

POST JUNE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
THE SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA, 1998

By

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Regional Information Report¹ No. 4K98-18

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Division
211 Mission Road
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

April 1998

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INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide commercial fishers and processors with information the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (AD&FG) will use to manage the South Peninsula post June fishery.

The South Peninsula consists of Pacific Ocean coastal waters of the Alaska Peninsula Salmon Management Area from Kupreanof Point west to Scotch Cap on Unimak Island and includes the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak Districts (Figure 1).

Inseason announcements will be broadcast over A.M. radio station KSDP in Sand Point, VHF channels 6 & 73, and on Single Side Band (SSB) 3.230, 3.261, and 4.125 MHz. Information may also be obtained over the ADF&G record-a-phone in Sand Point at 383-2334 (383-ADFG).

As required by 5 AAC 39.130 (a)(3) buyers must report daily their salmon purchases by species, (in both numbers of fish and pounds) and number of deliveries by gear to either ADF&G offices in Cold Bay and Sand Point. Processors must provide the department with catch reports as soon as possible on the morning after a fishing period ends. Contact can be made over VHF 6 & 73, and SSB radio frequencies 3.230 or 4.125 MHz. Buyers may also phone or fax their information to the ADF&G offices in Cold Bay or Sand Point.

Cold Bay	Telephone: 532-2419	Fax: 532-2470
Sand Point	Telephone: 383-2066	Fax: 383-2606

Fish tickets must be mailed to the ADF&G offices in Sand Point or Cold Bay (listed below) within seven days of the purchase date.

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 50
Cold Bay, AK 99571

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 129
Sand Point, AK 99661

BOARD OF FISHERIES ACTION, 1991-97

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 allowed for the harvest of local stocks through July 19 only in a few terminal areas and closed the remainder of the South Peninsula formerly open in post June fisheries (Table 2). After July 19, the BOF authorized the opening of traditional cape harvest areas to South Peninsula fishers (Tables 3 and 4). This management plan was fully implemented in 1993 and remained in effect through the 1997 season.

BOARD OF FISHERIES ACTION, 1998

A brief summary of the 1998 BOF actions affecting the post June fishery is listed below:

July 6-21

1. Increase fishing opportunities in early July in non terminal areas, limit fishing periods to a maximum of 24 hours, followed by minimum 48 hour closures to protect migrating sockeye and chum salmon.
2. Allow permit holders the opportunity to recruit and maintain crew members, which have been idle in recent years because most of the South Peninsula has been closed to commercial salmon fishing from late June until late July.
3. Make additional salmon available to local processors in early July.

July 22-31

1. Reduce overall fishing time and restrict continuous fishing in late July in non terminal areas, to reduce the harvest of migrating coho and sockeye salmon stocks.
2. Establish a 60,000 coho salmon cap in non terminal areas from July 22 through July 31, to reduce the harvest of migrating coho salmon.
3. Allow longer (i.e. 36 hour versus 24 hour) fishing periods from July 22-31 than during July 6-21 in non terminal areas, to increase the harvest of local pink salmon during the peak of the run.
4. Expand the terminal harvest areas.

CURRENT 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 (ADF&G, *In press*) during the November 1991 meeting, and most recently revised in January of 1998 (Table 1). Under this revised plan, commercial salmon fishing from July 6 through July 21 in non terminal areas of the South Peninsula outside the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM), will be restricted to six-24 hour fishing periods, interspersed by 48 hour closures. Additional fishing time beyond the 24 hour periods, may be allowed in terminal fishing areas, including Zachary Bay, the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections, and the Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections (Figures 2-5), and will be based on local stock run strength, and measured by harvest and escapement rates. The first post June fishing period for terminal and non-terminal areas will be on or shortly after July

6. The department will attempt to have fishing periods coincide with the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak District's fishing periods to avoid concentrating gear.

Thin Point Cove waters will open to commercial fishing, targeting sockeye salmon, when an acceptable abundance of sockeye salmon is in the lagoon and there are no large minus tides. Due to a long delay between the time sockeye salmon enter Thin Point Lagoon and when they pass through the Thin Point Lake weir, fishing periods during minus tides will be avoided to prevent salmon from backing out of the lagoon and into the fishery. The Thin Point Lake sockeye salmon escapement goal ranges from 14,000 to 28,000 fish.. Aerial survey estimates of salmon in Thin Point Lagoon are combined with the weir count to provide the overall estimated escapement.

From July 22-31, commercial salmon fishing in the South Peninsula, outside "terminal areas" and outside the SEDM from July 22 through July 25, may be allowed for a maximum of three-36 hour fishing periods interspersed by 48 hour closures. The first fishing period may not start before 12:00 noon on July 23.

In addition, a coho salmon harvest cap of 60,000 fish will be in effect during July 22 through July 31 in the entire South Peninsula except for those areas designated as terminal harvest locations and the SEDM through July 25 (Figure 6) The department will attempt to maximize fishing time to harvest pink salmon, while trying to minimize coho salmon harvest. Fishermen are encouraged to report coho salmon abundance throughout the fishery, but especially during the initial fishing period scheduled to open on July 23. Fishing periods may be extended based upon verbal reports from fishermen on the grounds. If reports are not received, the department will assume the coho salmon harvests are substantial and the commercial fishing period will close as scheduled. If fishermen encounter substantial numbers of coho salmon, they should immediately report the situation to ADF&G.

