

**STAFF COMMENTS
ON KODIAK FINFISH REGULATORY PROPOSALS**

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING
KODIAK, ALASKA**

JANUARY 7-10, 2014



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The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, January 7-10, 2014 in Kodiak, Alaska and are prepared to assist the public and board. The stated staff comments should be considered preliminary and subject to change, if or when new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral testimony presented to the board.

ABSTRACT

This document contains Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) staff comments on Kodiak Management Area finfish regulatory proposals. These comments were prepared by the department for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting, January 7-10, 2014 in Kodiak, Alaska to assist the public and board. The stated staff comments should be considered preliminary and subject to change, if or when new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral testimony presented to the board.

Key words: Alaska Board of Fisheries, staff comments, subsistence, personal use, sport, commercial, regulatory proposals, finfish, salmon.

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SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT POSITION

Proposal #	Dept. Position	Issue
100	N	Restore sport limit of rockfish to 10 per day outside of Chiniak Bay.
369	S	Implement management plan for open-access weathervane scallop fishery in waters of Alaska.
88	N/O	Change staggered fishing periods in Olga Bay, Moser Bay, Alitak Bay and Cape Alitak.
89	O	Change management dates for Cape Alitak Section based on late Upper Station returns.
90	N/O	Establish management options for Humpy-Deadman Section after July 15 for the protection of other salmon run in Alitak District.
91	N	Amend management plan to direct department manage for early-run Upper Station sockeye and to achieve biological escapement goals (BEGs) for early-run Upper Station and Frazer sockeye salmon.
92	N/O	Change management standard that harvest of sockeye salmon in Cape Igvak Section not exceed 15% at any time or before August 26.
93	N	Amend plan to apply allocation of 15% of total Chignik sockeye salmon catch only before July 8.
94	O	Require check-in and check-out in Cape Igvak Section and delivery of salmon before leaving section.
95	N/O	Establish certain set gillnet-only fishing periods, beginning June 28, in the Central and North Cape sections.
96	N	After August 15, allow gillnet gear in Inner Bay sections of Northwest Kodiak District during open fishing periods if Central and North Cape sections are closed for more than 48 hours.
97	O	Delay closure of Northwest Kodiak District if gale warning is forecast for Shelikof Straits.
98	N	Allow CFEC seine salmon permit holders to operate additional gear under a dual permit or joint venture.
99	N	Reinstate dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder to operate additional gear.
43	O	Create state-waters groundfish management plans for trawl vessels less than 58 feet in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak and Chignik management areas.
44	N/O	Create state-waters walleye pollock management plans for Cook Inlet, Kodiak and Chignik management areas.
45	N	Require 100 percent observer coverage on groundfish trawl vessels in state waters of the Cook Inlet, Kodiak and Chignik management areas.
101	N/O	Close Alitak Bay to trawl gear.
102	N	Prohibit nonpelagic trawling in state waters of Kodiak Area.

Note: N = Neutral
 S = Support
 O = Oppose

PROPOSAL 100 – 5 AAC 64.022. Waters; Seasons; Bag, Possession, and Size Limits; and Special Provisions for the Kodiak Area.

PROPOSED BY: Kodiak Association of Charter Operators.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the sport bag limit for pelagic rockfish in Kodiak Area waters outside of Chiniak Bay to 10 fish per day.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Kodiak Area rockfish bag limit is five per day, only two of which may be nonpelagic species, and only one of which may be a yelloweye. The rockfish possession limit is 10 fish, of which four may be nonpelagic; only two nonpelagic rockfish may be yelloweye.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would increase the bag limit for pelagic rockfish in Kodiak Area waters outside Chiniak Bay. A bag limit analysis conducted by the department, using historical charter vessel logbook records, indicated that increasing the bag limit for pelagic rockfish in waters outside Chiniak Bay from five to 10 fish per day would increase the current areawide sport rockfish harvest by approximately 7%.

Bag limits would be different for pelagic rockfish inside and outside of Chiniak Bay, which would lead to potential difficulties with compliance and enforcement.

BACKGROUND: Annual Kodiak Area sport rockfish harvests historically ranged between 4,000–8,000 fish until 2005, when the harvest increased to over 15,000 fish. Harvests averaged over 14,000 fish for the next five years (Table 100-1). The growth trend is largely attributable to guided anglers, whose share of harvest rose from 30% in 2000 to 60% during 2009. In 2011, the rockfish bag limit was reduced from 10 to five fish per day, and an inclusive limit of two fish per day was also established for nonpelagic species, only one of which could be a yelloweye. The 2011 harvest decreased by 22%, but increased again in 2012. The current 10-year average total harvest remains around 14,000 fish, of which an average of approximately 55% has been taken in waters of Chiniak Bay.

Sport rockfish harvests from Kodiak waters include pelagic species (black, dark, and dusky) and nonpelagic species (yelloweye). Pelagic rockfishes have historically comprised about 94% of annual harvests.

Black rockfish are also harvested annually in a directed commercial jig fishery and incidentally in relatively small numbers by other commercial gear types. The commercial black rockfish fishery is managed for guideline harvest levels established preseason for each of seven fishing districts. Since 2003, the annual commercial harvest has ranged between approximately 85,000 and 136,000 pounds, and averaged around 120,000 pounds.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. The current areawide rockfish bag limit was set by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 2011 to address a trend of escalating annual sport harvests. There may be additional harvestable surplus of pelagic

rockfish in Kodiak Area waters outside of Chiniak Bay. However, there are no fishery-independent stock assessment data for Kodiak rockfish species. The current bag limits maintain harvest levels as a precautionary approach to managing this fishery, provide consistency within the Kodiak area, and are consistent with rockfish bag limits in adjacent management areas.

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 100-1.–Kodiak Area sport fishery harvests of rockfish, 2003–2012.

Year	Harvest ^a		
	Kodiak Area Total	Chiniak Bay Waters	% of Kodiak
2003	6,166	2,806	46%
2004	7,844	3,772	48%
2005	15,392	8,163	53%
2006	11,688	5,040	43%
2007	12,551	7,845	63%
2008	15,596	9,635	62%
2009	15,937	10,538	66%
2010	19,897	12,310	62%
2011	15,539	9,111	59%
2012	18,511	8,372	45%
Avg.	13,912	7,759	55%

^aNo. of fish; source: ADF&G Statewide Sport Fish Harvest Survey.

PROPOSAL 369 – 5 AAC 38.XXX. State-Waters Weathervane Scallop Fishery Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would implement a management plan delineating additional tools needed to manage open-access weathervane scallop fisheries in waters of Alaska. The management plan would apply to the Yakutat, Prince William Sound, Kodiak, and Dutch Harbor scallop registration areas. The proposal does not seek to modify the existing *Alaska Scallop Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 38.076; ASFMP).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Scallop beds that occur in both state and federal waters are presently managed as one unit under the ASFMP. The ASFMP establishes scallop registration areas, and implements registration, check-out, reporting, lawful gear, and observer coverage requirements. The plan also places limits on the size of a scallop fishing vessel's crew, prohibits mechanical shucking of scallop meats, and provides the department authority to establish crab bycatch limits in the scallop fishery. Vessel participation in weathervane scallop fisheries in waters of Alaska is currently restricted by a vessel-based limited entry permit system. In federal waters, a license limitation program (LLP) constrains vessel participation in the weathervane scallop fishery. There are currently nine scallop LLP permits.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, the management plan would define the scallop vessel registration year, establish an annual preseason registration deadline of April 1, allow the department to manage scallop beds in waters of Alaska separately from beds in adjacent federal waters, require a registered scallop vessel to have onboard an activated vessel monitoring system (VMS) approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service, permit the department to establish trip limits, and allow for separate registrations for state and federal-waters fishing.

BACKGROUND: After the vessel-based limited entry program sunsets on December 30, 2013, the department will need additional tools to manage the scallop resource in waters of Alaska separately from the federal-waters component if effort increases in the open-access state-waters fishery. This proposal provides a mechanism to adopt management measures that prevent overharvest of the weathervane scallop resource during an open-access fishery in waters of Alaska.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** 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 the vessel is not equipped with an approved VMS, and for observer coverage.

PROPOSAL 88 – 5 AAC 18.361. Alitak District Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Nina Burkholder.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to change the staggered fishing periods in the Olga Bay, Moser Bay, Alitak Bay, and Cape Alitak sections by opening all sections at 9:00 a.m., closing all sections at 6:00 p.m., and increasing the minimum closure period to 87 consecutive hours in every eight-day fishing period (figures 88-1 and 88-2). The proposal would discontinue the proposed fishing periods if the escapement goal for the Frazer and Upper Station sockeye salmon runs are projected to be exceeded.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under the *Alitak District Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 18.361(b) in the Cape Alitak, Humpy-Deadman, Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections (Figure 88-2), from June 1 through June 13, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a 33-hour commercial test fishing period beginning at 12:00 noon. From the conclusion of the commercial test fishing period through September 15, there shall be a minimum closure of 69 consecutive hours in every 10-day period, to apply to each section individually as each section closes, unless the department determines that the sockeye salmon escapement goals will be achieved for the Frazer and Upper Station sockeye salmon runs.

Also under the *Alitak District Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 18.361 (c) except during the commercial test fishing period under (b) of this section, from June 1 through September 15, the commissioner shall open, and close, by emergency order, fishing periods for the Cape Alitak, Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections at different times, as follows:

(1) in the Olga Bay Section, fishing periods shall open at 6:00 a.m. and shall close at 9:00 a.m. the following day;

(2) in the Moser Bay Section, fishing periods shall open at 12:00 noon the same day as the Olga Bay Section under this subsection, and shall close at 3:00 p.m. the following day;

(3) in the Alitak Bay Section, fishing periods shall open at 6:00 p.m. the same day as the Olga Bay and Moser Bay sections under this subsection and shall close at 9:00 p.m. the following day;

(4) in the Cape Alitak Section, fishing periods shall open at 6:00 a.m. the day following the opening of the Olga Bay, Moser Bay, and Alitak Bay sections under this subsection and shall close at 9:00 a.m. the following day.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would reduce fishing periods from a potential 7.1 consecutive days of fishing to 4.3 consecutive days of fishing and increase the minimum closed fishing period from 69 hours to 87 consecutive hours. The department would manage the fishery based on the same biological criteria for Alitak District salmon stocks that are the basis of current fisheries management. If the department determined that escapement goals for targeted species would be met, then commercial fishing time could be allowed up to 4.3 consecutive days. Fishery opening times and length of fishing periods would be the same for the Olga Bay, Moser Bay, Alitak Bay, and Cape Alitak sections of the Alitak District (figures 88-1 and 88-2). Having the same fishing periods for these sections would increase the amount of time that gear is actually out of the water for the entire Alitak District.

This proposal also suggests discontinuing the mandatory closure if the department projects that the Frazer and Upper Station escapement goals will be exceeded. This will likely result in escapement in excess of escapement goals and nontraditional terminal area fisheries.

BACKGROUND: Proposals were submitted to the January 1999 Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting to modify the *Alitak District Salmon Management Plan* to protect the “genetic diversity” of district salmon systems and increase sockeye salmon harvest for Olga Bay fishermen to historical percentages through an allocation plan. Instead, the board amended the management plan to restrict use of very long or continuous fishing periods. The board mandated that there be a minimum of 2.6 days of fishery closure during every 10-day period. It was hoped that the 2.6-day closure windows would allow for pulses of escapement to reach the major and minor systems in Olga Bay, and perhaps increase the Olga Bay fishermen’s sockeye salmon harvest percentage without placing a strict allocative plan in regulation.

At the January 2002 board meeting, changes were again made to the management plan and the gillnet-only Olga-Moser Bay Section was divided into the Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections (Figure 88-2). Changes to the management plan included additional fishing time for the new Olga Bay and Moser Bay sections, as well as differential opening times for fishing periods for these three gillnet areas and the seine-only Cape Alitak Section. Allocation guidelines for sockeye salmon harvest from these four areas, through September 15, were specified in regulation in order to measure the effectiveness of differential opening times in allocating harvest; these guidelines were expressly not an inseason management requirement. These allocation guidelines were presented as ranges for the season total harvest of early- and late-run sockeye salmon by each of the four groups: Olga Bay gillnet, Moser Bay gillnet, Alitak Bay gillnet, and Cape Alitak purse seine fishermen.

At the October 2002 board work session, an agenda change request (ACR) was submitted to change the differential fishing times, and was accepted and deliberated on at the March 2003 board meeting. Some modifications of the *Alitak District Salmon Management Plan* were adopted, which reduced the amount of additional fishing time given to Olga Bay and Moser Bay fishermen, and provided the Cape Alitak Section seine fisheries the same opening times as those for Alitak Bay Section set gillnet fisheries.

The *Alitak District Salmon Management Plan* was modified again during the January 2005 board meeting by rescinding the allocative objectives and reinstating equal fishing time between sections and gear type. Staggered openings between sections remained in effect, except that the Cape Alitak Section (seine only area) now opened 24 hours after the Olga Bay Section. No changes were made to the *Alitak District Salmon Management Plan* at the board meeting in January 2008. The current version of the *Alitak District Salmon Management Plan* has been in effect for the 2005–2013 Kodiak Management Area commercial salmon fishing seasons.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, the department **OPPOSES** this proposal because a reduction in the total allowable fishing time and an increase in required closed fishing periods would greatly hinder the department’s ability to manage salmon runs during years with strong returns. The department needs the ability to manage each system independently in the event that one run is stronger than the other.

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.

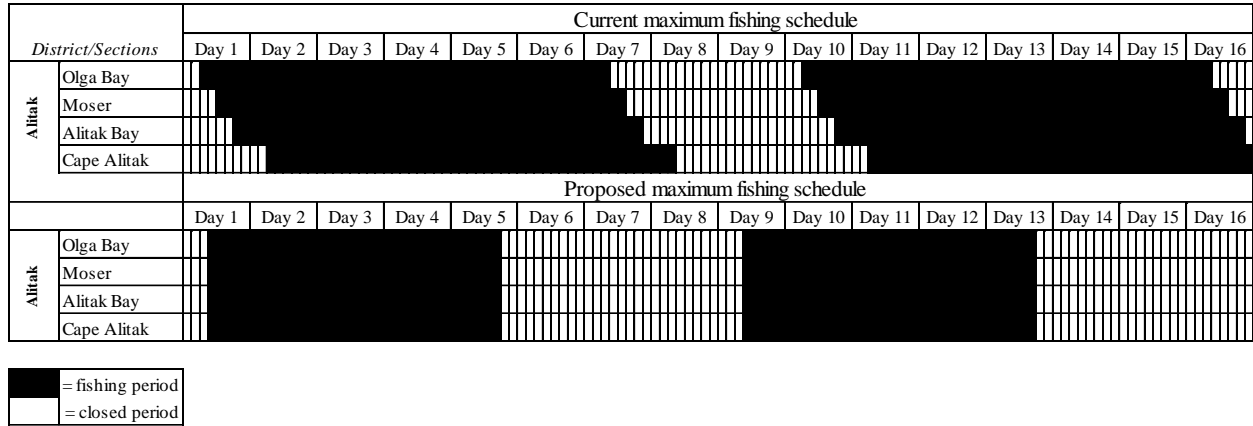


Figure 88-1.—The current and proposed fishing schedule of the Olga Bay, Moser Bay, Alitak Bay, and Cape Alitak sections of the Alitak District.

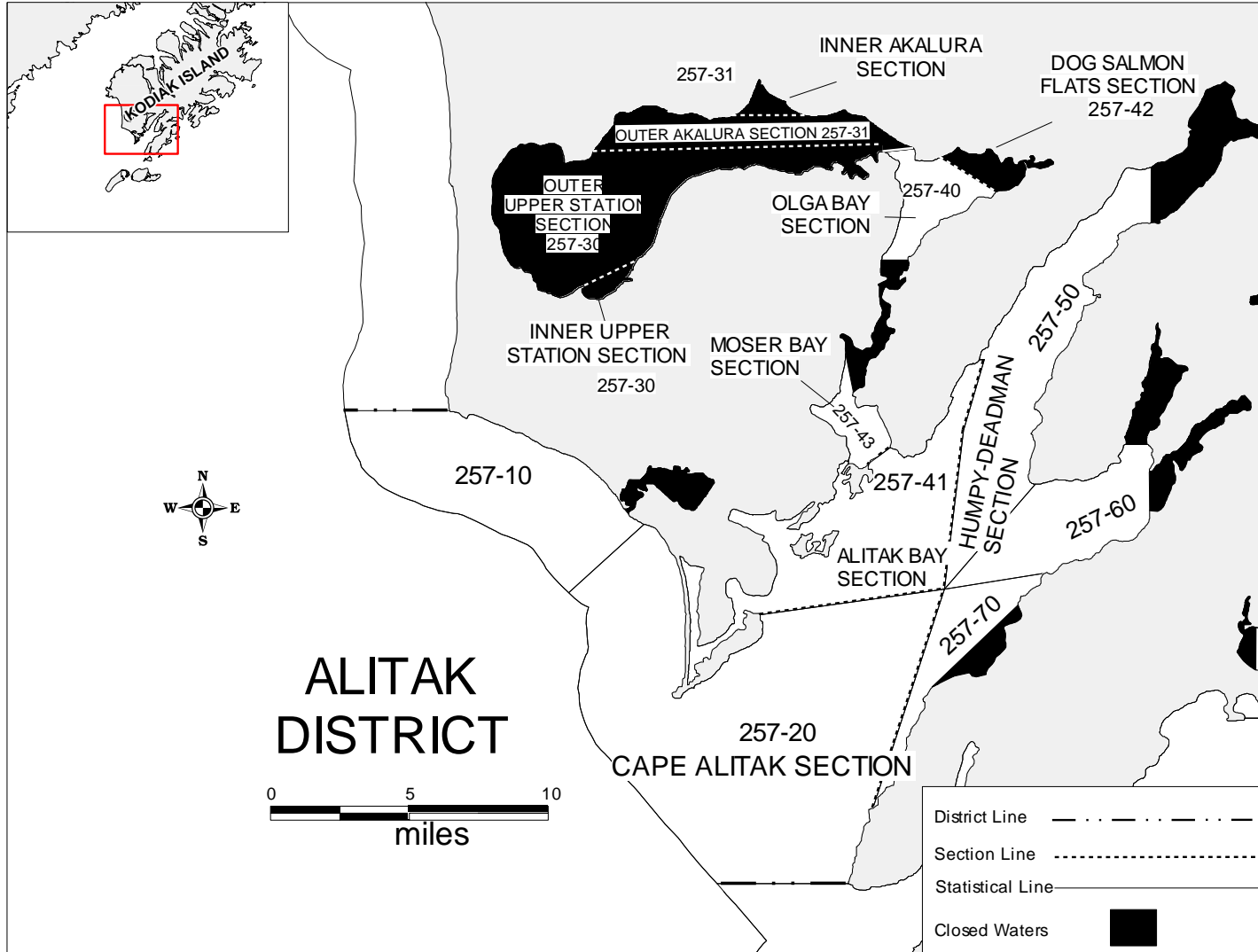


Figure 88-2.—Map of the Alitak District commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.

PROPOSAL 89 – 5 AAC 18.361. Alitak District Salmon Management Plan.

Note: The intent of the proposer was to also change the time periods within 5 AAC 18.361(h) for the Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections of the Alitak District, in addition to changing the time periods in the Cape Alitak Section.

PROPOSED BY: Eric Dieters.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to change management periods for the Cape Alitak, Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections of the Alitak District (Figure 89-1). This proposal would change the current management period of July 16 through August 9 to a management period of July 16 through August 1. This proposal would also change the current management period of August 10 through August 25 to a management period of August 2 through August 25.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under the *Alitak District Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 18.361,

(g) the Cape Alitak Section shall be managed, from July 16 through August 9, in odd-numbered years, the Cape Alitak Section shall be managed based on either the sockeye salmon or pink salmon return to the Frazer system, and in even-numbered years, it shall be managed based on the sockeye salmon return to either the Frazer system or to Upper Station. From August 10 through August 25, in odd-numbered years, the Cape Alitak Section shall be managed based on the sockeye salmon return to Upper Station, and in even-numbered years, it shall be managed based on either the pink salmon return to the Frazer system or on the sockeye salmon return to the Upper Station system.

(h) The Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections shall be managed, from July 16 through August 9, in odd-numbered years, the Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections shall be managed based on either the sockeye salmon or pink salmon return to the Frazer system, and in even-numbered years it shall be managed based on the sockeye salmon return to either Frazer system or Upper Station. From August 10 through August 25, in odd-numbered years, the Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections shall be managed based on the sockeye salmon return to Upper Station, and in even-numbered years it shall be managed based on either the pink salmon return to the Frazer or on the sockeye salmon return to the Upper Station system.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Adoption of this proposal would shift two management periods in the Cape Alitak, Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections to eight days earlier (Figure 89-1). The main effect of this proposal would be to shift management of Upper Station sockeye salmon during odd-numbered years by approximately eight days earlier in August. This would eliminate the department's ability to manage for strong pink returns to the Frazer system during odd-numbered years. Management during even-numbered years would not see much of a change since fishing periods are based on either Frazer or Upper Station systems' sockeye salmon returns from July 16 through August 9, which would overlap with the proposed management periods. Determining the strength of escapement to Upper Station by August 1 would be difficult, and basing management exclusively on Upper Station sockeye salmon would hinder the department's ability to manage both sockeye and pink salmon escapement to the Frazer system during strong escapement years.

BACKGROUND: Management of mixed stocks, different species, and different run times over odd and even years offers a unique challenge for the department to find balance for the salmon returning to all systems in the Alitak District. The average run timing (2000–2012) of late-run sockeye salmon to Upper Station shows that approximately 6.85% of the total sockeye salmon escapement has returned by August 1. On average, approximately 20.90% of the sockeye salmon escapement has returned to Upper Station by August 10 (Figure 89-2). During even-number years, the average run timing (2000–2012) of pink salmon returning to the Frazer system shows that approximately 7.61% of the total pink escapement has returned by August 1 (Figure 89-3). Conversely, during odd-numbered years, approximately 40.42% of the pink salmon escapement has returned to the Frazer system by August 1 (Figure 89-3).

The current management plan changes management focus to late-run sockeye salmon Upper Station and even-year pink salmon to the Frazer system on August 10. This allows the department to determine the strength of escapements in order to make an informed decision about fishing opportunities in the Cape Alitak, Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections of the Alitak District. A change to August 1 would not provide enough information about the strength of either sockeye or pink salmon escapement, as it would be early in the runs, and single large pulses or weak initial returns would be deceptive indicators about the strength of the runs.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal due to biological concerns for sockeye salmon escapement to both the Frazer and Upper Station systems, and pink salmon escapement to the Frazer system.

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.

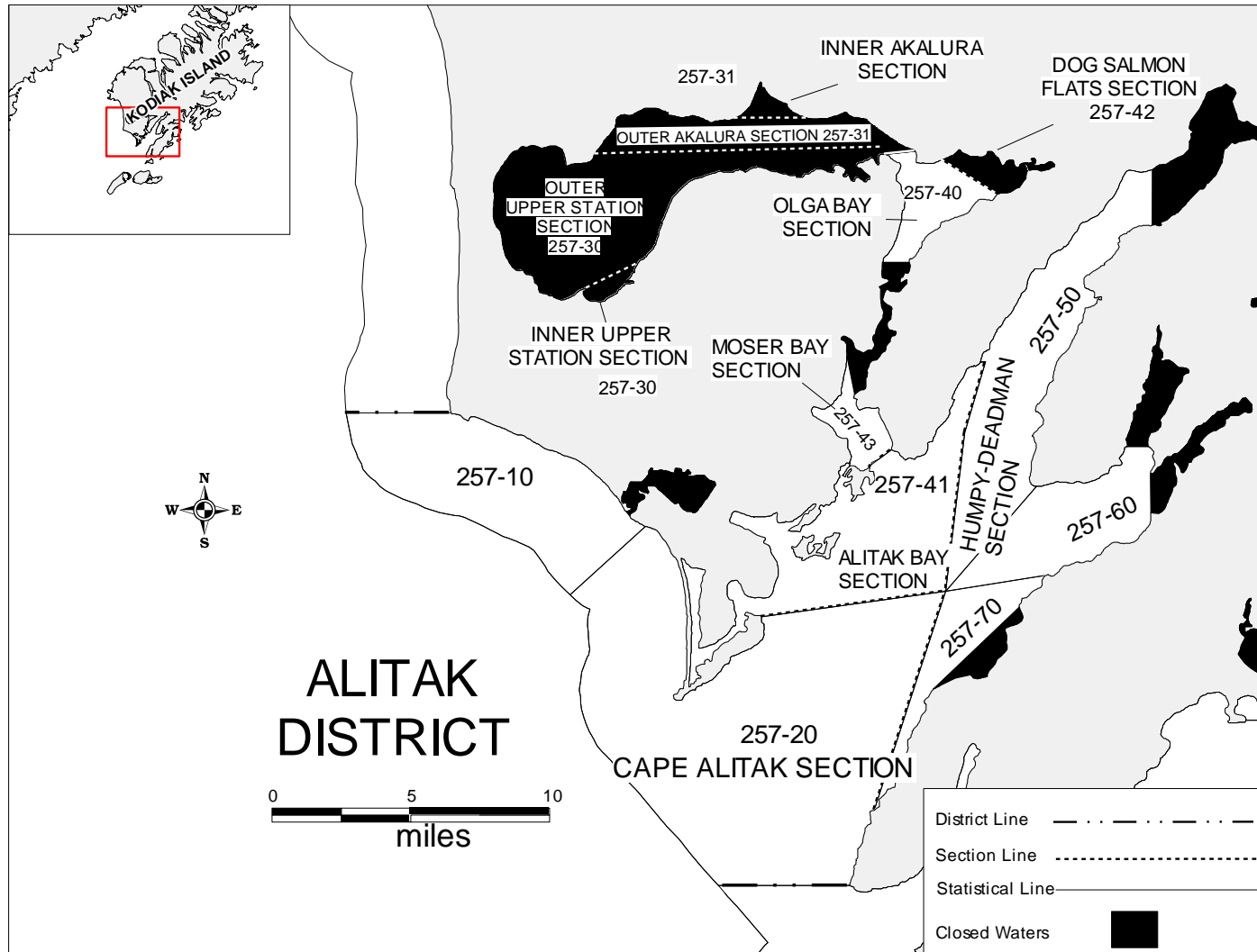


Figure 89-1.—Map of the Alitak District commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.

