

2024 Southeast Alaska Salmon Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan

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2024

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Division of Commercial Fisheries



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Weights and measures (metric)		General		Mathematics, statistics	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code	AAC	<i>all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations</i>	
deciliter	dL	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	alternate hypothesis	H _A
gram	g			base of natural logarithm	<i>e</i>
hectare	ha			catch per unit effort	CPUE
kilogram	kg	all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	coefficient of variation	CV
kilometer	km			common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
liter	L	at	@	confidence interval	CI
meter	m	compass directions:		correlation coefficient	
milliliter	mL	east	E	(multiple)	R
millimeter	mm	north	N	correlation coefficient	
		south	S	(simple)	r
Weights and measures (English)		west	W	covariance	cov
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	copyright	©	degree (angular)	°
foot	ft	corporate suffixes:		degrees of freedom	df
gallon	gal	Company	Co.	expected value	<i>E</i>
inch	in	Corporation	Corp.	greater than	>
mile	mi	Incorporated	Inc.	greater than or equal to	≥
nautical mile	nmi	Limited	Ltd.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
ounce	oz	District of Columbia	D.C.	less than	<
pound	lb	et alii (and others)	et al.	less than or equal to	≤
quart	qt	et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	logarithm (natural)	ln
yard	yd	exempli gratia		logarithm (base 10)	log
		(for example)	e.g.	logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ etc.
Time and temperature		Federal Information Code	FIC	minute (angular)	'
day	d	id est (that is)	i.e.	not significant	NS
degrees Celsius	°C	latitude or longitude	lat or long	null hypothesis	H ₀
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	monetary symbols		percent	%
degrees kelvin	K	(U.S.)	\$, ¢	probability	P
hour	h	months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan, ..., Dec	probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
minute	min	registered trademark	®	probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
second	s	trademark	™	second (angular)	"
		United States (adjective)	U.S.	standard deviation	SD
Physics and chemistry		United States of America (noun)	USA	standard error	SE
all atomic symbols		U.S.C.	United States Code	variance	
alternating current	AC	U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)	population sample	Var var
ampere	A				
calorie	cal				
direct current	DC				
hertz	Hz				
horsepower	hp				
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH				
parts per million	ppm				
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰				
volts	V				
watts	W				

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**2024 SOUTHEAST ALASKA SALMON DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

by

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2024

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES.....	IV
LIST OF FIGURES.....	IV
ABSTRACT.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
Stocks of Concern.....	2
SALMON RUN EXPECTATIONS.....	3
MANAGEMENT APPROACH.....	4
Weekly Fishing Announcements.....	5
Weekly Fishing Periods.....	5
Full Retention.....	5
Use of Drones Prohibited.....	6
U.S./CANADA PACIFIC SALMON TREATY.....	6
CHINOOK SALMON.....	6
TREE POINT AND PORTLAND CANAL FISHERY.....	6
Introduction.....	6
2024 Outlook.....	6
Chum Salmon.....	6
U.S./Canada District 1 Drift Gillnet Fishery Agreement.....	7
Nass River Sockeye Salmon Annual Allowable Harvest.....	7
Chum and Coho Salmon Enhancement.....	8
Pink Salmon.....	8
Management Goals.....	8
Management Plan.....	9
Hugh Smith Lake Sockeye Salmon.....	9
PRINCE OF WALES AND STIKINE FISHERIES.....	10
Introduction.....	10
2024 Outlook.....	10
Chinook Salmon.....	10
Sockeye Salmon.....	10
Pink Salmon.....	10
Chum Salmon.....	11
Coho Salmon.....	11
Management Goals.....	11
Management Plan.....	11
Chinook Salmon.....	11
Sockeye Salmon.....	11
Pink Salmon.....	13
Coho Salmon.....	13
TAKU/SNETTISHAM FISHERY.....	13
Introduction.....	13

2024 Outlook	13
Chinook Salmon	13
Sockeye Salmon.....	14
Chum Salmon	14
Pink Salmon.....	14
Coho Salmon	14
Management Goals	14
Management Plan	15
Chinook Salmon	15
Sockeye Salmon.....	15
Pink Salmon.....	16
Coho Salmon	16
LYNN CANAL FISHERY	17
Introduction	17
2024 Outlook	17
Chinook Salmon	17
Sockeye Salmon.....	17
Chum Salmon	17
Coho Salmon	18
Pink Salmon.....	18
Management Goals	18
Management Plan	19
Chinook Salmon	19
Sockeye Salmon.....	19
Chum Salmon	20
Coho Salmon	20
Pink Salmon.....	20
TERMINAL HARVEST AREA FISHERIES	20
Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association.....	20
Terminal Area Fisheries	20
Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area.....	21
Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area.....	21
Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association.....	22
Terminal Area Fisheries	22
Neets Bay Terminal Harvest Area	22
Nakat Inlet Terminal Harvest Area.....	23
Carroll Inlet Terminal Harvest Area.....	23
Crystal Lake Terminal Harvest Area	23
Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area	23
Douglas Island Pink and Chum Inc.	24
Terminal Area Fisheries	24
Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area.....	24
Speel Arm Terminal Harvest Area	24
REFERENCES CITED	25
FISHERY CONTACTS	26
TABLES AND FIGURES	27

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
Table 1.–Southeast Alaska commercial drift gillnet salmon harvest in numbers of fish, by area, harvest type and species, 2023.	28
Table 2.–District 1 traditional and terminal harvest areas (Nakat Inlet, Neets Bay, and Carroll Inlet) drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2013–2023.	29
Table 3.–Prince of Wales (District 6) traditional drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2013–2023.	29
Table 4.–Stikine River (District 8) traditional drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2013–2023.	30
Table 5.–Taku/Snettisham (District 11) traditional and terminal harvest area drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2013–2023.	30
Table 6.–Lynn Canal (District 15) traditional and terminal harvest area drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2013–2023.	31
Table 7.–Performance of the Tree Point drift gillnet fishery sockeye salmon harvest under the 1999 PST agreement.	32
Table 8.–Biological and sustainable escapement goals for Lynn Canal salmon stocks by species and location.	33
Table 9.–Expected 2024 salmon runs to SSRAA enhancement projects by release location.	33
Table 10.–Expected 2024 salmon runs to Northern SEAK area enhancement projects by hatchery organization and release location.	34
Table 11.–Statistical week calendar for 2024 drift gillnet season.	35

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
Figure 1.–Traditional drift gillnet fishing areas in Southeast Alaska.	36
Figure 2.–Salmon hatchery terminal and special harvest areas in Southeast Alaska.	37

ABSTRACT

This management plan provides an overview of the expected salmon run sizes, regulations, management issues, and harvest strategies for the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fisheries in 2024. Drift gillnet fisheries are planned at Tree Point and Portland Canal (District 1), Prince of Wales Island and Stikine River (Districts 6 and 8), Taku River/Port Snettisham (District 11), Lynn Canal (District 15), and in select hatchery terminal harvest areas.

Keywords: Southeast Alaska, drift gillnet, management plan, Pacific salmon, *Oncorhynchus*, outlook, forecast, terminal harvest area, hatchery, 2024.

INTRODUCTION

This management plan provides an overview of the expected salmon run sizes, regulations, management issues, and harvest strategies for the Southeast Alaska (SEAK) drift gillnet fisheries in 2024. Average, unless defined otherwise, refers to the most recent 10-year average (2014–2023). Harvest, escapement, run forecasts or outlooks, unless otherwise indicated, are in numbers of fish. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G or department) statistical weeks (SW) for the 2024 drift gillnet fishing season can be referenced in Table 11.

An average of 473 SEAK drift gillnet limited entry permits were issued annually, of which an average of 87% were actively fished each year (Conrad and Thynes *In Prep*). In 2023, 474 permits were issued, of which 367 (77%) were actively fished. A historical low of 348 permits were fished in 2004. Drift gillnet harvests have averaged 4.2 million salmon annually over the recent 10-year period and averaged 3.2 million salmon annually since statehood (1960–2023). In the last 10 years, the species composition of the drift gillnet harvest has been 63% chum, 22% pink, 9% sockeye, 6% coho, and <1% Chinook salmon. Of the total commercial salmon harvest in SEAK, the average drift gillnet fishery harvests have included 33% sockeye, 27% chum, 11% coho, 9% Chinook, and 4% pink salmon (Conrad and Thynes *In Prep*).

The 5 traditional drift gillnet fishing areas in SEAK are shown in Figure 1: Tree Point and Portland Canal (District 1); Prince of Wales (District 6); Stikine (District 8); Taku/Snettisham (District 11); and Lynn Canal (District 15). In addition, drift gillnet fisheries occur in several terminal harvest areas (THA) adjacent to hatchery facilities and at remote release sites throughout the region (Figure 2). Each of these drift gillnet fisheries are discussed separately in this management plan. A summary of drift gillnet harvest for each salmon species by fishery area and type for the 2024 season is presented in Table 1. The most recent 10-year annual and average harvests are presented in Table 2 for Tree Point, Table 3 for Prince of Wales, Table 4 for Stikine River, Table 5 for Taku/Snettisham, and Table 6 for Lynn Canal.

The drift gillnet fishery primarily targets sockeye, pink, and chum salmon during the summer season and coho and chum salmon during the fall season. Directed commercial fisheries harvesting Stikine and Taku Rivers stocks of Chinook salmon began in 2005 after ceasing in the 1970s. District 8 was opened to directed fisheries on Stikine River Chinook salmon from 2005 through 2008, and limited fisheries occurred in 2012 and 2016. In District 11, directed fisheries on Taku River Chinook salmon occurred in 2005, 2006, and 2009, and (2) 12-hour openings occurred in 2012. The 2024 Chinook salmon terminal run size forecasts for the Taku River is below management objectives and will not allow directed Chinook salmon fisheries. There is no 2024 forecast available for the Stikine River as data were insufficient to produce a forecast; however, the terminal run is expected to be well below the escapement goal range. Efforts to conserve Chinook

salmon in the early sockeye salmon fishery openings will occur for both systems much like the past several seasons.

SEAK Chinook salmon stocks are currently experiencing low abundance. Over the past 5 years (2019–2023), the 11 monitored Chinook salmon index systems did not meet escapement goals 44% of the time. In 2023, 5 of the 11 monitored Chinook salmon index systems were below their escapement goal ranges. Of the 11 monitored stocks, ADF&G has a more detailed stock assessment that allows for annual run forecasts for 5 of those stocks to be produced. In 2024, ADF&G forecasted 2 of these 5 stocks total runs to be within their respective escapement goal ranges, 2 below their respective escapement goal ranges, and 1 stock had insufficient data available to produce a forecast but is expected to be below its escapement goal ranges. Three of these systems —Stikine, Taku, and Chilkat Rivers— are within the Districts 8, 11, and 15 drift gillnet fishing areas. Commercial, sport, personal use, and subsistence fisheries will be restricted throughout SEAK to conserve Chinook salmon. More information on Chinook salmon management actions in specific fisheries can be found below.

STOCKS OF CONCERN

The *Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries* (SSFP; 5 AAC 39.222) directs the department to provide the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) with reports on the status of salmon stocks and identify any salmon stocks that present a concern related to yield, management, or conservation during regularly scheduled BOF meetings. In October 2017, the department recommended that the BOF designate the Unuk, King Salmon, and Chilkat Rivers stocks of Chinook salmon, and the McDonald Lake stock of sockeye salmon, as stocks of “management concern”. The BOF adopted these recommendations in January 2018. In October 2020, the department recommended continuing the designation for these stocks, and additionally recommended that the Chickamin, Stikine, and Taku Rivers, and Andrew Creek stocks of Chinook salmon be added as stocks of “management concern”. The BOF adopted these recommendations during their October 2020 work session.

Stock of concern designations were based on guidelines established in the SSFP, which describes a stock of management concern as “a concern arising from a chronic inability, despite use of specific management measures, to maintain escapements for a salmon stock within the bounds” of the established escapement goal whether it be a sustainable escapement goal (SEG), biological escapement goal (BEG), optimal escapement goal, or other specified management objective. Chronic inability is further defined in the SSFP as the “continuing or anticipated inability to meet escapement thresholds over a 4-to-5-year period, which is approximately the generation time of most salmon species.”

