

**CHRONOLOGY OF THE SOUTH AND NORTH PENINSULA  
AREA M COMMERCIAL FISHERIES FROM 1970-1997 (ABSTRACTED  
FROM ADF&G's ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORTS)**

By

**Robin Samuelsen**

**1970** - The North Peninsula red runs exceeded 625,000 (just under the previous 10 year average of 650,000). 85% of the reds were caught in the Nelson Lagoon and Bear River sections. Only 45,000 reds were taken in the Cape Seniavin-Ilnik fishery.

**1971** - The North Peninsula catch of 429,000 salmon slightly exceeded the 300-400,000 norm of the past ten seasons. The majority of the reds were taken at Bear River, Ilnik and Nelson Lagoon. The season can be best described as follows: In July, three dozen vessels of the South Unimak drift net fleet moved to Port Moller and fished from Nelson Lagoon to Ilnik. The remainder went to another fishery or switched to seine or set net gear and scattered about the South Peninsula and Northwestern Districts. Overall drift net gear has leveled at 15-30 units at Bear River and decreased slightly. All total about 110 drift net, 60 seiners, and 30 setnetters participated in the 1971 respectively. The majority of the North Peninsula catch was caught in the Bear River section. The management report also included a report on illegal catches - Bear River 19,4000 fish, South Peninsula 74,000 fish, and Balboa-Stepovak 91,700 fish by a total of 19 vessels. Bear River escapements had essentially halted, and the fishery was targeting on milling fish. **Editor's note: (was this the beginning of the interception of Bristol Bay Bound fish?).**

**1972** - The North Peninsula sockeye catch was 179,500 (most of these fish were harvested in Sandy and Bear River). Nelson Lagoon's harvests were very poor. Three Hills and Urelia Bay produced a small amount, and no effort was expended for sockeye at Port Heiden. **Port Moller drift-net fleet ranged from 20-35 vessels through most of the season. Back then, standard depth of gillnets was 80-90 meshes. Now, more recently, most gillnets are 120-140 meshes deep with a few being 160-180 meshes deep. These deeper nets are more effective, and the fishermen are getting worthwhile catches of both sockeye and chums in the bottom 15 feet of their nets. Editors note: 180 meshes x 5.25 inches = 78.8 feet deep gillnets being used. Sea lions tend to tear the web of these nets.** The average price paid for sockeye was \$1.30 per fish. Illegal fishing operations were as follows: 8,691 total fish were caught with 7 vessels, most of which were pink salmon.

**1973** - For the first time salmon were weighed at the time of delivery and purchased by the pound. There was considerably more activity than usual in the fresh, frozen production of salmon in the Ilnik, Port Heiden and Cinder river sections this season. The North Peninsula sockeye catch was 339,600. The Bear and Sandy River systems produced the bulk of the sockeye harvest (67%), and the balance of the run was thinly distributed over the remainder of the North Peninsula. Average

price for sockeye was \$ .46 per pound.

E.O.s issues by the department: Bear and Sandy Rivers were closed from the south marker of the King Salmon River to 3 miles north of Sandy River effective June 28- July 2. The limited closures were put in place to protect milling salmon while backing away from the rivers on big run out tides. Fleet effort was about normal as previous years. The Bear River drift fleet expanded slightly to 28-36 vessels (most of which were part of the 90 - 110 driftnetter fleet at South Unimak). E.O. no. 16 closed the Bear River section 1 mile offshore between King Salmon River and a point 3 miles north of Sandy River on June 28-July 2 to protect milling salmon during exceptionally low tides and enhance escapements.

The following regulatory changes were made by the Alaska Board of Fish: 5 AAC 09.320 (c) & (d) Weekly fishing periods in June in the Unimak and Southwestern districts reduced from 6:00 a.m. Saturdays to four 13-hour periods per week. **The purpose was to reduce the interception of migrant sockeyes (Bristol Bay origin) in the South Unimak June fishery.** It was also the Board's intent that the fleet not lose fishing time because of bad weather factors. 5 AAC 09.320 (f) weekly fishing periods in the Southeastern districts reduced during June from 7- days a week to 12:01 a.m. Monday to 6:00 p.m. Thursday. The purpose was to reduce the interception of migrant sockeyes in the Popof Head (Shumagin Islands) June fishery. No intent was expressed to allow compensatory fishing time lost due to stormy weather. 5AAC 09.310 (c) (d) & (f) Season opening in the Southeastern districts changed from June 1 to June 11. This, with other changes, was part of a program to reduce the interception of migrant sockeyes in the June cape fisheries on the South Peninsula.

