



## Advisory Announcement

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**CONTACT: Troy Thynes**

**Region I Management Coordinator**

**troy.thynes@alaska.gov**

**(907) 772-3801**

## SOUTHEAST ALASKA SALMON DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fishery will be closed for the remainder of the 2021 season.

Section 11-B: **will be closed.**

Section 15-A: **will be closed.**

This week's harvest estimates for both Districts 11 and 15 are confidential.

### 2021 Drift Gillnet Fishery Summary

Traditional common property drift gillnet openings began June 20 and concluded October 7, 2021. Runs of Chinook salmon were expected to be below average, sockeye and coho salmon runs were expected to be below average to average, pink salmon runs were expected to be average, and hatchery produced chum salmon runs were expected to be below average. Traditional drift gillnet harvests of all species were below recent 10-year (2011–2020) averages but improved from last year's harvests. Drift gillnet effort increased slightly from 2020 with 371 permits making landings and was below the 2011–2020 average of 424 permits (Table 1).

Table 1. 2021 Southeast Alaska traditional drift gillnet harvest and effort estimates (data as of 10/7/21).

District	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Boats
101	1,892	21,577	46,951	144,366	171,235	52
106	964	49,607	72,817	148,311	134,472	134
108	94	793	11,974	6,201	48,301	72
111	659	45,737	20,649	136,307	184,564	131
115	557	78,587	25,348	159,613	223,641	155
Total	4,166	174,724	130,788	450,432	590,978	371
11–20 Avg	12,886	352,491	257,842	989,727	1,897,534	424

Hatchery produced chum salmon runs were expected to be below average in 2021. The estimated common property drift gillnet terminal harvest area (THA) harvest is 700,000 chum salmon, below the 2011–2020 average harvest (Table 2).

Table 2. 2021 Southeast Alaska drift gillnet common property THA harvest estimates (data as of 10/7/21).

THA	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Nakat Inlet	119	256	5,900	3,893	55,112
Carroll Inlet	1,730	0	0	0	13
Neets Bay	2,354	0	1	3	123
Anita Bay	4,833	46	324	126	43,464
Speel Arm	22	3,440	144	464	25
Deep Inlet	3,869	661	1,379	3,463	355,537
Boat Harbor	153	6,003	369	61,202	308,758
Total	13,080	10,406	8,117	69,151	763,032
11–20 Avg	11,943	42,167	17,454	124,093	870,647

With the exception of pink salmon, the run strengths of other salmon species were generally below average. Chinook salmon production remains poor, but escapement goals were achieved in seven of the eleven index systems (Chilkat, King Salmon, Unuk, Chickamin, Keta, Alsek, and Situk Rivers) compared to six of eleven in 2020, seven of eleven in 2019, and four of eleven in 2018. Sockeye salmon runs were mixed, with northern southeast runs generally stronger than southern southeast runs, but overall improved from the prior two seasons. Sockeye salmon escapement goals were made for the Chilkoot, Taku, Tahltan (Stikine) Rivers, not made for Hugh Smith and McDonald Lakes, and are still pending for the Chilkat River and Stikine Mainstem. Coho salmon escapement is still being evaluated. Wild chum salmon runs, like hatchery runs, were poor. The pink salmon run was overall excellent with a total harvest of 47.9 million fish. Escapement was good to excellent with 40 of 46 pink salmon stock groups meeting or exceeding target ranges.

Detailed summaries of harvest and escapement for each district and THA will be given at this year's Drift Gillnet Task Force meeting on December 1 and will be included in the *Annual management report of the 2021 Southeast Alaska commercial purse seine and drift gillnet fisheries* available late spring/early summer of 2022.

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

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