

Region 3: Togiak, Igushik

Summary of Resources and Uses in the Region

Region Boundary

The boundaries of Region 3 are defined on the south by the shores of Bristol Bay, on the west, northwest, and north by the drainage divide between the Kuskokwim and Kuskokwim Bay drainages and those of Bristol Bay. The eastern boundary is defined partly by the drainage divide between the Igushik and Weary River Systems and the western boundary of Wood-Tikchik State Park. The boundaries are nearly the same as the original (1984) Bristol Bay Area Plan. Region 3 includes coastal lands along northwest Bristol Bay from Cape Newenham to the Snake River encompassing portions of the Ahklun Mountains and of Wood Mountains. This includes all of the southerly flowing Togiak and Igushik Rivers as well as smaller drainages such as the Osviak, Matogak, Quigmy, Negukthlik, Ungalikthluk, Kulukak, Kanik, and Tunuing Rivers. This Region encompasses the Nushagak Peninsula and the uplands of Hagemeister and the Walrus Islands. Elevations range from sea level to 4,795 feet (Crooked Mountain). Major settlements in Region 3 include Togiak (pop. 762) with nearby Twin Hills (pop. 59) and Manokotak (pop. 387). Togiak is a coastal community whereas Manokotak is situated approximately twelve miles inland on the Igushik River. For the most part, the interior portion of the Region is largely unpeopled. The population of Region 3 is approximately 1,208. Almost all of the land in the Region is in federal ownership and located within the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge as well as the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, which encompasses Hagemeister Island. The boundaries of Region 3 also include the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary. See Map 3-3.

State Lands: Ownership and Acreage

State-owned lands comprise a very small part of the Region and are contained mostly within portions of four townships in the northern portion of the Region, adjacent to the Wood-Tikchik State Park, and a portion of a township approximately eight miles north of Manokotak. The state also has ownership of the Walrus Islands, which are within Walrus Island State Game Sanctuary. There are no significant blocks of state-selected land in the Region. The plan applies to 58,727 acres of state-owned uplands and 732,004 acres of state-owned tidelands in this region. The plan also applies to state-owned shorelands (acreages of shorelands have not been calculated).

Physical Geography

Several mountain systems, part of the greater Kuskokwim Mountains, extend from southwest to northeast through the Region; these include the Ahklun, and Wood River Mountains. The

drainage pattern reflects the southwest to northeast structural grain of the mountains and rivers flow generally from south or southwest towards Bristol Bay. The greatest relief is found in the northern portions of the region; Crooked Mountain is at an elevation of 4,795 feet and the valleys below it, containing Heart Lake and Milk Creek, are at elevations of approximately 1,430 feet – providing almost 3,400 feet of relief. This area shows enough elevation to display some lingering effects of Pleistocene glaciation – U-shaped valleys, hanging valleys, and cirque lakes. Considerable relief also occurs in the area around Togiak Lake. VABM Wanda is at an elevation of 2,975 feet and Pistuk Peak tops out at 4,305 feet; the surrounding valleys are at an elevation of only a few hundred feet making for relief of over 4,000 feet.

The Region displays a variety of landscapes, including mountain crags, fast-flowing rivers, deep lakes, tundra, marshy lowlands, ponds, estuaries, coastal lagoons, and sea cliffs. The broad glacial valleys of the Ahklun Mountain Range cut the tundra uplands, opening into coastal plains. Tree covered areas occur only sparingly and are largely restricted to patches in the Togiak River valley. Most of the uplands are vegetated with low to tall shrubs and low lying areas with low shrub and lichen tundra. At the highest elevations, mostly above 3,000 feet, vegetation is lacking or consists of a thin cover of alpine tundra. The sea coast is not rugged, however, significant headlands occur at Cape Newenham and where the Wood River Mountains meet Bristol Bay in the vicinity of Right Hand Point and Kulukak Bay. The Nushagak Peninsula and lower Igushik River area is low-lying marshes, lakes, and wetlands as is much of the central and lower valley of the Togiak River.

Climate

Climate conditions are variable depending upon proximity to the ocean. The communities of Togiak and Twin Hills have a marine climate with annual precipitation of 20 to 26 inches with 52 inches of total snowfall; summer temperatures range from 37° to 66° and winter temperatures average from 4° to 30°. Extremes are from 82° to -34°. Fog and high winds are prevalent during the winter, and Togiak Bay is ice-free from June through mid-November. The Region is underlain by ground with either discontinuous permafrost or ground with isolated masses of permafrost. The areas with discontinuous permafrost are generally those with elevations greater than 500 to 1,000 feet. Of course, north facing slopes are more likely to be underlain by permafrost than south facing mountain slopes.

