



THE STATE
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GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of
Fish and Game**

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SUBJECT: Alaska Peninsula
and Aleutian Islands
Salmon Season Summary

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The following is an overview of the 2014 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands Areas (Figure 1) commercial salmon fishing season. Total harvest presented from the 2014 commercial salmon fishing season should closely approximate final harvest numbers for all species. The 2014 commercial salmon harvest in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands Management Areas totaled 7,949 Chinook, 3,372,538 sockeye, 390,746 coho, 839,498 pink, and 625,026 chum salmon (Table 1). Subsistence salmon harvest will be reported in the 2014 annual management report (AMR). Data detailed in this report are considered preliminary. Preliminary exvessel value of salmon harvested in Area M totaled \$27,822,034 (Table 2). Exvessel value information was generated from fish tickets and does not include postseason adjustments paid to fishermen.

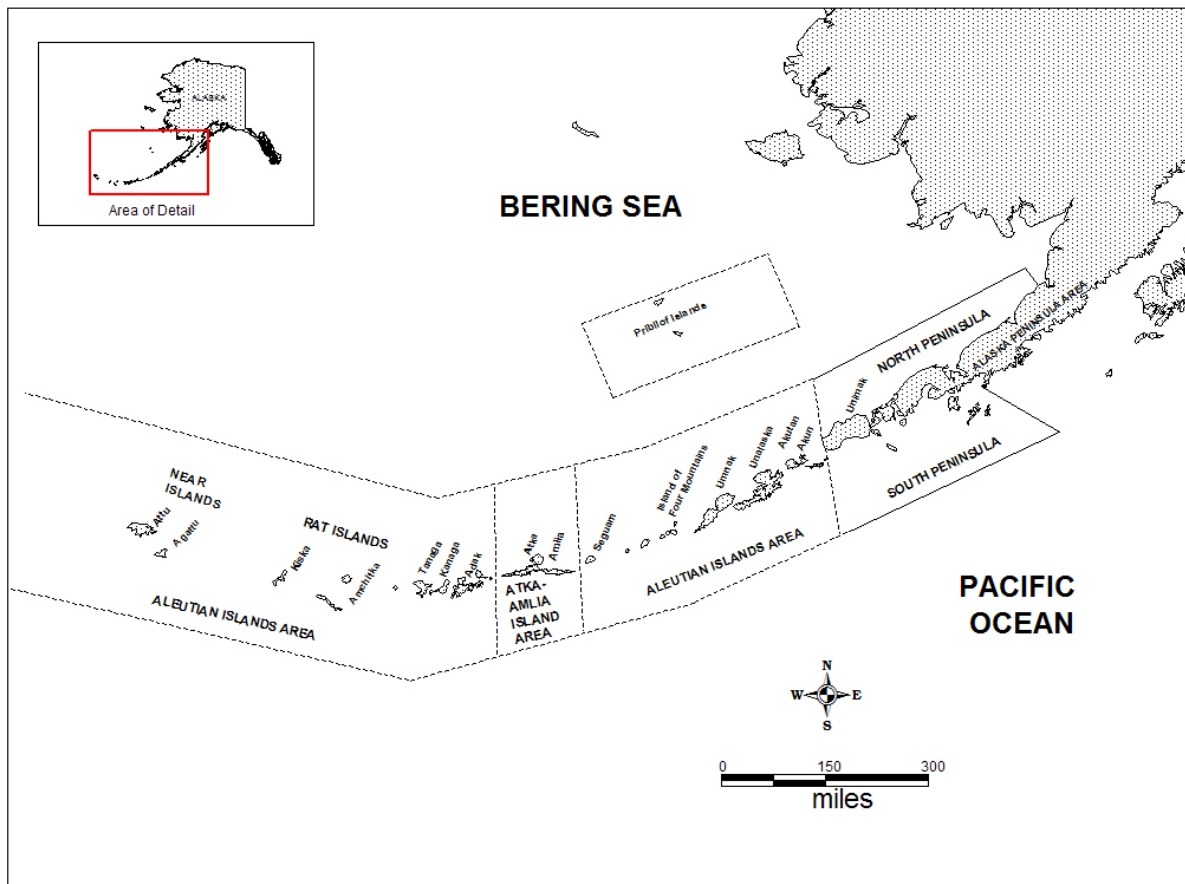


Figure 1.—Map of the Aleutian Islands, Atka-Amlia Islands, and Alaska Peninsula Management Areas.

