

Fishery Management Report No. 07-18

**South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fisheries
Salmon Management Plan, 2007**

by

Aaron D. Poetter

April 2007

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



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SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2007**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES.....	ii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	ii
ABSTRACT.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	1
HARVEST REPORTING.....	1
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES REGULATION CHANGES FROM THE FEBRUARY 2007 MEETING.....	2
2007 MANAGEMENT PLAN.....	2
TABLES AND FIGURES.....	5

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1. South Unimak June fishery commercial salmon harvest, in numbers of fish, by species, 1997-2006.....	6
2. Shumagin Islands June fishery commercial salmon harvest, in numbers of fish, by species, 1997-2006.	6
3. Combined South Unimak-Shumagin Islands June fisheries commercial salmon harvest, in numbers of fish, by species, 1997-2006.	7

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Map depicting the locations of the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries.	8
2. Map Depicting the new Sanak Island and Otter Cove Sections.	9
3. Map depicting the expanded South Unimak June drift gillnet fishing area.	10
4. Fishing time in South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries, 2007.....	11

ABSTRACT

The South Unimak (False Pass) and Shumagin Islands June commercial salmon fisheries occur in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area (Area M) and target sockeye salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka*. The South Unimak June fishery includes the Unimak and Southwestern districts plus the Bechevin Bay, West Pavlof Bay, and East Pavlof Bay sections. The Shumagin Islands fishery includes only the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District. The season will consist of four 88-hour fishing periods separated by 32-hour closures followed by a final 64-hour fishing period, beginning 6:00 AM June 7 and ending 10:00 PM June 29. This document summarizes the strategy for management of the Alaska Peninsula June fishery and outlines the requirements of industry to participate in these fisheries in 2007.

Key words: Alaska Peninsula, Area M, False Pass, Shumagin Islands, South Unimak, June fishery, commercial fisheries, sockeye salmon, *Oncorhynchus nerka*, management plan, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

INTRODUCTION

This document provides commercial fishermen and processors with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) harvest strategy for the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June salmon fisheries. It also outlines the requirements of the industry to participate in these fisheries as well as how to relay information to the department.

The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June commercial salmon fisheries occur in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area (Area M) and target sockeye salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka*. Historically, sockeye salmon abundance peaks in the fishery between June 13 and June 22, and usually declines rapidly after June 22. The South Unimak fishery includes the Unimak and Southwestern districts plus the Bechevin Bay, West Pavlof Bay, and East Pavlof Bay sections (Figure 1). The Shumagin Islands fishery includes the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District. During the most recent 10 years, the South Unimak sockeye salmon harvest has averaged 642,609 fish during the June fishery (Table 1) while the Shumagin Islands sockeye salmon harvest averaged 359,709 fish (Table 2). The combined South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery average sockeye salmon harvest from 1997-2006 was 1,002,318 fish (Table 3).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Inseason announcements will be broadcast over radio station KSDP (frequency 830 AM) in Sand Point and translated over K201DA (88.1 MHz FM) in King Cove, VHF channels 6 and 73, and on Single Side Band (SSB) frequency 4.125 MHz. Recorded information may also be obtained from ADF&G in Sand Point at 383-2334 (383-ADFG).

HARVEST REPORTING

All buyers must report their salmon purchases daily by species (in both numbers of fish and pounds), and number of deliveries by gear type to either the ADF&G office in Cold Bay or Sand Point (5 AAC 39.130 (a)(3)). Processors must provide the department with catch reports before 9:30 AM the morning after purchases take place. However, earlier reporting is appreciated and helpful in prosecuting an orderly fishery. Contact can be made over VHF 6 and SSB 3.230 MHz. Buyers may also phone, fax, or e-mail their information to ADF&G offices in Cold Bay or Sand Point.

