

**Regional Information Report No. 1J18-07**

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# **2018 Spring Troll Fishery Management Plan**

by

**Grant Hagerman**

and

**Rhea Ehresmann**

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April 2018

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, 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.

<b>Weights and measures (metric)</b>		<b>General</b>		<b>Mathematics, statistics</b>	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code	AAC	<i>all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations</i>	
deciliter	dL	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	alternate hypothesis	$H_A$
gram	g	all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	base of natural logarithm	$e$
hectare	ha	at	@	catch per unit effort	CPUE
kilogram	kg	compass directions:		coefficient of variation	CV
kilometer	km	east	E	common test statistics	(F, t, $\chi^2$ , etc.)
liter	L	north	N	confidence interval	CI
meter	m	south	S	correlation coefficient	
milliliter	mL	west	W	(multiple)	R
millimeter	mm	copyright	©	correlation coefficient (simple)	r
		corporate suffixes:		covariance	cov
<b>Weights and measures (English)</b>		Company	Co.	degree (angular)	$^\circ$
cubic feet per second	ft <sup>3</sup> /s	Corporation	Corp.	degrees of freedom	df
foot	ft	Incorporated	Inc.	expected value	$E$
gallon	gal	Limited	Ltd.	greater than	>
inch	in	District of Columbia	D.C.	greater than or equal to	$\geq$
mile	mi	et alii (and others)	et al.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
nautical mile	nmi	et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	less than	<
ounce	oz	exempli gratia	e.g.	less than or equal to	$\leq$
pound	lb	(for example)		logarithm (natural)	ln
quart	qt	Federal Information Code	FIC	logarithm (base 10)	log
yard	yd	id est (that is)	i.e.	logarithm (specify base)	log <sub>2</sub> , etc.
		latitude or longitude	lat or long	minute (angular)	'
<b>Time and temperature</b>		monetary symbols (U.S.)	\$, ¢	not significant	NS
day	d	months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan, ..., Dec	null hypothesis	$H_0$
degrees Celsius	$^\circ\text{C}$	registered trademark	®	percent	%
degrees Fahrenheit	$^\circ\text{F}$	trademark	™	probability	P
degrees kelvin	K	United States (adjective)	U.S.	probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	$\alpha$
hour	h	United States of America (noun)	USA	probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	$\beta$
minute	min	U.S.C.	United States Code	second (angular)	"
second	s	U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)	standard deviation	SD
<b>Physics and chemistry</b>				standard error	SE
all atomic symbols				variance	
alternating current	AC			population sample	Var
ampere	A			sample	var
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				

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Sitka

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
LIST OF TABLES.....	ii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	ii
ABSTRACT.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND METHODS.....	1
Spring Fisheries.....	1
Terminal Area Fisheries.....	2
RETENTION OF OTHER SALMON SPECIES.....	3
2017 SPRING FISHERY REVIEW.....	3
2018 SPRING FISHERIES OVERVIEW.....	3
District 8 Directed Fishery.....	3
District 11 Directed Fishery.....	3
Yakutat Spring Troll Fishery.....	3
Icy Strait/Keku Strait Troll Logbook Program.....	4
Regulatory Changes and Management Actions To Conserve Wild Stock Chinook Salmon in the Spring Troll Fisheries.....	4
Modified Areas.....	5
Initial Openings.....	5
Terminal Harvest Area Troll Fisheries.....	5
REGULATION SUMMARY.....	6
Closed Waters.....	6
Sport Fishing And Chartering From A Registered Troll Vessel.....	6
Frozen At Sea Requirements.....	6
Regulations Pertaining To Commercial Troll Bycatch Of Groundfish And Halibut.....	7
2018 ALASKA HATCHERY CHINOOK RETURN FORECAST.....	11
2018 SPRING FISHING AREAS AND MAPS.....	13
Ketchikan Areas.....	13
Wrangell and Prince of Wales Areas.....	15
Chatham Strait and Frederick Sound Areas.....	17
Sitka Areas.....	19
North Chatham Strait and Icy Strait Areas.....	24
Yakutat Area.....	26
FISHERY CONTACTS.....	27

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table</b>		<b>Page</b>
1.	Guideline limits of PST Chinook salmon (U.S./Canada) that may be harvested in each spring troll fishing area. ....	2
2.	Bycatch Provisions for the Spring Salmon Troll Fishery .....	7
3.	2018 Alaska hatchery Chinook salmon and Neck Lake coho salmon return forecasts. ....	11

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Figure</b>		<b>Page</b>
1.	Alaska Lingcod Management Areas and Restricted Waters of Sitka Sound.....	10
2.	Location of Chinook salmon hatcheries and Chinook salmon remote release sites (RR) in Southeast Alaska, showing broodstock in use by location. ....	12
3.	Ketchikan area spring troll areas, 2018. ....	14
4.	Wrangell and Prince of Wales spring troll areas, 2018. ....	16
5.	Chatham Strait and Frederick Sound spring troll areas, 2018. ....	18
6.	Sitka spring troll areas, 2018.....	21
7.	Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area. ....	22
8.	Silver Bay Terminal Harvest Area. ....	23
9.	North Chatham Strait and Icy Strait spring fishery areas, 2018. ....	25
10.	Yakutat Bay spring troll fishery area.....	26

## **ABSTRACT**

This document summarizes the plan that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will follow to manage the 2018 Southeast Alaska spring commercial salmon troll fisheries, according to the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted guidelines listed in the State of Alaska Administrative Code under 5 AAC 29.090, and under Chinook salmon action plans for stocks of management concern.

Key words: Salmon, Chinook, Chum, Troll, Spring, Commercial, Management Plan, Southeast Alaska

## **INTRODUCTION**

This plan summarizes the management approach the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will employ to manage the Southeast Alaska commercial spring troll fisheries in 2018. Most spring fisheries target Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon and are conducted during May and June of each year, though some may begin in mid-April if the winter troll fishery closes prior to April 30. The number of spring fisheries has increased since 1986, when the first few spring fisheries were conducted. In recent years, more than 30 spring fishery areas located within the inside waters of the region have been open to trolling. Spring fisheries are managed in season, according to Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) regulations and U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) provisions.

Plans for the 2018 spring and terminal troll fisheries are presented along with maps, area descriptions, and Alaska hatchery Chinook salmon forecasts. A review of the 2017 spring troll fisheries is provided as well as a summary of pertinent regulations.

## **MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND METHODS**

### **SPRING FISHERIES**

Spring fisheries are conducted along salmon migration routes or close to the following hatcheries and release sites: Little Port Walter Hatchery (NMFS), Port Armstrong Hatchery (Armstrong/Keta), Whitman Lake Hatchery, Crystal Lake Hatchery, Neets Bay Hatchery, Neck Lake and Anita Bay release sites (Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA)), Medvejie Hatchery and Hidden Falls Hatchery (Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA)), Port Saint Nicholas Hatchery (Prince of Wales Hatchery Association (POWHA)), and Macaulay Hatchery (Douglas Island Pink and Chum (DIPAC)).

Most spring troll and terminal troll fisheries target Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon, though non-Alaska hatchery or PST Chinook salmon are also harvested. While there is no ceiling on the number of Chinook salmon harvested in the spring fisheries, the take of PST Chinook salmon is limited according to the percentage of the Alaska hatchery fish taken in the fishery. Non-Alaska hatchery fish are counted toward the annual PST quota of Chinook salmon but most of the Alaska hatchery-produced fish are not. The guideline limits of PST fish that may be harvested in each spring fishing area, according to BOF regulations, are listed in Table 1.

Some spring troll fisheries target Alaska hatchery-produced chum salmon and are located in Icy Strait, North Chatham Strait, and Keku Strait (Districts 9, 10, 12, and 14).

Table 1.—Guideline limits of PST Chinook salmon (U.S./Canada) that may be harvested in each spring troll fishing area.

<b>Alaska hatchery contribution to the harvest</b>	<b>PST Chinook salmon limit</b>
Less than 25%	1,000
At least 25% and less than 35%	2,000
At least 35% and less than 50%	3,000
At least 50% and less than 66%	5,000
66% or more	no limit

Most years, fishery managers from the department hold meetings in Southeast Alaska towns to discuss fishing plans with trollers, processors, and hatchery operators. A review of the previous fishing season is presented as well as an outlook for the upcoming year. New fishing areas or changes to existing areas may be proposed. Occasionally, two or more adjacent spring areas may be combined if each area has demonstrated an Alaska hatchery composition of 25% or more for at least three consecutive seasons. These proposed areas are then scrutinized by ADF&G biologists for potential impacts on local wild stocks and to determine whether a substantial portion of the harvest is likely to be of Alaska hatchery origin. Once plans are finalized, the department issues a news release with descriptions of fishing areas and a schedule of initial fishing periods. With direction from both the BOF and the Office of the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to implement conservation measures to protect wild Southeast Alaska (SEAK) Chinook salmon, and to provide spring troll hatchery fisheries in select areas in 2018, no public meetings to discuss amendments to existing spring areas were held this year.

Each spring fishing area is managed individually. Fishing periods are opened by emergency order. Department personnel sample fish deliveries and ship the heads of adipose fin-clipped fish to the Mark, Tag, and Age Laboratory in Juneau for coded wire tag (CWT) detection and decoding. Fishery openings are announced in a series of weekly news releases.

Fishing time in an area may be extended based on inseason assessment of CWT data and historic harvest timing information. Therefore, it is imperative that fishers and tender operators keep fish from different fishing areas separated until landing so if the fish are sampled at the dock, the percentage of Alaska hatchery fish can be determined for each spring area. Separate fish tickets must also be made for each area fished (5 AAC 29.130). Fish tickets must be submitted to the department within seven days of landing (5 AAC 39.130(c)).

The heads of all adipose fin-clipped salmon must remain attached to the fish until the fish are sold (5 AAC 29.140 (b)). Permit holders who freeze their harvest onboard are asked to contact the department prior to fishing so that sampling and fish ticket issues can be discussed.

## **TERMINAL AREA FISHERIES**

Terminal fisheries are conducted in areas near a hatchery or release site. Chinook salmon caught in many terminal harvest areas are considered to be 100% Alaska hatchery fish, based on previous sampling. Terminal harvest areas (THA) include Anita Bay, Carroll Inlet, Crawfish Inlet, Deep Inlet, Hidden Falls, Nakat Inlet, Neets Bay, Port Armstrong, Silver Bay, and Wrangell Narrows. THAs are managed according to management plans unique to each area and may involve a rotational schedule with other commercial gear types. Trollers may also harvest coho or chum salmon in THAs where those species are released, in accordance with THA management plans.

