

ALASKA PENINSULA AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS MANAGEMENT
AREA HERRING SAC ROE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2002

By

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
LIST OF TABLES	i
LIST OF FIGURES	i
LIST OF APPENDICES	i
ABSTRACT	1
INTRODUCTION	2
MANAGEMENT PLAN.....	3
Registration Requirements	3
Tenders and Processors	3
North Peninsula	3
South Peninsula and Aleutian Islands	3
Fishing Vessels	3
Fishing Periods	3
Catch Reporting	4
Fish Tickets	4
Gillnet and Seine Specifications	4
Aircraft.....	4
Industry Cooperation	4
North Peninsula	5
South Peninsula	5
Aleutian Islands	6
LITERATURE CITED	7
TABLES	8
FIGURES.....	11
APPENDIX.....	18

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Alaska Peninsula commercial sac roe herring harvest by time period, area, and year, 1979-2001	8
2. Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Area sac roe herring guideline harvest levels by management section, 2002	9

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Map of the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Herring Management Area.....	11
2. Map of the Alaska Peninsula from Kupreanof Point to Belkofski Bay with commercial herring fishing statistical areas	12
3. Map of the Alaska Peninsula from Cape Mensehikof to Entrance Point with commercial herring fishing statistical areas	13
4. Map of the Port Moller District with commercial herring fishing statistical areas	14
5. Map of the Alaska Peninsula from Pavlof Bay to Cape Sarichef with commercial herring fishing statistical areas	15
6. Map of the eastern Aleutian Islands from Unimak Island to Samalga Pass with the commercial herring fishing districts	16
7. Map of the eastern Aleutian Islands from Tigalda Island to Umnak Island with commercial herring fishing statistical areas	17

LIST OF APPENDICES

<u>Appendix</u>	
A. Local offices of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game	19

ABSTRACT

Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Area Pacific herring *Clupea pallasii* sac roe fisheries can occur in North and South Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands waters. This document describes how the fisheries will be managed, the requirements of the fishing industry to participate in the fishery, and how to contact and relay information to the department. Historical harvests for North and South Peninsula waters as well as 2002 season guideline harvest levels and harvest projections are presented. This document is intended as a guide for commercial herring fishers, buyers and tenders. Information regarding commercial herring openings should be received from the department prior to fishing.

INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide commercial Pacific herring *Clupea pallasii* fishers and buyers with information and guidelines that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will use to manage the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Management Area commercial herring sac roe fisheries in 2002.

The Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Herring Management Area is described as Management Area "M" and is divided into three subareas; (1) the North Peninsula, consisting of Bering Sea waters extending west from Cape Menshikof to Cape Sarichef; (2) the South Peninsula, consisting of Pacific Ocean coastal waters extending west of Kupreanof Point to 163°30' W long. (the south side of Unimak Island near Cape Lazaref); and (3) the Aleutian Islands, consisting of Bering Sea waters extending west of Unimak Pass and Pacific Ocean waters extending west from 163°30' W long. (the south side of Unimak Island near Cape Lazaref) to the International Date Line (Figure 1).

The North Peninsula is composed of three districts and 23 statistical areas (Figures 3-5), the South Peninsula includes three districts and 45 statistical areas (Figures 2 and 5), and the Aleutian Islands includes five districts and 41 statistical areas (Figures 6 and 7). In recent years the North Peninsula and South Peninsula fisheries have been the two geographically distinct commercial herring sac roe fisheries occurring within the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Management Area. No commercial sac roe herring have been harvested from Aleutian Islands waters.

The North Peninsula herring sac roe fishery has occurred annually since 1982, with the exception of the 1997, 1999, 2000, and 2001 seasons during which herring were not harvested because of poor market conditions and low observed herring biomass. The most recent 10-year (1992-2001) average harvest is 509.6 tons (Table 1). The South Peninsula herring sac roe fishery has occurred annually since 1979, except in 1983 when the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) allocated the herring harvest to a food and bait fishery and in 1997-1999, and 2001 when there was little processor interest because of poor market conditions and/or low observed biomass. During the 2000 season, the South Peninsula fishery remained closed due to the absence of data associated with local stocks. The 1992-2001 average harvest was 51.7 tons (Table 1).

During the 2002 Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Management Area herring sac roe fisheries, the permit holder and the buyer will be responsible for determining herring quality. The ADF&G will not open or close the herring fishery based on roe quality except in cases where excessive wastage is expected. Permit holders are encouraged to check with their buyer prior to fishing to determine industry standards for product quality and size. All herring harvested during the sac roe season that are sold as bait or discarded due to quality problems will be included as part of the total sac roe herring harvest.

Guideline harvest levels (GHLs) are established for management units that have a history of sac roe herring harvests. For the 2002 season, only the Port Moller District will have a pre-season GHL. The actual allowable harvest in the Port Moller District will be determined using a sliding scale exploitation rate (Table 2).

Management sections that lack an extensive history of harvest, have not maintained significant fishing effort within the past five years, or have no record of observed biomass, may open by emergency order during the 2002 season. The opening of these areas will be contingent upon the industry notifying the department of interest in harvesting herring from a specific area, the department documenting herring biomass, and the department setting a GHL. These areas include all North Peninsula Districts other than the Port Moller District (but including the Western Section of the Port Moller District), and all South Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Districts.