Cold Bay Phone: 532-2419 Fax: 532-2470 E-mail: daniel_doolittle@fishgame.state.ak.us
Sand Point Phone: 383-2066 Fax: 383-2606 E-mail: james_jackson@fishgame.state.ak.us

Properly filled out fish tickets are essential to the management of these fisheries. An informational packet containing detailed instructions on filling out and submitting fish tickets is available to all fish transporters, tender operators and processor/buyers at ADF&G offices in Cold Bay and Sand Point. Fish tickets must be delivered to the ADF&G offices in Cold Bay or Sand Point (addresses listed below) within seven days of the purchase date.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 50
Cold Bay, AK 99571

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 129
Sand Point, AK 99661

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES REGULATION CHANGES FROM THE FEBRUARY 2007 MEETING

During the February 2007 meeting, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) made the following regulatory changes to the June Management Plan:

- 1) Modified the description of the Sanak Island Section which is now defined at the waters of the Unimak District surrounding the Sanak Islands, east of 163° 03.70' W. long. and south of the latitude of Hague Rock 54° 33.17' N. lat. (Figure 2),
- 2) Allowed the use of drift gillnet gear in the following portion of the Southwestern District; south and east of a line from Cape Pankof Light (54° 39.60' N. lat., 163° 03.70' W. long.) to Thin Point (54° 57.32' N. lat., 162° 33.50' W. long.); south of a line from Thin Point (54° 57.32' N. lat., 162° 33.50' W. long.) to the northernmost tip of Stag Point (54° 59.10' N. lat., 162° 18.10' W. long.) on Deer Island to the southernmost tip of Dolgoi Cape (55° 03.15' N. lat., 161° 44.35' W. long.) on Dolgoi Island and south of the latitude of the northeastern tip of Dolgoi Island (55° 07.50' N. lat., 161° 38.30' W. long.) (Figure 3),
- 3) Allow the use of salmon net pens in the Alaska Peninsula area and,
- 4) Allow two Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) set gillnet permit holders aboard a registered set gillnet fishing vessel, to tow a second registered CFEC set gillnet vessel that has a second aggregate of set gillnet gear onboard.

2007 MANAGEMENT PLAN

The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 7 through June 29. Complete details can be found in the Alaska Peninsula commercial fishing regulation books available at your local ADF&G office.

The South Unimak June fishery includes the following locations (Figure 1):

- a. Unimak District as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (c),
- b. Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (b)(2),
- c. Southwestern District as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (d), and
- d. West Pavlof and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (e)(1)(2).

The Shumagin Islands fishery includes the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 1) as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (f)(3).

Fishing periods for the 2007 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries will be as follows (Figure 4):

<u>Dates and Times</u>	<u>Duration</u>
6:00 AM Thursday, June 7 until 10:00 PM Sunday, June 10	88 hours
6:00 AM Tuesday, June 12 until 10:00 PM Friday, June 15	88 hours
6:00 AM Sunday, June 17 until 10:00 PM Wednesday, June 20	88 hours
6:00 AM Friday, June 22 until 10:00 PM Monday, June 25	88 hours
6:00 AM Wednesday, June 27 until 10:00 PM Friday, June 29	64 hours

Fishermen should be aware that waters closed to commercial salmon fishing, as specified under 5 AAC 09.350, are in effect during June.

Fishermen are reminded that latitude and longitude coordinates in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area will be determined and enforced using the Global Positioning System (GPS; North American Datum of 1983).

Gillnet fishermen are reminded that the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery are the only fisheries in the South Peninsula that have no minimum gillnet mesh size.

TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1.-South Unimak June fishery commercial salmon harvest, in numbers of fish, by species, 1997-2006.

Year	Number of Fish ^a					
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1997	3,041	1,179,179	501	332,262	196,016	1,710,999
1998	1,259	974,628	312	125,906	195,454	1,297,559
1999	2,258	1,106,208	1	20,302	186,886	1,315,655
2000	2,064	892,016	303	210,521	168,888	1,273,792
2001	134	121,547	2	31,812	36,099	189,594
2002	433	356,157	3	33,789	201,211	591,593
2003	373	335,903	14	90,161	121,169	547,620
2004	670	531,955	159	78,808	130,626	742,218
2005	790	437,443	56	403,815	143,799	985,903
2006	1,472	491,053	432	186,096	96,016	775,069
1997-2006						
Average	1,249	642,609	178	151,347	147,616	943,000

^a Numbers of salmon do not include test fish catches.

Table 2.-Shumagin Islands June fishery commercial salmon harvest, in numbers of fish, by species, 1997-2006.

