)(3)(B)).

Over the last 20 years, sockeye salmon escapement into the Chignik River in August has ranged from approximately 41,789 fish in 2004 to 251,402 fish in 2015 (Table 172-3). Since 2007, when the objectives were reclassified as IRRGs, the August escapement objective plus 25,000 fish for subsistence purposes has been achieved in 7 of the last 9 years.

Escapement for the September 1–15 period is more difficult to compare over the last 20 years due to the lack of post-weir escapement estimates some years and a change in the escapement calculation method. Prior to 2014, post-weir escapement estimates were produced using time series analysis, and beginning in 2014, estimates were produced using DIDSON (Dual Identification Sonar). Since 2007, the 25,000 fish required for subsistence purposes from September 1–15 has been achieved in 3 of the 9 years (Table 172-3). The September 1–15 goal of 25,000 fish for subsistence purposes has been difficult to achieve even in years when no commercial fishing occurred in September (2011, 2013, and 2014). The peak of the Chignik River sockeye salmon late run typically occurs by late July; the run declines significantly in August.

Subsistence harvests on or after July 5 in the Chignik River system have varied significantly from 2004–2014 with 1,318 sockeye salmon in 2012 to 6,759 sockeye salmon in 2011 (Table 172-4). The variation in harvest amounts could be due to a variety of factors including amount of effort, run size and fish availability, household surveys done in addition to subsistence permits in 2011, and the number of actual returned permits each year.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of the proposal. Commercial salmon fishing in the CMA would likely need to be restricted in August and would typically not occur in early September in order to achieve the goals of 75,000 sockeye salmon during the two time periods. The September 1–15 goal has been difficult to achieve in past years even when there has been no fishing in September and little effort in late August. A goal of 75,000 fish in early September, when daily escapement counts are typically declining, may not be possible to achieve most years. Also, aiming for the upper range of the escapement goal range every year does not allow the department the flexibility to adapt management to the run conditions, such as late run timing and may result in over escapement more often.

The board should determine whether the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses of Chignik Bay and Central and Eastern districts late-run sockeye salmon, and if it is necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses of this stock.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

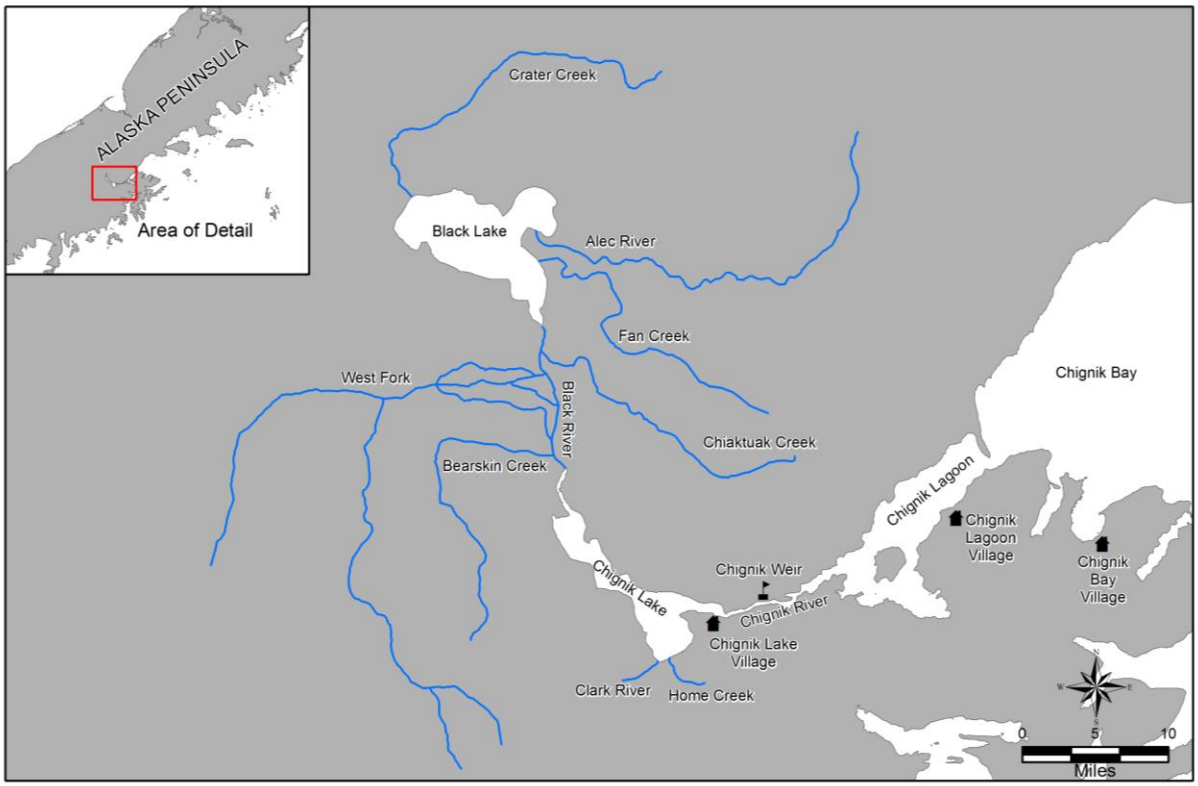

Figure 172-1.–Map of the Chignik River system illustrating the location of Chignik Lake village, Chignik Lagoon village, Chignik Bay village and the Chignik River weir.

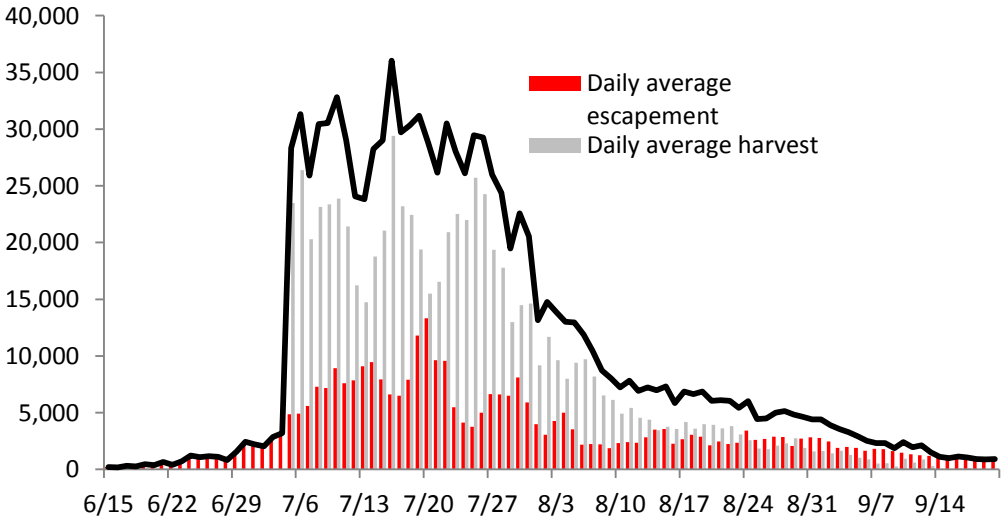

Figure 172-2.–Daily average escapement and harvest with combined average of Chignik River sockeye salmon late run using the 2006–2014 run average.

Table 172-1.–Sockeye salmon escapement goals for Black and Chignik lakes.

	Black Lake			Chignik Lake				Chignik Lake		
Date[a]	Lower		Upper	Lower		Upper	Date	Lower		Upper
June 2	2,000	–	3,500				August 1	160,000	–	297,000
June 4	7,000	–	9,000				August 3	167,000	–	306,000
June 6	14,000	–	19,000				August 5	173,000	–	314,000
June 8	25,000	–	33,000				August 7	179,000	–	321,000
June 10	40,000	–	51,000				August 9	184,000	–	327,000
June 12	54,000	–	70,000				August 11	189,000	–	332,000
June 14	71,000	–	92,000				August 13	194,000	–	337,000
June 16	97,000	–	124,000				August 15	199,000	–	343,000
June 18	126,000	–	162,000				August 17	204,000	–	348,000
June 20	155,000	–	200,000	1,000	–	2,000	August 19	207,000	–	350,000
June 22	183,000	–	235,000	1,500	–	3,500	August 21	211,000	–	358,000
June 24	209,000	–	268,000	3,000	–	6,000	August 23	214,000	–	362,000
June 26	242,000	–	311,000	5,500	–	10,000	August 25	217,000	–	366,000
June 28	268,000	–	344,000	8,000	–	16,000	August 27	220,000	–	369,000
June 30	285,000	–	365,000	11,500	–	22,000	August 29	223,000	–	373,000
July 2	300,000	–	385,000	16,000	–	30,000	August 31	225,000	–	375,000
July 4	312,000	–	401,000	21,000	–	40,000				
July 6	321,000	–	413,000	27,000	–	51,000	September 3	228,000	–	378,000
July 8	329,000	–	422,000	34,000	–	65,000	September 5	231,000	–	381,000
July 10	334,000	–	430,000	43,000	–	81,000	September 7	235,000	–	385,000
July 12	340,000	–	436,000	53,000	–	98,000	September 9	239,000	–	389,000
July 14	343,000	–	440,000	63,000	–	118,000	September 11	243,000	–	393,000
July 16	345,000	–	443,000	75,000	–	142,000	September 13	247,000	–	397,000
July 18	347,000	–	446,000	88,000	–	168,000	September 15	250,000	–	400,000
July 20	348,000	–	448,000	100,000	–	192,000				
July 22	349,000	–	449,000	113,000	–	212,000	**Escapement Goals**			
July 24	349,000	–	449,000	123,000	–	230,000				
July 26	349,000	–	449,000	134,000	–	251,000	**Black Lake**	**350,000**	**–**	**450,000**
July 28	349,000	–	449,000	143,000	–	269,000	**Chignik Lake**	**250,000**	**–**	**400,000[b]**
July 30	350,000	–	450,000	151,000	–	284,000				

[a] From approximately June 25 to July 15 genetic samples are collected at the Chignik River weir. The results from these samples are used to apportion the daily escapement during this time period to the Chignik Lake and Black Lake runs.

[b] The late-run escapement objective (July 5–September 15) includes the late-run sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG range; 200,000–400,000) plus an additional 50,000 sockeye salmon inriver run goal (25,000 in August and 25,000 in September) to meet late season subsistence needs.

Table172-2.–Sockeye salmon commercial harvest in the CMA during August and September, 1985–2015.

	Harvest	
Year	August	September
1985	140,341	37,323
1986	85,687	14,075
1987	104,995	47,377
1988	82,977	28,645
1989	443,853	77,914
1990	558,702	80,455
1991	108,467	55,493
1992	106,578	23,457
1993	139,728	16,768
1994	111,810	21,092
1995	471,829	115,358
1996	198,082	24,563
1997	256,121	44,809
1998	181,451	18,483
1999	512,299	150,658
2000	180,501	0
2001	551,040	2,238
2002	127,431	3,248
2003	189,220	24,674
2004	6,753	0
2005	6,702	0
2006	80,202	0
2007	123,893	8,580
2008	180,866	22,091
2009	154,263	10,821
2010	196,703	6,949
2011	97,772	0
2012	110,474	3,780
2013	146,409	0
2014	167,447	0
2015	354,999	0
Averages		
1985–1994	188,314	40,260
1995–2004	267,473	38,403
2005–2015	147,248	4,747

Table172-3.–Estimated sockeye salmon escapement into the Chignik River during August and September 1–15, 1996–2015.

Year	August	September 1–15
1996	93,338	20,282
1997	69,429	41,253
1998	72,349	18,522
1999	86,397	18,012
2000	68,409	5,578
2001	100,718	0
2002	80,858	52,922
2003	51,761	45,007
2004	41,789	13,800
2005	53,580	7,544
2006	111,874	40,147
2007	75,061	23,631
2008	99,650	17,969
2009	92,203	18,829
2010	79,948	24,139
2011	63,759	7,028
2012	92,477	37,275
2013	93,639	46,860
2014	74,410	15,931
2015	251,402	181,400
1996–2015 Average	87,653	35,031
2006–2015 Average	103,442	41,321
2011–2015 Average	115,137	57,699

Table 172-4.–Chignik Lake subregion subsistence sockeye salmon harvest on or after July 5, 2004–2014.

Year	Number of fish
2004	2,398
2005	3,733
2006	3,311
2007	4,132
2008	4,298
2009	2,830
2010	3,297
2011	6,759
2012	1,318
2013	2,036
2014	3,551
2004–2014 average	3,424
2009–2014 average	3,392

Note: From 2004–2008 and in 2011post season household surveys were conducted to supplement harvest data collected through returned subsistence permits. All other years are based on an extrapolation of returned subsistence permits only.

PROPOSAL 173 – 5 AAC 15.350. Closed waters.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would reduce closed waters in three bays of the Chignik Management Area; Kujulik Bay located in the Central District (Figure 173-1), Portage Bay located in the Western District (Figure 173-2) and Ivanof Bay located in the Perryville District (Figure 173-3).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Salmon may not be taken in the following waters:
(9) Kujulik Bay: the southwest end of the bay southwest of a line from 56°35.85′ N. lat., 157° 59.12′ W. long., to the opposite shore at 56° 34.50′ N. lat., 157° 54.63′ W. long.;
(10) Portage Bay: west of a line from 56° 11.68′ N. lat., 158° 33.07′ W. long., to 56° 10.58′ N. lat., 158° 33.07′ W. long.;
(13) Ivanof Bay: all waters northwest of a line from a point on the northeast shore at 55° 52.42′ N. lat., 159° 28.40′ W. long., to a point on the north end of the spit at 55° 50.95′ N. lat., 159° 31.02′ W. long.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? If this proposal were adopted, closed waters areas of these three bays would be significantly reduced, decreasing the amount of protected area for milling fish and potentially making it more difficult to meet escapement objectives in weak years (Figures 173-1, 173-2 and173-3).

BACKGROUND: The CMA has an area-wide aggregate SEG range for pink salmon of 200,000–600,000 fish in even years and 500,000–800,000 fish in odd years. In addition, the CMA has a lower bound SEG for chum salmon of 57,400 fish. As defined by 5 AAC 39.222 (f)(36), when a lower bound SEG exists for a stock, the department will seek to maintain escapements above the lower bound SEG. Based on historical aerial survey data and past escapement goal reviews, the department has managed chum salmon in recent years using inseason stream and district objectives, with an overall areawide goal of approximately 200,000 chum salmon. Pink salmon are managed similarly with each district having an inseason objective that sums within the SEG range.

Pink salmon indexed escapements in the CMA have exceeded the escapement goal several years over the most recent 10-year period while chum salmon indexed escapements have been similar to the inseason objective most years and achieved the lower bound SEG all years (Tables 173-1 and 173-2). Pink and chum salmon indexed escapements over the last 10-year period have been influenced by a variety of factors including large returns, poor market conditions, and strong returns of sockeye salmon reducing directed effort on pink and chum salmon. In 2011, the Chignik early sockeye salmon run was one of the largest in the past 40 years. As a result, there was less interest in harvesting pink salmon and much of the fleet stopped fishing by mid-August. In 2015, there was more directed effort on pink and chum salmon; however, harvest was limited by processor capacity and availability in July and August. In addition to these years of large pink salmon escapements, there have also been years in the CMA that have required conservative

management and lengthy closures to achieve the areawide escapement goal for pink salmon (2010, 2012, and 2014; Table 173-1).

Pink and chum salmon entering Portage, Kujulik, and Ivanof bays will often mill in the bays for long periods of time prior to entering the streams. This behavior can make fish vulnerable to being overharvested. In 1987, the department proposed to change the closed waters of Portage, Kujulik, and Ivanof bays to their current location to prevent the harvest of salmon that back out of the spawning systems and mill in the bays. In years prior to 1987, managers issued EOs to close Ivanof Bay in response to suspected illegal activities such as fish dumping due to poor quality and harvest of salmon in closed waters indicated by a lack of fish that had been spotted in previous aerial surveys. The current closed waters provide a sanctuary area for milling salmon, which are often watermarked and unsaleable, allowing them eventually to move into streams to spawn.

During the most recent 10-year period, pink salmon index escapements into the Ivanof Bay, Dorner Bay (includes Portage Bay), and Kujulik Bay sections have ranged from 27,590 fish to 325,500 fish or approximately 12% to 33% of the total CMA pink salmon index escapement. Chum salmon indexed escapements into these sections have ranged from 22,750 fish to 254,000 fish; approximately 24% to 76% of the total chum salmon estimated escapement in the CMA (Table 173-2). Both species tend to have highly variable annual returns and the run strength is difficult to determine until fish begin arriving in terminal areas. Commercial salmon catches on the outside capes can provide some inseason information on run strength. However, in years of weak sockeye salmon returns, fishing on the outside capes may be restricted to ensure sockeye salmon escapement. Additionally, no information exists for stock of origin on pink and chum harvested during the outside cape fishery. These factors can inhibit using cape fisheries as an indicator of individual bay run strength. Under the current management plan, the department may allow fishing time within a bay and still protect those fish within closed waters that are necessary for escapement purposes. In years when it is apparent that escapement is on track to meet objectives, and there is a large harvestable surplus of fish, the department may reduce closed waters by EO.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal because of conservation concerns. Due to the lack of forecast information and the annual variability of run size, it is difficult to determine pink and chum salmon run strength early in the season. If this proposal were adopted, there may be an increased risk that early milling fish could be harvested in these bays before it was determined that local stock returns are weak. This could potentially result in commercial fishing restrictions later in the season to achieve pink and chum salmon escapement goals. Also, when it is apparent that escapement goals will be met or exceeded, the department may reduce closed waters by EO authority.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

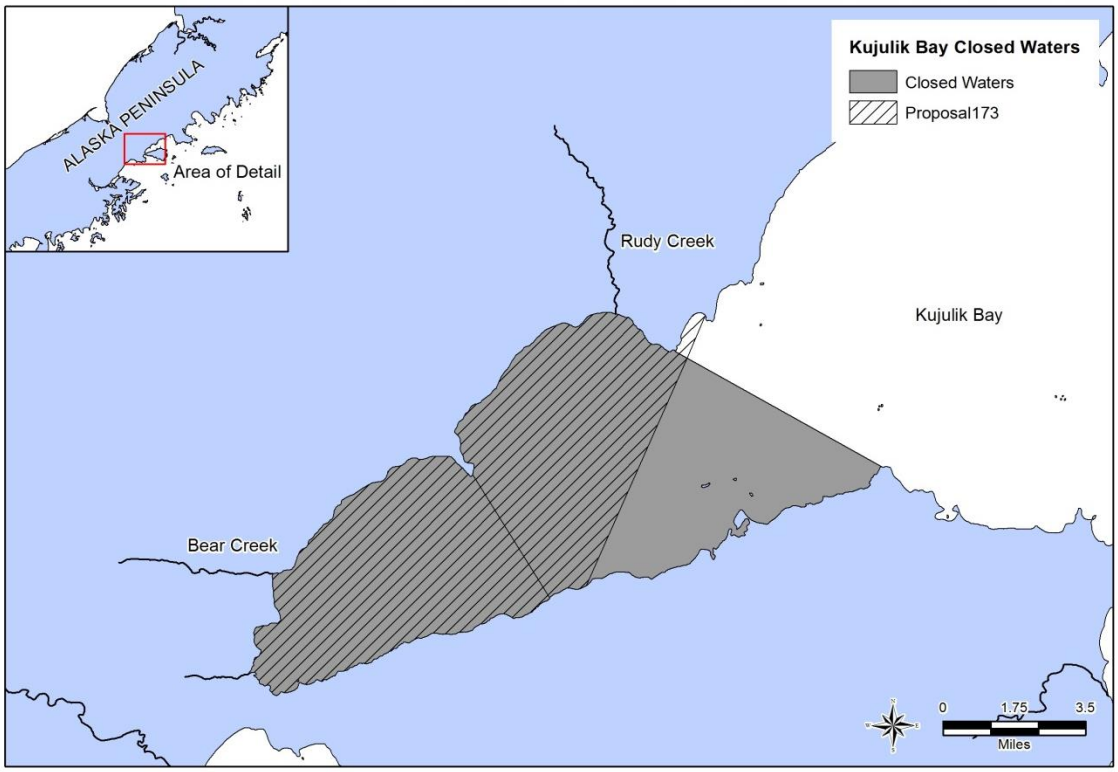

Figure 173-1.–Kujulik Bay with current and proposed closed waters depicted.

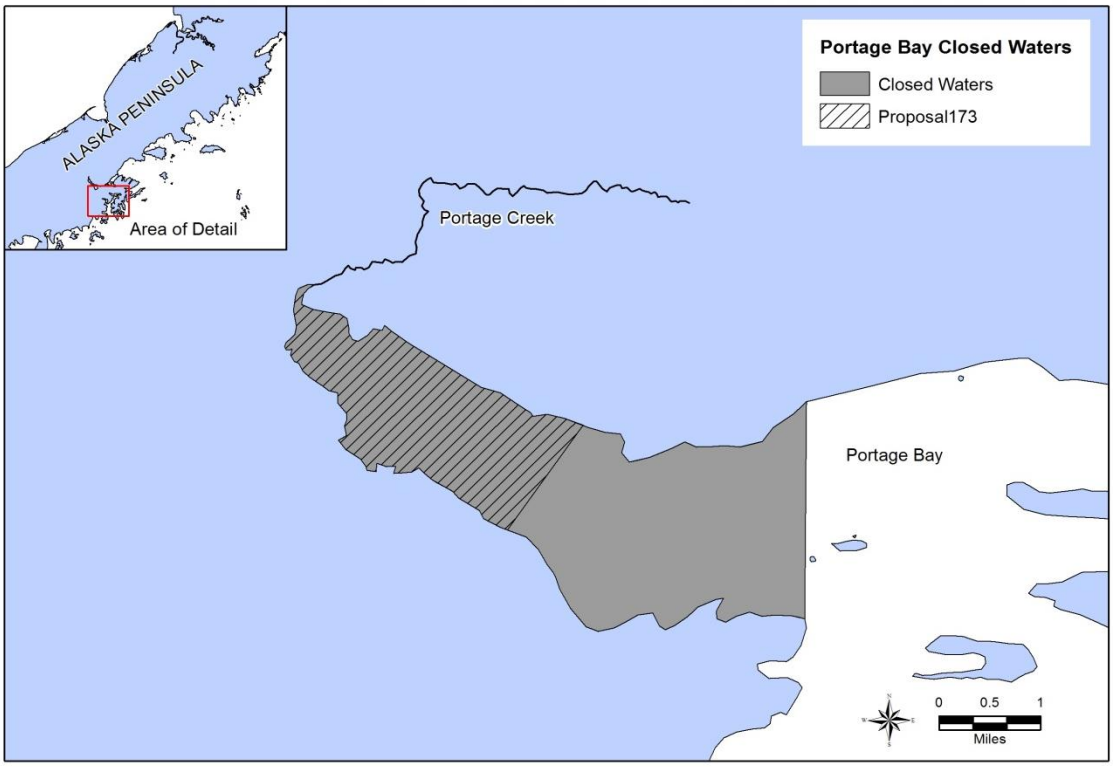

Figure 173-2.–Portage Bay with current and proposed waters closed waters depicted.

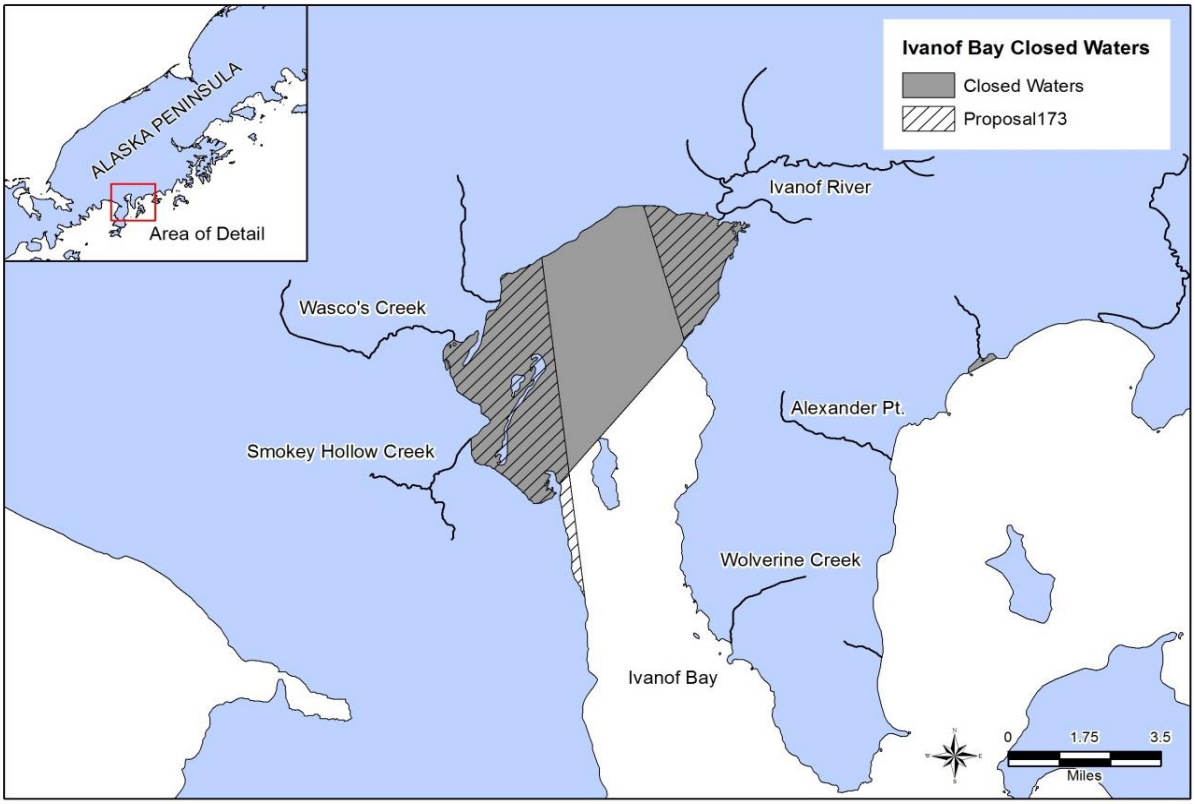

Figure 173-3.–Ivanof Bay with current and proposed closed waters depicted.

Table 173-1.–Pink salmon escapement in the Ivanof Bay, Dorner Bay, and Kujulik Bay sections compared to the total CMA pink salmon escapement.

	Number of Pink Salmon			
Year	Ivanof Bay Section	Dorner Bay Section[a]	Kujulik Bay Section	Total CMA escapement[b]
2006	27,000	6,200	24,150	374,826
2007	116,000	23,000	175,500	1,217,064
2008	87,200	13,560	49,500	863,031
2009	88,850	12,800	98,400	869,063
2010	10,100	9,500	28,650	330,570
2011	88,000	33,500	204,000	986,248
2012	13,100	10,750	34,550	302,699
2013	80,300	8,500	192,800	863,991
2014	6,090	4,000	17,500	235,159
2015	78,350	16,500	173,000	1,132,529

[a] Portage Bay is located within the statistical reporting area of the Dorner Bay Section.
[b] Total includes the Ivanof Bay, Dorner Bay and Kujulik Bay sections.

Table 173-2.–Chum salmon escapement in the Ivanof Bay, Dorner Bay, Kujulik Bay sections compared to the total CMA chum salmon escapement.

	Number of Chum Salmon			
Year	Ivanof Bay Section	Dorner Bay Section[a]	Kujulik Bay Section	Total CMA escapement[b]
2006	19,000	1,000	2,750	93,489
2007	104,000	18,500	20,200	238,098
2008	78,300	14,240	0	197,259
2009	33,500	3,900	22,900	218,159
2010	79,200	17,000	14,000	177,220
2011	55,500	5,000	24,500	278,145
2012	46,000	10,500	22,400	210,973
2013	196,000	11,500	46,500	335,907
2014	40,000	10,600	15,100	101,378
2015	38,100	7,800	20,200	238,214

[a] Portage Bay is located within the statistical reporting area of the Dorner Bay Section.
[b] Total includes the Ivanof Bay, Dorner Bay and Kujulik Bay sections.

PROPOSAL 174 – 5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Jack R. Foster Jr. and Amy M. Foster.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to close most of the Western District and the entire Perryville District of the CMA to commercial salmon fishing in July and August when the SEDM set gillnet fishery of Area M is closed to achieve salmon escapement goals.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There is no regulatory language that addresses fishing periods or harvesting of salmon during July or August in the Western and Perryville districts of the CMA based upon fishing opportunity in other management areas.

According to regulations *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* 5 AAC 15.357(d), the Western and Perryville districts may not open until July 6 except for two 48-hour fishing periods in the Western District from June 1 through July 5. From mid-July until the end of the commercial fishing season, the Western and Perryville districts are primarily managed based on department's evaluation of local pink and chum salmon stocks, in addition to the Chignik Lakes' sockeye salmon escapement objectives. Beginning approximately August 20, fishing periods in the Western and Perryville districts are also based on local coho salmon stocks, as well as the escapement objectives for the Chignik late-run sockeye salmon.

Under the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.360), the department manages SEDM based on three timeframes and conditions: 1) the strength of the Chignik sockeye salmon stocks from June 1–July 25 (prior to July 1 in the NWSS), 2) strength of Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon in the NWSS from July 1–July 25, and 3) abundance of local coho, chum and pink salmon stocks after July 25.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? If this proposal is adopted, the majority of the Western District and all of the Perryville District (Castle Cape to Kupreanof Point; Figure 174-1) of the CMA would close to commercial salmon fishing during the months of July and August if the set gillnet fishery in SEDM of Area M is closed to commercial salmon fishing. This proposal would not affect the Inner and Outer Castle Cape subsections of the Western District. If Area M salmon escapement is low, this proposal may result in significant loss of harvest opportunities on local stocks returning to the Western and Perryville districts.

BACKGROUND: Historically, the Western and Perryville districts remained closed to commercial salmon fishing during June and early-July (before July 6). These districts typically open early to mid-July largely to target local pink and chum salmon stocks. Pink salmon harvests in the Western and Perryville districts from July through the end of the season have ranged from approximately 59,405 fish to 1,338,406 fish over the most recent 10-year period (2006–2015; Table 174-1). Chum salmon harvests have ranged from 15,712 fish to 206,006 fish during the same time period.

Pink salmon indexed escapements in the Western and Perryville districts have ranged from 41,400 fish to 297,000 fish, and chum salmon indexed escapements have ranged from 35,000 fish to 217,700 fish from 2006–2015 (Table 174-2). The CMA area-wide (including all districts) pink salmon SEG range is 200,000–600,000 fish in even years and 500,000–800,000 fish in odd years. The CMA lower-bound SEG for chum salmon is 57,400 fish.

In Area M, the SEDM area is managed under the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.360). From June 1 until July 25 (June 1 through June 30 in the NWSS), the SEDM fishery is allocated 7.6% of the total CMA sockeye salmon harvest for that time period. Harvest in the NWSS is included in this allocation until July 1, when management of the area becomes based on the strength of the Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon run. After July 25, management of SEDM is based on local coho, pink and chum salmon stocks.

The department does not conduct pink salmon stock identification studies conducted within the CMA for any time period during the salmon season. Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of chum salmon in the Eastern, Central, Chignik Bay, Western and Perryville districts of the CMA, all strata, for 2007–2009 can be found in the report SP 12-25, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Chum Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2007–2009* (tables 7–18). Appendix tables C1–C19 document harvest for specific stocks by temporal stratum within a given year in the Chignik Management Area districts. Under WASSIP, the stock compositions of the Late Catch temporal strata for Eastern, Central, Western and Perryville districts was assumed to be 100% Chignik/Kodiak stock. In addition, the stock composition for the single temporal stratum per year for Chignik Bay District was also assumed to be 100% Chignik/Kodiak stock.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the months of June and July for SEDM can be found in report SP12-31, *Genetic Stock Composition of the Commercial Harvest of Sockeye Salmon in Southeast District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010-2012*. The June SEDM fishery was not included under the WASSIP sampling plan and, during the WASSIP years, extensive closures of the July fishery combined with low catches during some openings yielded stock-specific harvest and harvest rate information only on a subset of the temporal/spatial strata (report SP11-10, *Results from Sampling the 2006 – 2009 Commercial and Subsistence Fisheries in the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program*.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of the proposal. The department **OPPOSES** aspects of this proposal that reduce flexibility to harvest local pink and chum salmon surplus to escapement needs in the Western and Perryville districts of the CMA.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in the fishery.

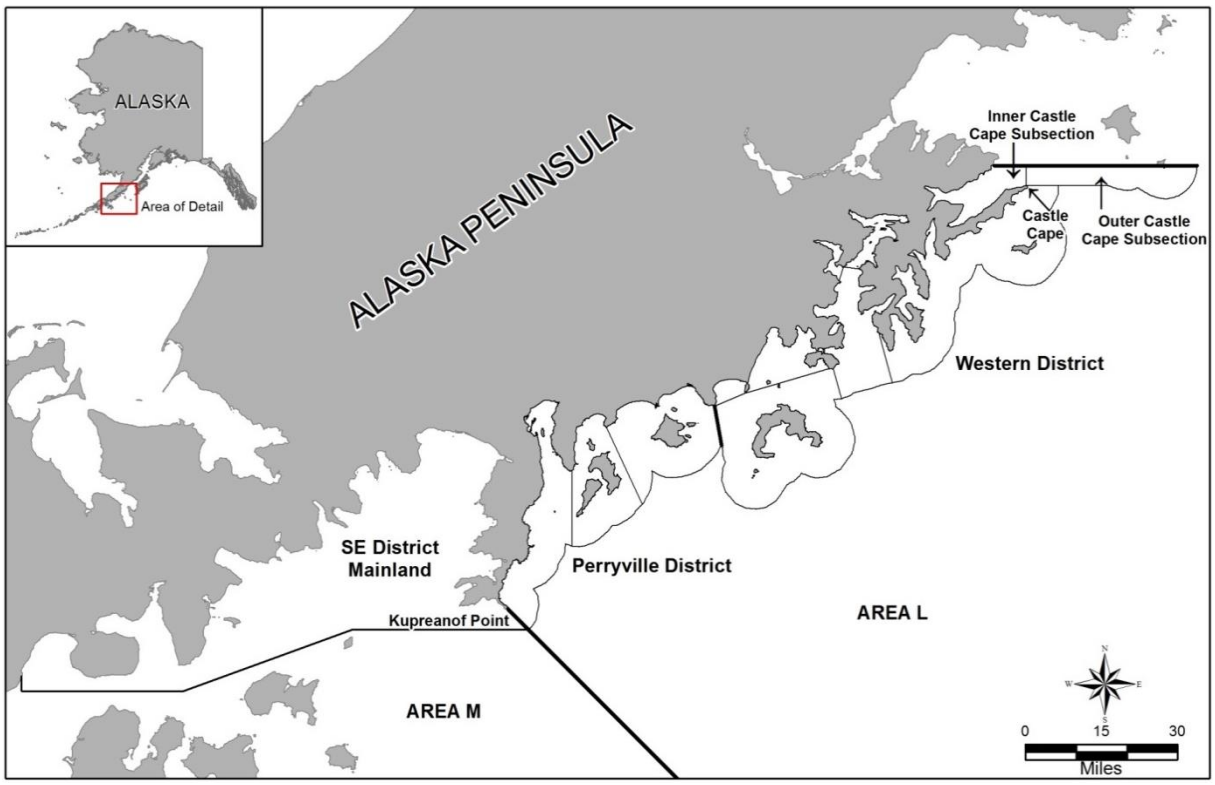

Figure 174-1.–Map of the Western and Perryville districts of the Chignik Management Area (Area L) and the Southeastern District Mainland of the South Alaska Peninsula (Area M).

Table 174-1.–Western and Perryville districts days open to commercial salmon fishing and harvest by species from July 1 through the end of the season, by year, 2006–2015.

	Days Open		Number of Salmon				
Year	July	August	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2006	19	14	79	69,570	29,993	161,964	49,096
2007	19	30	533	120,305	48,237	1,175,778	47,278
2008	12	28	462	53,363	106,332	1,338,406	90,393
2009	16	24	1,751	41,844	83,837	481,719	72,231
2010	15	23	5,488	51,556	108,591	228,675	206,006
2011	8	23	2,286	60,311	61,714	589,926	89,814
2012	6	27	713	13,756	22,068	59,405	36,724
2013	5	19	528	19,413	19,362	355,429	15,712
2014	18	24	4,106	311,822	107,672	238,504	29,463
2015	11	28	1,205	453,490	49,326	1,187,694	40,349
Averages							
2006–2015	13	24	1,715	119,543	63,713	581,750	67,707
2011–2015	10	24	1,768	171,758	52,028	486,192	42,412

Table 174-2.–Pink and chum salmon escapements in the Western and Perryville districts combined, 2006–2015.

Year	Pink	Chum
2006	115,300	35,000
2007	297,000	148,780
2008	272,660	104,665
2009	246,550	44,700
2010	41,400	98,600
2011	226,400	64,500
2012	71,400	71,800
2013	204,900	217,700
2014	64,940	52,000
2015	186,150	56,160
Averages		
2006–2015	172,670	89,391
2011–2015	150,758	92,432

PROPOSAL 175 – 5 AAC 15.3XX.X. Chignik Pink Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would create a specific pink salmon management plan for the CMA.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Per 5 AAC 15.310(b), fishing periods in the Perryville, Western, Central and Eastern districts are opened by EO.

The goal of 5 AAC 15.357 *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* is to allow traditional fisheries on Chignik Area salmon stocks while achieving the department's escapement goals for both sockeye salmon runs and local stocks of pink, chum, coho, and king salmon. In June, the Chignik Bay, Central and Eastern districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, open concurrently based on interim escapement objectives for the Chignik River sockeye salmon runs. During the transition period (late-June through mid-July) of the Black Lake sockeye salmon run (early run) to Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run (late run), these areas are managed to harvest surplus early-run sockeye salmon without jeopardizing the late-run sockeye salmon escapement objectives and may be closed to commercial fishing to achieve escapement objectives. From the end of the transition period through September 15, the Chignik Bay and Central districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection are managed based mainly on the late-run sockeye salmon escapement objectives; however, actions can also be taken to protect or harvest local pink, chum, king and coho salmon runs. The Eastern District, at the end of the transition period, is managed based the department's evaluation of local pink, chum and coho salmon stocks and on the late sockeye salmon run strength.

The Western and Perryville districts, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, cannot open to commercial salmon fishing until July 6 (5 AAC 15.357(d)) except for that the Western District may open concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central districts for no more than two fishing periods of up to 48 hours from June 1–July 5 (5 AAC 15.357(e)). Commercial fishing periods in the Western and Perryville districts are based on the evaluation of local pink and chum salmon stocks as well as the evaluation of the Chignik Lakes' sockeye salmon runs from the end of the transition period until August 20. Beginning August 20 until the end of the commercial fishing season, management of the Western and Perryville districts are based on the department's evaluation of the local coho, pink, and chum salmon stocks and the late-run sockeye salmon escapement.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would create a specific pink salmon management plan for the terminal waters of 11 bays in the CMA from June 24 through August 31 (Figure 175-1). A 72-hour fishing period per week would occur in these areas however, fishing time could be restricted based on evidence of targeted sockeye salmon harvesting and/or minus tides. This would change from the current policy of the department being able to open these areas for pink and chum salmon when escapement is adequate and instead would require the department to close these areas when escapement is not adequate. It is unclear what kind of restrictions, if necessary, would be appropriate during minus tides. This proposal would also allow five bays located in the Western and Perryville districts (Kuiukta, Fishrack, Ivan, Humpback and Ivanof bays; Figure 175-1) to

open in June and early July. Under the current management plan these districts may not open to commercial salmon fishing until July 6 (with the exception of the Inner Castle Cape Subsection and two 48-hour fishing periods in the Western District from June 1–July 5). Pink and chum salmon harvest would likely increase with the adoption of this proposal. However, in years of weak returns, mandatory fishing openers in terminal areas early in the season may harvest fish early in the run that are essential to achieving escapement and would result in underescapement.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1999, the Eastern District of the CMA was managed based on the *Eastern District Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.360 Repealed 5/29/99). Under this management plan, the department was required to close the Eastern District on July 15 to evaluate the strength of the pink and chum salmon runs. The remainder of the CMA was managed by EO based on evaluation of local salmon stocks. The first commercial fishing period in the Western and Perryville districts typically occurred around the first week of July. In January of 1999, the board approved the current *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357) that established more detailed guidelines for salmon management in all districts of the CMA. The plan also incorporated the major points of the *Eastern District Management Plan*; however it did not include the closure date of July 15. Under the current plan, the Chignik Bay and Central districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, are managed based on the early and late sockeye salmon runs throughout the season, as well as local king, pink and chum salmon stocks from the end of the transition period (typically mid-July) until Sept. 14. The Eastern District opens concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central districts in June based on the early sockeye salmon run escapement. From the end of the transition period through the end of the fishing season, fishing periods in the Eastern District are based on the strength of local pink, chum and coho salmon runs as well as the late sockeye salmon run. The Western and Perryville districts may not open until July 6 (with the exception of two 48-hour fishing periods in the Western District during June and early-July) and fishing periods are based on evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs as well as the late sockeye salmon run from the end of the transition period until the end of the season. Certain terminal harvest areas known as the Cape Itki Line, the waters of Ivanof Bay and a portion of the Chignik Bay and Central districts known as Jack's Box have also been put into regulation and may be open from the end of the transition period to August 20 5 AAC 15.357((d)(2)(B)(i)(ii)).

The CMA has an area wide aggregate SEG for pink salmon of 200,000–600,000 fish in even years and 500,000–800,000 fish in odd years. In addition, the CMA has a lower bound SEG for chum salmon of 57,400 fish. As defined by 5 AAC 39.222 (f), when a lower bound SEG exists for a stock, the department will seek to maintain escapements over the level of the lower bound SEG. Based on historical survey data and past escapement goal reviews, the department has managed chum salmon in recent years using inseason stream and district objectives, with an overall area wide goal of approximately 200,000 chum salmon. Pink salmon are managed similarly with each district having an inseason objective that when added together equal the SEG range. This type of management prevents one area from being over harvested yet accommodates variations in the pink and chum salmon runs from year to year. Since run timing is variable by species, and stream, each system is evaluated according to individual run timing characteristics.

Odd-year indexed pink salmon escapements in the CMA over the most recent 10-year period have ranged from 863,991 fish in 2013 to 1,217,064 fish in 2007 and have averaged above the

upper escapement goal range (Table 175-1). Even-year pink salmon escapements over the most recent 10-year period have ranged from 235,159 fish in 2014 to 863,031 fish in 2008. Even-year pink salmon averages have been within escapement goal range of 200,000–600,000 fish except for 2008 when the goal was exceeded. Chum salmon index escapements have ranged from 93,489 fish in 2006 to 335,907 fish in 2013, achieving the lower bound SEG of 57,400 fish for all years (Table 175-2).

The current management strategy is to evaluate pink and chum salmon run strength by aerial surveys throughout the commercial salmon fishing season. The number of pink and chum salmon harvested in the commercial salmon fishery can also provide an indication of run strength. However, if the sockeye salmon runs are weak, fishing in the outer sections of the districts must remain closed to protect Chignik River-bound sockeye salmon. When there is no commercial fishery occurring in the outer sections of the districts, management must rely mainly on aerial survey information for in-season assessment of pink and chum salmon stocks. Observations from surveys are compared to average run timing and historical date of stream entry in order to assess the runs. Once it is determined that the run strength is sufficient to provide harvest opportunity, commercial fishing periods can be established by EO. Commercial fishing periods may be established in terminal areas before escapement goals have been achieved if the department is confident that the salmon returns are on track to meet those goals. Typically however, pink and chum salmon are harvested outside the bays during commercial fishing periods targeting sockeye salmon in June and early-July with more targeted effort on pink and chum salmon later in the season. Since 2006, pink salmon harvest in the CMA have ranged from 137,706 fish in 2006 to 2,389,958 fish (Table 175-3) in 2008 while chum salmon harvest have ranged from 55,152 fish in 2014 to 581,329 fish in 2010 (Table 175-4).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal because of the lack of flexibility it provides the department to manage pink and chum salmon stocks. Current regulations allow the department to establish fishing periods by EO based on the evaluation of the strength of the salmon runs. During years of weak returns, a mandatory fishing period in terminal areas before the run strength is determined, may result in over-harvesting fish necessary to achieve escapement goals and require restrictions for future fishing periods in terminal and non-terminal fishing areas.

The author also mentions that fishing may be closed or limited in the proposed bays when minus tides are slated to occur. On average, minus tides occur about two weeks of every month in the CMA. The department is unclear on how fishing could close around these tides if necessary and still provide a 72-hour fishing period and asks for clarification on this from the board if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

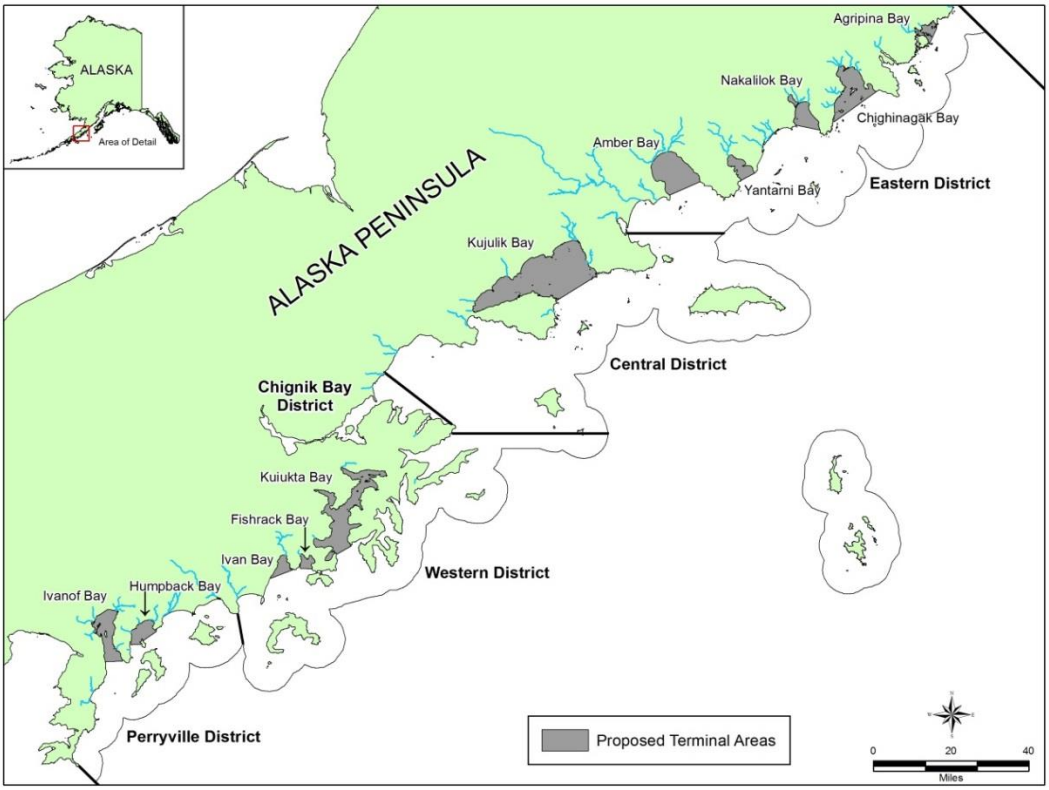

Figure 175-1.–Proposed terminal harvest areas for pink and chum salmon in the CMA.

Table 175-1.–Pink salmon escapement by district in the Chignik Management Area, 2006–2015.

	District					
Year	Chignik Bay	Central	Eastern	Western	Perryville	Total
2006	27,401	36,175	195,950	31,800	83,500	374,826
2007	62,464	291,800	565,800	113,000	184,000	1,217,064
2008	69,841	117,650	402,880	99,460	173,200	863,031
2009	28,973	130,700	462,840	130,100	116,450	869,063
2010	8,020	52,650	228,500	22,000	19,400	330,570
2011	32,348	223,500	504,000	86,650	139,750	986,248
2012	11,849	63,950	155,500	35,700	35,700	302,699
2013	24,131	223,900	411,060	63,200	141,700	863,991
2014	7,669	30,500	132,050	46,850	18,090	235,159
2015	11,329	232,650	702,400	80,200	105,950	1,132,529
Odd year averages						
2007–2015	31,849	220,510	529,220	94,630	137,570	1,013,779
2011–2015	22,603	226,683	539,153	76,683	129,133	994,256
Even year averages						
2006–2014	24,956	60,185	222,976	47,162	65,978	421,257
2010–2014	9,179	49,033	172,017	34,850	24,397	289,476

Table 175-2.–Chum salmon escapement by district in the Chignik Management Area, 2006–2015.

	District					
Year	Chignik Bay	Central	Eastern	Western	Perryville	Total
2006	1,099	3,450	53,940	6,000	29,000	93,489
2007	6,118	25,200	58,000	26,500	122,280	238,098
2008	17,624	17,850	57,120	21,240	83,425	197,259
2009	10,809	20,550	138,900	9,200	35,500	214,959
2010	1,095	17,000	60,525	19,400	79,200	177,220
2011	4,145	32,500	177,000	9,000	55,500	278,145
2012	1,173	35,000	103,000	25,500	46,300	210,973
2013	672	53,600	63,935	20,200	197,500	335,907
2014	658	21,100	27,620	11,800	40,200	101,378
2015	0	28,700	152,800	13,810	42,350	237,660
Averages						
2006–2015	4,339	25,495	89,284	16,265	73,126	208,509
2011–2015	1,330	34,180	104,871	16,062	76,370	232,813

Table 175-3.–Pink salmon harvest by district in the Chignik Management Area, 2006–2015.

