

1994 ALASKA COMMERCIAL SALMON
WINTER TROLLING REGULATORY GUIDE
(October 11, 1993 through April 14, 1994)



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FOREWORD

The following is a summary of important commercial salmon trolling regulations for the 1993/1994 winter troll season. This regulatory guide was developed to provide the commercial salmon trolling industry with a quick reference of current regulations.

This guide is for informational use. The regulations in it are condensed from official regulations in the Alaska Administrative Code or from those filed with the Lieutenant Governor.

The regulations in this guide may be changed at any time by emergency regulation or emergency order. Any changes will be available at the following Fish and Game offices:

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
LIST OF FIGURES	iii
FISHING SEASON	1
MANAGEMENT	1
FISHING AREAS	1
Yakutat Area	1
Southeast	2
CLOSED AREAS AND TIMES	3
GEAR REQUIREMENTS	4
Gear Regulations	4
Gear Definitions	5
LANDING REQUIREMENTS	6
REGISTRATION	6
Registration Requirements for the 1993/1994 Season	6
Late Registration Requirements	7
VESSEL MARKING REQUIREMENTS	8
MISCELLANEOUS TROLL FISHERY REGULATIONS RELATING TO FISHING FOR HALIBUT AND BOTTOMFISH	9
Incidental Catch of Groundfish	9
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)	9
Sitka Area	9
Ketchikan Area	9
Craig and Klawock	9

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Cont.)

	<u>Page</u>
Other Rockfish Species	10
Lingcod	10
Halibut	10
Sablefish	10
Gear	10
Participation	11

LIST OF FIGURES

	<u>Page</u>
1. Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery areas (east of surf line)	12

FISHING SEASON

At a special meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, in March 1992, the starting date for the winter troll season was changed from October 1 to October 11. The 1994 Southeast and Yakutat commercial winter troll season begins Monday, October 11, 1993 and continues through April 14, 1994 [5 AAC 33.311 (a)].

MANAGEMENT

The chinook salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska are managed in accordance with the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). Chinook salmon caught beginning October 11, 1993 count towards the 1994 quota for all of Southeast Alaska. There is currently no quota established for the 1994 season. Negotiations are expected to be completed during the month of February, 1994.

The department expects to take no management actions during the 1993 portion of the winter troll season. However, following the Board of Fisheries meeting in January, 1994, new regulations may be adopted prior to the end of the winter season. The department will notify trollers of any changes as soon as possible. Throughout the 1994 winter fishery, the department will carefully tabulate and monitor catches and conduct sampling for coded wire tags in selected ports.

FISHING AREAS

The winter troll fishery is confined to the area east of the surf line (Figure 1) which is described as follows:

Yakutat Area

The line extends from the southernmost tip of Point Manby to the easternmost tip of Ocean Cape.

Southeast

A line from the tip of Cape Fairweather
to the tip of Lituya Bay Point
to the tip of Icy Point
to the southernmost tip of Cape Spencer
to the westernmost tip of Yakobi Rock
to the southernmost tip of Cape Cross
to the southernmost tip of Point Theodore
to the westernmost tip of Cape Edward
to the westernmost tip of Khaz Point
to the westernmost tip of Point Slocum
to the westernmost tip of Klokachef Island
to the westernmost tip of Cape Georgiana
to the westernmost tip of Point Amelia
to Cape Edgecumbe Light
to a point where loran line 28075 intersects a line from Cape Edgecumbe to Sitka Point,
then southwest along loran line 28075 to its intersection with loran line 14440
then southeast along loran line 14440 to its intersection with Biorka Island
from the southernmost tip of Point Woodhouse
to the southernmost tip of Rogers Island
to the westernmost tip of Aspid Cape
to the southernmost tip of North Cape
to 56°22'46" N. latitude, 134°57' W. longitude
to 56°19'30" N. latitude, 134°54' W. longitude
to the southernmost tip of Puffin Point
to the northwesternmost tip of Bobrovoi Point
to the southernmost tip of Cape Ommaney
to the northernmost tip of the Hazy Islands
to the southernmost tip of Cape Addington
to the westernmost tip of Cape Chirikof
to Cape Bartolome Light
to the southernmost tip of Cape Felix
to the westernmost tip of Bruin Point
to the westernmost tip of Sakie Point
to the westernmost tip of Cape Augustine
to the westernmost tip of Rockwell Point
to the westernmost tip of Ritter Point
to the westernmost tip of Point Bazan
to the westernmost tip of Security Point

