Regional Information Report No. 1J25-15

2025 Southeast Alaska Salmon Purse Seine Fishery Management Plan

by

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May 2025

Alaska Department of Fish and Game **Division of Commercial Fisheries**

Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the Système International d'Unités (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Sport Fish and of Commercial Fisheries: Fishery Manuscripts, Fishery Data Series Reports, Fishery Management Reports, and Special Publications. All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figures or figure captions.

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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2025 SOUTHEAST ALASKA SALMON PURSE SEINE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

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May 2025

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 area management plans, budgetary information, staff comments and opinions to Alaska 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 the 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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This document should be cited as follows:
Thynes T., A. Dupuis, T. Fish, S. Forbes, B. Meredith, and. K. Taylor. 2025. 2025 Southeast Alaska salmon purse seine fishery management plan. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report No. 1J25-15, Douglas.

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ABSTRACT

The Southeast Alaska salmon purse seine fishery is managed according to statute, regulations, emergency order authority, and in consultation with the public and industry through the Purse Seine Task Force process. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game issued a preseason forecast for a harvest of 29 million pink salmon for 2025. This forecast for pink salmon, together with historical escapement estimates, fishery performance data, private nonprofit hatchery forecasts for chum salmon and other species, are used to determine the management plan. The management plan for the 2025 Southeast Alaska salmon purse seine fishery is described in detail, along with expected run sizes, harvest strategies, and related management issues.

Keywords: Purse seine, management, pink salmon, chum salmon, coho salmon, sockeye salmon, Chinook salmon, Fishery Management Plan

INTRODUCTION

This plan describes how the Southeast Alaska (SEAK) salmon purse seine fishery will be managed during the 2025 season, and includes expected run sizes, harvest strategies, and related management issues. The plan is based on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G or department) 2025 preseason pink salmon forecast, historical escapement data, fishery performance data, private nonprofit hatchery forecasts, and input through the Purse Seine Task Force process. ADF&G area management biologists listed at the end of this document can provide further details regarding the implementation of the plan in their respective management areas. Average, unless defined otherwise, refers to the most recent 10-year average (2015–2024). Harvest, escapement, and run forecasts and outlooks, unless otherwise indicated, are in numbers of fish. 2025 statistical weeks (SWs) can be referenced in Table 1.

Table 1.–Statistical week calendar for 2025 purse seine 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

Regulations allow purse seine fishing in Districts 1 (Sections 1-C, 1-D, 1-E, and 1-F only), 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (Sections 6-C, 6-D, and 6-E only), 7, 9, 10, 11 (Sections 11-A and 11-D only), 12, 13, and 14 (Figures 1 and 2). Although the areas specified above are designated purse seine fishing areas, specific open areas and fishing times are established in season by emergency order (EO). Purse seine fishing is also allowed in hatchery terminal harvest areas (THA) at Carroll Inlet, Neets Bay, Kendrick Bay, Anita Bay, Thomas Bay, Southeast Cove, Hidden Falls, Deep Inlet, Crawfish Inlet, and Amalga Harbor. Purse seine openings in THAs are established by EO in consultation with hatchery operators.

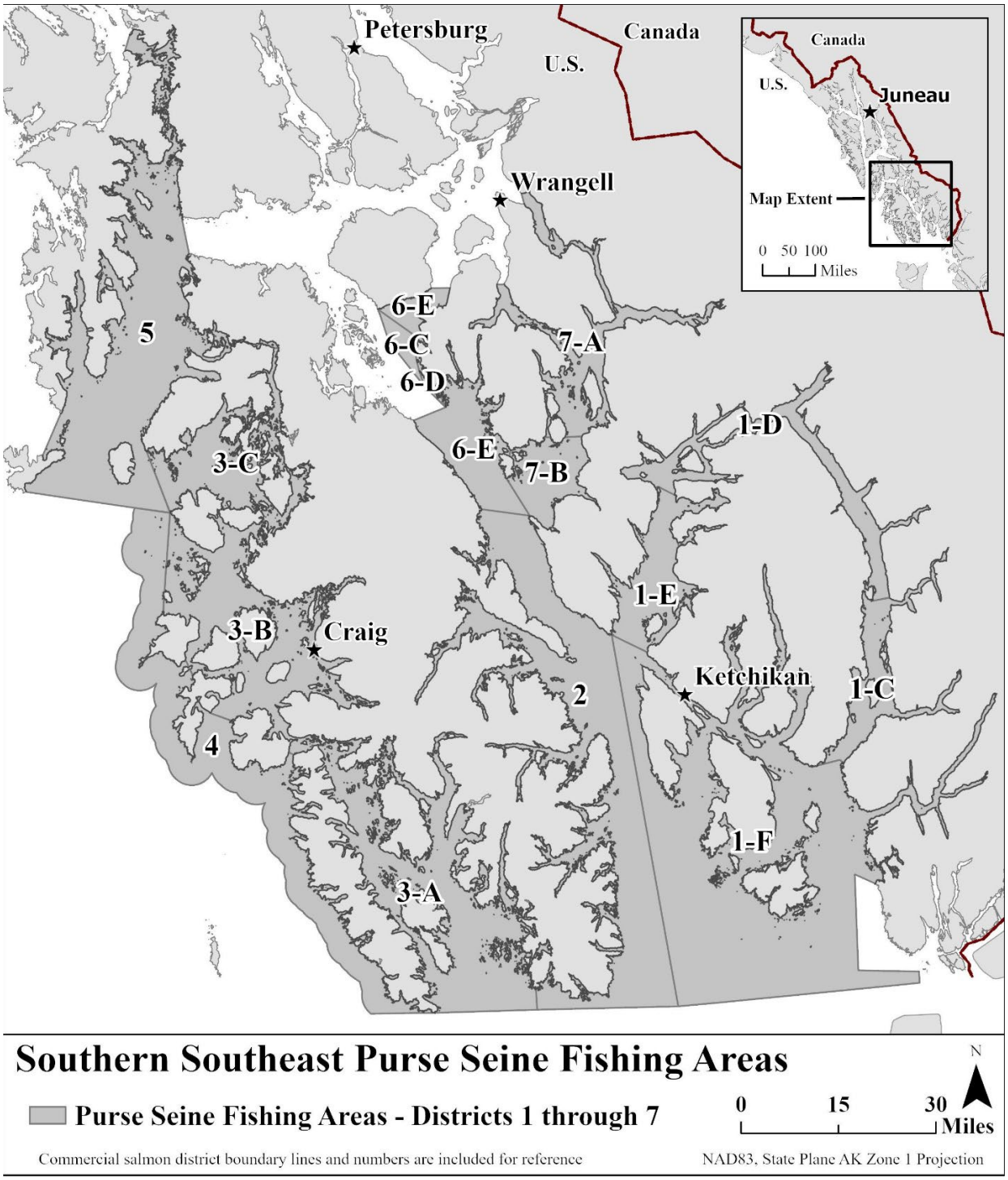

Figure 1.–Map of Southern Southeast Alaska salmon purse seine fishing areas.

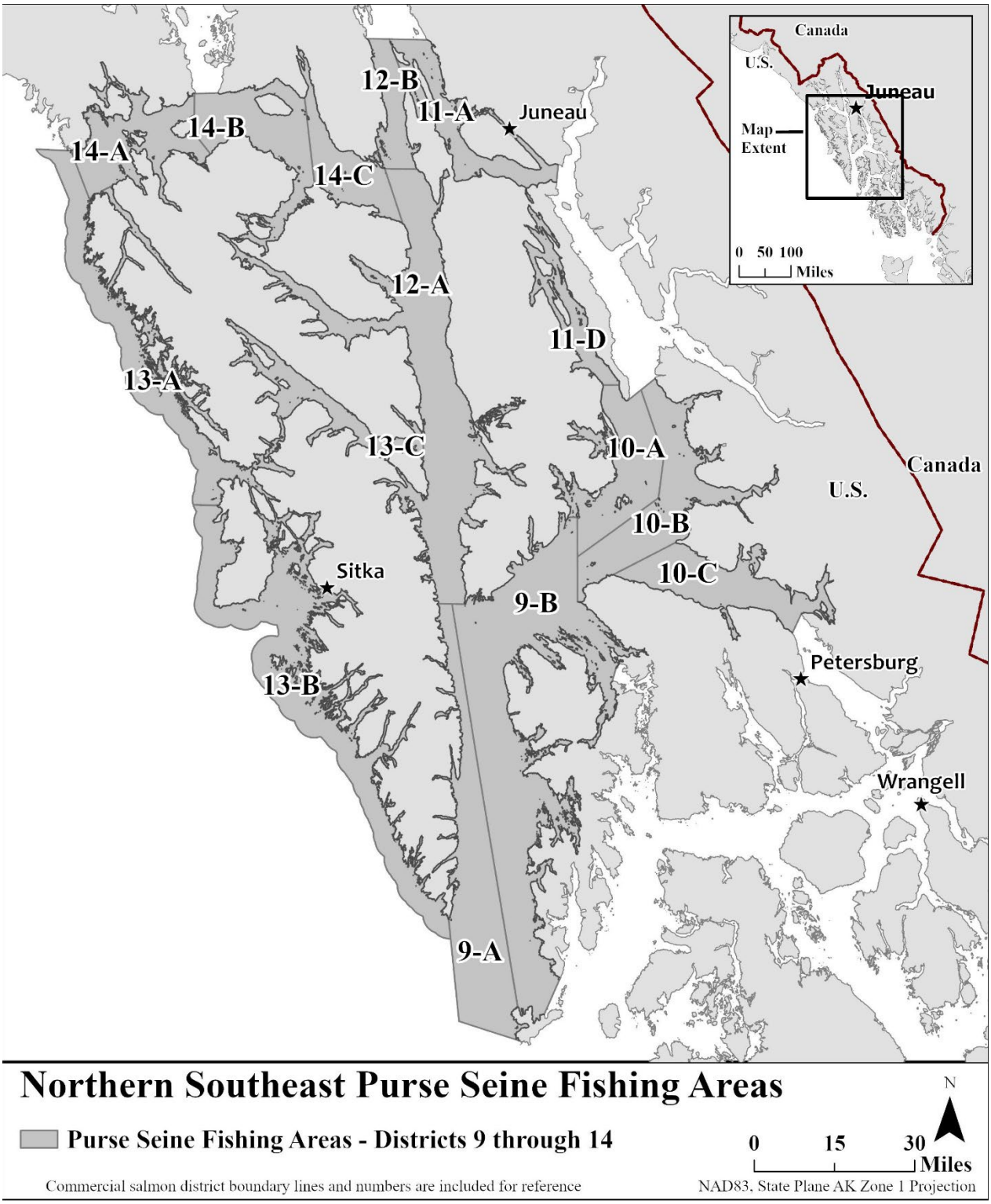

Figure 2.–Map of Northern Southeast Alaska salmon purse seine fishing areas.

