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



Cora Campbell, Commissioner Jeff Regnart, Director



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SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUMMER TROLL FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

The commercial salmon troll season will close, according to regulation, at 11:59 p.m. on September 20, 2011. An extension of the troll season is <u>not</u> warranted due to a number of factors. Coho salmon escapements to some indicator systems are well below average, as are catch rates in the drift gillnet fisheries, which are a primary abundance indicator for inside waters. The total wild coho abundance is projected to be 20% below the recent 20-year average, and is one of the lower projections since 1982, ranking 23rd out of the last 30 years. The all-gear commercial coho harvest is projected to be 22% below the 20-year average. The commercial troll harvest has been below average all season and is currently at 1.05 million. Though regional troll catch rates have been slightly above the 20-year average during the past three weeks, they were average to below-average during the earlier weeks of the fishery. By regulation, the department may extend the coho salmon fishery past September 20 only in years of high coho salmon abundance (5 AAC 29.110(a)).

Landing requirements

Trollers and processors are reminded that fish tickets must be submitted to the department within 7 days after landing and that any vessel whose port of landing is outside the State of Alaska must submit a completed fish ticket to the department <u>before</u> the fish are transported outside of the jurisdiction of the state (5 AAC 39.130(c)). All fish harvested in the summer troll fishery must be offloaded prior to participating in the winter troll fishery.

Winter Troll Season

The winter troll fishery will begin, according to regulation, at 12:01 a.m., October 11, 2011. The 2011–2012 Winter Troll Fishery Management Plan will be available in all ADF&G offices, as well as on the troll fishery website, by October. 1.

Terminal Harvest Areas (THA):

After the general summer fishery closes on September 20, several THAs will continue to be open to trolling according to management plans specific to each area. The Anita Bay THA will remain open to retention of all salmon species through November 10. The Nakat Inlet THA will remain open for all species except Chinook through November 10. The Hidden Falls THA will continue to be open for all species except Chinook salmon through October 10. A portion of the Neets Bay THA is currently open to trolling until closed by emergency order. Updates will be announced in a future news release.

Troll fishery information can be found at: <u>http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon</u> News releases web site: <u>www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main</u>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
ADFG	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	784-3206
Troll Hotline	225-6870	772-3700		747-8765	465-8765			