Table 1.—Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands commercial salmon harvest, 2014.

Location	Number of Fish					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
South Peninsula	7,042	1,409,554	286,370	706,142	493,261	2,902,369
North Peninsula	907	1,962,984	104,376	11,418	131,765	2,211,450
Aleutian Islands	0	0	0	121,938	0	121,938
Atka-Amlia Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7,949	3,372,538	390,746	839,498	625,026	5,235,757

Table 2.—Preliminary commercial ex-vessel values by fishery and species, 2014.

Location	Value					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
S. Unimak-Shumagin June Fishery	\$32,000	\$4,665,220	\$5,115	\$109,514	\$941,357	\$5,753,206
Southeastern District Mainland Fishery June 1–July 25	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
South Peninsula Post- Post-June Fishery	\$20,598	\$5,589,739	\$1,051,390	\$431,439	\$280,780	\$7,373,946
Total	\$52,598	\$10,254,959	\$1,056,505	\$540,953	\$1,222,137	\$13,127,152
Northwestern District	\$504	\$328,732	\$0	\$1,011	\$343,489	\$673,736
Northern District	\$14,670	\$13,438,901	\$365,210	\$6,402	\$75,235	\$13,900,418
Total	\$15,174	\$13,767,633	\$365,210	\$7,413	\$418,724	\$14,574,154
Aleutian Islands Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120,728	\$0	\$120,728
Atka-Amlia Islands Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$67,772	\$24,022,592	\$1,421,715	\$669,094	\$1,640,861	\$27,822,034

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 2,271 Chinook, 664,728 sockeye, 2,502 coho, 179,248 pink, and 388,124 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, 2014.

	Number of salmon					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
South Unimak	973	412,947	1,442	117,820	207,501	740,683
Shumagin Islands	1,298	251,781	1,060	61,428	180,623	496,190
Total	2,271	664,728	2,502	179,248	388,124	1,236,873

Southeastern District Mainland

From June 1 to July 25, the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM; excluding the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS) beginning July 1) is managed based on the strength of the Chignik sockeye salmon run. Due to weak sockeye salmon returns to Chignik River in 2014, the Chignik Management Area (CMA) remained closed to commercial salmon fishing until July 12. During years in which it appears that the sockeye salmon harvest will be less than 600,000 fish in the CMA, commercial salmon fishing will remain closed in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, SW Stepovak, Balboa Bay and Beaver Bay sections of SEDM according to the management plan. Since the CMA did not open to commercial salmon fishing until July 12, it was unlikely that 600,000 sockeye salmon would be harvested so the areas in SEDM remained closed throughout July.

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 lagged behind interim escapement goals indicating there was not an adequate surplus of fish to allow commercial harvest opportunity in the NWSS from July 1 through July 25 (Table 4). The cumulative sockeye salmon escapement in Orzinski Lake of 16,100 fish was within the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) 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 and weak returns of pink and chum salmon into SEDM streams the fishery was closed for the entirety of this time.

From September 1 through October 31, SEDM is open concurrently by emergency order 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. In 2014, four fishing periods occurred in September with 48 hour extensions added to the first three periods. The SEDM harvest during this time period is listed in Table 4.

Table 4.–Preliminary Southeastern District Mainland salmon harvest, excluding home pack, 2014.

Location	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
June 1–July 25	0	0	0	0	0
July 1–July 25 NWSS ^a	0	0	0	0	0
August (July 26–August 31)	0	0	0	0	0
September	4	29,605	19,380	9	388
Total	4	29,605	19,380	9	388

^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 2, 3, and 5 which resulted in approximately 91, 167, and 29 immature salmon per set respectively, for an average of less than 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 4,775 Chinook, 741,823 sockeye, 287,450 coho, 526,711 pink, and 108,096 chum salmon (Table 5).

