



## Advisory Announcement

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## SOUTHEAST ALASKA/YAKUTAT SUMMER TROLL FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

The first Chinook salmon retention period of the general summer commercial troll season will begin at 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 1, to **target approximately 74,800 treaty Chinook salmon**. The retention period will be managed inseason with no predetermined length and will be closed by emergency order.

Under provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and regulations established by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the commercial troll Chinook salmon allocation for the 2022-2023 accounting year (October 11, 2022, through September 30, 2023) is 149,100 treaty Chinook salmon. The summer troll treaty target harvest is calculated by subtracting the sum of the winter treaty harvest, the projected spring treaty harvest, the proportionally adjusted pretreaty Alaska hatchery harvest, and a risk adjustment from the annual troll allocation. The winter troll fishery harvested 24,700 treaty Chinook salmon, while the spring troll fishery harvest estimate is projected to be 14,100 treaty Chinook salmon.

The department estimates that **106,800 treaty Chinook salmon remain to be harvested in the summer** troll fishery, and the initial summer troll retention period will be managed to harvest 70% of that remaining allocation [5 AAC 29.100]. Therefore, the target harvest for the first retention period will be approximately 74,800 treaty Chinook salmon, plus an estimated 3% Alaska hatchery contribution, which is not subject to treaty limits, resulting in a **total harvest target of approximately 77,100 Chinook salmon for the first retention period**. Based on summer harvest rates observed in previous years with similar abundance levels, the observed harvest rates in both commercial troll and sport fisheries this spring, and anticipated troll effort levels similar to recent years, the department estimates the harvest target will be taken in **9 to 10 days**; however, harvest rates can be affected significantly by fluctuations in effort and adverse weather conditions and the length of fishery will be determined accordingly. The remainder of the troll treaty Chinook salmon allocation will be available for harvest in a second retention period following any closure of the coho salmon troll fishery, or no later than August 20, if a coho closure is not necessary.

### 2023 ALLOCATIONS AND PROJECTED TREATY CHINOOK SALMON HARVESTS

Allocations of the all-gear harvest limit for 2023 under Board of Fisheries regulations are as follows:

All-gear Treaty Quota	Purse Seine	Drift Gillnet	Set Gillnet	Total Net	Sport	Troll
201,910	8,680	5,850	1,000	15,530	37,280	149,100

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

Pre-summer Totals	Total Chinook	Alaska Hatchery	Treaty Chinook*
	44,700	5,900	42,300

\*Includes treaty harvest plus a pre-treaty base hatchery harvest and risk adjustment.

Projected summer troll fishery harvest target for 1<sup>st</sup> Chinook salmon retention period:

Treaty Chinook	Alaska Hatchery	Total Chinook
74,800	2,300	77,100

**Trollers are strongly encouraged to contact the troll fishery managers at the Sitka Area Office during the retention period** to report catch and effort information via phone (747-6688; voicemail available after hours, dial \* and extension 237) or email ([grant.hagerman@alaska.gov](mailto:grant.hagerman@alaska.gov) or [mike.vaughn@alaska.gov](mailto:mike.vaughn@alaska.gov)). The fishery closure will be announced by Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) advisory announcement and troll fishery telephone hotline. Closure

announcements will be submitted for broadcast on the United States Coast Guard and National Weather Service marine information broadcasts. Permit holders are advised that ADF&G will not publish a management plan for the 2023 summer troll season; additional information on the summer fishery is available, upon request, from the troll management staff in Sitka.

### CATCHER-PROCESSOR VESSELS

Catcher-processors intending to freeze their catch onboard (**FAS**) during the summer troll fishery must obtain a 2023 Summer Troll Fishery Exemption Permit from the department to legally remove the heads from adipose-fin-clipped salmon [5 AAC 29.140(b) and 5 AAC 29.145(c)]. The permit, available at area offices and on the troll fishery website, is not valid until signed by a department representative.

Catcher-processors are required 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**.

### 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 from the vessel prior to participating in the summer troll fishery.** Fish tickets for the summer troll fishery must include a record of the 5-digit statistical area and a description of the nearest headland or bay in which the fish were taken [5 AAC 39.130(c)(8)]. If multiple areas were fished, the percentage of harvest by area should be included in the statistical area worksheet. **Processors are required to submit troll tickets to the Sitka ADF&G office within seven days after the fish are offloaded from the vessel.**

### TERMINAL HARVEST AREAS

Retention of Chinook salmon 28 inches and greater is permitted as outlined in Terminal Harvest Area (THA) advisory announcements for the following areas, unless closed by emergency order:

The **Herring Bay THA** (101-40) will be open to troll gear for retention of all salmon species from July 1 through August 30 [5 AAC 33.369]. The **Anita Bay THA** (107-35) will be open to troll gear for retention of all salmon species from July 1 through July 15 and after the conclusion of cost recovery through November 10 [5 AAC 33.383]. The **Port Saint Nicholas THA** (103-63) is open to troll gear for retention of all salmon species through July 31. The **Deep Inlet THA** (113-38) will be open to troll gear through September 20 for retention of all salmon species and will follow the gear rotational schedule announced in the Deep Inlet advisory announcement [5 AAC 33.376].

The **Port Armstrong** (109-11), **Crawfish Inlet** (113-33), **Thomas Bay** (110-12), **Mist Cove** (109-13), and **Hidden Falls** (112-22) **THAs** will close to retention of Chinook salmon in the troll fishery whenever the general summer Chinook salmon retention periods are closed.

