

National Marine Mammal Laboratory 1999 Beluga Tagging Study

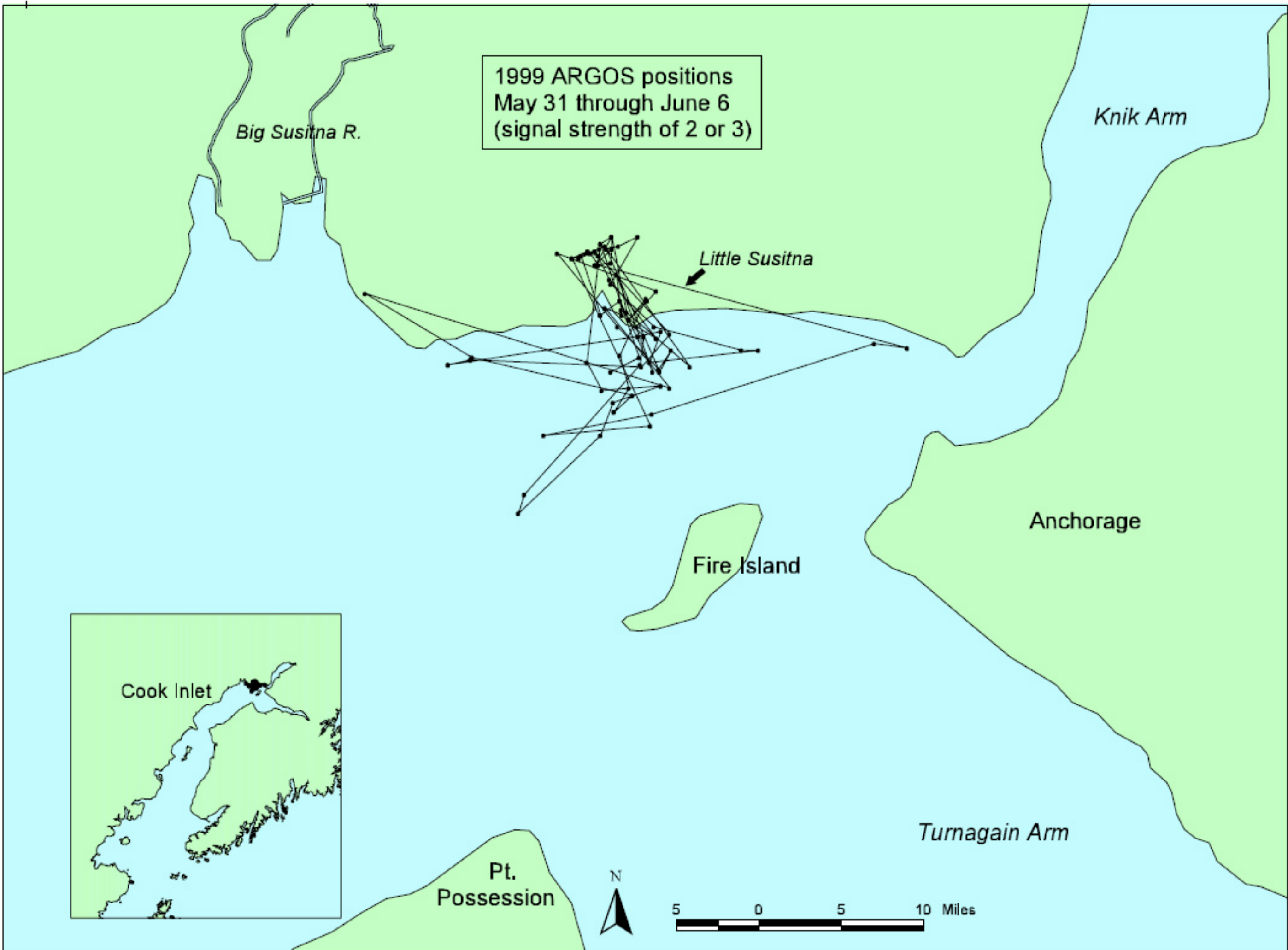


A male beluga whale was captured, tagged, and released on 31 May 1999 off the mouth of the Little Susitna River in Cook Inlet, Alaska. We are hopeful that the "satellite" tag, which provides us with information on the location of the whale, will continue to transmit for approximately 100 days. The tag can only communicate with the ARGOS satellite when the animal is at the surface and the antennae is out of the water. The information learned from this animal will help the National Marine Fisheries Service and several Alaska Native Organizations in the Cook Inlet region understand the movement pattern of these animals, as well as their surfacing behavior. These data are important in trying to estimate stock size of this distinct population of beluga whale.

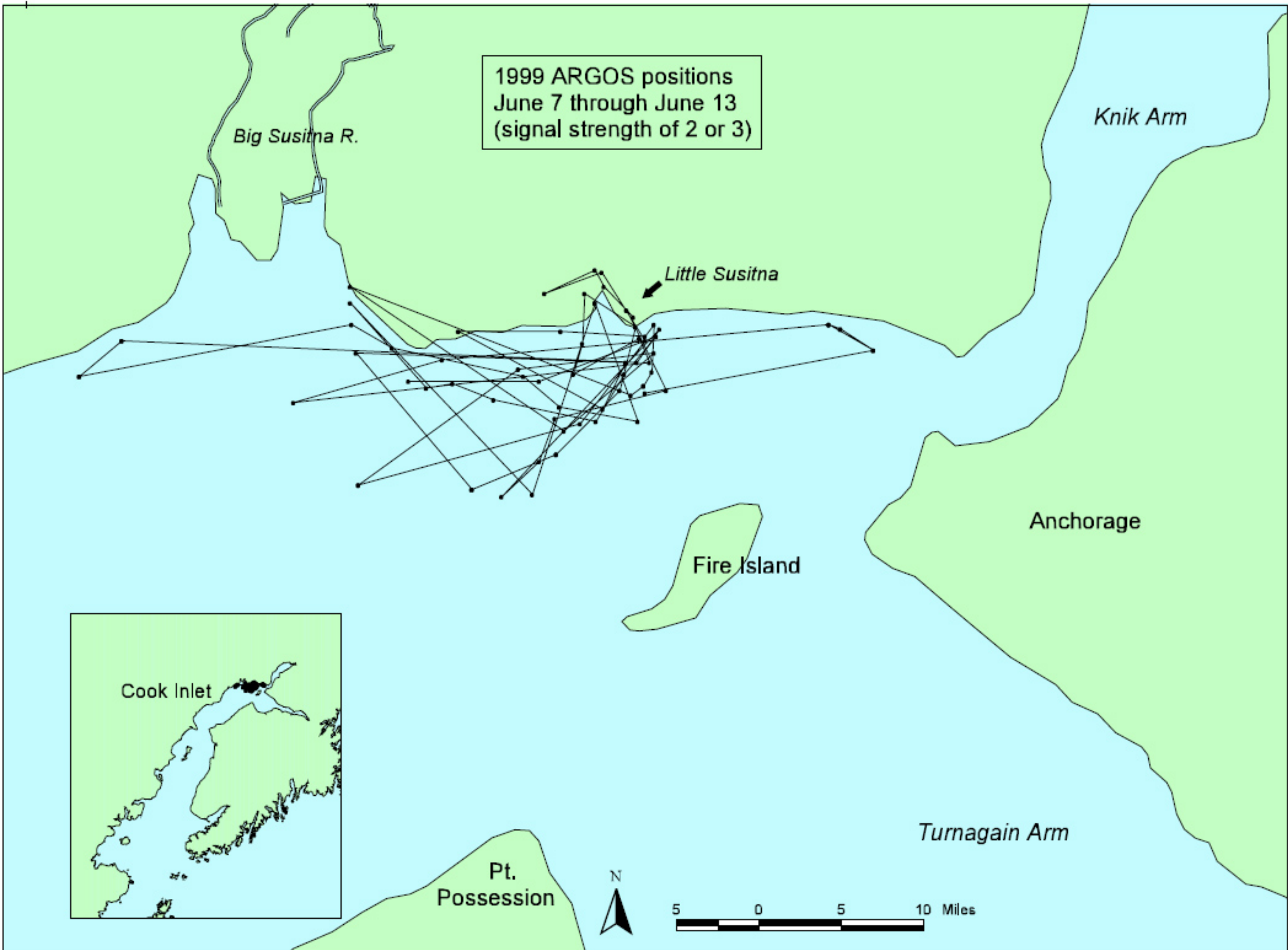
The following figures show the satellite determined positions of the tagged whale. Positions are plotted for a week's worth of data.