## **RETENTION OF OTHER SALMON SPECIES**

Coho salmon may be retained and sold beginning June 1. Sockeye, pink, and chum salmon may be retained at any time during open fishing periods. If an Atlantic salmon is caught, ADF&G would like to be contacted so that biological samples can be taken. The entire fish should be saved and may be frozen, with entrails intact.

### **2017 SPRING FISHERY REVIEW**

A total of 417 vessels participated in the 2017 non-terminal spring fisheries, with a harvest of 17,386 Chinook salmon. The largest Chinook salmon harvests were taken in the Sitka Sound, Chatham Strait, and Redoubt Bay spring troll areas. The Chinook salmon harvest was 24,896 fish less than the 2016 non-terminal harvest. The Alaska hatchery contribution, at 18%, was below the 2016, 5-year and 10-year averages, and is the lowest on record dating back to 1986. The Alaska hatchery contribution peaked at 25% during the last week of May. With SEAK wild stock inseason assessments forecasting record low runs and Alaska hatchery contributions to spring troll fisheries well below recent and long-term averages through late May, all 2017 spring troll Chinook and chum salmon fisheries closed May 29–June 14. The total effort of 475 permits in 2017 was 112 permits fewer than in 2016 and was 19% below the 5-year average of 585. A total of 35 spring areas and six terminal fisheries were open during 2017. Other species harvested during the spring season, including Annette Island troll harvest, were 50 sockeye, 1,843 coho, 1,349 pink and 1,054 chum salmon.

### **2018 SPRING FISHERIES OVERVIEW**

#### **DISTRICT 8 DIRECTED FISHERY**

The 2018 preseason terminal run size forecast for Stikine River large Chinook salmon is 6,900 fish. A preseason terminal run forecast of this size does not provide an Allowable Catch (AC) for either the U.S. or Canada as the forecast is below the Escapement Goal Range (EGR) of 14,000–28,000 fish. No directed fisheries will occur in early May. Inseason terminal run size estimates may be produced starting late May of 2018. It is very unlikely any directed Chinook salmon fisheries will occur in District 8 in 2018.

#### **DISTRICT 11 DIRECTED FISHERY**

The 2018 preseason terminal run size forecast for Taku River large Chinook salmon is 4,700 fish. A preseason terminal run forecast of this size does not provide an AC for either the U.S. or Canada as the forecast is below the EGR of 19,000–36,000 fish. No directed fisheries will occur in early May. Inseason terminal run size estimates may be produced starting late May of 2018. It is very unlikely any directed Chinook salmon fisheries will occur in District 11 in 2018.

#### **YAKUTAT SPRING TROLL FISHERY**

A spring troll fishery will open in Yakutat Bay. The fishery is limited by regulation to one day per week during May and June, in waters of Yakutat Bay east of a line from Point Manby to Ocean Cape. The maximum harvest allowed is 1,000 Chinook salmon and is not based on the composition of Alaska hatchery fish. The first opening is scheduled for Tuesday, May 1.

## **ICY STRAIT/KEKU STRAIT TROLL LOGBOOK PROGRAM**

The department is soliciting participation in a troll logbook and observer pilot program that will be conducted during the 2018 spring troll fisheries in the Homeshore, Point Couverden, Northern Chatham Strait, and Keku Strait areas. This program is being implemented to help estimate encounter rates of juvenile Chinook salmon in the directed troll chum fisheries in Icy Strait and Keku Strait. Participants are asked to document all salmon caught in any of these spring troll areas. Port sampling staff will be available for logbook collection and distribution in Sitka, Petersburg, Wrangell, Ketchikan, and Juneau. Logbook participants will be compensated \$100 for three days of catch information. Vessels taking an observer will be compensated \$100 each day the observer is onboard to offset food and bunk space costs. Trollers interested in participating may contact program coordinators Grant Hagerman (747-6688) or Anne Reynolds Manney (465-2444).

## **REGULATORY CHANGES AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS TO CONSERVE WILD STOCK CHINOOK SALMON IN THE SPRING TROLL FISHERIES**

During the BOF meeting held in Sitka from January 11–23, 2018, regulations were adopted that will affect the management of the 2018 spring troll fisheries. Action plans for Chilkat, King Salmon, and Unuk rivers Chinook salmon were adopted, giving the department direction through emergency order authority to conserve wild SEAK Chinook salmon. To help reduce encounters of these stocks during spring troll fisheries, the board determined, under the Unuk River action plan, that opportunities for Alaska hatchery Chinook in May and June be limited to terminal harvest areas, waters in close proximity to hatchery facilities or release sites, and in areas that have been identified as having low proportional harvests of wild stock SEAK/Yakutat Chinook salmon. In addition to the conservation measures of this action plan, supplementary actions, under the authority of the Office of the Commissioner of ADF&G for the conservation of SEAK and Transboundary River Chinook salmon stocks, further restrict May and June fishery opportunities to select terminal harvest areas and a few defined spring troll fishery areas located on the outside coast to target Alaska hatchery Chinook salmon.

For complete details of the Chinook salmon action plans for the Unuk River, Chilkat, and King Salmon rivers see the links below:

- Unuk River King Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2018:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/RIR.1J.2018.04.pdf>

- Chilkat River and King Salmon River King Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2018:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/RIR.1J.2018.05.pdf>

Regulatory changes were also made to the directed chum salmon troll fisheries in spring. The *District 9, 10, 12, and 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan* was amended to include a new fishery in the Southeast Cove/Keku Strait vicinity. This fishery, along with the other spring troll chum salmon areas, will open June 15, as provided for in both the Unuk River and the Chilkat/King Salmon rivers Chinook salmon action plans, with retention of Chinook salmon prohibited.

The BOF also adopted into regulation a new all-gear Special Harvest Area and troll only THA in Crawfish Inlet to target Chinook and chum salmon. Due to the poor Chinook return forecast to Crawfish Inlet for 2018, the troll only THA will not open in May and June. However, in

consultation with NSRAA, the department may open the waters of the THA for trollers to target chum salmon during the summer fishery.

## MODIFIED AREAS

- The Sitka Sound spring troll area is reduced in size for the duration of spring. All waters of the Deep Inlet and Silver Bay THAs will be excluded beginning May 1.
- The eastern boundary of the Hidden Falls THA is reduced by 1 nmi.
- The initial opening date for the Anita Bay THA is delayed until May 15, with the eastern boundary reduced between May 15–31. For details see the Anita Bay news release from April 3.
- The Mountain Point spring troll area southern boundary line is reduced to the latitude of Mountain Point.

## INITIAL OPENINGS

Fishing periods will be opened by emergency order and will be based on inseason and historical timing of hatchery contributions in each area. Trollers should consult department news releases for weekly fishing periods and inseason adjustments. Weekly news releases will be issued on Fridays for 2018. News releases may also be issued throughout the week when extensions or early closures are announced. News releases can be found on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game web site at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main)

## TERMINAL HARVEST AREA TROLL FISHERIES

Terminal Harvest Areas may be managed for the harvest of multiple species by different gear types. Refer to management plans in regulation as listed after each THA.

- **Anita Bay:** open May 15 through noon, November 10, with a new reduced boundary from May 15–31 and area closures within the THA June 15–July 10 [5 AAC 33.383(d)]. See the News Release from April 3, 2018, for time and area details.
- **Carroll Inlet:** open June 1–30. Concurrent with trolling, openings are scheduled for rotational net gear fisheries from noon Friday, June 15, through Saturday, June 30.
- **Crawfish Inlet:** will not open in 2018 since the projected adult return of Chinook salmon to the terminal area is projected to be less than 100 fish.
- **Deep Inlet:** open to trolling during periods when net fisheries are closed beginning May 1. Additional troll fishing time, west of 135°20.75' W. long., is detailed in the Deep Inlet area description and in the rotational gear schedule announced by News Release on April 4, 2018. Any schedule changes are made by emergency order and announced by News Release [5 AAC 33.376].
- **Hidden Falls:** opens May 1 and will remain open until closed by emergency order [5 AAC 33.374(b)]. **The eastern boundary has been reduced by 1 nmi.**
- **Nakat Inlet:** open June 1 through November 10 to troll and drift gillnet gear [5 AAC 33.372].
- **Neets Bay:** open May 1 through July 31. Concurrent with trolling, openings are scheduled for rotational net gear fisheries from Monday, June 11, through Tuesday, June 26 [5 AAC 33.370(b)(1)]. Details on open waters and dates by gear type can be found in the News Release from April 10.

•**Port Armstrong:** open from May 1 to June 30 [5 AAC 40.081(b)]. Waters north of a line from 56°17.61' N. lat., 134°40.27' W. long., to 56°17.67' N. lat., 134°39.64' W. long., are closed.

•**Silver Bay:** opens May 1 and will remain open until July 30, unless closed by emergency order [5 AAC 33.375(a)].

•**Wrangell Narrows:** will not open in 2018 since the projected adult return of Chinook salmon to the terminal area is projected to be less than 4,000 fish [5 AAC 33.381(b)(4)].

## REGULATION SUMMARY

### CLOSED WATERS

Trollers are reminded that, with the exception of 5 AAC 29.150(h)(1) and 5 AAC 29.150(h)(2), closed waters listed in 5 AAC 29.150 are not in effect during the spring troll fishery, therefore, **those waters are open through June 30**. Waters within 3,000 feet of Annette Island (Annette Island Reserve) are closed.

### SPORT FISHING AND CHARTERING FROM A REGISTERED TROLL VESSEL

- A person may sport fish from a registered commercial salmon hand troll or power troll vessel [5 AAC 47.041 (a)], though **may not sport fish and commercial fish from the same vessel on the same day** [5 AAC 47.041 (f)]. A person who sport fishes from a vessel licensed for commercial fishing, other than a charter vessel when paying clients are onboard, shall mark the salmon by **removing its dorsal fin** immediately upon bringing a salmon onboard [5 AAC 47.041 (c)].
- Sport fishing from a commercially licensed vessel while commercially-caught salmon are in possession is illegal in waters closed to commercial fishing [5 AAC 47.041(d)].
- A downrigger may be used in conjunction with a fishing rod when sport fishing. However, a downrigger may **not** be used in conjunction with a fishing rod to take salmon when engaged in commercial hand trolling [5 AAC 29.120 (b)(2)(B)].
- A **registered troll vessel may also be registered as a charter vessel**, though that vessel may not be used to troll commercially and charter on the same day [5 AAC 75.995(8)]. Charter boat registration applications are available at ADF&G offices.
- A person **may not possess unpreserved sport-caught salmon** on any commercial salmon vessel while engaging in commercial salmon fishing [5 AAC 47.041(g)]. The definition of “preserved fish” excludes unfrozen fish temporarily stored in coolers that contain ice or dry ice or fish that are lightly salted [5 AAC 75.995(21)].

