

2018 Summer Troll Fishery Management Plan

by

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and

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries



Symbols and Abbreviations

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Weights and measures (metric)		General		Mathematics, statistics	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code		all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations	
deciliter	dL		AAC		
gram	g	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	alternate hypothesis	H _A
hectare	ha			base of natural logarithm	<i>e</i>
kilogram	kg	all commonly accepted		catch per unit effort	CPUE
kilometer	km	professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	coefficient of variation	CV
liter	L			common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
meter	m	at	@	confidence interval	CI
milliliter	mL	compass directions:		correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
millimeter	mm	east	E	correlation coefficient (simple)	r
Weights and measures (English)		north	N	covariance	cov
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	south	S	degree (angular)	°
foot	ft	west	W	degrees of freedom	df
gallon	gal	copyright	©	expected value	<i>E</i>
inch	in	corporate suffixes:		greater than	>
mile	mi	Company	Co.	greater than or equal to	≥
nautical mile	nmi	Corporation	Corp.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
ounce	oz	Incorporated	Inc.	less than	<
pound	lb	Limited	Ltd.	less than or equal to	≤
quart	qt	District of Columbia	D.C.	logarithm (natural)	ln
yard	yd	et alii (and others)	et al.	logarithm (base 10)	log
Time and temperature		et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ , etc.
day	d	exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.	minute (angular)	'
degrees Celsius	°C	Federal Information Code	FIC	not significant	NS
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	id est (that is)	i.e.	null hypothesis	H ₀
degrees kelvin	K	latitude or longitude	lat or long	percent	%
hour	h	monetary symbols (U.S.)	\$, ¢	probability	P
minute	min	months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan.,...,Dec	probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
second	s	registered trademark	®	probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
Physics and chemistry		trademark	™	second (angular)	"
all atomic symbols		United States (adjective)	U.S.	standard deviation	SD
alternating current	AC	United States of America (noun)	USA	standard error	SE
ampere	A	U.S.C.	United States Code	variance	
calorie	cal			population sample	Var var
direct current	DC	U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)		
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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2018 SUMMER TROLL FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

by

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ABSTRACT

This document summarizes the plan that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will follow to manage the 2018 Southeast Alaska summer commercial salmon troll fishery from July 1 through September 30, 2018. The troll fishery will be managed according to guidelines adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries listed in the State of Alaska Administrative Code, Title 5, Chapter 29 Salmon Troll Fishery. The first Chinook salmon fishing period will begin on July 1 to harvest 70% of the summer troll Chinook salmon quota. The remainder of the troll Chinook salmon quota will be harvested in August, following a closure period. The fishery will be open to harvest coho salmon through September 20, with inseason consideration given to a possible conservation closure period in late July, a possible conservation or allocation closure in mid-August, and consideration of an extension of the season through September 30. Chum salmon, primarily those produced by Alaska hatcheries, are also harvested during the summer troll fishery.

Key words: salmon, troll, summer, commercial, management plan, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, Southeast Alaska, chum salmon

INTRODUCTION

The Southeast Alaska/Yakutat commercial salmon troll fishery occurs in State of Alaska and Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters east of Cape Suckling and north of Dixon Entrance. The fishery is managed according to regulations promulgated by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF), the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC). Regulations adopted by the BOF are listed in the State of Alaska Administrative Code, Title 5 (5AAC), Chapter 29 - Salmon Troll Fishery. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), under emergency order authority, conducts inseason management. The all-gear Chinook salmon fishery will be managed to achieve a harvest target based on the 2008 Bilateral Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement (PST). The PST specifies a harvest based on a relationship between a preseason Abundance Index (AI) generated by the PSC's Chinook Technical Committee (CTC) and a harvest target specified in the agreement. Coho salmon will be managed to ensure escapement goals and to achieve BOF allocation guidelines. Coho salmon near Dixon Entrance will be managed in cooperation with Canada according to the PST agreement.

This management plan discusses management objectives and methods used to achieve BOF, NPFMC, NMFS, and PSC policies and goals for the commercial summer troll fishery. This plan covers commercial trolling for Chinook, coho, and chum salmon. Other species caught and retained by trollers are considered incidental.

SUMMER TROLL FISHERY DATES

The summer troll fishing season covered in this plan is July 1 through September 30. Chinook salmon may be harvested only during open periods announced by ADF&G. The coho salmon season may be extended for up to 10 days after September 20 in Districts 1–16 (Figure 1) in years when wild coho salmon abundance is projected by the department to meet escapement needs after considering harvest and effort [5 AAC 29.110(a)].

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

CHINOOK SALMON

The Southeast Alaska (SEAK) Chinook salmon fishery is managed to achieve the annual all-gear PSC allowable catch associated with the preseason abundance index generated by the CTC Chinook Model each spring. The catch is allocated through regulations established by the BOF

among troll, net, and sport fisheries. The summer troll fishery is managed inseason, according to the Summer Salmon Troll Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC 29.100). Most of the Chinook salmon harvested in the Alaska summer troll fishery are of non-Alaska hatchery origin and are referred to as “treaty” (PST) fish. In addition to the harvest ceiling of PST fish, provisions of the PST provide for an additional harvest of Chinook salmon produced in Alaska hatcheries (add-on). The add-on is the total estimated Alaska hatchery catch, minus the pre-treaty hatchery production of Chinook salmon (5,500 fish) minus the standard error of the estimate of Alaska hatchery catch multiplied by a risk adjustment factor (1.282).

Management Objectives

1. Achieve the annual all-gear PSC allowable catch associated with the preseason abundance index generated by the CTC Chinook Model each spring.
2. Comply with provisions and regulations established by the BOF, NPFMC, NMFS, and the PSC.
3. Maximize the harvest of Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon.
4. Comply with the conservation goals of the PST and the BOF.
5. Achieve harvest allocations among user groups as mandated by the BOF.

Management Methods

The majority of the annual troll Chinook salmon harvest is taken during the general summer troll fishery, when salmon may be taken throughout most of the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat region, including the outside waters of the EEZ. The summer fishery targets the number of PST Chinook remaining on the annual troll allocation after winter and spring troll PST harvests are subtracted. During years in which the summer Chinook salmon target (or quota) is relatively large, Chinook opening lengths are estimated and a closing date is determined inseason. Tabulating the inseason summer troll catch is difficult due to the large number of fish tickets and the difficulty of receiving them from remote areas in a timely manner. Therefore, a Fisheries Performance Data (FPD) program, consisting of confidential interviews with commercial trollers as they deliver catches, is used to estimate daily catch rates (catch-per-boat-day or CPBD) in six areas (Figure 1). Aerial vessel surveys are conducted to obtain an immediate estimate of fishing effort. Total harvest to date is estimated by multiplying aerial vessel counts with the CPBD obtained from FPD interviews. Daily tallies from fish processors are an important tool in tracking harvest during the final days of each summer Chinook retention period. The total number of days the fishery will be open for Chinook salmon retention is calculated by dividing the summer season harvest goal by the estimated daily catch by the troll fleet. From 1992 through 1995, and again in 2000, 2001, 2008, and 2013, ADF&G announced a fixed number of days beginning July 1, due to the low number of Chinook salmon available for harvest. From 1996–1999, 2002–2007, 2009–2012, and 2014–2017, the Chinook fishery was managed inseason and closed by emergency order due to the larger Chinook quotas during those years. The department will manage the summer troll season according to the BOF management plan (5 AAC 29.100) which calls for harvesting 70% of the summer Chinook salmon troll quota (see next section) in an initial opening beginning July 1. The remainder of the Chinook salmon quota is to be harvested following any closure for coho salmon conservation and/or allocation in August. Following the first Chinook opening, the waters of frequent high Chinook salmon abundance will be closed, consistent with 5 AAC 29.025 unless the department determines that less than 30% of the

Chinook salmon harvest goal for the initial opening was taken in that opening (Figure 2). In addition, during the second Chinook salmon opening, if the department determines after 10 days that the annual troll Chinook salmon harvest ceiling might not be reached by September 20 with those waters closed, the department shall reopen the waters of frequent high Chinook salmon abundance by emergency order.

