



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

MEMORANDUM

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SUBJECT: 2011 Alaska Peninsula
and Aleutian Islands
Areas Season Summary

cc: Campbell
Aspelund
Salomone
Tracy
Morstad
Volk
Menard
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Kelley
Hayes
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AK Pen Fishermen's Coop
King Cove AC
City of King Cove
City of Nelson Lagoon
Concerned Area M Fishermen
Yard Arm Knot Fisheries
Pen. Setnetters Assoc
Trident Seafoods
Fisher
Witteveen

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Linderman
Woodby
Shaker
Gray
Fair
Herring
Finkle
Nemeth
Anderson
Foster
Sand Point AC
False Pass AC
Chignik Seiner's Assoc
City of Port Heiden
City of False Pass
Peninsula Marketing Assoc.
USF&WS – King Salmon
City of Cold Bay
Aleutians East Borough
Gardner
Moore

Bruce
Fleener
Jennings
Miller
Bergstrom
Fall
Sands
Spalinger,G
Polum
Nichols
Dinnocenzo
Nelson Lagoon AC
City of Unalaska
Dutch Harbor AC
Kodiak AC
Adak Fisheries
Peter Pan Seafoods
USF&WS OSM, Fried
Bristol Bay Driftnetters Assoc.
City of Sand Point
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Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Areas Salmon Season Summary, 2011

by
Bob Murphy, Aaron Poetter, Matt Keyse, and Dawn Wilburn

October 27, 2011

The following is an overview of the 2011 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands Areas (Figure 1) commercial salmon fishing season. Total harvest presented from the 2011 commercial salmon fishing season should closely approximate final harvest numbers for all species. The 2011 commercial salmon harvest in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands Management Areas totaled 9,584 Chinook, 2,843,998 sockeye, 172,577 coho, 5,746,033 pink, and 1,273,171 chum salmon (Table 1). Subsistence salmon harvest will be reported in the 2011 annual management report (AMR). Data detailed in this report are considered preliminary. Preliminary exvessel value of salmon harvested in Area M totaled \$25,741,579 (Table 2). Exvessel value information was generated from fish tickets and does not include postseason adjustments paid to fishermen.

