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ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STAFF COMMENTS ON REGULATORY PROPOSALS FOR FINFISH FOR THE CHIGNIK, SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA, AND BERING SEA–ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

February 21-26, 2019

Regional Information Report No. 4K19-04

The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, February 21–26, 2019, in Anchorage, Alaska. The comments are forwarded to assist the public and board. The comments contained herein should be considered preliminary and subject to change, as new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral public testimony presented to the board.

Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the Système International d'Unités (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Sport Fish and of Commercial Fisheries: Fishery Manuscripts, Fishery Data Series Reports, Fishery Management Reports, Special Publications and the Division of Commercial Fisheries Regional Reports. All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figure or figure captions.

Weights and measures (metric)

centimeter	cm
deciliter	dL
gram	g
hectare	ha
kilogram	kg
kilometer	km
liter	L
meter	m
milliliter	mL
millimeter	mm

Weights and measures (English)

cubic feet per second	ft^3/s
foot	ft
gallon	gal
inch	in
mile	mi
nautical mile	nmi
ounce	oz
pound	lb
quart	qt
yard	yd

Time and temperature

day	d
degrees Celsius	°C
degrees Fahrenheit	°F
degrees kelvin	K
hour	h
minute	min
second	s

Physics and chemistry

all atomic symbols	
alternating current	AC
ampere	A
calorie	cal
direct current	DC
hertz	Hz
horsepower	hp
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH
parts per million	ppm
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰
volts	V
watts	W

General

Alaska Administrative Code	AAC
all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.
all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.
at	@
compass directions:	
east	E
north	N
south	S
west	W
copyright	©
corporate suffixes:	
Company	Co.
Corporation	Corp.
Incorporated	Inc.
Limited	Ltd.
District of Columbia	D.C.
et alii (and others)	et al.
et cetera (and so forth)	etc.
exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.
Federal Information Code	FIC
id est (that is)	i.e.
latitude or longitude	lat or long
monetary symbols (U.S.)	$, ¢
months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan,...,Dec
registered trademark	®
trademark	™
United States (adjective)	U.S.
United States of America (noun)	USA
U.S.C.	United States Code
U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)

Mathematics, statistics

all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations	
alternate hypothesis	H_A
base of natural logarithm	e
catch per unit effort	CPUE
coefficient of variation	CV
common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2, etc.)
confidence interval	CI
correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
correlation coefficient (simple)	r
covariance	cov
degree (angular)	°
degrees of freedom	df
expected value	E
greater than	>
greater than or equal to	≥
harvest per unit effort	HPUE
less than	<
less than or equal to	≤
logarithm (natural)	ln
logarithm (base 10)	log
logarithm (specify base)	$\log_2$, etc.
minute (angular)	'
not significant	NS
null hypothesis	H_O
percent	%
probability	P
probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
second (angular)	"
standard deviation	SD
standard error	SE
variance	
population	Var
sample	var

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ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

February 21-26, 2019

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1565

February 2019

ABSTRACT

This document contains Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff comments on commercial regulatory proposals for the Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, and Bering Sea–Aleutian Islands finfish. These comments were prepared by the department for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, February 21–26, 2019, in Anchorage, Alaska. The comments are forwarded to assist the public and board. The comments contained herein should be considered preliminary and subject to change, as new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral public testimony presented to the board.

Key words: Alaska Board of Fisheries (board), Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department), staff comments, regulatory proposals, fisheries, commercial, groundfish, finfish, salmon, sablefish

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Summary of department positions on regulatory proposals for the Kodiak finfish, Anchorage, February 21-26, 2019.

Proposal No.	Department Position[a]	Issue
128	N	Increase the number of sockeye salmon expected to be harvested the Chignik Management Area before fishing can occur in the Southeastern District Mainland.
129	N	Change the estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River system from 80% to 66% of harvest in the *Southeast District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.*
130	N	Reduce the estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River system harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section from 80% to 60%.
131	N	Increase the allocation of the Chignik Management Area harvest to the Southeast District Mainland from 7.6% to 10%.
132	N	Revise the *Southeastern District Management Salmon Plan* to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear concurrent to the Chignik Management Area commercial sockeye salmon fishery.
133	N	Open the Southeast District Mainland commercial fishing in concurrence with Western District and Perryville District fisheries in the Chignik Management Area from June 1 through July 13.
134	N	Requests the removal of the entire Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District from the South Unimak June fishery as in the pre-2001 June South Peninsula management plan for those areas.
135	N	Repeal and replace the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* so that the plan is similar to that in effect from 2001 to 2003: reduce fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula for set gillnet gear from 416 hours to 336 hours and for drift gillnet and seine gear from 352 hours to 144 hours.
136	N	Establish mandatory closures on all gear types in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to allow for at least a 24-hour closure between the openings for each gear type in the Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof sections of the South Central District so Chignik-bound sockeye salmon have an opportunity to pass through the area.
137	N	Expand the "Dolgoi Island area" as defined in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and *Post- June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*.
138	N	Establish a new fishing schedule in the "Dolgoi Island area" for set gillnet, drift gillnet, and seine gear in June and would align the openings in the "Dolgoi Island area" with those in the Southeastern District Mainland Section of the Southeastern District from July 1 through July 25.
139	N	Repeal "Dolgoi Island area" related regulations from the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*.
140	N	Open the area from Cape Tolstoi to McGinty Point to commercial salmon fishing in June.

-continued-

Summary of department positions. Page 2 of 4.

Proposal No.	Department Position[a]	Issue
141	N	Repeal portions of the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Management Plan* and *Post-June Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* that address the "Dolgoi Island area" with harvest limits of 191,000 sockeye salmon based on fish tickets.
142	N	Change the fishing periods established by emergency order from July 6 through July 31 to increase fishing opportunity in Area M; specifically, amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* by increasing fishing time for all gear types from 249 to 312 hours.
143	O	Repeal the test fishery language in the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*.
155	N	Allow a set gillnet lead to be anchored in a location other than the beach. The lead could be anchored at any distance and at any depth away from shore, provided that the shoreward anchor is in a kelp patch or behind a rock.
156	N	Remove the minimum mesh size of five and one-quarter inches for set gillnets from the South Alaska Peninsula Post-June fishery, and remove the minimum mesh size of four and one-half inches for set gillnets beginning July 26 in the Southeastern District Mainland and beginning August 1 in the Shumagin Islands Section.
157	N	Allow two set gillnet permit holders to operate from one vessel. Each permit holder would be allowed to fish a legal set of gear, therefore two sets of gear (four nets totaling 400 fathoms) may be allowed on one vessel.
159	N	Change season start date and remove the allocation between drift gillnet and purse seine gear groups in the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring fishery (align the season dates of both gear types and to remove the rollover date of July 5 for the gillnet allocation).
144	N	If the preseason Bristol Bay sockeye salmon forecast is 30 million fish or less, this proposal would close commercial salmon fishing from 1.5 nm to 3 nm in the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik sections and reduce the size of this section by creating a new northeastern boundary line (originating at lat 56°59.68′N, long 158°40.45′W) in the Outer Port Heiden Section. If the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon preseason forecast is 30 million fish or more, or if an inseason assessment indicates a Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run larger than 30 million fish, then the current northeastern boundary line in the Outer Port Heiden Section will be in effect, and fishing will be permitted out to 3 nm in the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik sections
145	N/O	Limit the fishing area in the Outer Port Heiden Section by moving the boundary line of the existing Outer Port Heiden Section to the west, and then reducing fishing area in the northeast Ilnik area (Strogonof Point to Unangashak Bluffs) to 2 miles offshore at Unangashak Bluffs (long 159°10.25′W).
146	N	Reinstate the "rolling closures" that were repealed by a sunset provision on December 31, 2018. The rolling closures would go into effect only if the escapement goals for the Bear or Nelson rivers through July 31 are not met for two consecutive years.

-continued-

Summary of department positions. Page 3 of 4.

Proposal No.	Department Position[a]	Issue
147	N	Require that 10,000 sockeye salmon pass the Chignik River weir in addition to late-run sockeye salmon escapement requirements in August. Additionally, 10,000 sockeye salmon would be required to pass during the month of September. This would reduce the current inriver run goal of 75,000 sockeye salmon to 20,000 sockeye salmon.
148	O	From July 9 through September 30, the department would manage the Western and Perryville districts of the Chignik Management Area dependent on pink, chum, and coho salmon escapements in the Stepovak and Shumagin Islands sections of the Southeastern District of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Area. This proposal would also require a 48-hour commercial salmon fishing closure within a 7-day period in the Western and Perryville districts in July and August regardless of the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in either the Southeastern District of Area M or Western and Perryville districts in the Chignik Management Area.
149	N	Require the Western and Perryville districts to open concurrently with fishing periods in the Chignik Bay and Central districts and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District during June. During the transition period from Chignik River sockeye salmon early-run management to late-run management, the department may restrict or disallow fishing in the Western and Perryville districts to assess the runs.
150	N	Open the Western District (excluding the Inner Castle Cape subsection) concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central districts and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District during June and early July. The Western District (excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District) could open for no more than 48 hours each week between June 1 and July 5 and must have a closure of no less than 48 hours between each fishing period. The proposer suggests a 3-year sunset provision to evaluate the effects of any adopted actions.
151	N	Open the Western District concurrently with fishing periods in the Chignik Bay and Central districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District in June and early July. The Perryville District would also be allowed to open for three 48-hour fishing periods concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central districts and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District from June 1 through July 5. A closure of 48 hours must occur between each fishing period in the Perryville District.
152	O/N	Prohibit commercial salmon fishing in the Perryville District and Mitrofania Section of the Western District in the CMA unless the Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon escapement objectives are being met.
153	O/N	Prohibit commercial salmon fishing in the Perryville District and the Mitrofania Section of the Western District in the CMA when the SEDM of Area M is closed. The areas could not open to commercial fishing until the SEDM reaches escapement goals.
154	O	Establish a large fish escapement goal for Chignik River king salmon.

-continued-

Summary of department positions. Page 4 of 4.

Proposal No.	Department Position[a]	Issue
158	N	Increase the maximum purse seine and hand purse seine length to 250 fathoms in the Eastern, Central, Western, and Perryville districts of the CMA. Adoption of this proposal would also increase the maximum aggregate length of seine and lead to 250 fathoms in length. This proposal seeks to make purse length consistent between Area K (Kodiak), Area M (Alaska Peninsula), and Area L (Chignik).
160	S	Allow sablefish pot gear to be longlined during the South Alaska Peninsula Area Western District state-waters sablefish fishery.

[a] N = Neutral; S = Support; O = Opposed.

PROPOSAL 128 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Axel Kopun.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Increase the number of sockeye salmon expected to be harvested the Chignik Management Area (CMA) before fishing can occur in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Regulation 5 AAC 09.360 (b) states that if the total CMA harvest is expected to be less than 600,000 sockeye salmon a commercial salmon fishery is not allowed in the SEDM (Figure 128-1) until the department projects a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the CMA. After July 8, regulation 5 AAC 09.360 (b) also states that if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the CMA, the department shall manage the fishery so that at least 600,000 sockeye salmon will be harvested in the CMA. Regulations 5 AAC 09.360 (c) state that if the harvest in the CMA is expected to be 600,000 sockeye salmon but the first run fails to develop as predicted, the SEDM fishery shall be curtailed until the department projects a harvest of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon in the CMA through July 8. 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 and the department determines the runs are as strong as expected, the department shall manage the SEDM fishery so that number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the SEDM approaches as near as possible to 7.6% of the sockeye salmon harvest in the CMA. Sockeye salmon harvested in the SEDM from July 1 through July 25 (excluding the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS) beginning July 1) are considered to be 80% Chignik River system stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would likely result in decreased fishing time in the SEDM for Area M fishermen. This proposal would increase the projected harvest thresholds for the CMA for both the early- and the late-run sockeye salmon from 300,000 to 600,000 and the total projected harvest from 600,000 to 1,000,000.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included the CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of the KMA, and in SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Subsequently, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to allocation of Chignik River system sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation. The proportion of sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM (excluding areas designated as 100% local stocks) considered to be CMA bound has been

determined in regulation to be 80%, based on a 1961 tagging study conducted in the East Stepovak Section. In 1998, the board stipulated that sockeye salmon harvested in NWSS beginning July 1 would not be counted toward the CMA allocation. In addition, beginning July 1, fishing time in NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than an aggregate of 96 hours during a seven-day period.

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

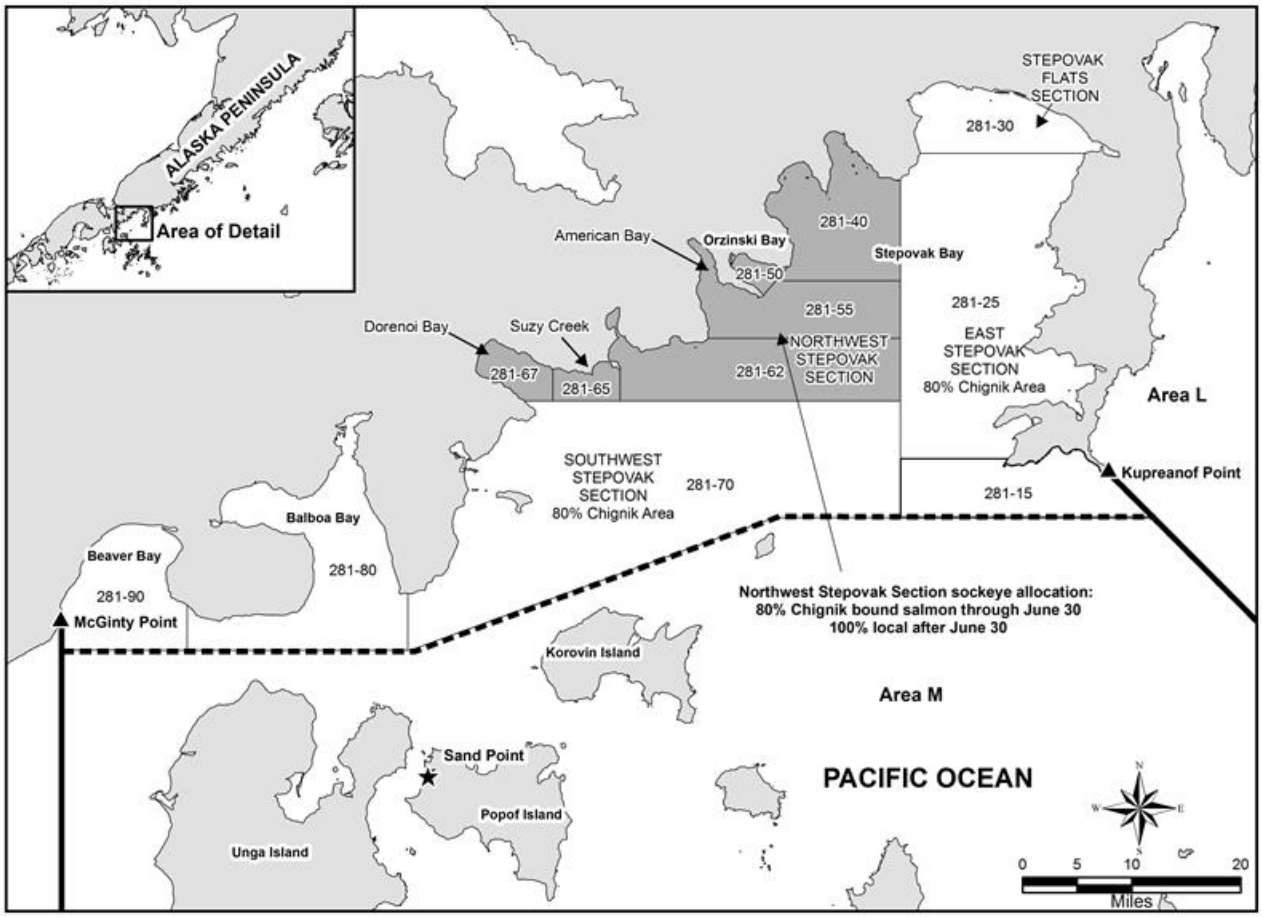

Figure 128-1.–Map of the Southeastern District Mainland from Kupreanof Point to McGinty Point with the commercial salmon fishery sections defined.

PROPOSAL 129 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Smith.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Change the estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River system from 80% to 66% of harvest in the *Southeast District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In June, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in the SEDM (Figure 128-1) are considered to be destined for the CMA. From July 1 to July 25, salmon harvested in NWSS are considered to be 100% local origin while 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in the remainder of SEDM are considered to be Chignik River system stocks. SEDM is allocated 7.6% of the sockeye salmon harvest in the CMA through July 25.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? There would likely be more fishing time and harvest in the Southeastern District Mainland Section of the Southeastern District portion of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the KMA *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included the CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of the KMA, and in SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to allocation of Chignik River system sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation. The proportion of sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM (excluding areas designated as 100% local stocks) considered to be CMA bound has been determined in regulation to be 80%, based on a 1961 tagging study conducted in the East Stepovak Section. In 1998, the board stipulated that sockeye salmon harvested in NWSS beginning July 1 would not be counted toward the CMA allocation. In addition, beginning July 1, fishing time in NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than an aggregate of 96 hours during a seven-day period.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the months of June and July for SEDM can be found in report SP12-31, *Genetic Stock Composition of the Commercial Harvest of Sockeye Salmon in Southeast District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010-2012*. In 2010, the total SEDM harvest of 106,584 sockeye salmon consisted of 65.4% Chignik group fish, in 2011, the total SEDM harvest of 196,419 sockeye salmon consisted of 66.7% Chignik group fish, and in 2012, the total SEDM harvest of 180,390 sockeye salmon consisted of 66.2% Chignik group fish.

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

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

PROPOSAL 130 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Reduce the estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River system harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section from 80% to 60%.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In June, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM (Figure 128-1) are considered to be destined for the CMA. From July 1 to July 25, salmon harvested in NWSS are considered to be 100% local origin while 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in the remainder of SEDM are considered to be Chignik River system stocks. SEDM is allocated 7.6% of the sockeye salmon harvest in CMA through July 25.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would likely result in increased fishing time and harvest in the SEDM (Figure 128-1) of the Southeastern District, in years when Chignik River was meeting escapement goals and harvesting surplus sockeye salmon.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the KMA *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included the CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of the KMA, and in SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to allocation of Chignik River system sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation. The proportion of sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM (excluding areas designated as 100% local stocks) considered to be CMA bound has been determined in regulation to be 80%, based on a 1961 tagging study conducted in the East Stepovak Section. In 1998, the board stipulated that sockeye salmon harvested in NWSS beginning July 1 would not be counted toward the CMA. In addition, beginning July 1, fishing time in NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than an aggregate of 96 hours during a seven-day period.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the months of June and July for SEDM can be found in report SP12-31, *Genetic Stock Composition of the Commercial Harvest of Sockeye Salmon in Southeast District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010-2012*. In 2010, the total SEDM harvest of 106,584 sockeye salmon consisted of 65.4% Chignik group fish, in 2011, the total SEDM harvest of 196,419 sockeye salmon consisted of 66.7% Chignik group fish, and in 2012, the total SEDM harvest of 180,390 sockeye salmon consisted of 66.2% Chignik group fish.

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.

PROPOSAL 131 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Increase the allocation of the CMA harvest to the SEDM from 7.6% to 10%.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? When a harvestable surplus 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 system that are harvested in the SEDM approaches as near as possible to (with some fluctuations above or below) 7.6% of the sockeye salmon harvest in the CMA.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would likely result in increased fishing time and harvest in the Southeastern District Mainland Section of the Southeastern District in years when the CMA is meeting escapement goals and harvesting surplus sockeye salmon.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the KMA *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included the CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of the KMA, and in SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to allocation of Chignik River system sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation.

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.

PROPOSAL 132 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Jack Foster Jr. and Amy Foster.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Revise the *Southeastern District Management Salmon Plan* to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear concurrent to the CMA commercial sockeye salmon fishery.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulation 5 AAC 09.360 (b-d) and (g) state 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 number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the SEDM approaches as near as possible to (with some fluctuations above or below) 7.6% of the sockeye salmon harvest in the CMA. Set gillnet gear is allowed to fish in the SEDM during periods established by emergency order under current regulations from June 1 through July 25 while seine gear is only allowed in the SEDM beginning July 11. After July 25, the SEDM is no longer managed based on the CMA run strength; the fishery is managed based on the abundance of local stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear would be open concurrently with commercial salmon fishing in the CMA. Set gillnet fishermen would no longer be included in the allocative plan with the CMA and would likely fish more than they do in current regulation. Fish harvested in the SEDM by set gillnet fishermen would not be included in the 7.6% allocation harvest allocation with the CMA.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the KMA *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included the CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of the KMA, and in SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to allocation of Chignik River system sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation.

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 133 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Emil Mobeck.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Open the SEDM commercial fishing in concurrence with Western District and Perryville District fisheries in the CMA from June 1 through July 13 (Figure 133-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulation 5 AAC 09.360 (b-d) and (g) state 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 that are harvested in the SEDM approaches as near as possible to (with some fluctuations above or below) 7.6% of the sockeye salmon harvest in the CMA. Set gillnet gear is allowed to fish in the SEDM during periods established by emergency order under current regulations from June 1 through July 25 while seine gear is only allowed in the SEDM beginning July 11. After July 25, the SEDM is no longer managed based on the CMA run strength; the fishery is managed based on the abundance of local stocks.

Current regulations in the *CMA Salmon Management Plan* 5 AAC 15.357 state that prior to July 6, the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, may open to commercial salmon fishing for no more than two fishing periods of up to 48 hours each concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District. The two fishing periods must be separated by a minimum of 48 hours.

Excluding the two 48-hour commercial fishing periods in the Western District in June and early July, the Western and Perryville districts may open to commercial fishing beginning July 6. From July 6 until the end of the salmon fishing season, the Western and Perryville districts are managed based on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks as well as the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This may reduce the amount of fishing that occurs in the SEDM to two 48-hour fishing periods prior to July 6; however, in some years that may be more fishing than would be available under current regulations. This would remove the allocative ties to the CMA through July 13, although it is unclear what regulations would be in place for the remainder of the current allocation timeframe, July 13–25. If current allocative ties in the SEDM to CMA were in place, and this proposal were adopted, it would be difficult for the department to manage for the current allocation when the CMA early-run is strong. It would also push any harvest opportunity in the SEDM to the timeframe currently allowed for all gear types, reducing the opportunity for set gillnet harvest substantially.

BACKGROUND: Historically, the Western and Perryville districts have remained closed to commercial salmon fishing during June and early July. From July 6 until approximately mid-July fishing periods in the Western and Perryville districts are predominately based on late-run sockeye salmon escapement in the Chignik River. From mid-July until the end of the commercial salmon

season, these areas are managed primarily on pink and chum salmon harvest data and aerial survey escapement estimates, in addition to the Chignik River late-run sockeye salmon escapement objectives. Beginning approximately August 20, fishing periods in the Western and Perryville districts are also based on the evaluation of local coho salmon stocks in addition to local pink and chum salmon and the escapement objectives for late-run sockeye salmon. If late-run sockeye salmon escapement is poor, commercial fisheries in these areas can be restricted to terminal harvest areas to target pink, chum, or coho salmon.

In 2008, the board adopted regulations allowing up to two 48-hour fishing periods separated by at least 48 hours in the Western District from June 1 to July 5 concurrent with fishing periods in the Chignik Bay and Central districts. The intent was to increase the area open to commercial salmon fishing to target Chignik River system-bound early-run sockeye salmon. In 2011, the board removed the sunset clause, and the two 48-hour fishing periods became permanent. At that time, no management concerns with the two 48-hour fishing periods were noted by the department for the 2008 through 2010 CMA commercial salmon seasons.

In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the KMA *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included the CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of the KMA, and in SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to allocation of Chignik River system sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation.

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.

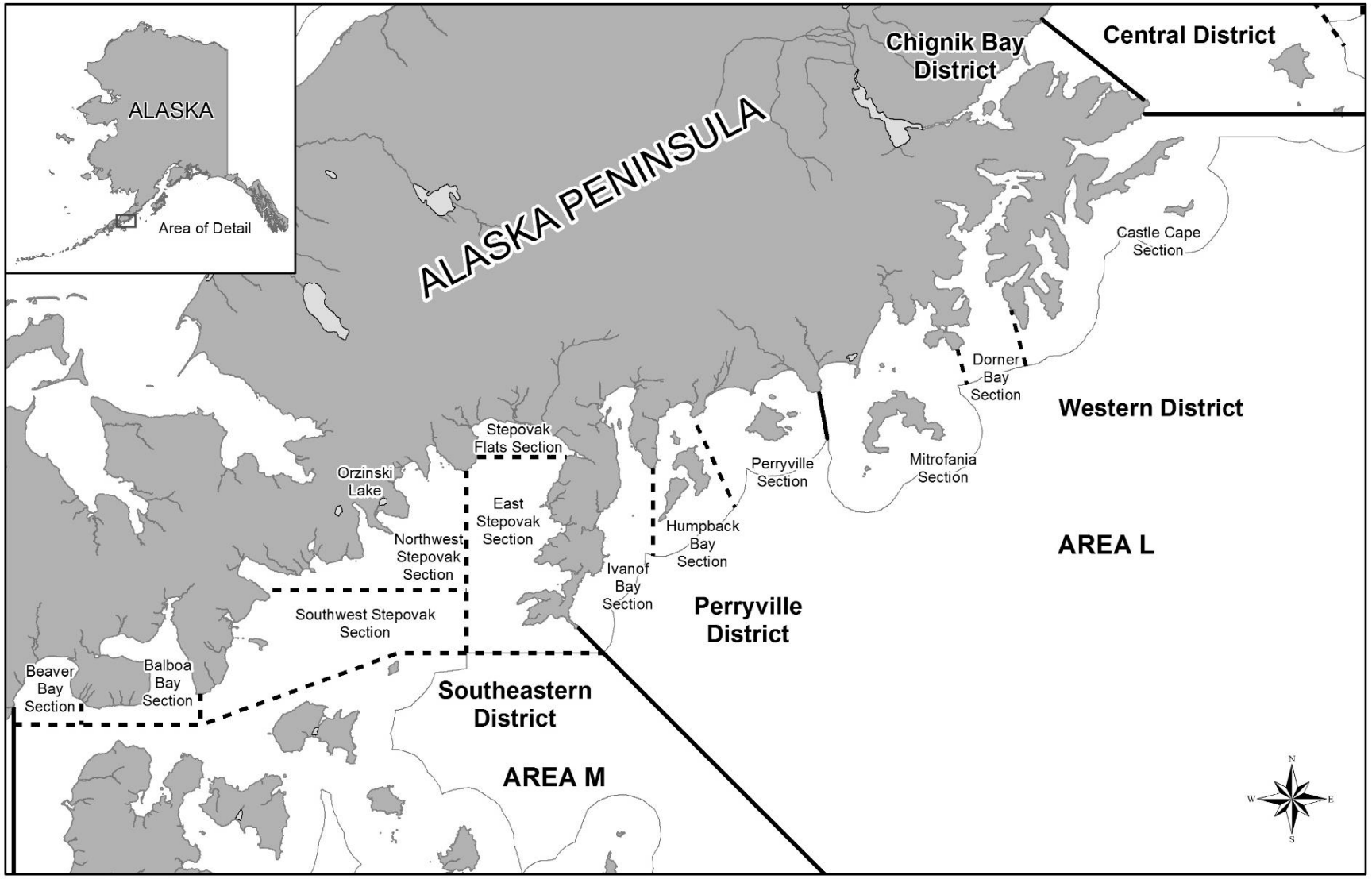

Figure 133-1.–Map depicting the Southeastern District Mainland Section of Area M (South Alaska Peninsula Management Area) and the Western and Perryville districts of Area L (Chignik Management Area).

PROPOSAL 134 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Axel Kopun.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This seeks to return the South Unimak June fishery to its pre-2001 status. Specifically, the proposal requests the removal of the entire Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District from the South Unimak June fishery as in the pre-2001 June South Peninsula management plan for those areas.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulation, 5 AAC 09.365(b) establishes the area in which the South Unimak June salmon fishery occurs as the Unimak District, the Southwestern District, the East Pavlof Bay and the West Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District, and the Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District (Figure 134-1).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would restrict commercial salmon fishing by purse seine, drift gillnet, and set gillnet gear during June in waters that are currently open. If the closed area restricted substantial seine, drift, and set gillnet effort, then all Area M commercial salmon permit holders might experience more effort in waters that are open to commercial fishing and increase gear conflicts (Figure 134-2).

BACKGROUND: In February 2004, the board modified the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fisheries Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365 (b)). Prior to 2004, the South Unimak June fishery was not allowed to occur in the South Central District. In the Southwestern District during the June fishery, the current regulation language has been in effect since 1990. In 1988 and 1989, fishing was only allowed in the Ikatan Bay Section of the Southwestern District. Prior to 1988, the Southwestern District was generally opened by emergency order in June every year. Prior to 1977, when the commercial fishery was open in June, only limited fishing effort occurred in the South Central District and in part of the Southwestern District.

Those opposed to enlarging the June fishery harvest area argued that Bristol Bay, Chignik, and Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim stocks of management and yield concerns were present, and that increasing the June fishing area could increase the harvest of these stocks. Those in favor of enlarging the fishery area suggested that the current areas were congested, that harvestable quantities of sockeye salmon were present in the expanded area, and that the stocks of management and yield concern would not be significantly impacted by allowing fishing in new areas.

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.

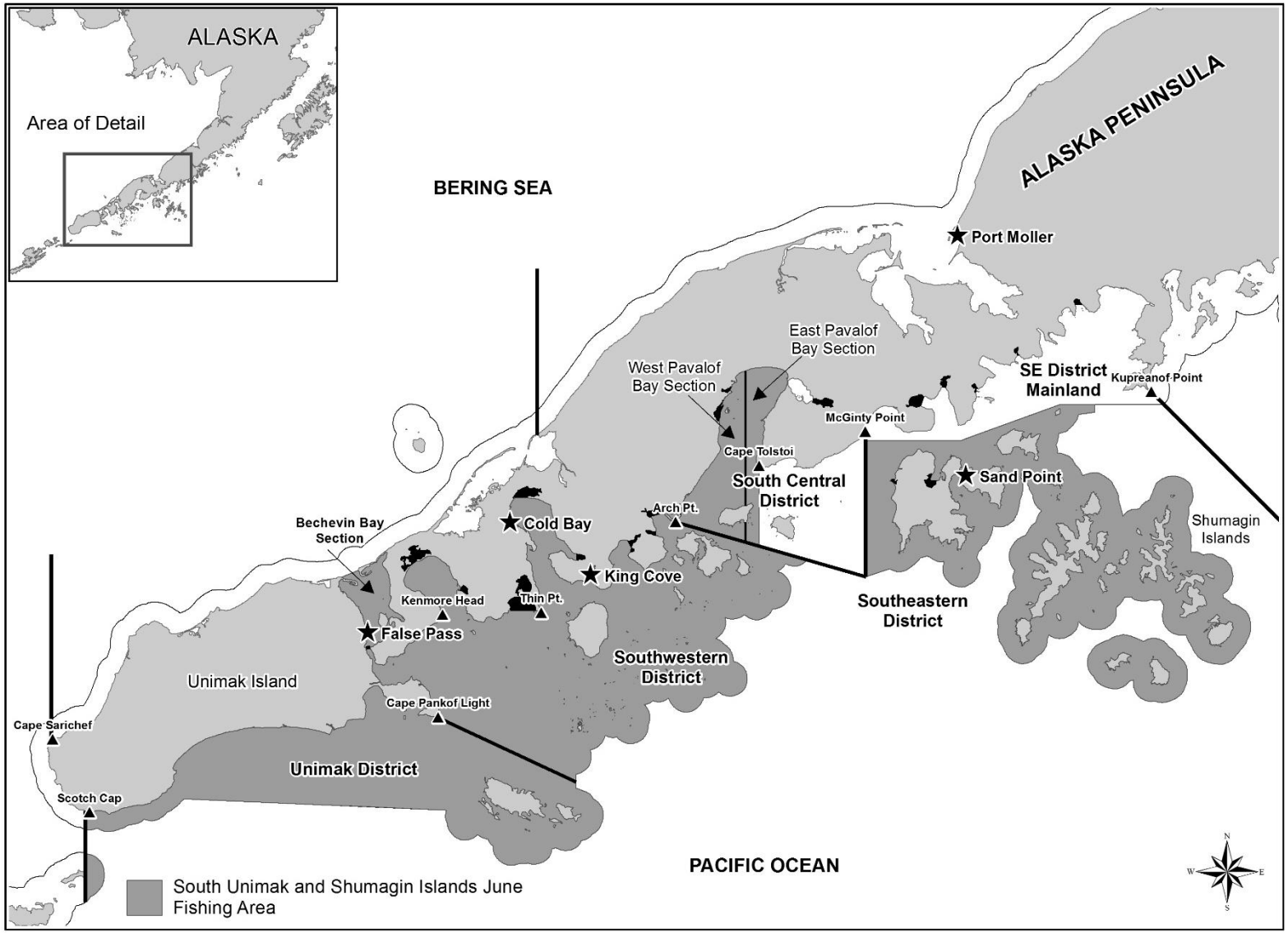

Figure 134-1.–Map of the areas that are currently in regulation to open for the south Unimak and Shumagin islands June salmon fishery.

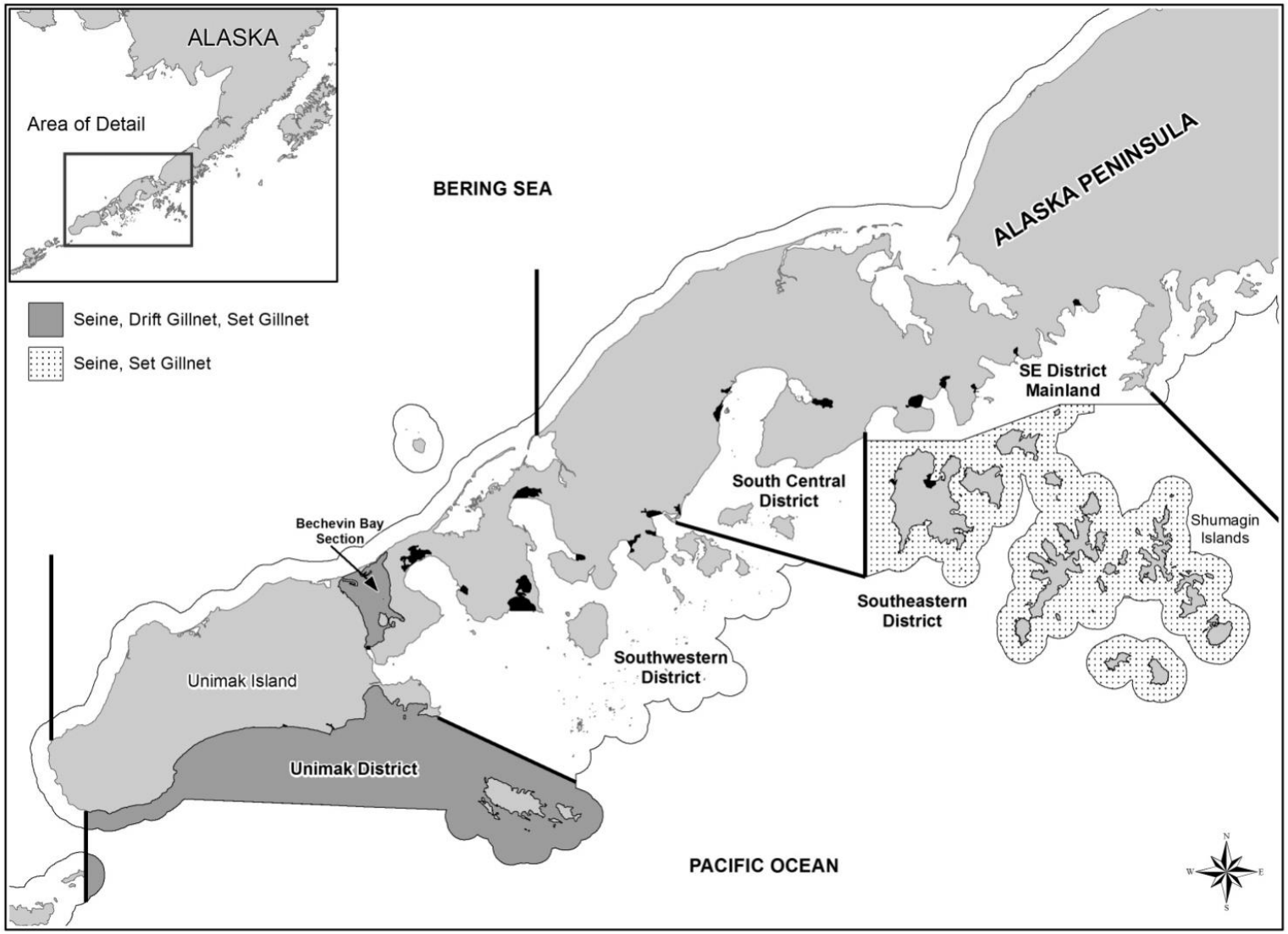

Figure 134-2.–Map of the areas that are proposed to be allowed to open on a schedule of fishery periods for the south Unimak and Shumagin Islands June salmon fishery.

