

MANAGEMENT PLAN AND REGULATORY GUIDE FOR CHINOOK AND COHO SALMON  
IN THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA/YAKUTAT SUMMER TROLL FISHERY, 2002



by

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## **FOREWORD**

This plan summarizes the management approach the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) will employ during the 2002 Southeast Alaska/Yakutat commercial salmon summer troll fishery for chinook and coho salmon, and provides some of the regulatory information formerly found in the troll regulatory guide. Beginning in 1998, the department reformatted the commercial troll fishing regulations based on the troll regulatory guide model. As a result, most of the former regulatory guide information is now found in the standard regulation books available at local ADF&G offices.

## INTRODUCTION

The Southeast Alaska/Yakutat commercial salmon troll fishery occurs in State of Alaska and Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters east of Cape Suckling and north of Dixon Entrance. The fishery is managed according to regulations promulgated by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board), the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC). The department, under emergency order authority, conducts inseason management. In 2002, the all-gear chinook salmon fishery will be managed to achieve a harvest target based on the “U.S./Canada bilateral agreement for the Southeast Alaska all-gear chinook catch” (BLA). The BLA specifies a harvest based on a relationship between a preseason Abundance Index (AI) generated by the Pacific Salmon Commission’s Chinook Technical Committee and a target harvest rate specified in the BLA. The BLA also provides for an inseason adjustment to the harvest level based on an assessment of inseason data. Coho salmon will be managed to ensure escapement goals and to achieve board allocation guidelines. Coho salmon near Dixon Entrance will be managed in cooperation with Canada according to the BLA.

This management plan discusses the management objectives and methods used to achieve board, NPFMC, NMFS, and PSC policies and goals for the commercial summer troll fishery. This plan covers commercial trolling for chinook, coho, and chum salmon. Other species caught and retained by trollers are considered incidental.

## 2002 SUMMER SEASON DATES

### 1. General Summer Troll Fishery:

July 1 through September 20. Chinook salmon may be harvested only during open periods announced by the department. The coho salmon season may be extended no more than 10 days (September 21 through September 30) in Districts 101 through 116 (Figure 1) depending on run strength (5 AAC 29.110).

## MANAGEMENT APPROACH

### *Chinook Salmon*

The majority of the chinook salmon harvested in the Alaska troll fishery are wild and hatchery stocks originating in British Columbia, Canada, Washington, and Oregon. As a result, the Southeast Alaska chinook salmon harvest is managed on an annual, all-gear catch quota established by the United States and Canada through the PSC. The ceiling is now abundance-based, with increased quotas when abundance is high, and vice versa. In addition to the catch ceiling of treaty fish, provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) administered by the PSC provide for an additional harvest of chinook salmon that have been produced in Alaskan hatcheries (add-on). The all-gear add-on is equal to the total number of hatchery chinook caught, minus the pre-treaty production of chinook salmon (5,000), and a risk adjustment factor.

#### **Management Objectives**

1. Achieve the allowable chinook salmon harvest.
2. Maximize the harvest of Alaska hatchery-produced chinook salmon.
3. Manage the fishery according to the board's Summer Salmon Troll Fishery and Coho Salmon Troll Fishery Management Plans (5 AAC 29.100 and 5 AAC 29.110)
4. Continue the coastwide natural chinook stock-rebuilding program.
5. Achieve catch allocations among user groups as mandated by the board.
6. Minimize the incidental mortality of chinook salmon to the extent practicable.

#### **Management Methods**

##### **General Summer Fishery**

Historically, the majority of chinook salmon are taken during the general summer opening, when the majority of waters, including the outside waters, are open to trolling. Unlike the spring fishery, a quota is set for management of chinook salmon. Determining when the general summer season for chinook salmon must be closed to stay within the allowable harvest is one of the major functions of the department's troll management plan. Tabulating the up-to-date troll catch is difficult due to the large number of fish tickets and the difficulty of receiving them from remote areas in a timely manner. Therefore, a Fisheries Performance Data (FPD) program, consisting of confidential interviews with commercial trollers as they deliver catches, is used to estimate daily catch rates in six areas (Figure 2). The total number of days the fishery will be open for chinook salmon retention is calculated by dividing the summer season harvest goal by the estimated daily catch by the troll fleet. From 1992 through 1995 and again in 2000 and 2001, the department announced a fixed number of days beginning July 1 due to the low number of chinook salmon available for harvest. From 1996–1999, the department returned to inseason management. For 2002, the department will manage the first opening period in season. Inseason management for 2002 is preferable because the very large chinook quota makes it more difficult to project the number of days it will take to harvest the quota. The department

will manage the summer troll season according to the board management plan (5 AAC 29.100), which calls for harvesting 70% of the remaining chinook salmon troll quota (see next section) in an initial opening beginning July 1. The remainder of the chinook salmon quota is to be harvested following any closure for coho salmon conservation and/or allocation in August. The management plan also calls for all areas to be open during the July 1 opening. Following the first chinook opening, the areas of high chinook abundance (Figure 3) will be closed unless fewer than 30% of the total remaining number of chinook salmon were harvested in the first opening. In addition, during the second chinook salmon opening, if the department determines after 10 days that the annual troll chinook salmon harvest ceiling might not be reached by September 20, the commissioner shall reopen by emergency order the areas of high chinook salmon abundance.

The hatchery add-on is calculated in season through port sampling programs. Chinook salmon are sampled for the presence of adipose fins. The heads from fish missing adipose fins are then sent to the Juneau mark, tag and age lab for processing. Coded wire tags are removed from the heads and decoded. The number of Alaskan hatchery fish is calculated by expanding the number of Alaskan hatchery-produced chinook salmon in the sampled catch by the total catch.

### **Projected 2002 Chinook Salmon Harvests**

The chinook salmon fisheries will be managed according to the BLA. In addition to the pre-treaty “base catch,” of 3,700 chinook, Alaska hatcheries are projected to contribute approximately 6,800 chinook salmon to the summer troll harvest for a total of 10,500 Alaska hatchery chinook. The actual hatchery add-on will be determined in season and finalized postseason from CWT estimates.

At the February 1997 Board of Fisheries meeting, sharing percentages were established for the recreational and commercial troll and net chinook salmon fisheries (not including Alaska hatchery chinook). The commercial troll fishery was allocated 80% and the recreational fishery 20% of the PST quota, after subtracting 4.3% from the total for the purse seine fisheries, 7,600 for the drift gillnet fishery, and 1,000 for the setnet fishery. Each group is responsible for proportionally sharing the 5,000 pre-treaty chinook salmon harvest and risk adjustment factors.

The Chinook Technical Committee (CTC) of the PSC has determined that the chinook salmon abundance index for Southeast Alaska for 2002 is 1.74. This abundance index is equates to an all-gear quota for treaty chinook salmon of 356,500 fish. This abundance is the highest since 1991 and is the highest allowable catch since the PST has been in effect (1985). The large chinook quota is due to significant increases in abundance projections over the past several years for nearly all stock groups that are harvested in the Southeast Alaska all-gear chinook salmon fishery. According to the BOF allocation plan outlined above, the troll fishery allocation of the treaty quota is approximately 266,000 fish. The summer troll quota is calculated by adding the winter treaty harvest (27,200 fish), the spring treaty harvest (estimated 23,000 fish), the pre-treaty Alaska hatchery harvest (3,700 fish), and a statistical risk factor surrounding the Alaska hatchery contribution estimate of 1,000 fish, and subtracting this sum from the troll allocation. This results in a summer troll quota of approximately 211,300 fish. In addition, under the BOF plan, 70% of the summer quota is to be harvested during the first summer opening beginning July 1. Therefore, the target catch for the first opening will be approximately 148,000 treaty fish, plus an estimated 5% Alaska hatchery fish, or a total first summer opening target catch of 155,800 fish.

