

## Alaska Board of Fisheries

### Public Comments

Submitted by Mitch Seybert

My name is Mitch Seybert. I am the chairman of the Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee. I want to relay to you the confusion at the last AC meeting regarding our amendments to Proposals 144 and 145. When we developed Proposals 145 our intention was to direct the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik Section fisheries on the local stocks that originate in Meshik and Ilnik Rivers. We wanted to set the onshore point just south of the Reindeer Creek closure area and extend the line perpendicular to the shore. Figure 1 shows this line. For Proposal 145 we wanted the offshore point to be 3 nm from the beach on this perpendicular line. The point located 3 nm offshore was correct.,  $56^{\circ} 59.68' \text{ N}$ .  $158^{\circ} 46.45' \text{ W}$ . Unfortunately, we placed the other point 3 miles inland (Figure 1). Common sense tells me that you can't have closed waters on solid ground. ADF&G opposes this proposal because the coordinates are wrong. It is obvious to me, at least, that because the latitude coordinates are the exact same on both points,  $56^{\circ} 59.68' \text{ N}$ ., that we wanted the closure line to be on the latitude line, perpendicular to the beach.

For Proposal 144, again, we wanted to direct the fleet on local stocks. However, this proposal seeks to move the fleet closer to shore and farther south only when the Bristol Bay forecasted run is 30M or less. In our original proposal, we intended to use the same closure line below Reindeer Creek and perpendicular to the beach. As in Proposal 145 we set this line on the same latitude,  $56^{\circ} 59.68' \text{ N}$ . We did not put in a coordinate for 1.5 nm offshore (Figure 2). We should have done this. ADF&G, in their report, arbitrarily set this closure line on the longitude line. Why would you allow a triangle-shaped open water section, with the point being farthest north, when the fleet fishes as far north as possible?

At our last AC meeting, on February 6, we amended the closure line on both proposals, with the help of ADF&G, to be on the longitudinal line. At this time, many of us on teleconference and we did not have any maps in front of us. We were confused. Now, after we have looked at the maps, we believe that the amendments do not reflect our intentions.

