SOUTHEAST ALASKA DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY

MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2004

by
Southeast Region Management Staff

REGIONAL INFORMATION REPORT NO.[1] 1J04-14

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

April 2004

[1] The Regional Information Report series was established in 1987 to provide an information access system for all unpublished divisional reports.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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

INTRODUCTION

This management plan provides an overview of the expected salmon run sizes, management issues, and harvest strategies for the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fisheries in 2004.

For the period 1993-2003, an average of 482 Southeast Alaska drift gillnet limited entry permits issued annually of which typically 91% are actively fished each year. The number of permits actively fished in 2003, 377 permits, was the lowest on record however. Drift gillnet landings have averaged approximately 4.085 million salmon annually from 1993 to 2002. Of the total commercial salmon harvest in Southeast Alaska, the drift gillnet fishery harvests an average of 38% of the sockeye, 19% of the chum, 12% of the coho, 3% of the pink, and 4% of the king salmon (1960 to 2003 data).

The drift gillnet fishery primarily targets sockeye, pink, and summer chum salmon during the summer season and coho and fall chum salmon during the fall season. King salmon are usually harvested incidentally, although some targeted king salmon fisheries are allowed in terminal hatchery areas in the spring. Negotiations with Canada during the winter/spring of 2004 for directed fisheries on Transboundary River king salmon resulted in an impasse due primarily to differences in the Parties positions on harvest sharing. **As a result of this, no directed gillnet fisheries for king salmon will take place in 2004.**

There are five traditional drift gillnet fishing areas in Southeast Alaska: District 1 (Tree Point and Portland Canal), District 6 (Prince of Wales), District 8 (Stikine), District 11 (Taku-Snettisham), and District 15 (Lynn Canal). In addition, drift gillnet fisheries occur in several terminal areas adjacent to hatchery facilities and at remote release sites throughout the region. Each of these gillnet fisheries are discussed separately in this management plan.

SALMON RETURNS

In Southeast Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) issues a region wide preseason return forecast only for pink salmon. Otherwise, the projected returns of sockeye, chum, and coho salmon presented in this management plan are strictly qualitative and should not be considered official department forecasts. The return projections are calculated primarily from parent-year catch and escapement data and are expressed in terms of probable magnitude of return relative to historic levels.

Returns of wild summer chum salmon stocks are anticipated to be average in most areas. Returns of hatchery-produced summer chum salmon are expected to contribute significantly to the District 1, 6, 8, 11, and 15 gillnet fisheries and it is anticipated that the total Southeast Alaska hatchery chum salmon return will be well above levels observed in 2003. Overall, returns of coho salmon should be above average due, in part, to significant hatchery contributions. The Alaska hatchery coho salmon contributions to drift gillnet fisheries was 23% in 2002 and 30% in

2003. The pink salmon return in 2004 is predicted to be *Strong* to *Excellent*, with a potential total Southeast Alaska harvest of 50 million fish, with a range of 24 to 76 million fish. The major portion of the pink salmon harvest will be taken by purse seine gear.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

A flexible management approach is required because of the lack of accurate preseason forecasts for salmon returns to the drift gillnet fishing areas. Thus, this management plan presents only a general outlook of how the season is expected to develop. Some specific management approaches may be altered depending on inseason assessments of salmon run strength. Gillnetters are encouraged to contact department management staff listed at the end of this plan for more detailed information.

The primary objectives for management of the 2004 drift gillnet fishery are:

1. Obtain overall salmon spawning escapements with the best possible distribution to all systems.

2. Provide for an orderly fishery while harvesting those fish in excess of escapement needs.

3. Promote the harvest and processing of good quality fish within the constraints dictated by run size.

4. Manage for a total Southeast drift gillnet catch of 7,600 king salmon, exclusive of Alaska hatchery-produced fish [5 AAC 29.060(b)(2)].

5. Minimize, to the extent possible, the interception of salmon destined for locations where weak returns are expected.

6. Manage District 1, 6, 8, and 11 drift gillnet fisheries consistent with the provisions of the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty.

7. Manage hatchery Terminal Harvests Areas in accordance with provisions in existing terminal harvest area management plans adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Achievement of these management objectives will be accomplished by inseason adjustments of fishing time and area to control harvests in specific areas in accordance with salmon run strength and timing. Comparisons of current-year fishing performance to historical fishing success (i.e., catch per unit effort, or CPUE analysis) are a major component of inseason run strength assessment. This approach assumes catch rates are an accurate reflection of run strength by time period and can be relied upon to indicate salmon escapements through the fishing area.

Past experience has demonstrated that management of salmon fisheries based only on fishery performance (CPUE) data can be misleading, especially for mixed-stock fisheries. Therefore, other available run-strength indicators will also be used including spawning escapements, stock composition estimates, test fishing, observed salmon concentrations in sanctuary areas, catches from other fisheries, and salmon run timing models.

The increasing availability of hatchery-produced salmon, in particular coho and summer chum salmon region wide and sockeye salmon in District 11, has become a major factor in the management of the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fisheries. Where inseason management is based on fishery performance, it may be difficult to gauge natural stock run strength if significant numbers of hatchery fish are present in the catch. Where possible, the hatchery component of the catch will be separated when evaluating fishery performance.

Weekly Fishing Announcements

Inseason management of the District 1 drift gillnet fishery is conducted by the Ketchikan area management staff; Districts 6 and 8 by the Petersburg and Wrangell area staff; District 11 by the Juneau area staff; and District 15 by the Haines area staff. Because permit holders can move freely among all drift gillnet fisheries, the Juneau regional office will coordinate weekly fishing announcements for all areas. These will normally be released simultaneously in all area offices by mid-afternoon each Thursday during the fishing season.

Weekly Fishing Periods

Weekly fishing periods in traditional areas can generally be expected to begin on Sundays at 12:01 p.m. Fishing periods in hatchery terminal harvest areas, including the Northern and Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association's (NSRAA & SSRAA) terminal fisheries in Deep Inlet, Anita Bay, Neets Bay, Nakat Inlet, and Earl West Cove, will be in accordance with rotational harvest management plans for drift gillnet, seine, and troll fisheries adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Full Retention

The department will require full retention (5 AAC 39.325) of all salmon harvested in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area net fisheries from the beginning of the 2004 season. This regulation may be implemented by emergency order in other areas of Southeast Alaska if necessary after

consultation with Fish and Wildlife protection. Further details regarding the implementation of this regulation will be announced at later dates. The full retention regulation reads as follows:

> 5 AAC 39.325. FULL RETENTION AND UTILIZATION OF SALMON. (a) The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) recognizes that there are times during a salmon season that it may be necessary to require full retention and utilization of all salmon species.
> (b) In a directed salmon net fishery, if the commissioner determines that full retention of all salmon species is necessary for the enforcement of this section, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close and immediately reopen a salmon fishery, requiring that all salmon must be retained and utilized, unless otherwise specified in Title 5, chapters 1 through 77.

U.S./CANADA PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

The U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) will influence management of the District 1, 6, 8, and 11 drift gillnet fisheries. The management provisions specified by the PST will be considered separately under the specific management plan for each respective fishery. Gillnetters are encouraged to contact local department staff for more detailed information concerning Alaska's PST obligations under the ten-year agreement signed in 1999.

KING SALMON

The need for management measures to comply with the drift gillnet harvest quota for king salmon will depend on inseason evaluation of king salmon catch rates relative to the 7,600 Treaty fish ceiling [5 AAC 29.060 (b)(2)]. If the need arises, nighttime fishing closures may be implemented in certain areas to reduce the incidental catch of immature, "feeder" king salmon. Management measures to limit the drift gillnet harvest of Treaty king salmon have not been necessary since this regulation went into effect in 1998. The average (1994-2003) harvest of Treaty king salmon in the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fishery is just over 5,000 fish.

The District 15 drift gillnet fishery will be managed in accordance with provisions in the Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan [5 AAC 33.384].

King Salmon Encounter/Genetic Study

The 1999 Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement calls for a move to total abundance-based management of king salmon based upon knowledge of total mortality. Total fishing mortality is defined as the sum of total landed catch and total incidental mortality (including catch and release mortality). Although the net fisheries harvest only a small portion of the overall king quota, and king salmon are not targeted in these fisheries, it is necessary to estimate total king salmon catch and release encounters by net gear in order to estimate total king salmon mortality for the chinook management model. Mortality resulting from catch and release encounters will be estimated by applying mortality rates to the catch and release estimates previously determined by the Pacific Salmon Commission Joint Chinook Technical Committee. The current chinook model estimates seine catch and release mortality indirectly based upon data from the 1980s. Gillnet catch and release mortality has never been studied in the Southeast Alaska fisheries, and although the incidence of catch and release is assumed to be minimal, it is necessary to directly measure it. This study will provide current data from logbooks and onboard observers to determine king catch and mortality estimates for the abundance based management strategy. An ongoing similar study in the troll fishery has allowed the Chinook Technical Committee to calibrate the chinook model more accurately with current directly measured catch and release data.

The other major goal of this study is to collect tissue samples from representative king salmon caught in the net fisheries for analysis. This portion of the study will provide stock composition data for king salmon encountered in these fisheries that has never before been available. Current coded-wire tag (CWT) recovery data available from these fisheries does not adequately represent the portion of the catch made up by wild stocks. Also, the data currently available does not represent fish that are not landed and sold. This study will sample king salmon that are caught and released for genetic stock composition data, as well as the fish that are landed and sold. In addition, genetic samples obtained in this study will provide a more complete picture of the stock composition of king salmon in these fisheries, by representing wild stocks. An ongoing study in the troll fishery and a concurrent study to be implemented in the sport fishery will provide a total picture of king salmon catch and release as well as king salmon stock composition for all major fisheries in the Southeast Alaska region.

Onboard ADF&G fisheries observers employed in this study will also collect data on marine mammal and bird interactions with the fishing vessels and gear, as well as other species of fish and shellfish caught by net gear. This data will be helpful in certifying our net fisheries as having a minimal impact on non-target species.

Additional details regarding this study will be announced via Commercial Fisheries Division news releases. A detailed project operational plan is available at local Fish and Game offices and questions related to this study can be directed to Richard Bloomquist in the Douglas Fish and Game office.

TREE POINT AND PORTLAND CANAL FISHERY

Introduction

The Tree Point and Portland Canal drift gillnet fishing area consists of regulatory Sections 1-A and 1-B. This fishery targets summer chum and sockeye salmon early in the season, followed by pink salmon, and finally fall chum and coho salmon at the end of the season.

2004 Outlook

Chum salmon returns to natural spawning systems have increased in recent years after a series of poor returns to Portland Canal. Chum salmon escapements to systems in Boca de Quadra and Behm Canal were at satisfactory levels. However, the department will continue to pay close attention to Portland Canal chum in 2004 and will take necessary management action early in the season to ensure adequate escapements of these stocks. The department will conduct aerial surveys starting in mid-June to determine the strength of returning chum salmon to these areas.

