

Fishery Management Report No. 08-19

**North Alaska Peninsula Salmon Management Plan,
2008**

by

Robert L. Murphy

and

Philip Tschersich

April 2008

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



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Weights and measures (metric)		General		Measures (fisheries)	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code	AAC	fork length	FL
deciliter	dL			mid-eye-to-fork	MEF
gram	g	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	mid-eye-to-tail-fork	METF
hectare	ha			standard length	SL
kilogram	kg	all commonly accepted		total length	TL
kilometer	km				
liter	L	professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.		
meter	m			Mathematics, statistics	
milliliter	mL	at	@	<i>all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations</i>	
millimeter	mm	compass directions:		alternate hypothesis	H _A
		east	E	base of natural logarithm	<i>e</i>
		north	N	catch per unit effort	CPUE
		south	S	coefficient of variation	CV
		west	W	common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
		copyright	©	confidence interval	CI
		corporate suffixes:		correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
		Company	Co.	correlation coefficient (simple)	r
		Corporation	Corp.	covariance	cov
		Incorporated	Inc.	degree (angular)	°
		Limited	Ltd.	degrees of freedom	df
		District of Columbia	D.C.	expected value	<i>E</i>
		et alii (and others)	et al.	greater than	>
		et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	greater than or equal to	≥
		exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
		Federal Information Code	FIC	less than	<
		id est (that is)	i.e.	less than or equal to	≤
		latitude or longitude	lat. or long.	logarithm (natural)	ln
		monetary symbols (U.S.)	\$, ¢	logarithm (base 10)	log
		months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan,...,Dec	logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ , etc.
		registered trademark	®	minute (angular)	'
		trademark	™	not significant	NS
		United States (adjective)	U.S.	null hypothesis	H ₀
		United States of America (noun)	USA	percent	%
		U.S.C.	United States Code	probability	P
		U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)	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

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				

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ABSTRACT

The 2008 projected North Alaska Peninsula salmon harvest is 3,077,000 salmon, comprised of 7,000 Chinook *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, 2,800,000 sockeye *O. nerka*, 70,000 coho *O. kisutch*, 50,000 pink *O. gorbuscha*, and 150,000 chum *O. keta* salmon. The bulk of the salmon harvest is projected to occur in the Northern District from the Nelson Lagoon Section to the Outer Port Heiden Section. The North Alaska Peninsula is predominantly fished by drift gillnet and set gillnet fleets, though purse seines are a legal gear type in some areas. In 2008, salmon enumerating weirs on the Nelson, Bear, Sandy, and Ilnik rivers will be used to facilitate inseason escapement assessment.

Key words: Area M, North Alaska Peninsula, Nelson Lagoon, Bear River, Three Hills, Ilnik, Port Heiden, salmon, commercial fisheries, management plan, MP

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide commercial salmon fishermen and buyers with information and guidelines that will be used by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to manage the commercial salmon fisheries of the North Alaska Peninsula during 2008.

The North Alaska Peninsula, a portion of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area, consists of the Northern and Northwestern districts and encompasses Bering Sea coastal waters from Cape Menshikof to Cape Sarichef (Figure 1). The Northern District includes all state waters between the westernmost tip of Cape Menshikof and the southernmost tip of Moffet Point. Northwestern District includes all state waters between Moffet Point and Cape Sarichef on Unimak Island. Five species of salmon are commercially harvested on the North Alaska Peninsula: Chinook *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, sockeye *O. nerka*, coho *O. kisutch*, pink *O. gorbuscha*, and chum *O. keta* salmon.

The Cinder River Section, Inner Port Heiden Section, and Ilnik Lagoon comprise an overlap area described under 5 AAC 39.120 (d) where both Area M (Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands) and Area T (Bristol Bay) permit holders may fish under certain conditions. Area M permit holders may fish anytime during open fishing periods in all of the above locations. Area T permit holders may only fish in the Cinder River and Inner Port Heiden sections from May 1 through June 30, and from August 1 through September 30 during open fishing periods. Area T permit holders may also fish in Ilnik Lagoon beginning August 1 during open fishing periods.

The 2008 North Alaska Peninsula projected commercial salmon harvest is not considered a formal forecast and is based on a 5-year average of recent harvests. The 2008 North Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon harvest is projected to be approximately 3,077,000 fish, of which 7,000 are expected to be Chinook salmon, 2,800,000 sockeye salmon, 70,000 coho salmon, 50,000 pink salmon, and 150,000 chum salmon. The 2008 projected sockeye salmon harvest is about 18% below the 2007 actual harvest of 3,408,818 fish. The projected harvest of other species is directly related to market conditions.

Formal forecasts are prepared for the Nelson Lagoon and late Bear River sockeye salmon runs (Nelson et al. 2008). The 2008 Nelson River total sockeye salmon run is forecasted to be 523,000 fish (range 288,000-757,000 fish) with a harvest of 373,000 sockeye salmon. The late Bear River (post July 31) total sockeye salmon run is forecasted to be 826,000 fish (range 542,000-1,110,000 fish) with a forecasted harvest of 709,000 sockeye salmon (Nelson et al. 2008).

GPS COORDINATES AND ENFORCEMENT

The ADF&G and the Alaska Department of Public Safety use global positioning system (GPS) technology to identify districts, sections, closed waters, and regulatory fishing coordinates published in regulations or emergency orders. GPS is based on the North American 1983 datum.

FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Northern District will be managed from the Port Moller ADF&G office, while the Northwestern District will be managed from the Cold Bay ADF&G office. Management staff can be reached by SSB 3.230 MHz or over VHF channel 72 in Port Moller or by SSB 3.230 MHz or over VHF channel 6 in Cold Bay and through the following contacts:

Port Moller:

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
Phone (907) 375-2716
Fax (907) 375-2715
SSB 3.230 MHz

Cold Bay:

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
Phone (907) 532-2419
Fax (907) 532-2470
SSB 3.230 or 3.260 MHz

Inseason emergency orders and news releases will be made available to the industry and the public by at least one of the following methods:

- Communicated directly to the local buyers/processors and fishermen via fax, email, or verbally
- Transmitted over one or more of the following radio frequencies: SSB 3.230 MHz and VHF 72 in Port Moller or VHF 6 in Cold Bay
- News releases will be displayed at several places in Port Moller and at ADF&G offices in Port Moller, Cold Bay and Sand Point
- In Port Moller and Cold Bay after business hours at the phone number listed above using recorded messages

The ADF&G will attempt to give a minimum of six hours advance notice of commercial fishing openings when established by emergency order. However, there may be times when less than six hours notice is given for a commercial fishery opening/closure/extension. Emergency orders, new releases, and catch reports will also be updated on the Westward Region departments web site located at:

www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/rgn4home.php

CATCH REPORTING

Buyers/processors must report their salmon purchases by location, species (in both numbers of fish and pounds), and number of deliveries **by 9:00 AM the day after delivery** (5 AAC 39.130 (a)(3)). Reports are made to the ADF&G in Port Moller for harvests in the Northern District, and to ADF&G in Cold Bay for harvests in the Northwestern District. According to 5 AAC 39.010, a person engaged in commercial fishing may retain finfish from lawfully taken commercial catch for that person's own use, including for the use as bait in a commercial fishery. Finfish retained under this section may not be sold or bartered and must be reported on a fish ticket (5 AAC 39.010).

When purchasing salmon, the buyer must complete fish tickets showing the statistical area where the fish were harvested. The harvest location may be different than the area where the delivery occurred. Fish tickets must be sent to the appropriate ADF&G office in Port Moller or Cold Bay within seven (7) days of the delivery (5 AAC 39.130 (c)). The following addresses should be used:

Port Moller:

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 163
Port Moller, AK 99571-8999
Phone (907) 375-2716
Fax (907) 375-2715

Cold Bay:

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 50
Cold Bay, AK 99571
Phone (907) 532-2419
Fax (907) 532-2470

RECENT REGULATION CHANGES

There are no new regulations changes for 2008. However, the pertinent changes that occurred at the February, 2007 Board of Fisheries meeting and are still in effect are shown below.

1. In the Northwestern District, the commercial salmon fishing season is from June 1 to September 30 except in the Dublin Bay Section where the commercial fishing season is from July 10 until September 30.
2. In the Northwestern District, from September 1 through 30, salmon may be taken only during fishing periods established by emergency order.
3. In the Uria Bay and Bechevin Bay sections, most commercial salmon fishing periods are open by emergency order only while in the Izembek-Moffet Bay, Dublin Bay, and Swanson Lagoon sections, fishing periods are from 6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Thursday through August after which openings are by emergency order.
4. The Ilnik Section outside of the Ilnik Lagoon and the Seal Islands may open to commercial salmon fishing as early as June 20.
5. Weekly fishing periods for the Ilnik Section inside of Ilnik Lagoon and the Seal Islands between June 20 and June 25 are from 6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Wednesday to coincide with the weekly schedule in the Ilnik Section outside of the Ilnik Lagoon.
6. Management actions in the Ilnik Section may be taken for the conservation of Bear River sockeye salmon after August 15.
7. A portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section may open to commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnet gear only between June 20 and July 31 southwest of the line 158° 36.00' W long. Fishing periods are scheduled from 6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Wednesday and will be based on Meshik River sockeye salmon run strength. Additional restrictions may be implemented if the commissioner closes that portion of the Egegik District specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks.
8. Two CFEC set gillnet permit holders aboard a registered salmon fishing vessel may tow a second registered salmon fishing vessel with an aggregate length of legal gear on board.

NORTH ALASKA PENINSULA MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The North Alaska Peninsula salmon fisheries will be managed on the basis of catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) abundance indicators, salmon abundance determined during ADF&G test fisheries, and escapement estimated by aerial surveys and weir counts. Scheduled weekly fishing periods during the open season are listed in Appendix A1 and in the Commercial Finfish Regulations. When possible, the management of North Alaska Peninsula fisheries will take into account processing requirements while maximizing harvest opportunity and ensuring escapement requirements.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT

Dublin Bay Section

Commercial salmon fishing periods in the Dublin Bay Section (Figure 2) will occur as scheduled in the Commercial Finfish Regulations and are summarized in Appendix A1.

Urilia Bay Section

Commercial salmon fishing periods in the Urilia Bay Section (Figure 2) may open by emergency order if the sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) in Christianson Lagoon is likely to be met (25,000-50,000 fish; Honnold et al. 2007). Christianson Lagoon will be managed through July 31 based on sockeye salmon abundance and Peterson Lagoon will be managed through August 31 based on chum salmon abundance. The entire Urilia Bay Section will be managed based on coho salmon abundance in August and September.

Swanson Lagoon Section

Sockeye and chum salmon stocks in the Swanson Lagoon Section (Figure 2) will be managed through August based on abundance estimates in Swanson Lagoon. The escapement goal for Swanson Lagoon was changed during the winter of 2006-2007 to 6,000-16,000 sockeye salmon (Honnold et al. 2007). The section will be managed in September based on local coho salmon abundance determined from aerial surveys and commercial CPUE data.

Bechevin Bay Section

The Bechevin Bay Section (Figure 2) will open concurrently with the Ikatan Bay Section (part of the South Peninsula) according to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 09.365 (b)). Post June, the Bechevin Bay Section will be managed based on the strength of local chum and pink salmon stocks. Fishing periods throughout the Bechevin Bay Section will be established by emergency order post June. The Bechevin Bay Section is the only area on the North Alaska Peninsula with a pink salmon SEG lower bound which is 31,000 fish in even-numbered years and 1,600 fish in odd-numbered years (Honnold et al. 2007).

Izembek-Moffet Bay Section

Typically chum salmon are the most abundant species found in the Izembek-Moffet Bay Section (Figure 2) through August, then coho salmon become the predominant species. Management decisions will be based on aerial escapement surveys and CPUE data. If there is little or no market for chum salmon, and fishermen target local sockeye salmon producing systems, then management will be based on the sockeye salmon run strength to these systems.

NORTHERN DISTRICT

Black Hills Section

During June, the Black Hills Section (Figure 2) will be managed based on the strength of local Chinook salmon stocks. Management during July and early August will be based on the abundance of local sockeye salmon runs in the Black Hills Section. North Creek is the dominant sockeye salmon producing system in the Black Hills Section and has an SEG of 4,400-8,800 fish (Honnold et al. 2007). During late August and September, the Black Hills Section will be managed based on local coho salmon abundance and harvest effort.

