



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Fish and Game

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
Headquarters Office

1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526  
Main: 907.465.6136  
Fax: 907.465.2332

May 8, 2023

The Honorable Click Bishop  
Senate Resources Committee, Co-Chair  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 504  
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Cathy Giessel  
Senate Resources Committee, Co-Chair  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 427  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Overview: Area M Fisheries

Dear Co-Chairs Bishop and Giessel:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supplemental information on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADF&G) Area M Overview presentation to the Senate Resources Committee on April 28, 2023. Please find the requests and corresponding responses below.

**1. Provide chum salmon return numbers from 1985-2000 for the Yukon/Kuskokwim with information on prior regulatory restrictions.**

Attachment 1 provides a table of run returns for coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) chum salmon abundance compared to South Alaska Peninsula (SP) June chum salmon harvest from 1985-2022. The SP June harvest numbers are based on fish ticket data and include all chum salmon stocks harvested. Bristol Bay and Yukon River summer chum run returns are based on harvest (fish tickets) plus escapement data (fish counts), while the Kuskokwim River and Norton Sound numbers are escapement data (fish counts) from just the Kogruklu River weir and Kwiniuk River tower, respectively.

The CWAK summer chum stock is comprised of Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim River, Yukon River, and Norton Sound summer chum stocks. Unfortunately, the stocks cannot be genetically differentiated within this grouping with current technology. In 2022, approximately 18% of the summer chum harvested in the SP June fishery were CWAK stock while over 58% were Asian stock. About 6 out of every 10 chum salmon harvested were of Asian hatchery origin. In contrast, less than 2 out of 10 were of CWAK origin.

**2. Re-create slide 18 to show closure window triggers.**

Attachment 2 shows the June 2023 Gear Type Schedule with closure windows.

**3. Notify Co-Chairs if there is space available on the trip to observe the opening of the South Alaska Peninsula June Fishery.**

ADF&G is currently planning the trip and will reach out to the Co-Chairs and committee members once our plans firm up to gauge interest and plan the trip accordingly.

I hope you find this information to be useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Lang'.

Doug Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner

Cc: Laura Stidolph, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor

**Attachment 1: Table of South Alaska Peninsula (SP) June Harvest compared to Yukon and Kuskokwim salmon runs.**

- Mid-1970s to mid-1980s fishing depended on strength of forecasted Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run; guideline harvest levels (GHLs) established and based on average historic catches
- 1984–1986 fishing time limited to 96 hours per week and no more than 72 consecutive hours to allow “escapement windows”
- 1986–2001 Bristol Bay GHLs and chum salmon caps; caps ranged from 350,000 chum salmon to 900,000 chum salmon with a variety of methods to calculate cap from hard caps, % of sockeye harvest, to “floating cap”
- 2001-2003 management plan identical to Proposal 140
- 2004-2022 set fishing periods or fishing “windows” established. Various changes to windows over previous BOF cycles; 2016 establishment of “Dolgoi Island” area to manage for Chignik-bound sockeye salmon; 2022 Record Copy (RC) 104 implemented a 50% reduction for purse seine gear
- 2023 Reduced commercial salmon fishing time with purse seine gear in June by 13% to allow chum salmon passage north; closed a known area of higher chum salmon abundance (Sanak Islands) to commercial fishing for salmon during June; created chum salmon harvest triggers that restrict and potentially close the commercial salmon fishery with purse seine gear in June, if met or exceeded; expressed an expectation, and received commitment from the fishing industry, that the industry coordinate efforts to reduce chum salmon harvest (this is incentivized by the triggers previously mentioned)