In the spring of 1999, the United States and Canada negotiated a ten-year annex for the Tree Point fishery. The new agreement calls for the following:

A. Manage the Alaskan District 1 drift gillnet fishery to:

   i. Achieve an annual catch share of Nass sockeye salmon of 13.8 percent of the Annual Allowable Harvest (AAH) of the Nass sockeye salmon stocks that year.
   ii. Carry forward from year to year annual deviations from the prescribed catch share arrangement.

The AAH each year will be calculated as the total run of adult Nass sockeye salmon in that year less the escapement target of 200,000 fish. In the event that the actual Nass spawning escapement for the season is below the target level, the actual spawning escapement will be used in the AAH calculations.

The total run calculation includes the catches of Nass sockeye salmon in the principal boundary area fisheries and the spawning escapement to the Nass watershed. This includes the catch of Nass sockeye salmon in Alaskan Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 net fisheries, Canadian Areas 1, 3, 4, and 5 net fisheries and Canadian Nass inriver 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 a party is over or under its AAH.

The management intent for the 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, nor to harvest the accrued underage.

Over the past two years, the Bilateral Northern Boundary Technical Committee has worked to finalize the total run reconstruction for the Nass and Skeena Rivers. During the Pacific Salmon Commission meeting in January 2004, the bi-lateral Northern Panel and the Northern Boundary Technical Committee finalized and agreed upon the run reconstruction of the Nass River from 1982 through 2002. The following table reflects the performance of the Tree Point drift gillnet fishery under the 1999 agreement:

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Nass Total Return	842,806	625,983	580,616	1,403,976
Nass Escapement	200,000	200,000	167,258	200,000
Allowable Nass AAH	642,806	425,983	413,358	1,203,976
Allowable Harvest (13.8%)	88,707	58,786	57,043	166,149
Actual Nass Harvest	129,794	46,305	55,096	90,553
Cumulative +overage/(-underage)	+41,087	+28,606	+26,659	-48,937

Very preliminary reports indict that the total sockeye return to the Nass River in 2003 was 900,000 fish. That allowed a harvest of approximately 96,600 Nass River sockeye at Tree Point in 2003. The total harvest of sockeye at Tree Point in 2003 was 105,263 fish. If 85%, or 89,500 of those sockeye were Nass River fish then an underage of 7,100 sockeye would be added to the underage accrued from 1999 through 2002 for a total underage of approximately 56,000 through the first five years of the ten-year annex.

The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans has a preseason expectation of approximately 808,000 Nass River sockeye salmon. If the 2004 forecast is accurate then the AAH for Tree Point will be approximately 83,400 Nass River sockeye salmon.

Hatchery returns of summer chum, fall chum, and coho salmon to SSRAA's enhancement projects are expected to contribute significantly to the Tree Point gillnet fishery in 2004.

Pink salmon returns are expected to be strong to southern Southeast Alaska in 2004. If the actual returns are as strong as forecast, Tree Point gillnet fishery should have four- and five-day fishing weeks beginning at the start of the District 1 Pink Salmon Management Plan.

The District 1 Pink Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 33.360) establishes gillnet fishing time in Section 1-B in relation to District 1 purse seine fishing time when both gear types are

concurrently harvesting the same pink salmon stocks. By regulation, the plan starts on the third Sunday in July (July 20, 2004) with the following fishing time schedule:

1. When the purse seine fishery is open for any portion of one day during a fishing week, the drift gillnet fishery must be open for 48 hours during the same fishing week.

2. When the purse seine fishery is open for any portion of two days during a fishing week, the drift gillnet fishery must be open for 96 hours during the same fishing week.

3. When the purse seine fishery is open for any portion of three or more days during a fishing week, the drift gillnet fishery must be open for 120 hours during the same week.

Management Goals

Management goals for the 2004 Tree Point drift gillnet fishery are as follows:

1. Manage the fishery in accordance within the Pink Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 33.360).

2. Manage the fishery consistent with the current provisions of the PST (5 AAC 33.361).

3. Manage the fishery consistent with the Hugh Smith Lake Sockeye Action Plan and optimal escapement goal (5 AAC 33.390).

Management Plan

The Tree Point gillnet fishery will open by regulation in Section 1-B for four days beginning at 12:01 p.m., Sunday, June 20, 2004. The length of subsequent fishing periods up to the start of the Pink Salmon Management Plan on July 18 will be based on the strength of wild stock sockeye and chum salmon returns to Alaskan and Canadian waters. The effort levels at Tree Point will also influence the amount of time the fishery is given up to the start of the District 1 PSMP.

As in recent years, the catch of hatchery-produced, summer chum salmon returning to the Nakat Inlet release site will not be included in the evaluation of natural stock fishery performance. The contribution of Nakat Inlet chum salmon will be estimated by inseason analysis of coded wire tag data. Hatchery chum salmon have contributed as much as 71% of weekly catches at Tree Point and as much as 31% of the total harvest in recent years.

The PST requires that interception of natural stocks of chum salmon returning to Portland Canal streams be minimized to ensure rebuilding of these stocks. As a result, no fishing should be

expected in Section 1-A for Portland Canal chum salmon unless it is determined that a harvestable surplus exists. Any management decision to fish Portland Canal must assume there is sufficient additional surplus fish to support a Canadian as well as an Alaskan fishery.

The Section 1-B gillnet fishery will be managed according to the District 1 Pink Salmon Management Plan starting July 18, 2004. The overall pink salmon return to southern Southeast Alaska is expected to be strong in 2004. If the returns come in as predicted then beginning in mid-July through the end of August, Tree Point gillnetters can anticipate four- and five-day fishing periods.

In 2004, management of the Southeast purse seine fishery is anticipated to be similar to the 2002 and 2003 season. It is possible that during the peak of the pink salmon returns in the month of August the purse seine fleet will be fishing four or more consecutive days. This will not effect the management of the Tree Point fishery under the District 1 Pink Salmon Management Plan.

Fall management at Tree Point starts after the end of the pink salmon season. During the fall season, the Tree Point fishery targets primarily on fall chum and coho salmon. Little is known about the stock composition of the chum and coho salmon harvest at this time of the year. However, if the estimated exploitation rate of the Hugh Smith Lake coho salmon stock, which reaches 80% in some years, holds true for adjacent areas then wild coho salmon stocks in the surrounding Tree Point area may benefit from a closing date at Tree Point of approximately September 20. Due to the uncertainties of the escapement levels of the stocks being harvested, the documented high exploitation rate of Hugh Smith Lake coho salmon, and the high preponderance of hatchery fish in the harvest, the department will continue to take a conservative approach to the fall season at Tree Point. However, fishing periods will be allowed after September 20 if fisheries performance data indicates above average returns of wild chum and coho salmon. During recent years, approximately 50% of the fall chum and coho salmon have been hatchery fish. Nakat Inlet fish not harvested in the common property fisheries can be harvested in the Nakat Inlet Terminal Harvest Area, which remains open to commercial fishing through late October.

Hugh Smith Lake Sockeye Salmon

The Board of Fisheries, after reviewing stock status information and public input during the February 2003 regulatory meeting, classified Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon as a stock of management concern. This determination was based on the inability, despite the use of specific management measures, to maintain escapements for a salmon stock within the bounds of the BEG during the last five years.

The department completed an analysis of available stock assessment data for Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon in the process of re-examining the escapement goal for the system. The conventional method for setting an escapement goal in a sockeye salmon producing system with 20 years of catch and escapement information, would be to do a Ricker stock-recruit analysis (Quinn and Deriso 1999). Unfortunately, the unknown annual Canadian harvests of the Hugh Smith Lake stock of sockeye salmon, and questions about the U.S. harvests in some years,

greatly clouds the picture for an analyst attempting to conduct a Ricker stock-recruit analysis. The department conducted three independent analyses of available information as summarized below, to determine an appropriate escapement goal range for the system (Geiger et al. 2003).

(1) A "risk" analysis led to the conclusion that an escapement of about 8,000 fish was a reasonable threshold level to minimize making fishery management errors.

(2) A Ricker approach, using reasonable assumed values for alpha and beta, led to the conclusion that a biological escapement goal of 9,000 to 18,000 fish was probably the best way to tradeoff risk and uncertainty, given the limitations of the analysis.

(3) A Beverton-Holt spawner-juvenile production relationship for Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon, once adjusted for assumed juvenile to adult survival rates, identified a level of about 9,000 to 18,000 spawners as a potential range of values associated with the maximum sustained yield spawner escapement level.

On the basis of these diverse analyses, a BEG for the Hugh Smith Lake stock of sockeye salmon of 8,000 to 18,000 spawners was recommended. The BOF adopted this range in regulation as an OEG in February 2003. The escapement goal will be reevaluated in 2005.

Hugh Smith Lake Sockeye Action Plan

The BOF also adopted an Action Plan whose goal is to rebuild the Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon run back to levels that attain the current escapement goal range. The rebuilding plan will include measures to reduce harvests, rehabilitation efforts' including egg takes and back-plants, and improved stock assessment.

If projections of the cumulative Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon weir counts in Statistical Week 29 and 30, fall below the cumulative number of sockeye salmon needed to meet the lower end of the escapement range the department shall:

1. Close that portion of the District 101 purse seine fishery east of a line from Quadra Point to Slate Island Light to Black Rock Light to a point on the mainland shore at 55°01.40' N. latitude, 131°00.20' W. longitude.
2. If the projections of the cumulative Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon weir counts in statistical weeks 31, 32, and 33 fall below the cumulative number of sockeye needed to meet the lower end of the escapement range the department shall: Close that portion of the District 101 purse seine fishery east of a line from Foggy Point Light to Black Rock Light to the southernmost tip of Black Island and;
3. Close the upper portion of the Section 1-B drift gillnet fishery one nautical mile south of the latitude of Foggy Point Light.

The base years for determining the mean weekly run timing will start in 1982 and continue through the most current year of weir counts.

When the projections of Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon counts are above the cumulative number of sockeye salmon needed to meet the lower end of the escapement range, the department shall manage the purse seine and drift gillnet fishery on the basis of the overall strength of wild stock salmon to District 101.

In 2003, poor early and mid-season escapements prompted the department to use those closures for the entire portion of the Plan. However, sockeye escapements greatly improved as late August progressed with a total escapement into Hugh Smith Lake of approximately 20,000 sockeye salmon.

PRINCE OF WALES AND STIKINE FISHERIES

Introduction

The District 6 drift gillnet fishery occurs in the waters of northern Clarence Strait and Sumner Strait, in regulatory Sections 6-A, 6-B, and 6-C, and portions of Section 6-D. The Stikine fishery encompasses the waters of District 8 surrounding the terminus of the Stikine River. Due to their close proximity, management of these fisheries is interrelated, resulting in some major stocks being subject to harvest by both fisheries. Two distinct management areas exist within each district: the Frederick Sound (Section 8-A) and Wrangell (Section 8-B) portions of District 8, and the Sumner Strait (Section 6-A) and Clarence Strait (Sections 6-B, 6-C, and 6-D) portions of District 6. The harvest of terminal hatchery returns to the Crystal Lake, Earl West Cove, and Anita Bay hatchery facilities will be discussed in the TERMINAL HATCHERY FISHERIES portion of this management plan.