The stock of management concern designation requires the department to develop a draft action plan to be presented to the BOF. The action plan provides the department’s assessment of the stock(s) of concern, summarizes historical run sizes, and describes the existing regulations and emergency order (EO) authority that the department follows to manage for escapement. The plan outlines potential management actions for sport, commercial, subsistence, and personal use fisheries, and research projects. Criteria that must be met for future removal of the stock of concern designation are also outlined.

Action plans were presented to the BOF and public in draft form at the 2022 Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting. The BOF concurred with the department’s preferred management actions for each of these stocks but directed the department

to apply more restrictive management measures where and/or when appropriate to relax management measures where and/or when the department determined there was opportunity to do so. Final action plans are available at:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon#management>

SALMON RUN EXPECTATIONS

ADF&G and hatchery operators calculate forecasts for salmon runs from parent-year harvest and escapement data in relation to historical information. The department develops forecasts for SEAK pink salmon harvest and other salmon stocks, including Chinook salmon from the Chilkat River, Chinook and sockeye salmon from Taku and Stikine Rivers, and coho salmon from the Taku River. The private nonprofit hatchery operators forecast salmon runs returning to hatchery release sites throughout SEAK. The projected runs of other sockeye, chum, and coho salmon stocks presented in this management plan are qualitative and should not be considered official department forecasts.

The 2024 Stikine River Chinook salmon terminal run forecast is 12,900 large fish. Large Chinook salmon are considered ≥ 660 mm from the mid-eye to fork of tail length measurement, which typically includes ocean-age fish 1.3 years and older. Since this forecast is below the average Stikine River large Chinook salmon run of 15,400 fish, and below the minimum escapement goal of 14,000 fish, there will not be directed Chinook salmon fisheries, nor test fisheries in the U.S. or Canada. Both countries will exercise conservation measures for Chinook salmon with the directed sockeye salmon fisheries. Details of the management strategies are outlined in the Prince of Wales and Stikine Fisheries section of this plan.

The 2024 terminal run forecast for Taku River large Chinook salmon is 17,300 fish. This forecast is below the escapement goal range of 19,000 to 36,000 fish and does not provide for directed fisheries in either the U.S. or Canada. Both countries will be utilizing restrictions during early directed sockeye salmon fishery openings to minimize harvest of Chinook salmon. Details of the management strategy are in the Taku/Snettisham Fishery section of this plan.

The 2024 preseason total run forecast for Chilkat River Chinook salmon is 2,850 large fish. The forecast is above the recent average escapement of 1,800 fish and within the escapement goal range of 1,750 to 3,500 fish. Restrictive management measures will again be implemented during early sockeye salmon fishery openings to reduce harvest rates of Chilkat River Chinook salmon. Management strategies will be similar to the strategies utilized during the 2019–2023 fishing seasons.

The 2024 SEAK forecast for hatchery-produced Chinook salmon is 44,800 fish. This includes estimated contributions from combined Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) facilities of 16,000 fish, estimated contributions of 31,000 fish from combined Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) facilities, and an estimated 1,100 fish from Douglas Island Pink and Chum (DIPAC) (Tables 9 and 10). A portion of these runs will be harvested in traditional drift gillnet fisheries in Districts 1, 6, 8, 11, and 15, and in terminal harvest area drift gillnet fisheries in Carroll Inlet, Neets Bay, Anita Bay, and Deep Inlet.

For 2024, the preliminary forecast for the Nass River is for a total run of 469,000 sockeye salmon (Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans [DFO] forecast). The terminal run forecast for Stikine River sockeye salmon is 130,000 fish, above the average terminal run size of 102,000 fish. The Taku River wild sockeye terminal run is expected to be 200,000 fish, above the average

terminal run size of 155,000 fish. The Taku River enhanced sockeye salmon run is again expected to be minimal and below the average terminal run size of approximately 10,000 fish. Chilkat and Chilkoot Lakes sockeye salmon runs are expected to be average to above average. DIPAC forecasts a Snettisham Hatchery sockeye salmon run of 127,000 fish in 2024, below the average of 154,000 fish.

The 2024 SEAK forecast of hatchery-produced summer chum salmon runs is 9 million fish. This includes 3.6 million fish to 5 DIPAC locations, 6.2 million fish to 6 NSRAA locations, and 5.4 million fish to 6 SSRAA locations (Tables 9 and 10). A portion of these runs will be harvested in traditional drift gillnet fisheries in Districts 1, 6, 8, 11, and 15, and in terminal harvest area drift gillnet fisheries in Boat Harbor, Deep Inlet, Southeast Cove, Anita Bay, Neets Bay, and Nakat Inlet. Chum salmon harvests in regional drift gillnet fisheries have averaged 2.7 million fish.

Excluding the Taku River coho salmon stock, wild coho salmon runs are not typically forecasted. The 2024 Taku River coho salmon terminal run forecast is 128,000 fish, above the 99,000 fish average. General expectations for regional coho salmon runs are expected to be consistent with recent averages. Total hatchery-produced coho salmon run forecasts include 356,800 fish to SSRAA projects (Table 9); 146,000 fish to NSRAA projects (Table 10); and 145,000 fish to Armstrong Keta Inc. (AKI), Sitka Sound Science Center, and DIPAC projects (Table 10). A portion of these runs will be harvested in traditional drift gillnet fisheries in Districts 1, 6, 8, 11, and 15, and in terminal harvest area drift gillnet fisheries in Anita Bay, Nakat Inlet, and Deep Inlet. Alaska hatchery coho salmon contributions to drift gillnet fisheries in 2023 was estimated at 41,000 fish, 27% of total drift gillnet coho salmon harvests. The largest harvest was fish returning to Anita Bay with substantial harvest coming from Nakat Inlet and Neets Bay releases (Wilson 2024).

The SEAK pink salmon harvest forecast for 2024 is 19.2 million fish, with a range of 12 to 32 million fish. The majority of the pink salmon harvest for the region is typically taken by purse seine gear.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

A flexible management approach is required due to uncertainty in salmon runs. This management plan presents a general outlook of how the season is expected to develop. Specific management approaches may be altered depending on inseason assessments of salmon run strength. Gillnet fishermen are encouraged to contact ADF&G management staff listed at the end of this plan for more detailed information.

Primary management objectives for the 2024 drift gillnet fishery are as follows:

1. Achieve salmon spawning escapements with the best possible distribution to all systems.
2. Provide for orderly fisheries while harvesting those salmon in excess of escapement objectives.
3. Promote the harvest and processing of good quality salmon within the constraints dictated by run size.
4. Minimize harvest of Chinook salmon using conservation actions outlined in subsequent sections of this management plan.
5. Minimize, to the extent possible, the harvest of salmon that are destined for locations where weak runs are expected.

6. Manage Districts 1, 6, 8, and 11 drift gillnet fisheries consistent with the provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST).
7. Manage hatchery THAs in accordance with provisions in THA management plans adopted by the Alaska BOF.

Achievement of these management objectives will be accomplished by inseason adjustments of time, area, and/or mesh size to control harvests in the fisheries. Comparisons of current year fishing performance to historical fishing success (i.e., catch per unit effort [CPUE] analysis) are a major component of inseason run strength assessment. This approach assumes catch rates are an accurate reflection of run strength over time and can be relied upon as an indication of salmon abundance throughout the fishing areas.

Experience has demonstrated that management of salmon fisheries based solely on fishery performance, or CPUE, can be misleading, especially for mixed stock fisheries. Therefore, other available run strength indicators, if available, will be used including spawning escapements, stock composition estimates, test fishing, observed salmon concentrations in closed waters, harvests from other fisheries, and salmon run timing models.

The availability of hatchery-produced salmon has become a major factor in the management of SEAK drift gillnet fisheries. Where inseason management is based on fishery performance, it may be difficult to gauge wild stock run strength if significant numbers of hatchery fish are present in the harvest. Where possible, the hatchery component of the harvest will be separated when evaluating fishery performance and management decisions outside of terminal areas will be based on wild stocks.

WEEKLY FISHING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Management of the District 1 drift gillnet fishery is conducted by Ketchikan area staff; Districts 6 and 8 by Petersburg Area staff; District 11 by Juneau Area staff; and District 15 by Haines Area staff. Because permit holders can move freely among all drift gillnet fisheries, weekly fishing announcements will be issued to include all areas in the region. These will normally be released by midafternoon each Thursday during the fishing season.

WEEKLY FISHING PERIODS

Weekly fishing periods in traditional fishing areas can generally be expected to begin on Sundays at 12:01 p.m. Fishing periods in hatchery THAs, including NSRAA and SSRAA terminal fisheries in Deep Inlet, Southeast Cove (SE), Anita Bay, Carroll Inlet, and Neets Bay, will be in accordance with rotational harvest management plans for drift gillnet, seine, and troll fisheries adopted by the BOF.

FULL RETENTION

ADF&G will require full retention (5 AAC 39.265) of all salmon harvested in the Deep Inlet THA net fisheries from the onset of the 2024 season. This regulation may be implemented by EO in other areas of SEAK if necessary, after consultation with the Alaska Wildlife Troopers. Further details regarding the implementation of this regulation will be announced later.

USE OF DRONES PROHIBITED

The use of unmanned aircraft to locate salmon for the commercial taking of salmon or to direct commercial salmon fishing operations during open commercial salmon fishing periods in SEAK is prohibited.

U.S./CANADA PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

The PST directly influences management of Districts 1, 6, 8, and 11 drift gillnet fisheries (5 AAC 33.361). The management provisions of the PST will be considered separately under the specific management plan for each fishery. Fishermen are encouraged to contact local ADF&G staff for more detailed information concerning Alaska's PST obligations.

CHINOOK SALMON

For 2024, the all-gear PST Chinook salmon allocation is 207,150 treaty Chinook salmon (non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon that fall under the terms of the PST). This year's all-gear harvest limit includes a 2% reduction that will serve as a buffer to avoid exceeding the all-gear limit and payback provisions within the PST. The 2024 drift gillnet treaty Chinook salmon allocation is 5,900 fish. The need for management measures to ensure drift gillnet harvest complies with the drift gillnet allocation will depend on inseason evaluation of Chinook salmon harvest rates. Nighttime fishing closures will be implemented in certain areas to reduce the incidental catch of immature, "feeder" Chinook salmon. Only historical base level catches in Districts 8 and 11 will be counted toward the PST fish ceiling when directed fisheries occur.

Terminal Chinook salmon fisheries in Districts 8 and 11 are bound by provisions of the Transboundary River (TBR) Annex of the PST. Restrictive management actions have been necessary to meet obligations of the PST in recent years and similar actions are expected in 2024. In addition, District 15 is managed under the provisions of the *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.384), and Districts 6, 8, 11, and 15 will be managed under stock of concern action plans approved by the BOF.

TREE POINT AND PORTLAND CANAL FISHERY

INTRODUCTION

The Tree Point and Portland Canal (District 1) drift gillnet fishing area consists of regulatory Sections 1-A and 1-B, and targets summer chum and sockeye salmon early in the season, followed by pink salmon, and fall coho salmon at the end of the season. Management of the District 1 drift gillnet fishery is subject to provisions of the PST and the *District 1 Pink Salmon Management Plan* (PSMP; 5 AAC 33.360). The Nakat Inlet THA management plan will be discussed within the THA fisheries section.

2024 OUTLOOK

Chum Salmon

Summer chum salmon runs were above average in southern SEAK during the 2023 season and the harvest in the District 1 drift gillnet fishery was well above the 2013–2024 average. The season was characterized by above average hatchery and wild chum salmon runs. The overall index count of 276,000 chum salmon greatly exceeded the lower bound SEG of 62,000 index fish and was the

largest escapement index since 1960. The estimated escapement of 17,400 summer chum salmon at Fish Creek near Hyder was above the median escapement for the last 10 years and approximately 75% of the long-term average (1971-2022).

