



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Changes which will permit the taking of an additional 31,000,000 pounds of herring in Alaskan waters during the 1945 season mark the new regulations for the protection of the commercial fisheries of Alaska as announced today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

Because herring are needed for conversion into oil and meal, quotas for the catch have been raised in both the Prince William Sound area and in southeastern Alaska for 1945, indicating the remarkable recovery of the herring resource in these areas from a depletion which threatened the fishery in recent years.

In the Prince William Sound area the summer season quota has been doubled to permit a take of 150,000 barrels, and limitations have been removed entirely during the fall season after August 20.

In southeastern Alaska an increase of 50,000 barrels has been authorized, permitting a total catch of 250,000 barrels in 1945.

In the Kodiak area the catch quotas remain the same as in 1944 when 300,000 barrels of 250 pounds each could be taken.

Restrictions on herring fishing gear have been removed or modified in most districts of the Territory and seasonal opening and closing dates have been changed to encourage exploratory fishing and expansion of the herring industry to waters not now exploited.

Other changes in the regulations of interest to fishermen and packers are:

Regulations for the Bristol Bay area have been modified to close the Egegik district to commercial fishing because of anticipated poor runs to this region, and a mid-weekly closed period of 24 hours has been provided in the Nushagak and Kvichak-Naknek districts for additional protection of the small runs common in years divisible by 5.

Prince William Sound area regulations have been amended to increase the minimum length of salmon purse seines from 90 fathoms to 125 fathoms and to open the fishing season on July 1, ten days earlier than in 1944.

The salmon fishing seasons in the Icy Strait district and in the northern section of the western district of southeastern Alaska have been changed to provide for opening dates 5 days earlier and closing dates 1 day later than at present.

Under the 1945 regulations, all salmon fishing, except by trolling, in southeastern Alaska is prohibited prior to June 25 and such fishing by all classes of gear is prohibited between September 15 and October 20. The fall season, which formerly opened on October 1, will open this year on October 20 throughout southeastern Alaska and will remain open through November 30.

In southeastern Alaska action has been taken to provide greater protection to the butter clam resource by increasing the minimum legal size from 2 to 2-1/2 inches and by establishing a closed season from May 15 to September 15 of each year. This action will insure perpetuation of the resource by preventing depletion as a result of the present war-stimulated fishery.

In the same region the seasonal closed period from February 1 to April 15 for shrimp fishing has been restricted to the waters now commercially exploited, with the intention of encouraging exploratory fishing and expansion of the industry into waters not now fished.

As in previous years, the amended regulations will be published in codified form and furnished upon request to interested persons.

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