MODEL BOROUGH BOUNDARIES

(REVISED JUNE 1997)

PURPOSE OF THE MODEL BOROUGH BOUNDARY STUDY

Article X, Section 3 of Alaska's constitution requires the entire state to be divided into boroughs, organized or unorganized. It further provides that each borough must embrace an area and population with common interests to the maximum degree possible.

To carry out the constitutional mandate that the state be divided into boroughs, the 1961 legislature passed a law providing that all areas not within the boundaries of an organized borough constitute a single unorganized borough.[1] At the time the law was passed, no organized borough existed. Thus, all of Alaska was originally within the unorganized borough. The establishment of a single residual unorganized borough was seemingly done to preserve maximum flexibility in the setting of boundaries for organized boroughs.

From its beginning, the unorganized borough has always embraced an area and population with greatly diverse interests. Some take the position that the constitutional mandate that each borough embrace an area and population with maximum common interests was never intended to apply to unorganized boroughs. However, others take the opposite view.[2]

In the late 1980's four boroughs attempted to annex portions of the unorganized borough. Several factors precipitated those actions. Among them were declining State aid to local governments and local concerns over the allocation and development of resources.

The unorganized borough's lack of maximum common interests among its parts also contributed to the borough annexation frenzy. In some instances, the annexation petitions precipitated the filing of competing proposals to incorporate new organized boroughs.

In October of 1988, the Kodiak Island Borough petitioned to annex an estimated 12,825 square miles. That prompted residents of the Alaska Peninsula to petition for the incorporation of the Lake and Peninsula Borough. The proposed Lake and Peninsula Borough contained an estimated 16,675 square miles, including much of the territory proposed for annexation to the Kodiak Island Borough.

In May of 1989, the Fairbanks North Star Borough petitioned to annex 216 square miles. The area in question contained substantial taxable property, comprised principally of pump station #7 of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline and some 16 miles of the pipeline. Residents of the

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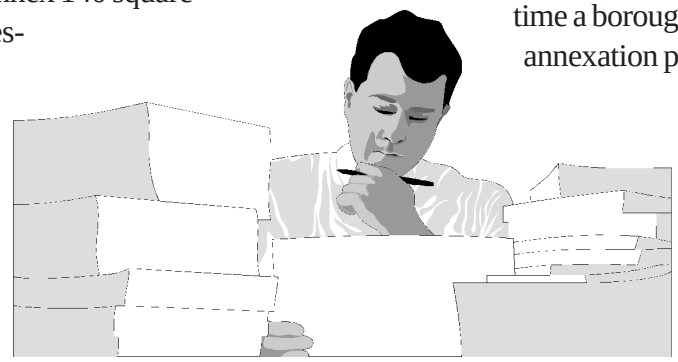
[1] That law is currently codified as AS 29.03.010.

[2] The appendix lists the basis for some of the opposing views.

adjacent area were hostile to the proposed annexation. While the annexation petition prompted the adjacent region to conduct a study of the feasibility of forming a borough, no competing petition was ever filed.

In June of 1989, the City and Borough of Juneau petitioned to annex 140 square miles. The area in question contained the Greens Creek Mine. Again, while the annexation proposal was resolutely opposed by inhabitants of the adjacent region, no competing borough proposal was filed.



In June of 1989, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough petitioned to annex an estimated 9,844 square miles to and including Healy. In October of that year, residents of the Railbelt Regional Educational Attendance Area filed a competing petition for the formation of the Denali Borough. The boundaries of the proposed Denali Borough encompassed an estimated 9,406 square miles, including much of the territory proposed for annexation by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. That same month, another group of residents filed an unprecedented third competing petition for incorporation of the Valleys Borough. The Valleys Borough proposal took in an estimated 14,900 square miles, including most of the proposed Denali Borough as well as the community of Nenana.

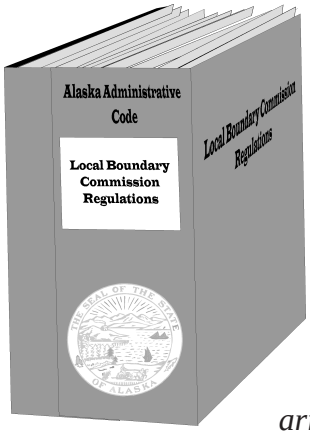
Amid the intensive activity, it was readily apparent that three groups had a significant stakes in any borough boundary decision. These were residents within the proposed boundaries, people of the adjacent areas and the state as a whole. Further, it was amply evident that proposals for the formation of new boroughs or the expansion of boundaries of existing boroughs are sensitive issues in Alaska. Lawsuits or long-standing boundary disputes tend to erupt each time a borough incorporation or annexation proposal is advanced.

On the basis of such factors, the Commission concluded that, rather than examining borough boundaries only when petitions are lodged, it would invite public testimony from throughout the entire state and adopt 'model borough boundaries' throughout the unorganized borough. Such 'model' boundaries were to used as a frame of reference in the evaluation of future petitions. They were to be considered when existing organized boroughs seek to annex unorganized borough territory or when unorganized borough residents petition for borough incorporation.

The Commission and its staff provided by the Department of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA) began planning the model borough boundary study in mid-1989. They focused first on the areas of the state for which borough annexation or incorporation petitions were pending. The effort to determine specific boundaries began in earnest in 1990 and was completed by the end of 1992. Specific funding for the project had been appropriated by the Alaska legislature.

Because borough formation and annexation proposals are often very emotional issues in Alaska, the Commission's reason for pursuing the model borough boundary project was occasionally misunderstood. The purpose of the study was not to force the incorporation of new boroughs or to promote annexation to existing boroughs. Instead, the study was intended to enable the Commission and DCRA to be better prepared for future borough petitions through the information and public comment obtained in the study process. The study also encouraged communities in the unorganized borough to consider where future boundaries should be drawn, as well as give guidance to petitioners on the factors which go into borough incorporation decisions.

The Commission adopted two provisions in its regulations relating to model borough boundaries. Both provisions were adopted prior to the completion of the model borough boundaries project.



The first provision relates to the incorporation of new boroughs. 19 AAC 010.060(b) provides that, *"Absent a specific and persuasive showing to the contrary, the commission will not approve a proposed borough with boundaries extending beyond the model borough boundaries adopted by the commission."* **[effective 10/12/91, register 120]**

The second provision relates to borough annexation proposals. 19 AAC 010.190(c) provides, "Absent a specific and persuasive showing to the contrary, the commission, in its discretion, will not approve a proposed borough or unified municipality with boundaries extending beyond the model borough boundaries adopted by the commission and identified in the 1992 Interim Report on Model Borough Boundaries." **[effective 7/31/92, register 123]**

The provisions in the regulation make it clear that the model borough boundaries are not rigid or unchangeable. Petitioners for borough incorporation or alteration of existing borough boundaries can successfully propose different boundaries if they make a specific and persuasive showing to the Commission why other boundaries are more appropriate.

STUDY PROCEDURES

The Commission began its study of each area by sending out an eight-page tabloid which explained the study and set out the questions the Commission expected to consider in its decision-making process. Each tabloid included a map on which recipients were requested to draw suggested boundaries. DCRA prepared and widely distributed a report of its findings and recommendations for the area, and then the Commission held hearings in as many communities as resources allowed. At the completion of the project, hearings had been conducted by the Commission in 88 communities (either in person or by teleconference).

The study prompted residents and organizations throughout the state to articulate where they believed future boundaries should be

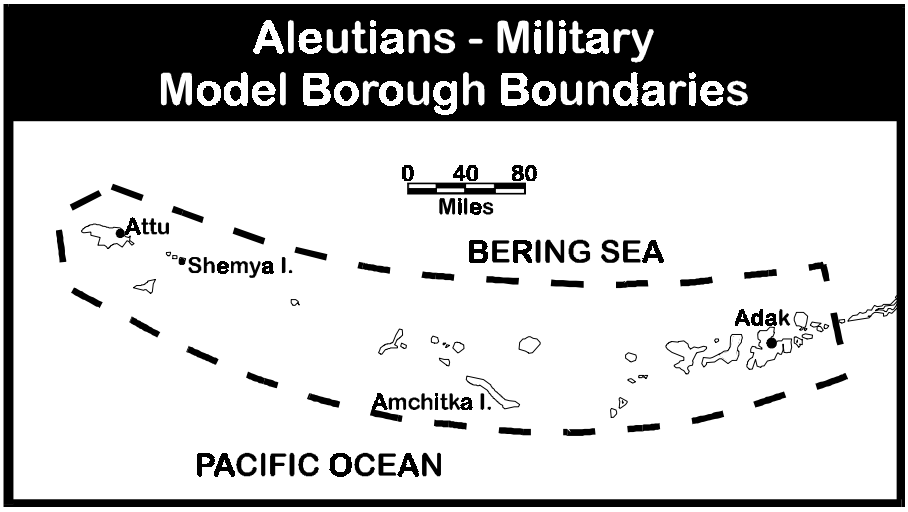
set. Municipal governments and other public and private local and regional organizations helped execute the model boundaries project. Many hundreds of interested parties provided written comment or oral testimony.

Completion of the study renders the Commission and DCRA much better prepared to evaluate future petitions. A wealth of information and public comment was obtained in the study process.

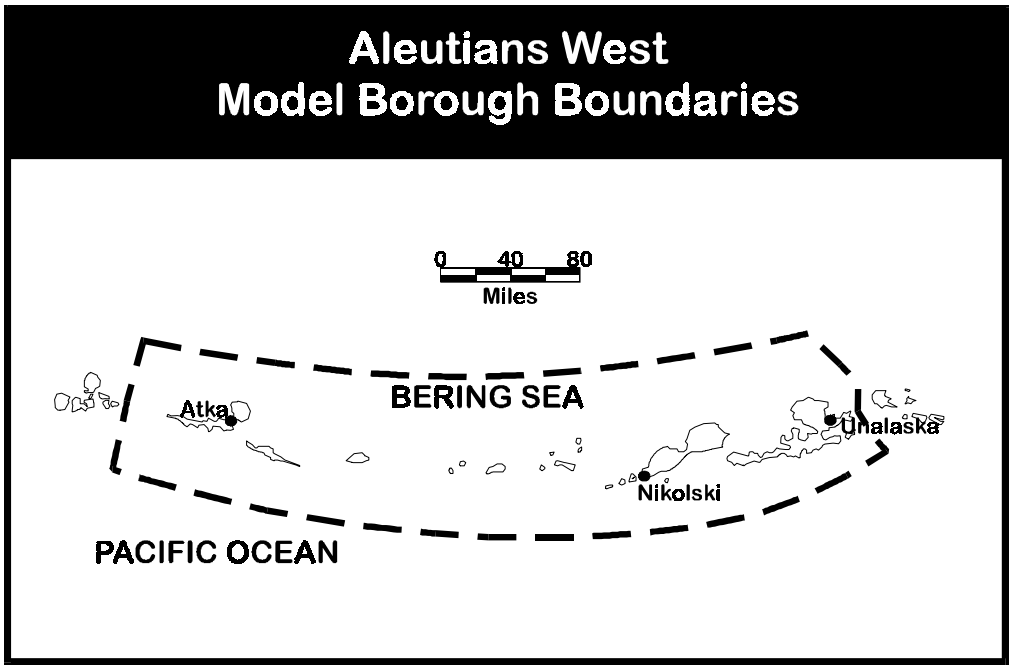
Maps and a brief discussion of model borough boundaries adopted by the Commission follow.

MODEL BOROUGH BOUNDARIES

Aleutians - Military Region. The Commission conducted a public hearing on model boundaries for this region by teleconference with Adak on October 21, 1992. On November 21, 1992, the Commission set model boundaries for the region extending from the mid-point of Fenimore Pass to the boundary of the State at the western end of the Aleutian Chain. The boundaries include the military settlements of Adak, Attu and Shemya. In 1990, the area had a population of 5,345.

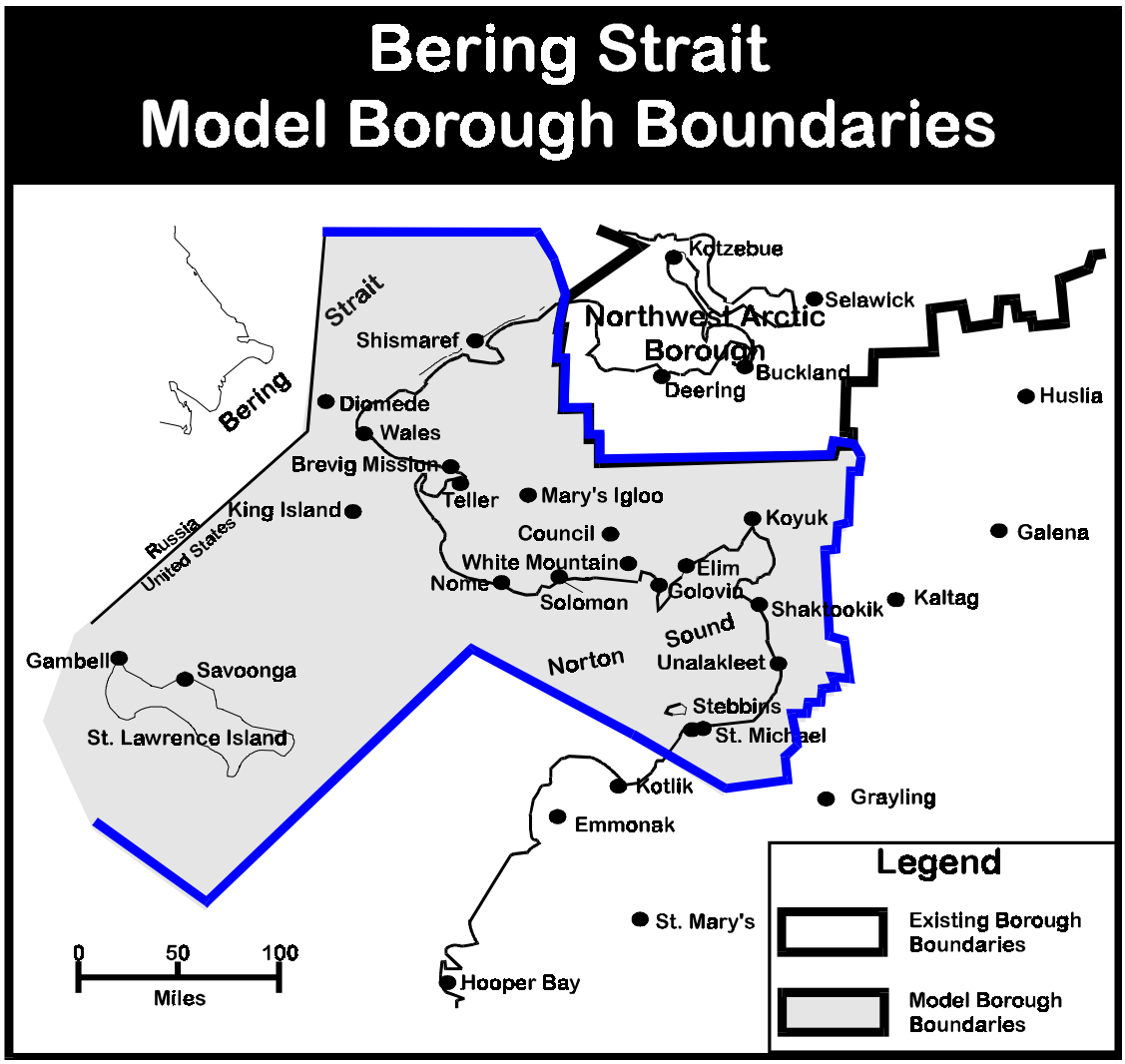


Aleutians West Region. The Commission received testimony on model boundaries in this region through public hearings with teleconference participation from Atka, Unalaska and Akutan on November 5, 1992. The Commission set model boundaries for the area on November 21, 1992. The boundaries extend from the western boundary of the Aleutians East Borough to the mid-point of Fenimore Pass, including Atka, Nikolski and Unalaska. In 1990, the area had a population of 3,232.



