

SOUTHEAST ALASKA PURSE SEINE FISHERY  
MANAGEMENT PLAN, 1993



Regional Information Report No. <sup>1</sup> 1J93-02

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

March 1993

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## INTRODUCTION

This plan describes how the Southeast Alaska salmon purse seine fishery will be managed during the 1993 season. It discusses expected run sizes, harvest strategies, and related management issues. The plan is based on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) 1993 preseason pink salmon forecast and on historical escapement and fishery performance data. The ADF&G area management biologists listed at the end of this document are available to provide further details regarding the implementation of the plan in their respective areas.

Regulations allow purse seine fishing in Districts 1 (Sections 1-C, 1-D, 1-E, and 1-F), 2, 3 (Sections 3-A, 3-B and 3-C), 4, 5, 6 (Sections 6-C and 6-D), 7 (Sections 7-A and 7-B), 9 (Sections 9-A and 9-B), 10, 11 (Sections 11-A and 11-D), 12 (Sections 12-A and 12-B), 13 (Sections 13-A, 13-B and 13-C), and 14 (Sections 14-A, 14-B and 14-C). Purse seining is also allowed in terminal hatchery fishing areas at Nakat Inlet, Carroll Inlet, Neets Bay, Eastern Passage, Deep Inlet, and Hidden Falls. Although the areas specified above are generally open to seine fishing, specific open areas and fishing periods will be established by emergency order.

On average, the purse seine fishery harvests 70% to 90% of the salmon caught in all Southeast Alaska commercial fisheries. Because pink salmon are the primary species targeted by the seine fleet, management actions are based primarily on the abundance of pink salmon stocks. Other species are generally harvested incidental to pink salmon. On average, sockeye and coho salmon account for approximately 2%, chum salmon 7%, and chinook salmon less than 1% of the total purse seine salmon harvest.

Tagging studies of adult pink salmon have demonstrated that the stocks in Southeast Alaska exhibit a distinct separation between the northern and southern portions of the region. For purposes of catch tabulation and management, Districts 1 through 8 are grouped as "southern Southeast" and Districts 9 through 14 as "northern Southeast".

In season assessments of pink salmon run strength are determined primarily from spawning escapement information obtained from aerial surveys of terminal areas and streams and from fishery performance data (catch and catch per unit effort, or CPUE). Department staff and researchers at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Juneau Center for Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, use fishery performance data and associated information to make inseason forecasts of pink salmon returns to northern and southern Southeast Alaska. The department also charters purse seine vessels to conduct test fishing assessments of run strength and monitors sex ratios in the commercial harvest to evaluate run timing.

### ***1993 Pink Salmon Forecast***

This is the first year since the preseason pink salmon forecast program was initiated in 1966 that separate forecasts for southern and northern Southeast Alaska will not be made. This change is necessitated because the department no longer collects area-specific data for forecasting purposes. In southern Southeast, both the premergent and early marine programs have been eliminated. In northern Southeast, the premergent program has been eliminated and the early marine program is not providing reliable fry abundance data needed to forecast returns.

The 1993 pink salmon total return forecast for all Southeast Alaska is based on brood-year escapement indices and winter air temperatures. A total of 83,000,000 pink salmon are expected to return to Southeast Alaska in 1993. Subtracting the desired escapement goal of 30,700,000 results in a harvest forecast of 52,300,000. Fisheries conducted in the terminal areas of hatcheries are expected to add an additional 900,000 pink salmon to the commercial harvest in 1993. If the return develops as forecast, the resulting harvest will be the third largest since statehood and the fourth largest in the history of the fishery, going back to 1892. The large pink salmon return forecast for 1993 is a result of an extremely mild winter and excellent escapements during the parent year (1991).

An in-season prediction program based on weekly seine harvest and CPUE data has been in place in southern Southeast Alaska for the last three years. This program has been successful in providing a reliable harvest prediction by Statistical Week 30 (July 18 - July 24). Harvest strategies may be modified if the in-season forecast for southern Southeast Alaska indicates a pink salmon return significantly larger, or smaller, than the preseason forecast.

