2020 Spring Troll Fishery Management Plan

by

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and

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April 2020

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries



Symbols and Abbreviations

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Weights and measures (metric)	541 0 01 112	General		Mathematics, statistics	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative		all standard mathematical	
deciliter	dL	Code	AAC	signs, symbols and	
		all commonly accepted	AAC	abbreviations	
gram hectare	g ha	abbreviations	a a Mu Mus	alternate hypothesis	H_A
		abbleviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	base of natural logarithm	
kilogram	kg	all commonly accepted	AM, FM, Ctc.	C	e CPUE
kilometer	km	professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D.,	catch per unit effort	
liter	L	professional titles		coefficient of variation	CV
meter	m	at .	R.N., etc.	common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
milliliter	mL	at compass directions:	@	confidence interval	CI
millimeter	mm	*	E	correlation coefficient	
Will I The		east	E	(multiple)	R
Weights and measures (English)	0.27	north	N	correlation coefficient	
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	south	S	(simple)	r
foot	ft	west	W	covariance	cov
gallon	gal	copyright	©	degree (angular)	
inch	in	corporate suffixes:		degrees of freedom	df
mile	mi	Company	Co.	expected value	E
nautical mile	nmi	Corporation	Corp.	greater than	>
ounce	oz	Incorporated	Inc.	greater than or equal to	≥
pound	lb	Limited	Ltd.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
quart	qt	District of Columbia	D.C.	less than	<
yard	yd	et alii (and others)	et al.	less than or equal to	≤
		et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	logarithm (natural)	ln
Time and temperature		exempli gratia		logarithm (base 10)	log
day	d	(for example)	e.g.	logarithm (specify base)	log _{2,} etc.
degrees Celsius	°C	Federal Information		minute (angular)	•
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	Code	FIC	not significant	NS
degrees kelvin	K	id est (that is)	i.e.	null hypothesis	H_{O}
hour	h	latitude or longitude	lat or long	percent	%
minute	min	monetary symbols		probability	P
second	S	(U.S.)	\$, ¢	probability of a type I error	
		months (tables and		(rejection of the null	
Physics and chemistry		figures): first three		hypothesis when true)	α
all atomic symbols		letters	Jan,,Dec	probability of a type II error	
alternating current	AC	registered trademark	®	(acceptance of the null	
ampere	A	trademark	TM	hypothesis when false)	β
calorie	cal	United States		second (angular)	ï
direct current	DC	(adjective)	U.S.	standard deviation	SD
hertz	Hz	United States of		standard error	SE
horsepower	hp	America (noun)	USA	variance	
hydrogen ion activity	рH	U.S.C.	United States	population	Var
(negative log of)	1		Code	sample	var
parts per million	ppm	U.S. state	use two-letter	1	
parts per thousand	ppt,		abbreviations		
1 1	% ₀		(e.g., AK, WA)		
volts	V				
watts	W				

REGIONAL INFORMATION REPORT NO. 1J20-05

2020 SPRING TROLL FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

by
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April 2020

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES	ii
LIST OF FIGURES	ii
ABSTRACT	1
INTRODUCTION	1
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND METHODS	1
Spring Fisheries	
Terminal and Special Harvest Area Fisheries	
RETENTION OF OTHER SALMON SPECIES	3
2019 SPRING FISHERY REVIEW	3
2020 SPRING FISHERIES OVERVIEW	3
District 8 Directed Fishery	3
Fisheries	4
Modified Time and Areas	
Initial Openings Terminal and Special Harvest Area Troll Fisheries	
REGULATION SUMMARY	6
Closed Waters	
Sport Fishing and Chartering from a Registered Troll Vessel	
Frozen At Sea Requirements	
2020 ALASKA HATCHERY CHINOOK RETURN FORECAST	
2020 SPRING FISHING AREAS AND MAPS	
Ketchikan AreasWrangell and Prince of Wales Areas	
Chatham Strait and Frederick Sound Areas	
Sitka Areas	
North Chatham Strait and Icy Strait Areas	
FISHERY CONTACTS	30

LIST OF TABLES

Table	I	Page
1.	Guideline limits of PST Chinook salmon (U.S./Canada) that may be harvested in each spring troll	J
	fishing area.	2
2.	Bycatch Provisions for the Spring Salmon Troll Fishery	7
3.	2020 Alaska hatchery Chinook salmon and Neck Lake coho salmon return forecasts.	11
	LIST OF FIGURES	
Figure	e I	Page
1.	Southeast Alaska lingcod management areas and restricted waters of Sitka Sound Special Use Area	
2.	Location of Chinook salmon hatcheries, remote release sites (RR), and broodstock source in Southeast	
	Alaska	
3.	Ketchikan area spring troll areas.	14
4.	Wrangell and Prince of Wales spring troll areas.	16
5.	Chatham Strait and Fredrick Sound spring troll areas.	18
6.	Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area.	19
7.	Thomas Bay Special Harvest Area.	20
8.	Sitka spring troll areas.	23
9.	Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area.	24
10.	Silver Bay Terminal Harvest Area.	25
11.	West Crawfish Inlet spring troll, Crawfish Inlet Terminal and Special Harvest Areas	26
12.	North Chatham Strait and Icy Strait spring troll areas.	
13.	Yakutat Bay spring troll area	

ABSTRACT

This document summarizes the plan that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will follow to manage the 2020 Southeast Alaska spring commercial salmon troll fisheries, according to State of Alaska Administrative Code 5 AAC 29.090 and guidelines mandated by the Alaska Board of Fisheries under Chinook salmon action plans for stocks of management concern.

Key words: Salmon, Chinook, Chum, Troll, Spring, Commercial, Management Plan, Southeast Alaska

INTRODUCTION

This plan summarizes the management approach the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will employ to manage the Southeast Alaska commercial spring troll fisheries in 2020. Most spring fisheries target Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon and are conducted during May and June of each year. Spring fisheries are managed in season, according to Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) regulations and U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) provisions.

Plans for the 2020 spring and terminal troll fisheries are presented along with maps, area descriptions, and Alaska hatchery Chinook salmon forecasts. A review of the 2019 spring troll fisheries is provided as well as a summary of pertinent regulations.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

SPRING FISHERIES

Spring fisheries are conducted along salmon migration routes or in close proximity to the following hatcheries and release sites: Little Port Walter Hatchery (NMFS), Port Armstrong Hatchery (Armstrong/Keta), Whitman Lake Hatchery, Crystal Lake Hatchery, Neets Bay Hatchery, Neek Lake, Carroll Inlet, and Anita Bay release sites [Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA)], Medvejie Hatchery, Hidden Falls Hatchery, Crawfish Inlet release site [Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA)], Port Saint Nicholas Hatchery [Prince of Wales Hatchery Association (POWHA)], and Macaulay Hatchery [Douglas Island Pink and Chum (DIPAC)].

Most spring and terminal troll fisheries target Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon, though non-Alaska hatchery or PST Chinook salmon are also harvested. There are also spring troll fisheries that target Alaska hatchery-produced chum salmon located in Keku Strait, North Chatham Strait, and Icy Strait (Districts 9, 10, 12, and 14). While there is no ceiling on the number of Chinook salmon harvested in spring fisheries, the take of PST Chinook salmon is limited according to the percentage of the Alaska hatchery fish taken in the fishery. Non-Alaska hatchery fish are counted toward the annual PST quota of Chinook salmon but most of the Alaska hatchery-produced fish are not. The guideline limits of PST fish that may be harvested in each spring fishing area are specified in 5 AAC 29.090 (d)(1)(D). However, as provided in 5 AAC 29.090(d)(3)(B), if the preseason Abundance Index (AI) is 1.15 or above, and the amount of Chinook remaining on the winter guideline harvest level (GHL) is greater than 15,000 fish, then an additional 500 Chinook salmon will be added to the PST limits of each tier. With a 2020 preseason AI of 1.39 (translated from the 2019–2020 winter troll CPUE metric of 4.83), and an estimated 30,000 Chinook remaining on the winter fishery GHL, 500 Chinook will be added to each of the PST tier limits (Table 1).

Table 1.—Guideline limits of PST Chinook salmon (U.S./Canada) that may be harvested in each spring troll fishing area.

