



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of  
Fish and Game**

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
Westward Region Office

351 Research Court  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615-7400  
Main: 907.486.1825  
Fax: 907.486.1841

TO: Nick Sagalkin  
Regional Supervisor  
Division of Commercial Fisheries, Region IV

DATE: November 1, 2014

THRU: Jeff Wadle  
Regional Finfish Management Supervisor  
Division of Commercial Fisheries, Region IV

SUBJECT: Summary of the 2014  
Alaska Peninsula–Aleutian  
Islands Herring Fisheries

THRU: Matthew Keyse and Bob Murphy  
Area Management Biologists  
Division of Commercial Fisheries, Region IV

FROM: Dawn Wilburn  
Assistant Area Management Biologist  
Division of Commercial Fisheries, Region IV

---

## Introduction

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

A sac roe herring fishery may occur in the North and South Alaska Peninsula waters from April 15 through July 15 (5 AAC 27.610(a)) and in the Aleutian Islands waters from April 15 through June 24 (5 AAC 27.610(e)(1)). The Aleutian Islands herring food and bait season (Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery) was established by regulation (5 AAC 27.610(e)(2)(A and B)) and may be conducted from June 24 through February 28 for gillnet gear and from July 15 through February 28 for seine gear. In 2004, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) established an experimental herring seine and pound fishery in which the department may reserve up to 100 tons from the herring seine fishery allocation. Fishing periods are established by emergency order and are based on in-season evaluation of observed biomass, effort levels, and harvest.

### **Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Allocation**

The 2014 Dutch Harbor food and bait herring fishery allocation is based on the preseason forecast of the Togiak District herring biomass of 157,448 tons. The Togiak District herring fishery is managed on a 20% exploitation rate which would allow a 2014 total allowable harvest of 31,490 tons. The Togiak spawn on kelp fishery receives a fixed allocation of 1,500 tons which results in a remaining allowable harvest of 29,990 tons. The 2014 Dutch Harbor herring food and bait allocation was 2,099 tons (7%; Table 1). In accordance with 5 AAC 27.655, the Dutch Harbor herring allocation was divided by gear type to allow a 294 ton guideline harvest level (GHL) for gillnet gear (14%) and a 1,805 ton GHL for seine gear (86%). During the 2010 BOF meeting, it was decided that after July 25, if the gillnet allocation has not been harvested, it may be taken by either gillnet gear or purse seine gear. Additionally, if the seine group exceeds its allocation before July 25, that amount shall be deducted from any remaining quota for that year after July 25. If the seine group exceeds the total allocation after July 25, the seine group overage shall be deducted from the next year's seine allocation as stated in 5 AAC 27.655(b). During the 2013 season, the purse seine fleet harvested within the total allocation resulting in no deductions to the total allocation for 2014.

### **Dutch Harbor Gillnet Fishery**

In 2014, commercial herring fishing opened to the gillnet fleet at noon on July 15 and was extended continuously until noon on July 20. There was no participation from the gillnet fleet (Table 2).

### **Dutch Harbor Seine Fishery**

In 2014, commercial herring fishing opened to the purse seine fleet at noon on July 15 and was extended continuously until noon on July 20. The Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) issued 7 seine permits, though only 3 permit holders and 3 processors registered with the department and participated in this fishery.

The fishery was open simultaneously in the Unalaska and Akutan districts (Figure 2). Permit holders made a total of 11 deliveries resulting in a harvest of 1,645 tons of herring (Table 3).

The price per ton paid to the seine fleet ranged from \$300 to \$550 per ton, with an estimated exvessel value of \$444,200 (Table 3). The majority of the herring was processed as bait with only a limited quantity going to the food market. Samples for age, weight, and length determination were collected from each delivery. This data will be available in the *Alaska Peninsula–Aleutian Islands Management Area Herring Sac Roe and Food and Bait Fisheries Annual Management Report, 2014*.