### **GENERAL MANAGEMENT GOALS**

The primary management goals for the 1993 Southeast Alaska purse seine fishery are as follows:

1. Obtain overall pink and chum salmon spawning escapement goals with the best possible distribution to all systems.
2. Provide for an orderly fishery while harvesting those fish in excess of spawning escapement needs.

3. Minimize, to the extent possible, the interceptions of salmon destined for those fishing districts where weak returns are expected.
4. Promote a harvest of good quality fish within constraints dictated by run size and timing.
5. Manage the District 4 purse seine fishery consistent with the provisions of the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty.
6. Restrict the total purse seine harvest of chinook salmon (28 inches or larger) to no more than 11,400 fish, exclusive of new Alaskan hatchery-produced fish.
7. Manage the seine fishery in the waters of District 12, north of Point Marsden (along the Hawk Inlet Shore), and in Section 14-C north of the latitude of Porpoise Islands, consistent with the Northern Southeast Purse Seine Management Plan (5AAC 33.366).

### **GENERAL MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS**

The Department will strive to maintain the high quality of the harvest that occurred in 1992. This will mean an aggressive fishing schedule early in the season in areas where strong returns are expected. As long as run strength warrants, the department also intends to continue managing the seine fishery on a two-day-on/two-day-off fishing schedule during the peak of the season. This fishing schedule has worked well for the processing industry, fishermen, and the department in previous years and alleviates some problems associated with obtaining high quality when large numbers of fish are harvested. Still, there may be times during the season when high pink salmon abundance in some areas warrants extensions of fishing time beyond the normal two-day-on/two-day-off fishing schedule.

Purse seine fishermen and processing companies have also expressed concern regarding the possible harvest of poor quality summer chum salmon returns at the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) Hidden Falls Hatchery, and in Tenakee Inlet and Port Frederick in District 12. Management actions for improving fish quality in these areas are discussed to a greater extent in the "Northern Districts" section of this management plan.

During the fall meeting of the Purse Seine Task Force, the department was requested to consider modifying the open seine fishing periods. Some members felt that some fishing opportunity was lost under the existing fixed 6:00 a.m. fishery opening time. The department agreed with the stipulation that

fishery closing times would be adjusted accordingly. The fishery opening and closing times for the 1993 season will be as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opening Time</u>	<u>Closing Time</u>
June 27 - July 31	5:00 a.m.	8:00 p.m.
August 1 - August 31	6:00 a.m.	9:00 p.m.
September 1 - October 31	7:00 a.m.	7:00 p.m. <sup>1</sup>

### CHINOOK SALMON HARVEST

Existing regulations require the department to manage the Southeast Alaska purse seine fishery for a harvest of 11,400 chinook salmon (not including Alaska hatchery-produced fish). The Board of Fisheries adopted this regulation as part of an overall allocation scheme among commercial users impacted by chinook salmon harvest quotas imposed by the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). In addition, the Board adopted size limits, and directed the department to manage the purse seine fishery so that incidental mortality from catch and release is minimized. Specific provisions for management of the seine fishery harvest of chinook salmon are as follows:

1. The seasonal purse seine catch limit will be 11,400 chinook salmon (excluding Alaska hatchery chinook salmon).
2. Only chinook salmon 28 inches in length or larger (as measured from tip of snout to tip of tail) will count against the purse seine catch limit.
3. Non-retention of 28-inch and larger chinook salmon will be the primary management measure for maintaining the catch limit. Chinook salmon non-retention will be required early in the season when total salmon catch rates are low. This will allow more efficient release of chinook salmon and minimize the impact of incidental mortality. Retention of chinook salmon will be permitted for as long as possible during the time period when the catch rate for other species is high. Once the quota is reached, non-retention regulations will once again be required.

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<sup>1</sup> The 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. openings will be implemented during the fall chum salmon fisheries only. Openings for pink salmon during the summer season, which may extend into the first portion of September, will be the normal 15 hours in duration (6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.).

4. Purse seine fishermen may not sell chinook salmon between 21 and 28 inches in length. Fishermen are encouraged to avoid areas that contain concentrations of chinook salmon within this size range and to quickly release those which are caught to minimize mortality.
5. Purse seine fishermen may possess and sell chinook salmon that are less than 21 inches (approximately 5 lbs. or less). These small chinook salmon do not count against the catch limit.

