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ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STAFF COMMENTS ON ALASKA PENINSULA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS FINFISH REGULATORY PROPOSALS

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

FEBRUARY 26–MARCH 4, 2013

Regional Information Report No. 4K13-01

The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, February 6–March 4, 2013 in Anchorage, Alaska and are prepared to assist the public and board. The stated staff comments should be considered preliminary and subject to change, if or when new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral testimony presented to the board.

ABSTRACT

This document contains Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) staff comments on subsistence, personal use, sport, and commercial finfish regulatory proposals. These comments were prepared by the department for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting, February 26–March 4, 2013 in Anchorage, Alaska to assist the public and board. The stated staff comments should be considered preliminary and subject to change, if or when new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral testimony presented to the board.

Key words: Alaska Board of Fisheries, staff comments, subsistence, personal use, sport, commercial, regulatory proposals.

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SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT POSITIONS

Proposal #	Dept. Position	Issue
15	**N**	Allow set gillnet anchors and running lines at registered sites to remain in the water during closed periods
162	**N**	Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to groundfish fishing with pelagic trawl gear.
163	**S**	Modify state-waters sablefish season to coincide with federal sablefish season.
164	**S**	Specify regulatory fishing seasons for black rockfish.
173	**N**	Allow for concurrent fishing times between Chignik and Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) and increase SEDM allocation to 20%.
174	**N/O**	Modify the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) management plan to establish weekly fishing periods from June 10 thru July 10 to gillnet gear, and from July 11 through July 25, establish 48-hour periods followed by 48-hour closures to both setnet and seine gear.
175	**N/O**	Modify the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) management plan to establish fishing periods for set gillnet gear from June 6 through July 25.
176	**N**	Open and close the Northwest Stepovak Section, including Orzinski Bay, by emergency order (EO), between July 1 and July 25.
177	**N/O**	Create a *Southeastern District Post-July Salmon Management Plan* in regulation.
178	**N/O**	Modify the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) management plan to open weekly fishing periods in the Southeastern District to set gillnet gear in September and October.
179	**N/O**	Reinstate the chum salmon cap and limit fishing time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands salmon fisheries.
180	**N**	Incorporate a chum salmon catch cap of 350,000 salmon in the South Alaska Peninsula Area (Area M) salmon fisheries.
181	**N/O**	Modify the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to base management on the Bristol Bay forecast, reduce time and area, and implement a harvest cap of 400,000 chum salmon.
182	**N/O**	Modify the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands Management Plan* and the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* to include a cap of allowable sockeye salmon harvest based on the Bristol Bay forecast and create terminal harvest areas around the mouth of each river system in the Northern District.
183	**N**	Change the season opening date from June 1 to June 15 in the Northwestern, Unimak, Southwestern, Southcentral, and Southeastern districts.
184	**S**	Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Peninsula* and clarify regulation language conflicting with the regulatory language within the *Southeastern District Mainland* (*SEDM) Salmon Management Plan*.
185	**N/O**	Provide the department more flexibility when conducting the Shumagin Islands Section test fisheries.
186	**O**	Allow a pink salmon fishery within waters of Ramsey Bay in the Stepovak Flats Section.
187	**N/S**	Amend fishing periods in the *Post-June South Peninsula Management Plan*, consolidating fishing periods.
188	**O**	Amend fishing periods in the *Post-June South Peninsula Management Plan*, consolidating fishing periods.
189	**O**	Amend fishing periods in the *Post-June South Peninsula Management Plan* to increase fishing time.
190	**O**	Amend fishing periods in the *Post-June South Peninsula Management Plan*.
191	**O**	Limit fishing periods in Bechevin Bay Section to four days in seven.
192	**S**	Amend the closed water definition at Christianson Lagoon to better define closed waters as determined by the current lagoon exit channel.

SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT POSITIONS (Continued)

Proposal #	Dept. Position	Issue
193	**O**	Reduce the closed water area in Grub Gulch.
194	**N**	Change the distance between set gillnets from 900 to 1,800 feet in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) of area M set gillnet fishery.
195	**N**	Allow drift gillnet gear to operate in the Southwestern District of Area M from June 1–August 31.
196	**N**	Allow for the use of monofilament gillnet gear in the Alaska Peninsula Area.
197	**N/O**	Modify the allowable set gillnet and drift gillnet gear depth from 70 meshes to 45 meshes in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area salmon fishery.
198	**N/O**	Close the north side of Cape Seniavin and Nelson Lagoon on August 15 instead of September 30.
199	**N/O**	Close the north side of Cape Seniavin until July 15.
200	**N**	Establish a sockeye salmon fishery from June 20 through September 30 in the Cinder River Section.
201	**N/O**	Close the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial salmon fishing for Area M drift gillnet permit holders.
202	**N/O**	Close the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial fishing from June 1 to July 31.
203	**N**	Close the Outer Port Heiden Section, amend the Inner Port Heiden Section boundary, and create a new superexclusive fishery in Area T.
204	**N**	Allow Area T CFEC permit holders to fish both the Inner and Outer Port Heiden sections.
205	**N/O**	Create terminal harvest areas in the Sandy, Ilnik, and Bear rivers for the drift gillnet fishery in Area M.
206	**N**	Modify *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* time and area management.
207	**N/O**	Modify *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* time and area management.
208	**N/O**	Modify boundary description of the Northern District and create terminal fisheries.
209	**N/O**	Using genetic data, create terminal harvest areas in Area M.
210	**N**	Placeholder for possible regulatory changes based on results from Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project (WASSIP).
211	**S/N**	Placeholder for possible regulatory changes based on results from Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project (WASSIP).
212	**O**	Restrict the Sapsuk River king salmon fishery to flyfishing only, single-hook, artificial fly, no retention.
213	**O**	Decrease coho salmon bag limit to one in the Ugashik, Dog Salmon, and King Salmon rivers. (*This proposal was addressed in both the Bristol Bay and will be deliberated at the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands meeting.)*
214	**S**	Close the Iliuliuk River upstream of the Church Hole to subsistence, sport, and personal use fishing for coho salmon.
242	**O**	Seine specifications and operations.
250	**N**	Gillnet specifications and operations.

Note: N = Neutral
S = Support
O = Oppose

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
(28 PROPOSALS)

Miscellaneous (4)

Bristol Bay (1)

PROPOSAL 250 – 5 AAC 06.331(v). Gillnet specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow a set gillnet permit holder who owns two permits to use two complements of gear in Egegik and Ugashik districts.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? From 2010–2012, an individual was allowed to own two Area T set gillnet permits and fish up to 100 fathoms of gear, with no more than four nets and no single net longer than 50 fathoms. This regulation sunsetted on December 31, 2012.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSALS WERE ADOPTED? This proposal may result in consolidation of set gillnet permits into fewer hands without reducing the amount of gear being fished. It may also allow an individual to transfer a permit to a family member during an emergency or to accommodate changing fishing family circumstances.

BACKGROUND: When commercial fishing went to a limited entry system, an individual could only own one permit. House Bill 286 was passed into law in 2002, allowing an individual to own two commercial salmon permits in the same fishery. In 2006, House Bill 251 was passed allowing the Alaska Board of Fisheries to authorize additional gear with ownership of a second permit.

Permit stacking may provide some benefits to the management of commercial fisheries and may, in some circumstances, assist in achieving management goals.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Groundfish (2)

PROPOSAL 162 – 5 AAC 28.650. Closed waters in Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area.

PROPOSED BY: Unalaska Native Fishermen's Association.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would close all waters of Unalaska Bay to groundfish fishing with pelagic trawl gear.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Waters of Unalaska Bay are closed to groundfish fishing with pelagic trawl gear from June 10 through July 31 (5 AAC 28.650(b)(1); Figure 162-1). From August 1, until the closure of the parallel Bering Sea walleye pollock B-season on November 1, the inner portion of Unalaska Bay is closed (5 AAC 28.650(b)(2); Figure 162-1).

The Bering Sea walleye pollock fishery in Unalaska Bay is managed under parallel regulations. Unalaska Bay waters are part of the federal South Bering Sea Pollock Restriction Area, which closes Unalaska Bay to fishing for walleye pollock during the A-season for protection of Steller sea lions. Unalaska Bay is closed to nonpelagic trawl gear year-round by state regulation (5 AAC 39.164(b)(4)(B)).

Under federal rules, catcher vessels participating in the directed Bering Sea walleye pollock fishery, using trawl gear, are required to have observer coverage for 100 percent of fishing days. Observer coverage is not required on catcher vessels when delivering unsorted codends to a processor due to observer coverage on the processor.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? All waters of Unalaska Bay would be closed to fishing year-round with pelagic trawl gear.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 2010, harvest of walleye pollock using pelagic trawl gear was allowed in all waters of Unalaska Bay throughout the Bering Sea pollock B-season, June 10–November 1. In 2010, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted a proposal closing Unalaska Bay during the Bering Sea pollock B-season, except that from August 1 through the end of the Bering Sea pollock B-season, the outer portion of Unalaska Bay is open to fishing with pelagic trawl gear (Figure 162-1).

Harvest of walleye pollock in Unalaska Bay over the past 10 years has ranged from 0.9 million pounds to 12.6 million pounds, taken by an average of 10 vessels (Table 162-1). During the most recent five years, harvest of pollock annually averaged 3.2 million pounds, taken by an average of six vessels, with an average vessel size of 117 feet.

During the past five years, Pacific cod makes up the highest amount of bycatch, with an average annual harvest of 44,003 pounds, followed by Atka mackerel, with an average annual harvest of 2,912 pounds (Table 162-1). The average annual Pacific herring bycatch was 3,147 pounds. Bycatch of Pacific halibut has averaged 2,599 pounds annually. An average of 2,942 pounds of Pacific salmon bycatch occurs annually, made up almost entirely of chum and king salmon.

Bycatch of sockeye, pink, and coho salmon is minimal, annually averaging about 50 pounds total. The majority of Pacific cod and Atka mackerel harvested is sold, while Pacific salmon, Pacific halibut, and Pacific herring are primarily discarded at the dock, with a small amount processed for donation. Directed harvest and bycatch data are from the ADF&G fish ticket database, and were cross-checked with confidential groundfish observer data; minimal discrepancies occurred between the data sources.

Unalaska Bay also supports subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries for salmon, herring, halibut, crab, and other groundfish. These fisheries are typically prosecuted by smaller vessels using longline, pot, gillnet, and purse seine gear. Prior to the partial commercial pelagic trawl closure in Unalaska Bay, the department received anecdotal reports from subsistence and commercial fishermen using longline and pot gear about gear conflicts with walleye pollock fishermen in Unalaska Bay; however, no such anecdotal reports have been received in recent years.

Sockeye and coho salmon runs returning to Unalaska Bay streams are relatively small and fully exploited by local fisheries. Current restrictions in sport and subsistence fishing regulations include partial to complete drainage closures for several streams, and conservative areawide bag limits apply to both marine and fresh waters.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the vessel conflict aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 162-1.–Harvest, in pounds, of walleye pollock and associated bycatch from pelagic trawl gear in Unalaska Bay, 2003–2012.

	Number of	Walleye	Pacific	Atka	Tanner	Pacific	Pacific	Pacific salmon				
Year	Vessels	pollock	cod	mackerel	crab	halibut	herring	Coho	Chum	Pink	King	Sockeye
2003	18	8,138,516	4,449	7,114	0	42	3,291	0	14,550	0	1,883	0
2004	19	12,577,138	8,093	72,516	30	176	22,334	12	10,385	14	11,939	0
2005	11	2,241,169	2,511	18,611	0	56	27,186	22	3,405	586	247	0
2006	8	892,327	1,465	10,028	0	37	4,681	0	414	0	97	0
2007	12	4,137,647	12,601	1,342	0	718	2,254	2	2,378	8	8,005	0
2008	6	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF
2009	8	3,279,147	21,895	122	2	2,567	2,769	0	2,455	24	2,442	0
2010[a]	5	3,861,621	85,081	45	2	4,683	3,403	8	2,678	31	104	0
2011[a]	9	2,339,583	25,033	8,568	0	547	3,270	0	842	94	144	0
2012[a,b]	4	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF
10-yr. Average	10	4,683,394	20,141	14,793	4	1,103	8,649	6	4,638	95	3,108	0
5-yr. Average	6	3,160,117	44,003	2,912	1	2,599	3,147	3	1,992	50	897	0

Note: CF = confidential.

Source: Data are from the ADF&G fish ticket database, ADF&G statistical area 665335.

[a] Unalaska Bay pelagic trawl partial closure beginning mid-2010.

[b] 2012 data are preliminary.

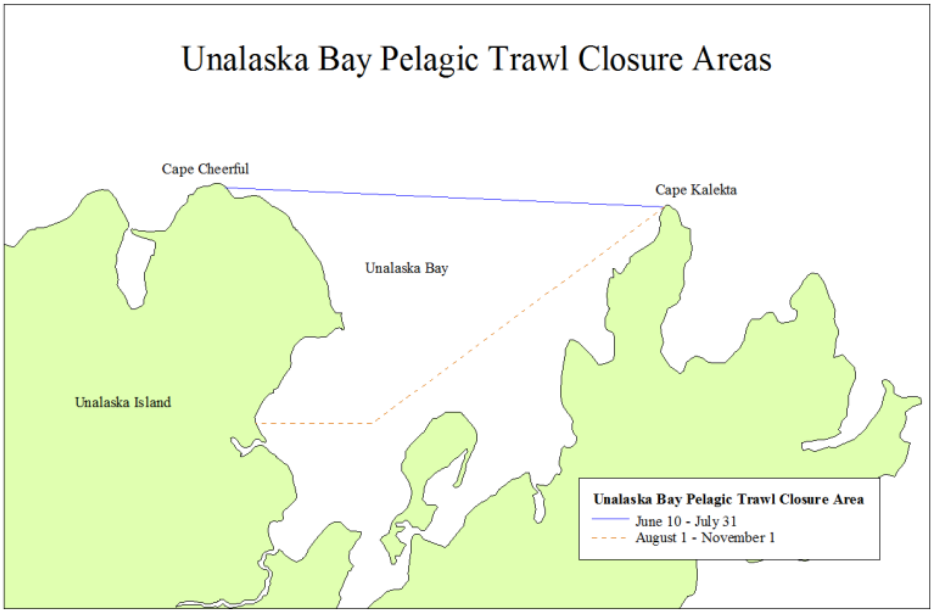

Figure 162-1.–Unalaska Bay pelagic trawl closure area.

PROPOSAL 163 – 5 AAC 28.640. Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Sablefish Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Unalaska Native Fishermen's Association.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would modify the state-waters sablefish season opening date to coincide with the federal sablefish season in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (AI).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The *Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Sablefish Management Plan* (5 AAC 28.640) specifies a state-waters sablefish season of May 15 through November 15, or an earlier closure upon achievement of the guideline harvest level (GHL). Legal gear is limited to pot, longline, mechanical jig, and hand troll. There are no vessel size limits.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Approval of this proposal would result in a state-waters sablefish season opening date concurrent with the federal sablefish season opening date of March 15. A concurrent state and federal season opening date would likely reduce confusion among fishermen that fish both state-waters and federal sablefish fisheries in the Aleutian Islands.

BACKGROUND: The AI state-waters sablefish season was established in 1995. Season dates were initially established concurrently with the federal individual fishing quota (IFQ) season, March 15 through November 15. In 2001, the AI state-waters sablefish season opening date was changed to May 15 to allow small vessels operators to take advantage of potentially better weather.

Prior to 2001, when the season opened March 15, the AI state-waters sablefish season closed prior to the regulatory closure date in five of six seasons (Table 163-1). However, the GHL has not been achieved since 2003. Sablefish are assessed annually by National Marine Fisheries Service; therefore, fishery operations, such as killer whale predation, halibut bycatch, and low effort, rather than season opening dates are thought to limit production. The GHL increased by more than 25 percent from 2002 to 2003, with the average GHL between 2003 and 2011 over 40 percent greater than from 1995 to 2002. During this same time period, the average annual sablefish harvest declined by nearly 30 percent. Harvesting sablefish in the Aleutian Islands is difficult, with relatively low catch rates and high killer whale predation rates. Like the AI state-waters sablefish fishery, federal Bering Sea and AI sablefish total allowable catches are not typically reached.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal to help achieve the GHL.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 163-1.–Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters sablefish guideline harvest level (GHL), in pounds, state-waters harvest, and season dates, 1995–2012.

			% of GHL		Season Dates	
Year	GHL	Harvest	Harvested	Vessels	Opened	Closed
1995	400,000	269,220	67%	35	March 15	Jun 15
1996	280,000	401,463	143%	35	March 15	Jul 26
1997	270,000	317,562	118%	37	March 15	Jun 20
1998	270,000	254,578	94%	38	March 15	Nov 15
1999	250,000	279,778	112%	24	March 15	Aug 16
2000	400,000	446,560	112%	28	March 15	Jul 15
2001	425,000	464,241	109%	31	May 15	Aug 08
2002	460,000	477,970	104%	24	May 15	Jul 16
Average	344,375	363,922	107%	32		
2003	630,000	473,426	75%	39	May 15	Nov 15
2004	660,000	323,969	49%	26	May 15	Nov 15
2005	550,000	303,498	55%	25	May 15	Nov 15
2006	640,000	177,935	28%	16	May 15	Nov 15
2007	638,000	272,556	43%	26	May 15	Nov 15
2008	584,000	157,250	27%	24	May 15	Nov 15
2009	542,000	279,795	52%	26	May 15	Nov 15
2010	535,000	209,505	39%	28	May 15	Nov 15
2011	523,000	210,718	40%	28	May 15	Nov 15
2012	472,000	NA	NA	NA	May 15	Nov 15
Average	577,400	267,628	46%	26		

Note: NA = not available.

South Alaska Peninsula and Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Groundfish (1)

PROPOSAL 164 – 5 AAC 28.560. Fishing seasons for South Alaska Peninsula Area and 5 AAC 28.610. Fishing seasons for Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would specify in regulation the open commercial season for black rockfish in the Eastern and Western districts of the South Alaska Peninsula (SAP) Area and the Aleutian Islands (AI) District of the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Open season dates for black rockfish in the SAP Area and the AI District are established annually by emergency order (EO). In practice, black rockfish may be taken from January 1 to December 31, unless the season is closed by EO when guideline harvest levels are achieved.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would provide clear and consistent regulatory language regarding fishing seasons for black rockfish. This proposal would not change any current black rockfish management or fishing practices in the SAP Area or AI District.

BACKGROUND: The department acquired management authority for black rockfish in waters off Alaska from the National Marine Fisheries Service in 1998. During early development of the fishery, few regulations existed and the department relied on EO authority to provide for responsive and adaptive management. Since that time, the fishery has developed and EO authority for season dates is no longer necessary. The proposed regulatory season dates of January 1 to December 31 are consistent with season dates for other directed black rockfish fisheries in the state.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Commercial Salmon (24)

South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Southeastern District Mainland Salmon (3)

PROPOSAL 173 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Brown.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to allow concurrent fishing time between the Chignik Management Area (CMA) and Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM), increase the SEDM harvest allocation from 7.6 percent to 20 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest within the CMA, and eliminate the harvest threshold of 300,000 sockeye salmon by CMA fishermen.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? A commercial salmon fishery in the SEDM shall not be allowed (5 AAC 09.360(b)) or curtailed (5 AAC 09.360(c)) until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon is achieved in the CMA. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the CMA, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA will be at least 600,000 fish. Regulation 5 AAC 09.360(d) states that when a harvestable surplus beyond the escapement goals for the first and second runs of the Chignik River system is expected to be more than 600,000 sockeye salmon, and the department determines the runs are as strong as expected, the department shall manage the SEDM so that the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River and that are harvested in the SEDM approaches, as near as possible, to 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the CMA.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Adoption of this proposal would allow commercial salmon fishing in the SEDM to open concurrently with the CMA. It would also increase the sockeye salmon allocation within SEDM from 7.6 percent, as stated in 5 AAC 09.360(b), (c), and (d) to 20 percent. If adopted, this proposal would also remove the sockeye salmon harvest threshold of 300,000 fish stated in 5 AAC 09.360(b) and (c).

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) developed a management plan for SEDM based on the *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* in the Kodiak Management Area, which included an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA and on CMA harvest thresholds. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between six and 7.6 percent since its introduction. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan, including changes to the allocation of Chignik sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and the definition of local stocks. The most recent change was in 2007, when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6 percent of the total sockeye salmon harvest in the CMA. The proportion of sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM (excluding areas designated as 100-percent local stocks) considered to be CMA-bound has been determined, in regulation, to be 80 percent, based on a 1961 tagging study conducted in the East Stepovak Section. In 1998, the board stipulated that sockeye salmon harvested in the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS), beginning July 1, would not be counted toward the Chignik-bound sockeye salmon allocation. In addition, beginning

July 1, fishing time in the NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than four 24-hour periods per week, with no more than 48 hours of consecutive fishing during a seven-day period. Since the last board meeting in 2010, a fishery has occurred every year in the SEDM. Openings in SEDM are based on an allocation, and openings in Chignik are based on escapement data and harvest rates. The number and duration of fishing periods for both areas varies such that it would be difficult to maintain an allocation based on a fishery managed for escapement (Table 173-1).

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon in the SEDM for 2006 through 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008* (tables 15–23). Appendix tables E4–E6 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks among all strata combined within a given year for the June South Peninsula fisheries. Additional stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon in the SEDM for 2010–2012 can be found in SP12-31, *Genetic Stock Composition of the Commercial Harvest of Sockeye Salmon in Southeastern District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010–2012*.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. The department seeks board guidance on managing for both concurrent fishing time and an allocation.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 173-1.–Comparison of openings and total hours fished from June 1–July 25 of 2010, 2011, and 2012 for the Chignik Management Area (Area L) and Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM).

	SEDM		Chignik	
Year	Number of Openings	Hours	Number of Openings	Hours
2010	7	288	11	696
2011	15	900	6	932.5
2012	11	408	13	952

PROPOSAL 174 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Dwain A. Foster Sr. and John A. Foster.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to establish a weekly fishing schedule for the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM; Figure 174-1) area of the South Alaska Peninsula for set gillnet gear from June 10 through July 10, followed by 48-hour fishing periods and 48-hour closures for both set gillnet and seine gear from July 11 through July 25.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? From June 1 through July 25, 80 percent of the sockeye salmon harvested in the SEDM are considered to be destined for the Chignik River (5 AAC 09.360). From July 1 to July 25, salmon harvested in the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS) are considered to be 100-percent local origin, while sockeye salmon harvested in the remainder of SEDM are considered to be 80-percent Chignik River-bound. The SEDM is allocated 7.6 percent of the total sockeye salmon harvest within the Chignik Management Area through July 25. After July 25, the entire SEDM area is managed based on local stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would establish a fishing schedule in the SEDM area from June 10 through July 25 (figures 174-2 and 174-3). The proposed schedule would consist of five-day (120-hour) openings, interspersed with two-day (48-hour) closures, from June 10 through July 10, for gillnet gear. The first fishing period of this schedule would occur at 12:01 a.m. on June 10. Beginning July 11, the schedule would change to 48-hour openings, interspersed with 48-hour closures, for both purse seines and set gillnets, until July 25. It is unclear if this proposal seeks to have the allocation criteria (5 AAC 09.360(b–(i)) removed from the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* or for it to remain in place. Removal of the allocation criteria would also affect management of the NWSS during July 1–25 because this area is managed based on local-stock escapement. The proposed fishing schedule would make management for an allocation difficult, if not impossible. A fixed fishing schedule would reduce management flexibility, resulting in either going over or under the board mandated allocation.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) developed a management plan for SEDM based on the *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* in the Kodiak Management Area, which included an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA and on CMA harvest thresholds. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between six and 7.6 percent since its introduction. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan, including changes to allocation of Chignik sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and the definition of local stocks. The most recent change was in 2007, when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6 percent of the total sockeye salmon harvest in the CMA. The proportion of sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM (excluding areas designated as 100 percent local stocks) considered to be CMA-bound has been determined, in regulation, to be 80 percent, based on a 1961 tagging study conducted in the East Stepovak Section. In 1998, the board stipulated that sockeye salmon harvested in the NWSS, beginning July 1, would not be counted toward the Chignik-bound sockeye salmon allocation. In addition, beginning July 1, fishing time in the NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than four 24-hour periods per week, with no

more than 48 hours of consecutive fishing during a seven-day period. Since the last board meeting in 2010, a fishery has occurred every year in the SEDM.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon in the Southeastern District Mainland for 2006 through 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008* (tables 15–23). Appendix tables E4–E6 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks among all strata combined within a given year for the June South Peninsula fisheries. Additional stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon in the Southeastern District Mainland for 2010–2012 can be found in SP12-31, *Genetic Stock Composition of the Commercial Harvest of Sockeye Salmon in Southeastern District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010–2012*.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is **OPPOSED** to regulatory changes that would limit its ability to manage escapement of local stocks, specifically Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon. A set fishing time may disproportionally concentrate fishing effort, which could be detrimental to the sustainability of local salmon stocks, especially in years when runs are poor.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

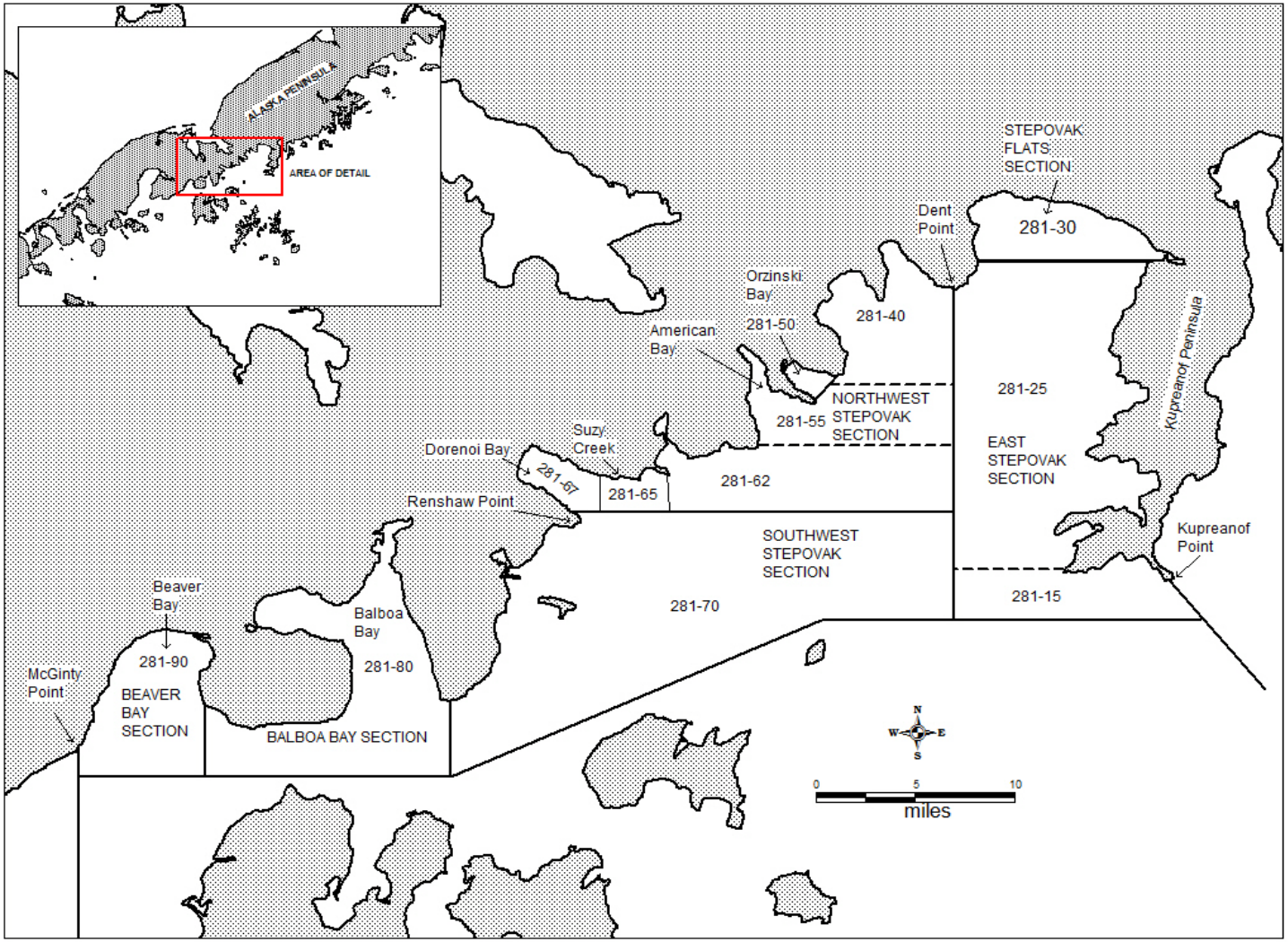

Figure 174-1.–Map of the Southeastern District Mainland with defined statistical areas.

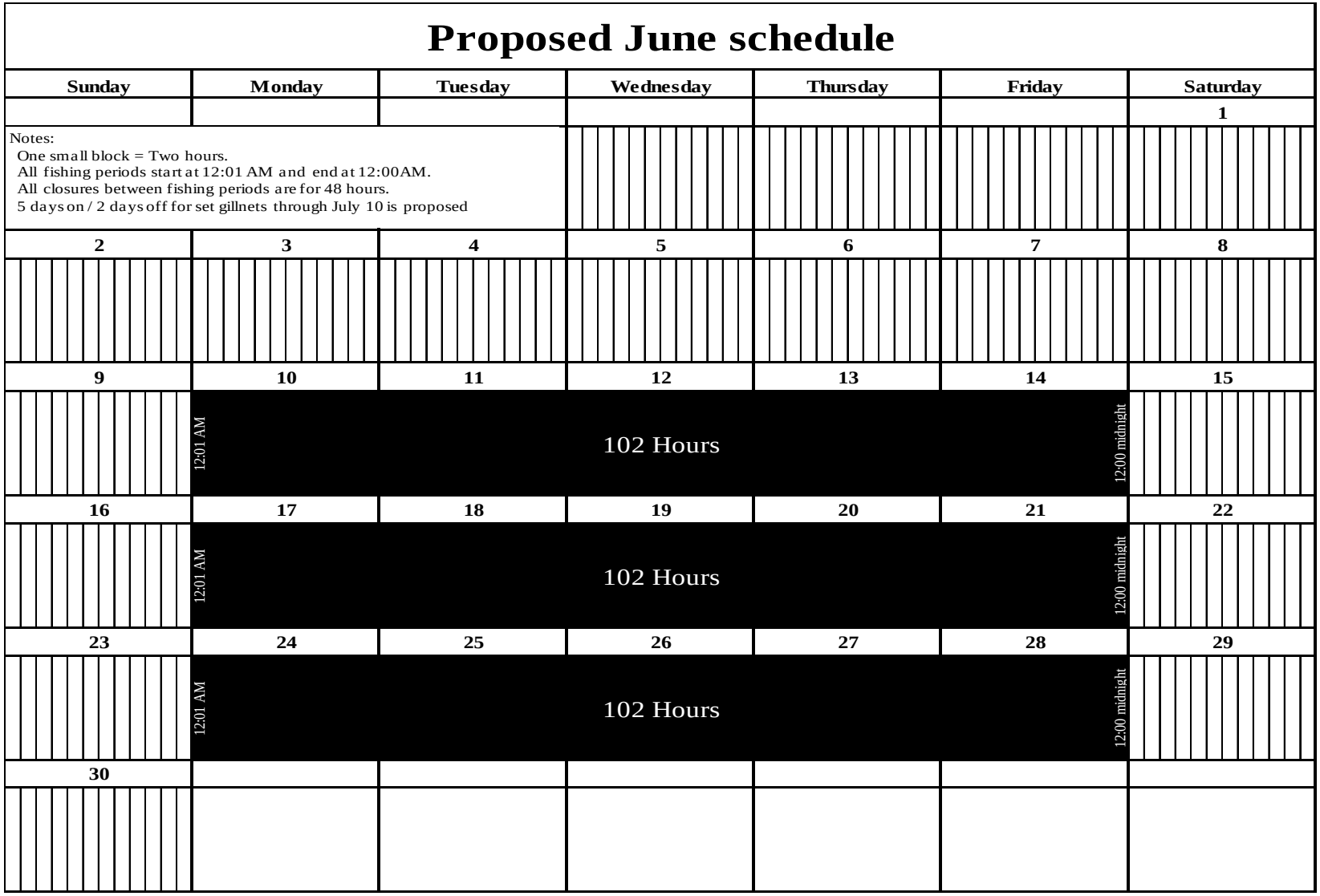

Figure 174-2.–June calendar depicting proposed fishing periods.

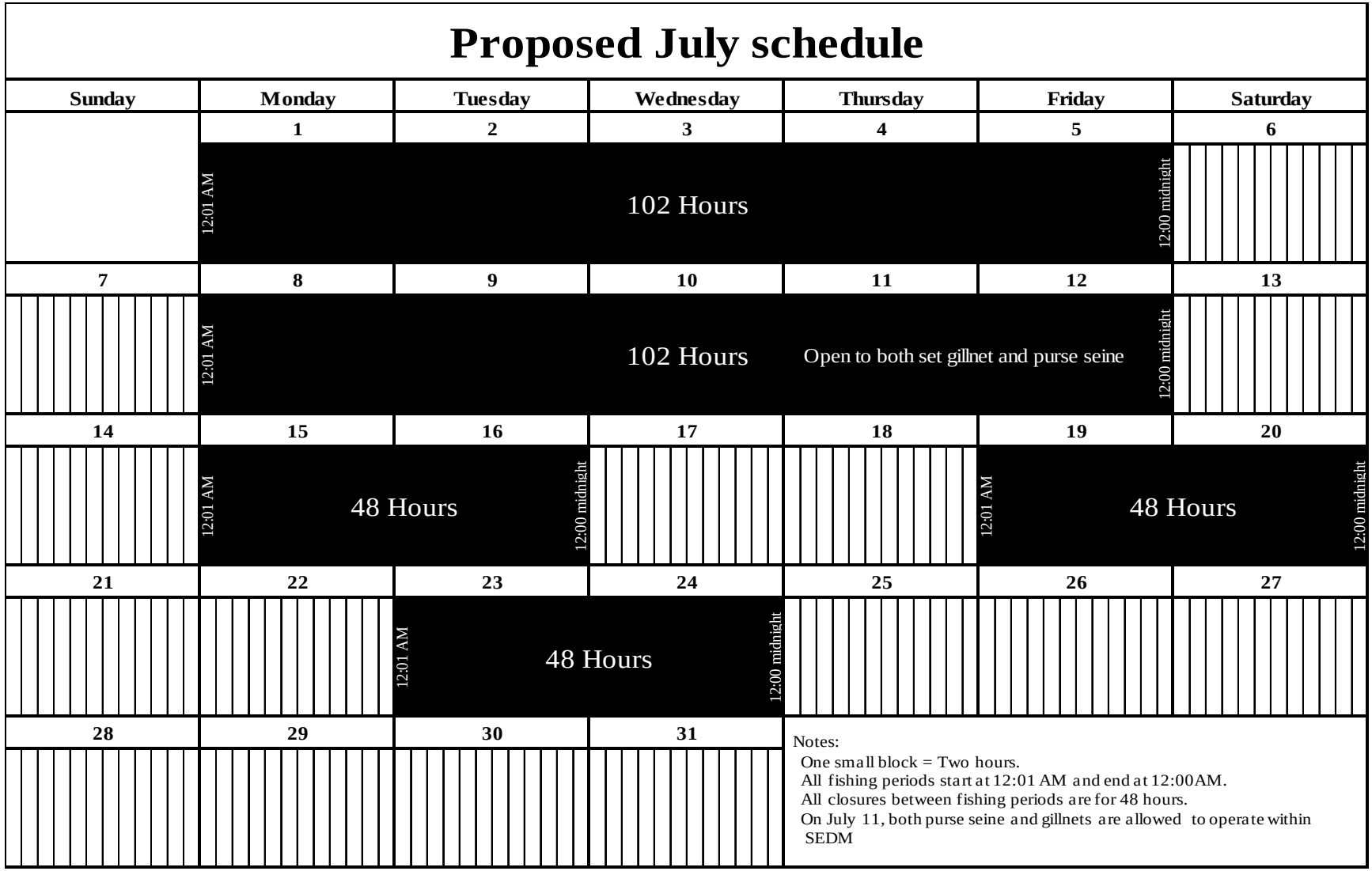

Figure 174-3.–July calendar depicting proposed fishing periods.