Other

Region 3 is within the Bethel, Goodnews, Hagemeister Island, and Togiak Quadrangles. It lies almost entirely within the boundaries of the Bristol Bay Regional Native Corporation. The boundary between the Calista and the Bristol Bay Native Corporations is somewhat similar to the western boundary of Region 3.

Access

The settlements are highly dependent upon air transportation and, to a lesser extent, boat. There are three major state-owned, lighted, gravel airstrips in the Region at Togiak (4,400'), Twin Hills (3,000'), and Manokotak (2,720'); Manokotak also boasts a 5,000-foot-long seaplane base. Although coastal, there are no significant port or dock facilities. In summer months, supplies brought by boat or barge can be lightered ashore. There is no road access to the Region and ground transportation is largely served by snowmachines and ATVs. A number of trails extend from and between settlements. Togiak, Twin Hills, and Manokotak are linked to the Goodnews-Togiak and Togiak-Nushagak Trails, which extend east-west from Dillingham to Goodnews Bay. Air taxis based in Dillingham provide daily air service to each of the principal communities.

Resources and Uses

This region supports important herring and salmon fisheries that provide for commercial and subsistence users. The Togiak River also provides salmon for sports users. Waterfowl is an important wildlife resource for subsistence users in the area; there are also many seabirds in the Region. Recreational resource potential is high along the Togiak River, Togiak Lake, Amanka Lake, and the Igushik River for fishing and float trips. The Nushagak Peninsula has modest potential for shallow oil and gas as well as coalbed methane. The Region also provides important habitat for beluga whales; calving grounds are present in the vicinity of the mouth of the Igushik River.

Cultural and Historic. Archaeological evidence indicates that areas within the Region have been continuously occupied for at least 2,000 years. Historically the Region was peopled by the Togiagamiut who lived in the area from Nanvak Bay east to Cape Constantine and to perhaps some extent by the Kukowogamiut and who occupied the area from the Kuskowkim River south to Chagvan Bay. The people of Nanvak, Osviak, and Chagvan Bay were known as Chingigumiut or Cape people, and were considered a branch of the Togiagamiut. The present Native peoples are collectively known as Yup'ik.

The first European contact with the Native peoples of the Region took place during the expedition of Captain James Cook when his group encountered a group in kayaks north of Cape Newenham on July 16, 1778. The Russians established a fur trading business in this fur-rich area centered around a fort at Nushagak which handled up to 4,000 pelts annually. The discovery of gold in Alaska in the 1890's brought a significant influx of people to Alaska and a discovery in the vicinity of Goodnews Bay brought a stampede of miners from Nome in 1900-1901. Reindeer herding was established at Togiak and Nushagak in 1904-1905 but a series of extreme conditions in the mid-1940's exterminated most of the reindeer. In 1926 platinum was first discovered in the valley of the Salmon River and bucket-wheel dredging took place until 1975.

The state Office of History and Archeology lists 123 sites in Region 3 – 74 prehistoric, 27 historic, and 22 of mixed origin; however, new sites are discovered periodically and added to the Alaska Heritage Resource Database as reported. The majority of the prehistoric sites are situated along the main branch of the Togiak River, the upper Igushik River, and along the coast. Sites are also known on the Walrus Islands and on northern Hagemeister Island.

Economic. Steady employment is restricted to a few government jobs. The economic base is primarily commercial salmon and herring fisheries. Many residents hold commercial fishing permits; fishermen use flat-bottom boats for the shallow waters of Togiak Bay. There is one onshore fish processor and several floating processing facilities near Togiak. Most people depend heavily on subsistence activities. Salmon, herring, seal, sea lion, whale, walrus, moose and caribou are among the species harvested. A few residents trap. Togiak Fisheries and other cash buyers provide a market for fishermen. The community depends heavily on subsistence activities for various food sources. Seal, sea lion, walrus, whale, salmon, clams, geese, and ducks are harvested. Most villagers leave Manokotak during the fishing season; people depend heavily on fishing and subsistence activities, and usually move to Igushik or Ekuk each summer. An exchange relationship exists between Twin Hills, Togiak and Manokotak. Seal oil is exchanged for Alaska blackfish, and handicrafts also supplement incomes.

