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ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STAFF COMMENTS ON COMMERCIAL, PERSONAL USE, SPORT, AND SUBSISTENCE REGULATORY PROPOSALS FOR

ALASKA PENINULA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS/CHIGNIK FINFISH

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

FEBRUARY 18–24, 2026

Regional Information Report No. 5J26-01

The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting, February 18–24, 2026, in Anchorage, Alaska. The comments are forwarded to assist the public and board. The comments contained herein should be considered preliminary and subject to change as new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral public testimony presented to the board.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

The following acronyms and abbreviations, and others approved for the Système International d'Unités (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Commercial Fisheries, Sport Fish, and Subsistence: All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figures or figure captions.

Weights and measures (metric)

centimeter	cm
deciliter	dL
gram	g
hectare	ha
kilogram	kg
kilometer	km
liter	L
meter	m
milliliter	mL
millimeter	mm

Weights and measures (English)

cubic feet per second	ft^3/s
foot	ft
gallon	gal
inch	in
mile	mi
nautical mile	nmi
ounce	oz
pound	lb
quart	qt
yard	yd

Time and temperature

day	d
degrees Celsius	°C
degrees Fahrenheit	°F
degrees kelvin	K
hour	h
minute	min
second	s

Physics and chemistry

all atomic symbols	
alternating current	AC
ampere	A
calorie	cal
direct current	DC
hertz	Hz
horsepower	hp
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH
parts per million	ppm
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰
volts	V
watts	W

General

Alaska Administrative Code	AAC
all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.
all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.
at	@
compass directions:	
east	E
north	N
south	S
west	W
copyright	©
corporate suffixes:	
Company	Co.
Corporation	Corp.
Incorporated	Inc.
Limited	Ltd.
District of Columbia	D.C.
et alii (and others)	et al.
et cetera (and so forth)	etc.
exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.
Federal Information Code	FIC
id est (that is)	i.e.
latitude or longitude	lat or long
monetary symbols (U.S.)	$, ¢
months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan,...,Dec
registered trademark	®
trademark	™
United States (adjective)	U.S.
United States of America (noun)	USA
U.S.C.	United States Code
U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)

Acronyms

Acceptable Biological Catch	ABC
Alaska Board of Fisheries	board
Alaska Department of Fish and Game	department /ADF&G
Amount Necessary for Subsistence	ANS
Alaska Wildlife Troopers	AWT
Biological Escapement Goal	BEG
Central Gulf of Alaska	CGOA
Coded Wire Tag	CWT
Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission	CFEC
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association	CIAA
Customary and Traditional	C&T
Department of Natural Resources	DNR
Demersal Shelf Rockfish	DSR
Emergency Order	EO
Guideline Harvest Level	GHL
Gulf of Alaska	GOA
Global Positioning System	GPS
Individual Fishing Quota	IFQ
Local Area Management Plan	LAMP
Lower Cook Inlet	LCI
Mean Low Water	MLW
Mean Lower Low Water	MLLW
No Data	ND
National Marine Fisheries Service	NMFS
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	NOAA
Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon	NDFL
North Pacific Fishery Management Council	NPFMC
Optimum Escapement Goal	OEG
Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	PSR
Prince William Sound	PWS
Prior Notice of Landing	PNOL
Private Nonprofit Salmon Hatchery	PNP
River Mile	RM
Special Harvest Area	SHA
Sustainable Escapement Goal	SEG
Trail Lakes Hatchery	TLH
Upper Cook Inlet	UCI
Western Gulf of Alaska	WGOA

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ALASKA PENINULA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS/CHIGNIK FINFISH

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING ANCHORAGE, AK

FEBRUARY 18–24, 2026

by
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services
333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518–1565

January 2026

ABSTRACT

This document contains Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) staff comments on commercial, personal use, sport, and subsistence regulatory proposals for Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Island, and Chignik finfish. These comments were prepared by the department for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, February 18–24, 2026, in Anchorage, Alaska. The comments are forwarded to assist the public and board. The comments contained herein should be considered preliminary and subject to change, as new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral public testimony presented to the board.

Keywords: Alaska Board of Fisheries (board), Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department), staff comments, regulatory proposals, fisheries, commercial, personal use, sport, subsistence, Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Island, Chignik, finfish, regulations, management plans, escapement goals, methods, means, bag limits, allocation, salmon

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Summary of department positions on regulatory proposals for Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island/Chignik finfish; Anchorage, February 18–24, 2026.

Proposal No.	Department Position	Issue
106	S	Amend the fishing season to allow for more fishing time for subsistence salmon fishers in the Unalaska District where fishing would be allowed from sunrise until sunset from January 1 through December 31.
107	O	Adopt marking and reporting requirements for commercially caught salmon retained for a person's own use and not sold in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik management areas.
108	N	Amend the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan to remove the option to open the Western and Perryville Districts, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, from June 1 through July 5.
109	N	The area known as Jack's Box residing within the Central District would instead be incorporated into the Chignik Bay District.
110	N	Reduce the maximum depth for commercial seine gear from 375 meshes to 325 meshes. The current allowable usage of 25 meshes of chafing gear would also be included in the maximum depth, rather than in addition to the maximum depth. Furthermore, lead length would be incorporated into the aggregate seine length and would be restricted to a maximum length of 125 fathoms within the Chignik Bay District.
111	N	Split the Mitrofania Island Area of the Western District into two distinct statistical areas, East Mitrofania Island and West Mitrofania Island.
112	S	Implement three tiers of management restrictions increasing in severity in the Chignik Bay District during July; reduce fishing time in the Mitrofania Island area of the Western District during July; and establish king salmon harvest caps which, if reached, would result in targeted statistical area closures in areas with high king salmon harvest from July 1 through August 10.
113	N	Reopen the Caribou Flats Section and allow commercial set and drift gillnet gear to fish in the section if the upper end of the Nelson River sockeye salmon biological escapement goal (BEG) is expected to be exceeded between June 20 and July 31.
114	S	Repeal language from the *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* that sunsetted on December 31, 2018.
115	O/S	Amend the *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* by changing the date that management in the Ilnik Section transitions from Ilnik River sockeye to Bear River sockeye from July 20 to July 31. Add additional language for conservation of Bear River sockeye salmon in the Southwest Ilnik portion of the Ilnik Section, applicable only after management actions have occurred in the Bear River and Three Hills Sections, and when projections indicate the July 31 lower escapement goal at Bear River will not be achieved.
116	O/N	Impose mandatory windows or closures throughout Northern District fisheries from June 20 through July 20 to conserve Nelson River sockeye salmon stocks.
117 & 118	N	Require steelhead to be reported as bycatch during Northern District commercial coho salmon fisheries.
119	N	Allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear, and after July 11 with seine gear, in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) portion of the Southeastern District concurrently with commercial salmon fishing periods in the Chignik Management Area (CMA). The sockeye salmon harvest thresholds as described in the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 09.360(b), (c), and (d) would be repealed

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Proposal No.	Department Position	Issue
120	N	This would eliminate purse seine gear as a legal commercial gear type in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) portion of the Southeastern District from July 11 through July 25.
121	N	This would remove the 600,000 sockeye salmon harvest criteria in the Chignik Management Area (CMA) that is expected before commercial fishing can occur in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM).
122	N	This would increase the allocation of the Chignik Management Area (CMA) harvest to the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) from 7.6% to 20%.
123	O/N	This would adjust the sockeye salmon harvest criteria in the Chignik Management Area (CMA) that guides commercial fishing periods in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) and adjust the allocated SEDM harvest based on the processing capacity or number of boats fishing in the CMA.
124	N	Change the estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River system from 80% to between 55% and 68% of the harvest in the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*.
125	N	Replace the Southeastern *District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* with the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.*
126	N	Move the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District into the South Central District and add the majority of sections that make up the "Dolgoi Island area" to the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. The commercial harvest in this area would be included in the 7.6% Southeastern District Mainland Chignik allocation and there would not be a 191,000 sockeye salmon harvest limit imposed on the "Dolgoi Island area" commercial fishery during June 1–July 25.
127	N	Establish a 10 consecutive day commercial fishery closure between June 10 and June 23 for purse seine and drift gillnet gear.
128	N	Establish time closures, mandate fleet movement when a predetermined threshold of king, chum, and coho salmon are incidentally harvested, and prioritize management actions that protect Koyukuk River salmon stocks.
129	N	Establish commercial fishing periods later in June and reduce the total number of hours that are fished by all commercial gear types. Amend the chum salmon harvest trigger to a harvest that equals or exceeds 300,000 fish by June 23 and reduce each remaining fishing period for purse seine gear to 44 hours. If the chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 450,000 fish by June 23 then the remaining fishing periods would close for the remainder of June for purse seine gear
130	N	Amend the language in 5 AAC 09.365(a) to include additional salmon species and areas that these species are bound for that are commercially harvested during the South Alaska Peninsula June fisheries. This proposal would also amend the fishing periods for commercial purse seine gear in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District.
131	N	Establish a closed commercial fishing period from June 12 through June 23 inclusively for all gear types.
132	N	Reduce commercial fishing time for all gear types, though at varying lengths depending on the gear type, and increase the closed commercial fishing period for both purse seine and drift gillnet gear between the second and third fishing periods and eliminate the chum harvest triggers.
133	N	Amend the language in 5 AAC 09.365(a) to address king and pink salmon in addition to sockeye and chum salmon, and additional areas that these species, which are harvested during the South Alaska Peninsula June fisheries, are bound for. Amend the commercial fishing periods for purse seine and drift gillnet gear in the South Unimak fishery and only purse seine gear in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District.

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Proposal No.	Department Position	Issue
134	N	Revert commercial salmon fishing periods for purse seine gear during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery back to the fishing periods that were established during the 2013 Board of Fisheries meeting.
135	O	Prohibit the commercial retention of king salmon 28 inches or greater in length from June 1 through October 31 when it is determined that conservation is required for king salmon.
136	O/N	Close the South Alaska Peninsula to commercial salmon fishing during the month of June.
137	N	Add an additional 24 hours of commercial fishing time to the final fishing period for set gillnet gear only in June. The final fishing period would end at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 instead of 10:00 p.m. on June 28.
138	O/N	Increase commercial salmon fishing time during scheduled fishing periods in July for set gillnet gear only. For each scheduled fishing period during July, there would be a 24-hour extension for set gillnet gear past the current time each commercial fishing period closes. No change would be made to the scheduled commercial fishing period times for other gear types.
139	O	Allow the commissioner to establish commercial fishing periods by emergency order from August 1 to August 31 in the Southeastern District for set gillnet gear. There would be six 61-hour fishing periods interspersed by 59-hour closures beginning August 1. Each fishing period would open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 9:00 p.m. The fishing periods would be based on the lower bound of the South Alaska Peninsula pink salmon sustainable escapement goal. There would be specific escapement goal percentage checkpoints that would dictate whether subsequent scheduled fishing periods would open. From September 1 to October 31, fishing periods would be based on the abundance of coho salmon stocks, and the department could consider the abundance of late pink and chum salmon stocks.
140	N	Split several sections in the South Central and Southwestern Districts into inner and outer sections and only the inner sections would be considered terminal harvest areas. The areas that would change include the Belkofski Bay, the Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay, the Volcano Bay, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections
141	N	Create two king salmon harvest triggers that could come into effect in any statistical area in the South Alaska Peninsula Management Area beginning July 1.
142	O/N	Allow the commissioner to open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for specific or multiple gear types from August 1 to August 31.
143	O	Close both the commercial purse seine and set gillnet fishery, in an area to be determined by the department, if more than 100 immature king salmon are present per set during the July Shumagin Islands Section seine test fishery.
144	O/N	Allow the department to open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for specific or multiple gear types from August 1 to August 31.
145	O/N	Allow the commissioner to open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for specific or multiple gear types from August 1 to August 31.
146	O/N	Increase commercial salmon fishing time during scheduled fishing periods in July for set gillnet gear. For each scheduled fishing period during July, starting on the third scheduled fishing period, commercial fishing would be extended 24 hours for set gillnet gear past the current time each fishing period closes.
147	N	Reduce the depth of commercial drift gillnets from 90 meshes in depth to 70 meshes in depth in the Northwestern, Unimak, and Southwestern Districts. This proposal also seeks to reduce the depth of commercial set gillnets in the Northwestern, Unimak, Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern Districts from 90 meshes to 70 meshes.

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Proposal No.	Department Position	Issue
148	N	Reduce the depth of commercial seine gear from 375 meshes to 325 meshes deep. Remove the part of the regulation that requires the lead to be attached to one end of a seine, and the lead may not be attached to the boat end of the seine.
149	O/N	Increase the allowable commercial set gillnet length from 100 to 200 fathoms. This proposal would still permit the operation of two permit sites with an aggregate length of 200 fathoms.
150	N	Amend set gillnet specifications to allow the gillnet web to be single filament or monofilament in the Unimak, Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern Districts of the Alaska Peninsula.
151	N	Amend commercial set gillnet specifications to prohibit the use 25 fathoms of seine webbing on the shoreward end of a set gillnet.
152	N	Reduce the depth of commercial seine gear from 375 meshes to 325 meshes deep. Remove the part of the regulation that requires the lead to be attached to one end of a seine, and the lead may not be attached to the boat end of the seine.
153	N	Amend commercial set gillnet specifications to allow the gillnet web to be single filament in the Unimak, Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern Districts of the Alaska Peninsula.
154	N	Create a food and bait herring fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula from July 16 through September 15.
155	S	Shorten the dates of restrictions on bait and multiple hooks in the King Salmon and Bear Rivers to only during the king salmon season, January 1 through July 25.
156	O/N	Prohibit retention of king salmon, 20 inches or greater, in the sport fishery in the Cinder, Meshik, and Black Hills Rivers, and North Creek. Restrict bait and tackle with only single hook, artificial lures or flies being allowed.
157	O/N	Prohibit retention of king salmon in the Sandy River sport fishery.
158	O/N	Prohibit retention of king salmon in the Sandy River sport fishery.
159	O/N	Prohibit retention of king salmon in the Sandy River sport fishery.
160	O/N	Prohibit retention of king salmon in the Sandy River sport fishery.
161	N	Establish a management plan for Bering Sea drainages in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area (APAIA) that support king salmon populations and have active associated fisheries.
188	S/N	Reallocate 15% of the unharvested Togiak sac roe herring guideline harvest level (GHL) to the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery if less than 90% of the Togiak sac roe GHL level is harvested by May 31.

N = Neutral; S = Support; O = Oppose; NA = No Action; WS = Withdrawn Support

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – GROUP 1: CHIGNIK AREA SALMON (5 PROPOSALS)

CHIGNIK AREA SALMON MANAGEMENT (5 PROPOSALS)

PROPOSAL 108 – 5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Axel S Kopun.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to remove the option to open the Western and Perryville Districts (Figure 108-1), excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, from June 1 through July 5.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In accordance with the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan*, (5 AAC 15.357) commercial salmon fishing may occur as early as June 1 and may occur in all 5 districts of the Chignik Management Area (CMA). The Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, must all open and close concurrently by regulation during the month of June. From June 1 through July 5, the Western District may also open and close concurrently with the Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District. From June 1 through July 5, the Perryville District may also open and close concurrently, however, fishing time is limited to a maximum of three 48-hour fishing periods through July 5. Each 48-hour fishing period must be separated by a closure of at least 48 hours.

Starting July 6, commercial fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts may be allowed if the Chignik River interim escapement objectives are expected to be met and surplus Chignik River sockeye salmon are available for harvest. Fishing periods from mid-July until July 31 are based on the department's evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs and evaluation of the Chignik sockeye salmon late-run. After July 31, fishing periods are based on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs and the strength of the Chignik River sockeye salmon run.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would reduce the total area able to be opened to commercial fishing in the CMA from June 1 through July 5, concentrating fishing into the Eastern, Central, and Chignik Bay Districts as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District. Concentrating fishing effort into the more terminal districts may reduce harvest of mixed stock fish and may increase harvest of Chignik River system bound fish. Because fishing periods during this time are based on Chignik sockeye salmon escapement, this may increase the amount of time where no commercial salmon fishing is occurring in the CMA, potentially reducing overall CMA harvest.

BACKGROUND: Historically, the Western and Perryville Districts have remained closed to commercial salmon fishing during June and early July when Chignik early-run sockeye salmon transit the districts. These districts typically open during early to mid-July largely to target local pink and chum salmon stocks, although the fleet also actively targets sockeye salmon. The Western and Perryville Districts account for most of the post-June coho, pink, and chum salmon harvests in the CMA.

In 2008, the board adopted a proposal with a 3-year sunset provision, allowing up to two 48-hour fishing periods separated by at least 48 hours in the Western District from June 1 to July 5. The

intent of this proposal was to increase the area open to commercial salmon fishing to target Chignik-bound early-run sockeye salmon. In 2011, the board eliminated the sunset provision, and the two 48-hour fishing periods became regulation. At that time, no management concerns with the two 48-hour fishing periods were noted by the department for the 2008–2010 commercial salmon season.

In 2019, the board adopted a proposal allowing the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, to open concurrently with the Chignik Bay District, Central District, and Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District from June 1 through July 5. This proposal also allowed the Perryville District to do the same, but for a maximum of three 48-hour openers separated with minimum closures of at least 48 hours. Previously, the Perryville District could not open to commercial salmon fishing before July 6.

Harvest from June 1 through July 5 in the Western District from 2008 through 2017 averaged 558 king, 29,791 sockeye, 2,180 coho, 56,621 pink, and 18,644 chum salmon. Since 2018, little to no fishing in the Western District has occurred each year prior to July 6, and no harvest has occurred in the Perryville District since its regulatory change in 2019 (Table 108-1) due to minimal fishing opportunity or effort.

The *Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program* (WASSIP) study examined stock of origin for chum salmon harvested in the Western and Perryville Districts of Chignik in 2007 through 2009; samples were only collected from June through July. The largest contributor was Chignik/Kodiak/South Peninsula; however, other stocks present in large percentages varied by year. In 2007, the Chignik/Kodiak/South Peninsula group composed 49.5% of the harvest, followed by East of Kodiak (25.3%) and Asia (21.5%). In 2008, the Chignik/Kodiak/South Peninsula group provided a larger contribution with 63.5%, followed by Asia (25.2%), and Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) (6.2%), while the East of Kodiak group was below 5%. In 2009, the Chignik/Kodiak/South Peninsula group contributed 44.2% followed by CWAK (29.0%), Asia (19.1%), and East of Kodiak (4.5%; Table 108-2).

The WASSIP study conducted between 2006 and 2008 collected the majority of sockeye salmon tissue samples in July of each year, with the exception of additional end-of-June samples collected in 2008. Western and Perryville District's July harvest tended to be dominated (~55%) by Chignik stocks, but considerable abundance of Bristol Bay and East of WASSIP (defined as stocks between Cape Kumlik and Cape Suckling) stocks were also present. Tagging studies were very limited in the Western and Perryville Districts and did not recover any tagged fish in the CMA.

The results of the WASSIP study indicated that sockeye salmon harvests in the Western and Perryville Districts were dominated by different reporting groups from 2006 through 2008; despite variable numbers of sockeye salmon harvested, the harvest rate of sockeye salmon bound for Chignik remained relatively stable (Tables 108-2 and 108-3). The proposal identifies the time period of Jun 1 through July 5 for closure, however, the department does not have reliable salmon stock identification information for the time period from June 1 through June 24. Samples for the time period relative to this proposal were acquired only in 2008, after the board first approved the two 48-hour June fishing periods. In that year, 20,420 sockeye salmon were harvested in late June, with 49% bound for the Chignik River watershed and the majority of the remaining fish bound for Bristol Bay (36%) and to regions east of the WASSIP study area (10%; Table 108-2). In the Western and Perryville Districts, harvest rates, or the fractional harvest of a region's total run, on stocks bound for areas outside of Chignik, were well below 1% for all reporting groups, except for

South Peninsula (3.9%) in 2008, in all years and time periods covered by the WASSIP study (Table 108-4).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. The department supports efforts to conserve Chignik River king salmon and nonlocal king salmon intercepted in the CMA. However, king salmon harvest in this area and timeframe has historically been low, and it is unclear how displacement of fishers would affect king salmon harvest.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

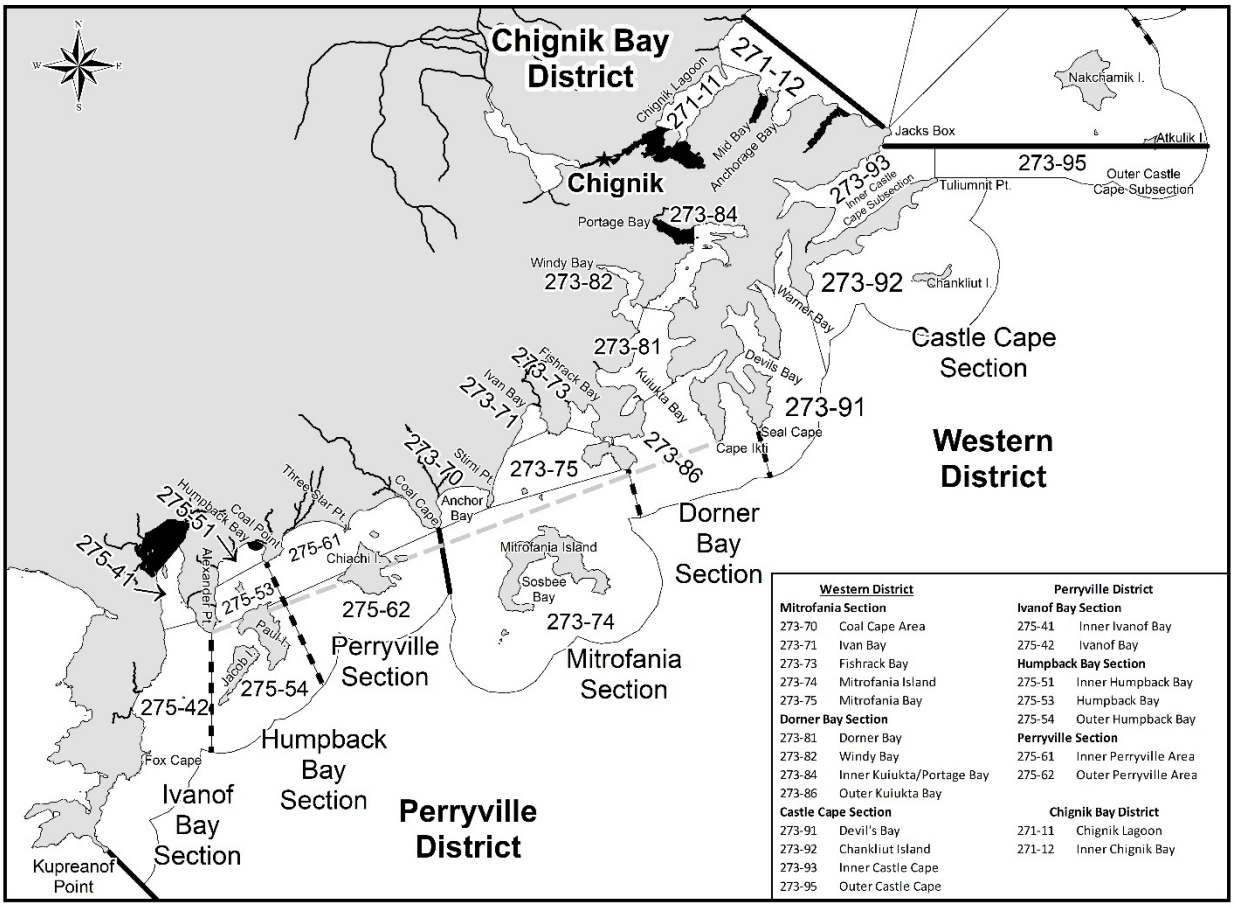

Figure 108-1.–Map of the Western and Perryville Districts of the Chignik Management Area.

Table 108-1.–Western District harvest, June 1–July 5.

Year	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2008	79	21,491	105	33,290	6,424
2009	258	64,844	31	256,175	47,692
2010	37	7,379	1	3,715	4,634
2011	104	6,133	31	16,964	4,495
2012	579	79,634	0	8,229	19,518
2013	189	43,061	45	23,991	27,427
2014	0	0	0	0	0
2015	3,577	44,710	18,645	105,709	18,182
2016	331	18,172	50	2,331	4,941
2017	430	12,490	712	115,801	53,123
2018	0	0	0	0	0
2019	0	0	0	0	0
2020	-	-	-	-	-
2021	0	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0	0
2023	0	3,377	8	622	1,645
2024	0	191	1	5	38
2025	0	6,264	83	1,370	1,539
Averages					
2008–2017	558	29,791	2,180	56,621	18,644
2018–2025	0	1,405	13	285	460

Note: The year 2020 is not included in averages due to no commercial fishing opportunity that year.

Table 108-2.–WASSIP estimates of regional report group-specific chum salmon harvest, in percent of the total chum harvest, in the Western and Perryville districts for stratum 1, by year, 2007–2009.

	Percent of harvest		
Reporting group	2007	2008	2009
Asia	21.5	25.2	19.1
Kotzebue Sound	0.0	0.0	0.4
CWAK	2.3	6.2	29.0
Upper Yukon	0.8	0.0	0.1
Northern Dist.	0.3	0.4	0.9
Northwestern Dist.	0.2	1.6	1.8
South Peninsula	3.3	11.0	5.6
Chignik/Kodiak	46.2	52.5	38.6
East of Kodiak	25.3	3.2	4.5

Note: Stock composition estimates may not sum to 100% due to rounding error.

Table 108-3.–WASSIP estimates of regional reporting group-specific sockeye salmon harvest, in numbers of fish and percent of the total sockeye salmon harvest, in the Western and Perryville districts for all strata, by year, 2006–2008.

	2006		2007		2008	
Region	Harvest	Percent of total	Harvest	Percent of total	Harvest	Percent of total
Norton Sound	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kuskokwim Bay	0	0	2,179	2	1,233	2
Bristol Bay	430	1	10,218	8	22,410	30
North Peninsula	2	0	2,892	2	5,096	7
South Peninsula	0	0	0	0	8,440	11
East of WASSIP	22,219	32	34,620	29	9,934	13
Chignik	46,918	67	70,397	59	27,740	37
Total	69,569	100	120,306	100	74,853	100

Table 108-4.–WASSIP estimates of regional reporting group sockeye salmon harvest rate in the Western District fishery, 2006–2008.

	2006	2007	2008
Region	Harvest rate	Harvest rate	Harvest rate
Norton Sound	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Kuskokwim Bay	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Bristol Bay	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
North Peninsula	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
South Peninsula	0.0%	0.0%	3.9%
Chignik	2.0%	4.3%	1.8%

PROPOSAL 110 – 5 AAC 15.332. Seine specifications and operations

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would reduce the maximum depth for commercial seine gear from 375 meshes to 325 meshes. The current allowable usage of 25 meshes of chafing gear would also be included in the maximum depth, rather than in addition to the maximum depth.

This would also incorporate lead length into the aggregate seine length within the Chignik Bay District. The aggregate length of seine and lead would be restricted to a maximum length of 125 fathoms within the Chignik Bay District.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? A seine may not be less than 3 fathoms or more than 375 meshes in depth. In addition, a maximum of 25 meshes of chafing gear with a maximum mesh size of seven inches may be used.

In the Eastern, Central, Western, and Perryville Districts, a purse seine or hand purse seine may not be less than 100 fathoms or more than 225 fathoms in length. A lead may not be more than 75 fathoms in length, and the aggregate length of seine and lead may not be more than 225 fathoms in length. In the Chignik Bay District, purse seines and hand purse seines may not be less than 100 fathoms or more than 125 fathoms. Currently in addition to the seine, a lead of no more than 75 fathoms may be used.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Reducing net depth may reduce gear effectiveness for vessels that predominantly fish outside of the Chignik Bay District. The department has no information on species composition or migration patterns by depth throughout the CMA so it is unknown if, or how, this change would impact harvest rates or composition by species.

Overall commercial harvest could decrease due to less effective gear, particularly during years with strong sockeye salmon returns. Depending on effort outside of the Chignik Bay District, escapement beyond the established escapement goals is more likely and foregone harvest could occur. This change is unlikely to impact harvest within the Chignik Bay District, where most nets in current use are typically shallower than either the current or proposed maximum mesh count.

Incorporating lead length into an aggregate seine and lead length within the Chignik Bay District is unlikely to have a notable effect, as leads are not typically used or effective within the Chignik Bay District. In cases where fishers use leads in the Chignik Bay District, or if the Chignik Bay District was altered to include areas where leads may be more effective, fishing effectiveness may be decreased.

BACKGROUND: A regulation limiting seine length to 225 fathoms in Eastern, Central, Western, and Perryville districts and 125 fathoms in the Chignik Bay District was implemented prior to 1970. Current mesh depth regulation of no more than 375 meshes was implemented in 1995. Prior to this no maximum mesh count was in place. Mesh count of seines used within the Chignik Bay District are typically well below 300 meshes.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery due to changes in gear. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

PROPOSAL 111 – 5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would split the Mitrofania Island Area of the Western District (Figure 111-1) into 2 distinct statistical areas, East Mitrofania Island and West Mitrofania Island (Figure 111-2).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current Mitrofania Island area is a single statistical area defined as all waters of the Mitrofania Section south of the Mitrofania Bay area and the Coal Cape area. Commercial salmon fishing may occur as early as June 1 and may occur in all 5 districts of the Chignik Management Area (CMA). By regulation, the Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, must all open and close concurrently during the month of June. From June 1 through July 5, the Western District may also open and close concurrently with the Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District.

Starting July 6, commercial fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts may be allowed if the Chignik River interim escapement objectives are expected to be met and surplus Chignik River sockeye salmon are available for harvest. From mid-July until July 31, fishing periods are based on the department's evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs, and its evaluation of the Chignik sockeye salmon run. After July 31, fishing periods shall be managed based on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs or the strength of the Chignik sockeye salmon run.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Splitting the Mitrofania Island statistical area may provide for more specific harvest location and effort data on fish tickets, however harvest reporting may frequently be split between areas. It is unclear if creating two distinct statistical areas would preserve commercial fishing harvest opportunities while protecting king salmon. The department currently has emergency order authority to open, close, or modify closed waters independent of statistical area definitions.

If harvest caps were implemented that would result in individual statistical areas closing, such as those suggested in proposal 112, splitting the Mitrofania Island area into 2 statistical areas may reduce incentive to avoid triggering harvest caps due to a smaller loss of fishing area.

BACKGROUND: The Mitrofania Island area has typically opened with the rest of the Western District during early to mid-July and August, largely to target local pink and chum salmon stocks. The Mitrofania Island area receives the most fishing effort compared to any other area within the Western District, and is responsible for approximately 73% of the king, 79% of the chum, 58% of the coho, 66% of the pink, and 58% of the sockeye salmon harvest within the entire Western District (Table 111-1 and Table 111-2). The department does not collect information specific to where these harvests occurred within the Mitrofania Island area.

The Mitrofania Island area has had partial or full closures based on reports from fishers or fish ticket harvest data indicating high juvenile salmon presence. Most recently the Western District was prematurely closed during a commercial opening in 2024 following high harvest of juvenile king salmon in the Mitrofania Island area. Juvenile fish presence in the Mitrofania Island area is often brief and unpredictable, making pre-emptive management decisions difficult.

ADF&G statistical areas are established through an internal department process and are not defined in regulation. The board establishes, district, subdistrict, section, and subsection boundaries in regulation.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the establishment of these new management areas. If this proposal is adopted the department recommends referring to these new areas as regulatory subsections rather than statistical areas, since ADF&G statistical areas are established through an internal department process, independent of the board's regulatory process. The department notes that if the proposal is passed, exact coordinates referenced will need to be altered to retain intent and suggest that coordinates be modified to avoid crossing through the island and any bays.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

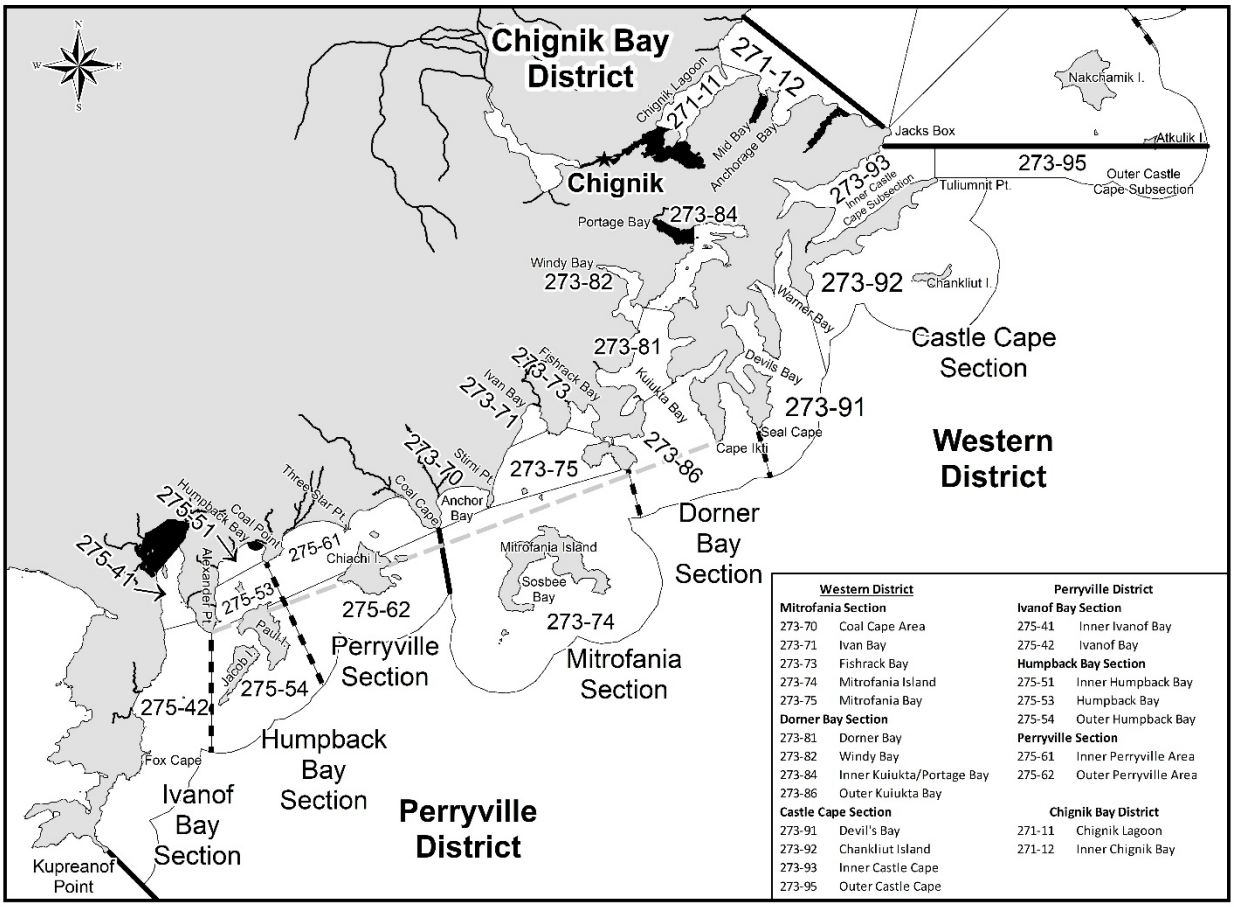

Figure 111-1.–Map of the Western and Perryville Districts.

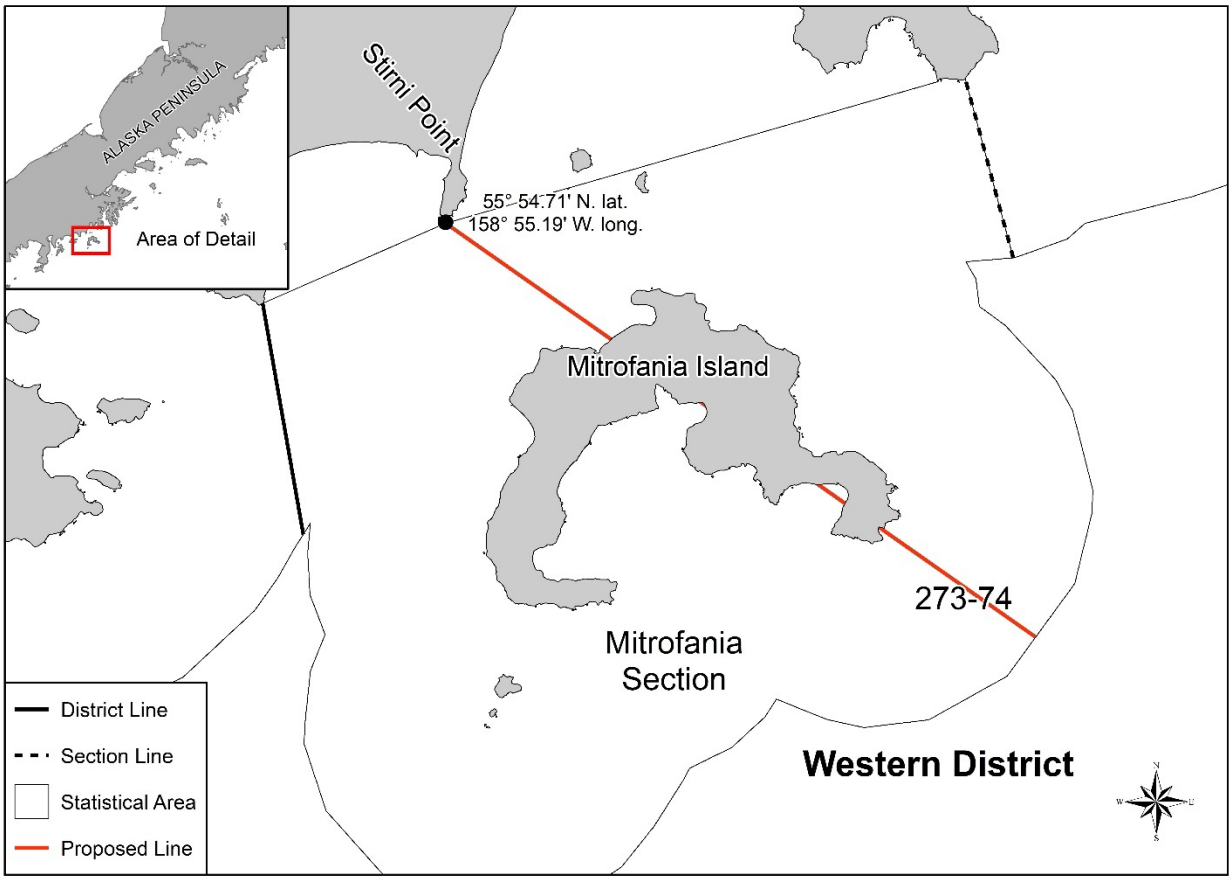

Figure 111-2.–Map of the Mitrofania Island statistical area, including proposed separation line.

Table 111-1.–Commercial harvest by species by year in the Mitrofania Island statistical area, 2006–2025.

	Harvest				
Year	King	Chum	Coho	Pink	Sockeye
2006	49	57,434	25,404	133,871	45,792
2007	370	101,281	31,599	869,033	29,456
2008	287	29,030	50,749	447,950	42,129
2009	520	60,554	21,213	323,262	60,958
2010	4,176	38,300	67,359	130,095	102,221
2011	762	16,315	25,366	173,155	31,020
2012	705	55,040	10,902	31,563	35,573
2013	388	44,979	10,278	75,872	30,434
2014	1,495	252,948	62,884	169,189	20,155
2015	3,125	397,422	42,791	915,077	42,969
2016	1,984	141,496	12,033	14,897	16,762
2018	0	0	0	0	0
2017	1,376	104,141	79,433	1,793,032	112,418
2019	886	156,755	38,412	409,472	21,601
2020	–	–	–	–	–
2021	630	38,177	60,365	894,141	18,065
2022	951	68,220	16,606	329,014	31,834
2023	1,737	33,451	37,914	1,098,426	54,909
2024	11,367	45,972	32,582	193,718	26,066
2025	1,832	170,540	27,592	908,288	43,318
Averages[a]					
2006–2025	1,718	95,371	34,394	468,950	40,299
2016–2025	2,307	84,306	33,882	626,776	36,108

[a] Averages do not include 2020 due to no harvest opportunity.

Table 111-2.–Commercial harvest by species by year in the Western District, 2006–2025.

	Harvest				
Year	King	Chum	Coho	Pink	Sockeye
2006	79	69,570	29,993	161,964	49,096
2007	532	119,489	47,525	1,152,331	46,943
2008	503	68,257	97,153	1,062,482	88,078
2009	1,987	102,803	80,395	711,890	116,231
2010	5,476	56,736	104,886	225,716	204,911
2011	2,118	40,252	50,504	368,351	75,363
2012	1,284	93,270	22,037	67,523	56,125
2013	668	56,248	16,770	192,861	38,237
2014	4,054	302,614	98,345	226,008	26,578
2015	4,249	433,221	48,950	993349	48,080
2016	2,446	204,058	26,940	25,000	26,992
2017	1,594	151,644	164,510	2,930,711	265,306
2018	0	0	0	0	652
2019	1,281	196,391	116,720	925,305	50,675
2020	–	–	–	–	–
2021	679	49,708	73,245	1,079,397	23,176
2022	1,559	80,370	24,313	452,194	40,988
2023	1,874	39,825	42,970	1,267,273	63,815
2024	12,083	58,076	50,651	515,705	40,455
2025	2,340	175,512	34,847	1,061,590	49,878
Averages[a]					
2006–2025	2,358	120,950	59,513	706,297	69,030
2016–2025	2,651	106,176	59,355	917,464	62,437

[a] Averages do not include 2020 due to no harvest opportunity.

PROPOSAL 112 – 5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would aim to promote king salmon conservation while maintaining commercial sockeye salmon harvest opportunity when Chignik River king salmon are a designated stock of concern by 1) implementing three tiers of management restrictions increasing in severity in the Chignik Bay District during July (Figures 112-1–112-3); 2) reducing fishing time in the Mitrofania Island area of the Western District during July (Figure 112-4); and 3) establishing king salmon harvest caps which, if reached, would result in targeted statistical area closures in areas with high king salmon harvest from July 1 through August 10.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Commercial salmon fishing may occur as early as June 1 and may occur in all five districts of the Chignik Management Area (CMA) (Figure 112-5). By regulation, the Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, must all open and close concurrently during the month of June. From June 1 through July 5, the Western District may also open and close concurrently with the Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District.

Starting July 6, commercial fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts may be allowed if the Chignik River interim escapement objectives are expected to be met and surplus Chignik River sockeye salmon are available for harvest. From mid-July until July 31, fishing periods are based on the department's evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs, and its evaluation of the Chignik sockeye salmon run. After July 31, fishing periods shall be managed based on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs or the strength of the Chignik sockeye salmon run.

Action taken by the board in 2023 for the *Chignik River King Salmon Action Plan* requires mandatory nonretention of king salmon greater than 28 inches in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District until the department determines that the king salmon biological escapement goal (BEG) will be achieved.

While not in regulation or the *Chignik River King Salmon Action Plan*, the department has recently implemented additional management measures aimed at promoting Chignik River king salmon escapement. The department restricted fishing in the Chignik Bay District to no more than 48 hours per week throughout the month of July in 2024 and 2025. Closed waters were also established around the area of Chignik Lagoon known locally as the "king hole" in 2024 and 2025. Additionally, a king salmon harvest cap of 1,000 fish caught within a 48-hour period was established, which, if triggered, would immediately close the district(s) where the catch primarily occurred for a period of one week.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? All proposed actions are likely to reduce harvest of king salmon in the CMA, but the effectiveness of individual actions is generally unknown and dependent on many variables. Reducing commercial fishing time and area in the Chignik Bay District should yield more opportunity for Chignik River king salmon to transit the area of highest commercial salmon fishing effort in the CMA but will likely result in the greatest loss in sockeye salmon harvest opportunity. Additionally, commercial fishing restrictions in the Chignik Bay District could result in sockeye salmon passage in excess of the

upper bounds of the escapement goals. It may also increase commercial fishing effort in other districts within the CMA, potentially increasing intercept of nonlocal salmon stocks.

Reducing commercial fishing time around Mitrofania Island will likely result in increased fishing effort in other parts of the Western District, or other districts within the CMA. Since the Mitrofania Island area currently experiences the highest amount of effort outside of the Chignik Lagoon, it is unclear if displacing fishing effort to other locations would have significant effect on king salmon harvest. The Mitrofania Island area has intermittently seen increased juvenile salmon presence. Reducing fishing time may lower harvest of juvenile salmon.

Establishing king salmon harvest caps and implementing commercial closure areas may decrease overall king salmon harvest as fishers will be incentivized to avoid areas with high king salmon presence. However, presence of king salmon in areas outside of the Chignik Bay District can be unpredictable, so the utility of time and area management decisions based on past harvest patterns are difficult to assess and implement and come with the unintended risk of shifting and concentrating effort into other areas with high (or higher) king salmon abundance. Additionally, once an area is closed there is no new catch information to inform when to reopen an area.

BACKGROUND: Chignik River king salmon were designated a stock of management concern at the February 2023 regulatory board meeting for the Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian Islands meeting. Despite specific management measures taken by the department to reduce harvest in the commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries since 2006 (Tables 112-1–112-3) the Chignik River king salmon stock has continued to decline and at the time of listing had failed to make the escapement goal for 5 of the last 6 years (Table 112-4, Figure 112-6). The BEG has been in place since 2002. Since its listing in 2023, Chignik River king salmon failed to reach the escapement goal in 2023 and 2024 but the goal was achieved in 2025. Chignik River king salmon escapement has achieved the BEG 3 of the last 10 years. During this period, escapement ranged from 267 fish in 2023 to 1,743 fish in 2016 (Table 112-4). Approximately 80% of Chignik king salmon escapement occurs throughout July (Figure 112-7).

The Chignik area commercial salmon purse seine fishery typically targets sockeye, pink, and chum salmon. During these fisheries, king salmon are harvested incidentally. Since 2013, the department has restricted the Chignik Bay District, and sometimes the Central District, to nonretention of king salmon 28 inches or greater when king salmon escapement appears weak and commercial fishing is occurring (Table 112-1). The mortality of king salmon released from commercial seine vessels in the CMA is unknown, and there are no annual estimates of the number of king salmon caught and released in the CMA commercial salmon fishery. The *Chignik River King Salmon Action Plan* mandates nonretention of king salmon greater than 28 inches within the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District. Following the record low escapement of 267 fish in 2023, the department implemented additional restrictions within the CMA. Additional closed waters and a reduction in commercial fishing opportunity throughout July to a maximum of 48 hours per week within the Chignik Bay District were in effect in 2024 and 2025. Additionally, harvest caps of 1,000 king salmon within a 48-hour period for the CMA were implemented in 2025, which if triggered would result in closing districts with high king salmon catch for a period of 7 days. Although fishing time reductions in the Chignik Bay District appear effective at increasing king salmon escapement, they have also resulted in significant loss of fishing opportunity and sockeye salmon escapement beyond the bounds of established escapement goals.

The Mitrofania Island area receives a large amount of harvest effort within the CMA. Over the last 20 years, approximately 82% of king, 82% of sockeye, 69% of coho, 67% of pink, and 57% of chum salmon harvest within the Western District during July occurred here (Tables 112-5–112-7). Throughout July, Mitrofania Island has seen the most king salmon harvest on average over the last 20 years, though prior to an unusually high harvest in 2024 was comparable to the Chignik Lagoon and Hook Bay areas (Table 112-8). The majority of king salmon harvest within the Mitrofania Island area is unlikely to be Chignik River bound. On occasion, partial or full closure of the Mitrofania Island area occurred based on reports from fishers or fish ticket harvest data indicating high juvenile salmon presence. In 2024 the Western District was closed prematurely during a commercial opening following unusually high juvenile king salmon harvest in the Mitrofania Island area.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **SUPPORTS** efforts to conserve Chignik River king salmon and nonlocal king salmon intercepted in the CMA. If adopted the department seeks clarification on the priority of order and what performance measure(s) should be used when considering implementing the proposed management actions, particularly in the Chignik Bay District. The department also recommends specifying any additional actions aimed at conserving king salmon within the current king salmon action plan rather than amending the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357). The department notes that exact coordinates referenced will need to be altered to retain intent.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

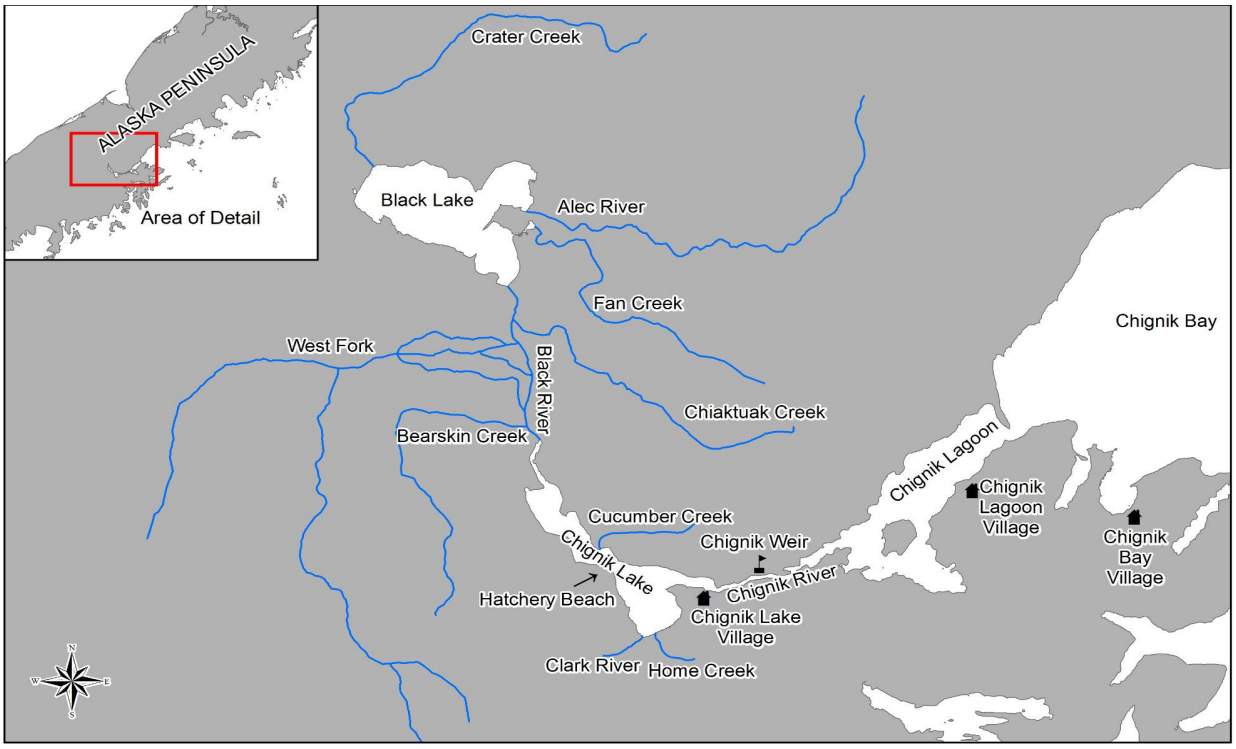

Figure 112-1.–Chignik River drainage, Chignik Bay, and Chignik Lagoon.

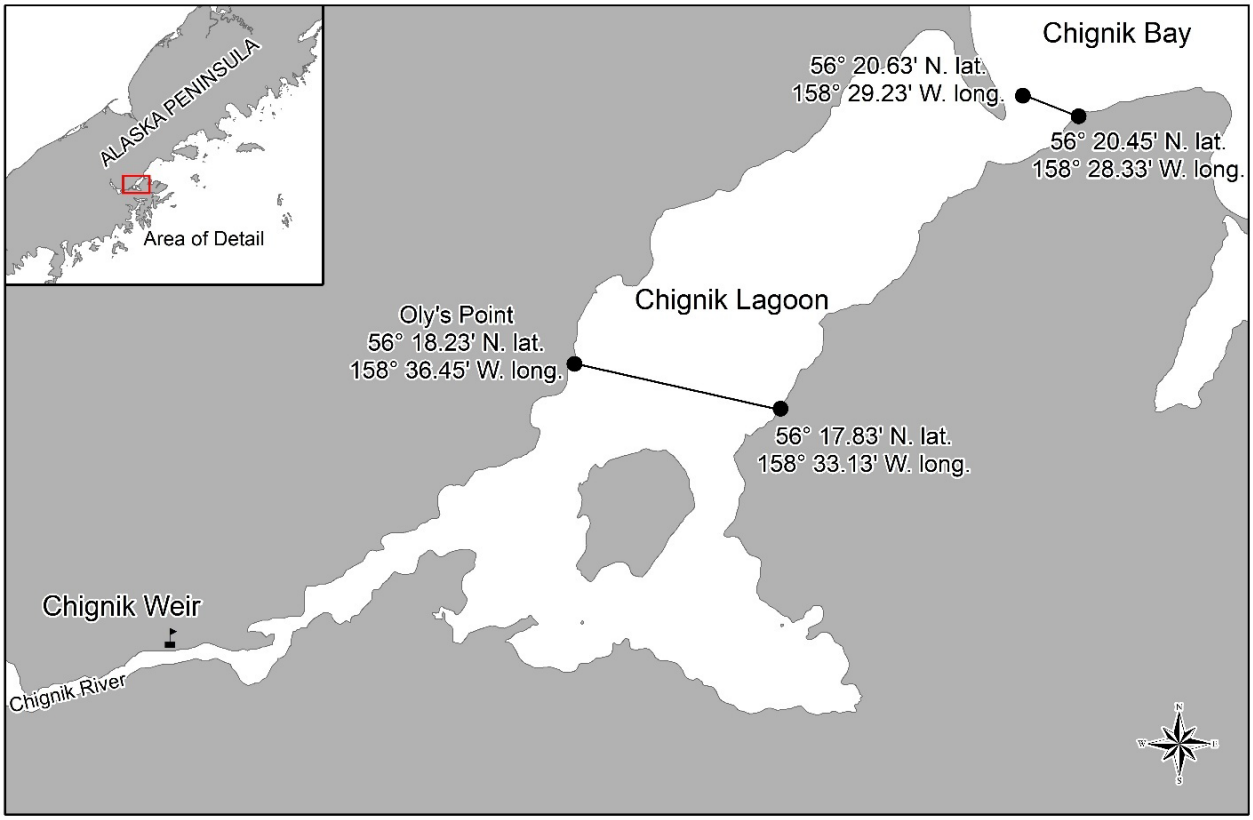

Figure 112-2.–Map of the Chignik Lagoon, including suggested closure lines.

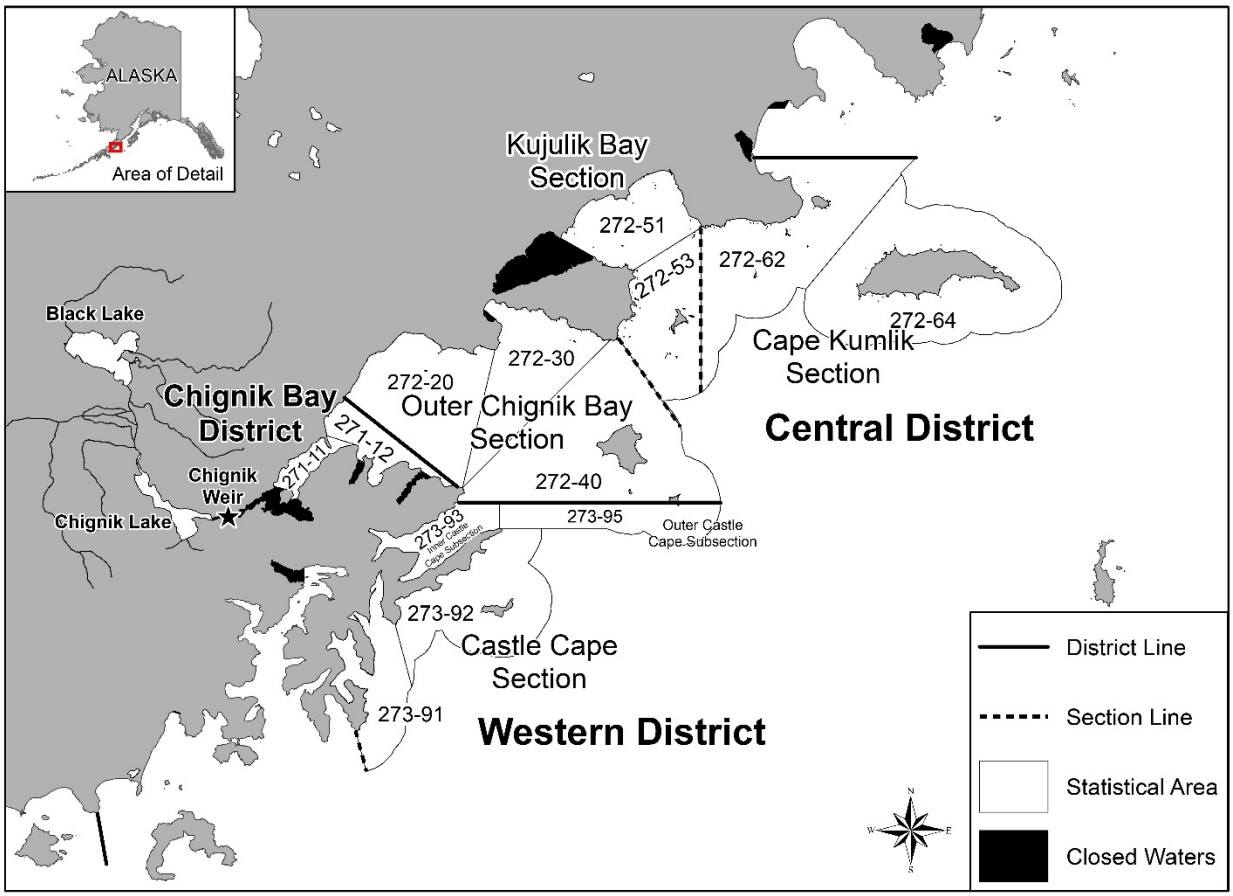

Figure 112-3.–Commercial fisheries management districts and sections located near Chignik Bay.

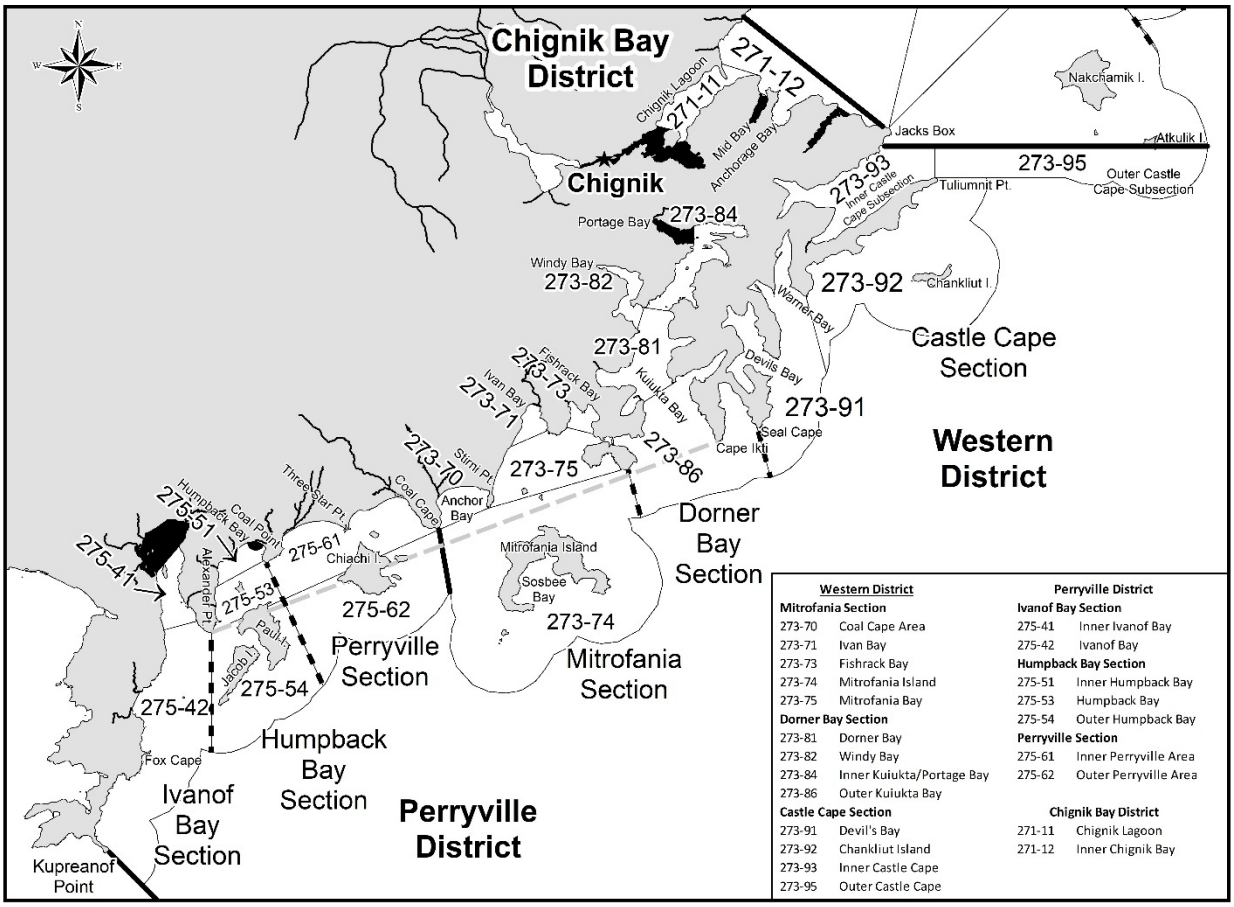

Figure 112-4.–Map of the Western and Perryville Districts, including the Mitrofania Island statistical area.