### ***Implementation Plan***

Purse seine fishermen can anticipate periods of non-retention of chinook salmon (28 inches or longer) during openings in June and most of July. Following the early season, non-retention period, seiners will be allowed to retain chinook salmon 28 inches or larger until the catch quota is reached. This retention period is expected to be of short duration and will be announced via department news release.

During periods of non-retention, fishermen are encouraged to avoid fishing in areas with high concentrations of chinook salmon and to quickly release those caught in a manner that minimizes mortality. To ensure that small (less than 21 inches) chinook are not counted against the quota, the department needs the cooperation of the fishing industry. To accomplish this, the department will require that all chinook salmon sold that are 28 inches or longer be specified on fish tickets as species code 410; this is pre-printed on each fish ticket. Chinook salmon 21 inches or less, should be indicated on fish tickets as species code 411. This code will need to be handwritten on the fish ticket at the time of sale because it is not pre-printed.

## **SOUTHERN DISTRICTS PURSE SEINE FISHERY**

### ***1993 Pink Salmon Returns***

Parent-year (1991) pink salmon escapements exceeded goals in Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7. Overall, the distribution of escapements was very good with no apparent weaknesses in any of these districts. However, parent-year escapements to District 6 were below the escapement goal. As a result, the majority of the 1993 return in southern Southeast Alaska should be produced from stocks returning to streams in

Districts 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7. Pink salmon returns to District 6 should be sufficient, however, to allow limited seine fishing opportunity.

### *Management Problems*

Except for the 1992 season, escapements of sockeye salmon to Hugh Smith Lake in Boca de Quadra (District 1) have been below the escapement goal in recent years. For 1993, the estimated total return is 14,000 to 18,000 sockeye, which is less than the department's interim escapement goal range of 18,000 to 35,000 fish. Because harvest rates can range from 20% to 90%, the escapement could also vary considerably. If escapements in early July are deemed inadequate, area restrictions may be implemented in early to mid-July in District 1 in the vicinity of Boca de Quadra south to Foggy Point. The duration and the extent of the closed area will be based upon observed escapement of Hugh Smith sockeye salmon and the need to harvest surplus pink stocks bound for Boca de Quadra. Long term plans to rebuild the Hugh Smith sockeye salmon stock include inseason management actions, lake bioenhancement, and coded-wire tagging studies to determine migration patterns and timing.

### *Management Plan*

The southern Southeast Alaska area purse seine management plan consists of separate segments for the District 4 fishery, the inside and outside waters pink salmon fishery, the McDonald Lake sockeye fishery, the fall chum salmon fishery in Cholmondeley Sound, and special hatchery terminal fisheries.

#### **District 4**

The District 4 salmon purse seine fishery will be managed under provisions of the four-year Annex to the PST for the northern boundary area (Southeast Alaska and northern British Columbia). The Northern Boundary Annex specifies that the total sockeye salmon harvest in District 4 prior to Statistical Week 31 (July 25) cannot exceed 480,000 fish during the period from 1990 to 1993. The Annex also mandates that once the catch of sockeye salmon in a given year reaches 160,000 fish, no further daily fishing periods will be allowed prior to Statistical Week 31. Any underage, not to exceed 20% of the Annex ceiling, will be added, and any overage subtracted, from the subsequent four-year period. Approximately 348,000 sockeye salmon were harvested prior to Statistical Week 31 during 1990-1992. This leaves 132,000 available for harvest in 1993. Due to the alignment of statistical weeks, the 1993 PST period will be three weeks in duration.

The 1993 season opening date for District 4 is Sunday, July 4. The initial open period will be 15 hours, with additional fishing time during the next two weeks based on the availability and harvest of sockeye salmon. Purse seine fishermen should anticipate time and area restrictions in District 4 if the harvest approaches the inseason goal of 132,000. The conservation of local Alaskan sockeye salmon stocks will also be considered when establishing fishing time.