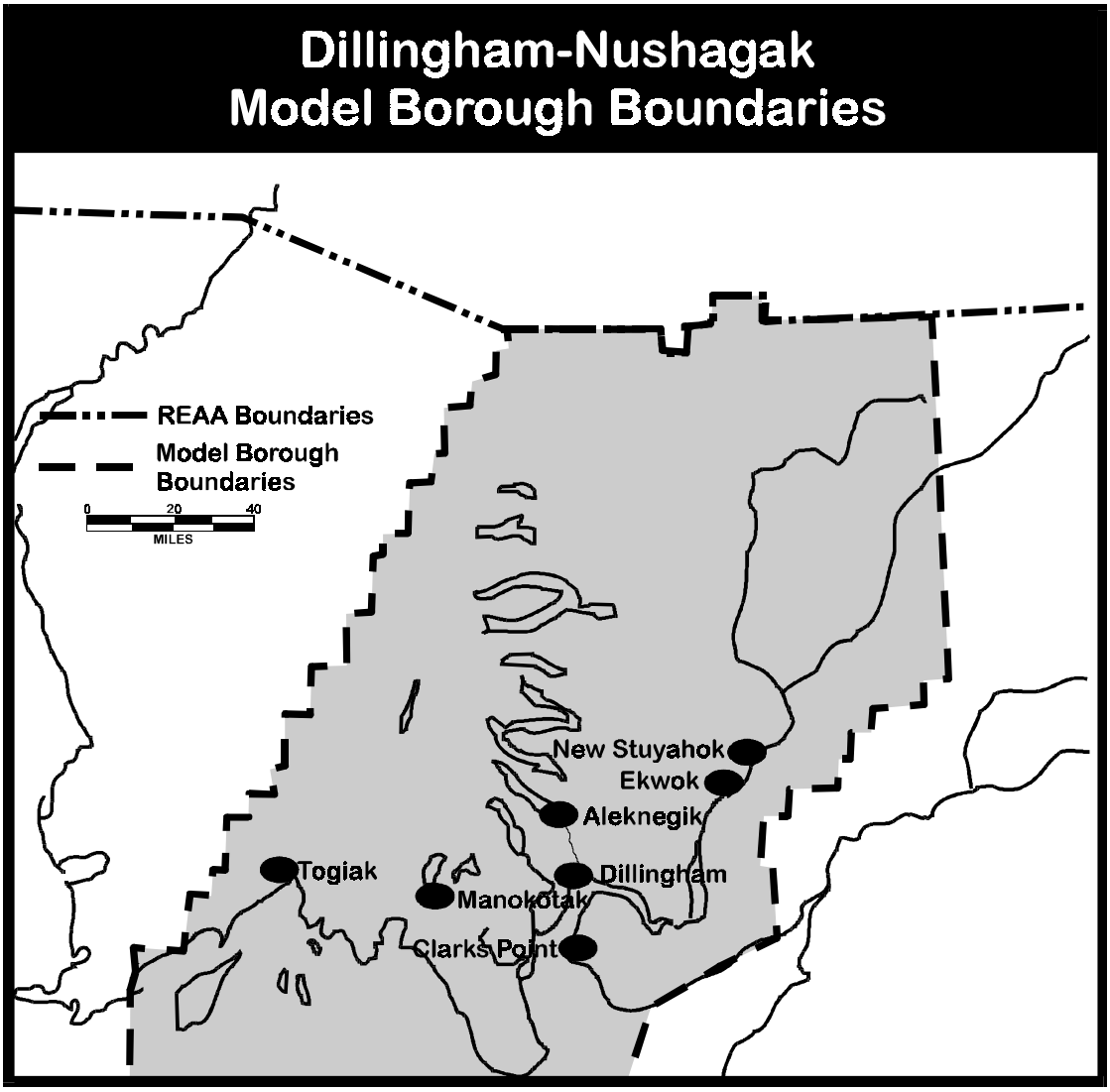
Bering Straits Region. The Commission held two hearings on model boundaries for this region in October 1991. The hearings took place in Nome and Unalakleet, with teleconference sites in Elim, Koyuk, Stebbins and Savoonga. Following the hearings, the Commission approved DCRA's recommendation and formally defined the model boundaries for this region to follow the boundaries of the Bering Straits Regional Educational Attendance Area (REAA). Those boundaries also match the boundaries of the Bering Straits Native Corporation, Bering Straits Coastal Resource Service Area, Nome Census District, Norton Sound Health Corporation and Bering Straits Economic Council.

The model boundaries for a Bering Straits Region borough include an estimated 23,013 square miles of land and 5,264 square miles of water. The area contains two school districts, the City of Nome School District and the Bering Straits REAA. The 1990 Federal Census indicates that the region had 8,288 residents.

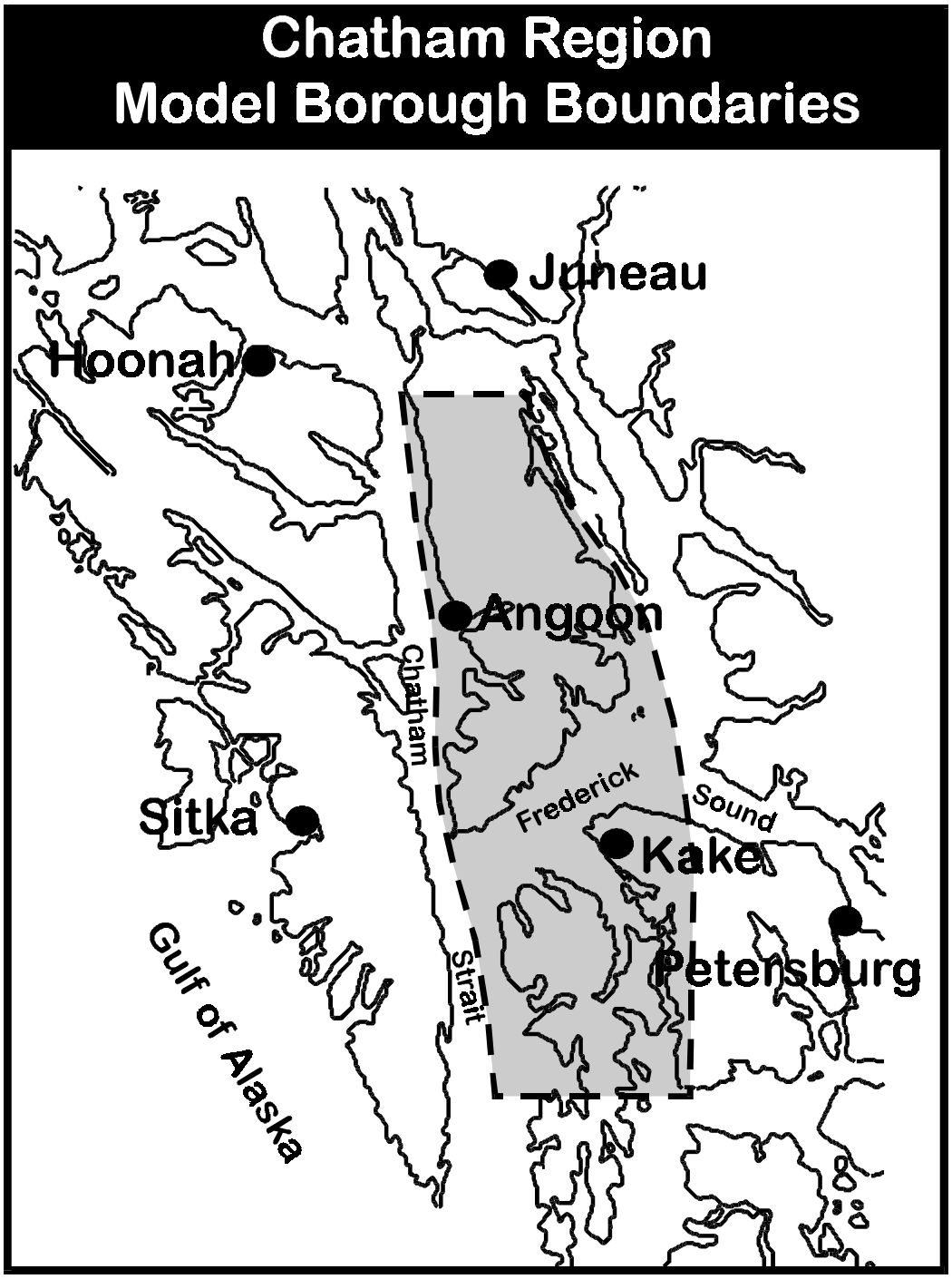


Bristol Bay Region. The Commission conducted public hearings on model borough boundaries for the region in Dillingham, Naknek and Togiak on November 23 & 24, 1992. Kokhanok, Pilot Point, Chignik, Levelock, Egegik, Newhalen, Nondalton and Chignik Lake participated in the November 24 Dillingham hearing by teleconference. Most of the comment and testimony at Naknek urged that Bristol Bay Borough boundaries be left unaltered. Testimony at Togiak suggested a local preference for a Northwest Bristol Bay unorganized borough. Testimony at Dillingham suggested that boundaries based upon existing Dillingham Census Area boundaries would be most appropriate.

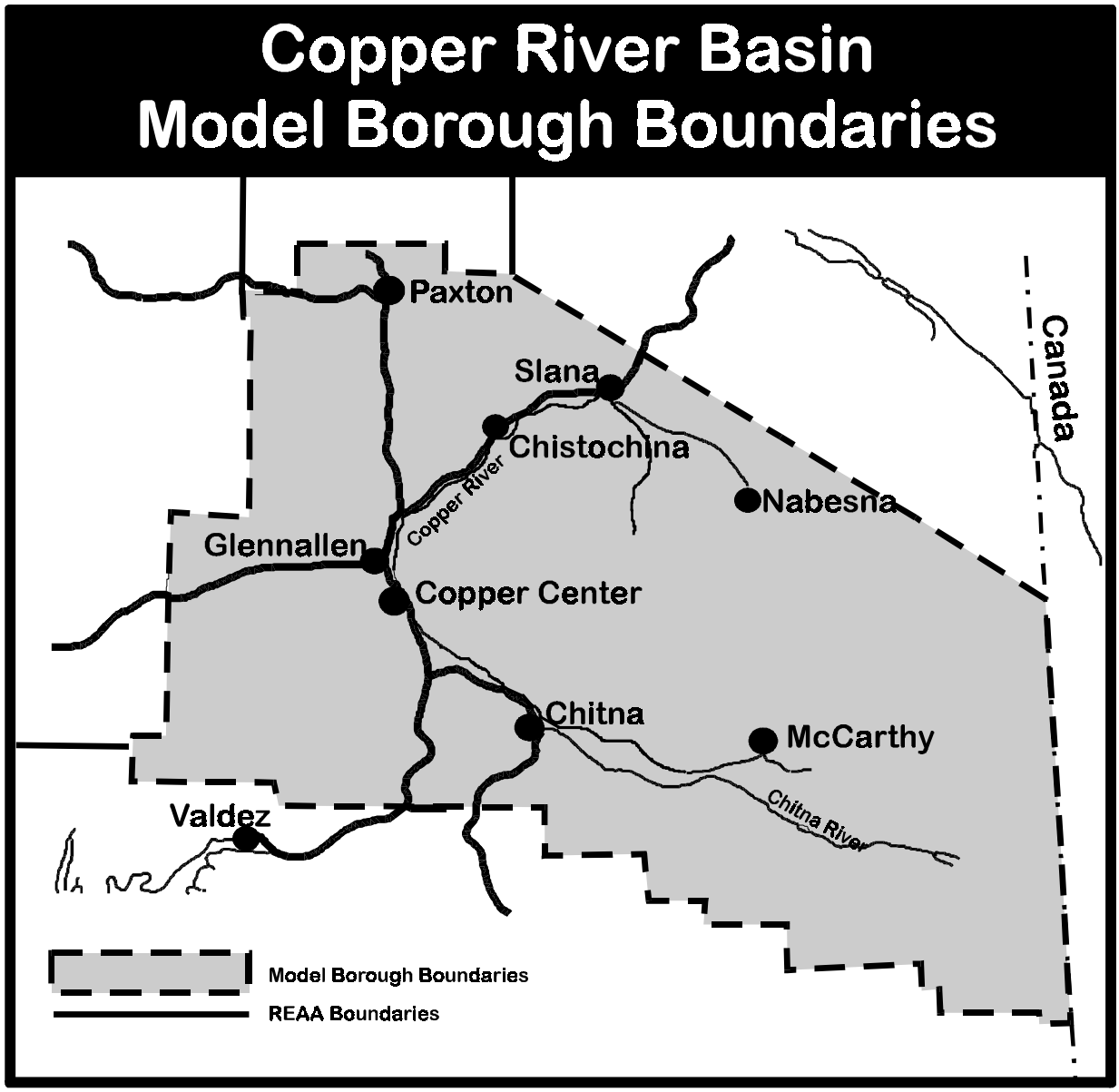
On December 4, 1992, the Commission identified model boundaries encompassing the existing Dillingham Census Area. Dillingham, Aleknagik, Clark's Point, Ekuk, Ekwok, Koliganek, Manokoktak, New Stuyahok, Portage Creek, Togiak and Twin Hills are included in the model boundaries.