to Point Cornwallis Light
to the southernmost tip of Liscome Point
to the westernmost tip of Wolk Point
to 54°39'52" N. latitude, 132°43'32" W. longitude
to Cape Muzon Light
to the southernmost tip of Point Nunez
to the southernmost tip of Cape Chacon
to the southernmost tip of West Rock
to the southernmost tip of Yellow Rocks
to Tree Point Light
to Lord Rock Light
to a point on the International Boundary at 130°49' W. longitude

CLOSED AREAS AND TIMES

Salmon trolling is permitted in all above areas and at all times during the winter season (October 11 through April 14) except as follows:

1. District 1
 - A. Section 1-D is closed. 5 AAC 33.350 (b)(12).
 - B. Section 1-F, waters 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 all waters of Boca de Quadra are closed. 5 AAC 33.311 (f)(4).
2. District 8
 - A. Stikine River; waters inside a line from Babbler Point to Hour Point, along the shore of Wrangell Island to Point Highfield to the southern end of Liesnoi Island to the southern end of Greys Island to the small island near the eastern entrance of Blind Slough, to the nearest point of Mitkof Island, to the prominent point of Mitkof Island nearest Coney Island, to the northern end of Coney Island, to a point 500 yards north of Jap Creek on the mainland shore are closed. 5 AAC 33.350 (i)(2).

3. District 11

- A. Section 11-A is closed except those waters south of the latitude of Outer Point and east of a line from Salisbury Point to Point Tantallon, only from October 11 through April 14 under the terms of a permit issued by the department at the Douglas office. The permit specifies reporting requirements and requires the vessel operator to submit a logbook report of operations in this area. 5 AAC 33.311 (j)(4).
- B. Section 11-B is open from October 11 through April 14 except those waters north of the latitude of Graves Point Light are open only from October 11 through March 31. 5 AAC 33.311 (j)(2).

4. District 15

- A. Section 15-B is closed.

5. District 16

- A. Closed west of the line described above in Winter Troll Fishing Areas.

GEAR REQUIREMENTS

Gear Regulations

- 1. A trolling vessel may have, or use for taking bait, a fishing rod equipped exclusively for taking bait or a gill net of a mesh size no more than 2.5 inches and made of no greater than number 20 gill net thread. 5 AAC 39.270 (b).
- 2. Line and gurdy limits for power troll vessels are as follows:
 - A. No more than 4 trolling lines may be operated from any power troll vessel. 5 AAC 39.270 (a)(1).
 - B. No more than 6 mounted gurdies may be on board any power troll vessel. 5 AAC 39.270 (e).

3. Line and gurdy limits for hand troll vessels are as follows:
 - A. A maximum of 4 fishing rods or 2 hand troll gurdies may be operated from any hand troll vessel. 5 AAC 39.270 (a)(3).
 - B. From each hand troll gurdy only 1 line with multiple leaders may be operated. 5 AAC 39.270 (a)(2)(A).
 - C. From each rod only 1 line with no more than one leader and 1 lure or 2 baited hooks per leader may be attached. 5 AAC 39.270 (a)(2)(B).
 - D. No more than 2 troll gurdies and 4 fishing rods may be on board any salmon hand troll vessel. 5 AAC 39.270 (e).

Gear Definitions

1. A troll gurdy is a spool device designed to deploy and retrieve troll lines, weights, and lures, and does not include a reel attached to a fishing rod. 5 AAC 39.270 (h)(1).
2. A hand troll gurdy is a troll gurdy powered by hand or hand crank that is not mounted on, or used in conjunction with, a fishing rod. 5 AAC 39.270 (h)(2).
3. A fishing rod is a tapered, often jointed rod equipped with a hand grip and line guides and upon which is mounted a hand powered reel used to deploy and retrieve the trolling line. 5 AAC 39.270 (h)(3).
4. A downrigger is a device designed to be used with a fishing rod to deploy a troll line to a selected depth and retrieve the downrigger line and weight. 5 AAC 39.270 (h)(4).
5. A downrigger is a troll gurdy (because a downrigger is defined as a troll gurdy, downriggers can't be used in conjunction with fishing rods from salmon troll vessels). 5 AAC 39.270 (h)(1).

