

ALASKA PENINSULA AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS MANAGEMENT
AREA HERRING SAC ROE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2004



By

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ABSTRACT

Pacific herring *Clupea pallasii* sac roe fisheries can occur in North and South Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands waters of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Area. This document describes how the fisheries will be managed, the requirements of the fishing industry to participate in the fishery, and how to contact and relay information to the department. Historical harvests for North and South Peninsula waters as well as 2004 season guideline harvest levels and harvest projections are presented. This document is intended as a guide for commercial herring harvesters, buyers, and tender operators. Information regarding commercial herring openings should be obtained from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game prior to fishing.

INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide commercial Pacific herring *Clupea pallasii* harvesters and buyers with information and guidelines that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will use to manage the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Management Area commercial herring sac roe fisheries in 2004.

The Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Herring Management Area (Area M) is divided into three subareas; (1) the North Peninsula, consisting of Bering Sea waters extending west from Cape Menshikof to Cape Sarichef; (2) the South Peninsula, consisting of Pacific Ocean coastal waters extending west of Kupreanof Point to 163°30' W long. (the south side of Unimak Island near Cape Lazaref); and (3) the Aleutian Islands, consisting of Bering Sea waters extending west of Unimak Pass and Pacific Ocean waters extending west from 163°30' W long. (the south side of Unimak Island near Cape Lazaref) to the International Date Line (Figures 1-7).

The North Peninsula is composed of three districts and 23 statistical areas (Figures 2-4), the South Peninsula includes three districts and 45 statistical areas (Figures 4 and 5), and the Aleutian Islands includes five districts and 41 statistical areas (Figures 1, 6 through 8). The North Peninsula and South Peninsula fisheries are two geographically distinct commercial herring sac roe fisheries. No commercial sac roe herring have been harvested from Aleutian Islands waters. However, in 2004, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) established an exploratory herring fishery in the Adak Island area with a 500 ton allocation, which can be harvested in the food and bait or sac roe seasons.

In February 2004, the BOF adopted a regulation that the global positioning system (GPS) will be used to determine latitude and longitude coordinates throughout all Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands herring fisheries.

The North Peninsula herring sac roe fishery has occurred annually since 1982, with the exception of 1997, and 1999-2003, during which herring were not harvested because of poor market conditions and low observed herring biomass. The most recent 10-year (1994-2003) average harvest is 59.1 tons (Table 1). The South Peninsula herring sac roe fishery has occurred annually since 1979, except in 1983 when the BOF allocated the herring harvest to a food and bait fishery and in 1997-1999, when there was little industry interest because of poor market conditions and/or low observed biomass. During the 2000 season, the South Peninsula fishery remained closed because of the absence of stock data. From 2001-2003, there was little industry interest because of poor market conditions and/or low observed biomass and the fishery remained closed. The 1994-2003 average harvest was 18.8 tons (Table 1).

2004 MANAGEMENT PLAN

During the 2004 Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Management Area herring sac roe fisheries, the permit holder and buyer will be responsible for determining herring quality. The ADF&G will not

open or close the herring fishery based on roe quality except in cases where excessive wastage is expected. Permit holders are encouraged to check with their buyer prior to fishing to determine industry standards for product quality and size. All herring harvested during the sac roe season that are sold as bait or discarded due to quality problems will be included as part of the total sac roe herring harvest.

Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) are established for management units that have a history of sac roe herring harvests. Management sections that lack an extensive history of harvest, have not maintained significant fishing effort within the past five years, or have no record of observed biomass, may open by emergency order during the 2004 season. The opening of these areas will be contingent upon the industry notifying the department of interest in harvesting herring from a specific area, the department documenting herring biomass, and the department setting a GHL. These areas include all North Peninsula districts and all South Peninsula and Aleutian Islands districts (Table 2). ADF&G office locations and the inseason emergency order broadcast frequencies are listed in Appendix A.

Registration Requirements

Tenders and Processors

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

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

Fishing Vessels

There are no registration requirements for purse seine and gillnet vessels except for the Adak Island area fishery. Permit holders must obtain a Commissioner's permit from ADF&G before participating in the Adak Island exploratory herring fishery. Commissioner's permits can be obtained by contacting the ADF&G office in Sand Point (Appendix A).

Fishing Periods

In the North Peninsula area, the Port Moller, Port Heiden and Amak districts may open for commercial herring fishing from April 15 through July 15, only during periods established by emergency order (Figures 2 to 4). Herring fishing in the Port Moller District is allowed only when

the department anticipates at least a 1,000 ton minimum biomass in the area. A minimum of six hours advance notice will be given prior to any fishing period in the Port Moller District, unless it is an extension of a current fishing period. If effort decreases to a level where overharvesting the stock is not a concern, the six hour notice may be reduced or eliminated. Purse seine and gillnet gears will have concurrent openings throughout the North Peninsula.

South Peninsula waters, which include the Sand Point, Pavlof, and King Cove Districts (Figures 4 and 5), and Aleutian Islands waters, which include the Unimak, Akutan, Unalaska, Umnak, and Adak Districts (Figures 6 through 8) may open to commercial sac roe herring fishing by emergency order during the 2004 season. Fishing periods will be established only after the department has quantified herring biomass in an area, set a GHL, and is assured that there is industry interest in harvesting herring from the area.

Catch Reporting

Processors and tender operators must report daily to the ADF&G while involved in Alaska Peninsula-Aleutians Area herring sac roe fisheries (5 AAC 27.662). Daily reports must include tallies of harvested herring including accurate estimates of herring on board tenders. A confidential reporting code will be provided to each processor and tender operator. Since the allowable harvest could quickly be exceeded, harvesters are encouraged to report harvests after each set, while tenders and processors are asked to report immediately upon completion of each delivery.

