

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AND ATKA-AMLIA ISLANDS AREAS
SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2002

By

Arnie Shaul

Regional Information Report¹ No. 4K02-19

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

March 2002

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ABSTRACT

A harvestable surplus of pink salmon *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha* is anticipated in the Aleutian Islands and Atka – Amlia Islands Areas in 2002, due to healthy escapements in the streams surveyed in 2000 and a history of high abundance during some even numbered years. Closed waters changes in the Aleutian Islands Area were implemented by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) in 1998. Fishermen intending to fish in the Atka – Amlia Islands Area need to register with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices in Cold Bay, Dutch Harbor, or Sand Point or other locations designated by ADF&G, at least 48 hours prior to fishing for salmon in the Atka – Amlia Islands Area.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA
(Excluding Atka/Amlia Islands Area)

The Aleutian Islands Area includes all state waters of 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'.00 W long. (Sequam Pass) and all state waters of the Aleutian Islands west of 175°23'.00 W long. (Atka Pass) (Figure 1).

The Aleutian Islands Area is part of Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) Area M. Seining is the only legal method to harvest salmon in the Aleutian Islands Area.

A harvestable pink salmon *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha* surplus is anticipated in the Aleutian Islands Area during 2002 as escapements were healthy in streams surveyed during 2000 and the area has a history of producing large runs during some even numbered years. Unalaska is the only district in the Aleutian Islands Management Area which has produced a commercial harvest in the last 30 years. There are small local sockeye salmon runs in the Unalaska District. However, due to the remoteness of the fishery and anticipated small run size, the sockeye salmon harvest (if any) is expected to be small.

The Kashega Bay Section (Spray Cape to Konets Head) only, will be open to commercial salmon fishing from 6:00 AM Monday until 6:00 PM Friday each week from June 1 through July 18, to allow fishermen the opportunity to harvest local sockeye salmon.

The entire Aleutian Islands Area will open to commercial salmon fishing from 12:01 AM Wednesday July 10 until 6:00 PM Friday July 12 and from 6:00 AM Monday July 15 through 11:59 PM Thursday July 18 as established by regulation. After July 18, fishing periods will be established by emergency order.

Fishermen are reminded that in January 1998, the BOF expanded the waters closed to commercial salmon fishing in the two following locations in the Unalaska District:

- (1) Iliuliuk Harbor vicinity located at the City of Unalaska (Figure 2):

The southwest closed waters line, formerly at the Unalaska-Dutch Harbor bridge, was moved approximately 0.17 nautical miles to a line extending from 53°52.28'N lat., 166°32.68'W long., south of Agnes Beach, to a point at 53°52.28'N lat., 166°33.17'W long., on Amaknak Island (Figure 2).

- (2) Humpback Bay, located within Makushin Bay (Figure 3)

All waters of Humpback Bay enclosed by a line from the western tip of Cathedral Point to 53°45.23' N lat., 166°53.63'W long. (Figure 3).

The Humpback Bay closed waters will be reduced by emergency order when the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) can substantiate an adequate pink salmon escapement in the stream.

A complete description of closed waters in the Aleutian Islands Area is listed in the current (2000-03) regulation book.

ATKA-AMLIA AREA

The BOF, 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 (Area F) is bounded by 172°50'.00 W long (Sequam Pass) on the east and 175°23'.00 W long. (Atka Pass) on the west (Figures 1 and 4). In addition to set gillnet gear, CFEC Area M purse seine permit holders may harvest salmon in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area.

Each Area F set gillnet permit holder and each Area M seine permit holder intending to fish for salmon in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area must register each vessel they will operate. Salmon buyers, processors, and vessels acting as salmon tenders are also required to register prior to operating in the Atka-Amlia Area. Participants can register by contacting the ADF&G office in Cold Bay, Dutch Harbor, Sand Point, or other locations 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 department has made no projection as to the size of the 2002 Atka-Amlia Islands pink salmon run. However, even numbered years generally produce larger pink salmon runs than odd numbered years in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area. Consequently, it is possible that this year's run will be strong.