Recreation. Recreation in the Region is primarily related to outdoor activities such as hunting and sport fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, hiking and backpacking, river rafting and kayaking, as well as flightseeing. Sport fishing is especially prevalent on the Togiak River drainage. Recent (2002) estimates show the Togiak drainage with approximately 2,193 days fished; this would be considered moderate for the Bristol Bay area. By comparison the Naknek and the Kvichak drainages show approximately 24,401 and 12,461 fishing days, respectively, for the same period. Some of the finest salmon and trout sport fishing waters in Alaska are on Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. The coastal portion of the refuge provides excellent opportunities for photography and wildlife viewing. River rafting is popular on several rivers. Non-guided and commercially guided opportunities are available for sport fishing, hunting, flightseeing, river rafting, and wildlife viewing.

Minerals. Region 3 contains no known major mineral deposits. Placer gold occurs on the upper Togiak River drainage on Trail Creek, which had a small amount of production. Formation of placers on Trail Creek has been disrupted by glaciation and the deposits proved discontinuous and difficult to work. Placer gold is also reported on the lower Togiak River and on the lower reaches of the Slug River. Base metals, principally copper, occur at Togiak Lake and associated with nickel in the ultramaphics of the Newenham Peninsula. Asbestos is also known in this area. Occurrences of chromite, gold, manganese, and copper are reported along Hagemeister Strait at a location four miles southwest of the mouth of the Osviak River.

Oil and Gas. Three potentially important oil and gas provinces are found in the greater Bristol Bay area: 1) the Nushagak Basin, including the northwestern lowlands of the Alaska Peninsula; 2) the extension of the Cook Inlet Mesozoic Province extending along the southeastern region of the Peninsula; and 3) the Bristol Bay or Northern Aleutians Basin on the northwest side of the Peninsula. This bodes well for the oil and gas potential of the Nushagak Peninsula. In addition,

the minerals terrain map of Alaska suggests that the Nushagak Peninsula has potential for coal or coal-bearing units. As such, the area also has modest potential for shallow gas or coalbed methane. State and Native landowners are currently pursuing a new hydrocarbon exploration licensing and leasing program. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Lake and Peninsula, Bristol Bay, and Aleutians East Borough have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in support of oil and gas lease sales and licensing of state land in the Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula region (March 17, 2004). Similar MOUs are in effect between the DNR and The Aleut Regional Native Corporation (December 18, 2003) and the DNR and Bristol Bay Native Corporation (July 10, 2003).

Materials. There are no active material sites in Region 3.

Forestry. Only a minor percentage of the Region is forested. Narrow bands of riparian, black spruce-hardwood, mixed black spruce-balsam poplar, and balsam poplar woodlands extend along the major rivers and their tributaries. None of the wooded areas contain commercially harvestable timber. The two major stands of noncommercial forest occur in the middle section of the Togiak River drainage, including Togiak Lake, and in the area around Manokotak. The Togiak area forest resources are considered to have a very low suitability for personal use; those around Manokotak vary from low to high suitability.

Fish and Wildlife. Fish and wildlife resources are very important in this region as they support a mix of subsistence, recreation, and commercial economies. Species of major importance include caribou, moose, bear, beaver, and anadromous and resident fish species. Furbearers considered the most important species include wolf, red fox, marten, beaver, lynx, wolverine, river otter, coyote, and mink. Important habitat for seabirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl also occur in the Region.

Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, which occupies most of Region 3, conserves habitat for at least 214 staging, migrating, or breeding bird species. Bird species groups include land birds, shorebirds, seabirds (including common murre), raptors, and waterfowl. Birds from the North American Pacific Flyway and several Asiatic routes funnel through the area.

The Togiak River drainage contains five species of Pacific salmon – chinook (king), sockeye (red), coho (silver), pink (humpy), chum (dog) – as well as rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, Arctic char, and Arctic grayling. The sport fishery, however, primarily targets king and coho salmon. Peak use of the river takes place from the first part of July (king season), and all of August through mid-September (coho season).

Caribou are an important resource in the area. The Mulchatna Caribou Herd has been increasing in size and expanding its range since the 1930's. Serious efforts to conduct a census of the herd have taken place since 1973; between 1981 and 1996, the Mulchatna Caribou Herd increased from 19,000 to 200,000. In recent years the herd has peaked in size, and has decreased to what is presently estimated at approximately 30,000 individuals (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=species.main>). Caribou were reintroduced to the Nushagak Peninsula in February 1988, largely to re-establish caribou in an area where they had

been an important subsistence resource for local residents. The herd grew rapidly from 146 to over 1,200 animals following their reintroduction, due largely to excellent habitat conditions and the cooperation between interested parties. The herd has since declined and stabilized at approximately 700 caribou. A limited federal subsistence hunt was initiated in 1995 for residents of six local villages.

