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Advisory Announcement

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2026 Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Salmon Fishery Season Summary

The following is an overview of the 2026 Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) commercial salmon season. All data are preliminary. The preliminary 2026 UCI sockeye salmon total run of 4.7 million fish was 38% below the preseason forecast of 7.6 million fish (Table 1). The commercial harvest of 1.2 million salmon was 58% less than the recent 20-year average annual harvest of 3.0 million fish (Table 2). The 2026 exvessel value of all salmon species was $16.2 million, 32% less than the previous 20-year average annual exvessel value of $23.8 million (Table 3). Of the five Pacific salmon species harvested in UCI, sockeye salmon accounted for 94% of the total exvessel value in 2026, near the recent 20-year average of 92% (Table 3). The 2026 king salmon harvest of 137 fish is the 2nd lowest on record. Low commercial king salmon harvest reflects low abundance trends and a conservative management approach. Overall participation in UCI was lower than in previous years, with 678 permits making deliveries, 21% below the 20-year average of 856 permits (Tables 4 and 5).

All UCI-monitored sockeye salmon escapement and inriver goals were met or exceeded in 2026 except for the Judd Lake sustainable escapement goal (SEG). Larson Lake was within the SEG range. The Kasilof River exceeded the biological escapement goal range (BEG). The Kenai River sockeye salmon late-run was within the inriver goal range (IRG). The Chelatna Lake weir was not operated in 2026 due to high water conditions throughout the season (Table 6).

In 2026, the Kenai River early-run large king salmon optimal escapement goal (OEG) was not achieved. The Kenai River late-run large king salmon recovery goal (RG), OEG, and SEG were not achieved. Of the three southern Kenai Peninsula king salmon systems with escapement goals, the SEG was achieved at the Anchor River and not achieved for Ninilchik River natural-origin king salmon. The Deep Creek king salmon run was not assessed due to lack of funding. In the Northern Cook Inlet region, the Little Susitna River king salmon SEG was not achieved, and the Deshka River king salmon BEG was not achieved. King salmon escapements for the Susitna River Drainage are currently undergoing post-season analysis, but preliminary aerial survey results indicate low king salmon abundance (Table 6).

In 2026, coho salmon were not assessed at the Deshka River due to the weir being rendered inoperable during July floods. The coho salmon SEG for Jim Creek and Fish Creek were both exceeded. The Little Susitna River coho salmon SEG was not achieved. The chum salmon SEG for Clear Creek in Chinitna Bay was not achieved (Table 6).

SOCKEYE SALMON

2026 Run and Fishery Summary

In 2026, approximately 7.6 million sockeye salmon were forecasted to return to the UCI. Of these, 4.6 million sockeye salmon were estimated to be available for harvest, including commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries. The preliminary total run estimate for UCI sockeye salmon in 2026, which includes both harvest and escapement estimates, is 4.7 million fish (Table 1). This total run estimate is 2.9 million fish, or 38%, below forecast. Individual stock performance ranged from Fish Creek returning 84% above forecast to the Kenai River returning 52% below forecast (Table 1).

The end of season passage estimated at the river mile 19 sonar of 1,111,686 sockeye salmon exceeded the Kenai River sockeye salmon middle-tier inriver goal range (1,100,000–1,400,000 fish) (Table 6). In 2026, the midpoint of sockeye salmon passage occurred on July 25, which is 3 days earlier than the previous 20-year average midpoint (2006–2025).

The Kasilof River sockeye salmon sonar count of 1,055,564 fish exceeded the Kasilof River BEG of 140,000–320,000 fish (Table 6). The passage midpoint for Kasilof River sockeye salmon occurred on July 20, which was three days later than the 20-year average midpoint of July 17.

The 2026 total UCI commercial harvest of 947,259 sockeye salmon was 59% below the 2006–2025 average annual harvest of 2.3 million fish (Table 2 and 5). Prices varied during the season but based on an estimated average price of $2.83 per pound, the total exvessel value of harvested sockeye salmon was $15.4 million. This is 29% less than the recent 20-year average value of $21.7 million and accounts for 94% of the total 2026 exvessel value of all salmon in UCI (Table 3).

East Side Set Net and Dip Net Fishery

The Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery (ESSN) started and remained closed for the 2026 season due to a poor forecast of Kenai River late-run large king salmon (Figures 1 and 2).

The 2026 dip net commercial fishery preliminary harvest was 1 king, 62,444 sockeye, 4 coho, 398 pink, and 1 chum salmon. A total of 126 permits delivered fish from the commercial dip net fishery. (Table 4). Harvest was concentrated during the peak of the Kenai River sockeye salmon run from July 15 to July 31, and the highest success was on beaches near the mouth of the Kenai River.

Drift Gillnet Fishery

The drift gillnet fishery management started the season under the provisions of the middle run size tier for Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon (2.3–4.6 million fish) based on the preseason forecast.

On July 27, the inseason projection of 3.0 million fish kept the management strategy at the middle-tier (> 4.6 million fish) regulations, maintaining the inriver run goal of 1.1–1.4 million fish. Unlike the ESSN fishery, the drift gillnet fishery is not as severely restricted for Kenai River late-run king salmon; instead, it is managed primarily to harvest UCI sockeye salmon and conservatively toward Northern Cook Inlet coho salmon. Beginning in 2024, the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of Cook Inlet was managed directly by the National Marine Fisheries Service under a separate Federal Fisheries Management Plan. The remaining State of Alaska waters (SOA) were managed following stipulations in the *Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan* (CDDGFMP 5 AAC 21.353; Figure 3). Commercial fishing was opened following the complex guidance of these plans via commercial periods in SOA waters primarily using prescribed drift gillnet areas, expanded corridor sections, and sockeye abundance triggers to guide commercial openings through the season.