Beginning in Statistical Week 31 (July 25) and continuing until District 4 is closed, purse seine management will be based on the magnitude of the pink salmon returns to the inside fishing districts, and the need to harvest a portion of the returns in District 4. During this period, purse seine fishing time in District 4 should not be expected to be more than that allowed for the inside fishing districts. If returns to inside districts develop below what is needed to meet spawning escapement needs, it may be necessary to curtail fishing time in the District 4 fishery.

### **Inside Pink Salmon Fishery**

Aerial surveys of early run pink salmon producing areas, primarily Boca de Quadra, east Behm Canal, and Ernest Sound will begin in late June.

Seining is expected to begin on Sunday, July 4. The initial fishing period will be for 15 hours and will be confined to the southeast portion of Section 1-F. The southernmost section of District 2, south of Scott Point, is expected to open during the second week of the season. Section 7-A will also be opened on July 4.

A conservative management approach will be followed for Clarence Strait in 1993. As in recent years, seining will be limited to the southern portion of District 2 until escapements of pink salmon to northern Clarence Strait, Ernest Sound, west Behm Canal, Cholmondeley Sound, and Kasaan Bay can be adequately assessed. Additionally, no seining should be expected in middle Clarence Strait, along the Ship Island and Tolstoi Island shorelines, until run strength of pink salmon returns to District 6 and 7 is determined.

Returns of pink salmon to District 3 are expected to be very good due to above average escapements to all portions of the district in the parent year. If the pink salmon run materializes as anticipated, purse seine fishing may begin in late July in District 3. Excellent escapements to most of District 5 in the parent year should allow fisheries there beginning in August.

### **McDonald Lake Sockeye**

The department will monitor the sockeye salmon return to McDonald Lake in Section 1-D, in upper Behm Canal, beginning in early July, by aerial surveys and test fishing with purse seine vessels. If a harvestable surplus is evident, a limited seine fishery in the immediate vicinity of Yes Bay will be allowed during mid July to early August. If a fishery is authorized, the opening will be in conjunction with other seine openings and it will be of short duration to minimize impacts on other stocks. It is estimated that the total return to McDonald Lake in 1993 could be as high as 380,000. Harvest rates in recent years for the net fisheries have ranged from 16% to 59% of the total return. The sockeye salmon escapement goal for McDonald Lake is 85,000 fish.

### **Fall Chum Fisheries**

Some watersheds along the eastern shoreline of Prince of Wales Island, in District 2, produce late-run chum salmon that have traditionally supported fall purse seine fisheries. Although no formal forecasts are available for these returns, some expectations can be based on parent-year escapements. In the 1989 parent year, escapements were above average in Disappearance Creek and Lagoon Creek, the primary chum salmon spawning systems in Cholmondeley Sound. Escapements were average for the Karta River in Kasaan Bay and in Moira Sound streams. Fishermen can expect the first fall-run chum salmon openings around September 10.

### **Terminal Hatchery Fisheries**

For the 1993 season, special harvest area seine fisheries may occur at Nakat Inlet, Eastern Passage, and Kendrick Bay to harvest fish returning to Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) enhancement facilities. Additionally, seining may occur in the Klawock Inlet terminal area to harvest coho salmon returning to the ADF&G's Klawock Hatchery. No common property seine fisheries are expected for the Neets Bay or Carroll Inlet terminal areas in 1993.

The fisheries in Nakat Inlet and Eastern Passage (Earl West Cove) will be managed jointly with SSRAA, and in accordance with existing Board of Fisheries approved management plans. The open areas will be follows:

**Nakat Inlet:** The waters of Nakat Inlet between 54°50' N. latitude and 54°56' N. latitude.

**Eastern Passage:** The waters of Eastern Passage south of 56°24'50" N latitude and west of 132° 06'21" W. longitude, with all waters of Madan Bay east of a line from the latitude of the channel

marker in the narrows to the eastern tip of Channel Island (56°21'48" N. latitude, 132°09'24" W. longitude) to the navigational light on the northern tip of Channel Island to the southernmost tip of Point Madan (56°22'39" N. latitude, 132°09'42" W. longitude).