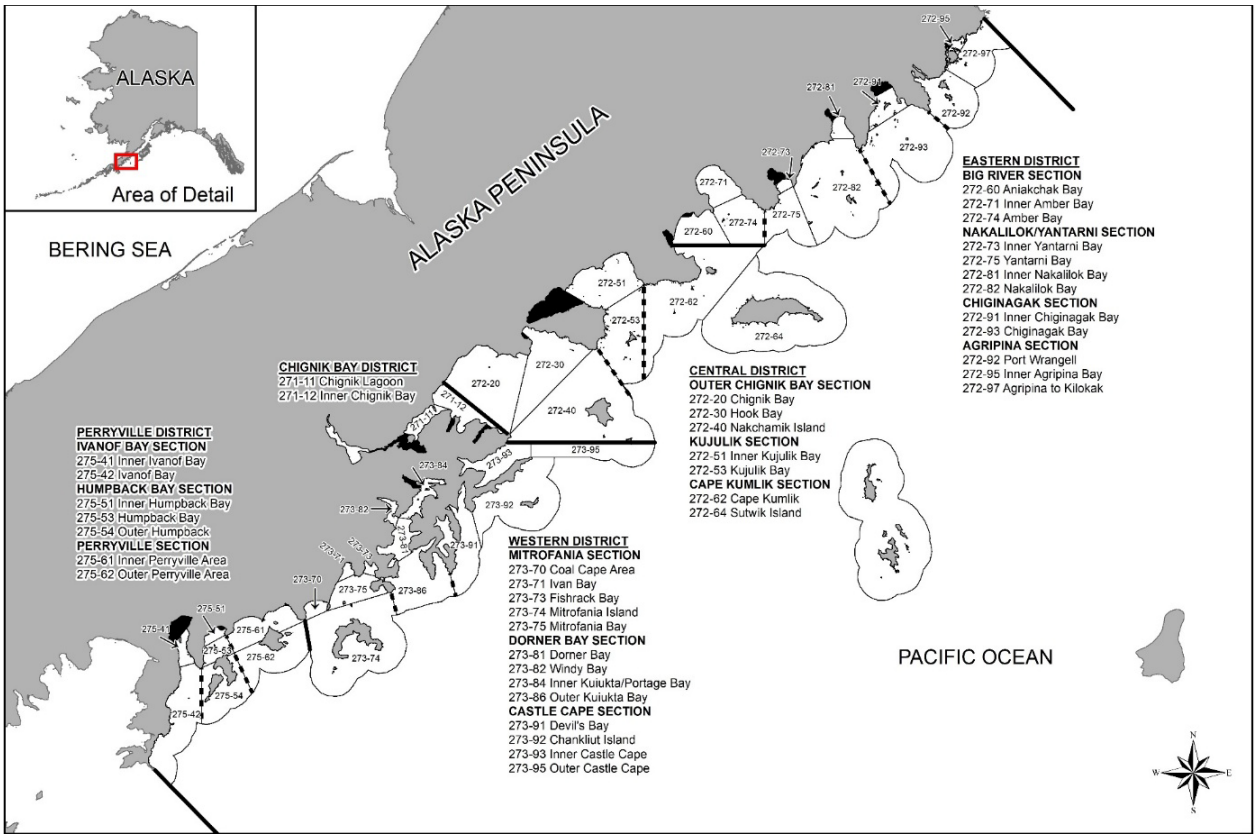

Figure 112-5.–The Chignik Management Area (within the black bars on the upper right and lower left) including Perryville District, Chignik Bay District, Western District, Central District, and Eastern District.

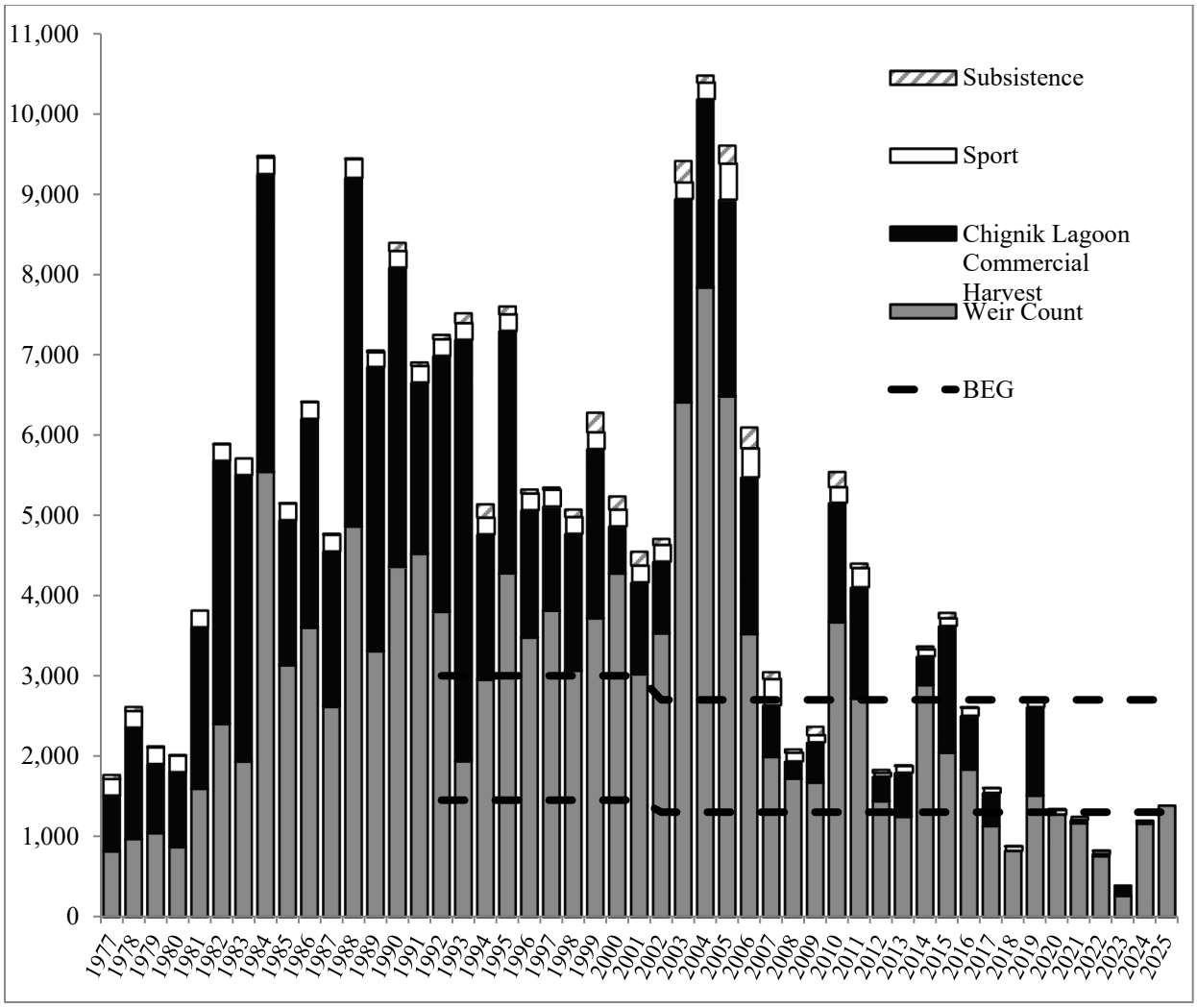

Figure 112-6.–Sport, subsistence, and commercial harvest, and weir count of Chignik River king salmon with respect to the biological escapement goal (dashed lines), 1977–2025.

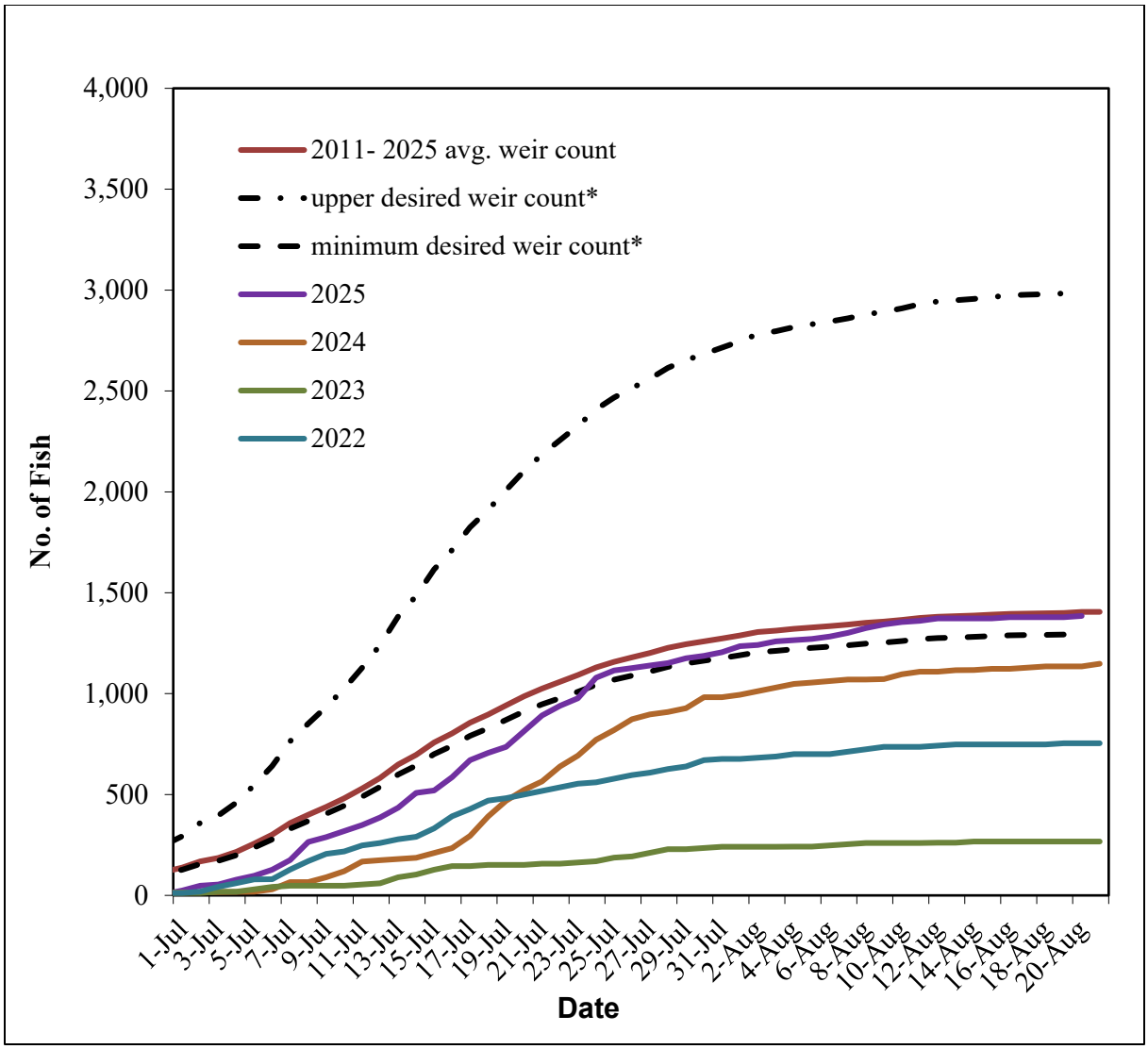

Figure 112-7.–Chignik River king salmon escapement, 2011–2025.

Table 112-1.–Management actions taken in commercial fisheries for Chignik king salmon, 2013 and 2017–2025.

Year	Action	Date implemented
2013	Nonretention of king salmon in commercial fishery over 28 inches	Chignik Bay District on 7/20, Central District on 7/21
2017	Nonretention of king salmon in commercial fishery over 28 inches	Chignik Bay District on 7/15, Central District on 8/2
2018	None (minimal fishing opportunity)	
2019	None	
2020	None (no commercial fishery)	
2021	Nonretention of king Salmon in commercial fishery over 28 inches in the Chignik Bay District	5 August
2022	Nonretention of king salmon in commercial fishery over 28 inches in the Chignik Bay District	12 July
2023	Nonretention of king salmon in commercial fishery over 28 inches in the Chignik Bay District, Central District, and Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District	29 June
2024	Nonretention of king salmon in commercial fishery over 28 inches in the entire CMA.	4-July
2024	Closed waters around the "king hole" within the Chignik lagoon.	4-July
2024	Restriction of no more than 48 hours of commercial openings per week within the Chignik Bay District when Chignik late-run sockeye salmon were projecting over the mid-point of the escapement goal, or no more than 96 hours of commercial openings per week when late-run sockeye salmon were projecting over the upper escapement goal.	4 July
2025	Nonretention of king salmon in commercial fishery over 28 inches in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, Mandatory retention of all king salmon in the Eastern, Western, and Perryville Districts.	20 June
2025	Closed waters around the "king hole" within the Chignik lagoon.	27 June
2025	Restriction of no more than 48 hours of commercial openings per week within the Chignik Bay District.	1 July

Note: Years with no action apart from 2019 are not included.

Table 112-2.–Chignik River king salmon sport fishery management actions, 2012–2025.

Year	Action	Date implemented
2012	Nonretention, bait and treble hooks prohibited	15 July
2013	Nonretention, bait and treble hooks prohibited	20 July
2013	Closed, bait and treble hooks prohibited	26 July
2017	Nonretention, bait and treble hooks prohibited	14 July
2017	Closed, bait and treble hooks prohibited	23 July
2018	Closed, bait and treble hooks prohibited	13 July
2019	None	
2020	Closed, bait and treble hooks prohibited	18 July
2021	Closed, bait and treble hooks prohibited	14 July
2022	Closed, bait and treble hooks prohibited	13 July
2023	Closed, bait and treble hooks prohibited	Preseason
2024	Closed, including Chignik Lagoon, bait and treble hooks prohibited	Preseason
2025	Closed, including Chignik Lagoon, bait and treble hooks prohibited	Preseason

Note: Years with no action apart from 2019 are not included.

Table 112-3.–Chignik king salmon subsistence fishery management actions, 2018–2025.

Year	Action	Date implemented
2018	Nonretention of king salmon over 28 inches	12 July
2020	Nonretention of king salmon over 28 inches	16 July
2021	Nonretention of king salmon over 28 inches	14 July
2022	Nonretention of king salmon over 28 inches	11 July
2023	Nonretention of king salmon over 28 inches	5 July
2024	Nonretention of king salmon over 28 inches, extended to the Chignik lagoon spit.	14 June
2025	Nonretention of king salmon, extended to the Chignik lagoon spit.	1 May

Note: Years with no action apart from 2019 are not included.

Table 112-4.–Chignik River king salmon harvest and escapement, 1978–2025.

Year	Commercial harvest [a]	Subsistence harvest [b]	Sport harvest above weir [c]	Weir count	Escapement [d]	Lower bound BEG	Upper bound BEG
1978	1,386	50	207	1,197	990		
1979	856	14	207	1,050	843		
1980	929	6	207	876	669		
1981	2,006	0	207	1,603	1,396		
1982	3,269	3	207	2,412	2,205		
1983	3,560	0	207	1,943	1,736		
1984	3,696	23	207	5,548	5,341		
1985	1,810	1	207	3,144	2,937		
1986	2,592	4	207	3,612	3,405		
1987	1,931	10	207	2,624	2,417		
1988	4,331	9	233	4,868	4,635		
1989	3,532	24	181	3,316	3,135		
1990	3,719	103	207	4,364	4,157		
1991	1,993	42	207	4,545	4,338		
1992	3,179	55	207	3,806	3,599		
1993	5,240	122	207	1,946	1,739		
1994	1,804	165	207	3,016	2,809	1,450	2,700
1995	3,008	98	207	4,288	4,081	1,450	2,700
1996	1,579	48	207	3,485	3,278	1,450	2,700
1997	1,289	28	207	3,824	3,617	1,450	2,700
1998	1,700	91	207	3,075	2,868	1,450	2,700
1999	2,101	219	207	3,728	3,521	1,450	2,700
2000	581	132	207	4,285	4,078	1,450	2,700
2001	1,142	161	207	2,992	2,785	1,450	2,700
2002	920	68	207	3,028	2,821	1,300	2,700
2003	2,834	252	207	6,412	6,205	1,300	2,700
2004	2,337	57	207	7,840	7,633	1,300	2,700
2005	2,442	223	361	6,486	6,125	1,300	2,700
2006	1,941	183	245	3,535	3,290	1,300	2,700
2007	641	59	198	2,000	1,802	1,300	2,700
2008	208	40	65	1,730	1,665	1,300	2,700
2009	496	46[e]	103	1,680	1,577	1,300	2,700
2010	1,480	94[e]	215	3,679	3,464	1,300	2,700
2011	1,382	34	265	2,728	2,463	1,300	2,700
2012	303	44[e]	61	1,449	1,388	1,300	2,700
2013	545	14[e]	83	1,253	1,170	1,300	2,700
2014	353	51	88	2,895	2,807	1,300	2,700
2015	1,572	125	112	2,054	1,942	1,300	2,700
2016	664	91	100	1,843	1,743	1,300	2,700
2017	410	55[e]	58	1,137	1,079	1,300	2,700
2018	0	5[e]	56	825	769	1,300	2,700

-continued-

Table 112-4.–Page 2 of 2.

Year	Commercial harvest [a]	Subsistence harvest [b]	Sport harvest above weir [c]	Weir count	Escapement [d]	Lower bound BEG	Upper bound BEG
2019	1,137	55[e]	100	1,517	1,417	1,300	2,700
2020	0	51[e]	55	1,278	1,223	1,300	2,700
2021	38	0[e]	37	1,172	1,135	1,300	2,700
2022	27	22[e]	37	761	724	1,300	2,700
2023	130	0[e]	0	267	267	1,300	2,700
2024	34	18[e]	0	1,166	1,166	1,300	2,700
2025	107	[f]	0	1,391	1,391	1,300	2,700
Average							
2016–2025[e]	255	33	44	1,136	1,091	1,300	2,700
2021–2025	67	10	15	951	937	1,300	2,700

Source: ADF&G, Division of Commercial Fisheries Kodiak.

[a] Commercial harvest of king salmon from the Chignik Lagoon statistical area (271-10). This does not include personal use (home-pack) or test fishery harvest.

[b] Subsistence harvest prior to 1999 is from the entire CMA and includes harvest from outside Chignik Lagoon and Chignik Lake. Subsistence harvest from 1999 to present is from Chignik Bay, Lagoon, and Lake.

[c] Sport harvest in 1988 and 1989 was estimated from an onsite creel survey (Schwarz 1990). Sport harvest from 1977 through 1987 and 1990 through 2004 is the average of the 1988 and 1989 sport harvests. Sport harvest from 2005 to 2015 was estimated using guided logbook harvest. From 2016 to present, harvest information was unavailable and estimated to be 100 fish harvested above the weir (based on historical harvests) unless the fishery was closed to harvest, and then the estimated harvest was the percent of days the fishery was open from the first fish passage to the regulatory close of the season multiplied by 100.

[d] Escapement is weir count minus sport harvest above the weir.

[e] From 1993–2008, 2011, 2014, 2015, and 2016 postseason household surveys were conducted to supplement harvest data collected through returned permits. Limited budgets prevented administering the surveys for 2009–2010, 2012–2013, and 2017–2024 likely resulting in an underestimate of subsistence harvests since not all subsistence fishing households obtained a permit. To compensate for this underestimate, the average annual harvest for postseason surveys was added to harvests to estimate the total subsistence harvest for 2009–2010, 2012–2013, and 2017–2024.

[f] Subsistence harvest estimates for 2025 are not available at this time.

Table 112-5.–Chignik Management Area king salmon commercial harvest (including home pack and the department's test fishery catches), by district and year, 1996 through 2025.

	District				
Year	Chignik Bay	Central	Eastern	Western	Perryville
1996	1,590	1,022	263	162	108
1997	1,384	1,609	60	60	7
1998	1,805	1,798	79	567	254
1999	2,270	852	147	216	22
2000	598	530	53	1,421	10
2001	1,235	770	302	627	5
2002	920	17	0	584	0
2003	2,834	189	0	45	0
2004	2,520	0	0	0	0
2005	2,714	391	0	297	6
2006	2,009	165	3	79	0
2007	667	421	152	532	1
2008	219	195	16	503	37
2009	552	552	199	1,987	29
2010	1,564	2,420	834	5,476	86
2011	1,462	2,154	639	2,118	213
2012	330	1,878	185	1,284	10
2013[a]	592	1,249	398	668	52
2014	363	4,302	75	4,054	52
2015	1,648	3,172	115	4,249	20
2016	693	15,865	413	2,446	1,302
2017[a]	447	1,125	534	1,594	246
2018	0	0	0	0	0
2019	1,140	349	862	1,281	680
2020	0	0	0	0	0
2021[a]	40	623	44	679	36
2022[a]	27	1,843	2	1,559	199
2023[a]	132	228	8	1874	60
2024[a]	40	32	0	12,083	17
2025[a]	107	319	54	2,340	142
Averages[b]					
2021–2025	69	609	22	3,707	91
2016–2025	292	2,265	213	2,651	298
2006–2025	633	1,942	239	2,358	167

[a] Nonretention over 28-inches enforced midseason.

[b] Averages do not include 2020 due to no commercial fishing opportunity.

Table 112-6. Commercial harvest within the Mitrofania Island Area of the Western District throughout July, by year, 2006–2025

	Harvest				
Year	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2006	41	50,672	14,800	58,485	43,219
2007	247	89,448	10,767	276,336	19,238
2008	145	12,275	35,525	234,516	23,886
2009	226	7,910	15,586	82,935	13,475
2010	3,977	27,794	42,796	72,659	64,534
2011	599	13,199	13,615	56,197	21,059
2012	282	6,410	5,470	5,903	8,462
2013	255	6,622	9,411	33,483	3,964
2014	1,226	174,491	32,585	68,834	12,012
2015	658	238,899	26,558	250,967	15,360
2016	1,808	135,914	12,014	14,534	14,414
2017	1,331	37,430	11,849	174,343	78,615
2018	0	0	0	0	0
2019	650	112,628	16,618	147,206	13,184
2020	–	–	–	–	–
2021	0	0	0	0	0
2022	840	63,311	6,867	131,455	25,306
2023	620	21,997	21,293	199,436	26,177
2024	11,324	43,202	25,325	119,502	21,908
2025	1,189	136,652	11,622	196,640	23,640
Averages[a]					
2006–2025	1,338	62,045	16,458	111,760	22,550
2016–2025	1,974	61,237	11,732	109,235	22,583

[a] Averages do not include 2020 due to no commercial fishing opportunity.

Table 112-7. Commercial harvest within the Western District by species throughout July, by year, 2006–2025.

	Harvest				
Year	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2006	71	62,379	16,163	68,892	45,944
2007	368	103,535	12,586	326,491	31,541
2008	224	29,268	51,797	450,519	48,511
2009	1,610	33,916	57,080	300,895	53,913
2010	4,784	36,607	58,413	114,268	125,176
2011	1,494	27,677	23,474	107,066	41,104
2012	339	7,837	6,272	7,473	11,483
2013	284	7,040	10,214	36,634	4,669
2014	1,633	206,049	42,851	89,977	14,760
2015	1,041	267,475	31,520	306,181	18,808
2016	2,144	195,430	19,822	21,715	21,986
2017	1,500	59,210	18,470	428,470	194,689
2018	0	0	0	0	652
2019	853	125,055	32,209	184,335	22,750
2020	–	–	–	–	–
2021	0	0	0	15	894
2022	880	66,064	7,509	140,052	26,144
2023	704	25,658	24,697	214,151	30,211
2024	11,773	49,508	30,739	170,397	25,092
2025	1,220	139,356	11,756	200,488	24,688
Averages[a]					
2006-2025	1,627	75,898	23,977	166,738	39,106
2016-2025	2,119	73,365	16,134	151,069	38,567

[a] Averages do not include 2020 due to no commercial fishing opportunity.

Table 112-8. Commercial king salmon harvest within the CMA throughout July, by stat area and year, 2006-2025.

	Stat area			
Year	271-10 (Chignik Lagoon)	272-30 (Hook Bay)	273-74 (Mitrofania Island)	All others
2006	1,842	76	41	69
2007	582	98	247	499
2008	162	57	145	131
2009	390	174	226	1,876
2010	1,346	440	3,977	2,183
2011	1,204	329	599	2,008
2012	252	227	282	1,032
2013	435	316	255	736
2014	204	1,111	1,226	2,594
2015	941	377	658	1,725
2016	181	7,954	1,808	2,178
2017	352	269	1,331	948
2018	0	0	0	0
2019	948	49	650	907
2020	–	–	–	–
2021	0	0	0	446
2022	25	7	840	1,037
2023	112	8	620	202
2024	15	2	11,324	451
2025	18	66	1,189	183
Averages[a]				
2006–2025	530	680	1,495	1,067
2016–2025	236	1,194	2,537	794

[a] Averages do not include 2020 due to no commercial fishing opportunity.

PROPOSAL 109 – 5 AAC 15.200. Fishing districts, sections, and subsections and 5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Intertribal Coalition.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The area known as Jack's Box residing within the Central District would instead be incorporated into the Chignik Bay District.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Jack's Box area currently resides within both the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, although the majority of this area resides within the Central District (Figure 109-1). Jack's Box is not defined in *Fishing districts, sections, and subsections* (5 AAC 15.200), but for management purposes it is specified within the Central District within the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357). In accordance with the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan*, from July 22 through July 31, Jack's Box may be opened by emergency order to provide additional harvest opportunity.

The Chignik Bay District has separate gear specification from the other districts within the CMA. In the Eastern, Central, Western, and Perryville Districts, a purse seine or hand purse seine may not be less than 100 fathoms or more than 225 fathoms in length. A lead may not be more than 75 fathoms in length, and the aggregate length of seine and lead may not be more than 225 fathoms in length. In the Chignik Bay District, purse seines and hand purse seines may not be less than 100 fathoms or more than 125 fathoms. Currently in addition to the seine, a lead of no more than 75 fathoms may be used.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Because the Chignik Bay and Central Districts are typically opened concurrently, this change is unlikely to have significant effect on commercial fishing time or area. Effectiveness of fishing in Jack's Box may decrease due to the more restrictive gear requirements of the Chignik Bay District, which may reduce harvest. Fishing effort in the Jack's Box area from boats that use larger seine gear more consistent with fishing in the Eastern, Central, Western, and Perryville Districts of the CMA would be reduced.

BACKGROUND: Jack's Box was defined and added to regulation in 2004 with the intent of allowing additional fishing opportunity to smaller "lagoon" boats that were less able to travel to the Western and Perryville Districts due to weather. Before being added to regulation, the Jack's Box area was defined by emergency order in conjunction with the Western and Perryville pink and chum salmon fisheries to provide opportunity for smaller vessels. Though able to be opened standalone from July 22 through July 31, in more recent times, the Jack's Box area has primarily been used to bridge the Chignik Bay and Western Districts when each are open, but the Central District is closed.

Because Jack's Box is distributed across four different salmon statistical areas within the Central and Chignik Bay Districts, harvest specific to Jack's Box is unknown.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. If adopted, the department will define Jack's Box as its own statistical area for management purposes.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

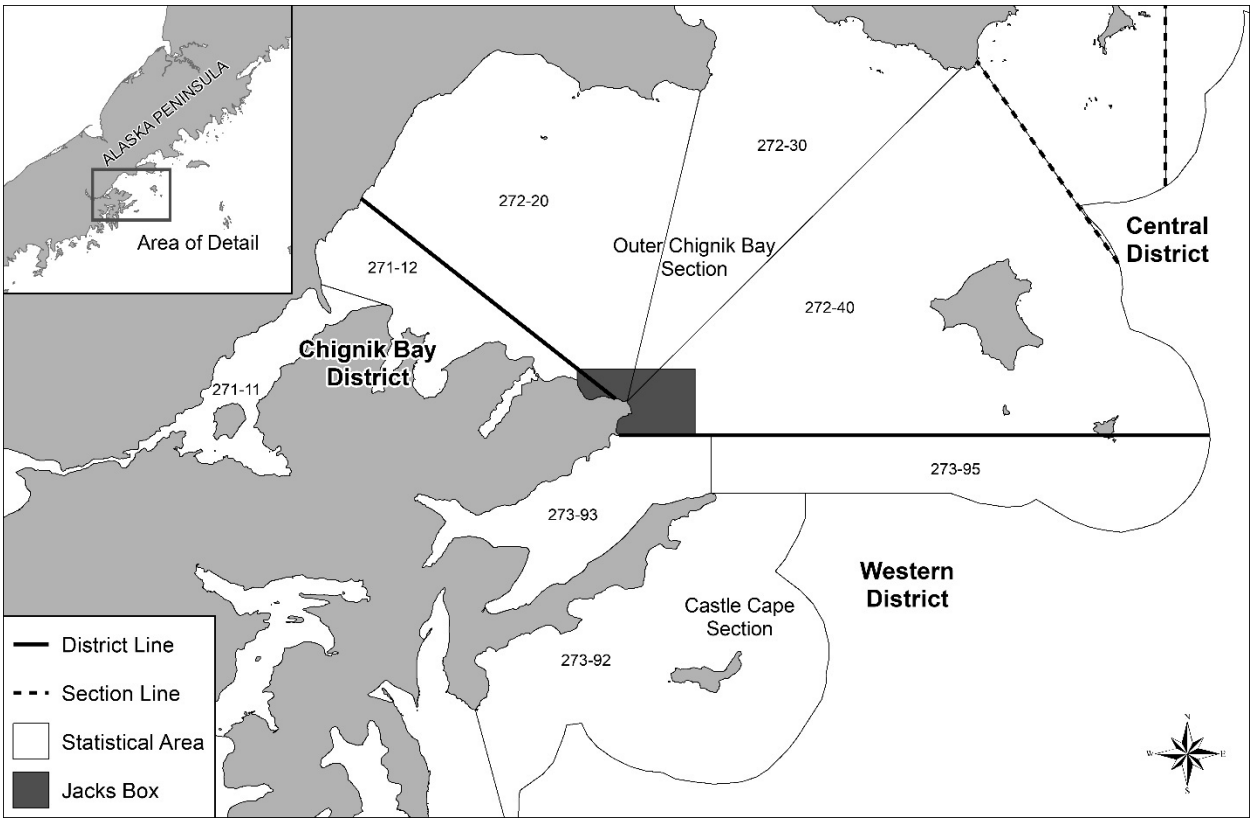

Figure 109-1.–Jack's Box within the Chignik Bay and Central Districts of the Chignik Management Area.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – GROUP 2: SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT MAINLAND SALMON, COMMERCIAL SALMON GEAR, RETENTION OF COMMERCIAL CAUGHT SALMON, HERRING (18 PROPOSALS)

RETENTION OF COMMERCIALLY CAUGHT SALMON (1 PROPOSAL)

PROPOSAL 107 – 5 AAC 09.XXX and 5 AAC 15.XXX. New section

PROPOSED BY: Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory Committee; Jack Reakoff, Chair.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would adopt marking and reporting requirements for commercially caught salmon retained for a person's own use and not sold in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik management areas.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? A person engaged in commercial fishing may retain fish from lawfully taken commercial catch for that person's own use, commonly known as 'homepack,' including for the use as bait in a commercial fishery. Fish retained as 'homepack' may not be sold or bartered. The number of pounds of fish by species retained by a commercial fisherman for that person's own use must be reported on a commercial salmon fish ticket. There are no personal use salmon fisheries in these management areas and no permit required to retain 'homepack.'

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would result in redundant permitting and reporting requirements.

BACKGROUND: Salmon in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik management areas may be taken by legal gear types in commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries. There are no personal use fisheries in these management areas. A fishery is classified as "personal use" because the sale of fish is not appropriate or permissible and therefore cannot be classified as commercial; the fishery is not customary and traditional use and therefore cannot be classified as subsistence; and the gear in a personal use fishery is often different from what is historically associated with sport fishing and should not be classified as a sport fishery to prevent confusion among the public. The intent by the board is to provide a "personal use" fishery if that fishery does not jeopardize the sustained yield of a resource, does not negatively impact an existing resource, and is in the broad public interest.

Salmon legally harvested by a commercial salmon permit holder may be sold to a legal market or markets or retained for that person's own use (Table 107-1; 5 AAC 39.010(a)). A person taking salmon for subsistence purposes must obtain a subsistence permit from the department; possess the permit on their person when taking subsistence fish; not have commercial caught salmon on board along with subsistence caught fish; and report their subsistence harvest annually (Table 107-2; 5 AAC 01.430). Salmon retained as personal use from the commercial harvest is often utilized in lieu of taking salmon by subsistence fishing. There are no known reports of or citations pertaining to the sale of salmon taken for personal use or 'homepack' from a commercial salmon fishery in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, or Chignik management areas.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal as written. The department supports accurate collection of harvest data, but as written this proposal could not be implemented. The proposal would require the department to issue permits for retention of 'homepack' salmon. The board does not have administrative or fiscal authority to require issuance of permits. The proposal calls for additional penalties for violations and the board does not have authority to set fines. Lastly, the proposal calls for recording 'homepack' harvest before leaving the fishing site. Fishing site would be difficult to define and enforce for mobile gear types such as purse seine and drift gillnet.

The Board has addressed the issue of homepack for species with identified conservation concerns. If the Board wishes to address this issue, we suggest that it imposes a consistent approach.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal would result in an additional cost for the department.

Table 107-1.–Salmon retained as personal use (homepack) from the commercial harvest in the Alaska Peninsula and Chignik management areas, 2014–2025.

			Number of salmon				
Year	Management area	No. of permits	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2014	Alaska Peninsula	18	563	257	118	317	251
	Chignik	5	35	6	0	0	0
2015	Alaska Peninsula	20	505	1,326	357	3,746	85
	Chignik	15	84	78	5	0	0
2016	Alaska Peninsula	28	484	612	214	0	2,181
	Chignik	15	35	345	24	0	0
2017	Alaska Peninsula	29	879	187	522	0	592
	Chignik	12	38	108	287	322	65
2018	Alaska Peninsula	26	1,059	290	287	0	508
	Chignik	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	Alaska Peninsula	41	917	1,025	1,528	2,352	576
	Chignik	6	26	12	1	0	0
2020	Alaska Peninsula	41	1,257	1,073	832	698	619
	Chignik	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021	Alaska Peninsula	28	723	1,065	300	395	1,149
	Chignik	2	2	54	1	0	0
2022	Alaska Peninsula	32	647	1,043	719	513	6,868
	Chignik	2	7	60	0	0	0
2023	Alaska Peninsula	40	307	764	213	2,875	9,965
	Chignik	3	2	10	0	0	0
2024	Alaska Peninsula	35	476	429	266	2,873	1,778
	Chignik	0	0	0	0	0	0
2025	Alaska Peninsula	31	557	233	105	2,504	1,365
	Chignik	3	43	0	0	0	0

Table 107-2.–Subsistence salmon harvest from the Alaska Peninsula and Chignik management areas, 2014–2024.

Year	Management Area	No. of permits returned	Number of salmon				
			King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2014	Alaska Peninsula	158	49	7,799	1,226	1,495	854
	Chignik	50	50	2,849	518	160	114
2015	Alaska Peninsula	115	84	8,566	996	3,390	981
	Chignik	67	114	4,785	569	220	90
2016	Alaska Peninsula	127	219	7,706	1,614	490	534
	Chignik	53	10	3,228	144	30	9
2017	Alaska Peninsula	99	266	5,176	1,428	356	791
	Chignik	38	10	2,665	514	17	4
2018	Alaska Peninsula	110	179	3,964	1,420	720	973
	Chignik	36	17	1,581	280	13	68
2019	Alaska Peninsula	73	131	3,064	1,166	487	364
	Chignik	36	2	1,659	264	91	49
2020	Alaska Peninsula	94	84	5,351	1,461	814	358
	Chignik	28	18	1,517	306	36	34
2021	Alaska Peninsula	88	74	2,704	1,054	750	208
	Chignik	31	1	1,235	186	48	45
2022	Alaska Peninsula	77	68	3,020	839	490	234
	Chignik	20	6	1,040	143	51	35
2023	Alaska Peninsula	57	29	3,422	692	338	206
	Chignik	18	6	1,084	130	224	28
2024	Alaska Peninsula	70	52	2,859	744	742	450
	Chignik	20	13	1,078	193	14	13

Note: Subsistence harvest information is the reported harvest; harvest has not been estimated to account for unreturned permits.

SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT MAINLAND SALMON (8 PROPOSALS)

PROPOSAL 119 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Jack R Foster, Jr., Amy M Foster, and Jack R Foster, III.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear, and after July 11 with seine gear, in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) portion of the Southeastern District concurrently with commercial salmon fishing periods in the Chignik Management Area (CMA). The sockeye salmon harvest thresholds as described in the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 09.360(b), (c), and (d) would be repealed.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In accordance with 5 AAC 09.360(b) and (c), commercial salmon fishing opportunity in SEDM (Figure 119-1) shall be curtailed to allow a commercial harvest in the CMA of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon through July 8. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the CMA, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the SEDM fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA is at least 600,000 fish through July 25. As stated in 5 AAC 09.360(d), when the harvestable surplus is expected to be more than 600,000 sockeye salmon and the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage the SEDM so that harvest approaches as near as possible to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. From June 1 through July 25, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections and prior to July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section are considered Chignik bound (5 AAC 09.360(f)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would result in fishing periods in the SEDM opening concurrently with those in the CMA. However, it remains unclear which specific portion or management unit of the CMA the SEDM commercial salmon openings would be based upon. This would result in more commercial fishing time for set gillnet gear and increase the harvest of salmon, including nonlocal salmon, in the SEDM. If adopted, set gillnet gear, and purse seine gear (after July 11), could be opened the in SEDM concurrently with commercial salmon fishing periods within the CMA.

This proposal would remove the harvest thresholds of 300,000 and 600,000 sockeye salmon and allow fisheries to occur in the SEDM concurrently when harvest is permitted in the CMA. This would allow commercial set gillnet fishing in the SEDM, and after July 11 for purse seine gear, to commence as soon as commercial salmon fishing begins in the CMA. Adoption of this proposal would likely allow for earlier fishing opportunities in the SEDM and likely provide additional fishing time for set gillnet and purse seine gear types. It is unclear from the proposal if the Northwest Stepovak Section would be managed for Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon beginning July1 and if these changes would extend beyond July 25. If so, this would limit the department's ability to manage the Northwest Stepovak Section and Orzinski Bay for Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon beginning July 1, and the entire SEDM for local pink, chum, and coho salmon after July 25.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of the KMA, and in SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to the allocation of Chignik River system sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation. Since then, the harvest of Chignik bound sockeye salmon has ranged from 0% to 9.7% (Table 119-1). Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the months of June and July for SEDM can be found in report SP12-31, *Genetic Stock Composition of the Commercial Harvest of Sockeye Salmon in Southeast District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010–2012.*

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, the department seeks clarification from the board regarding the term "fishing periods in the Chignik Management Area," as the CMA is at times not managed as a single continuous area. The department assumes the proponent is referring to the established sockeye salmon allocation timeframe of June 1 through July 25. If that is not the intent, the department would have significant conservation concerns for local salmon stocks. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfish in the Alaska Peninsula Area and the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands (5 AAC 01.366)

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination

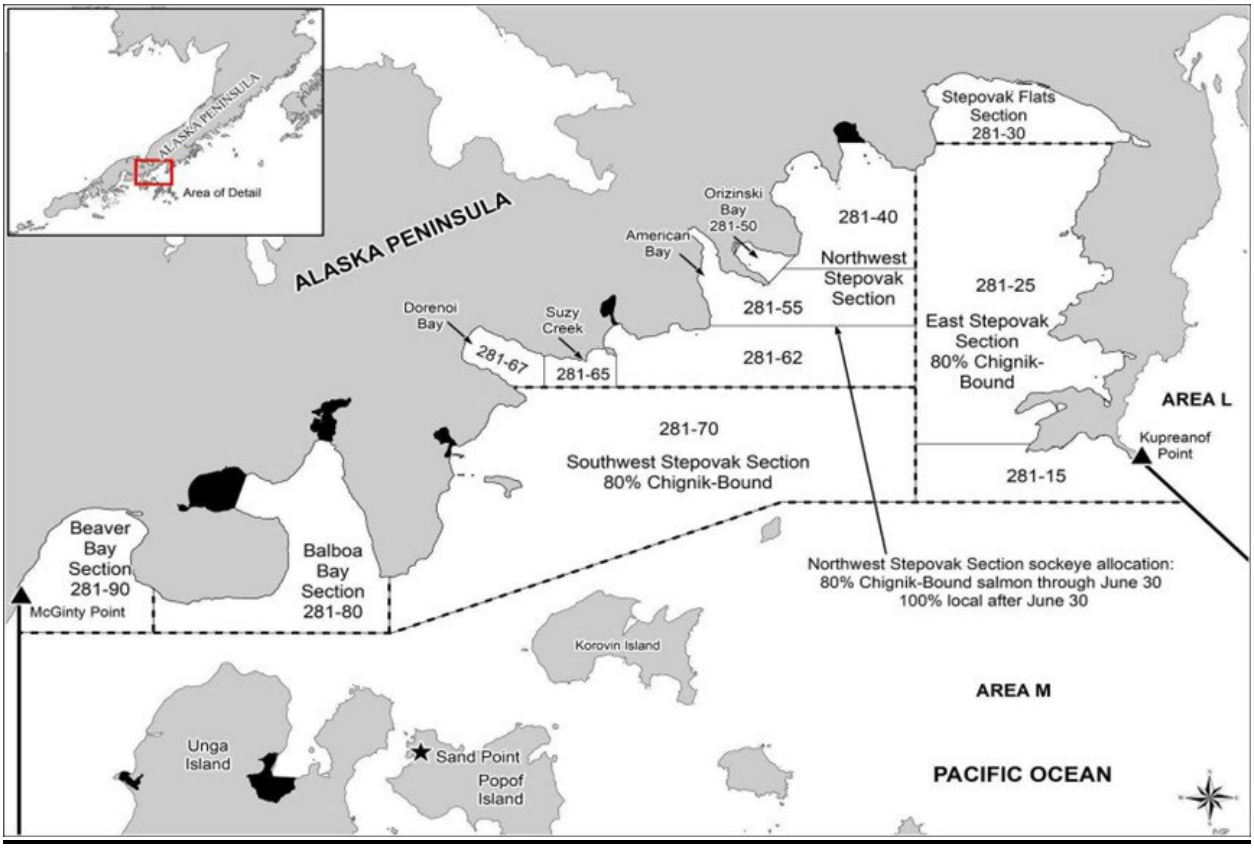

Figure 119-1.–Map of the Southeastern District Mainland from Kupreanof Point to McGinty Point.

Table 119-1.–Chignik and Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) commercial harvest of sockeye salmon considered to be Chignik-bound by regulation, and the SEDM's harvest percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik area, 2007-2025.

	Chignik	SEDM	
Year	Harvest	Harvest	Percent
2007	601,213	–	–
2008	445,199	–	–
2009	871,890	48,322	5.5
2010	1,125,135	85,267	7.6
2011	2,277,681	156,637	6.9
2012	1,640,517	126,083	7.7
2013	2,246,339	169,029	7.5
2014	330,302	–	–
2015	1,014,550	98,473	9.7
2016	1,167,326	94,790	8.1
2017	679,435	43,730	6.4
2018	128	–	–
2019	185,567	–	–
2020	0	–	–
2021	151	–	–
2022	197,068	–	–
2023	669,540	–	–
2024	184,524	–	–
2025	625,622	28,157	4.5
Average[a] 2015–2024	442,859	78,998	8.1

[a] Average does not include years when no fishery occurred.

PROPOSAL 121 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Jim Smith.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would remove the 600,000 sockeye salmon harvest criteria in the Chignik Management Area (CMA) that is expected before commercial fishing can occur in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In accordance with 5 AAC 09.360(b) and (c), commercial salmon fishing opportunity in the SEDM shall be curtailed to allow a harvest in the CMA of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon through July 8. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the CMA, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA is at least 600,000 fish through July 25. As stated in 5 AAC 09.360(d), when the harvestable surplus is expected to be more than 600,000 sockeye salmon and the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage the SEDM so that harvest approaches as near as possible to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. From June 1 through July 25, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections and prior to July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section are considered Chignik bound (5 AAC 09.360(f)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would allow commercial fishing in the SEDM area to commence as soon as commercial fishing began in the CMA and would increase the harvest of salmon, including nonlocal salmon, in the SEDM. In most years, fishing time would occur earlier in the SEDM as the department would no longer need to be assured of a harvest of 600,000 sockeye salmon in the CMA before opening the SEDM. The department would still manage the SEDM fishery so that the harvest is as near as possible to 7.6% of the sockeye salmon harvest in the CMA through July 25.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for the SEDM based on the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of the KMA, and in the SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since 1985, the board has made modifications to the management plan, including changes to the allocation of Chignik River system sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation. Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the months of June and July for the SEDM can be found in Dann et al. (2012).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfish in the Alaska Peninsula Area and the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands (5 AAC 01.366).

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

Reference:

Dann, T. H., M. J. Witteveen, S. D. Rogers Olive, C. Habicht, M. B. Foster, H. L. Liller, and W. D. Templin. 2012. Genetic stock composition of the commercial harvest of sockeye salmon in Southeastern District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010–2012. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 12-31, Anchorage. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/SP12-31.pdf

PROPOSAL 122 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Emil Mobeck.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would increase the allocation of the Chignik Management Area (CMA) harvest to the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) from 7.6% to 20%.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In accordance with 5 AAC 09.360(b) and (c), commercial salmon fishing opportunity in the SEDM shall be curtailed to allow a harvest in the CMA of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon through July 8. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the CMA, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA is at least 600,000 fish through July 25. As stated in 5 AAC 09.360(d), when the harvestable surplus is expected to be more than 600,000 sockeye salmon and the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage the SEDM so that harvest approaches as near as possible to 7.6% of the sockeye salmon being harvested in the CMA. From June 1 through July 25, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections and, prior to July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, are considered Chignik bound (5 AAC 09.360(f)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would result in increased commercial fishing time and harvest of salmon, including nonlocal salmon, in the Southeastern District Mainland Section of the Southeastern District in years when the CMA is meeting the harvest criteria that guides fishing periods in the SEDM.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.360), which included CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of the KMA, and in the SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since 1985, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to the allocation of Chignik River system sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation. Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the months of June and July for SEDM can be found in Dann (2012).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfish in the Alaska Peninsula Area and the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands (5 AAC 01.366).

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

Reference:

Dann, T. H., M. J. Witteveen, S. D. Rogers Olive, C. Habicht, M. B. Foster, H. L. Liller, and W. D. Templin. 2012. Genetic stock composition of the commercial harvest of sockeye salmon in Southeastern District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010–2012. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 12-31, Anchorage. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/SP12-31.pdf

PROPOSAL 123 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Edgar Smith.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would adjust the sockeye salmon harvest criteria in the Chignik Management Area (CMA) that guides commercial fishing periods in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) and adjust the allocated SEDM harvest based on the processing capacity or number of boats fishing in the CMA.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In accordance with 5 AAC 09.360(b) and (c), commercial salmon fishing opportunity in SEDM shall be curtailed to allow a harvest in the CMA of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon through July 8. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the CMA, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA is at least 600,000 fish through July 25. As stated in 5 AAC 09.360(d), when the harvestable surplus is expected to be more than 600,000 sockeye salmon and the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage the SEDM so that harvest approaches as near as possible to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. From June 1 through July 25, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections and prior to July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section are considered Chignik bound (5 AAC 09.360(f)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? There would be an increase in commercial fishing time and salmon harvest, including harvest of nonlocal salmon, in the SEDM during years when less than 61 boats fish the CMA. In years with no local or limited processing capacity, the SEDM would be managed based on Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement. Each boat fishing the CMA would be required to register with the department. During years when there are 30 or less boats registered to fish the CMA, the department would manage the SEDM so that the CMA was assured harvests of 100,000 sockeye salmon during the first run and 100,000 during the second run for a total of 200,000 sockeye salmon with an allocated SEDM harvest of 21%. This would lead to earlier and more fishing time in the SEDM. During years when between 31 and 60 boats are registered to fish the CMA, the department would manage the SEDM so that the CMA was assured harvests of 200,000 sockeye salmon during the first run and 200,000 during the second run for a total of 400,000 sockeye salmon with an allocated SEDM harvest of 14%. This would lead to earlier and more fishing time in the SEDM. In years with 61 or more boats registered to fish the CMA, the SEDM would be managed similar to current management with the same allocation.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.360), which included CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of the KMA, and in the SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since 1985, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to the allocation of Chignik River system sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM

management plan allocation. Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the months of June and July for SEDM can be found in Dann et al. (2012).

Participation in the CMA has been declining since the 1990s. The number of permits fished has dropped from an average of 94 between 1996 and 2005 to 43 between 2016 and 2025 (Table 123-1). Similarly, the harvest of sockeye salmon has fallen from an average of 1,123,762 fish from 1996 to 2005 to 553,543 fish from 2016 to 2025 (Table 123-1).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** a registration requirement for the CMA salmon fishery because it creates an additional administrative burden with no management or conservation benefit and runs counter to Administrative Order 360. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal would result in an additional cost for the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfish in the Alaska Peninsula Area and the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands (5 AAC 01.366).

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

Reference:

Dann, T. H., M. J. Witteveen, S. D. Rogers Olive, C. Habicht, M. B. Foster, H. L. Liller, and W. D. Templin. 2012. Genetic stock composition of the commercial harvest of sockeye salmon in Southeastern District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010–2012. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 12-31, Anchorage. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/SP12-31.pdf

Table 123-1.–Chignik Management Area Active Permits, Fished Permits, and Harvest, 1996–2025.

Year	Active permits	Fished permits	Sockeye salmon harvest
1996	101	100	1,954,076
1997	100	98	759,048
1998	100	85	1,042,065
1999	99	90	3,110,533
2000	99	99	1,763,621
2001	98	92	1,497,576
2002	100	41	320,024
2003	101	43	334,384
2004	100	32	93,445
2005	99	97	362,851
2006	96	48	896,068
2007	92	55	829,395
2008	92	54	682,104
2009	91	55	1,196,418
2010	91	65	1,373,240
2011	91	64	2,490,448
2012	91	69	1,798,032
2013	91	76	2,400,181
2014	91	70	616,879
2015	91	71	1,540,388
2016	91	69	1,386,016
2017	91	67	895,041
2018	90	6	128
2019	89	51	638,784
2020	89	0	0
2021	89	31	118,839
2022	89	35	334,704
2023	90	35	1,069,712
2024	89	53	271,199
2025	88	37	821,006
Average			
1996–2005[a]	100	94	1,123,762
2006–2015	92	63	1,382,652
2016–2025[b]	90	43	553,543

[a] Permits fished does not include co-op years 2002–2004.

[b] Permits fished does not include 2020 when no fishing occurred.

PROPOSAL 124 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Jim Smith.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would change the estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River system from 80% to between 55% and 68% of the harvest in the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.*

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River has been determined to be 80% of the sockeye salmon harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS). Beginning July 1, all sockeye salmon taken in the Northwest Stepovak Section are considered to be destined for Orzinski Bay. The Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Section is allocated 7.6% of the sockeye salmon harvest in the CMA through July 25.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? A reduction of SEDM harvested sockeye salmon considered bound for the Chignik River would likely result in increased commercial fishing time and harvest in the SEDM in years when the CMA is meeting the harvest criteria that guides fishing periods in the SEDM.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for the SEDM based on the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included the CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of the KMA, and in the SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since 1985, the board has made modifications to the management plan, including changes to allocation of Chignik River system sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation. The proportion of sockeye salmon harvested in the SEDM (excluding areas designated as 100% local stocks) considered to be Chignik bound has been determined in regulation to be 80%, based on a 1961 tagging study conducted in the East Stepovak Section. In 1998, the board stipulated that sockeye salmon harvested in NWSS beginning July 1 would not be counted toward the CMA allocation. In addition, beginning July 1, fishing time in NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than an aggregate of 96 hours during a seven-day period.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the months of June and July for the SEDM can be found in Dann et al. (2012). In 2010, the total SEDM harvest of 106,584 sockeye salmon consisted of 65.4% Chignik group fish; in 2011, the total SEDM harvest of 196,419 sockeye salmon consisted of 66.7% Chignik group fish; and in 2012, the total SEDM harvest of 180,390 sockeye salmon consisted of 66.2% Chignik group fish. These estimates do not include Northwest Stepovak Section harvest after June 26 in 2010, and after July 8 for 2011 and 2012.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether

subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfish in the Alaska Peninsula Area and the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands (5 AAC 01.366).

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

Reference:

Dann, T. H., M. J. Witteveen, S. D. Rogers Olive, C. Habicht, M. B. Foster, H. L. Liller, and W. D. Templin. 2012. Genetic stock composition of the commercial harvest of sockeye salmon in Southeastern District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010–2012. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 12-31, Anchorage. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/SP12-31.pdf

PROPOSAL 125 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Emil Mobeck.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would replace the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* with the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.*

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In accordance with 5 AAC 09.360(b) and (c), commercial salmon fishing opportunity in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Section shall be curtailed to allow a harvest in the CMA of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon through July 8. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the CMA, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA is at least 600,000 fish through July 25. As stated in 5 AAC 09.360(d), when the harvestable surplus is expected to be more than 600,000 sockeye salmon and the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage SEDM so that harvest approaches as near as possible to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. From June 1 through July 25, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections and prior to July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section are considered Chignik bound (5 AAC 09.360(f)). From July 26 through October 31 SEDM is managed on the abundance of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks.

Current regulations in the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* 5 AAC 15.357 state that in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, the commercial salmon fishery shall open concurrently based on escapement objectives for sockeye salmon in the Chignik Lakes system.

From June 1 through July 5, in the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, and in the Perryville District, the department may open the commercial salmon fishery concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District; during this time period the Perryville District may open for no more than three 48 hour fishing periods with a minimum closure of 48 hours between each period. From July 6 until the end of the salmon fishing season, the Western and Perryville Districts are managed based on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks as well as the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run.

In the Eastern District, during June, the commercial salmon fishery will open concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District. From July 8 until the end of the salmon fishing season, the Eastern District is managed based on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks as well as the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Commercial fishing periods in the SEDM would open concurrently with those of the CMA; however, it is unclear as to which portion of the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* the SEDM would be managed upon. This would also limit the department's ability to manage the Northwest Stepovak Section and Orzinski Bay for Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon beginning July 1, and the entire SEDM for local pink, chum, and coho salmon after July 25.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of the KMA, and in the SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since 1985, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to the allocation of Chignik River system sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, if this proposal is adopted, the department would need guidance on which portion of the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to manage the SEDM under. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfish in the Alaska Peninsula Area and the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands (5 AAC 01.366).

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

PROPOSAL 126 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections, 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan, and 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Intertribal Coalition.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would move the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District into the South Central District and add the majority of sections that make up the "Dolgoi Island area" to the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*. The commercial harvest in this area would be included in the 7.6% Southeastern District Mainland Chignik allocation and there would not be a 191,000 sockeye salmon harvest limit imposed on the "Dolgoi Island area" commercial fishery during June 1–July 25.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The number of sockeye salmon harvested in the "Dolgoi Island area" from June 1 through July 25 is limited to 191,000 fish, based on fish ticket information (Figure 126-1).

In June, commercial salmon fishing is closed to purse seine gear in the waters of the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District, the Belkofski Bay Section of the Southwestern District, excluding those waters inside of a line between Vodapoini Point at lat 55° 01.88′ N, long 162° 24.80′ W, and Bold Cape at lat 55° 01.24′ N, long 162° 16.40′ W, and the South Central District.

In accordance with 5 AAC 09.360(b) and (c), commercial salmon fishing opportunity in the SEDM (Figure 126-2) shall be curtailed to allow a harvest in the CMA of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon through July 8. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the CMA, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA is at least 600,000 fish through July 25. As stated in 5 AAC 09.360(d), when the harvestable surplus is expected to be more than 600,000 sockeye salmon and the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage the SEDM so that harvest approaches as near as possible to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. From June 1 through July 25, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections and prior to July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section are considered Chignik River bound (5 AAC 09.360(f)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Commercial Fishing time and salmon harvest in June and July would likely be reduced in the "Dolgoi Islands area" as it would be dependent on Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement and harvest (Table 126–1). Fishing periods for these areas would run concurrently with fishing periods in the SEDM through July 25. The "Dolgoi Islands area" would not have been opened seven of the last 10 years as the SEDM was not opened due to the harvest criteria not being met in the CMA (Table 126–2.)

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of the KMA, and in SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to the allocation of Chignik River system sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in CMA. This

removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation.

During the February 2016 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik meeting, the board made changes to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) and the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366) by adopting regulations to limit the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the "Dolgoi Island area" as described in the *Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program* (WASSIP; statistical areas 283-15 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42). From June 1 through July 25, when harvest reaches 191,000 sockeye salmon by fish ticket information, the portion of the West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) and waters of the Volcano Bay Section (statistical areas 284-37 through 284-39) close to commercial salmon fishing through July 25 (Figure 138-1). However, the portion of West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) reopens to commercial salmon fishing on July 17. All other statistical areas are managed in accordance with each prescribed management plan.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the month of June in the Shumagin Islands Section, Dolgoi Island area, Ikatan Section area, and Unimak District by temporal stratum for 2006 through 2008 can be found in Dann et al. (2012).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

Reference:

Dann, T. H., M. J. Witteveen, S. D. Rogers Olive, C. Habicht, M. B. Foster, H. L. Liller, and W. D. Templin. 2012. Genetic stock composition of the commercial harvest of sockeye salmon in Southeastern District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010–2012. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 12-31, Anchorage. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/SP12-31.pdf

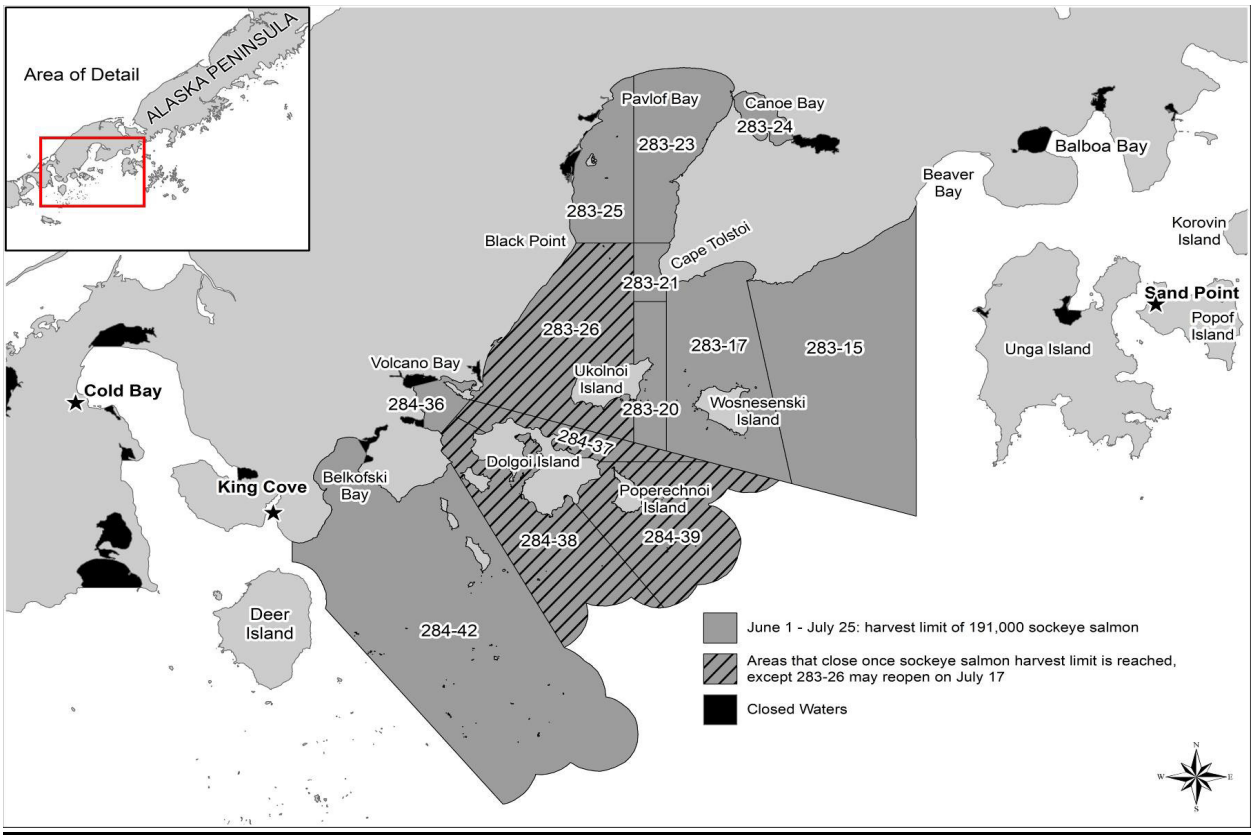

Figure 126-1.–Map of the "Dolgoi Islands area" as defined in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*.

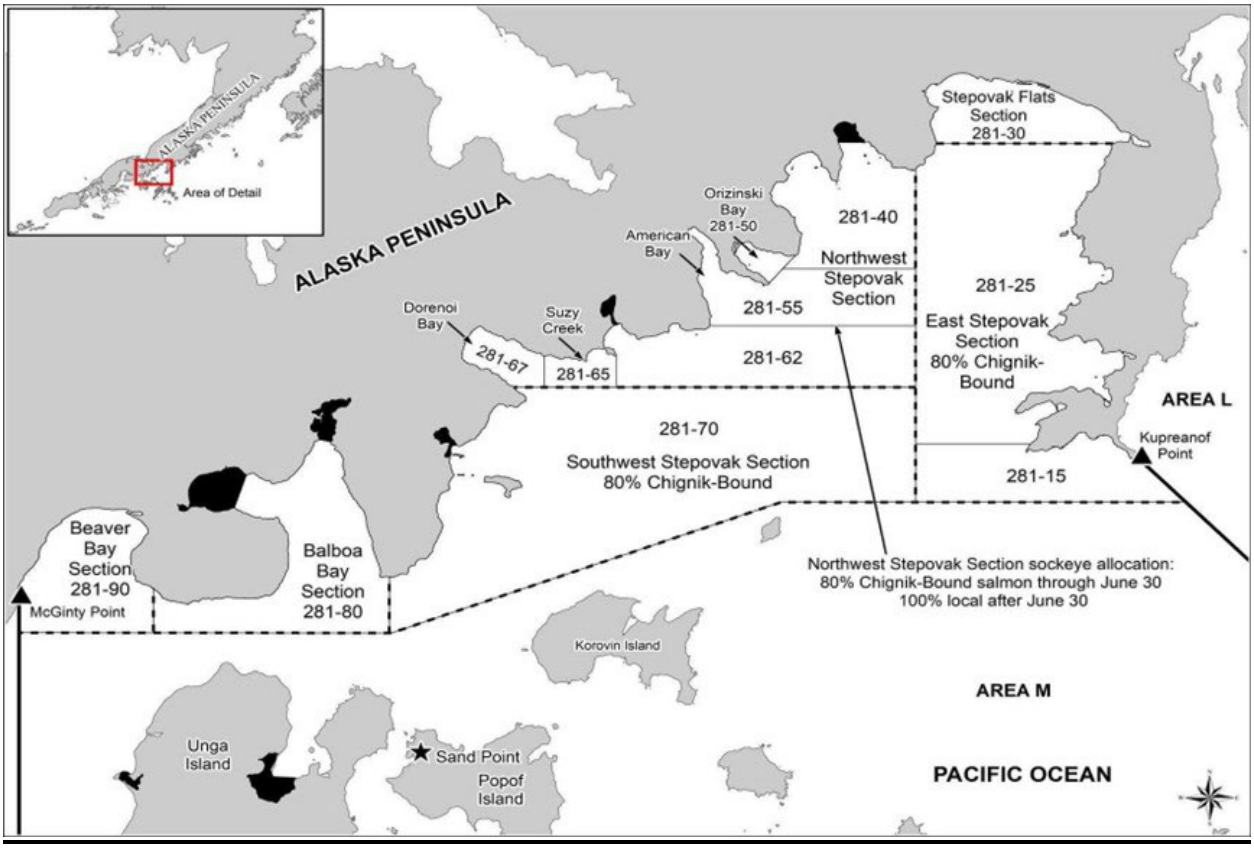

Figure 126-2.–Map of the Southeastern District Mainland from Kupreanof Point to McGinty Point.

