

Fishery Management Report No. 06-30

**Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Fishery: 2006
Management Plan**

by

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May 2006

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and 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, and Special Publications. 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)		General		Measures (fisheries)	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code	AAC	fork length	FL
deciliter	dL	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	mid-eye-to-fork	MEF
gram	g	all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	mid-eye-to-tail-fork	METF
hectare	ha	at	@	standard length	SL
kilogram	kg	compass directions:		total length	TL
kilometer	km	east	E		
liter	L	north	N	Mathematics, statistics	
meter	m	south	S	<i>all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations</i>	
milliliter	mL	west	W	alternate hypothesis	H _A
millimeter	mm	copyright	©	base of natural logarithm	<i>e</i>
		corporate suffixes:		catch per unit effort	CPUE
Weights and measures (English)		Company	Co.	coefficient of variation	CV
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	Corporation	Corp.	common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
foot	ft	Incorporated	Inc.	confidence interval	CI
gallon	gal	Limited	Ltd.	correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
inch	in	District of Columbia	D.C.	correlation coefficient (simple)	r
mile	mi	et alii (and others)	et al.	covariance	cov
nautical mile	nmi	et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	degree (angular)	°
ounce	oz	exempli gratia		degrees of freedom	df
pound	lb	(for example)	e.g.	expected value	<i>E</i>
quart	qt	Federal Information Code	FIC	greater than	>
yard	yd	id est (that is)	i.e.	greater than or equal to	≥
		latitude or longitude	lat. or long.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
Time and temperature		monetary symbols		less than	<
day	d	(U.S.)	\$, ¢	less than or equal to	≤
degrees Celsius	°C	months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan, ..., Dec	logarithm (natural)	ln
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	registered trademark	®	logarithm (base 10)	log
degrees kelvin	K	trademark	™	logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ , etc.
hour	h	United States (adjective)	U.S.	minute (angular)	'
minute	min	United States of America (noun)	USA	not significant	NS
second	s	U.S.C.	United States Code	null hypothesis	H ₀
		U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)	percent	%
Physics and chemistry				probability	P
all atomic symbols				probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
alternating current	AC			probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
ampere	A			second (angular)	"
calorie	cal			standard deviation	SD
direct current	DC			standard error	SE
hertz	Hz			variance	
horsepower	hp			population	Var
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH			sample	var
parts per million	ppm				
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰				
volts	V				
watts	W				

FISHERY MANAGEMENT REPORT NO. 06-30

**SOUTHEAST ALASKA PURSE SEINE FISHERY:
2006 MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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ABSTRACT

The Southeast Alaska purse seine fishery is managed according to regulations and Emergency Order, time and area authority, and in consultation with the public and industry through the Purse Seine Management Task Force process. Alaska Department of Fish and Game provides preseason forecasts for 2006 pink salmon abundance, which together with historical escapement estimates, and fishery performance data, are used to establish regulatory guidelines. The management plan for the 2006 Southeast Alaska salmon purse seine fishery is described, 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 2006 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) 2006 preseason pink salmon forecast, historical escapement, fishery performance data and input through the Purse Seine Management Task Force process. The ADF&G area management biologists listed at the end of this document can provide further details regarding the implementation of the plan in their respective areas.

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

On average, purse seiners harvest 70 to 90% of the salmon caught in all Southeast Alaska commercial fisheries. Because pink salmon *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha* is the primary species targeted by the seine fleet, most management actions are based on the abundance of pink salmon stocks. Other species are generally harvested incidental to pink salmon. On average, sockeye *O. nerka* and coho salmon *O. kisutch* account for approximately 2%, chum salmon *O. keta* 12%, and Chinook salmon *O. tshawytscha* 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 and researchers at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Juneau Center for Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, use fishery performance data and associated information to make inseason forecasts of pink salmon returns to northern and southern Southeast Alaska. 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.

2006 PINK SALMON FORECAST

The pink salmon return in 2006 is predicted to be *Strong to Excellent*, with a potential total Southeast Alaska harvest of **52 million fish, with an 80% Confidence Interval range of 29 to 74 million fish**. The Strong category represents harvests between the 61st and 80th percentiles of the historical Southeast Alaska pink salmon harvest from 1960 to 2005:

Category	Range (millions)	Percentile
Disaster	Less than 11	Less than 20 th
Weak	11 to 19	21 st to 40 th
Average	19 to 29	41 st to 60 th
Strong	30 to 52	61 st to 80 th
Excellent	Greater than 52	Greater than 80 th

FORECAST METHODS

The forecast of the potential pink salmon harvest in Southeast Alaska in 2006 was based on a time-series technique called *exponential smoothing*. This technique is similar to a running average, except that all harvests since 1960 were used in the analysis (Figure 1). Recent harvest observations were given more weight in the analysis, while past harvest observations were increasingly down-weighted with time; i.e., the older the data, the less influence it has on the forecast. If x_t, x_{t-1}, \dots denotes the observed harvests in year $t, t-1$, and so on, then the forecast in year $t+1$ is given by,

$$\hat{x}_{t+1} = cx_t + (1-c)\hat{x}_t .$$

The forecast for year t , that is \hat{x}_t , is also a weighted average of the observed catch in year $t-1$, and the forecast in year $t-2$. This is a kind of recursive equation that contains all of the data in the series. In this case, we choose a value of c to be approximately 0.27, based on minimizing the sum of past squared errors. The forecast range is an 80% confidence interval, calculated by estimating the forecast error in the exponential smoothing technique over the recent 15 year period of high production (Figure 1).