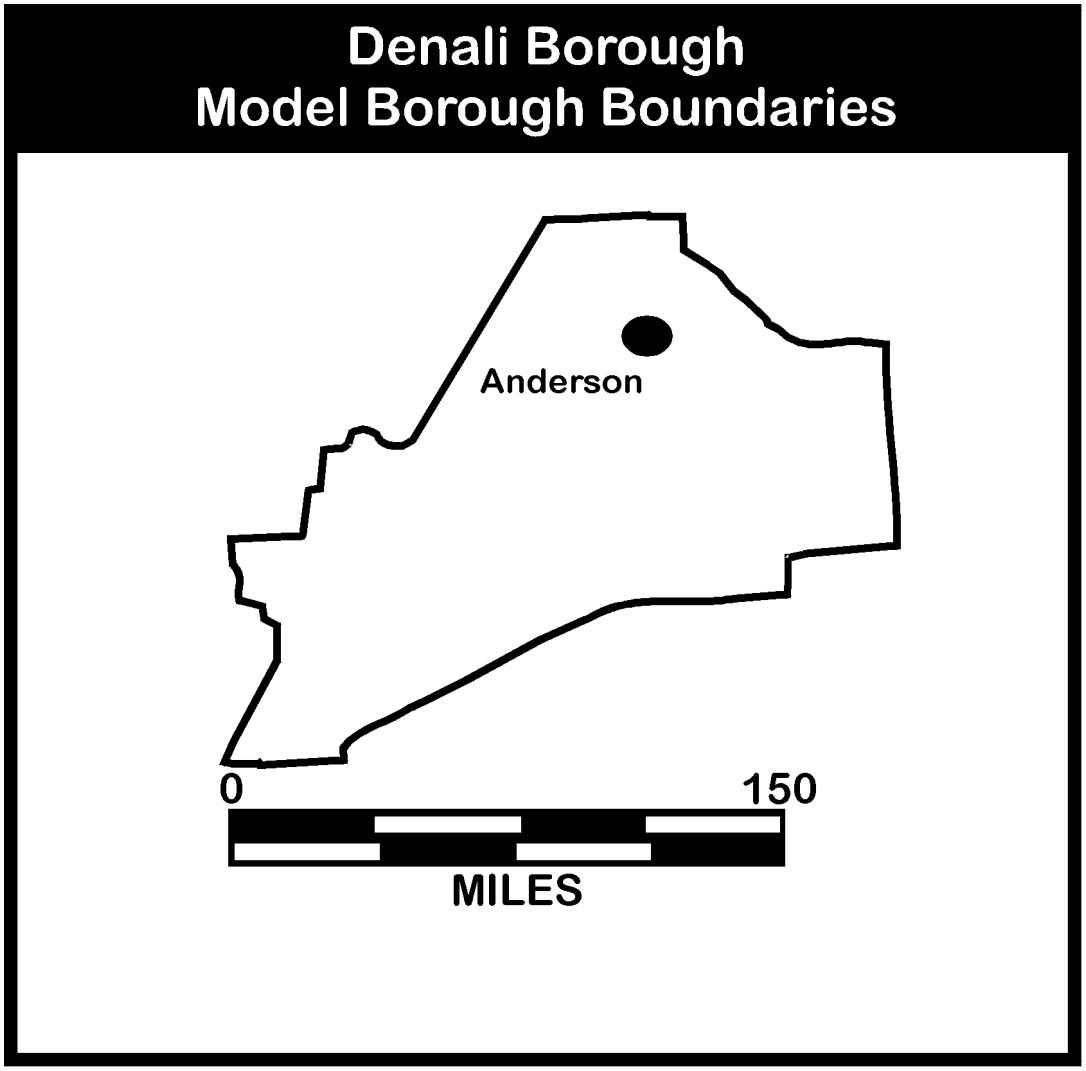
Chatham Region. In November 1990, the Commission conducted public hearings throughout the central portion of Southeast Alaska. Individuals in Gustavus, Haines, Skagway, Yakutat, Tenakee Springs, Pelican, Sitka, Elfin Cove, Port Alexander, Angoon, Hoonah, Kake and Cube Cove participated. On May 8, 1992, the Commission adopted model boundaries for the Chatham region encompassing Kake and Angoon. In 1990, the area had a population of 1,663.



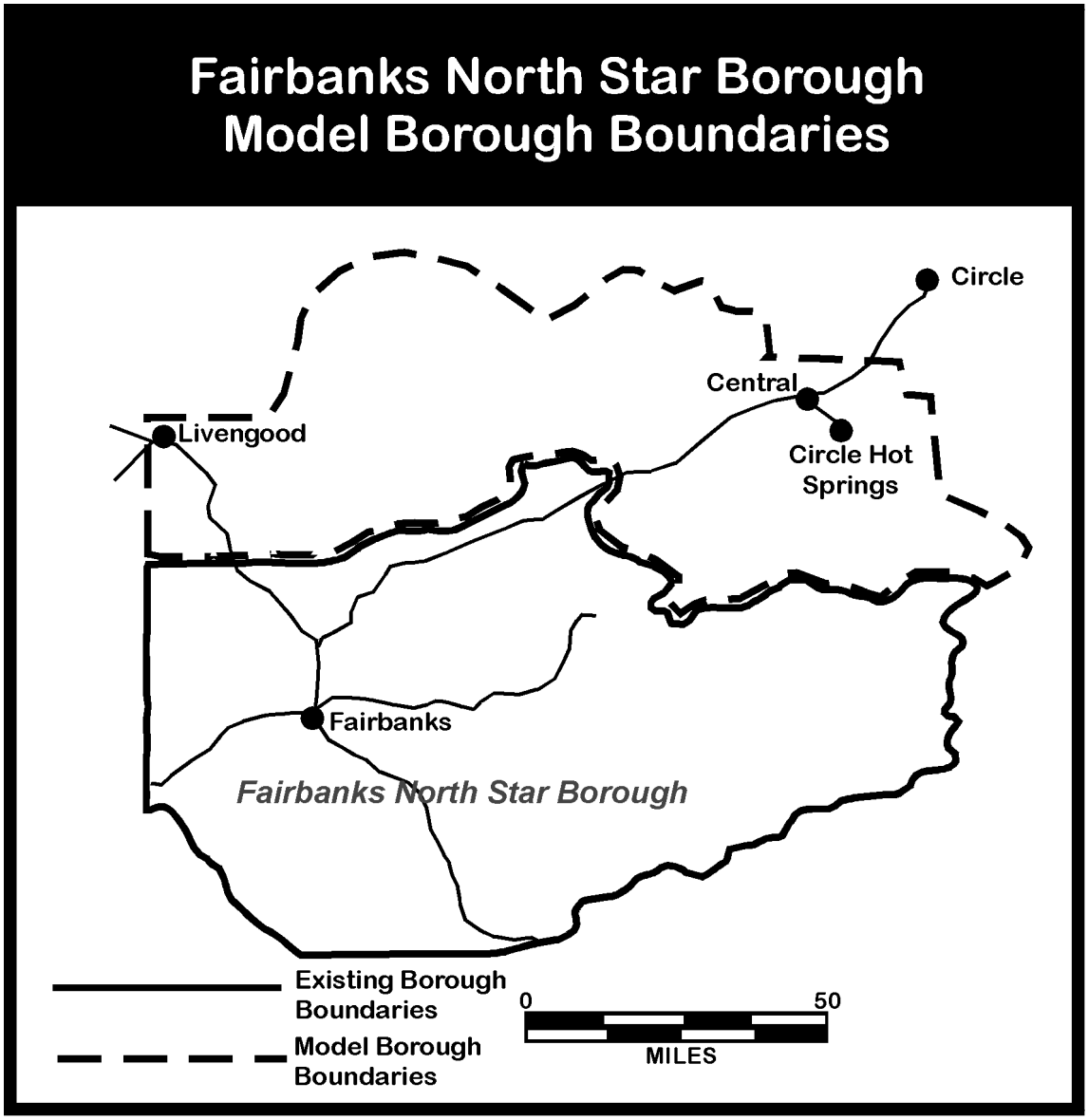
Copper River Basin Region. The Commission held a hearing on model boundaries in Glennallen on May 9,1992. Additional information concerning the model boundaries for the Copper River Basin was provided to the Commission by residents of the region in June. On November 21, 1992, the Commission determined that the Copper Basin model borough boundaries should follow the boundaries of the Copper River REAA. Communities within the area include, Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Gakona, Glennallen, Gulkana, Kenny Lake, McCarthy, Paxson, Slana, Tazlina and Tonsina. The area encompasses an estimated 20,649 square miles. In 1990, the area had a population of 2,638.



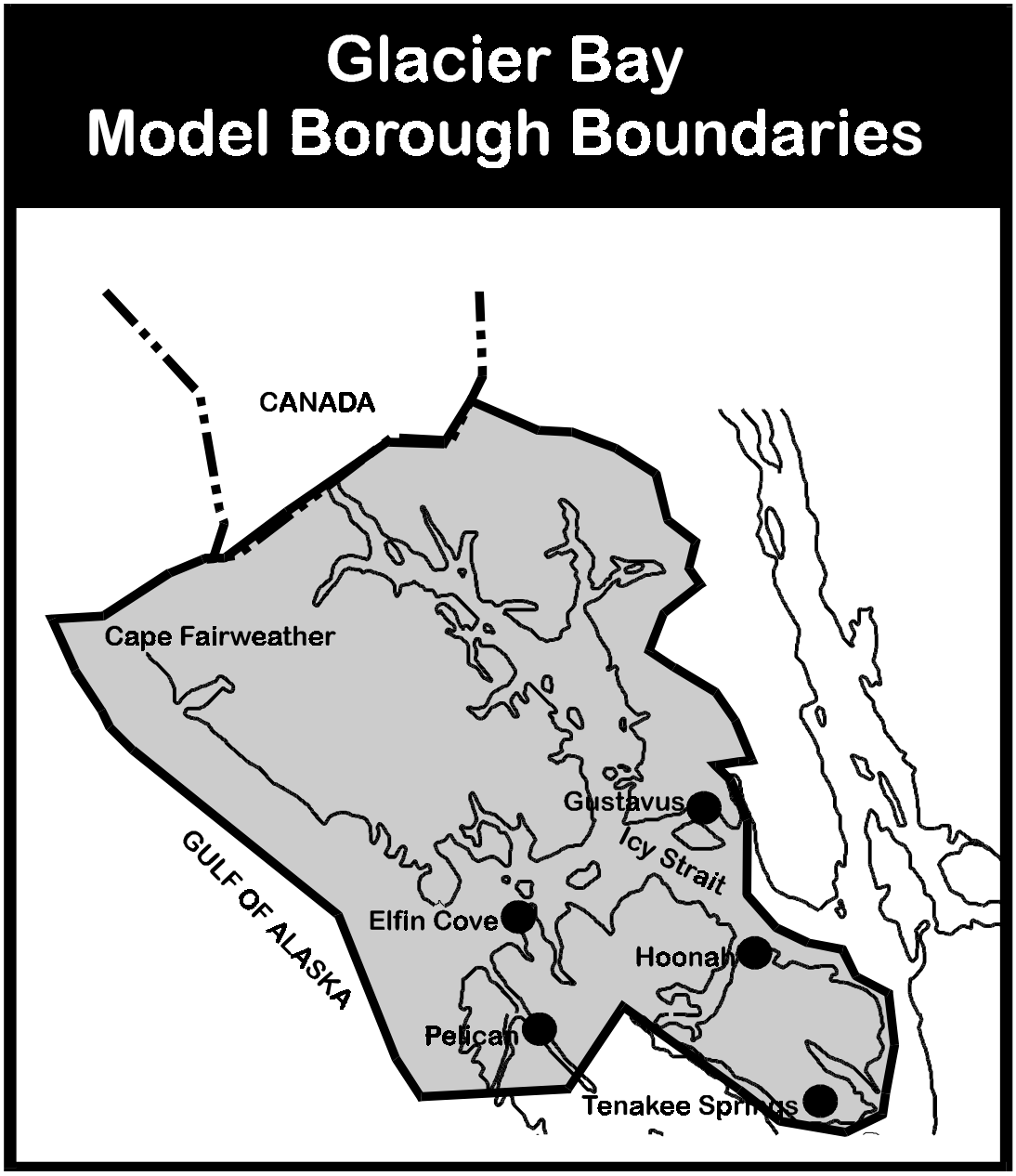
Denali Borough. The Commission conducted public hearings on model borough boundaries for the region in conjunction with hearings on the competing petitions for annexation of territory to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, incorporation of the Denali Borough and incorporation of the Valleys Borough. Hearings were held in Palmer and Anderson on March 22, 1990. Three more hearings were held in McKinley Park, Fairbanks and Cantwell on March 23, 1990. Two additional hearings were held in Healy and Nenana on March 24, 1990. On April 21, 1990, the Commission held a decisional meeting on the boundaries and the petitions. The boundaries were defined to extend from the northern boundary of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough on the south and from the Delta-Greely Regional Educational Attendance area on the east. The area also takes in that portion of the Denali National Park and Preserve not located within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The boundaries border the Fairbanks North Star Borough on the northeast.



