
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
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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 opening of the general summer commercial troll season will open at 12:01 a.m., July 1 and will close by emergency order. **The opening will target approximately 98,135 total Chinook salmon and will be managed inseason with no pre-determined duration.**

The 2012 pre-season Chinook abundance index is 1.52, which equates to an all-gear treaty quota of approximately 266,800 fish. According to the allocation criteria established by the Board of Fisheries (5 AAC 29.060 and 47.055), the troll fishery is allocated 80% of the Chinook quota after the net allocation (20,209 fish) is subtracted. The sport fishery is allocated the remaining 20% (49,318 fish).

The commercial troll Chinook salmon quota for the 2011-2012 accounting year (October 11, 2011 through September 30, 2012) is approximately 197,272 treaty fish (not including Alaska hatchery add-on). All treaty Chinook salmon harvested in the winter and spring troll fisheries are subtracted from the quota to determine the amount available for the summer season. The winter troll fishery harvested 41,914 treaty Chinook salmon, while the spring troll fishery harvest estimate is projected to be 14,671 treaty Chinook salmon. The actual final spring harvest is not known at this time since spring fisheries are currently open.

The estimated number of treaty Chinook salmon remaining to be harvested is 135,988 fish and the initial summer troll opening will be managed to harvest 70% of that remainder (5 AAC 29.100). Therefore, the target harvest for the first opening will be approximately 95,191 treaty fish, plus an estimated 3% Alaska hatchery contribution, for a total harvest target of 98,135 fish. The remaining treaty Chinook salmon will be harvested in a second opening following any closure of the coho salmon troll fishery, or no later than August 20 if a coho closure is not necessary. At the current level of abundance, **the department anticipates that the initial Chinook salmon opening will last between 8 and 10 days.** However, this estimate is based on historical levels of effort and any change in effort will affect the actual catch rate and opening length. 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 any fishery updates or closure announcements.

2012 ALLOCATIONS AND PROJECTED TREATY CHINOOK SALMON HARVESTS

Allocations of the All-gear harvest quota for 2012 are as follows:

All-gear Treaty Quota	Purse Seine	Drift Gillnet	Set Gillnet	Total Net	Sport	Troll
266,800	11,472	7,737	1,000	20,209	49,318	197,272

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

Fishery	Total	Alaska Hatchery	Treaty Fish
Winter Fishery	47,779	5,865	41,914
Spring Fishery	26,603*	11,687	14,671
Pre-summer Totals	74,382	17,552	56,585**

*Spring fishery total includes 245 Transboundary River (TBR) fish (terminal exclusion)

**Pre-summer total treaty fish excludes TBR fish.

Summer troll harvest target calculations are as follows:

Troll pre-summer total treaty harvest =	56,585
Pre-treaty hatchery and statistical risk factor =	4,700
Total pre-summer troll harvest =	61,285

Projected troll summer targets:

Troll treaty quota – Pre-summer treaty harvest =	
<i>(Calculation: 197,272 – 61,285 = 135,988)</i>	135,988
Projected treaty Chinook target for first troll opening =	95,191
Projected total target including AK hatchery estimate =	98,135
Projected treaty Chinook target for 2 nd troll opening =	40,796
Projected total target including AK hatchery estimate =	42,496

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 fin-clipped salmon [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. Permits for exemption from 5 AAC 29.140(b) are available at all Southeast Area Offices as well as on the troll fishery website.

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

The Hidden Falls, Anita Bay, Deep Inlet, and Nakat Inlet terminal harvest areas (THA's) will remain open to the harvest of Chinook salmon and will be closed by emergency order. Trollers are requested to consult the appropriate terminal harvest area News Releases previously released or contact any

department office for the exact harvest schedules. **Only Chinook which are 28 inches or greater may be retained in all waters open to trolling during the summer season, including all THA's.**

The **Neets Bay THA** will close to trolling at 12:00 noon, July 2 and may remain closed throughout the summer season. Trollers may target Neets Bay chum salmon outside the THA in West Behm Canal when those waters are open to trolling. As previously announced, the **Port Armstrong THA** will close to trolling at 11:59 p.m., June 30.