From June 22 through September 11, the drift gillnet fleet fished a total of 35 days as follows: 5 days in the Expanded Kasilof and Anchor Point Section, 3 days in the Expanded Kenai/Kasilof Sections only, 6 days in the Ex. Kenai/Kasilof and Anchor Point Sections only, 4 days in Drift Gillnet Area 1 with some or all of the expanded sections, 1 day in Drift Gillnet Area 3, 10 days in Drift Gillnet Area 3 and 4, and 5 days district-wide in SOA waters. Beginning August 28, the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict was open to commercial drift and set gillnet fishing on Tuesdays and Fridays; harvest was recorded on 4 days. All UCI commercial drift gillnet fisheries were closed by EO on September 30 for the 2026 season.

The SOA waters drift gillnet fishery in UCI harvested 48 king, 207,396 sockeye, 28,896 coho, 19,277 pink, and 26,823 chum salmon for a total harvest of 282,440 salmon caught by 418 permits that made deliveries (Table 4).

The Federal waters drift gillnet fishery in UCI harvested 60 kings, 584,529 sockeye, 38,019 coho, 16,084 pink, and 53,784 chum salmon for a total harvest of 692,476 salmon caught by 359 permits that made deliveries (Table 4).

The total UCI drift gillnet harvest of 791,925 sockeye salmon was below the 20-year average harvest of 1,416,062 fish (Table 5). In 2026, 435 drift gillnet permits made deliveries for a season average harvest of approximately 1,821 sockeye salmon per permit. Participation was below the 20-year average of 421 drift gillnet permits (Tables 4 and 5).

Western and Chinitna Bay Subdistricts Fisheries

The Western Subdistrict (Figures 1 and 2) set gillnet fishery opened for regulatory fishing periods on Thursday, June 18. The Chinitna Bay Subdistrict harvest is confidential due to the number of participants and processors. Approximately 16,288 sockeye salmon were harvested with set gillnet gear in the Western and Chinitna Bay Subdistricts. This was 59% below the average annual harvest of 39,564 fish during the most recent 20 years. Participation was below the 20-year average with 16 set gillnet permits making deliveries (Tables 4 and 5).

Kustatan Subdistrict Fishery

The Kustatan Subdistrict includes those waters from the Drift River oil terminal to the Northern District boundary near the West Foreland (Figures 1 and 2). The 2026 fishery was closed from June 2 through June 12 by EO for conservation of Northern District king salmon. Approximately 6,132 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Kustatan Subdistrict in 2026, of which 749 sockeye salmon were harvested during the Big River fishery from June 12 through June 24. The 2026 sockeye salmon harvest for the Kustatan Subdistrict was 5% greater than the recent 20-year average harvest of 5,861 fish. Participation was greater than the 20-year average with 12 set gillnet permits making deliveries (Tables 4 and 5).

Kalgin Island Subdistrict Fishery

The Kalgin Island Subdistrict (Figures 1 and 2) opened for regulatory Monday and Thursday fishing periods beginning June 25. In 2026, a total of 37,338 sockeye salmon were harvested from the Kalgin Island Subdistrict, with 4,399 of those fish taken during the Big River sockeye salmon fishery. The 2026 Kalgin Island Subdistrict harvest was 28% below the recent 20-year average harvest of 51,672 fish. Participation was at the 20-year average with 26 set gillnet permits making deliveries (Tables 4 and 5).

The Packers Creek video weir was not operated, and the SEG (15,000–30,000) was not assessed in 2026 (Table 6). The project is not expected to be operated in the future.

Northern District Fishery
The Northern District (Figure 4) opened for sockeye salmon on June 29, after the directed king salmon fishery (May 25–June 24) and the regular period on June 25 was closed for king salmon conservation. In response to weak coho salmon abundance at the Little Susitna weir, commercial salmon fishing with set gillnets in the Northern District was closed effective 7:00 a.m. Monday, August 6, 2026. In 2026, a total of 33,132 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Northern District. This harvest was 23% below the recent 20-year average harvest of 42,885 sockeye salmon. Participation was below the 20-year average, with 63 set gillnet permits making deliveries (Tables 4 and 5).

COHO SALMON

2026 Run and Fishery Summary
The 2026 commercial harvest estimate of 92,765 coho salmon in UCI was 41% below the recent 20-year average of 158,190 fish (Tables 2, 4, and 5). The 2026 drift gillnet harvest of 66,915 coho salmon was 26% below the recent 20-year average of 90,263 fish. The Northern District set gillnet fishery harvested 10,010 coho salmon, which was 72% below the recent 20-year average of 35,450 fish (Tables 4 and 5). State-managed coho salmon fisheries required conservative management in 2026, in part, because the federal total allowable catch and acceptable biological catch for coho salmon were both significantly exceeded during the 2026 federal salmon fishery in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone of Cook Inlet.

Based on an average price per pound of $0.83, the estimated exvessel value of the 2026 commercial coho salmon fishery was $447,405, or 2.7% of the total exvessel value of all species in Upper Cook Inlet. This was 37% below the recent 20-year average exvessel value of $709,950 for coho salmon in UCI (Table 3).

In UCI, there are four coho salmon systems with escapement goals. The Little Susitna River, Deshka River, and Fish Creek are monitored by weirs, while McRoberts Creek was assessed with foot surveys.