*1974 - Salmon catches on the Alaska Peninsula reflected a very significant degree of illegal fishing and because of the exceptionally weak runs; these illegal catches had a significant adverse impact on escapement.*

Illegal catches reflected are as follows: 16.2% of the total South Peninsula catch was illegally caught fish, and 5.2% of the North Peninsula total catch was also illegally caught fish. The department stated a total closure of the South Peninsula salmon fisheries in July and August for two seasons should be seriously considered as a means to attain enough escapement.

This was a year of a major fishermen's strike in the Peninsula fisheries. The North Peninsula fishery commenced on June 10 with a few vessels participating. On June 24, the strike was over and the main fishing effort commenced. **The Ilnik "outside" opening was delayed to July 7 to allow passage of Northeasterly migrant salmon which became apparent in the Three Hills fishery the first week in July. In 1974, ADF&G staff recommended to the Alaska Board of Fish that starting in 1975, weekly fishing periods on the North Peninsula should be reduced from 5 to 4 days. This recommendation would promote local escapements and reduce the take of migrant fish.** The North Peninsula catch was 231,600 sockeye. The Bear and Sandy River sections, along with a real strong showing of fish in the Three Hill section, make up the bulk of the North Peninsula catch. **The Three Hills section catch was exceptionally high because sockeye have appeared to be mixed fish bound for up and down the coast. This year the fish appear to**

have been predominately bound for northeasterly, Bristol Bay. Immature salmon are known to pass through the Shumagins in significant numbers some years and those wrapped by seines, gill in the seine web with a 95-100% mortality rate. These immature salmon usually appear in the first week of July and continue through the third week.

During the 1974 season, it became evident the fleet in the Three Hills section was taking above normal catches of red salmon. The fish were noticeably larger than the reds taken at Bear River and it was assumed they were fish headed for Bristol Bay. The opening in the outside waters of Ilnik section was delayed to protect these migrating fish. Peak catches in the Three Hills section correspond directly to the amount of effort and loosely follow the peaks and ebbs of the Bristol Bay runs. 14 to 15 drift net vessels participated in the Three Hills fishery. Currently, the Three Hills section is totally conducted by the fleet tendered out of Port Moller, and the Three Hills section effort is not essential to utilization of these runs. But if a strong run hit Ilnik or Port Heiden, an influx of effort from Port Moller easily could occur and that could present problems. In summary, it appears a portion of the salmon migrating to the North Peninsula and Bristol Bay hit on shore near Cape Seniavin. Based on the timing of the peak catches made in the Three Hills section, in recent years these fish could conceivably be part of the North Peninsula or Bristol Bay runs. Average price per pound paid for sockeye was \$.55.6.

Emergency order #17: Opening of the outside waters of the Ilnik section was delayed to July 8 to protect apparent easterly migrant reds. 28,000 reds were taken in the Three Hills section the prior week and it was apparent at least some of these reds were migrating to the northeast. Editors note: ADF&G knew in 1974 that a new intercept fishery was developing on the North Peninsula. Also in 1974, sockeye runs to Bristol Bay were forecasted to be real weak, and little or no commercial harvest in Bristol Bay was expected. The Board, therefore, desired that a harvest of migrant chums be allowed, but only to the extent that this was possible without harvesting significant numbers of migrant sockeye.

1975 - In the first of July (or when the South Unimak harvest is attained) 35 or so driftnet vessels moved from the South Unimak fishery to Port Moller and fished from Nelson Lagoon to Ilnik. Salmon taken in the Three Hills section appear to be bound variously for Bristol Bay and local systems from Cape Seniavin to Cinder River, and to Bear and Sandy Rivers. The North Peninsula sockeye catch total was 234,000. The North Peninsula salmon fishery commenced on June 9 targeting on kings at Port Heiden, with the main effort getting underway at Bear River and Nelson Lagoon commencing June 30. The Three Hills section is located immediately northeast of Cape Seniavin on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula. Generally 14 to 15 driftnetters from Port Moller fish this section in early July with sockeye catches generally ranging 10-40,000 per annum (8,700 in 1975 by 2 to 10 driftnetters). It appears that sockeyes taken in this section vary from season to season as to their terminal destinations which include Bristol Bay, Bear, Sandy, Port Heiden, and Cinder Rivers. The Three Hills section is now managed on the basis of apparent run strengthens to the nearby Ilnik and Port Heiden systems. In 1975, an attempt by the superintendent at Port Moller to increase the Port Moller driftnet fleet by six (6) vessels was met with stiff opposition by the Port Moller and Nelson Lagoon fishermen. This fleet had been cut back

