

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director



Contact:
Glenn Hollowell, Finfish Area Management Biologist
Ethan Ford, Fisheries Biologist
Phone: (907) 235-8191

Lower Cook Inlet Area Office
3298 Douglas Place
Homer, AK 99603

Date Issued: Friday, August 10, 2018, 2:00 PM

Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery News Release #25

SOUTHERN DISTRICT: Purse seine: Waters of the Tutka Bay Hatchery special harvest area (SHA) excluding waters inshore of a line from 59° 27.54' N. lat., 151° 25.82' W. long. to 59° 26.15' N. lat., 151° 22.76' W. long. (see figure 1) are open on a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday schedule of 16-hour commercial purse seine fishing periods from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Anadromous waters restrictions in the Tutka SHA are rescinded until further notice. Fishing is permitted up to the fresh water of anadromous streams in the Tutka SHA using the definition of "fresh water" in 5AAC 39.975(a)(26). This clearly states that, "fresh water of streams and rivers" means fresh water separated from salt water at the mouth of streams and rivers by a line drawn between the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks at the present stage of the tide. Commercial fishermen are explicitly reminded that 5 AAC 39.290(a)(1) remains in effect in the Tutka SHA.

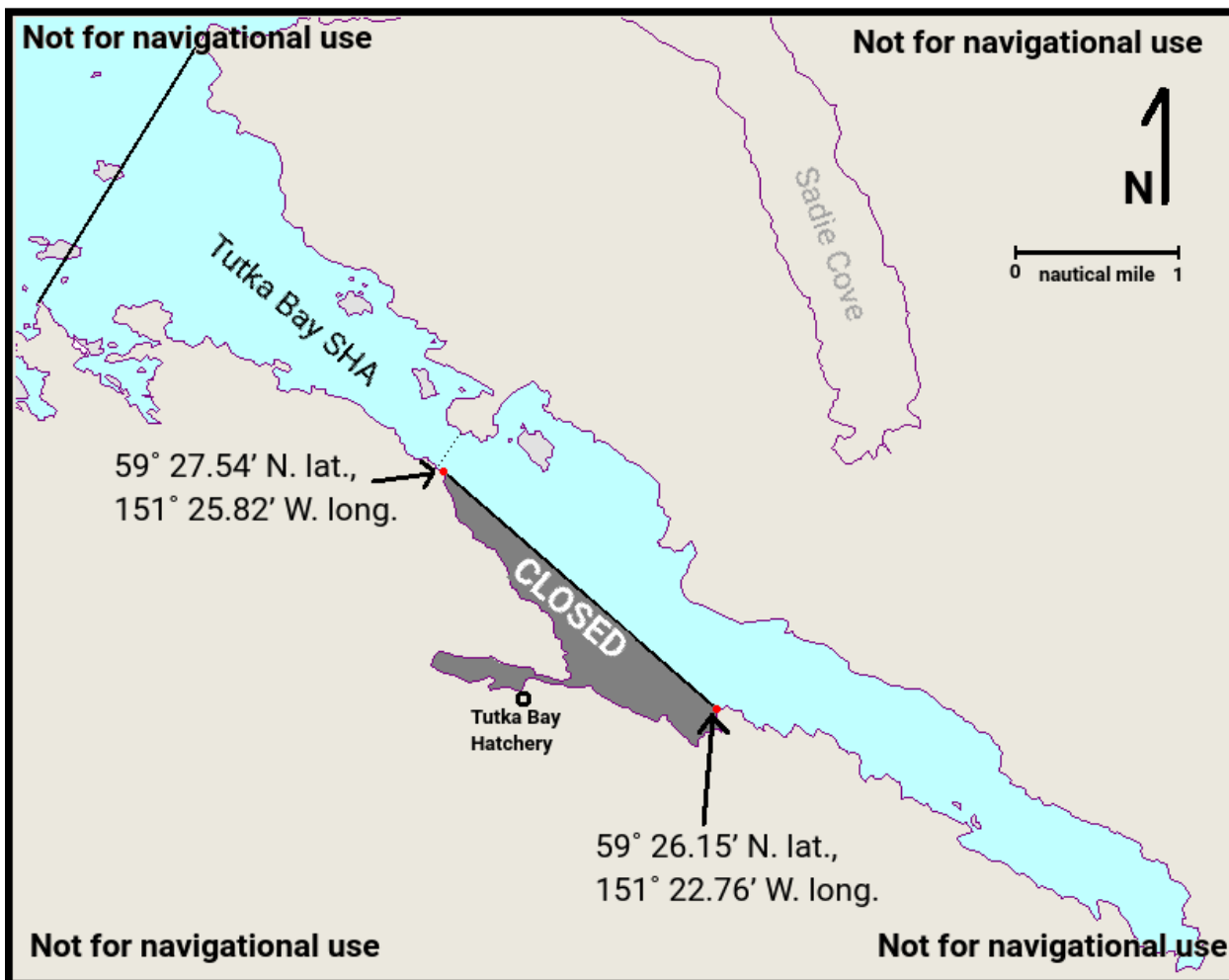


Figure 1.- Tutka Bay special harvest area showing waters open to commercial common property purse seine harvest excluding waters inshore of a line from a point at 59° 27.54' N. lat., 151° 25.82' W. long. to a point at 59° 26.15' N. lat., 151° 22.76' W. long.

The following areas remain open on a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday schedule of 16 hour fishing periods from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM,

- the Humpy Creek Subdistrict up to the freshwater of Humpy Creek,
- the Tutka Bay Subdistrict,
- the China Poot Section, excluding the China Poot SHA,
- the Neptune Bay Section, and
- the Halibut Cove Subdistrict.

Anadromous waters closures associated with Humpy Creek are suspended until further notice with commercial fishing permitted up to the freshwater of Humpy Creek using the definition of “fresh water” in 5AAC 39.975(a)(26). This clearly states that, “fresh water of streams and rivers” means fresh water separated from salt water at the mouth of streams and rivers by a line drawn between the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks at the present stage of the tide. Commercial fishermen are explicitly reminded that 5 AAC 39.290(a)(1) remains in effect at Humpy Creek.

Set gillnet: Waters of the Southern District identified in 5AAC 21.330(b)(1) remain open to commercial set gillnet harvest on a regular schedule of two 48-hour fishing periods per week beginning at 6:00 AM on Mondays and Thursdays as defined in 5AAC 21.320(a)(3).

OUTER DISTRICT: The following areas remain open on a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday schedule of 16 hour fishing periods from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM,

