Regional Information Report No. 1J08-17

2008 Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Fishery Management Plan

by

William Davidson

William Bergmann

Dave Gordon

Steve Heinl

Kevin Monagle

and

Scott Walker

June 2008

Alaska Department of Fish and Game **Division of Commercial Fisheries**

Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the Système International d'Unités (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Sport Fish and of Commercial Fisheries: Fishery Manuscripts, Fishery Data Series Reports, Fishery Management Reports, Special Publications and the Division of Commercial Fisheries Regional Reports. All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figure or figure captions.

Weights and measures (metric)

centimeter	cm
deciliter	dL
gram	g
hectare	ha
kilogram	kg
kilometer	km
liter	L
meter	m
milliliter	mL
millimeter	mm

Weights and measures (English)

cubic feet per second	ft^3/s
foot	ft
gallon	gal
inch	in
mile	mi
nautical mile	nmi
ounce	oz
pound	lb
quart	qt
yard	yd

Time and temperature

day	d
degrees Celsius	°C
degrees Fahrenheit	°F
degrees kelvin	K
hour	h
minute	min
second	s

Physics and chemistry

all atomic symbols	
alternating current	AC
ampere	A
calorie	cal
direct current	DC
hertz	Hz
horsepower	hp
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH
parts per million	ppm
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰
volts	V
watts	W

General

Alaska Administrative Code	AAC
all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.
all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.
at	@
compass directions:	
east	E
north	N
south	S
west	W
copyright	©
corporate suffixes:	
Company	Co.
Corporation	Corp.
Incorporated	Inc.
Limited	Ltd.
District of Columbia	D.C.
et alii (and others)	et al.
et cetera (and so forth)	etc.
exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.
Federal Information Code	FIC
id est (that is)	i.e.
latitude or longitude	lat. or long.
monetary symbols (U.S.)	$, ¢
months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan,...,Dec
registered trademark	®
trademark	™
United States (adjective)	U.S.
United States of America (noun)	USA
U.S.C.	United States Code
U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)

Measures (fisheries)

fork length	FL
mideye-to-fork	MEF
mideye-to-tail-fork	METF
standard length	SL
total length	TL

Mathematics, statistics

all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations	
alternate hypothesis	H_A
base of natural logarithm	*e*
catch per unit effort	CPUE
coefficient of variation	CV
common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2, etc.)
confidence interval	CI
correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
correlation coefficient (simple)	r
covariance	cov
degree (angular)	°
degrees of freedom	df
expected value	*E*
greater than	>
greater than or equal to	≥
harvest per unit effort	HPUE
less than	<
less than or equal to	≤
logarithm (natural)	ln
logarithm (base 10)	log
logarithm (specify base)	$\log_2$, etc.
minute (angular)	'
not significant	NS
null hypothesis	H_O
percent	%
probability	P
probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
second (angular)	"
standard deviation	SD
standard error	SE
variance	
population	Var
sample	var

REGIONAL INFORMATION REPORT NO. 1J08-17

2008 SOUTHEAST ALASKA PURSE SEINE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

By
William Davidson and Dave Gordon
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Sitka

William Bergmann
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Petersburg

Kevin Monagle
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Douglas

and

Scott Walker and Steve Heinl
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Ketchikan

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries, Publications Section
802 3rd, Douglas, Alaska, 99824-0020

June, 2008

The Regional Information Report Series was established in 1987 and was redefined in 2007 to meet the Division of Commercial Fisheries regional need for publishing and archiving information such as project operational plans, area management plans, budgetary information, staff comments and opinions to Board of Fisheries proposals, interim or preliminary data and grant agency reports, special meeting or minor workshop results and other regional information not generally reported elsewhere. Reports in this series may contain raw data and preliminary results. Reports in this series receive varying degrees of regional, biometric and editorial review; information in this series may be subsequently finalized and published in a different department reporting series or in the formal literature. Please contact the author or the Division of Commercial Fisheries if in doubt of the level of review or preliminary nature of the data reported. Regional Information Reports are available through the Alaska State Library and on the Internet at: http://www.sf.adfg.ak.us/statewide/divreprots/htlm/intersearch.cfm.

William Davidson and Dave Gordon
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries
304 Lake Street, Room 103, Sitka, AK 99835-7563 USA

William Bergmann,
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries
16 Sing Lee Alley, Petersburg, AK 99833-0667 USA

Kevin Monagle
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries
802 3rd Street, P.O. Box110024, Douglas, AK 99811-0024 USA
and

Scott Walker and Steve Heinl
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries
2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite 205, Ketchikan, AK 99901-0024 USA

This document should be cited as:
Davidson, W., W. Bergmann, D. Gordon, S. Heinl, K. Monagle, and S. Walker. 2008. 2008 Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Fishery Management Plan. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Regional Report Series No. 1J08-17, Douglas.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

LIST OF TABLES iii

LIST OF FIGURES iii

ABSTRACT 1

INTRODUCTION 1

2008 PINK SALMON FORECAST 2

GENERAL MANAGEMENT GOALS 5

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 5

Expected Fishing Regime 5
Effort Levels 6
Daily Start Times 6
Regulation Markers 7
News Release Information 7
Mature Pink Salmon Fisheries 8
Chinook Salmon Harvest 8
Chinook Salmon Implementation Plan 9

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS PURSE SEINE FISHERY 9

2008 Pink Salmon Returns 9
Management Concerns 9
- McDonald Lake Sockeye Salmon 10
- Hugh Smith Lake Sockeye Salmon 10

Management Plan 10
- District 4 11
- Inside Fishing Areas 12
- Districts 5, 6, and 7 13
- Fall Chum Salmon Fisheries 13
- Terminal Hatchery Fisheries 14
- Terminal Area–Neets Bay [5AAC 33.370] 14
- Neets Bay THA Calendar 15
- Terminal Area–Anita Bay [5AAC 33.383] 15
- Anita Bay THA Calendar 15
- Kendrick Bay THA–[5AAC 33.377] 16

NORTHERN DISTRICTS PURSE SEINE FISHERY 17

2008 Pink Salmon Returns 17
Management Concerns 17
Management Plan 17
- Fishing Regime Implementation 17

Inside Fishing Areas, Early Runs....17
Inside Fishing Areas—Middle and Late Runs....19
Hawk Inlet Shore Fishery....20
Outside Fishing Areas (Sections 13-A and 13-B)....21
Fall Chum Salmon Fisheries....22
Hidden Falls Terminal Hatchery Fishery....22
Deep Inlet Terminal Hatchery Fishery....23
Terminal Area–Deep Inlet [5AAC 33.376]....23
Gunnuk Creek Hatchery Returns....26
LIST OF MANAGEMENT CONTACTS....28

LIST OF TABLES

Table **Page**

Table 1.–2006 Southeast Alaska pink salmon escapement indices (in millions) by district and subregion, compared to management target ranges by district, and biological escapement goal ranges by subregion. 4
Table 2.–Sockeye salmon allocations for the District 4 purse seine fishery based on Nass and Skeena Rivers allocation calculations, 1999 to 2008. 12
Table 3.–Expected 2008 Returns to SSRAA enhancement projects by release location. 16
Table 4.–Expected 2008 returns to Northern Southeast area enhancement projects by hatchery organization and release location)....26

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure **Page**

Figure 1.–Annual harvest of pink salmon in Southeast Alaska, 1998–2007, compared to the exponential smoothed hindcast predictions of the harvest, and the exponential smooth prediction adjusted using NOAA Auke Bay Laboratory pink salmon fry data. 3

ABSTRACT

The Southeast Alaska purse seine fishery is managed according to statute, regulations, emergency order authority, and in consultation with the public and industry through the Purse Seine Management Task Force process. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game issued a preseason forecast for harvest of 19 million pink salmon for 2008. This forecast for pink salmon, together with historical escapement estimates, fishery performance data, private non-profit hatchery forecasts for chum salmon and other species, are used to establish the management plan. The management plan for the 2008 Southeast Alaska salmon purse seine fishery is described in detail, along with expected run sizes, harvest strategies, and related management issues.

Key words: purse seine, management, pink salmon, chum salmon, coho salmon, sockeye salmon, Chinook salmon

INTRODUCTION

This plan describes how the Southeast Alaska salmon purse seine fishery will be managed during the 2008 season and includes expected run sizes, harvest strategies, and related management issues. The plan is based on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) 2008 preseason pink salmon forecast, historical escapement data, fishery performance data, PNP hatchery forecasts, and input through the Purse Seine Management Task Force process. ADF&G area management biologists listed at the end of this document can provide further details regarding the implementation of the plan in their respective areas.

Regulations allow purse seine fishing in Districts 1 (Sections 1-C, 1-D, 1-E, and 1-F only), 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (Sections 6-C and 6-D only), 7, 9, 10, 11 (Sections 11-A and 11-D only), 12, 13, and 14. Purse seine fishing is also allowed in hatchery terminal harvest areas (THA) at Neets Bay, Kendrick Bay, Anita Bay, Deep Inlet, and Hidden Falls. Although the areas specified above are designated seine fishing areas, specific open areas and fishing times are established inseason by emergency order.

