

1988
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE
CHIGNIK MANAGEMENT AREA
COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHERY

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
A) 1988 MANAGEMENT PLAN	
I. Sockeye Salmon.....	1
II. Pink and Chum Salmon.....	2
III. Eastern District Salmon Management Plan.....	2
IV. Coho Salmon.....	4
B) APPENDIX	
I. Chignik Area Statistical Chart for Salmon and Herring.....	5
II. Chignik River System - Escapement Goals.....	6
III. Impact of Cape Igvak and Balboa-Stepovak Catches on Sockeye Destined for Chignik (1964-1987).....	7
IV. Management Plan - Cape Igvak.....	8
V. Management Plan - Southeastern District (Balboa-Stepovak).....	10



1988 CHIGNIK AREA
SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

The following statements are intended as a guideline for managing the 1988 Chignik salmon runs. As in the past, frequent in-season emergency order adjustments will be made when necessary as the runs develop. No statements contained in this management plan regarding numbers of fish or fishing time should be taken as a guarantee.

SOCKEYE SALMON

The total sockeye salmon run is forecast to be approximately 2.22 million fish. The early run is expected to be the stronger of the two with an expected 1.43 million total return. The minimum escapement goal on the early run is 400,000 fish, therefore the projected harvest will be 1.03 million sockeye. The total late run return is expected to be 0.79 million fish. The late run minimum escapement goal is 250,000 which should allow a commercial harvest of approximately 543,000 fish. Total estimated harvest for both runs should be 1.57 million fish, which includes fish that may be intercepted outside the Chignik Area.

The first day of fishing could be as early as June 1 by regulation. However, compared to past years this would be highly unlikely, and only implemented if a minimum of 40,000 sockeye salmon have passed the weir and a strong buildup of fish in the lagoon is indicated by test fishing. The average opening for commercial fishing based on the past 10 years is June 10. Additional openings will be based on escapements, fishery performance and test fishing results (Table 1).

During the month of June, commercial fishery openings will be confined to the Chignik Bay District, Central District, and the Eastern District.

As adopted by the Board of Fisheries, the Eastern District will open and close to commercial salmon fishing simultaneously with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts. The Eastern District may close to commercial salmon fishing during the overlap period, in late June or early July.

The Eastern District or portions thereof will close to commercial salmon fishing until further notice. This will allow both local pink and chum salmon run strengths to be evaluated before a commercial harvest occurs.

If at any time it is determined that stocks being harvested within the Eastern District are not primarily Chignik stocks, the fishery in this district will be closed by emergency order.

The fisheries in the Cape Igvak Section of the Kodiak Area and the Southeastern District of the Alaska Peninsula are known to intercept Chignik sockeye salmon. The Cape Igvak Management Plan and the Southeastern District Management Plan as adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries will be used to manage those fisheries.

PINK AND CHUM SALMON

For the 1988 commercial salmon season a total pink salmon return of 1.8 million fish is forecast. The pink salmon escapement goal for the entire Chignik Management Area is 700,000 which could provide a commercial harvest of approximately 1.1 million pink salmon (range of harvest estimate 0.00 - 1.80 million) provided the return is as forecast and the run is well distributed.

Due to this forecast return of pink salmon into the Chignik Management Area waters, the Western and Perryville Districts may open as early as July 5 to target specifically on pink and chum salmon. The first opening in these westward districts will coincide with the first July sockeye opening targeting on the late sockeye (Chignik Lake stock) run bound for the Chignik

system. Management of the Eastern District will be as outlined in the 1988 Commercial Finfish Regulation booklet which is stated below.

5 AAC 15.360. **EASTERN DISTRICT SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN.** (a) The department shall open and close the Eastern District for commercial salmon fishing concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts. The department may close the Eastern District for the period between the first (Black Lake) and second (Chignik Lake) sockeye salmon runs.

