

# 4.0 Political Geography

## Local Governments

Alaska Statute Title 29 defines the forms and powers of municipal governments in the state. Table 4.1 summarizes the forms of government, number of incorporated and unincorporated communities, State House and Senate districts, school districts, ANCSA regional corporations, ANCSA village corporations, and tribal governments for each borough and census area in Southwest Alaska.

The Aleutians East, Bristol Bay and Kodiak Island Boroughs are incorporated as Second Class Boroughs. Second Class Boroughs may, by ordinance, exercise the following powers on an areawide basis: provide transportation systems; license, impound and dispose of animals; provide air pollution control under AS 46.14.400; provide water pollution control; and license day care facilities. On a non-areawide basis, second class boroughs may, by ordinance: provide transportation systems; regulate the offering for sale, exposure for sale; sale, use, or explosion of fireworks; license, impound, and dispose of animals; subject to AS 29.35.050, provide garbage, solid waste, and septic waste collection and disposal; provide air pollution control under AS 46.14.400; provide water pollution control; participate in federal or state loan programs for housing rehabilitation and improvement for energy conservation; provide for economic development; provide for the acquisition and construction of local service roads and trails under AS 119.30.251; establish an emergency services communications center under AS 29.35.130; and subject to AS 28.01.010, regulate the licensing and operation of motor vehicles and operators.<sup>1</sup>

The Lake & Peninsula Borough is incorporated as a Home Rule Borough. A Home Rule Borough is a municipal corporation and political subdivision that has adopted a home rule charter and has all legislative powers not prohibited by Alaska law or its home rule charter.<sup>2</sup>

The State of Alaska identifies any area of the state that is not within the boundaries of an organized borough as a single unorganized borough.<sup>3</sup> As unincorporated areas, the Aleutians West and Dillingham Census Areas are recognized as part of the unorganized borough. In these regions, cities and tribal organizations typically provide community services while education is delivered by the state through Regional Educational Attendance Areas (REAAs). REAAs are state designated service areas chartered to provide public education to the unorganized borough, except within home rule and first class cities

Twenty-nine municipalities within Southwest Alaska are incorporated as home rule, first class, or second class cities. Twenty-nine additional communities are recognized as Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSA) or Census Designated Places (CDP) by the federal government or as unincorporated areas by the State of Alaska. For unincorporated communities, the State of Alaska generally recognizes the local tribal government, if one exists. Fifty-five tribal entities in Southwest Alaska are recognized by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).<sup>4</sup> Table 4.1 provides a summary of the local governments, legislative districts and ANCSA corporations in Southwest Alaska.

Tables 4.2.A-F and Maps 4.2.A-F identify the communities for each borough or census area as well as its corresponding legislative districts, school district, ANCSA Regional Corporation, village corporation, and tribal government. Table 4.3 identify the area for each city, ANVSA or CDP for each sub-region.

## Congressional and Legislative Representation

As part of the Alaska At-Large Congressional District, the Southwest Alaska region is represented in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Don Young. Alaska is represented in the U.S. Senate by Senators Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich.

Based on the most recent Alaska redistricting

plan, which became effective in April of 2002, Southwest Alaska is divided into two senate districts and two house districts (see Map 4.1).<sup>5</sup> Senate District ‘S’ encompasses the Aleutians East Borough, the Aleutians West Census Area, the Dillingham Census Area, and the southern portion of the Lake & Peninsula Borough. Additionally, Senate District ‘S’ extends to the Lower Kuskokwim River area, which is not part of Southwest Alaska. Senator Lyman Hoffman of Bethel has represented District S and its residents since 1990.

Senate District ‘R’ includes all of the Kodiak Island Borough, the northern portion of the Lake & Peninsula Borough, as well as portions of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The latter is outside the Southwest Alaska region. Gary Stevens of Kodiak was named to the Senate District ‘R’ seat when his predecessor was named to a gubernatorial appointment. Stevens previously served one and a half terms in the

Alaska House of Representatives.

The boundaries of House District 37 include the Aleutians East Borough, the Aleutians West Census Area, the Dillingham Census Area, and the southern portion of the Lake & Peninsula Borough. Democratic Representative Bryce Edgmon of Dillingham has been elected to represent the district since 2006.

House District 36 incorporates the Kodiak Island Borough and the northern portion of the Lake & Peninsula Borough. Republican Alan Austerman of Kodiak currently represents the 36<sup>th</sup> district. Austerman previously served as an Alaska State Senator from 2000-2003, and before that he represented the 36th district in the House from 1994-1999.

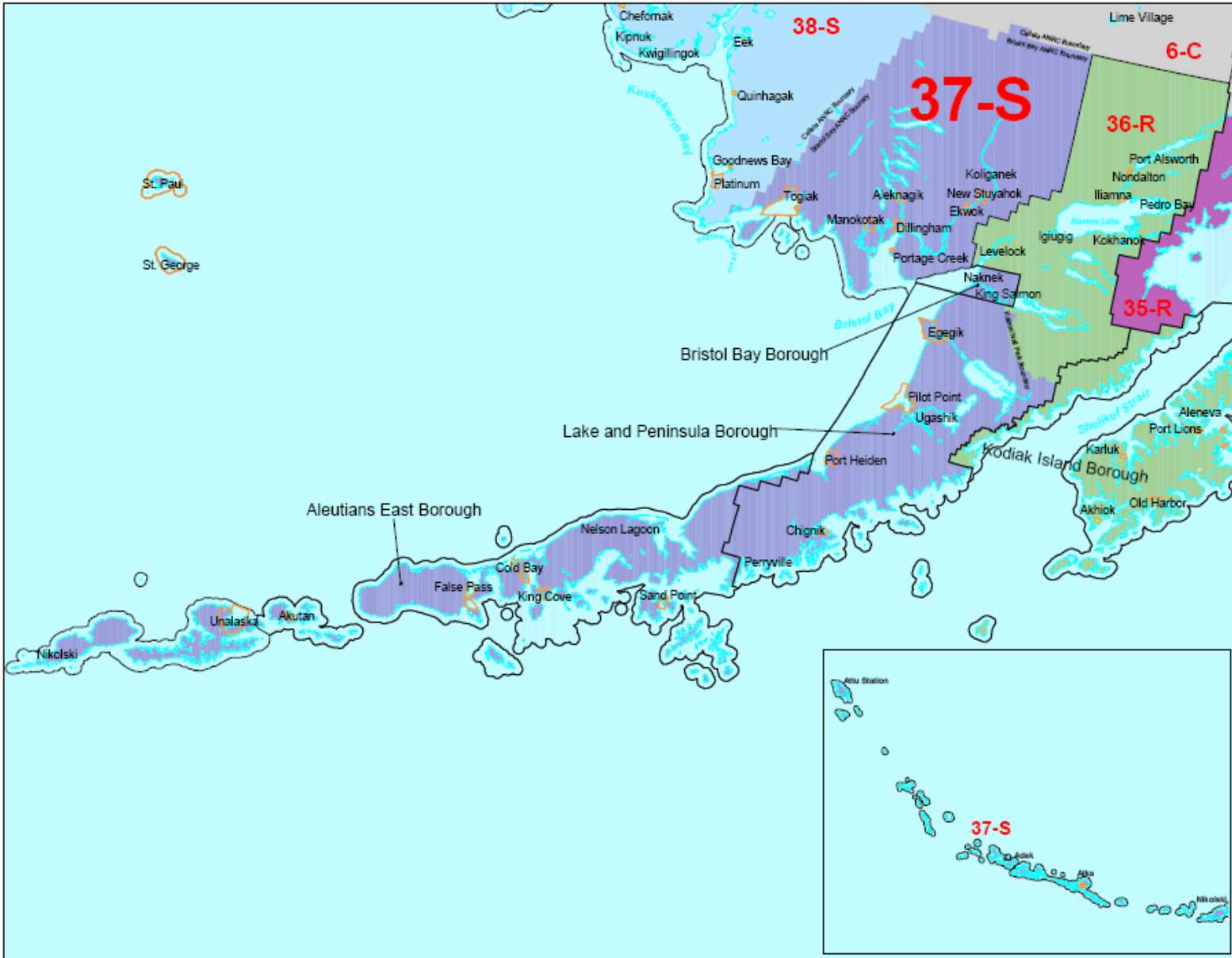
A census count in 2010 and revised reapportionment plan for 2011 may lead to different political boundaries in 2012.