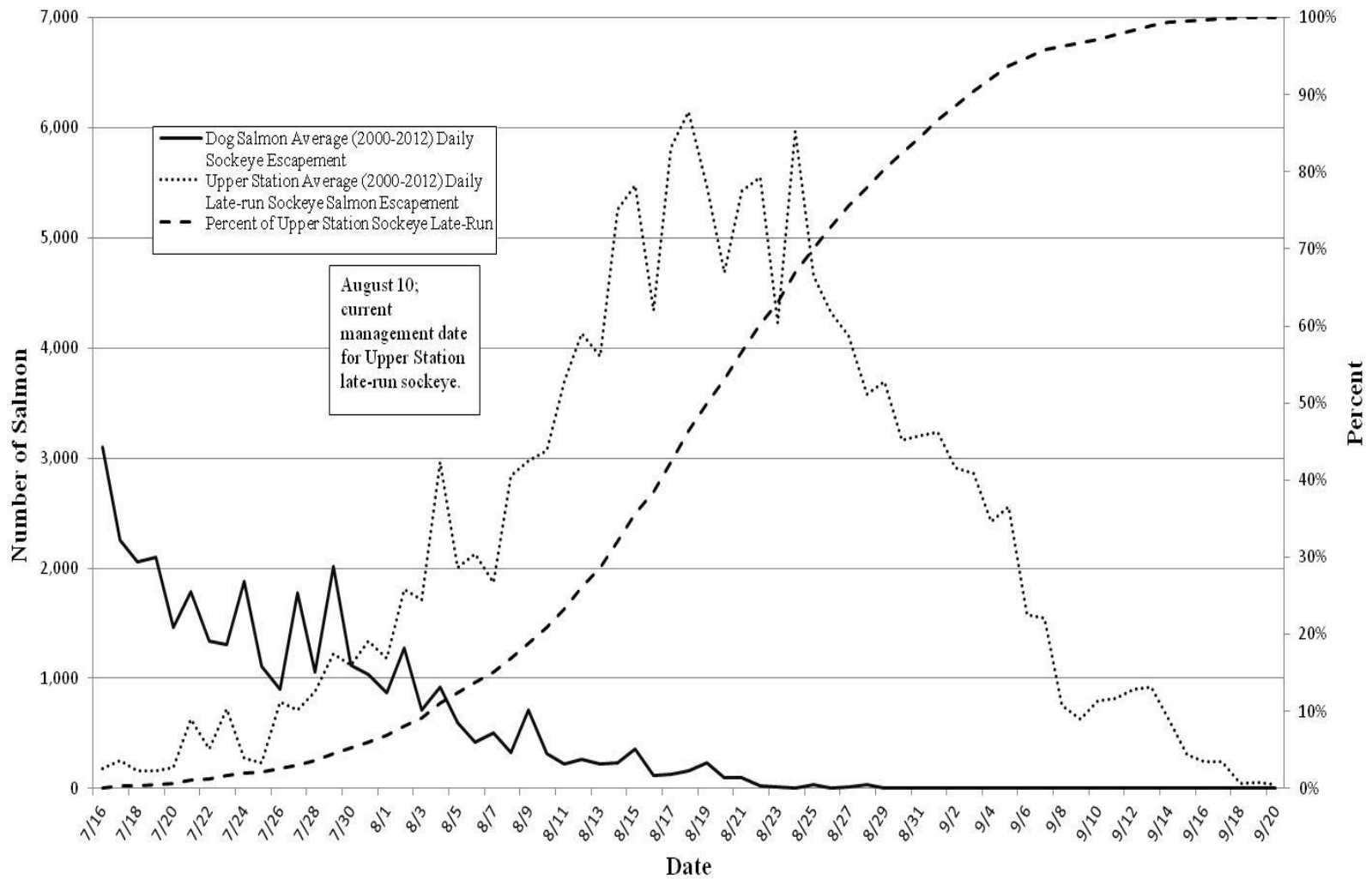


Figure 89-2.—Dog Salmon (Frazer system) and Upper Station late-run sockeye salmon escapements by day and percent escapement of late-run sockeye salmon to the Upper Station system.

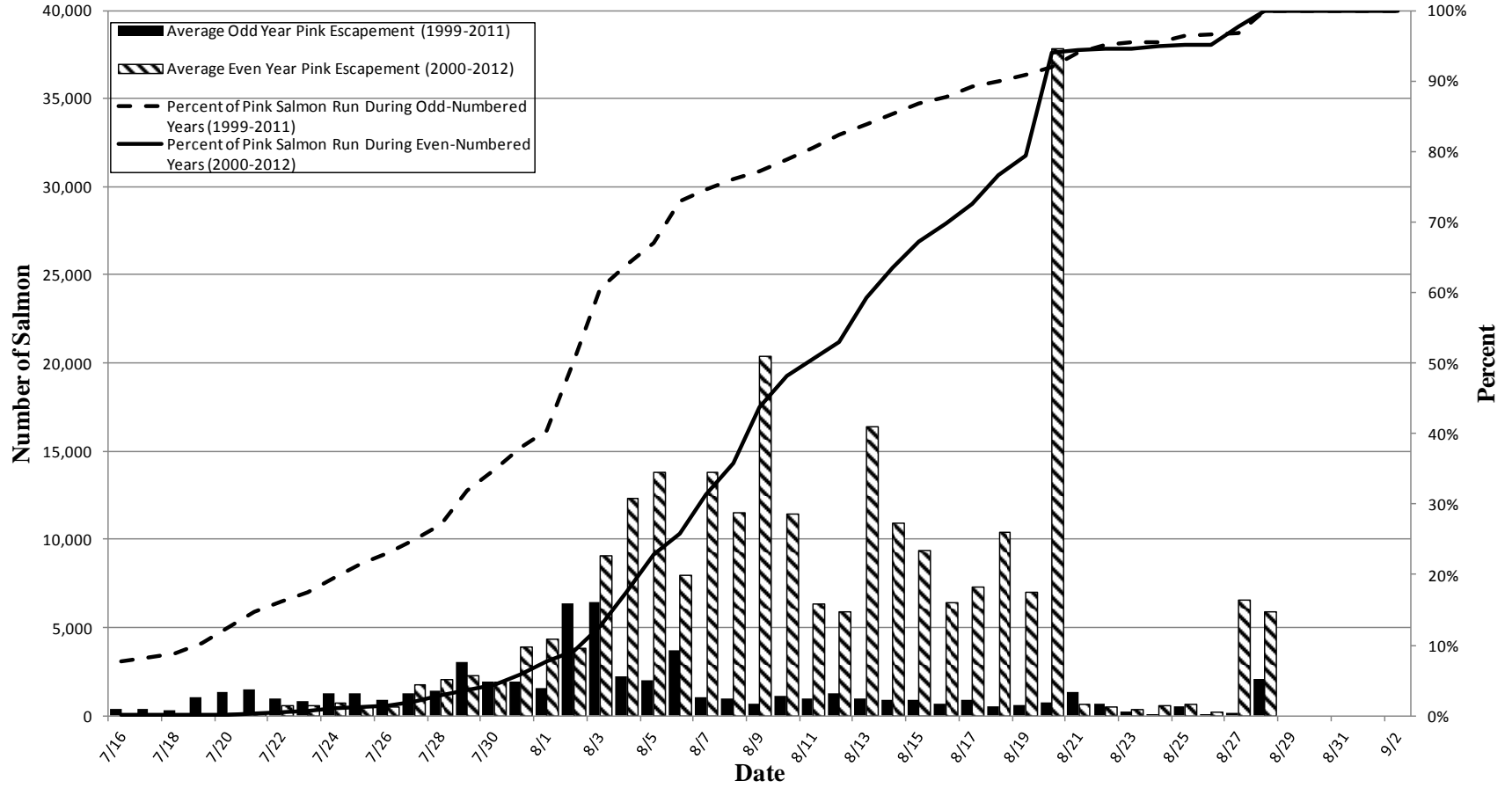


Figure 89-3.—Dog Salmon (Frazer System) average pink salmon escapement and percent of the pink salmon run during odd and even-numbered years.

PROPOSAL 90 – 5 AAC 18.361. Alitak District Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Eric Dieters.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? From July 16 through August 9, management of the Humpy-Deadman Section of the Alitak District would remain unchanged and would be managed based on the strength of salmon returning to systems within the Humpy-Deadman Section. Beginning August 10, this proposal seeks to base management of the Humpy-Deadman Section on the strength of the Upper Station sockeye salmon late run. On years when escapement of late-run sockeye salmon to Upper Station is not being met, continuous fishing would not be allowed in the Humpy-Deadman Section, and openings and closures would be “pulsed”. This proposal suggests a 24-hour closure within a 72-hour fishing period. It is unclear as to when the “pulsed” provision would take effect as the department does not base management on inseason objectives, but rather manages for the end-of-season escapement goal. This proposal also suggests moving fishing boundaries to reduce late-run sockeye salmon harvest in Humpy-Deadman Section; however, no direction is given as to where those boundaries would be moved.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under the *Alitak District Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 18.361(i), the Humpy-Deadman Section shall be managed, from June 1 through July 15, at the same time, and with equal fishing time, with the Cape Alitak Section. After July 15, the Humpy-Deadman Section shall be managed based on the strength of salmon returns to systems located within the Humpy-Deadman Section.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would direct the department to manage the Humpy-Deadman Section by only allowing 72 hours of continuous fishing followed by a 24-hour closure during years that the Upper Station late-run sockeye salmon escapement is not being met. This would severely hinder the department’s ability to manage the pink and chum salmon escapements to the Humpy-Deadman Section, and during years of strong pink and chum salmon returns, would likely result in escapement beyond objectives and reduced harvest opportunity. It is unknown as to how moving the Humpy-Deadman boundaries would affect late-run sockeye salmon harvest. The department does not have a stock-separation study and does not know what percentage of sockeye salmon caught in the Humpy-Deadman Section are bound for Upper Station.

BACKGROUND: The *Alitak District Salmon Management Plan* was formulated as a regulatory management plan and adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 1987. The regulatory subsection describing the Humpy-Deadman Section management strategy has remained unchanged since 1988.

In some years, the Humpy-Deadman Section has been open when the Cape Alitak, Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections have been closed after July 15 (Figure 90-1 and Table 90-1). During those fishing periods, some sockeye salmon were harvested, but the majority of the harvest was pink and chum salmon (Table 90-2). On average, the sockeye salmon harvest in the Humpy-Deadman Section is a minor component of the total sockeye salmon harvest in the Alitak District (Table 90-2). The department cannot determine the exact location within the Humpy-Deadman Section where these harvests were made.

In 2011, the late-run Upper Station sockeye salmon escapement was weak and fishing periods in the Cape Alitak, Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections were restricted. However, the pink run to the Alitak District was strong and additional fishing opportunities were permitted in the Humpy-Deadman Section as it is managed based on the strength of salmon returns to systems located within the Humpy-Deadman Section after July 15 (tables 90-1 and 90-2).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal for biological reasons. If adopted, this proposal would hinder the department's ability to control pink and chum salmon escapements in the Humpy-Deadman Section.

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 90-1.—Cape Alitak, Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, Olga Bay sockeye salmon harvest compared to Humpy-Deadman Section sockeye and pink salmon harvest after July 15.

Year	Cape Alitak, Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, Olga Bay			Humpy-Deadman Section			
	Days Fished	Sockeye	Avg. Sockeye	Days Fished	Sockeye	Pink	Avg. Sockeye
2000	29	175,011	6,035	9	3,774	35,000	419
2001	14	81,858	5,847	29	22,354	1,148,428	771
2002	0	0	0	23	14,575	1,078,120	634
2003	37	261,737	7,074	16	26,165	119,943	1,635
2004	50	497,289	9,946	23	17,598	146,659	765
2005	37	275,353	7,442	40	42,609	2,705,868	1,065
2006	20	63,756	3,188	34	14,381	2,615,835	423
2007	21	59,453	2,831	27	6,694	359,396	248
2008	41	322,430	7,864	15	12,574	143,306	838
2009	36	250,288	6,952	35	29,213	2,873,285	835
2010	27	82,933	3,072	9	2,314	47,690	257
2011	23	99,354	4,320	41	50,651	4,172,787	1,235
2012	27	136,531	5,057	33	16,656	1,137,178	505
2013	16	35,522	2,220	41	16,009	2,102,635	390
<u>10-Year Average:</u>							
2003–2012		167,251			19,683	1,275,653	

Table 90-2.—Upper Station late-run sockeye salmon and Alitak District pink and chum salmon escapement.

Upper Station Late-Run			
Year	Sockeye ^a	Alitak Pink ^b	Alitak Chum ^c
2000	176,783	394,698	73,076
2001	74,407	767,986	45,286
2002	150,349	1,961,562	44,745
2003	200,894	899,658	69,588
2004	177,108	1,008,986	34,406
2005	156,402	613,906	60,388
2006	153,153	844,236	25,227
2007	149,709	243,305	35,736
2008	184,856	176,346	9,948
2009	161,736	895,853	31,312
2010	141,139	323,379	22,461
2011	101,893	532,322	76,107
2012	149,325	825,167	14,441
2013	125,573	599,159	47,594

^a Late-run Upper Station sockeye salmon escapement goal of 120,000–265,000 fish.

^b Alitak District pink salmon escapement objectives of 162,000–486,000 fish during even years and 212,000–636,000 fish during odd years.

^c Alitak District chum salmon escapement objective of 26,000–78,000 fish.

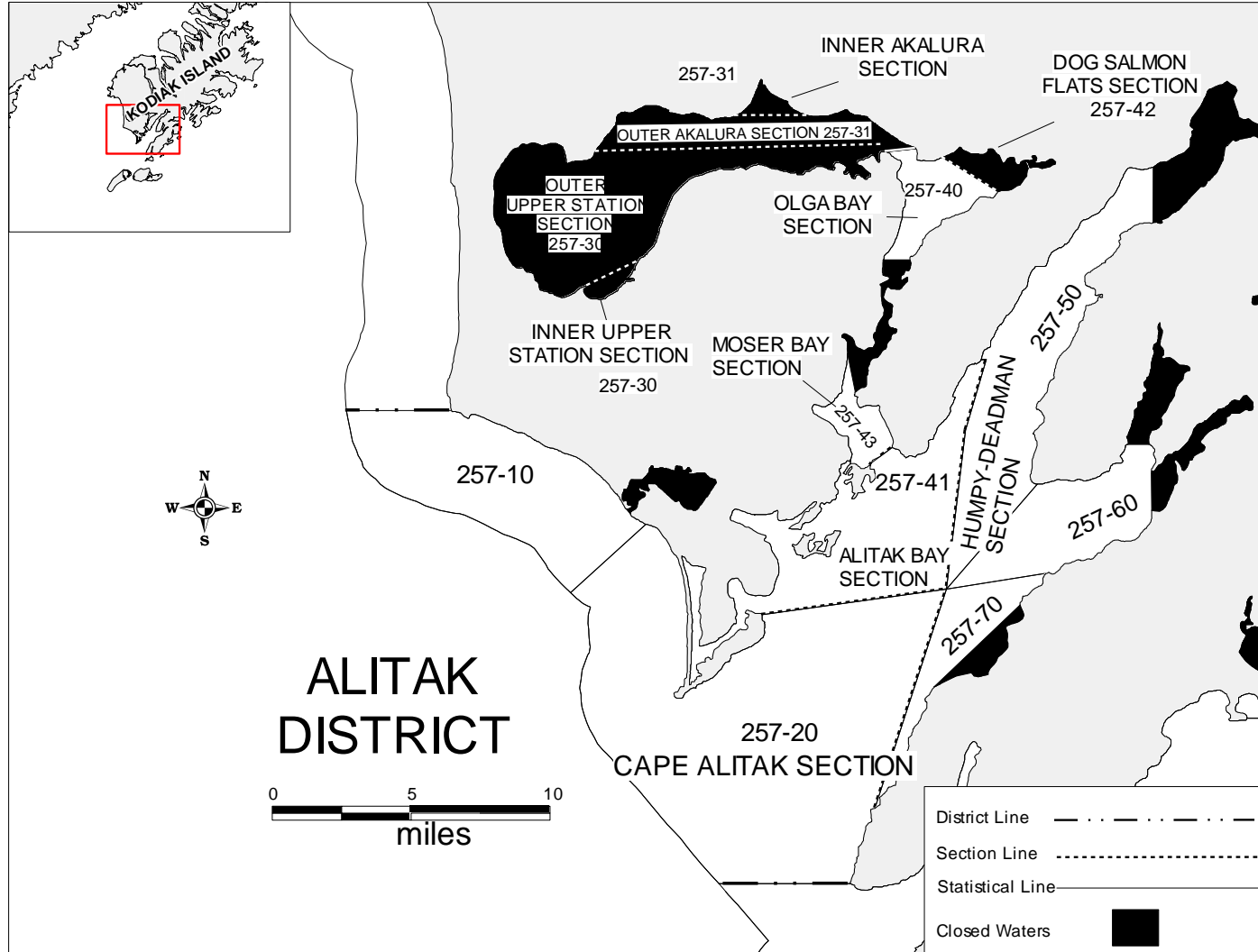


Figure 90-1.—Map of the Alitak District commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.

PROPOSAL 91 – 5 AAC 18.361. Alitak District Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Pryor.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would eliminate the Upper Station early-run sockeye salmon optimal escapement goal (OEG) of 25,000 fish and direct the department to manage the Alitak District, prior to July 15, for the maximum sustained yield of sockeye salmon returning to both Frazer and Upper Station systems (figures 91-1, 91-2, and 91-3). Specifically, this proposal would direct the department to manage the Alitak District, prior to June 16, based only on the Upper Station early-run sockeye salmon biological escapement goal (BEG) of 43,000 to 93,000 fish, and after June 15, only on the Frazer Lake sockeye salmon BEG of 75,000 to 170,000 fish.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 18.330(d)(2), *Gear*, in the Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, Olga Bay, Dog Salmon flats, Outer and Inner Upper Station, and Outer and Inner Akalura sections by set gillnets only, except that after September 4, salmon may be taken also by purse seines and beach seines.

Under the *Alitak District Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 18.361(a),

(2) the Frazer Lake sockeye salmon run be managed for maximum sustained yield;

(3) the early Upper Station Lake sockeye salmon run be managed for sustained yield by an optimal escapement goal of 25,000 fish;

Also under the *Alitak District Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 18.361(g) and (h), the Cape Alitak, Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections, from June 1 through July 15, shall be managed based on the Frazer and early Upper Station system sockeye salmon returns.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Eliminating the OEG would require the department to manage the Alitak District based only on the current Upper Station early-run sockeye salmon BEG of 43,000 to 93,000 fish from June 1 through June 15. In years of strong and/or early returns of Frazer sockeye salmon and weak Upper Station early-run sockeye salmon returns, the department would not have the ability to open the traditional fishing areas of the Alitak District in order to control escapement to Frazer Lake. As such, the department would open commercial salmon fishing in the Dog Salmon Flats Section (set gillnet only) in order to control escapement. This proposal would also require management to only take the Frazer Lake sockeye salmon run into account after June 15. In years of a strong return of Upper Station early-run sockeye salmon and a weak Frazer Lake sockeye salmon run, the department would open the nontraditional Inner and Outer Upper Station sections (set gillnet only) to commercial salmon fishing in order to control Upper Station escapement.

BACKGROUND: In 1999, there were several proposals to the board to address the Alitak District June fishery. The question was how to provide adequate fishing time to ensure that the Frazer Lake sockeye salmon escapement goal was not exceeded while ensuring enough early Upper Station system sockeye salmon escapement. The board amended the management plan and fishing time in June so that both the Frazer Lake and early Upper Station system stocks were to be considered when making management decisions.

However, the board also recognized that the Frazer Lake sockeye salmon stock was the dominate stock being harvested in the Alitak District and created an OEG of 25,000 fish for the early Upper Station system sockeye salmon run (Figure 91-3). This OEG was to remain in place until the department completed a sustained-yield analysis. This allocation ensured that the management practices of the past would not change and the June Alitak District fishery would still be managed, prior to July 16, based on Frazer Lake sockeye salmon. The department completed a sustained-yield analysis and determined that the escapement of 25,000 early Upper Station system sockeye salmon would result in sustaining the population while promoting the maximum benefit from the aggregate yield of the Upper Station and Frazer stocks, combined.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, the department recognizes the difficulty in managing for two overlapping sockeye salmon runs of disproportionate size (Figure 91-4). The current plan allows managers to protect Frazer Lake sockeye salmon while providing for a sustainable amount of early Upper Station Lake sockeye salmon escapement.

If adopted, this proposal would inhibit the department's ability to control escapement of Frazer Lake sockeye salmon.

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.

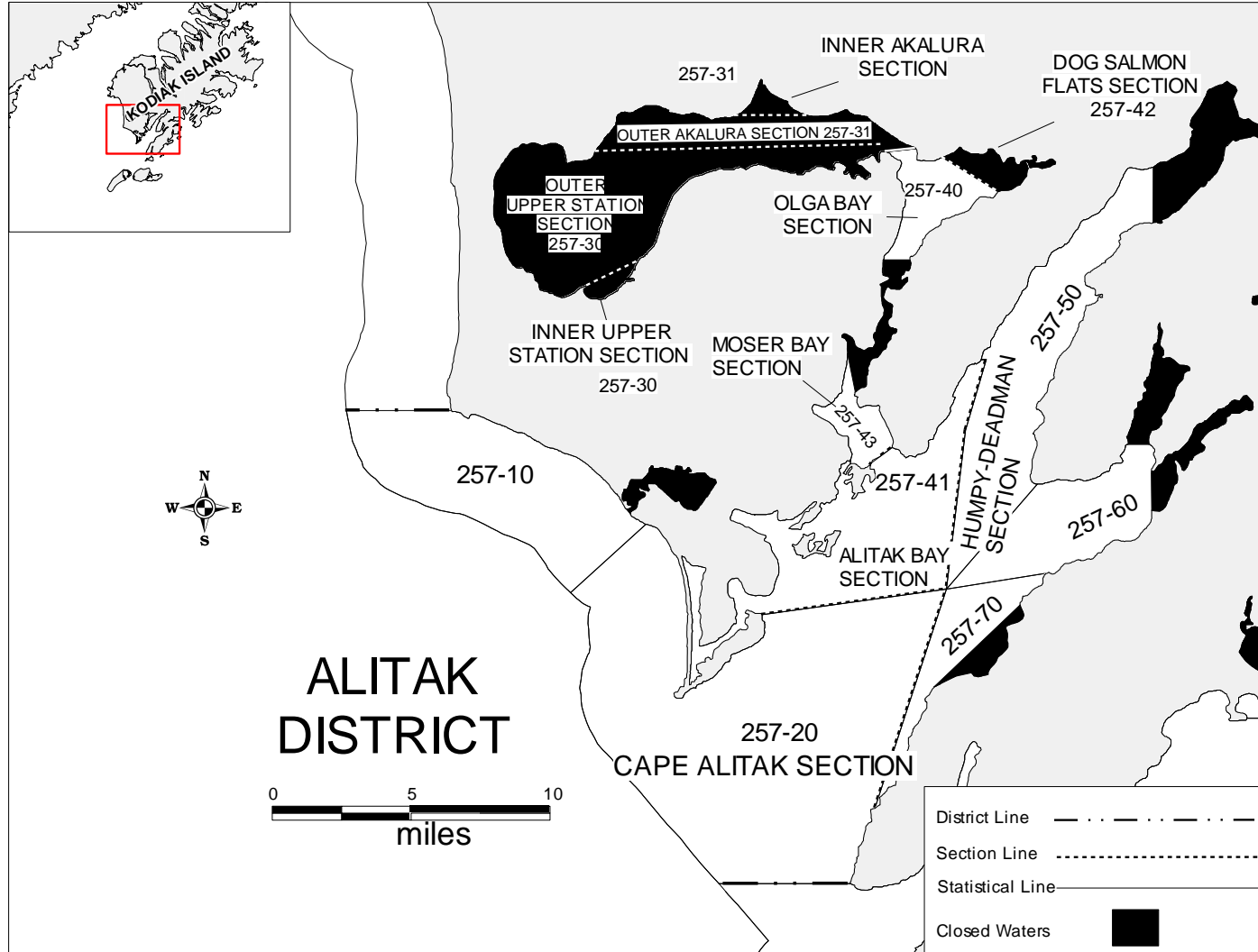


Figure 91-1.-Map of the Alitak District commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.

