



# **Department of Fish and Game**

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES Westward Region Office

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| TO:   | Steve Honnold<br>Regional Supervisor<br>Division of Commercial Fisheries, Region IV                    | DATE: December 11, 2013  |
|-------|--|--|
| THRU: | Jeff Wadle<br>Regional Finfish Management Biologist<br>Division of Commercial Fisheries, Region IV     | SUBJECT: Alaska Peninsula<br>and Aleutian Islands<br>Salmon Season Summary |
| FROM: | Bob Murphy, Aaron Poetter, Dawn Wilburn, Nat<br>Division of Commercial Fisheries<br>Region IV – Kodiak | haniel Nichols   |

The following is an overview of the 2013 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands Areas (Figure 1) commercial salmon fishing season. Total harvest presented from the 2013 commercial salmon fishing season should closely approximate final harvest numbers for all species. The 2013 commercial salmon harvest in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands Management Areas totaled 7,228 Chinook, 2,956,151 sockeye, 320,649 coho, 7,804,617 pink, and 1,077,730 chum salmon (Table 1). Subsistence salmon harvest will be reported in the 2013 annual management report (AMR). Data detailed in this report are considered preliminary. Preliminary exvessel value of salmon harvested in Area M totaled \$32,939,600 (Table 2). Exvessel value information was generated from fish tickets and does not include postseason adjustments paid to fishermen.

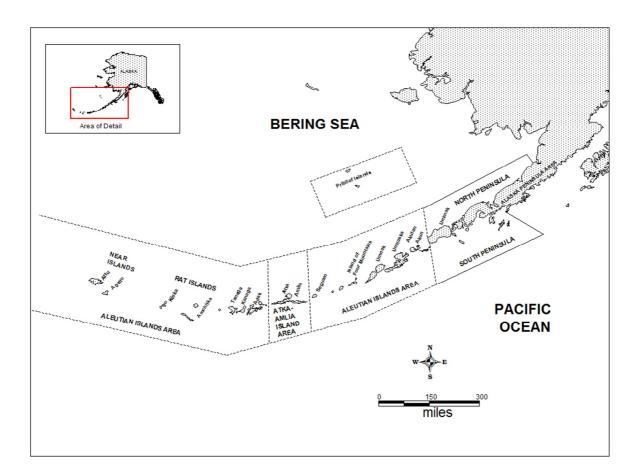


Figure 1.-Map of the Aleutian Islands, Atka-Amlia Islands, and Alaska Peninsula Management Areas.

| Table 1.–Alaska | Peninsula, | Aleutian | Islands, | and | Atka-Amlia | Islands | commercial | salmon | harvest, |
|-----------------|------------|----------|----------|-----|------------|---------|------------|--------|----------|
| 2013.           |            |          |          |     |            |         |            |        |          |

|                    |         | Number of Fish |         |           |           |            |  |
|--------------------|---------|----------------|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|--|
| Location           | Chinook | Sockeye        | Coho    | Pink      | Chum      | Total      |  |
| South Peninsula    | 6,657   | 2,234,814      | 293,197 | 7,799,336 | 946,789   | 11,280,793 |  |
| North Peninsula    | 571     | 721,337        | 27,452  | 5,281     | 130,941   | 885,582    |  |
| Aleutian Islands   | 0       | 0              | 0       | 0         | 0         | 0          |  |
| Atka-Amlia Islands | 0       | 0              | 0       | 0         | 0         | 0          |  |
| Total              | 7,228   | 2,956,151      | 320,649 | 7,804,617 | 1,077,730 | 12,166,375 |  |