Table 126-1.– "Dolgoi Island Area" June 1–July 25 commercial salmon harvest, 2016-2025.

		Number of salmon				
Year	Permits	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2016	55	1,066	493,174	3,818	58,851	34,869
2017	56	672	283,386	8,671	386,422	121,580
2018	26	68	36,047	98	3,523	22,432
2019	40	98	125,986	7,786	132,930	15,789
2020	22	50	42,636	369	6,272	13,393
2021	26	41	64,082	1,833	46,191	26,888
2022	24	34	83,715	998	91,070	9,955
2023	42	53	82,998	1,292	223,049	20,727
2024	23	113	24,067	1,524	21,887	3,241
2025	17	73	119,988	2,231	120,970	18,168

Table 126-2.–Chignik and Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) commercial harvest of sockeye salmon considered to be Chignik-bound by regulation, and the SEDM's harvest percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik area, 2007-2025.

	Chignik	SEDM	
Year	Harvest	Harvest	Percent
2007	601,213	–	–
2008	445,199	–	–
2009	871,890	48,322	5.5
2010	1,125,135	85,267	7.6
2011	2,277,681	156,637	6.9
2012	1,640,517	126,083	7.7
2013	2,246,339	169,029	7.5
2014	330,302	–	–
2015	1,014,550	98,473	9.7
2016	1,167,326	94,790	8.1
2017	679,435	43,730	6.4
2018	128	–	–
2019	185,567	–	–
2020	0	–	–
2021	151	–	–
2022	197,068	–	–
2023	669,540	–	–
2024	184,524	–	–
2025	625,622	28,157	4.5
2015–2024 average	442,859	78,998	8.1

PROPOSAL 120 – 5 AAC 09.330 Gear and 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Axel Kopun.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would eliminate purse seine gear as a legal commercial gear type in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) portion of the Southeastern District from July 11 through July 25.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the Southeastern District, salmon may be taken commercially only with set gillnets, purse seines, and hand purse seines, except that salmon may be taken only with set gillnets from June 1 through July 10 in the Beaver Bay, Balboa Bay, Southwest Stepovak, Northwest Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, and East Stepovak Sections (Figure 120-1); however, if the department determines that the Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon escapement objectives have been exceeded as described in 5 AAC 09.360(k), beginning July 1, in addition to set gillnet gear, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the waters of Orzinski Bay west of 160 04.25′ W. long. to fishing with purse seine and hand purse seine gear.

In accordance with 5 AAC 09.360(b) and (c), commercial salmon fishing opportunity in SEDM shall be curtailed to allow a harvest in the CMA of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon through July 8. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the CMA, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA is at least 600,000 fish through July 25. As stated in 5 AAC 09.360(d), when the harvestable surplus is expected to be more than 600,000 sockeye salmon and the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage the SEDM so that harvest approaches as near as possible to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. From June 1 through July 25, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections and prior to July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section are considered Chignik bound (5 AAC 09.360(f)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? In the commercial fishery, only set gillnet gear would be allowed to fish in the SEDM through July 25. This would slow the pace of harvest from July 11–July 25, allowing longer and/or more frequent openings to reach the allocated sockeye salmon harvest of 7.6% of the harvest in the Chignik Management Area during years the harvest criteria is being met (Table 120-1). This could limit the department's ability to manage for sockeye salmon escapement into Orzinski Lake on strong years when purse seiners would be allowed to fish Orzinski Bay beginning July 1, and the Northwest Stepovak Section beginning July 11.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for the SEDM based on the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.360), which included CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of the KMA, and in the SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since 1985**,** the board has made modifications to the management plan, including changes to the allocation of Chignik River system sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM

management plan allocation. Since 1978, set gillnets have been the only legal gear type in SEDM through July 10.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvests of sockeye salmon during the months of June and July for the SEDM can be found in Dann et al. (2012).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

Reference:

Dann, T. H., M. J. Witteveen, S. D. Rogers Olive, C. Habicht, M. B. Foster, H. L. Liller, and W. D. Templin. 2012. Genetic stock composition of the commercial harvest of sockeye salmon in Southeastern District Mainland, Alaska Peninsula Management Area, 2010–2012. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 12-31, Anchorage. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/SP12-31.pdf

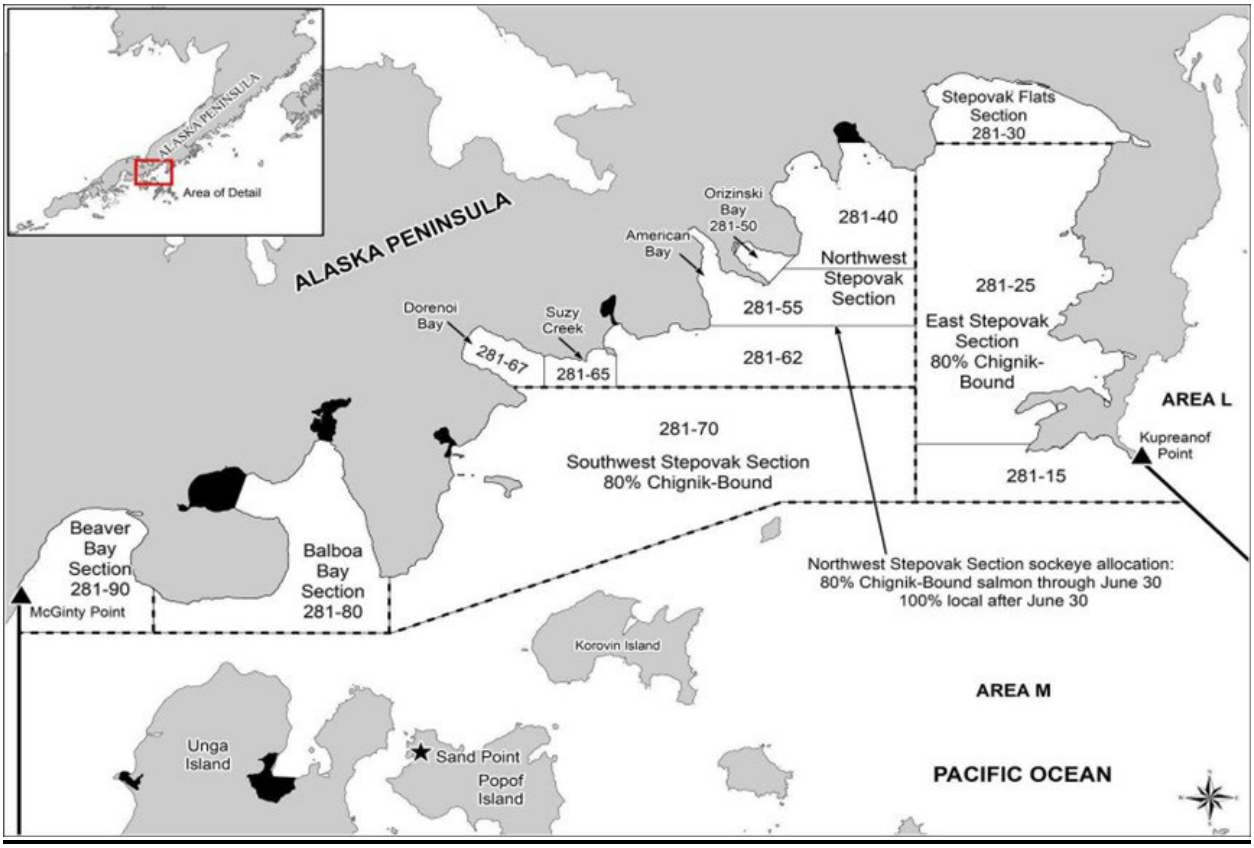

Figure 120-1.–Map of the Southeastern District Mainland from Kupreanof Point to McGinty Point.

Table 120-1.–Commercial salmon harvest by gear in the Southeastern District Mainland, 2010–2025.

Year	Gear	No. of permits	Landings	Number of salmon				
				King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
2010	Purse seine	16	32	836	6,081	1,381	6,998	46,720
	Set gillnet	45	906	46	161,675	1,534	7,607	27,466
2011	Purse seine	14	18	96	7,662	1,451	39,170	17,213
	Set gillnet	52	1,498	299	214,853	849	8,008	34,283
2012	Purse seine	17	35	30	28,536	837	33,311	18,785
	Set gillnet	48	1,070	69	190,596	450	9,192	13,050
2013	Purse seine	24	61	353	21,666	8,004	273,353	25,891
	Set gillnet	46	1,531	344	219,365	9,677	53,505	15,468
2015	Purse seine	21	38	194	103,091	6,200	71,681	7,674
	Set gillnet	31	306	37	130,527	1,613	6,531	4,570
2016	Purse seine	11	21	355	19,487	4,475	10,085	3,696
	Set gillnet	44	846	177	356,668	2,075	11,306	10,615
2017	Purse seine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Set gillnet	39	406	39	93,918	154	5,477	5,073
2018	Purse seine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Set gillnet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	Purse seine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Set gillnet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020	Purse seine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Set gillnet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021	Purse seine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Set gillnet	8	45	15	8,544	2	462	621
2022	Purse seine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Set gillnet	10	93	7	14,326	2	7,236	431
2023	Purse seine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Set gillnet	14	44	3	12,969	178	1,858	1,052
2024	Purse seine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Set gillnet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2025	Purse seine	10	11	856	24,794	1,252	53,768	3,636
	Set gillnet	24	150	5	54,528	159	2,801	4,307

COMMERCIAL SALMON GEAR (7 PROPOSALS)

PROPOSAL 147 –5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations

PROPOSED BY: Charles Lean

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would reduce the depth of commercial drift gillnets from 90 meshes in depth to 70 meshes in depth in the Northwestern, Unimak, and Southwestern Districts. This proposal also seeks to reduce the depth of commercial set gillnets in the Northwestern, Unimak, Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern Districts from 90 meshes to 70 meshes.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In 5 AAC 09.331 (a)(4) drift gillnets operated in the Northwestern, Unimak, and Southwestern Districts may not exceed 90 meshes in depth. In 5 AAC 09.331(b)(1)(A) set gillnets in the Northwestern, Unimak, Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern Districts may not exceed 90 meshes in depth.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The department would continue to manage salmon fisheries in accordance with regulatory management plans and established escapement objectives. It is likely that salmon harvest would be reduced by using shallower gillnets, but the department does not have information on salmon migration patterns by depth in this area.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1990, depth of both commercial drift and set gillnet gear were unlimited. In 1990, due to concerns over harvest of chum salmon, the depth of drift gillnet gear in the Northwestern, Unimak, and Southwestern Districts and for set gillnet gear in the Unimak, Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern Districts were limited to 90 meshes. The Northwestern District was limited to 90 meshes for set gillnet gear in 1992. The regulation for minimum mesh size for drift gillnet gear was repealed in 2016 and for set gillnet gear in 2019.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

PROPOSAL 149 –5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations

PROPOSED BY: Virgil Porter.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would increase the allowable commercial set gillnet length from 100 to 200 fathoms. This proposal would still permit the operation of two permit sites with an aggregate length of 200 fathoms.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? A commercial set gillnet may be no more than 100 fathoms in length; the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by a CFEC permit holder may be no more than 200 fathoms; no more than two gillnet sites may be operated by a CFEC permit holder.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The total amount of commercial gear allowed in the water would not change from current regulations; however, there may be increased harvest in certain areas, such as near terminal areas. There is uncertainty as to how much the catch per unit effort would increase and the department would likely be able to manage these areas by reducing fishing time. There is also potential to increase gear conflicts in certain areas of the Alaska Peninsula.

BACKGROUND: Set gillnet specifications defining a single net being 100 fathoms in length and the use of up to two nets with an aggregate length of 200 fathoms was in regulation prior to 1979. Several areas around Alaska define set gillnets specifications as an aggregate length that can be made up using a single net or multiple nets. The Kodiak salmon management area allows an aggregate length of 150 fathoms that can be a single net or no more than two nets, except in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District a set gillnet can be up to 175 fathoms.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal due to concerns of increased harvest in terminal areas and potential gear conflicts. The department is **NEUTRAL** to the allocative aspects of this proposal. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfishes in the Alaska Peninsula Areas (5 AAC 01.416)

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

PROPOSAL 150 –5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations

PROPOSED BY: Edgar Smith.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would amend set gillnet specifications to allow the gillnet web to be single filament or monofilament in the Unimak, Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern Districts of the Alaska Peninsula.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? General provisions for commercial gillnet specifications within the majority of Alaska (5 AAC 39.250(c)), including Registration Area M, requires that the gillnet web in a salmon gillnet must contain 30 filaments, each of which must be of equal diameter, or 6 filaments that must be at least 0.20 millimeters in diameter.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The use of monofilament may increase catch efficiencies of certain species of salmon but is not likely to affect the department's ability to manage the commercial fishery. Use of monofilament may increase entanglement of animals such as seabirds and marine mammals.

BACKGROUND: Single strand or monofilament gillnet webbing is currently allowed in many Alaska gillnet fisheries including Cook Inlet gillnet fishery, Kodiak set gillnet fishery, and within the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula.

During the February 2023 Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands/Chignik Finfish meeting, the board adopted the use of monofilament web for set gillnet gear in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula. The proponent of the 2023 regulatory change cited similar reasons to this proposal. The purpose of using monofilament versus multistrand gillnet webbing was because the latter experienced increased buildup of vegetation and algae on the web which made gillnets inefficient at harvesting salmon and required a great deal of effort and loss of fishing time in order to clean and maintain the gillnets. In 2020, the board adopted the use of monofilament for set gillnet gear in the Kodiak area because fishers in the area were experiencing a high frequency of algal blooms that were fouling their nets and rendering them unfishable for long periods of time.

A study conducted by the department (Alexandersdottir et al. 1988) concluded that catch efficiency of pink salmon increased with the reduction of filament strands, and there was an increased harvest of chum and coho salmon taken in clear water but not turbid (glacial) water, and no significant catch efficiencies were found for sockeye salmon. However, the greatest variation came between individual sets rather than by the different types of filament used which complicates the task of measuring the difference in efficiency between gear types.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

Reference:

Alexandersdottir, J. M. M. and B. Lynch. 1988. Gillnet gear evaluation study in Southeast Alaska, 1987 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 1J88-19, Juneau. http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/RIR.1J.1988.19.pdf

PROPOSAL 153 –5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Brown, Sand Point AC Chair.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would amend commercial set gillnet specifications to allow the gillnet web to be single filament in the Unimak, Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern Districts of the Alaska Peninsula.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? General provisions for gillnet specifications within the majority of Alaska (5 AAC 39.250(c)), including Registration Area M, requires that the gillnet web in a salmon gillnet must contain 30 filaments, each of which must be of equal diameter, or 6 filaments that must be at least 0.20 millimeters in diameter.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The use of monofilament may increase catch efficiencies of certain species of salmon but is not likely to affect the department's ability to manage the commercial fishery. Use of monofilament may increase entanglement of animals such as seabirds and marine mammals.

BACKGROUND: Single strand or monofilament gillnet webbing is currently used in many Alaska gillnet fisheries including Cook Inlet gillnet fishery, Kodiak set gillnet fishery, and within the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula.

During the February 2023 Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands/Chignik Finfish meeting, the board adopted the use of monofilament web for set gillnet gear in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula. The proponent of the 2023 regulatory change cited similar reasons to this proposal. The purpose of using monofilament versus multistrand gillnet webbing was because the latter experienced buildup of vegetation and algae on the web that made gillnets inefficient at harvesting salmon and required a great deal of effort and loss of fishing time in order to clean and maintain the gillnets. In 2020, the board adopted the use of monofilament for set gillnet gear in the Kodiak area because fishers in the area were experiencing a high frequency of algal blooms that were fouling their nets and rendering them unfishable for long periods of time.

A study conducted by the department (Alexandersdottir et al. 1988) concluded that catch efficiency of pink salmon increased with the reduction of filament strands, and there was an increased harvest of chum and coho salmon taken in clear water but not turbid (glacial) water, and no significant catch efficiencies were found for sockeye salmon. However, the greatest variation came between individual sets rather than by the different types of filament used which complicates the task of measuring the difference in efficiency between gear types.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

Reference:

Alexandersdottir, J. M. M. and B. Lynch. 1988. Gillnet gear evaluation study in Southeast Alaska, 1987 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 1J88-19, Juneau. http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/RIR.1J.1988.19.pdf

PROPOSAL 151 –5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Intertribal Coalition.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would amend commercial set gillnet specifications to prohibit the use 25 fathoms of seine webbing on the shoreward end of a set gillnet.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the Unimak, Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern Districts, 25 fathoms of seine webbing may be used on the shoreward end of a set gillnet.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would effectively reduce the amount of gear that could be used by commercial set gillnet fishers. The department does not have specific information on how the use of a 25-fathom seine web lead influences salmon catch rates in this area.

BACKGROUND: In 1968, the use of 10 fathoms of seine webbing as a set gillnet lead was established in regulation. The use of a seine lead for set gillnet gear was not intended to fish deeper waters but to help funnel fish that travel closer to shore that would otherwise be difficult to harvest due to depth or ocean conditions such as kelp and surf; therefore, the lead was required to be anchored to the beach above low tide. In 2010, the legal length of seine webbing used as a lead for the Unimak, Southwestern, South Central and Southeastern Districts increased from 10 fathoms to 25 fathoms, but the definition of where the lead could be anchored remained unchanged. Prior to 1968, no regulation allowed or prohibited the use of seine webbing as leads for set gillnet gear in these districts.

In 2023, this regulation was changed to allow a seine lead to be used on the shoreward end of a set gillnet regardless of depth and no longer requiring the lead to be attached to the beach above low tide. The set gillnet fleet had expressed safety concerns with the requirement to attach a lead on shore in dangerous conditions such as surf and rocky shore conditions. Prior to this regulation change, a set gillnet that did not use a lead was not required to attach the set gillnet to the beach. General provisions only require that a set gillnet be intentionally staked, anchored, or otherwise fixed.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

PROPOSAL 148 –5 AAC 09.332. Seine specifications and operations

PROPOSED BY: Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would reduce the depth of commercial seine gear from 375 meshes to 325 meshes deep. This would reduce the maximum lead length by 50 fathoms so that a lead may be no more than 100 fathoms in length. This would reduce the maximum total aggregate length of seine and lead together by 150 fathoms so that a seine and lead aggregate may be no more than 250 fathoms in length. The proposal would also remove the part of the regulation that requires the lead to be attached to one end of a seine, and the lead may not be attached to the boat end of the seine.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? A commercial purse seine may not be less than 100 fathoms or more than 250 fathoms in length and may not exceed 375 meshes in depth. Leads may not be less than 50 fathoms or more than 150 fathoms in length and only one lead may be used that is not attached to the boat end of the seine.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The department would continue to manage salmon fisheries in accordance with regulatory management plans and established escapement objectives. It is likely that salmon harvest would be reduced by using shallower seines, but the department does not have information on salmon migration patterns by depth in this area.

BACKGROUND: Seine specification and operation of using purse seine gear that is between 100 and 250 fathoms and the use of leads that are 50 to 150 fathoms in length have been in regulation prior to 1985, except prior to 1992 leads were not required to be attached to the boat end of the purse seine and unlimited leads could be used in the Unimak District and Bear River Section of the Northern District. Use of purse seines that were up to 375 meshes deep have been in effect before 1985 (Figure 148-1).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

Table 148-1.–Summary of purse seine specifications for Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Chignik (outer districts), Kodiak, Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, and Southeastern Alaska Area.

Management Area	Min net length (fathoms)	Max net length (fathoms)	Depth (meshes)	Min lead length (fathoms)	Max lead length (fathoms)	Additional notes
Alaska Peninsula	100	250	375	50	150	Lead may not be attached to boat end.
Aleutian Islands	100	250		25	150	Depth not specified for purse seine.
Chignik (outer districts)	100	225	375		75	
Kodiak	100	250	325		100	Aggregate length of seine and lead may not exceed 250 fathoms.
Cook Inlet	90	250	335			Leads are not permitted.
Prince William Sound	125	225	335		75	Aggregate length of seine and lead may not exceed 225 fathoms.
Southeastern Alaska Area	150	250	450		75	A seine lead may not be permanently attached to a seine and may be operated only on the bunt end of a seine.

PROPOSAL 152 –5 AAC 09.332. Seine specifications and operations

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Intertribal Coalition.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would reduce the depth of commercial seine gear from 375 meshes to 325 meshes deep. This would reduce the maximum lead length by 50 fathoms so that a lead may be no more than 100 fathoms in length. This would reduce the maximum total aggregate length of seine and lead together by 150 fathoms so that a seine and lead aggregate may be no more than 250 fathoms in length. The proposal would also remove the part of the regulation that requires the lead to be attached to one end of a seine, and the lead may not be attached to the boat end of the seine.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? A purse seine may not be less than 100 fathoms nor more than 250 fathoms in length and may not exceed 375 meshes in depth. Leads may not be less than 50 fathoms nor more than 150 fathoms in length and only one lead may be used that is not attached to the boat end of the seine.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The department would continue to manage salmon fisheries in accordance with regulatory management plans and established escapement objectives. It is likely that commercial salmon harvest would be reduced by using shallower seines, but the department does not have information on salmon migration patterns by depth in this area.

BACKGROUND: Seine specification and operation of using purse seine gear that is between 100 and 250 fathoms in length and the use of a leads that are 50 to 150 fathoms in length have been in regulation prior to 1985, except prior to 1992 leads were not required to be attached to the boat end of the purse seine and unlimited leads could be used in the Unimak District and Bear River Section of the Northern District. Use of purse seines that were up to 375 meshes deep have been in effect before 1985 (Table 152-1).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

Table 152-1.–Summary of purse seine specifications for Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Chignik (outer districts), Kodiak, Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, and Southeastern Alaska Area.

Management Area	Min net length (fathoms)	Max net length (fathoms)	Depth (meshes)	Min lead length (fathoms)	Max lead length (fathoms)	Additional Notes
Alaska Peninsula	100	250	375	50	150	Lead may not be attached to boat end.
Aleutian Islands	100	250		25	150	Depth not specified for purse seine.
Chignik (outer districts)	100	225	375		75	
Kodiak	100	250	325		100	Aggregate length of seine and lead may not exceed 250 fathoms.
Cook Inlet	90	250	335			Leads are not permitted.
Prince William Sound	125	225	335		75	Aggregate length of seine and lead may not exceed 225 fathoms.
Southeastern Alaska Area	150	250	450		75	A seine lead may not be permanently attached to a seine and may be operated only on the bunt end of a seine.

COMMERCIAL HERRING (2 PROPOSALS)

PROPOSAL 154 –5 AAC 27.610. Fishing seasons and periods for Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area

PROPOSED BY: Taylor Lundgren.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would create a food and bait herring fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula from July 16 through September 15.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 27.610. (a) In the Sand Point, Pavlof, King Cove, Amak, Port Moller, and Port Heiden Districts, herring may be taken from April 15 through July 15 (sac roe season) only during fishing periods established by emergency order.

Lawful gear for the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutians Islands area may be taken only by purse seine and gillnets. A commercial herring permit holder must register with the department at least 48 hours before fishing. Each tender operator and buyer shall register with the department before commencing operations and must identify all vessels employed in transporting or processing herring. They must make daily reports of all herring purchased from fishers and submit fish tickets.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would increase commercial harvest of herring in the South Alaska Peninsula Area. (Figure 154-1). Harvest levels would be established by the department and commercial fishery openings could occur by emergency order between July 16 and September 15.

BACKGROUND: Food and bait herring harvests in the South Alaska Peninsula have only occurred in 1982, 1991, and 2024. The South Alaska Peninsula sac roe herring fishery began in 1979. From 1984 through 1991, the Board of Fisheries (board) allocated the herring harvest between the sac roe fishery (75% of the allowable harvest) and food and bait fishery (25% of the allowable harvest). In 1992, the board determined that all herring should be allocated to the sac roe fishery because: 1) food and bait harvests occurred in only 2 years; 2) the 1982 harvest severely depressed stocks in Stepovak Bay for several years; 3) the 1991 fishery harvested mostly young herring (87% age-4); 4) the origin of the harvested stocks is unknown; and, 5) budget constraints prevented biomass estimations.

The last sac roe harvest occurred in 1996. Fishing openings are contingent upon industry interest in harvesting herring from a specific area and ADF&G documentation of sufficient herring biomass. No more than a 25-ton harvest is allowed from any section in each district unless ADF&G documents a herring biomass that would support a larger harvest. Currently the department does not conduct herring specific aerial surveys or estimate herring biomass along the South Alaska Peninsula.

In 2023 and 2024, there was renewed interest in harvesting herring for food and bait. A commissioner's permit was issued in 2023 with guidelines to allow a limited harvest of herring. No herring were harvested in 2023, but the commissioner's permit was reissued in 2024 and approximately 100 tons were harvested from the Sand Point District (Figure 154-1).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department supports harvesting surplus herring when there is market interest, however the lack of herring stock assessment in this area warrants a precautionary approach. Given the lack of stock assessment information the department would manage this fishery with a

relatively small guideline harvest compared to other herring food and bait fisheries in the state, likely 100 tons per district as was used in recent experimental fisheries.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in and additional cost for the department.

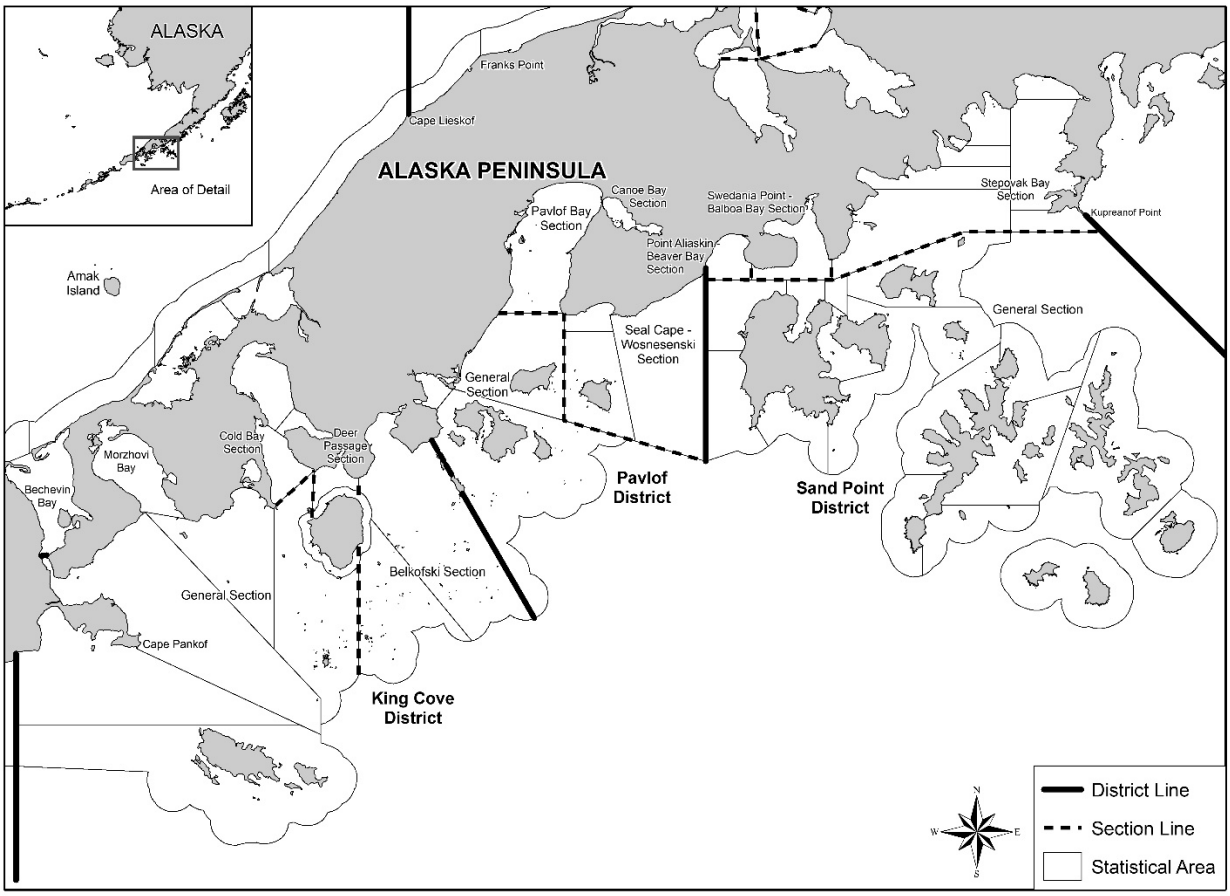

Figure 154-1.–Map of the South Alaska Peninsula, showing the King Cove, Pavlof, and Sand Point Districts.

PROPOSAL 188 – 5 AAC 27.865 Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Reallocate 15% of the unharvested Togiak sac roe herring guideline harvest level (GHL) to the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery if less than 90% of the Togiak sac roe GHL level is harvested by May 31.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Three management plans regulate the Dutch Harbor herring fishery: (1) the *Bering Sea Herring Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 27.060) mandates that if any of the southwest Alaska herring stocks between the Port Clarence and Togiak Districts are below their minimum threshold, the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery will be closed for the season; (2) the *Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan* (5 AAC 27.865) establishes a 7% allocation of the Togiak District's sac roe herring harvest to the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery; and (3) the *Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 27.655) which subtracts excess tonnage from the following year's allocation if the given year's fishery exceeds its current guide line harvest level (GHL). Togiak District herring fisheries are managed in accordance with the *Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan* (5 AAC 27.865), which specifies a maximum allowable exploitation rate of 20% and allocates the harvestable surplus among all the fisheries harvesting Togiak herring stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would increase the Dutch Harbor food and bait GHL during years when less than 90% of the Togiak sac roe herring GHL is harvested. For example, no Togiak sac roe herring was harvested in 2025, and as such, the 2025 Dutch Harbor food and bait GHL would have increased from 3,098 tons to 9,272 tons (Table 188-1) under this proposal. This will provide a greater harvest opportunity, increase the value of the fishery, and could attract additional markets and fishers into the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery.

BACKGROUND: The first documented herring fisheries in the Eastern Aleutian Islands occurred from 1929 through 1938 and again in 1945. From 1939 through 1944, and again in 1946 through 1980, no herring fisheries took place. Since 1981 the Eastern Aleutian Islands herring fishery, now known as the Aleutian Islands "Dutch Harbor" herring food and bait fisheries, has occurred annually. During the 1981 and 1982 seasons, there were no harvest restrictions.[1] From 1983 to 1985 the board implemented a harvest ceiling of 3,527 tons. In 1986, the harvest ceiling was reduced from 3,527 tons to 2,453 tons over concern for depressed Western Alaska herring stocks. In 1988, the board implemented the *Bering Sea Herring Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 27.060(c) and (d)) that established the criteria for calculating the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring allocation. The plan directs the department to manage the fishery so that the overall exploitation of a herring stock should not exceed 20% of the spawning biomass. The dominant stock harvested in the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery is from the Togiak spawning stock.[2]

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[1] Schwarz, L. 1988. Peninsula/Aleutians herring sac-roe fishery report to the Board of Fisheries. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Division, Regional Information Report 4K88-3, Kodiak

[2] Rowell, K. A., H. J. Geiger, and B. G. Bue. 1991. Stock Identification of Pacific herring in the eastern Bering Sea trawl bycatch and the Dutch Harbor directed food and bait fishery. Proc. Int. Herring Symposium. Alaska Sea Grant Report, No 91-01, 1991, pp 255–278

An allocation plan between the Togiak sac roe fishery and spawn on kelp fishery, and the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery was established to prevent harvest from exceeding 20% of spawning biomass estimates. The Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery was allocated 7% of Togiak District's harvestable biomass after deducting 1,500 tons for the Togiak District Spawn-on-kelp fishery (5 AAC 27.865 (b)(7)).

The commercial food and bait fishery for Pacific herring in the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Management Area (Registration Area M) can occur within the Unimak, Akutan, Unalaska, Umnak, and Adak Districts. The Dutch Harbor food and bait herring fishery takes place from noon June 24 until February 28.

Since 2011, the Dutch Harbor food and bait GHL has ranged from 1,606 tons in 2011 to 4,900 tons in 2022 and averaged 3,690 tons over the last five years (Table 188-2). The harvest ranged from 1,120 tons in 2024 to 3,152 tons in 2025 and averaged 2,147 tons over the last five years (Table 188-2). The 2025 GHL was 3,098 tons and 3,152 tons were harvested (Table 188-2). No sac roe herring have been harvested in the Togiak District since 2022 (Table 188-1). Over the past decade 69% of the GHL has been taken on average, annually (Table 188-2).

The Western Alaska herring biomass is comprised of multiple herring stocks, and the Togiak stock is by far the largest, making up approximately 77%[3] of the Western Alaska herring biomass. Herring spawn in nearshore areas in the spring, then migrate to overwintering areas on the outer eastern Bering Sea shelf, thus the spatial distributions of Western Alaska herring can vary substantially depending on environmentally driven changes to seasonal migration routes. Herring accessible to the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery are likely comprised of a combination of stocks, and the stock composition likely varies interannually; however, there are no data to inform annual proportions by stock.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **SUPPORTS** the concept of providing additional opportunity to harvest underutilized Togiak herring. This proposal would increase the overall harvest opportunity on Western Alaska herring stocks; however, because all Western Alaska herring stocks are poorly assessed and biomass estimates have substantial uncertainty, relative stock-specific conservation concerns associated with higher overall harvests are unknown. Because the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring GHL is based on the Togiak herring biomass, the most effective tool in conserving mixed stocks of herring harvested in Dutch Harbor, if conservation concerns arise, is reducing the Togiak herring exploitation rate.

The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

[3] S. Dressel letter to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for the purpose of establishing the 2017–2025 prohibited species catch limits per Amendment 16A of the Bering Sea/Aleutians Islands Groundfish FMP

Table 188-1.–Togiak District sac roe GHL and harvest (tons), Dutch Harbor food and bait GHL (7%) and proposed roll-over Togiak GHL (15%), 2011–2025.

Year	Togiak GHL	Harvest	Remaining GHL	% of GHL	Dutch FB GHL (7%)	Proposed Roll-over GHL (15%)	Total Dutch FB GHL
2011	24,805	22,877	1,928	92%	1,606	0	1,606
2012	21,622	17,021	4,601	79%	1,627	690	2,317
2013	30,056	27,610	2,446	92%	2,082	0	2,082
2014	27,890	25,560	2,330	92%	2,099	0	2,099
2015	29,012	21,396	7,616	74%	2,184	1,142	3,326
2016	28,782	14,879	13,903	52%	2,166	2,085	4,251
2017	22,943	17,129	5,814	75%	1,727	872	2,599
2018	24,042	16,383	7,659	68%	1,810	1,149	2,959
2019	26,930	22,746	4,184	84%	2,027	628	2,655
2020	38,749	*	*	*	2,917	*	*
2021	42,639	*	*	*	3,209	*	*
2022	65,107	*	*	*	4,900	*	*
2023	57,419	0	57,419	0%	4,322	8,613	12,935
2024	41,707	0	41,707	0%	2,920	6,256	9,176
2025	41,163	0	41,163	0%	3,098	6,174	9,272

Note: (*) = Confidential data

Table 188-2.–Dutch Harbor food and bait GHL and Harvest, (tons) 2011–2025.

Year	Number of Permits	GHL	Harvest	% of GHL
2011	*	1,606	*	*
2012	*	1,627	*	*
2013	3	2,082	1,764	85%
2014	3	2,099	1,645	78%
2015	3	2,184	1,972	90%
2016	*	2,166	*	*
2017	3	1,727	1,270	74%
2018	*	1,810	*	*
2019	4	2,027	1,805	89%
2020	*	2,917	*	*
2021	*	3,209	*	*
2022	4	4,900	2,170	44%
2023	*	4,322	*	*
2024	3	2,920	1,120	38%
2025	3	3,098	3,152	102%
10-year avg.	3	2,910	1,903	69%
5-year avg.	3	3,690	2,147	61%

Notes: (*) = Confidential data.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – GROUP 3: SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA SALMON (20 PROPOSALS)

SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA SALMON JUNE MANAGEMENT PLAN (11 PROPOSALS)

PROPOSAL 127 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Orutsararmiut Native Council.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would establish a 10 consecutive day commercial fishery closure between June 10 and June 23 for purse seine and drift gillnet gear.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 127-1). Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. Commercial fishing periods for set gillnet and drift gillnet gear begin at 6:00 a.m. on June 10, there are four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed by 32-hour closures with the final fishing period ending at 10:00 p.m. on June 28. The first commercial fishing period for purse seine gear begins at 5:59 a.m. on June 10 and closes after 68 hours at 1:59 a.m.; the second commercial fishing period begins 76 hours later at 5:59 a.m., then closes after 66 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the third fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 a.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the final fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 p.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m. (Figure 127-2).

If the chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 300,000 fish by June 18, commercial fishing time is reduced in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries by 44 hours during each of the remaining fishing periods in June for purse seine gear. If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 450,000 fish by June 23, then commercial salmon fishing will close for the remainder of June for purse seine gear.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? There are currently 3 commercial fishing periods between June 10 to June 23 for a total of 222 hours for purse seine and 264 hours for drift gillnet. Adoption of this proposal would reduce commercial fishing periods for purse seine gear between 132 and 154 hours, depending on which day the 10-day closure begins within the June 10 to June 23 period. Drift gillnet gear fishing periods would be reduced by 176 hours no matter the start date of the 10-day closure. Reducing fishing periods between June 10 and June 23 could result in forgone harvest by purse seine gear on average of approximately 714,801 salmon, comprising 977 king, 415,661 sockeye, 110 coho, 156,334 pink, and 141,719 chum salmon (Table 127-1). Reducing fishing periods between June 10 and June 23 could result in forgone harvest by drift gillnet gear on average of approximately 273,845 salmon, comprising 128 king, 215,684 sockeye, 5 coho, 2,613 pink, and 55,414 chum salmon (Table 127-2). This would significantly decrease the likelihood chum salmon harvest triggers would be reached.

BACKGROUND: As far back as the early 1920s, managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be harvested in fisheries along the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska. Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of the known mixed stock nature of Alaska Peninsula fisheries, management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

In 2001, management of this area included concurrent fishing times for all gear types. In February 2004, the board established a commercial salmon fishery schedule that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period lasting 64 hours in duration. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings, changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. The current schedule, described above, has been in effect since 2023. The majority of the changes were made to the purse seine gear schedule and established chum salmon "triggers" that would reduce the final two fishing periods by 44 hours if the triggers are met by June 18 or eliminate the final fishing period if the triggers are met by June 23 for purse seine gear only. The Sanak Island Section was also closed to all gear types during the month of June.

In response to subsistence fishing closures in western Alaska, the department initiated a genetic study of chum salmon harvested in the South Alaska Peninsula in 2022. Detailed results from that study are available in a separate report (Dann et al. 2023). The June 2022 fishery was sampled for chum salmon harvest in two area strata including the Southeastern and South Central Districts and the Unimak and Southwestern Districts. The Southeastern and South Central Districts area stratum included four temporal June strata for the seine fishery and one temporal June stratum for the gillnet fishery. The Unimak and Southwestern Districts area stratum included four temporal June strata for the seine fishery and four temporal June strata for the gillnet fishery. Sample goals were achieved in 12 of the 13 strata and sufficient samples were available for mixed stock analysis (MSA) in 13 strata.

The total 2022 June fishery harvest across all districts, gear types, and strata was considerably larger than July and August harvests, with a total June harvest of 544,064 chum salmon. The Asia group (58.0%) contributed the largest proportion of the harvest in June with an estimated 315,162 fish. The Central Western Alaska (CWAK) group (17.7%) had the second largest contribution with an estimated 96,116 fish and the East of Kodiak group (13.4%) contributed an estimated 72,712 fish. Harvests from other reporting groups were relatively small. The total 2023 June fishery harvest across all districts, gear types, and strata was considerably smaller than July and August harvests, with a total June harvest of 206,037 chum salmon. The Asia group (39.5%) contributed the largest proportion of harvest in June with an estimated 81,411 fish. The CWAK group (28.4%) had the second largest contribution with an estimated 58,497 fish and the East of Kodiak group (19.9%) with an estimated 41,448 fish.

From 2023 through 2025, the seine fleet and processors attempted to curtail their overall harvest of chum salmon through continuous communication that enabled the fleet to relay catch information to one another in real time. The fleet communicated daily with the department on a regular basis to inform them of seine fleet closures. Except for the 50% reduction of the fishing periods that were implemented in 2023 and 2024 to conserve Chignik River early run sockeye salmon, all other reductions in fishing time within the regulatory fishing periods were voluntarily instituted by the fleet. There were two forms of closures: mandatory closures for either the Shumagin Islands Section and/or the entire South Unimak area, which encompasses waters within the Southwestern and Unimak Districts and area-specific standdowns by the fleet. It is the department's understanding that the mandatory closures were enacted to reduce the fleet's overall harvest of chum salmon and to stay below the triggers that would reduce fishing in all areas by 50% for seine gear if the first trigger was met on June 18, and close the South Alaska Peninsula for seine gear if the second trigger was met on June 23. The area-specific standdowns was a method that the fleet used to react quickly when a high abundance of chum salmon was in the area and attempt to keep harvest of sockeye to chum above the 2:1 ratio.

Updated genetic stock composition of chum salmon are available in Dann et al. (2025). The regulatory history of the June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: In 2023, the board made numerous changes to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to conserve CWAK chum salmon. These changes, when combined with fishing industry-lead efforts to reduce CWAK chum salmon intercept, have been effective in reducing CWAK chum salmon harvest in the June fishery. The department believes the current management plan and industry-lead conservation efforts are effective tools to conserve CWAK chum salmon while providing harvest opportunity on salmon stocks with identified harvestable surplus. Prolonged or extensive closures that significantly reduce available fishing time can discourage the fleet from adopting proactive, industry-led measures, such as test fishing to assess chum salmon abundance or implementing voluntary closures in high-abundance chum salmon areas.

The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

References:

Dann, T. H., J. L. Estrada, M. L. Wattum, M. E. Loewen, and M. B. Foster. 2025. Genetic stock composition of chum salmon harvested in commercial salmon fisheries of the South Alaska Peninsula, 2022–2024. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Data Series No. 25-63, Anchorage. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FDS25-63.pdf

Dann, T. H., H. A. Hoyt, E. M. Lee, E. K. C. Fox, and M. B. Foster. 2023. Genetic stock composition of chum salmon harvested in commercial salmon fisheries of the South Alaska Peninsula, 2022. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 23-07, Anchorage. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/SP23-07.pdf

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

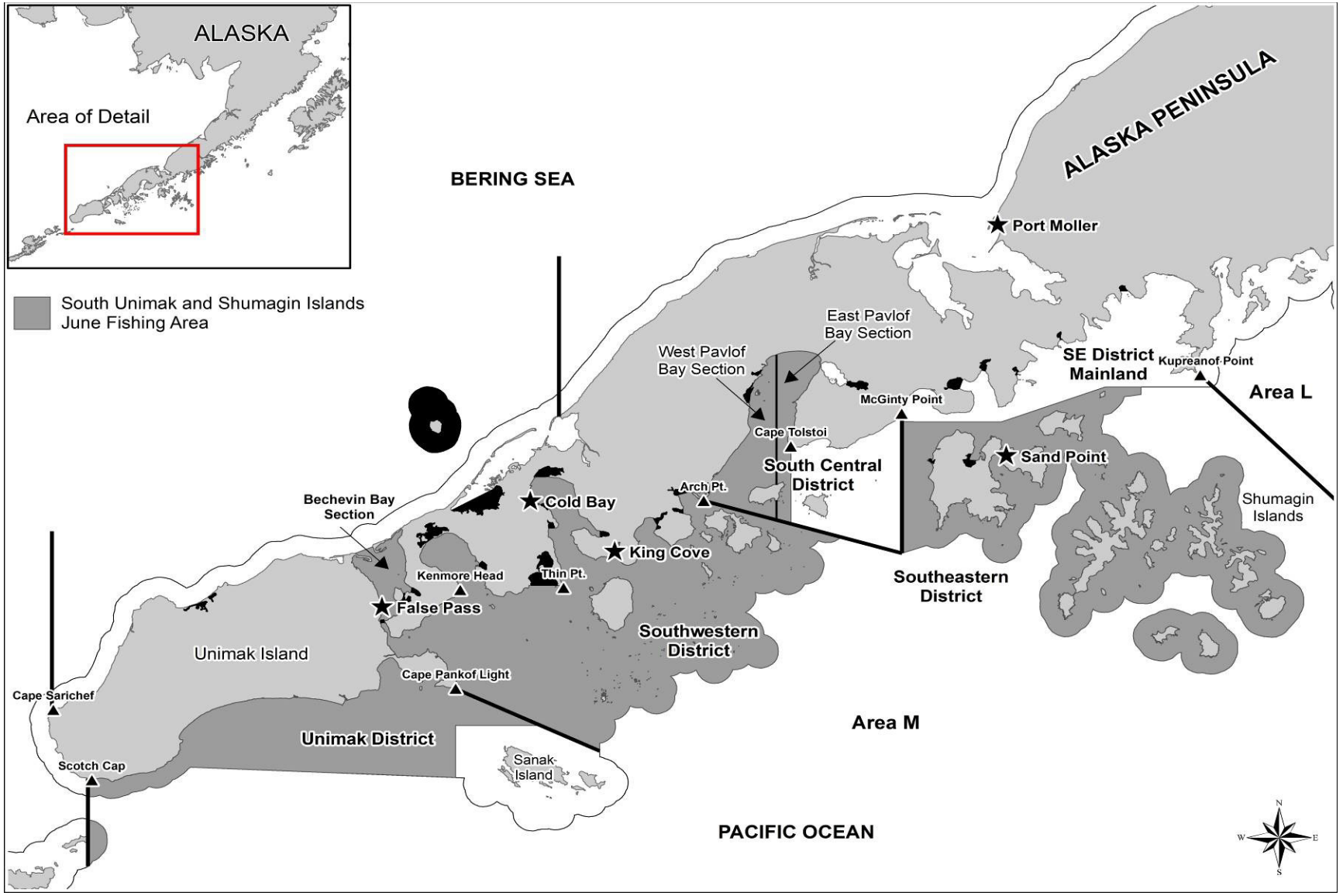

Figure 127-1.–Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas currently allowed for drift gillnet and seine gear.

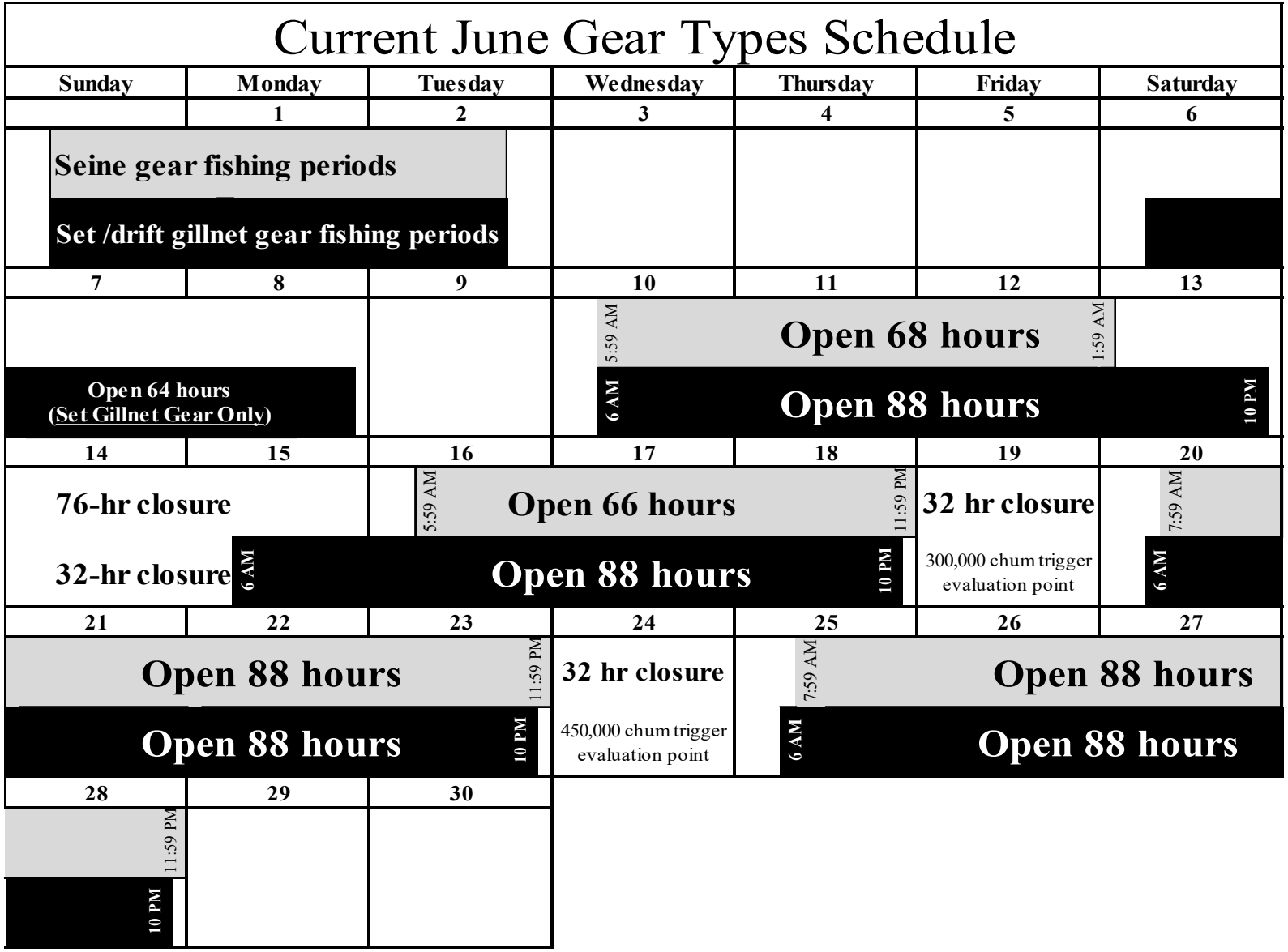

Figure 127-2.–Current fishing periods for each gear type for the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

Table 127-1.–South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June purse seine average commercial harvest from 2023 to 2025 by day and by species.

	2023–2025 Average number of salmon					
Date	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
6-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
7-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
8-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
9-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
10-Jun	0	0	0	0	0	0
11-Jun	76	29,265	1	9,077	10,550	48,969
12-Jun	53	20,272	6	6,103	6,627	33,061
13-Jun	14	6,996	0	1,042	2,383	10,435
14-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
15-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
16-Jun	166	92,053	2	17,989	23,497	133,707
17-Jun	107	36,964	1	16,429	10,102	63,603
18-Jun	122	35,844	18	18,227	11,354	65,565
19-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
20-Jun	103	87,482	71	35,751	32,168	155,575
21-Jun	81	30,403	2	12,530	10,818	53,834
22-Jun	188	48,860	9	27,783	21,839	98,679
23-Jun	67	27,522	0	11,403	12,381	51,373
24-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
25-Jun	95	37,753	30	12,994	27,592	78,464
26-Jun	62	35,854	25	5,872	10,551	52,364
27-Jun	134	25,052	45	15,115	15,393	55,739
28-Jun	54	17,620	13	15,311	12,029	45,027
29-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
30-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
Subtotal						
10-Jun–13-Jun	143	56,533	7	16,222	19,560	92,465
16-Jun–18-Jun	395	164,861	21	52,645	44,953	262,875
20-Jun–23-Jun	439	194,267	82	87,467	77,206	359,461
Total 10-Jun–23 Jun	977	415,661	110	156,334	141,719	714,801
Total						
25-Jun–28-Jun	345	116,279	113	49,292	65,565	231,594
Grand total of						
2023–2025 daily averages	1,322	531,940	223	205,626	207,284	946,395

[a] Closed fishing periods.

Table 127-2.–South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June drift gillnet average commercial harvest from 2023 to 2025 by day and by species.

	2023–2025 Average number of salmon					
Date	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
6-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
7-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
8-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
9-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
10-Jun	0	0	0	0	0	0
11-Jun	15	15,794	2	309	5,406	21,526
12-Jun	16	15,126	0	240	7,481	22,863
13-Jun	15	22,093	0	230	5,740	28,078
14-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
15-Jun	21	38,231	0	350	11,759	50,361
16-Jun	17	16,967	1	162	4,792	21,939
17-Jun	7	31,662	0	431	5,005	37,105
18-Jun	8	18,009	0	290	4,834	23,141
19-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
20-Jun	8	13,605	2	173	2,354	16,142
21-Jun	5	16,343	0	213	2,579	19,140
22-Jun	12	14,645	0	149	3,022	17,828
23-Jun	5	13,209	0	66	2,442	15,722
24-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
25-Jun	5	3,680	3	100	731	4,519
26-Jun	4	5,386	0	233	530	6,153
27-Jun	3	7,692	0	2	862	8,559
28-Jun	3	3,906	4	25	564	4,502
29-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
30-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
Subtotal						
10-Jun–13-Jun	47	53,013	2	779	18,627	72,467
15-Jun–18-Jun	53	104,869	1	1,233	26,390	132,546
20-Jun–23-Jun	29	57,802	2	601	10,397	68,832
Total 10-Jun–23-Jun	128	215,684	5	2,613	55,414	273,845
Total						
25-Jun–28-Jun	15	20,664	7	360	2,687	23,733
Grand total of						
2023–2025 daily averages	143	236,348	12	2,973	58,101	297,578

[a] Closed fishing periods.

PROPOSAL 133 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would amend the language in 5 AAC 09.365(a) to address king and pink salmon in addition to sockeye and chum salmon, and additional areas that these species, which are harvested during the South Alaska Peninsula June fisheries, are bound for. This proposal would also amend the commercial fishing periods for purse seine and drift gillnet gear in the South Unimak fishery and only purse seine gear in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 133-1). Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. Beginning at 6:00 a.m. on June 10 there are four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed by 32-hour closures with the final fishing period ending at 10:00 p.m. on June 28. The first commercial fishing period for purse seine gear begins at 5:59 a.m. on June 10 and closes after 68 hours at 1:59 a.m.; the second commercial fishing period begins 76 hours later at 5:59 a.m., then closes after 66 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the third fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 a.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the final fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 p.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m. (Figure 133-2).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Current commercial fishing periods would remain unchanged for set gillnet gear in the South Unimak and the Shumagin Islands June fishery (Figure 133-2). Commercial fishers using purse seine and drift gillnet gear in the South Unimak June fishery would have three 66-hour fishing periods interspersed by 78-hour closures beginning at 5:59 a.m. on June 10 and one 42-hour fishing period from 5:59 a.m. on June 28 until 11:59 p.m. on June 29 (Figure 133-3). Total proposed fishing time for drift gillnet and purse seine gear during the South Unimak June fishery would be reduced to 240 hours compared to the current 352 hours and 310 hours permitted respectively. Commercial fishers using purse seine gear in the Shumagin Islands June fishery would have three 66-hour fishing periods interspersed by 78-hour closures beginning at 5:59 a.m. on June 10 and ending at 11:59 p.m. on June 24 (Figure 133-4). Purse seine gear total proposed fishing time during the Shumagin Islands June fishery would be reduced to 198 hours compared to the current 310 hours permitted. The reduced commercial fishing time would likely result in reduced harvest of all salmon during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery.

BACKGROUND: As far back as the early 1920s managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating back to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be harvested in fisheries along the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska.

Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of known mixed stock nature of Alaska Peninsula fisheries, management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the board that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period 64 hours in duration. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings, changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. The current schedule has been in effect since 2023. Majority of the changes were made to purse seine gear schedule and establishing chum salmon "triggers" that would reduce the final two fishing periods by 44 hours if met by June 18 or eliminate the final fishing period if met by June 23 for purse seine gear only. The Sanak Island Section was also closed to all gear types during the month of June.

Since 2018, the department has implemented management actions outside of regulation in the South Alaska Peninsula of Area M to try to reduce harvest of Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon (Table 133-1). In April of 2022, the Chignik early-run sockeye salmon was designated as a stock of management concern by the board out of cycle during the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Westward, Arctic Shellfish, Shellfish General Provisions, and Prince William Sound meeting. After the designation of the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon stock of management concern, an agreement was signed by the Chignik Intertribal Coalition and Area M Seiners Association that would represent the framework regarding how the department would manage the June fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section to conserve Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon in 2022.

During the February 2023 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Island and Chignik finfish meeting, three management action plans were presented to the board and Action #1 was selected by the board. Within Action Plan #1, the South Alaska Peninsula would be managed based on the agreement that was summarized in RC104 from the April 2022 board meeting and states:

> Based on early run sockeye salmon escapement at the Chignik weir, fishing time for purse seine gear, during the second fishing period, under the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan would be reduced by 50%, in the Shumagin Islands Section, in order to achieve the lower bound of the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal. Fishing time for purse seine gear under the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan would continue being reduced during subsequent fishing periods to meet the lower bound of the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon escapement goal. If the lower bound of the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal is projected to be met restrictions in the South Alaska Peninsula fishery would be lifted and commercial salmon fishing periods in the Chignik Management Area may be warranted.
>
> If the lower bound of the Chignik River sockeye salmon run escapement goal is not projected to be met by July 1, a mixture of restrictions, including a 50% reduction in fishing time for purse seine gear during the first commercial salmon fishing period in July in the Shumagin Islands Section, would be applied to fishing opportunity in

the South Alaska Peninsula Area under the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula and in the Chignik Management Area.

Reductions in fishing periods in the Shumagin Islands for purse seine gear occurred in 2022, 2023 and 2024, but not in 2025. In 2022 and 2024, fishing periods were reduced by 50% during second, third, and fourth fishing periods in the Shumagin Islands Section during June. In 2023, only the second and third fishing periods were reduced by 50% in the Shumagin Islands Section (Table 133-1).

The regulatory history of the June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: In 2023, the board made numerous changes to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to conserve CWAK chum salmon. These changes, when combined with fishing industry-lead efforts to reduce CWAK chum salmon intercept, have been effective in reducing CWAK chum salmon harvest in the June fishery. The department believes the current management plan and industry-lead conservation efforts are effective tools to conserve CWAK chum salmon while providing harvest opportunity on salmon stocks with identified harvestable surplus.

The department supports actions to conserve salmon stocks of concern that are migrating through the area. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

Reference:

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

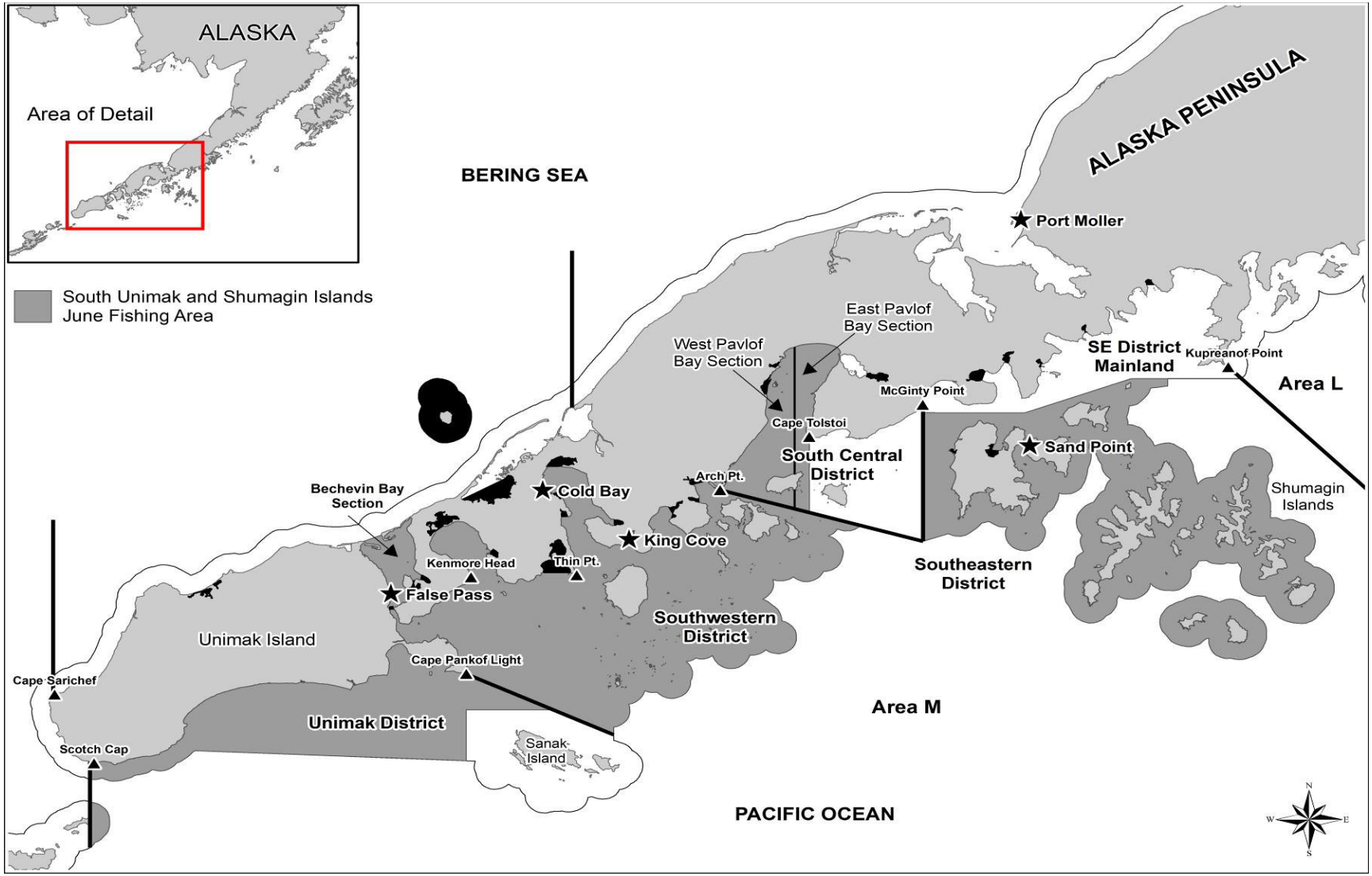

Figure 133-1.–Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas currently allowed for set and drift gillnet and seine gear.

