

June Eastern Aleutian Fisheries: Key Facts

1. **Number of Seiners Fishing:** Number of seiners fishing in recent years - 2020 was 64, 2021 was 69, 2022 was 62
2. **Number of seiners in last few years versus WASSIP years** - Average 65 seiners in recent years vs 46, 55, & 53 in 2007, 2008, & 2009 respectively. In the fifteen-year period 1981 - 1996 the average number of seine permits fished was 117
3. **Total Permits Actively Fishing:** Number of aggregated permits (seine, drift, setnet) fished in Area M ten-year average, 2011 - 2020 was 246, whereas 1981 - 1996 average was 335. This is 89 more permits than in current era
4. **Open vs Closed Periods:** June fishery in 2022 as in past years has 32-hour closure periods after each opening. Under current management plans June fishery is closed over half the month of June. Open **352 hr.** vs **closed 368 hr.** In 2022 there were also many voluntary closure periods within the normal ADF&G directed openings
5. **Continuous Fishing:** There is not continuous fishing in the Shumagin Islands or South Unimak June fishery (see point 4 above). Drift and Seine fleet scheduled openings are aligned.
6. **Dolgoi Section** was closed to seine fishing in the month of June in 2019 based on Area M seine fleet recommendation to conserve Chignik sockeye.
7. **Average landings** for seasons 2001 - 2010 was 4,655 for 218 permits or 21.4 landings/permit. Average landings for seasons 2011 - 2020 was 5,011 for 246 permits or 20.4 landings/permit. These most recent decade to decade comparisons are quite similar.
8. **Chum Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE):** Chum CPUE for June during the past 3 decades has varied from a low of 48 in 2015 to a high of 319 in 2021. The past ten-year average CPUE is 140.1. Last year, 2022 the CPUE was 145.
9. **Resident seine permits vs nonresident permits:** Total seine permits 115; Alaska residents possess 71% vs 29% non-resident.
10. **Seine Boat Size:** Few newly built seiners have entered into the Area M fishery. Large seiners have been used in Area M since the 1990s largely due to the increased safety inherent in larger vessels. These vessels typically fish salmon but also groundfish, crab, and/or halibut and blackcod in fall, winter and spring in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea.
11. **Seine nets are shallower than in some Alaska seine fisheries:** Alaska Peninsula and Chignik maximum seine net depth is 375 meshes, whereas Southeast Alaska maximum depth is 450 meshes.

12. **Mixed Stock Fishery:** Alaska Peninsula fisheries are mixed stock fisheries, not bycatch fisheries. Most Alaska salmon fisheries are mixed stock fisheries, meaning there is a mixture of salmon species in the harvest, and some are migrating to nearby streams and others to far off streams. In fact, Yukon River fisheries are mixed stock, as some of the stocks are destined to spawn over a thousand miles upstream. Only fisheries that harvest fish in the stream mouth could be defined as a resident stock, although a large system like Copper River has mixed stock fisheries in the sense that some of the salmon are going hundreds of miles upstream while others only tens of miles. The Bristol Bay fishery is one of the largest mixed stock fisheries in the world.
13. **Bycatch:** Bycatch is defined as catching species that are not targeted such as salmon in Pollock fisheries. Mixed stock fisheries are defined as targeting salmon species in areas far from their natal streams where they are mixed with many other stocks. Almost all salmon fisheries in SE Alaska are mixed stock fisheries. Along the border of Canada and Alaska, Canadian harvest some Alaska bound salmon and seiners, drift gillnet and trollers catch some Canadian salmon in Alaskan waters.
14. **Stock Composition vs Harvest Rate: PC 21 BOF 2019 from Chief Fisheries Scientist**
- **Stock composition:** Genetic stock proportions are estimated percentages of fish from any stock (genetic reporting group) in sampled harvests from a given time and place. Multiplying proportions by total harvest in those time and area strata delivers stock-specific catch. Stock composition estimates for temporal strata across fisheries are necessary to estimate stock-specific harvest and rates. These numbers are likely sensitive to changing relative abundance of stocks in the sampled strata.
 - **Harvest Rates:** Harvest rates in WASSIP carry a specific meaning; the proportion of a given run (harvest + escapement) represented by any stock-specific fishery harvest. It is the most appropriate metric for evaluating real fisheries impacts on particular stocks, especially in the context of a conservation discussion. WASSIP harvest rates are over-estimates of the true value because estimates of stock-specific escapement are likely lower than reality and harvest of the stock by fisheries outside of WASSIP area are not accounted for. If those terms are biased low, the estimate of stock-specific harvest rate is biased high.
15. **June Harvest of Chum in Area M is often incorrectly overstated:** Only one year in recent history was the June chum harvest over 1 million (1.17million chum in 2021), only one other year over one million was 1982. All other years were closer to 500,000. In 2022, 540,000 chum were harvested in June.
16. **AYK Escapements vs Area M Management Plans:** In the period 2002–2022, 16 Yukon chum escapements were over the ADF&G upper bound of 1.2 million and 19 of the 22 years in this period were within the lower/upper bounds or over the upper escapement bound. The highest escapement from 1995-2022 occurred in 2006 at 3.78 million chum, which closely coincides with four years after implementation of the current management plan. The cause and effect cannot be demonstrated (Area M chum harvest certainly does not equal poor escapement in the Yukon River).