Moose are relatively new to the Bristol Bay area, possibly moving into the area from the middle Kuskokwim drainages during the last 100 years. During the previous twenty years, moose numbers have increased and moose are now common along the Nushagak/Mulchatna Rivers and all of their major tributaries. They also occur throughout the Wood/Tikchik Lake area and have extended their range westward into the Togiak and Kulukak River drainages where a viable population has established itself since 1994 (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=species.main>).

Brown bears are common in the Region and most sightings occur during the summer in conjunction with salmon spawning season, especially in the Togiak drainage. There is no objective data on the status of the brown bear population. Black bears are fairly rare with most sightings along the northern edge of Togiak Refuge.

Trapping has been an important part of the economy and culture of northern Bristol Bay and at one time was the main supplier of cash to many local people prior to the growth of commercial fishing. Historically beaver have been the most important furbearer in the Region. Population trends of furbearers in the Region are favorable – either stable or increasing. This is true for important species found in Region 3 such as land otter, wolverine, and red fox, although populations of the latter can fluctuate greatly due to outbreaks of rabies.

Management Considerations: Local and State Plans and Special Use Area

Region 3 is situated partly within the Bristol Bay CRSA CMP. Most state-owned land falls within the CRSA but is on land outside the coastal zone. The Enforceable and Administrative Policies of these Coastal Management Plans are extensive; policies affecting anadromous fish streams, bald eagle nests, oil and gas development, material extraction, and mining can be applicable, under certain circumstances, to state land. Please see the web site <http://www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us/>¹⁰ for more information on enforceable policies. These policies should be consulted by the DNR prior to issuing an authorization.

The Bristol Bay Area Plan (1984) affected all state lands in the Region. This plan stated that Region 3 was to be managed for two co-designated land uses – a combination of fish and wildlife-recreation-minerals and a combination of fish and wildlife-recreation. The management intent for state lands in the Upper Togiak-Wood-Tikchik River drainages was for protection of fish and wildlife and for recreation. This revision (2005) supersedes the original Area Plan.

¹⁰ The Alaska Coastal Management Program was terminated on July 1, 2011, pursuant to AS 44.66.030.

Region 3 is largely within the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge has a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) which is in the process of revision. The State of Alaska has designated a Special Use Area (SUA) for the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and the Lower Goodnews River (May 10, 1991; ADL 226851). It applies to those lands generally described as shorelands within Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and lower Goodnews River as described in the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Public Use Management Plan and Environmental Assessment. Setting up and using a camp is allowed as provided in 11 AAC 96.020(a)(4)A, except that the period of use is limited to three consecutive days at any one site. The period of use may be extended by permit. As part of the current collaborative Togiak NWR planning process, the state has agreed to review the existing SUA and has proposed several alternatives to the current three day camping limit. The alternatives only address length of stay and will be labeled as State of Alaska alternatives for management of the shorelands. The proposed State of Alaska alternatives will be incorporated into the table of alternatives presented in the Public Review Draft CCP text. The state will determine if the current SUA needs to be revised based on public comment, resource issues, and management goals.

Management Summary: Uplands

State land in Region 3 is to be managed for a variety of multiple uses, including the maintenance of sensitive wildlife habitats, dispersed public recreation, minerals exploration and development, oil and gas exploration and development, materials extraction, and public facilities development. There is very little state land in Region 3 but the majority of it is designated Public Recreation and Tourism-Dispersed (Rd). A strip of land, approximately three miles wide and twenty-four miles long (management unit R03-01) located adjacent to Wood-Tikchik State Park is to be managed for dispersed public recreation; these lands have been recommended for inclusion in the Park by the DNR's Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Plan (2002). Approximately four sections of state land (management unit R03-05), eight miles north of Manokotak, are designated General Use (Gu). Anadromous fish streams on state-owned land are co-designated Habitat (Ha) and Public Recreation and Tourism-Dispersed (Rd). Navigable waters in Federal lands are designated either Habitat (Ha), Public Recreation and Tourism-Dispersed (Rd), General Use (Gu), or are co-designated Habitat and Public Recreation and Tourism-Dispersed (Ha, Rd). A few small management units of land at the public airports are designated Public Facilities-Retain (Rp). No state lands are designated for Settlement in Region 3.

Plan Designations and Management

The plan designations that are used within this Region have the following management intent. The policies and management intent guidelines described in Chapter 2 affect all DNR authorizations. Refer especially to those guidelines relating to Fish and Wildlife Habitat and

Harvest Areas, and Recreation, Tourism, and Scenic Resources. See also the description of plan designations in the first part of this Chapter; this section explains aspects of resource management and defines when state lands can be conveyed out of state ownership.