On average, 70 to 90% of the salmon harvested in Southeast Alaska commercial fisheries are caught with purse seines. Pink salmon *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha* is the primary species targeted by the seine fleet, therefore most management actions are based on the abundance of pink salmon stocks. Other species are generally harvested incidental to pink salmon. On average, chum salmon *O. keta*, account for approximately 12%, sockeye salmon *O. nerka* and coho salmon *O. kisutch* account for approximately 2%, and Chinook salmon *O. tshawytscha* account for less than 1% of the total purse seine salmon harvest.

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

Inseason assessments of pink salmon run strength are determined primarily from spawning escapement information obtained from aerial surveys of terminal areas and streams, and from fishery performance data (catch and catch per unit effort, or CPUE). ADF&G staff use fishery performance data and associated information to make inseason evaluations of pink salmon harvests to Northern and Southern Southeast Alaska. ADF&G also charters purse seine vessels to conduct test fishing assessments of run strength in selected index areas and monitors pink salmon sex ratios in the commercial harvest to evaluate run timing.

2008 PINK SALMON FORECAST

The pink salmon return in 2008 is predicted to be in the range of *Weak* to *Average*, with a potential total Southeast Alaska harvest of **19 million fish (with an 80% CI range of 10 to 34 million fish).** The categorical ranges of pink salmon harvest in Southeast Alaska were formulated from the 20th, 40th, 60th, and 80th percentiles of historical harvest from 1960 to 2007:

Category	Range (millions)	Percentile
Disaster	Less than 11	Less than 20th
Weak	11 to 16	21st to 40th
Average	17 to 28	41st to 60th
Strong	29 to 51	61st to 80th
Excellent	Greater than 51	Greater than 80th

The 2008 forecast is a "model average" of two forecasts: 1) a forecast of the trend in the harvest, using a time-series method called exponential smoothing, and 2) the forecast trend adjusted using 2007 pink salmon fry abundance data provided by the National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Auke Bay Laboratories (Joe Orsi, Auke Bay Laboratories, personal communication (Figure 1). These data were obtained from systematic surveys conducted annually in upper Chatham and Icy straits in conjunction with NOAA's Southeast Coastal Monitoring Project, and are highly correlated with the harvest of adult pink salmon in the following year (Orsi et al. 2006[1]). This is the 2nd year that the ADF&G forecast was adjusted using these data.

An actual harvest of 19 million pink salmon would be 40% of the recent 10-year average of 47 million pink salmon. Several indicators suggest the harvest will be below average in 2008. Although Southeast Alaska biological escapement goals were met in the parent year (2006), the pink salmon escapement index was the smallest in more than 15 years, and the index of 4.4 million for the Southern Southeast sub-region narrowly met the escapement goal of 4.0–9.0 million (Table 1). In addition, the NOAA Auke Bay Lab's 2007 peak June–July juvenile pink salmon CPUE statistic from upper Chatham and Icy straits in northern Southeast Alaska was the smallest in the 11 years that NOAA has collected that information. Pink salmon harvests associated with the two previous smallest years in their data set were 20 million (2000) and 12 million (2006). The NOAA Auke Bay Lab has also conducted three years of studies in Clarence

1 We gratefully acknowledge the assistance and advice of Joe Orsi and Alex Wertheimer and their colleagues at the NOAA Auke Bay Lab. However, we accept responsibility for this forecast, and we accept sole responsibility for this use of their data. For a detailed description of these NOAA research activities see: Orsi, J. A., E. A. Fergusson, M. V. Sturdevant, B. L. Wing, A. C. Wertheimer, and W. R. Heard. 2006. Annual Survey of Juvenile Salmon and Ecologically Related Species and Environmental Factors in the Marine Waters of Southeastern Alaska, May–August 2005 (NPAFC Doc. 955) Auke Bay Lab., Alaska Fish. Sci. Cen., Nat. Mar. Fish. Serv., NOAA, 11305 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801-8626, USA, 108 p.; http://www.npafc.org/new/pub_documents.html.

Strait in southern Southeast Alaska; while this time series is not yet long enough to use directly for forecasting purposes, their 2007 pink salmon fry abundance data were similar to 2005, the year prior to the weak 2006 run.

The department will manage the commercial purse seine fisheries *inseason* based on the strength of salmon runs. Aerial escapement surveys and fishery performance data will continue, as always, to be essential in making inseason management decisions.

A complete description of the Southeast Alaska pink salmon harvest forecast can be found online at: www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region1/pdfs/salmon/2008_pink_forecast.pdf.

The statewide harvest forecast can be found online at:

www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/geninfo/finfish/salmon/salmupdates.php#forecasts.

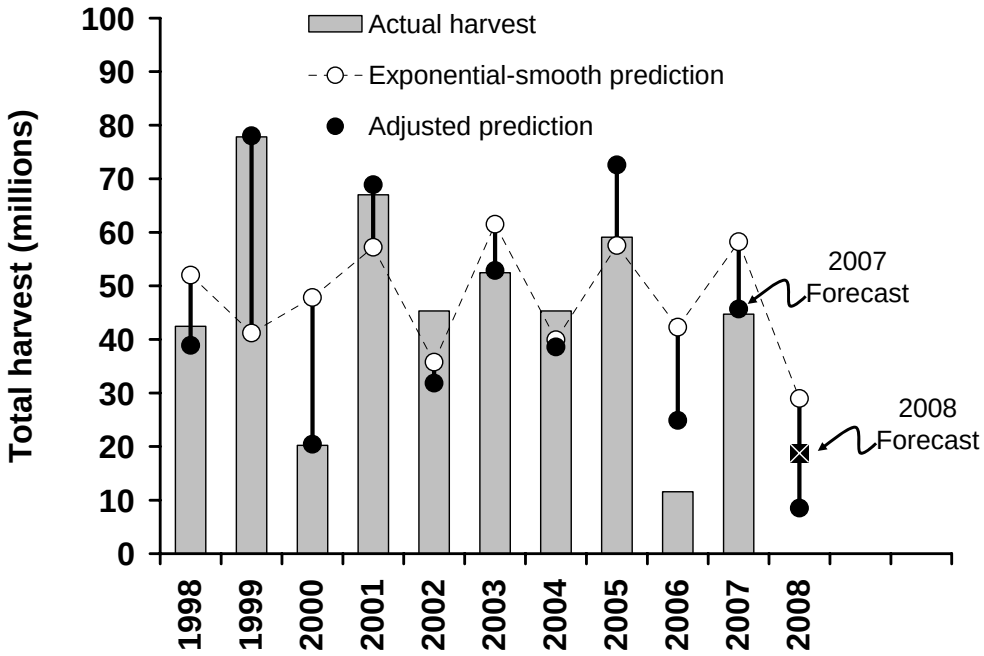

Figure 1.–Annual harvest of pink salmon in Southeast Alaska, 1998–2007, compared to the exponential smoothed hindcast predictions of the harvest, and the exponential smooth prediction adjusted using NOAA Auke Bay Laboratory pink salmon fry data. The 2007 ADF&G harvest forecast of 47 million pink salmon was very close to the actual harvest of 45 million. The 2008 forecast of 19 million pink salmon is the average of the adjusted prediction (9 million) and the exponential-smooth prediction (29 million).

Table 1.–2006 Southeast Alaska pink salmon escapement indices (in millions) by district and subregion, compared to management target ranges by district, and biological escapement goal ranges by subregion.

Subregion	District	2006 Index	Lower Management Target	Upper Management Target
Southern	101	1.31	1.33	3.00
Southern	102	0.75	0.40	1.10
Southern	103	1.35	1.13	2.55
Southern	105	0.22	0.33	0.65
Southern	106	0.31	0.40	0.85
Southern	107	0.36	0.40	0.85
Southern	108	0.06	No Target	No Target
Northern Inside	109	1.08	0.40	0.85
Northern Inside	110	0.77	0.65	1.45
Northern Inside	111	0.37	0.32	0.73
Northern Inside	112	0.97	0.40	0.85
Northern Inside	Inside 113	0.44	0.40	0.90
Northern Inside	114	0.22	0.32	0.73
Northern Inside	115	0.08	No Target	No Target
Northern Outside	Outside 113	1.92	0.75	1.75

Biological Escapement Goals by Subregion	Total 2006 Index	Lower Escapement Goal	Upper Escapement Goal
Southern	4.37	4.00	9.00
Northern Inside	3.93	2.50	5.50
Northern Outside	1.92	0.75	1.75

GENERAL MANAGEMENT GOALS

The primary management goals for the 2008 Southeast Alaska purse seine fishery are as follows:

1. Obtain overall pink salmon spawning biological escapement goals by subregion and within subregions obtain escapements consistent with district and stock group management targets to ensure that spawning escapements are well distributed.
2. Obtain overall adequate chum salmon spawning escapements and ensure that spawning escapements are well distributed.
3. Provide for an orderly fishery while harvesting fish in excess of spawning escapement needs.
4. Minimize, to the extent possible, the interceptions of salmon destined for fishing districts where weak returns are expected.
5. Promote a harvest of good quality fish within constraints dictated by run size and timing.
6. Manage the District 4 purse seine fishery consistent with the provisions of the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty.
7. Restrict the total purse seine harvest of Chinook salmon (28 inches or larger) no more than 4.3% of the all-gear Chinook salmon catch ceiling established for the 2008/2009 season. Based on the 2008 Chinook salmon abundance index of 1.07, the purse seine fishery allocation for the season is 7,310 Chinook salmon.
8. Manage the seine fishery in the waters of District 12, north of Point Marsden (along the Hawk Inlet Shore), and in Section 14-C north of the latitude of Porpoise Islands, consistent with the Northern Southeast Purse Seine Management Plan (5 AAC 33.366).

