
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
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Date: August 13, 2015
Time: 2:15 p.m.

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, August 16, 2015:

Section 1-B: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 16, through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, August 18**, 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., Sunday, August 16, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, August 19**, with the following restriction:

Section 6-D: will be closed.

District 8: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 16, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, August 19**, 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;

Stikine River: waters off the Stikine River will be closed west of a line from Babbler Point to Hour Point, north of the Wrangell Island shoreline from Hour Point to Point Highfield, north and east of a line from Point Highfield to the southern end of Liesnoi Island to the southern end of Greys Island to the small island near the eastern entrance to Blind Slough to the nearest point of Mitkof Island, and south and east of a line from the prominent point of Mitkof Island nearest Coney Island to the northern end of Coney Island to a point 500 yards north of Jap Creek on the mainland shore.

Section 11-B: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Monday, August 17, through 12:00 noon, Thursday, August 20**, with the following restrictions:

Port Snettisham: will be closed east of a line from Sharp Point at 58°00.66' N. latitude, 133°47.15' W. longitude to Sentinel Point at 57°59.74' N. latitude, 133°45.62' W. longitude;

Limestone Inlet: will be closed.

Section 11-C: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Monday, August 17, through 12:00 noon, Thursday, August 20.**

Section 15-A: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Monday, August 17, through 12:00 noon, Thursday, August 20**, in the waters of Lynn Canal with the following restriction:

Chilkat Inlet: will be closed north of the latitude of the northernmost tip of Kochu Island at 59°09.03' N. latitude.

Section 15-C: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Monday, August 17, through 12:00 noon, Thursday, August 20.**

Section 15-C: (Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area THA) **will close with the remainder of the district at 12:00 noon, Thursday, August 20.**

The Section 1-B drift gillnet fishery is now being managed according to the District One Pink Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 33.360). The amount of fishing time for the District 1 purse seine fishery is uncertain in Statistical Week 34. Therefore, the Tree Point drift gillnet fishery will be initially limited two days of fishing time. Fishing time at Tree Point will be adjusted according to the status of the District 1 purse seine fishery when additional information is available.

Regulation adopted during the 2015 BOF (described in 5 AAC 33.359) opens a portion of Section 6-D to gillnet fishing when purse seine fishing occurs in this area. A separate news release will be issued in the event that this area is opened. Since notice may be short, participants in the gillnet fishery are advised to pay close attention to news releases issued during the pink salmon management period.

Due to the Golden North Salmon Derby, District 11 and District 15 gillnet openings will be delayed until Monday, August 17.

Current sockeye salmon escapement through the Speel Lake weir is approximately 2,500 fish - more than half the lower bound of the escapement goal range of 4,000 fish. Should adequate numbers of fish pass the weir to allow for an area extension into the Speel Arm SHA, department personnel will be prepared to announce an extension on the grounds via VHF radio. A minimum of six hours of notice will be provided for any extension to allow time for fishermen in the district to travel to the area.

King salmon less than 28" that are harvested in the commercial drift gillnet fisheries may be retained and sold. King salmon less than 28" in length, and those of Alaska hatchery origin, will not be counted against the Alaska allocation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty harvest. Therefore, fishermen and tenders are asked to keep king salmon harvested in Terminal Hatchery Areas separate from those harvested in District 6 and 8. Separating these harvests will greatly assist in fish accounting purposes in regards to the Pacific Salmon Treaty. ADF&G samplers working at the processing facilities will also identify hatchery-reared king salmon so those fish are not counted against the Alaska share of the harvest.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1S5115.

Southeast Alaska Drift Gillnet Harvest Estimates
 Statistical Week 33 (August 9 through 15)
 Preliminary Estimates Compiled August 13, 2015

District	NUMBER OF SALMON						Boats	Days Open
	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total		
Section 1-B	30	3,000	1,500	15,000	20,000	39,530	45	4
District 6	20	7,000	3,500	21,000	15,000	46,520	56	3
District 8	10	600	700	1,000	5,000	7,310	27	3
District 11	20	5,500	1,000	17,000	3,000	26,520	25	4
Deep Inlet THA	0	0	0	1,100	26,000	27,100	30	2
District 15	0	18,300	260	32,700	6,500	57,760	75	4
Total	80	34,400	6,960	87,800	75,500	204,740		

District	FISH PER BOAT FOR THE PERIOD					
	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Section 1-B	1	67	33	333	444	878
District 6	0	125	63	375	268	831
District 8	0	22	26	37	185	271
District 11	1	220	40	680	120	1,061
Deep Inlet THA	0	0	0	37	867	903
District 15	0	244	3	436	87	770

Nakat Inlet THA: 210,000 chum salmon harvested.
 Anita Bay THA: 140,000 chum and 9,000 king salmon.

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

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
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AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000		945-3620	
Gillnet Hotline	225-6870	772-3700			465-8905	766-2830		