2004 Outlook

The 2004 Stikine River sockeye salmon return is expected to be above average. The Tahltan sockeye salmon escapement goal of 24,000 fish, established by the Pacific Salmon Commission, Transboundary Technical Committee (TTC), was reached in 2003 for the first time since 1996. The 2004 Tahltan Lake sockeye salmon return is expected to be better than the 2003 return and above the 1994–2003 average. The Tuya Lake enhanced sockeye return is expected to be weaker than previous years. This will be the last year of any substantial returns of Tuya Lake sockeye until the 2007 season. Returns of mainstem Stikine River sockeye stocks are expected to be lower than 2003 and below the previous 10-year average. Due to the near identical return timing of the Tahltan Lake and Tuya Lake stocks, any open fishing periods in District 8, and to a limited extent in District 6, will be determined by the actual in-season abundance of the wild Tahltan Lake stock. The returns of local area sockeye salmon stocks should be similar to the past four years. Parent-year escapements into Salmon Bay, Red Bay, and Luck Lake were near the

average of the previous four years. Enhanced sockeye will be returning to Neck Lake for the second year in 2004. Returns in 2003 were minimal and returns are expected to be much higher in 2004.

A large return of king salmon to the Stikine River is expected in 2004. The preseason inriver forecast is 63,722 large chinook which is considerably above the 10-year average.

Large numbers of pink salmon are forecasted to return to District 6 spawning streams, and fisheries targeting pink salmon may be extensive. Parent-year escapements to District 6 were excellent.

No directed fishing occurs on chum salmon in either District 6 or 8. Chum salmon are caught incidentally in fisheries targeting sockeye, pink, and coho salmon. It is anticipated that the chum catches in District 6 and 8 will be better than the 2003 season catches due to higher expected returns to Anita Bay and the Ketchikan area hatcheries. The 2003 return was the last significant return of chum salmon to the Earl West Cove THA. Chum salmon releases from EWC were discontinued in 2000 and production at this site was moved to Anita Bay. The first significant returns of chum salmon are expected to return to Anita Bay in 2004 (120,000). Summer chum salmon productions from Ketchikan area hatcheries are expected to be -higher than the 2003 production. Chum salmon returning to the Ketchikan area facilities migrate through District 6 and are expected to contribute significant numbers to the catches in this district. Alaska hatchery contributions of the total chum catch for the past ten years have averaged 36% of the District 6 catch and 22% of the District 8 catch.

The overall coho salmon returns for 2004 are expected to be approximately the same as 2003. SSRAA summer coho remote release sites at Neck Lake and Burnett Inlet in upper Clarence Strait are expecting record returns of approximately 120,000 and 25,000 fish, respectively. The combined 2003 returns to these facilities were approximately 62,000 coho. Approximately 220,000 fall coho salmon are projected to return to enhancement projects in the Ketchikan area in 2004, that is approximately 70,000 less fish than actually returned in 2003. Coho salmon returns to Earl West Cove have been shifted to Anita Bay. The coho salmon return to Anita Bay is projected to be approximately 20,000 fish, which is similar to the actual return to Anita Bay in 2003. Wild coho salmon returns for 2004 are expected to be similar to the long-term average. Extended fishing periods in Districts 6 or 8 could occur beginning in Statistical Week 36 (August 29); however, actual fishing periods will be determined weekly in-season, based on coho salmon catch rates and hatchery contribution.

Management Goals

Management goals for the District 6 and District 8 gillnet fisheries for the 2004 season are as follows:

1. Achieve the Tahltan Lake sockeye salmon escapement goal while maximizing the harvest of Tahltan Lake sockeye above that goal and the harvest of Tuya Lake sockeye.

2. Achieve the Stikine River king salmon escapement goal while harvesting excess king salmon and sockeye salmon returning to the Stikine River.

3. Obtain pink salmon spawning escapement goals in District 6 and District 7.

4. Monitor the incidental harvest of king salmon to stay within the Board of Fisheries Southeast drift gillnet allocation of 7,600 non-Alaska hatchery king salmon.

5. Maintain spawning escapement goals of sockeye salmon in local Alaskan systems while harvesting increased numbers of enhanced sockeye salmon returning to the Stikine River.

6. Manage the District 6 and District 8 gillnet fisheries consistent with the provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (5 AAC 33.361).

Management Plan

The season will start at 12:01 p.m. on Sunday, June 13 for a 48 or 72-hour open period in District 6 and District 8. The length of the first opening will depend on the final preseason forecast for Tahltan Lake sockeye salmon, which is expected to be completed by the end of May. Subsequent openings will be determined in-season based on catches and stock proportion data. If in-season catch and stock data indicate that the Tahltan sockeye salmon return is strong, and additional fishing time would not constitute a risk to the health of the stock, then more liberal fishing periods will be allowed in District 8. Extended fishing time in District 6 will be based primarily on the abundance of sockeye from local island stocks.

The sockeye salmon fishery in both districts will be managed in accordance with the Transboundary Rivers (TBR) Annex of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Annex allows the District 6 fishery to be managed for harvesting local Alaskan sockeye salmon stocks and normally is not influenced under most conditions by the presence of sockeye salmon stocks of Stikine River origin. However, due to the failure to achieve the minimum escapement goal of Tahltan sockeye salmon during the past six out of 7 seasons, management actions in District 6 may be necessary to maintain the health of this stock. Management of the District 8 fishery is based on the need to harvest sockeye salmon of Stikine River origin, as allowed by the sharing provisions of the TBR Annex, and the conservation of the resource. The 2004 Stikine River

returns, specifically returns to Tahltan Lake, are forecasted to be strong enough to fulfill PST obligations and potentially allow extended fishing time in District 8.

Management actions during the sockeye salmon fishing season will be based on analysis of CPUE and stock identification data to determine the availability of Stikine River fish. These stock abundance indicators, along with fishery performance and stock composition data obtained from a Canadian test fishery, will be incorporated into a Stikine sockeye salmon management model. As the season progresses, this model will be the primary method used to estimate the availability of sockeye salmon for harvest by the Alaskan gillnet fishery in District 8 and the Canadian inriver fisheries. Any conservation measures required for Stikine River sockeye salmon are implemented first in District 8 followed by Sumner Strait in District 6. Reductions in fishing time, area or district-wide closures will be used when conservation measures are needed. All openings will be based upon the most recent Stikine sockeye model update and the current weekly sockeye salmon harvest. Announcements for fishery extensions or any mid-week opening will be announced on the fishing grounds by 10:00 a.m. of the last day of the regular fishery opening. Open area and fishing time during any extensions may not necessarily be the same as the general weekly opening.

Pink salmon normally begin entering District 6 in significant numbers by the third or fourth week of July. The early portion of the pink salmon fishery will be managed primarily on CPUE and parent year escapement. By mid-August, pink salmon destined for local systems will begin to enter the fishery in greater numbers and at that time management will be based on observed escapements.

The coho salmon season will begin during late August or early September. Management of the District 6 fishery will be based predominantly on wild stock CPUE. Crystal Lake Hatchery, Burnett Inlet Hatchery, facilities in the Ketchikan area, the Anita Bay remote release site, and the Neck Lake remote release site at Whale Pass all contribute coho salmon to the District 6 and District 8 fisheries. In-season estimates from coded microwire tag recovery data will be used to identify the hatchery component of the catch. Only the catch of wild coho salmon will be used for fishery performance evaluation.

Regulation 5 AAC 33.310(c)(2)(B) allows gillnetting along the Screen Island shore of Section 6-D only during the early and late portions of the season. Specifically, this area encompasses those waters of Section 6-D west of a line from Mariposa Rock Buoy to the northernmost tip of Point Harrington to a point on the shore of Etolin Island at 56°09'35" N. latitude, 132°42'42" W. longitude to the southernmost tip of Point Stanhope. Actions by the Board of Fisheries, based on an agreement between gillnet and purse seine representatives at the board meeting in February of 2000 increased the fishing time for gillnetting in this area by one week on each end of the closure. The periods when fishing may be allowed are now: 1) from the second Sunday in June (June 13) through the first Saturday in August (August 7) and, 2) from the first Sunday in September (September 5) until the season is closed. During this time, gillnetting is allowed during the same time periods that the adjoining waters of Section 6-C are open.

TAKU/SNETTISHAM GILLNET FISHERY

Introduction

The Taku/Snettisham (District 11) gillnet area encompasses Section 11-B (Taku Inlet, Port Snettisham, and Stephens Passage north of Midway Island) and Section 11-C (Midway Island south to a line from Point League to Point Hugh). This fishery has traditionally targeted sockeye salmon during the early portion of the season and fall chum and coho salmon later in the season. In recent years, the fishery has also targeted hatchery summer chum and sockeye salmon.

2004 Outlook

The total return of wild Taku River sockeye salmon in 2004 is expected to be about average. This is based on both spawner-recruit analysis and a sibling forecast. The 1999 main parent year escapement of 98,200 fish was above the escapement goal range of 71,000 to 80,000 fish, and equal to the ten-year average escapement. The 2000 parent year had an escapement of 75,500 fish. Adult returns to date from the joint U.S./Canada Taku River sockeye salmon enhancement project at Tatsamenie Lake have been very low and the number of enhanced sockeye salmon returning to Tatsamenie Lake is not expected to contribute significant numbers of fish to harvests in 2004. The smolt outmigration of 2001, the main contributor year for this season's Tatsamenie sockeye return, was 71,000 fish, the lowest smolt outmigration estimate since 1996. The smolt outmigration estimate for 2002 was 233,000 fish. Returns of wild Port Snettisham sockeye salmon stocks are difficult to project because escapement enumeration programs were not in place during all brood years. Escapement through the Speel Lake weir in the 1999 parent year was above the ten-year average with 10,300 sockeye salmon, and the escapement in 2000 of 6,800 sockeye was below average but within the escapement goal range. The peak aerial survey estimates for Crescent Lake escapements in parent year 1999 was 3,750 fish, and in 2000 was 6,100 fish. Both of these counts were below the 1990 to 2003 average of 9,200 fish. Enhanced sockeye salmon returning to the Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. (DIPAC) Snettisham Hatchery are forecast to total 442,000 fish.

Returns of hatchery summer chum salmon to the District 11 area are expected to be less than returns in 2003. Approximately 377,000 summer chum salmon are expected to return in 2004 from DIPAC hatchery releases in Gastineau Channel, and 99,000 chum from Limestone Inlet remote releases. The total estimated DIPAC chum salmon contribution to the Section 11-B drift gillnet fishery is 232,000 fish. Additional fishing time can again be expected south of Circle Point in order to harvest summer chum salmon returns to the Limestone Inlet remote release site. As in recent years, the department may implement a six-inch minimum mesh size restriction south of Circle Point to reduce the harvest rate on wild sockeye salmon returning to Crescent and Speel lakes. Returns of fall chum salmon to the Taku River are expected to be poor.

