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2019 Alaska Peninsula Season Summary

The following is an overview of the 2019 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands areas (Figure 1) commercial salmon fishing season. Total harvest presented from the 2019 commercial salmon fishing season should closely approximate final harvest numbers for all species. The 2019 commercial salmon harvest in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands Management areas totaled 26,872 Chinook, 4,121,979 sockeye, 653,227 coho, 22,439,145 pink, and 1,427,287 chum salmon (Table 1). Subsistence salmon harvest for 2019 will be reported in the 2020 annual management report (AMR). Data detailed in this report are considered preliminary. Preliminary exvessel value of salmon harvested in Area M totaled \$51,529,884 (Table 2). Exvessel value information was generated from fish tickets and does not include postseason adjustments paid to fishermen.

Table 1.–Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands commercial salmon harvest, 2019.

Number of salmon						
Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	
3,986	2,413,689	42,849	578,123	234,220	3,272,867	
22,886	1,708,290	610,378	21,861,022	1,193,067	25,395,643	
0	0	0	0	0	0	
26,872	4,121,979	653,227	22,439,145	1,427,287	28,668,510	
	3,986 22,886 0	3,986 2,413,689 22,886 1,708,290 0 0	ChinookSockeyeCoho3,9862,413,68942,84922,8861,708,290610,378000	ChinookSockeyeCohoPink3,9862,413,68942,849578,12322,8861,708,290610,37821,861,0220000	ChinookSockeyeCohoPinkChum3,9862,413,68942,849578,123234,22022,8861,708,290610,37821,861,0221,193,067000000	

*Confidential harvest.

Table 2.-Preliminary commercial ex-vessel values by fishery and species, 2019.

	Value					
Location	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
North Peninsula	\$74,805	\$19,999,379	\$89,024	\$433,017	\$605,314	\$21,202,363
South Peninsula	\$53,585	\$12,926,664	\$1,178,418	\$14,149,408	\$2,020,270	\$30,328,345
Total	\$128,389	\$32,926,043	\$1,267,442	\$14,582,425	\$2,625,585	\$51,529,884
Aleutian Islands total*						
Atka-Amlia Islands Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$128,389	\$32,926,043	\$1,267,442	\$14,582,425	\$2,625,585	\$51,529,884

*Confidential.

Note: Due to rounding of cents, totals may differ by small amounts.

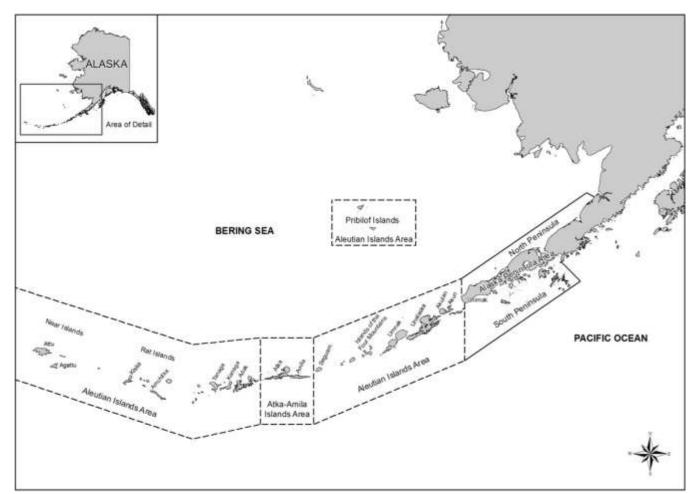


Figure 1.-Map of the Aleutian Islands, Atka-Amlia Islands, and Alaska Peninsula Management areas.

SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA

South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fisheries

During the February 2019 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik meeting, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF, board) made changes to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) by amending subsection (d) that establishes the June fishing schedule. The first commercial fishing period in 2019 began on June 6 at 10:00 a.m. for set gillnet gear only and closed at 10:00 p.m. on June 8. Beginning at 6:00 a.m. on June 10, all gear types began an 88-hour fishing period which ended at 10:00 p.m. on June 13. This fishing period was followed by a closure of 32 hours for all gear types. The commercial salmon fishery then reopened for three more 88-hour fishing periods for all gear types, separated by closures of 32 hours. The final commercial fishing period in June ended at 10:00 p.m. on June 28.

