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2025 Southeast Alaska Salmon Drift Gillnet 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)

centimeter	cm
deciliter	dL
gram	g
hectare	ha
kilogram	kg
kilometer	km
liter	L
meter	m
milliliter	mL
millimeter	mm

Weights and measures (English)

cubic feet per second	ft^3/s
foot	ft
gallon	gal
inch	in
mile	mi
nautical mile	nmi
ounce	oz
pound	lb
quart	qt
yard	yd

Time and temperature

day	d
degrees Celsius	°C
degrees Fahrenheit	°F
degrees kelvin	K
hour	h
minute	min
second	s

Physics and chemistry

all atomic symbols	
alternating current	AC
ampere	A
calorie	cal
direct current	DC
hertz	Hz
horsepower	hp
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH
parts per million	ppm
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰
volts	V
watts	W

General

Alaska Administrative Code	AAC
all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.
all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.
at	@
compass directions:	
east	E
north	N
south	S
west	W
copyright	©
corporate suffixes:	
Company	Co.
Corporation	Corp.
Incorporated	Inc.
Limited	Ltd.
District of Columbia	D.C.
et alii (and others)	et al.
et cetera (and so forth)	etc.
exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.
Federal Information Code	FIC
id est (that is)	i.e.
latitude or longitude	lat or long
monetary symbols (U.S.)	$, ¢
months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan,...,Dec
registered trademark	®
trademark	™
United States (adjective)	U.S.
United States of America (noun)	USA
U.S.C.	United States Code
U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)

Mathematics, statistics

all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations	
alternate hypothesis	H_A
base of natural logarithm	e
catch per unit effort	CPUE
coefficient of variation	CV
common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2, etc.)
confidence interval	CI
correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
correlation coefficient (simple)	r
covariance	cov
degree (angular)	°
degrees of freedom	df
expected value	E
greater than	>
greater than or equal to	≥
harvest per unit effort	HPUE
less than	<
less than or equal to	≤
logarithm (natural)	ln
logarithm (base 10)	log
logarithm (specify base)	$\log_2$, etc.
minute (angular)	′
not significant	NS
null hypothesis	H_O
percent	%
probability	P
probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
second (angular)	″
standard deviation	SD
standard error	SE
variance	
population	Var
sample	var

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The Regional Information Report Series was established in 1987 and was redefined in 2007 to meet the Division of Commercial Fisheries regional need for publishing and archiving information such as project operational plans, area management plans, budgetary information, staff comments and opinions to Board of Fisheries proposals, interim or preliminary data and grant agency reports, special meeting or minor workshop results and other regional information not generally reported elsewhere. Reports in this series may contain raw data and preliminary results. Reports in this series receive varying degrees of regional, biometric; and editorial review; information in this series may be subsequently finalized and published in a different department reporting series or in formal literature. Please contact the author or the Division of Commercial Fisheries if in doubt of the level of review or preliminary nature of the data reported. Regional Information Reports are available through the Alaska State Library and on the Internet at: http:/www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications/

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

ABSTRACT

This management plan provides an overview of the expected salmon run sizes, regulations, management issues, and harvest strategies for the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fisheries in 2025. Drift gillnet fisheries are planned at Tree Point and Portland Canal (District 1), Prince of Wales Island and Stikine River (Districts 6 and 8), Taku River/Port Snettisham (District 11), Lynn Canal (District 15), and in select hatchery terminal harvest areas.

Keywords: Southeast Alaska, drift gillnet, management plan, Pacific salmon, *Oncorhynchus*, outlook, forecast, terminal harvest area, hatchery, 2025.

INTRODUCTION

This management plan provides an overview of the expected salmon run sizes, regulations, management issues, and harvest strategies for the Southeast Alaska (SEAK) drift gillnet fisheries in 2025. Average, unless defined otherwise, refers to the most recent 10-year average (2015–2024). Harvest, escapement, run forecasts or outlooks, unless otherwise indicated, are in numbers of fish. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G or department) statistical weeks (SW) for the 2025 drift gillnet fishing season can be referenced in Table 1.

An average of 473 SEAK drift gillnet limited entry permits were issued annually, of which an average of 87% were actively fished each year (Conrad and Thynes, 2025). In 2024, 474 permits were issued, of which 319 (67%) were actively fished, the lowest effort in the fishery since limited entry. Drift gillnet harvests have averaged 3.98 million salmon annually over the recent 10-year period and averaged 3.2 million salmon annually since 1962 (1962–2024). In the last 10 years, the species composition of the drift gillnet harvest has been 67% chum, 20% pink, 8% sockeye, 5% coho, and <1% Chinook salmon (Thynes et al. *In prep*). Of the total commercial salmon harvest in SEAK, the average drift gillnet fishery harvests have included 32% sockeye, 25% chum, 11% coho, 9% Chinook, and 4% pink salmon (Conrad and Thynes 2025).

The 5 traditional drift gillnet fishing areas in SEAK are shown in Figure 1: Tree Point and Portland Canal (District 1); Prince of Wales (District 6); Stikine (District 8); Taku/Snettisham (District 11); and Lynn Canal (District 15). In addition, drift gillnet fisheries occur in several terminal harvest areas (THA) adjacent to hatchery facilities and at remote release sites throughout the region (Figure 2). Each of these drift gillnet fisheries are discussed separately in this management plan. A summary of drift gillnet harvest for each salmon species by fishery area and type for the 2024 season is presented in Table 2. The most recent 10-year annual and average harvests are presented in Table 3 for Tree Point, Table 4 for Prince of Wales, Table 5 for Stikine River, Table 6 for Taku/Snettisham, and Table 7 for Lynn Canal.

The drift gillnet fishery primarily targets sockeye, pink, and chum salmon during the summer season and coho and chum salmon during the fall season. Directed commercial fisheries harvesting Stikine and Taku River stocks of Chinook salmon were resurrected in 2005 after ceasing in the 1970s. District 8 was opened to directed fisheries on Stikine River Chinook salmon from 2005 through 2008, and limited fisheries occurred in 2012 and 2016. In District 11, directed fisheries on Taku River Chinook salmon occurred in 2005, 2006, and 2009, and two 12-hour openings occurred in 2012. The 2025 Chinook salmon terminal run size forecast for the Taku River is above the escapement goal range and allows for directed and assessment Chinook salmon fisheries in the U.S. and Canada; however, based on spawning escapement estimates being below the escapement goal range in 8 of the 9 most recent years, neither directed nor assessment Chinook salmon fisheries will occur. The 2025 Stikine River Chinook salmon preseason forecast is below the

escapement goal range, which will result in conservative management during the early portion of the sockeye salmon fishery.

SEAK Chinook salmon stocks are currently experiencing low abundance. Over the past 5 years (2020–2024), the 11 monitored Chinook salmon index systems did not meet escapement goals 44% of the time. In 2024, 3 of the 11 monitored Chinook salmon index systems were below their escapement goal ranges. Of the 11 monitored stocks, ADF&G has a more detailed stock assessment that allows for annual run forecasts for 5 of those stocks to be produced. In 2025, ADF&G forecasted total runs of 3 of these 5 stocks within their respective escapement goal ranges, the terminal run of 1 stock below the escapement goal range, and the terminal run of 1 stock above the escapement goal range. Three of these systems —Stikine, Taku, and Chilkat Rivers— are within the Districts 8, 11, and 15 drift gillnet fishing areas. Commercial, sport, personal use, and subsistence fisheries will be restricted throughout SEAK to conserve Chinook salmon. More information on Chinook salmon management actions in specific fisheries can be found below.

STOCKS OF CONCERN

The *Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries* (SSFP; 5 AAC 39.222) directs ADF&G to provide the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) with reports on the status of salmon stocks and identify any salmon stocks that present a concern related to yield, management, or conservation during regularly scheduled BOF meetings. In October 2017, ADF&G recommended that the BOF designate the Unuk, King Salmon, and Chilkat Rivers stocks of Chinook salmon, and the McDonald Lake stock of sockeye salmon, as *stocks of management concern*. The BOF adopted these recommendations in January 2018. In October 2020, ADF&G recommended continuing the designation for these stocks, and additionally recommended that the Chickamin, Stikine, and Taku Rivers' stocks, and the Andrew Creek stock of Chinook salmon be added as stocks of management concern. The BOF adopted these recommendations in March of 2022. In October 2024, ADF&G recommended delisting Chickamin, Unuk, and Chilkat Rivers Chinook salmon and Klukshu River sockeye salmon stocks; continuing the designation for Stikine, Taku, and King Salmon Rivers and Andrew Creek Chinook salmon and McDonald Lake sockeye salmon stocks; and adding Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon and Northern Southeast Outside Subregion summer-run chum salmon as stocks of management concern.

Stock of concern designations were based on guidelines established in the SSFP, which describes a stock of management concern as "a concern arising from a chronic inability, despite use of specific management measures, to maintain escapements for a salmon stock within the bounds" of the established escapement goal whether it be a sustainable escapement goal (SEG), biological escapement goal (BEG), optimal escapement goal, or other specified management objective. Chronic inability is further defined in the SSFP as the "continuing or anticipated inability to meet escapement thresholds over a 4-to-5-year period, which is approximately the generation time of most salmon species" (5 AAC 39.222).

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

Action plans were presented to the BOF and public in draft form at the 2025 Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting. The BOF concurred with ADF&G's preferred management actions for each of these stocks but directed ADF&G to apply more restrictive management measures where and when appropriate, and to relax management measures where and when ADF&G determined there was opportunity to do so. Final action plans are available on the Division of Commercial Fisheries website.[1]

SALMON RUN EXPECTATIONS

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

The 2025 Stikine River Chinook salmon terminal run forecast is 10,000 large fish. Large Chinook salmon are considered ≥ 660 mm from the mid-eye to fork of tail length measurement, which typically includes ocean-age fish 1.3 years and older. Since this forecast is below the average Stikine River large Chinook salmon run of 15,000 fish, and below the minimum escapement goal of 14,000 fish, there will not be directed Chinook salmon fisheries, nor test fisheries in the U.S. or Canada. Both countries will exercise conservation measures for Chinook salmon with the directed sockeye salmon fisheries. Details of the management strategies are outlined in the Prince of Wales and Stikine Fisheries section of this plan.