### FROZEN AT SEA REQUIREMENTS

Frozen at Sea (FAS) vessels participating in the spring fisheries are subject to the same landing regulations as all other vessels. Fish caught in each spring fishery must be kept separate from any other fish on board the vessel and a separate fish ticket must be issued for fish caught in each spring fishery (5 AAC 29.130). Fish tickets must be submitted to ADF&G within seven days of landing.

The heads of all adipose fin-clipped salmon must remain attached to the fish until the fish are sold (5 AAC 29.140(b)). Permit holders who freeze their fish on board (FAS vessels) are asked to contact ADF&G prior to fishing so that sampling and fish ticket issues can be discussed. **An**

**“Exemption permit” is required to allow the removal of heads from Chinook salmon harvested in the spring areas prior to delivery.** Additional information about the Exemption Permit is available on the troll website and the permits are available in area offices. Depending on which area(s) a troller intends to fish in, the department may grant a permit to allow removal of heads from adipose fin-clipped salmon. It is imperative that the department has adequate opportunity to sample all Chinook salmon landed during the spring fisheries. Since the purpose of spring fisheries is to target Alaska hatchery fish, if adequate access to the fish for sampling purposes is not possible, then some fisheries may be closed if insufficient information is available to support keeping them open.

**Reminder:** FAS vessels must follow the frozen-at-sea reporting requirements in 5 AAC 29.145 and the fish ticket reporting requirements of 5 AAC 39.130. FAS vessels are defined as processors by ADF&G, the Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Department of Revenue and as such must issue their own fish tickets imprinted with their own processor code plate. Fish tickets must be requested from ADF&G. It is illegal for a catcher-processor (FAS) vessel to sell processed (frozen) fish to another processor where that processor acts as the first buyer and issues fish tickets imprinted with their code plate.

## **REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO COMMERCIAL TROLL BYCATCH OF GROUND FISH AND HALIBUT**

For information on Southeast Alaska Groundfish regulations, refer to the current Statewide Commercial Groundfish Fishing Regulations booklet available at ADF&G area offices. For details on groundfish bycatch allowances in the troll fishery refer to the “Groundfish Bycatch in the 2018 Commercial Salmon Troll Fishery” News Release issued on January 2, 2018.

In the state waters portion of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, commercial salmon trollers operating hand or power troll gear during an open spring commercial salmon fishing period may legally retain and possess incidentally-taken groundfish in unlimited amounts, except as noted below. The bycatch allowance for each species or species group reflects the percentage that may be retained and sold and is based on the round weight of salmon on board. Bycatch percentages are listed in Table 2.

Table 2.–Bycatch Provisions for the Spring Salmon Troll Fishery

<b>Species</b>	<b>Bycatch Allowance</b>
Lingcod	100% IBS, CSEO, NSEI and SSEIW 30% SSEOC
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)	10%
Other rockfish	No limit on incidental harvest
Spiny dogfish	35%
Sablefish	0%
Other groundfish	No limit on incidental harvest

Groundfish taken as bycatch must be reported on an ADF&G fish ticket by **species code, six-digit groundfish statistical area, delivery condition code, disposition code, and pounds landed**. The number of fish taken does not need to be documented for groundfish bycatch.

Lingcod may be taken as bycatch in the commercial salmon troll fishery **only from May 16 through November 30** [5 AAC 28.113 (c)]. Lingcod must measure at least 27 inches from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail or 20.5 inches from the front of the dorsal fin to the tip of the tail. Lingcod harvest allocations for the troll fishery are set by area and area closures will occur

as allocations are taken. Inseason closures will be announced by ADF&G news release, United States Coast Guard “Notice to Mariners” report, and the National Weather Service broadcast. For updates on lingcod area closures, call the Groundfish Hotline at (907) 747-4882 or contact the Groundfish staff in Sitka at (907) 747-6688.

Lingcod Management Areas open to lingcod bycatch during the spring troll fishery include: Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS), Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section, Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section, Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector, Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict, and Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) Sector (Figure 1). A lingcod bycatch allowance, up to 100% of the round weight of salmon on board a vessel, is permitted in IBS, NSEI, SSEIW, and portions of the Goddard (113-32), and Salisbury Sound (113-62) CSEO spring troll areas.

In waters of Sitka Sound, including spring troll areas Western Channel (113-01), Sitka Sound Area (113-41), Deep Inlet THA (113-38), Redoubt Bay (113-30), and portions of Goddard (113-32), and Salisbury Sound (113-62), commercial salmon trollers may retain and possess up to two lingcod aboard a vessel while actively fishing for salmon within the Sitka Sound area during the open CSEO lingcod season. Lingcod taken within this area may be retained for a permit holder’s personal use only and may not be sold. Upon taking a lingcod in this area, the permit holder shall mark that lingcod for personal use by immediately removing the dorsal fin of that fish. The head of each personal use lingcod must remain attached to the fish as evidence of meeting the 27-inch minimum size restriction until that lingcod is weighed and reported on the ADF&G troll salmon fish ticket documenting that fishing trip [5 AAC 28.173(a)(4)].

Having taken no more than two lingcod outside of Sitka Sound, a permit holder may fish for salmon within Sitka Sound only after removing the dorsal fin of those lingcod. Vessels in possession of more than two lingcod may not fish for salmon in this area until those lingcod are offloaded.

The waters of Sitka Sound affected by these lingcod restrictions are defined in 5 AAC 28.150(a) as waters that are enclosed on the north by lines from Kruzof Island at 57°20.50’ N. lat., 135°45.17’ W. long., to Chichagof Island at 57°22.05’ N. lat., 135°43.00’ W. long., and from Chichagof Island at 57°22.58’ N. lat., 135°41.30’ W. long., to Baranof Island at 57°22.28’ N. lat., 135°40.95’ W. long., and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point at 56°59.38’ N. lat., 135°49.57’ W. long., to Hanus Point at 56°51.92’ N. lat., 135°30.50’ W. long., to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows at 56°49.28’ N. lat., 135°22.75’ W. long., to Baranof Island at 56°49.28’ N. lat., 135°22.60’ W. long., (Figure 1).

Lingcod bycatch in the SSEOC spring troll fishery [Bucareli Bay (103-50)] is limited to 30%. Lingcod taken in excess of bycatch allowances shall be reported on fish tickets as overage and forfeited to the State of Alaska.

All DSR taken in excess of 10% of the round weight of salmon on board the vessel must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess DSR bycatch taken in state waters shall be surrendered to the state [5 AAC 28.171 (a)]. DSR bycatch overages must be reported on fish tickets but may be retained for personal use by the permit holder. The seven species in the DSR assemblage are yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, China, tiger, and rosethorn rockfish.

Halibut incidentally taken during an open commercial halibut season by power and hand troll gear operated for salmon consistent with applicable state laws and regulations are legally taken and possessed [5 AAC 28.133(c)]. Commercial halibut may be retained only by Individual

Fishing Quota (IFQ) permit holders during the open season for halibut. Trollers making an IFQ halibut landing of 500 lb or less of IFQ weight as determined pursuant to 50 CFR 679.42(h) are exempted from the three-hour prior notice of landing (PNOL) if landed concurrently with a legal landing of salmon [50 CFR 679.5(1)(1)(iv)(A)]. Halibut taken incidentally during the troll fishery shall be reported on the troll fish ticket documenting the salmon landing. For information on regulations and landing requirements for the federal IFQ halibut fishery contact NOAA Fisheries.

A person aboard a vessel may not fish for groundfish with dinglebar troll or mechanical jigging machines if salmon are on board. A vessel fishing for groundfish with dinglebar troll gear must display the letter “D” and a vessel fishing for groundfish with mechanical jigging machines must display the letter “M” at all times when fishing with or transporting fish taken with dinglebar troll gear or mechanical jigging machines [5 AAC 28.135 (a)(4)]. A person may not operate a vessel that is displaying one of these letters when the vessel is being used to fish for salmon [5 AAC 28.135 (c)].

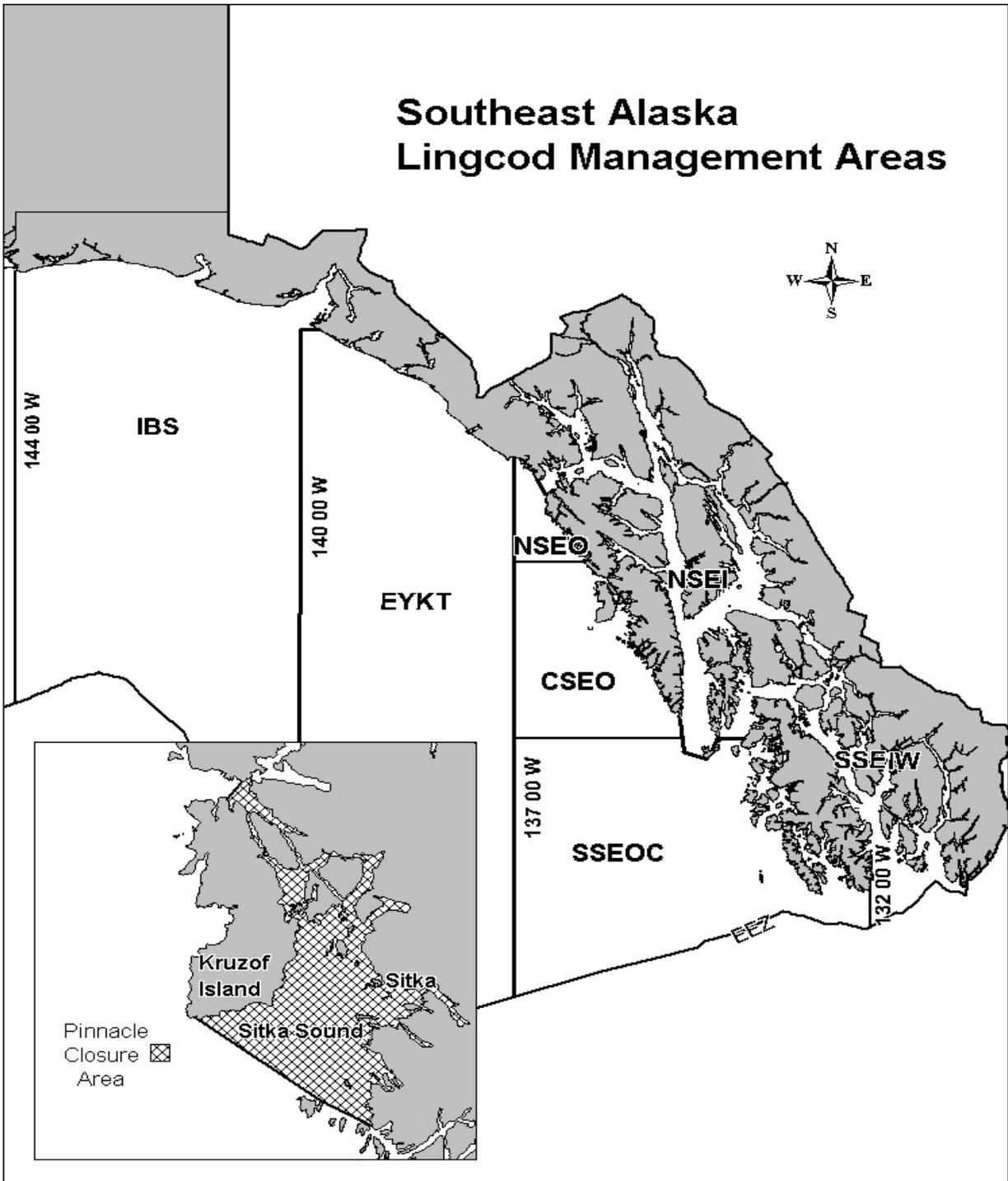


Figure 1.—Alaska Lingcod Management Areas and Restricted Waters of Sitka Sound.

