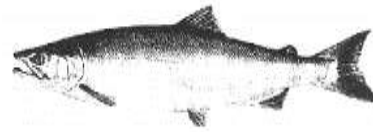


ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS RELEASE



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2017 UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHERY SEASON SUMMARY

The 2017 Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) commercial harvest of approximately 3.0 million salmon was 13% less than the recent 10-year average annual harvest of 3.5 million fish (Table 1). The estimated exvessel value of the 2017 harvest of approximately \$23.7 million was 21% less than the previous 10-year average annual exvessel value of \$29.8 million. While all five species of Pacific salmon are present in UCI, sockeye salmon are the most valuable, accounting for nearly 93% of the total value during the past 20 years.

Currently, there are seven sockeye salmon systems with escapement/inriver goals that are monitored in UCI (Table 2). Sonar was used to estimate sockeye salmon passage in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, while weirs were operated at Larson, Chelatna, Judd, and Big (Fish Creek) lakes. Remote video technology was utilized to evaluate the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) at Packers Lake. For the 2017 season, escapement objectives were exceeded at three systems (Kenai and Kasilof rivers and Fish Creek), and met at three systems (Larson, Chelatna, and Judd lakes); the final escapement for Packers Lake will not be known until all of the video is processed.

SOCKEYE SALMON

2017 Run Summary

The total run, which includes estimates of commercial, sport, personal use, education, and subsistence harvests and escapement, of approximately 4.6 million sockeye salmon to UCI was 14% more than the preseason forecast (Table 3). The Kenai River run exceeded the forecast by approximately 700,000 sockeye salmon and Fish Creek exceeded the forecast by 4,000 sockeye salmon. The Kasilof River sockeye salmon total run estimate was very close to forecast with approximately 4,000 sockeye salmon less than expected, while the number of sockeye salmon returning to the Susitna River and all other systems (minor systems) was less than forecast.

The UCI commercial harvest of 1.8 million sockeye salmon was approximately 18% less than the 2007–2016 average annual harvest of 2.9 million fish and also the smallest harvest in the last 10

years. Sockeye salmon prices varied during the season, but based on an estimated average price of \$1.86 per pound, the total exvessel value of the 2017 UCI sockeye salmon harvest was approximately \$19.6 million, representing 83% of the total exvessel value of salmon in UCI.

Upper Subdistrict Set Gillnet and Central District Drift Gillnet

The 2017 UCI preseason forecast projected a total run of approximately 4.0 million sockeye salmon (Table 3), with a total harvest estimate (sport, personal use and commercial) of 2.6 million fish and a commercial fisheries harvest of approximately 1.7 million fish.

Drift gillnetting opens in the Central District only (Figure 1) by regulation on the third Monday in June or June 19, whichever is later. In 2017, the third Monday in June fell on June 19; therefore the drift gillnet season opened on June 19. The Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery (statistical areas 244-21, 244-22, and 244-31; Figure 2) opens by regulation on or after June 25, but may open any time after June 20 if 50,000 sockeye salmon are estimated to have entered the Kasilof River. On June 23, a total of 47,451 sockeye salmon had passed the Kasilof River sonar counter with a daily passage estimate of approximately 3,650 fish. Thus, the Kasilof Section was opened to set gillnetting beginning on Saturday, June 24. Sockeye salmon passage in the Kasilof River through midnight on June 24 was 50,525 fish. The Kenai and East Foreland sections set gillnet fishery (statistical areas 244-32, 244-41, and 244-42; Figure 2) open by regulation on the first Monday or Thursday on or after July 8, which meant Monday, July 10, was the first day of fishing in these areas in 2017.

The sockeye salmon run forecast to the Kenai River in 2017 was 2.1 million fish, which meant that management of drift and set gillnet fisheries fell under provisions for Kenai River runs less than 2.3 million fish. Specifically, this meant that from July 8 through August 10 the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery (often referred to as the Eastside Setnet fishery (ESSN)) would be open for regular 12-hour Monday and Thursday fishing periods and no more than 24 additional fishing hours per week. Under this run size tier, there were no mandatory closed fishing periods (windows) each week (Sunday to Saturday). In the drift gillnet fishery, for Kenai River sockeye salmon runs less than 2.3 million fish, from July 16–31, fishing during all regular 12-hour fishing periods, and any extra fishing time, is to be restricted to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections (Figure 3).

The total commercial harvest of sockeye salmon through Thursday, July 20, was nearly 1.4 million fish, or about 82% of the expected harvest for the season. Yet, sockeye salmon passage in the Kenai River was only 265,000 fish, with the run typically about 40% complete. Based on this, achieving the Kenai River minimum inriver goal of 900,000 fish would require a reduction in harvest of this stock so that passage rates would increase. Kasilof River sockeye salmon passage is typically about 66% complete through July 20 and the total passage estimate of 174,000 fish through July 20 suggested that the BEG of 160,000–340,000 would be met; even with a reduction in harvest of this stock. Therefore, the regularly scheduled fishing periods on Monday, July 24, and Thursday, July 27, were closed to both the Central District drift gillnet and ESSN fisheries in order to increase sockeye salmon passage in the Kenai River. By Friday, July 28, the cumulative sockeye salmon passage estimate in the Kenai River had increased to 635,000 fish. Based on this figure, and assuming the run would be two to four days late, the inriver goal

was now projected to be met. Thus, both the ESSN and drift gillnet fisheries were reopened on Saturday, July 29.