Inseason emergency orders will be broadcast on the single side band (SSB) radio on 4.125 and 3.230 MHz and on marine VHF radio channels 6 and 72, or other channels if arrangements are made with the local representative of the ADF&G.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Registration Requirements

Tenders and Processors

North Peninsula. All herring tenders and processors must register prior to buying or tendering herring in North Peninsula waters. The skipper/owner must register tenders and buyer-processors at the ADF&G Port Moller office (Appendix A) or through other means (i.e., radio, fax, or phone) with the approval of ADF&G in Port Moller.

South Peninsula and Aleutian Islands. The skipper/owner must register tenders and buyer-processors at the ADF&G offices in Port Moller, Cold Bay, Sand Point, or Dutch Harbor (Appendix A). All herring tenders and processors must register prior to buying or tendering herring in South Peninsula and Aleutian Islands waters. Catch reporting instructions will be explained in detail during the registration process.

Fishing Vessels

There are no registration requirements for purse seine and gillnet vessels.

Fishing Periods

The Port Moller District of the North Peninsula may open for commercial herring fishing from April 15 through June 30, but only during periods established by emergency order. A minimum of six hours advance notice will be given prior to any fishing period in the Port Moller District, unless it is an extension of a current fishing period. If effort decreases to a level where overharvesting the stock is not a concern, the six hour notice may be reduced or eliminated. Purse seine and gillnet gears will have concurrent openings throughout the North Peninsula.

South Peninsula waters, which include the Sand Point, Pavlof, and King Cove Districts (Figures 2 and 5), and Aleutian Islands waters, which include the Unimak, Akutan, Unalaska,

Umnak, and Adak Districts (Figures 6 and 7) may open to commercial sac roe herring fishing by emergency order during the 2002 season. Fishing periods will be established only after the department has quantified herring biomass in an area, set a GHL, and is assured there is industry interest in harvesting herring from the area.

Catch Reporting

Processors and tender operators must report daily to the ADF&G while involved in Alaska Peninsula-Aleutians Area herring sac roe fisheries (ADF&G 2001; 5AAC 07.662). Daily reports must include tallies of harvested herring including accurate estimates of herring on-board tenders. A confidential reporting code will be provided to each processor and tender operator. Since the allowable harvest could be exceeded in less than a day, fishers are encouraged to report harvests after each set, while tenders and processors are asked to report immediately upon completion of each delivery.

Fish Tickets

Permit holders must provide specific harvest locations (statistical area or a specific landmark) to buyers, so that they can be recorded on fish tickets. During North Peninsula fisheries, fish tickets must be delivered to a local ADF&G commercial fishery representative prior to transporting herring out of the Port Moller District and in other districts, within 10 days after termination of buying operations (ADF&G 2001; 5AAC 27.662). During South Peninsula and Aleutian Islands fisheries, fish tickets should be received by ADF&G personnel in Sand Point within 10 days after termination of buying operations (Appendix A). Fish tickets must include the weight of harvested herring in units of short tons (2000 lbs.) or pounds.

Gillnet And Seine Specifications (5 AAC 27.631 and 5 AAC 27.632 in part)

During Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area herring sac roe fisheries, the aggregate length of herring gillnets in use by a herring Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit holder may not exceed 150 fathoms. A purse seine is not to exceed 1,000 meshes in depth and 100 fathoms in length.

Aircraft

There is no restriction on the use of aircraft.

Industry Cooperation

Cooperation of fishers, tender operators, spotter pilots, and processors is encouraged when ADF&G personnel request herring samples from the commercial catch. Samples will be used for monitoring age composition, which assists in determining the health of a stock and in forecasting next year's

run strength. The ADF&G will also be monitoring spawning activities and will be soliciting information regarding herring sightings to supplement information gathered by department personnel. The department's ability to monitor herring biomass is limited by aircraft availability and funding constraints. Industry cooperation in locating herring biomass will enable the department to more efficiently monitor Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area herring stocks. Fishers and spotter pilots are encouraged to provide herring biomass and spawning information to the ADF&G. The department may use these reports to locate and document herring biomass. Past cooperation has proven valuable in evaluating stock status and assisting management.

North Peninsula

The 2002 North Peninsula herring sac roe fishery GHL is 0-150 tons and the entire GHL is expected to be taken in the Port Moller District. This GHL is based on applying a sliding scale exploitation rate to the 2001 biomass estimate and taking into consideration historical Port Moller District biomass. However, once an inseason estimation of herring biomass is made, the ADF&G may implement GHL adjustments. The sliding scale allowable harvest on the estimated mature biomass (detailed below) requires an expectation of meeting a minimum threshold of 1,000 tons of observed biomass prior to a fishery opening (5 AAC 27.060. Bering Sea Herring Fishery Management Plan).

Stock Size (Short Tons)	Sliding Scale Exploitation Rate	Allowable Harvest
Less than 1,000	0%	0
1,001-1,500	10%	0-150
1,501-1,999	10%	150-200
2,000-2,500	15%	300-375
2,501-3,000	15%	375-450
>3,000	20%	>450

At low biomass levels, the department will take a conservative fishery management approach to allow the local stocks to rebuild and to account for North Peninsula herring that may contribute to the "Dutch Harbor" food and bait fishery. Rowell et.al. (1990) estimated that up to 22% of the "Dutch Harbor" food and bait harvest may be non-Togiak herring. Based on estimated travel time of eastern Bering Sea herring stocks to Dutch Harbor and the fishery opening date of July 15, North Peninsula stocks may compose a portion of the non-Togiak component.

