

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: March 31, 2023

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SOUTHEAST ALASKA SALMON PROPOSED REGULATIONS NOTICE

Through advances in global positioning systems technology and availability, department staff and fishers identified differences between the markers in the field, some that have been there since statehood and even prior to statehood, that do not align with the locations listed in regulation. In response, Region 1 commercial fisheries area management staff underwent an extensive review of closed waters regulatory language in 5 AAC 29.150 and 33.350 to:

- correct errant latitudes and longitudes in regulation,
- assign accurate latitudes and longitudes to every point listed in regulation,
- delete obsolete regulations (e.g., closed waters contained within closed waters), and
- provide clearer descriptions of closed waters.

District and sections descriptions in 5 AAC 33.200 were updated in 2019 for similar reasons in a department regulations project and in the same manner as described above. The department recently identified three errant latitude and longitudes to correct and added additional language in two district descriptions to reduce ambiguity.

These updates will reduce confusion and ambiguity in regulation for ADF&G, AWT, and the commercial fishing sector and are not considered substantial or differ from what has been used in practice for many years if not since statehood, are not allocative, and follow the original intent of the regulation.

The commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game, under a delegation of authority issued by the Alaska Board of Fisheries under AS 16.05.270, is currently proposing to adopt changes in these regulations to correct these errors and omissions, ambiguities, and technical deficiencies.

The proposed regulations are currently posted on the Alaska Online Public Notice System here: <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=210349>

You may review the proposed regulation changes and submit comments by accessing the above link or by contacting Shellene L. Hutter, Regulations Program Coordinator, Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526. Additionally, the Department of Fish and Game will accept comments by facsimile at (907) 465-2604 and by electronic mail at dfg.fish.regulations@alaska.gov

The comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 2, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Shellene Hutter at the above contact information.

Immediately following the comment period, the proposed regulatory changes will continue with the adoption process to officially become part of 5 AAC. The official adoption of the proposed regulations will also be announced on the Alaska Online Public Notice System and posted at a link on the AOPNS to be determined at a later date. There will also be updates Southeast Salmon Regulations Notice

regarding this regulations project on the department's website here:
<https://adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.main>

Additionally the regulation summaries will be electronically available on the department's website here:
<https://adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial> Paper copies of the regulation summaries will be distributed to the local area ADF&G offices in the early summer. The department will have an interactive map that will be located on the department's website at <https://adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon#maps> where closed waters, districts, sections, as well as other items can be seen and points for the closed waters, districts, and sections can be downloaded.

Please do not hesitate to contact the department with any questions or comments regarding these proposed regulatory changes.

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

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<i>ADF&G</i>	<i>225-5195</i>	<i>772-3801</i>		<i>747-6688</i>	<i>465-4250</i>	<i>766-2830</i>	<i>784-3255</i>
<i>AWT</i>	<i>225-5111</i>	<i>772-3983</i>	<i>874-3215</i>	<i>747-3254</i>	<i>465-4000</i>	<i>766-2533</i>	<i>784-3255</i>