|                           | Value    |              |             |             |             |              |
|---------------------------|----------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Location                  | Chinook  | Sockeye      | Coho        | Pink        | Chum        | Total        |
| S. Unimak-Shumagin June   |          |              |             |             |             |              |
| Fishery                   | \$41,514 | \$10,369,004 | \$370       | \$154,168   | \$775,329   | \$11,340,385 |
| Southeastern District     |          |              |             |             |             |              |
| Mainland Fishery          | \$7,254  | \$1,950,493  | \$53,626    | \$365,724   | \$91,988    | \$2,469,085  |
| June 1–July 25            |          |              |             |             |             |              |
| South Peninsula Post-June |          |              |             |             |             |              |
| Fishery                   | \$13,465 | \$3,846,960  | \$876,477   | \$7,834,141 | \$1,345,248 | \$13,916,291 |
| Total                     | \$62,233 | \$16,166,457 | \$930,473   | \$8,354,033 | \$2,212,565 | \$27,725,761 |
|                           |          |              |             |             |             |              |
| Northwestern District     | \$66     | \$229,401    | \$72        | \$3,058     | \$122,113   | \$354,710    |
| Northern District         | \$7,155  | \$4,650,689  | \$103,714   | \$2,945     | \$94,626    | \$4,859,129  |
| Total                     | \$7,221  | \$4,880,090  | \$103,786   | \$6,003     | \$216,739   | \$5,213,839  |
| Aleutian Islands Total    | \$0      | \$0          | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0          |
| Atka-Amlia Islands Total  | \$0      | \$0          | \$0         | \$0         | \$0<br>\$0  | \$0          |
| Total                     | \$69,454 | \$21,046,547 | \$1,034,259 | \$8,360,036 | \$2,429,304 | \$32,939,600 |

Table 2.–Preliminary commercial ex-vessel values by fishery and species, 2013.

# South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fisheries

The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fishing season began on June 7 for set gillnet gear and on June 10 for seine and drift gillnet gear. There were four 88-hour and one 64-hour fishing periods for set gillnet gear and four 88-hour fishing periods for seine and drift gillnet gear. The commercial salmon harvest for the June fishery consisted of 2,214 Chinook, 1,556,518 sockeye, 299 coho, 302,289 pink, and 397,024 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, 2013.

|                  | Number of salmon |           |      |         |         |           |  |  |
|------------------|------------------|-----------|------|---------|---------|-----------|--|--|
|                  | Chinook          | Sockeye   | Coho | Pink    | Chum    | Total     |  |  |
| South Unimak     | 1,063            | 1,048,967 | 143  | 131,029 | 188,978 | 1,370,180 |  |  |
| Shumagin Islands | 1,151            | 507,551   | 156  | 171,260 | 208,046 | 888,164   |  |  |
| Total            | 2,214            | 1,556,518 | 299  | 302,289 | 397,024 | 2,258,344 |  |  |

## **Southeastern District Mainland**

Due to a strong commercial salmon harvest in the Chignik Management Area (CMA), the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) opened to commercial salmon fishing on June 11. During the SEDM allocation openings (June 1 through July 25) 611 Chinook, 211,286 sockeye, 17,588 coho, 322,889 pink, and 38,935 chum salmon were harvested (Table 4).

Beginning July 1, the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS) of 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 86 Chinook, 29,745 sockeye, 93 coho, 3,969 pink, and 2,424 chum salmon harvested in the NWSS (Table 4). The cumulative sockeye salmon escapement of 17,386 fish, through the Orzinski Lake weir, was within the sustainable escapement goal of 15,000–20,000 sockeye salmon.

From July 26 through August 31, SEDM is managed based on the abundance of local salmon stocks. Due to late run timing of pink and chum salmon into SEDM streams the fishery was closed for the entirety of this time.

From September 1 through September 30 SEDM is open concurrently with the remainder of the Southeastern District based on the abundance of coho salmon stocks. During this time frame a weekly fishing period was established (Monday through Wednesday) with additional fishing time based on coho salmon abundance.

|                                  | Number of Salmon |         |        |         |        |
|----------------------------------|------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| Location                         | Chinook          | Sockeye | Coho   | Pink    | Chum   |
| June 1–July 25                   | 611              | 211,286 | 17,588 | 322,889 | 38,935 |
| July 1–July 25 NWSS <sup>a</sup> | 86               | 29,745  | 93     | 3,969   | 2,424  |
| August (July 26–August 31)       | 0                | 0       | 0      | 0       | 0      |
| September                        | 8                | 8,822   | 3,951  | 483     | 1,595  |
| Total                            | 705              | 249,853 | 21,632 | 327,341 | 42,954 |

Table 4.-Preliminary Southeastern District Mainland salmon harvest, excluding home pack, 2013.