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

EXPECTED FISHING REGIME

ADF&G will manage the 2008 purse seine fishery inseason based on aerial survey observations and fishery performance data. Initial 15-hour openings will occur on Sunday, June 22 at Hidden Falls, Point Augusta, Tenakee Inlet, and Kendrick Bay. These areas along with portions of District 10 and Section 13-C will likely reopen on Sunday, June 29. Other areas around the region will open as described in this plan, subject to inseason information. In consideration of the ADF&G pink salmon harvest forecast of 19 million, with a range of 10–34 million, and as supported by the NOAA harvest forecast of 16.1 million, with a range of 14.8–27.7 million, the department will carefully monitor inseason information, and will manage to ensure that escapement goals are met, that district and stock group escapement targets are obtained, and that escapements are well distributed.

During 2006, the pink salmon parent year, common property purse seine harvests of 10.1 million pink salmon were well below average. The fishing periods associated with this harvest in 2006 were generally limited to two 15-hour openings per week, but included a regional closure period in mid-August, and most areas were closed after August 24. Escapements from this management

regime were within or above biological goals for the three sub-regions, however escapement distribution was variable. Thirteen of 44 stock groups did not meet management targets, and 12 stock groups exceeded management escapement targets. If returns in 2008 are similar to 2006 a cautious approach is warranted, however, the department is also prepared to provide additional fishing opportunity when appropriate. The department may expand fishing opportunity from one to two, 15-hour periods per week, to 39-hour periods, to 2-days-on/2-days-off, to a 5-day fishing cycle as run strength allows.

In November of 2007 the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Task Force met and consensus was reached to re-define plans for peak-season expanded fishing regimes. The purpose of expanded fishing remains to: 1) supply processing plants with more consistent deliveries of fresh-caught fish to maximize flesh quality, 2) increase roe recovery and, therefore, 3) maximize the value of final products. Following is a summary of the main consensus points reached:

- It is generally recognized that processing capacity and fishing effort have increased since 4:1 was initially implemented in 2002.
- To fully harvest surplus returns at the peak of the season during large runs there is a need for an accelerated fishing schedule.
- Following early season management, a 2-days-on/ 2-days-off schedule is anticipated until the harvest is expected to reach 38 million or larger, then a 5-day fishing rotation would be implemented.
- A 5-day rotation is based on fewer than 260 boats fishing.
- The department will have the flexibility to manage areas using different fishing schedules based on geographical differences in run strength, timing, effort, and escapements.
- Five-day fishing schedules of 5:0, 4:1, 3:2, 2:3, or 1:4 may be utilized during the peak of the run.
- The regional closure day should be synchronized regionwide, except in areas that are opened continuously to attract effort.
- If necessary, line changes for specific areas could be announced on 24-hour notice in the middle of a 5-day fishing period, however the department should try to announce that there is a potential for a line change in a prior announcement.

EFFORT LEVELS

The size of the purse seine fleet will have some impact on the management decisions the ADF&G makes as the season progresses. Effort levels in 2007 increased from 234 permits that fished in 2006 to 242 permits that fished in 2007. The total number of permits issued in 2007 was 415, similar to 2006; indicating 173 permits were eligible to fish but did not fish. The 2007 effort level increased slightly to 81% of the recent 10-year average of effort of 297 permits for the purse seine fishery.

DAILY START TIMES

For the 2008 season the fishery opening and closing times will be as follows:

1. From the start of the seine season (June 22) through approximately August 15: 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
2. From approximately August 16 through the end of the pink salmon season: 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
3. From the start of the chum salmon season until the season closes: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

REGULATION MARKERS

At the November 2006 Purse Seine Task Force meeting, the department was asked to clarify the definition of closed waters near a salmon stream. Fish and Game Regulation 5AAC 33.350 lists all closed waters in Southeast Alaska. Regulation 5AAC 39.290(a) prohibits fishing **within 500 yards of any salmon stream or river or any stream or river bed or channel at all stages of the tide**. This means that fishing is prohibited within 500 yards of where the stream channel exists including where it ends at low tide. 5 AAC 39.290(b) provides that the Department may post closed areas by appropriate markers. If posted the Department shall place appropriate markers for any stream as close as practically possible to the distance or location specified by the applicable regulation or emergency order. Often these markers will be more than 500 yards from the mouth of the stream at low tide in order to provide additional protection to fish accumulated near streams or because markers are placed where they can be seen and where they can be attached to a tree. Each stream has a different shoreline configuration. Some streams are in bays and the 500-yard markers can be connected by a straight line between the two markers because the location where the stream channel ends at low tide is 500 yards or more from the straight line between the two markers. Other streams are located along straight shorelines and 500 yards from the stream channel at low tide is defined by an "arc" or half of a circle originating from the two regulation markers with the arc being at least 500 yards from any part of the stream channel at low tide. The most important thing to remember is the shoreline around every stream, and the stream channel at low tide in every stream, is different. Unless fishermen are very familiar with the exact location where 500 yards from the stream channel ends at low tide, they should fish outside of the arc defined by the two stream markers. This will ensure that they are outside of the 500-yard stream closure.

NEWS RELEASE INFORMATION

The department will announce each fishery opening by news release. Announcements in general will be made more than one full day in advance of the opening to provide a fair start, unless an announcement of shorter duration is needed to prevent the loss of a fishery. Line changes and time changes differing from prior announcements will be indicated in bold type to highlight those changes. News releases will be available at ADF&G offices throughout Southeast Alaska, posted on the ADF&G web site, and will be available at fish buying locations or other prominent locations throughout the region. ADF&G contact numbers as well as telephone message recordings of the most recent news releases will be listed in the footer at the bottom of each news release.

News releases are organized in numerical order by district, then within a district from the shortest duration opening to the longest duration opening, followed by the current Chinook landing restrictions, information and comments, and harvest information from the prior fishing period.

At the request of the purse seine task force a single telephone recording of the entire news release broken down into a menu of openings by management area was first implemented in 2007. This system will again be in place for the 2008 season. Fishermen can access this recording by calling (907) 747-8522 and can hear lines and times for the different management areas by dialing 1, 2, 3, or 4 at any time during the call.

MATURE PINK SALMON FISHERIES

At the request of several processors in 2001, terminal area fisheries were initiated inseason to harvest mature pink salmon in locations where escapement needs had been exceeded and harvestable surpluses were available. These fisheries were directed at harvesting the roe or ikura of the pink salmon, as long as the salmon harvested were utilized. Funding to support additional costs to the department were generated by proceeds from test fishing. Additional terminal area fisheries took place in 2003, 2005, and 2007. Harvests from the terminal area salmon roe fisheries has ranged from 70,000 to 2,400,000 pounds per year.

No terminal area pink salmon fisheries have occurred during the 2002, 2004, or 2006 even-year seasons. However, if areas are identified where escapement needs are exceeded and ikura fisheries would be appropriate, the department will announce those opportunities by news release.

ADF&G will continue to look for opportunities to continue the terminal area pink salmon fisheries in 2008 if there is an expressed interest and a market. A key requirement for mature salmon fisheries is that such fisheries must adhere with provisions of 5AAC 93.310 WASTE OF SALMON, which provides that salmon are not wasted, certain disposals must be authorized, and logbooks may be required. The department will continue to open fisheries so all of the fish can be harvested in the best possible quality in the existing traditional fisheries. However, if certain systems end up with significant numbers of pink salmon that are in excess to all expected spawning needs, openings to target mature fish may occur. It is anticipated that this type of fishery, if it occurs, would primarily be in late August and early September. Since this is a relatively new method of management, it is anticipated that several types of openings may occur to determine what works best for the industry while insuring needed escapement is not jeopardized. Openings of this nature will be announced via standard news releases and will be clearly differentiated from traditional openings. If these fisheries are to continue, test fisheries may be required to cover additional aerial surveys and personnel costs. Before such test fisheries are allowed, the department will also need to evaluate if any planned test fisheries can be accomplished within the Region 1 authorized test fishing receipt authority without compromising existing programs or other fisheries.

