

ATKA-AMLIA ISLANDS AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREAS
SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN, 1997

By

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ATKA-AMLIA AREA

The Alaska Board of Fisheries, during its November 1991 meeting, created an experimental open to entry set gillnet salmon fishery around Atka and Amlia Islands. The Atka-Amlia Islands Management Area is bounded by 172°50' W. long (Sequam Pass) on the east and 175°23' W. long. (Atka Pass) on the west (Figures 1 and 2). In addition to set gillnet gear, fishermen with CFEC Area M purse seine permits may seine for salmon in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area.

Each permit holder must register himself or herself and each vessel that will be operated. Vessels acting as salmon tenders, fish buyers and processors, are also required to register prior to operating in the Atka/Amlia Area. Registration can be completed by contacting an ADF&G Area Management Biologist at Cold Bay, Sand Point, or other places designated by the Department, at least 48 hours prior to commercial fishing for salmon in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area. The addresses and phone numbers for the Cold Bay, Dutch Harbor, and Sand Point ADF&G offices are as follows:

ADF&G
P.O. Box 50
Cold Bay, AK 99571
Phone: 532-2419
Fax: 532-2470

ADF&G
PO. Box 920587
Dutch Harbor, AK 99692
Phone: 581-1219
Fax: 581-1572

ADF&G
P.O. Box 129
Sand Point, AK 99661
Phone: 383-2066
Fax: 383-2606

The 1997 pink salmon run is projected to be weak due to low escapements during 1995.

The fishing season is from August 1 through August 31. Fishing periods will be from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. during Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays as listed in the regulation book under 5 AAC 11.321. All waters within 500 yards of the mouth of all salmon streams are closed to commercial salmon fishing.

Fishing time and closed waters may be adjusted inseason based on catch and escapement information.

Purse seine gear specifications are the same in the Atka-Amlia Islands are the same as those specified for the Aleutian Islands Area. Purse seines and hand purse seines may not be less than 100 fathoms nor more than 250 fathoms in length. No lead may be less than 25 fathoms nor more than 150 fathoms in length.

Set gillnet specifications are as follows:

1. Each CFEC permit holder may operate no more than one set gillnet of which the length cannot exceed 100 fathoms (not including the lead, see 5. below).

2. Set gillnets must be operated in substantially a straight line except that no more than 25 fathoms of the offshore end of a set gillnet may be used as a hook. A hook may be used in any configuration.
3. The mesh size of set gillnets shall not exceed five inches.
4. The maximum depth of set gillnets shall not exceed 90 meshes.
5. Twenty-five fathoms of seine webbing may be used as a lead, and may be attached only to the shoreward end of a set gillnet; the shoreward end of the lead or gillnet must be attached to the beach above high tide.
6. During hours of darkness, each set gillnet must be marked with at least one red light on the seaward end of the net.
7. No vessel used for set gillnet fishing may exceed 29 feet in overall length.
8. Salmon caught for commercial fishing bait must be taken following the specifications listed above. Salmon taken under subsistence regulations may not be used as bait for commercial fishing purposes (5 AAC 01.010 m).

Unless there is an Alaska Department of Fish and Game representative at Atka, all catch reports should be phoned or faxed to the ADF&G office in Cold Bay during the morning following a fishing period. The catch report should list the number of fish and pounds purchased by species and the number of fishermen making deliveries.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA
(Excluding Atka/Amlia Island Area)

The Aleutian Islands Area includes all waters of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands west of Cape Sarichef Light and west of a line extending from Scotch Cap through the easternmost tip of Ugamak Island to 172°50' W. long. (Sequam Pass) and all waters of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands west of 175°23' W. long. (Atka Pass) (Figure 1).

Seining is the only legal method to harvest salmon in the Aleutian Islands Area.

No pink salmon harvest is anticipated in the Aleutian Islands Area this season due to low escapements in 1995 and the fact that large runs rarely occur during odd numbered years in the Aleutians.

There are small local sockeye runs in the Unalaska District. However, due to the remoteness and run size, the harvest (if any) is anticipated to be small.

The Kashega Bay Section (Spray Cape to Konets Head) only, will be open from 6:00 a.m. Monday to 6:00 p.m. Friday each week from June 1 through July 18, to allow fishermen the opportunity to fish local sockeye.

