



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 30, 2023

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WEST CRAWFISH INLET SALMON PURSE SEINE FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

The following area will be open to purse seining **from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday of each week from Thursday, August 31, through Saturday, September 23, 2023:**

West Crawfish Inlet: will be open north and east of a line from 56°48.74' N lat, 135°11.93' W long to 56°48.35' N lat, 135°11.66' W long with the following restrictions:

Cedar Pass: will be closed south of 56°48.08' N lat;

Shamrock Bay salmon stream: no restrictions will be in effect for the Lake Ekaterina outlet stream (all freshwaters and stream channels remain closed).

West Crawfish Inlet unnamed salmon streams: no restrictions will be in effect for the two unnamed salmon streams located at 56°48.33' N lat, 135°10.81' W long and 56°50.22' N lat, 135°12.07' W long (all freshwaters and stream channels remain closed).

Crawfish Inlet Terminal Harvest Area (THA): The Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) has forecasted a run of 867,000 chum salmon to the Crawfish Inlet THA. Through August 26, an estimated 334,000 chum salmon have been harvested in the cost recovery fishery. To date, approximately 152,000 chum salmon have been harvested in the common property seine and troll fisheries. To minimize potential straying of hatchery produced chum salmon and maintain quality, the department is opening a small portion of West Crawfish Inlet to common property purse seine fishing. This area should have a minimal impact on wild stock salmon returning to West Crawfish Inlet as wild stock pink and chum salmon are typically in the stream based on normal run timing and observations from recent aerial surveys of the area. **It is important for seine vessels to correctly report harvest location during these openings: West Crawfish Inlet is statistical area 113-32.**

Chinook Salmon Landing Restrictions: Chinook salmon 28 inches or greater in length may NOT be retained and Chinook salmon less than 28 inches may be retained but not sold.

When under nonretention of Chinook salmon 28 inches or larger, purse seine fishermen are encouraged to quickly release Chinook salmon in a manner that minimizes mortality. If Chinook salmon greater than 28 inches (large) are retained, the fisherman is in violation and may be issued a citation. Retained large Chinook salmon will be donated, and the fisherman may be subject to the cost associated with processing the fish for donation. On the fish ticket, the number and weight of the fish must be recorded and the disposition code "86-Donated" must be used.

Fishermen and processors are reminded that all salmon, including steelhead, commercially harvested but retained for personal use and not sold, must be reported on fish tickets at the time of delivery.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1S7823.

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

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