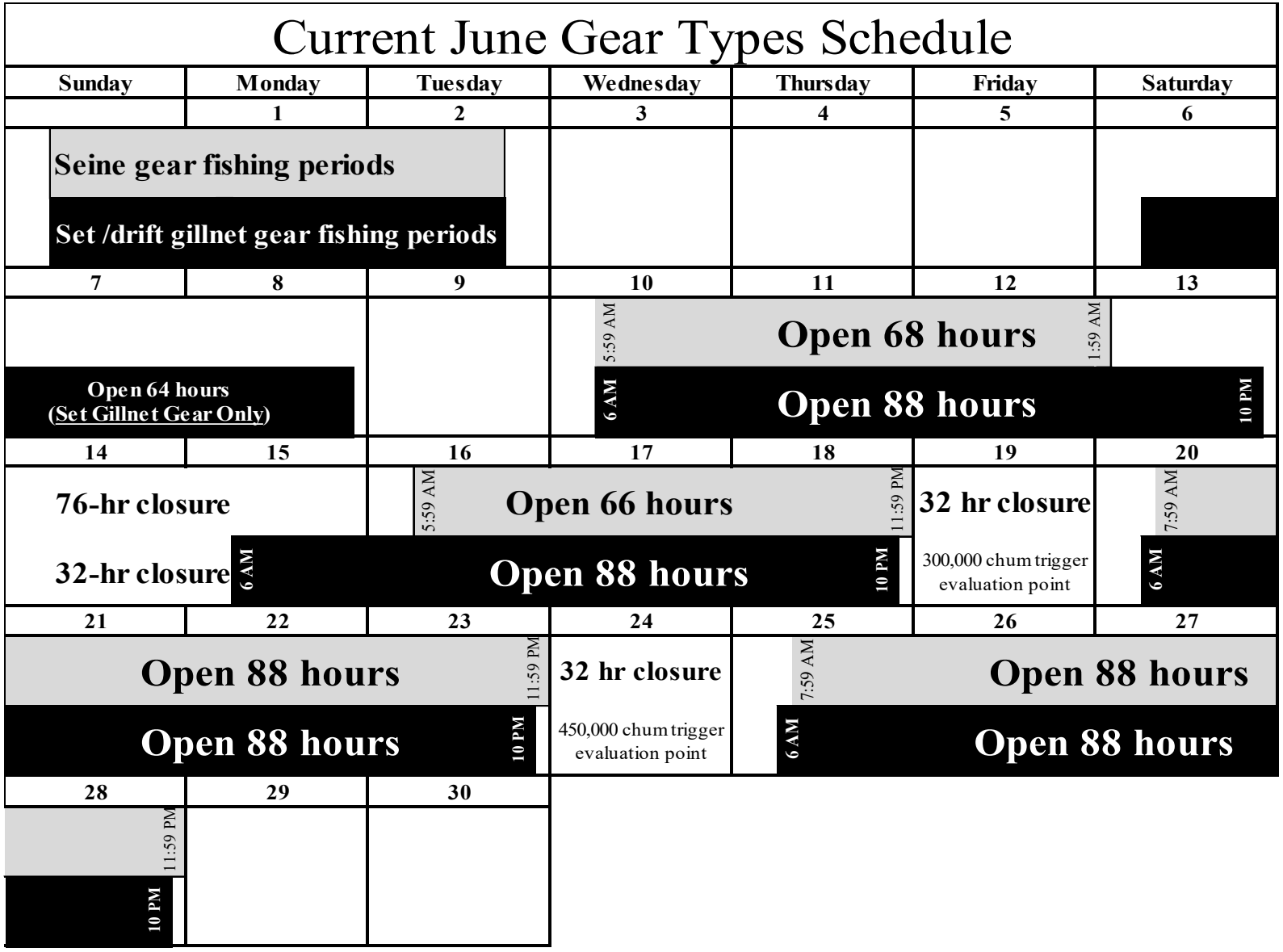

Figure 133-2.–Current fishing periods for all gear in the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

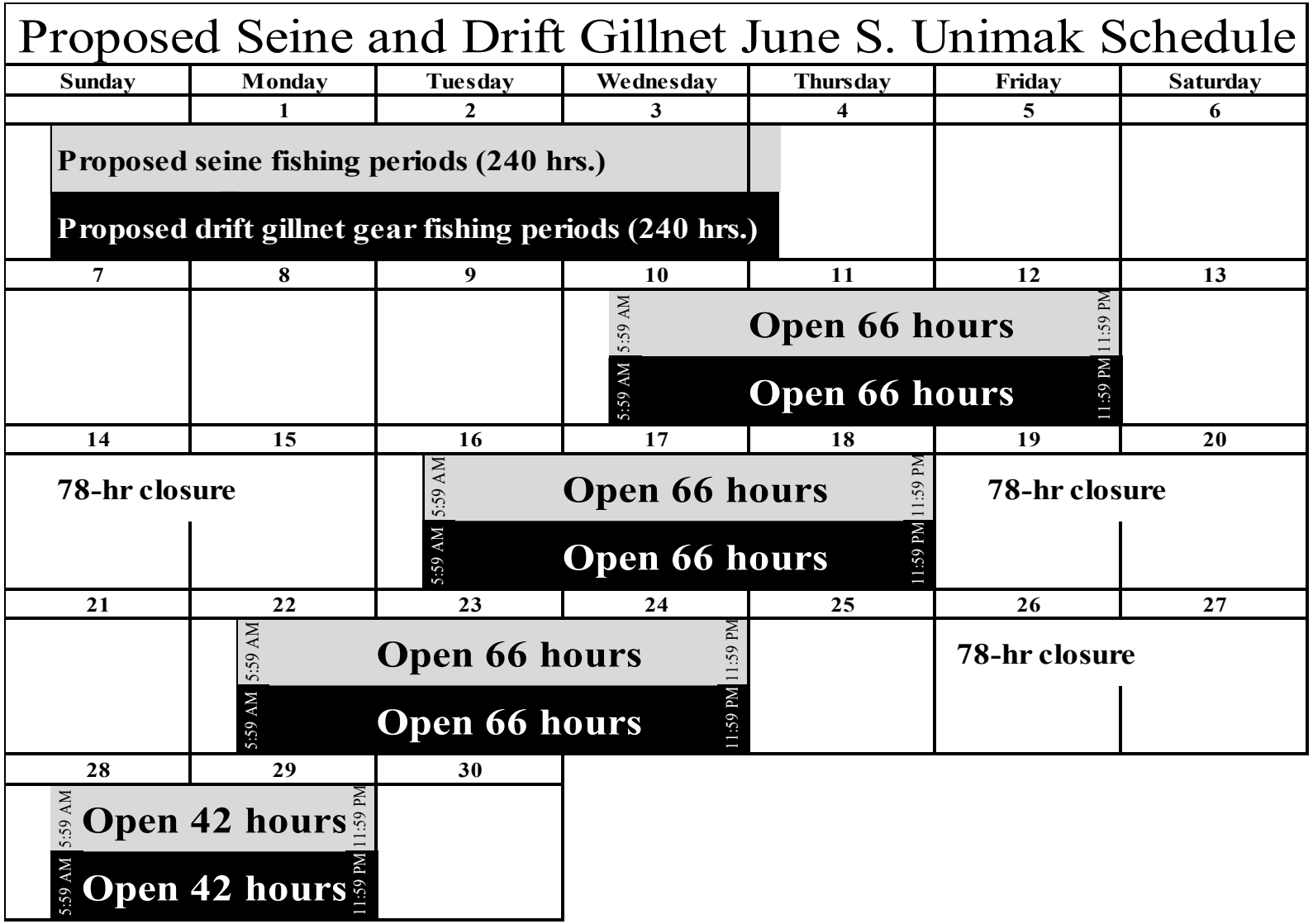

Figure 133-3.–Proposal 133 Drift gillnet and purse seine gear fishing schedule during South Unimak June fishery.

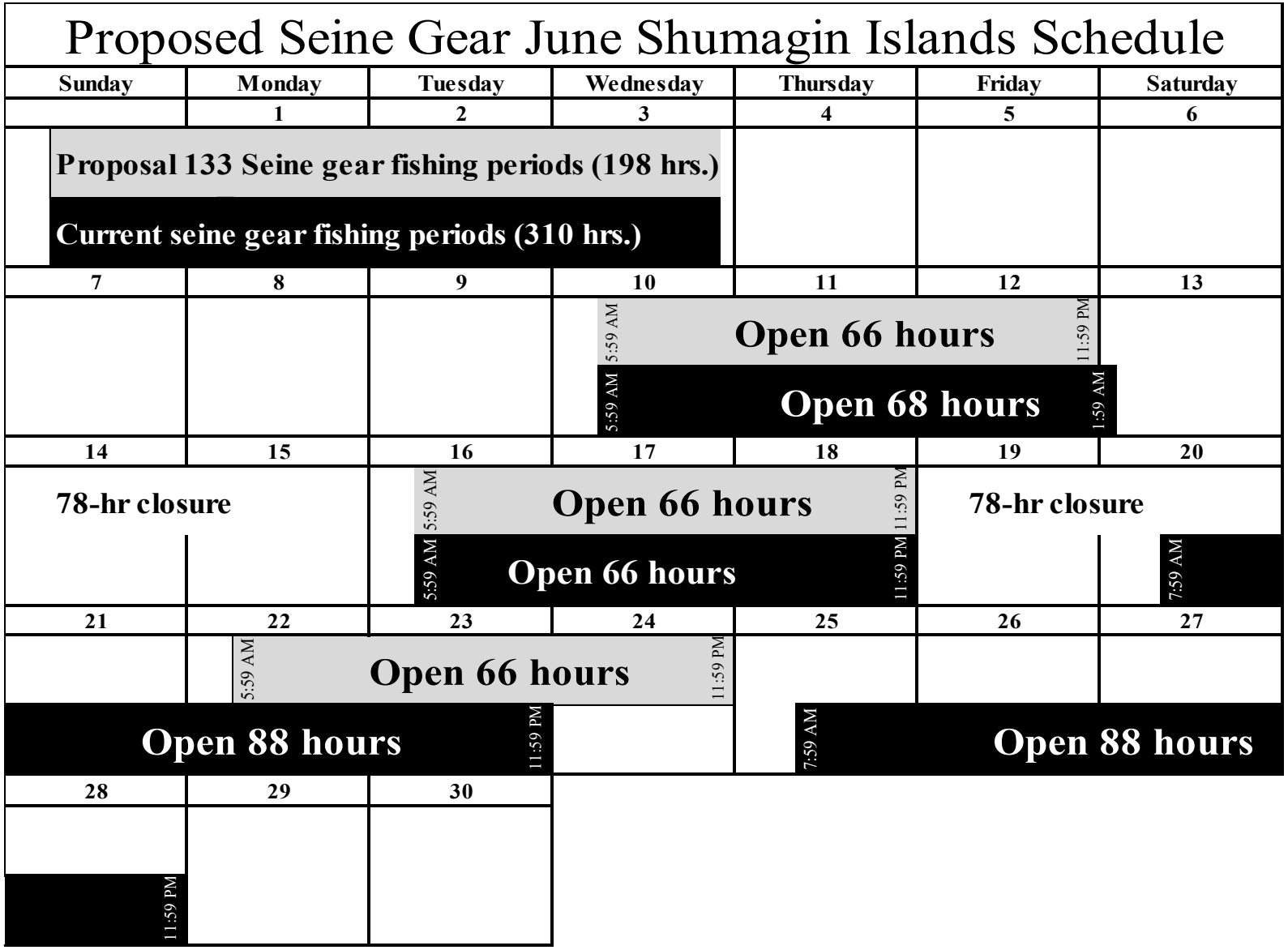

Figure 133-4.–Proposal 133 purse seine gear fishing schedule during Shumagin Islands June fishery.

Table 133-1.–Commercial fishery management actions in the South Alaska Peninsula 2018–2025.

Year	Action taken
2018	Reduce commercial fishing periods for all gear types throughout the entire South Alaska Peninsula during fishing periods that began on June 22 and June 27.
2019	Seine gear removed from "Dolgoi Island area" in regulation at BOF meeting. Fishery windows aligned for all gear types.
2020	Closed "Dolgoi area" on June 13. Reduced fishing time in Shumagin Island Section of the Southeastern District to 40 hours for all gear types on June 20 and June 25.
2021	No actions taken.
2022	Reduced fishing time in the Shumagin Island Section of the Southeastern District to 40 hours for purse seine gear only on June 15, June 20, and June 25.
2023	Regulatory change at to purse seine gear scheduled fishing periods and adoption of management action plan that follows RC104 agreement at February 2023 BOF meeting. Reduce fishing time by 50% in the Shumagin Islands Section for purse seine gear only on June 16 and June 20.
2024	Reduce fishing time by 50% in the Shumagin Islands Section for purse seine gear only on June 16, June 20, and June 25.
2025	No actions taken.

PROPOSAL 131 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (BSFA).

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would establish a closed commercial fishing period from June 12 through June 23 inclusively for all gear types. However, the proponent recommends that commercial set gillnet gear could be managed as they are under the current *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.* The proponent implies that reduced commercial fishing periods or closure of fishing periods would no longer be needed in this management plan.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District. Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. Commercial fishing periods for set gillnet and drift gillnet gear begin at 6:00 a.m. on June 10, there are four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed by 32-hour closures with the final fishing period ending at 10:00 p.m. on June 28. The first commercial fishing period for purse seine gear begins at 5:59 a.m. on June 10 and closes after 68 hours at 1:59 a.m.; the second commercial fishing period begins 76 hours later at 5:59 a.m., then closes after 66 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the third fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 a.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the final fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 p.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m. (Figure 131-1).

If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 300,000 fish by June 18, the commercial fishing time is reduced in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries by 44 hours during each of the remaining fishing periods in June for purse seine gear. If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 450,000 fish by June 23, then commercial salmon fishing will close for the remainder of June for purse seine gear.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Current fishing periods would remain unchanged for commercial set gillnet gear during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery. The first commercial fishing period for purse seine and drift gillnet gear will be reduced to 54 hours, a loss of 14 hours for purse seine and a loss of 34 hours for drift gillnet gear (Figure 131-2 and 131-3). Commercial salmon fishing for purse seine and drift gillnet gear from June 12 through June 23 would be closed; however, the proponent does not address the duration or when fishing period(s) would begin or end after June 23. The department assumes that the final fishing period would be unchanged and would begin on June 25 for 88 hours (Figure 131-2 and 131-3). Based on the information provided by the proponent and if the final fishing period remained unchanged for both gear types, fishers using purse seine gear would lose a total of 168 hours of fishing time and fishers using drift gillnet gear would lose a total of 210 hours of fishing time. The reduced fishing time would likely result in reduced harvest of all salmon during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June commercial fishery.

BACKGROUND: As far back as the early 1920s managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area

commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating back to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be harvested in fisheries along the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska. Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of known mixed stock nature of Alaska Peninsula fisheries, management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the board that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period 64 hours in duration. The management established by the board in 2001 included concurrent fishing times for all gear types. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings, changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. The current schedule has been in effect since 2023. Majority of the changes were made to purse seine gear schedule and establishing chum salmon "triggers" that would reduce the final 2 fishing periods by 44 hours if met by June 18 or eliminate the final fishing period if met by June 23 for purse seine gear only. The Sanak Island Section was also closed to all gear types during the month of June.

In response to subsistence fishing closures in western Alaska, the department initiated in 2022 a genetic study of chum salmon harvested in the South Alaska Peninsula. Detailed results from that study are available in a separate report (Dann et al. 2023). The June 2022 fishery was sampled for chum salmon harvest in 2 area strata including the Southeastern and South Central Districts and the Unimak and Southwestern Districts. The Southeastern and South Central Districts area stratum included four temporal June strata for the seine fishery and one temporal June stratum for the gillnet fishery. The Unimak and Southwestern Districts area stratum included four temporal June strata for the seine fishery and four temporal June strata for the gillnet fishery. Sample goals were achieved in 12 of the 13 strata and sufficient samples were available for mixed stock analysis (MSA) in 13 strata.

The total 2022 June fishery harvest across all districts, gear types, and strata was considerably larger than July and August harvests, with a total June harvest of 544,064 chum salmon. The Asia group (58.0%) contributed the largest proportion of the harvest in June with an estimated 315,162 fish. The CWAK group (17.7%) had the second largest contribution with an estimated 96,116 fish and the East of Kodiak group (13.4%) contributed an estimated 72,712 fish. Harvests from other reporting groups were relatively small. The total 2023 June fishery harvest across all districts, gear types, and strata was considerably smaller than July and August harvests, with a total June harvest of 206,037 chum salmon. The Asia group (39.5%) contributed the largest proportion of harvest in June with an estimated 81,411 fish. The CWAK group (28.4%) had the second largest contribution with an estimated 58,497 fish and the East of Kodiak group (19.9%) with an estimated 41,448 fish.

In 2023 through 2025, the seine fleet and processors attempted to curtail their overall harvest of chum salmon through continuous communication that enabled the fleet to relay catch information to one another in real time. The fleet communicated daily with the department on a regular basis to inform them of seine fleet closures. Except for the 50% reduction of the fishing periods that

were implemented in 2023 and 2024 to conserve Chignik River early run sockeye salmon, all other reductions in fishing time within the regulatory fishing periods were voluntarily instituted by the fleet. There were two forms of closures; there were mandatory closures for either the Shumagin Islands Section and/or the entire South Unimak area, which encompasses waters within the Southwestern and Unimak Districts, and there was area specific standdowns by the fleet. It is the department's understanding that the mandatory closures were enacted to reduce the fleet's overall harvest of chum salmon and to stay below the triggers that would reduce fishing in all areas by 50% for seine gear if the first trigger was met on June 18, and close the South Alaska Peninsula for seine gear if the second trigger was met on June 23. The area specific standdowns, was a method that the fleet used to react quickly when a high abundance of chum salmon was in the area and attempted to keep harvest of sockeye to chum above the 2:1 ratio.

The regulatory history of the June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: In 2023, the board made numerous changes to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to conserve CWAK chum salmon. These changes, when combined with fishing industry-lead efforts to reduce CWAK chum salmon intercept, have been effective in reducing CWAK chum salmon harvest in the June fishery. The department believes the current management plan and industry-lead conservation efforts are effective tools to conserve CWAK chum salmon while providing harvest opportunity on salmon stocks with identified harvestable surplus.

The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

References:

Dann, T. H., H. A. Hoyt, E. M. Lee, E. K. C. Fox, and M. B. Foster. 2023. Genetic stock composition of chum salmon harvested in commercial salmon fisheries of the South Alaska Peninsula, 2022. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 23-07, Anchorage. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/SP23-07.pdf

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

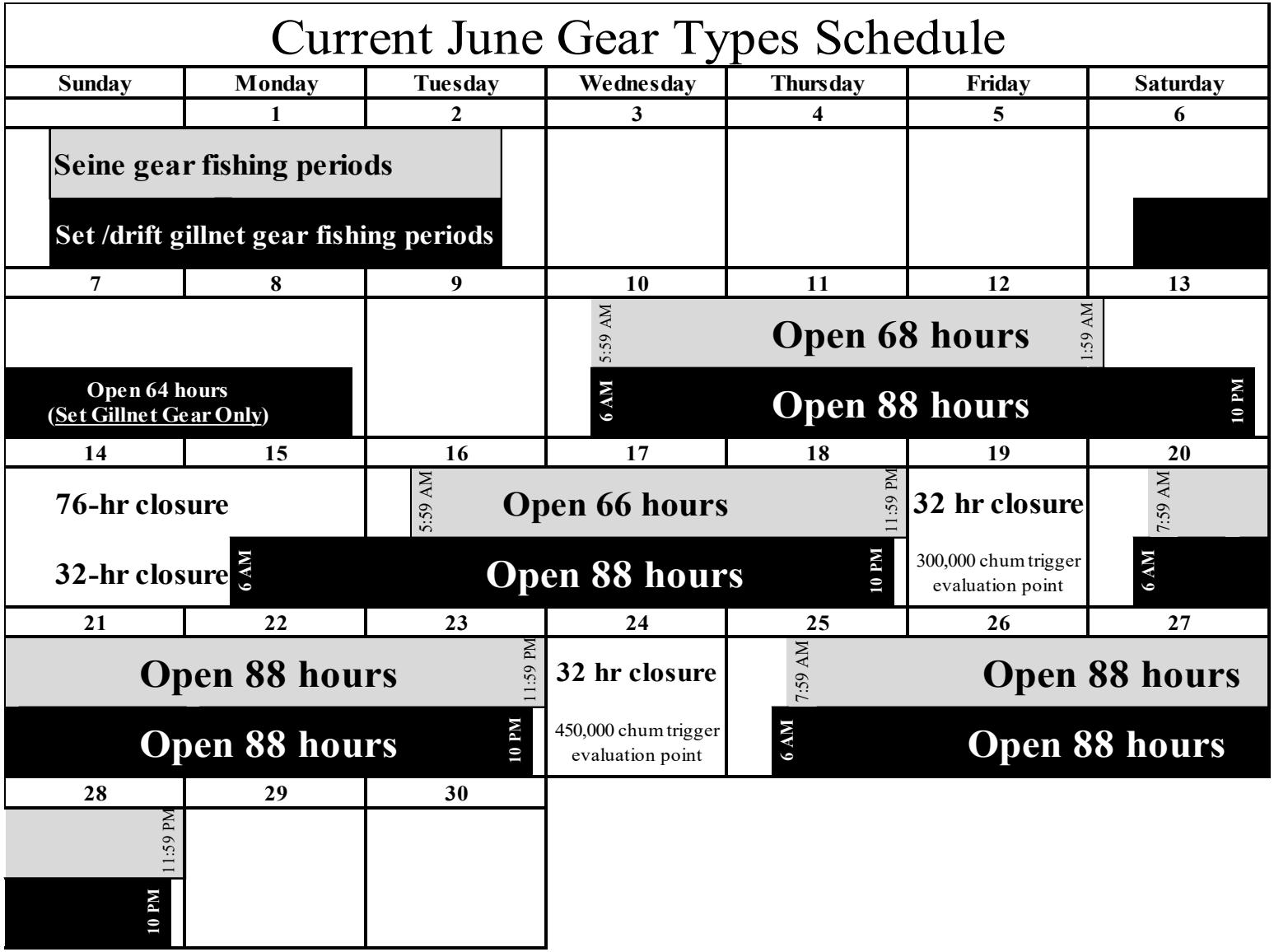

Figure 131-1.–Current fishing periods for all gear in the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

Figure 131-2.–Proposal 131 fishing periods for drift gillnet gear in the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

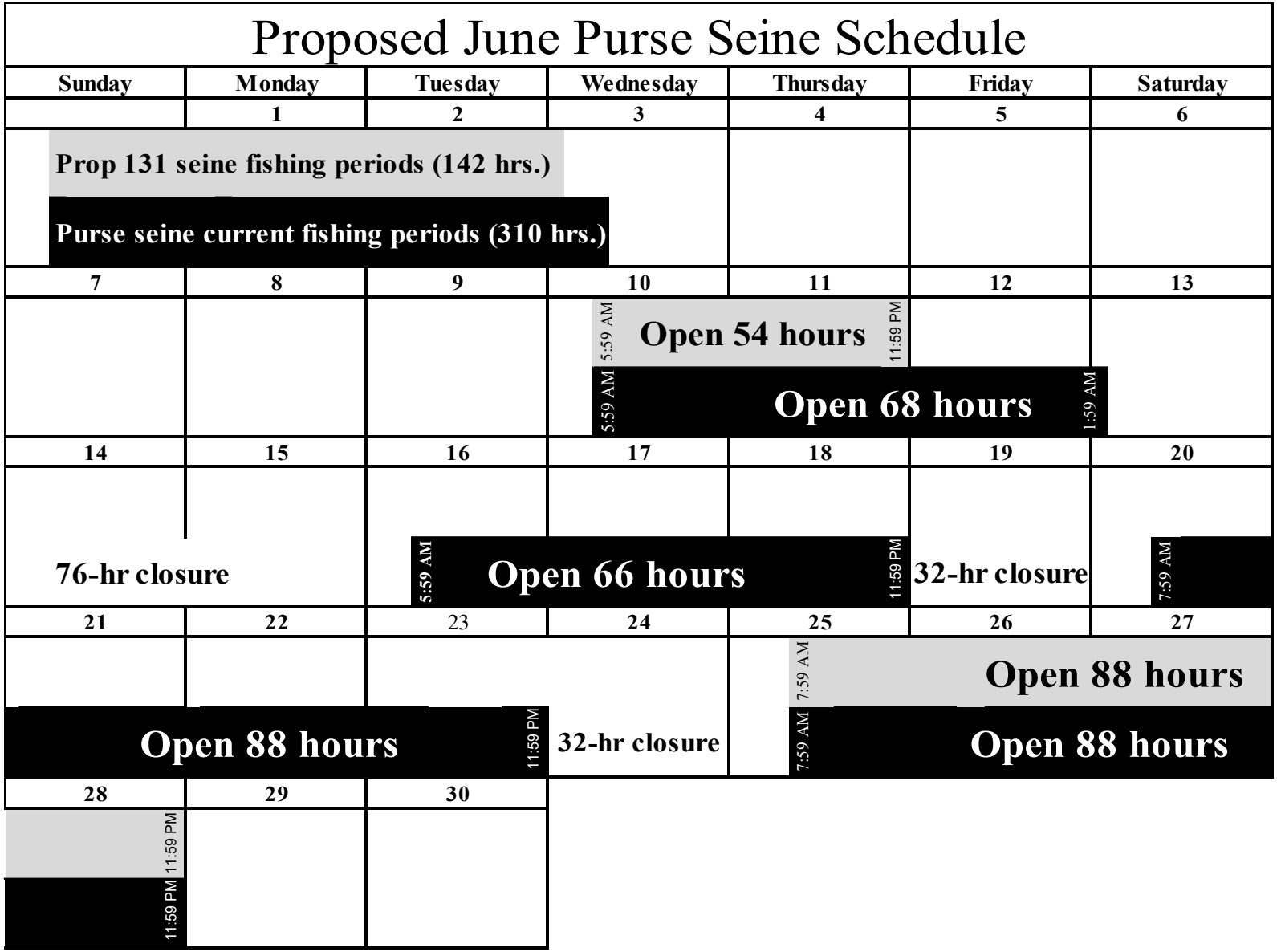

Figure 131-3.–Proposal 131 fishing periods for purse seine gear in the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

PROPOSAL 132 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee; Jeff Lucas, Chair.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would reduce commercial fishing time for all gear types, though at varying lengths depending on the gear type, and increase the closed commercial fishing period for both purse seine and drift gillnet gear between the second and third fishing periods and eliminate the chum harvest triggers.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.332, purse seine or hand purse seine may not be less than 100 fathoms nor more than 250 fathoms in length. Purse seine or hand purse may not exceed 375 meshes in depth. Seine mesh may not be more than three and one-half inches, except that the first 25 meshes above the leadline may not be more than seven inches. Leads may not be less than 50 fathoms nor more than 150 fathoms in length.

The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 132-1). Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. Commercial fishing periods for set gillnet and drift gillnet gear begin at 6:00 a.m. on June 10, there are four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed by 32-hour closures with the final fishing period ending at 10:00 p.m. on June 28. The first commercial fishing period for purse seine gear begins at 5:59 a.m. on June 10 and closes after 68 hours at 1:59 a.m.; the second commercial fishing period begins 76 hours later at 5:59 a.m., then closes after 66 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the third fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 a.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the final fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 p.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m. (Figure 132-2).

If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 300,000 fish by June 18, the commercial fishing time is reduced in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries by 44 hours during each of the remaining fishing periods in June for purse seine gear. If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 450,000 fish by June 23, then commercial salmon fishing will close for the remainder of June for purse seine gear.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Interpretation of the proposed fishing periods is difficult as dates and times for several fishing periods and closed fishing periods did not align or overlap, and there was an instance of two fishing periods for the same gear groups overlapping. Based on the information provided, the department developed a calendar that appears to mostly align with the proposed length of fishing periods and total number of hours fished by each gear group; however, start dates of several fishing periods do not completely align with the proposed fishing schedule (Figures 132-3 through 132-5). The fishing schedule for set gillnet gear would remain relatively unchanged, except for a 24-hour reduction during the final fishing period (Figure 132-3). Drift gillnet gear fishing periods would be reduced from a total of 352 hours to a total of 304 hours (Figure 132-4), and purse seine fishing periods would be reduced from a total of 310 hours to a total of 262 hours (Figure 132-5). The proponent recommends that extending closed fishing periods could replace the need for chum salmon harvest triggers and June 18 and June 23 harvest triggers could be eliminated in regulation.

BACKGROUND: As far back as the early 1920s managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating back to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be harvested in fisheries along the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska. Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of known mixed stock nature of Alaska Peninsula fisheries, management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the board that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period 64 hours in duration. The management established by the board in 2001 included concurrent fishing times for all gear types. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings, changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. The current schedule has been in effect since 2023. Majority of the changes were made to purse seine gear schedule and establishing chum salmon "triggers" that would reduce the final two fishing periods by 44 hours if met by June 18 or eliminate the final fishing period if met by June 23 for purse seine gear only. The Sanak Island Section was also closed to all gear types during the month of June.

In response to subsistence fishing closures in western Alaska, the department initiated in 2022 a genetic study of chum salmon harvested in the South Alaska Peninsula. Detailed results from that study are available in a separate report (Dann et al. 2023). The June 2022 fishery was sampled for chum salmon harvest in 2 area strata including the Southeastern and South Central Districts and the Unimak and Southwestern Districts. The Southeastern and South Central Districts area stratum included four temporal June strata for the seine fishery and one temporal June stratum for the gillnet fishery. The Unimak and Southwestern Districts area stratum included four temporal June strata for the seine fishery and four temporal June strata for the gillnet fishery. Sample goals were achieved in 12 of the 13 strata and sufficient samples were available for mixed stock analysis (MSA) in 13 strata.

The total 2022 June fishery harvest across all districts, gear types, and strata was considerably larger than July and August harvests, with a total June harvest of 544,064 chum salmon. The Asia group (58.0%) contributed the largest proportion of the harvest in June with an estimated 315,162 fish. The CWAK group (17.7%) had the second largest contribution with an estimated 96,116 fish and the East of Kodiak group (13.4%) contributed an estimated 72,712 fish. Harvests from other reporting groups were relatively small. The total 2023 June fishery harvest across all districts, gear types, and strata was considerably smaller than July and August harvests, with a total June harvest of 206,037 chum salmon. The Asia group (39.5%) contributed the largest proportion of harvest in June with an estimated 81,411 fish. The CWAK group (28.4%) had the second largest contribution with an estimated 58,497 fish and the East of Kodiak group (19.9%) with an estimated 41,448 fish.

In 2023 through 2025, the seine fleet and processors attempted to curtail their overall harvest of chum salmon through continuous communication that enabled the fleet to relay catch information to one another in real time. The fleet communicated daily with the department on a regular basis to inform them of seine fleet closures. Except for the 50% reduction of the fishing periods that were implemented in 2023 and 2024 to conserve Chignik River early run sockeye salmon, all other reductions in fishing time within the regulatory fishing periods were voluntarily instituted by the fleet. There were two forms of closures; there were mandatory closures for either the Shumagin Islands Section and/or the entire South Unimak area, which encompasses waters within the Southwestern and Unimak Districts, and there was area specific standdowns by the fleet. It is the department's understanding that the mandatory closures were enacted to reduce the fleet's overall harvest of chum salmon and to stay below the triggers that would reduce fishing in all areas by 50% for seine gear if the first trigger was met on June 18, and close the South Alaska Peninsula for seine gear if the second trigger was met on June 23. The area specific standdowns, was a method that the fleet used to react quickly when a high abundance of chum salmon was in the area and attempted to keep harvest of sockeye to chum above the 2:1 ratio.

The regulatory history of the June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: In 2023, the board made numerous changes to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to conserve CWAK chum salmon. These changes, when combined with fishing industry-lead efforts to reduce CWAK chum salmon intercept, have been effective in reducing CWAK chum salmon harvest in the June fishery. The department believes the current management plan and industry-lead conservation efforts are effective tools to conserve CWAK chum salmon while providing harvest opportunity on salmon stocks with identified harvestable surplus.

The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

References:

Dann, T. H., H. A. Hoyt, E. M. Lee, E. K. C. Fox, and M. B. Foster. 2023. Genetic stock composition of chum salmon harvested in commercial salmon fisheries of the South Alaska Peninsula, 2022. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 23-07, Anchorage. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/SP23-07.pdf

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

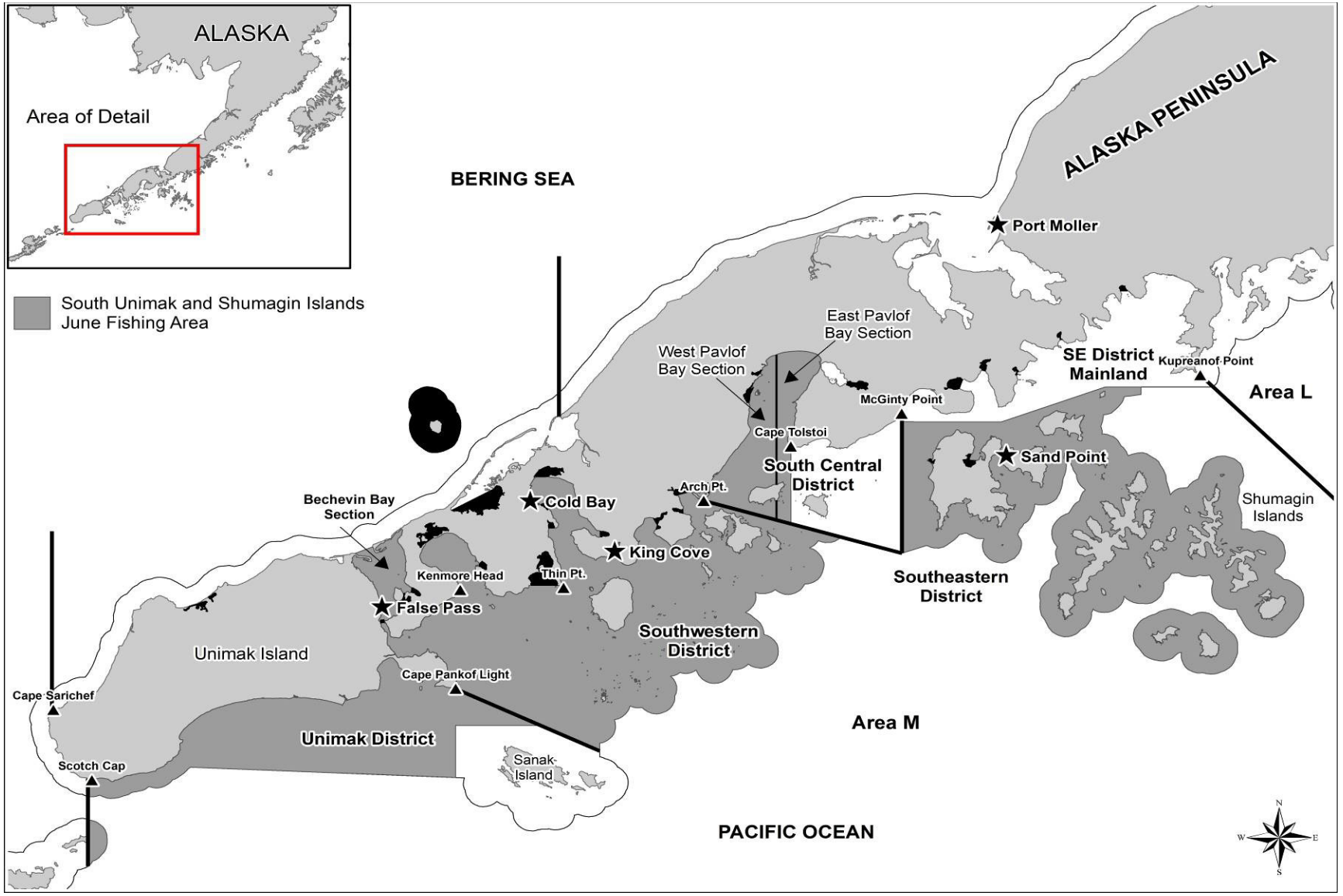

Figure 132-1.–Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas currently allowed for set and drift gillnet and seine gear.

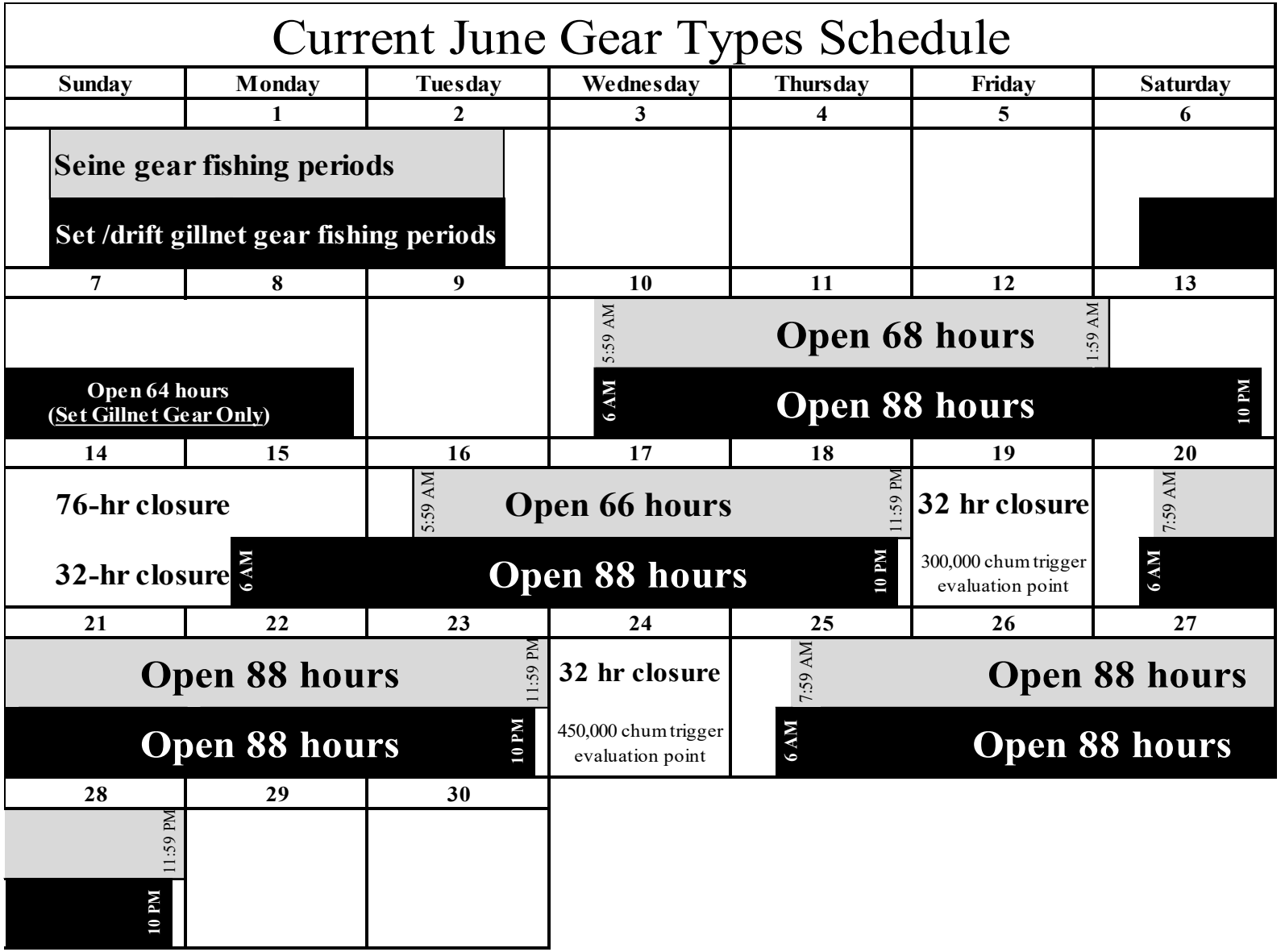

Figure 132-2.–Current fishing periods for each gear type for the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

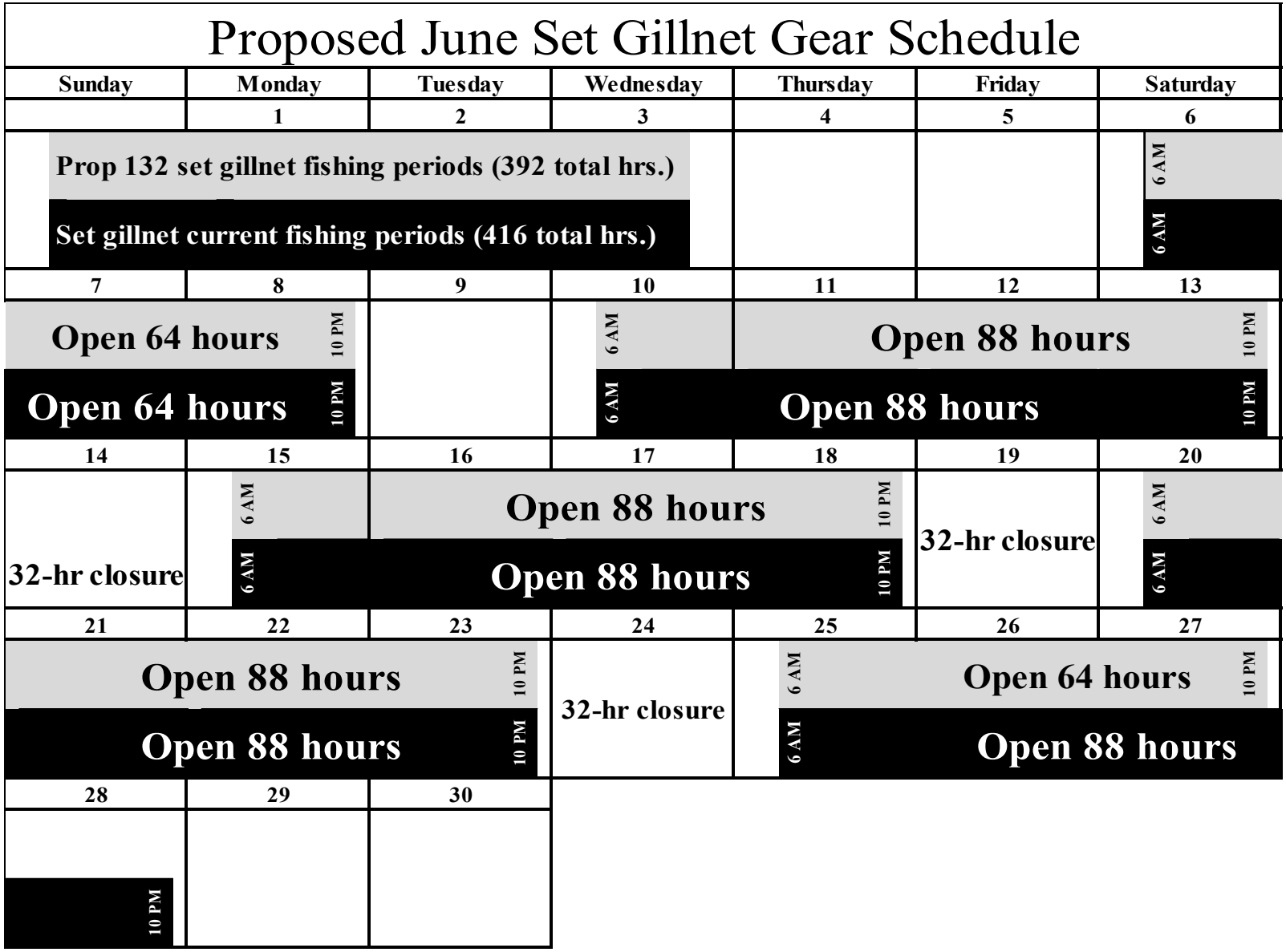

Figure 132-3.–Proposal 132 fishing periods for set gillnet gear for the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

Figure 132-4.–Proposal 132 fishing periods for drift gillnet gear for the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

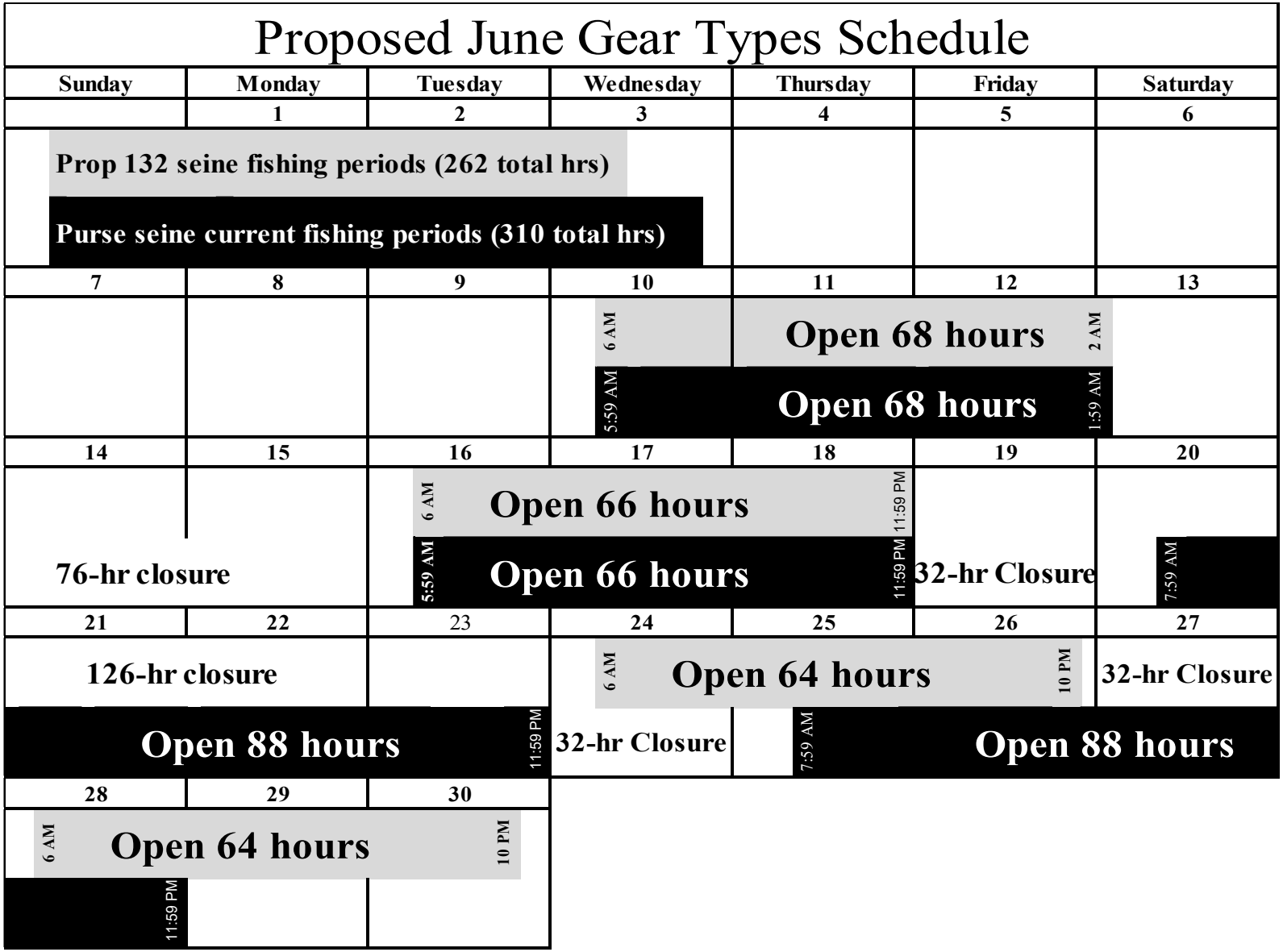

Figure 132-5.–Proposal 132 fishing periods for purse seine gear for the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

PROPOSAL 136 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: John H. Lamont Jr.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would close the South Alaska Peninsula to commercial salmon fishing during the month of June.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District. Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. Commercial fishing periods for set gillnet and drift gillnet gear begin at 6:00 a.m. on June 10, there are four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed by 32-hour closures with the final fishing period ending at 10:00 p.m. on June 28. The first commercial fishing period for purse seine gear begins at 5:59 a.m. on June 10 and closes after 68 hours at 1:59 a.m.; the second commercial fishing period begins 76 hours later at 5:59 a.m., then closes after 66 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the third fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 a.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the final fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 p.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m. (Figure 136-1).

If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 300,000 fish by June 18, the commercial fishing time is reduced in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries by 44 hours during each of the remaining fishing periods in June for purse seine gear. If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 450,000 fish by June 23, then commercial salmon fishing will close for the remainder of June for purse seine gear.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? All fishing periods for all gear types would be eliminated during the South Alaska Peninsula June fishery. This would eliminate 416 hours of fishing time for set gillnet gear, 352 hours for drift gillnet gear, and 310 hours for purse seine gear. The reduced fishing time would result in reduced harvest of all salmon during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery.

BACKGROUND: As far back as the early 1920s managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating back to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be harvested in fisheries along the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska. Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of known mixed stock nature of Alaska Peninsula fisheries, management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the Board of Fisheries (board) that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period 64 hours in duration. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings, changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. In February 2013, the board reduced the seine and drift gillnet gear fishing periods by 64 hours with the initial opening delayed until June 10 beginning at 6:00 a.m. for 88 hours. There was a total of four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed with 32-hour closures with the final fishing period ending at 10:00 p.m. on June 28. The current schedule has been in effect since 2023. Majority of the changes were made to purse seine gear schedule and establishing chum salmon "triggers" that would reduce the final two fishing periods by 44 hours if met by June 18 or eliminate the final fishing period if met by June 23 for purse seine gear only. The Sanak Island Section was also closed to all gear types during the month of June.

The regulatory history of the June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal because it eliminates harvest opportunity on salmon stocks with an identified harvestable surplus and management plans in place to reduce intercept of stocks of concern and stocks that are in low abundance. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

Reference:

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

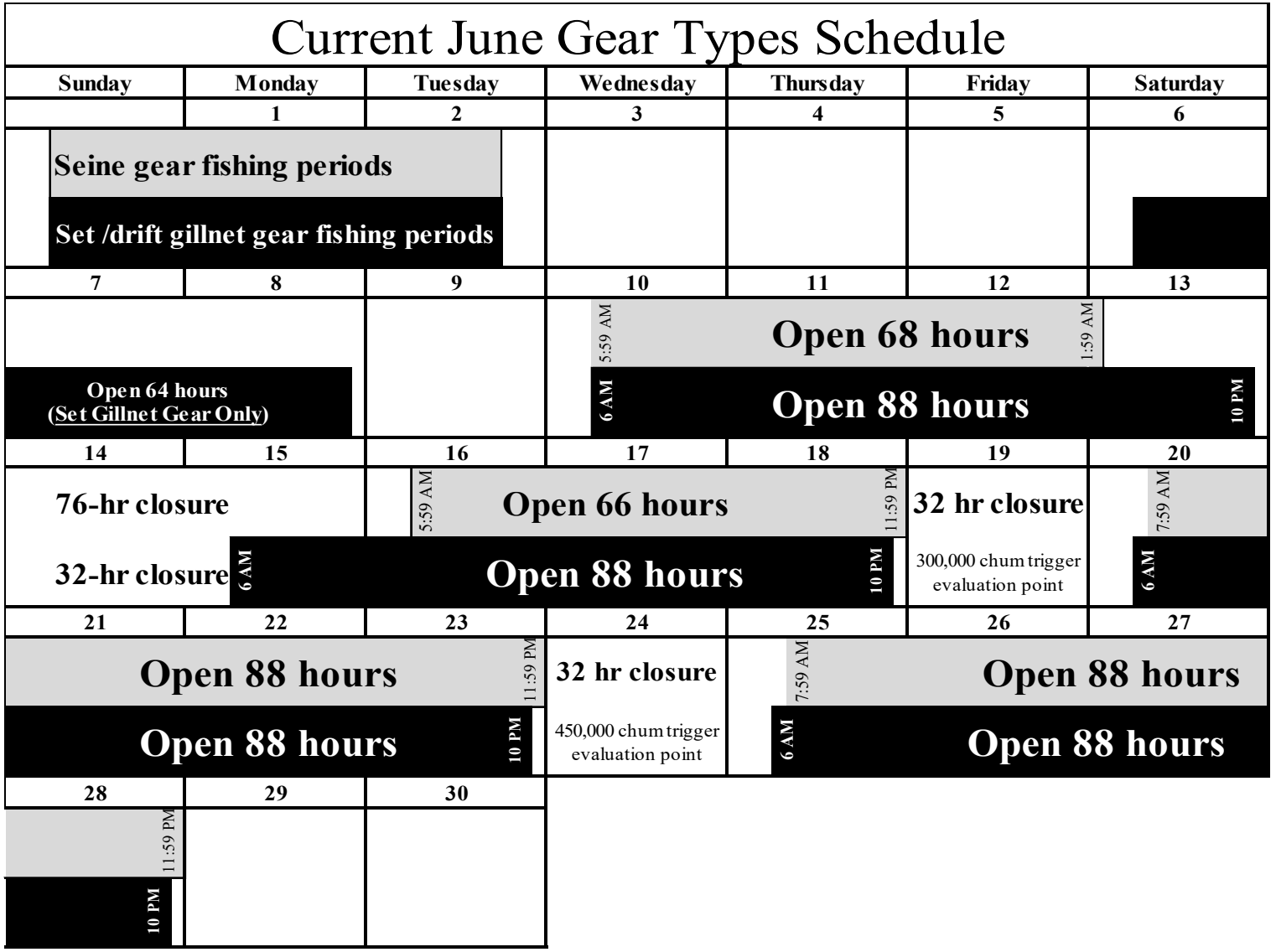

Figure 136-1.–Current fishing periods for all gear in the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

PROPOSAL 129 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Kawerak, Inc.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would establish commercial fishing periods later in June and reduce the total number of hours that are fished by all commercial gear types. This proposal also seeks to amend the chum salmon harvest trigger to a harvest that equals or exceeds 300,000 fish by June 23 and reduce each remaining fishing period for purse seine gear to 44 hours. If the chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 450,000 fish by June 23 then the remaining fishing periods would close for the remainder of June for purse seine gear.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 129-1). Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. Commercial fishing periods for set gillnet and drift gillnet gear begin at 6:00 a.m. on June 10, there are four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed by 32-hour closures with the final fishing period ending at 10:00 p.m. on June 28. The first commercial fishing period for purse seine gear begins at 5:59 a.m. on June 10 and closes after 68 hours at 1:59 a.m.; the second commercial fishing period begins 76 hours later at 5:59 a.m., then closes after 66 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the third fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 a.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the final fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 p.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m. (Figure 129-2).

If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 300,000 fish by June 18, the commercial fishing time is reduced in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries by 44 hours during each of the remaining fishing periods in June for purse seine gear. If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 450,000 fish by June 23, then commercial salmon fishing will close for the remainder of June for purse seine gear.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Commercial fishing periods for set gillnet gear would begin on June 16 instead of June 6 and provide one 64-hour fishing period and two 88-hour fishing periods (Figure 129-3). This would reduce the total fishing time by 176 hours to a total of 240 hours instead of the existing 416 hours. Commercial fishing periods for drift gillnet gear would begin on June 20 instead of June 10 and provide two 88-hour fishing periods (Figure 129-4). This would cut the total fishing time in half, reducing the current total of 352 hours by 176 hours for a new total of 176 hours. The reduced fishing time would likely result in reduced harvest of all salmon during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery. From 2023 to 2025, set gillnet gear average harvest from June 6 to June 15 included 17,713 salmon, composed of 84 king, 14,834 sockeye, 10 coho, 136 pink, and 2,649 chum salmon (Table 129-1). From 2023 to 2025, drift gillnet gear average harvest from June 10 to June 18 included 205,013 salmon, comprising 100 king, 157,882 sockeye, 3 coho, 2,012 pink, and 45,017 chum salmon (Table 129-2).

It appears that the proponent followed the regulatory framework for purse seine gear in the current *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*; however, it is not possible to fully implement the draft fishing periods within the month of June with the first fishing period

beginning on June 20. As written, the third fishing period would begin on June 30 and end on July 3 and the final fishing period would begin on July 5 and end on July 8. The proposed chum salmon harvest triggers would likely prove ineffective with it being implemented after the first 68-hour fishing period. The reduced fishing time would likely result in reduced harvest of all salmon during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery. From 2023 to 2025, purse seine gear average harvest from June 10 to June 18 included 355,340 salmon, comprising 538 king, 221,394 sockeye, 28 coho, 68,867 pink, and 64,513 chum salmon (Table 129-3).

BACKGROUND: As far back as the early 1920s managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating back to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be harvested in fisheries along the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska. Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of the known mixed stock nature of Alaska Peninsula fisheries, management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the Board of Fisheries (board) that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period 64 hours in duration. The management established by the board in 2001 included concurrent fishing times for all gear types. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings, changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. The current schedule has been in effect since 2023. Majority of the changes were made to the purse seine gear schedule and establishing chum salmon "triggers" that would reduce the final two fishing periods by 44 hours if met by June 18 or eliminate the final fishing period if met by June 23 for purse seine gear only. The Sanak Island Section was also closed to all gear types during the month of June.

In response to subsistence fishing closures in western Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) initiated in 2022 a genetic study of chum salmon harvested in the South Alaska Peninsula. Detailed results from that study are available in a separate report (Dann et al. 2023). The June 2022 fishery was sampled for chum salmon harvest in 2 area strata including the Southeastern and South Central Districts and the Unimak and Southwestern Districts. The Southeastern and South Central Districts area stratum included 4 temporal June strata for the seine fishery and 1 temporal June stratum for the gillnet fishery. The Unimak and Southwestern Districts area stratum included 4 temporal June strata for the seine fishery and 4 temporal June strata for the gillnet fishery. Sample goals were achieved in 12 of the 13 strata and sufficient samples were available for Mixed Stock Analysis (MSA) in 13 strata.

The total 2022 June fishery harvest across all districts, gear types, and strata was considerably larger than July and August harvests, with a total June harvest of 544,064 chum salmon. The Asia group (58.0%) contributed the largest proportion of the harvest in June with an estimated 315,162 fish. The CWAK group (17.7%) had the second largest contribution with an estimated 96,116 fish

and the East of Kodiak group (13.4%) contributed an estimated 72,712 fish. Harvests from other reporting groups were relatively small. The total 2023 June fishery harvest across all districts, gear types, and strata was considerably smaller than July and August harvests, with a total June harvest of 206,037 chum salmon. The Asia group (39.5%) contributed the largest proportion of harvest in June with an estimated 81,411 fish. The CWAK group (28.4%) had the second largest contribution with an estimated 58,497 fish and the East of Kodiak group (19.9%) with an estimated 41,448 fish.

In 2023 through 2025, the seine fleet and processors attempted to curtail their overall harvest of chum salmon through continuous communication that enabled the fleet to relay catch information to one another in real time. The fleet communicated daily with the department on a regular basis to inform them of seine fleet closures. Except for the 50% reduction of the fishing periods that were implemented in 2023 and 2024 to conserve Chignik River early run sockeye salmon, all other reductions in fishing time within the regulatory fishing periods were voluntarily instituted by the fleet. There were two forms of closures; there were mandatory closures for either the Shumagin Islands Section and/or the entire South Unimak area, which encompasses waters within the Southwestern and Unimak Districts, and there was area specific standdowns by the fleet. It is the department's understanding that the mandatory closures were enacted to reduce the fleet's overall harvest of chum salmon and to stay below the triggers that would reduce fishing in all areas by 50% for seine gear if the first trigger was met on June 18, and close the South Alaska Peninsula for seine gear if the second trigger was met on June 23. The area specific standdowns, was a method that the fleet used to react quickly when a high abundance of chum salmon was in the area and attempted to keep harvest of sockeye to chum above the 2:1 ratio.

The regulatory history of the June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: In 2023, the board made numerous changes to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to conserve CWAK chum salmon. These changes, when combined with fishing industry-lead efforts to reduce CWAK chum salmon intercept, have been effective in reducing CWAK chum salmon harvest in the June fishery. The department believes the current management plan and industry-lead conservation efforts are effective tools to conserve CWAK chum salmon while providing harvest opportunity on salmon stocks with identified harvestable surplus.

The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

References:

Dann, T. H., H. A. Hoyt, E. M. Lee, E. K. C. Fox, and M. B. Foster. 2023. Genetic stock composition of chum salmon harvested in commercial salmon fisheries of the South Alaska Peninsula, 2022. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 23-07, Anchorage. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/SP23-07.pdf

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

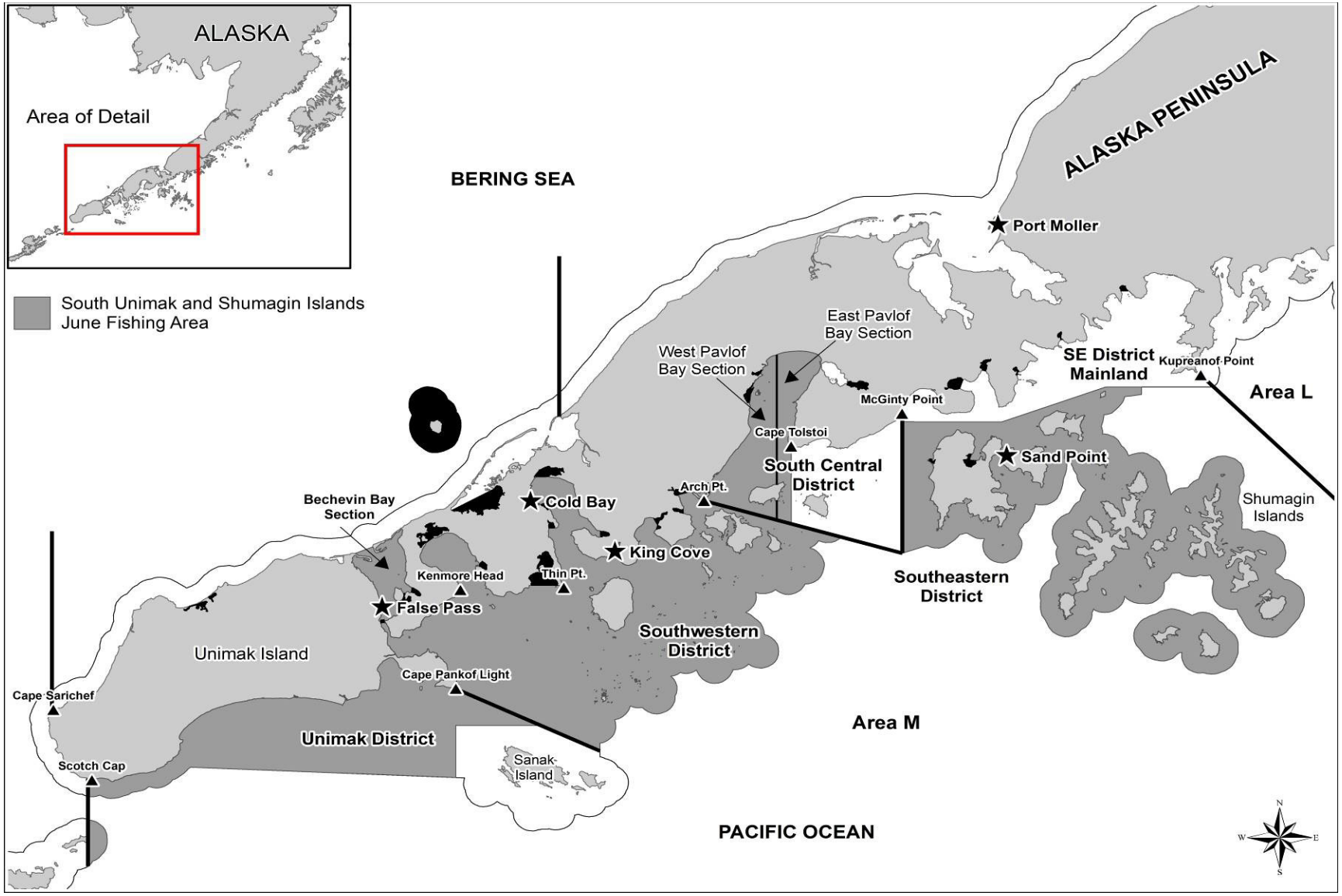

Figure 129-1.–Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas currently allowed for set and drift gillnet and seine gear.