PROPOSAL 135 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Repeal and replace the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* so that the plan is similar to that in effect from 2001 to 2003.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulations, 5 AAC 09.365(d)(1)(A-B) establish fishing periods for set gillnet gear beginning June 7, from 6:00 a.m. for 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. three days later, followed by 32 hours of closure and reopening two days later at 6:00 a.m. The final fishing period for set gillnet gear closes at 10:00 p.m. on June 29. 5 AAC 09.365(d)(2)(A-B) establishes fishing periods for drift gillnet and seine gear beginning June 10, from 6:00 a.m. for 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. three days later, followed by 32 hours of closure and reopening two days later at 6:00 a.m. The final fishing period for drift gillnet and seine gear closes at 10:00 p.m. on June 28.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The proposed changes would reduce fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula for set gillnet gear from 416 hours to 336 hours (Figure 135-1) and for drift gillnet and seine gear from 352 hours to 144 hours (Figure 135-2).

BACKGROUND: From 1975 to 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 the season start date. During several seasons, from 1975–2000, the Shumagin Islands guideline harvest level (GHL) was reached while the South Unimak GHL was not entirely harvested.

A chum salmon cap was first established in 1986 at 400,000 chum salmon. Except for 1987, when there was no chum salmon cap, the cap was set at a specific number and was changed several times over the years. In 1998, a "floating" chum salmon cap was established that could range from 350,000 to 650,000 depending on the harvest projection of Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim chum salmon.

During the January 2001 board meeting, the harvest guidelines for sockeye salmon and the chum salmon cap that were part of the allocation to the June fisheries for many years were rescinded. Table 135-1 lists a complete history of regulations for the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands 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.

Table 135-1.–History of regulations for the south Unimak and Shumagin Islands June commercial salmon fisheries, 1962–present.

Year	South Unimak	Shumagin Islands
1962–66	5 days per week	5 days per week
1967–70	7 days per week	7 days per week
1971–72	6:00 a.m. Monday - 6:00 a.m. Saturday	7 days per week
1973 [a]	Four 13-hour fishing periods per week	Four 13-hour fishing periods per week.
1974	No fishery	No fishery
1975–83 [b]	6.8% of predicted Bristol Bay catch.	1.5% of predicted Bristol Bay catch.
1984–85 [b]	No more than 96 hours per 7-day period and no more than 72 hours of consecutive fishing time in each fishery (windows).	
1986 [b]	6.8% allocation minus June 26-30 segment windows. No fishing before June 11	1.5% allocation minus June 26-30 segment windows. No fishing before June 11
	A 400,000 chum salmon ceiling placed on both fisheries combined.	
1987 [b]	Same as during 1984–85 for both fisheries.	
1988–89 [b]	6.8% of predicted Bristol Bay catch windows.	1.5% of predicted Bristol Bay catch windows.
	A 500,000 chum salmon ceiling placed on both fisheries combined.	
	Sockeye salmon allocations by fishery:	
	June 1–11 5%	9%
	June 12–18 29%	28%
	June 19–25 51%	41%
	June 26–30 15%	22%
	100%	100%

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Table 135-1.–Page 2 of 4.

Year	South Unimak	Shumagin Islands
1990–91	The chum salmon ceiling was increased from 500,000 to 600,000. The "Window Regulations" implemented in 1984 to limit the amount of fishing time that could be allowed were deleted. The season was delayed until June 13 and the time period sockeye salmon allocations for both fisheries were changed as follows: June 13-18 35% June 19-25 45% June 26-30 20% The gear depth for seine gear was limited to 375 meshes of which mesh size may not exceed 3½ inches except for the first 25 meshes above the lead line which may not exceed 7 inches. The gear depth on gillnet gear along the South Peninsula was limited to no more than 90 meshes. Seine gear leads may not exceed 150 fathoms for the entire Alaska Peninsula.	
1992–93	The chum salmon cap was increased from 600,000 to 700,000 fish. Fishing time for set gillnet gear could not be less than 16 hours unless a 16-hour period would result in a harvest that exceeded the cap for chum salmon. The other regulations were the same as those in effect for 1990 and 1991.	
1994	Sockeye salmon time period allocations eliminated. ADF&G was given flexibility to open fishery prior to June 13 if sockeye to chum salmon ratios are favorable.	
1995–97	The amount of fishing time for seine and drift gillnet gear after June 24 is limited if the sockeye to chum salmon ratio is two to one or less. The board stated its intent that remaining under the chum salmon harvest ceiling supersedes attempts to reach the sockeye guideline harvest levels. The fisheries could not be extended into July regardless of weather during late June. Fishery cannot begin prior to June 11. Removed mesh size requirements for gillnets.	

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Table 135-1.–Page 3 of 4.

Year	South Unimak	Shumagin Islands
1998–2000	The chum salmon cap was lowered from 700,000 to a "floating cap" that can range between 350,000 and 650,000. A commercial fishery for all gear types may open on June 10 if sockeye to chum salmon ratios are favorable. In the Unimak District the shoreward end of set gillnet must be within one half mile of shore. All salmon caught must be retained and reported. Use of aircraft to locate salmon prohibited for the entire Alaska Peninsula for the entire season	
2001–2003	Eliminated the sockeye salmon guideline harvest levels. Eliminated the chum salmon guideline harvest levels. Limited fishing time to no more than 16 hours per day by any gear group. Limited total fishing time by seine and drift gillnet gear to no more than 48 hours in a floating seven-day period with no more than two 16-hour periods on consecutive days in any seven-day period. From June 10 through June 24 in the South Unimak and/or Shumagin Islands fisheries, set gillnet gear may fish on consecutive days for 16-hour periods as long as the set gillnet sockeye to chum salmon ratios in that fishery are equal to or greater than the recent 10-year average for that fishery. If the set gillnet sockeye to chum salmon ratio falls below the recent 10-year average in either fishery, that fishery will be closed for one period. From June 10 through June 24, daily fishing periods for set gillnet gear will be from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Purse seine and drift gillnet fishing periods through June 24 will occur at the same time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries. After June 24, in either the South Unimak or Shumagin Islands fisheries if the ratio of sockeye to chum salmon by all gear combined is two to one or less on any day, the next fishing period shall be of six hours' duration for all gear in that fishery. If the sockeye to chum salmon ratio is two or greater, a six hour fishing period can be extended to a maximum of 16 hours. The South Unimak or Shumagin Islands fisheries shall close for all gear groups if the ratio of sockeye to chum salmon is two to one or less for two consecutive fishing periods.	

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Table 135-1.–Page 4 of 4.

Year	South Unimak	Shumagin Islands
2004–present	Fishery to begin at 6:00 a.m. on June 7. Fishing periods are 88 hours in length separated by 32-hour closures. The fishery closes at 10:00 p.m. on June 29. The last fishing period is 64 hours in duration. Concurrent fishing time for all gear types. Area open to fishing expanded to include the entire Unimak and Southwestern districts, East and West Pavlof Bay, Bechevin Bay and Shumagin Islands sections. Eliminated all sockeye to chum salmon harvest ratio requirements.	

[a] Both fisheries were closed in 1973 by emergency order during June 25-28 because the Bristol Bay run appeared lower than escapement requirements.

[b] Each sockeye salmon allocation is broken down into time period guideline harvest levels.

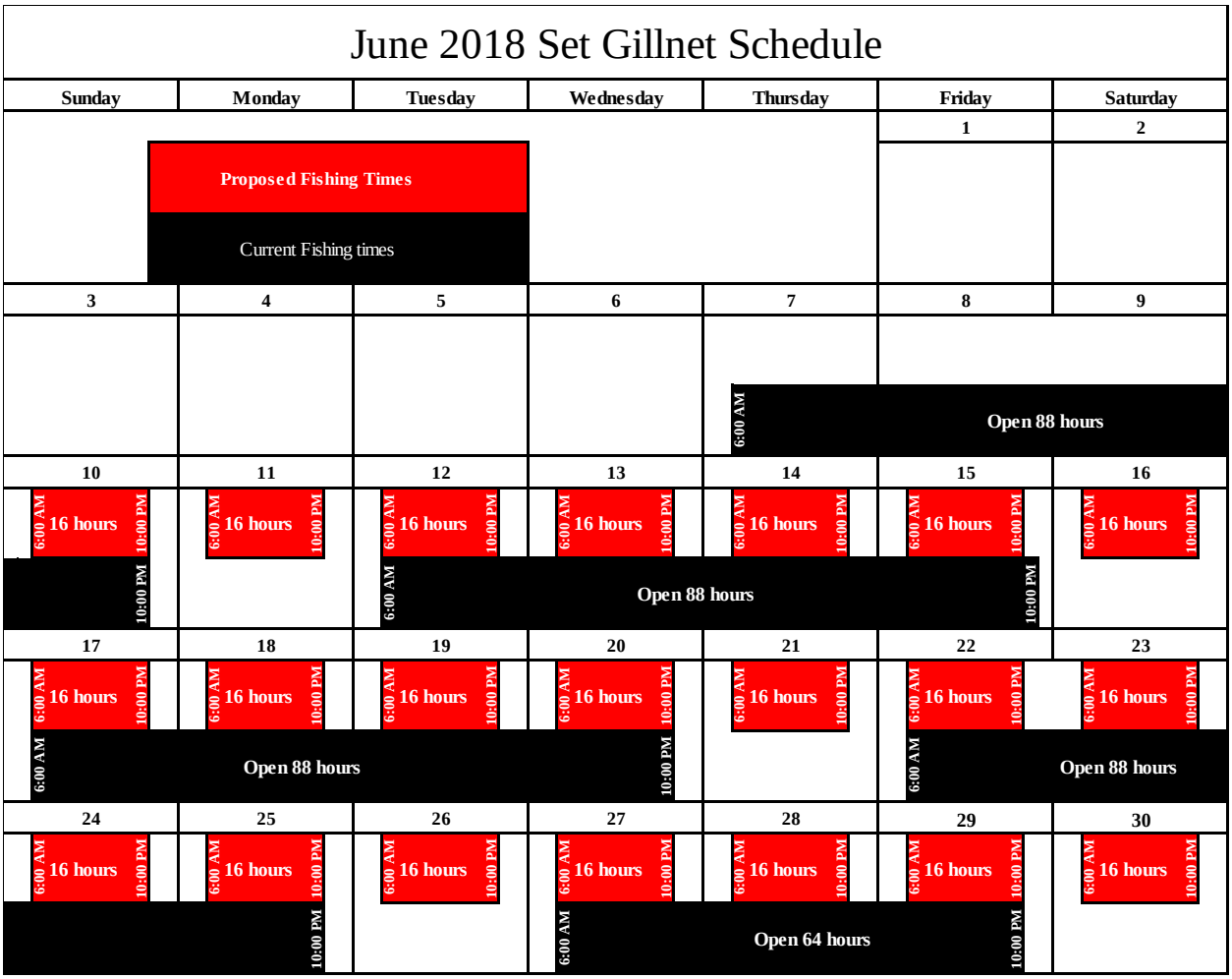

Figure 135-1.–Calendar of current and proposed periods of fishing in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery for set gillnet gear.

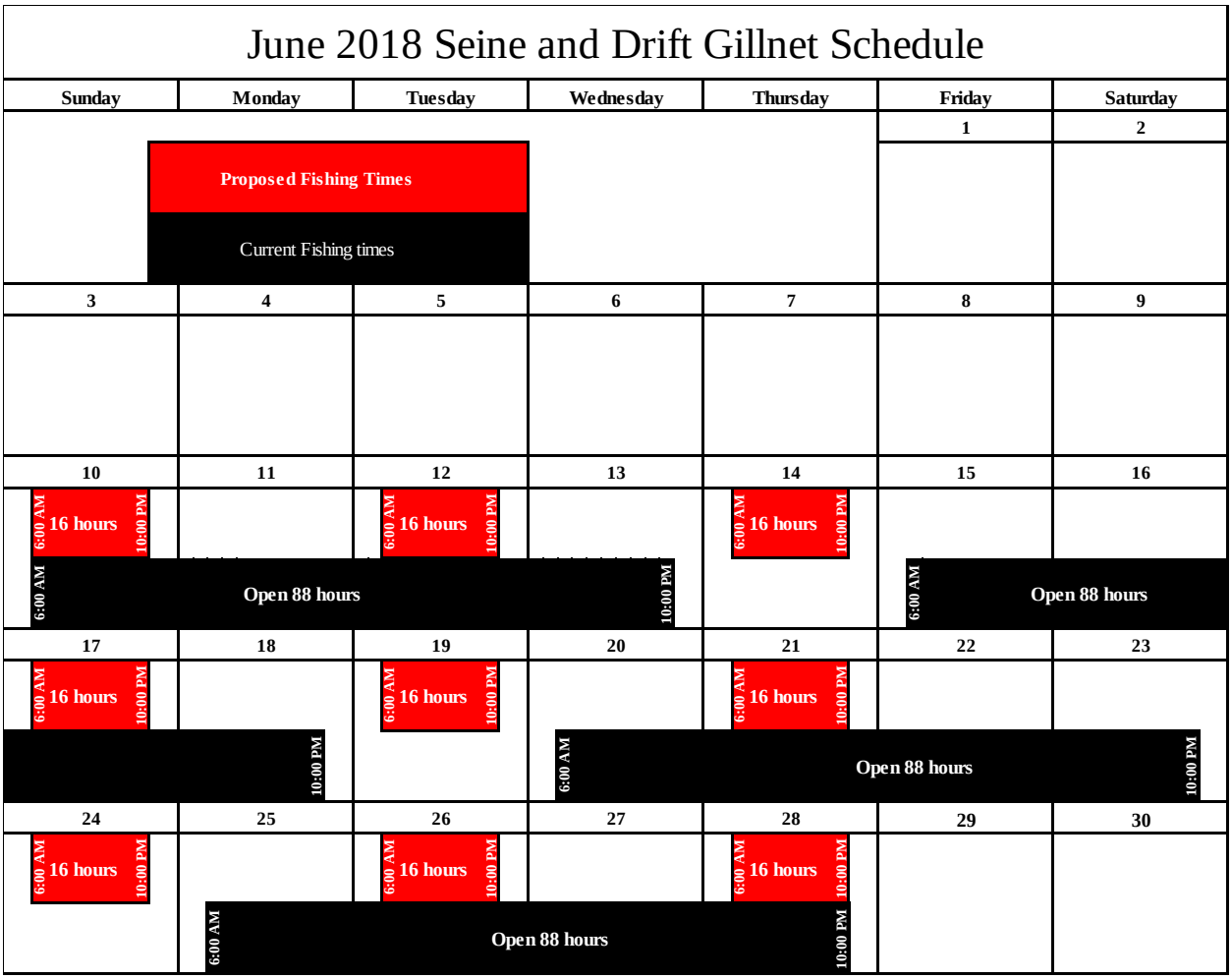

Figure 135-2.–Calendar of current and proposed periods of fishing in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery for seine and drift gillnet gear.

PROPOSAL 136 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Anderson.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Establish mandatory closures on all gear types in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) to allow for at least a 24-hour closure between the openings for each gear type in the Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof sections of the South Central District so Chignik-bound sockeye salmon have an opportunity to pass through the area. With the proposed changes**,** for set gillnet gear, beginning June 7, commercial fishing periods in the Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District would begin at 6 a.m. and run 42 hours until midnight the next day; commercial fishing would then close for 54 hours and reopen at 6 a.m. three days later**.** For seine and drift gillnet gear, beginning June 10, commercial fishing periods in the Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District would begin at 6 a.m. and run 42 hours until midnight the next day; commercial fishing would then close for 54 hours and reopen at 6 a.m. three days later.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In current regulations, 5 AAC 09.365(d)(1)(A-B) establishes fishing periods for set gillnet gear beginning June 7, from 6:00 a.m. for 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. three days later, followed by 32 hours of closure and reopening two days later at 6:00 a.m. The final fishing period for set gillnet gear closes at 10:00 p.m. on June 29. 5 AAC 09.365(d)(2)(A-B) establishes fishing periods for drift gillnet and seine gear beginning June 10, from 6:00 a.m. for 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. three days later, followed by 32 hours of closure and reopening two days later at 6:00 a.m. The final fishing period for drift gillnet and seine gear closes at 10:00 p.m. on June 28.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The proposed changes would reduce fishing time in the Southwestern District and East and West Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District for set gillnet gear from 416 hours to 252 hours (Figure 136-3) and for drift gillnet and seine gear from 352 hours to 210 hours (Figure 136-4). It would also create two separate fishing schedules for each gear type for different districts within the same management plans, as the Unimak District and the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District would remain under the current fishing schedules by gear type.

BACKGROUND: In February 2004, the board modified the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fisheries Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365 (b)). This change expanded open waters for all gear types (Figure 136-1 and 136-2). Prior to 2004, the South Unimak June fishery was not allowed to occur in the South Central District. In the Southwestern District during the June fishery, the current regulation language has been in effect since 1990. In 1988 and 1989, fishing was only allowed in the Ikatan Bay Section of the Southwestern District. Prior to 1988, the Southwestern District was generally opened by emergency order in June every year. Prior to 1977, when the commercial fishery was open in June, only limited fishing effort occurred in the South Central District and in part of the Southwestern District.

Those opposed to enlarging the June fishery harvest area argued that Bristol Bay, Chignik, and Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim stocks of management and yield concerns were present, and that increasing the June fishing area could increase the harvest of these stocks. Those in favor of enlarging the fishery area suggested that the current areas are congested, that harvestable quantities of sockeye salmon are present in the expanded area, and that the stocks of management and yield concern would not be significantly impacted by allowing fishing in new areas.

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.

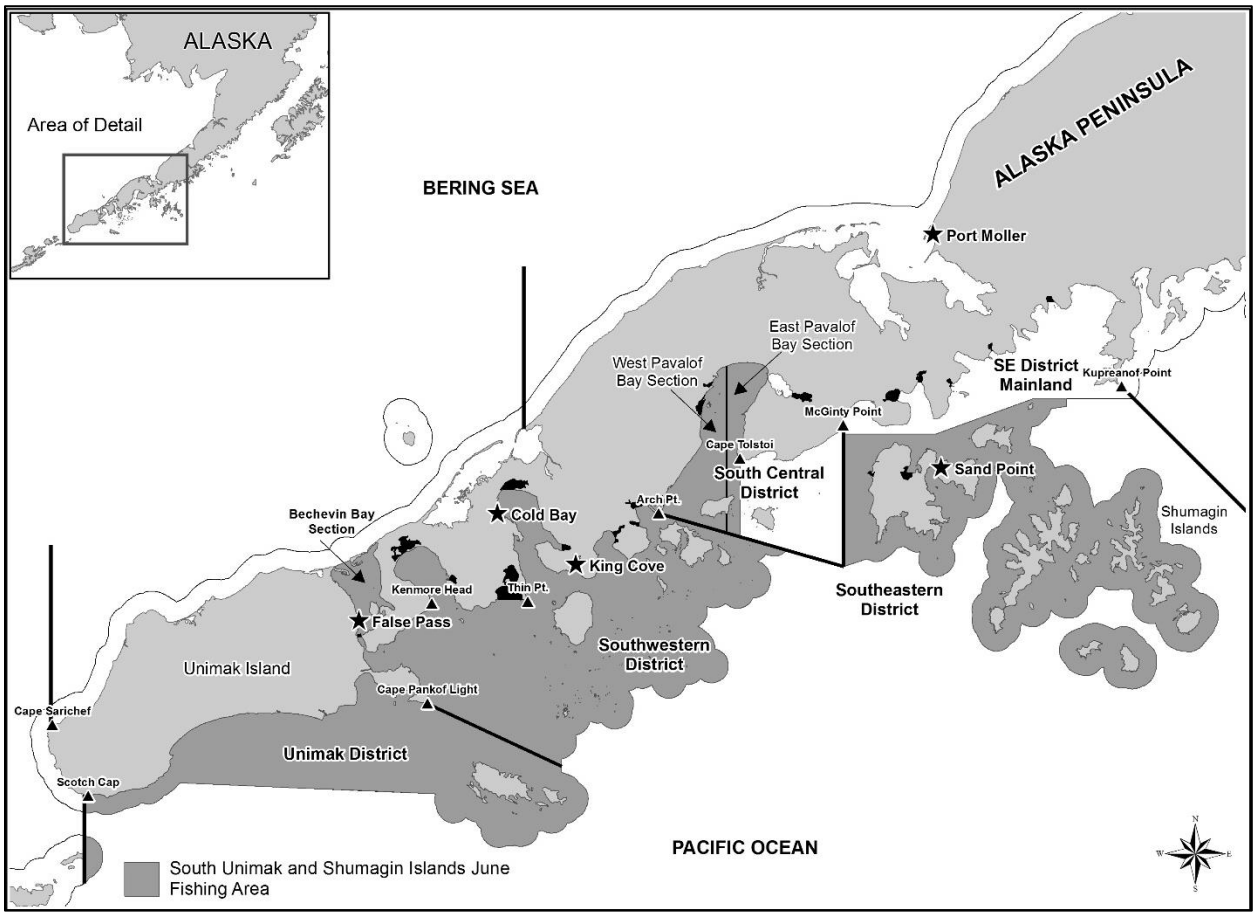

Figure 136-1.–Map of the areas that are currently in regulation to open for the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*.

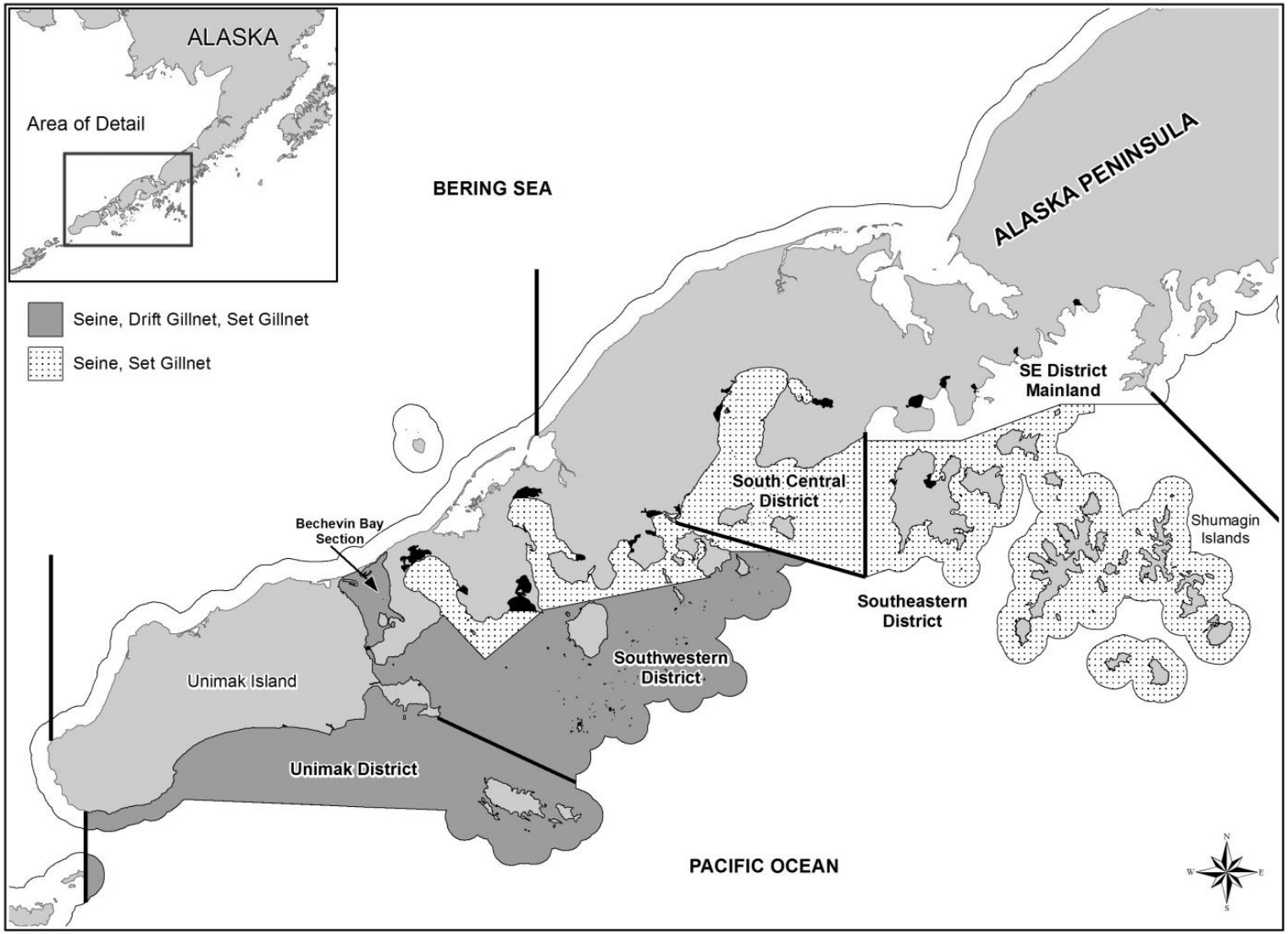

Figure 136-2.–Map of the gear types allowed currently in regulation for the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*.

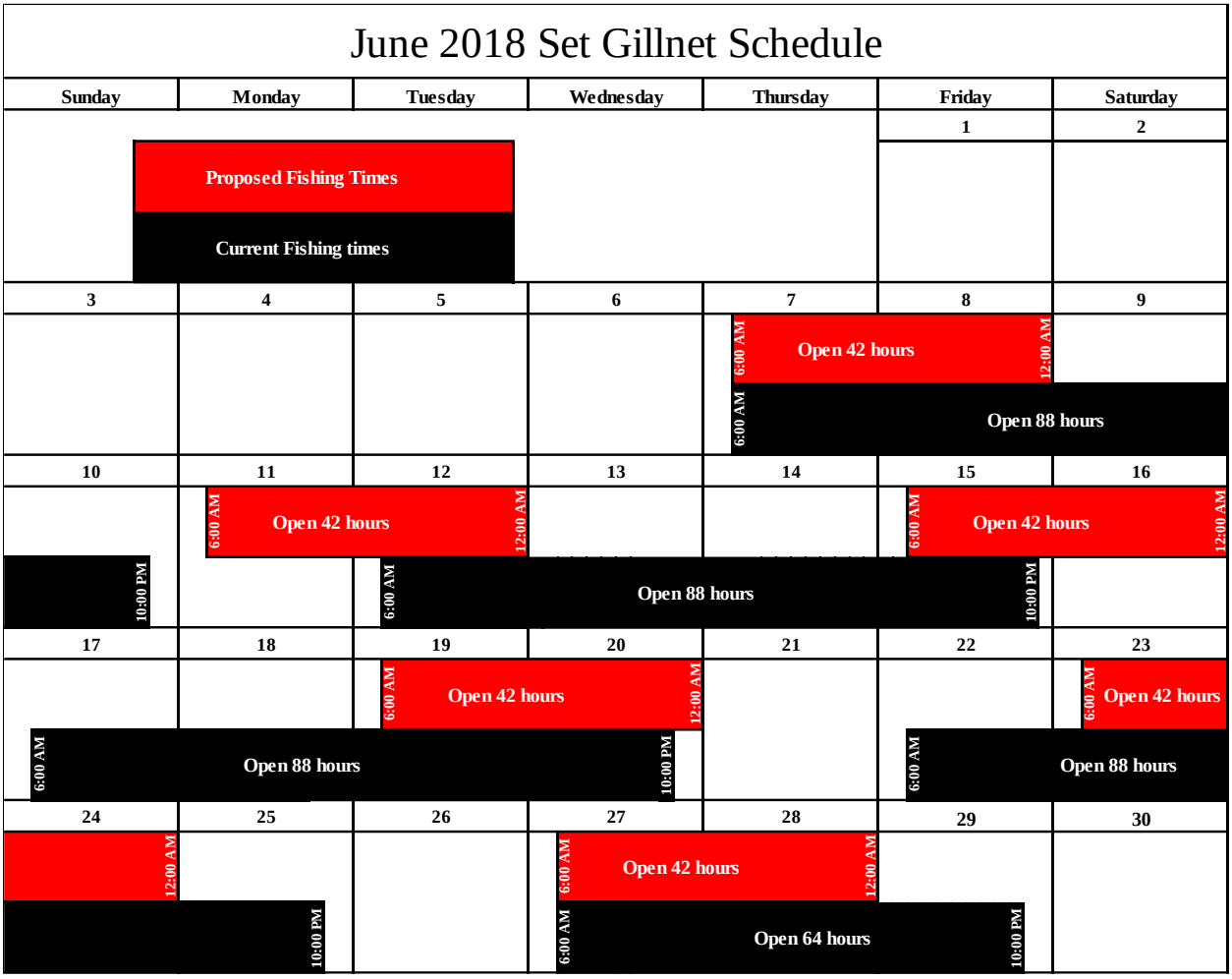

Figure 136-3.–Calendar of current and proposed periods of fishing in the south Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery for set gillnet gear in the Southwestern and South Central districts.

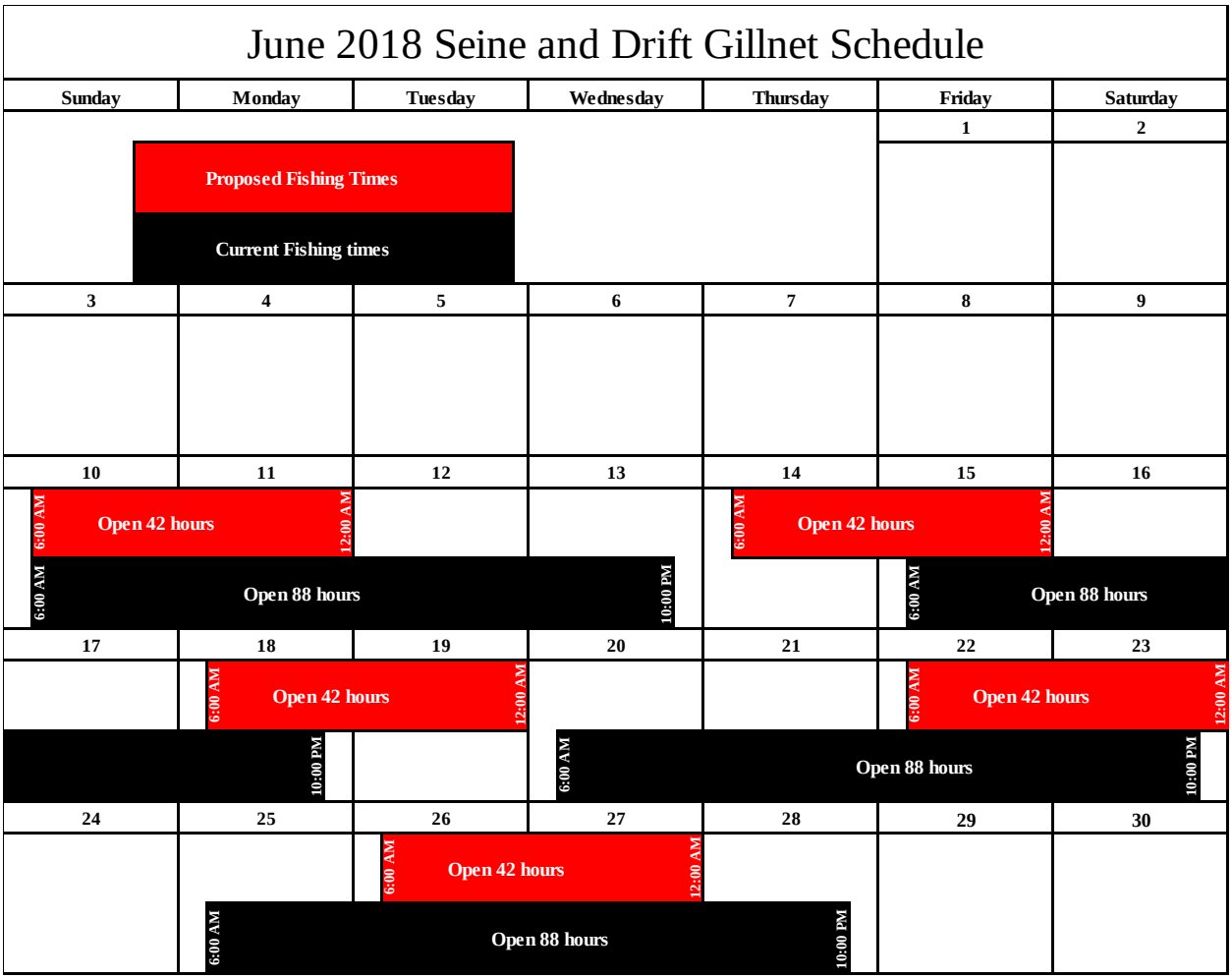

Figure 136-4.–Calendar of current and proposed periods of fishing in the south Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery for seine and drift gillnet gear in the Southwestern and South Central districts.

PROPOSAL 137 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, and 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: George Anderson.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Expand the "Dolgoi Island area" as defined in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and *Post- June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (Figure 137-1). The full intent of the proposal is not entirely clear for the post-June portion of the proposal. It seeks to close the "Dolgoi Island area" in July but the proposal notes that there is no intent to close any terminal-stock harvest area managed as such in the "Dolgoi Island area," which comprises much of the "Dolgoi Island area."

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? From June 1 through July 25, when harvest reaches 191,000 sockeye salmon based on fish ticket information, the portion of the West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) and waters of the Volcano Bay Section (statistical areas 284-37 through 284-39) close to commercial salmon fishing through July 25. However, the portion of West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) reopens to commercial salmon fishing on July 17.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would likely result in less fishing opportunity for the Area M fishermen. The area closed in the "Dolgoi Island area" would be much larger than in current regulations. If 191,000 sockeye salmon were harvested in June, based on fish tickets, in the "Dolgoi Island area", the South Central District and the Volcano Bay and Belkofski Bay sections of the Southwestern District would close through June 30 (Figure 137-2). In July, the "Dolgoi Island area" would open and close concurrent with the Southeastern District Mainland Section of the Southeastern District through July 25 (Figure 137-3). These closures would not pertain to terminal harvest areas in July. Additionally, if the "Dolgoi Island area" was open in July concurrently with the Southeastern District Mainland, it would close once the harvest of sockeye salmon reached 191,000 fish based on fish ticket information until July 25.

BACKGROUND: During the February 2016 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik meeting, the board made changes to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) and the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366) by adopting regulations to limit the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) described "Dolgoi Island area" (statistical areas 283-15 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42; Figure 137-1). From June 1 through July 25, when harvest reaches 191,000 sockeye salmon by fish ticket information, the portion of the West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) and waters of the Volcano Bay Section (statistical areas 284-37 through 284-39) close to commercial salmon fishing through July 25. However, the portion of West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) reopens to commercial salmon fishing on July 17. All other statistical areas are managed in accordance with each prescribed management plan.

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.