Fish Tickets

Permit holders must provide specific harvest locations (statistical area or a specific landmark) to buyers, so that they can be recorded on fish tickets. During North Peninsula fisheries, fish tickets must be delivered to a local ADF&G commercial fishery representative prior to transporting herring out of the Port Moller District or, in other districts, within 10 days after termination of buying operations (5 AAC 27.662). During South Peninsula and Aleutian Islands fisheries, fish tickets should be received by ADF&G personnel in Sand Point within 10 days after termination of buying operations (Appendix A). Fish tickets must include the weight of harvested herring in either units of short tons (2,000 lbs.) or total pounds.

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

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

Aircraft

There is no restriction on the use of aircraft.

Industry Cooperation

Cooperation of harvesters, tender operators, spotter pilots, and processors is encouraged when ADF&G personnel request herring samples from the commercial catch. Samples will be used for monitoring age composition, which assists in determining the health of a stock and in forecasting next year's run strength. The ADF&G will also be monitoring spawning activities and will be soliciting information regarding herring sightings to supplement information gathered by department personnel. The department's ability to monitor herring biomass is limited by aircraft availability and funding constraints. Industry cooperation in locating herring biomass will enable the department to more efficiently monitor Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area herring stocks. Harvesters and spotter pilots are encouraged to provide herring biomass and spawning information to the ADF&G. The department may use these reports to locate and document herring biomass. Past cooperation has proven valuable in evaluating stock status and management of the fishery.

North and South Peninsula Herring Sac Roe Fishery

There has been a lack of fishing effort in Peninsula herring fisheries in recent years (Ford, Burkey and Murphy 2002). For the 2004 season, there are no pre-season GHLS. The actual allowable harvest in any Alaska Peninsula district will be conservative.

In the North Peninsula, if the department has documented a harvestable herring biomass, the GHLS will be determined using a sliding scale exploitation rate (Table 2).

In the South Peninsula, no more than 25 tons will be allowed to be harvested from any section until the ADF&G documents a herring biomass that would allow a larger harvest. Fishing openings will be contingent upon industry interest in harvesting herring in a specific area, department documentation of herring biomass, and the department setting a GHLS based on the observed biomass. Partially due to a limited number of aerial surveys, the department has documented little spawning herring biomass in South Peninsula waters and is soliciting reports of herring biomass during the 2004 season. The ADF&G plans to conduct aerial surveys in 2004 and is asking that any herring biomass observations are reported to department personnel in Sand Point.

Aleutian Islands Herring Sac Roe Fishery

During the 2004 season, all districts within the Aleutian Islands, which include the Unimak, Akutan, Unalaska, Umnak, and Adak Districts, may open to commercial herring sac roe fishing. Emergency orders allowing herring sac roe fishing periods in the Aleutian Islands will be contingent upon industry expressing interest in harvesting herring in a specific area, department

documentation of herring biomass and establishment of a GHL. To date, commercial herring sac roe harvest has not occurred in Aleutian Island waters.

In February 2004, the BOF established an exploratory herring fishery in the waters around Adak Island with a GHL of 500 tons. Herring may be taken during the sac roe season by gillnet gear only during periods established by Emergency Order from April 15 through NOON, July 24. Consult the 2004 Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Management Area Food and Bait Herring Management Plan for details concerning the Adak herring Food and bait fishery (Duesterloh 2004).

LITERATURE CITED

- Duesterloh, S. 2004. Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Management Area Food and Bait Herring Management Plan, 2004. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 4K04-14, Kodiak.
- Ford, M. T., C. Burkey Jr., and R.L. Murphy. 2002. Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Area Herring Sac Roe and Food and Bait Fisheries Annual Management Report, 2002. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 4K03-11, Kodiak.

Table 1. Alaska Peninsula commercial herring sac roe harvest by time period, area, and year, 1979-2003.

Year	North Peninsula		South Peninsula		Total
	Harvest (Tons) ^a	Harvest Time Period	Harvest (Tons) ^a	Harvest Time Period	
1979	0.0	-	10.1	July 4- July 4	10.1
1980	0.0	-	453.8	May 18-July 14	453.8
1981	0.0	-	797.6	May 9-June 23	797.6
1982	505.5	May 31-June 12	176.2	May 31-June 14	681.7
1983	627.0	May 9-May 29	0.0	-	627.0
1984	431.2	May 24-June 8	210.2	May 13-June 1	641.4
1985	710.2	May 24-June 4	287.7	June 1-June 11	997.9
1986	894.4	May 18-May 30	281.9	June 7-June 14	1,176.3
1987	513.7	May 9-June 5	319.0	June 8-June 19	832.7
1988	294.3	May 17-June 15	376.7	May 31-June 20	671.0
1989	729.0	May 28-June 23	310.3	May 13-June 19	1,039.3
1990	272.8	June 4-June 19	312.2	May 14-June 14	585.0
1991	1,313.0	May 17-July 4	157.4	May 16-June 11	1,470.4
1992	3,969.0	May 23-June 17	180.4	June 4-June 7	4,149.4
1993	535.9	May 8-June 9	97.0	May 27-June 9	632.9
1994	89.8	May 21-June 7	8.2	June 2-June 3	98.0
1995	337.3	May 29-June 20	62.7	June 6-June 17	400.0
1996	^b	June 12-June 18	117.3	May 10-June 27	^b
1997	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0
1998	^b	May 21-June 3	0.0	- ^c	^b
1999-2003	0.0	-	0.0		0.0
1994-2003 Average	59.1		18.8		77.9

^a Tons are short tons which equal 2,000 lbs.

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

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

Table 2. Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Area herring sac roe guideline harvest levels by management section, 2004.