Fishermen can report coho salmon information to ADF&G by one of the following methods:

1. Through the fish processors or their tenders.
2. To Fish & Wildlife patrol vessels on the grounds over VHF channel 6.
3. Directly to ADF&G in Cold Bay or Sand Point over the following radio frequencies and times:

VHF 6	8:00 a.m.-noon	1:00-5:00 p.m.	7:30-8:00 p.m.
SSB 3.261 MHz			

Fishermen should report coho salmon catch information well before the scheduled closing time of a fishing period to allow ADF&G sufficient time to analyze the data and make an announcement. Delays in reporting ratios could result in lost fishing time.

If the coho salmon cap is exceeded during the July 22-31 period the entire South Peninsula, except for the terminal harvest locations, and the SEDM through July 25, shall close to commercial salmon fishing until August 1.

Following is a list of terminal harvest locations (these locations may be opened for additional fishing periods if more effort is needed to harvest local salmon).

In the Southwestern District:

1. Morzhovoi Bay Section
2. Thin Point Section
3. Cold Bay Section
4. Deer Island Section
5. Belkofski Bay Section

In the South Central District:

1. That portion of the West Pavlof Bay Section located north of the latitude of Black Point.
2. Canoe Bay Section
3. East Pavlof Bay Section
4. Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section

In the Southeastern District:

1. That portion of Zachary Bay located south of 55°22.70' N. lat.
2. That portion of the Northwest Stepovak Section near Suzy Creek, after July 25, bounded by 160°19.00' W. long. (in Dorenoi Bay), 160°14.60' W. long. (the cape separating Chichagof Bay and West Cove), and 55°37.00' N. lat.
3. Stepovak Flats Section

From August 1 through August 31, fishing periods will be based on the strength of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon runs.

Beginning September 1, fishing periods will be based primarily on coho run strength, although late pink and chum run strength will be considered when determining fishing time (McCullough 1995). 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 may be used^a:

Month	Starting Time	Closing Time
June	6:00 a.m.	10:00 p.m.
July ^a	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 During the season, circumstances may require the department to change this fishing schedule. The general opening and closing times for fishing periods will probably not be in effect during July.

IMMATURE SALMON

The department will conduct a test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section prior to July 6 to assess the presence of immature salmon. Historically, the Shumagin Islands, Poperechnoi and Sanak Islands, and the South Unimak area catches have contained large numbers of immature salmon. Any fishing area with a high volume of immature salmon, either before or after July 6, will be closed to purse seine gear until the number of immature salmon drops to an acceptable level. The department has defined an acceptable harvest of immature salmon during normal purse seine fishing operations, at approximately 100 or less per set.

HARVEST PROJECTIONS

The 1998 South Peninsula post June commercial salmon harvest is projected to be 7,655,000 fish, composed of 5,000 chinook, 500,000 sockeye, 250,000 coho, 6,000,000 pink, and 900,000 chum salmon. The 1998 forecast is slightly above the 1993-97 average harvest for all species except pink salmon (Table 5). Future salmon harvests, especially pink and chum salmon, may continue to be limited by low prices and lack of markets rather than the availability of fish.

AIRCRAFT

A PERSON MAY NOT USE OR EMPLOY AN AIRCRAFT TO LOCATE SALMON FOR THE COMMERCIAL TAKING OF SALMON OR TO DIRECT COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS IN THE ALASKA PENINSULA AREA ONE HOUR BEFORE, DURING, AND ONE HOUR AFTER A COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING PERIOD.

LITERATURE CITED

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. *In press*. 1998-2000 Alaska Peninsula, Atka-Amlia, Aleutian Islands and Bristol Bay commercial salmon and miscellaneous finfish fishing regulations, 1998 edition. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Division, Juneau.

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.

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

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

- (a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide management guidelines to the department for the management of the post-June salmon fisheries along the South Alaska Peninsula, to provide for the harvest of local stocks in terminal harvest areas, and to establish fishing periods for the South Alaska Peninsula salmon fisheries outside of terminal harvest areas.
- (b) The commissioner shall establish, to the extent practicable, concurrent fishing periods in the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak Districts.
- (c) Fishing periods may be established under this section only as follows:
 - (1) except as specified in (d), for July, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.;
 - (2) for August, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.;
 - (3) for September, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and
 - (4) for October, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- (d) Notwithstanding (c)(1) of this section, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, six 24-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48 hour closures from July 6 through July 21, and three 36-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48 hour closures from July 22 through July 31. The first commercial fishing period of the July 22 through July 31 period may not start before 12:00 noon on July 23.
- (e) From July 22 through July 31, no more than 60,000 coho salmon may be taken in the entire South Peninsula, except in those areas designated as terminal harvest areas specified in (f) and (g) of this section.
- (f) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the following terminal harvest areas to salmon fishing from July 6 through July 21:
 - (1) The Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District, waters of Zachary Bay south of the latitude of 55° 22.60' N. lat.; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks;
 - (2) The East and West Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District, waters north of the latitude of Black Point (55° 24.48' N. lat.); fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks;

Continued

Table 1. (page 2 of 3)

- (3) The Canoe Bay Section of the South Central District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks;
- (4) in the Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections of the Southwestern District as follows:
 - (A) fishing periods in the Cold Bay Section shall be established based on the abundance of sockeye and chum salmon stocks;
 - (B) fishing periods in Thin Point Cove and Morzhovoi Bay Sections shall be established based on the abundance of sockeye salmon stocks.
- (g) In addition to the terminal harvest areas specified in (f), the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the following terminal harvest areas to salmon fishing from July 22 through July 31:
 - (1) The Northwest Stepovak Section of the Southeastern District Mainland (near Suzy Creek), after July 25, the waters east of 160° 19.00' W. long. (in Dorenoi Bay), west of the cape separating Chichagof Bay and West Cove (160° 14.57' W. long.) and north of 55° 37.00' N. lat.; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local pink salmon stocks;
 - (2) The Stepovak Flats Section of the Southeastern District Mainland, from July 26 through July 28; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local chum salmon stocks;
 - (3) The Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local pink and chum salmon stocks;
 - (4) The Belkofski Bay Section of the Southwestern District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local pink and chum salmon stocks;
 - (5) The Deer Island Section of the Southwestern District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local pink salmon stocks.
- (h) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the commercial salmon fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula as follows:

