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ALEUTIAN ISLANDS MANAGEMENT AREA
FOOD AND BAIT HERRING MANAGEMENT PLAN, 1995

By

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and

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INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide commercial herring fishers and buyers with management information and guidelines for participating in the Aleutian Islands Management Area food and bait herring fishery. This has become known as the "Dutch Harbor" herring fishery.

The Aleutian Islands Management Area is described as part of Management Area "M" and consists of Bering Sea waters extending west of Unimak Pass and Pacific Ocean waters extending west of 163°30' W.long. (the south side of Unimak Island near Cape Lazaref) to the International Dateline (Figure 1).

As a result of Alaska Board of Fisheries action during the November 1991 meeting, only the Aleutian Islands Management Area will be open to commercial food and bait herring fishing. South and North Peninsula food and bait herring were allocated to sac roe fisheries.

The "Dutch Harbor" food and bait fishery continues to be an open-to-entry fishery; occurring annually since 1981 (Tables 1 and 2; McCullough and Campbell 1995). During the 1990 and 1991 fishing seasons, the fishery was open less than one day each. In 1992, the fishery was open for five days. In 1993, the fishery was open less than one day and restricted to the Unalaska and Akutan Districts (Figures 2 and 3). The entire 1993 allocation was harvested in Unalaska Bay (Figure 4). During the 1994 fishing season, the fishery was open for four days. In 1994, there were ten fishing periods between July 16 and July 19 for a total fishing time of 17 hours and 20 minutes.

The commercial fisheries are intended to occur with minimal waste of the resource and within conservation limits as determined by the Alaska Board of Fisheries. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will manage the fisheries per the Bering Sea Herring Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC 27.060; ADF&G 1994). Permit holders are encouraged to check with their markets prior to fishing to determine which products are acceptable to the industry.

Local offices of the ADF&G for "Dutch Harbor" food and bait herring information are:

Sand Point:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 129
Sand Point, AK 99661

phone (907) 383-2066
fax (907) 383-2606
record (907) 383-2334
VHF 6 & 72
Single Side Band 3230

Dutch Harbor:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 308
Dutch Harbor, AK 99692

phone (907) 581-1239
fax (907) 581-1572
VHF 6
Single Side Band 4125

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Registration Requirements for Fishing Vessels, Tenders, and Processors

Each fishing vessel, CFEC permit holder, tender operator, and buyer must register at the ADF&G office in Sand Point or Dutch Harbor prior to catching, buying, tendering, or processing herring (Table 3). If registering in person causes undue inconvenience, other arrangements may be possible, but ADF&G personnel in Sand Point or Dutch Harbor must be contacted.

Fishing Periods

The department anticipates fishing periods will occur during hours of darkness and be no more than two hours in duration per period. A catch report from each CFEC permit holder and tender operator will be required after each fishing period, whether or not herring were taken, before the next fishing period will be announced. Usually 12 hours will be given between fishing periods, unless fishers and ADF&G agree during a closure to a shorter time period, to allow for accurate catch reports, transfer of herring to tenders, or fleet movement.

Catch Reporting

If monitoring of the "Dutch Harbor" food and bait fishery becomes impossible due to late catch reporting or excessive gear levels, stringent in-season measures will be taken to prevent excessive harvests. Such measures may include but will not be limited to frequent closures to assess fish ticket information, followed by at least a 24 hour closure before the next fishing period.

Failure to adhere to the reporting requirements specified on the tender and fishing vessel registration form will result in enforcement action. Timely and accurate catch information provided by the fishing fleet, tender operators, and processors is essential in managing this fishery. Fishers, tender operators, and processors are required to provide tallies of herring activity after each fishing period, even if no herring were caught or purchased. Permit holders must provide an accurate estimate of herring aboard the fishing vessel as well as an estimate of what may be in the fishing net. Tender operators must provide accurate estimates of herring onboard their vessel. Processors must provide accurate estimates of delivered herring. Individual codes will be provided for each permit holder, tender, or processor that is involved in the fishery. Catch reporting instructions will be explained in detail during vessel and processor registration.

Fish Tickets

Fishers must provide specific catch locations (statistical area or a specific landmark) to buyers, so that they can be recorded on fish tickets.

