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POST JUNE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
THE SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA, 1996

By

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INTRODUCTION

The southern portion of the Alaska Peninsula (South Peninsula) consists of Pacific Ocean coastal waters extending west of Kupreanof Point to Scotch Cap on Unimak Island and consists of the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak Districts (Figure 1).

Prior to 1974, post June South Peninsula salmon fisheries were open five days per week, with total season closures on August 10 to provide adequate escapement and maintain product quality. From about 1976 to 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by emergency order based on local stock run strength. Fishing periods from July 6 to about July 18 were based on chum salmon run strength, and from July 18 through about August 20 on pink salmon run strength. Fishing continued into late August in years of strong pink runs. Migratory salmon were also harvested during these openings, and in some years contributed substantially to the total post June harvest. Fishing periods during September and October were based on coho salmon run strength (McCullough 1995). The Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) fishery was managed through July 25 on a separate management plan (5 AAC 09.360) based on an allocation of Chignik bound sockeye salmon (Campbell 1995).

In November 1991 the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) established the Post June Salmon Management Plan for the Southern Alaska Peninsula (Table 1). This plan allows for the harvest of local stocks through July 19 only in a few terminal areas and closes the remainder of the South Peninsula formerly open in post June fisheries. The BOF decision was based on the concept that local pink and chum salmon could be caught in terminal areas early in the season without sacrificing product quality, while at the same time allowing migratory salmon to pass through South Peninsula waters. After July 19, the BOF authorized the opening of traditional cape harvest areas to South Peninsula fishers. The BOF concluded that to maintain product quality, allow for available processing capacity, and not risk overharvesting escapement buildups, the traditional cape harvest areas would need to be open. In accordance with an Alaska State Superior Court order issued on July 10, 1992 by Judge Hopwood, an injunction was granted staying the enforcement of the Post June Salmon Management Plan for the Southern Alaska Peninsula (5 AAC 09.366). On March 2, 1993 Judge Hopwood granted summary judgement in favor of the BOF and this management plan was again in effect.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The South Peninsula post June fishery will be managed according to the Post June Salmon Management Plan for the Southern Alaska Peninsula as adopted by the BOF (Alaska Department of Fish and Game, ADF&G, 1992) during the November 1991 meeting (Table 1). Under this plan, commercial salmon fishing from July 1-19 will be restricted to terminal fishing areas. Fishing periods will be based on local stock run strength, and measured by harvest and escapement rates. These areas include Zachary Bay, Inner Pavlof Bay, and the Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections (Figures 2-4). All fishing periods will be regulated by emergency order.

From July 1-19, Zachary Bay and Inner Pavlof Bay will be managed on chum salmon run strength. Morzhovoi Bay and Thin Point Sections will be managed on sockeye salmon run strength. Due to an anticipated strong sockeye run to Thin Point Cove, closed waters in Thin Point Cove will be reduced (during fishing periods without minus tides) to include only those waters within 1,000 yards of the Thin Point lagoon terminus and to all waters within 500 yards of any other salmon stream emptying into Thin Point Cove. Fishing periods at Thin Point Cove during large minus tides will be avoided to prevent salmon from backing out of the lagoon and into the fishery. Both sockeye and chum salmon run strength will be considered in managing the Cold Bay Section. Fishing periods will initially be one day or less per week. If salmon runs are strong and effort levels are not too great, more fishing time may be allowed. The first post June fishing period will be on or shortly after July 6. Whenever possible, openings will coincide with fishing periods in the SEDM.

From July 20-August 31, the South Peninsula may open to commercial salmon fishing by emergency order. Fishing periods will be based on the strength of local pink, chum, and sockeye runs. The initial fishing period is anticipated to open on July 20, and should remain open for 2-3 days. The July 20 fishing period should provide sufficient data regarding pink salmon run strength and immature salmon concerns to justify subsequent fishing time. Whenever possible, openings in the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak Districts will be concurrent.

Beginning September 1, fishing periods will be based on coho run strength, although late pink and chum run strength will be considered when determining fishing periods. No attempt will be made to have concurrent openings between the Southeastern District and the remainder of the South Peninsula.

In an effort to accommodate enforcement activities, with minimum impact on legal fishing activities, the following general opening and closing schedule will be used^a:

Month	Starting Time	Closing Time
June	6:00 a.m.	10:00 p.m.
July	7:00 a.m.	9:00 p.m.
August	8:00 a.m.	9:00 p.m.
September	9:00 a.m.	8:00 p.m.
October	9:00 a.m.	8:00 p.m.