CHINOOK SALMON HARVEST

ADF&G is required to manage the Southeast Alaska purse seine fishery for a maximum harvest of 4.3% of the annual all-gear Chinook salmon catch ceiling determined under the terms of the Pacific Salmon Treaty [5AAC 29.060 (b)(1)]. Prior to 1997, the purse seine fishery was limited to a fixed quota of 11,400 Chinook salmon (not including Alaska hatchery-produced fish). The purpose of the 1997 regulation was to make management of the purse seine harvest of Chinook salmon more consistent with the abundance-based management approach. The Chinook salmon all-gear catch ceiling is driven by the preseason abundance index that is determined by the Chinook Technical Committee. For 2008, the abundance index is 1.07 and the corresponding purse seine Chinook salmon allocation will be 7,310 fish.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) has adopted size limits [5AAC 33.392] and directed ADF&G to manage the purse seine fishery such that incidental mortality from catch and release is minimized. The specific provisions for management of the seine fishery harvest of Chinook salmon are as follows:

1. Chinook salmon taken in the purse seine fishery that are less than 28 inches in length (as measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail) will not be counted against the Chinook salmon harvest quota.
2. Chinook salmon greater than 21 and less than 28 inches in length may be harvested by purse seine fishers but not sold.
3. Purse seine fishers may possess and sell Chinook salmon that are less than 21 inches (approximately 5 pounds or less).

CHINOOK SALMON IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Non-retention of 28-inch and larger Chinook salmon has been the primary management measure for maintaining the catch limit. Because the Chinook salmon seine allocation for 2008 is only 7,310 fish, retention of Chinook salmon will not be permitted from the beginning of the season until the time period when the catch rate for other species is high. If the quota is reached, non-retention regulations will also be implemented by emergency order late in the season.

There may be specific terminal areas in which all Chinook salmon may be, or must be, retained. ADF&G intends to implement full retention (5AAC 39.265) from the beginning of the season for net fisheries in the Deep Inlet THA. Due to high expectation of enhanced Chinook salmon harvests from the Hidden Falls THA, retention will be allowed during the initial openings of the Hidden Falls THA until mid-late July when chum harvests in the THA generally decline. Specific retention and non-retention periods will be announced in each seine fishery news release. Additional areas may also be announced via news releases.

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

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS PURSE SEINE FISHERY

2008 PINK SALMON RETURNS

The pink salmon escapement management targets in the parent year (2006) were met or exceeded for 9 of the 13 districts with management targets (Table 1). Southern Southeast Alaska experienced the poorest return in 2006, and indices in only two of the six districts with management targets fell within the management target ranges (Districts 2 and 3); indices in Districts 1, 5, 6, and 7 were below management target levels. Pink salmon returns appeared to be better in Northern Southeast Alaska, and management targets were met or exceeded for eight of the nine districts. Only District 14 came in below the management target; however, District 14 has never met the management target in an even year.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Implementation of the 4-days-on/1-day-off fishing regime strategy that started in 2002 might not pose a management concern in 2008 because of the expected weak return of pink salmon.

However, if returns are significantly higher than expected, uncertainties about fleet size and distribution and the department's reaction to those can only be answered inseason. ADF&G and the fishing industry will have to be flexible and be able to react quickly inseason to changes from historical fishing patterns. Above all, meeting escapement goals will continue to be the number-one objective of the department. Within that conservation mandate, the department will attempt to meet the objective of the modified fishing strategy and provide a more stable supply of fresher fish.

McDonald Lake Sockeye Salmon

In 2008, there will be continued restrictions to the Southern Southeast purse seine, gillnet and personal use fisheries in an effort to meet the McDonald Lake sockeye salmon escapement goal of 70,000–100,000 fish. The McDonald Lake run is not currently a stock of concern; however, it has been below the escapement goal in six of the last seven seasons, despite conservation measures taken in the District 6 seine and gillnet fisheries in 2005–2007. Restrictions were also in place for the District 1 seine fishery in 2007. In addition to these measures for sockeye salmon conservation, overall purse seine fishing time in Southern Southeast was very limited during the 2006 season because of the poor run of pink salmon.

Most of the harvest of McDonald Lake sockeye salmon by the purse seine fleet probably occurs along the Gravina Island shoreline. In order to pass McDonald Lake sockeye salmon, the Gravina Island shoreline will be closed north of the latitude of Cone Island during statistical weeks 29, 30, and 31. Seine fisheries in west Behm Canal, which have not been significant in recent years, will be limited in 2008, and the Yes Bay terminal area will again be closed. The District 6 gillnet fishery, the major harvest area of McDonald Lake sockeye salmon, will be limited to a maximum fishing time of two days a week for three weeks between statistical weeks 29 and 31. The District 5, 6, and 7 seine fisheries will most likely have reduced fishing time during these key weeks of the McDonald Lake sockeye salmon run. Finally, the McDonald Lake Personal Use fishery harvest limits, and seasons will be reduced from previous years.

ADF&G will continue to estimate the sockeye salmon escapement at McDonald Lake through extensive surveys of the spawning grounds from late August through mid-October. In addition, the department will conduct genetic sampling of the sockeye salmon harvested in the fisheries that occur in Clarence Strait and Sumner Strait. This sampling will update information about the time and area distribution of McDonald Lake sockeye salmon in those fisheries.

Hugh Smith Lake Sockeye Salmon

During the 2006 meeting in Ketchikan, the BOF de-listed the Hugh Smith Lake sockeye stock as a stock of concern at the recommendation of ADF&G. This means the Hugh Smith Lake Sockeye Action Plan is no longer in effect; however, ADF&G will continue to closely monitor the system, and if escapement levels are not projected to reach the lower end of the escapement goal of 8,000 fish, both the District 1 gillnet fleet and the District 1 purse seine fleet may need to be restricted in order to reach the escapement goal.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Southern Southeast Alaska area purse seine management plan consists of separate segments which include the District 4 fishery, the inside districts pink salmon fishery, the fall chum salmon fishery in Cholmondeley Sound, and the THA fisheries.

District 4

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

> Manage the Alaskan District 4 purse seine fishery prior to Statistical Week 31 to:
>
> i. Achieve an annual catch share of the Nass and Skeena Rivers sockeye salmon of 2.45% of the Annual Allowable Harvest (AAH) of the Nass and Skeena Rivers sockeye salmon stocks in that year.
>
> ii. Carry forward from year to year annual deviations from the catch share arrangement.

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

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

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

Over the past three years the bilateral NBTC has worked to finalize the total run reconstructions for the Nass and Skeena Rivers. In January 2007 the bilateral Northern Panel accepted the work of the Technical Committee for the run reconstructions of the Nass and Skeena Rivers for the 2006 season. Information in Table 2 reflects the performance of the District 4 fishery for 1999 through 2006, preliminary numbers for the 2007 season and a 2008 forecast. The final bi-lateral stock identification work will not be completed until February 2009.

The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has a preseason expectation of approximately 1,749,000 sockeye salmon to the Nass/Skeena Rivers in 2008 (Table 2). If the 2008 forecast is accurate and escapement goals are achieved, then the AAH for District 4 will be approximately 15,900 Nass/Skeena sockeye salmon (Table 2).

Table 2.–Sockeye salmon allocations for the District 4 purse seine fishery based on Nass and Skeena Rivers allocation calculations, 1999 to 2008.

Year	Nass/Skeena Total Return	Nass/Skeena Escapement	Allowable Nass/ Skeena AAH	Allowable D4 Harvest (2.45%)	Total Pre-Week 31 Sockeye Harvest	Actual Nass/Skeena Harvest	Overage/ Underage Per Year	Cumulative Overage/ Underage
1999	1,777,048	936,705	834,343	20,441	7,664	3,232	-17,209	-17,209
2000	5,318,228	1,100,000	4,218,228	103,347	48,969	29,221	-74,126	-91,335
2001	4,965,291	1,100,000	3,865,291	94,700	203,090	167,854	73,154	-18,181
2002	2,776,502	1,030,688	1,725,169	42,267	26,554	18,627	-23,640	-41,820
2003	3,313,785	1,100,000	2,213,785	54,238	84,742	44,258	-9,980	-51,800
2004	2,628,088	1,100,000	1,528,088	37,438	30,758	19,233	-18,205	-70,005
2005	1,770,494	1,100,000	670,494	16,427	35,690	28,000	11,573	-58,432
2006	2,950,000	1,100,000	1,850,000	45,325	89,615	71,304	25,979	-32,453
2007[1]	2,392,405	1,065,056	1,327,349	32,520	112,135	78,495	45,975	13,522
2008[2]	1,749,000	1,100,000	649,000	15,900				

Note: Underages are shown as negative numbers in this table.

[1]Data for 2007 is preliminary

[2]2008 is based on forecasted returns.

In 2008, the District 4 purse seine fishery will start on Sunday, July 6. It is anticipated that the initial opening on July 6 will be 6 to 8 hours in length. The duration of subsequent openings will be based on the run strength of sockeye and pink salmon, the amount of effort in the district, and the need to stay within Pacific Salmon Treaty numbers. District 4 will be managed under the Pacific Salmon Treaty annex through July 26, 2008. Starting on Sunday, July 27, 2008 the district will be managed on the strength of Southern Southeast Alaska salmon.

If the management regime of 4-days-on/1-day-off is implemented after Statistical Week 30, it is ADF&G's intent to manage the district similarly in terms of boat-days of overall effort to that since the signing of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Weekly fishing periods in August will be decided only after the department assesses the distribution of the fleet and the run size of pink salmon. In past years, District 4 was opened for the same amount of time as inside waters after the treaty period; however, that may not be the case in 2008.