Management Area	Sac Roe Guideline Harvest In Short Tons (2000 lbs.)
<i>North Peninsula</i>	
Amak District	a
<u>Port Moller District^{bc}</u>	b
Western Section	b
Deer Island Section ^d	b
Herendeen Bay Section	b
Inner Port Moller Bay Section	b
Outer Port Moller Bay Section	b
Bear River Section	b
Port Heiden District ^e	a
<i>North Peninsula Total</i>	b
<i>South Peninsula</i>	
<u>Sand Point District</u>	
Stepovak Bay Section	a
Swedania Point-Balboa Bay Section	a
Point Aliaksin-Beaver Bay Section	a
General Section (Shumagin Islands)	a
<u>Pavlof District</u>	
Canoe Bay Section	a
Pavlof Bay Section	a
Seal Cape-Wosnesenski Section	a
General Section (Volcano Bay)	a
<u>King Cove District</u>	
Belkofski Section	a
Deer Passage Section	a
Cold Bay Section	a
General Section	a
<i>South Peninsula Total</i>	0
<i>Aleutian Islands^f</i>	
Adak District	500 ^g

-Continued-

Table 2. (page 2 of 2)

- ^a All areas without guideline harvest levels will be managed conservatively. Harvests in these areas will be kept small until ADF&G is able to document the spawning biomass. No more than 25 tons of herring will be allowed to be harvested from the waters of any section in these areas unless ADF&G documents a herring biomass that would allow a larger harvest.
- ^b The guideline harvest level increases proportionally to spawning biomass observed by ADF&G. A sliding scale exploitation rate was used to determine the 2003 GHl.

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

- ^c Herring harvested along the Bering Sea coast (southwest of Cape Seniavin) will be allocated to the Port Moller and Herendeen Bays guideline harvest level if it is suspected that these herring were traveling into Port Moller or Herendeen Bays.
- ^d Herring harvested in the Deer Island Section of Herendeen Bay will be allocated to the Herendeen Bay guideline harvest level.
- ^e In 1992, commercial quantities of herring were harvested for the first time in the Port Heiden District. The commercial herring fishery will be managed conservatively until adequate data is obtained to warrant a liberal management approach. Herring harvested along the Bering Sea coast (northeast of Cape Seniavin) are counted against the Port Heiden guideline harvest level if it is suspected that these herring were travelling into Port Heiden Bay.
- ^f The Aleutian Islands Management Area is open for exploration; no deliveries of sac roe herring have ever been made from the Aleutian Islands. Portions of a section, district, or area may be closed if it is suspected that harvests in a given location will exceed 20% of the spawning biomass.
- ^g Adak Island exploratory herring fishery has a 500 ton GHl which can be harvested in either sac roe or food and bait fishery (Duesterloh, in press).

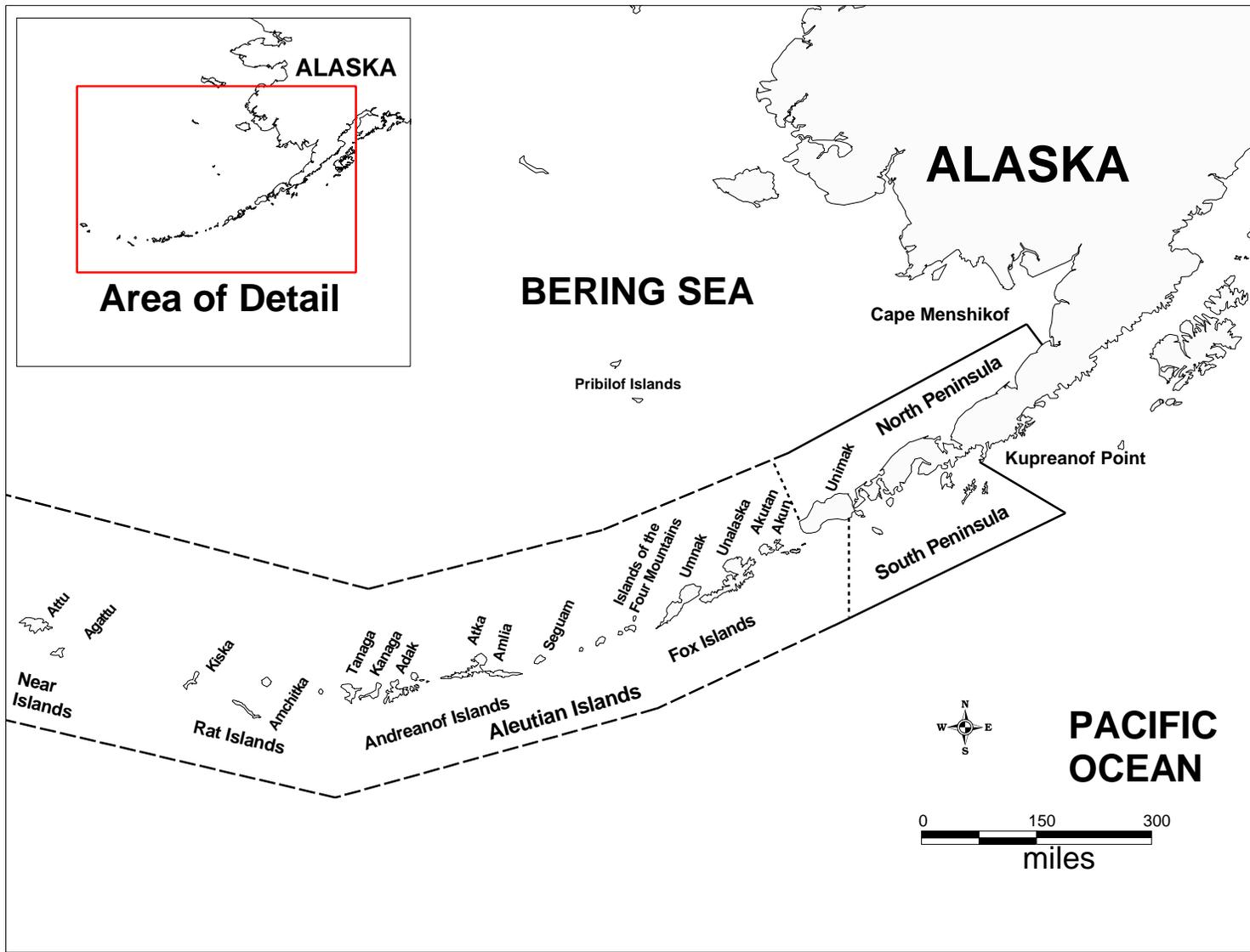


Figure 1. Map of the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands herring management area.