## Preliminary Total Troll Fishery Harvest for the 2002 Season

TROLL CHINOOK CATCHES IN THOUSANDS					
Treaty Quota	Seine	Drift GN	Set GN	Sport	Troll
356,500	15,300	7,600	1,000	66,500	<b>266,000</b>
			<b>Total</b>	<b>Hatchery</b>	<b>Treaty Fish</b>
2002 Troll Numbers:	Winter	29,200		2,000	27,000
	Spring	38,000		15,000	<u>23,000</u>
				Pre-Summer Total:	<b>50,000</b>
				Pre-treaty hatchery and statistical risk factor:	<u><b>4,700</b></u>
				Total pre-Summer:	<b>54,700</b>
				Summer Total = Troll - Pre-summer total - Pre-treaty and risk factor:	<b>211,300</b>
				266,000-53,700	
				Projected First Summer Treaty Fish Target = 70% summer total =	<b>148,000</b>
				Projected Second Summer Treaty Fish Target = Summer total-First summer =	<b>63,300</b>

The department will update the preseason projection of abundance with actual fishery catch and effort statistics immediately following the closure of the first opening. Any adjustments to the targeted all-gear harvest based on this inseason data will be made as soon as possible.

Based on past fishery performance at similar abundance levels of treaty chinook salmon, it is estimated that the fishery will last approximately 10 days. However, effort and catch rates are highly variable and because the projected fishery length is based on historical effort levels the actual length of the first opening could be significantly different than projected. Closure announcements and any updates will be made via U.S. Coast Guard marine advisory broadcasts and trollers are advised to either listen to the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Advisory broadcasts daily or stay in close contact with the department or processors for any such announcements.

Following the closure of the initial summer chinook salmon period, all chinook salmon must be offloaded prior to resuming trolling for other species.

### *Coho Salmon*

Most coho salmon harvested in the troll fishery are of Alaska origin. They spawn in approximately 2,500 streams in Southeast Alaska during the fall and early winter months. Coho salmon catches were depressed in the mid to late 1970s but improved through most of the 1980s and 1990s. The 2002 catch was 1.8 million fish, with a 5-day August closure.

Troll fishery catches of coho salmon in outer coastal areas generally peak during mid-July to mid-August. Catches in inside fisheries generally peak during late August to mid-September. Most coho salmon migrate into spawning streams between late September and mid-October.

Early in the season, coho salmon stocks returning to southern Southeast Alaska are harvested by the troll fishery in northern and central outside areas where they intermingle with coho salmon bound for northern

and central areas of the region. Management of coho salmon is based on aggregate abundance. Lack of a general coho salmon stock identification technique prevents assessment of run strength of individual stock groups contributing to these early-season mixed stock fisheries. Hatchery coho salmon production (almost entirely from Southeast Alaska facilities) first became significant in 1980. The contribution of hatchery coho salmon since then has varied from 0.4% of the total troll catch in 1980, 13.0% in 1986, 5.5% in 1988, and 22 to 24% from 1996 through 2001. The 2001 Alaska hatchery contribution was 20%.

### **Management Objectives**

1. Provide adequate escapement of coho salmon, by area, to ensure sustainable populations.
2. Provide maximum opportunities for harvest consistent with conservation objectives.
3. Manage the coho salmon fisheries to achieve allocations consistent with board regulations.
4. Manage coho salmon on the U.S./Canada border to comply with provisions of the BLA.

### **Management Methods**

As with chinook salmon, the department's primary tool for inseason assessment of coho salmon catch rates is a program of dockside interviews with vessel skippers. Catches by the net fisheries are obtained from fish tickets, while the recreational catch is estimated from a creel census conducted by the Sport Fish Division. An assessment of run strength using troll catch per unit of effort (CPUE) data from the FPD program occurs in mid to late-July. Information available on individual coho salmon indicator stocks will also be considered in management actions.

Catch rates will be assessed in Southern Southeast Alaska from mid- through late-July to assess run strength of early-run coho salmon returning to systems in both Canada and the U.S., near the border. If run strength is weak, areas of Districts 101–104 may close for conservation for up to three weeks, from late July through mid-August, as per the terms of the June 1999 PST agreement.

Projected total season troll coho salmon harvests will be used as a relative index of total run size. Analysis of the FPD program has shown that the average area-wide catch-per-day (adjusted for the maximum number of troll vessels observed during aerial surveys) for Statistical Weeks 28 and 29 (average week ending date is July 19) for the years 1996 to 2002 is a good predictor of the all-gear total and wild coho salmon catch (Figure 4). If the projected overall run size is less than 1.1 million wild fish, the department will implement a 7-day conservation closure beginning sometime in late July (5 AAC 29.110). In 2002, the department will make this projection during the third or fourth week of July. (Figure 4).

The department will continue to monitor all coho fisheries after this period to determine if the number of coho salmon reaching inside areas will be adequate to provide for spawning requirements, given normal or even restricted inside fisheries. The primary abundance indicators for this assessment consist of relative harvest levels by all fisheries and, in particular, CPUE of wild fish in inside drift gillnet and sport fisheries compared to 1971–1980 levels. An assessment will be made in early August to determine when and how long to close the troll fishery for conservation and allocation purposes.

Cumulative catch per day of wild fish will be monitored in each of the six FPD areas (Figure 2) through August to assess run strength in each of the areas. Data will be compared with catches and CPUE within these areas and, if necessary, the department will implement area-specific closures.

The department, in years of high abundance, may extend the troll season through September 30 in portions of Districts 101 through 116 if there are no conservation concerns. The department will consider the following data in determining if an extension is warranted:

1. Total run size projection,
2. total harvests to date by gear by area,
3. CPUE relative to previous years by gear by area,
4. percent of hatchery fish in the catch relative to previous years,
5. survival projections for hatchery and wild stocks, and
6. inseason escapement data.

The department will announce any extensions, if warranted, during the week of September 14.

### **Allocation Actions**

The board has established long-term allocation goals for the coho salmon harvest by each commercial gear type. Target percentages established by the board are 61% for troll, 19% for purse seine, 13% for drift gillnet, and 7% for set gillnet. The board stated that subsistence, personal use, and recreational harvests of coho salmon are not affected by the established allocations between commercial gear types. The board also stated that:

“These percentages are guidelines only and may vary from season to season given natural fluctuations in salmon abundance and distribution and the limitations of fisheries management. It is, however, the board’s intent that these allocation guidelines be met as closely as possible over the long term. It is not the board’s intent for the department to disrupt any of the traditional commercial fisheries that the historical allocation is founded. The department may, however, make inseason adjustments to attempt to achieve these long term allocation guidelines.”

The department will, however, implement applicable, existing regulations (5 AAC 29.100). These regulations are:

1. A region-wide troll closure for up to 10 days is required during the coho salmon season to address allocations between outer coastal fisheries and inside water fisheries if the department determines that the proportional share of coho salmon harvest by the troll fishery is larger than that of inside gillnet and recreational fisheries compared to the 1971–1980 levels. Primary inside fishery indicators for this assessment are overall coho salmon harvests and CPUE in the Tree Point, Prince of Wales, Taku/Snettisham, and Lynn Canal drift gillnet fisheries, and Juneau marine sport fishery.
2. In Sections 1-C, 1-E, and 1-F, salmon may be taken only as follows:
  - (a) Section 1-C: from August 15 through September 20.
  - (b) Section 1-E: from July 13 through September 20.

- (c) Section 1-F: east of a line from the northernmost tip of Kirk Point to Mary Island Light to the southernmost tip of Cone Island, from July 13 through September 20.
  - (d) Section 1-F: east of a line from the southernmost tip of Black Island to the westernmost tip of Slate Island to the westernmost tip of White Reef to the easternmost tip of Black Rock to the northernmost tip of Kirk Point, including the waters of Boca de Quadra not closed under 5 AAC 29.150(b)(2), from August 1 through September 20.
3. In District 8 the weekly fishing periods for trolling are the same as for drift gillnetting.
  4. In District 11 salmon may be taken only in Sections 11-C and 11-D.
  5. In District 15 salmon may be taken only in Sections 15-A and 15-C.
  6. An 8-day-on, 6-day-off troll fishing schedule is required from July 15–September 2, (starting July 15) for the upper portion of Chatham Strait (Section 12-B) and Lynn Canal (District 115). This schedule is tentative and may be adjusted following any troll closures (Figure 5). Dates when section 12-B and District 15 will be open are:
    - July 15–22
    - July 29–August 4
    - August 12–18
    - August 26–September 1
    - September 9–15
  7. The troll fishing schedule in portions of State waters off Yakutat, beginning August 7, corresponds to weekly fishing periods in the set gillnet fisheries (Figure 6).

If a region-wide troll closure is implemented to conserve coho salmon during late July or early August, the likelihood of a closure during mid-August to meet the allocation criteria will be reduced. Any potential transfer of coho salmon harvest to inside fisheries resulting from an early closure, if implemented, will be reflected in inside fishery performance indicators used for comparison against the allocation criteria.

