

NORTH ALASKA PENINSULA SALMON  
MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2003



By

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this document is to provide commercial salmon fishermen and buyers with information and guidelines that will be used by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage the commercial salmon fisheries of the North Alaska Peninsula during 2003. The 2003 projected North Peninsula salmon harvests are: 8,000 chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, 1,600,000 sockeye salmon *O. nerka*, 50,000 coho salmon *O. kisutch*, 10,000 pink salmon *O. gorbuscha*, and 80,000 chum salmon *O. keta*. The bulk of the salmon harvest is projected to occur in the area from Nelson Lagoon to Strogonof Point. The North Peninsula is predominantly fished by drift gillnet and set gillnet fleets, but in some locations purse seine gear is the predominant gear type. The four main sockeye salmon rivers with enumeration weirs are Nelson, Bear, Sandy, and Ilnik Rivers.

## INTRODUCTION

The North Peninsula, a portion of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area, consists of the Northern and Northwestern Districts and encompasses Bering Sea coastal waters from Cape Menshikof west to Cape Sarichef (Figure 1). The Northern District includes all waters between the westernmost tip of Cape Menshikof and the southernmost tip of Moffet Point, while the Northwestern District includes all waters between Moffet Point and Cape Sarichef on Unimak Island. Five species of salmon are commercially harvested on the North Peninsula: chinook *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, sockeye *O. nerka*, coho *O. kisutch*, pink *O. gorbuscha*, and chum salmon *O. keta*.

The Cinder River Section, Inner Port Heiden Section, and Ilnik Lagoon comprise an overlap area described under 5 AAC 39.120 (d) where both Area M (Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands) and Area T (Bristol Bay) permit holders may fish under certain conditions (ADF&G 2001). Area M permit holders may fish anytime during open fishing periods in all of the above locations. Area T permit holders may fish in the Cinder River and Inner Port Heiden Sections during May 1 through June 30, and during August 1 through September 30 during open fishing periods. Area T permit holders may also fish in Ilnik Lagoon in August and September during open fishing periods.

The projected 2003 sockeye salmon catch is approximately 1,600,000 million fish for the entire North Peninsula. The bulk of the projected 2003 sockeye salmon harvest is expected to occur in the area from Port Moller to Strogonof Point and in Nelson Lagoon. The 2003 harvest projections for species other than sockeye salmon are 8,000 chinook salmon, 50,000 coho salmon, 10,000 pink salmon, and 80,000 chum salmon. The 2003 Nelson River sockeye salmon total run is forecasted to be 518,000 fish (range 359,000-832,000 fish) with a forecasted harvest of 368,000 sockeye salmon, while the late Bear River (post July 31) sockeye salmon total run is forecasted to be 553,000 fish (range 314,000-997,000 fish) with a forecasted harvest of 453,000 sockeye salmon (Eggers 2003).

## GPS COORDINATES AND ENFORCEMENT

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Department of Public Safety use global positioning system (GPS) technology to identify districts, sections, closed waters, and regulatory fishing coordinates published in regulations or emergency orders. Fishermen may need to verify the latitude and longitude of their fishing sites using GPS technology and confirm their location in regards to regulatory boundaries, lines, and coordinates. It is not either agency's intent to displace fishing in traditional sites or change historical fishing areas. Any fisherman who believes they are being displaced by the use of GPS should contact ADF&G offices in Port Moller, Sand Point, or Cold Bay immediately. Emergency order authority may be used to accommodate traditional fishing locations.

## FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CATCH REPORTING

That portion of the Northern District from Herendeen Bay to Strogonof Point will be managed from the Port Moller office, while the remainder of the North Peninsula will be managed from the Cold Bay office. Contact can be made over VHF 72 (Port Moller) or VHF 6 (Cold Bay). Buyers may also phone or fax their information to:

**Port Moller:**

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game  
P.O. Box 163  
Port Moller, AK 99571-8999  
phone (907) 987-2216  
fax (907) 987-2215  
VHF 72, SSB 3.230 MHz

**Cold Bay:**

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game  
P.O. Box 50  
Cold Bay, AK 99571  
phone (907) 532-2419  
fax (907) 532-2470  
VHF 6, SSB 3.230 or 3.260 MHz

Inseason emergency orders and news releases will be made available to the industry and the public by at least one of the following methods:

1. Communicated directly to the local processors and fishermen.
2. Transmitted over one or more of the following frequencies: SSB 3.230 MHz and VHF 72 in Port Moller or VHF in Cold Bay.
3. News releases will be displayed at several places in Port Moller and at ADF&G offices in Cold Bay and Sand Point.

