



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release  
TO PMS OF MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1944<sup>4</sup>. W.

New regulations for the protection of the commercial fisheries of Alaska in 1944 were promulgated today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

Among changes of major importance are the following:

Regulations have been modified in the Bristol Bay area to permit the resumption of commercial fishing for salmon in the Egegik district which was closed to fishing in 1942 and 1943.

Longer and deeper purse seines will be permitted in the southeastern Alaska salmon fishery during 1944. The new maximum size for purse seines is 300 fathoms in length and 400 meshes in depth. Purse seines previously authorized were 200 fathoms in length and 350 meshes in depth.

Herring quotas have been increased substantially in all of the major producing areas. The new quotas will permit taking of approximately 80,000,000 more pounds of herring than last year. An increase of 100,000 barrels in the Kodiak area will permit a total take of 300,000 barrels in quota waters during the open season from July 1 to October 15.

In the Prince William Sound area, from June 24 to October 15, a total of 200,000 barrels of herring may be taken--an increase of 125,000 barrels over 1943.

The quota for southeastern Alaska has been doubled--200,000 barrels may be taken during the open season from June 15 to October 15. In addition, 2,000 barrels of herring may be taken for food in southeastern Alaska in each calendar month from October 16 of one year to June 14 of the following year. This provision will be affective beginning October 16, 1944.

Less important changes include:

Fishing in Bristol Bay will open on June 26 because June 25 falls on a Sunday, when commercial fishing for salmon is prohibited by law.

The Ugashik district will close on July 29, a day later than last year.

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Mid-week closed periods have been revoked in the Ugashik district so that now the 36-hour weekly closed period will be the only such closure in effect throughout Bristol Bay.

The Alaska Peninsula area will get 2 additional days of fishing, with August 12 set as the new closing date.

In Zachar and Spiridon bays, both of which are arms of Uyak Bay, the areas open to fishing have been substantially increased.

Even-year closing dates have been applied to Cook Inlet area, with the exception that in the area south of Anchor Point Light additional fishing will be permitted for 2 days.

Prince William Sound will open July 10 instead of July 5. This change is being made in an effort to build up the depleted early even-year runs of salmon in the same way that has proved so successful in recent odd years.

Poundage and pack quotas for razor clams in the Prince William Sound and Copper River areas have been correlated in a more satisfactory manner. The modifications in the regulations will increase the number of cases permitted to be canned during the spring season. The quotas for the fall season, which have not been filled for many years, are considerably reduced.

Gillnetting will be prohibited entirely in the Stikine district prior to July 23, while trolling in the same area will not be allowed between June 1 and June 22, in an effort to rebuild the depleted runs of king salmon.

Purse seines will be permitted to operate in the western offshore section of the South Prince of Wales Island district beginning July 20, or 5 days earlier than the normal season.

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