



Advisory Announcement:
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Sand Point Commercial Salmon Fishery Advisory Announcement #01
For Emergency Order #4-FS-M-SP-01-26

The Department of Law announced on May 20, 2026, that the following proposals that were approved during the February 18–25, 2026 Alaska Peninsula and Chignik Areas Finfish Board of Fisheries meeting are void:

Proposal 126 -Amend regulatory language to reduce commercial salmon fishing time and area by incorporating the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District into the South Central District, and include the Volcano Bay, East and West Pavlof Bay Sections in the Southeastern District Mainland Management Plan.

Proposal 127 -Establish a 10 consecutive day closure between June 10 and June 23 for seine and drift gillnet gear. Amended with substitute language found in RC245. Further amended (A) on the top of page 2 of RC245, changing 16 hours per day to 24 hours per day.

Proposal 141-Amend the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula to enforce king salmon caps with reductions in commercial salmon fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula.

Proposal 147 -Reduce maximum gillnet depth to 70 meshes. Amended with substitute language found in RC161.

Proposal 148 -Amend the seine specification to reduce the allowable size gear. Amended with substitute language found in RC208.

As a result of these actions taken by the Department of Law, the South Alaska Peninsula will be managed under the regulations that were passed during the 2023 Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands/Chignik Finfish Board of Fisheries meeting.

2026 MANAGEMENT PLANS

JUNE SALMON FISHERY

The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. Complete details can be found in the Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon fishing regulations (5 AAC 09.365) available at ADF&G offices.

The South Unimak June fishery includes the following locations (Figures 1 through 3):

- a. Unimak District as described in 5 AAC 09.200(c),
- b. Bechevin Bay Section as described in 5 AAC 09.200(b)(2),
- c. Southwestern District as described in 5 AAC 09.200(d), and
- d. West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District as described in 5 AAC 09.200(e)(1) and (2).

The Shumagin Islands fishery includes the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figures 1 and 2) as described in 5 AAC 09.200(f)(3).

Fishing periods for the 2026 June fishery will be as follows:

Dates and Times	Duration
Set gillnet gear only:	
6:00 AM, June 6 until 10:00 PM, June 8	64 hours
Set gillnet and drift gillnet gear:	
6:00 AM, June 10 until 10:00 PM, June 13	88 hours
6:00 AM, June 15 until 10:00 PM, June 18	88 hours
6:00 AM, June 20 until 10:00 PM, June 23	88 hours
6:00 AM, June 25 until 10:00 PM, June 28	88 hours
Seine gear:	
6:00 AM, June 10 until 2:00 AM, June 13	68 hours
6:00 AM, June 16 until 11:59 PM, June 18	66 hours
8:00 AM, June 20 until 11:59 PM, June 23 ¹	88 hours
8:00 AM, June 25 until 11:59 PM, June 28 ^{1,2}	88 hours

¹If the June 18 trigger of 300,000 chum salmon is reached, remaining periods will be reduced to 44 hours.

²If the June 23 trigger of 450,000 chum salmon is reached, this period will be closed.

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” will be monitored through fish ticket information. 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 will close to commercial salmon fishing for the remainder of the June fisheries (Figures 8 and 9). Commercial fishermen operating in the South Central and Southwestern Districts during June, are advised that short-notice closure of the designated “Dolgoi Island area” will occur in the event 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.

Fishermen should be aware that waters closed to commercial salmon fishing, as specified under 5 AAC 09.350, are in effect during June.

Latitude and longitude coordinates in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area will be determined and enforced using the Global Positioning System (GPS; North American Datum of 1983).