In addition to the scheduled fishing periods during the month of June, the harvest of sockeye salmon in the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) described "Dolgoi Island area" was monitored through fish ticket information. By regulation, once the harvest of sockeye salmon reaches 191,000 fish, the waters of the West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point and the waters of the Volcano Bay Section close to commercial salmon fishing for the remainder of the June fisheries (Figure 2). Commercial fisherman operating in the South Central and Southwestern districts during June are advised that a short notice closure of the

designated "Dolgoi Island area" will occur in the event that the harvest of sockeye salmon approaches the 191,000 fish. The department will, to the extent practical, give a minimum of 6 hours' notice of closure to all gear types. In 2019, the board closed the "Dolgoi Island area" to purse seine gear in June. The harvest limit was not reached in the June fishery in 2019. A total of 30,993 sockeye salmon were harvested by set gillnet gear in the "Dolgoi Island area" in June.

The commercial salmon harvest for the June fishery consisted of 10,056 Chinook, 635,378 sockeye, 5,125 coho, 9,487,759 pink, and 605,383 chum salmon (Table 3).

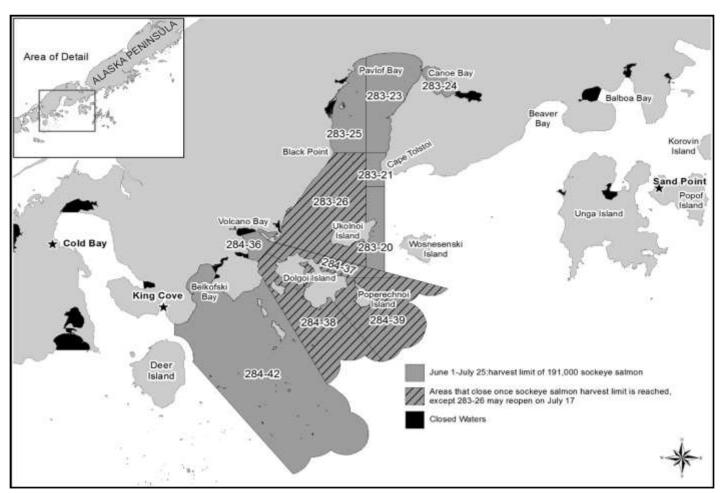


Figure 2. – Map depicting to the "Dolgoi Island area" for the June Management Plan and the areas that close once 191,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested. This area is closed to seine gear in June as per the 2019 BOF regulatory changes.

		Number of salmon						
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total		
South Unimak	2,561	388,959	3,003	5,621,194	273,120	6,288,837		
Shumagin Islands	7,495	246,419	2,122	3,866,565	332,263	4,454,864		
Total	10,056	635,378	5,125	9,487,759	605,383	10,743,701		

Table 3.–Total salmon harvests in numbers of fish for the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries, excluding home pack, 2019.

Southeastern District Mainland Fisheries

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. During years in which it appears that sockeye salmon harvest will be greater than 600,000 fish in the Chignik Management Area (CMA), and the first run begins to develop as anticipated, followed by a commercial salmon opening in the CMA, commercial salmon fishing can be allowed in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Northwest Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay and Beaver Bay sections of the SEDM.

Beginning July 1, the NWSS of SEDM is managed on the strength of the Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon run. The Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon escapement of 4,367 fish was well below the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 15,000–20,000 sockeye salmon.

From June 1 through July 25, 80% of the sockeye salmon harvested in the SEDM are considered to be Chignik bound, excluding the NWSS beginning July 1. No commercial fishing occurred in the SEDM from June 1 through July 25.

From July 26 through August 31, the SEDM is managed based on the abundance of local salmon stocks. Due to strong returns of pink salmon into SEDM streams, commercial salmon fishing occurred in SEDM beginning August 15, excluding the waters around Orzinski Bay. There were 4 commercial salmon fishing periods in SEDM in August, each 132 hours in length with a mandatory 36 hours of closure between. In September, SEDM is managed based on coho salmon harvest strength, although pink and chum salmon escapement is also taken into consideration. There were two 96-hour openings in September. Total salmon harvest in the SEDM was 318 Chinook, 74,022 sockeye, 89,415 coho, 1,337,361 pink, and 23,837 chum salmon (Table 4).

Location	Number of salmon					
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
June 1–June 30	0	0	0	0	0	
July 1–July 25 SEDM ^a	0	0	0	0	0	
Total SEDM harvest in allocation	0	0	0	0	0	
July 1–July 25 NWSS ^b	0	0	0	0	0	
July 26–September 30 ^c	318	74,022	89,415	1,337,361	23,837	
Total	318	74,022	89,415	1,337,361	23,837	

Table 4.-Preliminary Southeastern District Mainland salmon harvest, excluding home pack, 2019.

