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Advisory Announcement

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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 24 EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-24-20

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 24 modifies and continues gear reductions in the Northern District set gillnet fishery of Upper Cook Inlet. With this announcement, legal gear in the General Subdistrict of the Northern District south of the Susitna River, and in the Eastern Subdistrict of the Northern District is limited to no more than two set gillnets per permit, with the aggregate length not to exceed 70 fathoms, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 3, 2020, and from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 6, 2020. Legal gear in the General Subdistrict of the Northern District east of the Susitna River, which includes Fire Island (Figure 1), will be limited to no more than one set gillnet per permit, measuring no more than 35 fathoms in length, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 3, 2020, and from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 6, 2020 (please see Figure 2 for a list of set gillnet statistical areas in Upper Cook Inlet).

All of the Northern District set gillnet fishery will return to a full complement of gear, as described in 5 AAC 21.331 *Gillnet Specifications and Operations*, beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, August 10, 2020.

5AAC 21.358 *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* allows the department to conservatively manage the commercial fishery in the Northern District while sockeye salmon abundance monitoring continues to better understand the productivity of Susitna River sockeye salmon. The *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* provides the department with the option of reducing gear in the Northern District set gillnet fishery from July 20 through August 6. If the department determines that Susitna River sockeye salmon escapement goals will be achieved, the gear restrictions may be relaxed by emergency order.

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>

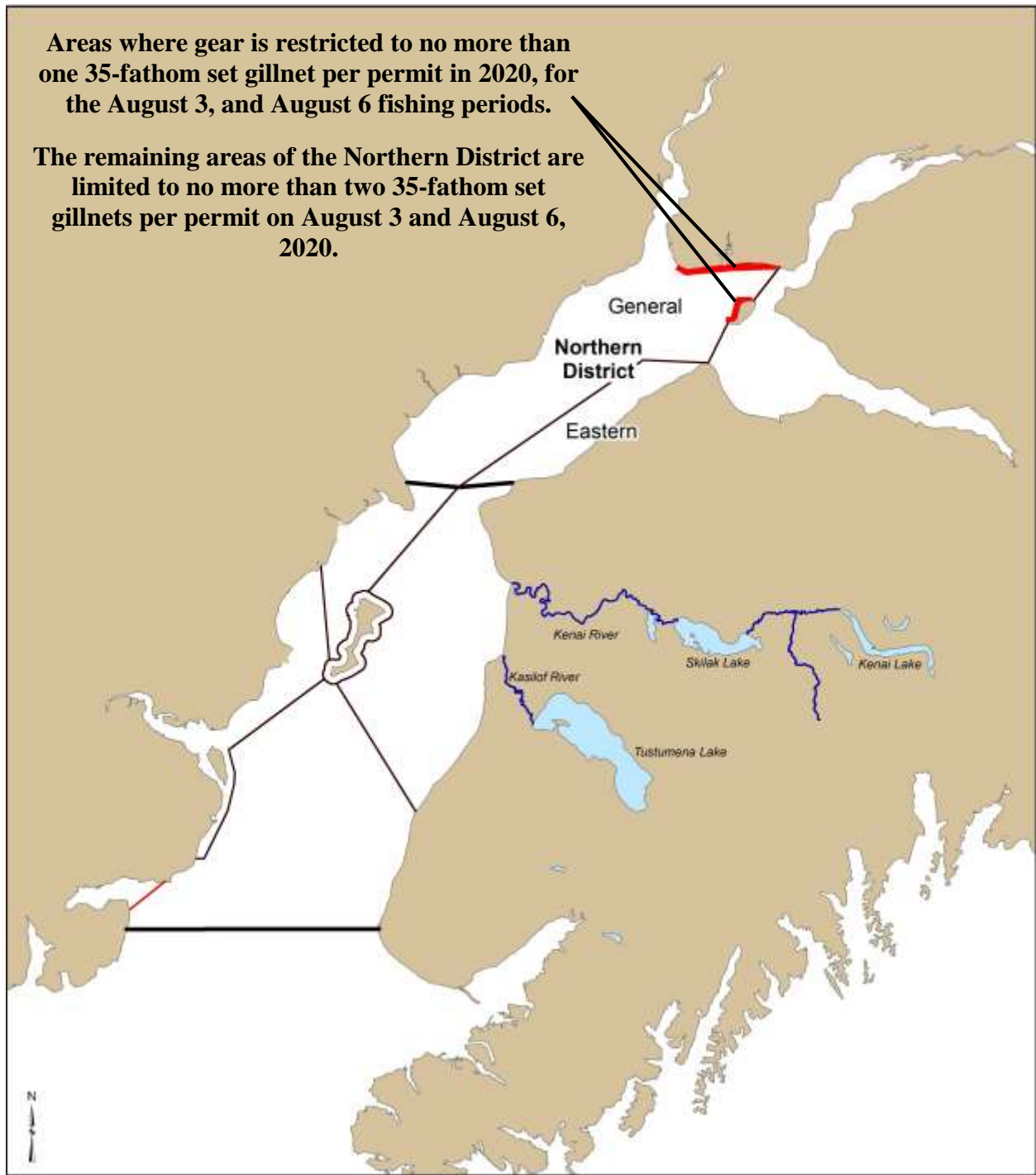


Figure 1. Map of the Northern District area affected by set gillnet restrictions.

