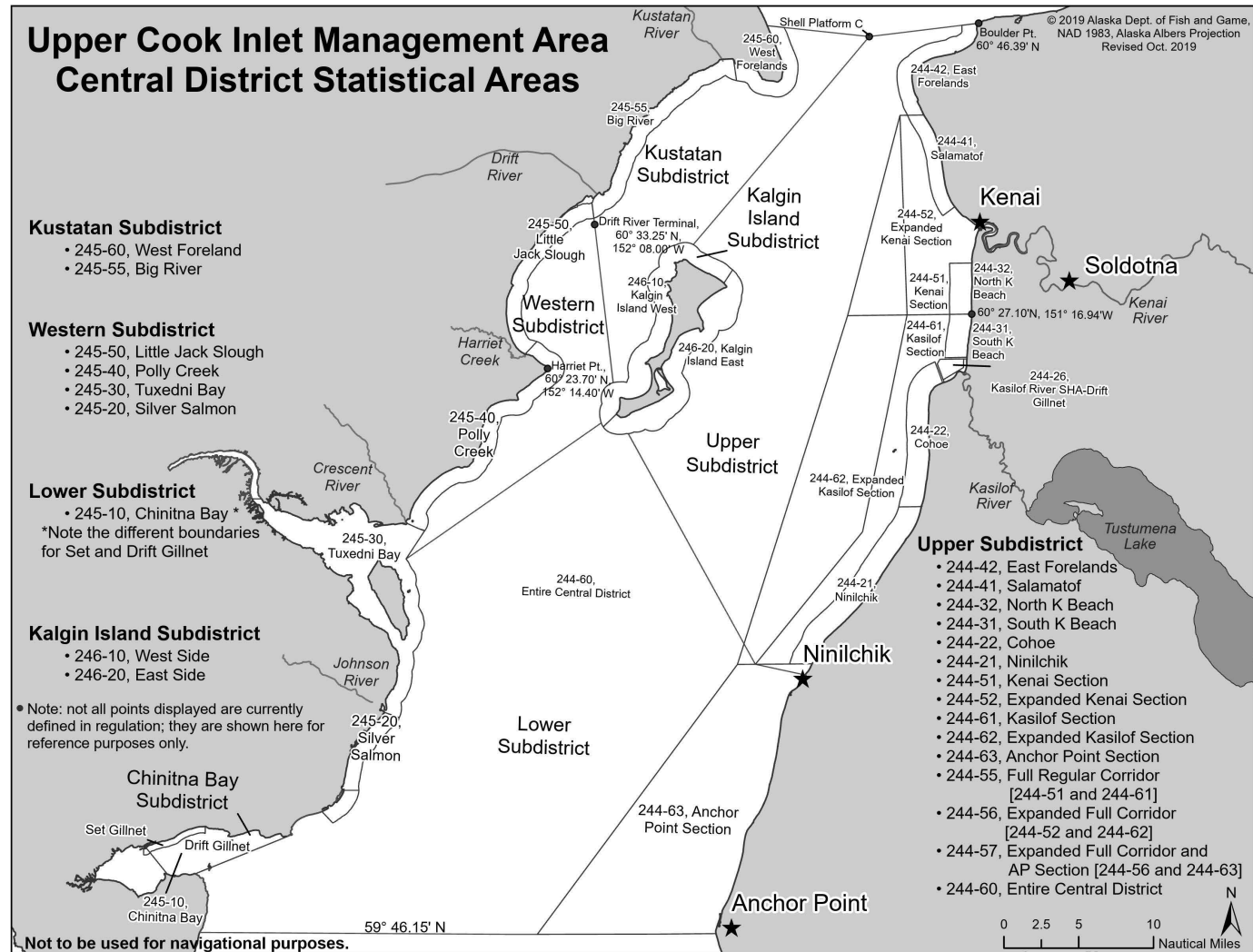


# HB 195: East Side of Cook Inlet Set Net Fleet Reduction Act

Representative Ruffridge  
02/06/2024

- 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



# How it works

- Establish a voluntary program that would only become effective after an election among permit holders
- Upon establishment, permit holders apply for the program where 200 permits would be drawn at random to determine the order of permit retirement
- The permits would be bought back at a fixed rate of \$260,000 per permit
- Once a permit is retired, the waters of that permit area are also closed to commercial fishing in the future

# Permit Reduction

## Currently:

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

## With HB 195:

- HB 195 proposes the closure of 200 of those permits
- HB 195 would remove approximately 600 nets, leaving a total of 720 nets

# 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
- Creates a buyback order by randomly selecting applicants under the management of the CFEC
- Requires the direct waterways that the permit is intended to fish be closed in every application for a permit
- 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

# 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://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>