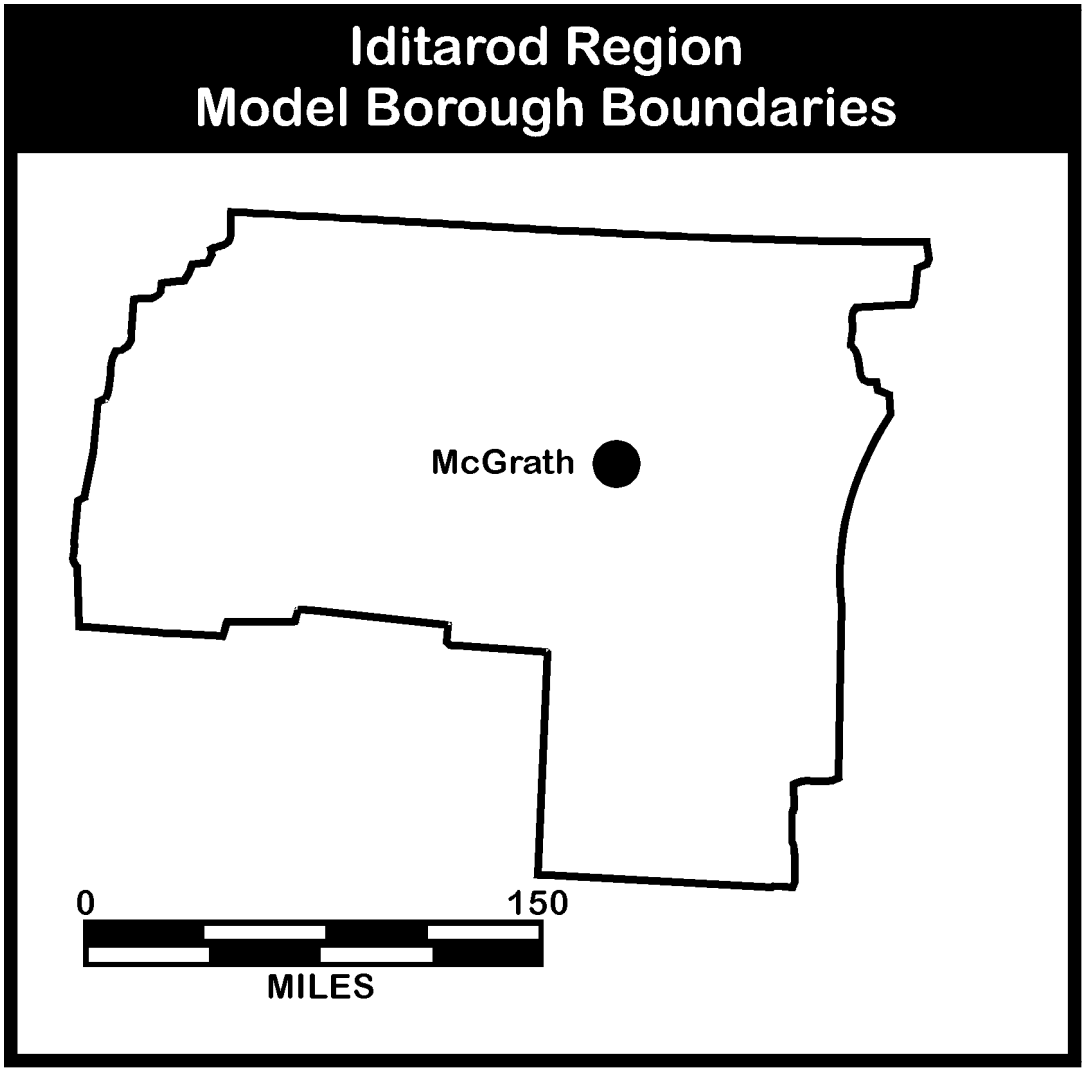
Fairbanks North Star Borough. The Commission conducted public hearings on model borough boundaries for the region in conjunction the petition for annexation of territory to the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Hearings were held in McGrath and Tanana, on May 18, 1990. Two additional hearings were held in Livengood and Fairbanks on May 19, 1990. Two more hearings were held in Fort Yukon and Central on May 20, 1990. On July 14, 1990, the Commission held a decisional meeting on the model boundaries and the petition. The model boundaries of the Fairbanks North Star Borough were defined to include the communities of Livengood, Central and Circle Hot Springs. The model boundaries also encompass the White Mountain National Recreation Area and the Steese National Conservation Area. The model boundaries of the Fairbanks North Star Borough encompass and estimated 4,918 square miles not presently within the corporate boundaries of the Borough.



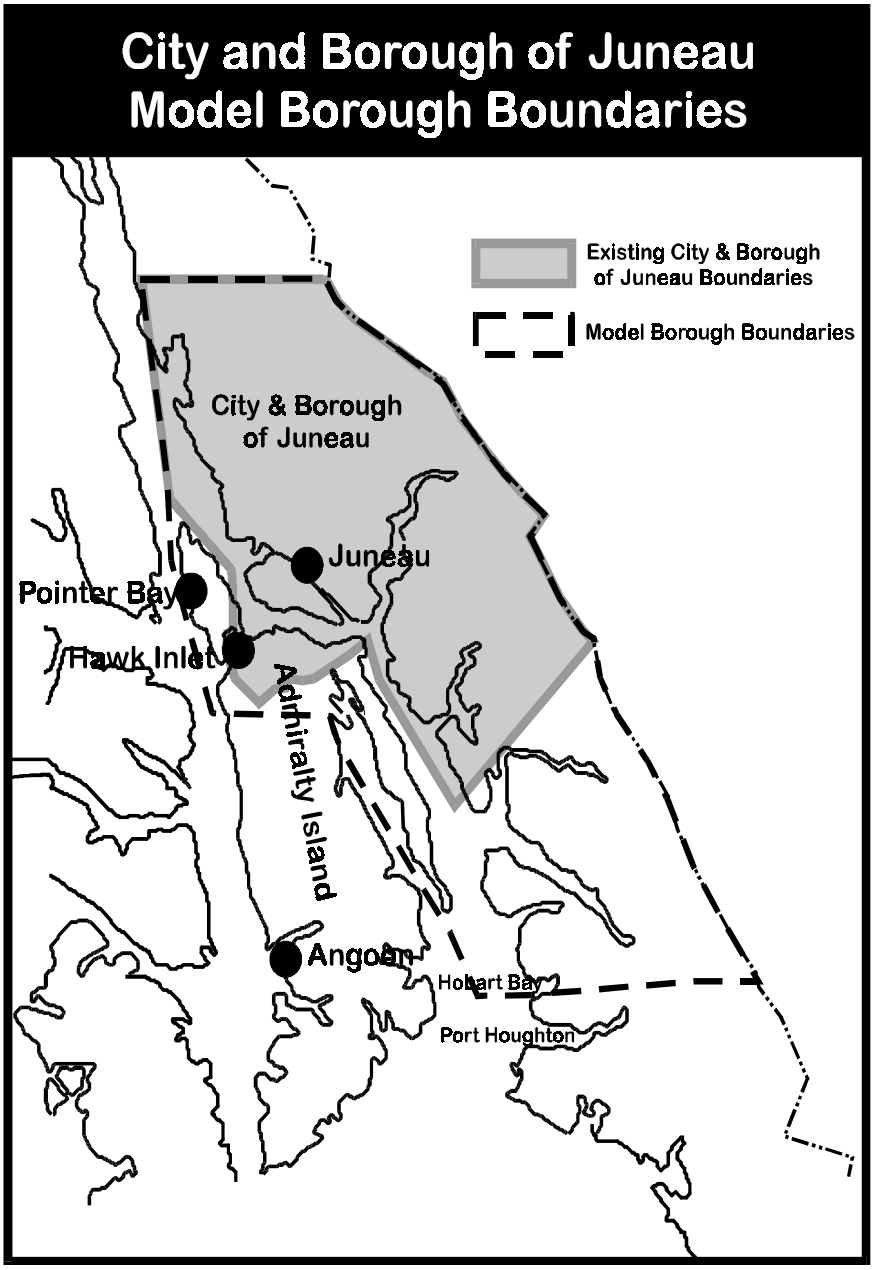
Glacier Bay Region. The Commission conducted hearings on model boundaries for this region in Hoonah, Pelican and Gustavus in January 1992. On May 8, 1992,, the Commission defined model borough boundaries for the region extending from Cape Fairweather to Chatham Strait. These model boundaries encompass Glacier Bay and the communities of Elfin Cove, Pelican, Hoonah, Gustavus and Tenakee Springs. In 1990, the region had a population of 1,858.



Iditarod Region. The Commission conducted a public hearing on model borough boundaries for the Iditarod region on May 8, 1990. The hearing was held in McGrath, with teleconference sites established in Nikolai and Shageluk. On November 10, 1990, the Commission defined the model borough boundaries for the region to follow the boundaries of the Iditarod Regional Educational Attendance Area, excluding the territory within the model boundaries of the proposed Denali Borough.



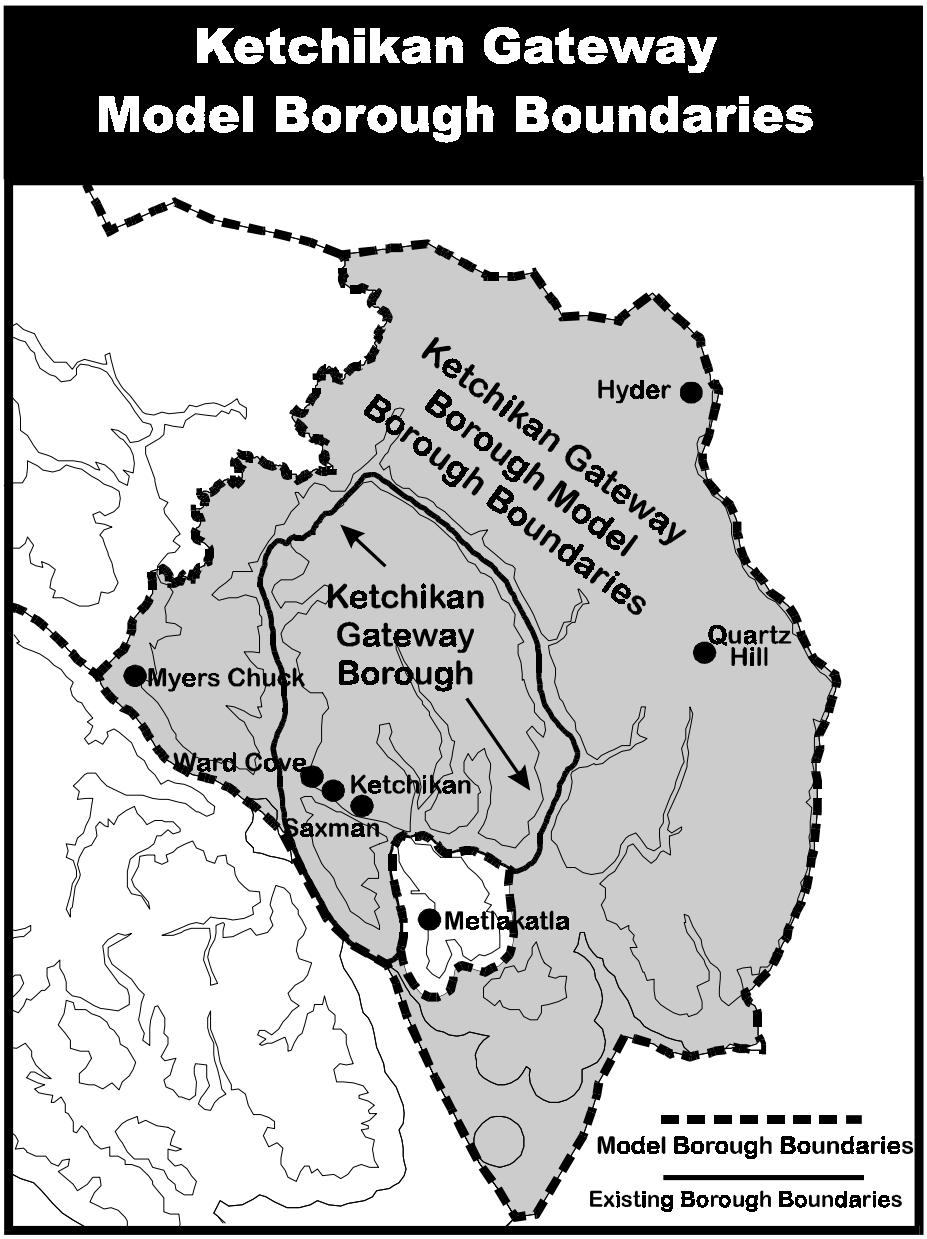
City and Borough of Juneau. The Commission conducted a hearing on the model boundaries for the City and Borough of Juneau in July, 1990, but delayed action on the boundaries pending testimony from residents of adjacent regions. In November of 1990, the Commission held model boundary hearings in Kake, Hoonah, Cube Cove, Angoon, Sitka, Elfin Cove, Port Alexander, Pelican, Tenakee Springs, Haines, Skagway, Yakutat and Gustavus (due to weather conditions, the hearings were conducted by teleconference.)



In November, 1991, the Commission defined the model boundaries for the City and Borough of Juneau to include the Mansfield Peninsula, Glass Peninsula, and Seymour Canal areas of Admiralty Island. The model boundaries extend south along Stephens Passage to Hobart Bay on the mainland. From there, the boundaries run due east to the Alaska/Canada border. The boundary continues northward along the Alaska/Canada border following the existing boundaries of the City and Borough of Juneau.

The model borough boundaries take in about 2,400 square miles of land and water outside of the current boundaries of the City and Borough of Juneau. The area defined by the model borough boundaries had a 1990 population of 26,938 residents, all but 187 of whom lived within the established corporate limits of the City and Borough of Juneau.

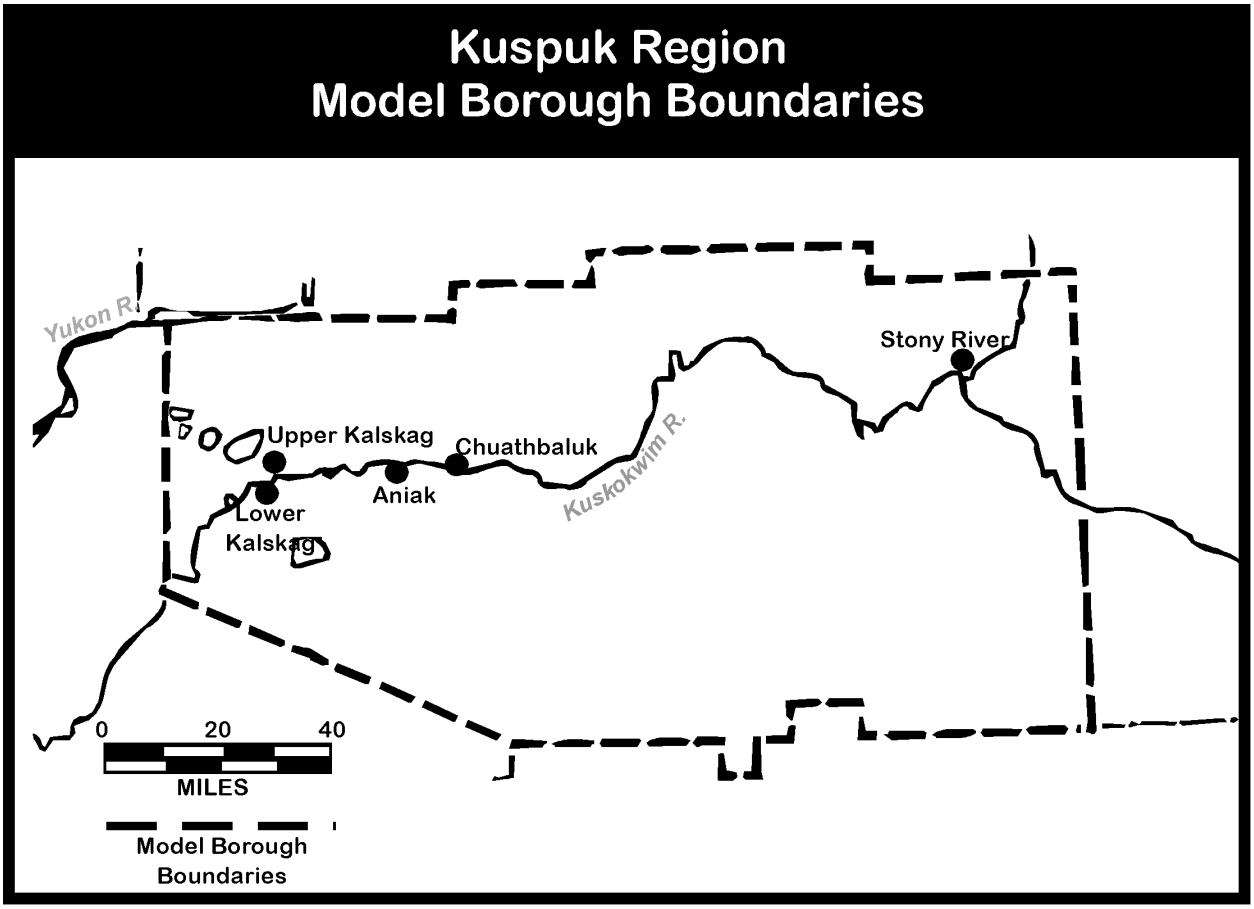
Ketchikan Gateway Borough. The Commission held a hearing on model boundaries for the Ketchikan region in September 1991. Residents of Meyers Chuck and Hyder participated by teleconference. Additional information concerning the model boundaries for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough was provided to the Commission in November of 1991.