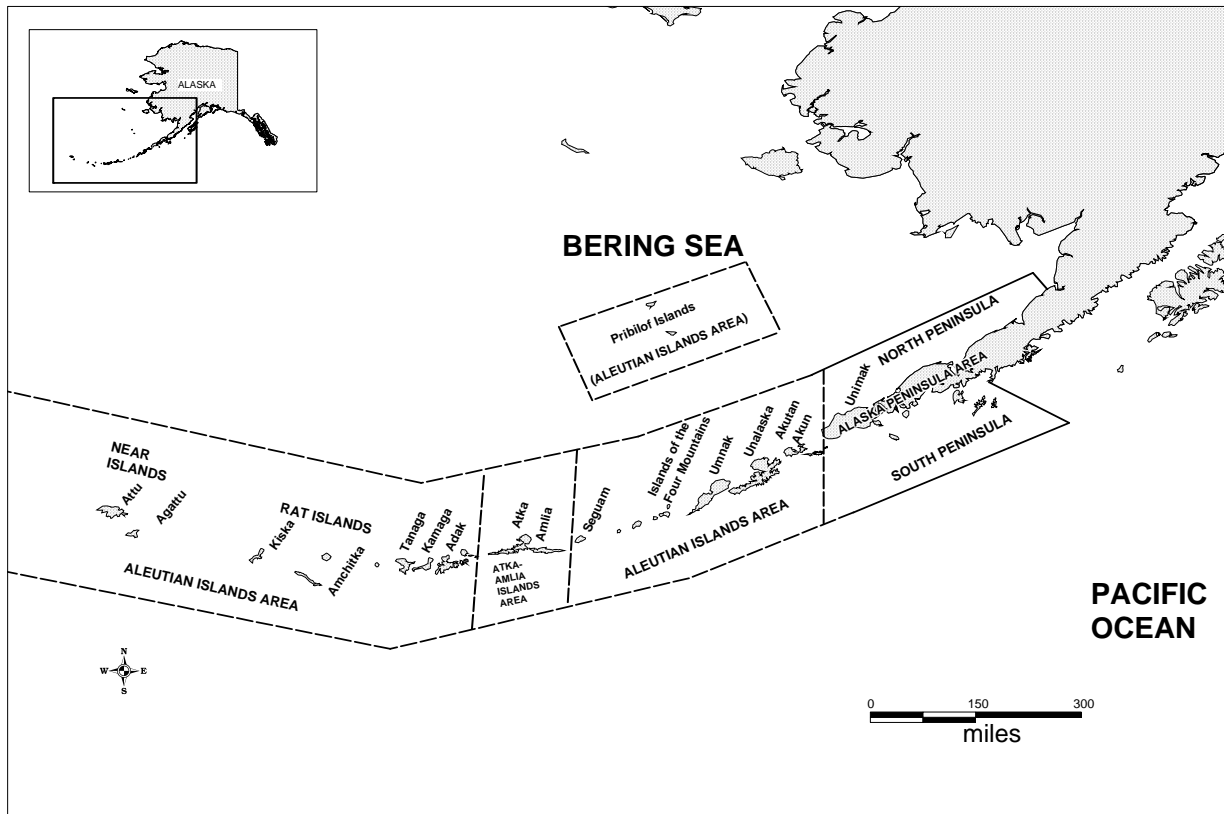


Figure 1.—Map of the Aleutian Islands, Atka-Amlia Islands, and Alaska Peninsula Management Areas.

Table 1.—Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands commercial salmon harvest, 2011.

Location	Number of Fish					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
South Peninsula	7,214	1,918,941	153,135	5,004,314	979,154	8,062,758
North Peninsula	2,368	923,194	19,440	108,830	293,782	1,347,614
Aleutian Islands	2	1,863	2	632,889	235	634,991
Atka & Amlia Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9,584	2,843,998	172,577	5,746,033	1,273,171	10,045,363

Table 2.—Preliminary commercial ex-vessel values by fishery and species, 2011.

Location	Value					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
S. Unimak-Shumagin June Fishery	\$53,716	\$7,175,148	\$35	\$448,993	\$1,022,756	\$8,700,648
Southeastern District Mainland Fishery June 1–July 25	\$4,985	\$1,315,716	\$6,722	\$55,726	\$157,270	\$1,540,419
South Peninsula Post-June Fishery	\$32,438	\$1,719,029	\$481,908	\$4,854,284	\$1,651,607	\$8,739,266
Total	\$91,139	\$10,209,893	\$488,665	\$5,359,003	\$2,831,633	\$18,980,333
Northwestern District	\$202	\$99,793	\$9,776	\$127,102	\$795,096	\$1,031,969
Northern District	\$42,223	\$4,640,665	\$68,839	\$391	\$199,877	\$4,951,995
Total	\$42,425	\$4,740,458	\$78,615	\$127,493	\$994,973	\$5,983,964
Aleutian Islands Total	\$4	\$11,237	\$7	\$765,060	\$974	\$777,282
Atka-Amlia Islands Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$133,568	\$14,961,588	\$567,287	\$6,251,556	\$3,827,580	\$25,741,579

South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fisheries

The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fishing season began at 6:00 AM on June 7 with an 88-hour fishing period for all gear types (purse seine, drift gillnet, and set gillnet gear). During the June fishery, there were four 88-hour periods and one 64-hour fishing period. The commercial salmon harvest for the June fishery consisted of 3,464 Chinook, 1,359,441 sockeye, 124 coho, 723,135 pink, and 423,335 chum salmon (Table 3).

Table 3.—Total June salmon harvests in numbers of fish for the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries, excluding home pack, 2011.

	Number of salmon					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
South Unimak	2,257	937,168	17	475,289	231,081	1,645,812
Shumagin Islands	1,207	422,273	107	247,846	192,254	863,687
Total	3,464	1,359,441	124	723,135	423,335	2,509,499

Southeastern District Mainland

Due to a strong commercial salmon harvest in the Chignik Management Area (CMA), the SEDM opened to commercial salmon fishing on June 18. During the SEDM allocation openings 348 Chinook, 195,796 sockeye, 2,107 coho, 43,423 pink, and 46,762 chum salmon were harvested (Table 4).

Beginning July 1, the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS) of the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) is managed on the strength of the Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon run. The return of sockeye salmon to Orzinski Lake was adequate to allow limited commercial harvest opportunity in the NWSS. From July 1 through July 25, there were 47 Chinook, 26,719 sockeye, 193 coho, 3,752 pink, and 4,734 chum salmon harvested in the NWSS (Table 4). The cumulative sockeye salmon escapement of 16,764 fish, through the Orzinski Lake weir, was within the sustainable escapement goal of 15,000–20,000 sockeye salmon.