The fishing season is from August 1 through August 31. Fishing periods will be from 6:00 AM until 6:00 PM during Monday, Wednesday, and Friday as listed in regulation 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 for the Atka-Amlia Islands and Aleutian Islands Areas. 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 number 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).

All catch reports by processors shall be phoned or faxed to the ADF&G office in Cold Bay during the morning following a commercial salmon fishing period. The catch report shall list the number of fish and pounds purchased by species and the number of permit holders making deliveries. Fishermen who do not sell their fish, but retain them for bait are also required to phone or fax a catch report to the Cold Bay office during the morning following a fishing period.

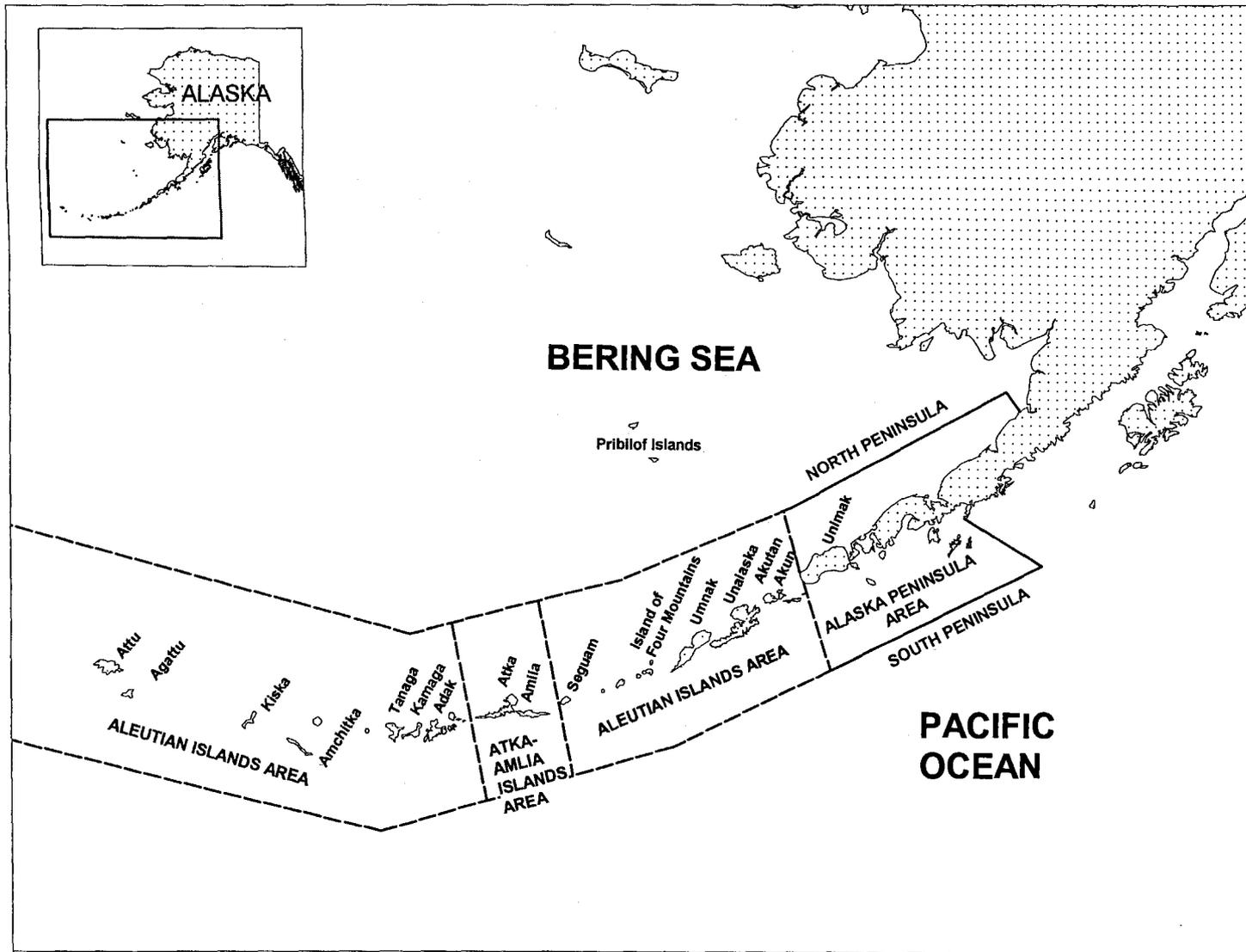


Figure 1. Map of the Aleutian Islands, Atka-Amlia Islands, and Alaska Peninsula Areas.