(from over 65 vessels to approximately 25 vessels) in 1964 by an agreement between the two competing processors. Subsequently the fleet has been slowly increased to 30-35 driftnetters. The fishermen know that a larger fleet will result in fewer fish per boat because the department will not sacrifice escapement to support the fleet. The proposed six vessels did not join the Port Moller Fleet.

Price paid for sockeye was \$.40 per pound. In 1975 (as in 1974) there were no Dept. of Public Safety Protection personnel on duty on the Peninsula except for a very brief patrol associated with the one day opening on August 22. Three violations were documented and 10 seiners were reportedly spooked out of closed waters. Department of Fish and Game Commissioner James Brooks curtailed the Alaska Peninsula intercept fisheries based on the conservation problems in Bristol Bay. The cape fisheries, or mixed stock fisheries on the Alaska Peninsula, are ranked in the following order of importance: 1. South Unimak 2. Shumagins cape fisheries 3. Three Hills fishery at Cape Seniavin on the North Peninsula. **The department stated that salmon taken in the Three Hills section appear to be bound for Bristol Bay as well as various local systems from Cape Seniavin to Cinder River.**

E.O.s No. 11 & 13: Port Heiden, Ilnik and Three Hills section closed July 2 through July 20. E.O. No. 16: Bear River section closed July 8 - 14. **This is the first year the Alaska Board of Fisheries set a quota for sockeye bound for Bristol Bay - 1.5 % for Shumagin Island, and 6.8 % for the South Unimak.** This quota is based on the preseason Bristol Bay salmon forecast.

1976 - The North Peninsula catch totaled 746,000 sockeye. The average catch from 1960-1975 was 272,000. The North Peninsula fishery essentially got underway June 7 at Nelson Lagoon and Port Moller. The Bear and Sandy Rivers runs came in strong and the fishery was open continuously from June 28 to July 15 and July 19 to 29. The overall catch at Bear and Sandy Rivers totaled 311,000 sockeye as compared to the 160,000 average catch from 1960-1975.

**The Three Hills section (above Cape Seniavin) was conducted on a 4 days a week fishery. The catch totaled a phenomenal 220,000 sockeye as compared to the 22,000 average from 1960-1975. Editor's Note: "Gold" was struck in the Three Hills section for the first time this year, although the Ilnik River system were below escapement projections. Vessel effort was still in the normal range, as in previous years. CFEC permits: Purse Seine - 112, Drift Net - 148, and Set Net - 106. Average price paid for sockeye was \$.53.9 per pound.** Fish and Wildlife Protection and Public Safety renewed enforcement operations on the Peninsula salmon fisheries. "Poachers" were nervous, and approximately 1,000 fish were dumped in the closed waters of Volcano Bay, and another 500 in Dushkin Lagoon. The Alaska Board of Fish established a catch limit of 350,000 sockeye in the South Unimak June fishery, and 75,000 sockeye salmon in the Shumagin Islands June fishery. **Also in 1976, a new management plan was adopted for the North Peninsula salmon fisheries. This plan calls for the fisheries to be managed on the basis of catch/effort indicators, and relative abundance of fish as determined by surveys and escapements.**

**BOARD DIRECTIVE TO STAFF ON THE JUNE, 1976 ALASKA PENINSULA SALMON FISHERY**

In consideration of the forecasted return to the Bristol Bay system, the Alaska Board of Fisheries hereby directs the department of Fish and Game to manage the South Unimak and Shumagin Island Fisheries in such a manner as to allow no more than a catch of 350,000 red salmon at South unimak and 75,000 red salmon at Shumagin Islands.

This harvest level is applicable during the month of June only and the fishery should be managed in such a manner as to distribute the catch. Weekly fishing periods in the order of two to three per week should accomplish this. Editors Note: Windows were a part of this fishery early on and the Board of Fish had concerns that continuous fishing by the South Peninsula fishermen could in fact harm terminal rivers in Bristol Bay.

