

MANAGEMENT PLAN AND REGULATORY GUIDE FOR CHINOOK AND COHO SALMON
IN THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA/YAKUTAT SUMMER TROLL FISHERY, 2001



by

Brian Lynch
and
Pattie Skannes

Regional Information Report¹ No. 1J01-22

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Southeast Region
Juneau, Alaska

June 2001

¹ The Regional Information Report Series was established in 1987 to provide an information access system for all unpublished divisional reports. These reports frequently serve diverse ad hoc informational purposes or archive basic uninterpreted data. To accommodate timely reporting of recently collected information, reports in this series undergo only limited internal review and may contain preliminary data, this information may be subsequently finalized and published in the formal literature. Consequently, these reports should not be cited without prior approval of the author or the Division of Commercial Fisheries.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF FIGURES.....	3
AUTHORS.....	4
FOREWORD.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	5
2001 SUMMER SEASON DATES.....	5
MANAGEMENT APPROACH.....	6
Chinook Salmon.....	6
Management Objectives.....	6
Management Methods.....	6
General Summer Fishery.....	6
Projected 2001 Chinook Salmon Harvests.....	7
Preliminary Total Troll Fishery Harvest for the 2001 Season.....	8
Coho Salmon.....	8
Management Objectives.....	9
Management Methods.....	9
Allocation Actions.....	10
Tentative 2001 Summer Season Schedule.....	11
OPEN AREAS DURING 2001 GENERAL SUMMER TROLL SEASON.....	12
REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO COMMERCIAL TROLL BYCATCH OF GROUND FISH AND HALIBUT.....	13
Rules Pertaining to Switching Between Commercial Troll Gear and Mechanical Jig/Dinglebar Gear.....	14
Use of Salmon Troll Gear and Longline Gear.....	14
SPORT FISHING FROM A COMMERCIALy LICENCED TROLL VESSEL.....	14
Charter Fishing.....	15
REGIONAL AQUACULTURE SPECIAL HARVEST AREAS.....	15
Deep Inlet and Eastern Channel Chum Salmon Plan for 2001.....	15
FISHERY CONTACTS.....	27
SOUTHEAST ALASKA TROLL WEBSITE.....	27

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 1. General summer catch reporting districts, 2001.	17
Figure 2. Fisheries performance data program data reporting areas in Southeast Alaska.	18
Figure 3. Southeast Alaska areas closed to trolling for all species following the initial chinook salmon opening in the Southeast Alaska summer troll season.	19
Figure 4. Inseason linear regression model using average catch per boat per day to predict the wild (top) and total (bottom) Southeast Alaska commercial coho salmon catch.	20
Figure 5. Juneau area general summer trolling areas and seasons, 2001.	21
Figure 6. Trolling times and areas beginning August 7 for the Yakutat area, 2001.	22
Figure 7. Ketchikan area general summer trolling areas and seasons, 2001.	23
Figure 8. Petersburg/Wrangell area general summer trolling areas and seasons, 2001.	24
Figure 9. Deep Inlet THA (113-38).	25
Figure 10. Silver Bay and Eastern Channel SHA for chum (113-35). Sitka area summer fisheries, 2001.	26

AUTHORS

Brian Lynch is the regional troll fishery management biologist for Region I of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, P.O. Box 667, Petersburg, Alaska, 99833. E-mail address is Brian_Lynch@fishgame.state.ak.us.

Pattie Skannes is the assistant regional troll fishery management biologist for Region I of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, P.O. 304 Lake Street, Room 103, Sitka, Alaska 99835. E-mail address is Pattie_Skannes@fishgame.state.ak.us.

FOREWORD

This plan summarizes the management approach the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) will employ during the 2001 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 US/Canada Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC). The department, under emergency order authority, conducts inseason management. In 2001, the all-gear chinook salmon fishery will be managed to achieve a harvest target based on the “US/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.

2001 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 salmon 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, 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 2001, the department has set the first opening period of six (6) days. Although inseason management is preferable, the pre-determined opening time period has been set this year because of the low number of treaty fish available.

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 abundance (Figure 3) will be closed unless fewer than 30% of the total remaining number of chinook salmon were harvested in the first opening.

The hatchery add-on is calculated inseason 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 CWT lab for processing. Coded-wire micro tags are removed from the heads and the number of Alaskan hatchery fish is calculated by expanding the number of Alaskan hatchery-produced chinook in the sampled catch by the total catch.

Projected 2001 Chinook Salmon Harvests

The chinook salmon fisheries will be managed according to the BLA. In addition to this "base catch," Alaska hatcheries are projected to contribute approximately 5,500 chinook salmon to the summer troll harvest. The actual hatchery add-on will be determined inseason, 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 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 2001 is 1.14. This abundance index is equated to an all-gear quota for treaty chinook of 190,000 fish. This quota is identical to the all-gear quota in 2000 and reflects the continued low abundance of the West Coast Vancouver Island stock complex, which has comprised about 30% of Southeast Alaska Chinook harvests. According to the BOF allocation plan outlined above, the troll fishery allocation of the treaty quota is approximately 138,000 fish. The summer troll quota is calculated by adding the winter treaty harvest (19,700 fish), the spring treaty harvest (estimated 10,000 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 100,000 fish. In addition, The department will also manage the troll fishery to reduce the cumulative harvest overage from the 1999 and 2000 seasons. The Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan, 5 AAC 47.055(j) specifies that the commercial troll fishery be managed to reduce the overage. The plan also provides for accounting of overages so that the overall allocation goals specified by the plan will be met. The harvest reduction due to the overage is approximately 3,600 fish. 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 70,000 treaty fish, plus an estimated 5% Alaska hatchery fish, or a total first summer opening target catch of 72,500 fish.

Preliminary Total Troll Fishery Harvest for the 2001 Season

TROLL CHINOOK CATCHES IN THOUSANDS																																						
Treaty Quota	Seine	Drift GN	Set GN	Sport	Troll																																	
190,000	8,200	7,600	1,000	35,000	138,000																																	
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Total</th> <th>Hatchery</th> <th>Treaty Fish</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2000 Troll Numbers:</td> <td>Winter</td> <td>22,400</td> <td>2,800</td> <td>19,700</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Spring</td> <td>20,000</td> <td>10,000</td> <td>10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pre-Summer Total:</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>29,700</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pre-treaty hatchery and statistical risk factor:</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>4,700</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total pre-Summer:</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>34,400</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Overage adjustment</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3,600</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Total	Hatchery	Treaty Fish	2000 Troll Numbers:	Winter	22,400	2,800	19,700		Spring	20,000	10,000	10,000		Pre-Summer Total:			29,700		Pre-treaty hatchery and statistical risk factor:			4,700		Total pre-Summer:			34,400		Overage adjustment			3,600		
Total	Hatchery	Treaty Fish																																				
2000 Troll Numbers:	Winter	22,400	2,800	19,700																																		
	Spring	20,000	10,000	10,000																																		
	Pre-Summer Total:			29,700																																		
	Pre-treaty hatchery and statistical risk factor:			4,700																																		
	Total pre-Summer:			34,400																																		
	Overage adjustment			3,600																																		
Summer Total = Troll - Pre-summer total - Pre-treaty and risk factor-Overage adjustment:					100,000																																	
					138,000-38,000																																	
Projected First Summer Treaty Fish Target = 70% summer total =					70,000																																	
Projected Second Summer Treaty Fish Target = Summer total-First summer =					30,000																																	

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, the fishery will open for six days.