U.S./Canada District 1 Drift Gillnet Fishery Agreement

In the spring of 2018, the United States and Canada renegotiated a 10-year annex, 2019–2028, for the District 1 drift gillnet fishery. There were minor changes to the language in the District 1 drift gillnet portion of the PST which outlines management actions Alaska may take if the total run is forecasted below the escapement goal. The management goals remain the same and the agreement continues to require the following:

1. Manage the Alaska District 1 drift gillnet fishery to:
 - a) achieve an annual catch share of Nass River sockeye salmon of 13.8% of the Annual Allowable Harvest (AAH) of the Nass River sockeye salmon stocks and
 - b) carry forward from year-to-year annual deviations from the prescribed catch share arrangement.
2. Based on run size estimates for Nass River sockeye, the parties shall undertake additional management actions as follows:
 - a) If expected total run is forecasted below 200,000 sockeye salmon; there are no Canada commercial marine harvest and the United States shall undertake measures to reduce the impact of District 101 drift gillnet and District 104 purse seine fisheries, which may include delaying the start date and duration of these fisheries.
 - b) If expected total run is below 180,000 sockeye salmon; there are no Canada marine or inriver commercial harvests and the United States shall undertake measures to reduce the impact of District 101 drift gillnet and District 104 purse seine fisheries, which may include delaying the start date, reducing the duration, reducing the area, and/or implementing mesh restrictions (District 1 drift gillnet fishery only) for these fisheries.

Nass River Sockeye Salmon Annual Allowable Harvest

The AAH each year is calculated as the total run of Nass River adult sockeye salmon in that year less the escapement target of 200,000 fish. If the actual Nass River spawning escapement for the season is below the target level, the actual spawning escapement will be used in the AAH calculations.

The total run calculation includes the harvest of Nass River sockeye salmon in the principal boundary area fisheries and the spawning escapement to the Nass River watershed. This primarily includes the harvest of Nass River sockeye salmon in Alaska Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 net fisheries, Canada Areas 1, 3, 4, and 5 net fisheries, and Canada's inriver fisheries.

Although the management intent shall be to harvest salmon at the AAH percentage, it is recognized that overages and underages will occur, and an accounting mechanism is required. The payback mechanism for the fishery is based on the number of fish a country is over or under its AAH.

The management intent for the fishery shall be to return any overages to a neutral or negative balance as soon as possible. After 5 years of consecutive overages, a management plan must be provided to the Northern Panel of the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) with specific management actions that will eliminate the overage. The accrual of underages is not intended to

allow either Alaska or Canada to modify its fishing behavior in any given year, nor to harvest the accrued underage.

During the PSC meeting in January 2024, the bilateral Northern Panel and the Northern Boundary Technical Committee met and presented the preliminary run reconstruction for 2023 to the bilateral Northern Panel and finalized the 2021 and 2022 run reconstructions. Preliminary reports indicate that the total sockeye salmon run to the Nass River in 2023 was 696,046 fish. That allowed for the District 1 drift gillnet fishery to harvest 68,454 Nass River sockeye salmon for 2023. The 2023 District 1 drift gillnet fishery total sockeye salmon harvest was 23,299 fish and of these, 18,813 were Nass River sockeye salmon.

Canada's DFO is forecasting a 2024 total run of 469,000 Nass River sockeye salmon. Based on the 2024 forecast, the preseason AAH for the District 1 drift gillnet fishery will be 37,122 Nass River sockeye salmon. The 1999–2023 performance of the District 1 drift gillnet fishery and the 2024 Nass River sockeye forecast is shown in Table 7.

Chum and Coho Salmon Enhancement

Hatchery runs of summer chum, fall chum, and coho salmon to SSRAA enhancement release sites are expected to contribute substantially to the District 1 drift gillnet fishery in 2024. Information concerning SSRAA run forecasts is included under the THA fisheries section of this plan.

Pink Salmon

The SEAK pink salmon forecast for 2024 is for an average run of 19.2 million pink salmon with a range of 12–32 million fish. The 2024 harvest forecast of 19.2 million pink salmon is just below the recent 10-year average even-year harvest of 21 million pink salmon. A harvest of 19 million pink salmon would be near the parent-year harvest in 2022 (18.3 million) and would be higher than the last 4 even-year harvests (mean = 13.2 million). The District 1 drift gillnet fishery may receive 2-, 4-, and 5-day fishing periods during weeks of the *District 1 Pink Salmon Management Plan* depending on the strength of the return.

The PSMP establishes drift gillnet fishing time in Section 1-B in relation to District 1 purse seine fishing time when both gear types are concurrently harvesting the same pink salmon stocks. By regulation, the plan starts on the third Sunday in July (July 21, 2024) with the following fishing time:

1. When the purse seine fishery is open for any portion of 1 day during a fishing week, the drift gillnet fishery must be open for 48 hours during the same fishing week.
2. When the purse seine fishery is open for any portion of 2 days during a fishing week, the drift gillnet fishery must be open for 96 hours during the same fishing week.
3. When the purse seine fishery is open for any portion of 3 or more days during a fishing week, the drift gillnet fishery must be open for 120 hours during the same week.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management goals specific to the 2024 District 1 drift gillnet fishery are:

1. To manage the fishery in accordance with the PSMP (5 AAC 33.360).
2. To manage the fishery consistent with the current provisions of the PST (5 AAC 33.361).

3. To manage the fishery to achieve even distribution on coho escapements among the Ketchikan index area coho systems.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The District 1 drift gillnet fishery will open by regulation at 12:01 p.m., Sunday, June 16, in Section 1-B for an initial 4-day fishing period. The length of subsequent fishing periods will be based on effort levels and the strength of wild stock sockeye and chum salmon runs to Alaska and Canada waters until July 21 when, by regulation, the PSMP goes into effect.

As in recent years, the harvest of hatchery-produced summer chum salmon will not be included in the evaluation of wild stock fishery performance. The contribution of hatchery-produced salmon will be estimated by inseason analysis of otolith marked fish. Hatchery chum salmon have contributed as much as 96% of the weekly District 1 chum salmon harvest and as much as 95% of the total chum salmon harvest in recent years. The PST requires the harvest of wild chum salmon stocks returning to Portland Canal streams be minimized to ensure adequate escapement of these stocks. As a result, no fishing should be expected in Section 1-A for Portland Canal chum salmon.

Pink salmon management will begin by regulation (5 AAC 33.360) July 21 and continue into August or early September depending on pink salmon run strength and timing. The District 1 drift gillnet fishery can anticipate fishing periods of 2, 4, and 5 days in accordance with the PSMP.

Fall management in District 1 starts after the end of the pink salmon season and varies depending on pink salmon run timing and strength. During the fall season, the District 1 drift gillnet fishery primarily targets fall coho and chum salmon. If the estimated exploitation rate of the Hugh Smith Lake coho salmon stock, which has reached 80% in some years, holds true for adjacent areas, then wild coho salmon stocks in the surrounding area may benefit from a closing date around September 18. Due to the uncertainties of escapement levels of stocks being harvested, the documented high exploitation rate of Hugh Smith Lake coho salmon in some years, and the preponderance of hatchery fish in the harvest, the department will continue to take a conservative approach to the fall season in District 1. However, fishing periods will be allowed after September 18 if fishery performance data and the Hugh Smith weir count indicates above average runs of wild coho salmon. During recent years, approximately 60% of the fall coho salmon and as much as 90% of the fall chum salmon have been hatchery fish.

Hugh Smith Lake Sockeye Salmon

The department will continue to monitor Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon. If escapement is tracking below the lower bound of the escapement goal range of 8,000 fish, the department may consider the following actions:

1. In SWs 29 and 30, the department may close a portion of the District 1 purse seine fishery east of a line from Quadra Point at 55°05.17' N lat, 130°59.05' W long, to Slate Island Light at 55°05.29' N lat, 131°03.17' W long, to Black Rock Light at 55°01.42' N lat, 131°03.59' W long, to a point on the mainland shore at 55°01.40' N lat, 131°00.20' W long.
2. In SWs 31, 32, and 33, the department may close a portion of the District 1 purse seine fishery east of a line from Foggy Point Light at 54°55.44' N lat, 130°58.66' W long, to Black Rock Light at 55°01.42' N lat, 131°03.59' W long, to the southernmost tip of Black Island at 55°07.85' N lat, 131°04.78' W long, and close the northern portion of

the Section 1-B drift gillnet fishery to 1.0 nautical mile (nmi) south of the latitude of Foggy Point Light.

PRINCE OF WALES AND STIKINE FISHERIES

INTRODUCTION

The Prince of Wales (District 6) drift gillnet fishery occurs in the waters of northern Clarence Strait and Sumner Strait in regulatory Sections 6-A, 6-B, 6-C, and 6-D. The Stikine River fishery encompasses waters of District 8 surrounding the terminus of the Stikine River. Due to their proximity, management of these fisheries is interrelated as stocks are subject to harvest in both fisheries. Two distinct management areas exist within each district: the Frederick Sound (Section 8-A) and Wrangell (Section 8-B) portions of District 8, and the Sumner Strait (Section 6-A) and Clarence Strait (Sections 6-B, 6-C, and 6-D) portions of District 6. Management plans for terminal hatchery runs to Crystal Lake and Anita Bay will be discussed in the THA fisheries portion of this document.

2024 OUTLOOK

Chinook Salmon

The 2024 forecast for Stikine River is for a terminal run of 12,900 large Chinook salmon which is below the level needed for escapement, and therefore will not allow directed fisheries in U.S. and Canada. This forecast is above the average escapement of 12,600 fish but below the minimum escapement goal of 14,000 fish. The expected Anita Bay THA run of hatchery-produced Chinook salmon is 7,700 fish, below the average run of 12,600 fish.

Sockeye Salmon

The 2024 preseason forecast for Stikine River sockeye salmon of 130,000 fish is well above average (102,000 fish) and includes 99,000 Tahltan Lake (77%) and 30,000 mainstem (23%) sockeye salmon. As part of a periodic review process, the Transboundary Technical Committee is tasked with reviewing, analyzing, and revising escapement goals for both Stikine River sockeye salmon stocks. As a result of this process, new escapement goals were adopted for those stocks in the spring of 2023. The Tahltan Lake escapement goal range is now 11,000 to 25,000 (old goal 18,000 to 30,000) sockeye salmon. The newly adopted mainstem escapement goal range is 13,000 to 33,000 (old goal 20,000 to 40,000) sockeye salmon. Based on the 2024 preseason forecast, there is an allowable catch for both the U.S. and Canada to prosecute fisheries directed at harvesting Stikine River sockeye salmon. Fishing periods in District 8, and to a lesser extent in District 6, will be determined initially by the preseason forecast, then by inseason abundance estimates of Stikine River sockeye salmon. Sockeye salmon run timing through District 8 typically peaks for the Tahltan Lake stock in SW 27 and for the mainstem stock in SWs 29 and 30. Sockeye salmon runs to other local area streams are expected to be average based on parent-year escapements. The sockeye salmon run to McDonald Lake is expected to come in poor based on parent-year escapements. However, the run did exceed expectations in 2023 by meeting the escapement goal for the first time in 7 years.

Pink Salmon

Pink salmon typically begin entering Districts 6 and 8 near the end of July. Although parent-year escapements to both districts were within target ranges, juvenile abundance indices observed in

2023 were on the lower end of average and may result in weaker than average runs to Districts 6 and 8. Pink salmon harvests typically peak during SWs 31–33 in both districts.

Chum Salmon

Chum salmon are harvested incidentally in the Districts 6 and 8 drift gillnet fisheries while those fisheries are being managed for other species of salmon. Hatchery-produced chum salmon runs to Anita Bay, Neets Bay, and Burnett Inlet compose the majority of chum salmon harvests in Districts 6, whereas harvests in District 8 consist mostly of Anita Bay fish. The Anita Bay hatchery chum salmon run typically peaks during SWs 30–33 in the terminal area.