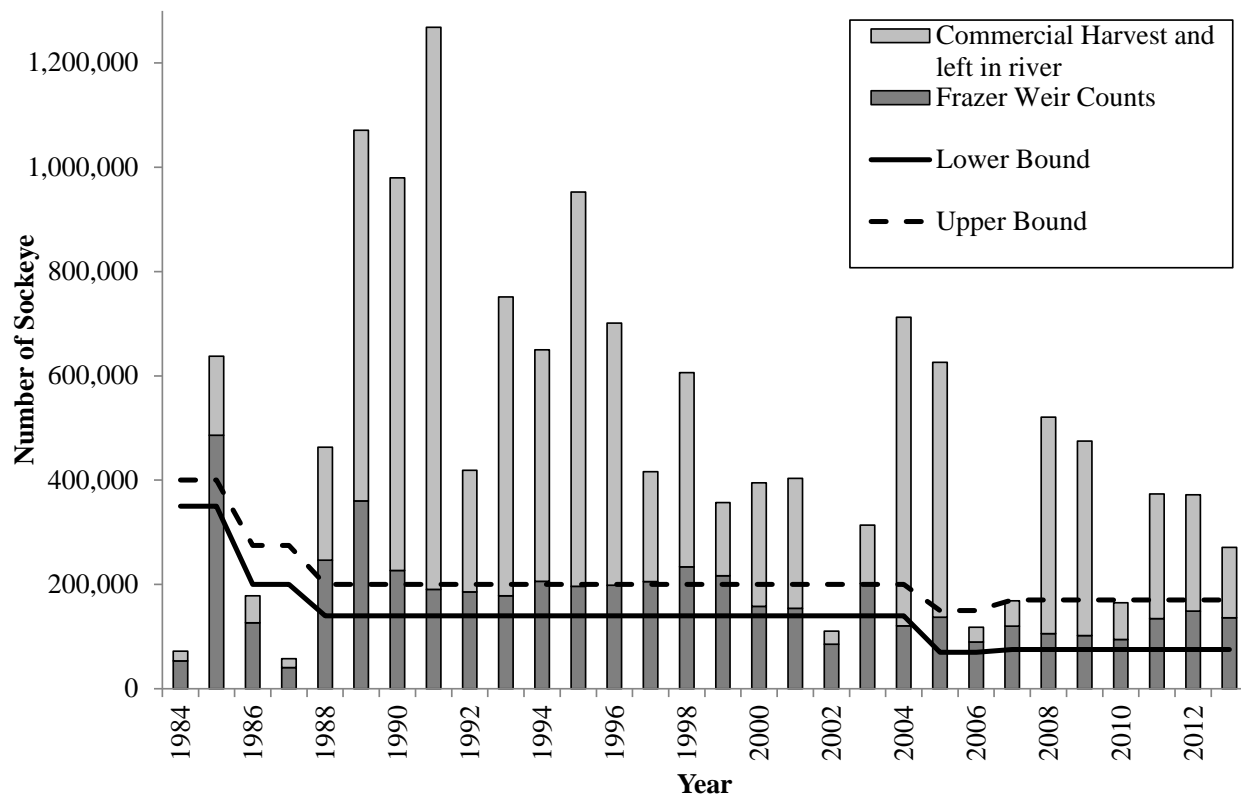


Figure 91-2.—Frazer fish pass escapement, harvest and fish left in the river over time.

* The Frazer escapement goal has been a BEG since 1988.

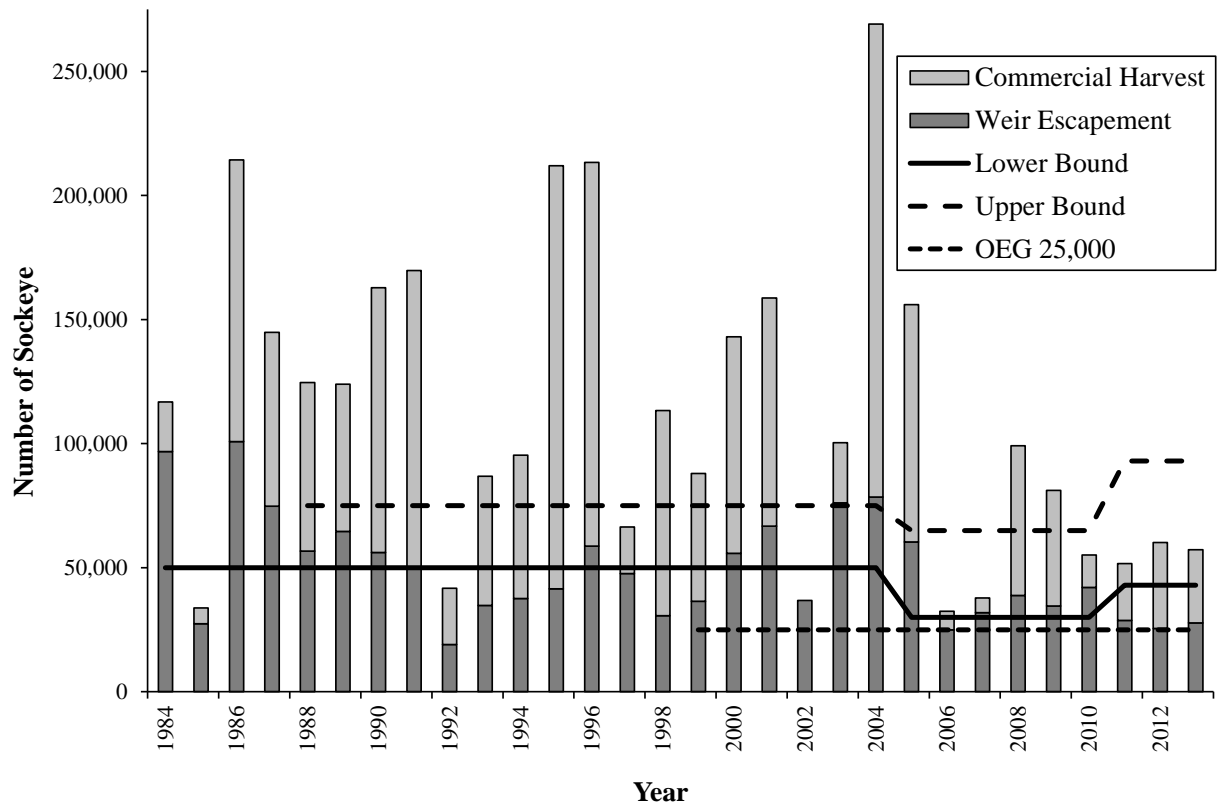


Figure 91-3.—Early Upper Station escapements and harvests over time.

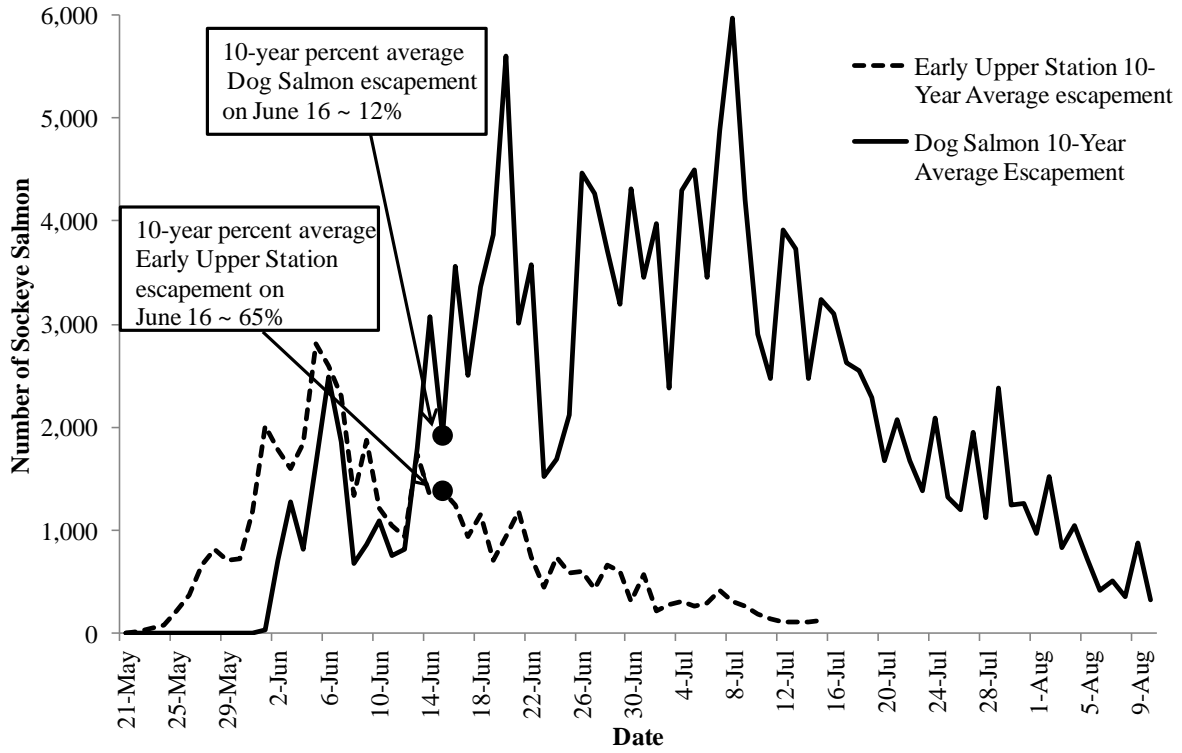


Figure 91-4.—Early Upper Station and Dog Salmon sockeye salmon 10-year average daily escapement over time.

PROPOSAL 92 – 5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan and 5 AAC 18.369. Mainland District Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Endurance Fisheries.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to change the *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360) so that harvest of sockeye salmon does not exceed 15% of the total Chignik-bound sockeye salmon catch at any time before August 26. While not specifically stated, it would also change the *Mainland District Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.369) to direct the department to manage the Cape Igvak Section (Figure 92-1) for Chignik-bound sockeye salmon until August 26.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? At any time before July 25, harvest in the Cape Igvak Section may be permitted to fluctuate above or below 15% of the cumulative Chignik sockeye salmon catch (5 AAC 18.360(d)). If biological and allocative requirements are met in the Chignik Management Area (CMA), the Cape Igvak fishery will be managed to harvest, as near as possible, 15% of the total harvest of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon through July 25. This regulation is in effect through July 25 (5 AAC 18.360(e)). During the period from approximately June 26 through July 8, the strength of the second run of Chignik River system sockeye salmon cannot be evaluated. In order to prevent overharvest of the second run, commercial salmon fishing in the Cape Igvak Section will, in the department's discretion, be closed or severely restricted during this period (5 AAC 18.360(f)).

Under the *Mainland District Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.369(h)), from July 26 through August 25, the Cape Igvak Section shall be managed based on the return of local and mixed Kodiak pink and chum salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would make it difficult to achieve the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board)-mandated 15% of the total Chignik bound-sockeye salmon harvest in the Cape Igvak Section. Typically, the abundance of sockeye salmon decreases in the Cape Igvak Section throughout July and it becomes difficult to maintain the 15% allocation after the restrictive overlap period. Because of the decreasing abundance of sockeye salmon in July, the department manages the Cape Igvak Section fishery so that the cumulative Chignik sockeye salmon harvest will be above 15% prior to the overlap period (June 26 through July 8). Typically, the Chignik fleet continues to harvest sockeye salmon during the overlap period and the allocation percent drops below the 15% allocation. Without the ability to exceed the 15% allocation prior to the overlap period, it is unlikely the department would succeed in meeting the 15% allocation by the end of the allocation period.

Furthermore, this proposal would extend the *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360) through August 25. The department begins managing for local and mixed pink and chum salmon stocks in the Cape Igvak Section beginning July 26. This proposal would limit the department's ability to control pink and chum salmon runs to systems in the Cape Igvak Section. The department would also have difficulty controlling escapements in the Wide Bay Section (Figure 92-1), which is encompassed by the Cape Igvak Section. In years of low escapement, pink and chum salmon runs would be impacted if the department continued to fish

regardless of local escapements, such as in 2012 and 2013, when poor runs caused the department to keep the Cape Igvak Section closed during the pink and chum salmon management period.

BACKGROUND: In 1978, a specific management plan for the Cape Igvak Section was adopted by the board. The *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360) covers the time period from the start of the season through July 25 for fishing activity in the Cape Igvak Section of the Mainland District. This management plan stipulated that, through the July 25 period, 80% of the sockeye salmon harvest from the Cape Igvak Section would be considered Chignik bound. In 2002, the board modified the *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* such that 90% of the Cape Igvak Section sockeye salmon catch was considered to be Chignik bound. The *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* allows the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) fleet to harvest 15% of the Chignik-bound sockeye salmon harvest. The *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* also stipulates strict allocative and biological requirements. Through July 25, in Chignik, a minimum harvest of 600,000 sockeye salmon must be expected (300,000 for both the early and late runs), and sockeye salmon escapement must be at desired levels before the Cape Igvak Section can open. Commercial fisheries must also begin in the CMA before fisheries are allowed in the Cape Igvak Section.

Since this plan was adopted in 1978, the catch of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon from the Cape Igvak Section has ranged from 0% to 17.9% of the total Chignik sockeye salmon harvest and has averaged 10.8% of the total CMA sockeye salmon harvest. The Cape Igvak harvest has met or exceeded the 15% allocation level nine times. The Cape Igvak harvest has been below the 15% allocation level 24 times, and there were three seasons where a Cape Igvak fishery did not occur due to not meeting biological or allocative criteria (Figure 92-2).

From July 26 through August 25, during the most recent 10 years, when the *Mainland District Salmon Management Plan* is in effect, harvest in the Cape Igvak Section has averaged 68 king; 3,478 sockeye; 3,221 coho; 28,965 pink; and 7,450 chum salmon (Table 92-1).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, the department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal due to concerns for local stocks. The current plan allows managers to protect Cape Igvak and Wide Bay sections pink and chum salmon escapement.

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 92-1.—Cape Igyak salmon harvest from July 26 through August 25, 1978–2013.

Year	Permits	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1978	6	0	41	0	10,326	3,645
1979	7	1	7,540	2,163	72,850	3,445
1980	3	0	401	17	19,502	6,265
1981	12	1	1,855	0	14,731	1,124
1982	6	11	1,117	183	7,726	6,519
1983	23	11	6,072	3,004	66,921	12,088
1984	6	0	867	0	32,864	3,488
1985	13	15	1,870	283	6,393	696
1986	9	0	43	317	18,152	12,207
1987	46	232	27,988	8,417	61,684	15,873
1988	52	835	21,212	38,481	773,286	43,800
1989	0	0	0	0	0	0
1990	56	665	30,964	18,697	168,963	36,533
1991	32	361	21,819	16,697	409,877	74,844
1992	22	319	4,872	4,310	46,242	13,202
1993	26	1,817	37,113	14,830	689,051	24,955
1994	6	1	1,621	3,005	5,577	12,191
1995	14	185	33,829	11,311	287,856	23,395
1996 ^a						
1997	8	2	280	580	29,325	1,737
1998 ^a						
1999	48	384	53,907	9,536	141,906	59,065
2000	16	16	2,066	1,200	9,805	5,676
2001	6	40	6,143	1,875	36,566	8,367
2002	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003 ^a						
2004	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006 ^a						
2007	11	78	3,949	2,188	48,045	1,372
2008	8	149	16,833	17,983	131,736	29,239
2009	3	7	1,296	238	3,979	677
2010	14	355	7,784	6,921	26,317	30,771
2011	7	66	3,053	2,003	30,062	8,517
2012	0	0	0	0	0	0
2013	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003-2012	5	68	3,478	3,221	28,965	7,450
Average						

^a Confidential

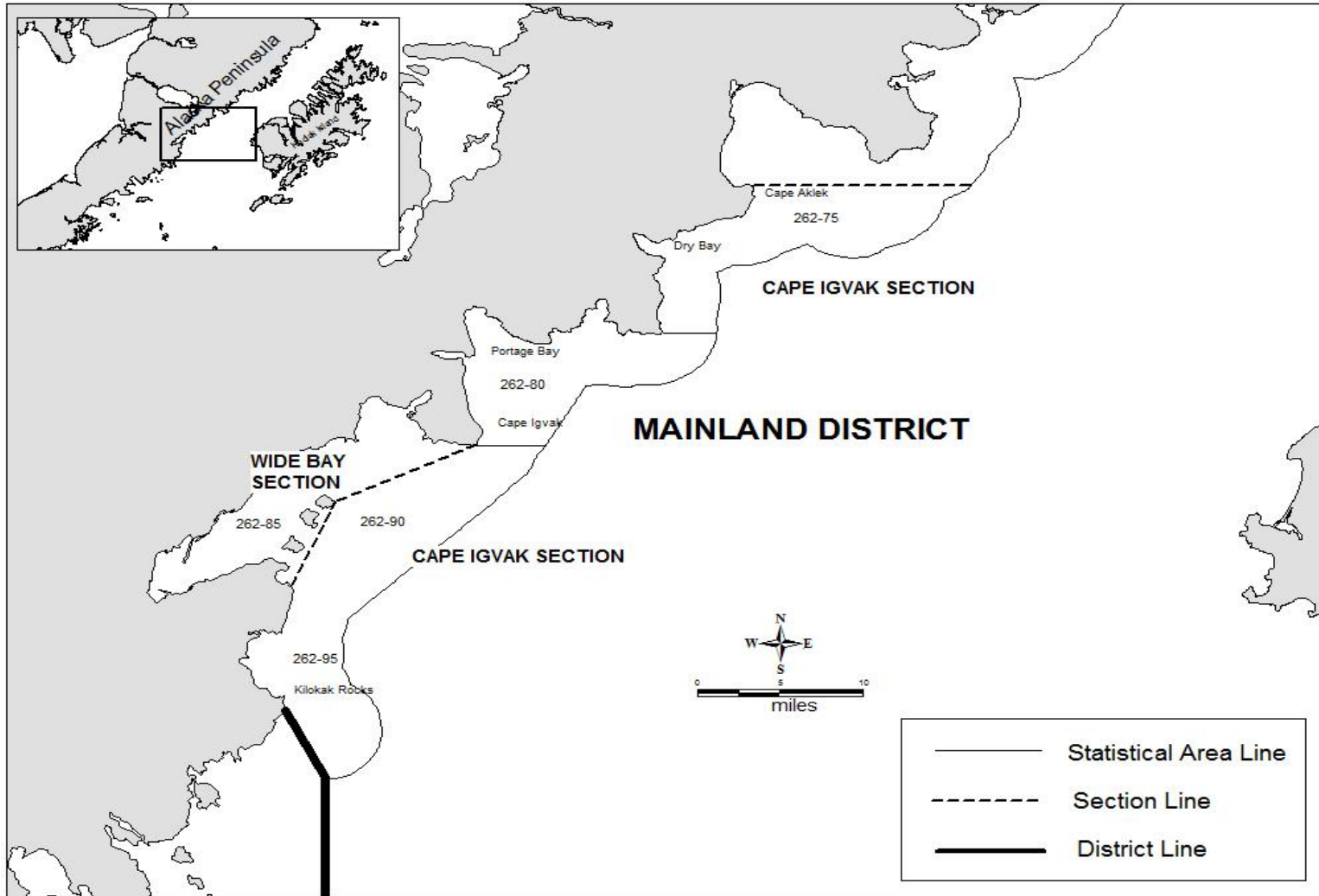


Figure 92-1.—Map of the Cape Igvak and Wide Bay sections of the Mainland District.

Percent Harvest of Chignik-Bound Sockeye Salmon in the Cape Igvak Fishery
prior to July 25, 1964 – 2013

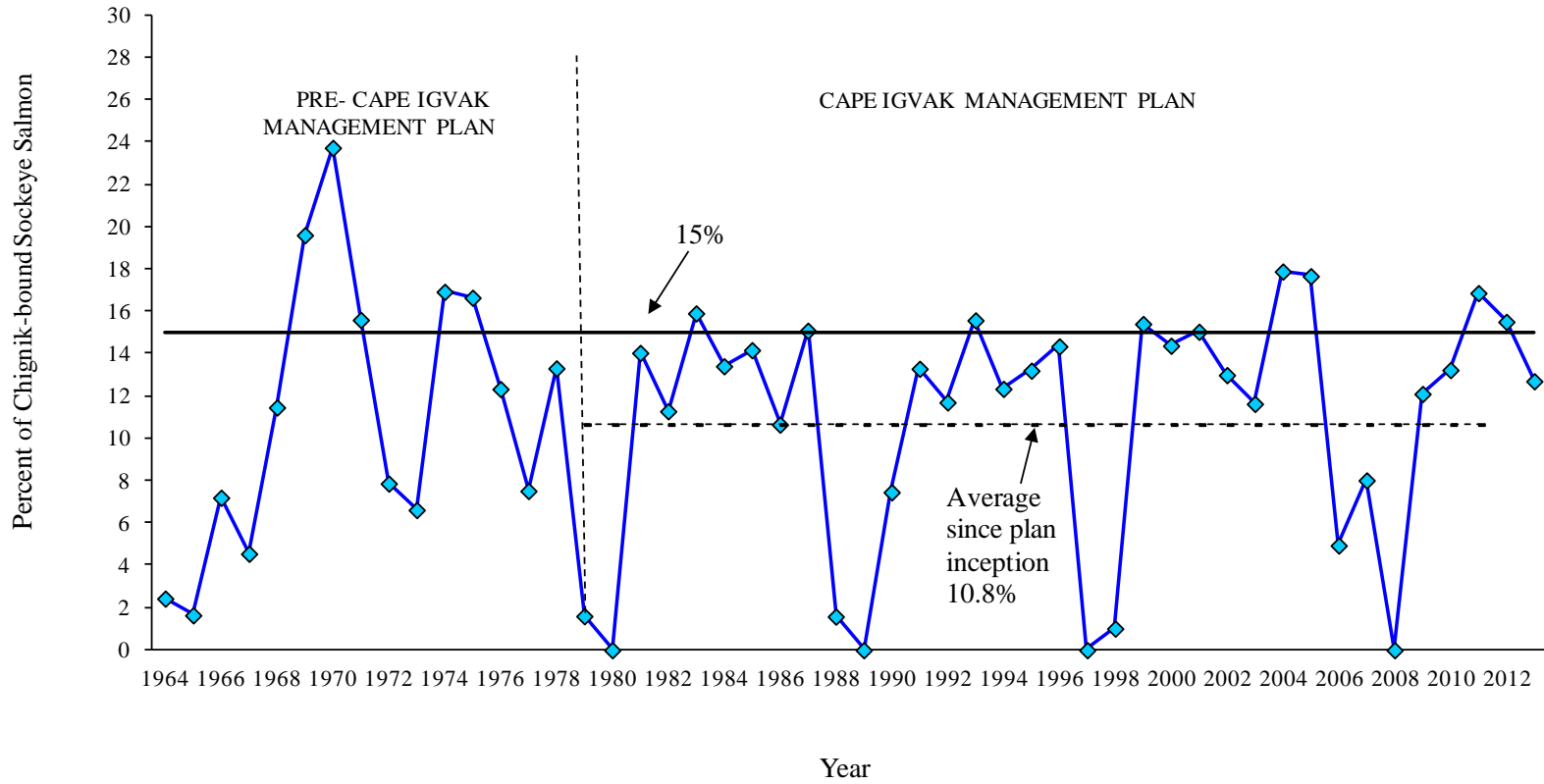


Figure 92-2.—Percent harvest of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon harvested in the Cape Igvak fishery, 1964–2013.