South Peninsula

South Peninsula districts may open to commercial herring sac roe fishing during the 2002 season. No biomass estimates exist for any sections within these districts and GHLs have not been established. Harvests from these sections will be kept small (no more than 25 tons of herring will be allowed to be harvested from any section) until the department can estimate the biomass.

In recent years, there has been a lack of fishing effort in South Peninsula herring fisheries. Opening of South Peninsula waters will be contingent upon industry interest in harvesting herring in a specific area, department documentation of herring biomass, and the department setting a GHL based on the observed biomass. Partially due to a reduction in aerial survey efforts in recent years, the department has documented little spawning herring biomass in South Peninsula waters and is soliciting reports of herring biomass during the 2002 season. The department plans to increase aerial survey efforts in 2002 and is asking that any herring biomass observations be reported to department personnel in Sand Point.

Aleutian Islands

All districts within the Aleutian Islands, which includes the Unimak, Akutan, Unalaska, Umnak, and Adak Districts, may open to commercial herring sac roe fishing during the 2002 season. Emergency orders allowing herring sac roe fishing periods in the Aleutian Islands will be contingent upon industry expressing interest in harvesting herring in a specific area, department documentation of herring biomass and establishment of a GHL. To date, commercial herring sac roe harvest has not occurred in Aleutian Island waters.

LITERATURE CITED

ADF&G (Alaska Department of Fish and Game). 2001. 2001-2002 Commercial herring fishing regulations, 2001 edition. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Division, Juneau.

Rowell, K.A., H.J. Geiger, and B.G. Bue. 1990. Stock Identification of Pacific Herring in the Eastern Bering Sea Trawl Bycatch and in the Dutch Harbor Directed Food and Bait Fishery. Proc. Int. Herring Symposium. Alaska Sea Grant Report No. 91-01, 1991 pp. 255-278.

Table 1. Alaska Peninsula commercial sac roe herring harvest by time period, area, and year, 1979-2001.

Year	North Peninsula		South Peninsula		Total
	Harvest (Tons) ^a	Harvest Time Period	Harvest (Tons) ^a	Harvest Time Period	
1979	10.1	July 4-July 4	0.0	-	10.1
1980	0.0	-	453.8	May 18-July 14	453.8
1981	0.0	-	797.6	May 9-June 23	797.6
1982	505.5	May 31-June 12	176.2	May 31-June 14	681.7
1983	627.0	May 9-May 29	0.0	-	627.0
1984	431.2	May 24-June 8	210.2	May 13-June 1	641.4
1985	710.2	May 24-June 4	287.7	June 1-June 11	997.9
1986	894.4	May 18-May 30	281.9	June 7-June 14	1,176.3
1987	513.7	May 9-June 5	319.0	June 8-June 19	832.7
1988	294.3	May 17-June 15	376.7	May 31-June 20	671.0
1989	729.0	May 28-June 23	310.3	May 13-June 19	1,039.3
1990	272.8	June 4-June 19	312.2	May 14-June 14	585.0
1991	1,313.0	May 17-July 4	157.4	May 16-June 11	1,470.4
1992	3,969.0	May 23-June 17	180.4	June 4-June 7	4,149.4
1993	535.9	May 8-June 9	97.0	May 27-June 9	632.9
1994	89.8	May 21-June 7	8.2	June 2-June 3	98.0
1995	337.3	May 29-June 20	62.7	June 6-June 17	400.0
1996	^b	June 12-June 18	117.3	May 10-June 27	^b
1997		No Fishing Occurred			
1998	^b	May 21-June 3	0.0	----	^b
1999		No Fishing Occurred			
2000 ^c		No Fishing Occurred			
2001		No Fishing Occurred			
1992-2001 Average	509.6		51.7		556.1

^a Tons are short tons which equal 2000 lbs.

^b This information cannot be released due to confidentiality requirements.

^c The South Peninsula exploratory sac roe herring fishery was closed during the 2000 season.

Table 2. Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Area sac roe herring guideline harvest levels by management section, 2002.

Management Area	Sac Roe Guideline Harvest In Short Tons (2000 lbs.)
<i>North Peninsula</i>	
Amak District	a
<u>Port Moller District^{bc}</u>	150
Western Section	b
Deer Island Section ^d	b
Herendeen Bay Section	b
Inner Port Moller Bay Section	b
Outer Port Moller Bay Section	b
Bear River Section	b
Port Heiden District ^e	a
<i>North Peninsula Total</i>	150
<i>South Peninsula</i>	
<u>Sand Point District</u>	
Stepovak Bay Section	a
Swedania Point-Balboa Bay Section	a
Point Aliaksin-Beaver Bay Section	a
General Section (Shumagin Islands)	a
<u>Pavlof District</u>	
Canoe Bay Section	a
Pavlof Bay Section	a
Seal Cape-Wosnesenski Section	a
General Section (Volcano Bay)	a
<u>King Cove District</u>	
Belkofski Section	a
Deer Passage Section	a
Cold Bay Section	a
General Section	a
<i>South Peninsula Total</i>	0
<i>Aleutian Islands^f</i>	

-Continued-

Table 2. (page 2 of 2)

^a All areas without guideline harvest levels will be managed conservatively. Harvests in these areas will be kept small until ADF&G is able to document the spawning biomass. No more than 25 tons of herring will be allowed to be harvested from the waters of any section in these areas unless ADF&G documents a herring biomass that would allow a larger harvest.