Inside Fishing Areas

As in past years, aerial surveys of early-run pink salmon producing areas, primarily Boca de Quadra, east Behm Canal, and Ernest Sound, will begin in late June. Seining is expected to begin on Sunday, July 6 (Statistical Week 28). The initial fishing period will be for 15 hours and will be confined to the southeast portion of Section 1-F, the southern portion of District 2, and portions of Section 7-A (Anan).

Fishing time will likely begin with a series of 15-hour openings. If run strengths are strong enough to warrant additional fishing time, the fisheries will go from 15-hour to 39-hour openings to 2-on/2-off or more continuous openings. However extensive openings will not occur if the

pink salmon returns are weak. Areas may be opened and closed where additional fishing time is warranted or where a more conservative management strategy is needed.

In District 1, the area from Boca de Quadra to Foggy Point will be managed to reflect recent harvest patterns, effort levels, and fishing time. Other areas in District 1, such as the Gravina Island shoreline, will also be managed to take into account other user groups, McDonald Lake sockeye salmon concerns, and the need to achieve escapement of salmon into the back Behm Canal systems.

In District 2, ADF&G will open a portion of the lower district outside of the THA when Kendrick Bay opens on Sunday, June 22. This will be done to target Kendrick Bay summer chum salmon at a time when few wild stock chum salmon are available, and to maximize the quality of those chum salmon.

Purse seining will be limited to the southern portion of District 2 until escapements of pink salmon to northern Clarence Strait, Ernest Sound, Cholmondeley Sound, and Kasaan Bay can be adequately assessed. Additionally, no purse seining should be expected in middle Clarence Strait, along the Ship Island and Tolstoi Bay shorelines, until run strength of pink salmon returns to west Behm Canal, Thorne Bay, District 6, and Section 7-B is determined. Also, in District 2, the fishing pattern along the Ship Island shore and near Thorne Bay will be managed to reflect historical fishing patterns to take into account other user groups and the need to achieve escapement to Thorne River, McDonald Lake Sockeye and back Behm Canal systems.

Returns of pink salmon to District 3 are expected to be average based on parent-year escapements. Portions of Section 3-A will open in mid to late July if pink salmon harvest in the early District 4 fishery indicates run strength is sufficient. By late July or early August, Sections 3-B and 3-C will also open. Under the fishing periods expected during August it is possible that portions of District 3 may have longer fishing periods than inside districts if there is less effort in some of the more remote areas of the district. Alternately, if there is increased effort and catches and aerial surveys indicate poor run strength fishing time and area may be reduced.

Districts 5, 6, and 7

Parent-year pink salmon escapements were below the management targets in Districts 5, 6 and 7. Because the returns to District 5 (Sumner Strait) were weak throughout the district, it is expected that openings will be limited and will probably not occur before August 10. Escapements in District 6 were adequate along the Ratz Harbor shoreline but generally poor throughout most of the rest of the district. Because of this, it is possible that openings in District 6 will be very limited and might not occur prior to August 10. Openings in Section 7-B may begin in early August. It is unlikely that pink salmon returns will be strong, however, if they are strong, every effort will be made to begin more extensive openings as soon as possible to give industry maximum flexibility for harvesting large returns. As mentioned previously under the McDonald Lake section, fishing will be curtailed in areas during times when there has historically been a high incidence of sockeye salmon in late July and early August.

Fall Chum Salmon Fisheries

Some watersheds along the eastern shoreline of Prince of Wales Island in District 2 produce late-run chum salmon that have traditionally supported fall purse seine fisheries. Although no formal forecasts are made for these stocks, some expectations can be based on parent-year escapements. In Disappearance Creek and Lagoon Creek, the primary chum salmon spawning

systems in Cholmondeley Sound, the majority of the 2003, 2004, and 2005 parent-year chum salmon escapements were average. The first opening for fall-run chum salmon can be expected about September 7. In 2007, approximately 18,600 chum salmon were caught in the District 2 fall chum fishery. ADF&G will monitor this fishery closely in 2008 to ensure sufficient escapement to Cholmondeley Sound systems. If fishery performance data and escapement information indicate a weak run of fall chum salmon, the fishery will be closed to ensure adequate escapements.

ADF&G has opened portions of Section 3-A (Cordova Bay) in recent years to target fall chum salmon. However, there has been little or no effort in those years and limited reported harvest. The department will again open portions of Section 3-A in 2008. Open areas and fishing times will be similar to the 2004 through 2007 seasons.

Terminal Hatchery Fisheries

For the 2008 season, THA purse seine and gillnet fisheries will occur at Neets Bay, Nakat Inlet, Anita Bay, and Kendrick Bay to harvest fish returning to Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) enhancement facilities. The fisheries in these THAs will be managed jointly with SSRAA, and in accordance with existing BOF approved management plans. Details regarding the open fishing periods by gear type in each of these areas will be announced via commercial fishery news releases. Table 3 details the expected returns to each of SSRAA's release locations.

Fishers are requested to ensure fish caught in THAs are reported correctly on the fish tickets. This will enable accurate otolith-mark sampling and documentation of fish taken from THAs.

Terminal Area–Neets Bay [5AAC 33.370]

ADF&G, in consultation with SSRAA, will manage Neets Bay to include those waters of Neets Bay from the easternmost point of Bug Island to the closed waters at the head of the bay. From the second Sunday in June (June 8) through August 1, the Neets Bay THA will be expanded to include those waters of Neets Bay east of the longitude of Chin Point to the closed waters at the head of the bay. After August 1, the Neets Bay THA will consist 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 2008, SSRAA is expecting a total return of 997,000 summer chum, 213,000 fall chum, 197,000 coho, and 15,400 Chinook salmon to return to Neets Bay.

From May 15 to June 10 Neets Bay will be opened continuously to purse seine and drift gillnet unless closed by emergency order. The rotational fishery from June 11 through June 20 according to 5 AAC 33.370 will be announced on a separate Neets Bay THA news release. From June 21 to November 14 no common property openings are scheduled so that cost recovery can take place. If openings can be scheduled they will be announced by News Release in September or once cost recovery has been completed.

Neets Bay THA Calendar

May 15–June 10, 2008

Open continuously to purse seine and drift gillnet unless closed by emergency order.

June11–June 20, 2008

Rotational fishery for drift gillnet and purse seine.

June 21–November 14, 2008

No common property openings are scheduled during this time so that cost recovery can take place. If openings can be scheduled they will be announced by News Release in September or once cost recovery has been completed.

Terminal Area–Anita Bay [5AAC 33.383]

The Anita Bay THA in District 7 consists of those waters of Anita Bay west of a line from Anita Point at 56° 13.67' N. latitude, 132° 22.49' W. longitude to 56° 14.26' N. latitude, 132° 23.92' W. longitude.

By regulation portions of the Anita Bay THA will be closed to the harvest of salmon as follows:

(1) From June 15 through June 25, the waters of the Anita Bay THA that are west of 132°26.22’ W. long. will be closed to the harvest of salmon;

(2) From June 26 through July 1, the waters of the Anita Bay THA that are west of 132°26.98’ W. long. will be closed to the harvest of salmon;

(3) From July 2 through July 10, the waters of the Anita Bay THA that are west of 132°28.00’ W. long. will be closed to the harvest of salmon.

In 2008, approximately 242,000 chum, 11,000 Chinook and 17,000 coho salmon are expected to be returning in total. It is anticipated that approximately 68,000 chum, 4,300 Chinook and 1,400 coho salmon will return to the terminal area and be available for harvesting in the rotational fisheries.

Anita Bay THA Calendar

May 1–June 1, 2008

May 1 beginning at 12:01 a.m. through June 1, 11:59 p.m.: Open continuously to purse seine, drift gillnet and troll unless closed by emergency order.

June 2– October 11, 2008

Rotational fishery for drift gillnet and purse seine

October 12–November 10, 2008

Beginning 12:01 a.m. Sunday, October 12, 2008, the Anita Bay THA will be open to the harvesting of salmon concurrently by drift gillnet, purse seine and troll gear. The Anita Bay THA will close for the season at 12:00 noon Monday, November 10, 2008.

Kendrick Bay THA–[5AAC 33.377]

The Kendrick Bay THA, which includes the waters of Kendrick Bay west of 131º 59.00 W. longitude, will be open on a continual basis beginning Sunday, June 22, 2008, Statistical Week 26, and will remain open until further notice. For 2008 SSRAA is expecting a return of 298,000 summer chum salmon. Peak catches are expected to occur during statistical weeks 27–29. As in recent years, additional area outside of the THA will be open to target returning hatchery chum salmon at a time when few wild stock salmon are available for harvest. ADF&G will consider additional fishing time and area in District 2 during these early weeks if wild salmon run strength, effort, and other pertinent considerations allow.

Table 3.–Expected 2008 Returns to SSRAA enhancement projects by release location.