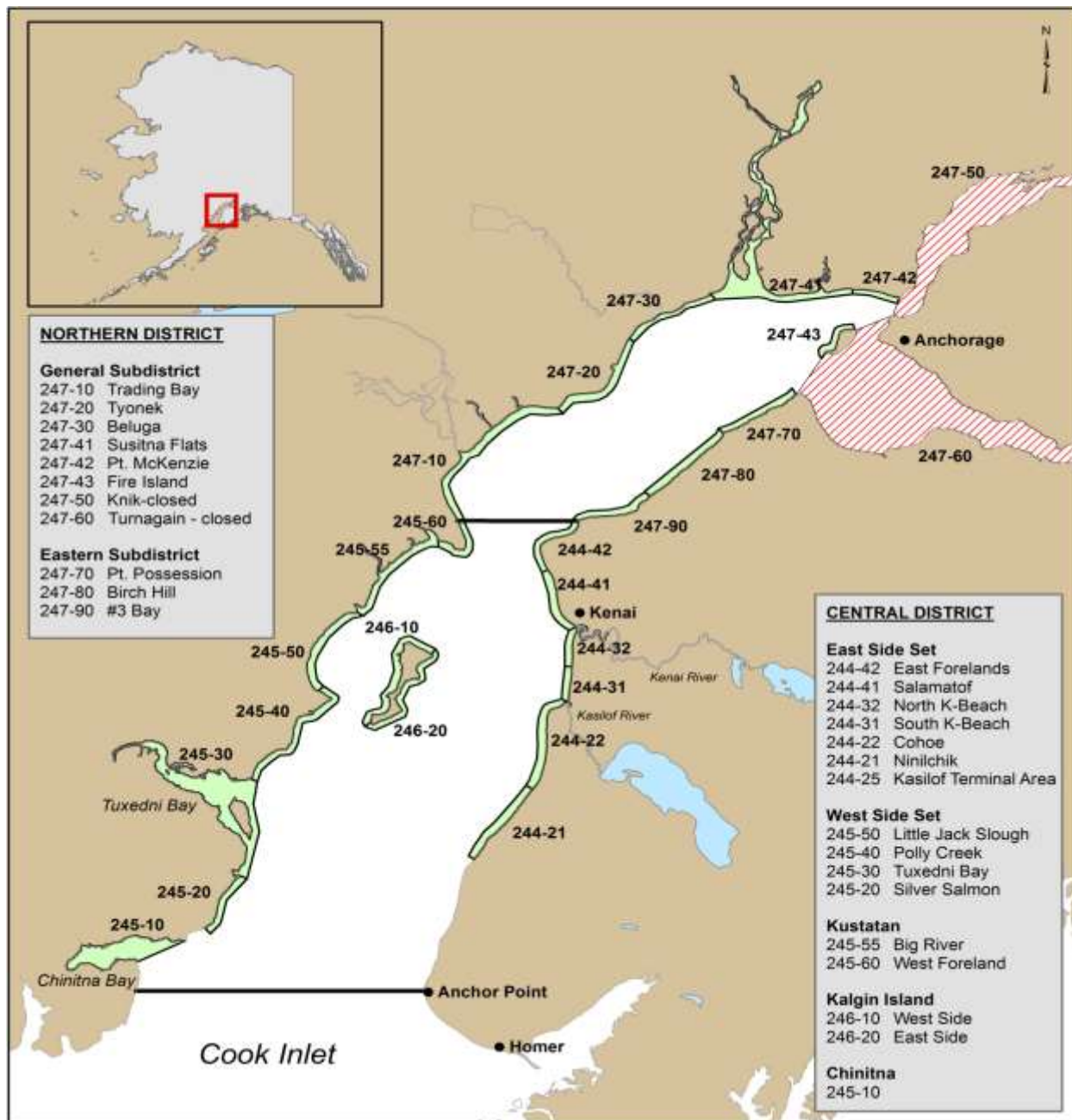


Figure 2. Map of Upper Cook Inlet set gillnet commercial fishing statistical areas.