	District					
Year	Chignik Bay	Central	Eastern	Western	Perryville	Total
2006	62,419	79,726	79,465	161,964	0	383,574
2007	187,670	612,921	43,379	1,152,331	23,447	2,019,748
2008	232,444	369,298	416,520	1,062,482	309,214	2,389,958
2009	77,569	317,085	275,791	711,890	26,004	1,408,339
2010	30,683	183,008	43,264	225,716	7,110	489,781
2011	30,707	225,307	54,288	368,351	226,513	905,166
2012	10,096	55,030	4,946	67,523	111	137,706
2013	76,473	218,685	197,293	192,861	186,559	871,871
2014	11,663	98,984	2,964	226,008	12,496	352,115
2015	81,541	686,374	13,783	993,349	203,164	1,978,211
Averages						
2006–2015	80,127	284,642	113,169	516,248	99,462	1,093,647
2011–2015	42,096	256,876	54,655	369,618	125,769	849,014

Table 175-4.–Chum salmon harvest by district in the Chignik Management Area, 2006–2015.

	District					
Year	Chignik Bay	Central	Eastern	Western	Perryville	Total
2006	2,303	9,455	776	49,096	0	61,630
2007	3,829	19,595	7,851	46,943	335	78,553
2008	13,453	40,130	58,925	88,078	8,739	209,325
2009	14,553	62,149	59,800	116,231	3,692	256,425
2010	27,388	226,501	116,336	204,911	6,193	581,329
2011	9,077	116,580	51,989	75,363	16,494	269,503
2012	5,523	88,120	21,227	56,125	117	171,112
2013	9,202	57,356	45,268	38,237	4,902	154,965
2014	4,329	20,750	610	26,578	2,885	55,152
2015	5,683	39,373	2,768	48,080	5,113	101,017
Averages						
2006–2015	9,534	68,001	36,555	74,964	4,847	193,901
2011–2015	6,763	64,436	24,372	48,877	5,902	150,350

Chignik Area Groundfish Management (1 Proposal): 2

PROPOSAL 2 – 5 AAC 28.540. Possession requirements for Chignik Area.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would allow purse seine vessels participating in the Chignik Area salmon fishery to retain an unspecified bycatch percentage of Pacific cod. Pacific cod taken as bycatch would be deducted from Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod GHL. Bycatch retention of Pacific cod by purse seine vessels would only be permissible when Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod GHL is available. The proposal does not specify how to incorporate Pacific cod taken as bycatch within the *Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan* (5 AAC 28.537).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod GHL is allocated to pot and jig gear vessels. There is no regulation allowing for retention of Pacific cod by purse seine vessels in the Chignik Area salmon fishery. Within state-waters groundfish fisheries, Pacific cod bycatch limits are established by regulation or department EO. A groundfish vessel may not have Pacific cod taken as bycatch in excess of 20 percent by weight of the target groundfish species onboard (5 AAC 28.070. *Groundfish possession and landing requirements*).

Purse seine gear is the only allowable gear type during the Chignik Area salmon fishery. Seine specifications for the salmon fishery are in 5 AAC 15.332. Currently, seine gear is not a legal gear type to commercially harvest Pacific cod; therefore, any cod retained during a commercial salmon fishery are not lawfully taken. Pacific cod may be legally taken with seine gear in a subsistence fishery.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Estimates of purse seine Pacific cod bycatch are unavailable because vessels are prohibited from retaining Pacific cod while salmon fishing. If Pacific cod is retained as bycatch during the salmon fishery, this proposal would reduce the amount of GHL available to existing gear types. If the Chignik Area Pacific cod GHL is fully harvested prior to, or during the salmon season, retention of Pacific cod by salmon vessels would be prohibited unless the board allocates a portion of the total state-waters Chignik Area Pacific cod GHL to purse seine vessels independent of the current pot and jig gear GHL allocations. It is unknown if this proposal would affect inseason management precision of the state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

BACKGROUND: Two Pacific cod fisheries occur in the Chignik Area: the state-waters fishery and the parallel fishery. Parallel Pacific cod harvest is deducted from the federal CGOA Pacific cod TAC. Under this proposal, Pacific cod taken as bycatch would be deducted from Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod GHL, thus purse seine vessels would only be able to retain Pacific cod taken as bycatch when the state-waters Pacific cod fishery is open.

Legal gear during the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific fishery has been limited to pot and jig gear since the fishery was implemented in 1997. The *Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan* allocates 90 percent of the state-waters GHL to pot gear and 10 percent to jig gear. From 2011 to 2015, the state-waters pot gear GHL allocation averaged 9.5 million pounds annually

while the jig gear GHL allocation averaged 1.0 million pounds annually (Table 2-1). The pot gear fishery opens March 1 or seven days after closure of the CGOA federal/parallel Pacific cod A season, whichever is later. During most years the pot gear GHL allocation is fully harvested (Table 2-1) and the pot gear season closes prior to the start of the salmon season. The state-waters jig fishery opens by regulation on March 15. Historically, the jig gear GHL allocation has not been fully harvested (Table 2-1) and the fishery has remained open from the spring season opening date through December 31. The lack of local Pacific cod markets during the jig season likely limits effort and harvest. Unharvested jig gear GHL may be reallocated to both pot and jig gear vessels starting August 15 to facilitate full harvest of the GHL.

Department staff receive anecdotal reports of Pacific cod bycatch during the Chignik Area salmon purse seine fishery, although, because Pacific cod cannot be retained in seine gear, there are no records of harvest in the department's salmon fish ticket database.

Consistent with current catch accounting practices, vessels participating in the Chignik salmon fishery would be required to report Pacific cod retained as bycatch on salmon fish tickets because all bycatch must be associated with the directed species onboard a vessel. However, catch accounting and data archiving for groundfish and salmon fisheries are unique and reflect differences in management complexity and data needs. Groundfish catch reporting is complex and requires coordinated input from the department, NMFS, IPHC, and industry. Salmon fisheries are exclusively managed by the state and the corresponding catch accounting process is comparatively less involved. Currently, the salmon and groundfish catch accounting programs are not programmed to account for groundfish bycatch during salmon fisheries.

From 2011 to 2015, Chignik Area salmon fishery purse seine vessel effort ranged from 64 to 76 vessels. Most salmon effort occurs June through August.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. Should Proposal 2 be adopted, the department would need direction from the board on how Pacific cod bycatch in the salmon fishery would be incorporated within the Pacific cod management plan. Additional department funding would be necessary to modify catch accounting programs to accommodate Pacific cod bycatch reporting on salmon fish tickets.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 2-1.–Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod pot and jig gear vessel count, harvest, and GHL allocations, 2000–2015.

Year	Pot vessel count	Pot GHL (pounds)	Pot harvest (pounds)	Percent of pot GHL harvested	Jig vessel count	Jig GHL (pounds)	Jig harvest (pounds)	Percent of jig GHL harvested
2000	20	5,712,673	1,756,305	30.7%	5	1,008,119	38,453	4%
2001	15	5,069,916	2,371,243	46.8%	13	894,691	277,411	31%
2002	12	4,155,625	3,898,593	93.8%	14	733,346	324,199	44%
2003	15	3,804,076	4,034,504	106.1%	16	671,308	433,067	65%
2004	17	5,870,083	5,608,763	95.5%	14	1,035,897	141,697	14%
2005	15	5,749,576	5,650,595	98.3%	9	638,842	136,948	21%
2006	12	6,575,284	3,439,521	52.3%	2	730,587	CF	CF
2007	16	6,575,284	5,700,861	86.7%	0	730,587	0	0%
2008	23	6,580,145	6,741,090	102.4%	2	731,127	CF	CF
2009	11	5,472,488	5,679,676	103.8%	1	608,054	CF	CF
2010	16	8,514,379	8,491,185	99.7%	2	946,042	CF	CF
2011	23	9,343,213	9,370,870	100.3%	10	1,038,135	224,400	22%
2012	20	9,885,583	10,229,969	103.5%	6	1,098,398	266,638	24%
2013	19	8,557,088	8,712,190	101.8%	0	950,788	0	0%
2014	12	9,218,894	9,150,276	99.3%	2	1,024,322	CF	CF
2015*	17	10,646,012	10,248,382	96.3%	2	1,182,890	CF	CF
2000–2015 avg.	16	6,983,145	6,317,751	90.5%	6	876,446	184,281	21%
2011–2015 avg.	18	9,530,158	9,542,337	100.2%	4	1,058,907	163,679	15%

* Through September 15, 2015; the last pot gear delivery was March 24, and the last jig delivery was May 3, additional harvest is not anticipated.

CF = Confidential data.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – GROUP 2: (9 PROPOSALS)

Aleutian Islands Groundfish (2 proposals): 194–195

PROPOSAL 194 – 5 AAC 28.650. Closed waters in Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area.

PROPOSED BY: Unalaska Native Fishermen's Association.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Close all waters of Unalaska Bay year-round to groundfish fishing with pelagic trawl gear.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Unalaska Bay is closed to groundfish fishing with pelagic trawl gear from June 10 through August 31 (5 AAC 28.650(b)(1); Figure 194-1). From September 1 until the closure of the parallel Bering Sea walleye pollock B season on November 1, the inner portion of Unalaska Bay is closed (5 AAC 28.650(b)(2); Figure 194-1).

The Bering Sea walleye pollock fishery in Unalaska Bay is managed under parallel rules. Unalaska Bay is part of the federal South Bering Sea Pollock Restriction Area, which closes Unalaska Bay to fishing for walleye pollock during the A season (January 20 through June 10) for protection of Steller sea lions. Unalaska Bay is closed to nonpelagic trawl gear year-round by state regulation (5 AAC 39.164(b)(4)(B)).

Starting in 2011, federal regulations require full (100%) observer coverage for all catcher vessels participating in the Bering Sea walleye pollock fishery as part of the monitoring requirements put in place under a new approach to managing salmon bycatch. Prior to 2011, all catcher processors and catcher vessels ≥125′ in overall length were required to have 100% observer coverage.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Unalaska Bay would be closed to fishing year-round with pelagic trawl gear. Vessels using pelagic trawl gear to target walleye pollock in Unalaska Bay waters would relocate to other Bering Sea waters. Groundfish harvest from Unalaska Bay would decrease and those harvests would be shifted to other areas.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 2010, harvest of walleye pollock using pelagic trawl gear was allowed in all waters of Unalaska Bay throughout the Bering Sea pollock B season, June 10–November 1. In 2010, the board closed inner Unalaska Bay during the Bering Sea pollock B season, and allowed the outer portion of Unalaska Bay to open to fishing with pelagic trawl gear from August 1 through the end of the Bering Sea pollock B season (Figure 194-1). In 2012, the board extended the closure of the pelagic trawl fishery in the outer portion of Unalaska Bay through August 31; the outer portion of Unalaska Bay is open to fishing with pelagic trawl gear from September 1 through the end of the Bering Sea pollock B season.

Harvest of walleye pollock in Unalaska Bay over the past 10 years has ranged from 0.9 to 7.3 million pounds taken by an average of 8 vessels (Table 194-1). During the most recent five years, harvest of pollock annually averaged 3.1 million pounds taken by an average of six vessels, with an average vessel size of 120 feet OAL.

Based on walleye pollock fish ticket records, during the past five years Pacific cod was estimated as the largest source of bycatch with an average of 55,822 pounds, followed by Atka mackerel with average annual bycatch of 2,165 pounds (Table 194-1). The estimated average annual Pacific herring bycatch was 1,379 pounds. Estimated bycatch of Pacific halibut averaged 1,484 pounds annually. Estimated bycatch of Pacific salmon was 2,343 pounds, made up almost entirely of chum and king salmon. Estimated bycatch of sockeye, pink, and coho salmon was minimal, estimated annually about 50 pounds. The majority of Pacific cod and Atka mackerel was sold, while Pacific salmon, Pacific halibut and Pacific herring were primarily discarded at the dock with a small amount processed for donation. Directed harvest and bycatch data are from the department fish ticket database which assigns bycatch to statistical area based on percentage of the directed harvest.

Unalaska Bay also supports subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries for salmon, herring, crab (confidential harvest), and halibut (tables 194-2, 194-3, 194-4, 194-5, 194-6). These fisheries are typically prosecuted by smaller vessels using longline, pot, gillnet, and purse seine gear.

Sockeye and coho salmon runs returning to Unalaska Bay streams are relatively small and fully exploited by local fisheries. Current restrictions in sport and subsistence fishing regulations include partial to complete drainage closures for several streams, and conservative areawide bag limits apply to salmon in both marine and fresh waters.

The ANS for salmon, all species combined, for the entire Aleutian Islands Area is 13,500–23,000 fish. The ANS for finfish other than salmon, all species combined, for the entire Aleutian Islands Area is 200,000–330,000 usable pounds.

The ANS for king crab in the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands area is 1,200–7,400 crab. For Tanner crab, the ANS is 4,200–16,200 crab for the entire area, and for Dungeness crab and miscellaneous shellfish combined, the ANS is 22,000–68,000 usable pounds.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the vessel conflict aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 194-1.–Harvest, in pounds, of walleye pollock and associated bycatch from pelagic trawl gear in Unalaska Bay, 2005-2015.

Year	Number of Vessels	Walleye pollock	Pacific cod	Atka mackerel	Tanner crab	Pacific halibut	Pacific herring	Coho salmon	Chum salmon	Pink salmon	King salmon
2005	11	2,241,169	2,511	18,611	ND	56	27,186	22	3,405	586	247
2006	8	892,327	1,465	10,028	0	37	4,681	ND	414	0	97
2007	12	4,137,647	12,601	1,342	28	718	2,254	2	2,378	8	8,005
2008	6	1,788,646	11,163	15	10	1,410	162	ND	385	ND	236
2009	9	3,279,153	22,248	122	2	2,567	2,769	0	2,455	24	2,442
2010[a]	5	3,861,621	85,081	45	ND	4,683	3,403	8	2,678	31	104
2011	9	2,339,583	25,033	8,568	ND	547	3,270	ND	842	94	144
2012	4	976,663	43,782	20	ND	1,638	221	ND	4,802	4	576
2013	5	994,384	18,809	ND	ND	498	0	ND	1,282	ND	407
2014	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2015[b]	7	7,277,797	106,407	28	ND	55	3	ND	513	ND	111
10-yr Avg	8	2,778,899	32,910	4,309	10	1,221	4,395	8	1,915	107	1,237
5-yr Avg	6	3,090,010	55,822	2,165	0	1,484	1,379	8	2,024	43	268

Note: ND = No data

Source: Data are from the department fish ticket database, department statistical area 665335.

[a] Unalaska Bay pelagic trawl partial closure beginning mid 2010.

[b] 2015 data are preliminary.

Table 194-2.–Reported subsistence salmon harvest, permit returns, in numbers of fish, from Unalaska Bay, 2001–2014.

Year	Permits	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
2001	51	5	219	567	579	60	1,430
2002	43	2	263	531	222	37	1,055
2003	40	8	247	444	282	31	1,012
2004	49	6	356	778	362	20	1,522
2005	29	5	302	253	336	14	910
2006	31	11	91	313	426	57	898
2007	37	10	261	250	514	62	1,097
2008	63	2	396	599	501	70	1,568
2009	62	3	597	485	242	145	1,472
2010	45	1	324	201	250	54	830
2011	38	6	333	138	262	46	785
2012	36	17	321	326	299	37	1,000
2013	44	2	579	141	182	52	956
2014	44	2	589	263	220	9	1,083

Table 194-3.–Commercial salmon harvest in number of fish from Unalaska Bay, 2006–2015.

Year	Permits Fished	Landings	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2006	3	6	0	0	0	161,600	0
2007	CF						
2008	3	7	1	0	0	111,821	5
2009	3	15	0	684	4,431	230,033	600
2010	5	6	0	0	0	22,271	22,271
2011	8	34	2	1,863	12,486	617,932	223
2012	9	23	0	0	0	173,252	245
2013	closed						
2014	0						
2015	closed						

Note: Data from ADF&G fish ticket system.
CF = Confidential harvest.

Table 194-4.–Commercial food and bait herring harvest from Unalaska Bay, 2006–2015.

Year	Permits	Tons
2006	4	414
2007	4	995
2008	3	1,575
2009	CF	0
2010	CF	0
2011	0	0
2012	CF	0
2013	0	0
2014	0	0
2015	0	0

Note: Data from ADF&G fish ticket system.
CF = Confidential.

Table 194-5.–Reported subsistence king and Tanner crab harvest in number of crab from Unalaska Bay, 2008–2014.

Year	Permits	Tanner crab	King crab
2008	N/A	821	1,203
2009	N/A	2,051	616
2010	N/A	2,259	143
2011	N/A	1,426	182
2012	49	1,997	583
2013	37	1,923	583
2014	45	1,757	236

Note: Data from subsistence permits returned to ADF&G.
N/A = Not available..

Table 194-6.–Commercial halibut longline harvest in pounds from Unalaska Bay, 2007–2015.

Year	Pounds	Vessels	Landings
2007	63,074	10	28
2008	10,812	7	11
2009	28,505	9	26
2010	17,448	6	8
2011	6,591	5	7
2012	7,729	5	6
2013	1,899	3	3
2014	0		
2015	0		

Note: Data from ADF&G fish ticket system.

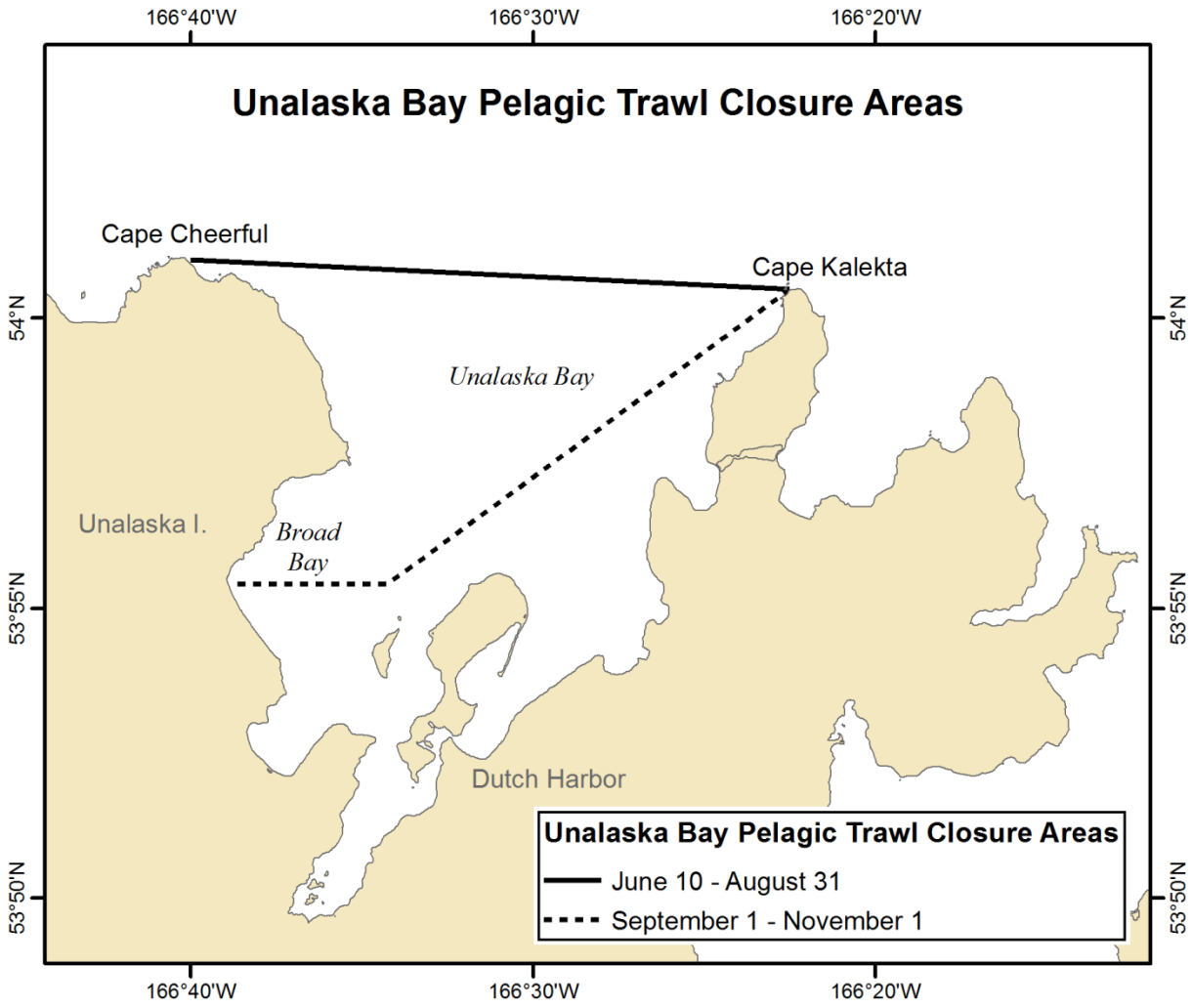

Figure 194-1.–Unalaska Bay pelagic trawl closure areas.

PROPOSAL 195 – 5 AAC 28.640. Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Sablefish Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Update logbook regulatory requirements for the Aleutian Islands state-waters sablefish fishery.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Aleutian Islands state-waters sablefish fishermen are required to complete a logbook provided by the department (5 AAC 28.640(g)). The logbook must be onboard the vessel at all times and copies submitted to the department within 7 days of landing.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Current regulatory logbook requirements are vague. This proposal would provide more regulatory detail for specific logbook information.

BACKGROUND: Current regulation for the sablefish logbook program states that each vessel operator shall obtain and complete a logbook,but does not specify the information to be recorded in the logbook provided by the department. Alaska Wildlife Troopers has indicated the current regulation regarding logbooks is not enforceable and has recommended specifying requirements for logbooks in regulation.

During the past 5 years, an average of 24 vessels participated in the state-waters sablefish fishery and the GHL has averaged 464,000 pounds.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery (1 proposal): 196

PROPOSAL 196 – 5 AAC 27.655. Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery Allocation Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Evich.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to change the date at which Dutch Harbor food and bait herring gillnet allocation can be accessed by fishermen using purse seine gear.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 27.655 (a) and (b), the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring GHL is allocated 86% to seine gear and 14% to gillnet gear. After July 25, if the gillnet fishery allocation has not been taken, the remaining gillnet fishery allocation may be harvested by fishermen using purse seine and gillnet gear, except that if harvest in the seine fishery exceeds the seine fishery allocation on or before July 25, the excess amount harvested in the seine fishery will be subtracted from the remaining gillnet fishery allocation for that year after July 25 to establish the remaining allocation that may be harvested by either gear type. If the harvest by the seine fishery exceeds the remaining allocation established under this subsection after July 25, the excess amount harvested by the seine fishery will be subtracted from the following year's seine fishery allocation.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would change the date at which any remaining gillnet herring allocation could be harvested by purse seine gear from July 25, to July 20. Allowing seine gear to harvest the gillnet GHL could potentially increase the overall harvest of seine gear, but the fishery would continue to be managed so that the GHL is not exceeded in any given year.

BACKGROUND: From 1981 to 1986 and 1990 to 2000, only purse seine gear was used to harvest herring in the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery. However, between 1987 and 1989, and again in 1997, gillnet permit holders recorded landings. In 2001, the board allocated 7% of the total Dutch Harbor GHL to the gillnet fleet. From 2001 to 2003, the number of gillnet fishermen increased from 6 to 13 vessels. In 2004, the gillnet harvest allocation was further increased to 14%. However, since 2010 the gillnet allocation has not been harvested at all (Table 196-1).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 196-2.–Dutch Harbor herring food and bait fishery allocations (tons) and harvest (tons), by gear type, 2010-2015.

		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
All Gear Types	Allocation	1,950	1,867	1,627	2,082	2,099	2,184
	Harvest	1,941	1,795	1,807	1,764	1,645	1,972
Gillnet Fishery	Allocation	273	261	227	317	294	306
	Harvest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seine Fishery	Allocation	1,677	1,606	1,400	1,765	1,805	1,878
	Harvest	1,941	1,795	1,807	1,764	1,645	1,972

Aleutian Islands Salmon (1 proposal): 188

PROPOSAL 188 – 5 AAC 12.320. Weekly Fishing Periods.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Kurtz and John Mitchell.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Create fishing periods in the Unalaska District for pink salmon coinciding with the last two July openings in the Shumagin Island Section (Figure 188-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? From July 19 through September 30 salmon may be taken during the open season only during fishing periods established by EO.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Allowing commercial fishing in the Unalaska District prior to aerial surveys conducted by the department exposes pink salmon returning to Unalaska to overharvest due to variable run timing, size, and distribution of local pink salmon stocks (Figures 188-2 and 188-3).

BACKGROUND: The Aleutian Islands have runs of sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon. There are no known king salmon producing streams in the Aleutian Islands. Streams on Unalaska, Umnak, Atka, Amlia, Adak, and Attu Islands produce relatively large pink salmon runs during even-numbered years. Tanaga, Kanaga, and Kiska Islands each have at least one substantial pink salmon stream.

There is very little salmon escapement information collected for the Aleutian Islands and Atka-Amlia Islands areas. Poor weather, remoteness, unavailability of suitable aircraft, and the high cost of aircraft charters limit surveys. The United States Energy Research and Development Administration conducted limited studies on Amchitka Island in 1977. A salmon escapement and distribution study of the entire Aleutian chain was conducted by the department in 1982. Repetitive surveys on some Atka and Amlia islands streams were conducted by the department in 1992, 1993, and 1994. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) conducted salmon abundance and distribution research on Adak Island in 1993 and 1994.

The Unalaska District has been aerial surveyed for pink salmon at least once every year since 1961 except for 1965, 1966, 1976, and 2010 (Figures 188-2 and 188-3). Although many of these aerial surveys happened only once per season, the results have indicated that pink salmon returns to the Unalaska District vary widely in timing and magnitude from year to year (Figure 188-3 and Table 188-1).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal due to conservation concerns. The highly variable magnitude and timing of returns of pink salmon to the Unalaska District exposes individual stocks to overharvest if commercial fishery openings were to occur prior to documentation of adequate escapement.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

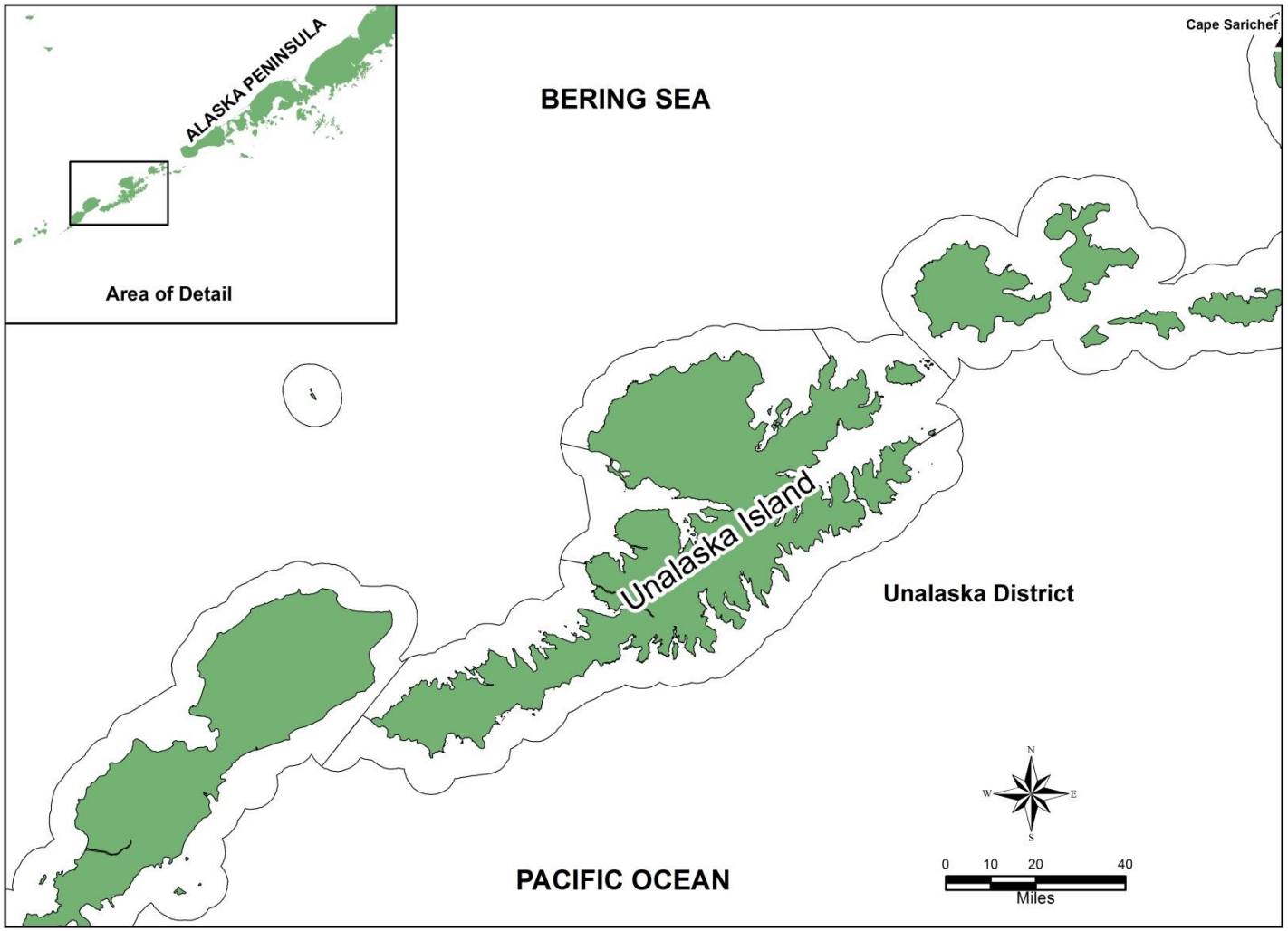

Figure 188-1.–Unalaska District map.

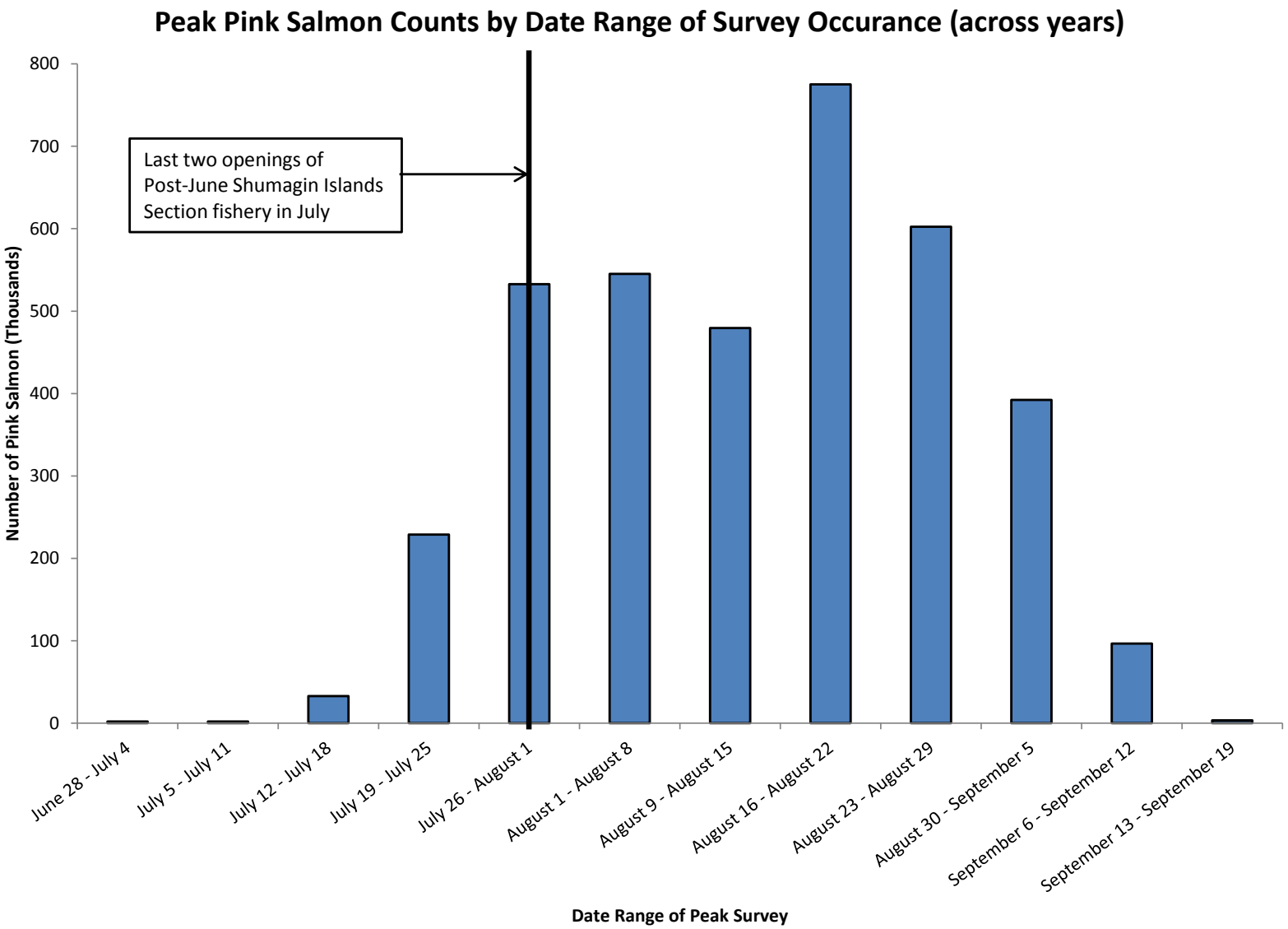

Figure 188-2.–Peak aerial survey counts of pink salmon in the Unalaska District across years (1961-2015) with the last two openings of the post-June Shumagin Islands Section fishery in July highlighted.

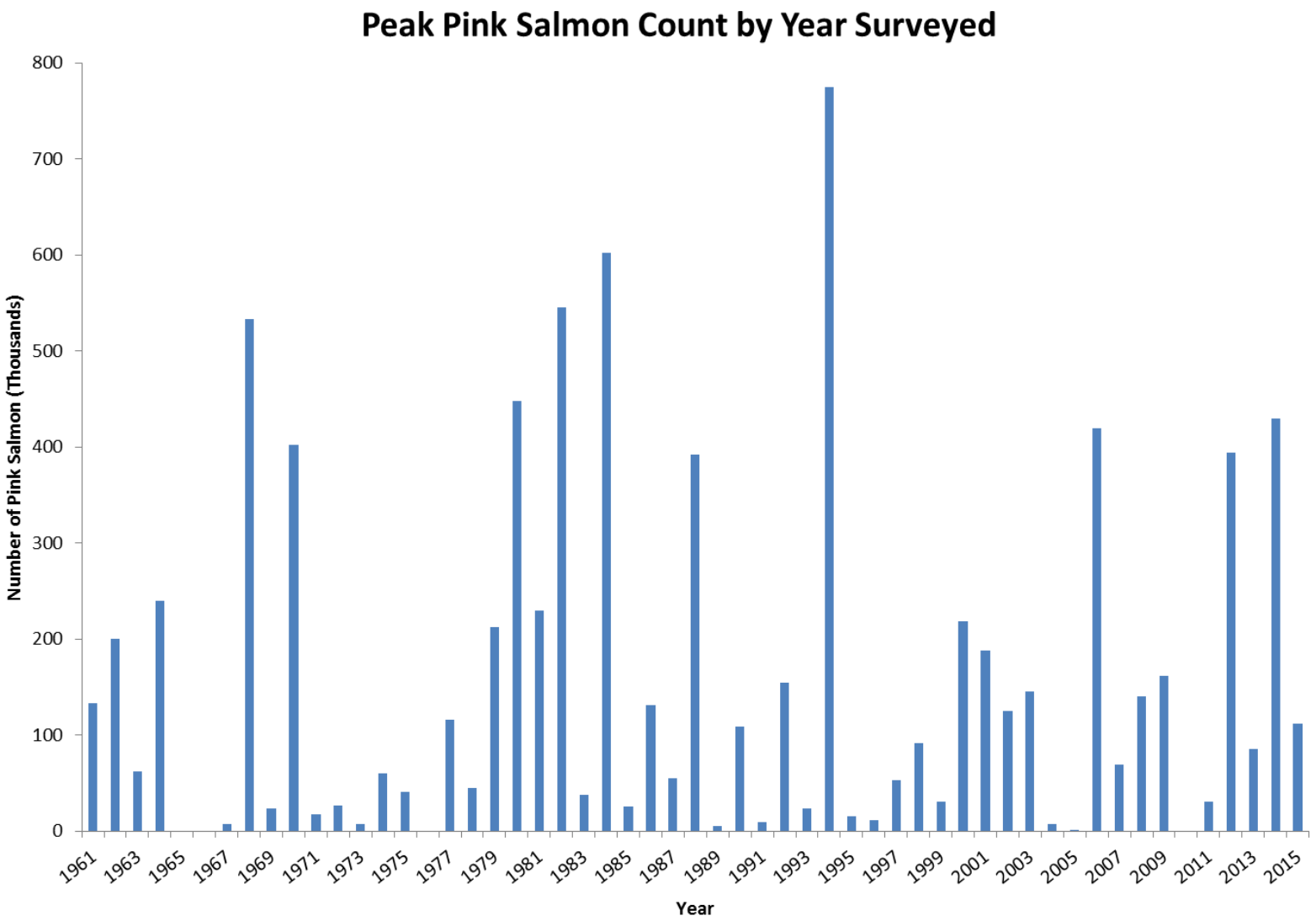

Figure 188-3.–Peak pink salmon count in the Unalaska District by year surveyed from 1961 through 2015.

Table 188-1.–Number of permits and commercial harvest of salmon in the Unalaska District from 1985–2015.

Year	Number of Permits	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1985[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
1986	9	11	7,702	60	42,621	38,819
1987[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
1988	3	0	4,315	7	183,109	450
1989[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
1990	15	2	12,435	74	282,823	1,038
1991[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
1992	4	0	3,082	0	312,072	1,230
1993[b]	0	0	0	0	0	0
1994	10	0	47	6	858,787	617
1995[b]	0	0	0	0	0	0
1996[b]	0	0	0	0	0	0
1997[b]	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998[b]	0	0	0	0	0	0
1999[b]	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
2001[b]	0	0	0	0	0	0
2002[b]	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003[b]	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004[b]	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005[b]	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	3	0	2,329	0	991,687	1,534
2007[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
2008	4	1	29	48	784,828	261
2009	6	0	703	16	1,625,910	2,005
2010	9	2	1,263	0	25,668	4,862
2011	8	2	1,863	2	632,889	235
2012	9	0	0	0	173,252	245
2013[b]	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014	5	0	0	0	121,938	0
2015[b]	0	0	0	0	0	0
Odd-Year Average Pink Harvest, 1995-2013					1,091,988	
Even-Year Average Pink Harvest, 1996-2014					392,237	

[a] Confidential information.

[b] No commercial salmon fishery.

Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Subsistence (1 proposal): 197

PROPOSAL 197 – 5 AAC 01.410. Fishing seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Clarify when commercial salmon fishing license holders may subsistence fish in the Alaska Peninsula Area, as follows:
5 AAC 01.410(a) is amended to read:
(a) In the Alaska Peninsula Area, salmon may be taken at any time, except
(1) in those districts and sections open to commercial salmon fishing, **a commercial salmon fishing license holder may not subsistence fish for** salmon [MAY NOT BE TAKEN] during the 24 hours before and 12 hours following a commercial salmon fishing period; **a commercial salmon fishing license holder may subsistence fish for salmon during a commercial salmon fishing period;**

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the Alaska Peninsula Area, salmon may be taken at any time, except in those districts and sections open to commercial salmon fishing, salmon may not be taken during the 24 hours before and 12 hours following a commercial salmon fishing period.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Subsistence salmon fishing opportunity would increase substantially for individuals who do not have a commercial salmon license. Subsistence salmon harvest and effort would likely increase by an unknown amount.

BACKGROUND: The current restriction was intended to prevent the sale of subsistence salmon during commercial salmon fishing periods.

The estimated subsistence salmon harvest, according to subsistence permit returns, in the Alaska Peninsula Area in 2013, the latest year for which data are published, was 11,353 fish. This is a decrease from 2012 (14,231), and fewer fish than the 5-year average (13,677, 2008–2012) and the 10-year average (14,206; 2003–2012). The 2013 harvest was made up of 59% sockeye salmon, 20% coho salmon, 10% pink salmon, 10% chum salmon, and 2% king salmon. Of the total 2013 harvest, residents of Cold Bay harvested 5%, False Pass 6%, Sand Point 39%, Port Heiden 1%, and Port Moller <1%. In 2013, 172 subsistence salmon fishing permits were issued for the area; the response rate was 91%.

Despite low harvests, harvestable surpluses of salmon are well above the low end of the ANS range.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Regulatory language from the Chignik Area (5 AAC 01.485) was used as precedent for the regulatory language in this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes, the board made positive customary and traditional use findings for halibut and all other finfish in the entire Alaska Peninsula Area (5 AAC 01.416).

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board finds that 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence in the Alaska Peninsula Area.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Sportfish (4 proposals): 198–201

PROPOSAL 198 – 5AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, annual limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area; and 5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

PROPOSED BY: Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association & Nelson Lagoon Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would limit sport fishing gear on the Sandy River to unbaited, single-hook artificial lures or artificial flies and prohibit the retention of king salmon.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the Sandy River drainage, the bag and possession limit of king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, is two fish, with a five fish annual limit; less than 20 inches in length, 10 fish; no annual limit.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The sport harvest of Sandy River king salmon would be eliminated.

BACKGROUND: The Sandy River king salmon sport fishery (Figure 198-1) is characterized by relatively low participation and effort is generally limited to guided anglers. Due to the low levels of participation, annual harvest estimates are not available through the SWHS. Based upon sport fish guide logbook information, guided anglers harvested an average of 120 king salmon each year (2005-2014) while releasing an average of 624.

Escapement estimates of Sandy River king salmon are difficult to assess. An inland counting weir and aerial surveys, designed to enumerate sockeye salmon are thought to account for a relatively small percentage for the inriver king salmon run, due to an extensive network of tributary streams and poor survey visibility in important spawning areas. During years when aerial surveys have been flown, the escapement index has ranged from approximately 750 to 2,500 king salmon (Figure 198-2). There is no escapement goal for this stock.

Other probable harvest of Sandy River king salmon occurs during commercial drift and set gillnet fisheries in the Northern District as well as a probably low, but unknown subsistence harvest. Total annual mixed stock king salmon harvest (which likely include Sandy River king salmon) during the most recent 10-year period have ranged from 13 to 1,361 fish and averaged 917 king salmon.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal as a conservation measure; stock assessment and angler effort information indicate that sport fishing exploitation rates of Sandy River king salmon run are low and are not harming the stock.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

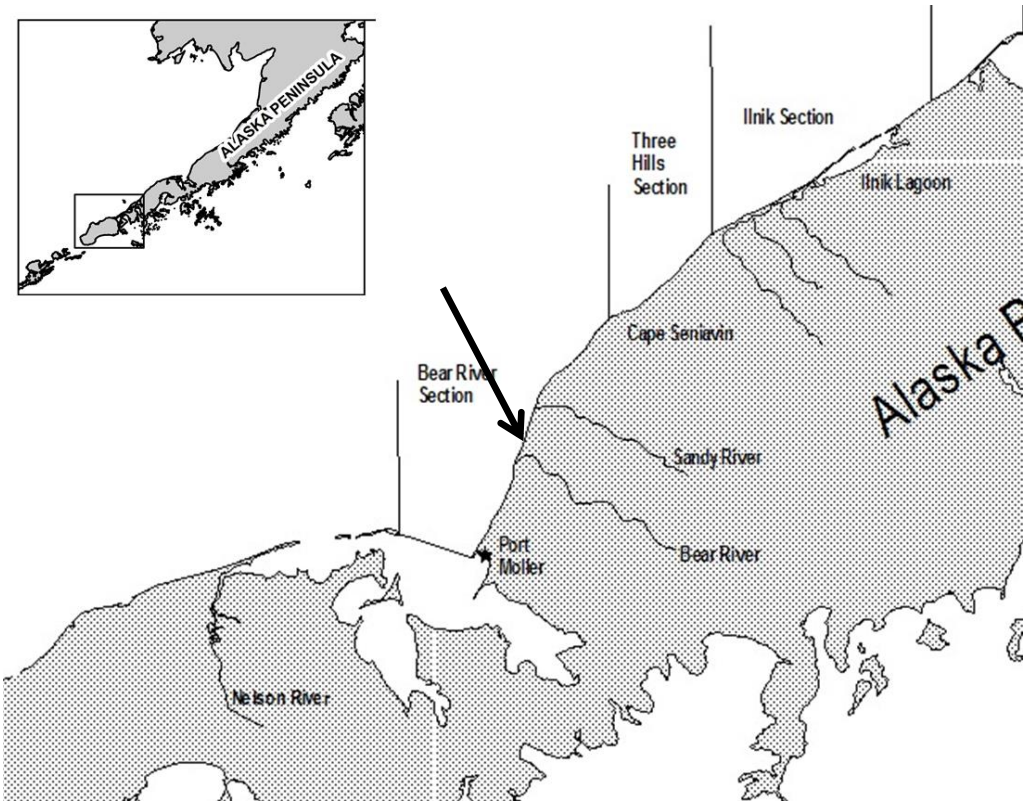

Figure 198-1.–Sandy River on the Alaska Peninsula

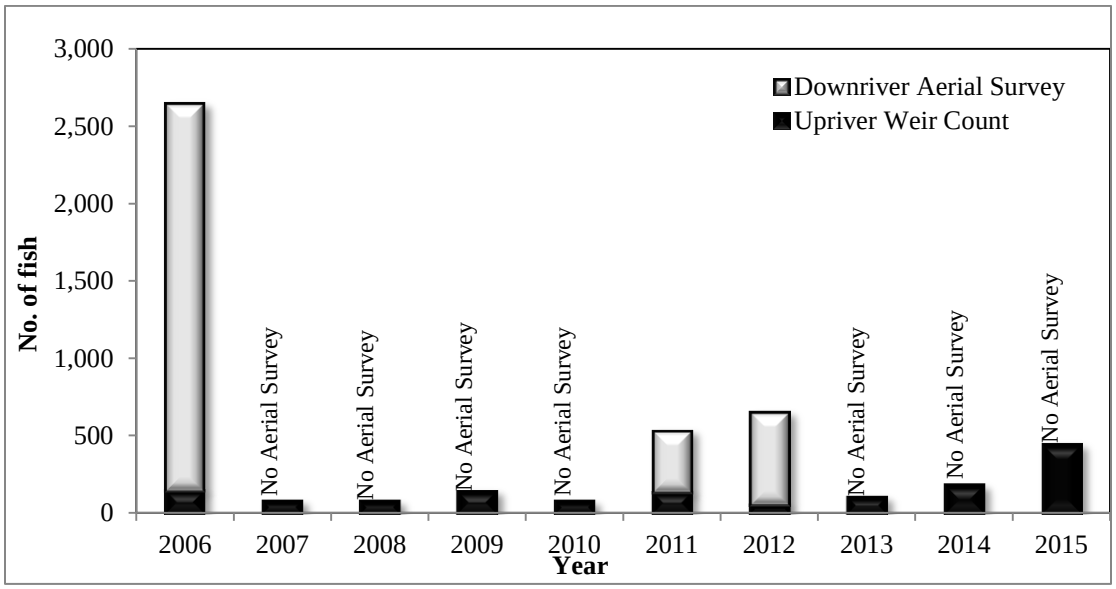

Figure 198-2.–Sandy River king salmon escapement index counts, 2006-2015.

PROPOSAL 199 – 5AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, annual limits and size limits Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would increase the freshwater possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, greater than 20 inches in length, from 5 to 10 and establish a bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon less than 20 inches in length at 10 fish. This action will align the bag limits in 2 adjoined sport fishing regulatory areas, Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Island Area and Kodiak Area (APAIA and KA), by matching the possession limits for salmon other than king salmon and the bag limits for salmon other than king salmon less than 20 inches in length.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is 5 fish, with no size limit.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Increasing the possession limit would allow anglers to retain 2 bag limits prior to processing their catch. A freshwater bag and possession limit of 10 salmon less than 20 inches in length would increase opportunity for anglers to harvest male "jack" salmon and natural and stocked populations of landlocked salmon. This proposal will also simplify and align general regulations for the management area.

BACKGROUND: Angler effort in the APAIA, where major population centers include the communities of Chignik and Unalaska, are among the lowest in the state due to remote geography and corresponding difficult access. Due to relatively low angler participation rates, estimates of annual sport harvests for the APAIA are rarely available by specific location through the SWHS, but area-wide estimates are available and the most recent 10-year annual harvest is less than 20,000 salmon (Figure 199-1). Similarly, sport fish guide logbook records for guided anglers fishing APAIA waters reflect low effort on most local salmon stocks.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. This proposal simplifies regulations by aligning limits with the adjoining management area and will not cause any conservation or allocation concerns for salmon stocks in this area.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 199-1.–Statewide Sport Fish Harvest Survey estimates of the Kodiak Area salmon harvest. The Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Regulatory Area is part of the Kodiak Management Area.

	Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Regulatory Area		Total Kodiak Management Area
Year	Harvest	% KMA Total	Harvest
2005	13,591	29%	46,395
2006	18,622	40%	46,840
2007	18,984	37%	51,252
2008	23,208	43%	54,022
2009	26,095	45%	58,018
2010	19,467	45%	43,728
2011	15,756	36%	44,375
2012	17,808	40%	44,240
2013	14,757	26%	57,206
2014	22,501	31%	73,582

PROPOSAL 200 – 5AAC 65.051. Waters closed to sport fishing in the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would keep Swanson Lagoon closed to sport fishing for sockeye salmon and open the lagoon to sport fishing for other salmon.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Swanson Lagoon and its tributaries are closed to sport fishing for salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This would increase sport harvest of coho, chum, and pink salmon in Swanson Lagoon by an unknown but likely small amount due to the remote location of the fishery.

BACKGROUND: In 2013 the Swanson Lagoon (Figure 200-1) sockeye salmon run was designated a "Stock of Concern" by the board under provisions of the *Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries* (5 AAC 39.222). As a regulatory measure to help rebuild the run, the board closed Swanson Lagoon drainage to sport fishing for salmon. Other salmon stocks present in the Swanson Lagoon drainage, which include coho, chum and pink salmon, are considered healthy.

