RC077

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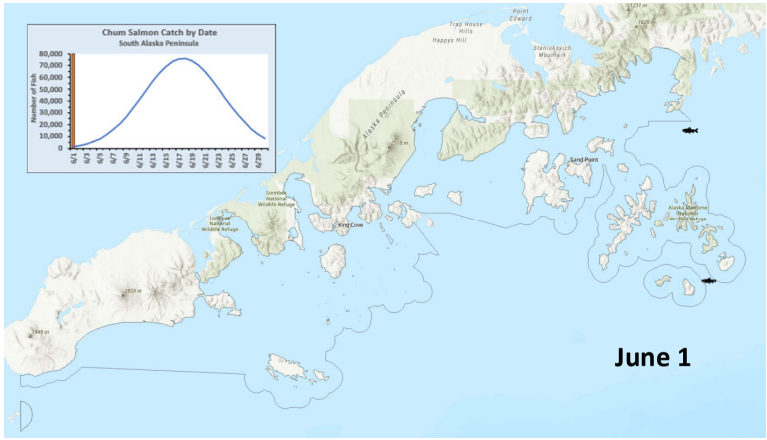
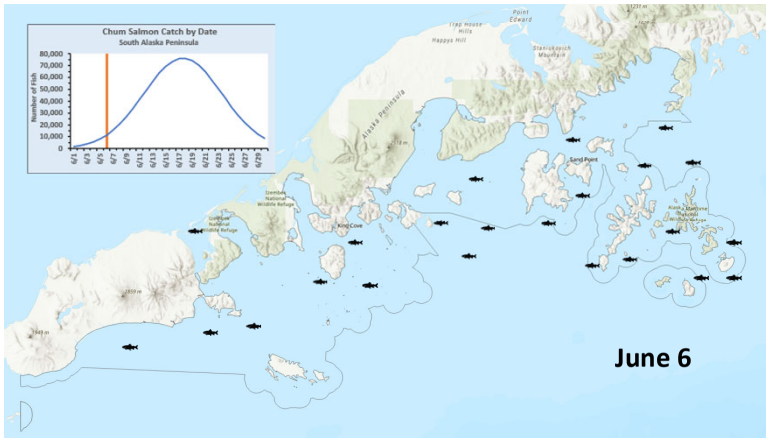
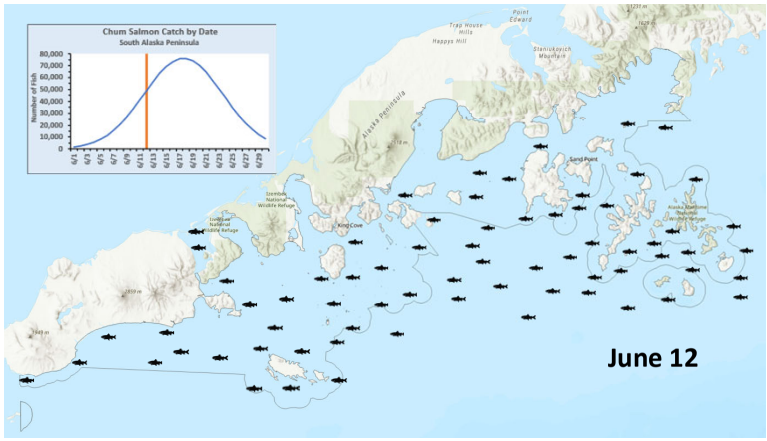
Graphic representation of Chum Salmon passage through the South Alaska Peninsula Management Area