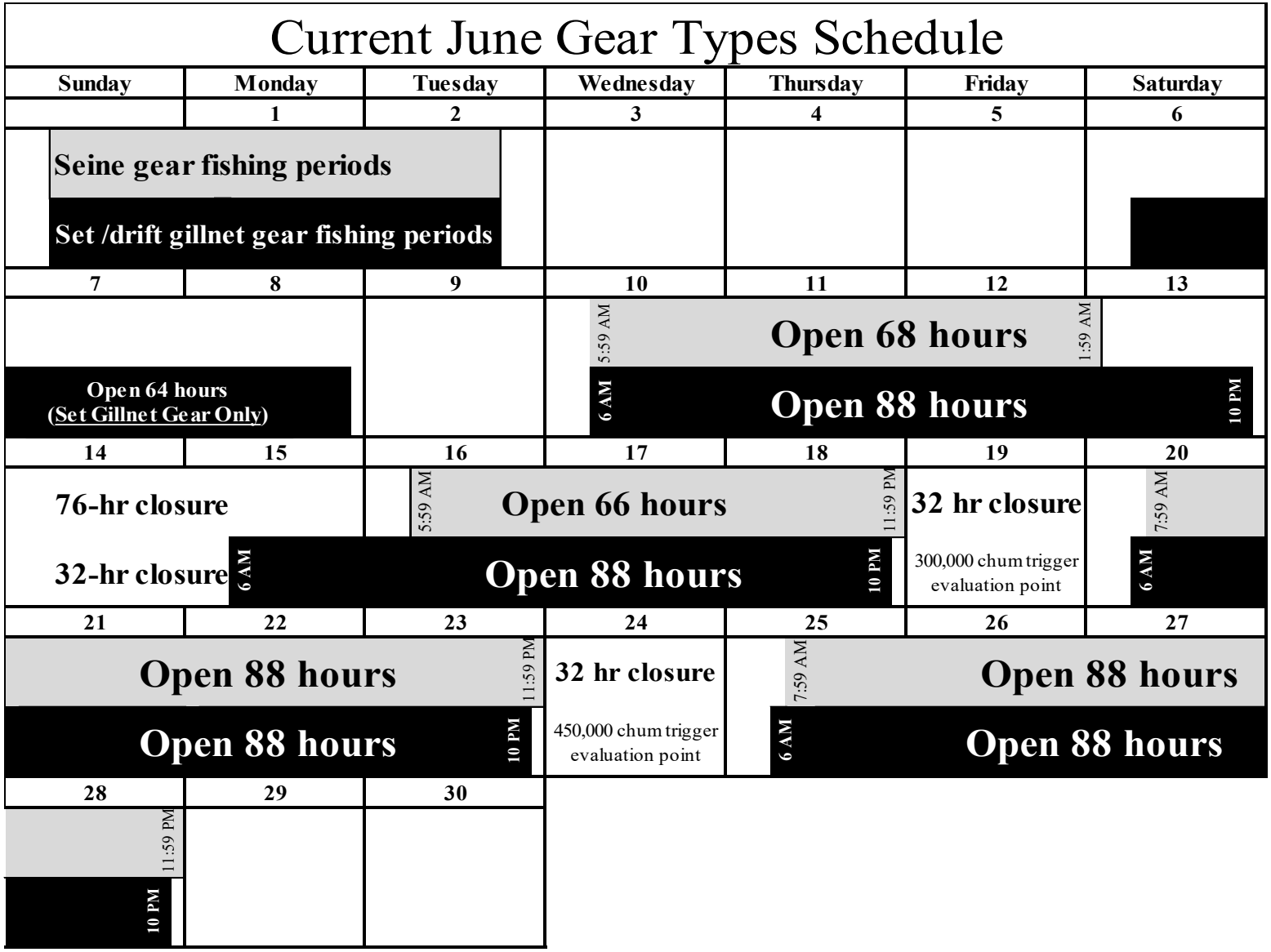

Figure 129-2.–Current fishing periods for each gear type for the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

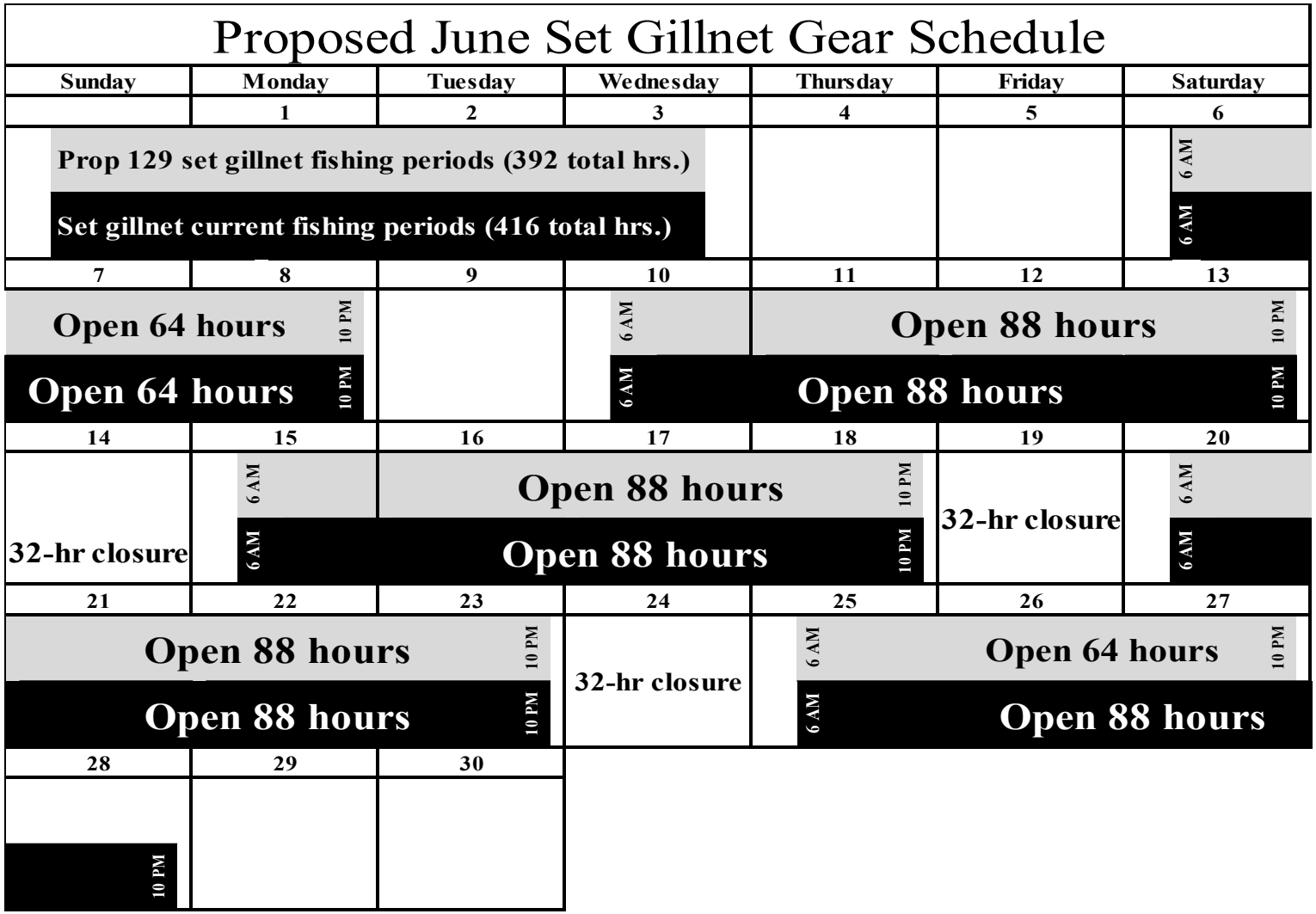

Figure 129-3.–Proposal 129 fishing periods for set gillnet gear for the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

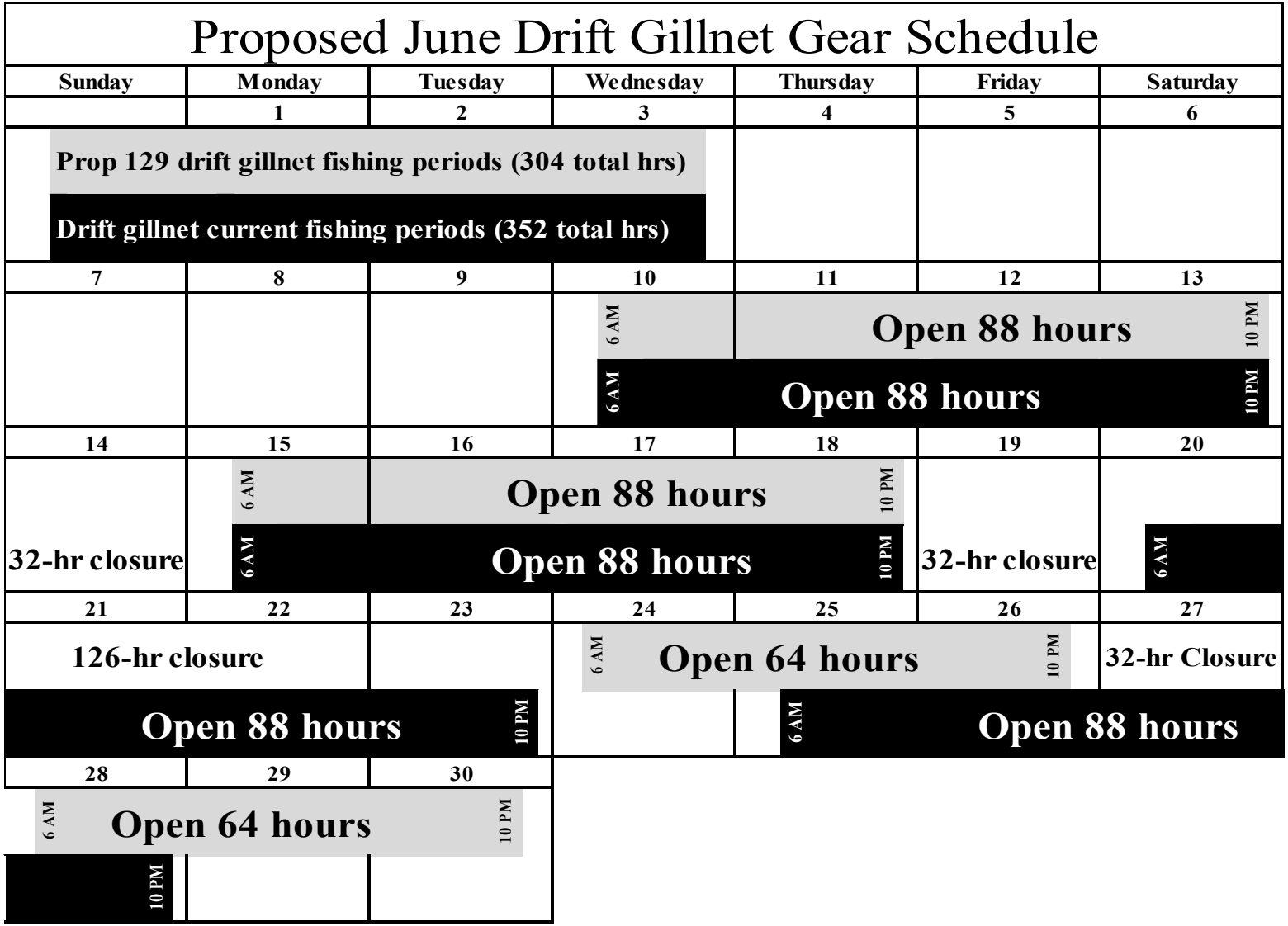

Figure 129-4.–Proposal 129 fishing periods for drift gillnet gear for the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

Table 129-1.–South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June set gillnet average commercial harvest from 2023 to 2025 by day and by species.

	2023–2025 Average number of salmon					
Date	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
6-Jun	5	848	0	13	166	1,032
7-Jun	29	1,868	0	48	389	2,334
8-Jun	7	2,372	0	2	193	2,574
9-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
10-Jun	5	1,940	10	16	313	2,284
11-Jun	6	1,033	0	7	382	1,428
12-Jun	20	1,591	0	15	274	1,900
13-Jun	9	2,851	0	15	503	3,378
14-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
15-Jun	3	2,331	0	20	429	2,783
16-Jun	1	2,499	0	57	444	3,001
17-Jun	4	2,691	0	172	398	3,265
18-Jun	0	3,108	1	109	399	3,617
19-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
20-Jun	0	2,761	0	72	213	3,046
21-Jun	1	3,336	0	45	375	3,757
22-Jun	1	3,455	1	133	462	4,052
23-Jun	0	4,272	1	135	692	5,100
24-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
25-Jun	1	3,882	16	63	485	4,447
26-Jun	0	4,760	3	102	512	5,377
27-Jun[a]	1	4,720	10	56	530	5,317
28-Jun	0	4,080	32	77	372	4,561
29-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
30-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
Subtotal						
6-Jun–8-Jun	41	5,088	0	63	748	5,940
10-Jun–13-Jun	40	7,415	10	53	1,472	8,990
15-Jun–18-Jun	8	10,629	1	358	1,670	12,666
20-Jun–23-Jun	2	13,824	2	385	1,742	15,955
25-Jun–28-Jun	2	17,442	61	298	1,899	19,702
Grand total of 2023–2025 daily averages	93	54,398	74	1,157	7,531	63,253

[a] Closed fishing periods.

Table 129-2.–South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June drift gillnet average commercial harvest from 2023 to 2025 by day and by species.

	2023–2025 Average number of salmon					
Date	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
6-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
7-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
8-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
9-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
10-Jun	0	0	0	0	0	0
11-Jun	15	15,794	2	309	5,406	21,526
12-Jun	16	15,126	0	240	7,481	22,863
13-Jun	15	22,093	0	230	5,740	28,078
14-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
15-Jun	21	38,231	0	350	11,759	50,361
16-Jun	17	16,967	1	162	4,792	21,939
17-Jun	7	31,662	0	431	5,005	37,105
18-Jun	8	18,009	0	290	4,834	23,141
19-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
20-Jun	8	13,605	2	173	2,354	16,142
21-Jun	5	16,343	0	213	2,579	19,140
22-Jun	12	14,645	0	149	3,022	17,828
23-Jun	5	13,209	0	66	2,442	15,722
24-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
25-Jun	5	3,680	3	100	731	4,519
26-Jun	4	5,386	0	233	530	6,153
27-Jun	3	7,692	0	2	862	8,559
28-Jun	3	3,906	4	25	564	4,502
29-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
30-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
Subtotal						
10-Jun–13-Jun	47	53,013	2	779	18,627	72,467
15-Jun–18-Jun	53	104,869	1	1,233	26,390	132,546
20-Jun–23-Jun	29	57,802	2	601	10,397	68,832
25-Jun–28-Jun	15	20,664	7	360	2,687	23,733
Grand total of 2023–2025 daily averages	143	236,348	12	2,973	58,101	297,578

[a] Closed fishing periods.

Table 129-3.–South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June purse seine average commercial harvest from 2023 to 2025 by day and by species.

	2023–2025 Average number of salmon					
Date	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
6-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
7-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
8-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
9-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
10-Jun	0	0	0	0	0	0
11-Jun	76	29,265	1	9,077	10,550	48,969
12-Jun	53	20,272	6	6,103	6,627	33,061
13-Jun	14	6,996	0	1,042	2,383	10,435
14-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
15-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
16-Jun	166	92,053	2	17,989	23,497	133,707
17-Jun	107	36,964	1	16,429	10,102	63,603
18-Jun	122	35,844	18	18,227	11,354	65,565
19-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
20-Jun	103	87,482	71	35,751	32,168	155,575
21-Jun	81	30,403	2	12,530	10,818	53,834
22-Jun	188	48,860	9	27,783	21,839	98,679
23-Jun	67	27,522	0	11,403	12,381	51,373
24-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
25-Jun	95	37,753	30	12,994	27,592	78,464
26-Jun	62	35,854	25	5,872	10,551	52,364
27-Jun	134	25,052	45	15,115	15,393	55,739
28-Jun	54	17,620	13	15,311	12,029	45,027
29-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
30-Jun[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–
Subtotal						
10-Jun–13-Jun	143	56,533	7	16,222	19,560	92,465
16-Jun–18-Jun	395	164,861	21	52,645	44,953	262,875
20-Jun–23-Jun	439	194,267	82	87,467	77,206	359,461
25-Jun–28-Jun	345	116,279	113	49,292	65,565	231,594
Grand total of 2023–2025 daily averages	1,322	531,940	223	205,626	207,284	946,395

[a] Closed fishing periods.

PROPOSAL 128 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory Committee; Jack Reakoff, Chair.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would establish time closures, mandate fleet movement when a predetermined threshold of king, chum, and coho salmon are incidentally harvested, and prioritize management actions that protect Koyukuk River salmon stocks.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 128-1). Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. Commercial fishing periods for set gillnet and drift gillnet gear begin at 6:00 a.m. on June 10, there are four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed by 32-hour closures with the final fishing period ending at 10:00 p.m. on June 28. The first commercial fishing period for purse seine gear begins at 5:59 a.m. on June 10 and closes after 68 hours at 1:59 a.m.; the second commercial fishing period begins 76 hours later at 5:59 a.m., then closes after 66 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the third fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 a.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the final fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 p.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m. (Figure 128-2).

If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 300,000 fish by June 18, the commercial fishing time is reduced in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries by 44 hours during each of the remaining fishing periods in June for purse seine gear. If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 450,000 fish by June 23, then commercial salmon fishing will close for the remainder of June for purse seine gear.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Koyukuk salmon chum stocks cannot be distinguished from Yukon River summer chum or other Central Western Alaska chum salmon. As such, the effects of this proposal are unknown. South Alaska Peninsula management of a single stock during June would be difficult, if not impossible, to accomplish without having additional inseason tools that allowed for determining the harvest of Koyukuk River stocks. The proponent did not provide any other guidance about specific values for king, chum, and coho salmon thresholds or how to implement them.

BACKGROUND: As far back as the early 1920s managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating back to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be harvested in fisheries along the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska. Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of known mixed stock nature of Alaska Peninsula fisheries, management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations

addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the board that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period 64 hours in duration. The management established by the board in 2001 included concurrent fishing times for all gear types. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings, changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. The current schedule has been in effect since 2023. Majority of the changes were made to purse seine gear schedule and establishing chum salmon "triggers" that would reduce the final two fishing periods by 44 hours if met by June 18 or eliminate the final fishing period if met by June 23 for purse seine gear only. The Sanak Island Section was also closed to all gear types during the month of June.

In response to subsistence fishing closures in western Alaska, the department initiated in 2022 a genetic study of chum salmon harvested in the South Alaska Peninsula. Detailed results from that study are available in a separate report (Dann et al. 2023). The June 2022 fishery was sampled for chum salmon harvest in two area strata including the Southeastern and South Central Districts and the Unimak and Southwestern Districts. The Southeastern and South Central Districts area stratum included four temporal June strata for the seine fishery and one temporal June stratum for the gillnet fishery. The Unimak and Southwestern Districts area stratum included four temporal June strata for the seine fishery and four temporal June strata for the gillnet fishery. Sample goals were achieved in 12 of the 13 strata and sufficient samples were available for mixed stock analysis (MSA) in 13 strata.

The total 2022 June fishery harvest across all districts, gear types, and strata was considerably larger than July and August harvests, with a total June harvest of 544,064 chum salmon. The Asia group (58.0%) contributed the largest proportion of the harvest in June with an estimated 315,162 fish. The CWAK group (17.7%) had the second largest contribution with an estimated 96,116 fish and the East of Kodiak group (13.4%) contributed an estimated 72,712 fish. Harvests from other reporting groups were relatively small. The total 2023 June fishery harvest across all districts, gear types, and strata was considerably smaller than July and August harvests, with a total June harvest of 206,037 chum salmon. The Asia group (39.5%) contributed the largest proportion of harvest in June with an estimated 81,411 fish. The CWAK group (28.4%) had the second largest contribution with an estimated 58,497 fish and the East of Kodiak group (19.9%) with an estimated 41,448 fish.

In 2023 through 2025, the seine fleet and processors attempted to curtail their overall harvest of chum salmon through continuous communication that enabled the fleet to relay catch information to one another in real time. The fleet communicated daily with the department on a regular basis to inform them of seine fleet closures. Except for the 50% reduction of the fishing periods that were implemented in 2023 and 2024 to conserve Chignik River early run sockeye salmon, all other reductions in fishing time within the regulatory fishing periods were voluntarily instituted by the fleet. There were two forms of closures; there were mandatory closures for either the Shumagin Islands Section and/or the entire South Unimak area, which encompasses waters within the Southwestern and Unimak Districts, and there was area specific standdowns by the fleet. It is the department's understanding that the mandatory closures were enacted to reduce the fleet's overall harvest of chum salmon and to stay below the triggers that would reduce fishing in all areas by 50% for seine gear if the first trigger was met on June 18, and close the South Alaska Peninsula

for seine gear if the second trigger was met on June 23. The area specific standdowns, was a method that the fleet used to react quickly when a high abundance of chum salmon was in the area and attempted to keep harvest of sockeye to chum above the 2:1 ratio.

Because of concerns for Gulf of Alaska king salmon in 2024 the department took management action to attempt to curtail the harvest of king salmon in the South Alaska Peninsula. Similar to actions taken in Kodiak and Chignik, king salmon 28 inches or greater in length were not permitted to be retained by purse seine gear during the post-June salmon fishery for the South Alaska Peninsula. Current regulations in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365 (e)), require that all salmon caught by a CFEC permit holder must be retained.

Because of continuing concerns for Gulf of Alaska king salmon, the department took unprecedented steps to conserve king salmon by restricting numerous fisheries in 2025. In the South Alaska Peninsula Area, additional management actions were implemented to protect these stocks. Beginning July 1, the department monitored the harvest of king salmon in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District. If more than 1,000 king salmon were harvested within the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District during a regulatory fishing period in July, then the next scheduled fishing period in statistical area 282-11 (Unga Cape-East Popof (Delarof Harbor), Popof Head, Red Bluff, Elephant Head (Dark Cliffs), Fox Hole, Pirate Cove, Dangerous Point, East Head, Andronica Island, and Salmon Ranch) did not open to commercial salmon fishing for purse seine gear only. Statistical area 282-11 was selected for these closures due to this statistical area having a historically high harvest of king salmon compared to other districts and sections in the South Alaska Peninsula.

The regulatory history of the June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: In 2023, the board made numerous changes to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to conserve CWAK chum salmon. These changes, when combined with fishing industry-lead efforts to reduce CWAK chum salmon intercept, have been effective in reducing CWAK chum salmon harvest in the June fishery. The department believes the current management plan and industry-lead conservation efforts are effective tools to conserve CWAK chum salmon while providing harvest opportunity on salmon stocks with identified harvestable surplus.

The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

References:

Dann, T. H., H. A. Hoyt, E. M. Lee, E. K. C. Fox, and M. B. Foster. 2023. Genetic stock composition of chum salmon harvested in commercial salmon fisheries of the South Alaska Peninsula, 2022. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 23-07, Anchorage. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/SP23-07.pdf

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

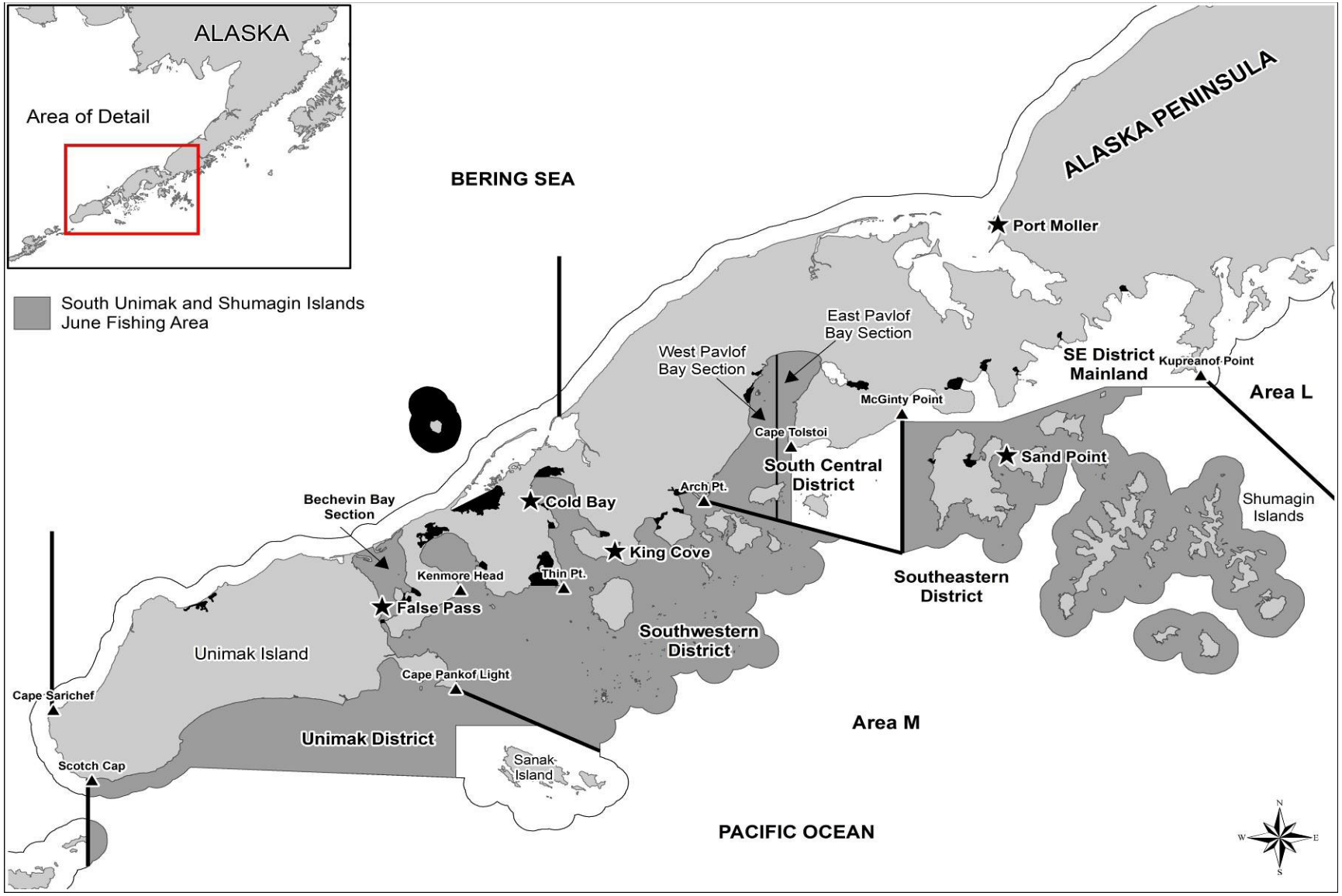

Figure 128-1.–Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas currently allowed for set and drift gillnet and seine gear.

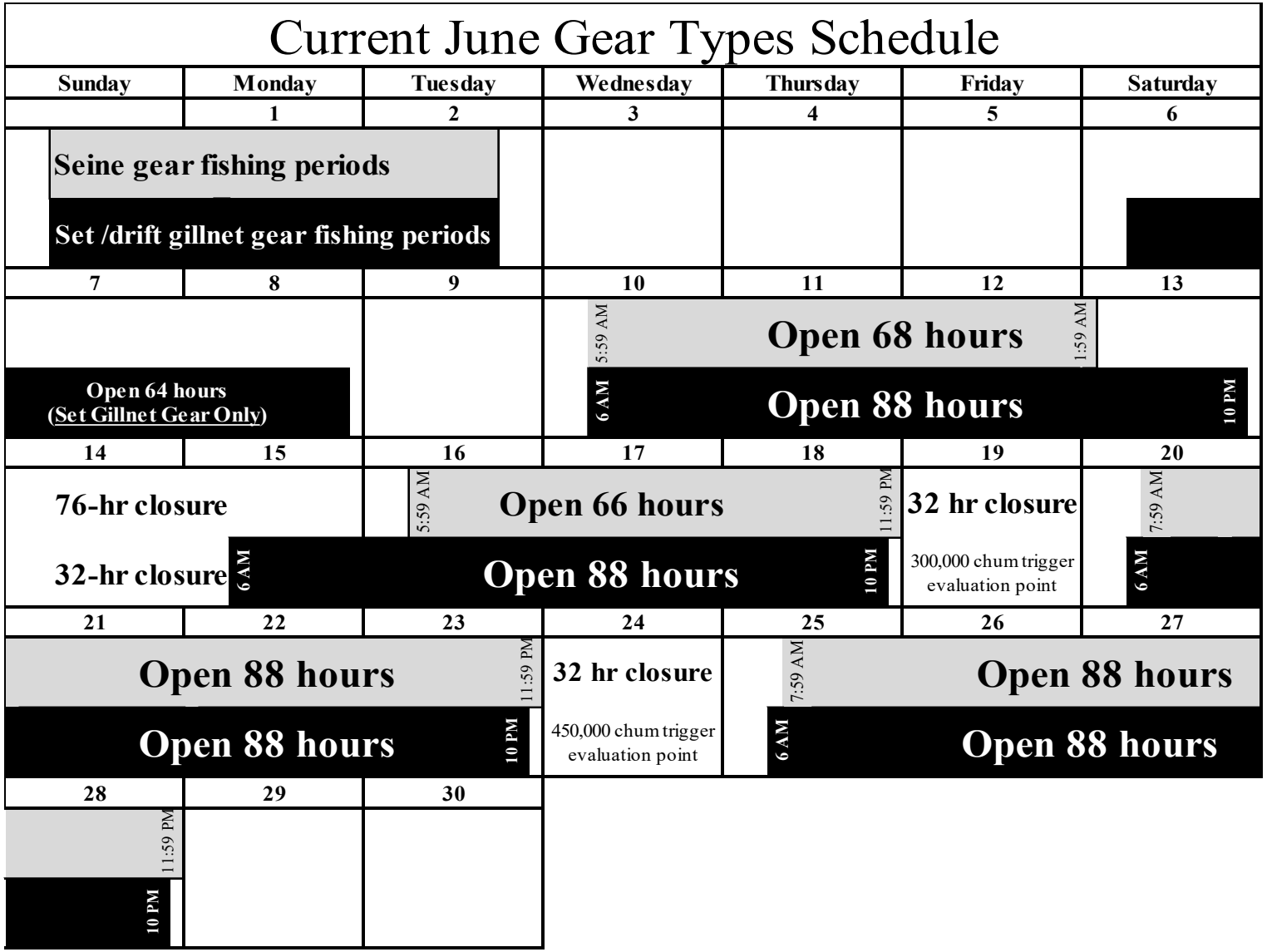

Figure 128-2.–Current fishing periods for each gear type for the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

PROPOSAL 130 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Intertribal Coalition.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would amend the language in 5 AAC 09.365(a) to include additional salmon species and areas that these species are bound for that are commercially harvested during the South Alaska Peninsula June fisheries. This proposal would also amend the fishing periods for commercial purse seine gear in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District. Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. Commercial fishing periods for set gillnet and drift gillnet gear begin at 6:00 a.m. on June 10, there are four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed by 32-hour closures with the final fishing period ending at 10:00 p.m. on June 28. The first commercial fishing period for purse seine gear begins at 5:59 a.m. on June 10 and closes after 68 hours at 1:59 a.m.; the second commercial fishing period begins 76 hours later at 5:59 a.m., then closes after 66 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the third fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 a.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the final fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 p.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m. (Figure 130-1).

If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 300,000 fish by June 18, the commercial fishing time is reduced in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries by 44 hours during each of the remaining fishing periods in June for purse seine gear. If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 450,000 fish by June 23, then commercial salmon fishing will close for the remainder of June for purse seine gear.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Current commercial fishing periods would remain unchanged for all gear types in the South Unimak June fishery and for set gillnet gear in the Shumagin Islands June fishery (Figure 130-1). Commercial purse seine gear in the Shumagin Islands June fishery would have three 66-hour fishing periods interspersed by 78-hour closures beginning at 5:59 a.m. on June 10 and ending at 11:59 p.m. on June 24 (Figure 130-2). Purse seine gear total proposed commercial fishing time during the Shumagin Islands June fishery would be reduced to 198 hours compared to the current 310 hours permitted. This proposal would likely concentrate the commercial purse seine fleet in the South Unimak area during the final fishing period in June. Whether or not this would impact the harvest of chum salmon in this area would be unknown as commercial harvest is highly variable from year to year during the June fishery. The reduced fishing time would likely result in reduced harvest of all salmon during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery.

BACKGROUND: As far back as the early 1920s managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating back to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be

harvested in fisheries along the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska. Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of known mixed stock nature of Alaska Peninsula fisheries, management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the Board of Fisheries (board) that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period 64 hours in duration. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings, changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. The current schedule has been in effect since 2023. Majority of the changes were made to purse seine gear schedule and establishing chum salmon "triggers" that would reduce the final two fishing periods by 44 hours if met by June 18 or eliminate the final fishing period if met by June 23 for purse seine gear only. The Sanak Island Section was also closed to all gear types during the month of June.

Since 2018, the department has implemented management actions outside of regulation in the South Alaska Peninsula of Area M to try to reduce harvest of Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon (Table 130-1). In April of 2022, the board designated Chignik early-run sockeye salmon as a stock of management concern out of cycle during the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Westward, Arctic Shellfish, Shellfish General Provisions, and Prince William Sound meeting. After this designation was made, the Chignik Intertribal Coalition and Area M Seiners Association signed an agreement that outlined a framework regarding how the department would manage the June fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section to conserve Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon in 2022.

During the February 2023 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Island and Chignik finfish meeting, the department presented 3 management action plans to the board and Action #1 was selected by the board. Within Action Plan #1, the South Alaska Peninsula would be managed based on the agreement summarized in RC104 from the April 2022 board meeting and states:

> Based on early run sockeye salmon escapement at the Chignik weir, fishing time for purse seine gear, during the second fishing period, under the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan would be reduced by 50%, in the Shumagin Islands Section, in order to achieve the lower bound of the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal. Fishing time for purse seine gear under the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan would continue being reduced during subsequent fishing periods to meet the lower bound of the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon escapement goal. If the lower bound of the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal is projected to be met restrictions in the South Alaska Peninsula fishery would be lifted and commercial salmon fishing periods in the Chignik Management Area may be warranted.
>
> If the lower bound of the Chignik River sockeye salmon run escapement goal is not projected to be met by July 1, a mixture of restrictions, including a 50% reduction

in fishing time for purse seine gear during the first commercial salmon fishing period in July in the Shumagin Islands Section, would be applied to fishing opportunity in the South Alaska Peninsula Area under the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula and in the Chignik Management Area.

Reductions that were implemented by the department to commercial fishing periods in the Shumagin Islands for purse seine gear occurred in 2022, 2023 and 2024, but not in 2025. In 2022 and 2024, fishing periods were reduced by 50% during second, third, and fourth fishing periods in the Shumagin Islands Section during June. In 2023, only the second and third fishing periods were reduced by 50% in the Shumagin Islands Section (Table 130-1).

Because of concerns for Gulf of Alaska king salmon in 2024, the department took management action to attempt to curtail the harvest of king salmon in the South Alaska Peninsula. Similar to actions taken in Kodiak and Chignik, king salmon 28 inches or greater in length were not permitted to be retained by purse seine gear during the post-June salmon fishery for the South Alaska Peninsula. Current regulations in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365 (e)), require that all salmon caught by a CFEC permit holder must be retained.

To address continuing concerns for Gulf of Alaska king salmon, the department took unprecedented steps to conserve king salmon by restricting numerous fisheries in 2025. In the South Alaska Peninsula Area, additional management actions were implemented to protect these stocks. Beginning July 1, the department monitored the harvest of king salmon in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District. If more than 1,000 king salmon were harvested within the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District during a regulatory fishing period in July, then the next scheduled fishing period in statistical area 282-11 (Unga Cape-East Popof (Delarof Harbor), Popof Head, Red Bluff, Elephant Head (Dark Cliffs), Fox Hole, Pirate Cove, Dangerous Point, East Head, Andronica Island, and Salmon Ranch) was not opened to commercial salmon fishing by purse seine gear. Statistical area 282-11 was selected for these closures due to this statistical area having a historically high harvest of king salmon compared to other districts and sections in the South Alaska Peninsula. The management action of monitoring the harvest of Chinook salmon in the Shumagin Island Section of the Southeastern District was implemented in July 2025. Two scheduled fishing periods in July were not opened in the Shumagin Islands section due to Chinook salmon harvest in the statistical area 282-11 that surpassed the threshold of 1,000 fish. The eliminated fishing periods were July 14-15 and July 22-23.

The regulatory history of the June fishery is presented in Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: In 2023, the board made numerous changes to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to conserve CWAK chum salmon. These changes, when combined with fishing industry-lead efforts to reduce CWAK chum salmon intercept, have been effective in reducing CWAK chum salmon harvest in the June fishery. The department believes the current management plan and industry-lead conservation efforts are effective tools to conserve CWAK chum salmon while providing harvest opportunity on salmon stocks with identified harvestable surplus.

The department supports actions to conserve salmon stocks of concern that are migrating through the area.

The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

Reference:

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

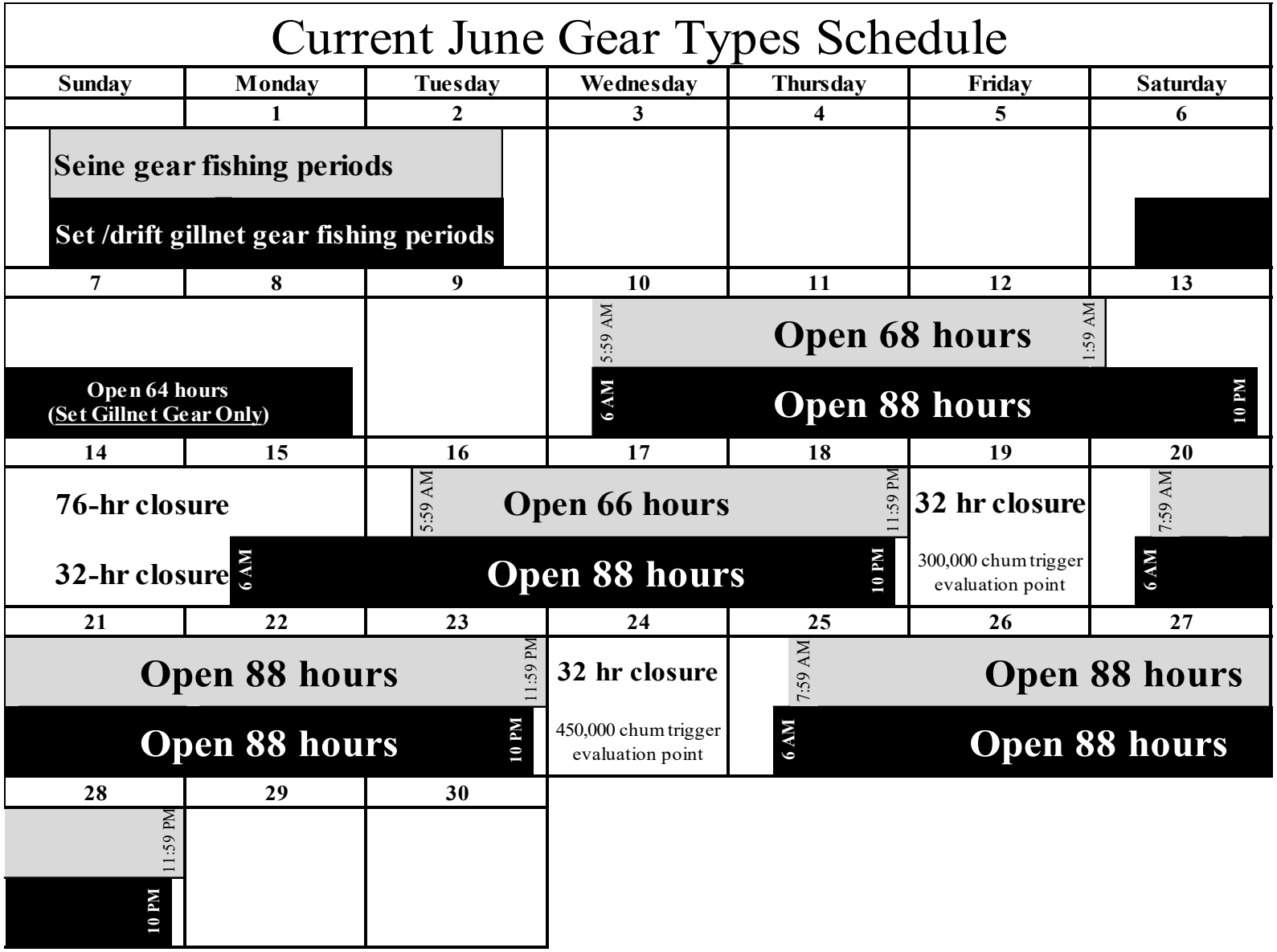

Figure 130-1.–Current fishing periods for all gear in the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

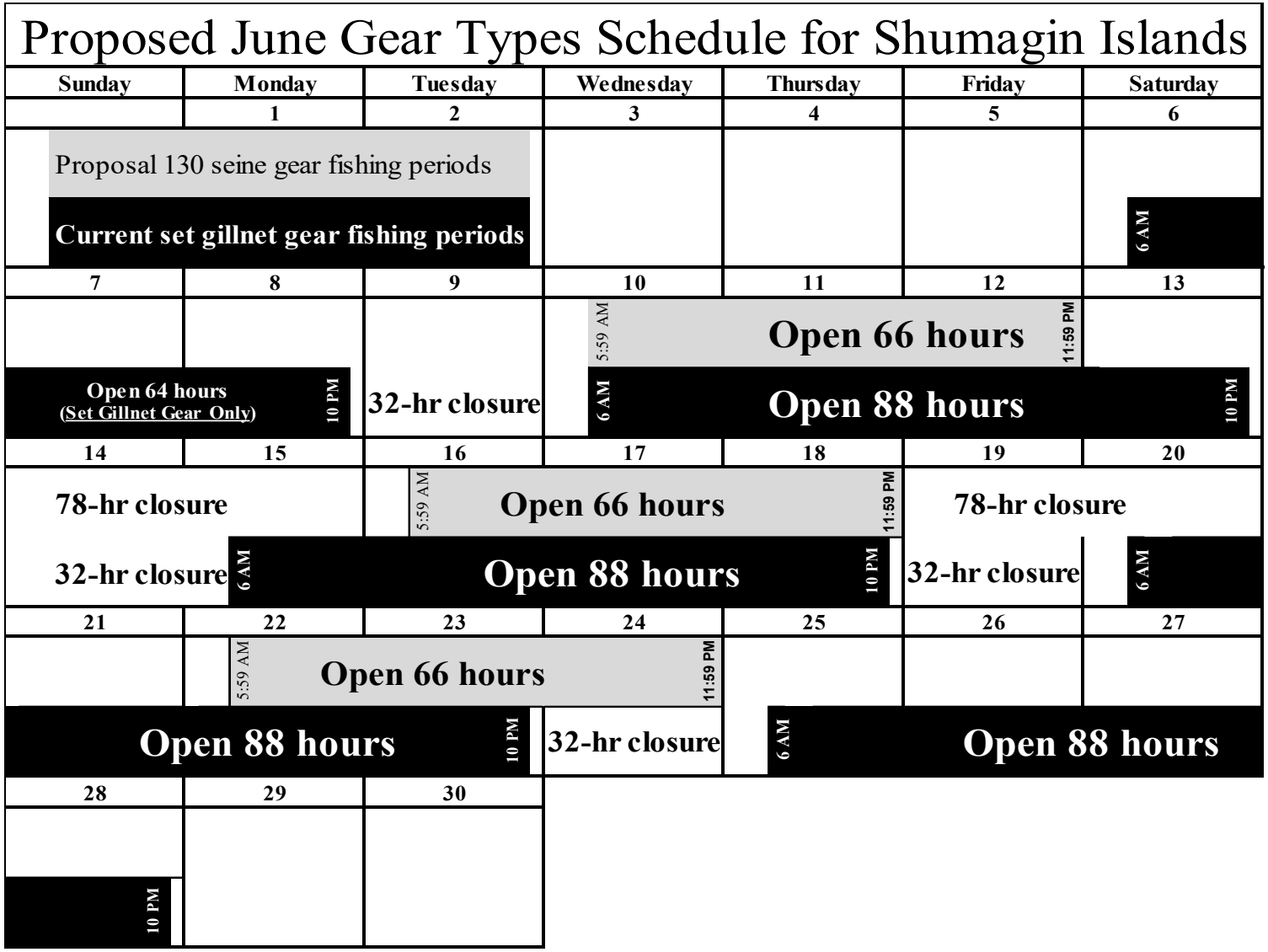

Figure 130-2.–Proposal 130 June fishing periods for the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District.

Table 130-1.–Commercial fishery management actions in the South Alaska Peninsula, 2018–2025.

Year	Action Taken
2018	Reduce commercial fishing periods for all gear types throughout the entire South Alaska Peninsula during fishing periods that began on June 22 and June 27.
2019	Seine gear removed from "Dolgoi Island area" in regulation at BOF meeting. Fishery windows aligned for all gear types.
2020	Closed "Dolgoi area" on June 13. Reduced fishing time in Shumagin Island Section of the Southeastern District to 40 hours for all gear types on June 20 and June 25.
2021	No actions taken.
2022	Reduced fishing time in the Shumagin Island Section of the Southeastern District to 40 hours for purse seine gear only on June 15, June 20, and June 25.
2023	Regulatory change at to purse seine gear scheduled fishing periods and adoption of management action plan that follows RC104 agreement at February 2023 BOF meeting. Reduce fishing time by 50% in the Shumagin Islands Section for purse seine gear only on June 16 and June 20.
2024	Reduce fishing time by 50% in the Shumagin Islands Section for purse seine gear only on June 16, June 20, and June 25.
2025	No actions taken

PROPOSAL 134 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Area M Seiners Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would revert commercial salmon fishing periods for purse seine gear during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery back to the fishing periods that were established during the 2013 Board of Fisheries meeting.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District. Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. Commercial fishing periods for set gillnet and drift gillnet gear begin at 6:00 a.m. on June 10, there are four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed by 32-hour closures with the final fishing period ending at 10:00 p.m. on June 28. The first commercial fishing period for purse seine gear begins at 5:59 a.m. on June 10 and closes after 68 hours at 1:59 a.m.; the second commercial fishing period begins 76 hours later at 5:59 a.m., then closes after 66 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the third fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 a.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the final fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 p.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m. (Figure 134-1).

If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 300,000 fish by June 18, the commercial fishing time is reduced in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries by 44 hours during each of the remaining fishing periods in June for purse seine gear. If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 450,000 fish by June 23, then commercial salmon fishing will close for the remainder of June for purse seine gear.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Current commercial fishing periods would remain unchanged for set gillnet and drift gillnet gear in the South Unimak and the Shumagin Islands June fishery (Figure 134-1). Commercial fishers using purse seine gear in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery would have four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed by 32-hour closures beginning at 6:00 a.m. on June 10 and ending at 10:00 p.m. on June 28 (Figure 134-2). Purse seine gear total proposed fishing time during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery would increase to 352 hours compared to the current 310 hours permitted. This would likely result in an increased harvest of all salmon during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery.

BACKGROUND: As far back as the early 1920s managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating back to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be harvested in fisheries along the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska. Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of known mixed stock nature of

Alaska Peninsula fisheries, management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the board that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period 64 hours in duration. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings, changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. In February 2013, the board reduced the seine and drift gillnet gear fishing periods by 64 hours with the initial opening delayed until June 10 beginning at 6:00 a.m. for 88 hours. There was a total of four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed with 32-hour closures with the final fishing period ending at 10:00 p.m. on June 28. The current schedule has been in effect since 2023. Majority of the changes were made to purse seine gear schedule and establishing chum salmon "triggers" that would reduce the final two fishing periods by 44 hours if met by June 18 or eliminate the final fishing period if met by June 23 for purse seine gear only. The Sanak Island Section was also closed to all gear types during the month of June.

The regulatory history of the June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: In 2023, the board made numerous changes to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to conserve CWAK chum salmon. These changes, when combined with fishing industry-lead efforts to reduce CWAK chum salmon intercept, have been effective in reducing CWAK chum salmon harvest in the June fishery. The department believes the current management plan and industry-lead conservation efforts are effective tools to conserve CWAK chum salmon while providing harvest opportunity on salmon stocks with identified harvestable surplus.

The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfishes in the Alaska Peninsula Areas (5 AAC 01.416).

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

Reference:

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

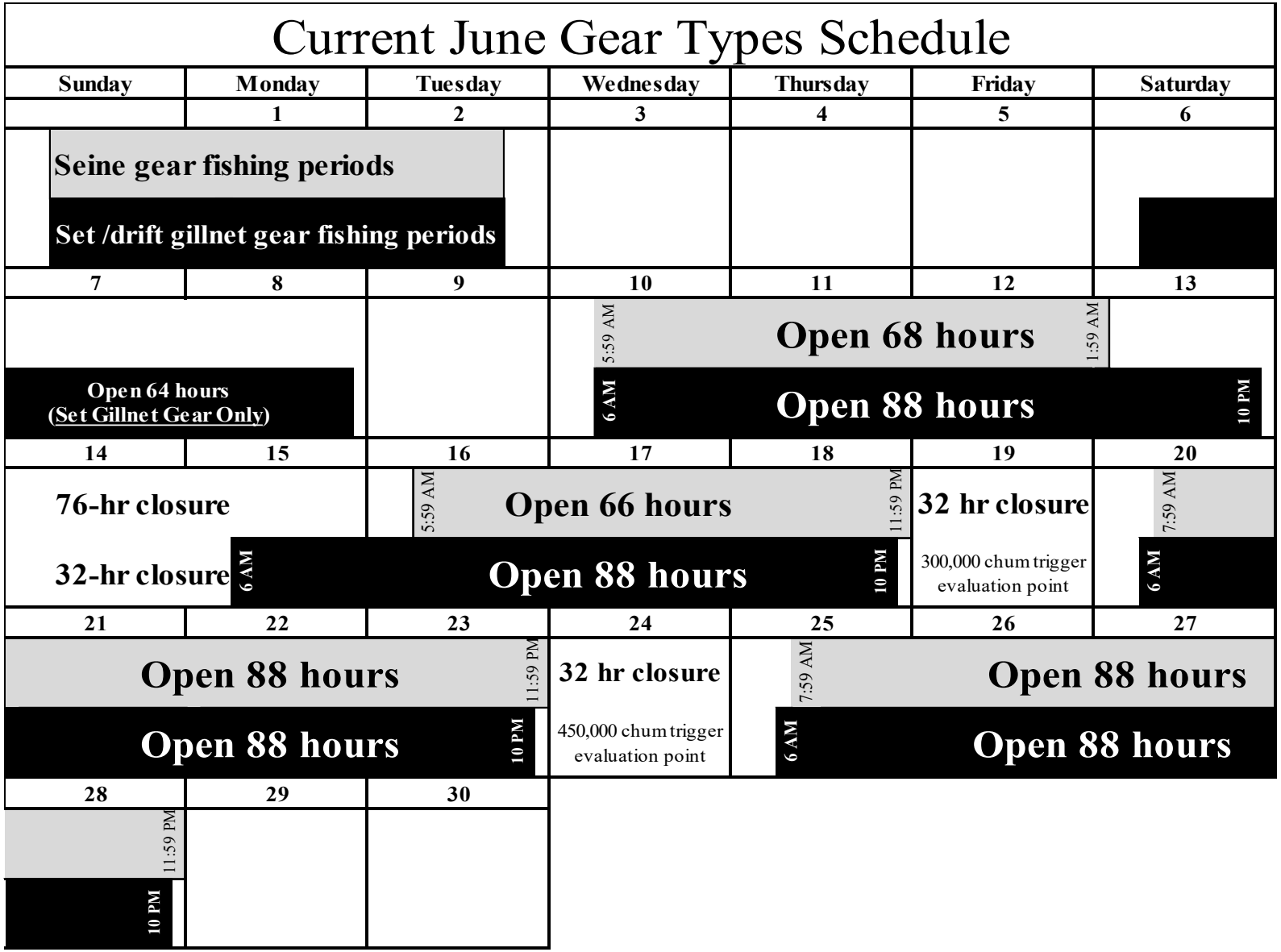

Figure 134-1.–Current fishing periods for all gear in the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

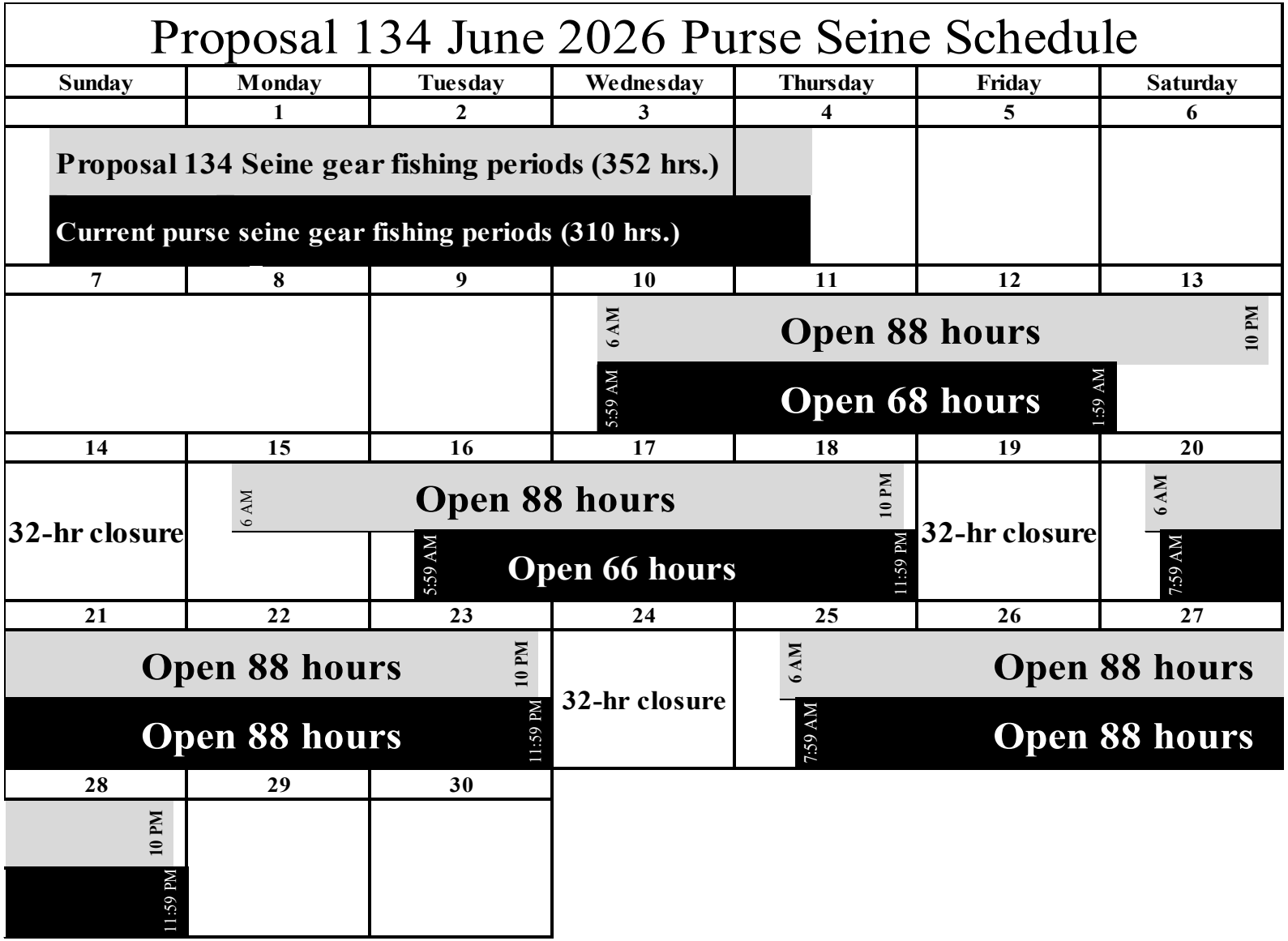

Figure 134-2.–Proposal 134 purse seine gear fishing schedule during South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery.

PROPOSAL 137 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Rick Eastlick

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would add an additional 24 hours of commercial fishing time to the final fishing period for set gillnet gear only in June. The final fishing period would end at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 instead of 10:00 p.m. on June 28.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District. Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. Commercial fishing periods for set gillnet and drift gillnet gear begin at 6:00 a.m. on June 10, there are four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed by 32-hour closures with the final fishing period ending at 10:00 p.m. on June 28. The first commercial fishing period for purse seine gear begins at 5:59 a.m. on June 10 and closes after 68 hours at 1:59 a.m.; the second commercial fishing period begins 76 hours later at 5:59 a.m., then closes after 66 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the third fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 a.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the final fishing period begins 32 hours later at 7:59 p.m., then closes after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m. (Figure 137-1).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would increase the total fishing time for commercial set gillnet gear to 440 hours during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery. This would increase the commercial harvest of all salmon by set gillnet gear during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery (Figure 137-2).

BACKGROUND: As far back as the early 1920s managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating back to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be harvested in fisheries along the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska. Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of known mixed stock nature of Alaska Peninsula fisheries, management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the Board of Fisheries (board) that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period 64 hours in duration. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings, changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. In February 2013, the board reduced the seine and drift gillnet gear fishing periods by 64 hours with the initial opening delayed until June 10 beginning at 6:00 a.m. for 88

hours. There was a total of four 88-hour fishing periods interspersed with 32-hour closures with the final fishing period ending at 10:00 p.m. on June 28. The current schedule has been in effect since 2023. Majority of the changes were made to purse seine gear schedule and establishing chum salmon "triggers" that would reduce the final two fishing periods by 44 hours if met by June 18 or eliminate the final fishing period if met by June 23 for purse seine gear only. The Sanak Island Section was also closed to all gear types during the month of June.

The regulatory history of the June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfishes in the Alaska Peninsula Areas (5 AAC 01.416).

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

Reference:

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

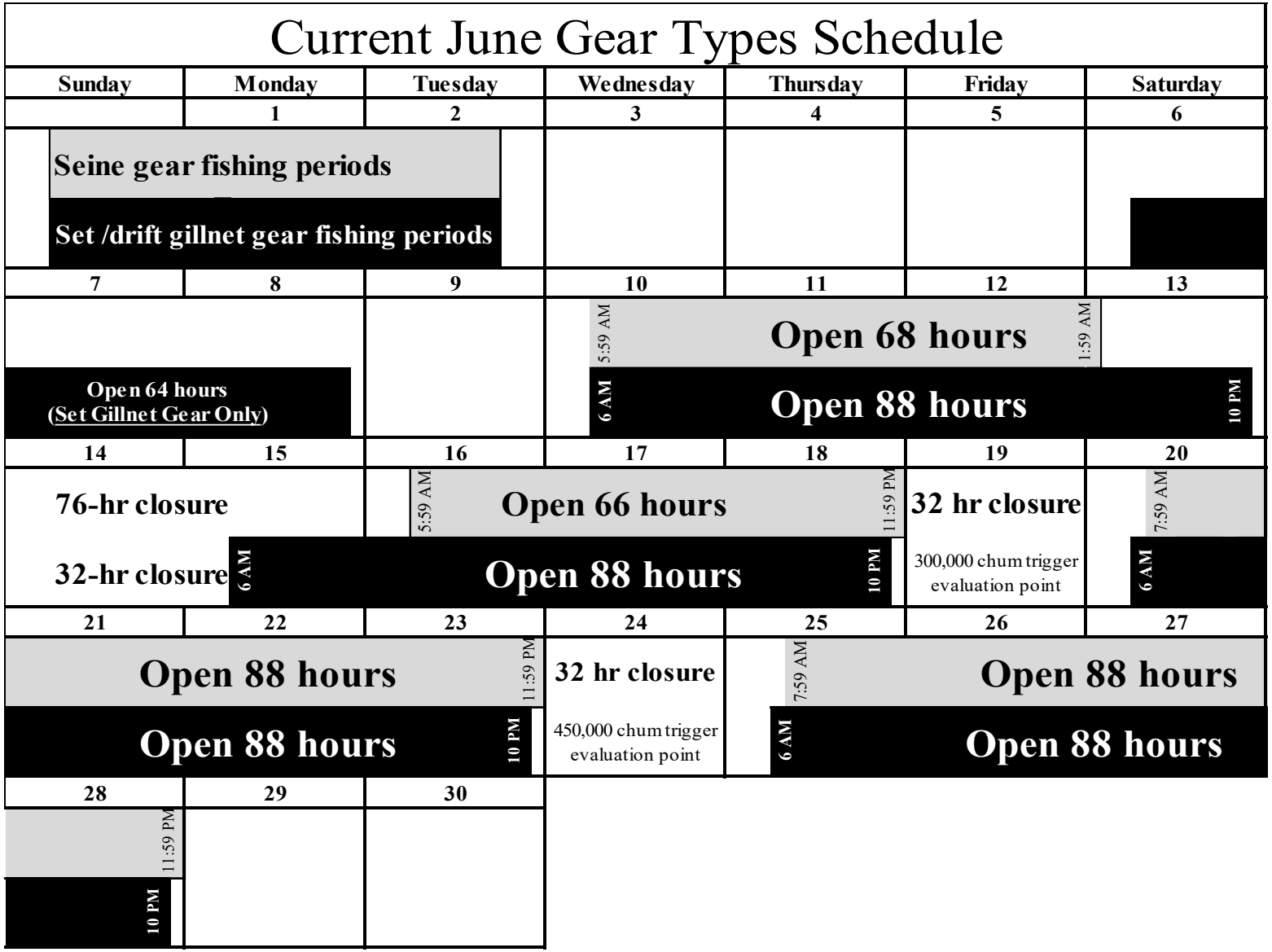

Figure 137-1.–Current fishing periods for all gear in the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

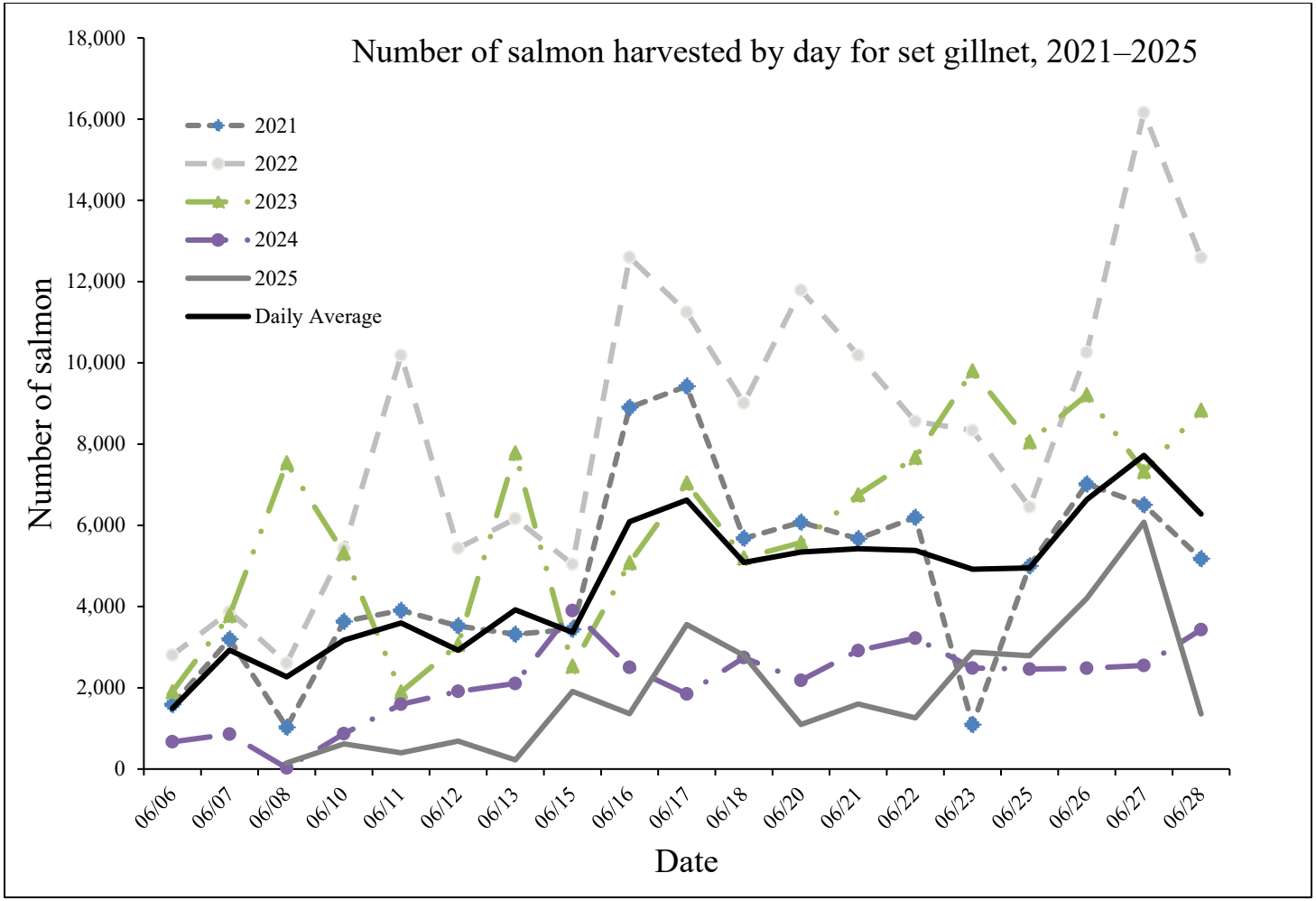

Figure 137-2.–Daily commercial salmon harvest by set gillnet gear, 2021–2025.

