

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AND ATKA-AMLIA ISLANDS AREAS
SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2004



By

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Regional Information Report¹ No. 4K04-10

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

March 2004

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ABSTRACT

This document outlines the regulations for commercial salmon fishing in the Aleutian Islands and Atka-Amlia Management Areas. This plan is intended as a guide for commercial harvesters, buyers, and tender operators. Information regarding specific commercial salmon openings should be received from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) prior to fishing. A harvestable surplus of pink salmon *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha* is anticipated in the Aleutian Islands in 2004, due to healthy escapements observed in 2002. Atka-Amlia Islands escapements in 2002 are not known. Commercial fishermen intending to harvest salmon in the Atka–Amlia Islands Area need to register with ADF&G offices in Cold Bay, Dutch Harbor, Sand Point or other locations designated by the department, at least 48 hours prior to fishing.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA
(Excluding Atka-Amlia Islands Area)

The Aleutian Islands Area includes all state waters of the Aleutian Islands west of Cape Sarichef Light (on Unimak Island) and west of a line extending from Scotch Cap through the easternmost tip of Ugamak Island to 172°50'.00 W long. (Sequam Pass) and all state waters of the Aleutian Islands west of 175°23'.00 W long. (Atka Pass) to the international date line (Figure 1).

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

A harvestable surplus of pink salmon *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha* is anticipated in the Aleutian Islands Area during 2004 as escapements (based on limited data) were strong during 2002. The Unalaska District is the only district in the Aleutian Islands Management Area that has produced commercial harvests in the last 30 years. There are local sockeye salmon *O. nerka* runs in the Unalaska District, however, due to the remoteness of the fishery and usual small size of the stocks, the sockeye salmon harvest is expected to be minimal.

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

The entire Aleutian Islands Area will open to commercial salmon fishing from 6:00 AM Monday July 12 until 6:00 PM Friday July 16 as established by regulation (5 AAC 12.320). Fishing periods will be established only by emergency order after July 18.

Fishermen are reminded that in January 1998, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) expanded the waters closed to commercial salmon fishing in the two following locations in the Unalaska District:

- (1) Iliuliuk Harbor vicinity, near the City of Unalaska (Figure 2):

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

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

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

The Humpback Bay closed waters may be reduced by emergency order if the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) can document an adequate pink salmon escapement into the streams at the head of the bay.

A complete description of closed waters in the Aleutian Islands Area is listed in the current (2001-04) regulation book (5 AAC 12.350).

ATKA-AMLIA AREA

In November 1991 the BOF created an experimental open-to-entry set gillnet salmon fishery around Atka and Amlia Islands. The Atka-Amlia Islands Management Area (Area F) is bounded by 172°50'.00 W long. (Sequam Pass) on the east and 175°23'.00 W long. (Atka Pass) on the west (Figures 1 and 4). In addition to set gillnet gear, CFEC Area M purse seine permit holders may also harvest salmon in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area.

Area F set gillnet permit holders and each Area M seine permit holder intending to commercially harvest salmon in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area must register each vessel they will operate with ADF&G. Salmon buyers, processors, and vessels acting as salmon tenders are also required to register prior to operating in the Atka-Amlia Area. Participants can register by contacting the ADF&G office in Cold Bay, Dutch Harbor, Sand Point, or other locations designated by the department, at least 48 hours prior to commercial salmon fishing in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area. The addresses and phone numbers for the Cold Bay, Dutch Harbor, and Sand Point ADF&G offices are as follows:

ADF&G P.O. Box 50 Cold Bay, AK 99571 Phone: 532-2419 Fax: 532-2470	ADF&G P.O. Box 920587 Dutch Harbor, AK 99692 Phone: 581-1219 Fax: 581-1572	ADF&G P.O. Box 129 Sand Point, AK 99661 Phone: 383-2066 Fax: 383-2606
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The department has not projected the size of the 2004 Atka-Amlia Islands Area pink salmon run.

The Atka-Amilia Islands Area fishing season is from August 1 through August 31. Fishing periods will be from 6:00 AM until 6:00 PM during Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (5 AAC 11.321). All waters within 500 yards of the mouth of all salmon streams are closed to commercial salmon fishing. Fishing time and closed waters may be adjusted inseason based on catch and escapement information.

Purse seine gear specifications are the same for the Atka-Amlia Islands and Aleutian Islands Areas. Purse seines and hand purse seines may not be less than 100 fathoms nor more than 250 fathoms in length. No lead may be less than 25 fathoms nor more than 150 fathoms in length (5 AAC 11.335).

