

# SOUTHEAST ALASKA PURSE SEINE FISHERY

## MANAGEMENT PLAN, 1994



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## INTRODUCTION

This plan describes how the Southeast Alaska salmon purse seine fishery will be managed during the 1994 season including expected run sizes, harvest strategies, and related management issues. The plan is based on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) 1994 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, Kendrick 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 is the primary species targeted by the seine fleet, management actions are based 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 1-8 are grouped as "southern Southeast" and Districts 9-14 as "northern Southeast".

Inseason 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 in selected index areas and monitors sex ratios in the commercial harvest to evaluate run timing.

### *1994 Pink Salmon Forecast*

The department forecasts a strong return of pink salmon to Southeast Alaska in 1994. The total region-wide harvest is anticipated to be between 38,000,000 and 57,000,000. One million of these pink salmon are expected to be harvested in hatchery terminal areas. The escapement goal is for an index escapement between 6,000,000 to 9,000,000 in southern Southeast Alaska and at least 4,800,000 in northern Southeast Alaska. A harvest in this range would be above the 1980 to 1993 average harvest of 35,000,000. This projected harvest range was based, in part, on a multiple linear regression analysis with brood year escapement indices, average daily minimum winter air temperatures (November 1 - February 29), and the sum of the two previous brood year escapement indices as independent variables. This forecast for a strong return is supported by the strong and well-distributed escapements in the 1992 brood year, generally favorable environmental conditions during this brood's freshwater residence period, and observations of relatively high fry abundances in northern Southeast Alaska during the spring of 1993. However, this return forecast is tempered by the fact that even-year harvests since 1979 have averaged 14,100,000 less than harvests in odd years (26,800,000 compared to 40,900,000), and that relatively few fry were observed in estuaries in southern Southeastern in the spring of 1993.

An inseason prediction program based on weekly seine catch, CPUE, and pink sex composition data has been in place in southern Southeast Alaska for the past few years. This program has been reasonably successful in providing a reliable harvest prediction by Statistical Week 30 (July 18 - July 24). Harvest strategies may be modified if the inseason 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 1994 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 (negotiations for the 1994 season are still not complete at this time).
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 was achieved in 1992 and 1993. 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 2-day-on/2-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 this schedule.

During the 1992 fall meeting of the Purse Seine Task Force, the department was requested to consider modifying the open seine fishing periods. Some Task Force members felt that some fishing opportunity was lost under the existing, fixed-opening time of 6:00 a.m. The department subsequently agreed to implement a flexible fishery opening time schedule for the 1993 season. Then, at the fall 1993 meeting of the Task Force, some seiners complained that the department went to a 6:00 a.m. opening time too late in the season, resulting in lost fishing time. As a result, the department has agreed to employ the same basic fishing time schedule as in 1993 but will go back to a 6:00 a.m. starting time on approximately August 10, but no later than August 15. For the 1994 season, the fishery opening and closing times will be as follows: 1) from the start of the seine season (June 26) through approximately August 10 - 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; 2) from approximately August 10 through the end of pink salmon directed seining - 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; and 3) from the start of chum salmon directed seining until the season closes - 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### **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 such 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).
2. Only chinook salmon 28 inches in length or larger (as measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the 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.
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 seiners 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.

## NON-SALE OF STEELHEAD

During its January 1994 meeting in Ketchikan, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted a regulatory proposal that was submitted by the Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) that makes it illegal to sell steelhead caught by purse seine gear. The non-sale provision will be effective before the 1994 salmon seine season begins. The new regulation reads as follows:

"5AAC 33.394. LANDING OF STEELHEAD. A CFEC purse seine salmon permit holder may take but may not sell steelhead trout."

## SOUTHERN DISTRICTS PURSE SEINE FISHERY

### *1994 Pink Salmon Returns*

Parent-year (1992) pink salmon escapements exceeded goals in Districts 1, 2, and 3. Overall, the distribution of escapements was very good with no apparent weaknesses in any of these districts. Parent-year escapements to District 5, 6, and 7 were below escapement goals. As a result, the majority of the 1994 return to southern Southeast Alaska should be produced from stocks returning to streams in Districts 1, 2, and 3. Pink salmon returns to District 7 should be sufficient, however, to allow limited seine fishing.

