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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner*  
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Sitka Area Office  
304 Lake Street Room 103  
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Time: 4:30 p.m.

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#### SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUMMER TROLL FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . .The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that the first Chinook salmon retention period of the general summer commercial troll season will begin at 12:01 a.m., July 1 to **target approximately 55,700 treaty Chinook salmon**. The retention period will be managed in season with no predetermined length and will be closed by emergency order.

Under provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the commercial troll Chinook salmon allocation for the 2018-2019 accounting year (October 11, 2018 through September 30, 2019) is 101,300 treaty Chinook. The summer troll treaty target harvest is calculated by adding the winter treaty harvest, the projected spring treaty harvest, the proportionally adjusted pretreaty Alaska hatchery harvest, and a risk adjustment. The resultant sum is then subtracted from the troll allocation. The winter troll fishery harvested 10,700 treaty Chinook salmon, while the spring troll fishery harvest estimate is projected to be 6,800 treaty Chinook.

The department estimates that **79,600 treaty Chinook salmon remain to be harvested in the summer troll fishery**, and the initial summer troll retention period will be managed to harvest 70% of that remainder (5 AAC 29.100). Therefore, the target harvest for the first retention period will be approximately 55,700 treaty Chinook salmon, plus an estimated 4.0% Alaska hatchery contribution, which is not subject to treaty limits, resulting in a **total harvest target of approximately 58,000 Chinook for the first retention period**. Based on catch rates observed in past years with lower abundance levels and observed harvest rates in both commercial troll and recreational fisheries this spring, the department estimates the harvest target will be taken in **six to seven days**. However, actual harvest and catch rates can be affected significantly by the level of effort as well as weather conditions. The remainder of the troll treaty Chinook salmon allocation will be available for harvest in a second retention period following any closure of the coho salmon troll fishery, or no later than August 20, if a coho closure is not necessary.

**Trollers are strongly encouraged to contact the troll fishery managers during the retention period** to report catch and effort information via phone (747-6688, voicemail available after hours) or email ([grant.hagerman@alaska.gov](mailto:grant.hagerman@alaska.gov) or [rhea.ehresmann@alaska.gov](mailto:rhea.ehresmann@alaska.gov)). Fishermen are reminded to listen to the daily U.S. Coast Guard marine information broadcasts and NOAA/National Weather Service weather broadcasts or stay in close contact with the department or processors for fishery updates or closure announcements.

## 2019 ALLOCATIONS AND PROJECTED TREATY CHINOOK SALMON HARVESTS

Allocations of the all-gear harvest quota for 2019 under Board of Fisheries regulations are as follows:

| All-gear Treaty Quota | Purse Seine | Drift Gillnet | Set Gillnet | Total Net | Sport  | Troll   |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|--------|---------|
| 137,500               | 5,913       | 3,988         | 1,000       | 10,900    | 25,320 | 101,280 |

Estimated troll fishery harvests of treaty Chinook from the winter and spring troll fisheries are:

| Pre-summer Totals | Total Chinook | Alaska Hatchery | Treaty Chinook* |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                   | 24,000        | 6,000           | 21,700          |

Projected summer troll fishery harvest target for 1<sup>st</sup> Chinook retention period:

| Treaty Chinook | Alaska Hatchery | Total Chinook |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 55,700         | 2,300           | 58,000        |

\*—Includes treaty harvest plus pre-treaty base hatchery harvest and risk adjustment.

### FAS VESSELS

Catcher-processors intending to freeze their catch onboard during the summer troll fishery must obtain an **Exemption Permit** from the Department in order to legally remove the heads from adipose-clipped salmon per 5 AAC 29.140(b) and 5AAC 29.145(c). The permit is available at area offices and on the troll fishery website.

Catcher-processor vessel owners (FAS) are reminded to complete and submit a **separate fish ticket for each week** (Sunday through Saturday) and are **encouraged to contact the troll managers periodically with catch information**. Fish tickets must be submitted to the department within seven days after the fish are offloaded from the vessel.

### LANDING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All spring troll fisheries will be closed by 11:59 p.m., June 30. **All salmon harvested during the spring troll fishery must be offloaded prior to fishing during the summer troll fishery.** In addition to the reporting requirements specified in 5 AAC 39.130, trollers and processors are requested to record a 5-digit statistical area on fish tickets, whenever possible, rather than simply the district where the majority of the fish were caught. **Processors should continue to submit spring troll tickets to the nearest ADF&G office, while summer troll tickets should be submitted to the Sitka ADF&G office within seven days after the fish are offloaded from the vessel.**

### TERMINAL HARVEST AREAS

Retention of Chinook salmon 28" and greater will be allowed in the following areas as follows:

The **Herring Bay THA** will be open to troll gear for retention of all salmon species from July 1 through August 30, unless closed earlier by emergency order (5 AAC 33.369). The **Silver Bay SHA** may remain open to troll gear if Chinook salmon broodstock needs are met at the Medvejie Creek hatchery prior to July 31, with the waters of Bear Cove remaining closed (5 AAC 33.375). The **Anita Bay THA** will be open to troll gear for retention of all species through November 10 (5 AAC 33.383). The **Port Armstrong SHA** is open to troll gear for retention of all species through September 20. Any extension of the fishery, should the general summer season be extended through September 30, would be announced in a future news release. The **Deep Inlet THA** will be open to troll gear through September 28 for retention of all species and will follow the schedule announced in the Deep Inlet news release issued on April 12. (5 AAC 33.376).