ADF&G will attempt to give a minimum of six hours advance notice of commercial fishing openings when established by emergency order. However, after the fleet is put on six hour advance notice of a potential opening, ADF&G may announce a two hour advance notice of a pending opening. All announcements of advance notice of fishing time will be made over VHF channel 72 and SSB 3.230 MHz at scheduled times, specified by staff in Port Moller.

Buyers must report their salmon purchases by species (in both numbers of fish and pounds), and number of deliveries by 9:00 AM the day after harvest to ADF&G. The Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan adopted by the Board of Fisheries (BOF) in January 1998 necessitates the accurate and timely reporting of harvests, especially if a fishery occurs from June 25 to July 4 in that portion of the Ilnik Section southwest of Unangashak Bluffs. Prompt and accurate reporting of fish harvested in this area (statistical area 316-20) is necessary to allow proper accounting of salmon harvested in the Ilnik Section southwest of Unangashak Bluffs prior to July 5. Timely oral reports by fishermen fishing in the Ilnik Section prior to July 5 is necessary for prosecution of the fishery. Further details are described later in this report under the Ilnik Section.

The buyer must complete fish tickets when purchasing salmon showing the statistical area where fish were harvested, which may be different than the area where the delivery occurred. Fish tickets must be sent to the appropriate ADF&G office in Cold Bay or Port Moller within seven days of the delivery (5 AAC 39.130; ADF&G 2001).

## **NORTH PENINSULA MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The North Peninsula salmon fisheries will be managed on the basis of catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) abundance indicators, test fish abundance, and escapement estimated by aerial surveys and weir counts. Scheduled weekly fishing periods during the open season are listed in the 2001-2004 Commercial Finfish Regulations (Table 1; ADF&G 2001). When possible, the management of North Peninsula fisheries will take into account processing requirements to maximize harvest opportunity while ensuring escapement needs.

### *Northwestern District*

#### **Dublin Bay Section**

Commercial salmon fishing periods will occur as scheduled in the 2001-2004 Commercial Finfish Regulations (Table 1).

#### **Urilia Bay Section**

The commercial fishing season in the Urilia Bay Section will be delayed by emergency order until June 24 to ensure meeting early season escapement objectives. Christianson Lagoon will be managed based on sockeye salmon abundance and Peterson Lagoon will be managed based on chum salmon abundance until September 1, when the entire Urilia Bay Section management will be based on coho salmon abundance.

#### **Swanson Lagoon Section**

Sockeye and chum salmon stocks will be managed based on abundance estimates until September when the Section will be managed based on local coho salmon aerial survey abundance and commercial CPUE data.

#### **Bechevin Bay Section**

The Bechevin Bay Section will open concurrently with the Ikatán Bay Section (part of the South Peninsula) during June. After June, the Bechevin Bay Section will be managed based on local chum and pink salmon stocks.

## **Izembek-Moffet Bay Section**

Chum salmon are the principal species found in this Section until September, when coho salmon are the dominant species. Management decisions will be based on aerial escapement surveys and CPUE data. If there is little or no market for chum salmon, and fishermen target local sockeye producing systems, then management will be based on sockeye salmon run strength to these systems.

### *Northern District*

## **Black Hills Section**

During June, the Black Hills Section will be managed for local chinook salmon stocks. Management during July and early August will be based on the abundance of local sockeye salmon runs in the Black Hills Section. During late August and September, the Black Hills Section will be managed based on local coho salmon abundance and harvest effort.

## **Nelson Lagoon Section**

The sockeye salmon escapement goal range for the Nelson (Sapsuk) River system is 100,000 - 150,000 fish (Nelson and Lloyd 2001).

### **Nelson River Weir Sockeye Salmon Escapement Goals**

Date	Escapement for Period Ending	Cumulative Escapement Goal
June 30	20,000 – 30,000	20,000 – 30,000
July 5	20,000 – 30,000	40,000 – 60,000
July 10	25,000 – 40,000	65,000 – 100,000
July 15	20,000 – 25,000	85,000 – 125,000
July 20	5,000 – 15,000	90,000 – 140,000
July 25	5,000	95,000 – 145,000
July 30	5,000	100,000 – 150,000
Season Total		100,000 – 150,000

The Nelson Lagoon fishery will be managed based on interim escapement objectives at the Nelson River weir, Nelson Lagoon commercial catches, and aerial surveys. Total daily harvest of sockeye salmon will also be used to evaluate run strength because travel time between the fishery and weir can be as long as seven days.