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

Table 5.–Post-June South Peninsula commercial salmon harvest, excluding home pack, 2014.

Location	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
South Peninsula Post-June harvest	4,771	712,218	268,070	526,702	107,708
Post-June SEDM harvest (July 26–October 31)	4	29,605	19,380	9	388
Total Post-June harvest	4,775	741,823	287,450	526,711	108,096

South Peninsula Escapement

The South Peninsula indexed sockeye salmon escapement of 38,120 fish (Table 6) was below the management objective range of 48,200–86,400 fish. Mortensen Lagoon and Thin Point did not meet their respective SEGs from aerial surveys due to poor surveying conditions. However, reports from sport and subsistence groups suggest that sockeye salmon returns were considerably stronger than what could be estimated from aerial surveys. Pink salmon total escapement of 1,340,380 fish was below the SEG range of 1,864,600–3,729,300 fish. Chum salmon indexed total escapement of 313,545 fish was below the cumulative district escapement goal range of 330,400–660,800 fish. A total of 9,050 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.

Table 6.–South Peninsula indexed salmon escapement by species and year, 2006–2014.

Year	Number of Salmon				
	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
2014	0	38,120	9,050	1,340,380	313,545
2009–2013					
Average	0	62,647	24,025	1,820,912	401,942

Aleutian Islands Fishery and Escapement

The Aleutian Islands Area may open to commercial salmon fishing by emergency order if adequate escapement is observed and there is interest from the fishing industry. During an aerial survey in August of the Aleutian Islands, an adequate amount of pink salmon (approximately 430,000 fish) were observed in streams to allow for a commercial salmon fishery. In 2014, a total of 121,938 pink salmon (Table 7) were harvested during one 60-hour commercial salmon fishing period from August 24 until August 26 in the Aleutian Islands Area. McLees Lake had a sockeye salmon escapement of 12,424 fish and met the SEG of 10,000-60,000 sockeye salmon.

Table 7.–Aleutian Islands commercial salmon harvest, excluding home pack, 2014.

	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Makushin Bay	0	0	0	121,938	0

North Alaska Peninsula

Commercial Harvest

In 2014, 161 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 2014 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.