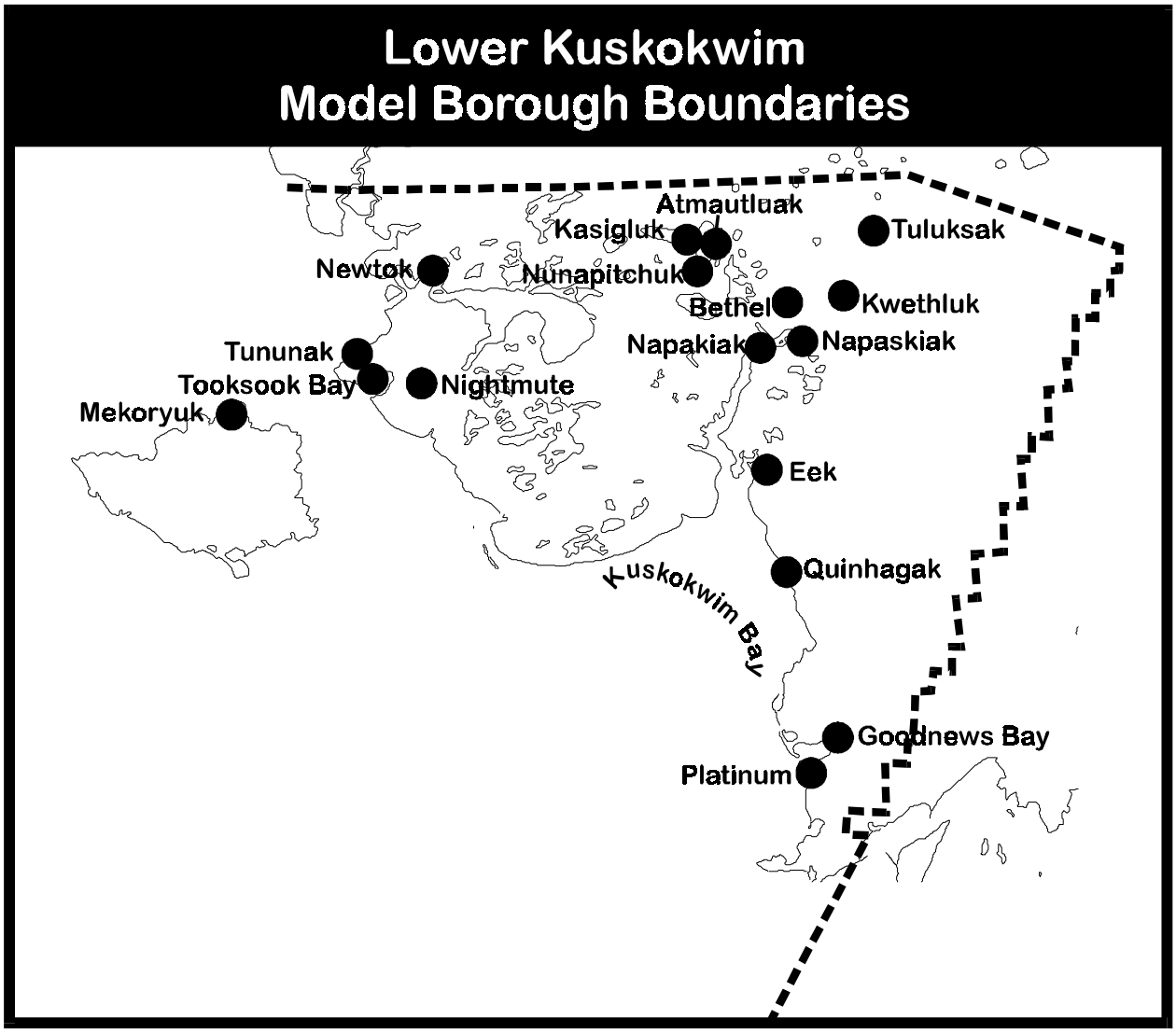
The model borough boundaries defined by the Commission for the Ketchikan area extend from the State's southern boundary along Clarence Strait to Ernest Sound. There, the boundary turns east, following the southern boundary of the Wrangell Ranger District and the northern boundary of the Misty Fjords National Monument to the Alaska/Canada border. From there, the model boundary line turns south along the Alaska/Canada border to the point of beginning. These model borough boundaries exclude the Annette Island Indian Reservation.

The area includes an estimated 7,300 square miles of land and water. Of that, approximately 1,744 square miles are already within the current corporate boundaries of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. According to the 1990 Federal Census, the area defined by the model borough boundaries is inhabited by 13,985 people, all but 157 of whom live within the current borough boundaries.

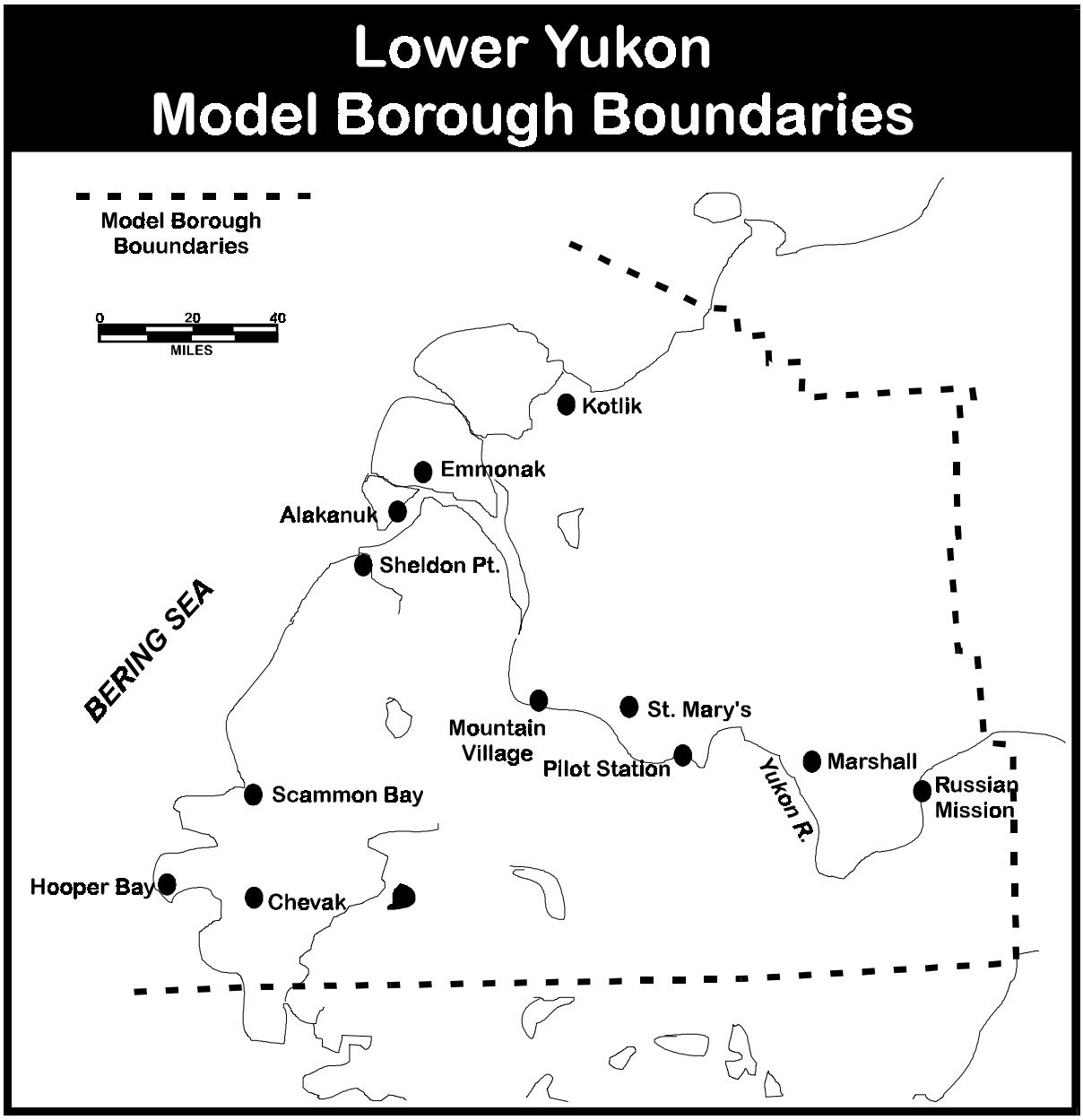
Kuspuk Region. The Commission conducted a public hearing on model borough boundaries for the Kuspuk region in Aniak on October 23,1992. On November 21, 1992, the Local Boundary Commission set the Kuspuk region model boundaries to conform to those of the Kuspuk Regional Educational Attendance Area. The 1990 population for the region was 1,490 residents. Communities in the region consist of Aniak, Chuathbaluk, Crooked Creek, Sleetmute, Stony River, Upper Kalskag and Lower Kalskag.



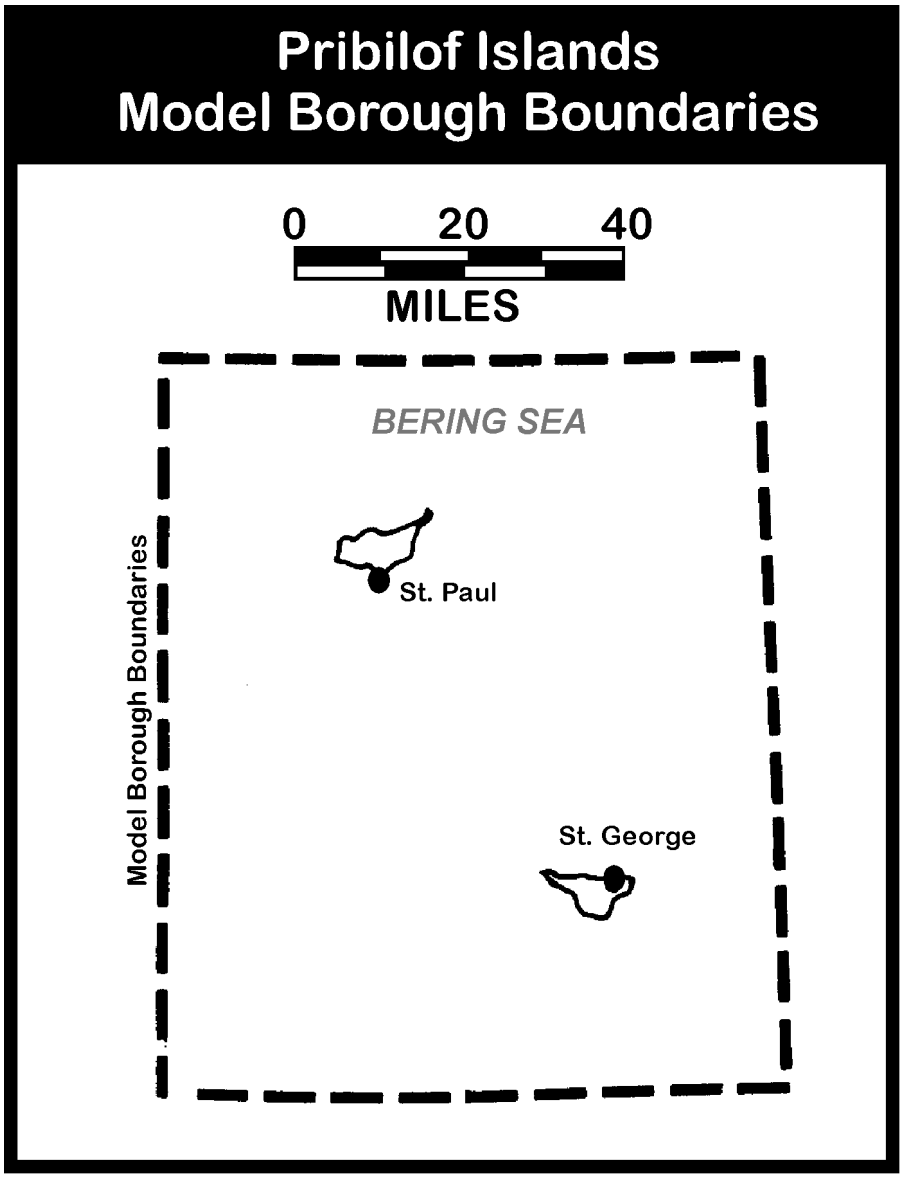
Lower Kuskokwim Region. The Commission held model borough boundary hearings concerning the Lower Kuskokwim region in Bethel on October 24, 1992. On November 21, 1992, the Local Boundary Commission set model borough boundaries for the region to conform to the boundaries of the Lower Kuskokwim Regional Educational Attendance Area (including the smaller Yupiit Regional Educational Attendance Area). The 1990 population of the region was 12,125. The region encompasses 25 communities including Akiachak, Akiak, Atmautluak, Bethel, Chefornak, Eek, Goodnews Bay, Kasigluk, Kipnuk, Kongiganak, Kwethluk, Kwigillingok, Mekoryuk, Napakiak, Napaskiak, Newtok, Nightmute, Nunapitchuk, Oscarville, Platinum, Quinhagak, Toksook Bay, Tuluksak, Tuntutuliak, and Tununak.