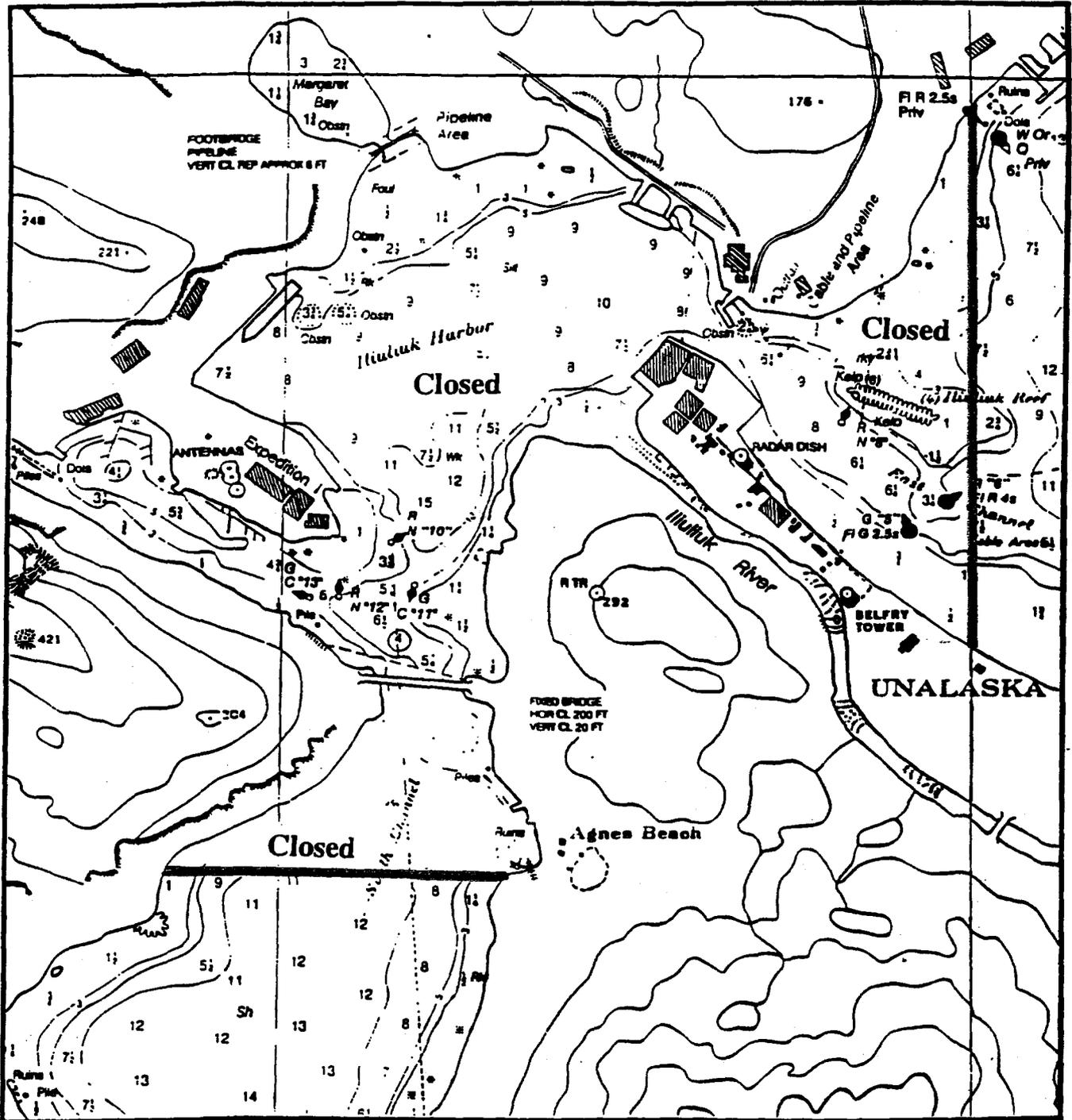


Figure 2. Map of waters closed to commercial salmon fishing in Iliuliuk Harbor vicinity.

