

2020 Summer Troll Fishery Management Plan

by

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

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2020 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 Southeast Alaska summer commercial salmon troll fishery from July 1 through September 30, 2020. The troll fishery will be managed according to guidelines adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries as described in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code Chapter 29 - Salmon Troll Fishery. The first Chinook salmon retention period will begin on July 1 to harvest 70% of the summer troll Chinook salmon harvest limit. The remainder of the troll Chinook salmon harvest limit will be harvested in a second retention period in August. The summer troll fishery will be open to harvest coho salmon through September 20, with several inseason assessments regarding the need for closures to address conservation or allocation concerns and to consider an extension of the coho 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 waters of the State of Alaska and the Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) east of the longitude of Cape Suckling and north of the International Boundary at Dixon Entrance. The troll fishery is managed according to regulations promulgated by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF), North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC). Regulations adopted by the BOF are filed under Chapter 29-Salmon Troll Fishery in Title 5 (5 AAC) of the State of Alaska Administrative Code. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) conducts inseason management under emergency order authority. The all-gear Chinook salmon fishery is managed to achieve a harvest target based on the 2019 Bilateral Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement (PST). The PST specifies an allowable catch based on the translation of the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat (SEAK) winter power troll fishery catch per unit effort (CPUE) into a harvest target specified in a multi-tiered catch ceiling table provided for in the agreement. Coho salmon are managed to ensure escapement goals and to achieve BOF allocation guidelines. Coho salmon near Dixon Entrance are managed in cooperation with Canada according to the PST agreement.

This management plan discusses objectives and methods used to achieve BOF, NPFMC, NMFS, and PSC policies and goals for the commercial summer troll fishery. This plan addresses commercial directed trolling for Chinook, coho, and chum salmon; pink and sockeye salmon 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 in portions of Districts 1–16 (Figure 1) for up to 10 days after September 20, 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 SEAK Chinook salmon fishery is managed to achieve the annual all-gear PSC allowable catch limit determined by the 2019–2020 early winter District 113 troll fishery catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) metric estimated from data collected in statistical weeks (SW) 41–48. The annual harvest

limit is allocated through regulations established by the BOF to provide 4.3% of the Chinook harvest limit to the purse seine fleet, 2.9% to the drift gillnet fleet, and 1,000 fish to the set gillnet fleet. The total net gear allocation is then subtracted from the all-gear harvest, and the remainder of the allocation is divided between the troll and sport fisheries in an 80/20 split [5 AAC 29.060(b)]. 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 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 appropriate tier of the winter power troll CPUE-based catch ceiling table determined 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 harvested throughout most of SEAK, including the outside waters of the EEZ. The summer fishery targets the number of PST Chinook salmon remaining on the annual troll allocation after winter and spring troll PST harvests are subtracted. During years in which the summer Chinook salmon harvest limit is relatively large, opening lengths are estimated and a closing date is determined inseason. A Fisheries Performance Data (FPD) program, consisting of confidential interviews collected from commercial trollers at the time of offload, is used to estimate daily catch rates (catch-per-boat day or CPUE) 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 pairing aerial vessel counts with the CPUE data obtained from FPD interviews. Summaries of conventional and electronic fish tickets are compiled daily to track harvest during each day of the summer Chinook salmon retention period. The total number of days the fishery will be open for Chinook salmon retention is calculated by dividing the harvest goal for the opening by the estimated daily catch of 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. From 1996 to 1999, 2002–2007, 2009–2012, and 2014–2019, the Chinook salmon fishery was managed inseason and closed by emergency order. The department manages the summer troll fishery season according to the management plan (5 AAC 29.100) which calls for harvesting 70% of the summer Chinook salmon troll harvest limit in an initial opening beginning July 1. The remainder of the Chinook salmon harvest limit is targeted following any coho salmon conservation/allocation closure in August. Following the first Chinook salmon retention period, 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 retention period was taken in that period (Figure 2). In addition, during the second Chinook salmon retention period, if the department determines after 10 days that the annual troll Chinook salmon harvest ceiling may 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. Lastly, if the department determines that the number of Chinook salmon remaining on the annual troll Chinook salmon harvest allocation is not sufficient to allow a competitive fishery, the commissioner may, by emergency order, reopen the troll fishery to the taking of Chinook salmon during a limited harvest fishery [5 AAC 29.100 (c)(2)(D)]. In a limited harvest fishery, the department would establish harvest limits per vessel that would allow each permit holder to take a defined number of Chinook salmon over a period of up to 10 days, with the fishery taking place no earlier than September 1.

The hatchery add-on is calculated inseason through data generated from the port sampling program. 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. The number of Alaska hatchery fish is calculated by expanding the number of Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon in the sampled catch to 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 survival due to favorable ocean conditions, increased targeting of coho salmon by trollers, and an increase in Alaska hatchery production. Hatchery coho salmon production (almost entirely from Southeast Alaska facilities) first became significant in 1980. During the recent 30-year period from 1990–2019, the contribution of hatchery coho salmon has varied from 15% of the total troll catch in 1994 to 33% in 2018 and 2019.

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 school 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 while 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 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, a regional coho salmon research biologist, and 14 area management biologists. ADF&G staff contact information is provided at the end of this document.

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 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, up to 10 days, typically occurs in mid-August and is required by regulation to be a minimum of two days to provide 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 salmon reaching inside areas is adequate to provide for spawning requirements, given normal or restricted inside fisheries on coho and other salmon 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 2019 PST, the area near the U.S./Canada border will close in early July if Alaska troll harvest rates in the border area fall below specified thresholds.

