

SOUTH UNIMAK AND SHUMAGIN ISLANDS  
JUNE SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2004



By

Arnold R. Shaul  
Charles Burkey, Jr.  
Joseph J. Dinnocenzo  
and  
Switgard Duesterloh

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
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## **ABSTRACT**

The South Unimak fishery includes the Unimak and Southwestern Districts plus the Bechevin Bay, West Pavlof Bay, and East Pavlof Bay Sections. The Shumagin Islands fishery includes the Shumagin Islands Section only. A map is provided showing the locations of the fisheries including a large area around Sanak Island which is closed by emergency order. Fishing periods will be 88 hours in duration followed by 32 hour closed periods. The fishery will begin at 6:00 AM June 7 and will end 10:00 PM June 29. This document lists buyer reporting requirements as well as Alaska Department of Fish and Game telephone and fax numbers and radio frequencies. The purpose of this document is intended as a guide for commercial fishermen, buyers, and tender operators.

## INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide commercial fishermen and processors with information that the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) will use to manage the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June salmon fisheries. During the most recent 10 years, the South Unimak sockeye salmon harvest has averaged 799,087 fish (Table 1) while the Shumagin Islands sockeye salmon harvest averaged 334,310 fish (Table 2). The combined South Unimak and Shumagin Islands average sockeye salmon harvest during 1994-2003 was 1,133,397 fish (Table 3).

Inseason announcements will be broadcast over AM radio station KSDP in Sand Point, VHF channels 6 and 73, and on Single Side Band (SSB) frequencies 3.230, 3.261, and 4.125 MHz. Information may also be obtained over the ADF&G record-a-phone in Sand Point at 383-2334 (383-ADFG).

As required by 5 AAC 39.130 (a)(3), buyers must report their salmon purchases daily by species (in both numbers of fish and pounds), and number of deliveries by gear type to either the ADF&G office in Cold Bay or Sand Point. Processors must provide the department with catch reports before 9:30 AM on the morning after a fishing period ends. Contact can be made over VHF 6, SSB 3.230 or 3.261 MHz. Buyers may also phone or fax their information to either the Cold Bay or Sand Point office.

Cold Bay	Telephone: 532-2419	Fax: 532-2470
Sand Point	Telephone: 383-2066	Fax: 383-2606

Fish tickets must be delivered to the ADF&G offices in Cold Bay or Sand Point (addresses listed below) within seven days of the purchase date or be hand delivered to an ADF&G representative on the fishing grounds.

Alaska Department of Fish & Game  
P.O. Box 50  
Cold Bay, AK 99571

Alaska Department of Fish & Game  
P.O. Box 129  
Sand Point, AK 99661

### **ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES REGULATION CHANGES DURING FEBRUARY, 2004 MEETING**

In 2004, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) made the following regulation changes to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery:

1. Changed the season opening date to June 7.
2. Established that fishing periods will begin at 6:00 AM and will run for 88 hours until 10:00 PM three days later. The fishing periods will be interspersed with 32-hour closures. The fishery will end at 10:00 PM June 29.

3. The fishing area of the South Unimak fishery has been expanded to include the entire Southwestern District and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District (Figure 1).
4. Latitude and longitude coordinates will be determined using the Global Positioning System (GPS).

## **2004 MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery Management Plan is in effect from June 7 through June 29. Historically, sockeye salmon abundance peaks between June 13 and June 22, and usually declines rapidly after June 22.

The South Unimak June fishery includes the following locations (Figure 1):

- A. Unimak District as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (c).
- B. Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (b) (2).
- C. Southwestern District as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (d).
- D. West Pavlof and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District as described in 5 AAC 09 200 (e) (1), (2).

The Shumagin Islands fishery includes only the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 1) as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (f) (3).

