



Advisory Announcement:
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2021 Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Salmon Season Summary

The following is an overview of the 2021 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands Areas (Figure 1; Area M) commercial salmon fishing season. Total preliminary harvest presented from the 2021 commercial salmon fishing season should closely approximate final harvest numbers for all species. The 2021 commercial salmon harvest in Area M totaled 15,605 Chinook, 7,476,606 sockeye, 357,180 coho, 16,612,270 pink, and 2,267,992 chum salmon (Table 1). Subsistence salmon harvest for 2021 will be reported in the 2022 annual management report (AMR). Data detailed in this report are considered preliminary. Preliminary exvessel value of salmon harvested in Area M totaled \$62,735,817 (Table 2). Exvessel value information was generated from fish tickets and does not include postseason adjustments paid to fishermen.

Table 1.—Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands commercial salmon harvest, 2021.

Location	Number of Salmon					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
North Peninsula	1,808	2,878,154	25,432	62,785	28,070	2,996,833
South Peninsula	13,797	4,598,452	331,748	16,549,485	2,239,922	23,733,404
Aleutian Islands	*	*	*	*	*	*
Atka-Amlia Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15,605	7,476,606	357,180	16,612,270	2,267,992	26,730,237

*Confidential harvest information.

Table 2.—Preliminary commercial exvessel values by fishery and species, 2021.

Location	Value					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
South Peninsula	\$24,171	\$20,992,262	\$424,082	\$15,363,256	\$3,204,788	\$40,008,559
Northwestern District	\$0	\$473,140	\$1,303	\$52,912	\$51,886	\$579,241
Northern District	\$53,181	\$21,985,898	\$121,388	\$9,502	\$14,048	\$22,148,017
Total	\$77,352	\$43,451,300	\$546,773	\$15,425,670	\$3,270,722	\$62,735,817
Aleutian Islands total	*	*	*	*	*	*
Atka-Amlia Islands total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$77,352	\$43,451,300	\$546,773	\$15,425,670	\$3,270,722	\$62,735,817

*Confidential harvest information.

Note: Due to rounding of cents, totals may differ by small amounts.