Set gillnet specifications are in (5 AAC 11.334):

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

2. A set gillnet must be operated in a substantially straight line, with no more than 25 fathoms of the offshore end set in any configuration.
3. The mesh size of a set gillnet shall not exceed five inches.
4. The maximum depth of a set gillnet shall not exceed 90 meshes.
5. Twenty-five fathoms of seine webbing may be used as a lead, and may be attached only to the shoreward end of a set gillnet; the shoreward end of the lead or gillnet must be attached to the beach above high tide.
6. During hours of darkness, each set gillnet must be marked with at least one red light on the seaward end of the net.
7. No vessel used for set gillnet fishing may exceed 29 feet in overall length (5 AAC 11.342).

Salmon caught for commercial fishing bait must be harvested following the specifications listed above. Salmon taken under subsistence regulations may not be used as bait for commercial fishing purposes as stated in 5 AAC 01.010 (m).

All catch reports by processors shall be phoned or faxed to the ADF&G office in Cold Bay by 10:00AM the morning following a commercial salmon fishing period. The catch report shall list the number of salmon and pounds purchased by species and the number of permit holders making deliveries. Fishermen who do not sell their fish, but retain them for bait are also required to phone or fax a catch report to the Cold Bay office 10:00 AM the morning following a fishing period.

GPS COORDINATES AND ENFORCEMENT

At the February 2004 meeting, the BOF adopted a regulation stating that all latitude and longitude coordinates in Aleutian Islands and Atka-Amlia Islands Areas will be determined and enforced by the Global Positioning System (GPS).