## 2018 ALASKA HATCHERY CHINOOK RETURN FORECAST

Hatchery facility managers are predicting total returns of approximately 79,560 Chinook salmon for 2018, as compared to estimated 2017 returns of 98,175 fish. The largest returns for 2018 are expected to Neets Bay and Anita Bay. Neck Lake coho are included due to their early run timing, which coincides with the spring fishery. The locations of Chinook salmon hatcheries and remote release sites within Southeast Alaska are presented in Figure 2.

Table 3.–2018 Alaska hatchery Chinook salmon and Neck Lake coho salmon return forecasts.

Release Site	2017 Total Return Projection	2017 Total Return	2018 Total Return Projection
<b>Ketchikan Area</b>			
Whitman Lake	16,750	7,201	12,300
Carroll Inlet	-	-	1,000
Deer Mountain	-	256	700
Neets Bay	22,200	12,062	18,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,950</b>	<b>19,519</b>	<b>32,100</b>
<b>Chatham Strait</b>			
Little Port Walter	682	2,036	764
Hidden Falls	3,600	649	2,000
Port Armstrong	1,509	753	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,791</b>	<b>3,438</b>	<b>2,764</b>
<b>Craig/Klawock Area</b>			
Port Saint Nicholas	6,624	1,896	1,945
Coffman Cove	1,859	573	545
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,483</b>	<b>2,469</b>	<b>2,490</b>
<b>Juneau Area</b>			
Macaulay (Fish Creek, Lena Cove, Gastineau Channel, Auke Bay)	3,790	5,651	9,690
Pullen Creek	110	51	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>5,702</b>	<b>9,760</b>
<b>Wrangell/Petersburg</b>			
Anita Bay	15,400	12,108	15,400
Crystal Lake	3,580	4,123	3,300
City Creek	3,000	1,170	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,980</b>	<b>17,401</b>	<b>19,700</b>
<b>Sitka Area</b>			
Crawfish Inlet	0	1	29
Medvejie Creek	15,058	8,720	10,276
Halibut Point	4,013	1,756	2,441
Sheldon Jackson	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,071</b>	<b>10,477</b>	<b>12,746</b>
<b>Alaska Hatchery Chinook Totals</b>	<b>98,175</b>	<b>59,006</b>	<b>79,560</b>
Neck Lake Coho	41,000	20,040	55,100

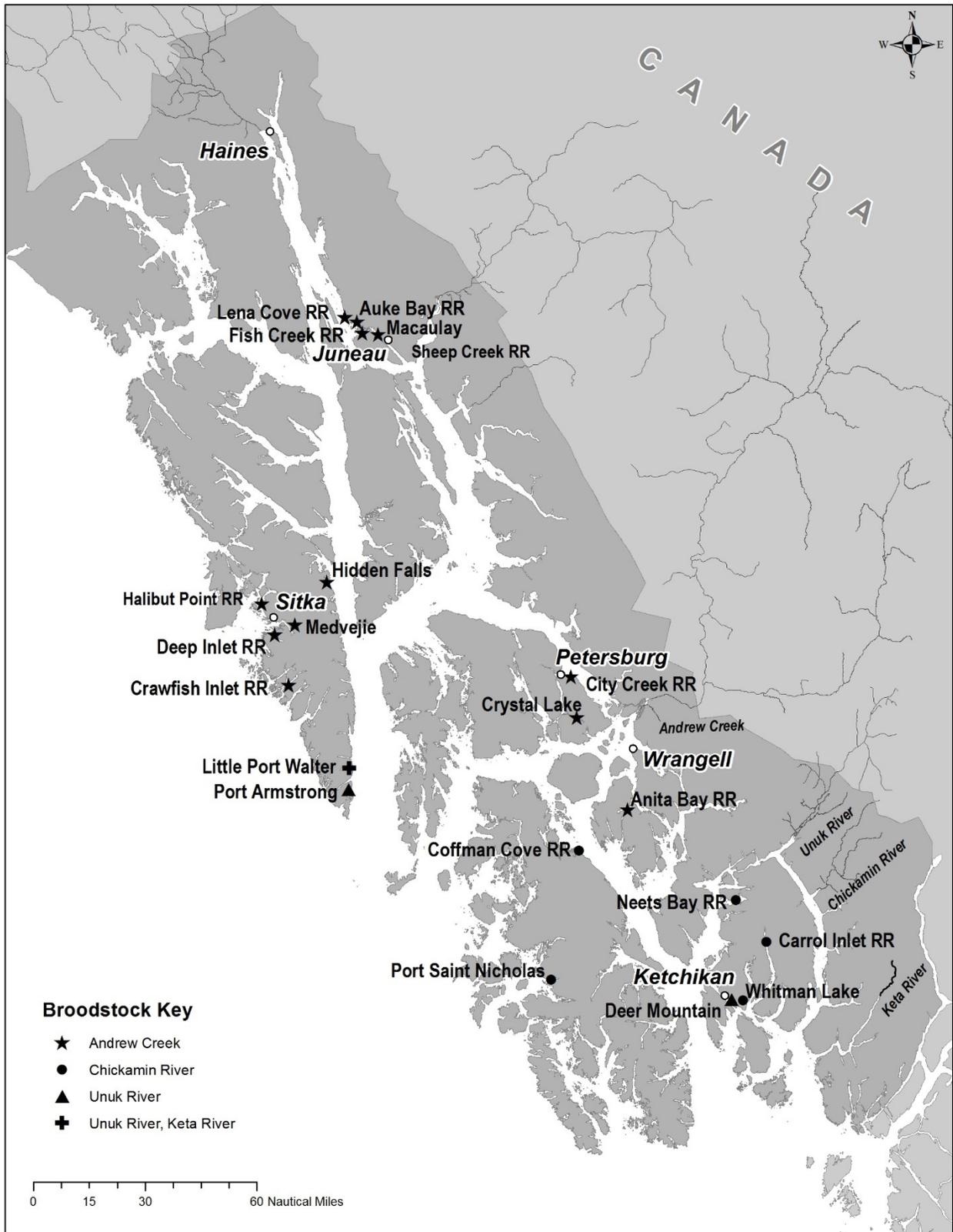


Figure 2.—Location of Chinook salmon hatcheries and Chinook salmon remote release sites (RR) in Southeast Alaska, showing broodstock in use by location.

## 2018 SPRING FISHING AREAS AND MAPS

### **KETCHIKAN AREAS**

**Mountain Point (Fishery Area 101-45):** The waters of George and Carroll Inlets north of the latitude of Mountain Point at 55°17.57' N. lat., and south of the latitude of the George Inlet cannery site at 55°23.00' N. lat., and all waters of Carroll Inlet are open.

**Neets Bay Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery area 101-95):** The waters east of the easternmost tip of Bug Island to the closed waters at the head of the bay. The closed waters at the head of the bay are those waters east of 131°29.86' W. long., until the barrier net is in place; at that time, the closed waters are those waters east of the barrier net.

**The THA will open to troll gear from 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, May 1, through 12:00 noon, Sunday, June 10, then reopen to troll gear at 12:01 a.m., Monday, June 11, and continue through 11:59 p.m., July 31, unless closed by emergency order. The Neets Bay THA will not expand to include those waters of Neets Bay east of the longitude of Chin Point until July 1.**

**Carroll Inlet Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery area 101-48) new area:** From June 1–30, the THA includes only those waters of Carroll Inlet north of Nigelius Point at 55°33.50' N. Latitude.

