



## MEMORANDUM

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

DATE: February 20, 2018

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

SUBJECT: Summary of the 2017  
Alaska Peninsula- Aleutian  
Islands Herring Fisheries

THRU: Lisa Fox and Bob Murphy  
Area Management Biologists  
Division of Commercial Fisheries, Region IV

FROM: Colton Lipka and Lucas Stumpf  
Assistant Area Management Biologists  
Division of Commercial Fisheries, Region IV

cc: Cotten  
Kelley  
Brazil  
Dorner  
Habicht  
Bowers  
Foster  
West  
Schaberg  
Hilty  
Nelson Lagoon AC  
Port Heiden AC

Spalinger  
Jackson  
Elison  
Buck  
Schwarzmilller  
Sands  
Johnson  
Anderson  
Templin  
Dutch Harbor AC  
Sand Point AC

Abasian  
Peter Pan Seafoods  
Trident Seafoods  
Western Alaskan Seafoods  
Linderman  
Poetter  
Estensen  
Olson  
Tiernan  
King Cove AC  
False Pass AC

## **Introduction**

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

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

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

The 2017 Dutch Harbor food and bait herring fishery allocation was based on the preseason forecast of the Togiak District herring biomass of 130,852 tons. The Togiak District herring fishery is managed on a 20% exploitation rate which would allow a 2017 total allowable harvest of 26,170 tons. The Togiak spawn on kelp fishery receives a fixed allocation of 1,500 tons which results in a remaining allowable harvest of 24,670 tons. The 2017 Dutch Harbor herring food and bait allocation was 1,727 tons (7%; Table 1). In accordance with 5 AAC 27.655, the Dutch Harbor herring allocation was divided by gear type to allow a 242 ton guideline harvest level (GHL) for gillnet gear (14%) and a 1,485 ton GHL for seine gear (86%). During the 2016 BOF meeting, it was decided that after July 20, if the gillnet allocation has not been harvested, it may be taken by either gillnet gear or purse seine gear. Additionally, if the seine group exceeds its allocation before July 20, that amount shall be deducted from any remaining quota for that year after July 20. If the seine group exceeds the total allocation after July 20, the seine group overage shall be deducted from the next year's seine allocation as stated in 5 AAC 27.655(b). During the 2016 season, the purse seine fleet did not exceed their allocation resulting in no deductions to the total allocation for 2017.

## **Dutch Harbor Gillnet Fishery**

In 2017, commercial herring fishing opened to the gillnet fleet at noon on July 13 and was extended continuously until 12:00 p.m. on February 28. There was no participation from the gillnet fleet (Table 2).

## **Dutch Harbor Seine Fishery**

In 2017 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game issued an emergency order to allow the harvest of herring in the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery beginning July 13. Commercial herring fishing opened to the purse seine fleet at noon on July 13 and was extended continuously until 12:00 p.m. on February 28. Permit holders and processors formed a combine for which 3 vessels made 14 deliveries for a total harvest of 1,270 tons (Table 3). The fishery was open simultaneously in the Unalaska and Akutan districts (Figure 2).

The price per ton paid to the seine fleet ranged from \$300 to \$550 per ton, with an estimated exvessel value of \$481,653 (Table 3). Samples for age, weight, and length determination were collected from six deliveries. This data will be available in the *Alaska Peninsula–Aleutian Islands Management Area Herring Sac Roe and Food and Bait Fisheries Annual Management Report, 2017*.

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

In 2017, there was no interest or participation in this fishery (Table 1).

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

In 2017, commercial herring fishing opened in the Port Moller District on May 8 at 4:00 p.m. and was extended until 10:00 p.m. on May 9. A total of 1,492 tons of herring were harvested with 8 boats participating, making 39 deliveries (Table 4).

The sac roe herring fishery has occurred in North Alaska Peninsula waters most years since 2009, while no herring fishery has occurred in South Alaska Peninsula waters since 1996.