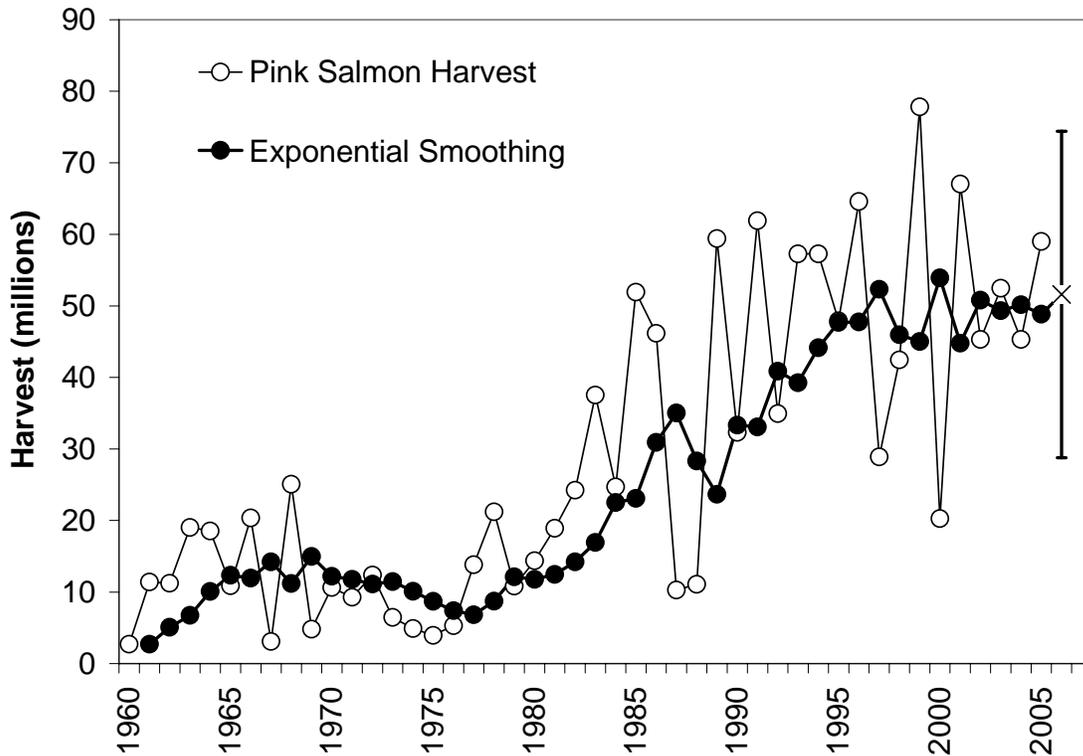


Figure 1.—Comparison of annual harvest of pink salmon in Southeast Alaska, and exponential smoothed hindcast values of the harvest used in the 2006 forecast model. The “X” marker shows the 2006 harvest forecast of 52 million pink salmon, with an 80% C.I. range of 29 million to 74 million.

FORECAST DISCUSSION

The parent year escapement appears to have been ample to provide a Strong to Excellent total return in 2006. Brood year escapement indices in 2004 were the 8th highest on record for the region (15.8 million), and were at the upper end or above the recently established subregional biological escapement goals (Table 1). Only 4 of 44 pink salmon stock groups had escapement indices below the management target ranges, while escapement indices in the remaining stock groups were within (16), or above (24) the desired management target ranges.

ADF&G programs designed specifically for collecting data useful for predicting returns of pink salmon in Southeast Alaska were eliminated in 1992. Our ability to forecast the pink salmon harvest is further complicated by recent large-scale changes in the fishing industry. Researchers cannot predict future management actions, fishing conditions, processing capacity, or product demand that drives the harvest each year. These factors have affected recent harvest levels, and in some recent years, our escapement measures indicated that there could have been considerable additional harvest had there been demand for the product.

Given these facts, we believe a simple, easily explained procedure that tracks the overall trend in harvest will produce a better forecast than complicated analyses based on questionable assumptions or based on spurious correlations. The current forecast does not rely on estimates of total escapement or total run size, as did prior forecasts, because accurate measures of these variables are not currently available. Because it is strictly based on historical harvests, this new

method of forecasting does not directly forecast the amount of fish that might be available for harvest. This is the third year we have used exponential smoothing to forecast the harvest. The last two forecasts have been accurate to within 5 million fish and 10 million fish; or about 10%–20% of the forecast.

ADF&G will manage 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.

Table 1.—2004 Southeast Alaska pink salmon escapement indices by district and subregion, compared to management target ranges by district, and biological escapement goal ranges by subregion (units of escapement index in millions).

Subregion	District	2004 Index	Lower Target	Upper Target
Southern	101	2.5	1.3	3.0
Southern	102	0.7	0.4	1.1
Southern	103	3.5	1.1	2.6
Southern	105	0.6	0.3	0.7
Southern	106	0.6	0.4	0.9
Southern	107	0.6	0.4	0.9
Southern	108	<0.1	No Target	
Northern Inside	109	1.3	0.4	0.9
Northern Inside	110	1.3	0.7	1.5
Northern Inside	111	0.5	0.3	0.7
Northern Inside	112	1.4	0.4	0.9
Northern Inside	Inside 113	0.5	0.4	0.9
Northern Inside	114	0.2	0.3	0.7
Northern Inside	115	<0.1	No Target	0.0
Northern Outside	Outside 113	2.1	0.8	1.8
		Total 2004 Index	Lower Escapement Goal	Upper Escapement Goal
Southern		8.5	4.0	9.0
Northern Inside		5.2	2.5	5.5
Northern Outside		2.1	0.8	1.8

GENERAL MANAGEMENT GOALS

The primary management goals for the 2006 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) to no more than 4.3% of the all-gear Chinook salmon catch ceiling established for the 2005/2006 season.
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).

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

ADF&G will strive to maintain and improve the high quality of the harvest achieved in recent years. This will mean an aggressive fishing schedule early in the season in areas where strong returns are expected. As the season progresses, based on catch rates, fleet distribution, expected harvest, and terminal area abundance, fishing times may be increased from 15-hour periods once or twice per week, to 39-hour openings, to 2-days-on/2-days-off, to 4-on/1-off, or to continuous fishing in some areas. Implementation of the 4-on/1-off fishing regime may be expected by late July or early August. The exact timing and implementation will be determined inseason by management staff and regionally coordinated. The 4-on/1-off fishing regime was first implemented in 2002: 1) to supply processing plants with more consistent deliveries of fresh-caught fish to maximize flesh quality, 2) to increase roe recovery and therefore 3) to maximize value of final products.