- **General Use (Gu).** Within this Region, lands that contain one or more resource values, none of which is of sufficiently high value to merit designation as a primary use, and areas that are unlikely to be developed during the planning period are designated General Use. The land is to be managed for a variety of uses including protection of fish and wildlife habitat and harvest, dispersed public recreation, minerals, oil and gas exploration and development, and protection of heritage resources. It is expected that little development will occur in these areas during the planning period, and it is not intended as a matter of policy that intensive forms of development occur in these areas other than occasionally and at specific sites. These areas are to be retained in state ownership during the planning period. Areas designated General Use may be conveyed, however, to a borough, should one be formed, under the Municipal Entitlement program.
- **Habitat (Ha).** Generally, this designation applies to areas of varied size that are important for fish and wildlife species during a sensitive life-history stage where alteration of the habitat or human disturbance could result in a permanent loss of a population or sustained yield of a species. In Region 3 this designation is applied to streams and shorelands cataloged by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as anadromous (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/SARR/AWC/index.cfm?ADFG=main.interactive>). These lands are to be retained in state ownership.
- **Public Recreation and Tourism-Dispersed (Rd).** Lands with the designation of Public Recreation and Tourism-Dispersed are to be managed so that their public recreation values are protected and maintained. Within these areas the primary surface uses are intended to be those related to hiking, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and the like. A management unit (R03-01) of state land adjoining the Wood-Tikchik State Park is recommended for inclusion in this Park and is designated Rd (Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Plan, October 2002, p. 11-3 and Map 11-1).
- **Public Recreation and Tourism-Dispersed and Habitat (Co-designation).** Certain navigable waterbodies (lakes and streams) are co-designated Habitat (Ha) and Public Recreation and Tourism-Dispersed (Rd). Authorizations within these waterbodies should not interfere with important habitat or public recreation values. See Table 3.1 in the Navigability section of this Chapter for a listing of these streams. Note: Certain waterbodies may only be designated Public Recreation and Tourism-Dispersed (Rd), Habitat (Ha), or General Use (Gu).
- **Public Facilities-Retain (Pr).** This designation applies to sites that are reserved for a specific public infrastructure requirement. They are to be retained in state or public ownership. In this Region, this designation applies to lands containing public facilities, commonly airports or schools. Only a small amount of acreage is affected by this designation.

Specific Management Considerations

- **Generally Allowed Uses.** The Generally Allowed Uses in 11 AAC 96.020 can occur throughout the Region. The Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and Lower Goodnews River are a special use area. Setting up and using a camp is allowed as provided in 11 AAC 96.020(a)(4)(A), except that the period of use is limited to three consecutive days at any one site. The period of use may be extended by permit. For users going to the Kanektok River, there is a one day limit at the outlet of Pegati Lake due to its frequent use.
- **Addition to State Park.** Management unit R03-01, five townships adjacent to Wood-Tikchik State Park, is to be managed for the purposes of dispersed recreation and is designated Public Recreation and Tourism-Dispersed (Rd). This management unit is part of a larger package of land that the DNR has recommended for inclusion into the Park. This management unit is to be managed consistent with that of the adjoining park land as provided for in the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Plan (October 2002, p. 11-3 and Map 11-1).
- **It is intended that all uplands in the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary (SGS) be managed for the protection of fish and wildlife resources consistent with the sanctuary's management plan.** Development authorizations are prohibited within the SGS (AS 16.20.096) except for the exploration and development of oil and minerals. State land may only be leased as mineral land (AS 16.20.098). See also tideland management unit R03T-02; this management unit provides management intent for the waters surrounding these islands.
- **Mineral Closing Orders.** Except for those areas closed to mineral entry under existing Mineral Closing Orders, all state lands within the Region are open to mineral entry. No additional MCOs are recommended. No leasehold location orders are recommended. See the Minerals section in Chapter 2 for more detail on subsurface management requirements.
- **Mineral Order No. 791 is an interim order (as of July 11, 2003) that precludes shallow natural gas leasing and oil and gas exploration licensing.** This order has no effect on locatable or leaseable minerals other than shallow natural gas leasing and oil and gas exploration licensing. The order affects portions of the Nushagak Peninsula.

See the Resource Allocation Table for more detail on the uplands management units.

Management Summary: Tidelands and Submerged Lands

Tidelands within this Region are extensive, stretching from Cape Newenham in the west to Nushagak Bay in the east. Several important offshore islands are also included within this Region. Most tidelands adjoin federal lands within the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge¹¹ and

¹¹ The exception is Hagemeister Island, which is within the Alaska Maritime NWR.