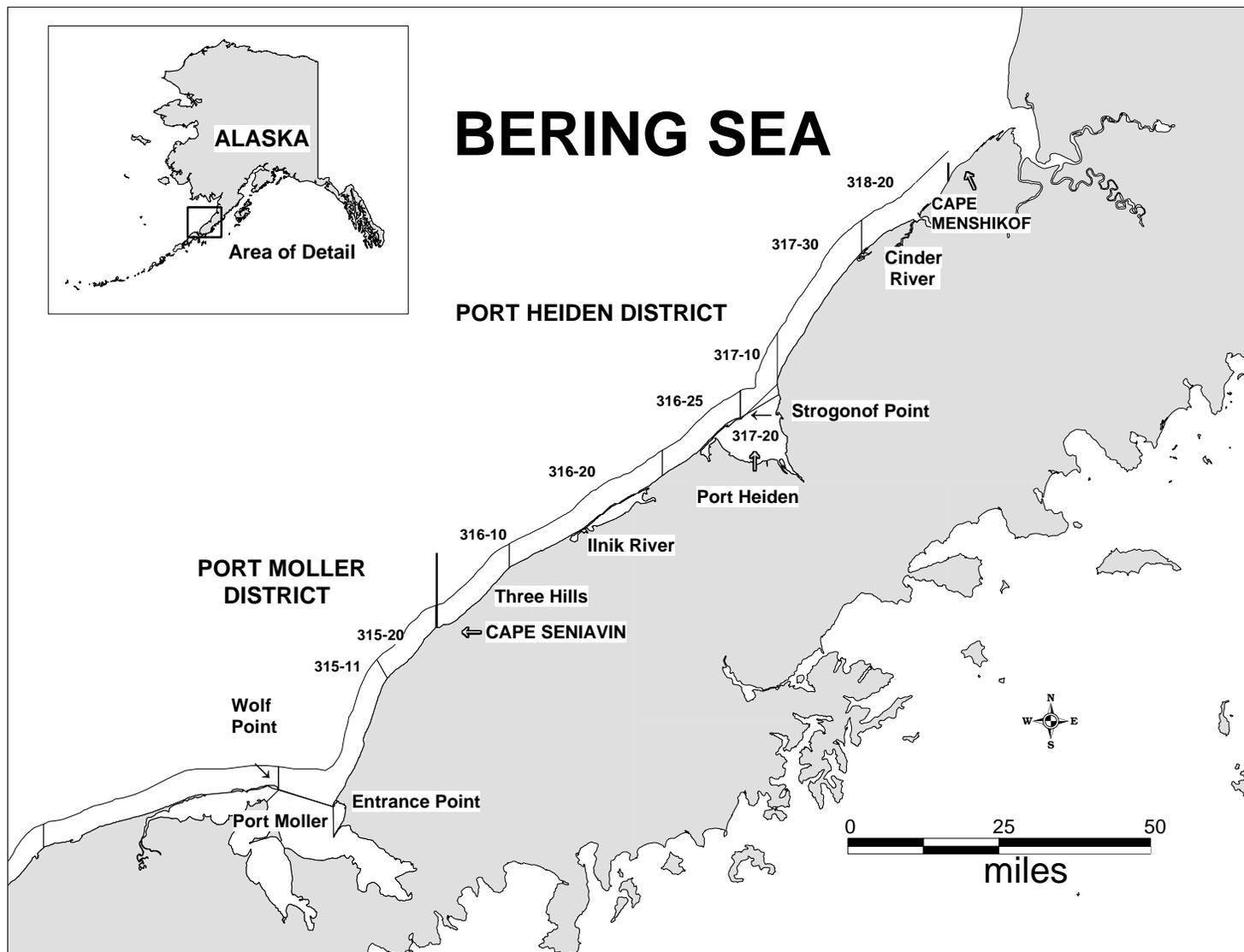


Figure 2. Map of the Alaska Peninsula from Cape Menshikof to Entrance Point with commercial herring fishing statistical areas.

