



Advisory Announcement

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SOUTHEAST ALASKA/YAKUTAT SUMMER TROLL FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . .The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today that the first Chinook salmon retention period of the general summer commercial troll season will begin at 12:01 a.m., July 1, to **target approximately 83,900 treaty Chinook salmon**. The retention period will be managed inseason with no predetermined length and will be closed by emergency order.

Under provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and regulations established by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the commercial troll Chinook salmon allocation for the 2019-2020 accounting year (October 11, 2019 through September 30, 2020) is 148,500 treaty Chinook salmon. The summer troll treaty target harvest is calculated by adding the winter treaty harvest, the projected spring treaty harvest, the proportionally adjusted pretreaty Alaska hatchery harvest, and a risk adjustment. The resultant sum is then subtracted from the troll allocation. The winter troll fishery harvested 14,600 treaty Chinook salmon, while the spring troll fishery harvest estimate is projected to be 10,600 treaty Chinook salmon.

The department estimates that **119,800 treaty Chinook salmon remain to be harvested in the summer** troll fishery, and the initial summer troll retention period will be managed to harvest 70% of the remaining allocation (5 AAC 29.100). Therefore, the target harvest for the first retention period will be approximately 83,900 treaty Chinook salmon, plus an estimated 2% Alaska hatchery contribution, which is not subject to treaty limits, resulting in a **total harvest target of approximately 85,600 Chinook salmon for the first retention period**. Based on harvest rates observed in previous years with similar abundance levels, the observed harvest rates in both commercial troll and recreational fisheries this spring, and anticipated troll effort levels similar to recent years during the first Chinook salmon retention period, the department estimates the harvest target will be taken in **seven to eight days**. However, actual harvest and harvest rates can be affected significantly by fluctuations in effort and adverse weather conditions during the fishery. The remainder of the troll treaty Chinook salmon allocation will be available for harvest in a second retention period following any closure of the coho salmon troll fishery, or no later than August 20, if a coho closure is not necessary.

Trollers are strongly encouraged to contact the troll fishery managers during the retention period to report catch and effort information via phone (747-6688, voicemail available after hours) or email (grant.hagerman@alaska.gov or mike.vaughn@alaska.gov). The fishery closure will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement, United States Coast Guard and National Weather Service marine information broadcasts and the ADF&G troll fishery telephone hotline.

2020 ALLOCATIONS AND PROJECTED TREATY CHINOOK SALMON HARVESTS

Allocations of the all-gear harvest quota for 2020 under Board of Fisheries regulations are as follows:

| All-gear Treaty Quota | Purse Seine | Drift Gillnet | Set Gillnet | Total Net | Sport | Troll |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|--------|---------|
| 201,100 | 8,650 | 5,830 | 1,000 | 15,480 | 37,120 | 148,500 |

Estimated troll fishery harvests of treaty Chinook salmon from the winter and spring troll fisheries are:

| Pre-summer Totals | Total Chinook | Alaska Hatchery | Treaty Chinook* |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 28,800 | 3,600 | 28,700 |

*Includes treaty harvest plus a pre-treaty base hatchery harvest and risk adjustment.

Projected summer troll fishery harvest target for 1st Chinook salmon retention period:

| Treaty Chinook | Alaska Hatchery | Total Chinook |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 83,900 | 1,700 | 85,600 |

CATCHER-PROCESSOR VESSELS

Catcher-processors intending to freeze their catch onboard (**FAS**) during the summer troll fishery must obtain a 2020 Summer Troll Fishery Exemption Permit from the department in order to legally remove the heads from adipose-fin-clipped salmon [5 AAC 29.140(b) and 5 AAC 29.145(c)]. The permit is available at area offices and on the troll fishery website.

Catcher-processors are reminded to complete and submit a **separate fish ticket for each week** (Sunday through Saturday) and are **encouraged to contact the troll managers periodically with catch information**. Fish tickets must be submitted to the department within seven days after the fish are offloaded from the vessel.

LANDING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All spring troll fisheries will be closed by 11:59 p.m., June 30. **All salmon harvested during the spring troll fishery must be offloaded prior to fishing during the summer troll fishery.** Fish tickets for the summer troll fishery must include a record of the 5-digit statistical area and a description of the nearest headland or bay in which the fish were taken [5 AAC 39.130 (c)(8)]. If multiple areas were fished, the percentage of harvest by area should be included in the statistical area worksheet. **Processors should continue to submit spring troll tickets to the nearest ADF&G office, while summer troll tickets should be submitted to the Sitka ADF&G office within seven days after the fish are offloaded from the vessel.**

TERMINAL HARVEST AREAS

Retention of Chinook salmon 28" and greater will be allowed in the following areas as follows:

The **Herring Bay THA** will be open to troll gear for retention of all salmon species from July 1 through August 30, unless closed earlier by emergency order (5 AAC 33.369). The **Silver Bay SHA** is open to troll gear for retention of all salmon species through July 31, unless closed earlier by emergency order; the waters of Bear Cove remain closed (5 AAC 33.375). The **Anita Bay THA** will be open to troll gear for retention of all species through November 10 (5 AAC 33.383). The **Port Armstrong SHA** is open to troll gear for retention of all species through September 20. The **Deep Inlet THA** will be open to troll gear through September 26 for retention of all species and will follow the schedule announced in the Deep Inlet advisory announcement issued on April 15 (5 AAC 33.376).