The size of the purse seine fleet will have some impact on the management decisions ADF&G makes as the season progresses. Effort levels in 2005 increased by 23 boats to 234 boats compared with an all time low effort of 211 boats fishing in 2004. The total number of permits issued in 2005 was 415; indicating 181 permits who were eligible to fish did not fish. The 2005 effort level remained at 71% of the recent 10-year average effort for the purse seine fishery.

For the 2006 season, the fishery opening and closing times will be as follows:

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

MATURE PINK SALMON FISHERIES

In 2001, ADF&G, at the request of several processors, initiated terminal area fisheries for mature pink salmon in areas where escapement needs had been exceeded. These fisheries were directed at harvesting the roe or ikura of the pink salmon. Approximately 2.4 million pink salmon were harvested in the fisheries that took place in Districts 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7. In order to meet the added cost of this fishery the department had a test fishery for mature pink salmon in District 3.

No terminal area pink fisheries occurred during the 2002 season.

In 2003, ADF&G allowed for terminal area pink salmon fisheries in District 1 in Carroll Inlet, in District 3 in El Capitan Passage, and Section 9-A in Red Bluff Bay. No harvest occurred in either District 1 or 3, however 69,000 pink salmon were harvested from Red Bluff Bay.

No terminal area pink fisheries occurred during the 2004 season.

In 2005, ADF&G opened terminal area pink salmon fisheries in District 5 in Shipley Bay and Affleck Canal, in District 6 in Steamer Bay, and in Section 13-A in Slocum Arm. In Section 13-A, 255,000 pink salmon were harvested by five boats. Some pink salmon were also harvested in District 5.

ADF&G will continue to look for opportunities to continue the terminal area pink salmon fisheries in 2006 if there is an interest and a market. The department will continue to open fisheries so all of the fish can be harvested in the best possible quality in the existing fisheries. However, if certain systems end up with significant numbers of pink salmon that are in excess to all expected spawning needs, openings to target mature fish may occur. It is anticipated that this type of fishery, if it occurs, would primarily be in late August and September. Since this is still a new method of management, it is anticipated that several types of openings may occur to determine what works best for the industry while insuring needed escapement is not jeopardized. Openings of this nature will be announced via standard news releases and will be clearly differentiated from traditional openings. If these fisheries are to continue, test fisheries may be required to cover additional aerial surveys and personnel costs.

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 [5 AAC 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 agreed to by the U.S. Section of the Pacific Salmon Commission in June 1999. The Chinook salmon all-gear catch

ceiling is driven by the preseason abundance index that is determined by the Chinook Technical Committee. For 2006, the purse seine Chinook salmon allocation will be 14, 912 fish.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) has adopted size limits [5 AAC 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. Purse seiner fishermen may take but may not sell Chinook salmon between the sizes of greater than 21 and less than 28 inches in length.
3. Purse seiner fishermen may possess and sell Chinook salmon that are less than 21 inches (approximately 5 pounds or less).

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Non-retention of 28-inch and larger Chinook salmon has been the primary management measure for maintaining the catch limit. **Because of the Chinook salmon seine allocation for 2006, retention of Chinook salmon will be permitted from the beginning of the season and for as long as possible during the time period when the catch rate for other species is high.** If the quota is reached, non-retention regulations will be reinitiated 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 (5 AAC 39.265) from the beginning of the season for net fisheries in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area. Additional areas may be announced via news releases.

During periods of non-retention, seiners are encouraged to avoid fishing in areas with high concentrations of Chinook salmon and to quickly release those caught in a manner that minimizes mortality. To ensure small (less than 21 inches) Chinook salmon are not counted against the quota, 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

2006 PINK SALMON RETURNS

The 2004 pink salmon escapement indices were all within or above management target ranges for Districts 1-8 (Table 1.). The District 1 pink salmon escapement index was 2.5 million fish, within the escapement range of 1.3 to 3.0 million fish. The District 2 pink salmon index escapement of 737 thousand fish was within the escapement range of 400 thousand to 2.55 million pink salmon. The District 3 pink salmon index escapement of 3.5 million fish was above the upper goal of 2.6 million pink salmon. The District 5 pink salmon index escapement of 632 thousand fish was within the escapement range of 330 to 650 thousand pink salmon. The District 6 pink salmon index escapement of 562 thousand fish was within the goal range of 0.4–0.9

million pink salmon. The District 7 pink salmon index escapement of 557 thousand fish was within the goal range of 0.4–0.9 million pink salmon. The total Southern Southeast Alaska pink salmon escapement index of 8.5 million fish was within the escapement goal range of 4.0 to 9.0 million fish.

MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

The continuation of the management strategy that started in 2002 will still pose the largest management problems in 2006. Uncertainties about fleet size and distribution and the department's reaction to those can only be answered in season. 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 fundamental objective of the modified fishing strategy that is to provide a more stable supply of fresher fish.

Hugh Smith Lake Sockeye Salmon

The BOF, during the 2006 meeting in Ketchikan, de-listed the Hugh Smith sockeye stock as a stock of concern. This means the Hugh Smith Lake Sockeye Action Management Plan is no longer in effect. However, ADF&G will continue to closely monitor the system and, if escapement levels are below that needed to reach the lower end of the escapement goal of 8,000, then both the District 1 gillnet fleet and the District 1 purse seine fleet will 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 for the District 4 fishery, the inside districts pink salmon fishery, the McDonald Lake sockeye salmon fishery, the fall chum salmon fishery in Cholmondeley Sound, and the hatchery terminal area fisheries.

District 4

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

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

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

The total run calculation includes the catches of Nass River and Skeena River sockeye salmon in the principal boundary area fisheries and the spawning escapements to the Nass and Skeena watersheds. This includes the catch of Nass and Skeena sockeye salmon in Alaska Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 net fisheries, Canadian Areas 1, 3, 4, and 5 net fisheries, and Canadian Nass and

Skeena in-river fisheries. Catches in other boundary area fisheries may be included as jointly agreed by the Northern Boundary Technical Committee.