Since statehood, 76% of the salmon harvested in SEAK commercial fisheries have been caught with purse seine gear (Conrad and Thynes 2025). Pink salmon *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha* is the primary species targeted by the purse seine fleet; therefore, most management actions are based on the

abundance of pink salmon stocks. Whereas openings targeting wild stocks do occur, chum salmon *O. keta* are primarily harvested in or near hatchery terminal areas and the majority of chum salmon harvest is from hatchery production. Other species of salmon are harvested incidentally to pink and chum salmon. Over the recent 10-year period (2015–2024), the species composition of the purse seine harvest has included 80% pink, 17% chum, 2% sockeye *O. nerka,* 1% coho *O. kisutch,* and less than 1% Chinook salmon *O. tshawytscha*.

Tagging studies of returning pink salmon have demonstrated that the stocks in SEAK exhibit a distinct separation between the northern and southern portions of the region. For purposes of harvest tabulation and management, Districts 1–8 are grouped as Southern Southeast (Figure 1) and Districts 9–15 as Northern Southeast (Figure 2).

Inseason assessments of pink salmon run strength are determined primarily from spawning escapement information obtained from aerial surveys of terminal areas and streams, and from fishery performance data (total harvest and catch per unit of effort, or CPUE). ADF&G staff use fishery performance data and associated information to make inseason evaluations of pink salmon harvests to northern and southern SEAK. ADF&G also charters purse seine vessels to conduct test fishing assessments of run strength in selected index areas and monitors pink salmon sex ratios in the commercial harvest to evaluate run timing.

STOCK 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, the department recommended that the BOF designate the Unuk, King Salmon, and Chilkat Rivers stocks of Chinook salmon, and the McDonald Lake stock of sockeye salmon, as a stocks of *management concern* and the BOF adopted these recommendations in January 2018. In October 2020, the department recommended continuing the designation for these stocks, and additionally recommended that the Chickamin, Stikine, and Taku Rivers, and Andrew Creek stocks of Chinook salmon be added as stocks of management concern. The BOF adopted these recommendations in March of 2022. In October 2024, the department recommended delisting Chickamin, Unuk, and Chilkat Rivers Chinook salmon and Klukshu River sockeye salmon stocks. The department also recommended 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 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 (OEG), 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 concern designation requires the department to develop a draft action plan to be presented to the BOF. The action plan provides the department’s assessment of the stock(s) of

concern, summarizes historical run sizes, and describes the existing regulations and EO authority that the department follows to manage for escapement. The plan outlines potential management actions for sport, commercial, subsistence, and personal use fisheries, and research projects. Criteria that must be met for future removal of the stock of concern designation are also outlined.

Action plans were presented to the BOF and public in draft form at the 2025 Alaska BOF Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting for Taku and King Salmon Rivers Chinook salmon stocks and Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon. The BOF concurred with the department's preferred management actions for each of these stocks. Action plans are published in the ADF&G Regional Informational Report series available on the departmental website.[1] The recommended actions for the purse seine fishery are included in this management plan.

2025 PINK SALMON FORECAST

The 2025 SEAK pink salmon harvest is predicted to be in the *average* range with a point estimate of 29 million fish (80% prediction interval: 16–53 million fish). The categorical ranges of pink salmon harvest in SEAK were formulated from the 20th, 40th, 60th, and 80th percentiles of historical harvest over the 64-year period 1960–2023:

Category	Range (millions)	Percentile
Poor	Less than 11	Less than 20^{th}
Weak	11 to 19	20^{th} to 40^{th}
Average	19 to 33	40^{th} to 60^{th}
Strong	33 to 48	60^{th} to 80^{th}
Excellent	Greater than 48	Greater than 80^{th}

The NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Auke Bay Laboratories (NOAA) initiated the Southeast Alaska Coastal Monitoring (SECM) project in 1997 to better understand the effects of climate and nearshore ocean conditions on year-class strength of salmon and other ecologically related species (Orsi et al. 2000). Since 2018, the SECM project has been conducted cooperatively by NOAA and the ADF&G using the ADF&G research vessel *Medeia*, and the 2 agencies have combined efforts to produce a joint pink salmon harvest forecast using SECM data (Piston et al. 2019). We plan to continue coordination between agencies and explore ways to further expand the SECM survey to provide a wide variety of valuable information to the fishing industry.

The 2025 SEAK pink salmon harvest forecast (Figures 3 and 4) was primarily based on juvenile pink salmon abundance indices collected by the SECM project in Northern SEAK Inside waters. These data were obtained from systematic surface trawl surveys conducted annually in June and July in upper Chatham and Icy Straits and have been shown to be highly correlated with the harvest of returning pink salmon in the following year (Wertheimer et al. 2011). The 2024 juvenile pink salmon abundance index was 1.66. This number was based on the average vessel-calibrated, log-transformed standardized catch per unit effort (CPUE) in either June or July, whichever month had the highest average in a given year (standardized juvenile catches are based on 20-minute trawl sets). Using only the years with data collected on the research vessel *Medeia* (2018–2024), this

[1] Alaska Department of Fish & Game. 2025. Commercial Salmon Fisheries, Southeast Alaska & Yakutat, Stock of Concern Action Plans. http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon#management. (accessed April 2025).

CPUE is the highest index since 2020 and falls just above average for juvenile, even-year CPUE indices (*Medeia* average 1.61; *Medeia* range 1.2–2.2).

The forecasts for 2025 were created using a modified approach initially described by Wertheimer et al. (2006) and later adapted by Orsi et al. (2016) and Murphy et al. (2019). The current forecast assumes a log-normal error structure (Miller et al. 2022) and is based on a multiple regression model. This model integrates vessel-calibration coefficients estimated within the model, applied to raw CPUE as a proxy for abundance, along with an odd/even-year factor to account for potential cyclical abundance patterns, and temperature data from the SECM survey (Piston et al. 2021) or satellite sea surface temperature (SST) data (Huang et al. 2017). This year, the CPUE calculation differs from prior forecasts: the raw CPUE term was set to the maximum value of the log-transformed, standardized catch (from 20-minute trawl sets) for either June or July, depending on which month yielded the highest value in each year. The raw CPUE was then adjusted by a model-derived vessel-calibration coefficient. A total of 18 models were considered for the 2025 forecast, with model performance evaluated based on the one-step-ahead mean absolute percent error for the last 5 years, along with AIC values (Burnham and Anderson 2004), parameter significance, and adjusted R-squared values. The optimal model included vessel-calibration coefficients, raw CPUE, an odd/even-year factor, and the satellite SST variable from northern SEAK in May. Based on this model, the 2025 forecast falls within the average range, with a point estimate of 29 million fish (80% prediction interval: 16 to 53 million fish).

The 2025 harvest forecast of 29 million pink salmon is slightly above the recent 10-year average harvest of 26 million, but approximately 60% of the parent-year (2023) harvest of 48 million. Parent-year escapement indices exceeded the BEG ranges in the Southern Southeast and Northern Southeast Inside Subregions and were near the upper bound of the escapement goal range (EGR) in the Northern Southeast Outside Subregion. Juvenile pink salmon in the 2024 SECM survey trawls were smaller than average in length but had higher than average energy density (1997–2024). Poor forecast accuracy in recent odd years (2021 and 2023) led to a review of odd/even-year treatment in the forecast model and potential issues with vessel-calibration coefficients. Historically, separate odd- and even-year models were avoided due to limited years in the dataset and similar trends observed in both broodlines until 2006. Including an odd/even-year factor now aligns better with the 1-ocean-year life history of pink salmon, accounting for recent odd/even-year harvest and escapement differences. The model also addressed errors potentially introduced by observed vessel-calibration coefficients by replacing them with model-estimated coefficients, based on 25 years of vessel-specific raw CPUE data, which better accounts for variations in vessel efficiency over the SECM survey's long history.

Although uncertainties are inherent in salmon forecasts, the NOAA/ADF&G joint pink salmon harvest forecast has maintained a strong track record (Figure 4), despite the unique forecasting challenges for pink salmon (Haeseker et al. 2005). For the 2025 season, the department will manage the commercial purse seine fisheries based on inseason data. Aerial escapement surveys and fishery performance data will continue to be key tools for making inseason management decisions.

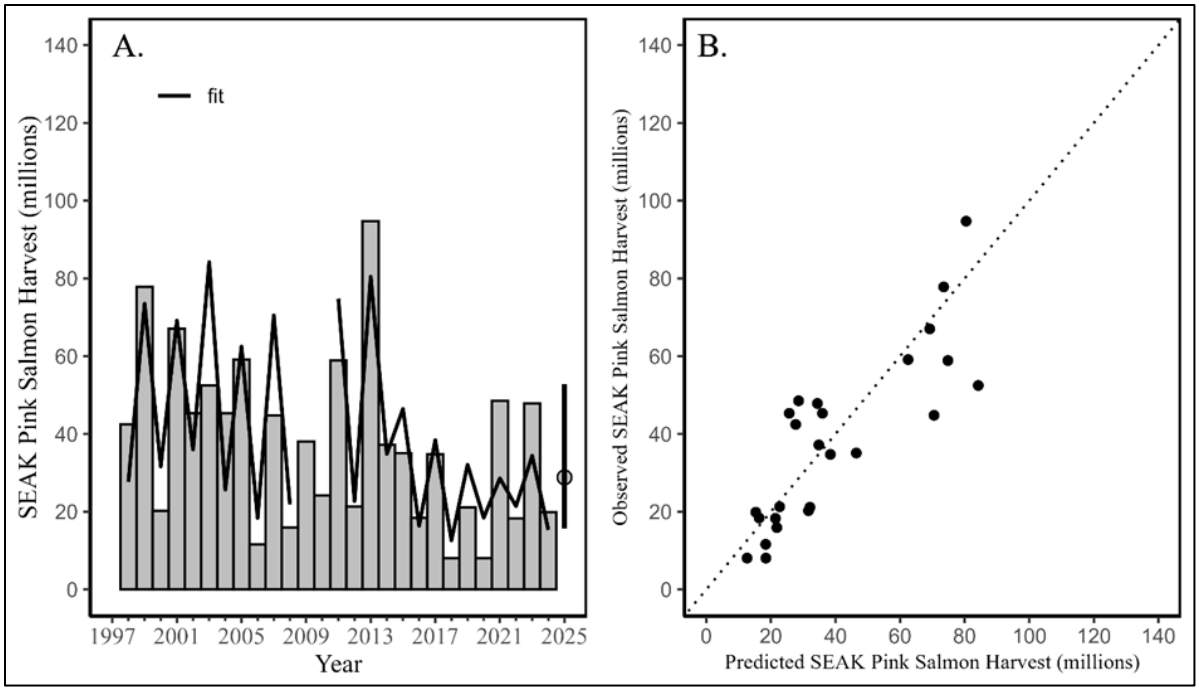

Figure 3.–Forecast model fit (hindcasts) for total Southeast Alaska (SEAK) pink salmon harvest, 1998–2024. Organized by year (A) and by the fitted values (B) for the model based on the model-estimated vessel-calibration coefficients, raw CPUE, an odd- and even-year factor, and May satellite sea surface temperature readings in northern Southeast Alaska inside waters.

Note: In panel A, the 2025 forecast is shown as a grey circle with the 80% prediction interval as a black vertical line. The observed SEAK pink salmon harvest is represented by the grey bars and the model fit is shown by the black line in panel A. In panel B, the dotted line represents a one-to-one line; circles above the line represent hindcasts that produced a point estimate lower than the actual harvest and circles below the line represent hindcasts that produced a point estimate higher than the actual harvest.

