



Advisory Announcement
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**SOUTHEAST ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS FOR
TROLL, PURSE SEINE, AND DRIFT GILLNET FISHERIES**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) approved action plans for the Unuk, King Salmon, and Chilkat Rivers Chinook salmon stocks as Stocks of Management Concern (SOC) at the 2018 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish Meeting. In October 2020, the department recommended the board continue the Unuk, King Salmon, and Chilkat Rivers as SOC and to adopt the Andrew Creek, and Chickamin, Taku, and Stikine Rivers stocks of Chinook salmon as SOC. The BOF adopted these stocks as SOC during the October 2020 work session and reviewed draft action plans for these 7 stocks during the 2022 Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting. For the last several years, the department has been implementing management measures that have successfully reduced harvest of Chinook salmon and recommended that those actions be formally adopted through the BOF process. The BOF concurred with the proposed management actions for each of these stocks but directed the department to apply more restrictive management measures where and/or when appropriate. The BOF also gave the department direction to relax management measures where and/or when the department determined there was opportunity to do so.

These 7 Chinook salmon stocks have missed their escapement goals in most of the previous 10 years. Through effective management actions, harvest rates have decreased, and escapement has improved for some systems in recent years despite continued poor runs. In 2022, 5 of the 11 Chinook salmon stocks monitored in Southeast Alaska met their escapement goal. Chinook salmon runs are expected to increase in 2023 with only 1 (Stikine River) of the 5 Chinook salmon stocks for which the department develops formal forecasts having a projected run less than what is needed to achieve the minimum escapement goal bound. The remaining 4 stocks (Taku, Chilkat, Unuk, and Situk Rivers) will need restrictive management measures to reduce harvest and achieve their escapement goals. Management actions in accordance with Pacific Salmon Treaty, regulations, and BOF recommended actions will again be implemented to reduce harvest of wild Chinook salmon across Southeast Alaska salmon fisheries, including sport, commercial, personal use, and subsistence.

This advisory announcement provides a summary of expected management actions for the commercial troll and net fisheries in 2023 intended to conserve wild Chinook salmon returning to Southeast Alaska. For complete details of intended management actions, refer to the action plans link provided at the end of this advisory announcement, forthcoming 2023 troll, purse seine, and drift gillnet management plans, and inseason advisory announcements.

Troll Fishery

Winter Troll Fishery

The waters of Section 15-A will close from October 11 to December 31, 2023. Notwithstanding, any remaining portion of the 45,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon guideline harvest level (GHL), the commercial winter troll fishery will close in most waters of Southeast Alaska on March 15. The fishery will remain open through April 15, or until the remaining portion of the winter troll GHL is harvested, only in select outer coastal waters of Districts 3, 4, 5, 9, 13, 181, and 183 in those areas with low Southeast Alaska/Yakutat and Transboundary river wild Chinook salmon encounter rates.

Spring Troll Fisheries

Beginning May 1, spring troll fisheries located in Districts 3, 13, and 183 may open, with all other districts remaining closed. Initial opening dates for the District 1 Mountain Point and Rock Point spring fisheries will be delayed until June 8. The District 9, 10, 12, and 14 hatchery chum salmon fisheries will be delayed with initial openings beginning June 15.

All regional terminal harvest area (THA) openings will be delayed until June 1, except for the Neets Bay THA, which will open June 15.

Summer Troll Fishery

During the first summer troll fishery Chinook salmon retention period, the following areas will remain closed to retention and possession of Chinook salmon:

- Neets Bay THA: waters between the longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island and the longitude of Chin Point;
- Section 1-E: waters north of a line from Indian Point to Mike Point;
- Section 1-F: waters south of a line from Lucky Point to Middy Point, north of the latitude of Beaver Point, and north of line from Point Rosen to Quadra Point; and in southeast Behm Canal waters south of a line from Point Sykes to a point located approximately 0.5 nautical mile (nmi) northwest of Point Sykes, to Point Alava;
- District 8: all waters of the district;
- Section 15-A: all waters of the section; and
- District 181: in the waters bounded on the west by the seaward limit of the 3-nmi territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from Ocean Cape and intersecting the 3-nmi limit, and on the south by a line extending seaward from 59°21.07' N lat, 139°19.73' W long and intersecting the 3-nmi limit.