Native-owned land at and near the community of Togiak. Although a diverse set of tideland marine resources exist throughout the Region, the several offshore islands (Hagemeister and Walrus Islands) contain, by far, the richest concentration of marine mammals within the planning area.

The geomorphology of the coast consists of several rocky headlands, marshlands at the mouths of major streams, and extensive stretches of curvilinear coast. Rocky headlands occur at Cape Newenham, Cape Pierce, and Right Hand Point. Spits with accompanying enclosed waters, often containing extensive wetlands, occur at the principal rivers, Osviak, Kulukak, and Togiak. Sheltered tidal flats with a high biomass content occur at some river mouths. Other portions of the coast are characteristically curvilinear in form and consist primarily of mixed sand and gravel beaches or gravel flats.

This is an area of diverse and high biological productivity. Pelagic birds, seabirds, waterfowl, and diving birds are common throughout large parts of the Region. Pacific herring spawning areas occur at a number of isolated locations west of Togiak Bay, but are extensive on the east side of Togiak Bay and the east side of Kulukak Bay. Marine mammals, primarily harbor seals, are present throughout the Region. The largest concentration of walruses within the planning area occurs at Summit, Crooked, High, and Round Islands, situated within the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary. This Sanctuary includes adjacent tidelands as well as the islands themselves. An important walrus haulout occurs at Round Island (other important haulouts in Bristol Bay include Cape Newenham, Cape Pierce, and Cape Seniavin). A sea lion haulout also occurs on Round Island.

Sac roe harvest occurs along the entire coast of this region from the beginning of Hagemeister Strait and including Togiak Bay and Kulukak Bay. Offshore leases for set net harvest occur along the northern coastline in Hagemeister Strait and along the eastern coastline of Togiak Bay for pink, chum, sockeye, coho and chinook salmon. A smaller number of set net leases are situated around Togiak. Set net harvest occurs along the west coastline of Kulukak Bay and drift (gill) net harvest occurs throughout the bay for pink, chum, sockeye, coho and chinook salmon. Subsistence harvest occurs throughout Togiak Bay for salmon, herring, seal, sea lion, whale and walrus.

Plan Designation and Management Intent

Coastal Tidelands. This area includes those tidelands adjacent to Native-owned or private lands, and not within the Togiak NWR or Alaska Maritime NWR (R03T-01), or the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary (R03T-02). These tidelands are designated General Use, and are intended to accommodate a variety of residential, commercial, and industrial uses. Authorizations are considered appropriate in areas designated General Use, subject to the protection of sensitive resources and areas.

Tidelands adjacent to Togiak or Alaska Maritime NWR (R03T-01). The Tideland Resource Management Zone affects these areas. TRMZs are designated Habitat and Public Recreation and Tourism-Dispersed and extend one half-mile from the coast. See Management Summary, Tidelands in Chapter 3 for a description of these zones. Except for Hagemeister Island, which is included within the Alaska Maritime NWR, all other areas affected by the TRMZ adjoin the Togiak NWR.

Tidelands Adjacent to Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary (R03T-02). This critical sea lion and walrus haulout area (as described in AS 16.20.092) is designated Habitat. Development authorizations are prohibited within the State Game Sanctuary (AS 16.20.096) except for the exploration and development of oil and minerals. State land may only be leased as mineral land (AS 16.20.098). Consult with ADF&G prior to issuing tideland authorizations in the SGS.

See the Resource Allocation Table for more detail on the tideland management units.

