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Department of
Fish and Game

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

New Pacific Salmon Treaty Chinook Catch Limits for Southeast Alaska

February 24, 2023 (Juneau) –

The Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) adopted a new method for setting southeast Alaska (SEAK) Chinook salmon catch limits on February 16, 2023 effective immediately.

Annual catch limits for the SEAK Chinook salmon fishery will now be established using measures of Chinook abundance using the catch per unit effort (CPUE) from the winter power troll fishery in District 113 during statistical weeks 41-48 in combination with output from the PSC Chinook model. This multivariate method for estimating abundance in the SEAK fishery is new, includes additional information, and was approved for use by the PSC on February 16, 2023. A comparison of the new multivariate method with the existing method that relies solely on PSC Chinook model-based estimates demonstrated that the multivariate method was more accurate and precise than the PSC Chinook model.

Catch limits for the SEAK fisheries are determined using a tiered approach. As per the recent PSC decision, there are seventeen tiers that are defined by a range of abundance index values. A catch ceiling is associated with each tier (Table 1). For example, tier 6 is associated with abundance indices from 1.105-1.175 and an annual catch limit of 142,101 Chinook salmon.

Table 1. Chinook catch limits for the SEAK Aggregate Abundance-Based Management fishery and the CPUE-based tiers - (Referred to as Table 2 in Chapter 3 of the 2019 Agreement).¹

Tier	Abundance Index Range	AI Midpoint	Catch Limit
1	Less than 0.895	NA	Commission Determination
2	Between 0.895 and 0.945	0.920	107,498
3	Between 0.945 and 0.985	0.965	111,888

4	Between 0.985 and 1.035	1.010	116,278
5	Between 1.035 and 1.105	1.070	127,130
6	Between 1.105 and 1.175	1.140	142,101
7	Between 1.175 and 1.245	1.210	157,072
8	Between 1.245 and 1.345	1.295	191,963
9	Between 1.345 and 1.455	1.400	206,027
10	Between 1.455 and 1.555	1.505	220,091
11	Between 1.555 and 1.665	1.610	252,358
12	Between 1.665 and 1.765	1.715	267,594
13	Between 1.765 and 1.875	1.820	282,830
14	Between 1.875 and 2.015	1.945	314,799
15	Between 2.015 and 2.145	2.080	335,288
16	Between 2.145 and 2.285	2.215	355,778
17	Greater than 2.285	2.285	373,801

¹ The PSC adopted a new method for setting SEAK catch limits and a new tier structure February 16, 2023.

With this decision, the Department will be releasing the Pacific Salmon Commission’s forecast and catch limit for the 2023 SEAK Chinook salmon fisheries after April 1.

The Pacific Salmon Treaty provides for the conservation and management of salmon that span the international borders between the U.S. and Canada. Since its ratification in 1985, the Treaty has been instrumental in reducing interceptions, preventing overfishing, and improving salmon management.

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