Continued

Table 1. (page 3 of 3)

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- (1) From August 1 through August 31, fishing periods shall be based on the abundance of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon stocks;
 - (2) From September 1 through October 31, fishing periods shall be based on abundance of coho salmon stocks, although the department may consider the abundance of late pink and chum salmon stocks.
 - (i) The department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section to assess the presence of immature salmon. If 100 or more immature salmon, per set, are present, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the seine fishery in an area to be determined by the department. If the seine fishery is closed in an area under this subsection, the set gillnet fishery shall remain open in that area.
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Table 2. South Peninsula (minus the Southeastern District Mainland fishery) commercial salmon harvest, all gear combined, July 1-19, 1970-97.^a

Year	Permits	Landings	Number Of Salmon					Total
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
1970	90	444	526	38,983	1,862	136,661	111,304	289,336
1971	154	931	476	174,839	2,304	66,847	282,119	526,585
1972	114	539	278	30,479	2,351	19,941	134,228	187,277
1973	104	437	120	33,983	2,073	8,629	54,977	99,782
1974	72	418	419	96,647	2,092	26,926	44,858	170,942
1975	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1976	63	97	4	5,470	5	76,977	10,592	93,048
1977	44	64	2	10,757	0	5,105	7,058	22,922
1978	82	394	129	34,424	3,912	273,043	86,123	397,631
1979	83	420	740	90,274	114,242	206,552	57,975	469,783
1980	99	676	588	185,246	17,126	238,497	193,055	634,512
1981	104	464	3,663	89,794	19,298	68,205	313,619	494,579
1982	104	589	1,145	63,150	30,411	545,280	200,165	840,151
1983	136	636	8,909	141,376	39,851	86,013	315,821	591,970
1984	141	755	3,097	157,266	87,460	868,470	445,627	1,561,920
1985	130	356	254	57,366	16,655	104,281	117,086	295,642
1986	115	802	2,579	286,124	82,857	150,290	291,727	813,577
1987	146	845	2,793	247,746	26,273	55,819	166,677	499,308
1988	152	777	3,896	271,502	52,624	101,318	289,125	718,465
1989	196	637	847	265,174	40,316	176,816	137,863	621,016
1990	208	838	3,534	292,505	35,393	80,312	246,935	658,679
1991	133	404	395	117,170	18,195	66,711	21,773	224,244
1992	187	534	895	279,293	46,873	150,952	123,259	601,272
1993	38	47	8	8,220	10	1,524	11,298	21,060
1994	17	91	15	26,477	348	2,449	1,550	30,839
1995	60	155	37	21,518	584	33,170	43,208	98,517
1996	17	49	16	10,569	2,848	7,663	2,826	23,922
1997	16	37	17	12,181	65	307	1,076	13,646
1978-92 Average								
	134	608	2,231	171,894	42,099	211,504	200,455	628,183
1993-97 Average								
	30	76	19	15,793	771	9,023	11,992	37,597

^a Test fish harvests are not included.

Table 3. South Peninsula (minus the Southeastern District Mainland fishery) commercial salmon harvest, all gear combined, July 20-August 31, 1970-97.^a

Year	Permits	Landings	Number Of Salmon					Total
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
1970	100	897	231	4,915	29,348	1,305,171	389,535	1,729,200
1971	105	1,041	737	14,969	14,298	1,124,847	429,188	1,584,039
1972	69	277	358	3,457	5,423	28,957	55,297	93,492
1973	48	126	30	2,626	4,152	19,232	26,769	52,809
1974	41	73	113	11,087	7,060	24,778	10,044	53,082
1975	38	65	0	293	3	52,375	29,158	81,829
1976	80	874	2	4,415	10	1,990,256	85,894	2,080,577
1977	84	955	5	10,848	67	1,267,492	98,078	1,376,490
1978	107	1,452	71	23,410	48,335	4,534,584	267,226	4,873,626
1979	142	1,652	191	82,072	202,455	5,032,101	237,948	5,554,767
1980	129	1,627	897	91,162	219,130	5,693,059	448,239	6,452,487
1981	142	1,420	480	68,766	110,130	3,602,612	476,481	4,258,469
1982	149	1,522	1,019	43,575	203,345	3,564,672	590,140	4,402,751
1983	151	1,288	2,515	54,398	62,979	2,505,818	354,489	2,980,199
1984	166	1,984	1,056	89,762	191,227	8,501,508	609,216	9,392,769
1985	187	1,650	388	156,736	126,022	3,201,844	624,254	4,109,244
1986	174	1,691	727	218,506	143,367	3,098,529	935,790	4,396,919
1987	208	1,161	853	104,732	162,247	755,772	481,744	1,505,348
1988	232	2,722	2,765	281,047	396,909	5,522,007	816,195	7,018,923
1989	254	2,131	2,184	349,504	315,202	3,907,729	266,601	4,841,220
1990	236	1,723	1,804	447,145	198,625	2,015,387	310,128	2,973,089
1991	220	2,138	1,577	234,073	229,480	7,791,532	570,053	8,826,715
1992	218	2,443	2,610	370,497	290,191	7,968,330	654,926	9,286,554
1993	203	2,006	2,842	364,313	164,309	7,181,103	436,137	8,148,704
1994	201	2,310	1,286	266,361	175,510	6,312,759	1,267,887	8,023,803
1995	191	2,517	1,795	446,667	195,628	13,976,946	945,532	15,566,568
1996	161	1,231	1,632	124,314	225,406	1,529,981	330,160	2,211,493
1997	137	717	1,037	195,072	68,188	1,612,500	261,182	2,137,979
<hr/>								
1978-92	Average							
	181	1,774	1,276	174,359	193,310	4,513,032	509,562	5,391,539
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1993-97	Average							
	179	1,756	1,718	279,345	165,808	6,122,658	648,180	7,217,709