<sup>a</sup> 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 2, 3, and 5 which resulted in approximately 44, 43, and 24 immature salmon per set respectively, which were below the threshold of 100 immature salmon per set.

From July 6 through July 31, there was a 33-hour fishing period, followed by a 63-hour closure, followed by six 36-hour fishing periods, separated by 60-hour closures. 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 late 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 3,746 Chinook, 436,719 sockeye, 275,217 coho, 7,170,189 pink, and 508,406 chum salmon (Table 5).

The SEDM was closed to commercial salmon fishing from July 26–September 1 due to low pink and chum salmon escapement. SEDM harvest in Table 5 is representative of the September fishery.

|                                   | Number of Salmon |         |         |           |         |  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|--|
| Location                          | Chinook          | Sockeye | Coho    | Pink      | Chum    |  |
| South Peninsula Post-June harvest | 3,738            | 427,897 | 271,266 | 7,169,706 | 506,811 |  |
| Post-June SEDM harvest (July 26-  |                  |         |         |           |         |  |
| October 31)                       | 8                | 8,822   | 3,951   | 483       | 1,595   |  |
| Total Post-June harvest           | 3,746            | 436,719 | 275,217 | 7,170,189 | 508,406 |  |

Table 5.-Post-June South Peninsula commercial salmon harvest, excluding home pack, 2013.

## South Peninsula Escapement

The South Peninsula indexed sockeye salmon escapement of 31,386 (Table 6) was below the management objective range of 48,200–86,400 fish. Pink salmon total escapement of 2,320,790 was within the sustainable escapement goal range of 1,637,800–3,275,700 fish. Chum salmon indexed total escapement of 502,600 was within the cumulative district escapement goal range of 330,400–660,800 fish. No 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. 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.

|                   |         | Nu      | umber of Salm | non       |         |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------------|-----------|---------|
| Year              | Chinook | Sockeye | Coho          | Pink      | Chum    |
| 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 |
| 2012              | 0       | 55,900  | 7,910         | 478,910   | 205,242 |
| 2013              | 0       | 31,386  | 0             | 2,320,790 | 502,600 |
| 2008–2012 Average | 0       | 75,542  | 27,945        | 2,024,428 | 419,812 |

Table 6.–South Peninsula indexed salmon escapement by species and year, 2006–2013.

# **Aleutian Islands Fishery**

There were no commercial salmon fishing periods in the Aleutian Islands in 2013.

# North Alaska Peninsula

#### **Commercial Harvest**

In 2013, 150 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 number of Area M permit holders participating in 2013 was 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.

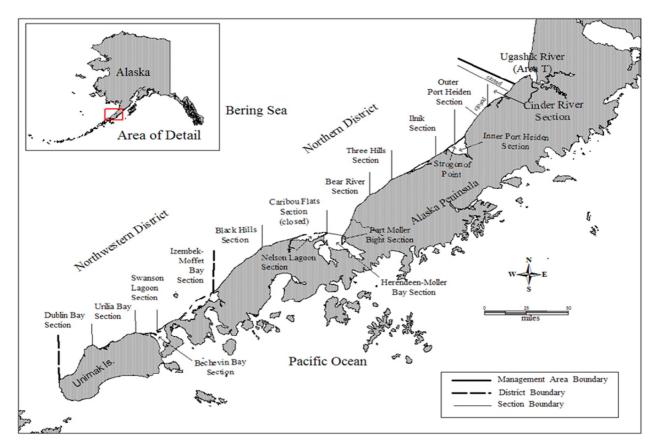


Figure 2.– Alaska Peninsula with North Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon fishing districts depicted.