On July 28, Commercial Fisheries staff made a formal inseason estimate of the total sockeye salmon run to date, including an estimate of the run yet to come. Based on Offshore Test Fish (OTF) data, the 2017 sockeye salmon run was expected to be two to four days late and the Kenai River sockeye salmon run was now expected to exceed 2.3 million fish. With this inseason assessment, management of the ESSN and Central District drift fisheries now followed provisions for Kenai River sockeye salmon run sizes of 2.3 million to 4.6 million. In this run size tier, the Kenai River inriver goal range increased to 1,000,000–1,300,000 fish. The ESSN fishery could now be open for up to 51 additional hours per week beyond the 12-hour regular periods on Monday and Thursday. In addition, the ESSN fishery was to be closed during two time periods each week as follows: for 24 consecutive hours beginning between 7:00 p.m. on Monday and 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, and for 36 consecutive hours beginning between 7:00 a.m. on Thursday and 7:00 a.m. on Friday. The increase in run size also meant the drift gillnet fishing period on Monday, July 31 could be fished in one or more of the following areas: Expanded Kasilof Section, Expanded Kenai Section, Anchor Point Section, Drift Area 1 (Figure 4), or all waters of the Central District.

From June 24 through August 15, the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery was open on 23 different days, harvesting approximately 552,000 sockeye salmon. The average annual sockeye salmon harvest in the Kasilof Section during the previous 10 years (excluding 2012 due to significant restrictions to the ESSN fishery for king salmon conservation) was 646,000 fish. From July 10 through August 14, the Kenai and East Foreland sections were open on 13 different days, producing a total sockeye salmon harvest of 270,000 fish; the previous 10-year (excluding 2012) average annual sockeye salmon harvest in these sections was 489,000 fish. The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area was not opened in 2017.

From June 19 through August 14, the drift fleet fished a total of 25 days as follows: five days in the regular Kasilof Section; four days in the Expanded Kenai/Kasilof sections; three days in the Expanded Kenai/Kasilof and Anchor Point sections; three days in Drift Area 1; and eight days in all of the Central District. Beginning on Thursday, August 17, all Monday/Thursday regular fishing periods were restricted by management plan to Drift Areas 3 and 4 (Figure 5). In addition, Chinitna Bay (Figure 5) was opened to drift gillnetting for 12-hour fishing periods on Tuesdays and Fridays, beginning on Friday, August 18. This area was opened when an aerial survey of the Chinitna River/Clearwater Creek showed that the chum salmon SEG had been achieved. The total drift gillnet harvest in 2017 was approximately 881,000 sockeye salmon, which was about 18% less than the average annual harvest of 1.07 million fish from the previous 10 years. The peak day of harvest in the drift fleet occurred on Thursday, July 13, where 396 vessels harvested approximately 183,000 sockeye salmon, or 463 fish/boat. This was the highest peak day in the past three years, but still much less than the average peak harvest per boat of 919 during the previous 10 years.

An examination of the 2017 sockeye salmon harvest in the ESSN and drift gillnet fisheries shows that harvest between set and drift gillnet gear was very close to the previous 10-year average. The drift harvest of 881,000 sockeye salmon was 58% of the total harvest between the two gear types; compared to the previous 10-year average of 56% (2012 was excluded). The ESSN fishery harvested approximately 822,000 fish, or 42% of the total sockeye salmon harvest compared to their previous 10-year average of 44%.

In the Ninilchik set gillnet statistical area (244-21), which is that area of beach from the Ninilchik River north to Clam Gulch access road, approximately 309,000 sockeye salmon were harvested, which was 38% of the total ESSN harvest of 822,000 fish. The previous 10-year average harvest in statistical area 244-21 was 274,000 fish or 23% (ranging from 16% to 28%) of the total ESSN sockeye salmon harvest. Thus, the 2017 sockeye salmon harvest in statistical area 244-21 represented a 63% increase over the previous 10-year average.

A similar pattern of sockeye salmon passage in the Kenai River was observed in 2017 as was seen in both 2015 and 2016. For the third year in a row, the peak day of sockeye salmon passage in the Kenai River was much less than peak enumeration days in previous years. In 2017, the peak day of passage occurred on July 26, where 71,910 sockeye salmon were estimated to have migrated past the River Mile 19 sonar site. This compares to the average peak day of passage from 2007–2016 of approximately 130,000 fish. The 2017 figure represented the second lowest peak day of passage in the past 10 years; it was lower than expected based on the fact that commercial fishing on this stock had been closed for the previous six days to increase daily passage into the Kenai River.

Western Subdistrict

By regulation, the Western Subdistrict (Figure 1) set gillnet fishery opened for regular periods on Monday, June 19. This fishery primarily harvests sockeye salmon returning to the Crescent River. The Crescent River sonar program was discontinued in 2014. In 2017, sockeye salmon harvest rates in the set gillnet fishery from the beaches near the Crescent River area were consistent with historical harvest rates when the fishery was provided additional fishing time due to increased sockeye salmon passage into the Crescent River. Therefore, an emergency order (EO) was issued on July 8 opening that portion of the Western Subdistrict south of the latitude of Redoubt Point from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays each week from July 10 through August 7. In 2017, approximately 31,500 sockeye salmon were harvested by setnetters in the Western Subdistrict; which was 27% less than the average annual harvest of approximately 43,000 fish during the previous 10 years.

Kustatan Subdistrict

The Kustatan Subdistrict includes those waters from the Drift River terminal to the Northern District boundary near the West Forelands (Figure 1). From 1993–2016, approximately nine permit holders per year have reported harvest from this area. The majority of participation and harvest (more than 92% of the harvest) typically comes from the Big River sockeye salmon fishery, which is an early season fishery limited to one net per permit holder and occurs from June 1–24. Approximately 4,000 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Kustatan Subdistrict in 2017, with nearly 3,590 of these harvested during the Big River fishery. The 2017 sockeye salmon harvest was approximately 31% greater than the average annual harvest of 3,097 fish during the previous 10 years.

Kalgin Island Subdistrict

The Kalgin Island Subdistrict (Figure 1) opened for regular fishing periods beginning June 27; however, the west side of Kalgin Island was open for commercial fishing on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from June 1–24 as part of the Big River sockeye salmon fishery. In 2017, approximately 44,000 sockeye salmon were harvested from the Kalgin Island Subdistrict, with nearly 11,400 (26%) of those fish taken during the Big River sockeye salmon fishery. The

average annual sockeye salmon harvest on Kalgin Island during the previous 10 years was approximately 56,700 fish, with roughly 11,500 of those fish harvested during the early season Big River fishery. A remote video system was deployed at Packers Creek to monitor sockeye salmon escapement into Packers Lake. A review of the video data mid-season did not support any additional fishing periods beyond Monday and Thursday regular periods in the Kalgin Island Subdistrict in 2017.