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

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

Over the past three years the Bilateral Northern Boundary Technical Committee has worked to finalize the total run reconstructions for the Nass and Skeena Rivers. In February 2006 the bi-lateral Northern Panel accepted the work of the Technical Committee for the run reconstructions of the Nass/Skeena Rivers for the 2004 season (Table 2). reflects the performance of the District 104 fishery for 1999 through 2004 and preliminary numbers for through the 2005 season.

Table 2.—District 4 Purse Seine Nass/Skeena Allocation.

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 (prelim.)
Nass/Skeena Total Return	1,777,048	5,318,228	4,965,291	2,776,502	3,313,785	2,628,088	1,800,000
Nass/Skeena Escapement	936,705	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,030,688	1,100,000	1,100,000	840,000
Allowable Nass/Skeena AAH	834,343	4,218,228	3,865,291	1,725,169	2,213,785	1,528,088	960,000
Allowable D4 Harvest (2.45%)	20,441	103,347	94,700	42,267	54,238	37,438	23,250
Actual Nass/Skeena Harvest	3,232	29,221	167,854	18,627	44,258	19,233	28,500
Cumulative overage/(underage)	(17,209)	(91,335)	(18,181)	(41,820)	(51,800)	(70,005)	(65,226)

The 2005 numbers should be considered very preliminary. The final bi-lateral stock identification work will not be completed until February 2007.

The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans has a preseason expectation of approximately 3,000,000 sockeye salmon to the Nass/Skeena River in 2006. If the 2006 forecast is accurate and escapement goals are achieved, then the AAH for District 4 will be approximately 47,000 Nass/Skeena sockeye salmon.

In 2006, the District 4 purse seine fishery will start on Sunday, July 2. It is anticipated that the initial opening on July 2 will be 10 hours in length. The duration of subsequent openings will be based on the run strength of sockeye and pink salmon, the amount of effort in the district, and the need to stay within Pacific Salmon Treaty numbers. District 4 will be managed under the Pacific Salmon Treaty annex through July 29, 2006. Starting on Sunday, July 30, 2006 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 starts to realize 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. That may not be the case under the 2006 fishing regime.

Inside Fishing Areas

As in past years, aerial surveys of early run pink salmon producing areas, primarily Boca de Quadra, east Behm Canal, and Ernest Sound, will begin in late June. Seining is expected to begin on Sunday, July 2, (Statistical Week 27). 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 begin with a series of 15-hour to 39-hour openings depending on run strength and the distribution of the purse seine fleet.

That fishing regime will probably change into a 2-on/2-off fishing pattern unless it becomes obvious to ADF&G that due to the size and distribution of the purse seine fleet that the 4-on/1-off can be implemented before any 2-on/2-off fishing periods. Based on the preseason forecast, historical run timing, and the anticipated size of the purse seine fleet, the department anticipates the implementation of the 4-on/1-off by late July or early August. Until that time, the purse seine fishery will be managed similarly to previous years. Purse seiners should expect fishing times to be in blocks of 15-hours rather than continual fishing and areas will open and close within the extended fishing opportunities.

In District 1 the area from Boca de Quadra to Foggy Point will be managed to reflect the harvest patterns, effort levels, and fishing time in recent years. Other areas in District 1, such as the Gravina Island shoreline, will also be managed to take into account other user groups 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 18. 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. As discussed at the Seiner's Task Force meeting, the department will look at the possibility of additional fishing time in District 2, adjacent to Kendrick Bay beyond what has taken place there in recent years. If wild salmon run strength, effort, and other pertinent considerations allow additional fishing time to target hatchery chum salmon the department will consider it.

Seining will be limited to the southern portion of District 2 until escapements of pink salmon to northern Clarence Strait, Ernest Sound, Cholmondeley Sound, and Kasaan Bay can be adequately assessed. Additionally, no seining should be expected in middle Clarence Strait,

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

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

Districts 5, 6, and 7

Parent-year pink salmon escapements were excellent in the major bays along the west side of District 5 (Sumner Strait). Seine openings can be expected to occur in portions of the district during the first week of August. Escapements were fair in the seine portion of District 6 (upper Clarence Strait). Openings are expected to begin during the second week in August. Parent-year escapements were good to excellent in District 7. Openings in Section 7-B (Pt. Eaton to Union Bay) are expected to begin in late July. If run strengths are strong, the plan is to ideally have all these districts open together even if it is with less area in each district. If that were not possible due to effort distribution or run strength, openings would rotate between District 6 and Districts 5 and 7. This could potentially include 2-day fisheries during one 5-day period and then switching to 3-day fisheries the following 5-day period. Every effort will be made to begin more continuous openings as soon as possible to give industry maximum flexibility for harvesting large returns.

McDonald Lake Sockeye Salmon

ADF&G will monitor returns beginning in early July by aerial surveys. Sockeye returns to McDonald Lake have been below escapement goals in recent years and the department will take a conservative management approach to this system in 2006. It is not anticipated that the Yes Bay terminal area will open in 2006.

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, 2001, 2002, and 2003 parent year chum salmon escapements were average to above average. The first opening for fall-run chum salmon can be expected about September 10. In 2005, approximately 13,000 chum salmon were caught in the District 2 fall chum fishery. That was the lowest harvest in recent years. ADF&G will look closely at early fall season results to determine if returns to District 2 will be similar to 2005.

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 no reported harvest. The department will again open portions of Section 3-A in 2006. Open areas and fishing times will be similar to the 2004 and 2005 seasons.

Terminal Hatchery Fisheries

For the 2006 season, terminal harvest area seine 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 Terminal Harvest Areas (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.

Seiners are requested to ensure fish caught in THAs are reported correctly on the fish tickets. This will enable the accurate documentation of fish taken from THAs coded microwire tags or otolith marks.