^b The guideline harvest level increases proportionally to spawning biomass observed by ADF&G. A sliding scale exploitation rate was used to determine the 2002 GHl.

Stock Size (Short Tons)	Sliding Scale Exploitation Rate	Allowable Harvest
< 1,000	0%	0
1,001-1,500	10%	0-150
1,501-1,999	10%	150-200
2,000-2,500	15%	300-375
2,501-3000	15%	375-450
>3000	20%	>450

^c Herring harvested along the Bering Sea coast (southeast of Cape Seniavin) will be allocated to the Port Moller and Herendeen Bays guideline harvest level if it is suspected that these herring were traveling into Port Moller or Herendeen Bays.

^d Herring harvested in the Deer Island Section of Herendeen Bay will be allocated to the Herendeen Bay guideline harvest level.

^e In 1992, commercial quantities of herring were harvested for the first time in the Port Heiden District. The commercial herring fishery will be managed conservatively until adequate data is obtained to warrant a liberal management approach. Herring harvested along the Bering Sea coast (northeast of Cape Seniavin) are counted against the Port Heiden guideline harvest level if it is suspected that these herring were travelling in to Port Heiden Bay.

^f The Aleutian Islands Management Area is open for exploration; no deliveries of sac roe herring have ever been made from the Aleutian Islands. Portions of a section, district, or area may be closed if it is suspected that harvests in a given location will exceed 20% of the spawning biomass.

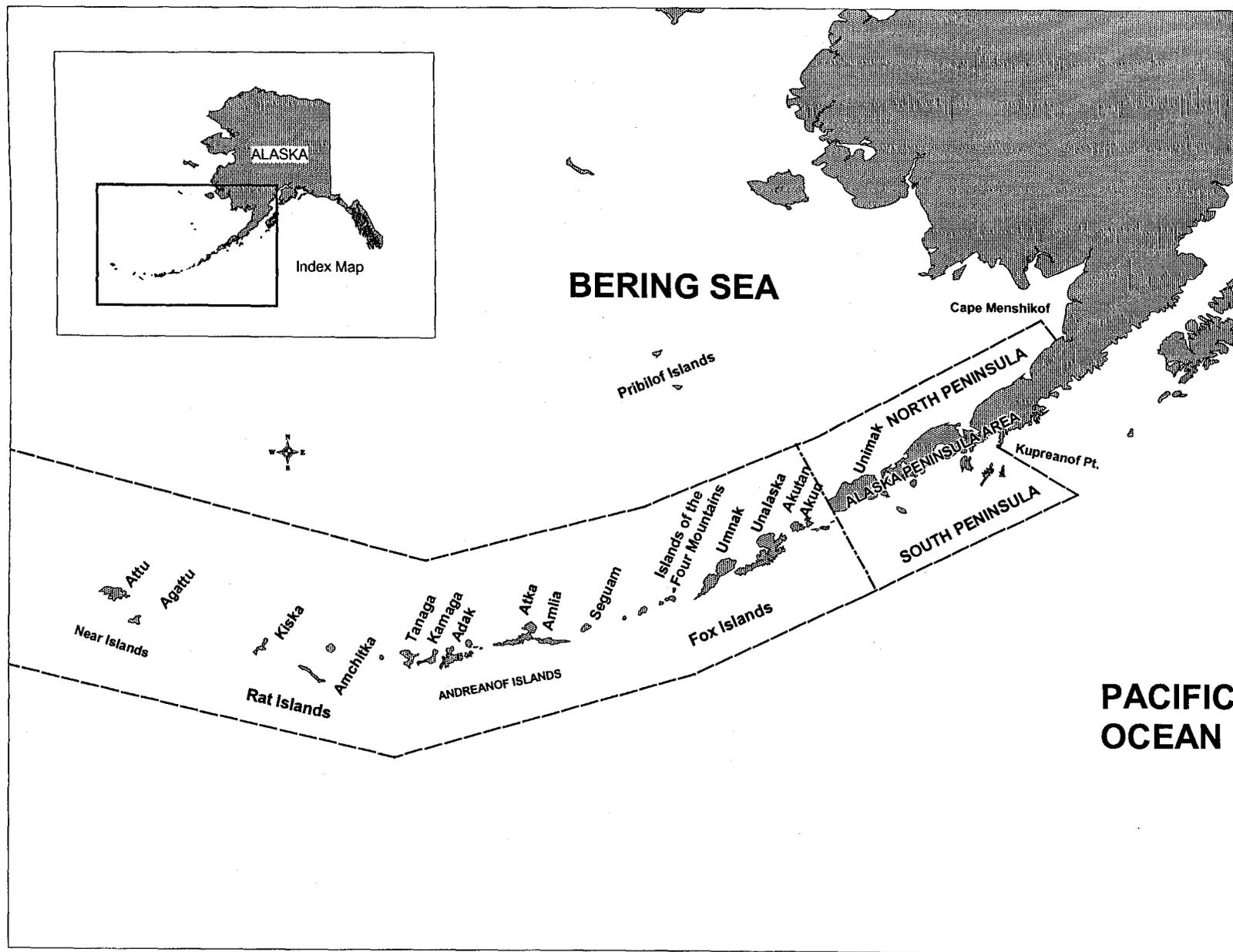


Figure 1. Map of Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Herring Management Area.