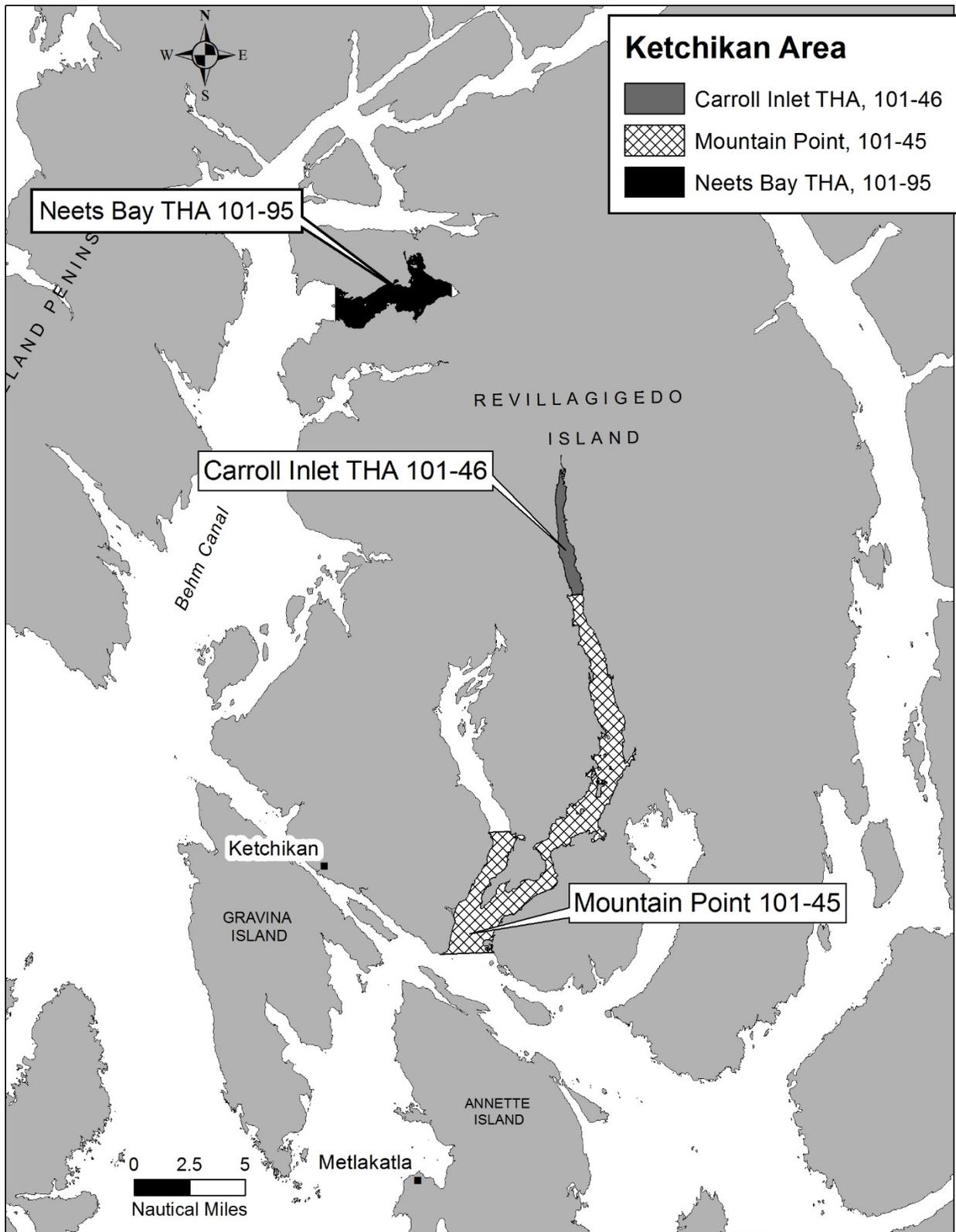


Figure 3.–Ketchikan area spring troll areas, 2018.

## WRANGELL AND PRINCE OF WALES AREAS

**Bucareli Bay (Fishery area 103-50):** In the waters of Ursua Channel and Bucareli Bay south and west of a line from a point on San Fernando Island at 55°30.11' N. lat., 133°16.83' W. long., to Cape Suspiro west of 133°04.00' W. long. (within Port St. Nicholas), and northeast of a line from Point Amargura to 55°24.67' N. lat., 133°21.18' W. long., to Point Providence.

**NOTE:** the Bucareli Bay fishery area may be modified in season to a smaller area defined as the waters of Port Saint Nicholas south and east of a line from 55°27.74' N. lat., 133°07.47' W. long., to Cape Suspire at 55°27.52' N. lat., 133°08.22' W. long., to Northern Coronados Island at 55°26.56' N. lat., 133°07.05' W. long., to South Coronados Island at 55°25.81' N. lat., 133°05.93' W. long., to Point Miraballes at 55°25.84' N. lat., 133°05.04' W. long., and west of 133°04.00' W. long. This area may remain open when the larger Bucareli Bay fishery is closed.

**Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery area 107-35):** The waters of Anita Bay south and west of a line from the tip of Anita Point at 56°13.68' N. lat., 132°22.48' W. long., to a point on the northern shore at 56°14.26' N. lat., 132°23.93' W. long.

From June 15 through July 10, the waters within one-quarter mile of the northern shoreline of Anita Bay west of a line from 56°12.31' N. lat., 132°26.22' W. long., to 56°12.06' N. lat., 132°26.22' W. long., and east of a line from 56°11.96' N. lat., 132°29.58' W. long., to 56°11.73' N. lat., 132°29.36' W. long., will be open.

**NOTE:** (1) *NEW: From May 15 through May 31, the waters of the Anita Bay THA north and east of a line from 56°12.90' N. lat., 132°24.50' W. long., to 56°12.75' N. lat., 132°23.50' W. long., will be closed to the harvest of salmon;*  
(2) *From June 15 through June 25, the waters of the Anita Bay THA west of 132°26.22' W. long., are closed to the harvest of salmon;*  
(3) *From June 26 through July 1, the waters of Anita Bay THA west of 132°26.98' W. long., are closed to the harvest of salmon.*  
(4) *From July 2 through July 10, the waters of Anita Bay THA west of 132°28.00' W. long., are closed to the harvest of salmon.*

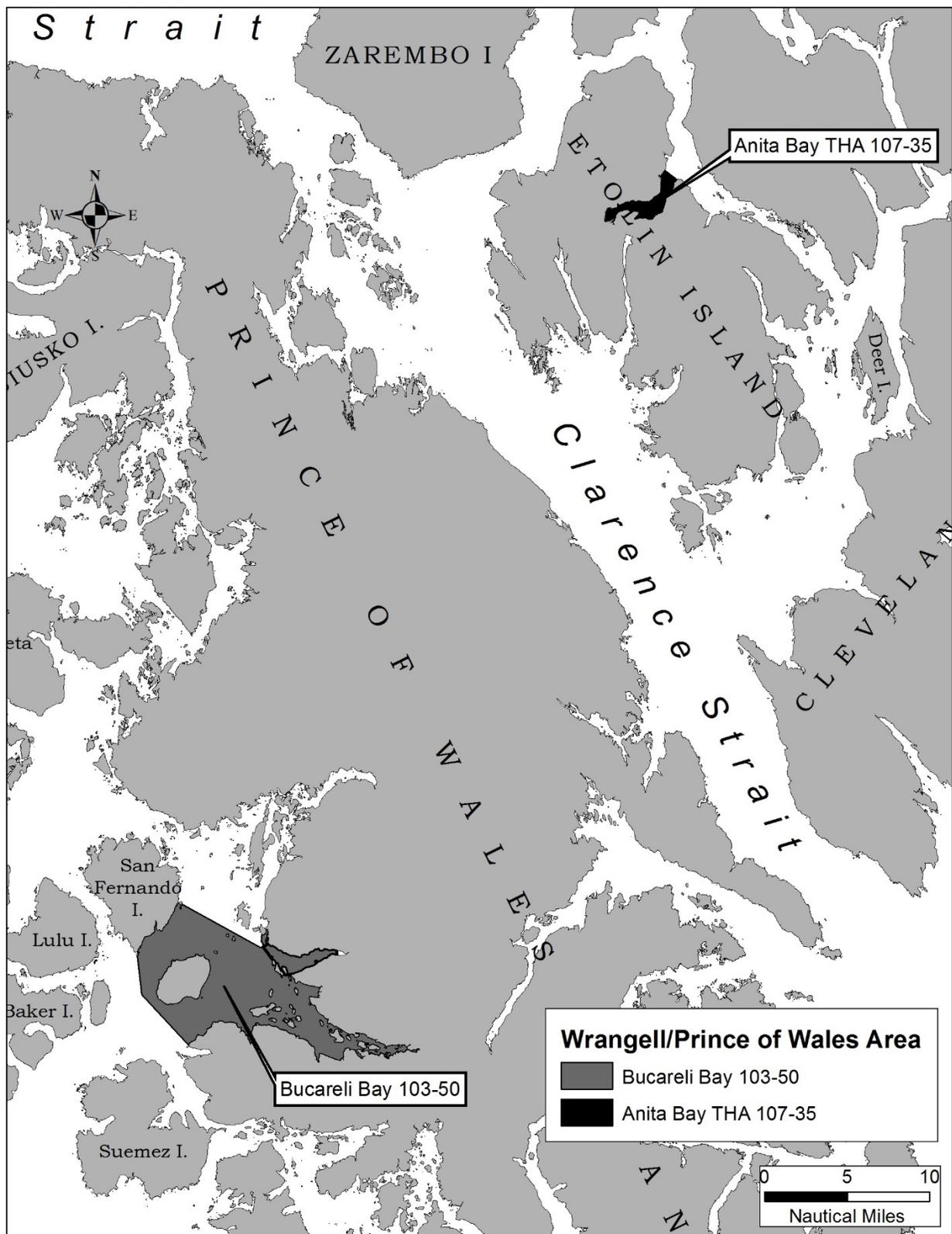


Figure 4.–Wrangell and Prince of Wales spring troll areas, 2018.

## **CHATHAM STRAIT AND FREDERICK SOUND AREAS**

**Port Armstrong Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery Area 109-11):** Waters of Port Armstrong west of a line from Point Eliza at 56°17.73' N. lat., 134°38.75' W. long., to a point on the Baranof Island shoreline at 56°17.98' N. lat., 134°38.35' W. long. Waters north of a line from 56°17.61' N. lat., 134°40.27' W. long., to 56°17.67' N. lat., 134°39.64' W. long., are closed.

**Keku Strait Area (Fishery Area 109-42) new area:** Waters of Districts 9 and 10 enclosed by a line extending from one mile north of Cornwallis Point Light at 56°56.80' N. lat., 134°16.43' W. long., to Pinta Rocks Light 57°05.15' N. lat., 134°00.76' W. long., to Cape Bendel 57°04.27' N. lat., 134°00.76' W. long. Waters of the Southeast Cove THA and the Gunnuk Creek SHA are excluded.

**Hidden Falls Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery area 112-22) modified area:** In Chatham Strait, only those waters of Section 12-A **within one nautical mile of the Baranof Island shoreline** south of the latitude of South Point and north of 57°06.83' N. lat. (south of Takatz Bay) excluding waters of Kelp Bay (5 AAC 33.374(a)).