**Table 4.1: Local Governments, Legislative Districts and ANCSA Corporations in Southwest Alaska**

Borough or Census Area	Form of Government	Est.	Inc. Cities	Uninc. Comm.	Senate District	House District	School District	ANCSA Regional Corporation	ANCSA Village Corps	Tribal Governments
Aleutians East Borough	Second Class Borough	1987	5	2	S	37	1	The Aleut Corporation	8	8
Aleutians West Census Area	Unorganized Borough	N/A	5	3	S	37	3	The Aleut Corporation	5	5
Bristol Bay Borough	Second Class Borough	1962	0	3	S	37	1	Bristol Bay Native Corporation	2	3
Dillingham Census Area	Unorganized Borough	N/A	7	4	S	37	2	Bristol Bay Native Corporation	9	11
Kodiak Island Borough	Second Class Borough	1963	6	5	R	36	1	Koniag, Inc.	8	11
Lake & Peninsula Borough	Home Rule Borough	1989	6	12	R/S	36/37	1	Bristol Bay Native Corporation, CIRI	14	17

Sources: Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development; Alaska Federation of Natives; The Aleut Corporation; Bristol Bay Native Corporation; Koniag, Inc.

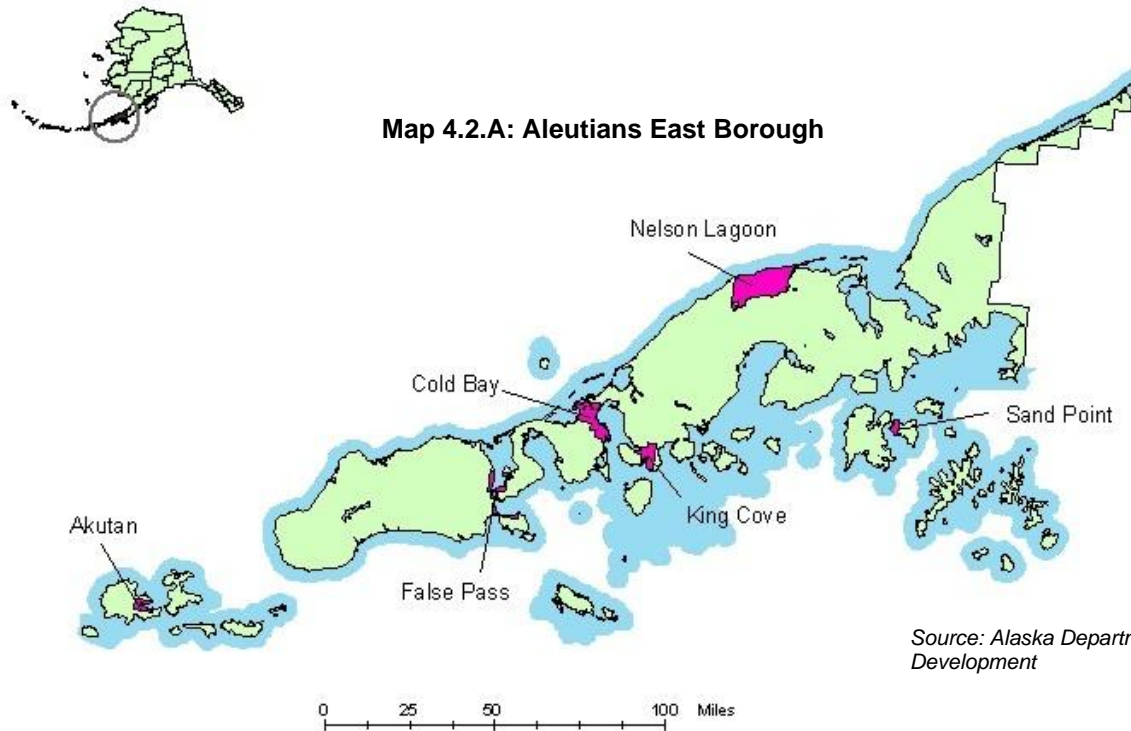
Map 4.1: Legislative Districts in Southwest Alaska