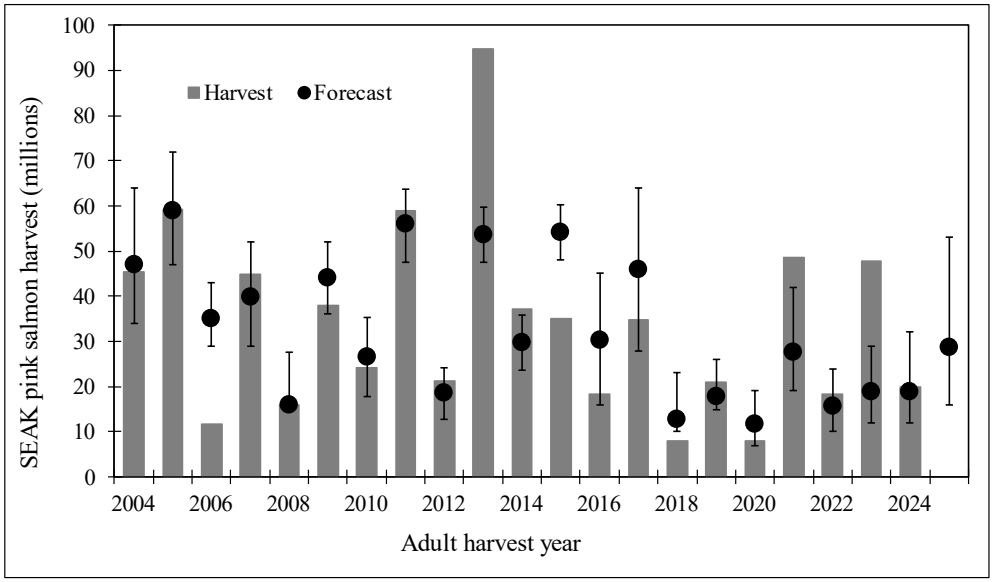

Figure 4.–Preseason forecasts compared to the annual SEAK pink salmon harvest, 2004–2024. The error bars represent either 80% confidence or 80% prediction intervals of the forecasts, depending on the modeling method used.

Table 2.–Southeast Alaska pink salmon escapement indices (in millions) by district and subregion, compared to management targets and biological escapement goal (BEG) ranges from the 2023 parent year.

Subregion	District	2023 Index	Lower management target	Upper management target
Southern	101	3.86	1.02	2.71
Southern	102	2.04	0.29	0.77
Southern	103	3.42	0.95	2.54
Southern	105	0.92	0.25	0.66
Southern	106	0.69	0.21	0.57
Southern	107	1.08	0.26	0.69
Southern	108	0.08	0.02	0.06
Northern Inside	109	1.54	0.65	1.56
Northern Inside	110	1.48	0.59	1.41
Northern Inside	111	0.71	0.25	0.60
Northern Inside	112	2.36	0.52	1.24
Northern Inside	Inside 113	0.65	0.32	0.78
Northern Inside	114	0.64	0.14	0.34
Northern Inside	115	0.03	0.03	0.07
Northern Outside	Outside 113	2.29	0.75	2.50
BEGs by subregion		Total 2023 index	Lower escapement goal	Upper escapement goal
Southern		12.09	3.00	8.00
Northern Inside		7.40	2.50	6.00
Northern Outside		2.29	0.75	2.50

GENERAL MANAGEMENT GOALS

The following are primary management goals for the 2025 SEAK purse seine fishery:

1. Achieve pink salmon BEGs by subregion and within subregions and obtain escapements consistent with district and stock group management targets to ensure that escapements are well distributed.
2. Achieve adequate chum salmon escapements and ensure escapements are well distributed.
3. Provide for an orderly fishery while harvesting fish in excess of escapement needs.
4. Minimize, to the extent possible, the harvest of salmon destined for fishing districts where weak runs are expected.
5. Promote harvest of good quality fish within constraints dictated by run size and timing.
6. Manage the District 4 purse seine fishery consistent with the provisions of Chapter 2 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST).
7. Minimize harvest of Chinook salmon using conservation actions adopted by the BOF including nonretention of Chinook salmon 28 inches or larger during portions of the 2025 purse seine season (Hagerman et al. 2025).
8. Reduce harvest rates of McDonald and Hugh Smith Lakes sockeye salmon stocks using conservation actions adopted by the BOF for the McDonald Lake (Walker et al. 2018) and for Hugh Smith Lake (Meredith et al. *In prep*) stocks.
9. Reduce harvest rates on Northern Southeast Outside chum salmon using conservative actions adopted by the BOF (Dupuis et al. *In prep).*

10. Manage the purse seine fishery in the waters of District 12 and in Section 14-C north of the latitude of Porpoise Islands, consistent with the *Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plans* (5 AAC 33.366).

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

EXPECTED FISHING REGIME

The 2025 forecast indicates an average pink salmon run throughout SEAK and a conservative fishing regime is expected. Areas around the region will open as described in this plan and are subject to inseason adjustments. Hidden Falls THA will open for common property harvest to target hatchery-produced chum salmon in late June. The first pink salmon openings will begin in mid-June in District 12 and early July in Districts 1, 2, 4, and 7. Subsequent openings will be based on aerial observations and fishery performance data. The department will monitor inseason information and will manage the fishery to ensure escapement goals are met, obtain district and stock group escapement targets, and distribute escapements throughout the run while providing maximum fishing opportunity. The department is prepared to provide additional fishing opportunity as run strength and fleet distribution allows by expanding fishing opportunity from 1 to two 15-hour periods per week, to 39-hour periods, to 2-day on 2-day off, or a more continuous fishing schedule. The department may have to reduce fishing opportunity after initially expanding opportunity depending on how runs develop and fleet distribution. Specific areas may warrant more or less fishing time than the regional schedule depending on run strength and effort in those areas.

EFFORT LEVELS

The size of the purse seine fleet will have some impact on management decisions as the season progresses. Purse seine effort in 2024 was reflected in 197 permits fished, in 2023 there were 210 permits fished, 194 permits were fished in 2022, and 208 permits were fished in 2021. Effort levels are generally higher in odd years and lower in even years reflecting the current odd-year cycle of stronger pink salmon runs. Effort in 2025 is anticipated to be similar to 2023. Since 2007, the number of total permits has decreased from 415 to 279 due to permit buyback programs. The average effort in the purse seine fishery is 242 permits fished.

DAILY START TIMES

For the 2025 season, the fishery opening and closing times will be:

1. 5:00 AM to 8:00 PM from the start of the purse seine season (June 16) through approximately August 15;
2. 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM from approximately August 16 through the end of the pink salmon season; and
3. 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM from the start of the fall chum salmon season until the season closes.

REGULATION MARKERS

Closed waters, stream markers defining closures around salmon streams, and salmon streams (that may not have markers) have been a topic at Purse Seine Task Force meetings over the years. Regulation 5 AAC 33.350 lists all closed waters in SEAK. Regulation 5 AAC 39.290 was amended at the 2013 statewide BOF meeting to read as follows:

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this title, commercial fishing for salmon is prohibited at all times in the waters of Alaska that are
(1) within the streams and rivers of this state;
(2) within 500 yards of the fresh waters of any salmon stream; or
(3) over the beds or channels of streams and rivers of this state during all stages of the tide.

Also adopted in this regulation:

(e) The points established for stream mouths listed in the *Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes* under 5 AAC 95.011 do not apply to enforcement of this section or other regulations limiting the distance that commercial fishing may occur from the fresh waters of any salmon stream.

Subsection (e) of the regulation above was added to clarify that fishing is prohibited within 500 yards of the fresh water of salmon streams and not 500 yards from the midpoint of the river mouth as listed in the *Anadromous Waters Catalog*.

The *Anadromous Waters Catalog* has maps identifying the locations of salmon streams and is available on the ADF&G website. [2] Copies are also available for review at ADF&G area offices.

Useful definitions of terms in the regulation are found in 5 AAC 39.975. *Definitions* (a):

(10) "salmon stream" means a stream used by salmon, at any stage of life, for spawning, rearing, presence, or migration;
(26) "fresh water of streams and rivers" means fresh water separated from salt water at the mouth of streams and rivers by a line drawn between the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks at the present stage of the tide

Under the authority of 5 AAC 39.290(b) the department may post closed areas by appropriate markers. If posted, the department shall place appropriate markers for any stream as close as practically possible to the distance or location specified by the applicable regulation or EO. Often these markers will be more than 500 yards from the mouth of the stream at mean lower low water (MLLW) in order to provide additional protection to fish accumulated near streams or because markers are placed where they can be seen and where they can be attached to a tree. Each stream has a different shoreline configuration. Some streams are in bays and the 500-yard markers can be connected by a straight line between the 2 markers because the location where the stream channel ends at MLLW is 500 yards or more from the straight line between the 2 markers. Other streams are located along straight shorelines and 500 yards from the stream channel at MLLW is defined by an "arc" or half of a circle originating from the 2 regulation markers with the arc being at least 500 yards from any part of the stream channel at MLLW. The most important thing to remember is the shoreline and the stream channel at low tide around every stream is different. Fishers must always fish outside the markers, despite their distance from the stream, and must always fish 500 yards from where the stream channel ends at low tide, and they should fish outside of the arc defined by the 2 stream markers. This will ensure that they are outside of the 500-yard stream closure.

[2] Alaska Department of Fish & Game. 2025. Habitat, Conservation Areas, Anadromous Waters Catalog, Overview. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/SARR/AWC/ (accessed April 2025).

Interactive Map

The ADF&G developed an interactive map where districts, sections, closed waters as well as other features used in the management of commercial salmon fisheries can be viewed. This map is available on the ADF&G website.[3] Geographic information system (GIS) data used to make the map is also available for download.[4]

The map can be used remotely on mobile devices by downloading the *ArcGIS Field Maps* app by Esri and loading the *ADF&G SEAK Salmon Mobile – SEAK map*. You can find this map by using the search feature within the *Maps* page of the app and typing in *ADF&G*.

ADVISORY ANNOUNCEMENT INFORMATION

ADF&G will announce each fishery opening by advisory announcement. Announcements will generally be made more than one full day in advance of the opening to provide a fair start unless an announcement with shorter notice is necessary to prevent lost opportunity, potential over escapement, and provide higher quality salmon. In the uncommon situation where the department has announced a fishery inside normal markers and additional line changes are needed during an opening, the department may make those additional changes with less than 24-hour notice and will notify fishers and processors in the vicinity by field announcement. Line changes and time changes that differ from prior announcements will be indicated in **bold type** to highlight those changes. Advisory announcements will be available at ADF&G offices throughout SEAK, posted on the ADF&G web site, and may be available at fish buying locations or other prominent locations throughout the region. Advisory announcements can automatically be sent to any email address by subscribing for this service through the ADF&G website.[5]

ADF&G area office contact numbers will be listed in the footer at the end of each advisory announcement. The department has discontinued the telephone message recording system for purse seine advisory announcements because of the difficulty in providing lengthy and detailed information on a telephone message recording. Advisory announcements are organized in numerical order by district, and within districts from the shortest duration opening to the longest duration opening. Opening information is followed by the current Chinook salmon landing restrictions, information and comments, and a harvest report from the previous fishing period.

