

1991

ALASKA PENINSULA - ALEUTIAN ISLANDS
GENERAL SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

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SALMON

Figure 1. Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Management Areas Cape Menshikof to Unalaska Island. Districts (Letters A-H), Sections (Numbers)

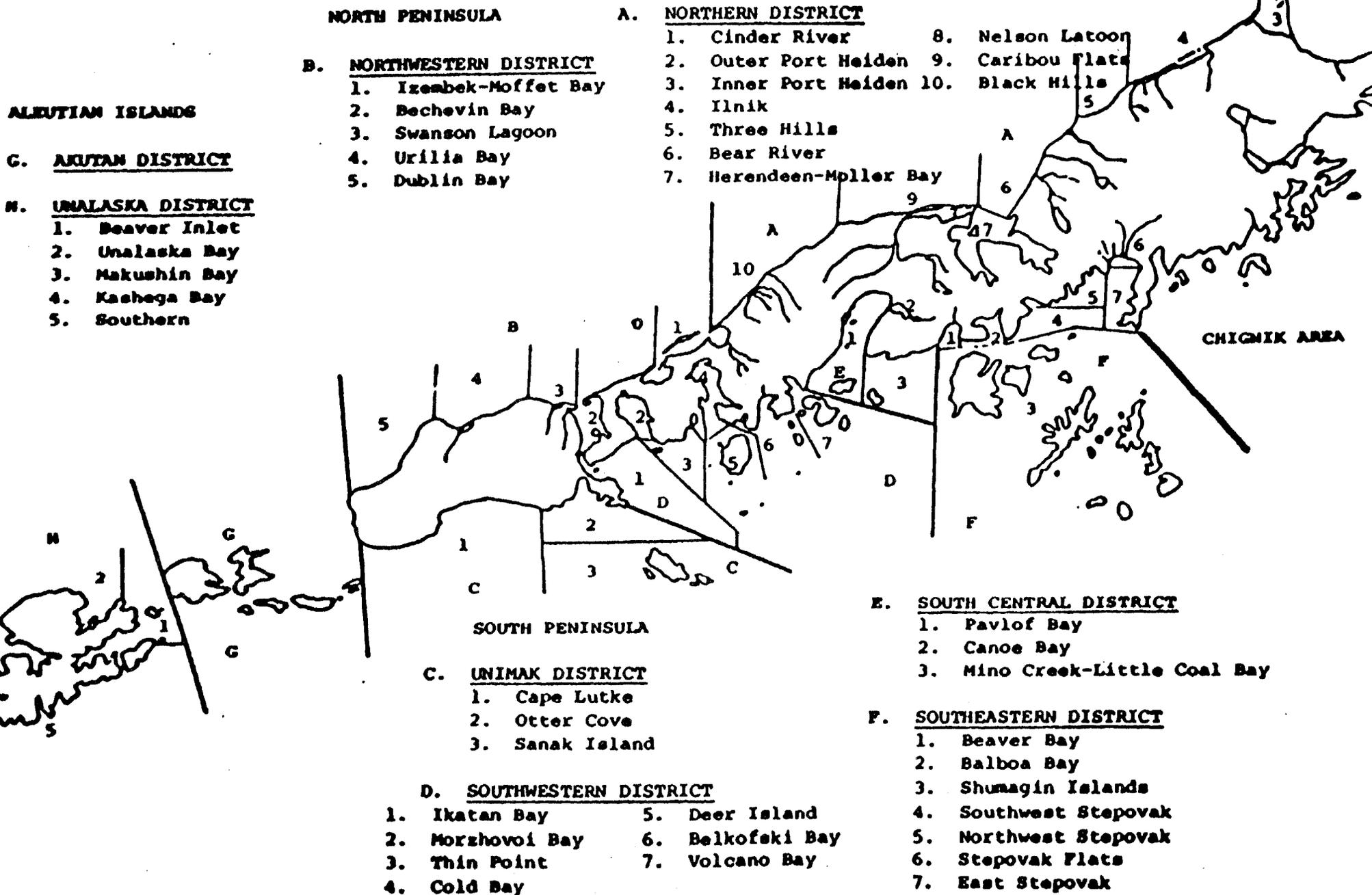


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ABSTRACT

This document is intended to provide commercial fishermen and buyers with pertinent management information and guidelines that are required to be adhered to when participating in most of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Areas commercial salmon fisheries. The South Unimak-Shumagin June fisheries and the Southeastern District Mainland fishery are covered in separate management plans.

The Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Areas contain a diversified group of salmon fisheries and regulations. Fishermen are responsible for knowing the regulations both as published in the current commercial salmon fishing regulation book or as adjusted by emergency order.

In-season announcements will be passed on by one or more of the following methods considered effective for a given location. Methods of announcement transmission include:

1. To the buyers for conveyance to the fishermen.
2. Broadcast over the local radio station.
3. Transmitted over one or more of the following frequencies: 3230, 3261, 4125, VHF 6, and VHF 70.
4. The ADF&G record-a-phone in Sand Point at 383-2334.

Buyers must report their salmon purchases by species (preferably in both numbers of fish and pounds) to either of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game offices in Cold Bay, Sand Point, Dutch Harbor or Port Moller. Catch reports should be made as soon as possible on the morning after a fishing day. Contact can be made over VHF 6, 3230, or 4125. Buyers may also phone or fax their information in.

Cold Bay	Telephone: 532-2410	Fax 532-2470
Sand Point	Telephone: 383-2066	Fax 383-2606
Dutch Harbor	Telephone: 581-1239	Fax 581-1572
Port Moller	Telephone: 987-2216	Fax 987-2215

Fish tickets should be given to the Department of Fish and Game offices at one of the below addresses:

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

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

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SOUTH PENINSULA JULY - AUGUST

The post June chum salmon harvest is projected to be approximately 1,000,000 fish which is slightly under the 1990 harvest of 719,000 and close to the 1981-1990 average of 1,094,000.

The 1991 pink salmon projected catch is 3.5 million fish. This is approximately 1.1 million over the 1990 post June harvest of 2.4 million fish, but 3.6 million under the parent year (1989) harvest of 7.1 million. The 1981-90 average South Peninsula post June pink salmon harvest is 4,865,000.

During 1980 a much larger than normal number of purse seiners caught record numbers of pink salmon in the Shumagin Islands. It became apparent that the purse seine fleet was effectively preventing the salmon from reaching their terminal locations and the runs were only mediocre east of Volcano Bay. Due to the fact that there is often considerable variation in the strength of runs going to different geographical locations, the amount of purse seine gear in the Shumagins will definitely be a factor in determining the amount of fishing time allowed in the Shumagins as compared to mainland terminal harvest areas.

It is anticipated that Russel Creek pink and chum stocks will be needed to satisfy hatchery and natural spawning escapement requirements. Therefore, that portion of the Cold Bay Section north of 55°10' N. lat., will remain closed to commercial salmon fishing until hatchery and escapement needs are assured.

Local chum runs begin earlier than returns of pink salmon. Consequently, openings prior to about July 18 will be based on

the strength of the chum salmon return, unless pink catches appear unusually strong prior to this date. After July 18, fishing time will be based largely on pink salmon run strength, although chums are still an important factor in conducting the fishery.

Initially that portion of the South Peninsula (excluding Cold Bay north of 55°10' N. lat.) located east of Rock Island (near Cape Lazaref) and not covered by the Southeastern District Management Plan (found in 5 AAC 09.360) will be open to commercial salmon fishing during July 6 from 5:00 A.M. until 10:00 P.M. The date and length of the next fishing period will depend on chum run strength indicated by the July 6 fishery.