The hatchery add-on is calculated inseason through port sampling programs. Chinook salmon are sampled for the presence of adipose fins. The heads from fish that have missing adipose fins are then sent to the Juneau Mark, Tag and Age lab for processing. Coded-wire tags are removed from the heads and decoded. The number of Alaska hatchery fish is calculated by expanding the number of Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon in the sampled catch by the total catch.

COHO SALMON

Most coho salmon harvested in the troll fishery are of Alaska origin. They spawn in approximately 2,500 streams in Southeast Alaska during the fall and early winter months. Coho salmon harvests were depressed in the mid to late 1970s but improved through most of the 1980s and 1990s. Factors contributing to the increased harvests include the improved spawning escapement levels achieved under the conservative management regime implemented in 1980, increased marine survivals due to favorable ocean conditions, increased targeting of coho salmon by trollers, and increasing Alaska hatchery production. Hatchery coho salmon production (almost entirely from Southeast Alaska facilities) first became significant in 1980. The contribution of hatchery coho salmon has varied since then from 0.4% of the total troll catch in 1980 to 30% in 2013 and 2015.

Early in the season, coho salmon stocks returning to southern Southeast Alaska are harvested by the troll fishery in northern and central outside areas, where they intermingle with coho salmon bound for northern and central areas of the region. Troll fishery harvests of coho salmon in outer coastal areas generally peak during mid-July to mid-August. Harvests in inside fisheries generally peak during late August to mid-September.

Management Objectives

1. Provide adequate escapement of coho salmon, by area, to ensure sustainable populations.
2. Provide maximum opportunities for harvest consistent with conservation objectives.
3. Maintain allocation guidelines over the long-term, consistent with BOF regulations.
4. Comply with provisions of the PST Agreement in managing coho salmon on the U.S./Canada border.

Management Methods

Management of coho salmon is based on aggregate abundance. Lack of a general coho salmon stock identification technique prevents assessment of run strength of individual stock groups contributing to these early-season mixed stock fisheries. The widespread and complex nature of the troll fishery necessitates a closely coordinated management program. Inseason management is accomplished through a team consisting of the Southeast regional supervisor, the regional management coordinator, two troll fishery management biologists, and 14 area management biologists. ADF&G contact information is listed at the end of this plan.

The coho salmon fisheries are managed to comply with the *Southeastern Alaska/Yakutat Area coho salmon fishery management plan* [5 AAC 29.110]. Inseason run strength is used to achieve ADF&G conservation objectives and BOF allocation objectives adopted in the management plan. The management plan calls for a troll closure of up to seven days in late July if the total projected commercial harvest of wild coho salmon is less than 1.1 million fish [5 AAC 29.110 (b)(1)]. A troll closure of up to ten days typically occurs in mid-August and is required to be a minimum of two days by regulation for a fair start prior to the second Chinook salmon opening. The actual length of that closure is determined in early August, when an assessment determines whether the number of coho reaching inside areas is adequate to provide for spawning requirements, given usual or restricted inside fisheries on coho and other species [5 AAC 29.110 (b)(2)(A)] or the proportional share of coho salmon harvest by the troll fishery is larger than that of inside gillnet and recreational fisheries compared to average 1971–1980 levels [5 AAC 29.110 (b)(2)(B)]. There are no harvest ceilings for Southeast Alaska coho salmon fisheries. However, under the 2008 PST Agreement, the area near the U.S./Canada border will close if the harvest rates by Alaska trollers fishing in the border area during early July fall below specified thresholds.

The criteria for extending the coho salmon fishery after September 20 were modified in 2012, through the BOF process. The regulatory period for coho retention in the troll fishery is June 1 through September 20, with a potential extension through September 30 in years when wild coho salmon abundance is projected to meet escapement needs after harvest and effort are considered.

Long-term wild stock and hatchery stock CWT programs, dockside sampling programs to sample the harvest for CWTs, escapement monitoring, and the troll FPD collection program all began in the early 1980s and continue through the present day. As years of data were gathered from each program, more information and understanding of stock movement, stock timing, and stock harvest were accumulated. As a result, a model was developed in 1989 to accurately estimate the end of season, all-gear coho salmon commercial harvest by late July using the salmon troll FPD. In the mid-1990s, escapement goals were established for several stocks in Southeast Alaska based on spawner-recruit relationships from long-term databases of harvest rate, harvest, age composition, and escapement information. These long-term monitoring programs have provided the backbone for successful conservation of coho salmon in Southeast Alaska.

Coho Salmon Allocation Regulations

The BOF has established long-term allocation goals for the coho salmon harvest by each commercial gear type. Target percentages established by the board are 61% for troll, 19% for purse seine, 13% for drift gillnet, and 7% for set gillnet. The BOF stated that subsistence, personal use, and recreational harvests of coho salmon are not affected by the established allocations between commercial gear types. The BOF also stated that:

“These percentages are guidelines only and may vary from season to season given natural fluctuations in salmon abundance and distribution and the limitations of fisheries management. It is, however, the board’s intent that these allocation guidelines be met as closely as possible over the long term. It is not the board’s intent for the department to disrupt any of the traditional commercial fisheries that the historical allocation is founded. The department may, however, make inseason adjustments to attempt to achieve these long-term allocation guidelines.”

The department will however, implement applicable, existing regulations (5 AAC 29.110). These regulations indicate that:

A regionwide troll closure for up to 10 days is required during the coho salmon season to address allocations between outer coastal fisheries and inside water fisheries if the department determines that the proportional share of coho salmon harvest by the troll fishery is larger than that of inside gillnet and recreational fisheries compared to the 1971–1980 levels. Primary inside fishery indicators for this assessment are overall coho salmon harvests, escapement projections for streams where escapement goals have been established, and CPUE in the Tree Point, Prince of Wales, Taku/Snettisham, and Lynn Canal drift gillnet fisheries.

If a regionwide troll closure is implemented to conserve coho salmon during late July or early August, the length and timing of an additional closure during August will consider the combined impacts of both closures. Any potential transfer of coho salmon harvest to inside fisheries resulting from an early closure, if implemented, will be reflected in inside fishery performance indicators used for comparison against the allocation criteria.

2018 FISHERY UPDATE

2018 Regulatory Changes

The following regulations which relate to the summer troll fishery were adopted at the 2018 BOF meeting:

1. The Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan was modified to increase commercial salmon fishing opportunity with troll gear. The management plan now specifies that the commissioner may allow the waters of the THA to remain open to troll gear during hatchery cost recovery periods.
2. A Special Harvest Area was established and the existing Terminal Harvest Area (THA) was modified in Crawfish Inlet. The expansion of the existing THA will create additional opportunity for the commercial troll fleet primarily during June and July for Chinook salmon and late July to early September for chum salmon.
3. A commercial troll fishery in the newly established Crawfish Inlet THA to target hatchery-produced chum salmon was adopted. This fishery allows trollers to target chum during any closures of the summer coho salmon troll fishery.
4. The department may, in consultation with hatchery operators, identify specific areas that could remain open for up to 10 days of additional coho fishing time to access hatchery coho during troll fishery coho conservation closures
5. The eastern boundary of the closed troll area outside the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet was moved approximately two miles to the northwest, while maintaining the current western boundary which was modified by the board of fisheries in 2012. This change reduced the area which is closed to trolling adjacent to the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet by seven square miles.

Tentative 2018 Summer Season Schedule

The following is a generalized timetable for summer salmon management. It is emphasized that some modifications to this schedule may be required.