Coho Salmon

Beginning in SW 36, weekly fishing periods will be determined based on wild coho salmon abundance. The best available measure of wild coho salmon abundance is fishery performance. Wild coho salmon harvest rates have been near to above average for the past few years and are expected to be similar in 2024. However, hatchery coho salmon runs have been below average in recent years and 2024 runs are expected to be below average as well. The number of coho salmon expected to return to the Anita Bay THA is 14,300 fish.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management goals for the Districts 6 and 8 drift gillnet fisheries for the 2024 season are as follows:

1. Achieve Chinook salmon escapement goals.
2. Achieve the Stikine River sockeye salmon escapement goals and harvest Alaska’s share of Stikine River sockeye salmon.
3. Achieve sustainable spawning escapements of sockeye salmon in local Alaska systems.
4. Achieve pink salmon spawning escapement objectives in Districts 6 and 8.
5. Manage the District 6 and District 8 drift gillnet fisheries consistent with the provisions of the PST.
6. Manage the directed Stikine River Chinook salmon drift gillnet fishery in accordance with the *District 8 King Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.368) and associated closed water regulations (5 AAC 33.350 [i][3-9]).

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Chinook Salmon

Both the U.S. and Canada will take management actions to reduce the harvest of Chinook salmon. Specific U.S. expected management actions during the sockeye fishery are in the *Sockeye Salmon* section below. If Canada opens a directed sockeye fishery, it will be delayed by 1 week, will have mesh restrictions in place, will have restrictions on the use of set gillnets, and will require the release of Chinook salmon. In addition, Canada will not prosecute an assessment fishery for stock assessment. Inseason assessment will be based solely on the Kakwan Point tagging project. There will be no directed Chinook salmon commercial fishery in either Districts 6 or 8.

Sockeye Salmon

Sockeye salmon fishing in both districts will be managed in accordance with regulation, SOC action plans, and the TBR Annex of the PST. District 6 is managed primarily for local Alaska sockeye salmon stocks and District 8 is managed primarily on Stikine River sockeye salmon

abundance as allowed by the sharing provisions of the 2019 TBR Annex. For 2024, harvest shares will be 57.5% U.S./42.5% Canada. Based on the forecast in 2024, this results in a U.S. AC of 49,100 Stikine River sockeye salmon and is comprised of approximately 43,900 Tahltan Lake fish and 5,200 mainstem bound sockeye salmon.

The sockeye salmon season could open by regulation as early as 12:00 noon on Sunday, June 9 (SW 24) in 2024. However, with an expected poor run of Stikine River Chinook salmon, as well as poor Chinook salmon runs throughout SEAK, conservation measures will be in place for the start of the sockeye salmon fishery. Conservation measures will include implementing a 6-inch maximum mesh size in both districts and delaying the start of the sockeye salmon fishery by 1 week in District 6 and by 2 weeks in District 8. During the first few weeks of the sockeye salmon fishery, any adjustments to fishing time will be based on the preseason forecasts, number of participants, harvest levels, expected harvest levels, and stock proportion data. Because of recent concerns for Stikine mainstem sockeye salmon, time and/or area may be limited starting in SW 29 in both districts. Openings in District 8 will be based on an evaluation of sockeye salmon abundance in District 6 and would likely include time and area restrictions. Beginning in SW 29, District 6 will be limited to 2 days a week through SW 31 for McDonald Lake sockeye salmon conservation.

Management actions during the first few weeks of the sockeye salmon fishing season will be based on District 6 drift gillnet harvest information. Inseason stock abundance indicators, along with fishery performance and stock composition data obtained from U.S. fisheries will be incorporated into the Stikine Sockeye Forecast Model (SSFm). Stock composition data will be obtained by department personnel at the Kakwan Point assessment fishery site on the Stikine River and from ongoing genetic stock identification (GSI) sampling from the commercial catch. As the season progresses, the SSFM may become the primary method to estimate available sockeye salmon for harvest once enough data is available. Management actions required for Stikine River sockeye salmon are implemented first in District 8 followed by District 6. Adjustments in fishing time, area, or districtwide closures will be used when necessary.

Stikine River sockeye salmon generally begin to decrease in abundance in mid-July as other stocks, including McDonald Lake sockeye salmon, begin to migrate through the fishery. Escapement of McDonald Lake sockeye salmon has fallen below the lower bound of the escapement goal range in 8 of the past 10 years. In 2018, the BOF designated the McDonald Lake sockeye salmon as a stock of concern and adopted the *McDonald Lake Sockeye Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan* (Walker et al. 2018). Given this history and expected poor run, the department recommended McDonald Lake sockeye salmon continue as a stock of concern as defined by the SSFP. Those actions will remain in effect for 2024 and, as mentioned previously, the District 6 drift gillnet fishery will be limited to 2 days per week during the peak weeks of the McDonald Lake sockeye salmon run in SWs 29, 30, and 31. McDonald Lake Sockeye Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2018, can be found at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/RIR.1J.2018.03.pdf>

During the sockeye salmon management period, announcements of additional fishing time by extensions or midweek openings will be made from the fishing grounds via VHF radio by 10:00 a.m. on the final day of the scheduled opening. Areas opened for any additional fishing time may not be the same as the general weekly opening.

Pink Salmon

Pink salmon normally begin entering District 6 in late July. Early portions of the pink salmon fishery will be managed primarily on CPUE and parent-year escapement. By mid-August, pink salmon destined for local systems will begin to enter the fishery in greater numbers and management will be based on observed escapements to local streams. The expected run may result in average fishing days during the pink salmon management period.

Changes were made to District 6 regulations and subsections during the 2022 BOF meeting. Section 6-D has been amended to be the area east of Section 6-C commonly referred to as the “Screen Islands” area. The remainder of Section 6-D, in the Stikine Straits and south of a line drawn between Point Stanhope and Luck Point to the southern district boundary, has been designated as a new section, Section 6-E. Section 6-E is a purse seine only area.

In addition, 5 AAC 33.359 *Section 6-D Pink Salmon Management Plan* which sunset in 2017, was re-adopted into regulation. The *Section 6-D Pink Salmon Management Plan* allows drift gillnet fishing in Section 6-D during regular drift gillnet openings between the first Saturday in August through the first Sunday in September if this area has been or will be open to purse seining. During these occasions, Section 6-D will open to gillnetting after purse seine closes and will close at 11:59 p.m. the day before the next scheduled purse seine opening, or when the regular gillnet opening closes, whichever comes first. Drift gillnetters wanting to fish in Section 6-D during the month of August will need to closely monitor purse seine and subsequent drift gillnet advisory announcements during this period. There will likely be short notice for fishing opportunities.

Coho Salmon

Management for coho salmon typically begins in late August or early September and can continue into early October. Management is based on wild coho salmon stock abundance. Crystal Lake Hatchery, facilities in the Ketchikan area, and the Anita Bay remote release site all contribute coho salmon to Districts 6 and 8 fisheries. Inseason estimates from coded wire tag (CWT) recovery data will be used to identify the hatchery component of the harvest.

TAKU/SNETTISHAM FISHERY

INTRODUCTION

The Taku/Snettisham (District 11) drift gillnet fishing area encompasses Section 11-B (Taku Inlet, Port Snettisham, and Stephens Passage north of Midway Island) and Section 11-C (Midway Island south to a line from Point League to Point Hugh). This fishery has historically targeted sockeye salmon from late June to mid-August and fall chum and coho salmon from mid-August to mid-October. In recent decades, the fishery has harvested substantial numbers of hatchery summer chum and sockeye salmon.

2024 OUTLOOK

Chinook Salmon

The 2024 terminal run forecast of 17,300 Taku River large Chinook salmon does not provide any AC for either U.S. or Canada directed fisheries. Similar conservation efforts to recent seasons will be utilized in the early sockeye salmon openings in District 11. DIPAC forecasts runs totaling 1,100 large hatchery Chinook salmon returning to their release sites at Gastineau Channel, Fish Creek, and Lena Cove.

Sockeye Salmon

The 2024 terminal run of Taku River wild sockeye salmon is forecasted to be 200,000 fish, above the average of 155,000 fish. The Taku River sockeye salmon escapement goal range is 40,000 to 75,000 fish with a management objective of 58,000 wild fish (which total allowable catch and resulting harvest allocations are based). The preseason forecast will be used in conjunction with the management objective to calculate ACs until inseason estimates become available. Adult returns to date from the joint U.S./Canada Taku River sockeye salmon enhancement projects at Tatsamenie and Trapper Lakes have been minimal. The Tatsamenie and Trapper Lakes enhanced sockeye salmon run is forecasted to be 7,000 fish in 2024 which would result in a 77% U.S./23% Canada allocation split resulting in a U.S. AC of approximately 109,000 fish.

The Speel Lake sockeye salmon escapement goal range is 4,000 to 9,000 fish. No forecast is produced, and primary parent-year escapements were average and below average. Crescent Lake salmon escapements will continue to be monitored by aerial surveys in 2024 and there is no formal stock assessment program.

The 2024 DIPAC Port Snettisham (Snettisham Hatchery and Sweetheart Lake) run forecast is 131,000 fish, above the 2023 run size of approximately 95,000 fish and well above the 2021 and 2022 run sizes that were impacted by the near complete loss of fish from the 2017 brood year.

Chum Salmon

In 2024, DIPAC is forecasting hatchery-produced summer chum salmon runs of 1.2 million fish to Gastineau Channel and Limestone Inlet. The expected contribution to common property fisheries is 638,000 fish. Taku River fall chum salmon runs are expected to be minimal.

Pink Salmon

District 11 pink salmon runs are expected to be below average in 2024. Parent-year pink salmon index escapement to the Stephens Passage stock group was below the management target range in 2022. The total number of pink salmon counted through the Taku River Canyon Island fish wheels in 2022 was 64% of the recent 5 even-year average (2012–2020) indicating below average odd-year escapement to the Taku River.

Coho Salmon

The 2024 terminal run forecast of Taku River transboundary coho salmon is 128,000 fish, above the average of 99,000 fish. The forecast is based on a smolt estimate with a 5-year average marine survival applied. Taku River coho salmon harvest sharing provisions, which are part of the current 2019–2028 TBR Annex of the PST, do not allow for any harvest by the U.S. unless the terminal run size exceeds 75,000 fish. The preseason terminal run forecast of Taku River coho salmon provides the U.S. with an AC of approximately 40,000 fish. DIPAC projects a run of 46,000 hatchery-produced coho salmon in 2024 from their smolt releases into Gastineau Channel.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management goals for the 2024 Taku/Snettisham drift gillnet fishery are as follows:

1. Provide sufficient salmon spawning escapements to Taku River, Port Snettisham, and Stephens Passage streams and harvest those fish in excess of escapement needs.
2. Manage the fishery consistent with current provisions of the PST.

3. Maximize the harvest of hatchery-produced chum salmon returning to Limestone Inlet and minimize the incidental harvest of Port Snettisham wild sockeye salmon.
4. Manage Port Snettisham enhanced sockeye salmon run consistent with the *District 11: Snettisham Hatchery Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.378).
5. Manage the Speel Lake sockeye salmon run to achieve an escapement of 4,000 to 9,000 spawners.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The District 11 drift gillnet fishery will be managed in accordance with the TBR Annex of the PST. Harvest sharing arrangements for Chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon through the 2028 fishing season are specified in the annex.

To avoid conflicts with sport fisheries, the District 11 drift gillnet fishery will not be open concurrent with the 2024 Juneau Golden North Salmon Derby (August 9–11). That week's opening will start on Monday, August 12.

Chinook Salmon

The 2024 Taku River Chinook salmon terminal run forecast, combined with escapements being below the goal range the previous 8 years, requires a conservative approach to early season sockeye salmon commercial openings and stock assessment projects. The forecast does not provide AC for directed fisheries, no assessment fishery will occur on the Canada side of the border, the joint U.S./Canada inriver assessment project on the U.S. side of the border will be minimized to reduce the handling of fish, and restrictive management measures will be taken in early openings of U.S. and Canadian fisheries targeting sockeye salmon. Inseason abundance estimates derived from comparisons of inriver tangle net CPUE may be available in mid- to late May. However, inseason assessment may cease if the run does not appear large enough to allow the additional handling of fish. Management actions taken to reduce harvest of Taku River Chinook salmon in the District 11 drift gillnet fishery in recent years have been incorporated into an action plan which was approved by the BOF at the March 2022 meeting.

