
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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SOUTHEAST ALASKA/YAKUTAT SPRING TROLL FISHERY

Sitka . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information concerning the commercial spring troll fishery:

Preseason forecasts for wild Chinook salmon production in Southeast Alaska are at an all-time low. Typically, in the Taku and Stikine rivers, nearly half the run has entered the river by the end of the third week of May; however, record low numbers of Chinook salmon are being seen inriver this year. All indications from the stock assessment projects show that the Taku and Stikine Chinook salmon runs will be well below the preseason forecasts and ultimately, below the lower bound of each river's escapement goal. The lower bounds of the escapement goals for Taku and Stikine Chinook salmon are 19,000 and 14,000 fish, respectively. Historically, production from these two rivers accounts for 80% of the Southeast Alaska wild Chinook salmon abundance and correlates strongly with production throughout the region, suggesting production in other Southeast Alaska Chinook salmon stocks will also be extremely poor.

In addition to these poor inriver indicators, the Alaska hatchery component of the spring troll harvest to date has been low. The 2017 cumulative Alaska hatchery percentage of the spring harvest through statistical week 21 is 14%. This compares to 5-year and 10-year averages for the same time period of 24% and 27%, respectively.

With Southeast Alaska wild stock inseason assessments forecasting record low runs and Alaska hatchery contributions to spring troll fisheries well below recent and long term averages, **all 2017 spring troll Chinook and chum salmon fisheries will close until further notice beginning Monday, May 29.** Fishery openings announced in the spring troll news release May 19 are still in effect, with the last spring areas closing at 11:59 p.m., Sunday, May 28. **Terminal harvest areas will remain open to troll gear as follows:**

The following terminal harvest areas (THA) **will remain open until further notice:**

Neets Bay THA (101-95), Anita Bay THA (107-35), Port Armstrong THA (109-11), and Hidden Falls THA (112-22).

DEEP INLET TERMINAL HARVEST AREA (113-38)

From May 28 through June 17, the waters of Deep Inlet west of 135°20.75' W. long., are open continuously to troll gear as part of the THA, with waters east of 135°20.75' W. long., open to troll gear following the rotational schedule, with openings for troll gear on Saturdays. On June 18, all waters of the Deep Inlet THA will follow the rotational schedule.

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