Swanson Lagoon salmon escapements are monitored through aerial surveys (Table 200-1), which primarily focus on the sockeye salmon run. Sporadic survey counts of other species indicate comparable runs of chum, coho and pink salmon are also present. There are no escapement goals established for these other stocks.

Angler effort in Swanson Lagoon is low and estimates of catch and harvest are unavailable from the SWHS, nor has effort within the drainage been documented in sport fish guide logbooks. Anecdotal information indicates that current angler interest is primarily focused on coho salmon.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal, but recommends modification to allow sport fishing for salmon other than king and sockeye salmon annually after July 31, when the sockeye salmon run is typically over.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

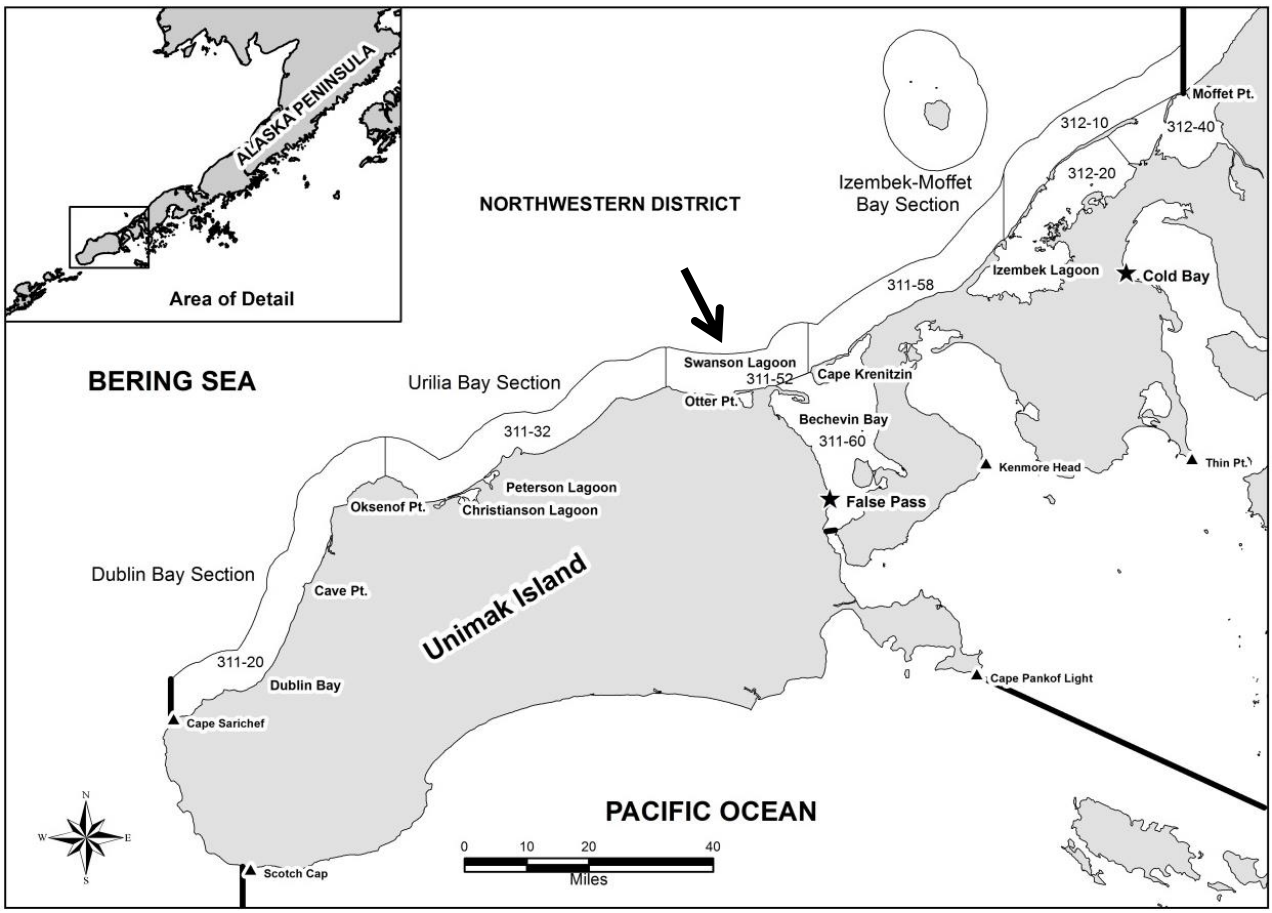

Figure 200-1.–Map showing location of Swanson Lagoon.

Table 200-1.–Swanson Lagoon peak salmon escapement index aerial survey, 2006-2015.

Year	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2006	270	800	NS	5,175
2007	9,200	4,200	NS	7,700
2008	5,500	900	NS	5,800
2009	700	NS	NS	60
2010	1,700	NS	4,200	NS
2011	1,000	NS	NS	NS
2012	3,500	NS	750	600
2013	3,000	NS	NS	NS
2014	1,500	NS	NS	NS
2015	600	NS	NS	NS

NS = No Survey

PROPOSAL 201 – 5AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, annual limits and size limits Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would reduce the possession limit for coho salmon in Illiuliuk River from 4 to 2 fish.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In Illiuliuk River (also known as Town or Unalaska Creek), downstream from department regulatory markers located at the Church Hole, the limit for coho salmon is 2 per day, 4 in possession.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Anglers fishing Illiuliuk River downstream of the Church Hole would have to remove coho salmon from their possession before they could harvest another bag limit on subsequent days of fishing. This would also align the Illiuliuk River coho salmon possession limit with fresh and salt waters of Unalaska Bay.

BACKGROUND: Illiuliuk River coho salmon escapements are monitored through foot surveys. Sporadically available survey counts indicate that annual coho salmon escapements are fairly small. There is no escapement goal established for this stock.

Angler effort in Illiuliuk River is low, due in part to sport fishing restrictions currently in place to conserve small salmon runs present in the drainage. Annual estimates of angler catch and harvest are unavailable from the SWHS, and sport fish guide logbook records have not documented guided angler effort within the drainage. The entire drainage is closed year round to sport fishing for sockeye salmon, and closed above the Church Hole to sport fishing for all salmon species.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. This proposal simplifies regulations by aligning limits with the adjoining management area

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

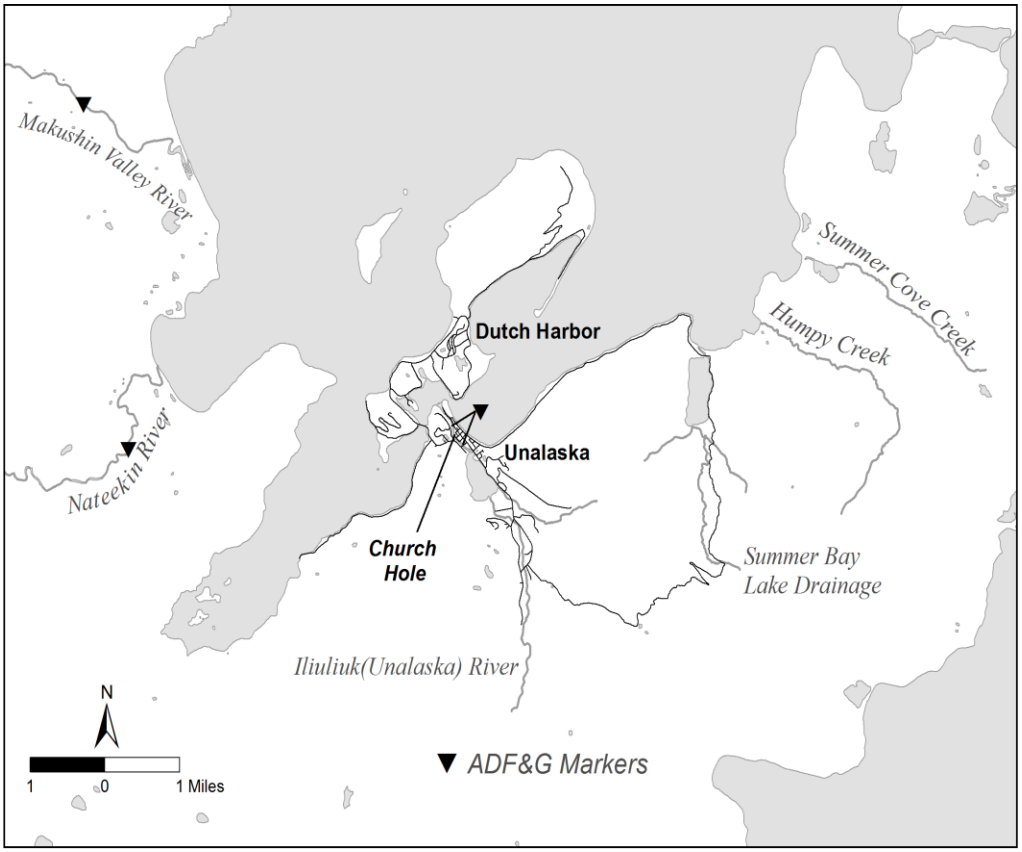

Figure 201-1.–Map of Unalaska Bay, including Illiuliuk River.

Table 201-1.–Illiuliuk River (Town Creek) coho salmon escapement index surveys, 2005-2015.

Year	Survey Count
2005	35
2006	6
2007	80
2008	NS
2009	NS
2010	NS
2011	43
2012	36
2013	NS
2014	NS
2015	NS

NS = No Survey

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE–GROUP 3 (28 PROPOSALS)

Alaska Peninsula Area and Bristol Bay Area Boundary (3 Proposals): 22–24

PROPOSALS 22 and 23 – 5 AAC 06.100. Description of area; 5 AAC 06.200. Fishing districts and sections; 5 AAC 09.100. Description of area; and 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Port Heiden (Proposal 22) and Gerda Kosbruk (Proposal 23).

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSALS DO? These proposals would move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area (Registration Area M) to the Bristol Bay Management Area (Registration Area T) and move the boundary between the two registration areas from Cape Menshikof southwest about 60 miles to Strogonof Point.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The border of the Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay Management areas is Cape Menshikof, and is found under 5 AAC 09.100 Description of Area. The Alaska Peninsula Area includes the waters of Alaska on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula, southwest of a line from Cape Menshikof (57° 28.34' N. lat., 157° 55.84' W. long.) to Cape Newenham (58° 39.00' N. lat., 162° W. long.) and east of the longitude of Cape Sarichef Light (164° 55.70' W. long.) and, on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula, from a line extending from Scotch Cap through the easternmost tip of Ugamak Island to a line extending 135° southeast from Kupreanof Point (55° 33.98' N. lat., 159° 35.88' W. long.).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSALS WERE ADOPTED? Management of the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections, currently based in the Port Moller department office, would be relocated to the King Salmon department office. Commercial salmon harvest opportunity between Cape Menshikof and Strogonof Point would be made available to Registration Area T rather than Registration Area M permit holders. The community of Port Heiden is approximately 145 miles from King Salmon and the distance from Port Moller to Port Heiden is about 97 miles. Since department aerial survey aircraft and pilots are already based on the Alaska Peninsula to support the Port Moller management operations, additional costs would be incurred by King Salmon department staff to fly aerial surveys of the Cinder and Meshik rivers to ensure escapement goals are being met and to manage the commercial fisheries in this area. There are 163 drift gillnet permit holders in Registration Area M that could fish in the Outer Port Heiden Section, although about 100 permit holders actually fish in this section annually. Making the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections part of the Bristol Bay Management Area could increase the number of permits that fish these areas.

BACKGROUND: The Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula Management areas have had an established border at Cape Menshikof since at least 1924 in codified regulations and potentially earlier.

The Alaska Peninsula Management Area and Bristol Bay Management Area have an overlap area that consists of the Cinder River Section, Inner Port Heiden Section, and Ilnik Lagoon (5 AAC 39.120(d)). The overlap area is unique and was created shortly after statehood to allow

Registration Area T permit holders the opportunity to fish within their traditional harvest locations of Registration Area M. Historically, when not participating in the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fisheries, Port Heiden Registration Area T permit holders fished for king and coho salmon in the Inner Port Heiden Section, and Pilot Point Registration Area T permit holders fished inside the Cinder River Section for king and coho salmon. Prior to 2013, Registration Area T permit holders were allowed to fish during the open season in the Inner Port Heiden and Cinder River sections except during the month of July. In 2013, the board allowed Registration Area T permit holders to fish in the Inner Port Heiden Section and in the inner portion of the Cinder River Section during all months of the commercial fishing season. Registration Area T permit holders are also allowed to fish in Ilnik Lagoon during August and September. In 1986, Registration Area T fishermen started fishing in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden sections. In 1990, the board excluded Registration Area T permit holders from the Ilnik Section (except inside Ilnik Lagoon during August and September) and closed the Outer Port Heiden Section in August and September to all commercial salmon fishing by both Registration Area M and T permit holders because of concern over potential interception of coho salmon bound for Inner Port Heiden (Meshik River). The Outer Port Heiden Section is not part of the overlap area.

The Cinder River and Inner Port Heiden sections and Ilnik Lagoon comprise an overlap area described under 5 AAC 39.120(d) where both Registration Area M and T permit holders may fish under certain conditions. Registration Area M permit holders may fish during open fishing periods in all of these locations. In 2013, the board allowed Registration Area T permit holders to fish in the inner portion of the Cinder River and Inner Port Heiden sections during all months when open fishing periods occur. Registration Area T permit holders may also fish in Ilnik Lagoon beginning August 1 during open fishing periods. The last year that Registration Area T permit holders fished the Alaska Peninsula Management Area was 2009.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of these proposals, but is **OPPOSED** to restructuring Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay commercial salmon management in a manner that would increase costs to the department.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of these proposals is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

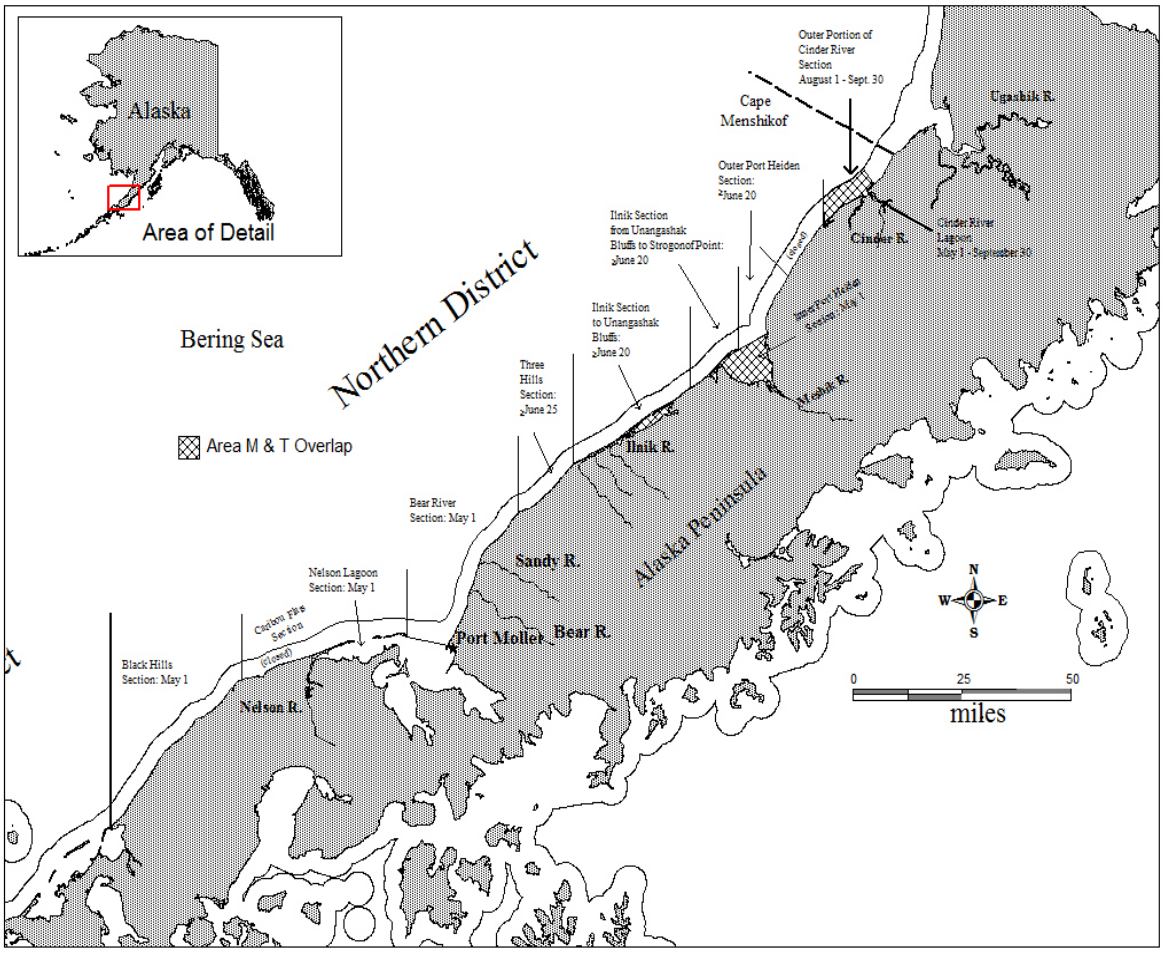

Figure 22-1.–Northern District showing fishing sections and opening dates of commercial salmon fisheries.

PROPOSAL 24 – 5 AAC 06.100. Description of area and 5 AAC 09.100. Description of area.

PROPOSED BY: Larry K. Christensen.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, Outer Port Heiden, Ilnik, and Three Hills sections of Registration Area M to Registration Area T.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The border of the Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay Management areas is Cape Menshikof, and is found under 5 AAC 09.100 Description of Area. The Alaska Peninsula Area includes the waters of Alaska on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula, southwest of a line from Cape Menshikof (57° 28.34' N. lat., 157° 55.84' W. long.) to Cape Newenham (58° 39.00' N. lat., 162° W. long.) and east of the longitude of Cape Sarichef Light (164° 55.70' W. long.) and, on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula, from a line extending from Scotch Cap through the easternmost tip of Ugamak Island to a line extending 135° southeast from Kupreanof Point (55° 33.98' N. lat., 159° 35.88' W. long.).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, Outer Port Heiden, Ilnik, and Three Hills sections of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area to the Bristol Bay Management Area while moving the boundary between the two areas from Cape Menshikof southwest about 120 miles to Cape Seniavin. Commercial salmon harvest opportunity between Cape Menshikof and Cape Seniavin would be made available to Registration Area T rather than Registration Area M permit holders. These areas are currently managed from the Port Moller department office and management would shift to the King Salmon department office. Cape Seniavin is approximately 210 miles from King Salmon and the distance from Port Moller to Cape Seniavin is about 30 miles. Since department aerial survey aircraft and pilots are already based on the Alaska Peninsula to support the Port Moller department management operations, additional costs would be incurred by King Salmon department staff to fly aerial surveys of numerous rivers located in these sections to ensure escapement goals are being met. Also, supervision of the Ilnik River salmon counting weir crew and logistics support would be done by King Salmon staff. There are currently 163 drift gillnet permit holders in Registration Area M that could fish in the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik sections, although typically about 130 permit holders actually do. Since set gillnet gear is currently a legal gear type in the Ilnik Section, this will open the Ilnik Section to Registration Area T set gillnet permit holders. Little or no set gillnet effort occurs by Registration Area M permit holders in the Ilnik Section. Making the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, Outer Port Heiden, Ilnik, and Three Hills sections part of the Bristol Bay Management Area could substantially increase the number of permits that fish these areas.

BACKGROUND: The Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula management areas have had an established border at Cape Menshikof since at least 1924 in codified regulations and potentially earlier.

The Alaska Peninsula Area and Bristol Bay Area have an overlap area that consists of the Cinder River Section, Inner Port Heiden Section, and Ilnik Lagoon (5 AAC 39.120(d)). The overlap area is unique and was created shortly after statehood to allow Registration Area T permit holders the opportunity to fish within their traditional harvest locations of Registration Area M. Historically, when not participating in the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fisheries, Port Heiden Registration Area T permit holders fished for king and coho salmon in the Inner Port Heiden Section, and Pilot Point Registration Area T permit holders fished inside the Cinder River Section for king and coho salmon. Prior to 2013, Registration Area T permit holders were allowed to fish during the open season in the Inner Port Heiden and Cinder River sections except during the month of July. In 2013, the board allowed Registration Area T permit holders to fish in the Inner Port Heiden Section and in the inner portion of the Cinder River Section during all months of the commercial fishing season. Registration Area T permit holders are also allowed to fish in Ilnik Lagoon during August and September. In 1986, Registration Area T fishermen started fishing in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden sections. In 1990, the board excluded Registration Area T permit holders from the Ilnik Section (except inside Ilnik Lagoon during August and September) and closed the Outer Port Heiden Section in August and September to all commercial salmon fishing by both Registration Area M and Area T permit holders because of concern over potential interception of coho salmon bound for Inner Port Heiden (Meshik River). The Outer Port Heiden Section, the Ilnik Section (except Ilnik Lagoon), and Three Hills sections are not part of the overlap area.

The Cinder River Section, Inner Port Heiden Section, and Ilnik Lagoon comprise an overlap area described under 5 AAC 39.120(d) where both Registration Area M and T permit holders may fish under certain conditions. Registration Area M permit holders may fish during open fishing periods in all of the above locations. In 2013 the board allowed Registration Area T permit holders to fish in the inner portion of the Cinder River and Inner Port Heiden sections during all months when open fishing periods occur. Registration Area T permit holders may also fish in Ilnik Lagoon beginning August 1 during open fishing periods. The last year that Registration Area T permit holders fished in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area was 2009.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal, but is **OPPOSED** to restructuring Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay commercial salmon management in a manner that would increase costs to the department.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

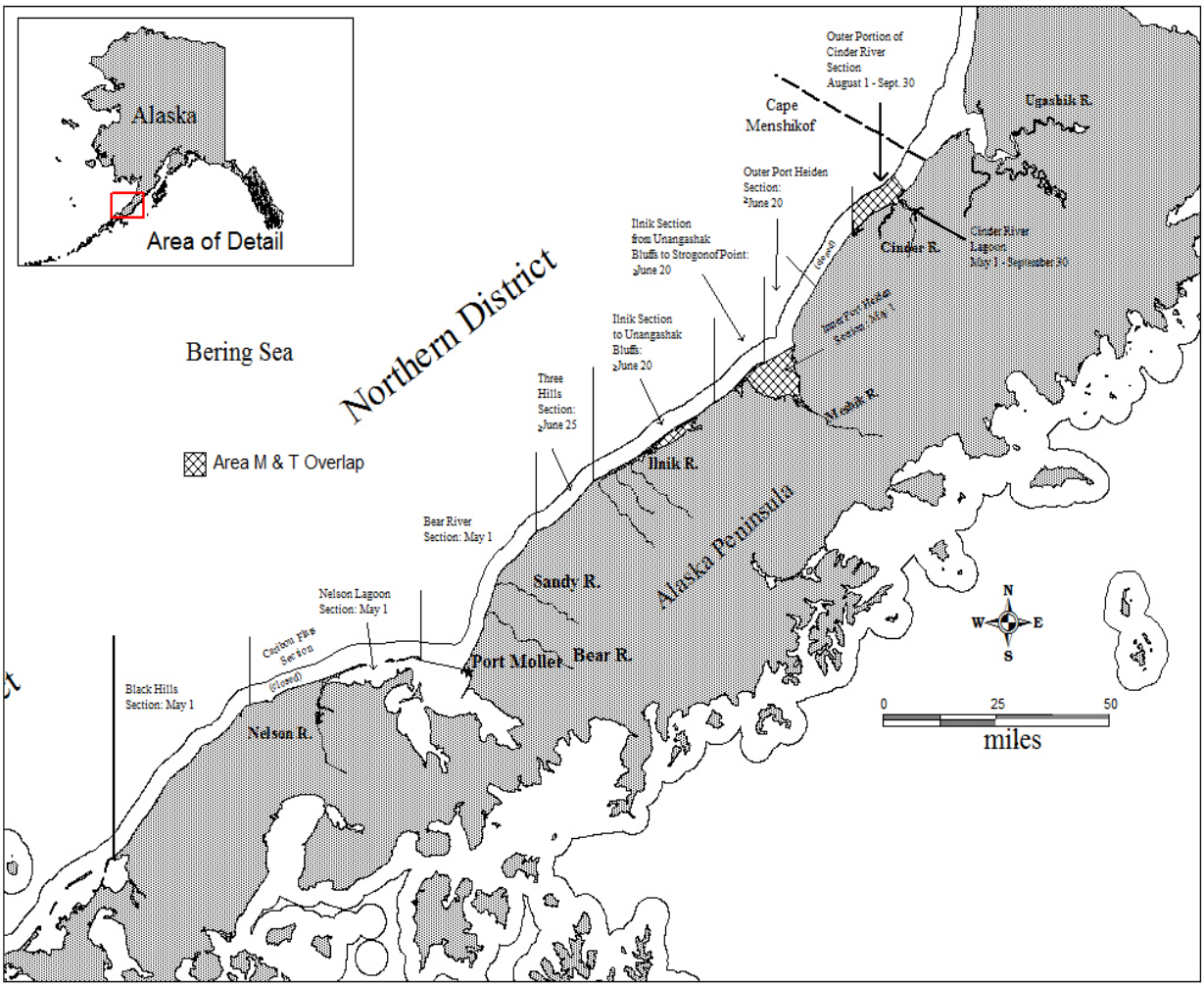

Figure 24-1.–Northern District showing fishing sections and opening dates of commercial salmon fisheries.

North Alaska Peninsula Salmon Northern District (25 proposals): 151–171

PROPOSAL 151 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Roland Briggs.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would consider the harvest of non-local salmon as a factor in management of the Northern District salmon fisheries and take into account the percentage of the harvest that is not from the targeted river.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.369(b) the department shall manage the Northern District salmon fisheries on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement information and catch-per-unit-effort information. The department shall manage each section of the Northern District as specified in this management plan and 5 AAC 09.320. The Bear River, Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District are managed by escapement levels on numerous salmon streams in the area. Under 5 AAC 09.369(j) and (l) there are currently provisions to consider the conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden sections.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Management of the Northern District would take into account the percentage of catch which is not of the targeted river. However, the department does not currently have an inseason stock separation program in the North Peninsula. Details are lacking in the proposal and the department will need guidance on how to do this and for which species. While the department does use harvest information to gauge the strength of salmon runs, the primary tool for management is still based on salmon escapement ..

BACKGROUND: The Northern District stretches from Moffet Point to Cape Menshikof a distance of about 235 miles and encompasses many fisheries (Figure 151-1). WASSIP contained stock composition estimates of sockeye and chum salmon for some areas of the Northern District for three years (2007–2009).

Relevant information on stock-specific harvest in the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, by temporal stratum, for 2006 through 2008, can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008*. Appendix tables C105–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Nelson, Meshik, Ugashik) during each sampled temporal stratum, 2006–2008, in these fisheries. Under WASSIP, the stock compositions of the Late Catch temporal strata for Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections were assumed to be 100% Bear River stock. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks, among all strata combined, within a given year for these fisheries. Harvest and harvest rate of Cinder River stock in specific area strata of each fishery, all temporal strata combined, are in appendix tables F40–42. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, among all temporal strata, combined, for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in

WASSIP report SP12-24, tables 45–59.The department does not have an inseason stock separation program for the North Peninsula. The department uses harvest information to gauge the strength of salmon runs, but management decisions are primarily based on escapement data.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal; however, the department is **OPPOSED** to aspects of this proposal that would result in over or under harvest of local stocks. If the board were to adopt this proposal the department would need guidance on which species, stocks, areas, and dates this proposal addresses.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

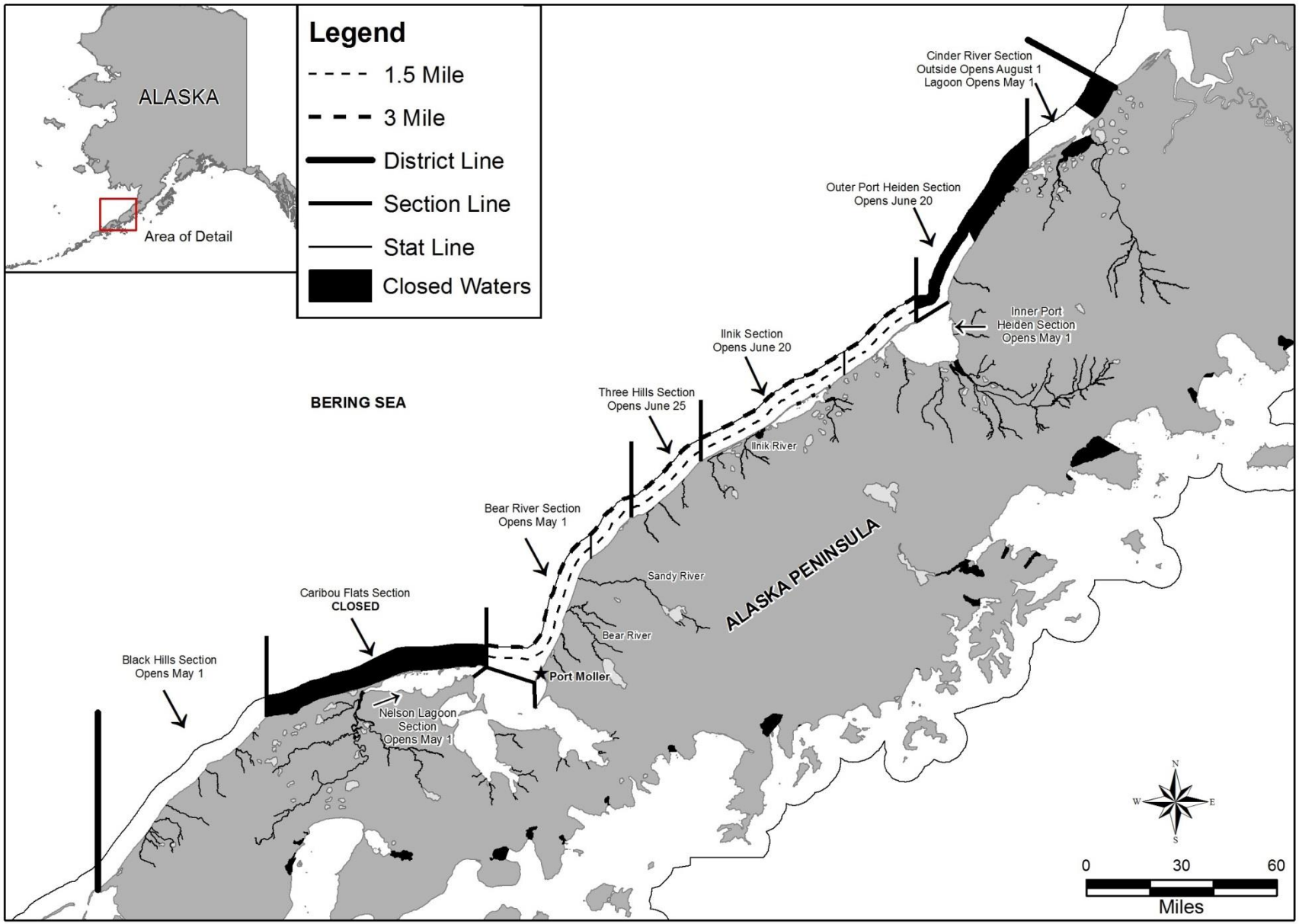

Figure 151-1.–Map of the Northern District.

PROPOSAL 152 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Roland Briggs.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would require co-management of the Northern District between Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay staff from June 20 to July 20.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Area M (Alaska Peninsula Management Area) and Area T (Bristol Bay Management Area) have been different management areas since at least 1924.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The proposal specifies that the Northern District and also references the Inner Port Heiden, Outer Port Heiden, and Ilnik sections be co-managed by department staff in the Port Moller and King Salmon offices; due to distance, time, and budget constraints, management of these area fisheries would be both less responsive and less efficient.

BACKGROUND: Currently the Northern District is managed out of the Port Moller department office while the eastside Bristol Bay districts are managed out of the King Salmon office (Figure 152-1).The Northern District stretches from Moffet Point to Cape Menshikof. The department King Salmon office is located about 350 miles away from fisheries in the Northern District while the Port Moller department office is more centrally located to fisheries that occur in the area and is not more than 150 miles from a management area border (Figure 152-1). Aerial surveys occur on most of the rivers in the Northern District and these are performed by department staff in Port Moller.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. Adoption of this proposal would reduce management efficiency and responsiveness and would increase costs to manage the fishery with no discernable improvement in harvest or stock conservation.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

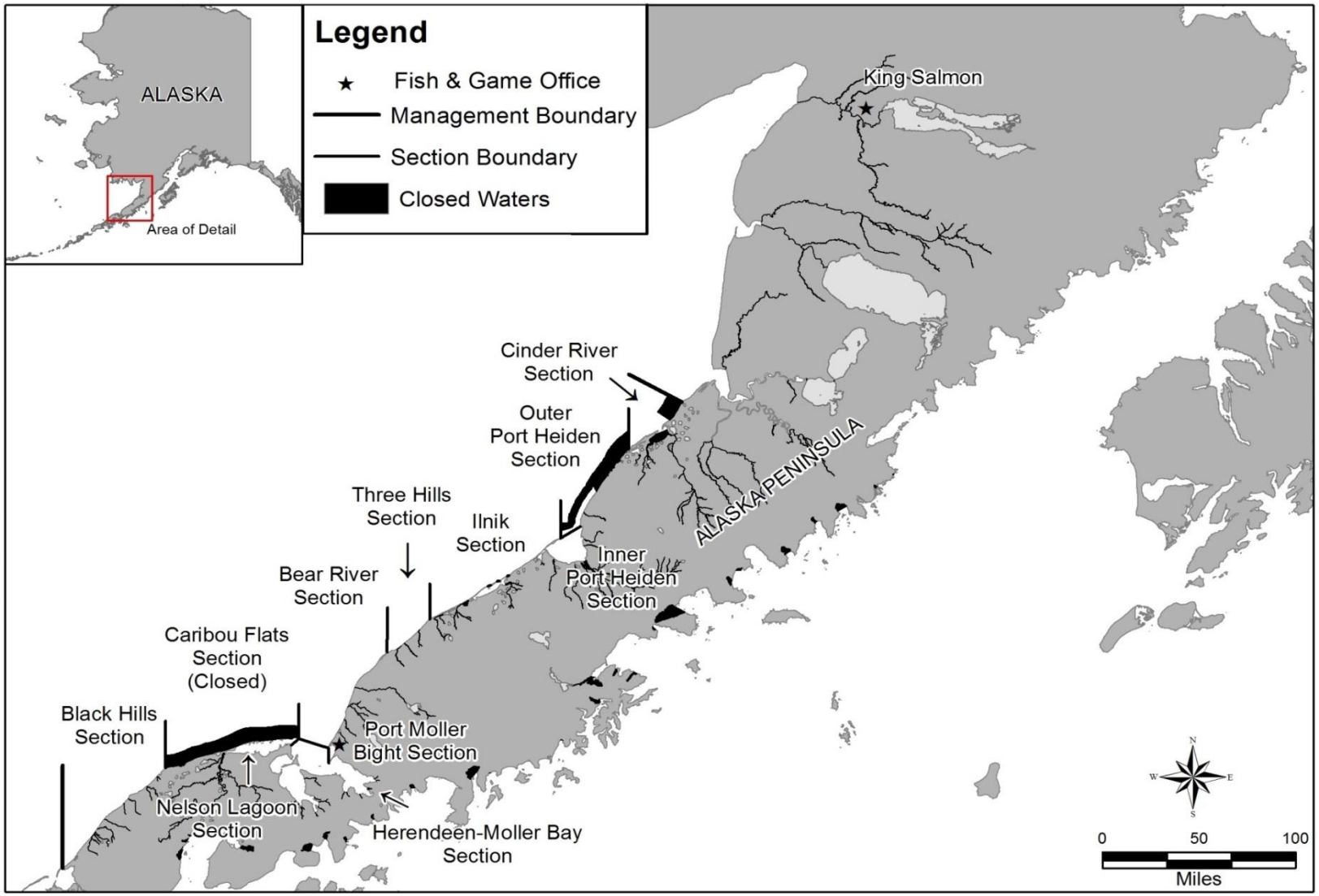

Figure 152-1.–Map of the Northern District expanded to show Port Moller and King Salmon department field offices.

PROPOSAL 153 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Roland Briggs.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would consider the harvest of non-North Peninsula salmon as a factor in management of the Northern District salmon fisheries.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.369(b) the department shall manage the Northern District salmon fisheries on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement information and catch-per-unit-effort information. The department shall manage each section of the Northern District as specified in this management plan and 5 AAC 09.320. Under 5 AAC 09.369(j) and (l) there are provisions that consider the conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden sections.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Adoption of this proposal would likely reduce harvest opportunity or potentially overharvest local North Peninsula salmon stocks when non-targeted salmon stocks are weak or late. This problem would be exacerbated when timing of salmon runs varies significantly, such as when one stream is early and one is late.

The use of past stock separation studies to manage a mixed stock fishery would be difficult as the results indicate that harvest of local and non-local stocks varies among years and will likely result in surplus fish entering local rivers. For example, the WASSIP study showed more Bear River than Ilnik River sockeye salmon caught in the southern portion of the Ilnik Section. Taking management actions annually for Bear River by closing the Ilnik Section would increase the Ilnik River escapement.

BACKGROUND: The Northern District salmon fisheries are managed, per 5 AAC 09.369(b), on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement and catch-per-unit-effort information. There are salmon counting weirs on four rivers and aerial surveys are flown to enumerate salmon on dozens of other rivers.

The Northern District salmon fishery has been around since the 1880s with the first shore based processor beginning operations in 1913 and they are still in operation today. As early as the 1920s, research projects have been performed in the North Peninsula because of concerns for Bristol Bay salmon. Regulation changes over the years since statehood have also occurred sue to concerns for Bristol Bay sockeye salmon. Since the early 1990s, there have been regulations that address the concerns for Ugashik River sockeye salmon in the Ilnik Section and most recently in 2007 for the Outer Port Heiden Section. In 2013, the board reduced the size of the Outer Port Heiden Section and eliminated fishing from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi over concerns for Bristol Bay bound salmon.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvest in the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, by temporal stratum, for 2006 through 2008, can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008*. Appendix tables C105–C147 document

harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Nelson, Meshik, Ugashik) during each sampled temporal stratum, 2006–2008, in these fisheries. Under WASSIP, the stock compositions of the Late Catch temporal strata for Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections were assumed to be 100% Bear River stock. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks, among all strata combined, within a given year for these fisheries. Harvest and harvest rate of stocks including Cinder River, other North Peninsula, and Bristol Bay stocks in specific area strata of each fishery, all temporal strata combined, are in appendix tables F10–F60. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, among all temporal strata, combined, for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in WASSIP report SP12-24, tables 45–59.

The department does not have an inseason stock separation program for the North Peninsula. The department uses harvest information to gauge the strength of salmon runs, but management decisions are primarily based on escapement data.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal; however, the department is **OPPOSED** to aspects of this proposal that would result in over or under harvest of local stocks by limiting management flexibility. Details are lacking in the proposal, and if adopted, the department will need guidance on which species would be included.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 154 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Roland Briggs.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would consider the abundance of non-local stocks as a factor in management of the Northern District salmon fisheries. If past studies show that 40% or more of the catch is of non-targeted stocks, then the areas shall be co-managed by managers of both areas that have 15% or more of their fish in the catch. Or if past studies show a particular river has more than 30% of the lower end of escapement goal ranges of a non-targeted river the areas shall be co-managed. The proposal also states that managers in both the Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay areas must agree on openings or the commissioner will determine the time and area of openings.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.369(b) the department shall manage the Northern District salmon fisheries on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement information and catch-per-unit-effort information. The department shall manage each section of the Northern District as specified in this management plan and 5 AAC 09.320. Under 5 AAC 09.369(j) and (l) there are currently provisions to consider the conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden sections.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Management of the Northern District would take into account the harvest of non-local sockeye salmon. Managers in both the Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay management areas must agree on fishing periods in the Northern District, and if they cannot, the commissioner shall make the final decision after reviewing the potential damage to each system. The proposer suggests initially using WASSIP data to apply the criteria. Adoption of this proposal would likely result in lost harvest opportunity for the fleet and increased escapement into local rivers since the fishery will be managed based on non-local rather than local runs.

BACKGROUND: The Northern District (Figure 154-1) salmon fisheries are managed per 5 AAC 09.369 (b), on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement and catch-per-unit-effort information. There are salmon counting weirs on four river and aerial surveys are flown to enumerate salmon on dozens of other rivers.

There have been numerous past tagging and genetics studies on the North Peninsula. The first documented study was in 1922, and the most recent is WASSIP.

The Northern District salmon fishery has existed since the 1880s with the first shore based processor beginning operations in 1913 and they are still in operation today. Research projects have occurred as early as the 1920s in the North Peninsula because of concern for Bristol Bay salmon. Regulation changes over the years since statehood have also occurred due to concerns for Bristol Bay sockeye salmon. Since the early 1990s, there have been regulations that address concerns for Ugashik River sockeye salmon in the Ilnik Section, and most recently in 2007 for the Outer Port Heiden Section (Figure 154-1). In 2013, the board reduced the size of the Outer

Port Heiden Section and eliminated fishing from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi over concerns for Bristol Bay bound salmon.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvest in the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, by temporal stratum, for 2006 through 2008, can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008*. Appendix tables C105–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Nelson, Meshik, Ugashik) during each sampled temporal stratum, 2006–2008, in these fisheries. Under WASSIP, the stock compositions of the Late Catch temporal strata for Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections were assumed to be 100% Bear River stock. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks, among all strata combined, within a given year for these fisheries. Harvest and harvest rate of stocks including Cinder River, other North Peninsula, and Bristol Bay stocks in specific area strata of each fishery, all temporal strata combined, are in appendix tables F10–F60. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, among all temporal strata, combined, for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in WASSIP report SP12-24, tables 45–59.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. Having two management teams jointly manage a fishery would be unique and not necessary since the department currently follows the board approved management plan, and others who manage the fishery must follow the same board approved plan regardless of their location. The additional financial and time costs associated with this proposal are not supportable with current budget constraints.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

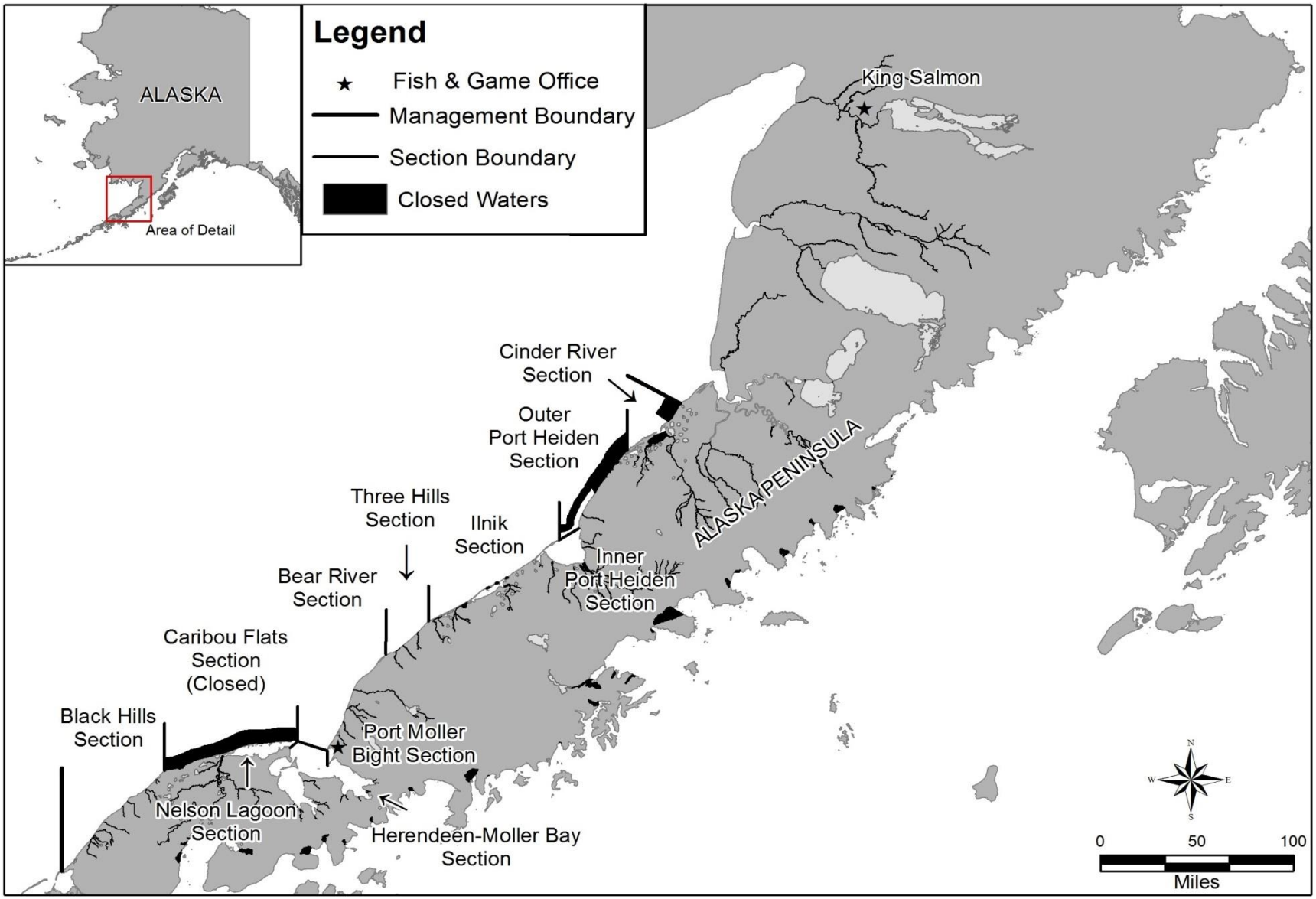

Figure 154-1.–Map of the Northern District, expanded to show Port Moller and King Salmon department field offices.

PROPOSALS 155 and 156 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing Seasons; 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing Periods; 5 AAC 09.330. Gear; 5 AAC 09.350. Closed Waters; and 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Mitch Seybert.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? These proposals would close the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial salmon fishing (Figure 155-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulation (5 AAC 9.310(a)(2)(B)) for the Outer Port Heiden Section allows Area M drift gillnet fishermen to fish during open periods from June 20 to July 31 (Figure 155-1).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This will result in surplus salmon escapement to the Meshik River and foregone yield.

BACKGROUND: In 2007, the board opened a portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section to harvest sockeye salmon bound for Meshik River. Table 155-1 provides a summary of harvest in the Outer Port Heiden Section, and escapement into Meshik River, which drains into the Inner Port Heiden Section. Currently, by regulation, the Outer Port Heiden Section can open from June 20 until July 31 to Area M drift gillnet gear. Management actions can be taken in the Outer Port Heiden Section for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks (5 AAC 09.369(l)), however this has not been necessary since the Outer Port Heiden Section opened. The Northern District salmon fisheries are managed per 5 AAC 09.369(b), on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement and catch-per-unit-effort information. The Meshik River sockeye salmon escapement has been strong over the last 10 years and since 2013 has averaged about 100,000 sockeye salmon, which met the escapement goal of 25,000–100,000 fish.

The Northern District salmon fishery has existed since the 1880s with the first shore based processor beginning operations in 1913 and still in operation today. As early as the 1920s, research projects have been performed in the North Peninsula because of concern for Bristol Bay salmon. Regulation changes over the years since statehood have also occurred due to concerns for Bristol Bay sockeye salmon. In the early 1990s, there have been regulations that address the concern for Ugashik River sockeye salmon in the Ilnik Section and most recently in 2007 for the Outer Port Heiden Section. In 2013, the board reduced the size of the Outer Port Heiden Section and eliminated fishing from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi over concerns for Bristol Bay bound salmon.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvest in the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, by temporal stratum, for 2006 through 2008, can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008*. Appendix tables C105–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Nelson, Meshik, Ugashik) during each sampled temporal stratum, 2006–2008, in these fisheries. Under WASSIP, the stock compositions of the Late Catch temporal strata for Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections were assumed to be 100% Bear River stock. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks, among all strata combined, within a given year for these fisheries. Harvest

and harvest rate of Cinder River stock in specific area strata of each fishery, all temporal strata combined, are in appendix tables F40–F42. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, among all temporal strata, combined, for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in WASSIP report SP12-24, tables 45–59.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of the proposal, but is **OPPOSED** to reducing harvest opportunity on local salmon stocks. Meshik River is one of the larger sockeye salmon systems in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area and eliminating harvest opportunity would result in surplus escapement and foregone yield.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 155-1.–Outer Port Heiden commercial sockeye salmon harvest and Meshik River sockeye salmon escapement and goals, 2006–2015.

Year	Harvest Outer Port Heiden	Escapement Meshik River	Escapement goal
1996	CLOSED	60,000	
1997	CLOSED	40,000	
1998	CLOSED	56,025	
1999	CLOSED	75,575	
2000	CLOSED	183,100	
2001	CLOSED	111,700	10,000-20,000
2002	CLOSED	37,650	
2003	CLOSED	153,600	
2004	CLOSED	103,600	
2005	CLOSED	109,500	
2006	CLOSED	140,510	
2007	387,786	57,600	
2008	321,730	89,750	20,000-60,000
2009	762,643	88,200	
2010	786,025	67,700	
2011	375,128	94,200	
2012	268,226	47,600	25,000-100,000
2013	254,916	65,600	
2014	421,166	95,500	
2015	867,350	149,500	
2013-2015 avg.	514,477	103,533	
2006-2015 avg.	493,886	89,616	

Note: Average harvest for Outer Port Heiden does not include 2006, as the fishery was not open to commercial salmon fishing at this time.