PROPOSAL 175 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Jack Foster Jr. and Amy M. Foster.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to establish a fishing schedule for the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM; Figure 175-1) area of the South Alaska Peninsula. The proposed schedule would consist of 88-hour openings, interspersed with 32-hour closures for set gillnet fishermen, from June 6 through July 25. The first opening within this schedule would begin at 6:00 a.m. on June 6 and close at 10:00 p.m. on June 9.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? As stated in 5 AAC 09.360, from June 1 through July 25, 80 percent of the sockeye salmon harvested in the SEDM are considered to be destined for the Chignik Management Area (CMA). From July 1 to July 25, salmon harvested in the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS) are considered to be 100-percent local origin, while sockeye salmon harvested in the remainder of SEDM are considered to be 80 percent CMA-bound. The SEDM is allocated 7.6 percent of the total sockeye salmon harvest within the CMA through July 25. After July 25, the entire SEDM area is managed based on local stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would establish a fishing schedule in the SEDM area from June 6 through July 25 for set gillnet fishermen (figures 175-2 and 175-3). Although not directly stated in the proposal, language suggests that the proposers seek to have the allocation criteria (5 AAC 09.360(b)–(i)) removed from the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*. Removal of the allocation criteria would also affect management of the NWSS during July 1 through July 25 because this area is managed based on local-stock escapement. This proposal would limit the department's ability to manage escapement of local stocks, specifically Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon. Set fishing time may disproportionally concentrate fishing effort, which could be detrimental to the sustainability of local salmon stocks, especially in years when runs are poor. This proposal may also seek to remove seine gear as a legal gear type from the SEDM, since it seeks to establish a fishing schedule only for set gillnet gear.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) developed a management plan for SEDM based on the *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan*, in the Kodiak Management Area, which replaced a set fishing schedule. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan, including changes to the allocation of Chignik sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and the definition of local stocks. The proportion of sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM (excluding areas designated as percent local stocks) considered to be CMA-bound has been determined, in regulation, to be 80 percent, based on a 1961 tagging study conducted in the East Stepovak Section. In 1998, the board stipulated that sockeye salmon harvested in the NWSS, beginning July 1, would not be counted toward the Chignik-bound sockeye salmon allocation. In addition, beginning July 1, fishing time in the NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than four days per week, with no more than two consecutive fishing days during a seven-day period.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon in the Southeastern District Mainland for 2006 through 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008* (tables 15–23). Appendix tables E4–E6 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks among all strata combined within a given year for the June South Peninsula fisheries. Additional stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon in the Southeastern District Mainland for 2010–2012 can be found in SP12-31, *Genetic Stock Composition of the Commercial Harvest of Sockeye Salmon in Southeastern District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010–2012*.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is **OPPOSED** to regulatory changes that would limit its ability to manage escapement of local stocks, specifically Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon. A set fishing time may disproportionally concentrate fishing effort, which could be detrimental to the sustainability of local salmon stocks, especially in years when runs are poor.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

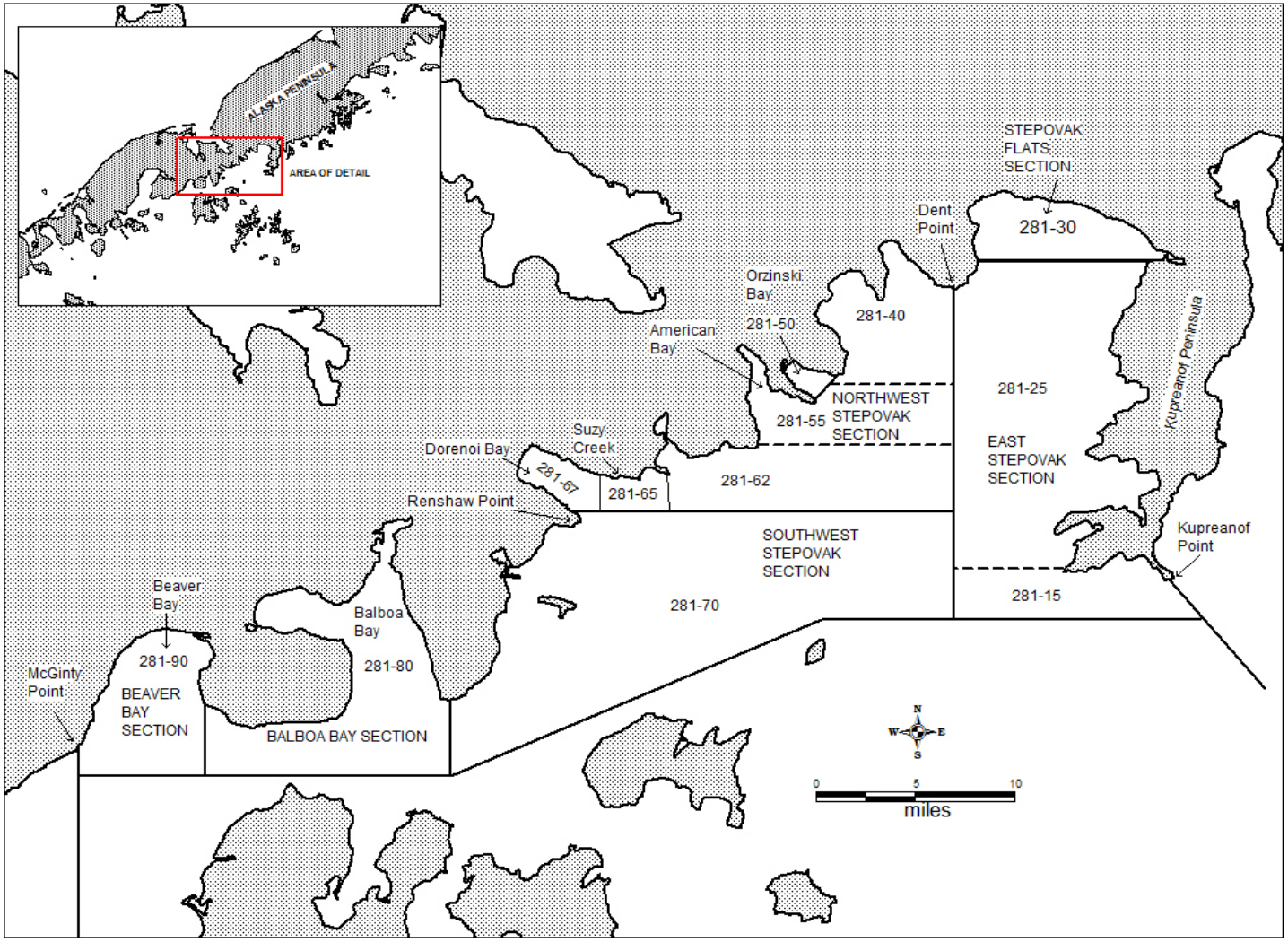

Figure 175-1.–Map of the Southeastern District Mainland with defined statistical areas.

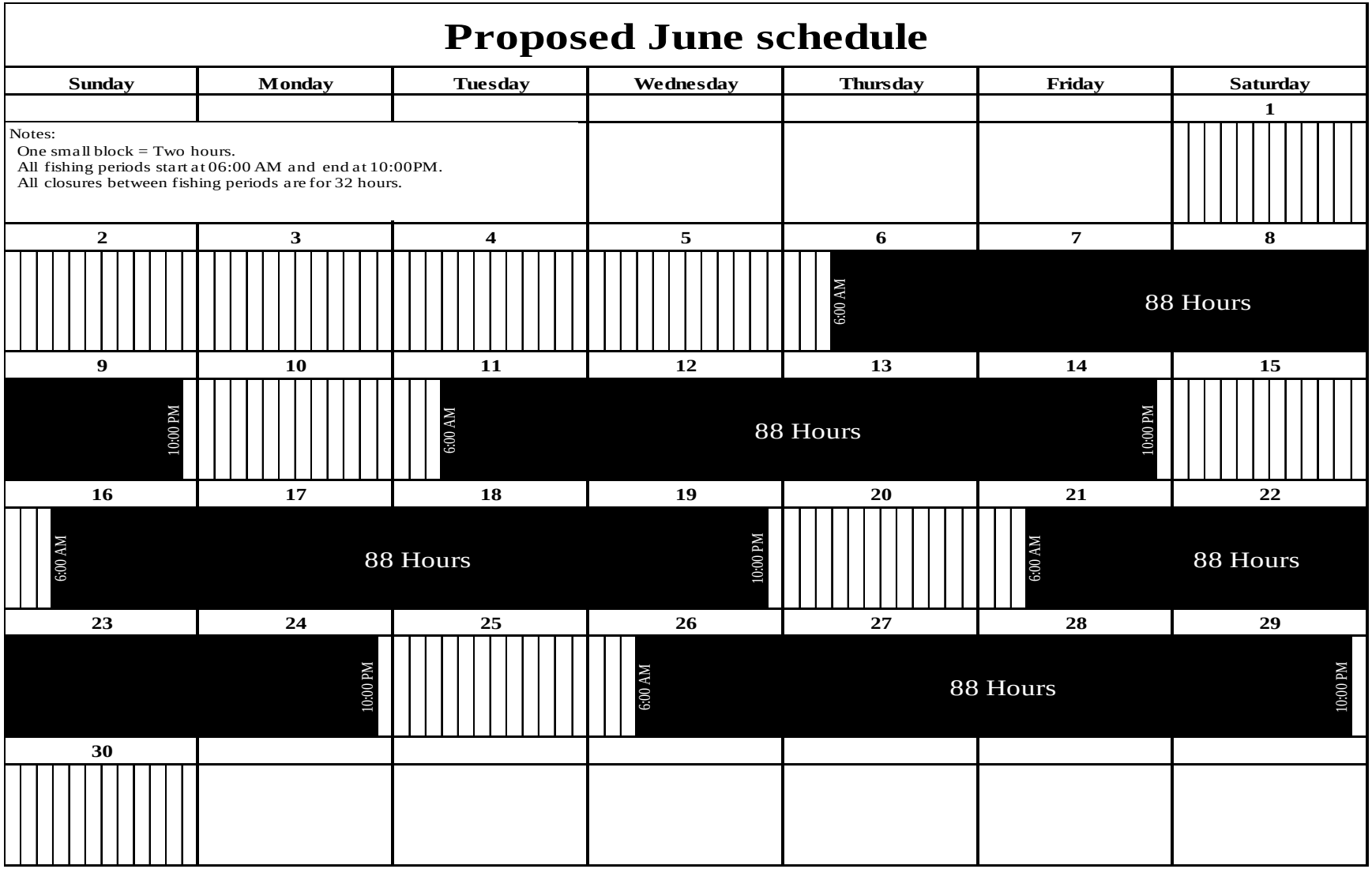

Figure 175-2.–June calendar depicting proposed fishing periods.

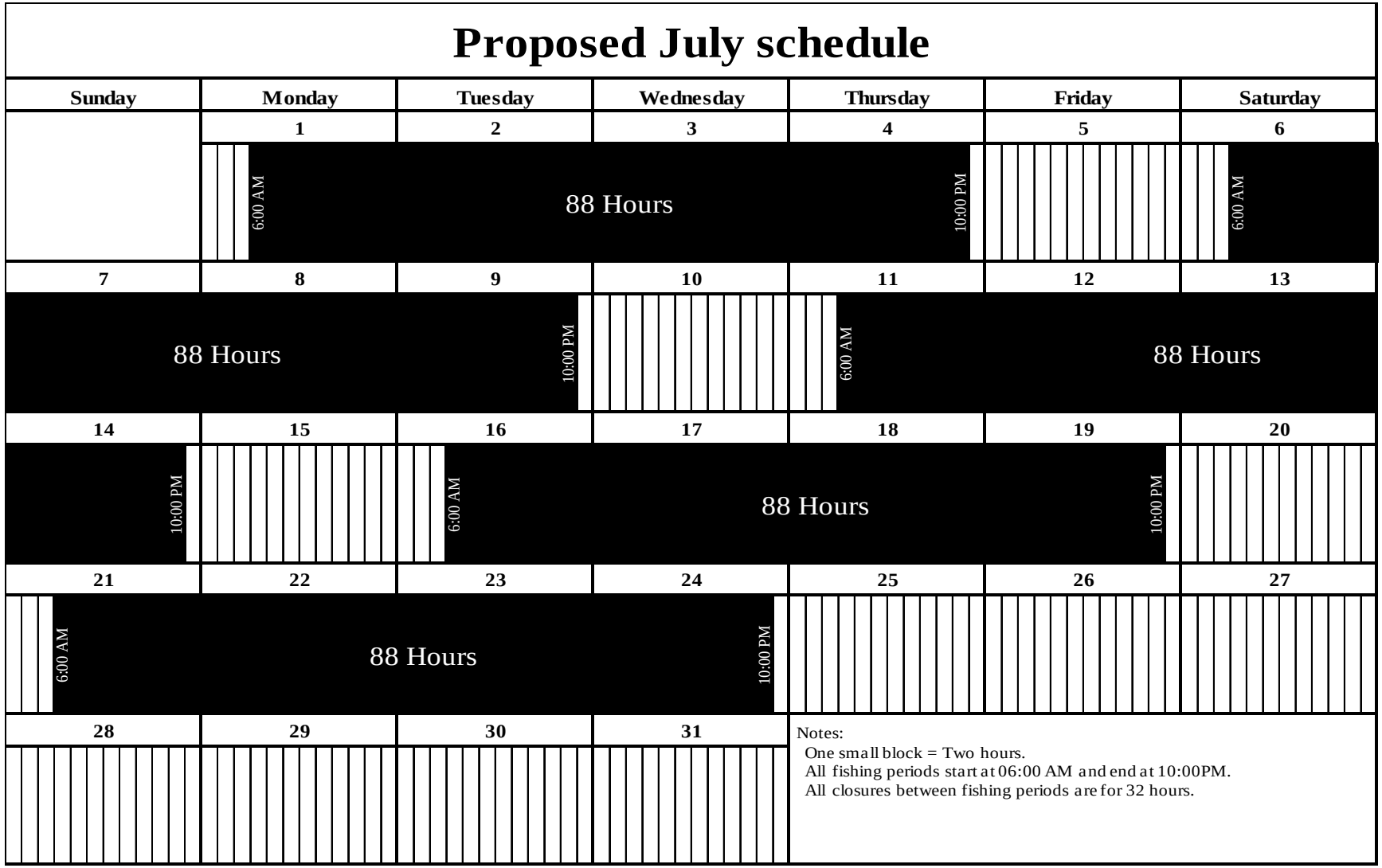

Figure 175-3.–July calendar depicting proposed fishing periods.

South Alaska Peninsula Salmon June Management Plan (5)

PROPOSAL 179 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to reinstate the 8.3 percent allocation of Bristol Bay preseason sockeye salmon forecast, the chum salmon cap of 400,000 fish, and modify the June fishery schedule.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulation, 5 AAC 09.365, *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan,* establishes four 88-hour and one 64-hour fishing periods, interspersed with 32-hour closures, beginning 6:00 a.m. June 7 and ending at 10:00 p.m. June 29 (Figure 179-1).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would restore portions of several management plans that were in effect from 1975 through 2001. It would restore a chum salmon cap of 400,000 fish and the sockeye salmon harvest guideline would be 8.3 percent of the Bristol Bay forecasted inshore sockeye salmon harvest. This proposal also suggests modification of the current fishing schedule. We are unable to determine what the proposed fishing schedule is intended to be: as suggested in the proposal, a 70-hour fishing period beginning at 6:00 a.m. would close at 4:00 a.m. (not 10:00 p.m.) three days later. A fishing period beginning at 6:00 a.m. and ending at 10:00 p.m. three days later would be 88 hours in duration, which is currently in regulation. A 74-hour closure beginning at 10:00 p.m. would last until midnight, not 6:00 a.m., as suggested.

BACKGROUND: From 1975–2000, fishing time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries was limited by provisions in the management plan that included sockeye salmon allocations (season harvest totals and weekly season limits), chum salmon caps, sockeye-to-chum salmon ratios, time limits, and season start dates. In several seasons from 1975–2000, the Shumagin Islands guideline harvest level (GHL) was reached, while the South Unimak GHL was not entirely harvested.

The concern over chum salmon harvest during the June fishery is well documented. Initial restrictions on chum salmon harvest came in 1986 when a harvest cap of 400,000 fish was established. The chum salmon cap increased in 1988 to 500,000; in 1990 to 600,000; and again in 1992 to 700,000. In 1998, the chum salmon cap was modified to a range between 350,000 and 600,000 fish, based on the previous year's chum salmon harvests in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.

During the January 2001 Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting, both the harvest guidelines for sockeye salmon and the chum salmon cap, both of which had been part of the allocation to the June fisheries for many years, were rescinded. During its February 2004 meeting, the board agreed that actions taken during the 2001 board cycle to further restrict the Area M June fishery were unnecessary and caused undue hardship on the fishermen of the area.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the month of June in the Shumagin Islands, Dolgoi Island, Ikatan Section, and Unimak District by temporal stratum for 2006 through 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008* (tables 24–35). Appendix tables E7–E9 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks among all strata combined within a given year for the June South Peninsula fisheries.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of chum salmon, during the month of June, in the Shumagin Islands, Dolgoi Island, Ikatan Section, and Unimak District by temporal stratum for 2007 through 2009 can be found in report SP12-25, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Chum Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2007–2009* (tables 22–33). Appendix tables D7–D9 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for CWAK stocks among all strata combined within a given year for these fisheries.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department is **OPPOSED** to complicated and burdensome management plans. This proposal does not provide direction in the event the chum salmon cap is met but the sockeye salmon allocation is not. Additionally, implementation of this proposal would necessitate an increase in staff, as well as additional staff time and associated costs.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Current June fishing schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes: All fishing periods start at 6:00 AM and end at 10:00 PM. All closures between fishing periods are for 32 hours.			416 total hours of fishing time.		1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				6:00 AM Open 88 hours		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00 PM		6:00 AM Open 88 hours			10:00 PM	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
6:00 AM Open 88 hours			10:00 PM		6:00 AM	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Open 88 hours	10:00 PM		6:00 AM Open 64 hours		10:00 PM	

Figure 179-1.–June calendar depicting current fishing periods.

PROPOSAL 180 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Roy Ashenfelter.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to reestablish a chum salmon cap during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Currently, 5 AAC 09.365, *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*, establishes four 88-hour and one 64-hour fishing periods, interspersed with 32-hour closures, beginning 6:00 a.m. June 7 and ending at 10:00 p.m. June 29 (Figure 180-1).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The intent of this proposal is to establish a chum salmon harvest cap of 350,000 fish for the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June salmon fishery. The proposal does not suggest changes to the current June fishing schedule outlined in regulation. Maintaining the current June fishing schedule would complicate achieving a board mandated chum salmon cap because the department would be constrained to windows of time and would not able to manage fishing time in response to harvest rates.

BACKGROUND: The concern over chum salmon harvest during the June fishery is well documented. Initial restrictions on chum salmon harvest came in 1986, when a harvest cap of 400,000 fish was established. The chum salmon cap increased in 1988 to 500,000; in 1990 to 600,000; and again in 1992 to 700,000. In 1998, the chum salmon cap was modified to a range between 350,000 and 600,000 fish based on the previous year's chum salmon harvests in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.

During the January 2001 Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting, both the harvest guidelines for sockeye salmon and the chum salmon cap, both of which were part of the allocation to the June fisheries for many years, were rescinded. During its February 2004 board meeting, the board agreed that actions taken during the 2001 board cycle to further restrict the Area M June fishery were unnecessary and caused undue hardship on the fishermen of the area.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of chum salmon during the month of June in the Shumagin Islands, Dolgoi Island, Ikatan Section, and Unimak District by temporal stratum for 2007 through 2009 can be found in report SP12-25, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Chum Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2007–2009* (tables 22–33). Appendix tables D7–D9 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for CWAK stocks among all strata combined within a given year for these fisheries.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Current June fishing schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes: All fishing periods start at 6:00 AM and end at 10:00 PM. All closures between fishing periods are for 32 hours.			416 total hours of fishing time.		1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				6:00 AM Open 88 hours		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00 PM		6:00 AM Open 88 hours			10:00 PM	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
6:00 AM Open 88 hours			10:00 PM		6:00 AM	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Open 88 hours	10:00 PM		6:00 AM Open 64 hours		10:00 PM	

Figure 180-1.–June calendar depicting current fishing periods.

PROPOSAL 181 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks a multifaceted approach to modifying the South Unimak and Shumagin Island June salmon fishery. Suggested changes include reducing the fishing schedule; re-establishing the 8.3 percent allocation of the Bristol Bay forecasted inshore sockeye salmon harvest; re-establishing the 400,000 chum salmon cap; reducing the South Unimak area to pre-2004 boundaries; a drift gillnet reduction to 70 meshes; and use of Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification (WASSIP) genetic results inseason to protect stocks of concern.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulation, 5 AAC 09.365, *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*, establishes four 88-hour and one 64-hour fishing periods, interspersed with 32-hour closures, beginning 6:00 a.m. June 7 and ending at 10:00 p.m. June 29 (Figure 181-1). The South Unimak fishery takes place in the Unimak District, the Southwestern District, the East and West Pavlof Bay sections of the Southcentral District, and the Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District (Figure 181-2). Drift gillnets may not exceed 90 meshes in depth (5 AAC 09.331 (a)(3)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would restore portions of several management plans that were in effect from 1975 through 2001. It would restore the sockeye salmon harvest guideline of 8.3 percent of the Bristol Bay forecasted inshore sockeye salmon harvest and a chum salmon cap of 400,000 fish.

The South Unimak fishery would take place in the Unimak District, the Ikatan Bay Section of the Southwestern District, and the Bechevin Bay section of the Northwestern District, plus the following waters of the Southwestern District located outside of the Ikatan Bay section and not described as closed waters in 5 AAC 09.350:

(1) Waters north and west of a line from Cape Pankof Light to Thin Point (54°57.32' N lat, 162°33.50' W long);

(2) Waters enclosed by a line from Thin Point (54°57.32' N lat, 162°33.50' W long) to the northernmost tip of Stag Point (54°59.10'N lat, 162°18.10'W long) on Deer Island to the southernmost tip of Dolgoi Cape (55°03.15' N lat, 161°44.35' W long) on Dolgoi Island and from the northernmost tip of Bluff Point (55°09.93' N lat, 161°53.72' W long) on Dolgoi Island to Arch Point Light (55°12.30' N lat, 161°54.30' W long).

This proposal also suggests reducing the maximum depth of drift gillnet gear allowed in the South Unimak area during June to 70 meshes and a modification to reduce the current fishing schedule. We are unable to determine what the proposed fishing schedule is intended to be: as suggested, a 70-hour fishing period beginning at 6:00 a.m. would close at 4:00 a.m. (not 10:00 p.m.), three days later. A fishing period beginning at 6:00 a.m. and ending at 10:00 p.m. three days later would be 88 hours in duration, which is currently in regulation. A 74-hour closure beginning at 10:00 p.m. would last until midnight, not 6:00 a.m., as suggested. Finally, this proposal suggests using WASSIP genetic data to adjust regulations while stocks of concern (known weak stocks) transit the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery.

BACKGROUND: From 1975–2000, fishing time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries was limited by provisions in the management plan that included sockeye salmon allocations (season harvest totals and weekly season limits), chum salmon caps, sockeye-to-chum salmon ratios, time limits, and season start dates. In several seasons from 1975–2000, the Shumagin Islands guideline harvest level (GHL) was reached, while the South Unimak GHL was not entirely harvested.

The concern over chum salmon harvest during the June fishery is well documented. Initial restrictions on chum salmon harvest came in 1986 when a harvest cap of 400,000 fish was established. The chum salmon cap increased in 1988 to 500,000; in 1990 to 600,000; and again in 1992 to 700,000. In 1998, the chum salmon cap was modified to a range between 350,000 and 600,000 fish based on the previous year's chum salmon harvests in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.

During the January 2001 Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting, both the harvest guidelines for sockeye salmon and the chum salmon cap, both of which were part of the allocation to the June fisheries for many years, were rescinded.

Prior to 1977, limited fishing effort occurred in the Southcentral District and in some portions of the Southwestern District. From 1977 through 2003, regulations did not allow the South Unimak June fishery to occur in the Southcentral District. In 2004, the board expanded the South Unimak fishery to include the entire Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof and East Pavlof Bay sections of the Southcentral District. The board opened waters as far east as Cape Tolstoi, in part to separate the South Unimak and the Shumagin Islands/Southeastern District Mainland fisheries.

Concerns over harvests of chum salmon in the 1980s and weak Yukon River chum salmon runs resulted in adoption of gear restrictions prior to the 1990 salmon season that limited the depth of gillnet and seine gear, and the mesh size of seine gear. The legal depth of drift gillnet gear was unlimited in regulation until the 1990 salmon season, when a regulation was adopted that limited drift gillnet gear in the Northwestern, Unimak, and Southwestern districts to 90 meshes in depth. Prior to the 1995 salmon season, mesh-size requirements for drift gillnets were also repealed.

During its February 2004 board meeting, the board agreed that actions taken during the 2001 board cycle to further restrict the Area M June fishery were unnecessary and caused undue hardship on the fishermen of the area.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the month of June in the Shumagin Islands, Dolgoi Island, Ikatan Section, and Unimak District by temporal stratum, for 2006 through 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008* (tables 24–35). Appendix tables E7–E9 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks among all strata combined within a given year for the June South Peninsula fisheries.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of chum salmon during the month of June in the Shumagin Islands, Dolgoi Island, Ikatan Section, and Unimak District by temporal stratum, for 2007 through 2009 can be found in report SP12-25, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Chum Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2007–2009* (tables 22–33). Appendix tables D7–D9 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for CWAK stocks among all strata combined within a given year for these fisheries.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department is **OPPOSED** to complicated and burdensome management plans. This proposal does not provide direction in the event the chum salmon cap is met but the sockeye salmon allocation is not. Additionally, implementation of this proposal would necessitate an increase in staff, as well as additional staff time and associated costs.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

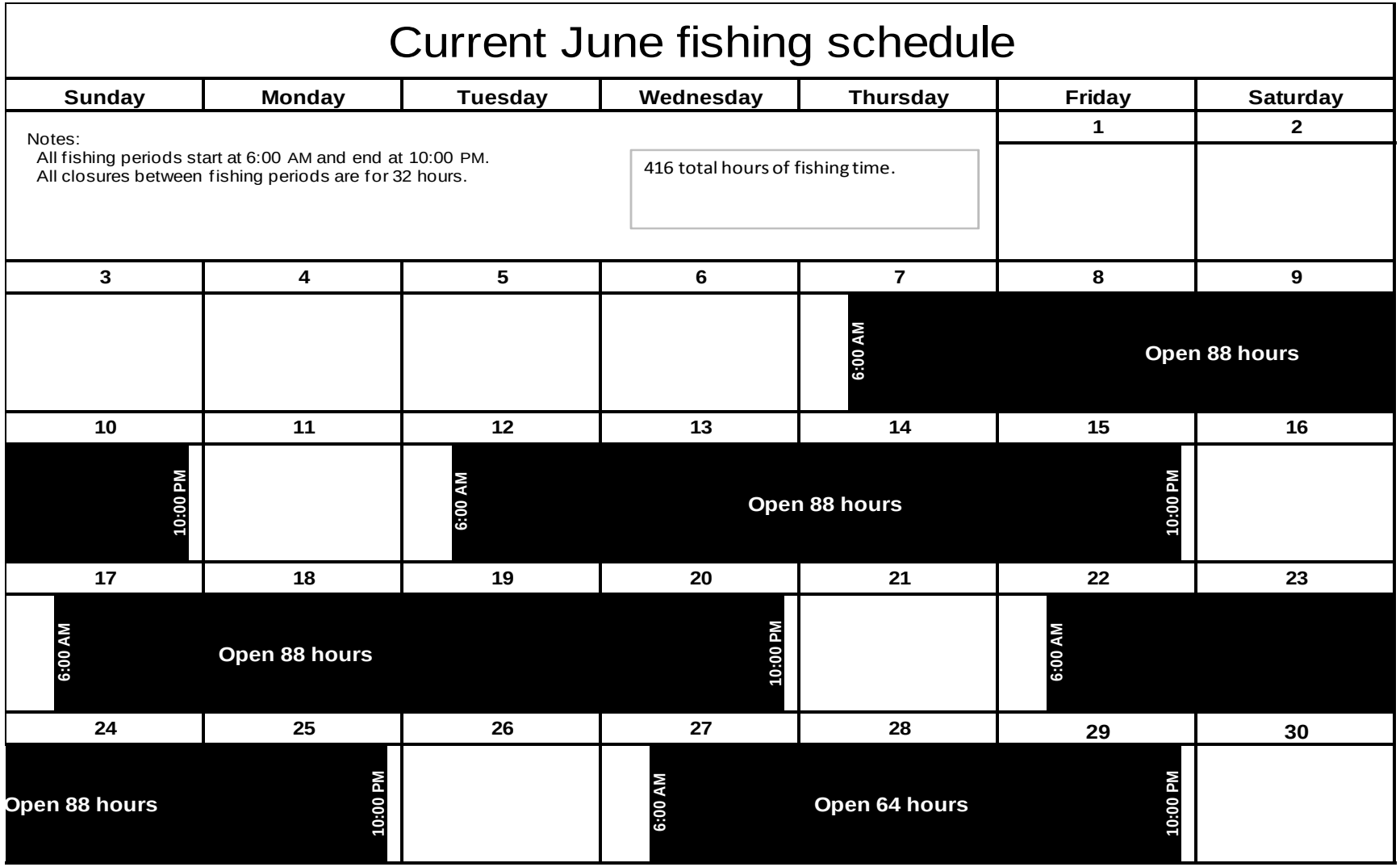

Figure 181-1.–June calendar depicting current fishing periods.

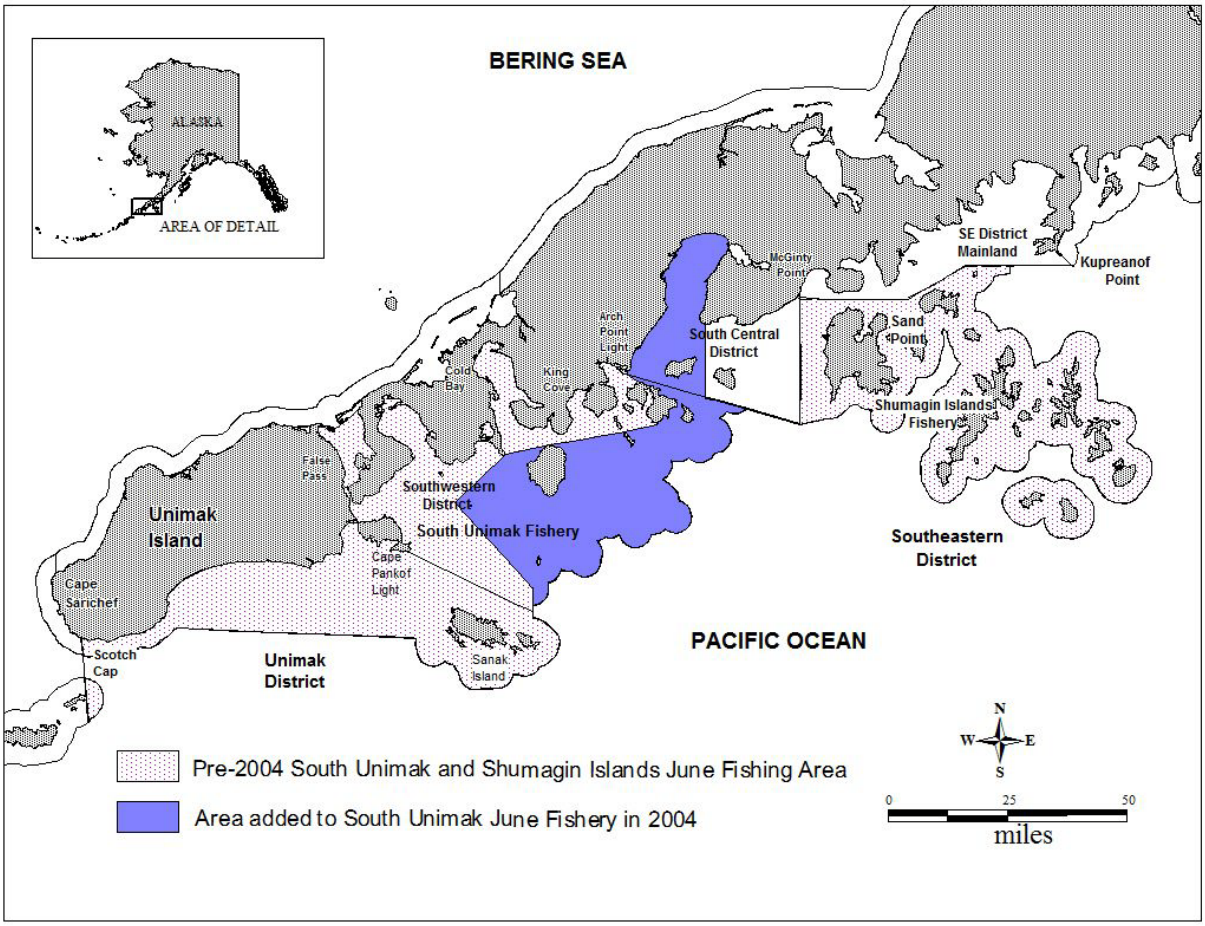

Figure 181-2.–Map depicting the 2004 expansion of the South Unimak June fishing area.

PROPOSAL 182 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Fisheries Management Plan and 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Johnson.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to reinstate the 8.3 percent Bristol Bay forecasted inshore sockeye salmon harvest allocation to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery that was in effect prior to 2001. This proposal also seeks establishment of terminal harvest areas around the mouths of each Northern District river system and to include harvest from those terminal areas prior to July 15 as part of the 8.3 percent allocation.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulation 5 AAC 09.365(a)–(e) allows the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery to commence as early as June 7. Fishing time is limited to four 88-hour periods, interspersed by 32-hour closures, with the final fishing period being 64 hours in duration (Figure 182-1). These periods are open concurrently for seine, drift gillnet, and set gillnet gear types.

The department manages the Northern District salmon fisheries separately from the South Peninsula fisheries. Commercial fisheries in the Northern District are managed based on salmon abundance as determined by escapement and catch-per-unit-effort information in each section of the Northern District as specified in 5 AAC 09.369(b).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The intent of this proposal is to restore the 8.3 percent Bristol Bay forecasted inshore sockeye salmon harvest allocation to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery, and establish terminal harvest areas within the Northern District. It would also add the Northern District sockeye salmon harvest prior to July 15 as a part of the 8.3 percent allocation. Harvest opportunity in the Northern District would be limited to the newly-established terminal harvest areas. The Northern District has not previously been tied to a Bristol Bay allocation. This proposal would have fisheries in the Northern District closed if the 8.3 percent sockeye salmon allocation was met. If this proposal were adopted, this allocation would likely be met in June since it ties in the entire Northern District salmon harvest, and therefore no commercial fisheries would be allowed in an abundance-based fishery until after July 14. Creating terminal fishing areas around the mouths of rivers could cause surplus escapement into the Nelson, Bear, Sandy, Ilnik, and Meshik rivers annually.

BACKGROUND: During the January 2001 Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting, both the harvest guidelines for sockeye salmon and the chum salmon cap, both of which were part of the allocation to the June fisheries for many years, were rescinded. During its February 2004 board meeting, the board agreed that actions to further restrict the Area M June fishery that were taken during the 2001 board cycle were unnecessary and caused undue hardship on the fishermen of the area. The peak of the Northern District sockeye salmon fisheries is usually in early July (Figure 182-2).

Prior South Unimak and Shumagin Island management plans were through June 30, not July 15, and did not include North Peninsula fisheries.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the month of June in the Shumagin Islands, Dolgoi Island, Ikatan Section, and Unimak District by temporal stratum for 2006 through 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008* (tables 24–35). Appendix tables E7–E9 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks among all strata combined within a given year for the June South Peninsula fisheries.

WASSIP was designed to identify stock contributions of sockeye and chum salmon to commercial and subsistence fisheries in Western Alaska, including Area M, over a four-year period. Fisheries were comprehensively sampled during 2006–2009, and results of three analysis years were reported for both species (sockeye, 2006–2008; chum, 2007–2009). Area M covers a broad geographic region, encompassing large sections of the North and South Alaska Peninsula. Relevant information on stock-specific harvests in Alaska Peninsula Area, by temporal stratum, for 2006 through 2008 can be found in WASSIP report SP12-24. Harvest and harvest rate data for all fisheries, among all temporal strata combined, for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups where the fishery occurs, can be found in WASSIP report SP12-24, tables 15–59. Appendix tables C36–C147 document harvest numbers for specific stocks in all sampled fisheries during all sampled temporal strata, 2006–2008. Appendix tables D9–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks among all strata combined within a given year for these fisheries.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal with regard to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery. However, the department **OPPOSES** this proposal because it would severely restrict the department's ability to control Northern District salmon escapements. If the allocation was met and fisheries were closed, the department would no longer have the ability to prevent overescapement and manage for maximum sustained yield. The Northern District has never been part of the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands' 8.3 percent June allocation, and this proposal would severely reduce sockeye salmon harvests throughout the Northern District. The peak of the Northern District sockeye salmon fisheries is usually in early July, and if this proposal were adopted, there would be significant foregone harvest opportunity on North Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks, specifically at Nelson, Bear, Sandy, Ilnik, and Meshik rivers.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

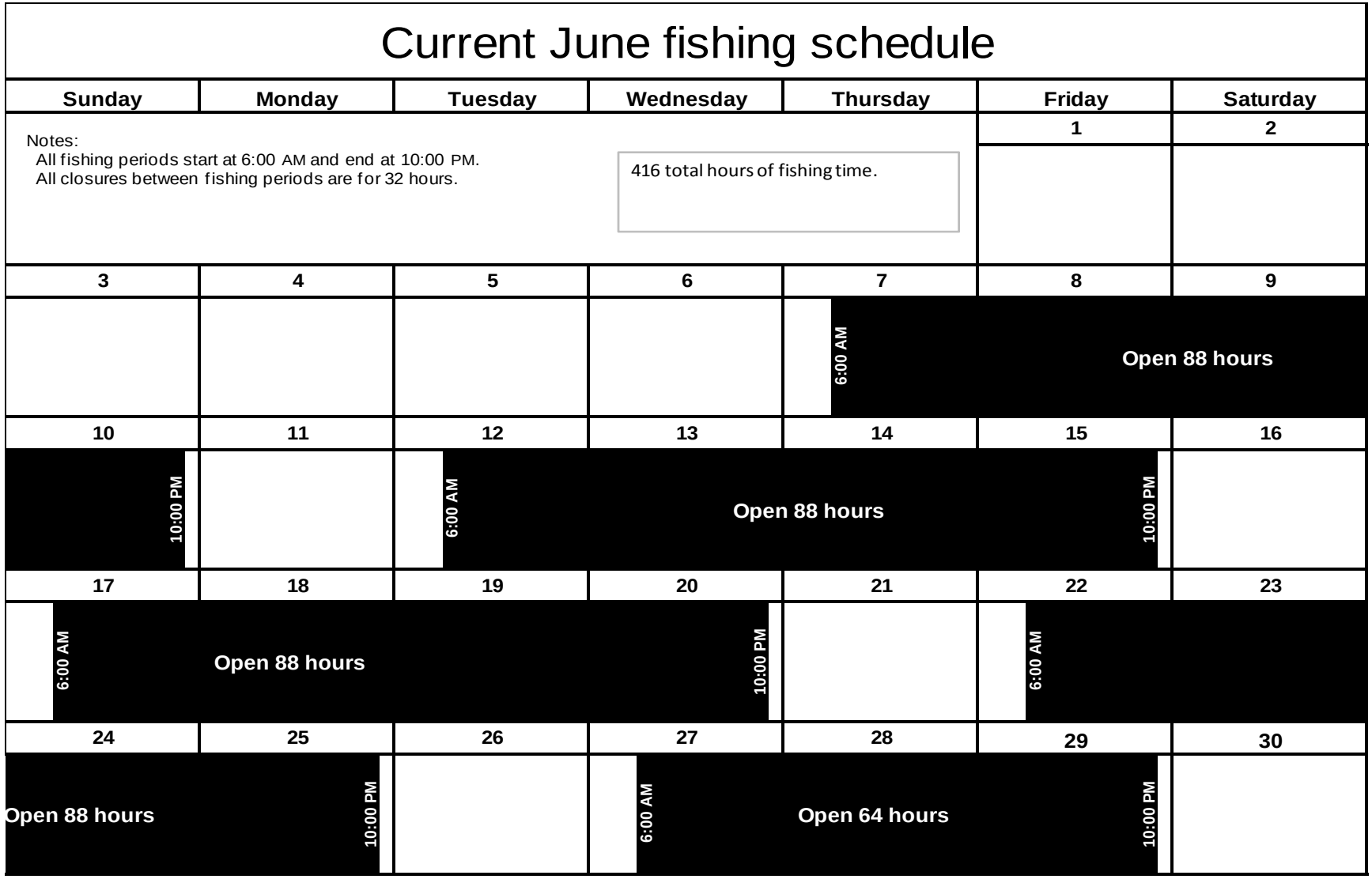

Figure 182-1.–June calendar depicting current fishing periods.