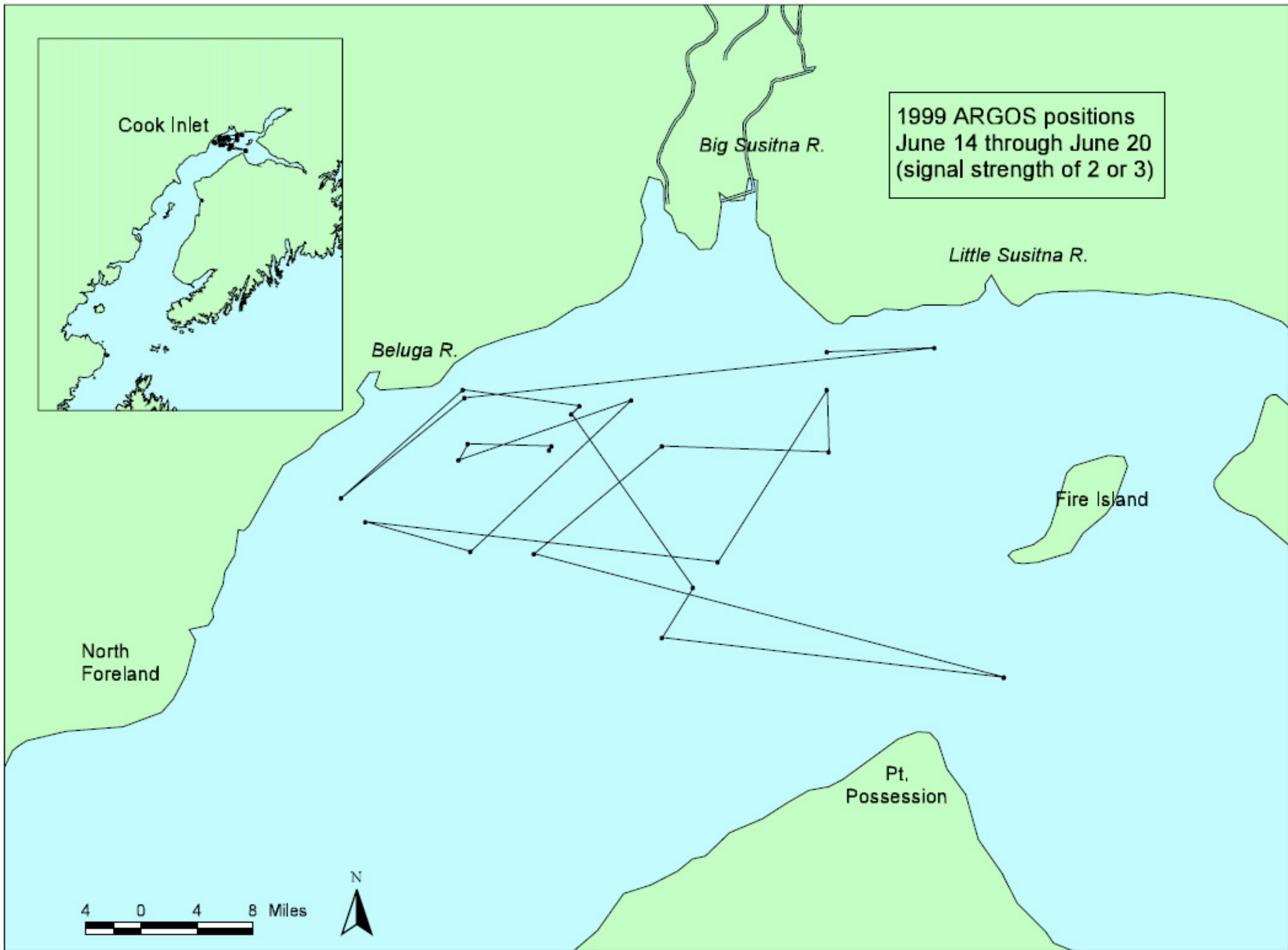


1999 ARGOS positions
May 31 through June 6
(signal strength of 2 or 3)



1999 ARGOS positions
June 7 through June 13
(signal strength of 2 or 3)





1999 ARGOS positions
June 21 through June 27
(signal strength of 2 or 3)

Big Susitna R.

Little Susitna R.

Beluga R.

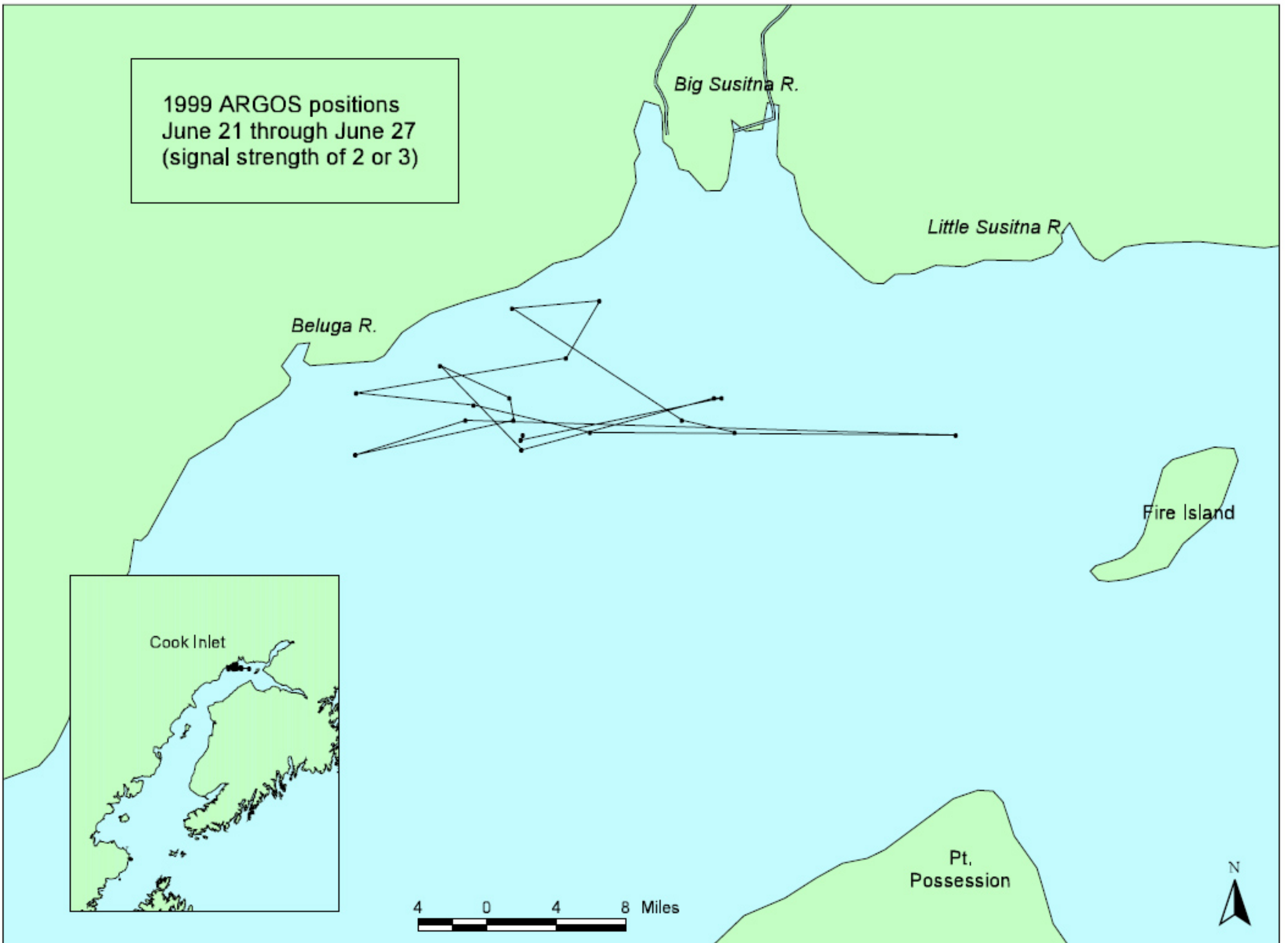
Fire Island

Cook Inlet

Pt.
Possession

4 0 4 8 Miles

N



1999 ARGOS positions
June 28 through July 4
(signal strength of 2 or 3)

Big Susitna R.

Little Susitna R.

Beluga R.

