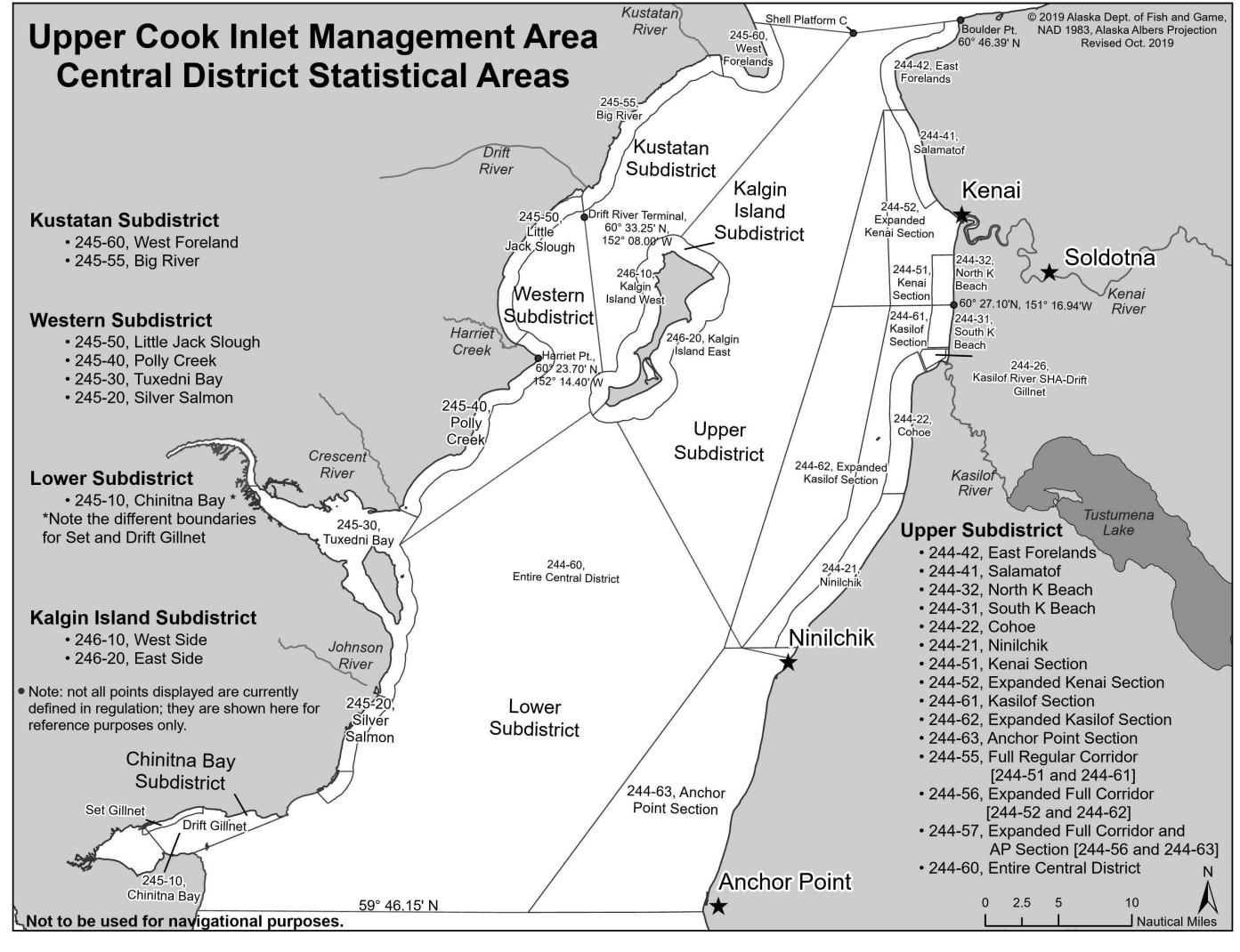


HB 195: East Side of Cook Inlet Set Net Fleet Reduction Act

Representative Ruffridge

Upper Cook Inlet Management Area

Upper Cook Inlet Management Area Central District Statistical Areas



- The Upper Cook Inlet includes 5 districts:
 1. Northern District
 2. Kalgin Island District
 3. Western District
 4. Southern District
 5. Central District (Upper Eastside)
- The Eastside district includes areas 244-21, 244-22, 244-31, 244-32, 244-41, and 244-42
- This bill would only affect Eastside fisheries
- The Upper Eastside district spans 60 miles and includes both the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers

Permit Reduction

Currently:

- There are currently 440 permits registered for the Eastside district
- Currently, there are 1,320 nets on the Eastside

Optimum Number of Permits

- CFEC Optimum Numbers study found that the optimum number of permits in this district would be between 79-106

The Program

- Once passed through the legislature, a final vote is required to proceed with the program following passage of the law by the legislature in a formal ballot administered by the Commercial Fishery Entry Commission (CFEC)
- Develops a voluntary program for Eastside set netters who choose to opt in
- Qualified permit holders will have their permits bought back at the price of the money raised, divided by the number of qualified permit holders.
- Program financing pays for the administration of the program, which is handled by CFEC
- Requires a sunset and status report to the Legislature in 6 years

Funding

- Section 2 (b) of HB 195 states, “It is the intent of the legislature that the program established by this Act will not have an adverse effect on the state treasury.”
- This program will not use state funding.
- Funding sources may include:
 - Federal grants
 - NOAA Fishing Capacity Reduction Program
 - Private Sourcing

Summary

HB 195 creates an optional program designed to alleviate tension between fisher groups, preserve Alaska's abundance of salmon, and provide set netters with flexibility and opportunity.

Question?

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https://cfec.state.ak.us/RESEARCH/23-03N/Findings_and_Results_from_a_Modified_Optimum_Numbers_Study_on_the_Cook_Inlet_Eastside_Set_Gillnet_Fishery.pdf

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/dcfnewsrelease/1546815985.pdf>

<https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/RESEARCH/12-3N/12-03%20DNR%20CFEC%20Set%20Gillnet%20sites.pdf>

<https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/annrpts/ar2022.pdf>