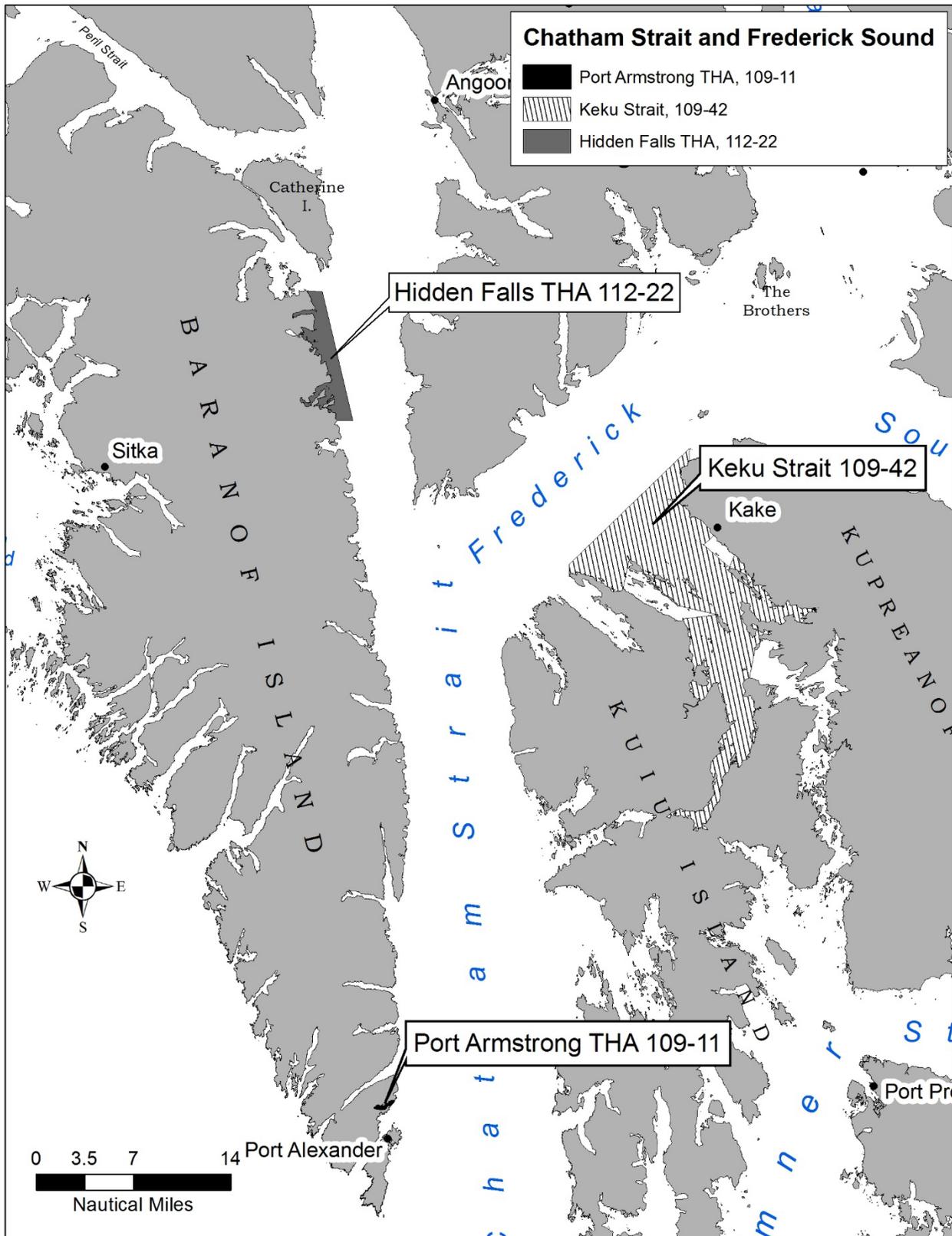


Figure 5.—Chatham Strait and Frederick Sound spring troll areas, 2018.

## SITKA AREAS

**Western Channel (Fishery area 113-01):** In waters of Sitka Sound northeast of a line from Kulichkof Rock to Vitskari Island Light to a point on Kruzof Island at 57°03.42' N. lat., 135°36.00' W. long., southwest of a line from a point on Kruzof Island at 57°05.00' N. lat., 135°35.00' W. long., to 57°01.50' N. lat., 135°24.25' W. long. (the intersection of a line from a point on Kruzof Island at 57°05.00' N. lat., 135°35.00' W. long., through The Eckholms Light, with a line from the southernmost tip of Makhnati Island to Kulichkof Rock), to Kulichkof Rock.

**Redoubt Bay (Fishery area 113-30):** In waters of Sitka Sound south of a line from the westernmost tip of Cape Burunof to Kulichkof Rock and east and north of a line from Kulichkof Rock to the northwesternmost point on Peisar Island to the southernmost point on Peisar Island to the southernmost point on Viesokoi Rock to a point on Baranof Island at 56°51.40' N. lat., 135°23.49' W. long.

**Goddard Area (Fishery area 113-32):** In waters enclosed by a line from Baranof Island at 56°51.40' N. lat., 135°23.49' W. long., to the southernmost point on Viesokoi Rock to the southernmost point on Peisar Island to the westernmost point on Torsar Island at 56°51.06' N. lat., 135°26.00' W. long., and from the southernmost point on Torsar Island to the easternmost tip of Blackbird Island to a point on Legma Island at 56°50.00' N. lat., 135°26.53' W. long., and north of the latitude of a line from Legma Island to Elovoi Island at 56°49.20' N. lat., and north and west of a line from 56°49.44' N. lat., 135°23.15' W. long., to a point on Baranof Island at 56°49.58' N. lat., 135°22.60' W. long.

**Silver Bay Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery area 113-35) modified area:** In the waters of Silver Bay east of a line from Entry Point Light at 57°01.98' N. lat., 135°15.00' W. long., to Silver Point at 57°00.82' N. lat., 135°18.10' W. long. The waters of Bear Cove are closed east of a line from a point on the south shore at 57°00.77' N. lat., 135°09.08' W. long., to the north shore at 57°00.94' N. lat., 135°09.23' W. long.

**Sitka Sound Area (Fishery area 113-41) modified area:** In the waters of Sitka Sound, Krestof Sound, and Neva Strait south of 57°15.00' N. lat., and north and east of a line from the westernmost tip of Cape Burunof to Kulichkof Rock to 57°01.50' N. lat., 135°24.25' W. long. (the intersection of a line from a point on Kruzof Island at 57°05.00' N. lat., 135°35.00' W. long. through The Eckholms Light with a line from the southernmost tip of Makhnati Island to Kulichkof Rock), to a point on Kruzof Island at 57°05.00' N. lat., 135°35.00' W. long., including the waters of Nakwasina Passage, Nakwasina Sound, and Katlian Bay. **The waters of the Deep Inlet THA and the waters of Silver Bay east of a line from Entry Point Light at 57°01.98' N. lat., 135°15.00' W. long., to Silver Point at 57°00.82' N. lat., 135°18.10' W. long., are excluded from the Sitka Sound area, and will open as the Deep Inlet and Silver Bay THAs, respectively.**

**Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery area 113-38) modified area:** In waters of Deep Inlet, Aleutkina Bay, and contiguous waters south of a line from a point west of Pirates Cove at 56°59.35' N. lat., 135°22.63' W. long., 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 57°00.30' N. lat., 135°17.67' W. long., to a point on the southern side of the unnamed island at 57°00.08' N. lat., 135°16.78' W. long., and then to a point on the Baranof Island Shore at 56°59.93' N. lat., 135°16.53' W. long. Waters of Sandy Cove will be closed.

**From May 1 through June 16, the waters of Deep Inlet west of 135°20.75' W. long., are open to continuously to troll gear as part of the THA, with waters east of 135°20.75' W. long., open to troll gear when net fisheries are closed. On June 17 all waters of the Deep Inlet THA will follow the rotational schedule, with openings for troll gear when net gear is closed.**

**Salisbury Sound (Fishery area 113-62):** In waters of Peril Strait south of the latitude of Pogibshi Point at 57°30.56' N. lat., waters of Salisbury Sound east of 135°46.00' W. long., and waters of Sukoi Strait and Neva Strait north of 57°15.00' N. lat.

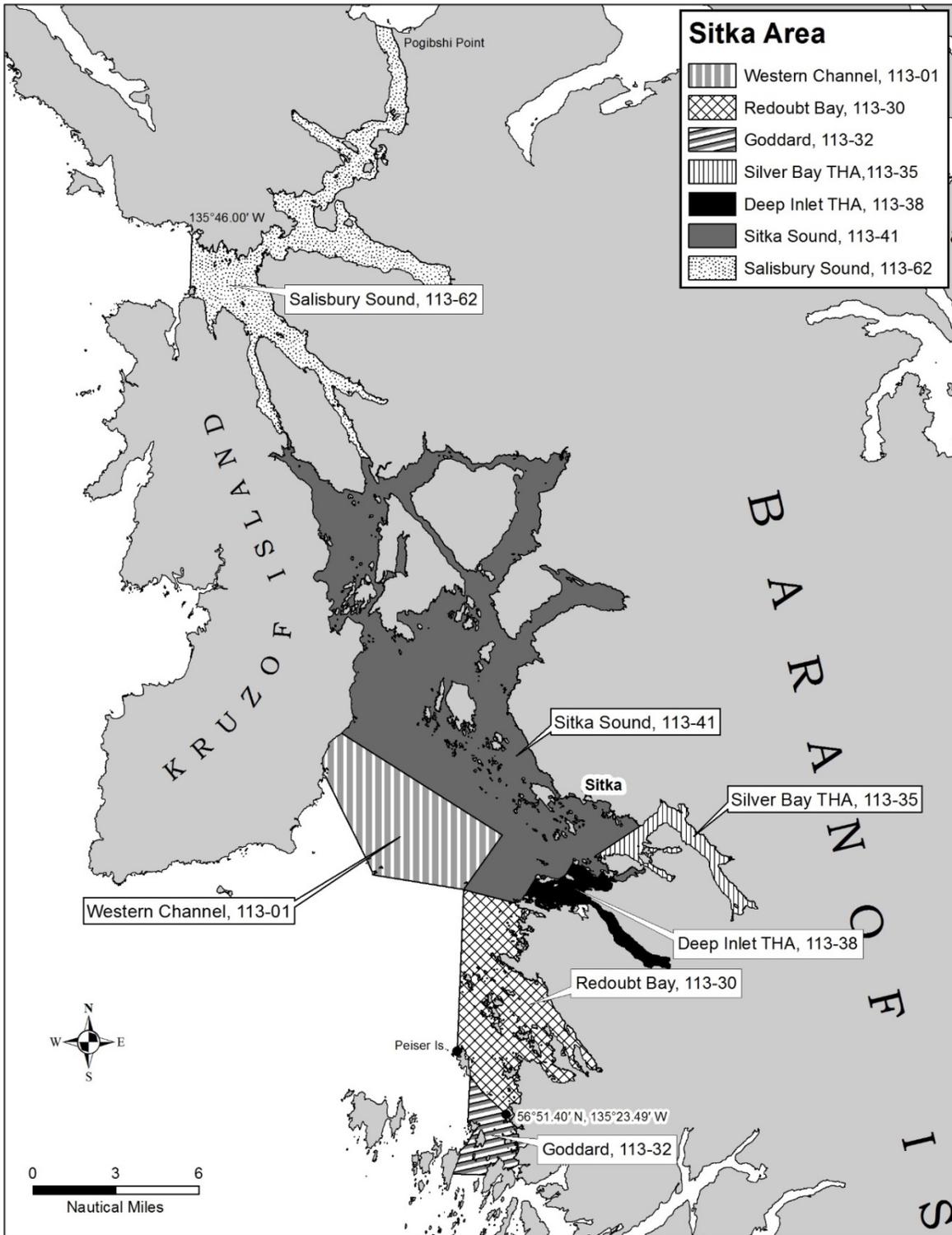


Figure 6.—Sitka spring troll areas, 2018.