The 2025 terminal run forecast for Taku River large Chinook salmon is 40,000 fish. This forecast is above the escapement goal range of 19,000 to 36,000 fish and allows for directed fisheries in the U.S. and Canada. However, both countries will continue to utilize restrictions during early directed sockeye salmon fishery openings to minimize harvest of Chinook salmon considering escapement of large Chinook salmon was within the escapement goal range in 2024 for the first time since 2015. Details of the management strategy are in the Taku/Snettisham Fishery section of this plan.

The 2025 preseason total run forecast for Chilkat River Chinook salmon is 2,850 large fish. The forecast is above the recent average escapement of 1,800 fish and within the escapement goal range of 1,750 to 3,500 fish. Restrictive management measures will again be implemented during early sockeye salmon fishery openings to reduce harvest rates of Chilkat River Chinook salmon. Details of the management strategy are in the Lynn Canal Fishery section of this plan.

The 2025 SEAK forecast for hatchery-produced Chinook salmon is 83,300 fish. This forecast includes estimated contributions from combined Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) facilities of 27,200 fish, estimated contributions of 45,500 fish from combined Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) facilities, and an estimated 8,500 fish from Douglas Island Pink and Chum (DIPAC) (Tables 8 and 9). A portion of

[1] Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2025. Southeast Alaska Commercial Salmon Fisheries. Management Reports. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon#management (accessed April 2025).

these runs will be harvested in traditional drift gillnet fisheries in Districts 1, 6, 8, 11, and 15, and in THA drift gillnet fisheries in Carroll Inlet, Neets Bay, Anita Bay, and Deep Inlet.

For 2025, the preliminary forecast for the Nass River is for a total run of 469,000 sockeye salmon (Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans [DFO] forecast). The terminal run forecast for Stikine River sockeye salmon is 176,000 fish, above the average terminal run size of 121,000 fish. The Taku River wild sockeye terminal run is expected to be 172,000 fish, near the average terminal run size of 170,000 fish. The Taku River enhanced sockeye salmon run is again expected to be minimal and near the average terminal run size of approximately 10,000 fish. Chilkat and Chilkoot Lakes sockeye salmon runs are expected to be average to above average. DIPAC forecasts a Snettisham Hatchery sockeye salmon run of 114,000 fish in 2025, below the average of 150,000 fish.

The 2025 SEAK forecast of hatchery-produced summer chum salmon runs is 14.2 million fish. This forecast includes 2.9 million fish to 5 DIPAC locations, 6.2 million fish to 6 NSRAA locations, and 4.8 million fish to 6 SSRAA locations (Tables 8 and 9). A portion of these runs will be harvested in traditional drift gillnet fisheries in Districts 1, 6, 8, 11, and 15, and in terminal harvest area drift gillnet fisheries in Boat Harbor, Deep Inlet, Southeast Cove, Anita Bay, Neets Bay, and Nakat Inlet. Chum salmon harvests in regional drift gillnet fisheries have averaged 2.7 million fish over the last 10 years.

Excluding the Taku River coho salmon stock, forecasts are not typically made for wild coho salmon runs. The 2025 Taku River coho salmon terminal run forecast is 121,000 fish, above the 92,000 fish average. General expectations for regional coho salmon runs are expected to be consistent with recent averages. Total hatchery-produced coho salmon run forecasts include 313,000 fish to SSRAA projects (Table 8); 130,000 fish to NSRAA projects (Table 9); and 120,000 fish to Armstrong Keta Inc. (AKI), 49,000 fish to DIPAC projects, and 7,100 fish to the Sitka Sound Science Center, (Table 9). A portion of these runs will be harvested in traditional drift gillnet fisheries in Districts 1, 6, 8, 11, and 15, and in terminal harvest area drift gillnet fisheries in Anita Bay, Nakat Inlet, and Deep Inlet. Alaska hatchery coho salmon contributions to drift gillnet fisheries in 2024 were estimated at 78,000 fish, 35% of total drift gillnet coho salmon common harvests. The largest harvest was fish returning to Neets Bay with substantial harvest coming from Nakat Inlet, Anita Bay, and Macaulay hatchery releases (Wilson 2025).

The SEAK pink salmon harvest forecast for 2025 is 29 million fish, with an 80% prediction interval of 16 to 53 million fish. The majority of the pink salmon harvest for the region is typically taken by purse seine gear.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

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

Primary management objectives for the 2025 drift gillnet fishery are as follows:

1. Achieve salmon spawning escapements with the best possible distribution to all systems.
2. Provide orderly fisheries while harvesting those salmon in excess of escapement objectives.

3. Promote the harvest and processing of good quality salmon within the constraints dictated by run size.
4. Minimize harvest of Chinook salmon using conservation actions outlined in subsequent sections of this management plan.
5. Minimize, to the extent possible, the harvest of salmon that are destined for locations where weak runs are expected.
6. Manage Districts 1, 6, 8, and 11 drift gillnet fisheries consistent with the provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST).
7. Manage hatchery THAs in accordance with provisions in THA management plans adopted by the Alaska BOF.

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

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

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

WEEKLY FISHING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

WEEKLY FISHING PERIODS

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

FULL RETENTION

ADF&G will require full retention (5 AAC 39.265) of all salmon harvested in the Deep Inlet THA net fisheries from the onset of the 2025 season. This regulation may be implemented by EO in

other areas of SEAK if necessary, after consultation with the Alaska Wildlife Troopers. Further details regarding the implementation of this regulation will be announced later.

USE OF DRONES PROHIBITED

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

U.S./CANADA PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

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

CHINOOK SALMON

For 2025, the all-gear PST Chinook salmon allocation is 130,850 treaty Chinook salmon (hatchery-produced Chinook salmon originating outside Alaska that fall under the terms of the PST). This year's all-gear harvest limit includes a 2% reduction that will serve as a buffer to avoid exceeding the all-gear limit and payback provisions within the PST. The 2025 drift gillnet treaty Chinook salmon allocation is 3,800 fish. The need for management measures to ensure drift gillnet harvest complies with the drift gillnet allocation will depend on inseason evaluation of Chinook salmon harvest rates. Nighttime fishing closures will be implemented in certain areas to reduce the incidental catch of immature, *feeder* Chinook salmon. Only historical base level catches in Districts 8 and 11 will be counted toward the PST fish ceiling when directed fisheries occur.

Terminal Chinook salmon fisheries in Districts 8 and 11 are bound by provisions of the Transboundary River (TBR) Annex of the PST. Restrictive management actions have been necessary to meet obligations of the PST in recent years and similar actions are expected in 2025. In addition, District 15 is managed under the provisions of the *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.384), and Districts 6, 8, 11, and 15 will be managed under stock of concern action plans approved by the BOF.

TREE POINT AND PORTLAND CANAL FISHERY

INTRODUCTION

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

2025 OUTLOOK

Chum Salmon

Summer chum salmon runs were above average in southern SEAK during the 2024 season and the harvest in the District 1 drift gillnet fishery was well above the 2014–2023 average. The season

was characterized by above average hatchery and wild chum salmon runs. The overall index count of 111,000 chum salmon greatly exceeded the lower bound SEG of 62,000 index fish. The estimated escapement of 15,200 summer chum salmon at Fish Creek near Hyder was near the median escapement for the last 10 years and the long-term average (1971-2023).

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

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

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

Nass River Sockeye Salmon Annual Allowable Harvest

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

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

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

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

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

During the PSC meeting in January 2025, the ilateral Northern Panel and the Northern Boundary Technical Committee met and presented the preliminary run reconstruction for 2024 to the bilateral Northern Panel and finalized the 2023 run reconstruction. Preliminary reports indicate that the total sockeye salmon run to the Nass River in 2024 was 789,936 fish. That provided an AAH for the District 1 drift gillnet fishery of 81,411 Nass River sockeye salmon in 2024. The 2024 District 1 drift gillnet fishery total sockeye salmon harvest was 24,587 fish and of these, 12,868 were Nass River sockeye salmon.

Canada's DFO is forecasting a 2025 total run of 597,000 Nass River sockeye salmon. Based on the 2025 forecast, the preseason AAH for the District 1 drift gillnet fishery will be 54,800 Nass River sockeye salmon. The 1999–2024 performance of the District 1 drift gillnet fishery and the 2025 Nass River sockeye forecast is shown in Table 10.

Chum and Coho Salmon Enhancement

Hatchery runs of summer chum, fall chum, and coho salmon to SSRAA enhancement release sites are expected to contribute substantially to the District 1 drift gillnet fishery in 2025. Information concerning SSRAA run forecasts is included under the THA fisheries section of this plan.

Pink Salmon

The SEAK pink salmon forecast for 2025 is for an average run of 29 million pink salmon with a range of 16–53 million fish. The 2024 harvest forecast of 29 million pink salmon is slightly above the recent 10-year average of 26 million pink salmon. A harvest of 29 million pink salmon would be 60% of the parent-year harvest in 2023 (48 million). The District 1 drift gillnet fishery may receive 2-, 4-, and 5-day fishing periods during weeks of the PSMP depending on the strength of the return.

The PSMP establishes drift gillnet fishing time in Section 1-B in relation to District 1 purse seine fishing time when both gear types are concurrently harvesting the same pink salmon stocks. By regulation, the plan starts on the third Sunday in July (July 20, 2025) with the following fishing time:

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

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management goals specific to the 2025 District 1 drift gillnet fishery are:

1. To manage the fishery in accordance with the PSMP (5 AAC 33.360).
2. To manage the fishery consistent with the current provisions of the PST (5 AAC 33.361).
3. To manage to provisions of the Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon action plan.
4. To manage the fishery to achieve even distribution on coho escapements among the Ketchikan index area coho systems.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The District 1 drift gillnet fishery will open by regulation at 12:01 PM, Sunday, June 15, in Section 1-B for an initial 4-day fishing period. The length of subsequent fishing periods will be based on effort levels and the strength of wild stock sockeye and chum salmon runs to Alaska and Canada waters until July 20 when, by regulation, the PSMP goes into effect.

