



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

ANNOUNCE 1942 ALASKA FISHING REGULATIONS

Marked by sharp curtailments in herring catch quotas, but with only minor changes pertaining to salmon fishing, the 1942 regulations for the protection of the commercial fisheries of Alaska were announced today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

The important highlights of the regulations, of interest to fishermen and packers, are:

In the major red-salmon producing area of Bristol Bay the only change is that which prohibits all commercial fishing in the Egegik district, which normally accounts for a relatively small percentage of the Bristol Bay catch.

Amendments have been made in the regulations for the Alaska Peninsula area so as to eliminate the catch limitation of 700,000 fish in the vicinity of the Bear and Sandy Rivers, on the north side of the peninsula. The seasonal closing date has been advanced from August 12 to August 10 in this area.

In the Chignik area a single change fixes a minimum length limitation of 50 fathoms for salmon gill nets. The 60-hour weekly closed period, provided by the amendment in the regulations of July 17, 1941, continues in effect.

The summer fishing season in the Kodiak area will terminate at 6 p.m. August 14 instead of at midnight, while the opening time of the fall season has been changed from midnight August 31 to 6 a.m. September 1.

The regulations applying to the Cook Inlet area for this year will restore the even year seasonal closing dates, permitting fishing to continue two days longer in the southern section, and four days longer in the central and northern sections. In the Resurrection Bay area the opening date has been advanced from June 1 to May 25, while in the Bering River area the seasonal closing date will be September 18 instead of September 15.

Native Fishing Rights Protected

A new section was added for this season entitled "Native Fishing Rights", reading as follows: "No trap shall be established in any site in which any Alaska native or natives has or have any rights of fishery, by virtue of any grant or by virtue of aboriginal occupancy by any person other than such native or natives. Any native or natives claiming such rights may petition the Secretary of the Interior for a hearing with respect to the validity of such claim, and prior to any such determination such claimant and any interested parties desiring to appear in opposition to such claim shall have an opportunity to be heard."

Size Limitations of Purse Seines and Gill Nets

In the Southeastern Alaska area, the Prince William Sound area, and the Alaska Peninsula area between Castle Cape and Cape Pankof, the maximum depth of salmon purse seines has been increased to 350 meshes.

A minimum length of 50 fathoms has been fixed for salmon gill nets in all sections of the Southeastern Alaska area except the Yakutat and Stikine districts. The size of mesh of such nets has been fixed at not less than 5-3/8 inches. Wrangell Narrows, in the Sumner Strait district, will be closed to commercial fishing from August 22 to October 5.

Longer Fishing Seasons Permitted

Longer fishing seasons are provided in some districts of the Southeastern Alaska area, as follows:

In the Clarence Strait district, the closing date in the northern section will be August 28, a day later than last year. In the central section, the open season will run from July 20 to August 25, instead of from July 25 to August 24, as in 1941. In the southwestern section, the closing date has been changed from August 23 to 24. In the southeastern section, the opening date will be July 20 instead of 25.

In the Southern district, the closing date for commercial fishing has been changed from August 16 to 18.

Curtailments in Herring Catch Quotas

Because of the continued decline in abundance of herring in the major producing areas of Alaska, reductions in catch quotas have been established for the 1942 season, as follows:

In the Kodiak area the quota has been reduced from 250,000 barrels to 150,000 barrels for the period from July 1 to October 15, and in addition three 6-day closed periods are provided during the summer season when all commercial herring fishing is prohibited within the quota area.

In the Prince William Sound quota area the maximum take of herring has been cut from 250,000 barrels to 75,000 barrels in the period from June 24 to October 15, with the further provision that not more than 25,000 barrels of this quota may be taken between June 24 and August 20.

No limitations on catch are provided, however, in the waters of these two regions outside of the quota areas defined by the regulations.

In the Southeastern Alaska area, the herring catch quota of 50,000 barrels in effect for the period from June 1 to October 15, 1941, has been lowered to 2,000 barrels in any calendar month of each year, except by gill nets or for bait purposes.

Changes in Shrimp Regulations

In the Southeastern Alaska area the closed period for commercial shrimp fishing will extend from February 1 to April 30, instead of from March 1 to April 15, as was in effect last year. The tolerance on the number of small shrimp in any box or container taken for commercial purposes has been reduced this year from 50 to 25 percent of the total catch.

Modifications in the General Regulations

A number of changes have been made in the general regulations which apply to all areas of Alaska.

Requirements with regard to the dismantling of salmon traps at the end of the fishing season have been modified to allow an elapse of 12 hours after the beginning of any seasonal closed period before traps must be made inoperative.

New regulations on the use of trawls will permit fishing with this type of apparatus, except for salmon, herring, and Dungeness crabs.

Protection has been provided the giant king crab in Alaskan waters by prohibiting the taking at any time of female crabs of this species. Likewise, male king crabs, measuring less than 5-1/2 inches in greatest width of shell, may not be taken legally. Service scientists recently concluded a two-year investigation of this new fishery which is now being developed commercially by American fishing interests.

Changes have been made to make the time of fishing conform with Standard War time.

As in previous years, the new regulations will be published in codified form and simplified interpretations will be made available in each district.

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