

Unimak or Shumagin Islands fishery shall close for all gear types if the ratio of sockeye to chum salmon is two to one or less for any three aggregate days.

3. The BOF stated its intent that keeping the chum salmon harvest below the cap supersedes any attempt to reach the sockeye salmon GHLs.
4. The BOF eliminated minimum mesh size requirements for gillnets during the June fisheries.

In 1995, the sockeye salmon GHL was 2,987,000 fish allocated to South Unimak and 659,000 fish to Shumagin Islands for a total of 3,646,000 fish (Poetter 2007). Test fishing in the Shumagin Islands and at South Unimak indicated that sockeye to chum salmon ratios were slightly higher than in 1994. Consequently both fisheries opened on June 13. However, the sockeye salmon harvest rates were again low. Virtually continuous fishing was allowed in both fisheries, through June 30 at South Unimak, and through June 29 in the Shumagin Islands where the sockeye salmon allocation was achieved. The 1995 South Unimak harvest was 1,451,490 sockeye salmon and 342,307 chum salmon; the fishery was about 1,536,000 fish under the sockeye salmon GHL (Appendix B1). Shumagin Islands catch totaled 653,831 sockeye and 195,126 chum salmon and was only 5,000 fish under the sockeye salmon GHL. The combined harvest of both fisheries was 2,105,321 sockeye and 537,433 chum salmon which was 1,541,000 sockeye salmon less than the GHL (Poetter 2007) and about 163,000 chum salmon less than the 700,000 cap. The combined sockeye salmon GHL was not achieved because sockeye salmon were not available in large numbers at South Unimak. The actual Bristol Bay sockeye salmon harvest was slightly larger than the forecast.

The 1996 South Unimak sockeye salmon GHL was 2,564,000 fish while that of the Shumagin Islands was 566,000 fish (Poetter 2007). Based on test fishing results, the South Unimak fishery did not begin until June 15 and the Shumagin Islands did not open until June 18. The purpose of test fishing was to determine the sockeye to chum salmon ratio as an indication of when the sockeye salmon harvest could be maximized without reaching the chum salmon cap. Salmon harvest rates were extremely low in both South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries and almost continuous fishing was allowed. At South Unimak, despite continuous fishing from June 18 through June 30, only 572,495 sockeye salmon (23.3% of the allocation) were harvested (Appendix B1). In the Shumagin Islands 456,475 sockeye salmon were caught, bringing the combined South Unimak-Shumagin Islands sockeye salmon harvest to 1,028,970 (33% of the allocation). A total of 359,820 chum salmon were harvested (129,889 at South Unimak and 229,931 in the Shumagin Islands), about 340,000 fish below the 700,000 cap (Appendix B1).

In 1997, the South Unimak fishery opened on June 13. Because of a price dispute, fishing effort ranged from 58 to 97 drift gillnet permit holders from June 13 through 17 (Poetter 2007). The dispute was settled on June 18, and continuous fishing was allowed through June 30. The sockeye salmon harvest was 1,179,179 fish, 36% below the 1,840,000 GHL (Poetter 2007). The 1997 Shumagin Islands fishery opened on June 19 and fishing was allowed daily until June 26 when the sockeye salmon GHL of 406,000 was exceeded (Poetter 2007). Shumagin Islands harvest was 449,002 sockeye salmon. A total of 322,325 chum salmon were harvested (196,016 at South Unimak and 126,309 in the Shumagin Islands), 377,675 fish below the 700,000 cap (Appendix B1).