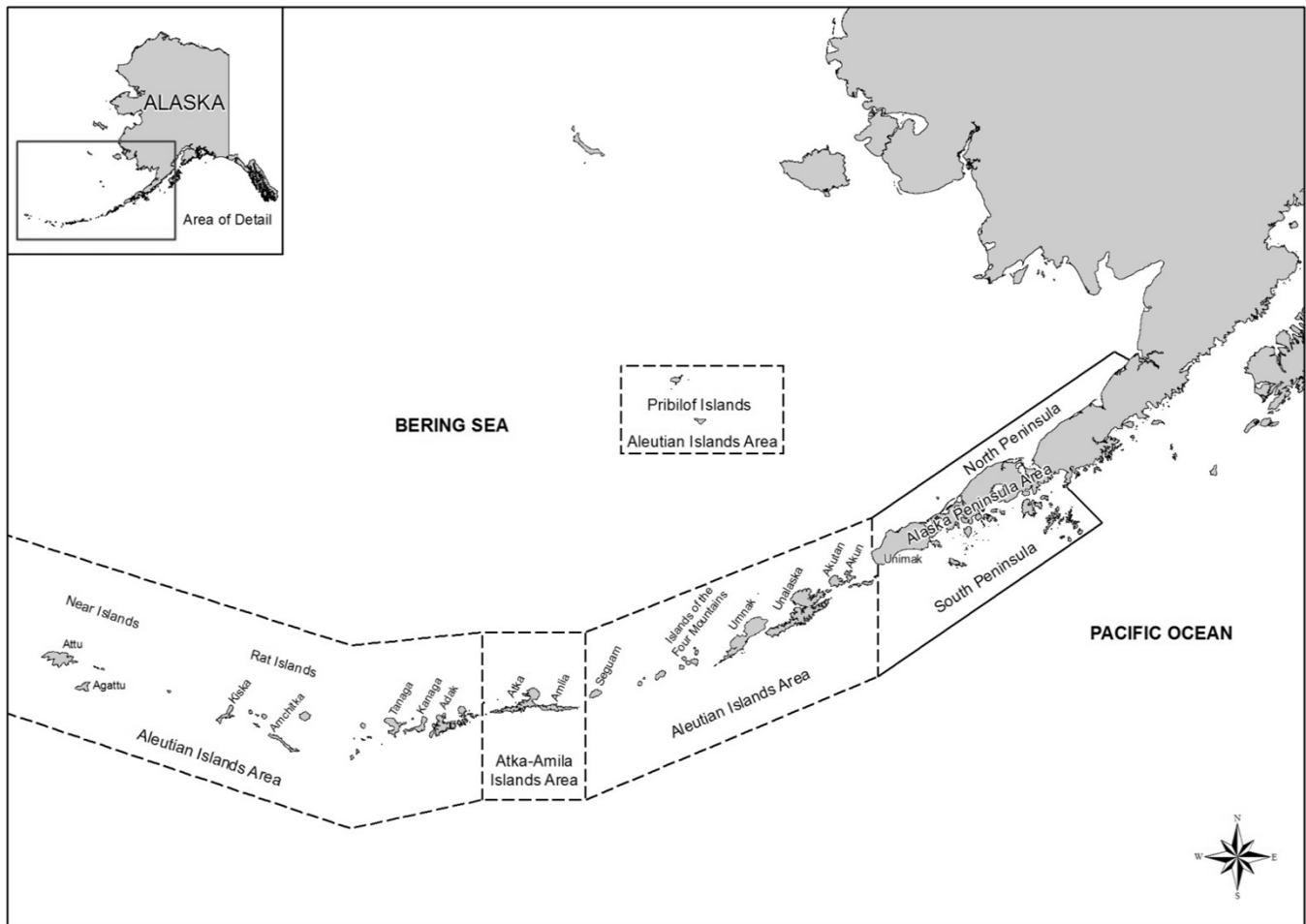


Figure 1.—Map of the Aleutian Islands, Atka-Amila Islands, and Alaska Peninsula Management Areas, also known as Area M.

SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA

South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fisheries

During the February 2019 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik meeting, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF, board) made changes to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) by amending subsection (d) that establishes the June fishing schedule. The first commercial fishing period in 2021 began on June 6 at 10:00 a.m. for set gillnet gear only and closed at 10:00 p.m. on June 8. Beginning at 6:00 a.m. on June 10, all gear types began an 88-hour fishing period which ended at 10:00 p.m. on June 13. This fishing period was followed by a closure of 32 hours for all gear types. The commercial salmon fishery then reopened for three more 88-hour fishing periods for all gear types, separated by closures of 32-hours. The final commercial fishing period in June ended at 10:00 p.m. on June 28.

In addition to the scheduled fishing periods during the month of June, the harvest of sockeye salmon in the “Dolgoi Island area” as described Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) was monitored through fish ticket information. By regulation, once the harvest of sockeye salmon reaches 191,000 fish, the

waters of the West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point and the waters of the Volcano Bay Section close to commercial salmon fishing for the remainder of the June fishery and through July 25 (Figure 2). Commercial fishermen operating in the South Central and Southwestern Districts during June are advised that short notice closure of the designated “Dolgoi Island area” will occur in the likely event the harvest of sockeye salmon approaches the 191,000 fish. The department will, to the extent practical, give a minimum of 6 hours’ notice of closure to all gear types. In 2019, the board closed the “Dolgoi Island area” to purse seine gear in June. The harvest limit was not reached in the June fishery in 2021. A total of 10,830 sockeye salmon were harvested in the “Dolgoi Island area” in June and a total of 55,271 sockeye salmon were harvested from July 1 through July 25.

The commercial salmon harvest for the June fishery consisted of 3,188 Chinook, 3,542,630 sockeye, 128 coho, 4,058,502 pink, and 1,170,393 chum salmon (Table 3). The sockeye and chum salmon harvest in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries were well above the most recent 10-year averages of 1,052,528 sockeye salmon and 393,550 chum salmon.

Table 3.–Total salmon harvests in numbers of fish for the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries, excluding home pack and the department test fishery, 2021.

	Number of salmon					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
South Unimak	1,513	2,373,632	58	2,534,737	699,093	5,609,033
Shumagin Islands	1,675	1,168,998	70	1,523,765	471,300	3,165,808
Total	3,188	3,542,630	128	4,058,502	1,170,393	8,774,841