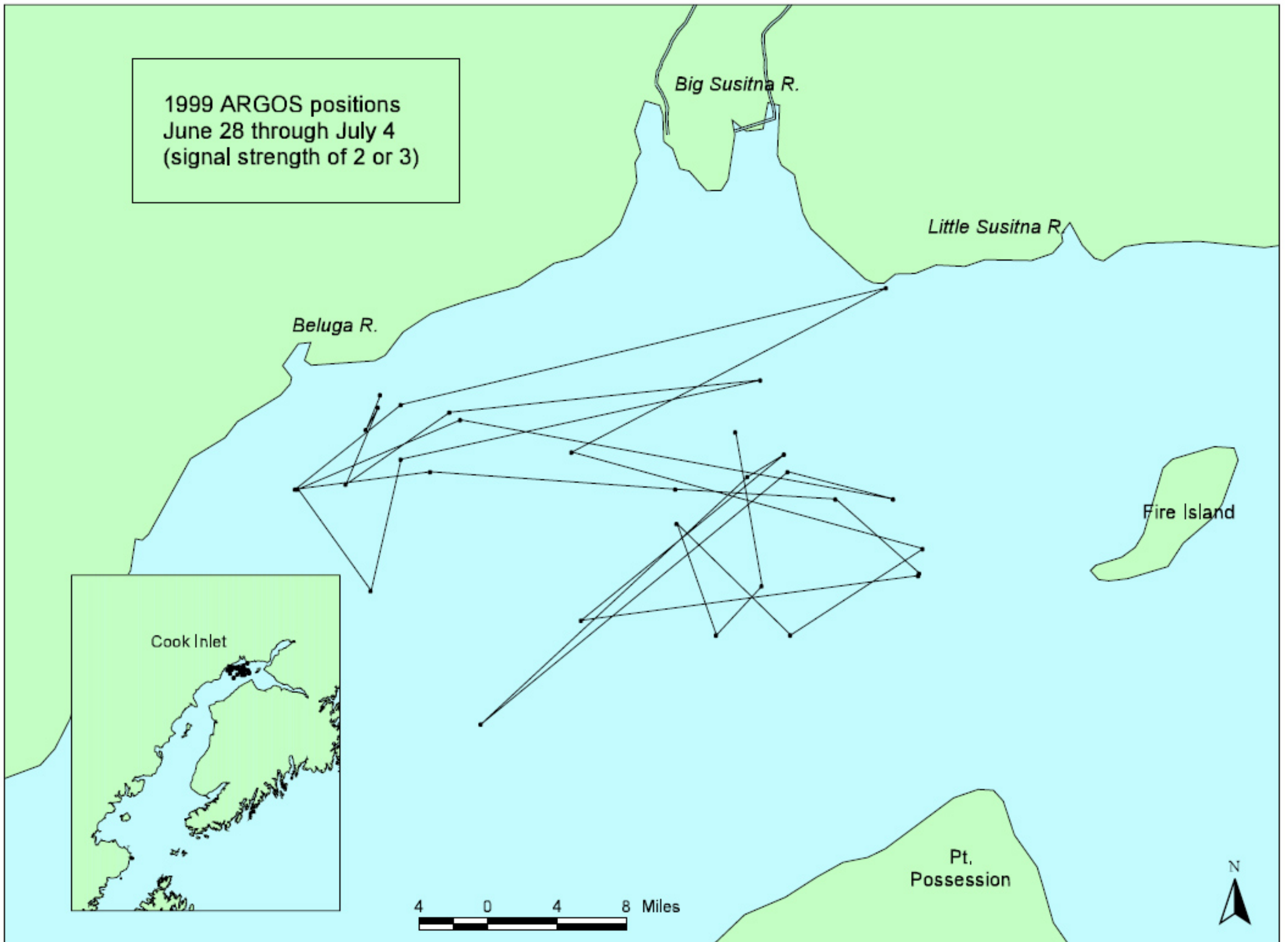
Fire Island

Cook Inlet

Pt.
Possession

4 0 4 8 Miles

N



1999 ARGOS positions
July 5 through July 11
(signal strength of 2 or 3)

Big Susitna R.

Little Susitna R.

Beluga R.