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

Pink salmon management will begin by regulation (5 AAC 33.360) July 20 and continue into August or early September depending on pink salmon run strength and timing. The District 1 drift gillnet fishery can anticipate fishing periods of 2, 4, and 5 days in accordance with the PSMP.

Fall management in District 1 starts when the District 1 purse seine fleet is no longer targeting pinks, marking the end of the PSMP and varies depending on pink salmon run timing and strength. During the fall season, the District 1 drift gillnet fishery primarily targets fall coho and chum salmon. If the estimated exploitation rate of the Hugh Smith Lake coho salmon stock, which has reached 80% in some years, holds true for adjacent areas, then wild coho salmon stocks in the surrounding area may benefit from a closing date around September 18. Due to the uncertainties of escapement levels of stocks being harvested, the documented high exploitation rate of Hugh Smith Lake coho salmon in some years, and the preponderance of hatchery fish in the harvest, ADF&G will continue to take a conservative approach to the fall season in District 1. However, fishing periods will be allowed after September 18 if fishery performance data and the Hugh Smith weir count indicates above average runs of wild coho salmon. During recent years, approximately 60% of the fall coho salmon and as much as 90% of the fall chum salmon have been hatchery fish.

Hugh Smith Lake Sockeye Salmon

Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon was first designated a stock of management concern by the BOF in January 2003. It was subsequently delisted by the BOF in January 2006. Due to decline in escapements since 2018, ADF&G recommended Hugh Smith Lake sockeye be designated a stock of concern, and at the October 2024 BOF work session the BOF adopted Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon as a stock of management concern. A draft action plan with several management options each for commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries was presented to the BOF in January of 2025. The board adopted specific options for each user group and ADF&G will adopt these management actions for the 2025 season (Meredith et al, *In prep*).

Management actions that will be implemented, using EO authority, during SWs 29–33 in commercial net fisheries consist of the following:

1) If projections of the cumulative Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon weir count in SWs 29 and 30 fall below the lower bound of the escapement goal range, ADF&G shall close a portion of the District 101 purse seine fishery east of a line from Quadra Point at 55°05.17′ N lat, 130°59.05′ W long, to Slate Islands Light at 55°05.29′ N lat, 131°03.17′ W long, to

Black Rock Light at 55°01.42′ N lat, 131°03.59′ W long, to a point on the mainland shore at 55°01.40′ N lat, 131°00.02′ W long.

2) If projections of the cumulative Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon weir count in SW 31-33 fall below the lower bound of the escapement goal range, ADF&G shall:
    a. close that portion of the District 101 purse seine fishery east of a line from Foggy Point Light at 54°55.44′ N lat, 130°58.66′ W long to Black Rock Light at 55°01.42′ N lat, 131°03.59′ W long to the southernmost tip of Black Island at 55°07.90′ N lat, 131°04.85′ W long, and close the northern portion of the Section 1-B drift gillnet fishery north of the latitude of 54°54.50′ N lat (1.0 nautical mile [nmi] south of the latitude of Foggy Point Light).

PRINCE OF WALES AND STIKINE FISHERIES

INTRODUCTION

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

2025 OUTLOOK

Chinook Salmon

The 2025 Stikine River Chinook salmon forecast is for a terminal run of 10,000 large Chinook salmon. This forecast is below the minimum escapement goal of 14,000 fish and does not allow directed fisheries in the U.S. and Canada. The expected Anita Bay THA run of hatchery-produced Chinook salmon is 8,900 fish, below the average run of 12,600 fish.

Sockeye Salmon

The 2025 preseason forecast for Stikine River sockeye salmon of 176,000 fish is well above average (121,000 fish) and includes 135,000 Tahltan Lake (77%) and 41,000 mainstem (23%) fish. As part of a periodic review process, the Transboundary Technical Committee is tasked with reviewing, analyzing, and revising escapement goals for both Stikine River sockeye salmon stocks. As a result of this process, new escapement goals were adopted for those stocks in the spring of 2023. The Tahltan Lake escapement goal range is now 11,000 to 25,000 (old goal 18,000 to 30,000) sockeye salmon. The newly adopted mainstem escapement goal range is 13,000 to 33,000 (old goal 20,000 to 40,000) sockeye salmon. Based on the 2025 preseason forecast, there is an allowable catch for both the U.S. and Canada to prosecute fisheries directed at harvesting Stikine River sockeye salmon. Fishing periods in District 8, and to a lesser extent in District 6, will be determined initially by the preseason forecast, then by inseason abundance estimates of Stikine River sockeye salmon. Sockeye salmon run timing through District 8 typically peaks for the Tahltan Lake stock in SW 27 and for the mainstem stock in SWs 29 and 30. Sockeye salmon runs to other local area streams are expected to be average based on parent-year escapements. The

sockeye salmon run to McDonald Lake is expected to come in poor based on parent-year escapements. However, the run has achieved escapement goals for the past 2 seasons and those runs were from years with poor parent-year escapements.

Pink Salmon

Pink salmon typically begin entering Districts 6 and 8 near the end of July. Parent-year escapements to both districts were above target ranges and may result in above average runs to Districts 6 and 8. Pink salmon harvests typically peak during SWs 31–33 in both districts.

Chum Salmon

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

Coho Salmon

Beginning in SW 36, weekly fishing periods will be determined based on wild coho salmon abundance. The best available measure of wild coho salmon abundance is fishery performance. Wild coho salmon harvest rates have been near to above average for the past few years and are expected to be similar in 2025. Hatchery-produced coho salmon runs have been below average in recent years but have been near average for the past couple of years and 2025 runs are expected to be near average as well. The number of coho salmon expected to return to the Anita Bay THA is 13,600 fish.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management goals for the Districts 6 and 8 drift gillnet fisheries for the 2025 season are as follows:

1. Achieve Chinook salmon escapement goals.
2. Achieve the Stikine River sockeye salmon escapement goals and harvest Alaska's share of Stikine River sockeye salmon.
3. Achieve sustainable spawning escapements of sockeye salmon in local Alaska systems.
4. Achieve pink salmon spawning escapement objectives in Districts 6 and 8.
5. Manage consistent with the provisions of the PST.
6. Manage to provisions of the Stikine River and Andrew Creek Chinook salmon and McDonald Lake sockeye salmon action plans.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Chinook Salmon

In 2025, there will be no directed Chinook salmon commercial fisheries in Districts 6 and 8. In 2022, the BOF designated the Stikine River and Andrew Creek Chinook salmon stocks as stocks of management concern. The *Stikine River and Andrew Creek Chinook Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2022* (Salomone et al. 2022) was adopted with specific management actions for commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries.

Management actions that will be implemented for the Districts 6 and 8 drift gillnet fisheries include: delay the start of the District 8 drift gillnet fishery for at least 2 weeks and delay the start

of the District 6 drift gillnet fishery up to 1 week; implement area restrictions in District 8 near the mouth of the Stikine River through SW 28; and a 6-inch maximum mesh restriction will be in place through SW 28 in District 6 and through SW 29 in District 8. If Canada opens a directed sockeye fishery, the following Chinook salmon conservation measures will be in place in districts 6 and 8: fishery opening will be delayed by 1 week, maximum mesh restrictions will be implemented, there will be restrictions on the use of set gillnets, and the release of Chinook salmon will be required. In addition, Canada will not prosecute an assessment fishery for stock status determination. Inseason assessment will be based solely on the Kakwan Point tagging project.

Sockeye Salmon

Sockeye salmon fishing in both Districts 6 and 8 will be managed in accordance with regulation, SOC action plans, and the TBR Annex of the PST. District 6 is managed primarily for local Alaska sockeye salmon stocks and District 8 is managed primarily on Stikine River sockeye salmon abundance as allowed by the sharing provisions of the 2019 TBR Annex. For 2025, harvest shares will be 57.5% U.S.–42.5% Canada. Based on the forecast in 2025, this results in a U.S. AC of 76,100 Stikine River sockeye salmon and is comprised of approximately 64,600 Tahltan Lake and 11,500 mainstem fish.

In 2025, the sockeye salmon season could open by regulation as early as 12:00 noon on Sunday, June 8 (SW 24). However, with an expected poor run of Stikine River Chinook salmon, as well as expected poor Chinook salmon runs throughout SEAK, the conservation measures listed above will be in place for the start of the sockeye salmon fishery. During the first few weeks, any adjustments to fishing time will be based on preseason forecasts, number of participants, harvest levels, expected harvest levels, and stock proportion data. Because of recent concerns for Stikine mainstem sockeye salmon, time and area may be limited starting in SW 29 in both districts. Openings in District 8 will be based on an evaluation of Stikine River sockeye salmon abundance and available AC. Beginning in SW 29, District 6 will be limited to 2 days a week through SW 31 for McDonald Lake sockeye salmon conservation.

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

Stikine River sockeye salmon generally begin to decrease in abundance in mid-July as other stocks, including McDonald Lake sockeye salmon, begin to migrate through the fishery. Escapement of McDonald Lake sockeye salmon has fallen below the lower bound of the escapement goal range in 7 of the past 10 years. In 2018, the BOF designated the McDonald Lake sockeye salmon as a stock of concern and adopted the *McDonald Lake Sockeye Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan* (Walker et al. 2018). Given this history and expected poor run, ADF&G recommended McDonald Lake sockeye salmon continue as a stock of concern as defined by the SSFP. Those actions will remain in effect for 2025 and as mentioned previously, the District 6 drift gillnet fishery will be

limited to 2 days per week during the peak weeks of the McDonald Lake sockeye salmon run in SWs 29–31.

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

Pink Salmon

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

In addition, the *Section 6-D Pink Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.359) will be in effect for 2025. This regulation allows drift gillnet fishing in Section 6-D during regular drift gillnet openings between the first Saturday in August through the first Sunday in September if this area has been or will be open to purse seining. During these occasions, Section 6-D will open to gillnetting after purse seine closes and will close at 11:59 PM the day before the next scheduled purse seine opening, or when the regular gillnet opening closes, whichever comes first. Drift gillnetters wanting to fish in Section 6-D during the month of August will need to closely monitor purse seine and subsequent drift gillnet advisory announcements during this period. There will likely be short notice for fishing opportunities.