The regulatory period for coho salmon retention in the troll fishery is June 1 through September 20, with a potential extension through September 30. The criteria for extending the coho salmon fishery after September 20 were modified through the BOF process in 2012. The newly adopted regulatory language, under 5AAC 29.110, specifies in years when wild coho salmon abundance is projected by ADF&G to meet escapement needs after considering harvest and effort, the commissioner may extend by emergency order the coho salmon fishery in any portions of Districts 1–16 for up to 10 days after September 20. Prior to 2012, the decision to extend the general summer troll season beyond September 20 was based on an ADF&G determination of high or above-average wild coho salmon abundance.

Long-term wild stock and hatchery stock CWT programs, dockside sampling programs, escapement monitoring projects, 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, timing, and 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 SEAK 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 SEAK.

Coho Salmon Allocation Regulations

The BOF has established long-term allocation goals for coho salmon harvest by each commercial gear type. Target percentages established by the BOF 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 ADF&G determines that the proportional share of coho salmon harvest by the troll fishery is larger than that of inside drift 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 department will consider the combined impacts of both closures when setting the length and timing of an additional August closure. Any transfer of coho salmon harvest to inside fisheries resulting from an early closure, if implemented, should be reflected in inside fishery performance indicators, and would be used for comparison against the allocation criteria.

TENTATIVE 2020 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 retention period varies annually and may be opened 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	Regional coho salmon 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 salmon harvest will be used as an index of run strength.

DATES	EXPECTED REGULATORY ACTIONS (continued)
Late July cont.	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.
Early August	A second assessment of coho salmon run strength will determine the need for and length of a mid-August troll closure.
Mid- to late-August	A regionwide coho closure of up to 10 days will be implemented if required for conservation or allocation, based on assessment of stock and fishery performance data relative to criteria established by the BOF. 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. Following any closure of the troll fishery, the Chinook salmon fishery will reopen to take the remaining treaty Chinook salmon harvest limit. 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)).
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 ADF&G to meet escapement needs after considering harvest and effort, the coho fishery may be extended by up to 10 days after September 20.

2020 CHINOOK SALMON TREATY HARVEST LIMIT AND ALLOCATIONS

Under management provisions of the PST, the 2019–2020 winter power troll CPUE is estimated at 4.83, which results in an all-gear harvest limit for SEAK of 201,100 treaty Chinook (non-Alaska hatchery-produced fish). This year’s all-gear harvest limit includes a 2% reduction that will serve as a buffer to avoid exceeding the all-gear limit and payback provisions of the PST. The resulting preseason troll fishery treaty harvest allocation for 2020 is 148,500 Chinook salmon.

The all-gear harvest limit 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 may be harvested in addition to the treaty limit. The commercial troll fishery is allocated 80% and the recreational fishery 20% of the PST harvest limit, 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 limit for 2020 are as follows:

All-gear Treaty Harvest limit	Purse Seine	Drift Gillnet	Set Gillnet	Total Net	Sport	Troll
201,100	8,650	5,830	1,000	15,480	37,120	148,500

The summer troll fishery treaty harvest limit 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 Chinook salmon, and a risk adjustment of 1,000 Chinook salmon. The resultant sum is then subtracted from the troll fishery allocation, yielding a summer troll fishery treaty harvest limit. In addition, under the BOF plan, 70% of the summer harvest limit is to be harvested during the first summer opening beginning July 1. **The preliminary target harvest for the July Chinook salmon retention period and estimated length of the fishery will be announced in an advisory announcement issued in late June.**

SUMMER TROLL FISHING PERIODS AND CLOSED WATERS

Salmon trolling is permitted in all waters of SEAK 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) will be closed as necessary (Figure 2).

FISHING PERIODS UNDER 5 AAC 29.100

Wild Chinook salmon stocks are in a very low period of production for the majority of rivers in SEAK where these runs are monitored. With preseason forecasts for the Stikine and Taku rivers, along with a number of other systems, below the lower bound of escapement goal ranges, and with provisions of the 2018 BOF adopted action plans for the Unuk, Chilkat, and King Salmon rivers still in effect, 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 2020 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 (Figure 3), salmon may be taken only as follows:

(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, Chinook salmon may not be retained or in possession during the first general summer troll Chinook 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, Chinook salmon may not be retained or in possession during the first general summer troll Chinook 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 Chinook salmon retention and possession during the first general summer troll Chinook 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 5 AAC 29.100

In accordance with the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan [5 AAC 30.365 (c)(4)(B)], **waters near the mouth of the Situk River will be closed to the retention of Chinook salmon effective 12:01 a.m., July 1.** The Situk River is managed for a biological escapement goal (BEG) of 450 to 1,050 large Chinook salmon. The 2020 preseason forecast is for a total return of 850 large Chinook salmon. The inriver run goal was not achieved in 2010–2012, and 2015–2016, and 2018, and restrictive management measures were deemed necessary. The 2020 preseason forecast suggests that the Situk River Chinook salmon run may fall within the BEG. Conservation actions are necessary to ensure adequate levels of escapement.

In accordance with 5 AAC 29.100 (i)(2), **waters near the mouth of the Situk River will be closed to the retention of all salmon from August 7–September 20.**

The coordinates specified in 5 AAC 30.365 are modified by emergency order (EO) to match those provided in 5 AAC 29.100 (i)(2) and these two Yakutat area troll fishery closures apply in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the three-nautical-mile limit of the territorial sea and on

the north by a line extending seaward from 59°30.49' N lat, 139°46.58' W long at 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. (Figure 6).

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)], however, **may not sport fish and commercial fish for salmon from the same vessel on the same day** [5 AAC 47.041 (f)]. A person who sport fishes from a vessel licensed for commercial salmon fishing, other than a charter vessel when paying clients are onboard, shall immediately upon bringing a salmon on board, mark that harvested salmon by **removing its dorsal fin** [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 the summer commercial troll season [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)].
- A person **may possess sport-caught salmon** on board a commercial salmon vessel while that vessel is engaged in commercial salmon fishing only if the salmon is preserved fish at the time the vessel is engaged 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)].