Source: <http://www.elections.alaska.gov/maps/districts/dist37.pdf>

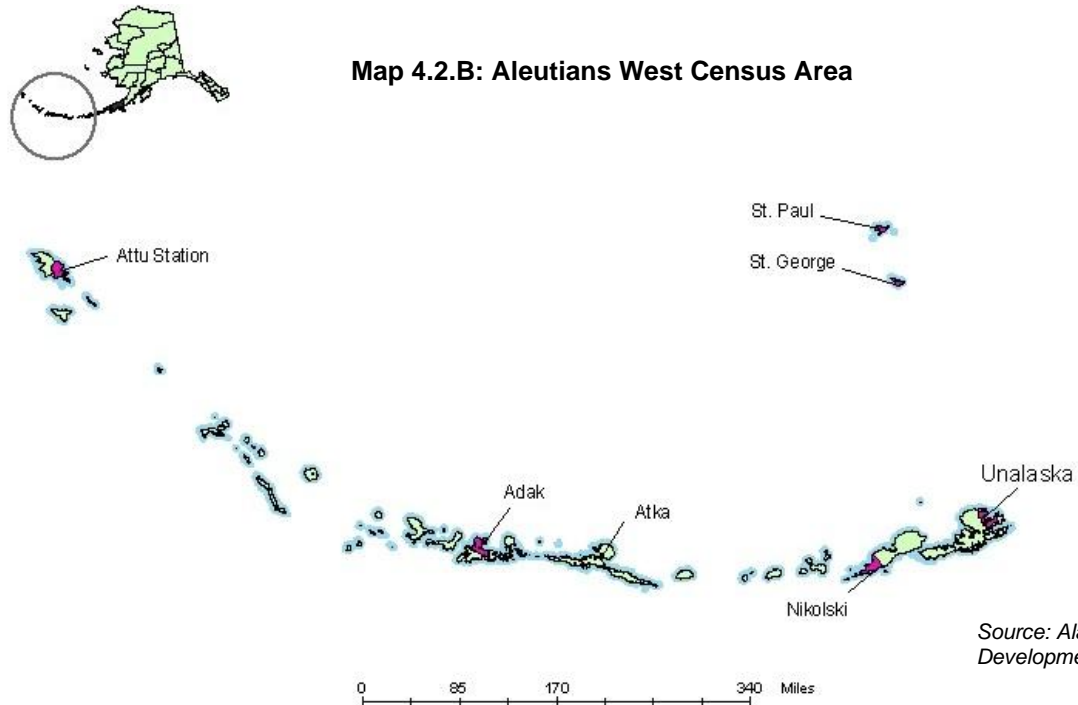
**Table 4.2.A: Local Government, Legislative Districts and ANCSA Corporations in the Aleutians East Borough<sup>6</sup>**

Aleutians East Borough	Form of Government	Est.	Senate District	House District	School District	ANCSA Regional	ANCSA Village Corporation(s)	Tribal Government	Regional Non-Profit
Aleutians East Borough	Second Class Borough	1987	S	37	Aleutians East School District	The Aleut Corporation	N/A	N/A	Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association & Eastern Aleutian Tribes
Akutan	Second Class Borough	1979					Akutan Corporation	Akutan Traditional Council	
Belkofski ANVSA	Unincorporated	N/A					Belkofski Corporation	Belkofski Village Council	
Cold Bay	Second Class City	1982					N/A	N/A	
False Pass	Second Class City	1990					Isanotski Corporation	False Pass Village Council	
King Cove	First Class City	1949					King Cove Corporation	Agdaagux Tribal Council	
Nelson Lagoon CDP	Unincorporated	N/A					Nelson Lagoon Corporation	Nelson Tribal Council	
Pauloff Harbor	Unic	N/A					Sanak Corporation	Pauloff Harbor Village Council	
Sand Point	Second Class City	1966					Shumagin Corporation, Unga Corporation	Qagan Tayagungin Tribe of Sand Point, Village, Unga	



**Table 4.2.B: Local Governments, Legislative Districts and ANCSA Corporations in the Aleutians West Census Area<sup>6</sup>**

Aleutians West Census Area	Form of Government	Est.	Senate District	House District	School District	ANCSA Regional	ANCSA Village Corporation(s)	Tribal Government	Regional Non-Profit
Aleutians West Census	Unorganized Borough	N/A	S	37	Aleutian Region Schools	The Aleut Corporation	N/A	N/A	Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association
Adak CDP	Second Class City	2001					N/A	N/A	
Atka	Second Class City	1988					Atkam Corporation	Atka IRA Council	
Attu Station CDP	Unincorporated	N/A					N/A	N/A	
Eareckson AFS (Shemya Station)	Unincorporated	N/A			N/A		N/A		
Nikolski CDP	Unincorporated	N/A			Chaluka Corporation		Nikolski IRA Council		
St. George	First Class City	1983			St. George Tanaq		St. George Tribal Council		
St. Paul	First Class City	1971			Tanadgusix Corporation		Tribal Government of St. Paul		
Unalaska	First Class City	1942			Unalaska Corporation		Qawalangin Tribal Council of Unalaska		



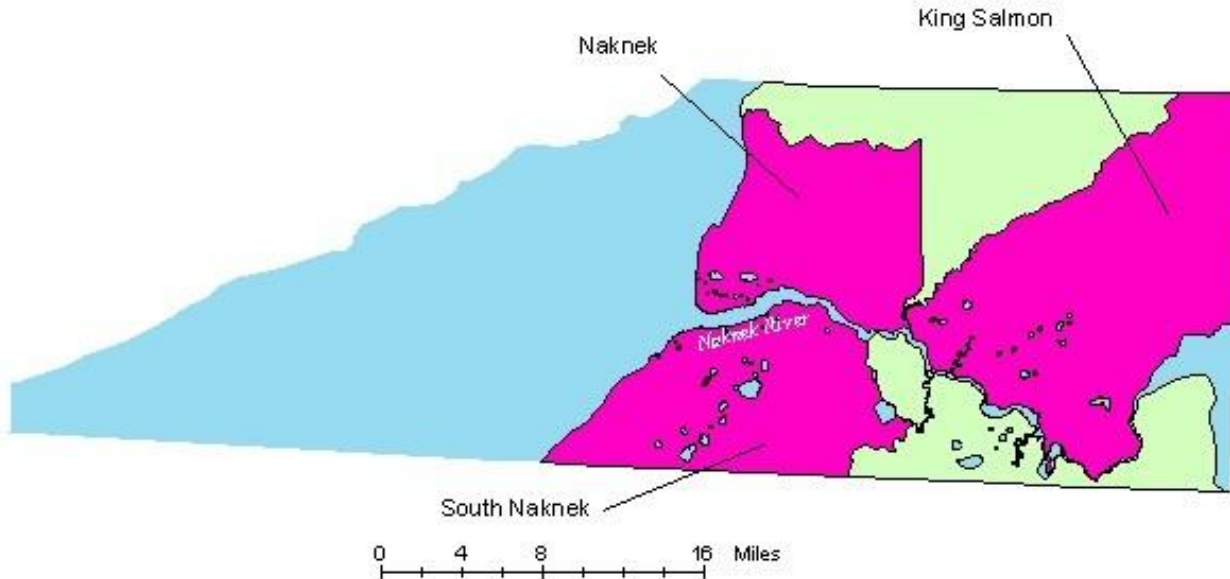
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

**Table 4.2.C: Local Governments, Legislative Districts and ANCSA Corporations in the Bristol Bay Borough<sup>6</sup>**

Bristol Bay Borough	Form of Government	Est.	Senate District	House District	School District	ANCSA Regional	ANCSA Village Corporation(s)	Tribal Government	Regional Non-Profit
Bristol Bay Borough	Second Class Borough	N/A	<b>S</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>Bristol Bay Borough Schools</b>	<b>Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC)</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA)</b>
King Salmon CDP	Unincorporated	2001					Paug-Vik Ltd.	King Salmon Village Council	
Naknek CDP	Unincorporated	1988					Paug-Vik Ltd.	Naknek Village Council	
South Naknek CDP	Unincorporated	N/A					Alaska Peninsula Corporation	South Naknek Village Council	