Species/Run	Release Location	Common property Harvest	Terminal	Total Return
Coho	Herring Cove	20,600	5,000	25,600
Coho	Nakat Inlet	22,000	2,000	24,000
Coho	Anita Bay	16,000	1,400	17,400
Coho	Neets Bay	144,000	53,000	197,000
Summer Coho	Burnett Inlet	6,500	7,800	14,300
Summer Coho	Neck Lake	22,500	28,600	51,100
Chinook	Whitman Lake	6,900	7,500	14,400
Chinook	Anita Bay	7,000	4,300	11,300
Chinook	Neets Bay	5,000	10,400	15,400
Summer Chum	Neets Bay	229,000	768,000	997,000
Summer Chum	Anita Bay	174,000	68,000	242,000
Summer Chum	Kendrick Bay	182,000	116,000	298,000
Summer Chum	Nakat Inlet	77,000	86,000	163,000
Fall Chum	Nakat Inlet	52,000	24,000	76,000
Fall Chum	Neets Bay	32,000	181,000	213,000
Sockeye	Neck Creek	14,000	21,000	35,000

NORTHERN DISTRICTS PURSE SEINE FISHERY

2008 Pink Salmon Returns

Pink salmon escapement goals were met or exceeded in the 2006 parent year for Districts 9–13 in Northern Southeast Alaska (Table 1.). ADF&G expects a fair return from the good parent year escapements observed in all of the northern districts.

Management Concerns

Pink salmon escapements to Northern Southeast Alaska during the 2006 parent years were within or above the management target range in all but one of the districts. However, there are indications that Northern Southeast may also experience a weak return of pink salmon. ADF&G and the fishing industry will have to be flexible and be able to react quickly in season to changes from historical fishing patterns. Above all, meeting escapement goals will continue to be the number-one objective of the department. Within that conservation mandate, the department will attempt to meet the objective of the modified fishing strategy and provide a more stable supply of fresher fish. An early-season management concern will be to prevent excessive interception of weak salmon stocks in mixed stock fishing corridors (e.g., Icy Strait and West Admiralty) until run strengths to near-terminal and terminal areas can be adequately assessed.

Management Plan

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

Fishing Regime Implementation

If run strengths are strong enough to warrant additional fishing time, the fisheries will go from 15-hour and 39-hour openings to 2-on/2-off or more continuous openings. However, extensive openings will not occur if the pink salmon returns are weak.

Inside Fishing Areas, Early Runs

The 2008 seining season will begin on Sunday, June 22, with initial open periods of 15 hours to harvest expected surplus summer chum and early pink salmon returns. During the first open period, seining will be allowed in portions of District 12 in Tenakee Inlet and Point Augusta in Chatham Strait; the opening will be in conjunction with the first opening at the Hidden Falls Terminal Harvest Area. Very few pink salmon have been harvested in District 10 and Section 13-C during previous mid-June openings so the first openings in these areas will occur on Sunday, June 29.

Escapements of summer chum salmon in the 2003–2004 parent years in Tenakee Inlet were variable. Although no formal forecasts are made for these stocks, some expectations can be based on parent-year escapements. The 2003 chum salmon escapement was approximately 33% of the long term average escapement. However the 2004 chum salmon escapement was only slightly below the long term average and will be the dominate brood year contributing to this years escapement. The 2006 parent-year pink salmon escapement index for Tenakee Inlet of 285,000 fish was within the management target range of 180,000 to 370,000 pink salmon. The upper portion of Tenakee Inlet may be opened and fishing will continue as long as escapement

continues to build adequately. Portions of the Basket Bay shoreline may also be opened to harvest pink salmon returns to Tenakee Inlet and Peril Strait if escapements to local streams are adequate, including escapement of Kook Lake sockeye. The commercial seine fishery has routinely been closed within 4 nautical miles of state marine waters around the entrance to Basket Bay to manage for sockeye escapement to Kook Lake and for the Basket Bay subsistence fishery.

Parent-year pink salmon escapements were good in Peril Straits and Hoonah Sound with a 2006 escapement index of 442,000 at the lower end of the management target of 400,000–900,000 pink salmon. Parent-year chum salmon escapements to Saook Bay and Rodman Bay were generally good with average escapements in 2003 and 2004. Beginning June 29, portions of Section 13-C will be open to harvest surplus salmon and to assess run strength of pink and chum salmon returning to Hoonah Sound streams. Further openings in 13-C will be determined inseason based on catch and observations of escapement. In the event that chum salmon returns provide for sufficient escapement, ADF&G may adjust open area in the associated bays for limited times to provide for harvest opportunities. In mid-July, the west boundary of the fishing area in Peril Strait may be moved towards Chatham Strait to improve the quality of the harvest and to ensure pink salmon escapement for Hoonah Sound and Peril Strait streams is obtained. Portions of Section 13-C, west of the Duffield Peninsula, and Section 13-A in lower Peril Strait, may remain open to provide fishing opportunity on pink salmon migrating through Salisbury Sound and western Peril Strait to Hoonah Sound streams.

The parent-year escapement index for District 10 was 0.77 million pink salmon, near the lower end of the management range of 0.70–1.45 million fish. Escapements were uniformly good throughout the district. Extensive fisheries are expected in District 10 if survival from the 2006 spawning cycle is good. The parent-year escapement index for Seymour Canal (Section 11D) was 177,000 pink salmon; just below the escapement goal range of 0.18–0.41 million fish. Escapements were not consistent to Seymour Canal streams so openings to access these fish may be limited along the Big Bend shoreline in District 10 and in lower Seymour Canal. It is anticipated that the portion of District 10 south of Gambier Island Light will open no later than July 15.

The 2003 and 2004 chum salmon parent-year escapements for Southwest Admiralty chum salmon systems (primarily in Hood and Chaik bays) were mixed. The department will monitor summer chum salmon escapements to these systems and open targeted seine fisheries for chum salmon as appropriate.

Subsequent seining for early-run pink salmon returns will be based upon aerial survey and fishery performance assessments of run strength. Aerial surveys to evaluate run strength will begin in late June for the northern inside fishing districts. To provide an additional assessment of incoming run strength of early-run pink salmon the department will open a one-mile area along the Point Augusta shoreline in District 12 in conjunction with other weekly openings. Test fishing will be conducted at Point Gardner and Kingsmill Point starting in early July to assess the strength and timing of the pink salmon returns entering Frederick Sound. Test fishing will also occur along the Hawk Inlet Shoreline beginning June 27 to assess the strength of pink salmon returns entering the northern inside waters of Districts 11 and 15. Incidental harvest of pink salmon at the Hidden Falls Hatchery terminal fishery during the first three weeks of the season will also be monitored as an indicator of pink salmon run strength.

During the 2006 purse seine task force meeting, the department agreed to initiate a salmon test fishery in District 14 along the shoreline from Point Howard to Homeshore Creek to assess the abundance of pink salmon and to evaluate the presence or absence of non-targeted stocks of fish. This test fishery, however, is not planned for the 2008 season because Region 1 has not been awarded additional test fish receipt authority and existing sources are fully allocated to other projects.

In District 12, based on a well-defined evaluation of run strength and timing, the Hawk Inlet shoreline fishery is opened in July to provide access to harvestable surpluses of northbound pink salmon stocks that would otherwise not be harvested. This fishery is managed according to the Northern Southeast Seine Fishery Management Plan (5AAC 33.366) and is described in detail in a subsequent section of this plan.

Inside Fishing Areas—Middle and Late Runs

Middle-run pink salmon returns should begin entering the inside waters of the northern districts during July. Seining in District 12 along the west Admiralty Island shoreline may expand in late July, depending on the observed run strength of pink salmon stocks in District 10 and 11, and continue as long as Chatham escapements develop satisfactorily. Southern boundaries for the fishery are typically extended into statistical area 112-17, from Point Hepburn to Fishery Point and then to Parker Point, in either the last week of July or in early August. Because Kanalku sockeye salmon transit through this area in June and July, and because the Kanalku sockeye stock is an important subsistence salmon resource to the community of Angoon, the department will close an area of approximately nine nautical miles along the west Admiralty shoreline from Parker Point to Point Samuel for an extended period into early August. Parent-year pink salmon escapements were average in streams on the northern Chatham Strait shoreline of Chichagof Island and well above average in streams along the west and southwest Admiralty Island shoreline. Openings along these shorelines will depend on developing returns of local stocks as well as Peril Strait and Tenakee stocks. Fishing may begin in this area in late July depending on the observed run strength.

Seining is expected to begin in District 9 during mid-July near Red Bluff Bay in Section 9-A, in late July along the Admiralty Island shore in Section 9-B, and in early August in Section 9-A near Little Port Walter north of Armstrong Point. Parent-year escapements of pink salmon to Red Bluff Bay were well above the recent 10-year average and mid-July openings can be expected. July openings will include only the shoreline north of Red Bluff Bay in order to provide for escapement needs as well as subsistence uses at Falls Lake. Openings to the south of Red Bluff Bay may occur beginning in early August, depending upon pink salmon abundance. If pink salmon escapements into Red Bluff Bay are sufficient, openings inside of the bay may occur to harvest pink salmon surplus to escapements. In Section 9-A south of Patterson Point, parent-year pink salmon escapements were above the upper management target range. Openings can be expected beginning early to mid-August, depending upon inseason observations of pink salmon abundance. Parent-year escapements of pink salmon were good to excellent in all of Section 9-B. The escapement index for all of District 9 was 1.08 million fish, above the upper end of the 0.4 to 0.9 million management target range.

