



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SECRETARY MCKAY ISSUES 1953 ALASKA FISHING REGULATIONS

Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay today issued the commercial fishing regulations for the 1953 season in Alaska and announced the changes with reference to last year's rules.

Although a large number of changes have been made, only a few are significant; the remainder being either minor or of an editorial nature.

Changes include the closing of the Nushagak district of Bristol Bay because of the extremely poor condition of the red salmon runs there. To help alleviate any attendant hardship, the personal use restrictions have been relaxed and the industry has been requested voluntarily to do everything possible to absorb the labor supply in adjoining districts of Bristol Bay where good runs are anticipated.

Because of a relatively poor escapement in the parent cycle, a small run of pink salmon is anticipated in Prince William Sound this year. Accordingly, a curtailed season extending from July 13 to August 5 has been adopted, along with the temporary closure of 17 trap sites and some curtailment of mobile gear by the industry. The runs will be watched with special care and additional closed time will be applied to field announcement, if such is necessary to secure an adequate escapement.

All indications point to good pink runs in southeastern Alaska where the odd-year cycle has been rehabilitated and some relaxation in the seasonal restrictions is possible this year. The seasonal dates have been adjusted to conform with the time of occurrence of the runs in the various districts. An early season from June 24 to July 11 has been provided in the northern part of southeastern Alaska to allow harvesting of the early chum salmon runs. In addition, two more bays have been added to those open for fall fishing.

Copies of the printed regulations will be available in Seattle, Juneau, and the various Alaskan district offices in about a month.

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