Escapement goals may be increased if escapement quality is poor because of a high percentage of net marked fish, large percentage of jack salmon, or a low female to male sex ratio. The number of jack

sockeye salmon (age .1) and net marked fish in the Nelson River escapement is an important consideration in evaluating escapement quality. If the number of jack salmon or net marked sockeye salmon is excessively high, the escapement goal may be raised to compensate for the imbalance. The estimated number of female sockeye salmon in the escapement should exceed 50,000 fish.

To provide adequate escapement for chinook salmon in Nelson Lagoon, fishing periods through June 15 are limited to 6:00 AM Monday to 12:00 MIDNIGHT Wednesday. From June 16 – 30 it is anticipated that four fishing days will be allowed each week. Additional time will be allowed if daily sockeye salmon catches are large or cumulative weir counts exceed interim objectives. However, if it is evident in June that the sockeye or chinook salmon runs are weak, then the number of fishing days will be reduced. The amount of chinook salmon fishing gear used in the fishery will be considered when evaluating sockeye salmon catches. The escapement goal range for chinook salmon in the Nelson River system is 3,200-6,400 fish (Nelson and Lloyd 2001).

During July, fishing time will be dependent upon sockeye salmon cumulative escapement in relation to the interim escapement objectives and daily catches. If escapements past the Nelson River weir cannot be determined, then daily catch rates (primarily) and daily catch per boat (secondarily) will be used to evaluate the strength of the run and to establish appropriate fishing periods.

Beginning August 15, the Nelson Lagoon fishery is managed based on coho salmon run strength. No more than three fishing days will be allowed per week unless coho escapements exceed escapement goals.

### **Herendeen-Moller Bay Section**

The Herendeen and Port Moller Bay fisheries will be managed based on the abundance of chum and pink salmon stocks. Pink salmon that enter Herendeen Bay (especially during even years) will be harvested in openings established by emergency order after July 20 if abundance warrants and harvest can occur without jeopardizing local chum salmon stocks. Management decisions will be based on escapement aerial surveys and catch information.

### **Port Moller Bight Section**

The Port Moller Bight Section will be managed based on the status of Bear River sockeye salmon escapement and fishery openings and closures will be the same as in the Bear River Section.

### **Bear River and Three Hills Sections**

The Bear River sockeye salmon escapement goal ranges are divided into nine segments to ensure that all components of the Bear River runs receive adequate escapement. The cumulative Bear River season escapement goal, through August 25, is 200,000 - 250,000 sockeye (Nelson and Lloyd 2001). The upper escapement objectives for all periods, including the total season cumulative goal will be targeted.

## Bear River Sockeye Salmon Escapement Goals

Date	Escapement for Period Ending	Cumulative Escapement Goal
<b><i>Early-Run Component:</i></b>		
June 15	3,000 - 5,000	3,000 - 5,000
June 20	7,000 - 10,000	10,000 - 15,000
June 25	10,000 - 15,000	20,000 - 30,000
June 30	20,000 - 30,000	40,000 - 60,000
July 5	20,000 - 30,000	70,000 - 80,000
July 10	20,000 - 30,000	90,000 - 110,000
July 15 <sup>a</sup>	15,000 - 20,000	110,000 - 125,000
July 16 - August 5 (Overlap)	40,000 - 50,000	150,000 - 175,000
<b><i>Late-Run Component:</i></b>		
Post August 5	50,000 - 75,000 <sup>b</sup>	200,000 - 250,000
<b>Season Total</b>		200,000 - 250,000

<sup>a</sup> Escapement that occurs in excess of the upper interim escapement objective (20,000 fish) for the July 11-15 period, will be applied to the July 16-August 5 escapement goal. However, no more than 10,000 fish shall be applied to the July 16-August 5 period. This will aid the ADF&G in effective management of Bear River sockeye salmon runs when the run is earlier than expected.

<sup>b</sup> Escapement occurring during the August 1-5 period that results in the total escapement to exceed the 50,000 fish upper escapement objective range for the July 16-August 5 period (40,000 to 50,000), will be applied to the late run escapement goal (post August 5). However, no more than 15,000 fish shall be applied to the post August 5 goal. This will aid the ADF&G in managing the Bear River sockeye salmon runs more effectively when the run is earlier than expected.

If one of the interim escapement objectives (listed above) is not achieved, fishing in the Bear River and Three Hills Sections will be curtailed to the extent necessary to reach the cumulative escapement objectives.

The number of jack (length < 400 mm mid eye to fork of tail or age .1) and net marked sockeye salmon in the Bear River escapement is important when evaluating escapement quality. Typically, the number of jack salmon is less than 10%. If the number of jack salmon on a daily basis is above 10%, as determined by the ADF&G weir crew, the escapement objective may be raised to compensate for the reduction in reproductive potential. If the number of net marked salmon becomes excessive, the escapement objectives may be increased to preserve escapement quality.