Nelson Lagoon Section

The Nelson River biological escapement goal (BEG) is 97,000 to 219,000 sockeye salmon (Table 1; Figure 3; Honnold et al. 2007). The Nelson Lagoon fishery will be managed based on interim escapement objectives at the Nelson River weir. Commercial salmon fishery harvests will also be used to evaluate run strength. Escapements may be increased if escapement quality is poor due to a high percentage of net-marked fish, high percentage of jack salmon (length \leq 400 mm from mideye to fork of tail or age-1), or a low female to male sex ratio. The estimated number of female sockeye salmon in the escapement should comprise half the total escapement goal range by July 25 (50,000-110,000 female sockeye salmon).

Table 1.–Nelson River weir sockeye salmon escapement interim objectives.

Date	Escapement for period	Cumulative Escapement
30-Jun	30,000 - 60,000	30,000 - 60,000
5-Jul	20,000 - 45,000	50,000 - 105,000
10-Jul	20,000 - 50,000	70,000 - 155,000
15-Jul	15,000 - 30,000	85,000 - 185,000
20-Jul	10,000 - 25,000	95,000 - 210,000
25-Jul	2,000 - 9,000	97,000 - 219,000
Total escapement goal	97,000 - 219,000	

The escapement goal range for Chinook salmon in the Nelson River system is 2,400-4,400 fish (Honnold et al. 2007). To provide adequate escapement for Chinook salmon in Nelson Lagoon, fishing periods through June 15 are limited in duration from 6:00 AM Monday to midnight Wednesday (Appendix A1). From June 16 to June 30, four fishing days per week may be allowed. Additional fishing time may be allowed if daily sockeye salmon catches are large or cumulative weir counts exceed interim objectives. However, if it is evident in June that the Chinook or sockeye salmon runs are weak, the number of fishing days will be reduced. The amount of effort directed at harvesting Chinook salmon in the fishery (e.g., mesh size of fishing gear used) will be considered when evaluating sockeye salmon escapement strategy.

During July, fishing time will be dependent upon sockeye salmon escapements and daily catches. If escapement data from the Nelson River weir cannot be determined due to high water events, then daily catch rates (primarily) and daily catch per boat (secondarily) will be used to evaluate run strength.

Beginning August 16, the Nelson Lagoon fishery is managed on coho salmon run strength. No more than three fishing days will be allowed per week unless coho salmon escapements are expected to exceed the SEG lower bound of 18,000 fish (Honnold et al. 2007), or if the fishing effort has minimal impact on achieving adequate escapement.

Herendeen-Moller Bay Section

Prior to July 20, the Herendeen-Moller Bay Section (Figure 2) will be managed based on the abundance of chum and pink salmon stocks. Herendeen Bay pink salmon (especially during even-numbered years) will be harvested before significant numbers of chum salmon arrive, by emergency order after July 20. Management will be based on in-season escapement determined by aerial surveys and catch information.

Port Moller Bight Section

The Port Moller Bight Section will be managed based on the status of sockeye salmon escapement at the Bear River weir (Figures 2 and 3). Fishery openings and closures will be concurrent with the Bear River Section.

Bear River and Three Hills Sections

The Bear River and Three Hills sections will be managed for each interim escapement objective and the season-ending escapement goal at Bear River (Table 2; Figures 2 and 3). The Bear River sockeye salmon escapement is divided into historic proportions of the early and late runs to provide for all components of the Bear River run. The total season-ending goal in Bear River, including a post-weir estimate, is an SEG of 293,000-488,000 sockeye salmon by September 15 (Table 2; Honnold et al. 2007). The SEG range for the early run, from June 1 through July 31, is 176,000-293,000 sockeye salmon (Table 2). The escapement goal range for the late run, from August 1 through August 25 (when the weir is removed) is 87,000-165,000 sockeye salmon (Table 2). The post-weir objective of approximately 30,000 sockeye salmon is included in the Bear River late-run SEG of 117,000-195,000 fish (Table 2).

Table 2.–Bear River sockeye salmon escapement interim objectives.

Date	Escapement for period	Cumulative escapement
Early-run component:		
15-Jun	4,000 - 8,000	4,000 - 8,000
20-Jun	11,000 - 22,000	15,000 - 30,000
25-Jun	15,000 - 25,000	30,000 - 55,000
30-Jun	30,000 - 60,000	60,000 - 115,000
5-Jul	30,000 - 50,000	90,000 - 165,000
10-Jul	25,000 - 35,000	115,000 - 200,000
15-Jul	15,000 - 30,000	130,000 - 230,000
20-Jul	10,000 - 20,000	140,000 - 250,000
25-Jul	20,000 - 20,000	160,000 - 270,000
31-Jul	16,000 - 23,000	176,000 - 293,000
Total early-run goal	176,000 - 293,000	
Late-run component:		
5-Aug	15,000 - 30,000	191,000 - 323,000
10-Aug	20,000 - 35,000	211,000 - 358,000
15-Aug	17,000 - 35,000	228,000 - 393,000
20-Aug	15,000 - 30,000	243,000 - 423,000
25-Aug	20,000 - 35,000	263,000 - 458,000
Total late-run objective	87,000 - 165,000	
Post-weir objective	30,000	
Total late-run goal	117,000 - 195,000	
Season total escapement goal	293,000 - 488,000	

If one of the interim escapement objectives (Table 2) is not achieved, fishing in the Bear River and Three Hills sections will be curtailed to reach the cumulative escapement objectives. Escapement occurring during the July 26-31 period which exceeds the 23,000 sockeye salmon upper escapement objective will be applied to the first interim objective of the late-run escapement (August 1-5). However, no more than 15,000 fish from the early run shall be applied to the late-run escapement objective. This will aid the ADF&G in managing the late Bear River sockeye salmon run more effectively when the run is earlier than expected, or when the early run is large and exceeds interim escapement objectives.

The number of jack (length \leq 400 mm mid eye to fork of tail or age-.1) and net-marked sockeye salmon in the Bear River escapement is important when evaluating escapement quality. In normal years the number of jack salmon is less than 10% of the total run. If the number of jack sockeye salmon, on a daily basis or for the season, is above 10%, the escapement objective may be increased to compensate for the reduction in reproductive potential. If the number of net-marked salmon becomes excessive ($>10\%$), the escapement objectives may be increased to preserve escapement quality.