Northern District

Commercial fishing in the Northern District (Figure 1) opened on May 29 for the directed king salmon fishery (see king salmon section below) and for regular periods beginning on June 26. In 2017, approximately 55,000 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Northern District, with about 4,400 of these fish harvested during the four directed king salmon fishing periods. The 2017 sockeye salmon harvest was 58% greater than the 2007–2016 average annual harvest of 34,700 sockeye salmon, yet approximately 34% less than the 1966–2016 average of nearly 85,000 fish.

COHO SALMON

The 2017 harvest estimate of approximately 294,000 coho salmon in all commercial fisheries in UCI was 75% greater than the recent 10-year (2007–2016) average annual harvest of approximately 167,000 fish (Table 1). The 2017 drift gillnet harvest of 186,000 coho salmon was 63% greater than the recent 10-year average of approximately 99,000 fish and was the largest drift harvest of coho salmon since 2004. The Northern District set gillnet harvest of about 51,000 coho salmon in 2017 was the largest harvest since 2000 and approximately 55% greater than the annual average harvest from the previous 10 year of 33,000 fish.

In UCI, there are three coho salmon systems with escapement goals that are monitored inseason with weirs: Fish Creek, Little Susitna, and Deshka rivers. The goal at Fish Creek is an SEG of 1,200–4,400 fish. Coho salmon enumeration at the Fish Creek weir occurred from July 20 to September 24 and produced a final count of 8,794 fish, nearly doubling the upper end of the SEG. During the 2017 season, the sport fishing bag and possession limit for coho salmon was increased to four fish beginning at 5 a.m. on August 22 in waters open to salmon fishing on Fish Creek. In addition, fishing was allowed at Fish Creek seven days per week, from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Little Susitna River has a coho salmon SEG of 10,100–17,700 fish. Coho salmon escapement was enumerated at the Little Susitna weir from July 5 through September 9, with a passage estimate of 17,781 fish. While the upper end of the SEG was exceeded, the coho salmon run was many days late in run timing prompting an EO from the Division of Sport Fish prohibiting the use of bait in the Little Susitna River sport fishery from August 6 until August 23. This action was taken in response to lagging escapement of coho salmon that made projecting the SEG uncertain without a reduction in harvest. In response to this EO, the commercial drift gillnet fishery was restricted from district-wide fishing periods to Drift Gillnet Area 1 and the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections on August 7, 10, and 14. The entire Northern District set gillnet fishery was reduced from a 12-hour fishing period to a 6-hour fishing period on August 7, while that portion of the General Subdistrict of the Northern District east of the Susitna River, including Fire Island, was restricted to fishing 6-hour regular periods on August 10, 14, 17, and 21 in an effort to reduce the harvest of Little Susitna River coho salmon.

A new SEG of 10,200–24,100 fish was adopted at the 2017 UCI board meeting for Deshka River coho salmon. In the inaugural year of assessing coho salmon escapement in this drainage as it related to the SEG, nearly 37,000 fish were counted through the weir. In response to the strong coho salmon escapement, the Division of Sport fish issued an EO on August 22 increasing the sport fishing bag and possession limit for coho salmon to four fish per day and eight fish in possession, in all waters open to salmon fishing in the Susitna River Drainage

Finally, there is a coho salmon foot survey SEG of 450–1,400 fish at McRobert's Creek, which drains into Jim Creek, both located in the Knik River drainage. In 2017, the foot survey was conducted on September 27 and produced a count of 607 fish, which meant the SEG was achieved for this system.

Based on an average price per pound of \$1.14, the estimated exvessel value of the 2017 commercial coho salmon fishery was approximately \$2.1 million or 8.8% of the total exvessel value in Upper Cook Inlet. This was approximately two and a half times greater than the recent 10-year (2007–2016) average exvessel value of \$699,300 for coho salmon in UCI.

PINK SALMON

Pink salmon runs in UCI are even-year dominant, with odd-year average annual harvests typically less than one-sixth of even-year harvests. The 2017 UCI commercial pink salmon harvest was estimated to be approximately 168,000 fish, which was 124% greater than the average annual harvest of nearly 75,000 fish from the previous 10-years of odd-year harvests (Table 1). Using an average weight of 3.5lb/fish and an average price of \$0.15/lb, the estimated exvessel value for the 2017 pink salmon harvest was \$89,000, or 0.4% of the total exvessel value of salmon in UCI.

CHUM SALMON

The 2017 harvest of 239,000 chum salmon was approximately 60% greater than the previous 10-year average annual harvest of 149,000 fish (Table 1). There is only one chum salmon escapement goal in UCI, which is an aerial survey SEG of 3,800–8,000 fish in Clearwater Creek, the major tributary that drains into Chinitna Bay. Approximately 7,000 chum salmon were observed in this watershed during an August 14 aerial survey flight. Chinitna Bay was opened to set and drift gillnetting for 12-hour fishing periods on Tuesdays and Fridays, beginning on Friday, August 18. The exvessel value of the 2017 commercial chum salmon harvest was approximately \$1,230,000 or 5.2% of the total exvessel value in UCI.