The Sandy River sockeye salmon annual escapement goal is 40,000 - 60,000 fish (Nelson and Lloyd 2001) and is estimated by using weir counts. If weir counts are unavailable due to difficulties with the weir such as washout, aerial survey data will be used to estimate the escapement and manage the fisheries.

## Sandy River Sockeye Salmon Escapement Goals

Date	Escapement for Period Ending	Cumulative Escapement Goal
June 20	2,000 - 3,000	2,000 - 3,000
June 25	3,000 - 5,000	5,000 - 8,000
June 30	8,000 - 12,000	13,000 - 20,000
July 5	10,000 - 15,000	23,000 - 35,000
July 10	7,000 - 10,000	30,000 - 45,000
July 15	5,000	35,000 - 50,000
July 20	1,000 - 5,000	36,000 - 55,000
July 25	4,000 - 5,000	40,000 - 60,000
Season Total		40,000 - 60,000

Prior to July 21, the Three Hills Section will be managed based on Bear, Sandy, and Ilnik Rivers sockeye salmon abundance. If escapement objectives in Bear or Sandy Rivers are not being met, a portion of the Bear River Section may be closed while the Three Hills Section may remain open. This strategy has been used successfully in the past to allow for the achievement of escapement objectives while providing fishing opportunity and avoiding escapement surplus. If escapement into Ilnik and/or Ocean River (if Ocean River flows directly into the Bering Sea) are inadequate and area closures in the Ilnik Section are not effective, the eastern portion of the Three Hills Section may be closed to provide additional protection for fish needed for escapement.

### Sockeye Salmon Stocks Used to Manage Four Sections in the Northern District

Section	Sockeye Salmon Stocks	
	Pre July 21	Post July 20
Bear R.	Bear R., Sandy R.	Bear R., Sandy R.
Three Hills	Bear R., Sandy R., Ilnik R.	Bear R., Sandy R.
Ilnik	Ilnik R., Bear R. <sup>a</sup> , Ugashik R. <sup>a</sup>	Bear R.
Nelson Lagoon	Nelson R.	Nelson R.

<sup>a</sup> Bear and Ugashik Rivers sockeye salmon will be considered only if a management concern exists.

During the chinook salmon run in June to the King Salmon, Bear, and Sandy Rivers, management decisions regarding sockeye salmon may be conservative to protect these stocks. In August and September, management actions in the Three Hills Section will consider Ilnik Lagoon coho salmon stocks.

## **Ilnik Section**

Prior to July 20, the Ilnik Section (Figure 2), including the area outside of Ilnik Lagoon, will be managed primarily for Ilnik sockeye salmon stocks unless a management concern exists for Bear or Ugashik River stocks. That portion of the Ilnik Section southwest of Unangashak Bluffs (excluding Ilnik Lagoon which opens May 1) will open to commercial salmon fishing between June 25 and July 4 if the escapement into Ilnik River on June 25 is 50% of the season ending lower goal (20,000 sockeye salmon) or if the minimum season ending goal (40,000 sockeye) is expected to be met by July 5. If either of these two criteria are expected to be met, fishing will be permitted southwest of Unangashak Bluffs between June 25 and July 4. Fishing periods will be no more than 24 hours in duration with at least a 24-hour closure between periods and the sockeye salmon harvest during this period will not exceed 100,000 fish.

The initial fishing period will be eight hours in duration to assess the abundance of sockeye salmon in the area. Fishing periods will be extended beyond the initial eight-hour period (not to exceed 24 hours of continuous fishing) if escapement warrants and the harvest is not expected to exceed 100,000 sockeye salmon. The fishing fleet and industry are encouraged to call the ADF&G Port Moller office (VHF 72, SSB 3.230 MHz, phone 907-987-2216, or fax 907-987-2215) or contact the ADF&G Ilnik River weir site (VHF 72) during the initial eight-hour period to report harvest information so that the sockeye salmon abundance can be assessed in a timely manner. If adequate reports are not received, the fishing period will close after eight hours to assess the total sockeye salmon harvest and will remain closed, by regulation, for at least 24 hours.

The intent of the management plan is to harvest Ilnik River bound sockeye salmon throughout the June 25-July 4 period when escapements are strong, and not to exceed the harvest cap of 100,000 sockeye salmon. The cap of 100,000 sockeye salmon was adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries based on the average sockeye salmon harvest northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point during July 15-25, 1990-97 of 117,000 fish. This cap is not considered a guideline harvest that will always be attained, but the upper harvest limit if the Ilnik River escapement goals are assured.