TERMINAL HARVEST AREA CHUM SALMON FISHERIES

ICY STRAIT

Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. (DIPAC) projects total returns of 1.98 million chum salmon to the Macaulay Hatchery and other release sites in 2020, a 54% decrease from the 2019 preseason projection of 4.30 million (postseason online return is 1.95 million). Trollers have targeted DIPAC-produced chum salmon in Icy Strait during June and early July since 2010.

HIDDEN FALLS TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

The Hidden Falls Hatchery, operated by the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), forecasts a run of 364,000 chum salmon in 2020. NSRAA needs 200,000 chum salmon for broodstock leaving 164,000 chum salmon available for common property harvests. Beginning July 1, the number of chum salmon may not exceed the number of Chinook salmon onboard a troll vessel or recorded on a fish ticket [5 AAC 33.374 (d)].

NSRAA does not intend to use a tax assessment on the common property harvest of chum salmon to satisfy cost recovery needs as provided under AS 16.10.455. In 2014, the law was amended to allow NSRAA to recommend either an assessment based on the percentage of value or to assess a

fixed amount on a per pound basis of chum salmon landed. In 2020, 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. Please refer to the *2020 Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Fishery Management Plan* for more details.

SITKA SOUND/DEEP INLET TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

NSRAA has projected total returns of 1.48 million chum salmon to the Deep Inlet THA and Medvejie Hatchery in 2020, an decrease of 31% over the 2019 projected run of 2.14 million. The Deep Inlet THA rotational fishing schedule began on June 2 to harvest Medvejie Hatchery Chinook salmon. The THA is open to trolling during periods when the net fisheries are closed, including each Saturday from June 6 through September 26. NSRAA is not planning to conduct cost recovery this season and no closure of the THA in early August will be necessary. In the event there is a chum salmon broodstock shortage at Bear Cove, Deep Inlet may close to all gear groups for broodstock collection, potentially in mid to late August. The troll and net fishing schedule and a description of THA boundaries can be found in the Deep Inlet advisory announcement issued on April 15, 2020.

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 closure [5 AAC 29.112].

CRAWFISH INLET TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

NSRAA has forecasted a run of 1.58 million chum salmon to the Crawfish Inlet remote release site in 2020, a 54% decrease from the 2019 projected return of 3.45 million fish. The timing of troll harvest in the THA should be similar to that of the Deep Inlet and Sitka Sound chum fisheries, with returns beginning in late July and continuing through mid-August. This troll THA was established during the 2018 BOF cycle and allows trollers to target chum salmon during the mid-August troll closure in portions of Crawfish Inlet east of 135°11.05' W long, as determined by the department for conservation management reasons [5 AAC 29.112].

In March of 2020, the BOF expanded hatchery chum troll opportunities in this area to include waters of the Crawfish Inlet THA south of 56°47.14' N lat in Cedar Pass, northeast of a line from 56°43.83' N lat, 135°16.13' W long to 56°43.49' N lat, 135°15.50' W long in Middle Channel, and north of a line from 56°43.01' N lat, 135°12.93' W long to 56°43.25' N lat, 135°12.18' W long in Walker Channel. Also included in 2020 BOF regulatory changes was the addition of West Crawfish Inlet to areas that may remain open to target enhanced chum salmon during the August coho salmon conservation closure. The new area is described as the waters of West Crawfish Inlet and Windy Passage, southeast of a line from 56°47.11' N lat, 135°18.87' W long, to 56°46.89' N lat, 135°19.92' W long, northeast of a line from 56°45.80' N lat, 135°20.06' W long, to 56°45.30' N lat, 135°17.64' W long, and northwest of a line from 56°42.32' N lat, 135°16.99' W long, to 56°46.36' N lat, 135°16.89' W long, in First Narrows. Coho salmon may not be retained in these areas during the mid-August coho closure.

Salmon may be taken in the Crawfish Inlet THA by troll gear from 12:01 a.m., June 1, through 11:59 p.m., September 20, unless closed by emergency order. Beginning July 1, Chinook salmon may be retained and possessed in the THA by troll gear only during an open summer Chinook salmon troll fishery retention period [5 AAC 33.380(b)(1)].

SOUTHEAST COVE TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

The Southeast Cove THA will be open to common property fisheries from 12:01 a.m., Sunday, June 21 through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, August 2. Purse seine openings will occur each week on Sundays and Thursdays and the troll fishery will be open during those periods the purse seine fishery is closed. Currently there are no plans for cost recovery. If significant numbers of fish remain after August 2, additional common property opportunity may be provided through EO authority or a cost recovery fishery may be implemented dependent on the presence of wild salmon stocks in the area. For additional information refer to the Southeast Cove and Thomas Bay advisory announcement issued on April 15, 2020.

NSRAA is forecasting a total run of 306,000 chum salmon at the Southeast Cove release site, and an additional 3,000 fish to the Gunnuk Creek site. A portion of the run will be harvested in common property fisheries in Chatham Strait.

THOMAS BAY TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

The Thomas Bay THA will be open to common property fisheries from 12:01 a.m. Sunday, June 21, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, August 8. Purse seine opening will occur each week on Sundays and Thursdays from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and the troll fishery will be open during those periods the purse seine fishery is closed. For additional information refer to the Southeast Cove and Thomas Bay THA advisory announcement issued on April 15, 2020.

NSRAA is forecasting a total run of 222,000 chum salmon to the Thomas Bay THA. This year's return will be the second return for this project and will be comprised of 3-year and 4-year old fish. A portion of the run may be harvested in common property fisheries in Chatham Strait and Frederick Sound.