The Sandy River sockeye salmon SEG is 34,000-74,000 fish (Table 3; Figure 3; Honnold et al. 2007). If weir counts at Sandy River are unavailable due to difficulties with the weir such as a high water event, aerial survey data will be used to estimate the escapement and manage the fisheries.

Table 3.–Sandy River sockeye salmon escapement interim objectives.

Date	Escapement for period	Cumulative escapement
20-Jun	2,000 - 3,000	2,000 - 3,000
25-Jun	4,000 - 8,000	6,000 - 11,000
30-Jun	7,000 - 17,000	13,000 - 28,000
5-Jul	8,000 - 19,000	21,000 - 47,000
10-Jul	5,000 - 13,000	26,000 - 60,000
15-Jul	3,000 - 7,000	29,000 - 67,000
20-Jul	3,000 - 4,000	32,000 - 71,000
25-Jul	2,000 - 3,000	34,000 - 74,000
Total escapement goal		34,000 - 74,000

Prior to July 21, the Three Hills Section will be managed based on Bear River, Sandy River, and Ilnik River sockeye salmon abundance (Table 4; Figures 2 and 3). If escapement objectives in the Bear or Sandy rivers are not being met, a portion of the Bear River Section may be closed while the Three Hills Section may remain open. This strategy has been used successfully in the past to achieve escapement objectives while providing fishing opportunity and avoiding escapement surplus. If escapement into Ilnik and/or Ocean River (if Ocean River flows directly into the Bering Sea) is inadequate, and area closures in the Ilnik Section are not an effective conservation action, the fishery in the eastern portion of the Three Hills Section may be closed to provide additional protection for fish needed for escapement.

During June, management decisions regarding sockeye salmon may be conservative in the Bear River Section to protect Chinook salmon stocks in the King Salmon, Bear, and Sandy rivers. In August and September, management decisions in the Three Hills Section will consider the strength of Ilnik Lagoon coho salmon runs.

Table 4.–Sockeye salmon stocks used to manage five sections in the Northern District.

Section	Sockeye Salmon Stocks	
	Through July 20	After July 20
Nelson Lagoon	Nelson R.	Nelson R.
Bear River	Bear R., Sandy R.	Bear R., Sandy R.
Three Hills	Bear R., Sandy R., Ilnik R.	Bear R., Sandy R.
Ilnik		
SW of Unangashak Bluffs	Ilnik R., Ugashik R.	Bear R.
NE of Unangashak Bluffs	Ilnik R., Meshik R., Ugashik R.	Bear R.
Outer Port Heiden	Meshik R., Ugashik R.	Meshik R. (through July 31)

Ilnik Section

In February 2007, the Alaska Board of Fisheries changed regulations in the Ilnik Section (Figures 2 and 4; 5 AAC 09.369 (j)). The change permits fishing in that portion of the Ilnik Section outside of Ilnik Lagoon as early as June 20. That portion of the Ilnik Section outside of the Ilnik Lagoon and southwest of Unangashak Bluffs will be managed based on Ilnik River sockeye salmon run strength through July 20 unless a management concern exists for Ugashik River sockeye salmon (Figure 2). The portion of the Ilnik Section northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point will be managed based on Meshik River sockeye salmon run strength unless a management concern exists for Ilnik or Ugashik River sockeye salmon. Aerial surveys will be used to determine escapement into the Meshik River. Between July 20 and August 15, fishing time in the entire Ilnik Section will be based on Bear River sockeye salmon run strength. After August 15, local coho salmon run strength and CPUE will determine fishing time in the Ilnik Section unless a concern exists for Bear River late-run sockeye salmon.

The changes to regulation enacted by the 2007 Alaska Board of Fisheries were to control the surplus escapement into the Ilnik and Meshik rivers. Between 2004 and 2006, the sockeye salmon escapement into the Ilnik River averaged 108,000 fish and was well above the BEG of 40,000-60,000 while the Meshik River averaged 119,800 sockeye salmon escapement between 2004 and 2006 and was well above the SEG of 10,000-20,000 fish (Nelson et al. 2006). The Meshik River escapement goal was increased to an SEG of 20,000-60,000 sockeye salmon beginning in 2007 (Honnold et al. 2007). In 2004, two and a half days of fishing per week was permitted northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point because the impact of fishing in this area on Meshik River sockeye salmon stocks was unknown. During 2005 and 2006, the number of fishing days permitted was increased to a maximum of four and a half days per week. Processor harvest limits during 2004 and 2005 may have caused the increased salmon escapement of many North Alaska Peninsula rivers. In 2005, processor harvest limits were in effect for two and a half weeks. During 2007, fishing was be allowed in the Ilnik Section northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point as early as June 20, and permitted for a maximum of 4 ½ days per week. In 2008, a maximum of 4½ days per week of fishing will be allowed northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point, and may be less than that if a concern arises that the Meshik and Ilnik rivers may not achieve their season-ending escapement goals. Ilnik River interim escapement objectives and season-ending goals are shown in Table 5.

Table 5.—Ilnik River sockeye salmon escapement interim objectives if Ocean River flows into Ilnik River.

Date	Escapement for period	Cumulative escapement
20-Jun	5,000 - 8,000	5,000 - 8,000
25-Jun	5,000 - 7,000	10,000 - 15,000
30-Jun	5,000 - 10,000	15,000 - 25,000
5-Jul	5,000 - 10,000	20,000 - 35,000
10-Jul	10,000	30,000 - 45,000
15-Jul	5,000	35,000 - 50,000
20-Jul	3,000 - 7,000	38,000 - 57,000
25-Jul	2,000 - 3,000	40,000 - 60,000
Total escapement goal	40,000 - 60,000	

The sockeye salmon management objective for the Ocean River (Table 6) is based on aerial surveys when the river flows directly into the Bering Sea (not into the Ilnik River) as in 1972-1975, 1986-1987, and 2005-2007. When this occurs, many of the fish bound for Ocean River do not pass through the Ilnik River, and therefore do not pass the weir. For the years noted above, an average of about 20% of the total Ilnik River watershed escapement spawned in Ocean River. If the Ocean River were to flow directly into the Bering Sea during 2008, the Ocean River escapement objective would be subtracted from the Ilnik River escapement goal (Table 7). Because of the proximity of the Ocean River terminus to the Three Hills Section, management actions may be taken in the Three Hills Section to meet escapement objectives in Ocean River.