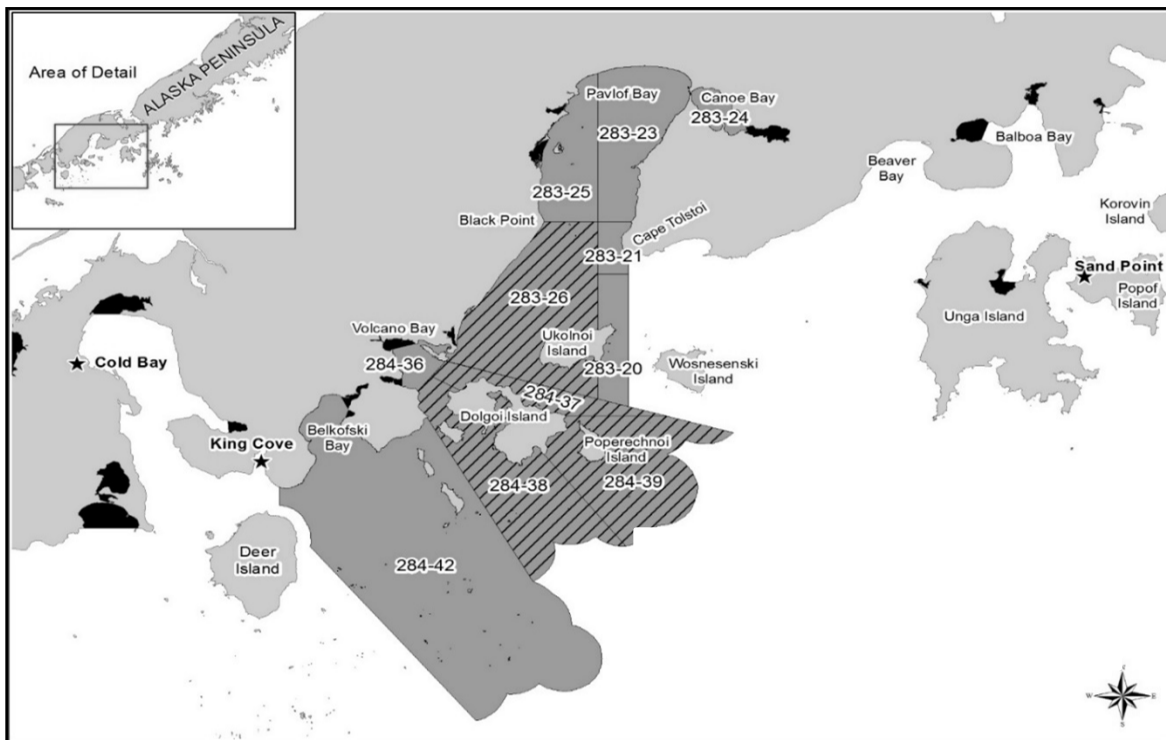


Figure 2. – Map depicting to the “Dolgoi Island area” for the June Management Plan and the areas that close after 191,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested. This area is closed to seine gear in June as per the 2019 BOF regulatory changes.

Southeastern District Mainland Fisheries

From June 1 to July 25, the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM; excluding the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS) beginning July 1) is managed based on the strength of the Chignik sockeye salmon run. During years in which it appears that sockeye salmon harvest will be greater than 600,000 fish in the Chignik Management Area (CMA), and the first run begins to develop as anticipated, followed by a commercial salmon opening in the CMA, commercial salmon fishing can be allowed in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Northwest Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay and Beaver Bay Sections of the SEDM.

Beginning July 1, the NWSS of SEDM is managed on the strength of the Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon run. In 2021, the overall escapement of sockeye salmon into Orzinski Lake was strong, with 21,839 fish escaping past the weir exceeding the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 15,000–20,000 sockeye salmon. This allowed for intermittent commercial fishing inside Orzinski Bay to harvest surplus sockeye salmon. The first commercial opening in Orzinski Bay occurred on July 22, this opening was extended through the end of the allocation period at midnight on July 25. All fish harvested in the NWSS during the allocation period were harvested within Orzinski Bay (Table 4).

From July 26 through August 31, the SEDM is managed based on the abundance of local salmon stocks. Commercial salmon fishing in SEDM in 2021 began on August 13 with a 132-hour fishing period for set gillnet and seine gear from 8:00 a.m. Friday, August 13 until 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 18 in the Beaver Bay, Balboa Bay, Southwest Stepovak, Northwest Stepovak and East Stepovak Sections of the Southeastern District. By regulation, there shall be at least one closed 36-hour period within a seven-day period in the SEDM (5 AAC 09.360 (l)(2)). Commercial salmon fishing closed for 36 hours at 9:00 p.m. August 18. Adequate escapement of pink and chum salmon in the SEDM allowed for maximum fishing opportunity in the SEDM through September 1.

In September, the SEDM is managed based on coho salmon harvest strength, although pink and chum salmon escapement is also taken into consideration. There were three openings in September. Total salmon harvest in the SEDM was 90 Chinook, 63,980 sockeye, 30,776 coho, 1,1013,535 pink, and 19,029 chum salmon (Table 4).

Table 4.–Preliminary Southeastern District Mainland salmon harvest, excluding home pack and the department test fishery, 2021.

Location	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
June 1–June 30	0	0	0	0	0
July 1–July 25 SEDM ^a	0	0	0	0	0
Total SEDM harvest in allocation	0	0	0	0	0
July 1–July 25 NWSS ^b	15	8,544	2	462	621
July 26–September 30	75	55,436	30,774	1,013,073	18,408
Total	90	63,980	30,776	1,013,535	19,029

^a Southeastern District Mainland (excluding Northwest Stepovak Section).

^b All fishing in the NWSS during the allocation period occurred inside Orzinski Bay.

South Peninsula Post-June Fishery

Prior to the South Peninsula post-June fishery, the department conducts a test fishery to determine immature salmon abundance in the Shumagin Islands. Test fisheries occurred on July 3 and 5 and resulted in an average of 154 and 91.7 immature salmon per set, respectively. The average number of immature salmon per set was below the regulatory threshold of 100 immature salmon gilled per set on July 5 and the Shumagin Island Section opened to all gear types for the July 6 commercial salmon fishing period.

From July 6 through July 31, there was one 33-hour fishing period, followed by a 63-hour closure, followed by six 36-hour fishing periods, separated by 60-hour closures.