Terminal Area–Neets Bay [5 AAC 33.370]

From May 15 through August 15 the Neets Bay THA shall include those waters of Neets Bay east of the longitude of the easternmost point of Bug Island to the closed waters at the head of the bay. From the second Sunday in June through August 1, 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 August 1, 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 2006, SSRAA is expecting a total return of 1,094,000 summer chum, 198,000 fall chum, 150,000 coho, and 11,500 Chinook salmon to return to Neets Bay.

The fisheries in Neets Bay will be opened by ADF&G via emergency order in consultation with SSRAA. The Neets Bay fishery will be a rotational fishery according to 5 AAC 33.370 and the drift gillnet and purse seine fisheries will open according to the following schedule:

May 15–June 10, 2006

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

June 11–20, 2006

Gillnet: June 11 (Sunday) noon through June 13 (Tuesday) noon

Seine: June 14 (Wednesday) noon through June 15 (Thursday) noon

Gillnet: June 16 (Friday) noon through June 18 (Sunday) noon

Seine: June 19 (Monday) noon through June 20 (Tuesday) noon

June 21–November 14, 2006

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—Nakat Inlet [5 AAC 33.372]

The Nakat Inlet THA includes the waters of Nakat Inlet between 54°50' N. latitude and 54°56' N. latitude. In 2006, approximately 265,000 summer chum, 105,000 fall chum, and 14,000 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. Rotational fisheries in the Nakat Inlet THA are scheduled from June 1 through September 16, 2006 according to the following schedule.

June 2006

Gillnet: June 1 (Wednesday) noon through June 2 (Thursday) noon
Seine: June 3 (Saturday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: June 4 (Saturday) noon through June 5 (Monday) noon
Seine: June 6 (Tuesday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: June 7 (Wednesday) noon through June 8 (Thursday) noon
Seine: June 9 (Friday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: June 10 (Saturday) noon through June 11 (Sunday) noon
Seine: June 12 (Monday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: June 13 (Tuesday) noon through June 14 (Wednesday) noon
Seine: June 15 (Thursday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: June 16 (Friday) noon through June 17 (Saturday) noon
Seine: June 18 (Sunday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: June 19 (Monday) noon through June 20 (Tuesday) noon
Seine: June 21 (Wednesday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: June 22 (Thursday) noon through June 23 (Friday) noon
Seine: June 24 (Saturday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: June 25 (Sunday) noon through June 26 (Monday) noon
Seine: June 27 (Tuesday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: June 28 (Wednesday) noon through June 29 (Thursday) noon
Seine: June 30 (Friday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

July 2006

Gillnet: July 1 (Saturday) noon through July 2 (Sunday) noon
Seine: July 3 (Monday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: July 4 (Tuesday) noon through July 5 (Wednesday) noon
Seine: July 6 (Thursday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: July 7 (Friday) noon through July 8 (Saturday) noon
Seine: July 9 (Sunday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: July 10 (Monday) noon through July 11 (Tuesday) noon

-July 2006 continued-

July 2006

Seine: July 12 (Wednesday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: July 13 (Thursday) noon through July 14 (Friday) noon
Seine: July 15 (Saturday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: July 16 (Sunday) noon through July 17 (Monday) noon
Seine: July 18 (Tuesday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: July 19 (Wednesday) noon through July 20 (Thursday) noon
Seine: July 21 (Friday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: July 22 (Saturday) noon through July 23 (Sunday) noon
Seine: July 24 (Monday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: July 25 (Tuesday) noon through July 26 (Wednesday) noon
Seine: July 27 (Thursday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: July 28 (Friday) noon through July 29 (Saturday) noon
Seine: July 30 (Sunday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: July 31 (Monday) noon through August 1 (Tuesday) noon

August 2006

Seine: August 2 (Wednesday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: August 3 (Thursday) noon through August 4 (Friday) noon
Seine: August 5 (Saturday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: August 6 (Sunday) noon through August 7 (Monday) noon
Seine: August 8 (Tuesday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: August 9 (Wednesday) noon through August 10 (Thursday) noon
Seine: August 11 (Friday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: August 12 (Saturday) noon through August 13 (Sunday) noon
Seine: August 14 (Monday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: August 15 (Tuesday) noon through August 16 (Wednesday) noon
Seine: August 17 (Thursday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: August 18 (Friday) noon through August 19 (Saturday) noon
Seine: August 20 (Sunday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: August 21 (Monday) noon through August 22 (Tuesday) noon
Seine: August 23 (Wednesday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: August 24 (Thursday) noon through August 25 (Friday) noon
Seine: August 26 (Saturday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: August 27 (Sunday) noon through August 28 (Monday) noon
Seine: August 29 (Tuesday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: August 30 (Wednesday) noon through August 31 (Thursday) noon

September 1–16, 2006

Seine: September 1 (Friday)–6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: September 2 (Saturday) noon through September 3 (Sunday) noon
Seine: September 4 (Monday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: September 5 (Tuesday) noon through September 6 (Wednesday) noon
Seine: September 7 (Thursday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: September 8 (Friday) noon through September 9 (Saturday) noon
Seine: September 10 (Sunday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: September 11 (Monday) noon through September 12 (Tuesday) noon
Seine: September 13 (Wednesday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gillnet: September 14 (Thursday) noon through September 15 (Friday) noon
Seine: September 16 (Saturday) 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

September 17 –November 10, 2006

From 12:01 a.m. September 17 through 12:00 noon November 10, 2006 the Nakat Inlet THA is open continuously to purse seine, drift gillnet and troll gear.

Terminal Area—Anita Bay [5 AAC 33.383]

The Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area 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 2006, approximately 310,000 chum, 3,600 king and 15,000 coho salmon are expected to be returning in total. It is anticipated that approximately 170,000 chum, 700 king and 1,500 coho will return to the terminal area and be available for harvesting in the rotational fisheries.