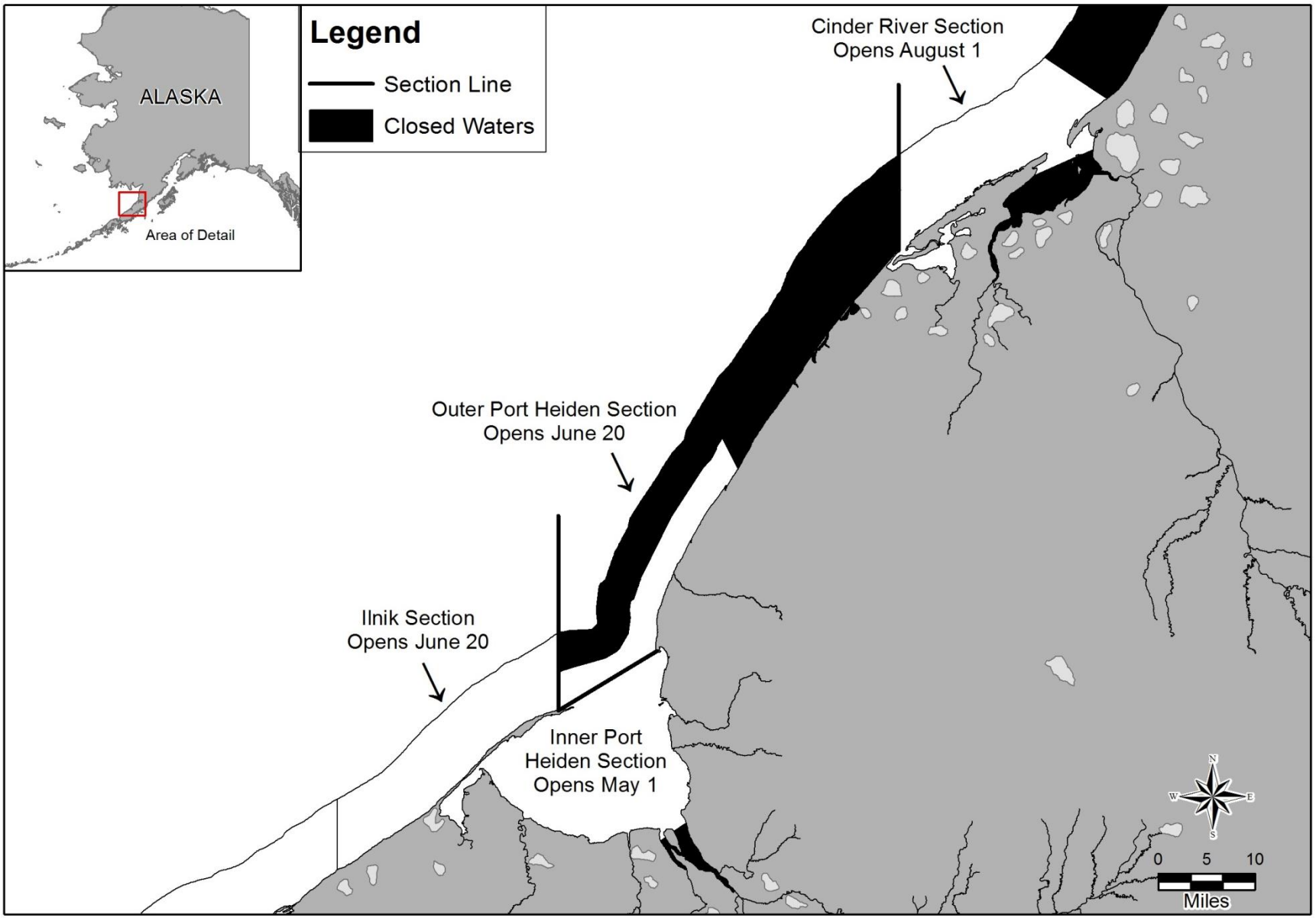

Figure 155-1.–Map of the Outer Port Heiden Section, showing closed waters and bordering sections.

PROPOSAL 159 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed Waters.

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would open commercial salmon fishing from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore in the Outer Port Heiden Section (Figure 159-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulation (5 AAC 9.310(a)(2)(B)) for the Outer Port Heiden Section allows Area M drift gillnet fishermen to fish during open periods from June 20 to July 31. That portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section located from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore is closed to commercial salmon fishing.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted there likely would not be any change to the stock composition of the harvest from the Outer Port Heiden Section. Bristol Bay sockeye salmon stocks were the largest portion of the harvest in the WASSIP study and a recent study by the University of Washington showed no difference in harvest inside 1.5 nmi and from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi. If adopted it is expected that the harvest composition will likely remain unchanged. During the WASSIP study the fleet could fish out to 3 nmi.

BACKGROUND: In 2007, the board opened a portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section to harvest sockeye salmon bound for Meshik River. The area was open to 3 nmi offshore, similar to other areas of the Northern District. Currently, by regulation, the Outer Port Heiden Section may be opened from June 20 until July 31 to Area M drift gillnet gear. Management actions can be taken in the Outer Port Heiden Section for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks (5 AAC 09.369(l)). The Northern District salmon fisheries are managed, per 5 AAC 09.369, on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement and catch-per-unit-effort information. The Meshik River sockeye salmon escapement has been strong over the last 10 years and since 2013 has averaged about 100,000 sockeye salmon, which has met the escapement goal of 25,000–100,000 fish (Table 159-1). In 2013, over concern for interception of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon in the Outer Port Heiden Section, the board closed that portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore for the entire season. Since then, the lowest and highest harvests in the Outer Port Heiden Section have occurred since 2007, indicating that there does not seem to be a trend of decreased harvests in the Outer Port Heiden Section while the fleet is fishing inside 1.5 nmi.

The recent study by the University of Washington shows there is no difference between harvests of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon inside 1.5 nmi and from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi in the Outer Port Heiden Section during 2014 and 2015. The WASSIP study took place when the fleet was fishing out to 3 nmi and Bristol Bay sockeye salmon dominated the harvests during that time as well.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of the proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 159-1. –Outer Port Heiden commercial sockeye salmon harvest and Meshik River sockeye salmon escapement and goals, 2006–2015.

Year	Harvest Outer Port Heiden	Escapement Meshik River	Escapement goal
1996	CLOSED	60,000	
1997	CLOSED	40,000	
1998	CLOSED	56,025	
1999	CLOSED	75,575	
2000	CLOSED	183,100	
2001	CLOSED	111,700	10,000-20,000
2002	CLOSED	37,650	
2003	CLOSED	153,600	
2004	CLOSED	103,600	
2005	CLOSED	109,500	
2006	CLOSED	140,510	
2007	387,786	57,600	
2008	321,730	89,750	20,000-60,000
2009	762,643	88,200	
2010	786,025	67,700	
2011	375,128	94,200	
2012	268,226	47,600	25,000-100,000
2013	254,916	65,600	
2014	421,166	95,500	
2015	867,350	149,500	
2013-2015 avg.	514,477	103,533	
2006-2015 avg.	493,886	89,616	

Note: Average harvest for Outer Port Heiden does not include 2006, as the fishery was not open to commercial salmon fishing at this time.

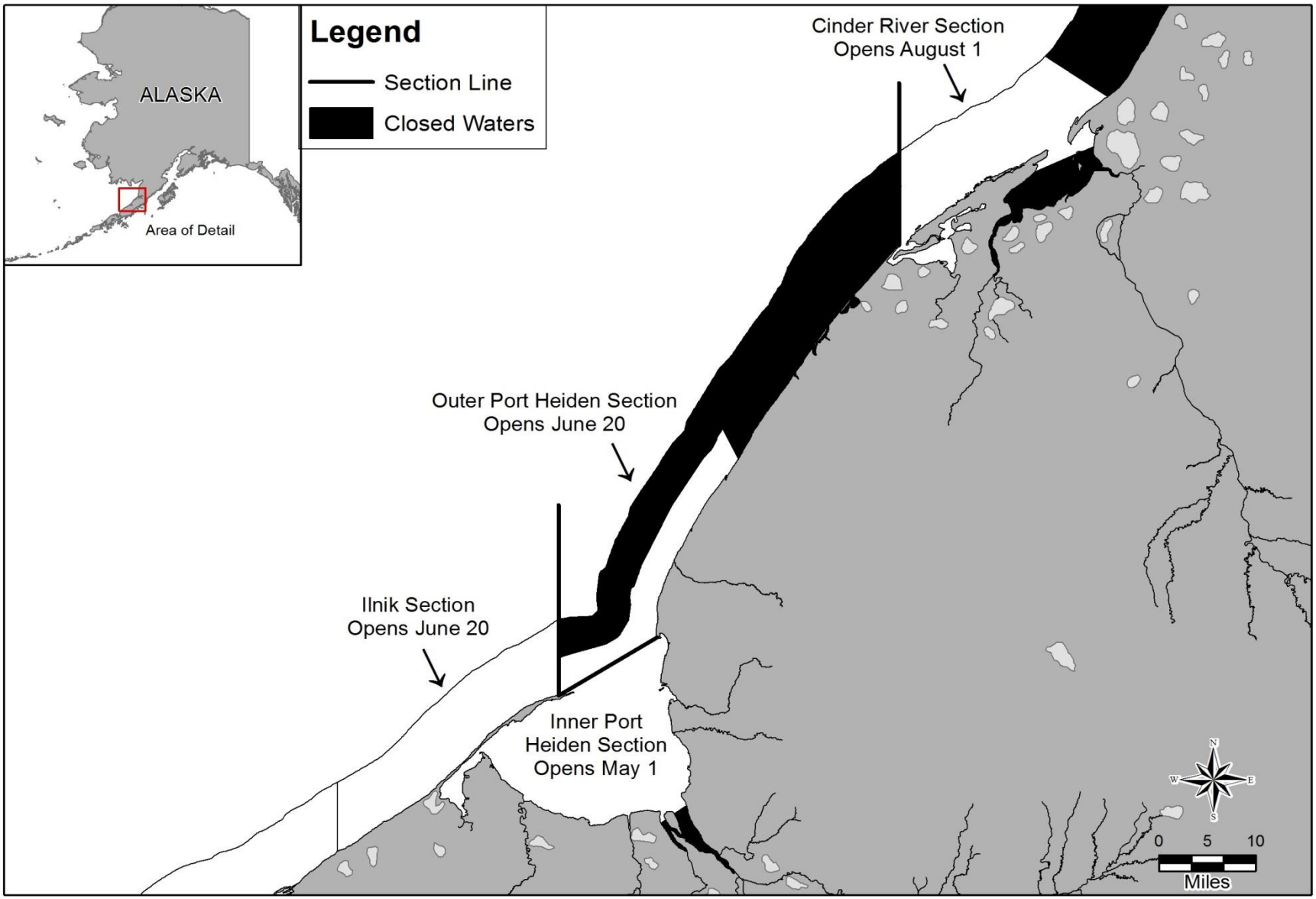

Figure 159-1.–Map of the Outer Port Heiden Section.

PROPOSAL 157 – 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing Periods.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would restrict commercial salmon fishing to no more than four days in any seven day period in the Inner Port Heiden and Outer Port Heiden sections (Figure 157-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulations (5 AAC 9.320(a)(4)) for the Outer Port Heiden, Inner Port Heiden, and Ilnik sections allow salmon to be taken from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, except that before June 20 in that portion of the Ilnik Section within the Ilnik Lagoon and all waters inside the Seal Islands, salmon may be taken only from 12:00 noon Monday until 11:59 p.m. Wednesday. The Inner Port Heiden Section is open to Area T and Area M drift and set gillnet gear. The Outer Port Heiden Section is open to Area M drift gillnet gear.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would increase fishing in the Inner Port Heiden and Outer Port Heiden sections to no more than four days in any seven day period. This could increase the number of fishing days in the Outer Port Heiden Section which is currently 2.5 days per week to four days per week and would increase harvest. Currently the Inner Port Heiden Section weekly fishing period is also 2.5 days per week but no significant effort has occurred in the Inner Port Heiden Section in at least 10 years. When fishing effort did occur in the Inner Port Heiden Section, there were times when more fishing time than four days per week was warranted when effort levels were low and sockeye salmon escapement was strong.

BACKGROUND: In 2007, the board opened a portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section to harvest sockeye salmon bound for Meshik River. The Inner Port Heiden Section has had weekly fishing periods of 2.5 days per week but no effort has occurred in many years. In the past, when effort has occurred in the Inner Port Heiden Section, additional fishing time has been up to six days per week, depending largely on effort and escapement levels. In 2013 the board allowed Area T drift and set gillnet permit holders to fish in the Inner Port Heiden Section during July, which had been closed to Area T permit holders since shortly after statehood.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvest in the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, by temporal stratum, for 2006 through 2008, can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008*. Appendix tables C105–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Nelson, Meshik, Ugashik) during each sampled temporal stratum, 2006–2008, in these fisheries. Under WASSIP, the stock compositions of the Late Catch temporal strata for Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections were assumed to be 100% Bear River stock. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks, among all strata combined, within a given year for these fisheries. Harvest and harvest rate of stocks including Cinder River, other North Peninsula, and Bristol Bay stocks in specific area strata of each fishery, all temporal strata combined, are in appendix tables F40–F42. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik

sections, among all temporal strata, combined, for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in WASSIP report SP12-24, tables 10–60.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of the proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

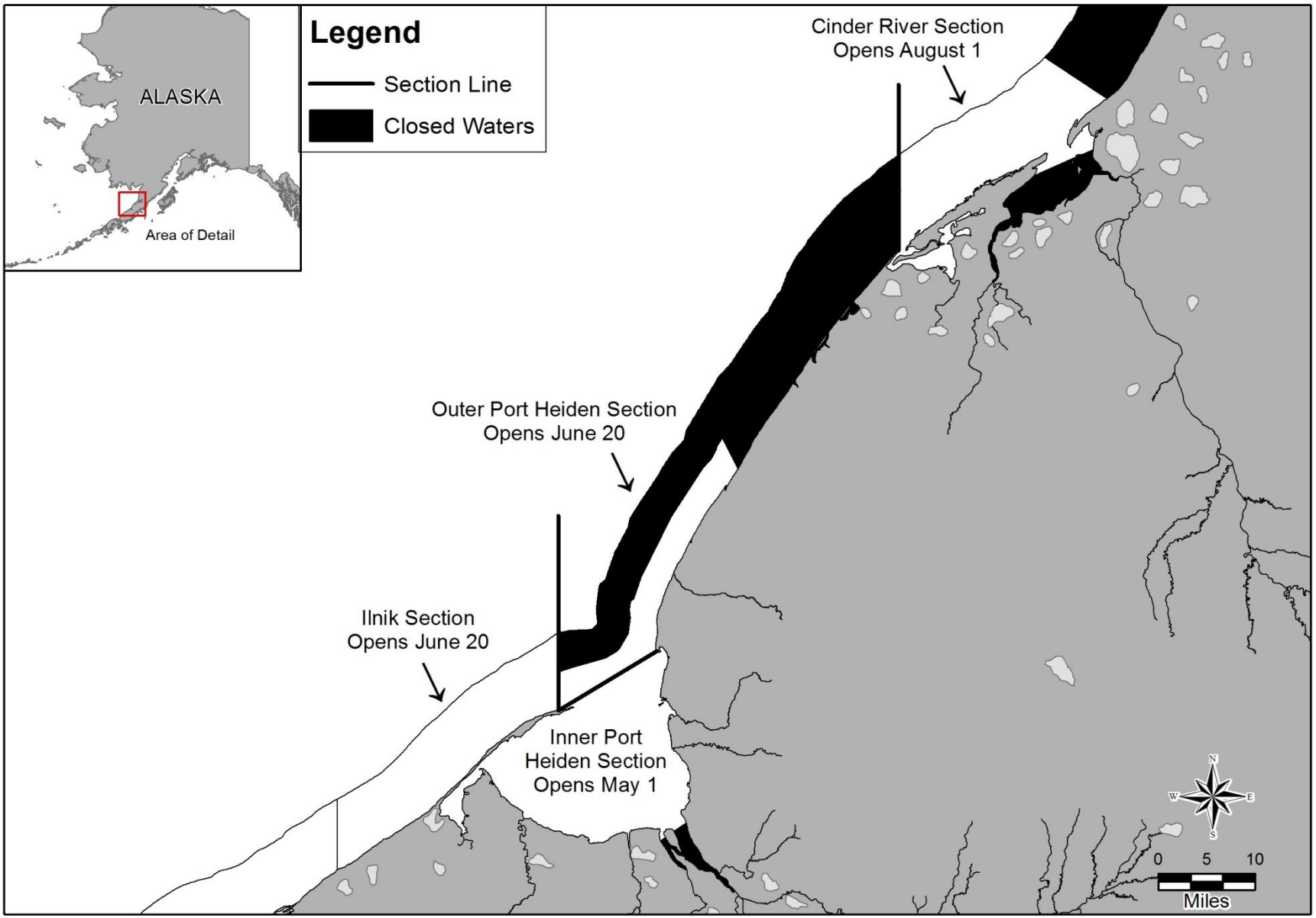

Figure 157-1.–Map of the Outer Port Heiden Section, showing closed waters and bordering sections.

PROPOSAL 147 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would eliminate rolling closures that were adopted in 2013, allowing the fleet to fish out to 3 nmi in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections during open fishing periods (Figure 147-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? From June 20 through July 31, the department shall manage the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections to conserve Bear River and Nelson River sockeye salmon stocks by allowing the passage of sockeye salmon from the northeast to the southwest of the Northern District as described in this subsection. Notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 09.320, from June 20 through July 31, the commissioner shall, by EO, establish fishing periods for the Bear River and Three Hills sections, and that portion of the Ilnik Section between the longitude of Strogonof Point at 159° 50.45' W. long. and the longitude of Unangashak Bluffs at 159° 10.25' W. long. and that portion of the Ilnik Section between the longitude of Unangashak Bluffs and the longitude of Three Hills at 159° 49.45' W. long., during which the waters that are between the 3 nmi seaward boundary line, described in 5 AAC 09.301, and a line that is 1.5 nmi shoreward of the 3 nmi seaward boundary are closed for one 24-hour period during a seven-day period. The waters located to the southwest of the open waters where a 24-hour closure has occurred will have sequential closures that allow fishing only in the waters out to the 1.5 nmi line described in this subsection for the first 24 hours of an open fishing period.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? During established fishing periods, the fleet would be permitted to fish out to 3 nmi during the period, whereas currently they can only fish out to 1.5 nmi during a 24-hour period in five areas that encompass the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections. The department is unsure of the effects of the rolling closure; however, it does not appear harvest rates change when the 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi closures are in effect. Rolling closures have only been implemented over the last three years, and because of inclement weather, EOs closing areas in order to meet escapements, and lack of fishing effort in areas during rolling closures, no conclusions can be drawn as to the effect of rolling closures on escapement and harvest.

BACKGROUND: The Nelson River and Bear River sockeye salmon runs did not meet escapement goals in 2011 and 2012, respectively. In 2013, the board implemented sequential closures of fishing areas from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi occurring during one 24-hour period per every seven day period. These closures start by regulation (5 AAC 09.369(n)) in the northeast portion of the Ilnik Section and work southwest toward Nelson and Bear rivers. Figure 147-1 illustrates the areas affected by rolling closures. The intent of the rolling closures is to allow fish bound for the Nelson and Bear rivers that migrate outside of 1.5 nmi offshore to pass unrestricted during weekly fishing periods. This is implemented by closing that portion of the Northeast Ilnik area from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi to commercial salmon fishing. After 24 hours, the area to the southwest (southwest Ilnik) would have a closure from 1.5 nmi out, and the area that was previously only open to 1.5 nmi (northeast Ilnik) would reopen out to 3 nmi. This process repeats itself moving down the coast, toward Bear and Nelson rivers, sequentially over a five day period until all five

areas have gone through a rolling closure. There are no data from WASSIP that shows the stock composition of the catches in these areas inside 3 nmi and inside 1.5 nmi.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. There are no scientific data as to whether the rolling closures that have been in effect for the last three fishing seasons have had any direct result in allowing more fish to enter Nelson and Bear rivers.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

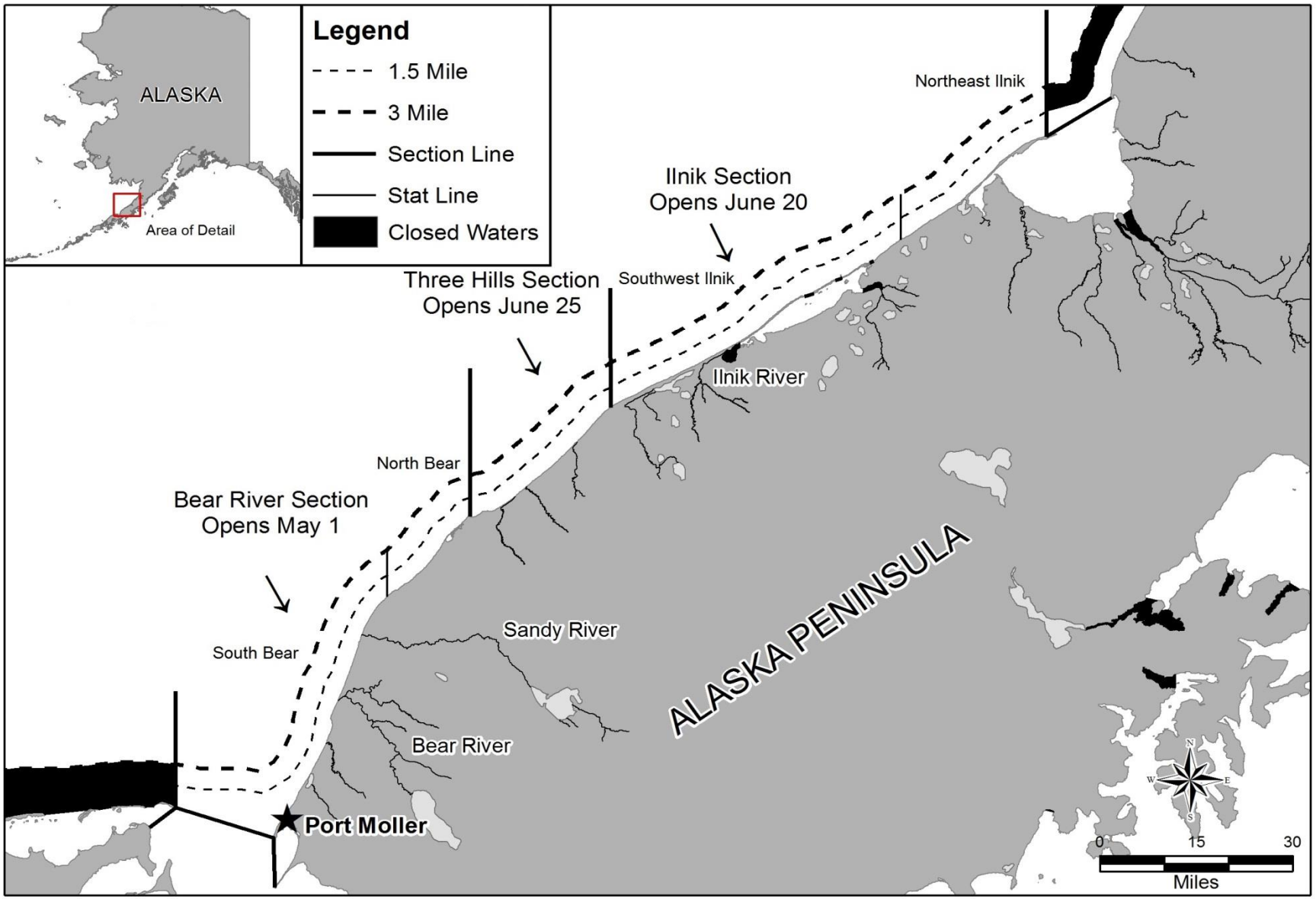

Figure 147-1.–Statistical areas under the effect of rolling closures.

PROPOSAL 158 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed Waters.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would restrict commercial salmon fishing in the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections to no more than 1.5 miles from the 18′ high tide mark until the total run strength to Ugashik River is 2.5 million sockeye salmon or 5 million sockeye salmon to Egegik River.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Rolling closures were implemented in 2013 in the Ilnik, Three Hills, and Bear River sections (Figure 158-1) with the intent to conserve Nelson and Bear river sockeye salmon stocks by allowing passage of sockeye salmon from the northeast to the southwest from June 20 to July 31. The rolling closures are directed at five areas within Ilnik, Three Hills, and Bear River sections and close commercial salmon fishing for one 24-hour period during a seven day period in waters from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would restrict fishing in the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections to 1.5 nmi from the 18' high tide mark when the Ugashik River total run is 2.5 million sockeye salmon or the Egegik River total run is 5 million sockeye salmon. If these runs are above the specified threshold, fishing would be permitted out to 3 nmi offshore. This proposal would tie management of the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections to the total run strength of the Ugashik or Egegik rivers. The total runs of these rivers would need to be determined quickly inseason so that management decisions with regard to fishing area on the North Peninsula could be adjusted. Total run would include Ugashik and Egegik rivers sockeye salmon that are harvested in other districts and this information may not be readily available in a timely manner. Adoption of this proposal would lengthen the period of time the closure from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore would be in place, since the closures currently occur for 24 hours over a seven day period in each of the areas.

BACKGROUND: In 2013, in an effort to improve escapement of Nelson and Bear river sockeye salmon, the board implemented sequential closures of the area from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi that occur during one 24-hour period per seven day period starting in the northern portion of the Ilnik Section and working from the northeast to the southwest toward Nelson and Bear rivers. The intent of the closures was to allow fish bound for the Nelson and Bear rivers that were migrating from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore to migrate through the five areas by closing the first area to the northeast for 24 hours and then after 24 hours the area to the southwest would close from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore and the area that was previously only open to 1.5 nmi would reopen back out to 3 nmi offshore. This occurs in five areas thus potentially allowing fish to enter Bear and Nelson rivers.

In 2007, the board opened a portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section to harvest sockeye salmon bound for Meshik River. In 2013, the board reduced the size of the Outer Port Heiden Section fishery to conserve Bristol Bay sockeye salmon stocks by closing commercial salmon fishing from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore. Long-term regulations for set gillnet gear (5 AAC 09.331(8)), provide restrictions in some areas of the Northern District that specify the permanent vegetation

line of the beach or the mean high tide mark but no regulations currently specify an 18′ high tide mark.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvest in the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, by temporal stratum, for 2006 through 2008, can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008*. Appendix tables C105–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Nelson, Meshik, Ugashik) during each sampled temporal stratum, 2006–2008, in these fisheries. Under WASSIP, the stock compositions of the Late Catch temporal strata for Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections were assumed to be 100% Bear River stock. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks, among all strata combined, within a given year for these fisheries. Harvest and harvest rate of Cinder River stock in specific area strata of each fishery, all temporal strata combined, are in appendix tables F40–F42. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, among all temporal strata, combined, for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in WASSIP report SP12-24, tables 45–59.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of the proposal. The department has concerns about implementation of the requirement to fish no more than 1.5 nmi offshore from the 18′ high tide mark. The 18′ high tide mark baseline description is not used in Alaska Peninsula regulations and may not be reasonable given the size of tides in this area.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

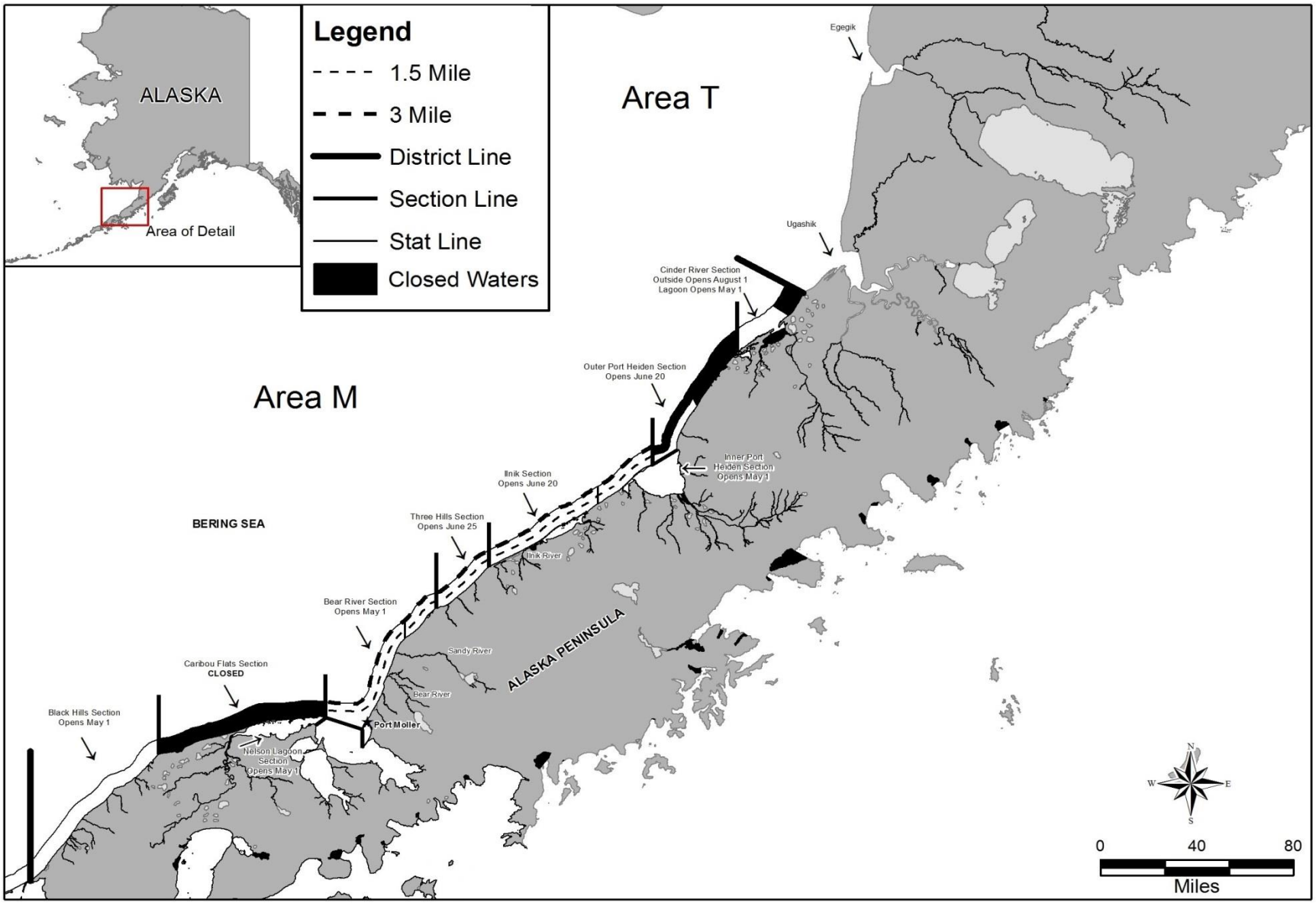

Figure 158-1.–Map of the Northern District, expanded to show Ugashik and Egegik rivers.

PROPOSAL 160 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Ray Johnson.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would close commercial salmon fishing with gillnet gear from shore to 1.5 nmi offshore in the Bear River and Nelson Lagoon sections until escapement objectives are met at Bear and Nelson rivers. From June 1 to August 15 drift gillnet gear will be restricted to no less than 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi from shore until Bear and Nelson rivers achieve adequate escapement (Figure 160-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Northern District salmon fisheries are managed, per 5 AAC 09.369, on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement and catch-per-unit-effort information. Rolling closures were implemented in 2013 in the Ilnik, Three Hills, and Bear River sections with the intent to conserve Nelson and Bear rivers sockeye salmon stocks by allowing passage of sockeye salmon from the northeast to the southwest from June 20 to July 31. After July 31, the fleet can fish out to 3 nmi offshore during fishery openings. The rolling closures are directed at five areas within Ilnik, Three Hills, and Bear River sections; closing commercial salmon fishing for one 24-hour period during a seven day period in waters from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore. In the Bear River Section purse seine and drift gillnet gears are legal. In the Nelson Lagoon Section drift and set gillnet gears are legal and both gear types actively fish.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would close the area from shore to 1.5 nmi in the Bear River and Nelson Lagoon sections to drift gillnet gear until escapement objectives are met at Bear and Nelson rivers and still leave that area from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore open to commercial salmon fishing. Since the proposal states that the closure would be for drift gillnet gear, this would only allow set gillnet gear to operate in the Nelson Lagoon Section and purse seine gear in the Bear River Section from June 1 to August 15 from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore until Bear and Nelson rivers achieve adequate escapement. It has been over 20 years since any purse seine effort occurred in the Bear River Section. This proposal concentrates the fleet in the Bear River Section from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore which is currently closed for 24 hours over a 7-day period, therefore, with the current rolling closure regulation and potential implementation there would be times when no commercial salmon fishing is allowed from shore out to 3 nmi and would result in overescapement.

BACKGROUND: The management strategy for the North Peninsula District is escapement based and fisheries are opened and closed based on the manager's assessment of adequate escapement. The upper escapement goal for sockeye salmon at Nelson River has been exceeded in 19 of the past 26 years (Table 160-1). In 2013, the board implemented sequential closures of the five areas from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore occurring during one 24-hour period per seven day period; starting in the northern portion of the Ilnik Section and working from the northeast to the southwest toward Nelson and Bear rivers. Figure 160-1 illustrates Nelson Lagoon and its proximity to the Bear River Section. The intent of the rolling closures was to allow fish bound for the Nelson and Bear rivers that were migrating farther offshore to pass through the five areas by closing the farthest area to the northeast for 24 hours. After 24 hours the area to the southwest would have a closure from 1.5 nmi out, and the area that was previously only open to 1.5 nmi

would reopen out to 3 nmi offshore. This would occur in five areas thus potentially allowing fish to enter Bear and Nelson rivers.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. This proposal, along with existing regulations, would eliminate fishing in the Bear River Section and complicate management in the Nelson Lagoon Section from June 1 to August 15. These two sections are important areas for harvesting salmon stocks bound for Nelson, Bear, and Sandy rivers, along with other smaller systems. Closing Nelson Lagoon from shore to 1.5 nmi is not feasible since the fishery in this area is a lagoon fishery. The department has been effective in achieving the Nelson River sockeye salmon and Bear River early and late-run sockeye salmon escapement goals over the past 40 years.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 160-1.–Nelson and Bear rivers sockeye salmon harvest and escapement, 1990–2015.

	Nelson River			Bear River		
Year	Escapement	Escapement goal	Harvest	Escapement	Escapement goal	Harvest
1990	240,700		410,417	546,800		876,248
1991	268,400		273,960	606,000		1,044,660
1992	162,300		378,706	450,000		1,398,253
1993	207,200		452,842	452,000		2,041,716
1994	325,300		329,212	465,000		1,089,249
1995	329,400		448,281	305,000		1,536,039
1996	250,500	100,00 to 150,000	445,335	367,000	200,000 to 250,000	592,413
1997	183,100		384,370	360,000		642,461
1998	159,800		161,441	415,000		251,327
1999	202,067		237,293	350,000		557,805
2000	182,700		193,694	275,000		473,631
2001	201,962		174,363	300,000		527,284
2002	315,693		325,904	275,000		596,270
2003	343,511		373,252	366,000		491,857
2004	480,097		527,637	435,000		611,147
2005	303,000		334,702	554,000		1,030,989
2006	215,000		255,265	445,000		576,552
2007	180,000		337,556	431,000		617,402
2008	141,600		183,330	321,000		417,261
2009	157,000	97,000 to 219,000	214,302	349,500	293,000 to 488,000	652,873
2010	108,000		93,715	369,500		558,702
2011	89,000		74,808	340,000		120,652
2012	103,300		116,685	289,600		12,912
2013	248,000		217,327	416,000		94,335
2014	250,000		210,858	466,000		401,158
2015	257,000		312,894	515,000		495,409
2006–2015 Avg.	174,890		201,674	394,260		394,738

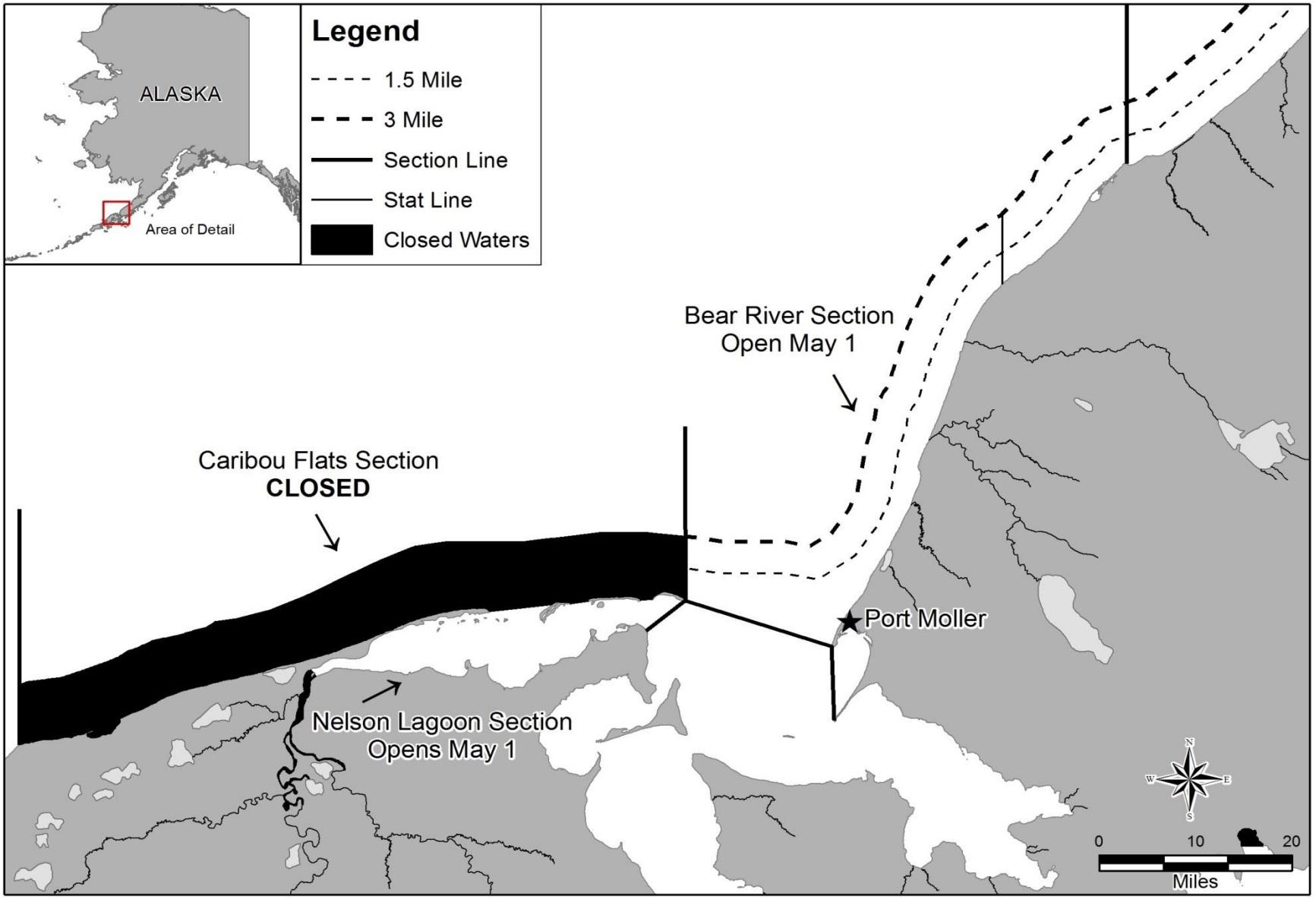

Figure 160-1.–Map of the Nelson Lagoon and Bear River sections.

PROPOSAL 161 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Ray Johnson.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would close commercial salmon fishing in the Northern District with drift gillnet gear from shore to 1.5 nmi offshore when Bear and/or Nelson River coho salmon escapements do not meet objectives. From August 15 to September 30 drift gillnet gear will only be allowed from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi from shore until Bear and Nelson rivers have achieved their adequate escapement.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Northern District (Figure 161-1) salmon fisheries are managed, per 5 AAC 09.369, on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement and catch-per-unit-effort information. Rolling closures occur in the Ilnik, Three Hills, and Bear River sections to conserve Nelson and Bear rivers sockeye salmon stocks by allowing passage of sockeye salmon from the northeast to the southwest from June 20 to July 31. The rolling closures are directed at five areas within Ilnik, Three Hills, and Bear River sections and close commercial salmon fishing for one 24-hour period during a seven day period in waters from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore. In the Bear River Section purse seine and drift gillnet gears are legal. In the Nelson Lagoon Section drift and set gillnet gears are legal and both gear types actively fish. Management of coho salmon occurs in the Nelson Lagoon and Ilnik sections beginning August 16. The late Bear River sockeye salmon run begins August 1 and goes well into September and management actions occur for this run in the Bear River and Three Hills sections accordingly

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would close the Bear River and Nelson Lagoon sections from shore to 1.5 nmi for drift gillnet gear until coho salmon escapement objectives are met at Bear and Nelson rivers. Since the proposal states that the closure would be for drift gillnet gear, this would only allow set gillnet gear to operate in the Nelson Lagoon Section and purse seine gear in the Bear River Section from June 1 to August 15 from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore until Bear and Nelson rivers achieve adequate escapement. This proposal would make it difficult to harvest the late Bear River sockeye salmon run during August and September by the drift gillnet fleet by fishing only from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi from shore and lost harvest opportunity by the fleet and likely overescapement of sockeye salmon into the Bear River system.

BACKGROUND: Nelson Lagoon has one of the largest coho salmon runs in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area. Escapements over the past 10 years average about 25,000 fish and the harvest in Nelson Lagoon averaged 40,000 fish (Table 161-1); this is one of the few places in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area that has a directed coho salmon fishery. The coho salmon SEG for Nelson River is 18,000 fish and has been met annually. The fleet of drift gillnet boats that fish in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections in August and September targets the late Bear River sockeye salmon run and use gillnet gear that is smaller in mesh size than typically fished for coho salmon. The harvest of sockeye salmon in this area post July 31 has averaged 300,000 fish while only around 20,000 coho salmon are harvested during the same time period. Bear River has a coho salmon run that begins in September. Coho salmon escapements average about 170,000 fish in the Northern District over the past 10 years. No coho salmon have

passed the Bear River weir prior to its removal on August 25. The department has been effective in achieving the Nelson River sockeye salmon and Bear River early and late-run sockeye salmon escapement goals over the past 40 years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal but **OPPOSED** to limiting fishing opportunity in August and September in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections to between 1.5 nmi and 3 nmi offshore only for coho salmon bound for Nelson and Bear rivers. Escapement would increase rapidly, and potentially most of the late Bear River sockeye salmon run escapement would occur in a short time period. Opportunity for the fleet to harvest surplus late run Bear River sockeye salmon would be reduced. Closing Nelson Lagoon from shore to 1.5 nmi is not feasible since it is a lagoon fishery.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 161- 1.–Sockeye and coho salmon harvest in Bear River and Nelson Lagoon sections and Nelson River coho salmon escapement, 2006–2015

	Sockeye		Coho			
Year	Bear River harvest	Nelson River harvest	Bear River harvest	Nelson Lagoon harvest	Nelson River escapement	Nelson River escapement goal
2006	576,552	255,265	11,580	66,874	20,000[a]	18,000
2007	617,402	337,556	9,076	47,647	19,000	
2008	417,261	183,330	33,400	54,282	37,000[b]	
2009	652,873	214,302	9,809	37,060	22,000	
2010	558,702	93,715	9,632	44,821	15,000	
2011	120,652	74,808	2,195	13,119	21,000	
2012	12,912	116,685	CLOSED	31,476	19,160	
2013	94,461	217,327	2,300	21,734	22,000	
2014	401,158	210,858	9,705	58,849	25,000	
2015	495,409	312,894	7,617	41,574	45,000	
2006-2015 avg.	394,738	201,674	9,531	41,744	24,516	

[a] Includes 1,000 fish observed in David's River, a tributary of Nelson River.

[b] Includes 1,000 fish observed in David's River, and 12,000 fish observed in Caribou River, tributaries of Nelson River.

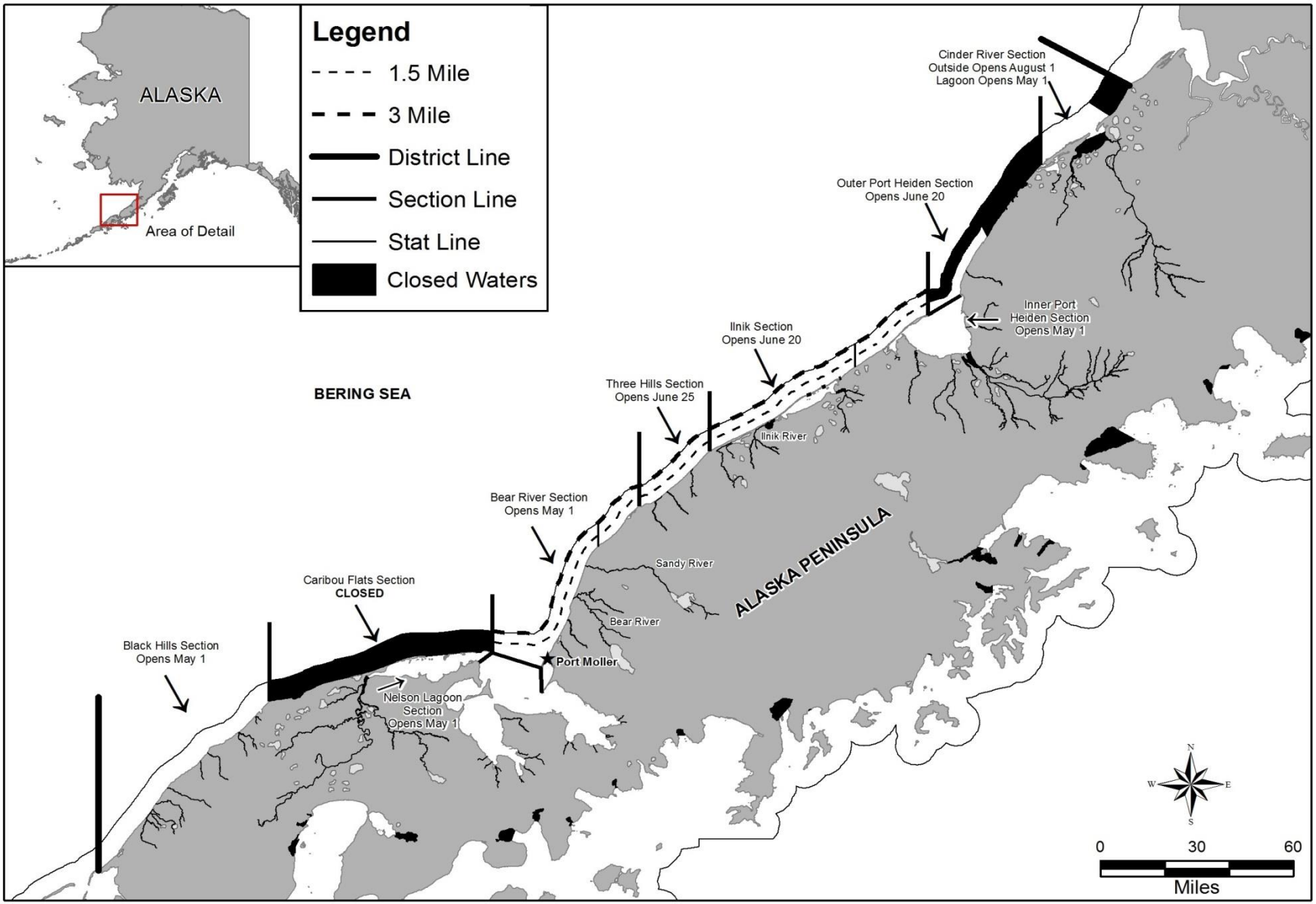

Figure 161-1.–Map of the Northern District.

PROPOSAL 162 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Ray Johnson.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would close commercial salmon fishing in the Northern District with drift gillnet gear from shore to 1.5 nmi offshore when Bear and/or Nelson River sockeye salmon escapements do not meet escapement objectives. From June 1 to September 30 drift gillnet gear will only be allowed from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi from shore until Bear and Nelson rivers have achieved adequate sockeye salmon escapement.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Northern District (Figure 162-1) salmon fisheries are managed, per 5 AAC 09.369, on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement and catch-per-unit-effort information. Rolling closures were implemented in 2013 in the Ilnik, Three Hills, and Bear River sections with the intent to conserve Nelson and Bear rivers sockeye salmon stocks by allowing passage of sockeye salmon from the northeast to the southwest from June 20 to July 31. The rolling closures are directed at five areas within Ilnik, Three Hills, and Bear River sections and closes commercial salmon fishing for one 24-hour period during a seven day period in waters from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore. In the Bear River Section, purse seine and drift gillnet gears are legal. In the Nelson Lagoon Section drift and set gillnet gears are legal and both gear types actively fish. The late Bear River sockeye salmon run begins August 1 and goes well into September and management actions occur for this run in the Bear River and Three Hills sections accordingly.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would close waters from shore to 1.5 nmi offshore in the entire Northern District to drift gillnet gear until sockeye salmon escapement objectives are met at Bear and Nelson rivers. This would put excessive sockeye salmon into local rivers and reduce harvest opportunity significantly. Since the proposal states that the closure would be for drift gillnet gear, this would also only allow set gillnet and purse seine gear to operate throughout the Northern District, where these gears are legal, and close drift gillnet fishing from June 1 to September 30 from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore until Bear and Nelson rivers achieve adequate escapement. This proposal would make it difficult to harvest the late Bear River sockeye salmon run during August and September by the drift gillnet fleet by fishing only from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi from shore. Since the proposal specifies the entire Northern District, this would include areas such as Black Hills, Herendeen and Moller bays, and the entire area from Moffet Point to Cinder River.