Alaska hatchery contribution to the harvest	PST Chinook salmon limit
Less than 25%	1,500
At least 25% and less than 35%	2,500
At least 35% and less than 50%	3,500
At least 50% and less than 66%	5,500
66% or more	no limit

In recent years fishery managers from ADF&G have held meetings in Southeast Alaska towns to discuss spring fishing plans with trollers, processors, and hatchery operators. A review of the previous fishing season is presented as well as an outlook for the upcoming year. New fishing areas or changes to existing areas may be proposed. Occasionally, two or more adjacent spring areas may be combined if each area has demonstrated an Alaska hatchery composition of 25% or more for at least three consecutive seasons. Proposed changes are scrutinized by ADF&G biologists for potential impacts on local wild stocks and to determine whether a substantial portion of the harvest is likely to be of Alaska hatchery origin. Once plans are finalized, the department then issues an advisory announcement with descriptions of fishing areas and a schedule of initial fishing periods. With direction from both the BOF and the Office of the Commissioner of ADF&G to implement conservation measures to protect wild Southeast Alaska (SEAK) Chinook salmon and to provide spring troll hatchery fisheries in select areas only, no public meetings were conducted in 2020 to discuss amendments to existing spring troll areas.

Each spring fishing area is managed individually and fishing periods are opened by emergency order. Department personnel are deployed to observe salmon deliveries to assess hatchery contribution to each fishery. The head of each tagged fish is shipped to the Mark, Tag, and Age Laboratory in Juneau for coded wire tag (CWT) detection and decoding. Fishery openings are announced in a series of weekly advisory announcements.

Fishing time in an area may be extended based on inseason assessment of CWT data and historic harvest timing information. Therefore, it is imperative that trollers and tender operators segregate salmon taken in different fishing areas and keep those fish separated until landed in port where ADF&G samplers have the opportunity to collect accurate catch data by area, subsequently aiding troll staff in determining the percentage of Alaska hatchery fish taken in each spring area. Separate fish tickets must be completed for each area fished [5 AAC 29.090(k)] and submitted to the department within seven days of landing [5 AAC 39.130(c)].

TERMINAL AND SPECIAL HARVEST AREA FISHERIES

Terminal and special harvest area (THA and SHA) fisheries are conducted in areas near a hatchery or release site. Chinook salmon harvested in most THA and SHA where Chinook salmon are released are considered to be 100% Alaska hatchery origin fish, based on data generated through fishery sampling activity. Terminal and special harvest areas that may open during the spring include Anita Bay, Carroll Inlet, Crawfish Inlet, Deep Inlet, Gunnuk Creek, Hidden Falls, Nakat Inlet, Neets Bay, Port Armstrong, Silver Bay, Southeast Cove, Thomas Bay, and Wrangell Narrows. THAs and SHAs are managed according to management plans unique to each area and may involve a rotational fishing schedule split between multiple commercial gear types. Trollers

may also harvest coho or chum salmon in THAs and SHAs, in accordance with THA and SHA management plans.

RETENTION OF OTHER SALMON SPECIES

Coho salmon may be retained and sold beginning June 1. Sockeye, pink, and chum salmon may be retained at any time during open fishing periods. If an Atlantic salmon is caught, fisherman are advised to retain the whole fish (fresh or frozen, entrails intact) and contact a local ADF&G office so that biological samples can be collected.

2019 SPRING FISHERY REVIEW

A total of 265 vessels participated in the 2019 nonterminal spring fisheries, with a harvest of 10,369 Chinook salmon. The largest Chinook salmon harvests were taken in the Sitka Sound, Salisbury Sound and Mountain Point spring troll areas. The 2019 nonterminal area Chinook salmon harvest was 3,407 fish greater than the 2018 nonterminal harvest and below the 5-year and 10-year averages by 68%. The Alaska hatchery contribution of 40% was above the 5-year average (30%) and the 10-year average (35%). The total 2019 spring and terminal effort of 296 permits was down from 2018 (3%), the 5-year (41%) and 10-year (45%) averages. A total of 10 spring areas and 11 terminal fisheries were open during the 2019 spring troll season. Other species harvested during the spring season, including Annette Island troll harvest, were 107 sockeye, 333 coho, 222 pink, and 10,613 chum salmon.

2020 SPRING FISHERIES OVERVIEW

DISTRICT 8 DIRECTED FISHERY

The 2020 preseason terminal run size forecast for Stikine River large Chinook salmon is 13,350 fish. A preseason terminal run forecast of this size does not provide an Allowable Catch (AC) for either the U.S. or Canada as the forecast is below the Escapement Goal Range (EGR) of 14,000–28,000 fish. No directed fisheries will occur in early May. Inseason terminal run size estimates may be produced starting in late May however, it is unlikely any directed Chinook salmon fisheries will occur in District 8 in 2020.

DISTRICT 11 DIRECTED FISHERY

The 2020 preseason terminal run size forecast for Taku River large Chinook salmon is 12,400 fish. A preseason terminal run forecast of this size does not provide an AC for either the U.S. or Canada as the forecast is below the EGR of 19,000–36,000 fish. No directed fisheries will occur in early May. Inseason terminal run size estimates may be produced starting in late May however, it is unlikely any directed Chinook salmon fisheries will occur in District 11 in 2020.

YAKUTAT SPRING TROLL FISHERY

A spring troll fishery is scheduled to open in Yakutat Bay on Friday, May 1. The fishery is limited by regulation to one day per week during May and June, in waters of Yakutat Bay east of a line from Point Manby to Ocean Cape. The maximum harvest allowed is 1,000 Chinook salmon and is not based on the composition of Alaska hatchery fish.

REGULATORY CHANGES AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS TO CONSERVE WILD STOCK CHINOOK SALMON IN THE SPRING TROLL FISHERIES

During the 2018 Southeast and Yakutat BOF meeting regulations were adopted that continue to affect the management of spring troll fisheries. Action plans for Chilkat, King Salmon, and Unuk river Chinook salmon were adopted, giving the department direction through emergency order authority to conserve wild SEAK Chinook salmon. To help reduce encounters of these stocks during spring troll fisheries, the board determined under the Unuk River action plan that May and June opportunities for Alaska hatchery Chinook be limited to terminal harvest areas, waters in close proximity to hatchery facilities or release sites, and in areas that have been identified as having low proportional harvests of wild stock SEAK/Yakutat Chinook salmon. In addition to the conservation measures of these action plans, supplementary actions, under the authority of the Office of the Commissioner of ADF&G for the conservation of SEAK and Transboundary River Chinook salmon stocks, further restrict May and June fishery opportunities to select terminal harvest areas and a few defined spring troll fishery areas located on the outside coast to target Alaska hatchery Chinook salmon.

For complete details of the Chinook salmon action plans for the Unuk River, Chilkat, and King Salmon rivers see the links below:

- •Unuk River King Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2018: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/RIR.1J.2018.04.pdf
- •Chilkat River and King Salmon River King Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2018: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/RIR.1J.2018.05.pdf

MODIFIED TIME AND AREAS

- All THAs and SHAs will have initial openings on June 1, with the exception of the Deep Inlet (June 2), Neets Bay THA (June 15), Thomas Bay SHA (June 21) and Southeast Cove THA (June 21).
- The Hidden Falls THA eastern boundary will be reduced to 1.0 nmi from June 1 to 14 and extended out to 2.0 nmi on June 15.
- The waters of West Crawfish Inlet will open as a new Chinook salmon spring troll area beginning June 1.
- The waters of Mountain Point will expanded to include all waters of George Inlet.

INITIAL OPENINGS

Fishing periods will be opened by emergency order and will be based on inseason and historical timing of hatchery contributions in each area. Trollers should consult department advisory announcements issued each Friday for weekly fishing periods. Annoucements may also be issued throughout the week when fishery extensions or early closures are warranted. Advisory announcements can be found on the ADF&G web site at:

www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main

TERMINAL AND SPECIAL HARVEST AREA TROLL FISHERIES

Terminal and Special Harvest Areas may be managed for the harvest of multiple species by different gear types. Refer to the regulatory management plans for each THA/SHA.