DATES	EXPECTED REGULATORY ACTIONS
July 1	The general summer troll fishery opens in most waters of the region, including outer coastal waters. The initial Chinook salmon retention period begins July 1 and targets 70% of the Chinook remaining on the troll treaty allocation. The length of the opening varies annually and may be open for a predetermined number of days or managed inseason. The waters of frequent high Chinook salmon abundance will close following the first retention period.
Late July	<p>Regional coho run strength is assessed. If the total projected commercial harvest of wild coho salmon is less than 1.1 million, up to a 7-day regionwide conservation closure may be implemented on or after July 25. The projected total commercial wild coho harvest will be used as an index of run strength.</p> <p>Coho salmon run strength near the U.S./Canada border is also assessed, based on Alaska Fisheries Performance Data. Portions of Districts 101–104 will close, beginning the last week of July, if harvest rates by Alaska trollers fishing in the border area during early July fall below specified thresholds.</p>
Early August	A second assessment of coho run strength will determine the need for and length of a mid-August troll closure.
Mid- to late-August	<p>A regionwide closure of up to 10 days will be implemented if required for either coho salmon conservation or allocation, based on assessment of stock and fishery performance data relative to BOF-established criteria. If a regionwide conservation closure has occurred during late July, the likelihood of a closure being implemented for allocation at this time will be reduced.</p> <p>Following any closure of the troll fishery, the Chinook salmon fishery will reopen to take the remaining treaty Chinook salmon. A minimum closure of two days is required prior to the second Chinook salmon opening to allow for a fair start (5 AAC 29.100(c)(1)(B)(ii)).</p>
Late-August to September 20	Coho salmon conservation measures may be implemented regionwide or by area, as required to protect weak coho stocks.
Mid-September	If wild coho salmon abundance is projected by the department to meet escapement needs after considering harvest and effort, the coho fishery may be extended by up to 10 days after September 20.

2018 Chinook Salmon Treaty Quota and Allocations

Under management provisions of the PST, the 2018 preseason Chinook salmon abundance index (AI) for SEAK has been calculated to be 1.07, which results in an all-gear harvest quota of 130,050 treaty Chinook (non-Alaska-hatchery-produced) salmon. According to the BOF allocation plan outlined below, the troll fishery allocation of the all-gear quota is 95,712 treaty Chinook salmon. The quota is based on the SEAK abundance index from 30 stock groups originating from the north Oregon coast to Alaska. Of those, seven “driver” stocks make up the majority of the SEAK abundance index. Productivity varies over time and has increased recently for several large stock groups that typically represent a substantial portion of the SEAK harvest.

The all-gear quota is allocated among commercial and sport fisheries according to management plans established by the BOF [5AAC 29.060(b) and 47.055]. Most Chinook salmon produced by Alaska hatcheries are not factored into the AI and may be harvested in addition to the treaty limit. The commercial troll fishery is allocated 80% and the recreational fishery 20% of the PST quota, after subtracting 4.3% from the total for the purse seine fishery, 2.9% for the drift gillnet fishery, and 1,000 fish for the set gillnet fishery. The pre-treaty Chinook salmon harvest and risk adjustment factor are proportionally shared between the gear groups.

Allocations of the Chinook salmon harvest quota for 2018 are as follows:

All-gear Treaty Quota	Purse Seine	Drift Gillnet	Set Gillnet	Total Net	Sport	Troll
130,000	5,590	3,770	1,000	10,360	23,928	95,712

The summer troll treaty quota is calculated by adding the winter treaty harvest, the projected spring treaty harvest, the proportionally adjusted harvest of pre-treaty Alaska hatchery harvest of 4,100 fish, and a risk adjustment of 1,000 fish. The resultant sum is then subtracted from the troll allocation, yielding a summer troll treaty quota. In addition, under the BOF plan, 70% of the summer quota is to be harvested during the first summer opening beginning July 1. **The preliminary target harvest for the July Chinook salmon opening will be announced in a news release to be issued in late June, as will an estimate of the length of the first summer opening.**

SUMMER TROLL FISHING PERIODS AND CLOSED WATERS

Salmon trolling is permitted in all areas during the first Chinook salmon retention period of the general summer season except for those waters described in 5 AAC 29.100 and the closed waters listed in 5 AAC 29.150. In addition, during subsequent Chinook salmon retention periods, waters designated as frequent high Chinook salmon abundance (5 AAC 29.025) (Figure 2) will be closed as necessary.

FISHING PERIODS UNDER 5 AAC 29.100

Wild king salmon production is in a very low period for the majority of rivers in Southeast Alaska/Yakutat that contain king salmon populations. With preseason forecasts for the Chilkat, Stikine, Taku, and Unuk rivers, along with a number of other systems, below the lower bound of escapement goals, time, area, and possession restrictions are being implemented near terminal areas and in migration corridors to reduce harvest of these stocks. Additional conservation measures that will be implemented by emergency order for 2018 are bolded in the summer troll regulatory language below.

Regulations under 5 AAC 29.100 describe open fishing periods as follows:

(d) Sections 1-C, 1-E, and 1-F, salmon may be taken only as follows: (Figure 3)

(1) Section 1-C: from August 15 through September 20;

(2) Section 1-E:

(A) in the waters of Section 1-E, bounded by a line from the southernmost tip of Nose Point to a point in West Behm Canal at 55° 48.73' N. lat., 131°44.01' W. long., located approximately one mile west of Nose Point, then south to a point at 55°43.92' N. lat., 131°45.44' W. long., located approximately one mile west of the northernmost tip of Bushy Point, then south to a point at 55°39.09' N. lat., 131°44.69' W. long., located approximately one mile west of Escape Point, to the northernmost tip of Escape Point, and in waters of Neets Bay west of the longitude of the southernmost tip of Chin Point and in Traitors Cove west of 131°41.80' W. long., from July 1 through September 20;

(B) all other waters of Section 1-E, from July 13 through September 20;

(C) in the waters of Section 1-E, north of a line from Indian Point to Mike Point, king salmon may not be retained or in possession during the first general summer troll king salmon retention period.

(3) Section 1-F: open from July 1 through September 20, with the following restrictions:

(A) from July 1 through July 12, the waters of Section 1-F east of line from the northernmost tip of Kirk Point at 54°59.98' N. lat., 131°00.78' W. long., to Mary Island Light at 55°05.90' N. lat., 131°10.89' W. long., to the southernmost tip of Cone Island at 55°14.47' N. lat., 131°19.36' W. long. are closed;

(B) from July 13 through July 31, the waters of Section 1-F east of a line from the southernmost tip of Black Island at 55°07.84' N. lat., 131°04.89' W. long., to the westernmost tip of Slate Island at 55°05.68' N. lat., 131°03.92' W. long., to the westernmost tip of White Reef at 55°03.95' N. lat., 131°02.51' W. long., to the easternmost tip of Black Rock at 55°01.37' N. lat., 131°03.62' W. long., to the northernmost tip of Kirk Point at 54°59.98' N. lat., 131°00.78' W. long., are closed.

(C) in the waters of Section 1-F, enclosed by a line from Lucky Point to Middy Point, continuing to the latitude of Beaver Point, and from Point Rosen to Quadra Point, and in southeast Behm Canal south of a line from a point at 55° 11.78' N. lat., 131° 05.13' W. long., located on Point Sykes to a point at 55° 12.22' N. lat., 131° 05.70' W. long., located one-half mile northwest of Point Sykes to Point Alava, king salmon may not be retained or in possession during the first general summer troll king salmon retention period.

(e) In District 8, the weekly fishing periods for trolling are the same as for drift gillnetting.

(1) The waters of District 8 are closed to king salmon retention and possession during the first general summer troll king salmon retention period.

The closed waters of District 8 are described by regulation in 5 AAC 29.150(i), (Figure 4).

(f) In District 11 salmon may be taken only in Sections 11-C and 11-D. (Figure 5).

(g) In District 15 salmon may be taken only in Sections 15-C. (Figure 5).