From July 26 to August 31, the SEDM is managed based on the abundance of local salmon stocks and 30 Chinook, 16,200 sockeye, 4,379 coho, 417,351 pink, and 25,999 chum salmon were harvested.

From September 1 through September 30 the SEDM is open concurrently with the remainder of the Southeastern District based on the abundance of coho salmon stocks. In September, 3 Chinook, 4,754 sockeye, 3,366 coho, 587 pink, and 2,236 chum salmon were harvested in the SEDM (Table 4).

Table 4.—Preliminary Southeastern District Mainland salmon harvest, excluding home pack, 2011.

Location	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
June 1–July 25	348	195,796	2,107	43,423	46,762
July 1–July 25 NWSS ^a	47	26,719	193	3,752	4,734
August (July 26–August 31)	30	16,200	4,379	417,351	25,999
September	3	4,754	3,366	587	2,236
Total	428	243,469	10,045	465,113	79,731

^a Northwest Stepovak Section.

South Peninsula Post-June Fishery

Prior to the South Peninsula Post-June fishery, the department conducts a test fishery to determine immature salmon abundance in the Shumagin Islands. Test fishing occurred on July 3, 4, and 5 which resulted in 11, 21, and 14 immature salmon per set respectively, which were below the threshold of 100 immature salmon per set.

From July 6 through July 21, there were six fishing periods, each consisting of a 24-hour opening followed by a 48-hour closure. From July 22 through July 31, there were three fishing periods that consisted of a 36-hour opening followed by a 48-hour closure. During August, the Post-June fishery is managed based on the abundance of local stocks. In September and October, management focuses on coho salmon returns, though the status of local pink and chum salmon returns may also be taken into consideration.

The total commercial harvest for the South Peninsula Post-June fishery (including the SEDM from July 26–October 31) was 3,348 Chinook, 334,589 sockeye, 150,662 coho, 4,221,915 pink, and 502,891 chum salmon (Table 5).

Commercial salmon fishing was allowed in the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands portion of the Southeastern District for 37 hours from 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 3 until 9:00 p.m. Thursday, August 4. An additional 37-hour commercial salmon fishery was allowed in the Shumagin Islands portion of the Southeastern District from 8:00 a.m. Saturday, August 6 until 9:00 p.m. Sunday, August 7. Continuous commercial salmon fishing was permitted in the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands portion of the Southeastern District from 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 16 until 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 31.

The Unimak and Southwestern districts had one 37-hour commercial salmon fishing period from 8:00 a.m. Friday, August 5 until 9:00 p.m. Saturday, August 6. Due to low pink and chum salmon escapement into the Unimak and Southwestern districts, commercial salmon was not permitted for most of August. A 61-hour commercial salmon fishing period was permitted from 8:00 a.m. Monday, August 29 until 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 31.

Commercial salmon fishing during the post-June SEDM (July 26–October 31) fishery remained closed for most of August due to low pink and chum salmon escapement. One commercial

salmon fishing period was permitted from 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 24 until 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 31.

In September there were three 59-hour commercial salmon fishing periods in the South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak districts. There were three 59-hour and one 83-hour commercial salmon fishing period in the Southeastern District during the month of September.

Table 5.—Post-June South Peninsula commercial salmon harvest, excluding home pack, 2011.

Location	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
South Peninsula Post-June harvest	3,315	313,635	142,917	3,803,977	474,656
Post-June SEDM harvest (July 26– October 31)	33	20,954	7,745	417,938	28,235
Total Post-June harvest	3,348	334,589	150,662	4,221,915	502,891

South Peninsula Escapement

The South Peninsula indexed sockeye salmon escapement of 59,794 (Table 6) was within end of the management objective range of 48,200–86,400 fish. Pink salmon total escapement of 2,494,950 was within end of the odd-year goal range of 1,637,800–3,275,700 fish. Chum salmon indexed total escapement of 497,725 was within the escapement goal range of 330,400–660,800 fish. A total of 3,100 coho salmon were documented in South Peninsula streams. Some of the major coho salmon systems are typically not surveyed or surveyed during off-peak times. There are few escapement goals on the South Peninsula for coho salmon due to their late-run timing. A lack of escapement information for coho salmon is due to the departure of management staff from the South Peninsula region prior to peak coho salmon runs, and poor weather conditions during the peak coho salmon runs preventing aerial surveys from being conducted.