Year	Number of Fish ^a					
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1997	2,770	449,002	59	273,675	126,309	851,815
1998	1,437	314,097	164	348,434	50,165	714,297
1999	793	269,191	1	10,237	58,420	338,642
2000	785	359,212	1	149,508	70,469	579,975
2001	211	29,085	0	7,439	12,251	48,986
2002	2,010	234,949	1	42,462	177,606	457,028
2003	950	117,244	139	127,739	161,269	407,341
2004	3,753	816,118	462	281,108	351,683	1,453,124
2005	2,265	566,952	1,863	1,251,144	284,031	2,106,255
2006	3,025	441,238	2,197	1,146,223	203,811	1,796,494
1997-2006						
Average	1,800	359,709	489	363,797	149,601	875,396

^a Numbers of salmon do not include test fish catches.

Table 3.-Combined South Unimak-Shumagin Islands June fisheries commercial salmon harvest, in numbers of fish, by species, 1997-2006.

Year	Number of Fish ^a					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
1997	5,811	1,628,181	560	605,937	322,325	2,562,814
1998	2,696	1,288,725	476	474,340	245,619	2,011,856
1999	3,051	1,375,399	2	30,539	245,306	1,654,297
2000	2,849	1,251,228	304	360,029	239,357	1,853,767
2001	345	150,632	2	39,251	48,350	238,580
2002	2,443	591,106	4	76,251	378,817	1,048,621
2003	1,323	453,147	153	217,900	282,438	954,961
2004	4,423	1,348,073	621	359,916	482,309	2,195,342
2005	3,055	1,004,395	1,919	1,654,959	427,830	3,092,158
2006	4,497	932,291	2,629	1,332,319	299,827	2,571,563
1997-2006						
Average	3,049	1,002,318	667	515,144	297,218	1,818,396

^a Numbers of salmon do not include test fish catches.