### **Adak Herring Fishery**

In 2010, the BOF amended 5 ACC 27.657 to allow the harvests of 500 tons of herring by both gillnet and purse seine gear in that part of the Adak District of the Alaska Peninsula–Aleutian Islands Management Area from long 175°30'W to long 177°W (Figure 3). In 2017, no CFEC permit holders or processors registered with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for this fishery, nor were there any commercial openings or samples collected in the Adak District.

### **Summary**

The Aleutian Islands Management Area herring food and bait fishery was open to vessels using seine and gillnet gear from July 13 until February 28. A total of 1,270 tons of herring were harvested by the seine fleet; there was no harvest by the gillnet fleet due to a lack of participation (Table 1). The North Alaska Peninsula Management Area sac roe fishery occurred between May 8 and May 9, a total of 1,492 tons of herring were harvested (Table 4).

Table 1.–Aleutian Islands Area Dutch Harbor herring food and bait fishery allocations, commercial harvests and effort by gear type, 2004–2017.

Year	All gear types			Gillnet fishery				Seine fishery				Seine pound fishery			
	Biomass <sup>a, b</sup>	Allocation <sup>a</sup>	Harvest <sup>a</sup>	Allocation <sup>a</sup>	Harvest <sup>a</sup>	Vessels	Landings	Allocation <sup>a</sup>	Harvest <sup>a</sup>	Vessels	Landings	Allocation <sup>a</sup>	Harvest <sup>a</sup>	Vessels	Landings
2004 <sup>c</sup>	143,124	1,899	1,254	266	216	7	37	1,633	1,038	3	20	100	d	d	d
2005	105,029	1,365	1,159	191	0	5	0	1,174	1,159	4	7	100	d	d	d
2006	129,976	1,715	954	240	d	d	d	1,475	953	2	18	100	d	d	d
2007	134,566	1,779	1,254	249	d	d	d	1,530	1,248	2	12	100	d	d	d
2008	130,516	1,722	1,575	241	d	d	d	1,481	1,536	2	14	0	0	0	0
2009	121,800	1,600	1,334	224	d	d	d	1,323	1,310	2	12	0	0	0	0
2010	146,775	1,950	1,938	273	e	e	e	1,677	1,941	2	18	100	d	d	d
2011	140,860	1,867	1,795	261	e	e	e	1,506	1,795	2	15	0	0	0	0
2012	123,745	1,627	1,807	227	e	e	e	1,300	1,807	2	16	0	0	0	0
2013	169,094	2,262	1,764	317	e	e	e	1,665 <sup>f</sup>	1,764	3	12	0	0	0	0
2014	157,448	2,099	1,645	294	e	e	e	1,805	1,645	3	11	0	0	0	0
2015	163,480	2,184	1,972	306	e	e	e	1,878	1,972	3	15	0	0	0	0
2016	162,244	2,166	208	303	e	e	e	1,863	d	d	d	0	0	0	0
2017	130,852	1,727	1,270	242	e	e	e	1,485	1,270	3	14	0	0	0	0
2007-2016															
Average	145,053	1,926	1,529	270	-	-	-	1,636	1,669	2	14	20	0	0	0

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

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

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

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

<sup>e</sup> Fishery open but no industry participation.

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

Table 2.—Aleutian Islands Area Dutch Harbor herring food and bait fisheries historical summary for gillnet gear, 2001–2017.

Year	Harvest in Tons	Number of Vessels	Number Landings	Tons Per Vessel	Tons Per Landing	Price Per Ton	Exvessel Value (Thousands)	Exvessel Value Per Vessel (Thousands)
2001	105	6	25	18	4	\$300–500	\$52.7	\$8.8
2002	134	13	37	10	4	\$400	\$53.6	\$4.1
2003 <sup>a</sup>	108	13	23	8	5	\$400	\$35.0	\$2.7
2004	216	7	37	31	6	\$300	\$64.8	\$9.3
2005	0	0	0	0	0	\$300	\$0.0	\$0.0
2006	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
2007	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
2008	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
2009	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
2010	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
2011	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
2012	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
2013	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
2014	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
2015	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
2016	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
2017	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
2001–2005								
Average	113	8	24	13	4	\$350	\$41	\$5

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

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

<sup>c</sup> No participation.

