



Advisory Announcement

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SOUTHEAST ALASKA/YAKUTAT WINTER TROLL FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2023/2024 commercial winter troll fishery for Chinook salmon **will remain open only in defined outer coastal waters described below and depicted in Figures 1 and 2** until the guideline harvest level (GHL) of 45,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced (treaty) Chinook salmon is reached, or through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, March 31, 2024, whichever occurs first (5 AAC 29.080[a]). **The commercial winter troll fishery will close in the remaining waters of the winter troll fishery area at 11:59 p.m., Friday, March 15, 2024.** The department estimates that approximately 9,500 treaty Chinook salmon remain on the winter GHL and permit holders are advised that a fishery closure may be announced on short notice. The fishery closure will be announced by Alaska Department of Fish and Game advisory announcement, troll fishery hotline, and may be included with the United States Coast Guard and National Weather Service marine broadcasts. A description of the winter troll boundary line (5 AAC 29.020[b]), as modified by emergency order, is detailed in the advisory announcement issued on October 4, 2023.

During the 2022 Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting held in Anchorage, action plans were adopted giving the department direction, through emergency order authority, to identify and implement actions that provide conservation for Southeast Alaska/Yakutat (SEAK) and Transboundary River (TBR) wild Chinook salmon stocks while continuing to identify harvest opportunities that maintain conservation of these stocks. The harvest proportions of wild SEAK and TBR stocks seen in fisheries operating on the outside waters of Southeast Alaska continue to remain low due to the abundance of non-Alaska stocks prevalent in these areas, in contrast to the higher proportions of wild SEAK and TBR stocks encountered on the inside waters of Southeast Alaska during previous late winter fishing periods. Accordingly, the late winter troll fishery will be extended only in waters along the outer coast to harvest the remainder of the winter Chinook salmon GHL.

The following waters will remain open to troll gear:

District 3: in all waters of Sections 3-B and 3-C as described in 5 AAC 33.200(c)(2) and (3);

District 4: in waters of the district described in 5 AAC 33.200(d) that are east of the winter boundary line;

District 5: in waters of the district described in 5 AAC 33.200(e) that are south of a line from Point Howard at 56°04.15' N lat, 134°13.98' W long to Cape Pole at 55°57.41' N lat, 133°48.90' W long;

District 9: in waters of the district that are south of a line from Cape Ommaney at 56°09.83' N lat, 134°40.42' W long to Point Howard at 56°04.15' N lat, 134°13.98' W long and north and east of a line from Cape Ommaney to Nation Point at 55°55.66' N lat, 134°20.10' W long to Helm Point at 55°49.42' N lat, 134°16.95' W long;

District 13: in waters of Section 13-B described in 5 AAC 33.200(m)(2) that are east of the winter boundary line and in those waters of 13-A described in 5 AAC 33.200(m)(1) that are south of the latitude of Point Theodore at 57°50.75' N lat, 136°27.57' W long and east of the winter boundary line;

Districts 181 and 183: in waters of Yakutat Bay, east of the winter boundary line.

The Emergency Order corresponding to this announcement is EO 1S0124.