### *Management Problems*

Except for the 1992 season, escapements of sockeye salmon to Hugh Smith Lake in Boca de Quadra (District 1) have been below its escapement goal in recent years. For 1994, the estimated total return will be 35,000 to 44,000 sockeye compared to the department's interim escapement goal range of 18,000 to 35,000 fish. Restrictive management measures may not be necessary if the sockeye return materializes as projected. However, 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 bio-enhancement, and codedwire 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 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 purse seine fishery has been managed according to terms of the District 4 Annex of the PST for the northern boundary area (Southeast Alaska and northern British Columbia). However, the District 4 Annex expired at the end of the 1993 season and negotiations on a new Annex have not yet been completed. As a result, the specific management plan for the District 4 seine fishery for the 1994 season cannot be finalized at this time. The department will publish an addendum to this management plan after negotiations have been completed.

#### **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 3. 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. A portion of Section 7-A will also be opened on July 3.

A conservative management approach will be followed for Clarence Strait in 1994. 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 good due to above average escapements in the parent year. If the pink salmon run materializes as anticipated, purse seine fishing may begin in late July in District 3. Very poor escapements to streams in Districts 5 and 6 in 1992 will likely prevent directed fishing opportunities.

## **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.

## **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 1990 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. The first fall-run chum salmon openings can be expected about September 10.

## **Terminal Hatchery Fisheries**

For the 1994 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. No common property seine fisheries are expected for the Neets Bay or Carroll Inlet terminal areas in 1994.

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 as 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° 06'36" W. longitude.

The 1994 season will be the second year of summer chum salmon returns to Kendrick Bay located on the southeastern shore of Prince of Wales Island in District 2. The 1994 return is expected to be approximately 200,000 chum salmon. The Kendrick Bay terminal harvest area (THA) has been designated for purse seine and troll gear only and is managed in consultation with SSRAA. The department will open the Kendrick Bay THA on approximately July 3. The THA will be open continuously until the end of the pink salmon directed seine season. Adjustments to this plan may be made during the season if the harvest of non-targeted species is excessive. The Kendrick Bay THA 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**

### *1994 Pink Salmon Returns*

Overall pink salmon spawning escapement goals were achieved in the parent year (1992) in Districts 9, 10, 11, and 12, and Section 13-C, and good returns are expected to most streams in these areas. Spawning escapements were variable in Districts 14, 15, and Sections 13-A and 13-B. As a result, 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 1994 seining season will begin on Sunday, June 26, 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 26 and Sunday, July 3, seining will be allowed in District 10 (exclusive of the Admiralty Island shoreline), portions of District 12 in Tenakee Inlet, Hidden Falls, and Section 13-C in Peril Strait. Openings along the Admiralty Island shoreline adjacent to Seymour Canal will be postponed until July 10 to protect expected poor early pink salmon returns to Seymour Canal. Areas open in Tenakee Inlet will depend on assessments of local chum salmon run strength immediately prior to the fishery. Early openings in Port Frederick are not anticipated due to extremely 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 potential early season openings. Parent-year chum salmon escapements were about average and marine survival has apparently been very high in recent years. As a result, harvestable surpluses of chum salmon returning to Hood and Chaik Bays are possible. Any openings for Hood and Chaik Bay chums will be restricted to the lower Admiralty Island shoreline. Chum salmon harvest is not expected from Whitewater or Wilson Creeks in 1994.

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 and incidental catches of pink salmon at the Hidden Falls Hatchery's terminal fishery during the first three weeks of the season will also be monitored as an indicator of pink salmon run strength. The department will also open a one mile section of shoreline at Point Augusta in District 12, similar to 1992 and 1993, in conjunction with other weekly openings, to provide an additional assessment of incoming run-strength of early-run pink salmon.