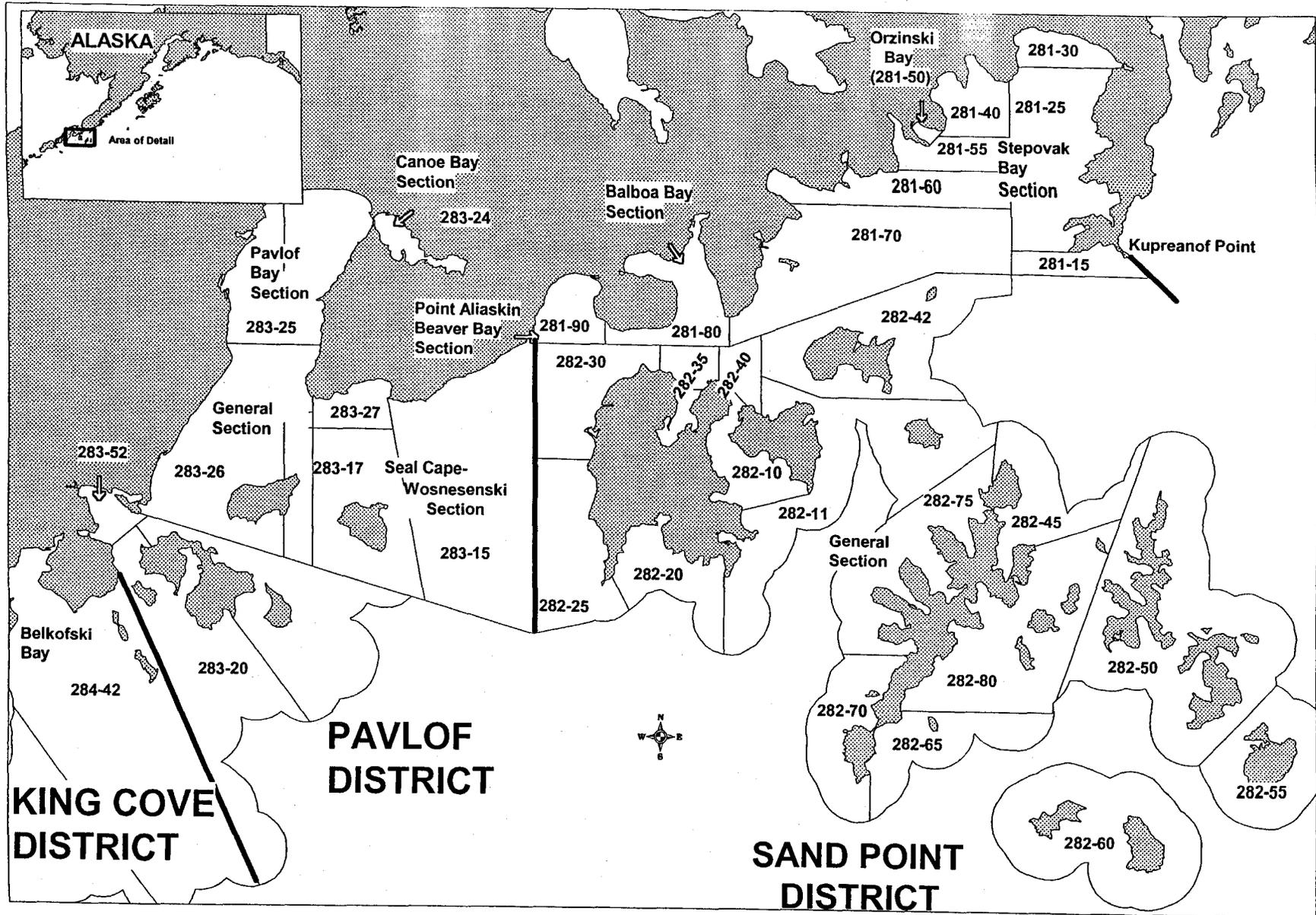


Figure 2. Map of the Alaska Peninsula from Kupreanof Point to Belkofski Bay with commercial herring fishing statistical areas.