Following the closure of the initial summer chinook 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 2000 catch was 1.1 million fish, with a 10-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 stocks returning to southern Southeast Alaska are harvested by the troll fishery in northern and central outside areas where they intermingle with coho 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 23% in 1996 and 1999.

The 2000 Alaska hatchery contribution was 22%.

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 fisheries to achieve allocations consistent with board regulations.
4. Manage coho salmon on the US/Canada border to comply with provisions of the BLA.

Management Methods

As with chinook salmon, the department's primary program for inseason assessment of catch rates is dockside interviews of 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 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.

Projected total season troll coho harvests will be used as a relative index of total run size. Analysis of the FPD program has shown that the cumulative area-wide catch-per-day through Statistical Week 29 (average week ending date is July 19) for the years 1996 to 2000 is a good predictor of the total troll and all-gear coho 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 2001, the department will make this projection during the week beginning July 22. (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 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 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, 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 15-16
 - July 23-July 30
 - August 6-13
 - August 20-27
 - September 3-10
 - September 17-20
 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 2001 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.

EXPECTED REGULATORY ACTIONS	
DATES	
July 1	Open the 2001 general summer troll season for all species; the initial troll chinook opening will close when 70% of the remaining number of chinook salmon have been harvested. The first chinook salmon retention period has been set for July 1- July 6. 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.</p> <p>During the closure period, a chum salmon fishery will occur in the Sitka Sound area.</p>
Late August to September 20	Coho 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.
<u>September 20</u>	<u>Established regulatory closing date of 2001 general summer troll season.</u>

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 management biologist, two troll fishery management biologists, and ten area management biologists. Department contact information is listed at the end of this plan.

OPEN AREAS DURING 2001 GENERAL SUMMER TROLL SEASON

Salmon trolling is permitted in all areas during the first chinook retention period of the 2001 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 2000 – 2001 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 15-November 15 [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 six-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)). Trollers are allowed a 10% bycatch of lingcod against the round weight of salmon onboard. When the troll lingcod quota is reached for each management area trollers will be required to release lingcod back into the water². 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.

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 Cleo Brylinsky, 304 Lake Street, Room 103; phone- 907-747-6688). The tags should 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)).

3. Full retention of all rockfish is required when fishing in the Northern Southeast Inside and Southern Southeast Inside subdistricts. These areas correspond closely with salmon Districts 101-115. A permit holder must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish taken. Trollers are allowed a 15% bycatch of rockfish and thornyheads, in aggregate, against the round weight of salmon onboard. All rockfish in excess of bycatch limits must be reported as bycatch overage on the fish ticket and proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish will go the state (5 AAC 28.171 (f)). Groundfish bycatch allowances are outlined in E.O. 1-G-5-01. Contact the ADF&G groundfish staff at 747-6688 for more information.
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,

² Established by Emergency Order 1-G-01-01 after being suggested by the Alaska Board of Fisheries Lingcod Working Group.

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.³

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

NOTE: The BOF repealed the prohibition on sport fishing from registered troll vessels in February 2000. The following regulations apply:

1. If sport fishing in waters closed to commercial fishing, the dorsal fin must be removed upon landing from any sport-caught salmon retained [5 AAC 47.041].
2. Sport fishing from a commercially licensed vessel while commercially caught salmon are in possession is illegal in waters closed to commercial salmon fishing.
3. Sport fishing for groundfish, halibut, and shellfish is allowed, except that halibut may not be onboard if there are any commercially-caught salmon onboard [5 AAC 47.041].

³ Established by Emergency Order 1-G-01-01.

4. See the sport fishing and personal use regulations for complete details with respect to residency requirements, legal gear, and bag limits.

Charter Fishing

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)].

These regulations can be found in the 2000 Sport Fishing Regulation booklet.

Sale of sport-caught fish is prohibited.

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 2001

NSRAA is expecting about 850,000 chum salmon to return to the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area (THA, Figure 9) and the Medvejie Hatchery, with approximately 650,000 chum salmon to be available for common property harvest. The Deep Inlet THA rotational schedule will begin on July 1, with the first troll opening scheduled for July 2-3. Weekly troll openings are scheduled for the THA each Monday through Tuesday and each Friday through Saturday, August 4 (through August 5). After August 4 the weekly troll opening will be on either Wednesday or Thursday according to the NSRAA rotational schedule at that time. This schedule may change if there is a buildup of fish or quality problems develop in the THA. A detailed listing of troll openings can be found in an ADF&G news release dated June 21, 2001.

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.