Table 6.—Ocean River aerial survey sockeye salmon escapement interim objectives if Ocean River flows directly into the Bering Sea.

Date	Cumulative escapement
15-Jun	1,000 - 1,600
20-Jun	2,000 - 3,000
25-Jun	3,000 - 5,000
5-Jul	6,000 - 9,000
10-Jul	7,000 - 10,000
15-Jul	7,600 - 11,400
20-Jul	8,000 - 12,000
Total escapement objective	8,000 - 12,000

Table 7.—Ilnik River sockeye salmon escapement interim objectives if Ocean River flows directly into the Bering Sea.

Date	Escapement for period	Cumulative escapement
20-Jun	4,000 - 6,400	4,000 - 6,400
25-Jun	4,000 - 5,600	8,000 - 12,000
30-Jun	4,000 - 8,000	12,000 - 20,000
5-Jul	4,000 - 8,000	16,000 - 28,000
10-Jul	8,000	24,000 - 36,000
15-Jul	4,000	28,000 - 40,000
20-Jul	3,000 - 5,600	30,400 - 45,600
25-Jul	2,000 - 3,000	32,000 - 48,000
Total escapement objective	32,000 - 48,000	

Inner Port Heiden, Outer Port Heiden, and Cinder River Sections

The Inner Port Heiden and Cinder River sections (Figure 2) will be managed on the basis of Chinook salmon abundance during May through mid June. The weekly fishing periods established in regulation are expected during this period with the potential to adjust or increase fishing time in the Inner Port Heiden Section prior to June 20 to accommodate local markets for those fish (Appendix A1). Sockeye salmon abundance during mid June through July and coho salmon abundance after July will dictate fishing time in these sections. Beginning June 20,

fishing time permitted in the Ilnik Section located northeast of Unangashak Bluffs (Figure 2) will be concurrent with fishing time in the Inner Port Heiden Section unless management concern exists for Ilnik or Ugashik river sockeye salmon and either interim or season-ending escapement goals appear likely not to be met. Area T permit holders may fish in the open waters of the Cinder River and Inner Port Heiden sections, and that portion of the Ilnik section within Ilnik Lagoon during every month except July (5 AAC 39.120 (d)). Area M permit holders are allowed to fish in the open waters of these sections during May through September. The fishing season in that portion of the Cinder River Section outside of Shagong Lagoon (Cinder River Lagoon) cannot open earlier than August 1 (5 AAC 09.310 (a)(1)(B); Figure 4). Fishermen in the Cinder River Section are reminded that the following waters are closed to commercial salmon fishing under 5 AAC 09.350 (1) and (2):

Cape Menshikof: all waters of the Cinder River Section located north and east of a line extending 304° from a point on the shore at 57° 24.40' N. lat. 158° 03.00' W. long.

Cinder River Lagoon: all waters enclosed by a line from 57° 20.00' N. lat., 158°08.02' W. long., to 57° 21.30' N. lat., 158°02.63' W. long.

In February 2007, the Alaska Board of Fisheries opened that portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section southwest of the line 158° 36.00' W. long. to commercial salmon fishing between June 20 and July 31 (5 AAC 09.310 (a)(2)(B) and 5 AAC 09.350 (3)). Fishing time in the Outer Port Heiden Section will be based on Meshik River sockeye salmon abundance unless management actions are taken for the conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon in the Egegik District. Weekly fishing periods in the Outer Port Heiden Section are scheduled to be two and one half days per week (Appendix A1).

BEAR RIVER TEST FISHERY

During the 2008 season, the ADF&G may conduct a test fishery near the mouth of Bear River (Figure 3) to assess the marine abundance of sockeye salmon. The main objective of the test fishery is to decrease the likelihood of exceeding the Bear River escapement goal and to maximize the harvest opportunity on the Bear River sockeye salmon stock. The test fishery will occur during commercial fishing closures after build-ups of fish are expected (usually 3-5 days after a closure). The ADF&G management staff in Port Moller will assess the sockeye salmon abundance after each test fishery. Management decisions will incorporate all information available including daily catch rates prior to the fishery closure, aerial survey estimates, daily escapement counts, and test fishery results. If salmon build-ups occur in the test fishery area, management actions may include opening the commercial fishery to provide harvest opportunities while providing a closed water area to protect milling Bear River bound sockeye salmon necessary for escapement needs. In the past, the ADF&G has closed areas around Bear River to ensure escapement requirements were achieved while providing a harvest opportunity outside the closed area.

The ADF&G office in Port Moller will establish and maintain a list of permit holders willing to participate in the test fishery program. Enrollment will begin on May 15 and continue until the first test fishing date. Enrollment can be completed in person, by phone, or over the radio. The permit holder must have at least five seasons of experience drift gillnet salmon fishing in the vicinity of Bear River, and each vessel must be able to chill the catch using refrigerated sea water.

All eligible names will be randomly chosen and a sequential list of charter vessels will be announced over the VHF radio and kept available at the ADF&G office in Port Moller. The sequential list will be maintained throughout the season. If the permit holder is unavailable to participate in the test fishery (permit holder cannot be contacted prior to 8:00 PM the day before the test fishery), the vessel will be moved to the bottom of the list and the next vessel on the list will be announced. Additional permit holders may enroll after the initial enrollment and drawing if additional test fish vessels are needed. However, these vessels will be placed at the end of the established list, in the order in which their enrollments are received.

Two chartered vessels will depart Port Moller in the morning of each test fishing day, and the vessel skippers will supply all necessary gear to make four sets at designated locations in the vicinity of Bear River. One vessel will fish north of the river mouth, and the other south of the river mouth. One ADF&G observer will be on board each vessel. The ADF&G will pay \$1,000 per day to charter each vessel. Proceeds from the sale of fish harvested in the ADF&G test fishery will be deposited in the ADF&G test fish fund to cover test fish expenses, including ADF&G personnel and equipment costs for age, length, and sex data collection. Each vessel must meet requirements specified by the ADF&G as stated in the North Alaska Peninsula Sockeye Salmon Test Fishery Operational Plan 2008 (Murphy and Tschersich 2008), where more specifics about the program can be obtained.