PROPOSAL 93 – 5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Axel Kopun.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would end the *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360) on July 8 and the first fishery in the Cape Igvak Section (Figure 93-1) could not occur before the first 48-hour fishing period in the Chignik Management Area (CMA).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The harvest in the Cape Igvak Section at any time before July 25 may be permitted to fluctuate above or below 15% of the cumulative Chignik sockeye salmon catch (5 AAC 18.360 (d)). If biological and allocative requirements are met in the Chignik Management Area (CMA), then the Cape Igvak fishery would be managed to harvest as near as possible 15% of the total harvest of Chignik bound sockeye salmon through July 25. This allocation method will be in effect through July 25. The first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Cape Igvak Section will not occur before the first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Chignik Area (5 AAC 18.360 (e)). During the period from approximately June 26 through July 8, the strength of the second run of Chignik River system sockeye salmon cannot be evaluated. In order to prevent overharvest of the second run, commercial salmon fishing in the Cape Igvak Section will, in the department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted during this period (5 AAC 18.360 (f)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? If adopted, the department would manage the Cape Igvak Section to achieve 15% of the total Chignik-bound sockeye salmon harvest prior to July 8. The initial fishing period would not occur until the Chignik Area has a 48-hour fishing period. This proposal would essentially end fishing in the Cape Igvak Section on June 26, the last day before the overlap period begins (5 AAC 18.360(f)). During the overlap period, from June 26 to July 8, the Cape Igvak Section commercial salmon fisheries are restricted. However, the CMA continues prosecute commercial fisheries and harvest sockeye salmon. Without the ability to fish in the Cape Igvak Section the percentage of Chignik bound fish harvested is reduced. It would be more difficult to achieve 15% of the total Chignik-bound sockeye salmon harvest in the Cape Igvak Section by July 8.

This proposal does not provide management direction for the Cape Igvak Section from July 9 through July 25. Therefore, it is unclear how the department would manage the Cape Igvak Section during that time period.

BACKGROUND: In 1978, a specific management plan for the Cape Igvak Section was adopted by the board. The *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (CISMP; 5 AAC 18.360) covers the time period from the start of the season through July 25 for fishing activity in the Cape Igvak Section of the Mainland District. This management plan stipulated that 80% of the sockeye salmon harvest from the Cape Igvak Section, through the July 25 period, would be considered Chignik bound. In 2002, the board modified the *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* such that 90% of the Cape Igvak Section sockeye salmon catch was considered to be Chignik bound. The *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* allows the Kodiak Management Area fleet to harvest up to 15% of the Chignik-bound sockeye salmon harvest and stipulates strict allocative and

biological requirements. In Chignik, through July 25, a minimum harvest of 600,000 sockeye salmon must be expected (300,000 for both the early and late runs) and sockeye salmon escapement must be at desired levels. Commercial fisheries must begin in the CMA before fisheries are allowed in the Cape Igvak Section.

During the early part of the season, the department manages the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon catch percentage to climb above 15%. 5 AAC 18.360(f) requires that the Cape Igvak fishery be closed or severely restricted during the period from approximately June 26 to July 9 because of uncertainty in the strength of the second run to Chignik. However the CMA fishery can be open to fishing during this ‘overlap’ period, to harvest early-run sockeye salmon in excess of escapement requirements. These harvests drive the Cape Igvak percentage down during the overlap period. By the end of the overlap period and by the time the department determines if there is a harvestable surplus for the second run, the Cape Igvak percentage often decreases several percentage points to below the 15% allocation. As the season progresses toward the end of July and the end of the management plan period, the abundance of sockeye salmon in the Cape Igvak Section decreases. It becomes more difficult for commercial fishermen to catch sockeye salmon and, therefore, more difficult to maintain the sockeye salmon harvest allocation percentage.

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.

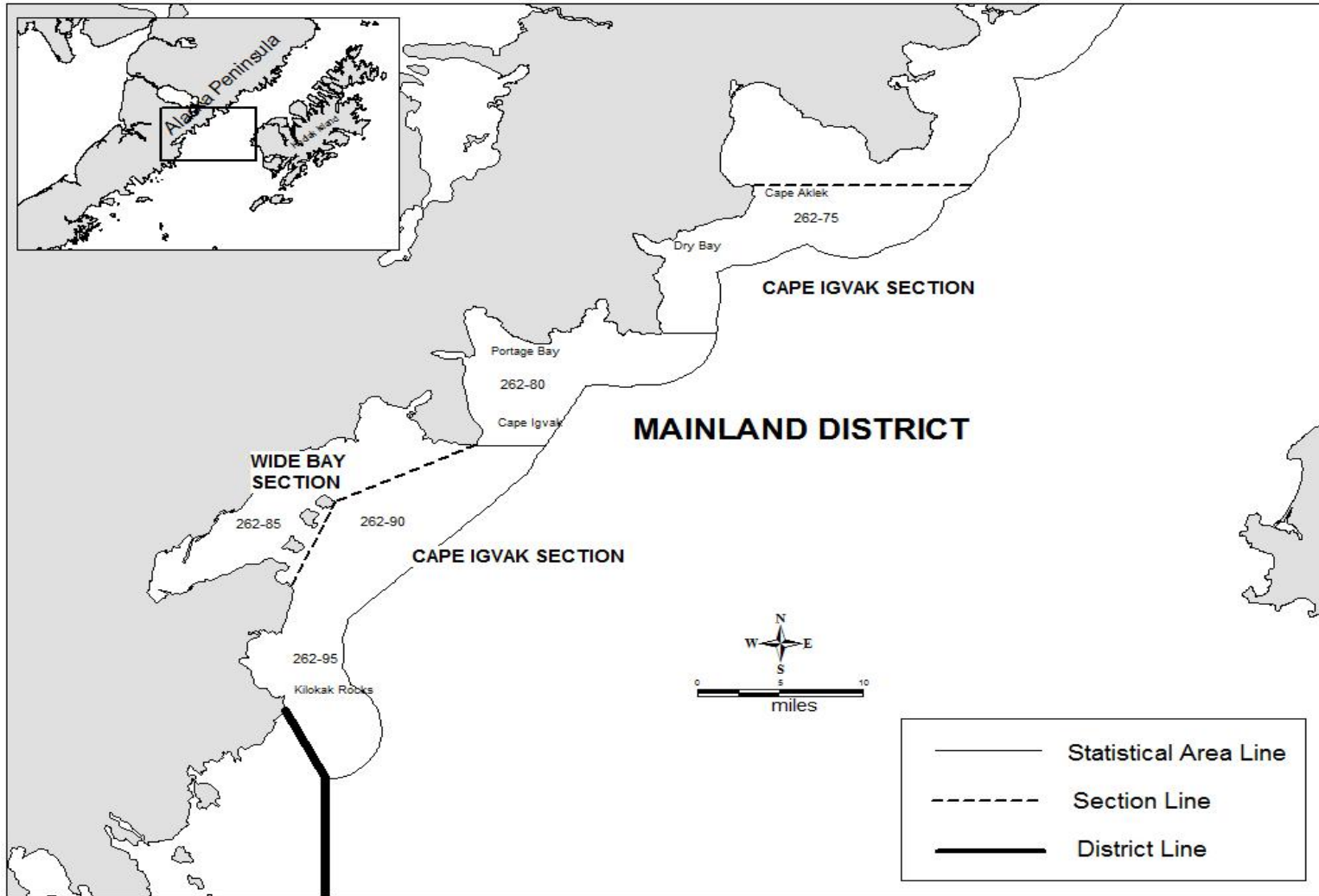


Figure 93-1.—Map of the Cape Igvak Section of the Mainland District.

PROPOSAL 94 – 5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Endurance Fisheries.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would require all permit holders fishing the Cape Igvak Section (Figure 94-1) to check in with the department prior to and after fishing. In addition, all permit holders would have to deliver their catch prior to leaving the Cape Igvak Section.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are currently no registration or reporting requirements specific to the Cape Igvak Section.

In *General Provisions, 5 AAC 39.130, Reports Required of Processors, Buyers, Fishermen, and Operators of Certain Commercial Fishing Vessels; Transporting Requirements*, it is stated that fishermen and processors must complete an ADF&G fish ticket at the time of delivery and that the fish ticket record must include:

- The CFEC permit card information;
- Buyer/processor codes and information;
- The date of landing;
- The nearest headland or bay or statistical area in which the fish were taken; and
- The number and pounds of salmon by species.

Alaska Statute 16.05.690, *Record of Purchases*, states that a person may not knowingly enter false information on a fish ticket or supply false information to a person who is recording information on a fish ticket.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Commercial fishermen would be required to contact a department representative prior to commercial fishing, and also when leaving the Cape Igvak Section. They would also have to deliver their catch prior to leaving this section. This proposal does not provide any specific guidelines for reporting requirements.

In order to accommodate this proposal, a department representative would be required to stand by during all hours of the commercial salmon fishing period in order to check vessels in and out. Department staff may need to be stationed on the grounds to ensure fish are delivered within the Cape Igvak Section.

BACKGROUND: The department collects verbal harvest reports from Kodiak commercial salmon fishermen and processors several times daily. Estimates of the number of fishing vessels on the grounds in the Cape Igvak Section and the average catch per unit effort are used to estimate the catch and manage the commercial fishery. Verbal catch reports from Southeastern District Mainland and Chignik fisheries are also used inseason to determine the total catch of sockeye salmon considered to be Chignik bound. As fish tickets are received, these verbal catch estimates are revised to reflect the more accurate information. Cooperation between the department and Kodiak salmon processors is excellent and there are seldom significant discrepancies between verbal and fish ticket reports.

There are no processing plants located in the Cape Igvak Section. Most Kodiak processors currently require their fleet to deliver to tenders in the Cape Igvak Section. Two processing plants, located on the south and west side of Kodiak Island, may irregularly take deliveries from fishing vessels that have traveled from Cape Igvak.

The Cape Igvak fishery requires a 24-hour advance notice, and normally begins at midnight, in order to provide notification and travel time for a fair start. Fishing periods are normally prosecuted in increments of 24 hours (a minimum time fishery would be 24- hours long) and extensions to fishing time are also allowed in 24-hour increments, with the fishery closing at midnight.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to adding registration or landing requirements to the Cape Igvak fishery. This proposal is based on the theory that salmon caught in the Cape Igvak Section are being misreported and not properly counted against the allocation scheme. The department recognizes that harvest data reported inseason and on fish tickets are the best available information; accuracy is protected by current regulations and statutes. Implementing this type of program would substantially increase costs to the department.

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.

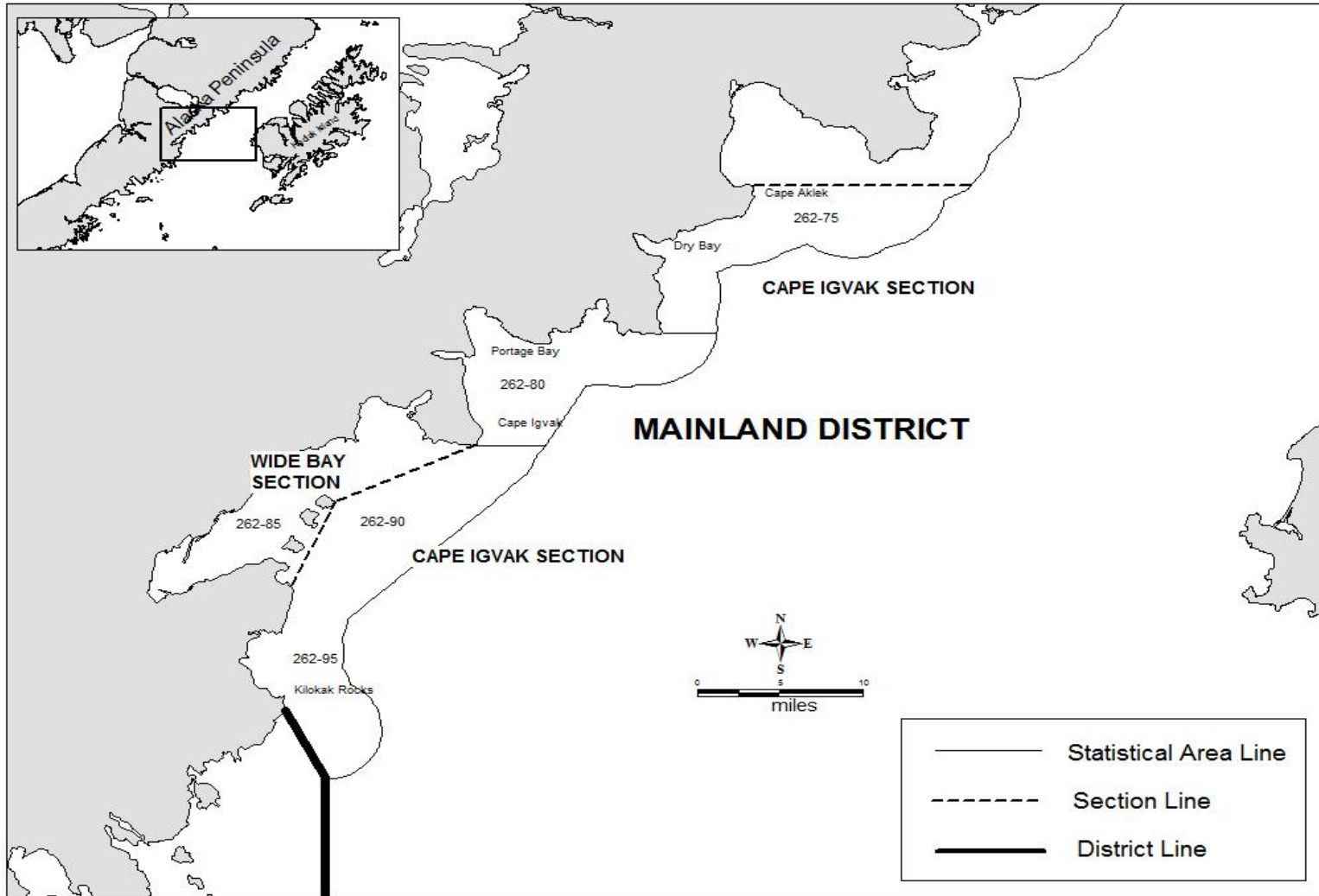


Figure 94-1.—Map of the Cape Igvak Section of the Mainland District.

PROPOSAL 95 – 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan and 5 AAC 18.366. Spiridon Bay Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Berns.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would require the department to open the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District (Figure 95-1) on June 28 for one, set gillnet-only, 114-hour fishing period.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 18.362(b), the Central and North Cape sections must be managed, approximately June 16 through July 5, based on early-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system.

Under the *Spiridon Bay Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 18.366(b), the purpose of the Spiridon Bay harvest strategy is to allow the orderly harvest of sockeye salmon returning to Telrod Cove (Figure 95-2) from the Spiridon Lake enhancement project while providing adequate protection of local natural salmon stocks returning to other streams of the bay. The intent of the enhancement project is for harvest of returning enhanced salmon to occur in traditional commercial fishing areas of the Northwest Kodiak District during openings directed at harvesting Karluk sockeye salmon and Westside Kodiak pink and chum salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would require the department to open the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District regardless of the strength of the Karluk Lake sockeye salmon run. In the event of a weak run, a mandatory opening during this time period would harvest sockeye salmon bound for Karluk Lake, possibly impacting achievement of the Karluk Lake early-run escapement goal.

BACKGROUND: The *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* is the achievement of long-term management strategies initially implemented in 1971 and placed into regulation in 1990. Placing the management plan in regulation clarified the management strategy and helped maintain the biological integrity of local salmon stocks, while alleviating allocative concerns of local fishermen.

The intent of this management plan is to harvest salmon bound to local systems in traditional fisheries. Due to the mixing of various local salmon stocks during inshore migration, the plan is complex, but provides a predictable framework for harvest of major sockeye, pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks transiting the west side of Kodiak Island. The plan is in effect for the entire salmon season and covers the Southwest and Northwest Kodiak districts, as well as the Southwest Afognak Section (Figure 90-1). The management plan guides prosecution of early- and late-run sockeye salmon fisheries, including those targeting the major systems of Karluk, Ayakulik, and other minor sockeye salmon systems, as well as local pink, chum, and coho salmon fisheries.

The Spiridon Lake Enhancement Project, located on the west side of Kodiak Island, is one of the most successful sockeye salmon stocking programs in the state. The intent of the project was to

provide adult sockeye salmon returns for harvest in the traditional fisheries of the Northwest Kodiak District (figures 95-1 and 95-2). The Spiridon Bay Special Harvest Area (SBSHA) was created to harvest excess fish not harvested in the traditional fisheries as they return to Telrod Cove (Figure 95-2).

Initially, the SBSHA was much larger than the current special harvest area (SHA) and the lake was stocked with late-run Upper Station sockeye salmon. Late-run Upper Station stock was selected to allow the maximum harvest opportunity during the prosecution of the pink salmon fishery on the west side of Kodiak Island. However, due to incidental harvest of other local salmon, the SHA was reduced in size in 1995. The SBSHA now only includes Telrod Cove (Figure 95-2). To further reduce incidental harvest of other local salmon, the broodstock was changed to Saltery Lake sockeye salmon, which has an earlier run timing (peaking ~ July 8; Figure 95-3).

Spiridon Lake sockeye salmon scales display unique freshwater growth characteristics. This identifying mark has been used for Spiridon Lake run reconstructions. These run reconstructions are also used to differentiate harvests between SBSHA and Westside Kodiak.

Currently, the majority of Spiridon Lake sockeye salmon are harvested in June and July. In June, the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District is managed based on early Karluk Lake sockeye salmon, and in July, is managed based on weekly pink salmon openings. On average, the SBSHA opens on approximately June 21.

From 1992 through 2007, the early Karluk Lake sockeye salmon runs were strong and Westside Kodiak was open to continuous fishing. On average, approximately 40% of the Spiridon sockeye salmon run was harvested in the SBSHA (Figure 95-4). However, from 2008 through 2011, there were significant declines in the early Karluk Lake sockeye salmon run and fishing periods in Westside Kodiak were restricted. During these years, on average, approximately 60% of the Spiridon sockeye salmon run was harvested in the SBSHA (Figure 95-4).

During the past two seasons (2012 and 2013), the early Karluk Lake sockeye salmon runs were strong and the percentage of Spiridon Lake sockeye salmon harvested in Westside Kodiak has returned to approximately 40% in the SBSHA and 60% in Westside Kodiak.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal based on concerns for early-run Karluk Lake sockeye salmon; specifically, that the escapement goal may not be achieved. On June 28, approximately 88% of early run Karluk Lake sockeye salmon has escaped past the weir (Figure 95-4). The current plan allows managers to protect early-run Karluk Lake sockeye salmon while allowing the orderly harvest of sockeye salmon returning to Telrod Cove from the Spiridon Lake enhancement project.

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.

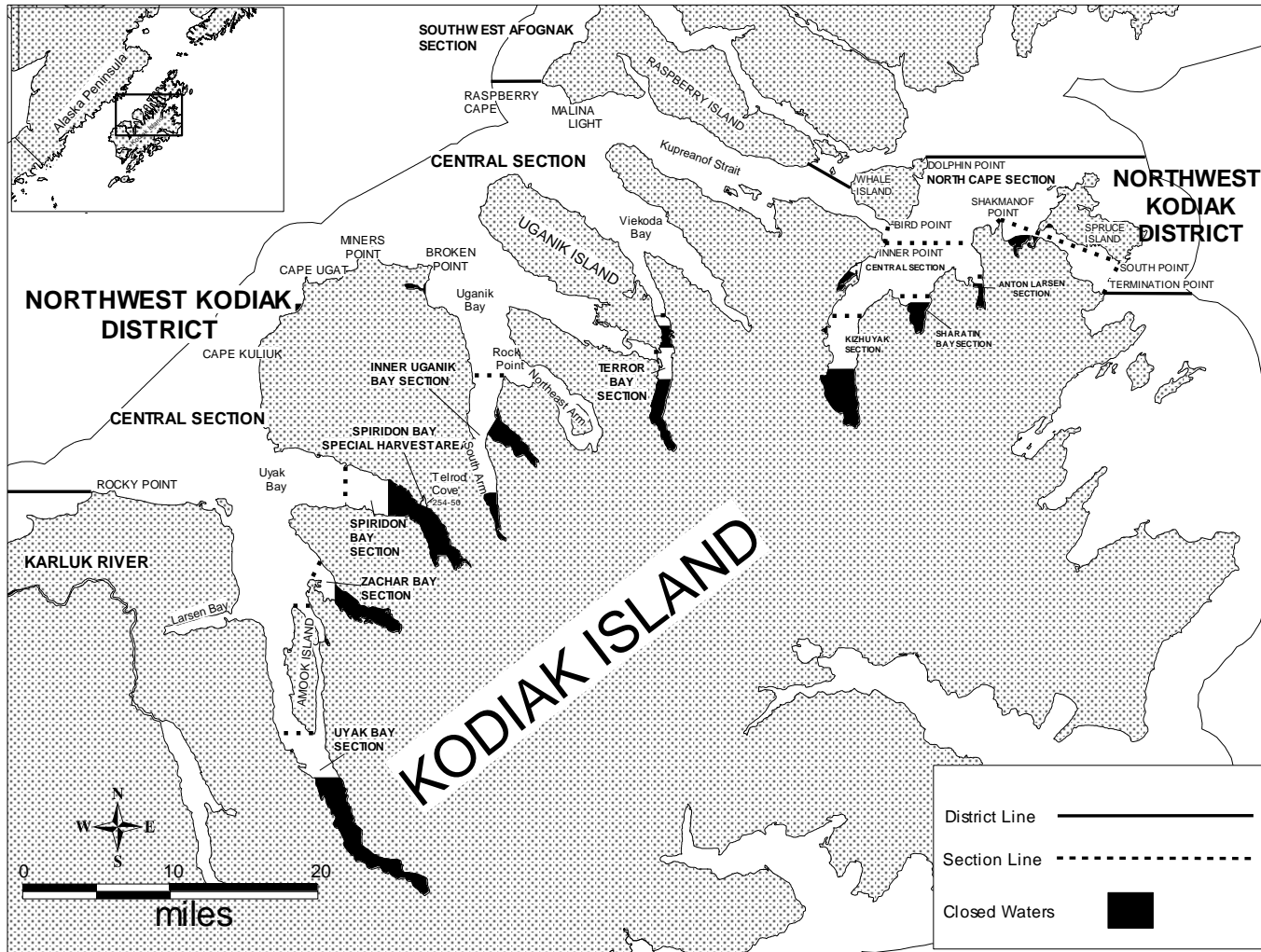


Figure 95-1.-Map of the Northwest Kodiak District identifying commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.

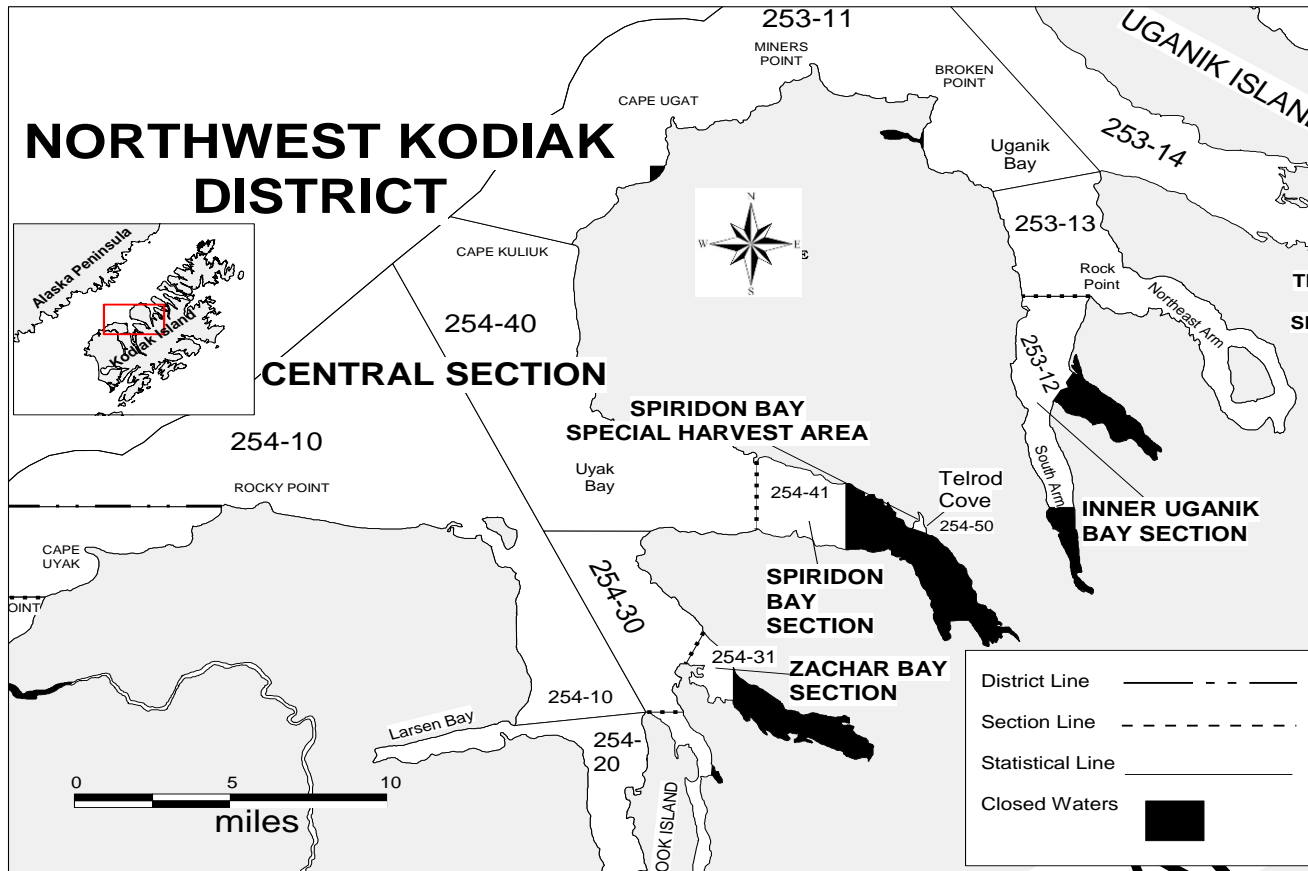


Figure 95-2.—Map of the Spiridon Bay Special Harvest Area in the Northwest Kodiak District.