Table 6.—South Peninsula indexed salmon escapement by species and year, 2005–2011.

Year	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2005	0	123,964	74,718	6,165,634	970,310
2006	0	88,148	197,758	2,862,250	764,750
2007	0	69,013	110,800	2,680,213	726,661
2008	0	95,859	19,600	3,338,370	591,950
2009	0	128,117	108,855	3,067,000	512,230
2010	0	38,039	260	742,912	291,912
2011	0	59,794	3,100	2,494,950	497,725
2006–2010 Average	0	83,835	87,455	2,538,149	577,501

Aleutian Islands Fishery

The department opened the Aleutian Islands Area to commercial salmon fishing by seine gear on August 4. Commercial harvest of salmon occurred in Unalaska and Makushin bays, with a total harvest of 2 Chinook, 1,863 sockeye, 2 coho, 632,889 pink, and 235 chum salmon (Table 7). Currently there is no escapement goal for pink salmon in the Aleutian Islands area. However, an aerial survey was conducted on August 5 by the department of Unalaska and Makushin bays to provide escapement information for inseason management purposes and to monitor the abundance of pink salmon in this area. An estimated 31,000 pink salmon were observed as escapement. No additional salmon escapement surveys were conducted in the Aleutian Islands during 2011.

Table 7.—Aleutian Islands commercial salmon harvest, excluding home pack, 2011.

	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Aleutian Islands	2	1,863	2	632,889	235

North Alaska Peninsula

Commercial Harvest

In 2011, 171 Area M permit holders participated in commercial salmon fisheries along the North Alaska Peninsula (Figure 2). There was no effort by Area T permit holders. The numbers of Area M and Area T permit holders participating in 2011 were far below the historic numbers observed during the 1990s.

The North Alaska Peninsula fishery is predominantly a sockeye salmon fishery, although depending on market conditions, directed Chinook, coho, and chum salmon fisheries occur in some locations. During even-numbered years, depending on market conditions, pink salmon runs are frequently targeted in the Northwestern District.