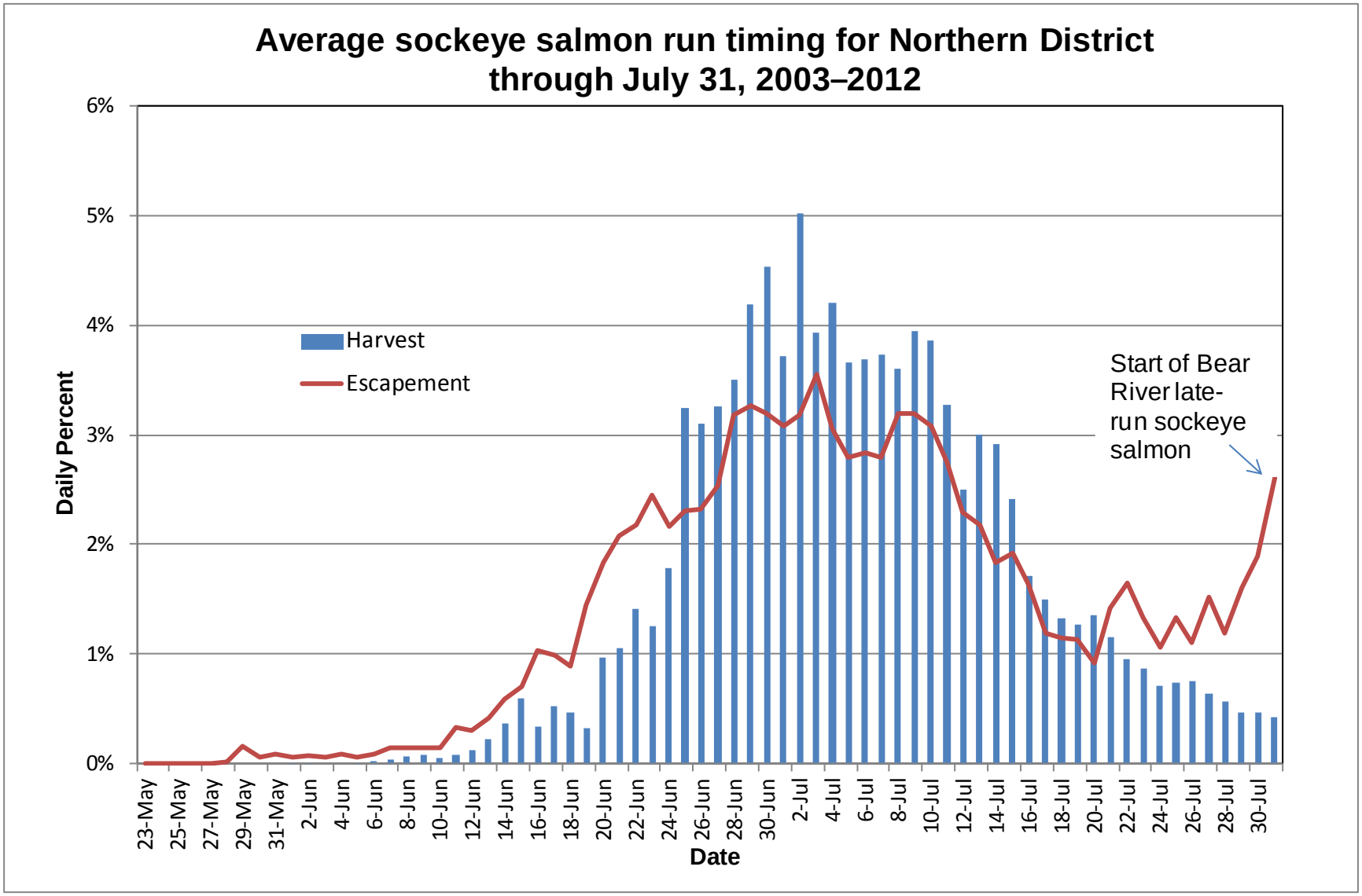

Figure 182-1.–Figure of average sockeye salmon harvest and escapement for the Northern District through July 31, 2003–2012.

PROPOSAL 183 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to change the start of the salmon fishing season in the Northwestern, Unimak, Southwestern, Southcentral, and Southeastern districts to June 15.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulation 5 AAC 09.310(b)–(f) allows salmon fishing season to begin on June 1. Currently, 5 AAC 09.365, *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*, establishes four 88-hour and one 64-hour fishing periods, interspersed with 32-hour closures beginning 6:00 a.m. June 7 and ending at 10:00 p.m. June 29 (Figure 183-1).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The intent of this proposal is to delay the start of the salmon fishing season from June 1 to June 15 in order to reduce harvest of Arctic, Yukon, and Kuskokwim-bound chum salmon during the June fishery. The proposal does not specify changes to the current June fishing schedule outlined in regulation; however, a later start to the fishing season would alter the current schedule. As proposed, the June fishery could begin as early as 6:00 a.m. June 15 and end at 10:00 p.m. June 28. This would encompass three 88-hour fishing periods, interspersed with 32-hour closures, for a total of 264 hours of fishing opportunity (Figure 183-2). The current June schedule begins 6:00 a.m. June 7 and allows for 416 total hours of fishing opportunity.

BACKGROUND: The concern over chum salmon harvest during the June fishery is well documented. Initial restrictions on chum salmon harvest came in 1986 when a harvest cap of 400,000 fish was established. The chum salmon cap increased in 1988 to 500,000; in 1990 to 600,000; and again in 1992 to 700,000 fish. In 1998, the chum salmon cap was modified to a range between 350,000 and 600,000 fish based on the previous year's chum salmon harvest in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.

During the January 2001 Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting, both the harvest guidelines for sockeye salmon and the chum salmon cap, both of which were part of the allocation to the June fisheries for many years, were rescinded. During its February 2004 meeting, the board agreed that actions taken during the 2001 board cycle to further restrict the Area M June fishery were unnecessary and caused undue hardship on the fishermen of the area.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of chum salmon during the month of June in the Shumagin Islands, Dolgoi Island, Ikatan Section, and Unimak District by temporal stratum for 2007 through 2009 can be found in report SP12-25, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Chum Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2007–2009* (tables 22–33). Appendix tables D7–D9 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for CWAK stocks among all strata combined within a given year for these fisheries.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

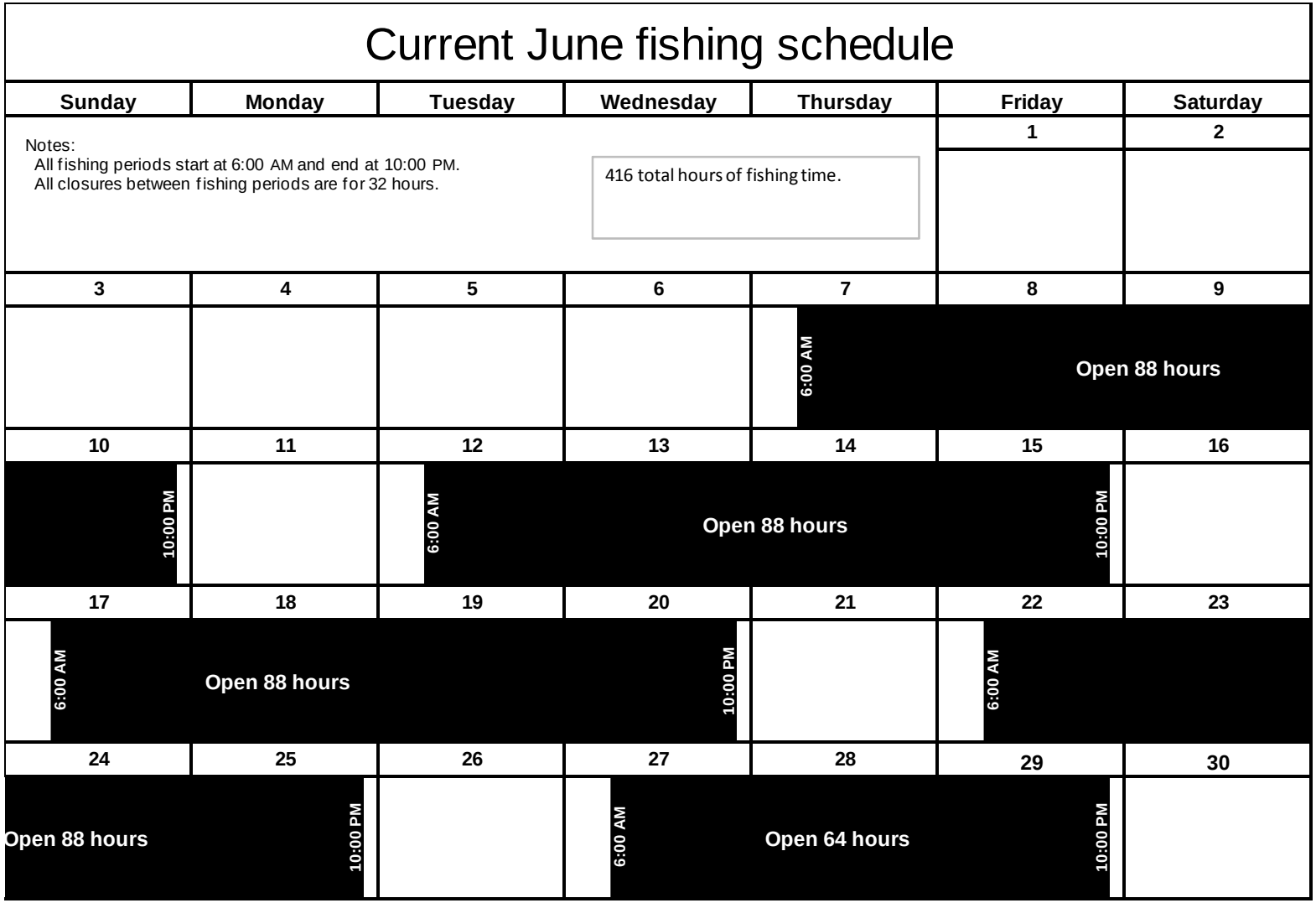

Figure 183-1.–Calendar depicting the current June fishing schedule.

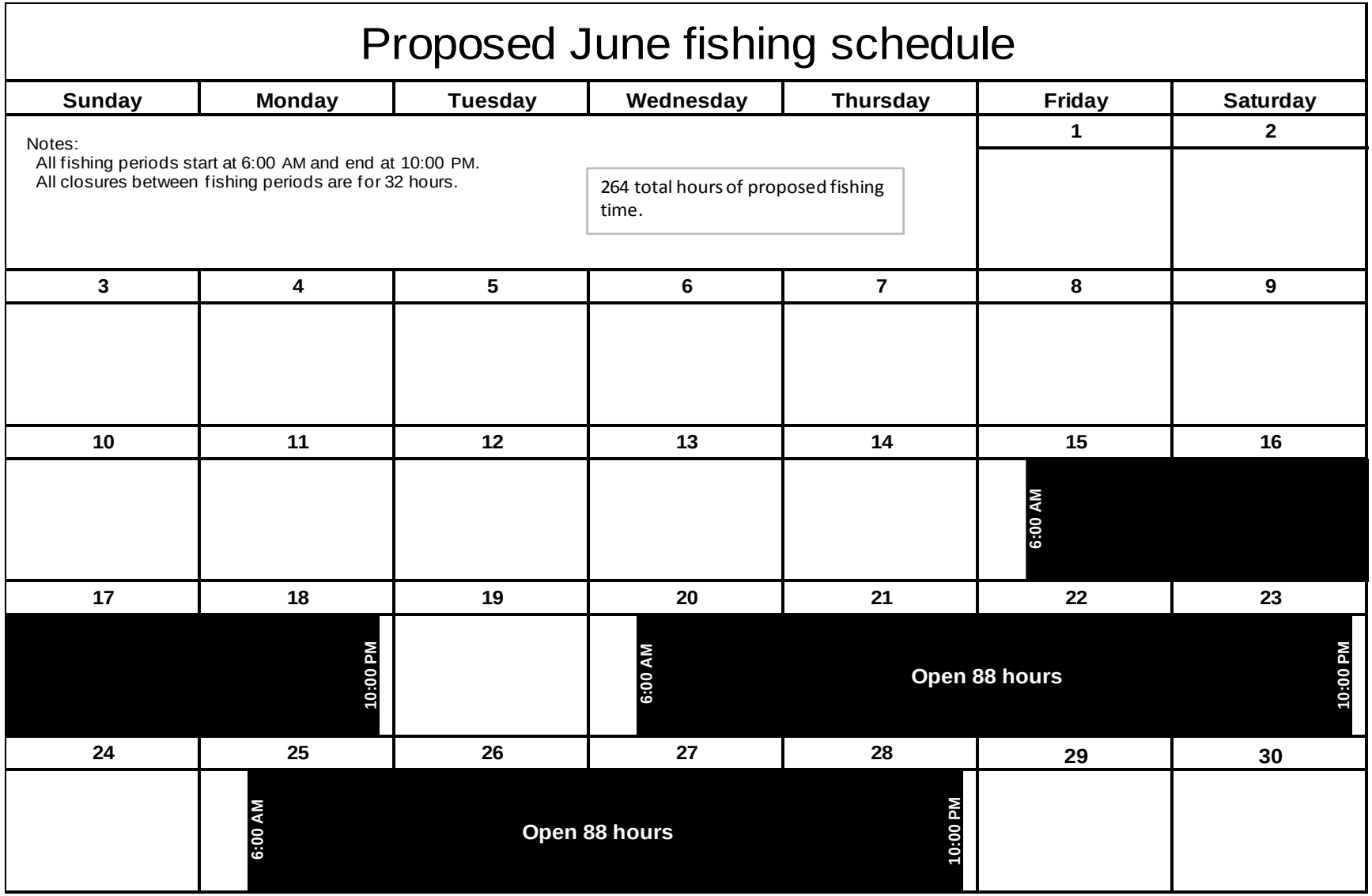

Figure 183-2.–Calendar depicting the proposed June fishing schedule.

South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Post-June Management Plan (4)

PROPOSAL 187 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. (*Note: The intent of the proposers was to amend 5 AAC 09.366,* Post-June Salmon Management Plan.*)*

PROPOSED BY: Ben Mobeck Sr. and David M. Adams.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to amend commercial fishing periods outlined in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* by consolidating 249 hours from the current one 21-hour, five 24-hour, and three 36-hour commercial salmon fishing periods from July 6 through July 31, to one 33-hour and six 36-hour commercial salmon fishing periods (Figure 187-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 09.366(d), notwithstanding (c)(1) of this section, the commissioner may establish by emergency order (EO) 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 (Figure 187-1).

Additional fishing time in terminal harvest areas may also be provided during the 48-hour closures based on local salmon stock strength evaluated from harvest data, escapement counts, and aerial surveys (5 AAC 09.366(f) and (g)). From July 6 through July 21, terminal harvest areas are Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay sections, and the East and West Pavlof Bay sections north of the latitude of Black Point. Terminal harvest areas, during the July 22 through July 31 time period, include those areas specified for the July 6 through July 21 period, as well as the Deer Island, Belkofski Bay, and Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay sections.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The current management plan allows for 249 hours of fishing time. This proposal would allow the same 249 hours of commercial salmon fishing opportunity, but would provide seven commercial salmon fishing periods instead of the nine currently in regulation. If adopted, this proposal would provide one 33-hour and six 36-hour commercial salmon fishing periods from July 6 through July 31.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1974, the July salmon fishery was generally open five days per week, with a total season closure on August 10. During the 1974 and 1975 fishing seasons, the fishery was severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976 through 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by EO based on local-stock run strength. Fishing periods from July 6 through July 18 were based on chum salmon run strength, and from July 18 through about August 20 on pink salmon run strength.

In November 1991, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) established the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366). The plan essentially limited

fishing from July 6 through July 19 to designated terminal harvest areas. From 1993 through 1997, harvests in the July 6 through July 19 period were significantly lower than pre-1993 harvests for the same period. One reason for closing most of the South Peninsula during July 6 through July 19 was the board's desire to minimize July coho salmon harvests.

In 1998, the board made changes to the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan*, which defined two distinct fishing periods within the month of July. For the period July 6 through July 21, the board increased nonterminal area fishing opportunities. Fishing periods were limited to a maximum of 24 hours, followed by a closure of at least 48 hours. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon were adequate. Terminal harvest areas for the July 6 through July 21 fishing period included Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, and the East Pavlof Bay, West Pavlof Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi sections (Figure 187-2).

For the period July 22 through July 31, the board reduced overall fishing time and restricted continuous fishing in late July in nonterminal areas. Fishing periods in nonterminal areas were limited to 36 hours. Each open fishing period was followed by a minimum closure of 48 hours. The board also established a coho salmon cap of 60,000 fish in nonterminal areas during July 22 through July 31, which was repealed in 2004. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon warranted it. In addition to the terminal harvest areas listed for the July 6 through July 21 fishing periods, the July 22 through July 31 fishing period include terminal harvest areas in the Stepovak Flats Section (from July 26 through July 28), the section near Suzy Creek (after July 25), Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section, Belkofski Bay Section, and Deer Island Section.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on any potential allocative aspects of this proposal. However, the department **SUPPORTS** aspects of this proposal that create longer closed periods that provide more opportunity for the department to conduct aerial surveys to ensure salmon escapement objectives are being met. This proposal rearranges fishing opportunity outlined in the current management plan. It also provides the same overall amount of time for salmon to escape the fishery. This proposal does not impinge on the department's ability to manage for sustainability and does not limit the effectiveness of any other provision within the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan*.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

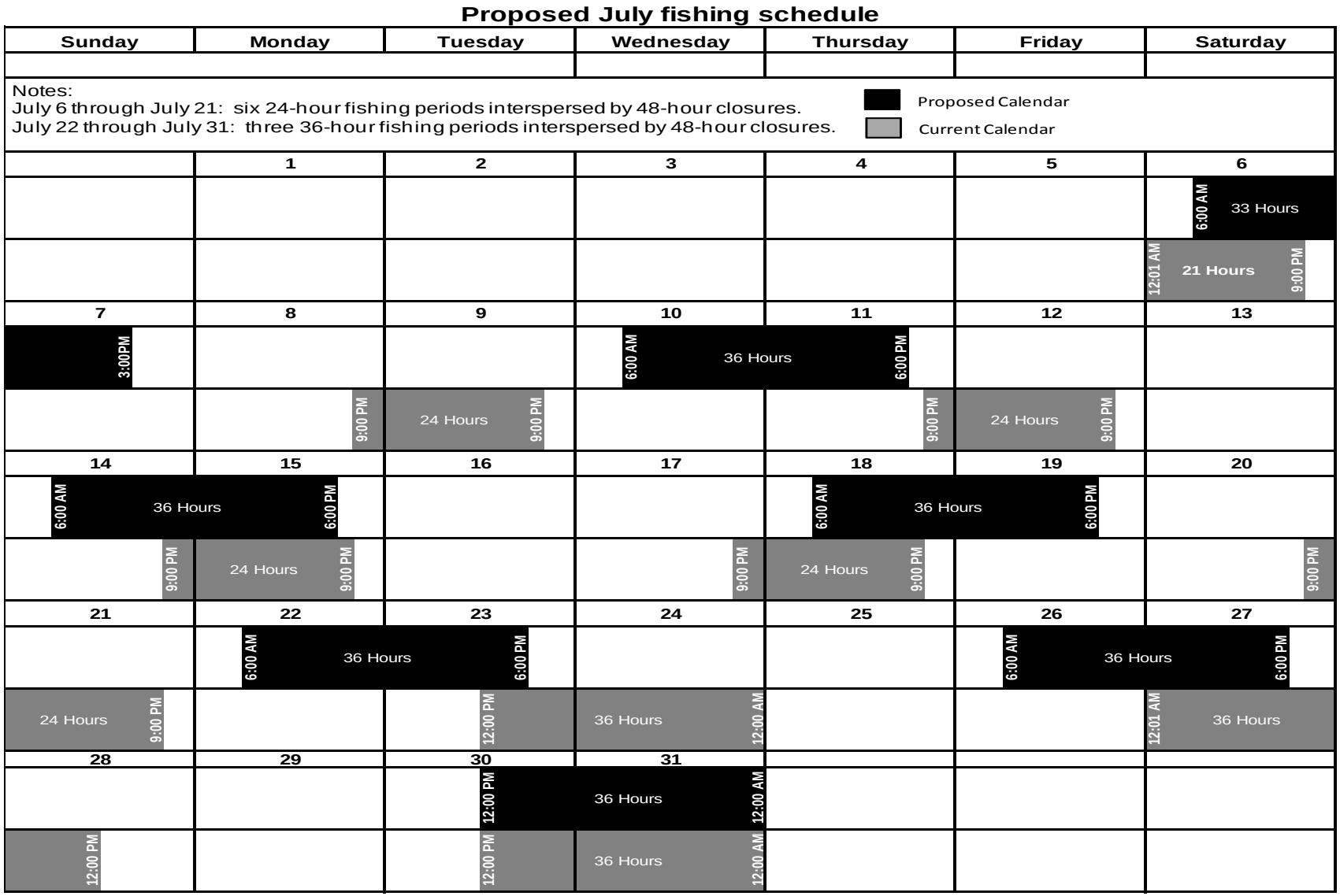

Figure 187-1.–Calendar of the current *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* and Proposal 187 July fishing schedule.

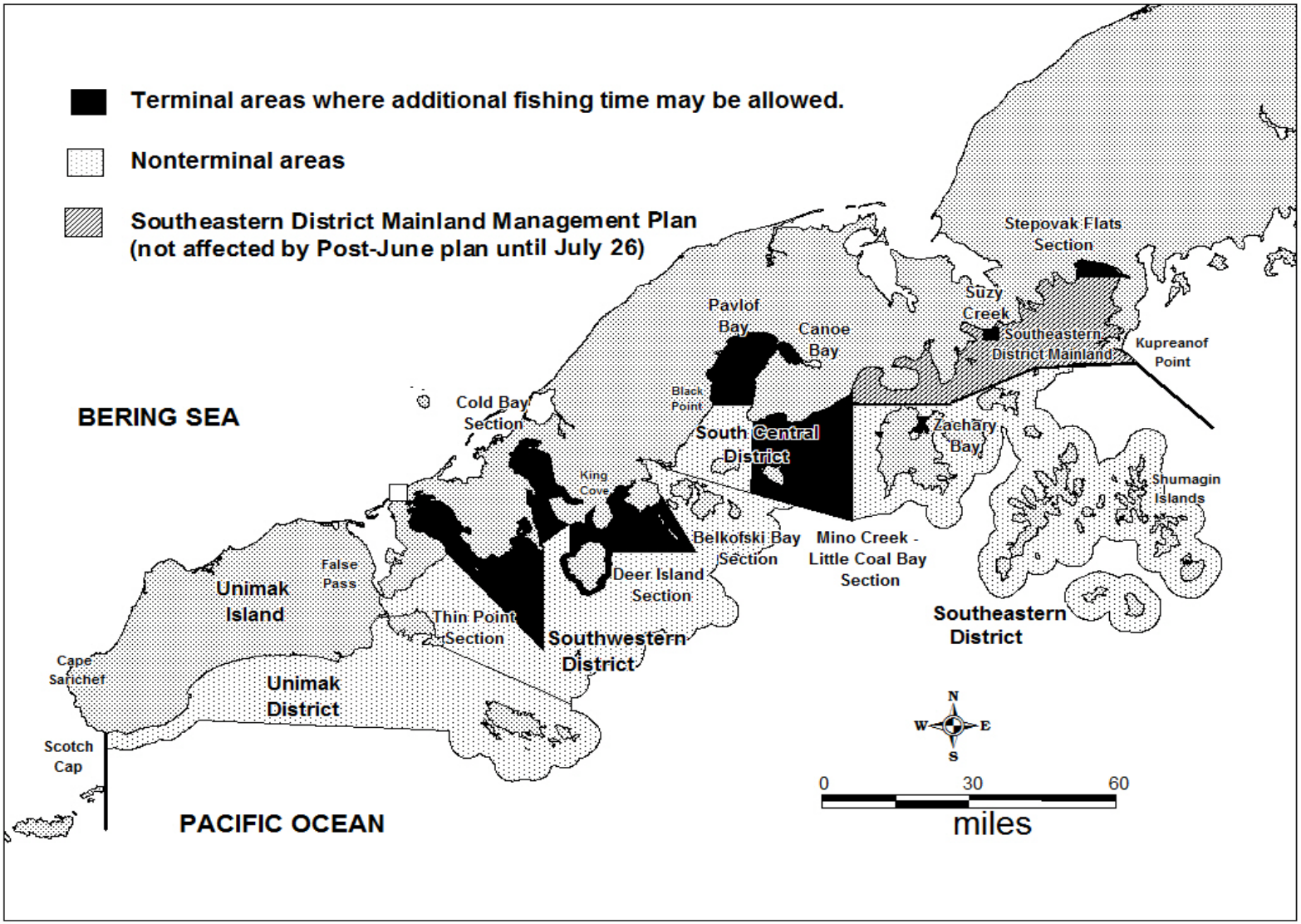

Figure 187-2.–Figure depicting terminal and nonterminal fishing areas specified in the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*.

PROPOSAL 188 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. *(Note: The intent of the proposer was to amend 5 AAC 09.366,* Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.*)*

PROPOSED BY: Marcus Adams.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to amend the current commercial fishing periods in the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan*. The post-June commercial salmon fishing periods would begin at 12:00 noon July 6 for 48 hours, and would be interspersed by 48-hour closures until July 20. One commercial salmon fishing period would occur for 57 hours, beginning at 12:00 noon July 22, and ending at 9:00 p.m. July 24. After July 24, commercial salmon fishing periods would be established by emergency order (EO) based on abundance of local pink salmon stocks (Figure 188-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In 5 AAC 09.366(d), notwithstanding (c)(1) of this section, the commissioner may establish, by EO, 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 (Figure 188-1).

Additional fishing time in terminal harvest areas may also be provided during the 48-hour closures based on local salmon stock strength evaluated from harvest data, escapement counts, and aerial surveys. From July 6 through July 21, terminal harvest areas are Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, Morzhovoi Bay, and the East and West Pavlof Bay sections north of the latitude of Black Point. Terminal harvest areas during the July 22 through July 31 time period include those areas specified for the July 6 through July 21 period, as well as the Deer Island, Belkofski Bay, and Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay sections.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The current management plan allows for 249 hours of fishing time. This proposal would allow the same 249 hours of commercial salmon fishing, but would provide five commercial salmon fishing periods instead of the nine currently in regulation. If adopted, this proposal would provide four 48-hour and one 57-hour commercial salmon fishing periods, interspersed with 48-hour closures from July 6 through July 24. After July 24, commercial fishing periods would be established based on abundance of local pink salmon stocks.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1974, the July salmon fishery was generally open five days per week, with a total season closure on August 10. During the 1974 and 1975 fishing seasons, the fishery was severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976 through 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by EO based on local-stock run strength. Fishing periods from July 6 through July 18 were based on chum salmon run strength, and from July 18 through about August 20 on pink salmon run strength.

In November 1991, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) established the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366). The plan essentially limited

fishing from July 6 through July 19 to designated terminal harvest areas. From 1993 through 1997, harvests in the July 6 through July 19 period were significantly lower than pre-1993 harvests for the same period. One reason for closing most of the South Peninsula during July 6 through July 19 was the board's desire to minimize July coho salmon harvests.

In 1998, the board made changes to the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* that defined two distinct fishing periods within the month of July. For the period July 6 through July 21, the board increased nonterminal area fishing opportunities. Fishing periods were limited to a maximum of 24 hours, followed by a closure of at least 48 hours. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon were adequate. Terminal harvest areas for the July 6 through July 21 fishing period included Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, and the East Pavlof Bay, West Pavlof Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi sections.

For the period July 22 through July 31, the board reduced overall fishing time and restricted continuous fishing in late July in nonterminal areas. Fishing periods in nonterminal areas were limited to 36 hours. Each open fishing period was followed by minimum closure of 48 hours. The board also established a coho salmon cap of 60,000 fish in nonterminal areas during July 22 through July 3, which was repealed in 2004. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon warranted it. In addition to the terminal harvest areas listed for the July 6 through July 21 fishing periods, the July 22 through July 31 fishing period includes the terminal harvest areas in the Stepovak Flats Section (from July 26 through July 28), the section near Suzy Creek (after July 25), and the Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay, Belkofski Bay, and Deer Island sections (Figure 188-2).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. The department **OPPOSES** the aspect of this proposal that would base management after July 24 on abundance of pink salmon. This would limit the department's ability to manage for other salmon species that occur in South Alaska Peninsula waters. While this proposal suggests the same amount of fishing time as provided in current regulations, the department is **OPPOSED** to the suggested time frame because it is compressed compared to current regulations. This would focus fishing pressure on the early portion of local pink and chum salmon runs, which could be detrimental. As mandated by the *Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries* (5 AAC 39.222(c)(2)(D), the department shall distribute harvest throughout the course of particular salmon stocks' run timing to help maintain the integrity of that stock and decrease the likelihood of temporal shifting in future returns of that stock.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

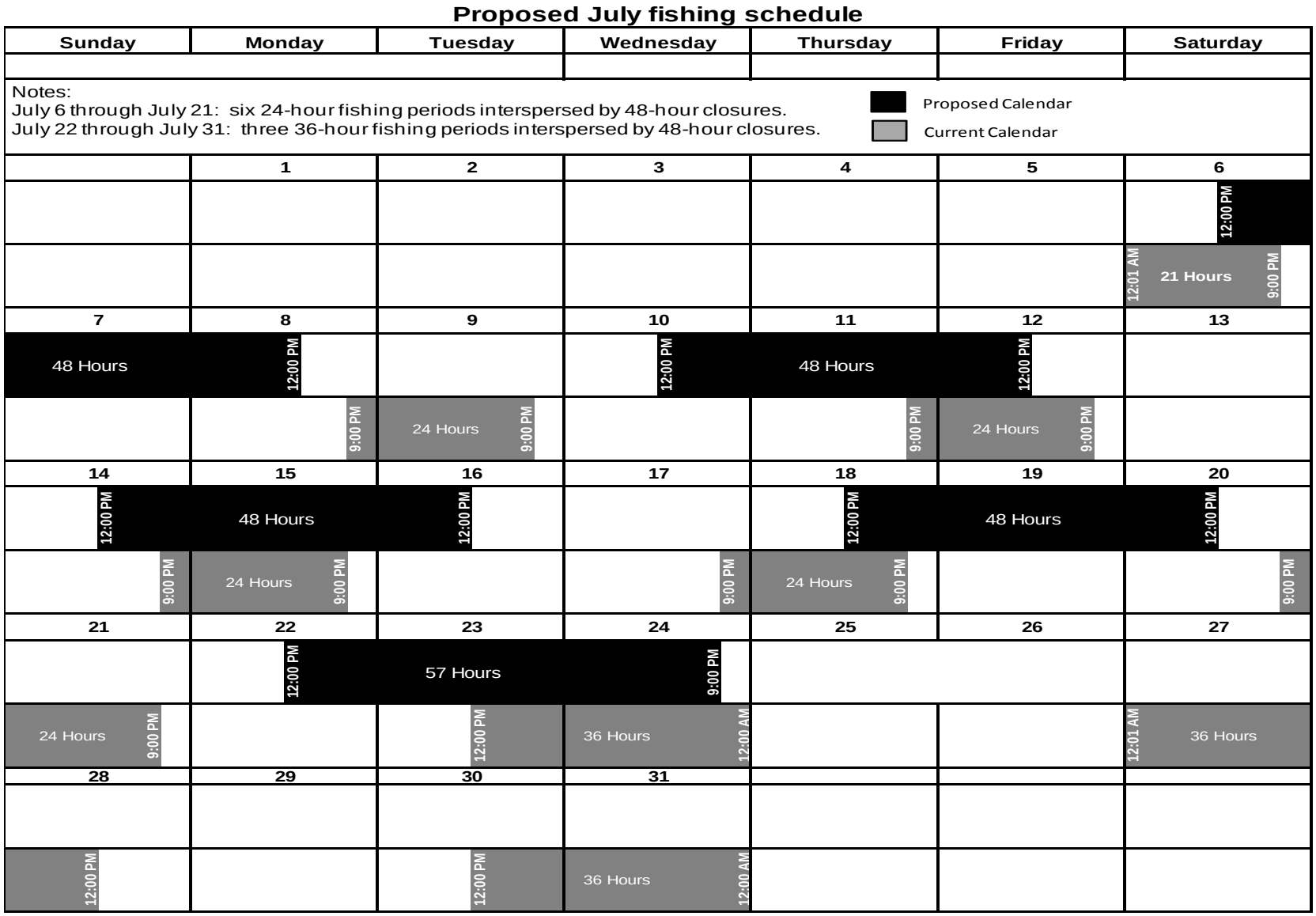

Figure 188-1.–Calendar of the current *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* and Proposal 188 July fishing schedule.

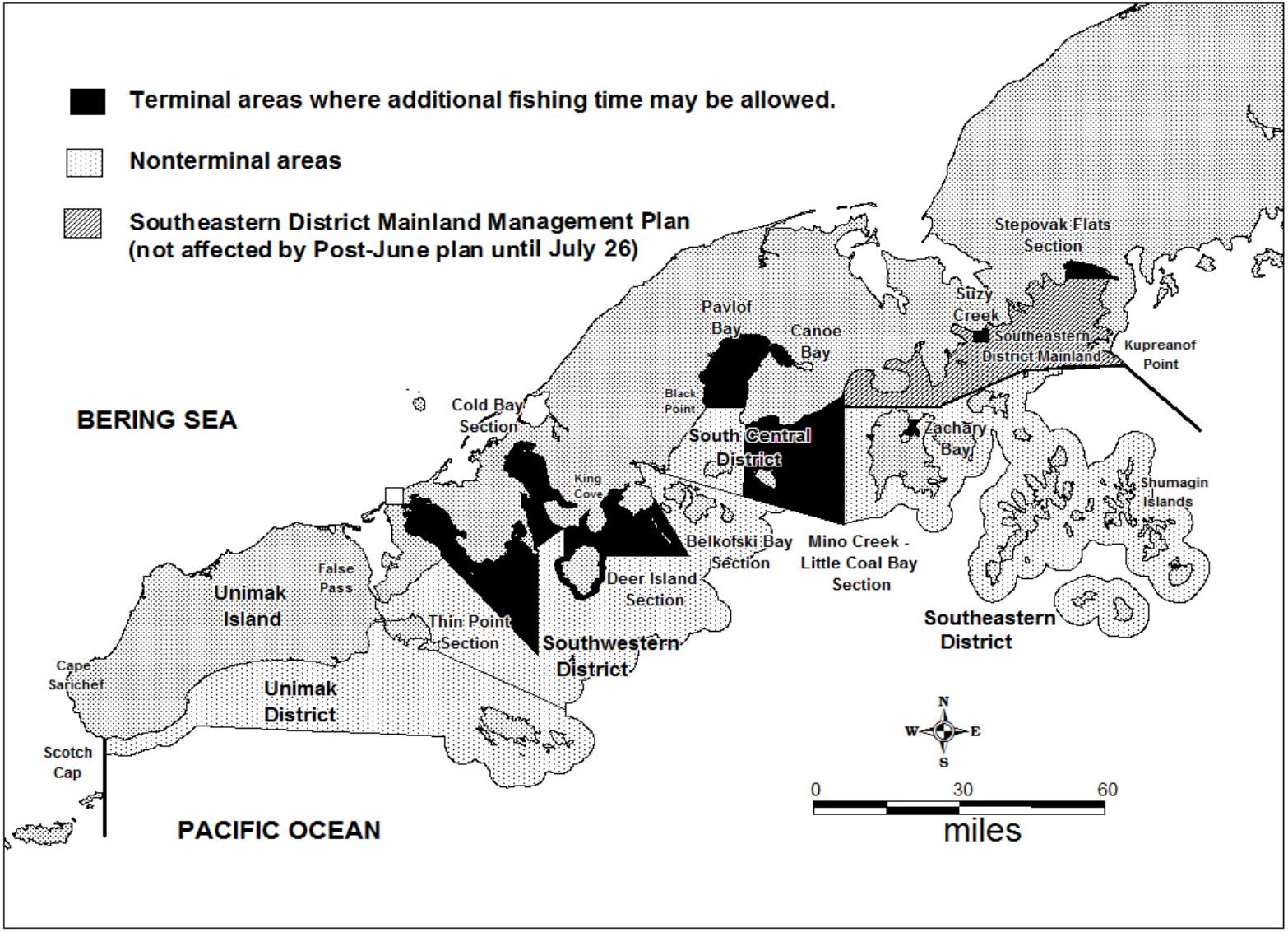

Figure 188-2.–Map depicting terminal and nonterminal fishing areas described in the *Post-June Management Plan*.

PROPOSAL 189 – 5 AAC 09.366(d). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* by increasing fishing time to nine 48-hour fishing periods, interspersed by 24-hour closures from July 6 through July 31.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In 5 AAC 09.366(d), notwithstanding (c)(1) of this section, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order (EO), 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 (Figure 189-1).

Additional fishing time in terminal harvest areas may also be provided during the 48-hour closures based on local salmon stock strength evaluated from harvest data, escapement counts, and aerial surveys. From July 6 through July 21, terminal harvest areas are Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, Morzhovoi Bay, and the East and West Pavlof Bay sections north of the latitude of Black Point. Terminal harvest areas, during the July 22 through July 31 time period, include those areas specified for the July 6 through July 21 period, as well as the Deer Island, Belkofski Bay, and Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay sections.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The current management plan allows for 249 hours of fishing time (Figure 189-1). This proposal would allow a total of 432 hours of fishing time for all gear types (an increase of 183 hours; Figure 189-1).