From 12:01 a.m., July 1, through 12:00 noon, July 15, the **Neets Bay THA** (101-95) will be open to troll gear west of the closed waters at the head of the bay and east of the longitude of Chin Point. **During the first summer troll Chinook salmon retention period, retention and possession of Chinook salmon in the THA is prohibited between the longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island and the longitude of Chin Point.** Trollers may not retain or possess Chinook salmon if fishing the waters between Chin Point and Bug Island but may transit through those waters to offload Chinook salmon harvest if gear is not deployed. The waters of the Neets Bay THA east of the Chin Point line and west of the Bug Island line will be open to troll gear from 12:00 noon, July 15, until closed by emergency order.

The **Silver Bay THA** (113-35) is open to troll gear for retention of all salmon species through July 30; **retention of Chinook salmon 26 inches and greater is permitted through July 30, unless closed by emergency order.** Permit holders must offload all Chinook salmon that are less than 28 inches prior to fishing in areas where retention of Chinook salmon less than 28 inches is prohibited. The waters of Bear Cove remain closed to commercial salmon fishing with troll gear, as described in the advisory announcement issued June 7.

**During the first Chinook salmon retention period of summer, all waters of the Thomas Bay THA will be open to troll gear during periods that the purse seine fishery is closed.** Following the closure of the first retention period, waters open to troll gear will follow those described in the Thomas Bay advisory announcement issued April 12.

**DISTRICTS 1 and 8 CHINOOK SALMON CLOSURES**

In addition to regional troll closures defined under 5 AAC 29.100 and 5 AAC 29.150, Chinook salmon closures in the Neets Bay THA, and summer seasonal regulatory troll restrictions near Ketchikan [5 AAC 29.100(d)] and Petersburg/Wrangell [5 AAC 29.150(i)], supplemental Chinook salmon restrictions for District 1 and District 8 are implemented by emergency order as follows:

- 1) In the waters of Section 1-E, north of a line from Indian Point at 55°36.85' N lat, 131°42.00' W long to Mike Point at 55°37.38' N lat, 131°52.90' W long, Chinook salmon may not be retained or in possession during the first general summer troll Chinook salmon retention period.
- 2) In the waters of Section 1-F, south of a line from Lucky Point 55°12.62' N lat, 131°15.92' W long to Middy Point at 55°10.15' N lat, 131°19.60' W long, and waters north of the latitude of Beaver Point at 55°05.22' N lat, 131°14.57' W long, and north of a line from Point Rosen at 55°04.70' N lat, 131°10.82' W long to Quadra Point at 55°05.17' N lat, 130°59.05' W long, and in southeast Behm Canal south of a line from a point at 55°11.89' N lat, 131°05.04' W long, located on Point Sykes to a point at 55°12.22' N lat, 131°05.70' W long, located approximately 0.5 nautical miles (nmi) northwest of Point Sykes, to Point Alava at 55°11.63' N lat, 131°10.70' W long, Chinook salmon may not be retained or in possession during the first general summer troll Chinook salmon retention period.
- 3) The waters of District 8 are closed to Chinook salmon retention and possession during the first general summer troll Chinook salmon retention period.

**SITUK RIVER CHINOOK SALMON CLOSURE**

In the Yakutat area, waters near the mouth of the Situk River will be closed by emergency order to the harvest of Chinook salmon by troll gear effective July 1 [5 AAC 30.365(4)(B)]. These same waters are closed to retention of all salmon from August 7–September 20 [5 AAC 29.100(i)(2)]. The Situk River is managed for a biological escapement goal (BEG) of 450 to 1,050 large Chinook salmon. The 2023 preseason total run forecast is 450 large Chinook salmon, with a standard error of 140 fish. The inriver run goal was not achieved in 2010–2012, 2015–2016, or 2018. If the run comes back as projected, the BEG will be achieved; however, inriver observations indicate the run is below the forecast, and actions in the troll fishery are essential to pass Chinook salmon and ensure adequate levels of escapement.

A portion of statistical area 181-60 south of Yakutat Bay, will close by emergency order to Chinook salmon retention by troll gear beginning at 12:01 a.m., July 1, in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the seaward limit of the 3-nmi territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59°30.49' N lat, 139°46.58' W long (Ocean Cape) and intersecting the 3-nmi limit at 59°28.65' N lat, 139°51.17' W long 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 at 59°19.14' N lat, 139°24.83' W long.

**NORTHERN LYNN CANAL/CHILKAT INLET CLOSURE**

In addition to troll restrictions in effect for Section 15-B under 5 AAC 29.100(g), the waters of Section 15-A (North Lynn Canal and Chilkat Inlet) are also closed to commercial troll gear for the summer season, July 1 through September 30. This closure is set under emergency order authority to protect mature Chinook salmon returning to the Chilkat River.

**FEDERAL FISHERIES PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

Vessels trolling for salmon in federal waters of the EEZ in the Gulf of Alaska that retain federal groundfish bycatch must have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) endorsed for troll gear. FFPs are not required to retain lingcod or black, blue, or dark rockfish as these species are not managed under the Federal Management Plan. For information on FFP requirements and bycatch allowances in federal waters contact NOAA Fisheries at (907) 586-7225 (Juneau), (907) 747-6940 (Sitka), (907) 772-2285 (Petersburg), or (907) 247-5804 (Ketchikan).

The Emergency Orders corresponding with this announcement are 1S1823, 1E1623–1E1823.

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

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<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Hoonah</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADF&amp;G</i>	225-5195	772-3801	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	747-3254	465-4000		945-3620	
<i>Troll Hotline</i>	225-6870		747-8765	465-8765			

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