LANDING REQUIREMENTS

1. Chinook salmon taken must measure at least 28 inches from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail, or 23 inches from the midpoint of the clethral arch to the tip of the tail. 5 AAC 30.392 and 5 AAC 33.392.
2. Undersized chinook salmon which are taken must be returned to the water without injury. This includes adipose clipped sublegal size chinook salmon. 5 AAC 30.392 and 5 AAC 33.392 (a).
3. No chinook salmon may be mutilated or otherwise disfigured in any manner which prevents determining the minimum size. 5 AAC 30.392 (a) and 5 AAC 33.392 (a).
4. Fish tickets must be submitted prior to transporting fish out of state. 5 AAC 39.130 (b)

REGISTRATION

Registration Requirements for the 1994 Season

1. Any vessel that is used as a salmon troll fishing vessel must be registered before the first opening date of the summer season. 5 AAC 39.120 (g)(4). For late registration, see pg. 7.
2. The owner or operator of any fishing vessel that is to be used to take salmon with hand or power troll gear shall register that vessel by checking the Salmon Troll Registration Box on the CFEC vessel license application or renewal form. 5 AAC 39.120 (g)(5).
3. Troll vessel registration is valid for the entire calendar year in which a vessel is registered. 5 AAC 39.120 (g)(6).
4. No fishing vessel may be registered simultaneously as both a hand and power troll vessel. 5 AAC 39.120 (g)(2).
5. A troll vessel's registration may be changed to another troll gear during the open season when a written request for the change has been validated by the department. 5 AAC 39.120 (g)(2).
6. A registered vessel must display the appropriate markings indicated below under marking requirements. 5 AAC 39.119.

7. Sport fishing for salmon is prohibited from registered troll vessels, except in derby areas during derbies authorized by the Department of Fish and Game and for charter boats. Sport fishing is allowed for bottomfish and halibut from registered power troll and hand troll vessels, however no halibut may be on board if there are any salmon on board. (See special requirements for charter boats below). 5 AAC 49.060 (a)(3).
8. Troll vessels that will be used as charter boats must complete additional registration requirements. This can be accomplished by obtaining a charter boat registration application from Fish and Game offices. 5 AAC 49.060 and 5 AAC 75.995 (8).

Late Registration Requirements

To qualify for an extension for the troll vessel registration deadline, a person shall demonstrate an intent to harvest fish before the deadline. An intent to harvest fish can be demonstrated by:

1. Renewing or applying for, before the deadline, a CFEC permit which is effective in the fishery and area for which extension is being requested. 5 AAC 39.123 (a)(1).
 2. Participation during the previous season in the fishery in the requested area, unless entry into the fishery is limited and the person did not own a permit for that season. 5 AAC 39.123 (a)(2).
 3. Purchasing or showing intent to purchase a vessel, permit or fishing gear for the fishery before the deadline. 5 AAC 39.123 (a)(3).
 4. Showing intent to start, starting, or completing of vessel or gear repair or maintenance for the fishery before the deadline. 5 AAC 39.123 (a)(4).
 5. Any other written documentation, such as loan applications, agreements with fish buyers, license applications, or other writings, which indicate the necessary intent to participate in the fishery before the deadline. 5 AAC 39.123 (a)(5).
- A. Additionally, a person must demonstrate that failure to apply before the deadline was a result of excusable neglect. Excusable neglect may be demonstrated by:
- a. Loss of registration or permit form in the mail, or other documentation which may demonstrate excusable carelessness or inattention on the part of authorized agents or other third parties 5 AAC 39.123 (b)(1).

- b. Receipt of incorrect information from a department official, which is substantiated by the appropriate official. 5 AAC 39.123 (b)(2).
- c. Illness or injury of the individual or a member of his family that was serious enough to prevent him from meeting the deadline. 5 AAC 39.123 (b)(3).
- d. Required government or military service. 5 AAC 39.123 (b)(4).
- e. Written documentation that will substantiate other unavoidable circumstances that prevented meeting the deadline. 5 AAC 39.123 (b)(5).