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1974, the July salmon fishery was generally open five days per week, with a total season closure on August 10. During the 1974 and 1975 fishing seasons, the fishery was severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976 through 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by EO based on local-stock run strength. Fishing periods from July 6 through July 18 were based on chum salmon run strength, and from July 18 through about August 20 on pink salmon run strength.

In November 1991, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) established the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366). The plan essentially limited fishing from July 6 through July 19 to designated terminal areas. From 1993 through 1997, harvests in the July 6 through July 19 period were significantly lower than pre-1993 harvests for the same period. One reason for closing most of the South Alaska Peninsula during July 6 through July 19 was the board's desire to minimize July coho salmon harvests.

Beginning in 1998, the board allowed 24-hour fishing periods followed by 48-hour closures during July 6 through July 21. From July 22 through July 31, fishing time was limited in nonterminal areas to three periods, not to exceed 36 hours in duration and interspersed by

closures of at least 48 hours (outside of the Southeastern District Mainland prior to July 26). Amount of fishing area considered "terminal" was increased, during the July 22 through July 31 time period, as local pink and chum salmon gained in run strength. Terminal harvest areas during the July 22 through July 31 time period include Morzhovoi Bay, the Thin Point Section, Cold Bay Section, the Deer Island Section, the Belkofski Bay Section, East and West Pavlof Bay sections (north of the latitude of Black Point), Canoe Bay, Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section, southern portion of Zachary Bay, the area near Suzy Creek (after July 25), and the Stepovak Flats Section, from July 26 through July 28.

The immature salmon test-fishing program was instituted by the department in 1990. In the Shumagin Islands Section, most purse seine fishing effort has occurred around Popof Island, between Popof Head and Red Bluff. For this reason, test-fishing sites were established in these areas. The test fishery is conducted prior to the initial commercial salmon fishing period in July, which currently begins on July 6.

In 1998, the board adopted a regulation that defined immature salmon and required the department to conduct an immature salmon test fishery in July (5 AAC 09.366(i)). The board also changed the earliest general opening date of the post-June fishery in nonterminal areas from July 20 to July 6.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. This proposal suggests increasing fishing opportunity during the month of July by 183 hours. This would focus fishing pressure on the early portion of local pink and chum salmon runs, which could be detrimental. As mandated by the *Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries* (5 AAC 39.222(c)(2)(D), the department shall distribute harvest throughout the course of particular salmon stocks' run timing to help maintain the integrity of that stock and decrease the likelihood of temporal shifting in future returns of that stock. Additional opportunity would further impact stocks transiting the area.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Proposed July fishing schedule

Notes:
July 6 through July 21: six 24-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48-hour closures.
July 22 through July 31: three 36-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48-hour closures.

Proposed fishing schedule
Current Post-June Management Plan

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
						12:00 AM
						12:01 AM 21 Hours 9:00 PM
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
48 hours 12:00 AM		12:00 AM 48 hours 12:00 AM			12:00 AM 48 hours	
	9:00 PM	24 Hours 9:00 PM		9:00 PM	24 Hours 9:00 PM	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	12:00 AM 48 hours 12:00 AM			12:00 AM 48 hours 12:00 AM		
9:00 PM	24 Hours 9:00 PM		9:00 PM	24 Hours 9:00 PM		9:00 PM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
12:00 AM 48 hours 12:00 AM			12:00 AM 48 hours 12:00 AM			12:00 AM
24 Hours 9:00 PM		12:00 PM	36 Hours 12:00 AM			12:01 AM 36 Hours
28	29	30	31			
48 hours 12:00 AM		12:00 AM 48 hours 12:00 AM				
12:00 PM		12:00 PM	36 Hours 12:00 AM			

Figure 189-1.–Calendar of the current *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* and Proposal 189 July fishing schedule.

PROPOSAL 190 – 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Brown.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* by increasing fishing time to 252 hours. The post-June commercial salmon fishing periods would begin at 12:00 noon July 6, for 48 hours, and would be interspersed by 48-hour closures until July 20. One commercial salmon fishing period would occur for approximately 60 hours, beginning at 12:00 noon July 22, and ending at 11:59 p.m., July 24. After July 24, commercial salmon fishing periods would be established by emergency order (EO) based on abundance of local stocks (Figure 190-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In 5 AAC 09.366(d), notwithstanding (c)(1), of this section, the commissioner may establish, by EO, 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 (Figure 190-1).

Additional fishing time in terminal harvest areas may also be provided during the 48-hour closures, based on local salmon stock strength evaluated from harvest data, escapement counts, and aerial surveys. From July 6 through July 21, terminal harvest areas are Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, Morzhovoi Bay, and the East and West Pavlof Bay sections north of the latitude of Black Point. Terminal harvest areas during the July 22 through 31 time period include those areas specified for the July 6 through July 21 period, as well as the Deer Island, Belkofski Bay, and Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay sections.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The current management plan allows for 249 hours of fishing time (Figure 190-1). This proposal would allow a total of 252 hours of fishing time for all gear types (an increase of three hours; Figure 190-1).

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1974, the July salmon fishery was generally open five days per week, with a total season closure on August 10. During the 1974 and 1975 fishing seasons, the fishery was severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976 through 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by EO based on local-stock run strength. Fishing periods from July 6 through July 18 were based on chum salmon run strength, and from July 18 through about August 20 on pink salmon run strength.

In November 1991, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) established the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366). The plan essentially limited fishing from July 6 through July 19 to designated terminal harvest areas. From 1993 through 1997, harvests in the July 6 through July 19 period were significantly lower than pre-1993 harvests for the same period. One reason for closing most of the South Alaska Peninsula during July 6 through July 19 was the board's desire to minimize July coho salmon harvests.

Beginning in 1998, the board allowed 24-hour fishing periods followed by 48-hour closures during July 6 through July 21. From July 22 through July 31, fishing time was limited in nonterminal areas to three periods, not to exceed 36 hours in duration and interspersed by closures of at least 48 hours (outside of the Southeastern District Mainland prior to July 26). Amount of fishing area considered "terminal" was increased during the July 22 through July 31 time period as local pink and chum salmon gained in run strength. Terminal harvest areas during the July 22 through July 31 time period include the Morzhovoi Bay, the Thin Point Section, Cold Bay, the Deer Island Section, the Belkofski Bay, East and West Pavlof Bay sections (north of the latitude of Black Point), Canoe Bay, Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section, the southern portion of Zachary Bay, the area near Suzy Creek (after July 25), and the Stepovak Flats Section from July 26 through July 28.

The immature salmon test-fishing program was instituted by the department in 1990. In the Shumagin Islands Section, most purse seine fishing effort has occurred around Popof Island, between Popof Head and Red Bluff. For this reason, test-fishing sites were established in these areas. The test fishery is conducted prior to the initial commercial salmon fishing period in July, which currently begins on July 6.

In 1998, the board adopted a regulation that defined immature salmon and required the department to conduct an immature salmon test fishery in July (5 AAC 09.366(i)). The board also changed the earliest general opening date of the post-June fishery in nonterminal areas from July 20 to July 6.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. While this proposal suggests approximately the same amount of fishing time as provided in current regulations, the department is **OPPOSED** to the suggested time frame because it is compressed compared to current regulations. This would focus fishing pressure on the early portion of local pink and chum salmon runs, which could be detrimental. As mandated by the *Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries* (5 AAC 39.222(c)(2)(D), the department shall distribute harvest throughout the course of particular salmon stocks' run timing to help maintain the integrity of that stock and decrease the likelihood of temporal shifting in future returns of that stock.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Proposed July fishing schedule

Notes:
July 6 through July 21: six 24-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48-hour closures.
July 22 through July 31: three 36-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48-hour closures.

Proposed Calendar
Current Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
						12:00 PM
						12:01 AM 21 Hours 9:00 PM
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
48 Hours	12:00 PM		12:00 PM	48 Hours	12:00 PM	
	9:00 PM	24 Hours 9:00 PM		9:00 PM	24 Hours 9:00 PM	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
12:00 PM	48 Hours	12:00 PM		12:00 PM	48 Hours	12:00 PM
9:00 PM	24 Hours 9:00 PM		9:00 PM	24 Hours 9:00 PM		9:00 PM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	12:00 PM	60 Hours	11:59 PM			
24 Hours 9:00 PM		12:00 PM	36 Hours 12:00 AM			12:01 AM 36 Hours
28	29	30	31			
12:00 PM		12:00 PM	36 Hours 12:00 AM			

Figure 190-1.–Calendar of the current *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* and Proposal 190 July fishing schedule.

North Alaska Peninsula Salmon Northern District

PROPOSAL 198 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing Seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would close the commercial salmon fishing season in the Nelson Lagoon Section and north of Cape Seniavin in the Three Hills, Ilnik, Inner Port Heiden, and Cinder River sections on August 15 instead of September 30 (Figure 198-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the Cinder River Section, under 5 AAC 09.310(a)(1)(A) and (B), salmon may be taken from May 1 through September 30 within the lagoon into which Cinder River drains, and from August 1 through September 30 throughout the entire section. In the Inner Port Heiden and Nelson Lagoon sections (5 AAC 09.310(2)(A)(8)), salmon may be taken from May 1 through September 30. The Outer Port Heiden Section closes by regulation on July 31 (5 AAC 09.310(2)(B)). In the Three Hills Section, under 5 AAC 09.310(4), salmon may be taken from June 25 through September 30. In the Ilnik Section, under 5 AAC 09.310(3)(A) and (C), salmon may be taken from May 1 through September 30 within the Ilnik Lagoon and the waters inside the Seal Islands, and from June 20 through September 30 throughout the entire Ilnik Section.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would close the commercial salmon fishing season in the Nelson Lagoon, Three Hills, Ilnik, Inner Port Heiden, and Cinder River sections on August 15. No harvest would occur in these areas beginning August 15.

BACKGROUND: After August 15, the area north of Cape Seniavin, which includes the Three Hills, Ilnik, Inner Port Heiden, and Cinder River sections, is managed on the basis of local stocks. The Three Hills and Ilnik sections are managed based on Bear River sockeye salmon and Ilnik Lagoon coho salmon. The Inner Port Heiden Section is managed based on coho salmon bound for the Meshik River, and the Cinder River Section is managed based on local Cinder River coho salmon. Sockeye salmon harvested in the Three Hills and Ilnik sections after August 15 are bound for Bear River, which has two sockeye salmon runs. The late run begins in August and continues into September. Coho salmon runs in the Ilnik, Meshik, and Cinder River systems are substantial, with escapements often in the 10,000–30,000 fish range. Harvest of coho salmon in the Three Hills Section is usually about 4,000 fish per season, and in the Ilnik Section, fewer than 8,000 fish per year. There are three smaller coho salmon systems in the Three Hills Section, with escapements of about 1,000 fish in each system. In recent years, little or no coho salmon harvest has occurred in the Inner Port Heiden and Cinder River sections, however systems within these areas are known for having substantial coho salmon runs, which can range between 20,000 to 45,000 fish annually. The lack of coho salmon harvest in the Inner Port Heiden and Cinder River sections in recent years has been market and industry-driven. There have been strong coho salmon runs in Northern District systems, with escapements annually averaging 86,000 fish and harvests averaging 50,000 fish per year. Northern District coho salmon runs typically peak in late August or early September and continue into late September.

The department does not have stock-specific coho salmon harvest estimates for North Peninsula fisheries. However, the *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* does provide the department direction for management of commercial coho salmon fisheries. It is unknown if coho salmon bound for Nelson Lagoon are harvested in areas north of Cape Seniavin (at least 50 miles away) after August 15. The Nelson Lagoon coho salmon fishery is the largest coho salmon fishery on the North Peninsula, with an annual harvest of around 40,000 fish. The coho salmon sustainable escapement goal for the Nelson River is 18,000 fish. Typically, of all the coho salmon harvested in Northern District sections, Nelson Lagoon accounts for about 60–70 percent of the harvest.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal, but is **OPPOSED** to limiting harvest opportunity without biological justification. This proposal would make it difficult for the department to manage commercial fisheries based on local escapements in areas that already have management plans based on coho salmon.

Closing fisheries north of Cape Seniavin, as well as in the Nelson Lagoon Section in August, has not been necessary to meet the Nelson River coho salmon escapement goals (Table 198-1).

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 198-1.–Nelson Lagoon coho salmon escapements and escapement goals, 2000–2012.

Year	Escapement	Escapment Goal
2000	18,000	18,000-25,000
2001	36,000	18,000-25,000
2002	38,000	18,000-25,000
2003	28,000	18,000-25,000
2004	52,500	18,000
2005	24,000	18,000
2006	19,000	18,000
2007	19,000	18,000
2008	36,000	18,000
2009	22,000	18,000
2010	15,000	18,000
2011	21,000	18,000
2012	19,160	18,000

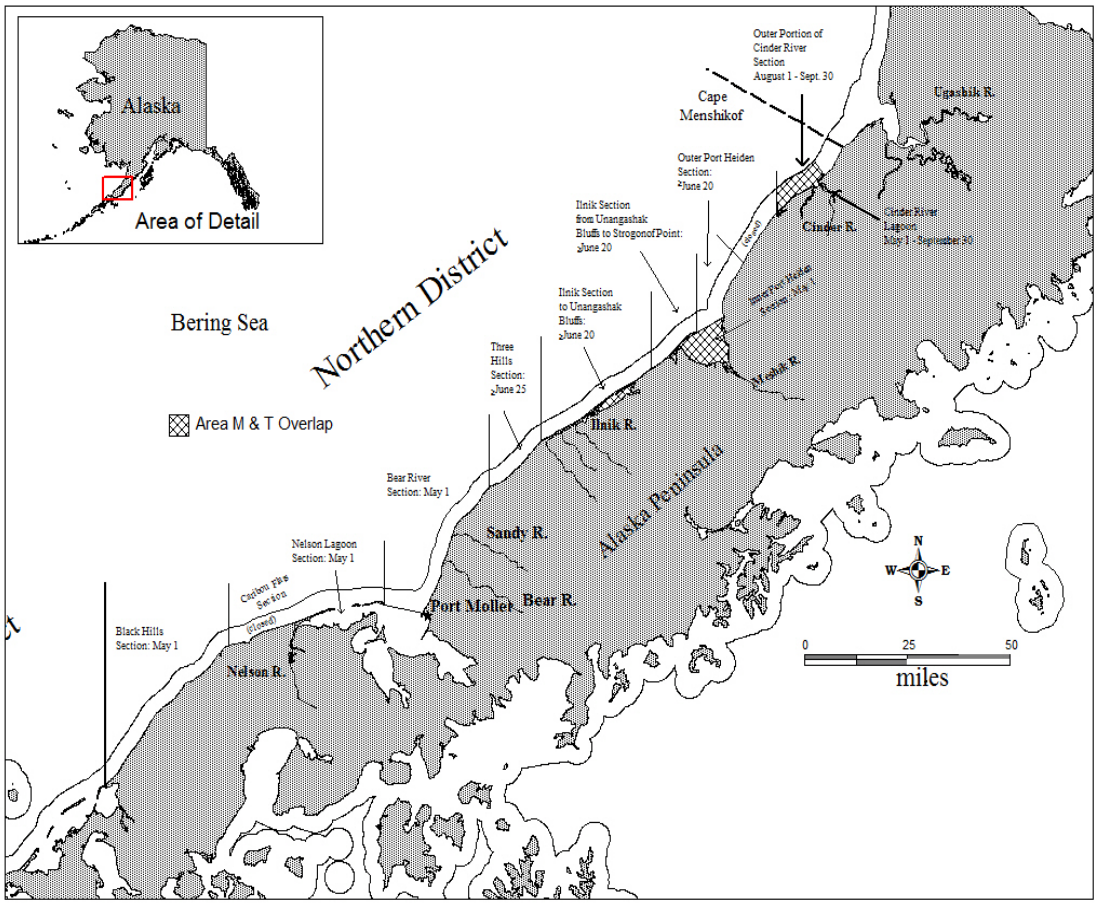

Figure 198-1.–Northern District showing fishing sections and opening dates of commercial salmon fisheries.

PROPOSAL 199 – 5 AAC 09.369(e). Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would not permit commercial salmon fishing in the Three Hills, Ilnik, Inner Port Heiden, Outer Port Heiden, and Cinder River sections until July 15 in order to protect Nelson Lagoon-bound sockeye salmon (Figure 199-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulation (5 AAC 09.310(2)(B)) for the Outer Port Heiden Section allows commercial salmon fishing during open periods from June 20 to July 31. In the Ilnik Section (5 AAC 09.310(3)(A) and (C)), salmon may be taken from May 1 through September 30 within Ilnik Lagoon and the waters inside the Seal Islands, and from June 20 through September 30 throughout the entire Ilnik Section. The Three Hills Section does not open to commercial salmon fishing until June 25, while the Inner Port Heiden Section opens to commercial salmon fishing on May 1 (5 AAC 09.310(2)(A) and (B) and (4)). The present management plan allows for management actions in Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik sections for local Ilnik and Meshik River sockeye salmon stocks, and when concerns arise for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks. The Cinder River Section, inside the river, is open by regulation on May 1 (5 AAC 09.310(1)(A)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would not permit salmon fishing north of Cape Seniavin, in the Three Hills, Ilnik, Inner Port Heiden, Outer Port Heiden, and Cinder River sections prior to July 15. This proposal would allow commercial salmon fishing in the Bear River Section prior to July 15, and the remainder of the area northeast of Port Moller would be closed prior to July 15. This proposal would not allow commercial salmon fishing during the salmon runs from June 20 to July 14 north of Cape Seniavin, which is when the bulk of sockeye salmon runs occur in the area.

BACKGROUND: In 2007, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) opened a portion of Outer Port Heiden Section to harvest sockeye salmon bound for Meshik River. Currently, by regulation, Outer Port Heiden Section can open from June 20 until July 31. Since 2007, surplus escapements into Meshik River have not occurred (Table 199-1). Since the early 1990s, conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon has been considered in management of some Northern District fishing sections (5 AAC 09.369(B)). However, this provision has not required closure of Ilnik or Outer Port Heiden sections in the last twenty years.

The Three Hills Section is managed on the basis of Bear and Sandy rivers sockeye salmon prior to July 31. The northern portion of Ilnik Section, located between Unangashak Bluffs and Strogonof Point, is currently managed based on Meshik and Ilnik rivers sockeye salmon stocks from June 20 through July 20.

The Nelson Lagoon Section is managed on the basis of Nelson River sockeye salmon stocks. Since the 1980s, the escapement goal has been met each year, except in 2011, when the escapement was 8,000 fish short of the lower goal. The largest run on record in Nelson Lagoon

occurred in 2004, with 1,043,000 sockeye salmon, while the runs since 2010 have been some of the lowest since the 1980s.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests in the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, by temporal stratum, for 2006 through 2008, can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008.* Appendix tables C105–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Nelson, Meshik, Ugashik) during each sampled temporal stratum, 2006–2008 in these fisheries. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks among all strata combined within a given year for these fisheries. Harvest and harvest rate of the Nelson River stock in specific area strata of each fishery, all temporal strata combined, are in appendix tables F55–57. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, among all temporal strata, combined, for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in report SP12-24, tables 45–59. Harvest and harvest rate of Ugashik stock in broad scale reporting groups (e.g., North Alaska Peninsula) can be found in tables 141–143.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal, but is **OPPOSED** to reducing fishing area or time, which may result in surplus escapement and/or lost harvest opportunities.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 199-1.–Meshik River sockeye salmon escapement and harvest (Outer Port Heiden Section), 1989–2012.

Year	Meshik River Escapement	Meshik River Goal	Outer Port Heiden Section harvest
1989	11,200	10,000 to 20,000	Closed by regulation to commercial salmon fishing
1990	26,800		
1991	26,500		
1992	33,100		
1993	50,000		
1994	44,900		
1995	85,600		
1996	60,000		
1997	40,000		
1998	59,200		
1999	76,000		
2000	184,600		
2001	115,000		
2002	54,100		
2003	114,000		
2004	103,700		
2005	113,100		
2006	142,610		
2007	58,500	20,000 to 60,000	387,786
2008	86,250		321,730
2009	88,200		762,643
2010	63,700	25,000 to 100,000	786,025
2011	94,200		375,128
2012	50,900		268,226

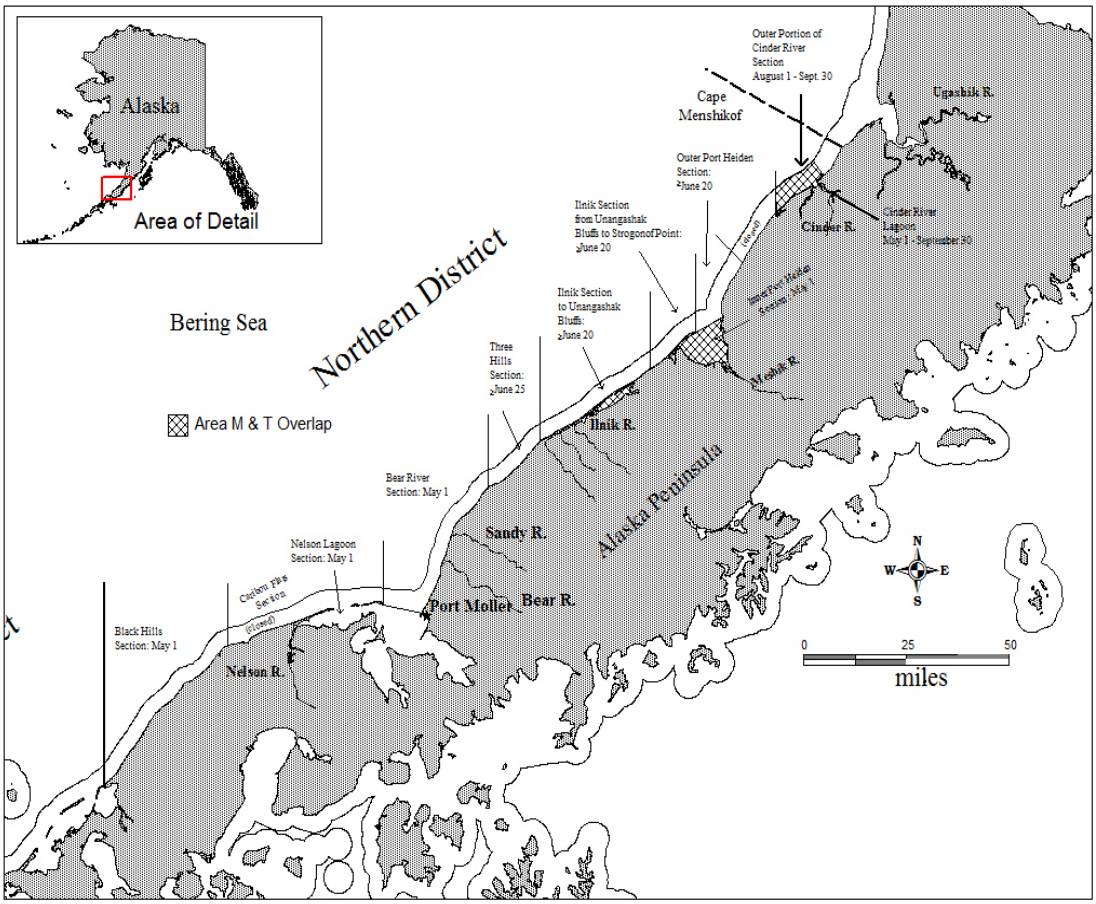

Figure 199-1.–Northern District showing fishing sections and opening dates of commercial salmon fisheries.

PROPOSAL 201 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing Seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would close the Outer Port Heiden Section from June 1 to July 31 for Area M drift gillnet permit holders.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulation (5 AAC 9.310(a)(2)(B)) for the Outer Port Heiden Section allows Area M drift gillnet fishermen to fish during open periods from June 20 to July 31.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would close the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial salmon fishing from June 1 to July 31, which is when the Meshik River sockeye salmon run occurs. This will likely result in surplus escapement since there will be no directed fishery on Meshik River salmon stocks. If this proposal is adopted, Meshik River sockeye salmon would not be targeted and escapement goals would likely be exceeded annually, as they were prior to 2007, and harvest opportunity on the surplus would be lost.

BACKGROUND: In 2007, the Alaska Board of Fisheries opened a portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section to harvest sockeye salmon bound for Meshik River. Currently, by regulation, Outer Port Heiden Section can be open from June 20 until July 31. Since 2007, when the Outer Port Heiden Section was reopened to commercial salmon fishing, the Meshik River sockeye salmon escapement goal has been met annually, except two years when it exceeded the goal (Table 201-1). In many years prior to 2007, sockeye salmon escapement was five to six times over the established escapement goals. Since 2007, the average annual king salmon harvest in the Outer Port Heiden Section has been about 600 fish, while the escapement has averaged about 4,700 king salmon. Harvest of coho salmon in the Outer Port Heiden district has been minimal since 2007, with an average of 340 fish harvested per year, since the section is closed to commercial salmon fishing at the end of July and the coho salmon runs typically occur in late August and September. Since 2007, annual coho salmon escapements in Meshik River have ranged from 24,000 fish to 67,700 fish. Management actions can be taken in the Outer Port Heiden Section for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks (5 AAC 09.369(B)).

The Cinder River Section does not have a directed sockeye salmon fishery since only the river or lagoon is open to Area M permits during July. The area open for two and one-half days per week has not proven effective at harvesting the run, and the logistics of getting in and out of the lagoon are difficult due to weather and tides. Harvested fish would have to be transported to the nearest buyer, which is some distance from the grounds. Little or no harvest comes from the Cinder River area during June and July. The Cinder River has annually exceeded the escapement goal of 12,000-48,000 sockeye salmon since the early 1990s.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests in the Outer Port Heiden Section by temporal stratum for 2007 and 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006-2008.* Appendix tables C142–C147 document harvest estimates for specific

stocks (e.g., Ugashik, Meshik, and Cinder) in the Outer Port Heiden Section during three time periods in June and July, 2007 and 2008. Appendix tables D52–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks among all strata combined within a given year for this fishery. Harvest and harvest rate data in the Outer Port Heiden Section for 2007 and 2008, among all temporal strata combined, for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Meshik) can be found in report SP12-24, tables 58 and 59. Harvests and harvest rates of Ugashik stock in broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., North Alaska Peninsula) can be found in tables 141–143. (No WASSIP sampling occurred in Outer Port Heiden in 2006 because the area was closed to commercial salmon fishing.)

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of the proposal, but **OPPOSES** reducing harvest opportunity on local salmon stocks surplus to escapement goals. The present management plan allows for management actions in Outer Port Heiden Section for local Meshik River sockeye salmon stocks and when concerns arise for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks. If this proposal is adopted, Meshik River sockeye salmon would not be targeted and escapement goals would likely be exceeded annually.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 201-1.–Outer Port Heiden Section sockeye salmon harvest and Meshik River sockeye salmon escapement, 2000–2012.

Year	Harvest	Escapement	Escapement Goal
2000	0	184,600	10,000-20,000
2001	0	115,000	10,000-20,000
2002	0	54,100	10,000-20,000
2003	0	114,000	10,000-20,000
2004	0	103,700	10,000-20,000
2005	0	113,100	10,000-20,000
2006	0	142,600	10,000-20,000
2007	387,786	58,500	20,000-60,000
2008	321,730	86,250	20,000-60,000
2009	762,643	88,200	20,000-60,000
2010	786,025	63,700	25,000-100,000
2011	375,128	94,200	25,000-100,000
2012	268,226	50,900	25,000-100,000

Note: Outer Port Heiden Section opened to commercial salmon fishing in 2007.

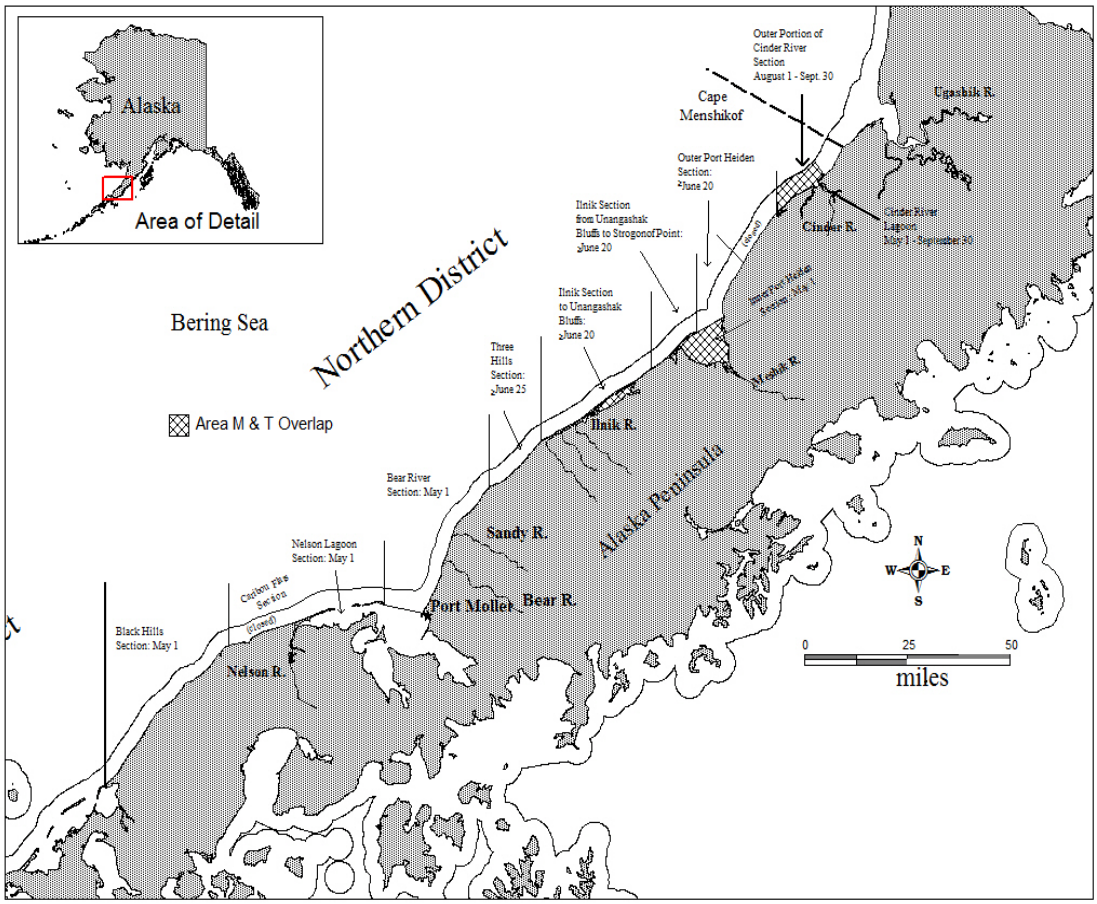

Figure 201-1.–Northern District showing fishing sections and opening dates of commercial salmon fisheries.

PROPOSAL 202 – 5 AAC 09.310(a)(2)(B). Fishing seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would close the Outer Port Heiden Section from June 1 to July 31.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulation (5 AAC 9.310(a)(2)(B)) for the Outer Port Heiden Section allows Area M drift gillnet fishermen to fish during open periods from June 20 to July 31 for two and one-half days per week.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would close Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial salmon fishing from June 1 to July 31. Surplus escapement into Meshik River would likely occur, as well as lost harvest opportunity if this proposal were adopted.

BACKGROUND: In 2007, the Alaska Board of Fisheries opened a portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section to harvest sockeye salmon bound for Meshik River. Currently, by regulation, Outer Port Heiden Section can be open from June 20 until July 31. Since 2007, when Outer Port Heiden Section was reopened to commercial salmon fishing, there have not been excessive surplus escapements into Meshik River (Table 202-1). Management actions can be taken in the Outer Port Heiden Section for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks (5 AAC 09.369(B)).

Subsistence fishing has never been closed for Port Heiden residents. The number of subsistence permits issued in the past 10 years has ranged from 0 to 29 permits and the harvest of salmon has ranged from 0 to 2,500 fish. Since 2008, the number of subsistence permits issued to Port Heiden residents has increased substantially, as has the number of fish harvested.

Since 2007, the sockeye salmon escapement objective of 25,000–100,000 fish has been met when the Outer Port Heiden Section opened, and, since 2007, average annual escapement into Meshik River has been about 73,000 sockeye; 4,700 king; 15,000 chum; and 32,000 coho salmon.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests in the Outer Port Heiden Section by temporal stratum for 2007 and 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008.* Appendix tables C142–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Ugashik, Meshik, and Cinder) in the Outer Port Heiden Section during three time periods in June and July, 2007 and 2008. Appendix tables D52–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks, among all strata combined, within a given year for this fishery. Harvest and harvest rate data in the Outer Port Heiden Section for 2007 and 2008 among all temporal strata combined for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Meshik) can be found in report SP12-24, tables 58 and 59. Harvests and harvest rates of Ugashik stock in broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., North Alaska Peninsula) can be found in

tables 141–143. (No WASSIP sampling occurred in the Outer Port Heiden Section in 2006 because the area was closed to commercial salmon fishing.)

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of the proposal, but **OPPOSES** reducing harvest opportunity on local salmon stocks. The present management plan allows for management actions in Outer Port Heiden Section for local Meshik River sockeye salmon stocks and when concerns arise for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks. If this proposal is adopted, Meshik River sockeye salmon would not be targeted and escapement goals would likely be exceeded annually.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 202-1.–Outer Port Heiden Section sockeye salmon harvest and Meshik River sockeye salmon escapement, 2000–2012.

Year	Harvest	Escapement	Escapement Goal
2000	0	184,100	10,000-20,000
2001	0	115,000	10,000-20,000
2002	0	52,250	10,000-20,000
2003	0	114,000	10,000-20,000
2004	0	102,200	10,000-20,000
2005	0	111,100	10,000-20,000
2006	0	138,010	10,000-20,000
2007	387,786	58,500	20,000-60,000
2008	321,730	83,250	20,000-60,000
2009	762,643	88,000	20,000-60,000
2010	786,025	63,700	25,000-100,000
2011	375,128	93,900	25,000-100,000
2012	268,226	43,800	25,000-100,000

Note: Outer Port Heiden Section opened to commercial salmon fishing in 2007.

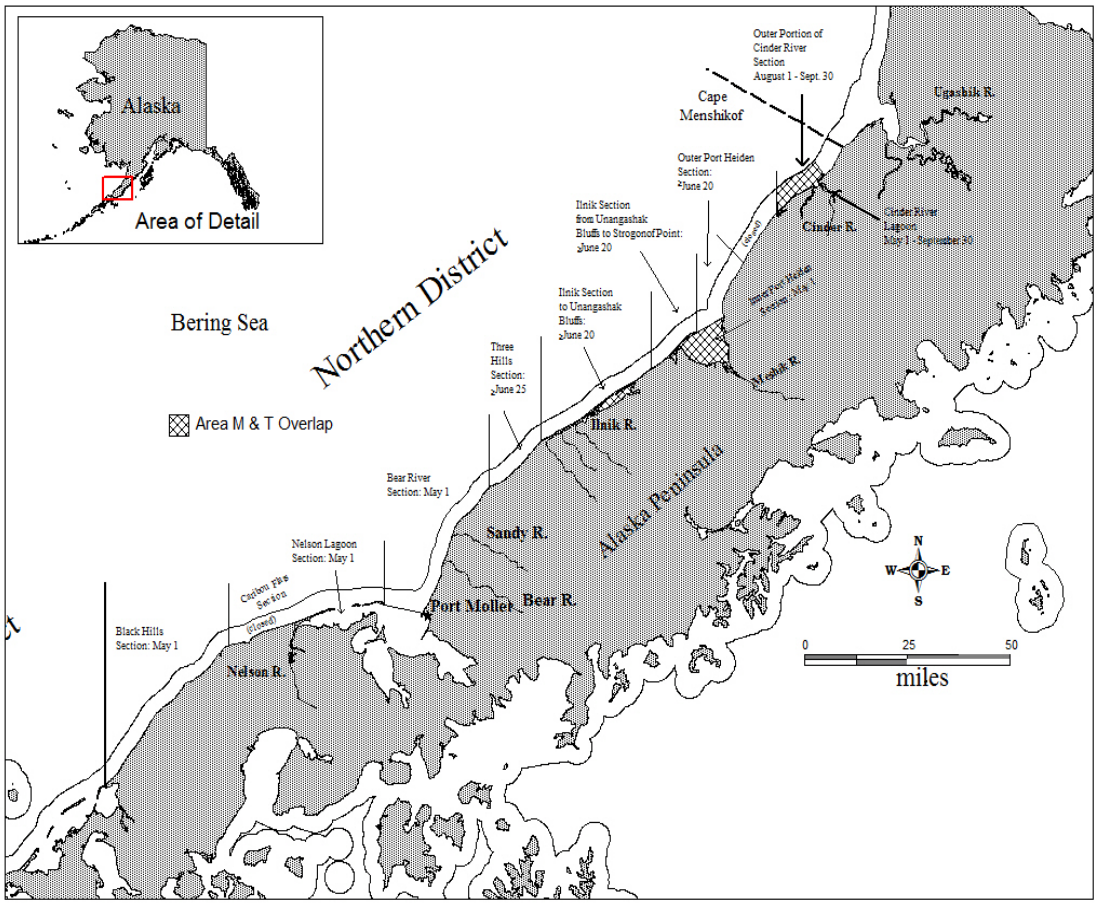

Figure 202-1.–Northern District showing fishing sections and opening dates of commercial salmon fisheries.

PROPOSAL 205 – 5 AAC 09.200(a)(3)–(5). Fishing districts and sections.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to create a terminal harvest area for the fleet in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections. The new area would stretch from about four miles northeast of Port Moller at Frank's Lagoon to Strogonof Point and would allow fishing to within two miles of shore (Figure 205-1). Currently, this area can be open out to three miles from shore and extends towards Port Moller, which is about four miles from Frank's Lagoon. This proposal would also modify the southwestern boundary of the Bear River Section.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The areas described in the proposal include the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, and are described under 5 AAC 09.200(a)(3)(4)(5). All have defined boundaries that extend to three miles offshore. Purse seine and drift gillnet gear are legal in the Bear River Section. Drift gillnet gear is permitted in the Three Hills Section, and both drift and set gillnet gears are legal in the Ilnik Section (5 AAC 09.330(a)(3)(4)(5)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would reduce the distance offshore that the fleet can fish, from three miles to two miles. The proposal would also close an area south of Frank's Lagoon to Port Moller. This would concentrate the fishing fleet because the fleet would lose one-third or more of the fishing area currently open to commercial salmon fishing. Reducing the area could hinder the department's ability to manage local fisheries because it will concentrate the fleet on other local systems. The department typically does not allow the fleet to fish in terminal areas of rivers and the rivers are too shallow for fishing boats to operate.

