

SOUTHEAST ALASKA PURSE SEINE FISHERY
2002 MANAGEMENT PLAN



by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

INTRODUCTION 3

 2002 Pink Salmon Forecast..... 3

GENERAL MANAGEMENT GOALS 4

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS 5

 Summary Notes From Purse Seine Task Force Meeting..... 5

 Implementation Details..... 6

Mature Pink Salmon Fisheries 7

CHINOOK SALMON HARVEST 7

 Implementation Plan..... 8

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS PURSE SEINE FISHERY 8

 2002 Pink Salmon Returns 8

 Management Problems 9

 Management Plan 10

 District 4 10

 Inside Fishing Areas 11

 McDonald Lake Sockeye Salmon..... 14

 Fall Chum Salmon Fisheries..... 14

 Terminal Hatchery Fisheries..... 14

NORTHERN DISTRICTS PURSE SEINE FISHERY 16

 2002 Pink Salmon Returns 16

 Management Problems 16

 Management Plan 17

 Inside Fishing Areas 17

 Hawk Inlet Shore Fishery 19

 Hidden Falls Terminal Hatchery Fishery..... 20

 Deep Inlet Terminal Hatchery Fishery 21

 Fall Chum Salmon Fisheries..... 23

 Outside Fishing Areas (Sections 13-A and 13-B) 23

LIST OF MANAGEMENT CONTACTS 25

INTRODUCTION

This plan describes how the Southeast Alaska salmon purse seine fishery will be managed during the 2002 season and includes expected run sizes, harvest strategies, and related management issues. The plan is based on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) 2002 preseason pink salmon forecast, historical escapement, and fishery performance data. This plan is also based on results of two post-season meetings of the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Task Force during which modifications to the historical 2-day-on/2-day-off fishery regime at the peak of the season were agreed to. The ADF&G area management biologists listed at the end of this document can 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 only), 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (Sections 6-C and 6-D only), 7, 9, 10, 11 (Sections 11-A and 11-D only), 12, 13, and 14. Purse seining is also allowed in terminal hatchery fishing areas at Nakat Inlet, Carroll Inlet, Neets Bay, Kendrick Bay, Eastern Passage, Anita Bay, Deep Inlet, Silver Bay, and Hidden Falls. Although the areas specified above are designated seine fishing areas, specific open areas and fishing periods are established by emergency order.

On average, purse seiners harvest 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 pink salmon sex ratios in the commercial harvest to evaluate run timing.

2002 Pink Salmon Forecast

The department is forecasting a strong pink salmon return for 2002. This indicates a harvest prediction range of 30 to 52 million fish. The harvest forecast includes 2.2 million (Armstrong Keta=1.6, Sheldon Jackson College=0.21, Douglas Island Pink and Chum Incorporated=0.35) hatchery-origin pink salmon. The department will attempt to achieve a pink salmon escapement index of 6 to 9 million in southern Southeast and an index of 3 to 7 million in northern Southeast Alaska.

The 2002 pink salmon harvest forecast is based on a subjective combination of statistical forecast models, historic average harvests, and expert opinion. Two statistical models using multiple linear regressions that included winter air temperatures and brood year escapements as independent variables and harvest as the dependent variable were used. These models include 33 years of data (1967–2001) and both predicted a similar harvest estimate in the strong category, bordering on excellent (~50 million).

The strength of the pink salmon return will be monitored on a weekly basis through two inseason prediction programs. In southern Southeast, inseason estimates of run strength will be calculated from weekly purse seine catch, CPUE, and pink salmon sex ratio data. Pink salmon CPUE from the Icy Strait commercial troll fishery will be used to estimate run strength in northern Southeast Alaska. Run strength of individual stocks and stock groups will also be intensively monitored via aerial, boat, and foot surveys.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT GOALS

The primary management goals for the 2002 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 fish in excess of spawning escapement needs.
3. Minimize, to the extent possible, the interceptions of salmon destined for 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 4.3% of the all-gear chinook salmon catch ceiling established for the 2001/2002 season.
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 (5 AAC 33.366).

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

The department will strive to maintain and improve the high quality of the harvest achieved in recent years. This will mean an aggressive fishing schedule early in the season in areas where strong returns are expected.

At the November 26, 2002 Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Task Force meeting in Ketchikan, industry representatives expressed a desire to examine possibilities for restructuring the seine fishery to increase the profitability of the fishery for seiners and processors. A general discussion was held at the November meeting on how to modify the 2-day-on/2-day-off fishing regime to achieve the industry's needs and have the department successfully manage the fishery.

It was decided at that meeting that the issue needed to be considered in more detail and by a larger number of interested parties. A letter was sent out to a wide range of permit holders and processors through the department and SEAS asking for ideas on how to change management strategy in order to make the Southeast purse seine salmon industry more profitable. The department received a large number of letters expressing interest in a follow-up meeting to seriously discuss management changes.

A second meeting of the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Task Force was held in Ketchikan on February 19 that was very well attended by processors, purse seine fishers, other gear group representatives, and the general public. The following points were agreed upon at this meeting:

Summary Notes From Purse Seine Task Force Meeting
Ketchikan, Ted Ferry Center
February 19, 2002

Consensus Points of Agreement

- Conservation will continue to be the primary focus of management.
- Status quo management early in the season (late June through mid to late July).
- During years of high abundance and times where limits are in effect, go to extended fishing periods as run strength allows.
- During years of "intermediate" abundance (roughly 30 to 40 million fish harvest) go to 4-on/1-off schedule for first fishing period when in the past managers would have gone initiated 2-on/2-off. After a one-day closure continue with 4-on/1-off or go to extended (6 or 7 days) fishing periods as run strength allows. This management regime does not preclude some 2-on/2-off fishing, that pattern will remain an option if the department deems it necessary.
- Changes from past management strategies would occur only when the size of the harvest looks to be over 30 million pink salmon. Harvest below 30 million would dictate that the department would need to manage more conservatively.

- Allocation was a recognized concern and that this plan was directed at pink salmon and improving the value of that resource. Any changes should have little, if any, effect on the existing allocation guidelines set forth by the Alaska Board of Fisheries.
- Any changes to the purse seine fishery management regime implemented in 2002 will be on a trial basis and will be fully evaluated at the fall 2002 Purse Seine Task Force meeting.

Implementation Details

- Prior to committing to 4/1 or an otherwise extended fishing regime the department may have to initiate some limited number of 39-hour openings as we have in the past. This “transition period” between the early season (a period for which there was agreement not to have any management changes) and the peak of the season when we are committed to existing 2-on/2-off regime was not explicitly discussed in Ketchikan.
- Openings during the transition period, which roughly takes place during the last week or two of July and the first week of August, will be initiated as in the past. Openings during this period may include 2-day openings with undetermined, 2-, 3-, or 4-day, closures as run strength dictates. One of the key indicators for the strength of the run at this time period is the strength of the day-2 harvests. If in a 39-hour opening catches fall off on the second day the department may, and has, reduced fishing time to 15 hours in subsequent openings. Alternatively, if during the first 39-hour fishery, day-2 catches remain strong the department may wish to have one additional 39-hour opening to verify run strength before committing to a 4-on and 1-off fishing period.
- What was specifically discussed in Ketchikan was how to structure seine openings once the department was certain that the run was strong (in the 30 million plus range) and we would have been committed to 2-on-2-off in the past. Specific details as to what to expect in each management area can be found in the appropriate area within this report.
- While most openings will be in 15-hour blocks, daily fishing time will change as run strength and fleet distribution becomes apparent.
- While not discussed at the Task Force meeting, the department will have to evaluate the cost of implementing a new fishery regime. It is likely that costs will increase but it is not possible to project how much so at this time. If a modified fishing regime is implemented the costs will be evaluated and discussed at the 2002 Task Force meeting. The department is not in a position of committing to increased costs that may be incurred under a different management regime.

For the 2002 season, the fishery opening and closing times will be as follows: 1) from the start of the seine season (June 23) through approximately August 15 — 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; 2) from approximately August 15 through the end of the pink salmon season — 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; and 3) from the start of the chum salmon season until the season closes — 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

MATURE PINK SALMON FISHERIES

In 2001 the department, at the request of several processors, initiated terminal area fisheries for mature pink salmon in areas where escapement goals had been largely exceeded. These fisheries were directed at harvesting the roe or ikura of the pink salmon. Approximately 2.4 million pink salmon were harvested in these fisheries which took place in Districts 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7. In order to meet the added cost of this fishery the department had a test fishery for mature pink salmon in District 3. The department will continue to look for opportunities to continue the terminal area pink salmon fisheries in 2002. The department will continue to open fisheries so all of the fish can be harvested in the best possible quality in the existing fisheries. However, if certain systems end up with significant numbers of pink salmon that are in excess to all expected spawning needs, openings to target mature fish may occur. It is anticipated that this type of fishery, if it occurs, would primarily be in late August and September. Since this is a new method of management, it is anticipated that several types of openings may occur to determine what works best for the industry while insuring needed escapement is not jeopardized. Openings of this nature will be announced via standard news releases and will be clearly differentiated from traditional openings. If these fisheries are to continue, test fisheries will be required to cover additional aerial surveys and personnel costs.

CHINOOK SALMON HARVEST

The department is required to manage the Southeast Alaska purse seine fishery for a harvest of 4.3% of the annual all-gear chinook salmon catch ceiling determined under the terms of the Pacific Salmon Treaty [5 AAC 33.367]. Prior to 1997, the purse seine fishery was limited to a fixed quota of 11,400 chinook salmon (not including Alaska hatchery-produced fish). The purpose of the regulation is to make management of the purse seine harvest of chinook salmon more consistent with the abundance-based management approach agreed to by the U.S. Section of the Pacific Salmon Commission in June 1999. The all-gear chinook salmon catch ceiling was finalized by the Chinook Technical Committee during the week of April 22. The total Southeast Alaska harvest quota will be 356,500 fish; of that number 15,329 are allocated to the purse seine fishery.

The board has adopted size limits [5 AAC 33.392] and directed the department to manage the purse seine fishery such that incidental mortality from catch and release is minimized. The specific provisions for management of the seine fishery harvest of chinook salmon are as follows:

1. Chinook salmon taken in the purse seine fishery that are less than 28 inches in length (as measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail) will not be counted against the chinook salmon harvest quota.
2. Purse seiners may take but may not sell chinook salmon between the sizes of greater than 21 and less than 28 inches in length.

3. Purse seiners may possess and sell chinook salmon that are less than 21 inches (approximately 5 pounds or less).

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 a 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. During these retention periods, the department encourages seiners to release any live chinook salmon unharmed. This will reduce chinook salmon mortality and could increase the number of retention periods. Once the quota is reached, non-retention regulations will be reinitiated.

Implementation Plan

Purse seiners can anticipate periods of non-retention of chinook salmon (28 inches or longer) during openings in June and July. There may be specific terminal areas in which all chinook salmon may be, or must be, retained. At this time the department intends to implement full retention (5 AAC 39.265) from the beginning of the season for net fisheries in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area. Additional areas may be announced via news releases. Following the 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, seiners 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 small (less than 21 inches) chinook salmon are not counted against the quota, the department needs the cooperation of the fishing industry. To accomplish this, all chinook salmon sold that are 28 inches or longer must 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

2002 Pink Salmon Returns

The 2000 pink salmon escapement indices were below the 1990–1999 average in all but two of the nine stock groups in District 1–4. Escapement index for the Hetta stock group (District 3) was above average and in the Kasaan stock group (District 2) was average. Escapement indices for eight of nine stock groups in Districts 105–108 were also below average. Affleck Canal (District 5) was the only stock group in this area above average. The District 1 pink salmon escapement index was 1.88 million fish, just below the

lower goal of 2.0 million. The District 2 pink salmon escapement index of 1.12 million fish was at the upper goal of 1.10 million pink salmon. The District 3 pink salmon escapement index of 1.77 million fish was just above the lower goal limit of 1.70 million pink salmon. The District 5 pink salmon escapement index of 1.04 million fish was above the upper goal limit of 0.65 million pink salmon. The District 6 pink salmon escapement index of 0.32 million fish was below the lower goal limit of 0.60 million pink salmon. The District 7 pink salmon index escapement of 0.46 million fish was below the lower goal limit of 0.60. When summed across District 1–8, escapement indices totaled 6.15 million, within the 6.0 – 9.0 million range for southern Southeast Alaska.

The forecasted return for all of Southeast Alaska is strong with a potential harvest of 30 to 52 million pink salmon. Based on the distribution of the 2000 pink salmon escapement approximately 58% of that harvest is expected to occur in southern Southeast Alaska.

Management Problems

The implementation of the new management strategy will pose the largest management problems in 2002. Uncertainties about fleet size and distribution and the department's reaction to those can only be answered in season. The department and the fishing industry will have to be flexible and be able to react quickly in season to changes from historical fishing patterns. Above all, meeting escapement goals will continue to be the number one objective of the department. Within that conservation mandate the department will attempt to meet the fundamental objective of the modified fishing strategy that is to provide a more stable supply of fresher fish.

Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon in Boca de Quadra (District 1) continues to be a conservation concern. The escapement goal for this system is 15,000 to 35,000 fish. The total return for Hugh Smith sockeye salmon in 2002 is forecast to be approximately 28,000 fish. SSRAA enhancement programs could possibly increase the returns to the system over past years.

Harvest rates on Hugh Smith sockeye can range from 50 to 90%. If Hugh Smith sockeye salmon escapements in early July are inadequate, area restrictions may be implemented by mid-July in the vicinity of Boca de Quadra. 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 salmon stocks bound for Boca de Quadra.

Management Plan

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

District 4

The early portion of the District 4 purse seine fishery will be managed to comply with the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The agreement calls for the following:

A. Manage the Alaskan District 4 purse seine fishery prior to Statistical Week 31 to:

- i. achieve an annual catch share of the Nass and Skeena sockeye salmon of 2.45 percent of the Annual Allowable Harvest (AAH) of the Nass and Skeena sockeye salmon stocks in that year
- ii. carry forward from year to year annual deviations from the catch share arrangement

The AAH each year will be calculated as the combined total run of adult Nass and Skeena sockeye salmon in that year less the combined Nass and Skeena escapement target of 1.1 million fish. In the event the actual Nass and Skeena spawning escapement for the season is below the target level, the actual spawning escapement will be used in the AAH calculation.

The total run calculation includes the catches of Nass and Skeena sockeye salmon in the principal boundary area fisheries and the spawning escapements to the Nass and Skeena watersheds. This includes the catch of Nass and Skeena sockeye salmon in Alaska Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 net fisheries; Canadian Areas 1, 3, 4, and 5 net fisheries, and Canadian Nass and Skeena in-river fisheries. Catches in other boundary area fisheries may be included as jointly agreed by the Northern Boundary Technical Committee.

Although the management intent shall be to harvest salmon at the allowable percentage AAH, it is recognized that overages and underages will occur and an accounting mechanism is required. The payback mechanism for the fishery will be based on the number of fish.

The management intent for each fishery shall be to return any overages to a neutral or negative balance as soon as possible. After five years of consecutive overages, a management plan must be provided to the Northern Panel with specific management actions that will eliminate the overage. The accrual of underages is not intended to allow either Alaska or Canada to modify its fishing behavior in any given year to harvest the accrued underage.

During the 1999 season, the total run of Nass/Skeena sockeye salmon was 1,665,001 fish. Escapement into the two rivers totaled 942,647 sockeye salmon leaving an AAH of 722,354 sockeye salmon. Based on agreed harvest sharing arrangements this would have allowed for a Nass/Skeena sockeye salmon harvest of 17,698 prior to Statistical Week 31 in District 4. The total sockeye salmon harvest prior to

Statistical Week 31 was 7,664 fish of which 3,350 were Nass/Skeena sockeye salmon. This left an underage of 14,348 fish.

In the 2000 season, data indicates that the total run of Nass/Skeena sockeye salmon was 5,346,444 fish. The escapement requirement for the two systems is 1,100,000 sockeye salmon. The total run minus escapement goal left an AAH of 4,246,444 sockeye salmon in 2000. Based on the agreed harvest sharing arrangements this allowed for a Nass/Skeena sockeye salmon harvest of 104,038 fish prior to Statistical Week 31. The actual total sockeye salmon harvest prior to Statistical Week 31 was 48,969 fish of which 29,232 were Nass/Skeena sockeye salmon. This left an underage of 74,806 fish.

In 2001, 203,090 sockeye salmon were harvested pre-week 31 in District 4. The final number of Nass/Skeena sockeye salmon harvested will not be available until a complete review of total returns of sockeye salmon from 1985 through 2001 to the Boundary Area is completed later in the spring of 2002. However, it is anticipated that while the AAH was exceeded in 2001, there will still be an underage of sockeye salmon left after the first three years of the agreement.

The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans has a preseason expectation of approximately 890,000 sockeye to the Skeena River in 2002. This is below escapement goal of 900,000 sockeye. The forecast for the Nass is approximately 1,000,000 sockeye. This is well above the escapement goal of 200,000 sockeye. If the 2002 forecast is accurate then the AAH for District 4 will be approximately 20,000 Nass/Skeena sockeye salmon.

In 2002, the District 4 purse seine fishery will start on Sunday, July 7. It is anticipated the initial opening on July 7 will be 10 hours in length. The duration of subsequent openings will be based on the run strength of sockeye and pink salmon, the amount of effort in the district, and the need to stay within treaty numbers. District 4 will be managed under the treaty annex through July 27, 2002. Starting on Sunday, July 28, 2002 the district will be managed on the strength of southern southeast Alaska salmon.

While the new management regime will be implemented well after the treaty period is over the department's intent is to keep the general fishing time in the district similar to that since the signing of the treaty. Weekly fishing periods in August will be decided only after the department starts to realize the distribution of the fleet, the number of tenders in the district, and the run size of pink salmon. In past years District 4 was opened for the same amount of time as inside waters after the treaty period. That may not be the case under the 2002 fishing regime.

Inside Fishing Areas

As in past years, 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 7, (Statistical Week 28). The initial fishing period will be for 15 hours and will be confined to the southeast portion of Section 1-F, the southern portion of District 2, and portions of Section 7-A (Anan).

In District 2, the department will open a portion of the lower district outside of the THA when Kendrick Bay opens on June 23. This will be done to target on Kendrick Bay summer chum salmon at a time when few wild stock chum salmon are available, and to maximize the quality of those chum salmon.

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, 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 shorelines, until run strength of pink salmon returns to west Behm Canal, Thorne Bay, District 6, and Section 7-B is determined.

Returns of pink salmon to District 3 are expected to be average based on parent-year escapements. Portions of Section 3-A will open in mid to late July if pink salmon harvest in the early District 4 fishery warrants it. By late July or early August Sections 3-B and 3-C will also open. Under the extended fishing periods expected during August it is possible portions of District 3 may have longer fishing periods than inside districts if there is less effort in some of the more remote areas of the district.

The modified fishing regime will be in place only after the department would have historically implemented a 2-on/2-off fishing pattern. Based on the preseason forecast and historical run timing the department anticipates this will be close to August 8. Until that time the purse seine fishery will be managed similarly to previous years.

If the run develops as anticipated the following scenario may develop during the month of August in 2002. All of the dates are approximations of how the season may progress. Actual fishing times and areas will reflect run strengths and fleet distribution.

August 4 and 5

- District 1, 2, 3, and 4 open for 39 hours with normal lines

District 1

August 8 through 11 — each day would be open for 15 hours, 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- August 8 and 9 — normal lines, including the Gravina shoreline
- August 10 and 11 — Gravina shore closed, normal lines south of town

August 13 through August 18

- August 13 and 14 — normal lines including Gravina
- August 15 and 16 — lines south of town may need to be modified (less area) depending on run strength
- August 17 and 18 — Gravina shore open, perhaps W. Behm Canal would open, lines south of town should be normal

August 20 through end of season on August 30th

- August 20 — Gravina closed, normal lines south of town
- August 21 and 22 — Gravina open, normal lines south of town, depending on George and Carroll Inlet, line maybe moved to California Head
- August 23 and 24 — Gravina shore closed, lines of town south maybe modified (less area)
- August 25 and 26 — Gravina open, W. Behm Canal open, normal lines south of town
- August 27 and 28 — Gravina closed, W. Behm Canal modified, lines south of town modified to account for late season escapement needs
- August 29 and 30 — lines depend on late season escapements

Fishing time and area around Tree Point (Foggy Point and DeLong Island) will need to be modified to reflect recent time and effort levels.

District 2

August 8 through 11

- August 8 and 9 — normal lines (south of Polk Island)
- August 10 and 11 — lines modified as needed depending on fleet distribution (both in D2 and D4), line may be moved further north while closing the southern portion

August 13 through August 18

- open area throughout this period will depend on run strength and fleet distribution, open areas will start to include upper D2
- Ship Island area may be open towards the end of the period for 2 days

August 20 through end of the season

- open area throughout this period will depend on run strength and fleet distribution, open areas will start to include upper D2
- Ship Island area may be open for a portion of the period — no more than 2 consecutive days along Ship Island

District 3

- Fishing opportunities in D3 will depend more on fleet distribution than in any other of the Ketchikan districts. Fishing time will probably be for more continuous open periods if there is little effort. It is possible that fishing days and hours may be extended beyond those of other districts.

Districts 5, 6, and 7

Parent-year pink salmon escapements were variable in District 5 (Sumner Strait). Seine openings will depend upon observed escapements in key indicator streams and overall run strength in fishing districts with earlier run timing. Initial openings are expected to be limited in area with Affleck Canal and Shakan Bay being the most likely fishing locations during the first week of August. Escapements were below desired levels in most systems in District 6 (upper Clarence Strait). Openings will depend upon observed escapements in key indicator streams and overall run strength in fishing districts with earlier run timing. During years of lower returns District 6 often does not open until mid August. Parent year escapements were variable in District 7 with the earlier run systems having better returns. Openings in Section 7-B (Pt. Eaton to Union Bay) may not begin until early to mid August. If run strengths are strong enough to warrant going to openings longer than two days, the present plan is to rotate openings between District 6 and District 5 and 7. This means that District 6 would be open for 15 hours and the next day Districts 5 and 7 would be open for 15 hours. If effort does not distribute into District 5, then District 5 may have to be opened by itself in the rotation.

McDonald Lake Sockeye Salmon

The forecasted return of sockeye salmon to McDonald Lake in Section 1-D is 88,000 to 111,000 with an escapement goal of 85,000 fish. The department will monitor returns 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 from mid-July to early August. If a fishery is authorized, the opening will be in conjunction with other seine openings and it may be of short duration to minimize impacts on other stocks. However, with the low forecasted return of sockeye salmon the department will take a conservative management approach to McDonald Lake this year.

Fall Chum Salmon 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 made for these stocks, some expectations can be based on parent-year escapements. In Disappearance Creek and Lagoon Creek, the primary chum salmon spawning systems in Cholmondeley Sound, the majority of 1998 parent year chum salmon escapement goals were achieved or exceeded. Escapements were average for the Karta River in Kasaan Bay, and in Moira Sound streams. The first opening for fall-run chum salmon can be expected about September 10. At the fall 2001 Purse Seine Task Force meeting the department agreed to have fall chum salmon seine fisheries in the Cordova Bay area. The details of this opener will be worked out at a later date but any opener in the area would likely be held concurrently with fall chum fisheries in District 2.

Terminal Hatchery Fisheries

For the 2002 season, special harvest area seine fisheries will occur at Neets Bay, Nakat Inlet, Eastern Passage, and Kendrick Bay to harvest fish returning to Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) enhancement facilities.

The fisheries in Neets Bay will target returning chinook salmon from mid-May through mid-June and fall chum and coho salmon from late September until the end of the fall season. The Neets Bay fishery will be a rotational fishery according to 5 AAC 33.370 starting in the spring, May 15 through June 20, and in the fall from September 25 until the area is closed by emergency order. During these periods a gillnet opening must be no less than 24 hours in duration and a seine opening must be no less than 12 hours in duration. There will be at least a 24-hour closure between gear openings.

In 2002 SSRAA is expecting a total return of 926,000 million summer chum, 250,000 fall chum, 160,000 coho, and 8,000 chinook salmon to return to Neets Bay.

Purse seining will be allowed in Neets Bay on the following days:

Wednesday, May 15 through 12:00 noon on Saturday, June 1: open at all times to all gear groups.

Purse seining will be open from 12:00 noon to 12:00 noon during June on the following days:

Tuesday, June 4 through Wednesday, June 5;
Sunday, June 9 through Monday, June 10;
Friday, June 14 through Saturday, June 15;
Wednesday, June 19 through Thursday, June 20.

Purse seining will be open from 12:00 noon to 12:00 noon during September and October on the following days:

Saturday, September 28 to Sunday, September 29;
Thursday, October 3 through Friday, October 4;
Tuesday, October 8 through Wednesday, October 9;
Sunday, October 13 through Monday, October 14.

Tuesday, October 15 until closed by emergency order: open at all times to all groups.

The fisheries in Nakat Inlet, Eastern Passage, and Anita Bay will be managed jointly with SSRAA, and in accordance with existing Board of Fisheries approved management plans. Rotational fishing schedules for these areas have been agreed upon by the SSRAA Board of Directors. Details regarding the open fishing periods by gear type in each of these areas will be announced via commercial fishery news releases.

Nakat Inlet: The waters of Nakat Inlet between 54°50' N. latitude and 54°56' N. latitude. In 2002, approximately 150,000 summer chum, 20,000 fall chum, and 15,000 coho salmon are expected to return to Nakat Inlet.

Eastern Passage: The waters of Eastern Passage south of 56°24'50" N latitude and west of 132°06'36" W. longitude. In 2002, approximately 7,500 chinook, and 66,000 summer chum salmon are expected to be returning to Eastern Passage. It is projected that about 6,400 chinook and 23,100 chum salmon will be available for harvest in the terminal area.

Anita Bay: The waters of Anita Bay west of 132°24.40' W. longitude. In 2002, approximately 20,000 coho salmon are expected to return. It is anticipated that approximately 3,600 of these will return to the terminal area and be available for harvesting in the rotational fisheries.

For Kendrick Bay, located on the southeastern shore of Prince of Wales Island in District 2, the 2002 return is expected to be approximately 52,000 to 186,000 summer 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 in conjunction with the first Hidden Falls Hatchery opening in late June. The department will allow for a limited purse seine opening in a lower District 2 just adjacent to the THA when wild stock salmon availability is limited and to harvest the best quality chum salmon possible. The THA will be open continuously until the end of the pink salmon 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 131°59'00" W. longitude.

Fishers are requested to ensure 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

2002 Pink Salmon Returns

Pink salmon escapement goals were met in the 2000 parent year in Districts 9, 10, 12, and 13 and parent-year escapements to Districts 11 and 14 were below goals. Winter incubation temperatures between November 2000 and February 2001 were above average and should not have been a significant source of mortality. No more than good returns are expected to most streams in District 12. Harvest opportunities may be limited in District 14 due to poor parent-year escapements to local streams in that district.

Management Problems

As with southern Southeast seine areas, implementation of the new management strategy will pose the most significant management problems in 2002. Uncertainties about fleet size and distribution and the department's reaction to those can only be answered in season. The department and the fishing industry will have to be flexible and be able to react quickly in season to changes from historical fishing patterns. Above all, meeting escapement goals will continue to be the number-one objective of the department. Within that conservation mandate the department will attempt to meet the fundamental objective of the modified fishing strategy that is to provide a more stable supply of fresher fish.

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 2002 seining season will begin on Sunday, June 23, with initial open periods of 15 hours to harvest expected summer chum and early pink salmon returns. During the first open period, seining will be allowed in portions of District 12 in Tenakee Inlet and Point Augusta in Chatham Strait; the opening will be in conjunction with the first opening at the Hidden Falls Terminal Harvest Area. Very few pink salmon have been harvested in District 10 and Section 13-C during previous early-June openings so the first openings in these areas will occur on Sunday, June 30.

Escapements of summer chum salmon in Tenakee Inlet were below average for both the 1997 and 1998 parent years. Parent year pink salmon escapements inside Tenakee Inlet were also below the 10-year average. A conservative early season fishing schedule for Tenakee Inlet can be expected. The upper portion of Tenakee Inlet may be opened and fishing will continue as long as escapement continues to build adequately. Portions of the Basket Bay shoreline may also be opened to harvest pink salmon returns to Tenakee Inlet and Peril Strait if escapements to local streams are adequate.

Parent year pink salmon escapements were strong in Peril Straits and Hoonah Sound, and parent year chum salmon escapements in these areas were generally below average. Beginning June 30, portions of Section 13-C will be open to assess run strength of pink and chum salmon returning to Hoonah Sound streams. Further openings in 13-C will be determined in season based on catch and observations of escapement. In the event that chum returns exceed escapement requirements, then the department may adjust open area in the associated bays for limited times to provide for harvest opportunities. In mid-July, the west boundary of the fishing area in Peril Strait may be moved towards Chatham Strait to improve the quality of the harvest and to ensure pink salmon escapement goals for Hoonah Sound and outer Peril Strait streams are obtained. Portions of Section 13-C, west of the Duffield Peninsula, and Section 13-A in lower Peril Strait, may remain open to provide fishing opportunity on pink salmon migrating through Salisbury Sound and western Peril Strait to Hoonah Sound streams.

The total District 10 parent year bias adjusted escapement index for District 10 was 868,000 pink salmon, within the escapement goal range of 800,000 to 1.2 million fish. Parent year escapements were slightly below average in Seymour Canal (Section 11-D). If Seymour Canal runs develop adequately in 2002, openings to access these fish may be allowed along the Big Bend shoreline in District 10 and in lower Seymour Canal. It is anticipated that the portion of District 10 south of Gambier Island Light will open no later than July 15. Openings to target summer chum salmon runs to Hood and Chaik bays are not expected because parent year escapements to lower Admiralty Island streams were below average, but returns will be closely monitored and if surpluses are present, openings along the lower Admiralty Island shoreline could occur in July.

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 will 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 terminal fishery during the first three weeks of the season will also be monitored as indicators of pink salmon run strength. The department will open a one-mile section of shoreline by Point Augusta in District 12 in conjunction with other weekly openings to provide an additional assessment of incoming run strength of early-run pink salmon. The Point Augusta shoreline will be included in mid-week openings early in the season to obtain additional stock strength information. Test fishing will be conducted at Point Gardner starting in late June and Kingsmill Point starting in early July to assess the strength and timing of the pink salmon returns entering Frederick Sound. Test fishing will also occur along the Hawk Inlet Shoreline beginning July 5 to assess the strength of pink salmon returns entering the northern inside waters of Districts 11 and 15.

Seining in District 12 along the Admiralty Island shoreline may expand in mid-to-late July depending on the observed run strength of middle-run pink salmon stocks in District 10 and 11 and continue as long as Chatham escapements develop satisfactorily. Parent year pink salmon escapements were below average in streams on the northern Chatham Strait shoreline of Chichagof Island and the west Admiralty Island shoreline. Openings along these shorelines will depend on developing returns of local stocks as well as Peril Strait and Tenakee stocks. Fishing may begin in this area in late July depending on the observed run strength.

Pink salmon escapements in District 14 were very poor in 2000. As a result, openings directed at pink salmon in Port Frederick, Idaho Inlet, Port Althorp, and along the Homeshore are not expected. Openings along the Whitestone shoreline of District 14 in late July or early August are expected to be very limited, with fishing times and areas dependent upon observed strengths of local pink salmon stocks. Poor returns to District 14 will limit the department's ability to provide extended fishing opportunities in northern inside seine fisheries.

Middle-run pink salmon returns should begin entering the inside waters of the northern districts during July. 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 August in Section 9-A near Little Port Walter north of Armstrong Point. Parent year escapements of pink salmon were below average in Section 9-A. Parent year escapements of pink salmon were excellent in many of the major systems in Section 9-B with southern Admiralty, northern Kuiu Island, and Tebenkof Bay having the most strength. Openings in District 12 along the Catherine Island shoreline and in portions of Kelp Bay may occur in early August to harvest surplus pink salmon returning to Kelp Bay. Parent year escapements to Kelp Bay were average. If run strengths are strong enough to warrant going to openings longer than two days, the present plan is to rotate openings between the southern and northern half of Section 9-B. This means that Section 9-B would probably be split into two areas, somewhere around Piledriver Cove just north of Washington Bay. The northern half would be open for 15 hours one day and the next day the southern portion would be open for 15 hours. It is very likely that all or portions of Section 9-A will rotate with one of the Section 9-B areas.

Late-run pink salmon returns should begin entering the inside waters of the northern districts in August. A modified fishing regime may be put in place in August only after the department would have historically implemented a 2-on/2-off fishing pattern. Based on the preseason forecast and historical run timing the department anticipates this will be close to August 8. Until that time the purse seine fishery will be managed similarly to previous years.

If the run develops and escapements warrant it the following fishing scenario may develop in District 12 during the month of August. All of the dates are approximations of how the season may progress. Actual fishing times and areas will reflect run strengths and fleet distribution.

	Marsden	Lower Admiralty	East Chichagof
8-Aug	15		
9-Aug	15		
10-Aug		15	15
11-Aug		15	15
12-Aug	Closed	Closed	Closed
13-Aug	15		
14-Aug	15		
15-Aug		15	15
16-Aug	15		
17-Aug	15		
18-Aug		15	15
19-Aug	Closed	Closed	Closed
20-Aug	15		
21-Aug	15		
22-Aug		15	15
23-Aug	15		
24-Aug	15		
25-Aug		15	15
26-Aug	Closed	Closed	Closed
27-Aug	15		

Hawk Inlet Shore Fishery

The Admiralty Island shoreline between Funter Bay and Point Marsden in Chatham Strait is known as the Hawk Inlet shoreline. 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 the Northern Southeast Seine Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC 33.366). 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 escapements in northern inside areas were below average in 2000. 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 Strait 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. Pink salmon catches in the department’s Taku River fish wheels.
6. Pink salmon marine sport fish catch rates in the Juneau area (lower Lynn Canal and upper Stephens Passage).
7. 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 salmon catch accounting procedure for this fishery:

“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 salmon harvest north of Point Marsden.”

The purpose of this change was 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.

Hidden Falls Terminal Hatchery Fishery

The Hidden Falls Hatchery, operated by the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), expects a return of approximately 1,580,000 chum salmon in 2002. Of this total return, approximately 1,180,000 will be available for the common property harvest after allowing 286,000 for cost recovery and 114,000 for broodstock requirements. The initial Hidden Falls opening for the 2002 season is scheduled for June 23. As usual, seiners are advised that openings at Hidden Falls during the 2002 season may be announced with a minimum 24-hour notice if necessary in order to maximize fish quality. In order to meet cost recovery requirements, NSRAA has scheduled cost recovery fishing daily from June 24-29 and a mid-week seine opening is not expected during this time. In order to provide some troll access to Hidden

Falls chum salmon before July, the NSRAA board has requested that trolling remain open during the last week of June even though seining is expected to be closed to provide for cost recovery.

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°06.83' N. latitude (½ mile south of 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 being met. The southern boundary may be expanded south to the District 12 boundary near Cascade Bay if the overall strength of pink salmon returns are sufficient to meet escapements in the area and provided that eastern Baranof Island sockeye salmon escapements and subsistence uses are being met. Any boundary expansions will be determined based on inseason observations of run strength.

Deep Inlet Terminal Hatchery Fishery

NSRAA expects a return of 900,000 chum salmon to the Deep Inlet remote release site and the Medvejie Hatchery in 2002. Cost recovery and broodstock goals for the Deep Inlet returns are 170,000 fish and 50,000 fish respectively, allowing for a common property harvest of approximately 680,000 chum salmon by purse seine, drift gillnet, and troll gear. The majority of this harvest can be expected to occur in the Deep Inlet THA by drift gillnet and purse seine gear, but some harvest is likely outside the THA by troll and purse seine gear as well. At their March meeting in Sitka the NSRAA board decided upon a reduced number of THA openings for the early part of the season in order to help achieve the season’s cost recovery. The NSRAA board also approved a starting date of June 16 for the common property rotational fishery. Beginning June 16, the common property rotational schedule will be one day of seine and two days of gillnet per week. The THA rotational schedule will change to two days of seine and four days of gillnet once NSRAA has reached or is close to reaching the cost recovery goal for the season. The change in schedule is expected to occur sometime during the mid-August period of peak returns. The following rotational fishing schedule was adopted for the 2002 season:

From the beginning of the season until cost recovery goals are met:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Seine	CR/Troll	CR/Troll	Gillnet	Gillnet	CR/Troll	CR/Troll

After cost recovery goals are met until the end of the season:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Seine	Gillnet	Gillnet	Seine/Troll*	Seine/Troll*	Gillnet	Gillnet

*Seine and Troll gear alternates between Wednesday and Thursday.

The schedule indicated above is subject to inseason adjustments to ensure the NSRAA cost recovery remains on schedule and the seasonal cost recovery goal is achieved. An initial schedule for the THA will be published at the outset of the season, and when changes are necessary the revised schedule will be issued in a news release.

Cost recovery management is planned such that NSRAA may conduct cost recovery in the Deep Inlet Special Harvest area and in the Silver Bay Special Harvest Area. The Silver Bay Special Harvest area is expanded including most of Eastern Channel through July 23 and after the troll coho salmon closure in

August, and is contracted to Eastern Channel and Silver Bay east of Galankin Island to Silver Point from July 24 through the August troll closure.

The Deep Inlet THA fishery will be managed jointly with NSRAA, and in accordance with the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Management Plan (5 AAC 33.376). The plan provides for the distribution of the harvest of hatchery-produced chum salmon between the purse seine and drift gillnet fleets. The ratio of gillnet 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 during the 2002 season will be as follows:

Deep Inlet THA: Deep Inlet, Aleutkina Bay, and contiguous waters south of a line from a point west of Pirates Cove at 135°22'38" W. longitude, 56°59'21" 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 the westernmost tip of Berry Island to the southernmost tip of Berry Island to the westernmost tip of the southernmost island in the Kutchuma Island group to the easternmost tip of the southernmost island in the Kutchuma Island group to the westernmost tip of an unnamed island at 135°17'40" W. longitude, 57°00'18" N. latitude to a point on the southern side of the unnamed island at 135°16'47" W. longitude, 57°00'05" N. latitude and then to a point on the Baranof Island Shore at 135°16'32" W. longitude 56°59'56" N. latitude.

An alternate description of the Deep Inlet terminal harvest area is now published in the 2000–2003 Commercial Fishing Regulation booklet. The area is the same but the description now uses minutes and decimal degrees instead of minutes and seconds. Either description can now be used to describe the area.

During the 2002 season, the boundaries of the Deep Inlet THA may be changed by NSRAA and the department to help resolve conflicts between fishers and local private landowners in the area.

In order to promote full utilization of salmon, to prevent waste of salmon, to determine harvest patterns of incidentally harvested coho salmon, and to allow full and accurate reporting of returns, the Deep Inlet THA fishery will be managed in 2002 by emergency order under authority of 5 AAC 39.325 FULL RETENTION AND UTILIZATION OF SALMON to require that all salmon harvested in net fisheries are retained and utilized. Coho salmon harvested in the Deep Inlet THA that are not sold but are retained for personal use must be recorded on fish tickets [5 AAC 39.130 (c) (10)].

In early September the Deep Inlet THA boundaries may be adjusted by the department to reduce interception of wild coho salmon returning to Salmon Lake or hatchery coho salmon returning to Medveje Hatchery needed for broodstock. THA boundary adjustments to protect coho salmon will be based on historic run timing or inseason observations of abundance. Since voluntary compliance with reporting of coho salmon in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area fishery has been poor and the department needs detailed information on coho salmon harvest patterns, personnel from the department or FWP may board some vessels and conduct hold inspections to ensure compliance.

Fall Chum Salmon Fisheries

Portions of northern Southeast Alaska support returns of fall-run chum salmon that are harvested by purse seine gear. Fishing opportunities are expected in Port Camden beginning about August 15. Fishing in Security Bay usually occurs the first week in September if the observed run strength is good. Escapements in Security Bay were very good in the 1998 parent year. Fishing opportunities in Excursion Inlet may occur in late August or early September. Parent year escapements to Excursion Inlet were very good in 1997 but below average in 1998. Fall chum openings may also occur in Nakwasina Sound. Fall chum fisheries will be managed on the basis of 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 areas. Salmon returning to these areas enter directly from the ocean and do not pass through major inside migration corridors. Parent year pink salmon escapements to northern outside areas were strong in Portlock Harbor and Slocum Arm, somewhat below the 1990's average in Salisbury Sound and Sitka Sound, and average in West Crawfish and Whale Bay. Pink salmon seine fisheries can be expected in these areas depending on inseason observations of escapement. A fishery in Lisianski Inlet is unlikely due to the strong odd-year, weak even-year nature of returns to that area. Seining for pink salmon returning to Salisbury Sound and Hoonah Sound streams could begin in mid-July in portions of Salisbury Sound and in late July in other outside water areas.

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

Short purse seine openings to harvest sockeye salmon along the outer coast of Baranof Island may occur from early to mid July to target fish returning to Necker Bay, and in early August to target returns to Redfish Bay. Openings will be dependent on inseason observations of run strength and a cautious approach to ensure that escapement needs and subsistence fishery needs are met.

A modified fishing regime may be implemented in early to middle August of 2002 provided that regional pink salmon returns to Southeastern Alaska develop as expected to provide for a harvest in excess of 30 million. At a time when the department would have historically implemented the 2-on/2-off fishing pattern, openings may be structured to provide more continuous fishing opportunities consistent with observed run strengths, escapement levels, and fleet distribution patterns. Following an initial 39-hour opening in early August and a two-day closure, the Portlock-Khaz Bay-Slocum Arm area in Section 13-A may be opened for four consecutive 15-hour periods. In anticipation of expected fleet distribution patterns, Salisbury Sound would open for two consecutive 15-hour fishing periods either staggered with or partially overlapping with Sitka Sound openings in Section 13-B. In Section 13-B, Sitka Sound openings will be limited to two consecutive 15-hour days followed by 2 consecutive 15-hour days off to avoid allocative implications of increased seine fishing opportunities. Attempts will be made to stagger Sitka Sound openings with Deep Inlet THA seine days and Salisbury Sound, plus West Crawfish-Whale Bay openings in order to provide more continuous fishing opportunities. Openings in West Crawfish Inlet and Whale Bay will likely occur concurrently to help distribute effort. Fifteen-hour openings can be expected due to the lower productivity of

those areas, unless more fishing time is needed to attract effort, and escapement goals are being met. As the season progresses, if fishing patterns of 6-on/1-off or continuous daily fishing develop, efforts will also be made to coordinate fishing patterns with other parts of the region.

LIST OF MANAGEMENT CONTACTS

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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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