**Tentative 2002 Summer Season Schedule**

The following is a generalized timetable for summer salmon management. It is emphasized that some modifications to this schedule may be required.

DATES	EXPECTED REGULATORY ACTIONS
July 1	Open the 2002 general summer troll season for all species; the initial troll chinook salmon opening will close when 70% of the remaining number of chinook salmon have been harvested. The first chinook salmon retention period will be managed in season with no pre-determined length. The waters of frequent high chinook salmon abundance will close following the chinook salmon closure.
Mid through late July	Assess coho salmon run strength in Southern Southeast Alaska. Portions of Districts 101–104 may close if run strength indicates conservation concerns for coho salmon stocks near the U.S./Canada border.

Late July/early August	Seven-day region-wide conservation closure if projected run size is less than 1.1 million wild coho salmon; the projected total season commercial harvest will be used as index of run size.
Mid to late August	<p>A region-wide closure of up to 10 days will be implemented if required for either coho salmon conservation or allocation based on assessment of stock and fishery performance data relative to board-established criteria. If a region-wide conservation closure has occurred during late July, the likelihood of a closure being implemented for allocation at this time will be reduced.</p> <p>Following any closure of the troll fishery, the chinook salmon fishery will reopen to take all of the remaining treaty quota chinook salmon. A minimum closure of 2-days is required prior to the second chinook salmon opening to allow for a fair start (5 AAC 29.100(c)(1)(B)(ii)).</p> <p>During the closure period, a chum salmon fishery will occur in the Sitka Sound area.</p>
Late August to September 20	Coho salmon conservation measures implemented region-wide or by area, as required, to protect weak coho stocks.
Mid-September	An assessment of coho strength to determine if portions of Districts 101 through 116 may remain open no longer than September 30.
September 20	Established regulatory closing date of 2002 general summer troll season.

The widespread and complex nature of the troll fishery necessitates a closely coordinated management program. Inseason management is accomplished through a team consisting of the Southeast regional supervisor and management biologist, three troll fishery management biologists, and eleven area management biologists. Department contact information is listed at the end of this plan.

**OPEN AREAS DURING 2002 GENERAL SUMMER TROLL SEASON**

Salmon trolling is permitted in all areas during the first chinook salmon retention period of the 2002 general summer season except for those waters described above (5 AAC 29.100) and the closed waters listed in 5 AAC 29.150. In addition, during subsequent chinook salmon retention periods, waters designated as frequent high chinook salmon abundance (5 AAC 29.025) will be closed as necessary.

## REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO COMMERCIAL TROLL BYCATCH OF GROUND FISH AND HALIBUT

For a complete guide to the Southeast Alaska groundfish regulations refer to the 2001–2002 Groundfish Fishery Commercial Fishery Regulation book available at all Southeast ADF&G area offices.

1. Commercial halibut may be legally retained only by trollers holding individual fishing quota shares (IFQs) during the open season for halibut, March 18–November 18 (50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 679.4 (d)) and 5 AAC 28.133 (c). Trollers holding unfilled IFQs are required to retain any halibut taken incidentally while trolling (50 CFR 679.7 (f)(11)). If trollers have no more than 500 pounds of halibut onboard and if landed concurrently with a legal landing of salmon, they can offload their catch without having to give a 6-hour notice to the National Marine Fisheries Service (50 CFR 679.5 (l)(1)(iv)). Trollers fishing for salmon in Sitka Sound may retain halibut bycatch if they hold IFQs (50 CFR 300.63). Halibut taken incidentally while trolling for salmon should be reported on the same troll ticket with the salmon catch.
2. Lingcod greater than 27" may be taken as bycatch in the commercial salmon troll fishery starting May 16 (5 AAC 28.113 (c)). There are no troll bycatch limits, so trollers may retain unlimited amounts of lingcod over 27" in length. When the troll lingcod quota is reached for each management area, trollers will be required to release all untagged lingcod back into the water. Inseason closures may occur on short notice and will be announced by news release. Lingcod must be delivered with the external gender indicators intact. Lingcod should be landed head-on until further notice (5 AAC 28.173(g)).

Trollers are requested to retain tagged lingcod of any size and to notify the nearest Fish and Game office at the time of delivery so the fish may be sampled (in Sitka, contact Mike Vaughn, 304 Lake Street, Room 103; phone- 907-747-6688). **The tags must be left on the fish.** The date, exact location, and depth should be recorded. A reward will be given to those who turn in tagged lingcod with the necessary catch information.

Trollers are reminded that the waters of Sitka Sound are closed permanently to the taking of lingcod (5 AAC 28.150 (a)). Groundfish may not be taken in waters off Cape Edgecumbe enclosed by a box defined as 56°55.5' N. lat., 56°57' N. lat., 135°54' W. long., and 135°57' W. long. (5 AAC 28.150 (c)). This area is commonly known as "the pinnacles". Trollers fishing in this area may not have groundfish or halibut onboard.

3. Full retention of all rockfish is required when fishing in the Northern Southeast Inside and Southern Southeast Inside subdistricts (5 AAC 28.171(f)). These areas correspond closely with salmon Districts 101–115. A permit holder must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish taken. There are no bycatch limits, except for Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR), as described below.
4. Full retention of Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) is required in all state waters. All CFEC permit holders must retain, weigh, and report all DSR taken. All DSR in excess of 10% round weight, of all target species on board the vessel must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess DSR bycatch shall be surrendered to the state (5 AAC 28.171 (a)). The seven species of rockfish in the DSR assemblage are yelloweye, quillback, canary, rosethorn, copper, china, and tiger rockfish.

5. Trollers are allowed to longline for groundfish and troll for salmon on the same trip as long as salmon are not onboard the vessel in an area closed to trolling and the fisher has both a commercial salmon permit and a commercial longline permit. Longliners are reminded to submit a logbook with their fish ticket.

### ***Rules Pertaining to Switching Between Commercial Troll Gear and Mechanical Jig/Dinglebar Gear***

Trollers must stop fishing for groundfish/halibut with mechanical jig or dinglebar gear three days (72 hours) prior to a salmon troll opening if they plan on participating in that salmon troll fishery. Trollers must also wait 24 hours after a salmon troll closure before fishing for groundfish with mechanical jig or dinglebar gear (5 AAC 29.120 (h)). Once a salmon troll opening is in progress, these waiting periods are not necessary. Salmon must be offloaded prior to fishing with mechanical jig or dinglebar gear (5 AAC 28.133(b)). A vessel fishing for groundfish with dinglebar gear must display the letter D. A vessel fishing for groundfish with mechanical jig gear must display the letter M (5 AAC 28.135). A vessel fishing for salmon cannot have the letter M or D displayed.

### ***Use of Salmon Troll Gear and Longline Gear***

As long as the permit holder has both a commercial salmon permit and a commercial longline permit, it is legal to set longline gear for groundfish, troll commercially, and retrieve longline gear during the same trip. Longliners are reminded to submit a logbook with their fish ticket.

### **SPORT FISHING FROM A COMMERCIALY LICENCED TROLL VESSEL**

1. Sport fishing is allowed from a registered commercial salmon troll vessel (5 AAC 47.041 (a)).
2. If sport fishing in waters closed to commercial trolling, the dorsal fin must be removed immediately from any salmon brought onboard the vessel (5 AAC 47.041(c)).
3. Sport fishing from a commercially licensed vessel, while commercially-caught salmon are in possession, is illegal in waters closed to commercial salmon fishing (5 AAC 47.041(d)).
4. A vessel registered for commercial trolling may also be registered as a charter vessel, though a vessel may not be used for both activities on the same day (5 AAC 75.995 (8)). Sport-caught fish may not be sold.

5. A troll gurdy may NOT be used in conjunction with a fishing rod while fishing commercially but may be legally used as a downrigger to sport fish from a hand or power troll vessel (5 AAC 29.120 (e)).

These regulations can be found in the 2002 Sport Fishing regulation booklet.

## **REGIONAL AQUACULTURE SPECIAL HARVEST AREAS**

Special harvest areas are described in the Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Areas Commercial Salmon and Miscellaneous Finfish Regulations book.