Fish tickets must, if mailed, arrive in the Sand Point ADF&G office within ten days of the close of the fishery or be hand delivered within ten days of the fishery closure to a Sand Point ADF&G employee. All fish tickets must be received in the Sand Point ADF&G office before completing operations and leaving Management Area M. If delivering fish tickets within ten days to ADF&G personnel in Sand Point causes undue inconvenience, other arrangements may be possible, but processors must contact ADF&G in Sand Point.

Gillnet And Seine Specifications (5 AAC 27.631 and 5 AAC 27.632 in part)

There are no restrictions during the food and bait herring season to gillnet length nor depth, however, no purse seine may be more than 250 fathoms in length.

Aircraft

There is no restriction on the use of aircraft.

Industry and ADF&G Cooperation

Fishers, tender operators, and processors are asked to cooperate when ADF&G personnel request herring samples from the commercial catch, or from juvenile or other schools inadvertently seined. These samples will be used to monitor age composition, which assists in determining the health of a stock and in forecasting next year's run strength. ADF&G will also be soliciting information on commercial herring sightings to supplement information gathered by ADF&G personnel. Fishers and spotter pilots are encouraged to provide biomass information to ADF&G; these reports will be treated confidentially. Past cooperation has been excellent and has proven valuable in evaluating stock status and gaining management information.

Aleutian Islands "Dutch Harbor" Commercial Food and Bait Fishery

The "Dutch Harbor" food and bait season is from July 16 through February 28. At the March, 1991 Board of Fish meeting, the Bering Sea Herring Fishery Management Plan was amended in regards to biomass threshold levels. The minimum threshold of herring estimated at Nelson Island was lowered to 2,000 short tons in order for the "Dutch Harbor" fishery to occur. ADF&G, was also instructed to develop a threshold level for Port Clarence. If any Bering Sea herring stock is below its threshold, the "Dutch Harbor" food and bait fishery will be closed for that season. ADF&G will not be able to determine until late-June or early-July if the "Dutch Harbor" food and bait fishery will occur because biomass estimates for each Bering Sea herring stock must be made in-season during the spawning period. Currently, the biomass of all stocks are forecast above their respective threshold levels (Hamner and Kerkvliet 1994). The Nelson Island District 1995 biomass forecast is 4,460 tons (C. Burkey, Alaska Department of Fish and

Game, Bethel, personal communication). This is above the 2,000 ton threshold required to open the "Dutch Harbor" food and bait fishery. Therefore, the outlook for a 1995 "Dutch Harbor" food and bait fishery is favorable. However, processors and fishers are advised that management of the 1995 fishery will be based on the observed spawning biomass in 1995 for each Bering Sea herring stock. ADF&G will update biomass estimates for each stock as herring move into coastal waters during spawning migrations.

In-season emergency orders will be broadcast on the single side band radio frequencies 4125 and 3230 Khz and on the VHF radio, channels 6 and 72. Other arrangements can be made with the local representative of ADF&G.

Harvest Projection For The 1995 Fishery

The estimated quota for the 1995 "Dutch Harbor" food and bait herring fishery is 1,982 tons (Table 4; K.A. Rowell, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage, personal communication). This number is derived using the Bering Sea Herring Management Plan (5 AAC 27.060) and the preseason projected 1995 Togiak herring spawning biomass of 149,093 tons. The actual quota will be established when the 1995 Togiak herring spawning biomass is determined.

Harvest Methods In 1995

From 1982 through 1991, an average of 8 permit holders participated in the "Dutch Harbor" food and bait herring fishery (Table 2). Since 1991, the average number of participants in this fishery has increased to about 13 permit holders. Due to the increased effort in this fishery ADF&G will implement the following changes to the "Dutch Harbor" food and bait herring fishery for the 1995 season to slow down the rate of harvest.

1. fishing restricted to hours of darkness,
2. fishing periods of two hours or less.

These are guidelines, and ADF&G personnel will remain flexible and make any in-season adjustments necessary to prosecute an orderly fishery.

LITERATURE CITED

- ADF&G (Alaska Department of Fish and Game). 1994. 1994-95 Commercial herring fishing regulations, 1994 edition. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Juneau.
- Hamner, H.H. and C. Kerkvliet. 1994. Pacific Herring Stocks and Fisheries in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region of the Bering Sea, Alaska, 1994. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 3A94-34, Anchorage.
- McCullough, J.N., and R.D. Campbell. 1995. Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Areas sac roe herring report and the Aleutian Islands Management Area food and bait herring report, 1994. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Division, Regional Information Report 4K95-2, Kodiak.