PROPOSAL 135 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Area M Seiners Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would prohibit the commercial retention of king salmon 28 inches or greater in length from June 1 through October 31 when it is determined that conservation is required for king salmon.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? During the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365(e)) all salmon caught by a CFEC permit holder must be retained, and each CFEC permit holder must report the number of salmon caught, including those taken but not sold, on an ADF&G fish ticket. For the purpose of this subsection, "caught" means brought on board the vessel.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would provide the department with an additional management tool to curtail the commercial harvest of king salmon when it is determined that king salmon conservation is needed. It is difficult to quantify how many king salmon could be conserved if this proposal is adopted since it is likely that some king salmon released from commercial gear die after release.

BACKGROUND: In 2005, non-retention of king salmon 28 inches or greater was established in regulation for the Kodiak commercial salmon management area. This regulation was established to help protect king salmon returning to the Karluk and Ayakulik Rivers during very strong early run sockeye salmon returning to the same systems. Prior to non-retention, the department employed other management actions to modify the closed water area at the mouth of Karluk Lagoon to allow for continued escapement of king salmon and still allow the harvest of sockeye salmon, but these actions proved to have very little effect. Purse seine fishers reported to the department in prior years that they voluntarily released king salmon when targeting sockeye salmon. They also reported that it was difficult to identify small king salmon in each seine haul but there was success in separating and releasing larger king salmon. Since 2005, non-retention in purse seine gear has been a tool used in several areas of the state to conserve king salmon. Non-retention has not been used in gillnet gear due to increased mortality of salmon caught in gillnets.

There is no directed commercial king salmon fishery within the South Alaska Peninsula, but incidental harvest does occur during targeted sockeye salmon fisheries in June and the pink and chum salmon fisheries in July and August. The king salmon harvest is relatively low in comparison to the other four species of salmon that are harvested during the commercial salmon fishery. However, in 2015, there was an exceptionally high abundance of king salmon harvested in the South Alaska Peninsula, with most of those fish harvested in June. The average weight of king salmon was also very low compared to previous years.

Genetic sampling of king salmon in the South Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon fishery began in 2025 and results are not yet unavailable. However, genetic sampling of king salmon caught as bycatch from the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) pollock trawl fishery is taken annually. In 2023, genetic samples were collected from king salmon taken in the bycatch of the GOA pollock trawl fisheries near the Shumagin Islands using simple random sample protocol. Based on the analysis of 439 fish, the stock composition estimates indicate fish were primarily from 3 regions south and east of the Alaska Peninsula with the British Columbia region contributing the most (58.6%), followed

by West Coast US (19.5%), and Coastal Southeast Alaska (17.1%). The NW Gulf of Alaska (2.6%) and NE Gulf of Alaska (2.1%) also contributed small percentages.

Because of concerns for Gulf of Alaska king salmon in 2024, the department took management action to attempt to curtail the harvest of king salmon in the South Alaska Peninsula. Similar to actions taken in Kodiak and Chignik, where the department disallowed the retention of king salmon 28 inches or greater in length harvested by purse seine gear during the post-June salmon fishery for the South Alaska Peninsula. These actions were not taken in June because current regulations in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365 (e)) require that all salmon caught by a CFEC permit holder must be retained.

Because of continuing concerns for Gulf of Alaska king salmon, the department took unprecedented steps to conserve king salmon by restricting numerous fisheries in 2025. In the South Alaska Peninsula Area, additional management actions were implemented to protect these stocks. Beginning July 1, the department monitored the harvest of king salmon in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District. If more than 1,000 king salmon were harvested within the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District during a regulatory fishing period in July, then the next scheduled fishing period in statistical area 282-11 (Unga Cape-East Popof (Delarof Harbor), Popof Head, Red Bluff, Elephant Head (Dark Cliffs), Fox Hole, Pirate Cove, Dangerous Point, East Head, Andronica Island, and Salmon Ranch) did not open to commercial salmon fishing for purse seine gear only. Statistical area 282-11 was selected for these closures due to this statistical area having a historically high harvest of king salmon compared to other districts and sections in the South Alaska Peninsula. Restrictions took place in July primarily because of current regulations that occur during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery and historically there is a higher occurrence of king salmon present in July during the post-June fishery (Table 135-1 and Figure 135-1). The management action of monitoring the harvest of Chinook salmon in the Shumagin Island Section of the Southeastern District was implemented in July 2025. Two scheduled fishing periods in July were not opened in the Shumagin Islands section due to Chinook salmon harvest in the statistical area 282-11 that surpassed the threshold of 1,000 fish. The eliminated fishing periods were July 14–15 and July 22–23.

The regulatory history of the June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal because it would reduce information on total king salmon mortality. While some additional king salmon may be conserved by allowing them to be released from purse seine gear, there will be a concurrent loss of information on total king salmon catch and mortality. This proposal could also complicate enforcement of retention requirements for other salmon species during the June fishery. If adopted, the department would benefit from additional guidance from the board on how to implement this regulation as the South Alaska Peninsula differs from other areas that manage local king salmon stocks.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

Reference:

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

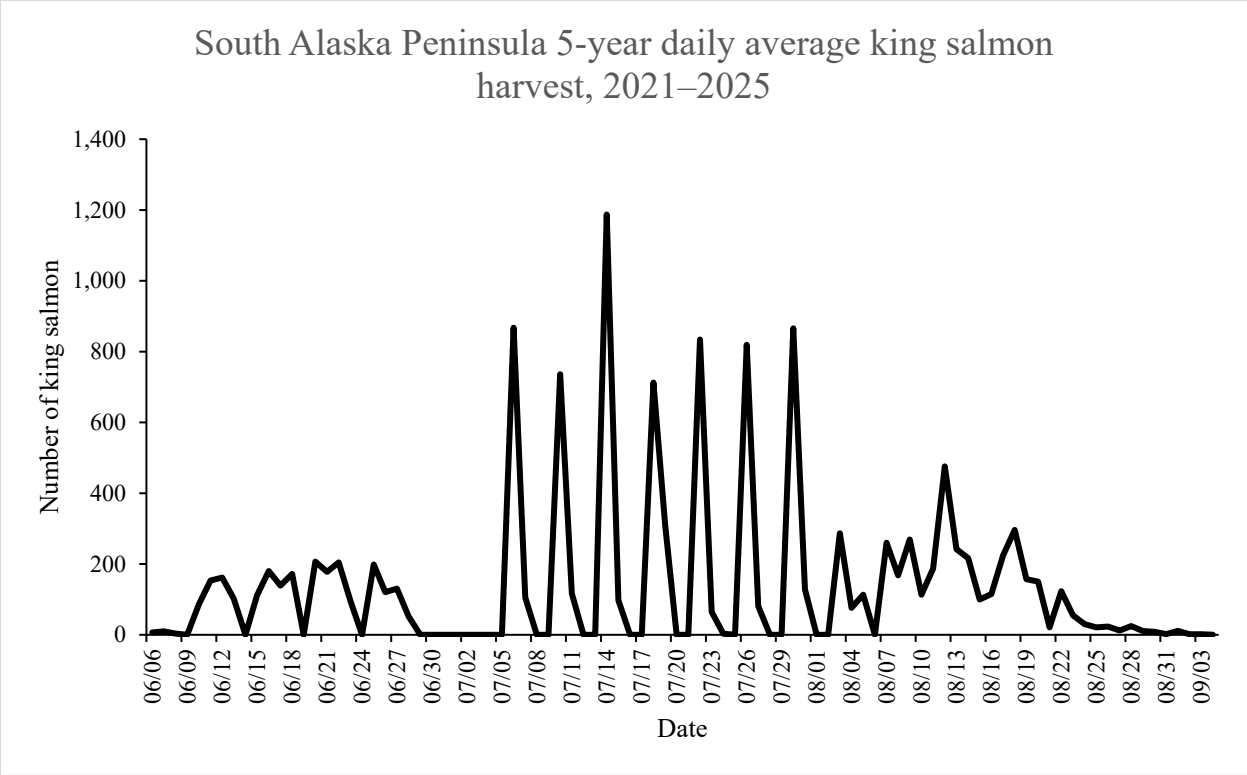

Figure 135-1.–South Alaska Peninsula 5-year daily average commercial king salmon harvest, 2021–2025.

Table 135-1.–Commercial harvest of king salmon in the South Alaska Peninsula by statistical week, 2021–2025.

		Number of king salmon				
Month	Stat week	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jun	24	851	1,018	307	249	189
Jun	25	972	1,185	935	453	506
Jun	26	1,382	1,080	714	707	757
Jun	27	53	27	112	63	3
July	28	1,786	3,606	69	1,788	1,296
July	29	2,642	1,229	478	1,966	689
July	30	1,180	2,642	534	1,505	3,768
July	31	620	1,970	1,859	967	4,055
Aug	32	0	1	1,301	0	2,381
Aug	33	1,817	0	3,982	0	2,555
Aug	34	2,156	1,083	786	41	1,250
Aug	35	836	194	255	2	158
Sep	36	19	0	0	0	160
	Total	14,314	14,035	11,332	7,741	17,767

SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA SALMON POST-JUNE MANAGEMENT PLAN (9 PROPOSALS)

PROPOSAL 138 – 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula

PROPOSED BY: Emil Mobeck

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would increase commercial salmon fishing time during scheduled fishing periods in July for set gillnet gear only. For each scheduled fishing period during July, there would be a 24-hour extension for set gillnet gear past the current time each commercial fishing period closes. No change would be made to the scheduled commercial fishing period times for other gear types.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The commissioner shall establish, to the extent practicable, concurrent fishing periods in the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak Districts. From July 6 through July 31, the commissioner may establish fishing periods by emergency order. The first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 33 hours until 3:00 p.m. the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 63 hours. Commercial fishing will then reopen at 6:00 a.m. and run for 36 hours until 6:00 p.m. the following day; the fishing period will then close for 60 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later. This schedule of 36-hour fishing periods (6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) may continue until July 31, for a total of one 33-hour fishing period and six 36-hour fishing periods, for a total of 249 hours of commercial fishing time (Figure 138-1).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would increase total fishing time during July from 249 hours to 417 hours for set gillnet gear only. The proposal specifically mentions increasing fishing time for set gillnet gear and keeping existing fishing time for seine gear. Drift gillnet gear is not mentioned. It is unclear in the proposal, but if the last fishing period during July was to be a 60-hour fishing period for set gillnet gear only (as is the pattern set forth in the proposal), this fishing period would close on August 1st at 6:00 p.m. and thus this proposal would increase fishing by 120 hours after July 14. There would still be 7 total fishing periods during July for all gear types, and each fishing period would open at the same time for all gear types (6:00 a.m.) but fishing periods for set gillnet gear would close 24 hours after other gear types (Figure 138-2). This would increase fishing time on the early portion of local pink and chum salmon stocks, which could be detrimental in years with low returns: early run salmon stocks could be overfished and the run timing of stocks could be altered.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1974, the July South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery was generally open 5 days per week with a total season closure on August 10. During the 1974 and 1975 fishing seasons, the fishery was severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976 through 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by emergency order based on local stock run strength. Fishing periods from July 6 through July 18 were based on chum salmon run strength and from July 18 through about August 20, on pink salmon run strength.

In November of 1991, the board established the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366). The plan essentially limited fishing from July 6 through July 19 to designated terminal areas. From 1993 through 1997, harvests in the July 6 through July 19 period in the South Alaska Peninsula were significantly lower than pre-1993 harvests for the same

period. One reason for closing most of the South Peninsula during July 6 through July 19 was the board's desire to minimize July coho salmon harvests.

In 1998 the board made changes to the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* which defined 2 distinct fishing periods within the month of July. For the period July 6 through July 21, the board increased non-terminal area fishing opportunities. Fishing periods were limited to a maximum of 24 hours followed by a closure of at least 48 hours. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapement of pink and chum salmon were adequate. Terminal areas for the July 6 through July 21 fishing period included Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, East Pavlof Bay, West Pavlof Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections.

For the period July 22 through July 31, the board reduced overall fishing time and restricted continuous fishing in late July in non-terminal areas. Fishing periods in non-terminal areas were limited to 36 hours. Each open fishing period was followed by a minimum closure of 48 hours. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon were warranted. In addition to the terminal areas listed for the July 6 through July 21 fishing periods, the July 22 through July 31 fishing period included the terminal areas in the Stepovak Flats Section (from July 26 through July 28), the section near Suzy Creek (after July 25), Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section, Belkofski Bay Section, and Deer Island Section.

In 2013, the board amended the July fishing schedule (5 AAC 09.366(d)) in the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* by consolidating the number of fishing periods from 9 to 7, while still offering the same 249 hours of fishing time. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon are on track to be met; however terminal areas within the Southeastern District Mainland, the Stepovak Flats, and the Northwest Stepovak Sections were repealed from the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*.

The regulatory history of the post-June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal because of the proposed increase in fishing time during the latter two-thirds of July. In accordance with the *Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries* (5 AAC 39.222(c)(2)(D), the department shall distribute harvest throughout the course of particular salmon stocks' run timing to help maintain the integrity of that stock and decrease the likelihood of temporal shifting in future returns of that stock. The department would continue to use EO authority to manage for sustainable escapement levels. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfishes in the Alaska Peninsula Areas (5 AAC 01.416).

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

Reference:

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

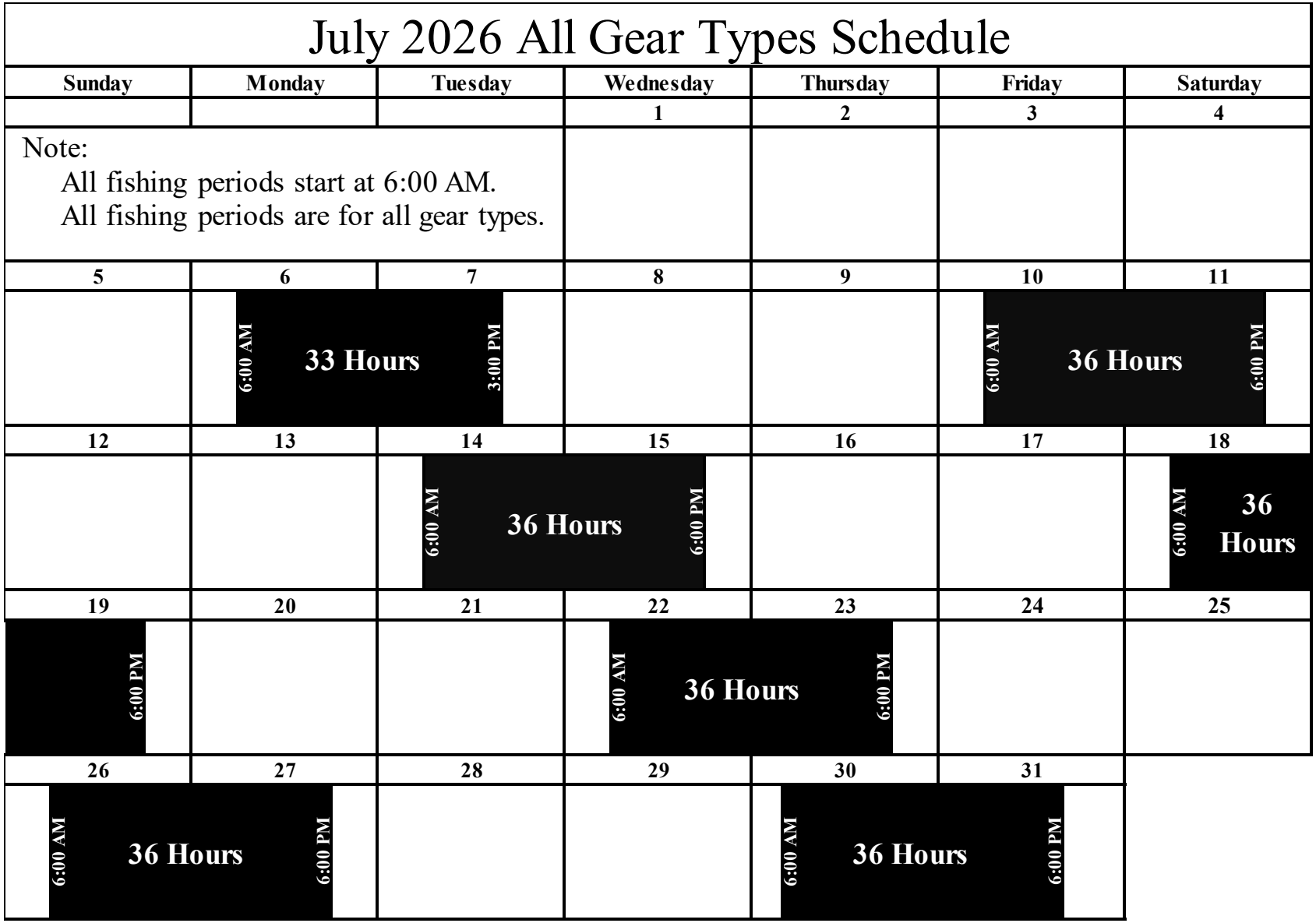

Figure 138-1.–Current July fishing period schedule for all gear types.

Figure 138-2.–Proposal 138 July fishing period schedule.

PROPOSAL 146 –5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula

PROPOSED BY: Rick Eastlick

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would increase commercial salmon fishing time during scheduled fishing periods in July for set gillnet gear. For each scheduled fishing period during July, starting on the third scheduled fishing period, commercial fishing would be extended 24 hours for set gillnet gear past the current time each fishing period closes. Thus, each closure would be reduced by 24 hours for set gillnet gear. No change would be made to the scheduled fishing period times for other gear types.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The commissioner shall establish, to the extent practicable, concurrent fishing periods in the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak Districts. From July 6 through July 31, the commissioner may establish fishing periods by emergency order. The first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 33 hours until 3:00 p.m. the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 63 hours. Commercial fishing will then reopen at 6:00 a.m. and run for 36 hours until 6:00 p.m. the following day; the fishing period will then close for 60 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later. This schedule of 36-hour fishing periods (6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) may continue until July 31, for a total of one 33-hour fishing period and six 36-hour fishing periods, for a total of 249 hours of commercial fishing time (Figure 146-1).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would increase total fishing time during July from 249 hours to 369 hours for set gillnet gear only. It is unclear in the proposal, but if the last fishing period during July was to be a 60-hour fishing period for set gillnet gear only (as is the pattern set forth in the proposal), this fishing period would close on August 1st at 6:00 p.m. and thus this proposal would increase fishing by 120 hours after July 14 (Figure 146-2). There would still be seven total fishing periods during July for all gear types, and each fishing period would open at the same time for all gear types (6:00 a.m.) but fishing periods for set gillnet gear would close 24 hours after other gear types. The increased fishing effort and harvest on the early portion of local pink and chum salmon stocks could be detrimental in years with low returns (Figure 146-3).

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1974, the July South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery was generally open five days per week with a total season closure on August 10. During the 1974 and 1975 fishing season, the fishery was severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976 through 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by emergency order based on local stock run strength. Fishing periods from July 6 through July 18 were based on chum salmon run strength and from July 18 through about August 20 on pink salmon run strength.

In November of 1991, the board established the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366). The plan essentially limited fishing from July 6 through July 19 to designated terminal areas. From 1993 through 1997, harvests in the July 6 through July 19 period in the South Alaska Peninsula were significantly lower than pre-1993 harvests for the same period. One reason for closing most of the South Peninsula during July 6 through July 19 was the board's desire to minimize July coho salmon harvests.

In 1998, the board made changes to the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*, which defined two distinct fishing periods within the month of July. For the period July

6 through July 21, the board increased non-terminal area fishing opportunities. Fishing periods were limited to a maximum of 24 hours followed by a closure of at least 48 hours. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapement of pink and chum salmon were adequate. Terminal areas for the July 6 through July 21 fishing period included Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, East Pavlof Bay, West Pavlof Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections.

For the period July 22 through July 31, the board reduced overall fishing time and restricted continuous fishing in late July in non-terminal areas. Fishing periods in non-terminal areas were limited to 36 hours. Each open fishing period was followed by minimum closure of 48 hours. The board also established a coho salmon cap of 60,000 fish in non-terminal areas during July 22 through July 31; this was repealed in 2004. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon were warranted. In addition to the terminal areas listed for the July 6 through July 21 fishing periods, the July 22 through July 31 fishing period include the terminal areas in the Stepovak Flats Section (from July 26 through July 28), the section near Suzy Creek (after July 25), Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section, Belkofski Bay Section, and Deer Island Section.

In 2013, the board amended the July fishing schedule (5 AAC 09.366(d)) in the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula by consolidating the number of fishing periods from nine to seven, while still offering the same 249 hours of fishing time. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon were warranted; however terminal areas within the Southeastern District Mainland, the Stepovak Flats, and the Northwest Stepovak Sections were repealed from the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Set gillnet gear harvest, on average, 53 king, 182,055 sockeye, 6,817 coho, 56,045 pink, and 33,066 chum salmon annually from July 6–July 31 period of the post-June salmon fishery. Purse seine gear harvests, on average, 8,045 king, 441,724 sockeye, 125,128 coho, 1,75,676 pink, and 364,933 chum salmon during the same period. The majority of the drift gillnet fleet typically move to fish the North Alaska Peninsula in July, and on average harvest 6 king, 17,161 sockeye, 5,791 coho, 14,848 pink, and 7,689 chum salmon (Table 146-1).

The regulatory history of the post-June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. Adoption of this proposal would reduce the likelihood of achieving sustainable escapement levels and could overexploit certain portions of a given run. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfishes in the Alaska Peninsula Areas (5 AAC 01.416)

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

Reference:

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

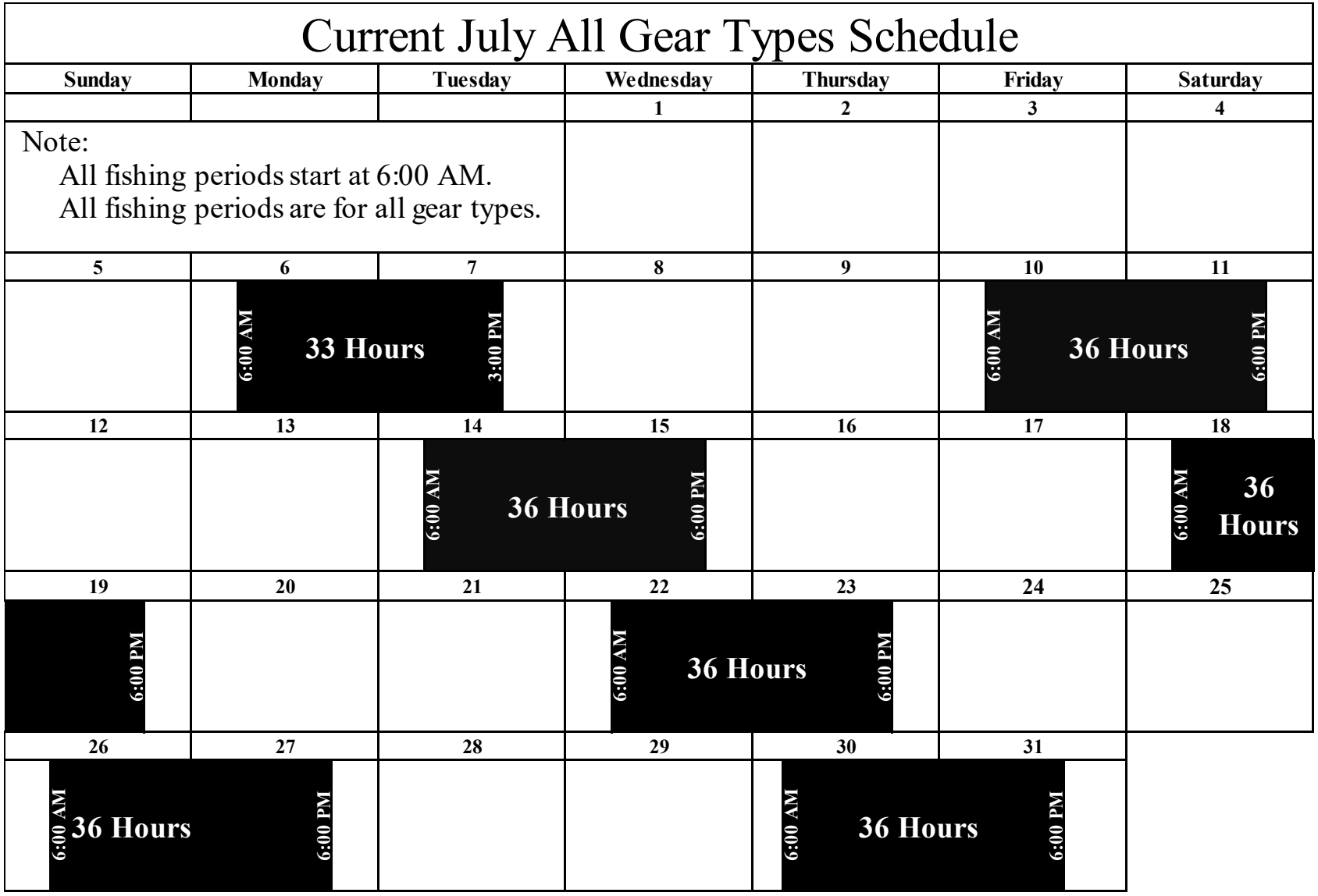

Figure 146-1.–Current July fishing period for all gear types

Figure 146-2.–Proposed July fishing period schedule.

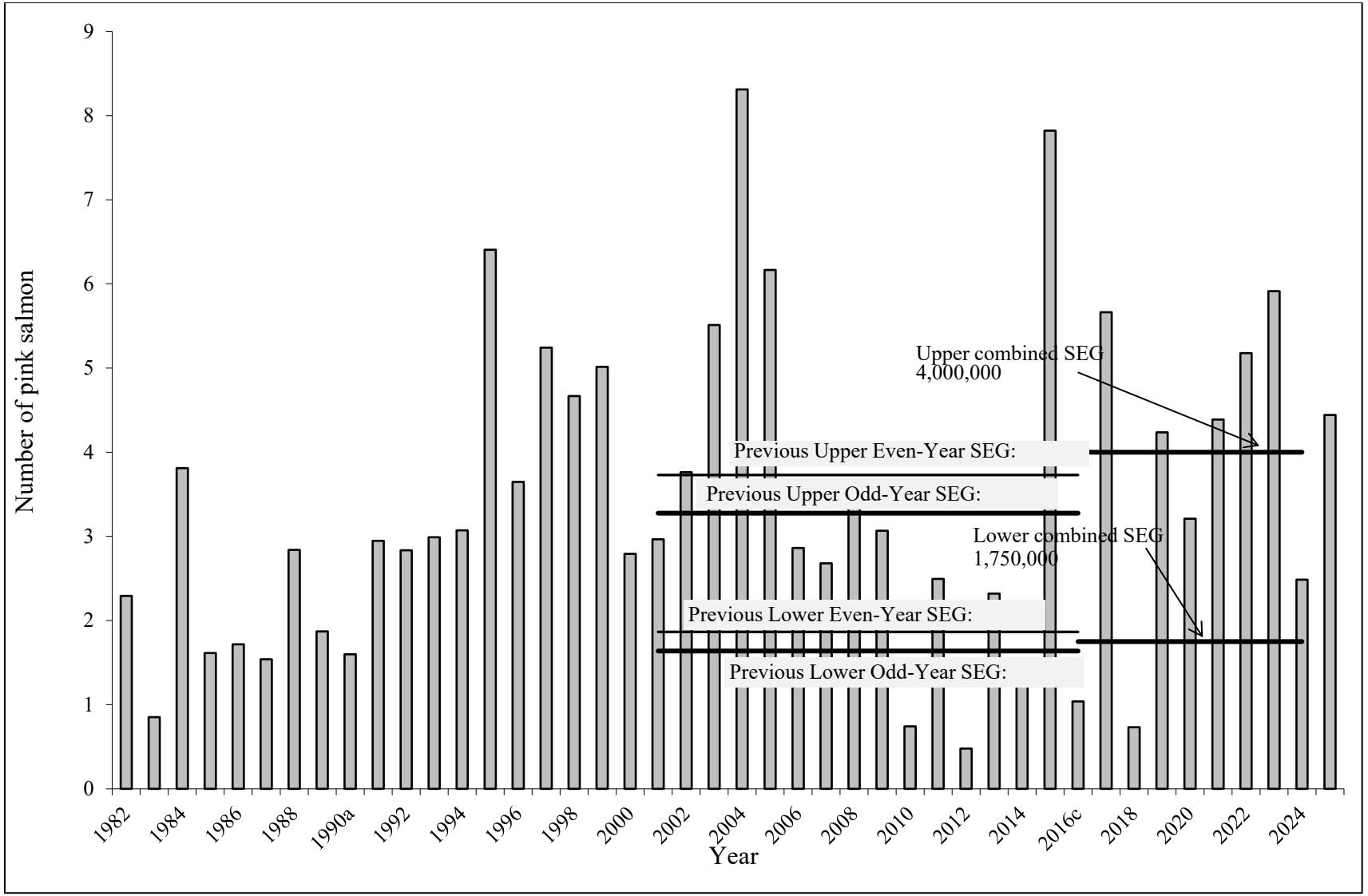

Figure 146-3.–Pink salmon escapement and sustainable escapement goal ranges from 1982 to 2025.

Table 146-1.–South Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon harvest from July 6–July 31 (excluding Southeastern District Mainland) by gear type, 2015–2025.

	King			Sockeye			Coho			Pink			Chum		
Year	Purse seine	Drift gillnet	Set gillnet	Purse seine	Drift gillnet	Set gillnet	Purse seine	Drift gillnet	Set gillnet	Purse seine	Drift gillnet	Set gillnet	Purse seine	Drift gillnet	Set gillnet
2015	6,215	6	61	824,960	35,227	354,441	145,924	12,650	19,858	3,601,560	23,236	42,648	178,481	14,739	36,500
2016	6,669	4	119	540,146	7,067	209,086	163,806	3,061	3,209	304,634	2,464	26,300	108,748	950	20,089
2017	4,089		50	494,985	21,419	303,688	174,198	9,101	18,578	4,201,355	34,379	185,355	673,494	10,827	140,571
2018	12,625	3	238	338,534	17,223	149,282	242,338	4,311	9,559	346,267	11,836	56,493	380,018	7,081	46,742
2019	11,510		23	470,323	5,700	244,672	183,107	674	11,100	2,324,731	5,392	46,711	290,112	2,031	32,205
2020	18,243	8	50	378,074	16,766	167,178	72,248	3,378	4,055	1,548,312	18,808	67,576	380,382	2,573	9,540
2021	6,000		12	589,518	8,198	169,956	133,384	1,594	3,246	1,614,323	7,936	37,041	933,957	3,126	19,303
2022	9,104	1	4	281,729	6,461	95,065	21,568	809	1,471	1,184,637	9,859	72,327	168,818	2,900	16,252
2023	2,409		7	382,198	14,797	128,415	102,385	6,732	1,580	1,961,535	13,803	37,841	307,580	9,709	17,765
2024	5,729	7	12	124,859	10,282	47,882	58,308	11,243	1,090	604,439	15,798	19,431	74,879	7,351	5,523
2025	5,900	10	2	433,641	45,634	132,942	79,145	10,147	1,244	1,642,644	19,814	24,768	518,153	23,293	19,235
10-yr Average	8,045	6	53	441,724	17,161	182,055	125,128	5,791	6,817	1,757,676	14,848	56,045	364,966	7,689	33,066

PROPOSAL 139 – 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula

PROPOSED BY: Edgar L Smith

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would allow the commissioner to establish commercial fishing periods by emergency order from August 1 to August 31 in the Southeastern District for set gillnet gear. There would be six 61-hour fishing periods interspersed by 59-hour closures beginning August 1. Each fishing period would open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 9:00 p.m (Figure 139-1).

The fishing periods would be based on the lower bound of the South Alaska Peninsula pink salmon sustainable escapement goal, which is 1,750,000 pink salmon. There would be specific escapement goal percentage checkpoints that would dictate whether subsequent scheduled fishing periods would open.

From September 1 to October 31, fishing periods would be based on the abundance of coho salmon stocks, and the department could consider the abundance of late pink and chum salmon stocks.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the commercial salmon fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula. From August 1 through August 31, fishing periods shall be based on the abundance of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon stocks. From September 1 through October 31, fishing periods shall be based on abundance of coho salmon stocks, although the department may consider the abundance of late pink and chum salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This could shift management from opening fishing periods based on the strength of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon runs to a scheduled August fishery based primarily on pink salmon escapement. Although the proposed fishing period schedule set forth would be based on pink salmon escapement, there remains the potential for deleterious effects that the proposed fishing periods could have on local salmon stocks, particularly on local sockeye, coho, and chum salmon runs if management is no longer based on the abundance of these species. This would not eliminate the need to manage all salmon stocks, through EO authority, to ensure sustainable escapement levels.

The first scheduled commercial fishing period would open on August 1 for set gillnet gear if 20% of the lower bound of the sustainable escapement goal (LB SEG) for pink salmon was met. The established fishing periods would continue to open if, at the end of the second fishing period (closing August 8), 40% of the LB SEG for pink salmon was met. The established fishing periods would further continue to open if, at the end of the fourth fishing period (closing August 18), 80% of the LB SEG for pink salmon was met. Based on this pattern, it is possible that the proponent meant to further include that established commercial fishing periods would continue to open if, after the third fishing period, 60% of the LB SEG for pink salmon was met; however, this was not explicitly mentioned.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1974, the July South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery was generally open 5 days per week with a total season closure on August 10. During the 1974 and 1975 fishing seasons, the fishery was severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976 through 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by emergency order based on local stock run strength. Fishing periods from July 6 through July 18 were based on chum salmon run strength and from July 18 through about August 20 on pink salmon run strength. In November of 1991, the board established

the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366). The plan allowed for the entire South Peninsula to be opened to commercial fishing by emergency order based on local stock strength from July 20 until the close of the season. In 1998, regulations pertaining to August onwards were further refined by the board. Specifically, at that time, the following first appeared in regulation:

(h) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the commercial salmon fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula as follows:

> (1) from August 1 through August 31, fishing periods shall be based on the abundance of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon stocks;
>
> (2) from September 1 through October 31, fishing periods shall be based on abundance of coho salmon stocks, although the department may consider the abundance of late pink and chum salmon stocks.

The regulatory history of the post-June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. This proposal would depend on the department's ability to conduct regular stream surveys with frequency to determine escapement which would inform the proposed schedule. Although the department attempts to conduct frequent stream surveys during August, survey occurrence can be variable and unpredictable, for example, depending on weather conditions and aircraft availability. The inability of the department to conduct stream surveys on a scheduled basis due to the aforementioned factors to assess escapement could be a further complication for the implementation of this proposal; it may not be possible to conduct stream surveys in accordance with this schedule in order to monitor the percentage of pink salmon escapement as set forth in this proposal, which could lead to scheduled fishing periods not opening. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal would result in additional direct cost for the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfishes in the Alaska Peninsula Areas (5 AAC 01.416).

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

Reference:

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

Figure 139-1.–Proposal 139 August fishing period schedule for set gillnet gear.

PROPOSAL 142 –5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula

PROPOSED BY: Area M Seiners Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would allow the commissioner to open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for specific or multiple gear types from August 1 to August 31. These commercial fishing periods could be concurrent or nonconcurrent.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The commissioner can establish, to the extent practicable, concurrent fishing periods in the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak Districts. In August, fishing periods can be established from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and must be for all gear types.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This could allow the department to open non-concurrent fishing periods by emergency order in August. Thus, there could be commercial fishing periods established for specific gear types, and fishing periods for different gear types would not need to occur at the same time throughout the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak districts. This would likely increase harvest opportunity and harvest of salmon.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1974, the July South Peninsula fishery was generally open five days per week with a total season closure on August 10. During the 1974 and 1975 fishing season, the fishery was severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976 through 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by emergency order based on local stock run strength. Fishing periods from July 6 through about July 18 were based on chum salmon run strength and from July 18 through about August 20 on pink salmon run strength.

In November of 1991, the board established the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366). The plan essentially limited fishing from July 6 through July 19 to designated terminal areas. From 1993 through 1997, harvests in the July 6 through July 19 period in the South Alaska Peninsula were significantly lower than pre-1993 harvests for the same period. One reason for closing most of the South Peninsula during July 6 through 19 was the board's desire to minimize July coho salmon harvests.

Beginning in 1998, the board allowed 24-hour fishing periods for South Alaska Peninsula followed by 48-hour closures during July 6 through July 21. From July 22 through July 31 fishing time was limited in non-terminal areas to three periods not to exceed 36 hours in duration and interspersed by closures of at least 48 hours (outside of the Southeastern District Mainland 178 prior to July 26). The amount of fishing area considered "terminal" was increased during the July 22 through July 31 time period as local pink and chum salmon gained in run strength. Terminal areas during the July 22 through July 31 time period include Morzhovoi Bay, the Thin Point Section, Cold Bay, the Deer Island Section, the Belkofski Bay Section, East and West Pavlof Bay sections (north of the latitude of Black Point), Canoe Bay, Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section, southern portion of Zachary Bay, the area near Suzy Creek (after July 25), and the Stepovak Flats Section from July 26 through July 28.

These current regulations state that between August 1 and October 31, the fishery is opened based on local pink, chum, and coho salmon abundance and all gear types are concurrently provided opportunity to harvest fish during such commercial openings.

The regulatory history of the post-June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal because the department does not have emergency order authority to make inseason allocative decisions without very specific direction from the board on how to implement these actions. If the proposal were adopted, the department could be placed in the position of making inseason decisions that would limit one gear type over another. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfishes in the Alaska Peninsula Areas (5 AAC 01.416).

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

Reference:

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

PROPOSAL 144 –5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Brown, Sand Point AC Chair

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would allow the department to open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for specific or multiple gear types from August 1 to August 31. These commercial fishing periods could be concurrent or nonconcurrent. Specifically, this proposal would allow the department to open fishing periods for commercial set gillnet gear only prior to escapement goals having been met or projected to be met.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The commissioner can establish, to the extent practicable, concurrent commercial fishing periods in the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak Districts. In August, fishing periods can be established from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and must be for all gear types.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This could allow the department to open non-concurrent fishing periods by emergency order in August. Thus, there could be fishing periods established for specific gear types, and fishing periods for different gear types would not need to occur at the same time throughout the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak Districts. Furthermore, it could allow fishing periods for set gillnet gear before adequate escapement for the area has been met or is on track to being met, which could impede the department's ability to manage based on escapement of local stocks (Figure 144-1). In practice the department would not provide fishing opportunity that would jeopardize achievement of sustainable levels of escapement. This would likely increase harvest opportunity and harvest of salmon.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1974, the July South Peninsula fishery was generally open 5 days per week with a total season closure on August 10. During the 1974 and 1975 fishing season, the fishery was severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976 through 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by emergency order based on local stock run strength. Fishing periods from July 6 through about July 18 were based on chum salmon run strength and from July 18 through about August 20 on pink salmon run strength.

In November of 1991, the board established the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula (5 AAC 09.366). The plan essentially limited fishing from July 6 through July 19 to designated terminal areas. From 1993 through 1997, harvests in the July 6 through July 19 period in the South Alaska Peninsula were significantly lower than pre-1993 harvests for the same period. One reason for closing most of the South Peninsula during July 6 through 19 was the board's desire to minimize July coho salmon harvests.

Beginning in 1998, the board allowed 24-hour fishing periods for South Alaska Peninsula followed by 48-hour closures during July 6 through July 21. From July 22 through July 31 fishing time was limited in non-terminal areas to 3 periods not to exceed 36 hours in duration and interspersed by closures of at least 48 hours (outside of the Southeastern District Mainland 178 prior to July 26). The amount of fishing area considered "terminal" was increased during the July 22 through July 31 time period as local pink and chum salmon gained in run strength. Terminal areas during the July 22 through July 31 time period include Morzhovoi Bay, the Thin Point Section, Cold Bay, the Deer Island Section, the Belkofski Bay Section, East and West Pavlof Bay sections (north of the latitude of Black Point), Canoe Bay, Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section, southern portion of

Zachary Bay, the area near Suzy Creek (after July 25), and the Stepovak Flats Section from July 26 through July 28.

These current regulations state that between August 1 and October 31, the fishery is opened based on local pink, chum, and coho salmon abundance and all gear types are concurrently provided opportunity to harvest fish during such commercial openings.

The regulatory history of the post-June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal because the department does not have emergency order authority to make inseason allocative decisions without very specific direction from the board on how to do this. If adopted, the department could be placed in the position of making inseason decisions that would limit one gear type over another and providing fishing opportunities before escapement goals are being met or projected to be met. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in and additional cost to the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfishes in the Alaska Peninsula Areas (5 AAC 01.416)

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

Reference:

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

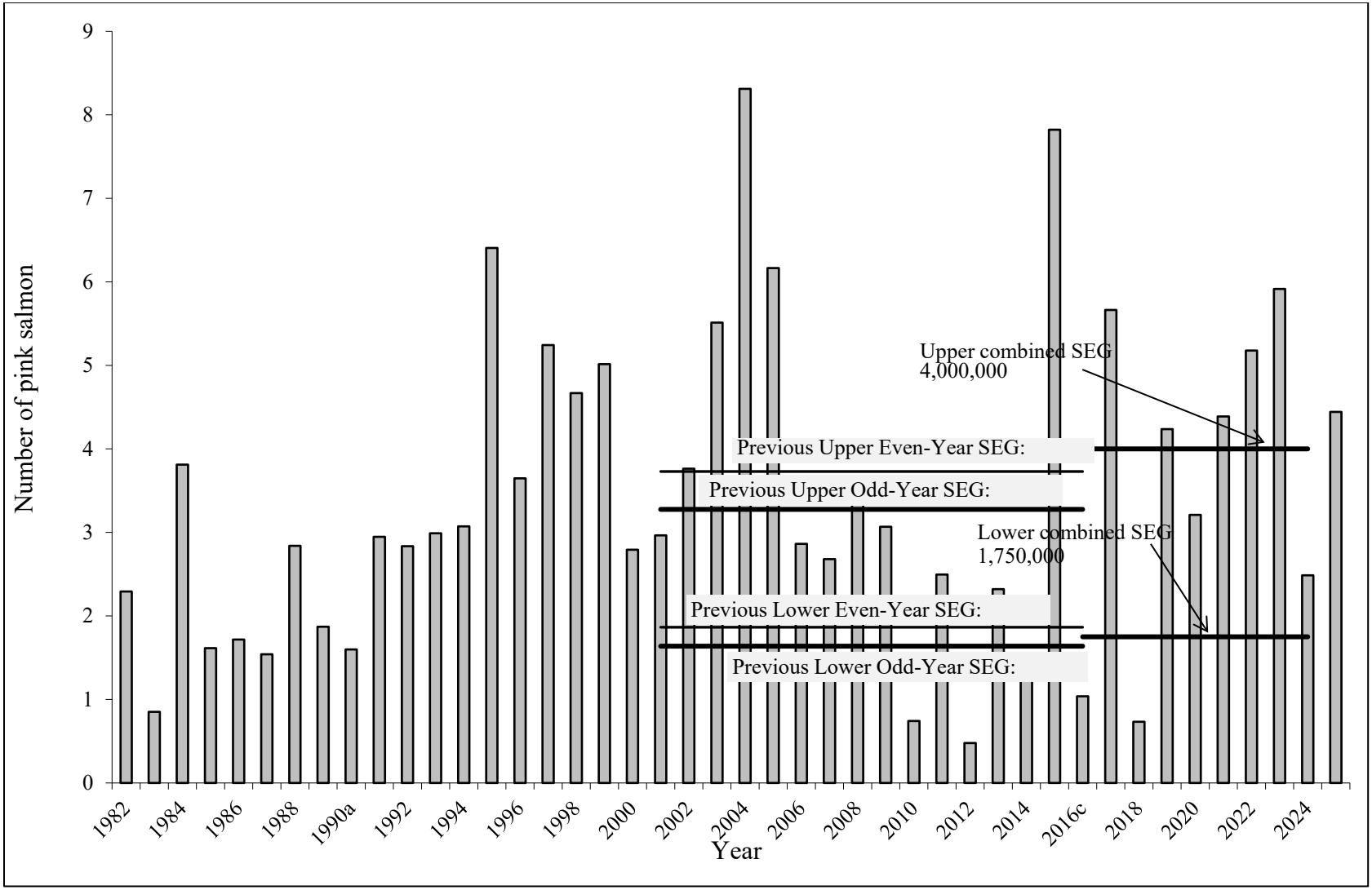

Figure 144-1.–Pink salmon escapement and sustainable escapement goal ranges from 1982 to 2025.

PROPOSAL 145 –5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula

PROPOSED BY: Area M Seiners Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would allow the commissioner to open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for specific or multiple gear types from August 1 to August 31. These commercial fishing periods could be concurrent or nonconcurrent.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The commissioner can establish, to the extent practicable, concurrent commercial fishing periods in the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak Districts. In August, fishing periods can be established from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and must be for all gear types. This would likely increase harvest opportunity and harvest of salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This could allow the department to open nonconcurrent fishing periods by emergency order in August. Thus, there could be fishing periods established for specific gear types, and fishing periods for different gear types would not need to occur at the same time throughout the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak Districts.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1974, the July South Peninsula fishery was generally open five days per week with a total season closure on August 10. During the 1974 and 1975 fishing season, the fishery was severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976 through 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by emergency order based on local stock run strength. Fishing periods from July 6 through about July 18 were based on chum salmon run strength and from July 18 through about August 20 on pink salmon run strength.

In November of 1991, the board established the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366). The plan essentially limited fishing from July 6 through July 19 to designated terminal areas. From 1993 through 1997, harvests in the July 6 through July 19 period in the South Alaska Peninsula were significantly lower than pre-1993 harvests for the same period. One reason for closing most of the South Peninsula during July 6 through 19 was the board's desire to minimize July coho salmon harvests.

Beginning in 1998, the board allowed 24-hour fishing periods for South Alaska Peninsula followed by 48-hour closures during July 6 through July 21. From July 22 through July 31 fishing time was limited in non-terminal areas to three periods not to exceed 36 hours in duration and interspersed by closures of at least 48 hours (outside of the Southeastern District Mainland 178 prior to July 26). The amount of fishing area considered "terminal" was increased during the July 22 through July 31 time period as local pink and chum salmon gained in run strength. Terminal areas during the July 22 through July 31 time period include Morzhovoi Bay, the Thin Point Section, Cold Bay, the Deer Island Section, the Belkofski Bay Section, East and West Pavlof Bay sections (north of the latitude of Black Point), Canoe Bay, Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section, southern portion of Zachary Bay, the area near Suzy Creek (after July 25), and the Stepovak Flats Section from July 26 through July 28.

These current regulations state that between August 1 and October 31, the fishery is opened based on local pink, chum, and coho salmon abundance and all gear types are concurrently provided opportunity to harvest fish during such commercial openings.

The regulatory history of the post-June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal because the department does not have emergency order authority to make inseason allocative decisions without very specific direction from the board on how to do this. If adopted, the department could be placed in the position of making inseason decisions that would limit one gear type over another. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfishes in the Alaska Peninsula Areas (5 AAC 01.416)

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

Reference:

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

PROPOSAL 140 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections. 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula

PROPOSED BY: Axel S Kopun.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would split several sections in the South Central and Southwestern Districts into inner and outer sections and only the inner sections would be considered terminal harvest areas. The areas that would change include the Belkofski Bay, the Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay, the Volcano Bay, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In 5 AAC 09.200, descriptions of districts and sections identified in this proposal are as follows (Figure 140-1):

- Belkofski Bay Section: waters between Vodapoini Point and Moss Cape, including Inner and Outer Iliasik Islands, excluding the waters of the Deer Island Section.
- Volcano Bay Section: waters between Moss Cape and Arch Point, including Goloi, Dolgoi, and Poperechnoi Islands.
- Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section: waters of the South Central District, excluding those of the West and East Pavlof Bay and Canoe Bay Sections, between the longitude of McGinty Point (160° 59.00' W. long.) and the longitude of Cape Tolstoi (161° 30.00' W. long.).
- General Section: all remaining waters of the Southwestern District.
- Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section: waters of the South Central District, excluding those of the West and East Pavlof Bay and Canoe Bay Sections, between the longitude of McGinty Point (160° 59.00' W. long.) and the longitude of Cape Tolstoi (161° 30.00' W. long.).

In In 5 AAC 09.366., descriptions of terminal harvest areas that the commissioner may open, by emergency order, from July 6 to July 31, are as follows:

- The East and West Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District, waters north of the latitude of Black Point (lat 55° 24.48′ N); fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks.

In In 5 AAC 09.366., descriptions of terminal harvest areas that the commissioner may open, by emergency order, from July 22 to July 31, are as follows:

- The Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section of the South Central District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local pink and chum salmon stocks.
- The Belkofski Bay Section of the Southwestern District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local pink and chum salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Terminal harvest areas would be reduced in size. Because terminal harvest areas would be reduced in size in the Belkofski Bay, the Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections (Figures 140-2 and 140-3), it is possible that harvest in these areas would decrease and that fewer non-local salmon would be intercepted during years when it is warranted to open these terminal areas outside the post-June regulatory schedule. There has not been any harvest in these areas outside the post-June regulatory schedule since 2006.

BACKGROUND: The *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366) was formally adopted in 1991. Before 1991, the post-June fishery was divided into 3 date ranges and was based on the run strengths of the following local salmon species: from July

6 to approximately July 18 (chum salmon), from July 18 to approximately August 20 (pink salmon), and from September 1 until the end of the season (coho salmon).

In November 1991, the board established the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366). This plan allowed the harvest of local stocks through July 19 in terminal fishing areas only, which included Zachary Bay, the northern portion of Pavlof Bay, Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay sections, closing the remainder of the South Alaska Peninsula formerly opened in July. The board decision was partially based on allowing the harvest of local pink and chum salmon stocks to be caught in terminal areas early in the season without sacrificing product quality and simultaneously allowing nonlocal salmon to pass through South Alaska Peninsula waters. After July 19, the board concluded that South Alaska Peninsula fishers needed to harvest pink salmon in their traditional cape fishing areas to maintain product quality and to better accommodate the available processing capacity. Under this plan, commercial salmon fishing from July 6 to July 19 was restricted to terminal fishing areas opened by emergency order and was based on local stock run strength as determined by harvests and escapements. From July 20, through the remainder of the commercial salmon season, the entire South Alaska Peninsula could be opened to commercial salmon fishing by emergency order if warranted by local run stock strength (except in the SEDM fishery through July 25; 5 AAC 09.366).

In 1998, the board made changes to the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*, which defined 2 distinct fishing periods within the month of July. For the period July 6 through July 21, the board increased non-terminal area fishing opportunities. Fishing periods were limited to a maximum of 24 hours followed by a closure of at least 48 hours. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapement of pink and chum salmon were adequate. Terminal areas for the July 6 through July 21 fishing period included Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, East Pavlof Bay, West Pavlof Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections. For the period July 22 through July 31, the board reduced overall fishing time and restricted continuous fishing in late July in non-terminal areas. Fishing periods in non-terminal areas were limited to 36 hours. Each open fishing period was followed by minimum closure of 48 hours. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon were warranted. In addition to the terminal areas listed for the July 6 through July 21 fishing periods, the July 22 through July 31 fishing period include the terminal areas in the Stepovak Flats Section (from July 26 through July 28), the section near Suzy Creek (after July 25), Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section, Belkofski Bay Section, and Deer Island Section.

In 2013, the board amended the July fishing schedule (5 AAC 09.366(d)) in the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* by consolidating the number of fishing periods from nine to seven, while still offering the same 249 hours of fishing time. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon are on track to be met; however terminal areas within the Southeastern District Mainland, the Stepovak Flats, and the Northwest Stepovak Sections were repealed from the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*.

The regulatory history of the post-June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

Reference:

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

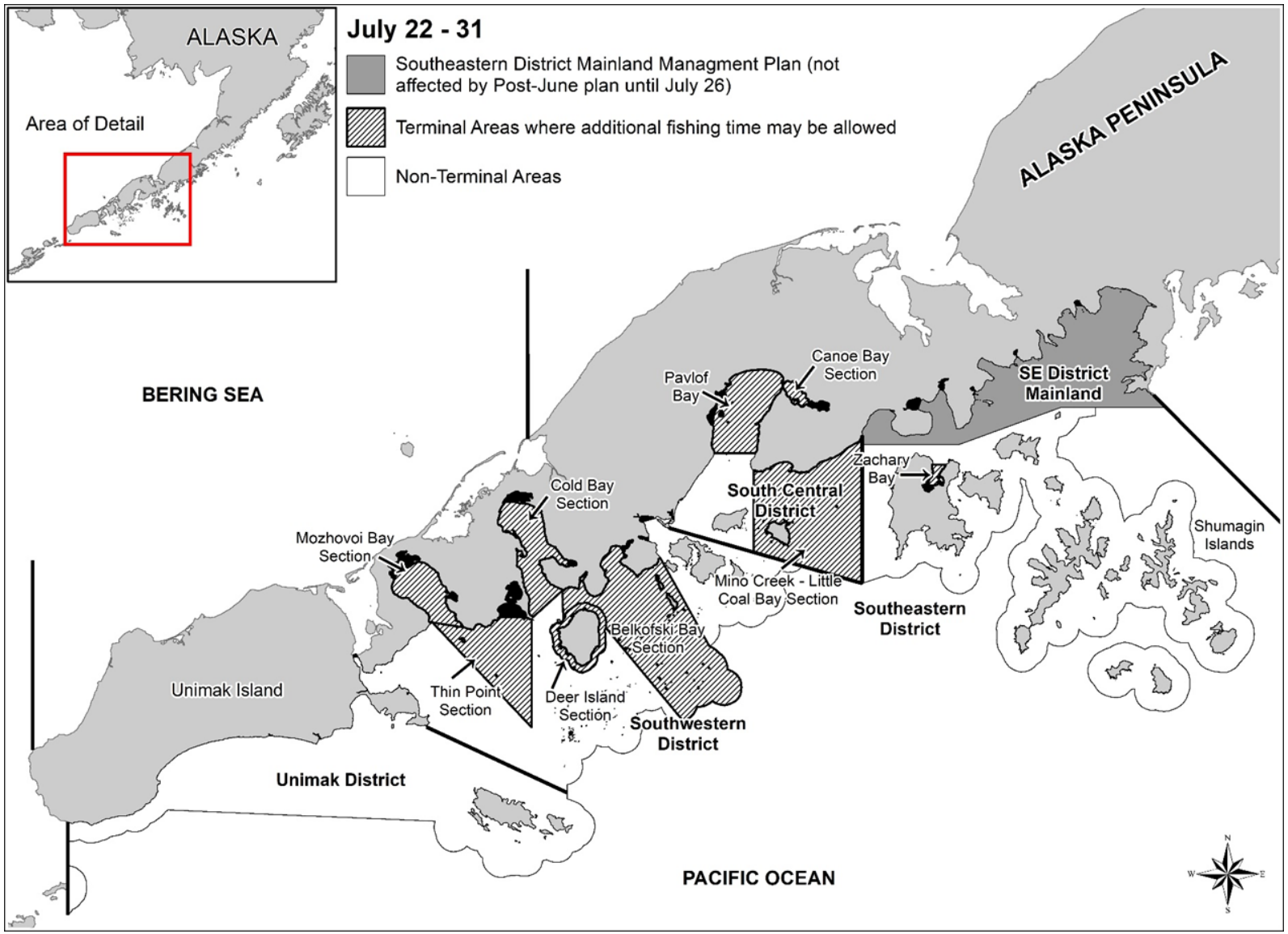

Figure 140-1.–Map of the South Peninsula post-June fishery with terminal areas defined during July 22–31.

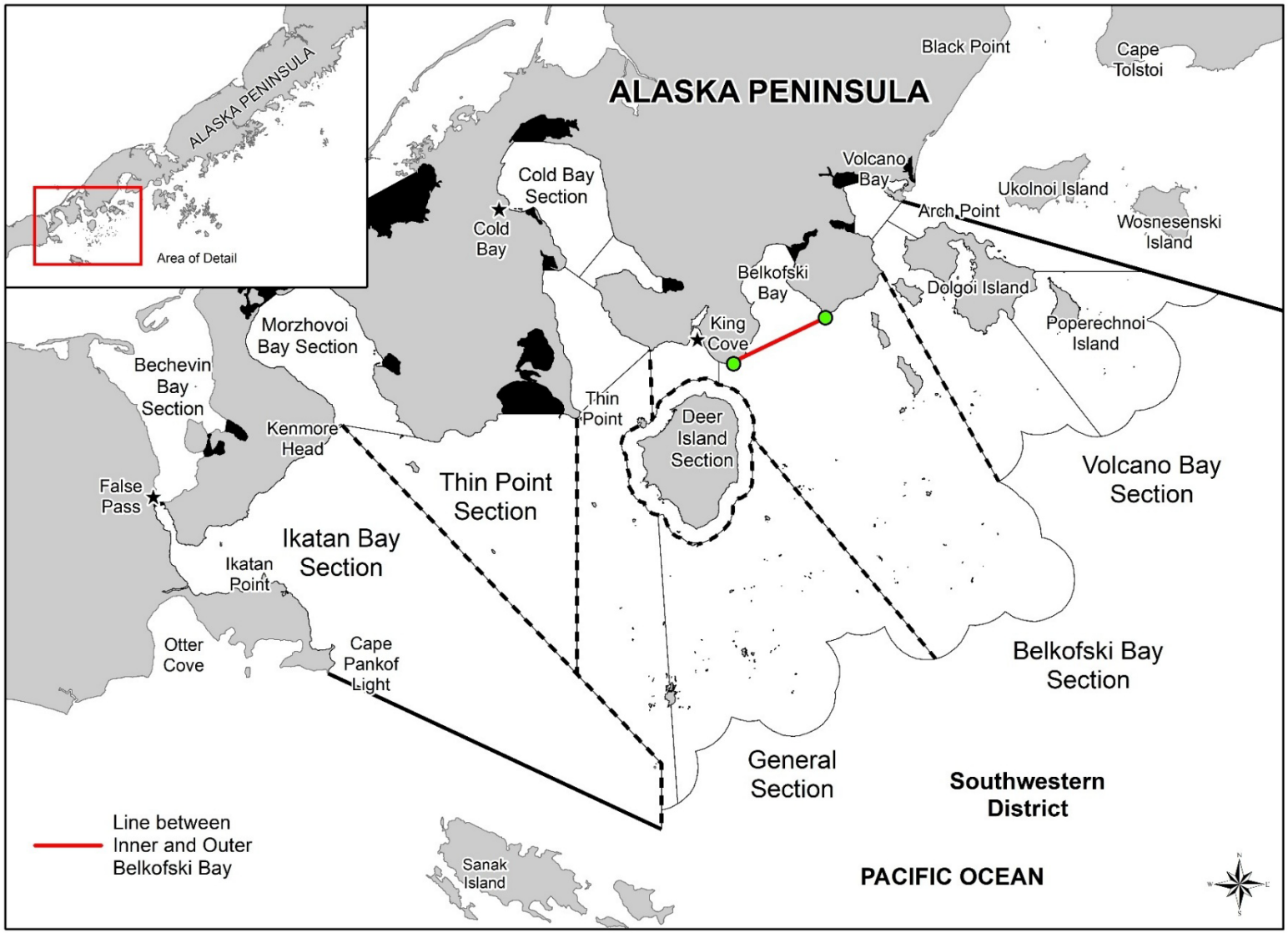

Figure 140-2.–Map of proposed sectioning of Belkofski Bay Section into Inner Belkofski Bay Section and Outer Belkofski Bay Section.