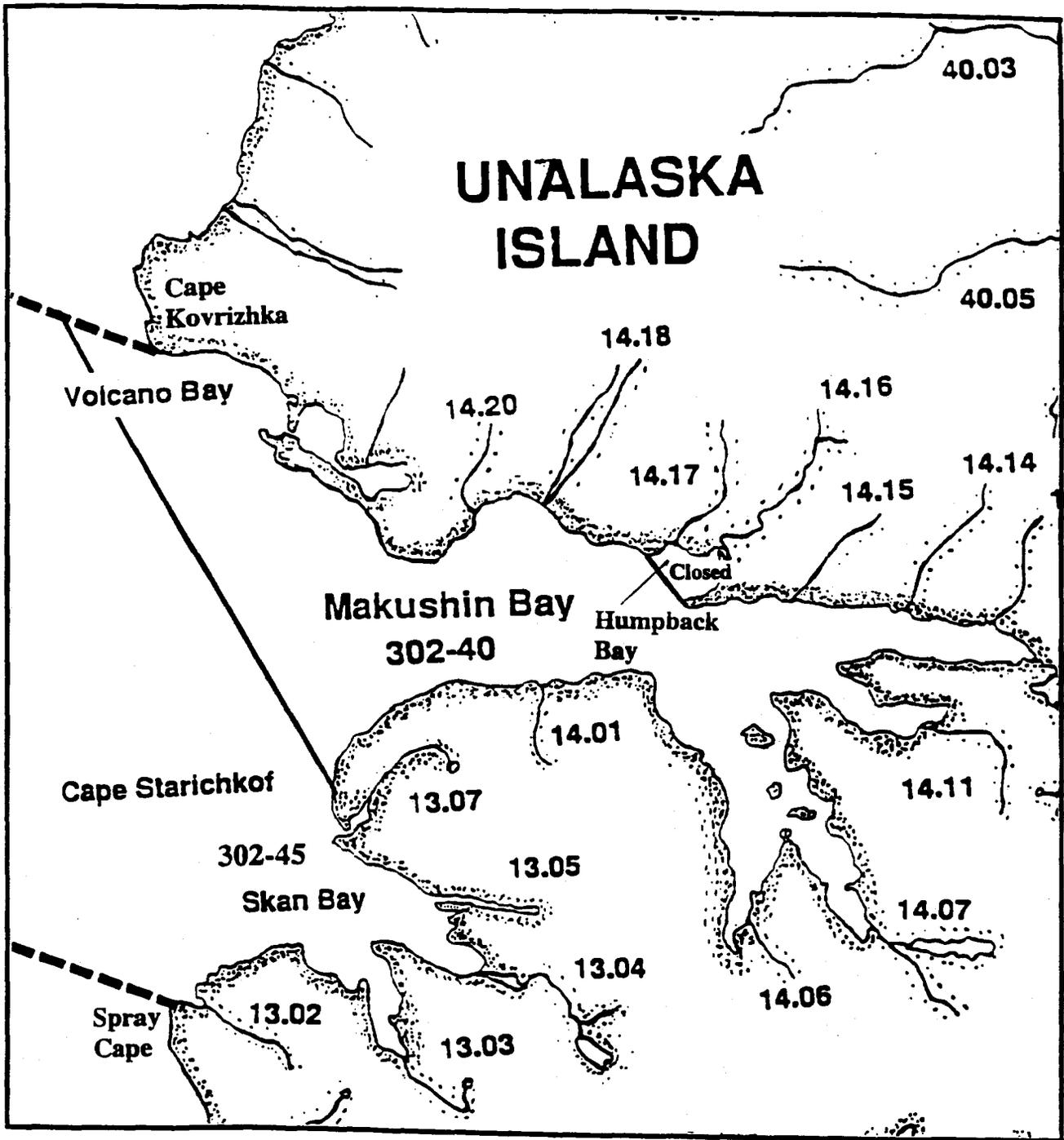


Figure 3. Map of waters closed to commercial salmon fishing at Humpback Bay, within Makushin Bay.