The **Crawfish Inlet, Southeast Cove, Thomas Bay, Nakat Inlet, Kendrick Bay, and Hidden Falls THAs** will close to retention of Chinook salmon whenever the general summer Chinook salmon retention periods are closed.

From 12:01 a.m., July 1 through 11:59 p.m., July 6, the **Neets Bay THA** will be open to troll gear west of the closed waters at the head of the bay and east of the longitude of Chin Point. **During the first summer troll Chinook salmon retention period, retention and possession of Chinook salmon in the THA is closed between the longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island and the longitude of Chin Point.** Trollers may not retain or possess Chinook salmon if fishing the waters between Chin Point and Bug Island but may transit through those waters to offload Chinook salmon harvest if gear is not deployed. The Neets Bay THA will close to the harvest of salmon by troll gear at 11:59 p.m., July 6. If additional openings can be scheduled, they will be announced by advisory announcement.

During the first Chinook salmon retention period of summer, all waters of the Thomas Bay THA will be open to troll gear. Following the closure of the first retention period, waters open to troll gear will follow those described in the Thomas Bay advisory announcement issued April 15.

WEST BEHM CANAL

The waters of West Behm Canal adjacent to the Neets Bay THA, as described in 5 AAC 29.100(d)(2)(A), will open to troll gear from July 1 through September 20 with the Chinook salmon retention and possession restrictions listed below.

DISTRICTS 101/108 CHINOOK SALMON RETENTION CLOSURE

In addition to the waters closed to Chinook salmon retention between Chin Point and Bug Island within the Neets Bay THA and regulatory troll closures near the mouth of Stikine River, supplemental Chinook salmon nonretention areas for District 1 and District 8 are implemented by emergency order as follows:

- 1) In the waters of Section 1-E, north of a line from Indian Point to Mike Point, Chinook salmon may not be retained or in possession during the first general summer troll Chinook salmon retention period.
- 2) In the waters of Section 1-F, 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

one-half mile northwest of Point Sykes to Point Alava, Chinook salmon may not be retained or in possession during the first general summer troll Chinook salmon retention period.

- 3) The waters of District 8 are closed to Chinook salmon retention and possession during the first general summer troll Chinook salmon retention period.

SITUK RIVER CHINOOK SALMON RETENTION CLOSURE

In the Yakutat area, waters near the mouth of the Situk River will be closed to the harvest of Chinook salmon by troll gear effective July 1 and closed to retention of all salmon from August 7–September 20. The Situk River is managed for a biological escapement goal (BEG) of 450 to 1,050 large Chinook salmon. The 2020 preseason forecast is for a total run of 850 large Chinook salmon, with a standard error of 607 large fish. The inriver run goal was not achieved in 2010–2012, 2015–2016, or 2018. If the run comes back as projected, the BEG will be achieved but inriver observations indicate the run is below the forecast, and actions in the troll fishery are essential to pass Chinook salmon. The following conservation actions will be implemented to ensure adequate levels of escapement:

A portion of District 181 State waters south of Yakutat Bay, will close by emergency order to Chinook salmon retention by troll gear beginning at 12:01 a.m., July 1 in the following area:

“...in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the seaward limit of the three-nautical-mile territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59°30.49' N lat, 139°46.58' W long (Ocean Cape) and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at 59°28.65' N lat, 139°51.17' W long and on the south by a line extending seaward from 59°21.07' N lat, 139°19.73' W long and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at 59°19.14' N lat, 139°24.83' W long”

NORTHERN LYNN CANAL/CHILKAT INLET CLOSED WATERS

In addition to closed waters listed in 5 AAC 29.150, the waters of Section 15-A (North Lynn Canal and Chilkat Inlet) are closed to commercial troll gear for the summer season, July 1 through September 30. This closure is set under emergency order authority to protect mature Chinook salmon returning to the Chilkat River [5 AAC 29.100(g)].

FEDERAL FISHERIES PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Vessels trolling for salmon in federal waters of the EEZ in the Gulf of Alaska that retain federal groundfish bycatch must have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) endorsed for troll/jig gear. FFPs are not required to retain lingcod or black, blue, or dark rockfish as these species are not managed under the Federal Management Plan. For information on FFP requirements and bycatch allowances in federal waters contact NOAA Fisheries at (907) 586-7225 (Juneau), (907) 747-6940 (Sitka), (907) 772-2285 (Petersburg) or (907) 247-5804 (Ketchikan).

The 2020 Summer Troll Fishery Management Plan is available at all regional ADF&G offices and on the troll website at:

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon_managementplans.

The Emergency Orders corresponding with this announcement are 1S1620, 1S1720, and 1E0520.

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>

Advisory Announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cnews.main>.

| Office | Ketchikan | Petersburg | Wrangell | Sitka | Juneau | Haines | Hoonah | Yakutat |
|---------------|-----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| ADF&G | 225-5195 | 772-3801 | 874-3822 | 747-6688 | 465-4250 | 766-2830 | | 784-3255 |
| AWT | 225-5111 | 772-3983 | | 747-3254 | 465-4000 | | 945-3620 | |
| Troll Hotline | 225-6870 | | | 747-8765 | 465-8765 | | | |