- the Koyuktolik (Dogfish) Bay Subdistrict,
- the Windy Bay Subdistrict, and
- the Rocky Bay Subdistrict.

Waters of the East Nuka Subdistrict remain open on a schedule of daily 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM fishing periods. Harvest as of 8/10 from this subdistrict is confidential due to fewer than 3 permit holders reporting deliveries. Regulatory closed waters (5AAC 21.350(f)(12), (13)) that apply to Delight and Desire lakes are suspended. Fishing is permitted up to the freshwater of the Desire Lake river using the definition of “fresh water” in 5AAC 39.975(a)(26). This clearly states that, “fresh water of streams and rivers” means fresh water separated from salt water at the mouth of streams and rivers by a line drawn between the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks at the present stage of the tide. The Delight Lake freshwater lagoon and channel draining the lagoon are closed to commercial salmon fishing. Permit holders are explicitly reminded that 5 AAC 39.290(a)(1) remains in effect for the streams, rivers, and lagoons associated with Delight and Desire lakes.

A total of 13,428 sockeye salmon were counted through the weir at Delight Lake by Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association staff. The SEG for this system based on aerial salmon monitoring is 5,100–10,600. An earlier SEG based on weir monitoring of fish passing into the lake is 7,500–17,650. Both are relevant and have applicability depending on the method of assessment used to measure salmon escapement. An aerial survey was flown on August 4 of Delight Lake. At that time only 410 sockeye were counted in Delight Lake. An aerial survey of Desire Lake on that date counted 1,600 pink salmon in freshwater. This is within the pink salmon SEG for that system of 1,500–18,000 fish.

KAMISHAK DISTRICT: Anadromous waters closures for the Bruin River downstream of and including the pothole have been rescinded. The closed waters associated with the Chenik Lagoon, (5AAC 21.350(e)(2)) are suspended until further notice with commercial fishing permitted up to the freshwater of Chenik Creek using the definition of “fresh water” in 5AAC 39.975(a)(26). This clearly states that, “fresh water of streams and rivers” means fresh water separated from salt water at the mouth of streams and rivers by a line drawn between the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks at the present stage of the tide. Commercial permit holders are explicitly reminded that 5 AAC 39.290(a)(1) remains in effect at the Bruin and Chenik rivers.

The McNeil River Subdistrict, and the Paint River Subdistrict remain closed until further notice.

The next scheduled commercial salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be on Friday, August 17.

Announcement recordings are available on the 24-hour telephone recording in the Homer office at 907/235-7307.

Unless otherwise specified, all openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111.