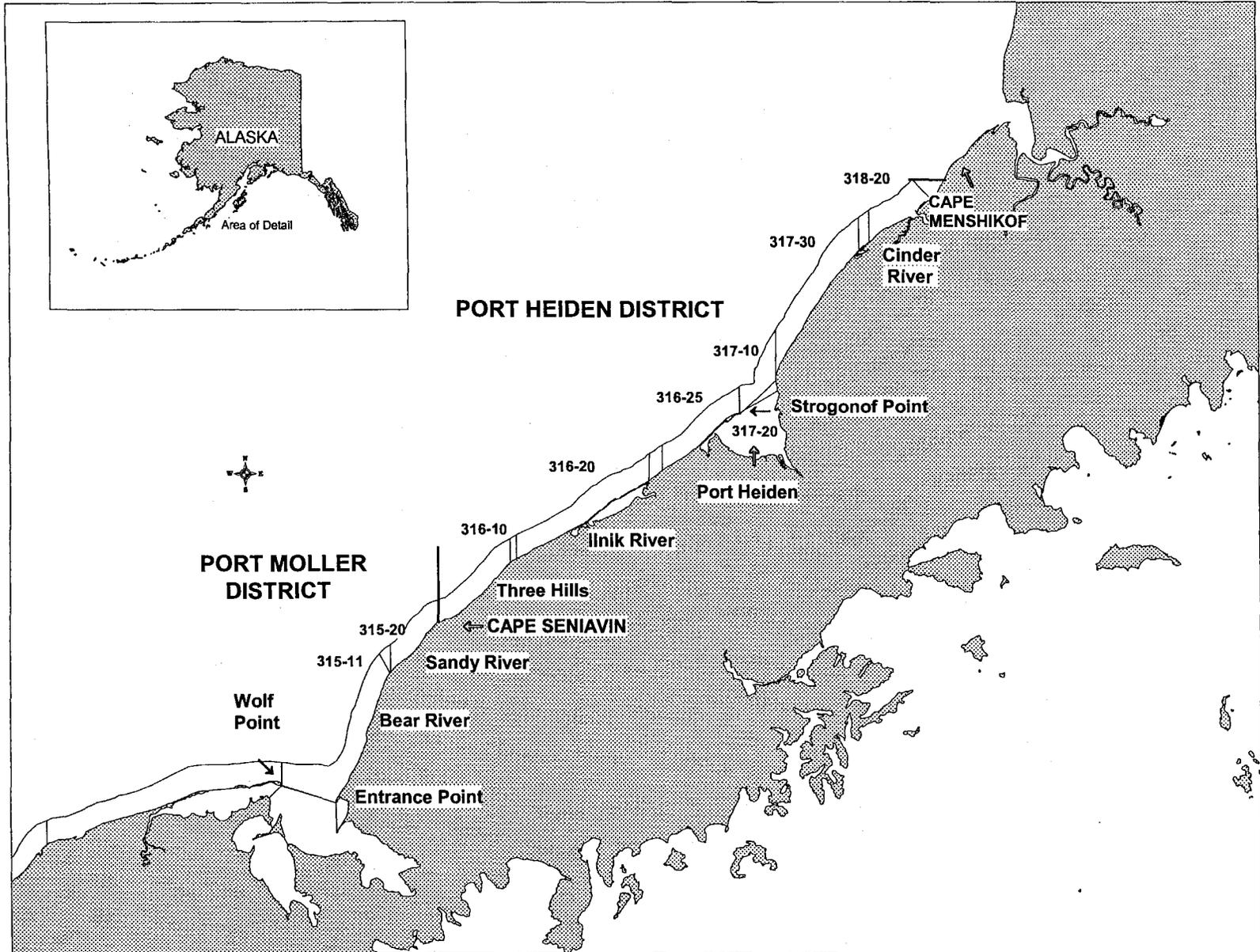


Figure 3. Map of the Alaska Peninsula from Cape Menshikof to Entrance Point with commercial herring fishing statistical areas.