^a Test fish harvests are not included.

Table 4. South Peninsula (entire) commercial salmon harvest, all gear combined, September 1 - October 31, 1970-97.^a

Year	Permits	Landings	Number Of Salmon					Total
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
1970	2	5	0	158	51	0	209	418
1971	1	1	0	0	0	0	63	63
1972	1	1	0	99	0	0	142	241
1973	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1974	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1975	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1976	4	15	0	1,776	160	85	0	2,021
1977	9	23	0	2,465	635	0	528	3,628
1978	21	51	0	808	4,651	0	5,726	11,185
1979	25	60	0	2,375	17,468	54	5,307	25,204
1980	29	139	0	6,513	30,390	154	4,166	41,223
1981	31	115	0	10,004	21,016	0	220	31,240
1982	29	213	2	24,471	10,742	0	3,407	38,622
1983	48	334	35	25,493	14,945	1,254	2,958	44,685
1984	52	269	10	13,351	10,526	458	1,789	26,134
1985	55	182	5	4,002	14,725	290	6,960	25,982
1986	46	146	2	3,459	6,318	518	2,519	12,816
1987	65	323	12	23,332	22,040	1,499	52,079	98,962
1988	68	328	4	24,635	26,497	62,290	19,345	132,771
1989	60	363	12	34,932	15,724	281	10,058	61,007
1990	66	426	7	67,142	23,318	584	73,195	164,246
1991	52	273	2	20,056	20,337	0	16,183	56,578
1992	53	333	58	13,115	35,323	1,525	3,486	53,507
1993	50	248	31	16,386	16,965	515	2,918	36,815
1994	75	373	18	25,481	36,563	294	214,174	276,530
1995	55	473	3	110,657	26,083	1,710	9,860	148,313
1996	57	364	5	26,301	26,525	136	2,910	55,877
1997	51	513	30	76,965	36,447	3,568	6,199	123,209
<hr/>								
1978-97	Average							
	49	276	12	26,474	20,830	3,757	22,173	73,245
<hr/>								
1988-97	Average							
	59	369	17	41,567	26,378	7,090	35,833	110,885

^a Test fish harvests are not included.

Table 5. South Peninsula July 1 - end of the season commercial salmon harvest, (minus Southeastern District Mainland July 1-25 harvest), all gear combined, 1987-97 and the projected 1998 harvest.

Year	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
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
1996	1,914	215,721	263,654	1,738,973	379,578
1997	1,204	325,143	110,486	1,681,370	277,556
Projected 1998	5,000	500,000	250,000	6,000,000	900,000
Average 1987-92	4,448	663,103	363,839	6,031,603	845,937
Average ^a 1993-97	2,057	435,511	217,022	7,178,636	781,597
Average 1988-97	3,309	574,542	304,360	7,089,358	807,219

^a Post June Salmon Management Plan for the Southern Alaska Peninsula in effect for the entire season.