Lower Yukon Region. The Commission held model borough boundary hearings for the Lower Yukon region in St. Mary's on October 23, 1992. On November 21, 1992, the Commission set Lower Yukon model boundaries to conform to the Lower Yukon Regional Educational Attendance Area. The model borough boundaries include the smaller Kashunamiut Regional Educational Attendance Area and the St. Mary's City School District. The area also includes the communities of Alakanuk, Chevak, Emmonak, Hooper Bay, Kotlik, Marshall, Mountain Village, Pilot Station, Russian Mission, Scammon Bay, Sheldon Point and Pitka's Point. In 1990, the area's population totaled approximately 5,791.

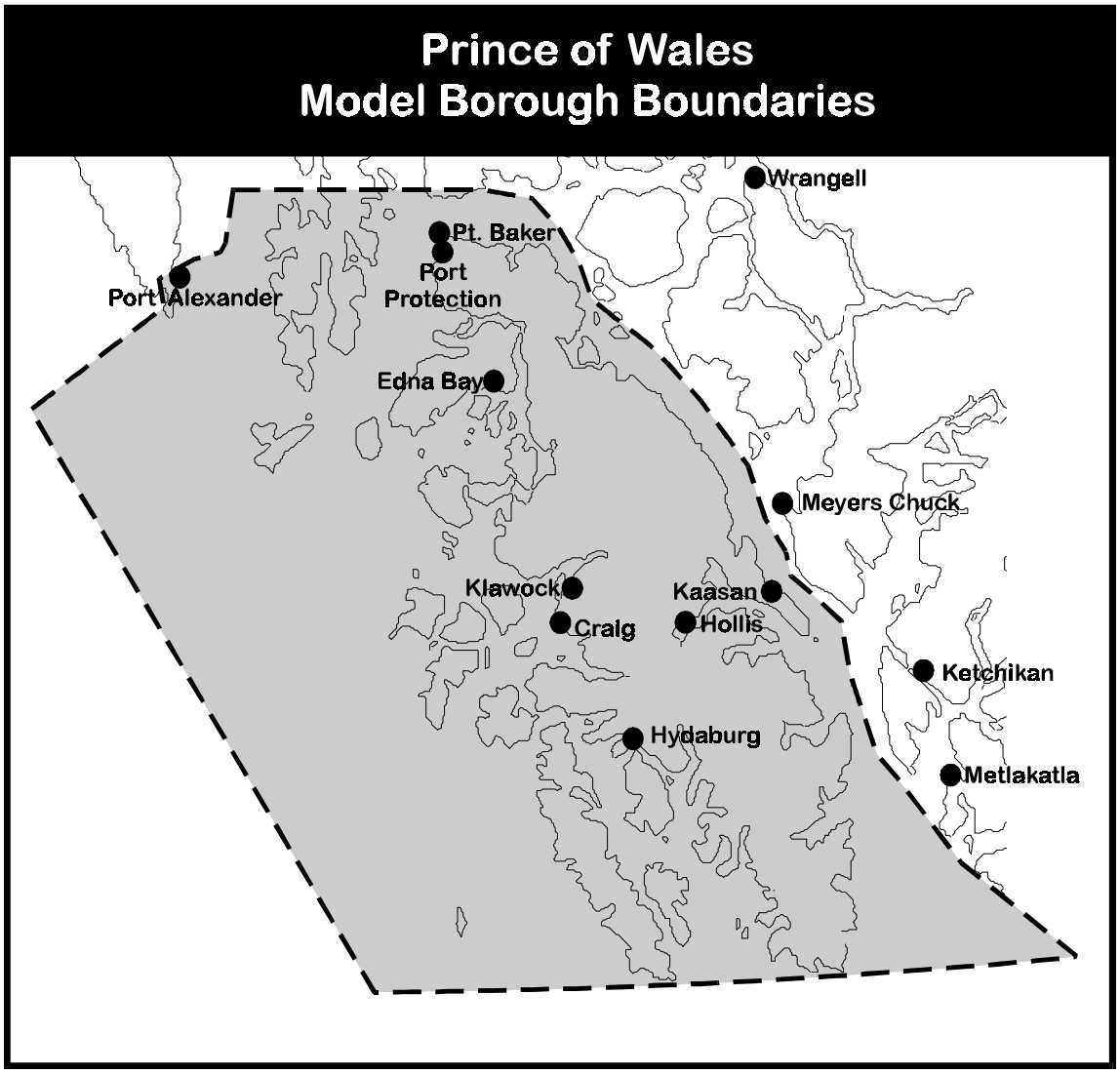


Pribilof Region. The Local Boundary Commission conducted a hearing on model borough boundaries for the Pribilof region on October 20, 1992. Testimony was received by teleconference from St. Paul and St. George. The Commission set model borough boundaries for the area on November 21, 1992. Those boundaries conform to the Pribilof Islands Regional Educational Attendance Area which encompass St. Paul and St. George. That area had a 1990 population of 901.

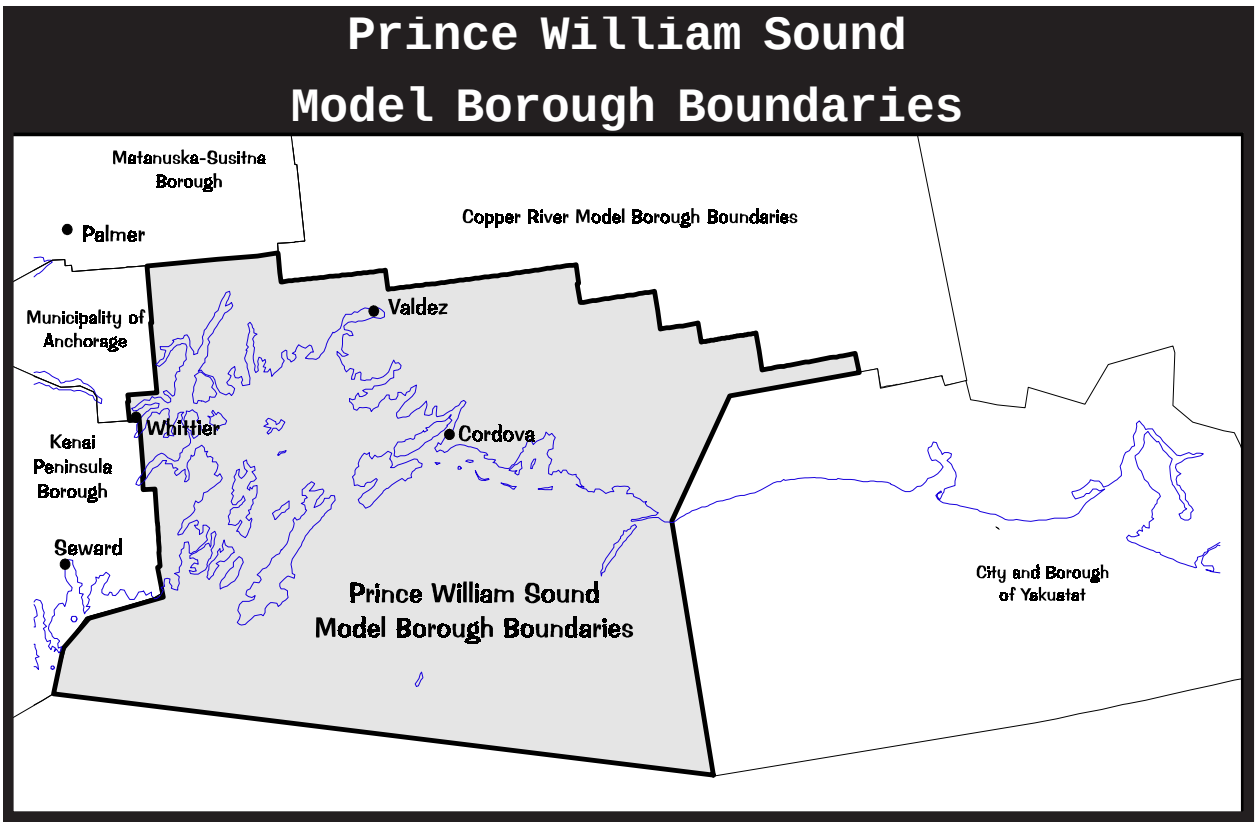


Prince of Wales Island Region. The Commission held its hearing on model borough boundaries for this region in Klawock in September 1991. Additional comments concerning model boundaries for this region were provided to the Commission in November of 1991.

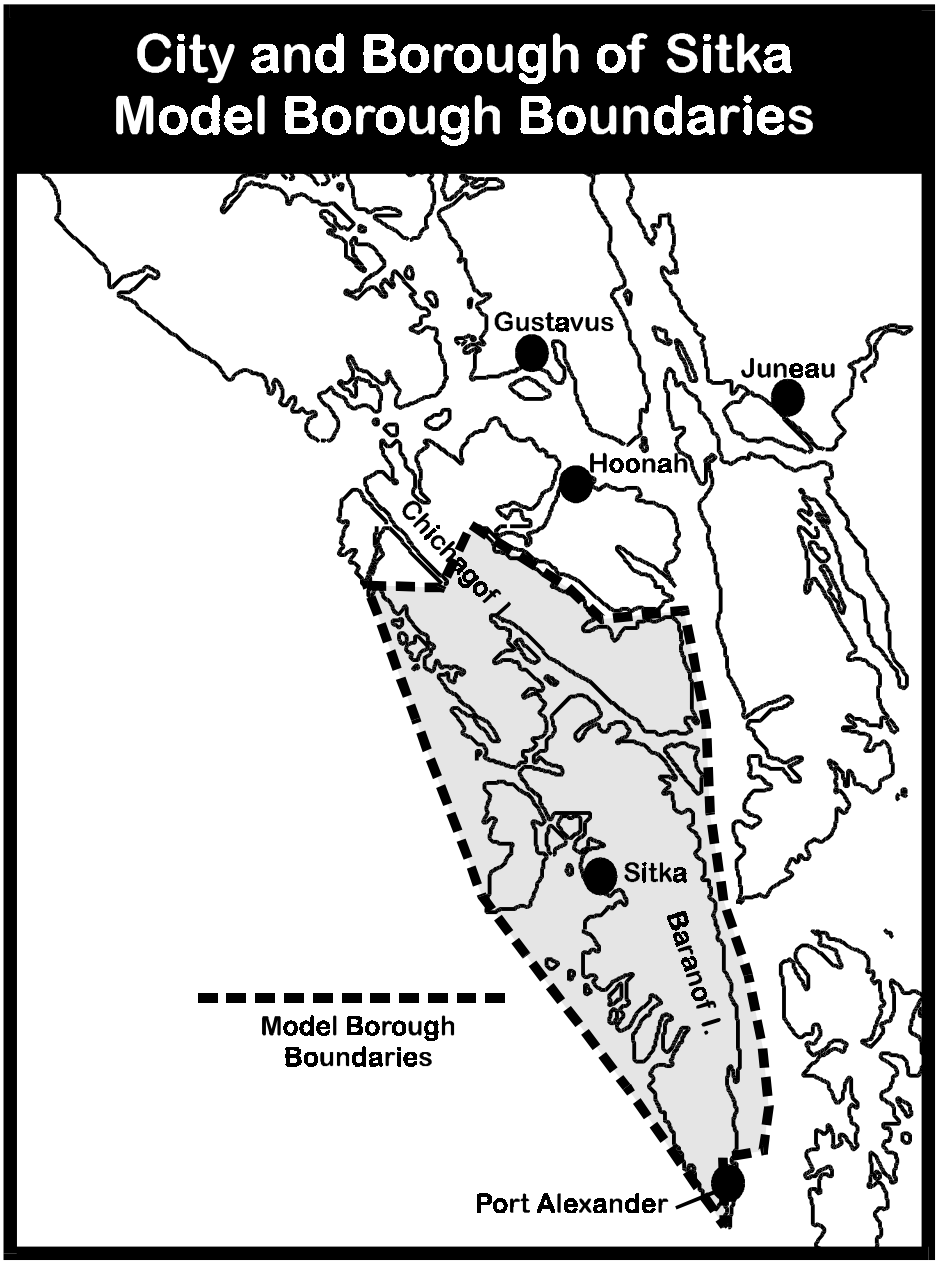
The Commission adopted model boundaries for this region to extend from the southern boundary of the State of Alaska along Clarence Strait and Sumner Strait to an area north of Point Baker (following the Wrangell Ranger District boundary). From there the boundary extends due west across Kuiu Island to the middle of Chatham Strait where it turns south, following the State boundary back to the point of beginning. These model boundaries encompass an estimated 8,200 square miles of land and water. This area is all part of the Southeast Island Regional Educational Attendance Area, and has 4,650+ residents.