1977 - The North Peninsula catch was 471,000 sockeye. Sockeye escapements were relatively weak westerly from the Nelson Lagoon systems and easterly of Ilnik. This year a major portion (approximately 20 vessels) of the Port Moller driftnet fleet departed South Unimak during a 3-day closed period following the June 20 fishery and returned north to commence fishing at Bear River on June 23. This was unusual in that this fleet normally remains thru the entire South Unimak fishery, and enters the Bear River fishery in the last few days in June or first few days of

July. Bristol Bay forecasts estimate a specific number of returning red salmon, and the figures are used in the Peninsula Management Plan. However, the Bristol Bay forecast should have included an additional 1-2% for minor systems. Therefore, the sockeye catch limit at South Unimak was raised from 187,000 as per the management plan to 195,000 of the catch at South Unimak. The season chum harvests totaled only 32 % of the catch.

Judging from subsequent developments in local chum runs, it is possible the June migrant chums were behind schedule. The Bear River fishery commenced June 22 with the early return of the South Unimak driftnet fleet. Ultimately, 35 driftnetters participated in the Bear River and Three Hills fishery. The Bear and Sandy Rivers produced 269,000 sockeye, and the catch was 100,000 over the 1960-1976 average. Nelson Lagoon's sockeye catch totaled 229,000 sockeye, compared to a respective average of 121,000. 14 vessels fished for four days a week. The Three Hills/Ilnik fishery produced another strong sockeye catch of 98,000 compared to a 45,000 average from 1960 to 1976. Fleet size (per CFEC) was 127 purse seiners, 167 drifters and 120 set netters. Protection was again present in all fisheries. However, this season three separate incidents occurred in which fisherman fired upon stream-guards in plain sight and upon "stake out" crews. The shootings were the most flagrant on the Peninsula over the past 10-15 years.

The Alaska Board of Fish established sockeye guideline harvest levels for the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June interception fisheries, both of which are based on the percentage of the projected Bristol Bay inshore sockeye catch as published by the Department of Fish and Game. The maximum percentage allowed during 1977 for the South Unimak fishery was 6.8 %, and for the Shumagin Islands fishery, it was 1.5%. The Ilnik section and "outside" waters remained closed until July 13. 5 AAC 09.331 (a) (3) - Maximum depth of driftnets in

Nelson Lagoon increased from 29 meshes to 38 meshes after August 15. This was proposed by the Nelson Lagoon Fish and Game Advisory Committee and supported by the management staff. Sockeye salmon price was \$.63 per pound.

E.O.s issued were 4, 10, 12, 14, 17, 38, and 45. The Nelson Lagoon's section of 4-days per week fishing schedule was extended for additional days on June 10 and June 26, and suspended on June 22, 23 and 30. The fishery was then reopened continuously from noon July 2 through August 4 and from August 8 through August 19. E.O. 4, 14, 18, and 20: The Bear River fishery was opened continuously July 4 -14. The Bear River section catch by 9 to 28 drifters totaled 269,000 sockeye. E.O's no. 17, 23: Ilnik section "outside" waters remained closed until July 13 were then opened until July 15 on a 4 days per week basis until September 30. Approximate season catches in the Ilnik-Three Hills section by 6 -12 vessels was 98,000 sockeye.

1978 - The North Peninsula red salmon runs were exceptionally and surprisingly strong at 2.23 million, as compared to an 18 year average of 0.7 million, and 900,000 reds were harvested. The North Peninsula red salmon fisheries were concentrated at Bear River and Nelson Lagoon. 30 to 40 gillnet vessels (briefly 70) participated. At Cape Seniavin-Three Hills-Ilnik, the 32,000 red catch was an unexceptional average and escapement was below average. It was noted that the fish averaged 5.9 pounds in weight, and these reds were a bit large and to likely be Bristol Bay migrants.

The fishing effort was: purse seines - 50, drift gillnet - 86, set gillnet - 28. Average price paid per pound for sockeye \$.75.9. Questions have arisen over the past year concerning the outer boundaries of the South Unimak fishery. The staff assisted in establishing that all waters northerly of a line from Cape Lutke to the northwest side of Sanak Island be recognized as a historical salmon net fishing area. The alternative was to be a federally-enforced 3-mile limit extending primarily from the nearest shoreline. The parent year for North Peninsula fish was 1973, and sockeye escapements on the North Peninsula totaled a very weak 168,000.