TERMINAL PINK SALMON FISHERIES

ADF&G will strive to open fisheries so that fish of the best possible quality can be harvested in existing traditional fisheries. If substantial buildups of pink salmon occur inside normal closed waters in excess of escapement needs, openings to target these fish may occur—most likely in late August and early September. Openings of this nature will be announced via standard advisory announcements.

Terminal fisheries may open inside normal markers or stream markers at various locations throughout the region. These areas may open to harvest excess pink salmon to escapement needs.

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[3] Alaska Department of Fish & Game. 2025. Southeast salmon interactive map. Commercial Salmon Fisheries, Southeast Alaska & Yakutat, Maps. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon#maps (accessed April 2025).

[4] Alaska Department of Fish & Game. 2025. Commercial Fishing GIS data downloads. Commercial Fishing Areas. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=maps.commercial_fishing_gis (accessed April 2025).

[5] Alaska Department of Fish & Game. 2025. Advisory Announcements, Commercial, Subsistence, & Personal Use Fishing, Commercial Fishery Announcements. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main (accessed April 2025).

These fisheries are conducted at the discretion of the area management biologists in consideration of providing an orderly harvest that does not compromise escapement needs and budgetary constraints.

CHINOOK SALMON HARVEST

ADF&G is required to manage the SEAK purse seine fishery for a maximum harvest of 4.3% of the annual all-gear Chinook salmon harvest ceiling determined under the terms of the PST (5 AAC 29.060 [b][1]). For 2025, the all-gear PST Chinook salmon allocation is 130,800 treaty Chinook salmon. 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 all-gear harvest limit for SEAK is determined by the CPUE metric from the SEAK early winter power troll fishery. The 2025 purse seine treaty Chinook salmon allocation is 5,600 fish. The need for management measures to comply with the purse seine allocation will depend on inseason evaluation of Chinook salmon harvest.

The BOF has adopted size limits for Chinook salmon (5 AAC 33.392) and directed ADF&G to manage the purse seine fishery such that incidental mortality from catch-and-release is minimized. The following are specific provisions for management of the purse seine fishery harvest of Chinook salmon:

1. Chinook salmon taken in the purse seine fishery that are less than 28 inches in length (as measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail) will not be counted against the Chinook salmon harvest quota.
2. Chinook salmon less than 28 inches in length may be harvested by purse seine fishers but not sold. All retained Chinook salmon must be reported on fish tickets as personal use (harvest code 95).

Chinook Salmon Implementation Plan

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 EGRs. 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 forecast total runs *within* their respective EGRs for 3 of these 5 stocks, a terminal run *below* the EGR for 1 stock, and a terminal run *above* the EGR for 1 stock. Management actions in accordance with PST regulations and BOF recommended actions will again be implemented to reduce harvest of wild Chinook salmon across SEAK salmon fisheries, including sport, commercial, personal use, and subsistence. The Stikine River and Andrew Creek and Taku and King Salmon Rivers action plans restrict the purse fishery to nonretention of Chinook salmon through at least the third week of July in traditional fisheries and in hatchery THAs with no hatchery-produced Chinook salmon returning.

Chinook Salmon Nonretention

Management actions taken in the purse seine fishery to conserve SEAK Chinook salmon and stay within the harvest limits outlined in the PST will be highly restrictive in 2025. Nonretention of Chinook salmon 28 inches or larger will be in place for the majority of the 2025 purse seine season. Chinook salmon retention periods will be dependent on areas open to directed pink salmon fisheries, the magnitude of pink salmon harvest, and the expected Chinook salmon harvest per opening. A more conservative approach in 2025 will be necessary to limit Chinook salmon harvest

per opening due to the low purse seine allocation. Beginning in 2021, Chinook salmon retention was allowed in outside and northern districts of SEAK, while nonretention remained in effect in the inside waters of Southern SEAK. This approach was taken to further conserve returning Unuk and Chickamin Rivers Chinook salmon and may be implemented again in 2025.

There may be specific THAs in which all Chinook salmon may be, or must be, retained. ADF&G intends to implement full retention (5 AAC 39.265) from the beginning of the season for net fisheries in the Deep Inlet THA. Specific retention and nonretention periods will be announced in each purse seine fishery advisory announcement. Additional areas may also be announced via advisory announcement.

Chinook Salmon Reporting

Chinook salmon less than 28 inches in length may be harvested by purse seine permit holders but not sold. All retained Chinook salmon must be reported on fish tickets as personal use (harvest code 95).

When under nonretention of Chinook salmon 28 inches or larger, purse seiners are encouraged to quickly release Chinook salmon in a manner that minimizes mortality. If during nonretention, Chinook salmon greater than 28 inches are retained, the fisher is in violation and may be issued a citation. Retained Chinook salmon must be donated, and the fisher may be subject to the cost associated with processing the fish for donation. On the fish ticket, the number and weight of the fish must be recorded and the disposition code *86-Donated* must be used.

REPORTING OF PERSONAL USE HARVEST

Fishers and processors should be aware that all salmon, including steelhead, commercially harvested but retained for personal use and not sold must be reported on fish tickets (harvest code 95) at the time of delivery.

TEST FISHERIES

Test fisheries to assess run strength and timing of pink and chum salmon and to generate revenue for fisheries management will continue in 2025. The Point Gardner test fishery begins in late June and runs through the end of July. The Kingsmill Point test fishery begins the first week of July and runs through the end of July. These test fisheries are useful in determining run strength and timing of pink and chum salmon returning to Section 9-B and District 10. The Hawk Inlet test fishery begins the last week of June and runs through mid-July and is useful in determining the run strength and timing of pink salmon entering Districts 11 and 15.

SEASON END

The end of the season will be announced following review of harvest and escapement data from the openings in late August or early September. If there are areas needing additional escapement adjacent to areas with adequate escapement, the department may consider closure lines, if appropriate, to provide harvest opportunities on fish returning to areas where escapements have been met. The implementation of this plan is based on several factors including providing good overall distribution of escapements, higher concentrations of females at the end of the run, incomplete escapement information at the end of the season, and consideration for harvest of other species.

USE OF AIRCRAFT PROHIBITED

5 AAC 33.398 prohibits the use of aircraft to locate salmon for the commercial taking of salmon or to direct commercial salmon fishing operations during an open commercial salmon fishing period in SEAK. Additionally, during an open commercial purse seine fishing period for an area other than a THA, no person may use an aircraft to locate salmon for the commercial taking of those fish or to direct commercial fishing operations 1 hour before, during, and 1 hour after the open commercial purse seine fishing period.

DISTRICT 10 PURSE SEINE FISHING SECTIONS

At the 2025 Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish BOF meeting, section definitions for Sections 10-A, 10-B and 10-C were added to the District 10 area description (5 AAC 33.200[j]). Section 10-A includes the waters adjacent to the southeast side of Admiralty Island, including Gambier Bay, Pybus Bay, and the Big Bend area at the mouth of Seymour Canal. Section 10-B includes the waters in and adjacent to Port Houghton and Windham Bay known as the *mainland section* as well as the northwest corner of Kupreanof Island. Section 10-C includes the waters of Frederick Sound, including Farragut Bay and Thomas Bay, east and south of a line from Pinta Point to Cape Fanshaw (Figure 2).

SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST PURSE SEINE FISHERIES

2023 PINK SALMON RUN

The Southern SEAK Subregion includes the area from Sumner Strait south to Dixon Entrance (Districts 1–8). The escapement index value of 12.1 million in 2023 exceeded the EGR of 3.0 to 8.0 million index fish (Table 2). Escapement indices were above management targets for all 7 districts and within or above management targets for all 18 pink salmon stock groups within this subregion.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Uncertainties about fleet size, distribution, and the department's reaction to those can only be addressed in season. ADF&G and the fishing industry will have to be flexible and nimble, reacting effectively to changes from historical fishing patterns. Meeting escapement goals will continue to be the primary objective of the department. Within that conservation mandate, the department will attempt to work with industry to provide a stable supply of fresh fish. Given the dynamic changes to the salmon industry in Southeast Alaska during the 2023 season and leading into the 2024 season, a preseason Purse Seine Task Force meeting between the department and industry was held May 8, 2024. During that meeting, modifying the traditional fishing schedule of 2-days on, 2-days off to a 1-day on,1-day off schedule to improve fish quality was discussed. It was decided that a change in management of this magnitude was not appropriate so close to the start of the season —it would have been difficult for management and industry to adjust— and was tabled for discussion to a later date. Subsequent discussion occurred during the 2024 Purse Seine Task Force meeting, with another follow up meeting occurring with a smaller group of industry representatives and department staff in January 2025. This group met to discuss a potential change in the fishing management regime and the impact thereof on the fleet, markets, tenders, and management. Ultimately, there was no consensus reached.

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, the department recommended Hugh Smith Lake sockeye be again designated a stock of concern. At the October 2024 BOF work session, the BOF again 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 the department will implement these management actions for the 2025 season (Meredith et al. *In prep*).

Management actions that will be implemented in commercial net fisheries consist of:

Use EO authority to implement the 2025 Hugh Smith Lake action plan which uses the same measures adopted in 2003 to reduce fishing area in the District 101 purse seine and drift gillnet fisheries. These actions will be implemented annually during SWs 29–33 to reduce harvest of Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon until removed as a stock of concern.

1) If projections of the cumulative Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon weir count in SW 29 and 30 fall below the lower bound of the OEG, the department 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 Island Light at 55°05.29′ N lat, 131°03.17′ W long, to Black Rock Light at 55°01.42′ N lat, 131°03.59′ W long, to a point on the mainland shore at 55°01.40′ N lat, 131°00.20′ W long.
2) If projections of the cumulative Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon weir count in SWs 31–33 fall below the lower bound of the OEG, the department 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).

McDonald Lake Sockeye Salmon

The McDonald Lake sockeye salmon stock was designated a stock of management concern by the BOF in February 2009 due to a long-term decline in escapements. In February 2012, this stock of concern status was removed due to improved escapements and rearing fall fry estimates. The stock was again designated as a stock of concern by the BOF in January of 2018. From 2013 to 2023, escapements were below the SEG of 55,000–120,000 fish in 9 of 10 years and included the lowest escapements ever recorded at McDonald Lake in 2020 (8,200) and 2018 (11,000), and the most recent escapements in 2023 (74,900 fish) and 2024 (61,500 fish) were within the SEG. A draft action plan with several management options each for commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries was presented to the BOF in January of 2018. The BOF considered the various options and adopted the management actions that were outlined in the 2009 action plan (Walker et al. 2018). The department will implement the BOF directed management actions to the Southern SEAK purse seine and drift gillnet fisheries in an effort to meet the McDonald Lake sockeye salmon escapement goal. In the October 2024 BOF work session, the BOF adopted the department's recommendation for the McDonald Lake stock of sockeye salmon to continue as a stock of concern.