Table 1. Aleutian Islands "Dutch Harbor" area food and bait herring fisheries historical industry summary, 1929-94.

Year	Harvest In Short Tons	No. Processors	No. Permits	No. Landings	Tons Per Boat	Tons Per Landing	\$ Per Ton	\$ Value (Thousands)	\$ Per Vessel (Thousands)
1929	1,259	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1930	1,916	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1931	1,056	12	26	*	*	*	*	*	*
1932	2,510	12	30	*	*	*	*	*	*
1933	1,585	12	38	*	*	*	*	*	*
1934	1,533	9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1935	2,412	10	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1936	1,379	8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1937	579	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1938	513	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1939-44					NO FISHERY				
1945	75	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1946-80					NO FISHERY				
1981	704	a	a	16	352	44	300	211	a
1982	3,565	6	7	95	509	38	300	1,020	146
1983	3,567	5	8	96	446	37	232	828	104
1984	3,578	5	9	61	398	59	210	751	83
1985	3,480	3	6	78	560	45	162	564	94
1986	2,394	4	7	53	342	45	254	600	86
1987	2,503	4	8 ^b	45	373	56	300	751	94
1988	2,004	6	8 ^b	59	251	34	252	505	63
1989	3,081	5	9 ^b	69	342	45	283	873	97
1990	820	5	7	8	117	103	350	287	41
1991	1,325	5	8	18	166	74	300	398	50
1992	1,949	5	11	26	177	75	300	573	52
1993	2,790	4	13	32	215	87	300	837	64
1994	3,349	7	14	65	239	52	300	1,005	72
1929-38 Average	1,474	11	31	*	*	*	*	*	*
1984-93 Average	2,392	5	9	45	294	62	271	614	72

-Continued-

Table 1. (page 2 of 2)

* Data not available.

^a The number of processors, fishing vessels, and catch by gear type can not be released due to State confidentiality requirements.

^b The catch by gear type can not be released due to State confidentiality requirements.

Table 2. Aleutian Islands " Dutch Harbor" commercial food and bait herring catch, in short tons, 1981-94.

Year	Landing Date		Days Fished	Preseason Togiak Spawning Biomass	Harvest Quota	Food and Bait Harvest	% Togiak Spawning Biomass Harvested	Number Permit Holders Fishing
	First	Last						
1981	8/03	8/23	21	159,000	NONE	704	0.4	a
1982	8/05	9/12	39	98,000	NONE	3,565	3.6	6
1983	7/23	9/06	46	142,000	3,525 ^b	3,567	2.5	5
1984	7/17	7/27	11	115,000	3,525 ^b	3,578	3.1	5
1985	7/17	8/11	26	132,000	3,525 ^b	3,480	2.6	3
1986	7/16	7/28	13	96,000	2,453 ^c	2,394	2.5	4
1987	7/16	7/23	4 ^d	88,000	2,332 ^c	2,503	2.8	9
1988	7/16	9/18	21	132,000	3,100 ^e	2,004	1.6	8
1989	7/16	8/05	19 ^f	100,108	3,100 ^e	3,081	3.2	9
1990	8/15	8/15	<1	72,000	903 ^e	820	1.1	7
1991	7/17 ^g	7/17	<1	83,229	931 ^e	1,325	1.6	8
1992	7/16	7/28 ^h	5	60,214 ⁱ	1,940 ⁱ	1,949	1.3	11
1993	7/16	7/16	<1	164,135	2,193	2,790	1.7	13
1994	7/16	7/19	4	165,747 ^j	2,215 ^j	3,349	2.0	14
1984-93 Average			10	104,269	2,400	2,392	2.2	8

a Number can not be released due to state confidentiality requirements.

b Harvest ceiling of 3,525 established by Board of Fisheries.

c Harvest quota set by ADF&G. Reduced proportionate with the drop from the 1985 Togiak spawning biomass level.

d Closed 7/19, reopened for 14 hours on 7/23.

e Harvest quota set under provisions of the Bering Sea Herring Fisheries Management Plan.

f Closed 7/26, reopened 7/27 through 8/5.

g Fishery opened for six hours on 7/16; weather prevented any fishing effort.

h Fishery co-op after 7/16.

i The preseason forecasted biomass was adjusted by ADF&G. The final estimate for Togiak was 146,037 tons and the harvest quota was revised to 1,940 tons.

j The preseason forecasted biomass was adjusted by ADF&G (Kathy Rowell, personnel communication, May 25, 1994).