Sockeye Salmon

The District 11 drift gillnet fishery will begin the third Sunday in June (SW 25) for directed sockeye salmon fishing in Section 11-B with time, area, and mesh size restrictions. The initial opening will be for a 2-day fishing period with an area restriction closing waters in Taku Inlet north of Point Greely and west of a line of longitude running midinlet from the latitude of Point Greely to a point where it intersects with the shoreline south of Grand Island. A 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction and night closures will be in effect. Open area in SW 26 will likely be liberalized with waters in Taku Inlet closed north of Cooper Point and open area in SWs 27 and 28 will have increased area with the north line shifted up to Jaw Point. The maximum mesh size restriction and night closures will likely remain in place through SW 26. Taku Inlet will likely open for a maximum of 2 days through the SW 26 opening and subsequent openings will be based on inseason fishery performance and stock assessment information.

The District 11 fishery will be managed through mid-August primarily based on sockeye salmon abundance. Run strength will be evaluated using harvest and CPUE data, and weekly inriver run size estimates derived from the Taku River fish wheel mark–recapture project. The inriver run size estimates produced from this project will incorporate a dropout rate which will give more confidence that the run size is not being overestimated and allow managers to consider AC targets

more comprehensively on a weekly basis. Contribution of enhanced stocks of sockeye salmon will be estimated inseason by analysis of salmon otoliths sampled from the commercial harvests. The age and stock compositions of the commercial harvest of wild sockeye salmon will be estimated after the fishing season by scale pattern and GSI analysis.

Snettisham hatchery-produced sockeye salmon runs will be managed according to the *District 11: Snettisham Hatchery Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.378). The plan provides basic guidelines for managing enhanced sockeye salmon production from Port Snettisham including the following provisions in order of priority:

1. Ensure sustainable production of wild sockeye salmon from Crescent and Speel Lakes.
2. Manage Port Snettisham enhanced sockeye salmon run in a manner that does not prevent achieving escapement goals or PST harvest sharing agreements for Taku River salmon stocks.
3. Assessment programs shall be conducted to estimate Port Snettisham wild sockeye salmon stock escapements and contributions of enhanced sockeye salmon to the District 11 commercial fishery.
4. Common property harvests in the Speel Arm Special Harvest Area shall be conducted by limiting time and area to protect wild sockeye salmon runs.

Management of the fishery in Stephens Passage will focus on conservation of Port Snettisham wild sockeye salmon stocks, particularly in July. The department may implement a 6-inch minimum mesh size restriction in Section 11-B south of Circle Point to reduce harvest rates of Port Snettisham wild sockeye salmon and allow harvest of Limestone Inlet remote release site hatchery-produced chum salmon. The mesh size restriction in Section 11-B will be relaxed at the end of July or after the peak migration timing of Port Snettisham wild sockeye salmon stocks through Stephens Passage.

Pink Salmon

Pink salmon are harvested in Section 11-B incidental to sockeye and hatchery summer chum salmon fisheries. Fishing time for a directed pink salmon fishery in Section 11-C will depend on the strength of pink salmon runs to lower Stephens Passage, Seymour Canal, and the northern portions of District 10. Runs will be closely monitored, but an opening in Section 11-C is unlikely based on generally poor parent-year escapements to these areas.

Coho Salmon

Beginning in mid-August, management of the Taku/Snettisham drift gillnet fishery will be based primarily on the run strength of Taku River coho salmon. In 2015, a Taku River coho salmon escapement goal range of 50,000 to 90,000 fish, with a management objective of 70,000 fish, was adopted by the TBR Panel. Inseason management will be based on evaluation of the fishery harvest, effort, and CPUE relative to historical levels, inriver run size estimates from the Taku River mark-recapture project, and recovery of wild and hatchery coho salmon via CWT analyses in marine fisheries.

LYNN CANAL FISHERY

INTRODUCTION

The Lynn Canal (District 15) drift gillnet fishing area occurs in waters north of the latitude of Little Island Light and is divided into 3 regulatory sections: 15-A (upper Lynn Canal), 15-B (Berners Bay), and 15-C (lower Lynn Canal). This fishery has historically targeted sockeye salmon from late June through September and fall chum and coho salmon from mid-August to mid-October. In recent decades, the fishery has harvested substantial numbers of hatchery summer chum salmon in Section 15-C returning to DIPAC release sites at Boat Harbor and Amalga Harbor. Section 15-B targets coho salmon in the fall but this area has been closed since 2010.

2024 OUTLOOK

Chinook Salmon

The 2024 Chilkat River Chinook salmon preseason total run forecast is 2,850 large fish (\geq age-5). This forecast is similar to the 2023 forecast and within the escapement goal range of 1,750 to 3,500 fish (Table 8). The forecast is based on the sibling relationship models, using brood year age at return and run data along with performance-based hindcasts. There is no directed commercial drift gillnet Chinook salmon fishery in District 15.

Sockeye Salmon

Chilkat and Chilkoot Lakes wild sockeye salmon runs compose the majority of sockeye salmon harvest in District 15. The parent-year sockeye salmon escapements contributing to the 2024 run to Chilkat Lake were 108,000 fish in 2018, 136,000 fish in 2019, and were within the escapement goal range of 70,000–150,000 fish (Table 8). Five-year old fish (age 1.3 and 2.2) account for an average 63% of the Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon run from the past 10 brood years and will be a major component of the 2024 run. Six-year-old fish (age 2.3) account for an average of 28% of the run. Returns from brood year 2018 of age 1.3 fish were above average and age 2.2 fish were near average in 2023, indicating the return of age 2.3 fish in 2024 may also be average to above average. Zooplankton prey observations during the lake rearing period (2019 and 2020) for brood years 2018 and 2019 indicated above average abundances of zooplankton. The parent-year escapements, brood year from 2018 returns, and zooplankton abundance suggest an average to above average run of sockeye salmon to Chilkat Lake in 2024.

The Chilkoot Lake escapement estimate during the dominant brood year return of 2019 was 140,000 sockeye salmon, which exceeded the upper bound of the SEG range of 38,000 to 86,000 fish (Table 8). Five-year old fish (age 1.3) account for an average 68% of the Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon run on average, therefore, escapements from 2019 will be a major component of the 2024 run. Hydroacoustic survey equipment failed in 2019 so rearing fry population estimates were not estimated. Zooplankton biomass estimates during the first summer of lake rearing (2020) for the 2019 brood year were slightly below average. Parent-year escapements and slightly below average zooplankton estimates suggest an average to above average run of sockeye salmon to Chilkoot Lake in 2024.

Chum Salmon

DIPAC is forecasting a total summer chum salmon run of 1.3 million to 3.7 million fish to their release sites at the Boat Harbor and Amalga Harbor THAs. The common property harvest is

expected to be 1.8 million chum salmon. The forecast is slightly above average. Hatchery runs of summer chum to the enhancement release site at the Boat Harbor THA are expected to contribute substantially to the District 15 drift gillnet fishery in 2024.

Chilkat River fall chum salmon escapements were estimated from expanded Chilkat River fish wheel catches (1994–2023). The total number of chum salmon caught in the Chilkat River fish wheels during the 2019 parent year was 4,700 fish, which expands to an escapement estimate of 29,700 chum salmon. This fell below the SEG of 75,000 to 250,000 fish (Table 8) and the lowest chum salmon escapement estimate on record. The Chilkat River fall chum salmon run is expected to be below average in 2024.

Coho Salmon

The Chilkat River followed by the Berners River are the largest contributors of coho salmon to the District 15 drift gillnet harvest. Parent-year escapements for the 2024 coho salmon run to the Chilkat River were 29,400 fish in 2020 and 55,000 fish in 2021, both within the BEG range of 30,000 to 70,000 fish (Table 8). Based on parent-year escapements, the Chilkat River coho salmon run is expected to be average in 2024. Parent-year escapements contributing to the Berners River coho salmon run in 2024 were 3,300 fish in 2020, and 6,000 fish in 2021. These escapement estimates were slightly below and within the BEG range of 3,600 to 8,100 fish (Table 8). The coho salmon run to Berners River is expected to be average in 2024. The best available measure of wild coho salmon abundance is fishery performance. Wild coho salmon harvest rates have been near average for the past few years and are expected to be average in 2024.

Pink Salmon

There are no formal escapement goals for pink salmon in the Haines management area, however, pink salmon populations are monitored through aerial surveys along the eastern and western shorelines of Lynn Canal, by Chilkat River fish wheel catches when in operation, and Chilkoot River weir counts. Parent-year pink salmon escapements to District 15 were below management targets in 2022. Pink salmon runs to the Northern Southeast Inside Subregion, which includes District 15, are expected to be below average in 2024. The total number of pink salmon counted through the Chilkat River fish wheels in 2022 was 77% of the recent 5 even-year average (2014–2022) suggesting an average even-year run to the Chilkat River in 2024.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

The overall management goal is to achieve desired spawning escapement levels and harvest available surplus for long-term maximum sustainable yield of all Lynn Canal salmon stocks. Historically, Chinook, chum, pink, and coho salmon inriver abundance were observed through Chilkat River fish wheel catches. Additionally, Chilkat River Chinook and coho salmon escapements are estimated through a mark–recapture program. Final sockeye salmon escapements to Chilkat and Chilkoot Lakes are estimated by fish weir counts. Specific goals include:

1. Minimize Chinook salmon harvest in the drift gillnet fishery in Lynn Canal to achieve the escapement goal of 1,850–3,600 Chinook salmon in the Chilkat River in accordance with the *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.384) and the *Northern Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2022* (Grant et. al. 2022)
2. Achieve sockeye salmon escapement goals to Chilkat and Chilkoot Lakes.
3. Achieve the chum salmon escapement goal to Chilkat River.

4. Achieve coho salmon escapement goals to Chilkat and Berners Rivers.
5. Provide for the harvest of DIPAC hatchery-produced chum salmon available in the Boat Harbor THA in accordance with the *District 15 Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan*, while conserving wild stocks until run strengths can be determined.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The District 15 drift gillnet fishery will be managed consistent with strategies used in 2019–2023 which were successful in lowering harvest rates and building escapements of Chilkat River Chinook salmon stocks. These management strategies followed or exceeded actions outlined in the *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.384), the *Policy for the management of mixed stock salmon fisheries* (5 AAC 39.220), and the 2022 BOF action plan.

To avoid conflicts with sport fisheries, Section 15-C in the District 15 drift gillnet fishery will not be open concurrent with the 2024 Juneau Golden North Salmon Derby occurring August 9–11, 2023. That week’s opening will start on Monday, August 12.

Chinook Salmon

Chilkat River Chinook salmon stock has been designated as a stock of management concern since 2018, after multiple years (2012–2014 and 2016–2018) of failing to achieve the escapement goal. Management actions taken to reduce harvest of Chilkat River Chinook salmon in the District 15 drift gillnet fishery in recent years have been incorporated into an action plan which was approved by the BOF at the March 2022 meeting. Escapements have improved in recent years; however, production remains poor, therefore a conservative management approach will continue.

The 2024 preseason forecast for Chilkat River Chinook salmon is projected to be within the escapement goal range; however total run forecast is still low, and escapement may not be achieved with any appreciable harvest. Management strategies in 2024 will again focus on minimizing harvests of Chilkat River Chinook salmon stocks during the first few weeks of the directed sockeye salmon fishery by implementing a conservative management approach similar to the past 5 years. The stock compositions of commercially caught Chinook salmon will be estimated by GSI analysis postseason and the results will be available in late November.

Sockeye Salmon

The District 15 drift gillnet fishery will open for directed sockeye salmon fishing on June 16 (SW 25), with reduced time and area, a 6-inch maximum size mesh restriction, and night closures. Harvest opportunities will be limited during the first 5 weeks of the fishery in Section 15-A, and through the first 3 weeks in Section 15-C to conserve Chinook salmon returning to the Chilkat River.

Section 15-A will be limited to 2 days a week through July 20 in those waters south of Eldred Rock Lighthouse and east of a line from Eldred Rock Lighthouse to a point 2.0 nmi from the eastern shoreline. A 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction and night closures will likely be in effect through July 20. Lutak Inlet and portions of Chilkoot Inlet may open initially for 2 days prior to July 20 if catch rates, stock composition data, and weir counts indicate a strong run to Chilkoot River.