**Map 4.2.C: Bristol Bay Borough**



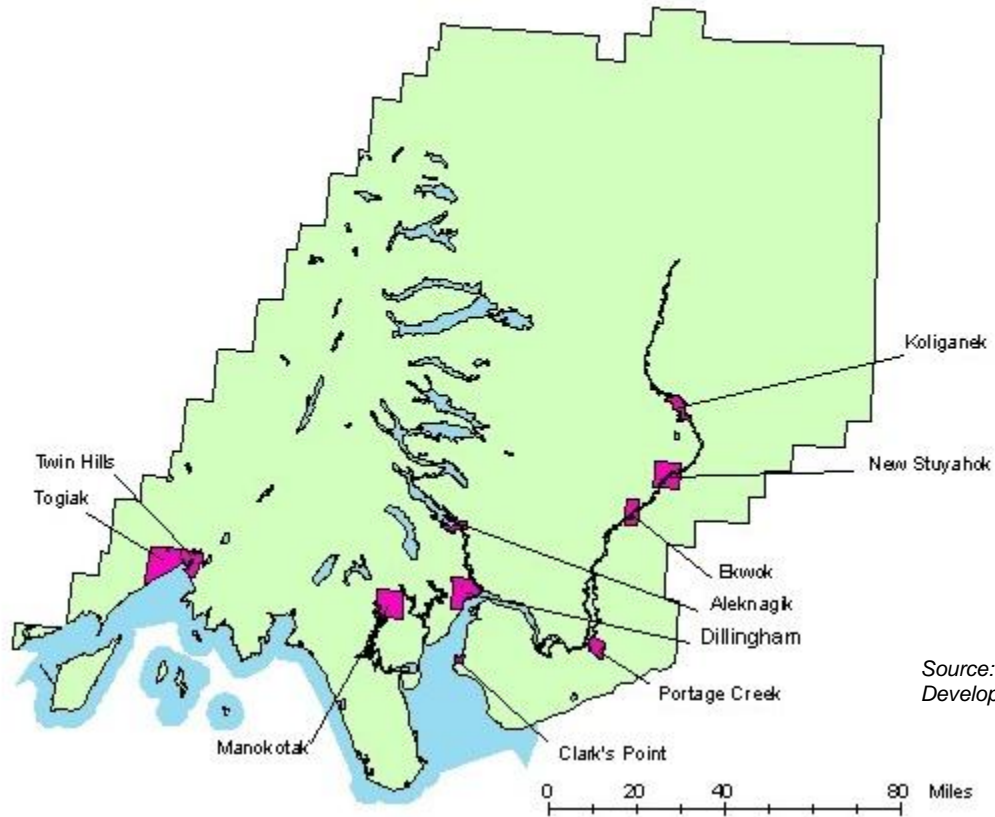
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

**Table 4.2.D: Local Governments, Legislative Districts and ANCSA Corporations in the Dillingham Census Area<sup>6</sup>**

Dillingham Census Area	Form of Government	Est.	Senate District	House District	School District	ANCSA Regional	ANCSA Village Corporation(s)	Tribal Government	Regional Non-Profit
Dillingham Census Area	Unorganized Borough	N/A	S	37	Southwest Region School District	Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC)	N/A	N/A	Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA)
Aleknagik	Second Class City	1973					Aleknagik Natives Ltd.	Aleknagik Traditional Council	
Clark's Point	Second Class City	1971					Saguyak, Inc.	Clark's Point Village Council	
Dillingham	First Class City	1963			Dillingham		Choggiung Ltd.	Curyung Tribal Council	
Ekuk ANVSA	Unincorporated	N/A			Southwest Region School District		Choggiung Ltd.	Ekuk Village Council	
Ekwok	Second Class City	1974					Ekwok Natives Ltd.	Ekwok Village Council	
Manokotak	Second Class City	1970					Manokotak Natives Ltd.	Manokotak Village Council	
New Koliganek ANVSA	Unincorporated	N/A					Koliganek Natives Ltd.	New Koliganek Village	
New Stuyahok	Second Class City	1972					Stuyahok Natives Ltd.	New Stuyahok Village Council	
Portage Creek CDP	Unincorporated	N/A					Choggiung Ltd.	Portage Creek Village Council	
Togiak	Second Class City	1969					Togiak Natives Ltd.	Togiak Traditional Council	
Twin Hills CDP	Unincorporated	N/A					Twin Hills Native Corporation	Twin Hills Village Council	

(Map of Dillingham Census Area on next page)

Map 4.2.D: Dillingham Census Area



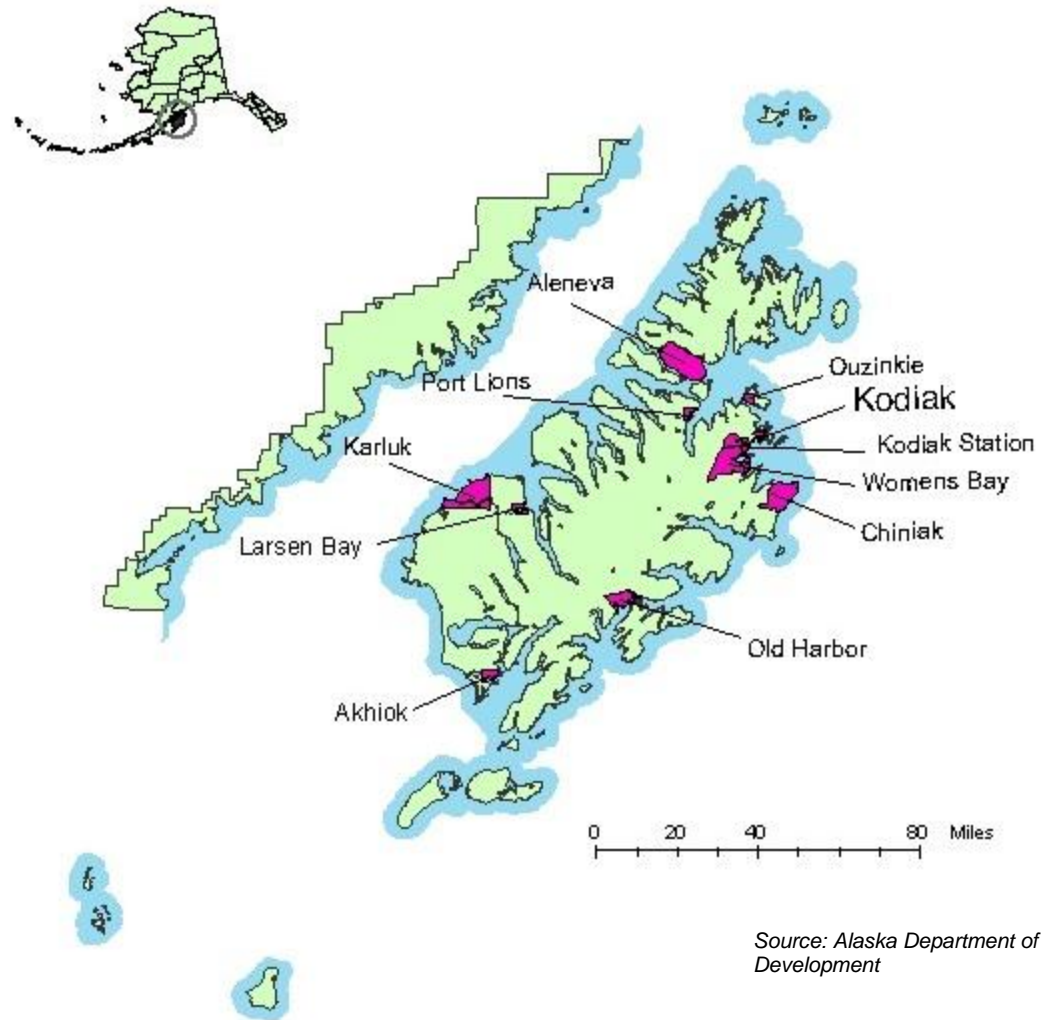
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