KING SALMON

In UCI, there are two commercial fisheries where the majority of king salmon are harvested, which are the set gillnet fisheries in the Northern District and in the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District. Moderate improvements have been seen in king salmon numbers for the past three years, still, runs were again expected to be below average in watersheds throughout Southcentral Alaska during the 2017 season. Therefore, it was uncertain if restrictions to sport and commercial fisheries beyond those identified in management plans would be required to ensure escapement objectives were achieved. In the Northern District, management actions in the Northern District directed king salmon set gillnet fishery have included area closures, time restrictions, and/or regularly scheduled fishing period closures in order to reduce the harvest of northern Cook Inlet king salmon since 2011. Because king salmon escapements have improved modestly in the Northern District in recent years, this has resulted in a relaxation of some sport

fish restrictions in the Deshka and Little Susitna rivers. Harvest and escapement data over recent years, in combination with recent strength of age class relationships derived from data collected at the Deshka and Little Susitna weirs, indicated that additional harvest over 2013–2016 levels was sustainable for these systems only. Therefore, the 2017 Northern District directed king salmon commercial fishery started the season fishing regularly scheduled 12-hour fishing periods. In total, there were four periods scheduled during the directed king salmon commercial fishery: May 29, and June 5, 12, and 19. The Deshka River is the primary system in northern Cook Inlet where king salmon escapement has been monitored inseason with a weir to meet an SEG of 13,000–28,000 fish. Based on weir counts of approximately 6,400 fish through June 17, achieving the SEG in the Deshka River was uncertain without a reduction in harvest of this stock. Therefore, the final Northern District set gillnet commercial fishing period on June 19 was reduced from 12 hours to 6 hours in duration. Bait was removed from the Deshka River sport fishery via EO a few days later. The estimated final escapement of king salmon in the Deshka River was approximately 11,400 fish, which was below the lower end of the SEG and was 34% less than the previous 10 year average of 17,195 fish.

The board adopted a new king salmon SEG of 2,100–4,300 fish for the Little Susitna River at its 2017 UCI finfish meeting. The estimated escapement in 2017 was approximately 2,500 king salmon, which meant the SEG was achieved.

The estimated king salmon harvest in the Northern District directed fishery in 2017 was 1,927 fish, nearly identical to the previous 10-year average annual harvest of 1,926 fish.

A number of regulatory changes were made to the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* by the board during the 2017 UCI finfish meeting. Kenai River late-run king salmon were now to be managed to meet an SEG of 13,500–27,000 large (>75cm mid eye to tail fork) fish. If restrictions were implemented in the sport fishery in order to achieve the SEG (from July 1–31), restrictive actions were also required in the ESSN fishery. In August, after the Kenai River sport fishery is closed, the ESSN fishery was to be managed to meet both king and sockeye salmon escapement goals. The 2017 pre-season forecast was for a total run of approximately 33,600 “large” Kenai River late-run king salmon. Few, if any, restrictive actions were anticipated in either the sport or commercial ESSN fishery if the total run was close to forecast. No restrictions were made to either fishery for king salmon conservation in 2017.

The estimated harvest of all king salmon stocks in the 2017 ESSN fishery was 4,631 fish. The stock composition of the harvest will not be known until genetic samples collected during the fishery are processed by the Department’s Gene Conservation Laboratory (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishinggeneconservationlab.main>). Large late-run king salmon passage in the Kenai River was enumerated at the River Mile 14 sonar site. The total estimated inriver mortality (harvest and catch and release mortality) above the sonar was 6,082 fish with an estimated number of king salmon spawning downstream of the sonar of 829 fish. This resulted in a preliminary escapement estimate of 20,731 king salmon, which was within the SEG of 13,500–27,000 large fish.

Similar to 2016, harvest of king salmon was again allowed in the Kenai River during the early-run king salmon sport fishery. An emergency order opened the lower 18 miles of the Kenai River with bait from June 21–June 30. The estimated passage of early-run large kings was 7,237 fish; the optimal escapement goal (OEG) for Kenai River early-run large king salmon is 3,900–6,600

fish. Therefore, after harvest above the River Mile 14 sonar site is subtracted from the passage estimate, it is likely the upper end of the OEG was exceeded.

In all of UCI, approximately 7,369 king salmon were commercially harvested in 2017, which was 22% less than the previous 10-year (2007–2016) average annual harvest of 9,427 fish (Table 1). Using a price of \$3.78 per pound for king salmon, the estimated exvessel value of the 2017 harvest was \$644,000, or approximately 2.7% of the total exvessel value of salmon in UCI.

Table 1.—Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest by species, 1970–2017.