^a Southeastern District Mainland (excluding Northwest Stepovak Section).

^b Northwest Stepovak Section.

^c Excluding the waters around Orzinski Bay.

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 fisheries occurred on July 2, 3, and 5 and resulted in an average of 47, 46, and 59 immature salmon per set, respectively. The average number of immature salmon per set was well below the regulatory threshold of 100 immature salmon gilled per set and the Shumagin Island Section opened to all gear types for the July 6 commercial salmon fishing period.

From July 6 through July 31, there was one 33-hour fishing period, followed by a 63-hour closure, followed by six 36-hour fishing periods, separated by 60-hour closures. The "Dolgoi Island area" regulations continue into the post-June fishery through July 25. In 2019, the harvest limit was not reached and there were 96,947 sockeye salmon harvested in the post-June fishery in the "Dolgoi Island area." This resulted in a total of 127,940 sockeye salmon harvested in the "Dolgoi Island area" during the regulatory allocation period with Chignik, June 1 – July 25.

During August, the post-June fishery is managed based on the abundance of local pink and chum salmon 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 high number of pink salmon returning to local streams resulted in extensive commercial fishing opportunity in the South Peninsula during August. Above average coho salmon harvest in September allowed for commercial fishery openings until participation in the fishery ceased. The total commercial harvest for the South Peninsula post-June fishery (including the SEDM from July 26–October 31) was 12,513 Chinook, 1,000,048 sockeye, 517,282 coho, 11,481,133 pink, and 618,363 chum salmon (Table 5).

	Number of salmon					
Location	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
South Peninsula Post-June harvest	12,195	926,026	427,867	10,143,772	594,526	
Post-June SEDM harvest (July 26- October 31)	318	74,022	89,415	1,337,361	23,837	
Total Post-June harvest	12,513	1,000,048	517,282	11,481,133	618,363	

Table 5.–Post-June South Peninsula commercial salmon harvest, excluding home pack, 2019.

South Peninsula Escapement

The South Peninsula sockeye salmon escapement of 31,667 fish (Table 6) was below the management objective range of 48,200–86,400 fish. Escapement into Mortensens Lagoon (800 fish) was well below its SEG range of 3,200–6,400 fish. Escapement into Thin Point Lagoon (9,600 fish) was below the SEG range of 14,000–28,000 fish. Reports of later than average subsistence harvest of sockeye salmon suggest that some sockeye salmon escapement may have occurred after the peak surveys were completed and sockeye salmon escapement is likely slightly higher than was observed. Pink salmon total indexed escapement of 4,098,100 fish (Table 6) was above the SEG range of 1,750,000–4,000,000 fish. Chum salmon total escapement of 656,175 fish (Table 6) was within the cumulative district escapement goal range of 330,400–660,800 fish. Escapement into chum salmon index streams was above the goal of 218,300–410,600 with a peak index escapement of 502,325 chum salmon. There were no coho salmon surveys flown on the South Peninsula streams (Table 6). 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 preventing aerial surveys from being conducted during peak coho salmon runs.

			Number of salmon		
Year	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
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	no surveys	2,320,790	502,600
2014	0	38,120	9,050	1,340,380	313,545
2015	0	88,010	2,320	7,820,800	906,420
2016	0	120,170	no surveys	1,038,160	626,776
2017	0	106,542	5,100	5,663,637	1,773,626
2018	0	12,017	no surveys	732,422	344,830
2019	0	31,667	no surveys	4,098,100	656,175
2014-2018 Average	0	72,972	5,490	3,318,080	793,039

Table 6.–South Peninsula salmon escapement by species and year, 2010–2019.

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. An aerial survey was flown on August 15 that indicated

sufficient escapement and warranted an opening for 60 hours beginning on August 19 and ending on August 21. Fewer than 3 processors participated, and harvest information is confidential.

NORTH ALASKA PENINSULA

Commercial Harvest

In 2019, 175 Area M permit holders participated in commercial salmon fisheries along the North Alaska Peninsula (Figure 3). There was no effort by Area T permit holders. The number of Area M permit holders participating in 2019 was greater than the most recent 10-year average of 163 but was below historical numbers observed during the 1990s which peaked at 364 permits in 1992.

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 at times targeted in the Northwestern District.