**Table 4.2.E: Local Government, Legislative Districts and ANCSA Corporations in the Kodiak Island Borough<sup>6</sup>**

Kodiak Island Borough	Form of Government	Est.	District	District	District	Regional	ANCSA Village Corporation(s)	Tribal Government	Regional Non-Profit
Kodiak Island Borough	Second Class Borough	1963	R	36	Kodiak Island Borough School District	Koniag, Inc.	N/A	N/A	Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA)
Akhiok	Second Class City	1972					Akhiok-Kaguyak	Natives Village of Akhiok	
Aleneva CDP	Unincorporated	N/A					N/A	Natives of Afognak, Inc.	
Chiniak CDP	Unincorporated	N/A					N/A	N/A	
Karluk CDP	Unincorporated	N/A					Partitioned to Koniag	Karluk IRA Council	
Kodiak	Home Rule City	1940					Natives of Kodiak	Shoonaq Tribe of Kodiak	
Kodiak Station CDP	Unincorporated	N/A					N/A	N/A	
Larsen Bay	Second Class City	1974					Partitioned to Koniag	Native Village of Larsen Bay	
Old Harbor	Second Class City	1966					Old Harbor Native Corporation	Old Harbor Tribal Council	
Ouzinkie	Home Rule City	1967					Ouzinkie Native	Ouzinkie Tribal Council	
Port Lions	Second Class City	1966					Afognak Native	Village of Port Lions	
Woody Island	Unincorporated	N/A					Leisnoi, Inc.	Woody Island Tribal Council	
Womens Bay CDP	Unincorporated	N/A					N/A	N/A	
Abandoned Villages	N/A	N/A					Anton Larsen Inc.; Ayakulik, Inc.; Bells Flats Natives, Ltd.; Uyak, Inc.; Litnik, Inc.; Shuyak, Ltd.; Uganik, Inc.	Kaguyak Village, Native Village of Kanatak	

(Map of Kodiak Island Borough on next page)

Map 4.2.E: Kodiak Island Borough



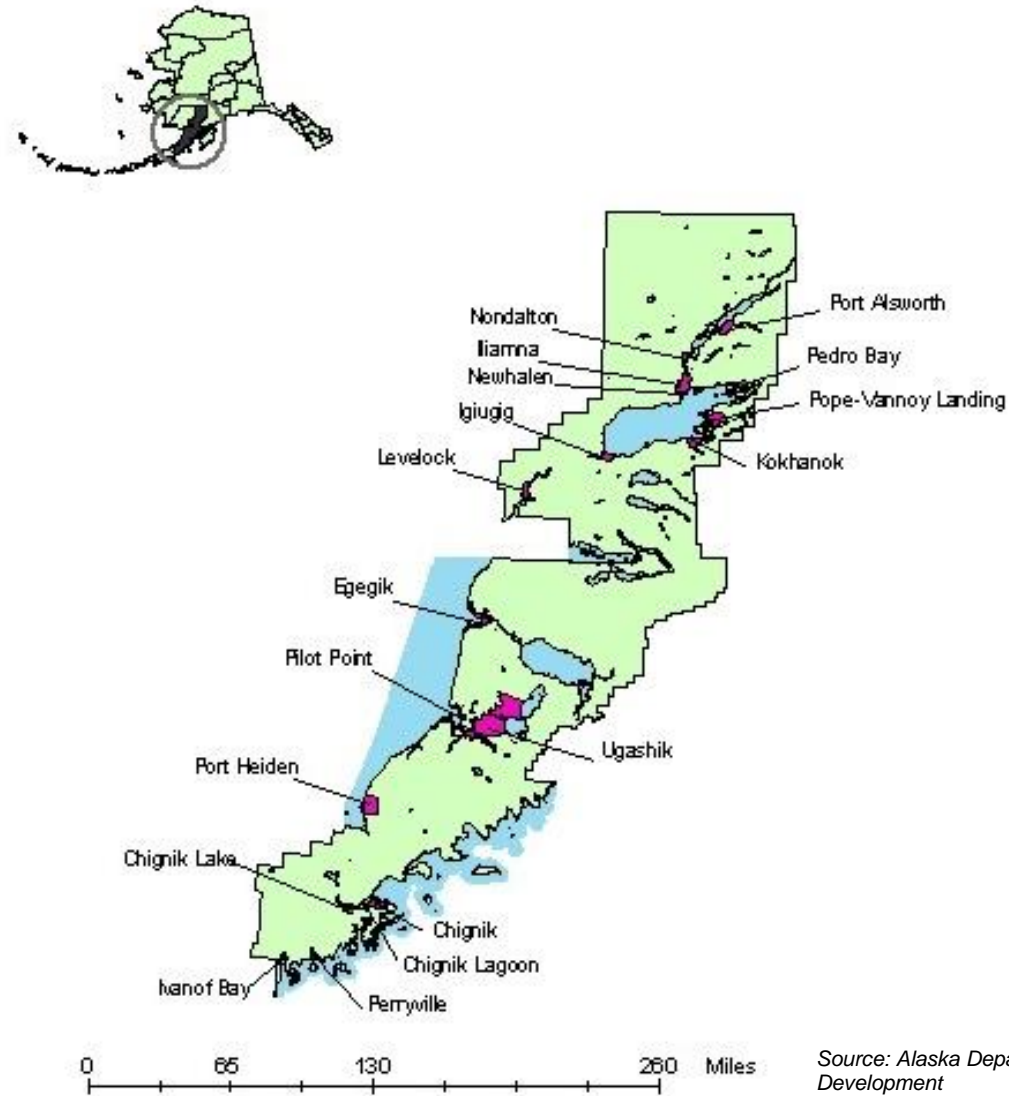
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