The **Crawfish Inlet, Southeast Cove, Thomas Bay, Nakat Inlet, Kendrick Bay, and Hidden Falls THAs** will close to Chinook salmon retention whenever the general summer Chinook salmon retention periods are closed.

From 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 1, through 12:00 noon, Saturday, July 6, the **Neets Bay THA** will be open to troll gear west of the closed waters at the head of the bay and east of the longitude of Chin Point.

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 the longitude of Chin Point, unless closed by emergency order. **During the first summer troll Chinook salmon retention period, retention and possession of Chinook salmon in the THA is closed between the longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island and the longitude of Chin Point.** Trollers may not retain or possess Chinook salmon if fishing the waters between Chin Point and Bug Island but may transit through those waters to offload Chinook harvest if gear is not deployed. 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 can be scheduled they will be announced by News Release.

### **WEST BEHM CANAL**

The waters of West Behm Canal adjacent to the Neets Bay THA, as described in 5 AAC 29.100(d)(2)(A), will open to troll gear from July 1 through September 20 with the Chinook salmon retention and possession restrictions listed below.

### **DISTRICTS 101/108 CHINOOK SALMON RETENTION CLOSURE**

In addition to the waters closed to Chinook salmon retention between Chin Point and Bug Island within the Neets Bay THA and regulatory closed waters to troll gear near the mouth of Stikine River, supplemental Chinook nonretention areas for District 1 and District 8 are as follows:

- 1) In the waters of Section 1-E north of a line from Indian Point to Mike Point, Chinook salmon may not be retained or in possession during the first general summer troll Chinook salmon retention period.
- 2) In the waters of Section 1-F enclosed by a line from Lucky Point to Middy Point, continuing to the latitude of Beaver Point, and from Point Rosen to Quadra Point, and in southeast Behm Canal south of a line from a point at 55° 11.78' N. lat., 131° 05.13' W. long., located on Point Sykes to a point at 55° 12.22' N. lat., 131° 05.70' W. long., located 0.5 nautical mile (nmi) northwest of Point Sykes to Point Alava, Chinook salmon may not be retained or in possession during the first general summer troll Chinook salmon retention period.
- 3) The waters of District 8 are closed to Chinook salmon retention and possession during the first general summer troll Chinook salmon retention period.

### **SITUK RIVER CHINOOK SALMON RETENTION CLOSURE**

In the Yakutat area, waters near the mouth of the Situk River will be closed to the harvest of Chinook salmon by troll gear effective July 1, and closed to retention of all salmon from August 7–September 20, in accordance with the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. The Situk River is managed for a biological escapement goal (BEG) of 450 to 1,050 large Chinook salmon. The 2019 preseason forecast is for a total run of 300 large Chinook salmon. The inriver run goal was not achieved in 2010–2012 and 2015–2016, and 2018. The 2019 preseason forecast suggests that the Situk River Chinook salmon run will again fall short of the lower bound of the BEG if normal fisheries are prosecuted. Conservation actions are necessary to ensure adequate levels of escapement. **A portion of District 181 south of Yakutat Bay, in State waters, will close to Chinook salmon retention by troll gear beginning at 12:01 a.m., July 1** in the following area:

“...in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the seaward limit of the 3.0 nmi territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59° 30.49' N. lat., 139° 46.58' W. long. (Ocean Cape) and intersecting the 3.0 nmi limit at 59° 28.65' N. lat., 139° 51.17' W. long. and on the south by a line extending seaward from **59° 21.07' N. lat., 139° 19.73' W. long. and intersecting the 3.0 nmi limit at 59° 19.14' N. lat., 139° 24.83' W. long.**”

### **NORTHERN LYNN CANAL/CHILKAT INLET CLOSED WATERS**

In addition to closed waters listed in 5 AAC 29.150, the waters of Section 15-A (North Lynn Canal and Chilkat Inlet) are closed to commercial troll gear for the summer season, July 1 through September 30. This closure is needed to protect mature Chinook salmon returning to the Chilkat River [5 AAC 29.100(g)].

## FEDERAL FISHERIES PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Vessels trolling for salmon in federal waters of the EEZ in the Gulf of Alaska that retain federal groundfish bycatch must have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) endorsed for troll/jig gear. FFPs are not required to retain lingcod or black, blue, or dark rockfish as these species are not managed under the Federal Management Plan. For information on FFP requirements and bycatch allowances in federal waters contact NOAA Fisheries at (907) 586-7225 (Juneau), (907) 747-6940 (Sitka), (907) 772-2285 (Petersburg) or (907) 247-5804 (Ketchikan).

The 2019 Summer Troll Fishery Management Plan is available at all regional ADF&G offices and on the troll website at:

[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon\\_managementplans](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon_managementplans).

The Emergency Orders corresponding with this announcement is 1S1819.

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

| <i>Office</i>        | <i>Ketchikan</i> | <i>Petersburg</i> | <i>Wrangell</i> | <i>Sitka</i>    | <i>Juneau</i> | <i>Haines</i> | <i>Hoonah</i> | <i>Yakutat</i> |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>ADF&amp;G</i>     | 225-5195         | 772-3801          | 874-3822        | <b>747-6688</b> | 465-4250      | 766-2830      |               | 784-3255       |
| <i>AWT</i>           | 225-5111         | 772-3983          | 874-3215        | 747-3254        | 465-4000      |               | 945-3620      |                |
| <i>Troll Hotline</i> | 225-6870         |                   |                 | 747-8765        |               |               |               |                |