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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



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Time: 4:15 p.m.

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#### **SOUTHEAST ALASKA SPRING TROLL FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information concerning the commercial spring troll fishery:

The Terminal Harvest Areas (THA) listed below **will remain open until further notice**:

Nakat Inlet THA (101-11)      Neets Bay THA (101-95)      Anita Bay THA (107-35)  
Port Armstrong THA (109-11)      Hidden Falls THA (112-22)

The spring troll areas listed below will open at 12:01 a.m. of the opening date and close at 11:59 p.m. of the closing date. Openings may be extended if the Alaska hatchery contributions are high.

#### **SCHEDULE OF INITIAL TROLL OPENINGS:**

##### **Ketchikan area:**

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| West Rock (101-21)*            | June 24–25 |
| Ketchikan (101-29)*            | June 19–23 |
| Mountain Point (101-45)*       | June 21–26 |
| Stone Rock Bay (102-09)        | June 21–22 |
| Kendrick Bay (102-10)          | June 23–27 |
| West Clarence Strait (102-50)* | June 19–23 |

\*see “Actions to Conserve Unuk River Chinook Salmon”, pg. 3 of this news release

##### **Wrangell/Prince of Wales area:**

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Bucareli Bay (103-50)        | June 21–23 |
| Sumner Strait (105-41)       | June 21    |
| North Sumner Strait (106-43) | June 21–24 |
| Steamer Point (106-30)       | June 21–25 |
| Snow Pass (106-41)           | June 22–27 |
| Ernest Sound (107-10)        | June 19–25 |
| Chichagof Pass (108-10)      | June 24–26 |
| Craig Point (108-40)         | June 24–26 |

**Chatham Strait area:**

Tebenkof Bay (109-62)\*\*

\*\*possible opening announced June 23, pending wk 25 data results

Frederick Sound (110-31) June 19–25

Chatham Strait (112-12) June 21–27

Northern Chatham Strait (112-16) June 22–25

**Sitka area:**

Western Channel (113-01) June 22

Redoubt Bay (113-30) June 25–26

Biorka (113-31) June 22

Goddard (113-32) June 22–23

Sitka Sound (113-41) June 21–27

Salisbury Sound (113-62) June 25–27

**Pelican area:**

Lisianski Inlet (113-95) June 22–24

Stag Bay (113-97) June 19–25

Port Althorp (114-50) June 22–24

**Icy Strait/North Chatham areas will open June 19–25:**

Hawk Inlet (112-65)

Cross Sound (114-21)

South Passage (114-23)

Homeshore (114-25)

Point Sophia (114-27)

Point Couverden (114-25-01) June 22–25

**Yakutat area:**

Yakutat Bay (183-10) June 25

**FREDERICK SOUND AREA (110-31)**

Beginning June 1, the Frederick Sound area expanded to include those waters of District 10 that are north and west of a line from Wood Point (56°59.75' N. lat., 132°56.95' W. long.) to Beacon Point, excluding waters of Farragut Bay north and east of a line from Bay Point to Grand Point and also excluding those waters of Thomas Bay that are north and east of a line from Point Vandeput (57°01.25' N. lat., 133°00.00' W. long.) to Wood Point.

**DEEP INLET TERMINAL HARVEST AREA (113-38)**

Beginning May 31, the waters of the Deep Inlet THA will be managed on a rotational gear fishing schedule. From May 31 through June 20, the waters of Deep Inlet west of 135°20.75' W. long., will be included in the Sitka Sound spring troll area. **On June 21, all waters of the Deep Inlet THA will be excluded from the Sitka Sound spring troll area for the remainder of season.** A description of THA boundaries and fishing schedules can be found in the Deep Inlet news release issued on April 3. The Deep Inlet THA will be open to troll gear each Saturday from May 31 through October 3.

**For area descriptions see the 2015 Spring Troll Fishery Management Plan or the troll news release issued April 23.**

**RETENTION OF CHINOOK SALMON IN TERMINAL HARVEST AREAS**

The retention of Chinook salmon no less than 26 inches is allowed ONLY in the areas listed in the THA news release issued May 22 [5 AAC 29.140(d)]. Chinook salmon less than 28 inches in length must be offloaded prior to fishing in any other troll fishery area where the size limit is 28 inches or greater. Fishing area descriptions and maps can be found in the 2015 Spring Troll Fishery Management Plan.

## **ACTIONS TO CONSERVE UNUK RIVER CHINOOK SALMON**

The Unuk River Chinook salmon escapement was well below the escapement goal range in 2012 and 2013 and slightly below in 2014. Exploitation rates on this stock were the highest on record during all three years. Escapement is forecast to be at the lower bound of the escapement goal range in 2015. Coded-wire tag recoveries during the past six years indicate that Unuk River Chinook salmon harvest has occurred mainly during June and in some spring troll fishing areas more than others. Efforts to reduce troll fishery impacts on Unuk River Chinook salmon will focus on those spring areas closest to the Unuk River, as well as migration corridors. In response, fishing time in some spring troll areas will be reduced during June. Please refer to the 2015 Spring Troll Management Plan for further details.

### **KENDRICK BAY TERMINAL HARVEST AREA**

The Kendrick Bay Terminal Harvest Area will be open to troll and purse seine gear from June 15 through September 30.

### **SALMON RETENTION BY SPECIES AND ADIPOSE FIN-CLIPPED SALMON**

Coho salmon may be retained and sold beginning June 1. Chum, pink, and sockeye salmon may be retained year-round. The heads of all adipose fin-clipped salmon must remain attached to the fish until the fish are sold [5 AAC 29.140 (b)]. Permit holders who freeze their catch onboard are asked to contact the department prior to fishing so that sampling and fish ticket issues can be discussed. An **Exemption Permit** is required to allow the removal of heads from Chinook salmon harvested in the spring areas prior to delivery.

### **CATCH REPORTING**

**It is extremely important to keep fish caught in different fishery areas separated so that accurate dockside sampling can occur by department personnel.** In order to maximize the harvest of Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon in the spring fisheries, catches must be reported accurately. If more than one area or fishery is fished, or fish are kept for more than one period, each troller and tender is required to keep and report these catches separately on separate fish tickets (5 AAC 29.130). **The fishery name and the fishery area number must be reported on all fish tickets, as well as dates that the fishing trip started and ended.** All fish legally retained in the commercial salmon troll fishery, whether for sale or retained for **personal use** (condition code 95), **must be recorded on a fish ticket.**

### **GROUNDFISH BYCATCH**

Fishermen are reminded that the season for lingcod bycatch opened in the salmon troll fishery on May 16. The lingcod season will remain open through November 30, or until lingcod area allocations are taken, whichever occurs first. All lingcod retained must measure at least 27 inches from tip of snout to the tip of the tail, or 20.5 inches from the front of the dorsal fin to the tip of the tail. For additional information on groundfish bycatch in the salmon troll fishery, refer to the *2015 Spring Troll Fishery Management Plan*, the department news release issued January 2 “*Groundfish Bycatch in the 2015 Commercial Troll Fishery*”, or contact the groundfish staff in Sitka at 907-747-6688.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1S1515.

The *2015 Spring Troll Management Plan*, which includes area maps, is available online and in area offices. The *2015–2018 S.E. Alaska/Yakutat Areas Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations* are now available in area offices.

*The spring troll fishery webpage can be found at:*

[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon\\_trollspring](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon_trollspring)

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

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