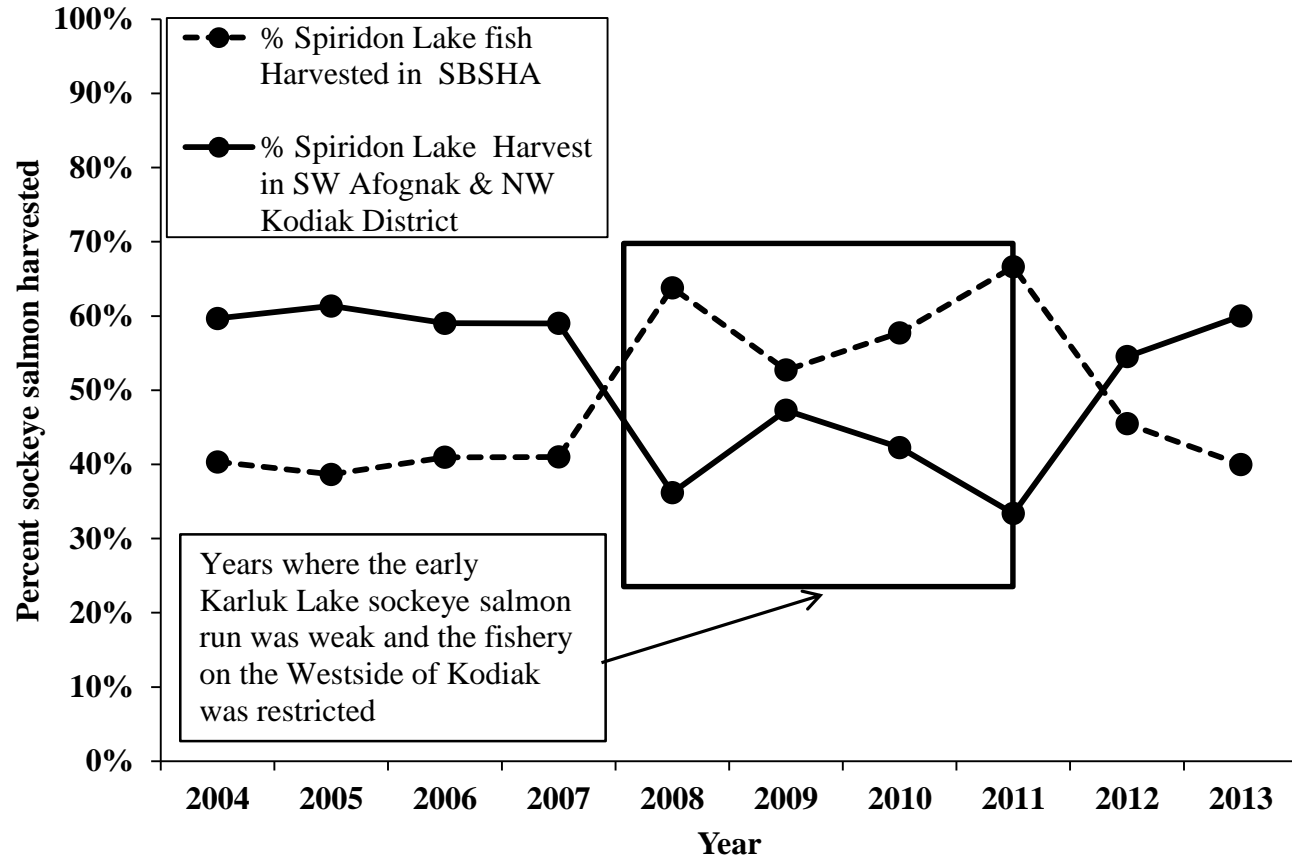


Figure 95-3.—Percent of Spiridon Lake sockeye salmon harvested in the Spiridon Bay Special Harvest Area (SBSHA) and in the Southwest Afognak Section of the Afognak District and the Northwest Kodiak District, 2004–2013.

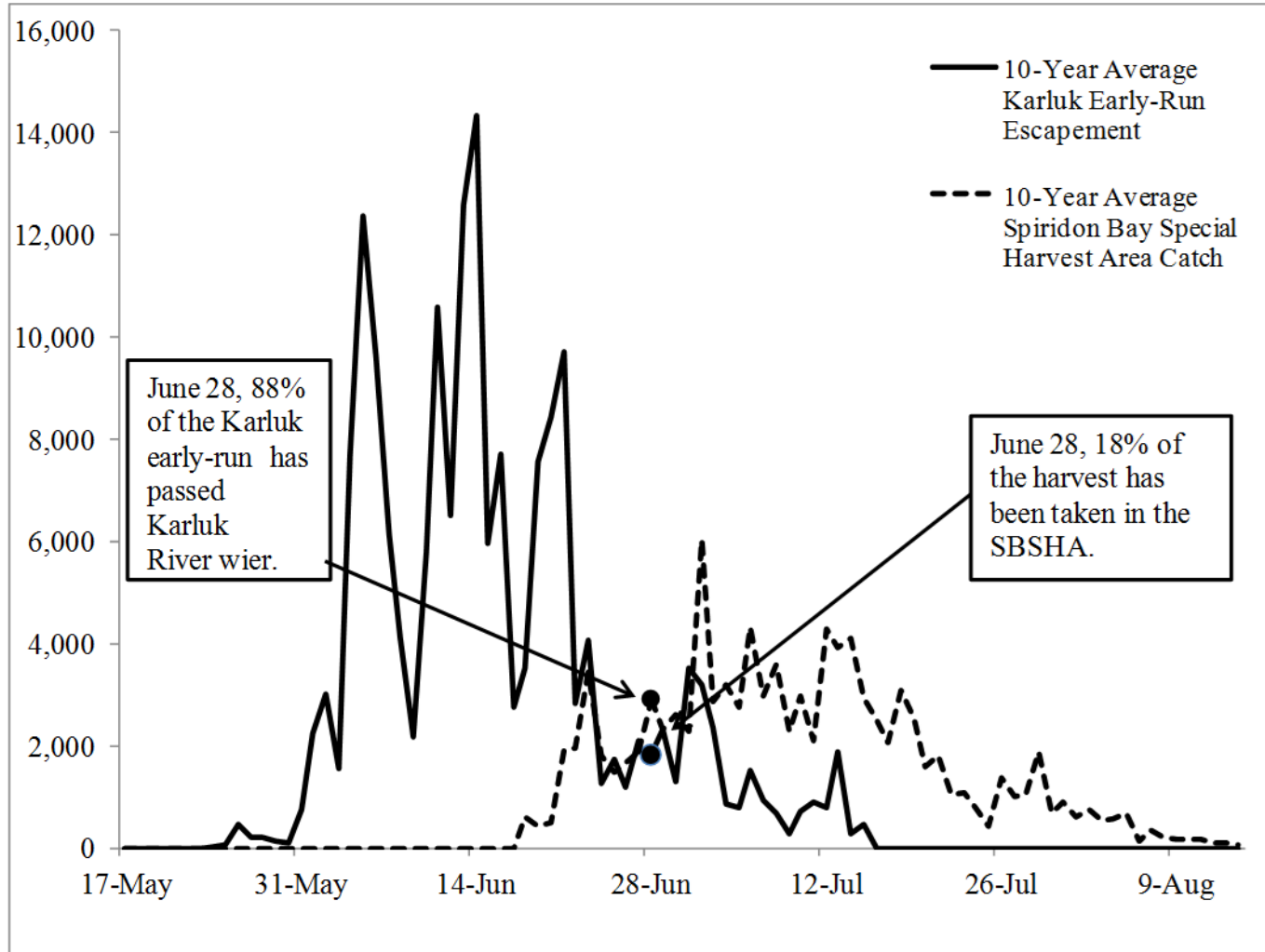


Figure 95-4.—Average early Karluk Lake sockeye salmon escapement and average sockeye salmon harvest in the SBSHA.

PROPOSAL 96 – 5 AAC 18.361. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Duncan Fields.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would require the department to open any inner bays (Uyak Bay, Zachar Bay, Spiridon Bay, Inner Uganik Bay, Terror Bay, Kizhuyak Bay, Sheratin Bay, and Anton Larsen Bay sections) of the Northwest Kodiak District (Figure 96-1) to both seine and set gillnet gear types if any of the inner bays are open after August 15 and the Central and North Cape sections are closed for more than 48 hours.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under *Gear*, 5 AAC 18.330(b), in the Northwest Kodiak District, salmon may be taken only by purse seine and beach seine, except that in the Central Section, salmon may also be taken by set gillnets.

Under the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 18.362(c), the Anton Larsen Bay, Sheratin Bay, Kizhuyak Bay, Terror Bay, Inner Uganik Bay, Spiridon Bay, Zachar Bay, and Uyak Bay Sections must be managed;

(4) from August 1 through August 24, based on local pink and late-run chum salmon returning to the major systems in each section;

(5) from approximately August 25 through September 5, based on local pink, late-run chum, and coho salmon returning to the major salmon systems in each section;

Under the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 18.362(b), the Central and North Cape Sections must be managed;

(4) from approximately August 16 through August 24, based on pink salmon returning to the Northwest Kodiak District and on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system;

(5) from approximately August 25 through September 5, based on late-run sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk system;

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would potentially cause gear conflicts in the relatively small inner bay areas.

BACKGROUND: The inner bay sections (Anton Larsen Bay, Sheratin Bay, Kizhuyak Bay, Terror Bay, Inner Uganik Bay, Spiridon Bay, Zachar Bay, and Uyak Bay) of the Northwest Kodiak District have been seine-only areas since before statehood. These small terminal harvest areas are managed throughout the salmon season based on local stocks returning to each individual inner bay.

The Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District has been designated a seine and set gillnet area since before statehood. During the management timeframe from approximately August 16 through August 24, the Central and North Cape sections are opened and closed based on both Karluk Lake late-run sockeye and pink salmon returning to the major systems of the Northwest Kodiak District. From August 25 through September 5, the Central and North Cape sections are managed based on late-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk Lake. After September 5, the fishery is managed both on late-run sockeye salmon returning to Karluk Lake and coho salmon returning to major systems of the Northwest Kodiak District. This blended management has

allowed for protection of both salmon present within the Northwest Kodiak District, as well as sockeye salmon returning to the Karluk Lake system.

In years with robust pink salmon runs to the Northwest Kodiak District and weak Karluk Lake late-run sockeye salmon, any of the inner bays may be open while the Central section remains closed. From 2008 to 2011, weak runs of Karluk Lake late-run sockeye salmon resulted in commercial salmon fishing restrictions in Westside Kodiak during August and September.

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.

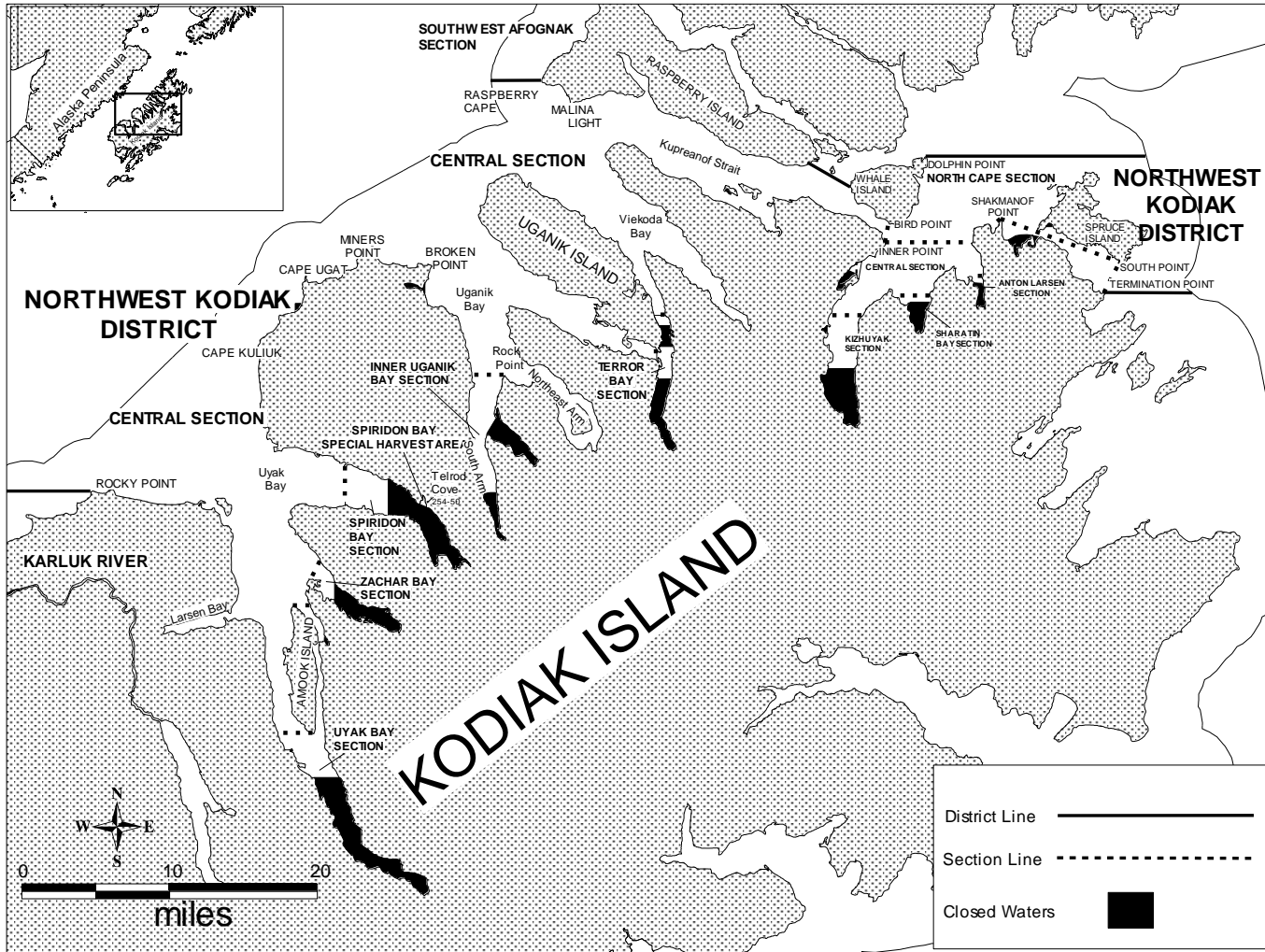


Figure 96-1.—Map of the Northwest Kodiak District identifying commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.

PROPOSAL 97 – 5 AAC 18.362. Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Duncan Fields.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would direct the department to delay a closure in the Northwest Kodiak District if the 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service (NWS) forecast calls for gale warnings (35 knots or more) in the Shelikof Straits Area (Area 151). The closure would be postponed 15 hours, until noon the next day, or when the 4:00 a.m. NWS forecast no longer calls for a gale warning.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 18.362 there are currently no weather delay provisions.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would undermine the department's escapement-based management. It would preclude closing the Central and North sections inhibiting the department's ability to control Karluk Lake sockeye salmon and Northwest Kodiak District pink, chum, and coho salmon escapement. The impact of delaying a closure would be the overharvest of salmon when a closure is necessary to protect the stocks.

BACKGROUND: The majority of the fishing periods in the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) are determined inseason based on salmon abundance and all fishing periods are established by emergency order (5 AAC 18.320). Management decisions are based on utilizing daily escapement information from salmon counting weirs, as well as inseason aerial surveys. Throughout the season, all fishing periods are established based on escapement data that indicate whether an extension or reduction of fishing time is necessary.

Throughout the season, the *Westside Kodiak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.362) directs the management of the Northwest Kodiak District. The plan guides prosecution of early- and late-run sockeye salmon fisheries, including those targeting the major systems of Karluk, Ayakulik, and other minor sockeye salmon systems, as well as local pink, chum, and coho salmon fisheries.

Currently there are several state regulations in place that delay the start of shellfish and ground fish fisheries. Specifically, if the morning of a scheduled fishery opening, the NWS forecast calls for gale warnings (35 knots) or stronger winds for the marine forecast zone applicable to the area where the fishery occurs, the opening of the fishery would be delayed for 24 hours (5 AAC 35.510(a)(2)).

However, it is important to note that all of these fisheries are managed based on the harvest of a certain percent of an available stock and are not adjusted in season based on escapement. Furthermore, none of these state regulations delay a closure of a fishery, only the opening.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal based on concerns for KMA salmon escapement. The current plan allows managers to protect Karluk Lake sockeye salmon and Northwest Kodiak District pink, chum, and coho salmon escapements.

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.

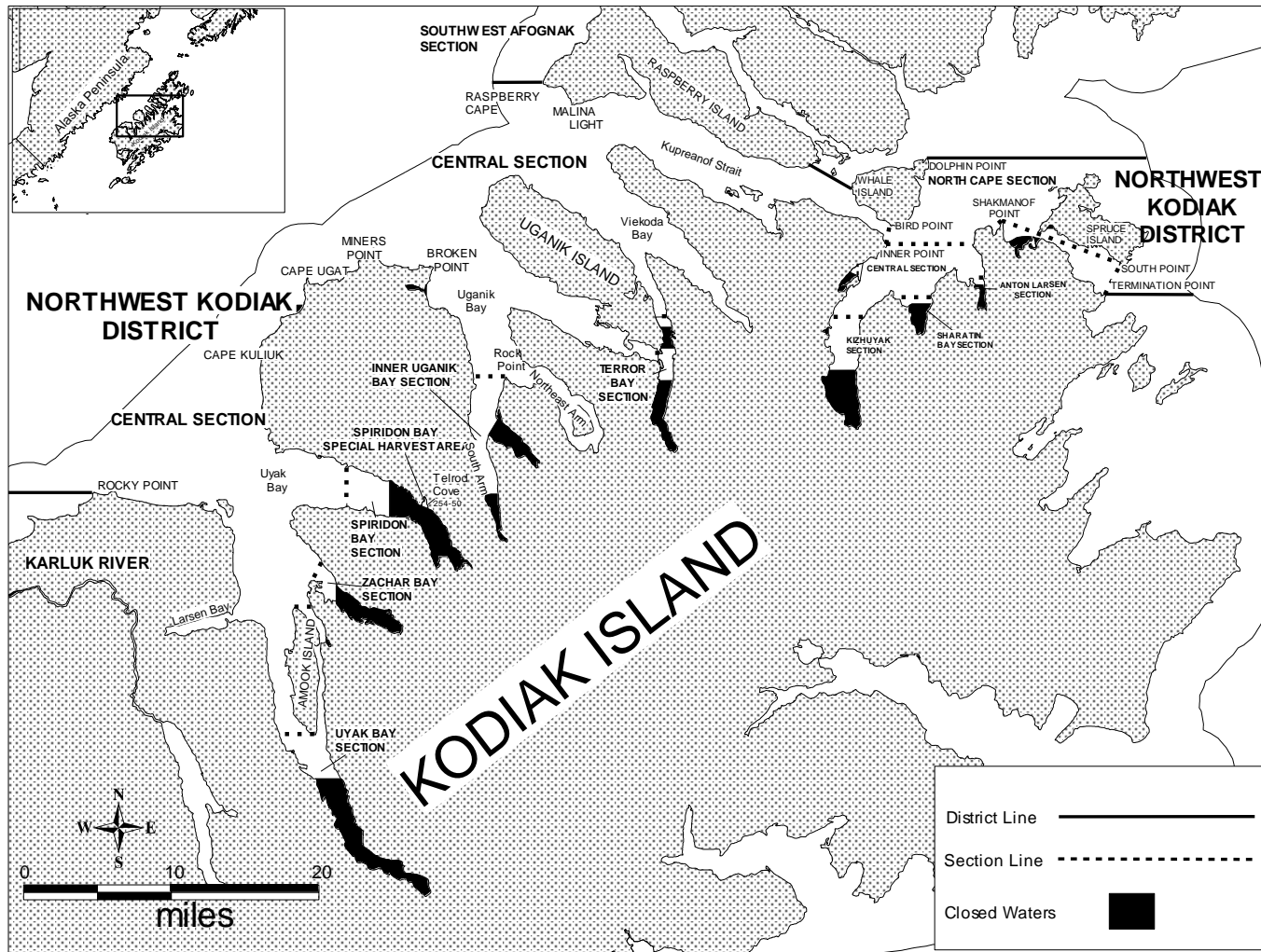


Figure 97-1.—Map of the Northwest Kodiak District identifying commercial salmon fishing sections and statistical areas.

PROPOSAL 98 – 5 AAC 18.332. Seine specifications and operation.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Pikus.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal offers two options for allowing longer purse seine gear in the Kodiak Management Area (KMA). Option 1 would allow a Kodiak seine permit holder to own two Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permits and operate additional gear. This option would require the individual to register with the department. Option 2 would allow a joint operation if two separate permit holders are on the same vessel. This option also requires registration with the department and notification to the department if permit holders choose to terminate the joint operation. Both options would allow the maximum length of the seine gear to be 300 fathoms, with no more than 50 fathoms of lead gear, and clearly display that the vessel is registered as a dual permit holder.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 18.332(a), *Seine specifications and operations*, states that no purse seine or hand purse seine may be less than 100 fathoms or more than 200 fathoms in length.

(b) One lead no more than 100 fathoms in length may be used with each purse seine or hand purse seine. The aggregate length of seine and lead may not exceed 250 fathoms. Leads must be removed from the water within two hours after a season or fishing period closure. Each lead must have at each end a buoy, cork, or float plainly and legibly marked with the operator's five-digit CFEC permit serial number.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? There would be minimal change to KMA salmon management as the department would continue to base management decisions on salmon abundance. While biological concerns are unknown, it is likely increased gear would increase harvest.

BACKGROUND: In the 2006 legislative cycle, HB 251 was passed that gave the Alaska Board of Fisheries (boar) the authority to allow one person the ability to own and operate more than one CFEC permit within the same fishery. Specific language of the current statute is as follows:

AS 16.05.25. Regulations of the Board of Fisheries.

(i) notwithstanding AS 16.43.140(c)(5), the board may adopt, at a regularly scheduled meeting at which the board considers regulatory proposals for management of a specific salmon fishery, a regulation to allow a person who holds two entry permits for that salmon fishery an additional fishing opportunity appropriate for that particular fishery.

The number of Kodiak purse seine permits with records of deliveries has increased over the past few years (Table 98-1) as the average exvessel value per purse seine permit has increased. The average Kodiak purse seine exvessel value is at a record level, (Figure 98-1).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. If adopted, the department will explore ways to accurately document the amount of gear fished by dual seine permit holders.

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 98-1.—Number of salmon purse seine permits available and fished in the Kodiak Management Area, 1994 to 2013.

Year	Purse Seine Permits	
	Available	Fished
1994	387	285
1995	386	312
1996	384	261
1997	384	261
1998	384	217
1999	384	220
2000	383	223
2001	384	182
2002	382	149
2003	377	143
2004	375	140
2005	374	135
2006	375	130
2007	377	140
2008	374	128
2009	374	157
2010	374	155
2011	376	175
2012	376	168
2013	376	170
10- Year Average	375	150

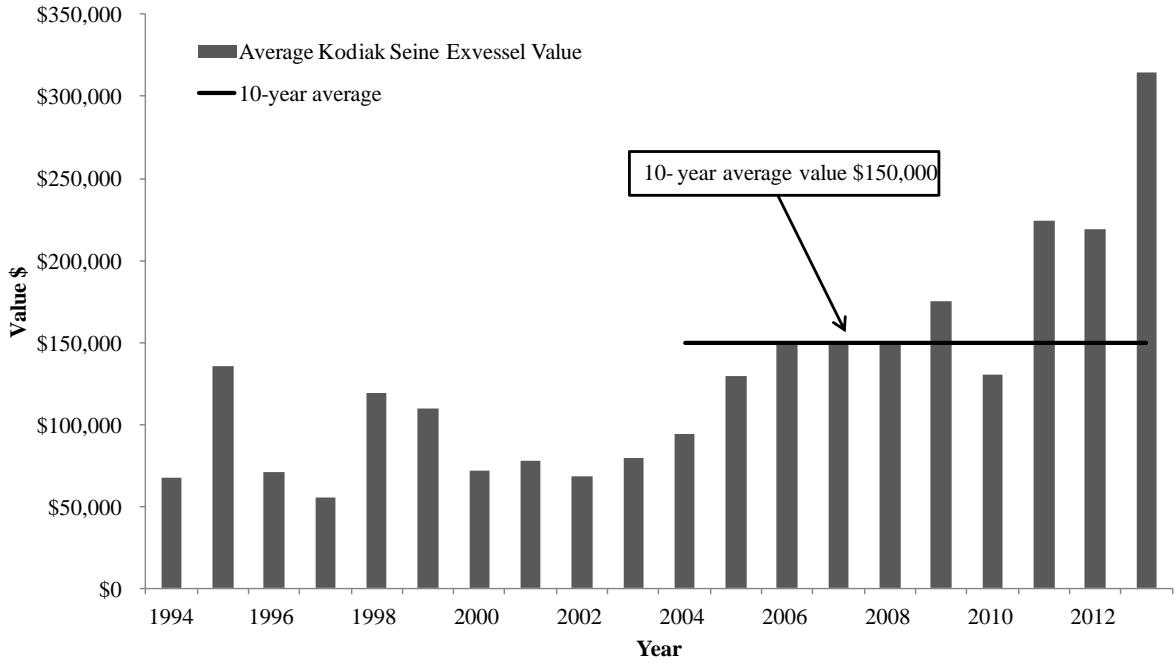


Figure 98-1.—Average Kodiak purse seine exvessel value, 1994 to 2013.

