

New Commercial Fishing Rules

The Board of Fish and Game during its meeting in Kodiak from November 29 through December 8, 1966, took action on 224 proposed commercial fishing regulation changes, according to word received from Walter Kirkness, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Major changes effecting the harvest of salmon included the following:

The Igushik and Snake River sections of the Nushagak district of Bristol Bay were enlarged and will be closed to fishing during the period June 21 to July 16. In the Nushagak, Naknek-Kvichak, Ugashik and Egegik districts of Bristol Bay the mesh size of gillnets shall be not less than 7½ inches prior to June 21.

Two days a week fishing time was set for the Northern, North Central and South Central districts of Cook Inlet as a result of the relatively weak run expectation for 1967.

In Prince William Sound, the general purse seine season will open July 24 as compared to the 1966 date of July 18. The later opening in 1967 reflects the generally poor early pink run predicted for 1967. Two districts, Montague and Northern will be closed to purse seining in 1967. In addition, several large bays in Prince William Sound were closed to fishing by Board action to provide additional protection for pink and chum salmon spawning in streams damaged by the 1964 earthquake.

A seven day week salmon fishery will be in effect on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula through June 30 of 1967. In the Aleutian Islands and Alaska Peninsula areas, all weekly openings for salmon fishing were changed from 12:01 a.m. Monday to 6:00 a.m. Monday.

The salmon fishing season will be open during June and after August 21 in the Kodiak area except for the Moser-Olga Bay and Cape Alitak sections which will be open from June 26 to August 23. During the period between June 30 and August 21, field announcement openings will be made if the abundance of

pink salmon is sufficient to warrant such action. Fishing time in the Kodiak area will be 5 days a week except that the Moser-Olga Bay and Cape Alitak sections will be 3 Days per week.

In Southeastern Alaska opening dates were established for the purse seine fishery in district 4 (West Coast, Prince of Wales Island) on July 5. The opening date in district 14 (Icy Straits) will again be on June 29 with an initial weekly fishing period of 24 hours only.

In the gillnet fishery, the opening dates in the Lynn Canal and Taku Inlet sections have been moved back one week to June 19 and April 30 respectively. The weekly fishing period for Lynn Canal shall begin at noon Monday instead of noon Sunday. The weekly fishing period for Portland Canal shall begin at noon Sunday instead of 6:00 p.m. Sunday. A slight increase in gillnet area was allowed in Frederick Sound just north of Petersburg. Section 15-B (Berners Bay) was closed to gillnetting.

In the trolling regulations, the ten day closure between September 20 and October 1 was deleted. In sections 11-A and 11-B (Taku) the 24 hour weekly fishing period was set for the period April 30 to June 17 and will run from Monday midnight to Tuesday midnight. Changes in the crab fishery were as follows:

Area A, Southeastern Alaska was deleted from the king crab registration areas.

The king crab season for Cook Inlet will be closed from May 1 through June 30, these dates coinciding with the dates for closure of king crab fishing in the Kodiak area.

In Southeastern Alaska the 150 limit restriction for dungeness crab in districts 5 through 10 was deleted.

The Board deliberated at considerable length on the proposal to delete the maximum length of salmon seine vessels and in final action rejected it. This subject is expected to be placed before the Board again in the near future.