Management actions that *will be* instituted in commercial net fisheries consist of the following:

- District 1 purse seine—from SWs 29 through 31, the purse seine fishery on the western shore of Gravina Island will be closed north of the latitude of Cone Point.
- District 2 purse seine—from SWs 29 through 32, the purse seine fishery on the western shore of the Cleveland Peninsula (within 3.0 nmi of the shoreline) will be closed.
- District 5 purse seine—from SWs 29 through 31, the District 5 purse seine fishery along the northwest corner of Prince of Wales Island between Point Baker and the Barrier Islands will remain closed.
- District 6 purse seine—from SWs 29 through 31, the District 6 purse seine fishery along the west side of Etolin Island between Point Stanhope and the latitude of Round Point will remain closed. From SWs 29–31, the District 6 purse seine fishery along the east side of Prince of Wales Island between Luck Point and Narrow Point will remain closed.
- District 6 drift gillnet—from SWs 29 through 31, the District 6 drift gillnet fishery will open for a maximum of 2 days.
- District 7 purse seine—from SWs 29 through 31, the District 7 purse seine fishery in Section 7-B will remain closed. If pink salmon runs are extremely strong, the northern portion of Section 7-B north of Union Point may be open during SW 31. If this occurs, restrictions may occur in that area south of Union Point into SW 32 to reduce the overall interception of sockeye salmon.

ADF&G will continue to estimate the sockeye salmon escapement at McDonald Lake through surveys of the spawning grounds from early to late September.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Southern SEAK purse seine management plan consists of separate segments which include traditional pink salmon fisheries in District 4 and the inside fisheries in Districts 1–3 and 5–7, the fall chum salmon fishery in Cholmondeley Sound, and the THA fisheries.

U.S./Canada District 4 Purse Seine Agreement

In the spring of 2018, the United States and Canada renegotiated a 10-year annex, 2019–2028, for the District 4 purse seine fishery. There were minor changes to the language in the District 4 purse seine portion of the PST which will have little to no effect on the management strategy within the district and are outlined below. The management goals remain the same and the agreement calls for managing the Alaska District 4 purse seine fishery before SW 31 to

1. achieve an annual harvest share of the Nass and Skeena Rivers sockeye salmon of 2.45% of the Annual Allowable Harvest (AAH) of the Nass and Skeena Rivers sockeye salmon stocks in that year; and
2. carry forward from year-to-year annual deviations from the harvest share arrangement.

The Treaty specifies management actions in the District 1 drift gillnet and District 4 purse seine fisheries prior to SW 31 and Canadian fisheries based on total run size estimates of sockeye salmon to the Nass and Skeena Rivers as follows:

1. Skeena River
    a. When the expected total run is below 900,000 sockeye salmon, there are no Canadian commercial marine harvests and the U.S. shall undertake measures to

reduce the impact of the District 4 purse seine fishery. These measures may include delaying the start date and altering the duration of the fishery.

b. When the expected total run is below 600,000 sockeye salmon, there are no Canadian marine or inriver commercial harvests except for terminal fisheries adjacent to enhancement spawning channels, and the U.S. shall undertake additional measures to reduce the impact of the District 4 purse seine fishery. These measures may include reducing the fishing area, delaying the start date, or altering the duration of the fishery.

2. Nass River

a. When the expected total run is below 200,000 sockeye salmon, there are no Canadian commercial marine harvests and the U.S. shall undertake measures to reduce the impact of District 1 drift gillnet and District 4 purse seine fisheries. These measures may include delaying the start date and altering the duration of these fisheries.

b. When the expected total run is below 180,000 sockeye salmon, there are no Canadian marine or inriver commercial harvests and the U.S. shall undertake measures to reduce the impact of District 1 drift gillnet and District 4 purse seine fisheries. These measures may include delaying the start date, reducing the duration, reducing the area, or implementing mesh restrictions (District 1 drift gillnet fishery only) for these fisheries.

The AAH each year will be calculated as the combined total run of Nass and Skeena Rivers sockeye salmon in that year less the combined Nass and Skeena Rivers escapement target of 1.1 million fish. In the event the actual Nass and Skeena Rivers spawning escapement for the season is below the target level, the actual spawning escapement will be used in the AAH calculation.

The total run calculation includes the harvests of Nass and Skeena Rivers sockeye salmon in the principal boundary area fisheries and the spawning escapements to the Nass and Skeena Rivers watersheds. This harvest primarily includes the Nass and Skeena Rivers sockeye salmon in Alaska Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 net fisheries, Canadian Areas 1, 3, 4, and 5 net fisheries, and Canadian Nass and Skeena inriver fisheries. Harvests in other boundary area fisheries may be included as jointly agreed by the Northern Boundary Technical Committee (NBTC).

Although the management intent shall be to harvest salmon at the AAH, it is recognized that overages and underages will occur, and an accounting mechanism is required. The management intent for each fishery shall be to return any overages to a neutral or negative balance as soon as possible. The accrual of underages is not intended to allow either Alaska or Canada to modify its fishing behavior in any given year to harvest the accrued underage.

During past years, the bilateral NBTC has worked to finalize the total run reconstructions for the Nass and Skeena Rivers. In January 2025, the NBTC presented the preliminary run reconstruction for 2024 to the bilateral Northern Panel and finalized the 2023 run reconstruction. Information in Table 3 reflects the performance of the District 4 purse seine fishery from 1999 through 2023, preliminary numbers reflecting the 2024 season, and the 2025 preseason forecast.

Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has a preseason forecast of approximately 3,337,000 sockeye salmon to the Nass and Skeena Rivers in 2025. This figure is a combined forecast of 2,740,000 Skeena River sockeye and 597,000 Nass River sockeye salmon. If the 2025 forecast is accurate, and the combined escapement is 1.1 million sockeye salmon, then the AAH

for District 4 will be approximately 55,000 Nass and Skeena Rivers sockeye salmon (Table 3). Depending on sockeye abundance, District 4 time and area restrictions during the Treaty period may be necessary to achieve treaty obligations. In 2025, the District 4 purse seine fishery may open, by regulation, on the first Sunday in July (July 6). District 4 will be managed under the PST annex through July 26, 2025 (SWs 28–30). The inseason forecast will be analyzed prior to July 6, and if run size warrants an opening, the district will open on July 6. The initial opening on July 6 will be for an as yet to be determined length and will be based on the best available data at the time of the announcement. The duration of following openings will be based on sockeye salmon escapement estimates through the Tyee test fishery at the mouth of the Skeena River, fishery performance data, anticipated and actual effort levels, and pink salmon run strength. The harvest of sockeye salmon in the district will be monitored to stay within PST sockeye salmon allocations. As part of a new 2019 Chapter 2 agreement, ADF&G and DFO have set up an information exchange protocol that is intended to enhance inseason communication between management agencies. This protocol will allow the department to closely follow the runs to the Skeena and Nass Rivers so inseason adjustments can be made. Formal fishery summaries will also be exchanged on a weekly basis. In addition, the Tyee test fishery, at the mouth of the Skeena River, can be tracked daily from a web-based database. This protocol has succeeded in recent years, allowing managers to provide additional fishing opportunities or reduce time in order to maintain treaty obligations.

Table 3.–Sockeye salmon allocations for the District 4 purse seine fishery based on Nass and Skeena Rivers allocation calculations, 1999–2025.

Year	Nass/Skeena total return	Nass/Skeena escapement	Nass/ Skeena AAH	Allowable D4 harvest (2.45%)	Total Pre-SW 31 sockeye harvest	Actual Nass/Skeena harvest	Annual overage/ underage	Cumulative overage/ underage
1999	1,771,048	936,705	834,343	20,441	7,664	3,232	-17,209	-17,209
2000	5,318,228	1,100,000	4,218,228	103,347	48,969	29,221	-74,126	-91,335
2001	4,965,291	1,100,000	3,865,291	94,700	203,090	167,854	73,154	-18,180
2002	2,776,502	1,051,333	1,725,169	42,267	26,554	18,627	-23,640	-41,820
2003	3,306,526	1,100,000	2,206,526	54,060	84,742	44,258	-9,802	-51,622
2004	2,620,994	1,100,000	1,520,994	37,265	30,758	19,233	-18,032	-69,653
2005	1,770,474	1,000,144	770,330	18,873	35,690	19,442	569	-69,084
2006	3,650,525	1,100,000	2,550,525	62,488	89,615	68,940	6,452	-62,632
2007	2,752,074	1,100,000	1,652,074	40,476	112,135	75,615	35,139	-27,493
2008	2,531,701	1,100,000	1,431,701	35,077	6,262	4,880	-30,197	-57,690
2009	1,602,959	1,053,858	549,101	13,453	15,971	10,128	-3,325	-61,015
2010	1,395,616	956,954	438,662	10,747	4,612	1,091	-9,656	-70,671
2011	2,487,985	1,100,000	1, 387,985	34,006	25,280	16,599	-17,407	-88,077
2012	2,737,168	1,100,000	1,637,173	40,111	18,300	9,598	-30,513	-118,590
2013	981,476	642,461	339,015	8,306	13,102	4,228	-4,078	-122,668
2014	3,824,537	1,100,000	2,724,537	66,751	114,375	74,005	7,254	-115,414
2015	3,015,042	1,100,000	1,915,042	46,919	43,873	21,433	-25,491	-140,899
2016	2,140,259	1,100,000	1,040,259	25,486	110,346	65,039	39,553	-101,347
2017	1,422,783	1,100,000	322,783	7,908	12,036	6,916	-992	-102,339
2018	2,086,458	1,100,000	986,458	24,168	19,743	9,999	-14,169	-116,508
2019	1,200,155	862,549	337,606	8,271	9,399	4,450	-3,821	-116,508
2020	1,941,682	1,100,000	841,682	20,621	6,923	5,300	-16,344	-136,674
2021	2,229,497	1,100,000	1,129,497	27,673	49,304	32,312	4,639	-132,035
2022	4,950,340	1,100,000	3,850,340	94,333	49,025	34,658	-59,675	-191,710
2023	2,791,181	1,100,000	1,691,181	41,434	86,551	55,223	13,789	-177,921
2024[a]	3,593,012	1,100,000	2,493,012	61,079	46,736	29,093	-31,986	-209,907
2025[b]	3,337,000	1,100,000	2,237,000	54,807	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

Note: TBD indicates data are to be determined.

[a] Data for 2024 is preliminary.

[b] Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans preseason forecast.

ADF&G will communicate with DFO on a weekly basis to monitor the sockeye salmon runs to the Skeena and Nass Rivers so inseason adjustments can be made to the sockeye salmon target. Starting on Sunday, July 27, when historically the majority of Canadian origin sockeye salmon have moved through the fishery, the district will be managed on the strength of returning Southern SEAK wild salmon.

Regardless of the strength of pink salmon runs after SW 30, it is the department's intent to manage the district in terms of boat days and overall effort similar to levels since the signing of the PST. Weekly fishing periods in August will be decided only after the department assesses the

distribution of the fleet and the run strength of pink salmon. In recent years, District 4 has been open a similar amount of time as inside waters after the treaty period.