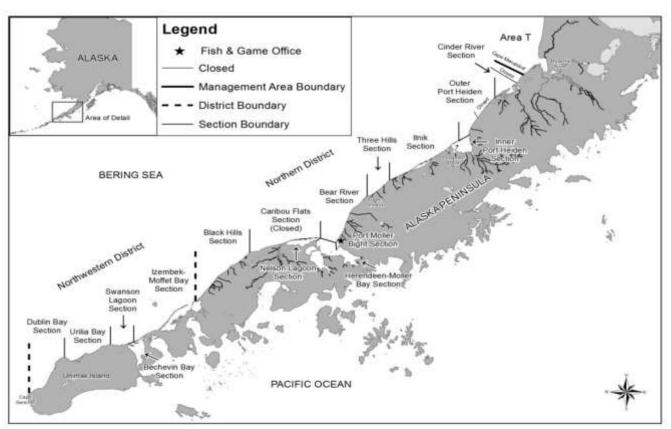


Figure 3. - Alaska Peninsula with North Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon fishing districts depicted.

In 2019, the harvest of sockeye salmon on the North Alaska Peninsula was roughly equal to the projected harvest while being above the 10-year average. The harvest of coho salmon was below both the projected harvest and the 10-year average. The harvests of Chinook, pink, and chum salmon were all well above both the projected harvests and the 10-year averages (Table 7).

Table 7.–The total 2019 North Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon harvest, excluding home pack and
department test fishery, and 2019 projected harvest and 2009–2018 average harvest.

	Number of salmon					
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
2019 season total	3,986	2,413,689	42,849	578,123	234,220	
Projected harvest	2,200	2,400,000	75,000	25,000	130,000	
2009-2018 average	2,021	2,148,813	55,397	47,789	172,181	

Northwestern District

In the Northwestern District during the 2019 commercial salmon fishery, a total of 3 Chinook, 5,644 sockeye, 4,739 coho, 460,356 pink, and 185,873 chum salmon were harvested (Table 8). A total of 25 permit holders participated in the fishery, consisting of 5 purse seiners, 19 drift gillnetters, and 1 set gillnetter.

Table 8.–Northwestern District commercial salmon harvest, excluding home pack and department test fishery, by section, all gear combined, 2019.

		Nur	nber 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	1	1,158	1,444	445,231	54,516
Izembek-Moffet Bay Section	2	4,486	3,295	15,125	131,357
2019 Northwestern District Total	3	5,644	4,739	460,356	185,873
2009–2018 NW District Average	14	39,953	1,759	40,845	118,634

In the Northwestern District, the chum salmon escapement of 173,600 fish (Table 9) was within the chum salmon SEG of 100,000–215,000 fish. This escapement estimate represents a minimum; the actual escapement was likely greater due to poor survey conditions in one of the major chum salmon producing streams in the Northwestern District. The sockeye salmon escapement for 2019 in the Northwestern District was within the escapement objective range of 52,600–106,000 with a total escapement of 90,600 fish (Table 9).

Table 9.–Northwestern District salmon escapement by species and section, 2019.

		Number of salmon					
Location	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum		
Urilia Bay Section	0	44,600	0	0	500		
Swanson Lagoon Section	0	7,200	0	0	0		
Bechevin Bay Section	0	0	0	152,800	41,000		
Izembek-Moffet Bay Section	0	38,800	0	44,700	132,100		
Northwestern District Total	0	90,600	0	197,500	173,600		

Black Hills Section

Harvest effort in the Black Hills Section usually occurs when other sections are not open. Due to fishing opportunity during 2019 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 limited. A total of 1,318 sockeye salmon (Table 10) and 486 chum salmon were harvested in the Black Hills Section in 2019. Weekly fishing periods occurred throughout the season in the Black Hills Section. North Creek is the only system in the Black Hills Section with a sockeye salmon escapement goal. The 2019 North Creek salmon escapement of 11,000 sockeye salmon exceeded the escapement goal of 7,500–10,000 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, 2019.