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FIGURES

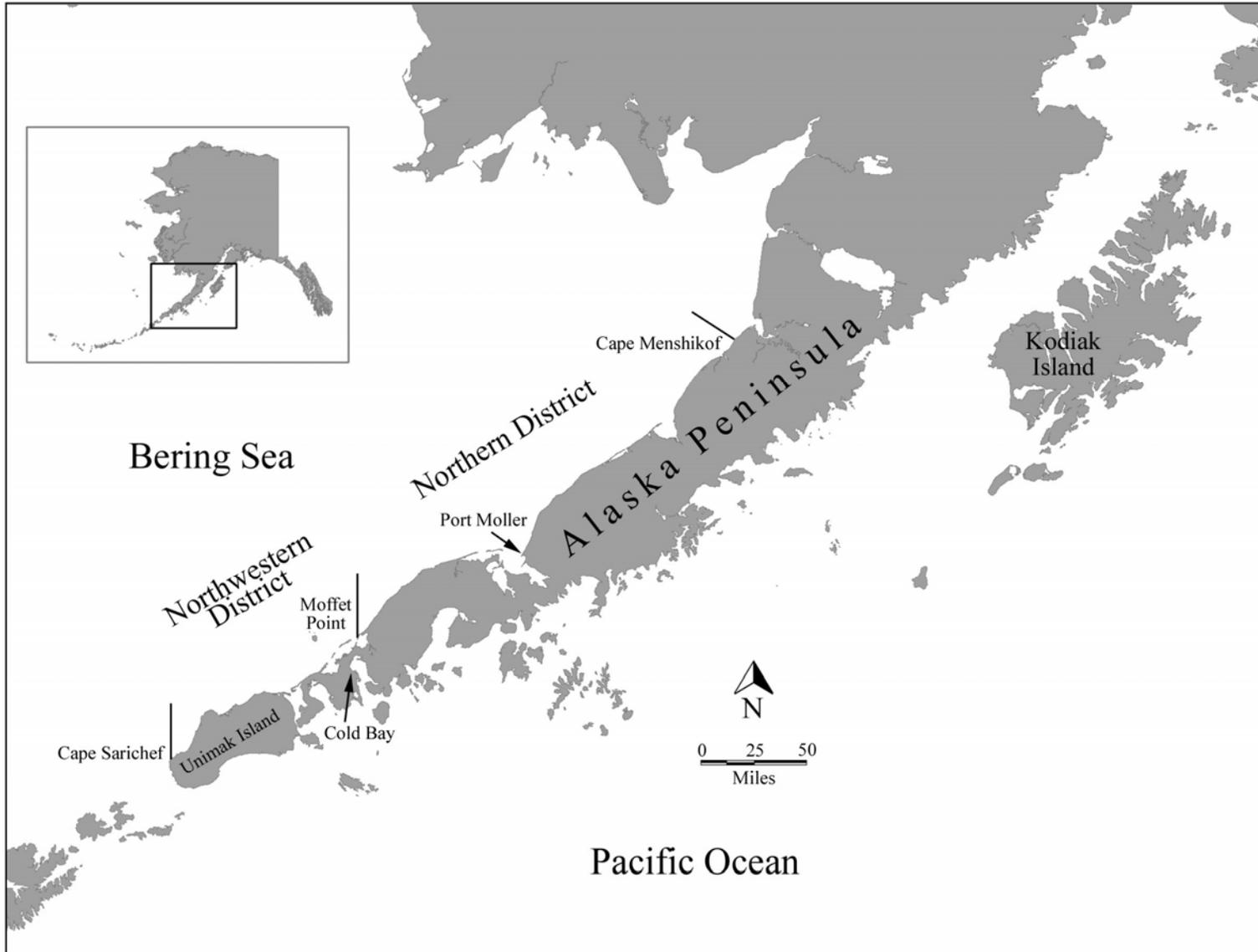


Figure 1.—Map of the Alaska Peninsula with North Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon fishing districts depicted.

