

NORTH ALASKA PENINSULA SALMON  
MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2004



By

Robert L. Murphy  
and  
Arnold R. Shaul

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
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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 2004. The 2004 projected North Peninsula salmon harvests are: 5,000 chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, 1,750,000 sockeye salmon *O. nerka*, 50,000 coho salmon *O. kisutch*, 30,000 pink salmon *O. gorbuscha*, and 75,000 chum salmon *O. keta*. The bulk of the salmon harvest is projected to occur in the Northern District 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 used. Four main sockeye salmon rivers on the North Peninsula 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 state waters between the westernmost tip of Cape Menshikof and the southernmost tip of Moffet Point, while the Northwestern District includes all state 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 2004). 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 from May 1 through June 30, and from August 1 through September 30 during open fishing periods. Area T permit holders may also fish in Ilnik Lagoon beginning August 1 during open fishing periods.

The projected 2004 salmon catch is approximately 1,910,000 fish for the entire North Peninsula of which 1,750,000 are expected to be sockeye salmon, 5,000 chinook salmon, 50,000 coho salmon, 30,000 pink salmon, and 75,000 chum salmon. The 2004 Nelson River sockeye salmon total run is forecasted to be 489,000 fish (range 207,000-831,000 fish) with a forecasted harvest of 329,000 sockeye salmon. The late Bear River (post July 31) sockeye salmon total run is forecasted to be 631,000 fish (range 307,000-1,010,000 fish) with a forecasted harvest of 551,000 sockeye salmon (Plotnick and Eggers 2004).

## 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 Port Heiden 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 via fax, email, or verbally.
2. Transmitted over one or more of the following frequencies: SSB 3.230 MHz and VHF 72 in Port Moller or VHF 6 in Cold Bay.
3. News releases will be displayed at several places in Port Moller and at ADF&G offices in Port Moller, 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 6 hour advance notice of a potential opening, ADF&G may announce a 2 hour advance notice of a pending opening if salmon abundance warrants. 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 ADF&G 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 delivery to ADF&G in Port Moller or Cold Bay.

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 7 days of the delivery (5 AAC 39.130; ADF&G 2004).

## **REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2004**

In February 2004, the Alaska Board of Fisheries the following regulation changes to the North Peninsula salmon fisheries.

- 1) All coordinates identified are measured using GPS.
- 2) The following longitude lines were established using GPS:
  - Cape Seniavin 160° 08.25' W. long.
  - Three Hills 159° 49.45' W. long.
  - Unangashak Bluffs 159° 10.25' W. long.
  - Strogonof Point 158° 50.45' W. long.
- 3) The season opening date by emergency order was established in the Uria Bay Section.
- 4) The previous management plan was changed with regard to the Ilnik Section southwest of Unangashak Bluffs between June 25 and July 4 which includes: a) elimination of the Ilnik River escapement thresholds, b) removal of the 100,000 sockeye salmon cap, and c) elimination of the maximum 24 hours of continuous fishing followed by at least a 24 hour closure. Instead the new plan permits fishing in the Ilnik Section, including northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point as early as June 25. The area northeast of Unangashak Bluffs will be managed on the basis of Meshik River sockeye salmon stocks, and Ilnik River sockeye salmon. The area southwest of Unangashak Bluffs will be managed on the basis of Ilnik River sockeye salmon. In the Ilnik Section, management actions can be taken prior to July 20 if management concern exists for Ugashik or Bear River sockeye salmon stocks,.

## **NORTH PENINSULA MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The North Peninsula salmon fisheries will be managed on the basis of catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) abundance indicators, salmon abundance determined during ADF&G test fisheries, and escapement estimated by aerial surveys and weir counts. Scheduled weekly fishing periods during the open season are listed in the 2004-2006 Commercial Finfish Regulations (Table 1; ADF&G 2004). When possible, the management of North Peninsula fisheries will take into account processing requirements while maximizing harvest opportunity and ensuring escapement needs.

## *Northwestern District*

### **Dublin Bay Section**

Commercial salmon fishing periods will occur as scheduled in the 2004-2006 Commercial Finfish Regulations (Table 1).

### **Urilia Bay Section**

The commercial salmon fishing season in the Urilia Bay Section will open by emergency order on June 21 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 management of the entire Urilia Bay Section 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 abundance determined from aerial surveys and commercial CPUE data.

### **Bechevin Bay Section**

The Bechevin Bay Section will open concurrently with the Ikatan Bay Section (part of the South Peninsula) during June (5 AAC 09.365). After June, the Bechevin Bay Section will be managed based on the strength of local chum and pink salmon stocks. Fishing periods throughout the Bechevin Bay Section will be established by emergency order.

### **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 salmon 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 based on the strength of 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 97,000 – 219,000 fish (Nelson et al. *in press*). In 2004, the Alaska Peninsula escapement goals were reviewed and changes to the Nelson River goals were adopted and are rounded below. The lower escapement goal of about 100,000 sockeye salmon will remain the same, however, the upper goals increased from 150,000 to 220,000 fish. The upper escapement goal includes all sockeye salmon including jacks and post weir escapement estimates. The department will attempt to ensure that 50,000-100,000 female sockeye salmon are in escapement by July 25. No change to the management strategy for the Nelson Lagoon commercial salmon fishery is expected to be necessary to achieve the new escapement goal.

### Nelson River Weir Sockeye Salmon Escapement Interim Objectives

Date	Escapement for Period Ending	Cumulative Escapement Objective
June 30	30,000 - 60,000	30,000- 60,000
July 5	20,000 - 45,000	50,000-105,000
July 10	20,000 - 50,000	70,000-155,000
July 15	15,000 - 30,000	85,000-185,000
July 20	10,000 -25,000	95,000-210,000
July 25	5,000 -10,000	100,000-220,000
Season Total Escapement Goal		100,000-220,000

The Nelson Lagoon fishery will be managed based on interim escapement objectives at the Nelson River weir, Nelson Lagoon commercial catches, and aerial surveys. Daily harvest of sockeye salmon will also be used to evaluate run strength because salmon can take as long as seven days to travel between the fishery and weir, although in recent years the travel time has been closer to 2 days.

Escapements may be increased if escapement quality is poor because of a high percentage of net marked fish, high percentage of jack salmon, or a low female to male sex ratio. The sex ratios, number of jack sockeye salmon (age .1), and net marked fish in the Nelson River escapement are important considerations in evaluating escapement quality. The escapement goal may be raised to compensate for the imbalance. The estimated number of female sockeye salmon in the escapement should range from 50,000-100,000 fish.

To provide adequate escapement for chinook salmon in Nelson Lagoon, fishing periods through June 15 are limited in duration from 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 fishing time may 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 2,400-4,400 fish (Nelson et al. *in press*).

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 determine 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 are expected to exceed escapement objectives or the fishing effort is low.

### **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 determined by 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 concurrent with the Bear River Section.

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

The department will actively manage for the Bear River escapement objective of 260,000-460,000 sockeye salmon through August 25, when the weir is typically removed for the season. The early run, through July 31, escapement goal is 180,000-290,000 sockeye salmon while the late run, August 1 through August 25, escapement goal is 117,000-195,000 sockeye salmon, which will include post weir estimates. The late run escapement objective is a minimum of 85,000 sockeye salmon from August 1-25. The average post weir counts of 30,000 sockeye salmon, although not actively managed, are included in the total Bear River escapement objective. The department will manage for the lower escapement objective of all interim escapement goals. The Bear River sockeye salmon escapement goal ranges are divided into historic proportions of the early and late runs to ensure that all components of the Bear River runs receive adequate escapement and the final objective of 293,000-488,000 sockeye salmon (Nelson et al. *in press*) by September 15 is met.

## Bear River Sockeye Salmon Escapement Interim Objectives

Date	Escapement for Period Ending	Cumulative Escapement Objective
<b><i>Early-Run Component:</i></b>		
June 15	4,000 - 8,000	4,000 - 8,000
June 20	11,000 - 22,000	15,000 - 30,000
June 25	15,000 - 25,000	30,000 - 55,000
June 30	30,000 - 60,000	60,000 - 115,000
July 5	30,000 - 50,000	90,000 - 165,000
July 10	25,000 - 35,000	115,000 - 200,000
July 15	15,000 - 30,000	130,000 - 230,000
July 20	10,000 - 20,000	140,000 - 250,000
July 25	20,000 - 50,000	160,000 - 270,000
July 31	20,000 - 20,000	180,000 - 290,000
<b><i>Late-Run Component:</i></b>		
August 5	15,000 - 30,000 <sup>a</sup>	195,000 - 320,000
August 10	20,000 - 35,000	215,000 - 355,000
August 15	15,000 - 35,000	230,000 - 390,000
August 20	15,000 - 30,000	245,000 - 420,000
August 25	20,000 - 35,000	265,000 - 455,000
<b>Season Weir Escapement Goal</b>		<b>265,000 - 455,000</b>

<sup>a</sup> Escapement occurring during the July 26-31 period that results in the escapement to exceed the 20,000 fish escapement objective, will be applied to the late run escapement objective. However, no more than 15,000 fish shall be applied to the late run escapement objective. 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 or for the season, is above 10%, as determined by the ADF&G weir crew, the escapement objective may be increased 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 et al. *in press*) and is estimated by using weir counts. If weir counts are unavailable due to difficulties with the weir such as a washout, aerial survey data will be used to estimate the escapement and manage the fisheries.

## Sandy River Sockeye Salmon Escapement Interim Objectives

Date	Escapement for Period Ending	Cumulative Escapement Objective
June 20	2,000 - 3,000	2,000 - 3,000
June 25	4,000 - 7,000	6,000 - 10,000
June 30	9,000 - 15,000	15,000 - 25,000
July 5	10,000 - 15,000	25,000 - 40,000
July 10	5,000 - 10,000	30,000 - 50,000
July 15	4,000 - 5,000	35,000 - 54,000
July 20	3,000	38,000 - 57,000
July 25	2,000 - 3,000	40,000 - 60,000
Season Total Escapement Goal		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 achieve 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) is inadequate and area closures in the Ilnik Section are not an effective conservation action, 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., Meshik 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 for these stocks.

Management decisions regarding sockeye salmon may be conservative to protect chinook salmon stocks during the chinook salmon run in June to the King Salmon, Bear, and Sandy Rivers. In

August and September, management actions in the Three Hills Section will consider the strength of Ilnik Lagoon coho salmon stocks.

**Ilnik Section**

In February 2004, the Alaska Board of Fisheries changed regulations in the Ilnik Section (5 AAC 09.369 (j)). The changes permit fishing in that portion of the Ilnik Section, including the area northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point as early as June 25, depending on the escapement levels in Ilnik and Meshik Rivers. Aerial surveys will be used to determine escapement abundance into Meshik River. The area northeast of Unangashak Bluffs will be managed on the basis of Meshik River sockeye salmon run strength. If management concerns exist for Ilnik River sockeye salmon, then actions northeast of Unangashak Bluffs will occur. If Meshik and Ilnik Rivers escapement is sufficient, fishing time northeast of Unangashak Bluffs is expected to be limited to a weekly schedule of about 2½ days per week. This will provide the department with a method to assess the effect of fishing pressure northeast of Unangashak Bluffs on the Meshik River stocks, as well as on the Ilnik River stocks while ensuring escapement objectives in both systems are met.

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 and Meshik River sockeye salmon 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 based on Sandy, Ilnik, or Bear River sockeye salmon. From July 20 to August 15, the Ilnik Section will be managed based on Bear River sockeye stock abundance.

**Ilnik River Sockeye Salmon Escapement Interim Objectives  
If Ocean River Flows Into Ilnik Lake**

Date	Escapement for Period Ending	Cumulative Escapement Objective
June 15	5,000 - 8,000	5,000 - 8,000
June 20	5,000 - 7,000	10,000 - 15,000
June 25	5,000 - 10,000	15,000 - 25,000
June 30	5,000 - 10,000	20,000 - 35,000
July 5	10,000	30,000 - 45,000
July 10	5,000	35,000 - 50,000
July 15	3,000 - 7,000	38,000 - 57,000
July 20	2,000 - 3,000	40,000 - 60,000
Season Total Escapement Goal		40,000 - 60,000

If weir counts are unavailable, estimates will be obtained by using Ilnik Lagoon commercial salmon harvest rates, aerial surveys, and pre and post washout weir counts.

The sockeye salmon management objective for the Ocean River was based on aerial surveys when the river flowed directly into the Bering Sea (not through Ilnik Lake) in 1972-1975, 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 may be taken in the Three Hills Section to meet escapement objectives in Ocean River.

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

Date	Cumulative Number Aerial Survey
June 15	1,000 - 1,600
June 20	2,000 - 3,000
June 25	3,000 - 5,000
July 5	6,000 - 9,000
July 10	7,000 - 10,000
July 15	7,600 - 11,400
July 20	8,000 - 12,000
Season Total	8,000 - 12,000
Escapement Objective	

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 early June. The weekly fishing periods established in regulation are expected during this period. Sockeye salmon abundance during mid June through July, and coho salmon abundance after July will dictate fishing time in these sections. Beginning June 25, fishing time permitted in the Ilnik Section located northeast of Unangashak Bluffs will be concurrent with fishing time within the Inner Port Heiden Section unless management concern exists for Ilnik, Bear, or Ugashik Rivers. 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 2004):

- 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 2004 season, the ADF&G will conduct 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 willing to participate in the test fishery program prior to the first test fish vessel charter. 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 personnel and equipment costs for age, length, and sex data collection. Each vessel must meet requirements specified by the ADF&G as stated in the North Alaska Peninsula Sockeye Salmon Test Fishery Operational Plan 2004 (Murphy *in press*), where more specifics about the entire program can be obtained.

## LITERATURE CITED

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Table 1. Scheduled North Peninsula fishing periods as described in the 2004-2006 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 (159° 10.25' W long.) excluding Ilnik Lagoon and within the Seal Islands	June 25 – September 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Wednesday
Ilnik Section between Unangashak Bluffs (159°49.45' W long.) Bluffs to Strogonof Point (158° 50.45' W long.).	June 25 - September 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Wednesday
Ilnik Section inside Ilnik Lagoon and within the Seal Islands	May 1 – June 24	12:00 NOON Monday to 11:59 PM Wednesday
Ilnik Section inside Ilnik Lagoon and within the Seal Islands	June 25 – September 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 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	By Emergency Order Only
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 2004 the Urilia Bay Section will remain closed to commercial salmon fishing until Monday, June 21 unless observed escapements justify an earlier opening

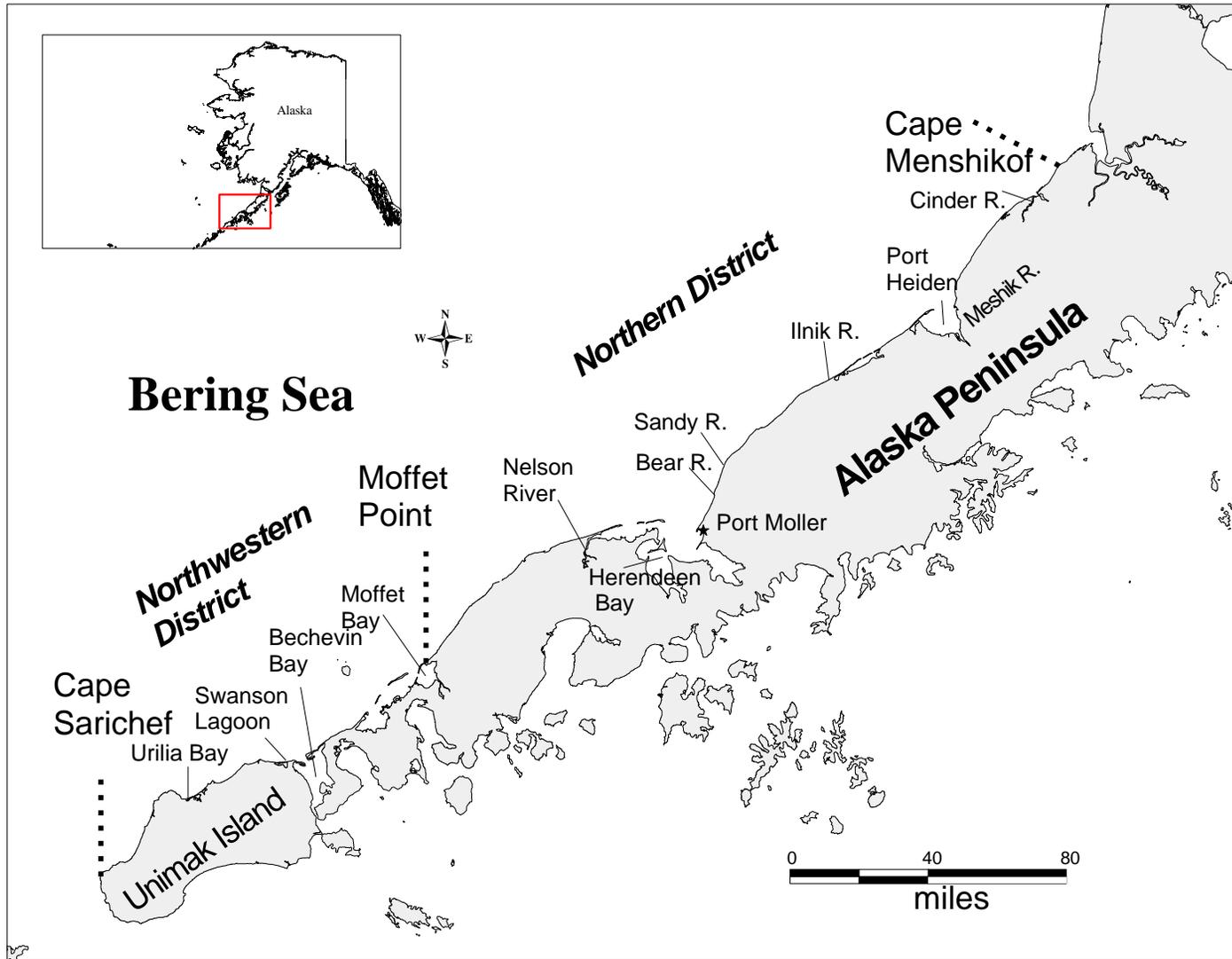


Figure 1. North and South Alaska Peninsula with North Peninsula commercial salmon fishing districts depicted.

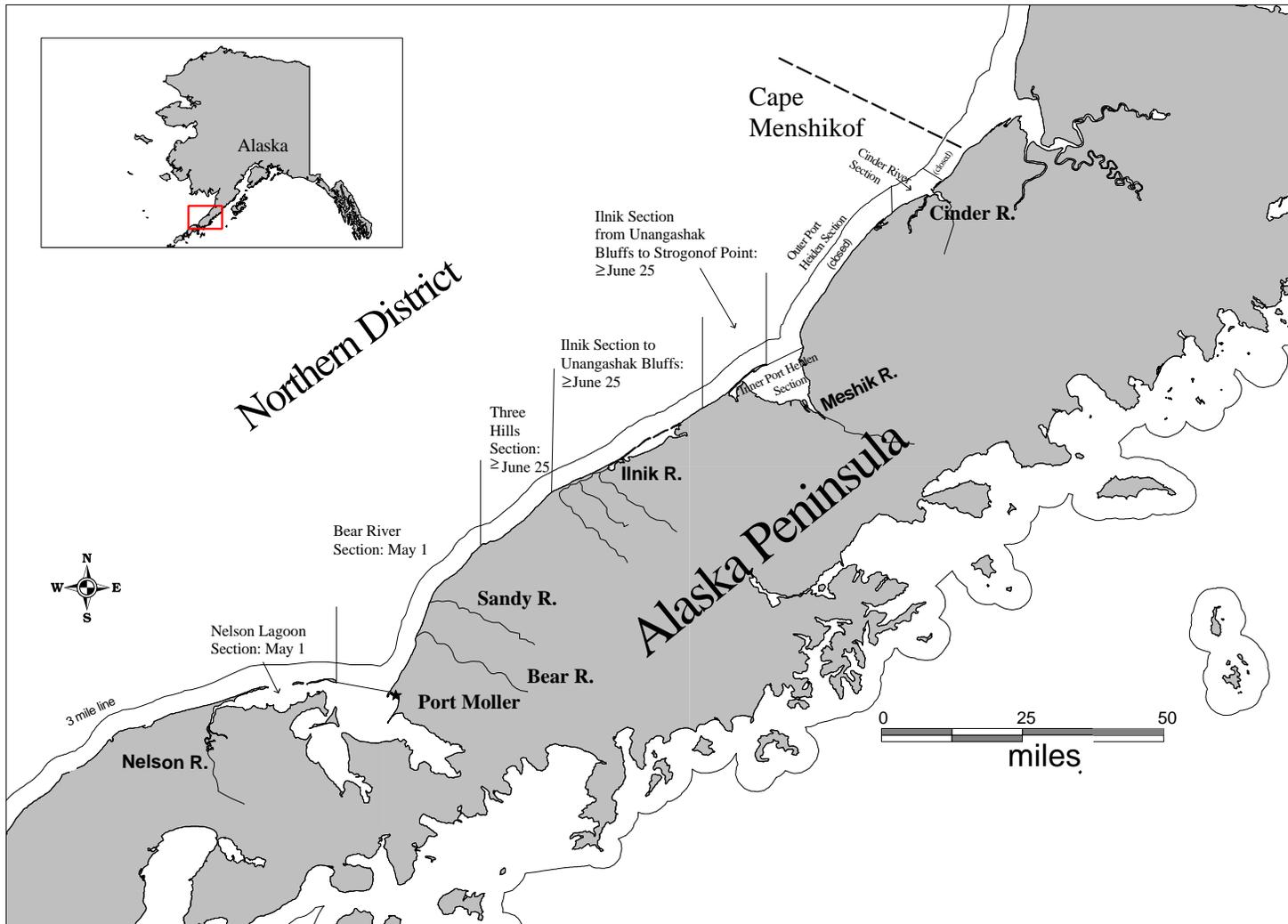


Figure 2. Nelson Lagoon to Strogonof Point reach, with commercial salmon fishing sections, season opening dates, and major sockeye salmon systems depicted.

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