Returns of Taku River coho salmon are expected to be above the ten-year average. Parent-year escapements of coho salmon in Canadian portions of the Taku River were 64,700 fish in 2000, and 104,400 fish in 2001. Both were well over the above border goal of 38,000 fish, and

adequate to produce a good return in 2004 under favorable environmental conditions. DIPAC projects a 2004 return of approximately 86,000 hatchery coho salmon from their smolt releases into Gastineau Channel, comparable to recent years.

Returns of pink salmon to District 11 systems are expected to be above average in 2004; the management target range was met in the parent year for District 11. Parent year pink numbers through the Canyon Island fish wheel were below average, and indicated below average escapement in the Taku River. The pink salmon program at DIPAC has been discontinued and there will be no returns in 2004.

The total return of large Taku River king salmon in 2004 is expected to be above average, at approximately 64,000 fish.

Management Goals

Management goals for the 2004 Taku/Snettisham drift gillnet fishery are as follows:

1. Provide for sufficient salmon spawning escapements to Taku River, Port Snettisham, and Stephens Passage streams while harvesting those fish in excess of escapement needs.

2. Monitor the incidental harvest of king salmon to stay within the Board of Fisheries Southeast drift gillnet allocation of 7,600 non-Alaska hatchery king salmon.

3. Manage the fishery consistent with current provisions of the PST (5 AAC 33.361).

4. Maximize the harvest of hatchery-produced chum salmon returning to Limestone Inlet while minimizing the incidental harvest of Port Snettisham wild sockeye salmon.

5. Manage the return of enhanced Port Snettisham sockeye salmon consistent with the Board of Fisheries Snettisham Hatchery Management Plan (5 AAC 33.378).

6. Manage the Speel Lake sockeye salmon return to achieve an escapement to the lake of between 4,000 to 13,000 spawners. This goal is a biological escapement goal based on an updated analysis completed during the winter of 2002–2003.

Management Plan

Section 11-B will open by regulation on the third Sunday in June (June 20) for a three-day fishing period. Subsequent openings will be based on inseason fishery performance and stock assessment information.

The District 11 gillnet fishery will be managed in accordance with the Transboundary River (TBR) Annex of the PST. Harvest sharing arrangements for sockeye and coho salmon through the 2008 fishing season are specified in the annex. The Canadian inriver gillnet fishery is allocated 18% of the total allowable catch (TAC) of wild Taku sockeye salmon originating from Canadian portions of the Taku drainage, and can harvest 20% of inriver escapements above 100,000 sockeye salmon. Harvests of sockeye salmon produced from joint U.S./Canada enhancement programs in the Taku River are to be shared equally by the two countries. For coho salmon, the annex calls for the U.S. to manage its fisheries to achieve a minimum above-border run size of 38,000 fish. In addition, incidental harvests of coho salmon in the Canadian directed sockeye salmon fishery are allowed with directed harvests of 3,000 to 10,000 coho salmon, depending on run size.

The District 11 fishery will be managed through mid-August primarily on the basis of sockeye salmon abundance. Run strength will be evaluated using fishery catch and CPUE data and weekly inriver run size estimates derived from the Taku River fish wheel mark-recapture project operated by ADF&G at Canyon Island. Contribution of enhanced stocks of sockeye salmon will be estimated inseason by analysis of salmon otoliths sampled from the commercial harvests. The age and stock compositions of the harvest of wild sockeye salmon will be estimated after the fishing season by analysis of scale pattern and parasite incidence data from commercial catch samples.

The return of enhanced Port Snettisham sockeye salmon is expected to be higher than in previous years, and will be managed according to the Board of Fisheries' Snettisham Hatchery Management Plan. The plan provides basic guidelines for managing enhanced sockeye salmon production from Port Snettisham including the following provisions, in order of priority:

1) Sustainable production of wild sockeye salmon from Crescent and Speel Lakes.

2) Management of enhanced Snettisham sockeye salmon returns may not prevent achieving escapement goals or PST harvest sharing agreements for Taku River salmon stocks.

3) Assessment programs shall be conducted to estimate Snettisham wild sockeye salmon stock escapements and contributions of enhanced sockeye salmon to the District 11 commercial fishery.

4) Common property harvests in the Speel Arm SHA shall be conducted by limiting time and area to protect wild sockeye salmon returns.

Peak migration timing for wild Snettisham sockeye salmon through Stephens Passage is expected to be from mid-July through the first week in August. Because of expectations for a very poor return of Tatsamenie Lake sockeye salmon, it is anticipated that fishing time in Section 11-B north of Circle Point will be limited to two days per week during the peak of the return timing for that stock (statistical weeks 30 through 32). Fishing time inriver will be limited to two days per week during weeks 31-33.

Management of the fishery in Stephens Passage south of Circle Point will focus on conservation of the wild Snettisham sockeye salmon stocks, particularly in July however extended fishing time is expected in Stephens Passage south of Circle Point to harvest the return of enhanced summer chum salmon to the Limestone Inlet remote release site. The department may implement a six-inch minimum mesh size restriction in Section 11-B south of Circle Point beginning in early July to minimize the incidental harvest of wild Port Snettisham sockeye salmon during these openings. The mesh restriction in Section 11-B, if implemented, may be relaxed at the end of July or after the peak migration timing of wild Snettisham sockeye salmon stocks through Stephens Passage. Port Snettisham will remain closed east of a line from Point Amner to Point Styleman through the end of July to limit overall harvest rates on wild Snettisham sockeye salmon stocks. Commercial openings may occur inside Port Snettisham after this time if wild stock escapements are developing adequately.

Common property fishery openings are expected to occur during August in the DIPAC Speel Arm SHA, which is located in waters of Speel Arm north of 58°03.42' N latitude. Timing of these openings will depend on DIPAC progress toward brood stock and cost recovery goals and the sockeye salmon escapement to Speel Lake. DIPAC cost recovery efforts in the SHA during July will be limited to waters in the immediate vicinity of the hatchery where wild and hatchery stocks are well segregated. Fishery management decisions for the Speel Arm SHA will be made jointly by the department and DIPAC. As mentioned above, the department and industry formalized the notification procedure for any extended fishery openings in Speel Arm. The agreement specified:

1) That the department include notice in the Southeast Alaska Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan that extended openings in Speel Arm could be expected on short notice once Speel Lake escapement goals are met.
2) That the department include notice in the region wide news release on or near the end of July that extended openings in Speel Arm could be expected on short notice once Speel Lake escapement goals are met.
3) If an announcement is made for extended fishing time in Speel Arm, the department shall provide a minimum of **six hours** notice from the time of the news release to the time the fishery opens.

A personal use fishery will be allowed in Sweetheart Creek to ensure enhanced returns to this site are fully utilized; Sweetheart Creek is blocked to anadromous fish migration several hundred yards upstream from the mouth. The Sweetheart Creek personal use fishery will be open seven-days per week.

Pink salmon will be harvested in Section 11-B incidental to the sockeye salmon and enhanced summer chum salmon fisheries. Fishing time for a directed pink salmon fishery in Section 11-C will depend upon the strength of pink salmon returns in lower Stephens Passage, Seymour Canal, and the northern portions of District 10. Parent year pink salmon escapements in Stephens Passage and Seymour Canal were within the management range targets for both stock groups. Returns will be closely monitored and if surpluses are present, openings could occur in August.

Beginning in mid-August, management of the Taku/Snettisham gillnet fishery will be based on the run strength of coho and fall chum salmon. Inseason management will be based on evaluation of the fishery catch, effort, and CPUE relative to historical levels, inriver run size estimates from the Taku River mark-recapture project, and recovery of coded wire tagged wild Taku River and hatchery coho salmon in marine fisheries. Coho salmon is the primary species managed during the fall season, but area and time restrictions may be necessary to further protect the weaker fall chum salmon returns.

In order to avoid gear conflicts, the District 11 drift gillnet fishery will not be open concurrent with the 2004 Juneau Golden North Salmon Derby. Consequently, during Statistical Week 35, the District 11 gillnet fishery will not open until Monday, August 23.

LYNN CANAL FISHERY

Introduction

The Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery operates in the waters of District 15. The district is divided into three regulatory sections: 15-A (upper Lynn Canal), 15-B (Berners Bay), and 15-C (lower Lynn Canal). The Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery targets sockeye, summer chum, coho, and fall chum salmon. King and pink salmon are taken incidentally.

Sockeye salmon are mainly targeted from June through early September. The primary stocks originate in Chilkat and Chilkoot lakes, Berners Bay rivers, and mainstem spawning areas of the Chilkat River. Both the Chilkat and Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon populations have early and late-run stock components with separate escapement goals.

Hatchery and wild summer chum salmon are harvested from late June through early August, and fall chum and coho salmon are targeted from September through mid-October. The primary fall chum salmon stocks originate in the Klehini and Chilkat rivers and the primary coho salmon stocks originate in the Chilkat and Berners Bay rivers.

King salmon are harvested incidentally in the Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery. The management objective for this species is to minimize king salmon harvests to stay within the Board of Fisheries allocation of all-gear quota (7,600 king for all Southeast gillnet districts). In 2003, the Board of Fisheries adopted the Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management

Plan [5 AAC 33.384]. This plan establishes management measures in subsistence, commercial and sport fisheries that harvest Chilkat River king salmon based on projected in river run strength. The newly established biological escapement goal of 1,750 to 3,500 large king salmon (three ocean age and older) provides the framework for action points under the plan. The provisions in the management plan are identical to methods the department used to managed the gillnet fishery in section 15-A during recent years.

Management Goals

Specific management goals for the 2004 Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery are as follows:

1. Obtain escapement counts for early run (through week 28; July 13) and late run Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon of 16,500 and 34,000 fish, respectively.

2. Obtain an escapement of between 52,000 and 106,000 sockeye salmon to Chilkat Lake. The escapement objective for the early stock is 17,500 fish through week 33 (August 17) and 47,500 for the late stock.

3. Provide for sufficient chum, coho, and pink salmon spawning escapements to the Chilkat, Chilkoot, and Berners rivers and other Lynn Canal systems, while harvesting those fish in excess of escapement needs.

4. Manage the Section 15-A commercial drift gillnet fishery in a manner that is consistent with the Lynn Canal and Chilkat River king salmon fishery management plan.

2004 Outlook

Sockeye Salmon

The 1998 Chilkat Lake mark-recapture sockeye salmon escapement estimate totaled 211,114 fish, including 80,782 early run fish, and 130,331 late run fish, well above the desired upper escapement goals for both stocks. The 1999 Chilkat Lake mark-recapture escapement estimate was 236,374 sockeye salmon, including 116,682 early run fish, and 119,692 late run fish, again exceeding the desired escapement goal range for both stocks. Historically, 39.7% of the Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon escapements are age-2.3 (six-year old) fish, 23.8% are age-2.2 (five-year old) fish, 31.4% are age-1.3 (five-year old) fish, and the remainders are primarily age-1.2 (four-year old) fish. The Lynn Canal drift gillnet catches of Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon for return years, 1998 and 1999, were estimated to be 120,644 and 149,697 fish respectively, compared to the 1976 to 2003 historical average of 93,628 fish.

The Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) has conducted a smolt abundance estimation project at the outlet of Chilkat Lake from 1995 through 2003. Sockeye salmon smolt production from Chilkat Lake in 2001 and 2002, the dominant smolt years for the 2004 return, were estimated to be 1.40 million fish and 0.43 million fish, respectively. These smolt abundance estimates are 79% and 24%, respectively, of the historical 1989–1990 and 1994–2004 average. Enhanced returns of sockeye salmon from the 2000 egg-take and back planting program will begin to return to Chilkat Lake during 2004. Returns from the NSRAA release program are not expected to be very significant as outmigration estimates of age 1.0 enhanced smolt leaving the lake in 2002 was very low. For 2004, assuming a 10% marine survival rate and that 71% of adult sockeye salmon return at three-years ocean age (combination of age-1.3 and 2.3 fish) there will be approximately 98,000 three-ocean (ages 1.3, 2.3 and 3.3) Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon returning in 2004. Assuming a 10% marine survival rate and that 27% of those smolts return at two-years ocean age (ages 1.2 and 2.2), there will be approximately 17,000 two-ocean (ages 1.2 and 2.2) Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon returning in 2004. The total expected return of four, five, and six-year-old sockeye salmon to Chilkat Lake is approximately 115,101 fish, which is 54% of the 1976 to 2003 historical average of 215,000 fish.

Mark-recapture estimates of the Chilkat River mainstem sockeye salmon escapements in 1999, 2000, and 2001, (the dominant parent-years) were 14,300 54,300, and 21,900 fish, respectively. The dominant age classes for this run include age-0.2 (23%), 0.3 (46%), and age-1.3 (21%) fish based on scale samples collected from the spawning grounds. The Lower Chilkat River fish wheel project has been providing inseason stock assessment and post-season escapement estimates of Chilkat River mainstem sockeye salmon since 1994. The estimates of abundance were well below the historical 1994–2003 average of 30,200 fish for brood years 1999 and 2001 but the brood year 2000 estimate is 1.8 times this average and the highest estimate on record. Total escapement estimates are not available for Berners Bay sockeye salmon systems. Peak aerial escapements to Berners Bay streams were below average in 1999 but above average in 2000 and 2001. The average dominant age classes for Berners Bay rivers are age-0.3 (16%), 1.2 (13%), and age-1.3 (67%). The 1999 and 2000 commercial harvest of Berners Bay and Chilkat River mainstem sockeye salmon was estimated at 9,600 and 26,900 fish respectively. This harvest was 70% and 1.6 times, respectively of the historical 1976–2003 average catch of 13,700 fish. Age information collected from spawning ground samples of sockeye salmon throughout the Chilkat River mainstem area indicated an above average proportion of age-0.2 fish in 2003. This could be an indication that the return of age-0.3 fish in 2004 could be above average. Based on the information above, an above average run of Chilkat River mainstem sockeye salmon is expected in 2004.

The Chilkoot Lake weir has been in operation since 1976. The Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon weir count during the dominant parental brood year (1999) for the 2004 return was 19,284 fish (3,588 early run and 15,696 late run). The early run and the late run segments were below escapement goals. The Lynn Canal drift gillnet catch for the dominant brood year, 1999, was estimated to be 4,300 fish, well below the 1976 to 2003 historical average of 103,800 fish and the second smallest catch on record.

Zooplankton abundance was average during 2000; the year sockeye salmon juveniles would have been rearing in the lake. The 2000 fall hydroacoustic estimate was above average indicating improved numbers of emigrating smolt during the spring of 2001. The average size of smolt leaving the lake in 2001 for ages 1.0 and 2.0 was the highest on record.

Although the total return in recent years has been better, the annual total adult return of Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon has been well below average since 1993. The 1999 total return of Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon (23,500 fish) was the third lowest on record and 13.8% of the 1976–2003 average of 170,200 fish. Management will be monitoring the escapements during 2004 closely and implement management decisions to the commercial drift gillnet salmon fishery to achieve the lower end of the escapement goal range for Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon.

The 2004 Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon return is projected to be better than recent years based on:

- Average zooplankton abundance during 2000.
- Above average estimate of pre-smolt during the fall 2000 acoustic survey.
- Highest on record size of smolt leaving the lake in 2001 indicating good rearing conditions for this brood.
- Second highest on record proportion of age-1.2 fish in the 2003 escapement.

While the indicators listed above suggest a better return for this year it should be noted that the dominant parent year escapement (1999) was poor, third lowest on record. The total return of Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon in 1999 was also the third lowest on record. Given this information the department will continue to be somewhat conservative and base management decisions on inseason data.

Summer Chum

The majority of the summer chum salmon harvest is comprised of enhanced fish from remote release sites at Boat Harbor and Amalga Harbor. Smaller numbers of wild chum salmon are produced from local area streams such as Sawmill Creek and other Berners Bay rivers on the eastern side of Lynn Canal and the Endicott, Beardslee, and St. James rivers on the western side of Lynn Canal.

Douglas Island Pink and Chum Salmon Incorporated (DIPAC) have been operating chum salmon remote release sites at Boat Harbor and Amalga Harbor since 1988 and 1991, respectively. The contribution to the lower Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery have averaged 314,900 fish for years 1991–2003. In recent years, hatchery chum salmon contributions to the drift gillnet fleet has exceeded this average. Preliminary projections for the Boat Harbor return are approximately 191,000 fish, an increase from last year and 1.6 times the 1991–2003 average. No hatchery cost recovery fishery is planned for the Boat Harbor area, so these fish will all be available for common property fishery harvest. The preliminary projection for the Amalga Harbor project is approximately 1,440,000 fish, 1.4 times the 1994–2003 average of 1,066,600 fish. DIPAC will

conduct a hatchery cost recovery fishery in its Amalga Harbor Special Harvest Area in Section 11-A to harvest chum salmon returning to the Amalga Harbor remote release site.

Peak aerial escapement counts of summer chum salmon in Sawmill Creek in 1999, 2000, and 2001 were 3,100, 13,000, and 720 fish respectively. Those peak aerial escapements are near or above the 1993–2002 average for this index system. Cumulative peak counts of chum salmon in western Lynn Canal streams in 1999, 2000, and 2001 were 2,780, 4,680, and 7,100 fish respectively. The peak counts in 1999 were below the 1993–2002 average and the 2000 and 2001 peak counts exceeded this average. The department has been concerned about the status of wild chum salmon stocks along the western side of Lynn Canal, particularly the Endicott River. Because of these concerns the department implemented strategies designed to reduce the exploitation rate of wild chum salmon in order to boost escapements into western Lynn Canal streams in 2003. We feel that these strategies improved escapements into the Endicott River as the 2002 and 2003 peak chum salmon counts of 3,000 and 16,100 fish exceeded the 1993–2002 average of 2,300 fish. Based on parental-year escapement counts, the wild summer chum salmon return in 2004 should be average to above average in run strength but at a much lower scale than the hatchery summer chum salmon return.

Fall Chum

Fall chum salmon returning to Lynn Canal are wild stocks originating primarily from the Klehini River, Chilkat River, and several Chilkat River tributaries. A smaller number of fall chum salmon are produced from the Herman Creek spawning channel and streamside incubation projects carried out by NSRAA. Parent-year escapements for the 2003 return of fall chum salmon were generally low. Peak aerial counts in the Klehini River in 1999 and 2000 were 8,170 and 16,900 fish respectively, above the 1993–2002 average of 7,200 fish. For the Chilkat River, the peak aerial survey counts were 200 and 61,200 fish (1999 and 2000), well below the peak aerial escapement average of 15,800 for 1999 but well above this average in 2000. It is known, however, that aerial escapement counts are not very reliable for this system because of the glacial nature of the Chilkat River and the protracted spawning duration of these stocks. Other information that may be used as an indication of the strength of the fall chum salmon return is the fishery performance data from Lynn Canal. The fishery performance in the dominant parental brood years (1999 and 2000) was just below the 10-year average. Based on this information, the return of fall chum salmon stocks is expected to be average. Escapements of Chilkat River fall chum salmon since 1999 have improved. Management strategies designed to direct fishing pressure away from these stocks have been successful in recent years. Both fish wheel counts and aerial escapement surveys have indicated increasing escapements of these fish into spawning areas of the Chilkat River during years 1999 through 2003. A mark-recapture experiment utilizing the lower Chilkat River fish wheels was initiated in 2002 and 2003. The results of this study are discussed later in this document.

Coho Salmon

The coho salmon return in Lynn Canal is comprised of several stocks. The largest coho salmon system in the area is the Chilkat River followed by the Berners and Chilkoot rivers.

A mark-recapture experiment conducted in 1990 estimated that the total coho salmon escapement to the Chilkat River was 80,500 (95% confidence interval 70,000 to 95,600 fish). In 1998 and 2002-2003, Sport Fish Division conducted mark-recapture experiments to estimate the escapement of Chilkat River adult coho salmon. The escapement estimate for the 1998 project was 37,132 fish. Results for the 2002 and 2003 abundance estimate were 209,300 and 195,400 fish respectively. Sport Fish Division initiated a coho salmon smolt coded wire-tagging (CWT) project to estimate smolt size, age structure and production of coho salmon smolts beginning in 1999 and marine harvest of Chilkat River adult coho salmon in various fisheries in 2000 through 2003. The lower Chilkat River fish wheels were used to recover tagged fish for this research. During 2002, 352 tagged coho salmon were recovered from random sampling of various sport and commercial harvests. From these samples it was estimated that 114,000 coho salmon bound for the Chilkat River were harvested in commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries. Most (55.3%) of the harvest occurred in the commercial troll fishery, followed by the Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery (38.0%). The remainder of the harvests occurred in the recreational, commercial seine, and subsistence fisheries.

A longer-term (1982 to present) stock assessment program has been conducted on the Berners River. Results from that program indicate the average (1982 to 1995) total coho salmon return for that system is approximately 33,000 fish (range 14,000 to 73,800). Total harvest rates on the Berners River stock (1982 to 2003) have averaged 68%. The 2000 and 2001 escapements to Berners Bay that will contribute fish to the 2004 return were within and above the escapement goal range of 4,000 to 9,200 fish respectively.

The 2000 and 2001 Chilkat River fish wheel catches of 1,400 and 2,550 coho salmon were close to the 1994–2002 average in 2000 and exceeded this average during 2001. The District 15 gillnet catch of 35,330 coho salmon in 2000 and 35,600 in 2001 was approximately 65% of the previous ten-year average for both years. Weir counts for Chilkoot River coho salmon are also available but of limited value. In recent years, the weir was operated primarily for sockeye salmon and in most years has been removed prior to the peak of the coho salmon return. Based on this information, the coho salmon return in Lynn Canal is expected to be average to above average in 2004.