Fishermen should be aware that waters closed to commercial salmon fishing, as specified under 5 AAC 09.350 in the regulation book, are in effect during June. Waters near Sanak Island will be closed to commercial salmon fishing by emergency order through June 30 to avoid large catches of chum salmon. Although there is no information about the origin of chum salmon in this area, this section will be closed to abide by the BOF general intent to minimize chum salmon harvest in this fishery. These waters are south of the latitude of Hague Rock and east of the longitude of Cape Pankof (Figure 1). Gillnet fishermen are reminded that the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries are the only fisheries in the South Peninsula that have no minimum salmon gillnet mesh size.

In the past, seiners have occasionally harvested large numbers of immature salmon in June. ADF&G will consider closing fishing by seine gear in areas where this is occurring.

Fishing periods for both South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries will be as follows:

6:00 AM Monday June 7 until 10:00 PM Thursday June 10- 88 hours  
6:00 AM Saturday June 12 until 10:00 PM Tuesday June 15- 88 hours  
6:00 AM Thursday June 17 until 10:00 PM Sunday June 20- 88 hours  
6:00 AM Tuesday June 22 until 10:00 PM Friday June 25- 88 hours  
6:00 AM Sunday June 27 until 10:00 PM Tuesday June 29- 64 hours

Table 1. South Unimak June commercial salmon harvest, in number of fish, by species, 1994-2003.

Year	Number of Fish <sup>a</sup>				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1994	4,468	1,001,250	1,271	1,731,741	374,409
1995	7,850	1,451,490	5,102	119,094	342,307
1996	1,228	572,495	11,730	146,799	129,889
1997	3,041	1,179,179	501	332,262	196,016
1998	1,259	974,628	312	125,906	195,454
1999	2,258	1,106,208	1	20,302	186,886
2000	2,064	892,016	303	210,521	168,888
2001	134	121,547	2	31,812	36,099
2002	433	356,157	3	33,789	201,211
2003	373	335,903	14	90,161	121,169
1994-2003					
Average	2,311	799,087	1,924	284,239	195,233

<sup>a</sup> Numbers of salmon do not include test fish harvest.

Table 2. Shumagin Islands June commercial salmon harvest, in number of fish, by species, 1994-2003.

Year	Number of Fish <sup>a</sup>				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1994	3,122	460,013	308	760,773	207,756
1995	6,897	653,831	940	59,541	195,126
1996	1,617	456,475	1,489	230,885	229,931
1997	2,770	449,002	59	273,675	126,309
1998	1,437	314,097	164	348,434	50,165
1999	793	269,191	1	10,237	58,420
2000	785	359,212	1	149,508	70,469
2001	211	29,085	0	7,439	12,251
2002	2,010	234,949	1	42,462	177,606
2003	950	117,244	139	127,739	161,269
1994-2003					
Average	2,059	334,310	310	201,069	128,930

<sup>a</sup>Numbers of salmon do not include test fish harvest.

Table 3. Combined South Unimak-Shumagin Islands June commercial salmon harvest, in number of fish, by species, 1994-2003.

Year	Numbers of Fish <sup>a</sup>				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1994	7,590	1,461,263	1,579	2,492,514	582,165
1995	14,747	2,105,321	6,042	178,635	537,433
1996	2,845	1,028,970	13,219	377,684	359,820
1997	5,811	1,628,181	560	605,937	322,325
1998	2,696	1,288,725	476	474,340	245,619
1999	3,051	1,375,399	2	30,539	245,306
2000	2,849	1,251,228	304	360,029	239,357
2001	345	150,632	2	39,251	48,350
2002	2,443	591,106	4	76,251	378,817
2003	1,323	453,147	153	217,900	282,438
1994-2003					
Average	4,370	1,133,397	2,234	485,308	324,163

<sup>a</sup> Numbers of salmon do not include test fish harvest.