The 1993 season will be the first year of summer chum salmon returns to Kendrick Bay located on the southeastern shore of Prince of Wales Island in District 2. The 1993 return will be composed entirely of three year old fish. The total return is expected to be approximately 30,000. For 1993, the SSRAA Board of Directors has designated the terminal harvest area for purse seine and troll gear only. Due to the small returns of chum salmon, the department, in consultation with SSRAA, will open the terminal harvest area on July 15. It will remain open until the close of the pink salmon season. Adjustments may be made inseason if the harvest of non-targeted species is excessive. The Kendrick Bay Terminal Harvest Area is defined as follows:

**Kendrick Bay:** The waters of Kendrick Bay west of the 132°00'00" W. longitude.

As of the date this management plan was published, SSRAA had not determined the rotational fishing schedule for Nakat Inlet and Eastern Passage. Once the fishing schedule for these areas is finalized, the department will issue a news release listing the open fishing dates. Fishermen should check with the department or SSRAA, prior to fishing to obtain updated fishery information. Fishermen are also requested to ensure that fish caught in terminal areas are reported correctly on the fish tickets. This will enable the accurate documentation of fish taken from the special harvest areas, and allow area-specific catch sampling to determine contribution rates based on recovery of coded microwire tags.

## **NORTHERN DISTRICTS PURSE SEINE FISHERY**

### ***1993 Pink Salmon Returns***

Overall pink salmon spawning escapement goals were achieved in the parent year (1991) in Districts 9, 10, and 12, and Sections 13-A and 13-C. As a result, good returns are expected to most streams in these areas. Spawning escapements were variable in Districts 11, 14, and 15, and Section 13-B, hence harvestable surpluses returning to portions of these districts may be limited.

### ***Management Problems***

With no specific northern Southeast Alaska pink salmon return prediction, it will be necessary to assess the overall run strength of the return early in the season. Another early-season management concern will be to prevent excessive interception of weak salmon stocks in mixed stock fishing corridors (e.g., Icy Strait and upper Chatham Strait) until run strengths to near-terminal and terminal areas can be adequately assessed.

### ***Management Plan***

The northern Southeast Alaska purse seine fishery management plan consists of separate segments for the outside areas (Sections 13-A and 13-B), the inside areas, the fall chum salmon fishery, and the Hidden Falls and Deep Inlet Hatchery terminal fisheries.

#### **Inside Fishing Areas**

The 1993 seining season will begin on Sunday, June 27, with an initial open period of 15 hours. Directed seining for pink salmon will initially be liberal in those terminal areas where escapement goals were met in the parent year. During the first open periods on Sunday, June 27 and Sunday, July 4, seining will be allowed in District 10 (exclusive of the Admiralty Island shoreline), portions of District 12 in Tenakee Inlet and Hidden Falls, and Section 13-C in Peril Strait. Openings along the Admiralty Island shoreline portion of District 10 will be postponed until July 11 to protect poor early pink salmon runs to Seymour Canal. Areas open in Tenakee Inlet will depend on assessments of local chum salmon run strength. Port Frederick will remain closed this year due to very poor escapements of chum salmon in the parent year.

Abundance of summer chum salmon returning to lower West Admiralty Island streams in District 12 will be monitored closely for a potential opening on July 11. If harvestable surpluses are observed in Hood and Chaik Bays, the fishery will be restricted to the Admiralty Island shoreline from Angoon to Rocky Point at the south entrance to Chaik Bay. Chum salmon harvests are not expected from Whitewater or Wilson Creeks in 1993.

Subsequent seining for early-run pink salmon returns will be based upon aerial survey and fishery performance assessments of run strength. Aerial surveys to evaluate run strength are expected to begin in late June for the northern inside fishing districts. Catch rates in the Cross Sound troll fishery will also be monitored as an indicator of pink salmon run strength. In addition, a recent analysis conducted by

department research staff found that it may be possible to accurately predict the total pink salmon harvest for northern Southeast from observed incidental catches of pink salmon at the Hidden Falls Hatchery's terminal fishery during the first three weeks of the season. The department will also open a one mile section of shoreline at Point Augusta in District 12, similar to 1992, in conjunction with other weekly openings, to provide an additional assessment of incoming run-strength of early-run pink salmon. The northern boundary will be at 58°03'00" N. latitude which will allow more room to tow the net slightly north of the Point Augusta Light.