If large numbers of immature salmon are being killed by seiners, the locations in which the Department estimates large numbers of immature salmon are present will be closed to seining. In past years, the Shumagin Islands, portions of the Unimak District, and part of the Aleutian Islands Area have been closed to seining due to the presence of large numbers of immature salmon. Such locations will remain closed to seining (except for possible short test fisheries) until the Department feels the number of immature salmon has dropped to an acceptable level.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

Unalaska Island's pink salmon escapement during 1989 was very poor and it's unlikely that a substantial harvestable surplus will exist in 1991.

The Kashega Bay Section (Spray Cape to Konets Head) only, will be open from 6:00 A.M. Monday to 6:00 P.M. Friday each week from June 1 through July 9, to allow fishermen the opportunity to fish local sockeye.

The entire Aleutian Islands Area will open to commercial salmon fishing from 12:01 A.M. Wednesday July 10 until 6:00 P.M. Friday July 12 and from 6:00 A.M. Monday July 16 until 12:00 P.M. midnight Wednesday July 18, as specified in the regulation book. After July 18, fishing periods in the Aleutian Islands Area are established by emergency order. There will be no fishing period established by emergency order to harvest pink salmon unless there are indications of substantial run strength.

NORTH PENINSULA

The North Peninsula salmon fisheries will be managed on the basis of catch per unit effort indicators, and relative abundance of fish as determined by surveys and weir/tower counts. The basic fishing week, during the open season, will be as listed in the 1990-91 Commercial Finfish Regulation Book and is presented below:

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>OPEN SEASON</u>	<u>FISHING PERIOD</u>
Cinder River, outside Cinder River Lagoon.	August 1 - September 30	6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Wednesday
Cinder River, inside Cinder River Lagoon	May 1 - September 30	6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Wednesday
Outer Port Heiden	No open season	
Inner Port Heiden	May 1 - September 30	6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Wednesday
Ilnik Section outside Ilnik Lagoon between Three Hills and Loran C line 990-Y-33265 running off of Ilnik (Unangashak) Bluffs.	July 5 - September 30	6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Wednesday
Ilnik Section between Loran C line 990-Y-33265 and Strogonof Point.	July 15-September 30	6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Wednesday

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>OPEN SEASON</u>	<u>FISHING PERIOD</u>
Ilnik Section inside Ilnik Lagoon	May 1 - September 30	6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Wednesday
Three Hills	June 25 - 30	6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Wednesday
Three Hills	July 1 - September 30	6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Thursday
Bear River	May 1 - June 30	6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Wednesday
Bear River	July 1 - September 30	6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Thursday
Herendeen-Moller Bay Section, enclosed by a line from Harbor Point to Entrance Point	May 1 - September 30	6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Thursday
Herendeen-Moller Bay Section, <u>not</u> enclosed by a line from Harbor Point to Entrance Point	May 1 - July 20	6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Thursday
Nelson Lagoon	May 1 - June 15	6:00 A.M. Monday until 12:00 Midnight Wednesday
Nelson Lagoon	June 16 - August 15	6:00 A.M. Monday until 12:00 Midnight Thursday
Nelson Lagoon	August 16 - September 30	6:00 A.M. Monday until 12:00 Midnight Wednesday
Caribou Flats	<u>Completely closed to commercial salmon fishing.</u>	
Black Hills	May 1 - September 30	6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Friday
Izembek-Moffet Bay	June 1 - August 10	6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Thursday
Swanson Lagoon	June 1 - August 10	6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Thursday
Urilia Bay	June 1 - August 10	6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Thursday
Dublin Bay	July 10 - August 10	6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Thursday

SECTION

OPEN SEASON

FISHING PERIOD

Bechevin Bay

June 1 - September 30

By Emergency Order Only

The Bechevin Bay Section will be open concurrently with the Ikatan Bay Section (part of South Peninsula) during June. In July, the Bechevin Bay Section will initially be open from 6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Thursday, the same as the balance of the Northwestern District. The extent of further openings will depend on the strength of local stocks.

A catch of approximately 1.6 million sockeye is projected for the entire North Peninsula (Urilia Bay to Cinder River) with the bulk of the catch being harvested in the Bear River and Nelson Lagoon fisheries. This is 800,000 below the 1990 harvest of 2.4 million sockeye. The 1981-90 average sockeye harvest was 1,904,000 fish.