Section 15-C will be limited to 2 days a week in the “Postage Stamp” (waters of Section 15-C south of the latitude of Vanderbilt Reef Light and east of a line from Vanderbilt Reef Light to Little Island Light) through July 6. A 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction and night closures from 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. will likely be in effect through July 13. This includes outside waters of the Boat Harbor THA. Subsequent openings will be determined through fishery performance data from the District 15 drift gillnet fishery and sockeye salmon escapements at Chilkat and Chilkoot Lakes. The stock compositions of the commercial harvest of wild sockeye salmon are used as a management tool and will be estimated in season by GSI analysis.

Chum Salmon

Hatchery summer chum salmon are targeted in Section 15-C and in the Boat Harbor THA at the beginning of the fishing season. Openings in the early part of the season are typically designed to harvest these large hatchery chum salmon runs returning to DIPAC’s release site in the Boat Harbor THA, while minimizing the harvest of wild salmon stocks returning to the Chilkat and Chilkoot watersheds until run strength can be determined. Due to Chilkat River Chinook salmon conservation measures, harvest opportunities will be limited in the outside waters of the Boat Harbor THA during the first 3 weeks of the fishery.

Fall management for chum salmon returning to Chilkat River will start in late August. Inseason management will be based on evaluation of the fishery harvest, effort, and CPUE relative to historical levels. If the indications are for a strong run, the fishing area may be expanded to include the Chilkat Inlet in Section 15-A.

Coho Salmon

Fall management for Chilkat River coho salmon begins in late August. Inseason management will be based on evaluation of the District 15 fishery harvest, effort, and CPUE relative to historical levels. If indications show a strong run, fishing area may be expanded to include Chilkat Inlet to harvest fish surplus to escapement needs.

Pink Salmon

Pink salmon are harvested in District 15 incidental to wild sockeye and hatchery summer chum salmon. If the pink salmon runs are strong and provide for harvestable surpluses, and there are no biological concerns for sockeye salmon, the department will consider opening additional areas in Section 15-A, such as Lutak Inlet, for directed pink salmon fisheries.

TERMINAL HARVEST AREA FISHERIES

During the 2024 season, drift gillnet terminal harvest area fisheries can be expected in Boat Harbor, Deep Inlet, Southeast Cove, Anita Bay, Nakat Inlet, Neets Bay, and Carroll Inlet to harvest salmon returning to DIPAC, NSRAA, and SSRAA enhancement facilities. Openings in the Speel Arm THA are contingent on meeting the sockeye salmon escapement goal for Speel Lake.

NORTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

TERMINAL AREA FISHERIES

The terminal hatchery fisheries at Deep Inlet and Southeast Cove are managed according to regulatory management plans and in consultation with NSRAA. Drift gillnet open fishing times

and any modifications of the THA will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement prior to and during the fishing season.

Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area

Common property fishing in the Southeast Cove THA will be conducted per the *District 9: Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan* (5AAC 33.387). NSRAA is forecasting a run of 215,000 summer chum salmon to the Southeast Cove THA for 2024. The THA will be open to drift gillnetting from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday each week from Tuesday, June 18, through Wednesday, July 31. Cost recovery will occur in the Southeast Cove THA. The harvest goal for the Southeast Cove THA is roughly 60,000 chum salmon. If cost-recovery goals cannot be met during days when the purse seine and drift gillnet fisheries are closed, then a brief closure may occur near the peak of the run. The Southeast Cove THA will close to all fisheries Saturday, August 3, 2024. However, if significant numbers of fish remain, additional common property opportunity may be provided via EO, or a cost-recovery fishery may be implemented dependent on the presence of wild salmon stocks in the area. If closures or additional openings are warranted, they will be announced by advisory announcement.

Further details of the 2024 Southeast Cove THA fishing schedule and area were announced in a separate ADF&G advisory announcement released on April 23.

Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area

NSRAA expects runs of 2,454,000 chum, 10,000 Chinook, and 28,000 coho salmon to the Deep Inlet remote release site and the Medvejie Hatchery in 2024. This season, 122,500 chum salmon are planned to be taken from the Medvejie Hatchery and Deep Inlet THA for broodstock. NSRAA does anticipate conducting cost-recovery operations in the Deep Inlet THA beginning June 1. To accommodate cost-recovery operations, a portion of the Deep Inlet THA will be closed to all common property harvest beginning June 1. This area may reopen during the season based on the progression of the cost-recovery harvest. Additionally, a portion of the Deep Inlet THA may be closed in late August to facilitate broodstock collection at Medvejie Hatchery. The majority of the common property harvest can be expected to take place in the Deep Inlet THA by drift gillnet and purse seine gear, but some harvest is likely to occur outside the THA by troll and purse seine gear as well.

The Deep Inlet THA fishery will be managed in accordance with the *District 13: Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.376). The plan provides for distribution of the harvest of hatchery-produced salmon between the purse seine and drift gillnet fleets. The BOF during its March 2022 meeting, passed a regulation that set the time ratio for drift gillnet openings to purse seine openings at 1:1.

During the 2024 Deep Inlet THA season (June 1 to September 20), drift gillnet fishing is scheduled to be open on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Deep Inlet THA purse seine fishing is scheduled for Sunday, Thursday, and Friday. The Deep Inlet THA west of 135°20.75' W long will be closed to drift gillnet and purse seine gear from June 1 through June 15. When changes are necessary, a revised schedule will be issued in a subsequent advisory announcement.

By EO issued under 5 AAC 33.376 (b) (4), drift gillnet fishermen fishing in the Deep Inlet THA will be required to fish with a minimum mesh size of 6 inches through June 15 to reduce the harvest of wild sockeye salmon returning to Silver Bay.

By EO issued under 5 AAC 39.265, harvesters participating in purse seine and drift gillnet fisheries in the Deep Inlet THA are required to retain and utilize all salmon harvested. This action is being taken to promote full utilization of salmon, to prevent waste of salmon, to determine harvest patterns of incidentally harvested coho and sockeye salmon, and to enable the department and NSRAA to have full and accurate reporting of returns. Fishermen, tenders, and processors are reminded that all salmon, including steelhead, retained for personal use, and not sold to be reported on fish tickets. Fishermen are advised that if they have fish onboard from other fishing areas they should keep them separate for reporting and sampling purposes. Chinook salmon of any size harvested by both purse seine and drift gillnet fishermen may be sold.

In early September, the Deep Inlet THA boundaries may be adjusted by the department to reduce harvest of wild coho salmon returning to Salmon Lake or hatchery coho salmon returning to Medvejie Hatchery needed for broodstock. THA boundary adjustments to protect coho salmon will be based on historical run timing and inseason observations of abundance.

Fishermen are reminded to be respectful of the rights of property owners who reside in the vicinity of the Deep Inlet THA. NSRAA is requesting that all fishing vessels and tenders not anchor, use high-intensity lights, or tender fish near Berry Island within the Deep Inlet THA; additionally, NSRAA requests that vessels use no-wake speeds when entering Deep Inlet via Silver Point. If complaints occur and are substantiated during the 2024 season, the department in consultation with NSRAA, may respond to complaints by changing scheduled fishing times or fishing boundaries of the Deep Inlet THA.

Further details of the 2024 Deep Inlet THA season, including fishing schedules and times can be found in a separate ADF&G advisory announcement released on April 19.

SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

TERMINAL AREA FISHERIES

The terminal hatchery fisheries at Neets Bay, Carroll Inlet, Nakat Inlet, Crystal Lake, and Anita Bay will be managed in accordance with regulatory management plans and in consultation with SSRAA. Open drift gillnet fishing times will be announced by advisory announcement prior to and during the fishing season.

Neets Bay Terminal Harvest Area

In 2024, SSRAA is forecasting total runs of 1,540,000 summer chum, 100 Chinook, 109,700 coho, and 40,000 fall chum salmon to the Neets Bay THA.

The Neets Bay THA will open Saturday, June 29. Beginning at 12:00 noon, Saturday, June 29, through 12:00 noon, Saturday, July 6, a rotational fishery according to the *District 1: Neets Bay Hatchery Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.370) will be conducted for the drift gillnet and purse seine fleets. The Neets Bay THA will not expand to the longitude of Chin Point in 2024 for the net fleets.

For 2024, the net rotation fishing schedule will again be modified during SWs 24–26 allowing additional closures to conserve Unuk River Chinook salmon. This loss of time will coincide with the period when Unuk River Chinook salmon are present in the area according to CWT data.

It is anticipated that SSRAA will conduct cost-recovery operations beginning Saturday, July 7, 2024, and continuing throughout the summer in the Neets Bay THA. Additional rotational fisheries will not occur until cost-recovery and broodstock needs have been met.

Details of the 2024 season fishing schedule and area for the Neets Bay THA were announced in a separate ADF&G advisory announcement released on April 19. Additional fisheries, if warranted, will be announced by advisory announcement and opened by EO in consultation with SSRAA.

Nakat Inlet Terminal Harvest Area

For 2024, SSRAA is forecasting total hatchery runs of 415,000 summer chum, 24,500 coho, and 20,000 fall chum salmon to the Nakat Inlet THA. Peak chum salmon harvests from these releases are expected between mid- to late July for summer chum and between late August to mid-September for fall chum and coho salmon.

The Nakat Inlet THA opens by regulation (5 AAC 33.372) from June 1 through November 10 concurrently to drift gillnet and troll gear. The 500-yard stream closure regulation (5 AAC 39.290) will remain in effect.

Carroll Inlet Terminal Harvest Area

For the 2024 season, SSRAA has forecasted a total Carroll Inlet Chinook salmon run of 6,200 hatchery fish. In accordance with regulation (5 AAC 33.379) the Carroll Inlet THA will be open June 1 through June 30, to provide harvest for hatchery-produced Chinook salmon. Rotational net fisheries are expected to begin at 12:00 noon, Saturday, June 15, through 12:00 noon, Sunday, June 30. The 500-yard stream closure (5 AAC 39.290) will not be in effect in the Carroll Inlet THA. Details of the 2024 season fishing schedule and area for the Carroll Inlet THA were announced in a separate ADF&G advisory announcement released on April 19.

Crystal Lake Terminal Harvest Area

SSRAA projected a run of 2,800 adult Chinook salmon to Crystal Lake Hatchery in 2024 with 1,400 fish expected to reach the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough (District 6) THA. Under provisions of the *District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.381) if the projected terminal run is over 4,000 fish, the commercial fishery will be opened to harvest 50% of the projected run over 4,000 fish. Based on the forecast, there is not likely to be surplus available for commercial troll or drift gillnet openings in 2024.

SSRAA is expecting a 4,100 fish Crystal Lake Hatchery coho salmon run. An estimated 2,100 fish are expected to reach the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough terminal area. No commercial drift gillnet fishery is anticipated in 2024.

Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area

For 2024, SSRAA is forecasting total runs of 7,700 Chinook, 458,000 summer chum, and 14,300 coho salmon from releases at Anita Bay. A total of 5,400 Chinook, 118,200 summer chum, and 5,700 coho salmon are expected to be available for harvest in the THA. The Anita Bay common property fishery is governed as described in the *District 7: Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.383). The initial opening of Anita Bay will be delayed until June 1 to mitigate potential harvest of wild Chinook salmon. Similar to last year, the mouth of the bay will be open exclusively to troll gear through June 12. A rotational fishery will be in place for drift gillnet and purse seine fleets from June 13 through August 31.

Further details of the 2024 season fishing schedule and open area within the Anita Bay THA can be found in an ADF&G advisory announcement released on April 18.

DOUGLAS ISLAND PINK AND CHUM INC.

TERMINAL AREA FISHERIES

Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area

DIPAC is projecting an above average total return of up to 3.7 million hatchery-produced chum salmon to the Boat Harbor and Amalga Harbor THAs, with a common property harvest of 1.8 million fish in 2024. The Boat Harbor THA (BHTHA) fishery will be managed in accordance with the *District 15: Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.386). Outside waters of the THA will also follow management measures outlined in the 2022 BOF adopted management plan intended to conserve wild Chinook salmon immigrating to the Chilkat River. The THA fishery will open by regulation on the third Sunday of June (SW 25) to provide harvest opportunity for hatchery-produced chum salmon. Expected management actions in 2024 will be similar to those implemented in the past 5 years. Restrictions will include reduced time and area, night closures, and a 6-inch maximum mesh size. Fishing time will be limited to 2 days a week through July 6, and fishing area in the outer waters will be to 1.0 nmi off the shoreline through July 13. A 6-inch maximum mesh size and night closure will also be in effect through July 20. Inside waters of the BHTHA (west of 135°09.57' W long) will open 7 days a week without restrictions.

