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Advisory Announcement

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2021 SOUTHEAST ALASKA TROLL CHINOOK SALMON HARVEST ALLOCATION

Sitka… The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that under Chinook salmon management provisions of the 2019–2028 Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement (treaty), the annual all-gear allowable catch limit for Southeast Alaska/Yakutat (SEAK) is 201,100 treaty Chinook salmon (non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon). This year's all-gear catch limit includes a 2% reduction that will serve as a buffer to avoid exceeding the all-gear limit and payback provisions within the treaty. The resulting preseason troll treaty harvest allocation for 2021 is **148,500 Chinook salmon**, which is equal to the preseason limit available in 2020.

Under provisions of the treaty, the Chinook salmon harvest limit for the SEAK all-gear fishery is determined by the estimated CPUE metric from the winter power troll fishery in District 113 during statistical weeks 41-48 (Oct 11-Nov 28). The CPUE metric is translated into a seven-tiered catch ceiling table, with each tier representing a range of CPUEs, the associated Abundance Index (AI) values, and the applicable harvest ceiling.

The summer troll fishery harvest allocation is calculated by subtracting the treaty Chinook salmon harvested in the winter and spring troll fisheries from the annual troll treaty allocation. The winter fishery is generally managed to not exceed the guideline harvest level of 45,000 treaty Chinook salmon for the season. However, in 2021, under provisions of the *Unuk River Chinook Salmon Action Plan*, the winter troll fishery will close March 15.

While there is no explicit guideline harvest level for Chinook salmon harvested in the spring fisheries, they are managed to limit the harvest of treaty Chinook salmon; non-Alaska hatchery fish are counted towards the annual treaty harvest limit of Chinook salmon while most of the Alaska hatchery fish are not. Since spring fisheries will be in progress through June 30, preliminary harvest estimates for treaty Chinook salmon in the spring fisheries will not be determined until late June.

The summer fishery will be managed to harvest 70% of the remaining fish on the troll allocation in the first summer Chinook salmon opening in July, with the remainder available for harvest in a second opening, which typically occurs in August. If the remainder of annual troll allocation is not harvested in the second opening, and if the department determines that the number of Chinook salmon remaining on the annual troll allocation is not sufficient to allow a competitive fishery, the commissioner may, by emergency order, reopen the troll fishery to the taking of Chinook salmon during a limited harvest fishery. The decision as to whether the first summer opening will be managed in season rather than for a fixed number of days will be announced just prior to the July 1 opening.

An advisory announcement concerning spring troll and terminal harvest area opportunities for 2021, and the *2021 Spring Troll Fishery Management Plan,* will be available online and in area offices by mid-April, with initial spring areas opening as early as May 1.

Under Alaska's Health Orders 5, 6, and 8, 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 Orders. COVID-19 Health Orders may be found here: https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-order/.

Advisory Announcement web site: *http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main*.

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