ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS RELEASE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner Jeff Regnart, Director



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SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUMMER TROLL CHINOOK SALMON FISHERY UPDATE

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced the following information concerning the 2015 summer troll fishery:

Prior to the summer opening, there was a high degree of uncertainty in the Chinook salmon abundance and CPUE that would be realized in the summer fishery based on an abundance index (AI) of 1.45. The lack of confidence expressed by Pacific Salmon Commission scientists about observed Chinook abundance in the winter and spring fisheries, preseason forecasts, anomalously high water temperatures, and highly variable spring catches were factors contributing to the uncertainty.

Although preliminary, fish tickets received to date indicate that approximately 150,000 Chinook salmon were harvested during the 8-day July retention period. This harvest fulfills the summer troll Chinook allocation and there will not be a second troll Chinook retention period this summer. The next opportunity for trollers to retain Chinook, outside of designated Terminal Harvest Areas, will begin on October 11, 2015, when the winter troll fishery and new Chinook accounting year under the Pacific Salmon Treaty begins.

As in past years, an assessment of coho salmon run strength will be made during the first week of August and a decision on the need for a troll fishery closure will be made at that time.

The 2015 Summer Troll Management Plan, which includes area maps, is available online and in area offices.

The summer troll fishery webpage can be found at: <u>http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon_managementplans</u>

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

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