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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



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Sitka Area Office  
304 Lake Street, Room 103  
Sitka, AK 99835  
Date: August 3, 2017  
Time: 2:45 p.m.

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#### **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 6, 2017.

Section 1-B: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 6, through 12:00 noon, Thursday, August 10**, with the following restriction:

Pearse and Portland Canals: will be closed north of Akeku Point at 54°50.03' N. latitude at the southern entrance of Edwards Passage.

District 6: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 6, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, August 9**, with the following restrictions:

Section 6-D: **will be closed**;

Salmon Bay: will be closed west of a line from Point Colpoys to Rookery Island Light to the westernmost tip of Fire Island to a point on Prince of Wales Island at the latitude of the westernmost tip of Fire Island.

District 8: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 6, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, August 9**, 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;

Kunk Creek: waters of Kunk Creek will be closed west of a line extending due south from a point on Etolin Island at 56°17.82' N. latitude, 132°22.98' W. longitude, to the District 7/8 boundary line in Zimovia Strait.

Section 11-B: will be open **from 12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 6, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, August 9**, with the following restrictions:

Limestone Inlet: will be closed east of a line from a point on the north shore at 58°02.09' N. latitude, 133°58.87' W. longitude, to a point on the south shore at 58°01.92' N. latitude, 133°58.87' W. longitude (inside markers);

Port Snettisham: will be closed east of a line from Point Styleman at 57°58.42' N. latitude, 133°53.93' W. longitude to Point Anmer at 57°56.07' N. latitude, 133°51.05' W. longitude;

Gillnet mesh restriction: minimum allowed mesh size is six inches south of the latitude of Circle Point at 58°07.76' N. latitude.

Section 11-C: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 6, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, August 9**.

Section 15-A: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 6, through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, August 8**, in the waters of Lynn Canal west of a line beginning at a point two nautical miles from the western shoreline of Lynn Canal at the latitude of Sherman Rock, to Eldred Rock Light, to the southernmost tip of Talsani Island, to the northernmost tip of Talsani Island, to Seduction Point, with the following restriction:

Chilkat Inlet: will be closed **north of a line from Glacier Point at 59°06.02' N. latitude, 135°22.97' W. longitude to the westernmost tip of Twin Coves at 59°06.58' N. latitude, 135°21.70' W. longitude.**

Section 15-C: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 6, through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, August 8**, in those waters within one nautical mile of the western shoreline of Lynn Canal south of the latitude of **Lance Point at 58°43.95' N. latitude** and in all remaining waters of Section 15-C south of the latitude of Point Bridget at 58°40.73' N. latitude.

Section 15-C: (Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area): will remain open until further notice in those waters within one nautical mile of the western shoreline of Lynn Canal south of the latitude of **Lance Point at 58°43.95' N. latitude** and north of the latitude of a point located approximately 2.1 nautical miles north of Point Whidbey at 58°36.96' N. latitude.

The Section 1-B drift gillnet fishery is now being managed according to the District One Pink Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 33.360). It is expected that the District 1 purse seine fishery will be given at least two days of fishing time during statistical week 32. Therefore, the Tree Point drift gillnet fishery will be allowed at least four days of fishing time. If the District 1 purse seine fishery is open for more than two days during statistical week 32, the fishing time at Tree Point will be extended accordingly.

**Section 6-D is closed after the first Saturday in August and before the first Sunday in September except as provided for in 5 AAC 33.359. This regulation opens a portion of Section 6-D to the drift gillnet fishery when the purse seine fishery is opened in that area. A separate news release will be issued in the event that portion of 6-D is opened and notice will likely be very short.**

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1S4917.

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Southeast Alaska Drift Gillnet Harvest Estimates  
Statistical Week 31 (July 30 through August 5)  
Preliminary Estimates Compiled August 3, 2017

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| NUMBER OF SALMON |      |         |       |        |         |         |       | Days |
|------------------|------|---------|-------|--------|---------|---------|-------|------|
| District         | King | Sockeye | Coho  | Pink   | Chum    | Total   | Boats | Open |
| District 1       | 60   | 3,000   | 1,200 | 28,000 | 13,000  | 45,260  | 35    | 4    |
| District 6       | 100  | 3,000   | 1,500 | 22,000 | 11,000  | 37,600  | 51    | 2    |
| District 8       | 100  | 500     | 400   | 5,000  | 20,000  | 26,000  | 53    | 2    |
| District 11      | 40   | 18,500  | 2,000 | 15,000 | 40,000  | 75,540  | 85    | 4    |
| District 15      | 20   | 4,500   | 40    | 17,000 | 41,500  | 63,060  | 65    | 2    |
| Total            | 320  | 29,500  | 5,140 | 87,000 | 125,500 | 247,460 |       |      |

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| FISH PER BOAT FOR THE PERIOD |      |         |      |      |      |       |
|------------------------------|------|---------|------|------|------|-------|
| District                     | King | Sockeye | Coho | Pink | Chum | Total |
| District 1                   | 2    | 86      | 34   | 800  | 371  | 1,293 |
| District 6                   | 2    | 59      | 29   | 431  | 216  | 737   |
| District 8                   | 2    | 9       | 8    | 94   | 377  | 491   |
| District 11                  | 0    | 218     | 24   | 176  | 471  | 889   |
| District 15                  | 0    | 69      | 1    | 262  | 638  | 970   |

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Nakat Inlet THA: 105,000 chum salmon to date.

Anita Bay THA: 8,700 king and 120,000 chum salmon to date.

Deep Inlet THA: 1,440 king and 88,000 chum salmon to date.

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

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