### **Dutch Harbor Purse Seine Pound Fishery**

In 2014, there was no interest or participation in this fishery (Table 1).

### **Alaska Peninsula Sac Roe Fishery**

In 2014, there was no interest or participation in this fishery (Table 4). A sac roe herring fishery has occurred in North Alaska Peninsula waters most years since 2009, while no herring fishery has occurred in South Alaska Peninsula waters since 1996.

**Adak Herring Fishery**

In 2010, the BOF amended 5 ACC 27.657 to allow the harvests of 500 tons of herring by both gillnet and purse seine gear in that part of the Adak District of the Alaska Peninsula–Aleutian Islands Management Area from long 175°30'W to long 177°W (Figure 3). In 2014, no CFEC permit holders or processors registered with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for this fishery, nor were there any commercial openings or samples collected in the Adak District.

**Summary**

The Aleutian Islands Management Area herring food and bait fishery was open to vessels using seine and gillnet gear from July 15 until July 20. A total of 1,645 tons of herring were harvested by the seine fleet; there was no harvest by the gillnet fleet due to a lack of participation (Table 1). There was no sac roe fishery harvest in Area M in 2014 due to lack of interest.

Table 1.—Aleutian Islands Area Dutch Harbor herring food and bait fishery allocations, commercial harvests and effort by gear type, 2004–2014.

Year	All gear types			Gillnet fishery				Seine fishery				Seine pound fishery			
	Biomass <sup>a, b</sup>	Allocation <sup>a</sup>	Harvest <sup>a</sup>	Allocation <sup>a</sup>	Harvest <sup>a</sup>	Vessels	Landings	Allocation <sup>a</sup>	Harvest <sup>a</sup>	Vessels	Landings	Allocation <sup>a</sup>	Harvest <sup>a</sup>	Vessels	Landings
2004 <sup>c</sup>	143,124	1,899	1,254	266	216	7	37	1,633	1,038	3	20	100	d	d	d
2005	105,029	1,365	1,159	191	0	5	0	1,174	1,159	4	7	100	d	d	d
2006	129,976	1,715	954	240	d	d	d	1,475	953	2	18	100	d	d	d
2007	134,566	1,779	1,254	249	d	d	d	1,530	1,248	2	12	100	d	d	d
2008	130,516	1,722	1,575	241	d	d	d	1,481	1,536	2	14	0	0	0	0
2009	121,800	1,600	1,334	224	d	d	d	1,323	1,310	2	12	0	0	0	0
2010	146,775	1,950	1,938	273	0	0	0	1,677	1,941	2	18	100	d	d	d
2011	140,860	1,867	1,795	261	0	0	0	1,506	1,795	2	15	0	0	0	0
2012	123,745	1,627	1,807	227	0	0	0	1,300	1,807	2	16	0	0	0	0
2013	169,094	2,262	1,764	317	0	0	0	1,665 <sup>e</sup>	1,764	3	12	0	0	0	0
2014	157,448	2,099	1,645	294	0	0	0	1,805	1,645	3	11	0	0	0	0

<sup>a</sup> Weights represented in short tons.

<sup>b</sup> Togiak District preseason forecasted herring biomass

<sup>c</sup> Since 2004, 100 tons of the seine allocation has been set aside for the seine pound fishery.

<sup>d</sup> This information cannot be released due to state confidentiality requirements.

<sup>e</sup> A 180 ton overharvest penalty was applied to the 2013 seine allocation.

Table 2.—Aleutian Islands Area Dutch Harbor herring food and bait fisheries historical summary for gillnet gear, 2001–2014.