PROPOSAL 99 – 5 AAC 18.331. Gillnet specifications and operation.

PROPOSED BY: Eric OBrien.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow a set gillnet fisherman in the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) to own and operate two Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) S04K permits.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 18.331(a), except as provided in (e) of this section, a CFEC permit holder may operate no more than 150 fathoms of set gillnet in the aggregate, nor more than two set gillnets.

5 AAC 39.280(a), the owner or operator of a set gillnet or fish wheel in operation shall place in a conspicuous place on or near the set gillnet or fish wheel the name of the fisherman operating it, together with the fisherman's five-digit CFEC permit serial number. Numbers must be at least six inches in height with lines at least one inch wide and of a color contrasting with the background.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? There would be no change to KMA salmon management and the department would continue to base management decisions on salmon abundance. While biological concerns are not known, it is likely increased gear would increase harvest.

BACKGROUND: In the 2006 legislative cycle, HB 251 was passed that gave the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) the authority to allow one person the ability to own and operate more than one CFEC permit within the same fishery. Specific language of the current statute is as follows:

AS 16.05.251. Regulations of the Board of Fisheries.

(i) notwithstanding AS 16.43.140.(c)(5), the board may adopt, at a regularly scheduled meeting at which the board considers regulatory proposals for management of a specific salmon fishery, a regulation to allow a person who holds two entry permits for that salmon fishery an additional fishing opportunity appropriate for that particular fishery.

In January of 2008, the board adopted a new regulation (5 AAC 18.331(j)) authorizing Kodiak set gillnet permit holders to own and fish two CFEC permits, with a sunset provision that made the provision invalid after December 31, 2010. Since this regulation was adopted, 22 permit holders held dual permits in 2008, 32 in 2009, and 38 in 2010.

While the regulation was in effect, the department did not collect accurate effort statistics from the fish ticket data in the KMA set gillnet fishery. Currently paper fish tickets do not document the number of dual permit holders fishing both sets of gear. The electronic fish ticket system (eLandings) has been modified to capture both permits however the KMA has seen little use of this system within the salmon fishery.

In 2008 and 2009, dual permit holders were only issued one card to imprint on a fish ticket and represent both limited entry permits. In 2010, dual permit holders were issued two cards, either of which could be used to imprint on a fish ticket. This inconsistency in how cards were issued,

along with the department not documenting the use of multiple permits on one delivery of fish, has caused catch per unit effort (CPUE) statistics to be distorted. The number of set gillnet permits with records of deliveries declined from 157 in 2007, to 148 in 2008, and declined further to 132 in 2009, then increased to 158 in 2010 (Table 99-1). The department cannot accurately characterize the effect this regulation had on the fishery.

In 2010, the board allowed regulation 5 AAC 18.331(j) to sunset. In the time since the permit stacking regulation sunset, the number of set gillnet permits with records of deliveries has remained constant (Table 99-1) and the average exvessel value per set gillnet permit is the highest in past 14 years (Figure 99-1).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. If this proposal is adopted, the department will explore ways to more accurately document the amount of gear fished by dual set gillnet permit holders. Modification of paper fish ticket forms with salmon would be a significant expense for the department as it would require creation and distribution of new fish ticket forms.

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 99-1.—Number of salmon set gillnet permits available and fished in the Kodiak Management Area, 1994 to 2013.

Year	Set Gillnet Permits	
	Available	Fished
1994	190	169
1995	189	173
1996	189	172
1997	188	174
1998	188	171
1999	188	173
2000	188	173
2001	188	172
2002	188	93
2003	188	161
2004	188	164
2005	188	165
2006	188	153
2007	188	157
2008 ^a	188	148
2009 ^a	188	132
2010 ^b	188	158
2011	188	157
2012	188	164
2013	188	152
10- Year Average	188	155

^a Dual permit holders were given only one card to make deliveries on during these years.

^b Dual permit holders were given two cards and could (but did not have to) delivery fish on both cards, whether or not they fished two sets of gear.

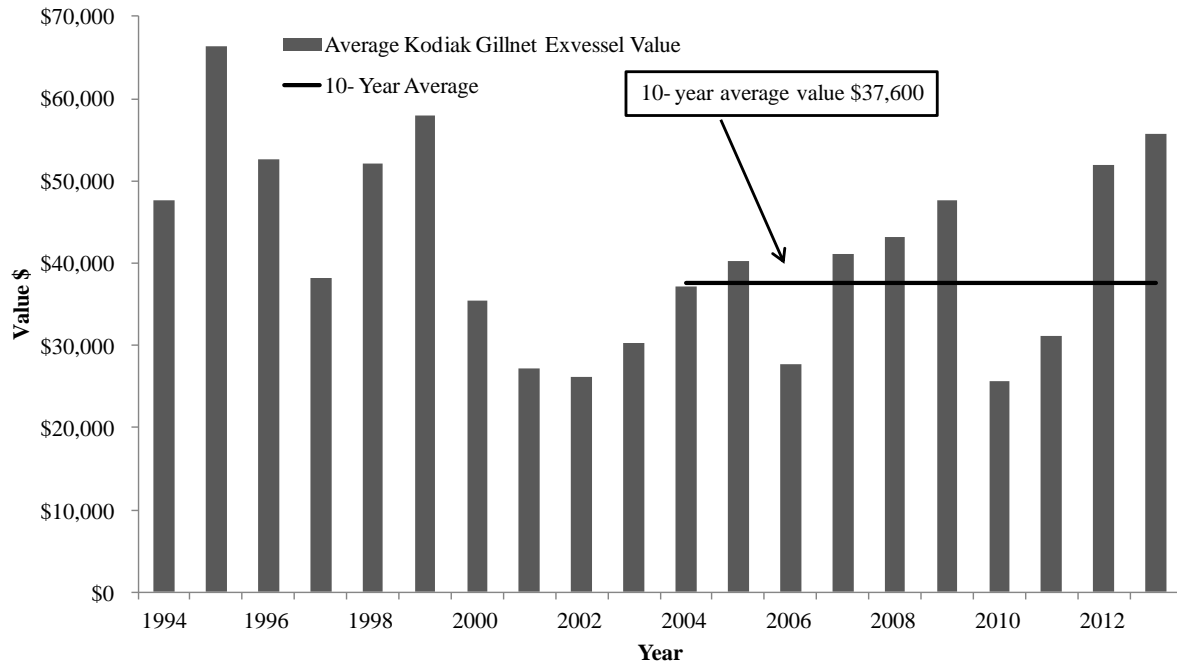


Figure 99-1.—Average Kodiak set gillnet exvessel value, 1994 to 2013.

PROPOSAL 43 – 5 AAC 28.36X. Cook Inlet State-Waters Groundfish Trawl Management Plan; 5 AAC 28.46X. Kodiak Area State-Waters Groundfish Trawl Management Plan; and 5 AAC 28.53X. Chignik Area State-Waters Groundfish Trawl Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Matt Hegge.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would create state-waters (0–3 nautical miles) management plans for all groundfish species in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas for nonpelagic trawl vessels less than or equal to 58 feet in length. Management plans would be based on 25% of the acceptable biological catch (ABC) for groundfish species abundance in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA).

State-waters management plans would establish prohibited species caps, and require 100% observer coverage paid for by the vessel. Groundfish trawl fisheries would open January 20 with a vessel landing limit of 150,000 pounds total of all groundfish species and a time period of no less than 72 hours between landings. Harvest of Pacific cod would be limited to no more than 100,000 pounds per landing.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Except for a seasonal nonpelagic trawl opening on the westside of Kodiak and Afognak islands (Figure 43-1), all other state waters in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik, management areas are closed to nonpelagic trawl gear. The Kodiak and Chignik management areas are closed under 5 AAC 39.164, whereas the Cook Inlet management area is closed under 5 AAC 28.330. In the area open to nonpelagic trawl gear in the Kodiak Area, the state opens a parallel fishery concurrent to the adjacent federal fishery and adopts federal area closures, bycatch limits, and inseason management actions by emergency order, 5 AAC 28.086, *Parallel groundfish fishery emergency order authority*.

Two other regulations address nonpelagic trawl gear in state waters. *Bottom Trawl Fisheries Management Plan* (5 AAC 39.163), was adopted in 1984 based on concerns for crab and halibut bycatch during groundfish fisheries. When adopted, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) determined onboard observers provided the only effective means of collecting information essential to management of certain nonpelagic trawl fisheries. The plan does not specifically close or prohibit nonpelagic trawl gear inside state waters, but mandates onboard observer coverage for vessels operating within certain state waters where nonpelagic trawling is allowed. Because very limited nonpelagic trawl fisheries occur in state waters and because the state does not have an observer program, observer coverage during parallel fisheries has been determined by federal rules.

Non Pelagic Trawl Gear Restrictions (5 AAC 39.164), was initially adopted in 1986 in response to concerns regarding declining king crab stocks. When adopted, the regulation closed bays around Kodiak Island either year-round or on a seasonal basis. In 1999, the regulation was amended and seasonal closures were extended year-round. Closed waters increased to include previously open state waters in the Kodiak and Chignik management areas, with the exception of a seasonal opening in state waters along the westside of Kodiak and Afognak islands, which remain open to nonpelagic trawl gear on a seasonal basis (5 AAC 28.410 (c); Figure 43-1).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The State of Alaska would prosecute nonpelagic groundfish trawl fisheries independently of federal trawl fisheries. The state-waters guideline harvest levels (GHL) would be based on 25% of the CGOA ABC for each groundfish species or species complex. The proposal would restrict 25% of the CGOA groundfish ABCs to vessels 58 feet in length or less. Currently, most nonpelagic trawl vessels operating in the CGOA exceed 58 feet in length. Reduced harvest levels and vessel size restrictions may result in smaller harvests, shorter seasons, and increased competition among existing federal/parallel trawl participants.

In contrast, state-waters nonpelagic trawl fisheries would provide harvest opportunity for vessels eligible to participate in those fisheries. Federal trawl fisheries are limited-access fisheries; the department interprets that the proposed state-waters trawl fisheries would be open-access fisheries, which may provide opportunity for new entrants into the fishery.

Currently 25% of the CGOA Pacific cod ABC is apportioned to the State of Alaska in support of state-waters Pacific cod pot and jig fisheries in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik areas. A separate state-waters Pacific cod nonpelagic trawl fishery would increase the total amount of Pacific cod ABC allocated to state-waters fisheries.

Separate bycatch caps for halibut, king salmon, and crab species would be established for the state-waters nonpelagic trawl fisheries; however, the proposal does not provide specific recommendations for the allowable bycatch limits that would apply to the state-waters nonpelagic trawl fisheries. This proposal would require 100% observer coverage for all nonpelagic trawl vessels participating in the proposed state-waters fishery; however, the state does not have a groundfish observer program.

BACKGROUND: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) establishes most groundfish harvest levels in waters off Alaska, in addition to specifying prohibited species catch limits and observer coverage requirements. For the 2013 fisheries, NMFS established 17 unique ABCs for groundfish species specific to the CGOA. Many of the established ABCs were for groundfish species that are 1) not commonly targeted with nonpelagic trawl gear (walleye pollock) or 2) do not occur inside state waters in large abundance (sablefish, deepwater flatfish, and most rockfish species). Based on department crab and groundfish surveys, several commercially important groundfish species occur inside state waters in quantities that may support commercial nonpelagic trawl fisheries. These species include Pacific cod, flathead sole, rock sole, yellowfin sole, arrowtooth flounder, big skate, and longnose skate. The 2013 CGOA ABCs for these seven species totaled approximately 532 million pounds. As proposed, the state-waters GHLs for these species would total 133 million pounds based on 25% of their respective ABCs. Determining GHLs would require annual coordination between the state and federal governments.

Since 2000, state waters in the Chignik and Cook Inlet areas have been closed to nonpelagic trawl gear. Walleye pollock, arrowtooth flounder, and rock sole were the dominant species harvested by nonpelagic trawl gear in state waters of the Kodiak Area from 2000–2012 (Table 43-1).

Federally-permitted nonpelagic trawl vessels are subject to federal observer program requirements. Annually, NMFS-certified observers are deployed across most federal groundfish and halibut fisheries based on management and conservation needs. Vessels subject to observer requirements are placed into one of two observer coverage categories: 1) full coverage category, or 2) partial coverage category. Most trawl catcher vessels in the Gulf of Alaska are placed into the partial coverage category, resulting in a level of observer coverage less than 100%. Funding associated with deploying federal observers on vessels in the partial coverage category is provided through annual fees based on the exvessel value of groundfish and halibut retained during those fisheries.

Establishing a state groundfish observer program would be duplicative to the federal groundfish observer program for transboundary groundfish species. A state groundfish observer program would require a substantial investment in time and resources for the state of Alaska. Because NMFS provides stock assessment for most groundfish, maintaining a compatible state-waters observer program with data collected by the NMFS observer program would be essential to provide the same quality and type of information in order to be used for both catch accounting and stock assessment. In addition to establishing a state groundfish observer program, the department would need additional groundfish management staff to develop and manage new state-waters nonpelagic trawl fisheries.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) recently adopted Gulf of Alaska (GOA) king salmon prohibited species bycatch caps (PSC) for federal (pelagic and nonpelagic) trawl fisheries and reduced the GOA halibut PSC caps for trawl and longline fisheries. Currently, federal PSC caps are apportioned based on season, fishery target species, and gear/processing sector type. When the apportioned PSC cap is achieved, the directed fishing season is closed for the applicable federal fishing sector.

The NPFMC is currently considering a new management program for federal GOA trawl vessels (catcher vessels and catcher processors) aimed at reducing bycatch of nontarget species, including Pacific halibut and king salmon. This action is ongoing; in October 2013, the NPFMC proposed evaluation of a cooperative program which would allocate pollock, Pacific cod, halibut PSC, and king salmon PSC in federal waters. The initial design proposed in October includes 100% observer coverage on all trawl catcher vessels (trawl catcher processors already have at least 100% coverage). This action is intended to solicit and focus public input prior to the NPFMC determining alternatives for a formal analysis. It is not possible to project when final action on such a program would occur, but it is likely at least 18 months to two years away. The NPFMC has specifically noted that the interrelationships between state-waters, parallel, and federal fisheries management programs will be considered as trawl bycatch management measures are developed, and will necessitate coordination with the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. The department supports closure of state waters included in this proposal to nonpelagic trawl gear to protect nearshore habitat and fishery resources.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery if fishery participants are required to pay for observers. Observer fees vary depending on the observer provider; however, observer coverage may cost vessel operators \$450 per day.

Table 43-1.–Nonpelagic trawl harvest of the top five species in waters of the Kodiak area open to nonpelagic trawl gear, 2000–2012.

Kodiak	Pounds	Chignik	Cook Inlet
Walleye Pollock	3,315,314	Closed to nonpelagic trawl gear	
Arrowtooth Flounder	2,084,378		
Rock Sole	1,357,237		
Pacific cod	604,024		
Flathead Sole	586,295		

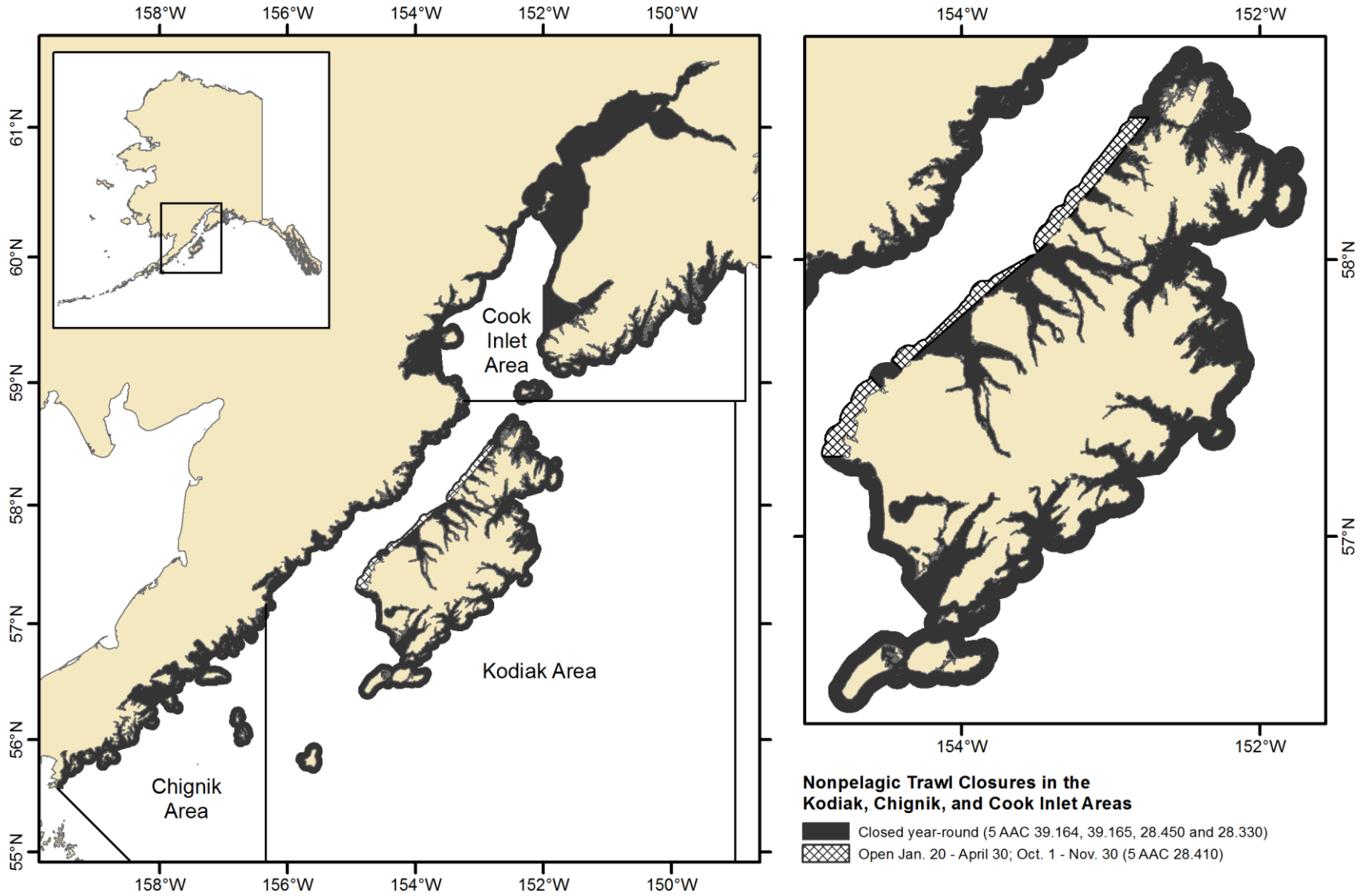


Figure 43-1.—Nonpelagic trawl gear restrictions in state-waters of the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik areas.

PROPOSAL 44 – 5 AAC 28.36X. Cook Inlet Area Pollock Management Plan; 5 AAC 28.46X. Kodiak Area Pollock Management Plan and 5 AAC 28.53X. Chignik Area Pollock Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Matt Hegge.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would create state-waters (0–3 nautical miles; nmi) walleye pollock fisheries in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik areas for vessels less than or equal to 58 feet in overall length using pelagic trawl, nonpelagic trawl, seine, or jig gear. This proposal would also require 100% observer coverage for all trawl vessels, paid for by the vessel, and establish a vessel landing limit of 150,000 pounds with a time period of no less than 48 hours between landings.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Walleye pollock fisheries in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik areas are managed as parallel fisheries (5 AAC 28.086). During parallel fisheries, the state opens a fishery from 0–3 nmi offshore concurrent to adjacent federal walleye pollock fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (3–200 nmi) and adopts by emergency order most federal rules, including seasons, area closures, bycatch limits, and management actions.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The State of Alaska would prosecute state-waters walleye pollock fisheries in the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik areas independently of federal walleye pollock fisheries. The guideline harvest level (GHL) would be based on 25% of the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) areas 620 and 630 walleye pollock acceptable biological catch (ABC).

Developing state-waters walleye pollock fisheries would result in reduction in catch for federal/parallel participants. The proposal would reserve 25% of the CGOA walleye pollock ABCs in areas 620 and 630 for vessels 58 feet in length or less in state waters. Currently, most vessels targeting walleye pollock in the CGOA exceed 58 feet in length. Reduced harvest levels and vessel size restrictions may result in smaller harvests, shorter seasons, and increased competition among existing federal/parallel trawl participants.

This proposal would require 100% observer coverage for trawl vessels participating in the proposed state-waters fishery; however, the state does not have a groundfish observer program.

BACKGROUND: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) is currently considering a new management program for federal Gulf of Alaska (GOA) trawl vessels (catcher vessels and catcher processors) aimed at reducing bycatch of non-target species including Pacific halibut and king salmon. This action is ongoing; in October 2013, the NPFMC proposed a preliminary program design based on a voluntary cooperative structure that would allocate pollock, Pacific cod, halibut prohibited species catch (PSC), and king salmon PSC in federal waters to cooperatives. This action is intended to solicit and focus public input prior to the NPFMC determining alternatives for a formal analysis. The initial design proposed in October includes 100% observer coverage on all trawl catcher vessels (trawl catcher processors already have at least 100% coverage). It is not possible to project when final action on such a program would occur, but it is likely at least 18 months to two years away. The NPFMC has specifically

noted that the interrelationships between state-waters, parallel, and federal fisheries management programs will be considered as trawl bycatch management measures are developed, and will necessitate coordination with the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board).

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) annually establishes separate walleye pollock ABCs for areas 620 and 630 in the CGOA (Figure 44-1). The Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik areas overlap with federal CGOA areas 620 and 630, such that state waters of the Cook Inlet area are entirely within area 630; Kodiak Area state waters are within both areas 620 and a portion of 630, and state waters of the Chignik Area, mostly within area 620 (Figure 44-1). The 2012 walleye pollock ABCs in Areas 620 and 630 totaled approximately 159 million pounds (Area 620 = 101 million pounds; Area 630 = 58 million pounds). The proposed GHL for the state-waters fisheries would total approximately 40 million pounds based on 25% of the combined areas 620 and 630 pollock ABCs.

From 2003 to 2012, walleye pollock harvested during the parallel fishery in federal Area 620 averaged approximately 19% of the walleye pollock ABC; ranging from 5% in 2005 to 35% in 2004 (Table 44-1). Parallel harvest within Area 630 averaged approximately 33% of the walleye pollock ABC; ranging from 5% of the ABC in 2011, to 49% in 2005. The majority of the parallel fishery harvest occurred in the Kodiak Area (Table 44-2).

From 2003 to 2012, an average of six trawl vessels 58 feet in length or less participated in the Chignik Area parallel walleye pollock fishery and an average of two trawl vessels participated in the Kodiak Area parallel fishery (Table 44-3). In 2012 all vessels 58 feet in length participating in the Chignik and Kodiak parallel fisheries were federally permitted to fish in federal waters. Parallel harvest by trawl vessels 58 feet in length or less averaged approximately 1.5 million pounds annually in the Chignik and Kodiak areas from 2003 to 2012 (Table 44-3). No trawl vessels 58 feet in length or less have targeted walleye pollock in the Cook Inlet Area. In 2004, a single commissioner's permit was issued to a vessel greater than 58 feet to allow pelagic trawl harvest of walleye pollock in state waters of the Cook Inlet Area. Walleye pollock harvest by jig gear vessels is limited and harvest records indicate most walleye pollock is retained as bycatch during directed jig gear fisheries for Pacific cod. Seine gear is not an allowable gear type for walleye pollock; therefore, no harvest information is available.