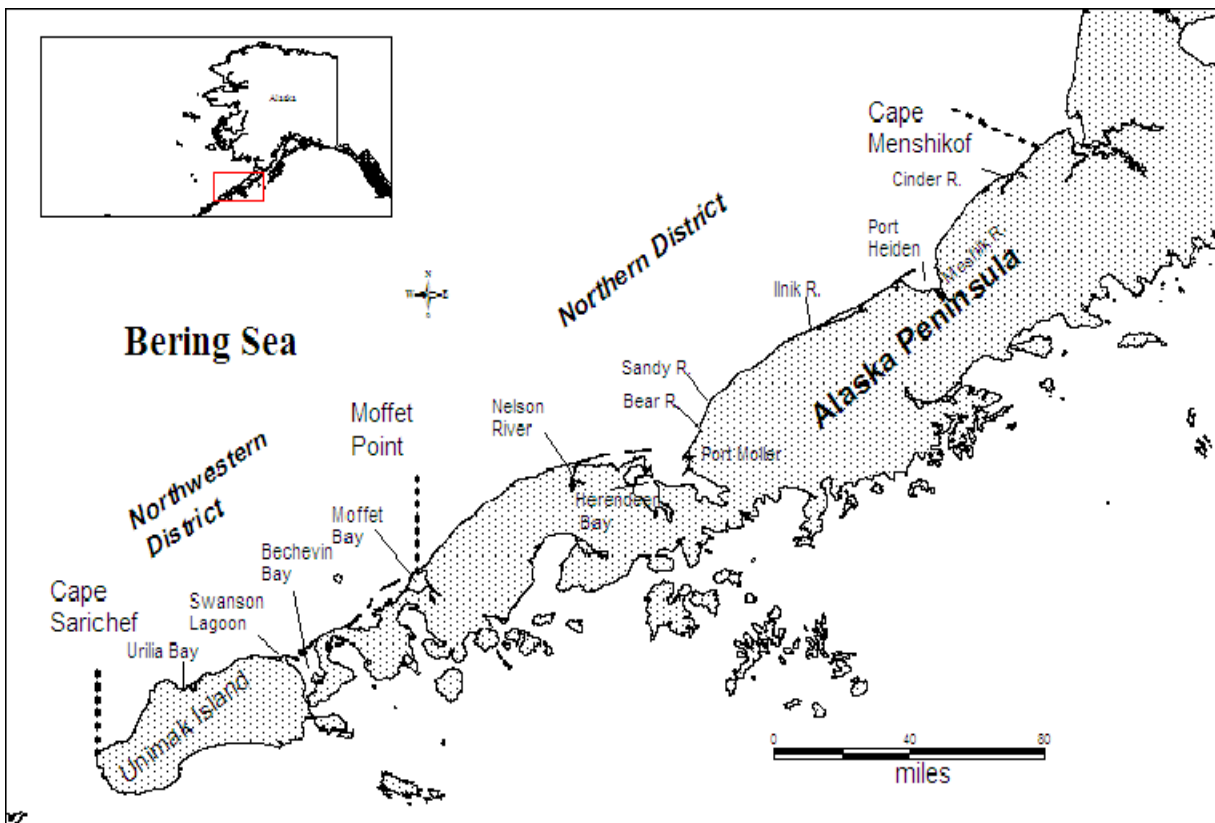


Figure 2.—North and South Alaska Peninsula with North Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon fishing districts depicted.

In 2011, the North Alaska Peninsula harvest of Chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon were below the previous 10-year (2001-2010) averages (Table 8), while the harvest of pink and chum salmon were above the previous 10-year average. Similarly, the harvest of Chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon were all below projected levels, while pink and chum salmon were well above projected levels (Table 8). In addition, the total 2011 North Alaska Peninsula sockeye salmon harvest was the lowest harvest in over 30 years.

Table 8.—The total North Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon harvest, excluding home pack and department test fishery, and 2011 projected harvest and 2001–2010 average harvest.

	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Season Total	2,368	923,194	19,440	108,830	293,782
Projected Harvest	4,000	2,200,000	60,000	2,000	75,000
2001–2010 Average ^a	5,542	2,203,432	62,460	89,578	117,696

^a Pink salmon average is for odd-numbered years only, 2001–2010.

In-Season Management

Northwestern District

In the 2011 Northwestern District commercial salmon fishery a total of 20,113 sockeye, 2,447 coho, 108,495 pink, and 229,398 chum salmon were harvested (Table 9). A total of 33 permit holders participated in the fishery, consisting of 5 purse seiners, 27 drift gillnetters, and 1 set gillnetter.

Table 9.—Northwestern District commercial harvest, excluding home pack and department test fishery, by section, all gear combined, 2011.

Location	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Dublin Bay Section	0	983	0	317	181
Urilia Bay Section	0	0	0	0	0
Swanson Lagoon Section	2	324	9	88	9,169
Bechevin Bay Section	2	888	905	103,624	77,388
Izembek-Moffet Bay Section	8	17,918	1,533	4,466	142,660
2011 Northwestern District Total	12	20,113	2,447	108,495	229,398
2001–2010 NW District Average ^a	8	72,494	200	21,327	62,451

^a Average for pink salmon includes only the odd-numbered years 2001–2010, excluding home pack and test fish.

In the Northwestern District, chum salmon escapement totaled 151,400 fish (Table 10). The Northwestern District chum salmon escapement goal of 100,000–215,000 fish was met, with a majority of the escapement occurring in the Izembek-Moffet Bay Section. The Urilia Bay Section had an escapement of 37,700 sockeye salmon.

Table 10.—Northwestern District salmon escapement by species and section, 2011.

Location	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Urilia Bay Section	0	37,700	0	0	0
Swanson Lagoon Section	0	1,000	0	0	0
Bechevin Bay Section	0	0	0	400	24,200
Izembek-Moffet Bay Section	0	10,200	2,400	0	127,200
Northwestern District Total	0	48,900	2,400	400	151,400

Nelson Lagoon Section

The Nelson Lagoon Section (Figure 3) total run of 187,808 sockeye salmon (includes harvest and escapement) was well below the estimated forecast of 484,000 sockeye. From the total run, 74,808 sockeye salmon were harvested in Nelson Lagoon (Table 11) and 113,000 fish escaped (Table 12), of which 89,000 fish returned to the Nelson (Sapsuk) River, and 24,000 sockeye salmon were observed in other tributaries of Nelson River such as David’s (18,000 fish) and Caribou (6,000 fish) rivers. The sockeye salmon escapement into Nelson River did not meet the biological escapement goal (BEG) of 97,000-219,000 fish (Table 12).