SITUK RIVER CHINOOK SALMON RETENTION CLOSURE

Waters near the mouth of the Situk River will be closed to the harvest of Chinook salmon by troll gear effective July 1. The current projected king salmon escapement to the Situk River is well below the minimum Biological Escapement Goal range of 450-1,050 fish. As per 5AAC 30.365, the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan, **a portion of District 181 south of Yakutat Bay, in State waters, will close to king salmon retention by troll gear beginning at 12:01 a.m., July 1.** This area is described in 5AAC 30.365(b)(1)(C) and is as follows:

“...in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the seaward limit of the three-nautical-mile territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59° 30.49' N. lat, 139° 46.58' W. long and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at 59° 28.65' N. lat, 139° 51.17' W. long and on the south by a line extending seaward from 59° 20.30' N. lat, 139° 16.50' W. long and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at 59° 18.25' N. lat, 139° 21.94' W. long;”

As a clarification, trolling will be allowed within this area but retention of Chinook salmon will be prohibited until further notice. If Chinook salmon escapements to the Situk River improve significantly, the need for this closure will be re-evaluated. A map of this area is included in the 2012 Summer Troll Management Plan.

CLOSED WATERS (in addition to those listed in 5 AAC 29.150)

The commercial troll fishery in Chilkat Inlet north of an ADF&G regulatory marker immediately north of Seduction Point is closed July 1 through July 14. This closure is needed to protect mature Chinook salmon returning to the Chilkat River [5 AAC 33.384(e)(1)].

FEDERAL FISHERIES PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Vessels trolling for salmon in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the Gulf of Alaska that retain groundfish bycatch must have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) endorsed for troll gear. Contact NMFS at 907-586-7202 or 800-304-4846 for more information. **Any troll vessels that do not have an FFP, who do fish in the EEZ and do catch groundfish may not retain those fish and they must be released before being brought onboard the vessel.**

CHANGES IN THE 2012 TROLL FISHERIES

During the 2012 Board of Fisheries (BOF) meeting, several new troll regulations were adopted. *These new regulations will not take effect until July 13, 2012. Effective July 1, the department will implement new regulations involving time and area by Emergency Order authority. All new regulations will be effective on July 13.*

New regulations which relate to the summer troll fisheries will be in effect as follows:

1. Revise criteria for season extension past September 20 as follows: “5 AAC 29.110. MANAGEMENT OF THE COHO SALMON TROLL FISHERY. (a) Coho salmon may be taken from June 1 through September 20. However, the commissioner, in years when wild coho salmon abundance is expected to meet escapement needs after considering harvest and effort, may extend, by Emergency Order, the coho salmon fishery in any portions of Districts 1-16 for up to 10 days after September 20.”

2. Modify troll area boundaries in West Behm Canal (Section 1-E) from July 1–September 20, by Emergency Order as was done the past two years.
3. Clarify by Emergency Order that portions of Section 1-F are open for trolling during the summer fishery beginning July 1.
4. Remove restriction on the number of fishing rods that may be onboard a hand troll vessel year-round, to allow spare rods in case of breakage. Maintain current restrictions on the number of fishing rods or hand troll gurdies that may be operated from a hand troll vessel. This provision will be in effect by regulation on July 13, 2012.
5. Close a portion of Bear Cove in the Silver Bay Special Harvest Area to protect broodstock and provide safety, by Emergency Order beginning July 1 as was done in recent years. This provision will be in effect by regulation on July 13, 2012.
6. Open the Hidden Falls Terminal Harvest Area from June 1 through September 20 to provide access to enhanced coho salmon and provide opportunity during troll closures. This area will be open by regulation during any coho salmon closures on or after July 13.

The 2012 Summer Troll Fishery Management Plan will be available at all regional ADF&G offices by Monday, June 25, 2012 and on the troll website at:

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon_managementplans.

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>ADFG</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		945-3620	784-3206
<i>Troll Hotline</i>	225-6870	772-3700		747-8765	465-8765			