In 2013, the North Alaska Peninsula harvest of Chinook, sockeye, coho, chum and pink salmon were well below the previous 10-year (2003–2012) averages for each species (Table 7). Similarly, the harvest of Chinook, sockeye, coho, chum and pink salmon were all below projected levels (Table 7). The total 2013 North Alaska Peninsula sockeye salmon harvest was the lowest harvest since 1977.

|                                |         | Number of Sa | lmon   |         |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------------|--------|---------|---------|
|                                | Chinook | Sockeye      | Coho   | Pink    | Chum    |
| 2013 Season Total              | 571     | 721,337      | 27,452 | 5,281   | 130,941 |
| Projected Harvest              | 2,000   | 1,672,000    | 62,000 | 109,000 | 224,000 |
| 2003–2012 Average <sup>a</sup> | 5,057   | 2,115,900    | 63,053 | 22,035  | 152,822 |

Table 7.–The total 2013 North Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon harvest, excluding home pack and department test fishery, and 2013 projected harvest and 2003–2012 average harvest.

<sup>a</sup> Pink salmon averages are for even-numbered years only, 2003–2012.

#### **In-Season Management**

#### Northwestern District

In the 2013 Northwestern District commercial salmon fishery a total of 8 Chinook, 57,373 sockeye, 25 coho, 3,123 pink, and 86,382 chum salmon were harvested (Table 8). A total of 42 permit holders participated in the fishery, consisting of 6 purse seiners and 36 drift gillnetters.

Table 8.–Northwestern District commercial salmon harvest, excluding home pack and department test fishery, by section, all gear combined, 2013.

|                                  |         | Num     | ber of Salmon |        |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------------|--------|---------|
| Location                         | Chinook | Sockeye | Coho          | Pink   | Chum    |
| Dublin Bay Section               | 0       | 0       | 0             | 0      | 0       |
| Urilia Bay Section               | 0       | 0       | 0             | 0      | 0       |
| Swanson Lagoon Section           | 0       | 0       | 0             | 0      | 0       |
| Bechevin Bay Section             | 0       | 0       | 0             | 2,958  | 9,345   |
| Izembek-Moffet Bay Section       | 8       | 24,098  | 25            | 165    | 77,037  |
| 2013 Northwestern District Total | 8       | 57,373  | 25            | 3,123  | 86,382  |
| 2003–2012 NW District Average    | 5       | 66,884  | 638           | 55,982 | 106,865 |

The Northwestern District, chum salmon escapement of 92,800 fish (Table 9) was below the chum salmon sustainable escapement goal of 100,000–215,000 fish. This escapement estimate represents a minimum; the actual escapement likely being greater due to very poor survey conditions in one of the major chum salmon producing streams in the Northwestern District streams. The Bechevin Bay Section had an escapement of 38,200 chum salmon.

Table 9.-Northwestern District salmon escapement by species and section, 2013.

|                             |         | Numb    | er of Salmon |       |        |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|--------------|-------|--------|
| Location                    | Chinook | Sockeye | Coho         | Pink  | Chum   |
| Urilia Bay Section          | 0       | 23,500  | 0            | 0     | 3,500  |
| Swanson Lagoon Section      | 0       | 3,000   | 0            | 0     | 0      |
| Bechevin Bay Section        | 0       | 200     | 0            | 3,800 | 38,200 |
| Izembek-Moffet Bay Section  | 0       | 16,200  | 0            | 3,300 | 51,100 |
| Northwestern District Total | 0       | 42,900  | 0            | 7,100 | 92,800 |

# **Black Hills Section**

Due to closures protecting weak salmon runs in the Bear, Three Hills and Ilnik sections in the Northern District, effort by the drift gillnet fleet in the Black Hills Section (Figure 3) was the third highest in the past 25 years. In 2013, 49 permits fished the Black Hills section with the majority of the harvest effort

occurring throughout the month of July. The peak daily harvest of sockeye salmon occurred on July 10 (3,518 fish) while the peak daily harvest of chum salmon occurred on July 30 (2,520). A total of 57,398 sockeye salmon and 73,941 chum salmon were harvested in the Black Hills Section in 2013. Weekly fishing periods occurred throughout the season in the Black Hills Section with some restrictions in the southern portion of the area in August to protect chum salmon passing through the area bound for the Joshua Green River in the Northwestern District. North Creek is the only river in the Black Hills Section with a sockeye salmon escapement goal. The 2013 North Creek salmon escapement of 8,500 sockeye salmon (determined by aerial surveys) met the escapement goal of 4,400–8,800 fish.