Table 3. Buyer and tender reporting requirements.

5 AAC 27.662 BUYER AND TENDER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

In addition to the requirements of 5 AAC 39.130(f) each tender operator and each buyer or his agents shall report in person to and register with a local representative of the department upon arrival in the statistical area before commencing operations and before changing location of the operation. Each buyer shall:

- (1) identify all vessels to be employed in transporting or processing herring and shall register such vessels with a local representative of the department located in the statistical area before transporting or processing of herring;
 - (2) make daily reports of all herring purchased from fishermen, and other processing records as specified by local representative of the department; and
 - (3) submit fish tickets before departure from the area and no later than 10 days after termination of buying operations in the area, or as otherwise specified by a local representative of the department.
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Table 4. Forecasted harvest allocation for Togiak sac roe and " Dutch Harbor" food and bait herring fisheries, 1995.

"Dutch Harbor" allocation

	Biomass (short tons)	Harvest (short tons)
Forecasted Total Biomass:	149,093	
Exploitation at maximum 20% for Total Allowable Harvest:		29,811
Togiak Spawn-on-kelp Fishery (Fixed Allocation):		1,500
Remaining Allowable Harvest:		28,311
Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Fishery at 7.0%:		1,982
Remaining Allowable Harvest for Togiak District Sac Roe Fishery:		26,329
Purse Seine Allocation 75.0%:		19,747
Gill Net Allocation 25.0%:		6,582