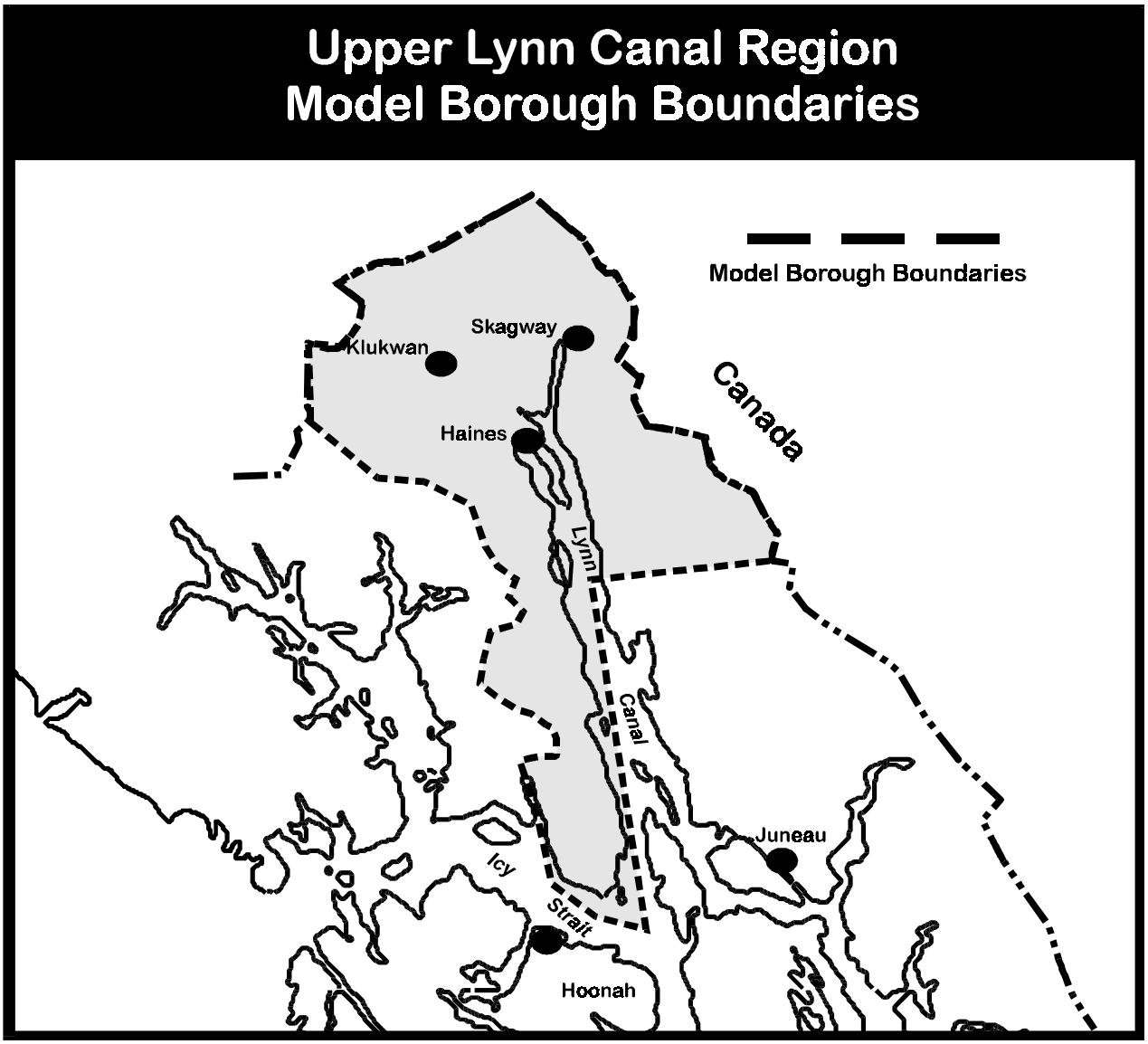
Prince William Sound Region. The Commission conducted a public hearing on model borough boundaries for the Prince William Sound region in January 1992. On May 8, 1992, the Commission set model boundaries for the area to conform to the Chugach REAA, including Cordova City School District and the Valdez City School District. The region also includes the City of Whittier and the unincorporated communities of Chenega and Tatitlek. In 1990, the area had a population of 7,189. On March 8, 1997, an estimated 2,878 square miles of land and 8,492 square miles of tidelands and submerged lands within the original Prince William Sound model borough boundaries were annexed to the City and Borough of Yakutat.



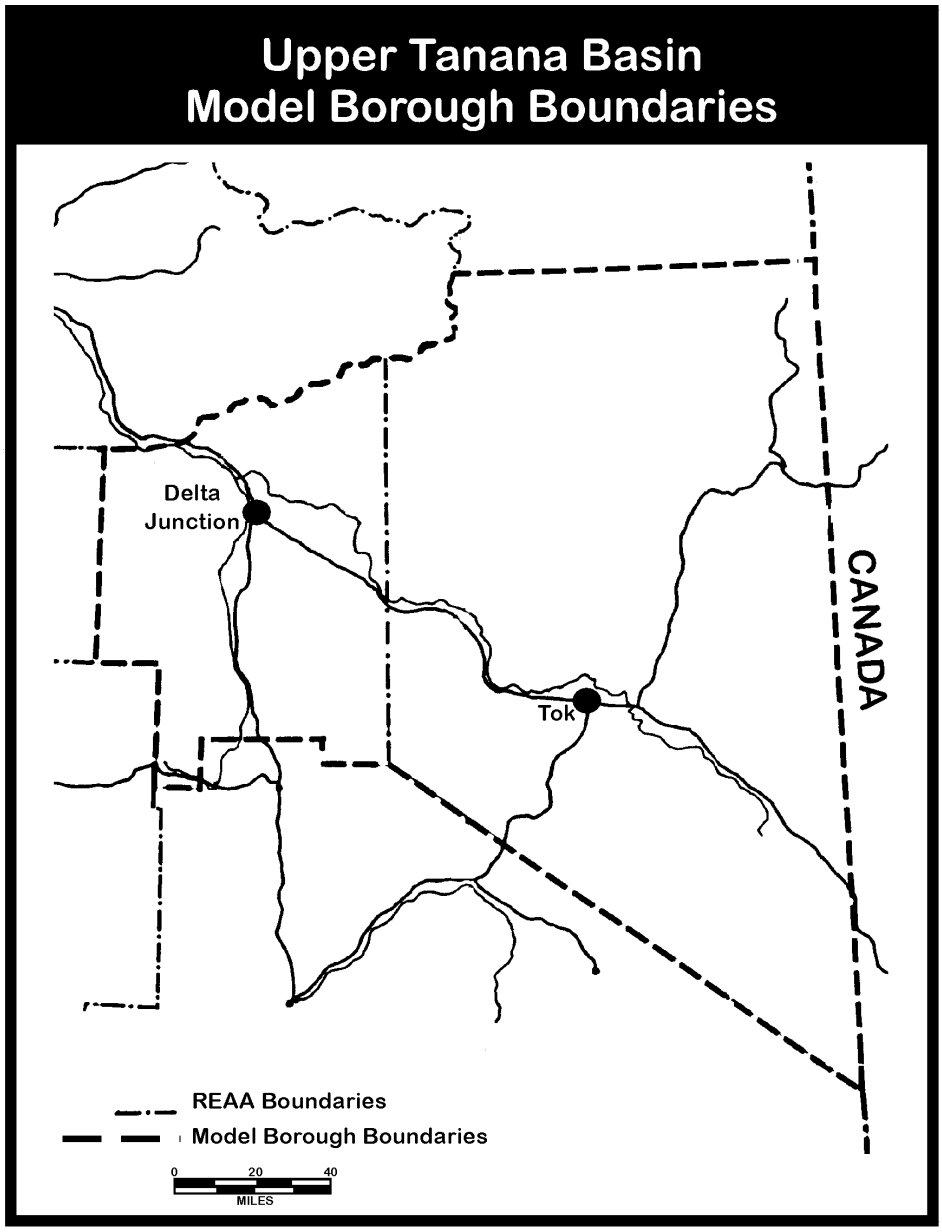
City and Borough of Sitka. The Commission conducted public hearings regarding model borough boundaries for the City and Borough of Sitka by teleconference in November 1990. On May 8, 1992, the Commission set model boundaries for the City and Borough of Sitka identical with its existing boundaries. That area encompasses an estimated 4,849 square miles. In 1990, the area had a population of 8,588.



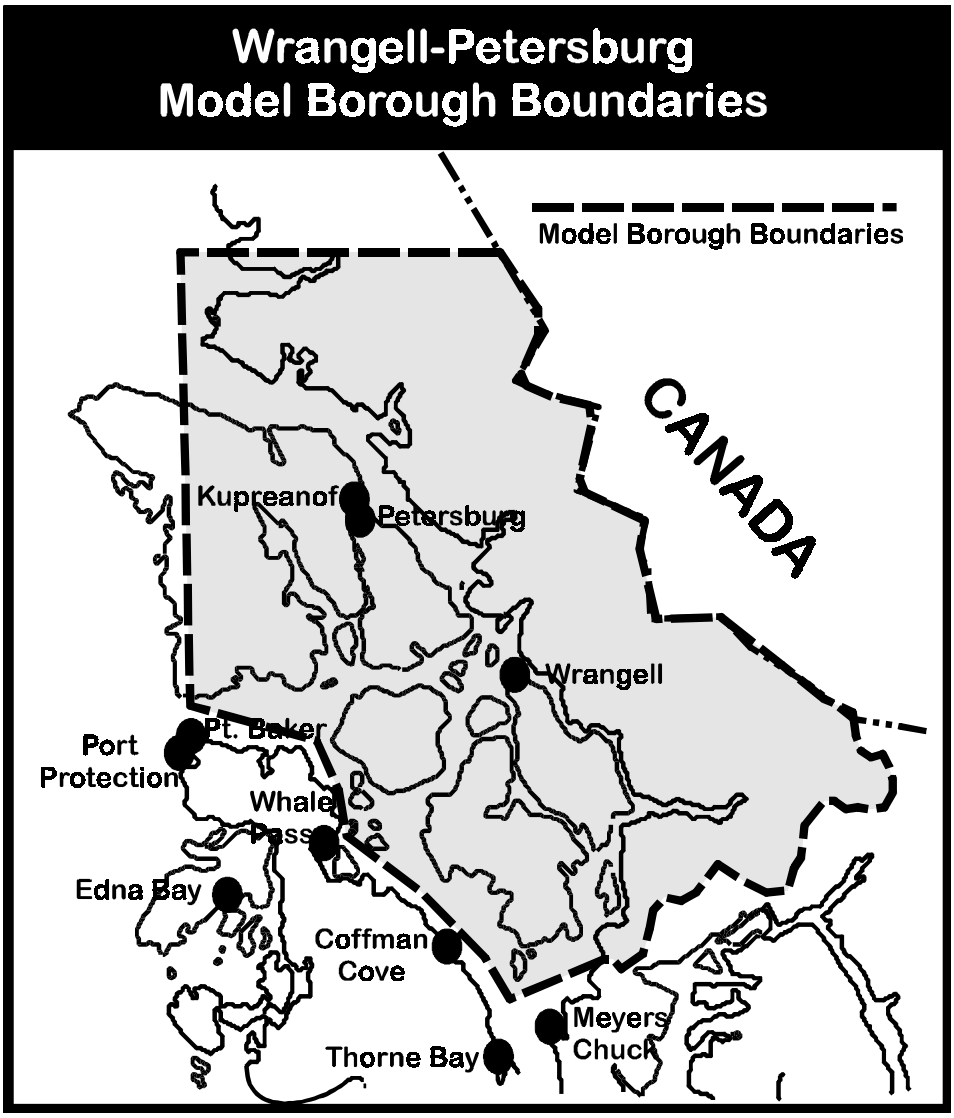
Upper Lynn Canal - Haines Borough Region. On May 8, 1992, the Commission set model borough boundaries for the upper Lynn Canal area. The model boundaries were defined to encompass the area within the present Haines Borough as well as the adjacent City of Skagway and the village of Klukwan. Klukwan is presently an enclave within the Haines Borough. In 1990, the area had a population of 2,938..



Upper Tanana Basin Region. The Commission conducted hearings on model borough boundaries for the region in Delta Junction on May 8,1992 and in Tok on May 9 and June 6, 1992. The Commission set model boundaries for the area on November 21,1992. The Upper Tanana Basin model boundaries were defined to encompass both the Delta Greely and Alaska Gateway REAA areas. In 1990, the area had a population of 6,021. The model borough boundaries encompass an estimated 26,235 square miles. Communities within the region include two second class cities, the City of Delta Junction and the City of Eagle. Unincorporated communities in the area include Boundary, Chicken, Dot Lake, Dry Creek, the Native Village of Eagle, Fort Greely, Healy Lake, Mentasta Lake, Northway, Tanacross, Tetlin and Tok.

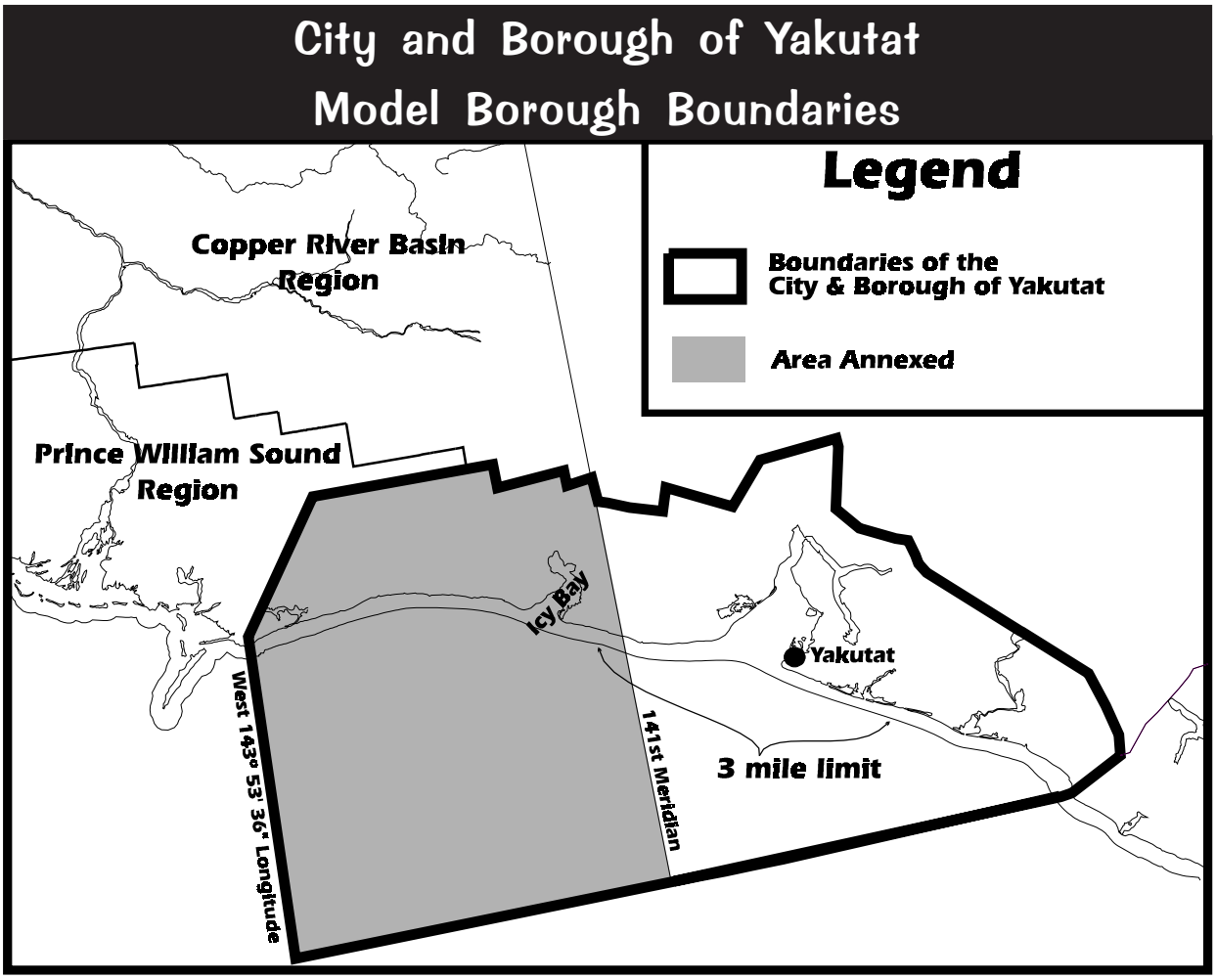


Wrangell/Petersburg Region. The Commission conducted hearings on model boundaries for the region in Wrangell and Petersburg in September 1991. After receiving additional comments in November, the Commission defined model borough boundaries for this region to follow the boundary of the Wrangell Ranger District along the Misty Fjords National Monument to Ernest Sound and along Clarence Strait and Sumner Strait to an area north of the community of Point Baker. From there, the model boundary runs due north to Hobart Bay then due east to the Alaska/ Canada border. The boundary then turns south following the border to the point of beginning.