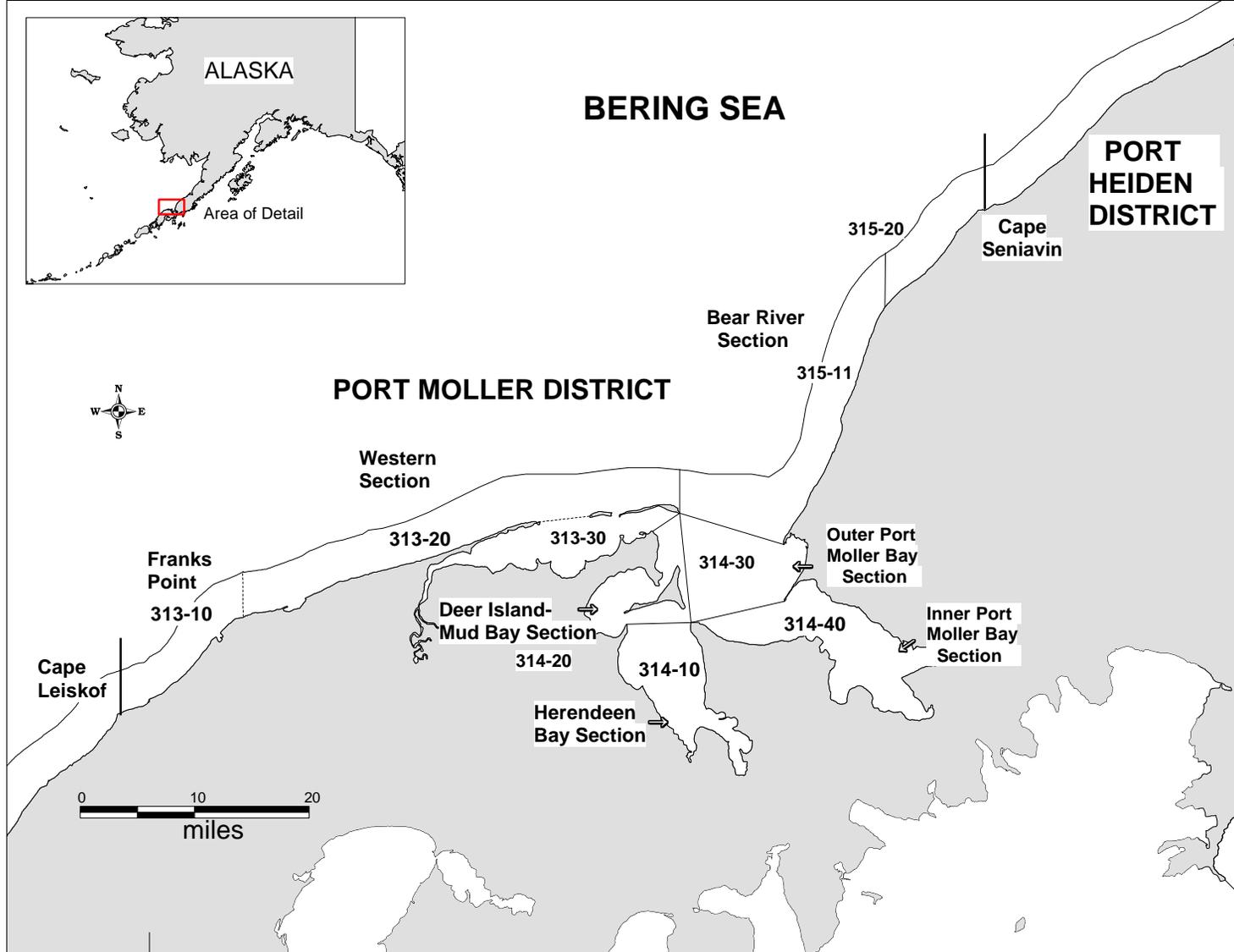


Figure 3. Map of the Port Moller District with commercial herring fishing statistical areas.