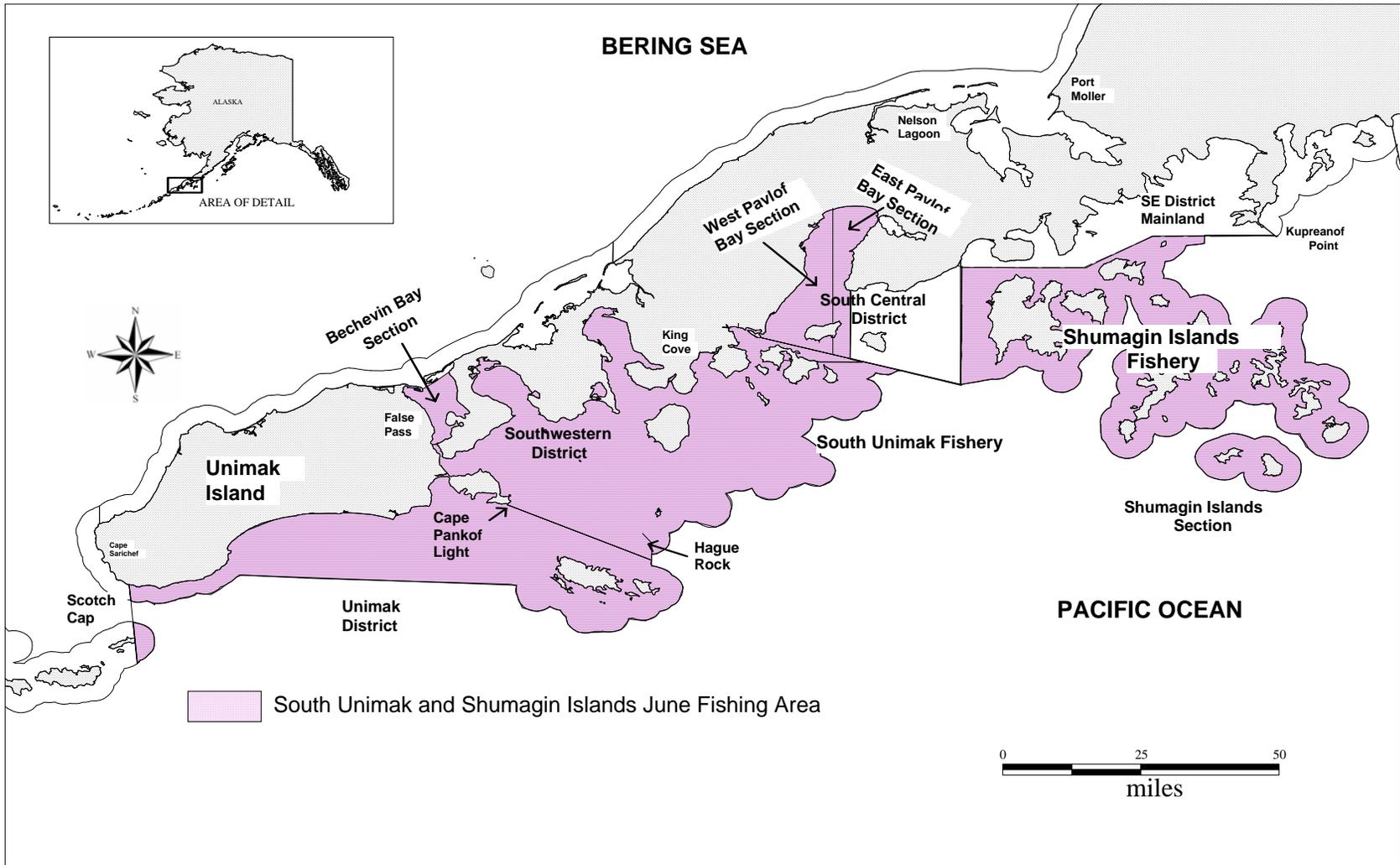


Figure 1.-Map depicting the locations of the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries.