CLOSED WATERS UNDER 5 AAC 30.365 AND 29.100

In the Yakutat area, **waters near the mouth of the Situk River will be closed to the harvest of Chinook salmon by troll gear effective July 1 and closed to retention of all salmon from August 7–September 20**, in accordance with the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. The Situk River is managed for a biological escapement goal (BEG) of 450 to 1,050 large Chinook salmon. The 2018 preseason forecast is for a total return of 730 large Chinook salmon. The inriver run goal was not achieved in 2010–2012, and 2015–2016, and restrictive management measures were deemed necessary. The 2018 preseason forecast suggests that the Situk River Chinook salmon run will fall short of the lower bound of the BEG if normal fisheries are prosecuted. Conservation actions are necessary to ensure adequate levels of escapement. A portion of District 181 south of Yakutat Bay, in State waters, will close to Chinook salmon retention by troll gear beginning at 12:01 a.m., July 1. This area is displayed in Figure 6, and described as follows:

“...in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the seaward limit of the three-nautical-mile territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59°30.49' N. lat., 139°46.58' W. long. (Ocean Cape) and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at 59°28.65' N. lat., 139°51.17' W. long. and on the south by a line extending seaward from **59°21.07' N. lat., 139°19.73' W. long. and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at 59°19.14' N. lat., 139°24.83' W. long.**”

SPORT FISHING AND CHARTERING FROM A REGISTERED COMMERCIAL TROLL VESSEL

- A person may sport fish from a registered commercial salmon hand troll or power troll vessel [5 AAC 47.041 (a)], though **may not sport fish and commercial fish for salmon from the same vessel on the same day** [5 AAC 47.041 (f)]. A person sport fishing from a vessel licensed for commercial salmon fishing, other than a charter vessel when paying clients are onboard, shall immediately mark harvested salmon by **removing its dorsal fin** when fishing in waters closed to commercial salmon fishing [5 AAC 47.041 (c)].
- Sport fishing from a commercially licensed vessel while commercially-caught salmon are in possession is illegal in waters closed to commercial fishing [5 AAC 47.041(d)].
- A downrigger may be used in conjunction with a fishing rod when sport fishing. However, a downrigger may **not** be used in conjunction with a fishing rod to take salmon when engaged in commercial hand trolling [5 AAC 29.120 (b)(2)(B)].
- A **registered troll vessel may also be registered as a charter vessel**, though that vessel may not be used to troll commercially and charter on the same day [5 AAC 75.995(8)]. Charter boat registration applications are available at ADF&G offices.

A person **may not possess unpreserved sport-caught salmon** on any commercial salmon vessel while engaging in commercial salmon fishing [5 AAC 47.041(g)]. The definition of “preserved fish” excludes unfrozen fish temporarily stored in coolers that contain ice or dry ice or fish that are lightly salted [5 AAC 75.995(21)].

The following sections give information for areas where trollers have targeted chum salmon during recent years or have new opportunities for 2018.

ICY STRAIT

Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. (DIPAC) projects total returns of 3.07 million chum salmon to the Macaulay Hatchery and other release sites in 2018, up by 34% from the 2017 preseason projection of 2.29 million (postseason online return is 4.58 million). Trollers have targeted DIPAC-produced chum salmon in Icy Strait during June and early July since 2010.

NEETS BAY TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

The Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) is expecting 1.35 million summer chum salmon to return to the Neets Bay THA in 2018, which is 2% more than the 1.32 million summer chum projected to return in 2017. From 12:00 noon, Sunday, July 1, through 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, the Neets Bay THA will be open to troll gear west of the closed waters at the head of the bay and east of the longitude of Chin Point, unless closed by emergency order. During the first summer Chinook retention period, retention of Chinook salmon in the THA is closed between the longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island and the longitude of Chin Point. Trollers fishing the waters between Chin Point and Bug Island may not possess Chinook salmon. The Neets Bay THA will close to the harvest of salmon **by troll gear at 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, July 31**. If additional openings can be scheduled they will be announced by News Release. Trollers may target Neets Bay chum salmon outside the THA in West Behm Canal when those waters are open to trolling (Figure 3).

HIDDEN FALLS TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

The Hidden Falls Hatchery, operated by the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), expects a run of 593,000 chum salmon in 2018. NSRAA needs 190,000 chum salmon for broodstock leaving 403,000 chum salmon available for common property harvests. As of July 1, the number of chum salmon may not exceed the number of Chinook salmon onboard a troll vessel or on a fish ticket.

NSRAA intends to use a tax assessment on the common property harvest of chum salmon to fund hatchery operations. In 2018, the NSRAA Board has recommended to the Department of Revenue that no tax be assessed in the Hidden Falls Hatchery THA fishery, due to the low chum salmon forecast. However, all chum salmon landed from a vessel that reports on the fish ticket all or a portion of the harvest from Subsection 112-11, 112-21, or 112-22 during the period of June 15 through July 31 will be assessed the tax. Please refer to the *2018 Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Fishery Management Plan* for more details.

SITKA SOUND/DEEP INLET TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

NSRAA has projected total returns of 1.25 million chum salmon to the Deep Inlet THA and Medvejie Hatchery in 2018, a decrease of 8% over the 2017 projected run of 1.36 million. The Deep Inlet THA rotational fishing schedule began on May 1 to harvest Medvejie Hatchery Chinook salmon. The THA is open to trolling during periods when the net fisheries are closed, including each Monday from June 4 through September 30. NSRAA is not planning to conduct cost recovery this season and no closure of the THA in early August will be necessary. The troll fishing schedule can be found in the Deep Inlet news release issued on April 4, along with a description of THA boundaries and net fishing schedules.

Troll harvest of returning chum salmon typically takes place in Eastern Channel and in Sitka Sound from the last week of July through the mid-August troll closure. An area has been

established in Sitka Sound where trollers may target chum salmon during the mid-August troll closure. Coho salmon cannot be retained in that area during the mid-August closure [5 AAC 29.112].

CRAWFISH INLET TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

NSRAA has projected total returns to the newly established Crawfish Inlet THA/SHA of 681,000 chum salmon in 2018. The timing of troll harvest in the THA should be similar to that of the Deep Inlet and Sitka Sound chum fisheries, with effort returns beginning in late July and continuing through mid-August. This troll THA was established during the 2018 BOF meeting in Sitka and allows trollers to target chum salmon during the mid-August troll closure in any or all portions of Crawfish Inlet east of 135°11.05' W. long. Coho salmon cannot be retained in that area during the mid-August closure [5 AAC 29.112].

SOUTHEAST COVE

For 2018, an estimated 21,000 chum salmon may be intercepted in commercial fisheries prior to entering the Southeast Cove SHA. The remainder, estimated at 122,000, will be harvested as cost recovery by NSRAA. Troll effort targeting chum salmon returning to SE Cove is likely to occur during late June and July.

TERMINAL HARVEST AREA CHINOOK RETENTION

Retention of Chinook salmon 28" and greater will be allowed in the following areas:

The **Herring Bay THA** will be open to troll gear for retention of all salmon species from July 1 through August 30, unless closed earlier by emergency order (5 AAC 33.369). The **Silver Bay SHA** may open to troll gear if Chinook salmon broodstock needs are met at the Medvejie Creek hatchery prior to July 31 (5 AAC 33.375). The **Anita Bay THA** will be open to troll gear for retention of all species through November 10 (5 AAC 33.383). The **Port Armstrong SHA** is open to troll gear for retention of all species through June 30 but may be extended into the summer season by emergency order. Any extension of the fishery would be announced in a future news release. The **Deep Inlet THA** will be open to troll gear through September 30 for retention of all species and will follow the schedule announced in the Deep Inlet news release issued on April 4. (5 AAC 33.376).

The Nakat Inlet, Neets Bay and Hidden Falls THAs will close to Chinook salmon retention whenever the first Chinook retention period closes.

REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO COMMERCIAL TROLL BYCATCH OF GROUND FISH AND HALIBUT

For information on Southeast Alaska Groundfish regulations, refer to the current Statewide Commercial Groundfish Fishing Regulations booklet available at ADF&G area offices. For details on groundfish bycatch allowances in the troll fishery refer to the "Groundfish Bycatch in the 2018 Commercial Salmon Troll Fishery" news release, issued on January 2, 2018.

STATE BYCATCH ALLOWANCES

In the state waters portion of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, commercial salmon trollers operating hand or power troll gear during an open commercial salmon fishing period may legally retain and possess incidentally-taken groundfish in unlimited amounts, except as noted below. The bycatch allowance for each species or species group reflects the percentage that may be

retained and sold and is based on the round weight of salmon on board. Bycatch percentages are listed in Table 1.

Table 1.–Bycatch Provisions for the Salmon Troll Fishery in State Waters

Species	Bycatch Allowance
Lingcod	100% IBS, EYKT, CSEO, NSEI and SSEIW 30% SSEOC 5% NSEO
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)	10%
Other rockfish	No limit on incidental harvest
Spiny dogfish	35%
Sablefish	0%
Other groundfish	No limit on incidental harvest

Groundfish taken as bycatch must be reported on an ADF&G fish ticket by **species code, six-digit groundfish statistical area, delivery condition code, disposition code** and **pounds** landed. The number of fish taken does not need to be documented for groundfish bycatch.

LINGCOD

Lingcod may be taken as bycatch in the commercial salmon troll fishery only from May 16 through November 30 [5 AAC 28.113 (c)]. Lingcod must measure at least 27 inches from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail, or 20.5 inches from the front of the dorsal fin to the tip of the tail. Lingcod harvest allocations for the troll fishery are set by area and area closures will occur as allocations are taken. In season closures will be announced by ADF&G news release, United States Coast Guard “Notice to Mariners” report and the National Weather Service broadcast. For updates on lingcod area closures, call the Groundfish Hotline at (907) 747-4882 or contact the Groundfish staff in Sitka at (907) 747-6688.

Lingcod Management Areas include: Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS), East Yakutat (EYKT) Section, Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section, Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section, Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector, Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict, and Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) Sector (Figure 7). Lingcod bycatch allowances in federal waters are identical to those set for state waters. Lingcod retained in excess of bycatch allowances shall be reported on fish tickets as overage and forfeited to the State of Alaska.

Lingcod harvest is restricted in the waters of Sitka Sound [5 AAC 28.150 (b) and 5 AAC 28.173 (a)(4)]. Commercial salmon trollers are permitted to retain and possess up to two lingcod aboard a vessel while actively fishing for salmon within the Sitka Sound Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) during the open CSEO lingcod season. Lingcod taken within the LAMP may be retained for a permit holder’s personal use only and may not be sold. Upon taking a lingcod in this area, the permit holder shall mark that lingcod for personal use by immediately removing the dorsal fin of that fish. The head of each personal use lingcod must remain attached to the fish as evidence of meeting the 27-inch minimum size restriction, until that lingcod is weighed and reported on the ADF&G troll salmon fish ticket documenting that fishing trip.

Having taken no more than two lingcod outside of the LAMP area, a permit holder may fish for salmon within the LAMP only after removing the dorsal fin of those lingcod. Vessels in possession of more than two lingcod may not fish for salmon within the LAMP until those lingcod are offloaded.

The Sitka Sound LAMP is defined as the waters that are enclosed on the north by lines from Kruzof Island at 57°20.50' N. lat., 135°45.17' W. long. to Chichagof Island at 57°22.05' N. lat., 135°43.00' W. long., and from Chichagof Island at 57°22.58' N. lat., 135°41.30' W. long. to Baranof Island at 57°22.28' N. lat., 135°40.95' W. long., and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point at 56°59.38' N. lat., 135°49.57' W. long., to Hanus Point at 56°51.92' N. lat., 135°30.50' W. long. to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows at 56°49.28' N. lat., 135°22.75' W. long., to Baranof Island at 56°49.28' N. lat., 135°22.60' W. long.

DEMERSAL SHELF ROCKFISH

All DSR taken in state waters in excess of 10% of the round weight of salmon on board the vessel must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess DSR bycatch taken in state waters shall be surrendered to the state [5 AAC 28.171 (a)]. DSR bycatch overages must be reported on fish tickets but may be retained for personal use by the permit holder. The seven species in the DSR assemblage are yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, China, tiger, and rosethorn rockfish.

BYCATCH IN FEDERAL WATERS

In federal waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, all incidental troll bycatch of black, blue, and dark rockfish may be retained. In federal waters east of 140° W. long. (Southeast Outside District), the troll bycatch allowance for DSR is 10% and all other rockfish are limited to 5% in aggregate. In federal waters west of 140° W. long., rockfish bycatch (including DSR) is limited to 5% in aggregate.

Vessels trolling for salmon in federal waters of the EEZ in the Gulf of Alaska that retain federal groundfish bycatch must have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) endorsed for troll/jig gear. FFPs are not required to retain lingcod or black, blue, or dark rockfish as these species are not managed under the Federal Management Plan. For information on FFP requirements and bycatch allowances in federal waters contact NOAA Fisheries at (907) 586-7225 (Juneau), (907) 747-6940 (Sitka), (907) 772-2285 (Petersburg) or (907) 247-5804 (Ketchikan).

Groundfish and halibut may not be taken in the waters off Cape Edgecumbe (Edgecumbe Pinnacles Marine Reserve) enclosed by a boxed defined as 56°55.50' N. lat., 56°57.00' N. lat., 135°54.00' W. long., and 135°57.00' W. long. [5 AAC 28.150(c)].

HALIBUT

Halibut incidentally taken during an open commercial halibut season by power and hand troll gear operated for salmon consistent with applicable state laws and regulations are legally taken and possessed [5 AAC 28.133(c)]. Commercial halibut may be legally retained only by Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) permit holders during the open season for halibut. Trollers making an IFQ halibut landing of 500 pounds or less of IFQ weight as determined pursuant to 50 CFR 679.42(h) are exempted from the three-hour prior notice of landing (PNOL) if landed concurrently with a legal landing of salmon [50 CFR 679.5(l)(1)(iv)(A)]. Halibut taken incidentally during the troll fishery shall be reported on the troll fish ticket documenting the salmon landing. For information on regulations and landing requirements for the federal IFQ halibut fishery contact NOAA Fisheries.

OTHER REGULATIONS

A person aboard a vessel may not fish for groundfish with dinglebar troll or mechanical jig gear if salmon are on board. A vessel fishing for groundfish with dinglebar troll gear must display the letter “D” and a vessel fishing for groundfish with mechanical jigging machines must display the letter “M” at all times when fishing with or transporting fish taken with dinglebar troll gear or mechanical jigging machines [5 AAC 28.135 (a)(4)]. A person may not operate a vessel that is displaying one of these letters when the vessel is being used to fish for salmon [5 AAC 28.135 (c)].