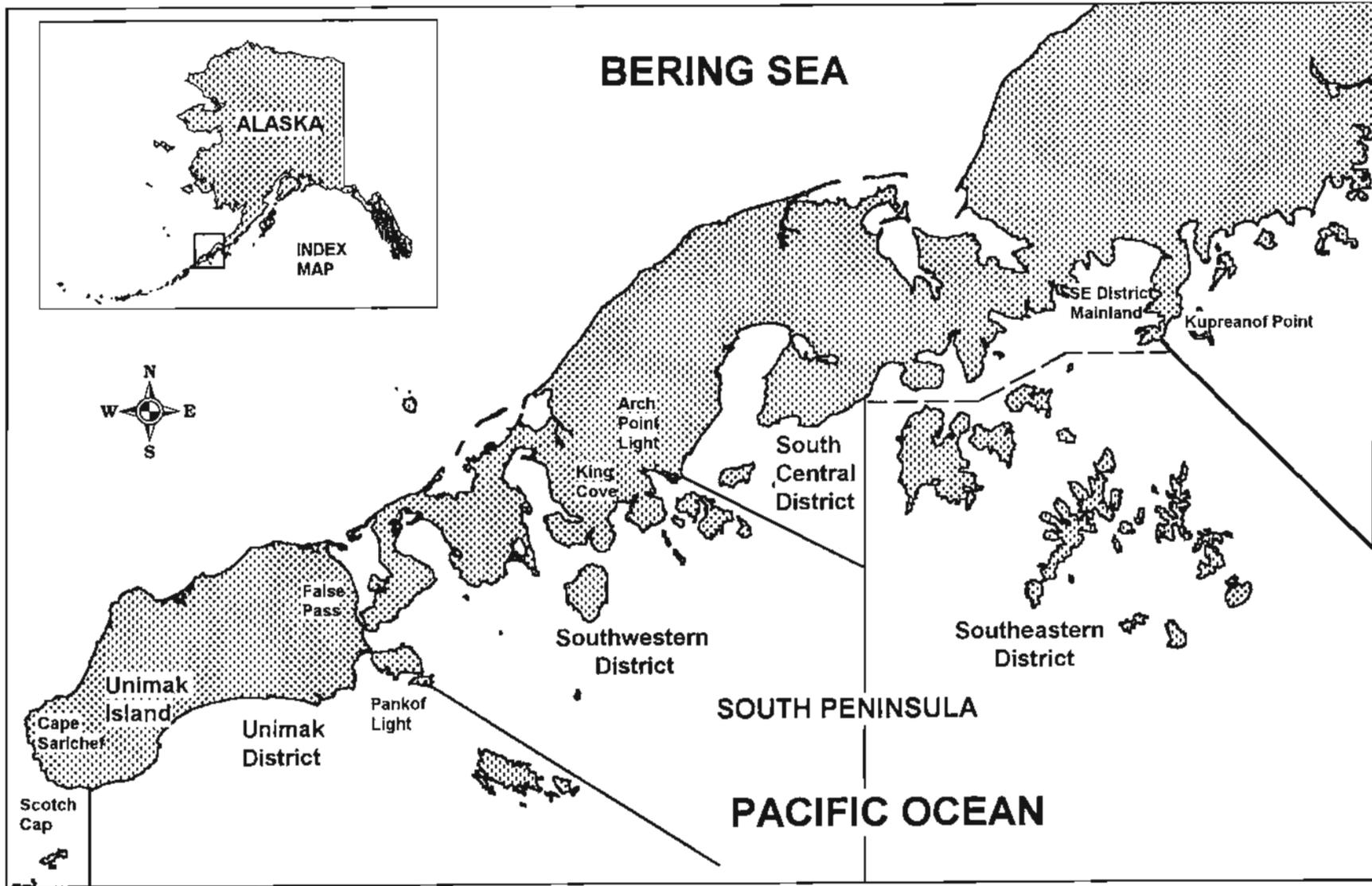


Figure 1. Map of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area with the salmon fishing districts defined.

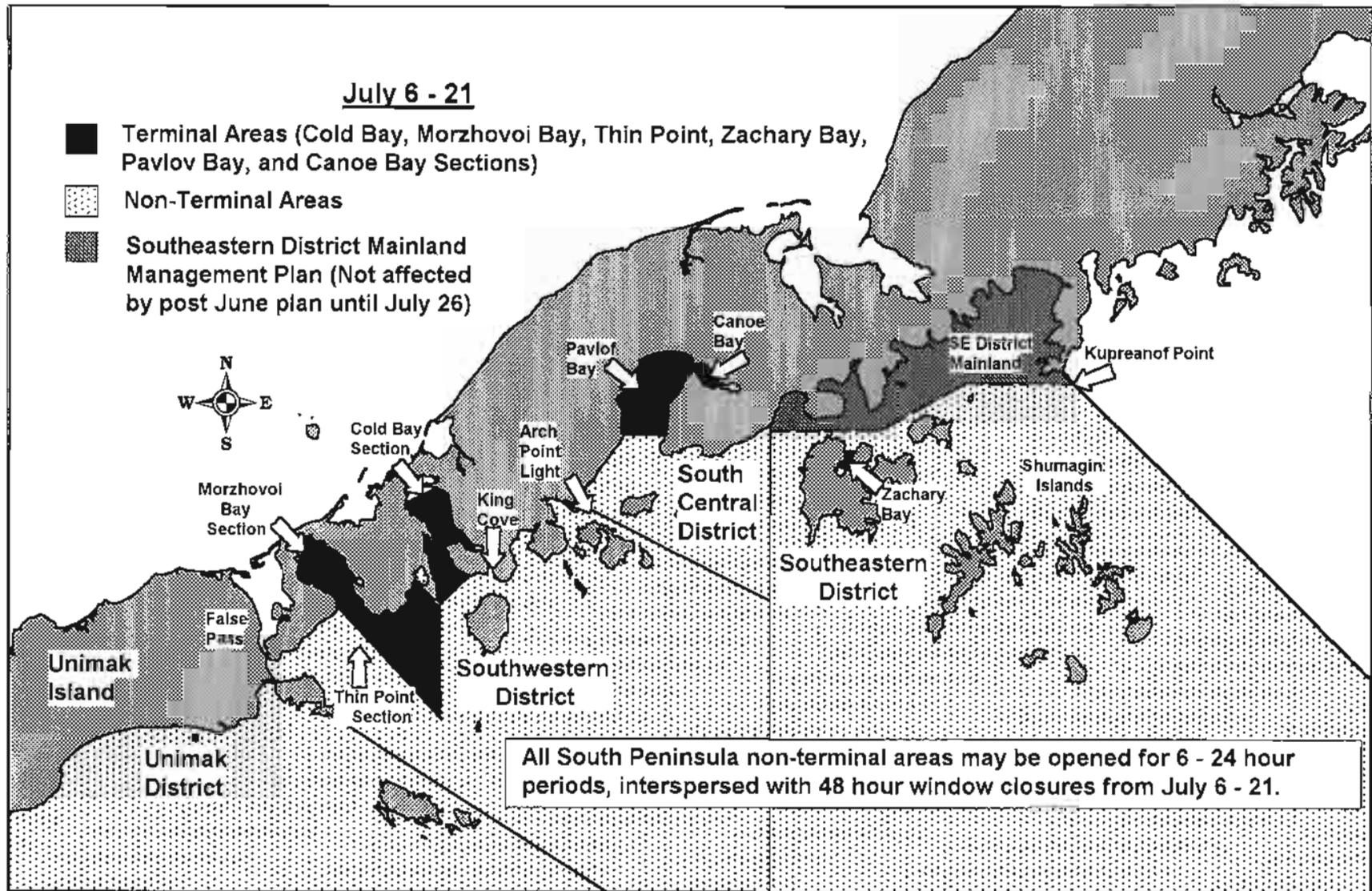


Figure 2. Map of the South Peninsula Post June fishery schedule during July 6-21 defined. Fishing may only be permitted in State waters (within three miles of shore).