- •Anita Bay: open June 1 through noon, July 12, and from August 10 through noon, November 10. Due to a revenue shortfall in 2019 and poor forecasts for returns of chum salmon for 2020, the THA will be closed to commercial salmon fishing from 12:01 a.m, July 13, through 11:59 p.m., August 9, to facilitate cost recovery efforts. See the April advisory announcement for time and area details. [5 AAC 33.383(d)]
- •Carroll Inlet: open for troll gear June 1–30. Concurrent openings for troll, drift gillnet and purse seine are scheduled June 1 through 12:00 noon, June 12. The THA will open exclusively for troll gear from 12:00 noon, June 12 to 12:00 noon, June 15. Rotational net gear fisheries are scheduled from 12:00 noon, June 15 through June 30 [5 AAC 33.379]. Details on open waters and dates by gear type can be found in the Carroll Inlet THA advisory announcement issued on March 31.
- •Crawfish Inlet: open June 1 through September 20. Chinook retention allowed during June and the general summer troll Chinook salmon retention periods [5 AAC 33.380].
- •Deep Inlet: open to trolling beginning June 6 and during periods when net fisheries are closed. Additional troll fishing time, west of 135°20.75′ W. long., is detailed in the Deep Inlet rotational gear schedule advisory announcement issued in early April. Schedule changes are made by emergency order and announced by advisory announcement [5 AAC 33.376].
- •**Hidden Falls:** open June 1–14 with the eastern boundary reduced to 1.0 nmi from Baranof Island shoreline; from June 15 until closed by emergency order, the eastern boundary is moved out to 2.0 nmi [5 AAC 33.374(b)].
- •Nakat Inlet: open June 1 through November 10 to troll and drift gillnet gear [5 AAC 33.372].
- •Neets Bay: open for troll gear June 15 through July 6, unless closed by emergency order. Concurrent with trolling, openings are scheduled for rotational net gear fisheries from June 17 through 12:00 noon, July 6 [5 AAC 33.370]. Details on open waters and dates by gear type can be found in the Neets Bay THA advisory announcement issued on March 31.
- •**Port Armstrong**: open from June 1 to June 30 [5 AAC 40.081(b)]. Waters north of a line from 56°17.61′ N. lat., 134°40.27′ W. long., to 56°17.67′ N. lat., 134°39.64′ W. long., are closed.

Southeast Cove: opens June 21 and will remain open until August 2, unless closed by emergency order [5 AAC 33.387(c)].

- •Silver Bay: opens June 1 and will remain open until July 30, unless closed by emergency order [5 AAC 33.375(a)].
- •Thomas Bay: opens June 21 and will remain open until August 8, unless closed by emergency order.
- •Wrangell Narrows: will not open in 2020 since the projected adult return of Chinook salmon to the terminal area is projected to be less than 4,000 fish [5 AAC 33.381(b)(4)].

REGULATION SUMMARY

CLOSED WATERS

The Annette Islands Reserve is a federally-recognized Indian reservation in Alaska. The waters within 3,000 feet of Annette Island, Ham Island, Hemlock Island, Spire Island, Walker Island, Lewis Island, and adjacent rocks and islets are designated within the fishing reserve. Fisheries within the reserve are managed by the Metlakatla Indian Community for authorized fisheries participants only.

Trollers are reminded that, with the exception of 5 AAC 29.150(h)(1) and 5 AAC 29.150(h)(2), closed waters listed in 5 AAC 29.150 are not in effect during the spring troll fishery.

SPORT FISHING AND CHARTERING FROM A REGISTERED 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 from the same vessel on the same day** [5 AAC 47.041 (f)]. A person who sport fishes from a vessel licensed for commercial fishing, other than a charter vessel when paying clients are onboard, shall mark the salmon by **removing its dorsal fin** immediately upon bringing a salmon onboard [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 during spring and summer troll fisheries [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 commercial fish 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)].

FROZEN AT SEA REQUIREMENTS

Freezer vessels delivering frozen at sea (FAS) product from spring fisheries are subject to the same landing regulations as all other vessels. Salmon caught in each spring fishery must be segregated on board the vessel and a separate fish ticket must be issued for each spring fishery area [5 AAC 29.090 (k)]. FAS vessels are defined as processors by ADF&G, Department of Environmental Conservation, and Department of Revenue and as such must issue their own fish tickets imprinted with their processor code plate following reporting requirements of 5 AAC 39.130. Fish tickets must be submitted to ADF&G within seven days of landing.

The heads of all adipose-fin-clipped salmon must remain attached to the fish until the fish are offloaded from the vessel, except as authorized by permit [5 AAC 29.140 (b)]. Permit holders who

freeze their harvest onboard are asked to contact the department prior to fishing so that port sampling and fish ticket issues can be discussed and necessary permits issued.

An "Exemption permit" is required to allow catcher-processor crew to remove heads from salmon harvested in the spring fisheries prior to delivery [5 AAC 29.145 (c)]. Additional information about the Exemption Permit is available on the ADF&G troll web site and permits are available in local area offices. Depending on which area(s) a troller intends to fish, the department may grant a permit to allow removal of heads from adipose-fin-clipped salmon. It is imperative that the department has adequate opportunity to sample Chinook salmon landed during spring fisheries. The objective of these fisheries is to target Alaska hatchery fish and ADF&G must be able to document hatchery contribution to support keeping each area open.

REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO COMMERCIAL TROLL BYCATCH OF GROUNDFISH 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 2020 Commercial Salmon Troll Fishery" advisory announcement issued on January 2, 2020.

In the state waters portion of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, commercial salmon trollers operating hand or power troll gear during an open spring 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 2.

Table 2.-Bycatch Provisions for the Spring Salmon Troll Fishery

Species	Bycatch Allowance
Lingcod	100% IBS, CSEO, NSEI and SSEIW
	10% SSEOC
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 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. Inseason closures will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement, 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 Groundfish staff in Sitka at (907) 747-6688.

Lingcod Management Areas open to lingcod bycatch during the spring troll fishery include: Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS), Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section, Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector, Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict, and Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) Sector (Figure 1). A lingcod bycatch allowance, up to 100% of the round weight of salmon on board a vessel, is permitted in IBS, NSEI, SSEIW, West Crawfish Inlet (113-32), the Crawfish Inlet THA (113-33), and portions of the Goddard (113-31) and Salisbury Sound (113-62) CSEO spring troll areas.

In waters of Sitka Sound, including spring troll areas Western Channel (113-01), Sitka Sound Area (113-41), Silver Bay THA (113-35), Deep Inlet THA (113-38), Redoubt Bay (113-30), and portions of Goddard (113-31), and Salisbury Sound (113-62), commercial salmon trollers may retain and possess up to two lingcod aboard a vessel while actively fishing for salmon within waters of the Sitka Sound Special Use Area during the open CSEO lingcod season however, the amount of lingcod retained may not exceed the 20% CSEO lingcod bycatch allowance. Lingcod taken within this area 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 [5 AAC 28.173(a)(4)].

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

The waters of the Sitka Sound Special Use Area affected by these lingcod restrictions are defined in 5 AAC 28.150(a) as 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., (Figure 1).

Lingcod bycatch in the SSEOC spring troll fisheries [Bucareli Bay (103-50) and Port Saint Nicholas (103-60)] is limited to 10%. Lingcod taken in excess of bycatch allowances shall be reported on fish tickets as overage and forfeited to the State of Alaska.

All DSR taken 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.

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 retained only by Individual Fishing

Quota (IFQ) permit holders during the open season for halibut. Trollers making an IFQ halibut landing of 500 lb 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.

A person aboard a vessel may not fish for groundfish with dinglebar troll or mechanical jigging machines 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)].

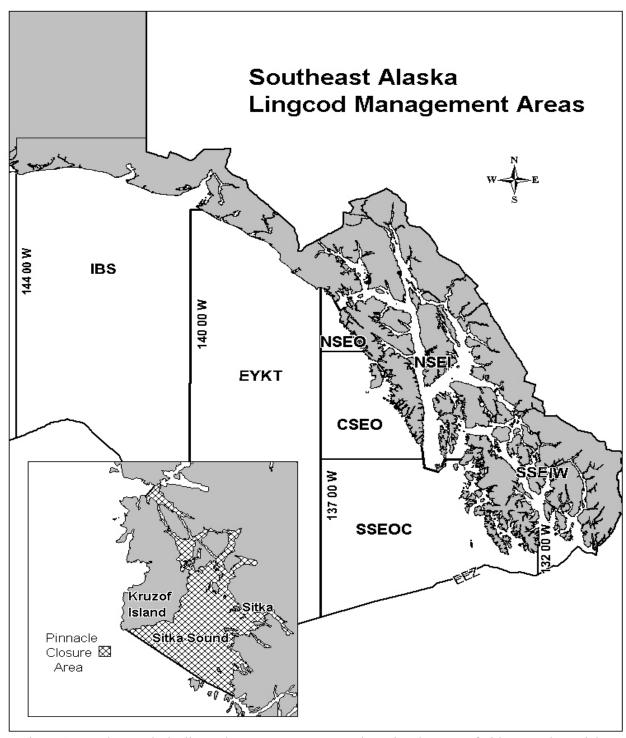


Figure 1.—Southeast Alaska lingcod management areas and restricted waters of Sitka Sound Special Use Area.