Beginning in early July, major portions of Section 13-C will be open to assess the pink salmon run strength to Hoonah Sound streams. In approximately mid-July, the open fishing area will be moved towards Chatham Strait in order to improve the quality of the harvest, and to ensure that escapement goals for Hoonah Sound streams are obtained. Portions of Section 13-C, west of the Duffield Peninsula, may remain open to access fish migrating through Salisbury Sound and lower Peril Strait to Hoonah Sound streams.

By late July, middle and late-run pink salmon returns should begin entering the inside waters of the northern districts. Seining is expected to begin in District 9 during mid-July near Red Bluff Bay in Section 9-A, in late-July along the Admiralty Island shore in Section 9-B, and in early to mid-August in Section 9-A near Little Port Walter.

Seining in District 12 (Chatham Strait) may expand in late July depending on the observed run strength of middle-run pink salmon stocks. The Whitestone Shore area in District 14 may open in mid-July or early August, with fishing times and areas corresponding to the observed strengths of local stocks. The Homeshore area in District 14 may be opened for short periods in mid-August to harvest pink salmon surplus to spawning needs in streams adjacent to Excursion Inlet. The short openings will be designed to minimize the harvest of non-local salmon stocks.

### **Hawk Inlet Shore Fishery**

The Admiralty Island shoreline between Funter Bay and Point Marsden in Chatham Strait is known as the Hawk Inlet Shore. Fishing is allowed in this area to harvest pink salmon stocks migrating northward to Taku River, Lynn Canal and upper Stephens Passage. During July, the department will manage the Hawk Inlet Shore fishery in accordance with "5AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast Seine Fishery Management Plan." This plan stipulates that any portion of the area north of Point Marsden may be opened when a harvestable surplus of pink salmon is observed. Openings must also consider the conservation of all species, and the area must be closed in July after 15,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested.

Fishing opportunities are expected to be limited along the Hawk Inlet shore in 1993 due to poor pink salmon escapements during the parent year in the Taku River, Lynn Canal and upper Stephens Passage area streams. However, as in past years, pink salmon abundance along the Hawk Inlet shoreline will be closely monitored by aerial surveys and purse seine test fishing during July. If the Hawk Inlet shoreline is opened in July, no other adjacent fishing areas will be opened since no other regulatory means exists to accurately account for the Hawk Inlet sockeye catch. Movement of fishing vessels to and from the Hawk Inlet shore creates mixed catches which cannot be accurately reported. Due to the sockeye salmon catch limit, only one or two days of fishing time can be anticipated along the Hawk Inlet Shore in July. If the Hawk Inlet fishery is opened, fishermen are advised that the openings may be announced with only a 24-hour notice.

During August, openings along the Hawk Inlet shore may extend northward to the latitude of Hanus Reef Light if north-migrating pink salmon returns indicate harvestable returns. If they are poor, and south-migrating stocks are strong, seining will be allowed only south of Point Marsden.

#### **Hidden Falls Terminal Hatchery Fishery**

The Hidden Falls Hatchery, operated by the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), expects a return of approximately 1,400,000 chum salmon in 1993. Of this total return, approximately 1,100,000 chum salmon will be available for common property harvest. Initial openings in the terminal harvest area will occur on June 27 and July 4. Further openings will depend on cost recovery and broodstock needs of the hatchery. Fishermen are advised that openings after July 4 at may be announced on a 24-hour notice.

The Hidden Falls terminal harvest area will include the waters of Chatham Strait, Kasnyku Bay, and Takatz Bay, within two nautical miles of the Baranof Island shoreline south of a range marker at South Point, and north of a range marker located at 57°07'22" N. latitude (the southern entrance to Takatz Bay). The boundaries may be extended north to include Kelp Bay and the Catherine Island shoreline if chum salmon escapements to Kelp Bay streams are good.