Coho Salmon

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

TAKU/SNETTISHAM FISHERY

INTRODUCTION

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

2025 OUTLOOK

Chinook Salmon

The 2025 terminal run forecast of 40,000 Taku River large Chinook salmon provides AC for both the U.S. and Canada in directed fisheries; however, directed Chinook salmon fisheries will not

occur on either side of the border and similar conservation efforts to recent seasons will be utilized in the early sockeye salmon openings in District 11 and inriver fisheries in Canada. Catch rates of large Chinook salmon in the inriver stock assessment project scheduled to start in late April may be used to gauge run strength and allow for some liberalizations in early season openings if Chinook salmon abundance is adequate. DIPAC forecasts runs totaling 8,500 hatchery-produced Chinook salmon returning to their release sites at Gastineau Channel, Auke Bay, Fish Creek, and Lena Cove.

Sockeye Salmon

The 2025 terminal run of Taku River wild sockeye salmon is forecasted to be 172,000 fish, near the average of 170,000 fish. The Taku River sockeye salmon escapement goal range is 40,000 to 75,000 fish with a management objective of 58,000 wild fish (which total allowable catch and resulting harvest allocations are based). The preseason forecast will be used in conjunction with the management objective to calculate ACs until inseason estimates become available. Adult returns to date from the joint U.S./Canada Taku River sockeye salmon enhancement projects at Tatsamenie and Trapper Lakes have been minimal. The Tatsamenie and Trapper Lakes enhanced sockeye salmon run is forecasted to be 10,000 fish in 2025, which would result in a 77% U.S.–23% Canada allocation split resulting in a U.S. AC of approximately 88,000 fish.

The Speel Lake sockeye salmon escapement goal range is 4,000 to 9,000 fish. No forecast is produced, and primary parent-year escapements were above average (2021) and likely below average (the weir was not staffed in 2020 but escapement was monitored every few days and the run appeared weak). Crescent Lake salmon escapements will continue to be monitored by aerial surveys in 2025 and there is no formal stock assessment program.

The 2025 DIPAC Port Snettisham (Snettisham Hatchery and Sweetheart Lake) sockeye salmon run forecast is 114,000 fish, above the 2024 run size of approximately 96,000 fish but below the recent average run size of approximately 150,000 fish.

Chum Salmon

In 2025, DIPAC is forecasting hatchery-produced summer chum salmon runs of 1.0 million fish to Gastineau Channel and Limestone Inlet. The expected contribution to common property fisheries is 555,000 fish. Taku River fall chum salmon runs are expected to be minimal.

Pink Salmon

District 11 pink salmon runs are expected to be above average in 2025. Parent-year pink salmon index escapement to the Stephens Passage stock group was above the management target range in 2023. Pink salmon catch in the Taku River Canyon Island fish wheels in 2023 is not comparable to the long-term baseline as fishing time was reduced to 8 hours a day starting in 2023 compared to 16 to 24 hours a day previously. However, the run appeared strong based on consistent catches in the wheels and abundance of pink salmon observed on aerial surveys flown to estimate Chinook salmon in Canada.

Coho Salmon

The 2025 terminal run forecast of Taku River transboundary coho salmon is 121,000 fish, above the average of 92,000 fish. The forecast is based on a smolt estimate with a 5-year average marine survival applied. Taku River coho salmon harvest sharing provisions, which are part of the current 2019–2028 TBR Annex of the PST, do not allow for any harvest by the U.S. unless the terminal

run size exceeds 75,000 fish. The preseason terminal run forecast of Taku River coho salmon provides the U.S. with an AC of approximately 34,000 fish. DIPAC projects a run of 49,000 hatchery-produced coho salmon in 2025 from their smolt releases into Gastineau Channel.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management goals for the 2025 Taku/Snettisham drift gillnet fishery are as follows:

1. Provide sufficient salmon spawning escapements to Taku River, Port Snettisham, and Stephens Passage streams and harvest those fish in excess of escapement needs.
2. Manage the fishery consistent with current provisions of the PST.
3. Manage to provisions of the Taku and King Salmon Rivers Chinook salmon action plan.
4. Maximize the harvest of hatchery-produced chum salmon returning to Limestone Inlet and minimize the incidental harvest of Port Snettisham wild sockeye salmon.
5. Manage Port Snettisham enhanced sockeye salmon run consistent with the *District 11: Snettisham Hatchery Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.378).
6. Manage the Speel Lake sockeye salmon run to achieve an escapement of 4,000–9,000 spawners.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

To avoid conflicts with sport fisheries, the District 11 drift gillnet fishery will not be open concurrent with the 2025 Juneau Golden North Salmon Derby (August 8–10). The opening that week will start on Monday, August 11.

Chinook Salmon

Although the 2025 Taku River large Chinook salmon terminal run forecast is above the upper end of the escapement goal range, a conservative approach to early season sockeye salmon commercial drift gillnet openings in District 11 will remain in place based on recent poor performance of northern SEAK Chinook salmon runs. Restrictive management measures will also continue in early openings of Canadian fisheries targeting sockeye salmon inriver. Inseason abundance indicators from cumulative CPUE of the Wright River drift gillnet stock assessment project will be available in mid-May and could allow some liberalization of early season restrictions if the run magnitude appears like the forecast. Management actions taken to reduce harvest of Taku River Chinook salmon in the District 11 drift gillnet fishery in recent years have been incorporated into an action plan approved by the BOF at the January 2025 meeting (Hagerman et al, 2025).

Sockeye Salmon

The District 11 drift gillnet fishery will begin the third Sunday in June (SW 25) for directed sockeye salmon fishing in Section 11-B with time, area, and mesh size restrictions. The initial opening will be for a 2-day fishing period with a substantial area restriction likely used closing waters in Taku Inlet north of Point Greely and west of a line of longitude running mid-inlet from the latitude of Point Greely to a point where it intersects with the shoreline south of Grand Island. A 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction and night closures will be in effect. Open area starting in SW 26 will likely move north farther into Taku Inlet with increasing area provided over the next

2 openings. The maximum mesh size restriction and night closures will likely remain in place through SW 26. Openings in Taku Inlet will start with 2 days in SWs 26 and 27 and additional time will be based on inseason fishery performance and stock assessment information.

The District 11 fishery will be managed through mid-August primarily based on sockeye salmon abundance. Run strength will be evaluated using harvest and CPUE data, and weekly inriver run size estimates derived from the Taku River fish wheel mark–recapture project. The inriver run size estimates produced from this project will incorporate a dropout rate which will give more confidence that the run size is not being overestimated and allow managers to consider AC targets more comprehensively on a weekly basis. Contribution of enhanced stocks of sockeye salmon will be estimated inseason by analysis of salmon otoliths sampled from the commercial harvests. The age and stock compositions of the commercial harvest of wild sockeye salmon will be estimated after the fishing season by scale pattern and GSI analysis.

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

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

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

Pink Salmon

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

Coho Salmon

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

River mark–recapture project, and recovery of wild and hatchery coho salmon via CWT analyses in marine fisheries.

LYNN CANAL FISHERY

INTRODUCTION

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

2025 OUTLOOK

Chinook Salmon

The 2025 Chilkat River Chinook salmon preseason total run forecast is 3,000 large fish (≥age-5). This forecast is slightly higher than the 2024 forecast and within the escapement goal range of 1,750 to 3,500 fish (Table 11). The forecast is based on sibling relationship models, using brood year age at return and run data along with performance-based hindcasts. There is no directed commercial drift gillnet Chinook salmon fishery in District 15.

Sockeye Salmon

The majority of sockeye salmon harvested in District 15 originate from the wild runs to Chilkat and Chilkoot Lakes. The parent-year escapements contributing to the 2025 Chilkat Lake run were 136,000 fish in 2019 and 51,000 fish in 2020. Whereas the 2019 escapement fell within the BEG of 70,000–150,000 fish, the 2020 escapement was below goal (Table 11). Over the past 10 brood years, 5-year-old fish (ages 1.3 and 2.2) have made up an average of 60% of the Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon run and are expected to be a major component of the 2025 run. Six-year-old fish (age 2.3) compose an average of 36% of the run. In 2024, age 1.3 fish from the 2019 brood year returned slightly above average, whereas age 2.2 fish returned near average—suggesting that age 2.3 fish, expected to return in 2025, may also be average. Zooplankton abundance during the lake rearing periods for the 2019 and 2020 brood years (observed in 2020 and 2021) was above average, indicating favorable rearing conditions. Taken together, the parent-year escapements, recent brood year returns and strong zooplankton abundance suggest an average run of sockeye salmon to Chilkat Lake in 2025.

The estimated escapement to Chilkoot Lake during the dominant brood year return of 2020 was 57,000 sockeye salmon which fell within the SEG range of 38,000 to 86,000 fish (Table 11). Five-year-old fish (age 1.3) compose an average of 68% of the Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon run, making the 2020 escapement a key contributor to the expected 2025 run. However, zooplankton biomass estimates during the first summer of lake rearing in 2021 for the 2020 brood year were below average. Taken together, the parent-year escapement and reduced zooplankton abundance suggest the 2025 sockeye salmon run to Chilkoot Lake may be average to below average.

Chum Salmon

Hatchery-origin summer chum returning to the Boat Harbor THA contribute significantly to the annual District 15 drift gillnet harvest. DIPAC is projecting a total summer chum salmon run of 1.4 to 2.8 million fish to its release sites at Boat and Amalga Harbors. Of this, approximately 1.3 million chum salmon are expected to be available for common property harvest in Lynn Canal. This forecast is slightly above the recent 10-year average.

Until 2023, Chilkat River fall chum escapements were estimated by expanding fish wheel catch data collected at the lower Chilkat River drainage. In the 2021 parent year, 2,600 chum salmon were caught in the Chilkat River fish wheels which expands to an estimated escapement of 167,000 fish. This escapement falls within the SEG range of 75,000 to 250,000 fish (Table 11) suggesting that the fall chum salmon run to the Chilkat River in 2025 will likely be average to above average. The fish wheel project was discontinued in 2024. Due to the poor relationship between fish wheel counts and mark–recapture estimates—which were used to expand fish wheel counts to estimates of total escapement—the goal was eliminated at the 2025 BOF meeting.