2020 ALASKA HATCHERY CHINOOK RETURN FORECAST

Hatchery facility managers are predicting total returns of approximately 76,800 Chinook salmon for 2020, as compared to estimated 2019 returns of 99,300 fish. The largest returns for 2020 are expected to Neets Bay, Anita Bay, and Medvejie Creek. Neck Lake coho projections are reported here due to their early run timing, which coincides with the spring fishery. The location of Chinook salmon hatcheries and remote release sites within Southeast Alaska are presented in Figure 2.

Table 3.–2020 Alaska hatchery Chinook salmon and Neck Lake coho salmon return forecasts.

Release Site	2019 Total Return	2019 Total	2020 Total Return
Release Site	Projection	Return	Projection
Ketchikan Area			
Whitman Lake	9,200	4,095	7,300
Carroll Inlet	8,000	6,205	7,000
Deer Mountain	_	_	400
Neets Bay	16,200	18,552	11,400
Ketchikan Creek	_	402	_
Total	33,400	29,254	26,100
Chatham Strait			
Little Port Walter	644	2,089	1,347
Hidden Falls	1,903	601	778
Port Armstrong	300	1,049	250
Gunnuk Creek			205
Total	2,847	3,739	2,580
Craig/Klawock Area			
Port Saint Nicholas	2,400	1,526	3,500
Coffman Cove	_	535	_
Total	2,400	2,061	3,500
Juneau Area			
Macaulay (Fish Creek, Lena Cove,			
Gastineau Channel, Auke Bay, Thane)	6,544	12,100	15,681
Total	6,544	12,100	15,681
Wrangell/Petersburg			
Anita Bay	15,700	12,958	11,000
Crystal Lake	3,100	5,246	3,000
City Creek	_	1,483	1,000
Total	18,800	19,687	15,000
Sitka Area			
Crawfish Inlet	890	216	905
Medvejie Creek	28,628	18,004	10,697
Halibut Point	5,734	1,595	2,328
Sheldon Jackson	_		
Total	35,252	19,815	13,930
Alaska Hatchery Chinook Totals	99,243	86,656	76,791
Neck Lake Coho	29,200	38,117	13,800

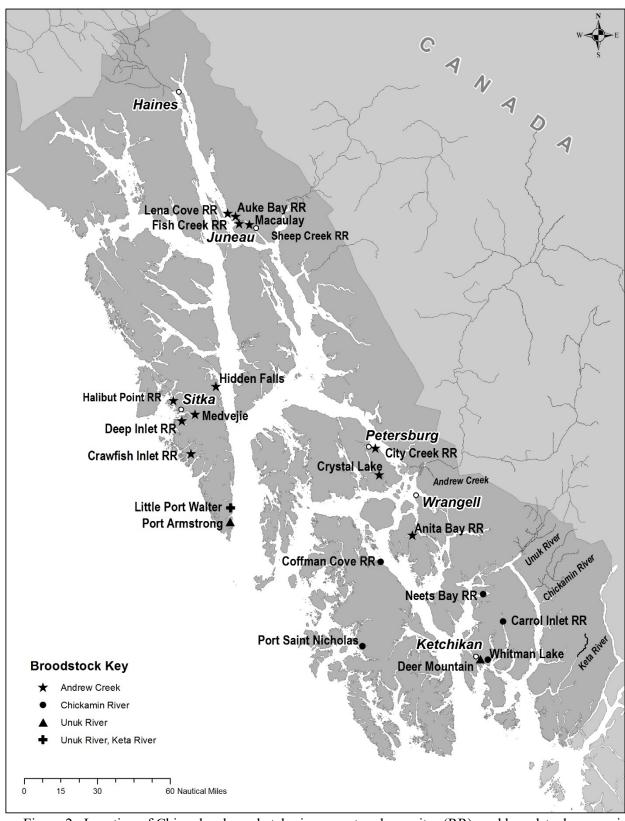


Figure 2.–Location of Chinook salmon hatcheries, remote release sites (RR), and broodstock source in Southeast Alaska.

2020 SPRING FISHING AREAS AND MAPS

KETCHIKAN AREAS

Mountain Point (Fishery Area 101-45) modified area: The waters of George and Carroll inlets north of a line from Mountain Point at 55°17.57′ N. lat., 131°32.41′ W. long., to Cutter Rocks Light at 55°17.34′ N. lat., 131°31.47′ W. long., to 55°17.57′ N. lat., 131°28.18′ W. long., including all the waters of George Inlet and waters of Carroll Inlet south of the latitude of California Head at 55°19.57′ N. lat.

<u>Rock Point (Fishery area 101-46)</u>: The waters of Carroll Inlet north of the latitude of California Head at 55°19.57′ N. lat., and south of the latitude of Nigelius Point at 55°33.50′ N. lat.

<u>Carroll Inlet Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery area 101-48)</u>: From June 1–30, the THA includes only those waters of Carroll Inlet north of the latitude Nigelius Point at 55°33.50′ N. lat.

Neets Bay Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery area 101-95): The waters east of the longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island at 131°39.14 W. long., and west of the closed waters at the head of the bay. The closed waters at the head of the bay are those waters east of 131°29.86′ W. long., until the barrier net is in place; at that time, the closed waters are those waters east of the barrier net.

The THA will open to troll gear from 12:01 a.m., June 15, through 11:59 p.m., July 6, unless closed by emergency order. The Neets Bay THA will expand on July 1 for troll gear to include those waters of Neets Bay east of the longitude of Chin Point at 131°42.10′ W. long.

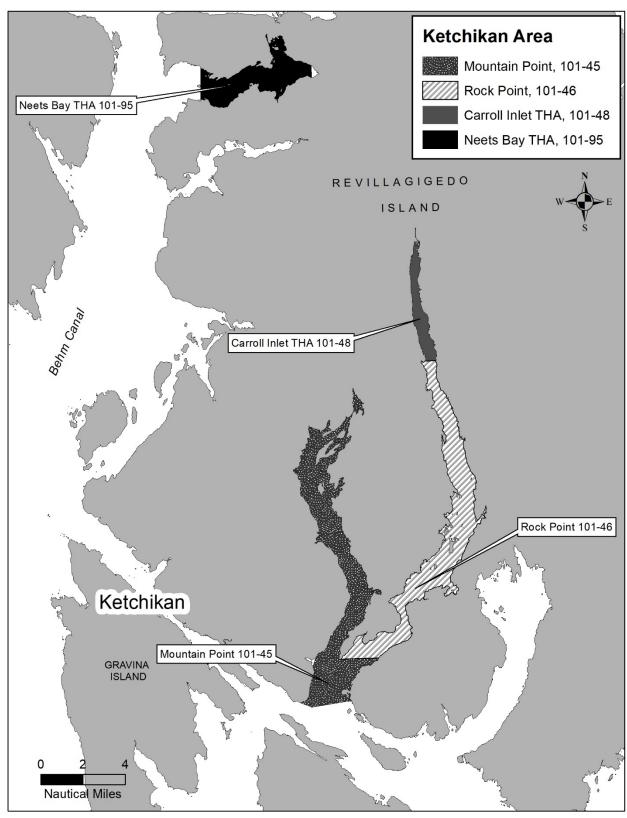


Figure 3.-Ketchikan area spring troll areas.