BACKGROUND: Nelson River and Bear River sockeye salmon escapement goals have been consistently met over the past 40 years. However, the lower bound escapement goal of 97,000 sockeye salmon was not met in 2011 at Nelson River when only 89,000 fish escaped, and at Bear River in 2011 when the escapement was 289,600 and the lower bound escapement goal is 293,000 fish (Table 162-1). There is no data available as to the migration pattern of Bear and Nelson rivers sockeye salmon with regard to inside 1.5 nmi offshore or from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore. The Nelson River sockeye salmon run is typically complete by about July 31. Bear River has an early run and late run of sockeye salmon. The late run begins August 1 and ends in late September.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal but **OPPOSED** to making management decisions based on Nelson River sockeye salmon stocks in August and September as the run is over in late July. Limiting fishing for one gear group and providing opportunity for another gear group in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections to between 1.5 nmi and 3 nmi only for sockeye salmon bound for Nelson and Bear rivers would provide little or no benefit to either system. Closing Nelson Lagoon from shore to 1.5 nmi is not feasible since it is a lagoon fishery. Excessive escapements and lost harvest opportunity may occur in the Bear River Section. Forcing the drift gillnet fleet to fish from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi throughout the entire Northern District when Bear and Nelson rivers do not meet escapement objectives and still allowing other gear groups to fish in the area closed to drift gillnet gear would not provide any benefit to Nelson or Bear rivers.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 162-1.–Nelson and Bear rivers sockeye salmon harvest and escapement, 1990–2015.

	Nelson River			Bear River		
Year	Escapement	Escapement goal	Harvest	Escapement	Escapement goal	Harvest
1990	240,700		410,417	546,800		876,248
1991	268,400		273,960	606,000		1,044,660
1992	162,300		378,706	450,000		1,398,253
1993	207,200		452,842	452,000		2,041,716
1994	325,300		329,212	465,000		1,089,249
1995	329,400		448,281	305,000		1,536,039
1996	250,500	100,00 to 150,000	445,335	367,000	200,000 to 250,000	592,413
1997	183,100		384,370	360,000		642,461
1998	159,800		161,441	415,000		251,327
1999	202,067		237,293	350,000		557,805
2000	182,700		193,694	275,000		473,631
2001	201,962		174,363	300,000		527,284
2002	315,693		325,904	275,000		596,270
2003	343,511		373,252	366,000		491,857
2004	480,097		527,637	435,000		611,147
2005	303,000		334,702	554,000		1,030,989
2006	215,000		255,265	445,000		576,552
2007	180,000		337,556	431,000		617,402
2008	141,600		183,330	321,000		417,261
2009	157,000	97,000 to 219,000	214,302	349,500	293,000 to 488,000	652,873
2010	108,000		93,715	369,500		558,702
2011	89,000		74,808	340,000		120,652
2012	103,300		116,685	289,600		12,912
2013	248,000		217,327	416,000		94,335
2014	250,000		210,858	466,000		401,158
2015	257,000		312,894	515,000		495,409
2006–2015 Avg.	174,890		201,674	394,260		394,738

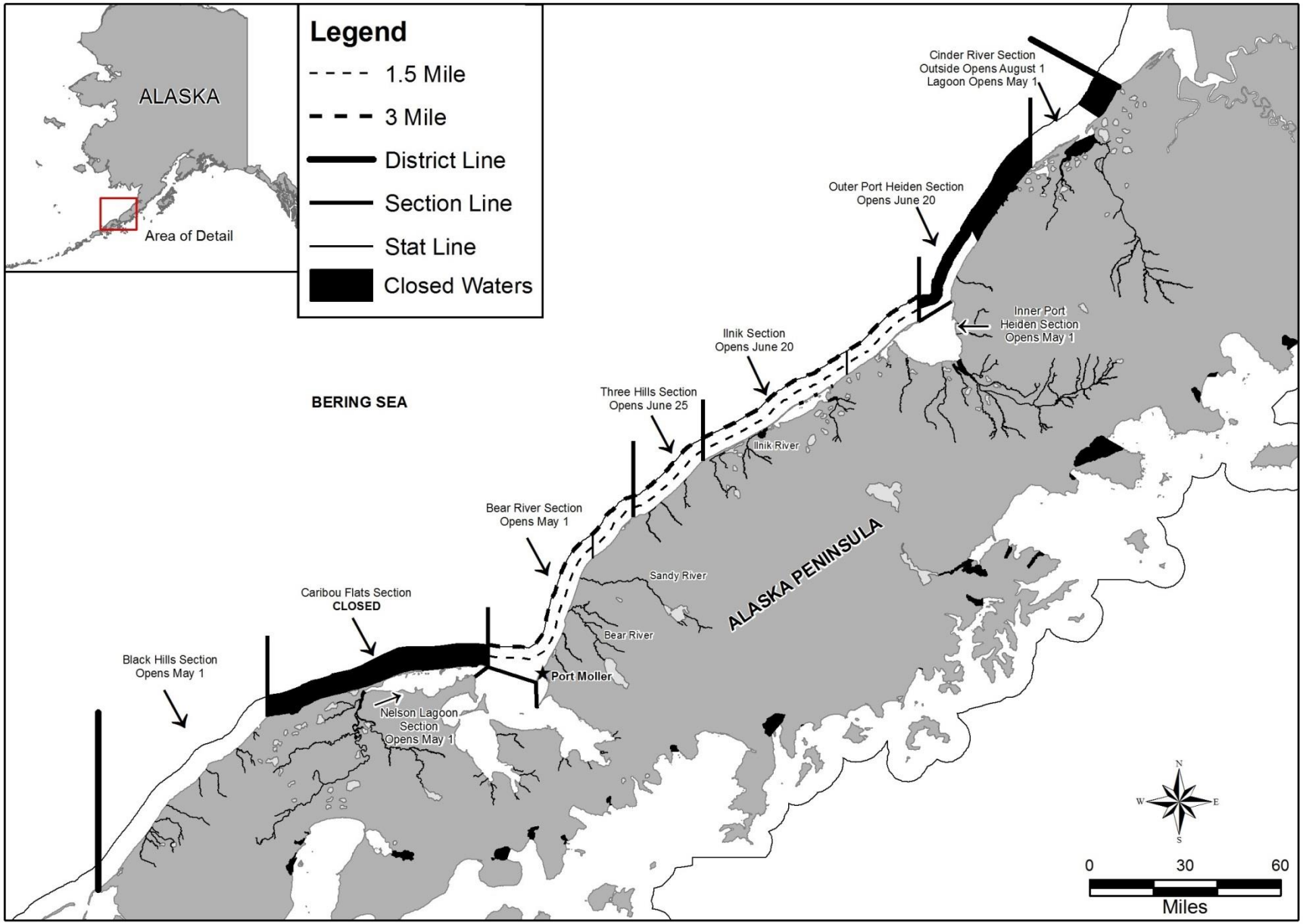

Figure 162-1.–Map of the Northern District.

PROPOSAL 169 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections; and 5 AAC 09.206. Use of global positioning system (GPS).

PROPOSED BY: Dan Barr

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Implement global positioning system coordinates for all districts and section boundaries in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.200 districts and sections throughout the Northern District are currently defined with latitude and longitude coordinates, and under 5 AAC 09.206, the coordinates are identified with GPS technology. Throughout the Alaska Peninsula Management Area, the 3 nmi line, and in sections where rolling closures occur from June 20 to July 31 (Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections), the 1.5 nmi boundary lines, are not defined with latitude and longitude coordinates since these areas are large (about 100 miles long) and the number of coordinates necessary would be substantial (Figure 169-1). In the Outer Port Heiden Section, the area from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi is closed to commercial salmon fishing; these boundary lines also are not defined with latitude and longitude coordinates.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Offshore boundaries of districts and sections would be clearly defined in regulation. Enforcement of boundaries would be improved.

BACKGROUND: In 2013, the board implemented sequential closures of the five areas from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore occurring during one 24-hour period per seven day period starting in the northern portion of the Ilnik Section and working from the northeast to the southwest toward Nelson and Bear rivers. The intent of the closures was to allow fish bound for the Nelson and Bear rivers that were migrating from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore to migrate through the five areas by closing the first area to the northeast for 24 hours and then, after 24 hours, the area to the southwest would close from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore, and the area that was previously only open to 1.5 nmi would reopen back out to 3 nmi offshore. This would occur in five areas, thus potentially allowing greater numbers of fish to enter Bear and Nelson rivers. In 2013, the board reduced the size of the Outer Port Heiden Section by closing that portion of the section from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore. This area, along with the 3 nmi boundary line throughout the entire Alaska Peninsula is not defined in regulation with specific GPS coordinates. The total coastline encompassed by rolling closures is about 100 miles. If lines defined by GPS coordinates are to be drawn for this area it would take many coordinates to ensure there is no net gain or loss in fishing area. The commercial fishing fleet is easily able to identify their location in reference to the 3 nmi offshore boundary line on marine plotters. Using aircraft GPS plotters for enforcement can be difficult to determine the 1.5 nmi line.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the potential allocative aspects of this proposal if lines are drawn and there is a net gain or loss of fishing area. The department **SUPPORTS** improved enforceability of boundary lines that are in regulation.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

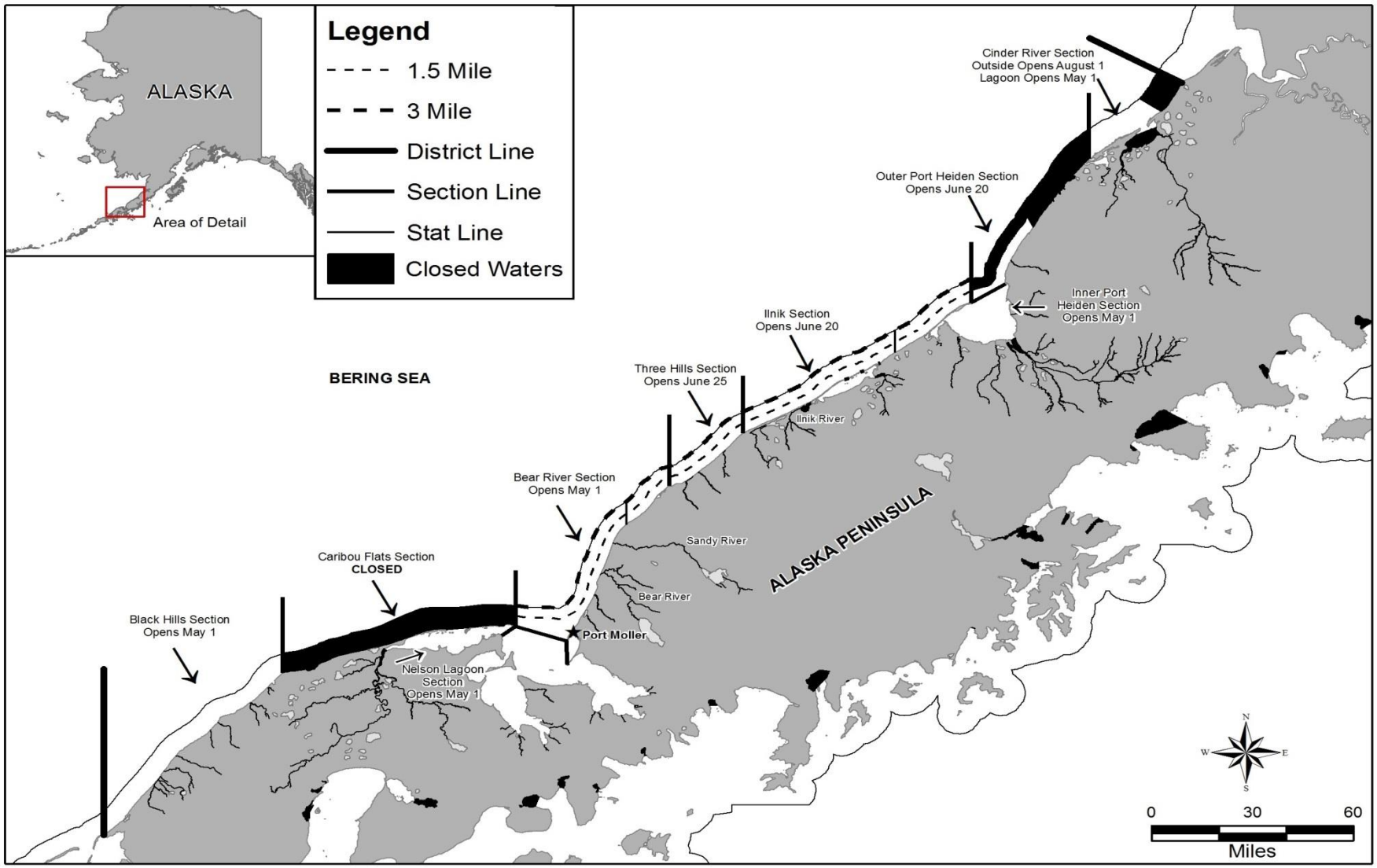

Figure 169-1.–Map of the Northern District of Area M. Closed waters in legend.

PROPOSAL 170 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed Waters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Public Safety, Alaska Wildlife Troopers.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Redefine the boundaries of the Outer Port Heiden Section using GPS coordinates (Figure 170-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.350(3)(A) in the Outer Port Heiden Section commercial fishing is closed between the 3 nmi seaward boundary line and a line that is 1.5 nmi mile shoreward of the 3 nmi seaward boundary line. The Outer Port Heiden Section is open from June 20 to July 31 in waters west of line from 57° 05.52′ N. lat, 158° 34.45 ′ W. long. to 57° 08.85 ′ N, lat, 158° 37.50 ′ W. long. and the line at Strogonof Point at 158° 50.45 ′ W. long.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal defines the 1.5 mile line in the Outer Port Heiden Section with GPS coordinates. The Outer Port Heiden Section will be closed seaward of the proposed coordinates: 57° 19.30 ′ N lat., 158° 20.00 ′ W long, and 57° 16.40 ′ N lat, 158° 26.50 ′ W long, and 57° 11.70 ′ N lat, 158° 30.50 ′ W long, and 57° 03.20 ′ N lat, 158° 40.50 ′ W long, and 56° 58.70 ′ N lat, 158° 44.50 ′ W. long, and 56° 56.50 ′ N. lat, 158° 47.20 ′ W long, and 56° 55.80 ′ N lat, 158° 50.45 ′ W long. Adoption of this proposal is not expected to change harvest or effort, or affect the department's ability to manage for escapement goals.

BACKGROUND: In 2013, over concern for interception of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon stocks the board reduced the area of the Outer Port Heiden Section that the drift gillnet fleet could fish by closing that portion from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore. The Outer Port Heiden Section is managed on the basis of Meshik River sockeye salmon stocks. This area, along with the 3 nmi boundary line throughout the entire Alaska Peninsula, and the rolling closures that occur in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections are not defined in regulation with specific GPS coordinates. Commercial fishermen in this area use GPS chart plotters to determine their exact location in reference to the 3 nmi boundary line as drawn on marine plotters. Enforcement using aircraft and aviation GPS do not have the 3 nmi boundary line depicted, and therefore it makes it more difficult to enforce the 1.5 nmi and 3 nmi boundary lines that are located throughout the Northern District as well as Alaska Peninsula Management area.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the potential allocative aspects of this proposal. The department **SUPPORTS** the ability to enforce boundary lines that are in regulation. If the board were to adopt this proposal the department suggests that the board expand it to include all of the Northern District to promote consistency.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

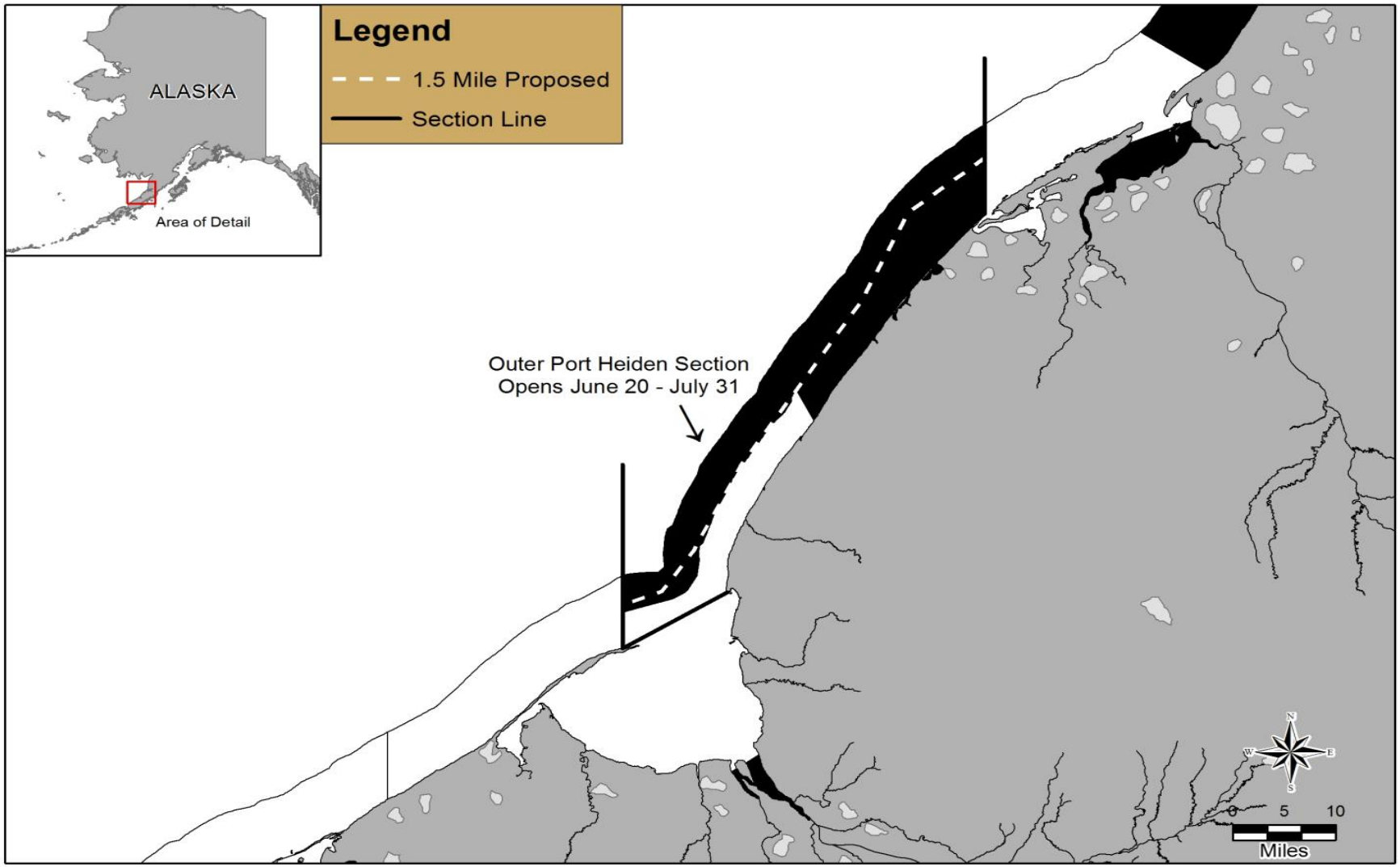

Figure 170-1.–Outer Port Heiden Section with proposed 1.5 nmi boundary line.

PROPOSAL 171 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections; and 5 AAC 09.206. Use of global positioning systems (GPS).

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Implement GPS coordinates for all district and section boundaries in the Northern District (Figure 171-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.200, districts and sections throughout the Northern District are currently defined with latitude and longitude coordinates, and under 5 AAC 09.206 the coordinates are identified with GPS technology. Throughout the Alaska Peninsula Management Area, the 3 nmi line, and in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections where rolling closures occur from June 20 to July 31, the 1.5 nmi boundary lines are not identified with GPS coordinates (Figure 171-1). In the Outer Port Heiden Section, under 5 AAC 09.350(3)(A), commercial fishing is closed between the three-mile seaward boundary line and a line that is 1.5 nmi shoreward of the 3 nmi seaward boundary line.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Since sections and district boundaries already have GPS coordinates, adoption of this proposal would not change existing regulations.

BACKGROUND: In 2013, over concern for Bristol Bay sockeye salmon stocks the board reduced the area of the Outer Port Heiden Section that the drift gillnet fleet could fish by closing that portion of the section from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi. Also in 2013, over concern for Nelson and Bear rivers' sockeye salmon stocks, the board implemented sequential closures of the area from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi occurring during one 24-hour period per seven day period starting in the northern portion of the Ilnik Section and working from the northeast to the southwest toward and Nelson and Bear rivers. The intent of the closures was to allow fish bound for the Nelson and Bear rivers that were migrating from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore to migrate through five areas by closing the first area to the northeast for 24 hours and then after 24 hours, the area to the southwest would close from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi, and the area that was previously only open to 1.5 nmi would reopen back out to 3 nmi. This would potentially allow fish to enter Bear and Nelson rivers. The coastline with these rolling closures encompasses about 100 miles. The 3 nmi and 1.5 nmi boundary lines that occur in parts of the Northern District from June 20 to July 31 do not have GPS coordinates. If GPS coordinates are to be drawn for this area it would take many coordinates to ensure there is no net gain or loss in fishing area.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the potential allocative aspects of this proposal. The department **SUPPORTS** the ability to enforce boundary lines that are in regulation.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

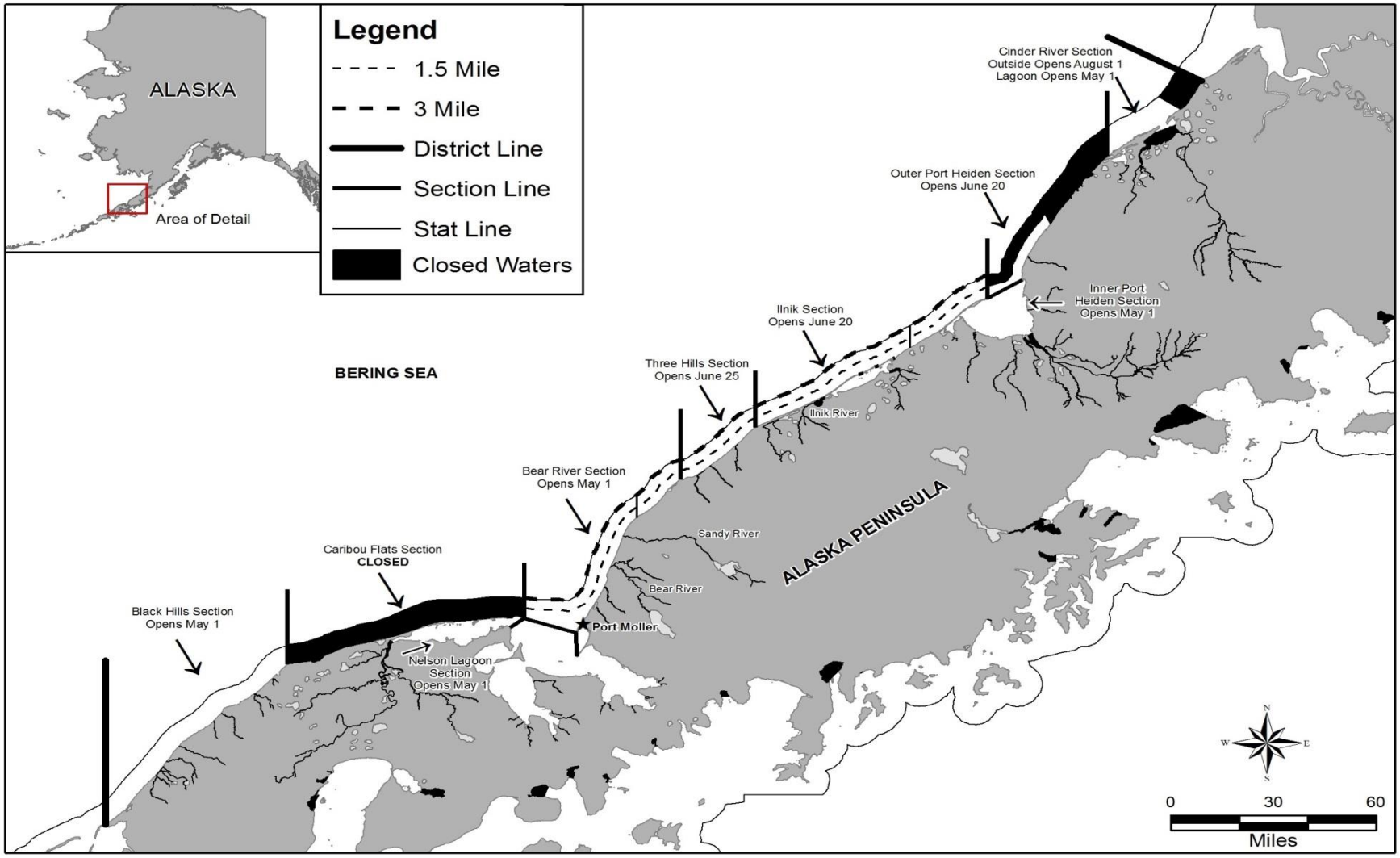

Figure 171-1.–Map of the Northern District.

PROPOSAL 150 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing Seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would describe the waters of Cinder River Lagoon that are currently open to commercial salmon fishing during weekly fishing periods (Figure 150-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.310(a)(1)(A) salmon may be taken from May 1 through September 30 within the lagoon into which Cinder River drains (locally known as False Ugashik or Shagong). Cinder River Lagoon is open during weekly fishing periods to both Area M and T permit holders for 2.5 days per week (6:00 AM Thursday to 6:00 PM Saturday) from May 1 to September 30.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal clarifies the Cinder River Lagoon waters with latitude and longitude coordinates. Little or no effort has occurred inside Cinder River Lagoon in past years, but if it does, adoption of this language will clearly define the boundary line across the outlet of the lagoon from the high tide mark on the north and south side of the entrance to the lagoon. This proposal provides a legal description of the fishing area for fishermen and law enforcement.

BACKGROUND: Although little or no effort has occurred in the Cinder River Lagoon over the past 20 years, many years ago the bulk of the harvest in the Cinder River Section was coho salmon during the months of August and September in the outer portion of the Cinder River Section.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Adoption of this proposal will define the boundary line of Cinder River Lagoon and the outer portion of the Cinder River Section and avoid confusion from commercial fishermen in the future.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

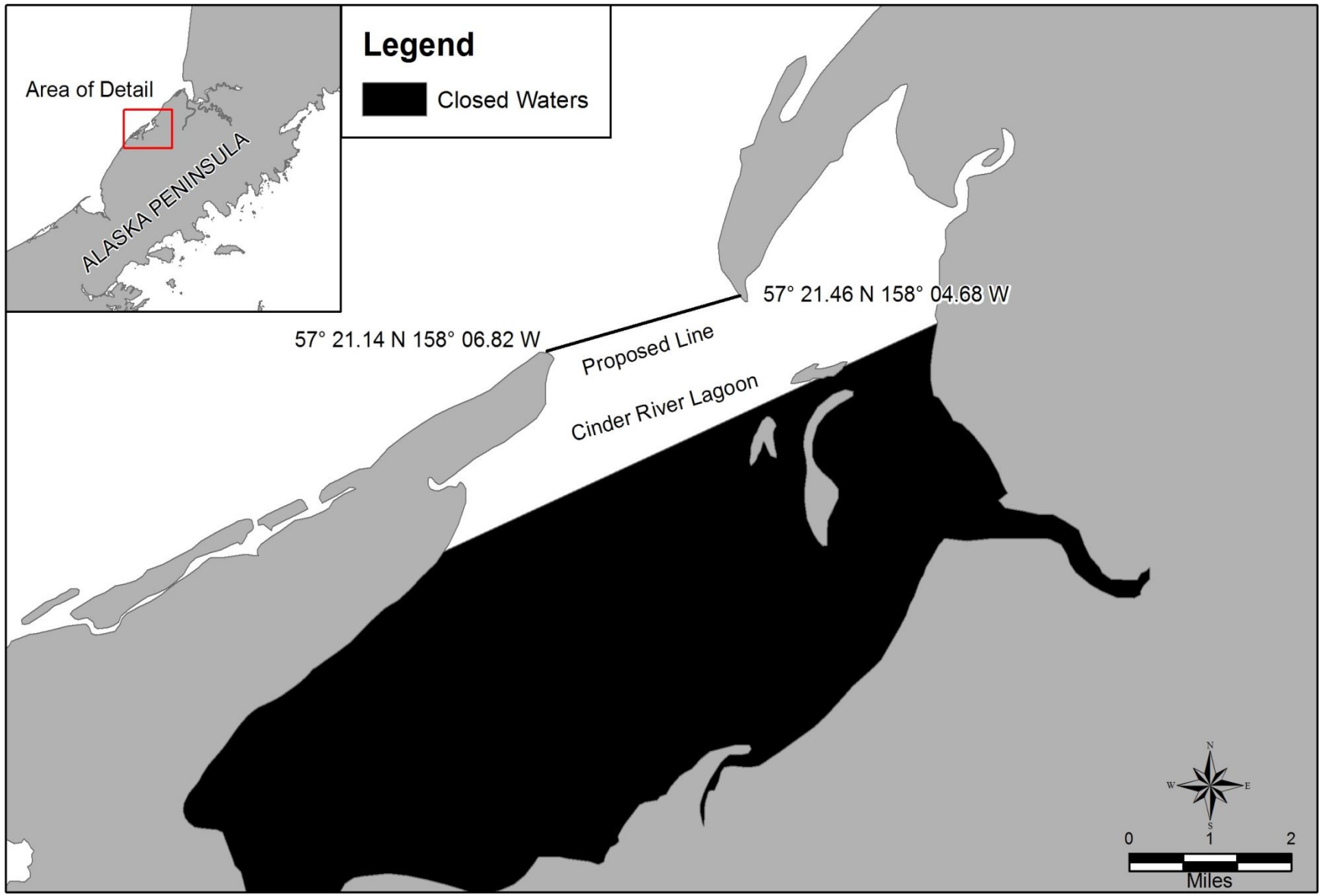

Figure 150-1.–Cinder River Lagoon with proposed line and suggested GPS coordinates.

PROPOSAL 148 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Hartman.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow fishing with drift gillnet gear in the Ilnik Lagoon portion of the Ilnik Section from June 1 to September 30 (Figure 148-1). Fishing periods would be 3.5 days per week from 6:00 a.m. Monday to 11:59 p.m. Thursday.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Drift gillnet is already a legal gear for Ilnik Lagoon. Fishing periods in Ilnik Lagoon (5 AAC 09.320(a)(4)) are 2.5 days (or 60 hours) per week beginning June 20 from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Wednesday and are the same as the outer portion of the Ilnik Section. Prior to June 20 fishing periods are also 2.5 days (or 60 hours) per week but the times are noon Monday until 11:59 p.m. Wednesday.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The fishing schedule in Ilnik Lagoon of 3.5 days per week would be different than the remaining portion of the Ilnik Section which is 2.5 days per week. Changing the fishing period from 2.5 days per week to 3.5 days per week in Ilnik Lagoon does not necessarily ensure there will be additional fishing time because fishery openings are based on escapement levels and so potential harvest would not change if this fishing schedule was adopted.

BACKGROUND: Ilnik Lagoon is managed on the basis of Ilnik River sockeye salmon escapement. Set gillnet and drift gillnet gear are both legal gear types. Effort inside Ilnik Lagoon over the past 20 years has been nonexistent mainly because the Ilnik Lagoon exit channel changed, and the logistics of getting in and out of the lagoon have always made fishing difficult. Fishing time in the Ilnik Section is based on escapement levels of Ilnik River sockeye salmon as assessed at the Ilnik River weir.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal but prefers to have regulatory language which has openings in the Ilnik Section similar in duration to avoid conflict between potential groups that fish inside Ilnik Lagoon and those that fish in the remaining portion of the Ilnik Section.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

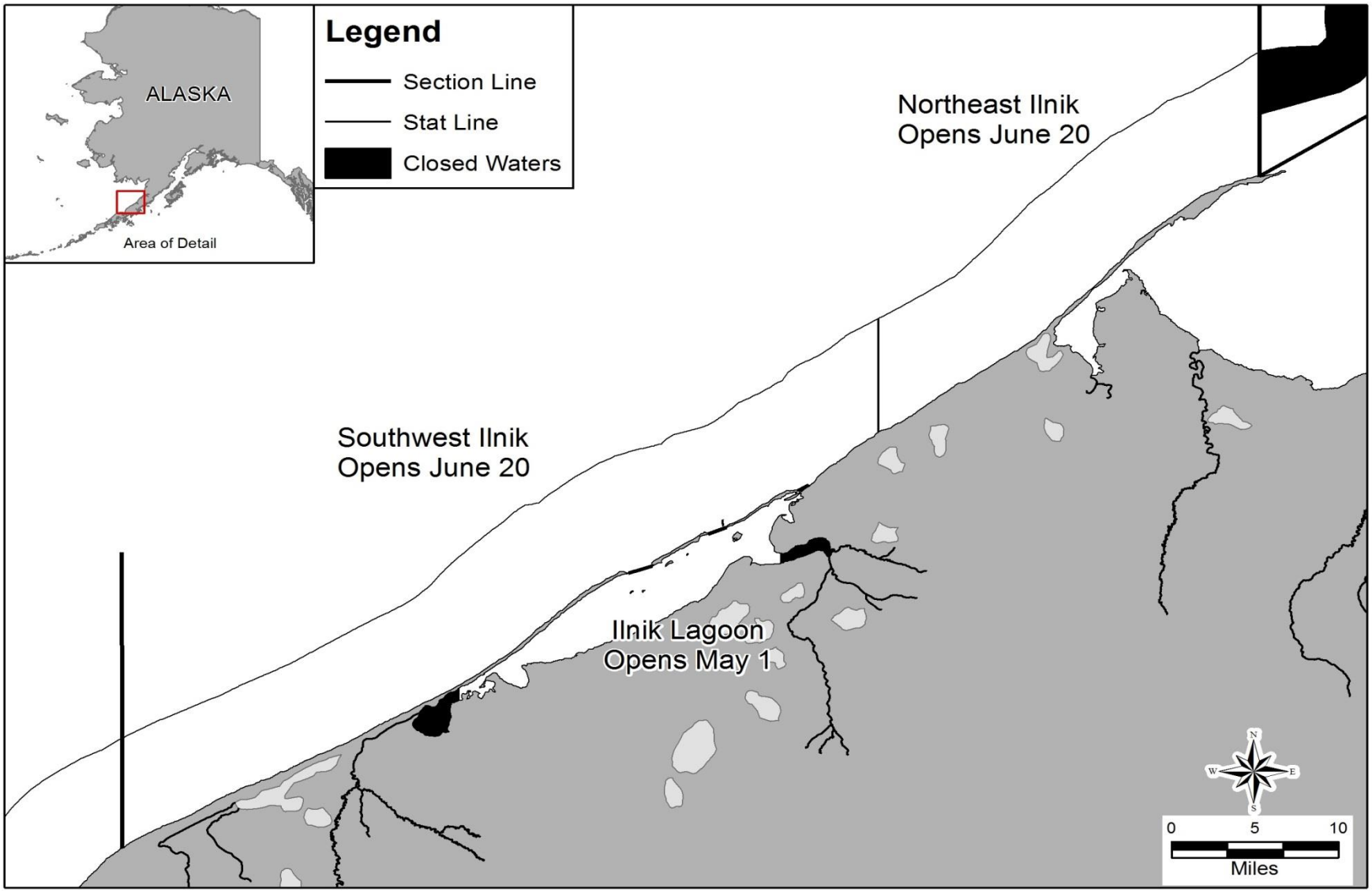

Figure 148-1.–Map of the Ilnik Section.

PROPOSAL 165 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Ray Johnson.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow drift gillnet gear to be divided into two 100 fathom nets that may be fished simultaneously in the Nelson Lagoon Section.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.331(a)(1) the aggregate length of drift gillnets on a salmon fishing boat or in use by such boat shall be no more than 200 fathoms in length. Currently there are no regulations that specify a drift gillnet has to be one unit in the Alaska Peninsula Area. There is no limit as to the number of nets a drift gillnet permit holder can use as long as the aggregate length of the nets does not exceed 200 fathoms. Under 5 AAC 39.107(b) the permit holder must be physically present on board the vessel from which the gear is operated.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This would have no effect because the requested change is already legal.

BACKGROUND: There is no restriction on the number of drift gillnets a permit holder can fish as long as the aggregate length of gear does not exceed 200 fathoms. The Nelson Lagoon Section has both drift and set gillnet gear fished throughout the section. Drift gillnet gear must be no more than 200 fathoms in length; set gillnet gear may be no more than 100 fathoms in length and no more than two sites may be operated. Strong currents in Nelson Lagoon and sand bars may make fishing separate drift gillnets difficult.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal because it is duplicative of current regulations.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 163 – 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would reduce the depth of drift and set gillnets in the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections (Figure 163-1) to 29 ½ meshes deep.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.331(a)(4) in the Northern District, a drift gillnet may not exceed 70 meshes in depth, except that in the Nelson Lagoon Section a drift gillnet may not exceed 29 meshes in depth before August 16 and 38 meshes in depth from August 16 to September 30; and for set gillnet gear under 5 AAC 09.331(b)(4) in the Northern District, the maximum depth of a set gillnet may not exceed 70 meshes in depth; except that in the Nelson Lagoon Section, a set gillnet may not exceed 29 meshes in depths.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This would likely make the gillnet fleets less efficient in the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections and since these are escapement based fisheries, there would likely be more fishing time in these areas because escapement levels would likely increase since the gear is shallower in depth by over 50%.

BACKGROUND: In the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections the majority of the harvest is sockeye salmon with about 1,600 king salmon taken per year. On average about 17,000 king salmon escape into Northern District rivers annually and the commercial harvest of king salmon is incidental to effort targeting sockeye salmon.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal because of the difficulty in enforcing differential drift gillnet depth since neighboring sections would still be permitted to fish 70 mesh deep gillnet gear and the fleet moves freely between sections. Unlike other areas of the state where differential gillnet depth limits are in place, most enforcement activity in the Northern District is aircraft based.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal would require fishermen to purchase new gear which currently is not used in the proposed areas.

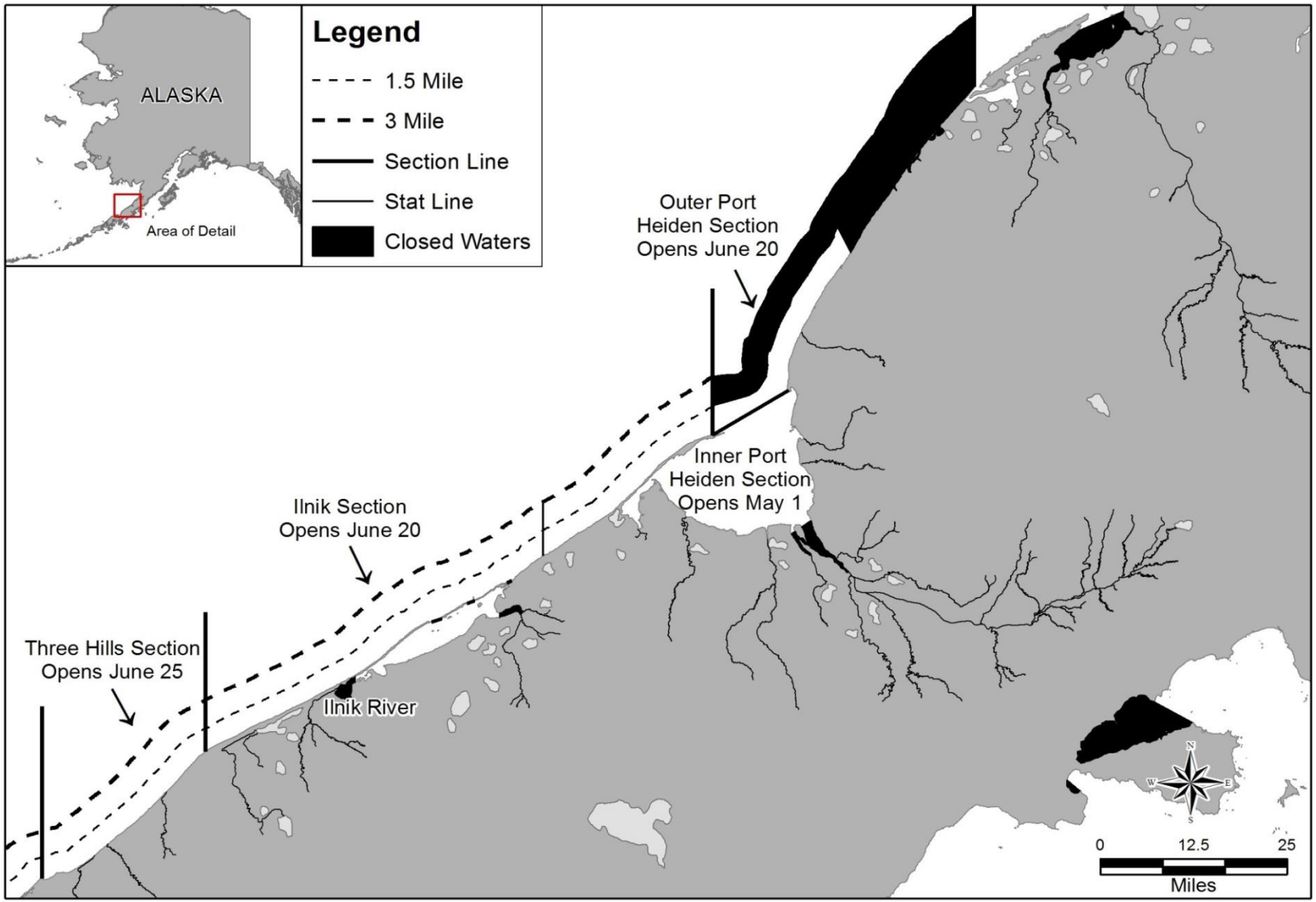

Figure 163-1.–Map of the Outer Port Heiden Section.

PROPOSAL 166 –5 AAC 09.350. Closed Waters and 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Joe Hinton.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would reopen the Caribou Flats Section and allow drift gillnet gear to fish in the section if the Nelson River escapement goals are achieved from June 16 to August 15 (Figure 166-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The waters of Caribou Flats are closed to commercial salmon fishing.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Depending on fishing time in the Port Moller area, there could be significant effort in the Caribou Flats Section if a lengthy closure is occurring in other fishing sections and the fleet has nowhere else to fish. If significant effort occurs, one would expect the number of Nelson Lagoon fish entering Nelson Lagoon and Nelson (Sapsuk) River to decrease. If management actions were needed to be taken for the Nelson River such as a short closure, it would be expected that the Nelson Lagoon and Caribou Flats sections would be curtailed. Allowing effort in the Caribous Flats Section when the Nelson River escapement goals are achieved would likely decrease the number of fish entering Nelson Lagoon and Nelson River.

BACKGROUND: The Caribou Flats Section (Figure 166-1) has been closed to commercial salmon fishing since 1989. The Nelson Lagoon Section is managed on the basis of the Nelson (Sapsuk) River sockeye salmon escapement. The Nelson River sockeye salmon escapement goal of 97,000–219,000 fish has been met annually and in 5 of the past 12 years the upper end of the escapement goal range has been exceeded. Fishing time in Nelson Lagoon is adjusted based on escapement levels at the weir and during most years near continuous fishing is permitted to provide harvest opportunity on surplus sockeye salmon. Nelson River also has a BEG range for king salmon of 2,400 to 4,400 fish. Over the past 20 years the king salmon goal has been met with few exceptions. From 2011 to 2013 the lower end of the SEG range was not met. In 2014 and 2015 king salmon escapement into Nelson River was strong and approached the upper end of the SEG range.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

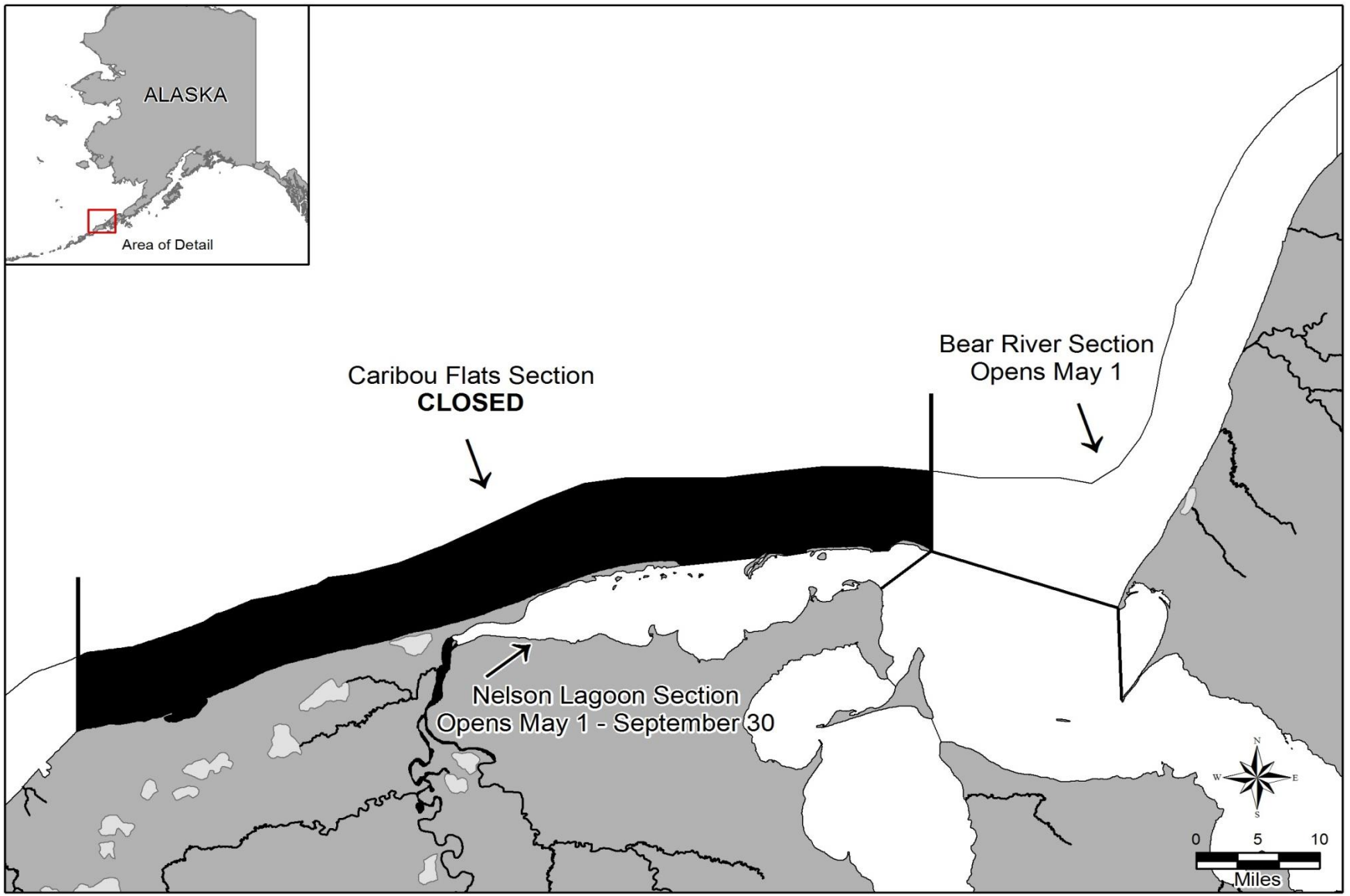

Figure 166–1.–Map of the Caribou Flats Section of the Northern District.

PROPOSAL 164 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Herman Samuelson.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would specify that the Black Hills Section in the Northern District and Moffet Lagoon in the Northwestern District be managed jointly based on the strength of salmon runs in Moffet Lagoon (Figure 164-1). Also, this proposal would require that the Black Hills Section be opened and closed only in conjunction with the Moffet Lagoon Section.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.369(c)(2) in the Black Hills Section from July 1 through August 15, fishing periods may be modified based on the abundance of sockeye and chum salmon stocks; under 5 AAC 09.320(a)(1) in the Black Hills Section, before July 1 salmon may be taken from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Wednesday; beginning July 1 salmon may be taken from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Thursday. Under 5 AAC 09.320(b)(1) salmon may be taken in the Izembek–Moffet Bay Section from 6:00 a.m. Monday to 6:00 p.m. Thursday.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If this proposal is adopted, management of the entire Black Hills Section would be solely tied to the management of the Moffet Lagoon area. If the Moffet Lagoon Section is closed by EO then the Black Hills Section will also be closed by EO, even if there are sockeye salmon surplus to escapement needs in streams in the Black Hills Section. Essentially the Black Hills Section would be managed on the basis of chum salmon escapement in the Moffet Lagoon Section and sockeye salmon runs into the Black Hills Section would not be considered for inseason management.

BACKGROUND: If substantial fishing effort occurs in the Black Hills Section and the effort targets chum salmon bound for Moffet Lagoon, management actions in the Black Hills Section will be based on the strength of chum salmon runs into Moffet Lagoon. This long-standing management strategy has provided a fishery for drift gillnet gear in the Black Hills Section in years when extensive closures occur in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, yet still provides protection for Moffet Lagoon chum salmon runs.