^a Circumstances may create changes in this fishing schedule.

HARVEST PROJECTIONS

The 1996 post June chinook harvest is projected to be approximately 5,000 salmon. This is greater than the 1986-95 average harvest of 3,733 salmon (Table 2). The 1996 post June sockeye salmon harvest is projected to be 500,000 salmon, which is below the 1986-95 average harvest of 616,047 salmon (Table 2). The 1996 post June coho salmon harvest is projected to be 300,000 salmon, while the 1986-95 average harvest was 312,909 salmon (Table 2). The 1996 post June pink salmon harvest is projected to be 7,000,000 salmon, which is similar to the 1986-95 average of 7,236,118 salmon (Table 2). The 1996 post June chum salmon harvest is projected to be 1,000,000 salmon, which is comparable to the 1986-95 average of 967,335 salmon (Table 2).

Table 3 lists the 1986-95 South Peninsula July 1-19 salmon harvest, minus the SEDM catch. Table 4 lists the 1986-95 catch by area in waters open during July 1-19. Table 5 lists the South Peninsula July 20-August 31, 1986-95 harvest, minus the SEDM catch from July 20-25. Table 6 lists the entire South Peninsula fall fisheries harvest, September 1 through the end of the season for 1986-95.

IMMATURE SALMON

The department will conduct a test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section prior to July 20 to assess the presence of immature salmon. Immature salmon are not anticipated to be a problem in the terminal fishing areas allowed to open from July 1-19. However, if large numbers of immature salmon are present in any area, either before or after July 19, such locations will be closed to purse seine gear until the number of immature salmon drops to an acceptable level. ADF&G has defined an acceptable harvest of immature salmon during normal purse seine fishing operations, at approximately 100 per set.

LITERATURE CITED

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- McCullough, J.N. 1995. South Alaska Peninsula Post June and Aleutian Islands Management Area Salmon Fisheries and Stock Status. Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, Winter 1995-96. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Division, Regional Information Report No. 4K95-51, Kodiak.
- Campbell, R.D. 1995. The Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Fishery of Area M. Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, Winter 1995-96. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Division, Regional Information Report No. 4K95-50, Kodiak.

Table 1. Post June salmon management plan for the Southern Alaska Peninsula.

5 AAC 09.366. POST JUNE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SOUTHERN ALASKA PENINSULA.

(a) The department may open the following areas to salmon fishing from July 20 through September 30:

(1) the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District, excluding all waters of Zachary Bay south of the latitude of 55° 22' 39" N. lat.

(2) the South Central District, excluding the Canoe Bay Section and all waters of the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections north of the latitude of Black Point (55° 24' 34" N. lat.);

(3) the Southwestern District, excluding the Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections, and the Unimak District;

(b) The department may open the following areas to salmon fishing from July 6 through September 30:

(1) in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District, all waters of Zachary Bay south of the latitude of 55° 22' 39" N. lat.

(2) in the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District, all waters north of the latitude of Black Point (55° 24' 34" N. lat.);

(3) the Canoe Bay Section of the South Central District;

(4) in the Southwestern District, the Cold Bay, Thin Point and Morzhovoi Bay Sections.

Table 2. South Peninsula July 1-End of the Season salmon harvest^a, (minus Southeastern District Mainland July 1-25 harvest), all gear combined, 1986-95 and the projected 1996 harvest.

Year	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1986	3,475	545,160	235,082	3,698,727	1,346,879
1987	3,881	410,755	224,543	1,189,211	911,414
1988	6,797	635,804	502,960	6,767,066	1,307,053
1989	4,106	825,372	440,171	6,879,878	531,759
1990	5,480	875,237	288,728	2,299,161	672,937
1991	2,423	465,874	311,825	9,952,671	788,955
1992	4,003	765,575	414,809	9,101,628	863,505
1993	3,524	497,933	209,816	9,765,709	504,894
1994	1,642	408,089	249,066	6,640,031	1,591,094
1995	2,000	730,670	252,089	16,067,096	1,154,861
Average 1986-95	3,733	616,047	312,909	7,236,118	967,335
Projected 1996	5,000	500,000	300,000	7,000,000	1,000,000

^a Harvest figures do not include test fish catches.

