

# ADF&G reports summary of salmon harvest

*Editor's Note: The following is a summary of the 1987 Alaska commercial salmon fishery by July 1 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.*

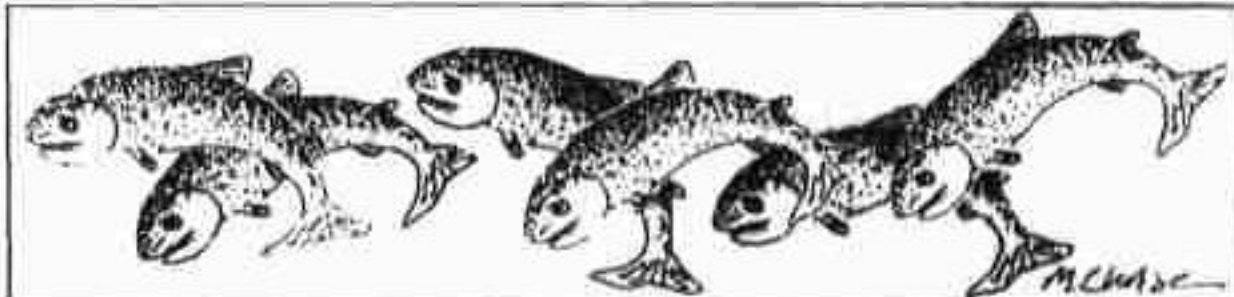
**Southeastern Region** — Since opening June 20, the catch rate for chinook salmon in the summer troll fishery has been about 125 percent above last season.

There may be closures of areas to slow the catch rates in order to try to extend the chinook fishery until later this month. Gillnet fisheries are very slow, except for Lynn Canal and certain areas in the southern districts.

**Bristol Bay** — Sockeye salmon fishing has started to increase in the bay as the run is building. The Egegik district has very good catches despite winds of more than 70 knots on the grounds, which hampered the effort.

The Naknek section only had a fishing period on June 29. The Nushagak district also had a six-hour period on June 30.

The average weight of sockeye salmon from the Port Moller test fishing project is running about 5.78 pounds.



**Upper Cook Inlet** — The Upper Inlet area had stormy weather during this reporting period. Fish appear to be scattered throughout the area. Kasilof escapement has slowed, and regular fishing periods are expected.

**Lower Cook Inlet** — Weather has been very bad, preventing any fishing or aerial survey in the area.

**Cordova Area** — The initial purse seine opening toward Valdez produced 900,000 pink salmon and 105,000 chums. Fish are starting to build in the Valdez subdistrict with purse seine openings in the Eastern and Northern district on July 1 and 2.

The Coghill/Unakwik districts will go to a one-day-a-week fishing period with both purse seine and gillnet gear allowed after July 6.

Prices are reported to be about

\$1.75 for sockeye, 25 cents for pink and 60 cents for chum salmon.

**Kuskokwim** — The sale of chinook salmon was prohibited during the fishing period on June 24 in District 1. W-2 remained closed to commercial fishing.

Average prices for all districts are \$1.10 for chinook, \$1.30 for sockeye and 27 cents for chum in June.

**Yukon River** — The return of summer chum salmon appears to be weak at this point. Test fishing data are tracking the chum return, which appears similar to the very weak parent year returns of 1982 and 1983.

Conservation measures may have to be implemented on upcoming fishing periods.

**Norton Sound** — The Norton Sound fisheries opened June 22.

Average prices reported for the area are \$1.10 for chinook, 36 cents for chum and 20 cents for pink salmon.

**Kodiak** — Record rainfall and strong easterly winds have slowed fishing considerably. Sockeye escapements are good at Upper station and Karluk, and they are improving at Red River.

The Alitak district's cumulative sockeye harvest is 59,000 fish, and Cape Igvak harvest is 260,000 sockeye salmon.

**Chignik** — The fishery was initially opened June 11 and then closed June 18-20. Harvests on June 21 were excellent, and the fishery is open until further notice.

The water level at the weir is at a critical level due to the heavy rainfall.

**Alaska Peninsula and Aleutians** — The False Pass fishery is finished with catches of 669,800 sockeye and 421,000 chums for the South Unimak District and 145,200 sockeye and 37,700 chums for the Shumigans.

No further fishing in the South peninsula area until the general opening around July 5 or 6.