The Little Susitna weir began operating on May 17, the last day of counts was on September 23. The weir count of 1,768 fish did not achieve the SEG of 9,200–17,700 fish (Table 6).

The Deshka River weir began operation on May 20, on July 15 high water damaged the weir beyond repair for 2026, this was the last day of operation. The weir was not operated during coho salmon season.

Fish Creek weir operated for the full coho salmon season. The SEG of 1,200–6,000 fish was exceeded with a final count of 7,344 fish (Table 6).

The SEG for Jim Creek of 250–700 coho salmon was assessed postseason by a foot survey of McRoberts Creek, a small spawning tributary within the Jim Creek system. A survey conducted on September 28 counted 1,370 coho salmon, which exceeded the goal range (Table 6).

KING SALMON

2026 Run and Fishery Summary
The 2026 UCI commercial king salmon harvest of 137 fish was 98% below the recent 20-year average of 6,840 fish (Tables 2 and 5). Fisheries across UCI were restricted or closed to reduce king salmon harvest. Using the average price of $3.77 per pound for king salmon, the estimated exvessel value of the 2026 harvest was $4,279, or >1% of the total exvessel value of all salmon in UCI (Table 3).

In the Central District of UCI there are five monitored king salmon stocks with escapement goals. The early and late-run Kenai River stocks are monitored with sonar, the Anchor River is monitored with a combination of sonar and weirs, and the Ninilchik River and Crooked Creek are monitored with weirs.

Total Kenai River large fish (> 75 cm mid-eye to tail fork length) early-run king salmon passage through June 30, 2026, at the river mile 14 sonar was 1,499 large king salmon. Neither the OEG of 3,900–6,600 large fish or the SEG of 2,800–5,600 large fish was achieved (Table 6). Commercial fisheries do not typically harvest this stock.

The total Kenai River large fish late-run king salmon passage through August 27, 2026, at the river mile 14 sonar was 9,803 large king salmon. ADF&G applies harvest and catch-and-release mortality estimates and spawning downstream of the sonar estimates to generate a preliminary spawning escapement estimate of 10,211 large fish. The stock of concern recovery goal of 14,250–30,000 large fish, the OEG of 15,000–30,000 large fish, and the SEG of 13,500–27,000 large fish were not achieved in 2026 (Table 6).

The SEG (700–1,400) for natural-origin king salmon in Crooked Creek was not achieved in 2026 with a final weir count of 563 fish (Table 6). The SEG for natural-origin king salmon has not been achieved since 2020. This stock was typically only harvested by the ESSN fishery in late-June. Since the closure of the ESSN fishery, this stock is assumed to not be harvested in commercial fisheries.

Of the three southern Kenai Peninsula king salmon systems, the SEG was achieved in one system, was below in one system, and was not assessed in the third. The Anchor River achieved the SEG with a preliminary escapement estimate of 3,431 fish (SEG 3,200–6,400), and the Ninilchik River was below the natural-origin SEG with an estimate of 757 fish (SEG 900–1,600; Table 6). The Deep Creek king salmon run was not assessed due to lack of funding. These stocks are typically not harvested in commercial fisheries.

In the Northern District, there are two systems with escapement goals monitored for king salmon inseason using weirs, and multiple streams from the western side of Cook Inlet and the Susitna River Drainage are evaluated by aerial surveys.

The preliminary escapement estimate of king salmon in the Deshka River was 6,687 fish, which did not achieve the BEG of 9,000–18,000 fish. The Little Susitna River king salmon SEG of 2,100–4,300 was not achieved in 2026, with a preliminary estimate of 691.

Aerial surveys of the indicator stocks throughout the Susitna drainage king salmon systems are pending analysis to determine whether aggregate goals have been achieved. Preliminary results indicated goals were not achieved, and the trend of low king salmon continues in these systems (Table 6).

Northern District King Salmon Fishery

Northern District king salmon are primarily harvested during the directed set gillnet fishery in late May and June. Northern District commercial fisheries were restricted and closed to reduce king salmon harvest this season.

The 2026 total Northern District commercial king salmon harvest was 6 fish and 99% below the previous 20-year average harvest of 1,672 fish (Tables 4 and 5).

ESSN Fishery

The 2026 preseason forecast was for a total run of 12,718 large Kenai River late-run king salmon.

Based on the low preseason forecast, the late-run king salmon sport fishery was closed preseason and remained closed for the 2026 season. Subsequently, the ESSN commercial fishery was closed by EO on February 11, in compliance with the *Kenai River late-run king salmon stock of concern management plan* (5 AAC 21.382).

PINK SALMON

Pink salmon runs in UCI are even-year dominant, with odd-year average harvests typically less than even-year harvests. The 2026 commercial pink salmon harvest was 39,185 fish (Table 2), which was 91% below the average annual harvest of 428,265 fish from the most recent 20 years of even-year harvest data (Tables 4 and 5). Using an average price of $0.33 per pound, the exvessel value for the 2026 pink salmon harvest was $47,238, or 0.3% of the total exvessel value of salmon in UCI (Table 3).

CHUM SALMON

The 2026 harvest of 82,254 chum salmon was 36% below the recent 20-year average annual harvest of 127,901 fish (Table 4 and 5). Using the average price of $0.68 per pound, the exvessel value of the 2026 commercial chum salmon harvest was $423,431, or 2.6% of the total exvessel value of all salmon in UCI (Table 3). An aerial survey of Chinitna River/Clearwater Creek produced an estimate of 2,033 chum salmon within these streams, which was below the SEG range of 3,500–8,000 fish (Table 6). Commercial fishing with set and drift gillnet gear was allowed on Tuesdays and Fridays, for 12-hour periods, beginning August 28, once run timing of local chum salmon stocks have historically has been completed. This area was closed on September 30 when all of UCI closed to commercial salmon fishing for the season.