Traditional Fishery Openings

As in past years, aerial surveys of early-run pink salmon producing areas, primarily Boca de Quadra, East Behm Canal, and Ernest Sound, will begin in late June or early July. Seining is expected to begin initially in District 1 and lower District 2 during SW 27 on July 3. District 4 and Section 7-A may open on Sunday, July 6 (SW 28).

Districts 1–4

The traditional purse seine fishery may begin during SW 27, in the southeast portion of Section 1-F and the southern portion of District 2. District 4 may also open on July 6 for an undetermined number of hours. Fishing time will likely begin with a series of 15-hour openings. If runs warrant additional fishing time, the fisheries will go from 15-hour to 39-hour openings on a 2-day on, 2-day off, or a more continuous fishing schedule. However, extensive openings will not occur if pink salmon abundance does not justify it. Areas may be opened and closed where additional fishing time is warranted or where a more conservative management strategy is needed.

In District 1, the area from Cone Island to Foggy Point will be managed to reflect recent harvest patterns, effort levels, runs to Boca de Quadra, East Behm Canal river systems, and the recently adopted 2025 Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon action plan. Other areas in District 1, such as the Gravina Island shoreline, will also be managed to consider other user groups, the McDonald Lake sockeye salmon action plan, and to evenly distribute escapements into the Back Behm, West Behm, Cholmondeley, Kasaan, and Section 7-B systems.

In District 2, purse seining will be limited to the southern portion (Polk Island south) of the district until escapements of pink salmon to northern Clarence Strait, Ernest Sound, Cholmondeley Sound, Kasaan Bay, and West Behm Canal can be adequately assessed. Additionally, purse seining should not be expected in middle Clarence Strait, along the Ship Island or Tolstoi Bay shorelines, until pink salmon run strength to West Behm Canal, Thorne Bay, District 6, and Section 7-B are determined. In District 2, the fishing pattern along the Ship Island shore and near Thorne Bay will be managed towards several goals: to reflect historical fishing patterns; to consider other user groups; to achieve escapement to Thorne River, West Behm Canal, and lower Ernest Sound systems; and to adhere to the McDonald Lake sockeye salmon action plan.

Southern portions of Section 3-A and western portions of Section 3-B will open initially on or after July 13 (SW 29). Additional areas will be open based on the strength of pink salmon runs to District 3 systems. By late July or early August, Section 3-C may also open.

Districts 5–7

Pink salmon runs to District 5 are expected to be good based on parent-year escapements. The 2 stock groups indexed for escapement in District 5, Affleck Canal and Shipley Bay, both exceeded the upper end of the management target range (Table 2). Purse seine openings will be dependent on observations of pink salmon abundance and are anticipated to begin at the end of July.

Pink salmon runs to District 6 are expected to be good based on parent-year escapements. District 6 parent-year stock group escapement for Ratz Harbor was within the management target range whereas the Burnett/Mosman/McHenry Inlets, Totem Bay and Whale Pass stock groups were all above (Table 2). Purse seine openings will be dependent on observations of pink salmon abundance. Openings could begin in late July in the Mosman, Burnett, and McHenry Inlets area.

Openings in the Clarence Strait portion of District 6 will be restricted for the conservation of McDonald Lake sockeye salmon and are anticipated to begin the first week of August.

District 7 purse seine openings will vary by section in 2025. Parent-year escapement to the Anan stock group (Section 7-A) and the Union Bay stock group (Section 7-B) were both above the upper end of their management target ranges (Table 2). The first opening in Section 7-A will likely occur on July 6 (SW 28) depending on observed levels of pink salmon abundance. Subsequent openings will be based on observations of pink salmon escapement primarily to Anan Creek and harvest levels. However, early openings in Section 7-B will be restricted for conservation of McDonald Lake sockeye salmon. If opened before SW 31, Section 7-B would be restricted to the upper portion of the section.

Fall Chum Salmon Fisheries

Some watersheds along the eastern shoreline of Prince of Wales Island in District 2 produce late chum salmon runs that have traditionally supported fall purse seine fisheries, including a directed fishery inside of Cholmondeley Sound. The Cholmondeley Sound fishery is supported by runs of fall chum salmon primarily at Disappearance and Lagoon Creeks, as well as several smaller creeks throughout the sound. Formal forecasts are not made for these stocks and parent-year escapements do not always provide an indication of potential run strength. The SEG range for the Cholmondeley Sound fall chum salmon is 30,000 to 48,000 fish based on aggregate peak aerial survey counts for Disappearance and Lagoon Creeks. Escapements were within or above the EGR in 4 of the past 5 years.

After the closure of the directed pink salmon purse seine fishery in District 2, Cholmondeley Sound and adjacent waters of Clarence Strait may open for a directed fall chum salmon fishery. Initial aerial surveys for fall chum salmon in Cholmondeley Sound will begin near the end of August or early September. In addition, chum salmon harvest in District 2 during late summer directed pink fisheries will be monitored as an early indication of run strength. An initial opening could be expected to occur during the first or second week of September (SWs 36 or 37) unless an earlier opening is warranted. Initial openings will be 12 hours in duration. The area that will be open to the purse seine fleet is open continuously for the troll fleet under summer troll regulations.

Additional openings will likely be 1 or 2 days each week, depending upon the strength of the run and expected effort levels. Waters inside Cholmondeley Sound may open, provided adequate numbers of chum salmon are observed in the South and West arms of Cholmondeley Sound. When Cholmondeley Sound is open, Sunny Cove and waters of Cholmondeley Sound proper will be closed south of Hump Island. These closures are in place to protect chum salmon escapements in Sunny Cove, the Lancaster, Dora Bay, and Kitkun systems, and closure lines will be moved based on abundance observed through aerial surveys.

If extensive troll effort is observed by the department, a fishery rotation may be set up for both troll and seine gear groups. During any troll fishery extensions in District 2, trolling inside Cholmondeley Sound will be limited to the same number of days as provided for the purse seine fishery.

NORTHERN SOUTHEAST PURSE SEINE FISHERIES

2023 PINK SALMON RUN

The Northern SEAK Inside pink salmon escapement index value of 7.40 million fish was above the EGR of 2.5 to 6.0 million index fish. Escapement indices were within or above management target ranges for 6 of the 7 districts, and for 20 of the 21 pink salmon stock groups within this subregion. The Northern SEAK Outside Subregion, which includes Sections 13-A and 13-B, escapement index value of 2.29 million pink salmon was within the EGR of 0.75 to 2.50 million index fish. Escapement indices were within or above management targets for 6 of the 7 pink salmon stock groups within this subregion.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Uncertainties about fleet size, distribution, and the department's reaction to those can only be addressed in season. ADF&G and the fishing industry will have to be flexible and able to react quickly to changes from historical fishing patterns. Above all, meeting escapement goals will continue to be the primary objective of the department, and every effort will be made to provide opportunity to harvest fish in excess of spawning escapement needs.

Summer Chum Salmon

In 2009, ADF&G adopted a lower bound SEG of 149,000 index spawners for summer chum salmon in the Northern Southeast Inside Subregion. This goal was based on aggregate peak aerial survey counts for 63 index streams in Northern SEAK Inside waters. Escapements of summer chum salmon were below this escapement goal threshold from 2008 to 2011. In 2012, the escapement goal was revised downward, based on an analysis that incorporated 2 decades of additional data, to 119,000 index spawners (Piston and Heinl 2011). This goal was revised again to 107,000 fish in 2018 (Piston and Heinl 2017). Escapements of summer chum salmon have met the current escapement goal in 2 of the past 5 years.

In contrast to the Northern SEAK Inside waters chum salmon, the Northern SEAK Outside (NSEO) waters chum salmon have performed poorly in recent years. The lower bound SEG of 25,000 index spawners for NSEO summer chum salmon has not been achieved since 2019. Due to the inability to achieve escapement objectives, this stock was designated as a stock of management concern at the 2024 BOF work session. The BOF was presented options in a draft action plan at the 2025 Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Finish meeting. The BOF directed management actions are included in the NSEO chum salmon action plan (Dupuis et al. *In prep*) and include restrictive time and area management actions in the Sections 13-A and 13-B purse seine fisheries from SWs 27 to 34.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Northern SEAK purse seine fishery management plan consists of separate segments for the outside areas (Sections 13-A and 13-B), the inside areas, the fall chum salmon fishery, and hatchery THA fisheries.

Inside Fishing Areas—Early Run

The 2025 purse seine season will begin on Sunday, June 15, with initial open periods of 15 hours to harvest hatchery summer chum and to index the strength of early pink salmon runs. During the

first open period, seining will be allowed in a portion of District 12 at the Point Augusta index area in Chatham Strait and within the Hidden Falls THA.

Directed purse seine fisheries on early-run pink salmon will be based on aerial survey and fishery performance assessments of run strength. Aerial surveys will begin in late June for the Northern Inside fishing districts. To provide an additional assessment of incoming run strength of early-run pink salmon, the department will open a 1.0 nmi area along the Point Augusta shoreline in District 12 in conjunction with other weekly openings. Test fishing will be conducted at Point Gardner and Kingsmill Point to assess the strength and timing of the pink salmon runs entering Frederick Sound. The Point Gardner test fishery will start on or around June 25 and the Kingsmill Point test fishery will start on or around July 2. Both test fisheries are scheduled to occur weekly through the month of July. Test fishing will also occur along the Hawk Inlet shoreline beginning on or around June 27 to assess the strength of pink salmon runs entering the northern inside waters of Districts 11 and 15. Incidental harvest of pink salmon at the Hidden Falls Hatchery terminal fishery during the first 3 weeks of the season will also be monitored as an indicator of pink salmon run strength.

Parent-year escapements of summer chum salmon in Tenakee Inlet were below average in 2020 and 2021. Although no formal forecasts are made for these stocks, some expectations can be based on parent-year escapements. Escapements in 2020 were 38% of the 2010–2019 average, and escapements of the main parent year in 2021 were 26% of the 2011–2020 average.

The 2023 parent-year pink salmon escapement index for Tenakee Inlet of 0.71 million fish was above the management target range of 0.21–0.49 million fish (Table 2), and more than double the recent odd-year average index count of 0.31 million fish. In 2025, purse seine opportunity in Tenakee Inlet will depend on the observed development of escapements to local streams. Portions of the Basket Bay shoreline may be opened to harvest pink salmon returns to Tenakee Inlet and Peril Strait if salmon escapements to local streams are adequate.

The 2023 parent-year pink salmon escapement index for Hoonah Sound and Peril Strait (Section 13-C) of 0.65 million fish was within the management target range of 0.32–0.76 million fish (Table 2). Openings may occur in portions of Peril Strait and Hoonah Sound if inseason assessment of pink salmon abundance indicates there are fish in excess of escapement needs. Summer chum salmon escapements to Saook Bay and Rodman Bay were near long-term average values from 2022 to 2023 but declined in 2024. Purse seine openings to target chum salmon will be based on an inseason assessment of abundance and will likely be very restrictive in time and area.