During August, the post-June fishery is managed based on the abundance of local pink and chum salmon stocks. In September and October, management focuses on coho salmon returns, though the status of late pink and chum salmon returns may also be taken into consideration. The number of pink salmon and chum salmon returning to local streams was above minimum escapement objectives throughout a majority of August, resulting in extensive commercial fishing opportunity. Coho salmon harvest in September allowed for commercial fishery openings until participation in the fishery ceased. The total commercial harvest for the South Peninsula post-June fishery (including the SEDM from July 26–October 31) was 10,594 Chinook, 1,048,288 sockeye, 331,660 coho, 12,510,804 pink, and 1,070,700 chum salmon (Table 5).

In 2021, 248 permit holders participated in commercial salmon fisheries along the South Peninsula, which is comparable to the most recent 10-year average of 247 permit holders.

Table 5.—Post-June South Peninsula commercial salmon harvest, excluding home pack and the department test fishery, 2021.

Location	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
South Peninsula Post-June harvest	10,519	992,852	300,886	11,497,731	1,052,292
Post-June SEDM harvest (July 26– October 31)	75	55,436	30,774	1,013,073	18,408
Total Post-June harvest	10,594	1,048,288	331,660	12,510,804	1,070,700

South Peninsula Escapement

The South Peninsula sockeye salmon escapement of 59,699 fish (Table 6) was within the management objective range of 48,200–86,400 fish. Escapement into Mortensens Lagoon (1,500 sockeye salmon) was well below its SEG range of 3,200–6,400 fish. Escapement into Thin Point Lagoon (19,100 sockeye salmon) was within the SEG range of 14,000–28,000 fish. Pink salmon total indexed escapement of 4,388,100 fish (Table 6) was above the SEG range of 1,750,000–4,000,000 fish. Chum salmon total escapement of 575,861 fish (Table 6) was within the cumulative district escapement goal range of 330,400–660,800 fish. Escapement into chum salmon index streams was above the goal of 218,300–410,600 with a peak index escapement of 483,200 chum salmon. There were no coho salmon surveys flown on the South Peninsula streams (Table 6). A lack of escapement information for coho salmon is due to the departure of management staff from the South Peninsula region prior to peak coho salmon runs and poor weather conditions preventing aerial surveys from being conducted during peak coho salmon runs.

Table 6.–South Peninsula salmon escapement by species and year, 2011–2021.

Year	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2011	0	59,794	3,100	2,494,950	497,725
2012	0	55,900	7,910	478,910	205,242
2013	0	31,386	no surveys	2,320,790	502,600
2014	0	38,120	9,050	1,340,380	313,545
2015	0	88,010	2,320	7,820,800	906,420
2016	0	120,170	no surveys	1,038,160	626,776
2017	0	106,542	5,100	5,663,637	1,773,626
2018	0	12,017	no surveys	732,422	344,830
2019	0	31,667	no surveys	4,236,700	672,475
2020	0	34,169	no surveys	3,209,750	415,750
2021	0	59,699	no surveys	4,388,100	575,861
2011–2020 average	0	57,778	5,496	2,933,650	625,899

Aleutian Islands Fishery and Escapement

The Aleutian Islands Area may open to commercial salmon fishing by emergency order if adequate escapement is observed and there is interest from the fishing industry. An aerial survey was flown that indicated sufficient escapement to warrant a commercial salmon fishing opening of 60 hours beginning 8:00 a.m. Sunday, August 22 until 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 24. Fewer than 3 processors participated, and harvest information is confidential.

NORTH ALASKA PENINSULA

Commercial Harvest

In 2021, 168 Area M permit holders participated in commercial salmon fisheries along the North Alaska Peninsula (Figure 3). The North Alaska Peninsula has an overlap area which allows Area T (Bristol Bay) permit holders to fish in areas that they historically did prior to statehood during certain times of the year. There was no effort by Area T permit holders. The number of Area M permit holders participating in 2021 was similar to the most recent 10-year average of 164 but was below historical numbers observed during the 1990s which peaked at 364 permits in 1992.

The North Alaska Peninsula fishery is predominantly a sockeye salmon fishery; although, depending on market conditions, directed Chinook, coho, and chum salmon fisheries occur in some locations. During even-numbered years, depending on market conditions, pink salmon runs are at times targeted in the Northwestern District.