This equals only to half the average and one-third of the escapement goal, and is the weakest sockeye escapement since before 1960. Consequently, the entire North Peninsula sockeye run was expected to be weak. Three Hills section escapement were weak and fishing in this district had to be curtailed. In the Three Hills section, 2-10 vessels took 25,000 sockeye. Editors Note: although not meeting escapement goals for the North Peninsula, 900,000 sockeye were caught in this district.

In 1978, a remarkable catch of coho's (40,000), (previous year averages's were 9,600 per year) was taken in the Shumagin Islands cape fisheries from mid-July into early August. These were obvious migrant, virtually none were taken elsewhere but on the capes.

1979 - The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries were again managed with limits set by the Board of Fisheries. The South Unimak limit was 900,000 sockeye, and the Shumagin limit was 200,000 sockeye. The South Unimak catch totaled only 75 % of the limit, despite the fishery being open the entire month of June, and included three (3) bad weather make-up days in July. The bulk of the catch was taken at Cape Lutke. The South Unimak gillnetters had a disappointing season due to

the fish running too deep and/or too far off shore. The Shumagin Islands June fishery took 85 % of the limit and probably would have reached the limit had not large numbers of immature salmon caused closure of the fishery during late June. Average price paid per sockeye \$ 1.11 a pound.

An unusual (another record) number of coho were taken along the South Peninsula (primarily Popof Head) during July and early August. Approximately 340,000 migrant coho were taken. Their destination is unknown. No escapement information available.

The North Peninsula produced an all time record sockeye catch: Nelson Lagoon - 320,000 sockeye, Port Moller - 32,052 sockeye, Bear River - 1,279,645 sockeye, and Sandy River - 2,685 sockeye, Three Hills - 140,390 sockeye, and Ilnik - 53,972 sockeye. The department conducted age composition analysis of the sockeye catch and stated this catch "does not include estimate of fish intercepted on high seas, along South Peninsula and the Three Hills - Ilnik areas." It includes all red catches between Harbor Point and Cape Seniavin.

E.O. 11 issued - Due to extremely strong red salmon escapements, the Nelson Lagoon, Herendeen-Moller Bay and Bear River sections were open to continuous fishing effective 12:01 a.m. June 27. Several Kodiak area fishermen expressed interest in fishing herring in Herendeen and Moller Bays on their way to the Togiak fishery. No herring deliveries were reported during 1979 from the North Peninsula.

1980 - The Harbor Point to Cape Seniavin sockeye catch was 781,457. The Nelson Lagoon sockeye catch was 318,526. Three Hills and Ilnik sections catches were 280,916 sockeye. Fishing vessels peaked at 25 for the Nelson Lagoon fishery. E.O. #1 issued: Allowed a seven day per week fishery for the rest of the season in the Bear River, Three Hills sections effective 12:01 a.m. July 1. 2. Allow a seven day per week fishery effective 12:01 a.m. July 1 through August 8 in the Nelson Lagoon section. 12. Open the entire Ilnik section to commercial salmon fishing, seven days per week effective July 2. Editors Note: In 1979 & 1980, the Three Hills/Ilnik commercial fisheries started to take off, and at the same time the fleet in Bristol Bay started calling for action on the "NEW INTERCEPT FISHERY OF THE NORTH PENINSULA."

Remember this fishery up to this point was a 4-days a week fishery from 9:00 a.m. Monday to 9:00 a.m. Thursday.

E.O. #5 issued: Extended weekly fishing periods to 12:00 midnight Friday each week in the Port Heiden and Nelson Lagoon sections, effective June 19. E. O. # 1: Allowed a 7-days per week fishery for the rest of the season in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Herendeen-Moller Bay sections, effective 12:01 a.m. July 1. E.O. # 2 issued: Allowed a seven day per week fishery effective 12:01 a.m. July 1 through August 8 in the Nelson Lagoon section. E. O. # 12 issued: Opened the entire Ilnik section to commercial salmon fishing, seven days per week effective July 2.

1981 - The North Peninsula sockeye catch was again exceptionally strong with a catch of 1,844,000. Sockeye were selling at \$1.00 a pound. Port Moller Bay to Cape Seniavin produced a

sockeye catch of 1,345,569. In the Three Hills and Ilnik sections, 68,893 sockeye were caught with an average of 25 vessels participating.