Resource Allocation Table for Upland Management Units - Region 3

Unit # / Name	Acres / Designation(s)	MTRS	Management Intent	Resources, Uses, Additional Info
R03-01 Wood River Mountains	45,601 Rd - Public Recreation and Tourism- Dispersed	Map 3-3 S001S058W- S004S058W, W 1/2 of each township	This unit is designated Rd and is to be managed, generally, for the purposes of dispersed recreation and the protection of fish and wildlife. See specific management requirements for caribou calving areas in Chapter 2. This unit is to be retained by the state and is recommended for eventual inclusion in the Wood-Tikchik State Park. DNR authorizations should be limited to those that are consistent with the eventual use of this area as part of the State Park. The management of this unit should be similar to that of the adjoining area of the State Park. Consult the management requirements of Management Unit 3 (Lower Tikchik Lakes) in the State Park Plan for specific guidance.	This mountainous unit is bounded by Wood-Tikchik State Park on the east, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge on the west, the Chikuminuk Glacier to the north, and the northern edge of Mount Waskey to the south. It is an area vegetated primarily in tall and low shrubs. The unit is reported to contain caribou calving areas on the northern edge. The area is recommended for inclusion in the State Park by the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Plan (2002). It contains significant scenic values and contains the headwaters of streams draining east into Wood-Tikchik State Park into Lake Kulik, Nuyakuk Lake, and Chauekuktuli Lake.
R03-02 Twin Hills Airport	65 Pr - Public Facilities- Retain	Map 3-3 S013S066W Sec. 3,10	This land is to be retained by the state and managed by ADOT/PF consistent with FAA standards and stipulations in the conveyance documents (OSL 1103).	This unit is comprised of state land (OSL 1103) owned and managed by ADOT/PF at the Twin Hills public airport. The special warranty deed from the Twin Hill Native Corporation conveyed (only) the surface estate to ADOT/PF.
R03-03 Togiak Airport	227 Pr - Public Facilities- Retain	Map 3-3 S013S067W Sec. 12	This unit is to be managed by ADOT/PF consistent with the FAA standards and the requirements of the Management Agreements (ADLs 221532 and 221549) and limited state holdings (LSH 241).	This unit contains airport facilities adjacent to the community of Togiak. Much of the state land is owned by ADOT/PF (OSL 923) and/or managed by them under arrangement agreement (ADLs 221532 and 221549) and a limited state holding (LSH 241) for the purposes of administering the airport facility. The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) reports several heritage sites in the vicinity of this unit.
R03-04 Togiak erosion control	2.33 Pr - Public Facilities- Retain	Map 3-3 S013S067W Sec. 11,12,13,14	Unit is designated Pr, is to be retained by the state for public purposes, and is to be managed consistent with the requirements of the existing easement.	This small unit of state land (OSL 1033) is adjacent to Nushagak Bay and near the Togiak airport. The unit is affected by an easement held by the City of Togiak for a wooden sheet pile wall (ADL 221444) that is intended to control erosion.
R03-05 Weary River	3,178.34 Ha - Habitat Rd - Public Recreation and Tourism- Dispersed	Map 3-3 S012S058W	This unit is to be managed for its habitat and recreation values. It is to be retained in state ownership. Other than utilities, communication, roads/bridges, and similar facilities providing a public service, development is not appropriate within this unit. Any authorizations that may be issued will need to avoid impacts or mitigate impacts to wetlands and sensitive habitats.	This small unit is situated approximately eight miles north of Manokotak, adjacent to the Togiak NWR just east of Amanka Lake. It is an area of tall shrub vegetation. The area is west of the divide between the Weary River and Amanka Lake drainages.
R03-06 Manokotak Airport	254 Pr - Public Facilities- Retain	Map 3-3 S014S058W	This unit is to be retained by the state and is to be managed by ADOT/PF consistent with the FAA standards and with the conditions of the Management Agreements (ADLs 220566 and 220567) and conveyance documents (OSLs 817 and 818).	This unit contains the airport facility adjacent to the community of Manokotak. The state land is owned by ADOT/PF (OSLs 818 and 817) and/or managed by them under management agreement (ADLs 220566 and 220567) for the purposes of administering an airport facility.
R03-07 Manokotak townsite	2.83 Pr - Public Facilities- Retain	Map 3-3 S014S058W	This unit is designated Pr and is to be managed by the Department of Education for the purposes of the Manokotak school site consistent with the requirements of the Management Agreement (ADL 200426) and limited state holding (LSH 129).	This small unit of land is located within the community of Manokotak and is comprised of other state land (OSL 697) and a limited state holding (LSH 129). This area is dedicated for a school site and is managed by the Department of Education under a Management Right (ADL 200426).

Unit # / Name	Acres / Designation(s)	MTRS	Management Intent	Resources, Uses, Additional Info
R03-08 Walrus Islands	9,354 Ha - Habitat	Map 3-3	The State Game Sanctuary is to be managed by ADF&G consistent with the purposes described in AS 16.20.090, which focus on the protection of fish and wildlife resources and their associated habitat. Development authorizations are prohibited within the SGS (AS 16.20.096) except for the exploration and development of oil and minerals. State land may only be leased as mineral land (AS 16.20.098). Consult with ADF&G and USFWS prior to issuing any authorization. The tidelands adjacent to the islands are included as a unit (RT-02) and are to be managed in a similar manner.	This unit includes all uplands in the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary, a Legislatively Designated Area under AS 16.20.090. The Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary, a group of seven craggy islands and their adjacent waters located in northern Bristol Bay, is world famous for its unique summer concentrations of walrus. Red foxes are regularly seen on Round Island, often feeding on seabirds, eggs, chicks, voles, shrews, and beach-cast carcasses. Each summer, thousands of seabirds also return to the islands to nest and raise their young. This includes common murre, blacklegged kittiwakes, pelagic cormorants, parakeet auklets, horned and tufted puffins, pigeon guillemots, and glaucouswinged gulls. Development authorizations are prohibited within the SGS (AS 16.20.096) except for the exploration and development of oil and minerals. State land may only be leased as mineral land (AS 16.20.098).