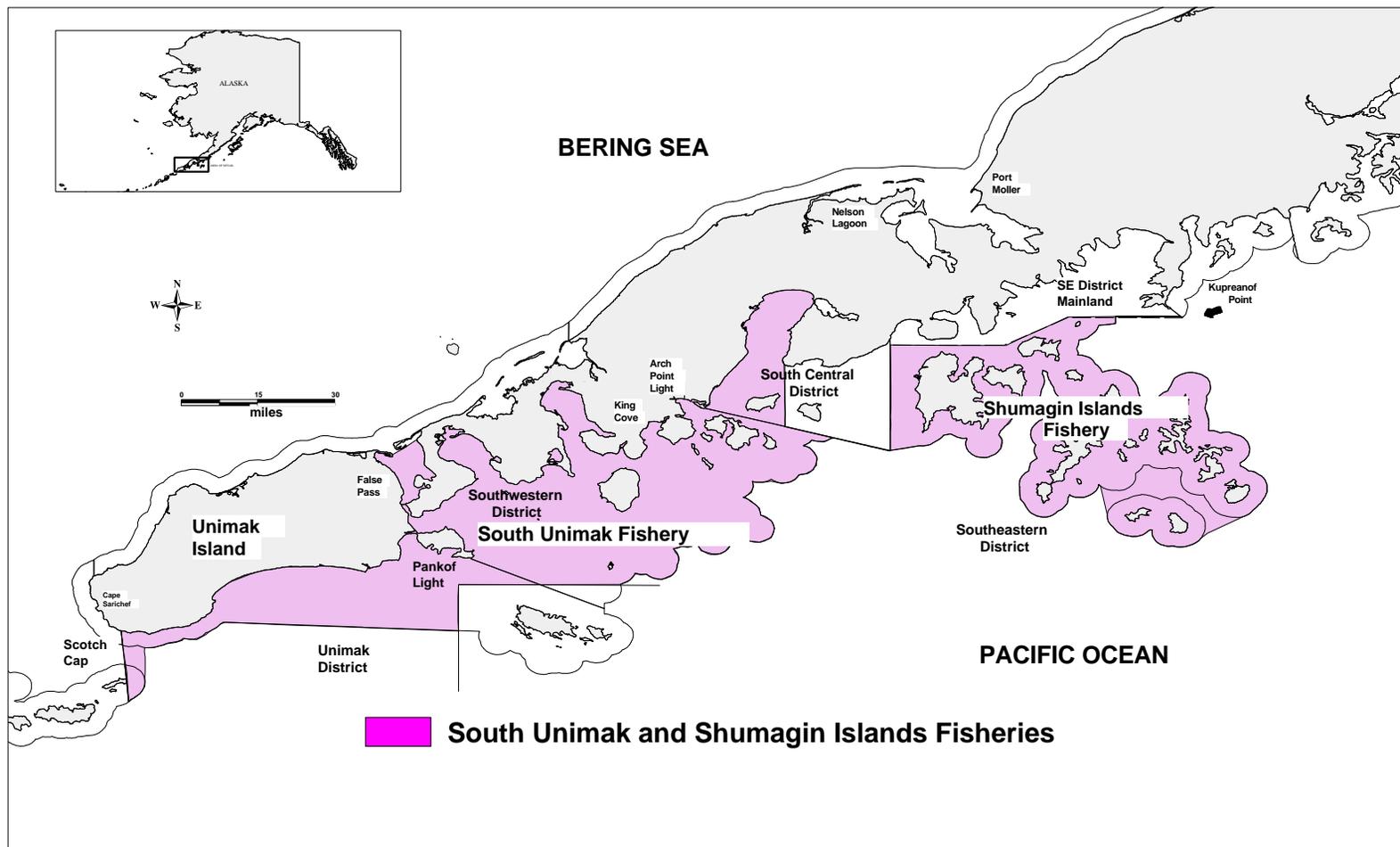


Figure 1. Map of South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries.

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If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information please write to ADF&G, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 300 Webb, Arlington, VA 22203 or O.E.O., U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.

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