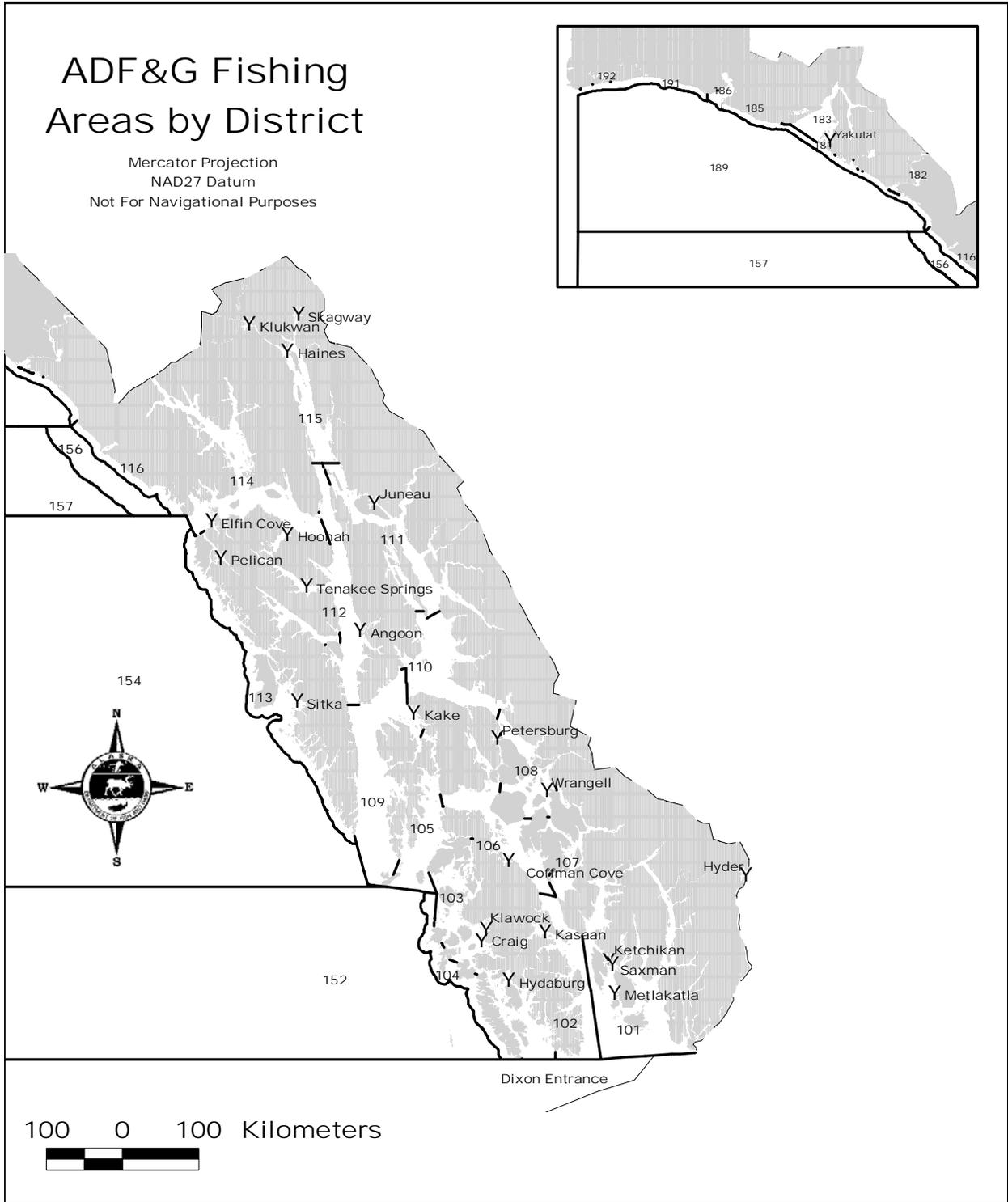


Figure 1. General summer catch reporting districts, 2001.

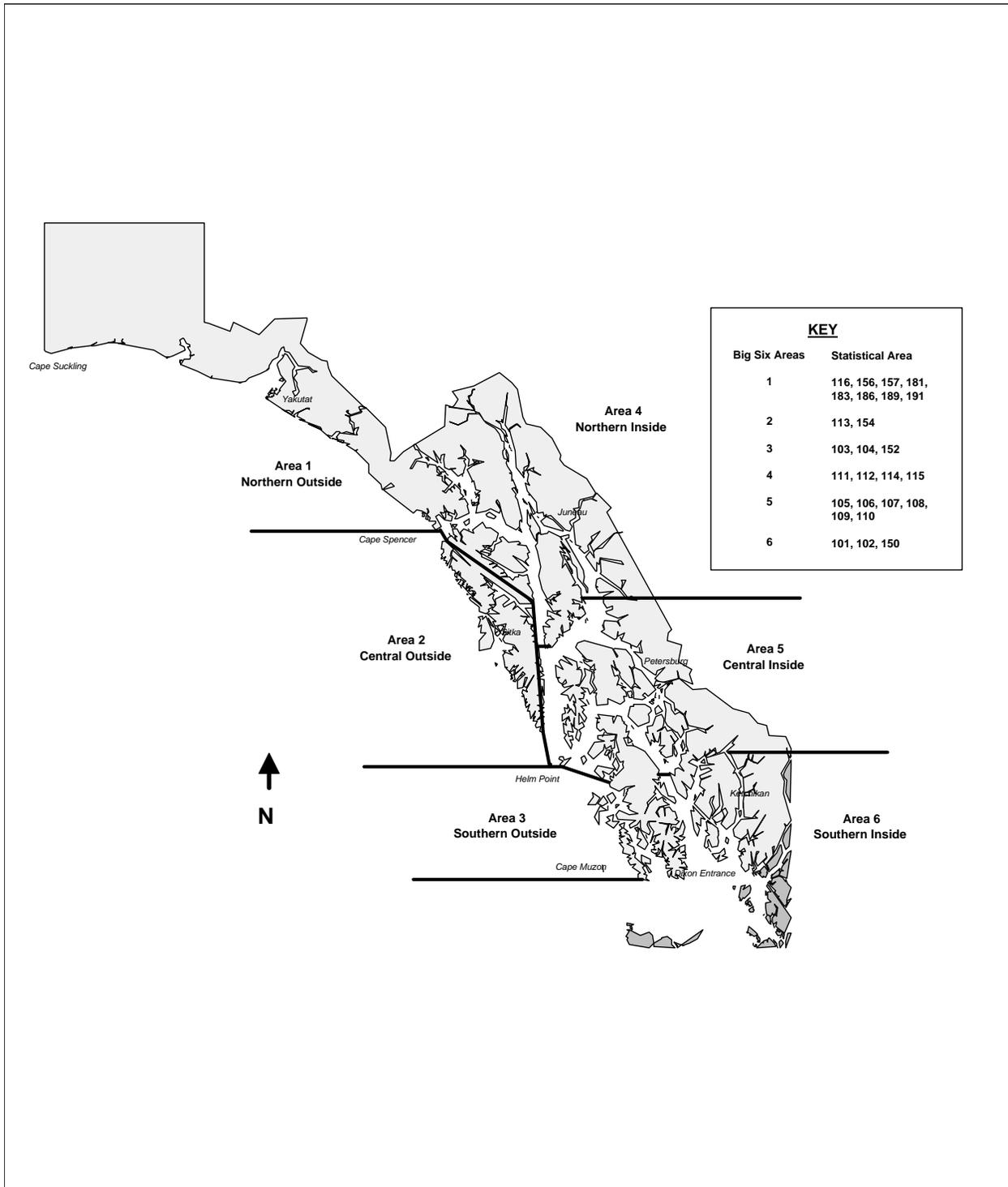


Figure 2. Fisheries performance data program data reporting areas in Southeast Alaska.