Table 3.—Aleutian Islands Area Dutch Harbor herring food and bait fisheries historical summary for purse seine gear, 1995–2017.

Year	Harvest in Tons	No. Vessels Making Landings	Number Landings	Tons Per Vessel	Tons Per Landing	Price Per Ton	Exvessel Value (Thousands)	Exvessel Value Per Vessel (Thousands)
1995	1,748	14	24	125	73	\$300	\$524	\$37
1996	2,239	24	29	93	77	\$300	\$672	\$28
1997	1,950	26	63	75	31	\$300	\$585	\$23
1998	1,994	22	22	91	91	\$300	\$598	\$27
1999	2,398	21	71	114	34	\$400–600	\$1,038	\$49
2000	2,014	20	28	101	72	\$300–500	\$671	\$34
2001	1,332	14	16	95	83	\$300–500	\$406	\$29
2002	2,617	12	14	218	187	\$300–450	\$909	\$76
2003	1,379	6 <sup>a</sup>	16	230	86	\$50–400	\$342	\$57
2004	1,035	3 <sup>a</sup>	17	345	61	\$100–500	\$309	\$103
2005	1,154	3 <sup>a</sup>	7	385	165	\$100–500	\$370	\$123
2006	953	2 <sup>a</sup>	25	477	38	\$100–500	\$384	\$192
2007	1,208	2 <sup>a</sup>	12	604	101	\$100–500	\$437	\$219
2008	1,536	2 <sup>a</sup>	14	768	110	\$300–490	\$592	\$296
2009	1,310	2 <sup>a</sup>	12	655	109	\$300–500	\$519	\$260
2010	1,938	2 <sup>a</sup>	18	969	108	\$100–500	\$722	\$361
2011	1,795	2 <sup>a</sup>	15	898	120	\$100–500	\$898	\$449
2012	1,807	2 <sup>a</sup>	16	904	113	\$100–500	\$542	\$271
2013	1,764	3 <sup>a</sup>	12	588	147	\$300–550	\$750	\$250
2014	1,645	3 <sup>a</sup>	11	548	150	\$300–550	\$444	\$148
2015	1,972	3 <sup>a</sup>	15	657	131	\$300–550	\$838	\$279
2016	208	2 <sup>a</sup>	2	104	104	\$300–500	\$108	\$54
2017	1,270	3 <sup>a</sup>	14	423	91	\$300–550	\$481	\$160
2007–2016 Average	1,518	2	13	669	119	\$220–514	\$585	\$259

<sup>a</sup> Since 2003, several permit holders have formed a combine using fewer vessels to harvest allocation.

Table 4.—Alaska Peninsula herring sac roe fishery harvest, number of landings and permits fished by year, 1979–2017.

Year	North Peninsula			South Peninsula			Total		
	Tons	Landings	Permits	Tons	Landings	Permits	Tons	Landings	Permits
1979	a	a	a	b	b	b	b	b	b
1980	a	a	a	454	15	6	454	15	6
1981	a	a	a	798	93	56	797	93	56
1982	506	6	3	176	13	4	b	b	b
1983	627	47	23	0	0	0	627	47	23
1984	431	20	11	210	20	5	642	40	15
1985	710	31	17	288	8	5	998	39	20
1986	894	116	50	282	14	6	1,176	130	51
1987	514	46	27	b	b	b	b	b	b
1988	294	21	9	377	22	10	671	43	19
1989	729	24	10	310	31	13	1,039	55	19
1990	273	23	5	312	31	6	585	54	9
1991	1,313	59	11	157	26	10	1,470	85	18
1992	3,969	100	24	180	11	7	4,149	112	29
1993	536	44	16	97	17	3	633	61	19
1994	90	7	5	b	b	b	b	b	b
1995	337	37	12	b	b	b	b	b	b
1996	96	9	3	117	8	4	213	17	7
1997 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	68	5	3	a	a	a	68	5	3
1999 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2000 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2002 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2003 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2004 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2005	351	12	4	a	a	a	351	12	4
2006 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2007 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2008 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2009	3,027	46	4	a	a	a	3,027	46	4
2010	b	b	b	a	a	a	b	b	b
2011 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2012	b	b	b	a	a	a	b	b	b
2013	230	8	4	a	a	a	230	8	4
2014 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2015 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2016	b	b	b	a	a	a	b	b	b
2017	1,492	39	8	a	a	a	1,492	39	8

<sup>a</sup> No fishery.<sup>b</sup> This information cannot be released to due to state confidentiality requirements.