### ***Deep Inlet and Eastern Channel Chum Salmon Plan for 2002***

NSRAA is expecting about 900,000 chum salmon to return to the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area (THA, Figure 9) and the Medvejie Hatchery, with approximately 680,000 chum salmon to be available for common property harvest. The Deep Inlet THA rotational schedule will begin on June 16, with the first troll opening scheduled for June 17. Weekly troll openings are scheduled for the THA each Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday, through August 17. Trolling will be allowed during these scheduled times as long as it does not interfere with cost recovery fishing. A detailed listing of troll openings can be found in an ADF&G news release dated May 28, 2002. Additional fishing opportunities will be announced by August 14.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries expanded the Silver Bay Special Harvest Area so that cost recovery harvest can occur in all or portions of Eastern Channel, depending on the time period. Cost recovery fishing is expected to begin on July 2 in waters of Silver Bay and Eastern Channel. From July 24 through the end of the troll coho salmon closure, the cost recovery area will be reduced in size.

During the troll coho closure in August, the department will open, by emergency order, an area in Sitka Sound in which trollers may target chum salmon (5 AAC 29.112). This area includes waters of Eastern Channel bounded by a line from Signal Island Light to Black Rock to Kulichkof Rock to Cape Burunof to a point west of Pirates Cove at 135°22.633" W. longitude, 56°59'.350" N. latitude, to the westernmost tip of Long Island, to the easternmost tip of Long Island, to the westernmost tip of Emgeten Island, to the westernmost tip of Error Island to Silver Point to the southernmost tip of Galankin Island to Simpson Rock Light to the southernmost tip of Makhnati Island to Signal Island Light (Figure 10). During this fishery, trollers may not retain or have onboard any coho or chinook salmon.

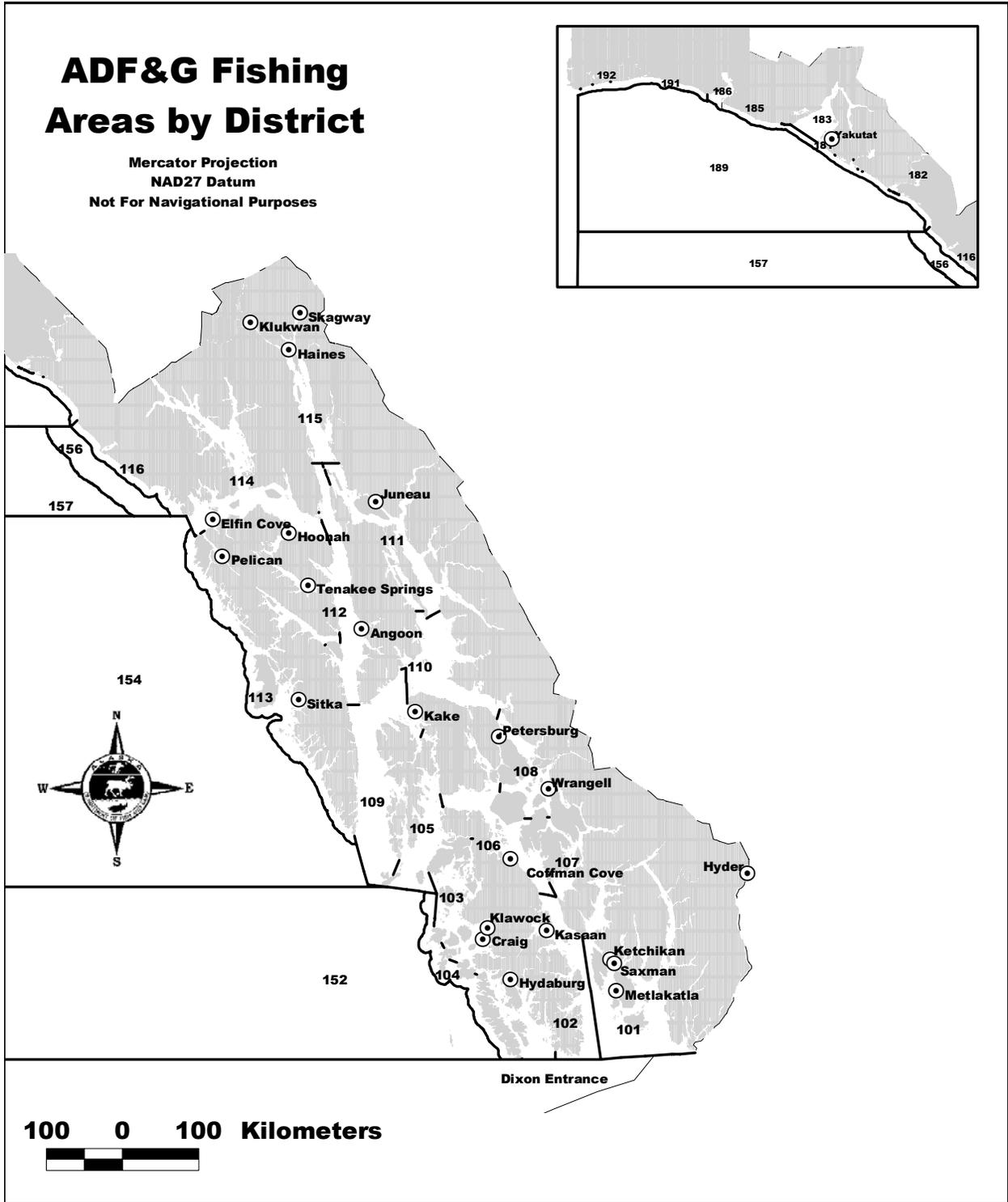


Figure 1. General summer catch reporting districts, 2002.

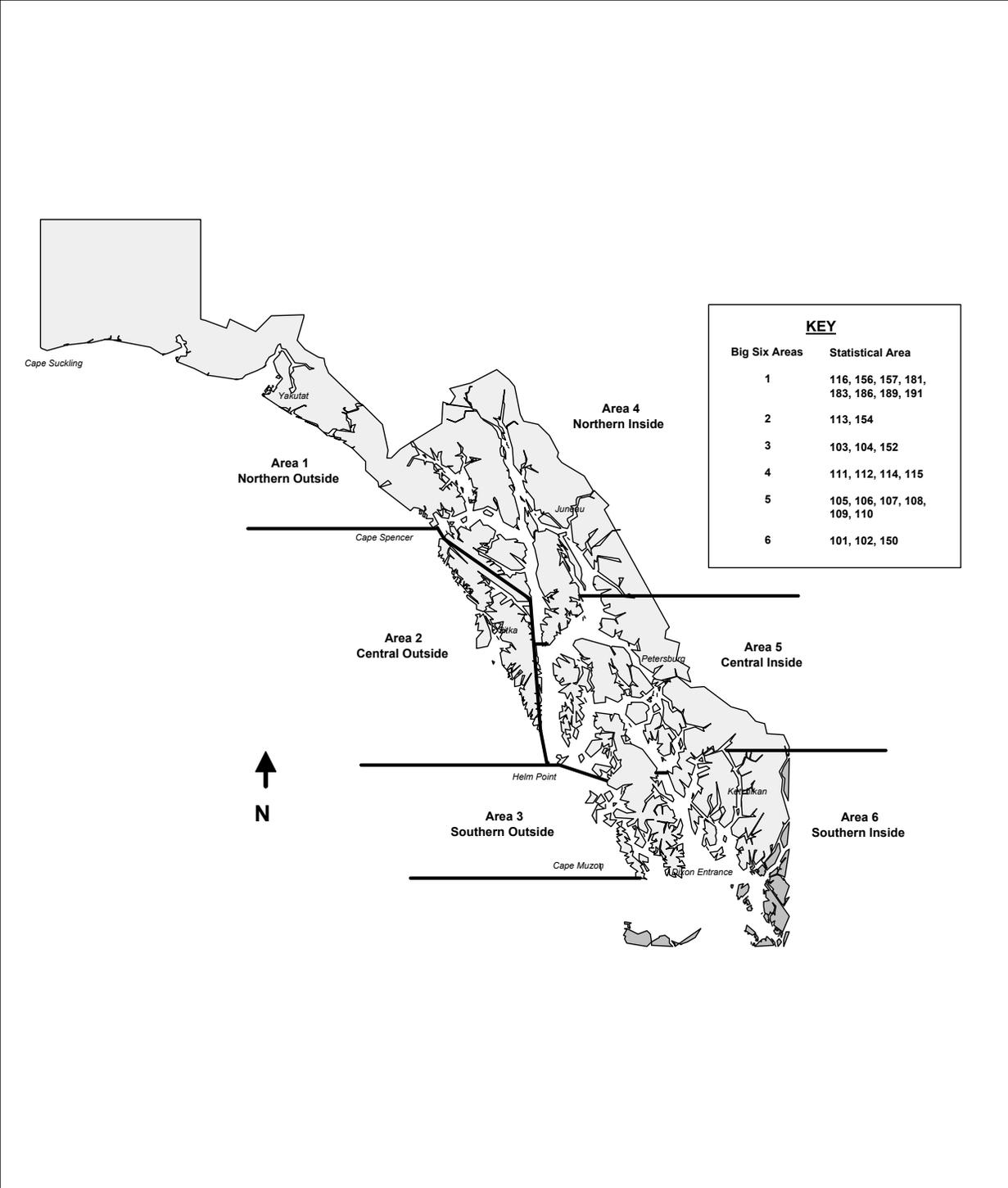


Figure 2. Fisheries performance data program data reporting areas in Southeast Alaska.