Year	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1970	8,336	732,605	275,399	814,895	776,229	2,607,464
1971	19,765	636,303	100,636	35,624	327,029	1,119,357
1972	16,086	879,824	80,933	628,574	630,103	2,235,520
1973	5,194	670,098	104,420	326,184	667,573	1,773,469
1974	6,596	497,185	200,125	483,730	396,840	1,584,476
1975	4,787	684,752	227,379	336,333	951,796	2,205,047
1976	10,865	1,664,150	208,695	1,256,728	469,802	3,610,240
1977	14,790	2,052,291	192,599	553,855	1,233,722	4,047,257
1978	17,299	2,621,421	219,193	1,688,442	571,779	5,118,134
1979	13,738	924,415	265,166	72,982	650,357	1,926,658
1980	13,798	1,573,597	271,418	1,786,430	389,675	4,034,918
1981	12,240	1,439,277	484,411	127,164	833,542	2,896,634
1982	20,870	3,259,864	793,937	790,648	1,433,866	6,299,185
1983	20,634	5,049,733	516,322	70,327	1,114,858	6,771,874
1984	10,062	2,106,714	449,993	617,452	680,726	3,864,947
1985	24,088	4,060,429	667,213	87,828	772,849	5,612,407
1986	39,256	4,792,072	757,353	1,300,958	1,134,817	8,024,456
1987	39,440	9,469,248	449,750	109,389	349,150	10,416,977
1988	29,080	6,843,833	561,048	471,080	710,615	8,615,656
1989	26,738	5,011,159	339,931	67,443	122,051	5,567,322
1990	16,105	3,604,710	501,739	603,630	351,197	5,077,381
1991	13,542	2,178,797	426,498	14,663	280,230	2,913,730
1992	17,171	9,108,353	468,930	695,861	274,303	10,564,618
1993	18,871	4,755,344	306,882	100,934	122,770	5,304,801
1994	19,962	3,565,609	583,793	523,434	303,177	4,995,975
1995	17,893	2,952,096	447,130	133,578	529,428	4,080,125
1996	14,306	3,888,922	321,668	242,911	156,520	4,624,327
1997	13,292	4,176,995	152,408	70,945	103,036	4,516,676
1998	8,124	1,219,517	160,688	551,737	95,704	2,035,770
1999	14,383	2,680,518	126,105	16,176	174,554	3,011,736
2000	7,350	1,322,482	236,871	146,482	127,069	1,840,254
2001	9,295	1,826,851	113,311	72,560	84,494	2,106,511
2002	12,714	2,773,118	246,281	446,960	237,949	3,717,022
2003	18,503	3,476,161	101,756	48,789	120,767	3,765,976
2004	26,922	4,927,084	311,058	357,939	146,165	5,769,168
2005	27,667	5,238,699	224,657	48,419	69,740	5,609,182
2006	18,029	2,192,730	177,853	404,111	64,033	2,856,756
2007	17,625	3,316,779	177,339	147,020	77,240	3,736,003
2008	13,333	2,380,135	171,869	169,368	50,315	2,785,020
2009	8,750	2,045,794	153,210	214,321	82,808	2,504,883
2010	9,900	2,828,342	207,350	292,706	228,863	3,567,161
2011	11,248	5,277,995	95,291	34,123	129,407	5,548,064
2012	2,527	3,133,839	106,775	469,598	269,733	3,982,472
2013	5,398	2,683,224	260,963	48,275	139,365	3,137,225
2014	4,660	2,343,529	137,376	642,879	116,093	3,244,537
2015	10,798	2,649,667	216,032	48,004	275,960	3,200,461
2016	10,027	2,396,943	147,495	382,468	123,679	3,060,612
2017 ^a	7,369	1,838,110	293,811	168,042	239,425	2,546,757
2007–2016 Avg	9,427	2,905,625	167,370	244,876	149,346	3,476,644

^a 2017 data are preliminary

Table 2.–Upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon goals and passage (or counts), 2017.

System	2017 Estimate	Goal type ^a	Lower goal	Upper goal
Kenai River	1,308,279 ^b	Inriver	1,000,000	1,300,000
		SEG	700,000	1,200,000
Kasilof River	358,699 ^{b,c}	BEG	160,000	340,000 ^c
		OEG	160,000	390,000
Larson Lake	31,687	SEG	15,000	35,000
Chelatna Lake	26,952	SEG	20,000	45,000
Judd Lake	35,729	SEG	15,000	40,000
Fish Creek	61,469	SEG	15,000	45,000
Packers Creek	unknown ^d	SEG	15,000	30,000

^a BEG=Biological Escapement Goal, SEG=Sustainable Escapement Goal, OEG=Optimum Escapement Goal, and Inriver=Inriver Goal.

^b Sonar estimate at river mile 19 on Kenai River and river mile 8 on Kasilof River; not escapement. Harvest upstream of sonar must be subtracted to estimate escapement. Sport harvest estimated from Statewide Harvest Survey; results for 2017 available spring of 2018 at the earliest.

^c The Kasilof River goal in 2017 was a biological escapement goal (BEG) of 160,000 to 340,000.

^d 2017 escapement will not be known until video data from the weir are processed.

Table 3.–Upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon forecast versus actual run by river system, 2017.

System	Forecast (thousands)	Actual (thousands)	Difference
Kenai River	2,164	2,890	34%
Kasilof River	825	821	0%
Susitna River	365	294	-19%
Fish Creek	75	89	19%
Minor Systems	586	498	-15%
Overall Total	4,016	4,589	14%