ANITA BAY TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

SSRAA is forecasting a return of 366,300 Anita Bay summer chum salmon in 2020. The Anita Bay THA will open continuously to the harvest of salmon by troll gear from 5:00 a.m., Monday, June 1, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 12 and 12:01 a.m., Monday, August 10 through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, November 10. For additional information refer to the Anita Bay THA advisory announcement issued on April 17, 2020.

NEETS BAY TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

The Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) is expecting 662,000 summer chum salmon to return to the Neets Bay Terminal Harvest Area (THA) in 2020, a 65% decrease from the 1.91 million summer chum projected to return in 2019. Salmon may be taken in the Neets Bay THA by troll gear from 12:01 a.m., June 15, through 11:59 p.m., July 6. The Neets Bay THA will expand to the longitude of Chin Point on July 1, for troll gear only. 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. If additional openings can be scheduled, they will be announced by advisory announcement. Trollers may target Neets Bay chum salmon outside the THA in West Behm Canal when those waters are open to trolling (Figure 3).

KENDRICK BAY TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

The Kendrick Bay THA, which includes the waters of Kendrick Bay west of 131°59.00' W long and the waters of McLean Arm west of 131°57.80' W long, will be open on a continual basis from June 15 through September 30. For 2020, SSRAA is expecting a return of 451,600 summer chum salmon. Peak catches are expected to occur during SWs 27–29.

TERMINAL HARVEST AREA CHINOOK SALMON 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 be opened by emergency order to allow troll gear to harvest excess salmon prior to July 31, if Chinook salmon broodstock needs are met at the Medvejie Creek hatchery. The **Anita Bay THA** will be open to troll gear for retention of all salmon species through November 10 [5 AAC 33.383]. The **Port Armstrong SHA** is open to troll gear for retention of all salmon species through September 20. The **Deep Inlet THA** will be open to troll gear through September 26 for retention of all salmon species and will follow the schedule announced in the Deep Inlet advisory announcement issued on April 15, 2020. [5 AAC 33.376].

The Crawfish Inlet, Southeast Cove, Thomas Bay, Nakat Inlet, Neets Bay, Kendrick Bay, and Hidden Falls THAs are closed to Chinook salmon retention whenever the general summer Chinook salmon retention periods are closed.

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 2020 Commercial Salmon Troll Fishery" advisory announcement, issued on January 2, 2020.

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.

BYCATCH SPECIES	BYCATCH ALLOWANCE
Lingcod ¹	100%, IBS, CSEO, NSEI, and SSEIW. 20%, EYKT 10%, SSEOC 5%, NSEO. Lingcod bycatch allowances also apply in federal waters.
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)	10%. DSR bycatch allowance also applies in federal waters, excluding IBS .
Black, Blue, and Dark Rockfish	No limit on incidental harvest. Also applies in federal waters.
Other Rockfish	No limit on incidental harvest in state waters. 5% in aggregate in federal waters. In IBS federal waters, DSR are included as part of this "Other Rockfish" category when computing bycatch allowances.
Spiny Dogfish	35%.
Sablefish	0%, no retention.
Other Groundfish	No limit on incidental harvest.

¹ see Lingcod section of the report for additional regulations pertaining to lingcod retention.

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 groundfish landed is not required.

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 management 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, National Weather Service broadcast and the Groundfish telephone hotline at (907) 747-4882. For additional information contact Groundfish Project 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 with proceeds forfeited to the State of Alaska.

Lingcod harvest is restricted in the waters of Sitka Sound [5 AAC 28.150 (b)]. Commercial salmon trollers are permitted to 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 weight 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 within this area until those lingcod are offloaded.

The Sitka Sound Special Use Area is defined in 5 AAC 28.150 (a) 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.

ROCKFISH BYCATCH IN STATE WATERS

All Demersal Shelf Rockfish (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.

Other rockfish taken while trolling for salmon in state waters (internal waters of Alaska and 0–3 nmi on the outer coast) are legally retained and possessed with no limit on incidental harvest.

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 in the Gulf of Alaska that retain federal groundfish bycatch must have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) endorsed for troll 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 679.40 (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 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)].