**Table 4.2.F: Local Government, Legislative Districts and ANCSA Corporations in the Lake & Peninsula Borough<sup>6</sup>**

Lake & Peninsula Borough	Form of Government	Est.	District	District	District	Regional	ANCSA Village Corporation(s)	Tribal Government	Regional Non-Profit
Lake & Peninsula Borough	Home Rule Borough	1989	S	37	Lake & Peninsula Schools	Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC)	N/A	N/A	Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA)
Chignik	Second Class City	1983					Far West, Inc.	Chignik Bay Village Council	
Chignik Lagoon CDP	Unincorporated	N/A					Chignik Lagoon Native	Chignik Lagoon Village	
Chignik Lake CDP	Unincorporated	N/A					Chignik River Ltd.	Chignik Lake Village Council	
Egegik	Second Class City	1995					Becharof Corporation	Egegik Village Council	
Igiugig CDP	Unincorporated	N/A	Igiugig Native Ltd.	Igiugig Village Council					
Iliamna CDP	Unincorporated	N/A	Iliamna Native Ltd.	Iliamna Village Council					
Ivanof Bay CDP	Unincorporated	N/A	S	37			Bay View, Inc.	Ivanof Bay Village Council	
Kokhanok CDP	Unincorporated	N/A	R	36			Alaska Peninsula Corporation	Kokhanok Village Council	
Levelock CDP	Unincorporated	N/A					Levelock Natives Ltd.	Levelock Village Council	
Newhalen	Second Class City	1971					Alaska Peninsula Corporation	Newhalen Tribal Council	
Nondalton	Second Class City	1971	S	37			Kijik Corporation	Nondalton Tribal Council	
Pedro Bay CDP	Unincorporated	N/A					Pedro Bay Village	Pedro Bay Village Council	
Perryville CDP	Unincorporated	N/A	Oceanside Corporation	Native Village of Perryville					
Pilot Point	Second Class City	1992	Pilot Point Native Corporation	PilotPoint Village Council					
Pope-Vannoy Landing CDP	Unincorporated	N/A	R	36		N/A	N/A		
Port Heiden	Second Class City	1972	S	37		Alaska Peninsula Corporation	Port Heiden Village Council		
Ugashik CDP	Unincorporated	N/A	S	37	Alaska Peninsula Corporation	Ugashik Traditional Council			
Port Alsworth CDP	Unincorporated	N/A	R	36	Cook Inlet	Tanalian Inc.	Tanalian Village Council	Cook Inlet Tribal	

(Map of Lake & Peninsula Borough on next page)

Map 4.2.F: Lake & Peninsula Borough



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

**Table 4.3: Area of Cities, ANVSAs and CDPs in Southwest Alaska Boroughs and Census Areas<sup>7</sup>**

Borough or Census Area	Land Area	Water Area	Total Area
Aleutians East Borough	6,988.1	8,023.5	15,011.6
Aleutians West Census Area	4,397.0	9,719.7	14,116.5
Bristol Bay Borough	504.9	382.8	887.7
Dillingham Census Area	18,675.0	2,253.6	20,928.4
Kodiak Island Borough	6,559.8	5,463.8	12,023.7
Lake & Peninsula Borough	23,782.0	7,125.0	30,907.0

## Education

Nine school districts fulfill the public educational needs of the region. The four incorporated boroughs are each served by a single unified school district. In the Aleutians West Census Area, there are three school districts: the Aleutian Region Schools, the Pribilof School District, and the Unalaska City School District. Two school districts serve the Dillingham Census Area. The Dillingham City School District serves the incorporated first class city of Dillingham, while the Southwest Region School District serves the balance of the area. Three of the school districts in the region are organized as Rural Education Attendance Areas (REAs): Aleutians, Pribilofs, and Southwest.

## ANCSA Corporations

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) settled the issue of what lands Alaska Natives owned by right of traditional

use and occupancy. ANCSA provided for the creation of regional and village corporations to receive settlement compensation in the form of cash and various land rights. All Alaska Natives born before December 18, 1971 and having a certified Native blood quantum of 25 percent or more were eligible to enroll in a regional and village corporation and receive 100 shares of stock in each.

The boundaries of four ANCSA regional corporations are wholly or partially contained in Southwest Alaska. Map 4.3 shows the ANCSA designated boundaries of the regional corporations within Southwest Alaska.<sup>8</sup> The regional corporations are state-chartered, for-profit enterprises. These corporations are mandated by law to make a good faith effort to create a financial return for Native shareholders through either the investment in Native and non-Native enterprises or the exploitation of regionally-held natural resources. Regional corporations are eligible to contract for federal funds under P.L. 93-638. The policies of each corporation are set by its board of directors who are elected by the shareholders. The corporations also contribute, in varying degrees, to community socioeconomic

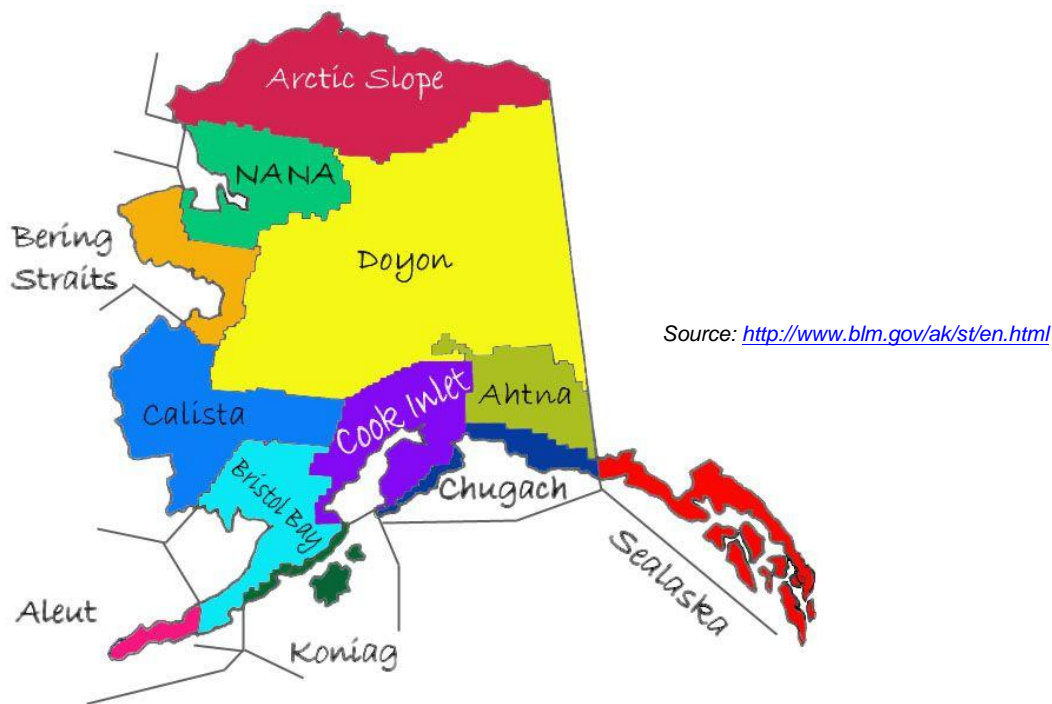
development, whether through scholarships, explicit employment practices, or via direct social investments. Such functions are generally executed by a non-profit affiliate.<sup>9</sup>