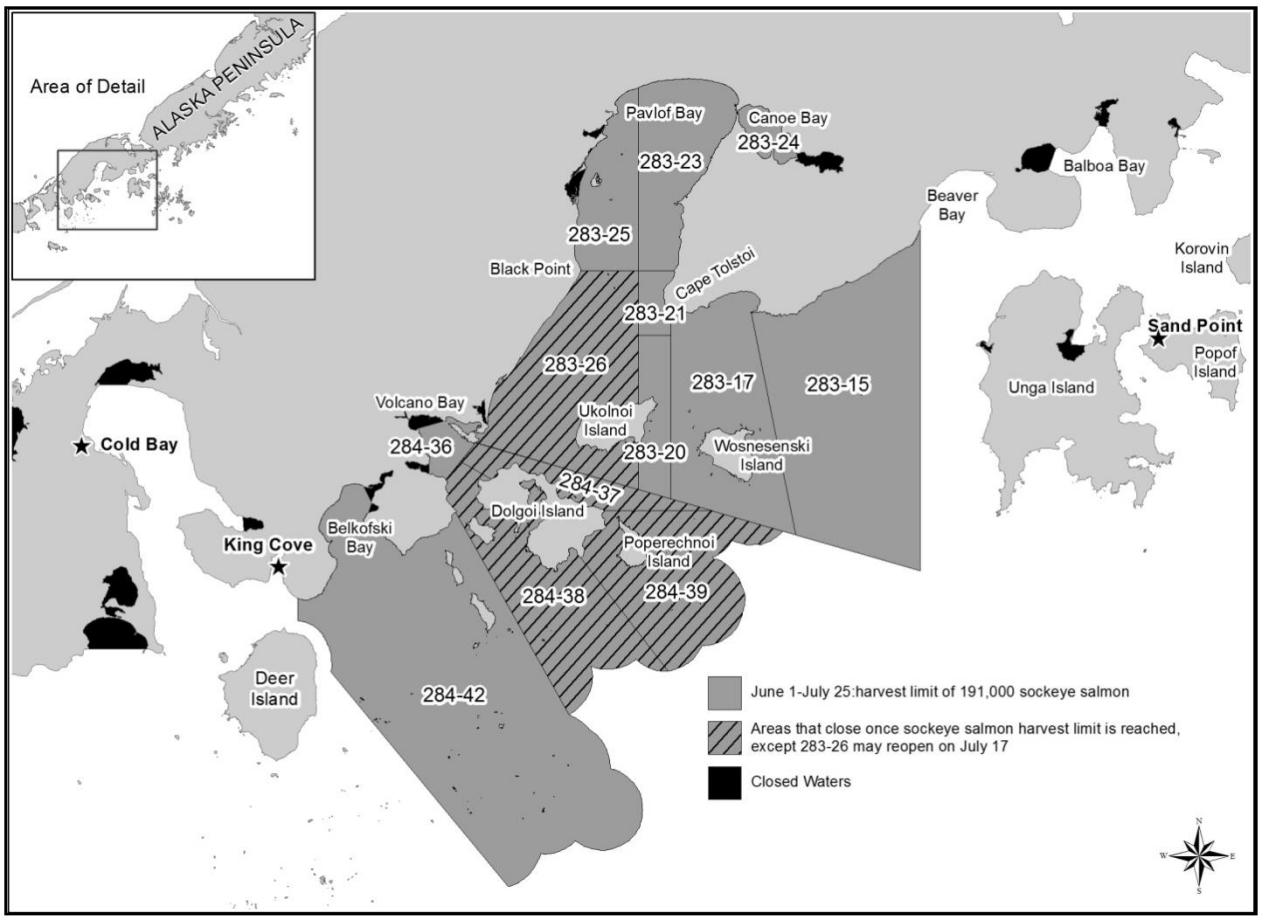

Figure 137-1.–Map of the "Dolgoi Island area" as defined in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management and Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

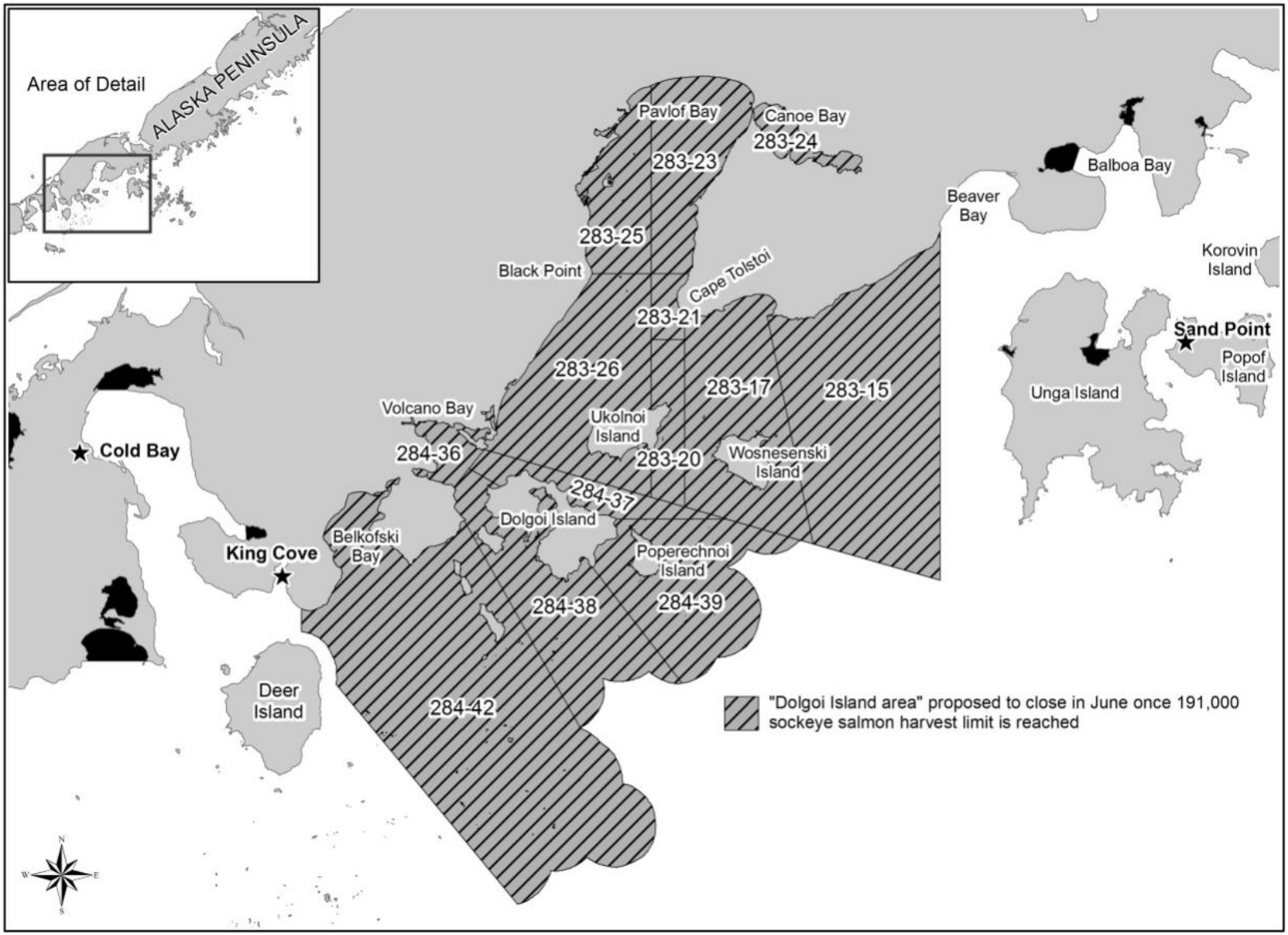

Figure 137-2.–Map of the proposed June fishing regulations for the “Dolgoi Island area.”

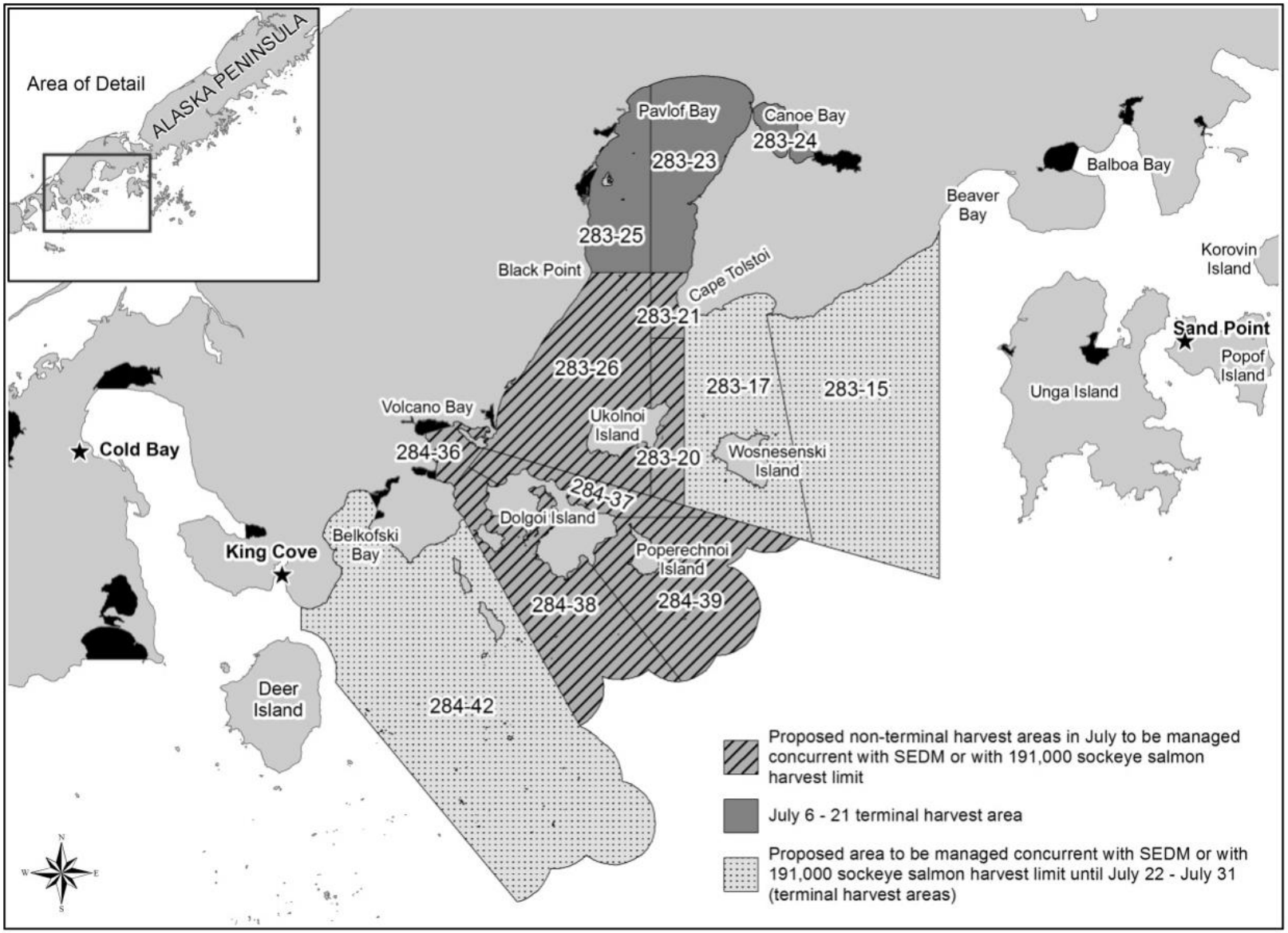

Figure 137-3.–Map of the proposed July fishing regulations for the “Dolgoi Island area.”

PROPOSAL 138 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. and 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: Jacob Shangin.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Establish a new fishing schedule in the "Dolgoi Island area" for set gillnet, drift gillnet, and seine gear in June and would align the openings in the "Dolgoi Island area" with those in the Southeastern District Mainland Section of the Southeastern District from July 1 through July 25. "Dolgoi Island area" sockeye salmon catch would not be assigned to or against the 7.6% Southeastern District Mainland Chignik allocation and there would not be a 191,000 sockeye salmon harvest limit imposed on the "Dolgoi Island area" fishery June 1-July 25 as provided in current regulation.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The number of sockeye salmon harvested in the "Dolgoi Island area" from June 1 through July 25 is limited to 191,000 fish, based on fish ticket information (Figure 138-1).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Fishing time in the "Dolgoi Island area" would be reduced from 416 to 306 hours for set gillnet (Figure 138-2) gear and from 352 to 264 hours for drift gillnet and seine gear (Figure 138-3). Fishing time in the "Dolgoi Island area" in July would likely be reduced as well as it would be dependent on the strength of the Chignik River system late-run sockeye salmon escapement and harvest and would run concurrent with the Southeastern District Mainland Section of the Southeastern District through July 25.

BACKGROUND: During the February 2016 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik meeting, the board made changes to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) and the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366) by adopting regulations to limit the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) described "Dolgoi Island area" (statistical areas 283-15 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42). From June 1 through July 25, when harvest reaches 191,000 sockeye salmon by fish ticket information, the portion of the West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) and waters of the Volcano Bay Section (statistical areas 284-37 through 284-39) close to commercial salmon fishing through July 25 (Figure 138-1). However, the portion of West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) reopens to commercial salmon fishing on July 17. All other statistical areas are managed in accordance with each prescribed management plan.

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.

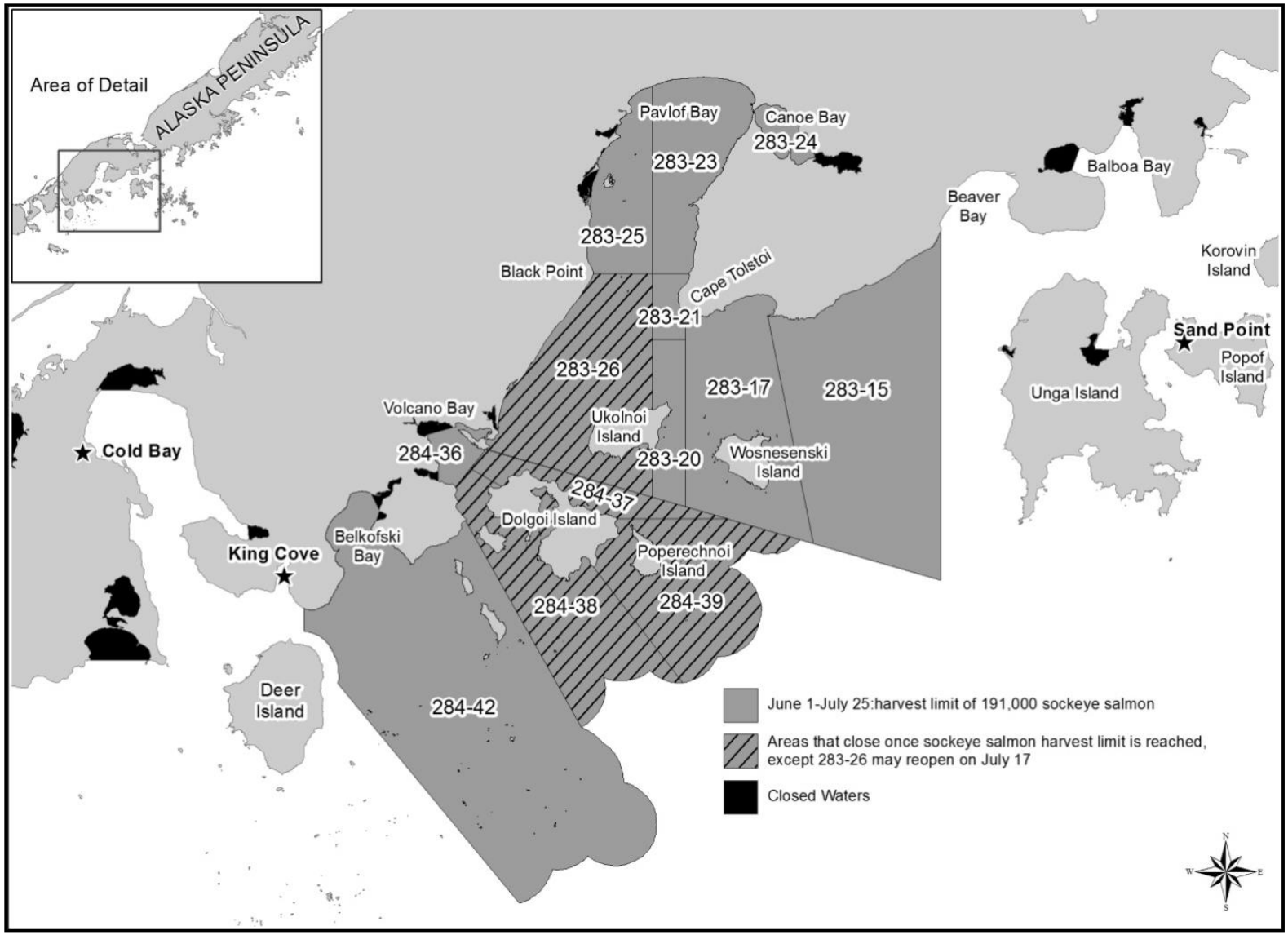

Figure 138-1.–Map of the "Dolgoi Island area" as defined in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan and Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

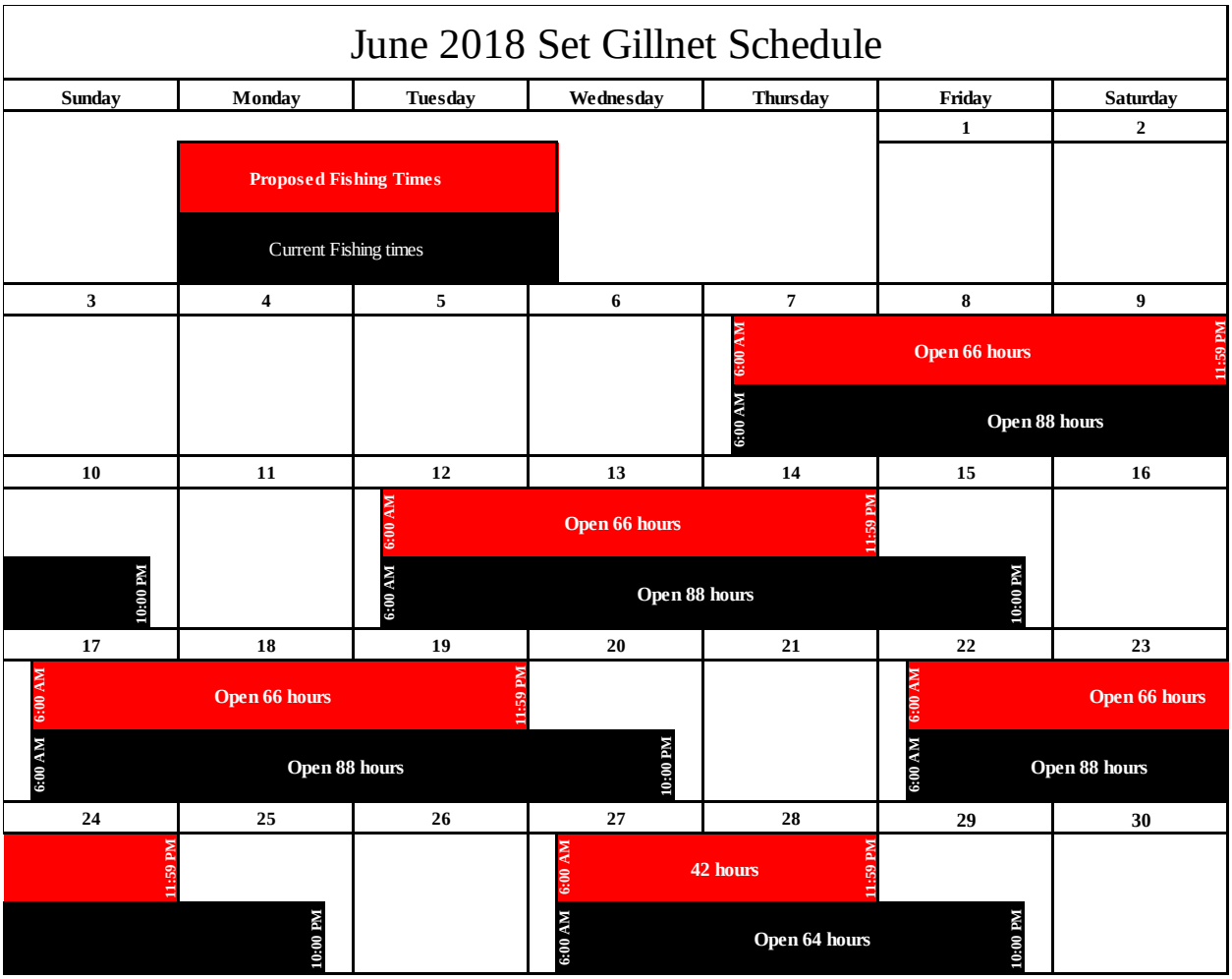

Figure 138-2.–Calendar of the current and proposed fishing times for set gillnet gear in the "Dolgoi Island area" as defined in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*.

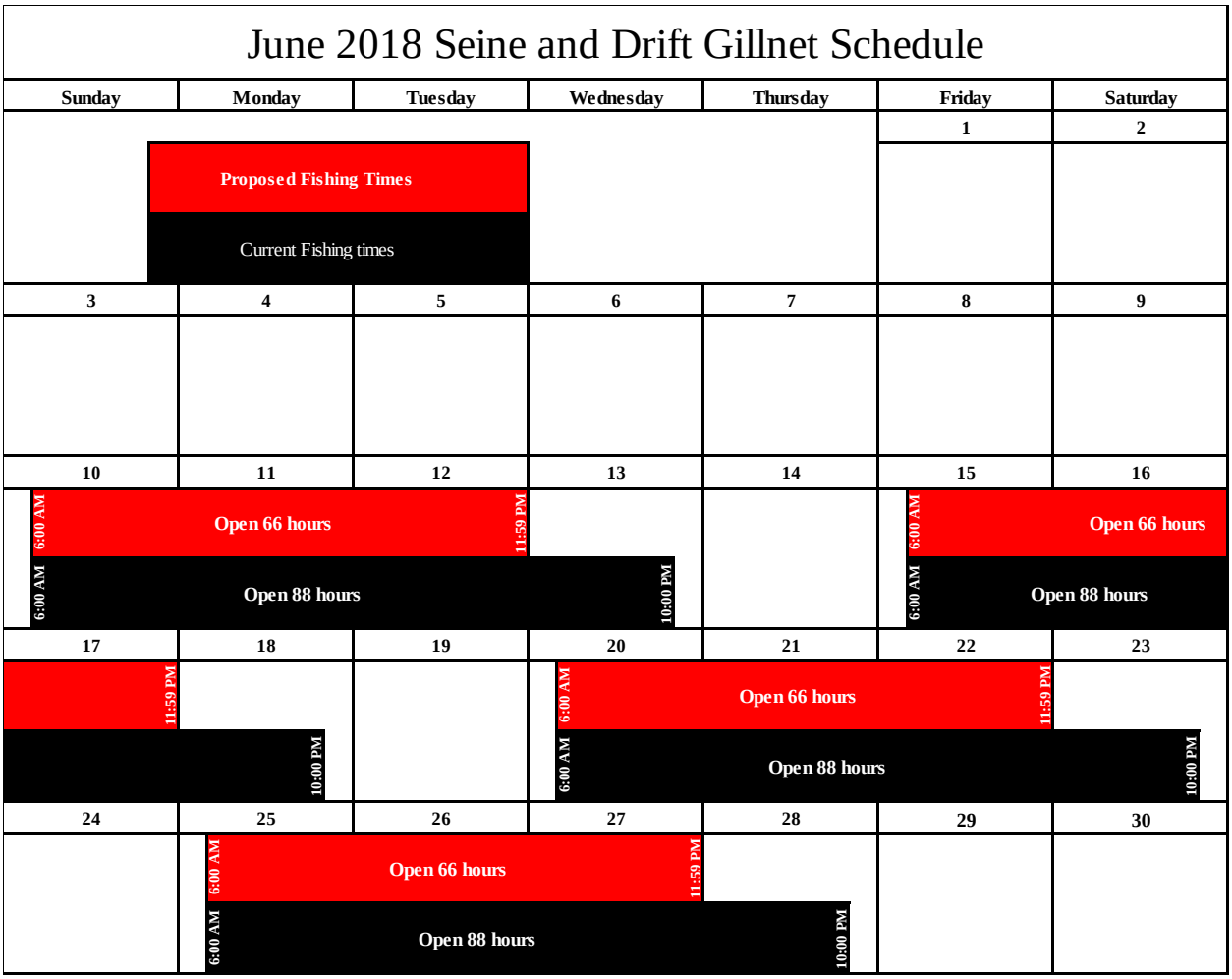

Figure 138-3.–Calendar of the current and proposed fishing times for drift gillnet and seine gear in the "Dolgoi Island area" as defined in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*.

PROPOSAL 139 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, and 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Repeal "Dolgoi Island area" (Figure 138-1) related regulations from the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulations and limit the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the "Dolgoi Island area" based on fish ticket information to 191,000 fish from June 1 through July 25.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The "Dolgoi Island area" would be managed concurrently with the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*. There would be no allocative ties with the CMA in the "Dolgoi Island area."

BACKGROUND: During the February 2016 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik meeting, the board made changes to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* by adopting regulations to limit the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) described "Dolgoi Island area" (statistical areas 283-15 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42). From June 1 through July 25, when harvest reaches 191,000 sockeye salmon by fish ticket information, the portion of the West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) and waters of the Volcano Bay Section (statistical areas 284-37 through 284-39) close to commercial salmon fishing through July 25. However, the portion of West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) reopens to commercial salmon fishing on July 17. All other statistical areas are managed in accordance with each prescribed management plan.

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 140 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This seeks to open the area from Cape Tolstoi to McGinty Point to commercial salmon fishing in June.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulation defines the area of the Shumagin Islands June fishery as the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The Shumagin Islands June Fishery would occur in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District and the area from Cape Tolstoi to McGinty Point of the South Central District (Figure 140-1). This would increase the area allowed for fishing in the June fishery and could increase harvest.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1977, limited fishing effort occurred in the South Central 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 South Central 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 South Central 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.

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.

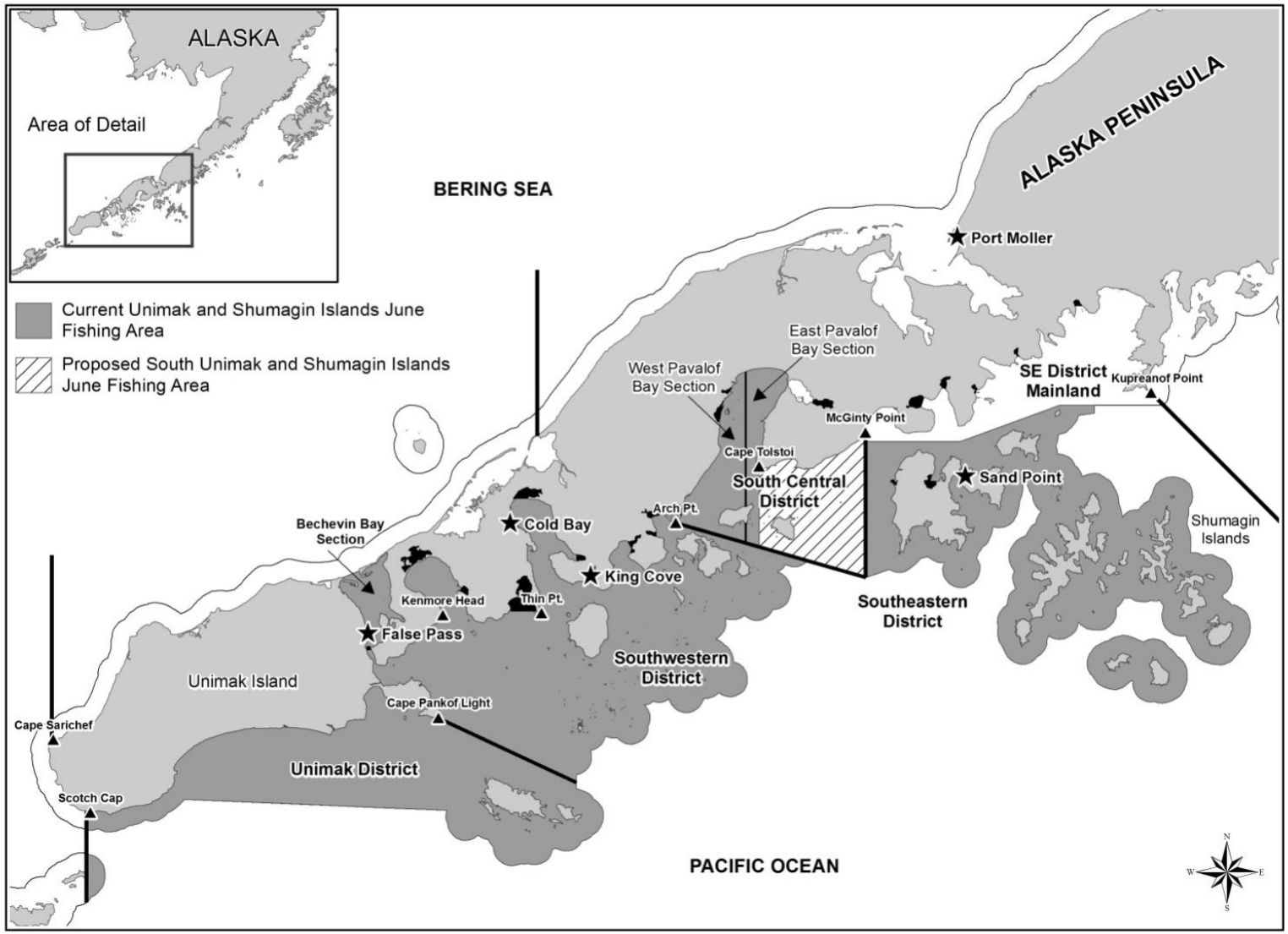

Figure 140-1.–Map of the current and proposed areas open to commercial salmon fishing in the south Unimak and Shumagin islands June fishery.

PROPOSAL 141 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan; and 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This seeks to repeal portions of the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Management Plan* and *Post-June Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* that address the "Dolgoi Island area" with harvest limits of 191,000 sockeye salmon based on fish tickets.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? From June 1 through July 25, when harvest reaches 191,000 sockeye salmon by fish ticket information, the portion of the West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) and waters of the Volcano Bay Section (statistical areas 284-37 through 284-39) close to commercial salmon fishing through July 25. However, the portion of West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) reopens to commercial salmon fishing on July 17.

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WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? No harvest limits would be in place in the "Dolgoi Island area" throughout the June and post-June commercial salmon fisheries and those areas would open and close based on fishing periods defined in regulation.

BACKGROUND: During the February 2016 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik meeting, the board made changes to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) and the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366) by adopting regulations to limit the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) described "Dolgoi Island area" (statistical areas 283-15 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42; Figure 138-1). From June 1 through July 25, when harvest reaches 191,000 sockeye salmon by fish ticket information, the portion of the West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) and waters of the Volcano Bay Section (statistical areas 284-37 through 284-39) close to commercial salmon fishing through July 25. However, the portion of West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) reopens to commercial salmon fishing on July 17. All other statistical areas are managed in accordance with each prescribed management plan.

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 142 – 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: Emil Mobeck.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Change the fishing periods established by emergency order from July 6 through July 31 to increase fishing opportunity in Area M. Specifically, amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* by increasing fishing time for all gear types from 249 to 312 hours (Figure 142-1). The post-June commercial salmon fishing periods would begin at 6:00 a.m., July 6 with two 36-hour fishing periods followed by 60-hour closures. Beginning July 14 at 6:00 a.m., fishing periods would be 60 hours in length followed by 60-hour closures. After July 31, commercial salmon fishing periods would be established by emergency order based on the abundance of local stocks.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? From July 6 through July 31, the commissioner may establish by emergency order, one 33-hour fishing period, beginning July 6, followed by a 63-hour closure. The commercial fishery will reopen for six 36-hour fishing periods interspersed by 60-hour closures from July 10 through July 31 (Figure 142-1). This equals a total of 249 hours of fishing opportunity in July.

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, and Morzhovoi Bay sections and the East and West Pavlof Bay sections north of the latitude of Black Point. Terminal 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 IS ADOPTED? This would increase overall fishing time in July from 249 hours to 312 hours, increase fishing opportunities during daylight hours from 192 to 234, and decrease the number of fishing periods in July from 7 to 6 (Table 142-1). The first fishing period would increase from 33 to 36 hours, the second period would remain 36 hours, and there would be four 60-hour openings between July 14 and July 31 instead of five 36-hour openings between July 14 and July 31 (Figure 142-1).

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1974, the July South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery was generally open five days per week with a total season closure on August 10. During the 1974 and 1975 fishing season, the fishery was severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976 through 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by emergency order 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 of 1991, the 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 in the South Alaska Peninsula 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 for the South Alaska Peninsula* which defined two distinct fishing periods within the month of July. For the period July 6 through July 21, the board increased non-terminal 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 escapement of pink and chum salmon were adequate. Terminal 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 non-terminal areas. Fishing periods in non-terminal 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 non-terminal 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 were warranted. In addition to the terminal areas listed for the July 6 through July 21 fishing periods, the July 22 through July 31 fishing period include the terminal 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.

The 2013 board amended the July fishing schedule (5 AAC 09.366(d)) in the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* by consolidating the number of fishing periods from nine to seven, while still offering the same 249 hours of fishing time. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon were warranted, however terminal areas within the Southeastern District Mainland, the Stepovak Flats and Northwest Stepovak sections, were repealed from the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.*

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.

Table 142-1.–Comparison of commercial salmon fishing opportunities from July 6 through July 13; July 14 through July 31; and total July fishing.

	Daylight Hours[a]		Total Hours	
Period	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
July 6 through July 13 (8 days)	53	56	69	72
July 14 through July 31 (18 days)	139	178	180	240
Total July Fishing	192	234	249	312

[a] Daylight hours are determined by estimating the total number of daylight hours from estimated sunrise and sunset times and averaging the total number of daylight hours for each fishing period.

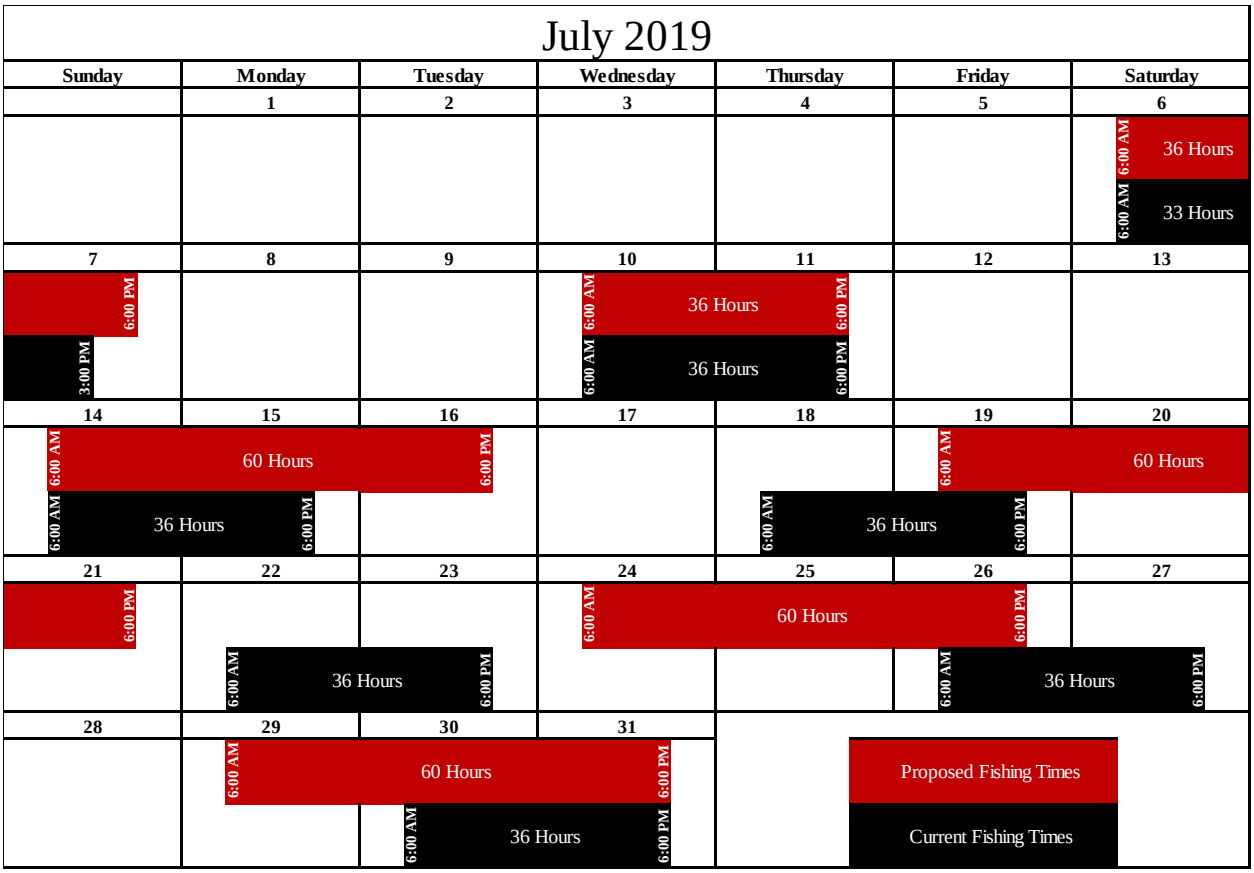

Figure 142-1.–Calendar of the current *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* and Proposal 142 July fishing schedule.