Area ^a	Sockeye salmon harvest	Percent of total
Northwestern Distri	ct	
311-20 Dublin Bay, 311-32 Urilia Bay, 311-52 Swanson Lagoon ^b	0	0
311-60 Bechevin Bay	1,158	.05
312-20 Izembek Lagoon, and 312-40 Moffet Bay	3,093	.13
311-58, 312-10 Outside Izembek-Moffet	1,393	.06
Northwestern District total	5,644	.23
Northern District		
313-10 Black Hills Section	1,318	0.05
313-30 Nelson Lagoon Section	83,879	3.48
314-20, 314-30 Herendeen-Moller bays ^c	-	-
314-12, 315-11 Bear River and Port Moller Bight	121,486	5.03
315-20 NE Bear River	62,805	2.60
Bear River total (314-12,315-11,315-20)	184,246	7.63
316-10 Three Hills Section	97,934	4.06
316-20 Ilink SW of Unangashak Bluffs	429,179	17.78
316-25 Ilnik NE of Unangashak Bluffs	1,077,904	44.66
Ilnik Section total (316-20,316-22,316-25)	1,508,466	62.50
317-20 Inner Port Heiden Section ^b	0	0
317-10 Outer Port Heiden Section	532,157	22.05
318-20 Cinder River Section ^b	0	0
Northern District total	2,408,045	99.76
North Peninsula total	2,413,689	100.00

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

^b No commercial salmon fishing effort in this area.

^c Confidentiality requirements prohibit reporting of harvest.

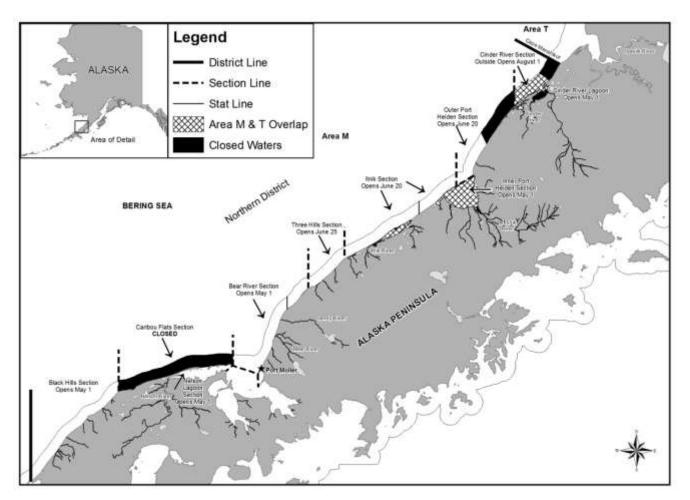


Figure 5.-Northern District commercial salmon fishing sections with earliest opening dates depicted.

Nelson Lagoon Section

The Nelson Lagoon Section was opened for all weekly fishing periods along with many extensions in fishing time in 2019. The Nelson (Sapsuk) River (Figure 5) total run of 198,879 sockeye salmon (includes harvest and escapement) was well below the estimated forecast of 370,000 sockeye salmon. From the total run, 83,879 sockeye salmon were harvested in Nelson Lagoon (Table 10) and 115,000 fish escaped (Table 11) into the Nelson River. The harvest in Nelson Lagoon was well below the historical 10-year average of roughly 200,000 sockeye salmon. The 2019 sockeye salmon escapement into Nelson River met the biological escapement goal (BEG) of 97,000–219,000 fish (Table 11).

Beginning August 15, the Nelson Lagoon Section is managed based on local coho salmon runs. In 2019, a total of 23,000 coho salmon were observed in Nelson River, exceeding the Nelson River SEG threshold of 18,000 fish. Throughout the 2019 season a total of 13,653 coho salmon were harvested, which is below the recent 10-year average of 30,733 coho salmon.

	Escapement ^a	Goal
Nelson (Sapsuk) River	115,000	97,000–219,000
Sandy River	71,000	34,000–74,000
Ilnik River	75,000	40,000-60,000
Bear Lake early run	286,686	176,000–293,000
Bear Lake late run	213,314	117,000–195,000
Bear Lake total	500,000	293,000-488,000
Subtotal for systems with weirs	761,000	464,000-841,000
Subtotal for systems without weirs	243,325	88,400–188,800
Northern District total	1,004,325	552,400-1,029,800

Table 11Northern	District sockeye	salmon escapements	and goals, 2019.
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^a Includes an estimate of sockeye salmon after removal of the weirs.

Bear River and Three Hills Sections

As defined by the Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan (5 AAC 09.369), the Bear River Section (Figure 5) 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 strength into Bear and Sandy rivers. The early-run sockeye salmon at Bear River started roughly 1 week later than average, and escapements trended roughly one week late compared to historical averages for the month of June, before trending towards the upper end of weekly interim escapement goals from mid-July onwards. The Bear River Section was closed on June 24, and then opened on July 16 for a weekly fishing period. Extensions to weekly fishing periods occurred for the rest of the month of July, before the section closed on July 31 in preparation or the later run of sockeye salmon.