Table 3. South Peninsula July 1-19 salmon harvest^a, (minus Southeastern District Mainland July 1-19 harvest), all gear combined, 1986-95.

Year	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1986	2,579	286,124	82,857	150,290	291,727
1987	2,793	247,746	26,273	55,819	166,677
1988	3,896	271,502	52,624	101,318	289,125
1989	847	265,174	40,316	176,816	137,863
1990	3,534	292,505	35,393	80,312	246,935
1991	395	117,170	18,195	66,711	21,773
1992	895	279,293	46,873	150,952	123,259
1993	8	8,220	10	1,524	11,298
1994	15	26,477	348	2,449	1,550
1995	27	20,537	315	29,082	42,244
Average 1986-95	1,499	181,475	30,320	81,527	133,245
Average 1993-95	17	18,411	224	11,018	18,364

^a Harvest figures do not include test fish catches.

Table 4. South Peninsula July 1-19 salmon harvest, in areas currently open under the Post June Salmon Management Plan for the Southern Alaska Peninsula, 1986-95.

Area	Year	Number of Salmon				
		Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Zachary Bay	1986	1	1,052	8	118	9,127
	1987	4	486	38	10	563
	1988	137	1,707	502	482	11,088
	1989	0	835	49	327	103
	1990	11	666	71	188	8,382
	1991	0	160	0	0	50
	1992	0	280	0	24	8,333
	1993	0	0	0	178	5,762
	1994	0	0	0	0	0
	1995	6	287	91	6,444	8,902
	Average:		16	547	76	777
Pavlof-Canoe Bay	1986	108	60,668	4,390	21,942	69,567
	1987	99	45,413	4,170	5,022	50,863
	1988	172	36,348	10,982	7,523	114,925
	1989	85	52,953	11,204	10,014	40,120
	1990	383	136,405	10,727	30,635	44,941
	1991	87	14,179	1,859	29,558	4,500
	1992	48	26,492	1,697	10,774	21,979
	1993	3	5,249	10	1,226	5,419
	1994	1	14,500	14	1,721	559
	1995	9	13,273	52	20,692	29,578
	Average:		100	40,548	4,511	13,911
Cold Bay	1986	0	443	0	313	2,803
	1987	0	17	0	0	20
	1988	0	75	0	388	2,810
	1989	0	0	0	1,825	164
	1990	0	1,925	0	4	430
	1991	1	185	10	10	36
	1992	1	40	0	0	50
	1993	3	550	0	35	61
	1994	1	4,757	2	186	255
	1995	0	2,231	5	1,731	2,808
	Average:		1	822	2	449

-Continued-

Table 4. (page 2 of 2)

Area	Year	Number of Salmon				
		Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Thin Point	1986	0	4,856	0	0	0
	1987	0	1,000	0	0	0
	1988	0	0	0	0	0
	1989	0	0	0	0	0
	1990	0	0	0	0	0
	1991	0	0	0	0	0
	1992	0	0	0	0	0
	1993	1	2,328	0	60	20
	1994	1	4,535	0	117	67
	1995	0	1,495	0	52	103
	Average:	0	1,421	0	23	19
Morzhovoi Bay	1986	2	7,235	50	216	350
	1987	5	2,518	50	34	417
	1988	3	972	249	109	404
	1989	1	940	63	75	245
	1990	10	4,737	427	105	464
	1991	4	1,208	171	48	137
	1992	4	1,926	643	468	747
	1993	1	93	0	25	36
	1994	12	2,685	332	425	669
	1995	12	3,251	167	163	853
	Average:	5	2,557	215	167	432

Table 5. South Peninsula July 20-August 31 salmon harvest, (minus Southeastern District Mainland July 20-25 harvest), all gear combined, 1986-95^a.

Year	Number of Fish				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1986	894	255,577	145,907	3,547,919	1,052,633
1987	1,076	139,677	176,230	1,131,893	692,658
1988	2,897	339,667	423,839	6,603,458	998,583
1989	3,247	525,266	384,131	6,702,781	383,838
1990	1,939	515,590	230,017	2,218,265	352,807
1991	2,026	328,648	273,293	9,885,960	750,999
1992	3,050	473,167	332,613	8,949,151	736,760
1993	3,485	473,327	192,841	9,763,670	490,678
1994	1,609	356,131	212,155	6,637,288	1,375,370
1995	1,970	599,476	225,691	16,036,304	1,102,757
1986-95 avg.	2,219	400,653	259,672	7,147,669	793,708

^a Figures do not include salmon harvested in test fisheries.