PROPOSAL 143 – 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This seeks to repeal the test fishery language in the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* states that the department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District to assess the abundance and presence of immature salmon. If 100 or more immature salmon, per set, are present, the commissioner shall close the seine fishery by emergency order 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 the 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 IS ADOPTED? This would repeal the use of a test fishery to assess the presence of immature salmon and would potentially increase fishery-dependent mortality levels of immature salmon. The department would not conduct test fisheries in the Shumagin Islands Section and the number of immature salmon caught by seine gear may increase. The department would have no advance notice of immature salmon concerns in the Shumagin Islands until July 6 when the South Peninsula is scheduled to open to commercial salmon fishing and department observers were able to assess the fishery.

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 from late June into July in 1963, 1968, 1969, 1974, and 1979, and for purse seine fishing only during the 1989–1992, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2008, 2015, 2016, and 2017 seasons. Immature salmon usually migrate out of the Shumagin Islands area by July 23, although 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 a half inches except for the first 25 meshes above the lead line, which may not exceed 7 inches. Set gillnet gear has larger mesh size (minimum of five and one-quarter inches, which allows the immature salmon to pass through.

In 1990, the department's test-fishing program was instituted in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District to determine the 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 near shore waters of Popof Island from Popof Head to Red Bluff. The department has established three test fishing sites at popular set locations in this area (Figures 143-1 and 143-2).

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

After test-fishing operations cease, the department continues to monitor the commercial fishery with on-the-water surveys for any immature salmon catch. Table 143-1 is provided to demonstrate the results of the test fishery from 1990 until 2018 by providing the number of adult salmon caught, the number of immature salmon caught, average number of salmon caught per set, and a ten-year average.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal due to conservation concerns. The specific stock composition of the immature salmon taken in the post-June fishery is unknown, although it is likely that the fishery takes immature salmon from multiple stocks. Immature salmon are not marketable and their catch results in a loss of adult salmon in future years. The department uses the test fishery to provide advanced notice to Area M fishermen concerning time, area, and gear restrictions for the scheduled July 6 opening. Lacking advance notice would cause confusion among the fishermen and unnecessary delays in closing areas that could potentially harvest thousands of immature salmon that are not sold or processed.

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.

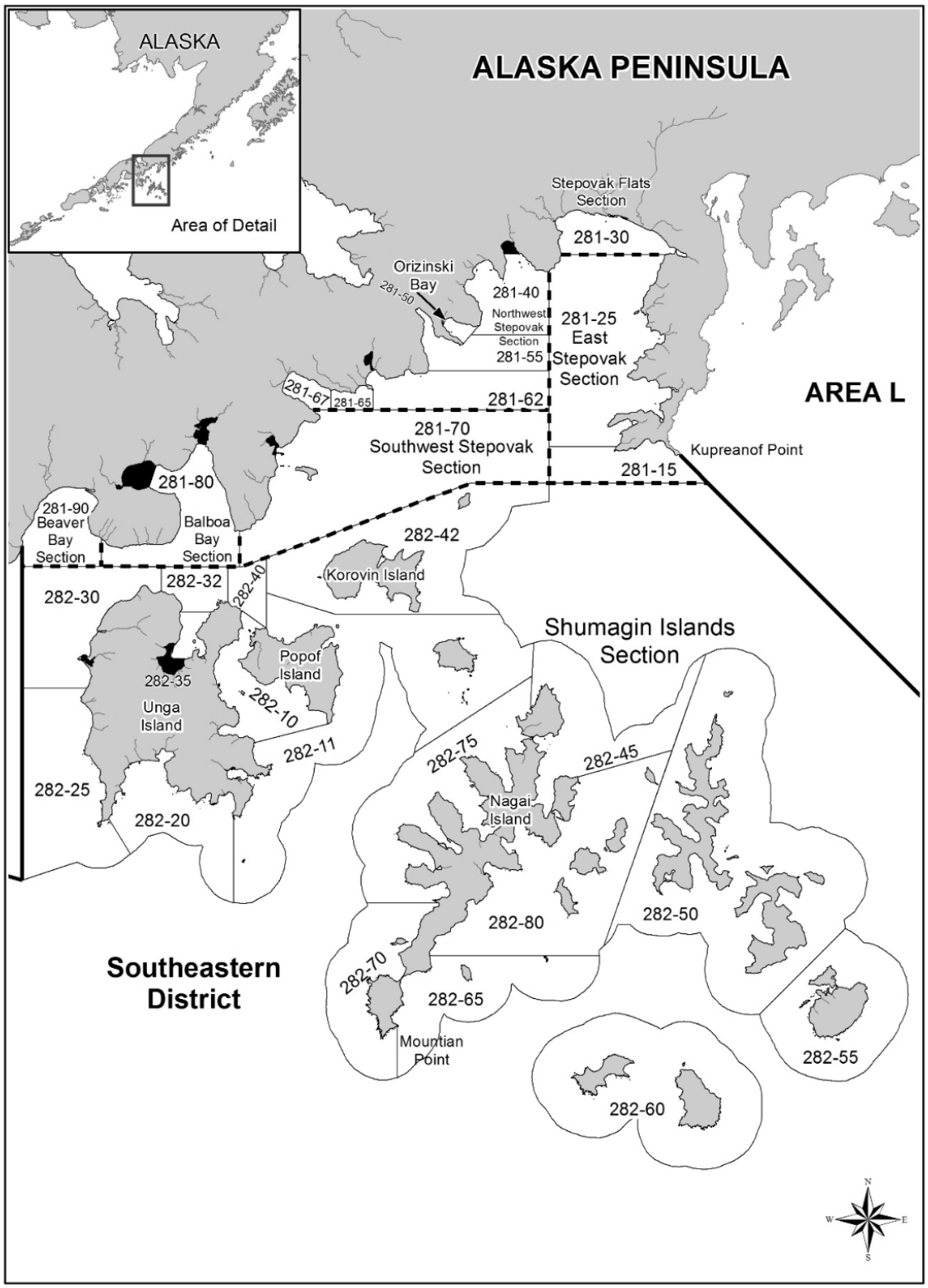

Figure 143-1.–Map of the Alaska Peninsula Area from Kupreanof Point to McGinty Point (Southeastern District) with the statistical salmon fishing areas shown.

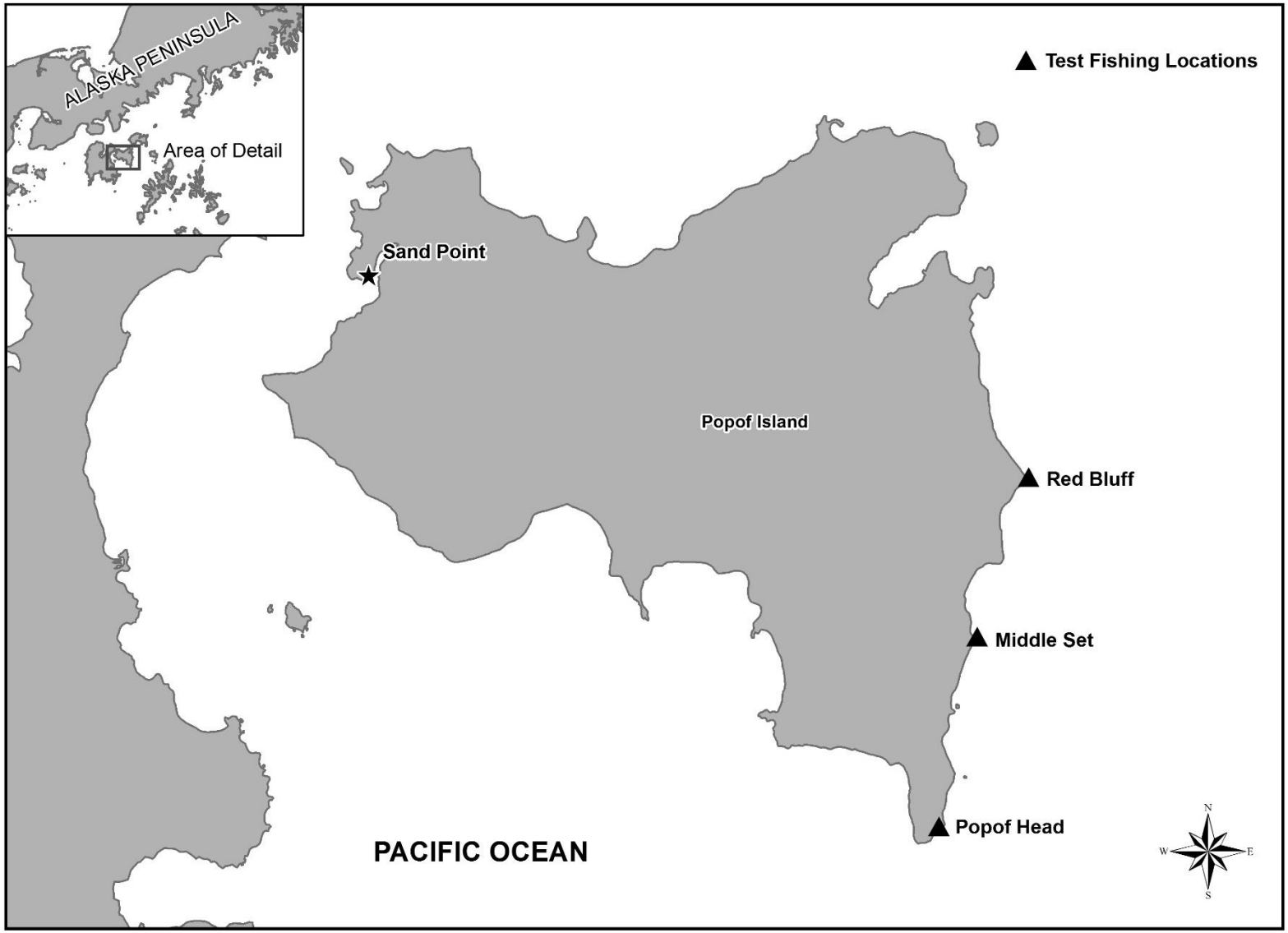

Figure 143-2.–Map of Popof Island with test fishing sites defined.

Table 143-1.–Summary of the immature test fishery from 1990 to present.

Year	Duration	Number of sets	Number of Adult Salmon						Number of Immature Salmon				
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Chum	Total
1990	July 3–August 13	29	23	1,194	1,708	4,516	3,104	10,545	39	796	0	1,138	1,973
		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
1998	July 2–3	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 1–7	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 3–5	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 2–16	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 2–4	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 2–20	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 7–8	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

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Table 143-1. Page 2 of 2.

Year	Duration	Number of sets	Number of Adult Salmon						Number of Immature Salmon				
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Chum	Total
2005	July 2–5	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
2006	July 2–5	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 2–5	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 3–8	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 3–5	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 2–5	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 2–5	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 2–5	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
2013	July 2–5	20	4	2,366	1,002	7,043	1,632	12,037	5	662	0	0	667
		Avg/Set	0.2	118.3	50.1	352.2	81.6	601.9	0.3	33.1	0.0	0.0	33.4
2014	July 2–5	23	356	2,959	957	977	3,270	8,519	161	143	0	26	330
		Avg/Set	15.5	128.7	41.6	42.5	142.2	370.4	7.0	6.2	0.0	1.1	14.3
2015	July 2–9	21	116	1,502	5,915	27,904	3,808	39,245	1,498	236	57	616	2,407
		Avg/Set	5.5	71.5	281.7	1328.8	181.3	1868.8	71.3	11.2	2.7	29.3	114.6
2016	July 2–9	18	994	593	179	3,706	598	6,070	1,433	182	0	9	1,624
		Avg/Set	55.2	32.9	9.9	205.9	33.2	337.2	79.6	10.1	0.0	0.5	90.2
2017	July 2–16	39	1,612	4,945	2,088	4,596	10,577	23,818	2,826	8,556	0	1,369	12,751
		Avg/Set	41.3	126.8	53.5	117.8	271.2	610.7	72.5	219.4	0.0	35.1	326.9
2018	July 2–5	20	62	1,037	241	1,064	2,172	4,576	0	214	1	15	230
		Avg/Set	3.1	51.9	12.1	53.2	108.6	228.8	0.0	10.7	0.1	0.8	11.5
2009-2018		21	320	2,523	1,102	8,350	3,000	15,292	601	1,143	6	231	1,981
Average		Avg/Set	15.0	118.4	51.7	392.0	140.8	717.9	28.2	53.7	0.3	10.8	93.0

PROPOSAL 155 – 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Smith.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The would allow a set gillnet lead to be anchored in a location other than the beach. The lead could be anchored at any distance and at any depth away from shore, provided that the shoreward anchor is in a kelp patch or behind a rock.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulations state that 25 fathoms of seine webbing may be used on the shoreward end of a set gillnet. When seine webbing is used as a lead for a set gillnet in the Unimak, Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern districts, the shoreward end of the seine webbing must be attached to the beach above low tide. When a set gillnet does not use a lead, there are no restrictions on where the shoreward end needs to be anchored, except in the Unimak District during the June fishery described in 5 AAC 09.365, a person may not place the shoreward end of a set gillnet further than one-half mile from the mean high tide mark.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? A lead would no longer be required to be attached to the beach above low tide but instead, anchored on the shoreward end of the set gillnet to a rock or kelp patch. However, because "rock" is not defined in this proposal it is difficult to measure the effects. As written, adoption of this proposal would essentially allow the use of a lead with set gillnet gear anywhere in Area M that allow set gillnet gear regardless the depth. There would likely be an increase in gear conflicts as this proposal would expand the range of lead use with set gillnet gear. Effects on harvest are unknown, but variation in depth and distance away from shore could change the catch composition or possibly increase bycatch of fish within kelp patches.

BACKGROUND: In 1968, the use of 10 fathoms of seine webbing as a set gillnet lead was established in regulation. The use of a seine lead for set gillnet gear was not intended to fish deeper waters but to help funnel fish that travel closer to shore, therefore, the lead is required to be anchored to the beach above low tide. In 2010, the legal length of seine webbing used as a lead for the Unimak, Southwestern, South Central and Southeastern districts increased from 10 fathoms to 25 fathoms, but the definition of where the lead could be anchored remained unchanged. Prior to 1968, no regulation allowed or prohibited the use of seine webbing as leads for set gillnet gear in these districts.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. Adoption of this proposal would not significantly change management of salmon fisheries in the South Alaska Peninsula. Adoption of this proposal is not anticipated to create a conservation concern for salmon stocks in this area. This would be very difficult to enforce and the department would need guidance to define the attachment points of a rock and a kelp patch for enforcement purposes.

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 156 – 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would remove the minimum mesh size of five and one-quarter inches for set gillnets from the South Alaska Peninsula Post-June fishery, and remove the minimum mesh size of four and one-half inches for set gillnets beginning July 26 in the Southeastern District Mainland and beginning August 1 in the Shumagin Islands Section.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery currently has no minimum mesh size standards for set gillnet gear. During the South Alaska Peninsula Post-June fishery, the minimum mesh size of set gillnets may not be less than five and one-quarter inches. Beginning July 26 in the Southeastern District Mainland and beginning August 1 in the Shumagin Islands Section, minimum mesh size of a set gillnet may not be less than four and one-half inches; Table 156-1). Gear specifications and operation requirements allow each set gillnet to be a maximum of 100 fathoms in length, and the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by a CFEC permit holder may be no more than 200 fathoms.

Set gillnet gear is allowed in all districts of the South Alaska Peninsula, except in the area between Dark Cliffs and Popof Head when seine gear is open concurrently; Figure 156-1 and Figure 156-2). Salmon may be taken only with purse seines and hand purse seines in the area between Popof Head and Dark Cliffs (Popof Island) from June 1 through August31; however, salmon may be taken by set gillnet during periods when the seine fishery is closed by emergency order due to the presence of immature salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? There would be no minimum mesh size for any of the Area M gillnet fisheries. The department would continue to base management decisions on prescribed management plans and salmon abundance. Effects on harvest are unknown, but without a minimum mesh size restriction for set gillnet gear, there is potential for an increase of immature salmon harvest.

BACKGROUND: 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 in the June and Post-June South Peninsula fisheries. The legal depth of gillnet gear was unlimited in regulation until just prior to the 1990 salmon season, in which a proposal was adopted that limited gillnet gear in the Northwestern, Unimak, Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern districts to 90 meshes. The requirement of set gillnet mesh size to be no less than five and one-quarter inches has been in regulation since statehood. On the North Peninsula, the minimum mesh size of five and one-quarter inches was removed in several sections between 1992 and 1998, and by 2001, the minimum gillnet mesh size restriction of five and one-quarter inches was removed from all districts in the North Peninsula.

For South Alaska Peninsula fisheries, the board repealed minimum mesh size requirements for drift and set gillnet gear during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries described in 5 AAC 09.365(b) and (c) when the commissioner opens fishing periods under 5 AAC 09.335(d), following the 1994 season. The 2010 board adopted reduced mesh size requirements for set gillnet gear in the Southeastern District Mainland beginning July 26 and the Shumagin Islands Section beginning August 1 to four and one-half inches to target pink salmon more effectively. In 2016, minimum mesh size for drift gillnet gear was repealed and currently, there is no minimum mesh size for drift gillnet gear in Area M.

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

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery if they choose to decrease the mesh size of their fishing gear.

Table 156-1.–Set gillnet mesh size restrictions for Area M.

North Alaska Peninsula	Set gillnet mesh size restrictions
Northern District	No minimum
Northwestern District	No minimum
South Alaska Peninsula	
Unimak District	No minimum in June; Post-June minimum is 5¼ inches
Southwestern District	No minimum in June; Post-June minimum is 5¼ inches
South Central District	No minimum in June; Post-June minimum is 5¼ inches
Southeastern District, Southeastern District Mainland	No minimum in June; 5¼ inch minimum July 6-July 25; 4½ inch minimum beginning July 26
Southeastern District, Shumagin Islands Section	No minimum in June; 5¼ inch minimum July 6-July 31; 4½ inch minimum beginning August 1

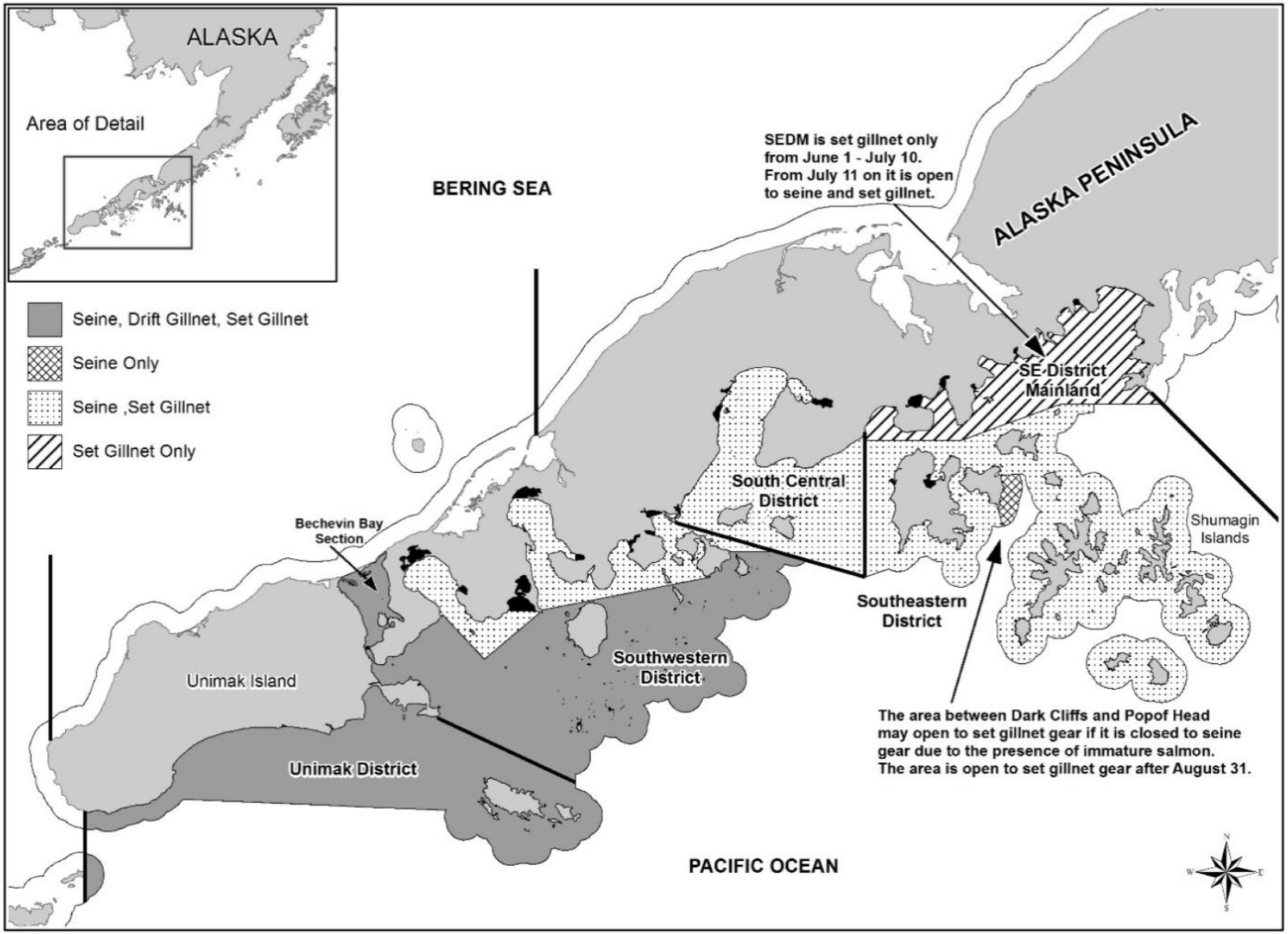

Figure 156-1.–Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries and permitted gear types.

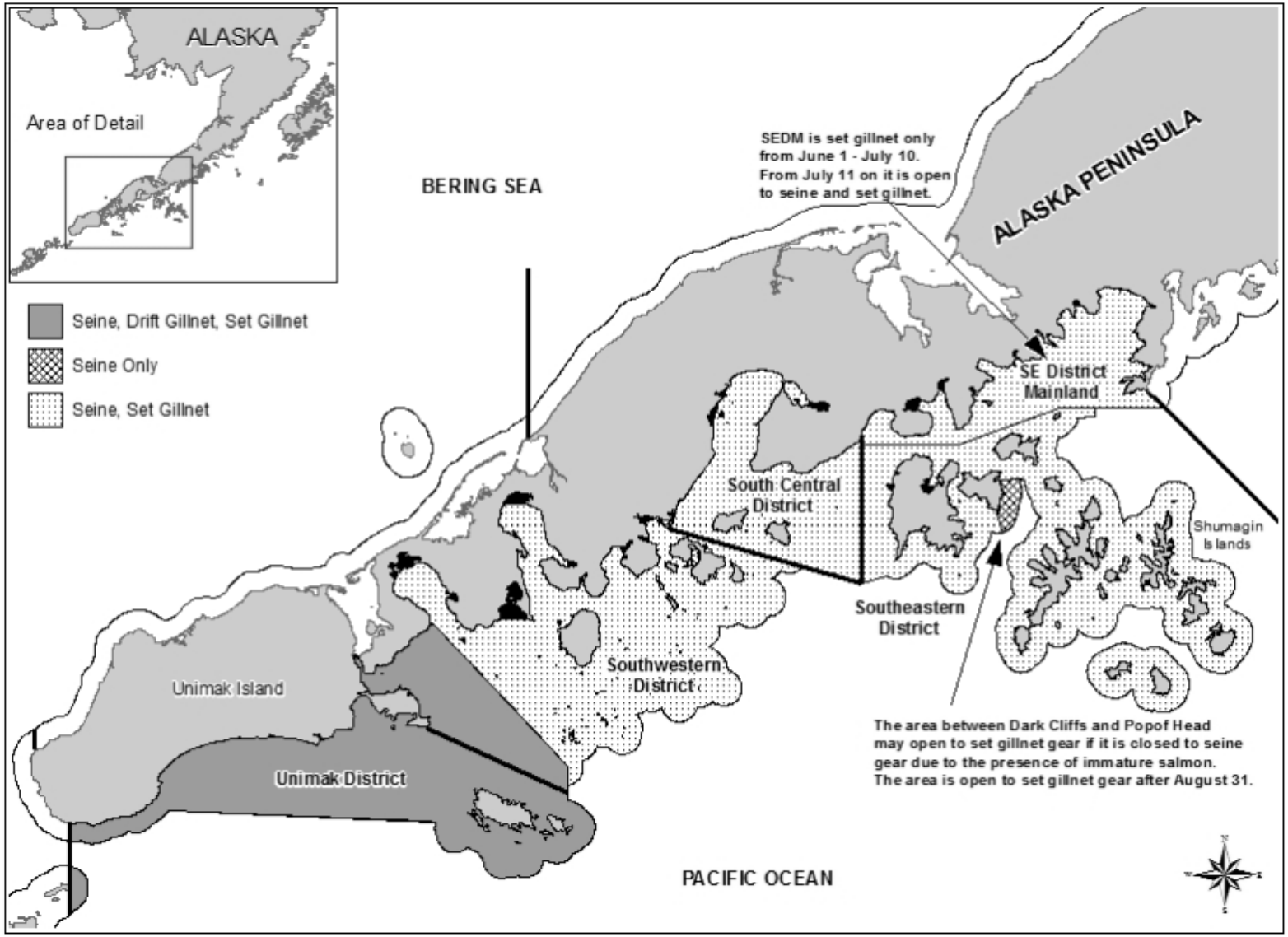

Figure 156-2.–Map of the Post-June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries and permitted gear types.

PROPOSAL 157 – 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Hartman.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Allow two set gillnet permit holders to operate from one vessel. Each permit holder would be allowed to fish a legal set of gear, therefore two sets of gear (four nets totaling 400 fathoms) may be allowed on one vessel.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under general provisions, a salmon fishing vessel shall operate, assist in operating, or have aboard it only or any boat towed by it, one legal limit of gear in the aggregate, except that unhung gear sufficient for mending purposes may be carried aboard fishing vessels. Each fisherman shall operate or assist in operating only one type of net gear at any one time. A person who holds a valid CFEC permit for that gear must be physically present on board the vessel in which the gear was operated.

Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.240, a CFEC set gillnet permit holder may use a registered salmon fishing vessel, when it has set gillnet gear on board, to tow another registered salmon fishing vessel with set gillnet gear on board if the permit holder for the vessel being towed is on board one of the vessels.

Gear specifications and operation requirements for the Alaska Peninsula allow each set gillnet to be a maximum of 100 fathoms in length, and the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by a CFEC permit holder may be no more than 200 fathoms.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would allow two legal sets of gear to be carried and operated on board one vessel, provided that both permit holders are present. This would not allow a set gillnet to exceed gear restrictions in regulation 5 AAC 09.331(b)(1). If two CFEC permit holders had 400 fathoms of gear (two legal limits) on board, each set net could not exceed 100 fathoms in length.

Effects on harvest are unknown, but this may reduce the number of vessels used, which may result in more efficient harvest. The use of a larger vessel may allow set gillnet permit holders to travel farther than they normally would with a smaller vessel and fish further away from their home port. Additionally, the department would continue to base management decisions on prescribed management plans and salmon abundance.

BACKGROUND: The general gear specifications and operations under 5 AAC 39.240 that allows only one legal limit of salmon fishing gear on board a salmon fishing vessel was in effect before 1985. A provision allowing more than one legal set of gear on board a vessel has never been adopted in the South Alaska Peninsula Management Area.

The Bristol Bay Management Area currently states in regulation 5 AAC 06.331(f)(1 and 2) that each permit holder may not operate more than two set gillnets, and the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by that person may not exceed 50 fathoms in length, or a person may assist in the operation of additional set gillnet gear when the CFEC interim-use or entry permit card holder of the additional gear is present. Additionally, a vessel may have more than one legal limit of set gillnet fishing gear on board the vessel. Drift gillnet gear can be stacked so that two permit holders can fish one and a half lengths of legal gear in Bristol Bay (5 AAC 06.333(a)). When two

drift gillnet CFEC permit holders fish from the same vessel and jointly operate gear, both permit holders shall register with the department for the same district indicating the intent to jointly operate gear, and the vessel must display its ADFG permanent license plate number followed by the letter "D" to identify the vessel as a dual permit vessel. (5 AAC 06.333(b and c)). The letter "D" must be removed or covered when the vessel is operating with only one drift gillnet CFEC permit holder on board the vessel.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. If this proposal is adopted, other changes in regulation should be considered. For reporting purposes, harvest could not be combined on one permit. Harvest must be reported for each permit used. The vessel in use must display its ADFG permanent license plate number followed by the letter "D" to identify the vessel as a dual permit vessel. The letter "D" must be removed or covered when the vessel is operating with only one set gillnet CFEC permit holder on board the vessel. Additionally, regulation 5 AAC 09.330(g) allowing a registered salmon fishing vessel with one legal limit of set gillnet gear to tow another vessel with another limit of set gillnet gear would be superseded, if this proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery, if a larger vessel to accommodate two legal sets of gear is purchased for use. Approval of this proposal would decrease overhead costs if two individuals share the costs of one vessel.

PROPOSAL 159 – 5 AAC 27.610. Fishing seasons and periods for Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area, and 5 AAC 27.655. Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery Allocation Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Veerhusen.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This seeks to change season start date and remove the allocation between drift gillnet and purse seine gear groups in the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring fishery. Specifically, this proposal seeks to align the season dates of both gear types and to remove the rollover date of July 5 for the gillnet allocation.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Dutch Harbor food and bait herring seasons are June 24 through February 28 for gillnet gear and from July 1 to February 28 for seine gear. 5 AAC 27.655 allocates herring available to the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery as 86% to the seine fleet and 14% to the gillnet fleet with a rollover of the gillnet allocation to be available for harvest by either gear type on July 5.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The separation of seasons by gear type and the allocation by gear type would be removed. Both gear types would still be able to participate in the fishery, though no provisions would be made to allow fishermen to harvest herring with gillnets during a time when the purse seine fishery is closed. Because there has not been any recent participation in the gillnet fishery adoption of this proposal is unlikely to change the amount of herring available to the purse seine fishery.

BACKGROUND: The Dutch Harbor food and bait herring fishery occurs in the waters around Unalaska and Akutan Islands. This fishery has been occurring annually since 1981 and historically occurred over a ten-year period from 1929 through 1938. Historically, the industry associated with this fishery was a mixture of gillnet and purse seine gear, holding pounds, and numerous small shore-based hand packing operations. Currently, 3 shore-based processors in Akutan, Dutch Harbor, and King Cove process the harvest of 2 or 3 purse seine vessels that currently participate in the fishery.

From 1981 to 1986 and 1990 to 2000, only purse seine gear was used to harvest herring in the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery. However, between 1987 and 1989, and again in 1997, gillnet permit holders recorded landings. In 2001, the board adopted a regulation that allocated 7% of the total Dutch Harbor GHL to the gillnet fleet. From 2001 to 2003, the number of gillnet fishermen increased from 6 to 13 vessels. In 2004, the gillnet harvest allocation was further increased to 14%.

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.

Table 159-1.–Dutch Harbor food and bait herring fishery harvest by gear type.

Year	Gillnet harvest in Tons	Purse seine harvest in Tons	Allocation Total	
1986	–	2,394	2,453	[a]
1987	[b]	2,485	2,332	[a]
1988	[b]	1,987	3,100	[c]
1989	[b]	3,079	3,100	[c]
1990	–	820	903	[c]
1991	–	1,794	931	[c]
1992	–	2,802	1,940	[d]
1993	–	2,824	2,193	
1994	–	3,350	2,215	[e]
1995	–	1,705	1,982	
1996	–	2,278	1,793	
1997	–	1,950	1,645	
1998	–	2,025	1,590	
1999	–	2,437	2,082	
2000	–	2,014	1,728	
2001	107	1,332	1,572	
2002	134	2,664	1,578	
2003 [f]	108	1,379	1,662	
2004	216	1,038	1,899	
2005	0	1,154	1,365	
2006	[b]	952	1,715	
2007	[b]	1,248	1,779	
2008	[b]	1,534	1,722	
2009	–	1,310	1,600	
2010	–	1,941	1,950	
2011	–	1,795	1,867	
2012	–	1,807	1,627	
2013	–	1,764	2,262	
2014	–	1,645	2,099	
2015	–	1,972	2,184	
2016	–	208	2,166	
2017	–	1,270	1,727	
2018[g]	–	1,188	1,810	
2009	–	1,310	1,600	
2010	–	1,941	1,950	
2011	–	1,795	1,867	
2012	–	1,807	1,627	
2013	–	1,764	2,262	
2014	–	1,645	2,099	
2015	–	1,972	2,184	

-continued-

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Year	Gillnet harvest in Tons	Purse seine harvest in Tons	Allocation Total
2016	–	208	2,166
2017	–	1,270	1,727
2018[g]	–	1,188	1,810

[a] Harvest quota set by ADF&G. Reduced proportionately with the drop from the 1985 Togiak spawning biomass level.

[b] Number may not be released due to state confidentiality requirements.

[c] Harvest quota set under provisions of the *Bering Sea Herring Fisheries Management Plan*.

[d] The preseason forecasted biomass was adjusted by ADF&G, the final biomass estimate for Togiak was 146,037 tons and the harvest quota was adjusted to 1,940 tons.

[e] The preseason forecasted biomass was adjusted by ADF&G (Kathy Rowell, personal communication, May 25, 1994).

[f] Since 2003, several seine permit holders have formed a combine and used 1 - 3 vessels.

[g] Start date for seine fishery changed to July 1.

