



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: April 15, 2020

CONTACT: Aaron Dupuis
Sitka Area Management Biologist
aaron.dupuis@alaska.gov
(907) 747-6688

DEEP INLET TERMINAL HARVEST AREA FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka....The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information in cooperation with the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) concerning common property net and troll fisheries in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area (THA; Figure 1).

The Alaska Board of Fisheries, during its January 2018 meeting, passed regulations requiring the time ratio for gillnet openings to seine openings as 1:1 for the 2019–2020 seasons.

The Deep Inlet THA is scheduled to open beginning June 2, 2020. This season, NSRAA is projecting a total return of 10,700 Chinook salmon, 110,000 Coho salmon, and 1,478,000 chum salmon to the Medvejie Hatchery and Deep Inlet THA. This season, 100,000 chum salmon are needed for broodstock, and NSRAA does not anticipate cost recovery operations this season in the Deep Inlet THA. A portion of the Deep Inlet THA may be closed in late August to facilitate broodstock collection for the Medvijie facility.

The following rotation schedule will be in effect through September 26, 2020, unless modified by a subsequent advisory announcement. From 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, June 2, 2020, salmon may be taken in the Deep Inlet THA as follows:

Seine:

- On June 4 and 5, the purse seine fishery will be open daily from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- From June 7 through August 15, the purse seine fishery will be open from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Sunday, Thursday, and Friday of each week.
- From August 16 through September 26, the purse seine fishery will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday, Thursday, and Friday of each week.

Gillnet:

- On June 2 and 3, the drift gillnet fishery will be open daily from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- From June 7 through August 15, the drift gillnet fishery will be open from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of each week
- From August 16 through September 26, the drift gillnet fishery will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of each week.

Troll:

- From June 2 through September 26, the troll fishery will be open from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., Saturday of each week and during those periods the net fisheries are closed.

Trollers are reminded that all fish retained within the boundaries of the Deep Inlet THA listed below must be reported as being harvested in statistical area 113-38.

The Deep Inlet THA is described as follows:

Deep Inlet THA: 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 at 56°59.95' N lat, 135°21.92' W long, to the easternmost tip of Long Island at 56°59.95' N lat, 135°20.36' W long, to the westernmost tip of Emgeten Island at 57°00.08' N lat, 135°20.01' W long, to the westernmost tip of Error Island at 57°00.53' N lat, 135°19.50' W long, to the westernmost tip of Berry Island at 57°00.32' N lat, 135°18.68' W long, to the southernmost tip of Berry Island at 57°00.27' N lat, 135°18.51' W long, to the westernmost tip of the southernmost island in the Kutchuma Island group at 57°00.14' N lat, 135°18.27' W long, to the easternmost tip of the southernmost island in the Kutchuma Island group at 57°00.07' N lat, 135°17.93' W long, 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 with the following restrictions:

Sandy Cove: all waters south of 56°59.05' N lat will be closed.

The Deep Inlet THA west of 135°20.75' W long will be closed to purse seine and drift gillnet gear beginning with the first emergency order of the season through June 20.

By emergency order issued under 5 AAC 33.376 (b) (4), drift gillnet fishermen will be required to fish with a minimum mesh size of 6 inches through June 20. The purpose of the minimum mesh restriction is to reduce the harvest of wild sockeye salmon returning to Silver Bay that are passing through the Deep Inlet THA.

By emergency order issued under 5 AAC 39.265, harvesters participating in net fisheries in the Deep Inlet THA fishery are required to retain and utilize all salmon harvested this season. This action is being taken 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 enable the department and NSRAA have full and accurate reporting of returns. This requires that all sockeye and coho salmon caught in the Deep Inlet THA fishery which are retained for personal use and not sold must be reported on fish tickets at the same time other salmon harvested during the opening are offloaded and recorded on a fish ticket. Fishermen are advised that if they have fish on board from other openings, in addition to the Deep Inlet THA fishery, they should keep them separate for reporting and sampling purposes.

Chinook Salmon Landing Restrictions for the Deep Inlet THA: Purse seine and gillnet fishermen must retain all Chinook salmon harvested in the Deep Inlet THA. Chinook salmon of any size harvested by both purse seine and drift gillnet fishermen may be sold. Troll fishermen may only retain and sell Chinook salmon greater than 28 inches.