Table 1.–Upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon forecast and preliminary total run (in 1,000s), by river system, 2026.

System	Forecast	Actual	% Change
Kenai River	4,445	2,116	-52.4%
Kasilof River	1,460	1,491	2.1%
Susitna River	489	376.277	-23.1%
Fish Creek	100	183.694	83.7%
Minor Systems	1,106	523	-52.7%
Overall Total	7,600	4,690	-38.3%

Table 2.–Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest by species, 2006–2026.

Year	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
2006	18,029	2,192,730	177,853	404,111	64,033	2,856,756
2007	17,625	3,316,779	177,339	147,020	77,240	3,736,003
2008	13,333	2,380,135	171,869	169,368	50,315	2,785,020
2009	8,750	2,045,794	153,210	214,321	82,808	2,504,883
2010	9,900	2,828,342	207,350	292,706	228,863	3,567,161
2011	11,248	5,277,995	95,291	34,123	129,407	5,548,064
2012	2,527	3,133,839	106,775	469,598	269,733	3,982,472
2013	5,398	2,683,224	260,963	48,275	139,365	3,137,225
2014	4,660	2,344,034	137,419	642,986	116,127	3,245,226
2015	10,798	2,649,667	216,032	48,004	275,960	3,200,461
2016	10,027	2,396,943	147,495	382,468	123,679	3,060,612
2017	7,660	1,849,243	303,642	167,842	243,600	2,571,987
2018	3,405	817,879	232,290	126,923	115,366	1,295,863
2019	3,149	1,720,559	163,863	70,827	129,176	2,087,574
2020	3,008	695,754	139,240	345,072	29,217	1,212,291
2021	3,973	1,410,854	147,607	81,360	70,243	1,714,037
2022	2,278	1,126,280	102,666	100,964	99,494	1,431,682
2023	734	1,574,157	83,736	66,197	126,465	1,851,289
2024	169	1,846,077	24,726	41,195	73,835	1,986,002
2025	136	3,836,994	116,042	40,539	116,104	4,109,815
2026[a]	137	947,259	92,765	39,185	82,254	1,161,600
2006–2025 Avg	6,840	2,306,364	158,270	194,695	128,052	2,794,221
2016–2025 Avg	3,454	1,727,474	146,131	142,339	112,718	2,132,115

[a] Preliminary data

Table 3.–Approximate exvessel value and percentage of Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest by species, 2006–2026.

Year	King	%	Sockeye	%	Coho	%	Pink	%	Chum	%	Total
2006	$ 617,278	4.4%	$ 12,311,850	88.5%	$ 679,463	4.9%	$ 174,522	1.3%	$ 121,265	0.9%	$ 13,904,377
2007	$ 629,643	2.7%	$ 21,916,852	93.6%	$ 682,747	2.9%	$ 53,029	0.2%	$ 141,097	0.6%	$ 23,423,367
2008	$ 544,042	3.3%	$ 15,530,144	93.0%	$ 482,298	2.9%	$ 64,466	0.4%	$ 75,766	0.5%	$ 16,696,717
2009	$ 266,548	1.8%	$ 13,720,051	94.1%	$ 399,704	2.7%	$ 71,582	0.5%	$ 115,969	0.8%	$ 14,573,854
2010	$ 359,184	1.1%	$ 30,556,535	92.1%	$ 1,090,191	3.3%	$ 311,199	0.9%	$ 851,004	2.6%	$ 33,168,113
2011	$ 634,836	1.2%	$ 51,363,720	96.7%	$ 406,726	0.8%	$ 27,548	0.1%	$ 688,878	1.3%	$ 53,121,708
2012	$ 121,626	0.3%	$ 32,008,304	91.6%	$ 480,119	1.4%	$ 622,809	1.8%	$ 1,723,098	4.9%	$ 34,955,955
2013	$ 210,638	0.5%	$ 37,787,069	93.9%	$ 1,362,395	3.4%	$ 53,754	0.1%	$ 828,113	2.1%	$ 40,241,970
2014	$ 206,119	0.6%	$ 32,819,090	93.6%	$ 778,672	2.2%	$ 588,409	1.7%	$ 687,214	2.0%	$ 35,079,504
2015	$ 359,903	1.5%	$ 22,285,338	92.2%	$ 753,078	3.1%	$ 39,197	0.2%	$ 726,696	3.0%	$ 24,164,211
2016	$ 491,323	2.2%	$ 20,853,404	92.3%	$ 557,531	2.5%	$ 328,922	1.5%	$ 351,248	1.6%	$ 22,582,429
2017	$ 634,666	2.7%	$ 19,711,471	82.7%	$ 2,168,036	9.1%	$ 89,448	0.4%	$ 1,234,825	5.2%	$ 23,838,446
2018	$ 207,901	1.7%	$ 10,139,195	81.8%	$ 1,367,047	11.0%	$ 115,431	0.9%	$ 569,659	4.6%	$ 12,399,234
2019	$ 172,899	0.9%	$ 17,131,030	93.3%	$ 684,442	3.7%	$ 45,667	0.2%	$ 321,909	1.8%	$ 18,355,947
2020	$ 69,730	1.4%	$ 4,008,623	79.1%	$ 591,193	11.7%	$ 300,689	5.9%	$ 96,539	1.9%	$ 5,066,774
2021	$ 124,439	0.9%	$ 12,665,469	91.3%	$ 684,272	4.9%	$ 63,900	0.5%	$ 327,161	2.4%	$ 13,865,241
2022	$ 93,634	0.7%	$ 12,064,999	92.1%	$ 368,873	2.8%	$ 110,691	0.8%	$ 461,507	3.5%	$ 13,099,704
2023	$ 40,434	0.3%	$ 13,655,095	94.8%	$ 253,751	1.8%	$ 46,846	0.3%	$ 412,463	2.9%	$ 14,408,588
2024	$ 7,978	0.0%	$ 18,703,631	97.6%	$ 69,022	0.4%	$ 31,853	0.2%	$ 351,508	1.8%	$ 19,163,992
2025	$ 4,571	0.0%	$ 35,800,791	98.2%	$ 339,431	0.9%	$ 44,261	0.1%	$ 264,710	0.7%	$ 36,453,764
2026	$ 4,279	0.0%	$ 15,366,520	94.3%	$ 447,405	2.7%	$ 47,238	0.3%	$ 423,431	2.6%	$ 16,288,874
2006–2025 average	$ 289,870	1.4%	$ 21,751,633	91.6%	$ 709,950	3.8%	$ 159,211	0.9%	$ 517,531	2.2%	$ 23,428,195
2016–2025 Average	$ 184,757	1.1%	$ 16,473,371	90.3%	$ 708,360	4.9%	$ 117,771	1.1%	$ 439,153	2.6%	$ 17,923,412