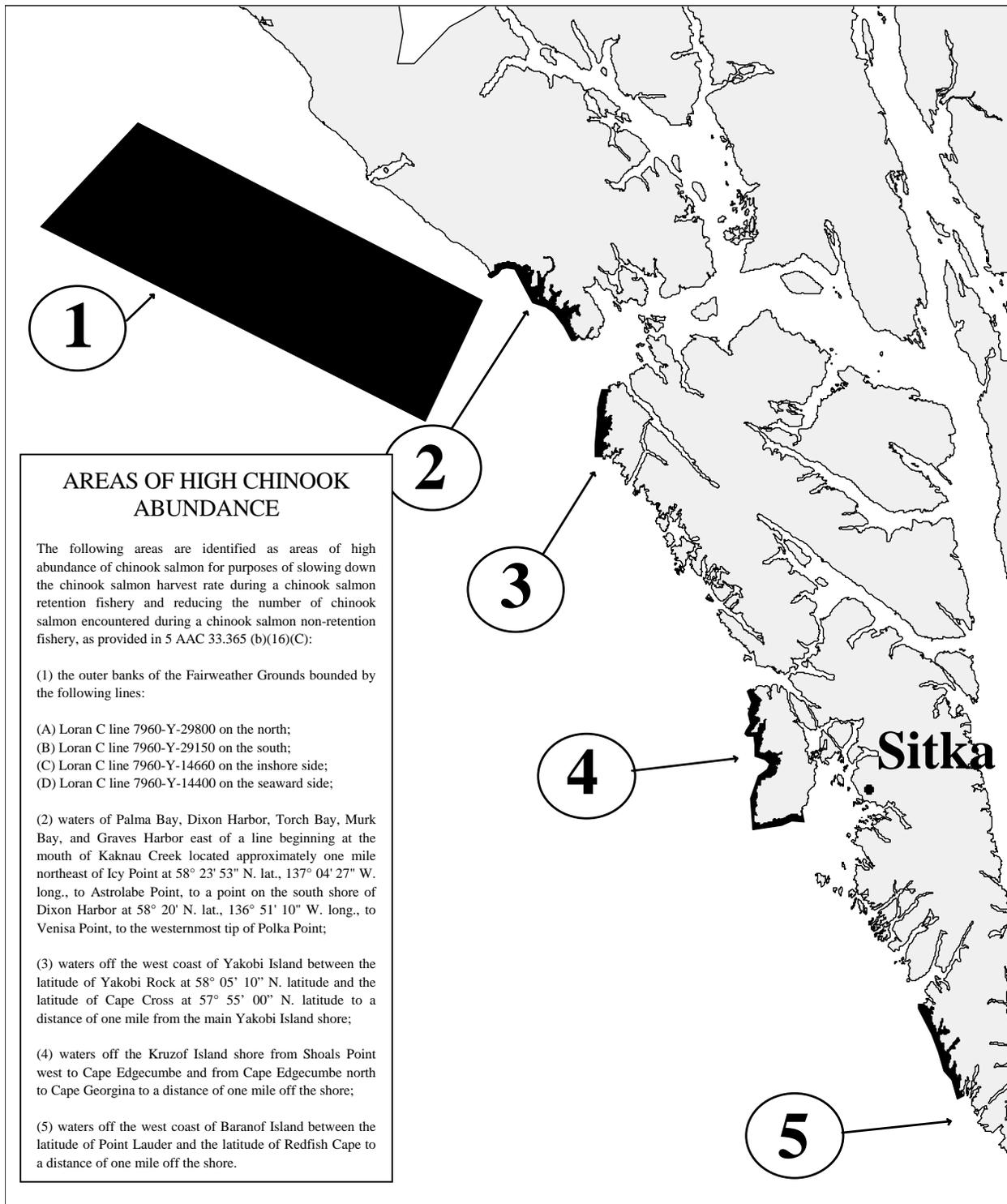


Figure 3. Southeast Alaska areas closed to trolling for all species following the initial chinook salmon opening in the Southeast Alaska summer troll season.