Tenakee Inlet is expected to produce a large return of pink salmon in 1994 and an aggressive fishing schedule may be necessary to efficiently harvest surplus fish. The upper portion of the inlet will be opened as soon as chum salmon run strength allows, and a portion of the Basket Bay shoreline may also be opened if Peril Strait pink salmon returns are sufficiently strong.

Beginning June 26, 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 in District 10 and Seymour Canal. 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. Fisheries in Port Althorp or Idaho Inlet, in District 14, are not anticipated due to the poor parent-year escapements.

### **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.

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

Pink salmon run strength to northern inside areas was generally good in 1992. Taku River and Lynn Canal pink salmon returns were average and Stephens Passage pink salmon escapements were excellent. Therefore, harvestable surpluses may be anticipated in July north of Point Marsden. Openings along the Hawk Inlet shore north of Point Marsden will be based on the observed run strength of north-migrating stocks of pink salmon. The assessment methods used by the department to determine if run strengths are adequate and a harvestable surplus of pink salmon is available for harvest will include:

1. Parent-year escapements of pink salmon stocks in the Taku River, Stephens Passage, and Lynn Canal.
2. Inseason forecasts of pink salmon run size from the "Icy Straits troll index" program.
3. Test fishing at designated locations along the Admiralty Island shoreline north of Point Marsden.
4. Aerial assessments of pink salmon abundance along the Admiralty Island Shoreline (north of Point Marsden).

5. Fishery performance of District 11 and District 15 drift gillnet fisheries.

At the Board of Fisheries meeting in Ketchikan in January 1994, the department met with representatives of the Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) and the United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG) to discuss procedures used by the department to account for sockeye salmon catches along the Hawk Inlet Shoreline north of Point Marsden during July fishing periods. The SEAS and USAG representatives agreed to the following change in the sockeye catch accounting procedure for this fishery for the 1994 season:

"All sockeye salmon harvested by any seine boat the department identifies as fishing north of Point Marsden during any July fishing period when other nearby areas (i.e., Point Marsden to Point Hepburn, Whitestone Shore, or the Point Augusta Test Fishery) are open concurrently, will be counted against the 15,000 sockeye salmon quota for the Hawk Inlet fishery north of Point Marsden. During the openings, the department will utilize fishery overflights, on-the-grounds sampling, and interviews to estimate the sockeye harvest north of Point Marsden".

The purpose of this change is to provide the department with more flexibility to open areas adjacent to the Hawk Inlet shore fishery (e.g., south of Point Marsden, Point Augusta, and Whitestone shore) when pink salmon run strength warrants. The department agreed to try this new approach for the 1994 season to evaluate its accuracy and reliability and to determine whether it should be implemented in subsequent seasons.

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

The Hidden Falls Hatchery, operated by the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), expects a return of approximately 1,600,000 chum salmon in 1994. Of this total return, approximately 1,300,000 will be available for the common property harvest. Initial openings in the terminal harvest area will occur on June 26 and July 3. Further openings will depend on cost recovery and broodstock needs of the hatchery. Fishermen are advised that openings after July 3 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°06'50" 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 1,360,000 chum salmon to its Deep Inlet remote release site and the Medvejie Hatchery in 1994. Of this return, approximately 1,145,000 will be available for the 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 2:1. Additionally, the Board of Fisheries has allowed trolling to occur when net fisheries are closed and when trolling does not interfere with cost recovery. 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 southeastermost 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 returning to the Deep Inlet THA in approximately mid-July, the area will be open to purse seine, drift gillnet, and troll gear.

The department will issue a news release in early May 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 (1989 and 1990) were above average in Security Bay, Port Camden, and Excursion Inlet and fishing opportunities are expected in these areas. 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, and Whale Bay and seining could begin as early as the last week in July. Returns to Lisianski Inlet, Sitka Sound and Salisbury are not expected to be of sufficient size to allow commercial fisheries. Some limited opportunities may be allowed in lower Peril Strait and Salisbury

Sound in mid-July to harvest the expected strong return to Hoonah Sound. These openings will be limited to avoid harvesting local Salisbury Sound stocks which are expected to be weak.

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

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