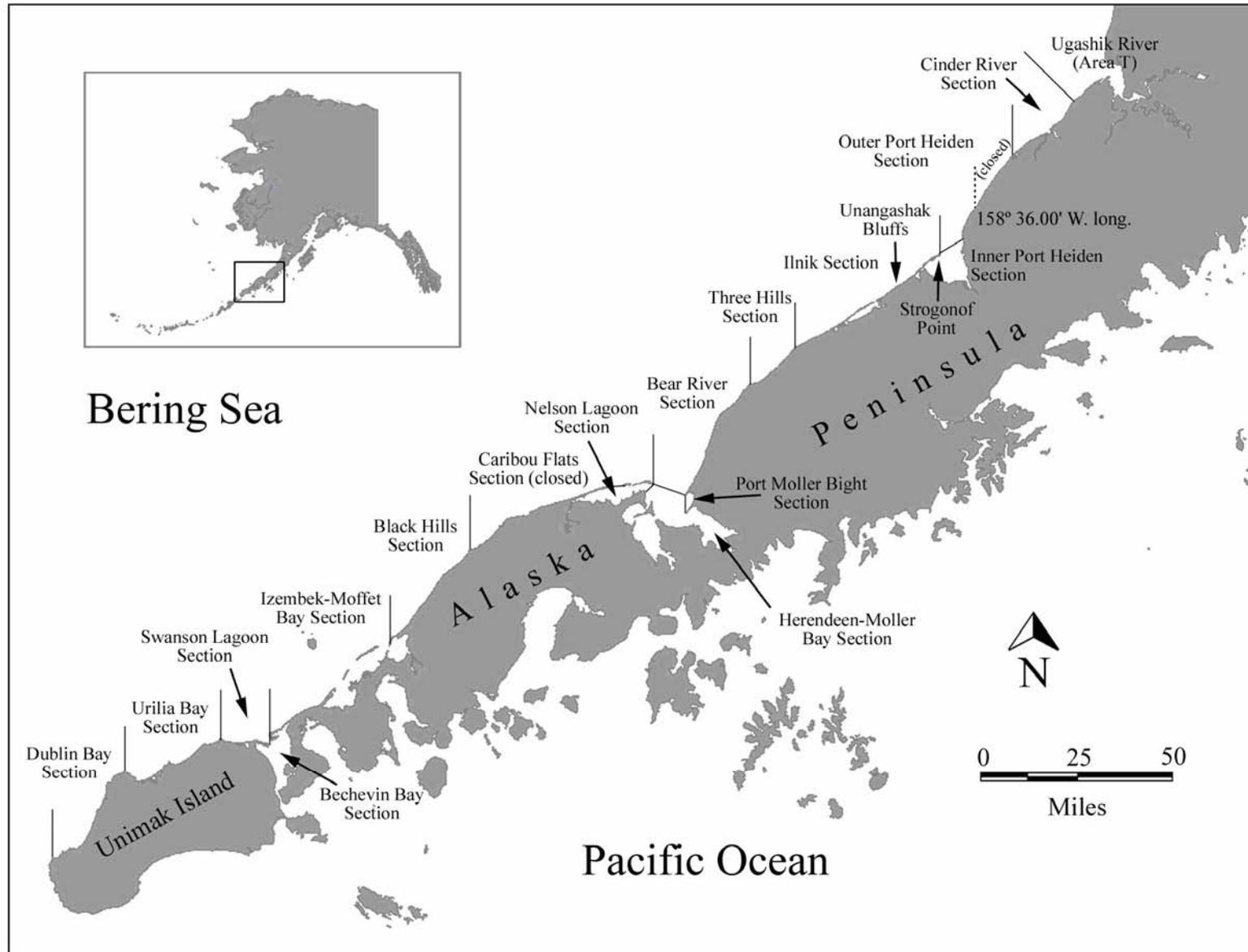


Figure 2.—Map of the Alaska Peninsula with North Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon fishing sections depicted.

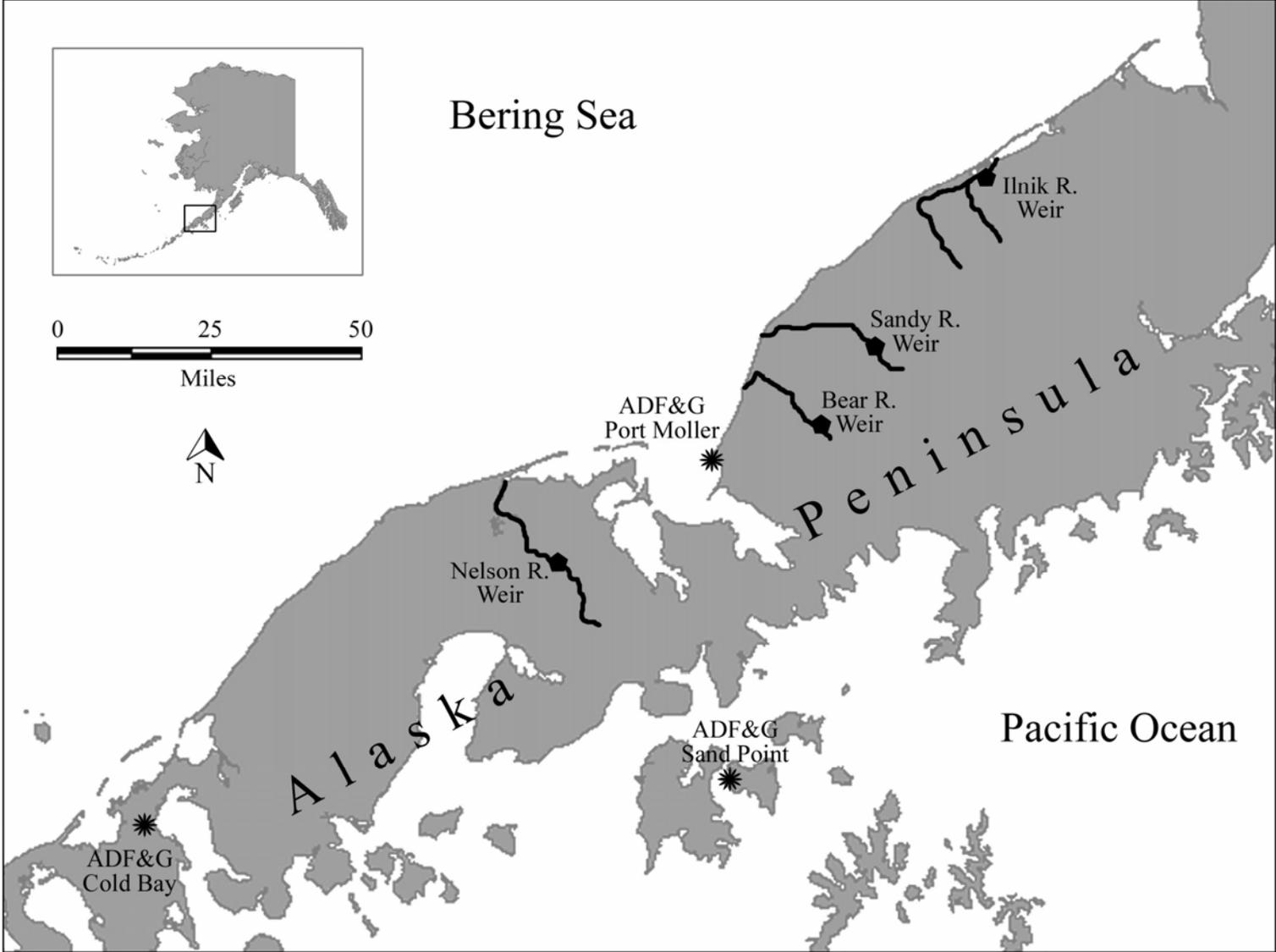


Figure 3.—Map of the Alaska Peninsula regional office and North Alaska Peninsula weir locations.