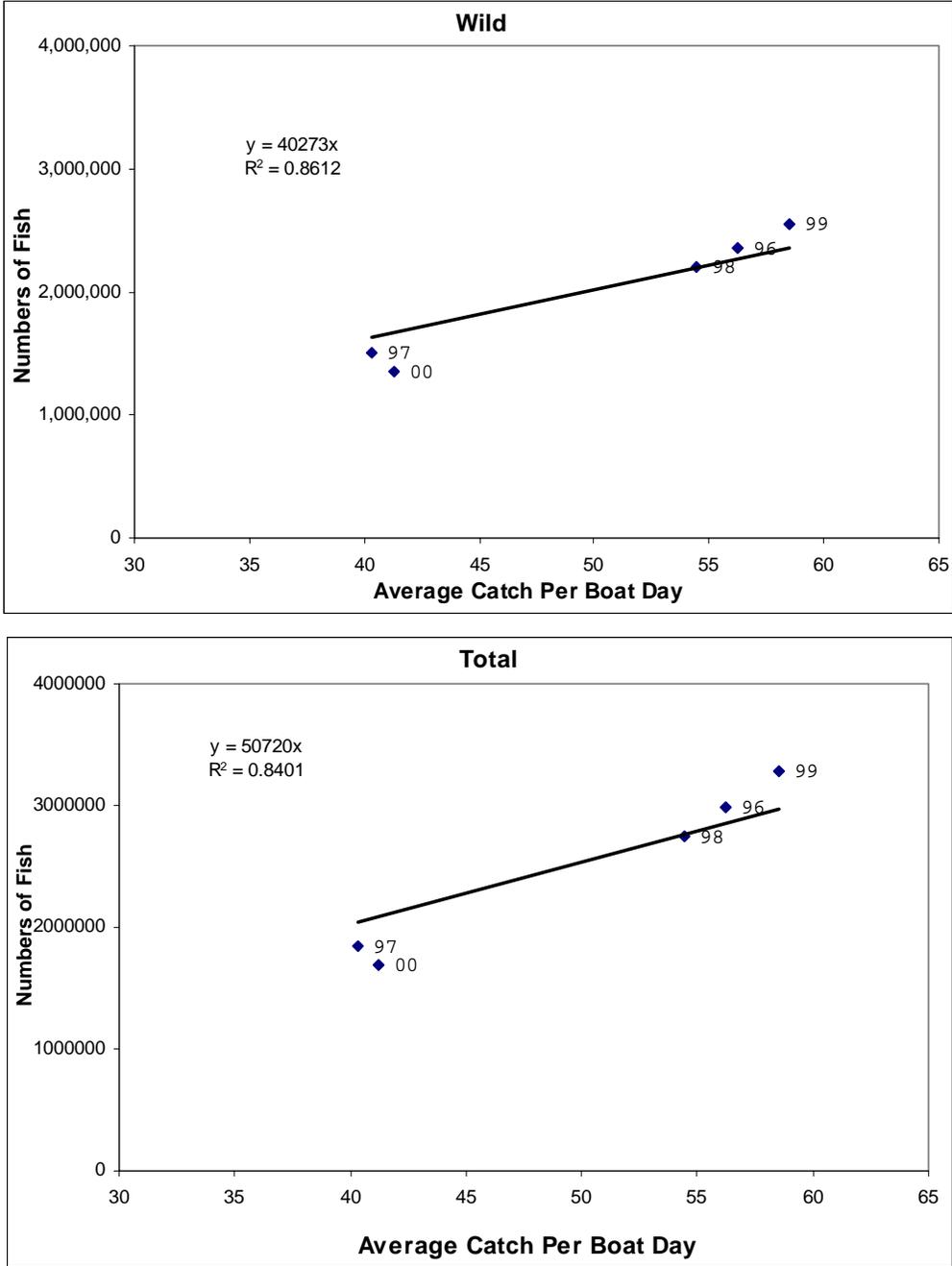


Figure 4. Inseason linear regression model using average catch per boat per day to predict the wild (top) and total (bottom) Southeast Alaska commercial coho salmon catch.

Y axis = Region total commercial coho salmon catch prediction (excluding hatchery cost recovery). X axis = Troll fishery cumulative catch per boat day for Statistical Weeks 28-29 (July 8-21), which is calculated by adding the average daily catch rate for boats that make a landing in week 28 (July 8-14) and the average daily catch rate for boats that make a landing in week 29 (July 15-21).

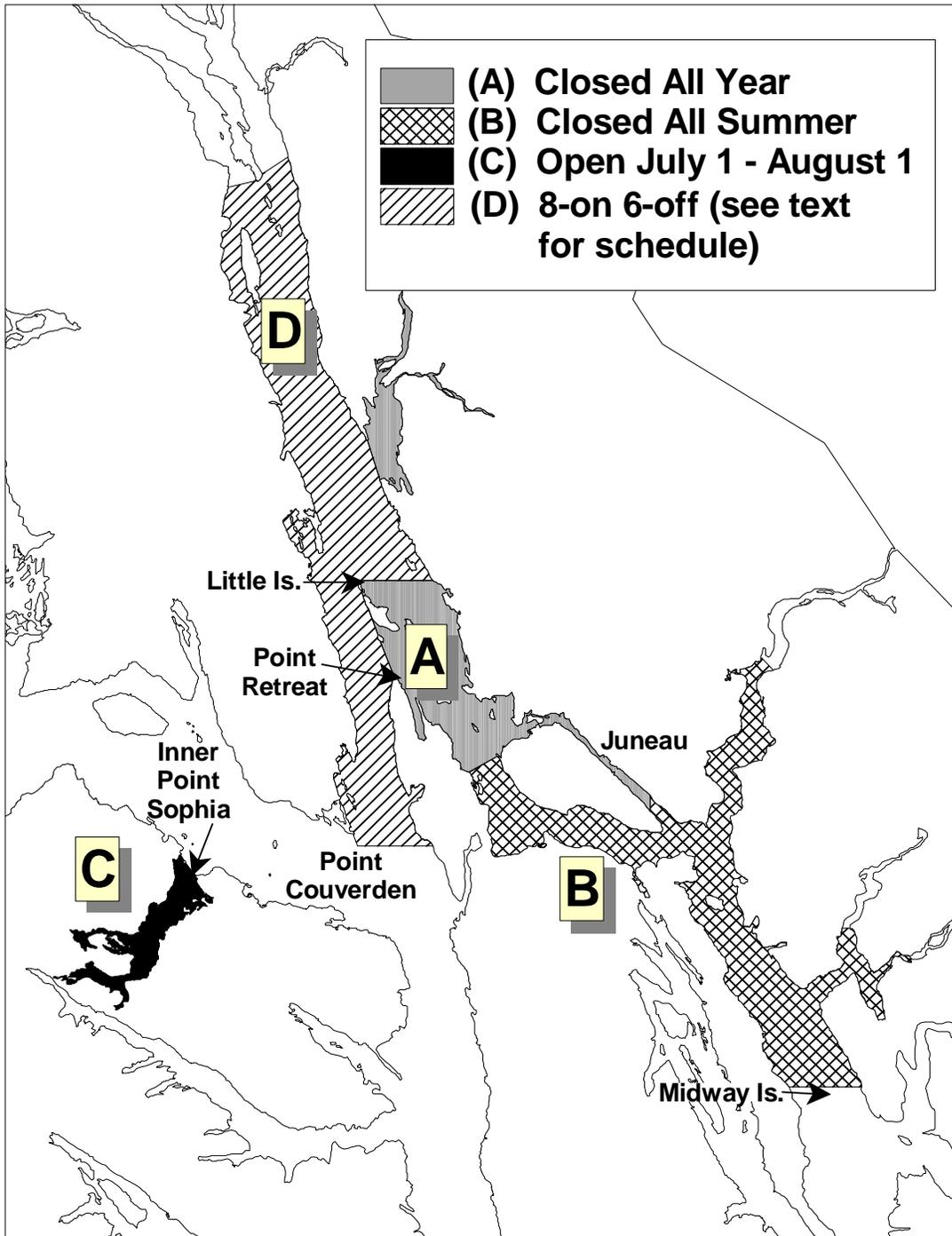


Figure 5. Juneau area general summer trolling areas and seasons, 2001.

This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in [5 AAC 33.350 (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 33.350].