VESSEL MARKING REQUIREMENTS

Each licensed commercial fishing vessel, including hand or power troll vessels, must display its permanent vessel license plate number as follows:

1. In permanent symbols at least 12 inches high and with lines at least 1 inch wide that contrast with the background. 5 AAC 39.119 (a)(1).
2. On both sides of the hull or cabin, or mast. 5 AAC 39.119 (a)(2).
3. In a manner such as to be plainly visible and unobscured. 5 AAC 39.119 (a)(3).
4. At all times when registered to fish. 5 AAC 39.119 (a)(4).

In addition to the requirement above for displaying permanent vessel license plate numbers, each registered salmon hand troll vessel must display the letters "HT" in permanent block letters. Each letter must be painted on both sides of the vessel hull or cabin in a color contrasting with the background, be at least 8 inches high and at least 1/2 inch wide, and be plainly visible and unobscured at all times. The letters must be displayed at all times until the end of the calendar year in which the vessel is registered. 5 AAC 39.119 (b).

**MISCELLANEOUS TROLL FISHERY REGULATIONS
RELATING TO FISHING FOR HALIBUT AND BOTTOMFISH**

Incidental Catch of Groundfish

The incidental catch of groundfish must be landed using a salmon troll permit. The holder of a valid interim use or limited entry permit for handtroll or power troll gear may take groundfish (including all species of rockfish) in any amount while trolling for salmon, with the following restrictions:

Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)

Trollers are allowed to retain unlimited amounts of DSR when the season for DSR is open (as of October 1) and when caught in open areas. A 10% bycatch (by weight) is permitted when the DSR season is closed as well as in the following permanently closed areas:

Sitka Area

In all waters of Sitka Sound south of 57°16 N. latitude and north and east of a line from Sitka Point on Kruzof Island to the northernmost tip of Little Biorka Island to Frosty Reef [5 AAC 28.170 (c)(1)(2)];

Ketchikan Area

In all waters of Behm Canal, Clarence Strait, Tongass Narrows, Nichols Passage, George Inlet, Thorne Arm, Revillagigedo Channel, and all contiguous waters enclosed by the latitude of Bushy Point Light, a line from Point Alava to the southernmost tip of Ham Island, a line from Cedar Point to Dall Head, and a line from Dall Head to a point in midstream Clarence Strait at the latitude of Dall Head to Caamaano Point [5 AAC 28.170 (c)(1)(3)];

Craig and Klawock

In all waters enclosed by a line from the southern point of St. Phillip Island to the northern tip of San Fernando Island, to Point Cangrejo and all waters of Ulloa Channel north of the latitude of Waterfall Cannery [5 AAC 28.170 (c)(1)(4)].

Other Rockfish Species

Trollers are allowed to retain unlimited amounts of rockfish, unless placed on prohibited species status by the federal government.

Lingcod

Following the closure of the 1993 lingcod season on September 22, trollers will be allowed a 20% bycatch of lingcod, except there is no retention allowed in the closed area between Pt. Woodhouse and Pt. Kruzof. The 1994 lingcod season will open on January 1 in waters outside the surpline only. However, since waters outside the surpline are closed to trolling during the winter troll fishery, trollers cannot legally retain lingcod until after the winter troll season.

Lingcod must measure at least 27 inches from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. Undersized lingcod must be returned to the water immediately without further injury. No one may mutilate or otherwise disfigure lingcod in any manner which prevents determination of minimum size (5 AAC 28.110 (d)(1) and 5 AAC 28.170 (f)).

Halibut

No halibut openings are expected to occur during the winter troll fishery period.

Sablefish

Sablefish are prohibited year-round except during those times and areas opened by emergency order.

Gear

A handtroll vessel may not have a mechanical jigging device onboard while fishing for or possessing salmon. Use of "dinglebar" gear on powertroll vessels is considered to be mechanical jigging and cannot be used while salmon are onboard. A mechanical jigging machine is a mechanical device with line and

hooks used to jig for halibut and groundfish, but does not include hand gurdies or rods with reels (5 AAC 28.050(c) and 5 AAC 39.105 (a).