E.O.s issued allowed continuous commercial salmon fishing for the remainder of the season in the Bear River section starting July 2, 9:00 p.m. **M-21 Allowed continuous commercial salmon fishing in the Ilnik and Three Hills section.** Approximately 61 seiners, 90 drift gillnetters and 10 set netters participated in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries. 26 vessels participated in the Nelson Lagoon fisheries. E.O.s issued: M-8 Extended current weekly salmon fishing periods until 9:00 a.m. Friday June 12 in the Nelson Lagoon, Bear River and Herendeen-Moller Bay. M-13 Extended current weekly salmon fishing periods until 9:00 a.m. Friday June 19 in the Nelson Lagoon, Bear River, and Herendeen-Moller Bay sections. M-17 Allowed continuous commercial salmon fishing for the remainder of the season in the Bear River and Herendeen-Moller Bay sections. Continuous commercial salmon fishing was allowed in the Nelson Lagoon section until 9:00 a.m. July 2. M-20 Extended the Nelson Lagoon section to continuous commercial salmon fishing through 9:00 a.m. Friday July 10. **M-21 Allowed continuous commercial salmon fishing in the Ilnik, Three Hills, and Nelson Lagoon sections through August 14.**

**Coho runs appeared strong everywhere except in the Southeastern district. No escapement information available.**

1982 - The Department of Public Safety's vessel "Trooper" patrolled the North Peninsula during early July. The South Peninsula June chum catches were 160,00 and 934,000 for the Shumagin Islands and South Unimak fisheries. Chum returns in Western Alaska were good but down from the previous two years. The fall Yukon River chum return was a failure. Consequently considerable concern was expressed by residents of the AYK Region, and a proposal was made to limit the June South Peninsula chum interception to no more than 264,500 fish. The proposal was rejected except that wording in the management plan was changed to express concern for chum interception. The Board of Fisheries also instructed the Department to do more research in determining the origin of the June chums.

Vessels that participated in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries were as follows: seine 75, drift gillnet 130 and 15 set gillnetters. The North Peninsula sockeye catch was again very strong. Sockeye price per pound was \$.85. **The sockeye catches for the North Peninsula were as follows: Bear River - 900,667, Sandy River - 85,818, Three Hills/Ilnik section - 142,506 with a total catch of 1,435,280. Nelson Lagoon had 31 vessel participate.**

**Fall coho runs along the South Peninsula appeared to be mediocre. Shumagin Island coho catch was 207,273, no escapement data available.**

This was also the first year a commercial roe herring catch was reported on the North Peninsula. Between May 31 and June 12, three purse seine vessels harvested a total of 505 tons of roe herring. Roe content ranged from 8% to 12% with a average price of \$500.00 per ton.

E.O.s issued: M-8 Allowed continuous salmon fishing in the Bear River and Herendeen-Moller Bay sections until 6:00 p.m. June 24, and the Nelson Lagoon section until 9:00 p.m. June 24 Thursday.



Effective Thursday June 17. M-9 Allowed continuous commercial salmon fishing in the Bear River and Herendeen-Moller Bay sections during the remainder of the fishing season. M-17 Extended commercial salmon fishing time in the Port Heiden and Ilnik sections continuously until 6:00 p.m. August 12. Allowed continuous fishing time in the Three Hills section through September 30. This emergency order was effective July 9.

1983 - Approximately 92 purse seiners, 139 drift gillnetters and 41 set gillnetters fished salmon along the South Peninsula during June. This effort was a drastic increase over 1979 when there were 33 seiners, 100 driftnetters, and 22 setnetters. In 1982, there were 85 seiners, 126 driftnetters, and 33 setnetters. **The primary factor responsible for the large gear increase was CFEC issuing separate permits for each gear group when limited entry was created.** All salmon gear permits owned by an individual should have been placed on one card. 1983 produced an large chum catch. The reason for such abnormally large numbers of chums is not so obvious. Had as much fishing time been allowed during 1983, as had been allowed during each of the previous four years, the chum catch likely would have been 2-3 million chums for both South Unimak and Shumagin Islands.