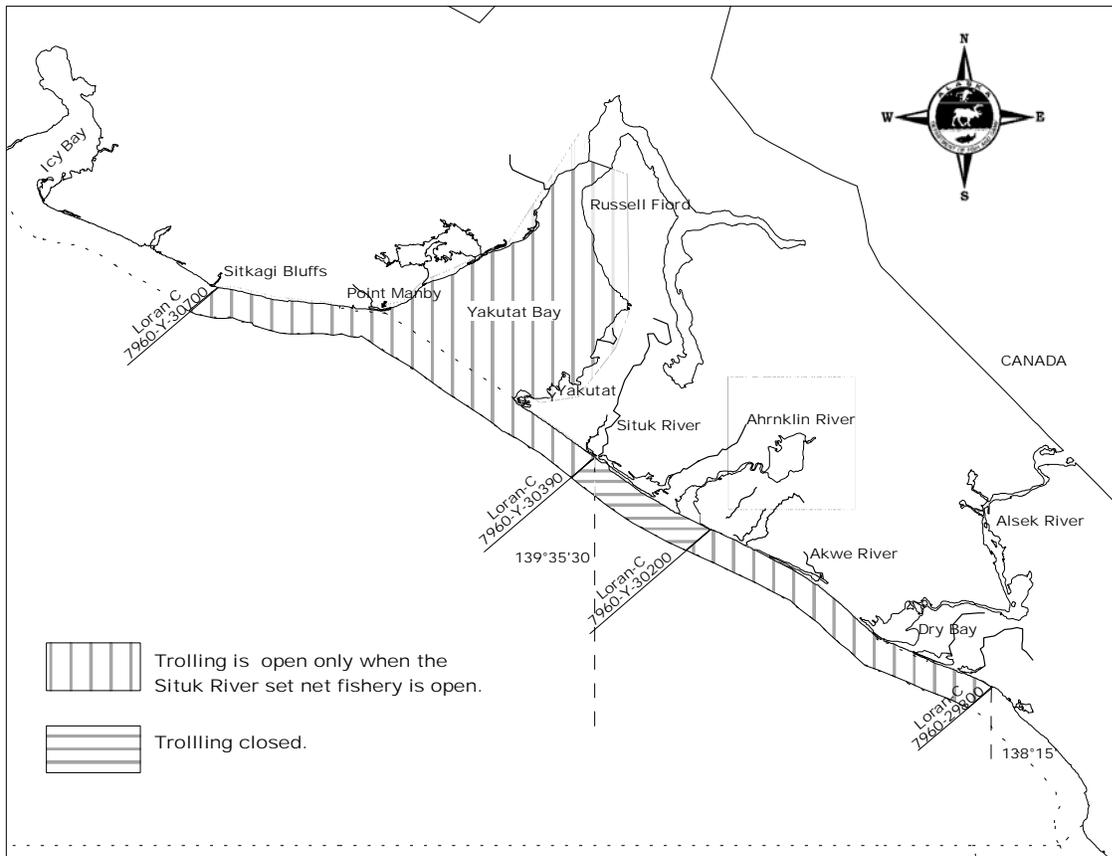


Figure 6. Trolling times and areas beginning August 7 for the Yakutat area, 2001.

This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in [5 AAC 33.350 (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 33.350].

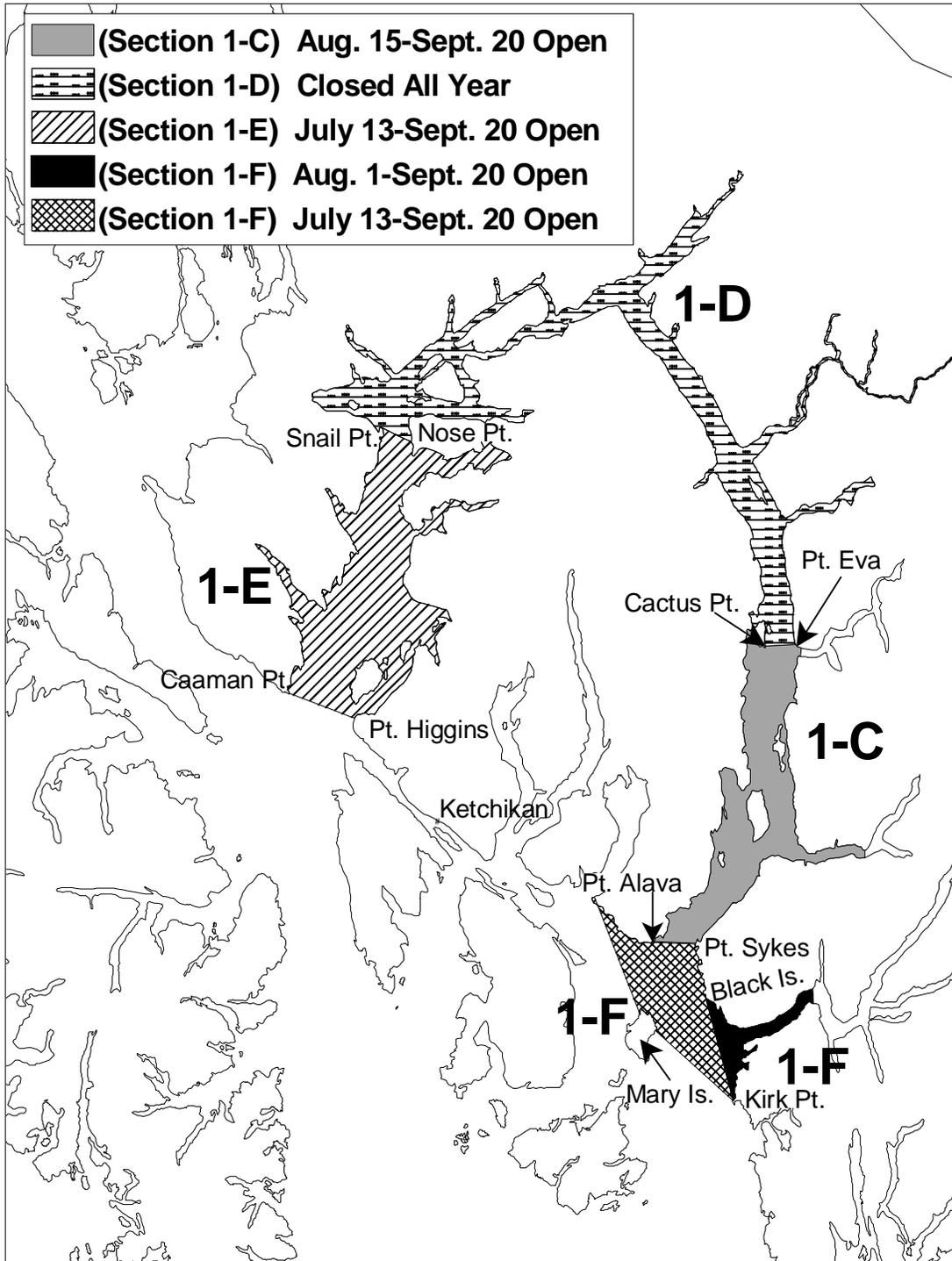


Figure 7. Ketchikan area general summer trolling areas and seasons, 2001.

This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in [5 AAC 33.350 (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 33.350].