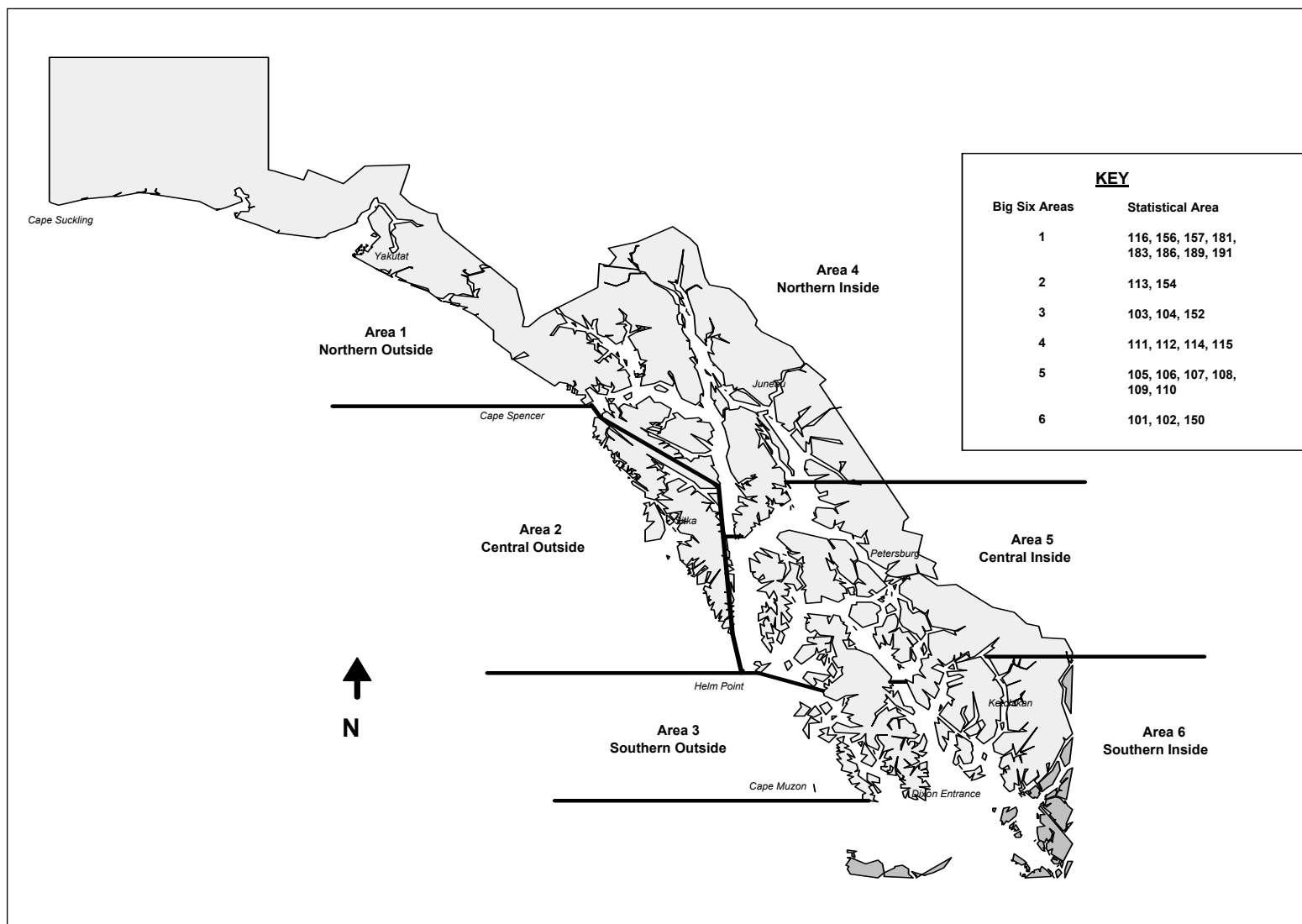


Figure 1.—Fisheries Performance Data program reporting areas in Southeast Alaska.

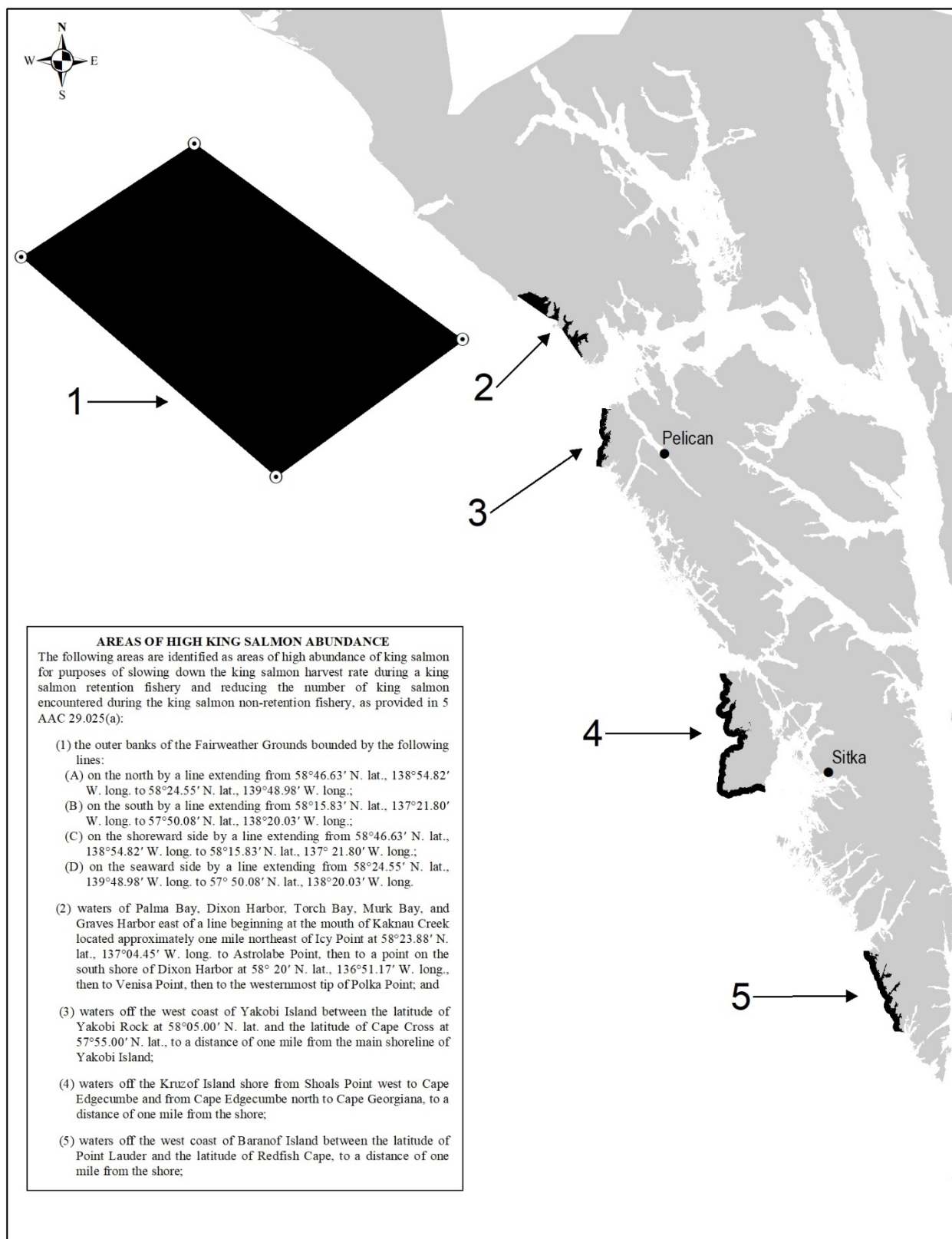


Figure 2.—Areas of high king salmon abundance closed to salmon trolling following the closure of the first summer Chinook salmon retention period.