Coho Salmon

The Chilkat River (followed by the Berners River) is the largest source of coho salmon for the District 15 drift gillnet harvest. The parent-year escapements contributing to the 2025 Chilkat River coho salmon run were 43,000 fish in 2022 and 70,000 fish in 2023—both within the BEG range of 30,000 to 70,000 fish (Table 11). Based on these escapements, the 2025 Chilkat River coho salmon run is expected to be average to above average.

Similarly, parent-year escapements for the 2025 Berners River coho salmon run were 4,500 fish in 2022 and 3,600 fish in 2023, both within the BEG range of 3,600 to 8,100 fish (Table 11). Given these escapement levels, the Berners River coho salmon run in 2025 is also expected to be average to above average.

Pink Salmon

The SEAK pink salmon harvest in 2025 is forecasted to fall within the average range, with an expected return of approximately 29 million fish. Although there are no formal escapement goals for pink salmon in the Haines management area, populations are monitored through aerial surveys along both the eastern and western shorelines of upper Lynn Canal, as well as through weir counts on the Chilkoot River. Pink salmon streams in District 15 are part of the Northern Southeast Inside Subregion which includes 295 index streams located inside waters north of Sumner Strait. Parent-year escapements to District 15 were below management targets in both 2023 and 2024. As a result, pink salmon returns to upper Lynn Canal in 2025 are expected to remain below average.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

The overall management goal is to achieve desired spawning escapement levels and harvest available surplus for long-term maximum sustainable yield of all Lynn Canal salmon stocks. Historically, Chinook, chum, pink, and coho salmon inriver abundance were observed through Chilkat River fish wheel catches. Additionally, Chilkat River Chinook and coho salmon

escapements are estimated through a mark–recapture program. Final sockeye salmon escapements to Chilkat and Chilkoot Lakes are estimated by fish weir counts. Specific goals include:

1. Minimize Chinook salmon harvest in the drift gillnet fishery in Lynn Canal to achieve the escapement goal of 1,850–3,600 Chinook salmon in the Chilkat River in accordance with the *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.384). In addition, implement conservative management actions outlined in the *Northern Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2022* (Grant et. al. 2022) when deemed necessary.
2. Achieve sockeye salmon escapement goals to Chilkat and Chilkoot Lakes and provide for sustainable spawning escapements of sockeye salmon in other local systems.
3. Achieve coho salmon escapement goals to Chilkat and Berners Rivers.
4. Provide for the harvest of DIPAC hatchery-produced chum salmon available in the Boat Harbor THA in accordance with the *District 15 Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan*, while conserving wild stocks until run strengths can be determined.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The District 15 drift gillnet fishery will be managed similarly to strategies used in the past several years which were successful in lowering harvest rates and building escapements of Chilkat River Chinook salmon stocks. District 15 is managed in accordance with the *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.384), and the *Policy for the management of mixed stock salmon fisheries* (5 AAC 39.220). Conservative management measures outlined in the 2022 BOF action plan (Lum and Fair, 2018) will likely be implemented early in the season to ensure Chilkat River Chinook salmon stocks make it to the spawning grounds.

In previous seasons, data from the Chilkat River fish wheel project, combined with fishery performance indicators, were used to guide adjustments to the duration of commercial fishery openings. However, this information alone proved insufficient for generating accurate inseason estimates of sockeye salmon escapement to Chilkat Lake, leading to the discontinuation of the project in 2024. In 2025, ADF&G plans to implement a test fishery in upper Lynn Canal to evaluate the relative abundance of sockeye, coho, and chum salmon returning to the Chilkat River drainage. The program will also assess the marine stock composition of sockeye salmon and the milling behavior of these species. Results from the test fishery will inform decisions regarding the viability of commercial drift gillnet openings targeting these salmon stocks.

To avoid conflicts with sport fishers participating in the 2025 Juneau Golden North Salmon Derby occurring August 8–10, 2025, Section 15-C will start on Monday, August 11.

Chinook Salmon

The Chilkat River Chinook salmon stock has been classified as a stock of management concern since 2018 due to repeated failures to meet escapement goals in 2012–2014 and 2016–2018. However, conservative management measures over the past 7 years have successfully reduced harvest rates and met escapement goals in 5 of the last 6 years. As a result, the BOF removed the stock's designation as a stock of management concern at its February 2025 meeting.

Although the 2025 preseason forecast for Chilkat River Chinook salmon falls within the escapement goal range, overall production remains low due to poor marine survival. To ensure

escapement goals are met, harvest opportunities will remain limited particularly during the early weeks of the fishery. GSI analysis will be used to estimate the stock composition of commercially harvested Chinook salmon in District 15, with results expected by late November.

Sockeye Salmon

The District 15 drift gillnet fishery is scheduled to open for directed sockeye salmon harvest on June 15 (SW 25) with reduced fishing time and area, a 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction, and night closures from 10:00 PM to 4:00 AM, in support of ongoing Chilkat River Chinook salmon conservation efforts. Harvest opportunities are expected to be limited during the first 5 weeks in Section 15-A and the first 3 weeks in Section 15-C.

In Section 15-A, fishing will likely be limited to 2 to 3 days per week through July 5, in waters located south of Eldred Rock Lighthouse and east of a line 2.0 nmi offshore from the eastern shoreline. The 6-inch mesh size restriction and night closures are anticipated to remain in place through July 19. Additionally, Lutak Inlet and portions of Chilkoot Inlet may open for 2–3 days early in the season if catch rates, stock composition, and weir data suggest strong returns of Chilkoot River sockeye salmon.

In Section 15-C, fishing periods are expected to be limited to 2 to 3 days per week during the first 2 weeks of the season and confined to *the Postage Stamp* area—defined as waters south of the latitude of Vanderbilt Reef Light and east of a line from Vanderbilt Reef Light to Little Island Light. A 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction and night closures from 10:00 PM to 4:00 AM are anticipated to remain in effect through July 19 to support continued conservation of Chilkat River Chinook salmon.

Subsequent openings in District 15 will be determined based on the observed abundance of wild sockeye salmon, informed by fishery performance metrics and inseason weir counts at the Chilkoot River and Chilkat Lake. Additionally, GSI analysis will be used in season to estimate the stock composition of the commercial sockeye salmon harvest, providing further insight for management decisions.

Chum Salmon

Hatchery summer chum salmon are targeted in Section 15-C and the Boat Harbor THA early in the fishing season. These initial openings are designed to harvest hatchery-produced chum salmon from DIPAC's Boat Harbor release site while minimizing impacts on wild salmon stocks returning to the Chilkat and Chilkoot watersheds until run strength can be assessed. Management plans for the Boat Harbor THA are detailed in the *Terminal Harvest Area Fisheries* section of this report.

Fall management of chum salmon returning to the Chilkat River will begin in late August. Inseason decisions will be based on fishery harvest data, effort, CPUE relative to historical averages. If early indicators suggest a strong return, fishing may be expanded to include Chilkat Inlet in Section 15-A.

Coho Salmon

Fall management of Chilkat River coho salmon begins in late August. Fishery performance remains the best available indicator of wild coho salmon abundance. Inseason decisions will be guided by CPUE in District 15, relative to historical averages. If early indicators suggest a strong run, the fishing area may be expanded to include Chilkat Inlet to target harvestable surplus above escapement needs.

Pink Salmon

Pink salmon in District 15 are primarily harvested incidentally during fisheries targeting wild sockeye and hatchery-produced summer chum salmon. If the pink salmon returns are strong and result in harvestable surpluses—with no biological concerns for sockeye salmon—ADF&G will consider opening additional areas in Section 15-A, such as Lutak Inlet, for directed pink salmon fisheries.

TERMINAL HARVEST AREA FISHERIES

During the 2025 season, drift gillnet terminal harvest area fisheries can be expected in Anita Bay, Nakat Inlet, Neets Bay, Carroll Inlet, Deep Inlet, Southeast Cove, and Boat Harbor to harvest hatchery-produced salmon returning to SSRAA, NSRAA, and DIPAC release sites. Openings in the Speel Arm THA are contingent on meeting the sockeye salmon escapement goal for Speel Lake.

SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

TERMINAL AREA FISHERIES

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

Neets Bay Terminal Harvest Area

In 2025, SSRAA is forecasting total runs of 1,375,000 summer chum and 98,000 coho salmon with anticipated terminal runs of 894,000 summer chum and 39,200 coho salmon to the Neets Bay THA.

The Neets Bay THA is not scheduled to open for rotational net fisheries in 2025. If a rotational fishery occurs, it will be announced on a separate advisory announcement and opened by EO in consultation with SSRAA.

Nakat Inlet Terminal Harvest Area

For 2025, SSRAA is forecasting total hatchery runs of 516,000 summer chum, 22,000 coho, and 6,000 fall chum salmon with anticipated terminal runs of 206,000 summer chum, 5,500 coho, and 2,400 fall chum salmon to the Nakat Inlet THA. Peak chum salmon harvests from these releases are expected between mid- to late July for summer chum and between late August to mid-September for fall chum and coho salmon.

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

Carroll Inlet Terminal Harvest Area

For 2025, SSRAA has forecasted a total run of 11,100 Carroll Inlet Chinook with an anticipated terminal run of 7,900 Chinook salmon. By regulation, Carroll Inlet THA will be open June 1 through June 30 to provide harvest for hatchery-produced Chinook salmon. For net gear, the Carroll Inlet THA will open at 5:00 AM, Sunday, June 1, 2025. Rotational net fisheries will begin at 12:00 noon, Sunday, June 15, through 12:00 noon, Sunday, June 29. The 500-yard stream closure (5 AAC 39.290) will not be in effect in the Carroll Inlet THA. Details of the 2025 season fishing schedule and area for the Carroll Inlet THA were announced in a separate ADF&G advisory announcement released on April 15.