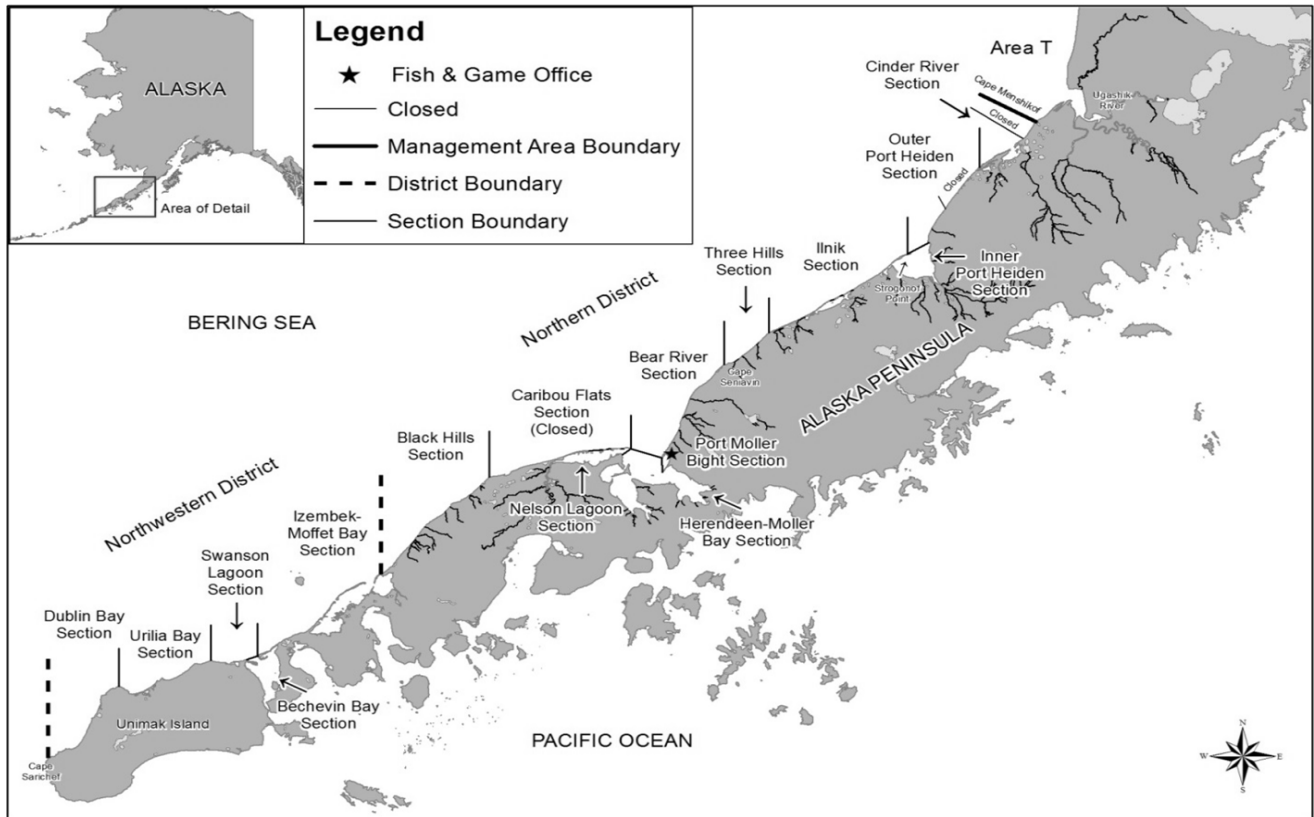


Figure 3. – Alaska Peninsula with North Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon fishing districts depicted.

In 2021, the harvest of 2,878,154 million sockeye salmon on the North Alaska Peninsula was above both the projected harvest and the 10-year average of 2.0 million and 2.1 million fish, respectively (Table 7). The harvest of 25,432 coho salmon was below both the projected harvest and the 10-year average of 60,000 and 52,000, respectively. The harvests of Chinook and chum salmon were all below both the projected harvests and the 10-year averages (Table 7). The harvest of 62,785 pink salmon was above the projected 50,000 fish harvest, but below the 10-year average of 80,000 fish.

Table 7.–The total 2021 North Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon harvest, excluding home pack and department test fishery, and 2021 projected harvest and 2011–2020 average harvest.

	Number of salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2021 season total	1,808	2,878,154	25,432	62,785	28,070
Projected harvest	3,000	2,000,000	60,000	50,000	100,000
2011-2020 average	1,935	2,101,250	52,113	80,349	164,402

Northwestern District

In the Northwestern District during the 2021 commercial salmon fishery, a total of 3 Chinook, 72,933 sockeye, 1,007 coho, 52,204 pink, and 20,819 chum salmon were harvested (Table 8). A total of 10 permit holders participated in the fishery, consisting of 2 purse seiners, 7 drift gillnetters, and 1 set gillnetter.

Table 8.–Northwestern District commercial salmon harvest, excluding home pack by section, all gear combined, 2021.

Location	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Dublin Bay Section	0	0	0	0	0
Urilia Bay Section	2	57,981	316	24,468	7,412
Swanson Lagoon Section	0	0	0	0	0
Bechevin Bay Section	0	1,010	42	20,283	1,792
Izembek-Moffet Bay Section	1	13,942	649	7,453	11,615
2021 Northwestern District total	3	72,933	1,007	52,204	20,819
2011–2020 NW District average	14	41,490	1,774	32,970	120,982

In the Northwestern District, the chum salmon escapement of 47,550 fish (Table 9) was well below the chum salmon SEG of 100,000–215,000 fish. This escapement estimate represents a minimum; the actual escapement was likely greater due to poor survey conditions in one of the major chum salmon producing streams (the Joshua Green River) in the Northwestern District. The sockeye salmon escapement for 2021 in the Northwestern District was within the escapement objective range of 52,600–106,000 fish with a total escapement of 90,800 fish (Table 9).