Pink salmon escapements in District 14 were poor in 2006. The pink salmon escapement index of 221,000 fish was well below the lower management target of 320,000. Given these poor escapements, ADFG does not anticipate openings along the Whitestone shoreline area in District

14. However the Department will monitor escapements of the pink salmon stocks in this area and could open this shoreline should pink salmon returns be stronger than anticipated.

Every effort will be made to begin more continuous openings as soon as possible in District 9. That should give industry maximum flexibility for harvesting large returns. If run strengths are uniformly strong, the present plan is to have both Districts 9 and 10 open together even if it is with less area in each district. If that is not possible due to the distribution of effort or run strength, openings would rotate between the two districts.

Openings in District 12 along the Catherine Island shoreline and in portions of Kelp Bay may occur from mid-July to early August to harvest surplus pink salmon returning to Kelp Bay or to harvest surplus chum salmon returning to the Hidden Falls hatchery if wild chum and pink salmon escapements are being met. Parent-year escapement of pink salmon to Kelp Bay streams was only 22% of the recent ten-year average and Kelp Bay's most productive pink salmon stream, Ralph's Creek in Middle Arm, had very poor escapement. Openings to harvest surplus pink salmon will be based on inseason assessment of run strength, but are unlikely due to poor parent-year escapement. Parent-year chum salmon escapements to Kelp Bay streams were mixed with good escapements to Ralph's Creek in Middle Arm and below average escapements to Clear River in South Arm. Since 2002, chum salmon escapements to Clear River have been well below historic levels. Given expectations for both pink and chum salmon in Kelp Bay in 2008, expansion of the Hidden Falls THA north of South Point in July to access hatchery chum salmon is unlikely. If chum salmon returns to Middle Arm are in excess to escapement needs then limited area in Kelp Bay and the Catherine Island shoreline may be provided to specifically target Middle Arm chum salmon. Pink salmon returns generally occur following chum salmon returns in Kelp Bay.

Hawk Inlet Shore Fishery

The Admiralty Island shoreline between Funter Bay and Point Marsden in Chatham Strait is known as the Hawk Inlet shoreline. Purse seine fishing is allowed in this area to harvest pink salmon stocks migrating northward to Taku River, Lynn Canal, and Stephens Passage. During July, the department will manage the Hawk Inlet Shore fishery in accordance with the Northern Southeast Seine Fishery Management Plan (5AAC 33.366). This plan stipulates that any portion of the area north of Point Marsden may be opened when a harvestable surplus of pink salmon is observed. Openings must also consider the conservation of all species, and the area must be closed in July after 15,000 wild sockeye salmon have been harvested. In January 2006, the Board of Fisheries clarified that only the harvest of wild sockeye salmon would count toward the 15,000 fish cap.

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

Openings along the Hawk Inlet shore north of Point Marsden will be based on the observed run strength of north-migrating stocks of pink salmon. The assessment methods used by the department to determine if run strengths are adequate and a harvestable surplus of pink salmon is available for harvest will include:

1. Parent-year escapements of pink salmon stocks in the Taku River, Stephens Passage, and Lynn Canal. Parent-year pink salmon escapements to Stephens Passage were below average but within the management target range of 0.14-0.32 million fish. The 2006 Taku

River fish wheel pink salmon catch was the 5th highest since 1986 and the lower Lynn Canal pink salmon escapement index was 140% of the 10-year average.

2. Test fishing at designated locations along the Admiralty Island shoreline north of Point Marsden.
3. Aerial assessments of pink salmon abundance along the Admiralty Island Shoreline north of Point Marsden.
4. Pink salmon catches in the department's Taku River fish wheels.
5. Pink salmon marine sport fish catch rates in the Juneau area (lower Lynn Canal and upper Stephens Passage).
6. Fishery performance of District 11 and District 15 drift gillnet fisheries.

In 2003, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted a department proposal codifying the sockeye salmon reporting requirements for the Hawk Inlet shoreline fishery. The provisions of that proposal encapsulated the agreement reached between net gear groups during the January 1994 meeting in Ketchikan. The regulation is summarized below:

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

The purpose of this change was to provide the department with more flexibility to open areas adjacent to the Hawk Inlet shore fishery (e.g., south of Point Marsden, Point Augusta, and Whitestone Shore) when pink salmon run strength warrants.

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

Management of Sections 13-A and 13-B, along the outer coasts of Baranof and Chichagof Islands, is distinct from the management of the northern inside areas. Salmon returning to these areas enter directly from the ocean and do not pass through major inside migration corridors. In Section 13-A parent-year pink salmon escapements were uniformly strong in all areas including Salisbury Sound, Slocum Arm, Portlock Harbor and Lisianski Inlet. Openings can be expected to begin around the third week in July depending upon observed pink salmon abundance. In Section 13-B, parent-year pink salmon escapements in Sitka Sound, West Crawfish and Whale Bay were excellent. Pink salmon seine fisheries can be expected in all of these areas depending on inseason observations and could begin as early as mid July.

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

Short purse seine openings to harvest sockeye salmon along the outer coast of Baranof Island may occur in early July to target fish returning to Necker Bay, and in early August to target returns to Redfish Bay. Openings will be dependent on inseason observations of run strength and

a cautious approach will be used to ensure that escapement needs and subsistence fishery needs are met. Targeted sockeye salmon openings are also a possibility at Redoubt Bay between July 15 and August 31 provided that the inseason forecast, based on historic run timing and inseason enumeration of sockeye salmon through a weir operated by the United States Forest Service, indicates that an escapement greater than 40,000 will occur.

Given the weak forecast for pink salmon in 2008 a 4-on/1-off fishing regime is not expected. If the pink salmon return is substantially stronger than expected and a 4-on/1-off fishing regime is implemented, the fishing patterns in southern Sitka Sound will likely be scheduled as alternating 2-on/3-off and 3-on/2-off to prevent changes in the allocation of enhanced chum salmon returning to the Deep Inlet THA that are also targeted by the other gear groups, yet will maintain the historic 50% seine fishing opportunity. Also, due to the expected concentration of effort targeting enhanced chum salmon in the Sitka Sound area, the 2-on/2-off fishing pattern has been shown to provide for a good distribution and amount of escapement at most run sizes. Continuous fishing opportunities may be provided in the general Sitka area if run size and fleet distribution allow for it. Consecutive 15-hour openings will also be considered as a management option to 39-hour or continuous openings at intermediate run sizes in order to ensure escapement needs will be met.

Fall Chum Salmon Fisheries

Portions of Northern Southeast Alaska support returns of fall-run chum salmon that are harvested by purse seine gear. Fishing opportunities are not expected in Port Camden due to lower than normal escapement during the parent year. Fishing in Security Bay usually occurs the first week in September if the observed run strength is good. Escapements in Security Bay were poor in the 2003 and 2004 parent years. Fishing opportunities in Excursion Inlet may occur in late August or early September but are not anticipated. Parent-year escapements to Excursion River were below the 10-year average. In Section 13-B, targeted fall chum salmon openings may occur in Nakwasina Sound and Katlian Bay, however opportunities are most often concurrent with pink salmon fisheries in Sitka Sound. Fall chum salmon fisheries will be managed based on observations of run strength in the bays beginning in mid August and continuing through September.

Hidden Falls Terminal Hatchery Fishery

The Hidden Falls Hatchery, operated by the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), expects a return of approximately 2,000,000 chum salmon in 2008. Of this total return, approximately 1,503,000 will be available for the common property harvest after allowing 377,000 for cost recovery and 120,000 for broodstock requirements. In 2008, cost recovery will be managed by NSRAA to harvest 3,016,000 pounds, and the goal in numbers of fish will be adjusted as needed to achieve the goal in pounds. The initial Hidden Falls opening for the 2008 season is scheduled for June 22. As usual, seiners are advised that openings at Hidden Falls during the 2008 season may be announced with a minimum 24-hour notice if necessary in order to maximize fish quality. In the event that a large abundance of chum salmon develops early, the Hidden Falls Terminal Harvest Area may open prior to June 22. NSRAA cost recovery fishing will likely occur during the week of June 23. A mid-week opening on Thursday, June 26 is considered unlikely at this time. Decisions to provide for mid-week openings will depend on both run strength and progress toward cost recovery goals. This year, on news releases announcing fishery openings, ADF&G will coordinate with NSRAA to provide updates

including any changes in the seasonal cost recovery goal, progress made toward reaching the cost recovery goal, and other pertinent information such as average weights or sex ratios.

The Hidden Falls Hatchery Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan (5AAC 33.374) provides guidelines for allocation of hatchery produced chum and Chinook salmon in the Hidden Falls THA. The management plan sets forth different management approaches through June 30 and beginning July 1. If it becomes necessary to close a purse seine fishery to chum salmon that is scheduled in this plan in June in order to achieve broodstock and cost recovery goals, then troll retention of chum salmon in the THA will be prohibited as long as at least seven days remain until July 1. Troll non-retention of chum salmon would occur in June in the event that there is no purse seine fishery on June 22. Also, provided that some trollers are present, in order to allow increased troll access to Chinook salmon, Kasnyku Bay will be closed to purse seining in June west of a line from North Point to the westernmost tip of Round Island and north of the latitude of the westernmost tip of Round Island. Beginning July 1, areas within the THA may be closed to protect chum or Chinook salmon broodstock, and trollers may only retain chum salmon in numbers not exceeding the total number of Chinook salmon on board.