The 2023 parent-year pink salmon escapement index of 1.48 million fish was just above the management target range of 0.59–1.41 million fish for Frederick Sound and Lower Stephens Passage (District 10) with the Port Houghton stock group within the management target range and the Farragut Bay, Portage Bay, and Pybus/Gambier stock groups above the upper end of their target ranges (Table 2). The parent-year escapement index for Seymour Canal (Section 11-D) of 0.44 million pink salmon was above the management target range of 0.15–0.37 million fish. Early openings along the District 10 mainland shoreline will be dependent on results from the Point Gardner test fishery and observations of pink salmon abundance in late June to mid-July. Likewise, openings along the Admiralty Island shoreline, south of Point Marsden, will be based on test fishery results and observations of pink salmon abundance and would begin in mid- to late July. Openings in the Big Bend portion of Seymour Canal in District 10, or inside Seymour Canal in Section 11-D, will be based on observations of pink salmon abundance.

In District 12, based on a well-defined evaluation of run strength and timing, the Hawk Inlet shoreline fishery may be opened in July to provide access to harvestable surpluses of northbound pink salmon stocks that would otherwise not be harvested. This fishery is managed according to the *Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plans* (5 AAC 33.366) and is described in detail in a subsequent section of this plan.

Inside Fishing Areas—Middle and Late Runs

Middle-run pink salmon should begin entering the inside waters of the northern districts during July. Seining in District 12 along the west Admiralty Island shoreline typically expands in late July, depending on the observed run strength of pink salmon stocks in Districts 10 and 11, and continues if Chatham Strait and Fredrick Sound escapements continue to develop sufficiently. Southern boundaries for the fishery are typically extended into Statistical Area 112-17, from Point Hepburn to Fishery Point, and then to Parker Point in the last week of July or early August. At the 2015 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish BOF meeting, the *Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plan* was amended regarding openings along the west Admiralty shoreline: the portion of the Admiralty shoreline between Point Hepburn and Fishery Point may not open before July 17, and the portion of shoreline between Fishery Point and Parker Point may not open before July 21. Parent-year pink salmon escapements were above the management target range for the Freshwater Bay and Southwest Admiralty stocks, and within the range for the West Admiralty stock. Openings in this area will depend on developing runs of local stocks, as well as Hoonah Sound and Tenakee Inlet stocks. Openings may occur in this area in mid- to late July depending on observed run strength.

In Section 9-A, purse seine openings can occur along the Baranof Island shoreline north of Red Bluff Bay beginning in mid- to late July, and along southeast Baranof Island south of Patterson Point beginning mid- to late August. The 2023 parent-year pink salmon escapement to Red Bluff Bay of 0.18 million fish was within the management target range of 0.09–0.21 million fish. Any openings will be based on inseason assessment of run strength. Additionally, any openings provided in July will include only the shoreline north of Red Bluff Bay to provide for escapement needs as well as subsistence salmon harvest at Falls Lake. Openings to the south of Red Bluff Bay may begin in early August depending on pink salmon abundance. If pink salmon escapements into Red Bluff Bay are sufficient, openings inside the bay may occur to harvest surplus pink salmon. The 2023 Port Walter (Southeast Baranof Island) pink salmon stock group escapement of 0.09 million fish was within the management target range of 0.07–0.16 million fish. Pink salmon runs to southeast Baranof Island normally begin after the first week of August. Openings in 2025 are unlikely but will be based on inseason assessment of run strength.

Pink salmon runs to Section 9-B are expected to be good. The 2023 parent-year pink salmon escapement index of 1.27 million fish was within the management target range of 0.65–1.56 million fish for Section 9-B. The Tebenkof stock group is expected to be within the management target range and the Eliza Harbor and Saginaw Bay stock groups above the upper end of their target ranges. If inseason indications of abundance justify fishing periods in Section 9-B, they may begin in late July in upper 9-B with lower 9-B opening the first week of August.

Pink salmon escapements in District 14 were good in 2023, with the Northern Chichagof stock above the management target range and the Homeshore stock within the range. Openings to harvest local stocks at Idaho Inlet and Port Althorp in late July or early August may occur if pink salmon in excess of escapement needs are observed. The Whitestone shoreline area in District 14 may be open in late July or early August with opening times and areas dependent on observed strengths

of local pink salmon stocks. ADF&G will also monitor pink salmon escapements in streams adjacent to the Porpoise Islands, along Homeshore, and will consider purse seine openings in this area if there are harvestable pink salmon surplus to escapement needs.

Openings in District 12 along the Catherine Island shoreline and in portions of Kelp Bay may occur beginning mid-July to early August to harvest surplus pink or chum salmon returning to Kelp Bay streams, or to harvest surplus chum salmon returning to Hidden Falls if wild chum and pink salmon escapements are being met. The 2023 parent-year escapement index of pink salmon to Kelp Bay streams was 0.20 million fish, which was above the management target range of 0.06–0.14 million fish. Based on parent-year escapement estimates, pink salmon openings in Kelp Bay or on the Catherine Island shoreline are likely in 2025; however, decisions to open these areas will not only be based on an inseason assessment of pink salmon run strength to Kelp Bay, but the run strength of summer chum salmon that return to Kelp Bay. Surrounding pink salmon stock groups will be considered as well. The chum salmon runs to Clear River and Ralph's Creek both had improved escapements in 2022 and 2023 but were extremely poor in 2024. If strong runs of chum salmon are observed in Kelp Bay, the addition of Kelp Bay to openings of the Hidden Falls THA would be the most likely scenario to allow opportunity to harvest wild chum salmon. However, any opportunity here will be dependent on possible impacts to pink salmon escapements in Kelp Bay and the performance of the Hidden Falls Hatchery-produced chum salmon run.

Hawk Inlet Shoreline Fishery

The Admiralty Island shoreline between Funter Bay and Point Marsden in Chatham Strait is known as the Hawk Inlet shoreline. Purse seine openings may occur in this area to harvest pink salmon stocks migrating northward to Taku River, Lynn Canal, and Stephens Passage. During July, the department will manage the Hawk Inlet shoreline fishery in accordance with the *Northern Southeast seine fishery salmon management plans* that stipulates any portion of the area north of Point Marsden may be opened when a harvestable surplus of pink salmon is observed. Openings must consider the conservation of all salmon species. At its March 2022 meeting, the BOF removed the sunset clause, retaining the 15,000 wild sockeye salmon harvest limit period through July 22. When nearby areas (Point Marsden to Point Hepburn, Whitestone Shore, or the Point Augusta Test Fishery) are open concurrently, all wild sockeye salmon harvested by purse seine north of Point Marsden in District 12 during any fishing period through July 22 will be counted against the Hawk Inlet Fishery 15,000 wild sockeye salmon harvest limit. During openings, the department will utilize fishery overflights, on-the-grounds sampling, interviews, and fish tickets to estimate the sockeye salmon harvest north of Point Marsden. Otolith analysis will be utilized to determine the enhanced sockeye salmon component in the harvest.

Starting in mid-July, openings along the Hawk Inlet shoreline may extend northward to the latitudes of Hanus Reef Light or Point Couverden if north migrating pink salmon stocks are strong. If north migrating salmon runs are poor, and south migrating runs are strong, seining will be allowed only south of Point Marsden.

Openings along the Hawk Inlet shoreline north of Point Marsden are based on the observed run strength of north migrating stocks of pink salmon. The department assesses if run strengths are adequate and provide a harvestable surplus of pink salmon using the following methods:

1. inseason test fishing at designated locations along the Admiralty Island shoreline north of Point Marsden;

2. inseason aerial assessments of pink salmon abundance along the Admiralty Island shoreline north of Point Marsden;
3. parent-year escapements of pink salmon stocks for Lynn Canal, Stephens Passage, and Taku River;
4. 2025 pink salmon catches in the department's Taku River fish wheels; and
5. 2025 fishery performance of Districts 11 and 15 drift gillnet fisheries.

Outside Fishing Areas—Sections 13-A and 13-B

Management of Sections 13-A and 13-B, along the outer coasts of Baranof and Chichagof Islands, is distinct from the management of the Northern Inside areas. Salmon returning to these areas enter directly from the ocean and do not pass through major inside migration corridors. In Section 13-A, the 2023 parent-year pink salmon escapement index for the Portlock Harbor stock group was well above the management target range. The Salisbury Sound stock group and the Slocum Arm stock groups were both within their target escapement ranges. In 2023, the Lisianski Inlet stock group was well above its target escapement range. Openings to target pink salmon are likely in Portlock Harbor, Slocum Arm, Lisianski Inlet and Salisbury Sound. Any openings in these areas will depend on both observed pink and chum salmon abundance.

In Section 13-B, the 2023 parent-year pink salmon escapement indices were below the management target range for the West Crawfish Inlet stock group; the Sitka Sound and Whale Bay stock groups were within their management target range in 2023. Based on the performance of the parent-year runs, purse seine fisheries can be expected in Sitka Sound, but are not likely in West Crawfish and Whale Bay. However, openings in these areas will depend entirely on inseason observations of pink and chum salmon and could begin as early as mid-July.

Based on the recent stock of management concern designation and resulting action plan for NSEO summer chum salmon, openings in portions of Sections 13-A and 13-B will be restricted by time and area from SWs 27–34 (early August). The Sitka Sound portion of Section 13-B will be exempt from these targeted actions due to the high number of locally produced hatchery chum salmon and a lack of NSEO index streams. Additionally, there will be no directed openings intended to harvest wild summer run chum salmon in these areas in 2025. Extended or continuous fishing opportunities may be provided on specific pink salmon stock groups in Sections 13-A and 13-B if run size and fleet distribution allow for it. Consecutive 15-hour, 39-hour, or continuous openings will be considered as management options to provide opportunity and ensure that escapement goals are met; however, extended openings will be dependent on inseason observations of pink and chum salmon abundance.

Short purse seine openings to harvest sockeye salmon along the outer coast of Baranof Island may occur in early July to target fish returning to Necker Bay and in early August to target returns to Redfish Bay. Openings will be dependent on inseason observations of run strength, and a cautious approach will be used to ensure that escapement and subsistence fishery needs are met. Targeted sockeye salmon openings are possible at Redoubt Bay beginning around mid-July, provided that the inseason projection of escapement is greater than 40,000 fish.

Fall Chum Salmon Fisheries

Portions of Northern SEAK support runs of fall-run chum salmon that are harvested by purse seine gear. Openings targeting fall chum salmon will be based on observed run strength. Fishing in Security Bay and Port Camden typically occurs during the first several weeks in September.

Parent-year escapements to Security Bay in 2019 and 2020 were within the EGR of 5,000 to 15,000 chum salmon. For Port Camden fall chum salmon the department established an EGR of 2,000 to 7,000 fish. In 2019, chum salmon escapement was within the EGR but fell below the lower end in 2020. Fishing opportunities in Excursion Inlet are unlikely as parent-year escapements of fall chum salmon to the Excursion River were below the SEG range of 4,000 to 18,000 fish in 2020 and 2021. Additionally, the escapement index has been within the range in only 1 of the past 6 years and no directed fisheries will be opened on this stock unless there is an obvious surplus to escapement needs. Southwest Admiralty Island streams do not have established goals for fall chum salmon escapements. These systems will be monitored, and targeted purse seine fisheries may occur if harvestable surpluses are identified. In Section 13-B, targeted fall chum salmon openings may occur in Nakwasina Sound and Katlian Bay; however, opportunities are most often concurrent with pink salmon fisheries in Sitka Sound. Fall chum salmon fisheries will be managed based on observations of run strength in the bays beginning in mid-August and continuing through September.