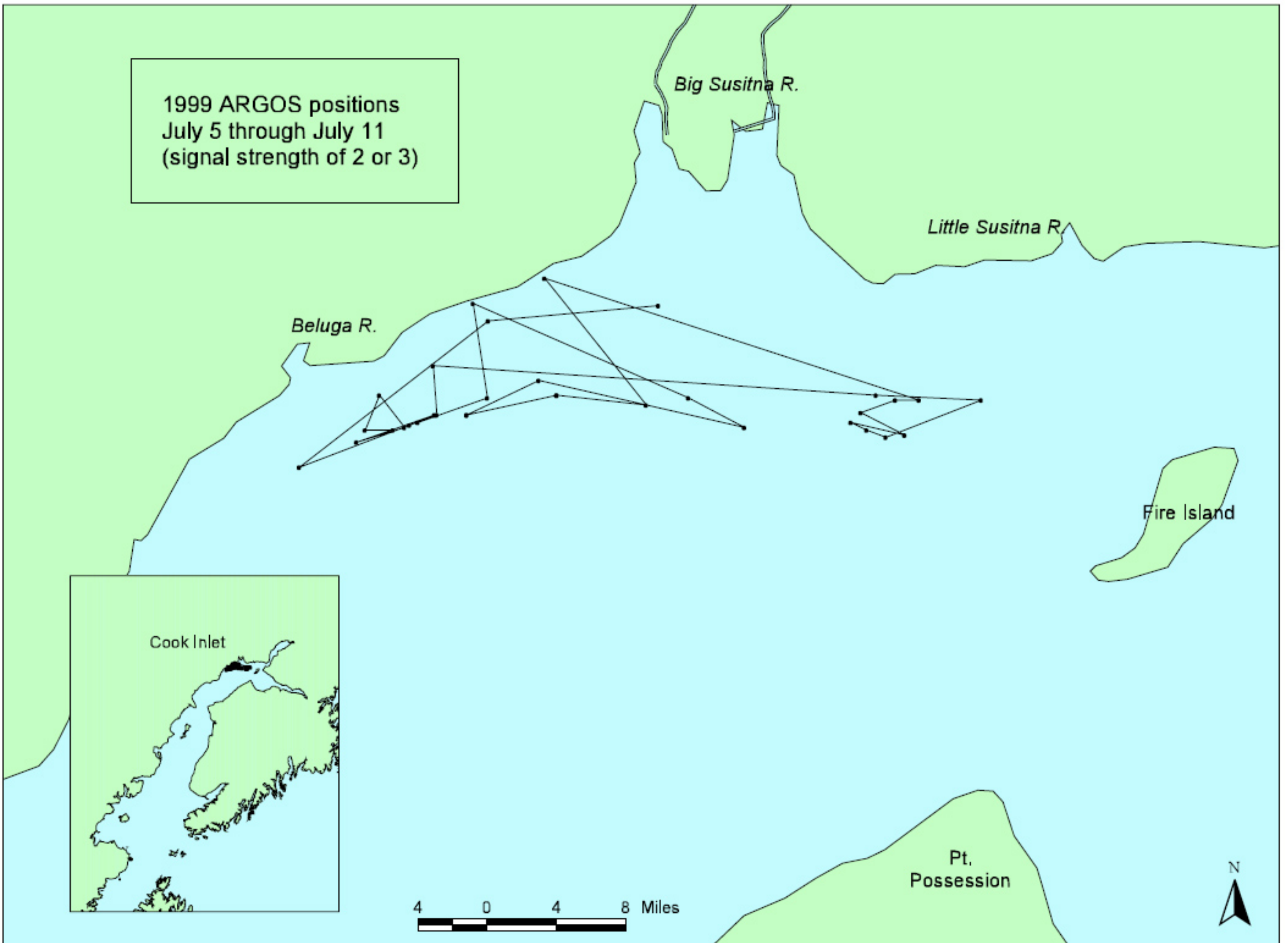
Fire Island

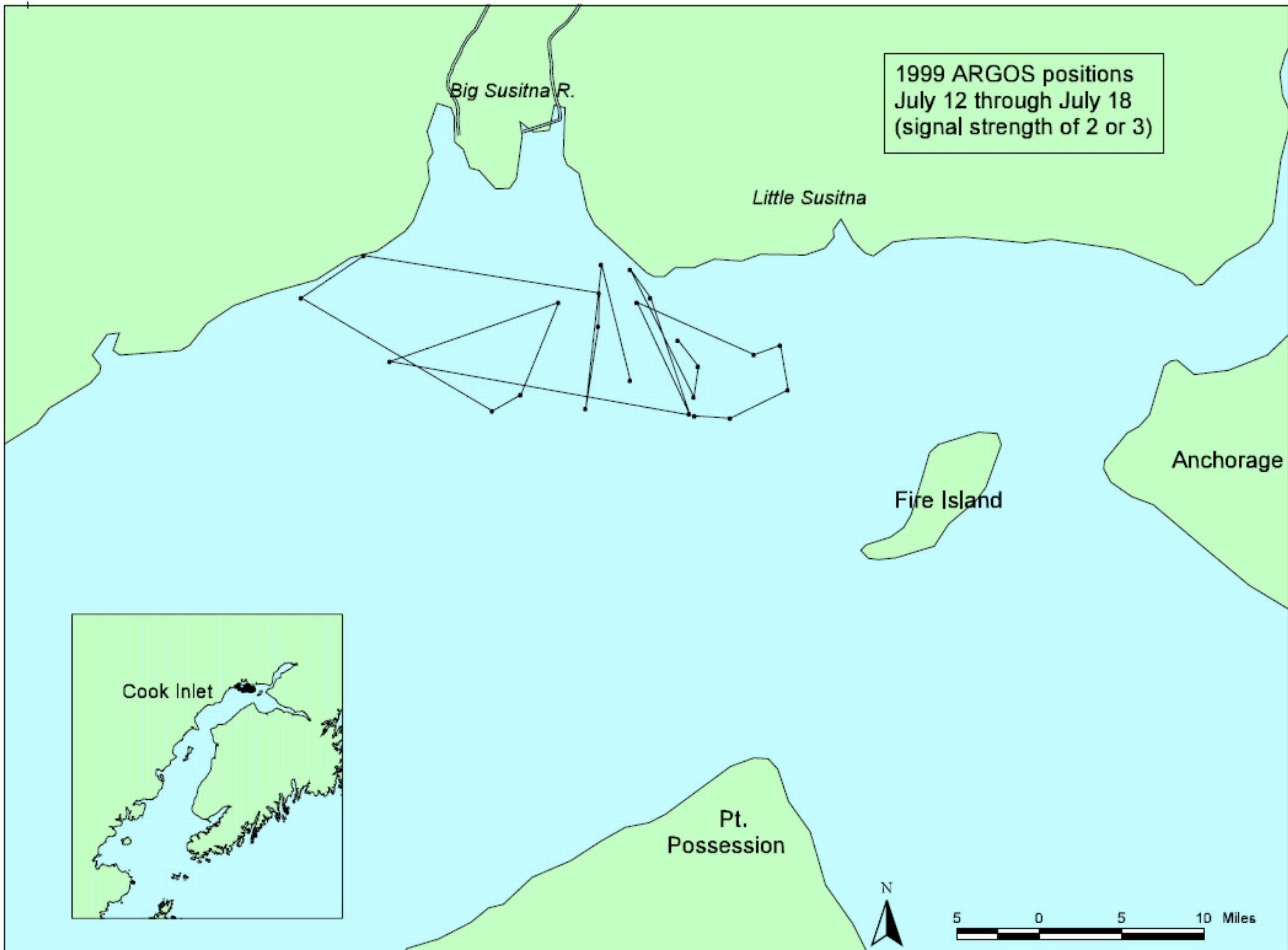
Cook Inlet

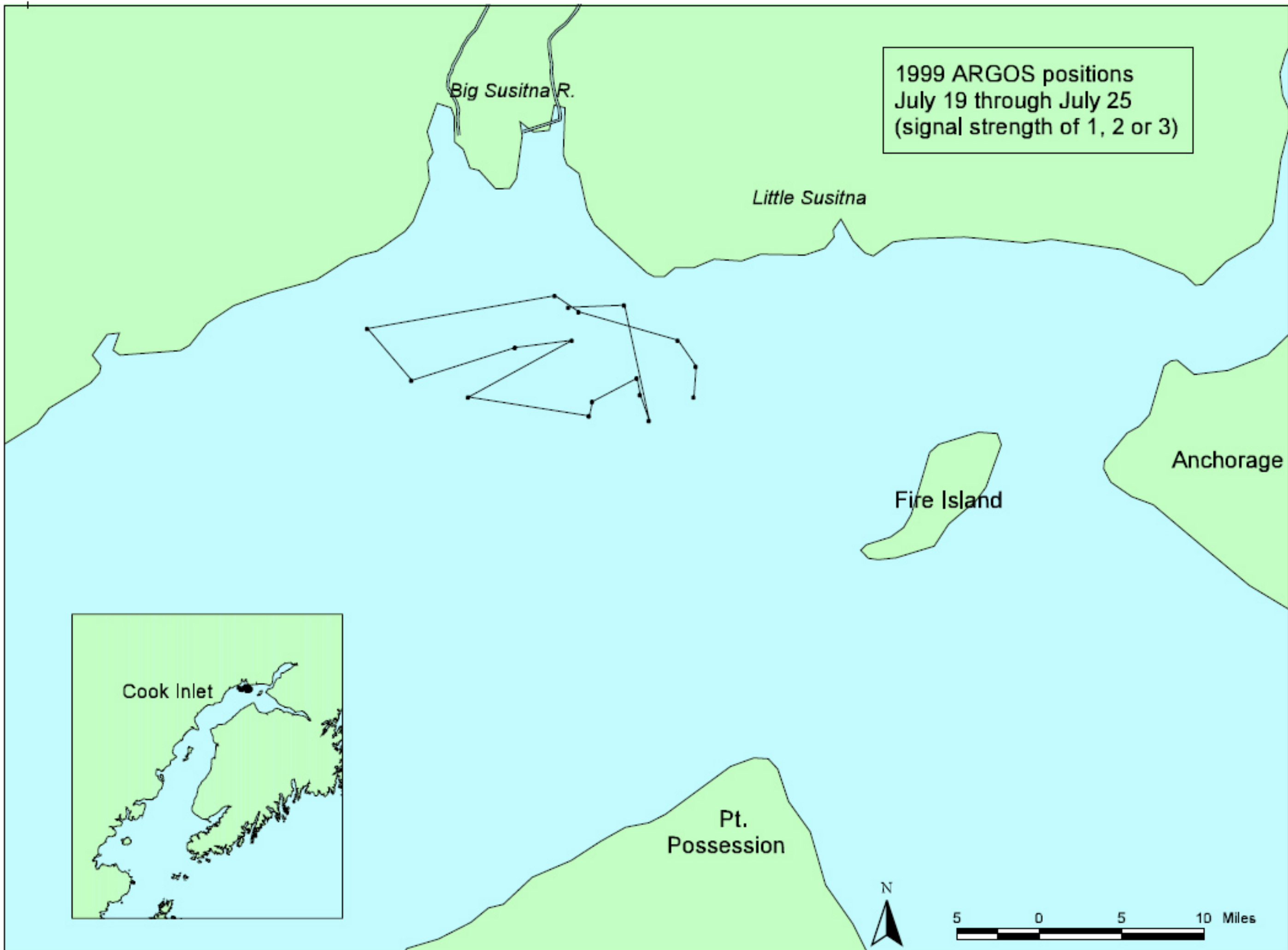
Pt.
Possession

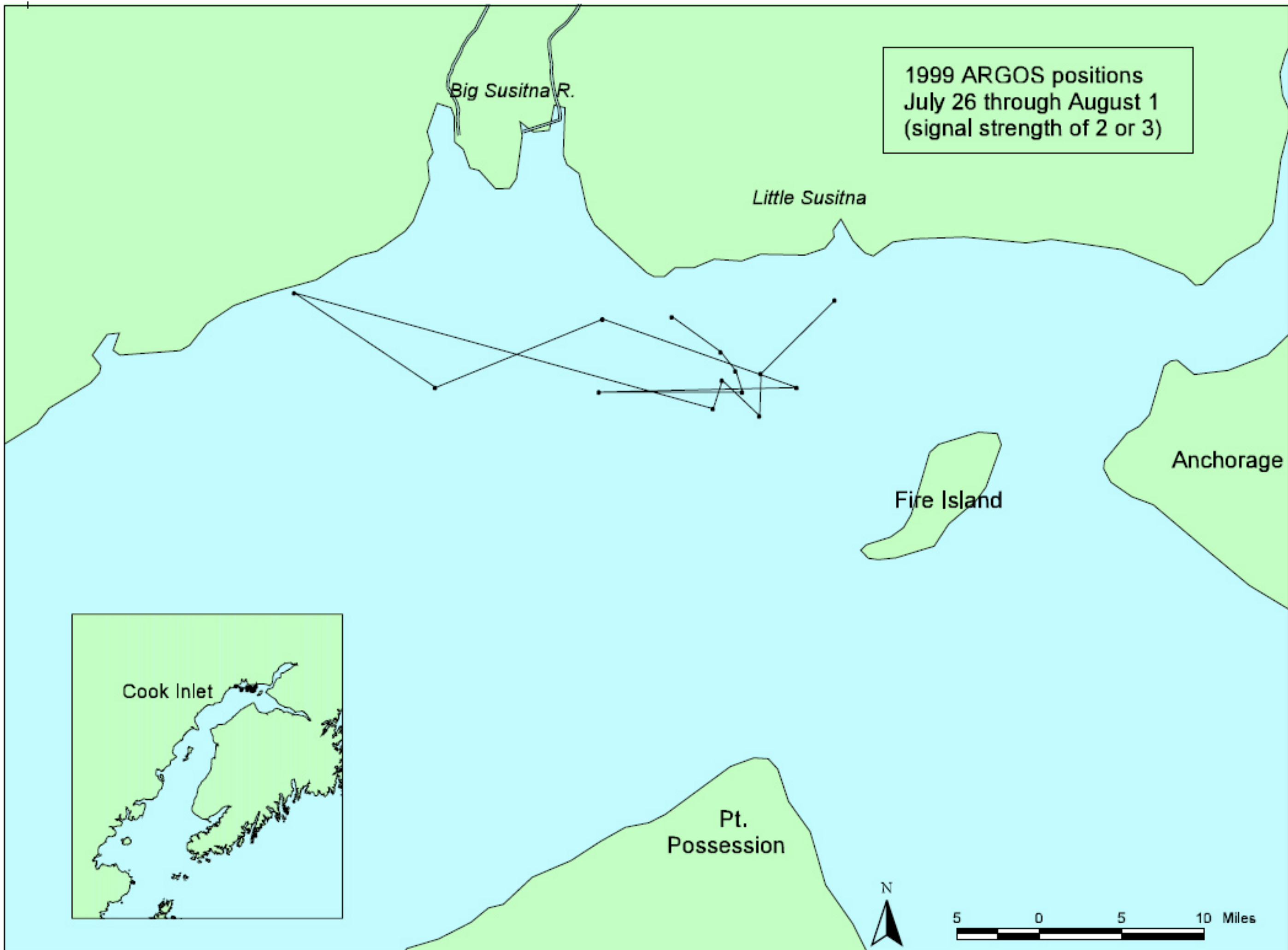
