

1992
SOUTH UNIMAK AND SHUMAGIN ISLANDS
JUNE SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

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 the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June commercial salmon fisheries.

The first fishing period may be as early as June 13, however the opening may be delayed if an unacceptably high number of chum salmon are present. Chum salmon abundance will be determined by test fishing in the Shumagin Islands and by information given to ADF&G from subsistence fishermen.

In-season announcements will be broadcast over A.M. radio station KSPD, VHF 6, VHF 73, SSB 3230, SSB 3261, and SSB 4125. Information may also be obtained over the ADF&G record-a-phone in Sand Point at 383-2334.

As required by 5 AAC 39.130.(B)(8)(A) buyers must report daily their salmon purchases by species, (in both numbers of fish and pounds) and number of deliveries by gear to either the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices in Cold Bay, Sand Point or to the Department representative on grounds at South Unimak aboard an enforcement vessel (Wolstad, Vigilant, or Trooper). Catch reports must be made as soon as possible on the morning after a fishing day. Contact can be made over VHF 6, SSB 3230, or SSB 4125. Buyers may also phone or fax their information in, either to the Cold Bay or Sand Point offices.

Cold Bay	Telephone:	532-2410	Fax: 532-2470
Sand Point	Telephone:	383-2066	Fax: 383-2606

Fish tickets should be given to the Department of Fish and Game representative at South Unimak or mailed to one of the addresses listed below:

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

Fish tickets must, if mailed, arrive in Sand Point or Cold Bay ADF&G offices within 7 days of the purchase or be hand delivered to an ADF&G representative on the fishing grounds. If delivering fish tickets within 7 days to ADF&G causes undue inconvenience, other arrangements can be made, but processors must contact ADF&G.

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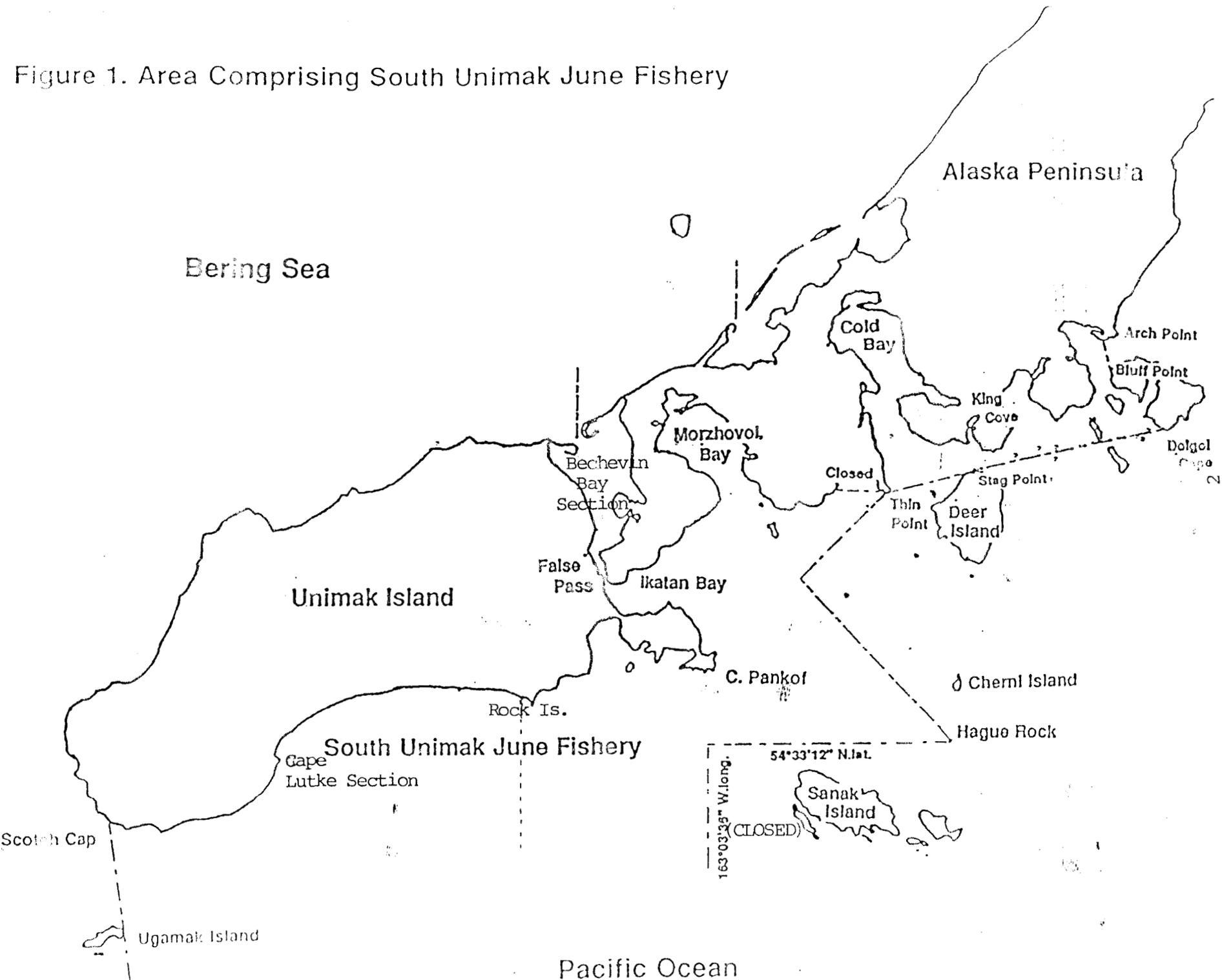
The Shumagin Islands fishery includes only the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District. The South Unimak fishery includes the following locations as shown in Figure 1:

- A. Unimak District: includes all water on the south side of Unimak Island between a line extending from Scotch Cap (54°24' N. lat., 164°47'36" W. long.) through the easternmost tip of Ugamak Island (54°12'42" N. lat., 164°45'48" W. long.), and a line extending 115° from Cape Pankof Light (54°39'36" N. lat., 163°03'36" W. long.), including the Sanak Islands.
- B. Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District
- C. Those waters of the Southwestern District in addition to the Ikatan Bay Section (but does not include closed waters as described under 5 AAC 09.350) listed below:
 1. Those waters north and west of a line from Cape Pankof Light to Thin Point (56°57'26" N. lat., 162°33'12" W. long).
 2. The 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.)

Fishermen should be aware that closed waters (under 5 AAC 09.350) to salmon fishing as specified in the regulation book are in effect during June. There is no change as to the legal gear types in a given location other than what is specified in the most recent commercial salmon fishing regulation book (i.e., the locations added to the South Unimak fishery in 1990 did not increase the area open to drift gillnetting).

The time period covered by the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC 09.365) is June 13-30, however, the fishery can extend into July if weather prevents fishing during the last quota period (June 26-30).

Figure 1. Area Comprising South Unimak June Fishery



CHUM SALMON CAP

During the March 1992 Board of Fisheries meeting, the board placed a 700,000 chum salmon harvest limit (chum cap) on the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries combined. If the chum cap is reached, the fishery will close regardless of how many sockeye salmon remain unharvested from the allocation. The Board also directed the Department to restrict the fishery, when the chum salmon catch reaches 400,000 in order to assure the 700,000 cap is not exceeded while still providing the opportunity to harvest the sockeye allocation.

SOCKEYE SALMON ALLOCATIONS

The total sockeye guideline harvest level for the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries is 6.8% and 1.5%, respectively, of the 1992 inshore Bristol Bay sockeye harvest forecast. Based on the Bristol Bay forecast (as of January 15, 1992), the 1992 sockeye guideline harvest levels are listed below.

<u>Period</u>		<u>South Unimak</u>	<u>Shumagin Islands</u>
June 13 - 18	35%	686,000	151,000
June 19 - 25	45%	881,000	195,000
<u>June 26 - 60</u>	<u>20%</u>	<u>392,000</u>	<u>86,000</u>
Total	100%	1,959,000	432,000

MANAGEMENT

If the first period's allocation is not harvested during June 13-18, up to a maximum of 5% of the total season allocation will be added to the total guideline harvest level for the second quota period (June 19-25).