The entire Aleutian Islands Area will open to commercial salmon fishing from 12:01 a.m. Thursday July 10 until 6:00 p.m. Friday July 11 and from 6:00 a.m. Monday July 14 until 6:00 p.m. Friday July 18 as specified in the regulation book. No fishing will be allowed after July 18 unless there is a indication that the pink salmon run has sufficient strength to justify fishing time.

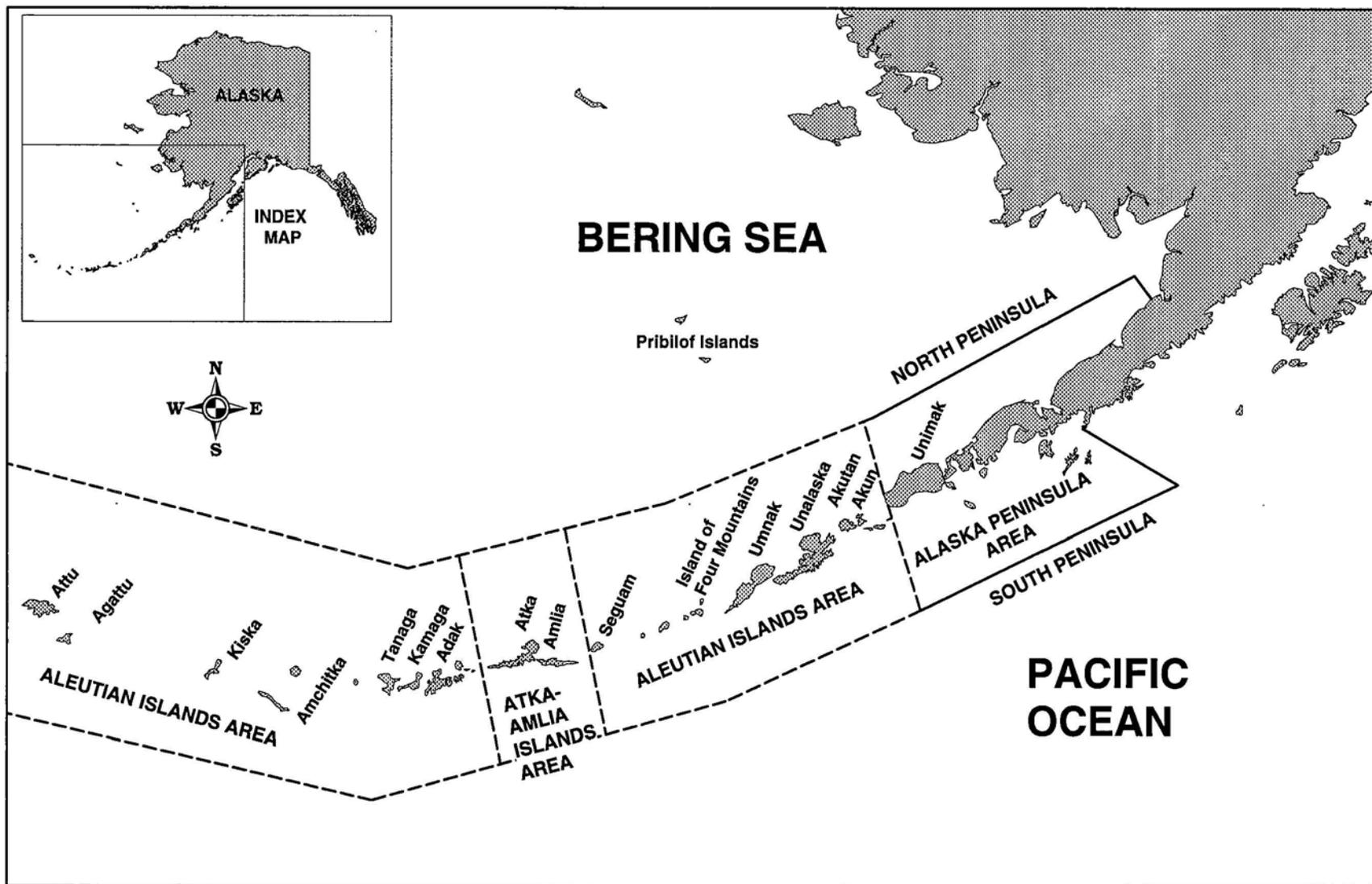


Figure 1. Map of the Aleutian Islands, Atka-Amlia Islands, and Alaska Peninsula Areas.