BACKGROUND: Commercial salmon fishing is permitted out to three miles. The area south of Frank's Lagoon to Port Moller can be an important area for some small portion of the fleet, especially when the department closes the area around the southern portion of the Bear River. At times, the targeted area may be the only area open to commercial salmon fishing in the Bear River Section (Figure 205-1). When the Bear or Sandy rivers are weak, one management scenario is to close a large area around the rivers (i.e., a buffer area), thus protecting any milling fish or fish that may be migrating to the rivers while still allowing some harvest opportunity outside the buffer area. This allows a steady, daily escapement that is representative of the run (size, age, sex ratio, etc.) to enter the rivers while allowing some harvest of fish outside the closed area. This scenario prevents large pulses of fish that can often cause the escapement objective to be exceeded and allows some harvest opportunity.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvest in the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections by temporal stratum for 2006 through 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008.* Appendix tables C105–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Bear, Ugashik, Meshik, and Cinder) during each sampled temporal stratum, 2006–2008, in these fisheries. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks among all strata combined within a given

year for these fisheries. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections among all temporal strata combined for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in report SP12-24, tables 45–59. Harvests and harvest rates of Ugashik stock in broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., North Alaska Peninsula) can be found in tables 141–143.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of the proposal, but **OPPOSES** reducing harvest opportunity in the very southern part of the area near Port Moller in order to spread fishing effort.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

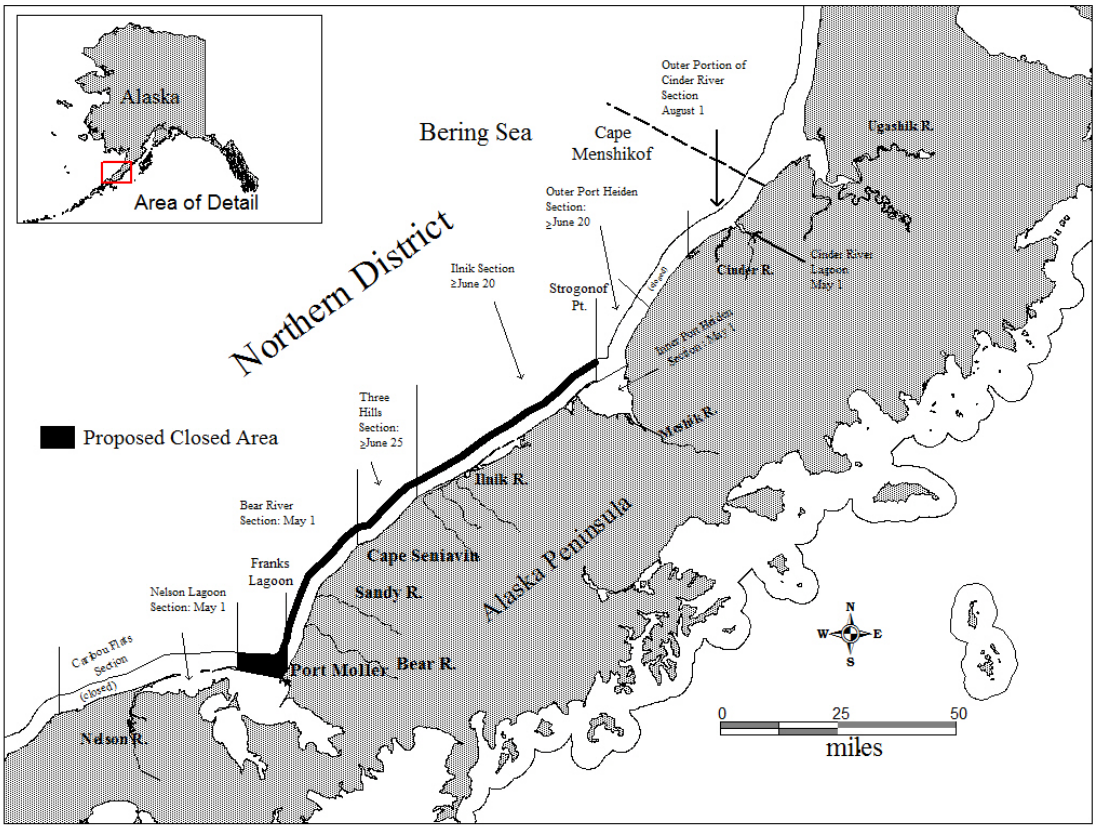

Figure 205-1.–Northern District showing fishing sections and opening dates of commercial salmon fisheries.

PROPOSAL 206 – 5 AAC 09.369(i), (j), and (l). Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Hartman.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would mandate at least one concurrent 96-hour closure (window) within a seven-day period in the Outer Port Heiden, Ilnik (except Ilnik Lagoon), and Three Hills sections. This proposal would allow the department to open the Outer Port Heiden Section to a seaward boundary not to exceed one mile if harvests in the Inner Port Heiden Section are insufficient to control escapements of salmon bound for systems draining into Inner Port Heiden. This proposal would allow the department to open the outer portion of the Ilnik Section to a seaward boundary not to exceed one mile if harvests in Ilnik Lagoon are insufficient to control escapement of salmon bound for Ilnik River systems. If the Nelson Lagoon or Bear River sockeye salmon runs are behind escapement objectives, then the Outer Port Heiden Section, outer portion of the Ilnik Section, and Three Hills Section would close to commercial salmon fishing (Figure 206-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Management of the Outer Port Heiden, Ilnik, and Three Hills sections is based on sockeye salmon escapement into Meshik, Bear, Sandy, and Ilnik rivers. However, if the commissioner closes that portion of the Egegik District specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Outer Port Heiden, and Ilnik sections, and immediately reopen those sections with additional fishing restrictions that the commissioner determines necessary (5 AAC 09.369(i),(j), and (l)).

Fixed windows, as described in the proposal, do not currently exist in North Peninsula districts. Fishing periods are established by regulation in the North Peninsula commercial salmon fisheries; however, fishing time and area can be modified inseason based on local escapement levels into the Nelson, Bear, Sandy, and Ilnik rivers, and other systems throughout the North Peninsula. Ilnik Lagoon is open during weekly fishing periods, but there has not been any effort since 1998. The Inner Port Heiden Section also has weekly fishing periods, but little or no harvest has occurred in this area.

In 2007, the Alaska Board of Fisheries opened a portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section to harvest sockeye salmon bound for Meshik River. Currently, by regulation, Outer Port Heiden Section can be open from June 20 until July 31. The weekly fishing period is based on escapement levels into Meshik River and is typically two and one-half days per week, leaving a closure of four and one-half days per week. The Inner Port Heiden Section has weekly fishing periods of two and one-half days per week from May 1 to September 30.

The Nelson Lagoon Section is a terminal fishery and managed on the basis of Nelson Lagoon sockeye salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Windows would be created in commercial salmon fisheries to allow sockeye salmon to pass through to Nelson Lagoon and Bear River. Management of the Outer Port Heiden, Ilnik, and Three Hills sections

would have windows in place that do not take into account sockeye salmon abundance in local systems. This proposal would only open the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial salmon fishing to a seaward boundary not to exceed one mile if harvests in the Inner Port Heiden Section cannot control the Meshik River run.

The Bear River Section, which is closer in distance to Bear River and Nelson Lagoon than the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections, and which still typically has a large-scale commercial sockeye salmon fishery, would not be affected by this proposal. Mandatory concurrent 96-hour closures of the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections would concentrate the fleet into the Bear River Section. Creating windows in the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections to allow fish to migrate to Nelson Lagoon and Bear River, while still allowing commercial salmon fishing in the nearby Bear River and Nelson Lagoon sections, would likely not put any more fish in the Bear and Nelson rivers and will likely result in surplus escapement into Ilnik and Meshik rivers.

BACKGROUND: In 2007, the Alaska Board of Fisheries opened a portion of Outer Port Heiden Section to harvest sockeye salmon bound for Meshik River. Currently, by regulation, Outer Port Heiden Section can be open from June 20 until July 31 within state waters to three miles from shore. The Ilnik Section from Unangashak Bluffs south is managed on the basis of Ilnik River-bound sockeye salmon; from Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point the section is managed on the basis of Ilnik and Meshik River-bound sockeye salmon. The Three Hills Section is managed on the basis of Bear, Sandy, and Ilnik rivers sockeye salmon stocks. Over the past few years, the Three Hills Section has been closed to commercial salmon fishing to protect Bear and Sandy rivers stocks. Over the past two years, North Peninsula sockeye salmon runs have been weak and the department has struggled to achieve escapement goals, but has generally done so. Commercial fisheries were very limited in the Outer Port Heiden, Ilnik, and Three Hills sections in 2011 and 2012, with some of the lowest harvests since the 1970s.

The Nelson River sockeye salmon run has met the escapement goal since a weir was first installed in 1989, except in 2011, when it was 8,000 fish short of the escapement goal of 97,000–219,000 fish. In the last 30 or so years, only in 2010 has the Nelson Lagoon Section been closed to commercial salmon fishing longer than a few days, and, in most years, four to six days of fishing are permitted over a seven-day period.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests in the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections by temporal stratum for 2006 through 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006-2008.* Appendix tables C105–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Nelson, Bear, Ugashik, Meshik, and Cinder) during each sampled temporal stratum, 2006–2008, in these fisheries. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks, among all strata combined, within a given year for these fisheries. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections among all temporal strata combined for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula), and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in report SP12-

24, tables 45–-59. Harvests and harvest rates of Ugashik stock in broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., North Alaska Peninsula) can be found in tables 141–143.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal, but is **OPPOSED** to reducing fishing area or time, which may result in surplus escapement and lost harvest opportunities on local stocks without any potential benefit to fish bound for Nelson Lagoon. Reducing the area could hinder the department's ability to manage local fisheries. The department typically does not allow the fleet to fish in terminal areas of rivers and the rivers are too shallow for fishing boats to operate. When the Bear or Sandy rivers are weak, one management scenario is to close a large area around the rivers (i.e., a buffer area), thus protecting any milling fish or fish that may be migrating to the rivers while still allowing some harvest opportunity outside the buffer area. This allows a steady, daily escapement that is representative of the run (size, age, sex ratio, etc.) to enter the rivers, while allowing some harvest of fish outside the closed area. This scenario prevents large pulses of fish that can often cause the escapement objective to be exceeded and allows some harvest opportunity.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

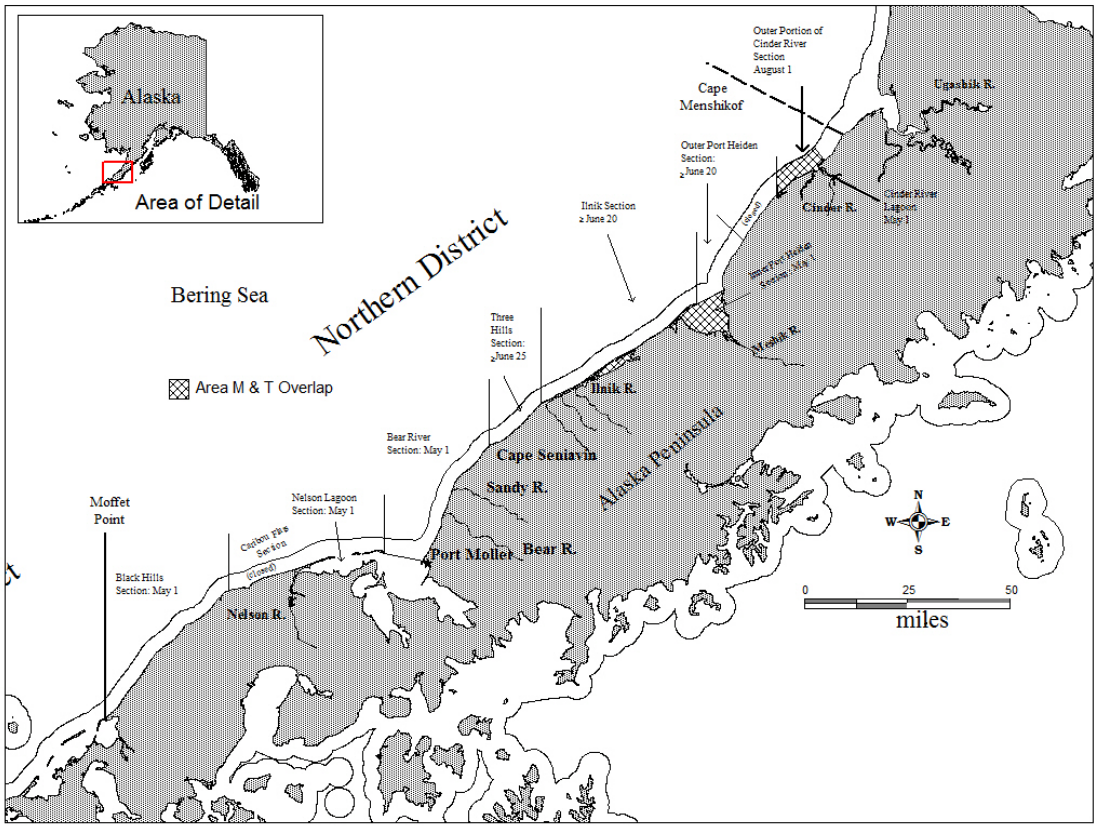

Figure 206-1.–Northern District showing fishing sections and opening dates of commercial salmon fisheries.

PROPOSAL 207 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Hartman.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to protect coho salmon bound for Nelson Lagoon by instituting at least one concurrent 96-hour closure (window) within a seven-day period in the Outer Port Heiden, Ilnik (except Ilnik Lagoon), and Three Hills sections. The proposal does not specify a date when coho salmon management will occur. This proposal allows the department to open the Outer Port Heiden Section to a seaward boundary not to exceed one mile if harvests in the Inner Port Heiden Section are insufficient to control escapements of salmon bound for systems that drain into Inner Port Heiden. This proposal allows the department to open the outer portion of the Ilnik Section to a seaward boundary not to exceed one mile if harvests in Ilnik Lagoon are insufficient to control escapement of salmon bound for the Ilnik River systems. If the Nelson Lagoon coho salmon run is behind escapement objectives, the Outer Port Heiden Section, outer portion of the Ilnik Section, and Three Hills Section would close to commercial salmon fishing (Figure 207-1) to a seaward boundary not to exceed one mile. This proposal would also close fishing in the Outer Port Heiden, outer portion of the Ilnik Section, and Three Hills sections after August 10.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Outer Port Heiden Section closes by regulation on July 31 and is managed on the basis of sockeye salmon, not coho salmon. The Ilnik Section is managed on the basis of sockeye salmon prior to August 16 and on the basis of coho salmon stocks beginning August 16. The Three Hills Section is managed on the basis of Bear and Sandy rivers sockeye salmon stocks. The Inner Port Heiden Section is managed on the basis of Meshik River sockeye salmon stocks during June and July, and on coho salmon stocks in August and September. The Nelson Lagoon Section is managed on the basis of sockeye salmon prior to August 15 and on coho salmon beginning August 16. Fishing time is based on catch-per-unit-effort indicators and aerial surveys.

Fixed windows do not currently exist in North Peninsula districts.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Windows would be created in the commercial salmon fisheries to allow coho salmon to pass through to Nelson Lagoon. This proposal seeks to close the Outer Port Heiden Section in August, even though it is already closed by regulation on July 31. Management of the Ilnik and Three Hills sections would have windows in place to allow migrating Nelson Lagoon coho salmon to pass through the fishery, while fishing would still be allowed in the Bear River Section. The Bear River Section, which is closer in distance to Bear River and Nelson Lagoon than the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections, and which still typically has a large-scale commercial sockeye salmon fishery, would not be affected by this proposal. This proposal would concentrate the fleet into the Bear River Section, which often accounts for the second largest number of coho salmon harvested, by section, in the Northern District, second only behind Nelson Lagoon. Creating windows in the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections to allow coho salmon to migrate to Nelson Lagoon and Bear rivers, while still allowing commercial salmon fishing in the Bear River and Nelson Lagoon sections, would likely not put any more fish into Bear and Nelson rivers. This proposal would close all salmon fishing in the Ilnik and Three Hills sections after August 10 and

would concentrate the fishing fleet on the late Bear River sockeye salmon run in the Bear River Section.

BACKGROUND: There are no coho salmon stock identification studies available. In the Northern District, there are several river systems that experience large coho salmon runs. Northern District coho salmon runs typically peak in late August or early September and continue into late September, with an average annual escapement of 86,000 coho salmon over the last 10 years. Nelson Lagoon, Ilnik Lagoon, Meshik, and Cinder rivers all have annual escapements typically in the range of 10,000–45,000 coho salmon per river. The Nelson River sustainable escapement goal threshold is 18,000 fish, and this has been met annually (Table 207-1). The coho salmon harvest throughout the Northern District occurs in August and September, and has averaged about 62,000 fish over the past 10 years, with the bulk of the harvest in the Nelson Lagoon Section, with 40,000 fish, followed by the Bear River Section with 9,700 fish. The Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections averaged about 18 percent of the total Northern District coho salmon harvest over the past 10 years.

In August and September, the Three Hills and Ilnik sections' drift gillnet fleets target the late Bear River sockeye salmon run, which starts around August 1 and goes into late September. The run has an escapement objective of 117,000 sockeye salmon and the harvest has averaged about 307,000 sockeye salmon annually over the last 10 years. Coho salmon caught in the Three Hills and Ilnik sections are typically caught incidentally to the sockeye salmon harvest. In the last three years, the coho salmon harvest in the Three Hills Sections has averaged less than 1,000 fish per year, and in the Ilnik Section, about 1,200 fish per year, while the combined coho salmon escapement in each area averaged 22,000 fish.

Coho salmon are managed in the Nelson Lagoon Section beginning on August 16 and the run typically peaks in late August or early September. Aerial surveys, as well as catch-per-unit-effort indicators, are used to manage the Nelson Lagoon coho salmon fishery.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal, but is **OPPOSED** to reducing fishing area or time for coho salmon in areas that do not appear to impact coho salmon bound for Nelson Lagoon. Reduced fishing time and area may result in surplus escapement and lost harvest opportunities in the Three Hills and Ilnik sections without any potential benefit to coho salmon bound for Nelson Lagoon.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 207-1.–Nelson River coho salmon escapement, with goals, 2003–2012.

Year	Escapement	Escapement Goal
2003	28,000	18,000-25,000
2004	52,500	18,000
2005	24,000	
2006	19,000	
2007	19,000	
2008	36,000	
2009	22,000	
2010	15,000	
2011	21,000	
2012	19,160	
2003–2012 Avg	26,743	

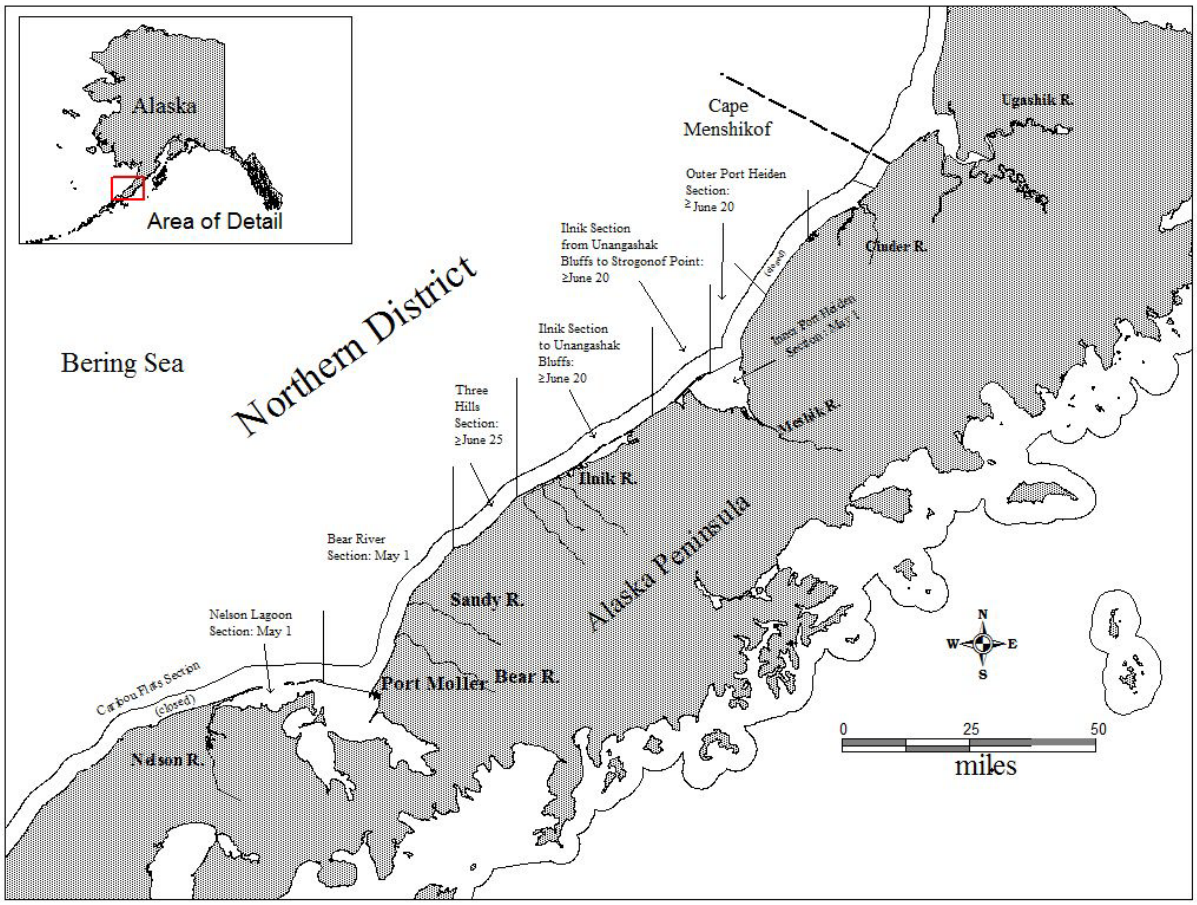

Figure 207-1.–Northern District showing fishing sections and opening dates of commercial salmon fisheries.

PROPOSAL 208 – 5 AAC 09.200. Fishing districts and sections.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would reduce the Northern District fishing sections to create terminal fishing areas around Northern District rivers.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Fishing areas are described in regulation for the eleven sections that encompass the Northern District (5 AAC 09.200(a)). The bulk of Northern District harvest occurs in the Nelson Lagoon, Bear River, Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? While this proposal does not provide specific direction to define terminal areas, the proposer does state "to more closely surround local rivers". If terminal areas are created too close to shore, high onshore winds will reduce the ability of the fleet to fish due to a lack of protected waters. This could allow a buildup of fish near the river mouths and potentially cause large numbers of fish to move upriver, possibly exceeding escapement objectives. Bear River is the largest sockeye salmon-producing system on the Alaska Peninsula (Area M), with a sockeye salmon escapement goal of 293,000–488,000 fish; Sandy River is a much smaller run, with an escapement goal of 34,000–74,000 fish. The Bear and Sandy river mouths are located about five miles apart. When the Bear River run is on track (not strong), and Sandy River is lagging behind inseason management objectives, that portion of the Bear River Section, including the area around Bear River northeast to Cape Seniavin, may be closed for extended periods to protect milling Sandy River sockeye salmon along the beach south of Sandy River and north of Sandy River to Cape Seniavin. Providing harvest opportunity in the Three Hills Section helps control Bear River escapement, thus allowing the maximum area around Sandy River to remain closed to protect Sandy River stocks. If Sandy River is lagging far behind interim escapement goals, as in the past few seasons, the Three Hills Section will also be closed. This management strategy has been used successfully since the early 1960s, typically resulting in a constant daily escapement rate to Sandy and Bear rivers, which then allows escapement objectives to be met while providing harvest opportunity on surplus fish to Bear River.

In the Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay areas, subsistence fishing areas are cross-referenced to the descriptions for the boundaries of the commercial fishing districts and sections. Changes to commercial fishing boundaries may affect subsistence fisheries, especially areas open and closed during commercial fishing activities.

BACKGROUND: Salmon return to four salmon systems located within the Bear River Section, three small systems located in the Three Hills Section, and three systems in the Ilnik Section. The Bear River and Three Hills sections are managed on the basis of Bear and Sandy river sockeye salmon; Ilnik is managed on the basis of Ilnik River sockeye salmon; and the Outer Port Heiden Section is managed on the basis of Meshik River sockeye salmon. Escapement into these rivers determines the length of fishing periods in the Port Moller Bight, Bear River, Three Hills, Ilnik, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections, except that management actions will be taken in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden sections for Ugashik River sockeye stocks if management actions are taken in the Egegik district to conserve Ugashik River stocks.

At its December 2012 Bristol Bay meeting, the board concurred with the department's recommendation to remove Kvichak River sockeye salmon as a stock of concern.

Relevant information on stock specific harvest in the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections by temporal stratum for 2006 through 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008.* Appendix tables C105–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Nelson, Bear, Ugashik, Meshik, and Cinder) during each sampled temporal stratum, 2006–2008, in these fisheries. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks among all strata combined within a given year for these fisheries. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections among all temporal strata combined for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula), and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in report SP12-24, tables 45–-59. Harvests and harvest rates of Ugashik stock in broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., North Alaska Peninsula) can be found in tables 141–143.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal, but **OPPOSED** to reducing the department's ability to manage local systems.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

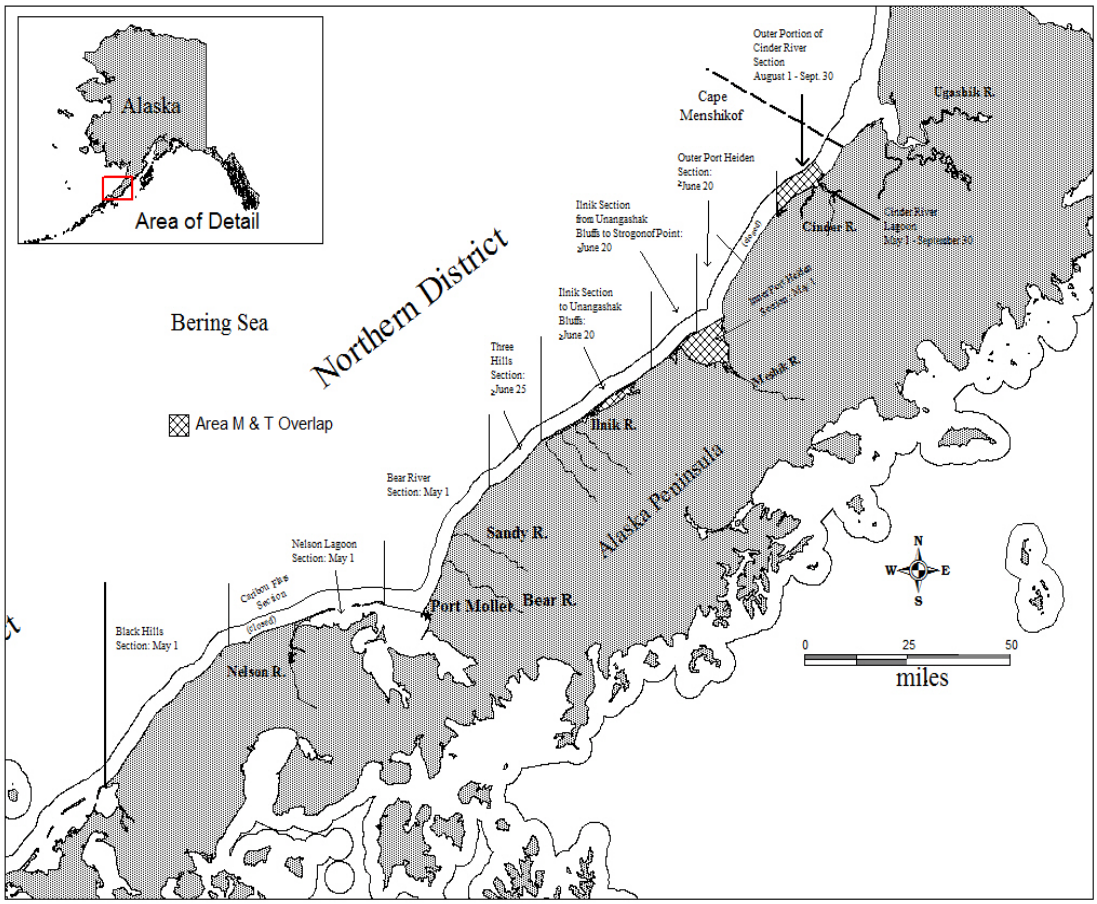

Figure 208-1.–Northern District showing fishing sections and opening dates of commercial salmon fisheries.

Gear (1)

PROPOSAL 196 – 5 AAC 39.250(c)(2). Gillnet Specifications and Operations.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Brown.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow use of single-strand monofilament webbing in salmon gillnets in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulations in many areas of the state, including the Alaska Peninsula (under 5 AAC 39.250), require that salmon gillnet web must contain either 30 filaments of equal diameter, or contain at least six filaments, each of which must be a minimum of 0.20 millimeter in diameter.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If this proposal were adopted, monofilament gillnets could be legally used for gillnets in the Alaska Peninsula salmon fisheries, as well as the multifilament nets currently allowed.

BACKGROUND: In the process of preparing these comments, the department contacted commercial fishing net suppliers with a long history of selling gillnets in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. They supplied some of the background information contained in this section. Monofilament web is used in the Alaska herring gillnet fisheries, as well as in the Cook Inlet salmon fishery.

There appear to be four considerations bearing on this proposal. The first is cost. Prices vary for Alaska gillnet web, but monofilament appears to be at least 30–40 percent cheaper than currently-legal Alaska multifilament web.

The second issue is relative fish-catching effectiveness. Past studies have sought to evaluate the effectiveness of four types of gillnets, including monofilament, in catching salmon. In 1987, the department conducted a study in Southeast Alaska. This study is not conclusive, but did show a general increase in catch efficiency for pink salmon associated with a decrease in the number of filaments. It also showed that six-strand and monofilament web increased harvest of chum and coho salmon taken in clear water, but not in turbid water. Finally, no significant differences were found for sockeye salmon.

The opinion of the two gear representatives is that the differences in efficiency between monofilament and the current Alaska-legal multifilament were relatively insignificant. All representatives currently sell monofilament and multifilament nets in other salmon fisheries in the Pacific Northwest, and it often is the fishermens' personal choice as to what type of filament net they use. In clear water, representatives said, monofilament is preferred since it is believed that fish are less likely to see the net than with multifilament gear.

The third issue regards drop-outs. These are salmon that escape, either alive or dead, from gillnets after having been entangled. It was the personal view of both representatives of the two gear suppliers that monofilament gear can be expected to have a higher dropout rate, especially

in rough weather, than multifilament gear. We were unable to find any studies comparing drop-out rates of monofilament gillnet web to drop-out rates of the current Alaska-legal multifilament web.

A fourth issue is the relative biodegradability of the different types of nets. This concern is associated with abandoned or lost nets and their continued ability to kill fish. According to representatives with whom we spoke, monofilament nets and the current multifilament nets in use in Alaska are manufactured with the same material. They would not expect to see any significant differences in rate of decay between currently-legal nets in Alaska and monofilament nets, although one representative thought that monofilament net would not last as long, compared to multifilament net.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. If this proposal were adopted, and if monofilament gear did increase harvesting efficiency of gillnets, the department would adjust time or area in those fisheries, as necessary, to maintain escapements.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Genetics (3)

PROPOSAL 209 – 5 AAC 09.200. Fishing districts and sections.

PROPOSED BY: Frank Woods.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to use Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project (WASSIP) data to create terminal fishing areas in Area M.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Management of Area M fisheries is currently governed by management plans developed for individual districts throughout the Alaska Peninsula.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The effects of the proposal vary according to different management areas within Area M. The Northern District of Area M is managed under the *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.369). If terminal areas are created too close to shore, high onshore winds may reduce the ability of the fleet to fish due to a lack of protected waters, allowing a buildup of fish near river mouths, potentially causing large numbers of fish to move upriver. The Bear River is the largest sockeye salmon-producing system on the Alaska Peninsula (Area M), and has a sockeye salmon escapement goal of 293,000–488,000 fish; Sandy River is a much smaller run, and has an escapement goal of 34,000–74,000 fish. The Bear and Sandy River mouths are located about five miles apart. When the Bear River run is on track (not strong), and Sandy River is lagging behind inseason management objectives, that portion of the Bear River Section, including the area around Bear River northeast to Cape Seniavin, may be closed for extended periods to protect milling Sandy River sockeye salmon along the beach south of Sandy River and north of Sandy River to Cape Seniavin. Providing harvest opportunity in the Three Hills Section helps control Bear River escapement, thus allowing the maximum area around Sandy River to remain closed to protect Sandy River stocks. If Sandy River is lagging far behind interim escapement goals, as in the past few seasons, the Three Hills Section will also be closed. This management strategy has been used successfully since the early 1960s, typically resulting in a constant daily escapement rate to Sandy and Bear rivers, which in turn allows escapement objectives to be met while providing harvest opportunity on surplus fish to Bear River.

The South Alaska Peninsula salmon fisheries are managed under three management plans. The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is a mixed stock fishery with little management for local stocks. The department is unclear how terminal areas would be managed to provide harvest opportunity to the Area M fleet. It is likely that concentrating the fleet within terminal areas would preclude most fishermen from participating in the fishery. While the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.366) does have designated terminal areas, this proposal appears to seek to eliminate the current nonterminal fishing opportunity (24- and 36-hour schedule) and restrict fishing to those specified terminal areas. Fishing effort would be concentrated in terminal areas and would force the department to be more conservative with fishing periods in order to reduce harvest rates and allow escapement. Finally, the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.360) provides the department guidelines for managing an Alaska Board of Fisheries-mandated allocation of

Chignik-bound sockeye salmon to the Area M fleet. Creating terminal areas within the Southeastern District Mainland would make meeting the allocations difficult, if not impossible.

In the Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay areas, subsistence fishing areas are cross-referenced to the descriptions for the boundaries of the commercial fishing districts and sections. Changes to commercial fishing boundaries may affect subsistence fisheries, especially areas open and closed during commercial fishing activities.

BACKGROUND: The Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) was designed to identify stock contributions of sockeye and chum salmon to commercial and subsistence fisheries in Western Alaska, including Area M, over a four-year period. Fisheries were comprehensively sampled during 2006–2009, and results of three analysis years were reported for both species (sockeye, 2006–2008; chum, 2007–2009). Area M covers a broad geographic region, encompassing large sections of the North and South Alaska Peninsula. Relevant information on stock-specific harvests in Alaska Peninsula Area by temporal stratum for 2006 through 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008.* Harvest and harvest rate data for all fisheries among all temporal strata combined for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula), and for fine-scale reporting groups where the fishery occurs can be found in WASSIP report SP12-24, tables 15–59. Appendix tables C36–C147 document harvest numbers for specific stocks in all sampled fisheries, during all sampled temporal strata, 2006–2008. Appendix tables D9–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks among all strata combined within a given year for these fisheries.

At its December 2012 Bristol Bay meeting, the board concurred with the department's recommendation to remove Kvichak River sockeye salmon as a stock of concern.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of the proposal, but **OPPOSED** to reducing the department's ability to manage local systems. Fishing in only terminal areas would hamper the department's ability to control local-run escapements and manage harvests for established allocations.

COST ANALYSIS: It is unknown whether or not approval of this placeholder proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 210 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Island June Salmon Management Plan and 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Bering Sea Fisherman's Association.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal is a placeholder for potential regulatory actions pending the release of results of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project (WASSIP).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Management of Area M fisheries is currently governed by management plans developed for individual districts throughout the Alaska Peninsula.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The availability of new data may provide new insights and potentially alter the way fisheries are managed in Area M.

BACKGROUND: Analysis of salmon stocks through use of genetic techniques has replaced scale pattern analysis as the tool of choice for examining the relationship between the various fisheries in Alaska. WASSIP was designed to investigate the relationship between local and nonlocal stocks present in chum and sockeye salmon fisheries on the west coast of the state. The project collected data to examine the relationship between chum salmon fisheries from 2007–2009, and for sockeye salmon fisheries from 2006–2008 (three years for each species).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: It is unknown whether or not approval of this placeholder proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 211 – 5 AAC 06.XXX. Regulatory changes and/or management plans pertaining to chum and sockeye salmon in the Area M.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal is a placeholder for potential regulatory actions pending the release of results of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project (WASSIP).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Management of Area M fisheries are currently governed by management plans developed for individual districts throughout the Alaska Peninsula.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The availability of new data may provide new insights and potentially alter the way fisheries are managed in Area M.