If fishing occurs southwest of Unangashak Bluffs (excluding Ilnik Lagoon) prior to July 5, then that portion of the Ilnik Section northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point will not open to commercial salmon fishing until July 25. If fishing southwest of Unangashak Bluffs (excluding Ilnik Lagoon) does not occur between June 25 and July 4, the area northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point may open on July 15.

Management action based on Bear River sockeye salmon run strength will be considered in the Ilnik Section if the Bear River run is not meeting escapement objectives after closures in the Bear River and Three Hills Sections. Prior to July 21, management action will also be taken in the Ilnik Section if management actions are taken in the Egegik District to protect Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks by moving the district lines to reduce the Ugashik River sockeye salmon harvest. If Bear and Ugashik Rivers' sockeye salmon runs are expected to meet escapement objectives prior to July 21, fishing time in the Ilnik Section will be based on abundance of Ilnik River sockeye stocks. If daily escapement counts are not exceptionally strong at Bear and Ilnik Rivers, and the Sandy River system is lagging far

behind interim escapement objectives even after large closures in the Bear River and Three Hills Sections, then management actions may be taken in the Ilnik Section for Sandy, Ilnik, or Bear River sockeye salmon. From July 20 to August 15, the Ilnik Section will be managed for Bear River sockeye stock abundance.

**Ilnik River Sockeye Salmon Escapement Goals  
If Ocean River Flows Into Ilnik Lake**

Date	Escapement for Period Ending	Cumulative Escapement Goal
June 15	4,000 - 6,000	4,000 - 6,000
June 25	4,000 - 6,000	8,000 - 12,000
July 1	8,000 - 12,000	16,000 - 24,000
July 4	10,000 - 12,000	26,000 - 36,000
July 7	6,000 - 12,000	32,000 - 48,000
July 11	4,000 - 6,000	36,000 - 54,000
July 20	4,000 - 6,000	40,000 - 60,000
Season Total		40,000 - 60,000

If weir counts are unavailable, estimates for those days will be obtained by using Ilnik Lagoon commercial salmon harvest rates, aerial surveys, pre and post washout weir counts, or a combination of these methods.

A sockeye salmon escapement goal for the Ocean River was based on aerial surveys when the river flowed directly into the Bering Sea (not through Ilnik Lake) in 1972-75, 1986, and 1987. When this occurred, many of the fish bound for Ocean River did not pass through the Ilnik River, and therefore would not pass the weir. For the years noted above, an average of 20% of the Ilnik River system escapement spawned in Ocean River. If Ocean River flows directly into the Bering Sea, the Ocean River escapement goal will be subtracted from the Ilnik River escapement goal. Because of the proximity of the Ocean River terminus to the Three Hills Section, management actions in the Three Hills Section will be instituted, if needed, to meet escapement objectives in Ocean River.

**Ocean River Sockeye Salmon Escapement Goals  
(Only Needed If Ocean River Flows Directly Into the Bering Sea)**

Date	Cumulative Number Aerial Survey
June 15	800 - 1,200
June 25	1,600 - 2,400
July 1	3,200 - 4,800
July 4	4,000 - 6,000
July 7	6,400 - 9,600
July 11	7,200 - 10,800
July 20	8,000 - 12,000
Season Total	8,000 - 12,000

From August 15 through September 30, the Ilnik Section will be managed based on Ilnik Lagoon coho salmon run strength. The strength of Unangashak and Ilnik Rivers coho salmon runs, and the amount and distribution of fishing effort will determine fishing time in the Ilnik Section.

### **Inner Port Heiden and Cinder River Sections**

The Inner Port Heiden and Cinder River Sections will be managed on the basis of chinook salmon abundance during May and June, sockeye salmon abundance during July, and coho salmon abundance after July. Area T permit holders may fish in the open waters of these sections during every month except July. Area M permit holders are allowed to fish in the open waters of these sections during May through September. The fishing season in that portion of the Cinder River Section outside of Shagong (Cinder River Lagoon) cannot open earlier than August 1. Fishermen in the Cinder River Section are reminded that the following waters are closed to commercial salmon fishing under 5 AAC 09.350 (ADF&G 2001):

- 1) Cape Menshikof: all waters of the Cinder River Section located north of a line extending 304° from 57° 24.40' N lat. 158° 03.00' W long.
- 2) Cinder River Lagoon: all waters enclosed by a line from 57° 20.00' N lat., 158° 08.02' W long., to 57° 21.30' N lat., 158° 02.63' W long.