Year	Harvest in Tons	Number of Vessels	Number Landings	Tons Per Vessel	Tons Per Landing	Price Per Ton	Exvessel Value (Thousands)	Exvessel Value Per Vessel (Thousands)
2004	216	7	37	31	6	\$300	\$64.8	\$9.3
2005	0	0	0	0	0	\$300	\$0.0	\$0.0
2006 <sup>a, b</sup>								
2007 <sup>b</sup>								
2008 <sup>b</sup>								
2009 <sup>b</sup>								
2010 <sup>c</sup>								
2011 <sup>c</sup>								
2012 <sup>c</sup>								
2013 <sup>c</sup>								
2014 <sup>c</sup>								
2004–2013								
Average	48	2	9	13	3	\$333	\$15.1	\$4.7

<sup>a</sup> Twenty of 108 tons were not purchased due to spoilage.

<sup>b</sup> This information cannot be released to due to state confidentiality requirements.

<sup>c</sup> No Participation.

Table 3.—Aleutian Islands Area Dutch Harbor herring food and bait fisheries historical summary for purse seine gear, 1995–2014.

Year	Harvest in Tons	No. Vessels Making Landings <sup>a</sup>	Number Landings	Tons Per Vessel	Tons Per Landing	Price Per Ton	Exvessel Value (Thousands)	Exvessel Value Per Vessel (Thousands)
2004	1,035	3	17	345	61	\$100–500	\$309	\$103
2005	1,154	3	7	385	165	\$100–500	\$370	\$123
2006	953	2	25	477	38	\$100–500	\$384	\$192
2007	1,208	2	12	604	101	\$100–500	\$437	\$219
2008	1,536	2	14	768	110	\$300–490	\$592	\$296
2009	1,310	2	12	655	109	\$300–500	\$519	\$260
2010	1,938	2	18	969	108	\$100–500	\$722	\$361
2011	1,795	2	15	898	120	\$100–500	\$898	\$449
2012	1,807	2	16	904	113	\$100–500	\$542	\$271
2013	1,764	3	12	588	147	\$300–550	\$750	\$250
2014	1,645	3	11	548	150	\$300–550	\$444	\$148
2004–2013								
Average	1,450	2	15	659	107	363	\$552	\$252

<sup>a</sup> Since 2003, several permit holders have formed a cooperative and used one vessel.

Table 4.—Alaska Peninsula herring sac roe fishery harvest, number of landings and permits fished by year, 1979–2014.

Year	North Peninsula			South Peninsula			Total		
	Tons	Landings	Permits	Tons	Landings	Permits	Tons	Landings	Permits
1994	90	7	5	b	b	b	b	b	b
1995	337	37	12	b	b	b	b	b	b
1996	96	9	3	117	8	4	213	17	7
1997 <sup>a</sup>									
1998	68	5	3	a	a	a	68	5	3
1999 <sup>a</sup>									
2000 <sup>a</sup>									
2001 <sup>a</sup>									
2002 <sup>a</sup>									
2003 <sup>a</sup>									
2004 <sup>a</sup>									
2005	351	12	4	a	a	a	351	12	4
2006 <sup>a</sup>									
2007 <sup>a</sup>									
2008 <sup>a</sup>									
2009	3,027	46	4	a	a	a	3,027	46	4
2010	b	b	b	a	a	a	b	b	b
2011 <sup>a</sup>									
2012	b	b	b	a	a	a	b	b	b
2013	230	8	4	a	a	a	230	8	4
2014 <sup>a</sup>									
2004–2013									
Average	389	7	2	0	0	0	389	7	2

<sup>a</sup> No fishery.

<sup>b</sup> This information cannot be released due to state confidentiality requirements.