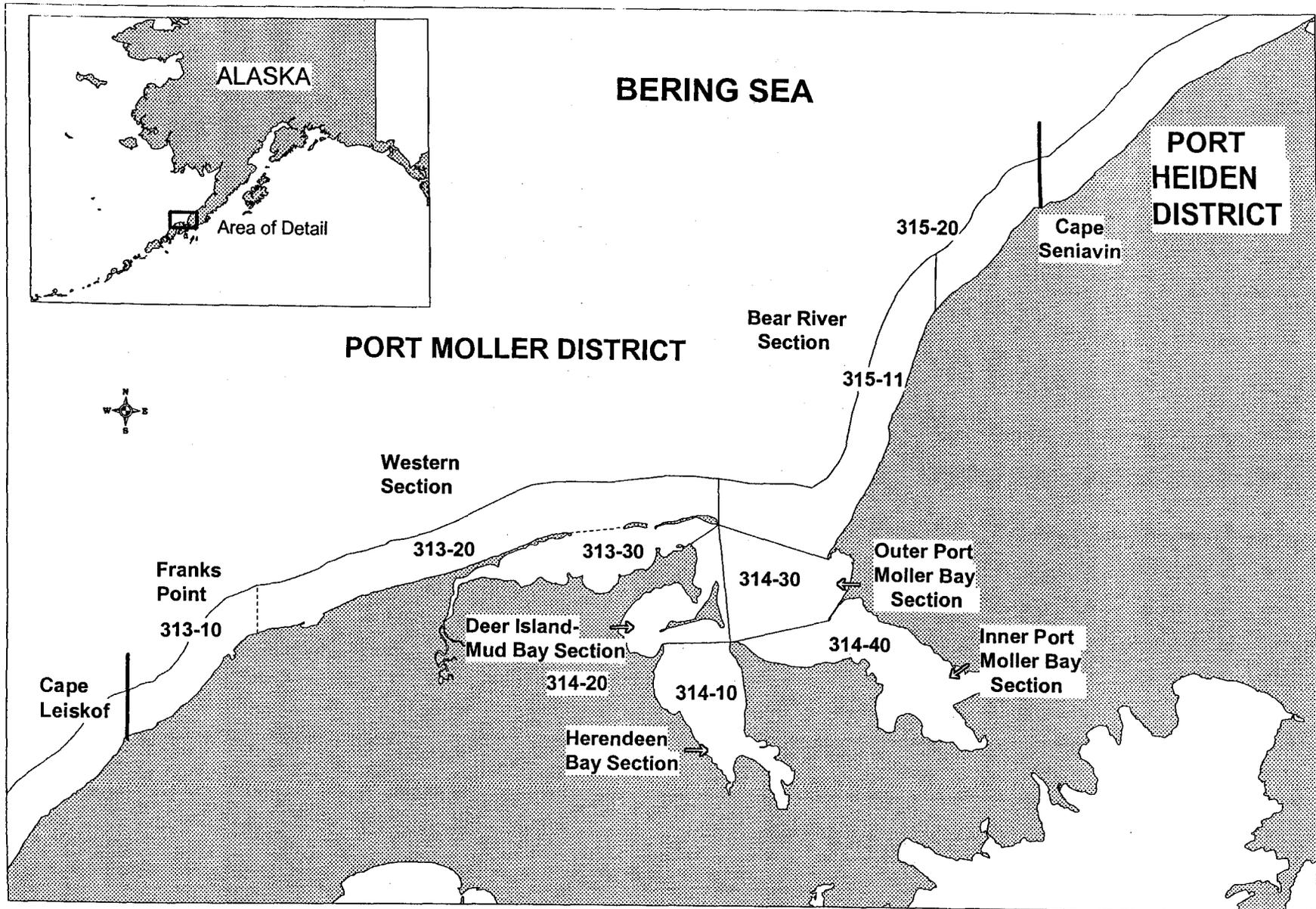


Figure 4. Map of the Port Moller District with commercial herring fishing statistical areas.

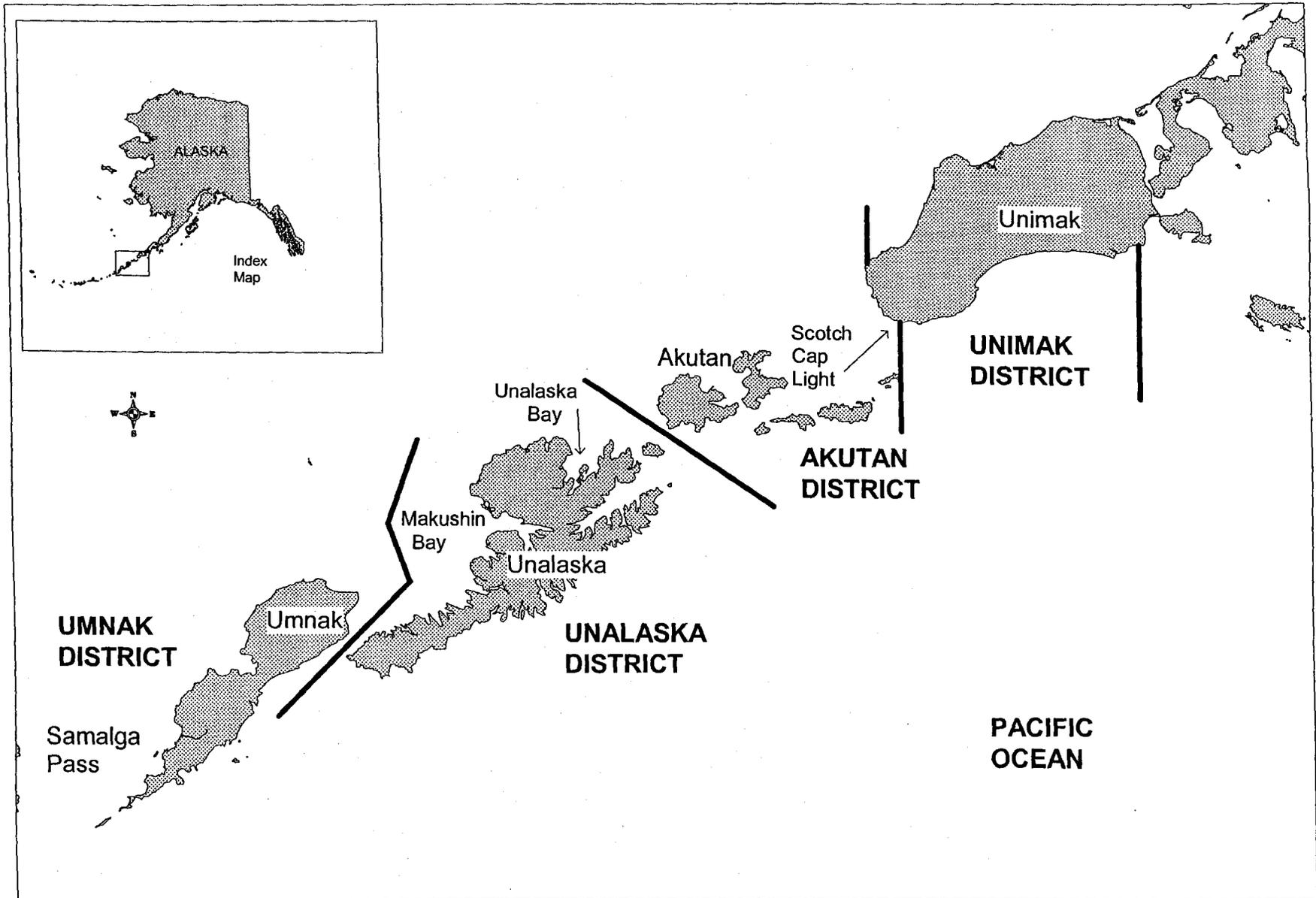


Figure 6. Map of the eastern Aleutian Islands from Samalga Pass to Unimak Island with the commercial herring fishing districts.

