
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Date: April 1, 2014

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Time: 4:30 p.m.

2014 SOUTHEAST ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON QUOTA

Sitka. . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that under Chinook salmon management provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST), the 2014 abundance index (AI) for Southeast Alaska has been calculated to be 2.57, which results in an all-gear harvest quota of 439,400 treaty Chinook (non-Alaska-hatchery-produced Chinook). This all-gear abundance-based quota represents an increase of 263,400 fish when compared with last year's preseason quota of 176,000 fish, at an AI of 1.20. The preseason troll treaty harvest allocation for 2014 is 325,411 Chinook, an increase of 195,549 fish when compared with last year's preseason troll allocation of 129,862 fish.

The all-gear Chinook salmon quota is allocated among commercial and sport fisheries according to management plans established in regulation by the Alaska Board of Fisheries [5 AAC 29.060(b) and 47.055]. Most Chinook salmon produced from Alaska hatcheries are not factored into the AI and may be harvested in addition to the treaty limit.

The allocations to fisheries for 2014 under the regulatory management plan are as follows:

2014 Treaty Chinook Salmon Allocations	Number of Chinook Salmon
All-gear treaty quota	439,400
Purse seine (4.3% of all-gear)	18,894
Drift gillnet (2.9% of all-gear)	12,743
Set gillnet (1,000)	1,000
Total net gear allocation	32,637
Troll (80% after net gear subtracted)	325,411
Sport (20% after net gear subtracted)	81,353

The summer commercial troll quota is calculated by subtracting the treaty Chinook salmon harvested in the winter and spring troll fisheries from the annual troll treaty allocation. The winter fishery, which is currently in progress, is managed to not exceed the guideline harvest level of 45,000 treaty Chinook.

Most spring troll fisheries target Alaska-hatchery-produced Chinook salmon, though treaty Chinook are also harvested. While there is no overall ceiling on the number of Chinook harvested in the spring fisheries, fisheries are managed to limit the harvest of treaty Chinook, according to specific guidelines. Since spring fisheries will be in progress through June 30, preliminary harvest estimates for treaty Chinook in the spring fisheries will not be determined until late June.

The summer fishery will be managed to target the harvest of 70% of the total summer quota in the first summer Chinook salmon opening in July, with the remaining quota available for harvest in a second opening, which typically takes place in August. The decision as to whether the first summer opening will be managed in season rather than for a fixed number of days will be announced just prior to the July 1 opening.

The annual all-gear quota for Southeast Alaska is determined by the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission. The quota is based on the forecast of aggregate abundance of Pacific Coast Chinook salmon stocks originating from river systems in the area subject to management under the treaty, which stretches from Cape Suckling, Alaska to Cape Falcon, Oregon. The actual returns of Chinook salmon to a number of river systems in 2013, especially to portions of the Columbia River, were far in excess of the forecasted levels. Forecasts for large Chinook abundance from those systems in 2014 are reflected in this year's increased harvest quota.

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

Troll fishery information can be found at:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon>

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=news.main>

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