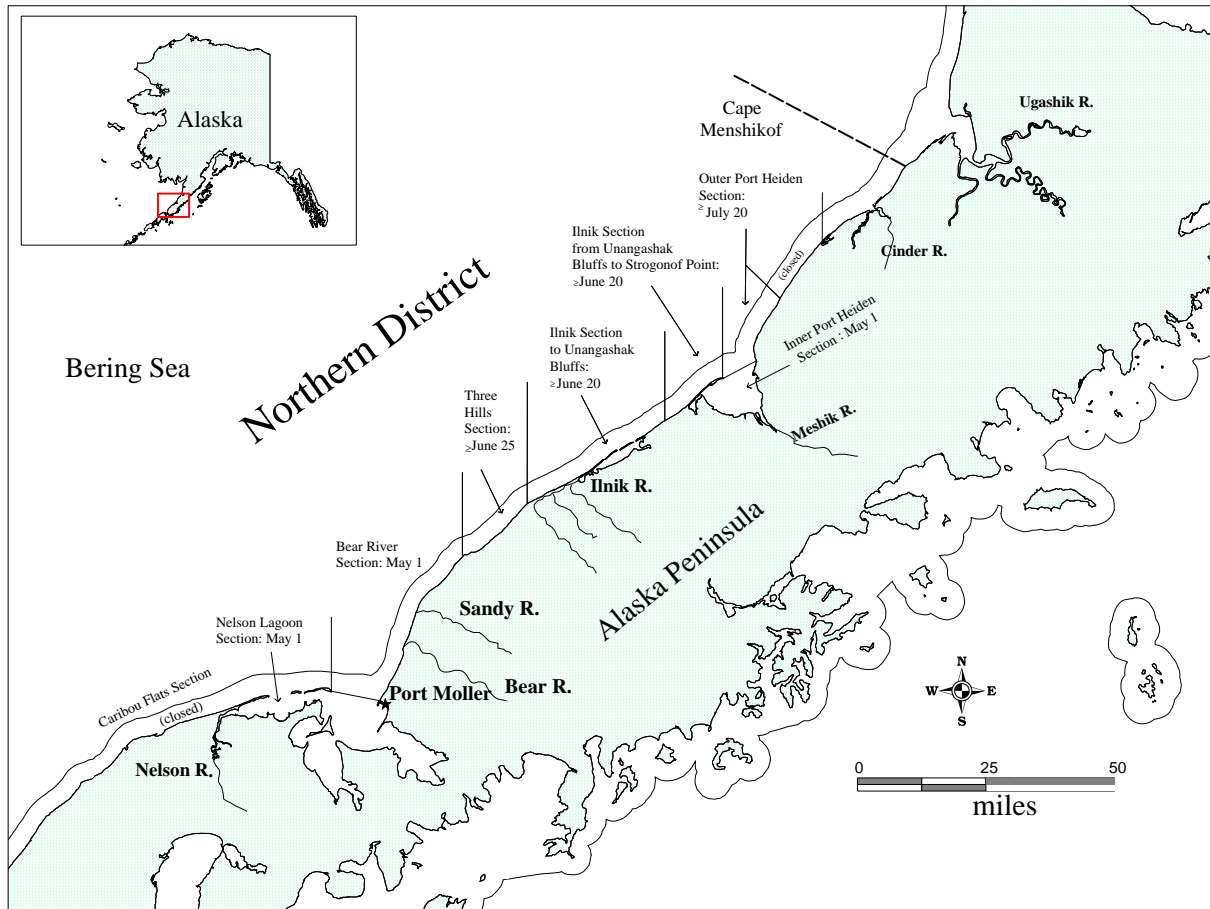


Figure 3.—Northern District commercial salmon fishing sections with earliest opening dates depicted.

Table 11.—North Alaska Peninsula sockeye salmon commercial harvest, excluding home pack and department test fishery, by statistical area or combination of statistical areas, 2011.