METHODS

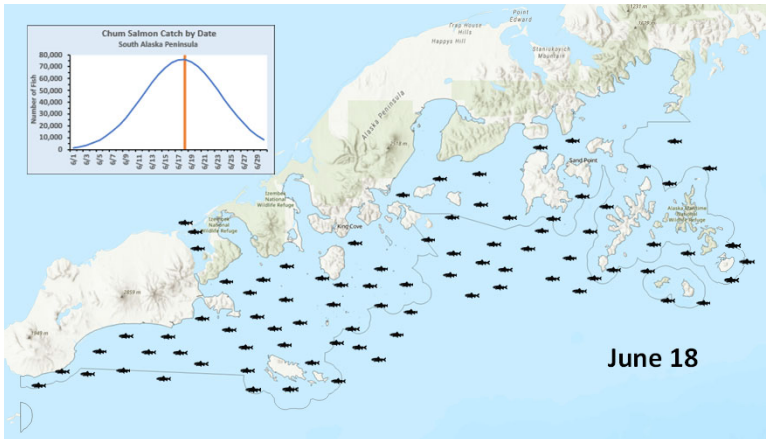
1. Passage based on June catch data in 2007-2009 when genetic samples were collected, and modeled as a run timing model (shown as graph on upper left) with date on lower right.
2. Assumes a migration rate of ~5 days across the area based on the Eggers et al. (1989) tagging study report.
3. Each "fish icon" represents approximately 5,000 chum salmon entering the management area on the east and moving west.
4. Fish distribution on any date includes some consideration of harvest by statistical area, with an effort to include some fish in the areas of highest catches.

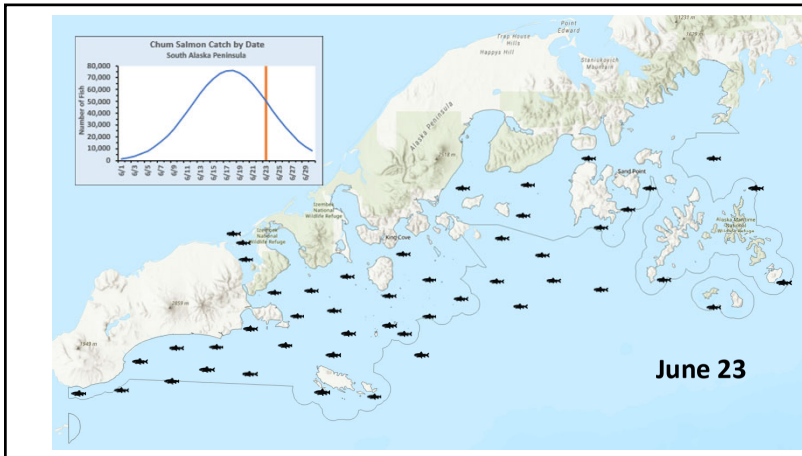


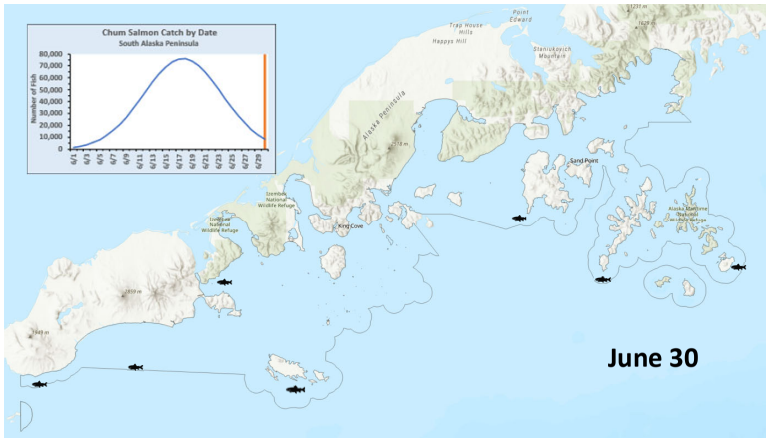




Bering Sea Fishermen's Association







Graphic representation of Chum Salmon passage through the South Alaska Peninsula Management Area

TAKEAWAYS

5. Passage through the management area peaks in mid-June.
6. Closures of a few days (current practice) simply protect fish on one end of the management area, but subject those same fish to harvest on the other end of the management area.
7. Actual passage is likely to vary annually with factors such as the strength of the Alaska Coastal Current, water temperature in the Bering Sea, and run strength and migration patterns of specific stocks.
8. A precautionary approach of implementing a 5-day closure in mid-June would protect depressed populations of migrating Western Alaska chum salmon as a worst-case scenario.