Speel Arm Terminal Harvest Area

The 2024 total run forecast for Snettisham Hatchery sockeye salmon is 131,000 fish, below the 160,000 fish average. These fish will be principally harvested in the traditional District 11 commercial drift gillnet fishery. Common property fishery openings may occur during August in the Speel Arm THA which is in the waters of Speel Arm north of 58°03.42' N lat. Timing of openings in the THA will depend on sockeye salmon escapement into Speel Lake and DIPAC's progress toward broodstock goals. DIPAC cost-recovery efforts in the special harvest area (SHA) during July will be limited to waters in the immediate vicinity of the hatchery where wild and hatchery stocks are well segregated. Fishery management decisions for the Speel Arm THA will be made jointly by ADF&G and DIPAC. ADF&G and industry have formalized the notification procedure for any extended fishery openings in Speel Arm. The SEAK Drift Gillnet Task Force agreement specified:

1. ADF&G will include notice in the *Southeast Alaska Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan* that extended openings in Speel Arm could be expected on short notice once Speel Lake escapement goals are met.
2. ADF&G will include notice in the regionwide advisory announcements at or near the end of July that extended openings in Speel Arm could be expected on short notice once Speel Lake escapement goals are met.
3. If an announcement is made for extended fishing time in Speel Arm, ADF&G shall provide a minimum of 6 hours notice from the time the fishery is announced to the time the fishery opens.

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TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1.–Southeast Alaska commercial drift gillnet salmon harvest in numbers of fish, by area, harvest type and species, 2023.

Fishery	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
District 1						
Traditional (Tree Point)	944	23,299	21,866	156,667	418,348	621,124
Terminal Harvest Area	5,933	1,671	7,339	23,677	352,934	391,554
District 6						
Traditional (Prince of Wales)	741	42,334	42,336	126,048	179,169	390,628
District 7						
Terminal Harvest Area	5,252	50	10,096	235	17,715	33,348
District 8						
Traditional (Stikine)	646	5,904	20,944	29,197	105,343	162,034
District 11						
Traditional (Taku/Snettisham)	694	79,726	20,518	129,555	622,555	853,048
Terminal Harvest Area	0	0	0	0	0	0
District 13						
Terminal Harvest Area	1,498	3,083	1,524	27,626	401,326	435,057
District 15						
Traditional (Lynn Canal)	320	152,718	25,419	108,588	695,367	982,412
Terminal Harvest Area	24	7,250	87	34,587	695,813	737,761
Subtotals						
Traditional	3,350	304,018	131,093	550,725	2,022,187	3,011,373
Terminal Harvest Areas	12,707	12,054	19,046	86,125	1,467,788	1,597,720
Common Property Total	16,057	316,072	150,139	636,850	3,489,975	4,609,093
Total	16,922	321,651	167,898	768,035	3,606,316	4,880,822

^a Chinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 2.—District 1 traditional and terminal harvest areas (Nakat Inlet, Neets Bay, and Carroll Inlet) drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2013–2023.

Year	Chinook ^a	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
2013	4,483	55,948	111,133	763,434	329,680	1,264,678
2014	4,473	57,192	116,437	763,838	274,351	1,216,291
2015	3,347	29,173	58,004	157,016	820,271	1,067,811
2016	3,110	41,288	50,021	608,351	448,724	1,151,494
2017	3,648	25,997	43,359	240,143	338,617	651,764
2018	4,310	20,812	44,120	124,356	306,100	499,698
2019	5,054	16,209	37,856	212,631	272,273	544,023
2020	6,207	9,596	20,909	194,279	210,970	441,961
2021	6,103	21,836	53,572	148,284	226,832	456,627
2022	6,549	26,668	29,591	394,257	390,644	847,709
2023	6,877	24,970	29,205	180,344	771,282	1,012,678
Average 2013–2022	4,728	30,472	56,500	360,659	361,846	814,206

^aChinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 3.—Prince of Wales (District 6) traditional drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2013–2023.

Year	Chinook ^a	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
2013	2,202	49,223	160,659	474,551	94,260	780,895
2014	2,092	58,430	286,815	415,392	106,243	868,972
2015	2,723	121,921	112,561	224,816	232,390	694,411
2016	2,094	106,649	122,101	358,309	130,236	719,389
2017	1,521	45,005	49,382	302,033	234,349	632,290
2018	3,247	25,203	112,000	348,277	176,392	665,119
2019	1,073	23,844	59,304	424,495	113,161	621,877
2020	1,182	11,314	43,850	127,583	143,577	327,506
2021	965	51,776	74,756	156,483	136,560	420,540
2022	800	45,437	50,901	86,448	173,048	356,634
2023	741	42,334	42,336	126,048	179,169	390,628
Average	1,790	53,880	107,233	291,839	154,022	608,763

^aChinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 4.–Stikine River (District 8) traditional drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2013–2023.

Year	Chinook ^a	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
2013	10,817	20,609	43,669	116,026	103,365	294,486
2014	8,023	19,808	30,184	33,830	84,771	176,616
2015	13,845	22,896	30,153	35,926	166,009	268,829
2016	10,024	70,143	22,146	35,250	200,653	338,216
2017	3,818	14,282	13,568	49,027	177,119	257,814
2018	2,649	5,731	8,823	15,643	133,812	166,658
2019	4,253	6,591	9,478	10,884	50,653	81,859
2020	2,617	2,781	21,069	11,799	53,678	91,944
2021	93	815	12,140	6,482	49,371	68,901
2022	481	5,668	14,146	11,708	73,453	105,456
2023	646	5,904	20,944	29,197	105,343	162,034
Average	5,662	16,932	20,538	32,658	109,288	185,078

^a Chinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 5.–Taku/Snettisham (District 11) traditional and terminal harvest area drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2013–2023.

Year	Chinook ^a	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
2013	1,224	207,231	51,441	127,343	726,849	1,114,088
2014	1,471	126,739	54,203	29,190	291,412	502,994
2015	1,150	83,431	23,572	296,575	475,456	880,184
2016	595	215,049	35,037	46,604	448,284	745,569
2017	1,086	113,818	16,002	230,243	885,694	1,246,843
2018	783	92,889	35,930	24,300	517,812	671,714
2019	1,358	105,026	23,473	71,724	246,600	448,181
2020	1,094	28,233	15,863	65,353	109,516	220,059
2021	688	49,337	20,787	137,319	185,709	393,840
2022	1,006	117,282	15,597	54,692	313,830	502,407
2023	694	79,726	20,518	129,555	622,555	853,048
Average 2013–2022	1,046	113,904	29,191	108,334	420,116	672,588

^a Chinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 6.–Lynn Canal (District 15) traditional and terminal harvest area drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2013–2023.

Year	Chinook ^a	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
2012	2,736	224,643	23,321	353,271	1,567,227	2,171,198
2013	1,148	122,103	68,009	127,703	1,509,501	1,828,465
2014	1,396	234,682	58,117	90,602	1,303,009	1,687,806
2015	523	131,577	23,456	629,209	836,831	1,621,596
2016	475	188,844	30,534	81,970	931,919	1,233,742
2017	1,205	39,716	29,790	191,251	1,575,039	1,837,001
2018	1,156	81,688	45,655	22,254	1,042,476	1,193,229
2019	1,096	241,533	47,723	143,571	1,176,043	1,609,966
2020	903	50,220	17,495	82,993	319,253	470,864
2021	715	84,649	26,426	221,012	532,443	865,245
2022	587	283,847	16,187	46,837	961,795	1,309,253
2023	344	159,968	25,506	143,175	1,391,180	1,720,173
Average 2013–2022	920	145,886	36,339	163,740	1,018,831	1,365,717

^aChinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 7.—Performance of the Tree Point drift gillnet fishery sockeye salmon harvest under the 1999 PST agreement.

Year	Nass River Total Run	Nass River Escapement	Allowable Nass River AAH	Allowable Alaska Harvest (13.8%)	Actual Nass River Alaska Harvest	Cumulative: +overage / (-underage)
1999	842,806	200,000	642,806	88,707	129,794	41,087
2000	625,982	200,000	425,983	58,786	46,305	28,606
2001	580,611	167,258	413,358	57,043	55,096	26,659
2002	1,403,976	200,000	1,203,975	166,149	90,553	-48,937
2003	1,177,472	200,000	977,472	134,481	72,942	-110,886
2004	986,095	200,000	786,095	108,482	110,340	-109,027
2005	666,877	200,000	466,877	64,429	55,319	-118,137
2006	775,112	200,000	575,112	79,365	47,948	-149,555
2007	602,210	164,745	437,463	60,370	46,369	-163,555
2008	380,397	200,000	180,397	24,895	24,359	-164,091
2009	575,336	200,000	375,336	51,796	55,270	-160,618
2010	438,941	200,000	238,941	32,974	26,613	-166,979
2011	556,710	200,000	356,710	49,226	55,122	-161,083
2012	476,818	200,000	276,818	38,201	38,983	-160,300
2013	501,428	200,000	301,428	41,597	35,471	-166,426
2014	549,685	200,000	349,685	48,257	29,022	-185,661
2015	868,744	200,000	668,744	92,287	14,867	-263,081
2016	442,420	200,000	242,420	33,454	14,389	-282,146
2017	368,653	200,000	168,653	23,274	12,445	-292,975
2018	315,972	200,000	115,972	16,004	11,303	-297,676
2019	377,745	200,000	177,745	24,529	11,269	-310,936
2020	295,194	200,000	95,194	13,137	7,528	-316,544
2021	502,536	200,000	302,536	41,750	14,678	-343,626
2022	622,420	200,000	422,420	58,294	18,392	-383,528
2023 ^a	696,046	200,000	496,046	68,454	18,813	-433,170
2024 ^b	469,000	200,000	269,000	37,100	TBD	TBD

^a Preliminary Information

^b Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans forecast

TBD = To be determined

Table 8.—Biological and sustainable escapement goals for Lynn Canal salmon stocks by species and location.

Species	Stock	Escapement Goal Type	Escapement Goal Range	Escapement Method
Sockeye ^a	Chilkoot Lake Total	SEG	38,000 to 86,000	Weir Count
Sockeye ^a	Chilkat Lake Total	BEG	70,000 to 150,000	DIDSON Count
Coho ^b	Berners River	BEG	3,600 to 8,100	Peak Foot Count
Coho ^c	Chilkat River Combined	BEG	30,000 to 70,000	Sum of Peak Foot Index Counts
Chinook ^d	Chilkat River Combined	BEG	1,750 to 3,500	Mark–Recapture Estimate
Fall Chum ^e	Chilkat River Total	SEG	75,000 to 250,000	Fish wheel index

^a Eggers et al. 2009

^b Shaul and Crabtree 2005

^c Ericksen and Fleischman 2006

^d Ericksen and McPherson 2004

^e Heintz et al. 2017

Table 9.—Expected 2024 salmon runs to SSRAA enhancement projects by release location.