BACKGROUND: Analysis of salmon stocks, through use of genetic techniques, has replaced scale pattern analysis as the tool of choice for examining the relationship between the various fisheries in Alaska. WASSIP was designed to investigate the relationship between local and nonlocal stocks present in chum and sockeye salmon fisheries on the west coast of the state. The project collected data to examine the relationship between chum salmon fisheries from 2007–2009, and for sockeye salmon fisheries from 2006–2008 (three years for each species).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this as a placeholder proposal; however, the department is **NEUTRAL** on any allocative aspects of the proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: It is unknown whether or not approval of this placeholder proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

COMMITTEE A
(12 PROPOSALS)

South Alaska Peninsula Salmon (12)

Southeastern District Mainland (3)

PROPOSAL 176 – 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: Dave M. Adams.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to have the entire Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS), including Orzinski Bay (Figure 176-1), managed by emergency order (EO) based on Orzinski Lake weir escapements from July 1 through July 25. This proposal also seeks to remove the 48-hour continuous fishing limit currently in regulation.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? This proposal was submitted under the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 ACC 09.366). After consulting the proposer, it was clarified that the proposer actually meant to submit the proposal under the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.360(e)(1)(2)). From July 1 through July 25, salmon harvested in the NWSS are considered to be 100-percent local origin. Beginning July 1, the fishing schedule in NWSS (Figure 176-1), excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than four 24-hour periods, with no more than 48 hours of continuous fishing during a seven-day period. If the Orzinski Lake escapement exceeds 25,000 sockeye salmon, the commissioner may, by EO, open the NWSS, including all of Orzinski Bay, continuously through 12:00 midnight, July 25, for set gillnet gear; purse seine and beach seine will be allowed to operate on the schedule stated above.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would remove the fishing time restriction of four 24-hour fishing periods, with no more than 48 hours of continuous fishing during a seven-day period. It would allow the department to manage the NWSS as a whole, solely based on escapement into Orzinski Lake, and to not restrict harvest based on the allocation of CMA-bound sockeye salmon.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) developed a management plan for Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) based on the Cape *Igvak Salmon Management Plan* in the Kodiak Management Area, which included an allocation based on the harvest of sockeye salmon in the Chignik Management Area CMA and on CMA harvest thresholds. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between six percent and 7.6 percent since its introduction. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan, including changes to the allocation of Chignik sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and the definition of local stocks. The most recent change was in 2007, when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6 percent of the total sockeye salmon harvest in the CMA. The proportion of sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM (excluding areas designated as 100-percent local stocks) considered to be

CMA-bound has been determined, in regulation, to be 80 percent, based on a 1961 tagging study conducted in the East Stepovak Section. In 1998, the board stipulated that sockeye salmon harvested in the NWSS, beginning July 1, would not be counted toward the Chignik-bound sockeye salmon allocation. In addition, beginning July 1, fishing time in the NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than four 24-hour periods per week, with no more than 48 hours of consecutive fishing during a seven-day period. Since the last board meeting in 2010, a fishery has occurred every year in the SEDM.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon in the Southeastern District Mainland for 2006 through 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008* (tables 15–23). Appendix tables E4–E6 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks among all strata combined within a given year for the June South Peninsula fisheries. Additional stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon in the Southeastern District Mainland for 2010–2012 can be found in SP12-31, *Genetic Stock Composition of the Commercial Harvest of Sockeye Salmon in Southeastern District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010–2012*.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

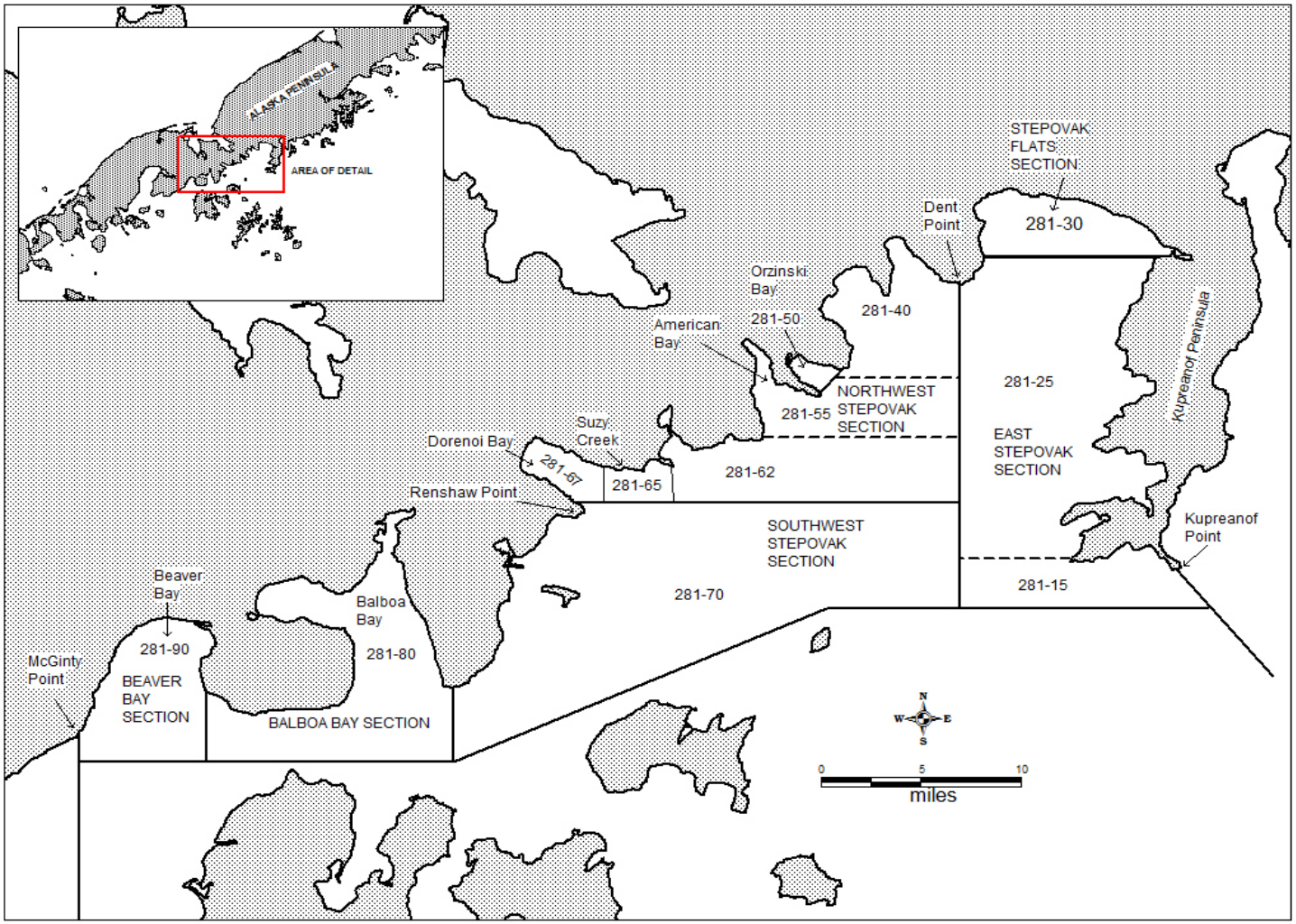

Figure 176-1.–Northwest Stepovak Section of the Southeastern District.

PROPOSAL 177 – 5 AAC 09.360. Post-July Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Brown.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? If adopted, this proposal would create a weekly fishing schedule for set gillnet permit holders in the Southeastern District. The schedule would consist of fishing periods from 9:00 a.m. Mondays until 9:00 p.m. Fridays during the months of August, September, and October.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.310(f), salmon may be taken in the Southeastern District of the South Alaska Peninsula from June 1 through October 31. Under the *Post-June Management Plan*, 5 AAC 09.366(c)(2) and (3) and (h)(1) and (2), fishing periods for August are from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and commercial salmon fishing may be open from August 1 through August 31. Fishing periods, established by emergency order (EO), shall be based on local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon stocks. Fishing periods for September through October are from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and commercial salmon fishing may be open by EO 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. Under the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 09.360(l)(1) and (2), from July 26 through October 31, the department shall manage the fishery based on the abundance of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks. There shall be at least one closed 36-hour period within a seven-day period.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would establish a weekly fishing schedule for set gillnet gear in the Southeastern District during August, September, and October. The schedule would be conducted from 9:00 a.m. Mondays until 9:00 p.m. Fridays during these months.

BACKGROUND: In 2007, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) amended the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* to include 5 AAC 09.360(l)(1) and (2). From July 26 through September 30, the fishery will be managed for local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks. The fishery will be closed for at least one 36-hour period within a seven-day period. In 2010, the board amended the dates for this regulation to apply from July 26 through October 31. Recently, most post-August commercial fishing effort occurs in the Southeastern District with set gillnet gear. Under the present management plan, the length of commercial fishing periods in the Southeastern District is determined by the catch per unit effort (CPUE) of coho salmon by set gillnet gear. CPUE is defined as the number of coho salmon harvested per permit holder or delivery. The amount of fishing time allowed per week is 59 hours if the CPUE is below the recent historical average, 83 hours if the CPUE is near average, and 107 hours if the CPUE is above average. Coho salmon are present in local streams beginning in late August. The CPUE of coho salmon in this fishery is assumed to be an indicator of the strength of local Southeastern District coho salmon stocks. The majority of the post-August harvest is usually sockeye salmon. Based on catch and escapement data, local sockeye salmon stocks do not likely contribute substantially to harvest in the Southeastern District fisheries after August. By September 1, most

pink and chum salmon have entered Southeastern District streams, and are not caught in large quantities in the fall fishery.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspect of this proposal. The department is **OPPOSED** to a weekly fishing schedule. The tools to allow for management of local stocks are already in place. In years of weak returns, such as 2010 and 2012, a weekly fishing schedule would hinder the department's ability to properly manage local salmon stocks and ensure escapement goals are met.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 178 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Dwain A. Foster Sr. and John A. Foster.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to have the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) on a weekly fishing schedule for set gillnet gear in the months of September and October. The openings will be Monday through Friday, with weekend closures.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the SEDM, from July 26 through October 31, the department shall manage the fishery based on the abundance of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks. There shall be at least one closed 36-hour period within a seven-day period (5 AAC 09.360(l)(1) and (2)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would establish a weekly fishing schedule for set gillnet gear in the SEDM during September and October. The openings would occur from Monday through Friday, with weekend closures. This would be a departure from the department's emergency order authority.

BACKGROUND: In 2007, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) amended the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* to the current regulations. In 2010, the board amended the dates for this regulation to apply from July 26 through October 31. Recently, most post-August commercial fishing effort occurs in the Southeastern District with set gillnet gear. Under the present management plan, the length of commercial fishing periods in the Southeastern District is determined by the catch per unit effort (CPUE) of coho salmon by set gillnet gear. CPUE is defined as the number of coho salmon harvested per permit holder or delivery. The amount of fishing time allowed per week is 59 hours if the CPUE is below the recent historical average, 83 hours if the CPUE is near average, and 107 hours if the CPUE is above average. Coho salmon are present in local streams beginning in late August. The CPUE of coho salmon in this fishery is assumed to be an indicator of the strength of local Southeastern District coho salmon stocks. The majority of the post-August harvest is usually sockeye salmon. Based on catch and escapement data, local sockeye salmon stocks likely do not contribute substantially to the harvest in the Southeastern District fisheries after August. By September 1, most pink and chum salmon have entered Southeastern District streams, and are not caught in large quantities in the fall fishery.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspect of this proposal. However, the department is **OPPOSED** to a weekly fishing schedule. The tools for management of local stocks are already in place. In years of weak returns, such as 2010 and 2012, a weekly fishing schedule would hinder the department's ability to properly manage local salmon stocks and ensure escapement goals are met.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Post-June Management Plan (4)

PROPOSAL 184 – 5 AAC 09.366(g)(1) and (2). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* for the South Alaska Peninsula and clarify conflicting regulatory language within the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.360(l)).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? As found in 5 AAC 09.366(g)(1) and (2), which describes the Northwest Stepovak Section of the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) (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°37.33' N lat, fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local pink salmon stocks. In addition, in the Stepovak Flats Section of the SEDM from July 26 through July 28, fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local chum salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Adoption of this proposal would repeal 5 AAC 09.366(g)(1) and (2). Modifying the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* will provide clarification in conflicting and redundant management plans so that the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS) of the SEDM (near Suzy Creek) and the Stepovak Flats Section of the SEDM (Figure 184-1) are appropriately managed under the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.360(l)).

BACKGROUND: Prior to the 2007 Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting, the NWSS of the SEDM (near Suzy Creek) and the Stepovak Flats Section of the SEDM were managed under the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan.* This management plan allowed the department to extend commercial salmon fishing periods, within these terminal harvest areas, based on the abundance of local pink and chum stocks. In 2007, the board extended the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* to allow the department to manage the SEDM through September 30. This allowed the department to establish commercial salmon fishing periods from July 26 through September 30 based on the abundance of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks. In 2010, the board further extended the season in the SEDM through October 31. These sections are essentially managed under two plans that accomplish the same objective.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal to clarify conflicting and redundant regulatory language from two separate management plans. The department considers this proposal to be a correction to an error in regulation that will simplify regulatory language and management actions.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

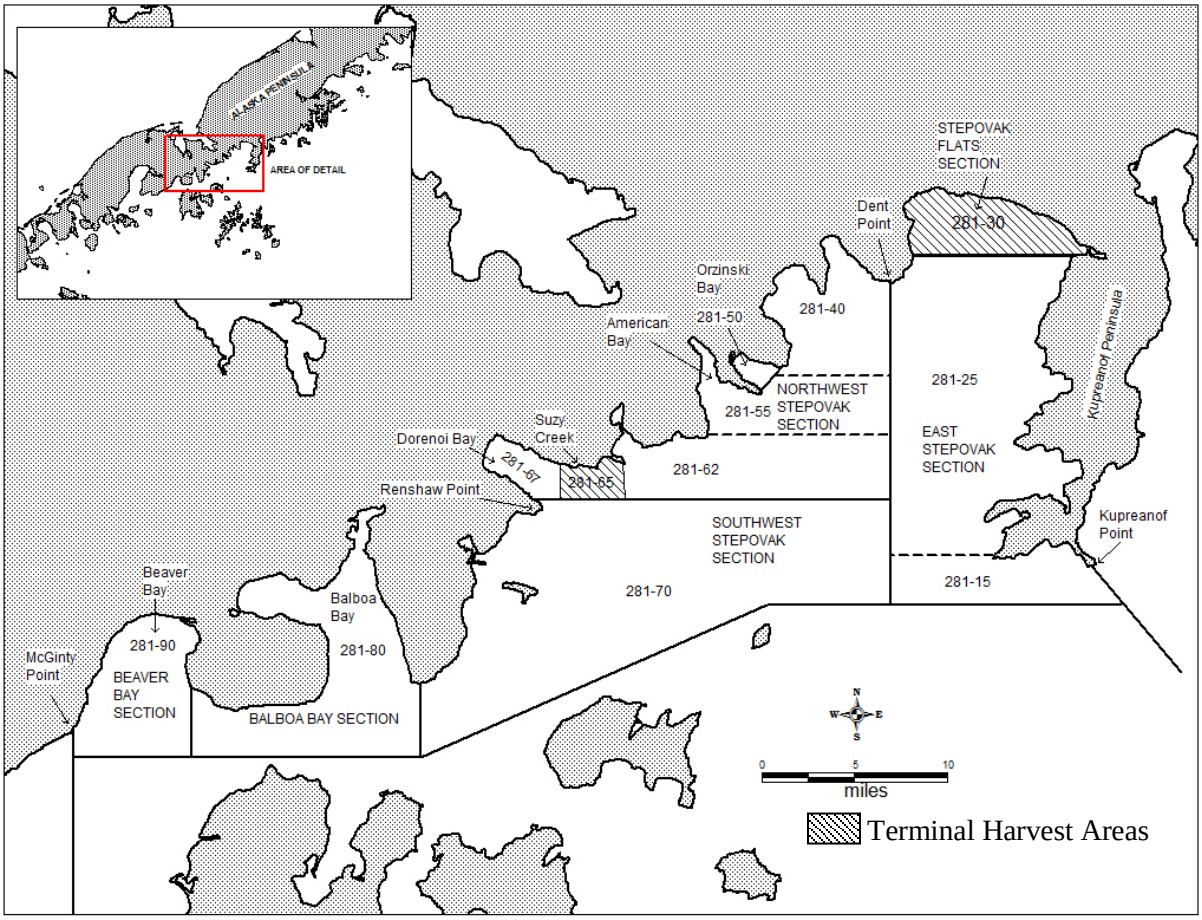

Figure 184-1.–Southeastern District Mainland and highlighted Suzy Creek (281-55) and Stepovak Flats Section (281-30) terminal harvest areas.

PROPOSAL 185 – 5 AAC 09.366(i). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: Melvin Larsen.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to modify the regulation that guides the department in assessing presence of immature salmon in the Shumagin Islands Section (Figure 185-1) by providing the department with more leeway in conducting the immature test fishery. In the event that the seine fishery is closed due to presence of 100 or more immature salmon per set, additional fishing time would be provided to recapture any fishing time lost during closures caused by presence of immature salmon.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*, 5 AAC 09.366(i), states that the department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section to assess presence and abundance 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. For purposes of this subsection, "immature salmon, per set, are present" means the number of immature king, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon observed to be gilled in the seine web.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Adoption of this proposal would provide the department the option to conduct the seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section to assess presence and abundance of immature salmon. This proposal also seeks to recapture any time lost to the seine fishery due to presence of immature salmon by allowing fishing periods equivalent to the time lost during the current 48-hour closures.

BACKGROUND: Immature salmon harvests were first brought to the department's attention in 1963. Presence of immature salmon in South Peninsula waters has warranted restrictions to commercial fishing in some years. These restrictions were applied to all gear types in affected areas during late June into July in 1963, 1968, 1969, 1974, and 1979; after 1979, regulations were adopted curtailing only purse seine fishing, which placed restrictions during the 1989 through 1992, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2008 seasons. Immature salmon usually migrate out of the Shumagin Islands area (Figure 185-1) by July 23, although in 1992, closures remained in effect until July 29.

Immature salmon have been most prevalent in the Shumagin Islands Section and the concern for catching immature salmon is restricted to purse seine gear. Under current regulations, seine mesh size may not exceed three and one-half inches, except for the first 25 meshes above the leadline, which may not exceed seven inches (5 AAC 09.332(a)). Set gillnet gear has larger mesh size (minimum of five and one-quarter inches (5 AAC 09.331(b)(3)), which allows immature salmon to pass through.

In 1990, an ADF&G test-fishing program was instituted in the Shumagin Islands to determine presence and abundance of immature salmon in South Peninsula waters prior to commercial purse seine fishing periods in July. In the Shumagin Islands Section, most purse seine fishing

effort occurs in the nearshore waters of Popof Island, from Popof Head to Red Bluff (Figure 185-2). The department has established three test-fishing sites at popular set locations in this area.

In 1998, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) adopted a regulation that defined immature salmon and required the department to conduct an immature salmon test fishery in July (5 AAC 09.366(i)). The board also changed the earliest general opening date of the post-June fishery in nonterminal areas from July 20 to July 6. Before 1998, the department conducted a test-fishing program in mid-July to assess presence of immature salmon in the Shumagin Islands. Since 1998, the test-fish program has been conducted in early July.

Table 185-1 is provided below to depict the number of adult salmon caught and the number of immature salmon caught during test fishing each year from 1990–2012. Ratios are provided to demonstrate the variation in the number of adult salmon compared to immature salmon caught during test fishing from 1990–2012.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department **OPPOSES** this proposal due to conservation concerns. The specific stock composition of immature salmon taken in the post-June fishery is unknown, although it is likely that the fishery takes immature salmon from multiple stocks. The immature salmon are not marketable and their catch results in a loss of adult salmon in future years. When closures are required due to presence of immature salmon, the department has restricted fishing opportunity only in those areas where data suggest the harvest of immature salmon is 100 or more per set. Fishing opportunity is not restricted in areas where the department does not have data on the abundance of immature salmon.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

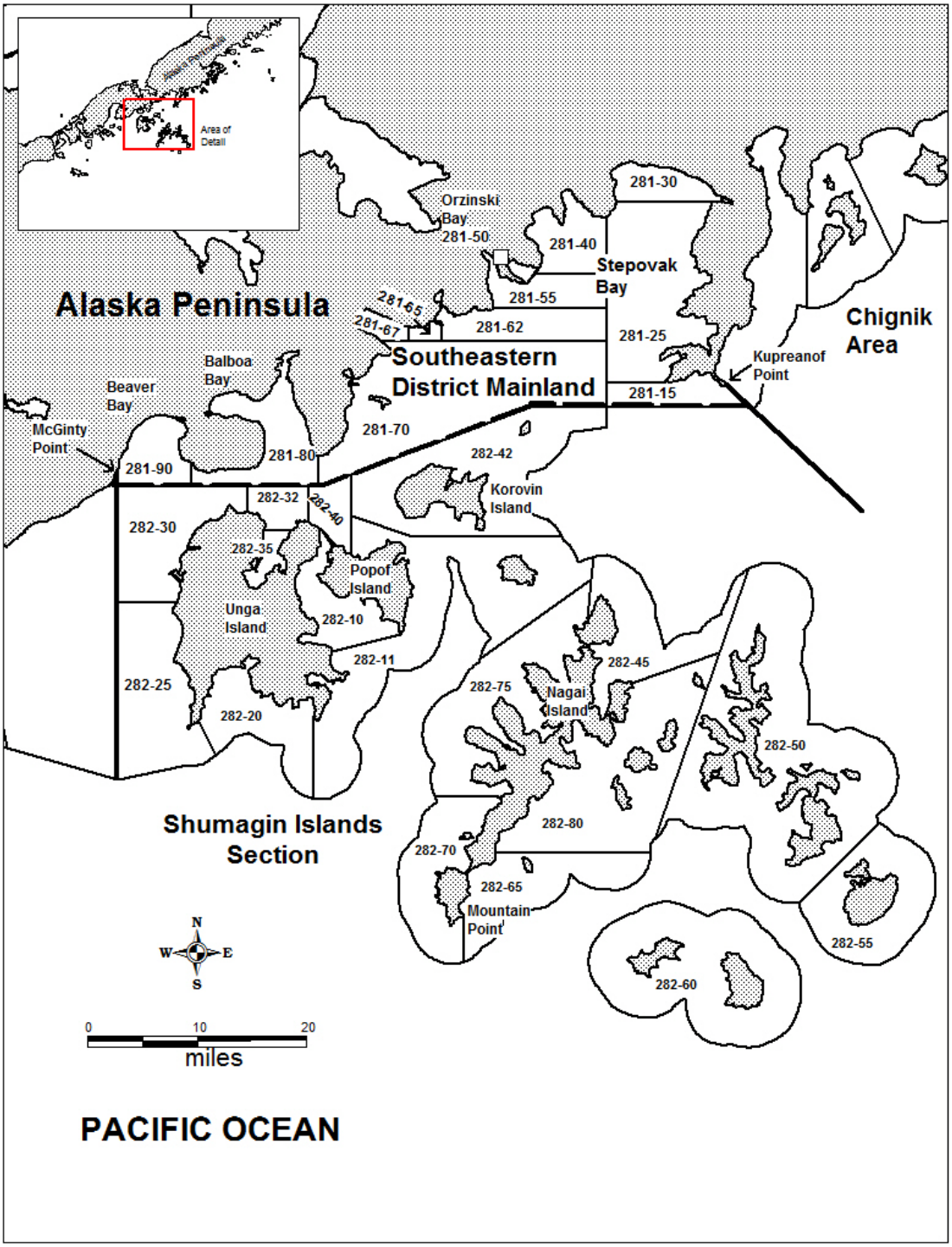

Figure 185-1.–Map of the Alaska Peninsula Area from Kupreanof Point to McGinty Point (Southeastern District) with the statistical salmon fishing areas shown.

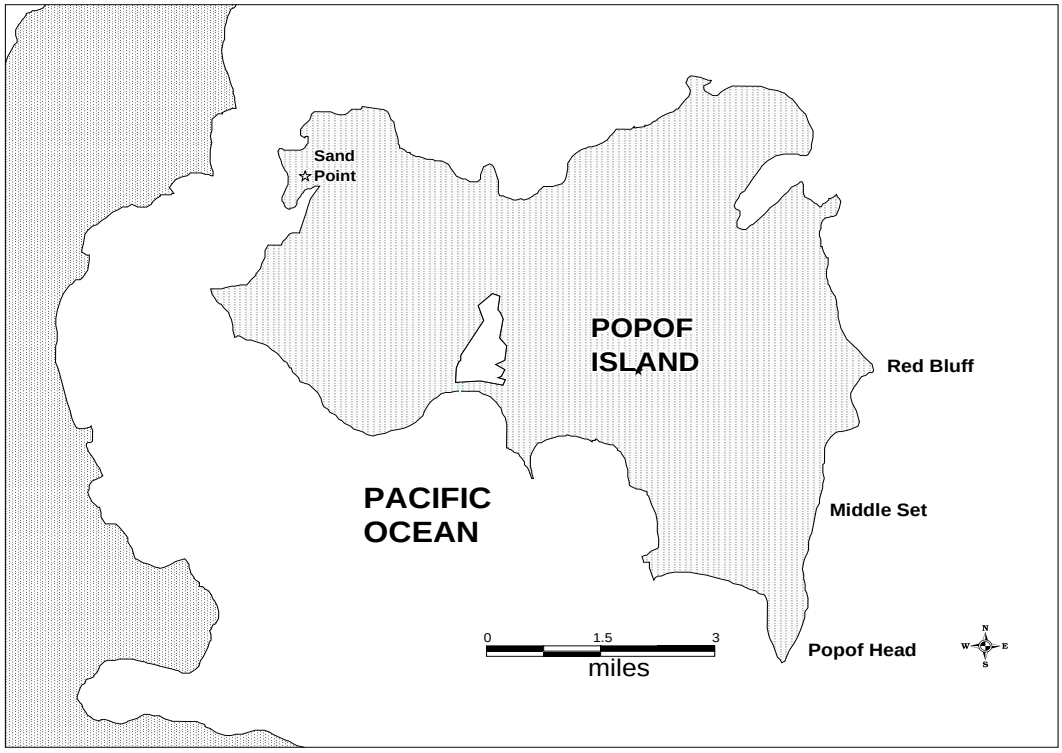

Figure 185-2.–Map of Popof Island with test fishing sites defined.

Table 185-1.–Annual summary of the Shumagin Islands Section July salmon test fishery, 1990–2012.

		Number	Number of Adult Salmon						Number of Immature Salmon				
Year	Duration	of sets[a]	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	King	Sockeye	Coho	Chum	Total
1990	July 3 -	29	23	1,194	1,708	4,516	3,104	10,545	39	796	0	1,138	1,973
	August 13	Avg/Set	0.8	41.2	58.9	155.7	107.0	363.6	1.3	27.4	0.0	39.2	68.0
1991	July 1 - 19	51	148	3,791	1,422	7,077	4,092	16,530	331	13,167	0	7,410	20,908
		Avg/Set	2.9	74.3	27.9	138.8	80.2	324.1	6.5	258.2	0.0	145.3	410.0
1992	July 10 - 29	44	134	2,413	3,695	10,167	4,388	20,797	892	13,449	5	2,087	16,433
		Avg/Set	3.0	54.8	84.0	231.1	99.7	472.7	20.3	305.7	0.1	47.4	373.5
1993	July 12 - 18	24	259	1,804	4,892	2,944	827	10,726	393	2,188	0	139	2,720
		Avg/Set	10.8	75.2	203.8	122.7	34.5	446.9	16.4	91.2	0.0	5.8	113.3
1994	July 14 - 27	31	99	1,171	4,221	8,530	2,657	16,678	135	3,685	2	11	3,833
		Avg/Set	3.2	37.8	136.2	275.2	85.7	538.0	4.4	118.9	0.1	0.4	123.6
1995	July 12 - 17	30	122	4,000	3,671	8,456	2,592	18,841	215	221	0	390	826
		Avg/Set	4.1	133.3	122.4	281.9	86.4	628.0	7.2	7.4	0.0	13.0	27.5
1996	July 12 - 18	35	188	2,093	15,187	7,010	7,391	31,869	211	520	4	234	969
		Avg/Set	5.4	59.8	433.9	200.3	211.2	910.5	6.0	14.9	0.1	6.7	27.7
1997	July 12 - 19	39	373	2,716	3,536	4,925	4,075	15,625	3,361	674	32	182	4,249
		Avg/Set	9.6	69.6	90.7	126.3	104.5	400.6	86.2	17.3	0.8	4.7	108.9

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Table 185-1.–page 2 of 3.

Year	Duration	Number of sets[a]	Number of Adult Salmon King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Number of Immature Salmon King	Sockeye	Coho	Chum	Total
1998	July 02 - 03	10	6	711	33	1,200	499	2,449	5	24	0	0	29
		Avg/Set	0.6	71.1	3.3	120.0	49.9	244.9	0.5	2.4	0.0	0.0	2.9
1999	July 01 - 07	26	26	12,284	18	12,340	4,680	29,348	13	2,132	0	42	2,187
		Avg/Set	1.0	472.5	0.7	474.6	180.0	1128.8	0.5	82.0	0.0	1.6	84.1
2000	July 03 - 05	13	9	1,597	101	2,946	1,919	6,572	13	77	0	126	216
		Avg/Set	0.7	122.8	7.8	226.6	147.6	505.5	1.0	5.9	0.0	9.7	16.6
2001	July 02 - 16	50	318	6,258	3,353	9,382	10,772	30,083	1,265	3,241	17	1,382	5,905
		Avg/Set	6.4	125.2	67.1	187.6	215.4	601.7	25.3	64.8	0.3	27.6	118.1
2002	July 02 - 04	15	29	1,020	11	443	1,227	2,730	325	911	1	280	1,517
		Avg/Set	1.9	68.0	0.7	29.5	81.8	182.0	21.7	60.7	0.1	18.7	101.1
2003	July 02 - 20	28	26	819	1,279	4,646	2,275	9,045	1,419	8,640	43	512	10,614
		Avg/Set	0.9	29.3	45.7	165.9	81.3	323.0	50.7	308.6	1.5	18.3	379.1
2004	July 07 - 08	10	81	507	542	1,131	1,827	4,088	42	111	0	279	432
		Avg/Set	8.1	50.7	54.2	113.1	182.7	408.8	4.2	11.1	0.0	27.9	43.2
2005	July 02 - 05	22	68	1,197	2,137	7,117	2,140	12,659	1,110	263	2	211	1,586
		Avg/Set	3.1	54.4	97.1	323.5	97.3	575.4	50.5	12.0	0.1	9.6	72.1

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Table 185-1.–page 3 of 3.

Year	Duration	Number of sets[a]	Number of Adult Salmon King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Number of Immature Salmon King	Sockeye	Coho	Chum	Total
2006	July 02 - 05	15	21	1,211	440	2,254	7,855	11,781	69	356	0	66	491
		Avg/Set	1.4	80.7	29.3	150.3	523.7	785.4	4.6	23.7	0.0	4.4	32.7
2007	July 02 - 05	17	12	11,389	781	7,036	1,300	20,518	2	951	0	9	962
		Avg/Set	0.7	669.9	45.9	413.9	76.5	1206.9	0.1	55.9	0.0	0.5	56.6
2008	July 03 - 08	23	12	9,310	1,901	14,838	11,436	37,497	22	2,167	0	391	2,580
		Avg/Set	0.5	404.8	82.7	645.1	497.2	1630.3	1.0	94.2	0.0	17.0	112.2
2009	July 03 - 05	18	28	1,587	389	21,101	3,825	26,930	76	644	3	260	983
		Avg/Set	1.6	88.2	21.6	1172.3	212.5	1496.1	4.2	35.8	0.2	14.4	54.6
2010	July 02 - 05	18	13	6,418	179	4,180	1,608	12,398	2	416	0	7	425
		Avg/Set	0.7	356.6	9.9	232.2	89.3	688.8	0.1	23.1	0.0	0.4	23.6
2011	July 02 - 05	18	7	1,151	49	11,980	1,315	14,502	4	267	0	3	274
		Avg/Set	0.4	63.9	2.7	665.6	73.1	805.7	0.2	14.8	0.0	0.2	15.2
2012	July 02 - 05	18	4	2,668	16	947	1,192	4,827	7	108	0	3	118
		Avg/Set	0.2	148.2	0.9	52.6	66.2	268.2	0.4	6.0	0.0	0.2	6.6
2003-2012		Number	27	3,626	771	7,523	3,477	15,425	275	1,392	5	174	1,847
Average		Avg/Set	1.5	193.9	41.2	402.3	186.0	824.8	14.7	74.5	0.3	9.3	98.7

[a] Test fishing is standardized to purse seine gear, conducting 20 minute sets at Popof Head, Middle Set, and Red Bluff located on Popof Island; additional sets are made if time allows.

PROPOSAL 186 – 5 AAC 09.366(g)(1). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: John Mitchell.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The intent of this proposal is to provide fishing opportunity for local pink salmon in Ramsey Bay from a line extending from a point at 55°48.200' N lat, 159°50.839' W long, to a point at "Louies Corner," 55°51.034' N lat, 159°47.050' W long. (Figure 186-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.360), the Stepovak Flats Section is open during the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) allocation fishery from June 1–July 25. During this time frame, 80 percent of the sockeye salmon harvested in this section are considered Chignik stock.

Closed waters for Stepovak Bay (5 AAC 09.350(36)) include:

(A) from June 1 through July 28, waters within 500 yards of any salmon stream or lagoon, unless otherwise specified in this chapter;

(B) from July 29 through September 30, waters north of a line extending east from Dent Point at 55°47.25' N lat, 159°52.00' W long to a point on the Kupreanof Peninsula at 55°46.93' N lat, 159°38.70' W long.

As described in the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366(g)(2)), in the Stepovak Flats Section of the SEDM from July 26 through July 28 fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local chum salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The department is uncertain as to whether the proposer intends to only make closed water adjustments from July 26 through July 28, or if the proposer intends to adjust closed waters from July 29 through September 30.

BACKGROUND: In 1963, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) established the closed waters of Stepovak Bay, from July 18 through October 2, to include all waters lying northerly of a line extending true east from Dent Point (near Grub Gulch) to a point on the Kupreanof Peninsula at approximately 55°47' N lat, 159°38.70' W long. This area is commonly known as the Stepovak Flats Section of the SEDM. In 1980, the board adjusted the closed waters of the Stepovak Flats Section to close all waters in Stepovak Bay to within 500 yards of any salmon stream or lagoon from June 1 through August 7. Then from August 8 through September 30, the Stepovak Flats Section would be closed to commercial salmon fishing. The current closed waters within the Stepovak Flats Section were established in regulation in 1985.

During the 1960s, the department determined that the Stepovak Flats Section was susceptible to overfishing of pink and chum salmon in this area from approximately mid-July to the end of August. Chum salmon, especially, tend to congregate along the sandy shores of the Stepovak Flats Section, making them vulnerable to overfishing. Glacial runoff into all of the streams in

this area has made it difficult to determine the exact size of these pink and chum salmon runs. Escapement into these systems is determined by conducting aerial surveys, where most of the escapement information comes only from spring-fed tributaries and not the mainstems of the rivers.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to the biological aspects of this proposal. The department does not currently have the resources to estimate the total run of pink salmon entering into systems within Ramsey Bay. Systems within Ramsey Bay tend to be extremely turbid, making it difficult to confidently estimate fish within these systems. Typically, fish can only be counted within clear tributaries, but this only provides a small estimate of the assumed total number of fish that return to these systems. Without proper resources to determine run size and with the historical knowledge of this area being susceptible to overfishing, the department has concerns for biological impacts to pink and chum salmon in this area if this proposal were to be adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

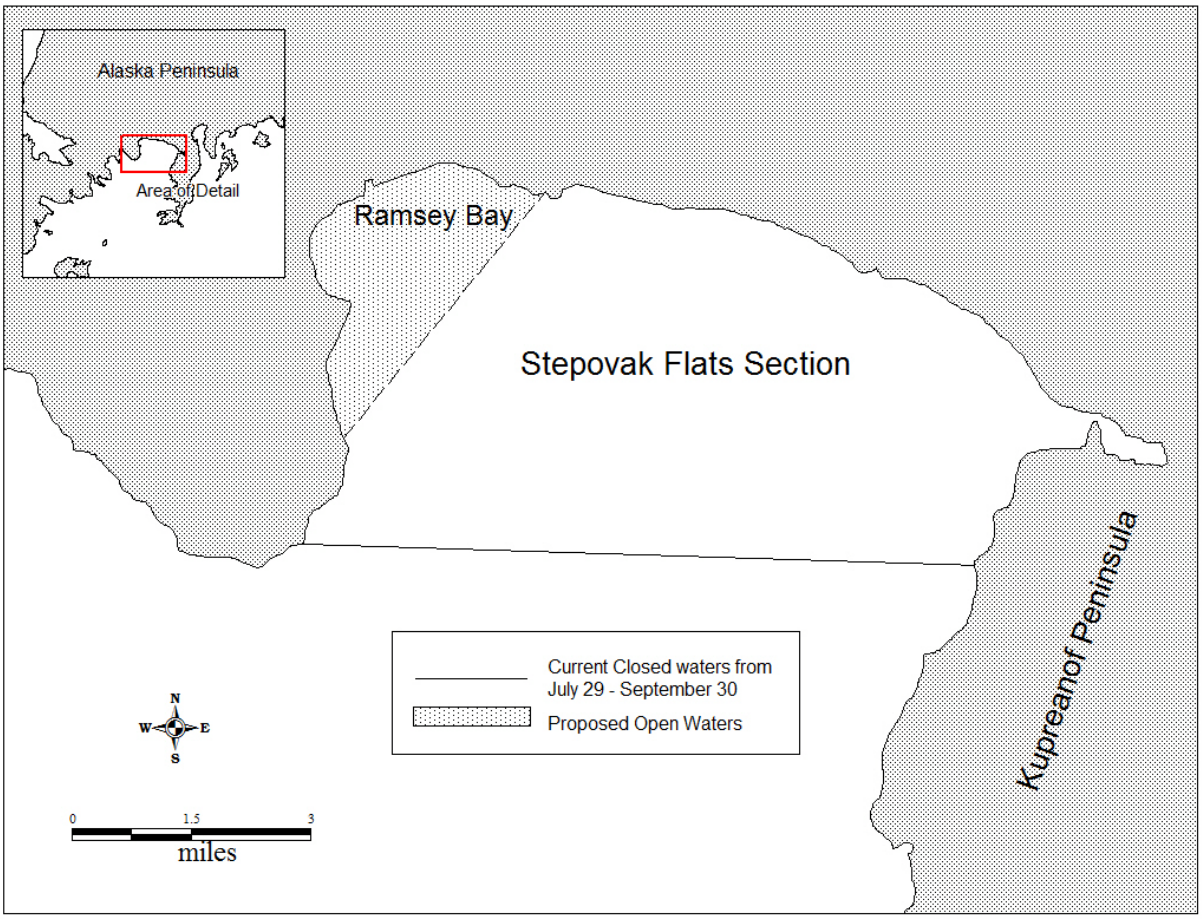


Figure 186-1.–Map of Stepovak Flats Section with Proposal 186-adjusted open waters in Ramsey Bay and the current boundary for closed waters.

PROPOSAL 191 – 5 AAC 09.320(b)(2). Fishing periods in the Northwestern District.