Area ^a	Sockeye Salmon Harvest	Percent of Total
311-20 Dublin Bay, 311-32 Uria Bay 311-52	983	0.11
311-52 Swanson Lagoon	324	0.04
311-60 Bechevin Bay	888	0.10
312-20 Izembek Lagoon, and 312-40 Moffet Bay	13,435	1.46
311-58, 312-10 Outside Izembek-Moffet	4,483	0.49
Northwestern District Total	20,113	2.18
313-10 Black Hills Section	17,826	1.93
313-30 Nelson Lagoon Section	74,808	8.10
314-12 Port Moller Bight	221	0.02
314-20 PM&Herendeen Bays	193	0.02
315-11 Bear River	88,343	9.57
315-20 NE Bear River	32,309	3.50
<i>Bear River Total</i>	<i>120,652</i>	<i>13.07</i>
316-10 Three Hills Section	11,189	1.21
316-20 Ilnik SW of Unangashak Bluffs	98,254	10.64
316-22 Ilnik Lagoon	0	0.00
316-25 Ilnik NE of Unangashak Bluffs	204,810	22.18
<i>Ilnik Section Total</i>	<i>303,064</i>	<i>32.83</i>
317-20 Inner Port Heiden Section and 317-10 Outer Port Heiden Section	375,128	40.63
318-20 Cinder River Section	0	0.00
<i>Cinder River and Port Heiden Total</i>	<i>375,128</i>	<i>40.63</i>
Northern District Total	903,081	97.82
Total North Peninsula	923,194	100.00

^a Some statistical areas have been combined because the low number of participants makes the information confidential.

Table 12.—North Alaska Peninsula sockeye salmon escapements and goals, 2011.

	Escapement ^a	Goal
Nelson (Sapsuk) River	89,000	97,000 - 219,000
Sandy River	37,500	34,000 - 74,000
Ilnik and Ocean Rivers	43,000	40,000 - 60,000
<i>Bear Lake early run</i>	207,451	176,000 - 293,000
<i>Bear Lake late run</i>	132,549	117,000 - 195,000
Bear Lake Total	340,000	293,000 - 488,000
Subtotal for systems with weirs	509,500	464,000 - 841,000
Subtotal for systems without weirs	278,105	53,400 - 106,800
North Peninsula Total	787,605	517,400 - 947,800

^aIncludes an estimate of sockeye salmon after removal of the weirs.

Bear River and Three Hills Sections

By regulation, the Bear River Section (Figure 3) opens to commercial salmon fishing on May 1 while the Three Hills Section opens June 25. Both areas are managed based on the sockeye salmon run strengths into Bear and Sandy rivers. In 2011 a portion of the Bear River Section and the entire Three Hills Section were closed to commercial salmon fishing to protect Sandy River sockeye salmon, which struggled to meet the interim escapement objectives throughout the season.

The Bear River early-run (through July 31) sockeye salmon escapement of 207,451 fish was within the escapement goal of 176,000-293,000 fish (Table 12). The Bear River late-run (after July 31) sockeye salmon escapement of 132,549 fish (includes post-weir estimate of 33,538) was also within the late-run escapement goal of 117,000-195,000 fish. After the weir was removed on August 26, the post-weir estimate of 33,538 fish brought the Bear River season sockeye escapement to 340,000 fish, which was within the season escapement goal of 293,000-488,000. Although the late run met its season ending escapement goal, it struggled to meet interim escapement objectives and the Bear River Section was closed to commercial salmon fishing during part of the late-run. In 2011, 75,234 sockeye salmon were harvested from the Bear River late-run, bringing the total late-run (catch plus escapement) to 207,783, which was below the forecast estimate of 462,000 sockeye salmon.

In 2011, the Port Moller Bight, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections (Figure 3) were closed from July 21 through August 19. During this time period the Bear River early-run is ending and the late-run is beginning. A test fishery was conducted to assess the run strength on August 2, August 9, and August 14. The test fisheries did not show a substantial build-up of sockeye salmon in the vicinity of Bear River. Due to uncertainty of the sockeye salmon build-up and low escapement levels in Bear River, commercial salmon fishing remained closed. Increased weir counts in the subsequent days allowed the commercial salmon fishery to re-open in the Port Moller Bight, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections on August 20. To protect milling fish destined for Bear River, a large buffer area restricting commercial fishing was implemented in

the vicinity of Bear River. Typically the late run peaks around August 15-20. Due to the steady daily escapement into Bear River, the buffer area restricting commercial fishing was reduced on August 23, when it was assured the late run would meet the season ending escapement objective.

The final 2011 Sandy River sockeye salmon escapement consisted of 30,000 fish counted at the weir site and 7,500 spawning sockeye salmon counted during aerial surveys after the weir was removed. The total escapement of 37,500 sockeye salmon met the season ending escapement goal range of 34,000–74,000 fish (Table 12). To help increase escapement into the Sandy River, the Three Hills section did not open to commercial salmon fishing until August 20 when sockeye salmon management is based on the Bear River sockeye salmon run strength.