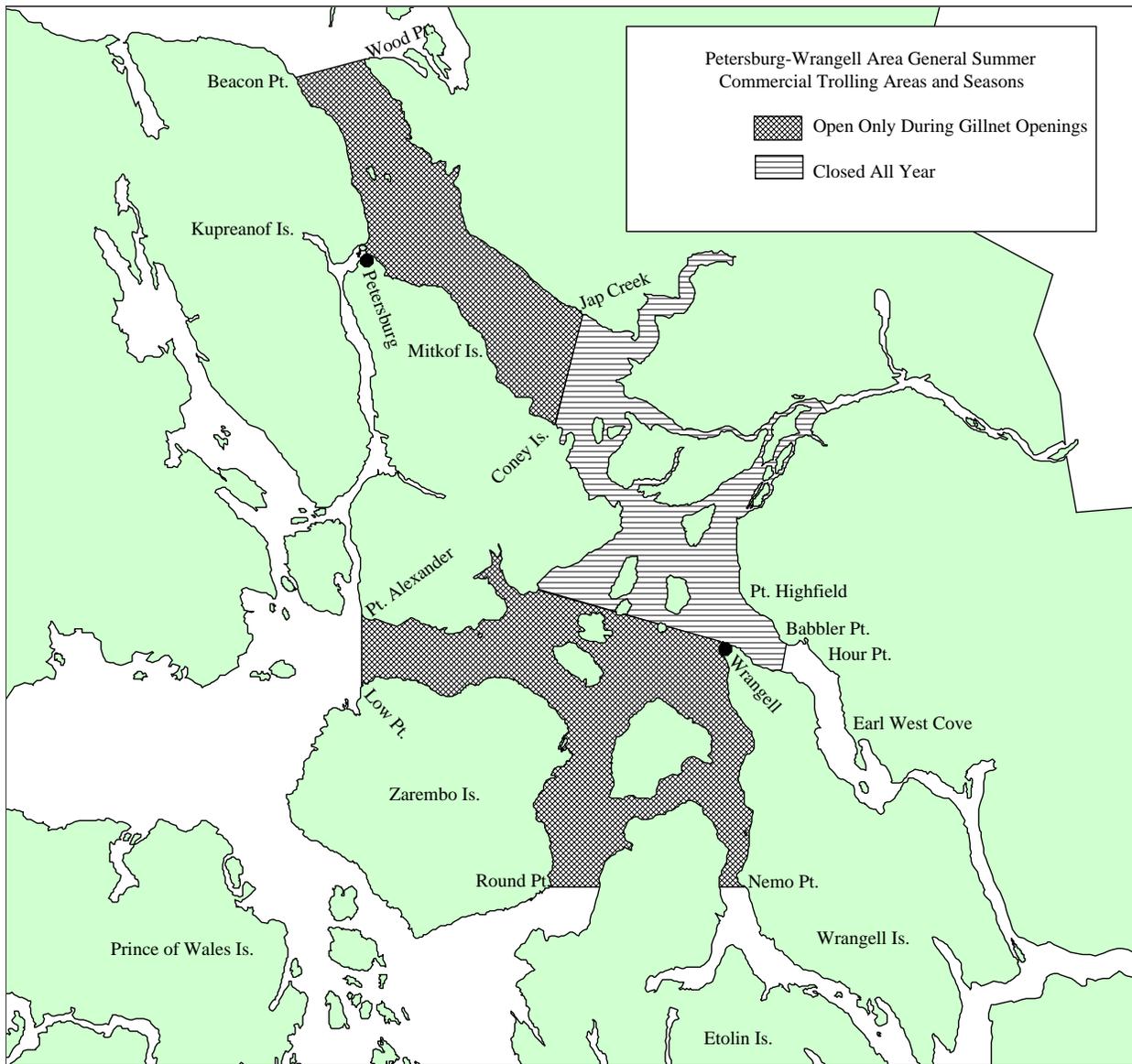


Figure 8. Petersburg/Wrangell area general summer trolling areas and seasons, 2001.

This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in [5 AAC 33.350 (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 33.350].

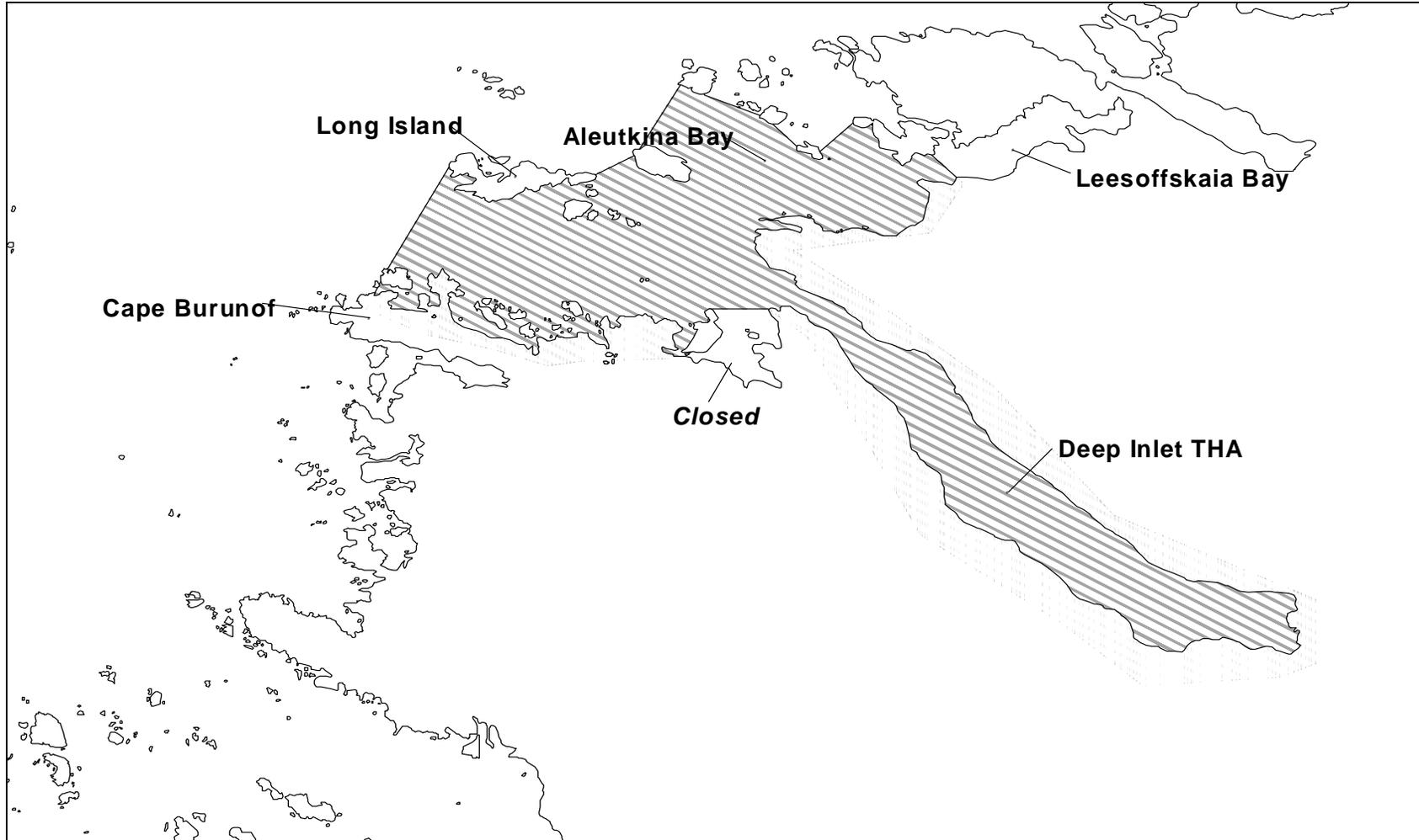


Figure 9. Deep Inlet THA (113-38).