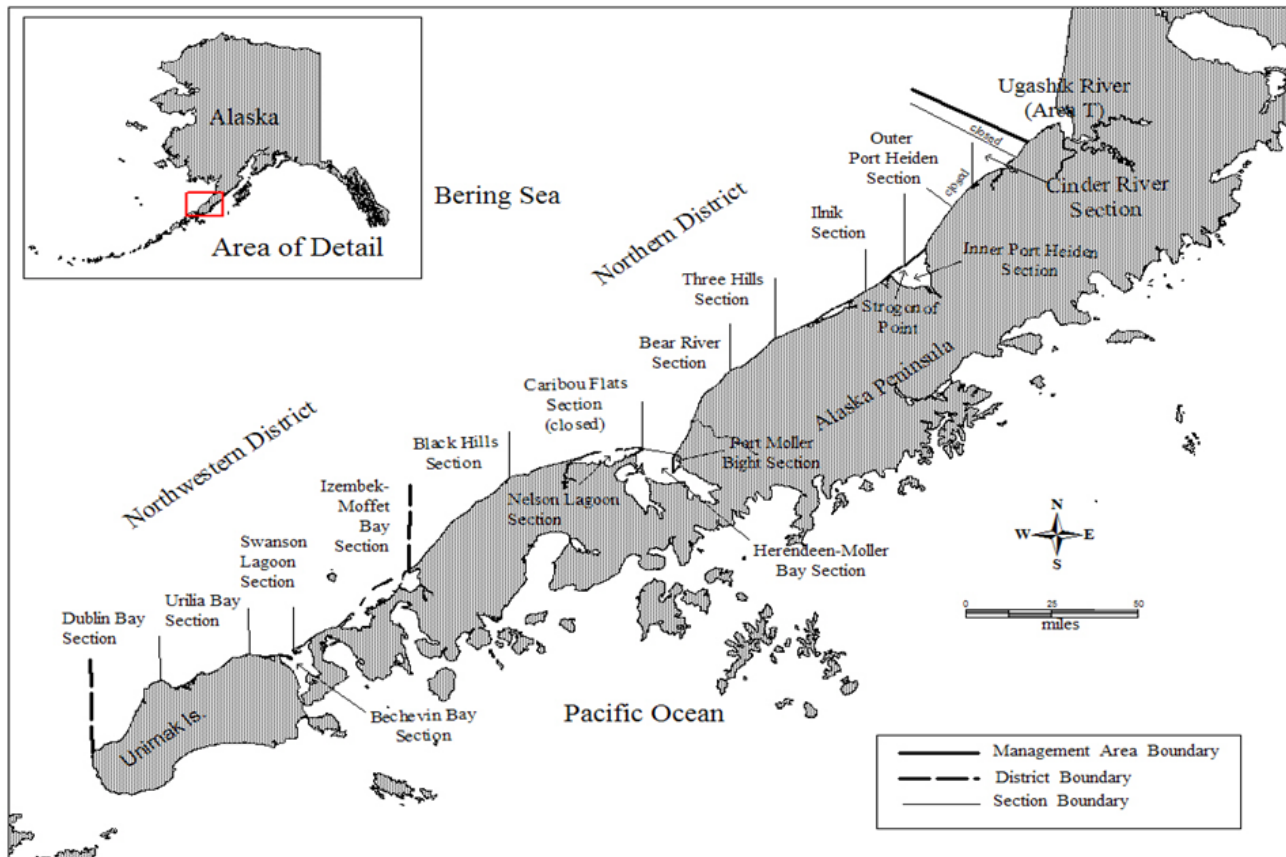


Figure 2.— Alaska Peninsula with North Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon fishing districts depicted.

In 2014, the North Alaska Peninsula harvest of Chinook, sockeye, pink, and chum salmon were below the previous 10-year (2004–2013) averages for each species and the harvest of sockeye, coho, and pink salmon were above projected levels (Table 8).

Table 8.—The total 2014 North Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon harvest, excluding home pack and department test fishery, and 2014 projected harvest and 2004–2013 average harvest.

	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2014 Season Total	907	1,962,984	104,376	11,418	131,765
Projected Harvest	1,200	1,400,000	40,000	10,000	175,000
2004–2013 Average ^a	4,666	2,042,511	60,747	22,039	162,189

^a Pink salmon averages are for even-numbered years only, 2004–2013.

In-Season Management

Northwestern District

In the 2014 Northwestern District commercial salmon fishery a total of 36 Chinook, 37,364 sockeye, 6,311 coho, 1,617 pink, and 98,246 chum salmon were harvested (Table 9). A total of 13 permit holders participated in the fishery, consisting of 5 purse seiners, 7 drift gillnetters, and 1 set gillnetter.

Table 9.—Northwestern District commercial salmon harvest, excluding home pack and department test fishery, by section, all gear combined, 2014.

Location	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Dublin Bay Section	0	0	0	0	0
Urilia Bay Section	1	3,424	0	48	24
Swanson Lagoon Section	0	0	0	0	0
Bechevin Bay Section	1	32	0	53	2,932
Izembek-Moffet Bay Section	34	33,908	6,311	1,516	95,290
2014 Northwestern District Total	36	37,364	6,311	1,617	98,246
2004–2013 NW District Average	6	62,977	637	56,224	113,845

In the Northwestern District, the chum salmon escapement of 54,525 fish (Table 10) was below the chum salmon SEG 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.

Table 10.—Northwestern District salmon escapement by species and section, 2014.