Table 9.–Northwestern District salmon escapement by species and section, 2021.

Location	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Urilia Bay Section	0	300	*	0	0
Swanson Lagoon Section	0	68,100	*	0	0
Bechevin Bay Section	0	300	*	55,800	30,450
Izembek-Moffet Bay Section	0	22,100	*	13,500	17,100
Northwestern District total	0	90,800	*	69,300	47,550

* No coho salmon survey information due to departure of department staff prior to coho salmon arrival in streams.

Black Hills Section

Harvest effort in the Black Hills Section usually occurs when other sections are not open. Due to fishing opportunity during 2021 in the Bear, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections of the Northern District, effort by the drift gillnet fleet in the Black Hills Section (Figure 3) was limited and occurred primarily during the first two weeks of August. A total of 1,440 sockeye salmon (Table 10) and 535 chum salmon were harvested in the Black Hills Section in 2021. Weekly fishing periods occurred throughout the season in the Black Hills Section. North Creek is the only system in the Black Hills Section with a sockeye salmon escapement goal. The 2021 North Creek salmon escapement of 9,100 sockeye salmon met the escapement goal of 7,500–10,000 fish.

Table 10.—North Alaska Peninsula sockeye salmon commercial harvest, excluding home pack and department test fishery, by statistical area or combination of statistical areas, 2021.

Area ^a	Sockeye salmon harvest	Percent of total
Northwestern District		
311-20 Dublin Bay, 311-32 Uria Bay, 311-52 Swanson Lagoon	57,981	2.01
311-60 Bechevin Bay	1,010	0.04
312-20 Izembek Lagoon, and 312-40 Moffet Bay	1,906	0.07
311-58, 312-10 Outside Izembek-Moffet	12,036	0.42
Northwestern District total	72,933	2.53
Northern District		
313-10 Black Hills Section	1,440	0.05
313-30 Nelson Lagoon Section	94,921	3.30
314-20, 314-30 Herendeen-Moller bays ^a	80	0.00
314-12, 315-11 Bear River and Port Moller Bight	187,577	6.52
315-20 NE Bear River	70,787	2.46
Bear River total (314-12,315-11,315-20)	258,364	8.98
316-10 Three Hills Section	276,886	9.62
316-20 Ilnik SW of Unangashak Bluffs	804,637	27.96
316-25 Ilnik NE of Unangashak Bluffs	930,907	32.34
Ilnik Section total (316-20,316-22,316-25)	2,012,430	69.92
317-20 Inner Port Heiden Section	0	0.00
317-10 Outer Port Heiden Section	437,986	15.22
318-20 Cinder River Section ^b	0	0.00
Northern District total	2,805,221	97.47
North Peninsula total	2,878,154	100.00

^a Some statistical areas are combined because the low number of participants makes the information confidential.

^b No commercial salmon fishing effort in this area.