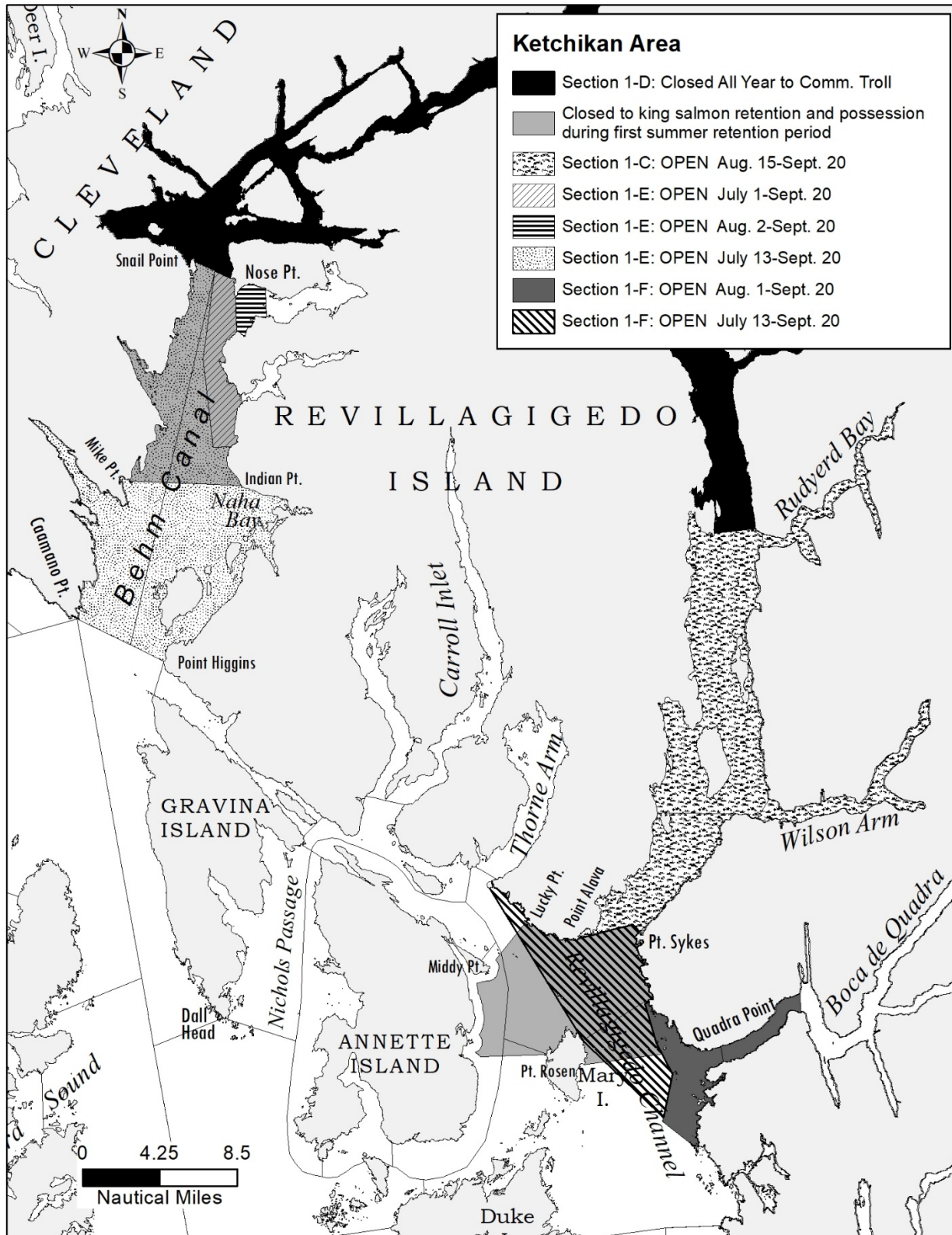


Figure 3.—Ketchikan area summer troll seasonal restrictions.

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 ADF&G. 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 ADF&G. The general summer troll fishing season applies to those areas not specified in the key or in 5AAC 29.150.