HATCHERY TERMINAL HARVEST AREA FISHERIES

For the 2025 season, THA purse seine fisheries to harvest fish returning to Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) hatchery release sites will occur at Anita Bay and Carroll Inlet. Fisheries to harvest fish returning to Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) hatchery release sites will occur at Thomas Bay, Southeast Cove, Hidden Falls, Crawfish Inlet, and Deep Inlet. Fisheries may occur at other release sites depending on cost-recovery operations. These THA fisheries will be managed in accordance with regulatory management plans, stock of concern action plans, and in consultation with the hatchery operators. Details regarding the open fishing periods by gear type in each area will be announced via commercial fishery advisory announcements. Table 4 summarizes the expected runs to each release site in Southern Southeast and Table 5 summarizes the expected runs to each release site in Northern Southeast.

Fishers are requested to ensure fish caught in THAs are reported correctly on fish tickets. This attention will enable accurate otolith-mark sampling and documentation of fish taken from THAs.

SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST TERMINAL HARVEST AREAS

Carroll Inlet Terminal Harvest Area

For 2025, SSRAA has forecast a total run of 10,700 Carroll Inlet Chinook with an anticipated terminal run of 7,600 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 AM, 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.

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. Details of the 2025 season fishing schedule and area for the Neets Bay THA were announced in a separate ADF&G advisory announcement released on April 15. Common property fisheries, if warranted, will be announced by advisory announcement, and opened by EO in consultation with SSRAA.

Kendrick Bay Terminal Harvest Area

For 2025, SSRAA is expecting a total run of 1,430,000 summer chum salmon with an anticipated terminal run of 358,000 summer chum salmon to the Kendrick Bay THA. Due to budgetary shortfalls and the need for additional cost recovery, the Kendrick Bay THA will *not* open by regulation on June 15. The Kendrick Bay THA will remain closed to common property harvest until approximately 1.5 million pounds of chum salmon are harvested for cost recovery. Details of the 2025 fishing schedule for the Kendrick Bay THA were announced in a separate ADF&G advisory announcement released on April 16.

Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area

For 2025, SSRAA is forecasting total runs of 395,000 summer chum, 8,900 Chinook, and 13,600 coho salmon to the Anita Bay release site. It is anticipated that 158,000 summer chum, 7,900 Chinook, and 6,100 coho salmon will be available for common property harvest in the Anita Bay THA (Table 4). Details of the 2025 Anita Bay THA fishing schedule and area were announced in a separate ADF&G advisory announcement released on April 16.

The Anita Bay THA will be open continuously to harvest salmon with troll gear from 12:01 AM, Sunday, June 1, through 11:59 PM, Monday, November 10. The Anita Bay THA will be open to harvest salmon with drift gillnet and purse seine gear concurrently from 5:00 AM, Sunday, June 1, through 12:00 noon, Thursday, June 12. From 12:00 noon, Friday, June 13, through 12:00 noon, Sunday, August 31, it will be open for drift gillnet and purse seine gear on a rotational basis. From 12:01 AM, Monday, September 1, through 11:59 PM, Monday, November 10 the Anita Bay THA will return to concurrent fishing for both drift gillnet and purse seine gear. The Anita Bay THA will close for the season at 11:59 PM, Monday, November 10, 2025.

Table 4.–Expected 2025 hatchery-produced salmon runs to the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association 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	Carroll Inlet	3,200	7,900	0	0	11,100
Chinook	Whitman Lake	3,800	1,500	1,200	7,300	13,800
Chinook	Port Saint Nicholas	2,500	0	0	6,300	8,800
Chinook	Crystal Lake	1,400	0	1,500	0	2,900
Chinook	Anita Bay	1,000	7,900	0	0	8,900
	Total	11,900	17,300	2,700	13,600	45,500
Coho	Nakat Inlet	16,500	5,500	0	0	22,000
Coho	Herring Cove/Whitman	8,700	0	6,000	2,700	17,400
Coho	Neets Bay	58,800	0	1,000	38,200	98,000
Coho	Klawock	111,700	0	3,500	44,400	159,600
Coho	Anita Bay	7,500	6,100	0	0	13,600
Coho	Crystal Lake	1,300	0	150	1,150[b]	2,600
	Total	204,500	11,600	11,800	86,450	313,200
Summer chum	Nakat Inlet	310,000	206,000	0	0	516,000
Summer chum	Neets Bay	481,000	0	140,000	754,000	1,375,000
Summer chum	Kendrick Bay	1,073,000	159,000	0	207,000	1,432,000
Summer chum	Port Asumcion	218,000	0	0	218,000	436,000
Summer chum	Burnett	208,000	0	100,000	385,000	693,000
Summer chum	Anita Bay	237,000	158,000	0	0	395,000
	Total	2,527,000	523,000	240,000	1,564,000	4,847,000
Fall chum	Nakat Inlet	3,600	2,400	0	0	6,000
Fall chum	Burnett	11,900	0	11,900	0	23,800
	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.

NORTHERN SOUTHEAST TERMINAL HARVEST AREAS

Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area

NSRAA is forecasting a total run of 587,000 summer chum and 550 Chinook salmon to the Southeast Cove THA (Table 5). A portion of these runs could be harvested in common property fisheries in Chatham Strait. The Southeast Cove THA will be open to common property purse seine, drift gillnet, and troll from Sunday, June 15, through Thursday, July 3, 2025. The 2025 gear rotation will be purse seine on Sundays and Thursdays, drift gillnet on Fridays, and troll on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. Details of the 2025 Southeast Cove THA fishing schedule and area were announced in a separate ADF&G advisory announcement released on April 29.

In 2025, cost recovery will occur in the Southeast Cove THA beginning Monday, July 7.

Thomas Bay Terminal Harvest Area

NSRAA is forecasting a total run of 379,000 chum salmon to the Thomas Bay THA (Table 5). A portion of the run will be harvested in common property fisheries in Chatham Strait and Frederick Sound. No cost recovery is planned in 2025. The Thomas Bay THA will be open to common property purse seine and troll fisheries from Sunday, June 15, through Saturday, August 9, 2025. Purse seine openings will occur on Sundays and Thursdays, and troll openings will occur on days closed to purse seining. Details of the 2025 Thomas Bay THA fishing schedule and area were announced in a separate ADF&G advisory announcement released on April 16.

Amalga Harbor Terminal Harvest Area

In order to increase the common property share of their hatchery-produced chum salmon production, DIPAC has provided common property purse seine opportunities in the Amalga Harbor THA. Decisions about these openings will be based on run strength of hatchery-produced chum salmon, progress toward DIPAC cost-recovery goals, expected effort levels, and considerations for nontarget species. Openings may occur in Section 11-A and will be limited to a portion of the Amalga Harbor THA, Subdistrict 111-55. These openings may occur in July, will only be on Thursdays, and will be limited to 9 hours (9:00 AM–6:00 PM). If there are conservation concerns for nontarget species in nearby systems, the open area or time may be reduced. Details of the open area and times will be included in the normal purse seine advisory announcement at the appropriate time. In 2025, there are no common property openings anticipated.

Hidden Falls Terminal Harvest Area

The Hidden Falls Hatchery, operated by NSRAA, expects a run of 2,666,000 chum salmon (Table 5). NSRAA needs 240,000 chum salmon for broodstock and cost-recovery operations will begin July 7. NSRAA does not intend to use a tax assessment on any potential common property harvest of chum salmon to satisfy cost-recovery needs as provided under AS 16.10.455.

Common property purse seine openings at Hidden Falls in 2025 will occur on Sundays and Thursdays beginning Sunday, June 15. The Hidden Falls THA will close on Monday, July 7 to allow for cost-recovery harvest operations; depending on the progress of the cost-recovery fishery, portions of the Hidden Falls THA may reopen to common property harvest later in the season. A contraction of the offshore boundary of the Hidden Falls THA to within 1.0 nmi off the Baranof Island shoreline is likely for a portion of the 2025 season to conserve weak Chinook and pink salmon runs destined for systems farther inland.

The *Hidden Falls Hatchery Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.374) provides guidelines for allocation of hatchery-produced chum and Chinook salmon in the Hidden Falls THA. The management plan describes several approaches to achieve broodstock and cost recovery goals through June 30. Purse seine openings will be limited to a maximum of two fishing days per week in the terminal harvest area in order to harvest surplus chum salmon. If Sunday and midweek seine openings have not occurred and further action is needed to achieve broodstock and cost recovery goals, the troll fishery will be closed to the retention of chum salmon inside the THA as long as at least 7 days remain until July 1. Provided that some trollers are present, in order to allow increased troll access to Chinook salmon, Kasnyku Bay will be closed to purse seining in June west of a line from North Point to the westernmost tip of Round Island and north of the latitude of the westernmost tip of Round Island. Beginning July 1, areas within the THA may be closed to protect chum or Chinook salmon broodstock and trollers may only retain chum salmon in numbers not exceeding the total number of Chinook salmon on board.

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 5). This season, NSRAA anticipates cost-recovery operations in the Deep Inlet THA; thus, the entire THA will be closed to all common property fisheries to aid 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 harvest distribution of hatchery-produced salmon between the purse seine and drift gillnet fleets. During its March 2022 meeting, the BOF 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 between 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 the department and NSRAA to have full and accurate reporting of returns. All salmon retained for personal use and not sold must be reported on fish tickets. Fishers are advised that if they have fish on board from other 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.

Crawfish Inlet Terminal Harvest Area

The *District 13: Crawfish Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.380) states that the department, in consultation with NSRAA, shall, by EO, open and close the Crawfish Inlet THA to provide for the harvest of hatchery-produced Chinook and chum salmon by purse seine, drift gillnet, and troll gear. The runs of Chinook and chum salmon to Crawfish Inlet are managed with a troll priority. Purse seine openings at Crawfish Inlet are scheduled to occur on

Sundays and Thursdays from July 6 through July 26. The Crawfish Inlet THA will close to all common property fishing beginning on July 27 through the completion of cost-recovery operations.

NSRAA expects a run of 454,000 chum and 1,100 Chinook salmon to the Crawfish Inlet remote release site (Table 5). NSRAA plans on conducting a cost-recovery fishery this season in Crawfish Inlet. The number of chum salmon available for common property harvest will depend entirely on the progress of the cost-recovery fishery. No chum salmon are expected to be needed for broodstock in Crawfish Inlet.

Table 5.–Expected 2025 hatchery-produced salmon runs to Northern SEAK by hatchery organization and release location.

Species	Release location	Hatchery operator	Common property harvest [a]	Cost-recovery harvest	Anticipated broodstock	Total run
Chinook	Gunnuk Creek	NSRAA	425	0	425	850
Chinook	SE Cove	NSRAA	550	0	0	550
Chinook	Gast/Auke/Fish Creek/Lena	DIPAC	6,900	1,000	600	8,500
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

Note: En dash indicates 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.

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