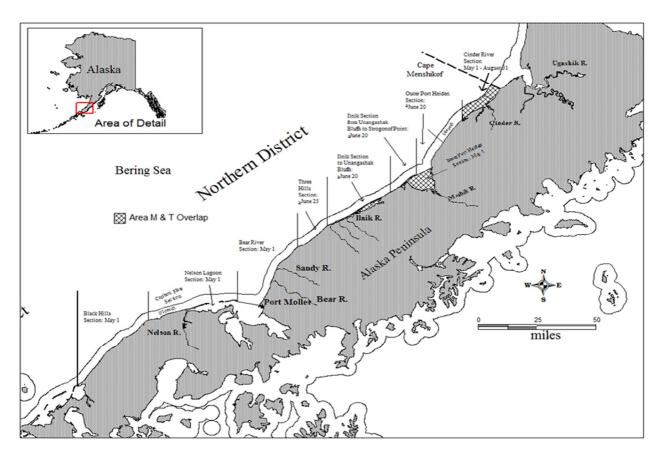


Figure 3.-Northern District commercial salmon fishing sections with earliest opening dates depicted.

## **Nelson Lagoon Section**

The Nelson River (Figure 3) total run of 465,327 sockeye salmon (includes harvest and escapement) was above the estimated forecast of 327,000 sockeye salmon. From the total run, 217,327 sockeye salmon were harvested in Nelson Lagoon (Table 10) and 248,000 fish escaped (Table 11) in the Nelson (Sapsuk) River. The 2013 sockeye salmon escapement into Nelson River exceeded the biological escapement goal (BEG) of 97,000–219,000 fish (Table 11).

The Nelson Lagoon Section was opened for all regularly scheduled fishing periods along with many extensions in fishing time in 2013. Thirty-four permits were fished in the Nelson Lagoon Section and the peak harvest occurred on June 27 (17,250 sockeye salmon). Beginning August 15, the Nelson

Lagoon Section may be managed on local coho salmon runs. In 2013, 22,000 coho salmon were observed in Nelson River exceeding the Nelson River sustainable escapement goal (SEG) threshold of 18,000 fish.

Table 10.–North Alaska Peninsula sockeye salmon commercial harvest, excluding home pack and department test fishery, by statistical area or combination of statistical areas, 2013.

| Area <sup>a</sup>  | Sockeye Salmon Harvest | Percent of Total |
|--|------------------------|------------------|
| 311-20 Dublin Bay, 311-32 Urilia Bay 311-52              | 0                      | 0.00             |
| 311-60 Bechevin Bay                                      | 0                      | 0.00             |
| 312-20 Izembek Lagoon, and 312-40 Moffet Bay             | 20,634                 | 2.86             |
| 311-58, 312-10 Outside Izembek-Moffet                    | 3,464                  | 0.48             |
| Northwestern District Total                              | 24,098                 | 3.34             |
| 313-10 Black Hills Section                               | 32,373                 | 4.49             |
| 313-30 Nelson Lagoon Section                             | 217,327                | 30.13            |
| 314-12 Port Moller Bight                                 | 0                      | 0.00             |
| 314-20 PM&Herendeen Bays                                 | 0                      | 0.00             |
| 315-11 Bear River  | 59,426                 | 8.24             |
| 315-20 NE Bear River                                     | 34,909                 | 4.84             |
| Bear River Total (314-12,315-11,315-20)                  | 94,335                 | 13.08            |
| 316-10 Three Hills Section                               | 16,983                 | 2.35             |
| 316-20 Ilink SW of Unangashak Bluffs                     | 54,834                 | 7.60             |
| 316-22 Ilnik Lagoon                                      | 0                      | 0.00             |
| 316-25 Ilnik NE of Unangashak Bluffs                     | 26,455                 | 3.67             |
| Ilnik Section Total (316-20,316-22,316-25)               | 81,289                 | 11.27            |
| 317-20 Inner Port Heiden Section and                     | 0                      | 0.00             |
| 317-10 Outer Port Heiden Section                         | 254,917                | 35.34            |
| 318-20 Cinder River Section <sup>b</sup>                 | 0                      | 0.00             |
| Cinder River and Port Heiden Total (317-20,317-10,318-20 | 0) 254,917             | 35.34            |
| Northern District Total                                  | 697,224                | 96.66            |
| Total North Peninsula                                    | 721,322                | 100.00           |