WRANGELL AND PRINCE OF WALES AREAS

Bucareli Bay (Fishery area 103-50): In the waters of Ursua Channel and Bucareli, Trocadero, and San Alberto bays south of a line from Point Polocano at 55°32.37′ N. lat., 133°17.38′ W. long., to the northernmost tip of Abbess Island at 55°33.78′ N. lat., 133°10.81′ W. long., to a point on Peratrovich Island at 55°35.19′ N. lat., 133°07.09′ W. long., to Cemetery Point at 55°33.82′ N. lat., 133°06.36′ W. long., to the northernmost tip of Klawock Island at 55°33.42′ N. lat., 133°06.39′ W. long., south and west of a line from Cape Suspiro at 55°27.48′ N. lat., 133°08.54′ W. long., to the northernmost tip of Toti Island at 55°24.90′ N. lat., 133°07.34′ W. long., to Point Miraballes at 55°25.86′ N. lat., 133°05.20′ W. long., and northeast of a line from Point Amargura at 55°27.00′ N. lat., 133°21.65′ W. long. to 55°24.67′ N. lat., 133°21.18′ W. long., to Point Providence at 55°21.51′ N. lat., 133°16.23′ W. long.

Port Saint Nicholas (Fishery area 103-60): In the waters of Port Saint Nicholas and Bucareli Bay north and east of a line from Cape Suspiro at 55°27.48′ N. lat., 133°08.54′ W. long., to the northernmost tip of Toti Island at 55°24.90′ N. lat., 133°07.34′ W. long., to Point Miraballes at 55°25.86′ N. lat., 133°05.20′ W. long.

Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery area 107-35): The waters of Anita Bay south and west of a line from the tip of Anita Point at 56°13.68′ N. lat., 132°22.48′ W. long., to a point on the northern shore at 56°14.26′ N. lat., 132°23.93′ W. long.

From June 15 through July 10, the waters within .25 nmi of the northern shoreline of Anita Bay west of a line from 56°12.33′ N. lat., 132°26.19′ W. long., to 56°12.06′ N. lat., 132°26.19′ W. long., and east of a line from 56°11.96′ N. lat., 132°29.57′ W. long., to 56°11.73′ N. lat., 132°29.36′ W. long., will be open.

- **NOTE:** (1) From June 15 through June 25, the waters of the Anita Bay THA west of 132°26.19' W. long., are closed to the harvest of salmon.
 - (2) From June 26 through July 1, the waters of Anita Bay THA west of 132°26.98' W. long., are closed to the harvest of salmon.
 - (3) From July 2 through July 10, the waters of Anita Bay THA west of 132°28.00' W. long., are closed to the harvest of salmon.

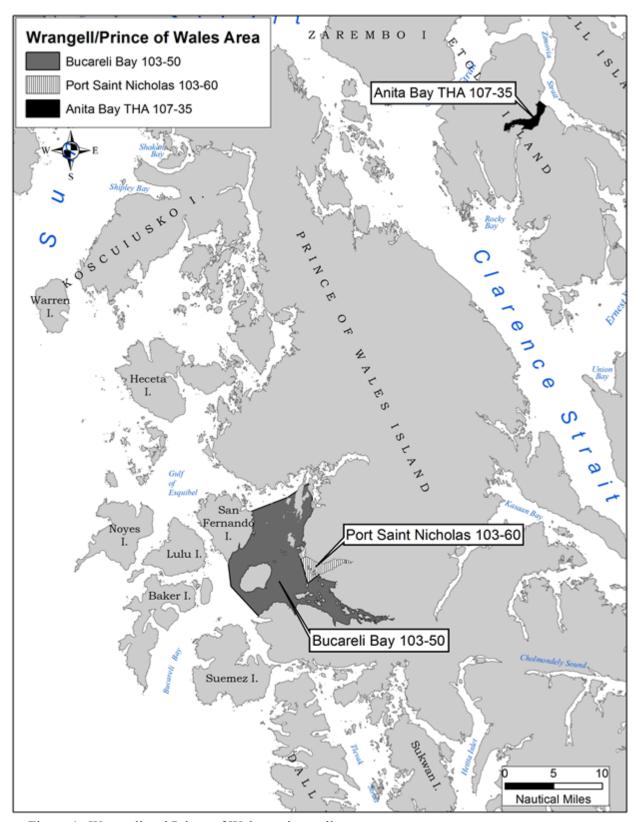


Figure 4.—Wrangell and Prince of Wales spring troll areas.

CHATHAM STRAIT AND FREDERICK SOUND AREAS

Port Armstrong Special Harvest Area (Fishery Area 109-11): Waters of Port Armstrong west of a line from Point Eliza at 56°17.73′ N. lat., 134°38.75′ W. long., to a point on the Baranof Island shoreline at 56°17.98′ N. lat., 134°38.35′ W. long. Waters north of a line from 56°17.61′ N. lat., 134°40.27′ W. long., to 56°17.67′ N. lat., 134°39.64′ W. long., are closed.

Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery Area 109-41): In the waters of Keku Strait enclosed by a line from a rocky point on the northern end of Kuiu Island located on the east side of Southeast Cove at 56°52.95′ N. lat., 134°01.33′ W. long., to the northwest corner of Hound Island at 56°53.12′ N. lat., 133°56.77′ W. long., then northwest connecting points along the northern shore of Keku Islands at 56°53.98′ N. lat., 133°57.58′ W. long., to 56°54.90′ N. lat., 133°59.53′ W. long., to 56°55.93′ N. lat., 134°00.97′ W. long., to 56°55.95′ N. lat., 134°02.15′ W. long., to 56°55.22′ N. lat., 134°02.53′ W. long., to 56°56.37′ N. lat., 134°06.62′ W. long., then to the northwest corner of Payne Island at 56°57.45′ N. lat., 134°08.75′ W. long., then south to a point on Kuiu Island at 56°55.08′ N. lat., 134°09.25′ W. long.

Keku Strait Area (Fishery Area 109-42): Waters of Districts 9 and 10 enclosed by a line extending from 1.0 nmi north of Cornwallis Point Light at 56°56.80′ N. lat., 134°16.43′ W. long., to Pinta Rocks Light at 57°05.15′ N. lat., 134°00.76′ W. long., to Cape Bendel at 57°04.27′ N. lat., 134°00.76′ W. long. Waters of the Southeast Cove THA and the Gunnuk Creek SHA are excluded.

Thomas Bay Special Harvest Area (Fishery Area 110-12): In the waters of Thomas Bay northeast of a line from Point Vandeput at 57°00.94′ N. lat., 133°00.02′ W. long., to Wood Point at 56°59.54′ N. lat., 132°56.95′ W. long., northwest of a line from a point on the mainland shoreline at 56°59.57′ N. lat., 132°54.02′ W. long., to Ruth Island at 57°00.42′ N. lat., 132°51.07′ W. long., north of line from a point on the southeastern shoreline of Ruth Island at 56°58.70′ N. lat., 132°49.13′ W. long., to the mainland shoreline at 56°58.70′ N. lat., 132°47.32′ W. long., west of a line from the mainland shoreline at 56°59.38′ N. lat., 132°47.60′ W. long., to the southern tip of Spray Island at 56°59.80′ N. lat., 132°47.73′ W. long., to the northern tip of Spray Island at 57°00.07′ N. lat., 132°47.80′ W. long., to the mainland shoreline at 57°00.56′ N. lat., 132°47.57′ W. long., and south of a line from 57°03.00′ N. lat., 132°49.62′ W. long., to 57°03.00′ N. lat., 132°52.03′ W. long.

The waters of Spurt Cove are closed northwest of a line from 57°01.98' N. lat., 132°52.49' W. long., to 57°02.08' N. lat., 132°52.37' W. long.

Waters northeast of a line from the northern tip of Spray Island at 57°00.07′ N. lat., 132°47.80′ W. long., to a point on the northern boundary line approximately .50 nmi from the mainland shoreline at 57°03.00′ N. lat., 132°50.55′ W. long., are closed Saturdays and Sundays of each week.

<u>Hidden Falls Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery area 112-22) modified area</u>: In Chatham Strait, only those waters of Section 12-A within 1.0 nmi of the Baranof Island shoreline south of the latitude of South Point and north of 57°06.83′ N. lat. (south of Takatz Bay) excluding waters of Kelp Bay [5 AAC 33.374 (a)]. Beginning June 15, the THA will expand from within 1.0 to within 2.0 nmi of the Baranof Island shoreline.