Fishing periods will be announced by field emergency order, and will be adjusted to keep the sockeye salmon harvest within the guidelines for a given quota period. If guideline harvest levels are inadvertently exceeded during any given period, the excess

sockeye salmon will be subtracted from the remaining total guideline harvest level.

Tentatively (if there are indications of an unacceptably high number of chums present, there may be a delay in scheduling the first fishing period), the first fishing period will be from 6:00 A.M. until 10:00 P.M. Saturday, June 13. The time of the next fishing period will depend on the harvests of both sockeye and chum salmon during June 13. If the chum per sockeye ratio is high, it may be necessary to wait until the end of the June 13-18 period before fishing again. This is done in an effort to maximize fishing time during those periods of lower chum salmon abundance, which usually occurs later in the first quota period.

If catch rates are low and fishing time must be maximized, extensions of a fishing period may be made within several hours prior to the scheduled closure. The fishery may also be extended on short notice to achieve the sockeye guideline harvest levels if fishery performance indicates a high abundance of sockeye and relatively few chum salmon are present.

SANAK ISLAND CLOSURE

During the period of time covering the South Unimak June fishery, the area in the vicinity of Sanak Island (bounded by 54°33'12" N. lat., the latitude of Hague Rock and east of 163°03'36" W. long., the longitude of Cape Pankof Light south of Hague Rock as shown in Figure 1.) will not open to commercial salmon fishing. Historically, commercial salmon fishing records indicate a very limited to non-existent fishing effort in this area, although during the past two years, fishing interest has increased. Even though the fishing effort is light (i.e. less than 4 boats) the corresponding catch per unit of effort combined with the extremely high chum per sockeye ratio could result in substantial numbers of chum salmon being harvested, if effort were to increase.

SAFEGUARDS TO PREVENT EXCEEDING THE CHUM SALMON CAP

When the chum salmon harvest reaches 400,000, the Department will implement safeguards to insure the 700,000 chum salmon cap will not be exceeded. The first safeguards to be implemented may include:

1. Closures of any location demonstrating substantially higher chum to sockeye ratios than other major harvest locations.
2. Possible reductions in the duration of fishing periods for seiners and drift gill netters (the Board of Fisheries intended set gill net fishing periods be at least 16 hours in duration when the chum salmon catch is between 400,000 and 700,000 and when it is necessary to shorten fishing periods to reduce the harvest of chum salmon).
3. After all of the harvest figures have been reported and all fishing effort accounted for, the fishery may be reopened on very short notice, depending on the need to maximize fishing time to harvest sockeye salmon. The commercial fishery will not reopen until all harvest figures have been reported. Upon receiving this information ADF&G may reopen the fishery on a short notice. The length of openings will be dependent on the chum to sockeye salmon ratio, numbers of chum salmon left before the cap is reached, and the number of sockeye salmon remaining in the allocation.

After the chum salmon harvest reaches 500,000 fish, more severe restrictions will be implemented. In addition to those safeguards listed when the chum salmon catch reaches 400,000 at least one or more of the following may be used:

1. Further reduction in fishing period duration for seiners and drift gill net gear.
2. Shorter fishing periods in the Cape Lutke Section than allowed in the balance of the fishery (fishing time at Cape Lutke may be extended if the initial fishing period's chum per sockeye salmon ratio is not overly high).
3. Closures of major fishing areas, for example the Cape Lutke Section. This location produced sudden high increases in chum salmon catches in late June during 1981 and 1991 and was the main cause for the 1991 cap being exceeded. ADF&G recognizes substantial fishing effort is required at Cape Lutke to harvest a large South Unimak sockeye salmon allocation.

After the chum salmon harvest reaches 600,000, the Cape Lutke Section may be closed for the duration of the June fishery. If fishing is allowed at Cape Lutke, fishing periods will be kept to very short durations. Fishing periods will also be brief in other locations. During years (such as 1992) with large sockeye salmon allocations there will likely come a time when no fishing can be allowed without the risk of exceeding the chum salmon cap.

ADF&G will still remain flexible, recognizing in season conditions often require actions different from general situations spelled out in a preseason management plan. The Department does encourage suggestions from the public, Fish and Game Advisory Committees, fisheries organizations, and processors in reviewing the management of this fishery.

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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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