
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: 12:00 p.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 commercial troll season will begin at 12:01 a.m., July 1 to **target approximately 122,000 treaty** Chinook salmon. The opening will be managed inseason with no pre-determined length and will be closed by emergency order.

Under provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the commercial troll Chinook salmon allocation for the 2015-2016 accounting year (October 11, 2015 through September 30, 2016) is 263,197 treaty Chinook. The summer commercial troll quota is calculated by subtracting the treaty Chinook harvested in the winter and spring troll fisheries from the annual troll treaty allocation. The winter troll fishery harvested 50,392 treaty Chinook, while the spring troll fishery harvest estimate is projected to be 33,800 treaty Chinook.

The department estimates that 174,300 **treaty Chinook salmon remain to be harvested in the summer troll fishery** and the initial summer troll opening will be managed to harvest 70% of that remainder (5 AAC 29.100). Therefore, the target harvest for the first opening will be approximately 122,000 treaty Chinook, plus an estimated 3% Alaska hatchery contribution which is not subject to treaty limits, resulting in a **total harvest target of approximately 125,800 fish for the first opening**. Based on catch rates observed in past years with high abundance levels, the department estimates the harvest target will be taken in 6 to 7 days. However, actual harvest and catch rates can be affected significantly by the level of effort as well as weather conditions. The remaining treaty Chinook salmon quota will be available for harvest in a second opening following any closure of the coho salmon troll fishery, or no later than August 20 if a coho closure is not necessary.

Trollers are strongly encouraged to contact the troll fishery managers during the opening to report catch and effort information. Fishermen are reminded to listen to the daily U.S. Coast Guard marine information broadcasts and NOAA/National Weather Service weather broadcasts or stay in close contact with the department or processors for fishery updates or closure announcements.

2016 ALLOCATIONS AND PROJECTED TREATY CHINOOK SALMON HARVESTS

Allocations of the all-gear harvest quota for 2014 under Board of Fisheries regulations are as follows:

All-gear Treaty Quota	Purse Seine	Drift Gillnet	Set Gillnet	Total Net	Sport	Troll
355,600	15,291	11,312	1,000	26,603	65,799	263,197

Estimated troll fishery harvests of treaty Chinook from the winter and spring troll fisheries are:

Pre-summer Totals	Total	Alaska Hatchery	Treaty Chinook
	95,369	11,190	84,179

Projected summer troll fishery harvest target for 1st Chinook retention period:

Treaty Chinook	Alaska Hatchery	Total Chinook
122,023	3,774	125,797

FAS VESSELS

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 per 5 AAC 29.140(b) and 5AAC 29.145(c). The permit is available at area offices and on the troll fishery website.

Catcher-processor vessel owners (FAS) 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.

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.**

TERMINAL HARVEST AREAS

Retention of Chinook salmon 28" and greater will be allowed in the following areas as follows:

The **Herring Bay THA** will be open to troll gear for retention of all salmon species from July 1 through August 30 (5 AAC 33.369). The **Silver Bay SHA** will open to troll gear from July 1–30 for retention of all salmon species (5 AAC 33.375). The **Anita Bay THA** will be open to troll gear for retention of all species through November 10 (5 AAC 33.383). The **Port Armstrong SHA** will remain open to troll gear for retention of all species until closed by emergency order (5 AAC 40.081). The **Deep Inlet THA** will be open to troll gear each Saturday through October 1 for retention of all species (5 AAC 33.376).

The Nakat Inlet, Neets Bay and Hidden Falls THAs will close to Chinook retention whenever the first Chinook retention period closes.

From Friday, July 1, through Monday, July 4, the Neets Bay THA will be open for trolling in those waters of Neets Bay west of the Mid-bay Line from 55°47.62' N. latitude, 131°34.50' W. longitude, on the northern shore of Neets Bay, to 55°46.83' N. latitude, 131°34.36' W. longitude, on the southern shore of Neets Bay. From Tuesday, July 5, until closed by emergency order, the Neets Bay THA will be open for trolling in those waters of Neets Bay west of the easternmost tip of Bug Island. The Neets Bay THA east of Bug Island will close to the harvest of salmon by all gear groups at 11:59 p.m., Monday, July 4, so that cost recovery and brood stock collection can take place. If openings can be scheduled, they will be announced by News Release once cost recovery and broodstock needs have been met.

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 in accordance with the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. The Situk River is managed for a biological escapement goal (BEG) of 450 to 1,050 large Chinook salmon. The 2016 preseason forecast is for a total return of 684 large Chinook salmon. The inriver run goal was not achieved in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2015, and restrictive management measures were deemed necessary. The 2016 preseason forecast suggests that the Situk River Chinook salmon run will again fall short of the lower bound of the BEG if normal fisheries are prosecuted. Conservation actions are necessary to ensure adequate levels of escapement. **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.”

CHILKAT INLET 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 14. 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 2016 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			747-8765				