Crystal Lake Terminal Harvest Area

SSRAA projected a run of 2,900 adult Chinook salmon to Crystal Lake Hatchery in 2025 with 1,500 fish expected to reach the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough (District 6) THA. Under provisions of the *District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.381) if the projected terminal run is over 4,000 fish, the commercial fishery will be opened to harvest 50% of the projected run over 4,000 fish. Based on the forecast, there is not likely to be surplus available for commercial troll or drift gillnet openings in 2025.

SSRAA is expecting a 2,600 fish Crystal Lake Hatchery coho salmon run. An estimated 1,300 fish are expected to reach the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough THA. No commercial drift gillnet fishery is anticipated in 2025.

Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area

SSRAA produced a forecast of 693,000 summer chum and 23,800 fall chum salmon from releases at Burnett Inlet. The terminal run is expected to be 485,000 summer chum and 11,900 fall chum salmon. A rotation schedule has not been developed for net gear in the THA. However, the THA may open to gillnetting if broodstock collection and cost-recovery efforts are completed or if the hatchery operator is unable to keep up with the volume of chum salmon in the THA. If openings are warranted, they will be announced by advisory announcement.

Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area

SSRAA is forecasting total runs of 8,900 Chinook, 395,000 summer chum, and 13,600 coho salmon from releases at Anita Bay. A total of 7,900 Chinook, 158,000 summer chum, and 6,100 coho salmon are expected to be available for harvest in the THA. The Anita Bay common property fishery is governed as described in the *District 7: Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.383). The initial opening of Anita Bay will be delayed until June 1 to mitigate potential harvest of wild Chinook salmon. Similarly to last year, the mouth of the bay will be open exclusively to troll gear through June 12. A rotational fishery will be in place for drift gillnet and purse seine gear from June 13 through August 31.

Further details of the 2025 season fishing schedule and open area within the Anita Bay THA can be found in an ADF&G advisory announcement released on April 16.

NORTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

TERMINAL AREA FISHERIES

The terminal hatchery fisheries at Deep Inlet and Southeast Cove are managed according to regulatory management plans and in consultation with NSRAA. Drift gillnet open fishing times and any modifications of the THA will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement prior to and during the fishing season.

Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area

Common property fishing in the Southeast Cove THA will be conducted per the *District 9: Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.387). NSRAA is forecasting a run of 587,000 summer chum and 850 Chinook salmon to the Southeast Cove THA for 2025. The THA will be open to drift gillnetting from 5:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Friday each week from Friday, June 20, through Friday, July 4. Cost recovery will occur in the Southeast Cove THA starting Monday, July 7. The THA will be closed to common property fishing until cost-recovery efforts are completed. Southeast Cove THA will close for the season on Sunday, August 3, 2025. However, if significant numbers of fish remain, additional common property opportunity may be provided via EO, or a cost-recovery fishery may be implemented dependent on the presence of wild salmon stocks in the area. If closures or additional openings are warranted, they will be announced by advisory announcement.

Further details of the 2025 Southeast Cove THA fishing schedule and area were announced in a separate ADF&G advisory announcement released on April 16.

Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area

NSRAA expects runs of 2,059,000 chum, 24,700 Chinook, and 31,000 coho salmon to the Deep Inlet remote release site and the Medvejie Hatchery in 2025 (Table 9). This season, NSRAA does anticipate cost-recovery operations in the Deep Inlet THA and the entire THA will be closed to all common property fisheries to aid in the cost-recovery harvest from June 29 through August 2 and from August 10 until cost-recovery operations are complete. Additionally, NSRAA will need approximately 132,500 chum salmon for broodstock. Most of the common property harvest can be expected to take place in the Deep Inlet THA by drift gillnet and purse seine gear, but some harvest is likely to occur outside the THA by troll and purse seine gear as well.

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

During the 2025 Deep Inlet THA season, purse seine fishing is scheduled to be open on Sunday, Thursday, and Friday. Drift gillnet fishing is scheduled to be open on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday; the troll fishery will be open on Saturday each week, or when net fisheries are closed. The Deep Inlet THA west of 135°20.75′ W long will be closed to drift gillnet and purse seine gear from June 1 through June 21. Details of the 2025 Deep Inlet THA fishing schedule are included in an ADF&G advisory announcement published April 19. If changes are necessary, the revised fishing schedule will be issued in a subsequent advisory announcement.

During the 2025 season, the boundaries of the Deep Inlet THA may be changed by NSRAA and ADF&G to help resolve conflicts among fishers and local private landowners in the area if conflicts occur. Conflicts can be avoided by reducing boat wakes in areas near private docks, by reducing excessive noise and lights prior to openings, and by anchoring well away from private residences.

By EO issued under 5 AAC 39.265, harvesters participating in purse seine and drift gillnet fisheries in the Deep Inlet THA are required to retain and utilize all salmon harvested. This action is being taken in order to promote full utilization of salmon, to prevent waste of salmon, to determine harvest patterns of incidentally harvested coho and sockeye salmon, and to enable ADF&G and NSRAA to have full and accurate reporting of returns. This action requires all salmon retained for personal use and not sold to be reported on fish tickets. Fishers are advised that if they have fish on board from other fishing areas, they should keep them separate for reporting and sampling purposes.

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

DOUGLAS ISLAND PINK AND CHUM INC.

TERMINAL AREA FISHERIES

Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area

The Boat Harbor THA fishery will open by regulation on June 15 (SW 25) to provide harvest opportunities for hatchery-produced chum salmon. Management of the Boat Harbor THA fishery is conducted in accordance with the *District 15: Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.386).

In 2025, management actions are expected to align with those implemented in recent years, incorporating conservative measures early in the season in the outside waters of the THA to reduce incidental harvest of Chinook salmon returning to the Chilkat River. These restrictions may include reduced fishing time and area during the first 2 weeks of the season (SWs 25 and 26), night closures from 10:00 PM to 4:00 AM, and a 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction during the first 5 weeks (SWs 25–29).

Inside waters of the Boat Harbor THA, defined as those waters' wests of 135°09.57′ W long, will remain open 7 days per week without restrictions.

DIPAC is projecting an above average total return of up to 2.8 million hatchery-produced chum salmon to the Boat Harbor and Amalga Harbor release sites in 2025, with a projected common property harvest of 1.3 million fish. Harvest opportunities throughout the season will remain contingent upon the inseason abundance of wild salmon returning to Chilkat and Chilkoot Rivers.

Speel Arm Terminal Harvest Area

The 2025 total run forecast for Snettisham Hatchery sockeye salmon is 114,000 fish, below the 150,000 fish average. These fish will be principally harvested in the traditional District 11

commercial drift gillnet fishery. Common property fishery openings may occur during August in the Speel Arm THA (waters of Speel Arm north of Sharp Point). Timing of openings in the THA will depend on sockeye salmon escapement into Speel Lake and DIPAC's progress toward broodstock goals. DIPAC cost-recovery efforts in the special harvest area during July will be limited to waters in the immediate vicinity of the hatchery where wild and hatchery stocks are well segregated. Fishery management decisions for the Speel Arm THA will be made in consultation with DIPAC. ADF&G and industry have formalized the notification procedure for any extended fishery openings in Speel Arm. The SEAK Drift Gillnet Task Force agreement specified:

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

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TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1.–Statistical week calendar for 2025 drift gillnet season.

Statistical week	Beginning date	Ending date	Statistical week	Beginning date	Ending date
23	1-Jun	7-Jun	32	3-Aug	9-Aug
24	8-Jun	14-Jun	33	10-Aug	16-Aug
25	15-Jun	21-Jun	34	17-Aug	23-Aug
26	22-Jun	28-Jun	35	24-Aug	30-Aug
27	29-Jun	5-Jul	36	31-Aug	6-Sep
28	6-Jul	12-Jul	37	7-Sep	13-Sep
29	13-Jul	19-Jul	38	14-Sep	20-Sep
30	20-Jul	26-Jul	39	21-Sep	27-Sep
31	27-Jul	2-Aug	40	28-Sep	4-Oct

Table 2.–Southeast Alaska commercial drift gillnet salmon harvest in numbers of fish, by area, harvest type and species, 2024.

Fishery	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
District 1						
Traditional (Tree Point)	1,166	24,587	45,078	88,176	401,534	560,541
Terminal Harvest Area	1,951	941	5,351	7,649	403,926	419,818
Annette Islands Reserve	887	1,909	18,089	12,598	180,925	214,408
District 6						
Traditional (Prince of Wales)	1,126	40,687	57,780	15,217	125,083	239,893
District 7						
Terminal Harvest Area	3,738	81	7,556	23	53,600	64,998
District 8						
Traditional (Stikine)	535	16,167	9,538	2,504	88,229	116,973
District 9						
Terminal Harvest Area	68	16	28	4	29,481	29,597
District 11						
Traditional (Taku/Snettisham)	810	89,343	32,896	6,554	827,552	957,155
Terminal Harvest Area	3	11,584	145	48	65	11,845
District 13						
Terminal Harvest Area	2,675	1,903	741	8,138	313,726	327,183
District 15						
Traditional (Lynn Canal)	246	56,582	62,004	11,222	814,117	944,171
Terminal Harvest Area	20	7,717	61	2,423	808,596	818,817
Subtotals						
Traditional	3,883	227,366	207,296	123,673	2,256,515	2,818,733
Terminal Harvest Areas	8,455	22,242	13,882	18,285	1,609,394	1,672,258
Common property total	12,338	249,608	221,178	141,958	3,865,909	4,490,991
Annette Islands Reserve	887	1,909	18,089	12,598	180,925	214,408
Total	13,225	251,517	239,267	154,556	4,046,834	4,705,399

[a] Chinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 3.–District 1 traditional and terminal harvest areas (Nakat Inlet, Neets Bay, and Carroll Inlet) drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2014–2024.

Year	Chinook[a]	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
2014	4,473	57,192	116,437	763,838	274,351	1,216,291
2015	3,347	29,173	58,004	157,016	820,271	1,067,811
2016	3,110	41,288	50,021	608,351	448,724	1,151,494
2017	3,648	25,997	43,359	240,143	338,617	651,764
2018	4,310	20,812	44,120	124,356	306,100	499,698
2019	5,054	16,209	37,856	212,631	272,273	544,023
2020	6,207	9,596	20,909	194,279	210,970	441,961
2021	6,124	21,883	54,021	148,429	226,674	457,131
2022	6,549	26,668	29,583	394,251	390,650	847,701
2023	6,877	24,970	29,205	180,344	771,282	1,012,678
2024	3,117	25,528	50,429	95,825	805,460	980,359
Average 2014–2023	4,970	27,379	48,352	302,364	405,991	789,055

[a] Chinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 4.–Prince of Wales (District 6) traditional drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2014–2024.