The Anita Bay THA is open to the harvesting of salmon by drift gillnet and purse seine during the following rotational schedule:

May 2006–Anita Bay

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 2006

Seine: June 2 (Friday) noon through June 3 (Saturday) noon
Gillnet: June 4 (Sunday) noon through June 6 (Tuesday) noon
Seine: June 7 (Wednesday) noon through June 8 (Thursday) noon
Gillnet: June 9 (Friday) noon through June 11 (Sunday) noon
Seine: June 12 (Monday) noon through June 13 (Tuesday) noon
Gillnet: June 14 (Wednesday) noon through June 16 (Friday) noon
Seine: June 17 (Saturday) noon through June 18 (Sunday) noon
Gillnet: June 19 (Monday) noon through June 21 (Wednesday) noon
Seine: June 22 (Thursday) noon through June 23 (Friday) noon
Gillnet: June 24 (Saturday) noon ending June 26 (Monday) noon
Seine: June 27 (Tuesday) noon through June 28 (Wednesday) noon
Gillnet: June 29 (Thursday) noon ending July 1 (Saturday) noon

July 2006

Seine: July 2 (Sunday) noon through July 3 (Monday) noon
Gillnet: July 4 (Tuesday) noon through July 6 (Thursday) noon
Seine: July 7 (Friday) noon through July 8 (Saturday) noon
Gillnet: July 9 (Sunday) noon through July 11 (Tuesday) noon
Seine: July 12 (Wednesday) noon through July 13 (Thursday) noon
Gillnet: July 14 (Friday) noon through July 16 (Sunday) noon
Seine: July 17 (Monday) noon through July 18 (Tuesday) noon
Gillnet: July 19 (Wednesday) noon through July 21 (Friday) noon
Seine: July 22 (Saturday) noon through July 23 (Sunday) noon
Gillnet: July 24 (Monday) noon through July 26 (Wednesday) noon
Seine: July 27 (Thursday) noon through July 28 (Friday) noon
Gillnet: July 29 (Saturday) noon through July 31 (Monday) noon

August 2006

Seine: August 1 (Tuesday) noon through August 2 (Wednesday) noon
Gillnet: August 3 (Thursday) noon through August 5 (Saturday) noon
Seine: August 6 (Sunday) noon through August 7 (Monday) noon
Gillnet: August 8 (Tuesday) noon through August 10 (Thursday) noon
Seine: August 11 (Friday) noon through August 12 (Saturday) noon

-August 2006 continued-

August 2006

Gillnet: August 13 (Sunday) noon through August 15 (Tuesday) noon
Seine: August 16 (Wednesday) noon through August 17 (Thursday) noon
Gillnet: August 18 (Friday) noon through August 20 (Sunday) noon
Seine: August 21 (Monday) noon through August 22 (Tuesday) noon
Gillnet: August 23 (Wednesday) noon through August 25 (Friday) noon
Seine: August 26 (Saturday) noon through August 27 (Sunday) noon
Gillnet: August 28 (Monday) noon through August 30 (Wednesday) noon
Seine: August 31 (Thursday) noon through September 1 (Friday) noon

September 2006

Gillnet: September 2 (Saturday) noon through September 4 (Monday) noon
Seine: September 5 (Tuesday) noon through September 6 (Wednesday) noon
Gillnet: September 7 (Thursday) noon through September 9 (Saturday) noon
Seine: September 10 (Sunday) noon through September 11 (Monday) noon
Gillnet: September 12 (Tuesday) noon through September 14 (Thursday) noon
Seine: September 15 (Friday) noon through September 16 (Saturday) noon
Gillnet: September 17 (Sunday) noon through September 19 (Tuesday) noon
Seine: September 20 (Wednesday) noon through September 21 (Thursday) noon
Gillnet: September 22 (Friday) noon through September 24 (Sunday) noon
Seine: September 25 (Monday) noon through September 26 (Tuesday) noon
Gillnet: September 27 (Wednesday) noon through September 29 (Friday) noon
Seine: September 30 (Saturday) noon through October 1 (Sunday) noon

October 1–11, 2006

Gillnet: October 2 (Monday) noon through October 4 (Wednesday) noon
Seine: October 5 (Thursday) noon through October 6 (Friday) noon
Gillnet: October 7 (Saturday) noon through October 9 (Monday) noon
Seine: October 10 (Tuesday) noon through October 11 (Wednesday) noon

October 12–November 10, 2006

Beginning 12:01 a.m. Thursday, October 12, 2006, 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 Friday, November 10, 2006.

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

Species/Run	Release Location	Common property Harvest	Other	Total Return
Coho	Herring Cove	7,000	2,000	9,000
Coho	Nakat Inlet	13,700	300	14,000
Coho	Anita Bay	13,500	1,500	15,000
Coho	Neets Bay	115,500	34,500	150,000
Summer Coho	Burnett Inlet	3,200	4,800	8,000
Summer Coho	Neck Lake	24,500	43,500	68,000
King	Whitman Lake	7,000	9,700	16,700
King	Anita Bay	2,900	700	3,600
King	Neets Bay	3,100	8,400	11,500
Summer Chum	Neets Bay	147,000	947,000	1,094,000
Summer Chum	Anita Bay	139,500	170,500	310,000
Summer Chum	Kendrick Bay	83,000	4,000	87,000
Summer Chum	Nakat Inlet	106,000	159,000	265,000
Fall Chum	Nakat Inlet	42,000	63,000	105,000
Fall Chum	Neets Bay	29,000	169,000	198,000
Sockeye	Neck Creek	14,000	21,000	35,000

NORTHERN DISTRICTS PURSE SEINE FISHERY

2006 PINK SALMON RETURNS

Pink salmon escapement goals were met or exceeded in the 2004 parent-year for Districts 9–13, but not in District 14, in Northern Southeast Alaska (Table 1.). Excluding District 14, ADF&G expects good returns from the good parent year escapements observed in all of the northern districts.

MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

As with southern Southeast seine areas, implementation of the new management strategy will pose the most significant management problems in 2006. Uncertainties about fleet size and distribution and the department's reaction to those can only be answered in season. 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 fundamental objective of the modified fishing strategy that is to provide a more stable supply of fresher fish.

With no specific northern Southeast Alaska pink salmon return prediction, it will be necessary to assess the overall run strength of the return early in the season. 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.