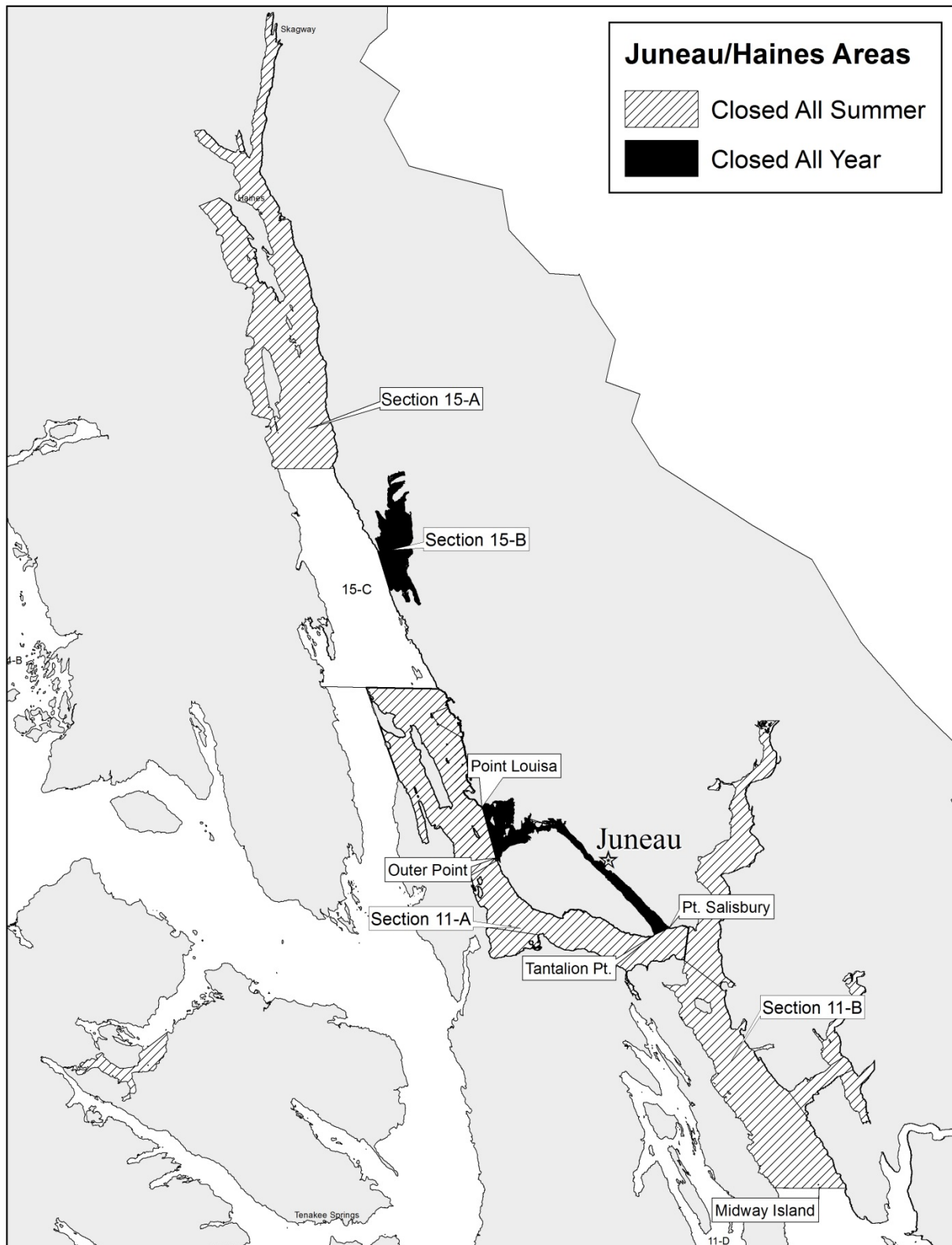


Figure 5.—Juneau/Haines areas summer waters closed to troll gear.

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 ADF&G. The general summer troll fishing season applies to those areas not specified in the key or in 5AAC 29.150.