Year	Chinook[a]	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
2014	2,092	58,430	286,815	415,392	106,243	868,972
2015	2,723	121,921	112,561	224,816	232,390	694,411
2016	2,094	106,649	122,101	358,309	130,236	719,389
2017	1,521	45,005	49,382	302,033	234,349	632,290
2018	3,247	25,203	112,000	348,277	176,392	665,119
2019	1,073	23,844	59,304	424,495	113,161	621,877
2020	1,182	11,314	43,850	127,583	143,577	327,506
2021	965	51,776	74,756	156,483	136,560	420,540
2022	800	45,437	50,901	86,448	173,048	356,634
2023	741	42,334	42,336	126,048	179,169	390,628
2024	1,126	40,687	57,780	15,217	125,083	239,893
Average 2014–2023	1,644	53,191	95,401	256,988	162,513	569,737

[a] Chinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 5.–Stikine River (District 8) traditional drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2014–2024.

Year	Chinook[a]	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
2014	8,023	19,808	30,184	33,830	84,771	176,616
2015	13,845	22,896	30,153	35,926	166,009	268,829
2016	10,024	70,143	22,146	35,250	200,653	338,216
2017	3,818	14,282	13,568	49,027	177,119	257,814
2018	2,649	5,731	8,823	15,643	133,812	166,658
2019	4,253	6,591	9,478	10,884	50,653	81,859
2020	2,617	2,781	21,074	11,799	53,678	91,949
2021	93	815	12,140	6,482	49,371	68,901
2022	481	5,668	14,146	11,708	73,453	105,456
2023	646	5,904	20,944	29,197	105,343	162,034
2024	535	16,167	9,538	2,504	88,229	116,973
Average 2014–2023	4,645	15,462	18,266	23,975	109,486	171,833

[a] Chinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 6.–Taku/Snettisham (District 11) traditional and terminal harvest area drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2014–2024.

Year	Chinook[a]	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
2014	1,471	126,738	54,186	29,190	291,409	502,994
2015	1,150	83,431	23,572	296,575	475,456	880,184
2016	595	215,049	35,037	46,604	448,284	745,569
2017	1,086	113,818	16,002	230,243	885,694	1,246,843
2018	783	92,889	35,930	24,300	517,812	671,714
2019	1,358	105,026	23,473	71,724	246,600	448,181
2020	1,094	28,233	15,863	65,353	109,516	220,059
2021	688	49,337	20,787	137,319	185,709	393,840
2022	1,006	117,282	15,597	54,692	313,830	502,407
2023	694	79,749	20,518	129,555	622,555	853,071
2024	813	100,927	33,041	6,602	827,617	969,000
Average 2014–2023	993	101,155	26,097	108,556	409,687	646,486

[a] Chinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 7.–Lynn Canal (District 15) traditional and terminal harvest area drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2014–2024.

Year	Chinook[a]	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
2014	1,396	234,682	58,117	90,602	1,303,009	1,687,806
2015	523	131,577	23,456	629,209	836,831	1,621,596
2016	475	188,844	30,534	81,970	931,919	1,233,742
2017	1,205	39,716	29,790	191,251	1,575,039	1,837,001
2018	1,156	81,688	45,655	22,254	1,042,476	1,193,229
2019	1,097	241,505	47,858	143,553	1,176,043	1,610,056
2020	903	50,220	17,495	82,993	319,230	470,841
2021	716	84,649	26,426	221,012	532,498	865,301
2022	587	283,847	16,187	46,837	962,006	1,309,464
2023	344	159,968	25,506	143,175	1,391,180	1,720,173
2024	266	64,299	62,065	13,645	1,622,713	1,762,988
Average 2014–2023	840	149,670	32,102	165,286	1,007,023	1,354,921

[a] Chinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 8.–Expected 2025 salmon runs to SSRAA enhancement projects by release location.

		Common property harvest [a]				
Species/run	Release location	Traditional	Terminal harvest area	Anticipated broodstock	Cost recovery harvest	Total run
Chinook	Whitman Lake	3,800	1,500	1,200	7,300	13,800
Chinook	Anita Bay	1,000	7,900	0	0	8,900
Chinook	Carroll Inlet	3,200	7,900	0	0	11,100
Chinook	Port St. Nick	2,500	0	0	6,300	8,800
Chinook	Crystal Lake	1,400	0	1,500	0	2,900
	Total	11,900	17,300	2,700	13,600	45,500
Coho	Herring Cove/Whitman	8,700	0	6,000	2,700	17,400
Coho	Nakat Inlet	16,500	5,500	0	0	22,000
Coho	Anita Bay	7,500	6,100	0	0	13,600
Coho	Neets Bay	58,800	0	1,000	38,200	98,000
Coho	Crystal Lake	1,300	0	150	1,150[b]	2,600
Coho	Klawock	111,700	0	3,500	44,400	159,600
	Total	204,500	11,600	11,800	86,450	313,200
Summer chum	Neets Bay	481,000	0	140,000	754,000	1,375,000
Summer chum	Anita Bay	237,000	158,000	0	0	395,000
Summer chum	Burnett	208,000	0	100,000	385,000	693,000
Summer chum	Kendrick Bay	1,073,000	159,000	0	207,000	1,432,000
Summer chum	Nakat Inlet	310,000	206,000	0	0	516,000
Summer chum	Port Asumcion	218,000	0	0	218,000	436,000
	Total	2,527,000	523,000	240,000	1,564,000	4,847,000
Fall chum	Burnett	11,900	0	11,900	0	23,800
Fall chum	Nakat Inlet	3,600	2,400	0	0	6,000
Total		15,500	14,300	0	11,900	29,800

[a] Includes estimated common property harvest for all gear groups.

[b] Includes fish returning to terminal area in excess to broodstock needs. Cost recovery is not conducted and harvest in the terminal area is not estimated but is presumed to be very low.

Table 9.–Expected 2025 salmon runs to Northern SEAK area enhancement projects by hatchery organization and release location.

Species	Release location	Hatchery operator	Common property harvest [a]	Cost recovery harvest	Anticipated broodstock	Total run
Chinook	Gast/Auke/Fish Creek/Lena	DIPAC	6,900	1,000	600	8,500
Chinook	Gunnuk Creek	NSRAA	425	0	425	850
Chinook	SE Cove	NSRAA	550	0	0	550
Chinook	Hidden Falls	NSRAA	20	0	0	20
Chinook	Crawfish	NSRAA	1,100	0	0	1,100
Chinook	Medvejie/Deep Inlet	NSRAA	19,700	–[b]	5,000[b]	24,700
Chinook	Crescent Bay	SSC	900	1,200	0	2,100
		Total	29,595	2,200	6,025	37,820
Sockeye	Port Snettisham	DIPAC	54,700	54,700	4,500	113,900
Coho	Port Armstrong	AKI	59,800	52,800	7,000	119,600
Coho	Deer Lake (Mist Cove)	NSRAA	24,000	24,000	0	48,000
Coho	Gastineau Channel	DIPAC	32,000	16,400	800	49,200
Coho	Hidden Falls	NSRAA	25,500	15,500	10,000	51,000
Coho	Deep Inlet/Medvejie	NSRAA	27,500	–[b]	3,500[b]	31,000
Coho	Crescent Bay	SSC	4,200	2,700	200	7,100
		Total	173,000	111,400	21,500	305,900
Pink	Port Armstrong	AKI	183,600	0	215,500	399,100
Pink	Crescent Bay	SSC	162,000	194,500	3,500	360,000
		Total	345,600	194,500	219,000	759,100
Chum	Port Armstrong	AKI	14,500	110,600	20,000	145,100
Chum	SE Cove	NSRAA	287,000	–[b]	300,000[b]	587,000
Chum	Gunnuk Creek	NSRAA	0	–[b]	32,000[b]	32,000
Chum	Thomas Bay	NSRAA	379,000	0	0	379,000
Chum	Gastineau/Limestone	DIPAC	755,000	57,000	200,000	1,012,000
Chum	Boat Harbor/Amalga	DIPAC	1,338,000	594,000	0	1,932,000
Chum	Medvejie/Deep Inlet	NSRAA	889,000	–[b]	1,170,000[b]	2,059,000[c]
Chum	Hidden Falls	NSRAA	1,556,000	900,000	210,000	2,666,000
Chum	Crawfish Inlet	NSRAA	154,000	–[b]	300,000[b]	454,000
Chum	Crescent Bay	SSC	47,800	28,300	3,600	79,700
		Total	5,420,300	1,689,900	2,235,600	9,345,800

En dash equals data is not available.

[a] Common property harvest includes estimated harvest by all gear groups inside and outside the boundaries of terminal and special harvest areas.

[b] Includes cost recovery and broodstock.

[c] Projections for Medvejie/Deep Inlet includes chum salmon from the Sitka Sound Science Center.