The Bear River sockeye escapement goal will be broken into three segments (listed below) to ensure that all stocks contributing to the Bear River run receive adequate escapement. This does not change the season escapement goal of 200-250,000 sockeye.

BEAR RIVER SOCKEYE ESCAPEMENT GOAL

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Sockeye Escapement Goal</u>
Through July 15	110,000 to 125,000
July 16 - August 5	40,000 to 50,000
After August 5	<u>50,000 to 75,000</u>
Season Total	200,000 to 250,000

The through July 15 segment is broken down into the following escapement schedule in an attempt to prevent a complete closure of the fishery during the peak of the run which happened during 1989 and 1990. This schedule is based on the average escapements by date during 1982-88.

June 15	3,000
20	10,000
25	30,000
30	60,000
July 5	90,000
10	105,000
15	117,500

If one of the above escapement targets is not reached, the fishery will be curtailed to the extent necessary that the following escapement target will be reached.

The number of jack sockeye in the Bear River escapement is an important consideration. If the number of jacks is excessively high, it may be necessary to raise the escapement goal to compensate.

NELSON LAGOON FISHERY

The sockeye salmon escapement goals in the Sapsuk River system (Nelson Lagoon) is established at 100,000 - 150,000. Based on timing of sockeye escapements for the years 1977-1982 and aiming at the average escapement goal of 125,000 sockeye a schedule of periodic in-season escapement goals past Sapsuk weir will be utilized during the 1991 season.

Because escapements past the weir lag a significant period of time following passage through the fishery, total daily catches of sockeye in the fishery will also be considered in evaluating run strength. The following schedule of periodic daily sockeye catch levels will be used as a guideline.

SAPSUK WEIR SOCKEYE SALMON ESCAPEMENT SCHEDULE

6-25	6-30	7-5	7-10	7-15	7-20	7-25	7-30	8-5	8-10	8-15
*0	30	65	90	110	115	120	122	123	124	125

NELSON LAGOON SOCKEYE CATCH SCHEDULE

6/15-20	20-25	26-30	7/1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25
**1-2	2-3	4-5	4-6	3-5	2-3	1-2	1-2

* Thousands of sockeye salmon (accumulative)

**Thousands of sockeye salmon (daily catch)

To provide more protection for king salmon stocks, fishing periods through June 15 are limited to 6:00 A.M. Monday until 12:00 P.M. midnight Wednesday.

There will be four days fishing each week during June 16 - 30, additional time will be added if daily sockeye catches substantially exceed the schedule. However, if it is evident before June 30, that the sockeye run is weak, then the number of fishing days will be reduced. Any predominance of king salmon gear in the fishery will be taken into account in evaluating sockeye catches. After June 30, fishing periods will be dependent upon escapement in relation to the escapement schedule, and on daily catch levels. If escapements past Sapsuk weir cannot be determined then (primarily) daily catch rates and (secondarily) daily catch per boat (not per landing) will be utilized to evaluate strength of the run and to establish fishing periods accordingly. During the peak of the fishery, approximately June 25 - July 5, a healthy sockeye run would provide consistent daily boat averages of at least 300 - 400 sockeye. Probable effect of minus tides on escapement will also be considered. The strength of the king salmon run will be a major factor during June and will be considered in decisions regarding sockeye.

It is anticipated that no more than three fishing days per week will be allowed during the fall coho season in Nelson Lagoon. The efficiency of the gear in the fishery has caused a closure of the entire Nelson Lagoon Section in early September during 1985, 1986, and 1987 (when the fishery was open four days per week).

The 1991 North Peninsula chum salmon harvest is anticipated to be 250,000, which is about double the 1990 harvest of 126,000 but far below the 1981-90 average of 417,000

FALL FISHERIES (for Locations Outside of Nelson Lagoon)

Fall fisheries (principally for cohos) on the South Peninsula and in the Northwestern District will open approximately September 1-5 provided there will be no conflict with attaining escapement goals for earlier runs (primarily chums). Fishing periods will be set by emergency order.