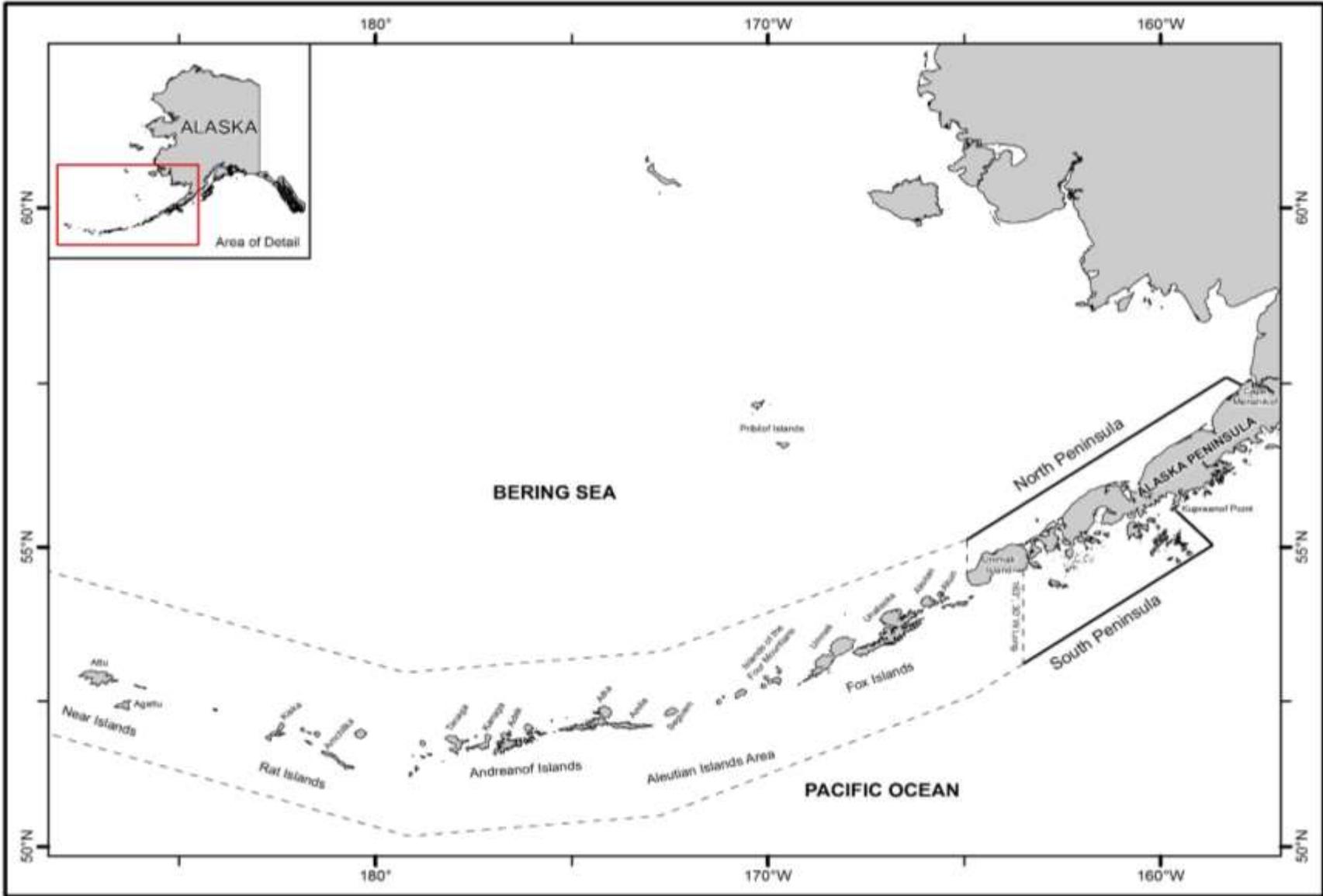


Figure 1.-The Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands herring management area.