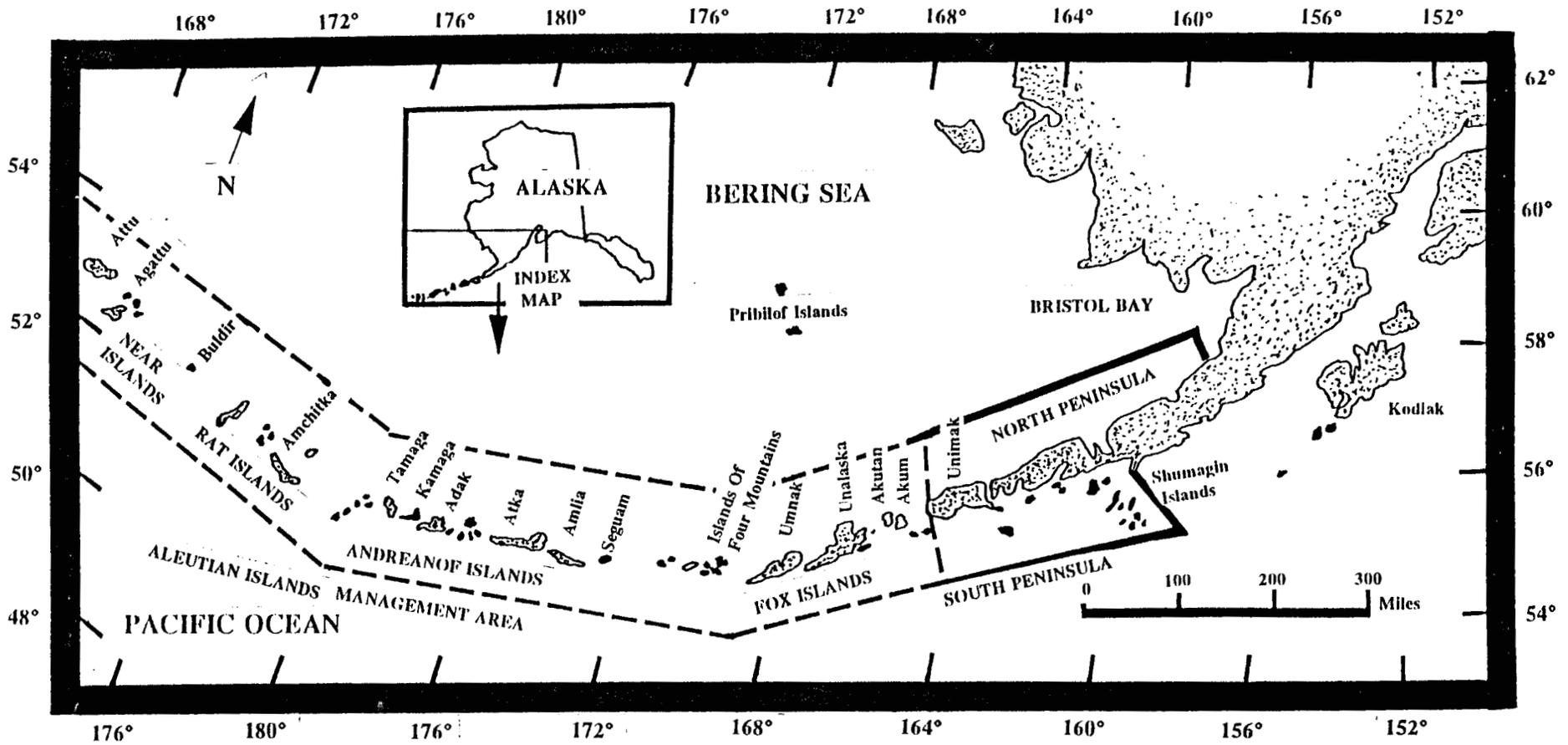


Figure 1. Map of Statistical Management Area M with the Aleutian Islands Management Area defined.