(b) The department shall close the Eastern District if it is determined that the salmon being harvested in that district are from stocks that do not originate from spawning areas located in the Chignik Area.

The projected chum salmon harvest for Chignik waters is estimated at 400,000. Based on return per spawner data and the good chum escapement for the brood years 1983 and 1984 it is anticipated that the overall return will come in as projected, providing good potential for commercial fisheries in the major chum salmon producing bays of the Chignik Area. Intense aerial surveys will be conducted in these areas to monitor the progress of the bay specific runs in hopes of assuring optimum opportunity to harvest the surplus when the fish are in their best marketable condition. There is good potential for area specific openings and a 24 hour notice will be given prior to a commercial opening. Openings and closures will be broadcast over 4125 SSB and CH 6 VHF.

Processors within the Chignik Area and Kodiak based tenders that purchase fish from the Chignik salmon fleet, process these fish primarily for the fresh frozen market. Due to the higher quality standards of commercially caught salmon for the frozen market there will be greater demands placed on management to harvest the surplus when these fish are in their optimum condition. Past management practices of allowing the fish to reach terminal

areas, assure the escapement goal and then harvest the surplus will not be appropriate due to the fact that the majority of the fish would be water marked and probably not suitable for the fresh frozen market. Management strategies will have to be adjusted to harvest fish as they migrate to their home streams, i.e. increased early fishing effort in all management districts when a large harvestable surplus is forecast. This is consistent with salmon management strategies for the remainder of the region.

Management of the Central District will coincide with the Chignik Bay District where emphasis will be on sockeye salmon returning to the Chignik River systems.

Due to the economic and commercial importance of the Chignik sockeye salmon, the corresponding run timing and strength of the two sockeye salmon runs bound to the Chignik River systems, i.e. Black Lake (Early Run) and Chignik Lake (Late Run) will directly affect commercial opening times within the Eastern, Western and Perryville Districts.

If the strength of the early run (Black Lake) sockeye salmon turns out to be much weaker than forecast and the escapement goal of 400,000 through the Chignik River weir is not obtained, then the early July openings in all waters where sockeye would be intercepted will be curtailed. Commercial openings during the transition period between the two sockeye salmon runs (June 26 to July 9) will also be closely monitored to allow an adequate evaluation of the second run (Chignik Lake) run's strength so as to assure the escapement goal of 250,000.

COHO SALMON

Fall fisheries aimed primarily at coho and late sockeye will begin in mid August through mid September provided there is no conflict in attaining escapement goals for the late sockeye run

to Chignik Lake. The estimated coho harvest in 1988 is projected at 125,000. The majority of this harvest should come from Chignik Lagoon. The average coho harvest for the last 10 years is 112,000 fish.

Management of Chignik Bay District coho stocks will be similar to those methods implemented in recent years. Management of smaller systems, particularly those in the Eastern District, will probably continue to be conservative in order to prevent excess harvest of these systems during the current developmental phase of Chignik commercial coho fisheries.

Table 1.

CHIGNIK RIVER SYSTEM
 SOCKEYE ESCAPEMENT GOALS
 BLACK LAKE (EARLY) AND CHIGNIK LAKE (LATE) RUNS

The numbers in the escapement tables listed below were derived from averages over several years of escapements of various timing and magnitude. It should be noted that daily escapement levels will fluctuate considerably throughout the run. THE TABLES LISTED SERVE ONLY AS A GUIDE FOR ACHIEVING THE TOTAL ESCAPEMENT FOR EACH RUN. In-season variations from the figures listed may be due to variations in actual run timing and/or strength of the run.

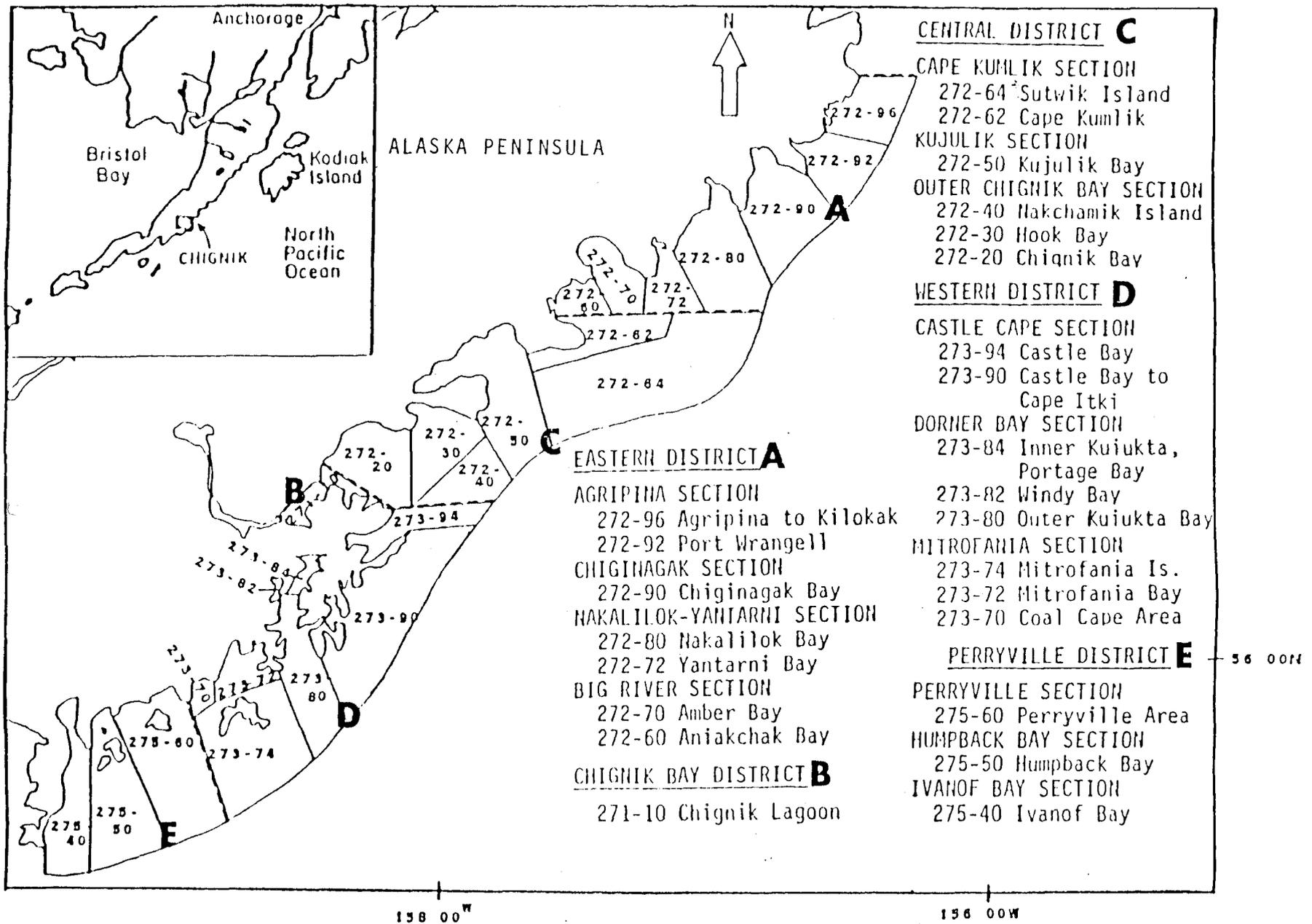
EARLY RUN - 400,000 Minimum

June 12	40,000
14	50 - 65,000
16	75 - 100,000
18	125 - 150,000
20	175 - 200,000
22	225 - 250,000
25	275 - 325,000
30	350 - 400,000

LATE RUN - 250,000 Minimum

WHEN EARLY ESCAPEMENT IS ACHIEVED	WHEN EARLY RUN ESCAPEMENT IS NOT ACHIEVED
July 6	40,000
8	45 - 50,000
10	55 - 65,000
12	60 - 75,000
14	75 - 80,000
16	80 - 90,000
19	100 - 115,000
21	125 - 135,000
23	150 - 160,000
26	170 - 180,000
29	190 - 195,000
31	195 - 200,000

FIGURE 1. THE CHIGNIK MANAGEMENT AREA



MANAGEMENT GUIDE FOR THE
1988
CAPE IGVAK FISHERY

The midpoint harvest figures for the 1988 Chignik sockeye run are forecast to be 1.03 million for the first run and .54 million fish for the second run, or a projected total harvest of 1.57 million Chignik bound sockeye.

The department will manage the Cape Igvak fishery according to the plan adopted by the Board of Fisheries. Since the harvestable surplus beyond the escapement goals is expected to be more than 600,000, the fishery at Cape Igvak can open when the fishery opens at Chignik, and it is possible that the first opening could be as early as June 5. Approximately 48 hours notice will be given prior to the first Cape Igvak opening. At least a 24 hour notice will be given prior to the opening of any other fishing period, unless it is an extension of a fishing period in progress. Fishing periods will normally be at least 24 hours long and will begin at 12:01 A.M. If the first run fails, the Cape Igvak fishery will be curtailed in order to allow a minimum harvest in the Chignik Area of at least 300,000 sockeye through July if that many are surplus beyond escapement needs.

During the period from approximately June 26 to July 9, the strength of the second run of Chignik River system sockeye salmon cannot be evaluated at Chignik Lagoon. In order to prevent overharvest of the second run, commercial salmon fishing in the Cape Igvak Section will, at the department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted during this period.

Fishing time at Cape Igvak after July 8 will be dependent on the strength of the second run and on the Chignik Area catch during the first run. When the second run appears strong enough for a fishery at Chignik, Cape Igvak could be opened only if at least 300,000 were harvested from the first run in the Chignik Area. The department will then manage the fishery so that the number of

sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area for both runs combined will be at least 600,000 and the harvest in the Cape Igvak Section will approach as near as possible 15 percent of the total catch of Chignik bound sockeye, if that many fish are available surplus to the escapement needs.

1988
SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT MAINLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
ALASKA PENINSULA AREA

The Department will manage the Southeastern District Mainland fishery according to the Southeastern District Management Plan adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Changes made by the Alaska Board of Fisheries during its March 1988 meeting that affect the Southeastern District Mainland fishery:

- (1) Adjusted the allocation of Chignik destined sockeye to an even 6 percent.
- (2) Transferred the Beaver Bay Section from the South Central District to the Southeastern District.
- (3) Divided the West Stepovak Section into a Southwest Stepovak Section and a Northwest Stepovak Section.
- (4) Created a Stepovak Flats Section out of the northern end of the East Stepovak Section.
- (5) Required that red lights be placed on the offshore end of set gillnets and on both ends if the shoreward end is over 300 feet from shore.

The Northwest Stepovak and Stepovak Flats Sections will be managed on a local stock basis. When possible, fishing time in these sections will coincide with other nearby fisheries to avoid concentrating fishing gear.

Set gillnets are the only legal gear allowed in the Beaver Bay, Balboa Bay, Southwest Stepovak, Northwest Stepovak, East Stepovak, and Stepovak Flats Sections through 10 July. After 10 July, set gillnets, purse seines, and hand purse seines are legal.

The Beaver Bay, Balboa Bay, Southwest Stepovak, and East Stepovak Sections will be managed on the basis of Chignik sockeye stocks through 25 July. After 25 July, the whole area will be managed for local stocks.

The forecasted midpoint harvest for the Chignik sockeye returns during 1988 are 1.03 million fish for the early return and 543,000 for the second return.

Since the harvestable surplus is expected to exceed 600,000, the Southeastern District Mainland fishery may open when the fishery opens at Chignik. Based on the moderately strong forecast, it is possible that the first opening could be as early as 8 June. At least 36 hours notice will be given prior to the first commercial fishing period in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery. At least an 18 hour notice will be given prior to the opening of any other fishing period, unless it is an extension of a fishing period in progress. If the first run fails, the Southeastern District Mainland fishery will be curtailed in order to allow a minimum harvest in the Chignik Area of at least 300,000 sockeye through 8 July if that many are surplus to the escapement needs.

During the period from approximately 26 June to 9 July, the strength of the second run of Chignik River system sockeye salmon cannot be evaluated at Chignik Lagoon. To prevent overharvest of the second run, commercial salmon fishing in the Southeastern District Mainland will, in the Department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted during this period.

Fishing time in the Southeastern District Mainland after 8 July will be dependent upon the strength of the second run and on the Chignik Area catch during the first run. When the second run appears strong enough for a fishery at Chignik, the Southeastern District Mainland will be opened if at least 300,000 were harvested from the first run in the Chignik Area. The Department will then manage the fishery whereby the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area on both runs combined will be at least 600,000 and the harvest in the Southeastern District Mainland will approach as near as possible 6 percent of the total

Chignik bound sockeye salmon catch^{1/}, if that many fish are available surplus to the escapement needs.

At the December 1982 meeting, the Board of Fisheries adopted the following regulation pertaining to fishery management plans:

5 AAC 39.200 APPLICATION OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

(b) In some fishery management plans, the distribution of harvestable fish between various users is determined by the harvest that occurs during a specific time period, at a specific location or by a specific group or groups of users. At times fishermen, due to circumstances that are beyond the control of the Department, such as weather or price disputes, will not harvest fish. When this happens in a fishery governed by a management plan the goals of that plan may not be achieved. Therefore, when a fishery is open to the taking of fish and the group or groups of users whose catch determines the distribution of the harvest as set out in the applicable management plan is not taking the harvestable fish available to them, the Department shall manage the fishery as if the available harvest is being taken. When determining the available harvest, the Department shall consider the number of fish needed to meet spawning requirements, the number of fish present in the fishery and in spawning areas that are in excess to spawning requirements and the estimated harvesting capacity of the group or groups of users that would normally participate in the fishery.

The fishery shall be managed according to the plan as stated in the 1988 regulation book. No attempt will be made to allow equal fishing time with Chignik, as had been done at one time, but

¹ The total Chignik sockeye salmon catch constitutes those sockeye salmon caught within the Chignik Area plus 80 percent of the sockeye salmon caught in the Cape Igvak Section of the Kodiak Area plus 80 percent of the sockeye caught in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery outside of the Suzy Creek to Dent Point portion.

rather the end goal will be to meet the 6 percent catch levels after the conditions^{2/} of the plan have been satisfied. To meet the goal of 6 percent by 25 July, the percentage may fluctuate above or below 6 percent prior to 25 July.

Because of the many restrictions placed upon the Southeastern District Mainland fishery to protect the Chignik runs, it may not be possible to achieve a 6 percent catch level even though the minimum catch level of 600,000 at Chignik is exceeded.

² Conditions include daily escapement goals at Chignik, a minimum Chignik sockeye harvest for each run, and restrictive fishing time in the Cape Igvak section and Southeastern District Mainland during the 26 June to 9 July overlap period. The total minimum harvest for Chignik is listed under 5 AAC 09.360 on pages 32 and 33 in the 1987 Commercial Finfish Regulation booklet.

**SOUTHEAST
DISTRICT**

STEPOVAK FLATS SEC.

NORTHWEST STEPOVAK SEC.

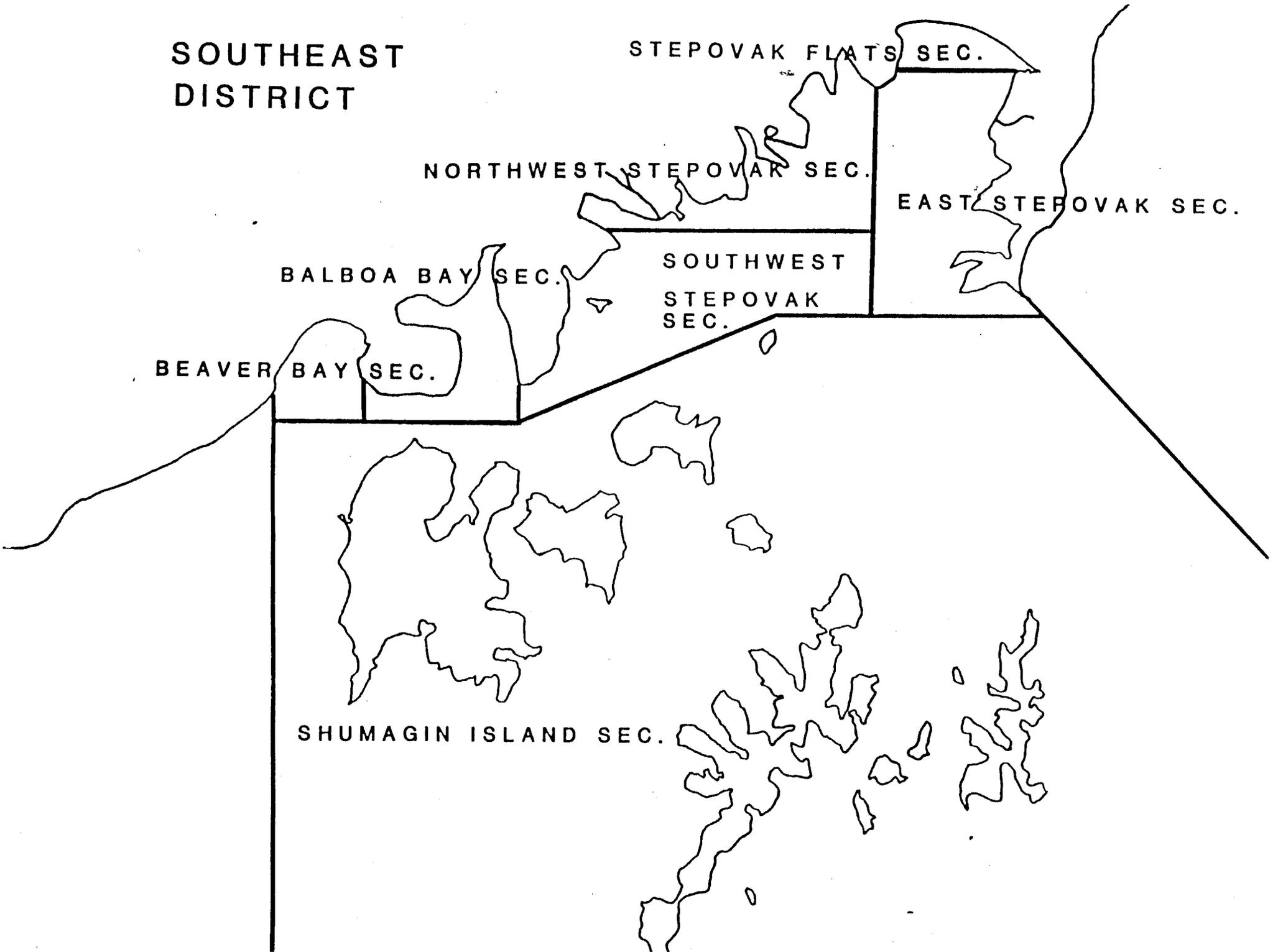
EAST STEPOVAK SEC.

BALBOA BAY SEC.

SOUTHWEST
STEPOVAK
SEC.

BEAVER BAY SEC.

SHUMAGIN ISLAND SEC.



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