Table 6. The entire South Peninsula salmon harvest, all gear combined, September 1 - End of the Season, 1986-95^a.

Year	Number of Fish				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1986	2	3,459	6,318	518	2,519
1987	12	23,332	22,040	1,499	52,079
1988	4	24,635	26,497	62,290	19,345
1989	12	34,932	15,724	281	10,058
1990	7	67,142	23,318	584	73,195
1991	2	20,056	20,337	0	16,183
1992	58	13,115	35,323	1,525	3,486
1993	31	16,386	16,965	515	2,918
1994	18	25,481	36,563	294	214,174
1995	3	110,657	26,083	1,710	9,860
1986-95 avg.	15	33,920	22,917	6,922	40,382

^a Figures do not include salmon harvested in test fisheries.

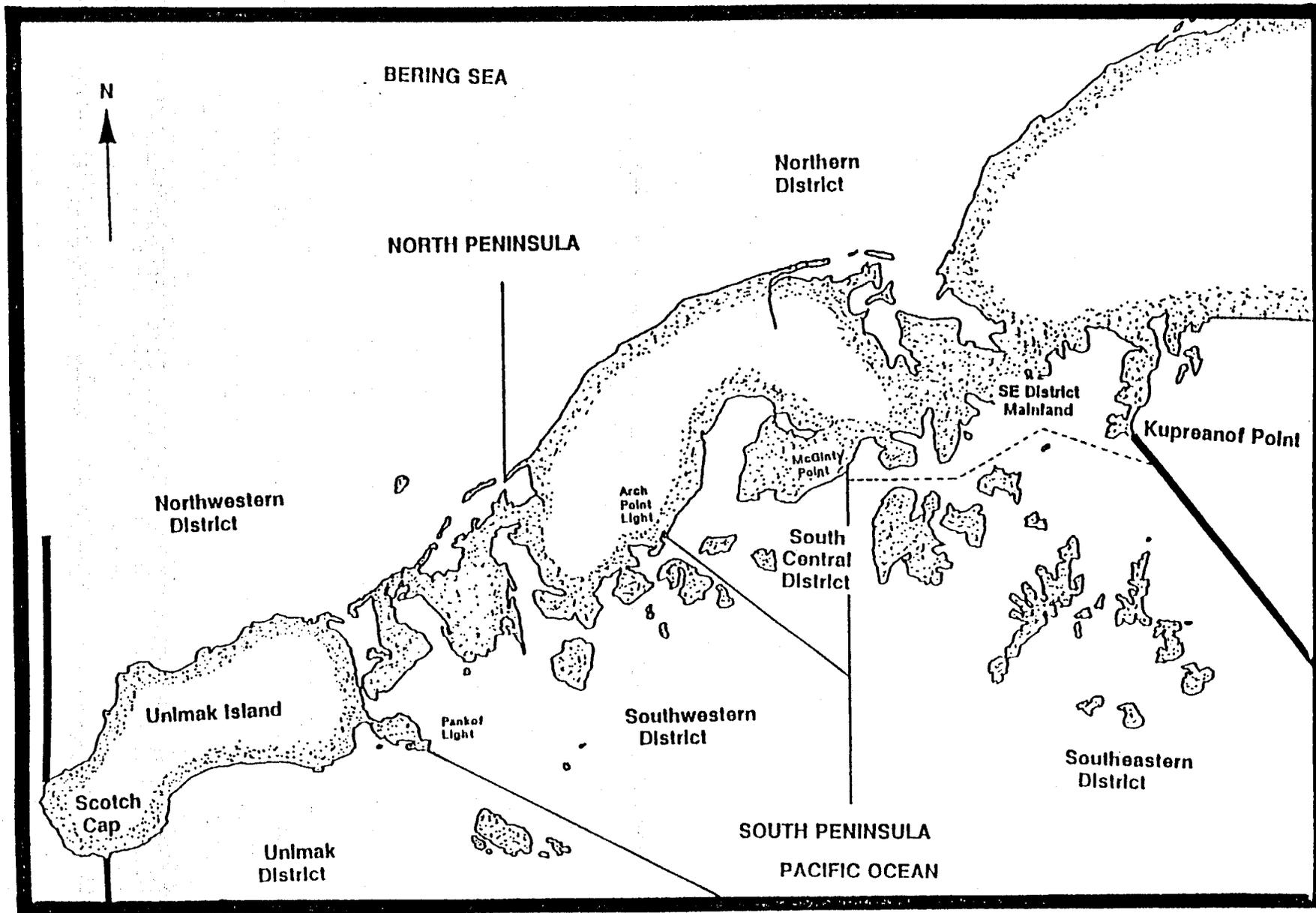


Figure 1. Map of the Alaska Peninsula Area from Kupreanof Point to Scotch Cap with the salmon fishing districts shown.