### ***Bear River Test Fishery***

During the 2003 season, the ADF&G may implement a test fishery in the vicinity of Bear River to assess the marine abundance of sockeye salmon. The main objective of the test fishery is to reduce the potential for large surplus escapements into Bear River, thus maximizing the harvest of surplus salmon and decreasing the likelihood of exceeding the Bear River escapement goal. The test fishery will occur during commercial fishing closures after a build-up of fish would be expected (usually 3-5 days after a closure). ADF&G management staff in Port Moller will assess the sockeye salmon abundance after each test fishery. Management decisions will incorporate all information available including; daily catch rates prior to the fishery closure, aerial survey observations, daily escapement estimates, and test fishery results. If salmon buildups occur in the test fishery area, management actions can include opening the commercial fishery to provide harvest opportunities while providing a closed water area to protect milling Bear River bound sockeye salmon. In the past, the ADF&G has closed areas around Bear River to ensure escapement requirements were achieved while providing a harvest opportunity outside the closed area.

The ADF&G will establish and maintain a list of skippers wishing to participate in the test fishery program prior to the first test fish charter vessel. Enrollment will begin on May 15 and continue until the first test fishing date. Enrollment can be completed in person or by phone. All eligible names will be randomly chosen and a sequential list of charter vessels will be announced over the VHF radio and kept available at the ADF&G office in Port Moller. The sequential list will be maintained throughout the season. If a vessel is unavailable to participate in the test fishery (permit holder cannot be contacted

prior to 6:00 PM the day before the test fishery), the vessel will be moved to the bottom of the list and the next vessel on the list will be announced. Additional permit holders may enroll after the initial enrollment and drawing if additional test fish vessels are needed. However, these vessels will be placed at the end of the established list, in the order in which their enrollments are received. The skipper of the vessel must have at least five fishing seasons of experience drift gillnet salmon fishing in the vicinity of Bear River, and each vessel must be able to chill (RSW) the catch.

Two chartered vessels will depart Port Moller in the morning of each test fishing day, and the vessel skippers will supply all the gear necessary to make four sets at selected locations around Bear River. One vessel will fish north of the river mouth, and the other south of the river mouth. One ADF&G observer will be on board each vessel. The department will pay \$1,000 per day to charter each vessel. Proceeds from the sale of fish harvested in the ADF&G test fishery will be deposited in the ADF&G test fish fund to cover test fish expenses, including ADF&G staff and gear, along with sampling catch for age, length, and sex data. Each vessel must meet requirements specified by the ADF&G as stated in the North Alaska Peninsula Sockeye Salmon Test Fishery Operational Plan 2003 (Murphy *in press*), where more specifics about the entire program can be obtained.

Biological samples, such as age, length, and sex data will be collected from the test fish catch as specified in the Standard Operating Catch Sampling Plan (Murphy *in press*).

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Table 1. Scheduled North Peninsula fishing periods as described in the 2001-2004 regulation book.

Section	Open Season	Fishing Period
Cinder River, outside Cinder River Lagoon.	August 1 - September 30	6:00 am Monday to 6:00 pm Wednesday
Cinder River, inside Cinder River Lagoon	May 1 - September 30	6:00 am Monday to 6:00 pm Wednesday
Outer Port Heiden	No open season	
Inner Port Heiden	May 1 - September 30	6:00 am Monday to 6:00 pm Wednesday
Ilnik Section (southwest) of Unangashak Bluffs excluding Ilnik Lagoon and within the Seal Islands	June 25 - July 4	By Emergency Order Only (see description in Ilnik Section)
Ilnik Section between Three Hills (159° 50.00' W long.) and Unangashak Bluffs located at 159°10.80' W long. and including Ilnik Lagoon and within the Seal Islands	July 5 - September 30	6:00 am Monday to 6:00 pm Wednesday
Ilnik Section between Three Hills (159°50.00' W long.) Bluffs at 159°10.80' W long. and Strogonof Point.	July 15 - September 30	6:00 am Monday to 6:00 pm Wednesday
Ilnik Section inside Ilnik Lagoon and within the Seal Islands	May 1 - July 4	12:00 noon Monday to 11:59 pm Wednesday
Three Hills	June 25 - June 30	6:00 am Monday to 6:00 pm Wednesday
Three Hills	July 1 - September 30	6:00 am Monday to 6:00 pm Thursday
Bear River	May 1 - June 30	6:00 am Monday to 6:00 pm Wednesday
Bear River	July 1 - September 30	6:00 am Monday to 6:00 pm Thursday
Port Moller Bight	May 1 - September 30	6:00 am Monday to 6:00 pm Thursday

-Continued-

Table 1. (page 2 of 2)