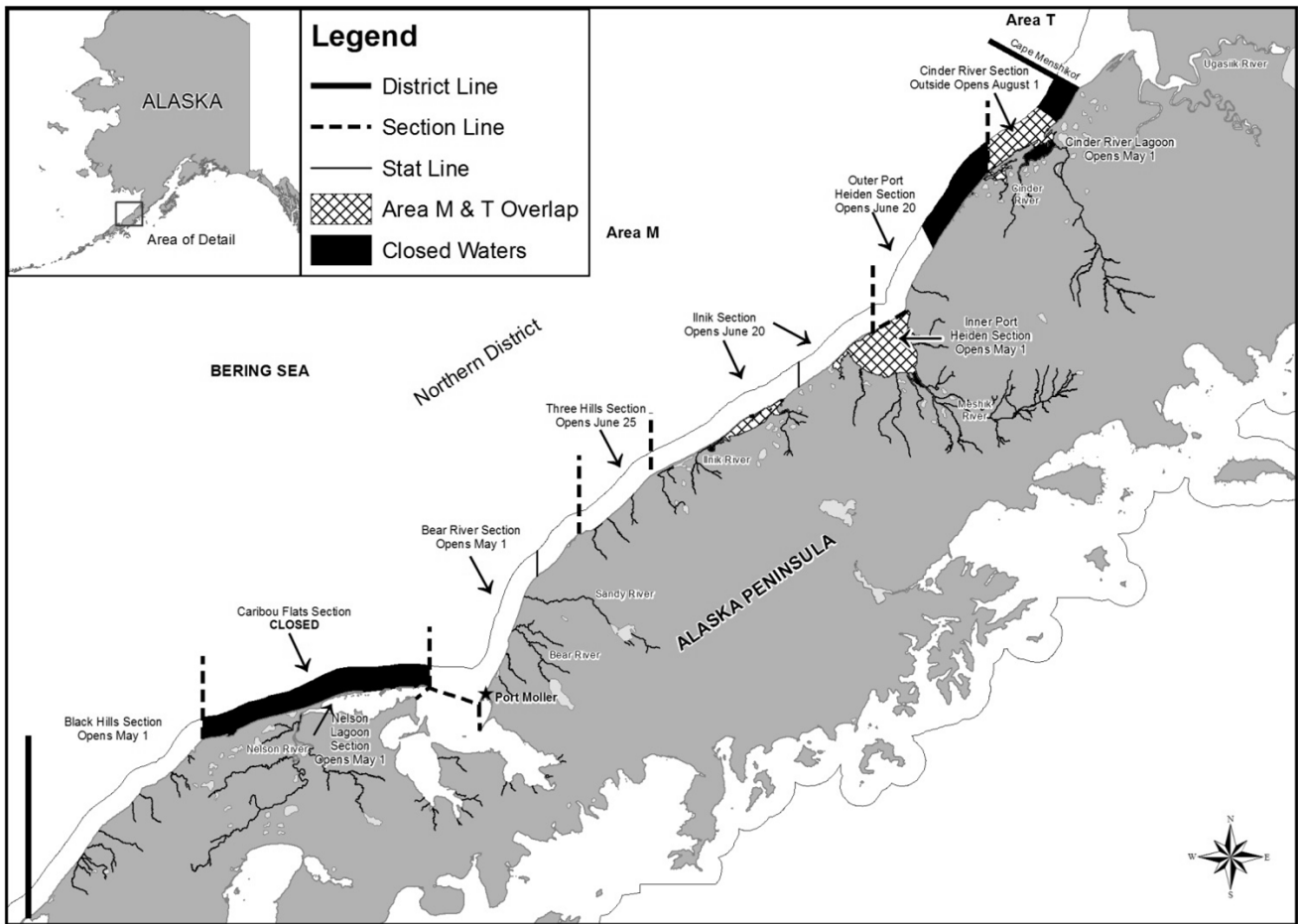


Figure 5.–Northern District commercial salmon fishing sections with earliest opening dates depicted.

Nelson Lagoon Section

The Nelson Lagoon Section was opened for all weekly fishing periods and extensions of these fishing periods were common during the 2021 season. The Nelson (Sapsuk) River (Figure 5) total run of 200,084 sockeye salmon (includes harvest and escapement) was well below the estimated forecast of 333,000 sockeye salmon. From the total run, 94,921 sockeye salmon were harvested in Nelson Lagoon (Table 10) and 110,163 fish escaped (Table 11) into the Nelson River. The harvest in Nelson Lagoon was well below the historical 10-year average of roughly 192,000 sockeye salmon. The 2021 sockeye salmon escapement into Nelson River met the biological escapement goal (BEG) of 97,000–219,000 fish (Table 11).

Beginning August 15, the Nelson Lagoon Section is managed based on local coho salmon runs. In 2021, a total of 26,000 coho salmon were observed in Nelson River, exceeding the Nelson River SEG threshold of 18,000 fish. Throughout the 2021 season a total of 4,994 coho salmon were harvested, which is below the recent 10-year average of 25,800 coho salmon.

Table 11.—Northern District sockeye salmon escapements and goals, 2021.

	Escapement ^a	Goal
Nelson (Sapsuk) River	110,163	97,000–219,000
Sandy River	52,657	34,000–74,000
Ilnik River	70,211	40,000–60,000
<i>Bear Lake early run</i>	387,240	176,000–293,000
<i>Bear Lake late run</i>	193,372	117,000–195,000
Bear Lake total	580,612	293,000–488,000
Subtotal for systems with weirs	813,643	464,000–841,000
Subtotal for systems without weirs	254,703	88,400–188,800
Northern District total	1,068,346	552,400–1,029,800

^a Includes an estimate of sockeye salmon after removal of the weirs.

Bear River and Three Hills Sections

As specified by the Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan (5 AAC 09.369), the Bear River Section (Figure 5) opens to commercial salmon fishing on May 1 while the Three Hills Section opens June 25. Both areas are managed based on the sockeye salmon run strength into Bear and Sandy Rivers. The early sockeye salmon run at Bear River was on time and weekly interim escapements objectives were within expected ranges during June before trending above the weekly interim escapement goals from mid-July onwards. The Bear River Section was closed on June 21, and then opened on July 7 for a weekly fishing period. Extensions to weekly fishing periods occurred for the rest of the month of July, before the section closed on July 31 in preparation for the late run of sockeye salmon.

The late run of sockeye salmon at Bear River, which starts on August 1, was later than average. Commercial harvest opportunity for late-run sockeye salmon opened on August 13, which was a few days later than in past years. No extensive closures during the season were necessary, as interim escapements were met throughout the month of August.

A total of 258,364 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Bear River Section during 2021, and 276,886 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Three Hills Section (Table 10).