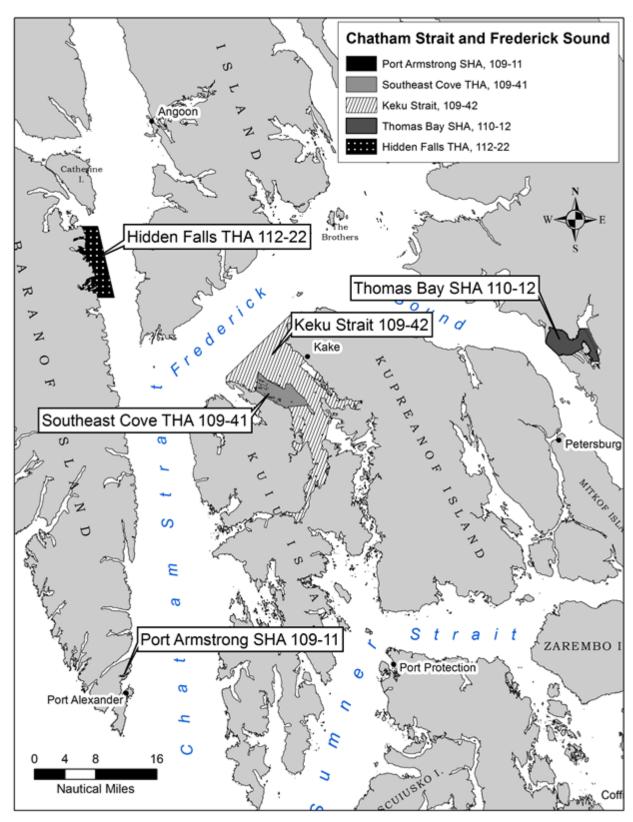


Figure 5.-Chatham Strait and Fredrick Sound spring troll areas.

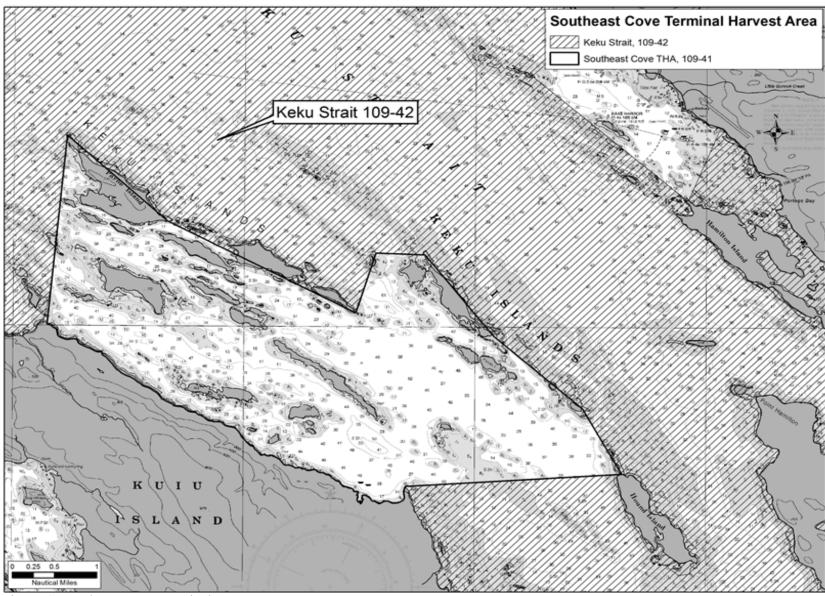


Figure 6.—Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area.

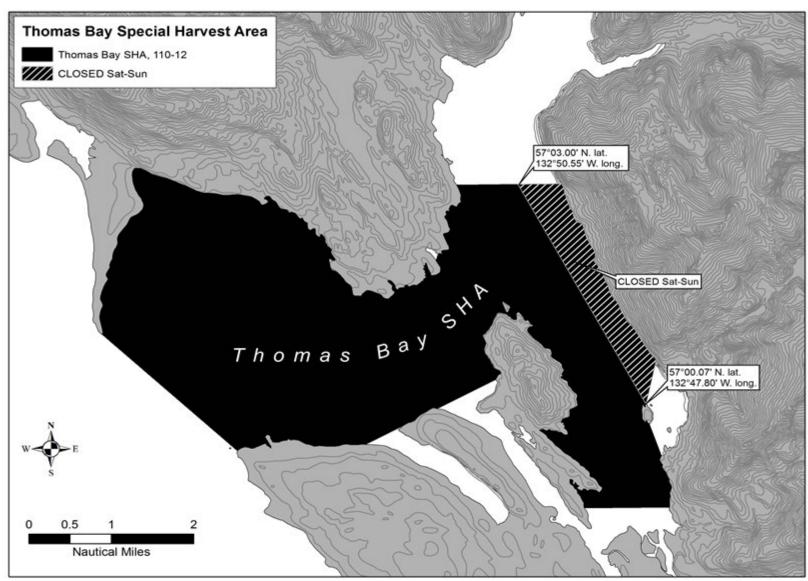


Figure 7.-Thomas Bay Special Harvest Area.

SITKA AREAS

Western Channel (Fishery area 113-01): In waters of Sitka Sound northeast of a line from Kulichkof Rock to Vitskari Island Light to a point on Kruzof Island at 57°03.42′ N. lat., 135°36.00′ W. long., southwest of a line from a point on Kruzof Island at 57°05.00′ N. lat., 135°35.00′ W. long., to 57°01.50′ N. lat., 135°24.25′ W. long. (the intersection of a line from a point on Kruzof Island at 57°05.00′ N. lat., 135°35.00′ W. long., and through The Eckholms Light, with a line from the southernmost tip of Makhnati Island to Kulichkof Rock), to Kulichkof Rock.

Redoubt Bay (Fishery area 113-30): In waters of Sitka Sound south of a line from the westernmost tip of Cape Burunof to Kulichkof Rock and east of a line from Kulichkof Rock to the northwesternmost point on Peisar Island, and from the southernmost point on Peisar Island to the southernmost point on Viesokoi Rock to a point on Baranof Island at 56°51.40′ N. lat., 135°23.49′ W. long.

Goddard Area (Fishery area 113-31): In waters enclosed by a line from Baranof Island at 56°51.40′ N. lat., 135°23.49′ W. long., to the southernmost point on Viesokoi Rock to the southernmost point on Peisar Island to the westernmost point on Torsar Island at 56°51.06′ N. lat., 135°26.00′ W. long., and from the southernmost point on Torsar Island to the easternmost tip of Blackbird Island to a point on Legma Island at 56°50.00′ N. lat., 135°26.53′ W. long., and north of the latitude of a line from Legma Island to Elovoi Island at 56°49.20′ N. lat., and north and west of a line from Elovoi Island at 56°49.44′ N. lat., 135°23.15′ W. long., to a point on Baranof Island at 56°49.58′ N. lat., 135°22.60′ W. long.

West Crawfish Inlet (Fishery area 113-32) new area: In waters of West Crawfish Inlet, First Narrows, and Second Narrows northeast of a line from 56°46.60′ N. lat., 135°18.53′ W. long., to 56°43.30′ N. lat., 135°17.81′ W. long., excluding all waters of the Crawfish Inlet THA.

Crawfish Inlet Terminal and Special Harvest Areas (Fishery area 113-33): In waters east of a line from 56°44.16′ N. lat., 135°15.80′ W. long., to 56°43.30′ N. lat., 135°17.81′ W. long., to 56°41.93′ N. lat., 135°17.54′ W. long., to 56°41.14′ N. lat., 135°13.80′ W. long., including the waters of Jamboree Bay, Cedar Pass south of 56°47.14′ N. lat., and Crawfish Inlet west of 135°11.05′ W. long. Waters of the SHA, east of 135°11.05′ W. longitude, are open concurrent to the THA.

Silver Bay Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery area 113-35): In the waters of Silver Bay east of a line from Entry Point Light at 57°01.98′ N. lat., 135°15.00′ W. long., to Silver Point at 57°00.82′ N. lat., 135°18.10′ W. long. The waters of Bear Cove are closed east of a line from a point on the south shore at 57°00.77′ N. lat., 135°09.08′ W. long., to the north shore at 57°00.94′ N. lat., 135°09.23′ W. long.

