

ATKA-AMLIA ISLANDS AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREAS  
SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN, 1993

By

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Regional Information Report<sup>1</sup> No. 4K93-15

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
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211 Mission Road  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

March 1993

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## ATKA-AMLIA AREA

The Alaska Board of Fisheries, during its November 1991 meeting, created an experimental open to entry set gillnet salmon fishery around Atka and Amlia Islands. The Atka-Amlia Islands Management Area is bounded by 172°50' W. long (Sequam Pass) on the east and 175°23' W. long. (Atka Pass) on the west. In addition to set gillnet gear, fishermen with CFEC Area M purse seine permits may seine for salmon in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area.

Each permit holder must register himself or herself and each vessel that will be operated. Vessels acting as salmon tenders, fish buyers and processors, are also required to register prior to operating in the Atka/Amlia Area. Registration can be completed by contacting an ADF&G Area Management Biologist at Atka Village, Cold Bay, Sand Point, or other places designated by the Department, at least 48 hours prior to the commercial fishing for salmon in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area.

The variable nature of pink salmon returns in the area combined with the lack of multiple year escapement information make it impossible to project next season's catch and escapement. Comparison with other areas in the Aleutian Islands may present some indication of the 1993 returns. Salmon catch and escapement in the Unalaska District during odd numbered years is generally weak. Occasionally there are moderate pink salmon returns at nearby Adak during odd years. If moderate returns occur, there may be a potential for a small successful commercial fishery in 1993.

The fishing season is from August 1 through August 31. Fishing periods in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area are 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. during Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

All waters within 500 yards of the mouth of all salmon streams are closed to commercial salmon fishing.

Purse seine gear specifications are the same in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area as listed in the most recent commercial salmon fishing regulation book for the Aleutian Islands Area.

Set gillnet specifications are as follows:

1. Each CFEC permit holder may operate no more than one gillnet of which the total aggregate length cannot exceed 100 fathoms (not including the lead).
2. Set gillnets must be operated in substantially a straight line except that no more than 25 fathoms of the offshore end of a set gillnet may be used as a hook. A hook may be used in any configuration.
3. The mesh size of set gillnets shall not exceed five inches.
4. The maximum depth of set gillnets shall not exceed 90 meshes.

5. Twenty-five fathoms of seine webbing may be used as a lead, and may be attached only to the shoreward end of a set gillnet; the shoreward end of the lead or gillnet must be attached to the beach above high tide.
6. During hours of darkness, each set gillnet must be marked with at least one red light on the seaward end of the net.
7. No vessel used for set gillnet fishing may exceed 29 feet in overall length.

### **ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA**

The Aleutian Islands Area includes all waters of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands west of Cape Sarichef Light and west of a line extending from Scotch Cap through the easternmost tip of Ugamak Island to 172°50' W. long. (Sequam Pass) and all waters of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands west of 175°23' W. long. (Atka Pass).

Seining is the only legal method to harvest salmon in the Aleutian Islands Area.

A negligible pink salmon harvest is anticipated in the Aleutian Islands Area. The Unalaska District (the only district with a recent harvest history) usually produces small runs during odd numbered years.

There are small local sockeye runs in the Unalaska District. Due to the remoteness and run size, the harvest (if any) is anticipated to be small.

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 18, to allow fishermen the opportunity to fish local sockeye.

The entire Aleutian Islands Area will open to commercial salmon fishing from 6:00 a.m. Monday July 12 until 6:00 p.m. Friday July 17 as specified in the regulation book. No commercial salmon fishing will be allowed in the Aleutian Islands Area after July 18 unless established by emergency order.

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