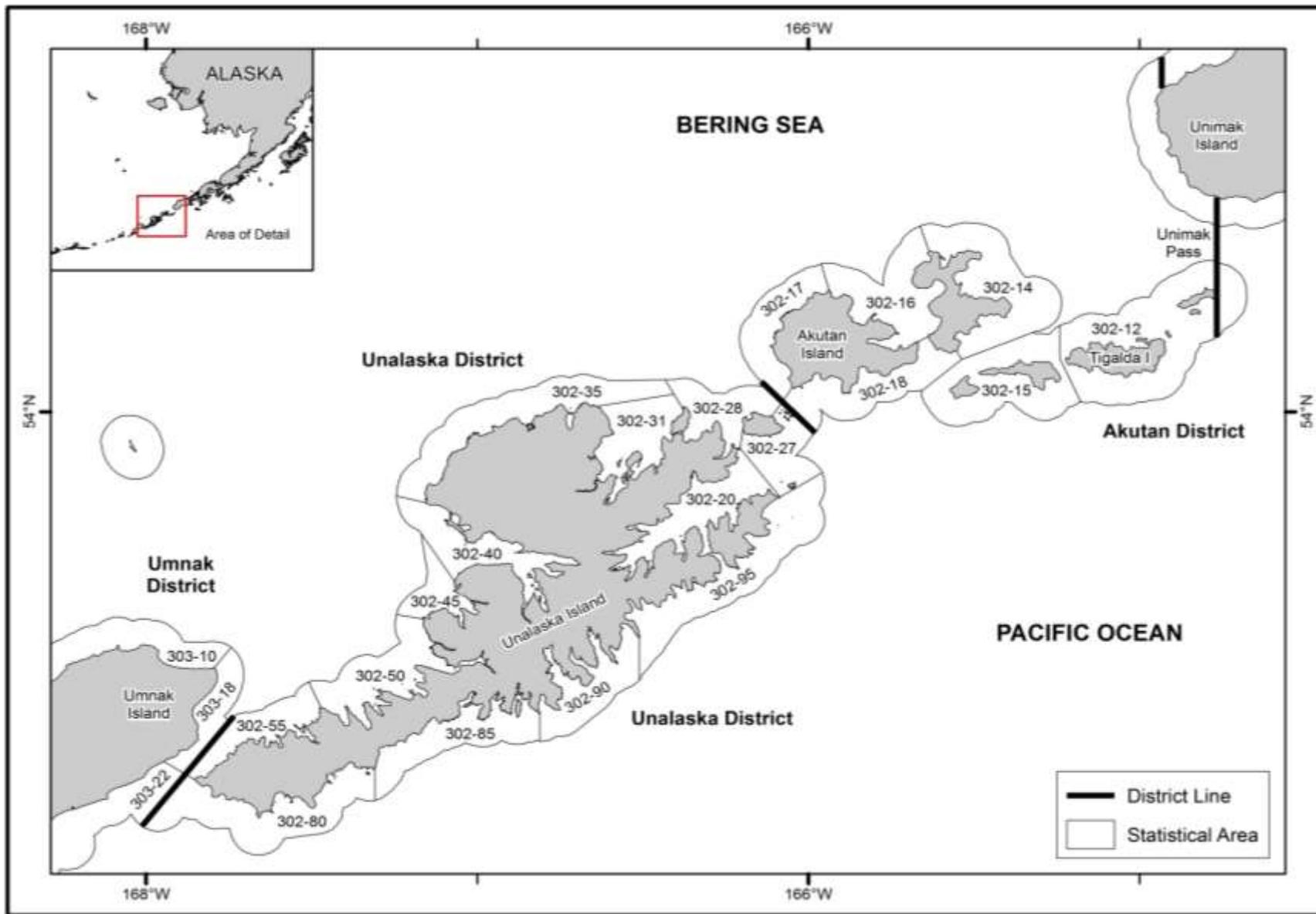


Figure 2.-The Unalaska and Akutan commercial herring fishing districts.