Year	All stocks	CWAK Stocks				Notes
	South Peninsula June Harvest	Bristol Bay	Kuskokwim	Yukon Summer Chum	Norton Sound	
		Total Run	Kogruluk River Weir	Total Run	Kwiniuk River Tower	
1985	443,829	1,314,258	14,522	4,609,200	21,246	Bristol Bay GHLs; 96 hr per wk time limit
1986	351,769	1,430,945	12,880	4,507,600	35,034	Bristol Bay GHLs; chum salmon caps
1987	443,019	1,704,693	N/a	1,961,100	24,772	Bristol Bay GHLs; chum salmon caps
1988	526,711	1,687,487	29,426	4,488,900	22,596	Bristol Bay GHLs; chum salmon caps
1989	455,163	1,720,264	N/a	3,766,500	15,363	Bristol Bay GHLs; chum salmon caps
1990	518,545	1,428,535	26,556	1,905,200	15,819	Bristol Bay GHLs; chum salmon caps
1991	772,705	1,639,935	22,999	2,649,400	20,203	Bristol Bay GHLs; chum salmon caps
1992	426,203	1,303,927	36,085	2,809,600	12,080	Bristol Bay GHLs; chum salmon caps
1993	532,247	1,110,660	30,021	1,852,500	15,908	Bristol Bay GHLs; chum salmon caps
1994	582,165	1,362,962	N/a	3,798,300	33,219	Bristol Bay GHLs; chum salmon caps
1995	537,433	1,246,312	32,466	4,280,000	43,086	Bristol Bay GHLs; chum salmon caps

1996	359,820	1,106,037	48,225	4,404,800	28,493	Bristol Bay GHs; chum salmon caps
1997	322,325	393,640	7,957	1,647,700	21,461	Bristol Bay GHs; chum salmon caps
1998	245,619	765,235	N/a	1,007,900	25,403	Bristol Bay GHs; chum salmon caps
1999	245,306	981,737	14,140	1,139,400	8,763	Bristol Bay GHs; chum salmon caps
2000	239,357	571,689	11,426	550,480	13,147	Bristol Bay GHs; chum salmon caps
2001	48,350	1,478,933	31,481	539,650	16,938	SP Strike/Prop 140 SP Management
2002	378,817	977,377	52,912	1,268,700	37,995	Prop 140 SP Management
2003	282,438	1,308,206	23,708	1,260,700	12,123	Prop 140 SP Management
2004	482,310	1,039,719	24,429	1,463,000	10,362	Fishing "windows"
2005	427,830	1,966,120	194,896	2,761,800	12,083	Fishing "windows"
2006	299,827	2,904,661	183,743	4,020,100	39,519	Fishing "windows"
2007	297,539	2,101,197	53,064	2,156,600	30,040	Fishing "windows"
2008	410,932	1,586,061	44,717	2,066,900	10,100	Fishing "windows"
2009	696,775	1,763,731	81,829	1,703,200	9,038	Fishing "windows"
2010	271,700	1,275,137	63,612	1,667,900	83,129	Fishing "windows"
2011	423,335	950,664	76,649	2,406,500	44,005	Fishing "windows"
2012	395,060	1,074,625	N/a	2,480,000	6,708	Fishing "windows"
2013	399,058	1,766,367	65,648	3,349,600	6,342	Fishing "windows"
2014	390,139	1,008,369	30,697	2,466,600	48,537	Fishing "windows"
2015	178,715	1,384,960	33,091	1,977,500	57,667	Fishing "windows"
2016	270,614	1,389,294	45,234	2,580,700	11,840	Fishing "windows;" Dolgoi Island established
2017	640,891	1,910,166	85,793	3,634,400	38,441	Fishing "windows"
2018	537,466	2,372,855	52,937	2,074,200	59,077	Fishing "windows"
2019	549,072	1,909,175	71,006	1,686,400	24,356	Fishing "windows"
2020	490,123	405,435	19,020	763,280	5,382	Fishing "windows"
2021	1,168,601	328,597	4,153	155,630	4,189	Fishing "windows"
2022	544,097	421,340	13,471	478,130	12,142	Fishing "windows;" RC 104

**Attachment 2: Revised June 2023 Gear Type Schedule with trigger closure windows and shortened opener.**

June 2023 Gear Types Schedule						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
Seine gear fishing periods						
Set and drift gillnet gear fishing periods						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		6 a.m.	Open 64 hours (Set Gillnet Gear Only)			6 a.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Open 68 hours		2 a.m.	76 hr closure		6 a.m.	Open 66 hours
Open 88 hours		10 p.m.		6 a.m.	Open 88 hours	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	32 hr closure	76 Hour Closure		Open 88 hours	44 Hour Opener	
	300,000 chum trigger evaluation point	6 a.m.	Open 88 hours		10 p.m.	32 hr closure
25	26	27	28	29	30	
6 a.m.	Open 88 hours Full Closure Open 88 hours					