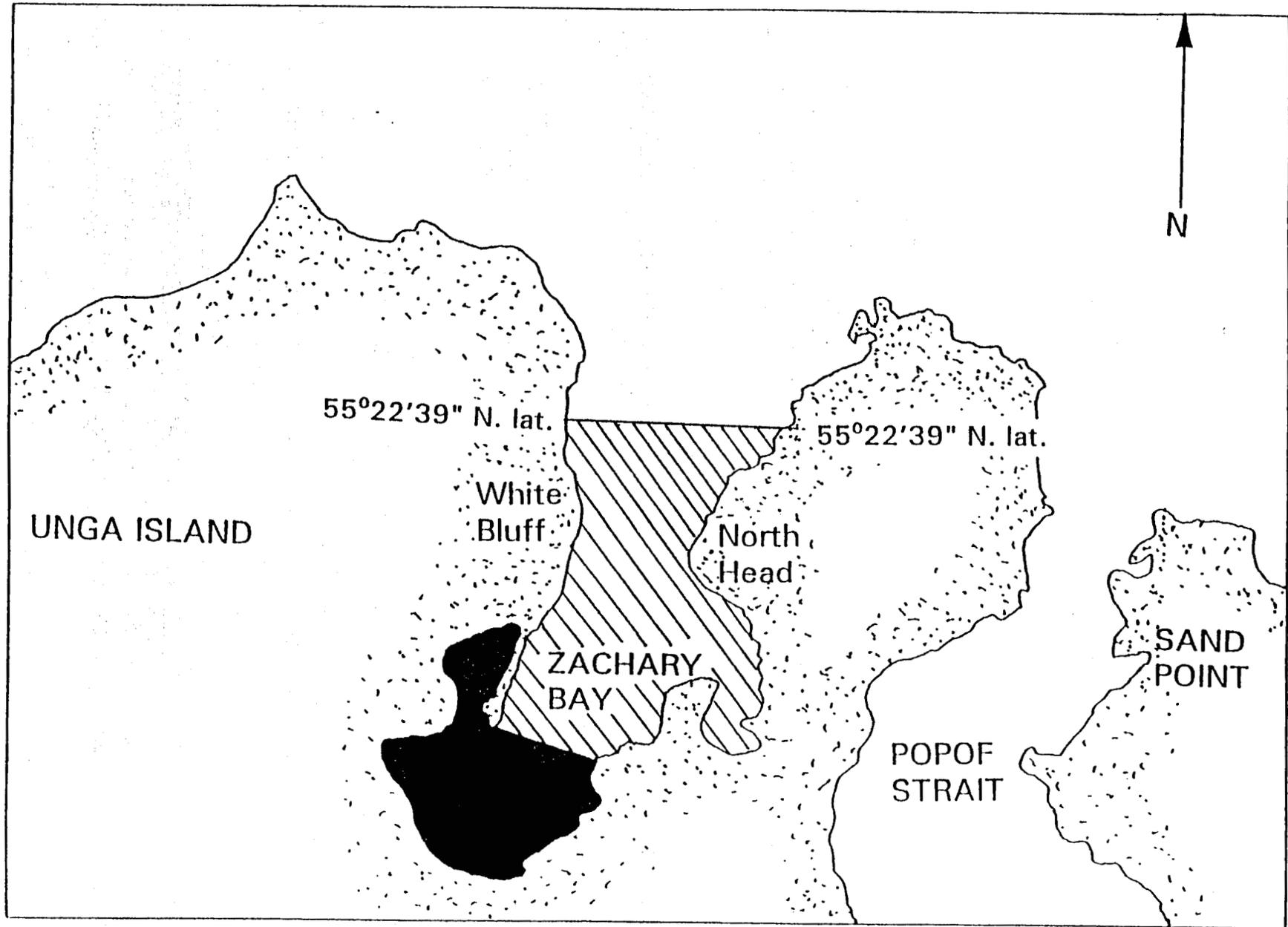


Figure 2. Map of Zachary Bay. In Zachary Bay the shaded area denotes normal closed waters, while the hashed area denotes the zone that may open to commercial salmon fishing from July 6 - September 30, south of a line at $55^{\circ}22'39''$ N. lat. See regulation book for official locations of boundaries.