Pacific cod are commonly harvested as bycatch or as a secondary target species during directed walleye pollock trawl fisheries. The Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik areas are currently allocated a combined 25% of the CGOA Pacific cod ABC in support of state-waters Pacific cod fisheries for vessels using pot and jig gear. If adopted, the department seeks guidance from the board regarding Pacific cod GHL allocation and catch accounting during state-waters walleye pollock fisheries. Additionally, the NPFMC recently adopted king salmon PSC bycatch caps for federal/parallel walleye pollock fisheries in the GOA, which were implemented in late 2012. The federal PSC caps are apportioned based on season, fishery target species, and gear/processing sector type. When the apportioned PSC cap is achieved, the directed fishing season is closed for the applicable federal fishing sector.

Federally-permitted pelagic trawl vessels are subject to federal observer program requirements. Annually, NMFS-certified observers are deployed across most federal groundfish and halibut fisheries based on management and conservation needs. Vessels subject to observer

requirements are placed into one of two observer coverage categories: 1) full coverage category or 2) partial coverage category. Most trawl catcher vessels in the GOA are placed into the partial coverage category, resulting in a level of observer coverage less than 100%. Funding associated with deploying federal observers on vessels in the partial coverage category is provided through annual fees based on the exvalue of groundfish and halibut retained during those fisheries.

Establishing a state groundfish observer program would be duplicative to the federal groundfish observer program for transboundary groundfish species. A state groundfish observer program would require a substantial investment in time and resources for the State of Alaska. Because NMFS provides stock assessment for most groundfish, maintaining a compatible state-waters observer program with data collected by the NMFS observer program would be essential to provide the same quality and type of information in order to be used for both catch accounting and stock assessment.

The state would need additional personnel to manage these walleye pollock fisheries. Additional personnel would be needed for management of open-access derby style fisheries, coordinating dockside sampling, reviewing and analyzing inseason and postseason harvest and bycatch data from observer program and maintaining databases of fishery performance and length/weight data.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, as previously stated in proposal 43, the department is **OPPOSED** to nonpelagic trawl gear in state waters to reduce bycatch and protect habitat. The department would need funding to implement these new fisheries.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery if fishery participants are required to pay for observers. Observer fees vary depending on the observer provider; however, observer coverage may cost vessel operators \$450 per day.

Table 44-1.—Walleye pollock acceptable biological catch (ABC) and retained harvest during parallel fisheries in federal areas 620 and 630 by year, 2003–2012.

Year	Area 620			Area 630		
	Parallel Harvest (Pounds)	620 ABC (Pounds)	Parallel Harvest as % of ABC	Parallel Harvest (Pounds)	630 ABC (Pounds)	Parallel Harvest as % of ABC
2003	7,184,392	43,397,996	17%	9,430,035	22,793,593	41%
2004	20,573,987	58,400,453	35%	11,116,438	30,952,902	36%
2005	3,698,705	75,847,837	5%	20,106,754	41,266,126	49%
2006	9,009,723	67,223,353	13%	19,209,333	40,670,878	47%
2007	6,310,075	46,252,983	14%	12,688,622	32,738,646	39%
2008	12,044,715	42,286,866	28%	10,699,750	30,071,053	36%
2009	7,770,885	31,080,770	25%	11,179,782	24,378,717	46%
2010	17,202,527	61,938,873	28%	6,509,534	42,147,975	15%
2011	9,484,954	82,375,724	12%	2,201,175	44,610,539	5%
2012	18,638,681	100,989,353	18%	9,195,678	58,087,397	16%
Average	11,191,864	60,979,421	19%	11,233,710	36,771,783	33%

Note: Harvest excludes discards at-sea.

Table 44-2.—Total retained parallel walleye pollock harvest, by all gear types, in the Cook Inlet, Chignik, and Kodiak management areas, 2003–2012.

Year	Cook Inlet		Chignik		Kodiak			
	Harvest (Pounds)	Harvest as % of Area 630 ABC	Harvest (Pounds)	Harvest as % of Area 620 ABC	Area 630 Harvest (Pounds)	Harvest as % of Area 630 ABC	Area 620 Harvest (Pounds)	Harvest as % of Area 620 ABC
2003	CF	CF	100,968	0%	9,430,014	41%	7,083,424	16%
2004	342,305	1%	1,118,569	2%	10,774,133	35%	19,455,418	33%
2005	CF	CF	857,414	1%	20,106,655	49%	2,841,291	4%
2006	CF	CF	1,186,683	2%	19,209,320	47%	7,823,040	12%
2007	1,694	0%	76,421	0%	12,686,928	39%	6,233,653	13%
2008	CF	CF	169,459	0%	10,699,664	36%	11,875,256	28%
2009	5,269	0%	CF	CF	11,174,513	46%	7,770,787	25%
2010	CF	CF	175	0%	6,509,379	15%	17,202,351	28%
2011	5,761	0%	131,221	0%	2,195,415	5%	9,353,733	11%
2012	4,301	0%	5,406,273	5%	9,191,376	16%	13,232,408	13%
Average	71,866	0%	1,005,243	1%	11,197,740	33%	10,287,136	18%

CF = Confidential data

Note: Harvest excludes discards at-sea

Table 44-3.—Parallel walleye pollock harvest by pelagic and nonpelagic trawl vessels greater than 58 feet and less than or equal to 58 feet in the Chignik and Kodiak areas, 2003–2012.

Year	Chignik				Kodiak			
	Vessels less than or Equal to 58 Feet		Vessels Greater than 58 Feet		Vessels less than or Equal to 58 Feet		Vessels Greater than 58 Feet	
	Harvest (Pounds)	Vessel Count	Harvest (Pounds)	Vessel Count	Harvest (Pounds)	Vessel Count	Harvest (Pounds)	Vessel Count
2003	CF	2	CF	1	CF	1	16,319,568	33
2004	922,546	4	CF	2	0	0	30,208,945	38
2005	429,682	4	524,984	3	CF	2	22,605,699	36
2006	642,675	3	CF	2	CF	2	26,851,128	31
2007	CF	1	0	0	0	0	18,723,343	27
2008	CF	1	0	0	CF	1	22,394,257	32
2009	0	0	0	0	CF	1	18,584,399	30
2010	0	0	0	0	1,604,716	4	22,025,932	32
2011	CF	1	CF	1	1,106,214	3	10,355,108	29
2012	4,103,067	11	CF	1	1,837,227	4	20,413,182	36
Average	1,524,493	6	524,984	1	1,516,052	2	20,848,156	32

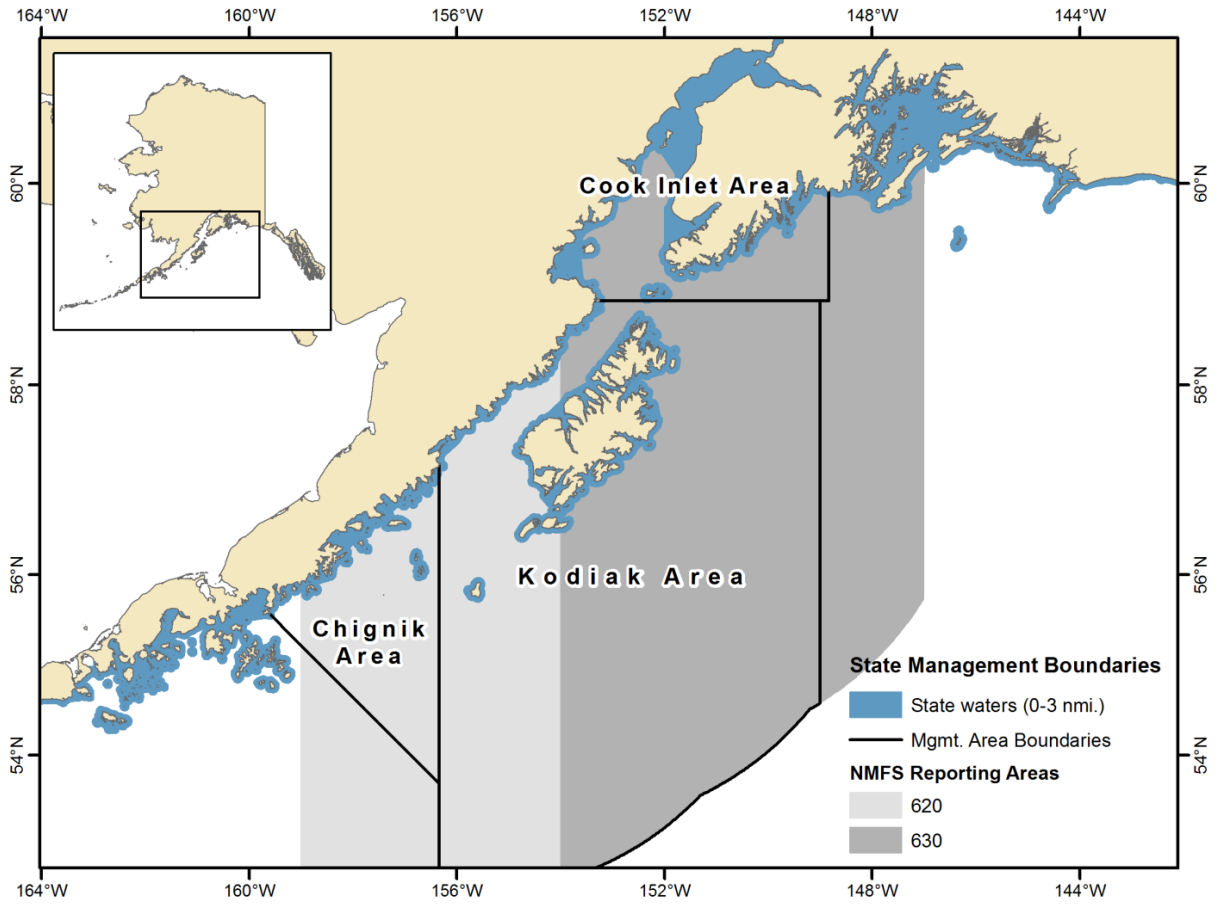


Figure 44-1.—Map depicting the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas and federal areas 620 and 630 for walleye pollock.

PROPOSAL 45 – 5 AAC 28.XXX. New Section.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Cape Barnbus Inc., and Ouzinkie Community Holdings.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would require 100% observer coverage for trawl vessels targeting groundfish inside state waters (0–3 nautical miles) of the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The state opens a parallel pelagic trawl walleye pollock fishery concurrent to the federal fishery (3–200 nmi) and adopts most federal rules and management actions inside state waters by emergency order (5 AAC 28.086). Pelagic trawl gear is a legal gear type in all state waters of the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik areas; however, during the parallel walleye pollock fishery, the state adopts most Steller sea lion federal closures prohibiting directed walleye pollock fishing in some areas inside state waters.

Except for a portion of state waters on the westside of Kodiak Island and Afognak Island (Figure 45-1), nonpelagic trawl gear is prohibited in all state waters of Kodiak, Chignik, and Cook Inlet areas (5 AAC 39.164; 5 AAC 28.330). Where nonpelagic trawl gear is allowed, the state opens a parallel fishery concurrent to the adjacent federal fishery. During the parallel season, the state adopts by emergency order federal rules and management actions inside state waters.

Annually, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) observers are deployed across most federal/parallel groundfish and halibut fisheries based on management and conservation needs. Federally-permitted trawl vessels are subject to federal observer program requirements during parallel fisheries. Trawl vessels without federal fishing permits are not subject to federal observer requirements during parallel fisheries. All Gulf of Alaska trawl vessels that currently participate in parallel groundfish fisheries have federal license limitation permits (LLP) and federal fisheries permits (FFP).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? All vessels targeting groundfish with trawl gear would be required to have an observer onboard the vessel 100% of the time while operating inside state waters, although the state does not have a groundfish observer program. The proposal does not specify which management agency (Alaska Department of Fish and Game or NMFS) would be responsible for deploying observers and administering the program. Although the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) could require 100% observer coverage in state waters, the state does not have authority to regulate the federal observer program and thus, some state program would be required. Increased trawl vessel observer coverage inside state waters would provide increased bycatch and discard monitoring, and biological samples in support of research and assessment of fishery resources.

BACKGROUND: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) recently adopted Gulf of Alaska (GOA) king salmon prohibited species (PSC) bycatch caps for federal trawl (pelagic and nonpelagic) fisheries and reduced halibut PSC caps for trawl and longline fisheries. Federal PSC caps are apportioned based on season, fishery target species, and gear/processing sector type. When the apportioned PSC cap is achieved, the directed fishing season is closed for

the applicable federal fishing sector. Currently, there are no state or federal PSC caps for crab species in the GOA.

Vessels subject to federal/parallel observer requirements are placed into one of two observer coverage categories: 1) full coverage category or 2) partial coverage category. Most trawl catcher vessels in the GOA are placed into the partial coverage category resulting in a level of observer coverage less than 100%. Funding associated with deploying federal observers on vessels in the partial coverage category is provided through annual fees based on the exvessel value of groundfish and halibut retained during those fisheries.

The NPFMC is currently considering a new management program for federal GOA trawl vessels (catcher vessels and catcher processors) aimed at reducing bycatch of non-target species including Pacific halibut and king salmon. This action is ongoing; in October 2013, the NPFMC proposed a preliminary program design based on a voluntary cooperative structure that would allocate pollock, Pacific cod, halibut PSC, and king salmon PSC in federal waters to cooperatives. The initial design proposed in October includes 100% observer coverage on all trawl catcher vessels (trawl catcher processors already have at least 100% coverage). It is not possible to project when final action on such a program would occur, but it is likely at least 18 months to two years away. Although specific management alternatives have not been developed at this time, groundfish observer coverage has been identified by the NPFMC as an important consideration.

Establishing a state groundfish observer program would be duplicative to the federal groundfish observer program that currently operates in the parallel trawl fisheries for transboundary groundfish species. A state groundfish observer program would require a substantial investment in time and resources for the State of Alaska. Because NMFS provides stock assessment for most groundfish, maintaining a state-waters observer program with data compatible with data collected by the NMFS observer program would be essential to provide the same quality and type of information in order to be used for both catch accounting and stock assessment.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department supports collection of onboard fishery data; however, is **NEUTRAL** on requiring 100% coverage.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery if fishery participants are required to pay for observers. Observer fees vary depending on the observer provider; however, observer coverage may cost vessel operators \$450 per day.

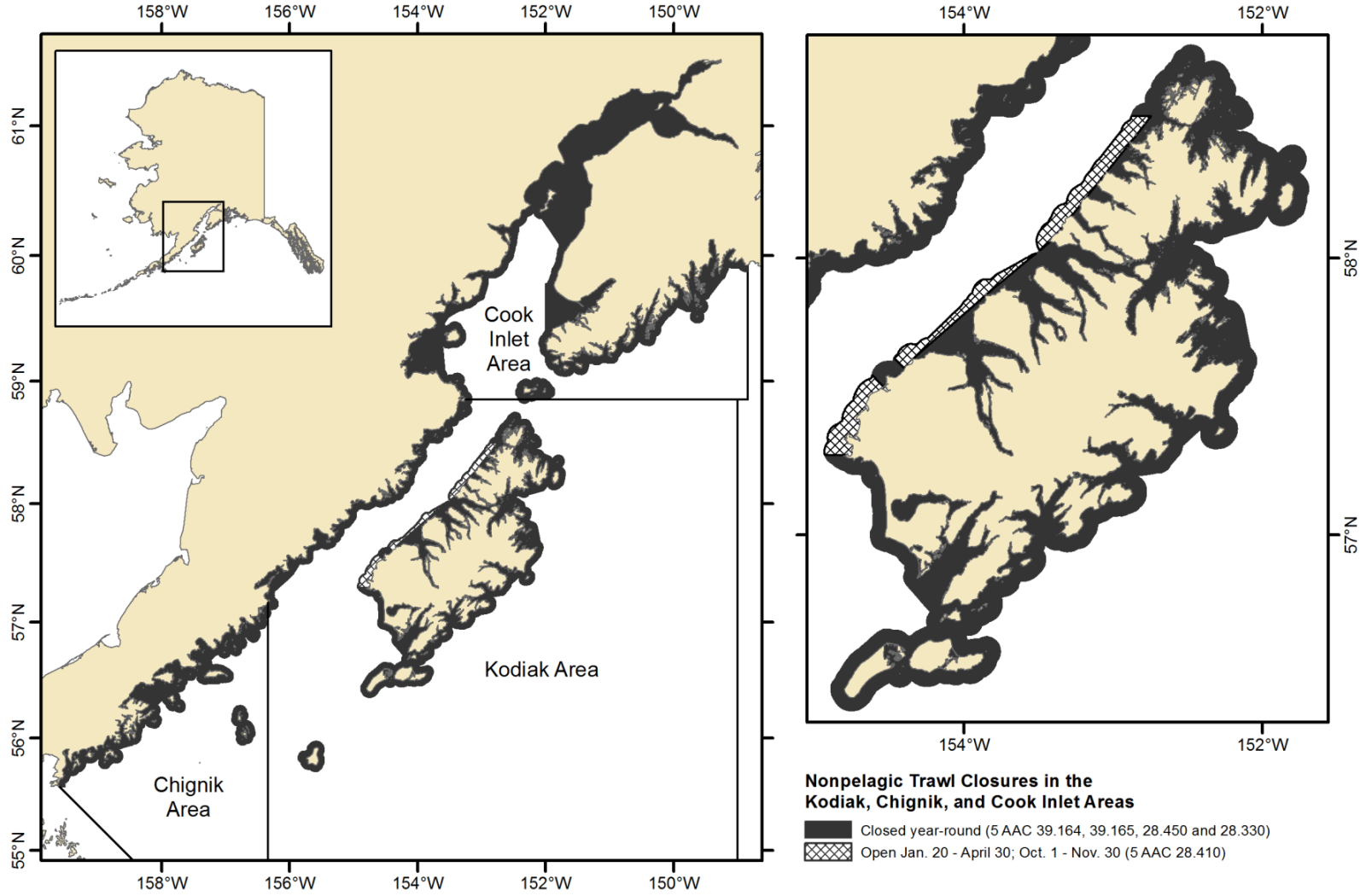


Figure 45-1.—Nonpelagic trawl gear closures in state-waters of the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik areas.

PROPOSAL 101 – 5 AAC 28.450. Closed waters in Kodiak Area and 5 AAC 39.165. Trawl gear unlawful.

PROPOSED BY: Tim Abena.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal addresses groundfish fisheries and would close state waters (0 to 3 nautical miles; nmi) in Alitak Bay of the Kodiak Management Area to all commercial and subsistence groundfish fishing by vessels using trawl and pot gear for at least seven years (Figure 101-1).

Proposal 101 is a companion proposal to Proposal 338, which is scheduled for the March 2014 Statewide King and Tanner crab Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting. Proposals 101 and 338, together, seek to increase crab abundance in Alitak Bay by prohibiting commercial and subsistence fishing with trawl and pot gear. Further information for the implications to the subsistence crab fishery will be addressed in staff comments for Proposal 338.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? State waters of Alitak Bay are open to pelagic trawl and pot gear (5 AAC 28.050, *Lawful gear for groundfish*). Alitak Bay has been closed to nonpelagic trawl gear since 1986 (5 AAC 39.164(b)(1)(B), *Nonpelagic trawl gear restrictions*). Alitak Bay is open to subsistence fishing for groundfish (5 AAC 01.510(c), *Fishing seasons*) with gear allowed under 5 AAC 01.52, *Lawful gear and gear specifications*, and with subsistence bag and possession limits (5 AAC 01.545). King crab may only be taken from June 1 through January 31 as specified in 5 AAC 02.420, *Subsistence king crab fishery*, and Tanner crab may be harvested year-round as specified in 5 AAC 02.425, *Subsistence Tanner crab fishery*.

The commercial Tanner crab fishery in the proposal area is managed under 5 AAC 35.507, *Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula Districts C. bairdi Tanner crab harvest strategies*. Prior to opening a commercial Tanner crab fishery, the estimated abundance of mature male Tanner crab must meet or exceed biological and management abundance thresholds established in regulation.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Walleye pollock is the primary groundfish species harvested by pelagic trawl vessels, while Pacific cod is the primary species for groundfish pot vessels in the proposed closure area. If state waters of Alitak Bay were closed to these gear types, pelagic trawl and pot vessels would target walleye pollock or Pacific cod in other state or federal waters outside of Alitak Bay. Redistributing groundfish catch and effort away from Alitak Bay may increase crab bycatch in other waters of the Kodiak Area and reduce crab bycatch inside Alitak Bay.

This proposal would reduce subsistence opportunity for Alaska residents who harvest groundfish in Alitak Bay.

Alitak Bay is located in the Southwest Section of the Kodiak District for crab management (Figure 101-1). Approximately 50% of the estimated Tanner crab population and 40% of the estimated king crab population in the Southwest Section occur outside of state waters (0 to 3 nmi). Crab bycatch is known to occur during pot and trawl groundfish fisheries; however, the

effects of prohibiting pot and trawl gear on crab stocks inside state waters of Alitak Bay are unknown.

BACKGROUND:

Alitak Bay Pelagic Trawl Fisheries: The walleye pollock fishery in Alitak Bay is managed under parallel rules. During federal pollock fisheries, the state opens a parallel fishery from 0 to 3 nmi offshore concurrent to the adjacent federal walleye pollock fishery (3 to 200 nmi), and adopts most federal rules and management measures, including season dates, area closures, and bycatch limits, by emergency order. From 2003 to 2012, an average of 17 pelagic trawl vessels annually participated in the parallel pollock fishery in Alitak Bay. Harvest averaged approximately 5.4 million pounds of pollock per year (Table 101-1) or approximately 6% of the total Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) pollock harvest. Approximately 96% of the total harvest by pelagic trawl vessels was walleye pollock (Figure 101-2). The remaining harvest was primarily comprised of arrowtooth flounder (1.11%), Pacific cod (0.82%), Pacific herring (0.68%), and all other species (1.17%).

The State of Alaska does not have a groundfish observer program. Federally-permitted pelagic trawl vessels are subject to federal observer program requirements during parallel fisheries. Vessels subject to observer requirements are placed into one of two observer coverage categories: 1) full coverage category, or 2) partial coverage category. Pelagic trawl catcher-vessels that target pollock in Alitak Bay during the parallel fishery are placed into the partial coverage category, resulting in a level of observer coverage less than 100%.

Alitak Bay Pacific Cod Pot Fisheries: Groundfish pot gear is used in Alitak Bay during parallel and state-waters Pacific cod fisheries. There is no limit on the number of pots a vessel may operate during the parallel Pacific cod fishery. Vessels are restricted to operating a maximum of 60 pots during the state-waters Pacific cod fishery. On average, five pot vessels harvested approximately 0.66 million pounds of Pacific cod per year in both state and parallel Pacific cod fisheries, combined, from 2003 to 2012 (Table 101-2).

The State of Alaska does not require groundfish observers during the state-waters Pacific cod fishery. Federally-permitted pot vessels are subject to federal observer program requirements during the parallel fishery. Since 2003, no pot vessels have been observed in Alitak Bay during the parallel fishery.

Alitak Bay King and Tanner Crab Resources: Since 1988, the department has conducted an annual trawl survey in support of king and Tanner crab management. Results from the survey provide an index of king and Tanner crab abundance throughout the Kodiak Area. Survey results from the most recent five years indicate Alitak Bay supports the highest abundance of red king crab in the Kodiak Area, although the red king crab stock remains at historically low abundance levels. The last commercial red king crab fishery occurred in 1983.

Alitak Bay is located in the Southwest Section of the Kodiak District (Figure 101-1). The Southwest Section opened to commercial Tanner crab fishing four out of the last ten years (2005, 2006, 2011, and 2012; Table 101-3). During years when the fishery was closed, Tanner crab abundance did not meet regulatory thresholds necessary to allow for commercial harvest. The

estimated annual Alitak Bay Tanner crab population size is highly variable, ranging from 0.75 million crab in 1995 to over 39 million crab in 2013 (Figure 101-3). Despite large variability during this time period, Tanner crab abundance in Alitak Bay has been generally increasing since the start of the department trawl survey in 1988 (Figure 101-3).

Alitak Bay Subsistence Fisheries: The board has found that 550,000 – 900,000 usable pounds of finfish other than salmon, rockfish and lingcod are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses in the Kodiak Area (5 AAC 01.536(b)(4)).

The department does not require a subsistence permit when targeting groundfish for subsistence purposes; therefore, limited participation and harvest information is available for the subsistence groundfish fishery. Although pot and trawl gear are legal gear types for subsistence-groundfish fishing in Alitak Bay, subsistence groundfish harvest by vessels using pot and trawl gear is likely minimal. The nearest community on Kodiak Island to Alitak Bay is Akhiok. For Akhiok, the most recent comprehensive harvest data for all resources is from a 2004 household harvest survey for the 2003 study year. For calendar year 2003, the harvest of groundfish included 23 pounds per capita out of a total of 120 pounds for all fish resources harvested. Eighty-two percent of households reported harvesting groundfish.