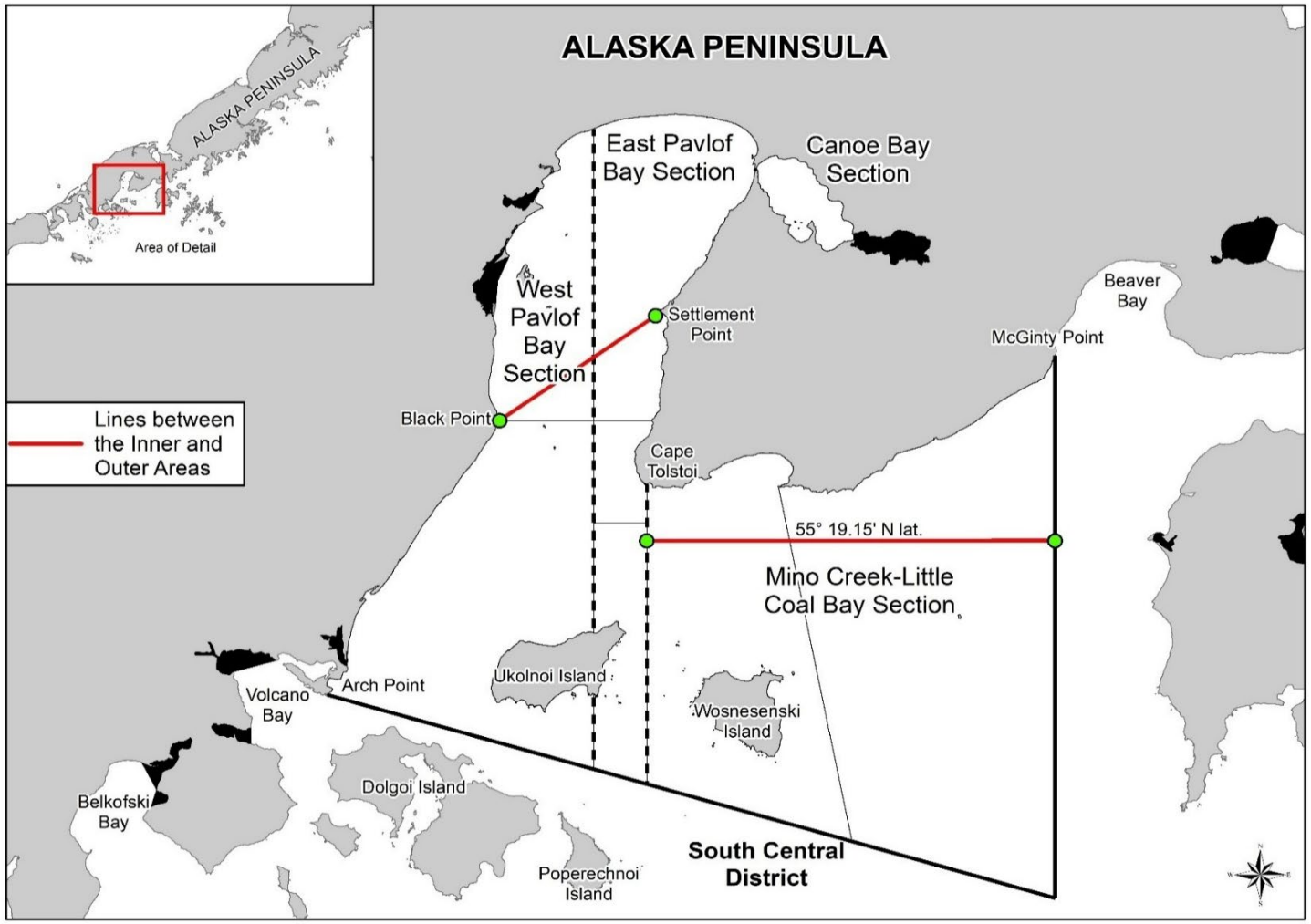

Figure 140-3.–Map of proposed sectioning of Mino Creek–Little Coal Bay Section into Inner Mino Creek–Little Coal Bay Section and Outer Mino Creek–Little Coal Bay Section and proposed southern boundary of East and West Pavlof Bay Sections.

PROPOSAL 141 –5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would create two king salmon harvest triggers that could come into effect in any statistical area in the South Alaska Peninsula Management Area beginning July 1. If the commercial harvest of king salmon is greater than 1,000 fish during a regulatory fishing period, the statistical area(s) primarily responsible for this harvest of king salmon would remain closed during the subsequent regulatory commercial fishing period. If harvest of king salmon surpasses 5,000 fish, the statistical area(s) primarily responsible for this harvest of king salmon would close to commercial fishing immediately and remain closed through August 10.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are no current regulations for management based on king salmon harvest. However, an Advisory Announcement was issued for the South Alaska Peninsula in 2025 stating that action would be taken to curtail the harvest of king salmon. If more than 1,000 king salmon were harvested within the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District during a regulatory fishing period in July, then the next scheduled fishing period in statistical area 282-11 (Unga Cape-East Popof (Delarof Harbor), Popof Head, Red Bluff, Elephant Head (Dark Cliffs), Fox Hole, Pirate Cove, Dangerous Point, East Head, Andronica Island, and Salmon Ranch) would not open to commercial salmon fishing using purse seine gear only.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This would direct the department to close commercial fishing periods in statistical areas with high king salmon harvest for all commercial gear types based on two king salmon harvest triggers. If proposed regulations had been in place as written by the proponent in the past, a closure would have been triggered until August 10 every year since 2015, except 2017 and 2023.

BACKGROUND: Because of concerns for Gulf of Alaska king salmon stocks, the department took unprecedented steps to conserve king salmon by restricting numerous fisheries in 2025. After analyzing past harvest of king salmon in the South Alaska Peninsula Area, the department determined that the majority of the harvest occurred during the end of June through the end of July. It also noted that a high percentage of the king salmon harvest in the South Alaska Peninsula occurred within the Shumagin Islands in statistical area 282-11 (Unga Cape-East Popof (Delarof Harbor), Popof Head, Red Bluff, Elephant Head (Dark Cliffs), Fox Hole, Pirate Cove, Dangerous Point, East Head, Andronica Island, and Salmon Ranch).

The department set a harvest threshold in 2025 of 1,000 king salmon harvested in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District. If more than 1,000 king salmon were harvested during a regulatory fishing period in July, then the next 36-hour fishing period would close to purse seine gear in statistical area 282-11. This would effectively close fishing for approximately six and a half days.

Management actions based on harvest of king salmon in the Shumagin Island Section of the Southeastern District was implemented in July 2025. Two scheduled fishing periods in July were not opened in the Shumagin Islands section during July due to king salmon harvest in the statistical area 282-11 that surpassed the threshold of 1,000 fish. These fishing periods were July 14–15 and July 22–23.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department supports king salmon conservation measures, particularly in areas where stocks of concern are present and has taken action throughout the Chignik, Kodiak, and Alaska Peninsula management areas to conserve king salmon. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

PROPOSAL 143 –5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula

PROPOSED BY: Gale K. Vick

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would close both the commercial purse seine and set gillnet fishery, in an area to be determined by the department, if more than 100 immature king salmon are present per set during the July Shumagin Islands Section seine test fishery. The proposal defines immature salmon as the number of immature king salmon observed to be under 28 inches in length from tip of snout to tip of tail, sockeye salmon observed to be under 16 inches in length from tip of snout to tip of tail, and coho and chum salmon observed to be under 18 inches in length from tip of snout to tip of tail caught in the seine. Furthermore, tissues samples would be collected to determine point of origin for each species. In addition, a June test fishery for king salmon would be established.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? *The Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* states that the department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District to assess the abundance and presence of immature salmon (Figures 143-1 and 143-2). If 100 or more immature salmon, per set, are present, the commissioner shall close the commercial seine fishery by emergency order in an area to be determined by the department. If the seine fishery is closed in an area under this subsection, the set gillnet fishery shall remain open in that area. For the purposes of this subsection, "immature salmon, per set, are present" means the number of immature king, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon observed to be gilled in the seine web. Currently there is no June test fishery for king salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Adoption of this proposal would significantly increase costs for the department. This would change definitions in the July seine test fishery that assesses the presence of immature salmon. Currently, immature salmon are defined as the number of salmon gilled in the seine web. It is proposed that immature salmon would instead be defined as how many salmon per set fall under length restrictions for each species (king under 28 inches, sockeye under 16 inches, and coho and chum under 18 inches). If the fishery were to be closed for seine gear, it would also close for set gillnet gear.

If the department were to measure every fish in a set or a subsample of fish in every set, this would significantly increase the time it would take to conduct the test fishery. This could have implications for the department attempting to open July fishing periods in a timely fashion, thus reducing overall fishing time for the fleet. It could show a decrease in pay for the charter operator, which could disincentivize vessel operators from wishing to participate in the test fishery, potentially leading to the department being unable to conduct the test fishery.

Furthermore, this would introduce unvalidated methodology and be impractical and expensive to implement. A new study would be required to develop a new index of immature salmon using length to determine immaturity, as using the current index of 100 immature salmon gilled in the seine web would be untenable. The department believes that conducting a June king immature test fishery would be unnecessary due to a lack of abundance of king salmon in the area during this time of the season. The proposal would also require the department to sample the test fishery catch for genetic stock identification.

BACKGROUND: Immature salmon harvests were first brought to the department's attention in 1963. The presence of immature salmon in South Peninsula waters has warranted restrictions to

commercial fishing in some years. These restrictions were applied to all gear types in affected areas from late June into July in 1963, 1968, 1969, 1974, and 1979, and for purse seine fishing only during the 1989–1992, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2008, 2015, 2016, and 2017 seasons. Immature salmon usually migrate out of the Shumagin Islands area by July 23, although 1992 closures remained in effect until July 29 (Table 143-1).

Immature salmon have been most prevalent in the Shumagin Islands Section and the concern for catching immature salmon is restricted to purse seine gear. Under current regulations, seine mesh size may not exceed 3.5 inches except for the first 25 meshes above the lead line, which may not exceed 7 inches. Set gillnet gear has larger mesh size (minimum of 5.25 inches, which allows some immature salmon to pass through).

In 1990, the department's test-fishing program was instituted in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District to determine the presence and abundance of immature salmon in South Peninsula waters prior to commercial purse seine fishing periods in July. In the Shumagin Islands Section, most purse seine fishing effort occurs in the near shore waters of Popof Island from Popof Head to Red Bluff. Test vessels were selected randomly from a list of vessel owners interested in participating in the test fishery. The department established 3 test fishing sites at popular set locations in this area where 20-minute sets would be made. Immature salmon were defined as any salmon gilled in the seine webbing and weighing less than 3 pounds (McCullough and Shaul 1992). Following each set, immature salmon were discarded and mature (i.e., "not gilled") salmon were sold to pay vessel charter costs. During offloading, the catch was separated by species and weighed. Small fish (determined by the processing facility weight criteria) were separated during offloading and the number of "marketable" fish per species was estimated using average weights by species.

In 1998, the board adopted a regulation that defined immature salmon and required the department to conduct an immature salmon test fishery in July (5 AAC 09.366(i)). Before 1998, the department conducted a test fishing program in mid-July to assess the presence of immature salmon in the Shumagin Islands. Since 1998, the test fish program has been conducted in early July.

Prior to 1998, the regulation read:

> (i) The department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section to assess the presence of immature salmon. If 100 or more immature salmon, per set, are present, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the seine test fishery in an area to be determined by the department. If the seine fishery is closed in an area under this subsection, the set gillnet fishery shall remain open in that area.

In 2001, the wording was revised to further define immature salmon:

> (i) The department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section to assess the presence of immature salmon. If 100 or more immature salmon, per set, are present, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the seine test fishery in an area to be determined by the department. If the seine fishery is closed in an area under this subsection, the set gillnet fishery shall remain open in that area. For the purposes of this subsection, "immature salmon, per set are present" means the number of immature king, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon observed to be gilled in the seine web.

The 2001 wording change was not a change in methodology, rather, it was to put what was already in practice into regulation. In order to comply with specific wording in the 1998 regulation, a reliable inseason estimate of the presence of immature salmon would have been necessary. Specifically, the number of biologically immature fish present per set would have to be determined rather than the number of fish gilled in the seine webbing. In 2000, research was undertaken by the department to develop methods for determining maturity and to identify the proportion of immature salmon among gilled fish in the Shumagin Island test fishery (Foster et al. 2000). This research concluded that "in order to maintain the historical standards of criteria required to maintain the post-June fishing season, the number of gilled salmon per set should remain the basis of estimating the number of immature salmon present in the post-June fishery." The research concluded that the number of gilled salmon in the immature test fishery is a reliable index of the immature salmon present and while not an exact representation of the abundance of immature salmon present, using the number of salmon that are gilled in the seine during the test fishery is still the most time- and cost-effective and easily executed option for management of the fishery. Researchers concluded that "utilization of other estimation techniques will result in more stringent management thresholds for the Post-June fishery." If future test fisheries were to utilize the length frequency estimator that this research developed, while being a viable tool, this method would require additional staff and would not be efficient. Furthermore, it was concluded that the length frequency estimator would become less accurate with high proportions of chum, king, or male sockeye salmon, which is a finding of Foster et al. (2000). This study also suggested the department did not have information indicating the threshold number of 100 immature salmon should be higher (Foster et al. 2000).

The department is currently conducting two studies to estimate stock of origin, age, size, and sex composition of chum and king salmon harvested in South Alaska Peninsula Management Area (southern portion of Area M) commercial salmon fisheries. The chum salmon samples will be collected and analyzed during the 2022 to 2026 seasons and king salmon samples from the commercial harvest will be collected during the 2025 to 2027 seasons.

The regulatory history of the post-June fishery is presented within Keyse et al. (2025).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal. The board does not have administrative or fiscal authority and does not have authority to direct the department to expend funds or create a new program. The adoption of this proposal would reduce the department's ability to effectively execute the July test fishery and apply test fishery results in a timely manner. The department understands the complexities of determining maturity status by species in a test fishery and there is no available information to suggest these size thresholds are appropriate.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal would result in significant result in additional direct cost for the department.

References:

Foster, M. B. M. Witteveen. P. Nelson. 2000. Maturity analysis of salmon caught in the South Peninsula post-June immature test fishery. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries. Regional Information Report No. 4K00-75. Kodiak.
http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/RIR.4K.2000.75.pdf

Keyse, M. D., G. Spalinger, and A. L. Brewster. 2025. 2024 South Alaska Peninsula salmon annual management report and 2023 subsistence fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands management areas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 25-27, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR25-27.pdf

McCullough, J.N. and A.R. Shaul. 1992. The incidence of immature salmon in South Peninsula purse seine fisheries, 1963-91. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 4K92-l 7, Kodiak. http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/rir.4k.1992.17.pdf

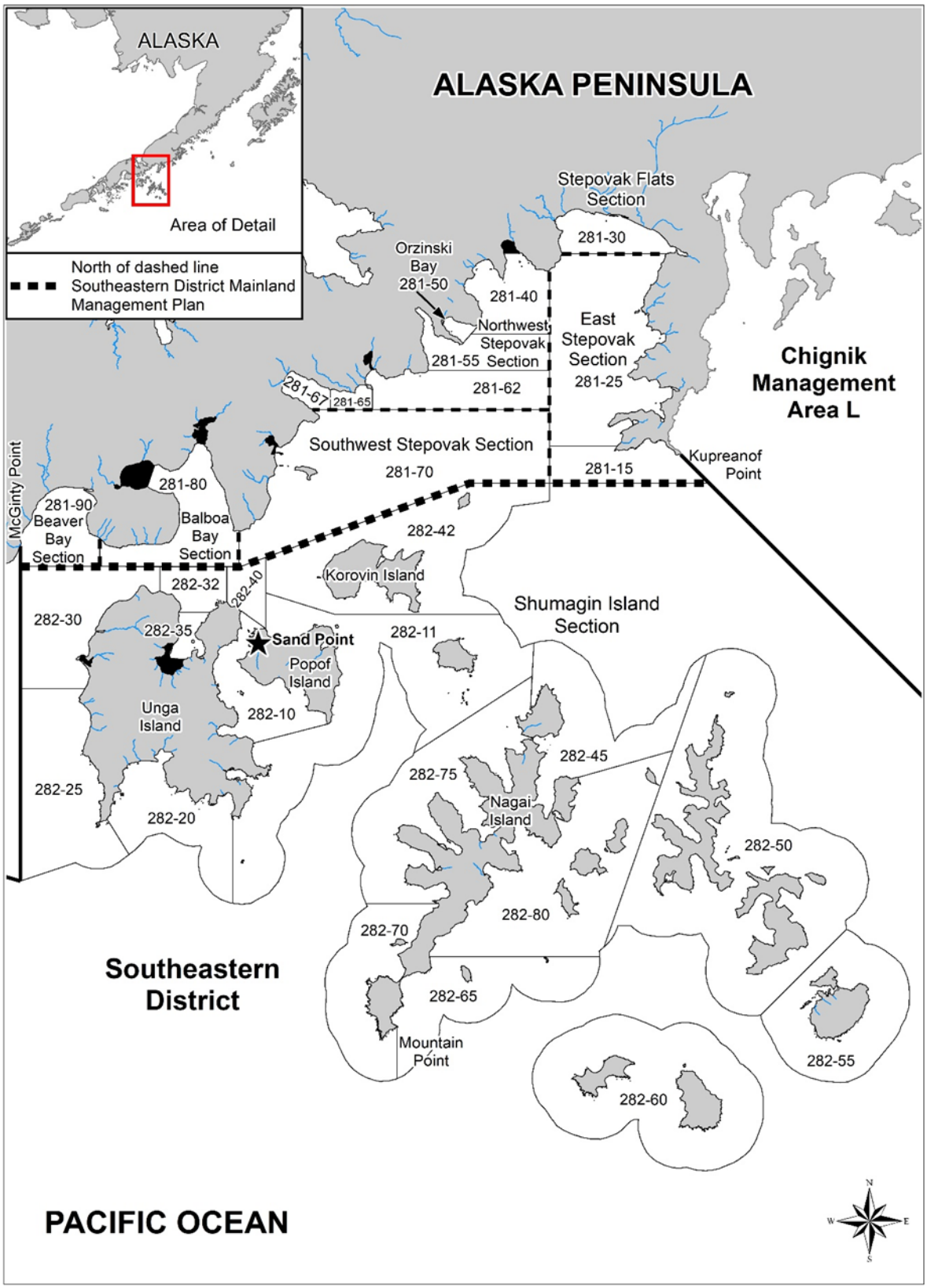

Figure 143-1.– Map of the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District.

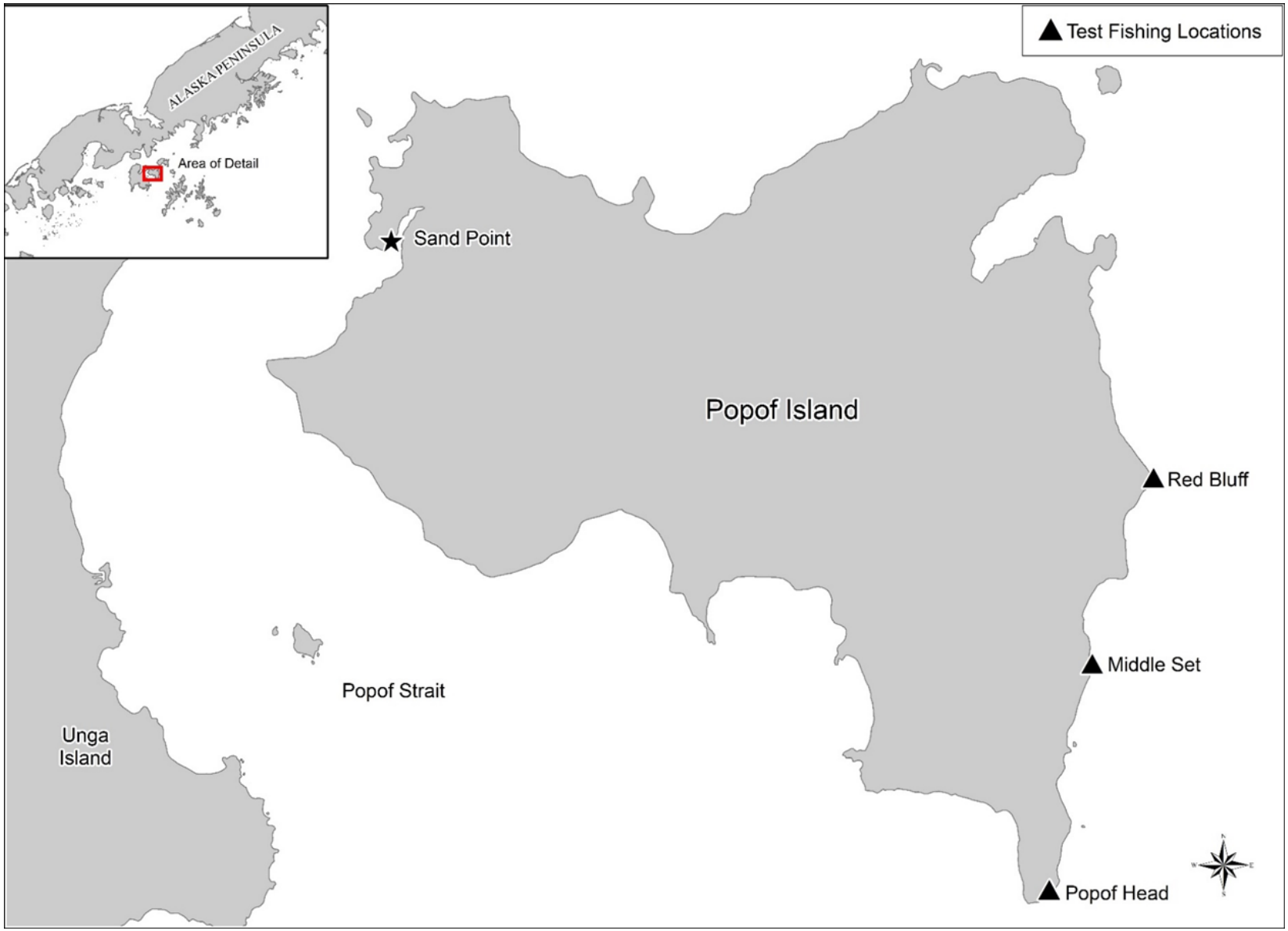

Figure 143-2.– Map of the July immature seine test fishery sets, Red Bluff, Middle Set, and Popof Head on Popof Island.

Table 143-1.–Summary of the immature test fishery from 1990 to present.

Year	Duration	Number of sets	Number of adult salmon						Number of immature salmon				
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Chum	Total
1990	Jul 3–Aug 13	29	23	1,194	1,708	4,516	3,104	10,545	39	796	0	1,138	1,973
		Avg/Set	0.8	41.2	58.9	155.7	107.0	363.6	1.3	27.4	0.0	39.2	68.0
1991	Jul 1–19	51	148	3,791	1,422	7,077	4,092	16,530	331	13,167	0	7,410	20,908
		Avg/Set	2.9	74.3	27.9	138.8	80.2	324.1	6.5	258.2	0.0	145.3	410.0
1992	Jul 10–29	44	134	2,413	3,695	10,167	4,388	20,797	892	13,449	5	2,087	16,433
		Avg/Set	3.0	54.8	84.0	231.1	99.7	472.7	20.3	305.7	0.1	47.4	373.5
1993	Jul 12–18	24	259	1,804	4,892	2,944	827	10,726	393	2,188	0	139	2,720
		Avg/Set	10.8	75.2	203.8	122.7	34.5	446.9	16.4	91.2	0.0	5.8	113.3
1994	Jul 14–27	31	99	1,171	4,221	8,530	2,657	16,678	135	3,685	2	11	3,833
		Avg/Set	3.2	37.8	136.2	275.2	85.7	538.0	4.4	118.9	0.1	0.4	123.6
1995	Jul 12–17	30	122	4,000	3,671	8,456	2,592	18,841	215	221	0	390	826
		Avg/Set	4.1	133.3	122.4	281.9	86.4	628.0	7.2	7.4	0.0	13.0	27.5
1996	Jul 12–18	35	188	2,093	15,187	7,010	7,391	31,869	211	520	4	234	969
		Avg/Set	5.4	59.8	433.9	200.3	211.2	910.5	6.0	14.9	0.1	6.7	27.7
1997	Jul 12–19	39	373	2,716	3,536	4,925	4,075	15,625	3,361	674	32	182	4,249
		Avg/Set	9.6	69.6	90.7	126.3	104.5	400.6	86.2	17.3	0.8	4.7	108.9
1998	Jul 02–03	10	6	711	33	1,200	499	2,449	5	24	0	0	29
		Avg/Set	0.6	71.1	3.3	120.0	49.9	244.9	0.5	2.4	0.0	0.0	2.9
1999	Jul 01–07	26	26	12,284	18	12,340	4,680	29,348	13	2,132	0	42	2,187
		Avg/Set	1.0	472.5	0.7	474.6	180.0	1,128.8	0.5	82.0	0.0	1.6	84.1

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Table 143-1.–Page 2 of 4.

Year	Duration	Number of sets	Number of adult salmon						Number of immature salmon				
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Chum	Total
2000	Jul 3–5	13	9	1,597	101	2,946	1,919	6,572	13	77	0	126	216
		Avg/Set	0.7	122.8	7.8	226.6	147.6	505.5	1.0	5.9	0.0	9.7	16.6
2001	Jul 2–16	50	318	6,258	3,353	9,382	10,772	30,083	1,265	3,241	17	1,382	5,905
		Avg/Set	6.4	125.2	67.1	187.6	215.4	601.7	25.3	64.8	0.3	27.6	118.1
2002	Jul 2–4	15	29	1,020	11	443	1,227	2,730	325	911	1	280	1,517
		Avg/Set	1.9	68.0	0.7	29.5	81.8	182.0	21.7	60.7	0.1	18.7	101.1
2003	Jul 2–20	28	26	819	1,279	4,646	2,275	9,045	1,419	8,640	43	512	10,614
		Avg/Set	0.9	29.3	45.7	165.9	81.3	323.0	50.7	308.6	1.5	18.3	379.1
2004	Jul 7–8	10	81	507	542	1,131	1,827	4,088	42	111	0	279	432
		Avg/Set	8.1	50.7	54.2	113.1	182.7	408.8	4.2	11.1	0.0	27.9	43.2
2005	Jul 2–5	22	68	1,197	2,137	7,117	2,140	12,659	1,110	263	2	211	1,586
		Avg/Set	3.1	54.4	97.1	323.5	97.3	575.4	50.5	12.0	0.1	9.6	72.1
2006	Jul 2–5	15	21	1,211	440	2,254	7,855	11,781	69	356	0	66	491
		Avg/Set	1.4	80.7	29.3	150.3	523.7	785.4	4.6	23.7	0.0	4.4	32.7
2007	Jul 2–5	17	12	11,389	781	7,036	1,300	20,518	2	951	0	9	962
		Avg/Set	0.7	669.9	45.9	413.9	76.5	1,207	0.1	55.9	0.0	0.5	56.6
2008	Jul 3–8	23	12	9,310	1,901	14,838	11,436	37,497	22	2,167	0	391	2,580
		Avg/Set	0.5	404.8	82.7	645.1	497.2	1,630	1.0	94.2	0.0	17.0	112.2
2009	Jul 3–5	18	28	1,587	389	21,101	3,825	26,930	76	644	3	260	983
		Avg/Set	1.6	88.2	21.6	1,172	212.5	1,496	4.2	35.8	0.2	14.4	54.6

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Table 143-1.–Page 3 of 4.

Year	Duration	Number of sets	Number of adult salmon						Number of immature salmon				
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Chum	Total
2010	Jul 2–5	18	13	6,418	179	4,180	1,608	12,398	2	416	0	7	425
		Avg/Set	0.7	356.6	9.9	232.2	89.3	688.8	0.1	23.1	0.0	0.4	23.6
2011	Jul 2–5	18	7	1,151	49	11,980	1,315	14,502	4	267	0	3	274
		Avg/Set	0.4	63.9	2.7	665.6	73.1	805.7	0.2	14.8	0.0	0.2	15.2
2012	Jul 2–5	18	4	2,668	16	947	1,192	4,827	7	108	0	3	118
		Avg/Set	0.2	148.2	0.9	52.6	66.2	268.2	0.4	6.0	0.0	0.2	6.6
2013	Jul 2–5	20	4	2,366	1,002	7,043	1,632	5,901	5	662	0	0	667
		Avg/Set	0.2	118.3	50.1	352.2	81.6	295.0	0.3	33.1	0.0	0.0	33.4
2014	Jul 2–5	23	356	2,959	957	977	3,270	8,519	161	143	0	26	330
		Avg/Set	15.5	128.7	41.6	42.5	142.2	370.4	7.0	6.2	0.0	1.1	14.3
2015	Jul 2–9	21	116	1,502	5,915	27,904	3,808	39,245	1,498	236	57	616	2,407
		Avg/Set	5.5	71.5	281.7	1,329	181.3	1,868.8	71.3	11.2	2.7	29.3	114.6
2016	Jul 2–9	18	994	593	179	3,706	598	6,070	1,433	182	0	9	1,624
		Avg/Set	55.2	32.9	9.9	205.9	33.2	337.2	79.6	10.1	0.0	0.5	90.2
2017	Jul 2–16	39	1,612	4,945	2,088	4,596	10,577	23,818	2,826	8,556	0	1,369	12,751
		Avg/Set	41.3	126.8	53.5	117.8	271.2	610.7	72.5	219.4	0.0	35.1	326.9
2018	Jul 2–5	20	62	1,037	241	1,064	2,172	4,576	0	214	1	15	230
		Avg/Set	3.1	51.9	12.1	53.2	108.6	228.8	0.0	10.7	0.1	0.8	11.5
2019	Jul 2–5	18	206	663	810	29,807	1,762	33,248	390	176	2	435	1,003
		Avg/Set	11.4	36.8	45.0	1,656	97.9	1,847.1	21.7	9.8	0.1	24.2	55.7

-continued-

Table 143-1.–Page 4 of 4.

Year	Duration	Number of sets	Number of adult salmon						Number of immature salmon				
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Chum	Total
2020	Jul 2–5	18	188	1,267	76	1,230	1,743	4,504	49	131	1	122	303
		Avg/Set	10.4	70.4	4.2	68.3	96.8	250.2	2.7	7.3	0.1	6.8	16.8
2021	Jul 3–5	11	101	3,533	196	196	16,441	20,467	41	708	0	571	320
		Avg/Set	9.2	321.2	17.8	17.8	1,495	1,860.6	3.7	64.4	0.0	51.9	29.1
2022	Jul 2–5	18	974	5,455	24	2,322	5,929	14,694	410	476	0	79	765
		Avg/Set	54.1	303.1	1.3	129.0	329.4	816.3	22.8	26.4	0.0	4.4	42.5
2023	Jul 2–13	34	144	5,138	1,148	14,176	8,924	29,530	80	6,330	21	40	6471
		Avg/Set	4.2	151.1	33.8	416.9	262.5	868.5	2.4	186.2	0.6	1.2	190.3
2024	Jul 2–5	18	118	3,752	57	639	1,325	5,891	11	157	4	10	182
		Avg/Set	6.6	208.4	3.2	35.5	73.6	327.3	0.6	8.7	0.2	0.6	10.1
2025	Jul 2–5	18	133	1,969	406	7,354	6,243	16,105	17	263	2	60	342
		Avg/Set	7.4	109.4	22.6	408.6	346.8	894.7	0.9	14.6	0.1	3.3	19.0
2015-2024 Average		23	465	2,985	1,114	9,299	5,952	19,815	676	1,743	9	333	2,640
		Avg/Set	19.9	128.1	47.8	399.1	255.5	850.4	29.0	74.8	0.4	14.3	113.3

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – GROUP 4: NORTH ALASKA PENINSULA SALMON (6 PROPOSALS)

NORTH ALASKA PENINSULA SALMON NORTHERN DISTRICT (6 PROPOSALS)

PROPOSAL 116 – 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods and 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would impose mandatory windows or closures throughout Northern District fisheries from June 20 through July 20 to conserve Nelson River sockeye salmon stocks. As proposed, fishing time within Bear River, Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden Sections would be closed concurrently for a 96-hour period during a seven-day period. However, if the sockeye salmon returns to the Bear, Sandy, and Ilnik Rivers are expected to exceed the upper end of the escapement goal, the waters of the corresponding sections can be opened from the shore out to one-half mile during the 96-hour closure period.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.369 (a), *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan*, (b) the department shall manage the Northern District salmon fisheries on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement information and catch-per-unit-effort information. The department shall manage each section of the Northern District as specified in this management plan and 5 AAC 09.320. The Northern District, specifically the Bear River, Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections, are managed based on escapement levels on numerous salmon streams in the area.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Unlike the current abundance-based management plan, this approach could result in lost harvest opportunities and surplus escapement, as a mandatory regulatory closure would likely allow more fish to migrate into rivers and would not allow for inseason management based on real-time estimates of salmon abundance and run timing, increasing the likelihood that escapement goals are frequently exceeded. Sockeye salmon escapement goals have been consistently met at Nelson Lagoon over the past 20 years (Table 116-1).

BACKGROUND: The Northern District (Figure 116-1) stretches from Moffet Point to Cape Menshikof and encompasses various fisheries, including chum and pink salmon fisheries in Herendeen - Moller Bay Sections; sockeye salmon fisheries in the Black Hills, Nelson Lagoon, Bear River, Three Hills, Ilnik, Outer Port Heiden, and Inner Port Heiden sections; and king and coho salmon fisheries in the Cinder River Section. The board adopted 5 AAC 09.369 in the 1990s to establish guidelines for the department to manage commercial salmon fishing in the Northern District. Three salmon counting weirs, as well as aerial surveys, are used to estimate run strength which dictates the department's management strategy. When runs are strong, managers provide additional commercial fishing opportunities to maintain escapement within established objectives and goals; when runs fall below escapement objectives, managers implement closures to increase escapement. These types of "windows" already occur, and mandatory windows when the runs are strong would allow more fish to enter rivers and potentially exceed escapement goals. Such windows would reduce the department's ability to control escapement. Furthermore, under current management, Northern District escapement goals have consistently been met.

In 2013, due to concerns for Nelson and Bear Rivers sockeye salmon stocks, the board implemented sequential closures of Northern District statistical areas from 1.5 nautical miles (nmi) to 3 nmi occurring during one 24-hour period per week, starting in the northeastern portion of the Ilnik Section and working from the northeast to the southwest toward the Nelson and Bear Rivers. Figure 116-2 illustrates the areas affected by rolling closures. The goal of rolling closures was to allow sockeye salmon headed for the Nelson and Bear Rivers, migrating outside of 1.5 nmi, to pass freely during the weekly fishing period. Fish passage was achieved by first closing the Northeast Ilnik stat area from 1.5 to 3 nmi to commercial salmon fishing. After 24 hours, the closure shifted southwest into the Southwest Ilnik stat area, where the waters from 1.5 nmi outward was closed, while the previously closed waters of Northeast Ilnik was reopened to 3 nmi. The closures continued sequentially along the coast toward the Bear and Nelson Rivers over a five-day period until all areas had experienced a rolling closure. After five years, this provision of the management plan sunsetted on December 31, 2018. There are no data from the *Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program* (WASSIP) that shows the stock composition of the catches in these areas inside 3 nmi and inside 1.5 nmi.

Stock-specific harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections (2006–2008) are in the WASSIP report (Habitch et al. 2012: Appendix tables C105–C147), which documents harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Nelson, Meshik, Ugashik) during each sampled temporal stratum in these fisheries. Under WASSIP, the stock compositions of the Late Catch temporal strata for Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections were assumed to be 100% Bear River stock. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks, among all strata combined, within a given year for these fisheries. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections, among all temporal strata, combined, for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in Tables 45–59 of the WASSIP report (Habitch et al. 2012).

Additional information on stock-specific compositions in the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik Sections is available in Boatright et al (2016), and within this reference, Appendices A3, A6, and A9 present the composition of individual stocks (e.g., Nelson, Meshik, Ugashik) for each sampled temporal stratum during 2014 and 2015 in these fisheries.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** mandatory windows in the existing abundance-based management plan since surplus escapement would likely occur. The department currently provides harvest opportunities on surplus fish and ensures escapement goals are met. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

References:

Boatright, C., W. Larson, L. Seeb and R. Hilborn. 2016. Estimating the stock composition of sockeye salmon in the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik Sections of Alaska's North Peninsula Fishery, 2014–15. Alaska Salmon Program, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington. Prepared for the Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute.
https://www.bbsri.org/_files/ugd/bc10d6_1374c742557b426ea135e8b1024e4b32.pdf

Habicht, C., A. R. Munro, T. H. Dann, D. M. Eggers, W. D. Templin, M. J. Witteveen, T. T. Baker, K. G. Howard, J. R. Jasper, S. D. R. Olive, H. L. Liller, E. L. Chenoweth and E. C. Volk. 2012. Harvest and harvest rates of sockeye salmon stocks in fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006-2008. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 12-24, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/SP12-24.pdf

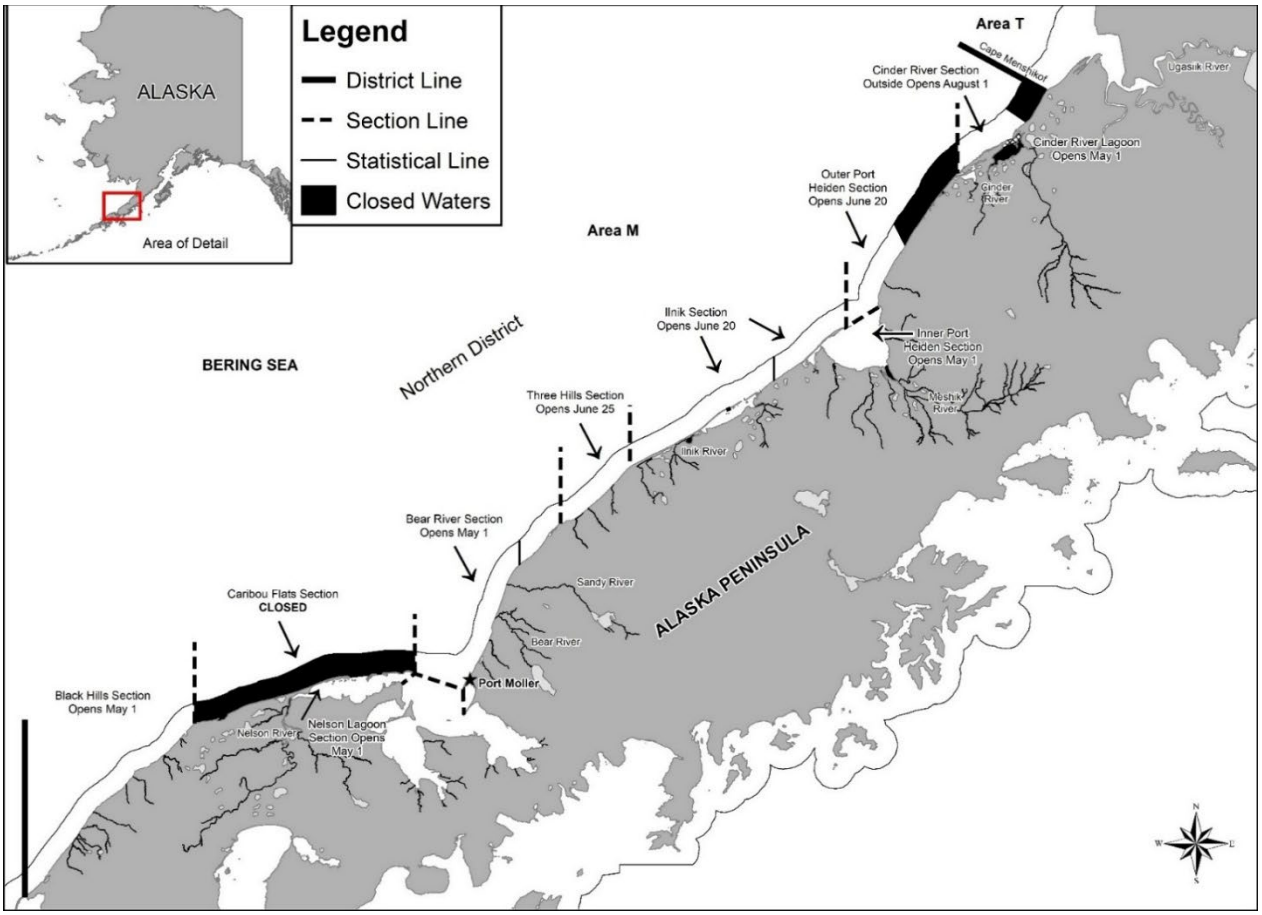

Figure 116-1.–Northern District showing fishing sections and opening dates of the commercial salmon fisheries.

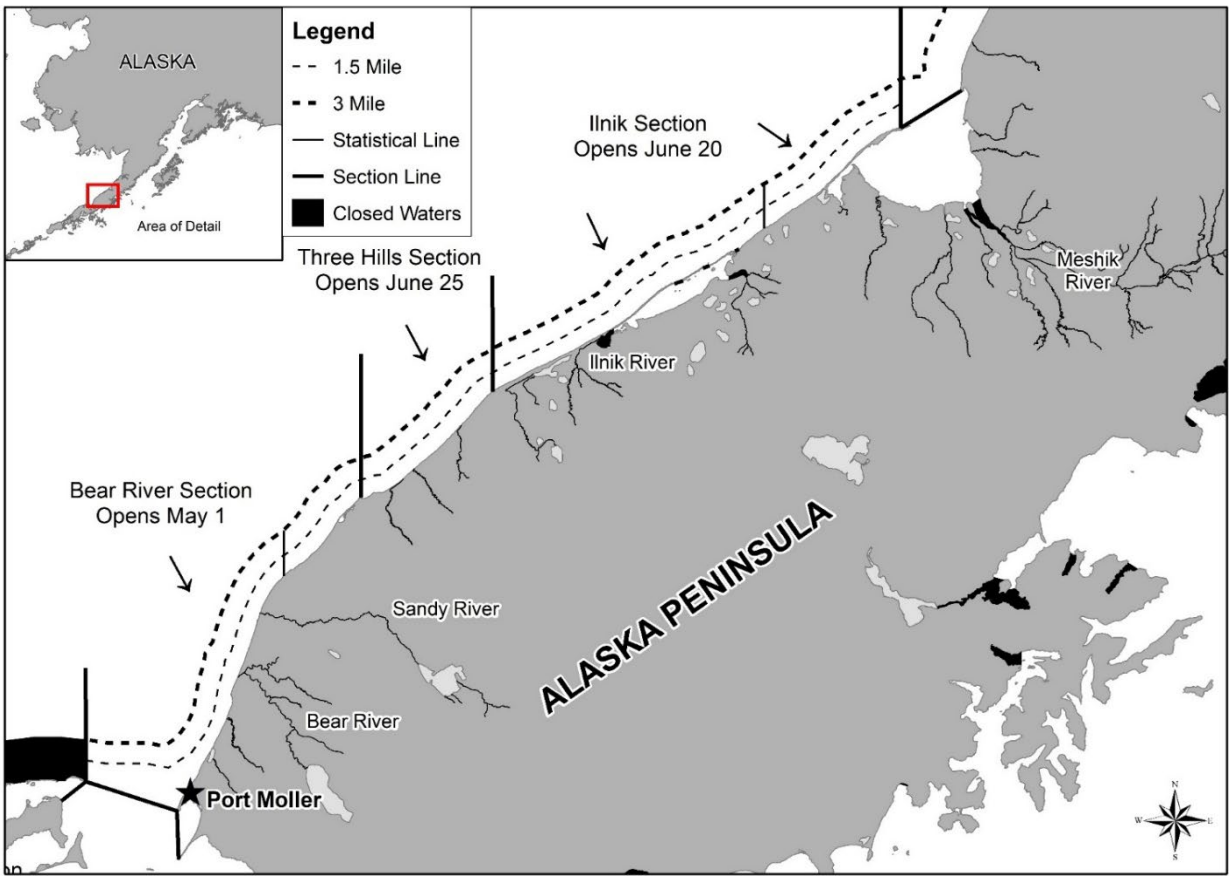

Figure 116-2.–Statistical areas under the effect of rolling closures from 2014–2018.

Table 116-1.–Nelson River total sockeye salmon escapement, 1998–2025.

	Nelson River	
Year	Escapement	Goal
1998	159,800	100k to 150k
1999	202,067	
2000	182,700	
2001	201,962	
2002	315,693	
2003	343,511	
2004	480,097	97k to 219k
2005	303,000	
2006	215,000	
2007	180,000	
2008	141,600	
2009	157,000	
2010	108,000	
2011	89,000	
2012	103,300	
2013	248,000	
2014	250,000	
2015	257,000	
2016	300,000	
2017	381,000	
2018	221,000	
2019	115,000	
2020	185,000	
2021	110,163	
2022	98,000	
2023	250,213	
2024	754,766	
2025	552,224	
Average 2015–2024	267,214	

PROPOSAL 113 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons. 5 AAC 09.350. Closed Waters

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would reopen the Caribou Flats Section and allow commercial set and drift gillnet gear to fish in the section if the upper end of the Nelson River sockeye salmon biological escapement goal (BEG) is expected to be exceeded between June 20 and July 31.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.310. *Fishing Seasons* (a)(9), Caribou Flats Section has no open season, and under 5 AAC 09.350. (13), the waters of Caribou Flats are closed to commercial salmon fishing.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? In some years, the upper end of the escapement goal of 97,000–219,000 sockeye salmon has been achieved in late June or early July. Depending on fishing activity in other sections of the Northern District, there could be significant effort in the Caribou Flats Section if those sections are closed to commercial fishing and the fleet has no alternative fishing options. If substantial fishing effort takes place on Caribou Flats, harvest of all species of Nelson River salmon would increase, and the number of salmon entering Nelson Lagoon and the Nelson (Sapsuk) River would decrease. This would likely decrease the number of salmon available for harvest to both set and drift gillnet permit holders who primarily commercial fish within the Nelson Lagoon Section. The Caribou Flats Section, like much of the North Alaska Peninsula, would operate as a mixed-stock salmon fishery. Because it has been closed to commercial salmon fishing for many years, we lack stock-specific composition data. Nelson River sockeye salmon would likely make up the bulk of the harvest, along with varying proportions of local and non-local sockeye salmon stocks.

BACKGROUND: The Caribou Flats Section (Figure 113-1) has been closed to commercial salmon fishing since 1989. Prior to this regulatory change, the Caribou Flats Section could have been open to commercial fishing from May 1 through June 20. The Caribou Flats Section was closed to commercial salmon fishing after June 20 to ensure more consistent sockeye salmon escapement and harvest opportunities for the Nelson Lagoon commercial fishery. The Nelson Lagoon Section is managed based on the Nelson (Sapsuk) River sockeye salmon escapement. The sockeye salmon BEG of 97,000–219,000 fish has been met annually over the last twenty years, and in 9 of the past 20 years, the upper end of the escapement goal has been exceeded. Commercial fishing time in Nelson Lagoon is adjusted according to escapement levels at the weir, and in most years, near-continuous fishing is allowed to provide harvest opportunities on surplus sockeye salmon. In recent years, sockeye salmon returns to Nelson River have been above average, with the 2023, 2024, and 2025 returns all exceeding the upper limit of the escapement goal. The 2024 return was the largest in 20 years, with an estimated total of 955,000 sockeye, over 750,000 salmon escaped past the weir, which was the largest escapement since the weir was first installed in 1989.

The Nelson River has a BEG for king salmon of 2,400 to 5,000 fish. Over the past 20 years, this goal has been largely met or exceeded with few exceptions. The lower bounds of the BEG were not reached in 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, and again in 2017. From 2023 through 2025, king salmon escapement into the Nelson River has been strong, approaching the upper BEG of 5,000 fish.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether

subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfish in the Alaska Peninsula Area and the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands (5 AAC 01.366)

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 34,000-56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

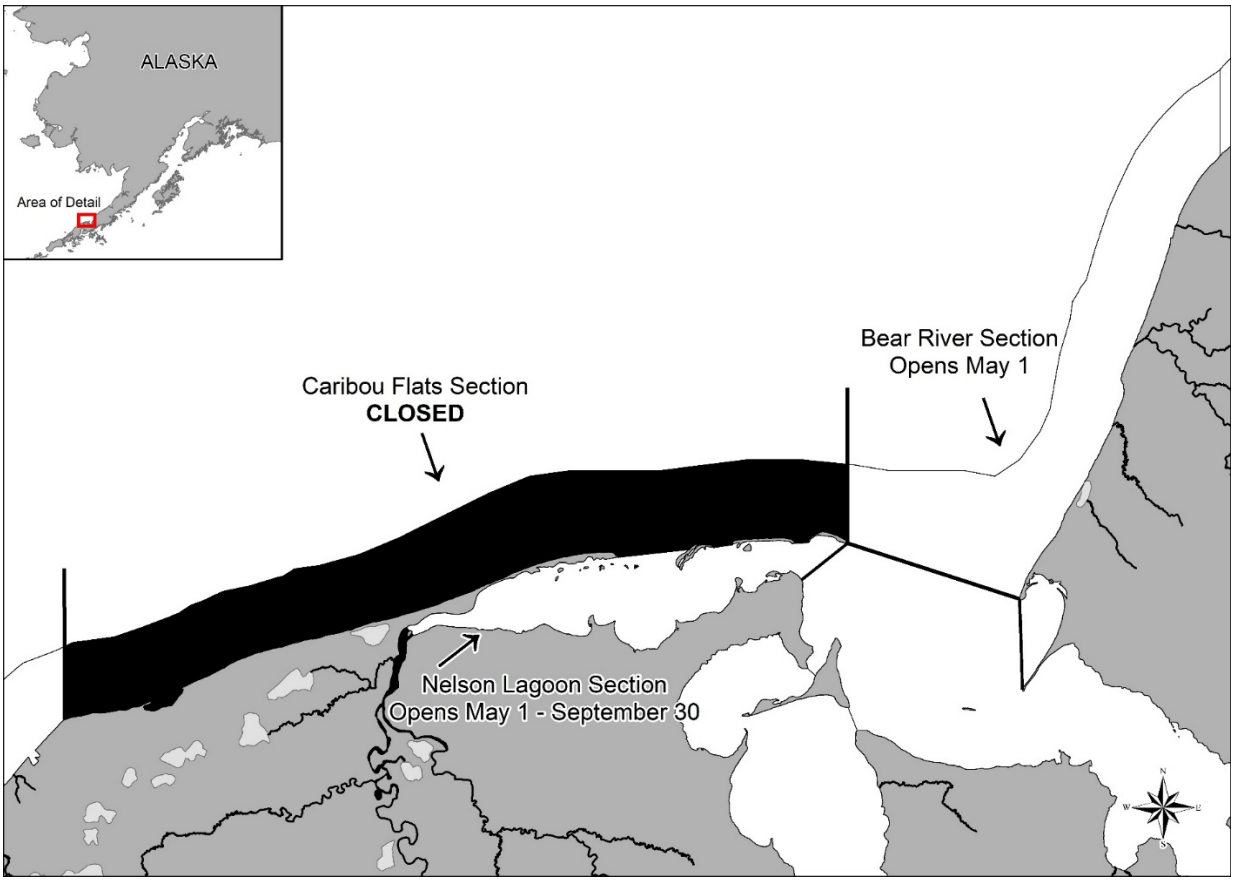

Figure 113-1.–Map of the Caribou Flats Section of the Northern District.

PROPOSAL 115 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would amend the *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* by changing the date that management in the Ilnik Section transitions from Ilnik River sockeye to Bear River sockeye from July 20 to July 31. It also adds additional language for conservation of Bear River sockeye salmon in the Southwest Ilnik portion of the Ilnik Section, applicable only after management actions have occurred in the Bear River and Three Hills Sections, and when projections indicate the July 31 lower escapement goal at Bear River will not be achieved.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.369(j), *Northern District Fisheries Management Plan*, management of the Ilnik Section changes over the course of the season. From June 20 through July 20, the area southwest of the Unangashak Bluffs is managed based on the abundance of Ilnik River sockeye salmon, while the area northeast of the Bluffs is managed on the combined abundance of Meshik River and Ilnik River sockeye salmon. From July 21 through August 15, fishing periods in the Ilnik Section may be modified based on the abundance of Bear River sockeye salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This change would shift the date when management of the Ilnik Section switches from being primarily based on the abundance of Meshik and Ilnik sockeye salmon to Bear River sockeye salmon, moving it from July 20 to July 31. This change would impact how the section has been historically managed after July 20. For example, if Bear River sockeye salmon escapement is poor, the Northeast Ilnik statistical area would remain open to commercial fishing, when historically it has remained closed during this time. This could potentially delay fishing opportunities in the Bear River and Three Hills Sections for both Bear River early and late-run sockeye salmon, or cause the Bear River early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal to be missed. Conversely, during years when Bear River sockeye salmon escapements are strong but Ilnik and Meshik escapements are low, the area would remain closed until August 1, thereby reducing the harvest of sockeye salmon typically caught during this period.

The change also adds new language to manage for conservation of Bear River early run sockeye salmon stocks within the Southwest Ilnik statistical area. However, management actions for Bear River sockeye salmon would only be taken in this area if the Bear River and Three Hills Sections are closed *and* the Bear River early run sockeye salmon escapement goal is not expected to be met by July 31.

BACKGROUND: The Northern District (Figure 115-1) stretches from Moffet Point to Cape Menshikof and encompasses various fisheries, including chum and pink salmon fisheries in the Herendeen-Moller Bay Sections; sockeye salmon fisheries in the Black Hills, Nelson Lagoon, Bear River, Three Hills, Ilnik, Outer Port Heiden, and Inner Port Heiden Sections; and King and coho salmon fisheries in Cinder River Section. The board adopted 5 AAC 09.369 in the 1990s to establish guidelines for the department to manage commercial salmon fishing in the Northern District. Three salmon counting weirs, as well as aerial surveys, are used to estimate run strength which dictates the department's management strategy.

Management in the Ilnik Section is primarily based on the abundance of Ilnik and Meshik River sockeye salmon from June 20 through July 20. The Ilnik River sockeye run is considered complete on July 20, and starting on July 21, the Ilnik Section is managed based on the abundance of Bear River sockeye salmon. The Bear River early run has been below average over the past three seasons, resulting in the closure of the Bear River and Three Hills Sections for the entirety of June and July in 2023 and 2024, and for the majority of 2025. In 2023, the Ilnik Section was closed on July 8 due to unprecedented conservation concerns for Bear River sockeye salmon. At that time, the Bear River early run was about 50% complete, and only 44,000 fish had passed, far below the ten-year average of 145,000 for that date. The Bear River return was the worst since 1973, with a projected fish passage of around 100,000 fish by July 31, well short of the escapement goal lower bound of 176,000. Escapement improved after the closure; however, the Bear River return was still on track to be below the lower bound goal as of July 21, leading to a continued closure within the Ilnik Section. However, escapements began to improve on July 22, and from July 24 to July 31, over 130,000 sockeye salmon passed through the Bear River weir, achieving the early run escapement goal.

Harvest data from the *Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program* (WASSIP), conducted from 2006 to 2008, show that Bear River sockeye salmon are present throughout both the Southwest and Northeast areas of the Ilnik Section during July. Relevant information on stock-specific harvest in the Ilnik Section, by temporal stratum, for the years 2006 through 2008, can be found in Habicht et al. (2012: Appendix tables C105–C147), which document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Bear, Ilnik, Meshik) during each sampled temporal stratum during 2006–2008 in these fisheries. Under WASSIP, the stock compositions of the Late Catch temporal strata for Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections were assumed to be 100% Bear River stock. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks, among all strata combined, within a given year for these fisheries. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Ilnik Sections, among all temporal strata, combined, for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in Habicht et al. (2012: Tables 45–59).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** the proposal as written, particularly with respect to the proposed changes in dates, fishing area, and the specific sockeye salmon stocks used as the basis for management in the Ilnik Section. However, the department **SUPPORTS** adding specific language to 5 AAC 09.369(j) for the Ilnik Section, allowing fishing periods to be modified based on the abundance of Bear River sockeye salmon prior to July 21.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

Reference:

Habicht, C., A. R. Munro, T. H. Dann, D. M. Eggers, W. D. Templin, M. J. Witteveen, T. T. Baker, K. G. Howard, J. R. Jasper, S. D. R. Olive, H. L. Liller, E. L. Chenoweth and E. C. Volk. 2012. Harvest and harvest rates of sockeye salmon stocks in fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006-2008. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 12-24, Anchorage. adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/SP12-24.pdf

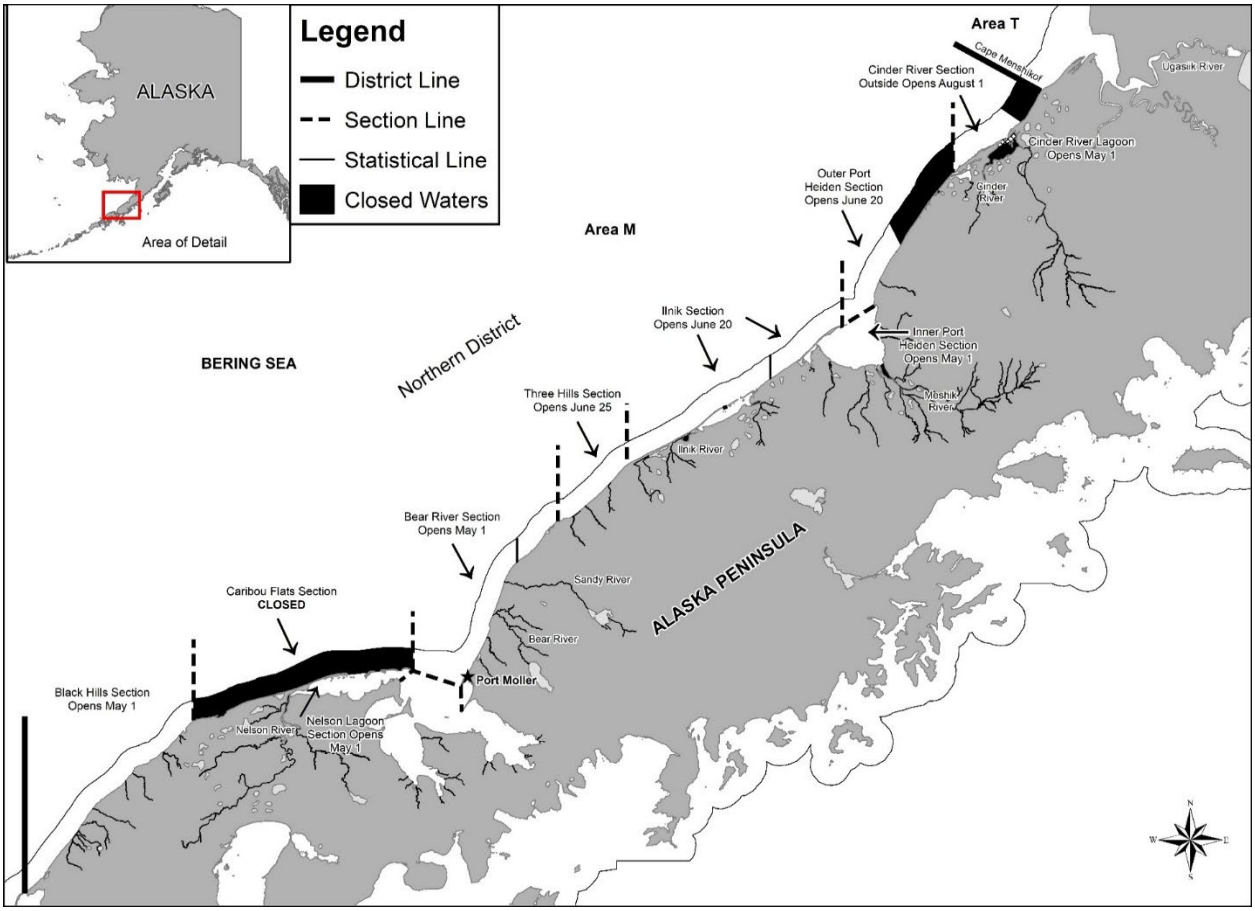

Figure 115-1.–Northern District showing fishing sections and opening dates of the commercial salmon fisheries.

PROPOSAL 117 & 118 –5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: David Luthy and Jay Michael Watt.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would require steelhead to be reported as bycatch during Northern District commercial coho salmon fisheries.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under statewide regulations, steelhead caught in commercial salmon fisheries may be retained but may not be sold, and when caught and retained, must be reported on an ADF&G fish ticket. There are no regulations within the area-specific *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* that requires reporting of steelhead landed within the commercial salmon fisheries.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? These proposals are redundant to statewide regulations and would likely have little effect on reported steelhead catch.

BACKGROUND: The Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula has four rivers with notable steelhead runs: the Nelson (Sapsuk), Bear, and Sandy Rivers and Steelhead Creek. All of these systems, except Bear River, have guided steelhead sportfish operations during September and October. All four rivers have similar run timing, with the steelhead outmigration mostly concluded by the end of May and the return run beginning early to mid-September. Weirs in the area do not capture any of the steelhead runs because the run timing occurs outside the weirs' operational period, and there has been no monitoring of steelhead runs or population sizes in the area.

The Northern District commercial salmon fishery has minimal overlap with periods when steelhead are likely to be present in significant numbers. The 10-year average start date for commercial fishing in the Northern District is June 6, with a range from May 29 to June 16. Commercial salmon fishing effort is low until after June 20, when the Ilnik Section opens, per regulation. The 10-year average end date is September 5, ranging from August 24 to September 16. Participation in the fishery during August and September is generally low, with an average of 80 permits in August and 20 permits in September, compared to 155 permits during June and July.

The Ilnik and Nelson Lagoon Sections have historically supported large coho salmon fisheries during August and September, with the Nelson Lagoon Section usually yielding the largest coho salmon harvest, followed by the Ilnik Section. However, due to market conditions and lack of industry interest, there have been no directed coho salmon fisheries within the Northern District since 2022. While there was an above-average harvest of coho salmon during the 2025 season, they were incidentally harvested during the sockeye salmon fishery during late July and August. Additionally, there has been no reported harvest of steelhead during these fisheries over the last 20 years.