PROPOSAL 144 – 5 AAC 09.369 Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The proposal first states the intent is to limit the seaward boundary limit to 0.5 nm from shore, but later the proposal references limiting the seaward boundary to 1.5 nm. It appears that the 0.5 nm is a mistake and it has been clarified by the proposer that 1.5 nm is the intended seaward limit of the proposal. Using the proposed regulatory language, when the preseason Bristol Bay sockeye salmon forecast is 30 million fish or less, this proposal would close commercial salmon fishing from 1.5 nm to 3 nm in the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik sections and reduce the size of this section by creating a new northeastern boundary line (originating at lat 56°59.68′N, long 158°40.45′W) in the Outer Port Heiden Section. If the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon preseason forecast is 30 million fish or more, or if an inseason assessment indicates a Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run larger than 30 million fish, then the current northeastern boundary line in the Outer Port Heiden Section will be in effect, and fishing will be permitted out to 3 nm in the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik sections (Figure 144-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik sections are managed using Meshik and Ilnik rivers sockeye salmon escapement. However, management actions may be taken in the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik sections for Ugashik River. The current boundary line in the Outer Port Heiden Section specifies fishing is open west of a line from lat 57°05.52′N, long 158°34.45′W, to lat 57°08.85′N, long 158°37.50′W. Fishing is currently permitted out to 3 nm in the Outer Port Heiden Section, as well as that portion of the Ilnik Section located northeast of Unangashak Bluffs. From 2013 to December 2018, rolling closures have occurred where fishing is not permitted from 1.5 nm to 3 nm for one 24-hour fishing period per seven-day week in that portion of the Ilnik Section located southwest of Unangashak Bluffs. During the other six days per week, fishing is permitted out to 3 nm.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would describe a new Outer Port Heiden northeastern boundary line as well as restrictions in the allowable distance permitted to fish from shore in the Outer Port Heiden Section through July 31 and in the Ilnik Section through July 20, only if the preseason Bristol Bay sockeye salmon forecast is less than 30 million fish. If the inseason assessment indicates a run larger than 30 million sockeye salmon, then there would be no additional restrictions in fishing area either along the coast or in any offshore waters.

The proposed changes would concentrate the drift gillnet fleet to within 1.5 nm from shore from June 20 to July 31 in the Outer Port Heiden Section and from June 20 to July 20 in the Ilnik Section and reduce the fishing area to less than half of what is currently available. There would likely be a loss of opportunity and harvest due to the congestion of the fleet. It is unknown if reducing the fishing area in the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik sections to only 1.5 nm from shore would increase the numbers of salmon returning to Bristol Bay. From 2013 to 2015, fishing was only allowed in the Outer Port Heiden Section out to 1.5 nm from shore and during that time the largest and smallest harvest on record occurred in the Outer Port Heiden Section. Rolling closures have occurred in that part of the Ilnik Section located southwest of Unangashak Bluffs for one 24-hour period during seven days, and this proposal would make that restriction a continuous closure from June 20 to July 20.

The department would need to provide an early assessment of the Bristol Bay sockeye run if the preseason forecast is below 30 million fish. Bristol Bay management and research staff would be instrumental in determining, in a timely manner, when this occurs so that management actions could be taken in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden sections.

BACKGROUND: Since statehood, fishing has been permitted out to 3 nm in the Northern District with few exceptions. Since 2013 in parts of the Ilnik Section, as well as the Three Hills and Bear River sections, rolling closures have been in effect to allow passage of sockeye salmon to the Bear and Nelson rivers for one 24-hour period per seven-day duration, during which fishing is not permitted from 1.5 nm to 3 nm from shore from June 20 to July 31.

Past stock composition studies (WASSIP) have shown that the majority of sockeye salmon harvested in the Outer Port Heiden Section are bound for Bristol Bay: Ugashik is the most prevalent Bristol Bay stock in the fishery. From 2013 through 2015, the Outer Port Heiden Section was closed from 1.5 nm to 3 nm from shore over concern for Bristol Bay sockeye salmon. In 2014 and 2015, a research project investigated the difference in genetic stock composition estimates of sockeye salmon caught in the waters in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden sections from shore to 1.5 nm offshore, and from 1.5 nm to 3 nm offshore. The study found no significant difference in catches of sockeye salmon bound for Bristol Bay from shore to 1.5 nm offshore, and from 1.5 nm to 3 nm in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden sections. In 2016, the board reopened the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial salmon fishing from 1.5 nm to 3 nm.

Since 1999, the Bristol Bay preseason forecast has been under 30 million fish six times, two of those years the actual Bristol Bay run was over the preseason forecast substantially (40 million fish or more). Presently, the Bristol Bay forecast predicts the total run, which includes the expected escapement and commercial common property harvest, which includes the harvest in Bristol Bay and the South Peninsula during June.

Sockeye salmon fisheries occur on the North Peninsula from June to mid-September. The late Bear River sockeye salmon run occurs after July 31, with effort targeting this run until mid-September. Fishing occurs from Port Moller to Strogonof Point in the Ilnik Section targeting the late Bear River sockeye salmon run after July 31. Table 144-1 reports sockeye salmon harvested in June and July in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden sections.

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.

Table 144-1.–Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden sections total sockeye salmon harvest in June and July, 2009–2018.

Year	Ilnik Section	Outer Port Heiden Section
2009	560,940	762,643
2010	636,614	786,025
2011	295,991	375,128
2012	251,794	268,267
2013	63,429	254,916
2014	688,961	420,247
2015	380,744	868,876
2016	2,047,688	632,474
2017	2,514,405	502,531
2018	914,696	356,014
Average 2009–2018	835,526	522,712

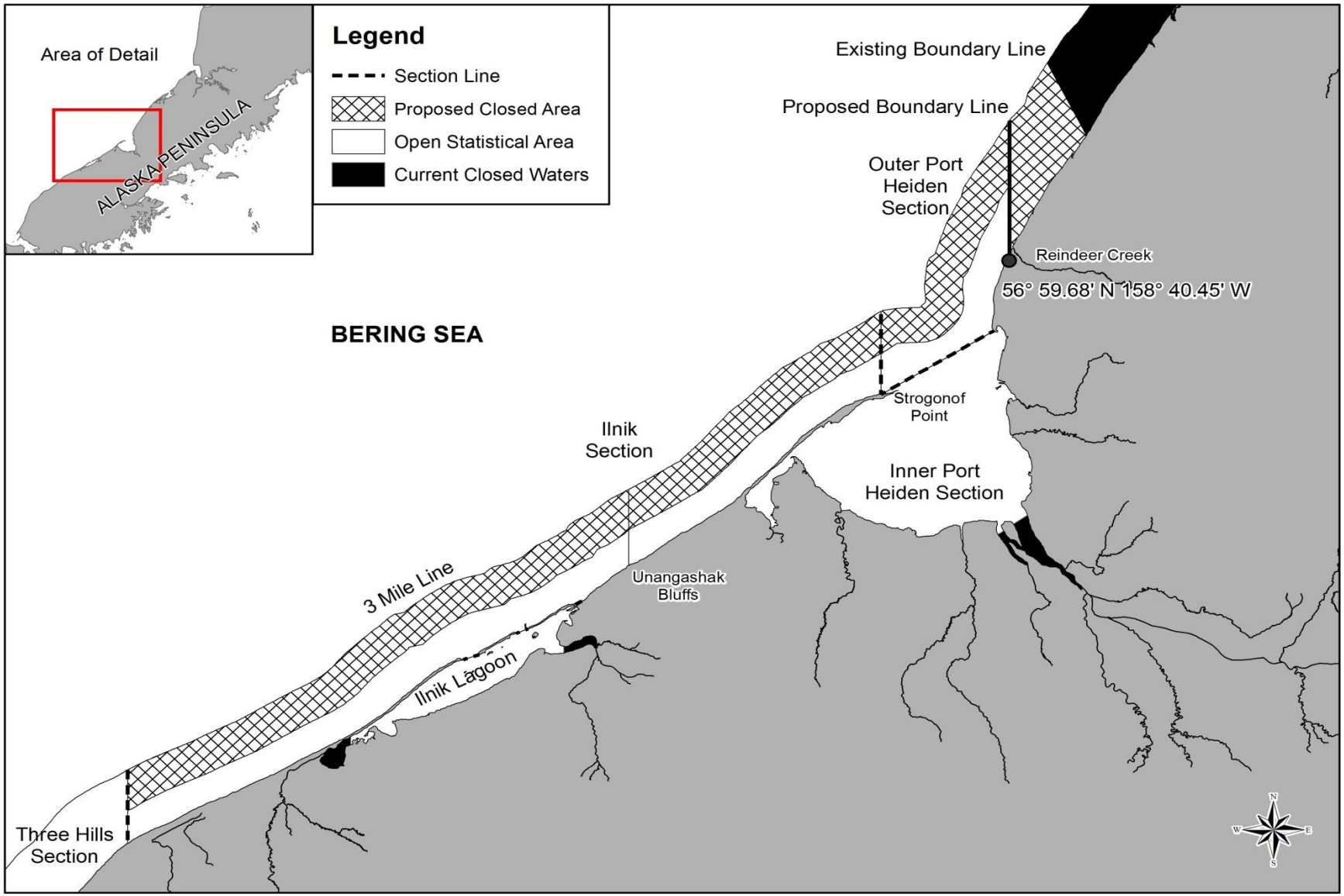

Figure 144-1.–Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections, with illustration of proposed closed waters.

PROPOSAL 145 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed Waters. and 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would limit the fishing area in the Outer Port Heiden Section by moving the boundary line of the existing Outer Port Heiden Section to the west, and then reducing fishing area in the northeast Ilnik area (Strogonof Point to Unangashak Bluffs) to 2 miles offshore at Unangashak Bluffs (long 159°10.25′W). However, some of the latitude and longitude coordinates as described in the proposal likely do not accurately reflect the intent of the proposal. When plotted as described, some coordinates are located roughly 3 miles inland. Also, the line drawn from the 3 nm boundary line at the proposed Outer Port Heiden Section boundary line to the proposed 2 nm boundary at Unangashak Bluffs would allow some fishing out beyond the 3 nm line that currently defines the boundary of the Outer Port Heiden Section. The state does not have management jurisdiction for commercial salmon fishing beyond the 3 nm boundary nor the authority to extend jurisdiction beyond the 3 nm boundary.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik sections are managed on the basis of local stocks at Meshik and Ilnik rivers. However, management actions may be taken in the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik sections for Ugashik River. Fishing is currently permitted out to 3 nm in the Outer Port Heiden Section, as well as that portion of the Ilnik Section located northeast of Unangashak Bluffs. The Outer Port Heiden Section is open west of a line from lat 57°05.52′N, long 158°34.45′W, to lat 57°08.85′N, long 158°37.50′W.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Proposed coordinates (Figure 145-1) do not accurately depict what appears to be the intent of the language of the proposal. The coordinates are neither accurate nor sufficient to prosecute a fishery. It appears from the language in the proposal that the intent was to move the Outer Port Heiden boundary to the west and reduce fishing area in the northern part of the Outer Port Heiden Section. Fishing would be permitted out to 3 nm in the Outer Port Heiden Section and a boundary line would be drawn from the 3 nm boundary line at the proposed location described at the Outer Port Heiden Section to 2 nm from shore in the Ilnik Section located at a point at Unangashak Bluffs.

There would likely be a loss of opportunity and harvest due to the congestion of the fleet. It is unknown if reducing the fishing area in the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik sections would increase the numbers of salmon returning to Bristol Bay. The proposed boundary line would start from the 3 nm boundary at the Outer Port Heiden Section line and extend approximately 21 nm to the southwest to Unangashak Bluffs where it would terminate 2 nm from shore. At that long distance it may be difficult for fishermen to determine where they are at during fishing operations since it is a sloping line from 3 nm to 2 nm.

BACKGROUND: Since statehood, fishing has been permitted out to 3 nm in the Northern District, except from 2013 through 2018 in the Three Hills and Bear River sections, as well as that portion of the Ilnik Section southwest of Unangashak Bluffs where rolling closures have been in effect. While rolling closures are in effect from June 20 to July 31, fishing is not permitted between 1.5 nm and 3 nm from shore during one 24-hour period per seven-day period

in order to allow passage of sockeye salmon to the Bear and Nelson rivers. Past stock composition studies (WASSIP) have shown that the majority of sockeye salmon harvested in the Outer Port Heiden Section are bound for Bristol Bay; Ugashik River sockeye salmon stock is the most prevalent Bristol Bay stock in the fishery. Since the mid-1990s, management actions may be taken in the Ilnik Section fishery for the conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, and the same actions may also be taken in the Outer Port Heiden Section since 2007. From 2013 through 2015, the Outer Port Heiden Section was closed from 1.5 nm to 3 nm from shore over concern for Bristol Bay sockeye salmon. In 2014 and 2015, a research project investigated the possible difference in the genetic composition estimates of the sockeye salmon caught in the waters in the Outer Port Heiden Section from shore to 1.5 nm offshore, and from 1.5 nm to 3 nm. The study found no significant difference between the catch in these areas. In 2016, the board reopened the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial salmon fishing in the area from 1.5 nm to 3 nm which had been closed from 2013–2015. Table 145-1 provides harvests for both Northeast Ilnik, and the Outer Port Heiden Section during the months of June and July.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal but is **OPPOSED** to the proposal as written since the coordinates are not accurate with one location being several miles inland and the boundary line allowing fishing outside of state jurisdiction waters.

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 145-1.–Northeast Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Section total sockeye salmon harvest in June and July, 2009–2018.

Year	Northeast Ilnik	Outer Port Heiden Section
2009	359,444	762,643
2010	496,122	786,025
2011	204,810	375,128
2012	156,734	268,267
2013	26,455	254,916
2014	502,175	420,247
2015	148,726	868,876
2016	1,668,877	632,474
2017	1,361,380	502,531
2018	482,564	356,014
Average 2009–2018	540,729	522,712

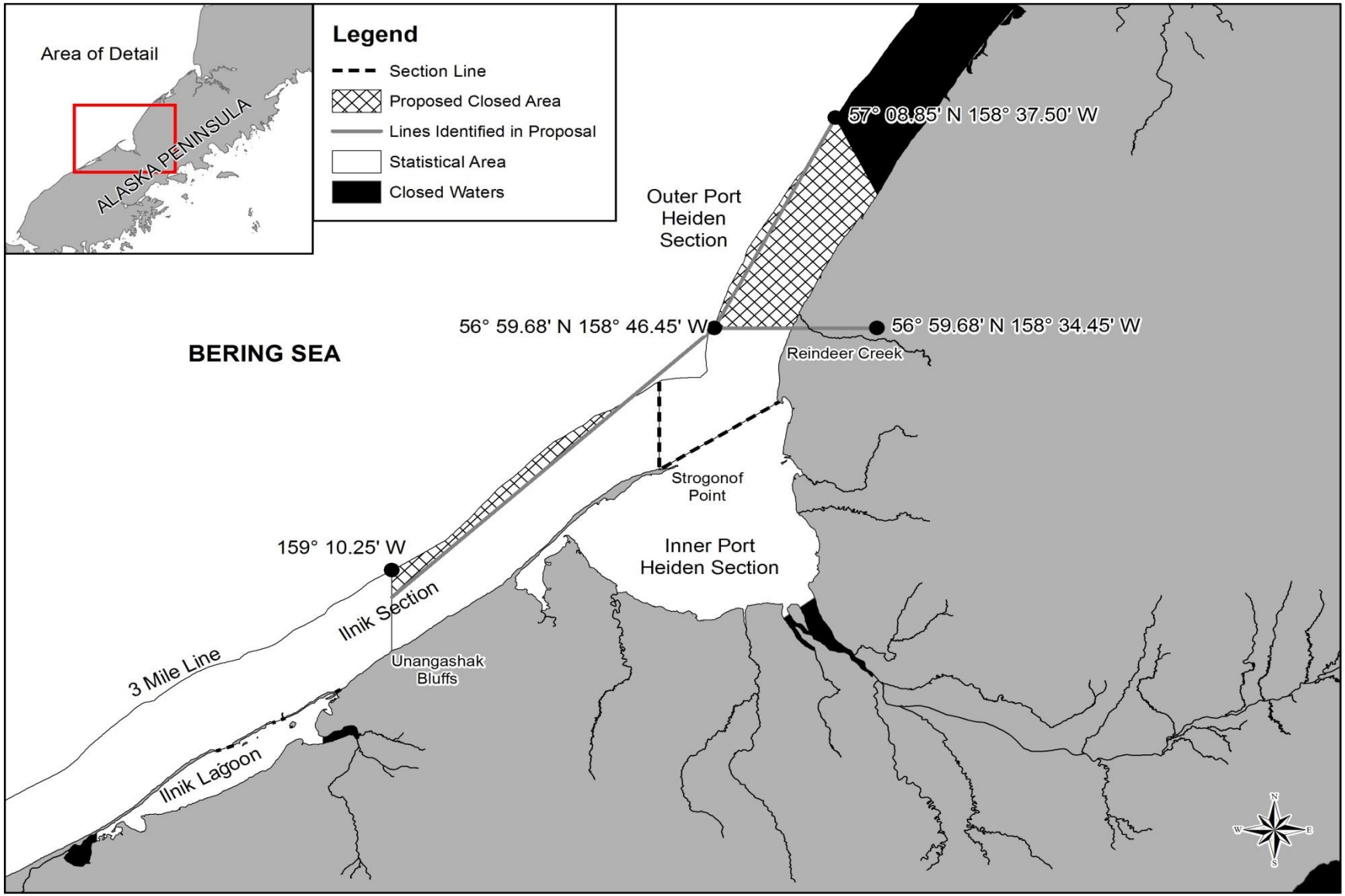

Figure 145-1.–Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections, with illustration of proposed closed waters.

PROPOSAL 146 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Nelson Lagoon Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would reinstate the "rolling closures" that were repealed by a sunset provision on December 31, 2018. The rolling closures would go into effect only if the escapement goals for the Bear or Nelson rivers through July 31 are not met for two consecutive years. If the escapement goal at Bear or Nelson rivers prior to July 31 is not met for two consecutive years, the department shall manage the Bear River, Three Hills, and southern portion of the Ilnik sections to conserve Bear and Nelson River sockeye salmon stocks by allowing the passage of sockeye salmon from the northeast to the southwest in the Northern District (Figure 146-1). From June 20 through July 31 fishing periods will be established in four areas (including two portions of the Bear River Section) during which the waters that are between the three-mile seaward boundary line, described in 5 AAC 09.301, and a line that is one and one-half miles shoreward of the three-mile seaward boundary are closed for one 24-hour period during a seven-day period (Figure 4). The areas in which the aforementioned rolling closures will be established are: 1) that portion of the Ilnik Section between the longitude of Unangashak Bluffs (long 159°10.25′W); 2) the Three Hills Section; 3) from Cape Seniavin to cape Kutuzof (long 160°19.64′W); and 4) from Cape Kutuzof to Wolf Point (long 160°48.47′W).

The waters located to the southwest of the open waters where a 24-hour closure has occurred will have sequential rolling closures that allow fishing in the waters only out to the one and one-half mile line described in this subsection for the first 24 hours of an open fishing period.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The language proposed has been in effect since 2013, and in December 31, 2018 the regulation expired. Prior to 2013, commercial salmon fishing was permitted out to 3 nm for the duration of commercial salmon fishing season.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? It is not known as to what effect this regulation has had on increasing the escapement into the Bear or Nelson rivers since the inception of the rolling closures in 2013. However, escapement goals have generally been met or exceeded at these river systems (Table 146-1).

BACKGROUND: Since statehood, fishing has been permitted out to 3 nm in the Northern District, except from 2013–2018 in parts of the Ilnik Section as well as the Three Hills, and Bear River sections where rolling closures have been in effect for one 24-hour period per seven-day period. During this time, fishing is not permitted from 1.5 nm to 3 nm from shore from June 20 to July 31 to allow passage of sockeye salmon to the Bear and Nelson rivers. There are no data to verify that these closures have any impact on the escapement into Nelson or Bear rivers. Table 146-2 provides harvest information during the months of June and July for those areas where rolling closures have occurred. In 2014 and 2015, a research project investigated the difference in genetic stock composition estimates of sockeye salmon caught in the waters in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden sections from shore to 1.5 nm offshore, and from 1.5 nm to 3 nm offshore. The study found no significant difference in catches of sockeye salmon bound for Bristol Bay from shore to 1.5 nm offshore, and from 1.5 nm to 3 nm in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden

sections. It is not known if these results would be similar in the Three Hills or Bear River sections concerning Nelson and Bear River sockeye salmon stocks.

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.

Table 146-1.–Nelson River and Bear River total sockeye salmon escapement in June and July, 1998–2018.

	Nelson River		Bear River (early run)	
Year	Escapement	Goal	Escapement	Goal
1998	159,800	100k to 150k	221,580	150k to 175k
1999	202,067		222,110	
2000	182,700		184,053	
2001	201,962		177,495	
2002	315,693		179,480	
2003	343,511		226,201	
2004	480,097	97k to 219k	354,565	176k to 293k
2005	303,000		332,248	
2006	215,000		262,995	
2007	180,000		206,233	
2008	141,600		125,526	
2009	157,000		216,237	
2010	108,000		226,534	
2011	89,000		207,451	
2012	103,300		173,158	
2013	248,000		219,074	
2014	250,000		259,046	
2015	257,000		302,731	
2016	300,000		293,280	
2017	381,000		570,840	
2018	221,000		324,093	
Average 2009–2018	203,490		259,388	

Table 146-2.–Nelson Lagoon Section, South Bear River, North Bear River, Three Hills Section, and Southwest Ilnik sockeye salmon harvests in June and July, 1998–2018.

Year	Nelson Lagoon Section	South Bear River	North Bear River	Three Hills Section	Southwest Ilnik
1998	149,400	143,921	2,356	41,000	260,239
1999	230,511	225,468	40,738	79,039	354,870
2000	186,238	157,325	5,766	278,152	563,378
2001	172,856	245,220	2,650	124,732	169,562
2002	315,955	339,525	14,027	207,318	111,575
2003	361,014	326,978	32,768	210,916	238,248
2004	518,347	538,798	67,886	63,451	668,890
2005	328,234	562,094	211,097	121,913	708,913
2006	237,888	237,866	124,524	95,426	693,794
2007	320,361	140,162	57,192	50,941	926,464
2008	173,300	0	0	0	251,278
2009	206,815	410,443	73,963	28,189	201,496
2010	73,069	289,088	25,231	21,337	140,492
2011	61,634	60,623	3,057	0	91,181
2012	95,928	12,912	0	0	95,060
2013	209,899	19,565	8,722	406	36,974
2014	201,132	199,422	83,068	45,762	185,988
2015	290,934	197,799	48,738	489,907	232,018
2016	275,140	194,168	20,005	27,215	378,811
2017	339,901	167,229	60,298	68,939	1,153,025
2018	146,247	149,149	40,400	189,409	432,132
Average 2009–2018	190,070	170,040	36,348	87,116	294,718

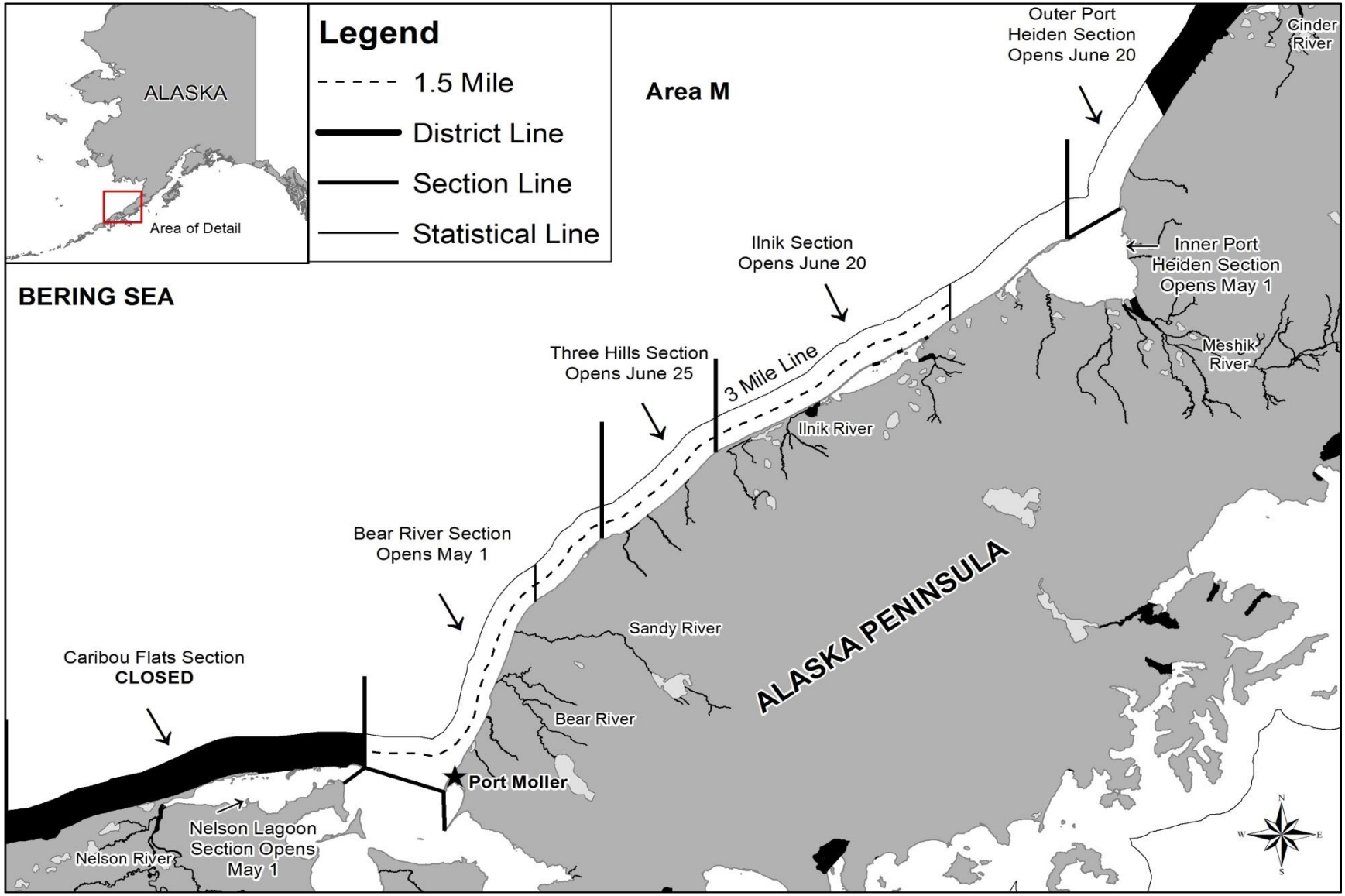

Figure 146-1.–Northern District, with proposed 1.5 mile restrictions illustrated in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections.

PROPOSAL 147 – 5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Don Bumpus.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would require that 10,000 sockeye salmon pass the Chignik River weir (Figure 147-1) in addition to late-run sockeye salmon escapement requirements in August. Additionally, 10,000 sockeye salmon would be required to pass during the month of September. This would reduce the current inriver run goal (IRRG) of 75,000 sockeye salmon to 20,000 sockeye salmon.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* states that the department must allow 75,000 sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir, in addition to late-run sockeye salmon escapement objectives to provide an inriver harvestable surplus for subsistence needs. In August, 25,000 of the 75,000 sockeye salmon must pass the weir and the remaining 50,000 fish must pass during the month of September.

During the transition period from the predominance of early-run sockeye salmon to that of the late-run sockeye salmon, usually late June through mid-July, fishing periods shall be open and closed, by emergency order, to harvest surplus early-run sockeye salmon without jeopardizing the late-run sockeye salmon escapement objectives.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for salmon and other finfish in the Chignik Area. The amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) for late-run sockeye salmon in Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern districts combined is 2,000–3,800 fish.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would reduce the total number of sockeye salmon required to achieve the IRRG by 55,000 fish.

Commercial fishing time in August and September would likely be less restricted, resulting in increased fishing time. A smaller IRRG, particularly in September, would reduce the need to front-load escapement, allow the run to be more evenly distributed, and potentially allow more commercial harvest opportunity for sockeye and coho salmon. Reducing the IRRG could result in lower escapement during the months of August and September.

BACKGROUND: The board increased the IRRG in 2016 with the intent to increase opportunity for subsistence users harvesting late-run fish. The late run is typically tapering off in August and September, so management often front-loads the escapement in early August and early September to ensure the escapement goals and IRRG will be met. This results in lengthy closures to the commercial fishery, especially in September. The current escapement goal range for the Chignik River late-run sockeye salmon (not including the current IRRG) is 200,000–400,000 fish (Table 147-1).

Prior to 1995, the Chignik River weir was removed in early August (the average weir removal date was August 10). Once the weir was removed, active escapement monitoring was not available, and as a result the late-run sockeye salmon goal was targeted prior to weir removal. During the 10-year period prior to 1995, the late-run sockeye salmon escapement was often around 200,000 fish by late July or early August. Projecting that the late-run minimum escapement goal of 250,000 sockeye salmon would be met, the department typically established

commercial fishing periods of 4 days per week in August for the Chignik Bay and Central districts while fishing time in the outer districts was more dependent on pink, chum, and coho salmon escapement. Additionally, a 4- or 5-day fishing period was usually implemented in the CMA in September and October; however, fishing typically ceased by late September. Time series analysis of catch and escapement was used to estimate sockeye salmon escapement to the Chignik River after the weir was removed. In 1995, salmon were enumerated by the weir through late August and beginning in 1996, the weir was operated through early September. Operating the weir longer allowed the department to more accurately monitor daily escapement throughout August and adjust harvest opportunities (commercial fishing periods) accordingly. From 1985–1994, an average of 188,063 sockeye salmon were commercially harvested in August and 40,260 fish in September (Table 147-2). From 1995–2004, the first 10 years of later weir removal, an average of 266,261 sockeye salmon were harvested in August and 38,367 sockeye salmon in September. The commercial sockeye salmon harvest from 2005 through 2018 has averaged 141,230 fish in August and 3,612 fish in September.

In 1998, the board implemented an escapement management objective of 25,000 sockeye salmon for the September 1–15 period, in addition to existing late-run escapement objectives, to address subsistence concerns over the late run.

From 1997 to 2001, the August escapement objective was 50,000 sockeye salmon and the average escapement was 79,000 fish (Table 147-3). During the first three years of the Chignik Area Cooperative Purse Seine Salmon Fishery (2002–2004) the August sockeye salmon escapement estimates averaged approximately 58,000 fish. In 2004, subsistence fishermen reported difficulty in harvesting late-run sockeye salmon. The board agreed that additional effort was needed to harvest for subsistence needs since the August escapement from 2002–2004 was about 20,000 fish less than during prior years. As a result, the board adopted an escapement objective of an additional 25,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik River in August. The August escapement objective totaled 75,000 sockeye salmon with the adoption of this proposal (50,000 fish escapement objective and 25,000 additional fish for subsistence needs).

In 2007, the board reclassified the two 25,000 fish management objectives as an in-river run goal (IRRG) and the total (50,000 fish) was added to the lower bound of the late-run escapement goal. At the 2013 Chignik board meeting, the board clarified that the intent of the 25,000 fish during August was in addition to escapement objective needs in August. The IRRG was also officially put into regulation (5 AAC 15.357(b)(3)(B)). At the 2016 board meeting, subsistence users stated that it was becoming more difficult to attain late-season subsistence fish in the fall and early winter months. The board increased the IRRG to 75,000 fish and redistributed it as 25,000 sockeye salmon in August and 50,000 sockeye salmon for the entire month of September. Prior to the 2018 season, the department adjusted the interim escapement objectives for the Chignik River to more closely reflect the average run timing of the run. This adjustment effectively increased the minimum escapement need for August to 73,000 fish. When combined with the 25,000 fish for the IRRG, the total required fish for August is currently 98,000 fish.

Since 2004, when the first August subsistence-related goal was implemented, sockeye salmon escapement has ranged from approximately 41,789 fish in 2004 to 251,402 fish in 2015 (Table 147-3). Since 2007, when the objectives were reclassified as IRRGs, the August escapement objective plus 25,000 fish for subsistence purposes has been achieved in 10 of the last 12 years. Figure 147-2 illustrates the average daily escapement and commercial harvest for the Chignik River sockeye salmon late run since 2008.

Escapement for the September IRRG period is more difficult to compare over the last 20 years due to the lack of post-weir escapement estimates some years, a change in the IRRG period from September 1–15 to include the entire month of September, and an increase in the IRRG from 25,000 fish to 50,000 fish. Additionally, in 2015 and 2018, DIDSON (Dual Identification Sonar) was used to estimate daily escapement for a portion of August and September after the weir was removed much earlier than normal. From 2007 through 2015, the 25,000 fish required for subsistence purposes from September 1–15 was only achieved in 3 of the 9 years (Table 147-3). The IRRG has not been achieved since 2016 when it was increased to 50,000 sockeye salmon for the entire month of September. The September IRRG has been difficult to achieve even in years when no commercial fishing occurred in September (2011, 2013, 2014, and 2016–2018).

Based on subsistence permit data, sockeye salmon constitute the majority of the post-July 5 subsistence harvest in the Chignik River watershed. Table 147-4 illustrates post-July 5 subsistence sockeye salmon harvest from 2004–2018. Division of Subsistence researchers have observed that Chignik subsistence fishermen traditionally prefer to harvest sockeye salmon during two different time periods: late May to July, and in late fall to early winter. Some subsistence users prefer to harvest late-season sockeye salmon during the second time period because of efficiency of effort, acquired taste, and better processing conditions for drying salmon.

Estimated late-run sockeye salmon subsistence harvests in the Chignik River system have varied significantly from 2004–2017 (years of available late harvest information) with 477 sockeye salmon in 2017 to 2,582 sockeye salmon in 2016 (Table 147-4). The variation in harvest amounts could be due to a variety of factors including amount of effort, run size and fish availability, household surveys done in addition to subsistence permits in years with available funding, and the number of actual returned permits each year.

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

The current ANS defined early-run sockeye salmon subsistence harvest as harvest before September 15 and late-run sockeye salmon harvest as harvest after September 15. At the time the ANS was established (1992 and modified in 2002), it was based on fishing patterns at the time: license holders and crew of commercial salmon permits could only subsistence fish prior to the first commercial opening and then not until after the last commercial opening. Although non-commercial fishermen could subsistence fish throughout the summer, most residents did little subsistence fishing during this period. The board may wish to consider modifying the ANS to reflect the current early-run vs. late-run time periods of 50% early-run and 50% late-run occurring on July 11.

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 147-1.–Sockeye salmon interim escapement objectives and escapement goals for Black (early run) and Chignik lakes (late run).

	Black Lake		Chignik Lake	
Date	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper
5-Jun	12,000 –	17,000		
10-Jun	45,000 –	55,000		
15-Jun	95,000 –	125,000		
20-Jun	150,000 –	230,000	1,000 –	2,000
25-Jun	215,000 –	320,000	3,000 –	5,000
30-Jun	272,000 –	355,500	6,000 –	11,200
5-Jul	300,000 –	385,500	10,000 –	23,000
10-Jul	330,000 –	405,000	22,000 –	42,000
15-Jul	336,000 –	420,000	41,000 –	82,000
20-Jul	348,000 –	436,000	68,000 –	136,000
25-Jul	350,000 –	448,000	98,000 –	196,000
30-Jul	350,000 –	450,000	127,000 –	255,000
4-Aug			155,000 –	280,000
9-Aug			172,000 –	308,500
14-Aug			190,000 –	320,000
19-Aug			206,000 –	331,000
24-Aug			218,000 –	340,000
29-Aug			223,000 –	348,000
31-Aug			225,000 –	350,000
September			275,000 –	400,000
Escapement Goals				
Black Lake	350,000 –	450,000		
Chignik Lake[a]	275,000 –	400,000		

[a] The late-run escapement objective (June 20–September) includes the late-run sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG; 200,000–400,000) plus an additional 75,000 sockeye salmon inriver run goal (25,000 in August and 50,000 in September) to meet late-season subsistence need.

Table147-2.–Sockeye salmon commercial harvest in the CMA, 1985–2018.