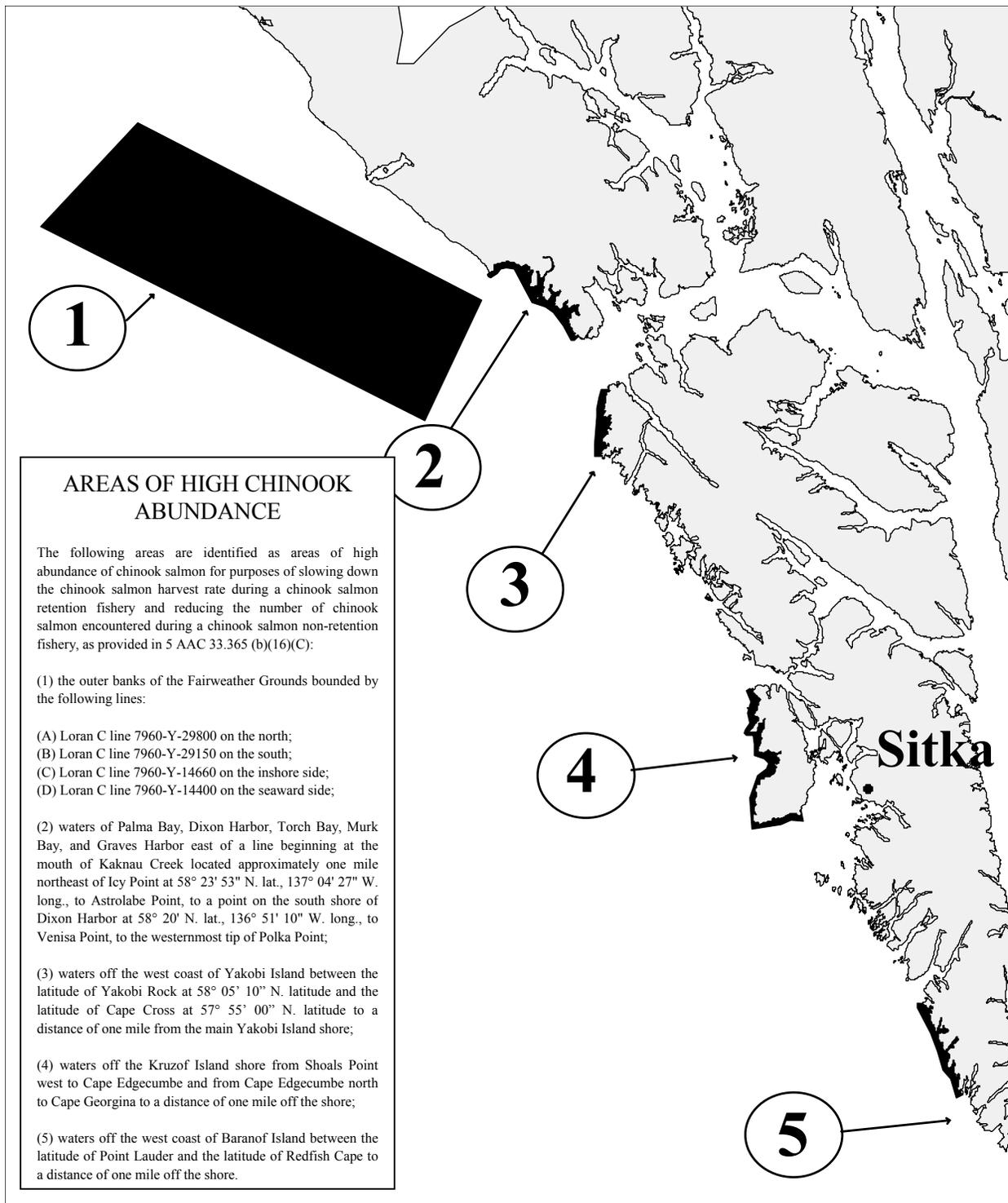


Figure 3. Southeast Alaska areas closed to trolling for all species following the initial chinook salmon opening in the Southeast Alaska summer troll season.

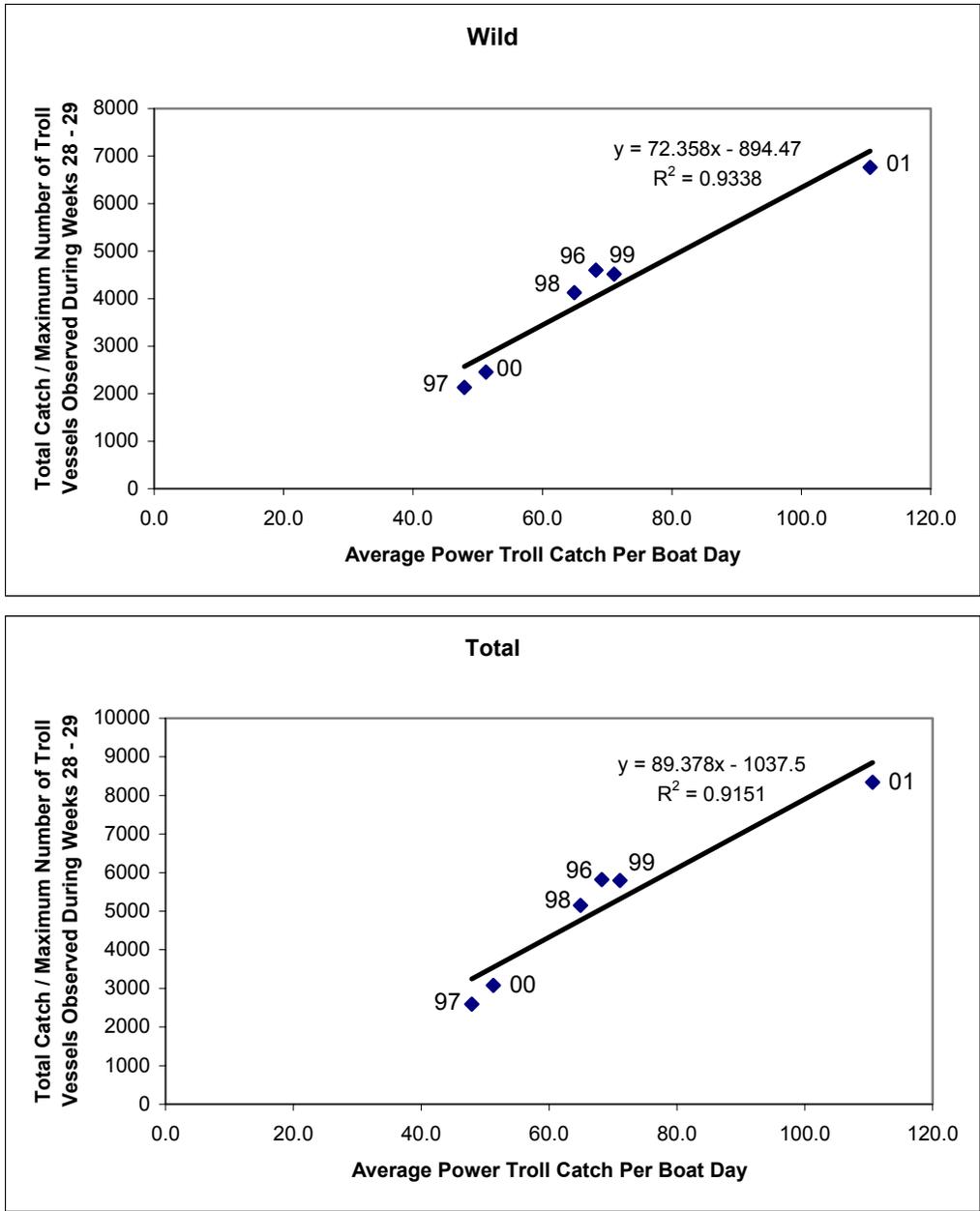


Figure 4. Inseason linear regression model using average power troll catch per boat per day to predict the wild (top) and total (bottom) Southeast Alaska commercial coho salmon catch.