[a] Preliminary data

Table 4.–Preliminary Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest by district and species, 2026.

Gear	District	Subdistrict	Permits[a]	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Drift	Central	State of Alaska (SOA)	418	48	207,396	28,896	19,277	26,823	282,440
		Federal Waters (EEZ)	359	60	584,529	38,019	16,084	53,784	692,476
Total UCI Drift Gillnet Harvest			435	108	791,925	66,915	35,361	80,607	974,916
Setnet	Central	Upper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Kalgin Island	26	17	37,338	11,272	1,249	304	50,180
		Western & Chinitna Bay	16	5	16,288	860	20	279	17,452
		Kustatan	12	0	6,132	3,704	45	15	9,896
Total Central District Set Harvest			54	22	59,758	15,836	1,314	598	77,528
Dip Net	Central	Upper	126	1	62,444	4	398	1	62,848
Setnet	Northern	General	33	5	9,173	5,976	457	929	16,540
		Eastern	30	1	23,959	4,034	1,655	119	29,768
Total Northern District Set Harvest			63	6	33,132	10,010	2,112	1,048	46,308
Total UCI Harvest			678	137	947,259	92,765	39,185	82,254	1,161,600

[a] Permit totals may not equal the sum of individual stat areas if the same permit was fished in multiple stat areas.

Table 5.–Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest by district and species, 20-year average (2006–2025).

Gear	District	Subdistrict	Permits[a]	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink[b]	Chum	Total
Drift	Central	State and EEZ	421	519	1,416,062	90,263	234,787	118,923	1,860,555
Setnet	Central	Upper	298	4,127	740,296	10,777	164,154	587	813,486
		Kalgin Island	26	300	51,672	13,833	5,060	1,532	70,543
		Western & Chinitna Bay	22	121	39,564	6,076	1,357	2,879	49,513
		Kustatan	11	101	5,861	1,520	354	27	7,604
Total Central District Set Harvest			359	4,649	837,400	32,477	170,934	5,417	1,050,877
Setnet	Northern	General	31	309	21,074	13,505	6,455	649	41,991
		Eastern	45	1,363	21,811	21,946	16,088	2,912	64,120
Total Northern District Set Harvest			76	1,672	42,885	35,450	22,543	3,561	106,111
Total UCI Harvest			856	6,840	2,296,347	158,190	428,265	127,901	3,017,542

[a] Permit totals may be less than the sum of individual stat areas if the same permit was fished in multiple stat areas.
[b] Pink salmon 20-year average is for even years only

Table 6.–Select Upper Cook Inlet salmon escapement goals and passage (or counts), 2026.

System	2026 Estimate	Goal type	Lower goal	Upper goal
Sockeye Salmon				
Kenai River	1,111,686	IRG	1,100,000	1,400,000
		SEG	750,000	1,300,000
Kasilof River	1,055,564	BEG	140,000	320,000
		OEG	140,000	370,000
Larson Lake	19,230	SEG	15,000	35,000
Judd Lake	13,857	SEG	15,000	40,000
Chelatna Lake	ND	SEG	20,000	45,000
Fish Creek	138,751	SEG	15,000	45,000
Packers Creek	ND	SEG	15,000	30,000
King Salmon				
Kenai River Early-run	1,499	OEG	3,900	6,600
		SEG	2,800	5,600
Kenai River Late-run	10,211	RG	14,250	30,000
		OEG	15,000	30,000
		SEG	13,500	27,000
Crooked Creek	563	SEG	700	1,400
Anchor River	3,431	SEG	3,200	6,400
Ninilchik River	757	SEG	900	1,600
Deshka River	6,687	BEG	9,000	18,000
Little Susitna	691	SEG	2,100	4,300
Susitna Drainage Aggregates	TBD	SEGs	–	–
Coho Salmon				
Little Susitna River	1,768	SEG	9,200	17,700
Deshka River	ND	SEG	10,200	24,100
Fish Creek	7,344	SEG	1,200	6,000
McRoberts Creek (Jim Creek)	1,370	SEG	250	700
Chum				
Clearwater Creek	2,033	SEG	3,500	8,000

*Note: BEG= Biological Escapement Goal, SEG=Sustainable Escapement Goal, OEG=Optimum Escapement Goal, and IRG = Inriver Goal, ND = No Data, TBD = To Be Determined, RG = Recovery Goal

[a] Weir count is considered a minimum count and incomplete due to missed passage.