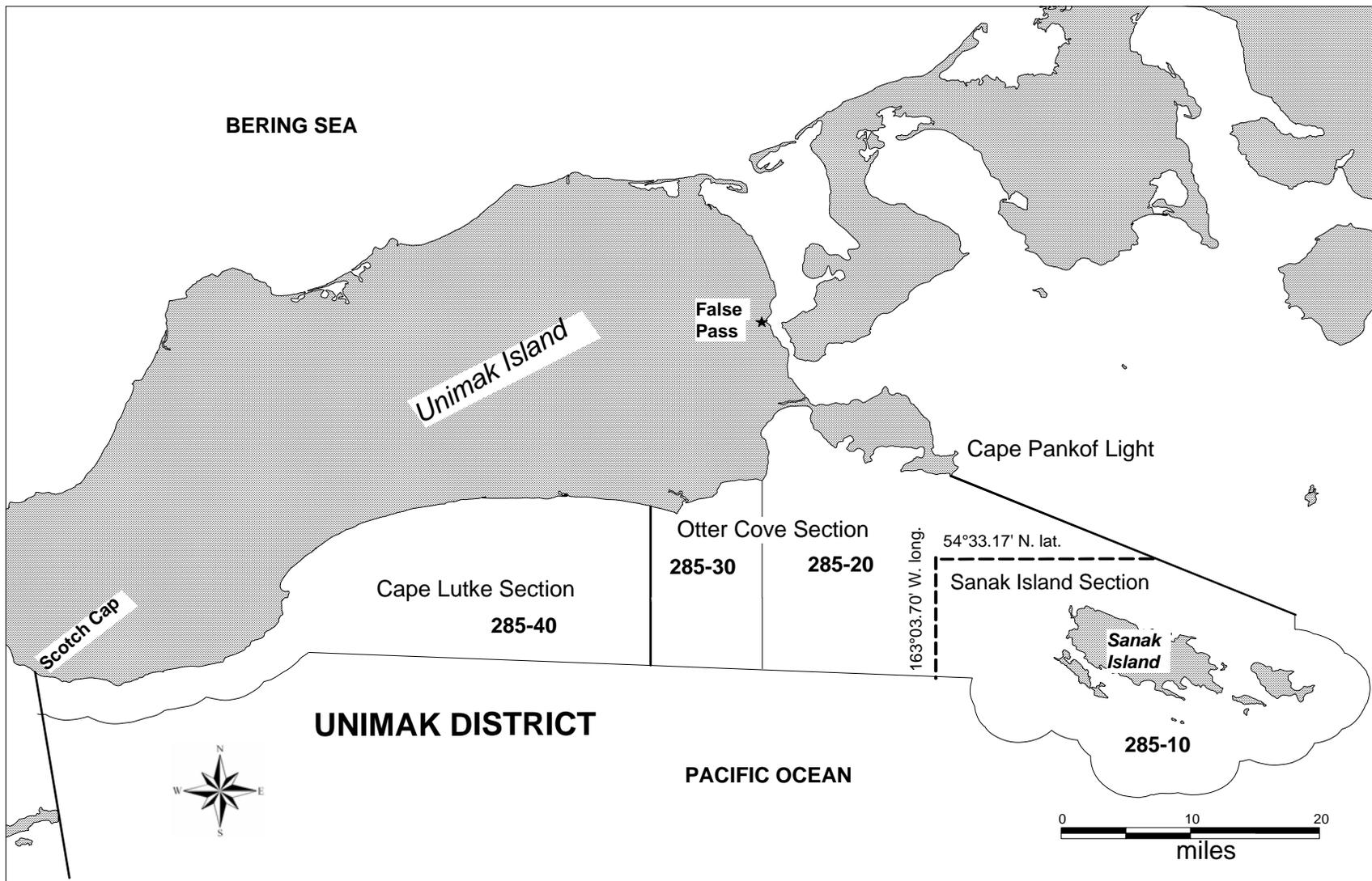


Figure 2.-Map depicting the new Sanak Island and Otter Cove sections.

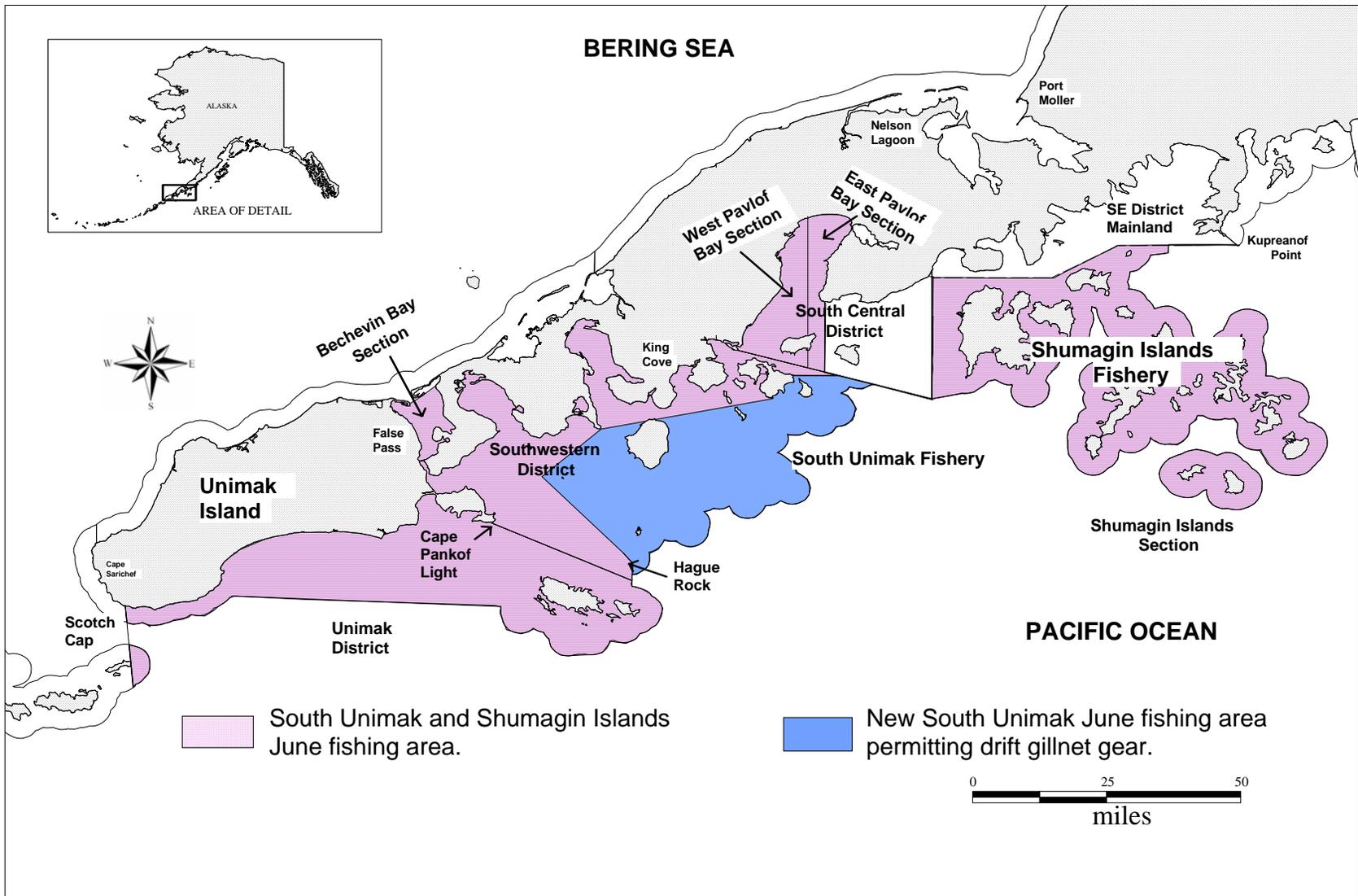


Figure 3.-Map depicting the existing South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishing areas and the expanded South Unimak June drift gillnet fishing area.