**Massive growth in fleet size, because limited entry permits are being fully utilized. Coho catch was 92,000 in the shumagin Islands, no escapement data available.**

**The North Peninsula sockeye salmon catch was 2,009,000, setting a new North Peninsula harvest record.** Average price paid per pound of sockeye was \$1.09.8. Catch breakdown per district were as such: Bear River section - 1,126,208, Three Hill/Ilnik section - 739,613 sockeye. **E.O.s issued: M-14 extended fishing in the Three Hills section until July 7, and opened the Ilnik section on July 2 and allowed fishing from July 2 to July 7.** M-16 Extended fishing time until 12:00 p.m. midnight Friday July 8, in the Nelson Lagoon, Ilnik and Three Hills sections. M-17 Extended fishing time in the Ilnik and Three Hills sections until 12:00 p.m. midnight Saturday July 19.

The Alaska Board of Fish adopted a management plan to decrease the catch of chums, and imposed a limit of no more than 96 hours of fishing per week. No more than 72 hours may be allowed consecutively, with the preference being no more than 48 hours, with at least 24 hour breaks between fishing periods. The commercial herring sac roe fishery on the North Peninsula occurred only in the Port Moller/Herendeen Bay area. A total of 637 tons was harvested by 16 seiners and 3 gillnetters during the period May 9 through May 29. The average price per ton was \$ 500.00 for 10 % roe recovery.

1984 - Scale analysis was done in 1983 by the department in the Shumagan Island-South Unimak to show who's chums were being caught in these commercial fisheries. Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim and Yukon area chums were combined in the catches. 1984 was the first time additional restrictions were placed on the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries in an attempt to spread out the incidental catch of chums. No more than 96 hours fishing per week would be allowed and no more than 72 (the board indicated that it preferred no more than 48 hours) consecutive fishing hours would be allowed without at least a 24 hour closure. Due to extremely high daily sockeye catch

rates, these additional restrictions were not a factor during 1984. The catching power of the fishing fleet continued to increase due to additional permits being used. More and more permit holders were transferring a permit for one type of gear while using different gear and permits. This problem could have been solved easily when limited entry was created but there appears to be no remedy at the present. Consequently, the purse seine gear effort in the Shumagins and at South Unimak rose to approximately 104 during 1984, as compared to 33 in 1979. Editors Note: This calculates to about a 310 % increase of effort in 5 years. The drift gill net gear increased from 100 in 1979 to 143 during 1984 in the June South Unimak fishery, a 50% increase. The South Unimak-Shumagins June fishery caught 1,338,000 sockeye, and an incidental chum salmon catch of 337,000. Average price of sockeye per pound was \$ 1.20.7.

**The catching power of the fishing fleet continued to increase due to additional permits being used. Coho catch was 309,000 in the Shumagin Islands and 51,719 in the Southwestern district. No escapement data available.**

**The North Peninsula sockeye catch was largest on record with 1,735,000 sockeye caught.** The catch breakdown for the North Peninsula fisheries was as follows: Nelson Lagoon-118,756, Bear River-542,374, Sandy River-17,713, **Three Hills- 333,832, Ilnik-409,883 sockeye.**

E.O.s issued: 4-f-m-16 - this emergency order opens the commercial salmon fishing season in that portion of the Ilnik section located outside Ilnik Lagoon at 12:00 a.m. noon July 3rd, 36 hours earlier than the originally scheduled opening on July 5. **Justification: The escapement of sockeye salmon into the Ilnik system is presently estimated to be at least 20-30,000. This is approximately the level estimated at this time during previous seasons when the desired escapement level of 35 to 70,000 had been exceeded. Fishing in Ilnik Lagoon to date has not been an effective method in harvesting the surplus due to plant material in the water and light effort.**

**An earlier fishery on the outside of Ilnik Lagoon is needed to enable the fleet to adequately harvest the resource. E.O.17 - close Bear River section. E.O.19 - Nelson Lagoon continuous fishing from July 9 to August 3.**

**E.O. 21- allow continuous fishing from July 11-20 on for all North Peninsula districts. E.O. 26- allow continuous fishing July 21-27 in the Three Hills, Ilnik and Bear River sections.** The North Peninsula herring fishery had 19 seine vessels and one gillnet participate. They took 431 tons at \$550.00 a ton for 10% recovery. This fishery is in the Port Moller/ Herendeen Bay area. The North Peninsula sac roe ex-vessel value was \$125,000.00 for ten vessels that participated, and the Dutch Harbor food and bait ex-vessel value was \$749,000, with nine seiners harvesting the herring.

1985 - Beginning in 1985, additional restrictions were placed on the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries in an attempt to spread out the incidental catch of chum salmon. It is anticipated that both fall Yukon and Kuskokwim chum stocks returns will be at low levels during the