Y axis = Region total commercial coho salmon catch prediction (excluding hatchery cost recovery) divided by the maximum number of troll vessels observed during aerial surveys during weeks 28 and 29.  
 X axis = Troll fishery average power troll catch per boat day for Statistical Weeks 28–29 (July 7–20), which is calculated by adding the average daily catch rate for boats that make a landing in week 28 (July 7–13) and the average daily catch rate for boats that make a landing in week 29 (July 14–20).

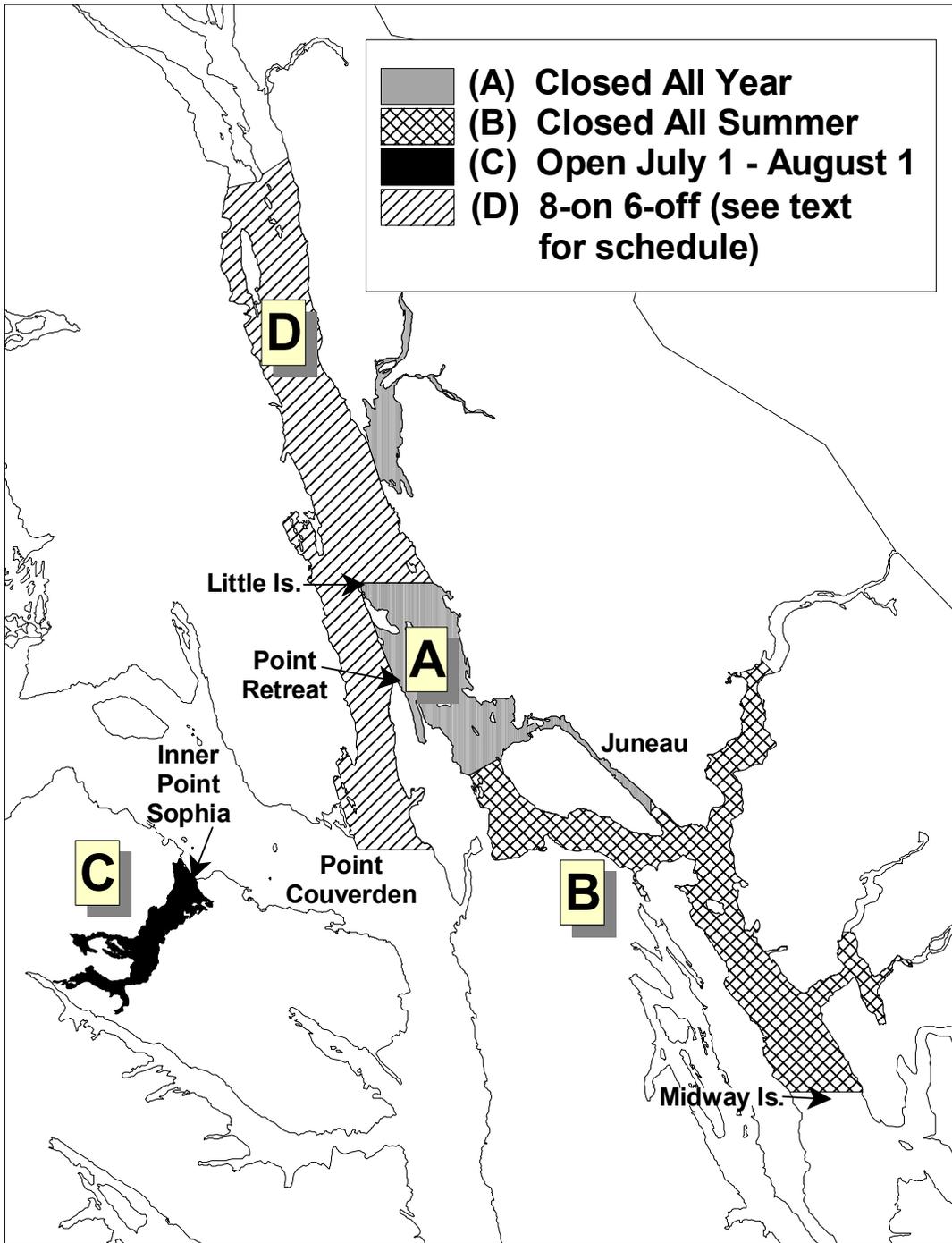


Figure 5. Juneau area general summer trolling areas and seasons, 2002.

This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in (5 AAC 29.150 (CLOSED WATERS)) or Emergency Orders issued by the Department of Fish and Game. The general summer troll fishing season applies to those areas not specified in the key or in 5 AAC 29.150.

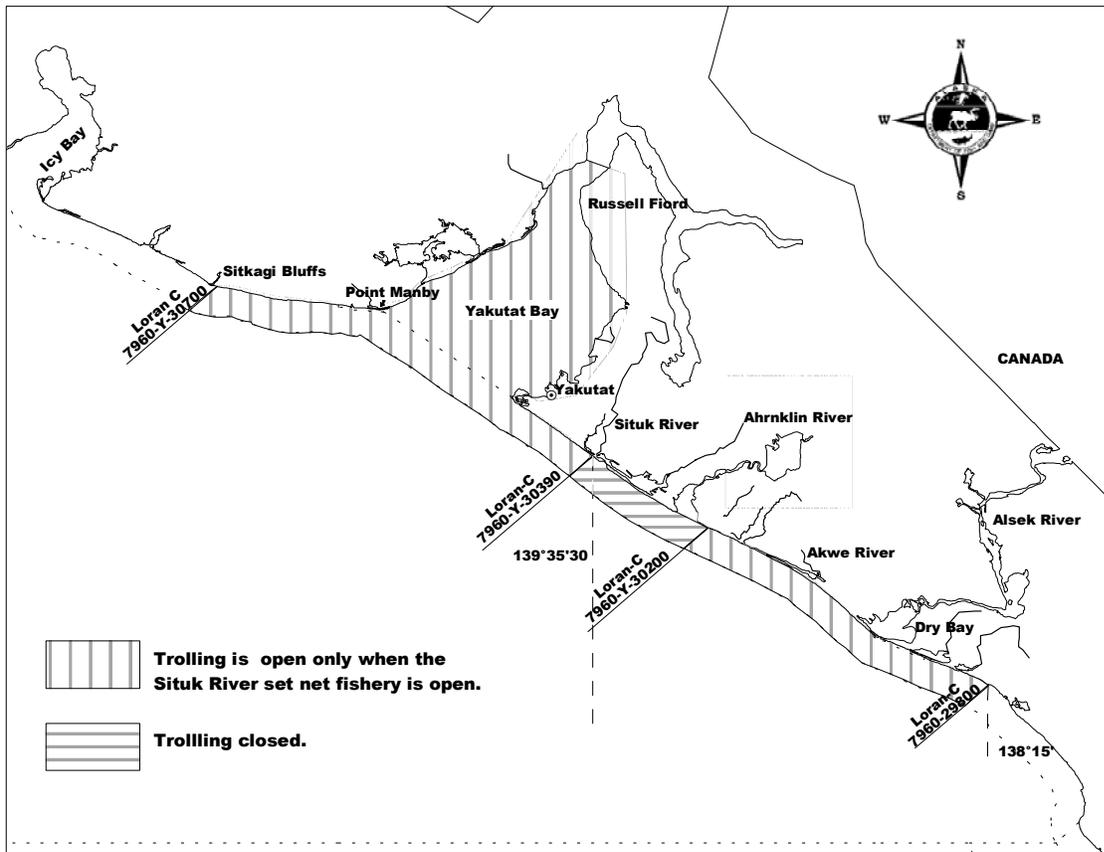


Figure 6. Trolling times and areas beginning August 7 for the Yakutat area, 2002.

This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in 5 AAC 29.150 (CLOSED WATERS) or Emergency Orders issued by the Department of Fish and Game. The general summer troll fishing season applies to those areas not specified in the key or in 5 AAC 29.150.