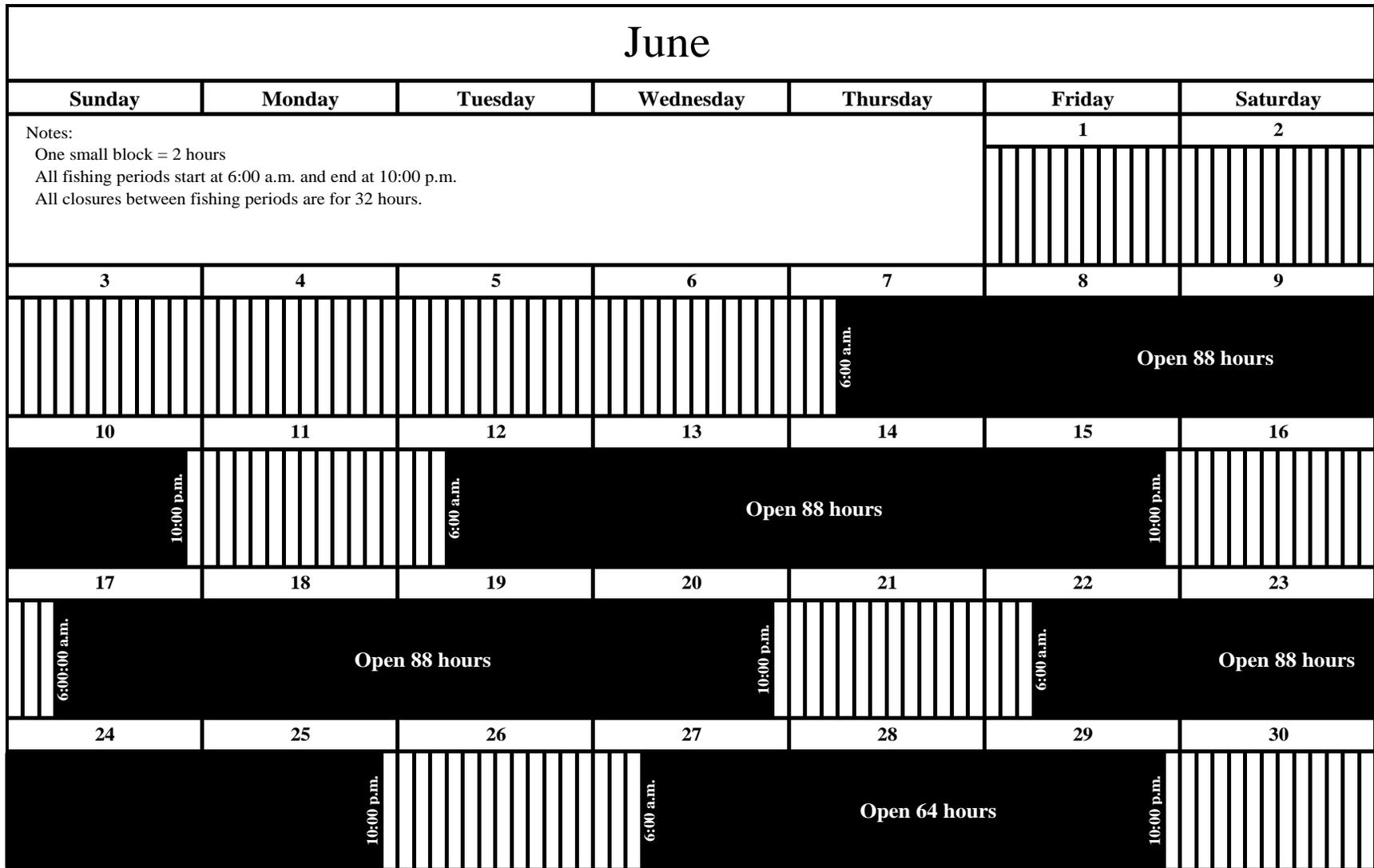


Figure 4.-Fishing time in South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries, 2007.