Ilnik Section

The Ilnik River sockeye salmon escapement of 43,000 fish met the 40,000-60,000 sockeye salmon escapement goal, although it was well below the previous 10-year (2001-2010) average of 75,700 fish (Table 12). By regulation, the Ilnik Section can open to commercial salmon fishing on June 20. However, due to the variability in escapement counts and difficulty in assessing the run strength into the Ilnik River, the area did not open until June 25. Beginning July 21, the Ilnik Section was closed to commercial salmon fishing to protect Bear River bound sockeye salmon and reopened to commercial fishing on August 20 when it was assured the Bear River late run would meet the season ending escapement objective.

In 2011, a total of 125 permit holders harvested 303,064 sockeye salmon in the Ilnik Section from June 25 until August 31 (Table 11). Within the Ilnik Section, about 32 percent of this commercial harvest occurred southwest of Unangashak Bluffs (98,254 sockeye salmon), and 68 percent was harvested between Unangashak Bluffs and Strogonof Point (204,810 sockeye salmon; Table 11). The peak daily catch in the southern portion of the Ilnik Section was on July 26 when 13,378 sockeye salmon were harvested. The largest daily harvest in the northern portion of the Ilnik Section occurred on June 27, when 34,749 sockeye salmon were harvested.

Beginning August 15, the Ilnik Section is managed for coho salmon runs into Ilnik Lagoon. No directed coho salmon fisheries occurred in the Ilnik Section during 2011. Commercial fisheries in the Ilnik Section continued targeting sockeye salmon while coho salmon were harvested incidentally in the sockeye salmon fisheries. There was no harvest in the Ilnik Lagoon section in 2011.

Inner and Outer Port Heiden Sections

Aerial escapement surveys began on the Meshik River on June 18 and were conducted about once weekly throughout the fishery. A survey conducted on July 2 documented 34,000 sockeye salmon in the Meshik River, meeting the season-ending escapement goal of 25,000-100,000 fish. The final escapement in the Inner Port Heiden Section (including Meshik River, Red Bluff and Yellow Bluff creeks and tributaries) was 94,200 sockeye salmon.

Fishing time in the Outer Port Heiden Section (Figure 3) is based on Meshik River sockeye salmon abundance unless management actions are taken for the conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon in the Egegik District. By regulation, the Outer Port Heiden Section can open to commercial salmon fishing from June 20 to July 31. The weekly fishing periods in the Outer Port Heiden Section are scheduled from 6:00 a.m. Monday to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday. The Outer Port

Heiden Section opened on June 23 and had consistent openings of 2.5 days per week throughout July until the section closed for the season on July 20. In 2011, a total of 107 permit holders harvested 375,128 sockeye salmon from the Outer Port Heiden Section. The peak daily catch was on July 2 when 45,659 sockeye salmon were harvested. No commercial fishing occurred in the Inner Port Heiden Section in 2011.

Cinder River Section

There was no harvest reported in the Cinder River Section (Figure 3) in 2011.

Northern District Escapement

Chinook Salmon

Nelson River is the only river in Area M with a Chinook salmon escapement goal. The 2011 Nelson River Chinook salmon escapement was 1,704 fish and did not meet the escapement goal of 2,400–4,400. The total Northern District Chinook salmon escapement of 15,254 was below the most recent ten-year average of 21,599.

Chum Salmon

The Northern District has a district wide chum salmon escapement goal of 119,600–239,200. This goal was not met with an escapement of 96,952 fish, which was also below the most recent ten-year average of 216,028 fish. The vast majority of the chum salmon escapement occurs in the Herendeen and Moller bays and in 2011 the total chum escapement in the bays was 58,200 fish.

Coho Salmon

Coho salmon surveys were done on all Northern District streams, however, the surveys were done in early September and the runs were not complete at that time so the escapement numbers are considered minimum estimates. Nelson and Ilnik rivers each have coho salmon threshold escapement goals in the Northern District. The Nelson River escapement of 21,000 coho salmon met the threshold goal of 18,000 fish. The coho salmon run continues through September and the last aerial survey was on September 8. The Ilnik River escapement of 22,000 met the threshold of 9,000 fish. Like Nelson River, it is expected that more coho salmon entered the system after early September when the last aerial survey occurred. The Ilnik River coho salmon run also goes through September.