Subsistence fishing for king and Tanner crab is regulated through conditions of a subsistence fishing permit. Permit holders are required to record the location and number of each crab species retained and return subsistence permits to the department annually. Based on returned permits from 2003 to 2012, 56% of all subsistence king crab in the Kodiak Area are taken from Alitak Bay. Subsistence regulations currently limit red king crab harvest to three king crab per household per year. Average subsistence catch of Tanner crab in Alitak Bay represents about 6% of all Tanner crab taken by subsistence users in the Kodiak Area. For the 2003 study year, Akhiok residents harvested three pounds per capita of crab, most of which (2.2 lb per capita) was king crab. Thirty-six percent of households reported harvesting crab in 2003.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal; however, is **OPPOSED** to reducing subsistence opportunity. To evaluate the effects of this proposal, additional research and monitoring would be necessary to determine if reduced crab bycatch from pot and trawl closures or other environmental factors influence crab abundance in Alitak Bay.

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 101-1.—Total Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) walleye pollock harvest, Alitak Bay pollock effort, harvest, and exvessel value, and percent of CGOA pollock harvested in Alitak Bay, 2003–2012.

Year	CGOA Pollock Harvest	Alitak Bay Pollock Harvest			Percent of CGOA Pollock Harvested in Alitak Bay
		Vessel Count	Pounds	Exvessel Value	
2003	70,716,954	18	3,588,328	\$189,287	5%
2004	85,941,922	32	17,572,432	\$950,008	20%
2005	104,511,268	17	1,854,026	\$134,667	2%
2006	97,524,890	17	5,684,998	\$468,093	6%
2007	74,601,459	11	4,996,445	\$509,012	7%
2008	73,726,233	16	5,272,392	\$638,526	7%
2009	57,831,067	21	5,727,361	\$623,965	10%
2010	104,720,705	20	5,860,849	\$771,008	6%
2011	125,494,650	10	2,120,703	\$262,338	2%
2012	155,730,739	3	831,163	\$126,544	1%
Average	95,079,989	17	5,350,870	\$467,345	6%

Table 101-2.—Vessel count, total harvest, and exvessel value of Pacific cod during state-waters and parallel Pacific cod fisheries, combined, in Alitak Bay, 2003–2012.

Year	Vessel Count	Harvest (Pounds)	Exvessel Value
2003	4	823,179	\$256,829
2004	8	1,227,025	\$326,738
2005	9	914,365	\$276,148
2006	7	733,602	\$266,120
2007	5	176,513	\$82,715
2008	4	122,099	\$70,550
2009	<i>No Effort</i>		
2010	2	Confidential	
2011	1	Confidential	
2012	3	605,862	\$201,200
Average	5	657,521	\$211,471

Table 101-3.—Guideline harvest level, harvest, vessel count, and exvessel value for Tanner crab in the Southwest Section of the Kodiak District, 2004–2013.

<u>Year</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Harvest</u> <u>(Pounds)</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Vessels</u>	<u>Exvessel</u> <u>Value</u>
<u>2004</u>		<i>Fishery Closed</i>		
<u>2005</u>	<u>450,000</u>	<u>574,944</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>\$960,156</u>
<u>2006</u>	<u>150,000</u>	<u>169,089</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>\$204,598</u>
<u>2007–2010</u>		<i>Fishery Closed</i>		
<u>2011</u>	<u>150,000</u>	<u>179,680</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>\$415,061</u>
<u>2012</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>110,336</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>\$207,432</u>
<u>2013</u>		<i>Fishery Closed</i>		

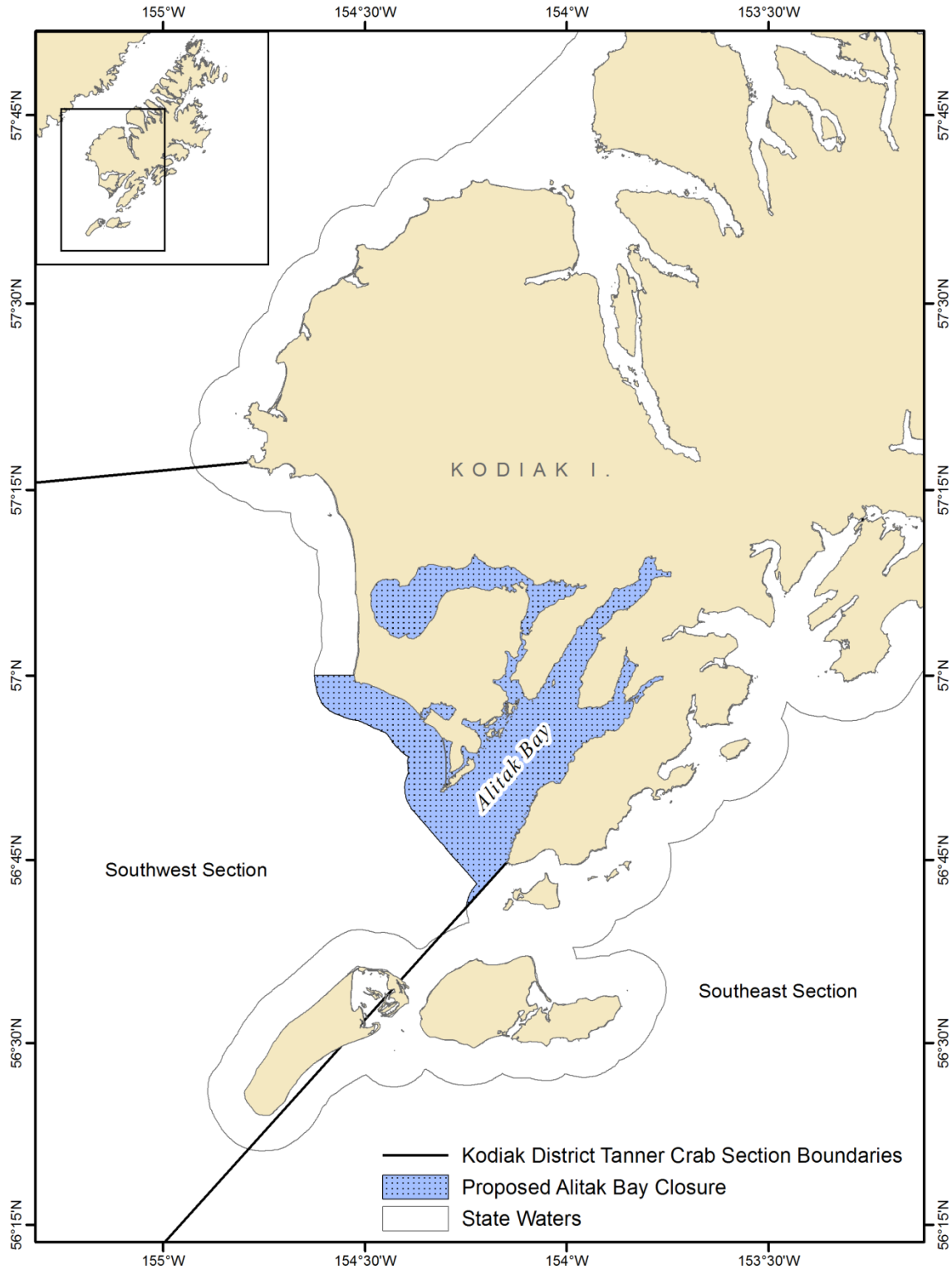


Figure 101-1.—Proposed Alitak Bay closure area and Tanner crab management boundaries.

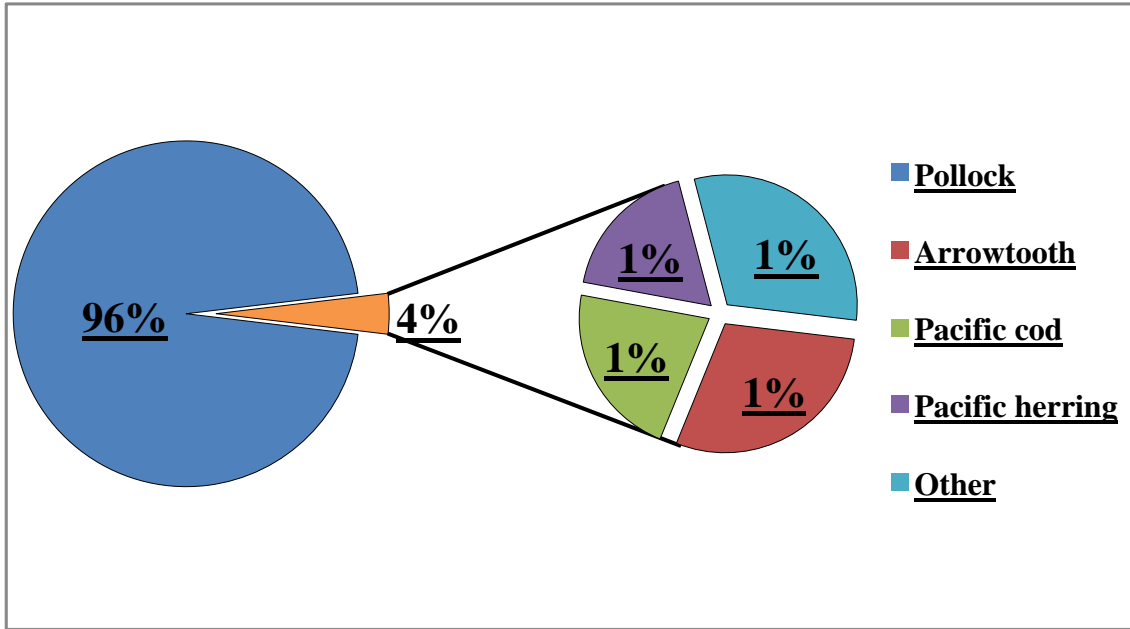


Figure 101-2.—Retained species composition during directed walleye pollock pelagic trawl fisheries in Alitak Bay, 2003–2012.

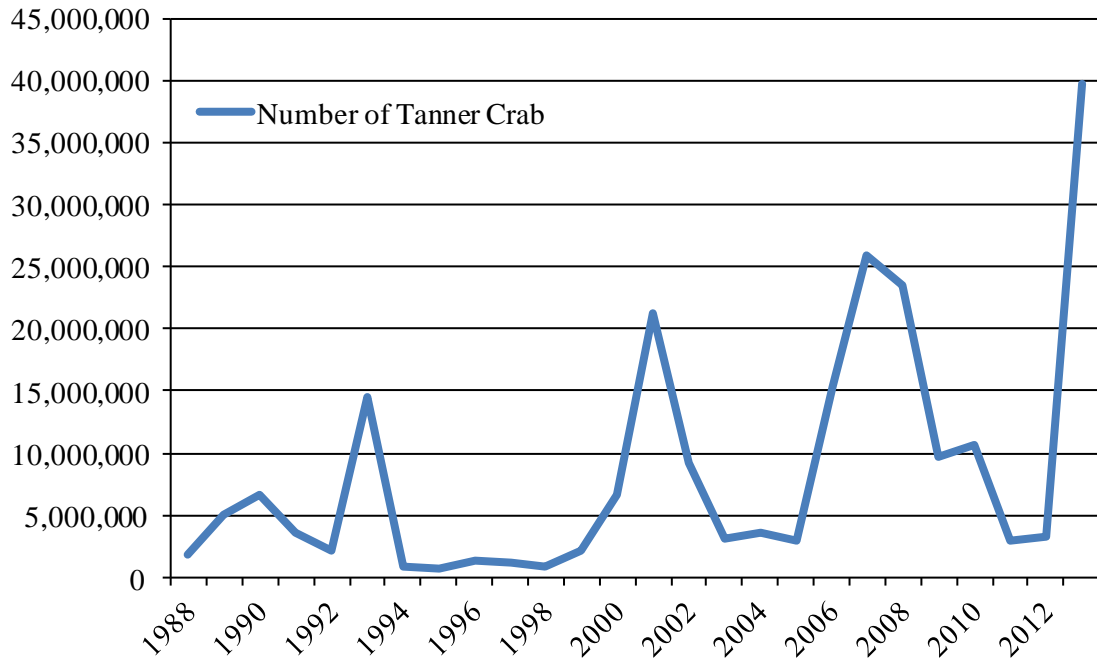


Figure 101-3.—Total estimated number of Tanner crab in the Southwest Section of the Kodiak District, 1988–2013.

PROPOSAL 102 – 5 AAC 28.450. Closed Waters in Kodiak Area and 5 AAC 39.164. Nonpelagic trawl gear restrictions.

PROPOSED BY: Ludger Dochtermann.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would prohibit nonpelagic trawl gear in state waters (0 to 3 nautical miles; nmi) along the west side of Kodiak and Afognak islands in the Kodiak Management Area (Figure 102-1).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? All state waters in the Kodiak Area are closed to nonpelagic trawl gear, except for state waters along the west side of Kodiak and Afognak islands (5 AAC 39.164, *Nonpelagic trawl gear restrictions*, and 5 AAC 28.450(e), *Closed waters in Kodiak Area*). The west side of Kodiak and Afognak islands are open to nonpelagic trawl gear on a seasonal basis from January 20 to April 30 and October 1 to November 30 (5 AAC 28.410(c), *Fishing Seasons for Kodiak Area*).

In the area open to nonpelagic trawl gear, the state opens a parallel fishery concurrent to the adjacent federal fishery and adopts federal area closures, bycatch limits, and inseason management actions by emergency order (5 AAC 28.086, *Parallel groundfish fishery emergency order authority*).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Walleye pollock, arrowtooth flounder, and rock sole are the primary species retained by nonpelagic trawl vessels in state waters along the west side of Kodiak and Afognak islands. From 2003 to 2012, groundfish harvest by nonpelagic trawl vessels ranged from 0.142 million pounds to over 2 million pounds per year (Table 102-1). Closing the area along the west side of Kodiak and Afognak islands to nonpelagic trawl gear would result in year-round closure of all state waters in the Kodiak Area to nonpelagic trawl gear and nonpelagic trawl vessels could only operate in federal waters (3 to 200 nmi).

BACKGROUND: Kodiak Area nonpelagic trawl gear restrictions in state waters date back to the mid 1980s. From 1986–1999, a series of Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) actions increased nonpelagic trawl gear restrictions, progressing from no restrictions to seasonal closures in select areas, to closing all state waters in the Kodiak Area to nonpelagic trawl gear, except for the area along the west side of Kodiak and Afognak islands (Figure 102-1).

In response to a January 1999 board proposal seeking to increase nonpelagic trawl closures in the Kodiak Area, the board established a Nonpelagic Trawl Task Force (NTT) comprised of members of the public and industry to define fishing areas essential to the trawl industry. The NTT evaluated proposed closures along the Alaska Peninsula, along the west side of Kodiak and Afognak islands, and two smaller areas on the eastside of Kodiak Island. The NTT did not achieve consensus regarding closures on the Alaska Peninsula or east side of Kodiak Island; however, the task force reached consensus to support leaving the area along the west side of Kodiak and Afognak islands open to nonpelagic trawl gear. At the March 1999 board meeting, the board accepted the NTT suggestion and did not close the area on the west side of Kodiak and Afognak islands; however, it did prohibit trawl gear in state waters of the Alaska Peninsula and

smaller areas on the east side of Kodiak Island. The seasonal area on the west side of Kodiak and Afognak islands was amended in 2011, when an additional year-round trawl closure near Karluk River was implemented (Figure 102-1).

In addition to the state nonpelagic trawl closures, National Marine Fisheries Service implements additional federal nonpelagic trawl closure areas as habitat protection measures for the endangered Steller sea lion. The federal closure areas are annually adopted by the state during parallel fisheries (5 AAC 28.087). Many of the federal closure areas overlap state waters (Figure 102-2); including two along the west side of Kodiak Island currently open to nonpelagic trawl gear. As a result, state waters in the proposal area are further restricted to nonpelagic trawl vessels targeting walleye pollock and Pacific cod during parallel fisheries.

The proposal area has historically supported a commercial Tanner crab fishery, although a fishery has not occurred along the west side of Kodiak and Afognak islands since 1991 due to low abundance of Tanner crab. The department conducts an annual crab trawl survey in the Kodiak Area; however, it does not survey the proposal area. Survey results from the inner bays along the west side of Kodiak Island indicate Tanner crab abundance remains near historically low levels. Federally permitted trawl vessels targeting groundfish in the proposal area are subject to federal observer requirements. Due to limited nonpelagic trawl effort in the proposal area, no recent observer data are available. Therefore, crab bycatch by nonpelagic trawl vessels in the proposal area is unknown.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal as no specific data on impacts to crab resources are available in this 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 102-1.–Nonpelagic trawl effort and total harvest, on the west side of Kodiak and Afognak islands, 2003–2012.

Year	Number of		Harvest (Pounds)
	Vessels	Landings	
2003	4	6	318,677
2004	4	7	346,661
2005	4	8	Confidential
2006	2	3	Confidential
2007	5	11	574,246
2008	9	21	2,075,517
2009	9	25	1,148,671
2010	4	19	875,513
2011	6	9	992,028
2012	3	5	141,922
Average	5	11	809,154

Table 102-2.–Top ten species by weight, harvested with nonpelagic trawl gear from the west side of Kodiak and Afognak islands, 2003–2012.

Species	Harvest (Pounds)
Walleye Pollock	2,609,371
Arrowtooth Flounder	2,106,121
Rock Sole	1,018,889
Flathead Sole	531,009
Pacific Cod	409,349
Starry Flounder	132,113
Big Skate	123,689
Longnose Skate	111,266
Rex Sole	67,019
Butter Sole	48,622

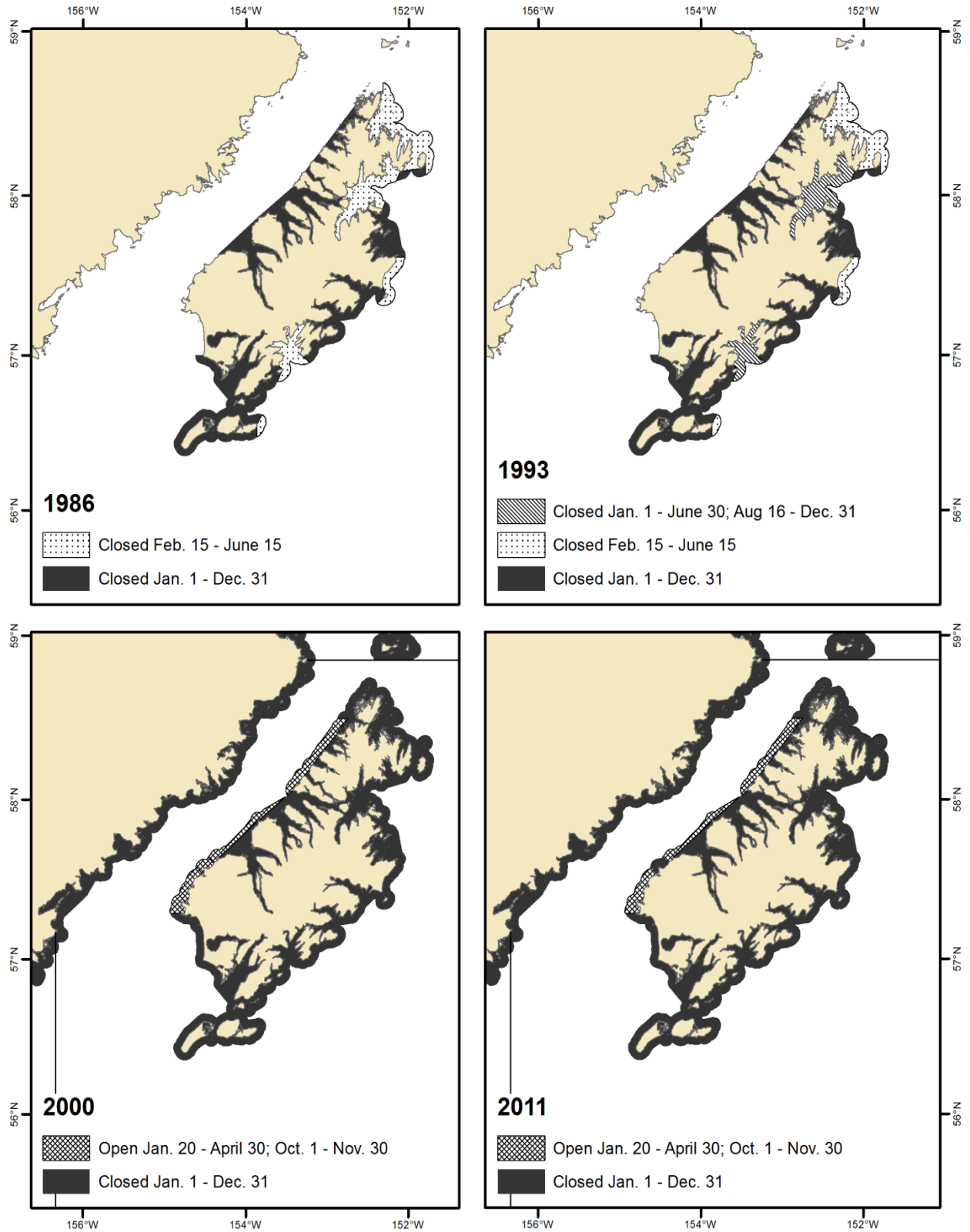


Figure 102-1.—Changes to Kodiak nonpelagic trawl closures, 1986, 1993, 2000, and 2011.

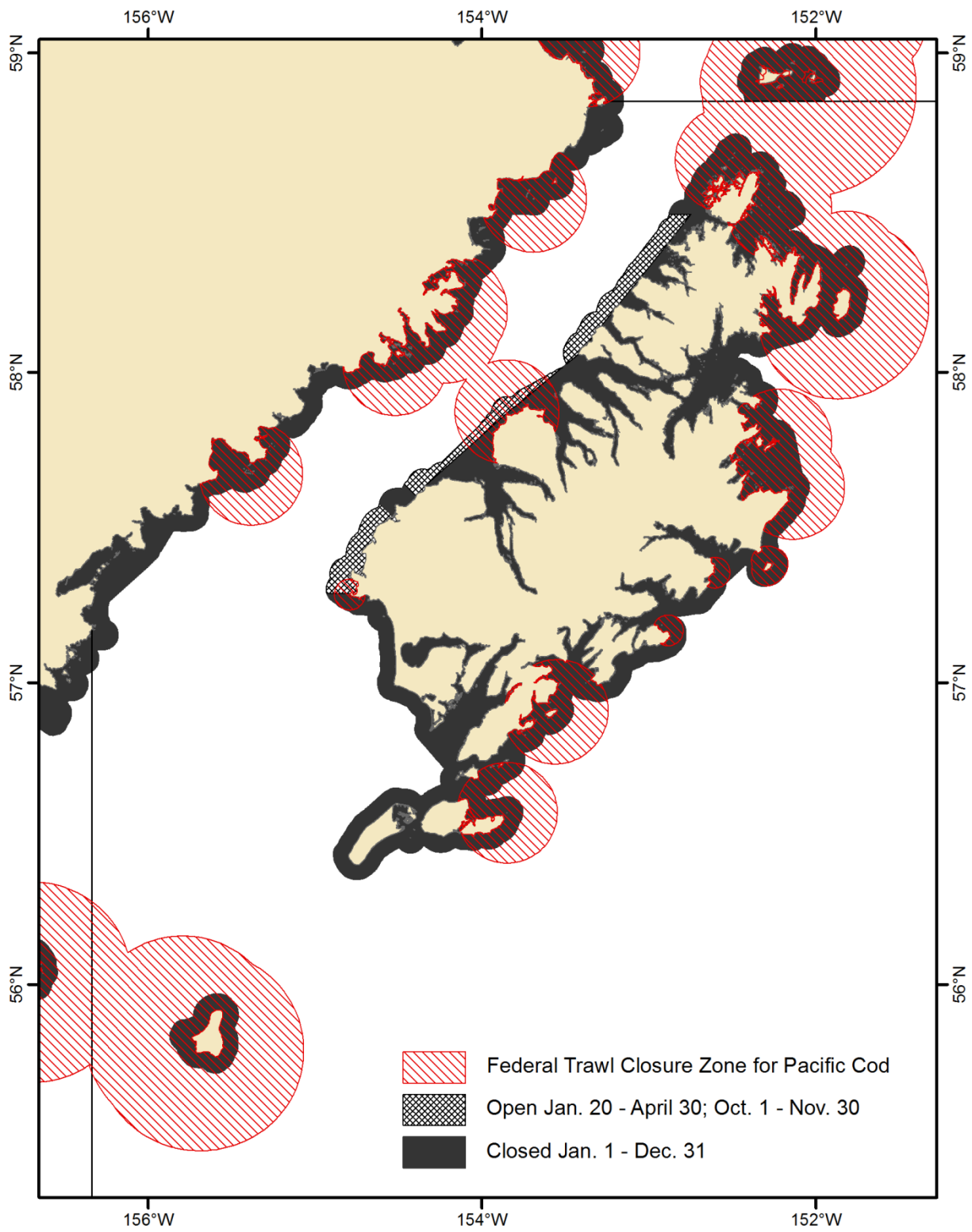


Figure 102-2.—State and federal nonpelagic trawl restrictions.