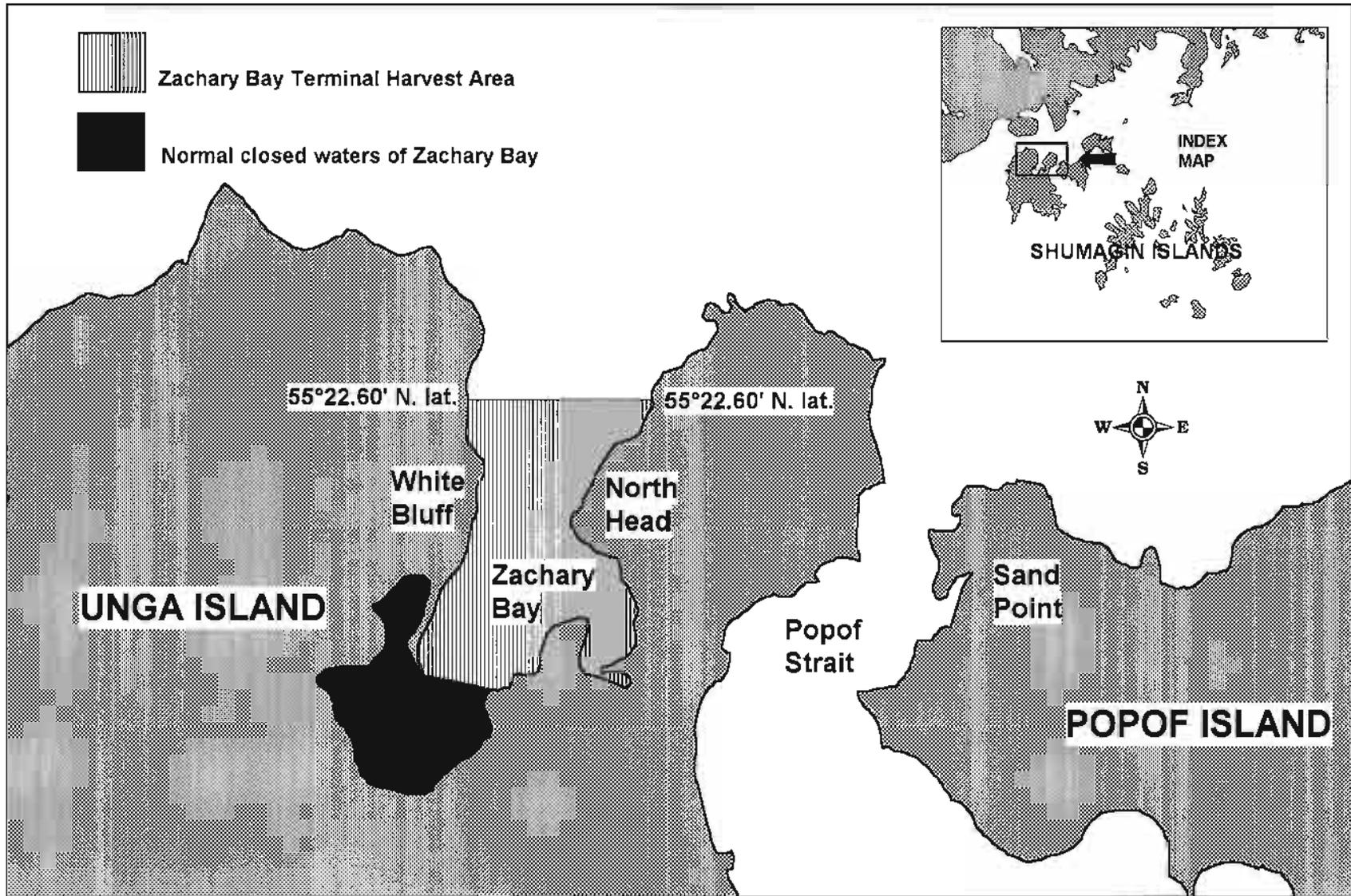


Figure 3. Map of Zachary Bay with closed waters and post June fishing areas defined.

