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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **SOUTHEAST ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS FOR TROLL, PURSE SEINE, AND DRIFT GILLNET FISHERIES**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries approved action plans for three Chinook salmon Stocks of Management Concern (Unuk, King Salmon, and Chilkat rivers) at the 2018 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish Meeting. Two of these three stocks did not achieve escapement goals in 2018. Of the eleven Chinook salmon stocks with escapement goals in Southeast Alaska, seven did not meet those goals in 2018. Additionally, four of the five 2019 Chinook salmon forecasted stocks are projected to have escapements well below the lower bound of the escapement goal range: Chilkat, Taku, Stikine, and Situk rivers. Management actions to reduce harvest of wild Chinook salmon are being taken across all Southeast Alaska fisheries that harvest Chinook salmon, including sport, commercial, personal use, and subsistence.

This news release provides a summary of intended management actions for the commercial troll and net fisheries in 2019. For complete details of intended management actions, refer to the action plans provided at the bottom of this news release, and the forthcoming 2019 troll, purse seine, and drift gillnet management plans and news releases.

#### **Summary of intended management actions for commercial fisheries in 2019:**

##### **Troll Fishery**

###### Winter Troll fishery:

The commercial winter troll fishery closed in all waters of Southeast Alaska/Yakutat on March 15, 2019.

###### Spring Troll fishery:

Beginning May 1, spring troll fisheries located in Districts 103, 113, and 183 may open, with all other districts remaining closed. Initial opening dates for the District 101 Mountain Point spring fishery, as well as all regional Terminal Harvest Areas (THA; with the exception of Neets Bay), will be delayed until after May 31. For the Neets Bay Terminal Harvest Area, as well as the Districts 109, 110, 112, and 114 enhanced chum salmon fisheries, the openings will be delayed further, with initial opening dates after June 14.

- Terminal Harvest Areas (THA):

All terminal harvest areas will open June 1, with the exception of the Neets Bay THA, which will initially open June 15.

**Summer Troll fishery:**

During the first summer troll fishery Chinook salmon retention period, the following areas will remain closed to retention and possession of Chinook salmon:

- Section 1-E: waters north of a line from Indian Point to Mike Point;
- Section 1-F: waters enclosed by a line from Lucky Point to Middy Point, continuing to the latitude of Beaver Point, and from Point Rosen to Quadra Point, and in southeast Behm Canal south of a line from a point at 55°11.78' N. lat., 131°05.13' W. long., located on Point Sykes to a point at 55°12.22' N. lat., 131°05.70' W. long., located 0.5 nautical mile (nmi) northwest of Point Sykes to Point Alava;
- District 8: all waters of the district;
- Section 15-A: all waters of the section.

**Purse Seine fishery:**

Other than within THAs that have returns of hatchery-produced Chinook salmon, the purse seine fishery will be prohibited from retaining Chinook salmon over 28" in length through at least July 13. Chinook salmon retention after July 13 will be dependent on areas open to directed pink salmon fisheries and the magnitude of the pink salmon harvests. Chinook salmon harvests will be monitored closely, and the purse seine fishery will return to nonretention in advance of exceeding the purse seine allocation as described in 5 AAC 29.060. *Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area.*

**Drift Gillnet fishery:**

District 6: The start of the District 6 drift gillnet fishery will be delayed by one week until June 16. Time will be restricted to two days during the week of June 16. A maximum mesh size restriction of six inches will be in place through July 6.

District 8: The start of the District 8 drift gillnet fishery will be delayed by two weeks until at least June 23. Time and/or area restrictions will occur through July 13. A maximum mesh size restriction of six inches will be in place through July 20.

District 11: Time and area restrictions will be imposed in Taku Inlet through July 20 and will include two-day openings each week throughout the period. Waters on the east side of Taku Inlet south of Point Greely will open during the weeks of June 16 and June 23; waters south of Point Cooper will open during the week of June 30; and waters south of Jaw Point will open during the weeks of July 7 and July 14. Night closures from 10:00 p.m. through 4:00 a.m. and a maximum mesh size restriction of six inches will be in effect districtwide through July 6.

District 15: Section 15-A open area will be limited to south of Eldred Rock Lighthouse and east of a line from Eldred Rock Lighthouse to a point 2.0 nmi from the eastern shoreline at 58°51.00' N. lat., 135°12.77' W. long., through July 20. Section 15-C open area will be limited to the Postage Stamp (waters of Section 15-C south of the latitude of Vanderbilt Reef Light and east of a line from Vanderbilt Reef Light to Little Island Light) through July 6. Night closures from 10:00 p.m. through 4:00 a.m. and a maximum mesh size restriction of six inches will be in effect districtwide through July 13.

**Terminal Harvest Areas:**

Neets Bay: The start date will be delayed from May 1 to June 15. Gear rotations for purse seine and drift gillnet will have additional closures between June 15 and July 1. In addition, the THA will not expand to Chin Point until July 1.

Anita Bay: Start date will be delayed from May 1 to June 1.

Boat Harbor: The outer waters will open by regulation, June 16 within 1.0 nmi of the shoreline for two days per week with a maximum mesh size restriction of six inches through July 6. Inside Boat Harbor (west of 135°09.57' W. long.) will remain open seven days a week without gear or time restrictions beginning June 16.

Hidden Falls: Will open June 1 within approximately 1.0 nmi of the Baranof Island shoreline in the waters of Chatham Strait through June 14.

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