King Salmon

Since 1991, Sport Fish Division has conducted mark-recapture methods to determine the spawning abundance of Chilkat River king salmon. The department reviewed the data from this project and based on that analysis, a biological escapement goal was established for this stock. The biological escapement goal range is 1,750 to 3,500 mature (≥age 1.3) king salmon. The Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted the Lynn Canal and Chilkat River king fishery management plan at a meeting in Ketchikan in February 2003. This plan will provide the framework necessary to manage the existing fisheries that harvest Chilkat drainage king salmon for desired escapement. King salmon return timing data from the sport fish king salmon tagging program

indicates that approximately 90% of the Chilkat River king salmon return has passed the inriver drift gillnet capture site at river-mile seven by July 15, which is Statistical Week 29. Assuming that the travel time from Chilkat Inlet to the sport fish division tagging site is about ten days, the bulk of the Chilkat River king salmon return should be in the Chilkat River by about July 4 (week 28 in 2004).

The 2004 preseason forecast for mature (≥age 1.3) Chilkat king salmon is estimated to be above the 1991–2003 average of 4,726 fish. There is no directed fishery for king salmon in Lynn Canal commercial fisheries but management actions have been implemented to reduce the incidental take of Chilkat River king salmon. These management actions have been effective in conserving Chilkat River king salmon stocks as the biological escapement goal has been met or exceeded each year since 1991.

Management Plan

Section 15-A will open for two days south of the latitude of Seduction Point beginning 12:01 p.m., Sunday June 20 (Statistical Week 26). If the Chilkoot River weir count through June 16 is less than 4,500 sockeye salmon, the eastern side of Section 15-A will be closed. If the weir count is 4,500 sockeye salmon or greater, the eastern portion of 15-A may be opened. Chilkat Inlet will remain closed the first week of the season to protect mature king salmon returning to the Chilkat River. Given that the department has no preseason expectations for a poor run of Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon, Chilkat Inlet will be managed according to the Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan for the first three weeks of the season.

In 2004, the department intends to manage the Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery to obtain the lower ends of the escapement goal ranges for early and late stocks of Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon. Depressed populations of Chilkoot Lake zooplankton that serve as the forage base for rearing juvenile sockeye salmon are thought to be limiting production from this system. The department believes targeting the low end of the escapement goal range is prudent to reduce the possibility of high fry production and resultant heavy predation on the lake's principal food source for sockeye salmon.

If the Chilkat River and early-run Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon returns develop as expected, the northern boundary line in Chilkat Inlet will be moved northwards to Glacier Point for week 27 and to Cannery Point for week 28. The area from Cannery Point to the Chilkat River mouth will likely be closed to protect Chilkat River mainstem sockeye salmon during weeks 28 through 30. Chilkat River mainstem fish have a return timing that overlaps the Chilkat Lake early sockeye salmon run. There are no formal escapement goals for Chilkat River mainstem sockeye salmon. Data from the Chilkat River fish wheel mark-recapture program will be used to judge run strength inseason and escapement levels post season. The department is hopeful that this data may be used in the future to develop spawning escapement goals for this stock. If the Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon run is stronger than expected, the northern boundary line may be moved to the mouth of the Chilkat River during weeks 31–34. Section 15-A (west of a line beginning at a

point within two nautical miles of the western shoreline of Lynn Canal at the latitude of Point Sherman, to Sullivan Rock Light, to Eldred Rock Light, to the southernmost tip of Talsani Island, to the northernmost tip of Talsani Island, to Seduction Point) may be opened for extended periods of time during the summer season, but due to this year's expected smaller than average run of Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon it is likely that fishing time in this area will be limited to two or three days per week. Fishing time and area may be adjusted inseason and will be based on fishery performance and on stock assessment data, primarily from the fish wheel program in the lower Chilkat River.

If the Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon return is poor (run not forecasted to meet minimum escapement goals), the eastern side of Section 15-A will be closed for much of the season. Chilkoot Inlet will also be closed north of Seduction Point for most, if not all, of the summer season to protect Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon if returns are poor. If the Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon return comes in as expected Chilkoot Inlet north of Seduction point and eastern shoreline of Section 15-A below Seduction Point may be opened. Management decisions for the eastern areas of Section 15-A will be predicated on Chilkoot River sockeye salmon weir counts.

Fall management will begin in late August or early September. Fall chum salmon conservation will drive fishery management in Section 15-A from week 35 until the end of the season. If the late run of Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon is very strong, the department will use a management approach to the early fall fishery in Section 15-A similar to that used in the fall of 1999. In order to target fishing on Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon while limiting the harvest of milling Chilkat River fall chum salmon during weeks 35 and 36 in 1999, Chilkat Inlet was open from the latitude of Point Seduction to the mouth of the Chilkat River and the remainder of Section 15-A was closed. The need to use this management strategy in 2004 will be assessed in season and will be based on the strength of the late run of Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon. The department will assess sockeye salmon and fall chum salmon runs closely by monitoring fishery performance and inriver abundance at the Chilkat River fish wheels to adjust fishing time and area in Section 15-A.

If coho salmon returns to Berners Bay come in as strong as they have in recent years, time and area open to commercial gillnet salmon fishing in Section 15-B will be similar to the 2002 and 2003 seasons.

Section 15-C will open for two days beginning 12:01 p.m., Sunday, June 20. If the Chilkoot River weir count is less than 4,500 sockeye salmon through June 16 the eastern side of Section 15-C will be closed north of the latitude of Bridget Point. If the Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon returns are unexpectedly poor (based on weir counts) there may be 6-inch minimum mesh size restrictions in Section 15-C (except for the Boat Harbor area) after the first week of the season. This gear restriction will be implemented to minimize the harvest of sockeye salmon while targeting summer hatchery chum salmon. Gear restrictions will be in place only if Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon returns are poor and will not be in place for the first week of the season. If the Chilkoot River weir or Chilkat River fish wheel counts continue to be very poor and effort levels are higher than average, it is also possible that additional areas of Section 15-C may be closed. The decision to open additional area of this section and whether to implement gear restrictions will be

driven by Chilkoot River weir counts, Chilkat River fish wheel counts, effort levels, and inseason stock assessment information based on site specific and commercial scale samples.

A strategy used in recent years to harvest hatchery chum salmon while conserving poor returns of Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon has included, in addition to the 6" mesh size restriction, allowing fishing time only in a limited area along the eastern shoreline of Lynn Canal. During the 2002 drift gillnet task force meeting, there was discussion between industry and the department to open reduced area along the eastern shoreline of Section 15-C during the peak weeks of the hatchery chum salmon return. The department agreed to consider opening a smaller area similar to that used during the 1999 season if Chilkoot River sockeye salmon escapements warranted this action. The area agreed upon includes the waters of Section 15-C from the eastern shoreline of Lynn Canal at the latitude of Vanderbilt Reef Light to Vanderbilt Reef Light and east of a line from Vanderbilt Reef Light to Little Island Light. If the weir counts are very poor the department may open this area during July and the first week of August. If weir counts continue to be very poor it is possible that the eastern shoreline of Section 15-C will be closed entirely.

The Boat Harbor area (those waters within two nautical miles of the western shoreline of Lynn Canal from the latitude of Danger Point at 58°41.73' N. latitude south to a point 2.4 miles north of Point Whidbey at 58°37.05' N. latitude) may be opened for extended periods beginning in week 28, (July 4). During 2002 and 2003 the northern line of the Boat Harbor area was moved from Lance Point to Danger Point, approximately 2 nautical miles south. The purpose of this reduction in area is to decrease the exploitation rate on wild Endicott River and other western Lynn Canal wild chum salmon stocks that migrate through this area during the early summer season. Escapements of wild chum salmon to the Endicott River have improved presumably as a result of this action. In 2003, the area within the Boat Harbor area west of a line from the entrance to the Boat Harbor proper area was opened continuously beginning the second week of the season. This strategy will be used again in 2004. The remainder of the Boat Harbor area is expected to be open continuously beginning the second week of July. The western shoreline of Section 15-C will be closed north of Danger Point to protect wild summer chum salmon returning to the Endicott River from the start of the season through week 31 (June 20 to July 31).

Fall season management will begin in late August or early September in Section 15-C. A conservative management approach will again be implemented to ensure improved fall chum salmon escapement during the early weeks of the fall season. Management of Section 15-C during the fall season will be based on coho and chum salmon overall run strength and fishing effort levels. Fishing effort will be directed at harvesting expected high returns of coho salmon in Lynn Canal while conserving fall chum salmon.

To avoid gear conflicts, the District 15 drift gillnet fishery will not be open concurrent with the Juneau Golden North Salmon Derby. Consequently, during Statistical Week 35, the District 15 gillnet fishery will not open until Monday, August 23.

TERMINAL HATCHERY FISHERIES

For the 2004 season, drift gillnet terminal area fisheries can be expected in Deep Inlet, Neets Bay, Nakat Inlet, Eastern Passage (Earl West Cove), Anita Bay, Speel Arm, and Boat Harbor to harvest salmon returning to DIPAC, NSRAA, and SSRAA enhancement facilities.

Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association Terminal Area Fisheries

The terminal hatchery fishery at Deep Inlet will be managed jointly with NSRAA and according to the Board of Fisheries management plan. The open gillnet fishing times and any modifications of the terminal fishing area will be announced by ADF&G news releases prior to, and during, the fishing season.

Terminal Area – Deep Inlet [5 AAC 33.376]

NSRAA expects a return of 1,800,000 chum salmon to the Deep Inlet remote release site and the Medvejie Hatchery in 2004. Cost recovery and broodstock goals for the Deep Inlet returns are 427,000 fish and 50,000 fish respectively, allowing for a common property harvest of approximately 1,323,000 chum salmon by purse seine, drift gillnet, and troll gear. This year NSRAA is awarding two separate cost recovery contracts for Deep Inlet based a total harvest of 3.4 million pounds. Actual numbers of chum salmon harvested for cost recovery will be adjusted to achieve this total weight. The majority of the common property 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.

The NSRAA board has requested that the common property rotational fishery occur in June, in order to provide for additional common property harvest of king salmon returning to the Medvejie Hatchery along with early chum salmon returns to Deep Inlet. THA rotational gear fisheries are scheduled to begin on Sunday, May 30 and throughout June with four days of gillnet and two days of seine per week. June fisheries are contingent on adequate NSRAA and department staffing to sample king salmon for coded wire tags in order to document the percentage of Alaska hatchery king salmon in the catch so those fish do not count against the region-wide drift gillnet king salmon allocation of 7,600 fish or the purse seine allocation of 4.3% of the Treaty harvest ceiling.

The NSRAA board decided at their March meeting in Sitka that, as during the 2003 season, THA openings in July would be reduced and area within Deep Inlet would be closed in order to help achieve the season's cost recovery goal, and to reach 50% of the cost recovery goal by August 1. NSRAA plans to begin cost recovery fishing in late June or during the first week of July. 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 NSRAA board has directed NSRAA staff to manage cost recovery fishing in-season in order to achieve the cost recovery goal. A portion of Deep Inlet south of 56°58.50' N. latitude would be closed beginning

in July and until cost recovery goals can be met. If necessary, the THA rotational gear fisheries may be fully closed in order to achieve the cost recovery goal.

The following rotational fishing schedule will be in effect for the 2004 season:

May 30 – June 29

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.

