
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street Room 103
Sitka, Alaska 99835
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Time: 11:45 a.m.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUMMER TROLL FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . .The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that the first Chinook salmon opening of the general summer troll season will begin at 12:01 a.m., July 1. The opening will be managed inseason and closed by emergency order. Through the Pacific Salmon Commission process, Alaska has committed our fisheries management programs within Southeast Alaska to be configured around an assumed draft abundance index (AI) of 1.45 for the 2015 fishing season. Notwithstanding the decision to configure the SEAK fisheries for an assumed AI of 1.45, Alaska does not agree that the draft calibration from which that number was derived is accurate.

LANDING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All spring troll fisheries will be closed by 11:59 p.m., June 30. **All salmon harvested during the spring troll fishery must be offloaded prior to fishing during the summer troll fishery.** In addition to the reporting requirements specified in 5 AAC 39.130, trollers and processors are requested to record a 5-digit statistical area on fish tickets, whenever possible, rather than simply the district where the majority of the fish were caught. **Processors should continue to submit spring troll tickets to the nearest ADF&G office, while summer troll tickets should be submitted to the Sitka ADF&G office within seven days after the fish are offloaded from the vessel.**

CATCHER-PROCESSOR REQUIREMENTS

Catcher-processors intending to freeze their catch onboard during the summer troll fishery must obtain an **Exemption Permit** from the Department in order to legally remove the heads from adipose fin-clipped salmon [5 AAC 29.145(c)]. The permit is available at area offices and on the troll fishery website. Vessel owners are reminded to complete and submit a **separate fish ticket for each week** (Sunday through Saturday) and are encouraged to contact the troll managers periodically with catch information. Fish tickets must be submitted to the department within seven days after the fish are offloaded from the vessel.

TERMINAL HARVEST AREAS

As of July 1, only Chinook which are 28 inches or greater may be retained in the troll fishery, with the exception of the Herring Bay Terminal Harvest Area (THA) and the Silver Bay Special Harvest Area (SHA), where Chinook salmon 26 inches and greater may be retained beginning July 1. The **Herring Bay THA** will be open to troll gear from July 1 through August 30 (5 AAC 33.369). The **Silver Bay SHA** will be open to troll gear from July 1–30 (5 AAC 33.375). Please refer to news releases issued on June 25 for more detailed information. The **Neets Bay THA** will continue to be open to troll gear. Trollers may target Neets Bay chum salmon outside the THA in West Behm Canal when those waters are open to trolling. Please refer to the 2015 Summer Troll Fishery Management Plan for more details. The **Port Armstrong THA** will close to trolling at 11:59 p.m., June 30.

SITUK RIVER CHINOOK SALMON RETENTION CLOSURE

In the **Yakutat area**, waters near the mouth of the **Situk River will be closed to the harvest of Chinook salmon by troll gear effective July 1**. The current inseason projection of 619 large Chinook is within the escapement goal range of 451–730 large fish. This projection calls a closure to ensure escapement goals are met, as described in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. A portion of District 181 south of Yakutat Bay, in State waters, will close to Chinook salmon retention by troll gear beginning at 12:01 a.m., July 1 in the following area:

“...in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the seaward limit of the three-nautical-mile territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59°32.49' N lat., 139°51.79' W. long. (Ocean Cape) and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at 59°39.69' N. lat., 139°55.49' W. long., and on the south by a line extending seaward from 59°21.92' N. lat., 139°23.15' W. long., and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at 59°19.90' N. lat., 139°26.39' W. long.”

As a clarification, trolling will be allowed within this area but retention of Chinook salmon will be prohibited until further notice. If Chinook salmon escapements to the Situk River improve significantly, the need for this closure will be re-evaluated.

CLOSED WATERS (in addition to those listed in 5 AAC 29.150)

The commercial troll fishery in Chilkat Inlet north of an ADF&G regulatory marker immediately north of Seduction Point is closed July 1 through July 15. This closure is needed to protect mature Chinook salmon returning to the Chilkat River [5 AAC 33.384(e)(1)].

FEDERAL FISHERIES PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Vessels trolling for salmon in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the Gulf of Alaska that retain groundfish bycatch must have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) endorsed for troll gear. Contact NMFS at 907-586-7202 or 800-304-4846 for more information. **Any troll vessels that do not have an FFP, who do fish in the EEZ and do catch groundfish may not retain those fish and they must be released before being brought onboard the vessel.**

The 2015 Summer Troll Fishery Management Plan is available at all regional ADF&G offices and on the troll website at:

The summer troll fishery webpage can be found at:

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon_managementplans.

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

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983		747-3254	465-4000		945-3620	
Troll Hotline	225-6870	772-3700		747-8765	465-8765			