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ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT, 1993



Regional Information Report No. 4K94-25

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Division
211 Mission Road
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

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By

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and
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INTRODUCTION

The Aleutian Islands Area consists of the Aleutian Islands west of Unimak Island, excluding the Atka-Amlia Islands Area. The Atka-Amlia Islands Area consists of all Aleutian islands waters located between Sequaum Pass (172°50'W. long.) and Atka Pass (175°23'W. long.). The Atka-Amlia Islands Area will be discussed in the 1993 Atka-Amlia Islands Area Management Report which is presently being written.

The Aleutian Islands Area is part of salmon permit Area M. Seining is the only legal method to harvest salmon in the Aleutian Islands Area.

The Aleutian Islands Area produces runs of sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon. However, only pink salmon have proven to be of major commercial importance.

The following islands produce large pink salmon runs during some years: Unalaska, Umnak, Adak, and Attu. This list does not include Unimak, Atka, and Amlia Islands which are located outside the Aleutian Islands Area.

Tanaga, Kanaga, and Kiska Islands all have at least one important pink salmon stream.

Except for occasional fishing on Umnak Island during the early 1960's and probably the 1950's, all commercial effort has been confined to Unalaska Island, with the exception of a 1963 Attu expedition.

Aleutian Islands pink salmon runs tend to be much larger during the even year cycle. Unalaska Bay has a history of producing large runs during both odd and even years.

Pink salmon runs are very unstable in the Aleutians. They produce legendary high returns at times and then collapse for no apparent reason.

Aleutian pink and sockeye salmon (within a given age group) tend to be of smaller size than those of Alaska Peninsula stocks.

Prior to 1979, markets were a limiting factor at Unalaska. There was often no market unless pink salmon abundance warranted sending tenders from False Pass or King Cove. Some fish (usually sockeye salmon) were salted by the fishermen. During most years from 1979 to the present, processors located at Unalaska-Dutch Harbor or Akutan, have purchased most of the salmon.

The record Aleutian pink salmon catch was approximately 2.6 million fish during 1980 (roughly 2 million were taken out of Makushin Bay alone). Historical salmon harvests for the Aleutian Islands and Atka-Amlia Islands Areas are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Unalaska pink salmon runs seem to arrive about the same time as those of the South Peninsula. However there is considerable variation from year to year as to when pink salmon enter Unalaska streams as well as timing between various streams. This is a different situation than found on the South Peninsula where pink salmon entry into streams is less variable. During large runs Unalaska pink salmon may trickle in throughout September.

The commercial salmon fishery is managed from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in Cold Bay. The shellfish staff at the ADF&G office in Dutch Harbor assist by doing some of the stream surveys and obtaining catch reports. Salmon subsistence permits are issued in Dutch Harbor but the data is summarized by the salmon staff, based in Kodiak during the winter.

Because of the weather, remoteness, availability of suitable aircraft, and high cost of aircraft charters, Unalaska salmon escapement data is incomplete during most years. Escapement information is nearly nonexistent for the balance of the Aleutian Islands Area, except for a study done in 1982 (Holmes, 1982).

1993 SEASON

In 1993 no commercial salmon fishing took place in the Aleutian Islands Management Area. No attempt was made to fish the area during early fishing periods listed in the regulation book (ADF&G 1992) and no fishing periods were established during the emergency order period due to weak pink salmon runs.

Very few escapement surveys were done and those that were done indicated very low escapements into all streams except Unalaska Creek (Iliulik River). Unalaska Creek has a history of decent escapements during years when Unalaska Island streams in general are very poor. The Nateekin River which is the largest odd year cycle pink salmon producing stream in the Aleutian Islands had a peak escapement of only 22,000 pinks, far below the goal of 48,000 to 96,000.

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Table 1. Aleutian Islands Area (excluding Atka and Amlia Islands) salmon catches (in numbers of fish), 1911-1993.