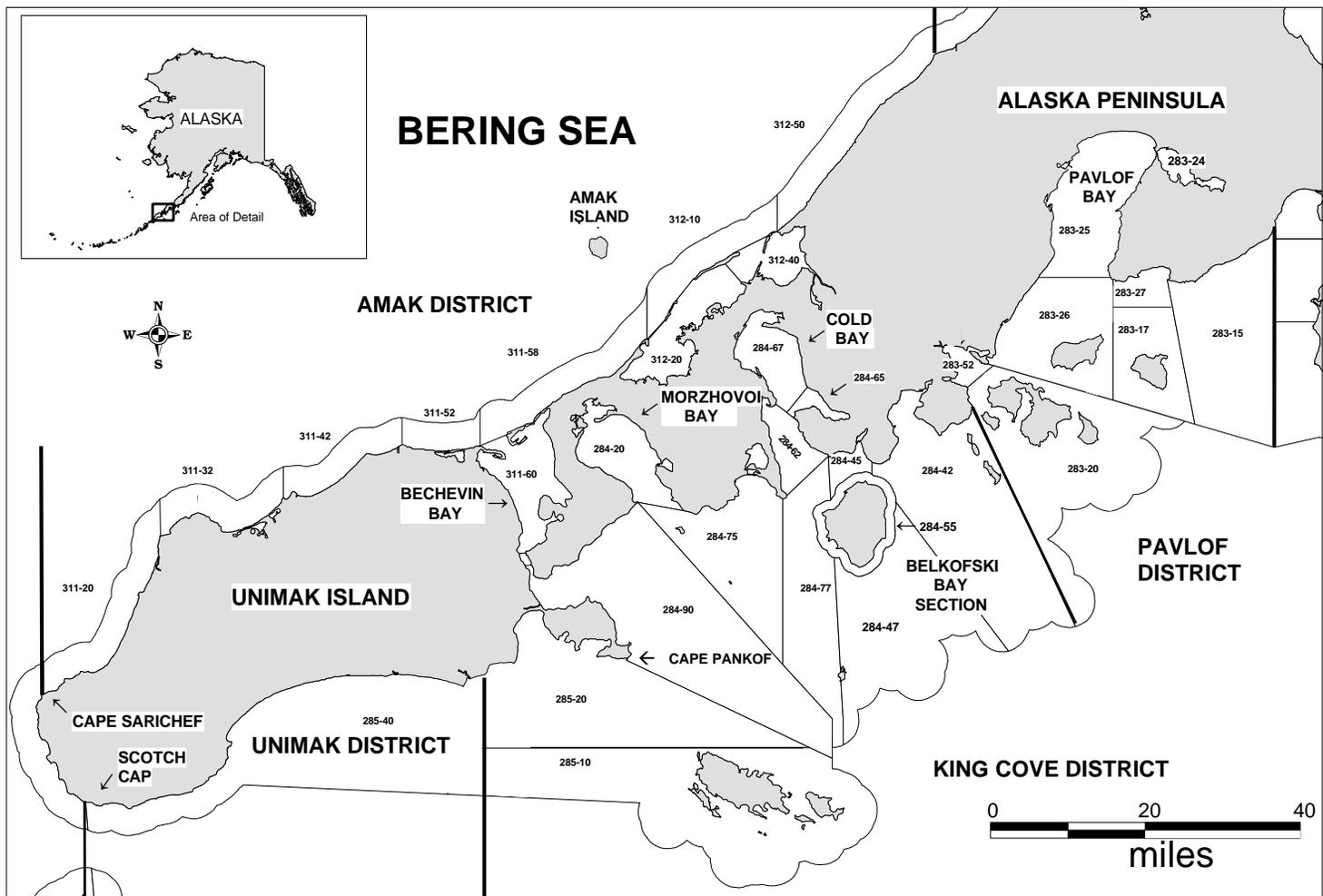


Figure 4. Map of the Alaska Peninsula from Pavlof Bay to Cape Sarichef with commercial herring fishing statistical areas.

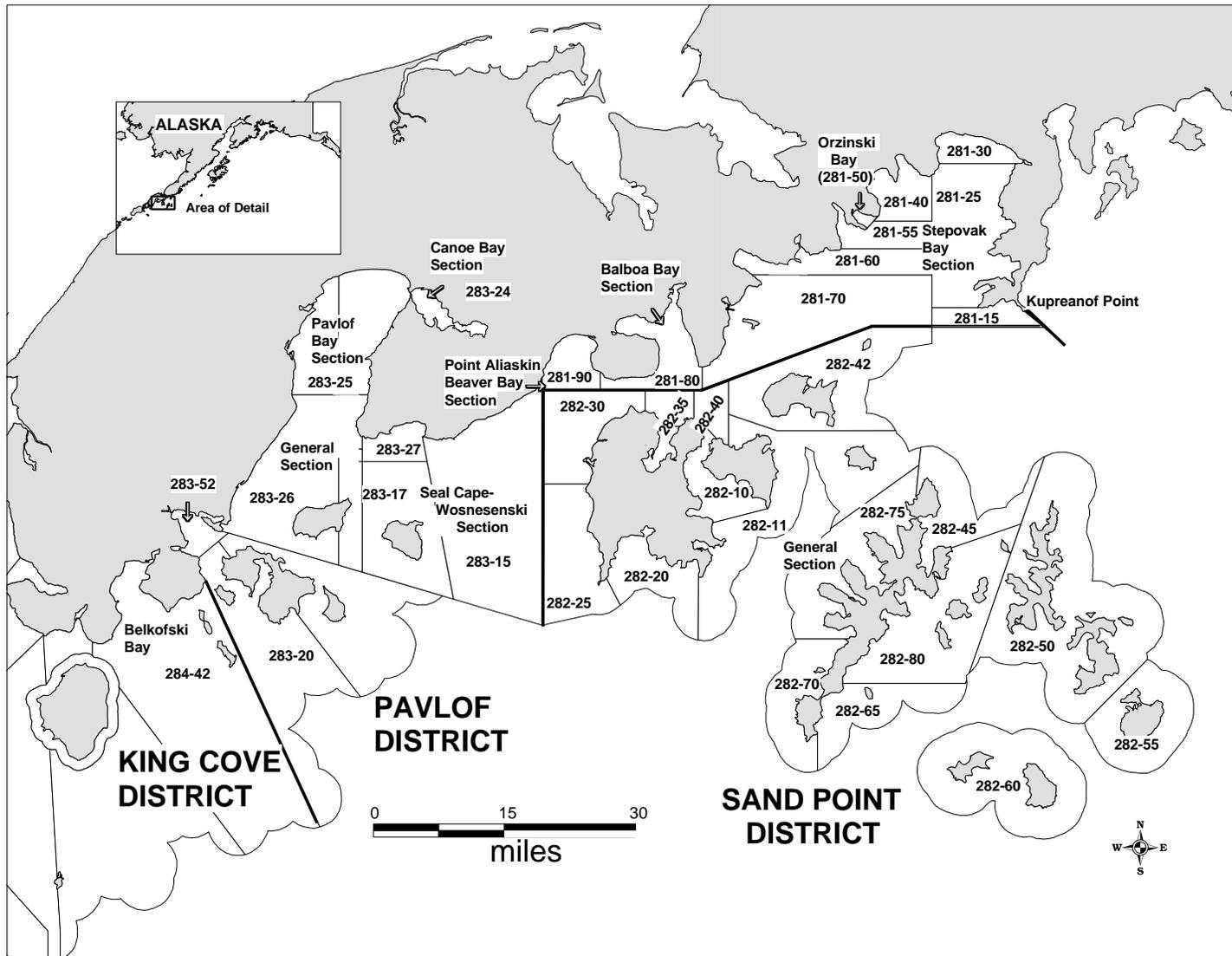


Figure 5. Map of the Alaska Peninsula from Kupreanof Point to Belkofski Bay with commercial herring fishing statistical areas.