Sitka Sound Area (Fishery area 113-41): In the waters of Sitka Sound, Krestof Sound, and Neva Strait south of 57°15.00′ N. lat., and north and east of a line from the westernmost tip of Cape Burunof to Kulichkof Rock to 57°01.50′ N. lat., 135°24.25′ W. long. (the intersection of a line from a point on Kruzof Island at 57°05.00′ N. lat., 135°35.00′ W. long., and through The Eckholms Light with a line from the southernmost tip of Makhnati Island to Kulichkof Rock), to a point on Kruzof Island at 57°05.00′ N. lat., 135°35.00′ W. long., including the waters of Nakwasina

Passage, Nakwasina Sound, and Katlian Bay. The waters of the Silver Bay THA, as described above, are included in the Sitka Sound area through May 31. The waters of the Deep Inlet THA, as described below, are included in the Sitka Sound area through June 1. These areas will open as the Silver Bay and Deep Inlet THAs beginning June 1 and June 2, respectively.

Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery area 113-38): In waters of Deep Inlet, Aleutkina Bay, and contiguous waters south of a line from a point west of Pirates Cove at 56°59.35′ N. lat., 135°22.63′ W. long., to the westernmost tip of Long Island at 56°59.95′ N. lat., 135°21.92′ W. long., to the easternmost tip of Emgeten Island at 57°00.08′ N. lat., 135°20.01′ W. long., to the westernmost tip of Error Island at 57°00.53′ N. lat., 135°19.50′ W. long., to the westernmost tip of Berry Island at 57°00.32′ N. lat., 135°18.68′ W. long., to the southernmost tip of Berry Island at 57°00.27′ N. lat., 135°18.51′ W. long., to the westernmost tip of the southernmost island in the Kutchuma Island group at 57°00.14′ N. lat., 135°18.27′ W. long., to the easternmost tip of the southernmost island in the Kutchuma Island group at 57°00.30′ N. lat., 135°17.93′ W. long., to the westernmost tip of an unnamed island at 57°00.30′ N. lat., 135°17.67′ W. long., to a point on the southern side of the unnamed island at 57°00.08′ N. lat., 135°16.78′ W. long., and then to a point on the Baranof Island Shore at 56°59.93′ N. lat., 135°16.53′ W. long. Waters of Sandy Cove will be closed.

From June 2 through June 20, the waters of Deep Inlet west of 135°20.75′ W. long., are open continuously to troll gear as part of the THA, with waters east of 135°20.75′ W. long., open to troll gear when net fisheries are closed. On June 21, all waters of the Deep Inlet THA will follow the rotational schedule with troll openings occurring on days when net gear is closed.

<u>Salisbury Sound (Fishery area 113-62)</u>: In waters of Peril Strait south of the latitude of Pogibshi Point at 57°30.56′ N. lat., waters of Salisbury Sound east of 135°46.00′ W. long., including Sukoi Inlet and waters of Neva Strait north of 57°15.00′ N. lat.

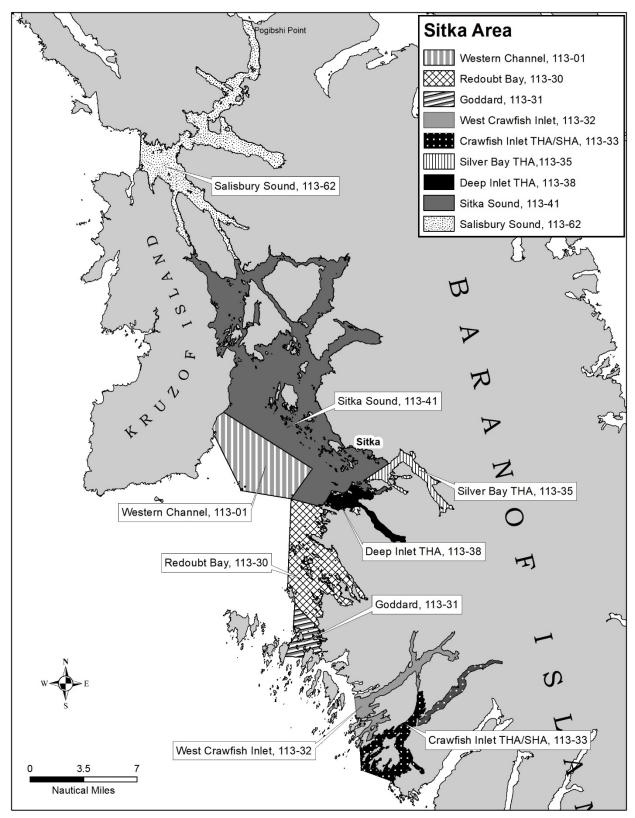


Figure 8.—Sitka spring troll areas.

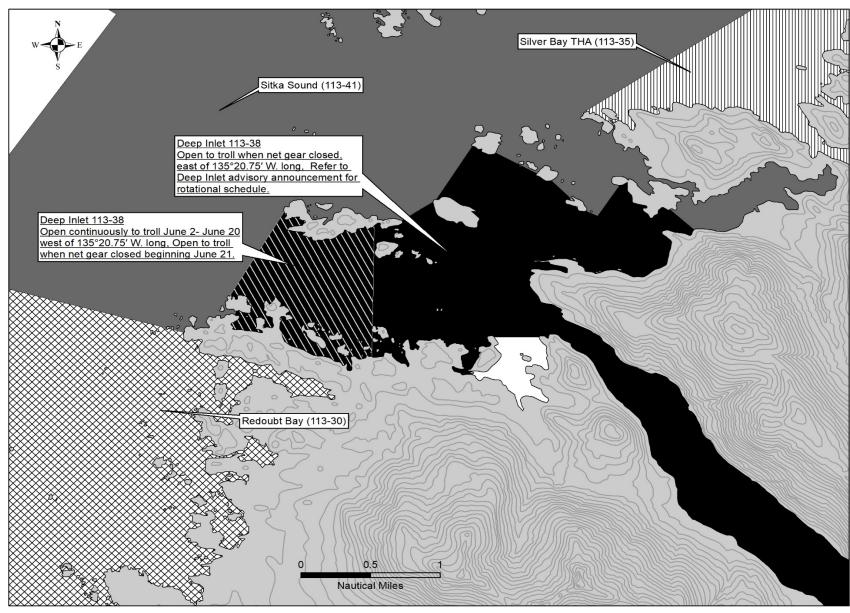


Figure 9.—Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area.

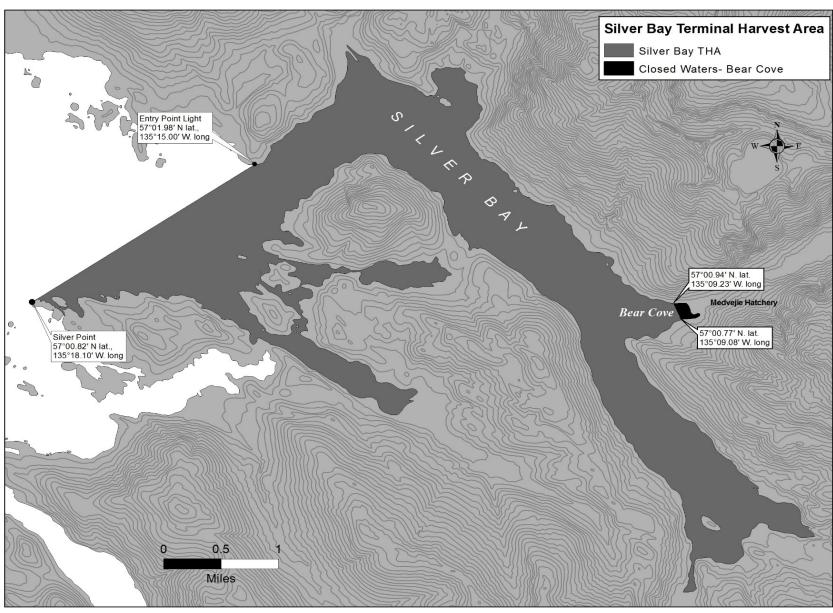


Figure 10.-Silver Bay Terminal Harvest Area.