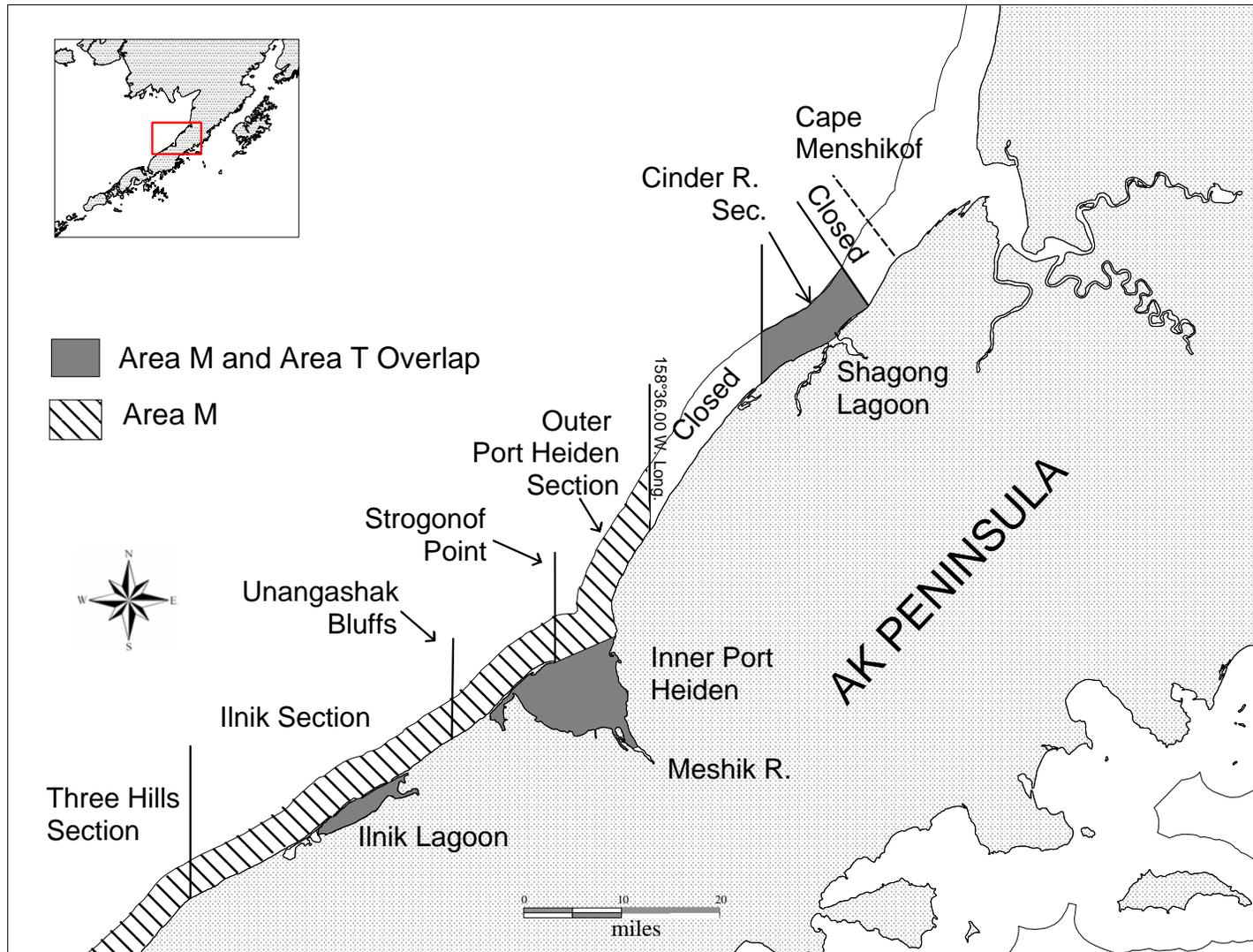


Figure 4.—Map of the Area M and Area T overlap area with the portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section opened to commercial salmon fishing in 2007 depicted.

**APPENDIX A. SCHEDULED NORTH ALASKA PENINSULA
FISHING PERIODS**

Appendix A1.—Scheduled North Alaska Peninsula fishing periods as described in regulations.

Section	Open season	Scheduled fishing period
Cinder River		
Outside Shagong Lagoon	August 1 - September 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Wednesday
Inside Shagong Lagoon	May 1 - September 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Wednesday
Outer Port Heiden		
(SW of 158° 36.00' W. long.)	June 20 - July 31	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Wednesday
(NE of 158° 36.00' W. long.)	No open season	
Inner Port Heiden	May 1 - September 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Wednesday
Ilnik Section		
Southwest of Unangashak Bluffs (159° 10.25' W. long.) excluding Ilnik Lagoon and within the Seal Islands	June 20 - September 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Wednesday
Between Unangashak Bluffs (159° 10.25' W. long.) to Strogonof Point (158° 50.45' W. long.).	June 20 - September 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Wednesday
Inside Ilnik Lagoon and within the Seal Islands	May 1 – June 19	NOON Monday to 11:59 PM Wednesday
Inside Ilnik Lagoon and within the Seal Islands	June 20 - September 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Wednesday
Three Hills	June 25 - June 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Wednesday
Three Hills	July 1 - September 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Thursday
Bear River	May 1 - June 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Wednesday
Bear River	July 1 - September 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Thursday

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Section	Open season	Scheduled fishing period
Port Moller Bight	May 1 - September 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Thursday
Herendeen-Moller Bay	May 1 - July 20	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Thursday
Nelson Lagoon	May 1 - June 15	6:00 AM Monday to MIDNIGHT Wednesday
	June 16 - August 15	6:00 AM Monday to MIDNIGHT Thursday
	August 16 - September 30	6:00 AM Monday to MIDNIGHT Wednesday
Caribou Flats	No open season	
Black Hills	May 1 - June 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Wednesday
	July 1 - September 30	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Thursday
Izembek-Moffet Bay	June 1 - August 31	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Thursday
	September 1 - September 30	by emergency order only
Swanson Lagoon	June 1 - August 31	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Thursday
	September 1 – September 30	by emergency order only
Urilia Bay ^a	June 1 – September 30	by emergency order only
Dublin Bay	July 10 - August 31	6:00 AM Monday to 6:00 PM Thursday
	September 1 – September 30	by emergency order only
Bechevin Bay	June 1 - September 30	by emergency order only

^a In recent years, the fishing season in the Urilia Bay Section has been delayed until late June to obtain a substantial amount of sockeye salmon escapement before fishing begins.