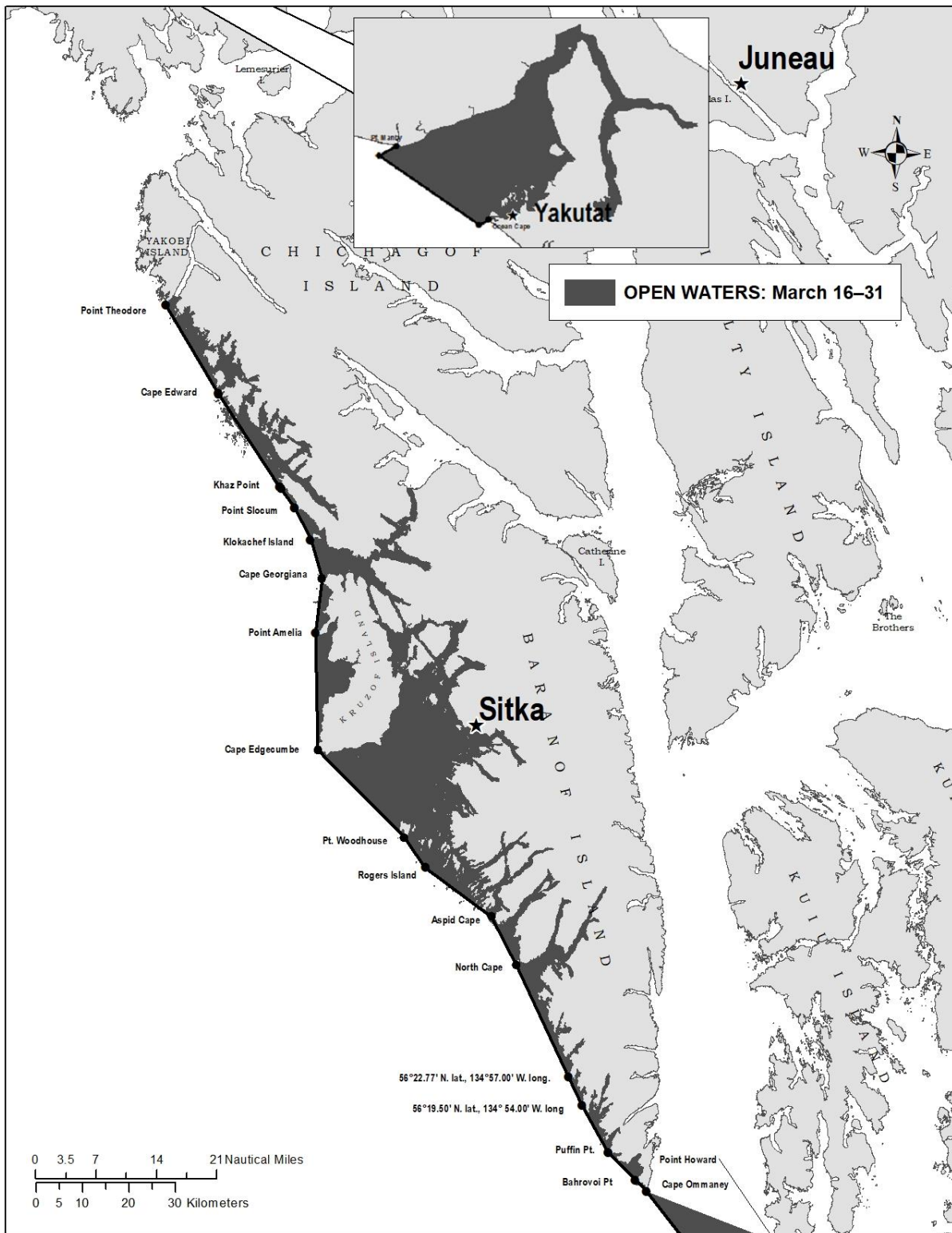


Figure 1.—Winter Troll Fishery, Northern and Central Outside (open March 16–31, or until GHL is taken, whichever occurs first).

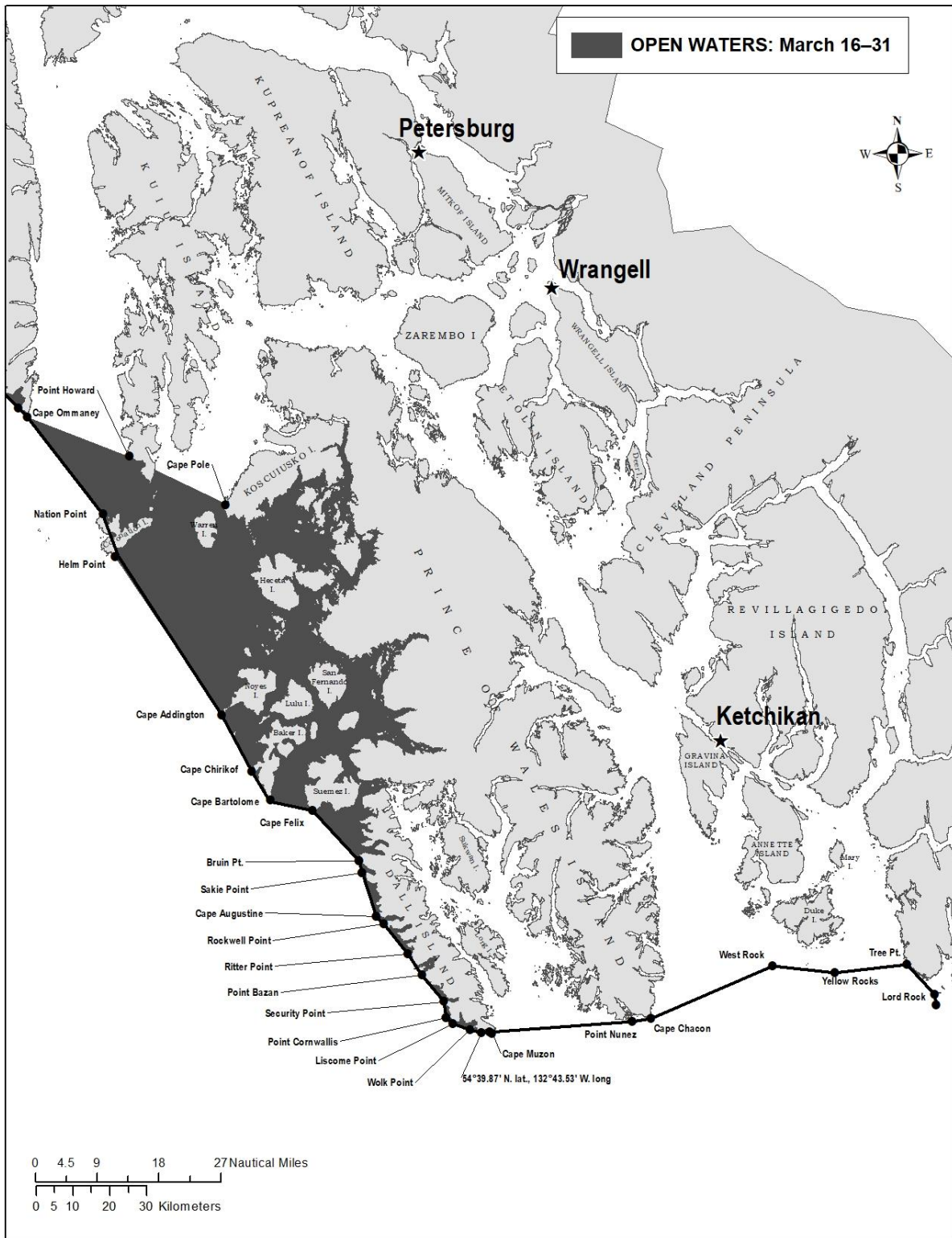


Figure 2.—Winter Troll Fishery, Southern Outside (open March 16–31, or until GHL is taken, whichever occurs first).

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

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