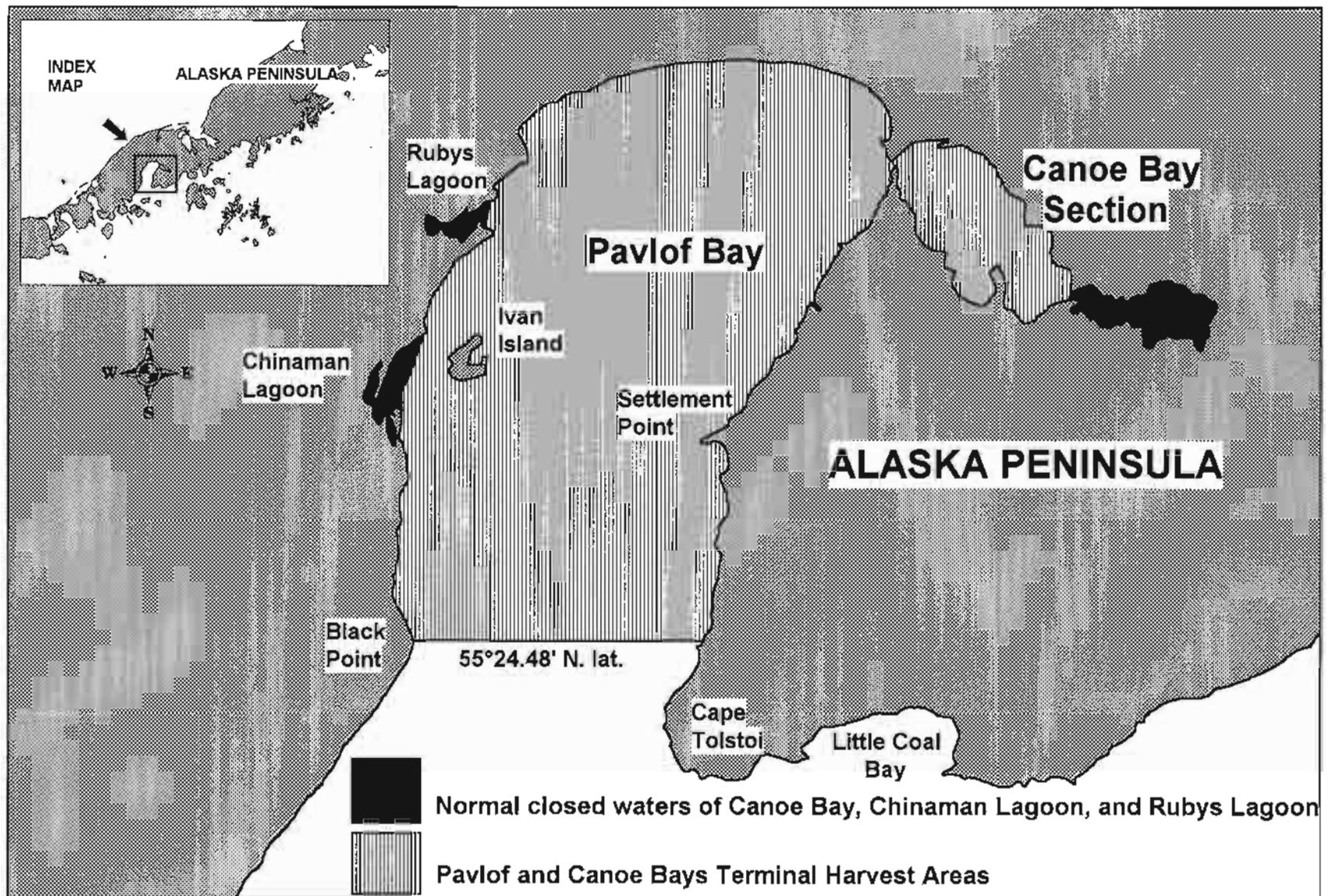


Figure 4. Map of Pavlof and Canoe Bay Sections with closed waters and post June fishing areas defined.