POST-JUNE SALMON FISHERY

Immature Salmon Test Fishery

In order to assess the abundance of immature salmon and reduce incidental harvest, ADF&G will conduct

a purse seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section in early July before the post- June fishery begins. If 100 or more immature salmon, per set, are present, the commercial fishery will be closed to purse seine gear in an area to be determined by ADF&G (5 AAC 09.366(i)). For the purpose of this management plan, “immature salmon, per set, are present” is defined as the number of Chinook *O. tshawytscha*, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon that are observed to be gilled in the seine web (5 AAC 09.366(i)). Test fishing is standardized to purse seine gear conducting two 20-minute sets at Popof Head, Middle Set, and Red Bluff located on Popof Island. The commercial fishery may be constrained based on the abundance of immature salmon observed during the test fishery. Gillnet gear is permitted to fish in these areas during the presence of immature salmon because the larger mesh size facilitates passage of immature salmon through the nets.

Harvest Strategy for July

Commercial salmon fishing opportunities during the month of July will consist of one 33-hour fishing period, followed by a 63-hour closure, followed by six 36-hour fishing periods, separated by 60-hour closures (5 AAC 09.366(d)). The first post-June fishing period will be on July 6, pending the results from the immature salmon test fishery. July fishing periods begin at 6:00 AM on July 6, and end on July 31 at 6:00 PM (5 AAC 09.366(d); 9).

The July fishing schedule for the post-June fishery will be as follows:

Dates and Times	Duration
All gear types:	
6:00 AM, July 6 until 3:00 PM, July 7	33 hours
6:00 AM, July 10 until 6:00 PM, July 11	36 hours
6:00 AM, July 14 until 6:00 PM, July 15	36 hours
6:00 AM, July 18 until 6:00 PM, July 19	36 hours
6:00 AM, July 22 until 6:00 PM, July 23	36 hours
6:00 AM, July 26 until 6:00 PM, July 27	36 hours
6:00 AM, July 30 until 6:00 PM, July 31	36 hours

Under the current management plan, commercial salmon fishing is permitted to occur concurrently in both terminal and non-terminal areas during the scheduled openings for the month of July in all areas of the South Alaska Peninsula. Terminal harvest areas are depicted in Figures 11 through 15.

Additional fishing time in terminal harvest areas may also be provided during closures in the July fishing schedule based on local salmon stock strength which is evaluated from harvest data, escapement counts, and aerial surveys. From July 6 through July 21, terminal harvest areas are: Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, Morzhovoi Bay, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections north of the latitude of Black Point (Figures 11 through 14). Terminal harvest areas during the July 22 through July 31 time period include those areas specified for the July 6 through July 21 period, as well as the Deer Island, Belkofski Bay, and Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Sections (Figure 15).

In addition to the scheduled fishing periods during the month of July, the harvest of sockeye salmon in the “Dolgoi Island area” will be monitored through fish ticket information from the opening of the commercial

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salmon season through July 25 (Figures 8 and 9). Once the harvest of sockeye salmon reaches 191,000 fish, based on fish ticket information, the waters of the West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point and the waters of the Volcano Bay Section will close until July 26. However, the portion of the West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point will reopen to commercial salmon fishing on July 17 consistent with scheduled fishing periods during the post- June fishery. Commercial fishermen operating in the South Central and Southwestern Districts prior to July 25 are advised that short-notice closure of the designated “Dolgoi Island area” will occur in the event the harvest of sockeye salmon approaches 191,000 fish (Figures 8 and 9). The department will, to the extent practical, give 6 hours of notice of closure to all gear types.

Harvest Strategies after July

From August 1 through August 31, fishing periods in the South Alaska Peninsula will be based on the strength of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon runs.

From September 1 through October 31, fishing periods will be based primarily on coho salmon abundance, although late pink and chum salmon run strength may be considered when determining fishing time. Fishing effort typically declines during the fall fishery.

In an effort to allow enforcement activities during daylight hours with minimum impact to legal fishing activities, fishing periods in August will open at 8:00 AM and close at 9:00 PM (5 AAC 09.366(c)(2)), and fishing periods in September and October will open at 9:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM (5 AAC 09.366(c)(3)).