Of the 244 village corporations also established by ANCSA, 47 are in Southwest Alaska. Since the passage of ANCSA, some village corporations have elected to partition into their regional corporation or merge with other village corporations. Village corporations, unlike their regional counterparts, had the option of forming as for-profit or nonprofit entities. However, all village corporations elected to organize under the for-profit model with shareholders, boards of directors, and paid staff. Village corporations have the power to buy and sell assets, including land allocated by ANCSA; develop surface (but not subsurface) resources on village corporation land; own and operate businesses; and execute contracts with the federal government to deliver federally funded services.<sup>10</sup> Village corporation land allotments were based on each village's population as enumerated by the 1970 U.S. Census.

## Regional Native Nonprofit Associations

Prior to the passage of ANCSA, some regional Native nonprofit organizations were formed to address various socio-cultural issues. With the passage of ANCSA, the formation of regional Native non-profit associations became more codified and uniform across the state with

**Map 4.3: ANCSA Regional Corporations in Southwest Alaska**



boundaries corresponding to the for-profit counterparts.

In Southwest Alaska, regional Native non-profit associations are the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association (APIA), the Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA), and the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA). In some sub-regions, separate organizations have formed to address health care and housing issues. These organizations include the Bristol

Bay Area Health Corporation and the Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc.. The Aleutian Housing Authority, the Bristol Bay Housing Authority and the Kodiak Island Housing Authority were also formed to address housing issues.

Each non-profit collectively represents the interests of the Native villages in its region. A village is served by one non-profit and is represented on that association's board. The board members then elect the officers of the association's executive committee. In contrast to their for-profit counterparts, however, non-profit associations give Natives born after

December 1971 equal representation. Administratively, the organizations resemble the complex social service bureaucracies found at the state and federal levels. In addition, the non-profits have been determined by the federal government to be "tribal organizations" for administrative purposes and, as such, are eligible to be and often are the contracting parties under P.L. 93-638.<sup>11</sup>

These organizations operate a myriad of state and federal programs which provide government-like services including public health services, education and employment, community and regional planning, family services, natural resource management, and law enforcement training. Given the absence of other governmental agencies in the unorganized borough, regional non-profits have operated as de facto regional governments. Furthermore, the regional non-profits provide rural villages with a mechanism by which to mobilize, articulate, and represent Native regional and village concerns - often as the primary political vehicle for the villages.<sup>12</sup>

## Tribal Governments

Present day tribal governance in Southwest Alaska takes many forms depending upon traditional practices, the existence of an incorporated local government, interfaces with federal and state governments, and the historical adoption and practice of local government powers. There are 55 federally recognized tribal governments in Southwest Alaska (see Table 4.2.A-F). Tribal governments range from informal arrangements whose structure and authority derive from

centuries of cultural practice to formalized structures established in written constitutions and bylaws.<sup>13</sup>

Three tribal governments are recognized by the federal government as IRA Councils (Atka, Nikolski and Karluk) as specified by the Indian Reorganization Act, which was extended to Alaska in 1936. IRA governments essentially have powers of “dependent” sovereigns with federally recognized power to make, enforce, and interpret laws and regulations governing their members. More specifically, IRA governments can tax members; regulate property within tribal jurisdiction; establish courts with jurisdiction over member and non-member Natives and, in certain limited cases, non-Natives (e.g., non-Native adoptions of Native children under the Indian Child Welfare Act [ICWA]); legislate criminal justice policies particularly in the area of domestic disputes, but also in other (non-major) criminal areas; define and enforce membership rules; regulate the domestic relations of members; prevent the sale, disposition, lease, and encumbrance of tribal lands without tribal consent.<sup>14</sup>

Twenty-seven incorporated communities in Southwest Alaska also have some form of local tribal government. Twenty-one unincorporated communities are located within the organized boroughs and also have a local tribal government. Five unincorporated communities are located in the unorganized borough and only have local tribal government.

Municipal governments often share authority with tribal governments, which have formally existed since well before Alaska statehood or the establishment of municipal governments,

and in many villages these governing groups have members in common. The power distribution among these entities varies from community to community.<sup>15</sup>

## Land Ownership

Land ownership patterns in Southwest Alaska mirror that of the rest of the state. The federal government is the largest landowner, followed by the State of Alaska, and then, collectively, the largest private land owners – the ANCSA Native corporations. Map 4.4 illustrates the scale and distribution of ownership of these three large scale land owners.<sup>16</sup>

### Federal Lands

As the largest land owner in the state, the federal government owns approximately 60% of the total area (222 million acres). In Southwest Alaska, federal government lands are managed by the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Department of Defense, and several other federal agencies. Table 4.4 lists major federal land units in the region.

The majority of federally owned lands in Southwest Alaska have been set aside for public use. The National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service units are managed primarily for resource protection, fish and wildlife conservation, and recreation. The Bureau of Land Management manages for multiple use purposes including timber production, fish and wildlife, recreation, water, and mining. Management of these lands is

based on priorities and compatibility among various uses. The remaining federal land is designated for special purposes, such as military reservations.<sup>17</sup>

Pending state and Native land selections that have yet to be conveyed will be taken from federal land holdings.

### State Lands

The State of Alaska owns significant land holdings throughout the region. Major state land units in the region fall into several broad categories: tidelands and submerged lands, parks, game refuges and sanctuaries, and critical habitat areas. Table 4.5 lists major state land units in Southwest Alaska. With the exception of tidelands and submerged lands, the greatest concentration of state lands in the region is in the Aleutians East Borough, Dillingham Census Area and Lake & Peninsula Borough.