4 0 4 8 Miles

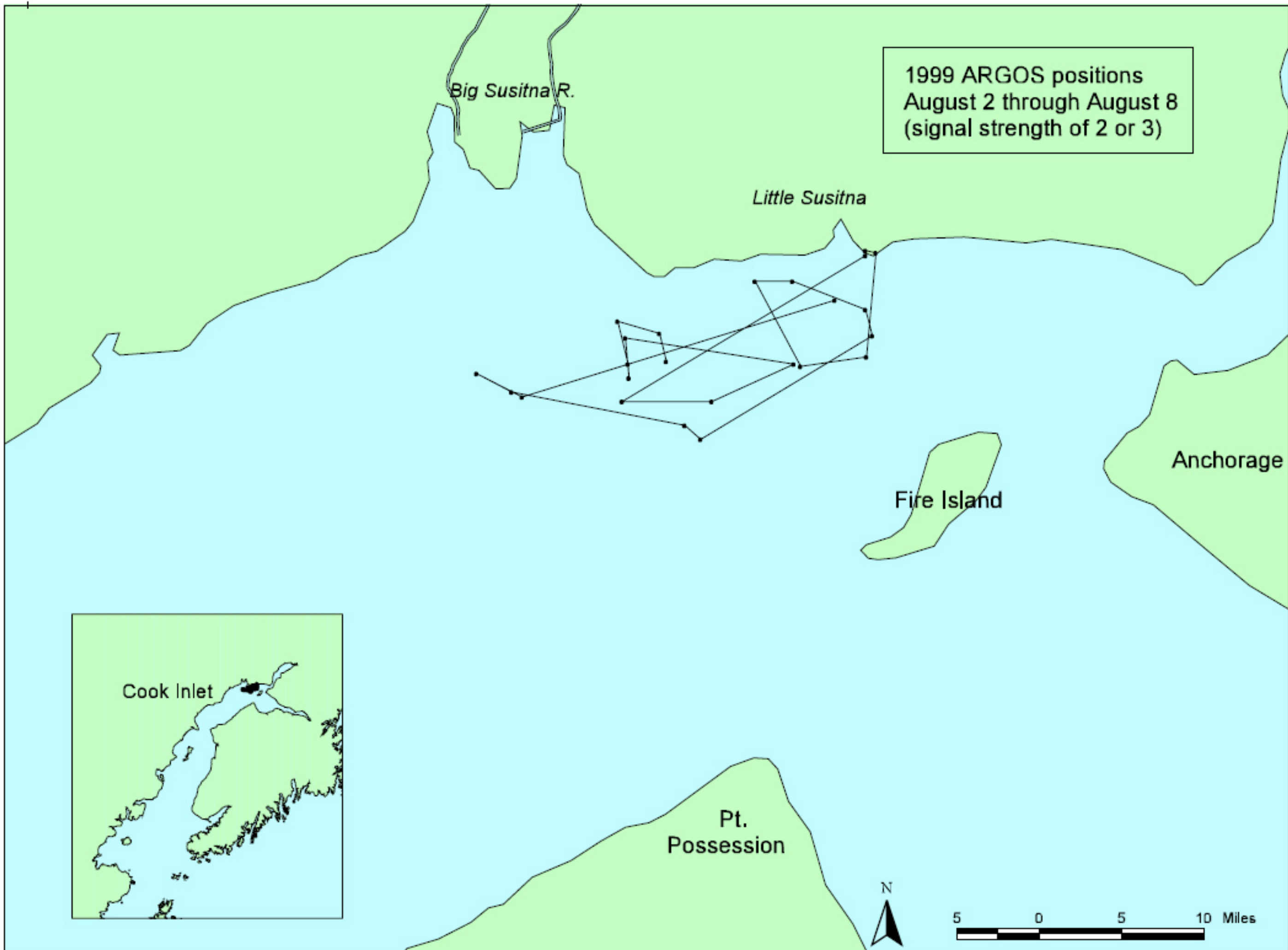
N

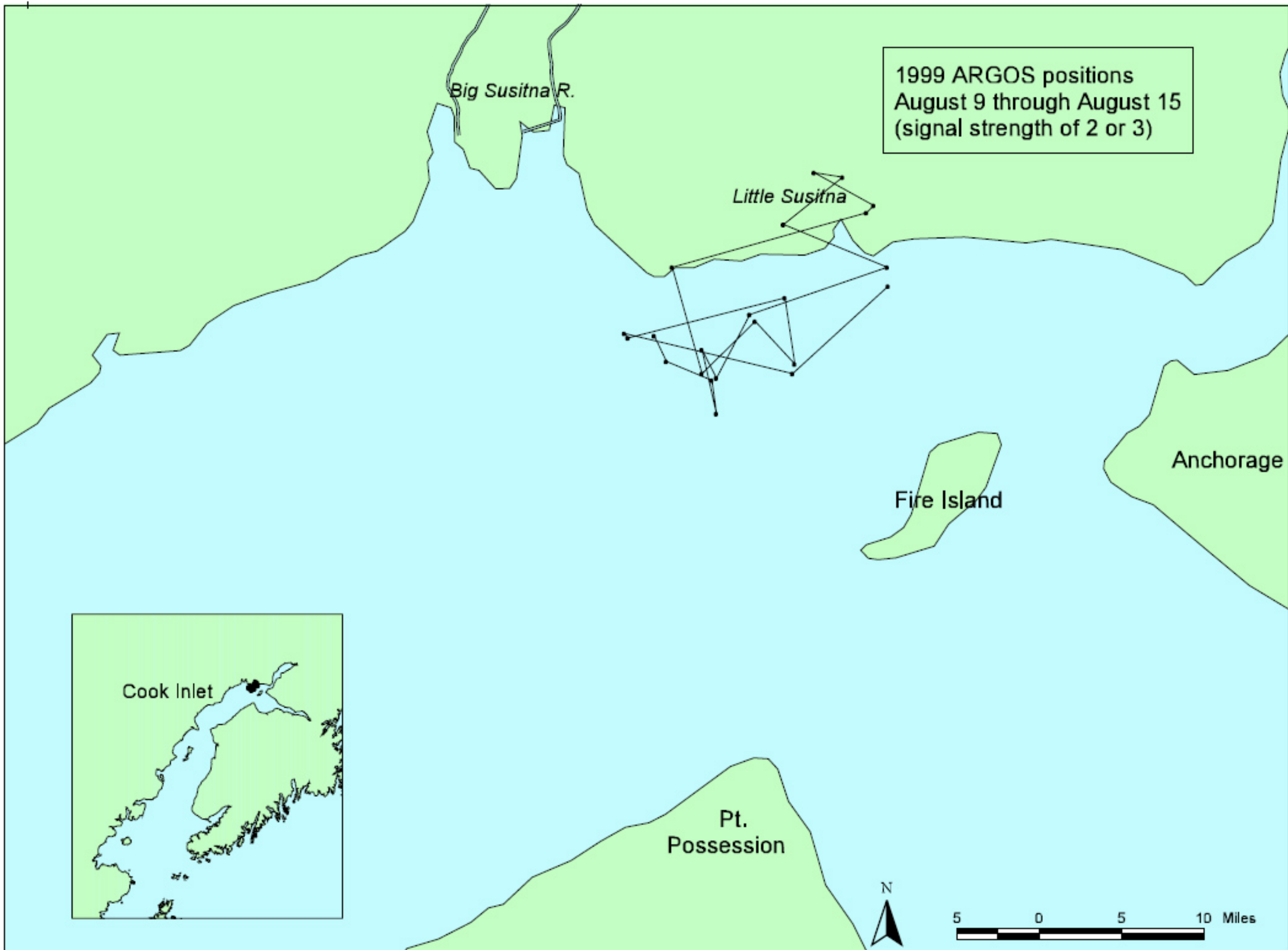




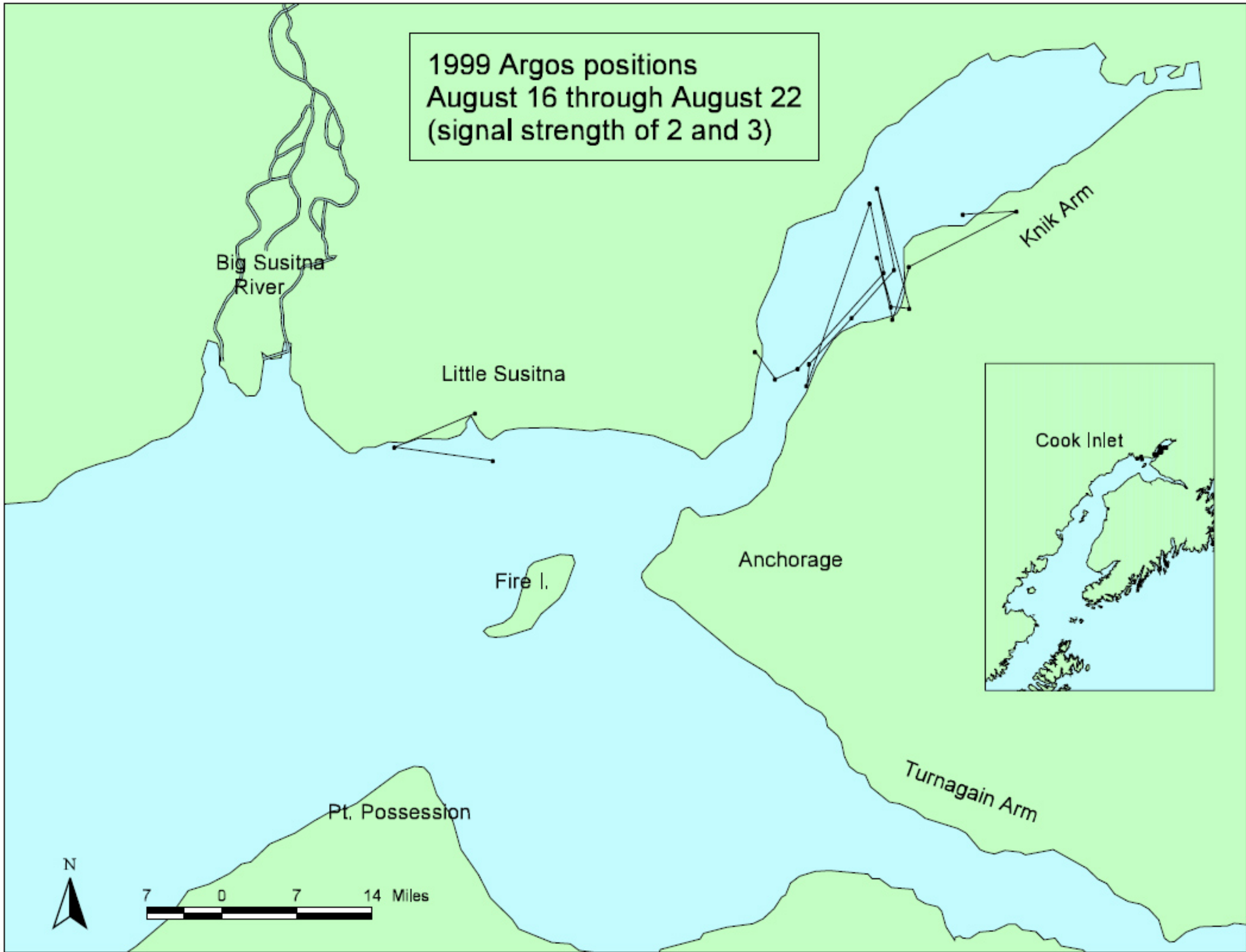




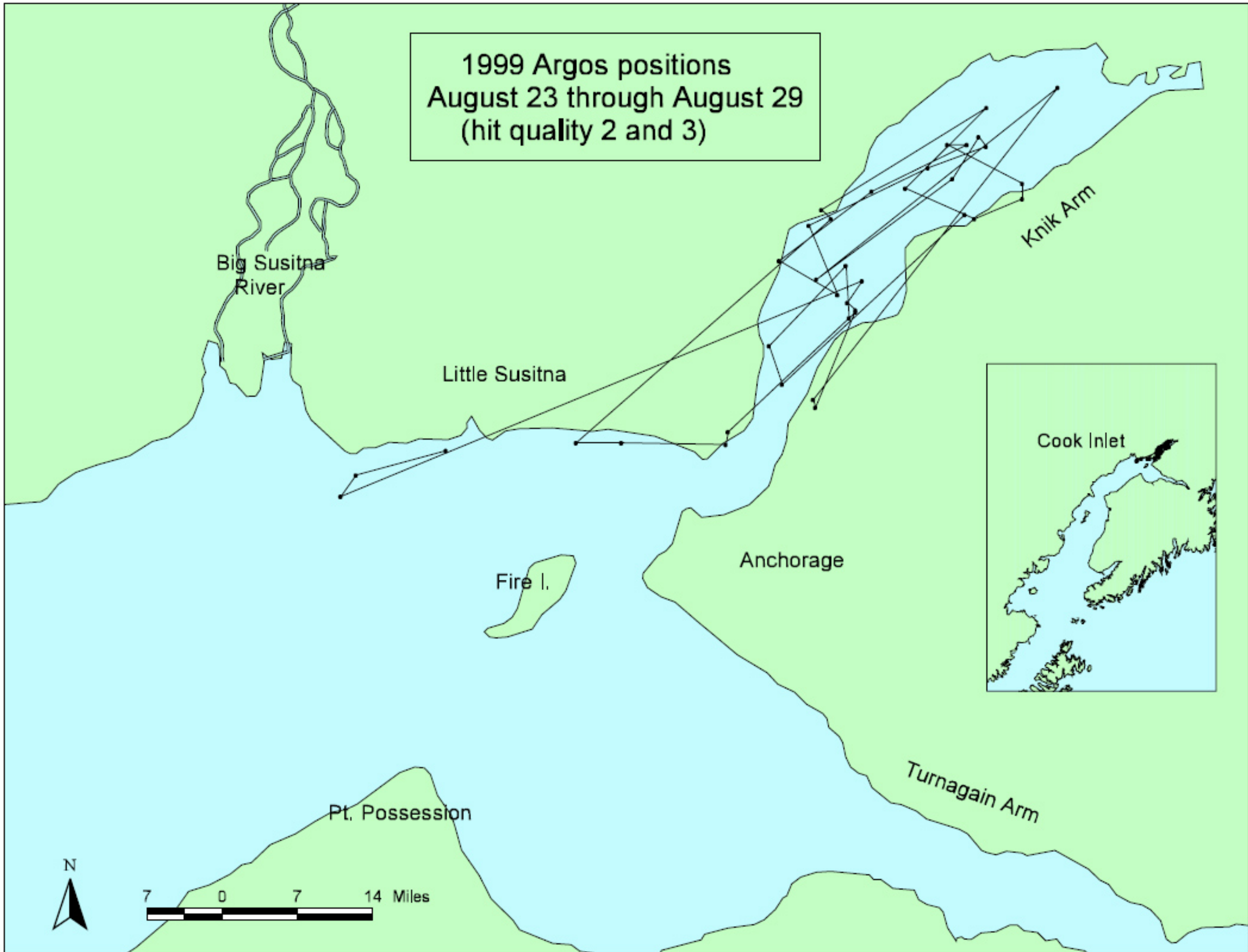