Salmon Escapement Goals

Aerial surveys will be conducted by ADF&G staff to estimate the escapement of sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon on the South Alaska Peninsula. Information from these surveys will be used for inseason management of the South Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon fishery. Aerial survey methods can be found in Keyse et al. (2026).

Pink and chum salmon escapements will be estimated with the indexed total escapement method, and sockeye salmon escapements will be estimated using peak escapement observations from mid- July through mid-September. Due to the late run timing of coho salmon, limited survey data is gathered, and no indexed total escapement can be calculated. There are 3 sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goals (SEGs) in the South Alaska Peninsula: 14,000 to 28,000 fish at Orzinski Lake, 1,400 to 5,700 fish at Mortensen’s Lagoon, and 9,000 to 19,000 fish at Thin Point Lake (Finkle et al. 2022). The 2025 pink salmon SEG range for the South Alaska Peninsula is 1,750,000 to 4,000,000 fish.

SEGs for chum salmon are established for each district utilizing specific index streams in a district, rather than all streams in a district, and the single peak aerial survey method, rather than the indexed total escapement method (incorporates 21-day stream life, carcasses, and mouth counts; Keyse et al. 2026) to estimate escapement (Finkle et al. 2022). Using the Southeastern District’s 26 index streams, the SEG is 62,500 to 151,900 fish. Using the South Central District’s 10 index streams, the SEG is 68,900 to 99,200 fish. Using the Southwestern District’s 19 index streams, the SEG is 86,900 to 159,500 fish.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT MAINLAND SALMON FISHERY

Under the current *SEDM Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.360):

- 1) The percentage of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon allocated to the SEDM fishery is 7.6% of the total number of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA through July 25.
- 2) From June 1 through July 25, 80% of the sockeye salmon caught in SEDM are considered to be Chignik-bound salmon, excluding NWSS after July 1. Beginning July 1, sockeye salmon caught in NWSS will not be counted toward the Chignik allocation. Fishing periods in NWSS after June 30 will

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be based on sockeye salmon escapement into Orzinski Lake, and there may not be more than 96 hours of fishing time during a 7-day period.

- a) If the department determines that the sockeye salmon escapement goal objectives are being met or exceeded, then the waters of Orzinski Bay may be open to commercial salmon fishing continuously to set gillnet gear only through July 10, and both set gillnet gear and purse seine gear from July 11 through July 25.
- 3) If the Orzinski Lake escapement meets or exceeds 28,000 sockeye salmon, NWSS and Orzinski Bay may be opened as follows:
 - a) set gillnet gear may be operated continuously until midnight July 25;
 - b) purse seine and hand purse seine gear may not be operated for more than 96 hours during a 7- day period.
- 4) The BOF established a closed waters area encompassing Kupreanof Point from July 6 through August 31 (Figure 16, 5 AAC 09.350(37)). ADF&G may extend the Kupreanof Point closed waters area through the end of the season by emergency order when the waters specified in 5 AAC 15.350(20) are closed to conserve coho salmon.
6. From July 26 through October 31, the fishery is managed for local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks.
7. From July 26 through October 31, the fishery will be closed for at least one 36-hour period within a 7-day period, excluding Orzinski Bay when the department is managing for local sockeye salmon.

Northwest Stepovak Section

The Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon SEG range is 14,000 to 28,000 fish (Finkle et al. 2022; Figure 17). ADF&G has operated a weir on the Orzinski Lake system annually since 1990 and plans to do so again in 2025.

Stepovak Flats Section

The Stepovak Flats Section is open to commercial salmon fishing concurrently with the rest of SEDM (Figure 6). Of the sockeye salmon harvested in the Stepovak Flats Section prior to July 26, 80% are assigned to the 7.6% allocation criteria stated in the current *SEDM Salmon Management Plan*. The Stepovak Flats Section is closed to all commercial fishing from July 29 through October 31 to protect schooling chum salmon.