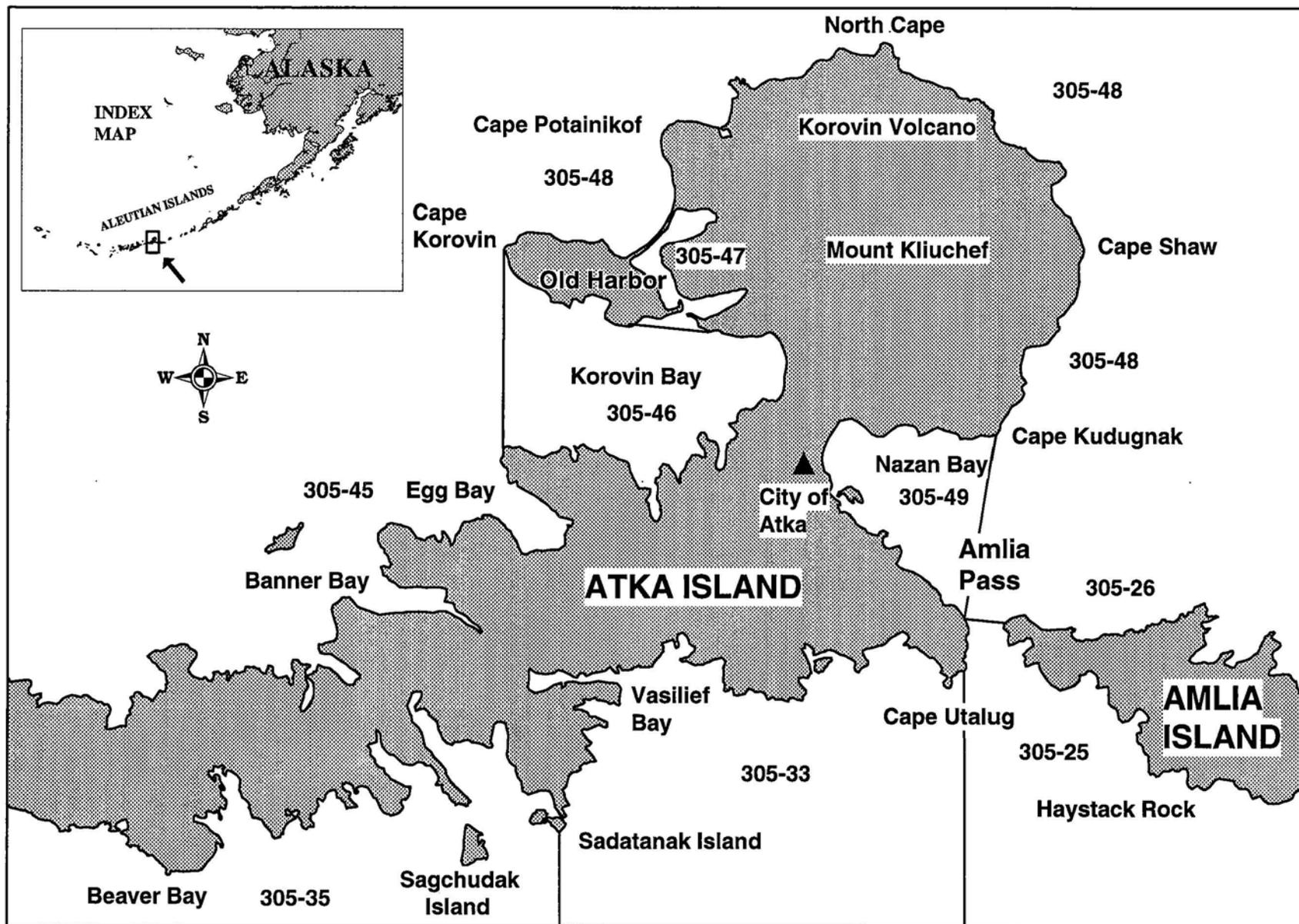


Figure 2. Map of Atka Island with Korovin Bay, Old Harbor, and Nazan Bay fishing areas defined.

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