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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
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Sitka Area Office  
304 Lake Street, Room 103  
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Date: August 17, 2017  
Time: 3:00 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 20, 2017.

Section 1-B: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 20, through 12:00 noon, Thursday, August 24**, 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 20, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, August 23**, with the following restriction:

Section 6-D: will be closed.

District 8: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 20, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, August 23**, 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., Sunday, August 20, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, August 23**, with the following restrictions:

Limestone Inlet: will be closed;

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.

**The 6-inch minimum mesh size restriction south of Circle Point in Section 11-B has been removed.**

Section 15-A: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 20, through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, August 22, in Chilkat Inlet and in the waters of Lynn Canal south of the latitude of Seduction Point at 59°04.93' N. latitude**, 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 20, through 12:00 noon, Monday, August 21, in those 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 (THA): **the inside waters of the Boat Harbor THA west of the regulatory marker at the entrance to Boat Harbor will remain open until further notice.**

The Section 1-B drift gillnet fishery is now being managed according to the District One Pink Salmon Management Plan (5AAC 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 34. 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 34, 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 1S5617.

Southeast Alaska Drift Gillnet Harvest Estimates  
Statistical Week 33 (August 13 through 19)  
Preliminary Estimates Compiled August 17, 2017

NUMBER OF SALMON							
District	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Boats Open
District 1	5	1,200	900	38,000	6,000	46,105	25
District 6	20	2,500	4,000	65,000	7,500	79,020	69
District 8	20	300	1,500	7,500	2,500	11,820	25
District 11*	30	9,000	1,500	14,000	8,000	32,530	45
District 15	0	2,000	250	3,000	5,700	10,950	40
Total	75	15,000	8,150	127,500	29,700	180,425	

FISH PER BOAT FOR THE PERIOD						
District	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
District 1	0	48	36	1,520	240	1,844
District 6	0	36	58	942	109	1,145
District 8	1	12	60	300	100	473
District 11*	1	200	33	311	178	723
District 15	0	50	6	75	143	274

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

Anita Bay THA: 9,000 king and 139,000 chum salmon to date.

Deep Inlet THA: 1,470 king and 187,000 chum salmon to date.

\* District 11 harvests are estimated for 3 days.

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

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