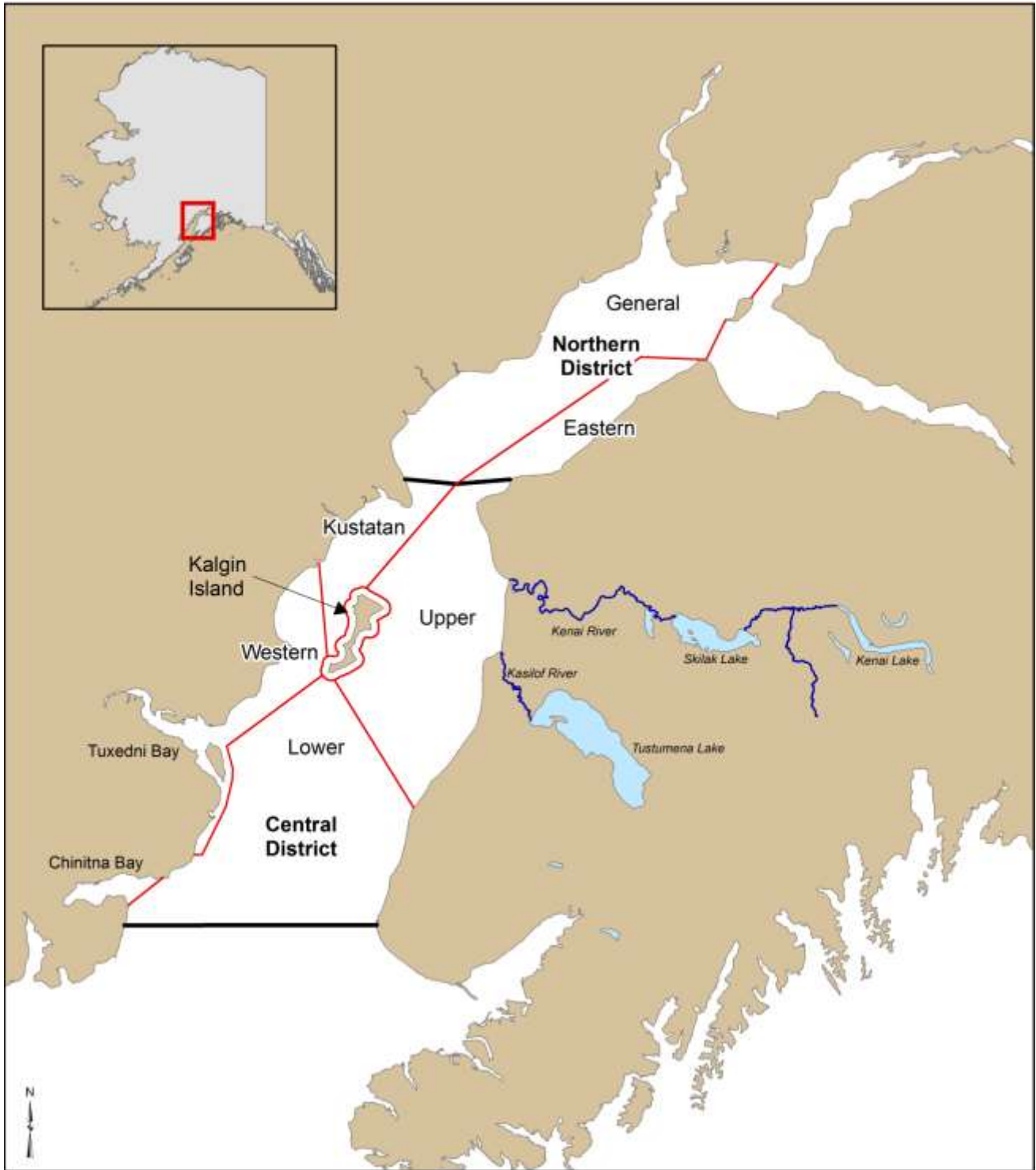


Figure 1.—Upper Cook Inlet commercial fisheries subdistrict fishing boundaries.

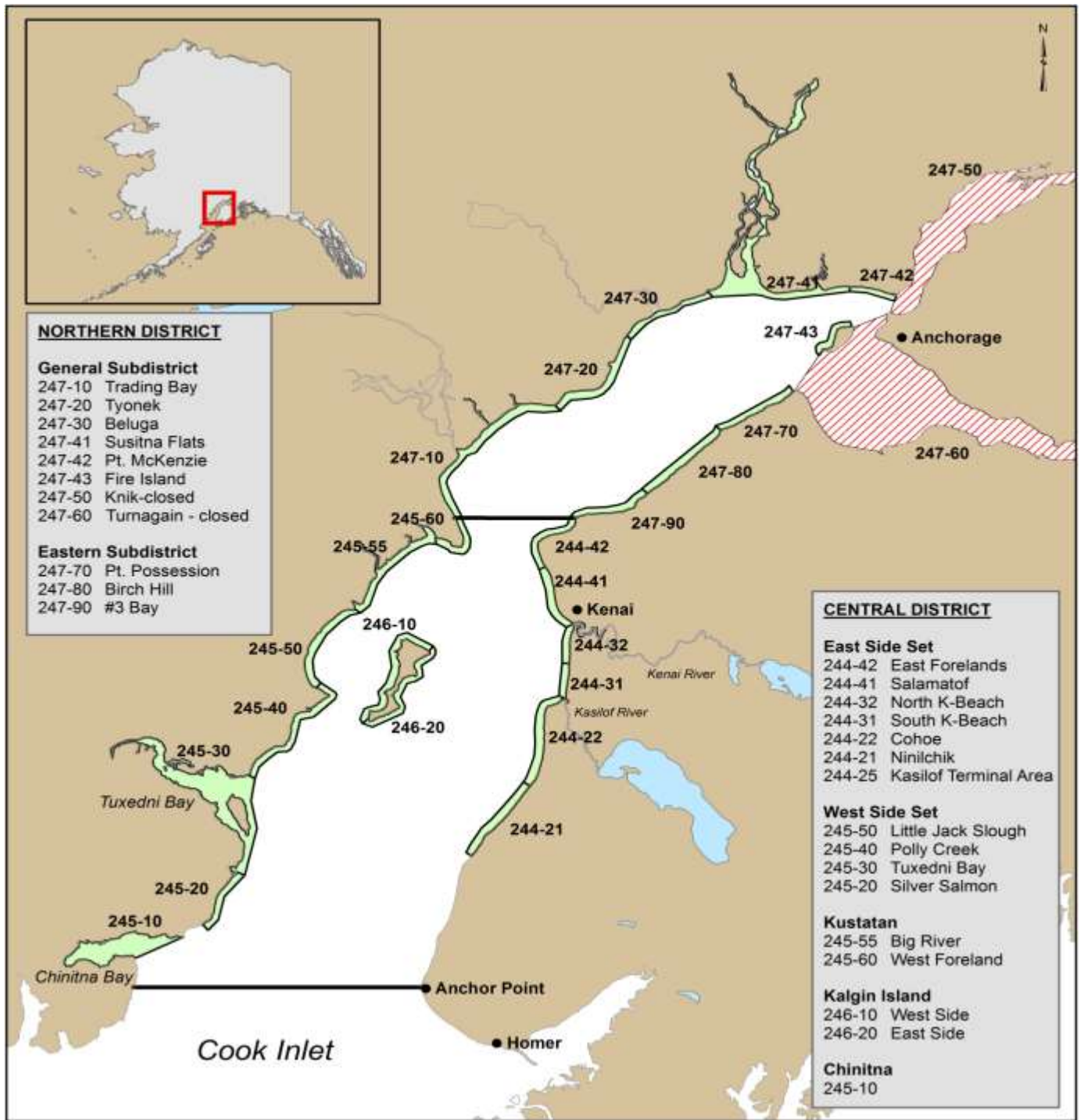


Figure 2.—Upper Cook Inlet commercial set gillnet statistical areas.

