South Unimak and Shumagin Islands
June Salmon Fishery
by
Lisa Fox

Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries
February 2019

Written Report: Supplemental Materials
Staff Comments: RC2
Oral Report: RC3, Tab 2
South Unimak and Shumagin Islands
June Salmon Fishery

Topics to be covered

• Fishery location
• Economic importance
• History of fishery
• Current regulations
• 2016–2018 season summaries
• Overview of proposals and issues
South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery

- Bechevin Bay Section
- Cape Tolstoi
- McGinty Point
- East and West Pavlof Bay sections
- Southwestern District
- Shumagin Islands Section
- Unimak District
June Fishery

Economic Importance

Fishery dates back to at least 1911

The June fishery 2009–2018 averages

• 40% of exvessel value of South Alaska Peninsula fisheries
• 24% of exvessel value of entire Area M fisheries
• Total exvessel value for June fishery 2009–2018 average = $7,338,798
June Fishery
Historical Perspective

Primarily harvest sockeye and chum salmon

Complex regulatory history

• 1960-1970’s fishing 4.5 to 7 days per week
• Bristol Bay sockeye salmon allocations
• Seasonal and weekly harvest limits
• Changes in season start dates and fishery windows
• Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim chum:sockeye salmon ratios
• Various chum caps
1960–2018 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery
Historic Chum Salmon Harvest

Number of Chum Salmon (Millions)

Year

Chum Cap Years

1982 Chum Harvest
1960–2018 June Fishery Chum and Sockeye Salmon Harvest

8.3% of Bristol Bay forecast

Chum Cap
Years

Chum
Sockeye
June Salmon Fishery

Current Regulations for

Set Gillnet Gear

- The season may open on June 7 for set gillnet gear only

- Fishing periods begin at 6:00 a.m., last for 88-hours in length, and close at 10:00 p.m. Periods will be separated by 32-hour closures

- The final fishing period is 64 hours and ends at 10:00 p.m. on June 29
June 2018 Set Gillnet Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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Notes:

All fishing periods start at 6:00 AM and end at 10:00 PM.

All closures between fishing periods are 32 hours in duration.

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Open 88 hours

Open 88 hours

Open 88 hours

Open 40 Hours

Open 40 Hours
June Salmon Fishery

Current Regulations for

Purse Seine and Drift Gillnet Gear

• The season may open on June 10 for purse seine and drift gillnet gear only

• Fishing periods begin at 6:00 a.m., last for 88-hours in length, and close at 10:00 p.m. Periods will be separated by 32-hour closures

• The final fishing period ends at 10:00 p.m. on June 28
June 2018 Seine and Drift Gillnet Schedule

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Open 40 Hours

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Open 40 Hours
June Salmon Fishery

Current Regulations for “Dolgoi Island area”

• Spans both June and post-June plans (June 1–July 25)
• Harvest tallied from fish tickets up to 191,000 sockeye from South Central District and the Volcano and Belkofski Bay sections of the Southwestern District
• Southwest portion of Pavlof Bay and Volcano Bay Section excluding area inside Arch Point closes until July 26, except Southwest Pavlof Bay, which can reopen on July 17
• “Trigger” not “cap”
• 6-hour notice of closure
“Dolgoi Island area” June

Southwest Pavlof Bay

Closed Waters

Areas that close once sockeye salmon harvest limit is reached, except 283-26 may reopen on July 17

Drift Gillnet Gear
“Dolgoi Island area” post-June

Southwest Pavlof Bay

Closed Waters

Areas that close once sockeye salmon harvest limit is reached, except 283-26 may reopen on July 17
South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery
2016–2018 Season Summaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>King</th>
<th>Sockeye</th>
<th>Coho</th>
<th>Pink</th>
<th>Chum</th>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>6,113</td>
<td>1,292,860</td>
<td>1,716</td>
<td>2,510,048</td>
<td>270,614</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>4,955</td>
<td>1,956,065</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>1,714,307</td>
<td>640,891</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>4,158</td>
<td>822,173</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>345,255</td>
<td>537,466</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>5,075</td>
<td>1,357,033</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>1,523,203</td>
<td>482,990</td>
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Average effort by gear type:
- Purse seine permits = 47 of 121
- Drift gillnet permits = 120 of 162
- Set gillnet permits = 61 of 116

Average percent of June harvest:
- Purse seine = 77%
- Drift gillnet = 14%
- Set gillnet = 8%

Average exvessel value: $7,718,386
South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery
2019 Proposals

Proposals 134 and 135

Repeal the current June management plan and adopt an amended version of the pre-2001 plan

Proposal 136

Amend June plan with 24-hour window closures for all gear types

Proposals 140

Include area between Cape Tolstoi and McGinty Point in June fishery
South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery
2019 Proposals
“Dolgoi Island area”

Proposal 137

*Expand closure area for “Dolgoi Island area”*

Proposal 138

*Reduce fishing time in the “Dolgoi Island area”*

Proposal 139 and 141

*Repeal the “Dolgoi Island area” related regulations*
Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery
2019 Proposal

Current regulations set season dates

- Gillnet gear from June 24–February 28
- Purse seine gear from July 1–February 28

Allocation of herring available for harvest is divided 86% to the herring seine fishery and 14% to the gillnet fishery

Gillnet allocation becomes available for harvest by seine gear on July 5

Proposal 159

*Align season start dates for the purse seine and drift gillnet gear groups and remove the allocation between gear types*
Questions