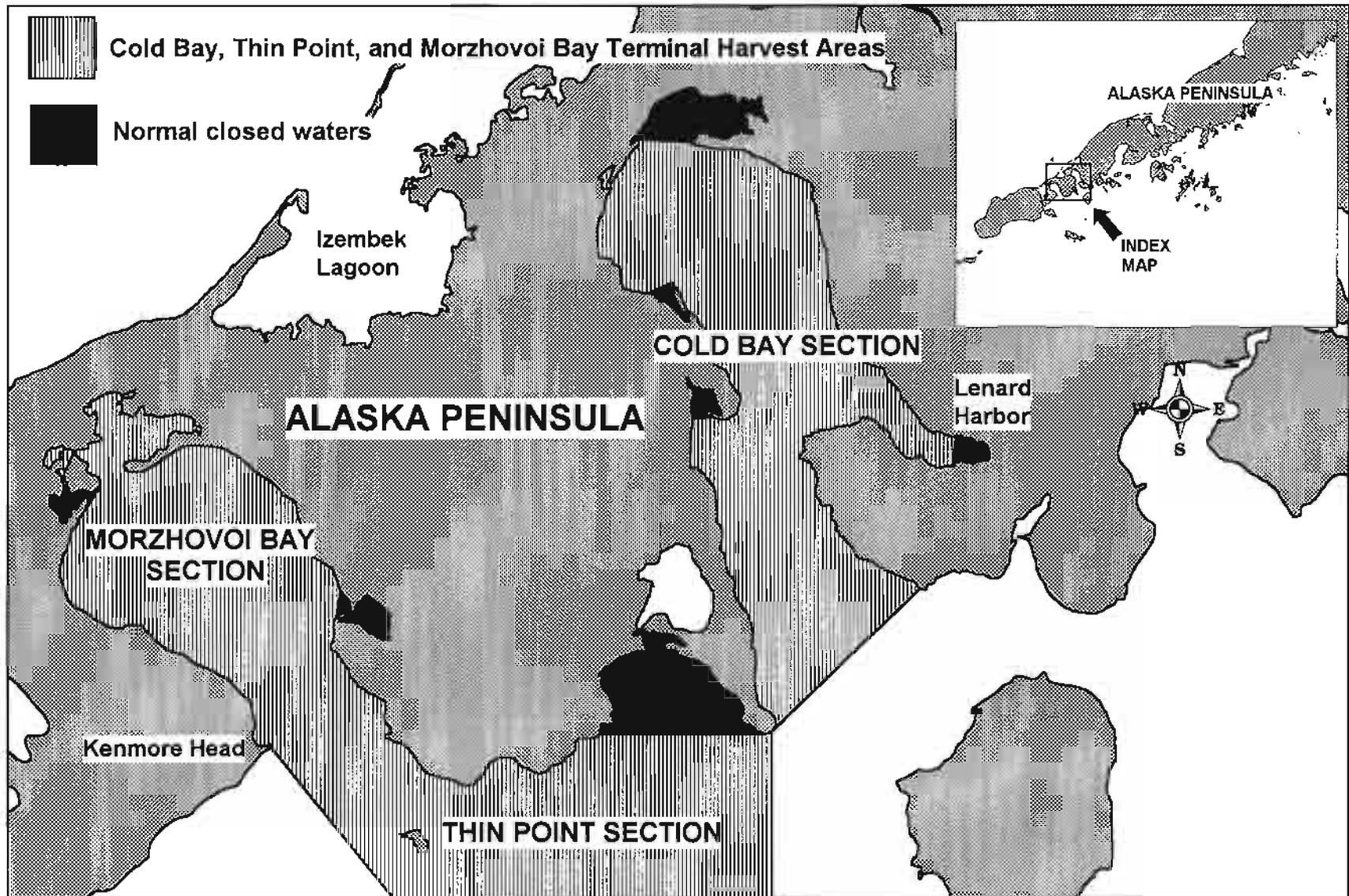


Figure 5. Map of Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections with July 6-September 30 fishing areas and approximate normal closed waters of some terminal areas.

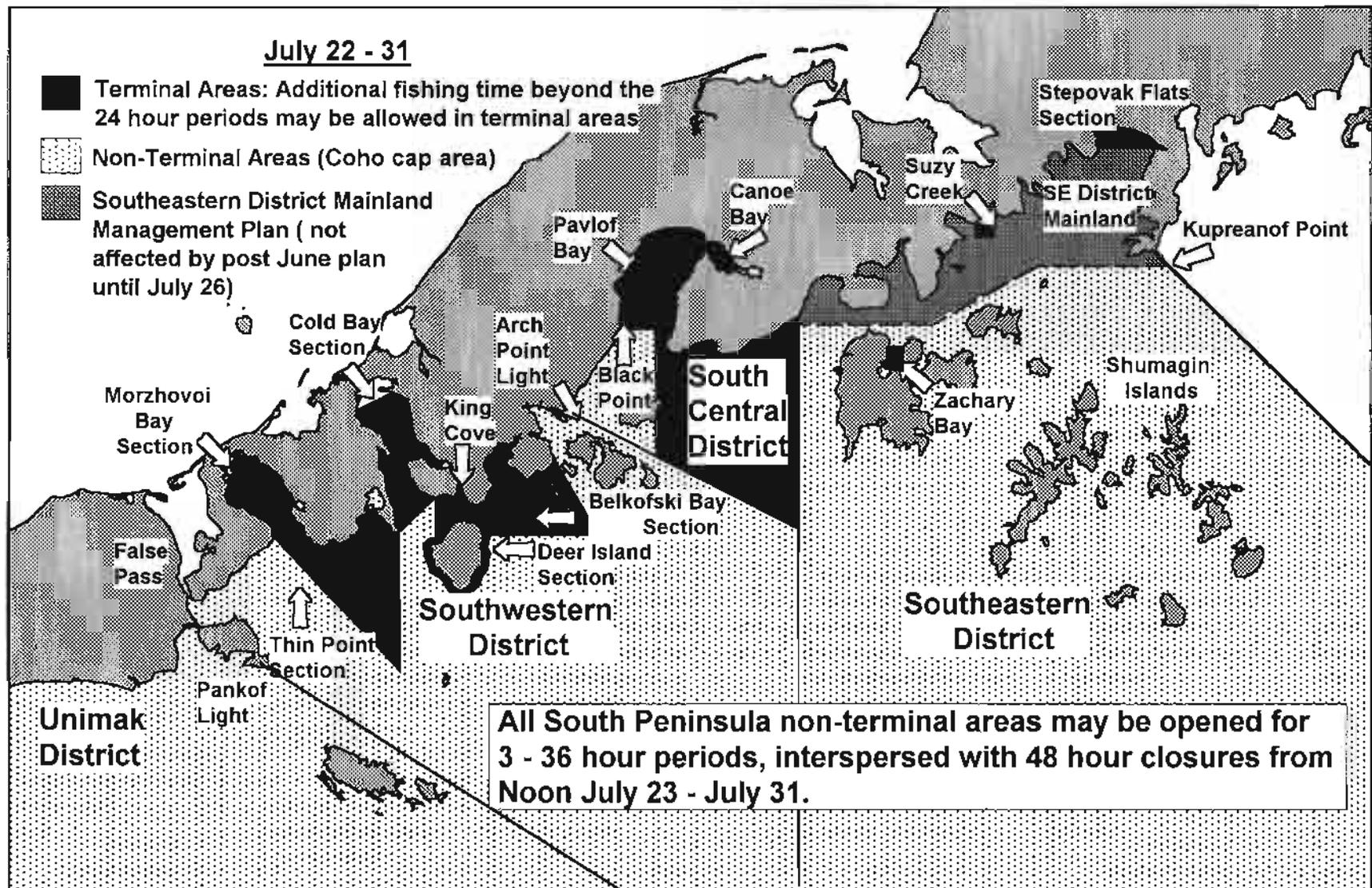


Figure 6. Map of the South Peninsula with those areas where additional fishing time may be allowed during July 22-31 defined. Fishing may only be permitted in State waters (within three miles of shore).

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