The late run of sockeye salmon at Bear River, which starts on August 1, was on time and comparable to historical averages. Commercial harvest opportunity for late-run sockeye salmon opened on August 8. No extensive closures during the season were necessary, as interim escapements were met throughout the month of August.

A total of 184,246 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Bear River Section during 2019, and 97,934 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Three Hills Section (Table 10).

The Bear River early-run (through July 31) sockeye salmon escapement of 286,686 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 213,314 fish exceeded the late-run sockeye salmon escapement goal of 117,000–195,000 fish. The Bear River season total sockeye salmon escapement was 500,000 fish (Table 11), which surpassed the combined early- and late-run sockeye salmon escapement goal of 293,000–488,000 fish.

The 2019 Sandy River sockeye salmon escapement of 71,000 fish (Table 11) met the season ending escapement goal range of 34,000–74,000 fish.

Ilnik Section

In 2019 the Ilnik River system sockeye salmon escapement through the weir was 75,000 fish (Table 11), exceeding 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 met or exceeded interim escapement objectives throughout the season. A total of 1.5 million sockeye salmon were harvested in the Ilnik Section, well above historical averages (Table 10). A small amount of commercial fishing effort occurred inside the Ilnik Lagoon in 2019. Due to confidentiality rules, those harvests have been reported as occurring in the southwest portion of the Ilnik Section.

Beginning August 15, the Ilnik Section is managed for coho salmon runs into Ilnik Lagoon, however most fishing effort at this time continues to target sockeye salmon. During 2019 a total of 13,607 coho salmon were harvested in the Ilnik Section.

Inner and Outer Port Heiden Sections

Aerial escapement surveys of the Meshik River began on June 19. Subsequent surveys occurred throughout the season and the final sockeye salmon escapement into the Meshik River system was 107,200 fish, exceeding the escapement goal of 48,000–86,000 sockeye salmon. 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 5) 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 may 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 22 and had openings of no more than 2½ days per week until the section closed on July 31. In 2019, a total of 532,157 sockeye salmon (Table 10) were harvested from the Outer Port Heiden Section. The 2019 sockeye salmon harvest in the Outer Port Heiden Section was comparable to the 10-year average harvest of 522,656 sockeye salmon.

Cinder River Section

No commercial salmon harvest effort occurred in the Cinder River Section in 2019 despite weekly commercial salmon fishing openers. The total Cinder River (including Mud Creek) sockeye salmon escapement estimate of 95,775 fish exceeded the escapement goal of 36,000–94,000 fish.

Northern District Escapement for Other Species

Chinook Salmon

Nelson River is the only river in Area M with a Chinook salmon escapement goal. At the Nelson River weir, a total of 11,653 Chinook salmon escaped through the weir, and 514 were observed by aerial survey when the weir was taken out, for a total of 12,167 Chinook, exceeding the escapement goal of 2,400–5,000 fish. The total Northern District Chinook salmon escapement of 22,831 fish was more than double the most recent ten-year average of 10,658 fish.

Coho Salmon

Coho salmon surveys were done on major Northern District streams in early September, which is before the peak of the coho salmon run. Budgetary and logistical constraints do not permit coho salmon surveys to take place any

later in the fall. Coho salmon runs continue through September and into October, so escapements tabulated from aerial surveys are considered minimum estimates. The total coho salmon escapement in the Northern District during 2019 was 156,700 fish, below the 10-year average of 183,469 fish. Both the Nelson and Ilnik rivers have coho salmon lower bound escapement goals in the Northern District. The Nelson River escapement of 23,000 coho salmon exceeded the lower bound escapement goal of 18,000 fish. A total of 24,000 fish were observed during early September in the Ilnik River in 2019, which exceeded the lower bound escapement goal of 9,000 fish. It is expected that more coho salmon entered the Ilnik and Nelson river systems during September and October. The coho salmon escapement into the Cinder River was 42,000 fish, and 52,000 coho salmon escaped into the Meshik River system (Meshik River and Landlocked Creek) as observed by aerial survey.

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 207,447 fish, which is comparable to the most recent ten-year average of 188,128 fish. The bulk of the chum salmon escapement occurred in the Herendeen–Moller Bay Section (95,050 fish) and the Black Hills Section (61,000 fish).

Pink Salmon

There are no escapement goals for pink salmon in the Northern District. In some years, depending on market conditions, a directed pink salmon fishery may occur, however this did not happen in 2019. A total of 82,578 pink salmon were observed in the Northern District during 2019.