To reduce conflicts with private land owners, NSRAA is requesting that all fishing vessels and tenders not anchor, use high-intensity lights, or tender fish near Berry Island within the Deep Inlet THA; additionally, NSRAA requests that vessels use no-wake speeds when entering Deep Inlet via Silver Point.

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 11, and 12, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1E0420.

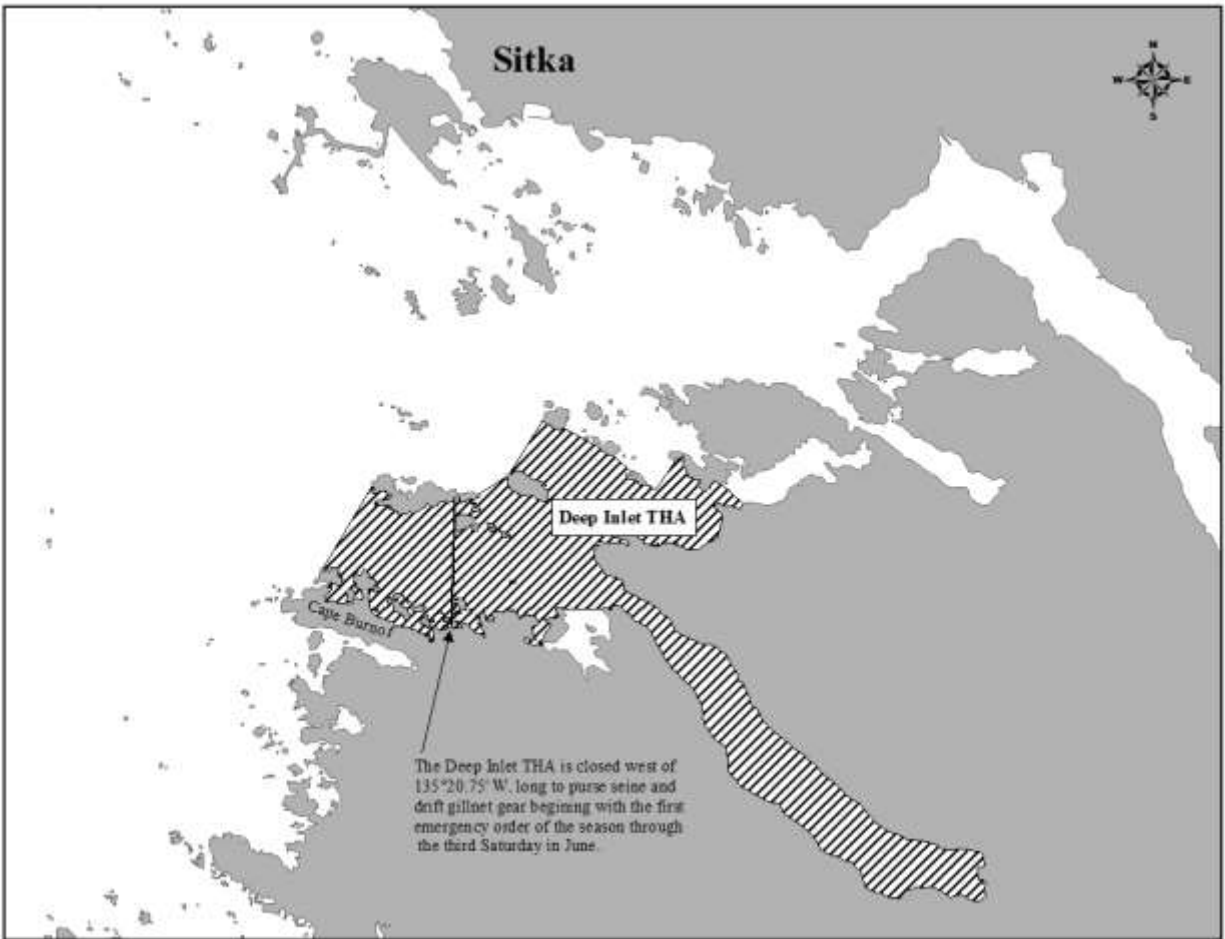


Figure 1.- Map of the Deep Inlet THA.

Advisory Announcement 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>Yakutat</i>
<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	784-3220