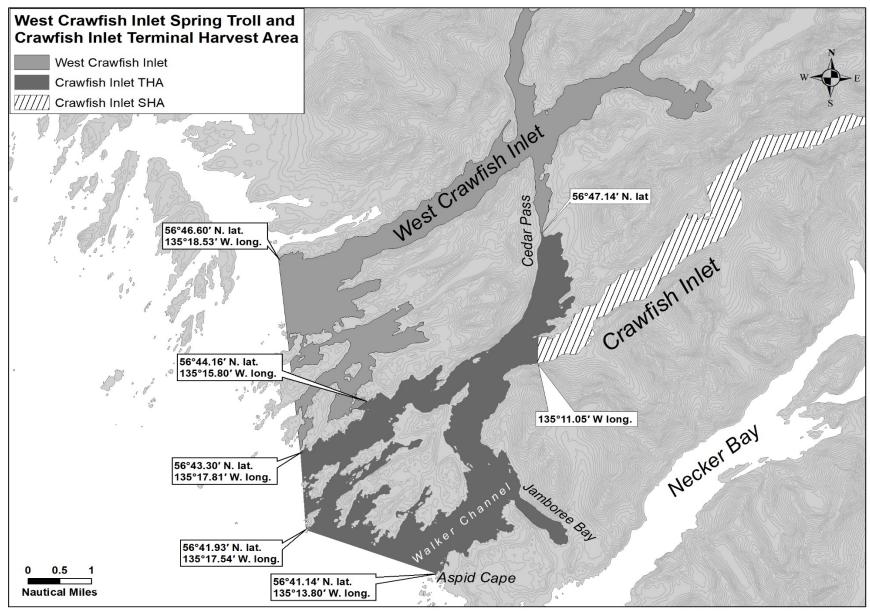


Figure 11.-West Crawfish Inlet spring troll, Crawfish Inlet Terminal and Special Harvest Areas.

NORTH CHATHAM STRAIT AND ICY STRAIT AREAS

Northern Chatham Strait Enhanced Chum (Fishery area 112-16): In waters enclosed by a line from 58°11.29′ N. lat., 134°53.27′ W. long., to 58°10.40′ N. lat., 135°02.63′ W. long., to 58°07.78′ N. lat., 135°00.78′ W. long., to 58°05.81′ N. lat., 134°47.09′ W. long.

Cross Sound (Fishery area 114-21): In waters of Section 14-A west of a line from the southernmost tip of Point Dundas at 58°18.93′ N. lat., 136°16.79′ W. long. to the westernmost tip of Lemsurier Island at 58°16.74′ N. lat., 136°09.50′ W. long., to the prominent point on the northeastern side of the Inian Peninsula at 58°13.43′ N. lat., 136°16.75′ W. long., east of the line of longitude extending south from the southernmost tip of Taylor Island at 58°16.98′ N. lat., 136°29.02′ W. long. to the point on that line that intersects at 58°10.00′ N. lat., north of a line that continues east to Althorp Rock Light at 58°09.98′ N. lat., 136°21.56′ W. long., and west of the line continuing north to the light at the entrance to Elfin Cove at 58°11.81′ N. lat., 136°21.07′ W. long.

South Passage (Fishery area 114-23): In waters of Icy Strait south and east of a line extending from the prominent point on the northeastern side of Inian Peninsula at 58°13.43′ N. lat., 136°16.75′ W. long., to the westernmost tip of Lemesurier Island at 58°16.74′ N. lat., 136°09.50′ W. long., from the northernmost tip of Lemesurier Island at 58°19.14′ N. lat., 136°02.43′ W. long., to Point Gustavus at 58°22.77′ N. lat., 135°55.07′ W. long., and east of a line from Point Adolphus at 58°17.25′ N. lat., 135°47.00′ W. long., to a point 1.0 nmi north of Point Adolphus at 58°18.04′ N. lat., 135°47.00′ W. long., north of a line continuing southwest to 58°14.65′ N. lat., 135°32.20′ W. long., and west of the line extending north from that point through Noon Point on the 135°32.20′ W. long. including the waters of Icy Passage.

Homeshore (Fishery area 114-25): In waters of Icy Strait east of the longitude of Noon Point at 135°32.20′ W. long. and west of 135°09.60′ W. long., and north of a line from 58°09.58′ N. lat., 135°09.60′ W. long., to the northern tip of the northernmost island of the Sisters Islands at 58°10.78′ N. lat., 135°15.48′ W. long., to 58°14.65′ N. lat., 135°32.20′ W. long.

Point Couverden (Fishery area 114-26): In waters enclosed by a line from 58°11.63′ N. lat., 135°09.60′ W. long., to 58°09.58′ N. lat., 135°09.60′ W. long., to 58°07.78′ N. lat., 135°00.78′ W. long., to 58°10.00′ N. lat., 135°02.35′ W. long., to 58°10.00′ N. lat., 135°06.24′ W. long., to 58°11.63′ N. lat., 135°09.60′ W. long.

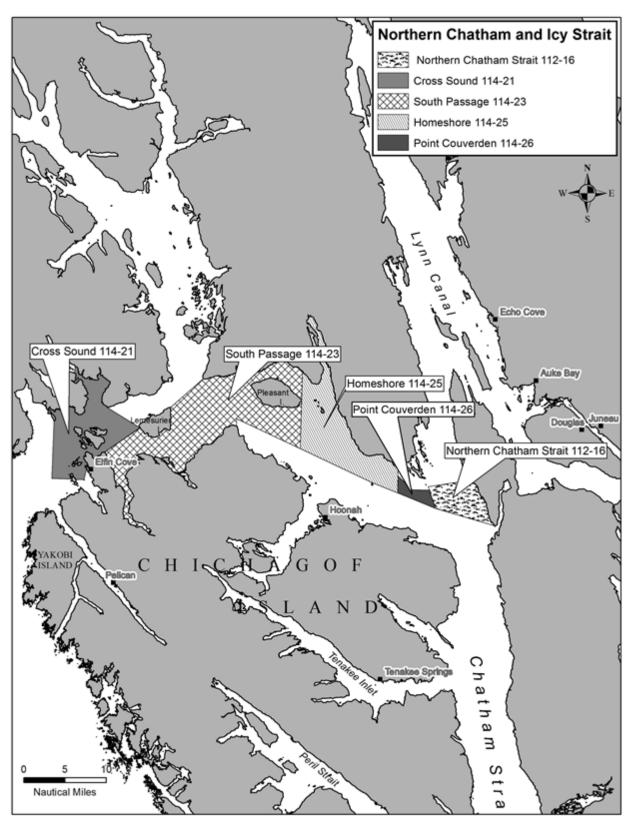


Figure 12.-North Chatham Strait and Icy Strait spring troll areas.

YAKUTAT AREA

Yakutat Bay (Fishery Area 183-10): The waters of Yakutat Bay east of a line from Point Manby at 59°41.66′ N. lat., 140°19.70′ W. long. to Ocean Cape at 59°32.06′ N. lat., 139°51.46′ W. long.

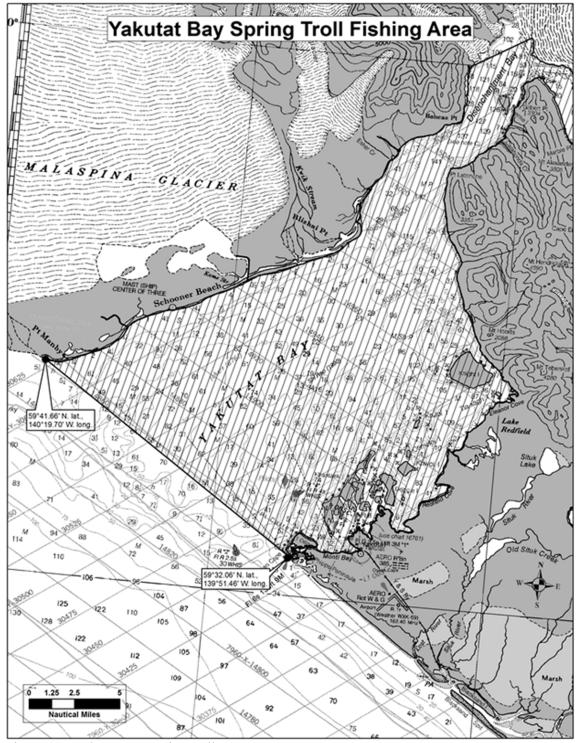


Figure 13.-Yakutat Bay spring troll area.

FISHERY CONTACTS

The following are Division of Commercial Fisheries contacts regarding this management plan:

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Troll fishery hotlines in Ketchikan, Sitka, and Juneau will be updated during the season with recorded announcements on fishery openings and closures.

Ketchikan (907) 225-6870

Sitka (907) 747-8765

Juneau (907) 465-8765