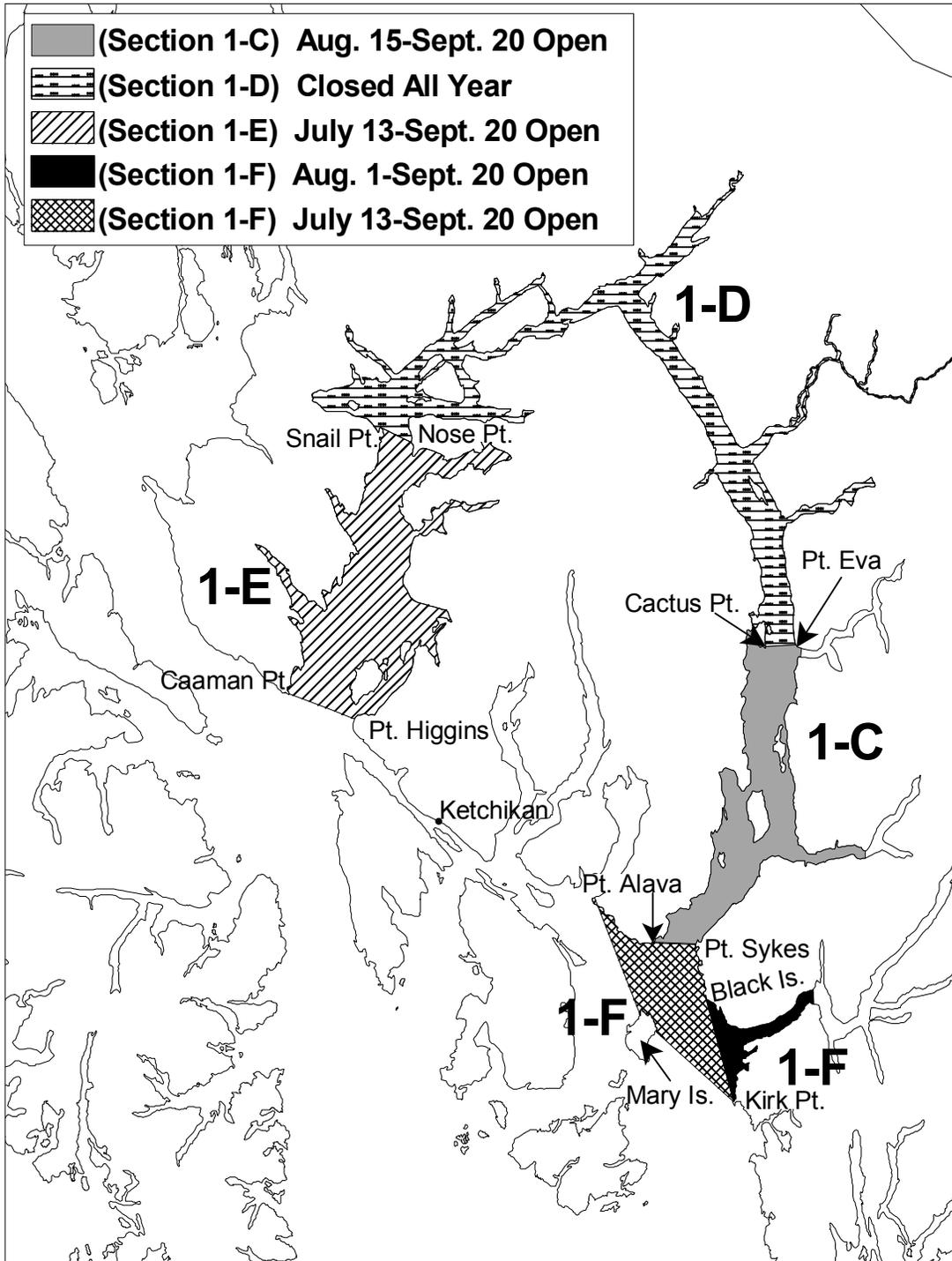


Figure 7. Ketchikan area general summer trolling areas and seasons, 2002.

This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in 5 AAC 29.150 (CLOSED WATERS) or Emergency Orders issued by the Department of Fish and Game. The general summer troll fishing season applies to those areas not specified in the key or in 5 AAC 29.150.

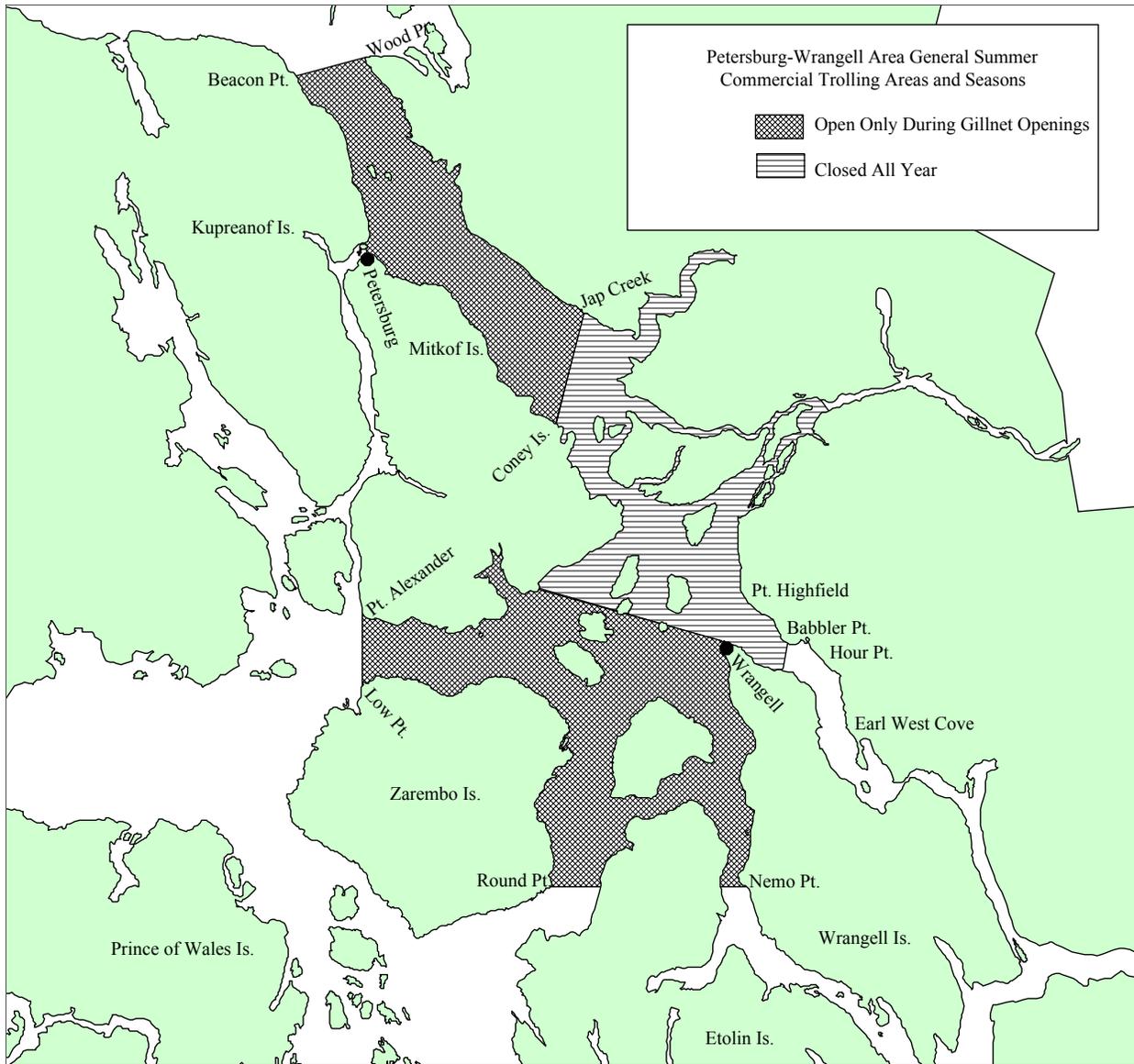


Figure 8. Petersburg/Wrangell area general summer trolling areas and seasons, 2002.

This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in 5 AAC 29.150 (CLOSED WATERS) or Emergency Orders issued by the Department of Fish and Game. The general summer troll fishing season applies to those areas not specified in the key or in 5 AAC 29.150.