This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in [5 AAC 33.350 (CLOSED WATERS)] or Emergency Orders issued by the Department of Fish and Game.

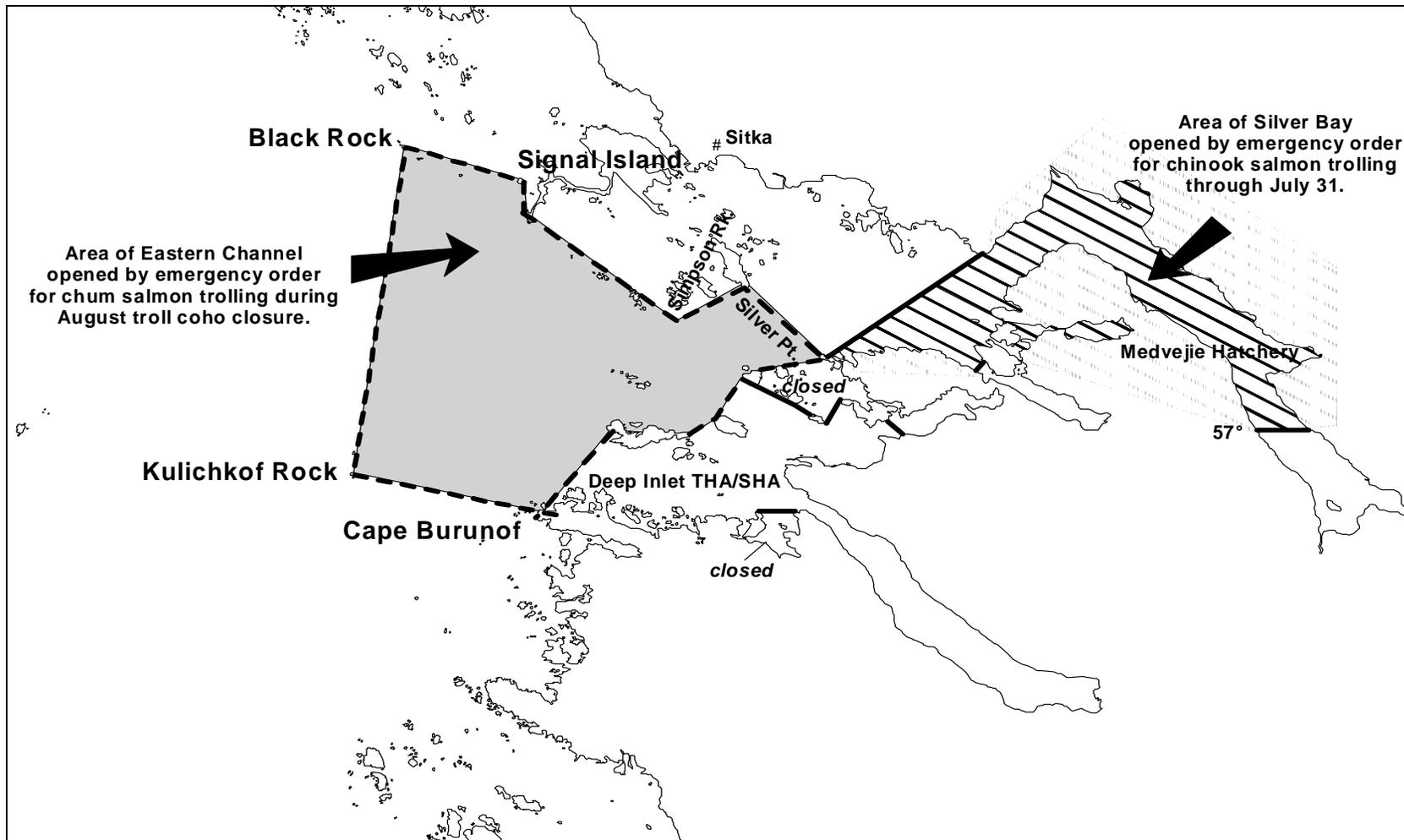


Figure 10. Silver Bay and Eastern Channel SHA for chum (113-35). Sitka area summer fisheries, 2001.

This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in [5 AAC 33.350 (CLOSED WATERS)] or Emergency Orders issued by the Department of Fish and Game. See management plan text for description of area.

FISHERY CONTACTS

The following are commercial fisheries division contacts regarding this management plan:

Brian Lynch
Salmon Troll Biologist
P. O. Box 667
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
(907) 772-3801

Pattie Skannes
Salmon Troll Biologist
304 Lake Street, #103
Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-6688

Andrew McGregor
Regional Supervisor
P. O. Box 240020
Douglas, Alaska 99824-0020
(907) 465-4250

Scott Kelley
Regional Management Biologist
P. O. Box 240020
Douglas, Alaska 99824-0020
(907) 465-4250

William Bergmann and Troy Thynes
Management Biologists
P. O. Box 667
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
(907) 772-3801

Bill Davidson and Dave Gordon
Management Biologists
304 Lake Street, # 103
Sitka, Alaska 99835-7653
(907) 747-6688

Craig Farrington
Management Biologist
P. O. Box 240020
Douglas, Alaska 99824-0020
(907) 465-4250

Phil Doherty, Scott Walker, and Don House
Management Biologists
2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite, 205
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
(907) 225-5195

Gordon Woods
Management Technician
P. O. Box 49
Yakutat, Alaska 99689-0049
(907) 784-3255

Randy Bachman
Management Biologist
P.O. Box 330
Haines, Alaska 99827-0330
(907) 766-2830 or 3124

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>

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game administers all programs and activities free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. The department administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information please write to ADF&G, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfield Drive, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203; or O.E.O., U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.

For information on alternative formats for this and other department publications, please contact the department ADA Coordinator at (voice) 907-465-4120, (TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-2440.