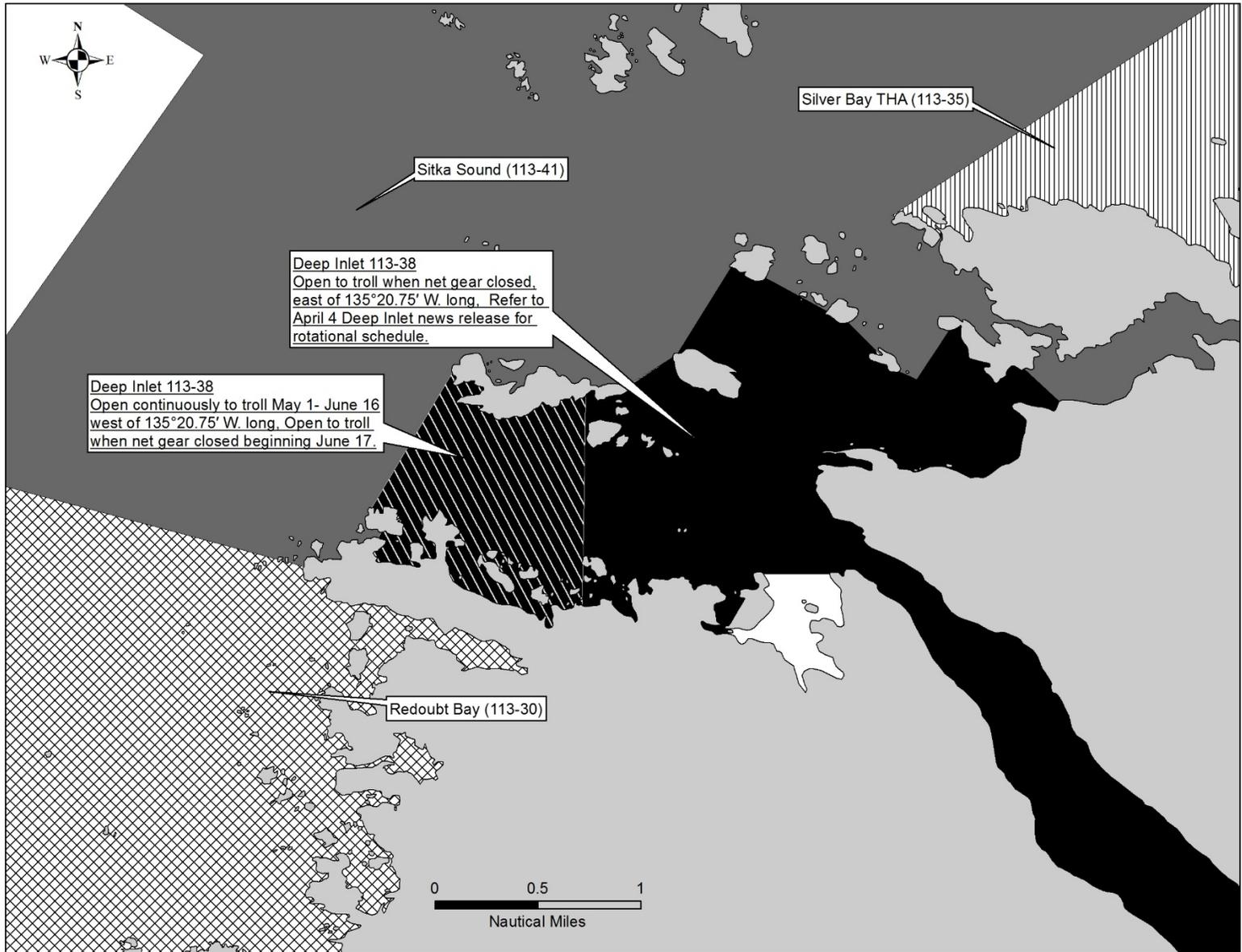


Figure 7.—Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area.

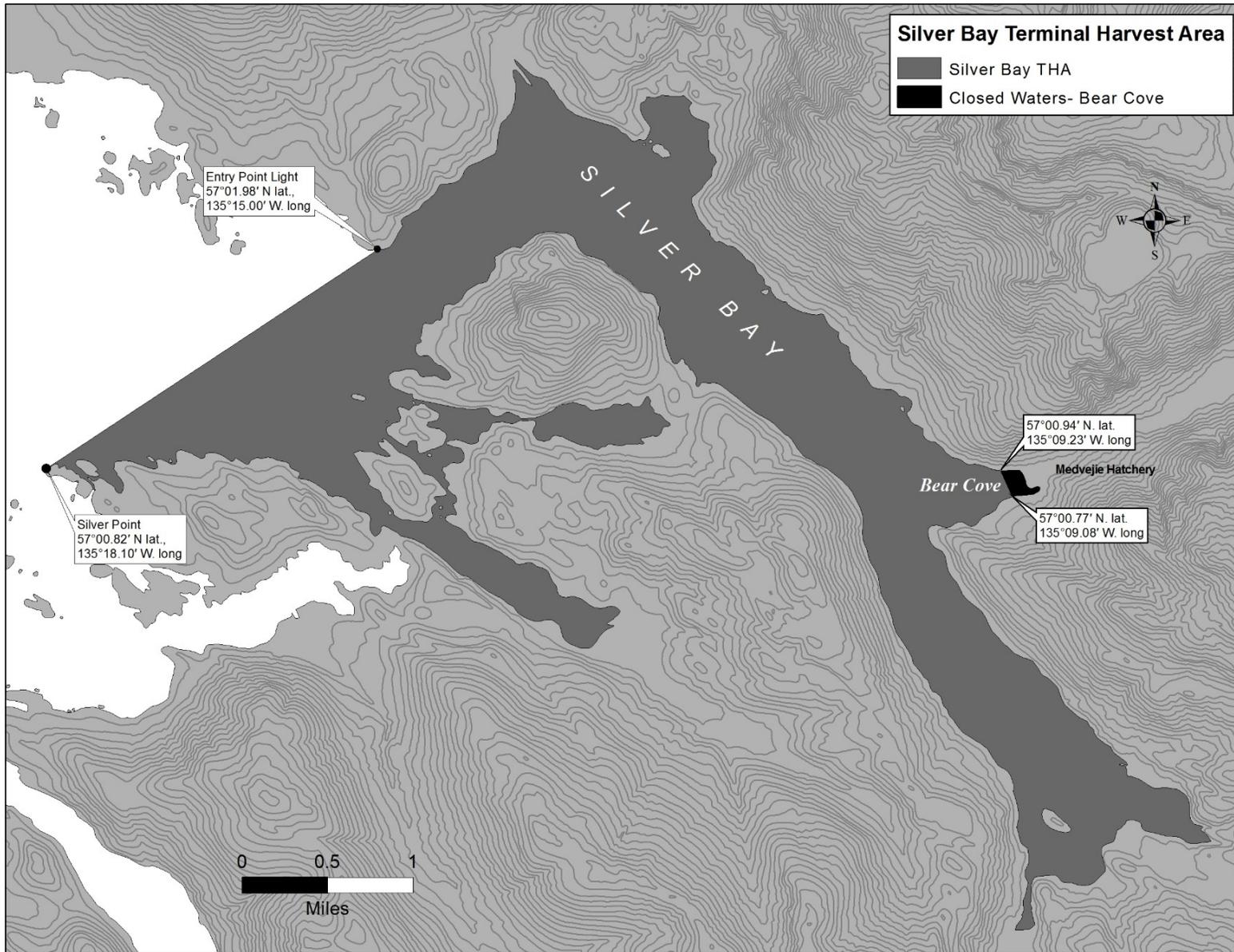


Figure 8.—Silver Bay Terminal Harvest Area.

## **NORTH CHATHAM STRAIT AND ICY STRAIT AREAS**

**Northern Chatham Strait Enhanced Chum (Fishery area 112-16):** In waters enclosed by a line from 58°11.29' N. lat., 134°53.27' W. long., to 58°10.40' N. lat., 135°02.63' W. long., to 58°07.78' N. lat., 135°00.78' W. long., to 58°05.81' N. lat., 134°47.09' W. long.

**Cross Sound (Fishery area 114-21):** In waters of Section 14-A west of a line from the southernmost tip of Point Dundas (58°18.93' N. lat., 136°16.79' W. long.) to the westernmost tip of Lemsurier Island to the prominent point on the northeastern side of the Inian Peninsula at 58°13.43' N. lat., 136°16.75' W. long., and east of the longitude of the southernmost tip of Taylor Island to 58°10.00' N. lat., then east to Althorp Rock Light, then north to the light at the entrance to Elfin Cove.

**South Passage (Fishery area 114-23):** In waters of Icy Strait south and east of a line extending from the prominent point on the northeastern side of Inian Peninsula at 58°13.43' N. lat., 136°16.75' W. long., to the westernmost tip of Lemesurier Island to the northernmost tip of Lemesurier Island to Point Gustavus and north of a line from Point Adolphus (58°17.25' N. lat., 135°47.00' W. long.) to a point one mile north of Point Adolphus at 58°18.04' N. lat., 135°47.00' W. long., to 58°14.65' N. lat., 135°32.20' W. long., and west of the western boundary of the Homeshore area, including the waters of Icy Passage.

**Homeshore (Fishery area 114-25):** In waters of Section 14-C, only in the waters of Icy Strait, east of the longitude of Noon Point (135°32.20' W. long.) west of 135°09.60' W. long., and north of a line from 58°07.78' N. lat., 135°00.78' W. long. to the northern tip of the northernmost island of the Sisters Islands at 58°10.78' N. lat., 135°15.48' W. long., to a point one mile north of Point Adolphus at 58°18.04' N. lat., 135°47.00' W. long.

**Point Couverden (Fishery area 114-25-01):** In waters enclosed by a line from 58°11.63' N. lat., 135°09.60' W. long., to 58°09.58' N. lat., 135°09.60' W. long., to 58°07.78' N. lat., 135°00.78' W. long., to 58°10.00' N. lat., 135°02.35' W. long., to 58°10.00' N. lat., 135°06.24' W. long., to 58°11.63' N. lat., 135°09.60' W. long.

