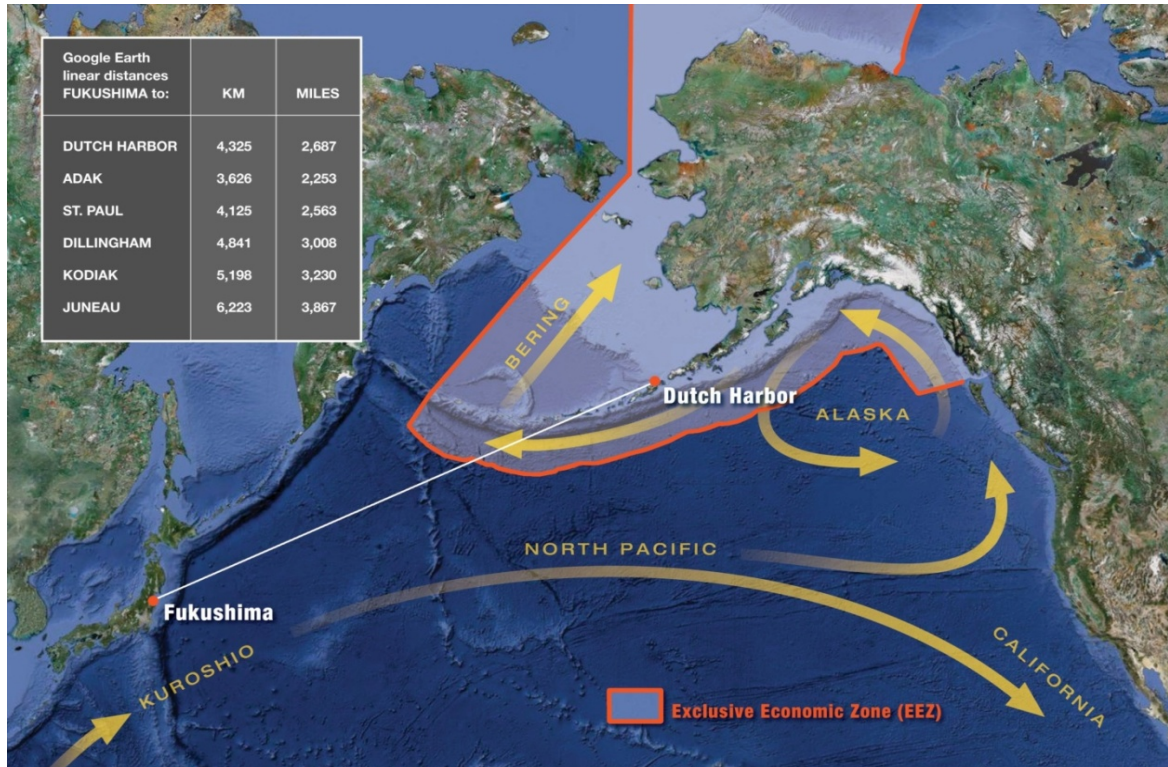


Talking Points Alaska Seafood Radiation Safety

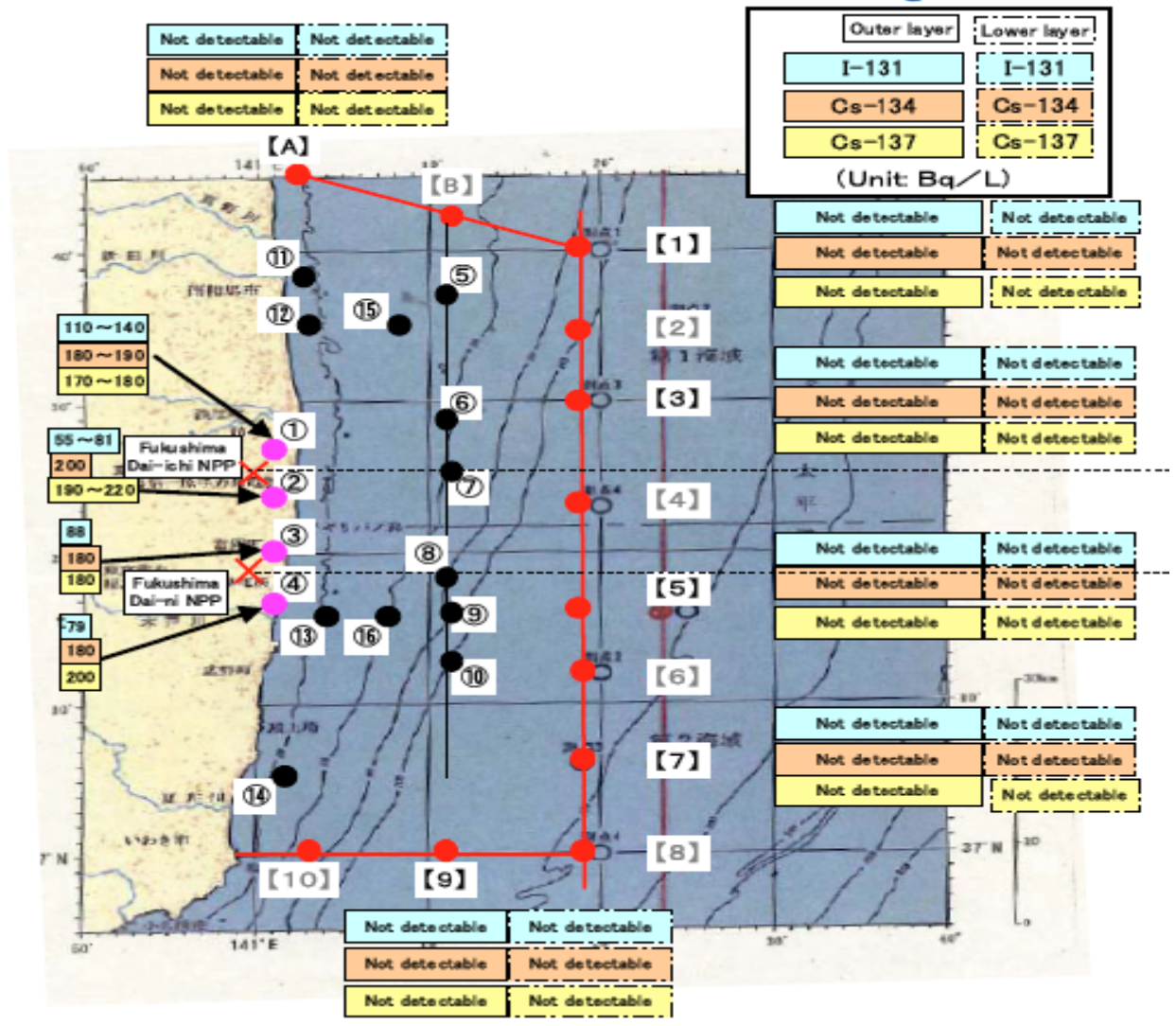
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- Every state, federal and international agency as well as every credible independent scientist is saying seafood from the Alaskan waters of the North Pacific Ocean is safe to eat.