Northern District coho runs will get underway during mid August. Fishing periods will initially be the same as listed in the 1990 Commercial Finfish Regulation book for each respective section. Adjustments will be made as the runs develop.

ALASKA PENINSULA AREA
REGULATION CHANGES MADE BY THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES AT
JANUARY 1990 MEETING.

GEAR

1. The maximum depth of seines is 375 meshes. Seine mesh size may not exceed 3-1/2 inches except the first 25 meshes above the leadline may not be more than 7 inches.
2. Leads may not be less than 50 fathoms nor more than 150 fathoms in length throughout the entire Alaska Peninsula Area.
3. In the Unimak and Southwestern Districts, drift gillnets may not exceed 90 meshes in depth.
4. In the Northwestern and Northern Districts, drift gillnets may not exceed 70 meshes in depth, except in the Nelson Lagoon Section where drift gillnets may not exceed 29 meshes through August 15 or more than 38 meshes in depth after August 15. In the Northwestern and Northern Districts leadline weights on drift gillnets fishing in this area will be restricted so that no more than 60 fathoms of a single leadline will be allowed per 50 fathoms of cork line. No portion of this leadline may exceed 1.5 pounds per fathom.
5. In the Unimak, Southwestern, South Central and Southeastern Districts, the maximum depth of set gillnets shall not be over 90 meshes.
6. The east side of Popof Island between Popof Head and Dark Cliffs will be open to set gillnetting during fishing periods when seining is not allowed due to the presence of immature salmon.
7. Gillnetting will be allowed during fishing periods throughout the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak Districts where seining can't be allowed due to the presence of immature salmon.

SOUTH UNIMAK-SHUMAGIN ISLANDS JUNE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

8. The sockeye allocation is divided into three periods instead of four with time period allocations as follows for each fishery:

June 13 - 18	35%
June 19 - 25	45%
June 26 - 30	<u>25%</u>
	100%

If catches in either fishery fall below the guidelines in the first weekly period, those unharvested sockeye up to a maximum of 5 percent of the total guideline harvest level for that fishery will be added to the weekly guideline for the second period.

9. The chum salmon catch ceiling has been raised from 500,000 to 600,000 for both fisheries combined.
10. The "window" regulations (no more than 96 hours of fishing time in a 7 day period or no more than 72 consecutive hours of fishing) have been removed.
11. The fishing area at South Unimak has been extended to include the following portions of the Southwestern District in addition to the Ikatan Bay Section (but does not include closed waters as described under 5 AAC 09.350):
 - (1) Those waters north and west of a line from Cape Pankof Light to Thin Point (54°57'26" N. lat., 162°33'12" W. long.).
 - (2) Those waters enclosed by a line from Thin Point to Stag Point (54°10' N. lat, 161°53'45" W. long.) to Dolgoi Cape (55°03'45" N. lat., 161°44' W. long.) and from Bluff Point (55°10' N. lat., 161°53'45" W. long.) to Arch Point (55°12'20" N. lat, 161°54'15" W. long.).
12. The documented number of Russel Creek hatchery chums caught in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery will be added to the chum salmon catch ceiling beginning in 1993.

URILIA BAY

13. The closed waters at Christianson's Lagoon has been expanded to include all waters located over 500 yards upstream from the lagoon outlet at the ocean shoreline.

NORTHERN DISTRICT

14. The fishing periods during June in the Bear River and Three Hills Section are reduced 24 hours to 6:00 A.M. Monday until 6:00 P.M. Wednesday.
15. The season in that portion of the Ilnik Section located between Loran C line 990-Y-33265 and Strogonof Point will not open until July 15.
16. There is no open season in the Outer Port Heiden Section.
17. Area T permits are no longer valid in the Outer Port Heiden Section and that portion of the Ilnik Section not enclosed by the Seal Islands.

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