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After the 1997 season, the BOF lowered the chum salmon cap from 700,000 fish to a "floating cap" that could range from 350,000 to 650,000 depending on the projected strength of harvests of summer chum salmon in AYK Area in relation to the 1970-1997 average. If the projected AYK chum salmon harvest was less than 33% of the average catches, the South Peninsula cap would be 350,000 to 450,000 fish. If the projected AYK summer run chum salmon harvest was between 33% and 67% of the 1970-1997 average, the South Peninsula cap would be between 450,001 and 550,000 chum salmon. If the AYK summer chum salmon harvest exceeded 67% of the 1970-1997 average, the South Peninsula chum salmon cap would be 550,001 to 650,000 fish. If the ADF&G identified a summer chum salmon stock of concern, the upper end of the cap would be reduced by 50,000 fish. The earliest opening date was changed from June 11 to June 10. In the Unimak District, the shoreward end of a set gillnet had to be within one half mile of shore. All salmon caught had to be retained and reported. The use of aircraft to locate salmon was prohibited for the entire Alaska Peninsula Area for the entire season.

In 1998, the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries both opened to commercial salmon fishing on June 13. However, the entire seine fleet and approximately 80% of the set gillnet fleet did not fish because of a dispute over salmon prices. The drift gillnet fleet at South Unimak started fishing on June 13. As the fishery progressed more set gillnet permit holders participated and on June 17 the purse seine fleet and the balance of the set gillnet fleet went fishing. The 1998 sockeye salmon harvest rates were low in both South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries. Despite continuous fishing from June 13 through June 30, only 974,628 sockeye (63.7% of the allocation) and 195,454 chum salmon were harvested at South Unimak. A total of 314,097 sockeye salmon (93.5% of the allocation) and 50,165 chum salmon were harvested in Shumagin Islands (Appendix B1).

In 1999, the South Unimak fishery was opened for 16 hours on June 11, reopened on June 13 and was repeatedly extended until June 21 when the sockeye salmon GHL was reached. The Shumagin Islands fishery opened on June 13 and was repeatedly extended until June 18 when the GHL was reached (Shaul 2000). The 1999 sockeye salmon daily harvest rates were higher than in the past three years in both South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries. After nearly continuous fishing from June 11 through June 21, 1,106,208 sockeye (8.0% over the allocation) and 186,886 chum salmon were harvested at South Unimak (Appendix B1). A total of 269,191 sockeye (19.1% over the allocation) and 58,420 chum salmon were harvested in the 1999 Shumagin Islands fishery.

Based on the Bristol Bay forecast, the respective 2000 June GHLs were 1,650,000 and 363,000 sockeye salmon for South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries (Poetter 2007). Test fishing results in the Shumagin Islands indicated that a fishing period could be allowed on June 11. However, no commercial fishing occurred during June 11 and 12 because of a price dispute between fishermen and processors and test fishing continued (Shaul 2000). The South Unimak test fish sockeye to chum salmon ratio was less than the two to one needed to justify a fishery on June 11. After the announced Shumagin Islands opening for June 11, all three of the South Unimak test fish boats quit test fishing and departed for the Shumagin Islands commercial fishery. A price settlement was reached on June 13 and commercial fishing began. During June 13, sockeye to chum salmon ratios were high and both fisheries were repeatedly extended. The South Unimak fishery remained open through June 30. Shumagin Islands closed on June 18 when it was estimated that the sockeye salmon GHL would be reached. The 2000

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South Unimak harvest was 892,016 sockeye salmon (54.1% of the GHL) and 168,888 chum salmon (Appendix B1). The Shumagin Islands harvest was 359,212 sockeye salmon (99.0% of the allocation) and 70,469 chum salmon. The combined South Unimak-Shumagin Islands chum salmon harvest in 2000 was 239,357 fish, well below the chum salmon GHL of 350,000 to 400,000 (Shaul 2000).

The fishing power of the fleet participating in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery, appeared to be substantially lower for all species during recent years (2001-2009) than it was during the 1980s due to the following factors:

1. The gear depth restrictions implemented in 1990.
2. Because Cape Lutke is no longer as productive an area for the purse seine and drift gillnet fleets and the prices paid for salmon were low. The purse seine fleet is substantially smaller than the 1982-1996 fleet (Appendix B23).
3. Because of low salmon prices, the drift gillnet fleet decreased from 157 permit holders in 1991 to about 85 permit holders participating in 2006 (Appendix B23).
4. Salmon may have changed their migration routes and/or timing because of oceanographic or climatic factors, and may not be as abundant in areas where the June fisheries occur.