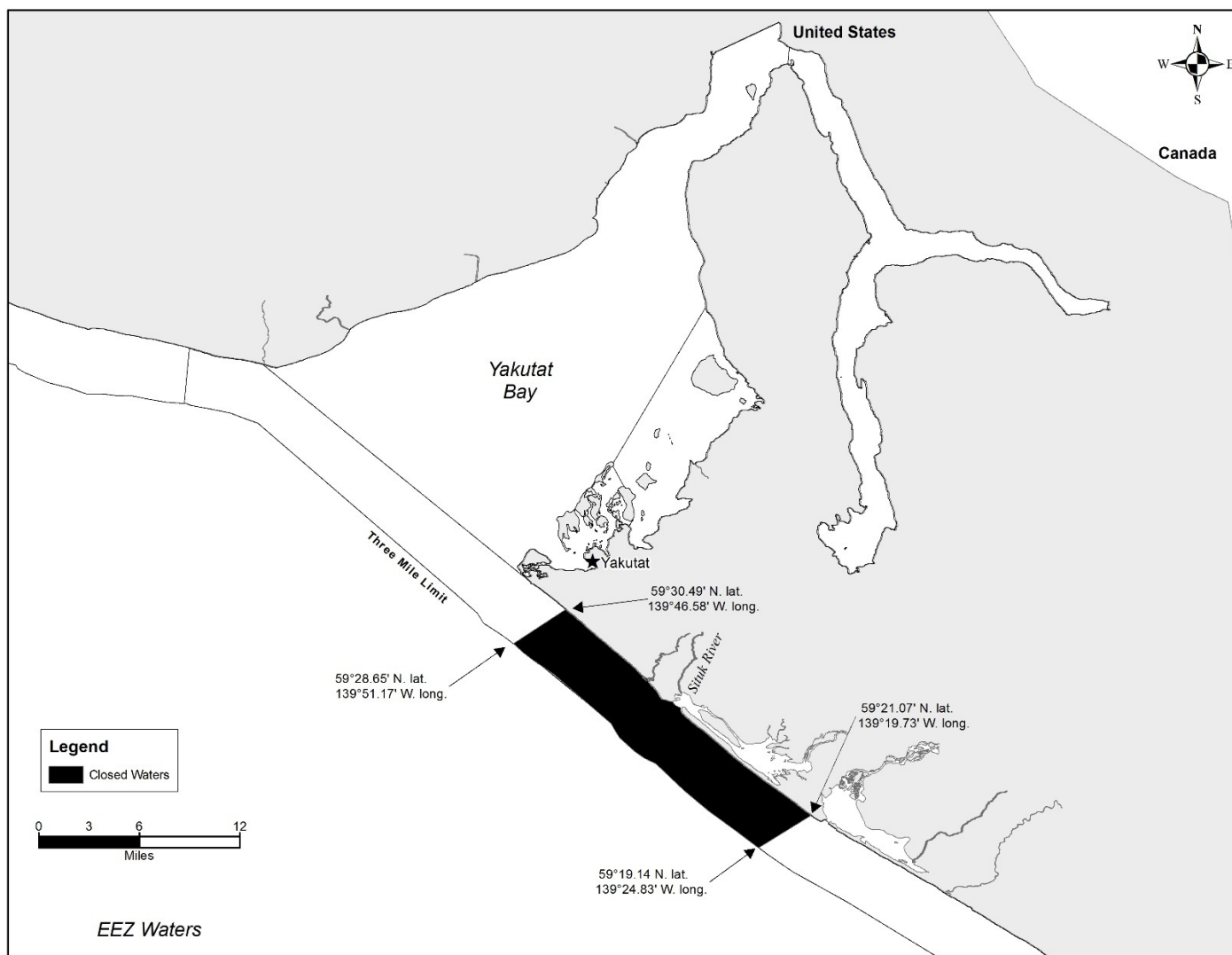


Figure 6.—Yakutat area troll fishery closed waters to retention of Chinook salmon (July 1) and all salmon (August 7–September 20).

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 ADF&G. The general summer troll fishing season applies to those areas not specified in the key or in 5AAC 29.150.

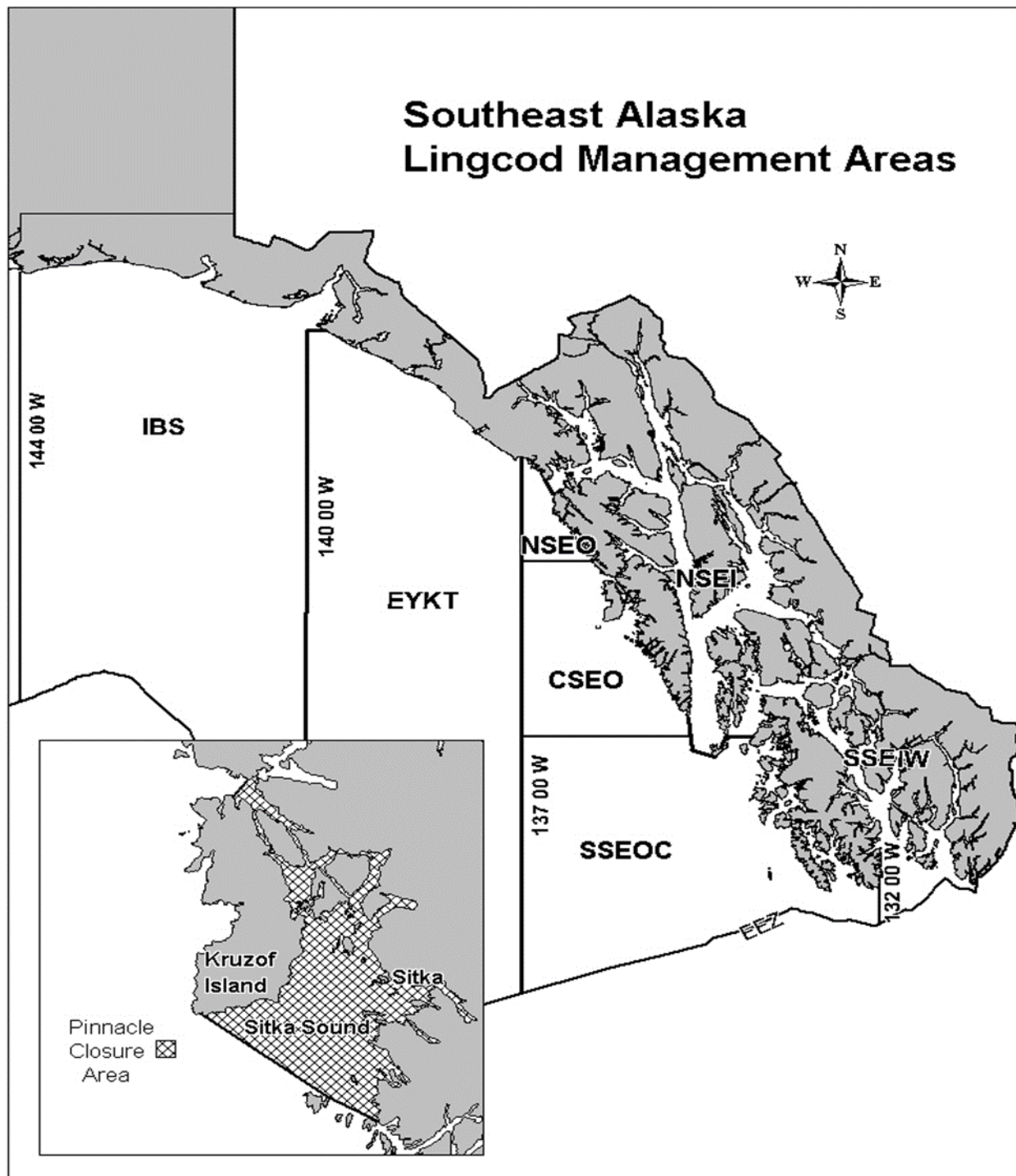


Figure 7.—Southeast Alaska lingcod management areas and restricted waters of Sitka Sound.

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For updated information on the troll fishery, call the 24-hour information hotline in Douglas (907) 465-TROL (8765), Sitka (907) 747-8765, or Ketchikan (907) 225-6870.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA TROLL WEBSITE INFORMATION:

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