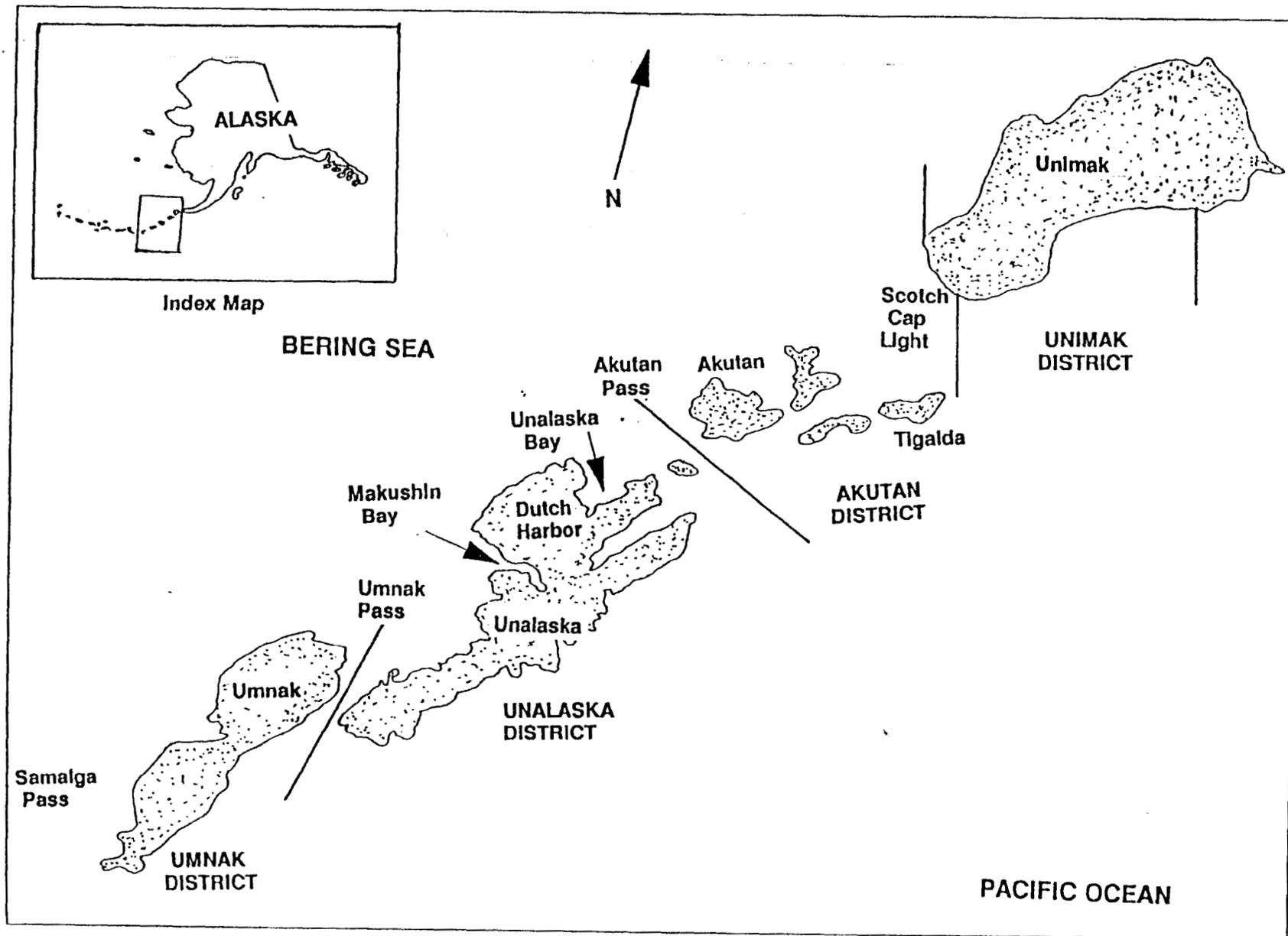


Figure 2. Map of the Eastern Aleutian Islands, the study area includes the Unimak, Akutan, and Unalaska Districts and that portion of the Umnak District east of Samalga Pass.

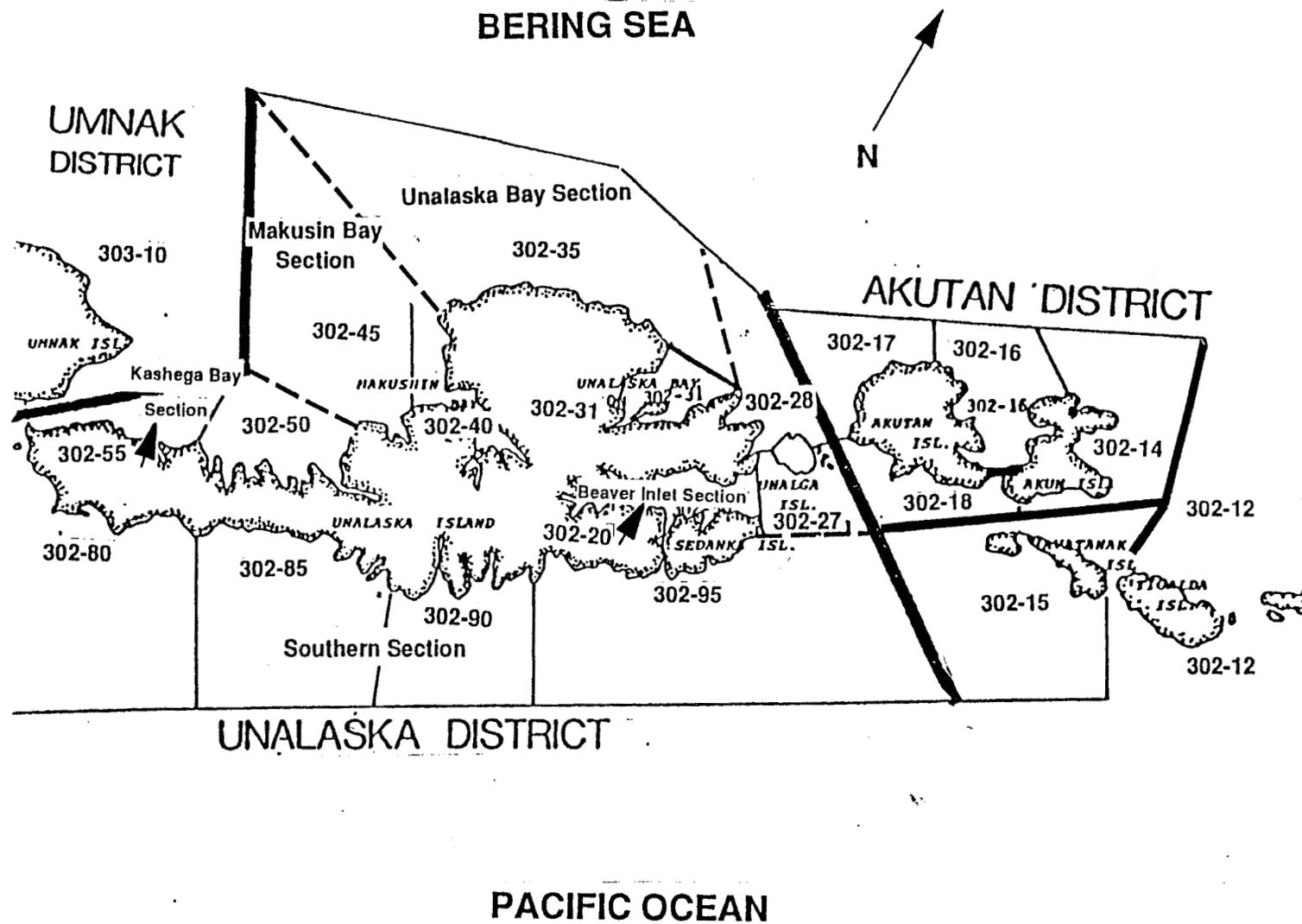


Figure 3. Map of Aleutian Islands Area from Tigalda Island to Umnak Island with the statistical herring fishing areas shown.