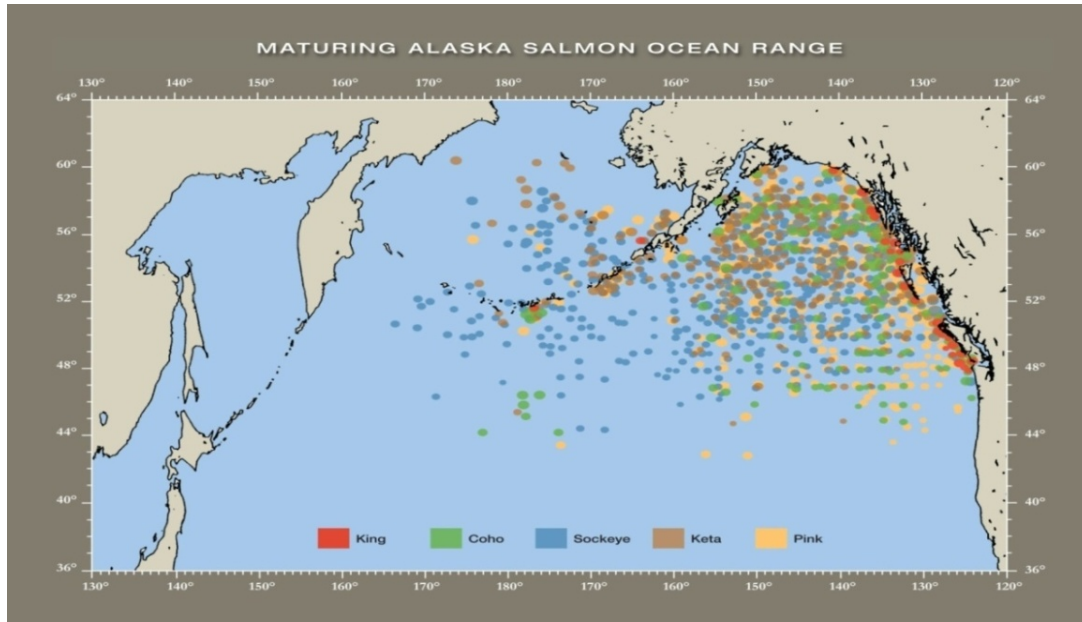
- No fish caught in Alaska waters migrate anywhere close to Japan. Any radiation from Japan would have to travel thousands of miles before it would encounter any fishes which could be harvested as Alaska seafood. This means any radiation would be very significantly diluted and dispersed throughout the North Pacific Ocean.
- Kuroshio Current becomes the North Pacific Current, and travels eastward across the North Pacific Ocean, passing **hundreds of miles south of Alaska** and the USA EEZ off Alaska, a rough estimate of the minimum distance that the current travels before entering USA EEZ near Southeast Alaska: **5,226 miles or 8,441 kilometers**
- There are two types of radioactive elements of concern – iodine-131 (I-131) and cesium-137 (Cs-137). I-131 has a short half-life, which means that it quickly becomes non-radioactive. Cs-137 has a longer half-life, but research shows it excretes rather than accumulates in fish.

- There is some amount of ambient radiation everywhere and at all times. Although amounts may be measurable with sensitive testing equipment, they can be both present and negligible.
- IAEA-supervised monitoring in the waters near Fukushima show very low levels of radioactive elements.



Alaska Pollock

- Alaska pollock appear to migrate along the Bering Sea shelf break, without much movement across the Bering Sea or out into the North Pacific
- long-distance migrations like those of salmon have not been observed



Alaska Salmon

- Gulf of Alaska salmon do not travel east of 170°E, thousands of kilometers from Japan. Salmon in the Bering Sea are observed further west, but the Bering Sea will receive water from the North Pacific Current long after that water has crossed the Pacific, and passed along the Gulf of Alaska coast of Alaska

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- EPA is working with its federal partners and has deployed additional monitors to Hawaii, Alaska, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.
- EPA's RadNet radiation air monitors across the U.S. show typical fluctuations in background radiation levels.
- The levels detected are far below levels of concern.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- concentration data from about 30 km off-shore show a generally **decreasing temporal trend**
- it can be expected that, if no additional releases occur, the levels measured at the stations 30 km off-shore will **continue to decrease significantly** by **dilution** into deeper layers and **dispersion** by ocean currents

United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- Seafood from the United States waters of the North Pacific is safe to eat.
- The great quantity of water in the Pacific Ocean rapidly and effectively dilutes radioactive material, so fish and other seafood are likely to be unaffected. However, FDA is taking all necessary steps to evaluate any potential contamination in fish and other seafood presented for import into the US from Japan.
- In the unlikely scenario that radiological contamination resulting from the recent events in Japan affect fish that have landed in the U.S., FDA will work with NOAA to ensure testing of seafood caught in such areas is performed, and that the inspection of facilities that process and sell seafood from these suspect areas occurs.

State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

- FDA and NOAA have demonstrated that Alaskans have no cause for worry
- Based on the work they're doing, no sampling or monitoring of fish in Alaska is necessary