PROPOSED BY: False Pass Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to limit fishing periods in Bechevin Bay Section to fishing periods established by emergency order (EO), not to exceed four days in a seven-day period.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? As stated in 5 AAC 09.320(b)(2), in the Northwestern District, salmon may be taken during the open season from September 1 through September 30 only during fishing periods established by EO. Before September 1, unless otherwise specified by EO, salmon may be taken in the Northwestern District only during the open season in the Bechevin Bay Section, and only during fishing periods established by EO.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would restrict fishing periods to four days during a seven-day period. This would restrict the department's ability to provide fishing opportunities when chum and pink salmon runs are strong and a surplus of salmon could be harvested in the Bechevin Bay Section.

BACKGROUND: In 1980, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) switched the weekly fishing periods in the Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District to only allow fishing periods established by EO (Figure 191-1). The Bechevin Bay Section is open concurrently with the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands from June 7 through June 29. Typically, the Bechevin Bay Section receives little to no harvest effort during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery.

The majority of the fishing effort in the Bechevin Bay Section is conducted by beach seine gear targeting chum salmon near St. Catherine's Cove. However, in 2011, Bechevin Bay received a large amount of fishing effort by drift gillnet gear as a result of poor sockeye salmon returns in the Northern District, where the drift gillnet fleet typically fishes after the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery (Table 191-1).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. Adoption of this proposal would limit the department's ability to provide additional opportunity when runs are strong and it is determined that there is an abundant surplus that needs to be harvested to maintain the health of the salmon stocks in the Bechevin Bay Section. Currently, the department has EO authority to limit fishing opportunity within the Bechevin Bay Section when it is determined that runs are weak and there is not a surplus of fish to be harvested. If this proposal is adopted, the department would need guidance in regards to the fishing periods in the Bechevin Bay Section during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 191-1.–Number of permit holders who fished in the Bechevin Bay Section by gear type, from 2000–2012.

	Number of Permits		
Year	Purse Seine	Drift gillnet	Set Gillnet
2000	3	0	0
2001	3	0	0
2002	2	0	0
2003	2	0	0
2004	1	0	0
2005	3	0	0
2006	3	0	0
2007	4	0	0
2008	3	2	0
2009	4	1	0
2010	4	0	0
2011	5	17	1
2012	5	5	0

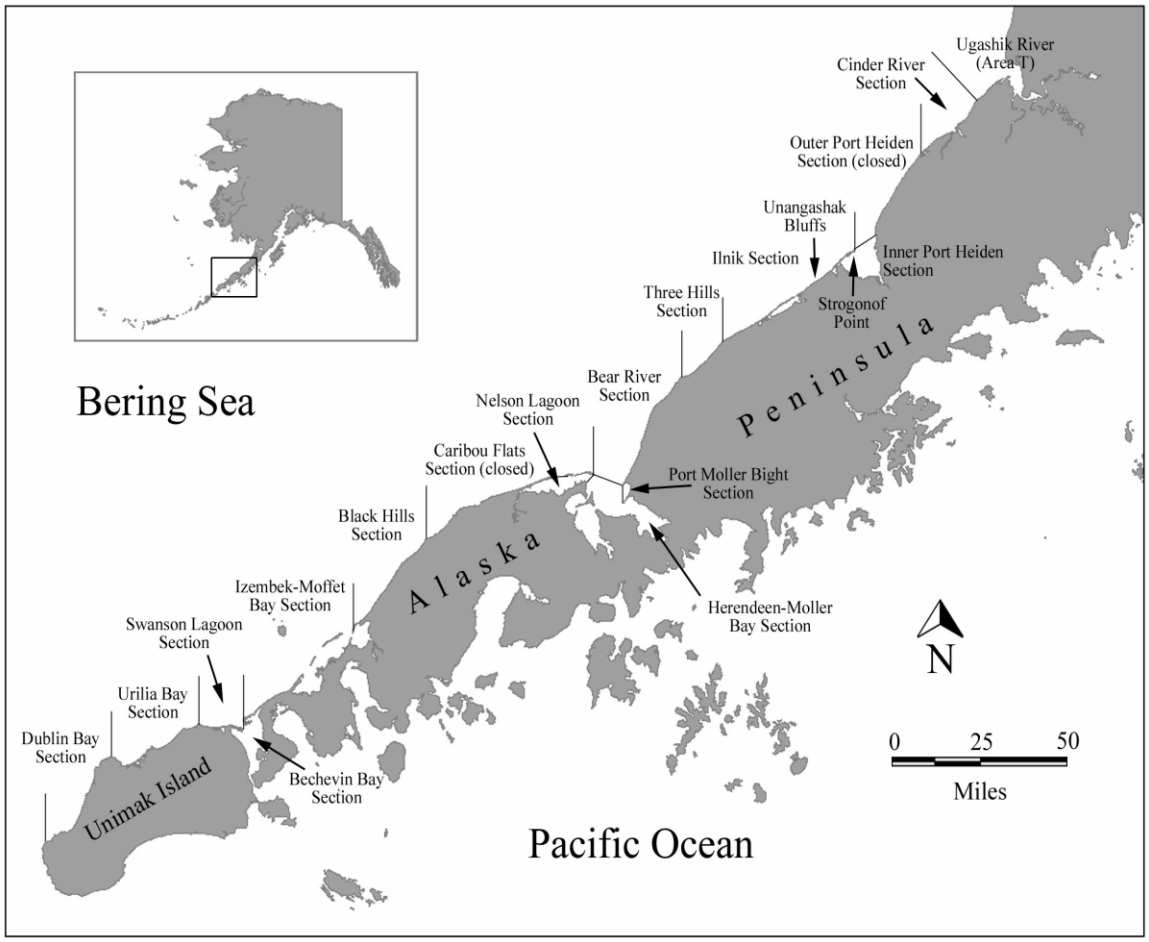


Figure 191-1.–Map of the Alaska Peninsula with North Alaska Peninsula management sections depicted.

Gear (4)

PROPOSAL 15 – 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Dale Petersen and Duane Kapp.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to allow set gillnet anchors and running lines to remain in the water only at registered set gillnet sites during closed periods.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Regulation 5 AAC 09.331 defines the length, depth, and mesh requirements of gillnets operated in Area M. Regulation 5 AAC 39.250 states that gillnets shall be removed from the water during any closed period. There is currently no regulation that addresses set gillnet running lines and anchors during closed periods.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Adoption of this proposal would require removal of set gillnet anchors and running lines during closed periods, except at registered set gillnet sites.

BACKGROUND: In the Alaska Peninsula Area, the minimum distance between set gillnet gear has been 900 feet in regulation since statehood. The use of gillnets for commercial salmon fishing in Area M has occurred since at least 1932.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 194 – 5 AAC 09.335. Minimum distance between units of gear.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Wagner.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to modify the minimum distance between set gillnet gear from 900 feet to 1,800 feet in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) area.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulations state that no part of a commercial set gillnet may be set or operated within 900 feet of another commercial set gillnet, except in the Inner Port Heiden Section (minimum distance between gear is 600 feet) and the Nelson Lagoon Section (minimum distance between gear is 1,800 feet).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Adoption of this proposal would increase the distance within the SEDM area, excluding the waters of Orzinski Bay, in which set gillnet gear may be operated, from 900 feet to 1,800 feet between registered sites, and between a permit holder's own gear, which would remain at 900 feet.

BACKGROUND: In the Alaska Peninsula Area, the minimum distance between set gillnet gear has been 900 feet, in regulation, since statehood.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. This proposal may limit the amount of gear allowed in an area where the department is trying to control salmon escapement.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 195 – 5 AAC 09.330(d)(1)(B). Gear.

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to allow drift gillnet gear to operate in the waters south and east of a line from Cape Pankof Light at 54°39.60' N lat, 163°03.70' W long, to Thin Point at 54°57.32' N lat, 162°33.50' W long; and south of a line from Thin Point at 54°57.32' N lat, 162°33.50' W long, to the northernmost tip of Stag Point at 54°03.15' N lat, 162°18.10' W long, on Deer Island to the southernmost tip of Dolgoi Cape at 55°03.15' N lat, 161°44.35' W long, on Dolgoi Island and south of the latitude of the northeastern tip of Dolgoi Island at 55°07.50' N lat, 161°38.30' W long (Figure 195-1), from June 1 through August 31.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 09.330(d): in the Southwestern District, salmon may be taken only with purse seines, hand purse seines, and set gillnets, except that

(1) salmon may also be taken with drift gillnets

(A) in the waters of the Ikatan Bay Section west of a line from Kenmore Head to Hague Rocks to the easternmost tip of the Sanak Islands;

(B) from June 1 through June 30, in the waters,

(i) south and east of a line from Cape Pankof Light at 54°39.60' N lat, 163°03.70' W long, to Thin Point at 54°57.32' N lat, 162°33.50' W long; and

(ii) south of a line from Thin Point at 54°57.32' N lat, 162°33.50' W long, to the northernmost tip of Stag Point at 54°59.10' N lat, 162°18.10' W long, on Deer Island to the southernmost tip of Dolgoi Cape at 55°03.15' N lat, 161°44.35' W long, on Dolgoi Island and south of the latitude of the northeastern tip of Dolgoi Island at 55°07.50' N lat, 161°38.30' W long.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would expand the area in which drift gillnets may be used to harvest salmon. Drift gillnet fishermen would be able to fish in additional portions of the Southwestern District after June 30. Adoption of this proposal would create substantial new fishing areas available to this gear type, and could potentially shift drift gillnet effort from the Northern District to the Southwestern District.

BACKGROUND: Historically, there are no records of drift gillnet gear being utilized in this portion of the Southwestern District after June 30. Prior to 2007, drift gillnet gear was only permitted to harvest salmon in the waters of the Ikatan Bay Section west of a line from Kenmore Head to Hague Rocks to the easternmost tip of the Sanak Islands. In 2007, regulations were established to permit drift gillnet gear to harvest salmon, from June 1 through June 30, in the waters south and east of a line from Cape Pankof Light at 54°39.60' N lat, 163°03.70' W long, to Thin Point at 54°57.32' N lat, 162°33.50' W long; and south of a line from Thin Point at 54°57.32' N lat, 162°33.50' W long, to the northernmost tip of Stag Point at 54°59.10' N lat, 162°18.10' W long, on Deer Island to the southernmost tip of Dolgoi Cape at 55°03.15' N lat,

161°44.35’ W long, on Dolgoi Island and south of the latitude of the northeastern tip of Dolgoi Island at 55°07.50’ N lat, 161°38.30’ W long (Figure 195-1).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department recognizes the possibility that, if adopted, this proposal may redistribute fishing effort from the North Peninsula to the South Peninsula. Because drift gillnet gear has not been a legal gear type in this area, impacts to local stocks are unknown and the department would manage conservatively until the effects of increased gear can be ascertained.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in the fishery.

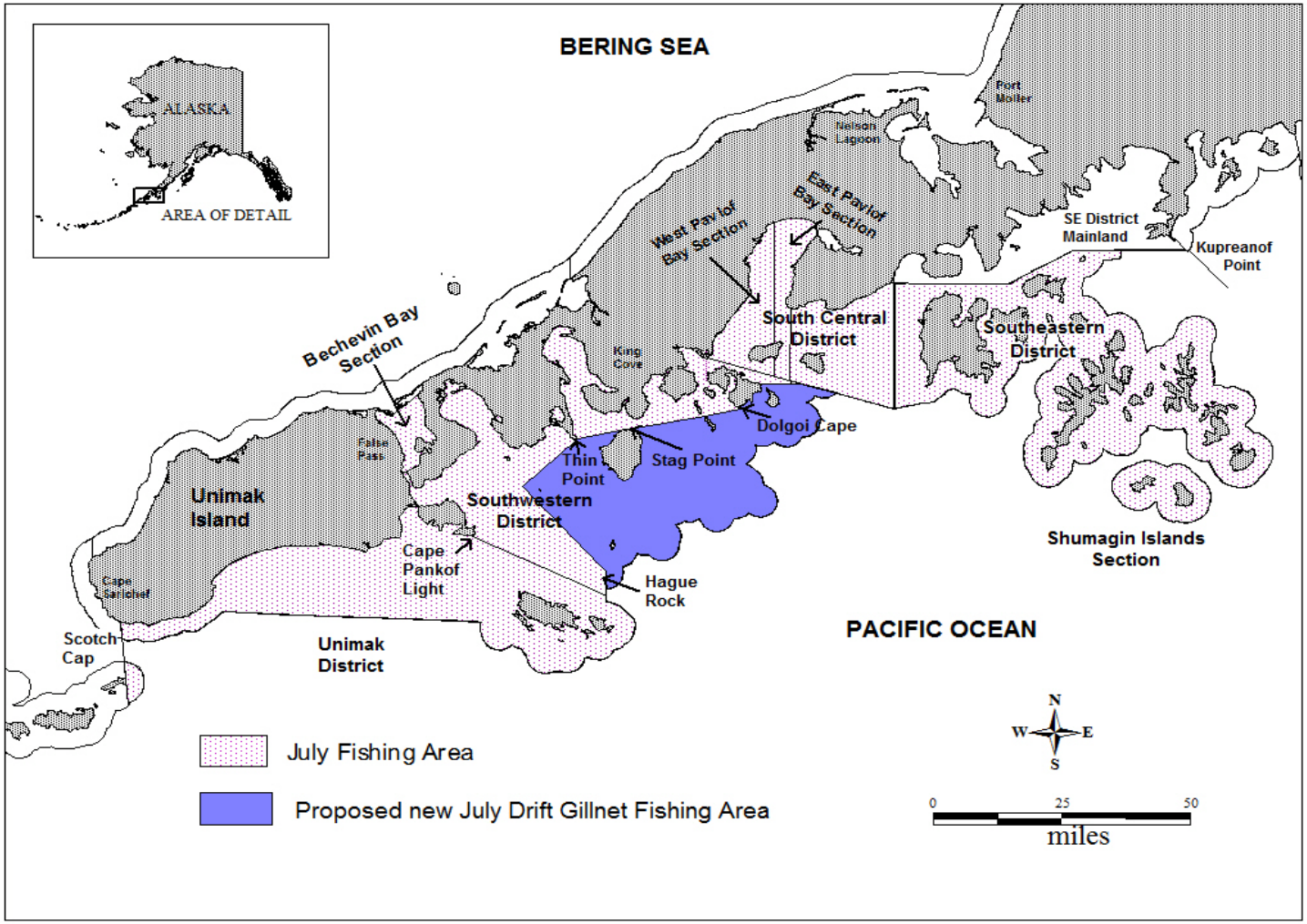


Figure 195-1.–Map depicting the proposed area where drift gillnet gear would be allowed July 1 through August 31.

PROPOSAL 242 – 5 AAC 09.332(a). Seine specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow commercial salmon seine net depth in the Alaska Peninsula Area to be measured in feet and inches, which would allow additional webbing to be attached beyond the current restriction of 350 meshes of three and one-half inch and 25 meshes of seven inches, as follows:

> (a) Purse seines or hand purse seines may not be less than 100 fathoms nor more than 250 fathoms in length. A purse seine or hand purse seine may not exceed **116 feet 8 inches** [375 MESHES] in depth. Seine mesh may not be more than three and one-half inches, except that the first **14 feet 7 inches** [25 MESHES] above the leadline may not **have meshes** [BE] more than 7 inches **in mesh size**.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The description of legal seine gear in 5 AAC 09.332 states that seines must be between 100 and 250 fathoms in length and not exceed 375 meshes in depth. Seine mesh size may not exceed three and one-half inches, except the first 25 meshes above the leadline, which may not be more than seven inches in mesh size.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Measuring seine depth and length would be very difficult if measured in feet and inches. Implementation of this proposal would necessitate further definitions and direction to enforcement as to how measurements of salmon seines would be accomplished in Area M.

BACKGROUND: Some fishermen within Area M have purchased seine nets that meet the description of maximum allowable gear, but are put together with components that have subsequently shrunk and that are said to fish less efficiently than nets that have maintained their original specifications. The shrunken nets may not be modified to increase their depth, since the depth restriction is expressed in "number of meshes", which these nets already have. Fishermen with the shrunken nets may be at a disadvantage compared to fishermen who have nets of higher-quality components. However, while the nets may have shrunk, they still fit the legal definition of seine gear in this area.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. Within the Alaska Administrative Code, legal net gear is consistently defined by the allowable length (expressed in fathoms), the minimum or maximum allowable size of mesh (expressed in inches), and depth (expressed in number of meshes). Modifying the definition of legal seine gear would make the regulation inconsistent with similar regulations statewide.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Commercial Closed Waters (1)

PROPOSAL 193 – 5 AAC 09.350(35). Closed Waters.

PROPOSED BY: John Mitchell.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would modify the definition of closed waters in Grub Gulch to those in regulation prior to 1998.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Currently, the waters of Grub Gulch north of 55°48.25' N lat are closed to commercial salmon fishing.

WHAT WILL BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Adoption of this proposal would change the description of closed waters in Grub Gulch and provide approximately one mile of additional shoreline available for fishing opportunity (Figure 193-1).

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1998, closed waters of Grub Gulch were defined as waters north and east of a line from 55°48'18" N lat, 159°56'06" W long to 55°49'00" N lat, 159°58'12" W long. In 1998, closed waters were changed to "north and east of a line from 55°48.25' N lat, 159°56.20' W long to 55°48.00' N lat, 159°58.40' W long." The 1998 definition came under question prior to the 2010 Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting as needing clarification. During the 2010 board meeting, the current definition was adopted into regulation.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal since the department has emergency order authority to provide additional opportunity to harvest salmon in excess of escapement needs in this area, if warranted. In addition, this closed water provides protection to schooling chum and pink salmon.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

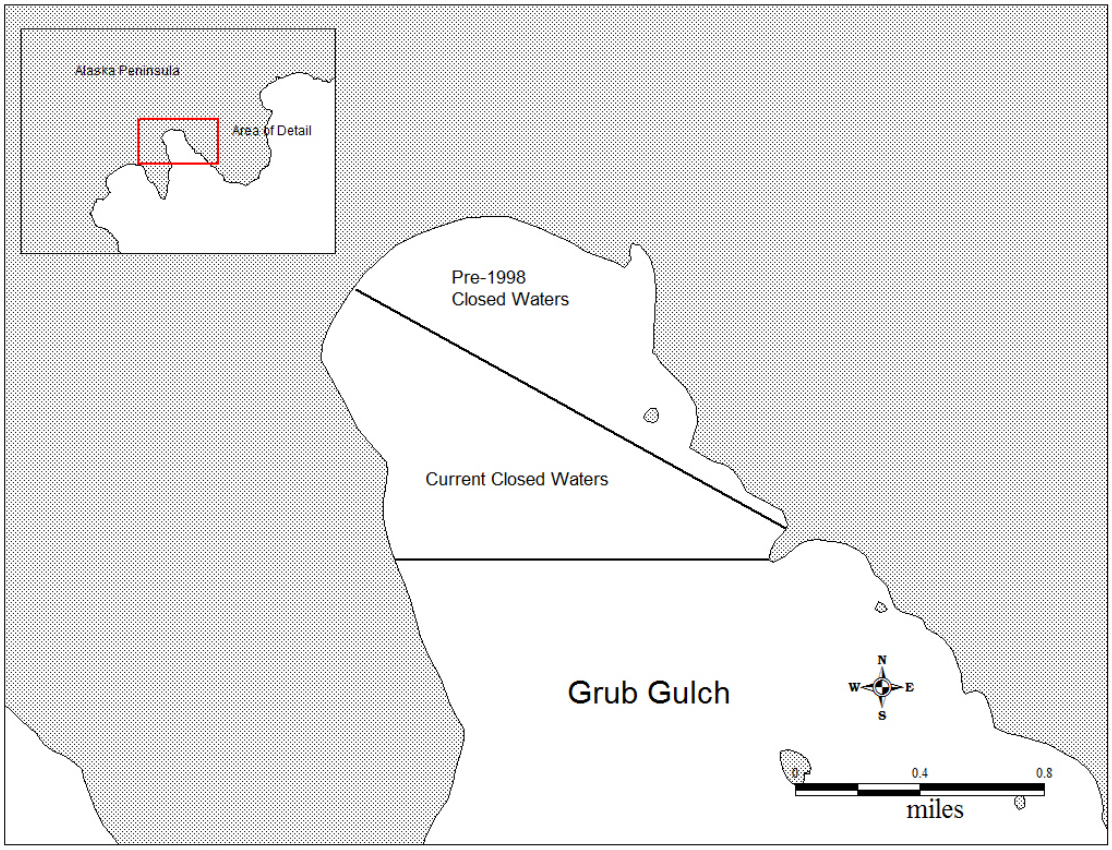


Figure 193-1.–Map of Grub Gulch with the current and proposed (pre-1998) closed waters defined.

COMMITTEE B
(8 PROPOSALS)

North Alaska Peninsula Salmon (7)

Commercial Fisheries (3)

PROPOSAL 200 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons; 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing Periods; 5 AAC 09.330. Fishing Gear; 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan; and 5 AAC 39.120. Registration of commercial fishing vessels. *(This proposal was heard at the Bristol Bay meeting, but will be deliberated upon at the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands meeting.)*

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow Area M drift gillnet permit holders to commercially fish 36 hours per week in the outer portion of the Cinder River Section from June 20 to July 31. This proposal would also change the fishing period in the entire Cinder River Section during June 20 to July 31 from 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 6:00 p.m. Saturday, to 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Tuesday. After July 31, the weekly fishing period would remain from 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 6:00 p.m. Saturday. Drift gillnet gear would be the only gear allowed outside the Cinder River Lagoon, into which the Cinder River drains, from June 20 to July 31. This proposal would also change the management plan for the Cinder River Section so that commercial salmon fishing in the Cinder River Section may be modified based on conservation concerns for Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulation (5 AAC 09.310(a)(1)(B)) allows commercial salmon fishing throughout the Cinder River Section from August 1 to September 30. Fishing periods under 5 AAC 09.320(a)(3) are from 6:00 a.m. Thursday to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, and legal gear types in the Cinder River Section are drift gillnets or set gillnets (5 AAC 09.330(a)(1)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would allow Area M drift gillnet permit holders to commercially fish for salmon in the outer portion of the Cinder River Section from June 20 to July 31. Currently, only the inner lagoon portion of the Cinder River Section is open during this time. The fishing period would be 6:00 a.m. Monday to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, and based on sockeye salmon escapement into Cinder River. This proposal also includes language for protection of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks in other North Peninsula fishing areas, such as the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden sections. This proposal would reduce the time Area T (Bristol Bay) permit holders would be allowed to fish in the Cinder River Section from January 1 to June 19 from current regulations, which are from January 1 to June 30.

BACKGROUND: The outer portion of the Cinder River Section is open to commercial salmon fishing from August 1 to September 30 under a two-and-one-half day weekly fishing period.

The inner portion of the Cinder River Section, specifically Cinder River Lagoon, is open to commercial salmon fishing from May 1 to September 30, but drift or set gillnet gear has not proven to fish effectively. Even with weekly fishing periods, little or no harvest occurs in the Cinder River Section during the months of June and July. The sockeye salmon run likely starts in early June and ends the latter part of July. In some recent years, the escapement goal of 12,000–48,000 sockeye salmon has been exceeded, with over 100,000 fish entering the river (Table 200-1). Although weekly fishing periods occur during June and July, since statehood there has only been limited harvest during some years in the Cinder River Section.

The Cinder River Section is part of the overlap area that allows Area T (Bristol Bay) permit holders to fish in certain areas within the Alaska Peninsula Management Area (Figure 200-1). The overlap area consists of the Cinder River Section, Inner Port Heiden Section, and Ilnik Lagoon (5 AAC 39.120(d)). The overlap area was created shortly after statehood to allow Area T permit holders the opportunity to fish within their traditional harvest locations of Area M. Prior to limited entry in the 1970s, when not participating in the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fisheries, Port Heiden Area T permit holders fished for king and coho salmon in the Inner Port Heiden Section, and Pilot Point Area T permit holders fished inside the Cinder River Section for king and coho salmon.

Except during July, Area T permit holders are allowed to fish during the open season in the Inner Port Heiden and Cinder River sections. Area T permit holders are also allowed to fish in Ilnik Lagoon during August and September. In 1986, Area T fishermen started fishing in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden sections. In 1990, the Alaska Board of Fisheries excluded Area T permit holders from the Ilnik Section (except inside Ilnik Lagoon during August and September), and closed the Outer Port Heiden Section in August and September to all commercial salmon fishing by both Area M and Area T permit holders because of concern over potential interception of coho salmon bound for Inner Port Heiden (Meshik River). Since 2001, effort by both Area M and Area T permit holders in the overlap area has been minimal. In the 1980s and 1990s, most of the effort during August and September in the Cinder River Section has been from Area T permit holders.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests in the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections by temporal stratum for 2006 through 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008.* Appendix tables C105–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Nelson, Meshik, Ugashik) during each sampled temporal stratum, 2006–2008, in these fisheries. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks, among all strata combined, within a given year for these fisheries. Harvests and harvest rates of the Cinder River stock in specific area strata of each fishery, all temporal strata combined, are in appendix tables F 40–42. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, among all temporal strata combined for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in WASSIP report SP12-24, tables 45–59.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. Adoption of this proposal would likely provide harvest opportunity on Cinder River salmon and help control surplus escapement into the system, but will likely include harvest of Bristol Bay salmon stocks as well.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 200-1.–Cinder River sockeye salmon escapement and goals, 2003–2012.

Year	Escapement	Goal
2003	102,700	6,000 to 12,000
2004	58,050	
2005	141,000	
2006	101,100	
2007	142,000	12,000 to 48,000
2008	129,800	
2009	133,600	
2010	108,900	
2011	106,000	
2012	76,620	
2003–2012 avg	109,977	

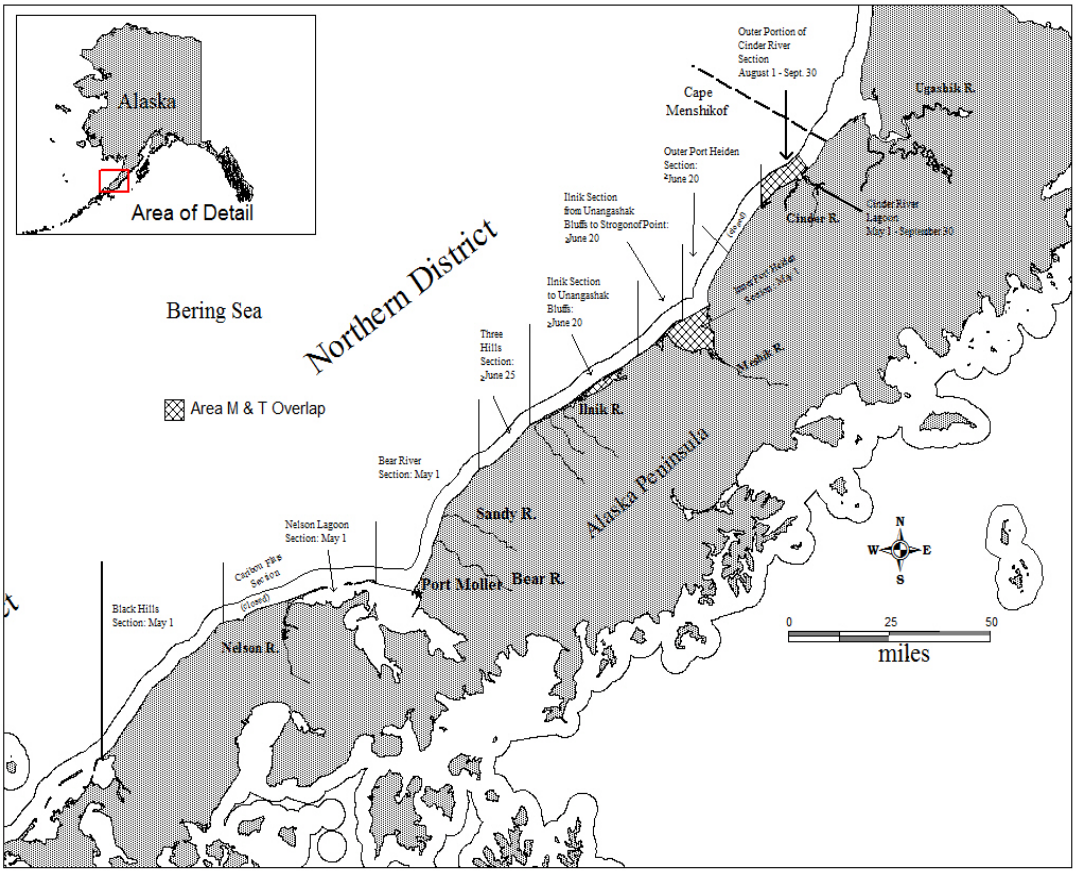


Figure 200-1.–Northern District showing fishing sections and opening dates of commercial salmon fisheries, with existing areas M and T overlap area in crosshatch.

PROPOSAL 203 – 5 AAC 09.369(k) and (l). Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. *(This proposal was heard at the Bristol Bay meeting, but will be deliberated upon at the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands meeting.)*

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Johnson.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the size of the Inner Port Heiden Section by closing the Outer Port Heiden Section and enlarging the size of Inner Port Heiden Section to a line one mile offshore to the southern boundary of Strogonof Point and to the northeast eight miles to a point on the beach near Reindeer Creek (Figure 203-1). The newly expanded Inner Port Heiden Section would be open to commercial salmon fishing from May through October. This proposal would allow Area T (Bristol Bay) set and drift gillnet permit holders to fish in this area and be superexclusive for Area T permit holders.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulation for Outer Port Heiden Section allows Area M drift gillnet fishermen to fish during open periods from June 20 to July 31 (5 AAC 09.310(a)(2)(B)) and allows the fleet to fish to within three miles of shore. The Inner Port Heiden Section is part of the Area M and Area T overlap area that consists of the Cinder River Section, Inner Port Heiden Section, and Ilnik Lagoon (5 AAC 39.120(d)). The overlap area was created shortly after statehood to allow Area T permit holders the opportunity to fish within their traditional harvest locations of Area M. Historically, when not participating in the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fisheries, Port Heiden Area T permit holders fished for king salmon in May and June and coho salmon in August and September in the Inner Port Heiden Section, and Pilot Point Area T permit holders fished inside the Cinder River Section for king and coho salmon. Area M permit holders are allowed to fish in the Inner Port Heiden Section during every month. Area T permit holders are allowed to fish within the Inner Port Heiden Section during every month except July. There are no superexclusive fishing areas within Area M.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would close the Outer Port Heiden Section and reduce the size of the area that Area M drift gillnet permit holders can fish by approximately 66 percent by not allowing fishing beyond one mile from shore. It would increase the size of the Inner Port Heiden Section, and, if adopted, would incorporate some of the current Outer Port Heiden Section to one mile offshore instead of the three miles currently open. This proposal would also allow set gillnet permit holders to fish in a portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section where they are not currently allowed to fish. This proposal would allow Area T permit holders, both set and drift gillnet, to fish in the newly-expanded Inner Port Heiden Section during the months of May through October when commercial fishery openings are announced. More fishing effort likely would occur since Area M set gillnet gear could participate, as well as areas M and T set and drift gillnet permit holders. For Area T permit holders, it would be a superexclusive fishery. The proposal would increase the time, from June 20 to July 31 to January 1 to December 31, which fishing would be permitted in part of the current Outer Port Heiden Section. The newly-expanded Inner Port Heiden Section would also be open from January 1 to December 31, which is more than the current duration of June 20 to July 31.

BACKGROUND: In 2007, the Alaska Board of Fisheries opened a portion of Outer Port Heiden Section to harvest sockeye salmon bound for Meshik River. Currently, by regulation, Outer Port Heiden Section can be open from June 20 until July 31. Area T permit holders are allowed to fish in some areas of Area M to target king and coho salmon stocks, but not sockeye salmon.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests in the Outer Port Heiden Section by temporal stratum for 2007 and 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008.* Appendix tables C142–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Ugashik, Meshik, and Cinder) in the Outer Port Heiden Section during three time periods in June and July, 2007 and 2008. Appendix tables D52–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks among all strata combined within a given year for this fishery. Harvest and harvest rate data in the Outer Port Heiden Section for 2007 and 2008 among all temporal strata combined for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Meshik) can be found in report SP12-24, tables 58 and 59. Harvests and harvest rates of Ugashik stock in broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., North Alaska Peninsula) can be found in tables 141–143. (No WASSIP sampling occurred in the Outer Port Heiden Section in 2006 because the area was closed to commercial salmon fishing.)

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is concerned about potentially increasing the number of drift and set gillnet permit holders fishing in the expanded Inner Port Heiden Section by allowing all Area T permit holders access to an area, which will complicate management of the fishery.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

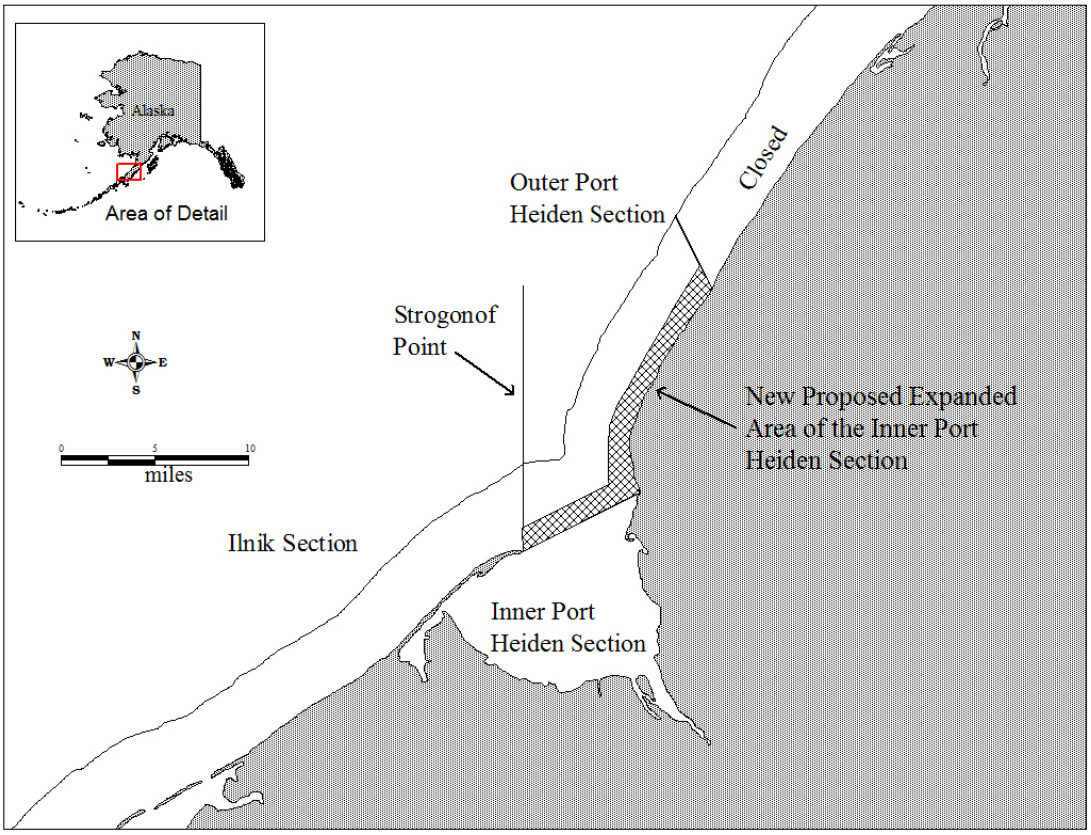


Figure 203-1.–Proposed expansion of the Inner Port Heiden Section shown in crosshatch.

PROPOSAL 204 – 5 AAC 09.369(k) and (l). Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. *(This proposal was heard at the Bristol Bay meeting, but will be deliberated upon at the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands meeting.)*

PROPOSED BY: Jaclyn Christensen.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the size of the Inner Port Heiden Section to a line one mile offshore to the southern boundary of Stroganof Point and to the northeast eight miles to a point on the beach near Reindeer Creek. The Outer Port Heiden Section would remain open to Area M drift gillnet permits, but would be reduced in size since the proposed Inner Port Heiden Section would include only the one mile nearshore waters. The newly-expanded Inner Port Heiden Section would be open to commercial salmon fishing during May through October to both Area M and Area T (Bristol Bay) set and drift gillnet permit holders. However, this proposal would allow Area T set and drift gillnet permit holders to fish in this area and be superexclusive for Area T permit holders from June 25 to July 31.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulation for Outer Port Heiden Section allows Area M drift gillnet fishermen to fish during open periods from June 20 to July 31 (5 AAC 09.310(a)(2)(B)) and allows the fleet to fish to within three miles of shore. The Inner Port Heiden Section is part of the Area M and Area T overlap area that consists of the Cinder River Section, Inner Port Heiden Section, and Ilnik Lagoon (5 AAC 39.120(d)). The overlap area was created shortly after statehood to allow Area T permit holders the opportunity to fish within their traditional harvest locations of Area M. Historically, when not participating in the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fisheries, Port Heiden Area T permit holders fished for king salmon in May and June, and coho salmon in August and September in the Inner Port Heiden Section; Pilot Point Area T permit holders fished inside the Cinder River Section for king and coho salmon. Area M permit holders are allowed to fish in the Inner Port Heiden Section during every month. There are no superexclusive areas within Area M.

The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfish in the Alaska Peninsula Area, and has found that 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses (5 AAC 01.416).

In the Alaska Peninsula Area, a subsistence salmon permit is required, and subsistence fishing in commercial districts is closed 24 hours before and 12 hours following a commercial salmon fishing period. No subsistence fishery closures have occurred in the Inner Port Heiden Section.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal maintains the existing Outer Port Heiden Section, but reduces the size to include only the seaward two miles. The department may open the Outer Port Heiden Section from June 20 to July 31 if harvest levels or effort are not sufficient to control Meshik River sockeye salmon stocks. If adopted, this proposal would increase the size of the Inner Port Heiden Section by incorporating some of the current Outer Port Heiden Section to one mile offshore. More fishing effort likely will occur since Area M set gillnet gear could participate, as well as areas M and T set and drift gillnet permit holders. This proposal would allow set gillnet permit holders who are currently not allowed in the Outer Port Heiden Section into the area. This proposal would also

allow Area T permit holders, both set and drift gillnet, to fish in the newly-expanded Inner Port Heiden Section during the months of May through October when commercial fishery openings are announced. For Area T permit holders, it would be superexclusive from June 25 to July 31.