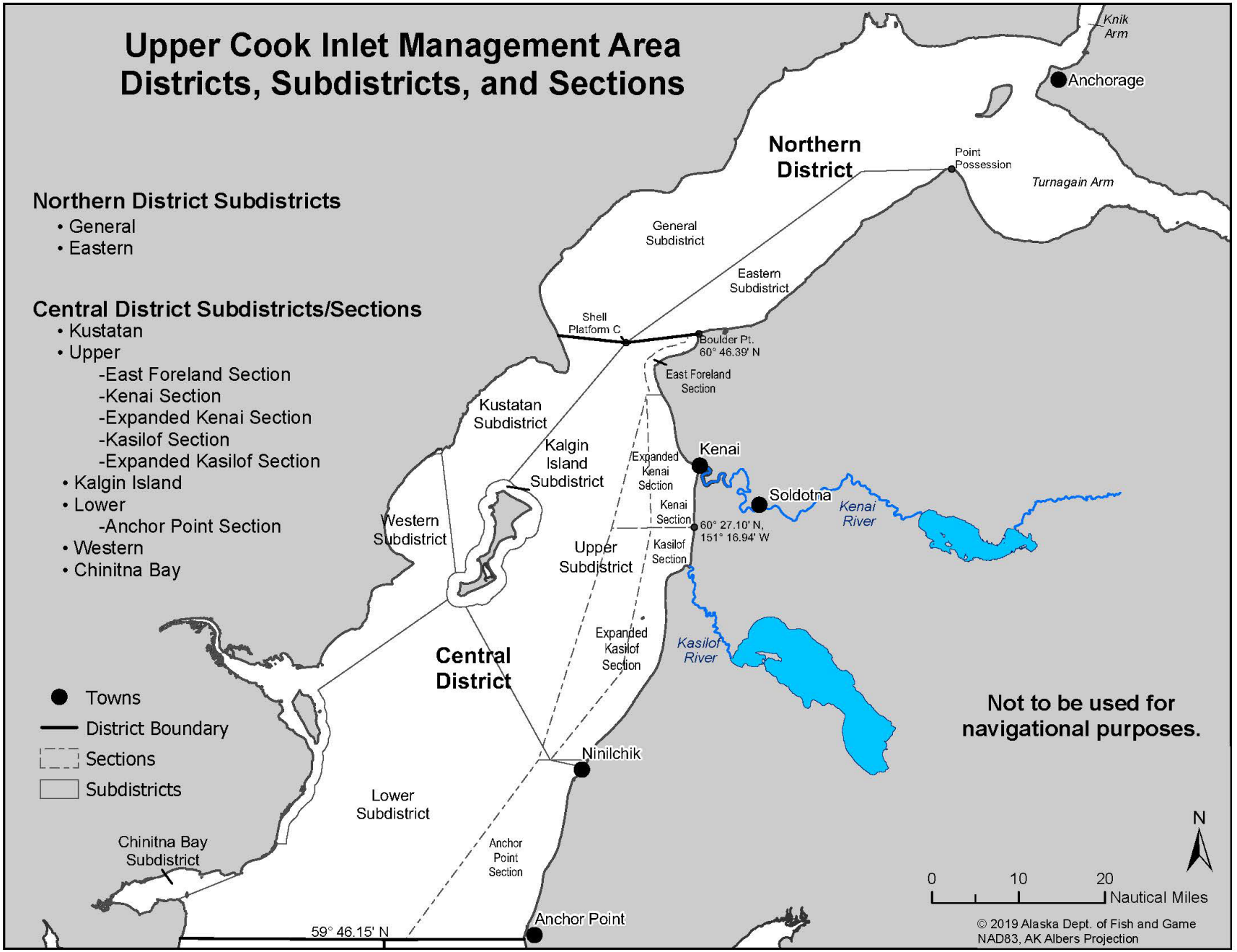

Figure 1.–Upper Cook Inlet commercial fisheries districts, subdistricts, and sections fishing boundaries.