During the second Chinook salmon retention period, the following area will remain closed to Chinook salmon retention and possession:

- Section 15-A: all waters of the section.

Purse Seine Fishery

Other than within THAs that have runs of hatchery-produced Chinook salmon, the purse seine fishery will be prohibited from retaining Chinook salmon over 28 inches in length through at least July 22. Chinook salmon retention after July 22 will be dependent on areas open to directed pink salmon fisheries and the magnitude of the pink salmon harvests. In 2022, retention of Chinook salmon was allowed in all districts except the southern southeast inside waters which remained on Chinook salmon nonretention throughout the summer. This approach allowed the purse seine gear group to approach their Chinook salmon harvest allocation and provided additional conservation for Unuk and Chickamin Rivers Chinook salmon. Depending on pink salmon abundance, a similar management approach may be implemented in 2023. Chinook salmon harvests will be monitored closely, and the purse seine fishery may return to nonretention in advance of exceeding 98% of the purse seine allocation as described in 5 AAC 29.060. *Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area.*

Drift Gillnet Fishery

District 6

The start of the District 6 drift gillnet fishery will be delayed by one week until June 18. A maximum mesh size restriction of 6 inches will be in place through July 8.

District 8

The start of the District 8 drift gillnet fishery will be delayed by at least 2 weeks until June 25. Time and/or area restrictions will occur through at least July 8. A maximum mesh size restriction of 6 inches will be in place through July 15.

District 11

Time and area restrictions will be imposed in Taku Inlet through July 15 and will include two-day initial openings through July 8. Waters on the east side of Taku Inlet south of Point Greely will open during the week of June 18; waters south of Point Cooper will open during the week of June 25; and waters south of Jaw Point will open during the weeks of July 2 and July 9. Night closures from 10:00 p.m. through 4:00 a.m. and a maximum mesh size restriction of 6 inches will be in effect districtwide through July 1.

District 15

The fishery will open districtwide on June 18. In section 15-A, fishing time will be limited to 2 days a week and fishing area will be limited to south of Eldred Rock Lighthouse and east of a line from Eldred Rock Lighthouse to a point 2.0 nmi from the eastern shoreline at 58°51.00' N lat, 135°12.77' W long through July 22. Section 15-C will be limited to the Postage Stamp (waters south of the latitude of Vanderbilt Reef Light and east of a line from Vanderbilt Reef Light to Little Island Light) to 2 days a week through July 8. A maximum mesh size restriction of 6 inches will be in effect in Section 15-A through July 22 and through July 15 in Section 15-C. Night closures from 10:00 p.m. through 4:00 a.m. will be in effect through July 22 in Section 15-A and through July 15 in Section 15-C.

Hatchery Terminal Harvest AreasNeets Bay

The start date will be June 15. Gear rotations for purse seine and drift gillnet will have additional closures between June 15 and July 6. In addition, for troll gear only, the THA expansion to Chin Point will be delayed until July 1.

Anita Bay

Start date will be delayed from May 1 to June 1.

Boat Harbor

Will open by regulation June 18. Outside waters will be limited to 2 days a week through July 1 and fishing area will be restricted to 1.0 nmi off the shoreline through July 15. A maximum mesh size restriction of 6 inches and night closures will be imposed through July 15. Inside Boat Harbor (west of 135°09.57' W long) will open 7 days a week without gear or time restrictions.

Hidden Falls

Start date will be delayed from April 15 to June 1 and open waters of the THA will be restricted to approximately 1.0 nmi off the Baranof Island shoreline through June 24.

Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Action Plans

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon#management>

2023 Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon All Gear Harvest Limit Press Release

This year's all gear harvest limit will not be available until April.

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

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