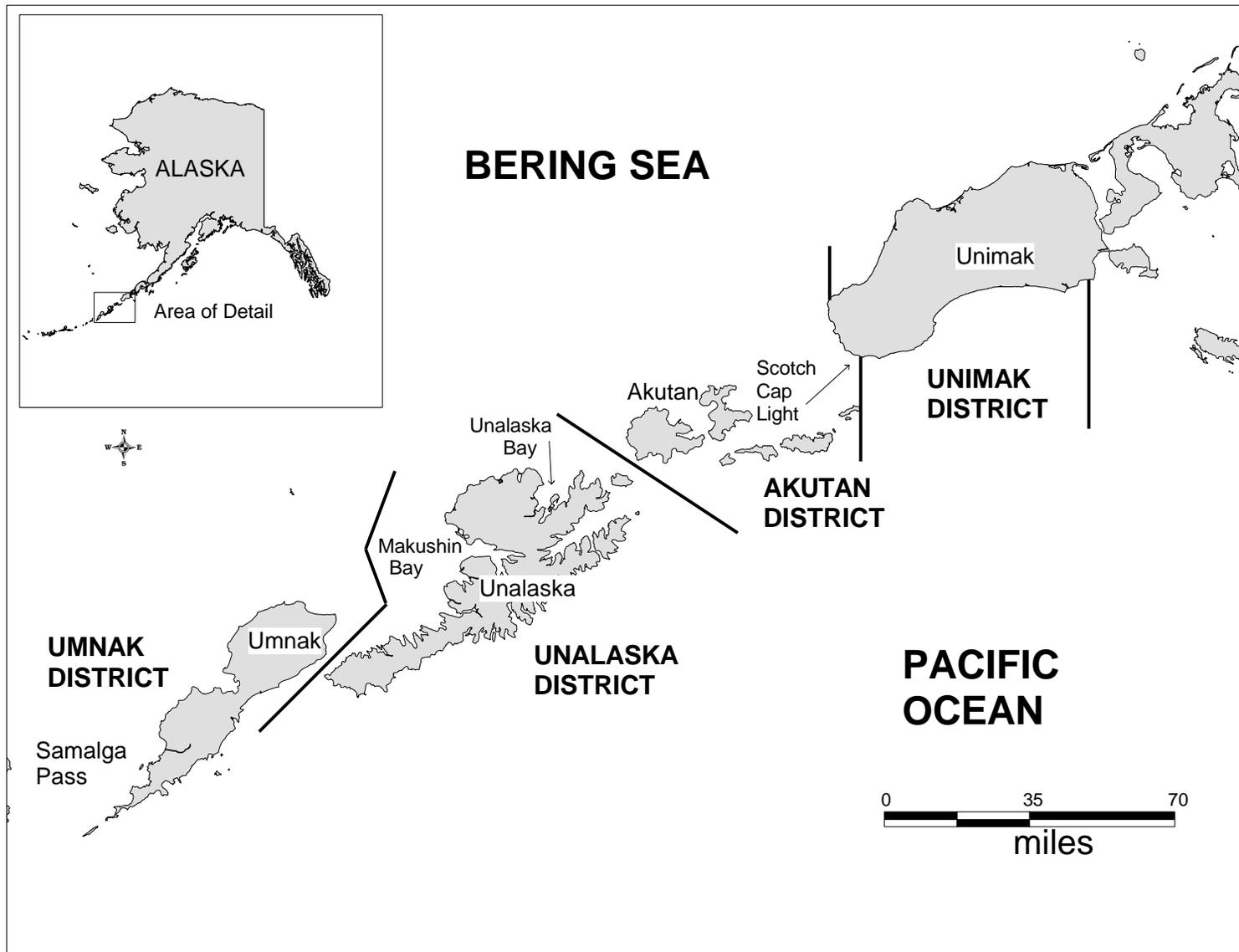


Figure 6. Map of the eastern Aleutian Islands from Samalga Pass to Unimak Island with commercial herring fishing districts.