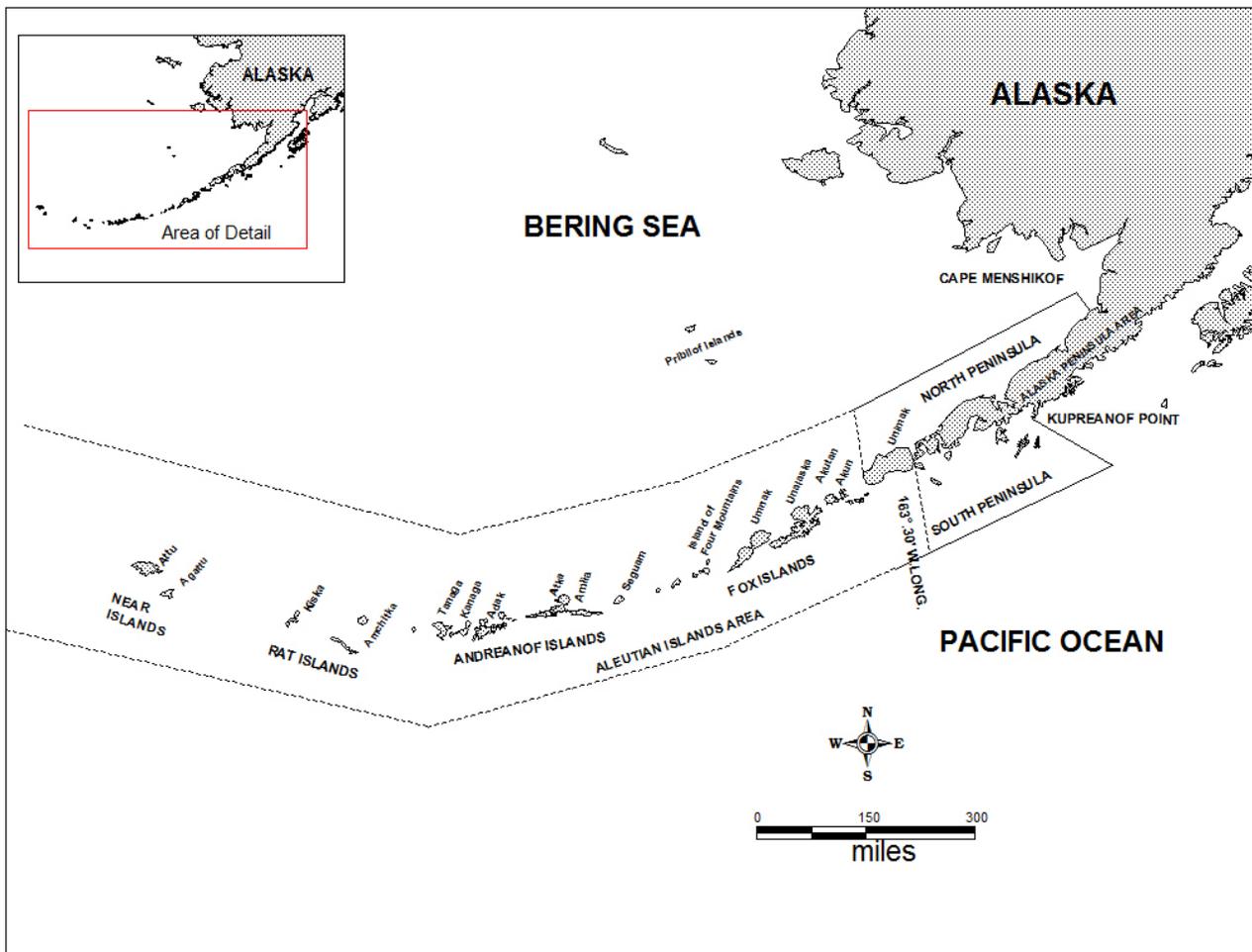


Figure 1.—The Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Herring Management Area.