Section	Open Season	Fishing Period
Herendeen-Moller Bay	May 1 - July 20	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Thursday
Nelson Lagoon	May 1 - June 15	6:00 AM Monday to 12:00 MIDNIGHT Wednesday
Nelson Lagoon	June 16 - August 15	6:00 AM Monday to 12:00 MIDNIGHT Thursday
Nelson Lagoon	August 16 - September 30	6:00 AM Monday to 12:00 MIDNIGHT Wednesday
Caribou Flats	No open season	
Black Hills	May 1 - June 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Wednesday
Black Hills	July 1 - September 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Thursday
Izembek-Moffet Bay	June 1 - August 10	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Thursday
Swanson Lagoon	June 1 - August 10	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Thursday
Urilia Bay <sup>a</sup>	June 24 - August 10	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Thursday
Dublin Bay	July 10 - August 10	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Thursday
Bechevin Bay	June 1 - September 30	By Emergency Order Only

<sup>a</sup> In recent years, the fishing season in the Urilia Bay Section has been delayed until late June to obtain a substantial amount of sockeye salmon escapement before fishing begins. Consequently, in 2003 the Urilia Bay Section will remain closed to commercial salmon fishing until Monday, June 23 unless observed escapements justify an earlier opening

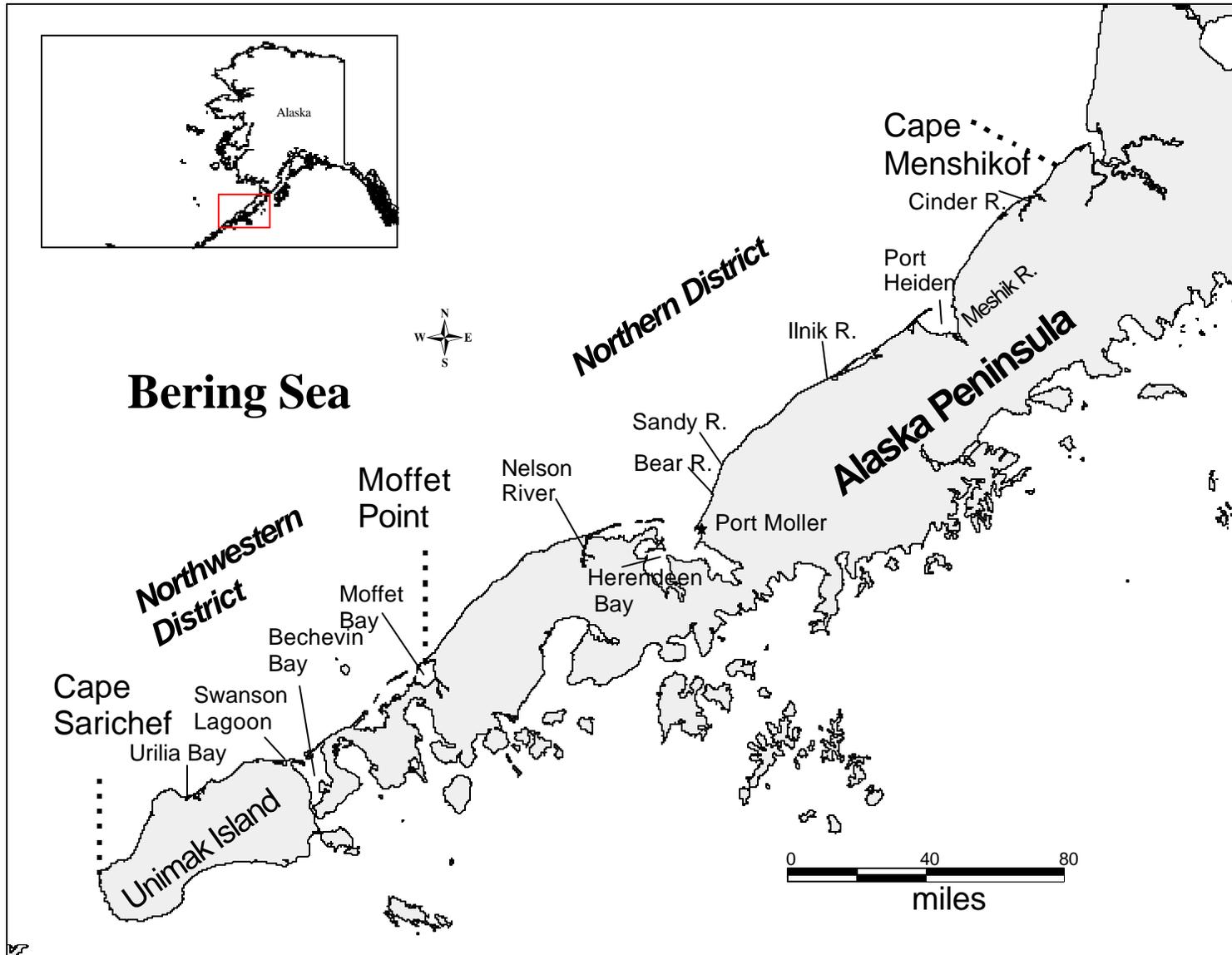


Figure 1. North and South Alaska Peninsula with North Peninsula commercial salmon fishing districts depicted..