Given the extensive coastline of the region, the State of Alaska’s most significant land holdings in the region may be tidelands and submerged lands. Tidelands include the land between mean high and mean low tide. Submerged lands are seaward of mean low tide to three miles offshore. The tide and submerged lands include all land between the mean high tide line and three miles offshore of the mean low tide line. The State of Alaska owns most of the tide and submerged lands along its coastline. The Submerged Lands Act of May 22, 1953 states that all lands permanently or periodically covered by tidal waters up to, but not above, the line of mean high tide and seaward to a line

**Table 4.4: Major Federally Owned Land Units in Southwest Alaska**



Source: <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us> and <http://nrm.salrm.uaf.edu/~stodd/AlaskaPlanningDirectory/ADFG.html>

three geographical miles distant from the coast mean low tide line is owned by the state.<sup>18</sup>

State park lands include Wood-Tikchik State Park, the largest state park in the nation. At 1.6 million acres, Wood-Tikchik State Park was created in 1978 for the purpose of protecting the area's fish and wildlife breeding and support systems and preserving continued subsistence and recreational activities. The management philosophy is one of non-development and maintenance of the area's wilderness character.<sup>19</sup> Other state park units are concentrated in the Kodiak Island Borough, including Afognak Island State Park and

Shuyak Island State Park.

Five critical habitat areas on the Alaska Peninsula and Trinity Island were established by the state. These areas were identified as being essential to the protection of fish and wildlife habitat. Each area plays an important role as breeding and staging habitat for migratory birds, ducks, geese, and other waterfowl. Public use is allowed in these areas, but no public services are available.<sup>20</sup>

Unique habitat and wildlife values also define other state land holdings. Izembek State Game Refuge includes Izembek Lagoon, one of the

world's largest eelgrass beds. This area is also an important feeding and staging habitat for millions of migrating birds and waterfowl. Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary, a group of seven craggy islands, is the only regularly used land-based walrus haul-out in the southern Bering Sea. More than 8,000 male walrus return to the islands each spring.<sup>21</sup>

### **Native Lands**

Collectively, as the largest private land owners in the state and in Southwest Alaska, the Native corporations have the greatest potential for both

resource development and other development opportunities.

Native lands in the region have been developed in a variety of ways including: logging; tourism facilities and activities; residential real estate development; federal and state land acquisition through the EVOS Council habitat restoration activities; mining; and gravel and rock sales. In recent years, many Native corporations have been more focused on development of 8(A) government contracting subsidiaries and investment activities.

Table 4.6 outlines the original cash and land settlements conveyed to the three regional corporations wholly located within Southwest Alaska.

### Trust Lands

The University of Alaska and the Alaska Mental Health Trust both received federal land grants. Each entity has land holdings within Southwest Alaska. Trust lands are sold from time to time to generate revenue to support the work of each institution. Currently, the University of Alaska has one land sale planned in Southwest Alaska; the Snake Lake Subdivision is located approximately twenty miles northwest of Dillingham in the Bristol Bay area.<sup>22</sup>

Other federal trust lands, such as Native Allotments and Federal Townsite lots, are held in trust by the federal government on behalf of the owner. The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management are the two federal agencies charged with managing federal trust lands.

### Other Private Lands

Land in private ownership (other than Native land) comprises less than one percent of the total land in Alaska. A regionwide assessment of private land is not currently available. This limited tax base serves as a barrier to community development throughout the region.

**Table 4.4: Major Federally Owned Land Units in Southwest Alaska**

Federal Land	Total Area in Acres
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge	4,500,000
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge - <i>Alaska Peninsula Unit</i>	750,000
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge - <i>Aleutian Islands Unit</i>	3,465,247
Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge	3,700,000
Aleutian World War II National Historic Site	134
Aniakchak Caldera	536,940
Becharof National Wildlife Refuge	1,200,018
Izembek National Wildlife Refuge	311,076
Katmai National Park & Preserve	4,093,000
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge	1,900,000
Lake Clark National Park & Preserve	4,030,025
Togiak National Wildlife Refuge	4,098,741

Source: <http://www.fws.gov> and <http://www.nps.gov>

**Table 4.5: Major State of Alaska Owned Land Units in Southwest Alaska**

State Land	Area in Acres
Afognak Island State Park	75,049
Buskin River State Recreation Area	168
Cinder River State Critical Habitat Area	25,856
Egegik State Critical Habitat Area	8,064
Fort Abercrombie State Historical Park	186
Izembek State Game Refuge	181,440
Pasagshak State Recreation Area	20
Pilot Point State Critical Habitat Area	46,016
Port Moller State Critical Habitat Area	127,296
Shuyak Island State Park	47,000
Tugidak Island State Critical Habitat Area	50,240
Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary	9,728
Wood-Tikchik State Park	1,600,000

Source: <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us> and <http://nrm.salm.uaf.edu/~stodd/AlaskaPlanningDirectory/ADFG.html>

**Table 4.6: ANCSA Regional Native Corporations Cash and Land Settlements**

ANCSA Regional Native Corporations	Shareholders	Original Cash Settlement	Surface & Subsurface Estate (acres)	Subsurface Estate Only (acres)
Aleut Corporation	3,249	\$19.5 million	66,000	1.572 million
Bristol Bay Native Corporation	7,800	\$32.7 million	101,500	2.716 million
Koniag, Inc.	3,600	\$23 million	800	900,000

Source: <http://www.aleutcorp.com>; <http://www.bbnc.net> and <http://www.koniag.com>

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Alaska Statutes, Title 29: Municipal Government

<sup>2</sup> IBID

<sup>3</sup> IBID

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.bia.gov>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.elections.alaska.gov/maps/districts/dist37.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.labor.state.ak.us/research/cgin/cenmaps/cas/ae.htm>  
and  
<http://www.elections.alaska.gov/distdes.php>

U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Federation of Natives;  
<http://www.koniag.com>;  
<http://www.aleutcorp.com>;  
<http://www.bbnc.net>

<sup>7</sup>

[http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF\\_CIS.htm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_CIS.htm)

<sup>8</sup> Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Public Information Office

<sup>9</sup> Achieving Alaska Native Self-Governance, ISER, et al. May 1999.

<sup>10</sup> IBID

<sup>11</sup> IBID

<sup>12</sup> IBID

<sup>13</sup> IBID

<sup>14</sup> IBID

<sup>15</sup> IBID

<sup>16</sup> Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Pearson, Roger. Alaska in Maps: A Thematic Atlas

<sup>17</sup>

[http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/factsht/land\\_owen.pdf](http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/factsht/land_owen.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> Alaska Department of Natural Resources

<sup>19</sup> IBID

<sup>20</sup> Alaska Atlas & Gazetteer

<sup>21</sup> Alaska Department of Fish & Game

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.ualand.com>