
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Date: June 25, 2015

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Time: 4:30 p.m.

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)
Hidden Falls THA (112-22)

The Port Armstrong THA (109-11) will close at 11:59 p.m., June 30.

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.

SCHEDULE OF INITIAL TROLL OPENINGS:

Ketchikan area:

West Rock (101-21)	CLOSED
Ketchikan (101-29)*	June 26–30
Mountain Point (101-45)*	June 28–30
Stone Rock Bay (102-09)	CLOSED
Kendrick Bay (102-10)	June 28–30
West Clarence Strait (102-50)*	June 28–30

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

Wrangell/Prince of Wales area:

Bucareli Bay (103-50)	June 28–30
Sumner Strait (105-41)	CLOSED
North Sumner Strait (106-43)	June 28–30
Steamer Point (106-30)	June 28–30
Snow Pass (106-41)	June 28–30
Ernest Sound (107-10)	June 26–30
Chichagof Pass (108-10)	June 28–30
Craig Point (108-40)	June 28–30

Chatham Strait area:

Tebenkof Bay (109-62)	CLOSED
Frederick Sound (110-31)	June 26–30
Chatham Strait (112-12)	June 28–30
Northern Chatham Strait (112-16)	June 29–30

Sitka area:

Western Channel (113-01)	CLOSED
Redoubt Bay (113-30)	CLOSED
Biorka (113-31)	CLOSED
Goddard (113-32)	June 29–30
Sitka Sound (113-41)	June 28–30
Salisbury Sound (113-62)	June 26–30

Pelican area:

Lisianski Inlet (113-95)	June 26–30
Stag Bay (113-97)	June 26–30
Port Althorp (114-50)	June 26–30

Icy Strait/North Chatham areas will open June 26–30:

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 29–30

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)

On June 21, all waters of the Deep Inlet THA were 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.

RETENTION OF CHINOOK SALMON IN TERMINAL HARVEST AREAS

From May 24 through June 30, 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 opened to troll and purse seine gear June 15, and will remain open through September 30.

SALMON RETENTION BY SPECIES AND ADIPOSE FIN-CLIPPED SALMON

Coho salmon retention began 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 1S1915.

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

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

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Hoonah</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADF&G</i>	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	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	772-3700		747-8765	465-8765			