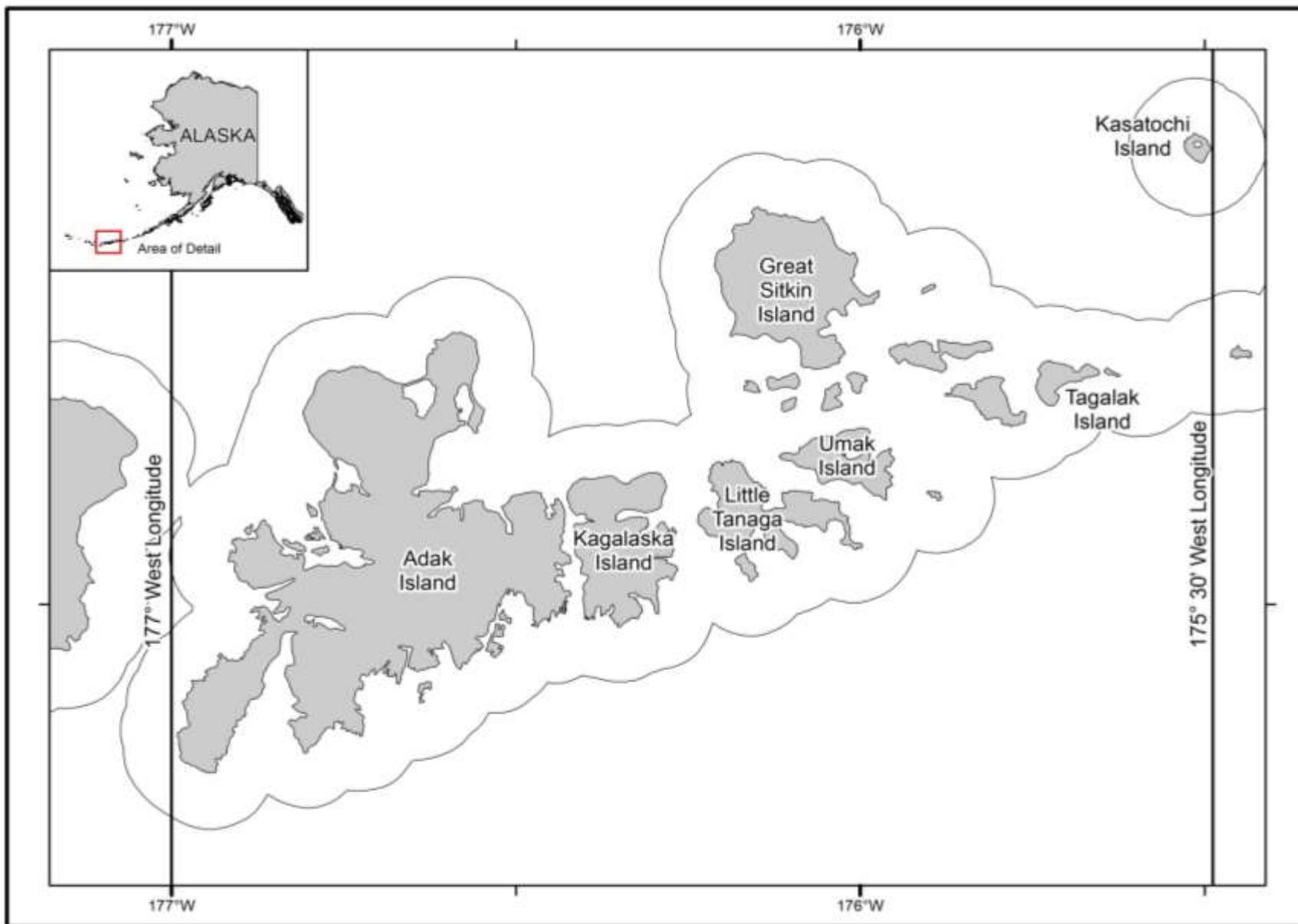


Figure 3.—Map of the Adak herring fishery district.