Steelhead migratory patterns in marine waters near the Alaska Peninsula are unknown.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department supports accurate reporting of steelhead bycatch on fish tickets. The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because, in accordance with statewide regulations, steelhead bycatch is currently required to be reported on fish tickets.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

PROPOSAL 114 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would repeal language from the *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* that sunsetted on December 31, 2018.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The department manages the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections to conserve Bear River and Nelson River sockeye salmon stocks by allowing the passage of sockeye salmon from the northeast to the southwest of the Northern District as described in 5 AAC 09.369 (n): From June 20 through July 31, the departments establishes fishing periods for the Bear River and Three Hills Sections and that portion of the Ilnik Section between the longitude of Unangashak Bluffs and the longitude of Three Hills at 159° 49.45′ W. long., during which the waters between the three-mile seaward boundary line, described in 5 AAC 09.301, and a line that is one and one-half miles shoreward of the three-mile seaward boundary are closed for one 24-hour period during a seven-day period. The waters located to the southwest of the open waters where a 24-hour closure has occurred have sequential closures that allow fishing only in the waters out to the one-and-a-half-mile line described in this subsection for the first 24 hours of an open fishing period. These provisions sunsetted after December 31, 2018.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? No impact to current management. This language sunsetted on December 31, 2018, and is no longer in use.

BACKGROUND: In 2013, due to concerns about Nelson and Bear Rivers sockeye salmon stocks, the board implemented sequential 24-hour closures of fishing areas during a seven-day period, ranging from 1.5 nautical miles to 3 nautical miles. These closures were established by regulation (5AAC 09.369 (n)) in the northeast part of the Ilnik Section and extended southwest toward the Nelson and Bear Rivers. The goal of rolling closures was to allow sockeye salmon headed for the Nelson and Bear Rivers, migrating outside of 1.5 nautical miles, to pass freely during the weekly fishing period. Fish passage was achieved by first closing the Northeast Ilnik stat area from 1.5 to 3 nautical miles to commercial salmon fishing. After 24 hours, the closure shifted southwest into the Southwest Ilnik stat area, where the waters from 1.5 nautical miles outward were closed, while the previously closed waters of Northeast Ilnik was reopened to 3 nautical miles. The closures continued sequentially along the coast toward the Bear and Nelson Rivers over a five-day period until all areas had experienced a rolling closure.

At the 2016 Board of Fisheries meeting, an agreement was reached between North Peninsula user groups, and the board adopted substitute language for 5AAC 09.369 (n), which amended the Northern District Salmon Management Plan to allow this language to sunset on December 31, 2018.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – GROUP 5: SUBSISTENCE SALMON, SPORT FISHING (8 PROPOSALS)

UNALASKA DISTRICT SUBSISTENCE (1 PROPOSAL)

PROPOSAL 106 – 5 AAC 01.360. Fishing seasons

PROPOSED BY: Lisa Hutchinson, Council Coordinator for the Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would amend the fishing season to allow for more fishing time for subsistence salmon fishers in the Unalaska District where fishing would be allowed from sunrise until sunset from January 1 through December 31.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In 5 AAC 01.360(a) the Unalaska District, salmon may be taken for subsistence purposes from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. from January 1 through December 31.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for salmon in the Aleutian Islands Area and the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 13,500–23,000 salmon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The intent of this proposal is to increase the fishing time for subsistence salmon users. Current regulations allow for 15 hours per day of fishing time throughout the entire year. Using sunrise and sunset as start and end times, as proposed, provides additional fishing time in June and July, but by the end of August, a fisher would have less time for subsistence fishing. Overall, there is likely to be minimal effect on the number of salmon harvested by subsistence users.

BACKGROUND: The Aleutians Island area includes the waters of Alaska in the Aleutian Islands west of Cape Sarichef Light and west of a line extending from Scotch Cap through the easternmost tip of Ugamak Island, including the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands. The Unalaska District includes all waters west of Akutan Pass to and including Umnak Pass (Figure 106-1).

Historically, the remote nature and severe weather of Unalaska Island has made it challenging to conduct fixed-wing surveys of salmon streams on a routine basis. In 2001, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began operating a weir at McLees Lake, which drains into Reese Bay. In 2012, operation of the McLees weir was transferred to the department. From 2018 through 2023, the Unalaska Native Fishermen's Association (UNFA), the Ounalashka Corporation, the City of Unalaska, and the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska have provided funding to contract Aleutian Aerial LLC to fly small unmanned aircraft system (i.e., drone) surveys to assess sockeye salmon abundance in Unalaska (Iliuliuk) Bay, Summer Bay, and Morris Cove lakes on Unalaska Island. Recorded video footage is reviewed postseason by ADF&G and salmon escapement is estimated using the aerial survey methods used for fixed-wing aerial surveys. In 2024 and 2025, McLees Lake weir on Unalaska Island was not operated due to a lack of funding (Table 106-1).

In most years, Reese Bay (Wislow Bay), located approximately 20 miles northwest of the town of Unalaska, receives more fishing effort than any other location on Unalaska Island. Volcano Bay, located 60 miles southwest of Unalaska, has seen an increased amount of fishing effort in recent years (Table 106-2). Access to Reese Bay and Volcano Bay requires subsistence users to have suitable boats for transport and adequate weather conditions in the Bering Sea. Harvest along the

Unalaska road system primarily comes from Front Beach and Agnes Beach near Unalaska (Iliuliuk) Lake; other systems of Unalaska Bay have seen a decrease in fishing pressure in recent years (Table 106-2).

According to the editor's notes in Alaska Fish and Game Laws and Regulations Annotated 2024-2025 Edition, the Board of Fisheries readopted 5 AAC 01.360(a) in its entirety without change during the February 23–27, 1993 meeting. It is difficult to ascertain the original motivation in establishing the current fishing times but likely established as a management tool to restrict harvest.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **SUPPORTS** the intent of this proposal to provide additional fishing time. However, using sunrise and sunset as start and end times could cause issues with enforcement and confusion among fishers as to when subsistence fishing is permitted. The department recommends aligning this regulation with the Alaska Peninsula Area fishing seasons (5 AAC 01.410(a)) which provide that salmon may be taken at any time. Allowing subsistence at any time is also permitted in other areas around the state. Department staff contacted Alaska Wildlife Troopers in Dutch Harbor regarding the proposed subsistence fishing times and allowing fishing at any time was preferred over sunrise and sunset for start and ending times.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfish in the Aleutian Islands Area and the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands (5 AAC 01.366)

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 13,500–23,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

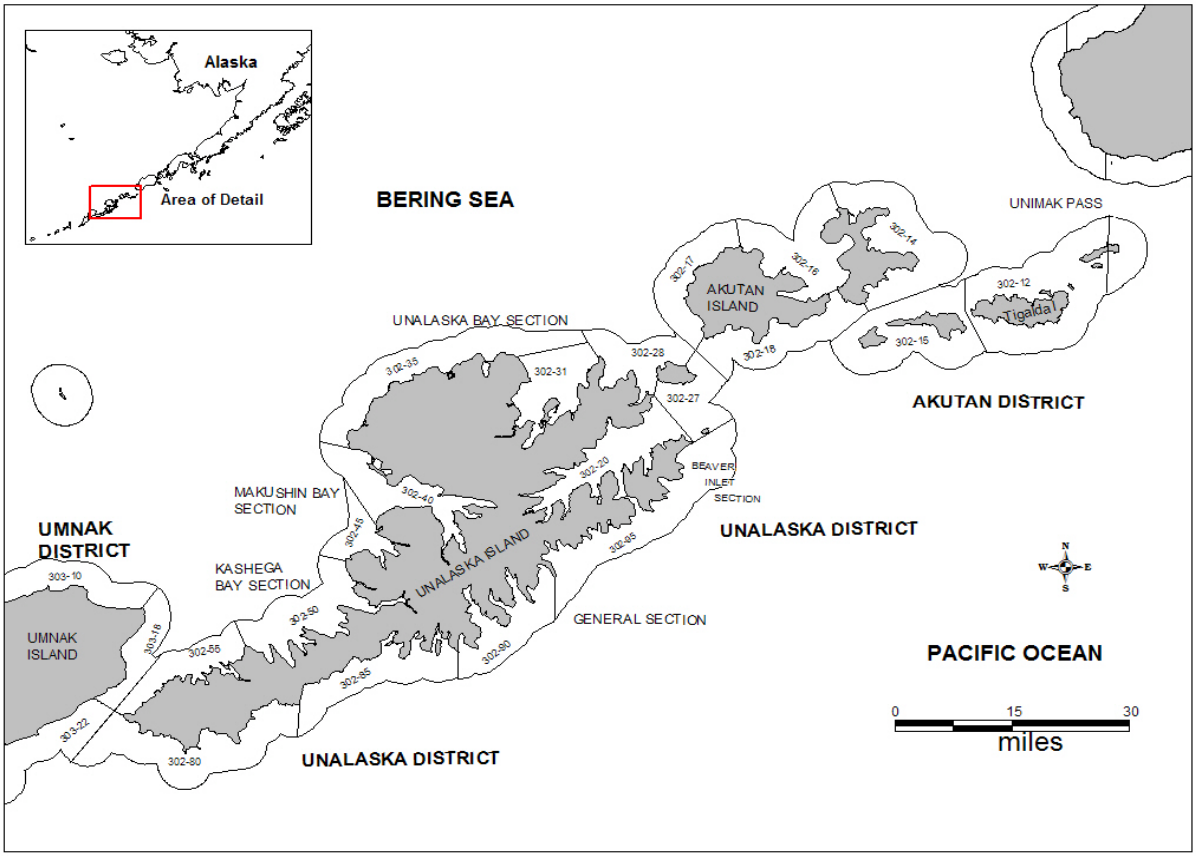

Figure 106-1.–Map depicting the Unalaska subsistence fishing District.

Table 106-1.–McLees Lake total indexed salmon escapements by species and year, 1985–2023.

Year	Number of salmon				
	Sockeye	Coho[a]	Pink	Chum	Total
1985	–	–	–	–	–
1986	475	–	–	–	475
1987	600	–	–	–	600
1988	–	–	–	–	–
1989	–	–	–	–	–
1990	625	–	–	–	625
1991	–	–	–	–	–
1992	6,000	–	–	–	6,000
1993	–	–	–	–	–
1994	16,500[b]	–	–	–	16,500
1995	1,550	–	–	–	1,550
1996	–	–	–	–	–
1997	–	–	–	–	–
1998	11,000	–	–	–	11,000
1999	–	–	–	–	–
2000	–	–	–	–	–
2001[c]	45,866	–	–	–	45,866
2002[c]	97,780	–	–	–	97,780
2003[c]	101,793	–	–	–	101,793
2004[c]	40,328	–	–	–	40,328
2005[c]	12,088	–	–	–	12,088
2006[c]	12,936	–	–	–	12,936
2007[c]	21,428	–	–	–	21,428
2008[c]	8,661	–	–	–	8,661
2009[c]	10,120	–	–	–	10,120
2010[c]	32,842	–	–	–	32,842
2011[c]	36,602	–	–	–	36,602
2012[c]	32,999	–	–	–	32,999
2013[c]	15,691	–	–	–	15,691
2014[c]	12,424	–	–	–	12,424
2015[c]	20,284	–	–	–	20,284
2016[c]	39,892	–	–	–	39,892
2017[c]	13,195	–	–	–	13,195
2018[d]	–	–	–	–	–
2019	34,000	–	1,000	–	35,000
2020[c]	5,037	–	–	–	5,037
2021[c]	16,173	150[e]	306[e]	–	16,629
2022[c]	14,015	–	–	–	14,015
2023[c]	26,945	3	11	–	
2024[d]	–	–	–	–	–
Averages					
2004–2023	20,283	8	66	–	20,356
2014–2023	20,218	15	132	–	18,344

[a] Coho surveys are conducted for presence information only. Surveys are not flown for peak abundance estimates.
[b] Comment from surveyor indicated uncertainty of the species and originally identified them as pink salmon.
[c] System was weired to estimate escapement
[d] Weir was not operational due to funding.
[e] Late season surveys conducted by drone.

Table 106-2.—Sockeye salmon harvest for major systems of Unalaska Island, 2001–2023.

Year	Total Unalaska permits fished[c]	Reese (Wislow) Bay		Unalaska Lake Vicinity[a]		Other Unalaska Bay[b]		Volcano Bay	
		Permits fished	Sockeye salmon harvested[a]	Permits fished	Sockeye salmon harvested[a]	Permits fished	Sockeye salmon harvested[a]	Permits fished	Sockeye salmon harvested[a]
2001	102	61	2,673	12	198	45	256	1	5
2002	114	71	4,115	9	104	40	248	0	0
2003	131	80	3,407	4	26	48	387	0	0
2004	105	74	3,252	8	361	45	571	0	0
2005	73	54	3,363	10	152	25	238	0	0
2006	56	31	1,451	10	103	24	67	1	25
2007	136	58	1,605	16	244	22	164	3	105
2008	83	51	1,108	21	352	38	162	2	55
2009	104	62	2,040	29	562	49	431	2	133
2010	118	63	3,583	15	109	31	274	1	40
2011	96	77	4,681	15	193	26	166	1	15
2012	135	108	4,347	7	229	33	181	3	77
2013	97	70	2,720	26	555	22	180	7	320
2014	79	44	1,320	27	528	20	66	11	430
2015	115	61	2,046	25	321	21	342	3	8
2016	95	73	3,093	20	219	25	80	5	266
2017	124	45	1,398	18	191	17	56	1	86
2018	71	48	1,338	8	40	32	49	3	65
2019	105	45	1,055	17	229	26	89	8	146
2020	55	29	613	9	81	13	6	17	663
2021	127	34	892	24	449	13	2	16	718
2022	50	21	550	15	58	15	6	12	500
2023	113	67	2,490	15	110	14	9	17	611
Averages									
2003–2012	113	70	2,884	14	233	34	264	1	45
2013–2022	102	50	1,503	19	267	20	88	8	320

[a] This includes Agnes Beach, Front Beach, Unalaska Town Beach, and Unalaska Bay.
[b] Includes Broad Bay, Captain's Bay, Morris Cove, Nateekin Bay, Summer Bay, Unalaska District, Unknown, and Wide Bay.
[c] Reported harvest from returned subsistence permits. Harvest from unreturned permits was not estimated.

SPORT FISHERIES (7 PROPOSALS)

PROPOSAL 161 –5 AAC 65.XXX. New Section

PROPOSED BY: Nanci Morris Lyon

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Establish a management plan for Bering Sea drainages in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area (APAIA) that support king salmon populations and have active associated fisheries.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? A king salmon management plan would be established for all drainages supporting king salmon runs flowing into the Bering Sea on the North Alaska Peninsula (NAP) (Figure 161-1). A king salmon management plan for drainages in the NAP could take several different forms. However, it would likely incorporate the many regulations pertaining to individual drainages in the area to provide for simplified, but conservative, sport fishing regulations, as well as incorporate any other regulations being considered by the board in proposals 155–160.

BACKGROUND: The Alaska Peninsula has numerous king salmon runs in the drainages flowing into the Bering Sea and little information exists in terms of escapement estimates, run timing, and harvests for most of these stocks. Nearly all of the Bering Sea drainages in the APAIA have small sport fisheries, particularly those with king salmon runs, and there is a small amount of harvest of king salmon in subsistence fisheries, primarily near the villages of Nelson Lagoon and Port Heiden. Many drainages in the NAP already have conservative king salmon bag limits or are restricted to non-retention of king salmon, as well as tackle and bait restrictions (Nelson, Sandy, King Salmon, and Bear Rivers), while several other drainages have proposals for similar restrictions at this meeting for king salmon (Cinder, Meshik, and Black Hills River and North Creek drainages).

The NAP is one of the few places in Alaska that king salmon populations have generally remained stable and have supported harvest in sport, commercial, and subsistence fisheries. However, there is limited data in terms of escapement and harvest for most of the king salmon populations in the area. A weir operated on the Nelson River affords the only estimate of escapement for a king salmon run in the NAP and has a biological escapement goal (BEG) of 2,400–5,000 salmon established. This is the only king salmon escapement goal in the area being considered by this proposal. The weir has operated since 1989 and has shown that the king salmon run, while it does fluctuate in size, has consistently achieved the BEG; only falling below the BEG in one of the last 10 years (Table 161-1). The record king salmon count occurred in 2019 with over 12,000 king salmon counted. Escapement estimates for the Nelson River averaged 4,653 from 2016 to 2025 and were composed of both weir counts and post-weir aerial survey estimates of king salmon below the weir at the time it is pulled for the season. While there has been a harvestable surplus of king salmon in the Nelson River in more recent years, the department does not have emergency order authority to open the Nelson River to the harvest of king salmon even when escapement goals are being met or exceeded.

Other king salmon runs in the NAP are thought to follow similar trends and patterns as the Nelson River based on aerial survey information, anecdotal angler reports and previously available freshwater guide logbook data. Given the low sport harvest and effort, the extremely remote nature of these drainages, and difficult access for anglers in the NAP, there are no conservation concerns for the king salmon runs in the drainages. Weirs operated on the Sandy River until 2024, and

through the present at Bear River, only capture a small portion of the king salmon runs due to the weirs' locations in the drainages and the fact that they are primarily focused on counting sockeye salmon. Aerial surveys are conducted on numerous drainages with king salmon runs on the NAP, but in most cases, they are opportunistic counts for king salmon and are primarily conducted to estimate sockeye salmon escapement. Aerial survey counts for king salmon are shown in Table 161-1 for other select king salmon runs of the NAP at Cinder, Meshik, Sandy, Black Hills, North Creek, Bear, and King Salmon River drainages.

King salmon sport fisheries in the APAIA are typically characterized by low effort and harvest relative to other sport fisheries in the area and to other king salmon fisheries in the State of Alaska. Although estimates of sport harvest and effort (angler-days) are unavailable for individual rivers in the area, estimates are available for the APAIA as a whole and have averaged 253 king salmon harvested and 4,736 released for all APAIA streams (including Chignik) from 2015 to 2024 (Table 161-2). Commercial harvest of king salmon in the NAP occurs primarily in the Nelson Lagoon section and has averaged 767 salmon from 2015 to 2024 (Table 161-3). Commercial king salmon harvest only occasionally occurs in commercial fisheries in other sections of the NAP.

Regulations have been adopted for four specific drainages all of which are different in the NAP to provide conservative king salmon management, as well as for angler preferences. The board restricted the Nelson River to catch and release only at their 2012 meeting. The Sandy River king salmon sport fishery was likewise restricted during the 2016 BOF meeting to a bag limit of 1 king salmon per day and 2 king salmon annually. Most recently, the board restricted the Bear and King Salmon Rivers to a bag limit of only one king salmon under 20 inches per day and no harvest of king salmon 20 inches or greater at their 2023 meeting. In each case, the use of bait and treble hooks were correspondingly restricted based on concerns for hooking injury and mortality, as well as current practices in each fishery.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is unable to support a prescriptive management approach because current stock assessment, monitoring tools, and management capacity are insufficient to inform such a plan. Creating a new king salmon management plan for the drainages described above may require the department and the board to comprehensively evaluate the current sport, commercial, and subsistence fisheries and develop regulations, bag, possession, and annual limits, and possibly develop escapement goal ranges for many of these systems. Stock status and population estimates may need to be performed to inform the process. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, there is currently a harvestable surplus of king salmon in the Nelson River and sustained harvest opportunities exist in other peninsula rivers in the APAIA. Aligning sport fish regulations and bag limits across the APAIA would benefit the angling public by reducing regulatory complexity and providing more consistent and understandable harvest opportunities. Aspects of proposals 155-160 could be incorporated into a sport fish management plan. Currently, ADF&G Division of Sportfish lacks the regulatory structure necessary to provide harvest opportunity in the Nelson River, when king salmon escapement goals are met or exceeded. If the board chooses to adopt this proposal the department can provide regulatory management options to the board.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal may result in an additional cost to the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfish in the Aleutian Islands Area and the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands (5 AAC 01.366)

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 13,500–23,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.

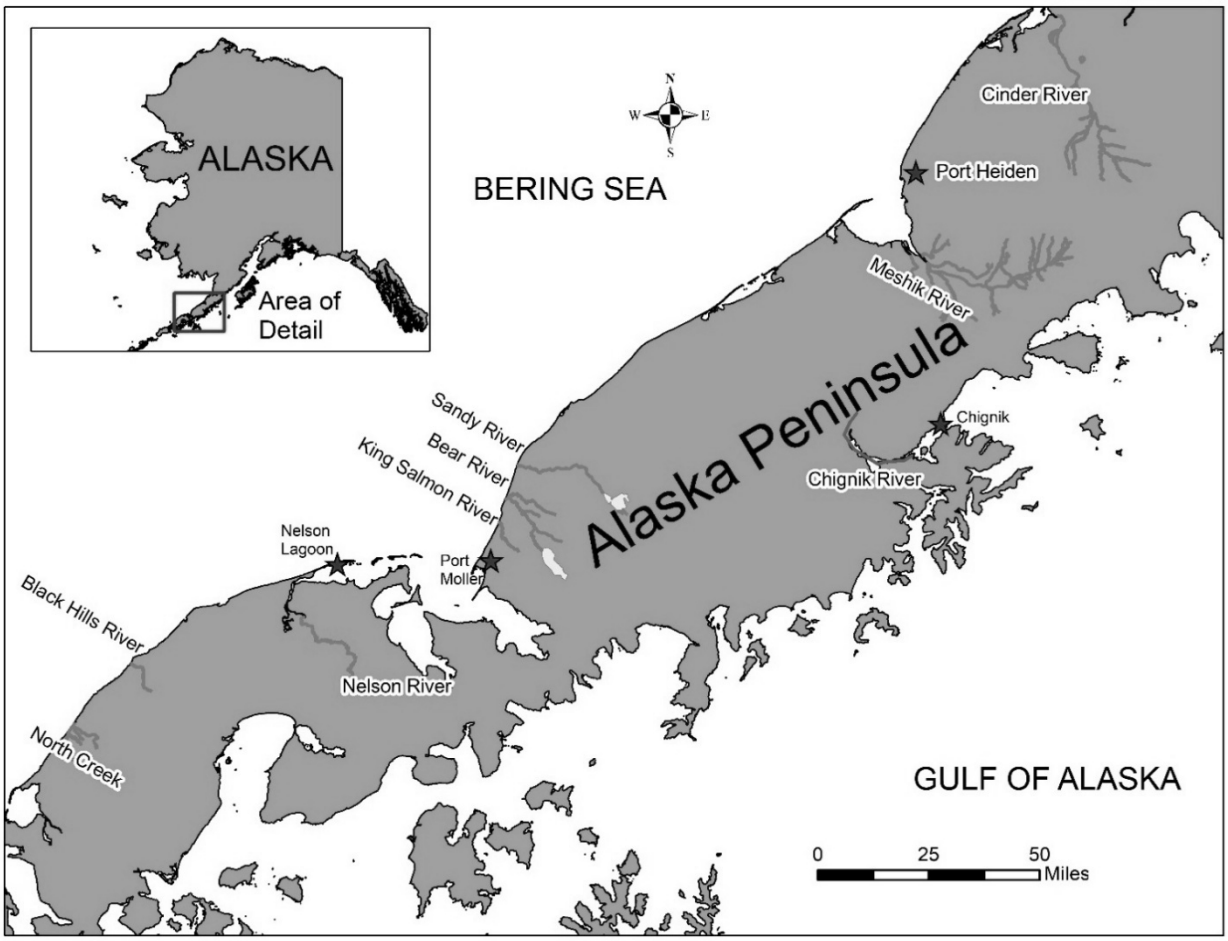

Figure 161-1.–Map of the Alaska Peninsula with selected king salmon bearing drainages.

Table 161-1.–Weir and aerial survey counts of king salmon in NAP drainages, 2016–2025.

Year	Nelson R.[a]	North Creek[b]	Black Hills R.[b]	King Salmon R.	Bear R.[b]	Sandy R.[c]	Meshik R.[b]	Cinder R.[b]
2016	4,618	900	200	1,100	950	331	800	3,250
2017	1,852	275	550	900	800	253	400	0
2018	5,022	500	350	400	1,200	272	400	1,400
2019	12,153	650	500	900	820	789	2,500	1,000
2020	2,498	0	600	625	0	99	325	0
2021	4,539	800	350	800	400	122	500	300
2022	3,785	400	625	175	0	62	1,100	1,200
2023	4,078	0	0	ns	ns	21	400	200
2024	3,552	300	ns	ns	ns	211	0	200
2025	4,551	0	500	400	150	1,100	350	550
Average 2016–2025	4,665	383	408	663	540	326	678	810

[a] Aerial survey counts indicate fish observed and are not estimates of escapement, a count of 0 indicates no king salmon were observed during that survey.

[b] Includes weir counts and post-season aerial surveys and are considered an estimate of escapement.

[c] Weir counts included through 2024, aerial surveys conducted beginning in 2025 as the weir project was discontinued.

Table 161-2.–SWHS estimates of freshwater sport harvest, release, and effort for king salmon in the APAIA, 2015–2024.

Year	Angler days	Harvest	Release
2015	2,088	379	4,930
2016	1,829	363	4,000
2017	2,984	549	5,027
2018	4,692	646	11,256
2019	3,267	266	6,380
2020	66	16	98
2021	2,948	22	4,918
2022	3,079	136	3,881
2023	1,734	29	3,159
2024	1,459	120	3,706
Average 2015-2024	2,415	253	4,736

Source: Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS) estimates from the Alaska Sport Fishing Survey database [Intranet]. 1996–present. Anchorage, AK: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish (cited October 2025). Available from: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/.

Note: Estimates of harvest, release and effort include all North Alaska Peninsula Streams, as well as the Chignik River Drainage in the South Alaska Peninsula. Angler days are calculated only for anglers who reported catching a king salmon.

Table 161-3.–Commercial harvest of king salmon in the Nelson Lagoon section, 2015–2024.

Year	King salmon harvest
2015	1,286
2016	1,188
2017	652
2018	902
2019	1,799
2020	699
2021	398
2022	282
2023	316
2024	152
Average 2015-2024	767

PROPOSAL 157 –5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area

PROPOSED BY: Jay Michael Watt.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would prohibit retention of king salmon in the Sandy River sport fishery.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Sport fishing bag limits for king salmon in the Sandy River are one per day with a two fish annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length. King salmon less than 20 inches in length have a bag limit of 10 per day with no annual limit. The king salmon season for the Alaska Peninsula is from January 1 through July 25, annually, and tackle is restricted to single hook, artificial lures in the drainage, year-round.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Sport fishing harvest opportunity for king salmon in the Sandy River (Figure 157-1) would be eliminated and only catch and release fishing would be allowed. Bait and tackle restrictions would remain in effect year-round. King salmon escapement would increase by an unknown amount.

BACKGROUND: The Alaska Peninsula has numerous king salmon runs in the drainages flowing into the Bering Sea and little information exists in terms of escapement estimates, run timing, and harvests for most of these stocks. There are no escapement estimates or escapement goals established for Sandy River king salmon and the drainage was primarily monitored by a weir operated through 2024. It was, however, located upstream of most of the primary king salmon spawning habitat and focused on counting sockeye salmon. Aerial surveys were conducted beginning in 2025, also primarily focused on sockeye salmon escapement but with opportunistic counts of king salmon. Weir counts for the Sandy River averaged 260 from 2015 to 2024 and the 2025 peak aerial survey counted 900 king salmon (Table 157-1).

King salmon sport fisheries in the APAIA are typically characterized by low effort and harvest relative to other sport fisheries in the area. Though estimates of harvest and effort (angler-days) are unavailable for the Sandy River, estimates are available for the whole of the APAIA and have averaged 253 king salmon harvested and 4,736 released from 2015-2024 for all Alaska Peninsula streams, which also include the Chignik River (Table 157-2). Harvest of king salmon returning to the Sandy River only occasionally occurs in nearby commercial fisheries of the North Alaska Peninsula.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal as there are no biological concerns with the harvest of king salmon in the Sandy River in accordance with the current APAIA king salmon bag limits. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

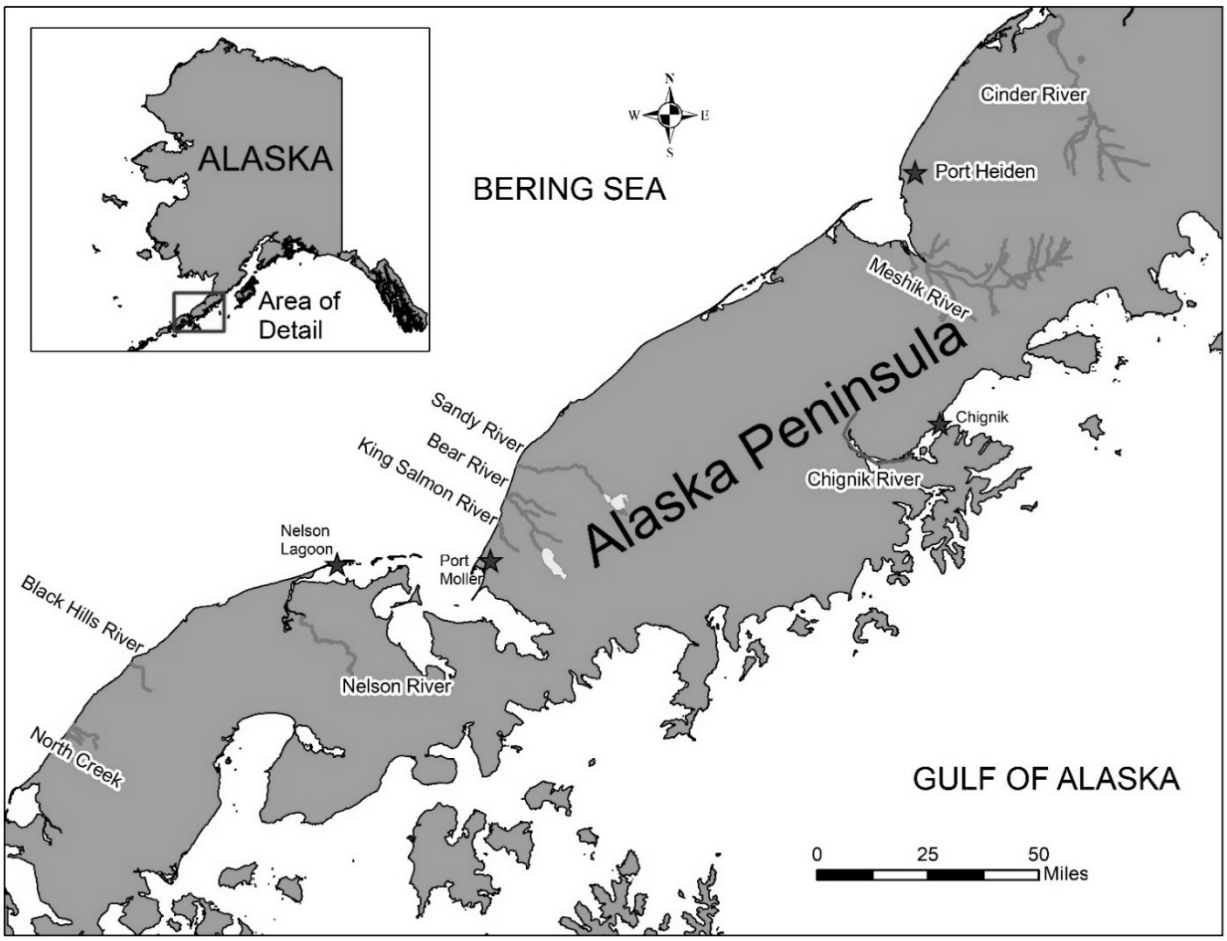

Figure 157-1.–Map of the Alaska Peninsula with selected king salmon bearing drainages highlighted in gray.

Table 157-1.–Weir and aerial survey counts of king salmon in the Sandy River, 2015–2025.

Year	King salmon counts
2015	444
2016	331
2017	253
2018	272
2019	789
2020	99
2021	122
2022	62
2023	21
2024	211
2025[a]	1,100
Average 2015–2024	260

[a] Aerial surveys conducted in 2025 only as the weir project was discontinued.

Table 157-2.–SWHS estimates of freshwater sport harvest, release, and effort for king salmon in the APAIA, 2015–2024.

Year	Angler days	Harvest	Release
2015	2,088	379	4,930
2016	1,829	363	4,000
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Note: Estimates of harvest, release and effort include all North Alaska Peninsula Streams, as well as the Chignik River Drainage in the South Alaska Peninsula. Angler days are calculated only for anglers who reported catching a king salmon.

PROPOSAL 158 –5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area

PROPOSED BY: David Luthy.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would prohibit retention of king salmon in the Sandy River sport fishery.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Sport fishing bag limits for king salmon in the Sandy River are one per day with a two fish annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length. King salmon less than 20 inches in length have a bag limit of 10 per day with no annual limit. The king salmon season for the Alaska Peninsula is from January 1 through July 25, annually, and tackle is restricted to single hook, artificial lures in the drainage, year-round.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Sport fishing harvest opportunity for king salmon in the Sandy River (Figure 157-1) would be eliminated and only catch and release fishing would be allowed. Bait and tackle restrictions would remain in effect year-round. King salmon escapement would increase to an unknown amount.

BACKGROUND: The Alaska Peninsula has numerous king salmon runs in the drainages flowing into the Bering Sea and little information exists in terms of escapement estimates, run timing, and harvests for most of these stocks. There are no escapement estimates or escapement goals established for Sandy River king salmon and the drainage was primarily monitored by a weir operated through 2024. It was, however, located upstream of most of the primary king salmon spawning habitat and focused on counting sockeye salmon. Aerial surveys were conducted beginning in 2025, also primarily focused on sockeye salmon escapement but with opportunistic counts of king salmon. Weir counts for the Sandy River averaged 260 from 2015 to 2024 and the 2025 peak aerial survey counted 900 king salmon (Table 157-1).

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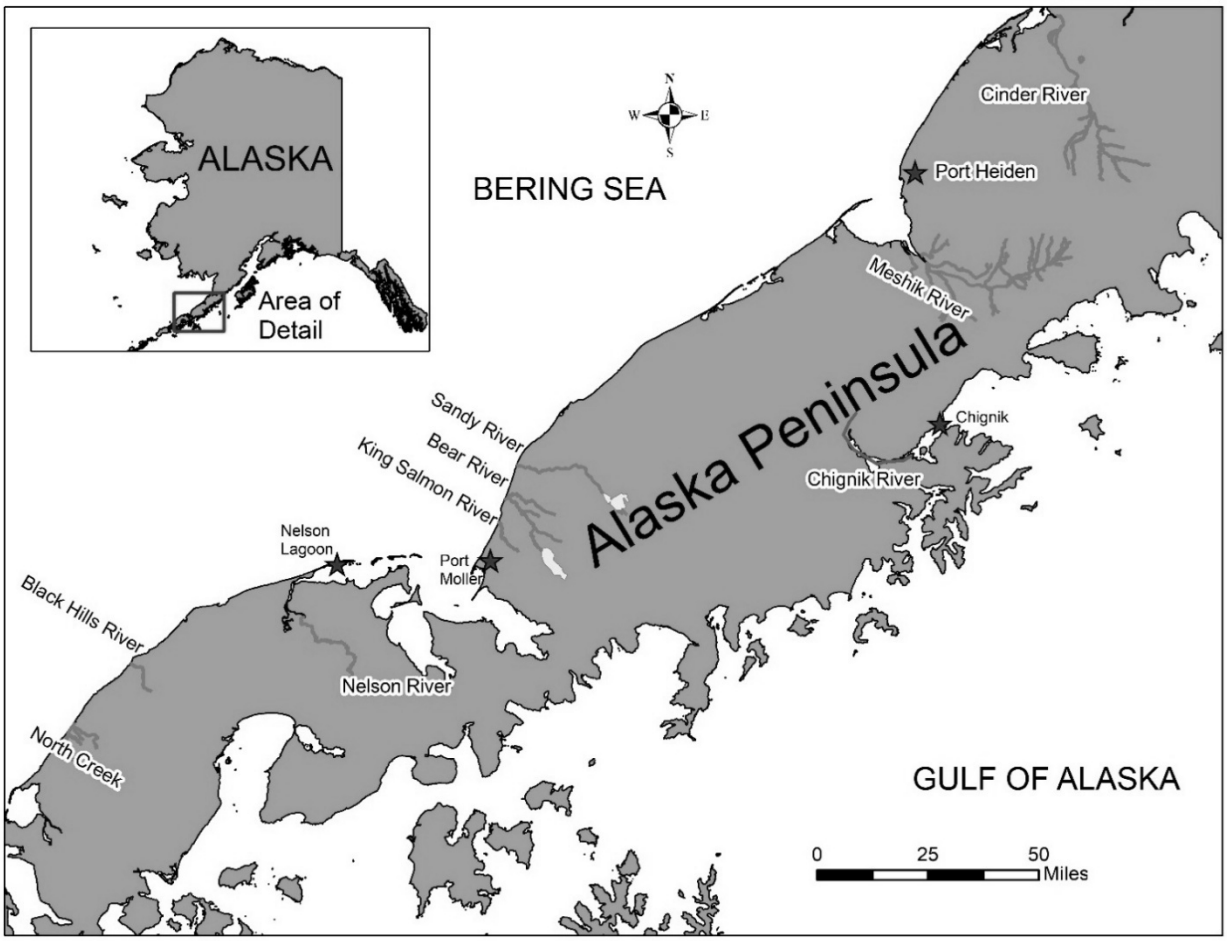
DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal as there are no biological concerns with the harvest of king salmon in the Sandy River in accordance with the current APAIA king salmon bag limits. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.



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2017	2,984	549	5,027
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2019	3,267	266	6,380
2020	66	16	98
2021	2,948	22	4,918
2022	3,079	136	3,881
2023	1,734	29	3,159
2024	1,459	120	3,706
Average 2015-2024	2,415	253	4,736

Source: Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS) estimates from the Alaska Sport Fishing Survey database [Intranet]. 1996–present. Anchorage, AK: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish (cited October 2025). Available from: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/.

Note: Estimates of harvest, release and effort include all North Alaska Peninsula Streams, as well as the Chignik River Drainage in the South Alaska Peninsula. Angler days are calculated only for anglers who reported catching a king salmon.

PROPOSAL 159 –5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area

PROPOSED BY: David Luthy.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would prohibit retention of king salmon in the Sandy River sport fishery. The author proposes restricting the use of bait in the Sandy River drainage as well; however, the use of bait and treble hooks are currently prohibited in the drainage, year-round.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Sport fishing bag limits for king salmon in the Sandy River are one per day with a two fish annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length. King salmon less than 20 inches in length have a bag limit of 10 per day with no annual limit. The king salmon season for the Alaska Peninsula is from January 1 through July 25, annually, and tackle is restricted to single hook, artificial lures in the drainage, year-round.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Sport fishing harvest opportunity for king salmon in the Sandy River (Figure 157-1) would be eliminated and only catch and release fishing would be allowed. Bait and tackle restrictions would remain in effect year-round. King salmon escapement would increase to an unknown amount.

BACKGROUND: The Alaska Peninsula has numerous king salmon runs in the drainages flowing into the Bering Sea and little information exists in terms of escapement estimates, run timing, and harvests for most of these stocks. There are no escapement estimates or escapement goals established for Sandy River king salmon and the drainage was primarily monitored by a weir operated through 2024. It was, however, located upstream of most of the primary king salmon spawning habitat and focused on counting sockeye salmon. Aerial surveys were conducted beginning in 2025, also primarily focused on sockeye salmon escapement but with opportunistic counts of king salmon. Weir counts for the Sandy River averaged 260 from 2015 to 2024 and the 2025 peak aerial survey counted 900 king salmon (Table 157-1).

King salmon sport fisheries in the APAIA are typically characterized by low effort and harvest relative to other sport fisheries in the area. Though estimates of harvest and effort (angler-days) are unavailable for the Sandy River, estimates are available for the whole of the APAIA and have averaged 253 king salmon harvested and 4,736 released from 2015-2024 for all Alaska Peninsula streams, which also include the Chignik River (Table 157-2). Harvest of king salmon returning to the Sandy River only occasionally occurs in nearby commercial fisheries of the North Alaska Peninsula.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal as there are no biological concerns with the harvest of king salmon in the Sandy River in accordance with the current APAIA king salmon bag limits and methods and means. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

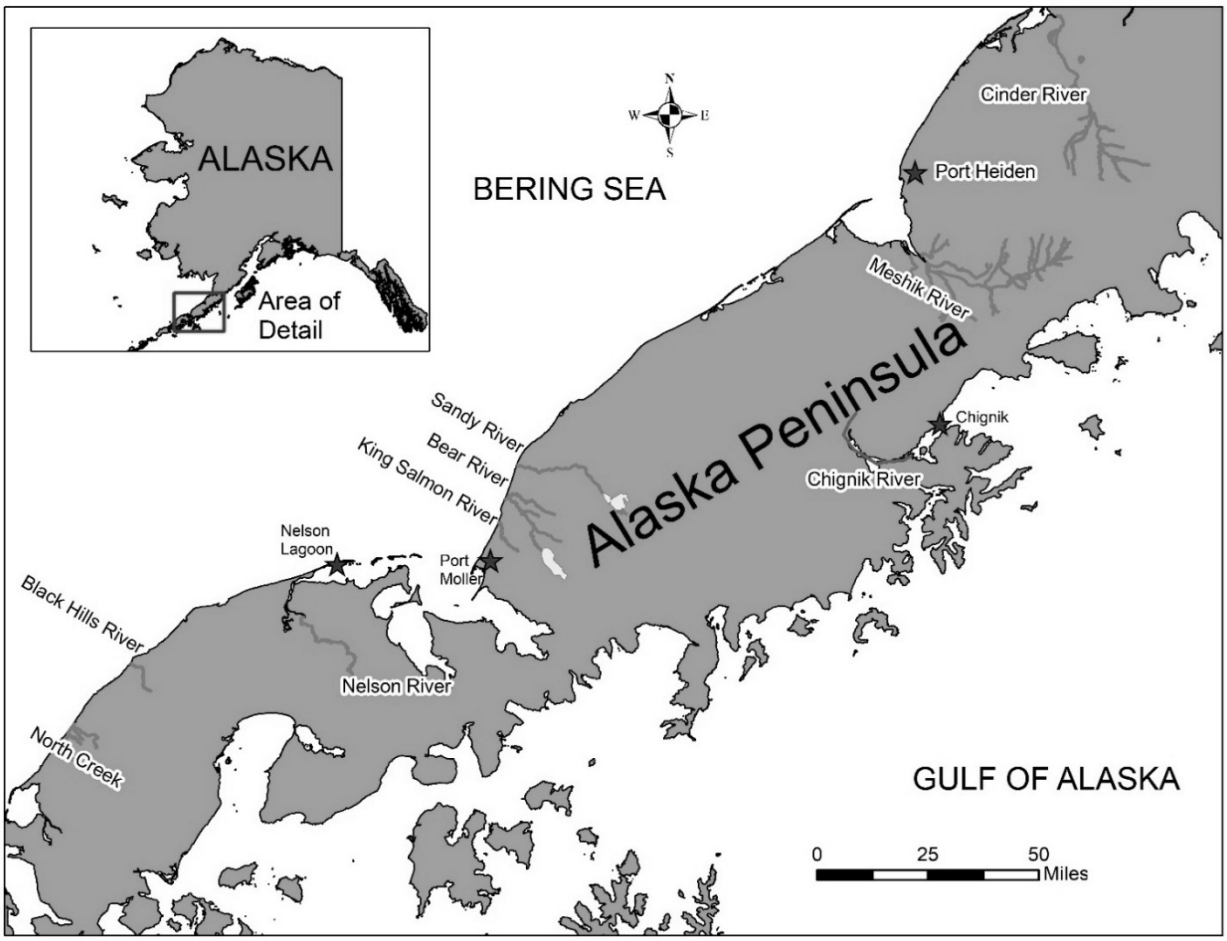

Figure 159-1.–Map of the Alaska Peninsula with selected king salmon bearing drainages highlighted in gray.

Table 159-1.–Weir and aerial survey counts of king salmon in the Sandy River, 2015–2025.

Year	King salmon counts
2015	444
2016	331
2017	253
2018	272
2019	789
2020	99
2021	122
2022	62
2023	21
2024	211
2025[a]	1,100
Average 2015–2024	260

[a] Aerial surveys conducted in 2025 only as the weir project was discontinued.

Table 159-2.–SWHS estimates of freshwater sport harvest, release, and effort for king salmon in the APAIA, 2015–2024.

Year	Angler days	Harvest	Release
2015	2,088	379	4,930
2016	1,829	363	4,000
2017	2,984	549	5,027
2018	4,692	646	11,256
2019	3,267	266	6,380
2020	66	16	98
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Average 2015-2024	2,415	253	4,736

Source: Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS) estimates from the Alaska Sport Fishing Survey database [Intranet]. 1996–present. Anchorage, AK: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish (cited October 2025). Available from: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/.

Note: Estimates of harvest, release and effort include all North Alaska Peninsula Streams, as well as the Chignik River Drainage in the South Alaska Peninsula. Angler days are calculated only for anglers who reported catching a king salmon.

PROPOSAL 160 –5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area

PROPOSED BY: Jay Michael Watt.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would prohibit retention of king salmon in the Sandy River sport fishery. The author proposes restricting the use of bait in the Sandy River drainage as well; however, the use of bait and treble hooks are currently prohibited in the drainage, year-round.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Sport fishing bag limits for king salmon in the Sandy River are one per day with a two fish annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length. King salmon less than 20 inches in length have a bag limit of 10 per day with no annual limit. The king salmon season for the Alaska Peninsula is from January 1 through July 25, annually, and tackle is restricted to single hook, artificial lures in the drainage, year-round.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Sport fishing harvest opportunity for king salmon in the Sandy River (Figure 157-1) would be eliminated and only catch and release fishing would be allowed. Bait and tackle restrictions would remain in effect year-round. King salmon escapement would increase to an unknown amount.

BACKGROUND: The Alaska Peninsula has numerous king salmon runs in the drainages flowing into the Bering Sea and little information exists in terms of escapement estimates, run timing, and harvests for most of these stocks. There are no escapement estimates or escapement goals established for Sandy River king salmon and the drainage was primarily monitored by a weir operated through 2024. It was, however, located upstream of most of the primary king salmon spawning habitat and focused on counting sockeye salmon. Aerial surveys were conducted beginning in 2025, also primarily focused on sockeye salmon escapement but with opportunistic counts of king salmon. Weir counts for the Sandy River averaged 260 from 2015 to 2024 and the 2025 peak aerial survey counted 900 king salmon (Table 157-1).

King salmon sport fisheries in the APAIA are typically characterized by low effort and harvest relative to other sport fisheries in the area. Though estimates of harvest and effort (angler-days) are unavailable for the Sandy River, estimates are available for the whole of the APAIA and have averaged 253 king salmon harvested and 4,736 released from 2015 to 2024 for all Alaska Peninsula streams, which also include the Chignik River (Table 157-2). Harvest of king salmon returning to the Sandy River only occasionally occurs in nearby commercial fisheries of the North Alaska Peninsula.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal as there are no biological concerns with harvest of king salmon in the Sandy River in accordance with the current APAIA king salmon bag limits and methods and means. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

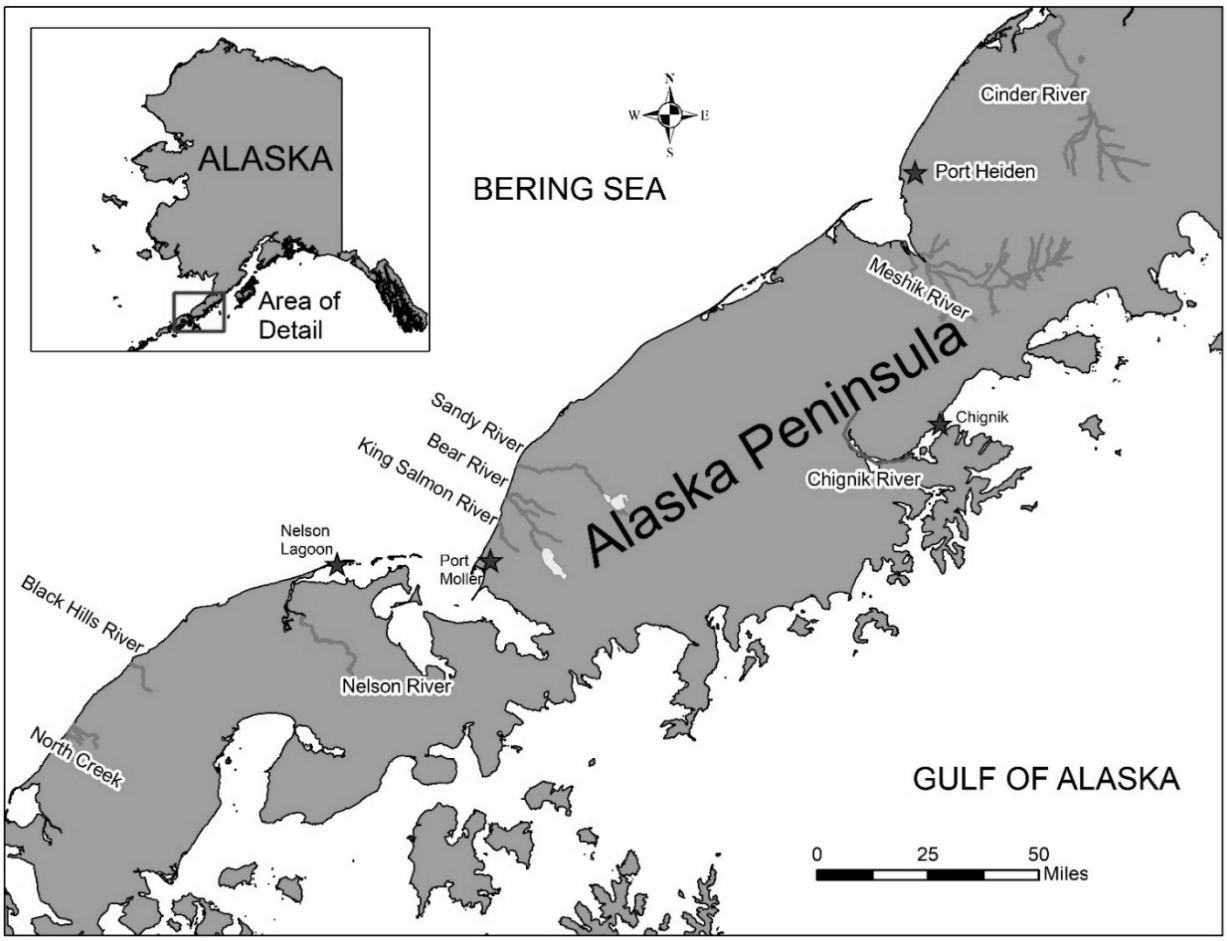

Figure 160-1.–Map of the Alaska Peninsula with selected king salmon bearing drainages highlighted in gray.

Table 160-1.–Weir and aerial survey counts of king salmon in the Sandy River, 2015–2025.

Year	King salmon counts
2015	444
2016	331
2017	253
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2021	122
2022	62
2023	21
2024	211
2025[a]	1,100
Average 2015–2024	260

[a] Aerial surveys conducted in 2025 only as the weir project was discontinued.

Table 160-2.–SWHS estimates of freshwater sport harvest, release, and effort for king salmon in the APAIA, 2015–2024.

Year	Angler days	Harvest	Release
2015	2,088	379	4,930
2016	1,829	363	4,000
2017	2,984	549	5,027
2018	4,692	646	11,256
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2023	1,734	29	3,159
2024	1,459	120	3,706
Average 2015-2024	2,415	253	4,736

Source: Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS) estimates from the Alaska Sport Fishing Survey database [Intranet]. 1996–present. Anchorage, AK: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish (cited October 2025). Available from: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/.

Note: Estimates of harvest, release and effort include all North Alaska Peninsula Streams, as well as the Chignik River Drainage in the South Alaska Peninsula. Angler days are calculated only for anglers who reported catching a king salmon.

PROPOSAL 156 –5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area

PROPOSED BY: Bob Murphy.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would prohibit retention of king salmon, 20 inches or greater, in the sport fishery in the Cinder, Meshik, and Black Hills Rivers, and North Creek. The author also indicates that they would like to see bait and tackle restrictions in these four drainages similar to current regulations for Nelson, Sandy, King Salmon, and Bear Rivers with only single hook, artificial lures or flies being allowed.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sport fishing regulations for these drainages follow background king salmon bag limits and seasons for the Alaska Peninsula and allow for a bag limit of two king salmon per day and five king salmon annually, 20 inches or greater, and 10 king salmon per day, with no annual limit, for fish less than 20 inches, from January 1 through July 25. The use of bait and treble hooks are allowed year-round.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Harvest opportunities for king salmon in the Cinder, Meshik and Black Hills Rivers and in North Creek (Figure 156-1) would be reduced to only king salmon less than 20 inches in length.

No estimates of sport harvest are available for these drainages due to low response rates in the Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS), so harvest would be reduced by an unknown amount. Additionally, angler efficiency would be reduced through bait and tackle restrictions that could potentially reduce hooking mortality. King salmon harvest in these drainages is low due to the extremely remote nature of the area and is primarily from guided anglers flying or boating in from local lodges.

BACKGROUND: The Alaska Peninsula has numerous king salmon runs in the drainages flowing into the Bering Sea and little information exists in terms of escapement estimates, run timing, and harvests for most of these stocks. Escapement goals have not been established for these stocks. The Cinder, Meshik and Black Hills Rivers and North Creek are opportunistically monitored for king salmon escapement during aerial surveys focused on sockeye salmon escapement. Weir counts for king salmon returning to the North Alaska Peninsula are only available in the Nelson River, which has achieved the BEG of 2,400 to 5,000 king salmon in most of the last ten years, with the 2017 count falling below the BEG and 2018 and 2019 weir counts exceeding the BEG. The record king salmon count for the Nelson River occurred in 2019 with 12,153 fish counted. Aerial survey counts have generally remained stable for these drainages. Counts have averaged 775 fish from 2016 to 2025 for the Cinder River, and during the same time have averaged 663 fish in the Meshik River, 408 fish in the Black Hills River and 383 fish in North Creek (Table 156-1).

King salmon sport fisheries on the Alaska Peninsula are typically characterized by low effort and harvest relative to other sport fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula–Aleutian Islands Area (APAIA) and other king salmon fisheries in the State of Alaska. Estimates of harvest and effort (angler-days) are unavailable for the Cinder, Meshik and Black Hills Rivers and in North Creek drainages due to low responses rates in the SWHS. Estimates are available for the whole of the APAIA and have averaged 253 king salmon harvested and 4,736 released from 2015 to 2024 for all Alaska Peninsula streams, which also include the Chignik River (Table 156-2). Harvests of king salmon

returning to these rivers only occasionally occur in nearby commercial fisheries of the North Alaska Peninsula.

Bait and treble hooks are common tackle in North Alaska Peninsula king salmon fisheries where they are allowed; they are currently prohibited in the Bear, King Salmon, Nelson, and Sandy Rivers. Catch and release mortality rates in salmon fisheries are generally 7–9% regardless of tackle used but the use of bait and treble hooks can increase hooking injury, and potentially mortality. The use of bait and treble hooks is frequently restricted for species of conservation concern, such as king salmon, through standard regulations and emergency orders. Bait and treble hooks are common in coho salmon fisheries, but the department does not have conservation concerns with coho salmon runs in the area given the low harvest and effort in sport fisheries of the area.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal as there are no biological concerns with the harvest of king salmon from these four drainages in accordance with the current APAIA king salmon bag limits and methods and means, including the use of bait and treble hooks. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

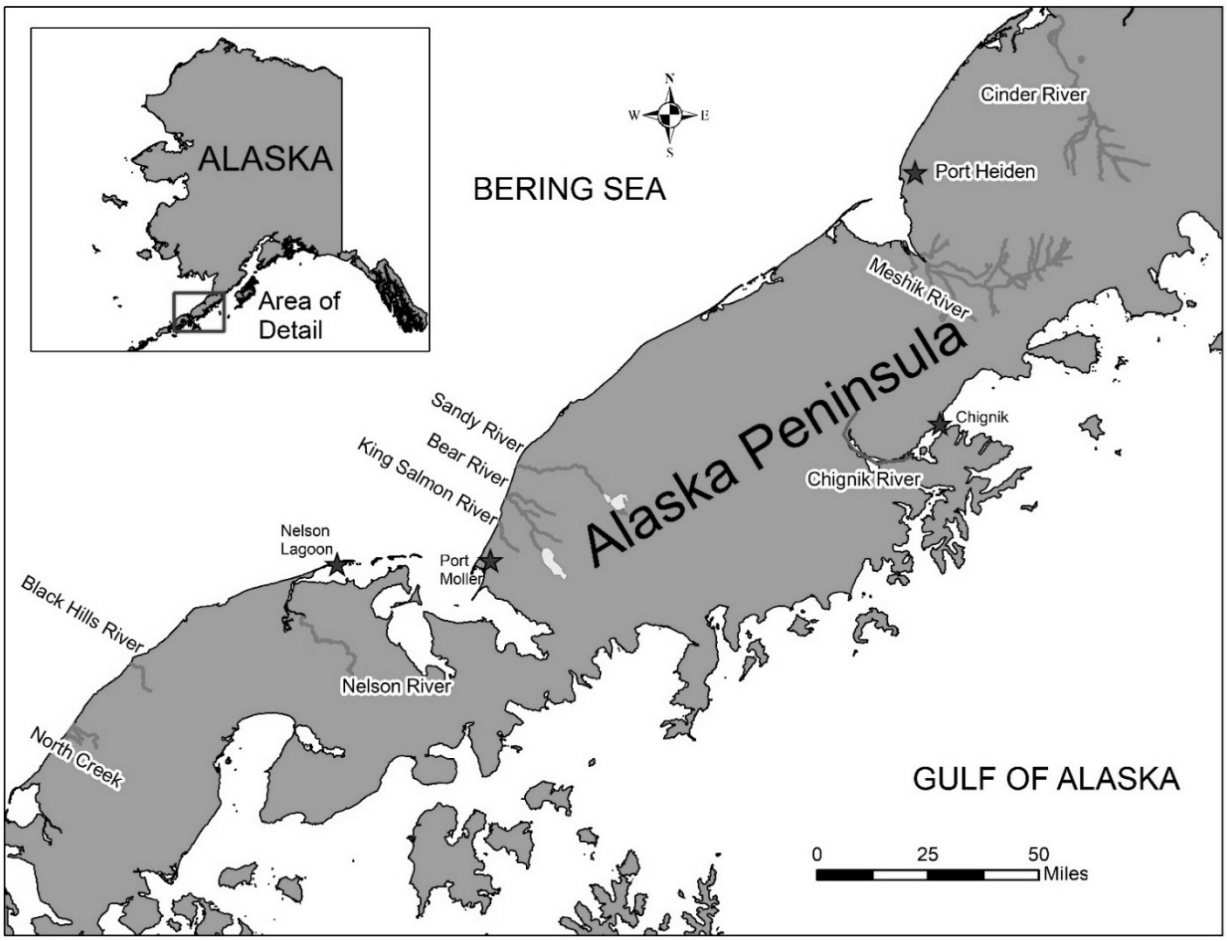

Figure 156-1.–Map of the Alaska Peninsula with selected king salmon bearing drainages highlighted in gray.

Table 156-1.–Aerial survey counts of king salmon in North Creek, Black Hills, Meshik, and Cinder River drainages and Nelson River weir king salmon counts, 2016–2025.

	King salmon observed				
Year	North Creek[a]	Black Hills R.[a]	Meshik R.[a]	Cinder R.[a]	Nelson R.[b]
2016	900	200	800	3,250	4,618
2017	275	550	400	0	1,852
2018	500	350	400	1,400	5,022
2019	650	500	2,500	1,000	12,153
2020	0	600	325	0	2,498
2021	800	350	500	300	4,539
2022	400	625	1,100	1,200	3,785
2023	0	0	400	200	4,078
2024	300	ns	0	200	3,552
2025	0	500	350	550	4,551
Average 2016–2025	383	408	678	810	4,665

[a] Aerial survey counts indicate fish observed and are not estimates of escapement; a count of 0 indicates no king salmon were observed during that survey.

[b] Includes weir counts and postseason aerial surveys and are considered an estimate of escapement.

Table 156-2.–SWHS estimates of freshwater sport harvest, release, and effort for king salmon in the APAIA, 2015–2024.

Year	Angler days	Harvest	Release
2015	2,088	379	4,930
2016	1,829	363	4,000
2017	2,984	549	5,027
2018	4,692	646	11,256
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Average 2015–2024	2,415	253	4,736

Source: Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS) estimates from the Alaska Sport Fishing Survey database [Intranet]. 1996–present. Anchorage, AK: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish (cited October 2025). Available from: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/.

Note: Estimates of harvest, release and effort include all North Alaska Peninsula Streams, as well as the Chignik River Drainage in the South Alaska Peninsula. Angler days are calculated only for anglers who reported catching a king salmon.

PROPOSAL 155 –5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would shorten the dates of restrictions on bait and multiple hooks in the King Salmon and Bear Rivers to only during the king salmon season, January 1 through July 25.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current sport fishing regulations in the King Salmon and Bear Rivers restrict the use of bait and multiple hooks year-round. King salmon may only be retained from January 1 through July 25. There is a bag and possession limit of one king salmon, under 20 inches in length.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Anglers would be allowed to use bait and treble hooks from July 26 through December 31 in the King Salmon and Bear Rivers. This would align the bait and tackle restrictions with the king salmon season in both drainages and allow the use of bait and treble hooks later in the season when anglers are targeting other species, such as coho salmon. This would increase catch and harvest for anglers fishing outside of the king salmon season. It has the possibility of increasing mortality of incidentally hooked king salmon by an unknown number after the king salmon season has closed.

BACKGROUND: There are no salmon escapement goals in these rivers except for Bear River sockeye salmon and salmon run strength, other than sockeye salmon, is poorly assessed. The board adopted the current sport fish bag and possession limits and tackle restrictions for the King Salmon and Bear Rivers at the 2023 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands and Chignik board meeting so that anglers may now only retain king salmon less than 20 inches in length in these drainages. Sport fishing tackle was also restricted to single hooks, and the use of bait was prohibited. Season dates for tackle and bait restrictions were not specified at that time, therefore they are in effect year-round during fisheries that take place well after most king salmon have spawned.

A sport fishery exists in both drainages that consists of both guided and unguided anglers, but harvest and effort information is not available due to low response rates in the Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS). The primary species targeted in the drainages are king salmon and coho salmon, with the king salmon season occurring from late May through the season closure on July 25 and the coho salmon season occurring from mid-August through late September. There are no conservation concerns with coho salmon or species other than king salmon in these drainages. Allowing the use of bait outside the king salmon season will allow increased angler opportunity and efficiency.

Bait and treble hooks are common tackle options used to improve catching efficiency for certain species of fish. They can potentially increase injury to the fish depending on hook placement and for these reasons are frequently restricted for species of conservation concern. For instance, the use of bait and treble hooks are routinely restricted in king salmon fisheries to reduce angler efficiency and reduce hooking mortality. Bait and treble hooks are, however, commonly used in most coho salmon fisheries and can improve angler success over artificial lures or flies and single hooks when conservation concerns do not exist.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal to allow more efficient tackle options during sport fisheries outside the king salmon season. There is no

biological concern for the use of these tackle options in the Bear and King Salmon Rivers. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for halibut and all other finfish in the Aleutian Islands Area and the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands (5 AAC 01.366)

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board has determined that 13,500–23,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is a board determination.