The Hidden Falls terminal harvest area will include the waters of Chatham Strait, Kasnyku Bay, and Takatz Bay, within two nautical miles of the Baranof Island shoreline south of a range marker at South Point, and north of a range marker located at 57°06.83' N. latitude (1/2 mile south of Takatz Bay). The boundaries may be extended north to include Kelp Bay and the Catherine Island shoreline if wild chum salmon escapements to Kelp Bay streams are being met. The southern boundary may be expanded south to the District 12 boundary near Cascade Bay if the overall strength of pink salmon returns are sufficient to meet escapements in the area and provided that eastern Baranof Island sockeye salmon escapements and subsistence uses are being met. A contraction of the line to less than two miles off of the Baranof Island shoreline may occur if pink salmon escapements to neighboring areas are lacking and are unlikely to meet escapement goals. Any boundary expansions or area contractions will be determined based on inseason observations of run strength.

Deep Inlet Terminal Hatchery Fishery

The terminal hatchery fishery at Deep Inlet will be managed jointly with NSRAA and according to BOF management plans. The open seine and 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 [5AAC 33.376]

NSRAA expects a return of 1,450,000 chum salmon to the Deep Inlet remote release site and the Medvejie Hatchery in 2008. Cost recovery and broodstock goals for the Deep Inlet returns are approximately 274,000 fish and 60,000 fish respectively, allowing for a common property harvest of approximately 1,116,000 chum salmon by purse seine, drift gillnet, and troll gear. In 2008, cost recovery will be managed by NSRAA to harvest 2,192,000 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 begin on May 4 in order to provide for additional common property harvest of hatchery Chinook salmon returning to the Medvejie Hatchery. Rotational gear fisheries are scheduled to begin on Sunday, May 4, and continue through June 28, with four days of gillnet and two days of seine per week. A small area of the Deep Inlet THA west of 135° 21.52' W. longitude will be closed May 4 through May 21 in order to exclude a small area traditionally used by trollers during that period.

During the period June 29–July 26, THA openings will be reduced to one day of seine and two days of gillnet per week, and an area within Deep Inlet will be closed south of a line from 56° 58.50 N. latitude and 135° 16.50' W. longitude, to 56° 58.35' N latitude and 135° 17.10' W. longitude in order to help achieve the season's cost recovery goal. 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 during the period July 27–August 9 and all of Deep Inlet will be opened to common property fishing. This period, between the earlier run Hidden Falls chum salmon stock and the later run Medvejie chum salmon stock, has historically been unproductive for cost recovery harvest. Beginning August 10 the schedule will again return to one day of seine and two days of gillnet with the southern portion of Deep Inlet closed until NSRAA has reached or is close to reaching the cost recovery goal for the season. The change in schedule back to the full rotation 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 inseason in order to achieve the cost recovery goal. 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 2008 season:

May 4–June 28, July 27–August 9, and after cost recovery goals are met until the end of the season:

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

From June 29–July 26 and from August 10 until cost recovery goals are met:

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

The schedule indicated above is subject to inseason 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. In January of 2006 the BOF implemented changes to Deep Inlet SHA and Silver Bay SHA. The Silver Bay Special Harvest (SHA) area was expanded to include most of Silver Bay and Eastern Channel east of a line from Makhnati Island to Sentinel Rock to Cape Burunof through July 21 and after the troll coho salmon closure in August or August 20 if there is no August coho salmon closure. From

July 22 until the end of the August troll coho salmon closure, or August 20 if there is no August coho salmon closure, the Silver Bay SHA includes the waters of Eastern Channel and Silver Bay east of Galankin Island to Silver Point and the waters of Sitka Sound enclosed by a line from the southernmost tip of Galankin Island, to Simpson Rock Light, to the Makhnati Island Buoy, to Black Rock, to the southernmost tip of Neva Island, to the northernmost tip of Sasedni Island and from the southernmost tip of Volga Island to the northernmost tip of Galankin Island. The Deep Inlet SHA is defined in 5AAC 40.042 (a) (7) and includes all the waters of the Deep Inlet THA except that the western boundary of the SHA has been moved westward to now also include the waters enclosed by a line from the westernmost tip of Cape Burunof to a point west of Cape Burunof at 56° 59.11' N. latitude and 135° 23.59' W. longitude, to a point one-mile west of the westernmost tip of Long Island at 57° 00.17' N. latitude and 135° 22.69' W. longitude to the westernmost tip of Long Island.

The Deep Inlet THA fishery will be managed jointly with NSRAA, and in accordance with the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Management Plan (5AAC 33.376). The plan provides for the distribution of the harvest of hatchery-produced 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 BOF 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 2008 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:
>
> > Sandy Cove: will be closed.
> >
> > Deep Inlet: will be closed south of a line from 56° 58.50 N. latitude, 135° 16.50' W. longitude, to 56° 58.35' N latitude, 135° 17.10' W. longitude from June 29 through July 26 and from August 10 until cost recovery goals are met.
> >
> > Deep Inlet THA: will be closed west of 135° 21.52' W. longitude from May 4 through May 21.

During the 2008 season, the boundaries of the Deep Inlet THA may be changed by NSRAA and ADF&G to help resolve conflicts between fishers and local private landowners in the area if they occur. 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 2008 by emergency order under authority of 5AAC 39.265 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 ADF&G to reduce interception of wild coho salmon returning to Salmon Lake or hatchery coho salmon returning to Medvejie Hatchery needed for broodstock. THA boundary adjustments to protect coho salmon 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 ADF&G or Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement may board some vessels and conduct hold inspections to ensure compliance.

Gunnuk Creek Hatchery Returns

Chum salmon returns to Gunnuk Creek Hatchery at Kake and Southeast Cove on northeast Kuiu Island in Keku Strait are forecast to be the 2nd largest return from this program. These returns occur primarily in July and are taken incidentally in seine fisheries in Chatham Strait and western Frederick Sound during that time period. A total return of 1.16 million chum salmon is expected. This would be significantly higher than the returns in 2005, 2006, and 2007 and the highest return since 1.2 million chums were harvested in 2003.

Table 4.–Expected 2008 returns to Northern Southeast area enhancement projects by hatchery organization and release location (Note: Common property harvest estimates of Chinook and coho salmon include sport harvest).

NSRAA

Species	Release Location	Common Property Harvest	Cost Recovery	Broodstock	Total Return
Chum	Medvejie/Deep Inlet	1,116,000	274,000	60,000	1,450,000
Chum	Hidden Falls	1, 503,000	377,000	120,000	2,000,000
Chinook	Medvejie/Deep Inlet	19,350	19,650	4,000	43,000
Chinook	Hidden Falls	13,460	5,140	3,000	21,600
Coho	Hidden Falls	104,100	86,000	10,000	200,000
Coho	Deer Lake (Mist Cove)	26,600	16,000	NA	42,600
Coho	Deep Inlet	13,685	2,415	NA	16,100

Armstrong Keta, Inc.

Species	Release Location	Common Property Harvest	Cost Recovery	Broodstock	Total Return
Pink	Port Armstrong	688,000	726,000	150,000	1,564,000
Chum	Port Armstrong	21,000	43,000	40,000	104,000
Coho	Port Armstrong	91,000	57,000	3,000	151,000
Chinook	Port Armstrong	1,000	700	1,000	2,700

-Continued-

Table 4.–Continued.

Sheldon Jackson College					
Species	**Release Location**	**Common Property Harvest**	**Cost Recovery**	**Broodstock**	**Total Return**
Pink	Crescent Bay	21,000	24,000	2,000	47,000
Chum	Crescent Bay	6,700	5,700	1,000	13,400
Coho	Crescent Bay	5,400	6,600	70	12,100
Chinook	Crescent Bay	80	50	50	180
Gunnuck Creek Hatchery					
Species	**Release Location**	**Common Property Harvest**	**Cost Recovery**	**Broodstock**	**Total Return**
Chum	SE Cove	unknown	650,000	0	650,000
Chum	Kake	unknown	26,000	100,000	126,000

LIST OF MANAGEMENT CONTACTS

The following ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries management staff may be contacted regarding this plan:

Scott Kelley
Region 1 Supervisor
P.O. Box 110024
Douglas, AK 99811
(907) 465-4250

Bill Davidson
Region 1 Management Biologist
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-6688

Kevin Monagle and Dave Harris
Management Biologists
P.O. Box 110024
Douglas, AK 99811
(907) 465-4250

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

Scott Walker, Justin Breese, and Bo Meredith
Management Biologists
2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite 205
Ketchikan, AK 99901
(907) 225-5195

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

David Gordon and Eric Coonradt
Management Biologists
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-6688

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

Ketchikan	(907) 225-6870
Petersburg	(907) 772-3700
Sitka	(907) 747-1009
Juneau	(907) 465-8905