1999 Argos positions
August 16 through August 22
(signal strength of 2 and 3)



1999 Argos positions
August 23 through August 29
(hit quality 2 and 3)

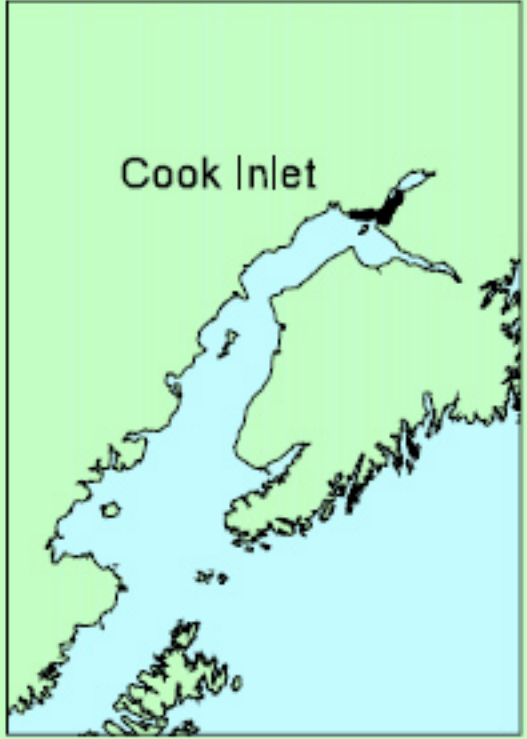


1999 Argos positions