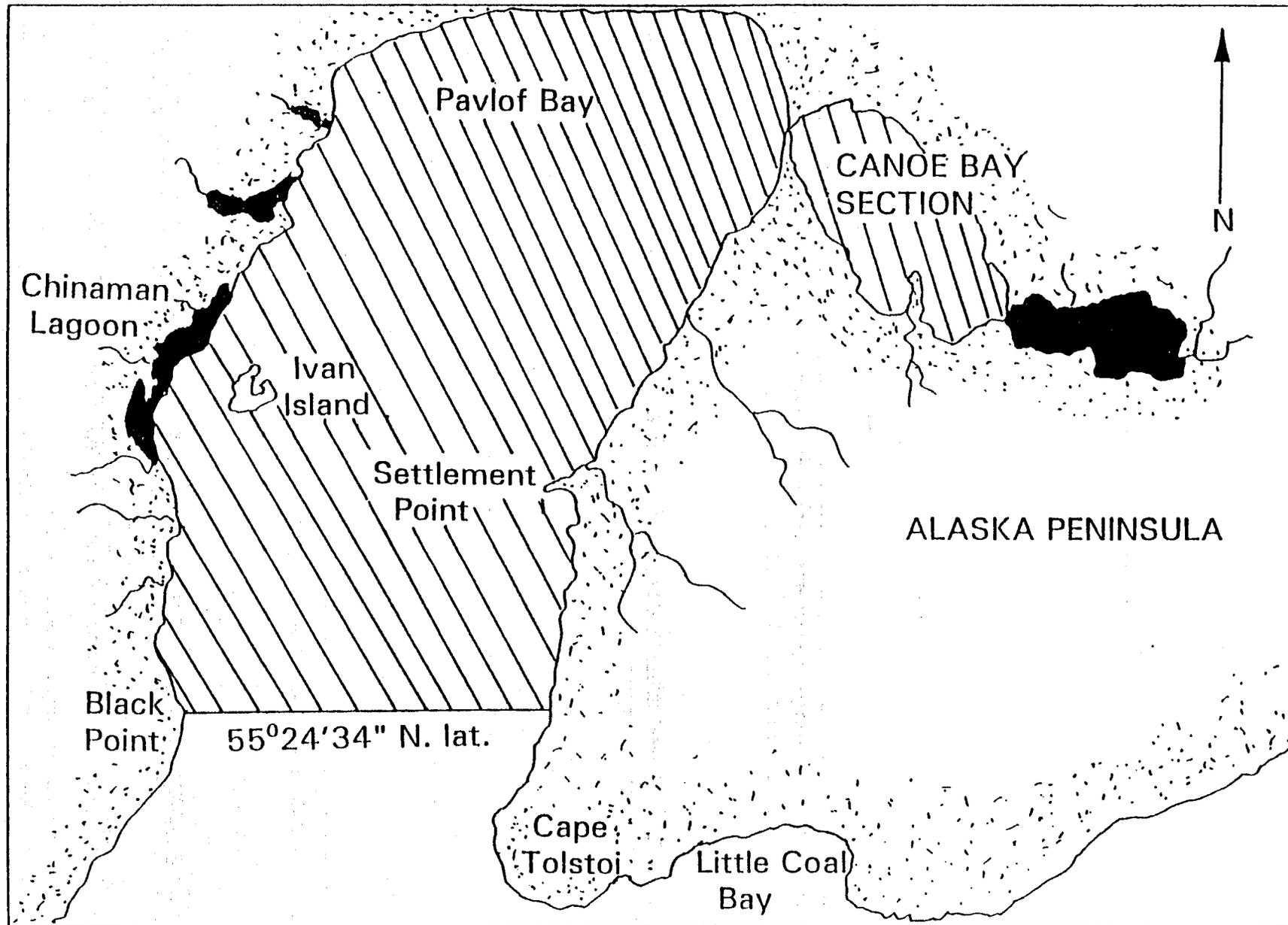


Figure 3. Map of Pavlof Bay and Canoe Bay Section. The shaded area denotes normal closed waters, while the hashed area denotes the area that may open to commercial salmon fishing from July 6 - September 30, north of a line at Black Point ($55^{\circ}24'34''$ N. lat.). See regulation book for official locations of boundaries.