BACKGROUND: In 2007, the Alaska Board of Fisheries opened a portion of Outer Port Heiden Section to harvest sockeye salmon bound for Meshik River. Currently, by regulation, the Outer Port Heiden Section can be open from June 20 until July 31, and fishing time is limited to a maximum of two and one-half days per week. Adoption of this proposal would reduce the size of the existing Outer Port Heiden Section by closing the waters within one mile of shore, but then expand the Inner Port Heiden Section by incorporating that part of the Outer Port Heiden Section in both size and in time the fleets would be able to fish. Area T permit holders are allowed to fish in some areas of Area M to target king and coho salmon stocks, but not sockeye salmon.

In 1987, the last year for which comprehensive household surveys were done, Port Heiden residents harvested an estimated 186 king salmon and 702 coho salmon (Table 204-1). Subsistence fishing permit returns from 2007, when the Outer Port Heiden Section opened to commercial salmon fishery, to 2011 (the latest year data are available) show an average of 19 subsistence permits per year issued and the estimated harvest of 110 king, 1,306 sockeye, 223 coho, 15 pink, and 23 chum salmon (Table 204-1). In 2008, the local tribal council staff started issuing subsistence permits to the community of Port Heiden.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests in the Outer Port Heiden Section by temporal stratum for 2007 and 2008 can be found in report SP12-24, *Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008.* Appendix tables C142–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Ugashik, Meshik, and Cinder) in the Outer Port Heiden Section during three time periods in June and July, 2007 and 2008. Appendix tables D52–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks, among all strata combined, within a given year for this fishery. Harvest and harvest rate data in the Outer Port Heiden Section for 2007 and 2008, among all temporal strata combined, for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Meshik) can be found in report SP12-24, tables 58 and 59. Harvests and harvest rates of Ugashik stock in broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., North Alaska Peninsula) can be found in tables 141–143. (No WASSIP sampling occurred in the Outer Port Heiden Section in 2006 because the area was closed to commercial salmon fishing.)

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is concerned about potentially increasing the number of drift and set gillnet permit holders fishing in the expanded Inner Port Heiden Section; allowing all Area T permit holders access to this area may complicate management of the fishery.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 204-1.–Estimated subsistence salmon harvests, Port Heiden residents, 1985–2011, permit returns.

Year	Permits Issued	Estimated Harvest King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Port Heiden Local Residents							
1985	6	9	176	0	0	0	185
1986	4	28	282	0	0	0	310
1987[a]	10	186	527	702	4	0	1,419
1988	10	69	268	134	23	105	599
1989	4	7	222	28	1	4	262
1990	3	21	107	20	0	27	175
1991	6	39	375	25	3	120	562
1992	3	21	104	10	0	25	160
1993	3	80	71	0	0	0	151
1994	2	24	196	0	0	50	270
1995	3	50	119	160	0	0	329
1996	4	22	221	51	0	1	295
1997	4	2	24	40	0	0	66
1998	3	26	100	100	0	0	226
1999	3	25	245	60	0	0	330
2000	3	6	0	21	0	0	27
2001	3	64	132	50	0	10	256
2002	3	120	34	50	0	6	210
2003	3	101	7	40	0	6	154
2004	3	60	80	0	0	0	140
2005	3	0	375	0	0	0	375
2006	2	0	0	30	0	0	30
2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	28	182	1,023	813	33	62	2,113
2009	29	206	1,157	69	0	0	1,432
2010	28	153	1,904	234	41	51	2,383
2011	12	10	2,448	0	0	0	2,458
2007–2011 Average	19	110	1,306	223	15	23	1,677

[a] Data based on an updated subsistence survey.

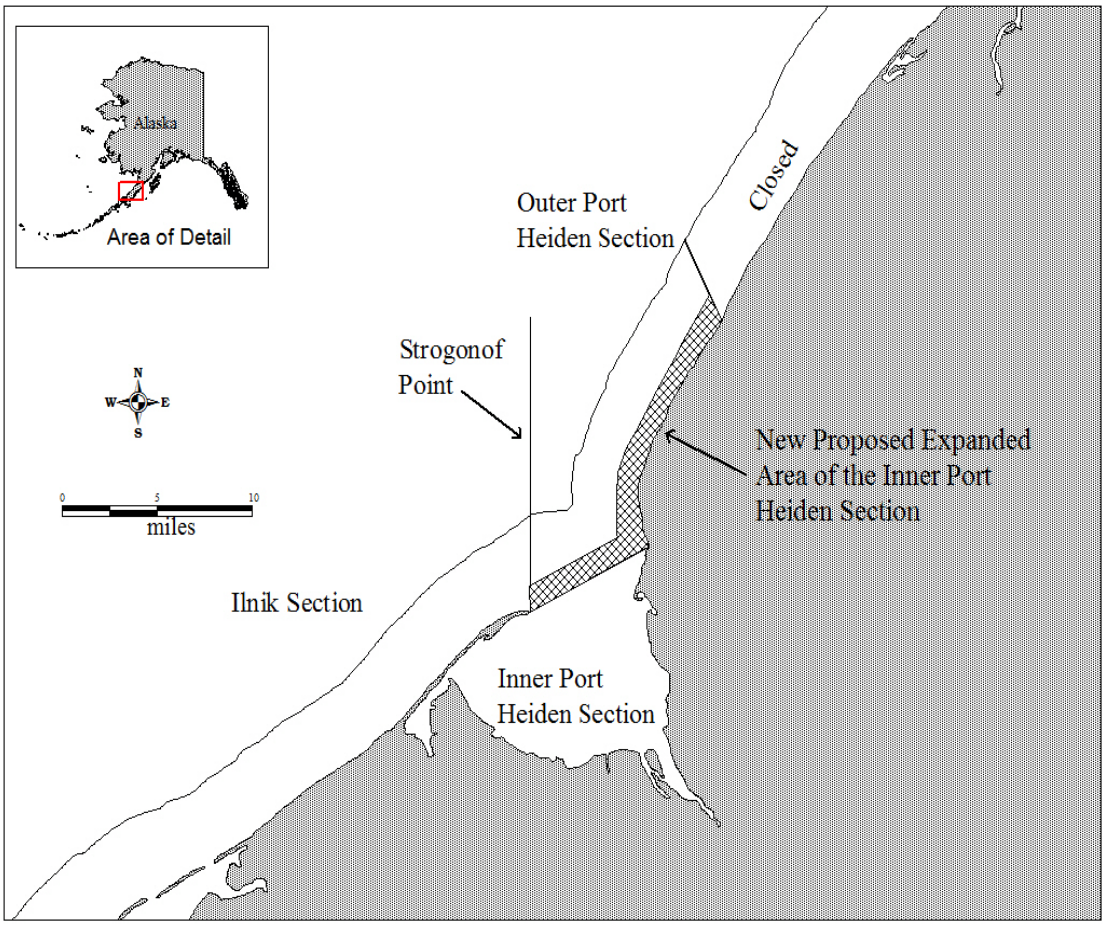


Figure 204-1.–Proposed expansion of the Inner Port Heiden Section shown in crosshatch.

Commercial Gear (1)

PROPOSAL 197 – 5 AAC 09.331(a)(4) and (b)(4). Gillnet Specifications and Operations.

PROPOSED BY: Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? If adopted, this proposal would change the gillnet gear mesh-depth limit in the Northern District to 45 meshes.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.331(a)(4), in the Northern District, a drift gillnet may not exceed 70 meshes in depth, except that in the Nelson Lagoon Section, a drift gillnet may not exceed 29 meshes in depth before August 16, and 38 meshes in depth from August 16 through September 30; a drift gillnet may have only one leadline, which may not exceed 60 fathoms per 50 fathoms of corkline, and no portion of the leadline may exceed 1.5 pounds per fathom.

Under 5 AAC 09.331(b)(4), in the Northern District, maximum depth of a set gillnet may not exceed 70 meshes in depth, except that in the Nelson Lagoon Section, a set gillnet may not exceed 29 meshes in depth.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would change drift and set gillnet maximum mesh depth in the Northern District to 45 meshes in depth. There would be a decrease in mesh-size depth of drift gillnets in most of the Northern District, from 70 meshes to 45 meshes, except in the Nelson Lagoon Section, where the maximum depth of drift gillnets would increase from 29 meshes or 38 meshes (depending on the date) to 45 meshes all season. For set gillnet gear throughout the Northern District, mesh-size depth would decrease from 70 meshes in depth to 45 meshes, except in the Nelson Lagoon Section, where the depth would increase from 29 meshes in depth to 45 meshes. Drift and set gillnet gear effectiveness would be reduced throughout the Northern District, except in Nelson Lagoon, where drift and set gillnet gear effectiveness would increase. There would be a reallocation of harvest from one gear to another, depending upon the area fished.

BACKGROUND: The Northern District stretches from Moffet Point to Cape Menshikof and encompasses many different fisheries, including king and coho salmon fisheries in some locations; chum and pink salmon fisheries in Herendeen and Moller bays; and sockeye salmon fisheries in Black Hills, Nelson Lagoon, Bear River, Three Hills, Ilnik, Outer Port Heiden, Inner Port Heiden, and Cinder River sections (Figure 197-1). Drift and set gillnet gears are allowed in many areas and gillnet requirements vary throughout the area. Per 5 AAC 09.331(a)(4) and (b)(4), gillnet mesh size depth varies throughout the Northern District.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is **OPPOSED** to aspects of this proposal which may result in surplus escapement and/or lost harvest opportunity.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is expected to result in some additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery since set and gillnet fishermen would have to reduce or purchase gillnets to conform to the 45-mesh depth.

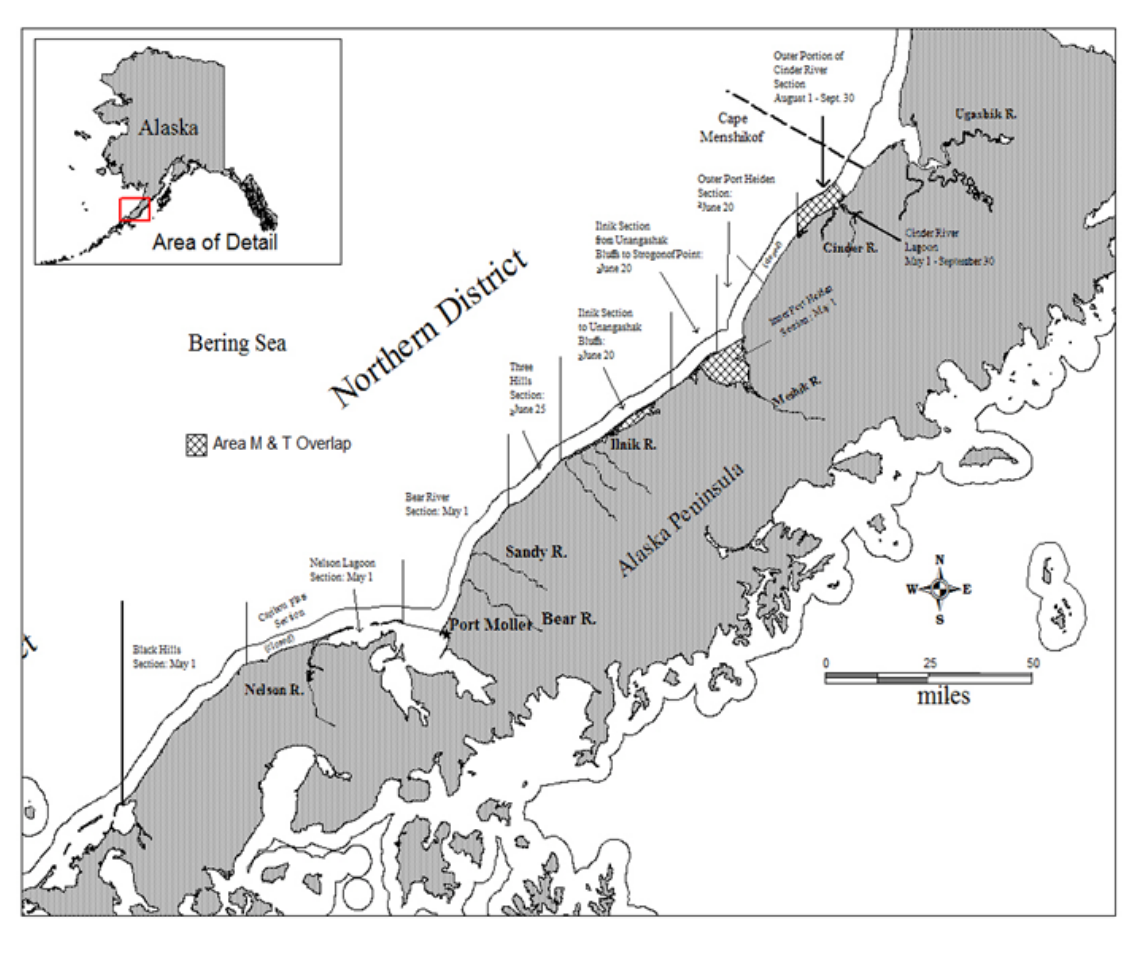


Figure 197-1.–Northern District showing fishing sections and opening dates of commercial salmon fisheries.

Commercial Closed Waters (1)

PROPOSAL 192 – 5 AAC 09.350(18)(A). Closed waters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to amend the closed water definition at Christianson Lagoon to better define closed waters, as determined by the current lagoon exit channel. This proposal also seeks to correct the spelling in regulation.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? As stated in 5 AAC 09.350(18)(A), Christianson's Lagoon is described as waters of the lagoon and its exit channel upstream from a point located above the exit channel terminus at the ocean shoreline.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Adoption of this proposal will provide protection for salmon returning to Christianson Lagoon by closing waters within 500 yards of the Christianson Lagoon exit channel terminus at the ocean shoreline. Adjusting the closed waters will codify actions taken by the department annually since 2008 and provide a definition of closed waters for Christianson Lagoon consistent with other closed-water regulations on the Alaska Peninsula. The proposal also corrects spelling in regulation from "Christianson's Lagoon" to "Christianson Lagoon".

BACKGROUND: Fishermen primarily target sockeye salmon bound for Christianson Lagoon in the Urilia Bay Section of the Northwestern District (Figure 192-1) from late June through early August. Historically, the fishery was on a weekly schedule from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, once the season was opened by emergency order (EO). In 2007, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adjusted the regulations to allow commercial salmon fishing periods to be established by EO only.

Prior to 2008, fishermen were able to access the exit channel of Christianson Lagoon and still be outside of historically-protected closed waters. This side channel was used primarily by fishermen to hold up in a protected area during adverse weather conditions. During the 2008 season, it was observed during an aerial survey that the Christianson Lagoon exit channel had been blocked to the ocean and a new exit channel had formed. The new ocean shoreline was within one-quarter mile of historically-protected closed waters. To protect the anadromous waters of Christianson Lagoon, the department has placed 500-yard closed-water markers around the exit channel terminus at the ocean shoreline annually since 2008. These 500-yard closed-water markers are consistent with other closed waters throughout the Alaska Peninsula.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Adoption of this proposal would be consistent with actions taken by the department annually since 2008.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

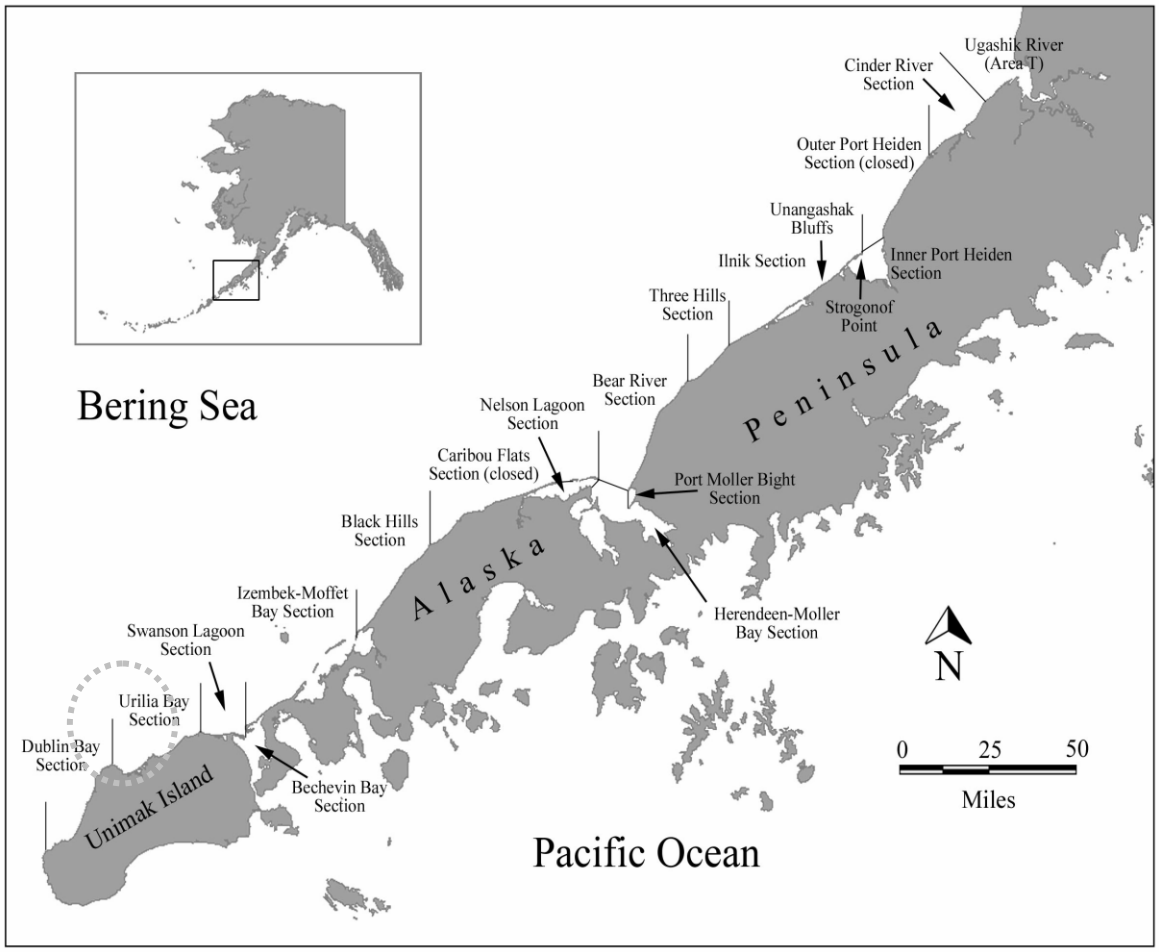


Figure 192-1.–Map of the Alaska Peninsula with North Alaska Peninsula management sections depicted. Urilia Bay section is highlighted.

Sport Fish (2)

PROPOSAL 212 – 5 AAC 65.022. Special Provisions for methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutians Islands Area.

PROPOSED BY: Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Adoption of this proposal would restrict the Sapsuk (Nelson) River king salmon sport fishery to nonretention, single hook, artificial lure.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The bag limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in fresh waters is two per day, two in possession, with a five fish annual limit. The bag limit for king salmon less than 20 inches in length is 10 per day, 10 in possession; no annual limit.

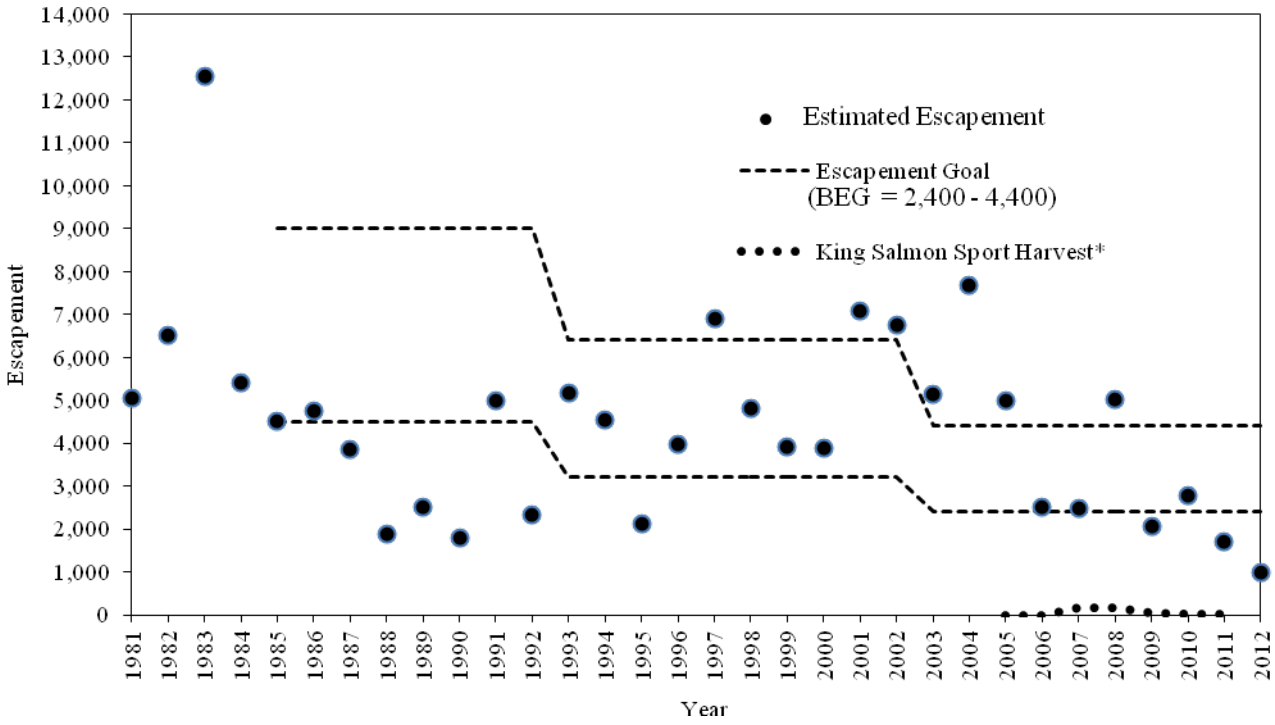
WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would **e**liminate sport harvest of Nelson River king salmon. Mortality of Nelson River drainage king salmon would not be significantly reduced as a result of adoption of this proposal, due to low participation and harvest in the sport fishery. It would also create an additional special exception to area regulations within the Alaska Peninsula.

BACKGROUND: The Nelson River king salmon sport fishery is characterized by low participation. Very few unguided anglers fish in this remote fishery and only one or two local guides operate in the area. Due to low levels of participation, annual harvest estimates from the Statewide Harvest Survey of Nelson River king salmon are not available, and specific logbook records for guided anglers are confidential. A large majority of the reported logbook catch of king salmon are released.

Escapements of Nelson River king salmon have declined from historical levels, with the biological escapement goal of 2,400–4,400 only achieved once since 2009 (Figure 212-1). Management actions by the department in response to low escapements included inseason closures of the sport fishery in 2010 and 2012.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal from biological and management standpoints since current regulations provide emergency order authority to enact measures needed for conservation of the Nelson River king salmon run, and because it would add regulatory complexity. If the Nelson River king salmon run continues to decline, despite management actions, the department will consider recommending it as a stock of concern at the next Alaska Peninsula board meeting cycle.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.



* Guided angler harvests recorded in ADF&G logbooks, 2005–2011.

Figure 212-1.–Nelson River king salmon escapement and commercial and sport harvest, 1981–2012.

PROPOSAL 213 – 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area and 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. *(This proposal was addressed in the Bristol Bay meeting and will be deliberated at the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands meeting.)*

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Adoption of this proposal would reduce the bag limit for coho salmon in the Cinder River from five per day, five in possession, to one per day, one in possession.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The bag limit for coho salmon in the Cinder River is the general limit for the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area of five per day, five in possession.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This would create a special exception to the Alaska Peninsula sport fishing bag limits that would reduce the opportunity to harvest and possess coho salmon. The harvest of coho salmon would likely be reduced in the Cinder River. Effort and harvest would likely increase in other areas where the bag limit is more than one coho salmon.

BACKGROUND: Escapement of coho salmon in the Cinder River drainage (Figure 213-1) is estimated with aerial surveys (Table 213-1). Estimated escapement has ranged from 5,000 fish in 2007 to 49,000 fish in 2004. The Statewide Harvest Survey does not capture the sport harvest on the Cinder River due to a low number of responses indicative of low effort.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal because there would be little biological benefit; current coho salmon sport harvest is low and escapements have been adequate. This proposal would reduce angler opportunity in a remote fishery and create an additional regulatory exception.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in the fishery.

Table 213-1.–Estimated Cinder River drainage coho escapements based on aerial surveys 2003–2012.

Year	Count
2003	38,000
2004	49,000
2005	23,000
2006	9,000
2007	5,000
2008	22,500
2009	35,000
2010	26,000
2011	14,000
2012	47,000
Average	26,850

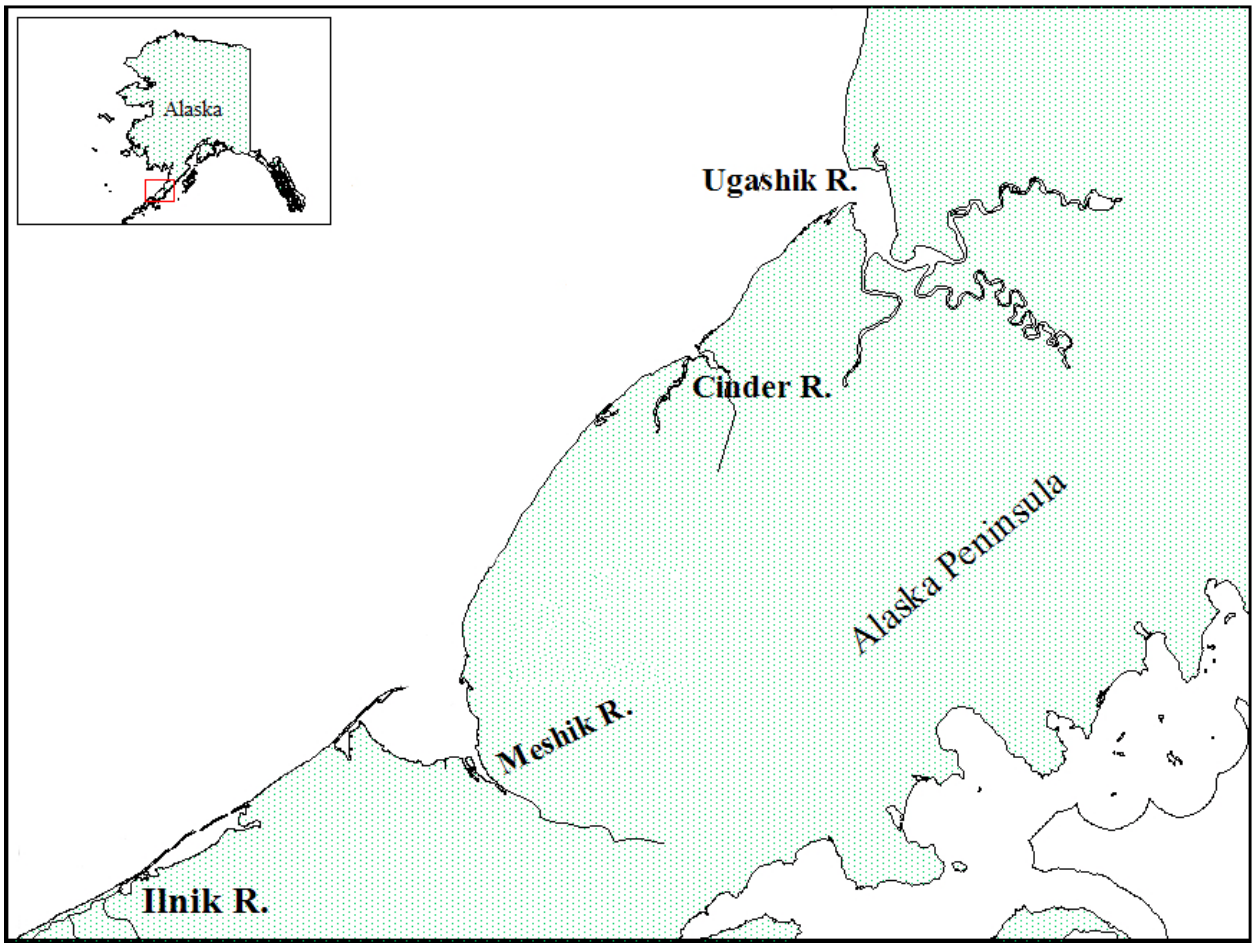


Figure 213-1.–Location of Cinder River drainage on the Northern Alaska Peninsula.

Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Salmon (1)

Subsistence, Sport, and Personal Use (1)

PROPOSAL 214 – 5AAC 01.425. Waters closed to subsistence fishing; 5 AAC 65.051(4). Waters closed to sport fishing in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area; 5 AAC 77.3XX. Waters closed to personal use fishing in the Alaska Peninsula Area. Close the Iliuliuk River upstream of the Church Hole to subsistence, sport, and personal use fishing for coho salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Steven J. Gregory.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Adoption of this proposal would close most of the Illiuliuk Lake drainage (also known as Unalaska Lake) year-round to sport fishing for coho salmon.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Coho salmon bag limits for the Illiuliuk Lake drainage are five per day, five in possession; no size limit. The Church Hole is closed to sport fishing from June 15 through September 15. All waters upstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the upstream terminus of Church Hole to the downstream edge of Illiuliuk Bridge are closed to sport fishing year-round (Figure 214-2), and all flowing waters draining into Illiuliuk Lake are closed to sport fishing from August 1 through December 31.

Waters of Unalaska Lake (at the city of Unalaska), its tributaries, and outlet stream are already closed to subsistence and personal use fishing for salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would close Illiuliuk River from the Iliuliuk Bridge upstream to the outlet of Unalaska Lake to sport fishing for coho salmon year-round. It would continue to allow fishing for coho salmon from the river mouth upstream to a pool known locally as the "Church Hole". It is unclear whether current harvest levels of Illiuliuk River drainage coho salmon would be reduced as a result of adopting this proposal.

BACKGROUND: The Illiuliuk River drainage supports a small run of coho salmon which are harvested in fresh waters by anglers and taken occasionally in a gillnet subsistence fishery occurring within Unalaska Bay. There is no directed commercial harvest of this run. Escapement surveys have been conducted since 1990, but have not been timed specifically for coho salmon and do not provide a reliable index of escapement other than to verify that the run is small. Due to the lack of available stock assessment information, currently there is not an established escapement goal for this run.

Sport fishing effort is relatively low and comprised entirely of unguided anglers. Due to low levels of participation, published harvest estimates of Illiuliuk River coho salmon from the department's Statewide Harvest Survey are not available.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Restrictions to this fishery are warranted due to low numbers of coho salmon observed in the drainage and its proximity to the community of Unalaska. Current closures in the Illiulik River were adopted to protect salmon. The section of river between Church Hole and the Iliuliuk Bridge is closed to all sport fishing, and the entire drainage is closed to fishing for sockeye salmon. The department recommends simplifying the regulatory closures that have occurred over the years and supports closing the entire Illiulik drainage upstream of the Church Hole to sport fishing for salmon. Additionally, the department supports reducing the bag limit for coho salmon in the fishery downstream of the Church Hole to two per day, two in possession to further conserve salmon and create bag limits more consistent with other roadside coho salmon fisheries. Waters addressed by this proposal are already closed to subsistence and personal use fishing.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

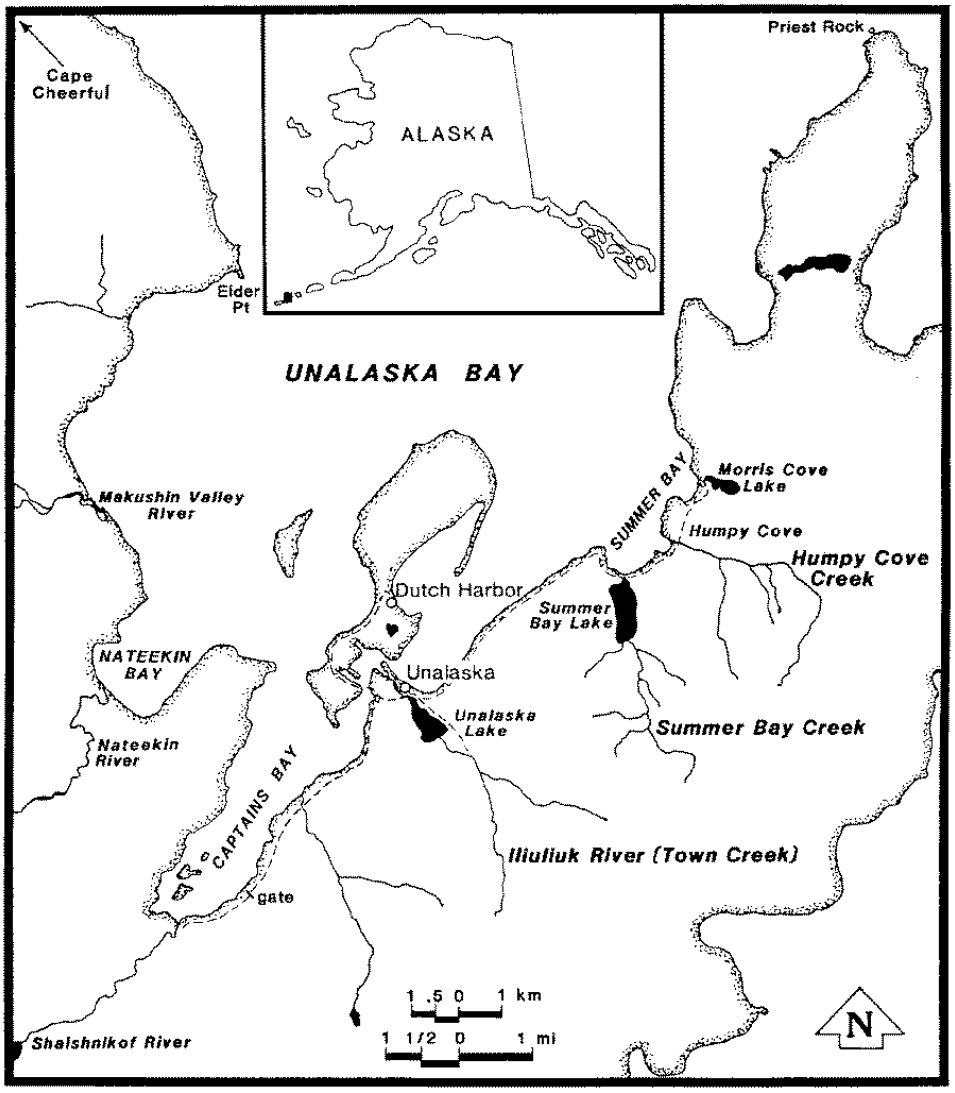


Figure 214-1.–Location of Unalaska Lake and Iliulik River.

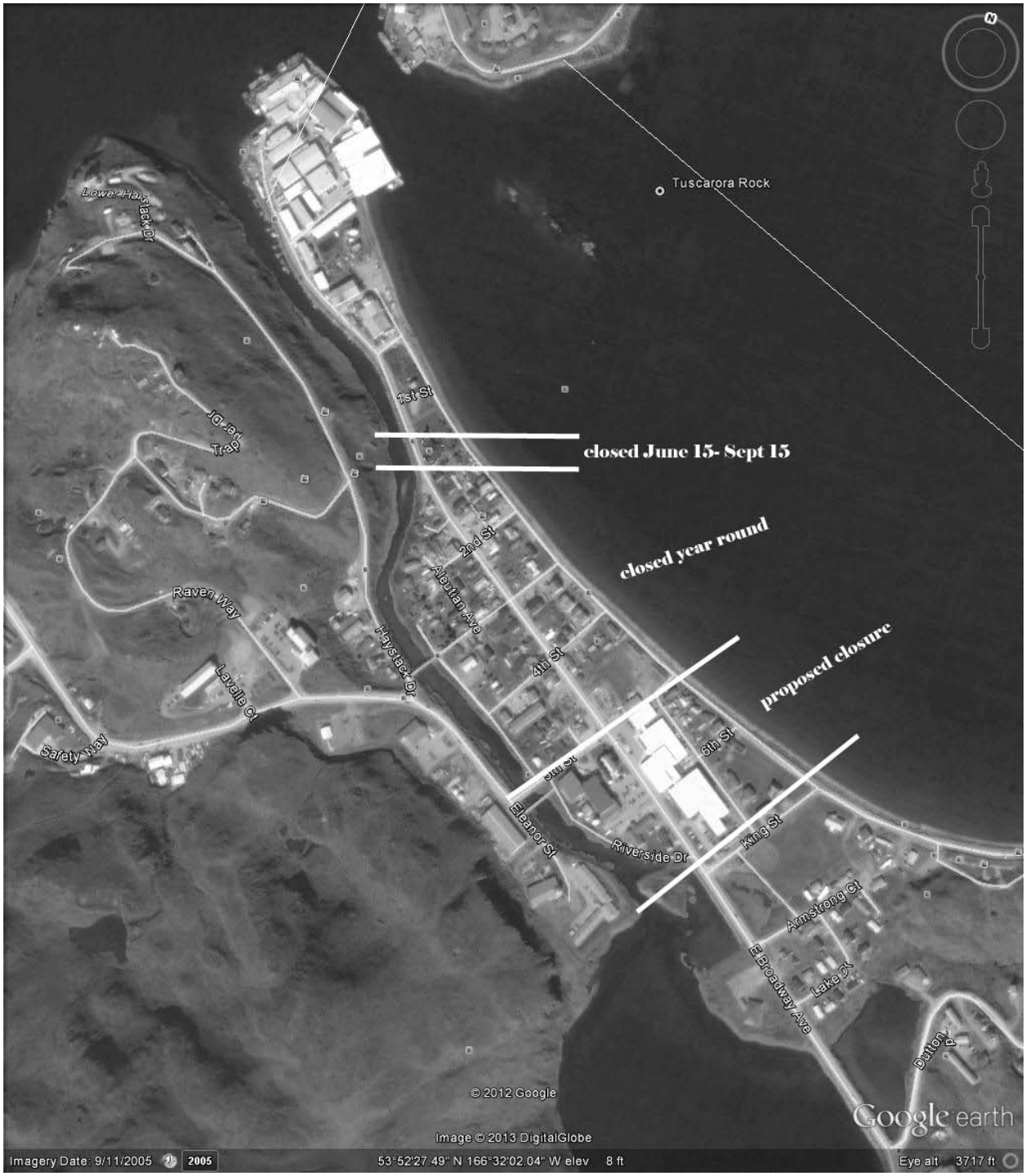


Figure 214-2.–Map of Unalaska Lake/Iliulik River Drainage.