South Unimak and Shumagin Islands
June Salmon Fishery
by
Lisa Fox

Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries
February 2023

Written Report: Supplemental Materials
Staff Comments: RC2
Oral Report: RC3, Tab 3
South Unimak and Shumagin Islands

June Salmon Fishery

Topics to be covered

• Fishery location
• Economic importance
• History of fishery
• Current regulations
• 2019–2022 season summaries
• Overview of proposals and issues
South Unimak and Shumagin Islands
June Fishery

West and East Pavlof Bay

Bechevin Bay Section

Shumagin Islands

South Central District

Southeastern District

Unimak District

Scotch Cap

Set Gillnet Gear
South Unimak and Shumagin Islands
June Fishery

Bechevin Bay Section

Unimak District

Southwestern District

Drift Gillnet Gear
“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
June Fishery
Economic Importance

Sand Point, King Cove, Cold Bay, and False Pass

The June fishery 2013–2022 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 average = $9,651,682
June Fishery Exvessel Value and Post-June and SEDM Fisheries Exvessel Value, 2013–2022

Exvessel Value (Millions)

Year


$35 $30

SEDM and post-June
June
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 sockeye:chum salmon ratios
- Various chum caps
1960–2022 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery Historic Sockeye Salmon Harvest

8.3% of Bristol Bay forecast

Number of Sockeye Salmon Harvested (Millions)

Year

South Unimak

Shumagin Islands

2001-2003 Plan
1960–2022 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery
Historic Chum Salmon Harvest

Number of Chum Salmon Harvested (Millions)

Year


1982 Chum Harvest

Chum Cap Years

2001-2003 Plan

South Unimak
Shumagin Islands
1960–2022 June Fishery Chum and Sockeye Salmon Harvest

8.3% of Bristol Bay

Forecast

Chum Cap

Years

Number of Salmon Harvested (Millions)

Year

2001–2003 Plan
June Salmon Fishery
Current Regulations

• The season may open on June 6 for set gillnet gear only for 64 hours
• Fishing periods on June 10, 15, 20, and 25 all gear types
  • Begin at 6:00 a.m.
  • 88-hours in length
  • Close at 10:00 p.m.
• Periods are separated by 32-hour closures
### All Gear Types Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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Notes:
All fishing periods start at 6:00 AM and end at 10:00 PM. Closures between periods are 32 hours.
The first fishing period is 64 hours for set gillnet gear only.
The remaining fishing periods are 88 hours for all gear types.
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- **6:00 AM**
  - Open 64 hours
    - (Set Gillnet Gear Only)

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- **10:00 PM**
  - Open 88 hours

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- **6:00 AM**
  - Open 88 Hours

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- **6:00 AM**
  - Open 40 Hours

- **10:00 PM**
  - Open 40 Hours

**Shumagin and Dolgois**

- All Gear Types

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**Area Wide**

- All Gear Types

- Open 40 Hours
## 2022 All Gear Types Schedule

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<td></td>
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<td>6:00 AM</td>
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**Shumagin Purse Seine**

Open 40 Hours

Open 40 Hours

Open 40 Hours
June Salmon Fishery

2022 Changes Outside of Regulation

- Confidentiality waivers signed by all processors
- Test fishery
  - June 8, 9, and 10
  - Cape Lutke and Cape Lazaref (Unimak District)
  - East side Popof Island (Shumagin Islands)
- Seine fleet voluntary stand downs
- 544,097 chum salmon harvested
  - 366,240 South Unimak
  - 177,857 Shumagin Islands
- Chum salmon sampling
South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery

2019–2022 Season Summaries

Number of salmon harvested

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Permits</th>
<th>King</th>
<th>Sockeye</th>
<th>Coho</th>
<th>Pink</th>
<th>Chum</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>10,049</td>
<td>630,888</td>
<td>3,681</td>
<td>9,021,357</td>
<td>549,072</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>2,594</td>
<td>339,293</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>1,754,284</td>
<td>490,128</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>3,188</td>
<td>3,541,620</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>4,038,219</td>
<td>1,168,601</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>3,204</td>
<td>3,905,017</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>1,201,771</td>
<td>544,097</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>4,759</td>
<td>2,104,205</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td>4,003,908</td>
<td>687,975</td>
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Average effort by gear type:
- Purse seine permits = 60 of 121
- Drift gillnet permits = 121 of 162
- Set gillnet permits = 51 of 116

Average percent of June harvest:
- Purse seine = 89.5%
- Drift gillnet = 8.9%
- Set gillnet = 1.6%

2019–2022 Average exvessel value: $13,057,225
South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery

2023 Proposals

Proposal 133

Amend June plan to reduce fishing time and area for purse seine gear

Proposal 134

Amend June plan to include king and coho and reduce fishing time

Proposal 135

Amend June plan to include sockeye catch ratio of 82% in South Unimak and 18% in Shumagin Islands

Proposal 136

Amend June plan to implement 280,000 chum cap

Proposal 137

Amend June plan to reduce fishing time to 100 hours
Proposal 138

*Amend June plan to institute salmon observer program*

Proposal 139

*Rescind June plan and replace with 2001-2003 plan, add king and coho*

Proposal 140

*Repeal June plan and replace with modified 2001-2003, add king*

Proposal 141

*Amend gear allowed in June to reduce King, chum, and coho harvest*
South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery

2023 Proposals

Proposal 142

Amend June and post-June plan to shift set gillnet gear fishing time

Proposal 148

Amend June, post-June, and SEDM plans to reduce king and chum harvest by 50% in fishing time

Proposal 149

Amend June, post-June, and SEDM plans to reduce king and chum harvest by 50% in fishing time, implement genetic testing program