<sup>a</sup> Some statistical areas are combined because the low number of participants makes the information confidential.

<sup>b</sup> Confidentiality requirements prohibit reporting harvest.

|                                    | Escapement <sup>a</sup> | Goal              |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Nelson (Sapsuk) River              | 248,000                 | 97,000 - 219,000  |
| Sandy River                        | 42,000                  | 34,000 - 74,000   |
| Ilnik and Ocean Rivers             | 47,000                  | 40,000 _ 60,000   |
| Bear Lake early run                | 219,074                 | 176,000 - 293,000 |
| Bear Lake late run                 | 196,926                 | 117,000 - 195,000 |
| Bear Lake Total                    | 416,000                 | 293,000 - 488,000 |
| Subtotal for systems with weirs    | 753,000                 | 464,000 - 841,000 |
| Subtotal for systems without weirs | 214,700                 | 53,400 - 106,800  |
| North Peninsula Total              | 967,700                 | 517,400 - 947,800 |

Table 11.–North Alaska Peninsula sockeye salmon escapements and goals, 2013.

<sup>a</sup> Includes 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 2013, Bear River experienced a weak early-run while the Sandy River was plagued with high water events that washed out the weir and made it difficult to assess the strength of the salmon run. While the runs were on track most of the season to meet the minimum escapement goals, there did not appear to be a harvestable surplus present and as a result, commercial salmon fishing was closed in the Bear River and Three Hills sections from June 27 until August 7. A total of 94,335 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Bear River Section during 2013 and 19,983 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Three Hills Section.

The Bear River early-run (through July 31) sockeye salmon escapement of 219,074 fish met the escapement goal of 176,000–293,000 fish (Table 11). The Bear River late-run (after July 31) sockeye salmon escapement of 196,926 fish (includes post-weir estimate of 39,568 fish) slightly exceeded the late-run escapement goal of 117,000–195,000 fish. After the weir was removed on August 23 the post-weir estimate of 39,568 fish brought the Bear River season sockeye salmon escapement to 416,000 fish, which was within the season escapement goal of 293,000–488,000 fish.

The 2013 Sandy River sockeye salmon escapement of 42,000 fish met the season ending escapement goal range of 34,000–74,000 fish (Table 11).

# **Ilnik Section**

The Ocean River, a major spawning tributary that accounts for approximately 20% of the spawning run in the Ilnik system, periodically empties directly into the Bering Sea instead of the Ilnik River. When this occurs, as it did in 2013, Ocean River bound salmon can bypass the Ilnik River weir. To account for the Ocean River-bound sockeye salmon that bypass the weir, the Ilnik River escapement goal (40,000–60,000; SEG) is decreased by 20% to 32,000–48,000 sockeye salmon. The remaining 8,000–12,000 fish (or 20%) is the historical proportion of the Ocean River component of the Ilnik system. In 2013 the Ilnik River sockeye salmon escapement through the weir was 27,000 fish and did not meet the Ilnik River escapement of 20,000 sockeye salmon (determined by aerial surveys) exceeded the 8,000–12,000 fish goal. The final season ending escapement for Ilnik River system (including post-weir estimates and aerial surveys), Willie Creek (a tributary to Ilnik River), and Ocean River was 47,000 sockeye salmon (Table 11) and met the Ilnik River system escapement goal of 40,000–60,000 sockeye salmon.

By regulation, the Ilnik Section can open to commercial salmon fishing on June 20. Due to low weir counts, the area did not open until June 28. Sockeye salmon escapement into Ilnik River tracked minimum interim escapement objectives throughout the season, however there appeared to be no harvestable surplus. As a result, the Ilnik Section was closed to commercial salmon fishing from June 30 until August 7. No commercial fishing effort occurred in Ilnik Lagoon in 2013 despite weekly fishing periods.

In 2013, a total of 95 permit holders harvested 81,289 sockeye salmon in the Ilnik Section. Within the Ilnik Section, about 67% of this commercial harvest occurred southwest of Unangashak Bluffs (54,834 sockeye salmon), and 33% was harvested between Unangashak Bluffs and Strogonof Point (26,455 sockeye salmon; Table 10). The peak daily catch in the southern portion of the Ilnik Section was on June 29 when 21,399 sockeye salmon were harvested. The largest daily harvest in the northern portion of the Ilnik Section of the Ilnik Section also occurred on June 29, when 14,420 sockeye salmon were harvested.

Beginning August 15, the Ilnik Section may be managed for coho salmon runs into Ilnik Lagoon. Very little effort occurred in the Ilnik Section after August 15 despite weekly fishing periods open to commercial salmon fishing in the area.

## **Inner and Outer Port Heiden Sections**

Aerial escapement surveys began on the Meshik River on June 14. A survey conducted on July 5 documented 40,000 sockeye salmon in the Meshik River, meeting the season-ending escapement goal of 25,000–100,000 fish. The total sockeye salmon escapement into the Inner Port Heiden Section was 85,800 fish. This includes escapement into the Meshik River and tributaries, as well as Red Bluff and Yellow Bluff creeks.

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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 25 and had four openings of 2½ days per week until the section closed on July 17. In 2013, a total of 86 permit holders harvested 254,917 sockeye salmon from the Outer Port Heiden Section. The peak daily catch was on July 4 when 71,466 sockeye salmon were harvested. No commercial fishing occurred in the Inner Port Heiden Section in 2013.

# **Cinder River Section**

Little effort occurred in the Cinder River Section (Figure 3) in 2013 despite weekly fishing periods of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  days per week for the entire season. The total Cinder River sockeye salmon escapement estimate of 64,000 fish exceeded the escapement goal of 12,000–48,000 fish.

# Northern District Escapement

# **Chinook Salmon**

Nelson River is the only river in Area M with a Chinook salmon escapement goal. The 2013 Nelson River Chinook salmon escapement was 1,221 fish and did not meet the escapement goal of 2,400–4,400. The total Northern District Chinook salmon escapement of 4,346 fish was also well below the most recent ten-year average of 20,252 fish.

## **Chum Salmon**

The Northern District has a district wide chum salmon escapement goal of 119,600–239,200. This goal was met with an escapement of 137,251 fish, yet below the most recent ten-year average of 184,895 fish. The bulk of the chum salmon escapement occurred in the Herendeen-Moller Bay Section (43,600 fish) and the Meshik River in the Inner Port Heiden Section (30,100 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 22,000 coho salmon met the threshold goal of 18,000 fish. The coho salmon run continues through September and the last aerials survey was on September 10. The Ilnik River escapement of 13,000 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. There was no directed coho salmon fishery in the Ilnik Section in 2013.

Campbell cc: Bowers Salomone Tracy Morstad Volk Menard Jackson Gardner Hayes Chignik AC 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** 

Regnart Linderman Brazil Shaker Bergstrom Fair Herring Finkle Sagalkin Anderson Sand Point AC False Pass AC Chignik Seiner's Assoc City of Port Heiden City of False Pass Peninsula Marketing Assoc. USFWS – King Salmon City of Cold Bay Aleutians East Borough

Bruce Foster Russell Moore Polum Fall Sands Spalinger,G Greer Kevse Nelson Lagoon AC City of Unalaska Dutch Harbor AC Kodiak AC Adak Fisheries Peter Pan Seafood's USF&WS OSM, Fried Bristol Bay Driftnetters Assoc. City of Sand Point