The Moffet Lagoon portion of the Izembek-Moffett Bay Section is fished by beach seiners while the Black Hills Section is fished by drift gillnet gear. Effort in the Black Hills Section targets sockeye and chum salmon. Figure 164–1 illustrates both sections and their proximity. Escapement of chum salmon averages about 8,500 fish in the Black Hills Section. North Creek, located in the Black Hills Section, has an SEG range of 4,400–8,800 sockeye salmon and has been met annually (Table 164–1). Many of the chum salmon harvested in the western portion of the Black Hills Section are likely bound for Joshua Green River located in Moffett Lagoon. The Moffet Lagoon statistical area averaged approximately 110,000 chum salmon harvested per year between 2006 and 2015 (Table 164–2). The Black Hills Section averaged approximately 17,000 chum salmon harvested per year in the same 10 year time period. In 2013, the Izembek-Moffett Bay Section commercial salmon fishery was reduced to 42 hours per week and at the same time the Black Hills Section western portion was closed to commercial salmon fishing to about North

Creek in order to reduce the harvest of chum salmon that could be bound for Moffet Lagoon and still provide harvest opportunity for local Black Hills bound sockeye salmon.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal but **OPPOSES** losing the ability to target surplus sockeye salmon bound for streams in the Black Hills Section while still providing protection for chum salmon bound for Moffet Lagoon systems.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

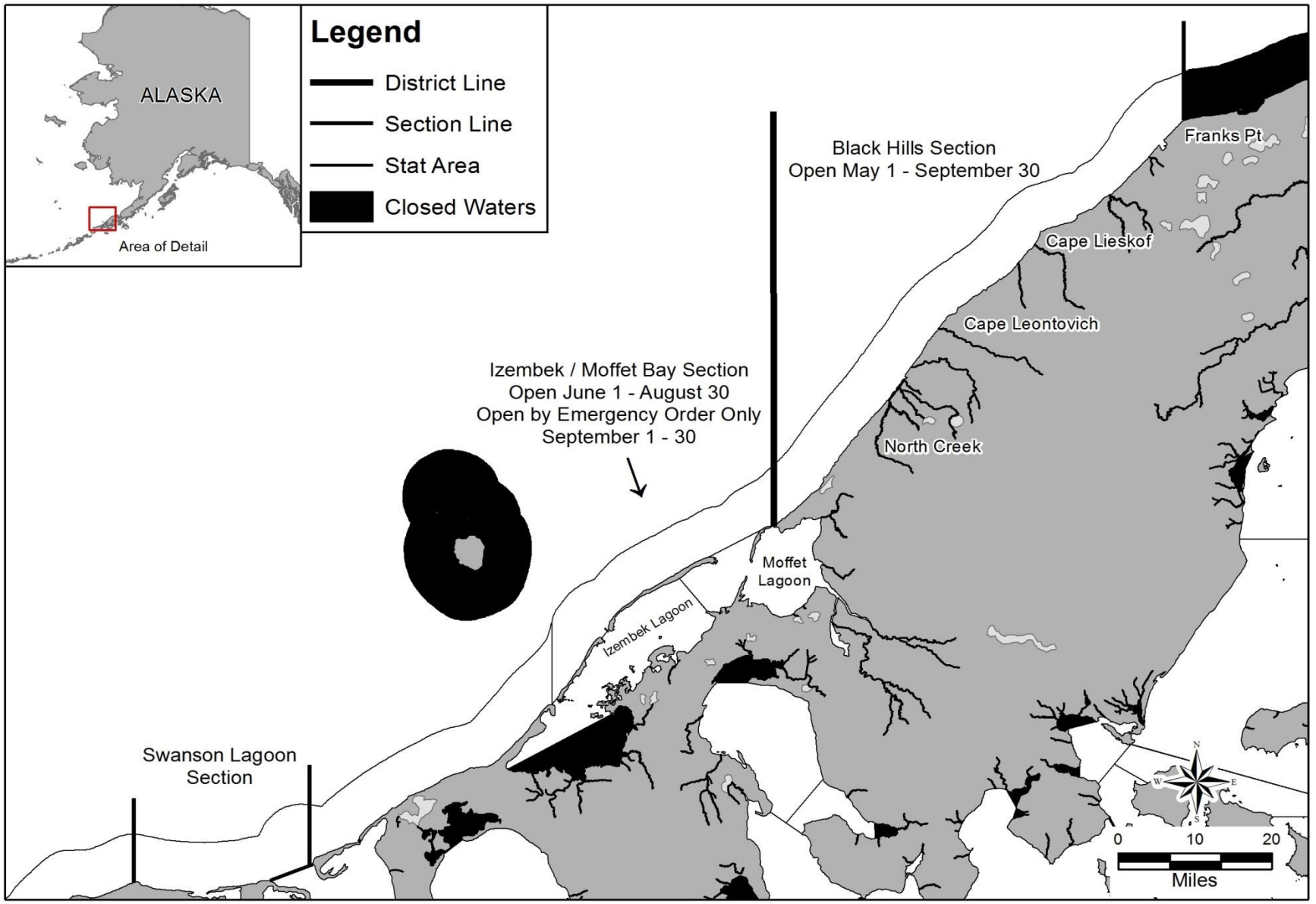

Figure 164-1.–Map of the Black Hills and Izembek–Moffet Bay sections.

Table 164-1.–Sockeye salmon catch and escapement for Black Hills and Moffet Lagoon, and North Creek escapement, 2006-2015.

	Moffet Lagoon		Black Hills		North Creek	
Year	Harvest	Escapement	Harvest	Escapement	Escapement	SEG range
2006	22,087	21,940	8,430	7,530	6,400	
2007	8,689	24,100	4,273	16,800	13,300	
2008	6,270	30,700	20,332	44,000	3,800	
2009	9,963	30,000	14,712	8,000	8,000	
2010	17,524	12,500	24,449	28,500	18,500	4,400–8,800
2011	12,807	10,100	17,826	10,200	10,200	
2012	27,034	25,300	57,354	23,700	18,000	
2013	20,169	15,800	32,373	9,300	8,500	
2014	28,784	14,900	19,173	14,400	7,500	
2015	21,678	15,200	34,342	24,500	18,000	
2006-2015 avg.	17,501	20,054	23,326	18,693	11,220	

Table 164- 2.–Chum salmon harvest and escapement for Black Hills and Moffet Lagoon, and North Creek escapement, 2006-2015.

	Moffet Lagoon		Black Hills		North Creek
Year	Harvest	Escapement	Harvest	Escapement	Escapement
2006	25,344	110,470	1,766	1,710	1,610
2007	50,538	161,400	1,060	900	–
2008	Confidential	117,700	16,849	2,100	–
2009	Confidential	6,960	3,167	6,800	5,000
2010	98,146	106,900	8,723	7,600	4,000
2011	115,668	123,400	20,138	2,900	–
2012	127,652	73,100	73,366	8,200	2,000
2013	69,090	35,500	21,185	21,020	10,000
2014	89,283	29,950	7,510	19,200	6,000
2015	146,897	50,600	16,577	14,700	11,000
2006-2015 avg.	90,327	81,598	17,034	8,513	5,659

Note: Years in which no chum salmon surveys occurred are left blank.

PROPOSAL 167 – 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods.

PROPOSED BY: False Pass Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to modify the regulation guiding the department in management of the Northwestern District's Urilia Bay Section by opening the Urilia Bay Section to regular weekly fishing periods concurrent with fishing periods in the Izembek-Moffet Bay and Dublin Bay sections.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the Northwestern District, salmon may be taken before September 1 in the Urilia Bay Section, only during fishing periods established by EO under 5 AAC 09.320(b)(3).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Adoption of this proposal would allow commercial fishing in the Urilia Bay Section of the Northwestern District concurrent with the fishing periods established in regulation for the Dublin Bay and Izembek-Moffet Bay sections within the Northwestern District (Figure 167-1). 5 AAC 09.320(b)(3) would be amended to read: **(3) Urilia Bay Section from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Thursday;**. There would be an increased harvest of sockeye salmon bound for Christianson Lagoon.

BACKGROUND: Permit holders primarily target sockeye salmon bound for Christianson Lagoon in the Urilia Bay Section of the Northwestern District from late June through August (Figure 167-1). Historically, the fishery was on a weekly schedule from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, once the season was opened by EO. In 2007, the board adjusted the regulations to allow commercial salmon fishing periods to be established by EO only.

Currently, management of the Urilia Bay Section requires an EO to open and close fishing periods throughout the season. The first available fishing opportunity in Urilia Bay typically occurs between July 15 and July 30. The current SEG range of 25,000–50,000 sockeye salmon for Christianson Lagoon (in the Urilia Bay Section) is enumerated via aerial survey. Once an acceptable number of fish have escaped into the local streams, an EO could be issued to allow a commercial fishing period to occur.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. Due to the susceptibility of sockeye salmon bound for Christianson Lagoon to overharvest, the department has adopted a strategy of achieving the escapement before allowing this fishery to proceed. The department opens this fishery by EO only if adequate escapements are verified. This management strategy has allowed the department to achieve the escapement goal of 25,000–50,000 sockeye salmon in most years (Table 167-1).

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

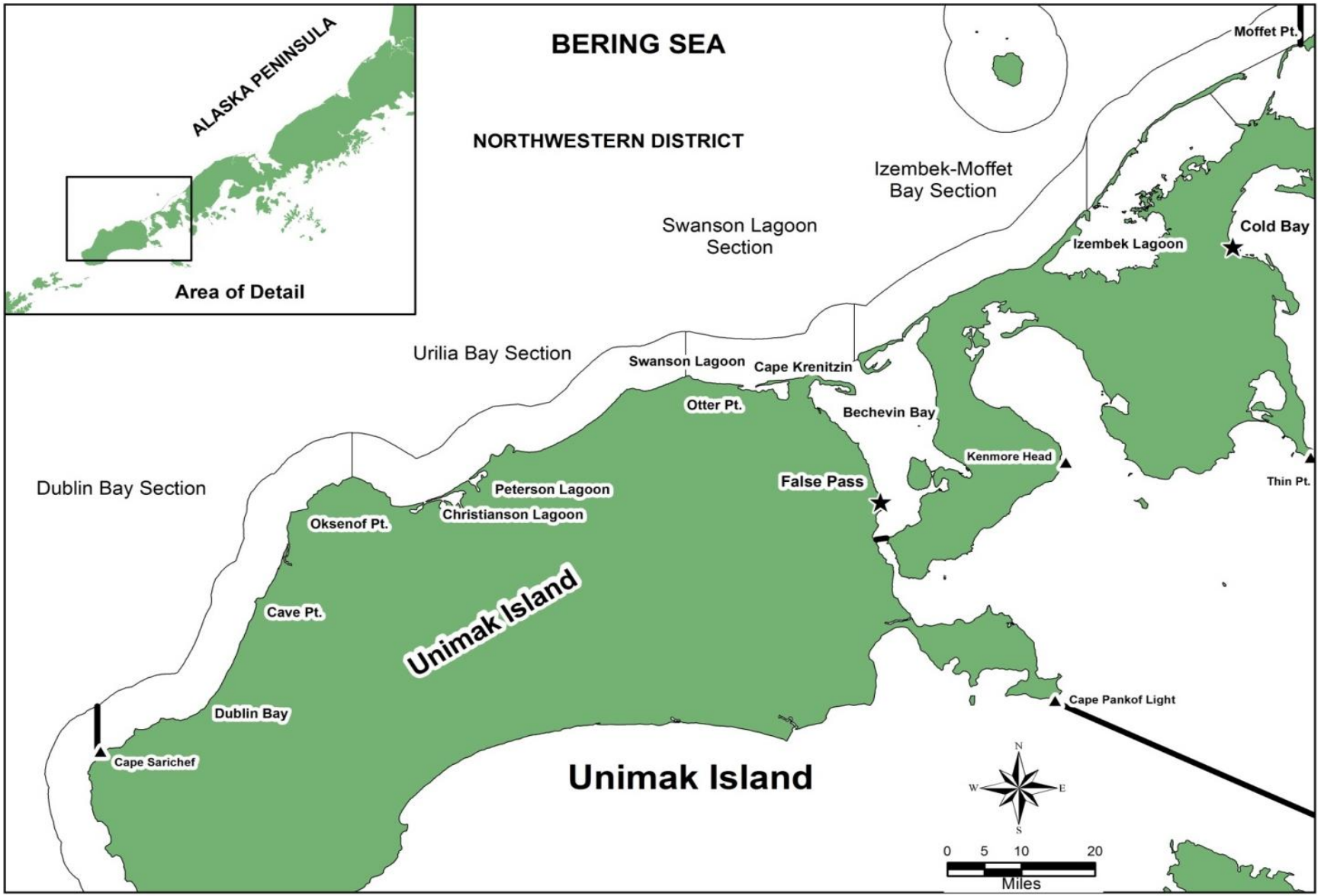

Figure 167-1.–Map of the Northwestern District of the Alaska Peninsula.

Table 167-1.–Sockeye salmon escapement to Christianson Lagoon in Urilia Bay by year, number of surveys conducted per year, and date of peak survey count.

Year	Number of Surveys	Date of Peak Survey	Sockeye Salmon Escapement
1968	4	7/19/1968	5,600
1969	6	7/29/1969	33,400
1971	6	7/31/1971	29,540
1972	8	7/23/1972	3,780
1973	4	8/7/1973	4,070
1974	4	7/26/1974	3,050
1975	6	7/27/1975	10,400
1976	9	7/31/1976	20,400
1977	10	7/9/1977	2,200
1978	8	7/30/1978	10,000
1979	8	8/1/1979	25,600
1980	5	8/9/1980	75,900
1981	5	8/4/1981	59,100
1982	4	8/12/1982	25,500
1983	5	7/28/1983	13,300
1984	6	8/4/1984	63,000
1985	7	7/25/1985	25,700
1986	7	7/28/1986	36,800
1987	11	7/30/1987	22,300
1988	8	7/29/1988	29,700
1989	7	8/14/1989	44,415
1990	8	8/1/1990	43,600
1991	5	7/31/1991	61,900
1992	7	8/3/1992	27,500
1993	9	7/30/1993	30,600
1994	7	8/3/1994	37,800
1995	9	8/4/1995	41,800
1996	13	8/1/1996	17,700
1997	7	7/14/1997	32,700
1998	12	8/5/1998	34,800
1999	9	7/31/1999	48,000
2000	9	6/28/2000	44,000
2001	13	8/1/2001	36,400
2002	12	7/16/2002	53,000
2003	11	8/1/2003	52,200
2004	11	7/8/2004	95,000
2005	14	8/3/2005	54,300
2006	15	7/24/2006	26,675
2007	17	8/25/2007	43,525
2008	13	8/6/2008	86,200
2009	8	7/14/2009	42,100
2010	13	8/27/2010	9,600
2011	5	8/10/2011	35,200
2012	9	8/16/2012	40,000
2013	4	7/19/2013	16,500
2014	9	7/9/2014	32,600
2015	8	8/24/2015	44,900

PROPOSAL 168 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.

PROPOSED BY: Travis Hoblet

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would reduce closed waters in Christianson Lagoon beginning at a point located 250 yards upstream from the lagoon outlet channel terminus at the ocean shoreline.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Salmon may not be taken in Christianson Lagoon, in waters of the lagoon, and those waters within 500 yards of the lagoon's exit channel terminus at the ocean shoreline.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Adoption of this proposal will allow easier harvest of sockeye salmon returning to Christianson Lagoon by opening waters of the lagoon exit channel outside of a point located 250 yards upstream from the lagoon outlet channel terminus at the ocean shoreline. Adjusting closed waters allows permit holders to go inside the lagoon channel and harvest sockeye salmon that are schooled up before they move into rivers above the lagoon.

BACKGROUND: Permit holders primarily target sockeye salmon bound for Christianson Lagoon in the Urilia Bay Section of the Northwestern District from late June through August. Historically the fishery was on a weekly schedule from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, once the season was opened by EO. In 2007, the board adjusted regulations to allow commercial salmon fishing periods to be established by EO only.

Prior to 2008, permit holders were able to access the exit channel of Christianson Lagoon and still be outside of historically protected closed waters. This side channel was used primarily by permit holders to hold up in a protected area during adverse weather conditions (Figure 168-1). During the 2008 season it was observed during an aerial survey that the Christianson Lagoon exit channel had been blocked to the ocean and a new exit channel had formed. The new ocean shoreline was within one quarter mile of historically protected closed waters. To protect the anadromous waters of Christianson Lagoon, the department has placed 500 yard closed water markers around the exit channel terminus at the ocean shoreline annually since 2008. This use of 500 yard closed water markers is consistent with other closed waters throughout the Alaska Peninsula. At the 2013 board meeting, these closed water markers were put into regulation as they currently stand.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. Access to fish schooled inside the Christianson Lagoon exit channel exposes sockeye salmon to potential over harvest and may result in failure to meet escapement goals.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

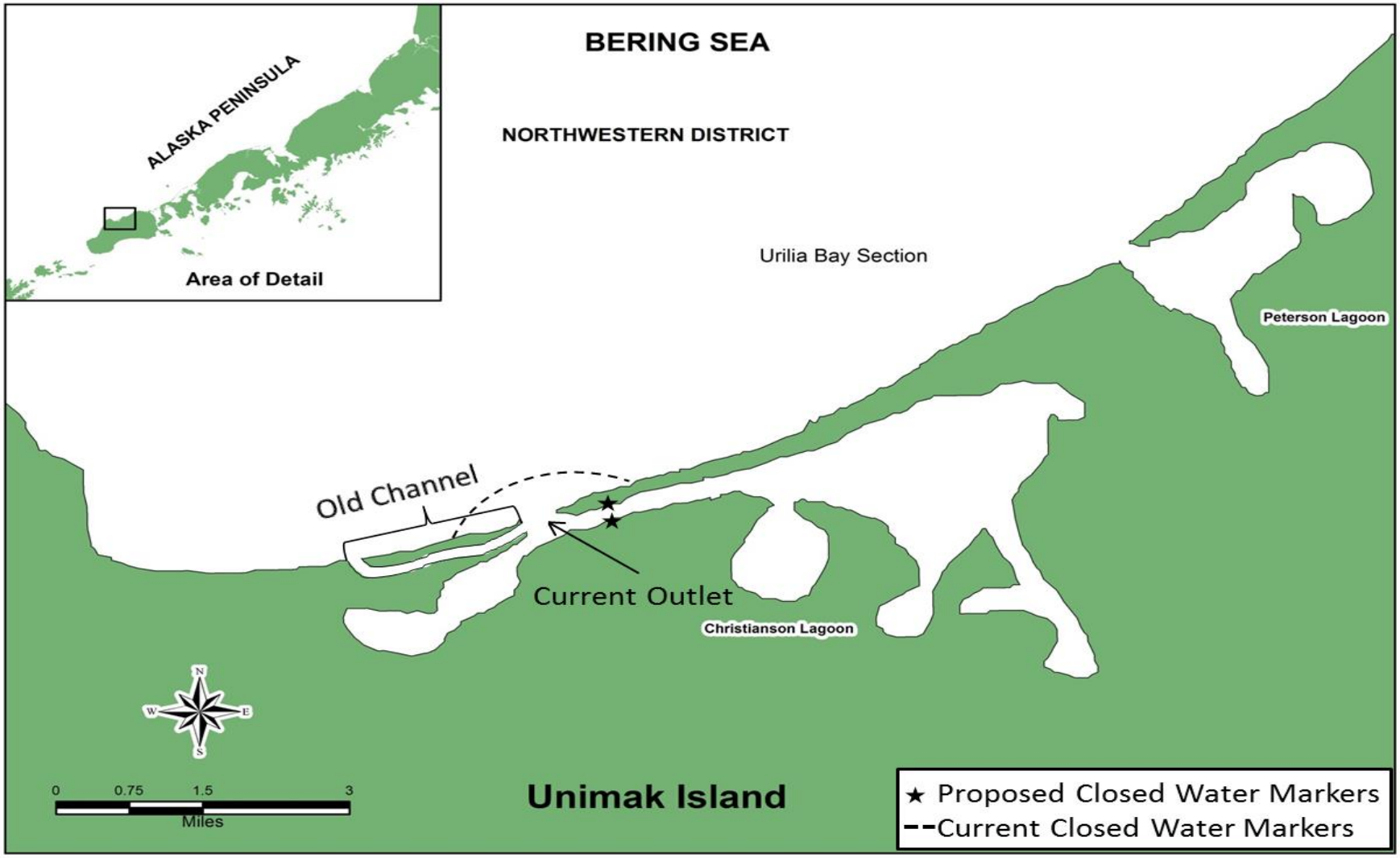

Figure 168-1.–Map of Urilia Bay Section with old channel, current outlet, proposed closed water markers, and current closed water markers labeled.

PROPOSAL 149 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing Seasons; 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing Periods; 5 AAC 09.330. Gear; 5 AAC 09.369 Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan; and 5 AAC 39.120. Registration of commercial fishing vessels.

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow Area M drift gillnet permit holders to fish 36 hours per week in the outer portion of the Cinder River Section from June 20 to July 31 (Figure 149-1). This proposal would also reduce the fishing period from June 20 to July 31 in the Cinder River Section from 2.5 days per week to 1.5 days per week from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Tuesday. After July 31, the weekly fishing period would remain from 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 6:00 p.m. Saturday. Drift gillnet gear would be the only gear allowed outside the Cinder River Lagoon, into which the Cinder River drains, from June 20 to July 31. This proposal would also change the management plan for the Cinder River Section so that commercial salmon fishing in the Cinder River Section may be modified based on conservation concerns for Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks from June 20 to July 31.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulation (5 AAC 09.310 (a)(1)(B)) allows commercial salmon fishing throughout the Cinder River Section from August 1 to September 30. Fishing periods, under 5 AAC 09.320(a)(3), are from 6:00 a.m. Thursday to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, and legal gear types in the Cinder River Section are drift gillnets or set gillnets (5 AAC 09.330(a)(1)). Commercial salmon fishing is not permitted in the outer portion of the Cinder River Section during June and July. Both Area M and Area T permit holders are allowed to fish during fishing periods in the inner portion of the Cinder River Section (Cinder River Lagoon) prior to August 1, and in the entire Cinder River Section beginning August 1.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would allow Area M drift gillnet permit holders to commercially fish for salmon in the outer portion of the Cinder River Section from June 20 to July 31 and harvest sockeye salmon bound for Cinder River, a system that has not had a directed sockeye salmon fishery on it. The Cinder River sockeye salmon escapement goal is less likely to be exceeded as has been occurring. Also, there will be Bristol Bay sockeye salmon harvested in this area and it is expected that Ugashik River stocks would be the major Bristol Bay stocks harvested due to the proximity of the Ugashik River to Cinder River. Currently only the inner lagoon portion of the Cinder River Section is open during June and July. The fishing period would be 6:00 a.m. Monday to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday and based on sockeye salmon escapement into Cinder River. Language is included for protection of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, similar to language in other North Peninsula fishing areas such as the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden sections (5 AAC 09.369(l)). Fishing time would be reduced for permit holders in the Cinder River Lagoon portion of the section from June 20 to July 31 from 2.5 days per week to 1.5 days per week, and since there is currently no fishing effort in the Cinder River Lagoon, this would likely have no effect on escapement or harvest.

BACKGROUND: The outer portion of the Cinder River Section is open to commercial salmon fishing from August 1 to September 30 under a 2.5 day weekly fishing period. The Cinder River Lagoon Section is open to commercial salmon fishing from May 1 to September 30. The sockeye

salmon run to the Cinder River system likely starts in early June and ends the latter part of July. Since 2007, the escapement goal of 12,000–48,000 sockeye salmon has been exceeded, with over 100,000 fish entering the river in all but two years (Table 149-1). Although weekly fishing periods do occur during June and July, there has been limited harvest in the Cinder River Section since statehood.

The Cinder River Section is part of the overlap area which allows Area T (Bristol Bay) permit holders to fish in certain areas within the Alaska Peninsula Management Area (Figure 149-1). The overlap area consists of the Cinder River Section, Inner Port Heiden Section, and Ilnik Lagoon (5 AAC 39.120(d)). The overlap area was created shortly after statehood to allow Area T permit holders the opportunity to fish within their traditional harvest locations of Area M. Prior to the start of limited entry, when not participating in the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fisheries, Port Heiden Area T permit holders fished for king and coho salmon in the Inner Port Heiden Section, and Pilot Point Area T permit holders fished inside the Cinder River Section for king and coho salmon.

Prior to 2013, Area T permit holders were allowed to fish, except during July, during the open season in the Inner Port Heiden and Cinder River sections. Area T permit holders are also allowed to fish in Ilnik Lagoon during August and September. In 1986, Area T fishermen started fishing in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden sections. In 1990, the board excluded Area T permit holders from the Ilnik Section (except inside Ilnik Lagoon during August and September), and closed the Outer Port Heiden Section in August and September to all commercial salmon fishing by both Area M and Area T permit holders because of concern over potential interception of coho salmon bound for Inner Port Heiden (Meshik River). Since 2001, effort by Area T permit holders in the overlap area has been minimal. In the 1980s and 1990s, most of the effort during August and September in the Cinder River Section has been from Area T permit holders. In 2013, the board allowed Area T permit holders to fish during June and July in the inner portion of the Cinder River and Inner Port Heiden sections but no effort has occurred.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvest in the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, by temporal stratum, for 2006 through 2008, can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008.* Appendix tables C105–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Nelson, Meshik, Ugashik) during each sampled temporal stratum, 2006–2008, in these fisheries. Under WASSIP, the stock compositions of the Late Catch temporal strata for Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections were assumed to be 100% Bear River stock. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks, among all strata combined, within a given year for these fisheries. Neither the Outer Cinder River nor the Cinder River Lagoon sections (Figure 149-1) were included under the WASSIP sampling plan (report SP11-10, *Results from Sampling the 2006–2009 Commercial and Subsistence Fisheries in the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program*). Harvest and harvest rate of Cinder River stock in specific area strata of each fishery, all temporal strata combined, are in SP12-24, appendix tables F40–42. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, among all temporal strata, combined, for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-

scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in WASSIP report SP12-24, tables 45–59.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal but **SUPPORTS** the harvest of sockeye salmon that are surplus to escapement needs.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

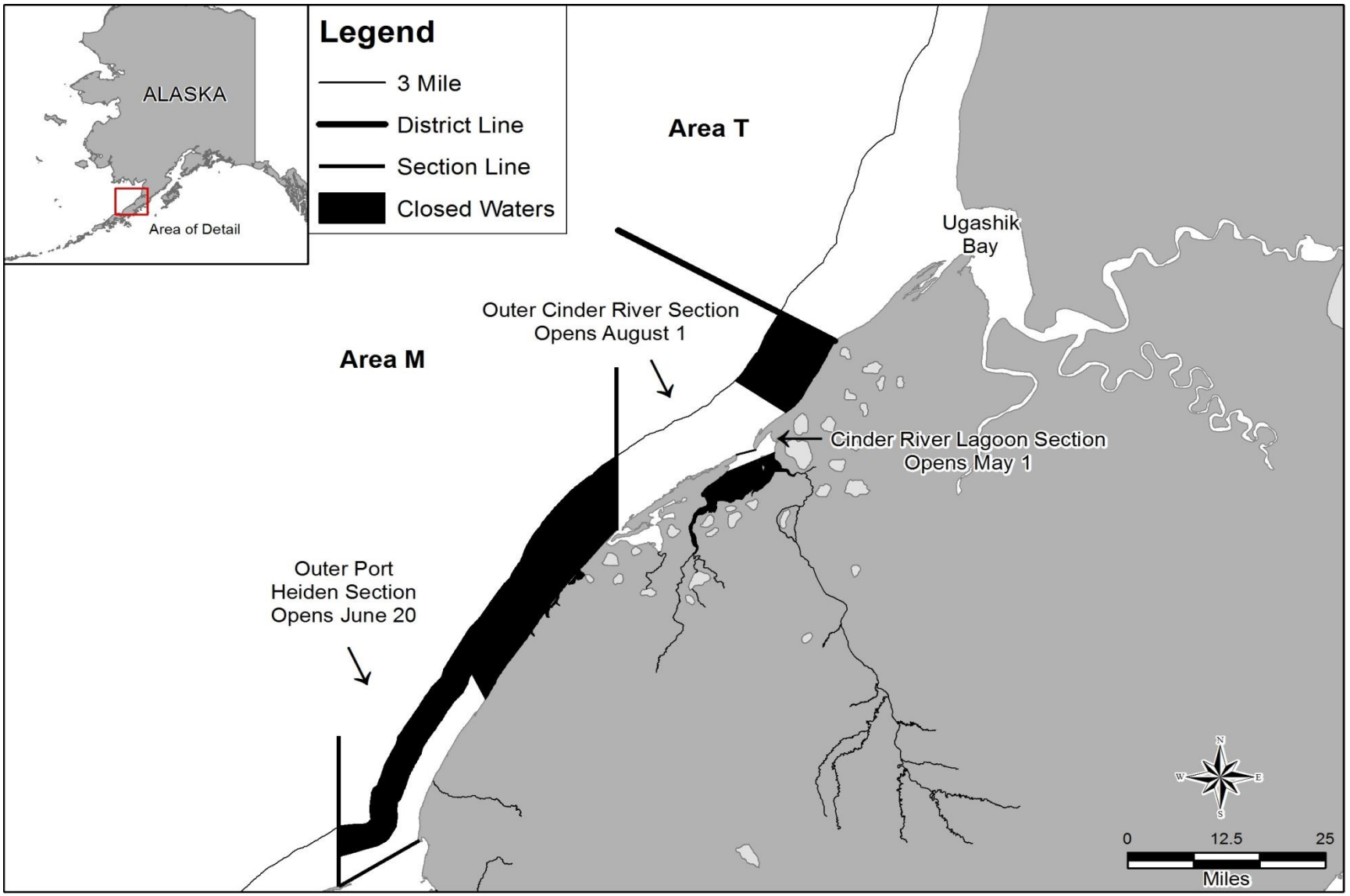

Figure 149-1.–Map of Cinder River Section.

Table 149-1. –Cinder River sockeye salmon escapement and goals, 2006–2015.

Year	Escapement	Escapement goal
2006	118,100	6,000 to 12,000
2007	142,000	
2008	129,800	
2009	133,600	
2010	108,900	
2011	106,000	12,000 to 48,000
2012	76,620	
2013	95,500	
2014	105,000	
2015	132,600	
2006-2015 Avg.	114,812	

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE–GROUP 4 (17 PROPOSALS)

South Alaska Peninsula Southeastern District Mainland Salmon (5 proposals): 176–180

PROPOSAL 176 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Jack R. Foster Jr and Amy M. Foster.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? If adopted, this proposal would create a set fishing schedule for SEDM for set gillnet gear (Figure 176-1). The proposed schedule would consist of 88-hour openings, interspersed with 32-hour closures from June 6 through July 25. The first fishing period of this schedule would occur at 6:00 a.m. on June 6.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.360(b) and (c), commercial salmon fishing opportunity in SEDM shall be curtailed in order to allow a harvest in the CMA of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon through July 8. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the CMA, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA is at least 600,000 fish through July 25. As stated in 5 AAC 09.360(d) when harvestable surplus is expected to be more than 600,000 fish and the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage the SEDM so that harvest approaches as near as possible 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. From June 1 through July 25, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay sections and prior to July 1 in NWSS, are considered Chignik bound (5 AAC 09.360(f)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would establish a fishing schedule in SEDM area for set gillnet gear only, from June 6 through July 25, which would provide 880 hours of fishing time (Figures 176-2 and 176-3). Effects on harvest are unknown, but providing set gillnet gear with a set fishing schedule would likely increase the harvest of salmon in SEDM. It is unclear if this proposal seeks to have the allocation criteria (5 AAC 09.360(b)–(i)) removed from the SEDM management plan or if it would remain in place. Removal of allocation criteria would also affect management of the NWSS from July 1 through July 25, because this area is managed based on local stock escapement. Managing NWSS on a schedule would hamper the department's ability to manage for escapement goals. The proposal as written would make management for an allocation difficult if not impossible.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the KMA *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included the CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of KMA, and in SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to allocation of Chignik sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and in the definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation. The proportion of sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM (excluding areas designated as 100% local stocks)

considered to be Chignik Area bound has been determined in regulation to be 80%, based on a 1961 tagging study conducted in the East Stepovak Section. In 1998, the board stipulated that sockeye salmon harvested in NWSS beginning July 1 would not be counted toward the Chignik allocation. In addition, beginning July 1, fishing time in NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than an aggregate of 96 hours during a seven-day period.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the months of June and July for SEDM can be found in report SP12-31, *Genetic Stock Composition of the Commercial Harvest of Sockeye Salmon in Southeast District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010-2012*. The June SEDM fishery was not included under the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) sampling plan and, during the WASSIP years, extensive closures of the July fishery combined with low catches during some openings yielded stock-specific harvest and harvest rate information only on a subset of the temporal/spatial strata (report SP11-10, *Results from Sampling the 2006–2009 Commercial and Subsistence Fisheries in the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program.*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** to the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is **OPPOSED** to the establishment of a set fishing schedule that would limit the department's ability to manage local stocks from July 1 through July 25. A set fishing schedule could make it difficult to meet escapement goals for these local stocks.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

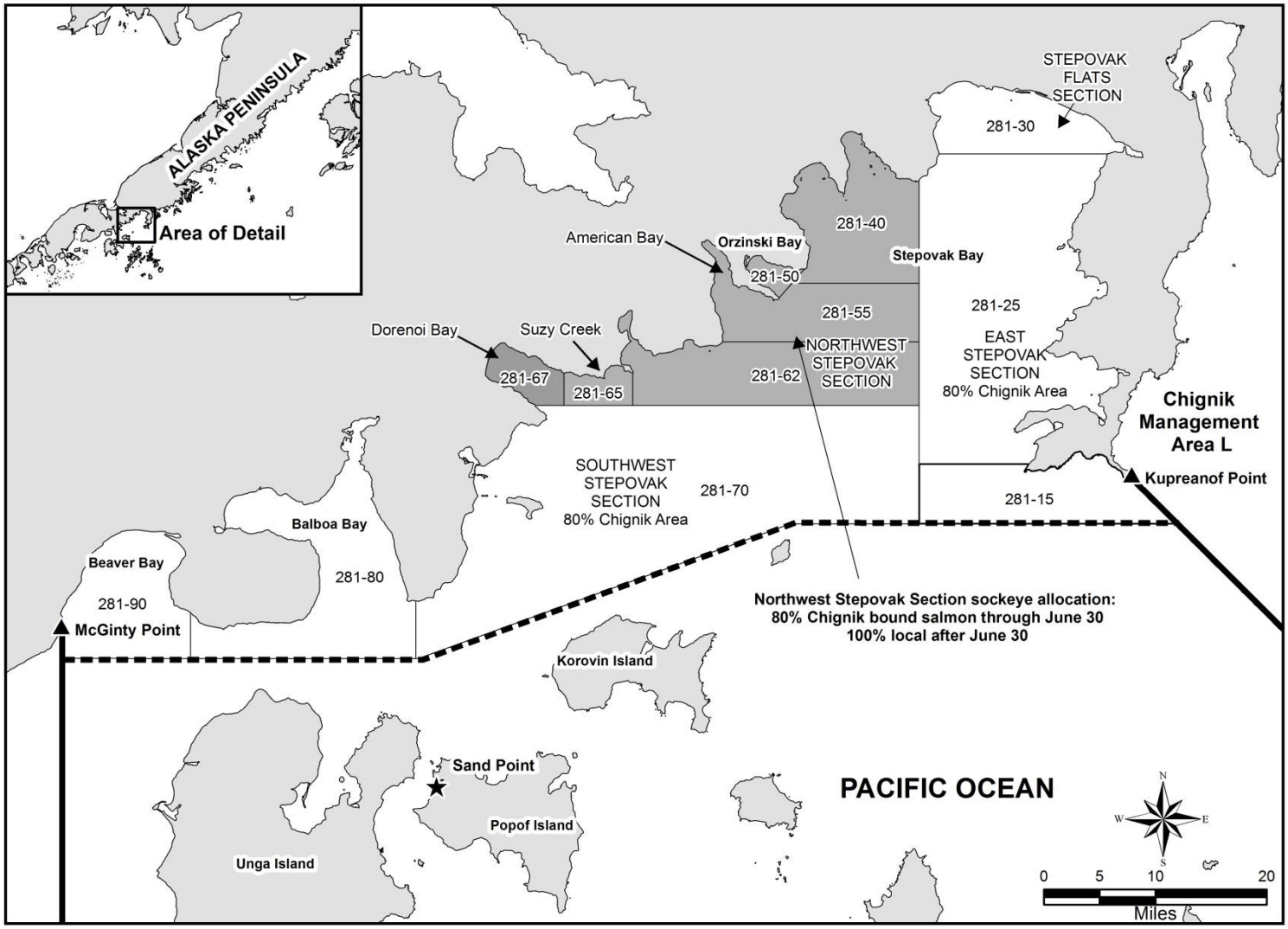

Figure 176-1.–Map of the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) fishery from Kupreanof Point to McGinty Point with salmon fishing sections defined.

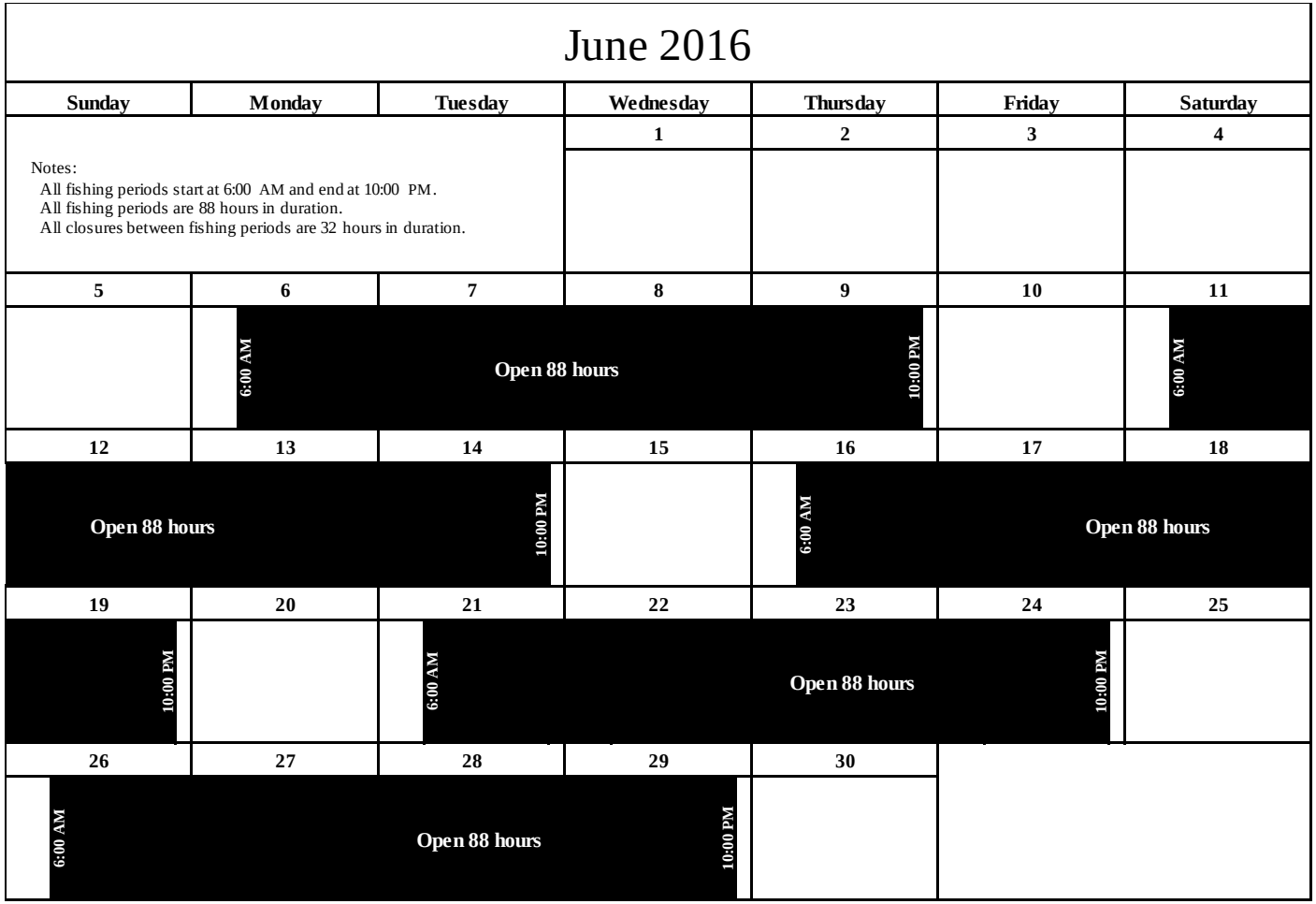

Figure 176-2.–Proposed June commercial fishing periods in SEDM for set gillnet gear.

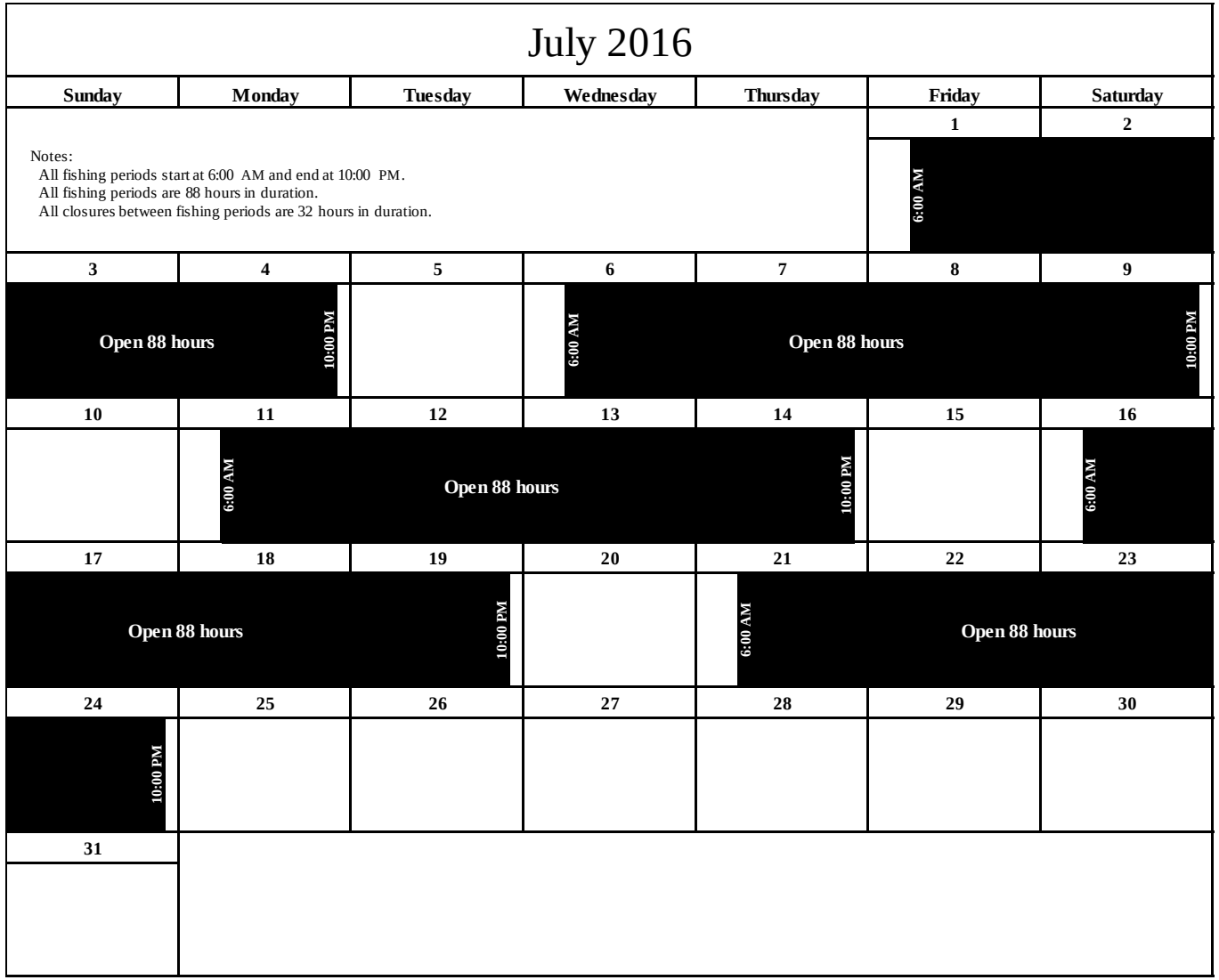

Figure 176-3.–Proposed July commercial fishing periods in SEDM for set gillnet gear.

PROPOSAL 177 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Jack R. Foster Jr and Amy M. Foster.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks elimination of the harvest thresholds for CMA as described in the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 09.360(b), (c), and (d), and the establishment of concurrent fishing periods in the SEDM section and the CMA for set gillnet gear.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.360(b) and (c), commercial salmon fishing opportunity in SEDM shall be curtailed in order to allow a harvest in the CMA of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon through July 8. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the CMA, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA is at least 600,000 fish through July 25. As stated in 5 AAC 09.360(d) when harvestable surplus is expected to be more than 600,000 fish and the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage the SEDM so that harvest approaches as near as possible 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. From June 1 through July 25, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay sections and prior to July 1 in NWSS, are considered Chignik bound (5 AAC 09.360(f)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED: The full intent of the proposer is unclear, but the department assumes that the intention of this proposal was to implement concurrent fishing periods with the CMA from June 1 through July 25. If adopted, this proposal would remove the sockeye salmon harvest thresholds of 300,000 and 600,000 fish from the set gillnet fleet and allow concurrent fishing when the CMA is open. Removing thresholds would eliminate regulations 5AAC 09.360(b), (c) and, (d). This would allow commercial set gillnet salmon fishing in the SEDM area to commence as soon as commercial fishing began in the CMA. In most years, this would allow for earlier fishing opportunity in SEDM and most likely more fishing opportunity overall for set gillnet fishermen. This could also hamper the department's ability to manage for escapement goals in the Northwest Stepovak Section, if on a schedule.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the KMA *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included the CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of KMA, and in SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to allocation of Chignik sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation. The proportion of sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM (excluding areas designated as 100% local stocks) considered to be Chignik Area bound has been determined in regulation to be 80%, based on a 1961 tagging study conducted in the East Stepovak Section. In 1998, the board stipulated that sockeye salmon

harvested in NWSS beginning July 1 would not be counted toward the Chignik allocation. In addition, beginning July 1, fishing time in NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than an aggregate of 96 hours during a seven-day period.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the months of June and July for SEDM can be found in report SP12-31, *Genetic Stock Composition of the Commercial Harvest of Sockeye Salmon in Southeast District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010–2012*. The June SEDM fishery was not included under the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) sampling plan and, during the WASSIP years, extensive closures of the July fishery combined with low catches during some openings yielded stock-specific harvest and harvest rate information only on a subset of the temporal/spatial strata (report SP11-10, *Results from Sampling the 2006–2009 Commercial and Subsistence Fisheries in the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program*.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is **OPPOSED** to allowing concurrent fishing with the CMA, because that would limit the department's ability to manage local stocks from July 1 through July 25. Adoption of this proposal may make it difficult to meet escapement goals for these local stocks.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 178 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: John A. Foster.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to establish weekly fishing opportunities within the SEDM section from early June to early July for set gillnet gear and during July for set gillnet and seine gear.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.360(b) and (c), commercial salmon fishing opportunity in the SEDM shall be curtailed in order to allow a harvest in the CMA of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon through July 8. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the CMA, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA is at least 600,000 fish through July 25. As stated in 5 AAC 09.360(d) when harvestable surplus is expected to be more than 600,000 fish and the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage the SEDM so that harvest approaches as near as possible 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. From June 1 through July 25, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay sections and prior to July 1 in NWSS, are considered Chignik bound (5 AAC 09.360(f)). In addition, 5 AAC 09.330(f)(3) stipulates that only gillnet gear is allowed in the SEDM prior to July 11, after which both gillnet and seine gear is allowed in the SEDM.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED: If adopted, this proposal would establish a weekly fishing schedule within the SEDM section during June and July, which would provide 600 hours of fishing time. From June 10 through July 10 the SEDM would be open to set gillnet gear only with weekly fishing periods, for 96 continuous hours a week, followed by a closure of at least 72 hours (Figures 178-1 and 178-2). From July 11 through July 25 the SEDM would be open to both set gillnet and seine gear, for 48 hours, followed by a 48-hour closure (Figure 178-2). It is unclear if this proposal seeks to have the allocation criteria (5 AAC 09.360(b)–(i)) removed from the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* or if it would remain in place. Removal of allocation criteria would also affect management of NWSS from July 1 through July 25, because this area is managed based on local stock escapement. Managing the NWSS on a schedule would hamper the department's ability to manage for escapement goals. The proposal as written would make managing the allocation difficult if not impossible.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for the SEDM based on the KMA *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included the CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of KMA, and in SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to the allocation of Chignik sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and to the definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation. The proportion of sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM (excluding areas designated as 100% local stocks)

considered to be Chignik Area bound has been determined in regulation to be 80%, based on a 1961 tagging study conducted in the East Stepovak Section. In 1998, the board stipulated that sockeye salmon harvested in NWSS beginning July 1 would not be counted toward the Chignik allocation. In addition, beginning July 1, fishing time in NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than an aggregate of 96 hours during a seven-day period.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the months of June and July for SEDM can be found in report SP12-31, *Genetic Stock Composition of the Commercial Harvest of Sockeye Salmon in Southeast District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010–2012*. The June SEDM fishery was not included under the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) sampling plan and, during the WASSIP years, extensive closures of the July fishery combined with low catches during some openings yielded stock-specific harvest and harvest rate information only on a subset of the temporal/spatial strata (report SP11-10, *Results from Sampling the 2006–2009 Commercial and Subsistence Fisheries in the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program.*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is **OPPOSED** to the establishment of a set fishing schedule; this would limit the department's ability to manage local stocks from July 1 through July 25. This may create a conservation concern for these local stocks.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

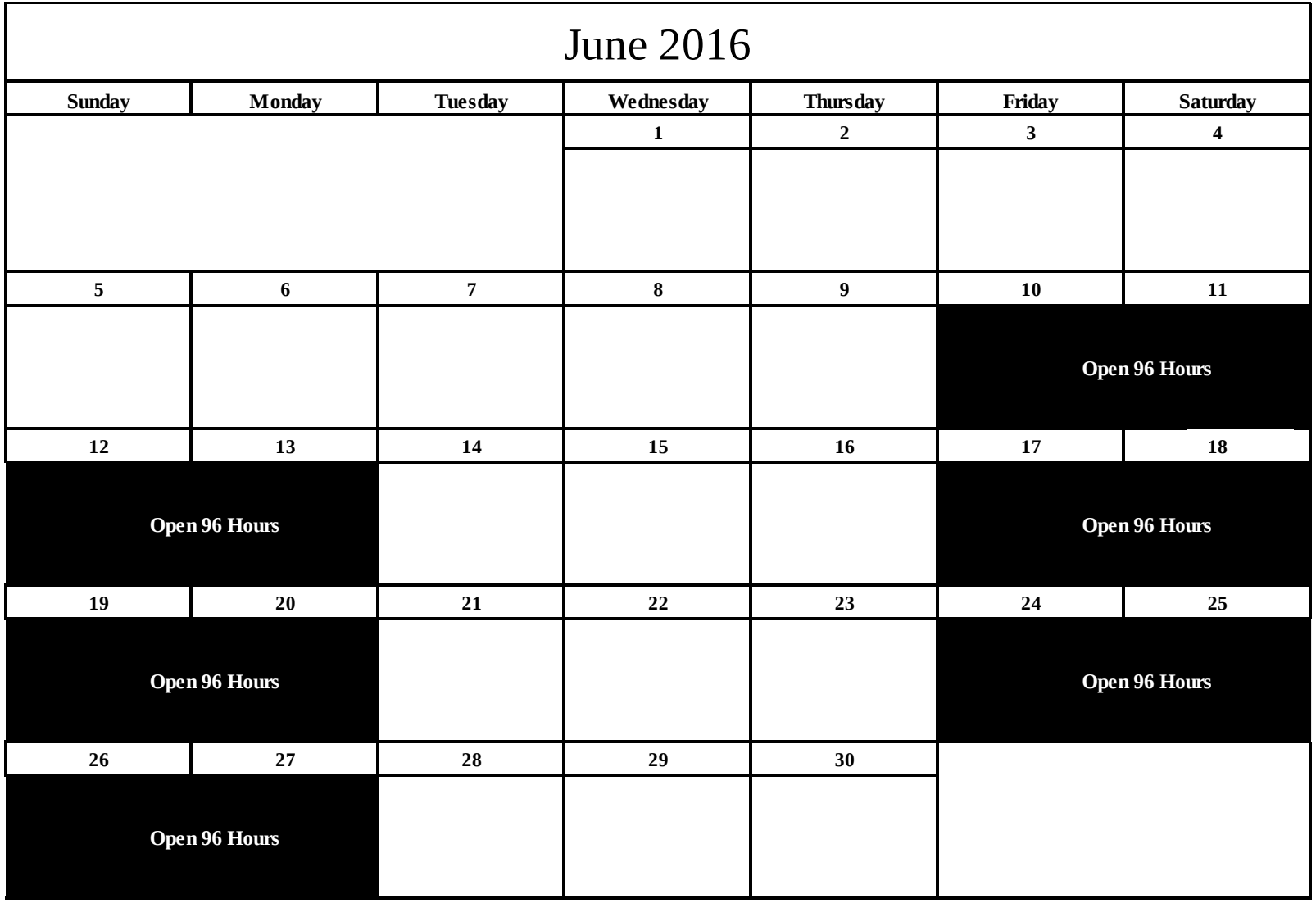

Figure 178-1.–Proposed June commercial fishing periods in SEDM for set gillnet gear.