The Bear River early-run (through July 31) sockeye salmon escapement of 387,240 fish exceeded the escapement goal of 176,000–293,000 fish (Table 11). The Bear River late-run (after July 31) sockeye salmon escapement of 193,372 fish was within the late-run sockeye salmon escapement goal of 117,000–195,000 fish. The Bear River season total sockeye salmon escapement was 580,612 fish (Table 11), which surpassed the combined early- and late-run sockeye salmon escapement goal of 293,000–488,000 fish.

The 2021 Sandy River sockeye salmon escapement of 52,657 fish (Table 11) met the escapement goal range of 34,000–74,000 fish. Frequent high-water events at Sandy River weir during the 2021 season led to daily weir counts being estimated when the weir was not operational. A late season aerial survey of spawning areas in Sandy Lake and Sandy River was conducted to verify estimated weir counts and approximately 49,000 sockeye salmon were observed.

Ilnik Section

In 2021 the Ilnik River system sockeye salmon escapement through the weir was 70,211 fish (Table 11), above the Ilnik River escapement goal of 40,000–60,000 fish. By regulation, the Ilnik Section can open to commercial salmon fishing on June 20. Sockeye salmon escapement into Ilnik River was above interim escapement objectives during both June and July. A total of 2,012,430 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Ilnik Section, above the recent ten-year average of 965,602 fish (Table 10).

Beginning August 15, the Ilnik Section is managed for coho salmon runs into Ilnik Lagoon, however most fishing effort at this time continues to target sockeye salmon. During 2021 a total of 12,507 coho salmon were harvested in the Ilnik Section.

Inner and Outer Port Heiden Sections

Aerial escapement surveys of the Meshik River began on June 18. Subsequent surveys occurred throughout the season and the final sockeye salmon escapement into the Meshik River system was 117,500 fish, above the escapement goal of 48,000–86,000 sockeye salmon. This includes escapement into the Meshik River and tributaries, as well as Red Bluff and Yellow Bluff creeks.

Fishing time in the Outer Port Heiden Section (Figure 5) is based on Meshik River sockeye salmon abundance unless management actions are taken for the conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon in the Egegik District. By regulation, the Outer Port Heiden Section may open to commercial salmon fishing from June 20 to July 31. The weekly fishing periods in the Outer Port Heiden Section are scheduled from 6:00 a.m. Monday to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday. The Outer Port Heiden Section opened on June 26 and had openings of no more than 2½ days per week until the section closed on July 28. In 2021, a total of 437,986 sockeye salmon (Table 10) were harvested from the Outer Port Heiden Section. The 2021 sockeye salmon harvest in the Outer Port Heiden Section was below the 10-year average harvest of 499,361 sockeye salmon.

Cinder River Section

No commercial salmon harvest effort occurred in the Cinder River Section in 2021 despite weekly commercial salmon fishing openings throughout the season. The total Cinder River (including Mud Creek) sockeye salmon escapement estimate of 59,400 fish and was within the escapement goal of 36,000–94,000 fish.

Northern District Escapement for Other Species

Chinook Salmon

Nelson River is the only river in Area M with a Chinook salmon escapement goal. At the Nelson River weir, a total of 4,539 Chinook salmon escaped through the weir, meeting the escapement goal of 2,400–5,000 fish. The total Northern District Chinook salmon escapement of 11,961 fish was near the recent ten-year average of 11,639 fish.

Coho Salmon

Coho salmon surveys were conducted on major Northern District streams in early September, which is before the peak of the coho salmon run. Budgetary and logistical constraints do not permit coho salmon surveys to take place any later in the fall. Coho salmon runs continue through September and into October, therefore escapements tabulated from aerial surveys are considered minimum estimates. The total coho salmon escapement in the Northern District during 2021 was 128,600 fish, below the 10-year average of 195,452 fish. Both the Nelson and

Ilnik Rivers have coho salmon lower bound escapement goals in the Northern District. The Nelson River escapement of 26,000 coho salmon exceeded the lower bound escapement goal of 18,000 fish. A total of 11,000 fish were observed during early September in the Ilnik River in 2021, which exceeded the lower bound escapement goal of 9,000 fish. It is expected that more coho salmon entered the Ilnik and Nelson River systems during September and October. The coho salmon escapement into the Cinder River was 46,000 fish, and 24,000 coho salmon escaped into the Meshik River system (Meshik River and Landlocked Creek) as observed by aerial survey.

Chum Salmon

The total chum salmon escapement in the Northern District during 2021 was 94,856, below the district wide chum salmon escapement goal of 119,600–239,200 fish and below the most recent ten-year average of 187,084 fish. The bulk of the chum salmon escapement occurred in the Herendeen–Moller Bay Section (35,500 fish) and the Inner Port Heiden Section (21,100 fish).

Pink Salmon

There are no escapement goals for pink salmon in the Northern District. In some years, depending on market conditions, a directed pink salmon fishery may occur, however this did not happen in 2021. A total of 53,576 pink salmon were observed in the Northern District during 2021.