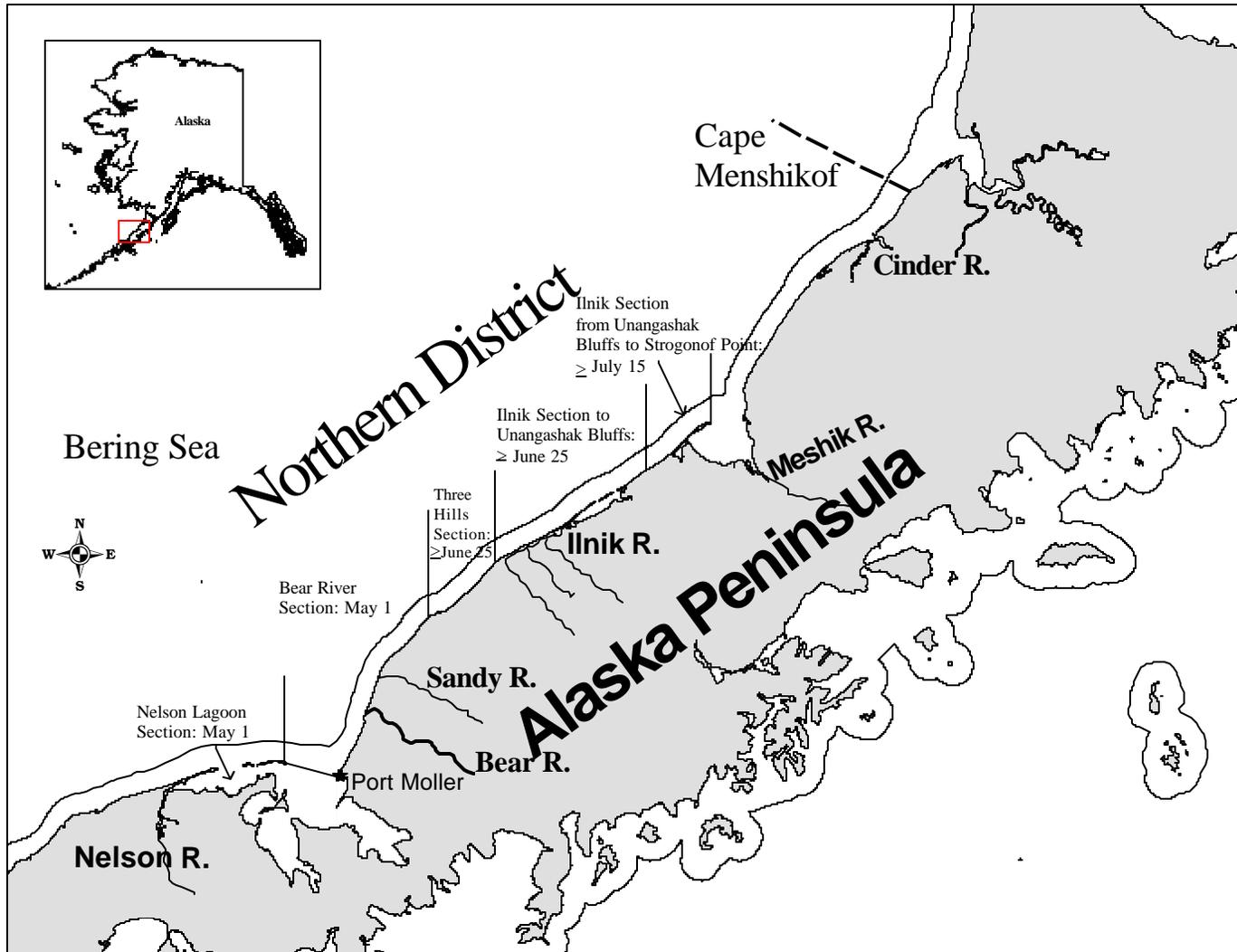


Figure 2. Nelson Lagoon to Strogonof Point reach, with commercial salmon fishing sections, season opening dates, and major sockeye salmon systems depicted.

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