Species/Run	Release Location	Common Property Harvest	Terminal	Broodstock	Cost Recovery	Total Run
Chinook	Whitman Lake	2,100	0	1,200	3,600	6,900
Chinook	Anita Bay	2,300	5,400	0	0	7,700
Chinook	Carroll Inlet	3,100	3,100	0	0	6,200
Chinook	Neets Bay	0	100	0	0	100
Chinook	Port St. Nick	2,200	5,100	0	0	7,300
Chinook	Crystal Lake	1,400	0	1,400	0	2,800
Chinook	Total	11,100	13,700	2,600	3,600	31,000
Coho	Herring Cove/Whitman	9,200	0	6,000	3,200	18,400
Coho	Nakat Inlet	17,100	7,400	0	0	24,500
Coho	Anita Bay	8,600	5,700	0	0	14,300
Coho	Neets Bay	65,800	0	1,000	42,900	109,700
Coho	Crystal Lake	2,100	1,900	200	0	4,100
Coho	Klawock	130,100	0	3,500	52,200	185,800
Coho	Total	232,900	15,000	10,700	98,300	356,900
Summer chum	Neets Bay	462,000	95,000	140,000	843,000	1,540,000
Summer chum	Anita Bay	274,800	183,200	0	0	458,000
Summer chum	Burnett	288,900	0	100,000	574,100	963,000
Summer chum	Kendrick Bay	928,500	309,500	0	0	1,238,000
Summer chum	Nakat Inlet	249,000	166,000	0	0	415,000
Summer chum	Port Asumcion	377,500	0	0	377,500	755,000
Summer chum	Total	2,580,700	753,700	240,000	1,794,600	5,369,000
Fall chum	Burnett	24,600			17,600	42,000
Fall chum	Nakat Inlet	12,200	7,800			20,000
Fall chum	Neets Bay	16,800		10,000	13,200	40,000
Fall chum	Total	53,400	7,800	10,000	30,800	102,000

Table 10.—Expected 2024 salmon runs to Northern SEAK area enhancement projects by hatchery organization and release location.

Species	Release Location	Hatchery Operator	Common Property Harvest	Cost Recovery	Broodstock	Total Run
Chinook	Gast/Fish Creek/Lena	DIPAC	820		280	1,100
Chinook	Hidden Falls	NSRAA	500	0	400	900
Chinook	Medvejie/Deep Inlet	NSRAA	6,000	0	4,000	10,000
Chinook	Crescent Bay	SSC	800	1,000	0	1,800
		Total	8,120	1,000	4,680	13,800
Sockeye	Port Snettisham	DIPAC	64,600	59,600	6,800	131,000
Coho	Port Armstrong	AKI	45,200	38,200	7,000	90,400
Coho	Deer Lake (Mist Cove)	NSRAA	41,000	41,000	0	82,000
Coho	Gastineau Channel	DIPAC	30,200	16,200		46,400
Coho	Hidden Falls	NSRAA	18,000	8,000	10,000	36,000
Coho	Deep Inlet/Medvejie	NSRAA	24,500	0	3,500	28,000
Coho	Crescent Bay	SSC	5,000	3,200	200	8,400
		Total	163,900	106,600	20,700	291,200
Pink	Port Armstrong	AKI	219,600	0	257,800	477,400
Pink	Crescent Bay	SSC	162,000	194,500	3,500	360,000
		Total	381,600	194,500	261,300	837,400
Chum	Port Armstrong	AKI	8,600	57,800	20,000	86,400
Chum	SE Cove	NSRAA	156,000	59,000	0	215,000
Chum	Gunnuk Creek	NSRAA	0	191,000	20,000	211,000
Chum	Thomas Bay	NSRAA	381,000	0	0	381,000
Chum	Gastineau/Limestone	DIPAC	638,300	314,200	200,000	1,152,500
Chum	Boat Harbor/Amalga	DIPAC	1,729,600	739,600		2,469,200
Chum	Medvejie/Deep Inlet	NSRAA	1,334,000	997,500	122,500	2,454,000 ^a
Chum	Hidden Falls	NSRAA	1,183,000	150,000	220,000	1,553,000
Chum	Crawfish Inlet	NSRAA	- ^b	- ^b	0	1,336,000
Chum	Crescent Bay	SSC	37,120	17,280	3,600	58,000
		Total	5,467,620	2,526,380	586,100	7,462,100

^a Projections for Medvejie/Deep Inlet includes chum salmon from the Sitka Sound Science Center.

^b Common property and cost-recovery harvest will depend on progress of the cost-recovery fishery in season.

(Note: Common property harvest estimates of Chinook and coho salmon include sport harvest).

Table 11.–Statistical week calendar for 2024 drift gillnet season.

Week	Beginning Date	Ending Date	Week	Beginning Date	Ending Date
23	2-Jun	8-Jun	32	4-Aug	10-Aug
24	9-Jun	15-Jun	33	11-Aug	17-Aug
25	16-Jun	22-Jun	34	18-Aug	24-Aug
26	23-Jun	29-Jun	35	25-Aug	31-Aug
27	30-Jun	6-Jul	36	1-Sep	7-Sep
28	7-Jul	13-Jul	37	8-Sep	14-Sep
29	14-Jul	20-Jul	38	15-Sep	21-Sep
30	21-Jul	27-Jul	39	22-Sep	28-Sep
31	28-Jul	3-Aug	40	29-Sep	5-Oct

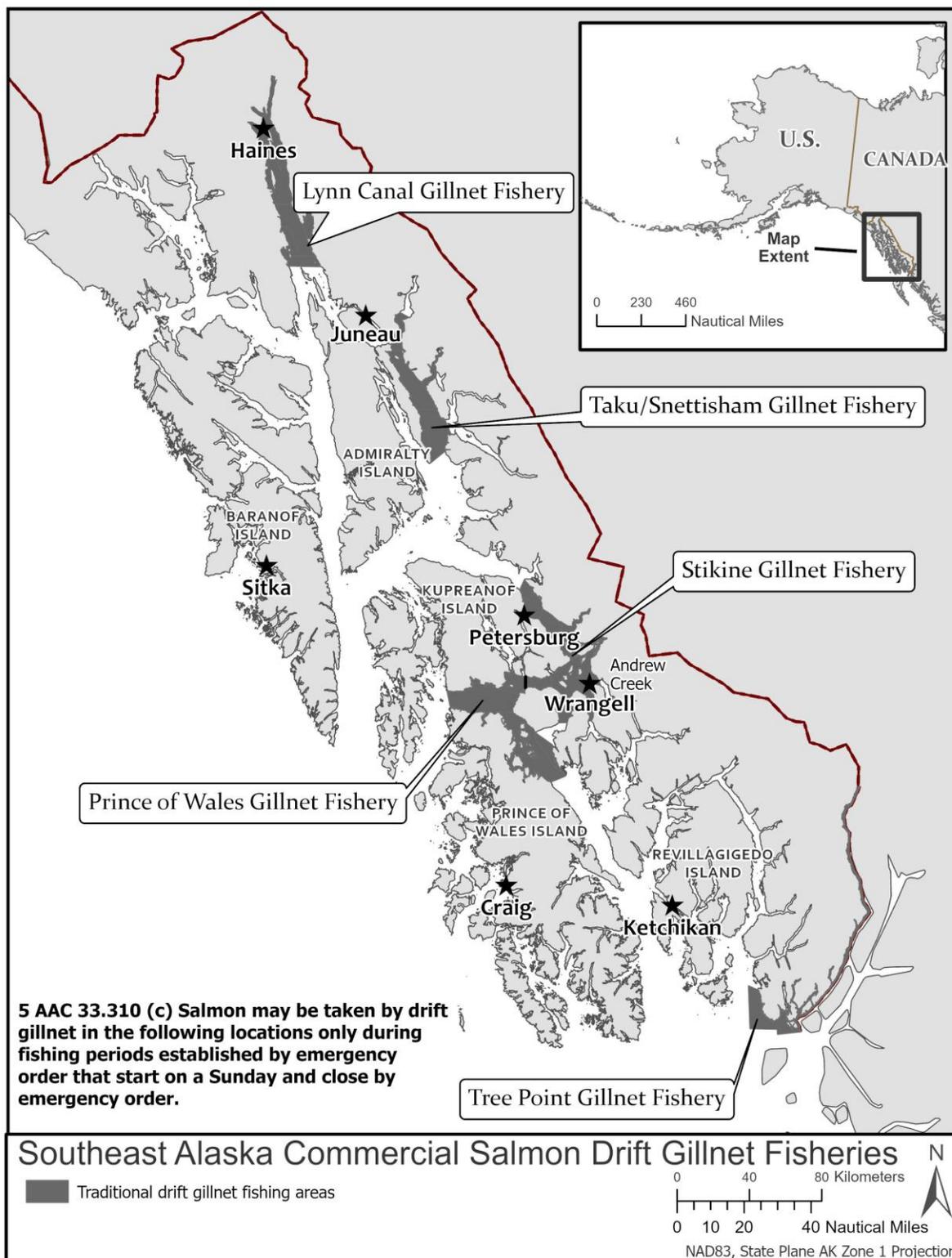


Figure 1.—Traditional drift gillnet fishing areas in Southeast Alaska.

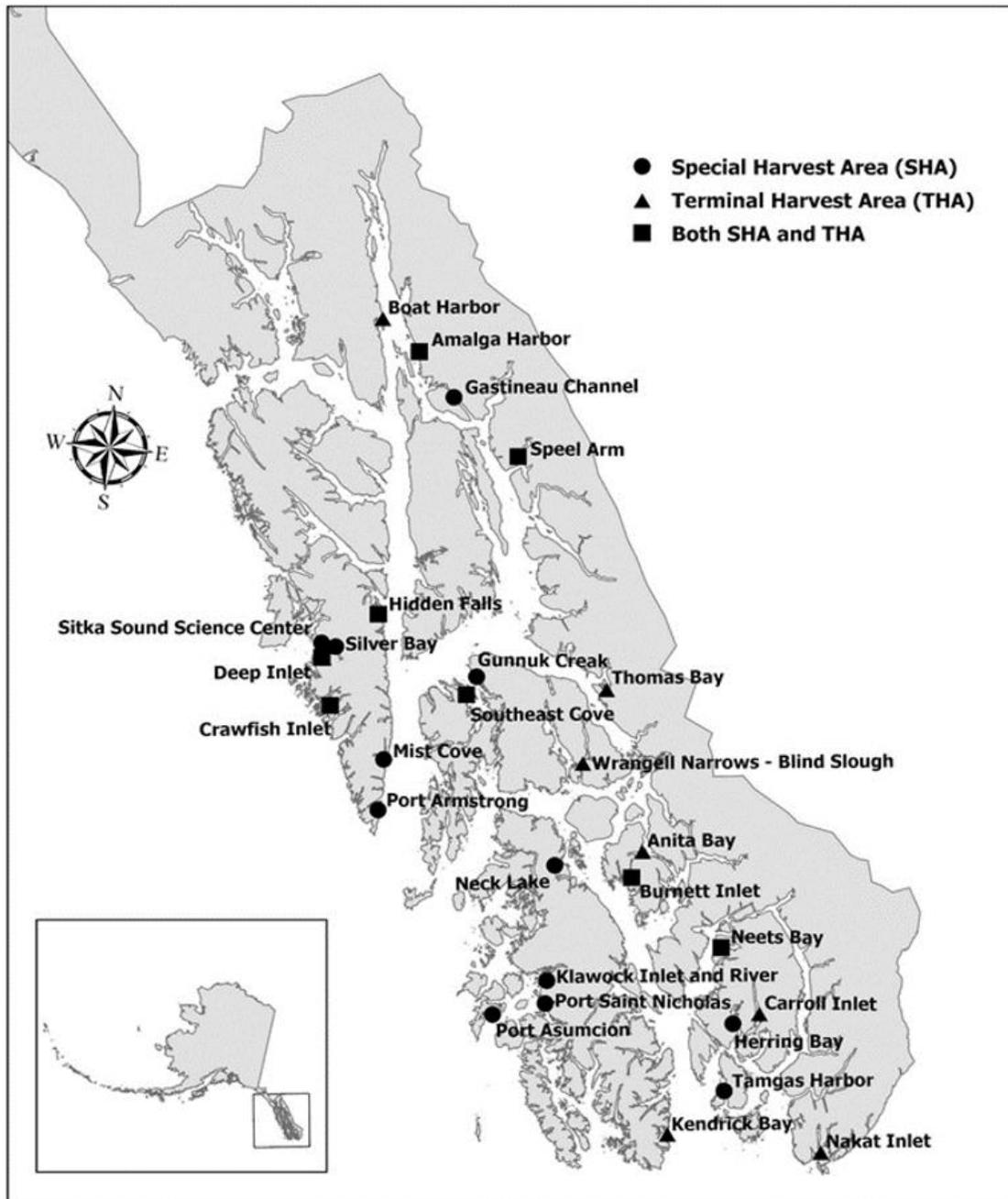


Figure 2.—Salmon hatchery terminal and special harvest areas in Southeast Alaska.