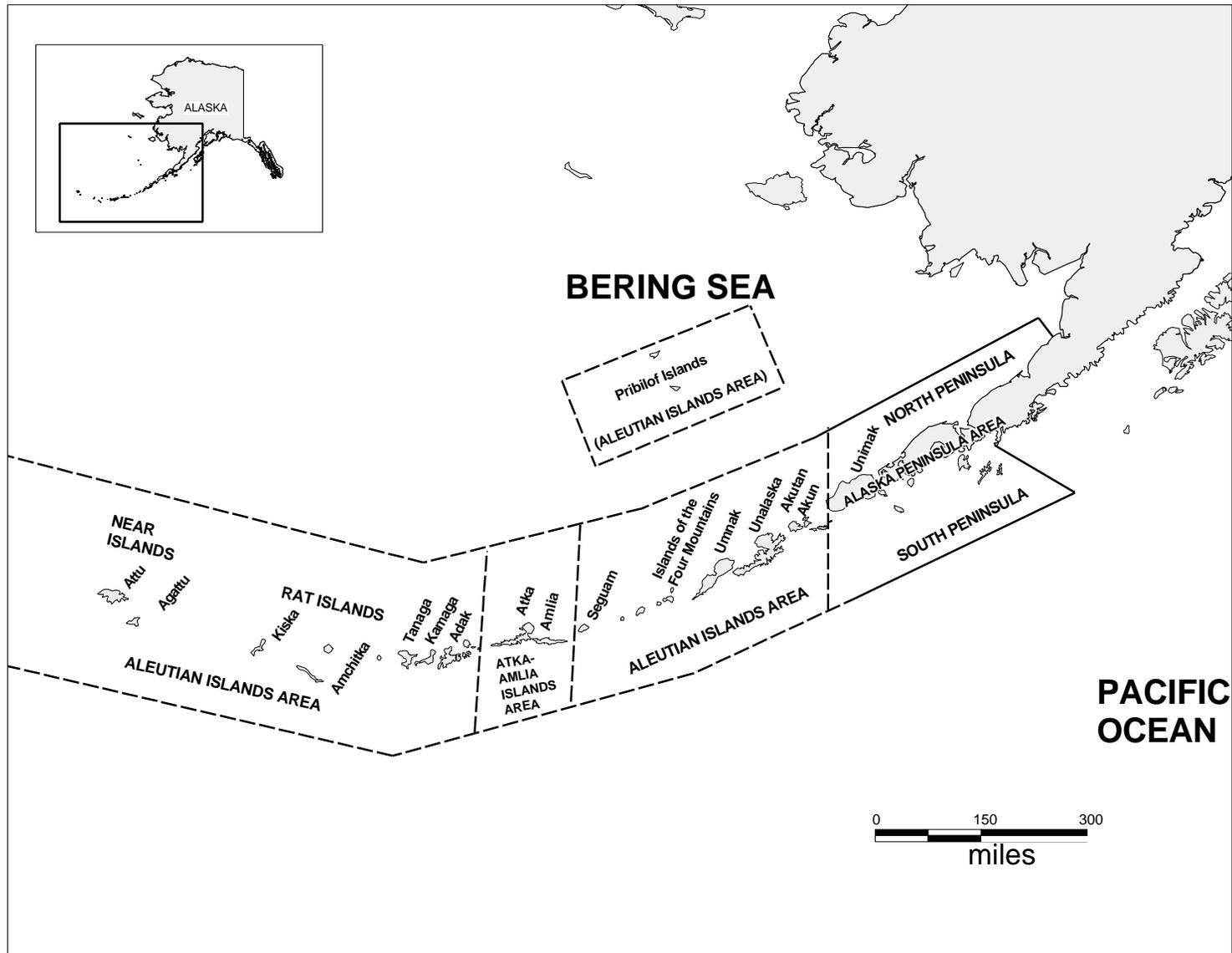


Figure 1. Map of the Aleutian Islands, Atka-Amlia Islands, and Alaska Peninsula Areas.

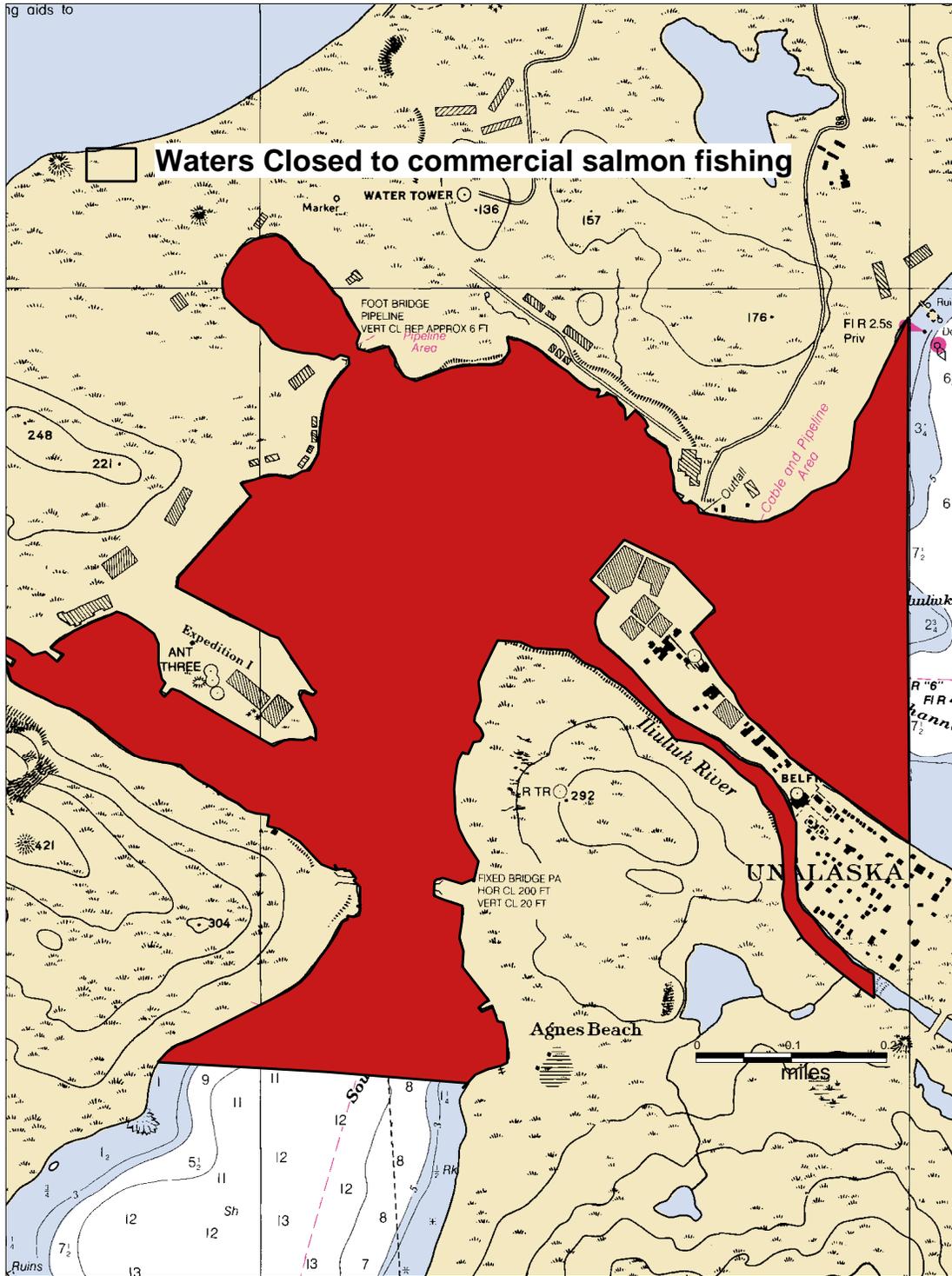


Figure 2. Map of waters closed to commercial salmon fishing in Iliuliuk Harbor vicinity.