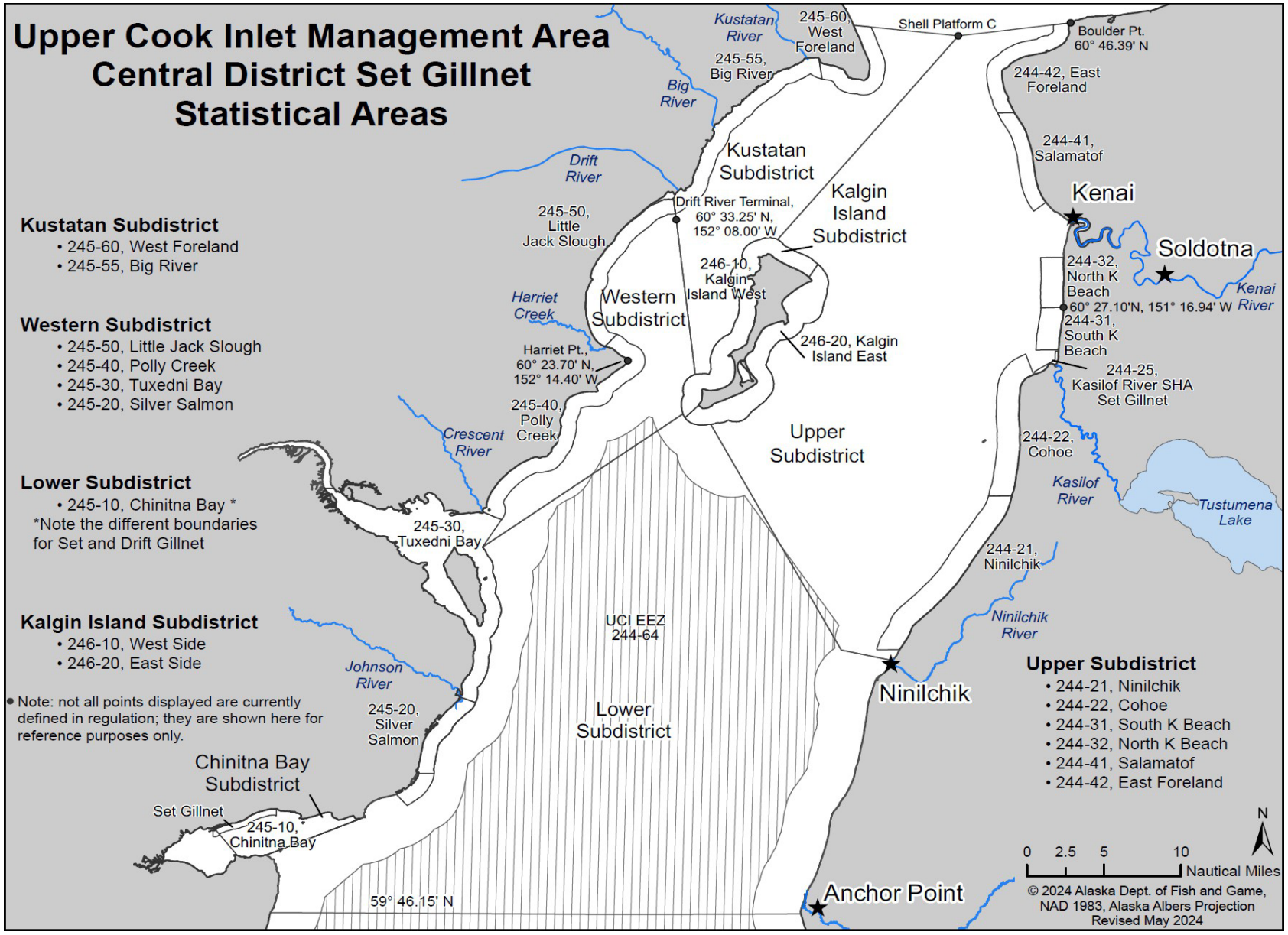

Figure 2.–Upper Cook Inlet, Central District commercial set gillnet statistical areas.

