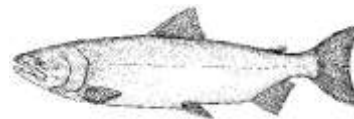

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Ketchikan Area Office
2030 Sea Level Drive #205
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Date: April 22, 2019
Time: 2:00 p.m.

2019 NEETS BAY TERMINAL HARVEST AREA FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Ketchikan. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information for the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) concerning the Neets Bay Terminal Harvest Area (THA) for 2019.

SSRAA is forecasting total returns of 1.9 million summer chum, 16,200 Chinook, 127,000 coho, and 345,000 fall chum salmon to Neets Bay.

The Neets Bay THA is those waters of Neets Bay east of the easternmost tip of Bug Island (Bug Island line). The THA will **NOT** expand to include those waters of Neets Bay east of the longitude of Chin Point until Monday, July 1, 2019. This expansion to Chin Point on July 1 is for troll gear only. This modification to regulation is an added measure to conserve Unuk River Chinook salmon that are transiting the area.

The closed waters at the head of the bay are those waters east of 131°29.86' W. longitude, until the barrier net is in place; at that time, the closed waters are those waters east of the barrier net.

Troll:

Salmon may be taken in the Neets Bay THA by troll gear from 12:01 a.m., Saturday, June 15, through 12:00 noon, Saturday, July 6. The Neets Bay THA will expand to the longitude of Chin Point on Monday, July 1, for troll gear only. Additionally, from 12:00 noon, Saturday, July 6, through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, August 1, the Neets Bay THA will be open to troll gear only in those waters west of the easternmost tip of Bug Island and east of Chin Point at 132°42.10' W. longitude, unless closed by emergency order.

Net Fisheries:

From 12:00 noon, Monday, June 17, through 12:00 noon, Saturday, July 6, salmon may be taken in the Neets Bay THA by drift gillnet and purse seine gear as follows:

Drift Gillnet:

12:00 noon, Monday, June 17, to 12:00 noon, Tuesday, June 18 **only in those waters of the Neets Bay THA east of the 'Mid-bay' line that begins on the northern shore of Neets Bay at 55°47.62' N. latitude, 131°34.50' W. longitude, to the southern shore of Neets Bay at 55°46.83' N. latitude, 131°34.36' W. longitude;**

12:00 noon, Friday, June 21, to 12:00 noon, Saturday, June 22 **east of the Bug Island line;**
 12:00 noon, Tuesday, June 25, to 12:00 noon, Wednesday, June 26 **east of the Bug Island line;**
 12:00 noon, Saturday, June 29, to 12:00 noon, Sunday, June 30 **east of the Bug Island line;**
 12:00 noon, Wednesday, July 3, to 12:00 noon, Thursday, July 4 **east of the Bug Island line;**

Purse Seine:

12:00 noon, Wednesday, June 19, to 12:00 noon, Thursday, June 20 **only in those waters of the Neets Bay THA east of the ‘Mid-bay’ line that begins on the northern shore of Neets Bay at 55°47.62’ N. latitude, 131°34.50’ W. longitude, to the southern shore of Neets Bay at 55°46.83’ N. latitude, 131°34.36’ W. longitude;**

12:00 noon, Sunday, June 23, to 12:00 noon, Monday, June 24 **east of the Bug Island line;**
 12:00 noon, Thursday, June 27, to 12:00 noon, Friday, June 28 **east of the Bug Island line;**
 12:00 noon, Monday, July 1, to 12:00 noon, Tuesday, July 2 **east of the Bug Island line;**
 12:00 noon, Friday, July 5, to 12:00 noon, Saturday, July 6 **east of the Bug Island line.**

All Commercial Fisheries:

The Neets Bay THA will close to the harvest of salmon **by net gear** at 12:00 noon, Saturday, July 6, so that cost recovery and broodstock collection can take place. The Neets Bay THA will close to the harvest of salmon **by troll gear** at 11:59 p.m., Thursday, August 1.

If additional openings are warranted, they will be announced by News Release.

A map of the Neets Bay THA is available on the SSRAA website at <https://ssraa.org/> or at the local ADFG offices.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1E0419.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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<i>ADF&G</i>	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	945-3620	784-3220