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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
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Sitka Area Office  
304 Lake Street, Rm. 103  
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Time: 2:30 p.m.

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#### **SOUTHEAST ALASKA DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the opening of the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fishery, during the times and in the areas listed below, beginning on Sunday, June 15, 2014.

**Section 1-B:** will be open from 12:01 p.m., Sunday, June 15, through 12:00 noon, Thursday, June 19, with the following restriction:

**Pearse and Portland Canals:** will be closed north of the latitude of Akeku Point located at the southern entrance of Edwards Passage.

**District 6:** will be open from 12:01 p.m., Monday, June 16, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, June 18, with the following restriction:

**Section 6-D:** will be closed north and east of a line from Mariposa Rock Buoy to the northernmost tip of Point Harrington, to a point on Etolin Island at 56°09.60' N. latitude, 132°42.70' W. longitude, to the southernmost tip of Point Stanhope and south of a line from Point Stanhope to Luck Point.

**District 8:** will be open from 12:01 p.m., Monday, June 16, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, June 18, with the following restrictions:

**Frederick Sound:** waters of Frederick Sound will be closed south and west of a line from the District 10 boundary one nautical mile off the Kupreanof Island shoreline to Sukoi Island Light to the southernmost tip of Sukoi Island to Frederick Point and closed south and east of a line from Frederick Point to a point 500 yards north of Jap Creek on the mainland shore at 56°46.63' N. latitude, 132°37.11' W. longitude;

**Stikine River:** waters off the Stikine River will be closed north east of a line from a point east of Blind Slough on Mitkof Island at 56°31.95' N. latitude, 132°40.67' W. longitude to a point on the small island near the eastern entrance of Blind Slough at 56°31.82' N. latitude, 132°40.15' W. longitude to Two Tree Island Light to Neal Point Light to Ancon Point Light, to East Point at 56°22.97' N. latitude, 132°24.26' W. longitude to a point on the Wrangell Island shoreline located at the latitude of East Point.

**Section 11-B:** will be open from 12:01 p.m., Sunday, June 15, through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, June 17, with the following restrictions:

**Taku Inlet:** waters of Taku Inlet will be closed north of the latitude of Jaw Point at 58°16.80' N. latitude;

**Port Snettisham:** waters of Port Snettisham will be closed east of a line from Point Styleman to Point Anmer;

**Gillnet mesh restriction:** maximum allowed mesh size is six inches.

**Section 15-A:** will be open from 12:01 p.m., Sunday, June 15, through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, June 17, in the waters of Lynn Canal west of a line beginning at a point two nautical miles from the western shoreline of Lynn Canal at the latitude of Point Sherman, to Eldred Rock Light, to the southernmost tip of Talsani Island, to the northernmost tip of Talsani Island, to Seduction Point, with the following restrictions:

**Chilkat Inlet:** will be closed north of the latitude of Seduction Point;

**Gillnet mesh restriction:** maximum allowed mesh size is six inches.

**Section 15-C:** will be open from 12:01 p.m., Sunday, June 15, through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, June 17, in those waters within two nautical miles of the western shoreline of Lynn Canal south of the latitude of Danger Point at 58°41.73' N. latitude and in all remaining waters of Section 15-C south of the latitude of Point Bridget at 58°40.73' N. latitude, with the following restriction:

**Gillnet mesh restriction:** maximum allowed mesh size is six inches.

**Section 15-C: (Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area):** will be open from 12:01 p.m., Sunday, June 15, through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, June 17, in those waters within two nautical miles of the western shoreline of Lynn Canal south of the latitude of Danger Point at 58°41.73' N. latitude and from 12:01 p.m., Sunday, June 15, until further notice in those waters of the Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area west of a department marker at the entrance to Boat Harbor.

The District 6 and 8 gillnet opening was delayed one week primarily due to a below average forecast of Stikine River sockeye salmon of 152,000 fish. In addition, the Stikine River Chinook salmon abundance estimate before this week has been too low to allow for directed fishing. The most recent Stikine River large Chinook salmon terminal run projection is 25,000 fish. Because of these projections, fishing time in both districts will start initially for two days. Additionally, Chichagof Pass will be open to gillnet fishing. Management biologists will be on the grounds monitoring catches and will make an announcement via VHF radio at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 18, regarding potential additional fishing time.

Fishermen and tenders are asked to keep Chinook salmon harvested in the Anita Bay THA separate from those harvested in District 8. Separating these harvests will greatly assist in fish accounting purposes in regards to the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

The most recent estimate of large Taku Chinook abundance projects a terminal run of 19,600 fish. The Canadian inriver assessment and commercial fishery has harvested 1,430 fish and the District 11 sport fishery has harvested an estimated 600 fish, which projects to an escapement of 17,570 large Taku Chinook, below the lower bound of the escapement goal range.

**Fishermen are advised that the department is implementing a maximum mesh size restriction of six inches in Districts 11 and 15 [5 AAC 31.331 (d)] to reduce the harvest of Chinook salmon bound for the Taku and Chilkat rivers.**

Chinook salmon less than 28" that are harvested in the commercial drift gillnet fisheries may be retained and sold. Chinook salmon less than 28" in length, and those of Alaska hatchery origin, will not be counted against the Alaskan allocation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty harvest. The department discontinued the use of species code 411 beginning in 2012 to account for small Chinook salmon in drift gillnet fisheries and instead will rely on ADF&G port sampling programs for that purpose. For drift gillnet fisheries, only species code 410 should be used to report Chinook salmon of all sizes. Fish and Game samplers working at the processing facilities will also identify hatchery-reared Chinook salmon so those fish are not counted against the Alaskan share of the harvest.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1S1114.

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

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