August 30 through September 5
(hit quality 2 and 3)

Big Susitna
River

Knik Arm

Little Susitna

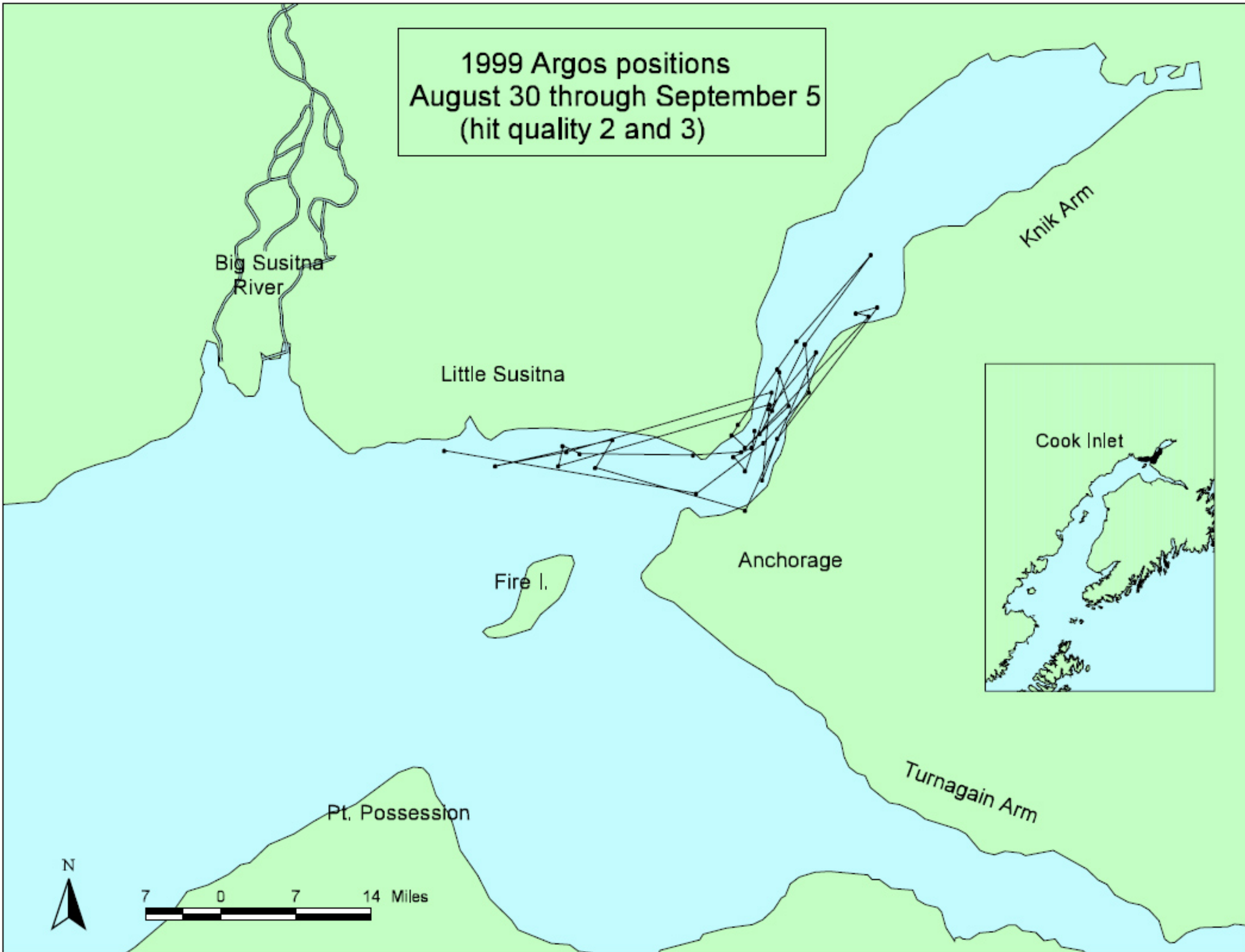


Anchorage

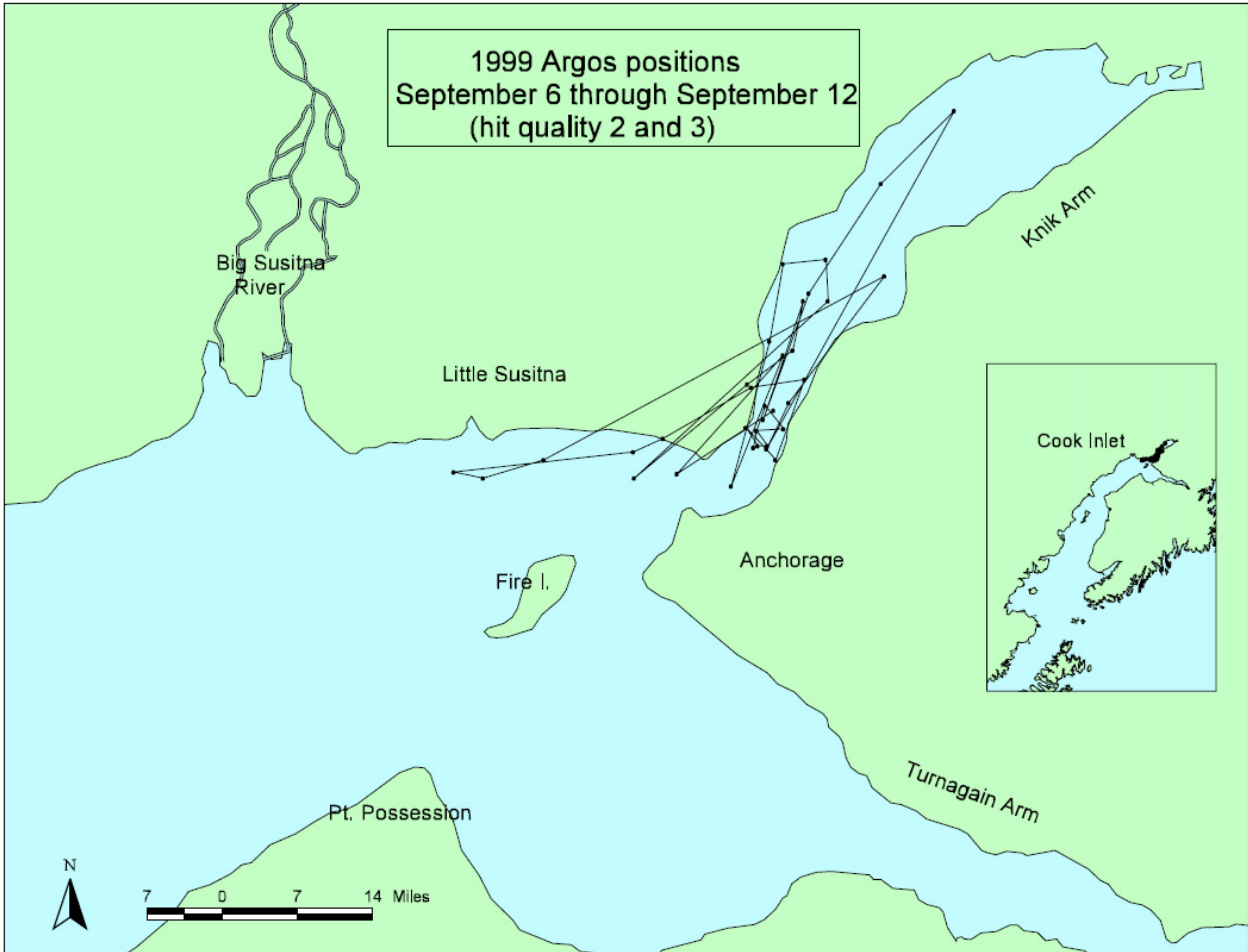
Fire I.