FORECAST AND ALLOCATION

SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA PINK SALMON FORECAST

The 2026 South Alaska Peninsula post-June harvest estimate is 5.0 million pink salmon, and the total run estimate is 7.9 million fish (Appendix A1). ADF&G will manage the commercial fishery according to the June and post-June schedules through July 31, after which time the commercial salmon fishing periods will be based upon strength of local pink and chum salmon stocks. CHIGNIK RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON FORECAST AND SEDM ALLOCATION

The 2026 forecast for the estimated total harvest of Chignik River sockeye salmon is 1.14 million fish (Appendix A2). ADF&G will manage the fisheries so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in CMA, for both runs combined, will be at least 600,000 fish and the harvest of sockeye salmon considered to be Chignik bound in SEDM will approach, as near as possible, 7.6% of the total CMA sockeye salmon harvest through July 25.

If the Chignik River early run fails to develop as predicted, the department will curtail fishing in SEDM,

excluding Orzinski Bay, until at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the CMA through July 8. From approximately June 26 through July 8, the strength of the Chignik River sockeye salmon late run cannot be accurately evaluated due to the mixing of early- and late-run stocks. During this transition period, ADF&G may close or restrict commercial salmon fishing in SEDM until the strength of the late run has been determined. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the CMA and escapement objectives are being met for the Chignik late run, the department will manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA is at least 600,000. The number of sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM before July 25 (before July 1 in NWSS) will be managed so that 7.6% of the total harvest of Chignik River sockeye salmon is taken in SEDM. However, the harvest in SEDM and SCD at any time before July 25 may be permitted to fluctuate above or below 7.6% of the Chignik Area harvest (5 AAC 09.360(g)).

RETENTION OF KING SALMON

From June 1 through October 31, all king salmon 28 inches or greater in length caught by a seine permit holder may not be retained and must be returned to the water unharmed. All king salmon caught by a seine permit holder less than 28 inches in length or are visibly injured or dead, regardless of size, must be retained and recorded on a fish ticket.

All closed waters in the above locations will be as described in the regulation book or as adjusted by emergency order.

Hard copies of the management strategy can be obtained at ADF&G offices in Sand Point, Cold Bay, and Port Moller.

Statistical charts and management strategies are available at the Sand Point, Cold Bay, and Port Moller ADF&G offices. Commercial salmon fishing regulations, commercial harvest, escapement, and news releases can be found on the ADF&G website at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareaakpeninsula.salmon>.

Salmon fishery announcements will be broadcast on VHF channels 6 and 73 daily at 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and may also be obtained from ADF&G in Sand Point at 383-2334 (383-ADFG).

June 2026 Gear Types Schedule

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday					
		1		2		3		4		5		6					
	Seine gear fishing periods																
	Set /drift gillnet gear fishing periods																
7		8		9		10		11		12		13					
						5:59 AM		Open 68 hours						1:59 AM			
Open 64 hours (Set Gillnet Gear Only)								Open 88 hours								10 PM	
14		15		16		17		18		19		20					
76-hr closure				5:59 AM		Open 66 hours						11:59 PM		32 hr closure		7:59 AM	
32-hr closure						Open 88 hours								300,000 chum trigger evaluation point			
21		22		23		24		25		26		27					
Open 88 hours						11:59 PM		32 hr closure		7:59 AM		Open 88 hours					
Open 88 hours								450,000 chum trigger evaluation point				Open 88 hours					
28		29		30		-continued-											
11:59 PM																	
10 PM																	

July 2026 All Gear Types Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
Note: All fishing periods start at 6:00 AM. All fishing periods are for all gear types.						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	6:00 AM 33 Hours 3:00 PM				6:00 AM 36 Hours 6:00 PM	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		6:00 AM 36 Hours 6:00 PM				6:00 AM 36 Hours
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
6:00 PM			6:00 AM 36 Hours 6:00 PM			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
6:00 AM 36 Hours 6:00 PM				6:00 AM 36 Hours 6:00 PM		