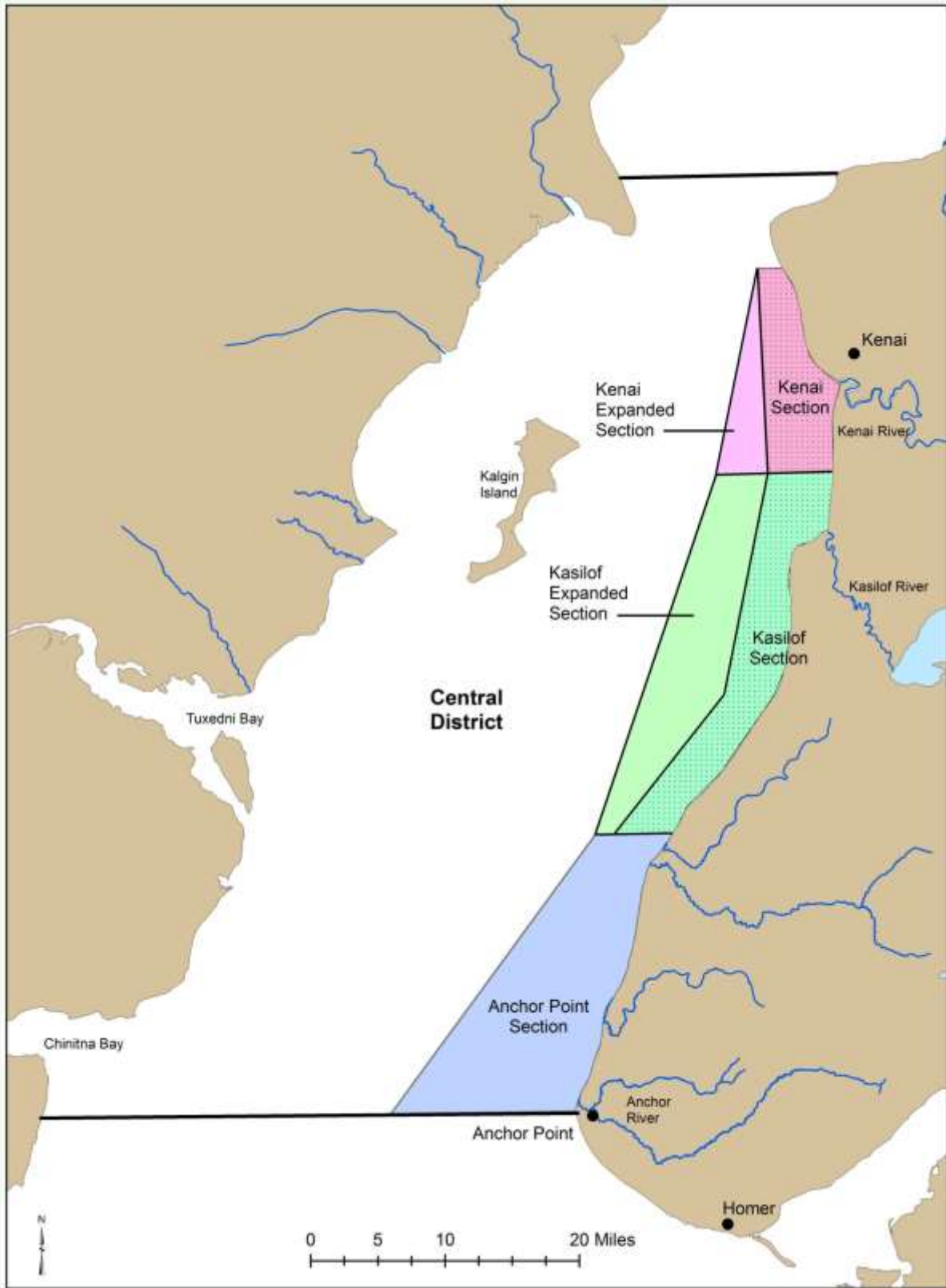


Figure 3.—Map of drift gillnet “corridor” boundaries, including the Kenai and Kasilof sections, Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections, and the Anchor Point Section.