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

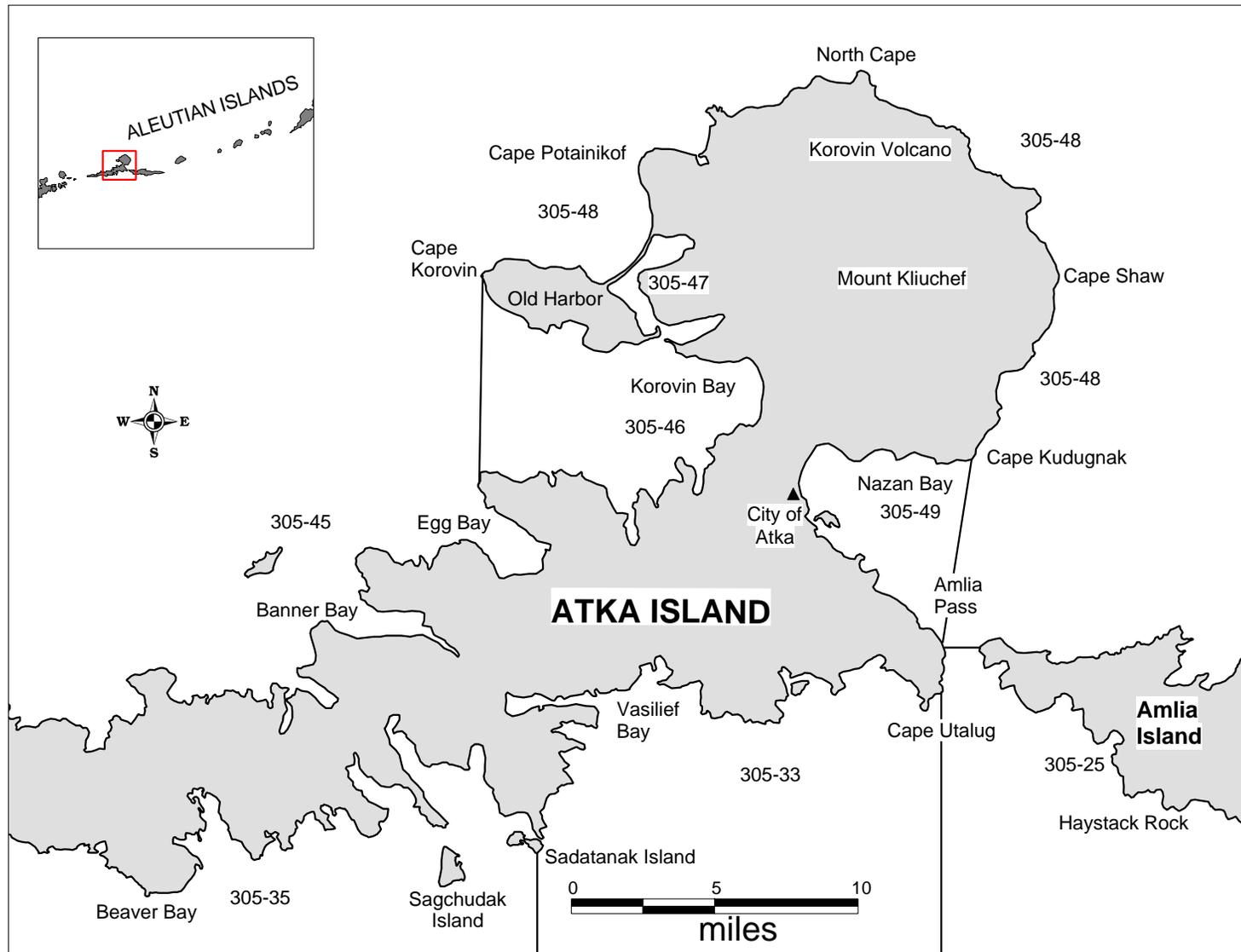


Figure 4. Map of Atka Island with Korovin Bay, Old Harbor, and Nazan Bay fishing areas defined.

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