Table 10.–Performance of the Tree Point drift gillnet fishery sockeye salmon harvest under the 1999 PST agreement, 1999–2025

Year	Nass River total run	Nass River escapement	Allowable Nass River AAH	Allowable Alaska Harvest (13.8%)	Actual Nass River Alaska harvest	Cumulative: +overage / -underage
1999	842,806	200,000	642,806	88,707	129,794	41,087
2000	625,982	200,000	425,983	58,786	46,305	28,606
2001	580,611	167,258	413,358	57,043	55,096	26,659
2002	1,403,976	200,000	1,203,975	166,149	90,553	-48,937
2003	1,177,472	200,000	977,472	134,481	72,942	-110,886
2004	986,095	200,000	786,095	108,482	110,340	-109,027
2005	666,877	200,000	466,877	64,429	55,319	-118,137
2006	775,112	200,000	575,112	79,365	47,948	-149,555
2007	602,210	164,745	437,463	60,370	46,369	-163,555
2008	380,397	200,000	180,397	24,895	24,359	-164,091
2009	575,336	200,000	375,336	51,796	55,270	-160,618
2010	438,941	200,000	238,941	32,974	26,613	-166,979
2011	556,710	200,000	356,710	49,226	55,122	-161,083
2012	476,818	200,000	276,818	38,201	38,983	-160,300
2013	501,428	200,000	301,428	41,597	35,471	-166,426
2014	549,685	200,000	349,685	48,257	29,022	-185,661
2015	868,744	200,000	668,744	92,287	14,867	-263,081
2016	442,420	200,000	242,420	33,454	14,389	-282,146
2017	368,653	200,000	168,653	23,274	12,445	-292,978
2018	315,972	200,000	115,972	16,004	11,303	-297,676
2019	377,745	200,000	177,745	24,529	11,269	-310,937
2020	295,194	200,000	95,194	13,137	7,528	-316,542
2021	502,536	200,000	302,536	41,750	14,678	-343,624
2022	622,420	200,000	422,420	58,294	18,392	-383,526
2023	696,046	200,000	496,046	68,454	18,813	-433,167
2024[a]	789,936	200,000	589,936	81,411	12,868	-501,710
2025[b]	597,000	200,000	397,000	54,786	TBD	TBD

Note: TBD indicates tto be determined.

[a] Preliminary Information

[b] Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans forecast

Table 11.–Biological and sustainable escapement goals for Lynn Canal salmon stocks by species and location.

Species	Stock	Escapement goal type	Escapement goal range	Escapement method
Sockeye[a]	Chilkoot Lake Total	SEG	38,000 to 86,000	Weir Count
Sockeye[a]	Chilkat Lake Total	BEG	70,000 to 150,000	DIDSON Count
Coho[b]	Berners River	BEG	3,600 to 8,100	Peak Foot Count
Coho[c]	Chilkat River Combined	BEG	30,000 to 70,000	Sum of Peak Foot Index Counts
Chinook[d]	Chilkat River Combined	BEG	1,750 to 3,500	Mark–Recapture Estimate

[a] Eggers et al. 2009

[b] Shaul and Crabtree 2005

[c] Ericksen and Fleischman 2006

[d] Ericksen and McPherson 2004

[e] Priest et al. 2025

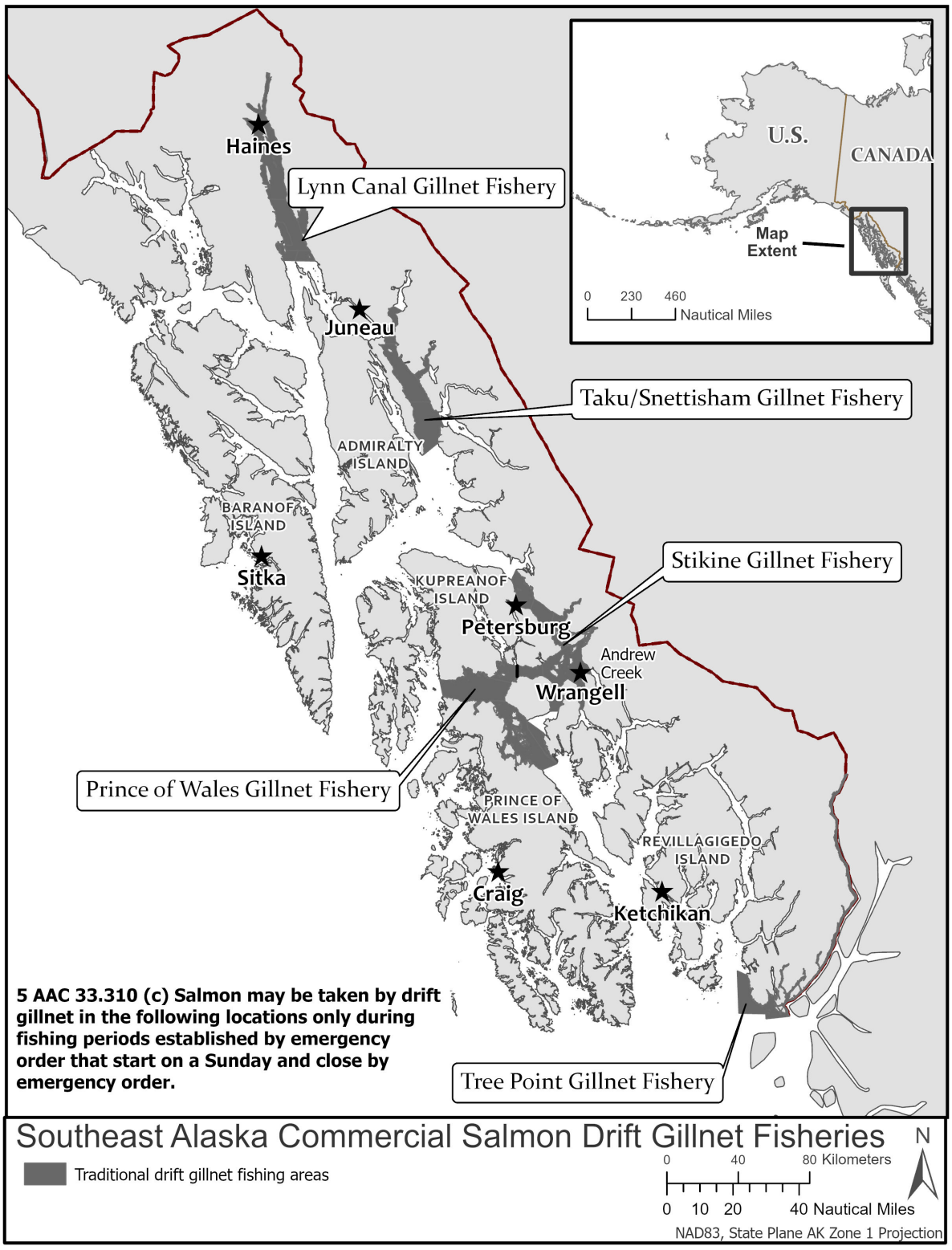

Figure 1.–Traditional drift gillnet fishing areas in Southeast Alaska.

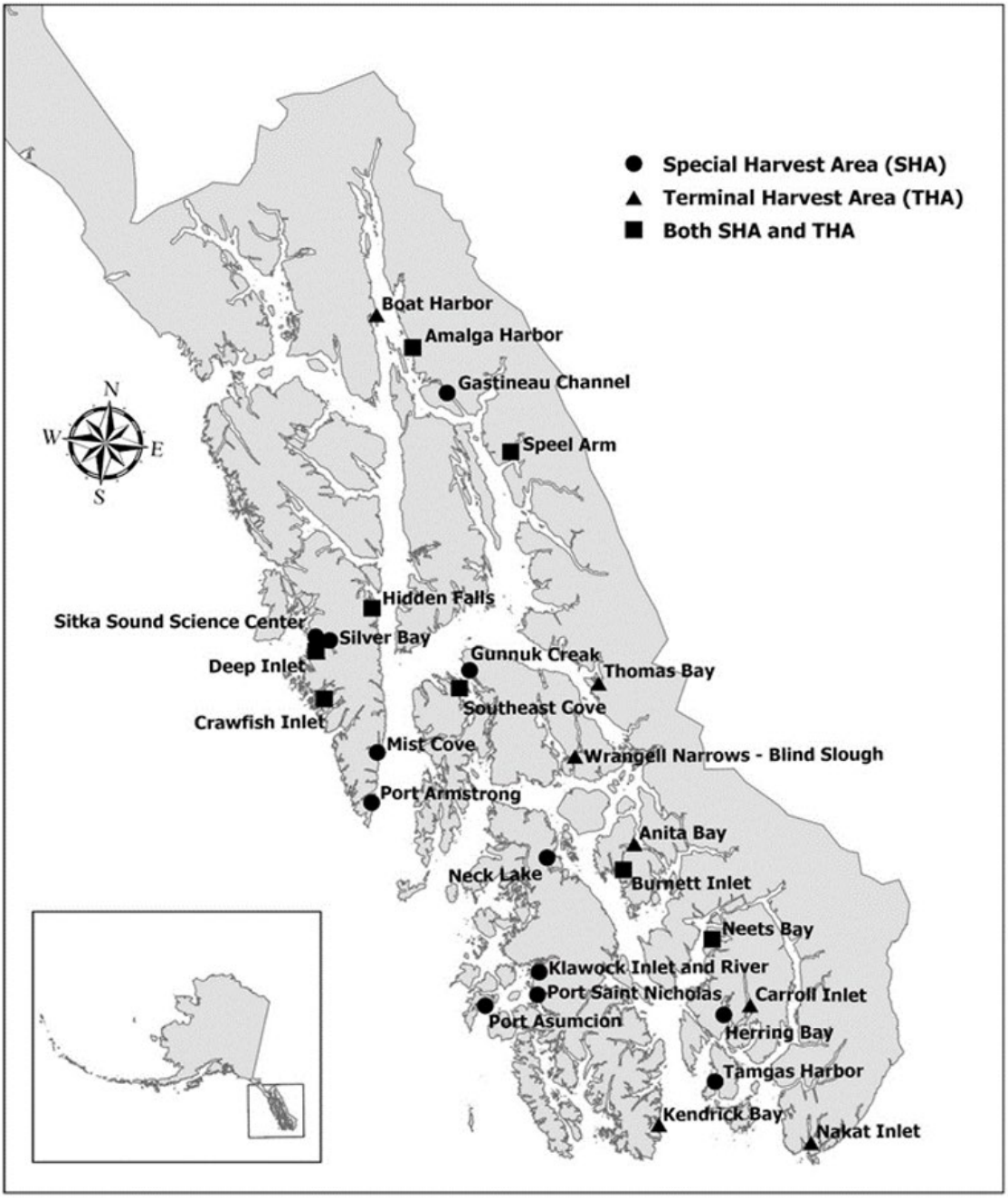

Figure 2.–Salmon hatchery terminal and special harvest areas in Southeast Alaska.