	Harvest	
Year	August	September
1985	140,341	37,323
1986	85,650	14,075
1987	104,995	47,377
1988	82,977	28,645
1989	443,853	77,914
1990	558,702	80,455
1991	108,467	55,493
1992	106,372	23,457
1993	137,466	16,768
1994	111,810	21,092
1995	469,109	115,358
1996	197,339	24,563
1997	255,585	44,809
1998	176,056	18,480
1999	511,269	150,658
2000	180,265	0
2001	550,539	2,098
2002	127,138	3,221
2003	188,581	24,482
2004	6,725	0
2005	6,662	0
2006	79,939	0
2007	120,513	7,419
2008	180,395	22,091
2009	154,120	10,821
2010	195,081	6,457
2011	97,732	0
2012	107,500	3,780
2013	146,170	0
2014	158,003	0
2015	347,042	0
2016	172,072	0
2017	211,993	0
2018	0	0
Averages		
1985–1994	188,063	40,260
1995–2004	266,261	38,367
2005–2018	141,230	3,612

Table 147-3.–Estimated sockeye salmon escapement into the Chignik River during August and September IRRG components, 1985–2018.

	Escapement	
Year	August	September
1985	36,346	8,055
1986	34,362	14,310
1987	77,219	6,616
1988	46,644	1,590
1989	187,981	36,510
1990	61,157	12,945
1991	84,107	11,124
1992	44,818	7,431
1993	100,449	13,045
1994	62,346	7,841
1995	73,546	37,913
1996	93,338	20,282
1997	69,429	40,844
1998	72,349	18,522
1999	86,397	18,012
2000	68,409	5,578
2001	100,718	0
2002	80,858	52,922
2003	51,761	39,993
2004	41,789	13,800
2005	53,580	7,333
2006	111,874	40,147
2007	75,061	23,631
2008	99,650	17,969
2009	92,203	18,829
2010	79,948	24,139
2011	63,759	7,028
2012	92,477	37,275
2013	93,639	46,860
2014	74,410	15,931
2015	251,402	131,985
2016[a]	103,886	45,614
2017	111,615	25,995
2018	145,136	34,915
Averages		
1985–1994	73,543	11,947
1995–2004	73,859	24,787
2005–2018	103,474	34,118

[a] Prior to 2016, the September IRRG only included escapement from September 1–15, beginning 2016, the entire month of September was included.

Table 147-4.–Chignik Lake subregion subsistence sockeye salmon harvest on or after July 5, 2004–2018.

Year	Number of fish
2004	1,393
2005	1,553
2006	1,612
2007	1,454
2008	1,775
2009	1,820
2010	1,462
2011[a]	2,569
2012	994
2013	1,145
2014[a]	2,533
2015[a]	2,416
2016[a]	2,582
2017	477
2018	n/a

Notes: Late-run subsistence harvest in this table reflects harvests prior to 2016 that were calculated based on the July 4 management date. Beginning in 2015 through 2017, late harvest was calculated on the average 50/50 date of July 11, which was determined by inseason genetics collected at the Chignik River weir. 2018 data not yet available.

ANS used harvests before and after September 15 due to harvest patterns at the time of the finding by the board in 2002.

[a] 2011, 2014, 2015, and 2016 data are based on a household survey and returned subsistence permits. All other years are based on an extrapolation of returned subsistence permits only.

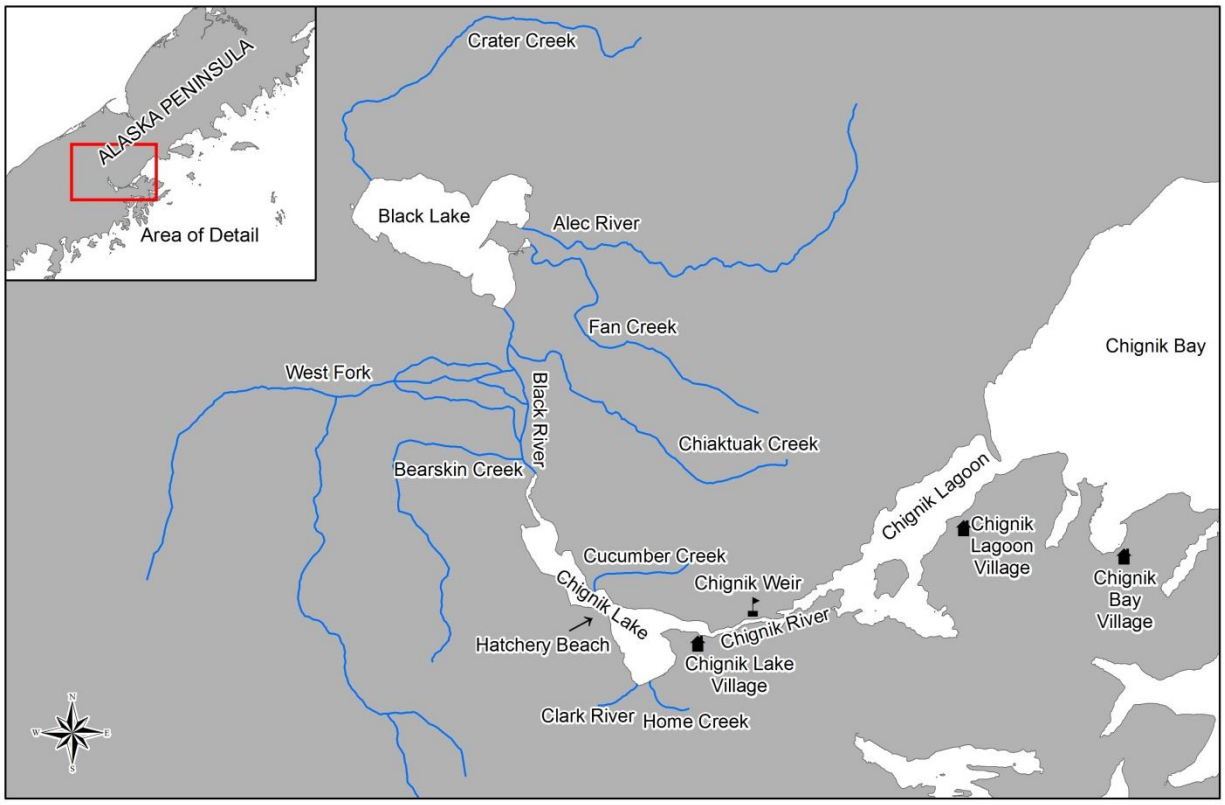

Figure 147-1.–Map of the Chignik River system illustrating the location of the Chignik Lake village, Chignik Lagoon village, Chignik Bay village and the Chignik River weir.

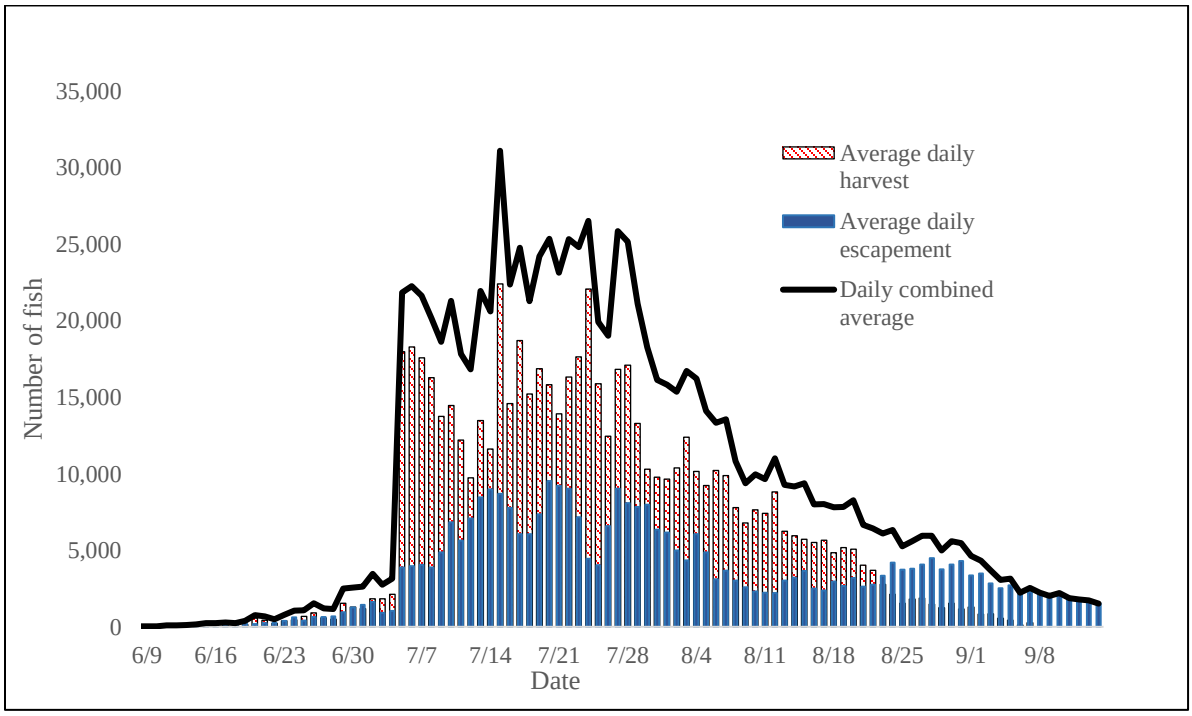

Figure 147-2.–Daily average escapement and commercial harvest with combined average of Chignik River late-run sockeye salmon using the 2008–2018 average.

PROPOSAL 148 – 5 AAC 15.357(d). Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Jack Foster Jr. and Amy Foster.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? From July 9 through September 30 this proposal would direct the department to manage the Western and Perryville districts of the CMA (Figure 148-1) dependent on pink, chum, and coho salmon escapements in the Stepovak and Shumagin Islands sections of the Southeastern District of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Area (Area M; Figure 148-2).

Additionally, this proposal would require a 48-hour commercial salmon fishing closure within a seven day period in the Western and Perryville districts in July and August. This closure would occur regardless of the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in either the Southeastern District of Area M or Western and Perryville districts in the CMA.

It is not clear how this proposal would direct the department to manage Perryville and Western districts stocks when local runs are poor while the Stepovak Bay and Shumagin Islands sections experience runs sufficient to provide commercial fishing opportunity however it appears Chignik would not open in this scenario. While the department would continue to assess the pink and chum salmon escapement into those local systems, the manager would not have the ability to close prior to a conservation concern because the areas would no longer be managed based on the status of the Chignik Area stocks. By the time a conservation concern is determined it could be too late to effectively protect a weak run. Also, current regulatory language requires the manager to base fishing periods on the strength of the Chignik River system sockeye salmon run. This proposal does not include that condition which would be a potential conservation concern when sockeye salmon returns are weak.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? According to the *Chignik Salmon Management Plan*, from July 6 until mid-July, commercial fishing periods in the Western and Perryville districts are predominately based on late-run sockeye salmon escapement to the Chignik River. From mid-July until the end of the commercial salmon fishing season, the Western and Perryville districts are managed based on the department's evaluation of local pink and chum salmon stocks as well as the Chignik River late-run sockeye salmon run. Beginning August 20, fishing periods in the Western and Perryville districts are also based on local coho salmon stocks in addition to local pink and chum salmon, and the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run.

From September 1 through September 30, the Chignik River has an IRRG of 50,000 sockeye salmon. Fishing periods in the Western and Perryville districts in September are dependent on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum and coho salmon runs as well as the strength of the late run sockeye salmon.

In Area M, the Stepovak Area is managed under the *Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Salmon Management Plan.* From July 6 until July 25, fishing periods in the majority of the Stepovak Bay area are based on the strength of the Chignik River sockeye salmon run while the remaining Northwest Stepovak Section of Stepovak Bay, is managed based on the run strength of local sockeye salmon returning to Orzinski Lake. From July 26 through October 1, commercial fishing periods in Stepovak Bay are based on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and

coho salmon stocks except that the fishery will be closed for at least one 36-hour period within a 7-day period.

The Shumagin Islands Section in Area M is managed under the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* during the timeframe of this proposal. From July 6 through July 31 fishing opportunity in the majority of the Shumagin Islands Section consists of a 33-hour fishing period, followed by a 63-hour closure, followed by six 36-hour fishing periods, separated by 60-hour closures. Additional fishing opportunity may be allowed in a small area of the Shumagin Islands Section, the Zachary Bay Terminal Area, based on the department's evaluation of the local salmon stocks returning to Zachary Bay. From August 1 until August 31 in the Shumagin Islands Section, fishing periods are based on the strength of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon. From September 1 through October 31 these areas are managed primarily on coho salmon abundance, although late pink and chum salmon run strength may be considered when determining fishing time.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The majority of the Western and Perryville districts would open and close to commercial salmon fishing dependent on pink, chum, and coho salmon returns to the majority of the Southeastern District in Area M (Figure 148-2). If Area M pink, chum, and/or coho salmon escapements are poor, this may result in a significant loss in harvest opportunities on local stocks returning to Western and Perryville districts. Restrictions to fishing time based on escapement levels of Area M stocks may also result in exceeding pink and chum salmon escapement objectives in the Western and Perryville districts. If Area M pink, chum and/or coho escapements are high, this may allow commercial fishing on a low abundance of local salmon stocks in the Western and Perryville districts.

BACKGROUND: The Western and Perryville districts typically open during early to mid-July, largely to target local pink and chum salmon stocks. Most of the effort takes place in July and August, however, the season can extend through October to target coho salmon. Since 2008, there have been 2 years in which harvest has occurred in September, and none in October. Pink salmon harvest from July 6–September 30 in the Western and Perryville districts has ranged from 3 fish to 5,225,855 fish in recent years (2008–2018; Table 148-1). Chum salmon harvest has ranged from 714 to 295,455 fish during this same time period.

The CMA pink and chum salmon fisheries are managed based on harvest information and inseason aerial assessment of escapement into local streams. The final estimated escapements for pink and chum salmon are reported by aggregates of peak aerial surveys and are an index of escapement used to monitor the health of the runs, not a total estimated escapement value.

Prior to 2016, the CMA area-wide (including all districts) pink salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) was 200,000–500,000 fish in even years and 500,000–800,000 fish in odd years. The CMA lower bound SEG for chum salmon was 57,500 fish. After an escapement goal review analysis in 2015, the areawide SEGs were changed by reducing the index streams to those that were consistently surveyed each year, with good survey conditions, for the past several decades. This reduced the number of index streams used to report escapement by approximately 80% for pink salmon and approximately 85% for chum salmon. As a result of the lower number of index streams, the SEGs for pink and chum salmon were also lowered. The current even year pink salmon SEG is 170,000–280,000 fish and the odd-year pink salmon SEG is 260,000–450,000 fish. The lower bound SEG was changed to an SEG of 45,000–110,000 chum salmon for the CMA. Since 2008, the CMA pink salmon SEGs have been achieved or exceeded every year except 2016 and 2018 when

escapement was well below the lower bound. CMA chum salmon escapements have achieved the SEG every year in the same time period.

The NWSS of SEDM switches to local management of sockeye salmon on July 1. Beginning July 26, the entire SEDM in the Southeastern District is managed for local pink, chum and coho salmon. Beginning July 6, the Shumagin Islands Section may open for scheduled fishing periods pending results from the immature test fishery. In August, Fishing periods are based on the strength of local sockeye, coho, pink and chum salmon runs. Pink salmon harvest in the Southeastern District from July 6 through September 30 has ranged from 180,517 fish to 10,217,540 fish in recent years (2008-2018; Table 148-2). Chum salmon harvest has ranged from 59,110 to 700,388 fish during this time period.

In the South Alaska Peninsula management area of Area M, pink and chum salmon escapements are estimated using an indexed total escapement method. Due to the late run timing of coho salmon, limited survey data is gathered and no indexed total escapement can be calculated, therefore no goal has been set for coho salmon. The South Alaska Peninsula pink salmon SEG (1,750,000–4,000,000 fish) incorporates all of the South Peninsula. Prior to 2016, the area had an even-year SEG (1,864,600–3,729,300) and an odd-year SEG (1,637,800–3,275,700). The Southeastern District (which includes SEDM) has a chum salmon SEG for the entire district of 106,400– 212,800 fish. Since 2008, the pink salmon SEG has been met or exceeded 6 years and has been below the goal 5 years. The Southeastern District chum salmon escapement has achieved or exceeded the SEG every year since 2008 except in 2010 and 2012.

Due to inclement weather, the late run timing of coho salmon in Area M, and the departure of department staff from the Sand Point field office at the end of the season, peak aerial surveys are usually not completed for coho salmon. Fishing periods for coho salmon in September and October are managed based on catch per unit effort data from set netters in SEDM, although there has been no commercial fishing in October in recent years due to lack of industry interest.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal due to conservation concerns. As written, this proposal may require the department to announce fishing periods in the Western and Perryville districts when local pink and chum salmon are in low abundance, or when the department has the area closed due to late-run sockeye salmon concerns.

If this proposal is adopted, fishing periods may not be allowed when local pink and chum salmon are in high abundance resulting in escapement far in excess of CMA escapement goals. The manager would not have the same ability to protect stocks because there may not be justification to close an area where current management would simply not open 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.

Table 148-1.–Western and Perryville districts commercial salmon fishing days open and days fished, pink, chum and coho salmon harvest July 6 through September 30, by year, 2008–2018.

	July 6–September 30		Harvest		
Year	Days Open	Days Fished	Pink	Chum	Coho
2008	54	34	1,338,406	90,393	106,332
2009	62	29	481,719	72,231	84,608
2010	45	41	229,111	206,006	110,637
2011	31	36	577,900	87,362	61,691
2012	45	21	59,405	36,484	22,068
2013	24	28	355,429	15,712	19,362
2014	42	37	238,504	29,463	107,672
2015	55	26	1,090,804	35,011	34,986
2016	15	23	39,984	29,136	48,173
2017	35	24	5,225,855	295,455	207,326
2018	4	1	3	714	1
Average 2008–2017	41	30	963,712	89,725	80,286

Table 148-2.–Area M Southeastern District commercial salmon fishing days open and days fished for pink, chum and coho salmon harvest July 6 through September 30, by year, 2008–2018.

	July 6–September 30		Harvest		
Year	Days Open	Days Fished	Pink	Chum	Coho
2008	67	67	4,674,821	210,449	177,753
2009	70	65	3,085,393	370,688	201,712
2010	30	30	419,734	350,088	114,137
2011	64	54	3,302,045	311,646	118,726
2012	26	26	180,517	132,233	40,553
2013	66	61	4,429,306	258,386	133,387
2014	32	28	268,845	59,110	111,600
2015	81	65	10,217,540	236,246	186,356
2016	35	35	276,192	103,671	141,705
2017	64	57	9,370,139	700,388	269,547
2018	18	18	342,518	206,335	200,729
Average 2008–2017	54	49	3,622,453	273,291	149,548

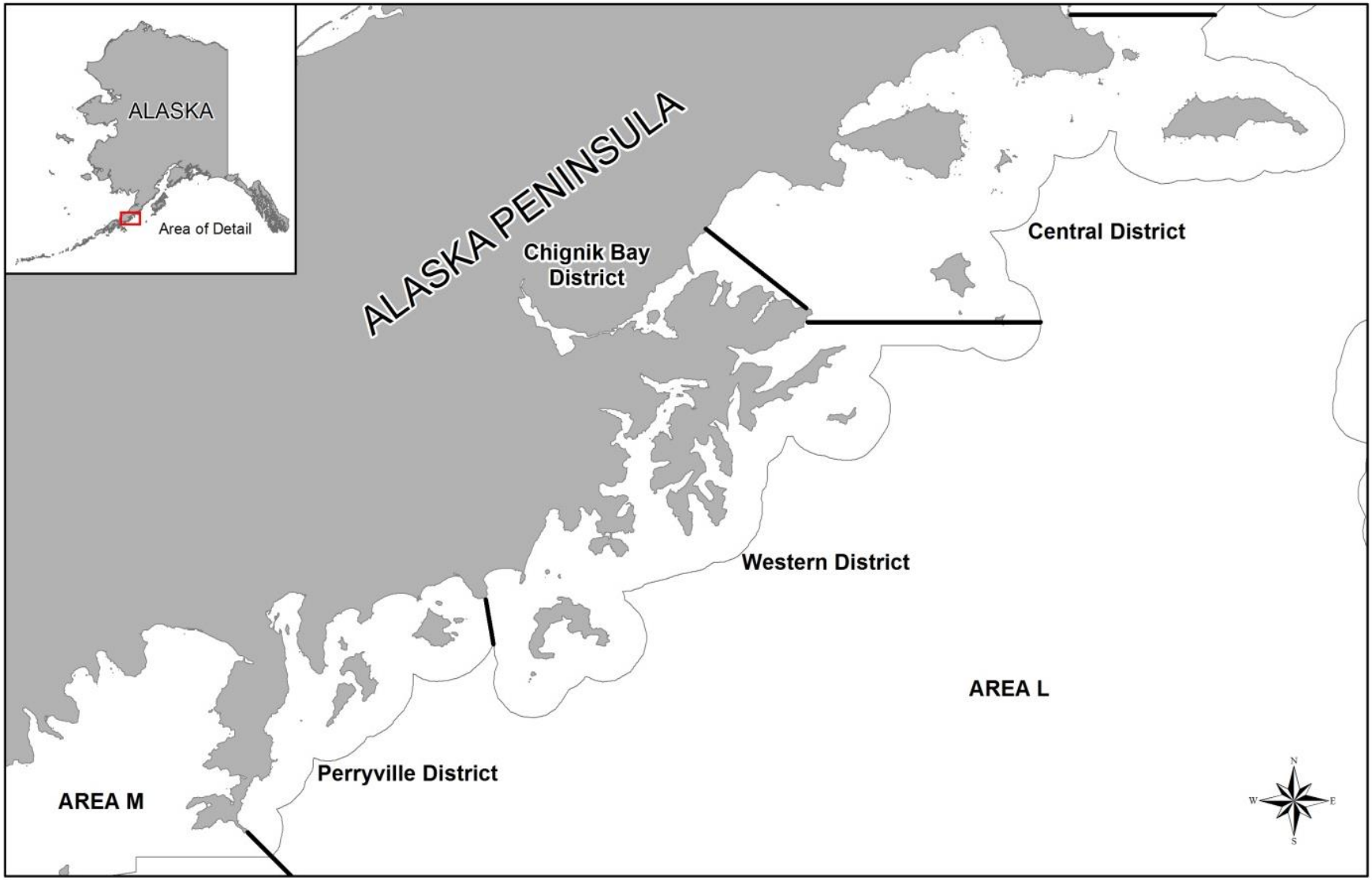

Figure 148-1.–Map of the Western and Perryville districts in the Chignik Management Area.

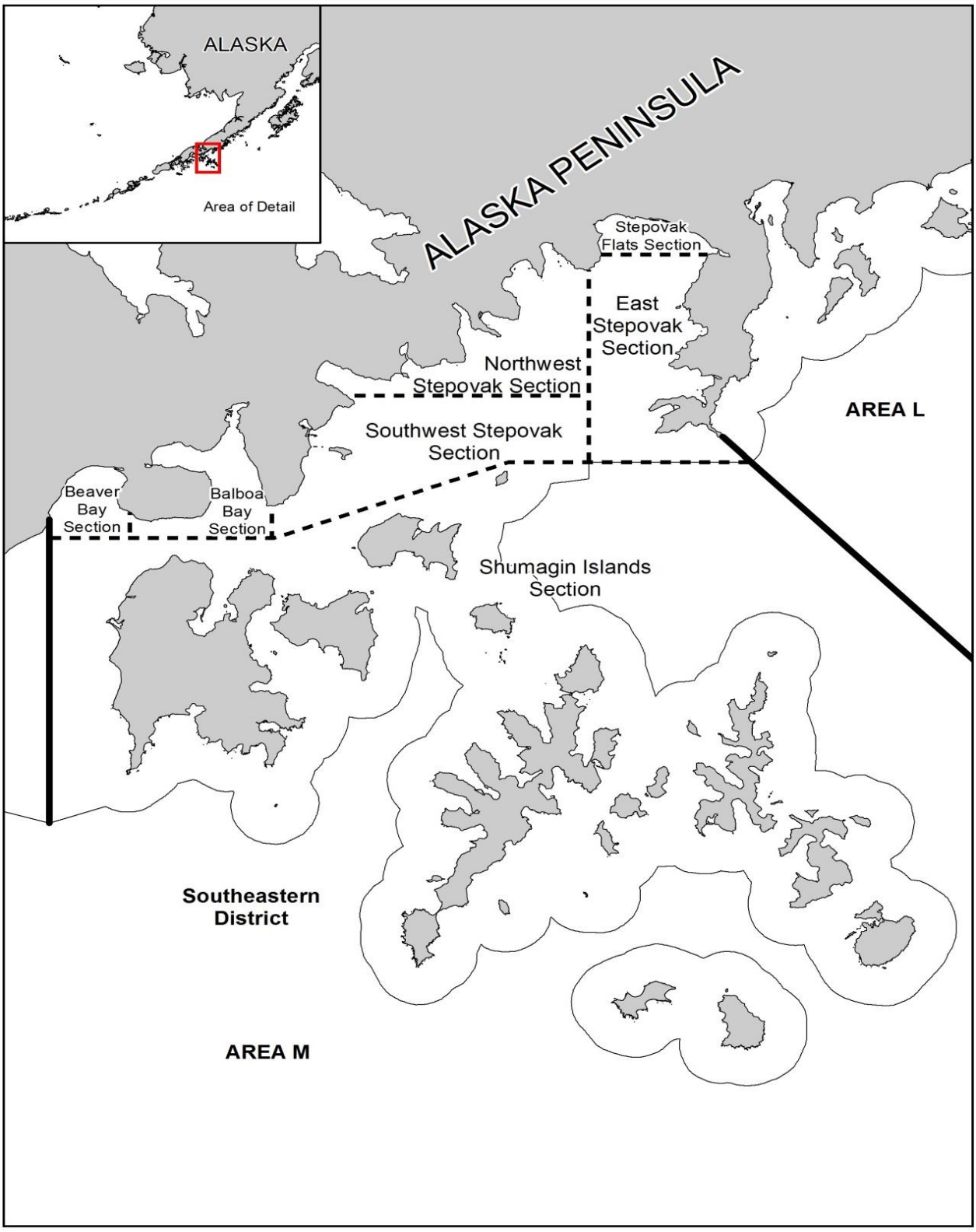

Figure 148-2.–Map of the Southeastern District in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area.

PROPOSAL 149 – 5 AAC 15.537. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Axel Kopun.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would require the Western and Perryville districts to open concurrently with fishing periods in the Chignik Bay and Central districts and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District during June (Figure 149-1). During the transition period from Chignik River sockeye salmon early-run management to late-run management, the department may restrict or disallow fishing in the Western and Perryville districts to assess the runs.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? According to the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan, the Chignik Bay and Central districts and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District must open concurrently based on achievement of escapement objectives for the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon runs. In June, the Eastern District must also open concurrently with these areas.

Prior to July 6, the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, may open to commercial salmon fishing for no more than two fishing periods up to 48 hours each, concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District. There must be a minimum of a 48-hour closure between the fishing periods.

Excluding the two 48-hour commercial fishing periods in the Western District in June and early July, the Western and Perryville districts may open to commercial fishing beginning July 6. Through mid-July, commercial fishing periods are based on the department's evaluation of the Chignik Lake (late run) sockeye salmon run strength, and in order to assess the run, the department may restrict or disallow commercial fishing in the Western and Perryville districts. From the end of the transition period through the end of the commercial salmon season, management is based on local pink and chum salmon as well as the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run. Beginning August 20, evaluation of local coho salmon stocks is also considered.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would open the Western and Perryville districts concurrently with fishing periods in the Chignik Bay, Central and Eastern districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, in June (Figure 149-1). This would effectively open the entire Chignik Management Area (CMA) during commercial fishing periods in June. Increased fishing time and area would likely increase sockeye salmon fishing effort and harvest in the Western and Perryville districts, although it is unknown what the amount of increase would be. This proposal may disperse the commercial fishing fleet and reduce effort in the Chignik Bay and Central districts which may increase harvest of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon before they arrive in the Chignik Bay District.

BACKGROUND: Historically the Western and Perryville districts have remained closed to commercial salmon fishing during June and early July when Chignik early-run sockeye salmon transit the districts. These districts typically open during early to mid-July largely to target local pink and chum salmon stocks, although the fleet actively targets sockeye salmon in these districts as well. During the post-June fisheries, the two districts on average have accounted for approximately 6.1% of the total CMA sockeye salmon harvest since 1970 (Table 149-1). In

contrast, the Western and Perryville districts account for the majority of the post-June coho, pink, and chum salmon harvests in the CMA.

In 2008, the board adopted a proposal with a 3-year sunset clause, allowing up to two 48-hour fishing periods separated by at least 48 hours in the Western District from June 1 to July 5. The intent of this proposal was to increase the area open to commercial salmon fishing to target Chignik bound early-run sockeye salmon. In 2011, the proposal was again before the board, this time without a sunset clause. The proposal was adopted and the two 48-hour fishing periods became regulation. At that time, no management concerns with the two 48-hour fishing periods were noted by the department for the 2008–2010 commercial salmon season.

Since 2008, when the two Western District 48-hour fishing periods in June and early July went into regulation, there have been two years where there was no fishing in June (Table 149-2). For the remaining years sockeye salmon harvests have ranged from 6,133 fish in 2011 to 79,634 fish in 2012. Participation has also ranged from 7 permits making deliveries to a high of 20 permits making deliveries. The majority of the harvests during the June and early July fishing periods have consisted of sockeye, pink and chum salmon.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. This proposal is unlikely to create any biological or management concerns in the CMA as the department would still manage Chignik sockeye salmon based on escapement objectives.

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 149-1.–Average annual post-June salmon harvest in the Western and Perryville districts, and average annual Chignik Management Area harvest, by species since 1970.

	Western District		Perryville District		
Species	Harvest	% Total	Harvest	%Total	Total CMA harvest
King	906	23.1%	218	5.6%	3,927
Sockeye	50,369	4.5%	17,429	1.6%	1,117,477
Coho	48,841	44.9%	11,958	11.0%	108,683
Pink	385,473	41.7%	174,711	18.9%	923,767
Chum	67,177	38.4%	18,644	10.7%	174,818

Table 149-2.–Western District commercial salmon harvests June 1–July 5, 2008–2018.

	Number of	Harvest				
Year	permits	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2008	9	79	21,491	105	33,290	6,424
2009	13	258	64,844	31	256,175	47,692
2010	10	37	7,379	1	3,715	4,634
2011	7	104	6,133	31	16,964	4,495
2012	17	579	79,634		8,229	19,518
2013	8	189	43,061	45	23,991	27,427
2014	0	0	0	0	0	0
2015	20	3,577	44,710	18,645	105,709	18,182
2016	17	331	18,172	50	2,331	4,941
2017	16	430	12,490	712	115,801	53,123
2018	0	0	0	0	0	0
Average 2008–2017	13	620	33,102	2,453	62,912	20,715

Note: Averages do not include 2014 or 2018. There was no harvest in the CMA during June.

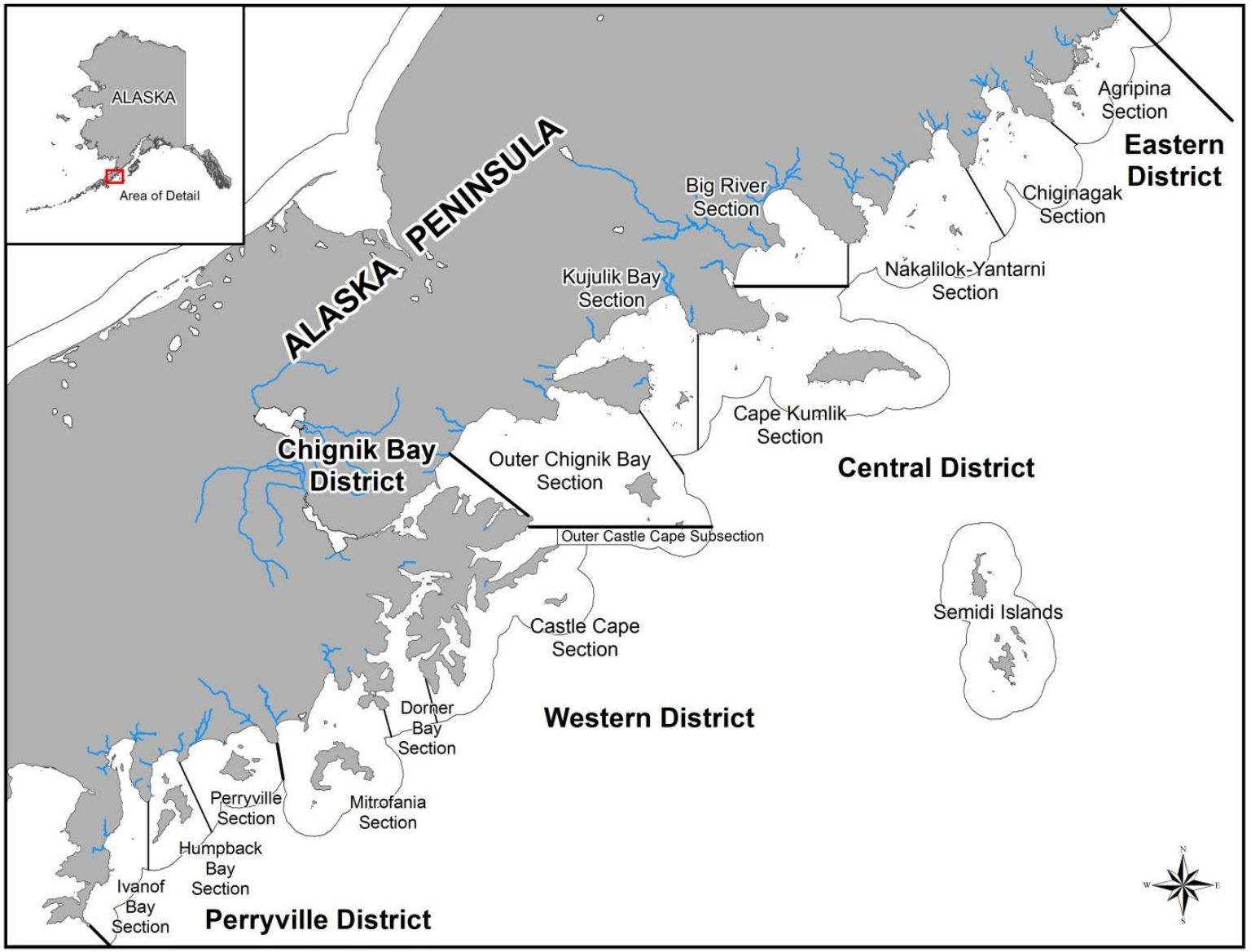

Figure 149-1.–Map of the Chignik Bay, Central, Western and Perryville districts in the Chignik Management Area.

PROPOSAL 150 – 5 AAC 15.537. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Don Bumpus.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would open the Western District (Figure 150-1), excluding the Inner Castle Cape subsection of the Western District, concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District during June and early July. The Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District could open for no more than 48 hours each week between June 1 and July 5 and must have a closure of no less than 48 hours between each fishing period.

The proposer suggests a 3-year sunset provision to evaluate the effects of any adopted actions.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? According to the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan*, the Chignik Bay and Central districts and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District must open concurrently based on achievement of escapement objectives for the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon runs. In June, the Eastern District must also open concurrently with these areas.

Prior to July 6, the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, may open to commercial salmon fishing for two 48-hour fishing periods concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District. There must be a minimum of 48-hour closure between the fishing periods.

Excluding the two 48-hour commercial fishing periods in the Western District in June and early July, the Western and Perryville districts may open to commercial fishing beginning July 6. Through mid-July, commercial fishing periods are based on the department's evaluation of the Chignik Lake (late run) sockeye salmon run strength and in order to assess the run the department may restrict or disallow commercial fishing in the Western and Perryville districts. From the end of the transition period through the end of the commercial salmon season management is based on local pink and chum salmon, as well as the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run. Beginning August 20, evaluation of local coho salmon stocks is also considered.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would open the Western District concurrently with the Chignik Bay, Central and Eastern districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, in June and early July for 48 hours each week. Increased fishing time and area would likely increase sockeye salmon effort and harvest within the Western District, although it is unknown what that increase would be. This proposal may disperse the commercial fishing fleet and reduce effort in the Chignik Bay and Central districts in June which may increase harvest of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon before they arrive in the Chignik Bay District.