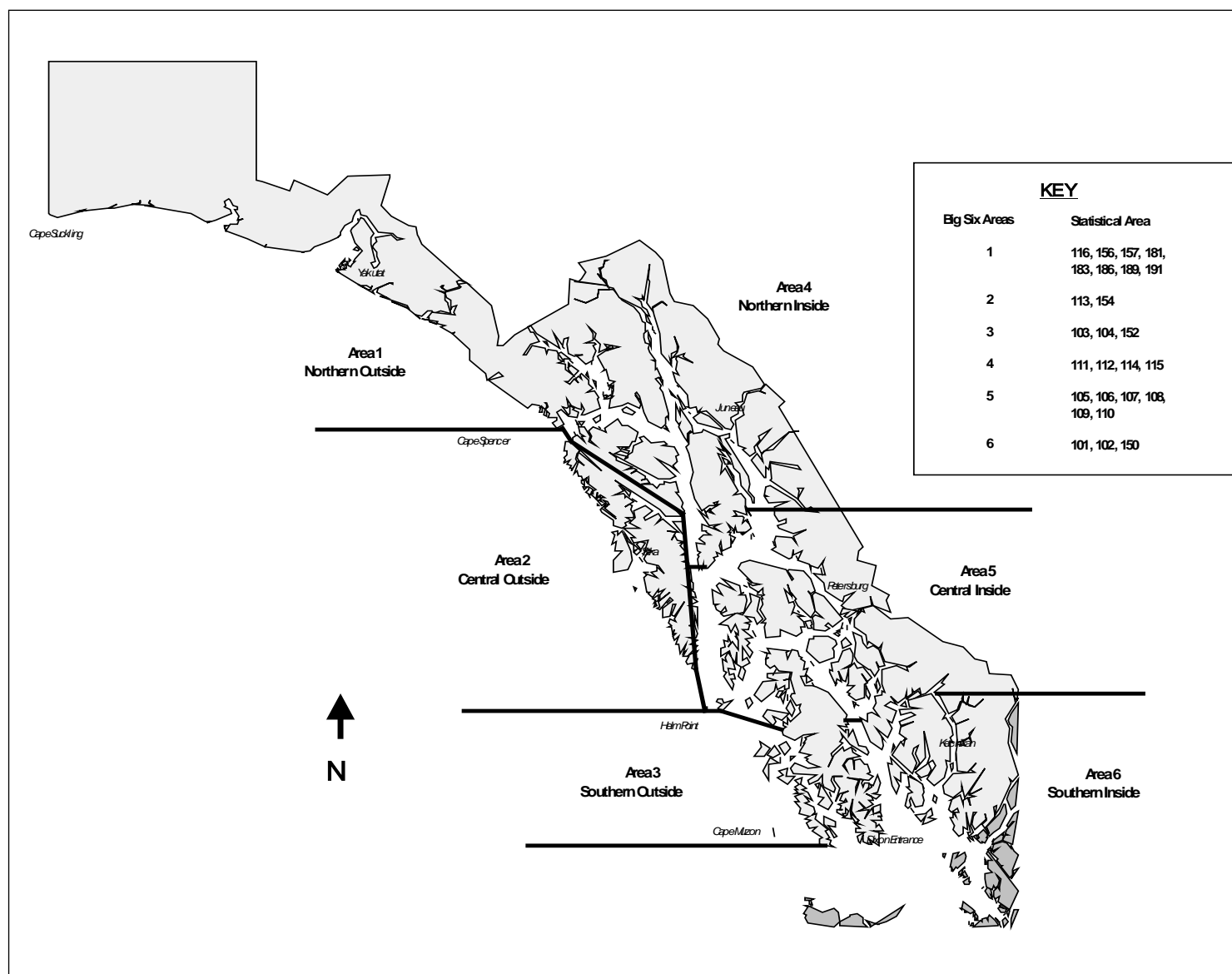


Figure 1.—Fisheries Performance Data program reporting areas in Southeast Alaska.

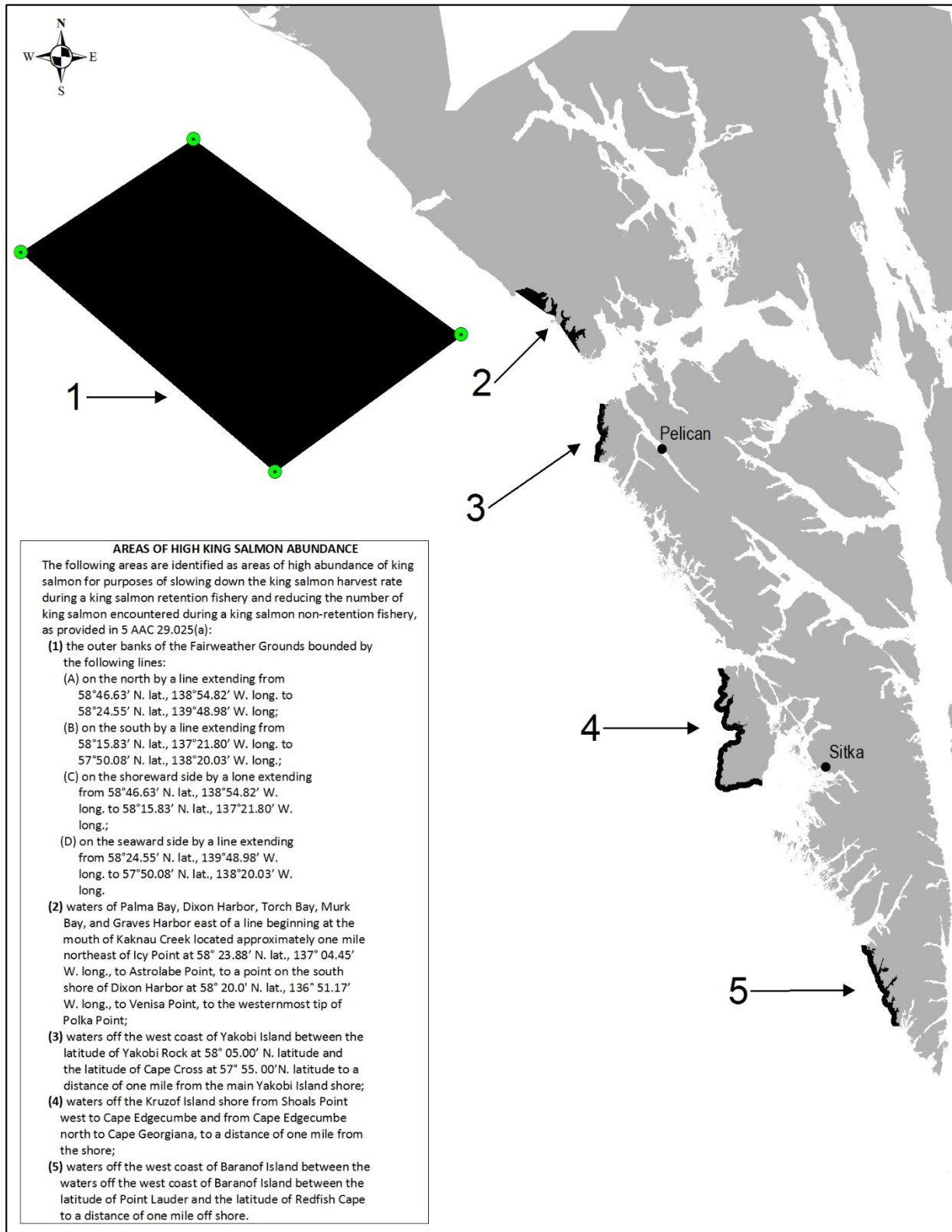


Figure 2.—Southeast Alaska areas closed to trolling for all species following the initial Chinook salmon opening in the summer troll season.

