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Sand Point Commercial Salmon Fishery Update #11 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery Summary

The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery concluded on June 28 at 11:59 p.m. The estimated inseason harvest for the June fishery was 1,739 Chinook, 881,288 sockeye, 213,425 pink, and 199,888 chum salmon. The harvest of sockeye salmon is below the 10-yr average of 1,607,755 fish and below the 20-year average of 1,419,808 fish. The harvest of chum salmon is below the 10-yr average of 517,180 fish and below the 20-yr average of 459,007 fish.

Table 1. –2001–2023 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June total harvest of sockeye and chum salmon.

Year	Sockeye	Chum
2000	1,350,401	250,557
2001	152,944	48,421
2002	627,599	381,497
2003	500,302	283,601
2004	1,395,354	483,297
2005	1,092,771	429,909
2006	932,291	299,827
2007	1,589,840	297,539
2008	1,713,575	410,932
2009	1,167,783	696,775
2010	856,321	274,871
2011	1,464,706	435,970
2012	1,605,678	395,616
2013	1,667,030	400,993
2014	659,070	386,657
2015	1,115,504	178,715
2016	1,374,824	271,400
2017	2,010,727	642,490
2018	822,173	537,466
2019	630,888	549,072
2020	339,293	490,128
2021	3,541,620	1,168,601
2022	3,916,417	546,274
2023	881,288	199,888
10-yr. average	1,607,755	517,180
20-yr. average	1,419,808	459,007

In 2023, the seine fleet and processors attempted to curtail their overall harvest of chum salmon through continuous communication that enabled the fleet to relay catch information to one another in real time. The fleet communicated daily with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Department) on a regular basis to inform the Department of seine fleet closures. Except for the 50% reduction of the fishing periods that were implemented to conserve Chignik River early run sockeye salmon on June 16 (33 hrs. vs. 66 hrs.) and on June 20 (44 hrs. vs. 88 hrs.), all other reductions in fishing time within the regulatory fishing periods were voluntarily instituted by the fleet. There were two forms of closures; there were mandatory closures for either the Shumagin Islands Section and/or the entire South Unimak area, which encompasses waters within the Southwestern and Unimak Districts, and there were area specific standdowns by the fleet. It is the Department’s understanding that the mandatory closures were enacted to reduce the fleet’s overall harvest of chum salmon and to stay below the triggers that would reduce fishing in all areas by 50% for seine gear if the first trigger was met on June 18, and close the South Alaska Peninsula for seine gear if the second trigger was met on June 23. The area specific standdowns, was a method that the fleet used to react quickly when a high abundance of chum salmon was in the area and attempted to keep harvest of sockeye to chum above the 2:1 ratio.

Table 2. –South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June regulatory fishing period start date and number of hours per period for seine gear; number of hours that were mandatory closures in the Shumagin Islands Section and South Unimak (includes Unimak and Southwestern Districts); and voluntary standdown hours in the Shumagin Islands, East Anchor, Cape Laref, and Cape Lutke.

Period Start	Regulatory Hours	Full Fleet Closure Hours		Area Specific Standdown Hours			
		Shumagins	South Unimak	Shumagins	East Anchor	Cape Lazaref	Cape Lutke
10-Jun	68	12	13.5	6.5	–	8	3
16-Jun	66	38 ¹	7.5	–	–	12.3	10.3
20-Jun	88	55.5 ²	–	–	–	22.25	11.1
25-Jun	88	–	–	8	13.5	–	8.5
Total	310	105.5	21	14.5	13.5	42.55	32.9

¹ Shumagin Islands Section 50% reduction to 33 hours for conservation of Chignik early-run sockeye salmon

² Shumagin Islands Section 50% reduction to 44 hours for conservation of Chignik early-run sockeye salmon