How to measure distances in the state community database maps:

1) Go to the database website: http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/profiles/profile-maps.htm
2) If you have not viewed maps before, you will need to download the program that lets you view the maps. Click on the purple and yellow box on the right-hand side that says "LIZARDTECH ExpressView" to download the program. A file security warning will pop up that says "Do you want to run or save this file?" Click on "Run".
3) The install shield will open and you need to click "Next" to continue the download. A license agreement will pop up. Click "Yes" to agree to the conditions. The next window will tell you where the file is going to be downloaded. Click "Next" to download it to your C drive or click "Browse" to choose a different folder location. The program should install now. Click "Finish" when it is complete.
4) Now open the website again and scroll down to find your community. Look for the map marked "Area Map" and if there are different versions choose the most recent year.
5) To the right-hand side of the community map name you can click on the blue links, either "B&W" for a black and white map or "Color" for a color map.
6) When the map opens there will be a couple tools at the top of the screen. In the upper left-hand corner, you will see a magnifying glass with a plus side to zoom in closer and one with a minus side to zoom out. The next tool over is a hand to move around the map and the tool next to that is the measuring tool.
7) Zoom in to the location of interest where you would like to measure. Now click on the measuring tool. Click on the first spot you want to measure from and you will see a blue dot appear. Now click on the second spot that you want to measure to and you will see a red line appear.
8) Now right-click and choose "Coordinate Options…" The box on the bottom will say "Measurement". The "Display Units" box should say "image pixels". Click on the down arrow to get the drop down box to open and you will see the different units of measurement. Choose the units that you want to measure in (either "Miles" or "Meters" or "Kilometers" or "Feet"). Now make sure that the "Image Units" box matches the "Native Units". For example, if the "Native Units" says "Default meters" then make sure that you click on the down arrow next to "Image Units" to get the drop down box and choose "meters". Now click "OK".
9) There will be a bar at the bottom of the page that says "Measured Length" and it will tell you length of your line in the units that you chose.
10) To measure a new distance right-click and choose "Clear Measured Segments". Now you can choose the measure tool and start again.

Important note: This tool is not 100% accurate so it should only be used for estimating distances. If you want the exact distance you should measure using a GPS or print out a PDF map from the following link (http://dcra.commerce.alaska.gov/Profile%20Pdfs/) and use the scale to measure the distance.