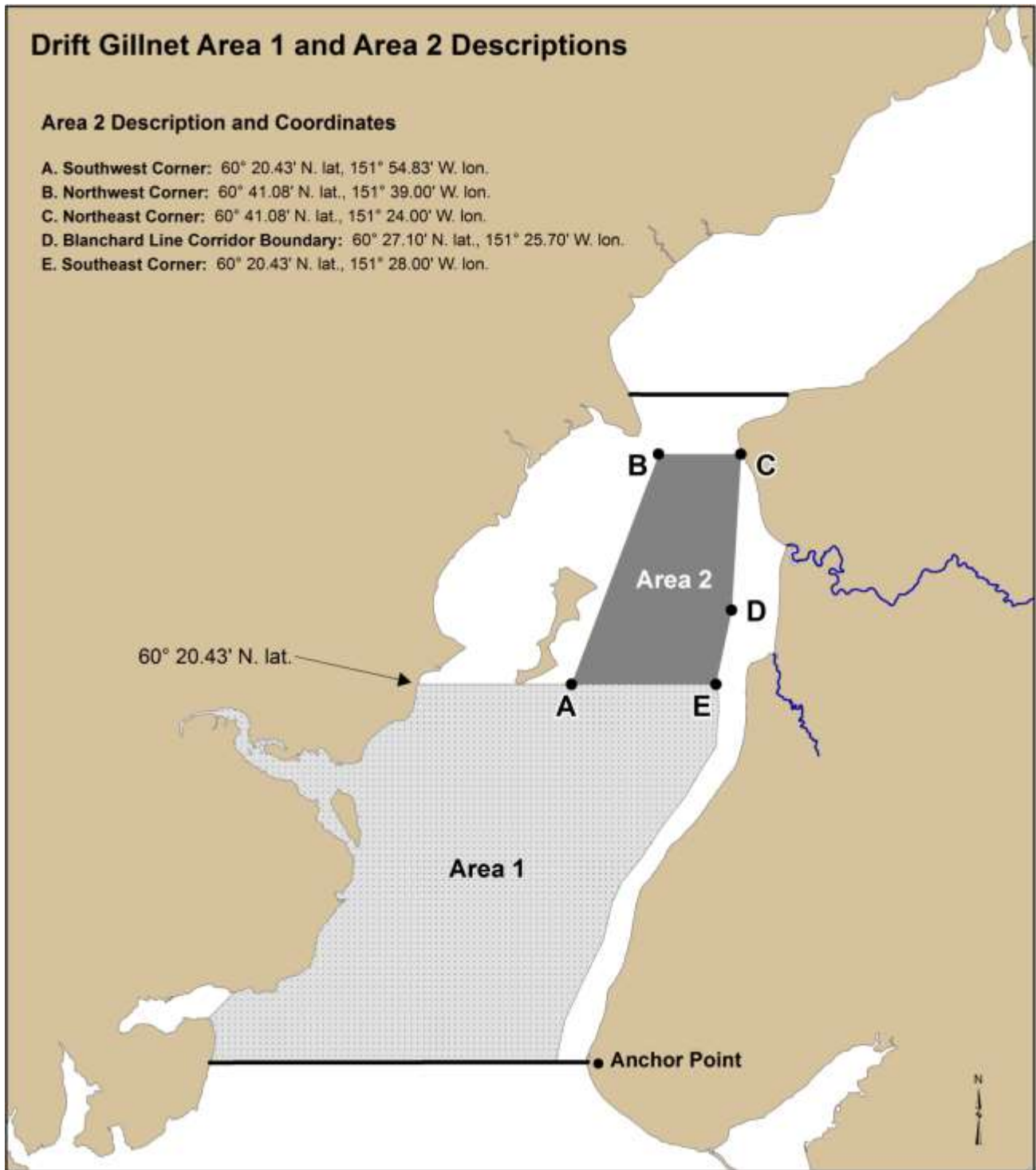


Figure 4.—Drift gillnet boundaries for fishing Areas 1 and 2.

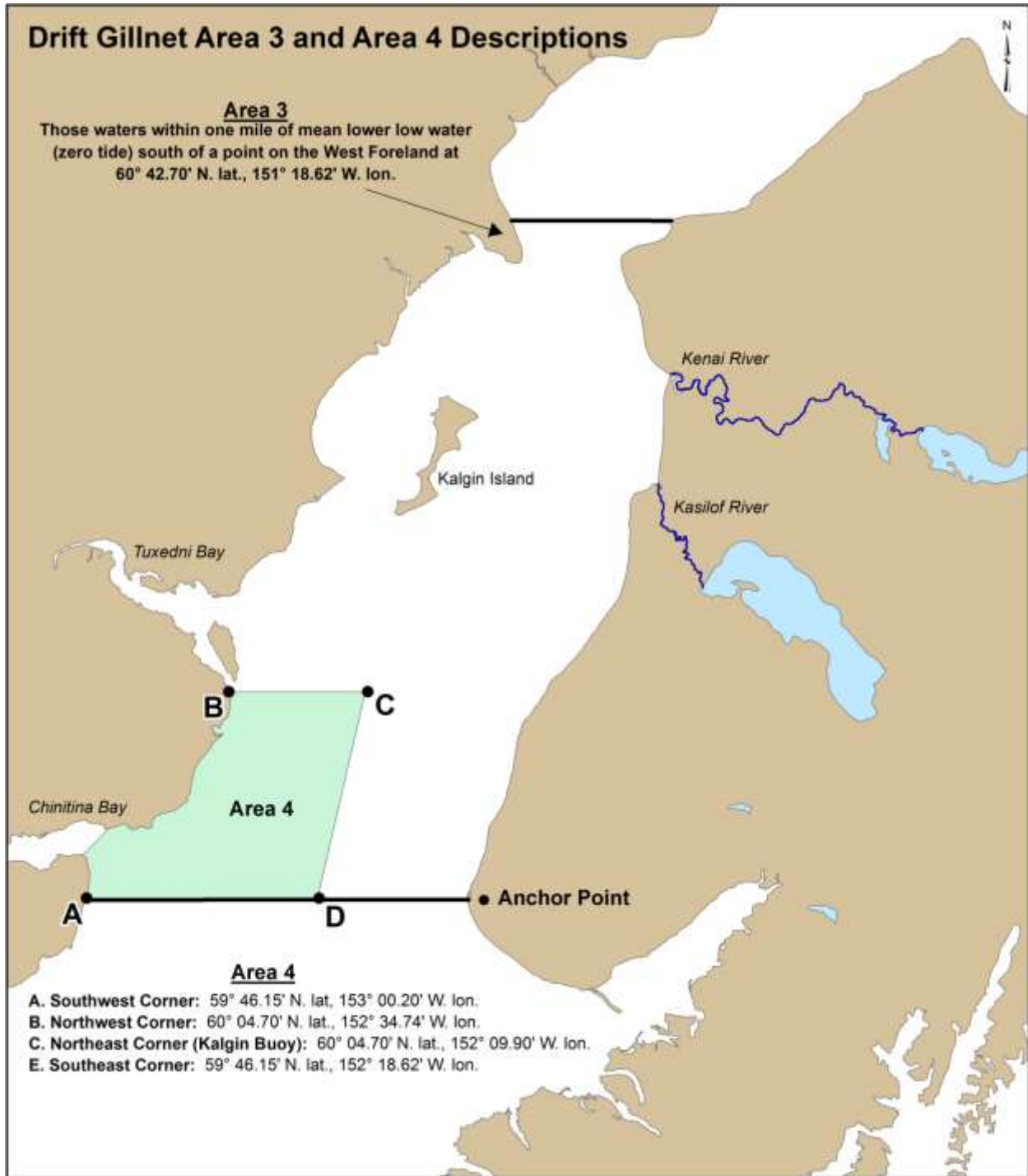


Figure 5.—Map of drift gillnet Areas 3 and 4.