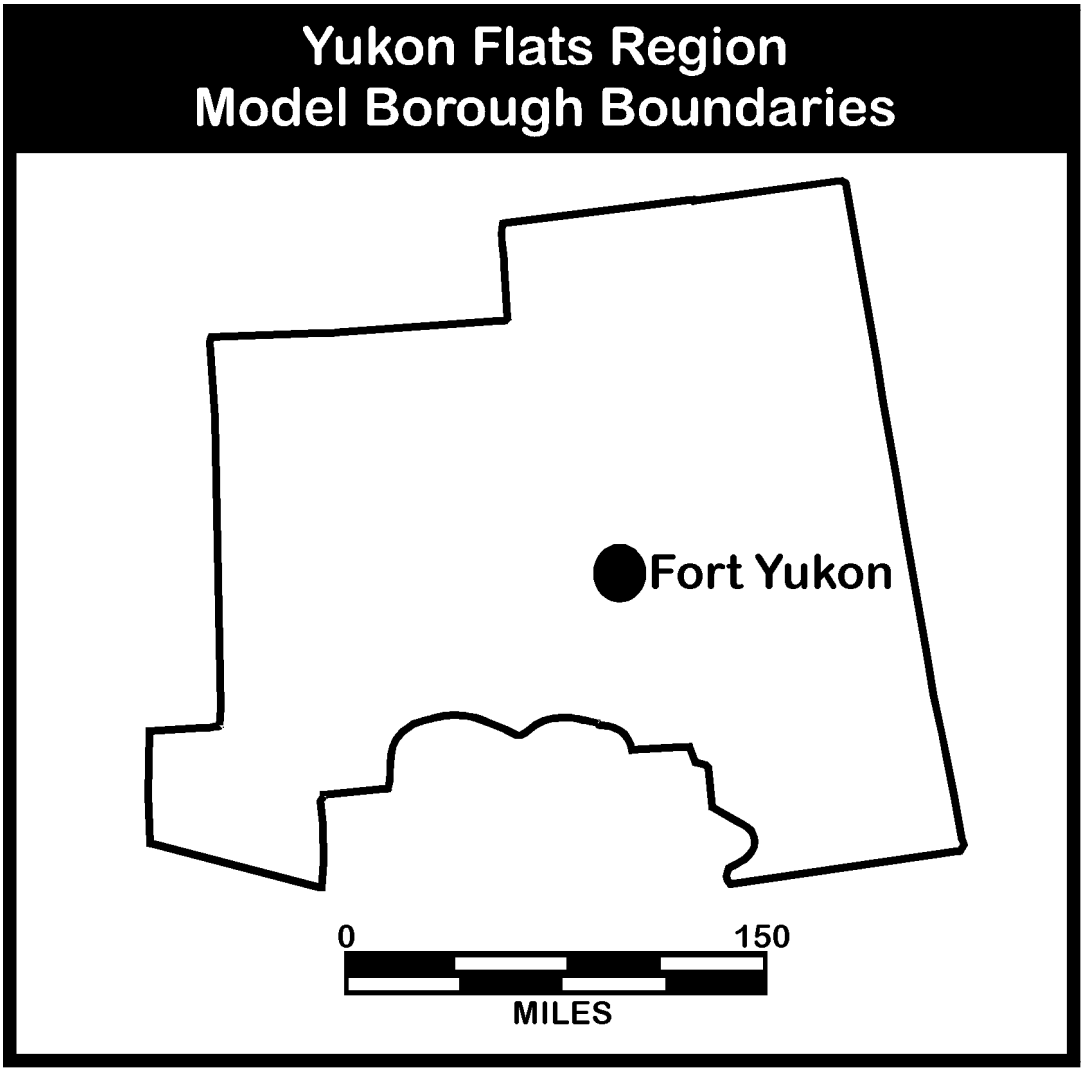


These model boundaries include an area of approximately 7,200 square miles of land and water. The 1990 population of the area was estimated to be approximately 6,000. The model boundaries encompass two complete school districts (Petersburg and Wrangell) and portions of two others (Southeast Island REAA and Chatham REAA).

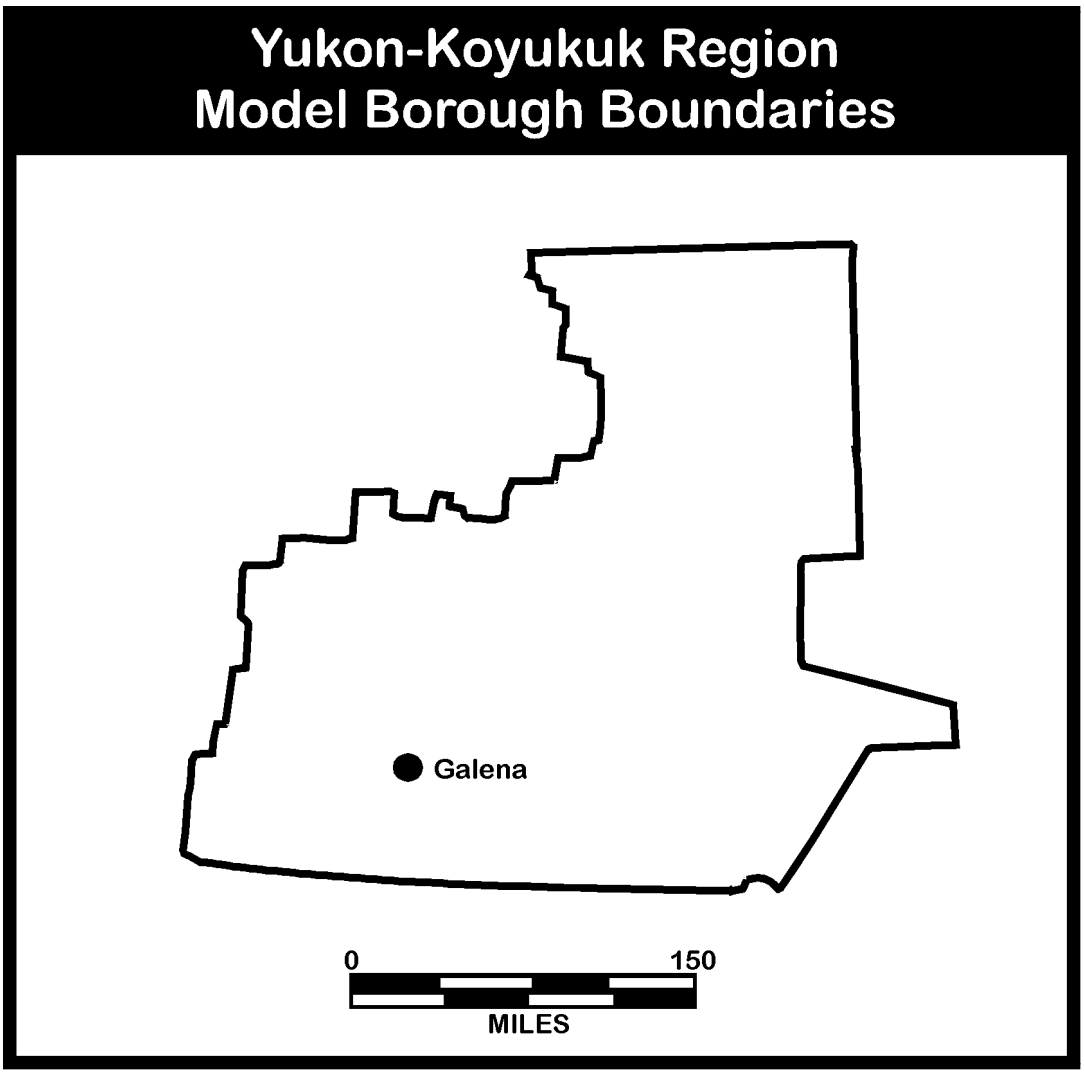
Yakutat Borough. The Commission set model borough boundaries for the Yakutat region on May 8,1992. The boundaries are identical to those approved by the Commission for incorporation of the City and Borough of Yakutat. The model boundaries encompass approximately 4,224 square miles with boundaries extending from the 141st Meridian to Cape Fairweather. In 1990, the area had a population of approximately 705. On March 8, 1997, an estimated 2,878 square miles of land and 8,492 square miles of tidelands and submerged lands within the adjoining Prince William Sound model borough boundaries were annexed to the City and Borough of Yakutat.



Yukon Flats Region. The Commission conducted a public hearing on model borough boundaries for the Yukon Flats region on May 20, 1990. The hearing was held in Fort Yukon, with teleconference sites established in Rampart, Birch Creek, Beaver, Arctic Village, Venetie and Stevens Village. On November 10, 1990, the Commission defined the model borough boundaries for the region to follow the boundaries of the Yukon Flats Regional Educational Attendance Area with the exclusion of the territory in the model boundaries of the Fairbanks North Star Borough.



Yukon Koyukuk Region. The Commission conducted a public hearing on model borough boundaries for the Yukon-Koyukuk region on May 18, 1990. The hearing was held in Tanana, with teleconference sites established in Nenana, Ruby, Galena, Nulato, Manley Hot Springs, Kaltag, Hughes, Allakaket and Bettles. On November 10, 1990, the Commission defined the model borough boundaries for the region to follow the boundaries of the Yukon-Koyukuk Regional Educational Attendance Area, excluding the area within the model boundaries of the proposed Denali Borough.



APPENDIX

The following lists certain of the reasons why some believe that the provision of Article X, Section 3 of Alaska's Constitution requiring each borough to embrace an area and population with common interests to the maximum degree possible, applies to both organized and unorganized boroughs.

A direct reading of Article X, Section 3 is unambiguous in its application to unorganized boroughs. The provision states in relevant part, "The entire State shall be divided into boroughs, organized or **unorganized**. **They** shall be established in a manner and according to standards provided by law. . . **Each** borough shall embrace an area and population with common interests to the maximum degree possible. . ."

The Public Administration Service (PAS) expressed the view that unorganized boroughs had to conform to the borough boundary standards.[3] On page 52 of its Local Government Under the Alaska Constitution (January 1959) the PAS notes that *"Returning then, to the question of the proper size and number of the* ***initial unorganized boroughs****, it would seem desirable to begin with a small number of very large boroughs. One possibility would be to begin with only four, which might correspond precisely or substantially to the four major senate districts. Since these districts were drawn primarily on the basis of the way in which the State is divided into* ***natural 'socio-economic' areas, with drainage and other geographic factors such as mountain barriers*** *being considered in setting the boundary lines, this division of the State might well provide a logical basis for the differential treatment of local affairs which, as already indicated, the borough system permits. If experience showed the need for further differentiation, the large boroughs could be broken down into somewhat smaller ones. It is important to remember that it is always easier to subdivide a political area than it is to combine areas previously subdivided."* (emphasis added).

The Executive Director of the Alaska Legislative Council held those same views. In a December 1, 1959 paper entitled Local Government and the State Constitution - Constitutional Intent, the John C. Doyle wrote that, *"Under the terms of the proposed article, all of Alaska would be subdivided into boroughs. Each would cover a geographic area with common economic, social, and political interests. Boundaries are to be established by the state. . . . Three classes of boroughs might be sufficient, but the legislature is not limited to three. . . . The unorganized borough would be the third class borough. . ."*[4]

Vic Fischer states on page 119 of Alaska's Constitutional Convention (University of Alaska Press 1975) that one of the initial principles set forth by the Convention's Committee on Local Government was that *"Provision should be made for subdividing all Alaska into local units*

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[3] The PAS, a non-profit organization, was selected by the Alaska Statehood Committee to provide research and consulting services in conjunction with the efforts to develop Alaska's constitution. (See Alaska's Constitutional Convention, Victor Fisher, pages 18 - 21.) The PAS also provided consulting services to the First Alaska State Legislature in the implementation of Alaska's constitution.

[4] The paper was submitted to Representative Peter J. Kalamarides, Chairman of the Alaska Legislative Council with the following statement, *"Attached hereto you will find a report on the local government article of the State Constitution. The report is the one which was submitted by the Committee on Local Government to the Constitutional Convention (1955-56), but it has been revised to reflect the amendments and thinking of the Convention when the proposal was discussed and finally approved on the floor. The Committee's report and comments, and the transcript of the Convention's proceedings were used in preparing this revised report. . ."* At the time the report was submitted, two of the ten members of the Alaska Legislative Council had been delegates to the Constitutional Convention. These were Senator Frank Peratrovich, Vice Chairman of the Council, and Representative Warren A. Taylor.

(boroughs) based on economic, geographic, social, and political factors; initially, not all need be organized."[5]

Thomas A. Morehouse and Victor Fischer wrote in Borough Government in Alaska under the heading "Organized and Unorganized Boroughs" that, *"All of Alaska was to be subdivided into logical borough units. Depending on readiness and capability for government, these would be classified as organized or unorganized boroughs . . ."*

Richard W. Garnett, III, wrote in a paper for the Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research that, *"The local government article of the state constitution calls for the division of the state into boroughs, organized and unorganized. The language of the article presupposes plural unorganized units.*[6] *The specific reference in Section 6 to 'maximum local participation and responsibility' in unorganized boroughs indicates that manageable units encompassing communities of interest were contemplated for unorganized as well as organized boroughs. It is difficult to believe that the single unorganized borough that now exists complies with the intention expressed in the constitution."*

The Local Boundary Commission expressed views consistent with this interpretation during its "Model Borough Boundary Study".[7] For example, in the LBC's paper announcing the model borough boundary study for the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Region, the LBC stated, *"Clearly, the Unorganized Borough does not meet the requirement of Article X, Section 3 of the Alaska Constitution that, 'each borough embrace an area and population with common interests to the maximum degree possible."* (August 1991, page A-2)

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[5] Vic Fischer was a Delegate to Alaska's Constitutional Convention and was also a member of the Convention's Committee on Local Government. He is widely regarded as an expert on Alaska's Constitution, particularly the local government article.

[6] Equalization of Local Government Revenues in Alaska (ISEGR Occasional Papers, January 1973). Richard W. Garnett, III, is a former Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alaska. His remarks may have represented his personal views rather than those of the Department of Law.

[7] The LBC and its DCRA staff began the Model Boundary study throughout the unorganized borough in mid-1989. The goal of the study was to "identify the best potential boundaries for future boroughs." The project was completed in 1992.