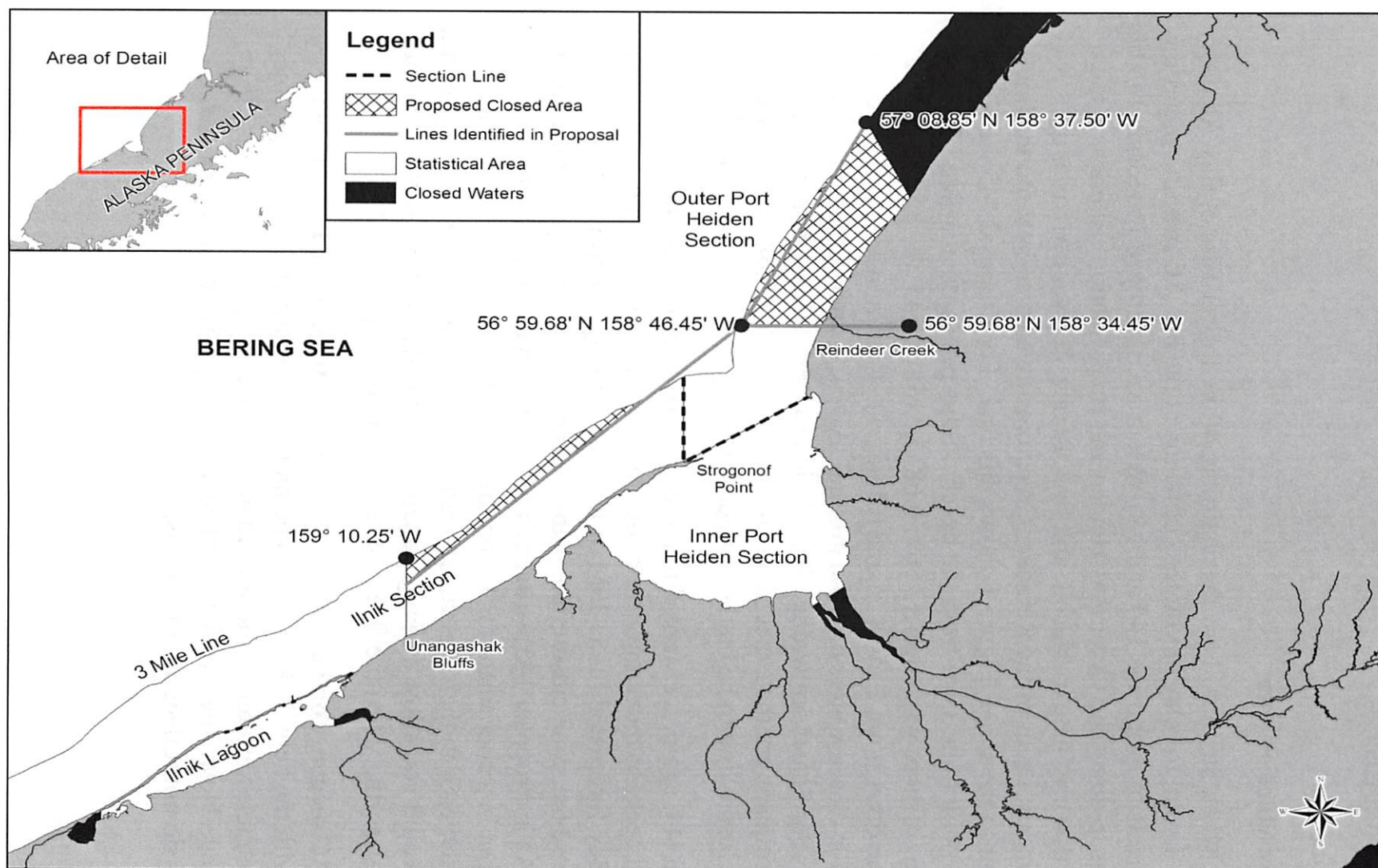


Figure 1. Proposal 145 (p 63, ADF&G RC 2) Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections, with illustration of proposed closed waters.  
 Proposal 145 (p 63, ADF&G RC 2)

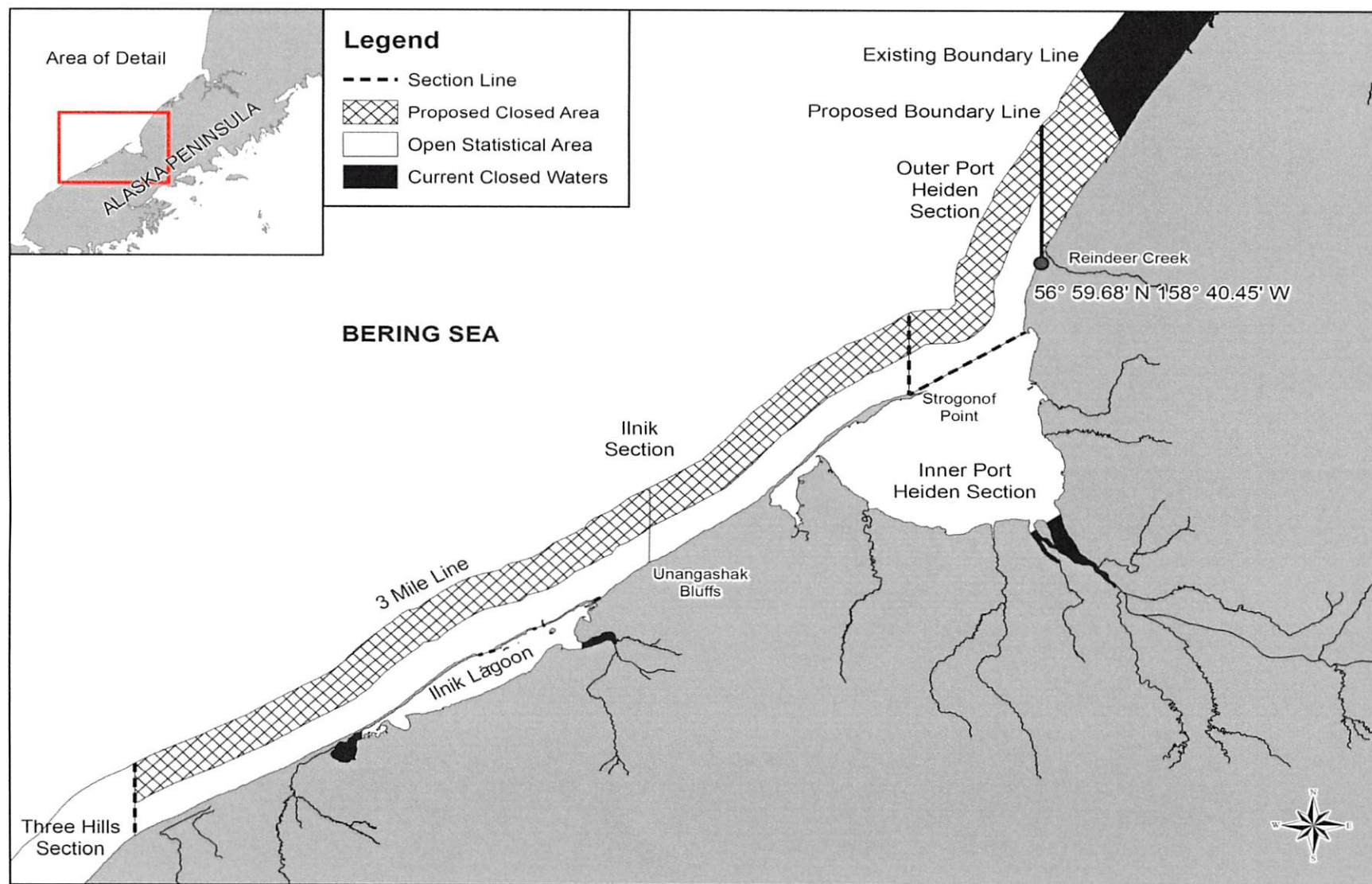


Figure 2. Figure 144-1.-Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections, with illustration of proposed closed waters. Proposal 145 (p 60, ADF&G RC 2)