From Sunday, July 4 until cost recovery goals are met:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Seine	CR/Troll	CR/Trol l	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 in-season adjustments to ensure that NSRAA cost recovery remains on schedule and the seasonal cost recovery goal is achieved. A detailed initial schedule for common property harvest in the THA will be published in a news release at the outset of the season. When changes are necessary, the revised schedule will be issued in a subsequent 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 Silver Bay and Eastern Channel east of a line from Makhnati Island to Sentinel Rock to Cape Burunof through July 23 and after the troll coho salmon closure in August. The Silver Bay SHA is reduced in area 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 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 2004 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°22.63' W. longitude, 56°59.35' 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°17.67' W. longitude, 57°00.30' N. latitude to a point on the southern side of the unnamed island at 135°16.78' W. longitude, 57°00.08' N. latitude and then to a point on the Baranof Island Shore at 135°16.53' W. longitude 56°59.93' N. latitude with the following restrictions: all waters of Sandy Cove and Leesofskaia Bay will be closed.

From June 30 and until cost recovery goals are assured of being met, portions of Deep Inlet south of 56°58.50' N. latitude will be closed to provide an area for cost recovery.

During the 2004 season, the boundaries of the Deep Inlet THA may be changed by NSRAA and the department to help resolve any conflicts that may occur between fishers and local private landowners in the area. Conflicts can be avoided by reducing boat wakes in areas near private docks, by reducing excessive noise and lights prior to openings, and by anchoring well away from private residences.

In order to promote full utilization of salmon, to prevent waste of salmon, to determine harvest patterns of incidentally harvested coho and sockeye salmon, and to allow full and accurate reporting of returns, the Deep Inlet THA fishery will be managed in 2004 by emergency order under authority of 5 AAC 39.325 FULL RETENTION AND UTILIZATION OF SALMON. This requires that all salmon harvested in net fisheries are retained, utilized, and reported on fish tickets whether they are sold or retained for personal use.

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 Medvejie Hatchery needed for broodstock. To protect coho salmon, THA boundary adjustments will be based on historic run timing and inseason observations of abundance. Since voluntary compliance with reporting of coho salmon in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area fishery has in the past been poor and the department needs detailed information on coho and sockeye salmon harvest patterns, personnel from the department or Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement (ABWE used to be FWP) may board some vessels and conduct hold inspections to ensure compliance as well as to sample marked coho for coded wire tags.

Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association Terminal Area Fisheries

The terminal hatchery fisheries at Neets Bay, Nakat Inlet, Earl West Cove (Eastern Passage), and Anita Bay will be managed jointly with SSRAA and according to Board of Fisheries management plans. The open gillnet fishing times listed here were agreed upon by the SSRAA Board of Directors but are subject to change if necessary. Any changes to these schedules will be announced via news releases prior to, and during, the fishing season.

Terminal Area – Neets Bay [5 AAC 33.370]

From the second Sunday in June through the third Sunday in July, the Neets Bay THA shall include those waters of Neets Bay east of the longitude of Chin Point to the closed waters at the head of the bay. After the third Sunday in July, the Neets Bay THA consists of those waters east of the longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island to the closed waters at the head of the bay.

In 2004, SSRAA is expecting a total return of 1.2 million summer chum, 400,000 fall chum, 300,000 coho, and 14,000 king salmon to return to Neets Bay.

The fisheries in Neets Bay will be opened by the department via emergency order in consultation with SSRAA. The Neets Bay fishery will be a rotational fishery according to 5 AAC 33.370.

At this time it is anticipated salmon may be taken by purse seine and drift gillnet gear concurrently from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, May 15, 2004 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, May 31, 2004 and as follows:

Drift Gillnet:

From 12:00 noon Tuesday, June 1 to 12:00 noon Thursday, June 3
From 12:00 noon Sunday, June 6 to 12:00 noon Tuesday June 8
From 12:00 noon Friday, June 11 to 12:00 noon Sunday, June 13
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, June 16 to 12:00 noon Friday, June 18

From 12:00 noon Saturday, September 25 to 12:00 noon Monday, September 27
From 12:00 noon Thursday, September 30 to 12:00 noon Saturday, October 2
From 12:00 noon Tuesday, October 5 to 12:00 noon Thursday, October 7
From 12:00 noon Sunday, October 10 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, October 12

Purse Seine:

From 12:00 noon Friday, June 4 to 12:00 noon Saturday, June 5
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, June 9 to 12:00 noon Thursday, June 10
From 12:00 noon Monday, June 14 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, June 15
From 12:00 noon Saturday, June 19 to 12:00 noon Sunday, June 20

From 12:00 noon Tuesday, September 28 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, September 29
From 12:00 noon Sunday, October 3 to 12:00 noon Monday, October 4
From 12:00 noon Friday, October 8 to 12:00 noon Saturday, October 9
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, October 13 to 12:00 noon Thursday, October 14

Effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, October 15, 2004 the Neets Bay terminal harvest area will be open to the harvest of salmon concurrently by drift gillnet, purse seine, and troll gear. The Neets Bay Terminal Harvest Area will close for the season at 11:59 p.m. Sunday, November 14, 2004.

Terminal Area — Nakat Inlet [5 AAC 33.372]

The Nakat Inlet drift gillnet fishing area includes the waters of Nakat Inlet between 54°50' N. latitude and 54°56' N. latitude. In 2004, approximately 150,000 summer chum, 100,000 fall chum, and 22,000 coho salmon are expected to return to Nakat Inlet. Peak chum salmon catches from these releases are expected between mid-July to mid-August for summer chum and late August to early September for fall chum and coho salmon.

Nakat Inlet will be open to all gear types for a continual basis starting on September 17. This is a change from past regulations that opened Nakat Inlet to continual fishing on October 10.

District 1 is open in the waters of Section 1-B in Nakat Inlet between 54°50'00" N. latitude and 54°56'00" N. latitude for the harvesting of salmon with troll gear from 12:00 noon Tuesday, June 1, 2004. The Nakat Inlet SHA will close for the season at 12:00 noon Wednesday, November 10, 2004.

Drift Gillnet:

From 12:00 noon Tuesday, June 1 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, June 2
From 12:00 noon Friday, June 4 to 12:00 noon Saturday, June 5
From 12:00 noon Monday, June 7 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, June 8
From 12:00 noon Thursday, June 10 to 12:00 noon Friday, June 11
From 12:00 noon Sunday, June 13 to 12:00 noon Monday, June 14
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, June 16 to 12:00 noon Thursday, June 17
From 12:00 noon Saturday, June 19 to 12:00 noon Sunday, June 20
From 12:00 noon Tuesday, June 22 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, June 23
From 12:00 noon Friday, June 25 to 12:00 noon Saturday, June 26
From 12:00 noon Monday, June 28 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, June 29

From 12:00 noon Thursday, July 1 to 12:00 noon Friday, July 2
From 12:00 noon Sunday, July 4 to 12:00 noon Monday, July 5
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 7 to 12:00 noon Thursday, July 8
From 12:00 noon Saturday, July 10 to 12:00 noon Sunday, July 11
From 12:00 noon Tuesday, July 13 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 14
From 12:00 noon Friday, July 16 to 12:00 noon Saturday, July 17

From 12:00 noon Monday, July 19 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, July 20
From 12:00 noon Thursday, July 22 to 12:00 noon Friday, July 23
From 12:00 noon Sunday, July 25 to 12:00 noon Monday, July 26
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 28 to 12:00 noon Thursday, July 29
From 12:00 noon Saturday, July 31 to 12:00 noon Sunday, August 1

From 12:00 noon Tuesday, August 3 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, August 4
From 12:00 noon Friday, August 6 to 12:00 noon Saturday, August 7
From 12:00 noon Monday, August 9 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, August 10
From 12:00 noon Thursday, August 12 to 12:00 noon Friday, August 13
From 12:00 noon Sunday, August 15 to 12:00 noon Monday, August 16
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, August 18 to 12:00 noon Thursday, August 19
From 12:00 noon Saturday, August 21 to 12:00 noon Sunday, August 22
From 12:00 noon Tuesday, August 24 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, August 25
From 12:00 noon Friday, August 27 to 12:00 noon Saturday, August 28
From 12:00 noon Monday, August 30 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, August 31

From 12:00 noon Thursday, September 2 to 12:00 noon Friday, September 3
From 12:00 noon Sunday, September 5 to 12:00 noon Monday, September 6
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, September 8 to 12:00 noon Thursday, September 9
From 12:00 noon Saturday, September 11 to 12:00 noon Sunday, September 12
From 12:00 noon Tuesday, September 14 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, September 15

Purse Seine:

From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, June 3
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, June 6
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 9
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 12
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 15
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday, June 18
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday, June 21
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, June 24
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, June 27
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 30

From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 3
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 6
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 9
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 12
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 15
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 18
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 21
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 24
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 27
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 30

From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 2
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 5
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 8
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 11
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, August 14
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 17
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 20
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 23
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 26
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 29

From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 1
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 4
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 7
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday, September 10
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday, September 13
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 16

Beginning 12:01 a.m. Friday, September 17, 2004, the Nakat Inlet SHA will be open to the harvesting of salmon concurrently by drift gillnet, purse seine, and troll gear. The Nakat Inlet SHA will close for the season at 12:00 noon Wednesday, November 10, 2004.

Terminal Area — Eastern Passage [5 AAC 33.373]

The Eastern Passage (Earl West Cove) drift gillnet fishing area includes the waters of Eastern Passage south of 56°24.83' N. latitude and west of 132°06.60' W. longitude. In 2004, no significant returns of chum (1,600) or king salmon are expected to the EWC THA. Salmon that do return will be older, larger fish and are expected to return earlier than previous years peak return timing.