Participation

A troll vessel or a person aboard a troll vessel, for which commercial hand troll, power troll or mechanical jig fishing gear was used to take fish during the 72 hour period immediately before, or which will take fish during the 24 hour period immediately after an opening period, may not participate in the taking of salmon during that open period 5 AAC 39.270(i).

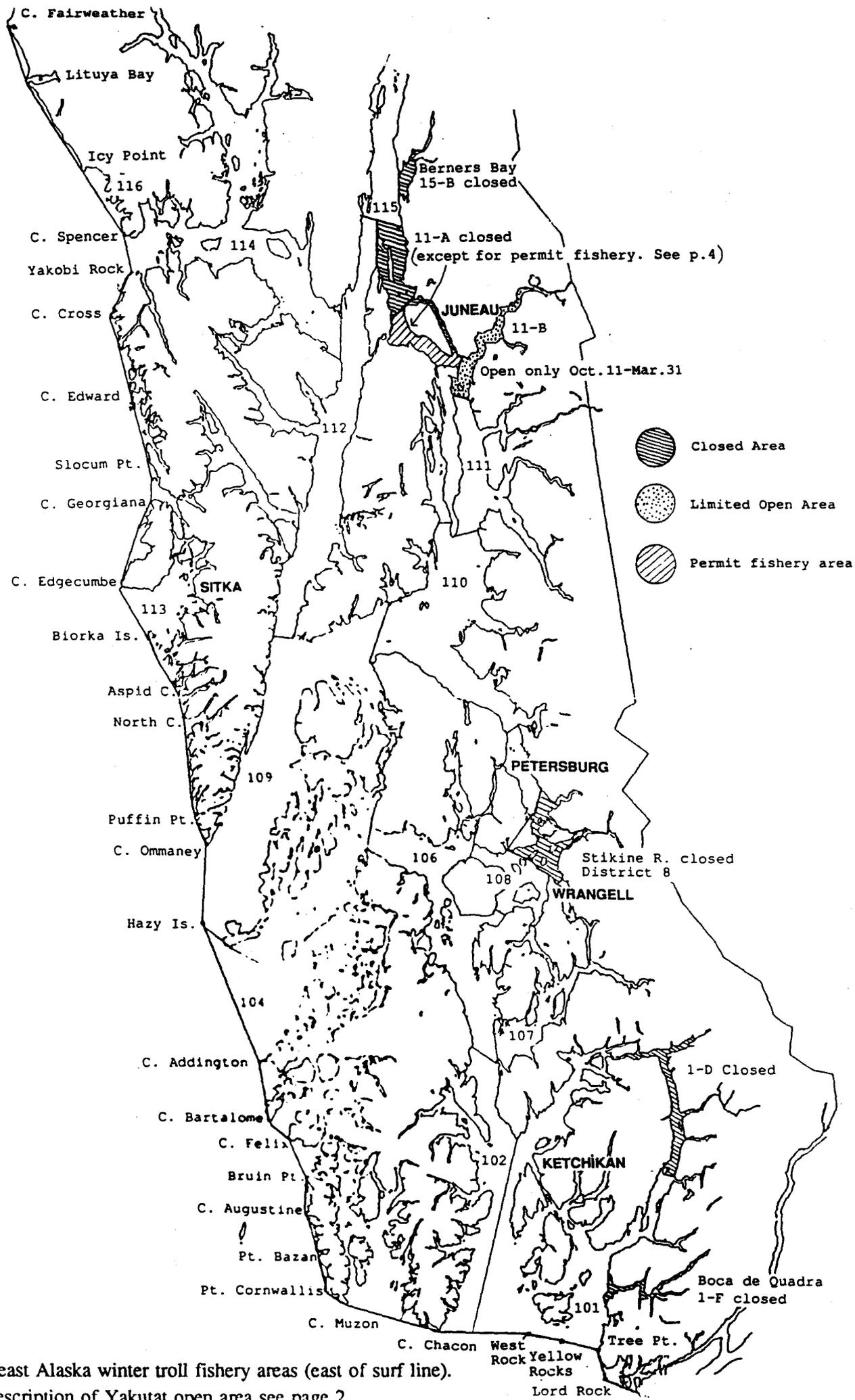


Figure 1. Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery areas (east of surf line).
 For description of Yakutat open area see page 2.

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