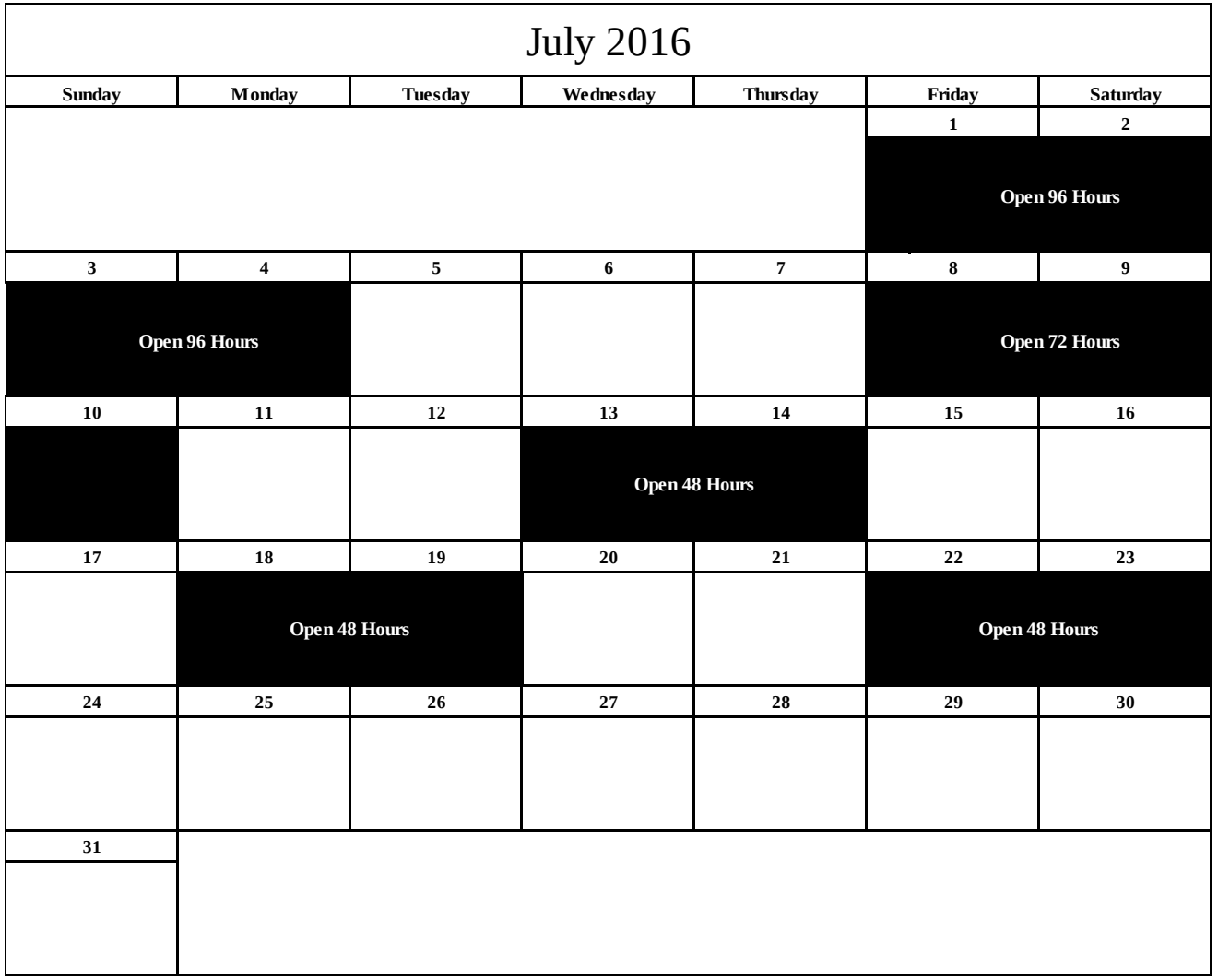

Figure 178-2.–Proposed July commercial fishing periods in SEDM for set gillnet gear from July 1 through July 10 and for set gillnet and purse seine gear from July 11 through July 25.

PROPOSAL 179 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: John A. Foster.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to reduce the percentage of fish that are considered to be destined for Chignik River from 80% to 40%, as specified in 5 ACC 09.360(f) of the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In June, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM are considered to be destined for the CMA. From July 1 to July 25, salmon harvested in NWSS are considered to be 100% local origin while 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in the remainder of SEDM are considered to be Chignik bound. SEDM is allocated 7.6% of the sockeye salmon harvest in CMA through July 25.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? A reduction of SEDM harvested sockeye salmon considered to be bound for the Chignik River by 40% would likely increase fishing time and increase salmon harvest opportunity in SEDM under the current management plan.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the KMA *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included the CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of KMA, and in SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to allocation of Chignik sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation. The proportion of sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM (excluding areas designated as 100% local stocks) considered to be Chignik Area bound has been determined in regulation to be 80%, based on a 1961 tagging study conducted in the East Stepovak Section. In 1998, the board stipulated that sockeye salmon harvested in NWSS beginning July 1 would not be counted toward the Chignik allocation. In addition, beginning July 1, fishing time in NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than an aggregate of 96 hours during a seven-day period.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the months of June and July for SEDM can be found in report SP12-31, *Genetic Stock Composition of the Commercial Harvest of Sockeye Salmon in Southeast District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010–2012.* The June SEDM fishery was not included under the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) sampling plan and, during the WASSIP years, extensive closures of the July fishery combined with low catches during some openings yielded stock-specific harvest and harvest rate information only on a subset of the temporal/spatial strata (report SP11-10, *Results from Sampling the 2006–2009 Commercial and Subsistence Fisheries in the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program*). Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the month of June in the

Shumagin Islands Section, Dolgoi Island area, Ikatan Section area, and Unimak District by temporal stratum for 2006 through 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program, 2006–2008* (appendix tables C49–C74). Harvest and harvest rates within these areas over all temporal strata within year are in tables 24–35). Appendix tables E7–E9 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks among all strata combined within a given year for the June South Peninsula fisheries.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 180 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would require all permit holders fishing SEDM Section through July 25, to deliver their catch before leaving the SEDM. In addition, all vessels can have no more than 50 salmon for personal use on board when fishing in the SEDM section.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are currently no landing or reporting requirements specific to the Southeastern District Mainland Section.

In *General Provisions,* 5 AAC 39.130, *Reports Required of Processors, Buyers, Fishermen, and Operators of Certain Commercial Fishing Vessels' Transporting Requirements,* it is stated that fishermen and processors must complete a department fish ticket at the time of delivery and that the fish ticket record must include:

- The CFEC permit card information
- Buyer/processor codes and information
- The date of landing
- The nearest headland or bay or statistical area in which the fish were taken
- The number and pounds of salmon by species

Alaska Statute 16.05.690. *Record of Purchases.* states that a person may not knowingly enter false information on a fish ticket or supply false information to a person who is recording information on a fish ticket.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Commercial fishermen would be required to deliver all salmon harvested within SEDM through July 25, prior to leaving this section (Figure 180-1).

In order to accommodate this proposal, salmon processors would need to have tenders near the SEDM whenever it is opened to commercial fishing.

BACKGROUND: The department collects verbal harvest reports from Area M commercial salmon fishermen and processors several times daily. Estimates of the number of fishing vessels within SEDM and the average catch per unit effort are used to estimate the catch and manage the commercial fishery. Verbal catch reports from Cape Igvak and Chignik fisheries are also used inseason to determine the total catch of sockeye salmon considered to be Chignik bound. As fish tickets are received, these verbal catch estimates are revised to reflect the more accurate information. Cooperation between the department and Area M salmon processors is excellent and there are seldom significant discrepancies between verbal and fish ticket reports.

There are no processing plants located within the SEDM. Currently, most Area M processors have their set gillnet fleets deliver to tenders in the SEDM. Seine vessels may deliver to tenders within

SEDM, but also will deliver to tenders and a processing facility located within Sand Point if there is a financial incentive (Figure 180-1).

The SEDM fishery requires a 24-hour advanced notice in order to provide notification and travel time for a fair start. Fishing periods are normally prosecuted in increments of 12 hours (a minimum time fishery would be 12-hours long) and extensions to fishing time are also allowed in 12-hour increments. For subsequent fishing periods the department shall give at least 12 hours' notice.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. However, the department is concerned with enforcing the requirement of delivery within the SEDM. This proposal is based on the assertion that salmon caught in the SEDM Section are being misreported and not properly counted against the allocation scheme. The department recognizes that harvest data reported inseason and on fish tickets are the best available information; accuracy is ensured by current regulations and statutes and the department is not aware of permit holders intentionally misreporting SEDM harvests.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. However, the department would like to point out that requiring deliveries within the SEDM may increase the cost to processors by requiring tender service in order to meet the delivery requirements.

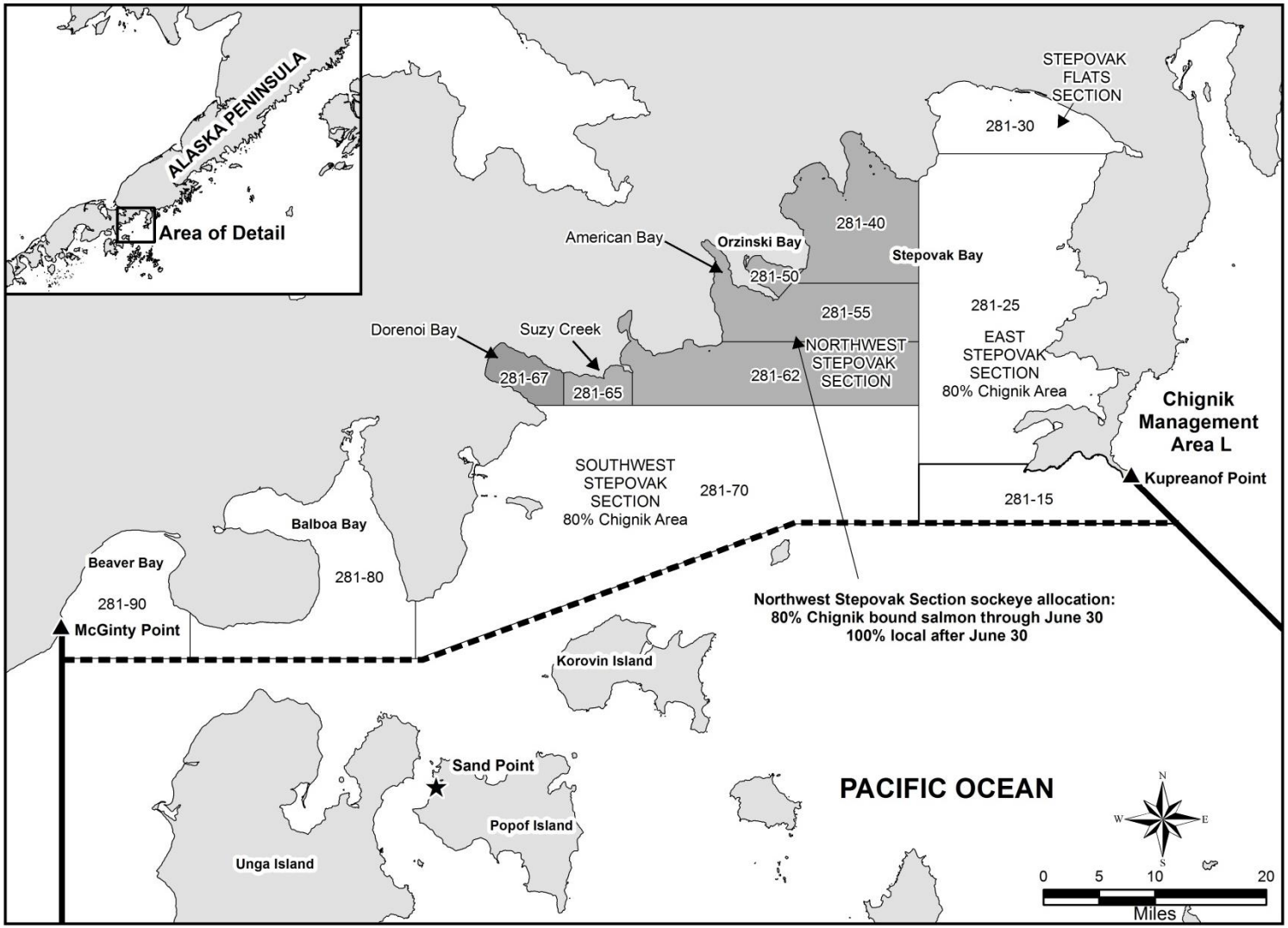

Figure 180-1.–Map of Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) fishery from Kupreanof Point to McGinty Point in relation to Sand Point on Popof Island.

South Alaska Peninsula Salmon June Management Plan (6 proposals):181–186

PROPOSAL 181 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Jesse Foster.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to repeal the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulations, 5 AAC 09.365 *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* establishes four 88-hour and one 64-hour fishing periods interspersed with 32 hour closures beginning at 6:00 a.m. June 7 and ending at 10:00 p.m. June 29, for set gillnet gear. The June schedule for seine and drift gillnet gear begins at 6:00 a.m. June 10 with four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed with 32-hour closures, with the final fishing period ending at 10:00 p.m. June 28. The South Unimak June fishery takes place in the Unimak District, Southwestern District, the East Pavlof Bay and West Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District and the Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District. The Shumagin Islands June fishery takes place in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 181-1).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would repeal 5 AAC 09.365 *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.* There are no alternate suggestions for the current management plan. This proposal would eliminate a historical commercial salmon fishery that has occurred for over 100 years. Elimination of the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* would eliminate commercial fishing opportunity in June.

BACKGROUND: From 1975–2000, fishing time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries was limited by provisions in the management plan that included sockeye salmon allocations (season harvest totals and weekly season limits), chum salmon caps, sockeye to chum salmon ratios, time limits and the season start date. During several seasons, from 1975–2000, the Shumagin Islands GHL was reached while the South Unimak GHL was not entirely harvested.

The concern over chum salmon harvest during the June fishery is well documented. The initial restrictions on chum salmon harvest came in 1986 when a harvest cap of 400,000 fish was established. The chum salmon cap increased in 1988 to 500,000, in 1990 to 600,000, and again in 1992 to 700,000. In 1998, the chum salmon cap was modified to a range between 350,000 and 600,000 fish based on the previous year's chum salmon harvest in the Arctic, Yukon, and Kuskokwim areas. In 2001 the chum salmon harvest cap was eliminated.

During the January 2001 board meeting the harvest guidelines for sockeye salmon and the chum salmon cap that were part of the allocation to the June fisheries for many years were rescinded. However, fishing time was limited to no more than 16 hours per day for all gear groups. Seine and drift gillnet gear were limited to no more than 48 hours in a floating seven-day period with no more than two 16-hour periods on consecutive days in any seven-day period. After June 24, fishing periods became more restrictive if the ratio of sockeye to chum salmon harvested by all gear groups was less than 2.0 on any day. During the February 2004 board meeting, the board agreed that actions to further restrict the Area M June fishery that were taken during the 2001

board cycle, were unnecessary and caused undue hardship on the fishermen of the area. **DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

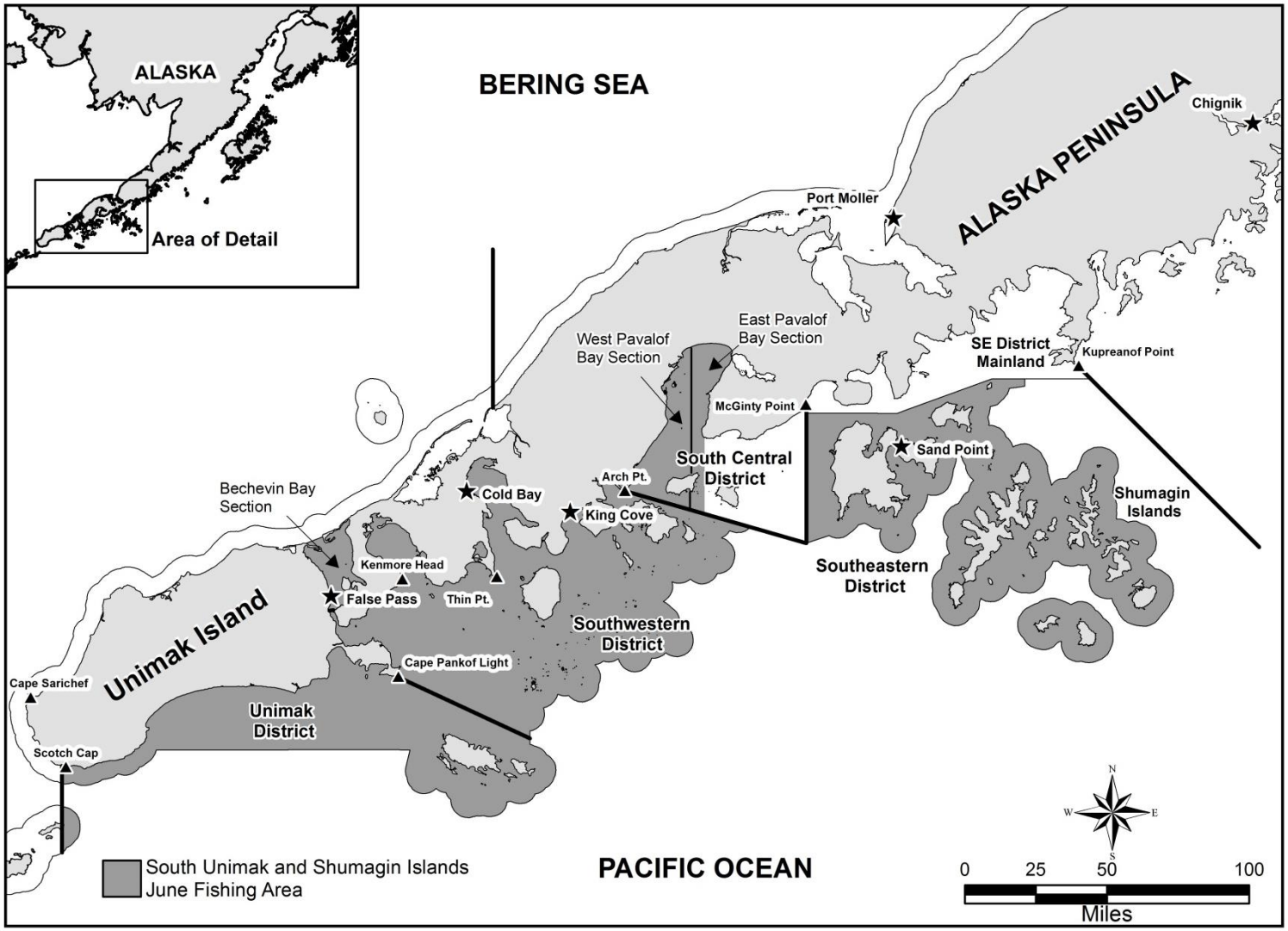

Figure 181-1.–Map of the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries with areas open to fishing defined.

PROPOSAL 182 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to modify the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*, so that commercial fishing periods for drift gillnet gear would open concurrently with set gillnet gear.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulations, 5 AAC 09.365 *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* establishes four 88-hour and one 64-hour fishing periods interspersed with 32 hour closures beginning at 6:00 a.m. June 7 and ending at 10:00 p.m. June 29, for set gillnet gear. The June schedule for seine and drift gillnet gear begins at 6:00 a.m. June 10 with four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed with 32-hour closures, with the final fishing period ending at 10:00 p.m. June 28 (Figure 182-1). The South Unimak June fishery takes place in the Unimak District, Southwestern District, the East Pavlof Bay and West Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District, and the Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District. The Shumagin Islands June fishery takes place in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Adopting this proposal would change the start date for drift gillnet gear commercial salmon fishing periods from 6:00 a.m. June 10 to 6:00 a.m. June 7 (Figure 182-1). This proposal would increase the amount of overall fishing time for drift gillnet gear from 352 hours to 416 hours. Additional fishing time would likely increase the harvest for drift gillnet gear.

BACKGROUND: During the January 2001 board meeting the harvest guidelines for sockeye salmon and the chum salmon cap that were part of the allocation to the June fisheries for many years were rescinded. However, fishing time was limited to no more than 16 hours per day for all gear groups. Seine and drift gillnet gear were limited to no more than 48 hours in a floating seven-day period with no more than two 16-hour periods on consecutive days in any seven-day period. After June 24, fishing periods became more restrictive if the ratio of sockeye to chum salmon harvested by all gear groups was less than 2.0 on any day.

During the February 2004 board meeting, the board agreed that actions taken during the 2001 board cycle to further restrict Area M, were unnecessary and caused undue hardship on the fishermen of the area. Several changes were made to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*. The board established 88-hour fishing periods for all gear types beginning at 6:00 a.m. June 7 and interspersed by 32-hour closures. The final fishing period was 64 hours in duration and ended at 10:00 p.m. June 29.

During the February 2013 board meeting, the board took action to stagger purse seine and drift gillnet gear from set gillnet gear, with fishing periods beginning at 6:00 a.m. June 10. No changes were made to the set gillnet fishing periods in June. The board made this decision to stagger purse seine and drift gillnet gear fishing periods based on the fact that the seine fleet had been voluntarily standing down during the first 88-hour commercial salmon fishing period that began on June 7, which was conducted in the hopes of reducing the overall harvest of chum salmon during June. It was also believed by many members of the board, that by reducing the overall amount of time that the seine and drift gillnet were fishing in early June would allow a

greater abundance of mixed stock salmon, specifically chum salmon, to pass through the South Alaska Peninsula.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

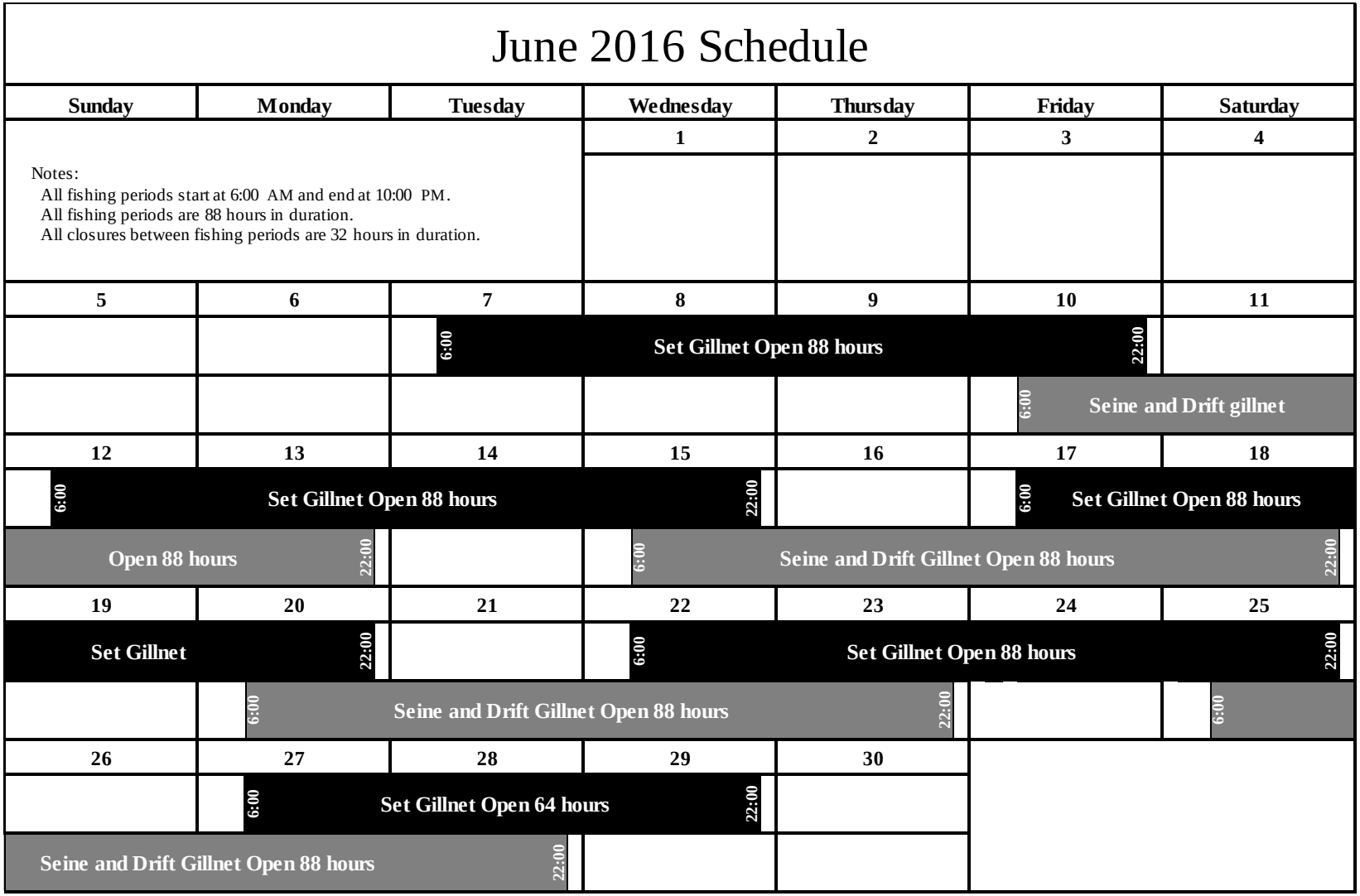

Figure 182-1.–Calendar of the current fishing periods in June for set gillnet, seine, and drift gillnet gear, 2016.

PROPOSAL 183 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to modify the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*, so that commercial fishing periods for drift gillnet gear would begin on June 9 instead of June 10 (Figure 183-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulations, 5 AAC 09.365 *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* establishes four 88-hour and one 64-hour fishing periods interspersed with 32 hour closures beginning at 6:00 a.m. June 7 and ending at 10:00 p.m. June 29, for set gillnet gear. The June schedule for seine and drift gillnet gear begins at 6:00 a.m. June 10 with four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed with 32-hour closures, with the final fishing period ending at 10:00 p.m. June 28 (Figure 183-2). The South Unimak June fishery takes place in the Unimak District, Southwestern District, the East Pavlof Bay and West Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District and the Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District. The Shumagin Islands June fishery takes place in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would shift the first fishing period for drift gillnet gear only, from 6:00 a.m. June 10 to 6:00 a.m. June 9. There would still only be four 88-hour fishing periods. If adopted, the amount of fishing time for drift gillnet gear would remain at 352 hours during June. Changing the start date to June 9 would allow drift gillnet gear to fish for 24 hours without purse seine gear present. A reduction in competition between drift gillnet gear and seine gear has the potential of increasing the overall harvest by drift gillnet gear. The significance of this increase would be uncertain at this point.

BACKGROUND: During the January 2001 board meeting the harvest guidelines for sockeye salmon and the chum salmon cap that were part of the allocation to the June fisheries for many years were rescinded. However, fishing time was limited to no more than 16 hours per day for all gear groups. Seine and drift gillnet gear were limited to no more than 48 hours in a floating seven-day period with no more than two 16-hour periods on consecutive days in any seven-day period. After June 24, fishing periods became more restrictive if the ratio of sockeye to chum salmon harvested by all gear groups was less than 2.0 on any day.

During the February 2004 board meeting, the board agreed that actions to restrict the Area M June fishery that were implemented during the 2001 board cycle, were unnecessary and caused undue hardship on the fishermen of the area. Several changes were made to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*. The board established 88-hour fishing periods for all gear types beginning at 6:00 a.m. June 7, interspersed by 32-hour closures. The final fishing period was 64 hours in duration and ended at 10:00 p.m. June 29.

During the February 2013 board meeting, the board took action to stagger purse seine and drift gillnet gear from set gillnet gear, with fishing periods beginning at 6:00 a.m. June 10. No changes were made to the set gillnet fishing periods in June. The board made this decision to stagger purse seine and drift gillnet gear fishing periods based on the fact that the seine fleet had been voluntarily standing down during the first 88-hour commercial salmon fishing period that began on June 7, which was conducted in the hopes of reducing the overall harvest of chum

salmon being harvested during June. It was also believed by the board, that by reducing the overall amount of time that the seine and drift gillnet were fishing in early June would allow a greater abundance of mixed stock salmon, specifically chum salmon, to pass through the South Alaska Peninsula.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

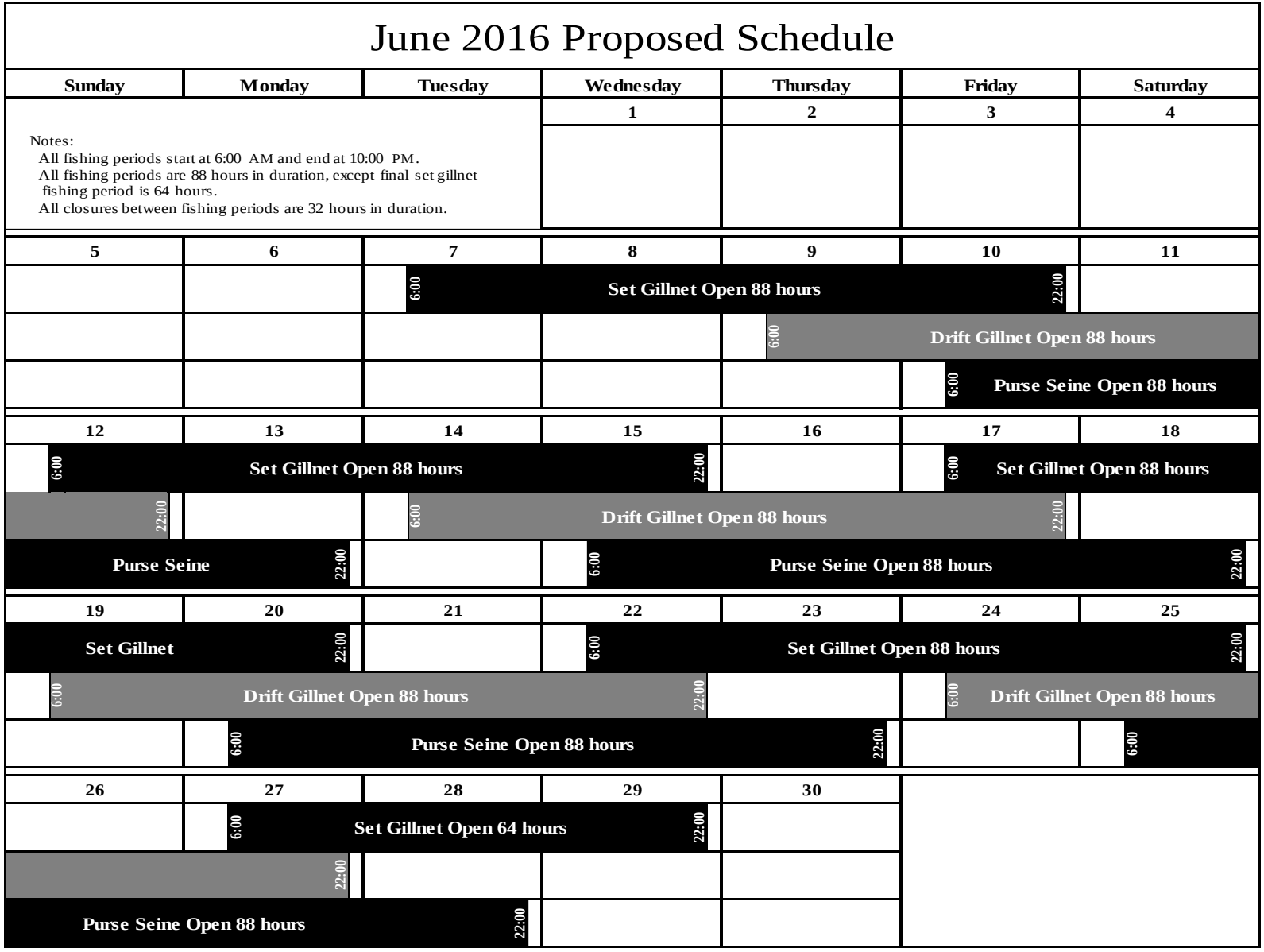

Figure 183-1.–Calendar of the proposed fishing periods in June for set gillnet, seine, and drift gillnet gear, 2016.

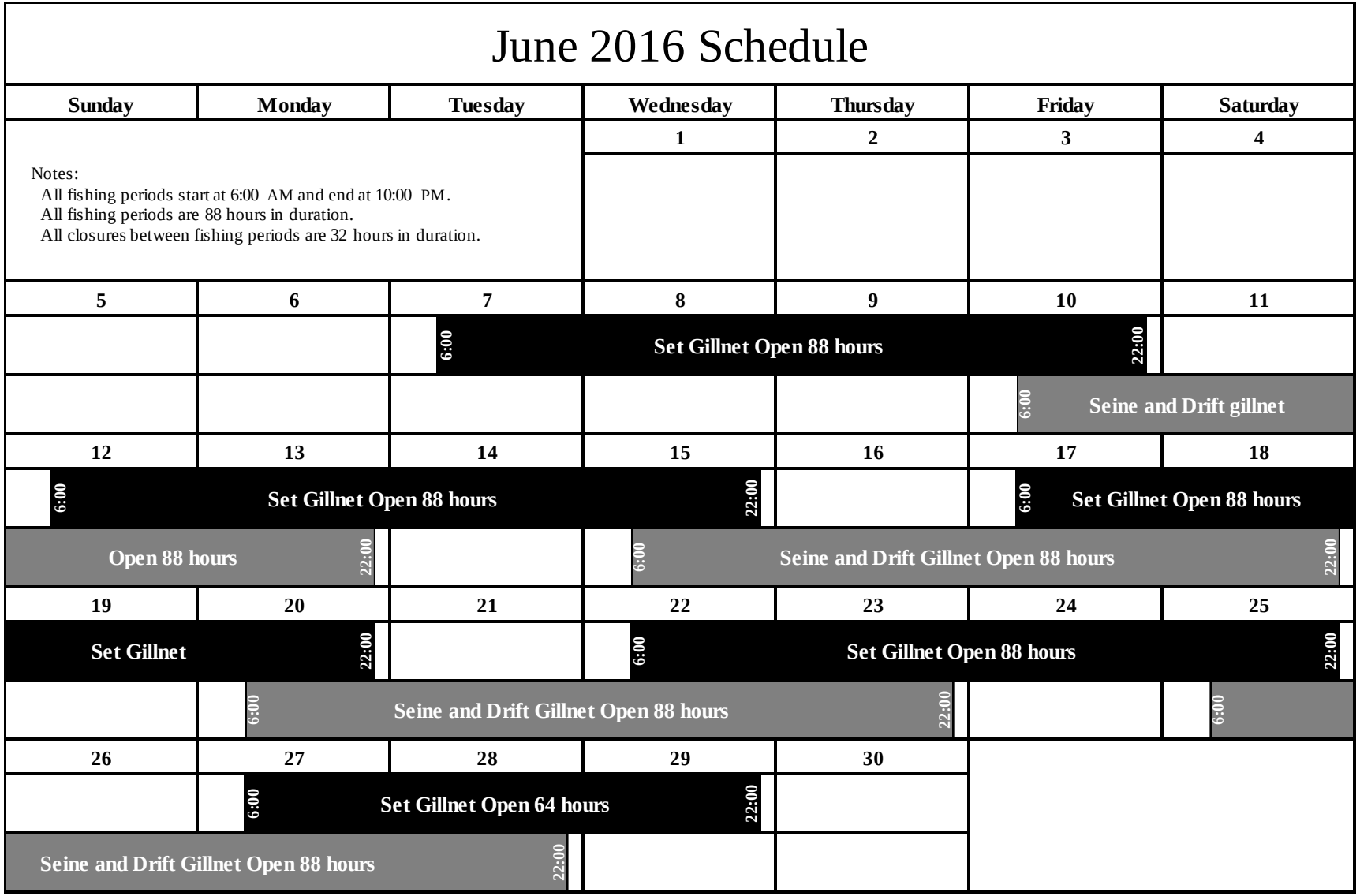

Figure 183-2.–Calendar of the current fishing periods in June for set gillnet, seine, and drift gillnet gear, 2016.

PROPOSAL 184 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to modify the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*, by readopting the management plan in place from 2003–2004, as follows:

(d) Beginning June 10, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for purse seine and drift gillnet gear as follows:

(1) commercial fishing periods may occur only from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and may not be open for more than

(A) three days in any seven-day period;

(B) 16 hours per day;

(C) 48 hours in any seven-day period;

(D) two consecutive 16-hour fishing periods in any seven-day period

(2) through June 24, commercial fishing periods in the Shumagin islands and South Unimak fisheries occur at the same time;

(3) after June 24, the provisions of (f) apply.

(e) Beginning June 10, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for set gillnet gear in both the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries as follows:

(1) from June 10 through June 24,

(A) commercial fishing periods may occur only from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.,

(B) the fishery will be closed for one period if, during the preceding period, the ratio of sockeye salmon to chum salmon is not equal to or greater than the recent 10 year average;

(2) after June 24, scheduled openings and closures for fishing periods shall coincide with the schedule for seine and drift gillnet gear as specified in (f) of this section.

(f) After June 24, in either the South Unimak or Shumagin Islands fisheries,

(1) if the ratio of sockeye salmon to chum salmon is two to one or less on any day, the next daily fishing period for seine and drift gillnet gear shall be of six-hour duration in that fishery;

(2) if the ratio of sockeye salmon to chum salmon is two to one, the commissioner may extend the fishing period by emergency order, to a maximum of 16 hours as described in (d)(1) of this section;

(3) if the ratio of sockeye salmon to chum salmon is two to one or less for two consecutive fishing periods, the fishery shall close to all gear types.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulations, 5 AAC 09.365 *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* establishes four 88-hour and one 64-hour fishing periods interspersed with 32 hour closures beginning at 6:00 a.m. June 7 and finalizing at 10:00 p.m. June 29, for set gillnet gear. The June schedule for seine and drift gillnet gear begins at 6:00 a.m. June 10 with four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed with 32-hour closures, with the final fishing period ending at 10:00 p.m. June 28. The South Unimak June fishery takes place in the Unimak District, Southwestern District, the East Pavlof Bay and

West Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District and the Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District. The Shumagin Islands June fishery takes place in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?

Adoption of this proposal would drastically reduce fishing opportunity in June during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries to all gear groups. It is difficult to ascertain the total amount of time this management strategy would reduce the fishery by due to the multiple criteria that effect how long fishing periods could be. The maximum amount of time the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery could be open is 144 hours. At a minimum this would be a reduction of fishing time by 272 hours for set gillnet gear, and 208 hours for seine and drift gillnet gear.

BACKGROUND: From 1975–2000, fishing time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries was limited by provisions in the management plan that included sockeye salmon allocations (season harvest totals and weekly season limits), chum salmon caps, sockeye-to-chum salmon ratios, time limits, and season start dates. In several seasons from 1975–2000, the Shumagin Islands GHL was reached, while the South Unimak GHL was not entirely harvested.

The concern over chum salmon harvest during the June fishery is well documented. Initial restrictions on chum salmon harvest came in 1986 when a harvest cap of 400,000 fish was established. The chum salmon cap increased in 1988 to 500,000; in 1990 to 600,000; and again in 1992 to 700,000. In 1998, the chum salmon cap was modified to a range between 350,000 and 600,000 fish based on the previous year's chum salmon harvests in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.

Prior to 1977, limited fishing effort occurred in the Southcentral District and in some portions of the Southwestern District. From 1977 through 2003, regulations did not allow the South Unimak June fishery to occur in the Southcentral District. In 2004, the board expanded the South Unimak fishery to include the entire Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof and East Pavlof Bay sections of the Southcentral District. The board opened waters as far east as Cape Tolstoi, in part to separate the South Unimak and the Shumagin Islands/Southeastern District Mainland fisheries.

Concerns over harvests of chum salmon in the 1980s and weak Yukon River chum salmon runs resulted in adoption of gear restrictions prior to the 1990 salmon season that limited the depth of gillnet and seine gear, and the mesh size of seine gear. The legal depth of drift gillnet gear was unlimited in regulation until the 1990 salmon season, when a regulation was adopted that limited drift gillnet gear in the Northwestern, Unimak, and Southwestern districts to 90 meshes in depth. Prior to the 1995 salmon season, mesh-size requirements for drift gillnets were also repealed.

During the January 2001 board meeting the harvest guidelines for sockeye salmon and the chum salmon cap that were part of the allocation to the June fisheries for many years were rescinded. However, fishing time was limited to no more than 16 hours per day for all gear groups. Seine and drift gillnet gear were limited to no more than 48 hours in a floating seven-day period with no more than two 16-hour periods on consecutive days in any seven-day period. After June 24, fishing periods became more restrictive if the ratio of sockeye to chum salmon harvested by all gear groups was less than 2.0 on any day.

During the February 2004 board meeting, the board determined that actions to further restrict the Area M June fishery taken during the 2001 board cycle were unnecessary and caused undue hardship on the fishermen of the area. Several changes were made to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*. The board established 88-hour fishing periods for all gear types beginning at 6:00 a.m. June 7, interspersed by 32-hour closures. The final fishing period was 64 hours in duration and ended at 10:00 p.m. June 29.

During the February 2013 board meeting, the board took action to stagger purse seine and drift gillnet gear fishing periods with set gillnet gear fishing periods to begin at 6:00 a.m. June 10. No changes were made to the set gillnet fishing periods in June. The board made this decision to stagger purse seine and drift gillnet gear fishing periods based on the fact that the seine fleet had been voluntarily standing down during the first 88-hour commercial salmon fishing period that began on June 7, which was conducted in the hopes of reducing the overall harvest of chum salmon being harvested during June. It was also believed by several board members, that reducing the overall amount of time that the seines and drift gillnets were fishing in early June, would allow a greater abundance of mixed stock salmon, specifically chum salmon, to pass through the South Alaska Peninsula.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, the department considers this to be a complicated and burdensome management plan that the board deemed unnecessary in 2004, and caused undue hardship on the fishermen of the area. This new management strategy would require the department to continuously monitor the fishery and would require additional personnel time and resources.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 185 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections; and 5 AAC 09.XXX. Dolgoi Island Section Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: John Jones-Agent for United Chignik Salmon Fishermen.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to establish a Dolgoi Island Section. This new section would incorporate salmon statistical areas 283-15 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42 (Figure 185-1). This proposal also seeks to establish a Dolgoi Island Section Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulations for 5 AAC 09.200 are as follows:

(d) Southwestern District:

(6) Belkofski Bay Section: waters between Vodapoini Point and Moss Cape, including inner and Outer Iliasik Islands, excluding the waters of the Deer island Section;

(7) Volcano Bay Section: waters between Moss Cape and Arch Point, including Goloi, Dolgoi, and Poperechnoi Islands;

(e) South Central District: waters on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula north and east of a line extending 106° from Arch Point Light (55° 12.30' N. lat., 161° 54.30' W. long.) and west of a line extending south from McGinty Point (55° 27.37' N. lat., 160° 59.00' W. long.), including Ukolnoi and Wosnesenski Islands;

(1) West Pavlof Bay Section: waters of the South Central District west of 161° 34.00' W. long;

(2) East Pavlof Bay Section: waters of the South Central District east of 161° 34.00' W. long, excluding the Canoe Bay and Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay sections;

(3) Canoe Bay Section: waters of Canoe Bay enclosed by a line from a point at 55° 35.55' N. lat., 161° 21.60' W. long. to a point at 55° 35.65' N. lat., 161° 21.80' W. long.;

(4) Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section: waters of the South Central District excluding those of the West and East Pavlof Bay and Canoe Bay sections, between the longitude of McGinty Point (160° 59.00' W. long.) and the longitude of Cape Tolstoi (161° 30.00' W. long).

5 AAC 09.365. *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.*

(b) The South Unimak fishery takes place in the Unimak District, the Southwestern District, the East Pavlof Bay and West Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District and the Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District.

(d) In the South Unimak and Shumagin islands fisheries, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods as follows:

(1) for set gillnet gear,

(A) beginning June 7, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. three days later; commercial fishing will then close for 32 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. two days later;

(B) notwithstanding (A) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 10:00 p.m. on June 29;

(2) for seine and drift gillnet gear,

(A) beginning June 10, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. three days later; commercial fishing periods will then close for 32 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. two days later;

(B) notwithstanding (A) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 10:00 p.m. on June 28.

5 AAC 09.366. *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.* (a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide management guidelines to the department for the management of the post-June salmon fisheries along the South Alaska Peninsula, to provide for the harvest of local stocks in terminal harvest areas, and to establish fishing periods for the South Alaska Peninsula salmon fisheries outside of terminal harvest areas.

(b) The commissioner shall establish, to the extent practicable, concurrent fishing periods in the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak districts.

(d) Notwithstanding (c)(1) of this section, from July 6 through July 31, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, fishing periods as follows:

(1) the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 33 hours until 3:00 p.m. the following day; commercial fishing periods will then close for 63 hours and reopen under (2) of this subsection;

(2) following the closure under (1) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and close at 6:00 p.m. the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 60 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later.

(f) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the following terminal harvest areas to salmon fishing from July 6 through July 21:

(2) the East and West Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District, waters north of the latitude of Black Point (55° 24.48' N. lat.); fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks;

(3) the Canoe Bay Section of the South Central District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks;

(g) In addition to the terminal harvest areas specified in (f) of this section, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the following terminal harvest areas to salmon fishing from July 22 through July 31:

(3) the Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District; fishing periods shall be based on the abundance of local pink and chum salmon stocks;

(4) the Belkofski Bay Section of the Southwestern District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local pink and chum salmon stocks;

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Adoption of this proposal would restructure salmon statistical areas in the South Alaska Peninsula by combining salmon statistical areas 283-15 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42 (Figure 185-1) and calling the new area the Dolgoi Island Section. In addition to the new section, this proposal would establish a *Dolgoi Island Section Salmon Management Plan*. This management plan would allocate based on the projected harvestable surplus beyond the escapement goals for

the early and late runs of Chignik sockeye salmon. Adoption of this proposal would also require that all salmon caught in the Dolgoi Island Section be delivered within the Dolgoi Island Section, except that a vessel may have on board up to 50 salmon for personal use or may transport salmon outside the Dolgoi Island Section provided a fish ticket has been completed.

This proposal does not give guidelines for the overall length of fishing periods within the Dolgoi Island Section. Assuming that all allocative criteria associated with the Chignik sockeye salmon runs are met, fishing periods would likely be continuous until the harvest exceeded 120,000 sockeye salmon. Timing of closures based on fish ticket information may prove to be problematic, due to the delayed timing in which the department receives fish tickets (approximately seven days).

The proposer includes the caveat that salmon statistical areas 283-23 and 283-25 would open for the harvest of local stocks irrespective of the 120,000 sockeye salmon cap after July 9. The proposer also excludes all designated terminal stock harvest areas as defined in regulation. The terminal harvest areas in the East Pavlof Bay Section (283-23), West Pavlof Bay Section (283-25), and the Canoe Bay Section (283-24) would be managed on local pink and chum salmon stocks beginning on July 6. In addition to these areas, the Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section (283-15 and 283-17) and the Belkofski Bay Section (284-42 and 284-45) would be managed on the abundance of local pink and chum stocks beginning on July 22. Guidance from the board would be required in determining fishing periods in these areas since the current regulation is used to extend existing fishing periods in terminal harvest areas when the department determines that there is a harvestable surplus of salmon.

Adoption of this proposal will likely have multiple underlying effects or unintended impacts to other management strategies that are used to manage the commercial salmon harvest within the South Alaska Peninsula. The *South Unimak and Shumagin Island June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365), *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366), and *Description of districts and sections* (5 AAC 09.200) would need to be carefully analyzed and possibly restructured to prevent overlap and conflicts between management plans. The Dolgoi Island Section Salmon Management Plan would expand the current fishing area of the South Unimak fishery that takes place during the month of June.