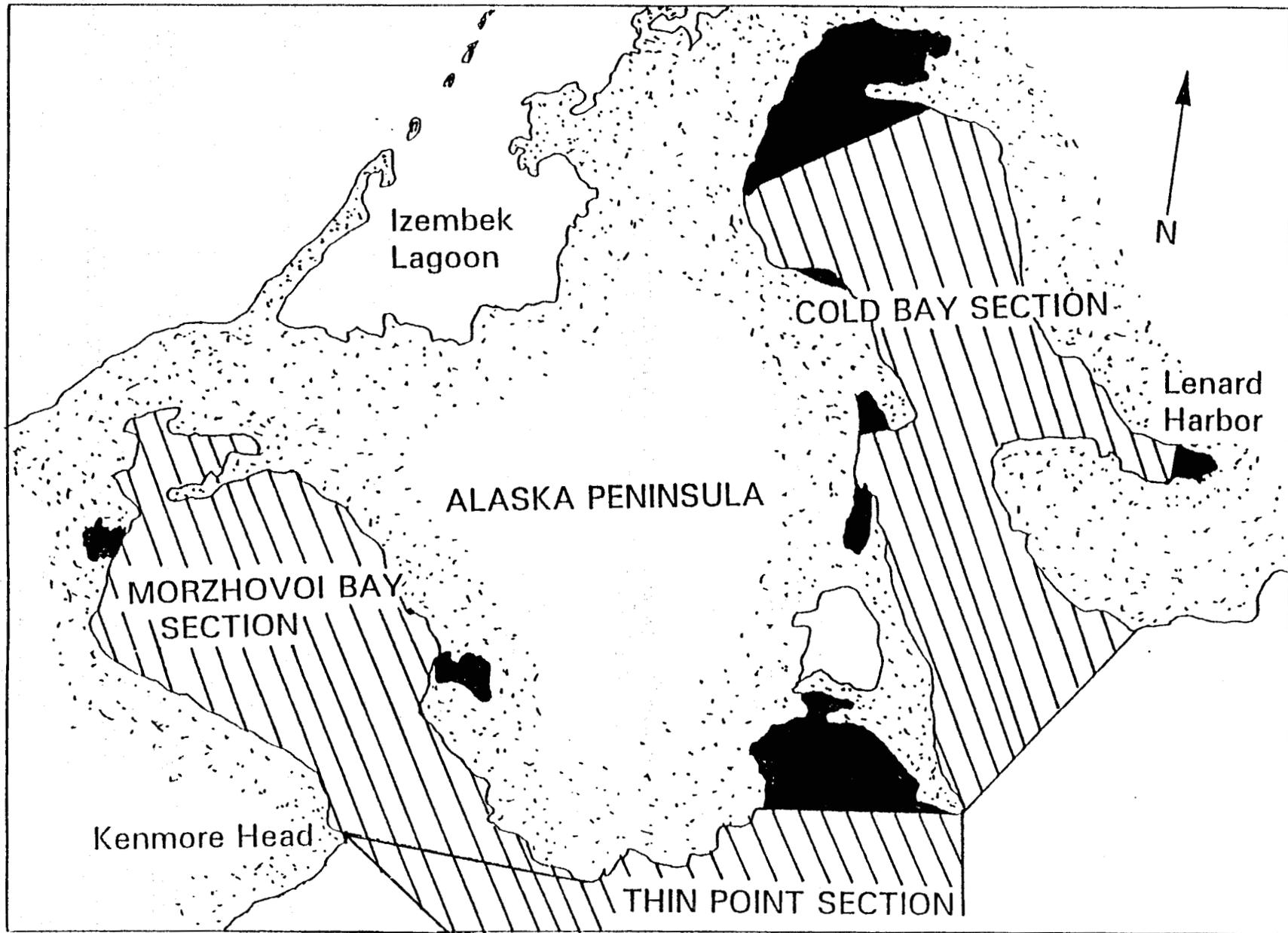


Figure 4. Map of Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections. The shaded area denotes normal closed waters, while the hashed area denotes the area that may open to commercial salmon fishing from July 6 - September 30. See regulation book for official locations of boundaries.

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