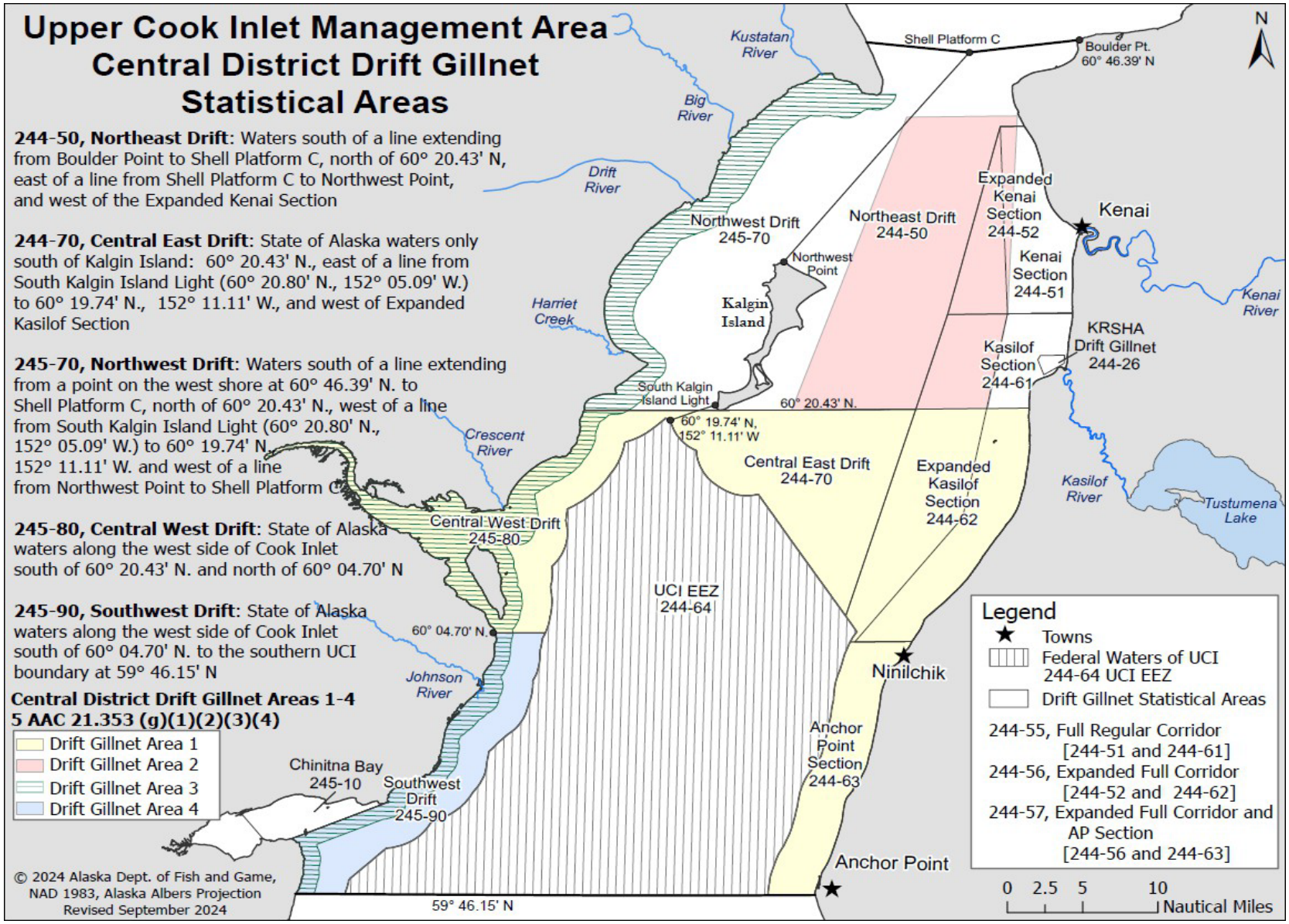

Figure 3.–Map of Upper Cook Inlet Drift Gillnet Statistical Areas, Drift Areas 1-4, and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

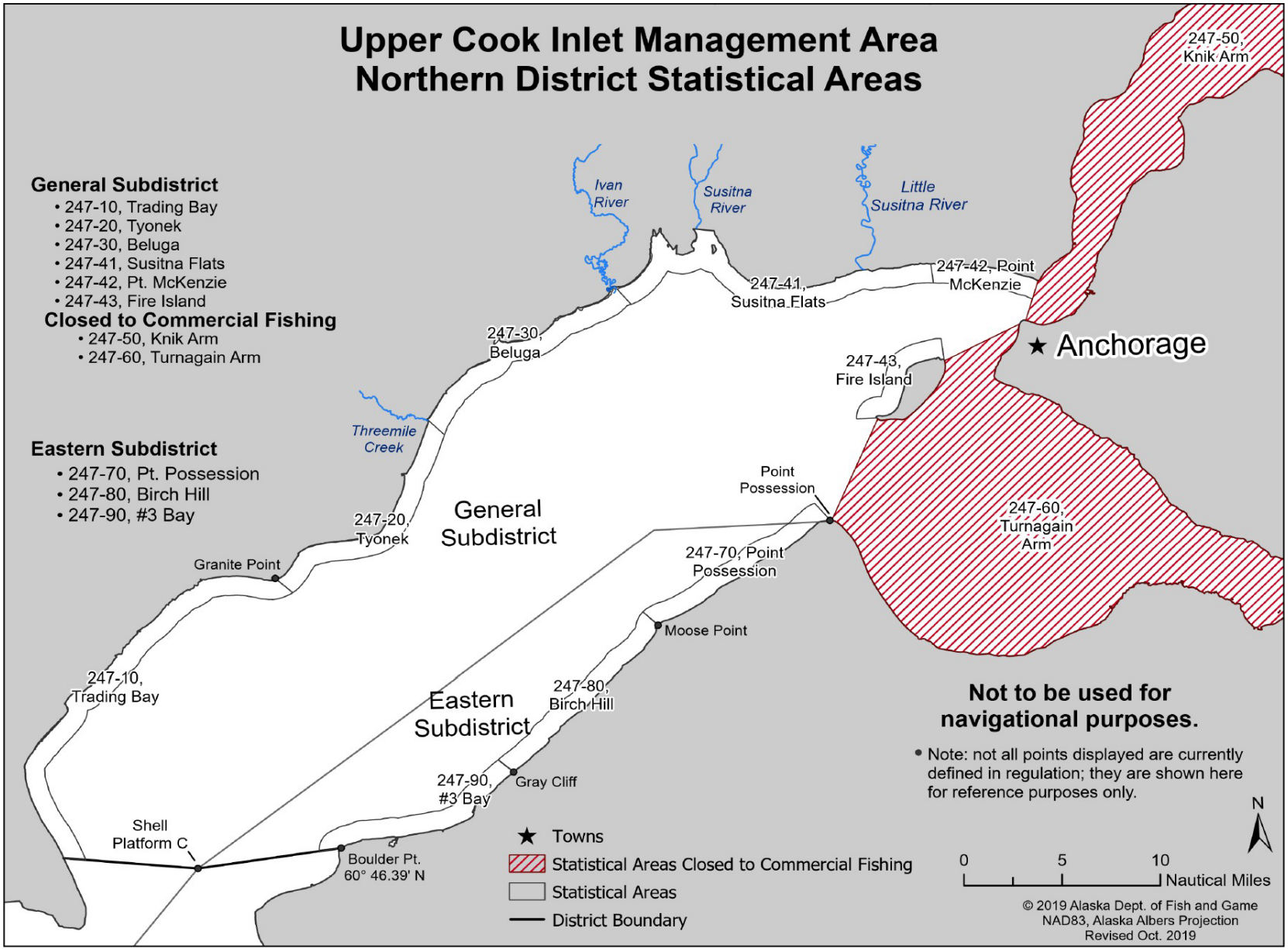

Figure 4.–Upper Cook Inlet, Northern District commercial set gillnet statistical areas.