Year	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1911	0	9,300	0	0	0	9,300
1912-15	0	0	0	0	0	0
1916	0	76,500	1,200	180,300	100	258,100
1917	0	70,400	3,800	600	23,100	97,900
1918	0	55,200	4,400	75,600	135,200	270,400
1919	0	3,900	800	4,000	0	8,700
1920	0	10,100	2,800	0	0	12,900
1921	0	0	0	0	0	0
1922	0	14,000	0	0	0	14,000
1923	0	0	0	0	0	0
1924	0	24,900	0	673,800	100	698,800
1925	0	18,600	0	3,800	9,100	31,500
1926	0	1,300	0	521,700	7,800	530,800
1927	0	17,300	0	334,600	0	351,900
1928-50	Aleutian catches combined with those of South Peninsula					
1951	0	11,700	400	500	94,500	107,100
1952	200	42,800	0	31,800	25,700	100,500
1953	0	4,200	500	69,200	800	74,700
1954	0	6,300	800	566,500	200	573,800
1955	0	12,600	100	31,100	400	44,200
1956	0	400	0	33,900	0	34,300
1957	2,300	27,300	100	500	13,900	44,100
1958	0	300	0	613,200	3,700	617,200
1959	0	6,100	0	12,000	100	18,200
1960	0	7,600	0	444,900	300	452,800
1961	0	2,700	0	94,000	200	96,900
1962	0	5,500	100	2,001,700	1,200	2,008,500
1963	0	4,500	0	93,900	300	98,700
1964	0	200	0	194,100	2,300	196,600
1965	0	0	0	0	0	0
1966	0	1,000	0	63,500	700	65,200
1967	0	200	0	7,900	0	8,100
1968	0	2,000	100	902,800	800	905,700
1969	0	1,900	0	242,200	1,500	245,600
1970	0	200	100	644,100	3,000	647,400
1971	0	300	0	45,100	100	45,500
1972	0	100	0	2,800	0	2,900
1973	0	100	0	2,000	0	2,100
1974	0	0	0	0	0	0
1975	0	19,400	0	700	1,900	22,000
1976-77	0	0	0	0	0	0
1978	0	1,800	0	38,100	0	39,900
1979	0	12,200	0	539,400	200	551,800
1980	0	9,200	0	2,597,500	4,900	2,611,600
1981	0	5,400	200	302,800	6,600	315,000
1982	0	2,700	0	1,447,800	6,100	1,456,600
1983	0	4,400	0	2,000	11,400	17,800
1984	0	67,200	0	2,309,700	33,900	2,410,800
1985	0	2,800	0	100	14,200	17,100
1986	0	7,700	100	42,600	38,800	89,200
1987	0	100	0	0	0	100
1988	0	4,300	0	183,100	500	187,900
1989	0	8,200	0	6,700	0	14,900
1990	0	12,400	100	282,800	1,000	296,300
1991	0	800	0	0	0	800
1992	0	3,100	0	312,100	1,200	316,400
1993	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2. Atka-Amlia Islands Area commercial salmon catches (in numbers of fish), 1992-1993.

Year	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1992	0	231	42	7,972	308	8,553
1993	0	24	4	145	563	736

Table 3. Salmon escapement survey counts in the Aleutian Islands Management Area, 1993.

Stream Number	Stream Name/ Location	Date	Survey Condition	Species				Observer	Remarks
				Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum		
302-40.08	Unalaska Village	24-Aug	Good	0	0	7,200	0	Ward	Foot survey. 1,200 spawning, rest schooled in church hole. Surveyed below lake, only.
302-40.05	Nateekin River	07-Sept	Good	0	0	22,000	0	Ward	Used turbo Beaver.
302-14.17	Humpback Bay #2	07-Sept	Fair	0	0	50	0	Ward	Used turbo Beaver.
302-14.16	Humpback Bay #1	07-Sept	Fair	0	0	1,500	0	Ward	Used turbo Beaver.

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