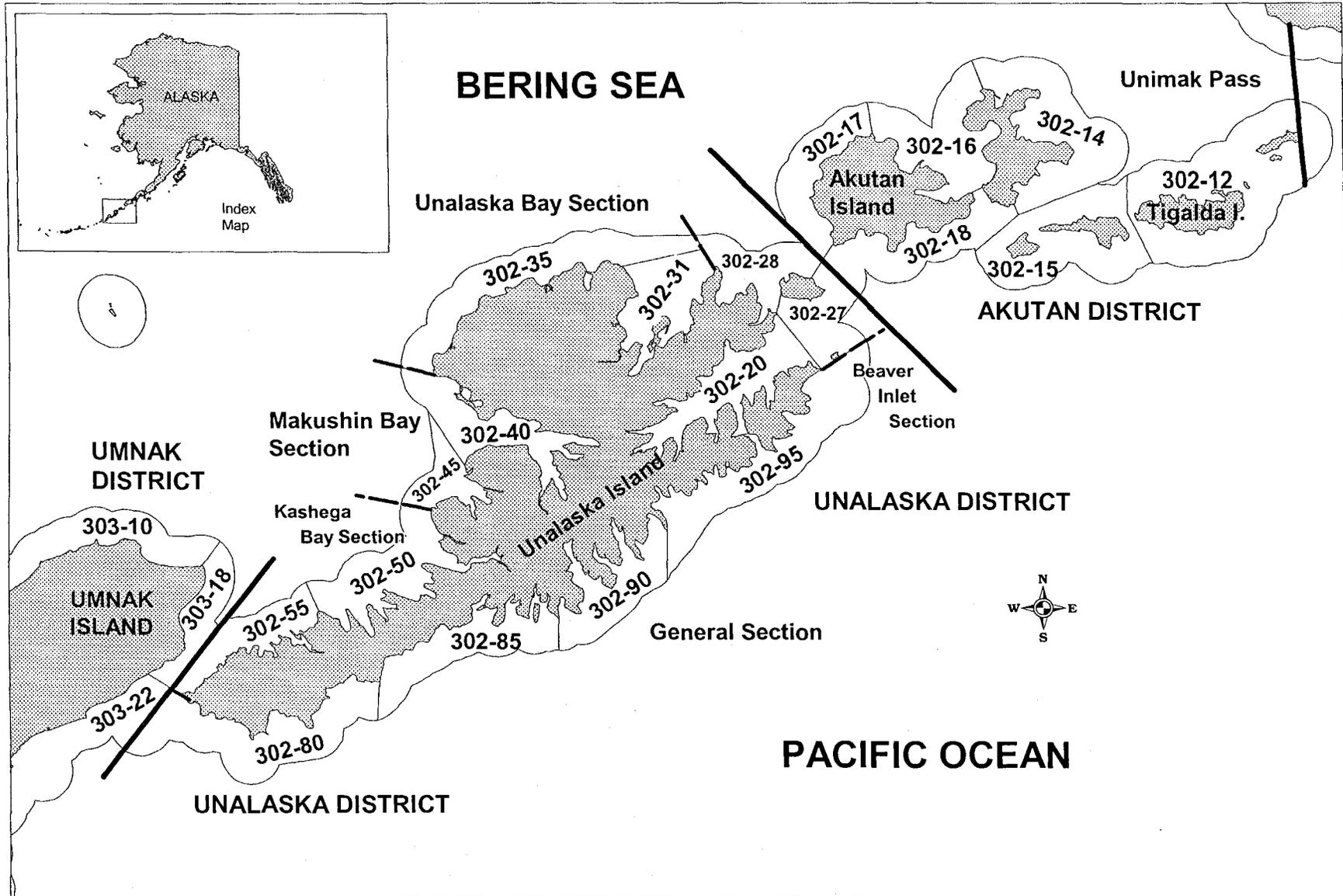


Figure 7. Map of the eastern Aleutian Islands from Tigalda Island to Umnak Island with commercial herring fishing statistical areas.

APPENDIX

Appendix A. Local offices of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Sand Point

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 129
Sand Point, AK 99661
phone (907) 383-2066
fax (907) 383-2606
recorded message (907) 383-2334
VHF 6 and 73
Single Side Band 3.230 MHz
KWB 362

Cold Bay

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 50
Cold Bay, AK 99571
phone (907) 532-2419
fax (907) 532-2470
VHF 6
Single Side Band 3.230 and 4.125 MHz
KCO 332/WHW 906

Dutch Harbor

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 920587
Dutch Harbor, AK 99692
phone (907) 581-1219
fax (907) 581-1572
VHF 9
Single Side Band 4.125 MHz
WIM 76

Port Moller

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 163
Port Moller, AK 99571-8999
phone (907) 987-2216
fax (907) 987-2215
VHF 72
Single Side Band 3.230 MHz
WNGV 537

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