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



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Wrangell Area Office
215 Front Street
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SOUTHEAST ALASKA DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Wrangell. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the first opening of the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fishery beginning Monday, May 2, 2016. This opening is directed at returns of Stikine River king salmon and will occur in the following area:

District 8: will be open from 8:00 a.m., Monday, May 2, through 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 3, with the following restrictions:

Stikine River: waters off the Stikine River will be closed west of a line from Babler 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;

Beacon Point/Point Frederick Area: 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 Frederick Point;

Bear Creek (Eastern Mitkof Island): waters of Frederick Sound will be closed south of 56°42.91' N. latitude and west of 132°41.38' W. longitude;

Wrangell Harbor Area: waters off Wrangell Island will be closed within one-quarter mile of the shoreline on the western side of Wrangell Island north of the latitude of Cemetery Point.

Gillnet Gear Restrictions: The gear allowed will be the standard length and depth (300 fathoms and 60 meshes); **the minimum mesh size is 7 inches.**

Drift gillnet fishermen are asked to notify ADF&G management biologists monitoring the fishery of any incidents of steelhead catch and must record on fish tickets all steelhead that are retained.

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 salmon harvested in Terminal Hatchery Areas separate from those harvested in District 8 and to make landings available for sampling by ADF&G samplers. Separating harvests and sampling fish will assist in fish accounting purposes in regards to the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

A directed king salmon troll fishery will also occur in District 8 and will be announced in a separate news release.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1S0216.

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

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