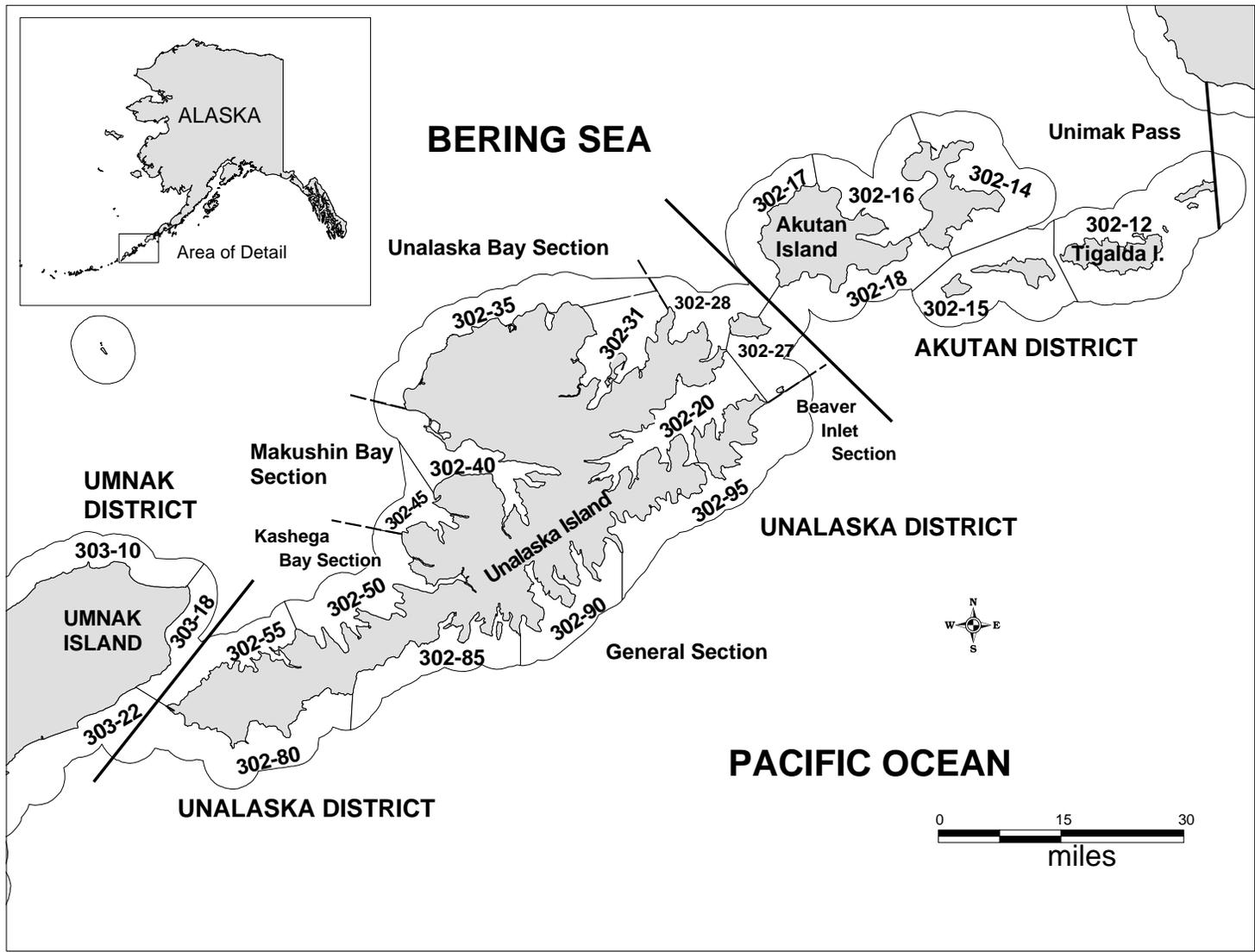


Figure 7. Map of the eastern Aleutian Islands from Tigalda Island to Unmak Island with commercial herring fishing statistical areas.

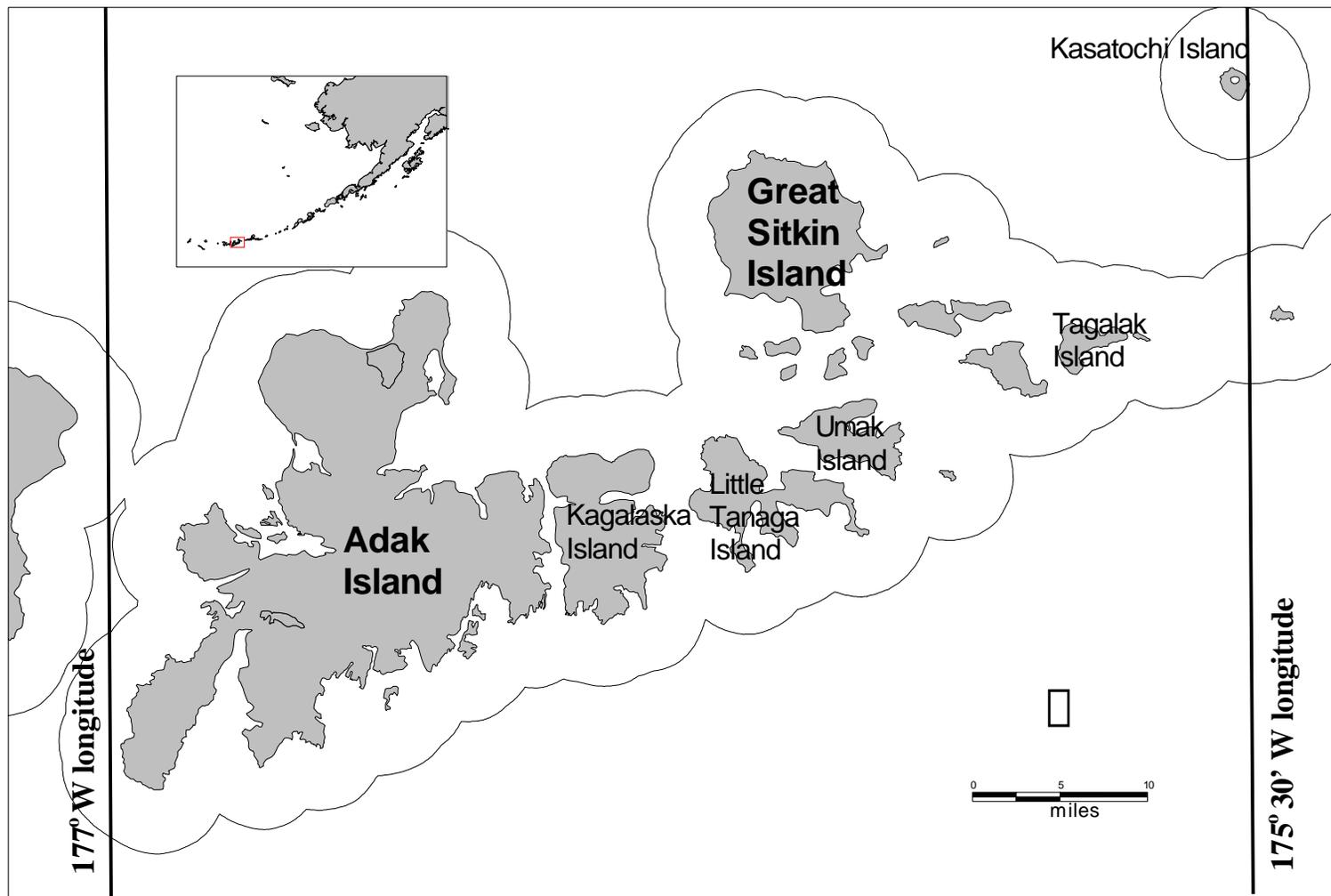


Figure 8. Map of Adak Island area with boundaries of exploratory fishery defined.

APPENDIX

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

Sand Point

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

Dutch Harbor

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

Cold Bay

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 50
Cold Bay, AK 99571
phone (907) 532-2419
fax (907) 532-2470
VHF 6
Single Side Band 3.230 and 3.261 MHz
KCO 332/KXP 78

Port Moller

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

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