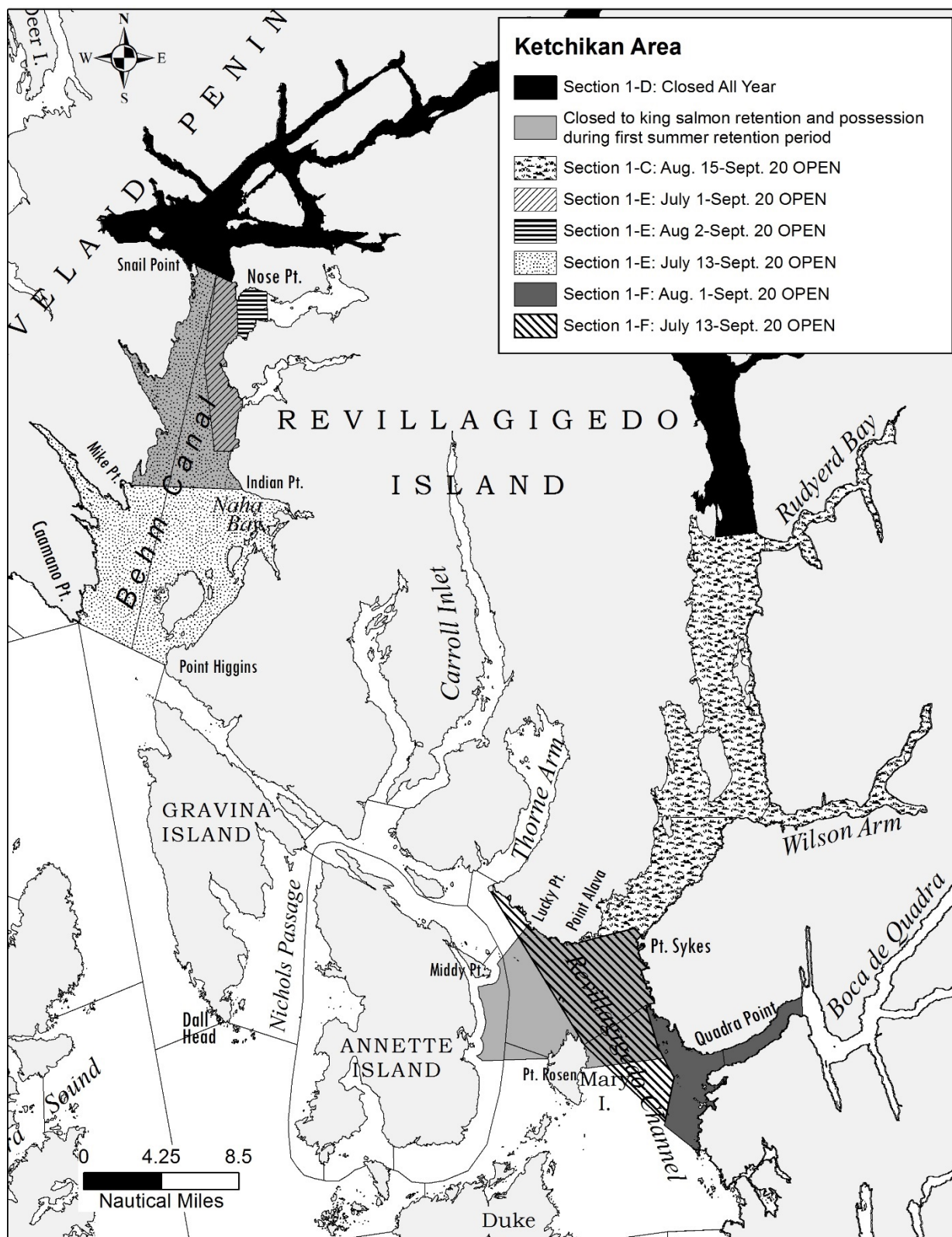


Figure 3.—Ketchikan area general summer trolling areas and seasons.

Note: This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in 5AAC 29.150 (CLOSED WATERS) or Emergency Orders issued by the Department of Fish and Game. The general summer troll fishing season applies to those areas not specified in the key or in 5AAC 29.150.



Figure 4.—District 8 summer troll closed waters.

Note: This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in (5AAC 29.150 (CLOSED WATERS)) or Emergency Orders issued by the Department of Fish and Game. The general summer troll fishing season applies to those areas not specified in the key or in 5AAC 29.150.

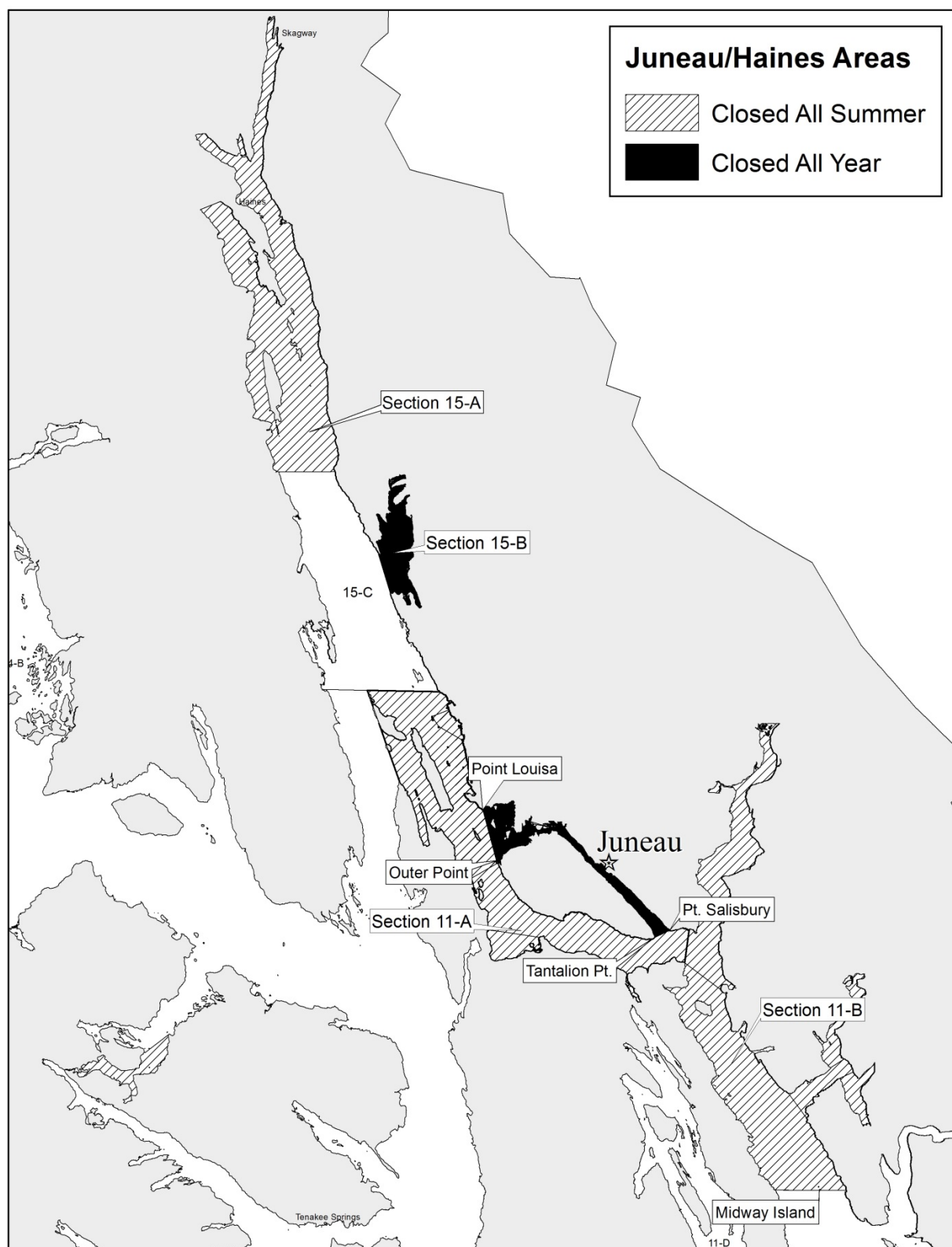


Figure 5.–Juneau/Haines areas summer troll closed waters.

Note: This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in (5AAC 29.150 (CLOSED WATERS)) or Emergency Orders issued by the Department of Fish and Game. The general summer troll fishing season applies to those areas not specified in the key or in 5AAC 29.150.