Location	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Urilia Bay Section	0	34,100	0	0	0
Swanson Lagoon Section	0	1,500	0	0	0
Bechevin Bay Section	0	0	0	2,200	12,350
Izembek-Moffet Bay Section	0	15,050	0	5,300	42,175
Northwestern District Total	0	50,650	0	7,500	54,525

Black Hills Section

Due to the lack of extensive closures during 2014 in the Bear, Three Hills, and Inlik sections in the Northern District, effort by the drift gillnet fleet in the Black Hills Section (Figure 3) was limited. A total of 19,173 sockeye salmon and 7,510 chum salmon were harvested in the Black Hills Section in 2014. Weekly fishing periods occurred throughout the season in the Black Hills Section. North Creek is the only river in the Black Hills Section with a sockeye salmon escapement goal. The 2014 North Creek salmon escapement of 7,500 sockeye salmon (determined by aerial surveys) was within the escapement goal of 4,400–8,800 fish.

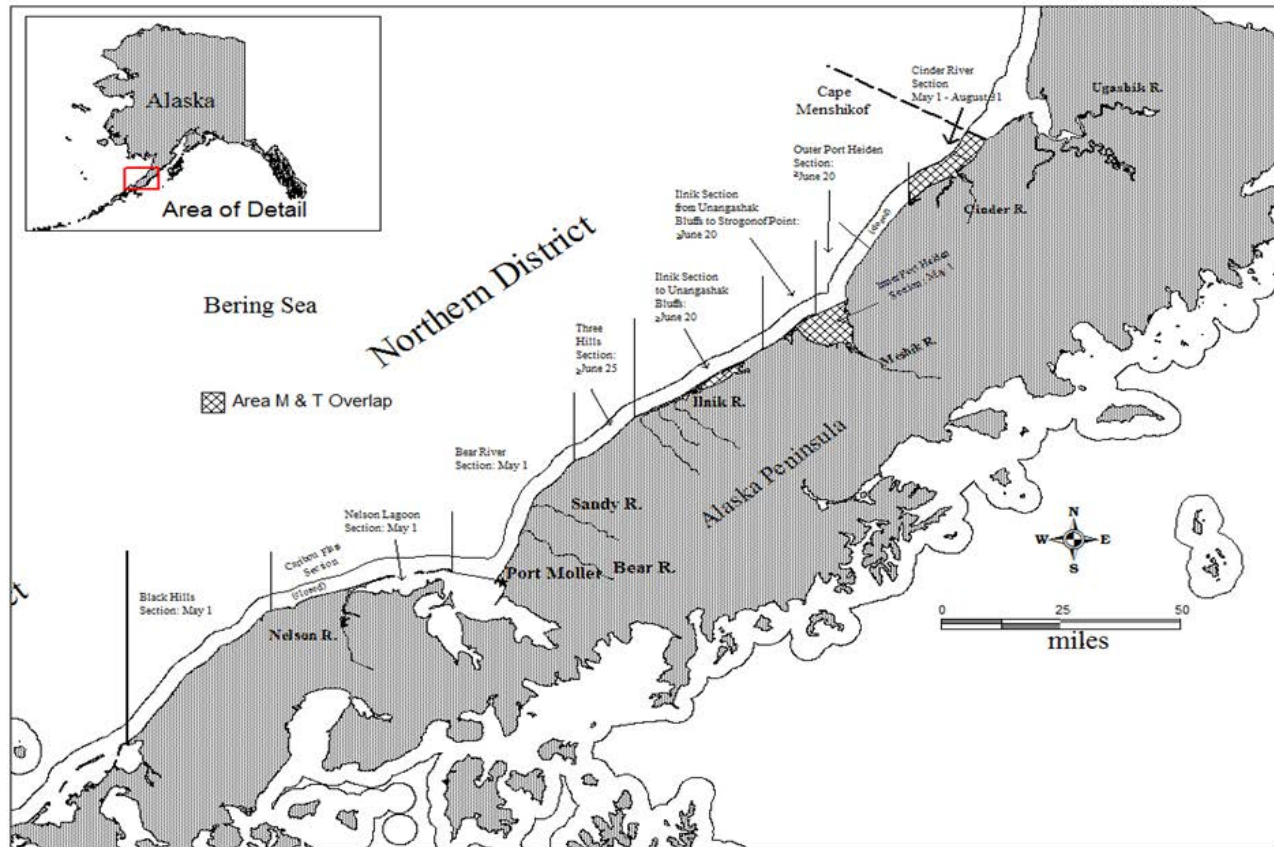


Figure 3.–Northern District commercial salmon fishing sections with earliest opening dates depicted.

Nelson Lagoon Section

The Nelson (Sapsuk) River (Figure 3) total run of 460,858 sockeye salmon (includes harvest and escapement) was close to the estimated forecast of 465,000 sockeye salmon. From the total run, 210,858 sockeye salmon were harvested in Nelson Lagoon (Table 11) and 250,000 fish escaped (Table 12) in the Nelson River. The 2014 sockeye salmon escapement into Nelson River exceeded the biological escapement goal (BEG) of 97,000–219,000 fish (Table 12).

The Nelson Lagoon Section was opened for all regularly scheduled fishing periods along with many extensions in fishing time in 2014. Beginning August 15, the Nelson Lagoon Section may be managed

on local coho salmon runs. In 2014, 25,000 coho salmon were observed in Nelson River exceeding the Nelson River SEG threshold of 18,000 fish.

Table 11.—North Alaska Peninsula sockeye salmon commercial harvest, excluding home pack and department test fishery, by statistical area or combination of statistical areas, 2014.

Area ^a	Sockeye Salmon Harvest	Percent of Total
311-20 Dublin Bay, 311-32 Uria Bay 311-52	3,424	0.17
311-60 Bechevin Bay	32	0.00
312-20 Izembek Lagoon, and 312-40 Moffet Bay	29,017	1.48
311-58, 312-10 Outside Izembek-Moffet	4,891	0.25
Northwestern District Total	37,364	1.90
313-10 Black Hills Section	19,173	0.98
313-30 Nelson Lagoon Section	210,858	10.74
314-12 Port Moller Bight	36	0.00
314-20 PM&Herendeen Bays	122	0.01
315-11 Bear River	301,954	15.38
315-20 NE Bear River	99,027	5.04
<i>Bear River Total (314-12,315-11,315-20)</i>	<i>400,981</i>	<i>20.43</i>
316-10 Three Hills Section	84,868	4.32
316-20 Ilnik SW of Unangashak Bluffs	288,516	14.70
316-22 Ilnik Lagoon	0	0.00
316-25 Ilnik NE of Unangashak Bluffs	491,257	25.03
<i>Ilnik Section Total (316-20,316-22,316-25)</i>	<i>779,773</i>	<i>39.72</i>
317-20 Inner Port Heiden Section and	0	0.00
317-10 Outer Port Heiden Section	429,809	21.90
318-20 Cinder River Section ^b	0	0.00
<i>Cinder River and Port Heiden Total (317-20,317-10,318-20)</i>	<i>429,809</i>	<i>21.90</i>
Northern District Total	1,925,620	98.10
Total North Peninsula	1,962,984	100.00

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

^b Confidentiality requirements prohibit reporting harvest.

Table 12.–North Alaska Peninsula sockeye salmon escapements and goals, 2014.

	Escapement ^a	Goal
Nelson (Sapsuk) River	250,000	97,000–219,000
Sandy River	59,000	34,000–74,000
Ilnik and Ocean Rivers	59,000	40,000–60,000
<i>Bear Lake early run</i>	259,046	176,000–293,000
<i>Bear Lake late run</i>	206,954	117,000–195,000
Bear Lake Total	466,000	293,000–488,000
Subtotal for systems with weirs	834,000	464,000–841,000
Subtotal for systems without weirs	301,652	53,400–106,800
North Peninsula Total	1,135,652	517,400–947,800

^a 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 2014, Bear and Sandy rivers experienced strong salmon runs and extensive closures that occurred in recent years were not necessary. A total of 400,981 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Bear River Section during 2014 and 84,868 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Three Hills Section.