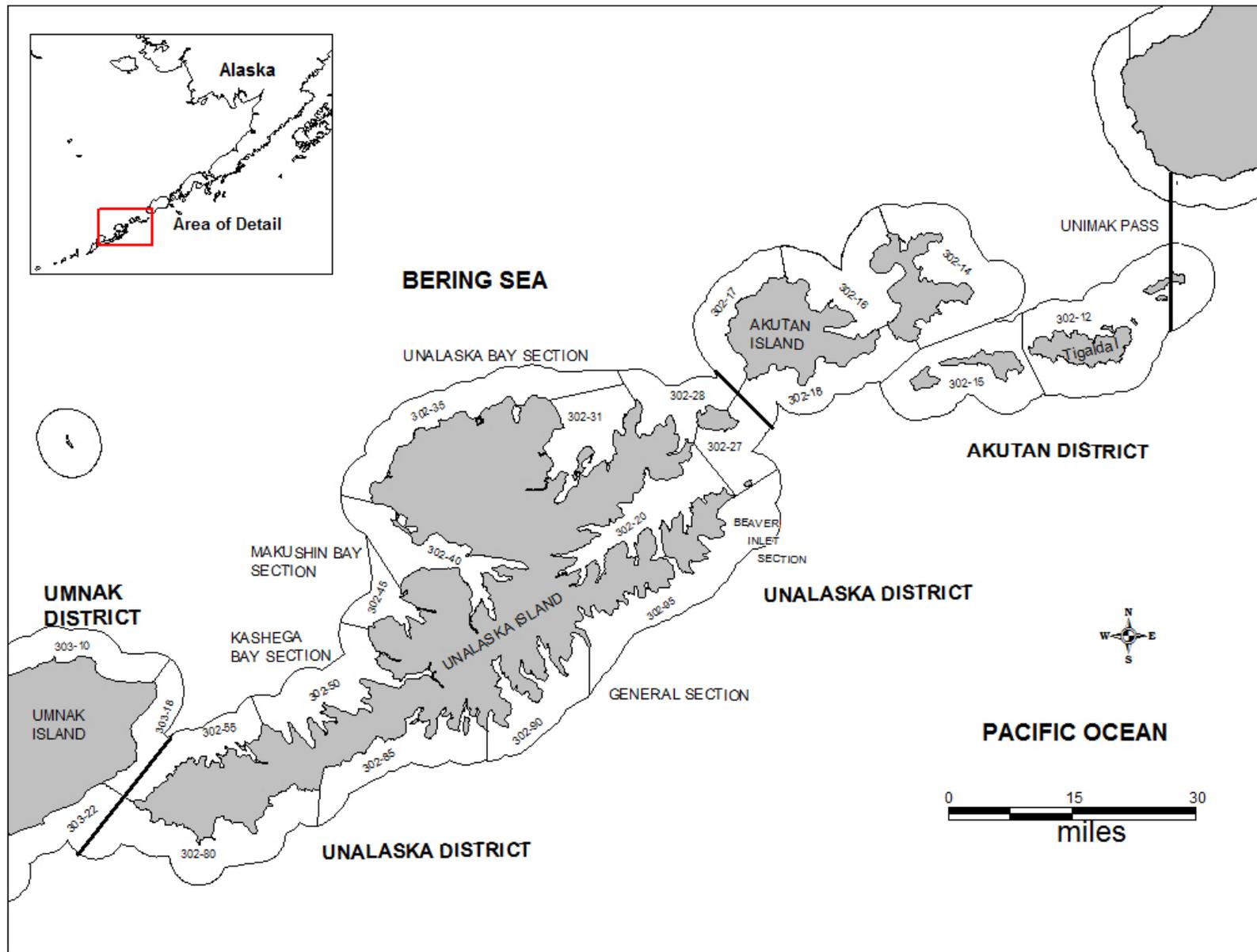


Figure 2.—The Unalaska and Akutan commercial herring fishing districts.