Commercial fishing time in the Western District could potentially allow three additional 48-hour fishing periods for a total of five fishing periods between June 1 and July 5.

BACKGROUND: Historically, the Western District has remained closed to commercial salmon fishing in June and early July when early-run sockeye salmon are transiting the area. The district typically opens during early to mid-July largely to target local pink and chum salmon stocks, although the fleet actively targets sockeye salmon in these districts as well. Sockeye salmon in

the Western District during the post-June fishing season has accounted for approximately 4.5% of the total CMA sockeye salmon harvest on average since 1970 (Table 150-1).

In 2008, the board adopted a proposal with a 3-year sunset clause, allowing up to two 48-hour fishing periods separated by at least 48 hours in the Western District from June 1 to July 5. The intent of this proposal was to increase the area open to commercial salmon fishing to target Chignik bound early-run sockeye salmon. In 2011, the proposal was again before the board, this time without a sunset clause. The proposal was adopted and the two 48-hour fishing periods became regulation. At that time, no management concerns with the two 48-hour fishing periods were noted by the department for the 2008–2010 commercial salmon season.

Since 2008, when the two Western District 48-hour fishing periods in June and early-July went into regulation, there have been two years where no fishing occurred (Table 150-2). For the remaining years sockeye salmon harvests have ranged from 6,133 fish in 2011 to 79,634 fish in 2012. Participation has also ranged from 7 permits making deliveries to a high of 20 permits making deliveries. The majority of the harvests during the June and early-July fishing periods have consisted of sockeye, pink and chum salmon.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. This proposal is unlikely to create any biological or management concerns as the department would still manage Chignik sockeye salmon based on escapement objectives.

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 150-1.–Average annual post-June salmon harvest in the Western District, and average annual Chignik Management Area harvest, by species, since 1970.

	Western District		
Species	Harvest	% Total	Total CMA harvest
King	906	23.1%	3,927
Sockeye	50,369	4.5%	1,117,477
Coho	48,841	44.9%	108,683
Pink	385,473	41.7%	923,767
Chum	67,177	38.4%	174,818

Table 150-2.–Western District commercial salmon harvests June 1–July 5, 2008–2018.

Year	Number of permits	Harvest				
		King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2008	9	79	21,491	105	33,290	6,424
2009	13	258	64,844	31	256,175	47,692
2010	10	37	7,379	1	3,715	4,634
2011	7	104	6,133	31	16,964	4,495
2012	17	579	79,634		8,229	19,518
2013	8	189	43,061	45	23,991	27,427
2014	0	0	0	0	0	0
2015	20	3,577	44,710	18,645	105,709	18,182
2016	17	331	18,172	50	2,331	4,941
2017	16	430	12,490	712	115,801	53,123
2018	0	0	0	0	0	0
Average 2008–2017	13	620	33,102	2,453	62,912	20,715

Note: Averages do not include 2014 and 2018. There was no harvest in the CMA in June.

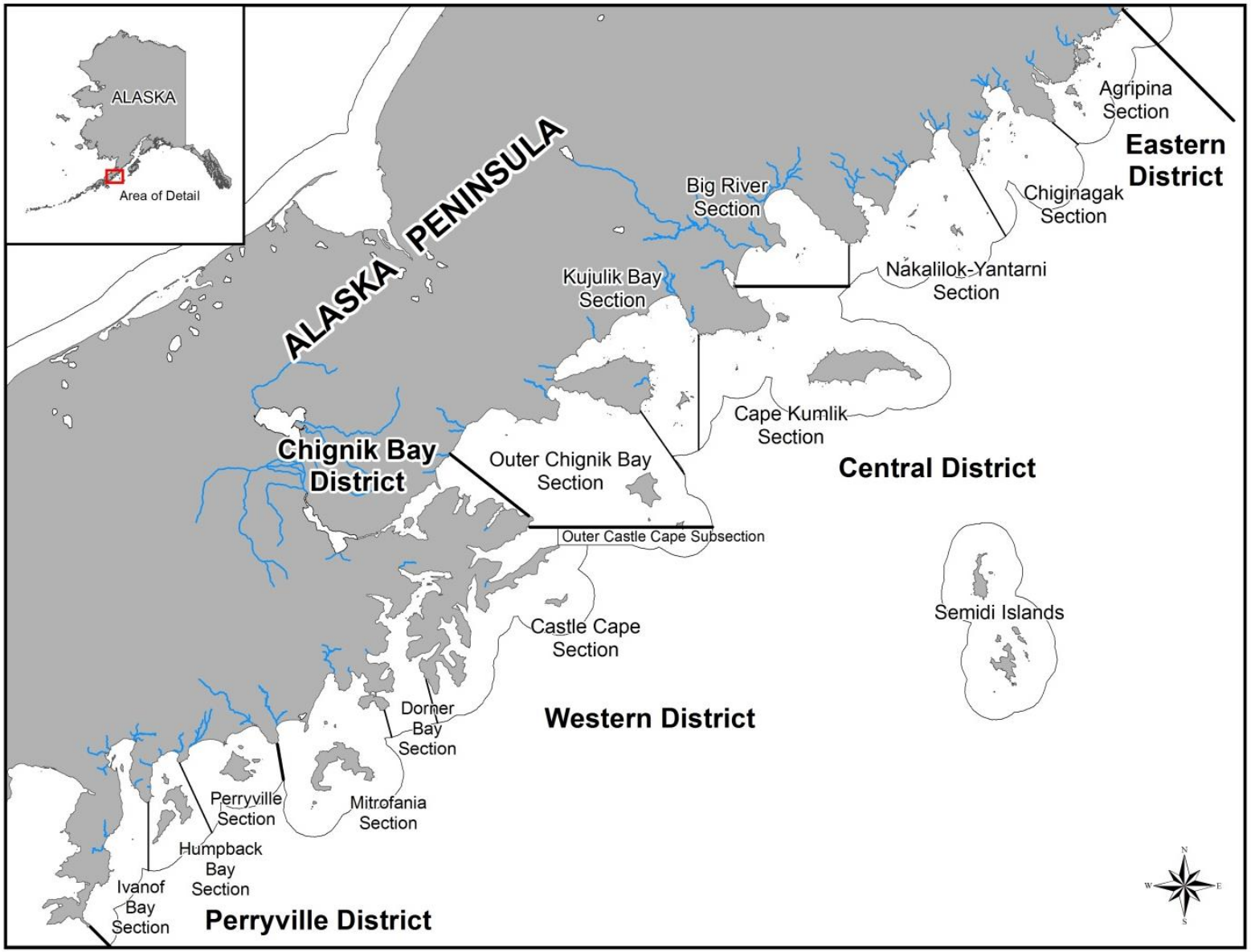

Figure 150-1.–Map of the commercial fishing districts in the Chignik Management Area.

PROPOSAL 151 – 5 AAC 15.537. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Kosbruk and Edgar Shangin.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would allow the Western District to open concurrently with fishing periods in the Chignik Bay and Central districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District in June and early July (Figure 151-1). The Perryville District would also be allowed to open for three 48-hour fishing periods concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District from June 1 through July 5. A closure of 48 hours must occur between each fishing period in the Perryville District.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In accordance with the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan*, the Chignik Bay and Central districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District must open concurrently based on achievement of escapement objectives for the Chignik early and late sockeye salmon runs. In June, the Eastern District must also open concurrently with these areas.

Prior to July 6, the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, may open to commercial salmon fishing for no more than two fishing periods up to 48-hours each concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District. There must be a minimum of a 48-hour closure between the fishing periods.

Excluding the two 48-hour commercial fishing periods in the Western District in June and early July, the Western and Perryville districts may open to commercial fishing beginning July 6. Through mid-July, commercial fishing periods are based on the department's evaluation of the Chignik Lake (late run) sockeye salmon run strength and in order to assess the run the department may restrict or disallow commercial fishing in the Western and Perryville districts. From the end of the transition period through the end of the commercial salmon season, management is based on local pink and chum salmon as well as the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run. Beginning August 20, evaluation of local coho salmon stocks is also considered.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would increase the amount of fishing time allowed in the Western and Perryville districts. In June, 4 of the 5 commercial fishing districts in the CMA, may open at the same time except when the Perryville District fishing periods also occur, opening the entire CMA. Increased fishing time and area would likely increase sockeye salmon harvest in the Western and Perryville districts, although it is unknown what the amount of increase would be. This proposal may disperse the commercial fishing fleet and reduce effort in the Chignik Bay and Central districts which may increase harvest of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon before they arrive in the Chignik Bay District.

BACKGROUND: Historically, the Western and Perryville districts remained closed to commercial salmon fishing during June and early July when Chignik early-run sockeye salmon transit the area. These districts typically open during early to mid-July largely to target local pink and chum salmon stocks, although the fleet actively targets sockeye salmon in these districts as

well. During the post-June fisheries, the two districts on average have accounted for approximately 6.1% of the total CMA sockeye salmon harvest (Table 151-1).

In 2008, the board adopted a proposal with a 3-year sunset provision, allowing up to two 48-hour fishing periods separated by at least 48 hours in the Western District from June 1 to July 5. The intent of this proposal was to increase the area open to commercial salmon fishing to target Chignik bound early-run sockeye salmon. In 2011, the proposal was again before the board, this time without a sunset clause. The proposal was adopted and the two 48-hour fishing periods became regulation. At that time, no management concerns with the two 48-hour fishing periods were noted by the department for the 2008–2010 commercial salmon season.

Since 2008, when the two Western District 48-hour fishing periods in June and early July went into regulation, there have been two years where there was no fishing in June (Table 151-2). For the remaining years sockeye salmon harvests have ranged from 6,133 fish in 2011 to 79,634 fish in 2012. Participation has also ranged from 7 permits making deliveries to a high of 20 permits making deliveries. The majority of the harvests during the June and early-July fishing periods have consisted of sockeye, pink, and chum salmon.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. This proposal is unlikely to create any biological or management concerns as the department would still manage Chignik sockeye salmon based on escapement objectives.

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 151-1.–Average annual post-June salmon harvest in the Western and Perryville districts, and average annual Chignik Management Area harvest, by species since 1970.

	Western District		Perryville District		
Species	Harvest	% Total	Harvest	%Total	Total CMA harvest
Chinook	906	23.1%	218	5.6%	3,927
Sockeye	50,369	4.5%	17,429	1.6%	1,117,477
Coho	48,841	44.9%	11,958	11.0%	108,683
Pink	385,473	41.7%	174,711	18.9%	923,767
Chum	67,177	38.4%	18,644	10.7%	174,818

Table 151-2.–Western District commercial salmon harvests June 1–July 5, 2008–2018.

	Number of	Harvest				
Year	permits	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2008	9	79	21,491	105	33,290	6,424
2009	13	258	64,844	31	256,175	47,692
2010	10	37	7,379	1	3,715	4,634
2011	7	104	6,133	31	16,964	4,495
2012	17	579	79,634	0	8,229	19,518
2013	8	189	43,061	45	23,991	27,427
2014	0	0	0	0	0	0
2015	20	3,577	44,710	18,645	105,709	18,182
2016	17	331	18,172	50	2,331	4,941
2017	16	430	12,490	712	115,801	53,123
2018	0	0	0	0	0	0
Average 2008–2017	13	620	33,102	2,453	62,912	20,715

Note: Averages do not include 2014 and 2018. There was no harvest in the CMA in June.

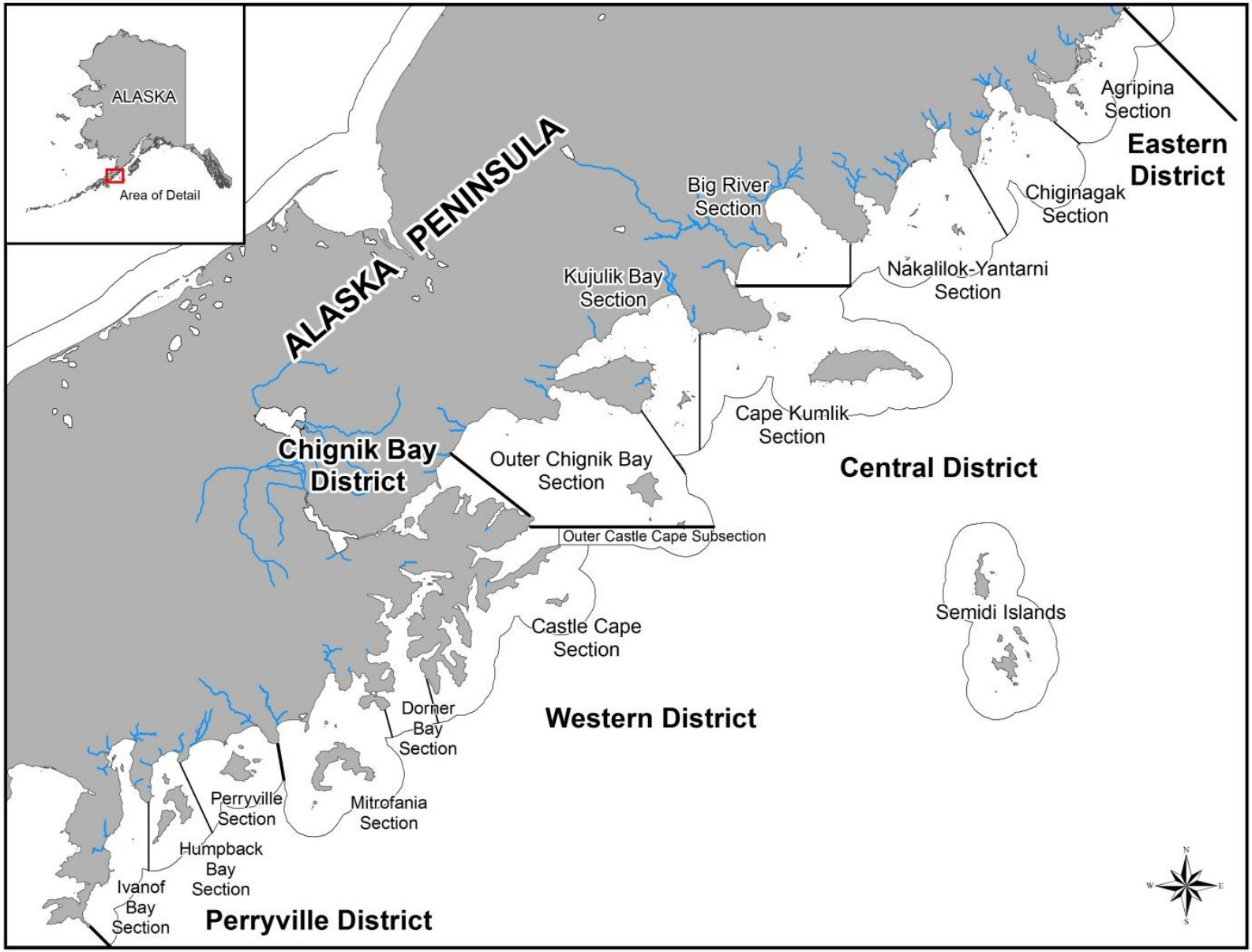

Figure 151-1.–Map of the commercial fishing districts in the Chignik Management Area.

PROPOSAL 152 – 5 AAC 15.357(d). Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would prohibit commercial salmon fishing in the Perryville District and Mitrofania Section of the Western District in the CMA unless the Orzinski Lake (Area M; Figure 152-1) sockeye salmon escapement objectives are being met.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? According to the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan*, prior to July 6, the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, may open to commercial salmon fishing for no more than 2 fishing periods of up to 48 hours each concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection for the Western District. The 2 fishing periods must be separated by a minimum of 48 hours.

Excluding the two 48-hour commercial fishing periods in the Western District in June and early July, the Western and Perryville districts may open to commercial fishing beginning July 6. From July 6 until the end of the salmon fishing season, the Western and Perryville districts are managed based on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks as well as the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run.

According to the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* for Area M, from June 1 through July 25, 80% of the sockeye salmon harvested within certain SEDM sections, including the NWSS prior to July 1, are allocatively considered Chignik-bound. Beginning July 1, sockeye salmon harvested in the NWSS are no longer allocated towards the Chignik-bound harvest and all sockeye salmon harvested in the section are considered destined for Orzinski Lake. Management in the NWSS at this time switches to sockeye salmon escapement into Orzinski Lake. Beginning July 26 through October 31, the area is managed based on local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The Perryville District and the Mitrofania Section of the Western District would open and close to commercial salmon fishing dependent on sockeye salmon escapement into Orzinski Lake in the SEDM. If Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon escapement is not meeting escapement objectives (Figure 152-2), this proposal may result in a significant loss in harvest opportunities on local pink and chum salmon stocks returning to Western and Perryville districts streams. This may also result in over-escapement of local pink and chum salmon stocks in the Western and Perryville districts due to the restricted fishing time and area.

If adopted, this proposal has the potential to impact management in the Perryville District and Mitrofania Section of the Western District from July through approximately early August when the NWSS is managed based on Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon escapement.

BACKGROUND: Historically, the Western and Perryville districts have remained closed to commercial salmon fishing during June and early July. From July 6 until approximately mid-July fishing periods in the Western and Perryville districts are predominately based on late-run sockeye salmon escapement in the Chignik River. From mid-July until the end of the commercial salmon season these areas are managed on pink and chum salmon harvest data and aerial survey escapement estimates in addition to the Chignik River late-run sockeye salmon escapement

objectives. Beginning approximately August 20, fishing periods in the Western and Perryville districts are also based on the evaluation of local coho salmon stocks in addition to local pink and chum salmon and the escapement objectives for late-run sockeye salmon. If the Chignik River late-run sockeye salmon escapement is poor, commercial fisheries in these areas can be restricted to terminal harvest areas to target pink, chum, or coho salmon.

In 2008, the board adopted a proposal with a 3-year sunset provision, allowing up to two 48-hour fishing periods separated by at least 48 hours in the Western District from June 1 to July 5. The intent of this proposal was to increase the area open to commercial salmon fishing to target Chignik bound early-run sockeye salmon. In 2011, the proposal was again before the board, this time without a sunset clause. The proposal was adopted and the two 48-hour fishing periods became regulation. At that time, no management concerns with the two 48-hour fishing periods were noted by the department for the 2008–2010 commercial salmon season.

Pink salmon are usually the most abundant salmon species harvested in the Mitrofania Section and the Perryville District from July 1 through July 25. Since 2008, harvest of pink salmon has ranged from 4,523 fish in 2012 to 252,427 fish in 2017 (Table 152-1). Sockeye salmon harvest has ranged from 5,073 fish to 194,023 fish. Chum and coho salmon have also made up a significant proportion of the harvest during this time frame. The number of permits participating in the combined area has ranged from 4 to 29 permits. The 10-year average harvest (2008–2017) is 1,150 king salmon, 63,682 sockeye salmon, 19,665 coho salmon, 89,773 pink salmon, and 26,634 chum salmon.

The CMA pink and chum salmon fisheries are managed based on harvest information and inseason aerial assessment of escapement into local streams. The final estimated escapements for pink and chum salmon are reported by aggregates of peak aerial surveys and are an index of escapement used to monitor the health of the runs, not a total estimated escapement value.

Prior to 2016, the CMA area-wide (including all districts) pink salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) was 200,000–500,000 fish in even years and 500,000–800,000 fish in odd years. The CMA lower bound SEG for chum salmon was 57,500 fish. After an escapement goal review analysis in 2015, the areawide SEGs were changed by reducing the index streams to those that were consistently surveyed each year, with good survey conditions, for the past several decades. This reduced the number of index streams used to report escapement by approximately 80% for pink salmon and approximately 85% for chum salmon. As a result of the lower number of index streams, the SEGs for pink and chum salmon were also lowered. The current even year pink salmon SEG is 170,000–280,000 fish and the odd-year pink salmon SEG is 260,000–450,000 fish. The lower bound SEG was changed to a SEG of 45,000–110,000 chum salmon for the CMA. Since 2008, the CMA pink salmon SEGs have been achieved or exceeded every year except 2016 and 2018 when escapement was well below the lower bound. CMA chum salmon escapements have achieved the SEG every year in the same time period except for 2018. On average, the combined peak Western and Perryville escapements have accounted for approximately 26% of the total CMA pink salmon peak escapement and 39% of the chum salmon peak escapement.

Orzinski Lake is the only sockeye salmon system with an established SEG (15,000–20,000 fish) in the SEDM Section of Area M. The weir is typically installed around mid-June with the first count of fish usually occurring around June 17. On average, the lower bound of the sustainable escapement goal is achieved around July 25 (Figure 152-2). The weir has been removed as late

as August 6 in recent years. Since 2008, escapement has averaged approximately 19,000 fish (Table 152-2). The Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon escapement has exceeded the SEG 5 times, achieved the SEG 5 times and been below the goal once since 2008.

The NWSS is managed based on the run strength of Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon from July 1 through July 25. Beginning July 26, management is based on the abundance of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks. Since 2008, fishing has been prohibited twice (2014 and 2018) in the NWSS from July 1 to July 25 to protect the Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon (Table 152-2). Since 2008, sockeye salmon harvest in the NWSS from July 1 to July 25 has ranged from 18,833 fish in 2011 to 241,806 fish in 2016. The 10-year average harvest in the NWSS (2008–2017) is 66,487 sockeye salmon.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. This proposal would significantly inhibit the department's ability to manage local pink and chum salmon stocks in the Perryville District and the Mitrofania Section of the Western District. This would likely result in exceeding pink and chum salmon escapement objectives when the Perryville District and Mitrofania Section are closed because of Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon escapement concerns. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative 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 152-1.–Perryville District and Mitrofania Section of the Western District combined commercial salmon harvest and number of active permits, July 1through 25, 2008–2018.

Year	Number of Permits	Harvest				
		King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2008	18	117	13,186	26,834	174,755	22,987
2009	8	255	11,641	19,776	105,910	16,831
2010	12	3,970	26,079	35,496	47,411	49,631
2011	11	322	11,065	6,166	38,653	13,462
2012	10	242	5,073	4,267	4,523	6,989
2013	4	255	6,622	9,411	33,483	3,964
2014	21	1,077	120,068	18,377	23,386	8,029
2015	26	772	178,552	27,251	191,089	14,946
2016	26	2,973	194,023	30,340	26,097	18,870
2017	29	1,519	70,508	18,728	252,427	110,635
2018[a]	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average 2008–2017	17	1,150	63,682	19,665	89,773	26,634

Note: There were no commercial fishing periods in the Mitrofania Section in 2018 due to the weak Chignik River sockeye salmon run.

[a] Two 48-hour fishing periods occurred in select inner bays of the Western and Perryville districts. Due to confidentiality rules this harvest information by district for 2018 cannot be released. Therefore 2018 is not included in the most recent average.

Table 152-2.–Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon escapement, 2008–2018.

Year	Sockeye salmon
2008	36,636
2009	20,648
2010	18,039
2011	16,764
2012	17,243
2013	17,386
2014	16,100
2015	26,534
2016	21,019
2017	20,989
2018	2,817
Average 2008–2018	19,470

Table 152-3.–Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS) of Area M commercial salmon harvest and deliveries, July 1 through 25, 2008–2018.

Year	Number of permits	Harvest				
		King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2008	26	25	23,943	479	30,274	5,479
2009	33	31	61,101	173	9,127	3,586
2010	35	8	51,105	121	701	6,032
2011	28	40	18,833	182	3,488	4,235
2012	31	5	46,587	144	1,793	2,006
2013	35	80	28,106	89	3,902	2,380
2014[a]						
2015	28	44	92,070	1,233	17,193	4,235
2016	47	182	241,806	2,685	11,736	9,172
2017	17	5	34,833	153	3,747	3,381
2018[a]						
Average 2008–2017	31	47	66,487	584	9,107	4,501

[a] Commercial fishing did not occur in the NWSS in 2014 and 2018 due to weak Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon escapement.

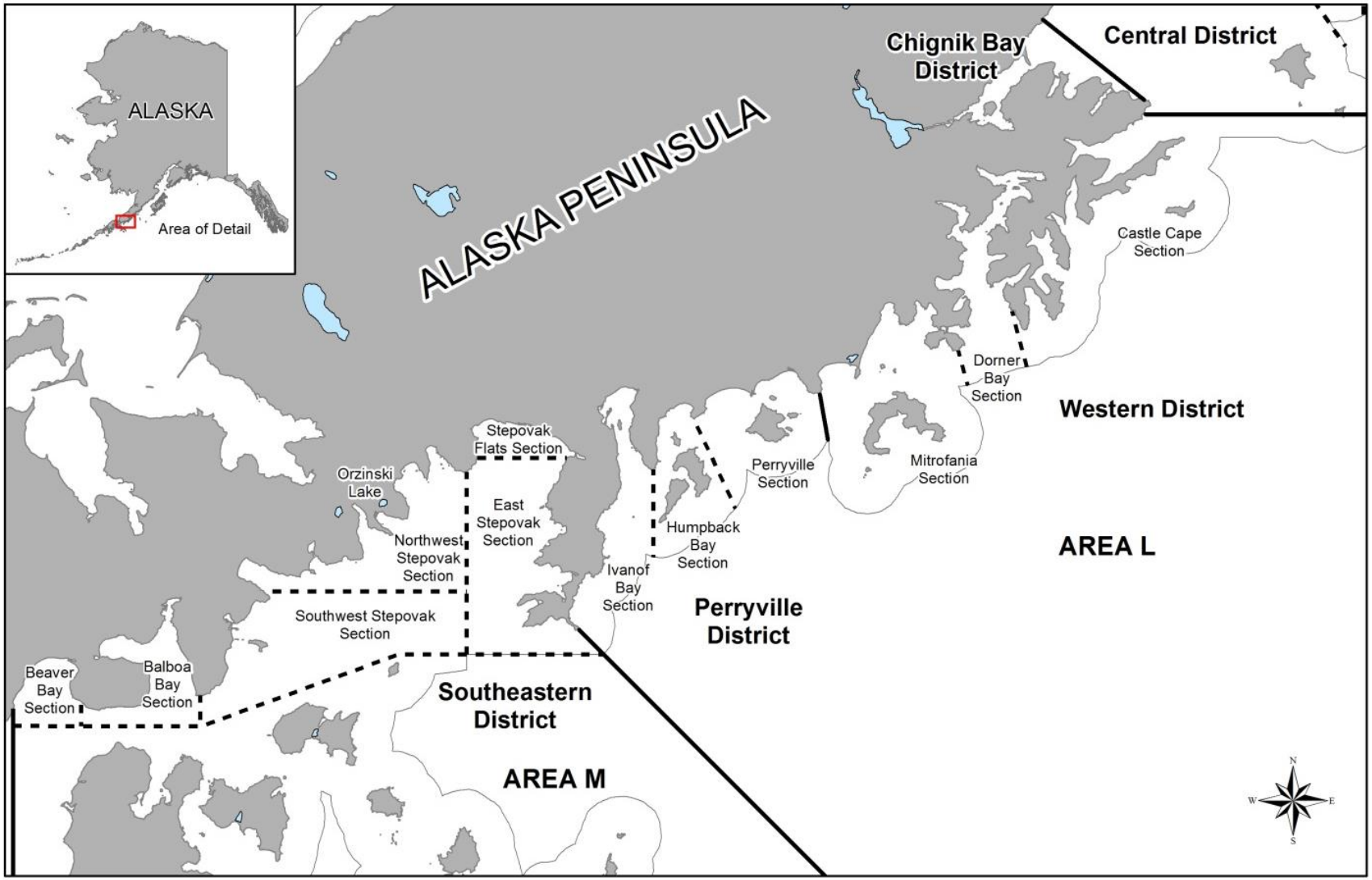

Figure 152-1.–Map depicting the location of the Mitrofania Section and Perryville District of the Chignik Management Area (Area L) and the location of Orzinski Lake of the Northwest Stepovak Section in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area (Area M).

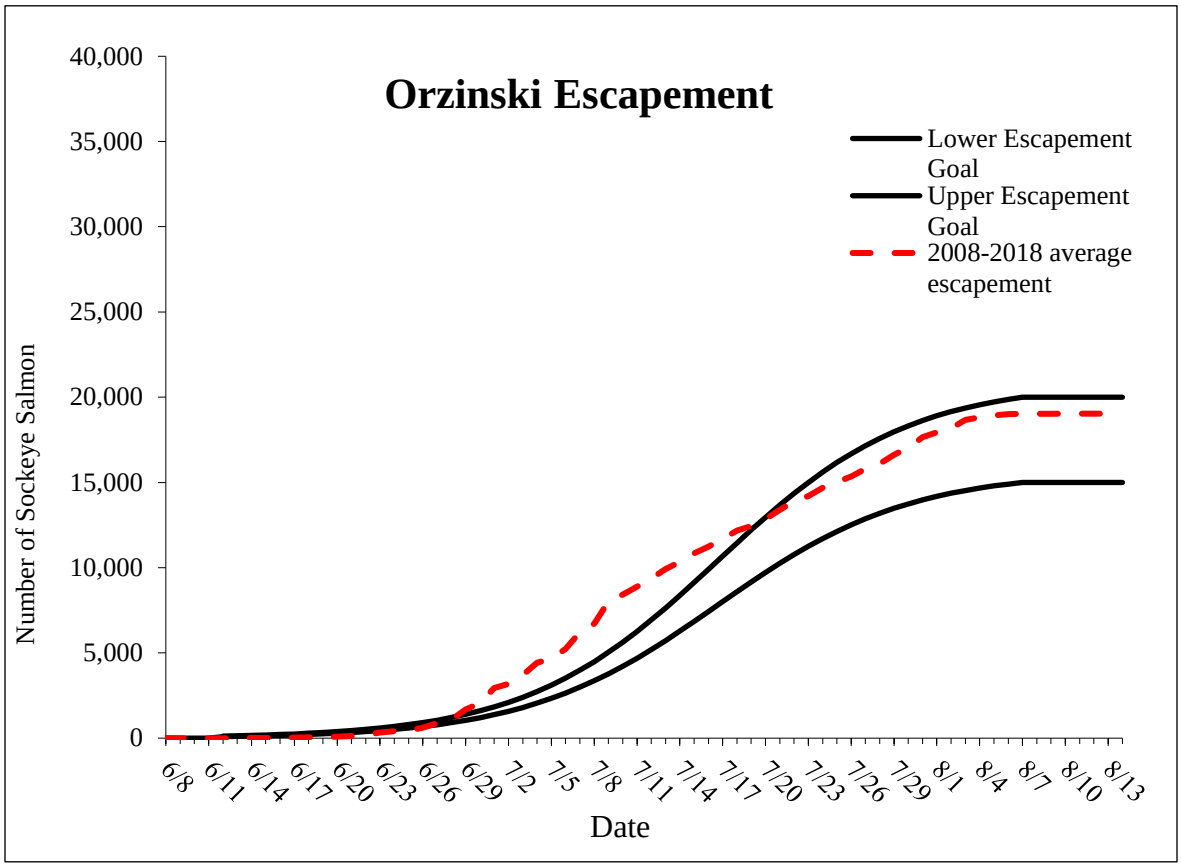

Figure 152-2.–Orzinski Lake interim sockeye salmon escapement objectives by date.

PROPOSAL 153 – 5 AAC 15.357(d). Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would prohibit commercial salmon fishing in the Perryville District and the Mitrofania Section of the Western District in the CMA when the SEDM of Area M is closed (Figure 153-1). The areas could not open to commercial fishing until the SEDM reaches escapement goals.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Prior to July 6, the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, may open to commercial salmon fishing for no more than two fishing periods of up to 48 hours each, concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central districts and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection for the Western District. The two fishing periods must be separated by a minimum of 48 hours.

Excluding the two 48-hour commercial fishing periods in the Western District in June and early July, the Western and Perryville districts may open to commercial fishing beginning July 6. From July 6 until the end of the salmon fishing season, the Western and Perryville districts are managed based on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks as well as the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run.

According to the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* for Area M, after July 25, SEDM has no management ties to the Chignik sockeye salmon stocks and is managed based on local coho, pink, and chum salmon stocks except that the fishery will be closed for at least one 36-hour period within a 7-day period.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Commercial fishing periods in the Perryville District and the Mitrofania Section of the Western District would not be allowed in late July and August unless SEDM local stocks are meeting escapement goals. If commercial fishing is closed in SEDM because of escapement concerns, the Perryville District and Mitrofania Section would be closed as well. The areas would not be able to reopen until escapement goals in SEDM were met regardless of escapement to local CMA streams. This proposal may result in a significant loss in harvest opportunities on local pink and chum salmon stocks returning to Western and Perryville districts. This may also result in over-escapement of pink and chum salmon stocks in the Western and Perryville districts due to the restricted fishing time.

This proposal could affect management in the Perryville District and Mitrofania Section from late July through the end of the season depending on the strength of Area M pink and chum salmon escapements.

BACKGROUND: From mid-July until the end of the commercial salmon season the Western and Perryville districts are managed on pink and chum salmon harvest data and aerial survey escapement estimates in addition to the Chignik River late-run sockeye salmon escapement objectives. Beginning approximately August 20, fishing periods in the Western and Perryville districts are also based on the evaluation of local coho salmon stocks in addition to local pink and chum salmon and the escapement objectives for late-run sockeye salmon. If late-run sockeye salmon escapement is poor, commercial fisheries in these areas can be restricted to terminal harvest areas to target pink, chum or coho salmon.

Pink salmon are usually the most abundant salmon species harvested in the Mitrofania Section and Perryville District from July 26 through the end of the season. Harvest of pink salmon has ranged from 4,012 fish in 2016 to 3,985,290 fish in 2017 (Table 153-1). Sockeye and chum salmon are also actively targeted in these areas and can make up a significant portion of the harvest some years. The number of permits participating in the combined area has ranged from 11 to 42 permits. The 10-year average harvest (2008–2017) is 224 king salmon, 61,366 sockeye salmon, 30,081 coho salmon, 638,946 pink salmon, and 28,467 chum salmon.

The CMA pink and chum salmon fisheries are managed based on harvest information and inseason aerial assessment of escapement into local streams. The final estimated escapements for pink and chum salmon are reported by aggregates of peak aerial surveys and are an index of escapement used to monitor the health of the runs, not a total estimated escapement value.

Prior to 2016, the CMA area-wide (including all districts) pink salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) was 200,000–500,000 fish in even years and 500,000–800,000 fish in odd years. The CMA lower bound SEG for chum salmon was 57,500 fish. After an escapement goal review analysis in 2015, the areawide SEGs were changed by reducing the index streams to those that were consistently surveyed each year, with good survey conditions, for the past several decades. This reduced the number of index streams used to report escapement by approximately 80% for pink salmon and approximately 85% for chum salmon. As a result of the lower number of index streams, the SEGs for pink and chum salmon were also lowered. The current even year pink salmon SEG is 170,000–280,000 fish and the odd-year pink salmon SEG is 260,000–450,000 fish. The lower bound SEG was changed to an SEG of 45,000–110,000 chum salmon for the CMA. Since 2008, the CMA pink salmon SEGs have been achieved or exceeded every year except 2016 and 2018 when escapement was well below the lower bound. CMA chum salmon escapements have achieved the SEG every year in the same time period except for 2018.

Pink salmon are usually the most abundant salmon species harvested in SEDM from July 26 through the end of the season. Harvest of pink salmon has ranged from 4 fish in 2018 to 2,637,250 fish in 2008 (153-2). Sockeye salmon typically make a significant contribution to the harvest followed by coho and chum salmon. The number of permits participating in SEDM ranged from 10 to 66 permits. The 10-year average harvest (2008–2017) is 49 king salmon, 84,044 sockeye salmon, 12,456 coho salmon, 767,411 pink salmon, and 58,651 chum salmon.