The Bear River early-run (through July 31) sockeye salmon escapement of 259,046 fish met the escapement goal of 176,000–293,000 fish (Table 12). The Bear River late-run (after July 31) sockeye salmon escapement of 206,954 exceeded the late-run escapement goal of 117,000–195,000 fish. The Bear River season sockeye salmon escapement was 466,000 fish, which was within the season escapement goal of 293,000–488,000 fish.

The 2014 Sandy River sockeye salmon escapement of 59,000 fish met the season ending escapement goal range of 34,000–74,000 fish (Table 12).

Ilnik Section

In 2014 the Ilnik River sockeye salmon escapement through the weir was 59,000 fish and met the Ilnik River escapement goal of 40,000–60,000 fish. By regulation, the Ilnik Section can open to commercial salmon fishing on June 20. Sockeye salmon escapement into Ilnik River tracked interim escapement objectives throughout the season. No commercial fishing effort occurred in Ilnik Lagoon in 2014 despite weekly fishing periods.

In 2014, 779,733 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Ilnik Section. Beginning August 15, the Ilnik Section may be managed for coho salmon runs into Ilnik Lagoon. Effort occurred in the Ilnik Section after August 15 targeting sockeye salmon and harvesting coho salmon during weekly fishing periods open to commercial salmon fishing.

Inner and Outer Port Heiden Sections

Aerial escapement surveys began on the Meshik River on June 20. A survey conducted on June 28 documented 28,000 sockeye salmon in the Meshik River, meeting the season-ending escapement goal of 25,000–100,000 fish. Subsequent surveys occurred throughout the season and the final sockeye salmon escapement into the Inner Port Heiden Section was 108,800 fish. This includes escapement into the Meshik River and tributaries, as well as Red Bluff and Yellow Bluff creeks.

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 openings of 2½ days per week until the section closed on July 31. In 2014, a total of 429,153 sockeye salmon were harvested from the Outer Port Heiden Section. No commercial fishing occurred in the Inner Port Heiden Section in 2014.

Cinder River Section

Little effort occurred in the Cinder River Section (Figure 3) in 2014 despite weekly fishing periods of 2½ days per week for the entire season. No directed harvest occurred on sockeye salmon. There was limited effort on coho salmon in August and September in the Cinder River Section. The total Cinder River sockeye salmon escapement estimate of 104,500 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 2014 Nelson River Chinook salmon escapement was 3,900 fish and met the escapement goal of 2,400–4,400 fish. The total Northern District Chinook salmon escapement of 6,390 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 fish. 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 25,000 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 5. The Ilnik River escapement of 33,000 coho salmon 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. There was no directed coho salmon fishery in the Ilnik Section in 2014. The coho salmon escapement into the Cinder River was 19,000 fish and 141,000 coho salmon escaped into the Meshik River system (Meshik R. and Mud Creek) as observed by aerial survey during early September.

cc: Cotten	Regnart	Sagalkin
Bowers	Linderman	Foster
Salomone	Brazil	Russell
Tracy	Dorner	Wattum
Bergstrom	Polum	Elison
Volk	Fair	Fall
Menard	Herring	Sands
Jackson	Finkle	Spalinger,G
Lechner	Schaberg	Greer
Anderson		
Chignik AC	Sand Point AC	Nelson Lagoon AC
AK Pen Fishermen's Coop	False Pass AC	City of Unalaska
King Cove AC	Chignik Seiner's Assoc	Dutch Harbor AC
City of King Cove	City of Port Heiden	Kodiak AC
City of Nelson Lagoon	City of False Pass	Adak Fisheries
Concerned Area M Fishermen	Peninsula Marketing Assoc.	Peter Pan Seafood's
Yard Arm Knot Fisheries	USFWS – King Salmon	USF&WS OSM, Fried
Pen. Setnetters Assoc	City of Cold Bay	Bristol Bay Driftnetters Assoc.
Trident Seafood's	Aleutians East Borough	City of Sand Point