District 7 is open in those waters of Eastern Passage south of 56°24.83’ N. latitude and west of 132°06.60’ W. longitude for the harvesting of salmon by drift gillnet and purse seine during the following rotational schedule:

Drift Gillnet:

From 12:00 noon Saturday, June 19 to 12:00 noon Sunday, June 20
From 12:00 noon Tuesday, June 22 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, June 23
From 12:00 noon Friday, June 25 to 12:00 noon Saturday, June 26
From 12:00 noon Monday, June 28 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, June 29

From 12:00 noon Thursday, July 1 to 12:00 noon Friday, July 2
From 12:00 noon Sunday, July 4 to 12:00 noon Monday, July 5
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 7 to 12:00 noon Thursday, July 8

From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 10
From 12:00 noon Sunday, July 11 to 12:00 noon Monday, July 12
From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 13
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 14 to 12:00 noon Thursday, July 15
From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 16
From 12:00 noon Saturday, July 17 to 12:00 noon Sunday, July 18
From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 19
From 12:00 noon Tuesday, July 20 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 21
From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 22
From 12:00 noon Friday, July 23 to 12:00 noon Saturday, July 24
From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 25
From 12:00 noon Monday, July 26 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, July 27
From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 28
From 12:00 noon Thursday, July 29 to 12:00 noon Friday, July 30
From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 31

From 12:00 noon Sunday, August 1 to 12:00 noon Monday, August 2
From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, August 3
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, August 4 to 12:00 noon Thursday, August 5
From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Friday, August 6
From 12:00 noon Saturday, August 7 to 12:00 noon Sunday, August 8
From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 9
From 12:00 noon Tuesday, August 10 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, August 11
From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Thursday, August 12
From 12:00 noon Friday, August 13 to 12:00 noon Saturday, August 14
From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 15
From 12:00 noon Monday, August 16 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, August 17
From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, August 18
From 12:00 noon Thursday, August 19 to 12:00 noon Friday, August 20
From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Saturday, August 21
From 12:00 noon Sunday, August 22 to 12:00 noon Monday, August 23
From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, August 24
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, August 25 to 12:00 noon Thursday, August 26
From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Friday, August 27
From 12:00 noon Saturday, August 28 to 12:00 noon Sunday, August 29
From 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 30
From 12:00 noon Tuesday, August 31 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, September 1

From 12:00 noon Friday, September 3 to 12:00 noon Saturday, September 4
From 12:00 noon Monday, September 6 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, September 7
From 12:00 noon Thursday, September 9 to 12:00 noon Friday, September 10
From 12:00 noon Sunday, September 12 to 12:00 noon Monday, September 13
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, September 15 to 12:00 noon Thursday, September 16
From 12:00 noon Saturday, September 18 to 12:00 noon Sunday, September 19
From 12:00 noon Tuesday, September 21 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, September 22
From 12:00 noon Friday, September 24 to 12:00 noon Saturday, September 25

From 12:00 noon Monday, September 27 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, September 28
From 12:00 noon Thursday, September 30 to 12:00 noon Friday, October 1
From 12:00 noon Sunday, October 3 to 12:00 noon Monday, October 4
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, October 6 to 12:00 noon Thursday, October 7
From 12:00 noon Saturday, October 9 to 12:00 noon Sunday, October 10

Purse Seine:

From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday, June 21
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, June 24
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, June 27
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 30
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 3
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 6
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 9

From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Sunday, July 11
From 12:00 noon to 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 12
From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 14
From 12:00 noon to 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 15
From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Saturday, July 17
From 12:00 noon to 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 18
From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Tuesday, July 20
From 12:00 noon to 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, July 21
From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Friday, July 23
From 12:00 noon to 11:59 p.m. Saturday, July 24
From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Monday, July 26
From 12:00 noon to 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, July 27
From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Thursday, July 29
From 12:00 noon to 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 30

From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Sunday, August 1
From 12:00 noon to 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 2
From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Wednesday, August 4
From 12:00 noon to 11:59 p.m. Thursday, August 5
From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Saturday, August 7
From 12:00 noon to 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 8
From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Tuesday, August 10
From 12:00 noon to 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, August 11
From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Friday, August 13
From 12:00 noon to 11:59 p.m. Saturday, August 14
From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Monday, August 16
From 12:00 noon to 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, August 17
From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Thursday, August 19
From 12:00 noon to 11:59 p.m. Friday, August 20
From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Sunday, August 22

From 12:00 noon to 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 23
From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Wednesday, August 25
From 12:00 noon to 11:59 p.m. Thursday, August 26
From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Saturday, August 28
From 12:00 noon to 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 29
From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon Tuesday, August 31

From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 2
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, September 5
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 8
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 11
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 14
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday, September 17
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday, September 20
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 23
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, September 26
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 29
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, October 2
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 5
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday, October 8
From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday, October 11

Beginning 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, October 12, 2004, the Earl West Cove SHA will be open to the harvesting of salmon concurrently by drift gillnet, purse seine and troll gear. The Earl West Cove SHA will close for the season at 12:00 noon, Wednesday, November 10, 2004.

Terminal Area — Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough [5 AAC 33.381]

In the Wrangell Narrows (District 6) terminal area, the preliminary projected king salmon return is fewer than 4,000 adults to the terminal area. Under provisions of the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan if the return is less than 4,000 king salmon no fish will be available for commercial troll catch in the terminal area. No terminal gillnet fishery will occur.

The total Crystal Lake Hatchery coho salmon return is expected to be 3,500 fish; of that, an estimated 2,500 fish will be available for sport and commercial harvest in the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough area. No commercial gillnet fishery is expected on these fish.

Terminal Area — Anita Bay [5 AAC 33.383]

The Anita Bay terminal area consists of the waters of Anita Bay west of a line between 56°12.35' N. latitude, 132°27.10' W. longitude, and 56°11.30' N. latitude, 132°26.22' W. longitude. In 2004, approximately 120,000 chum, 6,000 king and 20,000 coho salmon are expected to be

returning in total. It is anticipated that approximately 70,800 chum, 1,000 king and 2,000 coho will return to the terminal area and be available for harvesting in the rotational fisheries.

District 7, in those waters of Anita Bay west of 132°24.40" W. longitude is open to the harvesting of salmon by drift gillnet and purse seine during the following rotational schedule:

Drift Gillnet:

From 12:00 noon Saturday, June 19 to 12:00 noon Monday, June 21
From 12:00 noon Thursday, June 24 to 12:00 noon Saturday, June 26
From 12:00 noon Tuesday, June 29 to 12:00 noon Thursday, July 1

From 12:00 noon Sunday, July 4 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, July 6
From 12:00 noon Friday, July 9 to 12:00 noon Sunday, July 11
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 14 to 12:00 noon Friday, July 16
From 12:00 noon Monday, July 19 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 21
From 12:00 noon Saturday, July 24 to 12:00 noon Monday, July 26
From 12:00 noon Thursday, July 29 to 12:00 noon Saturday, July 31

From 12:00 noon Tuesday, August 3 to 12:00 noon Thursday, August 5
From 12:00 noon Sunday, August 8 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, August 10
From 12:00 noon Friday, August 13 to 12:00 noon Sunday, August 15
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, August 18 to 12:00 noon Friday, August 20
From 12:00 noon Monday, August 23 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, August 25
From 12:00 noon Saturday, August 28 to 12:00 noon Monday, August 30

From 12:00 noon Thursday, September 2 to 12:00 noon Saturday, September 4
From 12:00 noon Tuesday, September 7 to 12:00 noon Thursday, September 9
From 12:00 noon Sunday, September 12 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, September 14
From 12:00 noon Friday, September 17 to 12:00 noon Sunday, September 19
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, September 22 to 12:00 noon Friday, September 24
From 12:00 noon Monday, September 27 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, September 29

From 12:00 noon Saturday, October 2 to 12:00 noon Monday, October 4
From 12:00 noon Thursday, October 7 to 12:00 noon Saturday, October 9

Purse Seine:

From 12:00 noon Tuesday, June 22 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, June 23
From 12:00 noon Sunday, June 27 to 12:00 noon Monday, June 28

From 12:00 noon Friday, July 2 to 12:00 noon Saturday, July 3
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 7 to 12:00 noon Thursday, July 8
From 12:00 noon Monday, July 12 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, July 13
From 12:00 noon Saturday, July 17 to 12:00 noon Sunday, July 18
From 12:00 noon Thursday, July 22 to 12:00 noon Friday, July 23

From 12:00 noon Tuesday, July 27 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 28

From 12:00 noon Sunday, August 1 to 12:00 noon Monday, August 2
From 12:00 noon Friday, August 6 to 12:00 noon Saturday, August 7
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, August 11 to 12:00 noon Thursday, August 12
From 12:00 noon Monday, August 16 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, August 17
From 12:00 noon Saturday, August 21 to 12:00 noon Sunday, August 22
From 12:00 noon Thursday, August 26 to 12:00 noon Friday, August 27
From 12:00 noon Tuesday, August 31 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, September 1

From 12:00 noon Sunday, September 5 to 12:00 noon Monday, September 6
From 12:00 noon Friday, September 10 to 12:00 noon Saturday, September 11
From 12:00 noon Wednesday, September 15 to 12:00 noon Thursday, September 16
From 12:00 noon Monday, September 20 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, September 21
From 12:00 noon Saturday, September 25 to 12:00 noon Sunday, September 26
From 12:00 noon Thursday, September 30 to 12:00 noon Friday, October 1

From 12:00 noon Tuesday, October 5 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, October 6
From 12:00 noon Sunday, October 10 to 12:00 noon Monday, October 11

(d)(3) Beginning 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, October 12, 2004, the Anita Bay SHA will be open to the harvesting of salmon concurrently by drift gillnet, purse seine and troll gear. The Anita Bay SHA will close for the season at 12:00 noon, Wednesday, November 10, 2004.

Douglas Island Pink and Chum Inc. Terminal Area Fisheries

Terminal Area — Boat Harbor

DIPAC has been operating chum salmon remote release sites at Boat Harbor and Amalga Harbor since 1988 and 1991, respectively. This year the Boat Harbor return is expected to be approximately 191,000 fish, an increase from last year. No hatchery cost recovery fishery is planned for the Boat Harbor area so these fish will all be available for common property fishery harvest. Chum salmon returning to the Amalga Harbor remote release site in Section 11-A will also be intercepted in the Boat Harbor terminal fishery and in other areas of Section 15-C. The projection for Amalga Harbor returns is approximately 1,440,000 fish. DIPAC will conduct a hatchery cost recovery fishery in its Amalga Harbor Special Harvest Area in Section 11-A to harvest chum salmon returning to the Amalga Harbor remote release site.

Special Harvest Area — Speel Arm

The expected total return of Snettisham Hatchery sockeye salmon in 2004 is 442,000 fish. This is an increase from last year's total return of approximately 230,000 fish, which included 121,000 adults and 109,000 one-ocean jacks. This return will be principally harvested in the traditional District 11 commercial gillnet fishery. Common property fishery openings are also expected to occur during August in the DIPAC Speel Arm SHA, which is located in waters of Speel Arm north of 58°03'25" N. latitude. Timing of openings in the SHA will depend on DIPAC's progress toward brood stock and cost recovery goals and the sockeye salmon escapement to Speel Lake. DIPAC cost recovery efforts in the SHA during July will be limited to waters in the immediate vicinity of the hatchery where wild and hatchery stocks are well segregated. Fishery management decisions for the Speel Arm SHA will be made jointly by the department and DIPAC.

FISHERY CONTACTS

The following people are Division of Commercial Fisheries contacts for this management plan:

Andy McGregor
Region 1 Supervisor
P.O. Box 240020
Douglas, AK 99824
(907) 465-4250

Scott Kelley
Region 1 Management Coordinator
P.O. Box 240020
Douglas, AK 99824
(907) 465-4250

Kevin Monagle or Dave Harris
Area Management Biologists
P.O. Box 240020
Douglas, AK 99824
(907) 465-4205

Phil Doherty, Don House,
or Justin Breese
Area Management Biologists
2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite 205
Ketchikan, AK 99901
(907) 225-5195

Bill Davidson or Dave Gordon
Area Management Biologists
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-6688

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

Randy Bachman
Area Management Biologist
P.O. Box 330
Haines, AK 99827
(907) 766-2830

Scott Forbes
Assistant Area Management Biologist
P.O. Box 200
Wrangell, AK 99929
(907) 874-3822

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

Ketchikan	-	(907) 225-6870
Petersburg	-	(907) 772-3700
Sitka	-	(907) 747-5022
Juneau	-	(907) 465-8905
Haines		(907) 766-2830

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

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

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