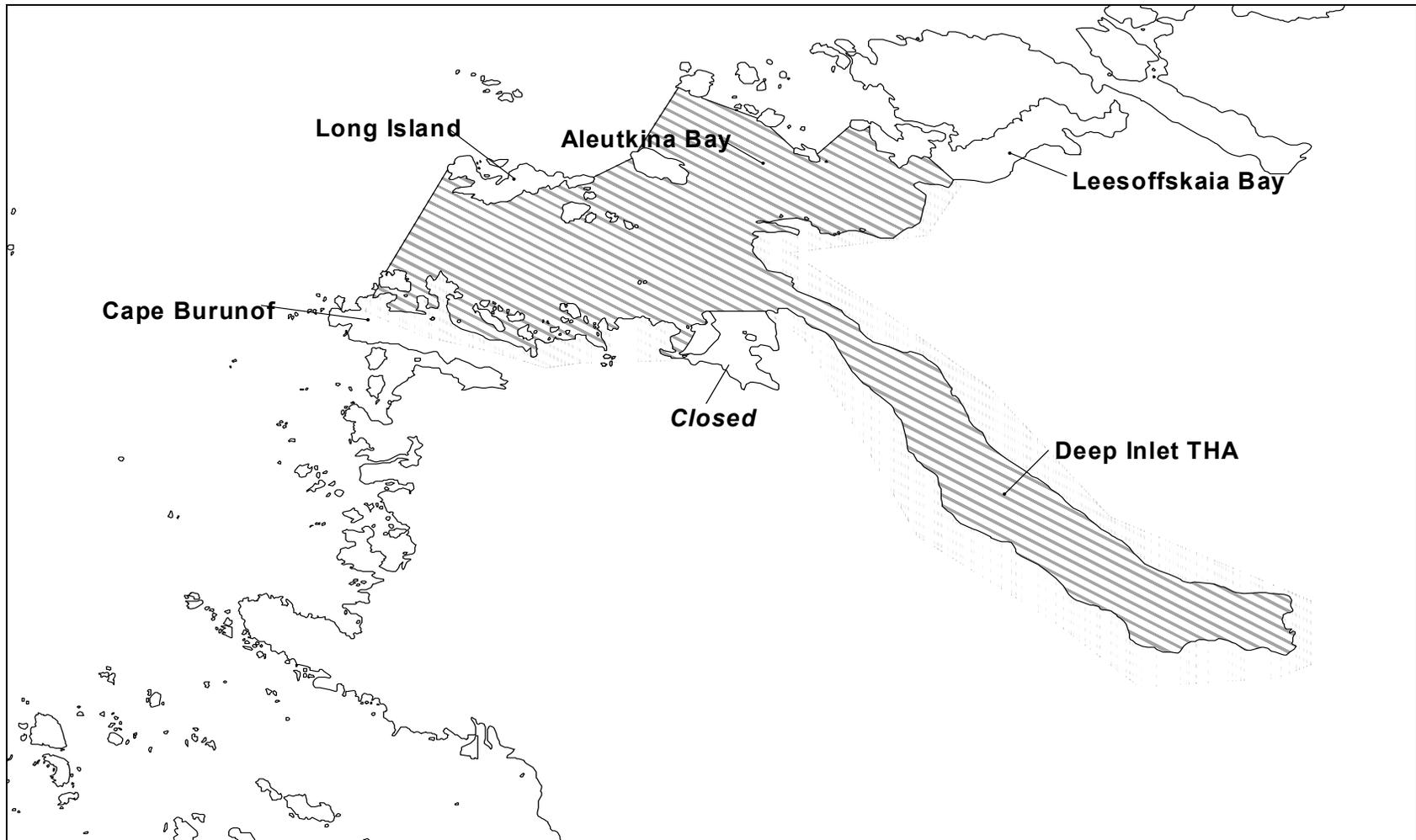


Figure 9. Deep Inlet THA (113-38).

This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in 5 AAC 29.150 (CLOSED WATERS)) or Emergency Orders issued by the Department of Fish and Game.

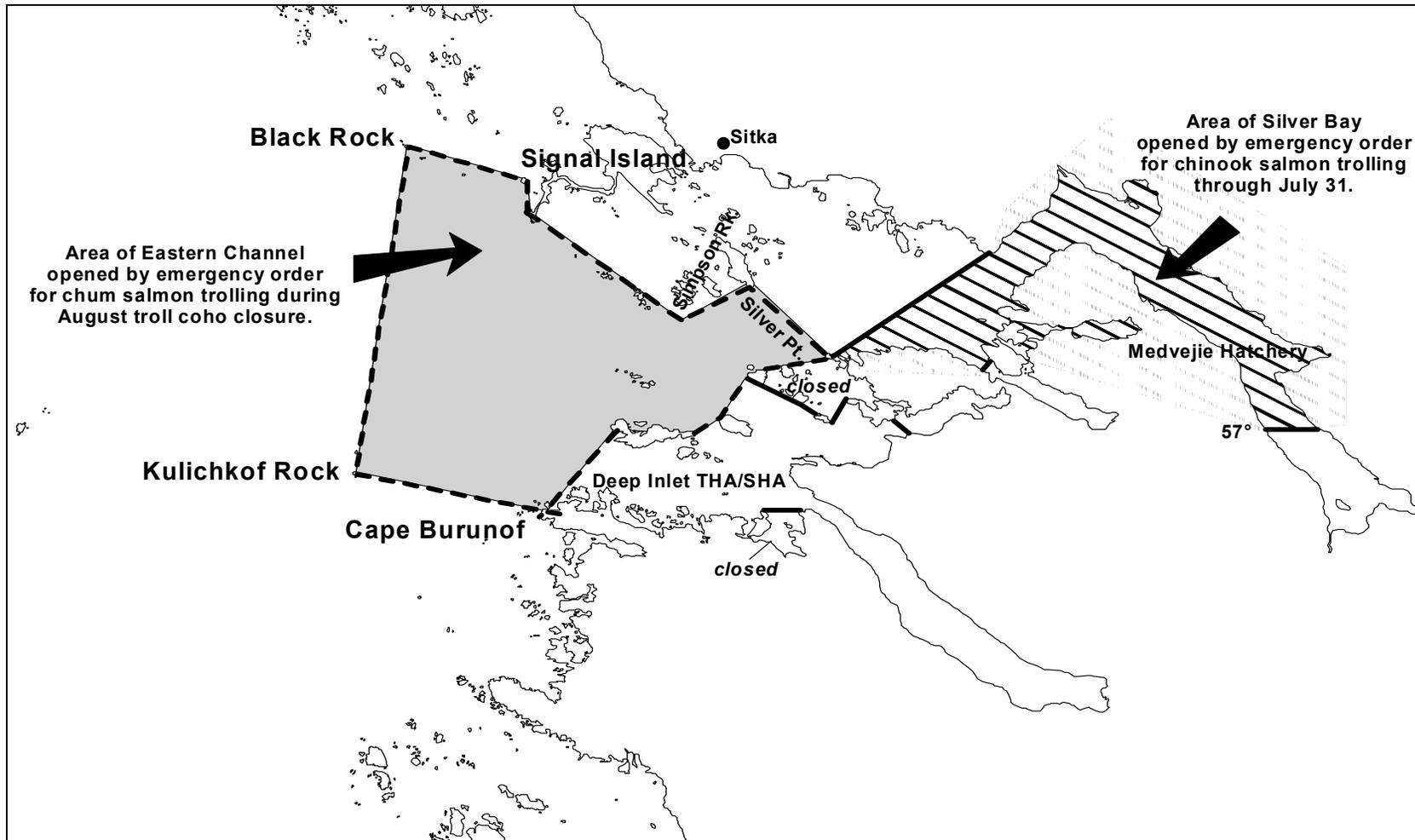


Figure 10. Silver Bay and Eastern Channel SHA for chum (113-35). Sitka area summer fisheries, 2002.

This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in 5 AAC 29.150 (CLOSED WATERS) or Emergency Orders issued by the Department of Fish and Game. See management plan text for description of area.

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For up-to-date troll information, call the 24-hour information line in the Douglas Office at 465-TROL (8765). In addition, the following telephone numbers may be called during the troll fishing season to obtain recorded announcements concerning areas open to trolling.

Ketchikan-(907) 225-6870

Sitka-(907) 747-8765

Petersburg-(907) 772-3700

## SOUTHEAST ALASKA TROLL WEBSITE

<http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region1/finfish/salmon/trolinfo.htm>

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