Inside Fishing Areas

The 2006 seining season will begin on Sunday, June 18, 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. The Point Augusta line has been changed from 1/3 mile to 1/2 mile offshore as agreed during the 2003 Purse Seine Task Force Meeting in Sitka. 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 25.

Escapements of summer chum salmon in the 2001–2002 parent years in Tenakee Inlet were mixed. The 2001 Tenakee Inlet chum salmon escapement of approximately 31,000 fish was 18% of the 10-year average of 150,000 fish while the 2002 escapement was over twice the 10-year average. The 2004 parent year pink salmon escapement index for Tenakee Inlet of 429,000 fish was above the upper goal of 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.

Parent year pink escapements were good in Peril Straits and Hoonah Sound with a 2004 escapement index of 525,000 well within the management target of 400,000–900,000 pink salmon. Parent year chum escapements were generally good with better than average escapements in 2001 and average escapements in 2002. Beginning June 25, 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, then 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 1.28 million pink salmon; near the upper end of the escapement goal range of 650,000 to 1.45 million fish and the fourth highest escapement ever recorded. Escapements were uniformly excellent throughout the district.

Extensive fisheries are expected in District 10 if survival from the 2004 spawning cycle is good. The parent-year escapement for Seymour Canal (Section 11D) was 309,000 pink salmon; within the escapement goal range of 180,000–410,000 fish. If Seymour Canal runs develop adequately in 2006, openings to access these fish may be allowed along the Big Bend shoreline in District 10 and in lower Seymour Canal. It is anticipated that the portion of District 10 south of Gambier Island Light will open no later than July 13.

The 2001 and 2002 chum salmon parent year escapements for Southwest Admiralty chum salmon systems (primarily in Hood and Chaik bays) were equal to the 10-year average. ADF&G 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. Catch rates in the Cross Sound troll fishery and incidental catches of pink salmon at the Hidden Falls Hatchery terminal fishery during the first three-weeks of the season will also be monitored as indicators of pink salmon run strength. ADF&G will open a one-mile section of shoreline by Point Augusta in District 12 in conjunction with other weekly openings to provide an additional assessment of incoming run strength of early-run pink salmon. The Point Augusta shoreline will be open 1/2 mile offshore and will be included in mid-week openings early in the season to obtain additional stock strength information. Test fishing will be conducted at Point Gardner starting in late June and Kingsmill Point starting in early July to assess the strength and timing of the pink salmon returns entering Frederick Sound. Test fishing will also occur along the Hawk Inlet Shoreline beginning June 23 to assess the strength of pink salmon returns entering the northern inside waters of Districts 11 and 15.

Seining in District 12 along the west Admiralty Island shoreline may expand in mid-to-late July depending on the observed run strength of middle-run pink salmon stocks in District 10 and 11 and continue as long as Chatham escapements develop satisfactorily. Parent year pink salmon escapements were above 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.

Pink salmon escapement in District 14 was poor in 2004. The pink salmon escapement index of 230,000 fish was well below the lower escapement goal of 320,000 fish. Given these poor escapements, ADF&G 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. The department will also monitor pink salmon escapements in streams adjacent to Porpoise Islands along Homeshore and will consider seine openings in this area if there is a harvestable pink salmon surplus to escapement needs.

Middle-run pink salmon returns should begin entering the inside waters of the northern districts during July. Seining is expected to begin in District 9 during mid-July near Red Bluff Bay in Section 9-A, in late July along the Admiralty Island shore in Section 9-B, and in early August in Section 9-A near Little Port Walter north of Armstrong Point. Parent year escapements of pink salmon to Red Bluff Bay were above the recent 10-year average and mid July openings can be

expected. Early 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 late July or early August depending upon pink salmon abundance and the strength of the Falls Lake sockeye salmon return. ADF&G will closely monitor subsistence harvest of sockeye and escapements at the Falls Lake weir. If pink salmon escapements are sufficient into Red Bluff Bay, 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 slightly below the lower management target range of 50,000 pink salmon. A conservative approach will be used in providing openings in the southern portion of Section 9-A and openings will be based on in-season pink salmon abundance. Parent year escapements of pink salmon were good to excellent in all of Section 9-B. The escapement index for District 9 was 946,000, which is slightly above the upper end of the 400,000 to 850,000 escapement goal range. Openings in District 12 along the Catherine Island shoreline and in portions of Kelp Bay may occur from middle July to early August, to harvest surplus pink salmon returning to Kelp Bay or to harvest surplus chum returning to the Hidden Falls hatchery if wild chum and pink salmon escapements are being met. Parent year escapements of pink salmon to Kelp Bay streams were well above the upper management target range but well below the recent 10-year average escapement. Parent year chum salmon escapements to Kelp Bay streams were good. When run strengths are strong enough to warrant additional fishing time, the fisheries will go from 15 and 39 hour openings to 2-on/2-off, or more continuous openings. 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 ideally have both Districts 9 and 10 open together even if it is with less area in each district. If that were not possible due to effort distribution or run strength, openings would rotate between the two districts.

Late-run pink salmon returns should begin entering the inside waters of the northern districts in August. The fishing regime will probably shift to a 2-on/2-off fishing pattern for some limited time unless it becomes obvious to ADF&G that due to the size and distribution of the purse seine fleet that the 4-on/1-off can be implemented before any 2-on/2-off fishing periods. Based on the preseason forecast and historical run timing the department anticipates this will occur in early August. Until that time the purse seine fishery will be managed similarly to previous years.

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 upper Stephens Passage. During July, ADF&G will manage the Hawk Inlet Shore fishery in accordance with the Northern Southeast Seine Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC 33.366). This plan stipulates that any portion of the area north of Point Marsden may be opened when a harvestable surplus of pink salmon is observed. Openings must also consider the conservation of all species, and the area must be closed in July after 15,000 wild origin sockeye salmon have been harvested. In January 2006, the BOF 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 remain strong. If north-migrating salmon returns are poor and south-migrating stocks are strong, seining will be allowed only south of Point Marsden.