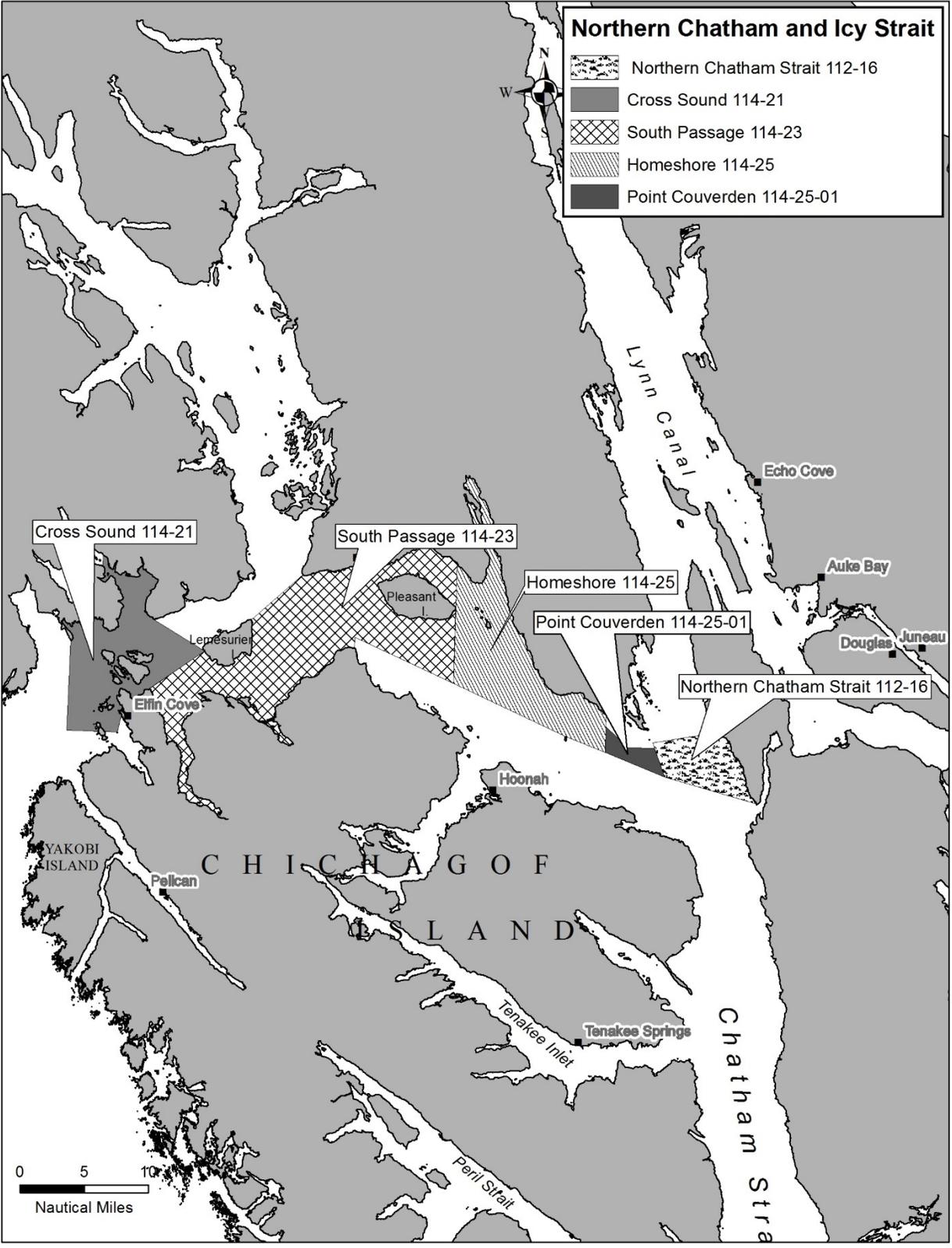


Figure 9.–North Chatham Strait and Icy Strait spring fishery areas, 2018.

## YAKUTAT AREA

**Yakutat Bay (Fishery Area 183-10):** The waters of Yakutat Bay east of a line from Point Manby (59°41.66' N. lat., 140°19.70' W. long.) to Ocean Cape (59°32.06' N. lat., 139°51.46' W. long.).

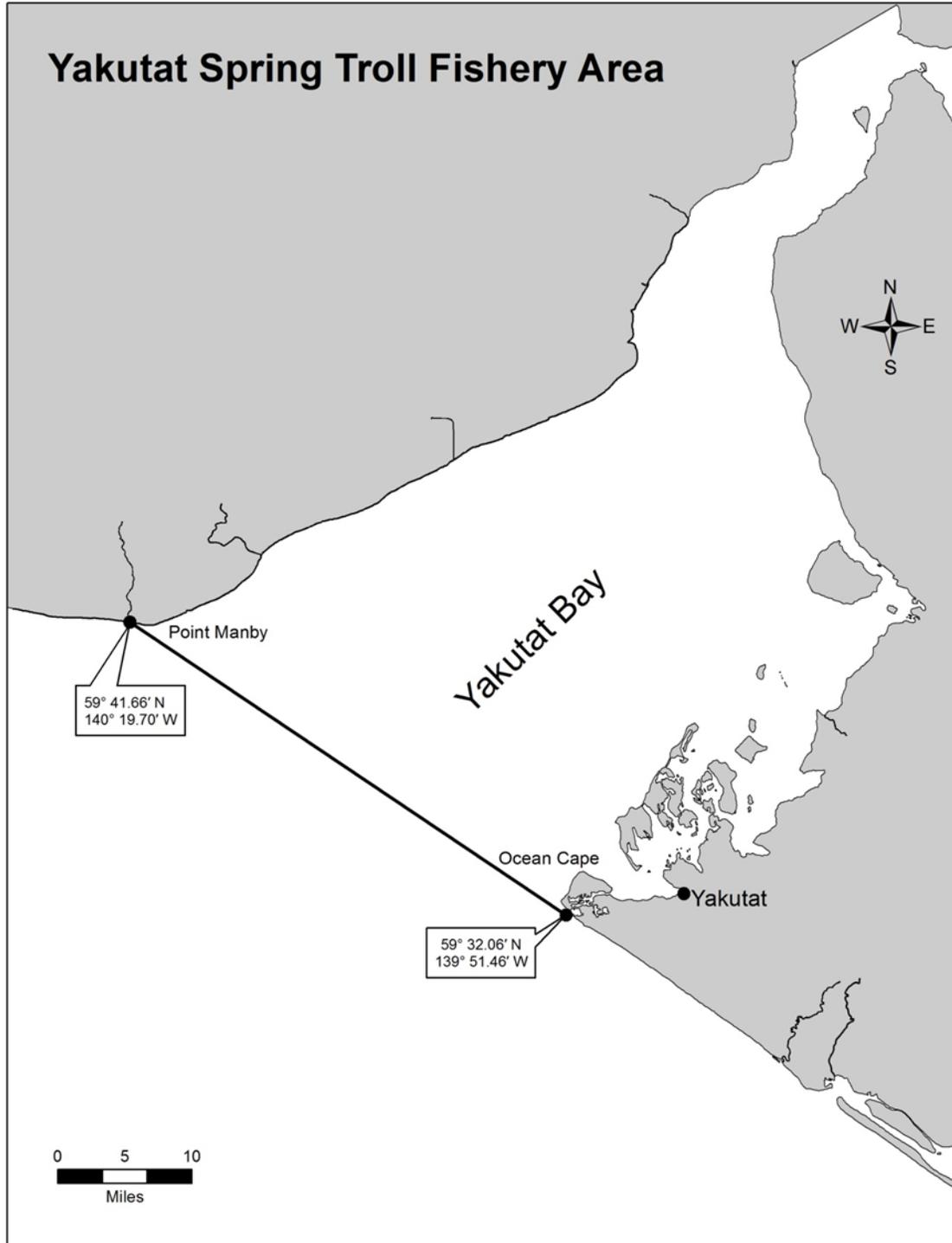


Figure 10.—Yakutat Bay spring troll fishery area.

## FISHERY CONTACTS

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

<p>Grant Hagerman Troll Management Biologist 304 Lake Street, room #103 Sitka, Alaska 99835 (907) 747-6688</p>	<p>Rhea Ehresmann Assistant Troll Management Biologist 304 Lake Street, room #103 Sitka, Alaska 99835 (907) 747-6688</p>
<p>Dan Gray Regional Management Biologist 304 Lake Street, room #103 Sitka, Alaska 99835-7653 (907) 747-6688</p>	<p>Lowell Fair Southeast Alaska Regional Supervisor PO Box 110024 Douglas, Alaska 99811-0024 (907) 465-4250</p>
<p>Eric Coonradt and Aaron Dupuis Area Management Biologists 304 Lake Street, room #103 Sitka, Alaska 99835-7653 (907) 747-6688</p>	<p>Dave Harris and Scott Forbes Area Management Biologists PO Box 110024 Douglas, Alaska 99811-0024 (907) 465-4250</p>
<p>Thomas Kowalske Area Management Biologist Kadin Building 215 Front Street Wrangell, Alaska 99689 (907) 874-3822</p>	<p>Troy Thynes and Kevin Clark Area Management Biologists 16 Sing Lee Alley Petersburg, Alaska 99833 (907) 772-3801</p>
<p>Scott Walker, Justin Breese and Bo Meredith Area Management Biologists 2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite, 205 Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 (907) 225-5195</p>	<p>Wyatt Rheafournier and Heather Spore Area Management Biologists Mile 1 Haines Highway Haines, Alaska 99827-0330 (907) 766-2830 or 3124</p>
<p>Nicole Zeiser Area Management Biologist 1 Fish and Game Plaza Yakutat, Alaska 99689-0049 (907) 784-3255</p>	<p>Rick Hoffman Assistant Area Management Biologist 1 Fish and Game Plaza Yakutat, Alaska 99689-0049 (907) 784-3255</p>
<p>Jim Craig Publications Specialist PO Box 110024 Douglas, Alaska 99811-0024 (907) 465-4236</p>	<p>Mike Vaughn Groundfish Management Biologist 304 Lake Street, room #103 Sitka, Alaska 99835-7653 (907) 747-6688</p>

For up-to-date troll information, call the 24-hour information line in the Douglas Office at 465-TROL (8765). In addition, the following telephone numbers may be called during the troll fishing season to obtain recorded announcements concerning areas open to trolling.

Ketchikan (907) 225-6870

Sitka (907) 747-8765