

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

Sand Point ADF&G Office
Sand Point, AK 99661



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement:

For Immediate Release: July 11, 2024

Time: 5:00 p.m.

CONTACT:

Matt Keyse, Finfish Area Management Biologist

Geoff Spalinger and Annie Brewster,

Assist. Area Management Biologists

(907) 383-2066

Sand Point Commercial Salmon Fishery Update #5 **South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery Summary**

The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery concluded on June 28 at 11:59 p.m. The estimated inseason harvest for the June fishery was 1,209 Chinook, 1,096,491 sockeye, 167 coho, 277,197 pink, and 423,833 chum salmon. The harvest of sockeye salmon is below the 10-yr average of 1,529,180 fish and below the 20-year average of 1,438,858 fish. The harvest of chum salmon is below the 10-yr average of 497,069 fish and below the 20-yr average of 454,821 fish.

Table 1. –2001–2024 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June total harvest of sockeye and chum salmon.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sockeye</u>	<u>Chum</u>
2001	152,944	48,421
2002	627,599	381,497
2003	500,302	283,601
2004	1,395,354	483,297
2005	1,092,771	429,909
2006	932,291	299,827
2007	1,589,840	297,539
2008	1,713,575	410,932
2009	1,167,783	696,775
2010	856,321	274,871
2011	1,464,706	435,970
2012	1,605,678	395,616
2013	1,667,030	400,993
2014	659,070	386,657
2015	1,115,504	178,715
2016	1,374,824	271,400
2017	2,010,727	642,490
2018	822,173	537,466
2019	630,888	549,072
2020	339,293	490,128
2021	3,541,620	1,168,601
2022	3,916,417	546,274
2023	857,150	205,522
2024 ^a	1,096,491	423,833
10 yr average	1,529,180	497,069
20 yr average	1,438,858	454,821

^a Inseason harvest estimate

In 2024, the seine fleet and processors attempted to curtail their overall harvest of chum salmon. Continuous communication enabled the fleet to relay catch information to one another in real time. The fleet communicated daily with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Department) on a regular basis to inform the Department of seine fleet closures. Except for the fishing periods in the Shumagin Islands that begin on June 16, 20, and 25 that were reduced by 50% 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 full fleet 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 were area specific standdowns by the fleet. It is the Department’s understanding that the full fleet 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 chum salmon trigger was met on June 18 and close the South Alaska Peninsula for seine gear if the second chum salmon 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 a specific area and attempted to keep harvest of sockeye to chum above the 2:1 ratio.

Table 2. –South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June regulatory fishing period start date and number of hours per period for seine gear; number of hours that were full fleet closures in the Shumagin Islands Section and South Unimak (includes Unimak and Southwestern Districts); and voluntary standdown hours in the Shumagin Islands, East Anchor, Cape Lazaref, and Cape Lutke.

Period Start	Regulatory Hours	Full Fleet Closure Hours		Voluntary Stand Down Hours			
		Shumagins	South Unimak	Shumagins	East Anchor	Cape Lazaref	Cape Lutke
10-Jun	68	23	23	31.9	26.5	18	19.75
16-Jun	66	33 ¹	–		11.75	14.75	20.85
20-Jun	88	44 ²	–		–	–	–
25-Jun	88	44 ²	–	11	–	30.5	13.25
Total	310	144	23	42.9	38.25	63.25	53.85

¹ Shumagin Islands Section 50% reduction to 33 hours for conservation of Chignik early run sockeye salmon

² Shumagin Islands Section 50% reduction to 44 hours for conservation of Chignik early run sockeye salmon