Resource Allocation Table for Tideland Management Units - Region 3

Unit # / Name	Acres / Designation(s)	MTRS	Management Intent	Resources, Uses, Additional Info
R03T-01 Tidelands adjacent to Togiak NWR	87,803 Ha - Habitat Rd - Public Recreation and Tourism- Dispersed	Map 3-3	Tidelands adjacent to the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) are to be managed to protect sensitive habitat values, fisheries and wildlife resources, and the public recreation resources of the National Refuge. A Tideland Resource Management Zone (TRMZ) affects these tidelands. Hagemeister Island is included in the Alaska Maritime NWR and the tidelands around this island are also affected by a TRMZ. See “Management Summary, Tidelands” in Chapter 3 for a more detailed description of TRMZs and the management intent and requirements for such zones. Consult with Togiak NWR, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) prior to issuing authorizations. Ensure that authorizations within the portions affected are consistent with the requirements of the Bristol Bay Fisheries Reserve.	<p>Most of the tidelands in this Region adjoin the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. Tidelands around the Nushagak Peninsula from just east of Right Hand Point on the west coast of the peninsula to the Snake River on the east side of the peninsula are affected by the Bristol Bay Fisheries Reserve.</p> <p>The geomorphology of the coast consists of several rocky headlands, marshlands at the mouths of major streams, and extensive stretches of curvilinear coast. Rocky headlands occur at Cape Pierce and Right Hand Point. Spits with accompanying enclosed waters, often containing extensive wetlands, occur at the principal rivers -- Osviak, Kulukak, and Togiak. Sheltered tidal flats with a high biomass content occur at some river mouths. Other portions of the coast are characteristically curvilinear in form and consist primarily of mixed sand and gravel beaches or gravel flats.</p> <p>This is an area of diverse and high biological productivity. Pelagic birds, seabirds, waterfowl, and diving birds are common throughout many parts of the tideland unit. Pacific herring spawning areas occur at a number of isolated locations west of Togiak Bay, but are extensive on the east side of Togiak Bay and the west side of Kulukak Bay. Marine mammals, primarily harbor seals, are present. There are no known concentrations of sea lion or walrus haulouts in the tideland unit; most of these occur on offshore islands, particularly associated with the Walrus Island State Game Sanctuary. There are a large number of sea bird colonies, with principal concentrations occurring at Hagemeister Island and along the coast east and west of Right Hand Point, in the eastern part of this tideland unit.</p> <p>Harvest: Sac roe harvest occurs along the entire coast of this region from the western extent of Hagemeister Strait and throughout Togiak Bay and Kulukak Bay; offshore leases for set net harvest occur along the northern coastline in Hagemeister Strait and the eastern coastline of Togiak Bay for pink, chum, sockeye, coho and chinook salmon. Subsistence harvest occurs throughout Togiak Bay for salmon, herring, seal, sea lion, whale and walrus.</p>
R03T-02 Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary (SGS)	153,424 Ha - Habitat	Map 3-3 S017S066W, S017S067W, S017S068W	The (SGS) is designated Habitat. Development authorizations are prohibited within the SGS (AS 16.20.096) except for the exploration and development of oil and minerals. State land may only be leased as mineral land (AS 16.20.098). Consult with ADF&G prior to issuing tideland authorizations in the SGS.	This critical sea lion and walrus haulout area is legislatively designated a State Game Sanctuary (under AS 16.20.092) and has a use designation of Habitat.

Unit # / Name	Acres / Designation(s)	MTRS	Management Intent	Resources, Uses, Additional Info
R03T-03 Offshore Submerged Land	732,004 Gu - General Use	Map 3-3	Manage for a variety of uses and resources. Protect important concentrations of pelagic birds, sea birds, and waterfowl. Maintain opportunities for commercial harvest.	This tideland unit covers the area between the three mile seaward limit of state-owned submerged land and the Tideland Resource Management Zone (R03T-01). There are very few such gaps; consult Plan Map 3-3. See the "Resources, Uses, and Additional Information" of R03T-01 for an indication of the resources that may exist in these areas, which are believed to be primarily associated with pelagic birds, sea birds, and waterfowl. There may be limited harvest of the resources described in R03T-01. There is a moderate amount of harvest for salmon and herring in this unit and it is governed by the requirements of the Bristol Bay Fisheries Reserve.