#### **Deep Inlet Terminal Hatchery Fishery**

NSRAA expects a return of 2,300,000 chum salmon to their Deep Inlet remote release site in 1993. Of this return, approximately 2,000,000 chum salmon will be available for common property harvest. The fishery will be managed jointly with NSRAA, and in accordance with the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Management Plan (5AAC 33.376). The plan provides for the distribution of the harvest of hatchery-

produced chum salmon between the purse seine and drift gill net fleets. The ratio of gill net fishing time to purse seine fishing time will be 2 to 1. The terminal harvest area will be as follows:

Deep Inlet THA: The waters of Deep Inlet, Aleutkina Bay and contiguous waters south of a line from a point at the east side of the entrance to Pirates Cove at 135°22'10" W. longitude, 56°59'18" N. latitude, to a point on the west side of Long Island at 135°21'50" W. longitude, 56°59'50" N. latitude, to the easternmost tip of Long Island to the southeasternmost tip of Emgeten Island to the southernmost tip of Error Island to the southernmost tip of Boidarkin Island to a point at 135°17'52" W. longitude, 57°00'38" N. latitude.

When chum salmon begin showing in the Deep Inlet THA, approximately mid-July, the area will be open to purse seine and drift gillnet with the following weekly rotational fishing schedule:

Seine: will be open from 5:00 a.m. through 9 p.m. on Sunday and Wednesday.

Gillnet: will be open from 5:00 a.m. Thursday through 9:00 p.m. Saturday.

This schedule may change if there is a build up of fish and/or quality problems develop in the THA. If this occurs, a more aggressive fishing schedule will be implemented maintaining the 2 to 1 gillnet to seine fishing time ratio. Additionally, troll gear will be allowed in the Deep Inlet THA only during times when it is closed to net gear.

The department will issue a news release prior to the opening of the area listing the open fishing dates for each gear type. Fishermen should check with the department or NSRAA prior to fishing to obtain updated fishery information. Fishermen are also requested to ensure that fish caught in terminal areas are reported correctly on their fish tickets. This will enable the accurate documentation of fish taken from the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area.

### **Fall Chum Salmon Fisheries**

Portions of northern Southeast Alaska support returns of fall-run chum salmon which are harvested by purse seine gear. No formal forecasts are available for these runs. Escapements of fall-run chum salmon during the parent years (1988 and 1989) were poor in Chaik Bay, Security Bay, and Excursion Inlet, hence fishing opportunities are expected to be limited. Fall chum salmon escapements were generally good in Port Camden and fishing will occur in this area. The fisheries will be managed on the basis of visual observations of run strengths in the bays beginning in mid-August and continuing through September.

### **Outside Fishing Areas (Sections 13-A and 13-B)**

Management of Sections 13-A and 13-B, along the outer coasts of Baranof and Chichagof Islands, is distinct from the management of the northern inside fishing areas. Salmon returning to these areas enter directly from the ocean and do not pass through major inside migration corridors. Good pink salmon returns are expected in Slocum Arm, Salisbury Sound and Whale Bay and seining could begin as early as the last week in July. Returns to Lisianski Inlet and Sitka Sound are not expected to be of sufficient size to allow commercial fisheries.

Summer chum salmon returns will be monitored to determine run strengths beginning in early July. If harvestable surpluses can be identified, fishermen may expect portions of Sections 13-A and 13-B to be open by early to mid-July. Openings may be expected in Slocum Arm, West Crawfish Inlet, Portlock Harbor, and Whale Bay.

Short purse seine openings to harvest sockeye salmon along the outer coast of lower Baranof Island are expected to occur from mid-July to early August. These fisheries will target on fish returning to Necker and Redfish Bays.

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The following is a list of telephone numbers that may be called during the fishing season to obtain recorded announcements concerning areas open to purse seine fishing:

Ketchikan	-	(907) 225-6870
Petersburg	-	(907) 772-3700
Sitka	-	(907) 747-5022
Juneau	-	(907) 465-8905

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) 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 (ADA) 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 please write:**

ADF&G ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau AK 99811-5526

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 300 Webb, Arlington VA 22203

Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240

**The department's ADA Coordinator can be reached via phone at the following numbers:**

(VOICE) 907-465-6077, (Statewide Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) 1-800-478-3648, (Juneau TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-6078

**For information on alternative formats and questions on this publication, please contact:**

ADF&G, Division of Commercial Fisheries, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau AK 99811-5526 (907)465-4210.