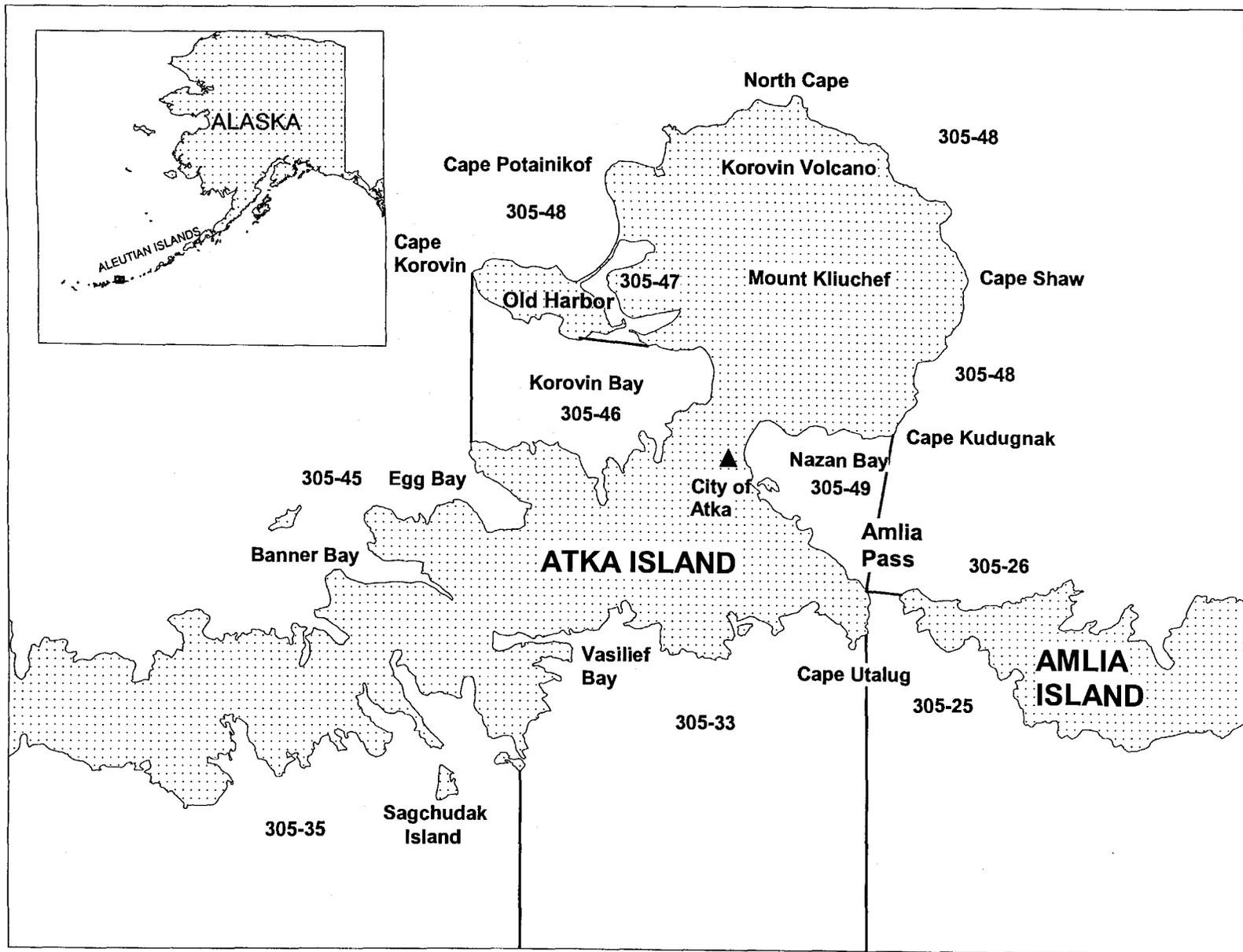


Figure 4. Map of Atka Island with Korovin Bay, Old harbor, and Nazan Bay fishing areas defined.

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