Pink salmon escapements to Stephens Passage and lower Lynn Canal were below 10-year averages in 2004 but within escapement goal ranges. 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 ADF&G to determine if run strengths are adequate and a harvestable surplus of pink salmon is available for harvest will include:

1. Parent year escapements of pink salmon stocks in the Taku River, Stephens Passage, and Lynn Canal.
2. 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 BOF 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 ADF&G with more flexibility to open areas adjacent to the Hawk Inlet shore fishery (e.g., south of Point Marsden, Point Augusta, and Whitestone Shore) when pink salmon run strength warrants.

Hidden Falls Terminal Hatchery Fishery

The Hidden Falls Hatchery, operated by the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), expects a return of approximately 1,522,000 chum salmon in 2006. Of this total return, approximately 1,102,000 will be available for the common property harvest after allowing 280,000 for cost recovery and 130,000 for broodstock requirements. In 2006, cost recovery will be managed by NSRAA to harvest 2,240,000 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 2006 season is scheduled for June 18. As usual, seiners are advised that openings at Hidden Falls during the 2006 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 18. NSRAA has scheduled cost recovery fishing daily from June 20 through June 24. A mid-week opening on Thursday, June 22 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 (5 AAC 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. Until July 1, if it becomes necessary to close a purse seine fishery to chum salmon that is scheduled in this plan in order to achieve broodstock and cost recovery goals, then troll retention of chum in the THA is 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 either June 18 or June 25. 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 king broodstock, and trollers may only retain chum salmon in number 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 chum salmon escapements to Kelp Bay streams are being met. Parent year chum escapements into Kelp Bay systems were good. The southern boundary may be expanded south to the District 12 boundary near Cascade Bay if the overall strength of pink salmon returns are sufficient to meet escapements in the area and provided that eastern Baranof Island sockeye salmon escapements and subsistence uses are being met. Any boundary expansions will be determined based on inseason observations of run strength.

Deep Inlet Terminal Hatchery Fishery

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 [5 AAC 33.376]

NSRAA expects a return of 1,822,000 chum salmon to the Deep Inlet remote release site and the Medvejie Hatchery in 2006. Cost recovery and broodstock goals for the Deep Inlet returns are approximately 340,000 fish and 60,000 fish respectively, allowing for a common property harvest of approximately 1,422,000 chum salmon by purse seine, drift gillnet, and troll gear. In 2006, cost recovery will be managed by NSRAA to harvest 2,720,000 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 occur beginning April 30 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, April 30 and continue through July 1 with 4-days of gillnet and 2-days of seine per week. A small area of the Deep Inlet THA west of 135° 21.52' W. longitude will be closed May 1 through May 21 in order to exclude a small area traditionally used by trollers during that period.

During the period July 2–22, THA openings will be reduced to 1-day of seine and 2-days of gillnet per week and an area within 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 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 23–August 5 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 6 the schedule will again return to 1-day of seine and 2-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 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. 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 2006 season:

April 30–July 1, July 23–August 5, and 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.

From July 2–July 22 and from August 6 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 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 21 and after the troll coho salmon closure in August or August 20 if there is no August coho closure. The Silver Bay SHA

is reduced in area to 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 from July 22 through the August troll closure or August 20 if there is no August coho closure. The Deep Inlet SHA is defined in 5 AAC 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, 135° 23.59' W. longitude, to a point one-mile west of the westernmost tip of Long Island at 57° 00.17' N. latitude, 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 (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 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 2006 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 July 2 through July 22 and from August 6 until cost recovery goals are met.

Deep Inlet THA: will be closed west of 135° 21.52' W. longitude from May 1 through May 21.

During the 2006 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 2006 by emergency order

under authority of 5 AAC 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 3rd 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 615,000 chum salmon is expected. This would be higher than the 2005 return but lower than the 2003 return when 1.2 million fish were harvested in the terminal area.

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 2001 and 2002 parent years. Limited fishing opportunities in Excursion Inlet may occur in late August or early September. Parent year escapements to Excursion Inlet were above average in 2001 but well below average in 2002. In Section 13-B, targeted fall chum openings may occur in Nakwasina Sound and Katlian Bay, however opportunities are most often concurrent with pink salmon fisheries in Sitka Sound. Fall chum fisheries will be managed based on observations of run strengths in the bays beginning in mid August and continuing through September.

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

Management of Sections 13-A and 13-B, along the outer coasts of Baranof and Chichagof Islands, is distinct from the management of the northern inside areas. Salmon returning to these areas enter directly from the ocean and do not pass through major inside migration corridors. In Section 13-A parent-year pink salmon escapements to northern outside areas were strong in Portlock Harbor, and Salisbury Sound and good in Slocum Arm. Openings in these area can be expected to begin around the third week in July depending upon observed pink salmon abundance. Parent-year escapements to Lisianski Inlet were well above the long-term and the 10-year average for even years, however, the 2004 escapement index of 76,000 is still well below odd-year escapement levels and it is unlikely that Lisianski Inlet will open to purse seining in 2006. 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 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.

A modified fishing regime may be implemented in early to middle August of 2006 provided that regional pink salmon returns to Southeastern Alaska develop as expected. The fishing regime will probably change into a 2-on/2-off fishing pattern for a limited amount of time unless it becomes obvious to ADF&G that due to the size and distribution of the purse seine fleet that the 4-on/1-off can be implemented before any 2-on/2-off fishing periods. Depending on fleet size, fishing patterns, catch rates, and escapements, this pattern may continue or be modified as the season progresses. 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 can be provided in the general Sitka area and in northern Sitka Sound by scheduling openings of nearby areas including Salisbury Sound, Whale Bay, and West Crawfish during those days when portions of Sitka Sound are closed. Seine fisheries in much of Sections 13-A and 13-B were opened on a 7-day/week basis during portions of the 2005 season. This was supported by high escapement and low fishing effort levels. Continuous fishing opportunities may again occur if a similar pattern of escapement and fishing effort develop during the 2006 season. 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.

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

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