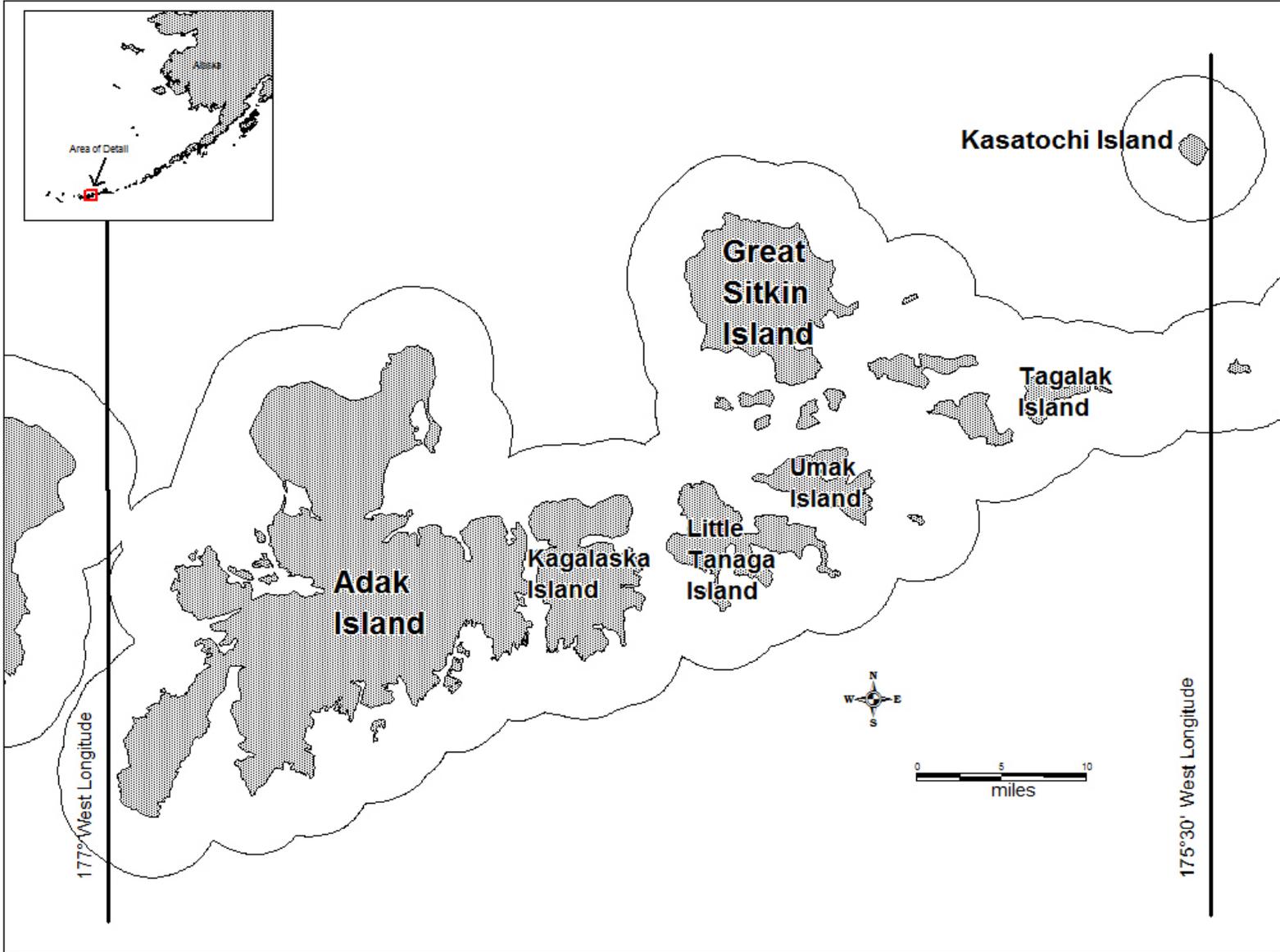


Figure 3.—Map of the Adak herring fishery district.

cc: Campbell  
Regnart  
Brazil  
Dorner  
Volk  
Bowers  
Foster  
Bergstrom  
Fox  
Dressel  
Kelly  
Greer  
Linderman  
Jones

Spalinger  
Jackson  
Elison  
Buck  
Fitch  
Lechner  
Josephson  
Herring  
Sands  
Sand Point AC  
False Pass AC  
Nelson Lagoon AC  
King Cove AC  
Dutch Harbor AC

Icicle Seafoods  
Peter Pan Seafoods  
Trident Seafoods  
Western Alaskan Seafoods