BACKGROUND: Relevant information on stock-specific harvest of sockeye salmon in Dolgoi Island Area (salmon statistical area 283-15 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42) from 2006 through 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008.* This report found that in the Dolgoi Islands Area of the June fishery, some reporting group harvests were relatively constant from 2006 through 2008 (i.e. Bristol Bay stock harvest ranged from 16,262 to 27,362 per year), while other reporting group harvest varied widely across years (i.e. Chignik stock harvest ranged from 12,168 to 170,920 per year). Results can be found in Tables 27–29 and Appendices C57–C65 of report SP12-24.

The Dolgoi Island post-June harvest was variable during 2006 through 2008 in the number of fish harvested and the stock composition among years. The dominant reporting group was variable with Chignik being the largest reporting group in 2006 and 2008 and the East of WASSIP reporting group dominant in 2007. Results can be found in Tables 39–41 and Appendices C96–C101 of report SP12-24. Comparisons highlighted within the extensive WASSIP data set may provide limited insight into the inter-annual stability of stock composition

within the Dolgoi Island Area. SP12-24 singled out Dolgoi Island June fishery as an example of high inter annual variation in stock composition and harvest. The study also suggests that longer-term variation in salmon productivity and migratory behavior resulting from decadal scale environmental change and changes in the prosecution of fisheries should be considered when extrapolating results from years sampled in WASSIP.

Harvest of sockeye salmon in the Dolgoi Island Area is variable from year to year as well as between the salmon statistical areas that would make up this new section (Tables 185-1 and 185-2). These variations from year to year are likely a result of inter annual variation in salmon productivity, migratory behavior, and prosecution of fisheries as the WASSIP study suggests. Variations in stock composition between statistical areas are likely a result of each statistical area's geographical location relative to the natural migratory pathways of sockeye salmon of local and non-local origin. Sockeye salmon harvested from statistical areas such as 283-24 (Canoe Bay Section) and 284-36 (Volcano Bay) are more likely of local origin rather than of non-local origin (Figure 185-1).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** to the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, the department is concerned with enforcement issues in regards to requiring delivery within the Dolgoi Island Area and restricting the amount of fish that an individual retains. The department recognized that harvest data reported inseason and on fish tickets are the best available information; accuracy is protected by current regulations and statutes.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. However, the department would like to point out that requiring deliveries within the Dolgoi Island area may increase the cost to processors by requiring tender service in order to meet the delivery requirements.

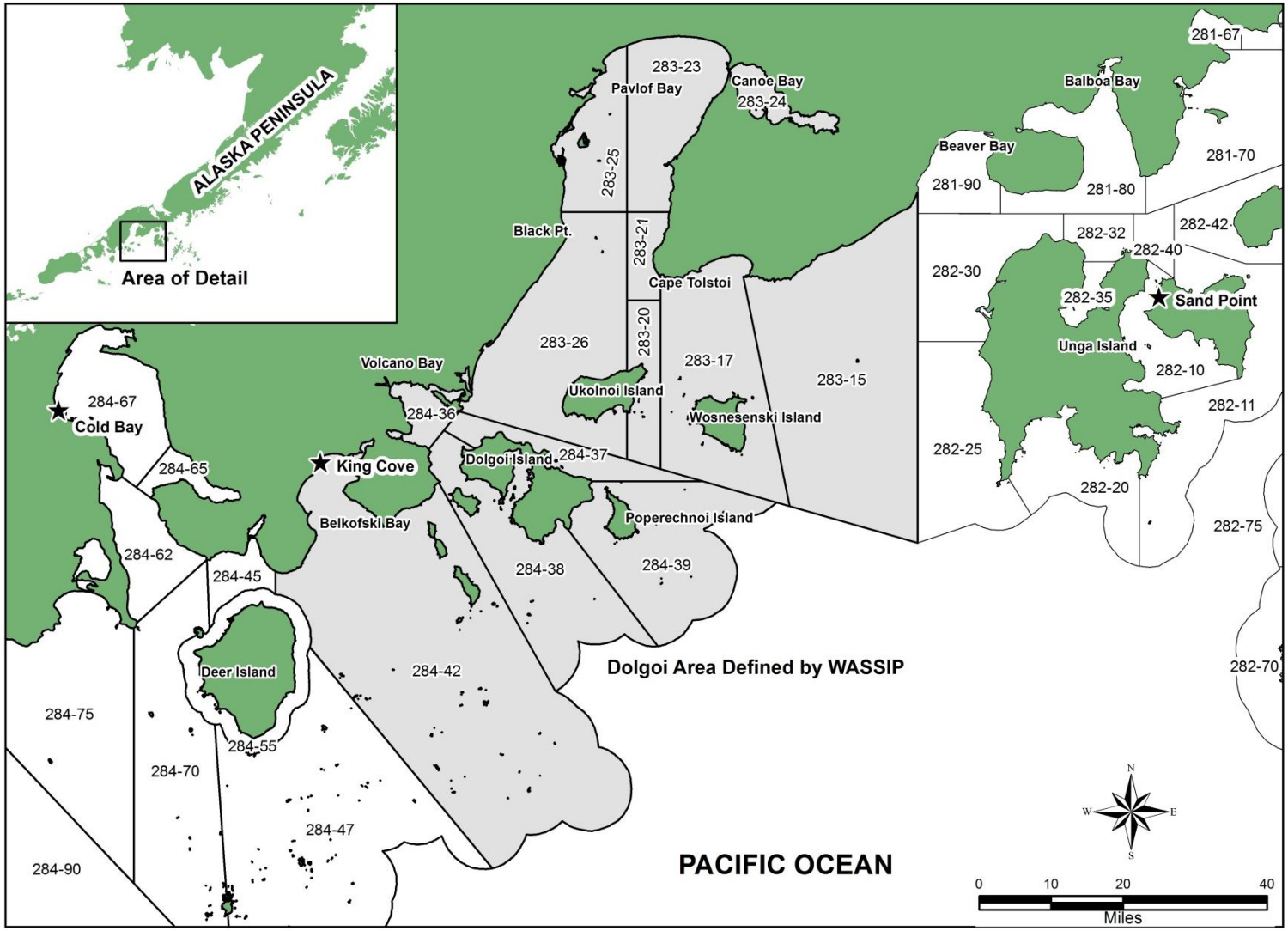

Figure 185-1.–Map of the Dolgoi Island Area (salmon statistical areas 283-15 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42).

Table 185-1.–Sockeye salmon harvest from June 1–July 25 in the Dolgoi Island Area (salmon statistical areas 283-15 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42), 2006–2015.

			Sockeye salmon	
Year	Permits	Landings	Number	Pounds
2006	42	757	433,992	2,699,791
2007	44	648	240,425	1,441,652
2008	28	242	58,914	353,910
2009	39	454	142,874	943,647
2010	33	227	65,998	391,705
2011	26	214	60,393	395,189
2012	30	241	57,898	361,497
2013	26	154	39,615	247,524
2014	39	452	279,890	1,735,578
2015	67	693	851,034	4,789,989

Table 185-2.–Sockeye salmon harvest from June 1–July 25 by statistical salmon area by year from 2006–2015 in the Dolgoi Island Area (salmon statistical areas 283-15 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42).

				Sockeye salmon	
Stat Area	Year	[b]	Permits	Number	Pounds
283-15	2007		5	4,196	28,691
	2009	[a]	–	–	–
	2011		3	5,305	35,555
	2015	[a]	–	–	–
			283-15 Average	**3,457**	**21,865**
283-17	2006		10	13,171	83,851
	2007		7	13,485	78,747
	2008		4	2,717	16,299
	2009		9	16,526	97,772
	2010		4	2,478	15,123
	2011	[a]	–	–	–
	2012	[a]	–	–	–
	2013	[a]	–	–	–
	2014	[a]	–	–	–
	2015		9	26,181	150,187
			283-17 Average	**8,242**	**49,006**
283-20	2006	[a]	–	–	–
	2013	[a]	–	–	–
	2014	[a]	–	–	–
	2015		5	43,951	257,491
			283-20 Average	**11,389**	**66,979**
283-21	2006		13	30,140	189,079
	2007		8	3,217	20,237
	2009		5	11,587	80,995
	2010		3	1,786	10,870
	2011	[a]	–	–	–
	2012		4	471	1,909
	2013		3	1,934	13,204
	2014		6	7,709	47,600
	2015		18	108,148	549,851
			283-21 Average	**18,458**	**102,306**

-continued-

Table 185-2.–Page 2 of 4.

Stat Area	Year [b]	Permits	Sockeye salmon Number	Sockeye salmon Pounds
283-23	2006	15	36,538	220,948
	2007	8	3,358	20,814
	2008	4	198	1,257
	2009 [a]	–	–	–
	2010	4	2,383	14,665
	2011 [a]	–	–	–
	2012 [a]	–	–	–
	2013 [a]	–	–	–
	2014	6	17,059	112,267
	2015	10	44,507	270,185
	283-23 Average		**10,645**	**65,369**
283-24	2006 [a]	–	–	–
	2008	3	822	5,022
	2011 [a]	–	–	–
	2013 [a]	–	–	–
	28-34 Average		**325**	**1,843**
283-25	2006	7	6,052	36,562
	2007	10	8,343	51,375
	2009	5	4,449	27,764
	2013 [a]	–	–	–
	2014	5	1,612	9,296
	2015	7	6,936	38,890
	283-25 Average		**4,638**	**27,715**
283-26	2006	29	129,012	818,108
	2007	27	55,304	342,086
	2008	13	11,156	63,199
	2009	18	28,184	189,218
	2010	9	6,593	40,607
	2011	10	6,958	46,568
	2012	12	20,895	132,715
	2013	9	5,785	35,530
	2014	27	95,731	588,238
	2015	35	213,597	1,215,925
	283-26 Average		**57,322**	**347,219**

-continued-

Table 185-2.–Page 3 of 4.

Stat Area	Year	[b]	Permits	Sockeye salmon Number	Sockeye salmon Pounds
284-36	2006		8	8,761	51,959
	2007	[a]	–	–	–
	2009	[a]	–	–	–
	2010	[a]	–	–	–
	2011	[a]	–	–	–
	2013	[a]	–	–	–
	2014	[a]	–	–	–
	2015	[a]	–	–	–
			284-36 Average	**1,537**	**8,874**
284-37	2006		23	169,793	1,044,097
	2007		24	81,454	496,804
	2008		20	40,847	249,065
	2009		24	45,288	298,081
	2010		24	38,481	226,851
	2011		15	29,434	198,768
	2012		24	30,096	188,910
	2013		12	21,662	134,027
	2014		28	90,274	555,630
	2015		33	341,459	1,940,383
			284-37 Average	**88,879**	**533,262**
284-38	2006		17	32,920	207,868
	2007		26	44,258	267,124
	2008		3	361	1,755
	2009		16	22,574	159,206
	2010		12	9,178	55,418
	2011		8	3,889	24,354
	2012		9	2,765	16,958
	2013		7	2,200	14,097
	2014		17	35,445	230,299
	2015		15	46,756	260,618
			284-38 Average	**20,035**	**123,770**

-continued-

Table 185-2.–Page 4 of 4.

Stat Area	Year [b]	Permits	Sockeye salmon Number	Sockeye salmon Pounds
284-39	2007	11	22,288	108,312
	2008	4	1,871	11,648
	2009	6	4,812	33,012
	2010	5	2,622	15,175
	2011	14	6,717	45,109
	2012	3	949	6,252
	2013	7	4,469	27,400
	2014	7	4,785	26,434
	2015	7	10,266	54,400
	284-39 Average		**6,531**	**36,416**
284-42	2006	6	6,270	38,628
	2007	6	4,251	25,835
	2008	4	942	5,665
	2009	6	5,218	31,891
	2010	6	1,920	9,994
	2011	7	3,890	23,290
	2012	5	1,342	8,311
	2013	9	2,379	16,210
	2014	11	20,816	125,140
	2015	11	7,086	40,734
	284-42 Average		**5,411**	**32,570**

[a] Confidential information.
[b] Missing years indicate no harvest occurred in that stat area.

PROPOSAL 186 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections; and 5 AAC 09.XXX. Dolgoi Island Section Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to establish a Dolgoi Island Section. This new section would incorporate salmon statistical areas 283-15 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42 (Figure 186-1). This proposal also seeks to establish a Dolgoi Island Section Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulations for 5 AAC 09.200 are as follows:

(d) Southwestern District:

(6) Belkofski Bay Section: waters between Vodapoini Point and Moss Cape, including inner and Outer Iliasik Islands, excluding the waters of the Deer island Section;

(7) Volcano Bay Section: waters between Moss Cape and Arch Point, including Goloi, Dolgoi, and Poperechnoi Islands;

(e) South Central District: waters on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula north and east of a line extending 106° from Arch Point Light (55° 12.30' N. lat., 161° 54.30' W. long.) and west of a line extending south from McGinty Point (55° 27.37' N. lat., 160° 59.00' W. long.), including Ukolnoi and Wosnesenski Islands;

(1) West Pavlof Bay Section: waters of the South Central District west of 161° 34.00' W. long;

(2) East Pavlof Bay Section: waters of the South Central District east of 161° 34.00' W. long, excluding the Canoe Bay and Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay sections;

(3) Canoe Bay Section: waters of Canoe Bay enclosed by a line from a point at 55° 35.55' N. lat., 161° 21.60' W. long. to a point at 55° 35.65' N. lat., 161° 21.80' W. long.;

(4) Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section: waters of the South Central District excluding those of the West and East Pavlof Bay and Canoe Bay sections, between the longitude of McGinty Point (160° 59.00' W. long.) and the longitude of Cape Tolstoi (161° 30.00' W. long).

5 AAC 09.365. *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.*

(b) The South Unimak fishery takes place in the Unimak District, the Southwestern District, the East Pavlof Bay and West Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District and the Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District.

(d) In the South Unimak and Shumagin islands fisheries, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods as follows:

(1) for set gillnet gear,

(A) beginning June 7, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. three days later; commercial fishing will then close for 32 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. two days later;

(B) notwithstanding (A) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 10:00 p.m. on June 29;

(2) for seine and drift gillnet gear,

(A) beginning June 10, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. three days later; commercial fishing periods will then close for 32 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. two days later;

(B) notwithstanding (A) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 10:00 p.m. on June 28.

5 AAC 09.366. *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.* (a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide management guidelines to the department for the management of the post-June salmon fisheries along the South Alaska Peninsula, to provide for the harvest of local stocks in terminal harvest areas, and to establish fishing periods for the South Alaska Peninsula salmon fisheries outside of terminal harvest areas.

(b) The commissioner shall establish, to the extent practicable, concurrent fishing periods in the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak districts.

(d) Notwithstanding (c)(1) of this section, from July 6 through July 31, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, fishing periods as follows:

(1) the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 33 hours until 3:00 p.m. the following day; commercial fishing periods will then close for 63 hours and reopen under (2) of this subsection;

(2) following the closure under (1) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and close at 6:00 p.m. the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 60 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later.

(f) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the following terminal harvest areas to salmon fishing from July 6 through July 21:

(2) the East and West Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District, waters north of the latitude of Black Point (55° 24.48' N. lat.); fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks;

(3) the Canoe Bay Section of the South Central District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks;

(g) In addition to the terminal harvest areas specified in (f) of this section, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the following terminal harvest areas to salmon fishing from July 22 through July 31:

(3) the Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District; fishing periods shall be based on the abundance of local pink and chum salmon stocks;

(4) the Belkofski Bay Section of the Southwestern District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local pink and chum salmon stocks;

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Adoption of this proposal would restructure salmon statistical areas in the South Alaska Peninsula by combining salmon statistical areas 283-15 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42 (Figure 186-1)and calling the new area a Dolgoi Island Section. In addition to the new section, this proposal would establish the Dolgoi Island Section Salmon Management Plan. This management

plan would allocate sockeye salmon harvest in the section based on the projected harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the early and late runs of Chignik sockeye salmon.

This proposal provides set fishing periods for June and from July 6–July 25, assuming that all allocative criteria association with the Chignik River sockeye salmon run are met. June fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. on June 7, and will be 66 hours in duration interspersed by 54-hour closures. The final fishing period would close at midnight on June 27. Based on the amended language provided by the proposer, it is estimated that at a maximum amount of time the Dolgoi Island Section could be open in June would be 282 hours. This would be a significant reduction in fishing time for all gear groups in this area during June. Set gillnet gear would lose 134 hours of fishing time, and purse seine and drift gillnet gears would lose 70 hours of fishing opportunity. If the allocation criteria that are described in this proposal are not met, then the amount of fishing opportunity will be reduced even further, with the possibility of no fishing opportunity during the month of June. If the harvestable surplus beyond the escapement goal for the first and second runs of Chignik River sockeye is expected to be less than 600,000 fish, then the Dolgoi Island Section fishery will be curtailed until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon is achieved in the CMA. Additional guidance on this portion of the management strategy would be required from the board. This proposal states that fishing periods would be based on the expectations of the Chignik River sockeye salmon runs, but is unclear as to the full expectation inseason and whether fishing periods could begin with the possible uncertainty of the full potential of Chignik River sockeye salmon run. June 7 may be too early to determine the strength of the Chignik River sockeye salmon run.

From July 6–July 25, if the allocative criteria associated with the Chignik River sockeye salmon run are met, then the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. for 25 hours followed by a 71-hour closure. The amended language provided by the proposer is unclear as to when the July fishery would actually begin. A July 6 start date was assumed in order to estimate the maximum allowable fishing time that would be permitted in July. It was estimated that there would be a maximum of 133 hours for all gear groups in the Dolgoi Island Section from July 6–July 25. This would be a reduction of 36 hours in fishing time during the July 6–July 25 timeframe. If the allocation criteria are not met as described in this proposal, fishing opportunity would be reduced even further with the possibility of no fishing opportunity from July 6–July 25. The subsequent fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. for 27 hours interspersed by 69-hour closures. In years when the first and second runs of Chignik River sockeye salmon are either expected to be less than 600,000 fish or fails to develop as expected, the fishing periods in the Dolgoi Island Section will be curtailed until 300,000 sockeye salmon are harvested in the CMA and managed through July 25 so that at least 600,000 sockeye salmon are harvested in the CMA.

The proposer excludes all designated terminal stock harvest areas as defined in regulation. The terminal harvest areas in the East Pavlof Bay Section (283-23), West Pavlof Bay Section (283-25), and the Canoe Bay Section (283-24) may be managed on local pink and chum salmon stocks beginning on July 6. In addition to these areas, the Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section (283-15 and 283-17) and the Belkofski Bay Section (284-42 and 284-45) may be managed on local pink and chum salmon stocks beginning on July 22. Guidance from the board would be required in determining fishing periods in these areas; as the current regulation is used to extend existing fishing periods in terminal harvest areas when the department determines that there is a harvestable surplus of salmon.

Adoption of this proposal will likely have multiple underlying effects or unintended impacts to other management strategies that are used to manage the commercial salmon harvest within the South Alaska Peninsula. The *South Unimak and Shumagin Island June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365), *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366), and Description of districts and sections (5 AAC 09.200) would need to be carefully analyzed and possibly restructured to prevent overlap and conflicts between management plans. The Dolgoi Island Section Salmon Management Plan would expand the current fishing area of the South Unimak fishery that takes place during the month of June.

BACKGROUND: Relevant information on stock-specific harvest of sockeye salmon in Dolgoi Island Area (salmon statistical area 283-15 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42) from 2006 through 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008.* This report found that in the Dolgoi Islands Area of the June fishery, some reporting group harvests were relatively constant from 2006 through 2008 (i.e. Bristol Bay stock harvest ranged from 16,262 to 27,362 per year), while other reporting group harvest varied widely across years (i.e. Chignik stock harvest ranged from 12,168 to 170,920 per year). Results can be found in Tables 27–29 and Appendices C57–C65 of report SP12-24.

The Dolgoi Island post-June harvest was variable during 2006 through 2008 in the number of fish harvested and the stock composition among years. The dominant reporting group was variable with Chignik being the largest reporting group in 2006 and 2008 and the East of WASSIP reporting group dominant in 2007. Results can be found in Tables 39–41 and Appendices C96–C101 of report SP12-24. Comparisons highlighted within the extensive WASSIP data set may provide limited insight into the inter-annual stability of stock composition within the Dolgoi Island Area. SP12-24 singled out Dolgoi Island June fishery as an example of high inter annual variation in stock composition and harvest. The study also suggests that longer-term variation in salmon productivity and migratory behavior resulting from decadal scale environmental change and changes in the prosecution of fisheries should be considered when extrapolating results from years sampled in WASSIP.

Harvest of sockeye salmon in the Dolgoi Island Area is variable from year to year as well as between the salmon statistical areas that would make up this new section (Tables 185-1 and 185-2). These variations from year to year are likely a result of inter annual variation in salmon productivity, migratory behavior, and prosecution of fisheries as the WASSIP study suggests. Variations in stock composition between statistical areas are likely a result of each statistical area's geographical location relative to the natural migratory pathways of sockeye salmon of local and non-local origin. Sockeye salmon harvested from statistical areas such as 283-24 (Canoe Bay Section) and 284-36 (Volcano Bay) are more likely of local origin rather than of non-local origin (Figure 185-1).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** to the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

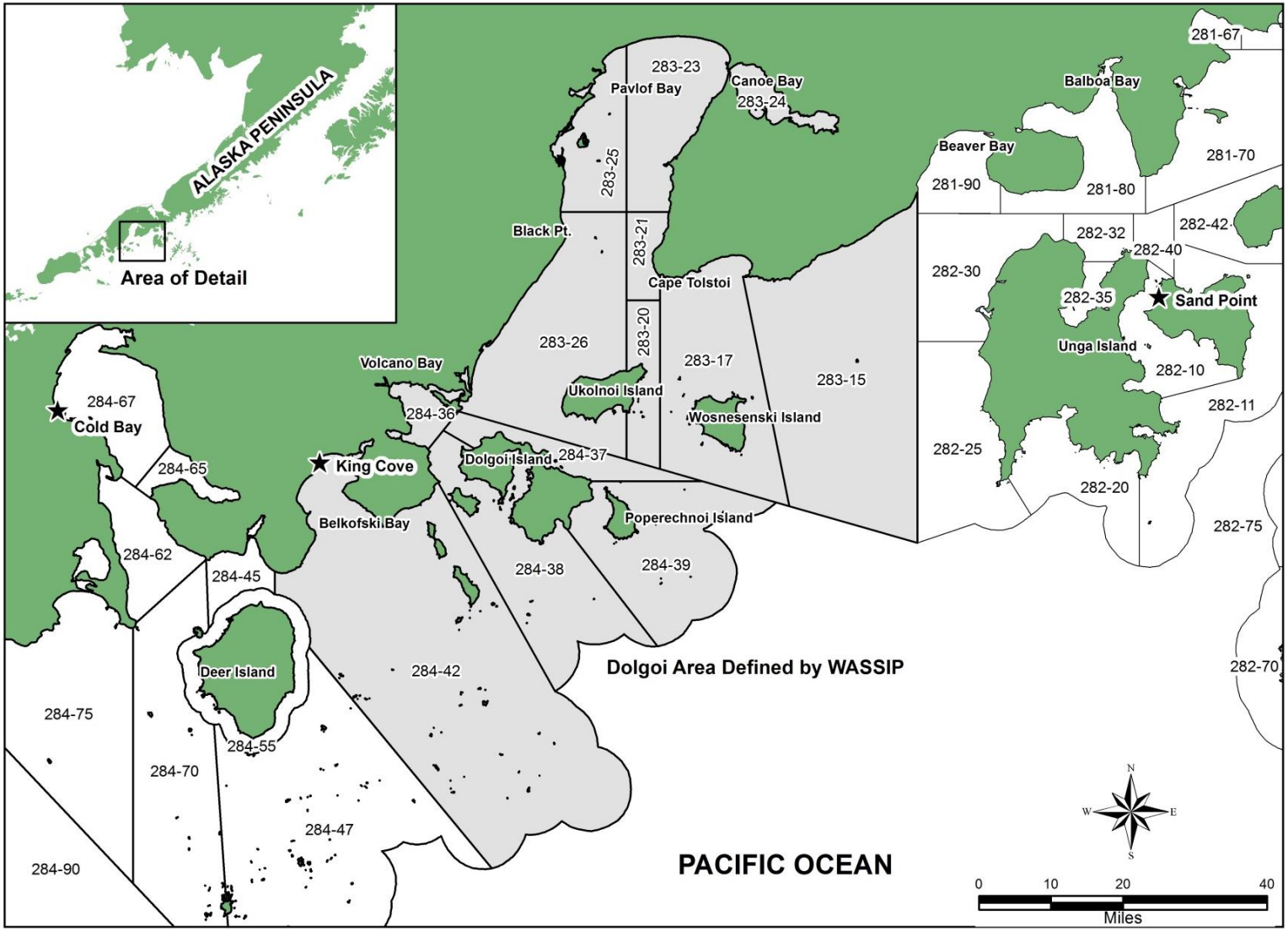

Figure 186-1.–Map of the Dolgoi Island Area (salmon statistical areas 283-15 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42).

Table 186-1.–Sockeye salmon harvest from June 1–July 25 in the Dolgoi Island Area (salmon statistical areas 283-15 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42), 2006–2015.

			Sockeye salmon	
Year	Permits	Landings	Number	Pounds
2006	42	757	433,992	2,699,791
2007	44	648	240,425	1,441,652
2008	28	242	58,914	353,910
2009	39	454	142,874	943,647
2010	33	227	65,998	391,705
2011	26	214	60,393	395,189
2012	30	241	57,898	361,497
2013	26	154	39,615	247,524
2014	39	452	279,890	1,735,578
2015	67	693	851,034	4,789,989

Table 186-2.–Sockeye salmon harvest from June 1–July 25 by statistical salmon area by year from 2006–2015 in the Dolgoi Island Area (salmon statistical areas 283-15through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42).

				Sockeye salmon	
Stat Area	Year	[b]	Permits	Number	Pounds
283-15	2007		5	4,196	28,691
	2009	[a]	–	–	–
	2011		3	5,305	35,555
	2015	[a]	–	–	–
			283-15 Average	**3,457**	**21,865**
283-17	2006		10	13,171	83,851
	2007		7	13,485	78,747
	2008		4	2,717	16,299
	2009		9	16,526	97,772
	2010		4	2,478	15,123
	2011	[a]	–	–	–
	2012	[a]	–	–	–
	2013	[a]	–	–	–
	2014	[a]	–	–	–
	2015		9	26,181	150,187
			283-17 Average	**8,242**	**49,006**
283-20	2006	[a]	–	–	–
	2013	[a]	–	–	–
	2014	[a]	–	–	–
	2015		5	43,951	257,491
			283-20 Average	**11,389**	**66,979**
283-21	2006		13	30,140	189,079
	2007		8	3,217	20,237
	2009		5	11,587	80,995
	2010		3	1,786	10,870
	2011	[a]	–	–	–
	2012		4	471	1,909
	2013		3	1,934	13,204
	2014		6	7,709	47,600
	2015		18	108,148	549,851
			283-21 Average	**18,458**	**102,306**

-continued-

Table 186-2.–Page 2 of 4.

Stat Area	Year	[b]	Permits	Sockeye salmon Number	Sockeye salmon Pounds
283-23	2006		15	36,538	220,948
	2007		8	3,358	20,814
	2008		4	198	1,257
	2009	[a]	–	–	–
	2010		4	2,383	14,665
	2011	[a]	–	–	–
	2012	[a]	–	–	–
	2013	[a]	–	–	–
	2014		6	17,059	112,267
	2015		10	44,507	270,185
			283-23 Average	**10,645**	**65,369**
283-24	2006	[a]	–	–	–
	2008		3	822	5,022
	2011	[a]	–	–	–
	2013	[a]	–	–	–
			28-34 Average	**325**	**1,843**
283-25	2006		7	6,052	36,562
	2007		10	8,343	51,375
	2009		5	4,449	27,764
	2013	[a]	–	–	–
	2014		5	1,612	9,296
	2015		7	6,936	38,890
			283-25 Average	**4,638**	**27,715**
283-26	2006		29	129,012	818,108
	2007		27	55,304	342,086
	2008		13	11,156	63,199
	2009		18	28,184	189,218
	2010		9	6,593	40,607
	2011		10	6,958	46,568
	2012		12	20,895	132,715
	2013		9	5,785	35,530
	2014		27	95,731	588,238
	2015		35	213,597	1,215,925
			283-26 Average	**57,322**	**347,219**

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Table 186-2.–Page 3 of 4.

Stat Area	Year	[b]	Permits	Sockeye salmon Number	Sockeye salmon Pounds
284-36	2006		8	8,761	51,959
	2007	[a]	–	–	–
	2009	[a]	–	–	–
	2010	[a]	–	–	–
	2011	[a]	–	–	–
	2013	[a]	–	–	–
	2014	[a]	–	–	–
	2015	[a]	–	–	–
			284-36 Average	**1,537**	**8,874**
284-37	2006		23	169,793	1,044,097
	2007		24	81,454	496,804
	2008		20	40,847	249,065
	2009		24	45,288	298,081
	2010		24	38,481	226,851
	2011		15	29,434	198,768
	2012		24	30,096	188,910
	2013		12	21,662	134,027
	2014		28	90,274	555,630
	2015		33	341,459	1,940,383
			284-37 Average	**88,879**	**533,262**
284-38	2006		17	32,920	207,868
	2007		26	44,258	267,124
	2008		3	361	1,755
	2009		16	22,574	159,206
	2010		12	9,178	55,418
	2011		8	3,889	24,354
	2012		9	2,765	16,958
	2013		7	2,200	14,097
	2014		17	35,445	230,299
	2015		15	46,756	260,618
			284-38 Average	**20,035**	**123,770**

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Table 186-2.–Page 4 of 4.

Stat Area	Year [b]	Permits	Sockeye salmon Number	Sockeye salmon Pounds
284-39	2007	11	22,288	108,312
	2008	4	1,871	11,648
	2009	6	4,812	33,012
	2010	5	2,622	15,175
	2011	14	6,717	45,109
	2012	3	949	6,252
	2013	7	4,469	27,400
	2014	7	4,785	26,434
	2015	7	10,266	54,400
	284-39 Average		**6,531**	**36,416**
284-42	2006	6	6,270	38,628
	2007	6	4,251	25,835
	2008	4	942	5,665
	2009	6	5,218	31,891
	2010	6	1,920	9,994
	2011	7	3,890	23,290
	2012	5	1,342	8,311
	2013	9	2,379	16,210
	2014	11	20,816	125,140
	2015	11	7,086	40,734
	284-42 Average		**5,411**	**32,570**

[a] Confidential information.

[b] Missing years indicate no harvest occurred in that stat area.

South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Post-June Management Plan (1 proposal): 187

PROPOSAL 187 – 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: John A Foster.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Modify the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for South Alaska Peninsula* to provide the department authority to make openings for specific gear groups. It is unclear which portion of the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* this proposal wishes to amend, though the department believes this proposal pertains mainly to the August and September through October sections of 5 AAC 09.366 (h and i).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.366 from July 6 through July 31, fishing periods follow a specific set calendar with one 33 hour fishing period followed by a closure for 63 hours and then six 36 hour openings with 60 hour closures between each. From August 1 through August 31, fishing periods are based on the abundance of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon stocks. From September 1 through October 31, fishing periods are based on abundance of coho salmon stocks, although the department may consider the abundance of late pink and chum salmon stocks. These fishing periods apply to all gear types except when there is a presence of immature salmon the seine fishery may be closed.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The adoption of this proposal would give the department authority to determine which gear types would be allowed to fish during commercial fishery openings. It is difficult to determine the effect this proposal would have on the management of the fisheries; guidance from the board would be required for the department to operate with this new level of authority.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1974, the July South Peninsula fishery was generally open five days per week with a total season closure on August 10. During the 1974 and 1975 fishing season, the fishery was severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976 through 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by EO based on local stock run strength. Fishing periods from July 6 through about July 18 were based on chum salmon run strength and from July 18 through about August 20 on pink salmon run strength.

In November of 1991, the board established the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366). The plan essentially limited fishing from July 6 through July 19 to designated terminal areas. From 1993 through 1997, harvests in the July 6 through July 19 period in the South Alaska Peninsula were significantly lower than pre-1993 harvests for the same period. One reason for closing most of the South Peninsula during July 6 through 19 was the board's desire to minimize July coho salmon harvests.

Beginning in 1998, the board allowed 24-hour fishing periods for South Alaska Peninsula followed by 48-hour closures during July 6 through July 21. From July 22 through July 31 fishing time was limited in non-terminal areas to three periods not to exceed 36 hours in duration and interspersed by closures of at least 48 hours (outside of the Southeastern District Mainland

prior to July 26). The amount of fishing area considered "terminal" was increased during the July 22 through July 31 time period as local pink and chum salmon gained in run strength. Terminal areas during the July 22 through July 31 time period include Morzhovoi Bay, the Thin Point Section, Cold Bay, the Deer Island Section, the Belkofski Bay Section, East and West Pavlof Bay sections (north of the latitude of Black Point), Canoe Bay, Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section, southern portion of Zachary Bay, the area near Suzy Creek (after July 25), and the Stepovak Flats Section from July 26 through July 28.

The immature salmon test fishing program was instituted by the department in 1990. In the Shumagin Islands Section, most purse seine fishing effort has historically occurred around Popof Island between Popof Head and Red Bluff. For this reason test fishing sites were established in these areas. In 1998, the board adopted a regulation that defined immature salmon and required the department to conduct an immature salmon test fishery in July (5 AAC 09.366(i)). The board also changed the earliest general opening date of the post-June fishery in non-terminal areas from July 20 to July 6.

These current regulations allow all gear types to fish from July 6 through July 31 during fishing periods that follow a specific set calendar with one 33 hour fishing period followed by a closure for 63 hours and then six 36 hour openings with 60 hour closures between each. If immature salmon are detected in the test fishery, the seine fishery may be closed until the presence of immature salmon has declined. Between August 1 and October 31, the fishery is opened based on local pink, chum, and coho salmon abundance and all gear types are concurrently provided opportunity to harvest fish during such commercial openings.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal, however the department **OPPOSES** regulatory changes that would place the department in the position to make inseason decisions that would limit one gear type over another in the absence of very specific direction from the board on how to do this.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Alaska Peninsula Salmon Gear and Seaward Boundary (5 proposals):189–193

PROPOSAL 189 – 5 AAC 09.332. Seine specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Ray Koso and Don McCallum.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would modify seine specifications and operations to allow dual permit holders the ability to permanently link two permits together. Individuals with two permanently linked permits would be able to operate 300 fathoms of seine gear.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.332, purse seines or hand purse seines may not be less than 100 fathoms nor more than 250 fathoms in length. A purse seine or hand purse seine may not exceed 375 meshes in depth. Seine mesh may not be more than three and one-half inches, except that the first 25 meshes above the leadline may not be more than 7 inches. Leads may not be less than 50 fathoms nor more than 150 fathoms in length. Only one lead may be used with a seine. A lead may be attached to only one end of a seine, and the lead may not be attached to the boat end of the seine.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? There would be minimal change to the management of salmon as the department would continue to base management decisions on prescribed management plans and salmon abundance. Effects on harvest are unknown, but increasing gear is likely to increase harvest.

BACKGROUND: In the 2006 legislative cycle, HB 251 was passed that gave the board authority to allow one person the ability to own and operate more than one CFEC permit within the same fishery under AS 16.05.251. However, it was recognized by CFEC and the board during the January, 2014 Kodiak board meeting that neither the board nor CFEC had the authority to permanently link two permits together.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 190 – 5 AAC 09.332. Seine specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to modify the purse seine depth measurement standard from number of meshes deep to an equivalent depth measurement in feet and inches.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The description of legal seine gear in 5 AAC 09.332 states that seines must be between 100 and 250 fathoms in length and not exceed 375 meshes in depth. Seine mesh size may not exceed three and one-half inches, except the first 25 meshes above the leadline, may not be more than seven inches.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would not have an effect on seine depth.

BACKGROUND: Some fishermen within Area M have purchased seine nets that meet the description of maximum allowable gear, but are put together with components that have subsequently shrunk and are said to fish less efficiently than nets that have maintained their original specifications. The shrunken nets may not be modified to increase their depth, since the depth restriction is expressed in "number of meshes", which these nets already have. Fishermen with shrunken nets may be at a disadvantage compared to fishermen who have nets that do not shrink. However, while nets may have shrunk, they still fit the legal definition of seine gear in this area.

During the February 2013 board meeting, the board submitted a board generated proposal that was similar to this proposal. The Department of Public Safety opposed this proposal due to the potential for the high risk of error on the grounds because a net cannot be easily stretched in order to obtain an accurate measurement in feet. The ability to count the number of meshes while on the grounds is a more practical method of enforcing seine specifications. The board did not adopt this proposal.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. Measuring seine depth in feet and inches would be very difficult on the grounds. Implementation of this proposal would necessitate further definition and direction to enforcement as to how measurement of salmon seines would be accomplished. Adoption of this proposal would create confusion and regulatory inconsistency because net depth is typically specified in meshes.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 191 – 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Repeal minimum mesh size standards for drift gillnet gear so that there is no minimum mesh size for drift gillnet gear.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The mesh size of drift gillnets on a salmon fishing boat may not be less than five and one-quarter inches, except that there is no minimum mesh size in the Northern District, the Northwestern District, or in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? There would be no minimum mesh size for drift gillnet gear for any of the Area M fisheries. There would be minimal change to the management of salmon as the department would continue to base management decisions on prescribed management plans and salmon abundance. Effects on harvest are unknown, but reducing the mesh size of a drift gillnet would likely have a minimal effect of the harvest.

BACKGROUND: Concern over harvest of chum salmon in the 1980s and weak Yukon River chum salmon runs resulted in adoption of gear restrictions prior to the 1990 salmon season that limited the depth of gillnet and seine gear, and the mesh size of seine gear in the June and post-June South Peninsula fisheries. The legal depth of drift gillnet gear was unlimited in regulation until the 1990 salmon season, when a regulation was adopted that limited drift gillnet gear in the Northwestern, Unimak, and Southwestern districts to 90 meshes in depth. Prior to the 1995 salmon season, mesh-size requirements for drift gillnets were also repealed except in the post-June South Peninsula fishery in the Unimak District and a western portion of the Southwestern District.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 192 – 5 AAC 09.330. Gear.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Smith.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets between Popof Head and Dark Cliffs during any time that the area is closed to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Salmon may be taken only with purse seines and hand purse seines in the area between Popof Head and Dark Cliffs (Popof Island) (Figure 192-1) from June 1 through August 31; however, salmon may be taken by set gillnet during periods when the seine fishery is closed by EO due to the presence of immature salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would allow set gillnet gear to fish between Popof Head and Dark Cliffs during any period of time that seine gear is closed to commercial salmon fishing. While not stated within the proposed language, the proposer also suggests that set net permit holders could fish the area if the seine fleet is closed but the gill net permit holders are open in the Shumagin Islands Section. The lost opportunity to utilize this area referred to by the proposer is likely during the regulatory fishing periods established by the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (Figure 192-2).

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1968, both set gillnet and seine gear was permitted throughout the Southeastern District. Beginning in 1968, the area on Popof Island between Popof Head and Dark Cliffs was open only to purse seine and hand purse seine gear from June 1 through August 31. In 1990, 5 AAC 09.330 (f)(1) was amended to allow salmon to be taken by set gillnet gear between Popof Head and Dark Cliffs during periods when the seine fishery is closed by EO due to the presence of immature salmon.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** to this proposal. The amended language as written, would give set gillnet gear opportunity to fish between Dark Cliffs and Popof Head at any point the area is closed to seine gear from June 1 through August 31. However, based on further comments within the proposal, it has been interpreted by the department that the intent was to only permit fishing opportunity between Dark Cliffs and Popof Head for set gillnet gear during established set gillnet fishing periods and the seine fleet is closed either by EO due to the presence of immature salmon or prescribed closures found in regulation. The department is concerned for the potential for gear conflicts if this proposal is adopted, and the board should consider whether set gillnet gear would be permitted to remain in the water during closures.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

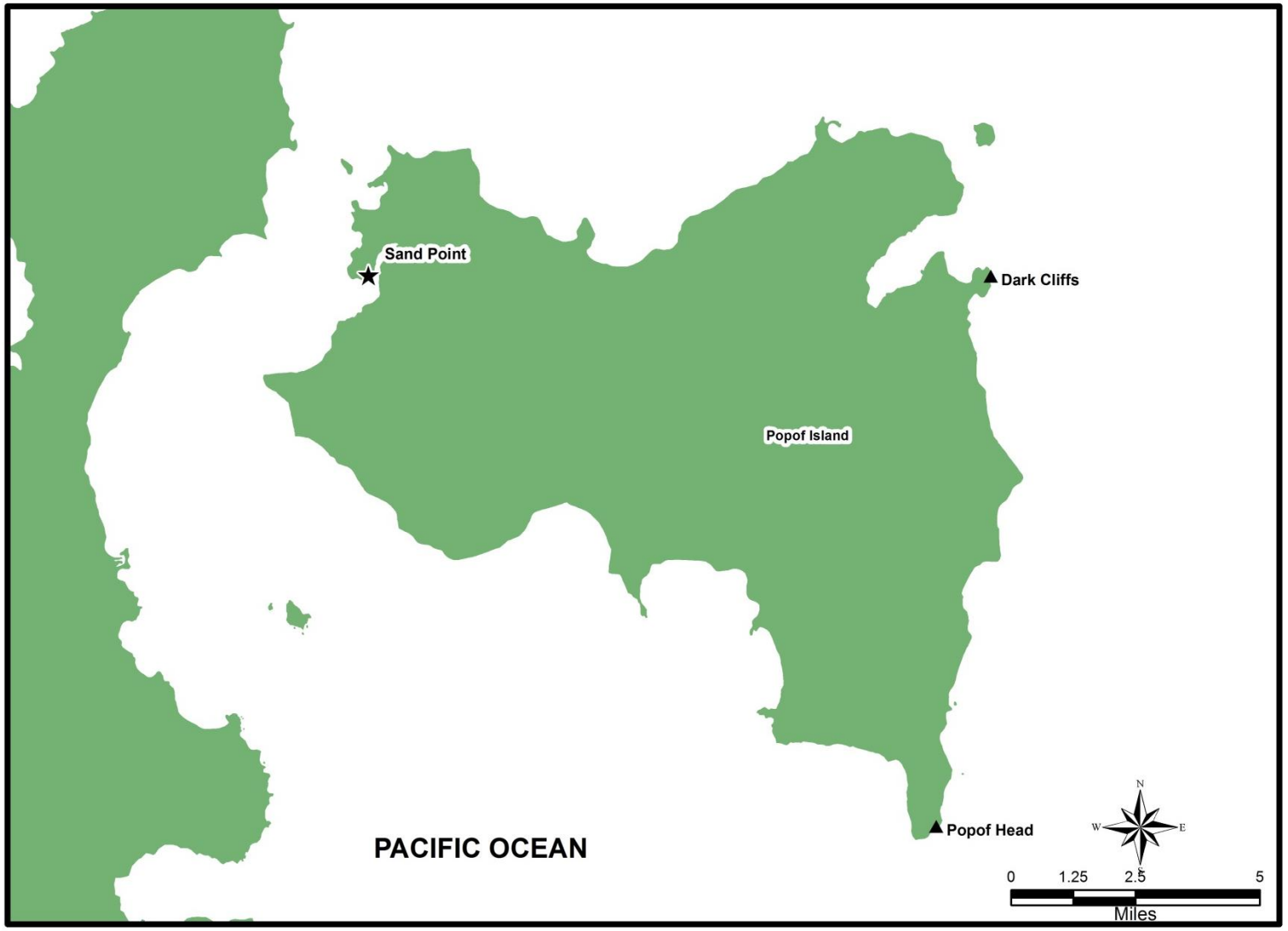

Figure 192-1.–Map of seine gear only area between Dark Cliffs and Popof Head on Popof Island.

June 2016 Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes: All fishing periods start at 6:00 AM and end at 10:00 PM. All fishing periods are 88 hours in duration. All closures between fishing periods are 32 hours in duration.			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		6:00 Set Gillnet Open 88 hours			22:00	
					6:00 Seine and Drift gillnet	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
6:00 Set Gillnet Open 88 hours			22:00		6:00 Set Gillnet Open 88 hours	
Open 88 hours 22:00			6:00 Seine and Drift Gillnet Open 88 hours			22:00
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Set Gillnet 22:00			6:00 Set Gillnet Open 88 hours			22:00
	6:00 Seine and Drift Gillnet Open 88 hours		22:00			6:00
26	27	28	29	30		
	6:00 Set Gillnet Open 64 hours		22:00			
Seine and Drift Gillnet Open 88 hours 22:00						

Figure 192-2.–Calendar of the current fishing periods in June for set gillnet, seine, and drift gillnet gear, 2016.

PROPOSAL 193 – 5 AAC 09.301. Seward boundary of districts.

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to modify the Unimak District boundary to coincide with the seaward boundary that is defined in the Federal Salmon Fishery Management Plan. The seaward boundary would shift from 54° 26.70' N. lat., 162° 53.00' W. long., near the western end of Sanak Island to Cape Lutke on Unimak Island to a new seaward boundary that is drawn along 54° 22.50'N. lat. from 163° 01.20' W. long. near the western end of Sanak Island to 164° 27.10' W. long., south of Cape Lutke on Unimak Island (Figure 193-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The outer boundary of the Southwestern and Unimak districts is a line drawn three miles seaward from a line commencing at 54° 26.70' N. lat., 162° 53.00' W. long., near the western end of Sanak Island to Cape Lutke on Unimak Island.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The area available to commercial salmon fishermen in the Unimak District would expand and harvest of salmon in the Unimak District would likely increase by an unknown amount.

BACKGROUND: In December 2012, the National Marine Fisheries Service redefined the area included in the Salmon FMP by removing three small pockets of federal waters adjacent to Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, and the Alaska Peninsula from the West Area. The FMP acknowledges these areas collectively as net fishing areas managed by the State of Alaska.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Changing the Unimak District seaward boundary to align with the FMP would not affect the department's ability to manage commercial salmon fisheries in the Unimak District and would simplify regulations.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

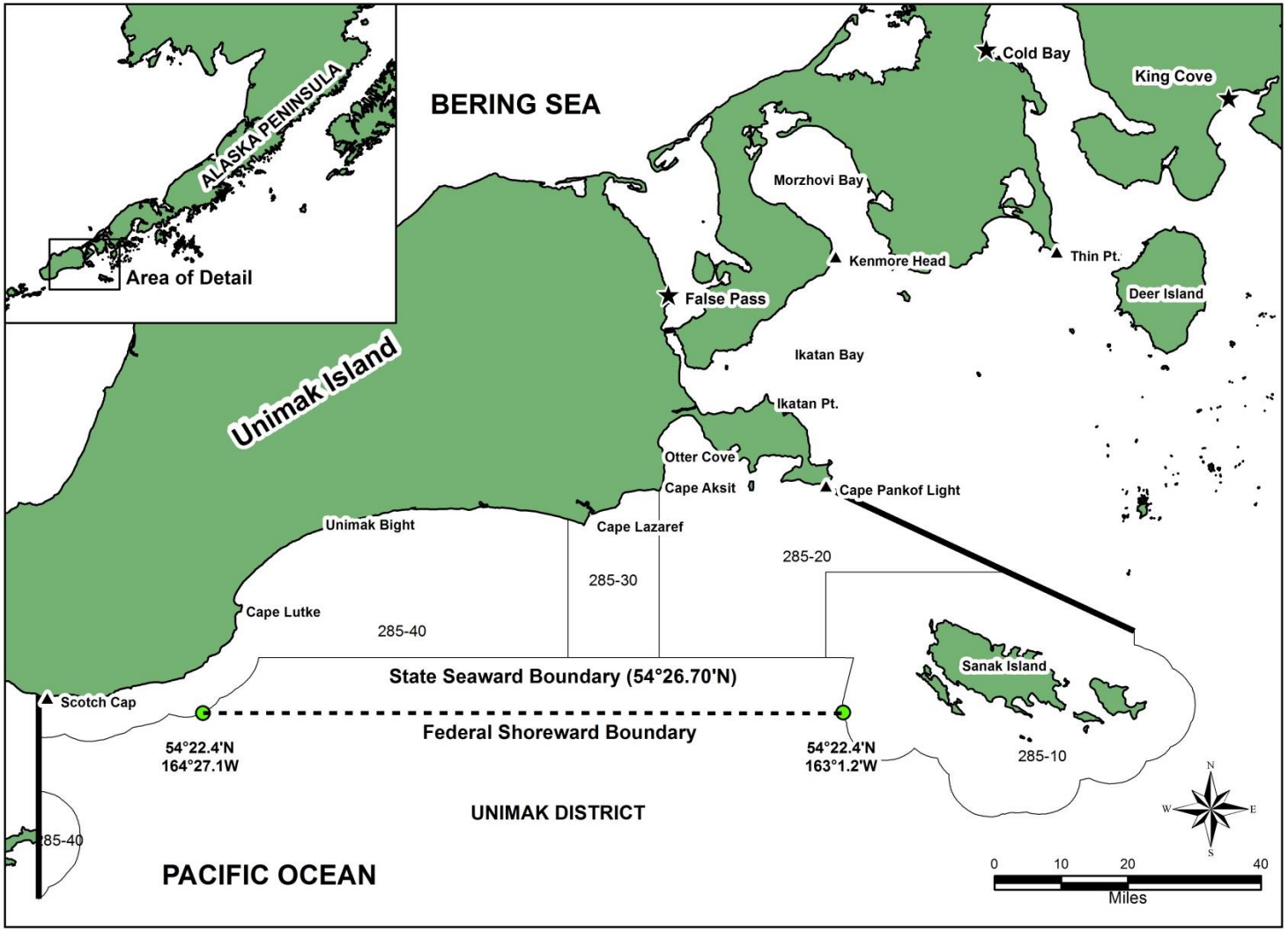

Figure 193-1.–Map depicting the State of Alaska's seaward boundary in comparison to the shoreward boundary from the Federal Salmon Management Plan (FMP) for the Unimak District.