From 1990 through 2003, drift gillnet permit holders generally had higher sockeye to chum salmon ratios than seine permit holders in South Unimak. Prior to 1990, the seine fleet had higher ratios than the drift gillnet fleet (Appendix B22).

There have been substantial shifts in the percentage of catches taken by various gear types over the years (Appendix B17). The amount of set gillnet gear and percentages of the harvests taken by set gillnets have increased since the 1970s in both fisheries. Drift gillnet gear dominated the South Unimak catches during the 1970s. Purse seiners dominated the South Unimak harvests during most years between 1979 and 1994. Since 1995, drift gillnetters have again dominated the South Unimak fishery.

At its 2001 BOF meeting, major changes were made to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 09.365). These changes included the following:

1. Elimination of the sockeye salmon guideline harvest levels;
2. Elimination of the chum salmon guideline harvest levels;
3. Limiting fishing time to no more than 16 hours per day by any gear group;
4. Limiting total fishing time by seine and drift gillnet gear to no more than 48 hours in a floating seven-day period with no more than two 16-hour periods on consecutive days in any seven-day period;
5. From June 10 through June 24 in the South Unimak and/or Shumagin Islands fisheries, set gillnet gear may fish on consecutive days for 16-hour periods as long as the set gillnet sockeye to chum salmon ratios in that fishery are equal to or greater than the recent 10-year average for that fishery. If the set

gillnet sockeye to chum salmon ratio falls below the recent 10-year average in either fishery, that fishery will be closed for one period. From June 10 through June 24, daily fishing periods for set gillnet gear will be from 6:00 AM until 10:00 PM;

6. Purse seine and drift gillnet fishing periods through June 24 will occur at the same time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries; and

7. After June 24, in either the South Unimak or Shumagin Islands fishery, if the ratio of sockeye to chum salmon by all gear combined is less than 2.0 on any day, the next fishing period shall be of six hours duration for all gear in that fishery. If the sockeye to chum salmon ratio is 2.0 or greater, a six hour fishing period can be extended to a maximum of 16 hours. The South Unimak or Shumagin Islands fishery shall close for all gear groups if the ratio of sockeye to chum salmon is less than 2.0 for two consecutive fishing periods.

During its 2004 BOF meeting, the BOF agreed that actions restricting the June fishery taken during the 2001 BOF cycle were unnecessary and caused undue hardship on the fishermen of the Area M. Changes to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 09.365) were adopted. These changes included the following:

1. Fishery to begin at 6:00 AM on June 7;
2. Fishing periods are 88-hours in length separated by 32-hour closures. The fishery closes at 10:00 PM. on June 29. The last fishing period is 64-hours in duration;
3. Concurrent fishing time for all gear types;
4. Area open to fishing expanded to include the entire Unimak and Southwestern districts, East and West Pavlof Bay, Bechevin Bay and Shumagin Islands sections; and;
5. Eliminated all sockeye to chum salmon harvest ratio requirements.

In February 2007, the BOF made modifications to the June Fishery Management Plan including:

1. Changing the description of the Sanak Island Section;
2. Expanding the use of drift gillnets to the following portion of the Southwestern District; south and east of a line from Cape Pankof Light (54°39.60' N lat, 163°03.70' W long) to Thin Point (54°57.32' N lat, 162°33.50' W long); south of a line from Thin Point (54°57.32' N lat, 162°33.50' W long) to the northernmost tip of Stag Point (54°59.10' N lat, 162°18.10' W long) on Deer Island to the southernmost tip of Dolgoi Cape (55°03.15' N lat, 161°44.35' W long) on Dolgoi Island and south of the latitude of the northeastern tip of Dolgoi Island (55°07.50' N lat, 161°38.30' W long) (Appendix B3);
3. Allowing the use of salmon net pens; and

4. Allowing two Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) set gillnet permit holders aboard a registered set gillnet fishing vessel, to tow a second registered CFEC set gillnet vessel that has a second aggregate of set gillnet gear onboard.