Turnagain Arm

Pt. Possession



1999 Argos positions
September 6 through September 12
(hit quality 2 and 3)



1999 Argos positions
September 13 through September 17
(hit quality 2 and 3)

Big Susitna
River

Knik Arm

Little Susitna

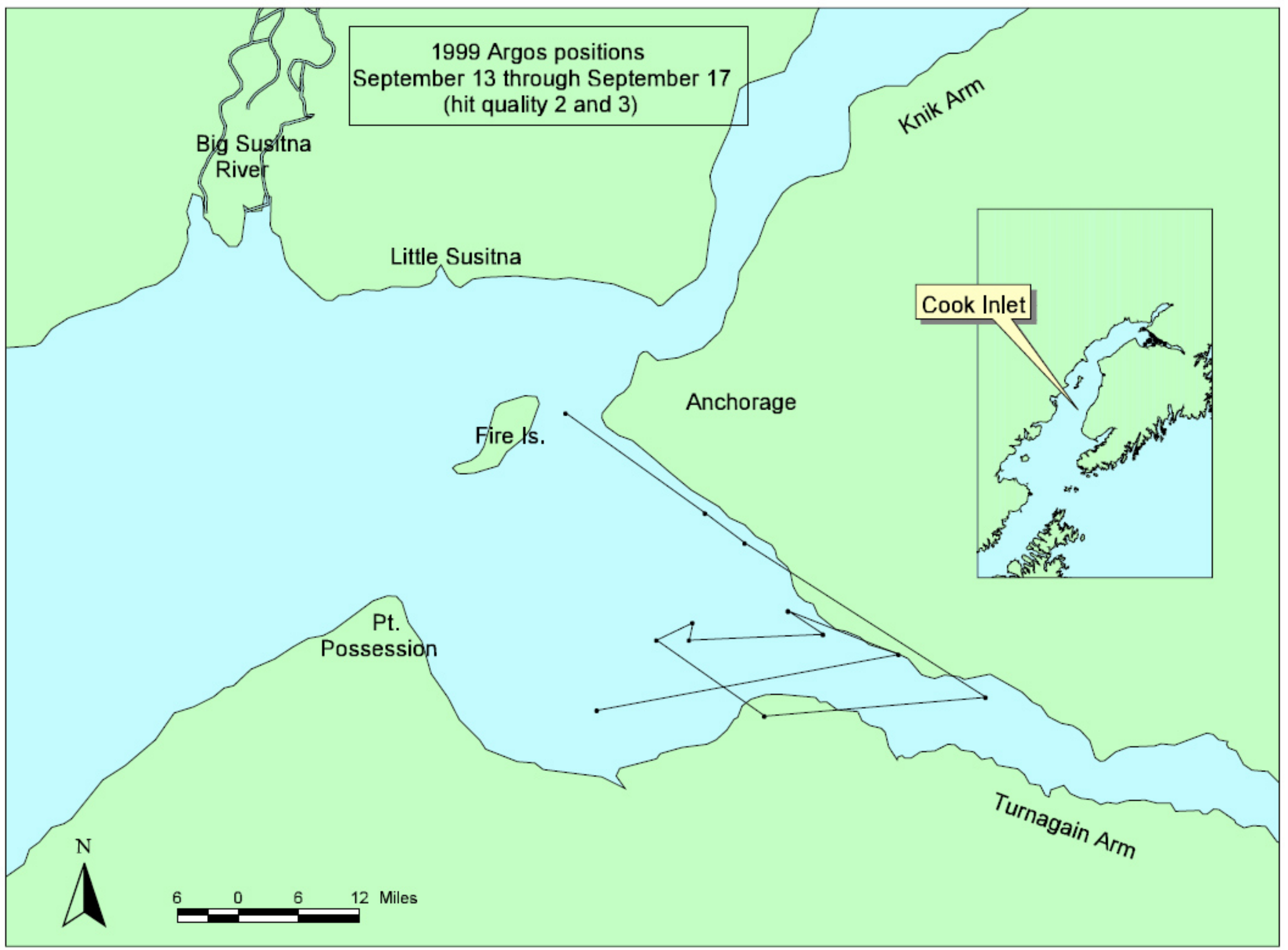
Cook Inlet

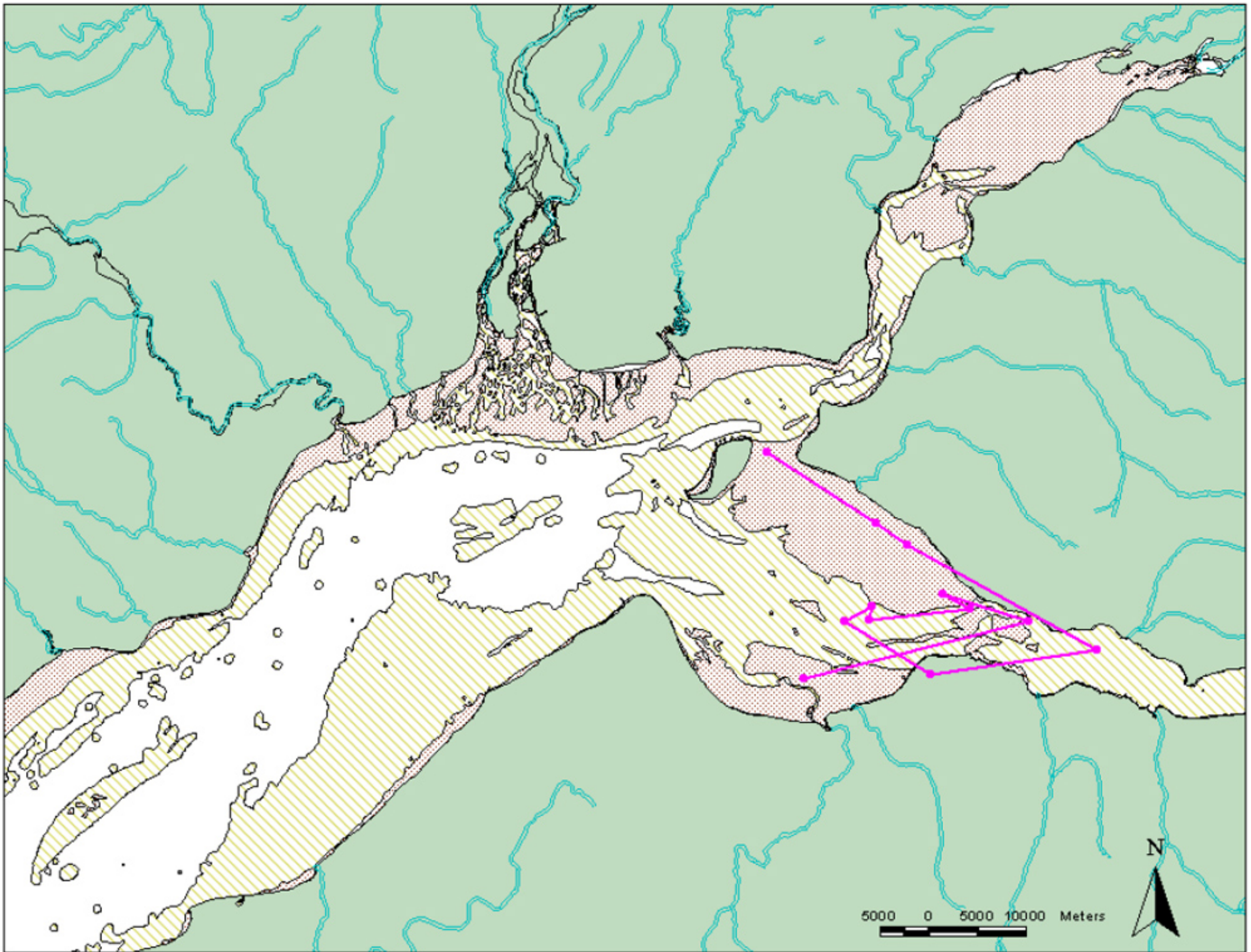
Anchorage

Fire Is.

Pt.
Possession

Turnagain Arm





Beluga whale movements - Upper Cook Inlet, Week 16 - September 1999
ARGOS hit quality 2 and 3

Sources: Coastline and rivers - CIK
Mudflats and Argos data - NMML
Alaska Albers Projection