In the South Alaska Peninsula management area of Area M, pink and chum salmon escapements are estimated using an indexed total escapement method. Due to the late run timing of coho salmon, limited survey data is gathered and no indexed total escapement can be calculated, therefore no goal has been set for coho salmon. The South Alaska Peninsula pink salmon SEG (1,750,000–4,000,000 fish) incorporates all of the South Peninsula. Prior to 2016, the area had an even-year SEG (1,864,600–3,729,300) and an odd-year SEG (1,637,800–3,275,700). The Southeastern District (which includes SEDM) has a chum salmon SEG for the entire district of 106,400–212,800 fish. Since 2008, the pink salmon SEG has been met or exceeded 6 years and has been below the goal 5 years. The Southeastern District chum escapement has achieved or exceeded the SEG every year since 2008 except in 2010 and 2012.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. This proposal would significantly inhibit the department's ability to manage local pink and chum salmon stocks in the Perryville District and the Mitrofania Section of the Western District and would likely result in exceeding pink and chum salmon escapement objectives when the Perryville District and Mitrofania

Section are closed because of local escapement concerns in SEDM. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative effects 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 153-1.–Perryville District and Mitrofania Section of the Western District commercial salmon harvest and number of active permits, July 26 through October 31, 2008–2018.

Year	Number of permits	Harvest				
		King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2008	18	174	16,103	33,545	574,767	27,734
2009	11	95	1,769	5,670	56,384	8,276
2010	18	259	10,106	37,614	87,806	54,903
2011	27	653	28,048	30,418	361,015	34,052
2012	11	178	2,827	6,666	21,966	11,554
2013	15	52	7,347	3,459	207,220	5,405
2014	27	472	143,971	53,835	158,329	15,012
2015	42	169	257,713	19,378	932,673	23,135
2016	12	85	16,822	2,953	4,012	1,375
2017	35	107	128,951	107,276	3,985,290	103,225
2018[a]						
Average 2008–2017	22	224	61,366	30,081	638,946	28,467

Note: There were no commercial fishing periods in the Mitrofania Section in 2018 due to the weak Chignik River sockeye salmon run.

[a] Two 48-hour fishing periods occurred in terminal harvest areas of the Western and Perryville districts. Due to confidentiality rules this harvest information by district for 2018 cannot be released. Therefore 2018 is not included in the most recent average.

Table 153-2.–Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) of Area M commercial salmon harvest and number of active permits, July 26 through October 31, 2008–2018.

Year	Number of permits	Harvest				
		King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2008	66	361	137,516	47,429	2,637,250	72,278
2009	62	32	92,183	14,781	815,287	150,921
2010	11	3	4,286	1,587	0	71,164
2011	44	33	21,248	8,092	419,395	67,129
2012	0	0	0	0	0	0
2013	15	8	8,822	3,951	483	41,019
2014	22	4	29,655	18,925	9	388
2015	64	30	390,478	14,833	1,517,664	56,299
2016	25	12	49,813	3,407	6,330	17,086
2017	58	60	106,438	11,553	2,277,687	110,224
2018	10	0	1,491	1,007	4	277
Average 2008–2017	37	49	84,044	12,456	767,411	58,651

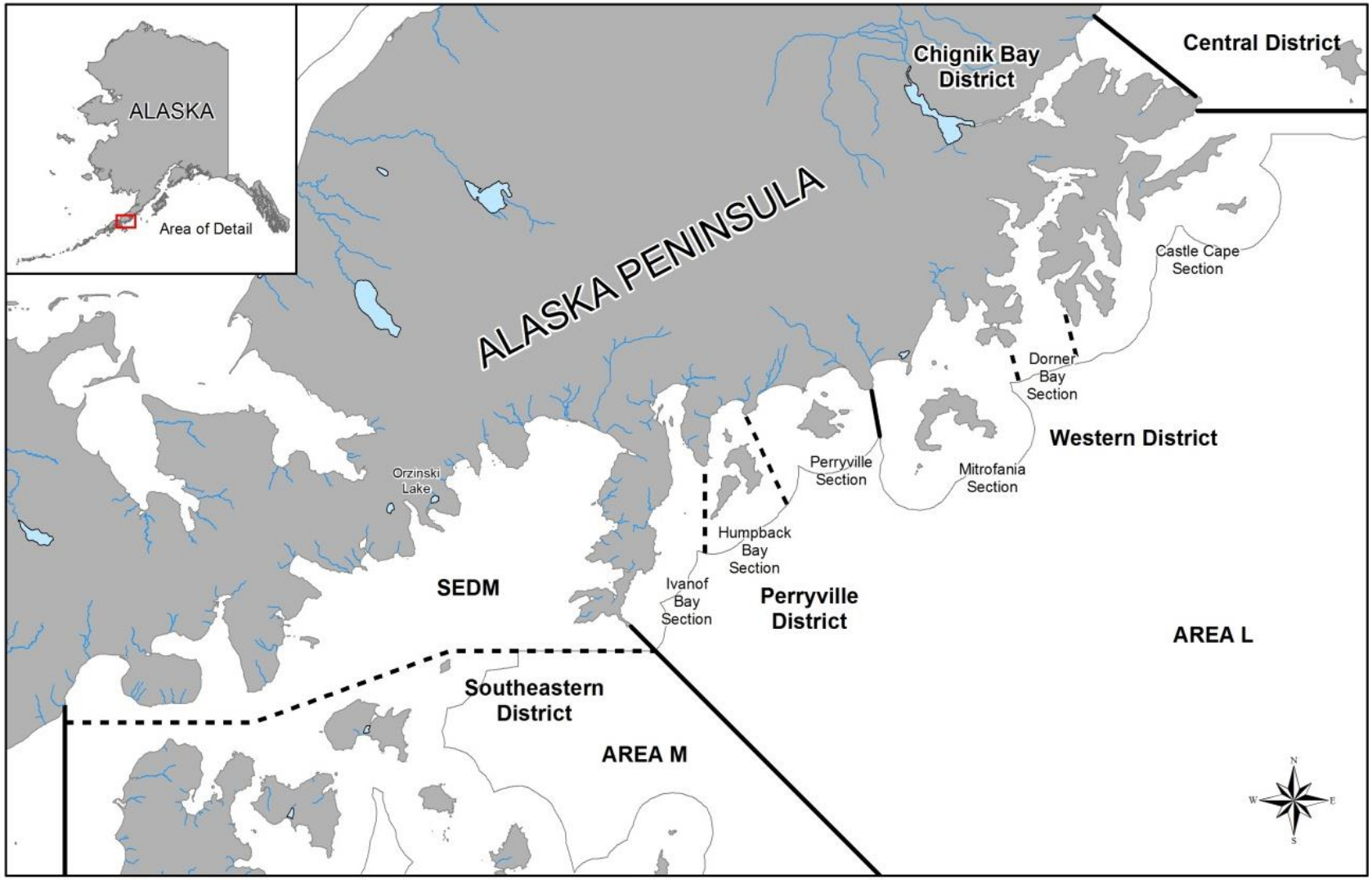

Figure 153-1.–Map depicting the location of the Mitrofania Section and Perryville District of the Chignik Management Area (Area L) and the location of SEDM and the Southeastern district (Area M).

PROPOSAL 154 – 5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Corr.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Establish a large fish escapement goal for Chignik River king salmon.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The goal of the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357) is to allow traditional fisheries on Chignik Area salmon stocks, and to achieve established escapement goals for the Black (early run) and Chignik lakes'(late run) sockeye salmon and local stocks of pink, chum, coho, and king salmon. Sportfishing regulations allow 2 king salmon per day and 5 per year and are intended to compliment commercial regulations to achieve the king salmon escapement goal.

There are currently no regulations regarding proportions for jack king salmon in the commercial fisheries; however, in sport fishing regulations, king salmon under 20 inches (jacks) have an additional bag limit of 10 fish per day. These are statewide regulations that allow anglers to take advantage of the occasional occurrence of large returns of small king salmon. The current regulations allow the department to manage escapement of king salmon based on an inseason assessment of the quality of the run and make adjustments to management if necessary. The current Chignik River king salmon biological escapement goal (BEG) is 1,300 to 2,700 fish.

Under the *Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries* (5 AAC 39.222)(c)(2) the department is directed to manage for escapement ranges necessary to conserve and sustain potential salmon production and maintain normal ecosystem functioning.

According to the *Policy for Statewide Salmon Escapement Goals* (5 AAC 39.223), the department is responsible for documenting, establishing, and reviewing (during the respective board cycle) salmon escapement goals throughout Alaska. As part of these responsibilities, the department will provide scientific analysis with supporting data and notify the public whenever a new goal or changes to a goal are proposed. Additionally, the department will report any allocative impacts of the goals to the board.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The current Chignik River king salmon escapement goal was developed to include king salmon of all sizes. If jack king salmon are not to be counted towards achievement of the goal, the department would need to assess the impact of excluding jack king salmon from the brood table and develop a new escapement goal. This assessment would take several years.

The department would also need to develop a new method to identify jack king salmon in the escapement. Currently, salmon escapement is monitored by video cameras in the weir gates and the exact size of a fish can be skewed and difficult to distinguish depending on the proximity of the fish to the camera. It would be necessary to count fish manually through the gates if a size threshold is set for jack king salmon or institute a much more intensive king sampling protocol at the weir to identify the specific criteria that the board determines qualifies as a jack king salmon (i.e. a specific size or age). Either method would result in an increase in department costs and personnel time.

BACKGROUND: The Chignik River has the only king salmon stock in the CMA with an established escapement goal (Figure 154-1). The goal was established in 1992 (1,750–3,000 fish) and changed to a BEG (1,450–2,700 fish) in 1994. Since the inception of the *Policy for Statewide Salmon Escapement Goals* in 2001, the goal has been reviewed 5 times (coinciding with each Chignik Area board cycle) and is undergoing review concurrent with the 2018/2019 board cycle. For the reviews, a team of staff members from the Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish divisions review the existing goal and recent escapements to determine whether any adjustments to the goal are necessary. The BEG was changed to a SEG for 1 year in 2001 then revised back to a BEG of 1,300 –2,700 fish in 2002. The goal has remained unchanged since 2002 and the last completed review was in 2015.

King salmon typically enter the Chignik River from late June through mid-August, with the peak of the run around mid-July. The king salmon run coincides with the majority of the sockeye salmon early run and as a result, king salmon are harvested incidentally by the commercial seine fleet in the sockeye salmon fishery. Directed subsistence and sport fisheries also take place in river from June through early August.

Escapement is estimated through the Chignik River weir and fish are monitored via underwater video equipment incorporated in the weir gates. The number of fish passing the weir, by species, are counted for the first 10 minutes of each hour and then multiplied by 6 to obtain hourly estimates. Hourly estimates are then summed to provide an estimate of daily fish passage.

Since 1992, when the first goal was established, king salmon escapement has averaged 2,993 fish and ranged from a low of 825 fish in 2018 to a high of 7,840 fish in 2004 (Table 154-1). The current BEG has been achieved or exceeded 14 of the 17 years since it was adopted in 2002. The goal was not achieved in 2013, 2017, and 2018. Fish harvested in the Chignik Bay District by the commercial seine fleet incidental to the sockeye salmon fishery are considered to be of Chignik River origin. Since 1992, king salmon commercial harvest has averaged 1,262 fish, ranging from 109 fish in 2002 (no fishery occurred in 2018) to 5,240 fish in 1993. Upriver harvests by subsistence users and sport fishermen combined have averaged fewer than 300 fish per year. Inseason restrictions have been imposed occasionally on the commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries due to low escapement, most recently in 2013, 2017, and 2018.

In recent years (2012–2018), king salmon escapement has been opportunistically sampled for age, sex, and length (ASL) data along with the sockeye salmon sampling program at the weir. Due to the low abundance of king salmon relative to the sockeye salmon, the number of samples obtained has been limited. From 2012–2017, on average 2.2% of the king salmon escapement has been sampled at the Chignik River weir. Escapement during this time period has ranged from 825 fish in 2018 to 2,816 in 2014.

The majority of Chignik River king salmon overwinter in freshwater and emigrate as age-1 smolt the following spring. The age composition of the run ranges from 3- to 7-year olds and usually consists of largely 5- and 6- year olds, with 4-year olds a significant proportion in some years. Based on the limited sampling information collected from 2012–2018, the average length of king salmon was approximately 29 inches. During the same sample period, 3-year old fish ranged in length from 14 to 17 inches, 4-year old fish ranged from 13 to 25 inches, 5-year old fish ranged from 16 to 33 inches and 6-year old fish ranged from 27 to 35 inches.

Jack king salmon are reproductively mature fish that return to spawn after only spending one or two winters in the ocean (3- and 4-year old fish). They are almost exclusively males, small in

size and exhibit mating strategy behavioral differences from older fish. Many studies suggest that the age at maturity for king salmon is a heritable trait, especially in males, that depends on an individual fish's ability to exceed a body size at critical developmental periods (Berejikian et al. 2011, Heath et al. 2002). As a result, high growth rates in juvenile king salmon may promote jacks. However, jacking may not just be the result of a simple genetic factor, but rather a combination of genetics and non-genetic environmental factors (Heath et al.1994). While the exact cause of jacking in king salmon is not fully understood, it should be noted that they are mature fish with an alternate life cycle of growth and spawning. Jack king salmon have been shown to be less successful in siring progeny, compared to larger king salmon, but the earlier age at maturity may come with advantages such as higher marine survival due to being in the ocean for a shorter period of time. The genetic variation and alternate spawning strategy of jack salmon versus large fish may be a small but important role in the run's overall fitness, especially in years of small returns.

In sport fishing regulations, king salmon less than 20 inches in length are considered 'jacks' and are generally age 1-ocean fish. Age 2-ocean king salmon are also considered 'jacks' biologically as they are nearly entirely males, though they are generally larger than 20 inches and do not fit into the 'jack' sport fishing regulations.

It is unclear if the author of the proposal intends to implement a size distinction based on only the smallest king salmon returning, the age 1-ocean jacks or both 1-ocean and 2-ocean male king salmon returning to the Chignik River. Both age classes are primarily males but combined contribute significantly to the spawning population of king salmon (as opposed to being considered 'immature' king salmon). Age 1-ocean males typically comprise a very small portion of the Chignik king salmon run (6%), however, age 2-ocean jacks are a significant portion of the spawning population (23%).

The author of this proposal mentions other systems monitored by sonar that only count large fish. In 2017, the department implemented a large fish escapement goal for the Kenai River king salmon runs (greater than 34 inches) which are estimated using sonar. The department decided to implement a large fish goal due to the difficulty in distinguishing small king salmon from sockeye salmon on sonar images. The Chignik River weir cameras provide video images of fish swimming through the weir that are clear enough to easily identify all 5 common species of Pacific salmon and Dolly Varden. Observers usually can determine the general size of a fish (relatively large or small) from a video image. The exact length of the fish however, can be difficult to approximate from video images because the fish image can be skewed by the proximity of the fish to the camera; a fish looks larger when it swims close to the camera versus far away. The proximity of the fish to the camera would make it difficult to distinguish ocean age-1 and ocean-2 fish (jacks) from the smaller 4- and 5-year old fish. The ability to distinguish species accurately generally precludes a need to implement a size-based goal. Incorporation of all age and size classes in escapement monitoring and analysis allows for a more refined and biologically sound escapement goal.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** establishing a large fish escapement goal for Chignik River king salmon. Currently, the department has the authority to restrict king salmon harvests by emergency order, including nonretention in the commercial fishery and reduced bag and possession limits in the sport fishery.

The current Chignik River king salmon BEG range is based on king salmon of all sizes. The existing targets are not associated with the recommendation to apply large fish only to the goal. If the BEG range is changed to include only large fish, the department would need to analyze the impacts of including only a certain segment of the escapement on the current BEG range.

If adopted, the department would need clarification on the size of fish considered a jack salmon and develop means to measure the size of king salmon passing through the weir.

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.

Berejikian, B. A., D. M. Van Doornik, and J. J. Atkins. 2011. Alternative male reproductive phenotypes affect offspring growth rates in Chinook salmon. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 140:1206–1212.

Heath, D. D., L. Rankin, C. A. Bryden, J. W. Heath, and J. M. Shrimpton. 2002. Heritability and Y-chromosome influence in the jack male life history of Chinook salmon (Onchorhyncus tshawytscha). Heredity 89:311–317.

Heath, D. D., R. H. Devlin, J. W. Heath, and G. K. Iwama. 1994. Genetic, environmental and interaction effects on the incidence of jacking in Oncorhynchus tshawytscha (chinook salmon). Heredity 72:146–154.

Table 154-1.–Chignik River king salmon escapement, commercial harvest, and total run, 1992 to 2018.

	Number of fish		
Year	Escapement	Harvest	Total
1992	3,599	3,179	6,985
1993	1,739	5,240	7,186
1994	2,809	1,804	4,767
1995	4,081	3,219	7,507
1996	3,278	1,590	5,078
1997	3,617	1,377	5,201
1998	2,868	1,784	4,859
1999	3,521	2,270	5,998
2000	4,078	598	4,883
2001	2,785	1,231	4,259
2002	2,821	109	3,650
2003	6,205	641	7,053
2004	7,840	307	8,147
2005	6,125	237	6,723
2006	3,290	2,008	5,543
2007	1,802	656	2,656
2008	1,675	219	1,949
2009	1,627	552	2,232
2010	3,500	1,564	5,243
2011	2,471	1,458	4,186
2012	1,434	330	1,779
2013	1,185	588	1,841
2014	2,816	353	3,248
2015	1,945	1,633	3,687
2016	1,743	692	2,535
2017	1,137	447	1,584
2018	825	0	825
Average 1992–2018	2,993	1,262	4,430

Note: Harvest includes Chignik Bay district only. Escapement is adjusted for sport and subsistence harvest above the weir.

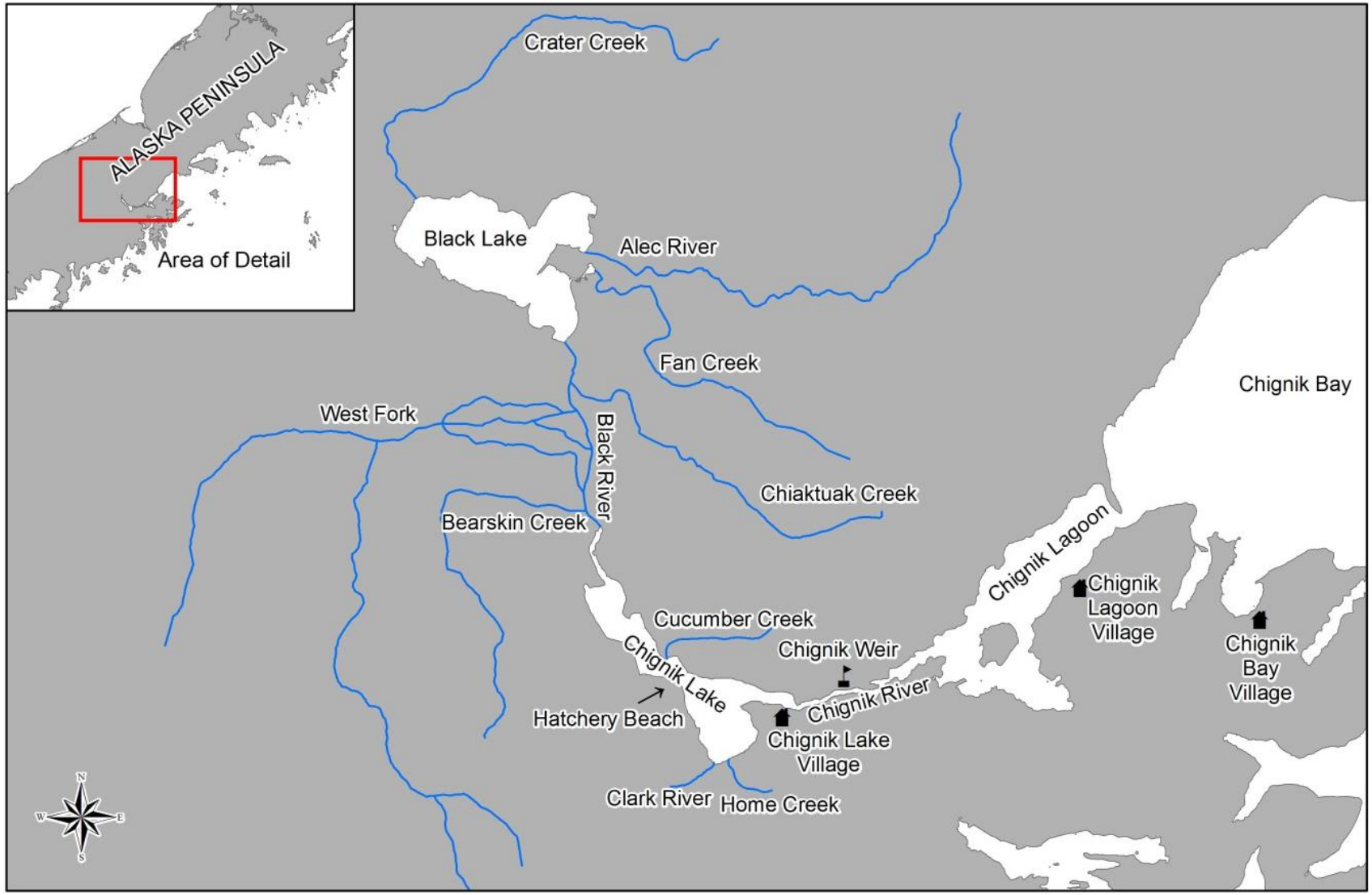

Figure 154-1.–Map of the Chignik River system illustrating the location of the Chignik Lake village, Chignik Lagoon village, Chignik Bay village and the Chignik River weir.

PROPOSAL 158 - 5 AAC 15.332. Seine specifications and operations.

PROPOSED BY: Axel Kopun.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would increase the maximum purse seine and hand purse seine length to 250 fathoms in the Eastern, Central, Western, and Perryville districts of the CMA (Figure 158-1). Adoption of this proposal would also increase the maximum aggregate length of seine and lead to 250 fathoms in length. This proposal seeks to make purse length consistent between Area K (Kodiak), Area M (Alaska Peninsula), and Area L (Chignik).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Purse seines and hand purse seines may not be less than 100 fathoms or more than 225 fathoms in length in the Eastern, Central, Western, and Perryville districts. Purse seines and hand purse seines in the Chignik Bay District must be 100 to 125 fathoms in length. A seine may not be less than 3 fathoms or more than 375 meshes in depth.

In addition, a lead may be no more than 75 fathoms in length. In the Eastern, Central, Western and Perryville districts, the aggregate length of seine and lead may not be more than 225 fathoms.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL IF ADOPTED? This would allow fisherman in the Eastern, Central, Western, and Perryville districts (the outside districts of the CMA) to use longer purse seines. Longer seine gear may result in a higher catch per unit effort for fisherman with vessels equipped to fish waters outside of the Chignik Bay District. Increasing the seine length for outside districts may reduce harvest opportunity for fishermen who typically only fish in Chignik Lagoon within the Chignik Bay District.

BACKGROUND: Regulation limiting seine length to 225 fathoms in Eastern, Central, Western, and Perryville districts and 125 fathoms in the Chignik Bay District was implemented prior to 1970.

The number of active commercial salmon fishing permits in the CMA has steadily increased since the Cooperative Fishery (Co-op) disbanded prior to the 2006 (48 active permits) fishing season through 2013 (76 active permits; Table 158-1). Since 2013, the number of active permits in the CMA has remained relatively steady with the exception of 2018 when there was very little harvest opportunity.

Sockeye salmon harvest contributes the largest portion of exvessel value in the CMA. The majority of the sockeye salmon harvest typically occurs in the Chignik Bay District. From 1985–2001 (just prior to the Co-op years), sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Bay district averaged 69% of total CMA sockeye salmon harvest (Table 158-1). The average sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Bay District since 2006 (post Co-op and excluding 2018) is approximately 60% of total CMA sockeye salmon harvest. In 2014, 2015 and 2017, the majority of CMA sockeye salmon harvest occurred in the outside districts.

In Area K purse seines and hand purse seines may not be less than 100 fathoms or more than 200 fathoms in length. A seine may not be less than 100 meshes or more than 325 meshes in depth. One lead of no more than 100 fathoms in length may be used with the seine with a maximum allowable aggregate length of seine and lead of 250 fathoms.

In Area M purse seines and hand purse seines may not be less than 100 fathoms or more than 250 fathoms in length and may not exceed 375 meshes in depth. Leads may not be less than 50 fathoms or more than 150 fathoms in length in addition to the maximum seine length of 250 fathoms. The maximum aggregate length of seine and lead is 150 to 400 fathoms.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. This proposal is unlikely to create biological or management concerns in the CMA as the department would still manage Chignik River sockeye salmon based on escapement objectives.

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 158-1.–Number of total active permits, Chignik Bay number of permits making deliveries, sockeye salmon harvest, and percent of total CMA sockeye harvest; outside districts (Central, Eastern, Western, and Perryville districts) number of permits making deliveries and sockeye salmon harvest, 1990–2018.

	Active	Chignik Bay			Outside districts[a]	
Year	permits	Permits	Sockeye	% of CMA harvest	Permits	Sockeye
1990	101	95	1,394,547	67%	81	693,581
1991	102	97	1,483,018	78%	78	408,170
1992	101	90	780,466	62%	92	484,560
1993	102	90	757,369	45%	87	934,538
1994	99	87	899,043	56%	78	710,791
1995	100	81	1,074,684	63%	67	640,338
1996	100	83	999,366	51%	61	954,710
1997	99	74	396,128	52%	70	362,920
1998	85	66	609,631	59%	48	432,434
1999	90	82	2,350,152	76%	45	760,381
2000	99	90	1,315,645	75%	50	447,976
2001	92	75	1,068,280	71%	50	429,296
2002	41	40	984,655	95%	13	56,797
2003	43	39	994,665	91%	21	100,050
2004	32	32	698,552	100%	1	181
2005	97	96	1,032,000	90%	14	113,057
2006	48	45	720,108	80%	14	175,960
2007	55	47	540,286	65%	20	289,109
2008	54	48	521,860	77%	37	160,244
2009	55	48	868,219	73%	32	328,199
2010	65	57	840,278	61%	45	532,962
2011	64	57	1,643,290	66%	46	847,158
2012	69	58	1,120,506	62%	44	677,526
2013	76	62	1,602,299	67%	44	797,882
2014	70	53	204,596	33%	48	412,283
2015	71	55	690,600	45%	50	849,788
2016	69	55	733,857	53%	44	652,159
2017	67	50	348,601	39%	60	546,440
2018	6	0	0	0%	6	128
Average[b]						
1990–2001	98	84	1,094,027	63%	67	604,975
2006–2017	64	53	819,542	60%	40	522,476

[a] Central, Eastern, Western, and Perryville districts

[b] Averages do not include the years when the Chignik Cooperative fishery was operating (2002–2005) or 2018 when the Chignik Bay District did not open due to poor sockeye salmon runs.

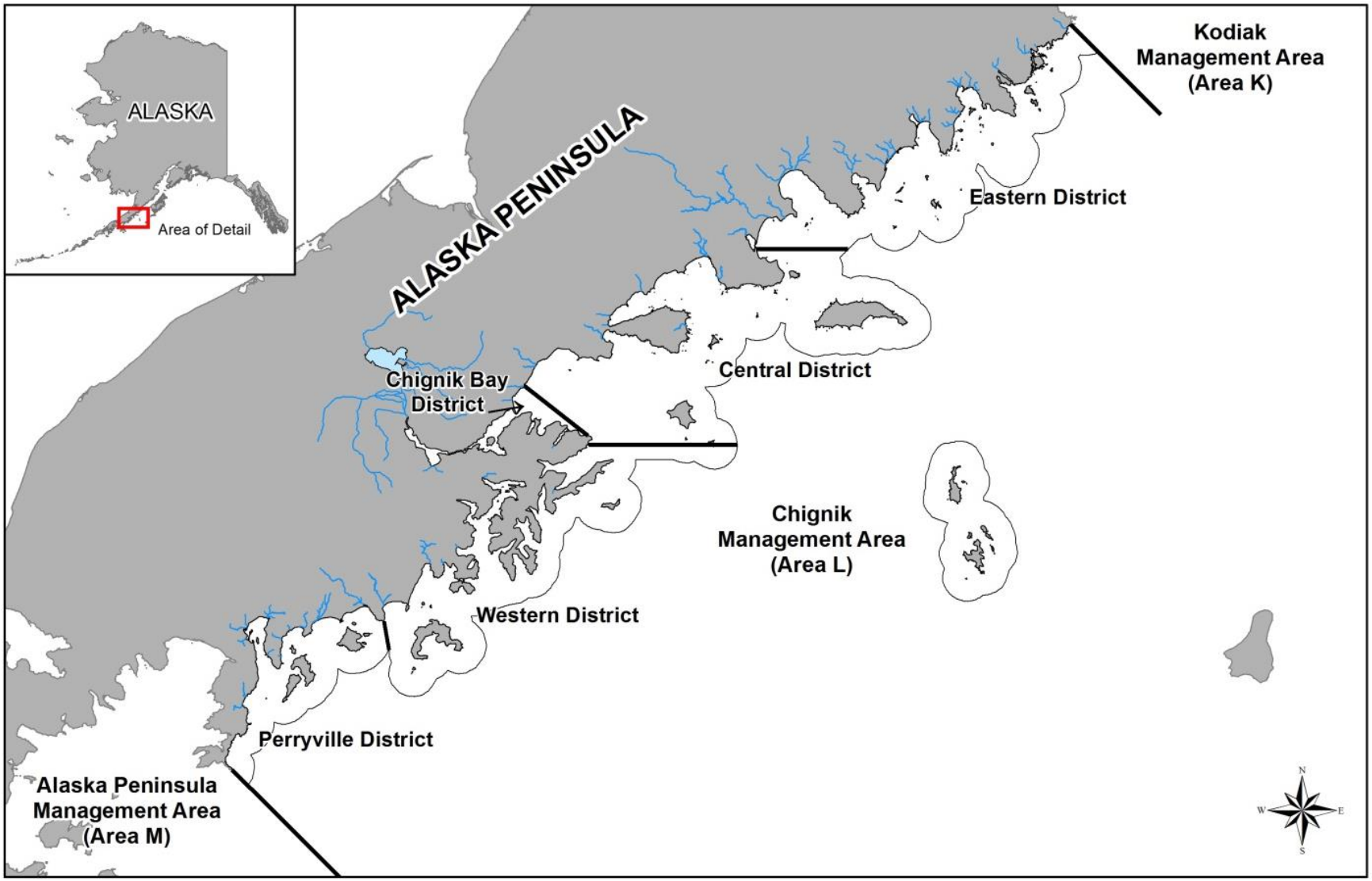

Figure 158-1.–Map of the Chignik Management Area illustrating districts and relative locations of the Kodiak and Alaska Peninsula management areas.

PROPOSAL 160 – 5 AAC 28.640. Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Sablefish Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Allow sablefish pot gear to be longlined during the South Alaska Peninsula Area Western District state-waters sablefish fishery.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Legal gear for the Aleutian Islands and Western districts of the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters sablefish fishery includes pot, longline, mechanical jigging machine, and hand troll gear. Pot gear may be longlined in the Aleutian Islands District but not longlined in the Western District.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Aligning gear regulations across both districts of the South Alaska Peninsula Area would provide for consistent gear regulations for participants. This action would additionally align state-waters regulations with recent changes to federal sablefish gear regulations.

BACKGROUND: The South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters sablefish fishery occurs inside state waters of the Aleutian Islands and Western districts (Figure 160-1). The state-waters season opens and closes concurrently with the federal sablefish IFQ season. Over the last 5 years, most participants in the state-waters sablefish fishery also held federal sablefish IFQ and/or CDQ (Table 160-1) and fished concurrently in both fisheries.

The Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area falls within the federal Gulf of Alaska Management Area for sablefish. Starting in 2018, federal regulations were amended allowing federal participants use of pot gear for harvesting sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska IFQ sablefish fishery. This action also allowed pot gear to be longlined during the federal fishery. This proposal would fully coordinate state and federal sablefish gear regulations across management jurisdictions.

The South Alaska Peninsula state-waters sablefish fishery has been historically underutilized. On average, only 40% of the GHL was annually harvested from 2009 to 2018. It is unknown if this proposal would increase effort or competition in the state-waters fishery.

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.

Table 160-1.–South Alaska Peninsula Area sablefish fishery number of vessels by management program, 2014–2018.

Year	Federal	State Waters	Grand Total
2014	15	1	16
2015	14	1	15
2016	13	1	14
2017	19	2	21
2018	14	3	17

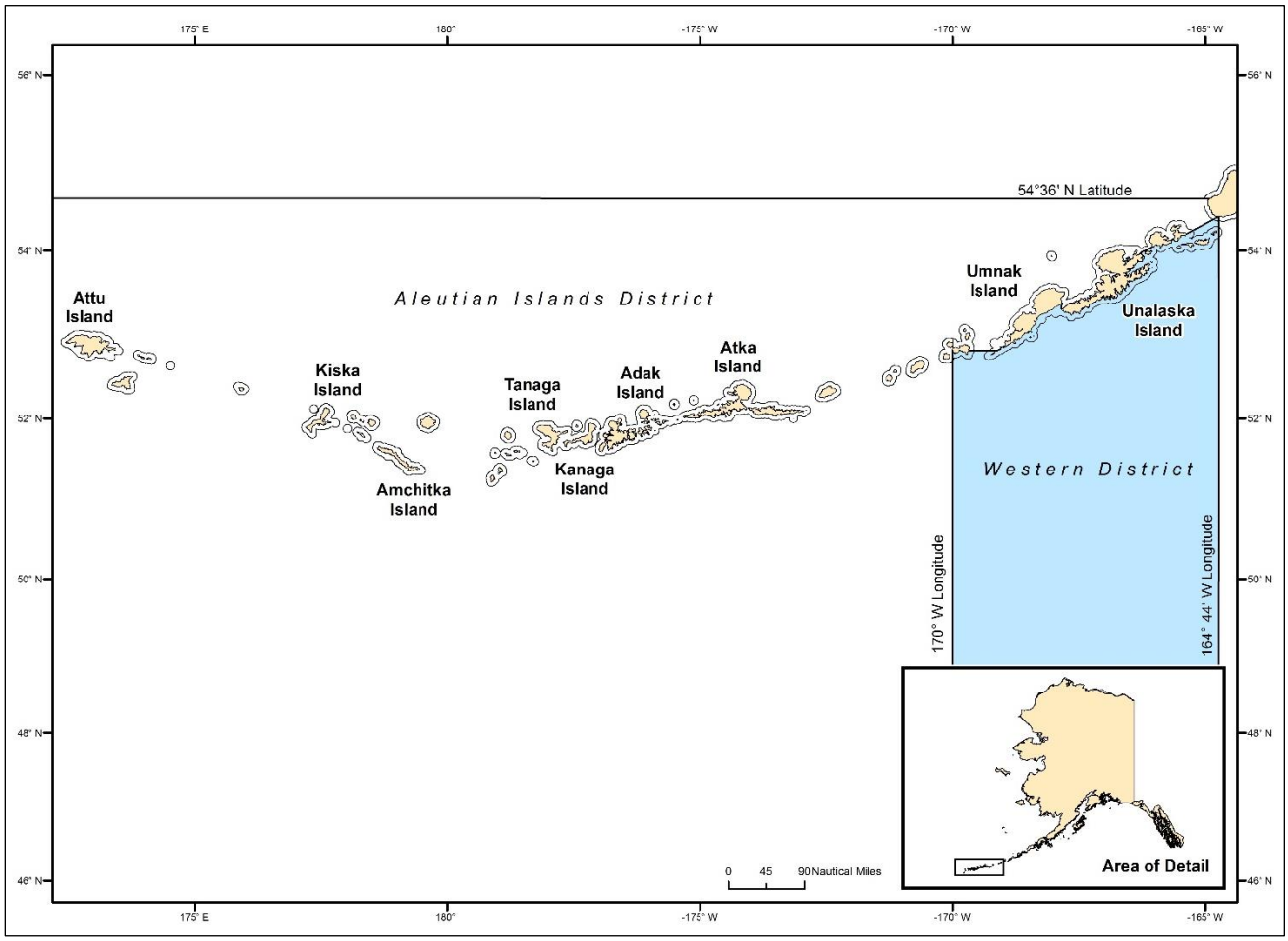

Figure 160-1.–Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Sablefish Management Area.