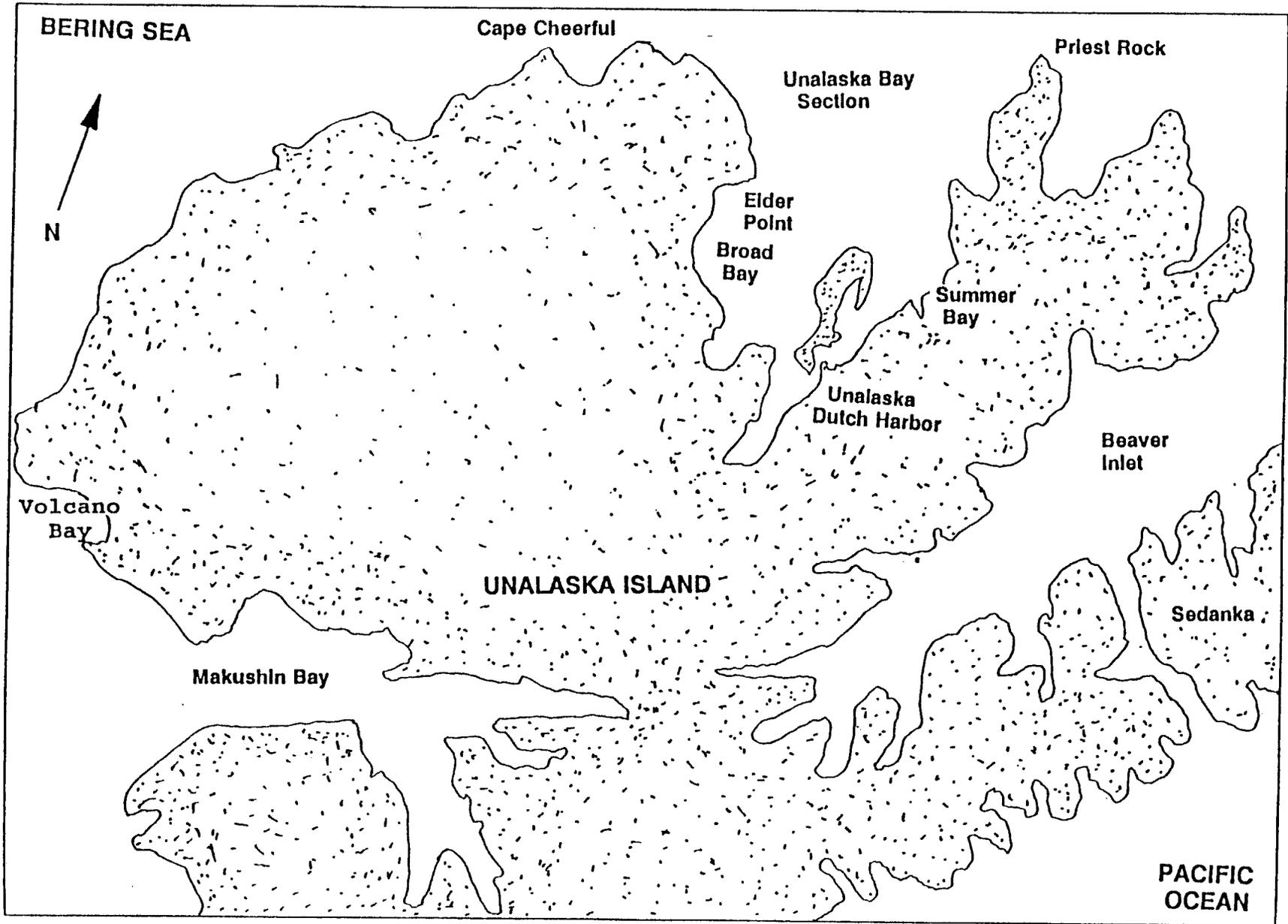


Figure 4. Map of Northern Unalaska Island with Unalaska Bay Section shown.

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