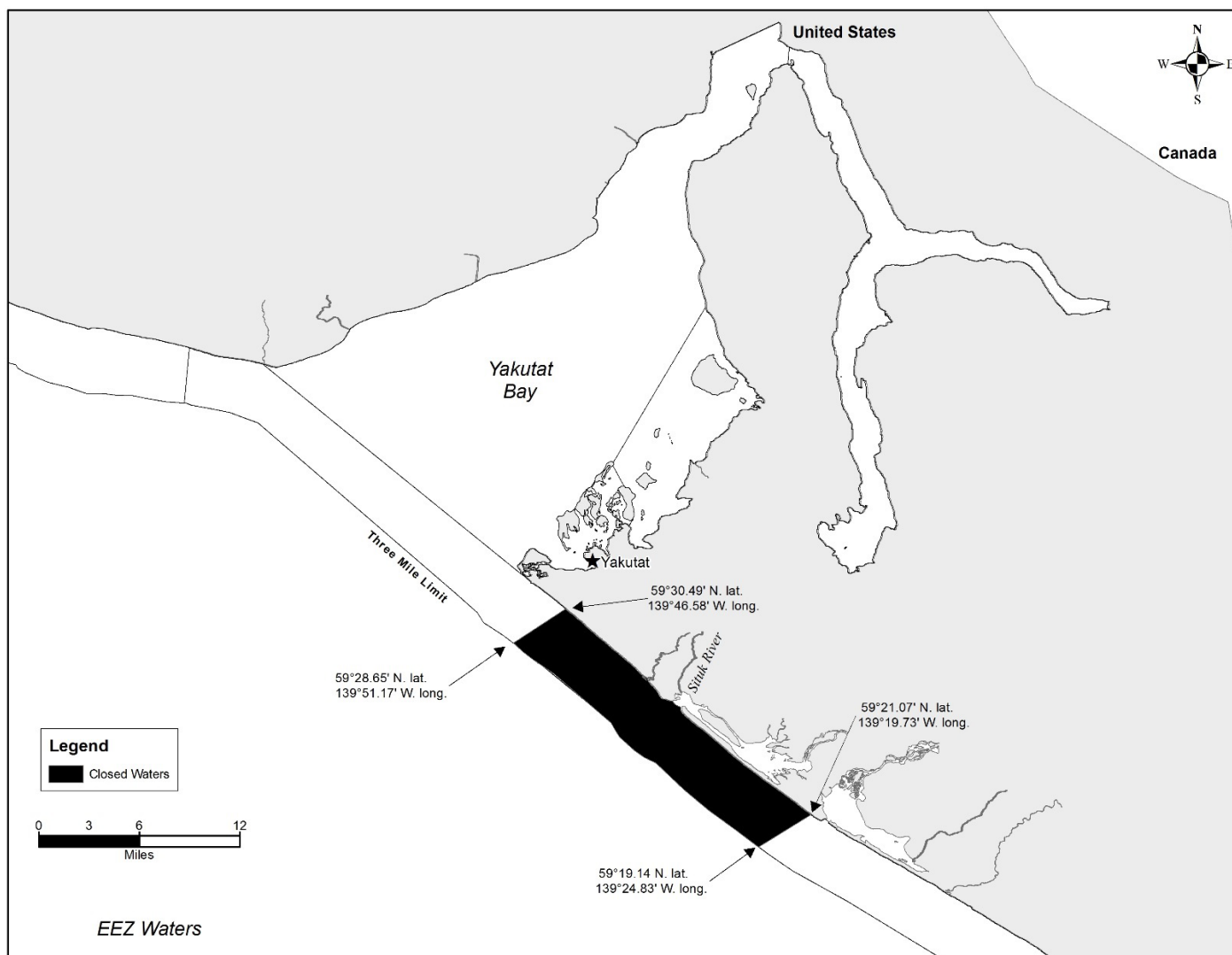


Figure 6.—Yakutat area closed waters to Chinook salmon retention by troll gear, beginning July 1, and closed to all salmon retention from August 7–September 20.

Note: This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in 5AAC 29.150 (CLOSED WATERS) or Emergency Orders issued by the Department of Fish and Game. The general summer troll fishing season applies to those areas not specified in the key or in 5AAC 29.150.

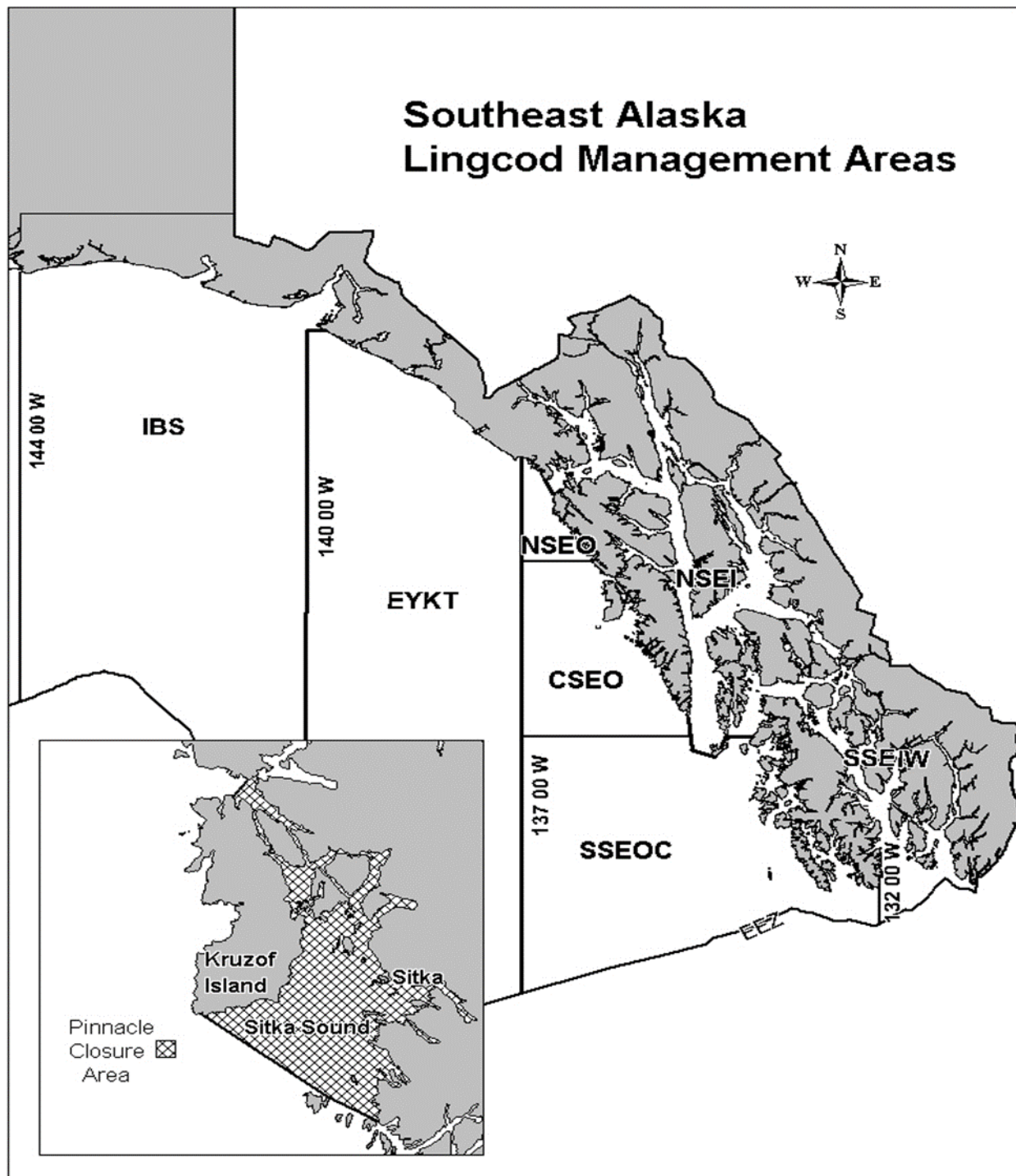


Figure 7.—Alaska Lingcod Management Areas and Restricted Waters of Sitka Sound.

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For up-to-date troll information, call the 24-hour information line in the Douglas Office at 465-TROL (8765). In addition, the following telephone numbers may be called during the troll fishing season to obtain recorded announcements concerning areas open to trolling.

Ketchikan-(907) 225-6870 Sitka-(907) 747-8765

SOUTHEAST ALASKA TROLL WEBSITE INFORMATION:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon>