Regional Information Report No. 1J26-08

2026 Southeast Alaska Salmon Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan

by

Troy Thynes

Nicole Zeiser

Scott Forbes

Katie Taylor

Bo Meredith

and

Aaron Dupuis

May 2026

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

REGIONAL INFORMATION REPORT NO. 1J26-08

2026 SOUTHEAST ALASKA SALMON DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

by

Troy Thynes and Katie Taylor
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Petersburg

Nicole Zeiser
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Haines

Scott Forbes
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Douglas

Bo Meredith
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Ketchikan

and

Aaron Dupuis
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Sitka

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries, Publications Section
802 3rd Street, Douglas, AK 99824

May 2026

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

Product names used in this publication are included for completeness and do not constitute product endorsement. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game does not endorse or recommend any specific company or their products.

Troy Thynes and Katie Taylor
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries,
16 Sing Lee Alley, Petersburg, AK 99833

Nicole Zeiser
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries,
Mile 1, Haines Highway, Haines, AK 99827-0330

Scott Forbes
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries,
802 3rd Street, Douglas, AK 99824

Bo Meredith
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries,
2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite 205 Ketchikan, AK 99901

and

Aaron Dupuis
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries,
304 Lake St. Rm. 103, Sitka, AK 99835-7563

This document should be cited as follows:
Thynes, T., N. Zeiser, S. Forbes, K. Taylor, B. Meredith, and A. Dupuis. 2026. 2026 Southeast Alaska salmon drift gillnet Fishery Management Plan. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report No. 1J26-08, Douglas.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

ABSTRACT

This management plan provides an overview of the expected salmon run sizes, regulations, management issues, and harvest strategies for the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fisheries in 2026. Drift gillnet fisheries are planned at Tree Point and Portland Canal (District 1), Prince of Wales Island and Stikine River (Districts 6 and 8), Taku River/Port Snettisham (District 11), Lynn Canal (District 15), and in select hatchery terminal harvest areas.

Keywords: Southeast Alaska, drift gillnet, management plan, Pacific salmon, *Oncorhynchus*, outlook, forecast, terminal harvest area, hatchery, 2026.

INTRODUCTION

This management plan provides an overview of the expected salmon run sizes, regulations, management issues, and harvest strategies for the Southeast Alaska (SEAK) drift gillnet fisheries in 2026. Average, unless defined otherwise, refers to the most recent 10-year average (2016–2025). Harvest, escapement, run forecasts or outlooks, unless otherwise indicated, are in numbers of fish. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G or department) statistical weeks (SW) for the 2026 drift gillnet fishing season can be referenced in Table 1.

An average of 473 SEAK drift gillnet limited entry permits were issued annually, of which an average of 87% were actively fished each year (Conrad and Thynes *In prep*). In 2025, 472 permits were issued, of which 319 (68%) were actively fished. This count tied with 2024 for lowest effort in the fishery since limited entry. Drift gillnet harvests have averaged 3.98 million salmon annually over the recent 10-year period and averaged 3.1 million salmon annually since 1962 (1962–2024). In the last 10 years, the species composition of the drift gillnet harvest has been 67% chum, 20% pink, 8% sockeye, 5% coho, and <1% Chinook salmon (Thynes et al. *In prep*). Of the total commercial salmon harvest in SEAK, the average drift gillnet fishery harvests have included 32% sockeye, 25% chum, 11% coho, 9% Chinook, and 4% pink salmon (Conrad and Thynes *In prep*).

The 5 traditional drift gillnet fishing areas in SEAK are shown in Figure 1: Tree Point and Portland Canal (District 1); Prince of Wales (District 6); Stikine (District 8); Taku/Snettisham (District 11); and Lynn Canal (District 15). In addition, drift gillnet fisheries occur in several terminal harvest areas (THA) adjacent to hatchery facilities and at remote release sites throughout the region (Figure 2). Each of these drift gillnet fisheries are discussed separately in this management plan. A summary of drift gillnet harvest for each salmon species by fishery area and type for the 2025 season is presented in Table 2. The most recent 10-year annual and average harvests are presented in Table 3 for Tree Point, Table 4 for Prince of Wales, Table 5 for Stikine River, Table 6 for Taku/Snettisham, and Table 7 for Lynn Canal.

The drift gillnet fishery primarily targets sockeye, pink, and chum salmon during the summer season and coho and chum salmon during the fall season. Directed commercial fisheries harvesting Stikine and Taku Rivers stocks of Chinook salmon were resurrected in 2005 after ceasing in the 1970s. District 8 was opened to directed fisheries on Stikine River Chinook salmon from 2005 through 2008, and limited fisheries occurred in 2012 and 2016. In District 11, directed fisheries on Taku River Chinook salmon occurred in 2005, 2006, and 2009, and two 12-hour openings occurred in 2012. The 2026 Chinook salmon terminal run size forecast for the Taku River is within the escapement goal range (EGR) and allows for directed and assessment Chinook salmon fisheries in the U.S. and Canada; however, because of spawning escapement estimates below the escapement goal range in 8 of the 10 most recent years, neither directed nor assessment Chinook salmon fisheries will occur. The 2026 Stikine River Chinook salmon preseason terminal run forecast is

within the EGR. However, because Chinook salmon escapement has not been achieved in 7 of the 10 most recent years, management during the early portion of the sockeye salmon fishery will remain conservative.

SEAK Chinook salmon stocks are currently experiencing low abundance. Over the past 5 years (2021–2025), the 11 monitored Chinook salmon index systems did not meet escapement goals 40% of the time. In 2025, 4 of the 11 monitored Chinook salmon index systems were below their escapement goal ranges. Of the 11 monitored stocks, ADF&G has a more detailed stock assessment that allows for annual run forecasts for 5 of those stocks to be produced. In 2026, ADF&G forecast all 5 stocks to be within their respective EGRs. Three of these systems —Stikine, Taku, and Chilkat Rivers— are within the Districts 8, 11, and 15 drift gillnet fishing areas. Commercial, sport, personal use, and subsistence fisheries will be restricted throughout SEAK to conserve Chinook salmon. More information on Chinook salmon management actions in specific fisheries can be found below.

STOCKS OF CONCERN

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

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

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

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

SALMON RUN EXPECTATIONS

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

The 2026 Stikine River Chinook salmon terminal run forecast is 16,700 large fish. Large Chinook salmon are considered ≥ 660 mm from the mid-eye to fork of tail length measurement, which typically includes ocean-age fish 1.3 years and older. This forecast does not allow for directed Chinook salmon fisheries, nor test fisheries, in the U.S. or Canada. Both countries will exercise conservation measures for Chinook salmon during the directed sockeye salmon fisheries. Details of the management strategies are outlined in the Prince of Wales and Stikine Fisheries section of this plan.

The 2026 terminal run forecast for Taku River large Chinook salmon is 33,200 fish. This forecast is within the EGR of 19,000 to 36,000 fish and allows for minimal directed fisheries in the U.S. and Canada. However, neither country will conduct directed Chinook salmon fisheries. Either country could liberalize restrictions during early directed sockeye salmon fishery openings if data from the inriver stock assessment project suggests the run is likely to at least achieve the EGR. Details of the management strategy are in the Taku/Snettisham Fishery section of this plan.

The 2026 preseason total run forecast for Chilkat River Chinook salmon is 2,650 large fish. The forecast is above the recent average escapement of 2,000 fish and within the EGR of 1,750 to 3,500 fish. Restrictive management measures will again be implemented during early directed sockeye salmon fishery openings to reduce harvest rates of Chilkat River Chinook salmon. Details of the management strategy are in the Lynn Canal Fishery section of this plan.

The 2026 SEAK forecast for hatchery-produced Chinook salmon is 62,000 fish. This forecast includes estimated contributions from combined Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) facilities of 19,000 fish, estimated contributions of 35,000 fish from combined Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) facilities, and an estimated 8,000 fish from Douglas Island Pink and Chum (DIPAC) (Tables 8 and 9). A portion of these runs will be harvested in traditional drift gillnet fisheries in Districts 1, 6, 8, 11, and 15, and THA drift gillnet fisheries in Carroll Inlet, Neets Bay, Anita Bay, and Deep Inlet.

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

For 2026, the preliminary forecast for the Nass River is for a total run of 507,000 sockeye salmon (Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans [DFO] forecast). The terminal run forecast for Stikine River sockeye salmon is 182,600 fish, above the average terminal run size of 111,000 fish. The Taku River wild sockeye salmon terminal run is expected to be 161,000 fish, below the average terminal run size of 177,000 fish. The Taku River enhanced sockeye salmon run is again expected to be minimal and near the average terminal run size of approximately 11,000 fish. Chilkat and Chilkoot Lakes sockeye salmon runs are expected to be average to above average. DIPAC forecasts a Snettisham Hatchery sockeye salmon run of 83,000 fish in 2026, below the average of 140,000 fish.

The 2026 SEAK forecast of hatchery-produced summer chum salmon runs is 9.9 million fish. This forecast includes 3 million fish to 5 DIPAC locations, 2.7 million fish to 6 NSRAA locations, and 3.9 million fish to 6 SSRAA locations (Tables 8 and 9). A portion of these runs will be harvested in traditional drift gillnet fisheries in Districts 1, 6, 8, 11, and 15, and in terminal harvest area drift gillnet fisheries in Boat Harbor, Deep Inlet, Anita Bay, and Nakat Inlet. Chum salmon harvests in regional drift gillnet fisheries have averaged 2.5 million fish over the last 10 years.

Excluding the Taku River coho salmon stock, forecasts are not typically made for wild coho salmon runs. The 2026 Taku River coho salmon terminal run forecast is 89,000 fish, just below the 91,000 fish average. General expectations for regional coho salmon runs are expected to be consistent with recent averages. Total hatchery-produced coho salmon run forecasts include 325,500 fish to SSRAA projects (Table 8); 131,000 fish to NSRAA projects (Table 9); 139,400 fish to Armstrong Keta Inc. (AKI), 8,000 fish to DIPAC projects, and 10,500 fish to the Sitka Sound Science Center, (Table 9). A portion of these runs will be harvested in traditional drift gillnet fisheries in Districts 1, 6, 8, 11, and 15, and in terminal harvest area drift gillnet fisheries in Anita Bay, Nakat Inlet, and Deep Inlet. Alaska hatchery coho salmon contributions to drift gillnet fisheries in 2025 were estimated at 45,300 fish, 43% of total drift gillnet coho salmon common harvests. The largest harvest was fish returning to Neets Bay with substantial harvest coming from Nakat Inlet, Anita Bay, and Macaulay hatchery releases (Wilson 2026).

The SEAK pink salmon harvest forecast for 2026 is 19 million fish, with an 80% prediction interval of 13 to 30 million fish. The majority of the pink salmon harvest for the region is typically taken by purse seine gear.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

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

Primary management objectives for the 2026 drift gillnet fishery are as follows:

1. Achieve salmon spawning escapements with the best possible distribution to all systems.
2. Provide orderly fisheries while harvesting those salmon in excess of escapement objectives.
3. Promote the harvest and processing of good quality salmon within the constraints dictated by run size.

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

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

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

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

WEEKLY FISHING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

WEEKLY FISHING PERIODS

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

FULL RETENTION

ADF&G will require full retention (5 AAC 39.265) of all salmon harvested in the Deep Inlet THA net fisheries from the onset of the 2026 season. This regulation may be implemented by EO in other areas of SEAK if necessary, after consultation with the Alaska Wildlife Troopers. Further details regarding the implementation of this regulation will be announced later.

USE OF DRONES PROHIBITED

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

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.[2] Geographic information system data used to make the map is also available for download.[3]

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*.

U.S./CANADA PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

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

CHINOOK SALMON

For 2026, the all-gear PST Chinook salmon allocation is 207,400 treaty Chinook salmon (hatchery-produced Chinook salmon originating outside Alaska that fall under the terms of the PST). This year's all-gear target will include a 1% reduction that will serve as a buffer to avoid exceeding the all-gear limit and payback provisions within the PST. The 2026 drift gillnet treaty Chinook salmon allocation is 5,900 fish. The need for management measures to ensure drift gillnet harvest complies with the drift gillnet allocation will depend on inseason evaluation of Chinook salmon harvest rates. Nighttime fishing closures will be implemented in certain areas to reduce the incidental catch of immature, *feeder* Chinook salmon. Only historical base level catches in Districts 8 and 11 will be counted toward the PST fish ceiling when directed fisheries occur.

Terminal Chinook salmon fisheries in Districts 8 and 11 are bound by provisions of the Transboundary River (TBR) Annex of the PST. Restrictive management actions have been necessary to meet obligations of the PST in recent years, and similar actions are expected in 2026. In addition, District 15 is managed under the provisions of the *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.384), and Districts 6, 8, and 11 will be managed under stock of concern action plans approved by the BOF.

---

[2] 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).

[3] 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).

TREE POINT AND PORTLAND CANAL FISHERY

INTRODUCTION

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

2026 OUTLOOK

Chum Salmon

Summer chum salmon runs were above average in southern SEAK during the 2025 season and the harvest in the District 1 drift gillnet fishery was above the 2015–2024 average. The season was characterized by above average hatchery and wild chum salmon runs. The overall index count of 97,000 chum salmon greatly exceeded the lower bound SEG of 62,000 index fish. The estimated escapement of 15,800 summer chum salmon at Fish Creek near Hyder was near the median escapement for the last 10 years and the long-term average (1971–2024).

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

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

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

Nass River Sockeye Salmon Annual Allowable Harvest

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

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

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

The management intent for the fishery shall be to return any overages to a neutral or negative balance as soon as possible. After 5 years of consecutive overages, a management plan must be provided to the Northern Panel of the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) with specific management actions that will eliminate the overage. The accrual of underages is not intended to allow either Alaska or Canada to modify its fishing behavior in any given year, nor to harvest the accrued underage.

During the PSC meeting in January 2026, the bilateral Northern Panel and the Northern Boundary Technical Committee met and presented the preliminary run reconstruction for 2025 to the bilateral Northern Panel and finalized the 2024 run reconstruction. Preliminary reports indicate that the total sockeye salmon run to the Nass River in 2025 was 508,687 fish. That provided an AAH for the District 1 drift gillnet fishery of 42,599 Nass River sockeye salmon in 2025. The 2025 District 1 drift gillnet fishery total sockeye salmon harvest was 12,047 fish; of these fish, 7,487 were Nass River sockeye salmon.

Canada's DFO is forecasting a 2026 total run of 507,000 Nass River sockeye salmon. Based on the 2026 forecast, the preseason AAH for the District 1 drift gillnet fishery will be 42,400 Nass River sockeye salmon. The 1999–2025 performance of the District 1 drift gillnet fishery and the 2026 Nass River sockeye forecast is shown in Table 10.

Chum and Coho Salmon Enhancement

Hatchery runs of summer chum, fall chum, and coho salmon to SSRAA enhancement release sites are expected to contribute substantially to the District 1 drift gillnet fishery in 2026. Information concerning SSRAA run forecasts is included under the THA fisheries section of this plan.

Pink Salmon

The SEAK pink salmon forecast for 2026 is for an average run of 19 million pink salmon with a range of 13 million to 80 million fish. The 2026 harvest forecast of 19 million pink salmon is greater than the recent 10 even-year average of 18 million pink salmon. The District 1 drift gillnet fishery may receive 2-, 4-, and 5-day fishing periods during weeks of the PSMP depending on the strength of the run.

The PSMP establishes drift gillnet fishing time in Section 1-B in relation to District 1 purse seine fishing time when both gear types are concurrently harvesting the same pink salmon stocks. By

regulation, the plan starts on the third Sunday in July (July 19, 2026) with the following fishing time:

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

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management goals specific to the 2026 District 1 drift gillnet fishery are:

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

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The District 1 drift gillnet fishery will open by regulation at 12:01 PM, Sunday, June 21, in Section 1-B for an initial 4-day fishing period. The length of subsequent fishing periods will be based on effort levels and the strength of wild stock sockeye and chum salmon runs to Alaska and Canada waters until July 19 when, by regulation, the PSMP goes into effect.

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

Pink salmon management will begin by regulation (5 AAC 33.360) July 19 and continue into August or early September depending on pink salmon run strength and timing. The District 1 drift gillnet fishery can anticipate fishing periods of 2, 4, and 5 days in accordance with the PSMP.

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

60% of the fall coho salmon and as much as 90% of the fall chum salmon harvests have been hatchery fish.

Hugh Smith Lake Sockeye Salmon

Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon was first designated a stock of management concern by the BOF in January 2003. It was subsequently delisted by the BOF in January 2006. Due to decline in escapements since 2018, ADF&G recommended Hugh Smith Lake sockeye to be redesignated a stock of concern. At the October 2024 BOF work session, the BOF adopted Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon again as a stock of management concern. A draft action plan with several management options each for commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries was presented to the BOF in January of 2025. The board adopted specific options for each user group and ADF&G will adopt these management actions for the 2026 season (Meredith et al. 2025).

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

1) If projections of the cumulative Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon weir count in SWs 29 and 30 fall below the lower bound of the EGR, ADF&G shall close a portion of the District 101 purse seine fishery east of a line from Quadra Point at 55°05.17′ N lat, 130°59.05′ W long to Slate Islands Light at 55°05.29′ N lat, 131°03.17′ W long to Black Rock Light at 55°01.42′ N lat, 131°03.59′ W long to a point on the mainland shore at 55°01.40′ N lat, 131°00.02′ W long.
2) If projections of the cumulative Hugh Smith Lake sockeye salmon weir count in SWs 31-33 fall below the lower bound of the EGR, ADF&G shall:
    a. close that portion of the District 101 purse seine fishery east of a line from Foggy Point Light at 54°55.44′ N lat, 130°58.66′ W long to Black Rock Light at 55°01.42′ N lat, 131°03.59′ W long to the southernmost tip of Black Island at 55°07.90′ N lat, 131°04.85′ W long, and close the northern portion of the Section 1-B drift gillnet fishery north of the latitude of 54°54.50′ N lat (1.0 nautical mile [nmi] south of the latitude of Foggy Point Light).

PRINCE OF WALES AND STIKINE FISHERIES

INTRODUCTION

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

2026 OUTLOOK

Chinook Salmon

The 2026 Stikine River Chinook salmon forecast is for a terminal run of 16,700 large Chinook salmon. This forecast is above the lower end of the EGR of 14,000 to 28,000 fish, but below the management objective that allows for directed fisheries in the U.S. and Canada. The expected Anita Bay THA run of hatchery-produced Chinook salmon is 6,800 fish, with 6,100 fish expected to be harvested within the THA (Table 8).

Sockeye Salmon

The 2026 preseason forecast for Stikine River sockeye salmon of 182,600 fish is well above average (111,400 fish) and includes 122,900 Tahltan Lake (67%) and 59,700 mainstem (33%) fish. As part of a periodic review process, the Transboundary Technical Committee is tasked with reviewing, analyzing, and revising escapement goals for both Stikine River sockeye salmon stocks. As a result of this process, new escapement goals were adopted for those stocks in the spring of 2023. The Tahltan Lake EGR is now 11,000 to 25,000 (old goal 18,000 to 30,000) sockeye salmon. The newly adopted mainstem EGR is 13,000 to 33,000 (old goal 20,000 to 40,000) sockeye salmon. Based on the 2026 preseason forecast, there is an allowable catch for both the U.S. and Canada to prosecute fisheries directed at harvesting Stikine River sockeye salmon. Fishing periods in District 8, and to a lesser extent in District 6, will be determined initially by the preseason forecast, then by inseason abundance estimates of Stikine River sockeye salmon. Sockeye salmon run timing through District 8 typically peaks for the Tahltan Lake stock in SW 27 and for the mainstem stock in SWs 29 and 30. Sockeye salmon runs to other local area streams are expected to be average based on parent-year escapements. The sockeye salmon run to McDonald Lake is expected to be weak based on parent-year escapements. However, the run has achieved escapement goals for the past 3 seasons despite similar poor parent-year escapements.

Pink Salmon

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

Chum Salmon

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

Coho Salmon

Beginning in SW 36, weekly fishing periods will be determined based on wild coho salmon abundance. The best available measure of wild coho salmon abundance is fishery performance. Wild coho salmon harvest rates have been near or below average for the past few years and are expected to be similar in 2026. Hatchery-produced coho salmon harvests have been alternating between above and below average in recent years, and 2026 runs are expected to be near average.

The expected Anita Bay THA run of hatchery-produced coho salmon is 14,700 fish, with 6,600 fish expected to be harvested within the THA.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management goals for the Districts 6 and 8 drift gillnet fisheries for the 2026 season are as follows:

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

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Chinook Salmon

In 2026, there will be no directed Chinook salmon commercial fisheries in Districts 6 and 8. In 2022, the BOF designated the Stikine River and Andrew Creek Chinook salmon stocks as stocks of management concern. The *Stikine River and Andrew Creek Chinook Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2022* (Salomone et al. 2022) was adopted with specific management actions for commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries.

Management actions that may be taken for the Districts 6 and 8 drift gillnet fisheries include: delay the start of the District 8 drift gillnet fishery for at least 1 week; implement area restrictions in District 8 near the mouth of the Stikine River through SW 28; and enact a 6-inch maximum mesh restriction through SW 28 in District 6 and through SW 29 in District 8. If early inseason indicators suggest Chinook salmon abundance below expectations, then opening in District 8 may be delayed by 2 weeks and District 6 may be delayed by 1 week. If Canada opens a directed sockeye fishery, the following Chinook salmon conservation measures may be in place: fishery opening may be delayed by 1 week, maximum mesh restrictions may be applied, restrictions on the use of set gillnets may be implemented, and the release of Chinook salmon may be required. In addition, Canada will not prosecute an assessment fishery for stock status determination. Inseason assessment will be based solely on the Kakwan Point tagging project.

Sockeye Salmon

Sockeye salmon fishing in both Districts 6 and 8 will be managed in accordance with regulation, SOC action plans, and the TBR Annex of the PST. District 6 is managed primarily for local Alaska sockeye salmon stocks, and District 8 is managed primarily on Stikine River sockeye salmon abundance as allowed by the sharing provisions of the 2019 TBR Annex. For 2026, harvest shares will be 57.5% U.S. and 42.5% Canada. Based on the forecast in 2026, this results in a U.S. AC of 80,000 Stikine River sockeye salmon and is comprised of approximately 57,700 Tahltan Lake and 22,300 mainstem fish.

In 2026, the sockeye salmon season could open by regulation as early as 12:00 noon on Sunday, June 14 (SW 25). However, with an expected poor run of Stikine River Chinook salmon, as well as expected poor Chinook salmon runs throughout SEAK, the conservation measures listed above

will be in place for the start of the sockeye salmon fishery. During the first few weeks, any adjustments to fishing time will be based on preseason forecasts, number of participants, harvest levels, expected harvest levels, and stock proportion data. If inseason estimates of mainstem sockeye salmon appear to be weak, then more conservative management actions will be implemented in District 8 during SWs 28–31. Openings in District 8 will be based on an evaluation of Stikine River sockeye salmon abundance and available AC. Beginning in SW 29, District 6 may be limited to 2 days a week through SW 31 for McDonald Lake sockeye salmon conservation.

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

Stikine River sockeye salmon generally begin to decrease in abundance in mid-July as other stocks, including McDonald Lake sockeye salmon, begin to migrate through the fishery. Escapement of McDonald Lake sockeye salmon has fallen below the lower bound of the EGR in 7 of the past 10 years. In 2018, the BOF designated the McDonald Lake sockeye salmon as a stock of concern and adopted the *McDonald Lake Sockeye Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan* (Walker et al. 2018). Given this history and expected poor run, ADF&G recommended McDonald Lake sockeye salmon continue as a stock of concern as defined by the SSFP. Those actions may remain in effect for 2026, and as mentioned previously, the District 6 drift gillnet fishery may be limited to 2 days per week in SWs 29–31. However, McDonald Lake sockeye escapement needs have been met for the past 3 years, and effort in District 6 has been well below average for the past few seasons. Consequently, exploitation rates on McDonald Lake sockeye salmon in District 6 have been low during this period. If similar conditions occur in 2026, the 2-day restriction during SWs 29–31 may be liberalized.

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

Pink Salmon

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

In addition, the *Section 6-D Pink Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.359) will be in effect for 2026. This regulation allows drift gillnet fishing in Section 6-D during regular drift gillnet openings during the period after the first Saturday in August and before the first Sunday in

September if this area has been or will be open to purse seining. During these occasions, Section 6-D will open to gillnetting after purse seine closes and will close at 11:59 PM the day before the next scheduled purse seine opening, or when the regular gillnet opening closes, whichever comes first. Drift gillnetters wanting to fish in Section 6-D during the month of August will need to closely monitor purse seine and subsequent drift gillnet advisory announcements during this period. There will likely be short notice for fishing opportunities.

Coho Salmon

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

TAKU/SNETTISHAM FISHERY

INTRODUCTION

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

2026 OUTLOOK

Chinook Salmon

The 2026 terminal run forecast of 33,200 Taku River large Chinook salmon provides AC for both the U.S. and Canada in directed fisheries; however, directed Chinook salmon fisheries will not occur on either side of the border although early sockeye salmon openings in District 11 and inriver fisheries in Canada may have fewer restrictions implemented for Chinook salmon conservation based on catch rates of large Chinook salmon in the inriver stock assessment project scheduled to start in late April which will be used to gauge run strength. DIPAC forecasts runs totaling 8,000 hatchery-produced Chinook salmon to their release sites at Gastineau Channel, Auke Bay, Fish Creek, and Lena Cove.

Sockeye Salmon

The 2026 terminal run of Taku River wild sockeye salmon is forecast to be 161,000 fish, below the average of 177,000 fish. The Taku River sockeye salmon EGR is 40,000 to 75,000 fish with a management objective of 58,000 wild fish (which total allowable catch and resulting harvest allocations are based). The preseason forecast will be used in conjunction with the management objective to calculate ACs until inseason estimates become available. Adult returns to date from the joint U.S./Canada Taku River sockeye salmon enhancement projects at Tatsamenie and Trapper Lakes have been minimal. The Tatsamenie and Trapper Lakes enhanced sockeye salmon run is forecast to be 12,000 fish in 2026, which would result in a 77% U.S.–23% Canada allocation split; this split allows for a U.S. AC of approximately 79,000 fish.

The Speel Lake sockeye salmon EGR is 4,000 to 9,000 fish. No forecast is produced, and primary parent-year escapements in 2021 and 2022 were above average. Crescent Lake salmon escapements will continue to be monitored by aerial surveys in 2026 and there is no formal stock assessment program.

The 2026 DIPAC Port Snettisham (Snettisham Hatchery and Sweetheart Lake) sockeye salmon run forecast is 83,000 fish, above the 2025 run size of approximately 45,000 fish but below the recent average run size of approximately 140,000 fish.

Chum Salmon

In 2026, DIPAC is forecasting hatchery-produced summer chum salmon runs of 1.1 million fish to Gastineau Channel and Limestone Inlet. The expected contribution to common property fisheries is 659,000 fish. Taku River fall chum salmon runs are expected to be minimal.

Pink Salmon

District 11 pink salmon runs are expected to be below average in 2026. Parent-year pink salmon index escapement of the Stephens Passage stock group was below the management target range in 2024. Pink salmon catch in the Taku River Canyon Island fish wheels in 2024 is not comparable to the long-term baseline as fishing time was reduced to 8 hours a day starting in 2023 compared to 16–24 hours a day previously. However, the run appeared weak based on low catches in the fish wheels and lack of pink salmon observed on aerial surveys flown to estimate Chinook salmon in Canada.

Coho Salmon

The 2026 terminal run forecast of Taku River transboundary coho salmon is 89,000 fish, just below the average of 91,000 fish. The forecast is based on a smolt estimate with a 5-year average marine survival applied. Taku River coho salmon harvest sharing provisions, which are part of the current 2019–2028 TBR Annex of the PST, do not allow for any harvest by the U.S. unless the terminal run size exceeds 75,000 fish. The preseason terminal run forecast of Taku River coho salmon provides the U.S. with an AC of approximately 10,000 fish. DIPAC projects a run of 8,000 hatchery-produced coho salmon in 2026 from their smolt releases into Gastineau Channel.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management goals for the 2026 Taku/Snettisham drift gillnet fishery are as follows:

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

MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

To avoid conflicts with sport fisheries, the District 11 drift gillnet fishery will not be open concurrent with the 2026 Juneau Golden North Salmon Derby (August 7–9). The opening that week will start on Monday, August 10.

Chinook Salmon

Although the 2026 Taku River large Chinook salmon terminal run forecast is within the EGR and above the management objective, a somewhat conservative approach to early-season sockeye salmon commercial drift gillnet openings in District 11 will remain in place. This caution is based on recent poor performance of northern SEAK Chinook salmon runs. Restrictive management measures will also continue in early openings of Canadian fisheries targeting sockeye salmon inriver. Inseason abundance indicators from cumulative CPUE of the Wright River drift gillnet stock assessment project will be available in mid-May and could allow some liberalization of early-season restrictions if the run magnitude follows the forecast. Management actions taken to reduce harvest of Taku River Chinook salmon in the District 11 drift gillnet fishery in recent years have been incorporated into an action plan approved by the BOF at the January 2025 meeting (Hagerman et al. 2025).

Sockeye Salmon

The District 11 drift gillnet fishery will begin the third Sunday in June (SW 26) for directed sockeye salmon fishing in Section 11-B. The initial opening will likely be for a 2-day fishing period with other area, time, and gear restrictions dependent on Taku River Chinook salmon run abundance as gauged by the inriver stock assessment project. Time and area for the following openings will be based on inseason fishery performance and stock assessment information.

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

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

1. Ensure sustainable production of wild sockeye salmon from Crescent and Speel Lakes.
2. Manage Port Snettisham enhanced sockeye salmon run in a manner that does not prevent achieving escapement goals or PST harvest sharing agreements for Taku River salmon stocks.

3. Assessment programs shall be conducted to estimate Port Snettisham wild sockeye salmon stock escapements and contributions of enhanced sockeye salmon to the District 11 commercial fishery.
4. Common property harvests in the Speel Arm THA shall be conducted by limiting time and area to protect wild sockeye salmon runs.

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

Pink Salmon

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

Coho Salmon

Beginning in mid-August, management of the Taku/Snettisham drift gillnet fishery will be based primarily on the run strength of Taku River coho salmon. In 2015, a Taku River coho salmon EGR of 50,000 to 90,000 fish, with a management objective of 70,000 fish, was adopted by the TBR Panel. Inseason management will be based on several factors: evaluation of the fishery harvest, effort, and CPUE relative to historical levels; inriver run size estimates from the Taku River mark–recapture project; and recovery of wild and hatchery coho salmon via CWT analyses in marine fisheries.

LYNN CANAL FISHERY

INTRODUCTION

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

2026 OUTLOOK

Chinook Salmon

The 2026 Chilkat River Chinook salmon preseason total run forecast is 2,650 large fish (≥age-5). This forecast is slightly lower than the 2025 forecast and within the EGR of 1,750 to 3,500 fish. The forecast is based on sibling relationship models, using brood-year age at return and run data along with performance-based hindcasts. There is no directed commercial drift gillnet Chinook salmon fishery in District 15.

Sockeye Salmon

The majority of sockeye salmon harvested in District 15 originate from wild runs to Chilkat and Chilkoot Lakes. Parent-year escapements contributing to the 2026 Chilkat Lake run were 51,000 fish in 2020 and 65,000 fish in 2021, both below the BEG range of 70,000–150,000 fish (Table 11). Over the past 10 brood years, 5-year-old (age-1.3 and age-2.2) fish have composed an average of 68% of the Chilkat Lake run and are expected to comprise a substantial portion of the 2026 return. Six-year-old (age-2.3) fish have composed an average of 23% of the run. In 2025, age-1.3 fish from the 2020 brood year returned slightly below average, whereas age-2.2 fish returned above average, suggesting age-2.3 returns in 2026 may be near average. Zooplankton abundance during freshwater rearing for the 2019 and 2020 brood years (observed in 2020 and 2021) was above average, indicating favorable rearing conditions. Taken together, below-BEG parent-year escapements, mixed brood-year returns, and above average zooplankton abundance suggest the 2026 Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon run will be near average.

Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon are primarily 5-year-old (age-1.3) fish and have comprised an average of 77% of returns over the past 10 brood years; this age class is expected to comprise a substantial portion of the 2026 run. The estimated escapement to Chilkoot Lake in 2021 was approximately 99,000 sockeye salmon, which exceeded the SEG range of 38,000–86,000 fish (Table 11). Zooplankton biomass during the first summer of lake rearing in 2022 for the 2021 brood year was above average. Taken together, above-SEG parent-year escapement and above average zooplankton abundance suggest the 2026 Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon run is expected to be average to above average.

Chum Salmon

Hatchery-origin summer chum salmon returning to the Boat Harbor THA contribute significantly to the annual District 15 drift gillnet harvest. DIPAC is projecting a total summer chum salmon run of 1.4 to 2.8 million fish to its release sites at Boat and Amalga Harbors. Of this, approximately 1.1 million chum salmon are expected to be available for common property harvest in Lynn Canal (Table 9). This forecast is slightly above the recent 10-year average.

Historically, Chilkat River fall chum salmon escapements were estimated by expanding fish wheel catch data collected in the lower Chilkat River drainage. Fish wheels provided inriver abundance estimates for all salmon species, informing management decisions for the District 15 commercial drift gillnet fishery. The department discontinued this program in April 2024 due to its limited data value relative to its high operational and maintenance costs as well as the poor relationship between fish wheel counts and mark–recapture estimates. The escapement goal was subsequently eliminated at the 2025 BOF meeting.

In the 2022 parent year, approximately 6,000 chum salmon were captured in Chilkat River fish wheels, which expanded to an estimated escapement of 377,000 fish. This estimate exceeded the upper bound of the SEG range of 75,000–250,000 fish, suggesting that the 2026 fall chum salmon run to the Chilkat River will likely be above average.

Coho Salmon

The Chilkat River, followed by the Berners River, is the largest contributor of coho salmon to the District 15 drift gillnet harvest. Parent-year escapements contributing to the 2026 Chilkat River coho salmon run were 71,000 fish in 2023 and 59,000 fish in 2024, which were above and within the BEG range of 30,000 to 70,000 fish. Based on these escapements, the 2026 Chilkat River coho salmon run is expected to be above average.

Similarly, parent-year escapements contributing to the 2026 Berners River coho salmon run were 8,000 fish in 2023 and 10,000 fish in 2024, which were within and above the BEG range of 3,600 to 8,100 fish. Given these escapement levels, the 2026 Berners River coho salmon run is also expected to be above average.

Pink Salmon

The 2026 Southeast Alaska pink salmon harvest is expected to be near average, with a forecast of 19 million fish. Although there are no formal escapement goals for pink salmon in the Haines management area, populations are monitored through aerial surveys conducted throughout Lynn Canal, as well as by weir counts on the Chilkoot River.

Pink salmon streams in District 15 are part of the Northern Southeast Inside Subregion, which encompasses 295 index streams throughout the inside waters north of Sumner Strait. The BEG for the Northern Southeast Inside pink salmon stock is 2.6 to 6.0 million index spawners. Parent-year escapements to District 15 in 2024 fell below the management target. As a result, pink salmon returns to upper Lynn Canal in 2026 are expected to average to below average in 2026.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

The overall management goal is to operate the Lynn Canal commercial drift gillnet fishery under the sustained yield principle by ensuring escapement needs are met while providing opportunities to harvest surplus fish in excess of escapement needs. Specific management goals include:

1. Manage the fishery consistent with the *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.384) and implement conservative management measures outlined in the *Northern Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2022* (Grant et. al. 2022) when deemed necessary.
2. Achieve sockeye salmon escapement goals to Chilkat and Chilkoot Lakes.
3. Achieve coho salmon escapement goals to Chilkat and Berners Rivers.
4. Provide for the harvest of DIPAC hatchery-produced chum salmon in the Boat Harbor THA in accordance with the *District 15 Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan*, while conserving wild stocks until run strengths can be determined.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The District 15 drift gillnet fishery will be managed conservatively, following strategies used in recent years that successfully reduced harvest rates on Chilkat River Chinook salmon to ensure adequate escapement. Management will follow the *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.384) and the *Policy for the management of mixed stock salmon fisheries* (5 AAC 39.220). Conservative measures will be implemented early in the season to help ensure Chilkat River Chinook salmon reach the spawning grounds.

The department continues to work on implementing commercial drift gillnet test fishery to evaluate the relative abundance of sockeye salmon returning to the Chilkat River drainage. Implementation is dependent on availability of test fish receipt authority. If implemented, the test fishery would test the feasibility of having a test fishery as an earlier indicator Chilkat sockeye salmon run strength.

The District 15 drift gillnet fishery will open by regulation at 12:01 PM, Sunday, June 21, 2026, for an initial 2-day period. To avoid conflicts with sport fishers participating in the 2026 Juneau Golden North Salmon Derby occurring August 7–9, 2026, Section 15-C will start on Monday, August 10.

Chinook Salmon

There is no directed commercial drift gillnet fishery for Chinook salmon in District 15; however, both wild and hatchery-produced Chinook salmon are harvested incidentally. Chilkat River Chinook salmon were designated a stock of management concern in 2018 following several years of low returns and failure to meet the EGR. Management strategies to reduce harvest of this stock in the District 15 drift gillnet fishery were incorporated into an action plan approved by the BOF in 2018. These conservative management measures have been implemented for the past 8 years, during which the escapement goal has been achieved in 6 of the last 7 years. As a result, the BOF removed the stock's designation as a stock of management concern at its February 2025 meeting.

Although the 2026 preseason forecast for Chilkat River Chinook salmon is within the EGR, overall production remains low due to poor marine survival. Conservative management actions will be taken to ensure escapement goals are met particularly during the early weeks of the sockeye salmon fishery. GSI analysis will be used to estimate the stock composition of Chinook salmon harvested in District 15, with results expected by late December 2026.

Sockeye Salmon

The District 15 drift gillnet fishery is scheduled to open for a directed sockeye salmon harvest on June 21 (SW 26), with reduced fishing time and area, a 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction, and night closures districtwide from 10:00 PM to 4:00 AM in support of ongoing Chilkat River Chinook salmon conservation efforts.

In Section 15-A, fishing will likely be limited to 2 days per week through July 4 in waters south of Eldred Rock Lighthouse and east of a line 2.0 nmi offshore from the eastern shoreline. The 6-inch mesh size restriction and night closures are expected to remain in place through July 18. Additionally, Lutak Inlet and the northern portions of Chilkoot Inlet may open for 2–3 days early in the season if catch rates, stock composition, and weir data indicate a strong sockeye salmon run to the Chilkoot River.

In Section 15-C, fishing periods are expected to be limited to 2 days per week during the first 2 weeks of the season and confined to the Postage Stamp area (waters south of the latitude of Vanderbilt Reef Light and east of a line from Vanderbilt Reef Light to Little Island Light). A 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction and night closures from 10:00 PM to 4:00 AM are anticipated to remain in effect through July 11.

Subsequent openings in District 15 will be determined based on the abundance of wild sockeye salmon, informed by fishery performance data and inseason weir counts at Chilkoot River and

Chilkat Lake. Additionally, GSI analysis will be used in season to estimate the stock composition of the commercial sockeye salmon harvest, providing further insight for management decisions.

Chum Salmon

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

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

Coho Salmon

Fall management of wild coho salmon begins in late August. Fishery performance data remains the most reliable indicator of coho salmon abundance. Inseason decisions will be guided by CPUE relative to historical averages. If early indicators suggest a strong run to Lynn Canal, the fishing area may be expanded to include Chilkat and Lutak Inlets to harvest fish surplus to escapement needs.

Pink Salmon

Pink salmon are not a targeted species in District 15 and are generally harvested incidentally. If the pink salmon returns to upper Lynn Canal are strong and produce harvestable surpluses, and if there are no conservation concerns for sockeye salmon, the department may consider opening additional areas in Section 15-A, such as Lutak Inlet, for directed pink salmon fisheries.

TERMINAL HARVEST AREA FISHERIES

During the 2026 season, drift gillnet terminal harvest area fisheries can be expected in Anita Bay, Nakat Inlet, Carroll Inlet, Deep Inlet, Southeast Cove, and Boat Harbor to harvest hatchery-produced salmon returning to SSRAA, NSRAA, and DIPAC release sites. Openings in the Speel Arm THA are contingent on meeting the sockeye salmon escapement goal for Speel Lake.

SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

Terminal Area Fisheries

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

Neets Bay Terminal Harvest Area

In 2026, SSRAA is forecasting total runs of 1,380,000 summer chum and 95,500 coho salmon with anticipated terminal runs of 884,000 summer chum and 38,200 coho salmon for the Neets Bay THA (Table 8).

The Neets Bay THA is not scheduled to open for rotational net fisheries in 2026. If a rotational fishery occurs, it will be announced in a separate advisory announcement and opened by EO in consultation with SSRAA.

Nakat Inlet Terminal Harvest Area

For 2026, SSRAA is forecasting total hatchery runs of 494,000 summer chum, 29,700 coho, and 20,000 fall chum salmon with anticipated terminal runs of 220,000 summer chum, 7,400 coho, and 9,000 fall chum salmon to the Nakat Inlet THA (Table 8). Peak chum salmon harvests from these releases are expected between mid- to late July for summer chum and between late August to mid-September for fall chum and coho salmon.

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

Carroll Inlet Terminal Harvest Area

For 2026, SSRAA has forecast a total run of 6,100 Carroll Inlet Chinook salmon with an anticipated terminal run of 4,400 Chinook salmon (Table 8). 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 in waters of Carroll Inlet north of the latitude of 55°34.83′ N lat, approximately 1.3 nmi north of Nigelius Point at 5:00 a.m., Monday, June 1, 2026. Beginning 12:01 a.m., Monday, June 8, the entire THA will open to drift gillnet and purse seine gear concurrently through 12:00 noon, Thursday, June 11. Rotational net fisheries will begin at 12:00 noon, Monday, June 15, through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, June 30. The 500-yard stream closure (5 AAC 39.290) will not be in effect in the Carroll Inlet THA.

Details of the 2026 season fishing schedule and area for the Carroll Inlet THA were announced in a separate ADF&G advisory announcement released on April 17.

Crystal Lake Terminal Harvest Area

SSRAA projected a run of 2,900 adult Chinook salmon for Crystal Lake Hatchery in 2026, with 1,500 fish expected to reach the Wrangell Narrows–Blind Slough (District 6) THA (Table 8). Under provisions of the *District 6: Wrangell Narrows–Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.381) if the projected terminal run is over 4,000 fish, the commercial fishery will be opened to harvest 50% of the projected run over 4,000 fish. Based on the forecast, there is not likely to be surplus available for commercial troll or drift gillnet openings in 2026.

SSRAA is expecting a 2,600 fish Crystal Lake Hatchery coho salmon run. An estimated 1,300 fish are expected to reach the Wrangell Narrows–Blind Slough THA. No commercial drift gillnet fishery is anticipated in 2026.

Burnett Inlet Terminal Harvest Area

SSRAA produced a forecast of 426,000 summer chum and 12,000 fall chum salmon from releases at Burnett Inlet. The terminal run is expected to be 317,000 summer chum and 9,000 fall chum salmon (Table 8). A rotation schedule has not been developed for net gear in the THA. However, the THA may open to gillnetting if broodstock collection and cost-recovery efforts are completed or if the hatchery operator is unable to keep up with the volume of chum salmon in the THA. If openings are warranted, they will be announced by advisory announcement.

Further details of the 2026 Burnett Inlet THA fishing schedule and area were announced in a separate ADF&G advisory announcement released on April 15.

Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area

SSRAA is forecasting total runs of 6,800 Chinook, 397,000 summer chum, and 14,700 coho salmon from releases at Anita Bay. A total of 6,100 Chinook, 148,000 summer chum, and 6,600 coho salmon are expected to be available for harvest in the THA (Table 8). The Anita Bay common property fishery is governed as described in the *District 7: Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.383). The initial opening of Anita Bay will be delayed until June 1 to mitigate potential harvest of wild Chinook salmon. Similar to last year, the mouth of the bay will be open exclusively to troll gear through June 12. A rotational fishery will be in place for drift gillnet and purse seine gear from June 13 through August 31.

Further details of the 2026 season fishing schedule and open area within the Anita Bay THA can be found in an ADF&G advisory announcement released on April 14.

NORTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

Terminal Area Fisheries

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

Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area

The Southeast Cove THA will be managed in accordance with the *District 9: Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.387). In 2026, NSRAA is forecasting a run of 105,000 summer chum and 860 Chinook salmon to the Southeast Cove THA (Table 9). In 2026, it is anticipated that the Southeast Cove THA will be opened for cost recovery only and common property drift gillnet opportunity will not be provided. However, if significant numbers of fish remain after cost recovery operations are completed, common property opportunity may be provided via EO. Any opening is dependent on the presence of wild salmon stocks in the area. If closures or openings are warranted, they will be announced by advisory announcement.

Further details of the 2026 Southeast Cove THA fishing schedule and area were announced in a separate ADF&G advisory announcement released on April 15.

Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area

NSRAA expects runs of 1,762,000 chum, 13,900 Chinook, and 37,000 coho salmon for the Deep Inlet remote release site and the Medvejie Hatchery in 2026 (Table 9). This season, NSRAA anticipates cost-recovery operations in the Deep Inlet THA; thus, the entire THA will be closed to all common property commercial fisheries to aid cost-recovery harvest beginning June 28 and will remain closed until cost-recovery operations are complete. 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 2026 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 20. Details of the 2026 Deep Inlet THA fishing schedule are included in an ADF&G advisory announcement published April 20. If changes are necessary, the revised fishing schedule will be issued in a subsequent advisory announcement.

During the 2026 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.

DOUGLAS ISLAND PINK AND CHUM INC.

Terminal Area Fisheries

Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area

The Boat Harbor THA fishery will open by regulation on June 21 (SW 26) to provide opportunity to harvest DIPAC's hatchery-produced chum salmon. Management of the THA is conducted in accordance with the *District 15: Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.386).

DIPAC has forecast a total chum salmon run of 1.9 million fish to its release sites at Boat Harbor and Amalga Harbor (Table 9). Of this total, approximately 1.1 million chum salmon are expected to be available for common property harvest in Lynn Canal. This forecast is slightly above the recent 10-year average.

In 2026, management actions in Boat Harbor THA are expected to be consistent with those implemented in recent years, including early-season conservative measures to reduce harvest of Chilkat River Chinook salmon in the outside waters of the THA. Initial openings are anticipated to be limited to 2 days per week, with the fishing area restricted to within 1 nmi of the shoreline

during the first 2 weeks of the season (SWs 26 and 27). Night closures from 10:00 PM to 4:00 AM, and a 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction may also be in effect during the first 5 weeks of the season (SWs 26–30). Subsequent openings will depend on inseason abundance of wild sockeye salmon returning to Chilkat and Chilkoot rivers.

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

Speel Arm Terminal Harvest Area

The 2026 total run forecast for Snettisham Hatchery sockeye salmon is 83,000 fish (Table 9), below the 144,000 fish average. These fish will be principally harvested in the traditional District 11 commercial drift gillnet fishery. Common property fishery openings may occur during August in the Speel Arm THA (waters of Speel Arm north of Sharp Point). Timing of openings in the THA will depend on sockeye salmon escapement into Speel Lake and DIPAC's progress toward broodstock goals. DIPAC cost-recovery efforts in the special harvest area during July will be limited to waters in the immediate vicinity of the hatchery where wild and hatchery stocks are well segregated. Fishery management decisions for the Speel Arm THA will be made in consultation with DIPAC. ADF&G and industry have formalized the notification procedure for any extended fishery openings in Speel Arm. The SEAK Drift Gillnet Task Force agreement specified:

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

REFERENCES CITED

Conrad, S., and T. Thynes. *In prep*. Overview of the 2025 Southeast Alaska and Yakutat commercial, personal use, and subsistence salmon fisheries. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fisheries Management Report, Anchorage.

Hagerman, G. T., S. N. Forbes, J. T. Williams, and D. J. Teske. 2025. 2025 Taku and King Salmon rivers Chinook salmon stock status and action plan, 2025. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Divisions of Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish, Regional Information Report No. 1J25-08, Douglas.

Meredith, B. L., T. M. Fish, A. W. Piston, and K. S. Reppert. Hugh Smith Lake stock status and action plan, 2025. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Regional Information Report No. 1J25-18, Douglas, Alaska.

Salomone, P G., K. Courtney, G. T. Hagerman, P. A. Fowler, and P. J. Richards. 2022. Stikine River and Andrew Creek Chinook salmon stock status and action plan, 2021. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report No. 1J22-15, Douglas

Thynes, T. S., J. A. Bednarski, S. K. Conrad, A. W. Dupuis, S. N. Forbes, B. L. Meredith, A. W. Piston, K. A. Taylor, and N. L. Zeiser. *In prep*. Annual management report of the 2025 Southeast Alaska commercial purse seine and drift gillnet fisheries. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report, Anchorage

Walker, S., T. Thynes, D. Gray, K. S. Reppert, A. W. Piston, and S. C. Heinl. 2018. McDonald Lake sockeye salmon stock status and action plan 2018. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report No. 1J18-03, Douglas.

Wilson, L. 2026. Alaska salmon fisheries enhancement annual report, 2025. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report No. 5J26-04, Juneau.

FISHERY CONTACTS

Anne Reynolds-Manney
Region 1 Supervisor
2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite 205
Ketchikan, AK 99901
(907) 225-9677

Troy Thynes
Region 1 Management Coordinator
16 Sing Lee Alley
Petersburg, AK 99833
(907) 772-3801

Scott Forbes and Ray Vinzant
Area Management Biologists
802 3rd Street
Douglas, AK 99824
(907) 465-4250

Bo Meredith, Justin Breese, and Whitney Crittenden
Area Management Biologists
2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite 205
Ketchikan, AK 99901
(907) 225-5195

Aaron Dupuis and Anthony Walloch
Area Management Biologists
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-6688

Katie Taylor, Emily Klosterman, and Tom Kowalske
Area Management Biologists
16 Sing Lee Alley
Petersburg, AK 99833
(907) 772-3801

Nicole Zeiser
Area Management Biologist
P.O. Box 330
Haines, AK 99827
(907) 776-2830 (Option 1)

TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1.–Statistical week calendar for 2026 drift gillnet season.

Statistical week	Beginning date	Ending date	Statistical week	Beginning date	Ending date
23	31-May	6-Jun	32	2-Aug	8-Aug
24	7-Jun	13-Jun	33	9-Aug	15-Aug
25	14-Jun	20-Jun	34	16-Aug	22-Aug
26	21-Jun	27-Jun	35	23-Aug	29-Aug
27	28-Jun	4-Jul	36	30-Aug	5-Sep
28	5-Jul	11-Jul	37	6-Sep	12-Sep
29	12-Jul	18-Jul	38	13-Sep	19-Sep
30	19-Jul	25-Jul	39	20-Sep	26-Sep
31	26-Jul	1-Aug	40	27-Sep	3-Oct

Table 2.–Southeast Alaska commercial drift gillnet salmon harvest in numbers of fish, by area, harvest type and species, 2025.

Fishery	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
District 1						
Traditional (Tree Point)	1,006	12,051	10,269	102,193	318,219	443,738
Terminal Harvest Area	1,290	768	11,687	12,142	401,031	426,918
Annette Islands Reserve	1,194	1,368	441	31,037	224,408	258,448
District 6						
Traditional (Prince of Wales)	564	23,602	16,573	79,018	154,647	274,404
District 7						
Terminal Harvest Area	5,374	81	5,389	755	56,823	68,422
District 8						
Traditional (Stikine)	613	9,105	9,047	14,348	92,950	126,063
District 9						
Terminal Harvest Area	25	3			15,534	15,562
District 11						
Traditional (Taku/Snettisham)	2,293	107,433	26,217	62,476	979,906	1,178,325
Terminal Harvest Area	6	6,358	279	1,118	476	8,237
District 13						
Terminal Harvest Area	2,270	405	2,220	6,512	185,691	197,098
District 15						
Traditional (Lynn Canal)	1,164	60,303	23,041	29,537	650,146	764,191
Terminal Harvest Area	181	6,316	221	17,408	1,122,812	1,146,938
Subtotals						
Traditional	5,640	212,494	85,147	287,572	2,195,868	2,786,721
Terminal Harvest Areas	9,146	13,931	19,796	37,935	1,782,367	1,863,175
Common Property Total	14,786	226,425	104,943	325,507	3,978,235	4,649,896
Annette Islands Reserve	1,194	1,368	441	31,037	224,408	258,448
Total	15,980	227,793	105,384	356,544	4,202,643	4,908,344

[a] Chinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 3.–District 1 traditional and terminal harvest areas (Nakat Inlet, Neets Bay, and Carroll Inlet) drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2015–2025.

Year	Chinook[a]	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Effort
2015	3,347	29,173	58,004	157,016	820,271	1,067,811	77
2016	3,110	41,288	50,021	608,351	448,724	1,151,494	83
2017	3,648	25,997	43,359	240,143	338,617	651,764	83
2018	4,310	20,812	44,120	124,356	306,100	499,698	83
2019	5,054	16,209	37,856	212,631	272,273	544,023	71
2020	6,207	9,596	20,909	194,279	210,970	441,961	64
2021	6,124	21,883	54,021	148,429	226,674	457,131	73
2022	6,549	26,668	29,583	394,251	390,650	847,701	60
2023	6,877	24,970	29,205	180,344	771,282	1,012,678	72
2024	3,117	25,528	50,429	95,825	805,460	980,359	58
2025	2,296	12,819	21,956	114,335	719,250	870,656	53
Average 2015–2024	4,834	24,212	41,751	235,563	459,102	765,462	72

[a] Chinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 4.–Prince of Wales (District 6) traditional drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2015–2025.

Year	Chinook[a]	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Effort
2015	2,723	121,921	112,561	224,816	232,390	694,411	128
2016	2,094	106,649	122,101	358,309	130,236	719,389	137
2017	1,521	45,005	49,382	302,033	234,349	632,290	148
2018	3,247	25,203	112,000	348,277	176,392	665,119	151
2019	1,073	23,844	59,304	424,495	113,161	621,877	130
2020	1,182	11,314	43,850	127,583	143,577	327,506	120
2021	965	51,776	74,756	156,483	136,560	420,540	134
2022	800	45,437	50,901	86,448	173,048	356,634	118
2023	741	42,334	42,336	126,048	179,169	390,628	99
2024	1,126	40,687	57,780	15,217	125,083	239,893	89
2025	564	23,602	16,573	79,018	154,647	274,404	90
Average 2015–2024	1,547	51,417	72,497	216,971	164,397	506,829	125

[a] Chinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 5.–Stikine River (District 8) traditional drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2015–2025.

Year	Chinook[a]	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Effort
2015	13,845	22,896	30,153	35,926	166,009	268,829	120
2016	10,024	70,143	22,146	35,250	200,653	338,216	132
2017	3,818	14,282	13,568	49,027	177,119	257,814	118
2018	2,649	5,731	8,823	15,643	133,812	166,658	102
2019	4,253	6,591	9,478	10,884	50,653	81,859	75
2020	2,617	2,781	21,074	11,799	53,678	91,949	77
2021	93	815	12,140	6,482	49,371	68,901	71
2022	481	5,668	14,146	11,708	73,453	105,456	72
2023	646	5,904	20,944	29,197	105,343	162,034	73
2024	535	16,167	9,538	2,504	88,229	116,973	67
2025	613	9,105	9,047	14,348	92,950	126,063	76
Average 2015–2024	3,896	15,098	16,201	20,842	109,832	165,869	91

[a] Chinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 6.–Taku/Snettisham (District 11) traditional and terminal harvest area (Speel Arm) drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2015–2025.

Year	Chinook[a]	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Effort
2015	1,150	83,431	23,572	296,575	475,456	880,184	151
2016	595	215,049	35,037	46,604	448,284	745,569	169
2017	1,086	113,818	16,002	230,243	885,694	1,246,843	201
2018	783	92,889	35,930	24,300	517,812	671,714	220
2019	1,358	105,026	23,473	71,724	246,600	448,181	186
2020	1,094	28,233	15,863	65,353	109,516	220,059	119
2021	688	49,337	20,787	137,319	185,709	393,840	129
2022	1,006	117,282	15,597	54,692	313,830	502,407	132
2023	694	79,749	20,518	129,555	622,555	853,071	126
2024	813	100,927	33,041	6,602	827,617	969,000	108
2025	2,299	113,791	26,496	63,594	980,382	1,186,562	118
Average 2015–2024	927	98,574	23,982	106,297	463,307	693,087	154

[a] Chinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 7.–Lynn Canal (District 15) traditional and terminal harvest area drift gillnet annual salmon harvest in numbers of fish, 2015–2025.

Year	Chinook[a]	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Effort
2015	523	131,577	23,456	629,209	836,831	1,621,596	217
2016	475	188,898	30,534	81,970	931,936	1,233,813	201
2017	1,209	39,772	29,825	191,659	1,576,965	1,839,430	218
2018	1,156	81,688	45,655	22,254	1,042,430	1,193,183	253
2019	1,097	241,505	47,858	143,553	1,176,043	1,610,056	241
2020	903	50,220	17,495	82,993	319,230	470,841	163
2021	716	84,649	26,426	221,012	532,612	865,415	166
2022	587	283,847	16,187	46,837	962,006	1,309,464	189
2023	344	160,118	25,506	143,175	1,391,180	1,720,323	167
2024	266	64,299	62,065	13,645	1,622,713	1,762,988	130
2025	1,345	66,619	23,262	46,945	1,772,958	1,911,129	145
Average 2015–2024	728	132,657	32,501	157,631	1,039,195	1,362,711	195

[a] Chinook salmon harvest includes jacks.

Table 8.–Expected 2026 salmon runs for southern Southeast Alaska enhancement projects by release location.

		Common property harvest [a]				
Species/run	Release location	Traditional	Terminal harvest area	Anticipated broodstock	Cost-recovery harvest	Total run
Chinook	Whitman Lake	2,800	0	1,300	5,900	10,000
Chinook	Anita Bay	700	6,100	0	0	6,800
Chinook	Carroll Inlet	1,700	4,400	0	0	6,100
Chinook	Port St. Nick	2,100	0	0	7,100	9,200
Chinook	Crystal Lake	1,400	0	1,000	500[b]	2,900
	Total	8,700	10,500	2,300	13,500	35,000
Coho	Herring Cove/Whitman	8,200	0	3,000	5,200	16,400
Coho	Nakat Inlet	22,300	7,400	0	0	29,700
Coho	Anita Bay	8,100	6,600	0	0	14,700
Coho	Neets Bay	57,300	0	3,500	34,700	95,500
Coho	Crystal Lake	1,300	0	150	1,150[b]	2,600
Coho	Klawock	116,600	0	3,000	47,000	166,600
	Total	213,800	14,000	9,700	88,000	325,500
Summer chum	Neets Bay	486,000	0	140,000	754,000	1,380,000
Summer chum	Anita Bay	249,000	148,000	0	0	397,000
Summer chum	Burnett	109,000	0	100,000	217,000	426,000
Summer chum	Kendrick Bay	405,000	205,000	0	200,000	810,000
Summer chum	Nakat Inlet	274,000	220,000	0	0	494,000
Summer chum	Port Asumcion	106,000	0	0	248,000	354,000
	Total	1,629,000	573,000	240,000	1,419,000	3,861,000
Fall chum	Burnett	3,000	0	9,000	0	12,000
Fall chum	Nakat Inlet	11,000	9,000	0	0	20,000
	Total	14,000	9,000	9,000	0	32,000

Note: All enhancement projects in southern Southeast Alaska are operated by the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association. Expectations of terminal area harvest are preliminary and expected to change as hatchery associations refine cost recovery and broodstocks needs prior to the start of season.

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

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

Table 9.–Expected 2026 salmon runs for northern Southeast Alaska enhancement projects by release location.

Species	Release location	Hatchery operator	Common property harvest [a]	Cost-recovery harvest	Anticipated broodstock	Total run
Chinook	Gast/Auke/Fish Creek/Lena	DIPAC	6,900	1,000	600	8,500
Chinook	Gunnuk Creek	NSRAA	155	0	155	310
Chinook	SE Cove	NSRAA	430	430	0	860
Chinook	Hidden Falls	NSRAA	200	200	0	400
Chinook	Crawfish	NSRAA	500	0	0	500
Chinook	Medvejie/Deep Inlet	NSRAA	6,900	–[b]	7,000[b]	13,900
Chinook	Crescent Bay	NSRAA	1,500	–[b]	400[b]	1,900
Chinook	Little Port Walter	NSRAA	400	0	700	1,100
		Total	16,985	1,630	8,855	27,470
Sockeye	Port Snettisham	DIPAC	39,200	39,200	4,600	83,000
Coho	Port Armstrong	AKI	69,700	61,700	8,000	139,400
Coho	Deer Lake (Mist Cove)	NSRAA	22,000	22,000	0	44,000
Coho	Gastineau Channel	DIPAC	5,200	2,000	800	8,000
Coho	Hidden Falls	NSRAA	25,000	15,000	10,000	50,000
Coho	Deep Inlet/Medvejie	NSRAA	34,500	–[b]	2,500[b]	37,000
Coho	Crescent Bay	SSC	3,100	7,200	200	10,500
		Total	159,500	107,900	21,500	288,900
Pink	Port Armstrong	AKI	155,000	0	232,400	387,400
Pink	Crescent Bay	SSC	81,000	95,500	3,500	180,000
		Total	236,000	95,500	235,900	567,400
Chum	Port Armstrong	AKI	20,200	161,500	20,000	201,700
Chum	SE Cove	NSRAA	0	105,000[b]	–[b]	105,000
Chum	Gunnuk Creek	NSRAA	0	–[b]	18,000[b]	18,000
Chum	Thomas Bay	NSRAA	115,000	0	0	115,000
Chum	Gastineau/Limestone	DIPAC	659,000	239,000	200,000	1,098,000
Chum	Boat Harbor/Amalga	DIPAC	1,076,000	856,000	0	1,932,000
Chum	Medvejie/Deep Inlet	NSRAA	802,000	–[b]	960,000[b]	1,762,000[c]
Chum	Hidden Falls	NSRAA	223,000	0	186,000	409,000
Chum	Crawfish Inlet	NSRAA	59,300	–[b]	221,700[b]	281,000
Chum	Crescent Bay	SSC	67,500	18,400	3,600	89,500
		Total	3,022,000	1,379,900	1,609,300	6,011,200

Note: En dash indicates data is not available. Expectations of terminal area harvest are preliminary and expected to change as hatchery associations refine cost recovery and broodstocks needs prior to the start of season.

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

[b] Includes cost recovery and broodstock.

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

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

Year	Nass River total run	Nass River escapement	Allowable Nass River AAH	Allowable Alaska Harvest (13.8%)	Actual Nass River Alaska harvest	Cumulative: +overage / -underage
1999	842,806	200,000	642,806	88,707	129,794	41,087
2000	625,982	200,000	425,983	58,786	46,305	28,606
2001	580,611	167,258	413,358	57,043	55,096	26,659
2002	1,403,976	200,000	1,203,975	166,149	90,553	-48,937
2003	1,177,472	200,000	977,472	134,481	72,942	-110,886
2004	986,095	200,000	786,095	108,482	110,340	-109,027
2005	666,877	200,000	466,877	64,429	55,319	-118,137
2006	775,112	200,000	575,112	79,365	47,948	-149,555
2007	602,210	164,745	437,463	60,370	46,369	-163,555
2008	380,397	200,000	180,397	24,895	24,359	-164,091
2009	575,336	200,000	375,336	51,796	55,270	-160,618
2010	438,941	200,000	238,941	32,974	26,613	-166,979
2011	556,710	200,000	356,710	49,226	55,122	-161,083
2012	476,818	200,000	276,818	38,201	38,983	-160,300
2013	501,428	200,000	301,428	41,597	35,471	-166,426
2014	549,685	200,000	349,685	48,257	29,022	-185,661
2015	868,744	200,000	668,744	92,287	14,867	-263,081
2016	442,420	200,000	242,420	33,454	14,389	-282,146
2017	368,653	200,000	168,653	23,274	12,445	-292,978
2018	315,972	200,000	115,972	16,004	11,303	-297,676
2019	377,745	200,000	177,745	24,529	11,269	-310,937
2020	295,194	200,000	95,194	13,137	7,528	-316,542
2021	502,536	200,000	302,536	41,750	14,678	-343,624
2022	622,420	200,000	422,420	58,294	18,392	-383,526
2023	696,334	200,000	496,046	68,494	18,813	-433,207
2024	790,581	200,000	590,581	81,500	12,868	-501,839
2025[a]	508,687	200,000	308,687	42,599	7,487	-536,951
2026[b]	507,000	200,000	307,000	42,366	TBD	TBD

Note: TBD indicates to be determined.

[a] Preliminary Information

[b] Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans forecast

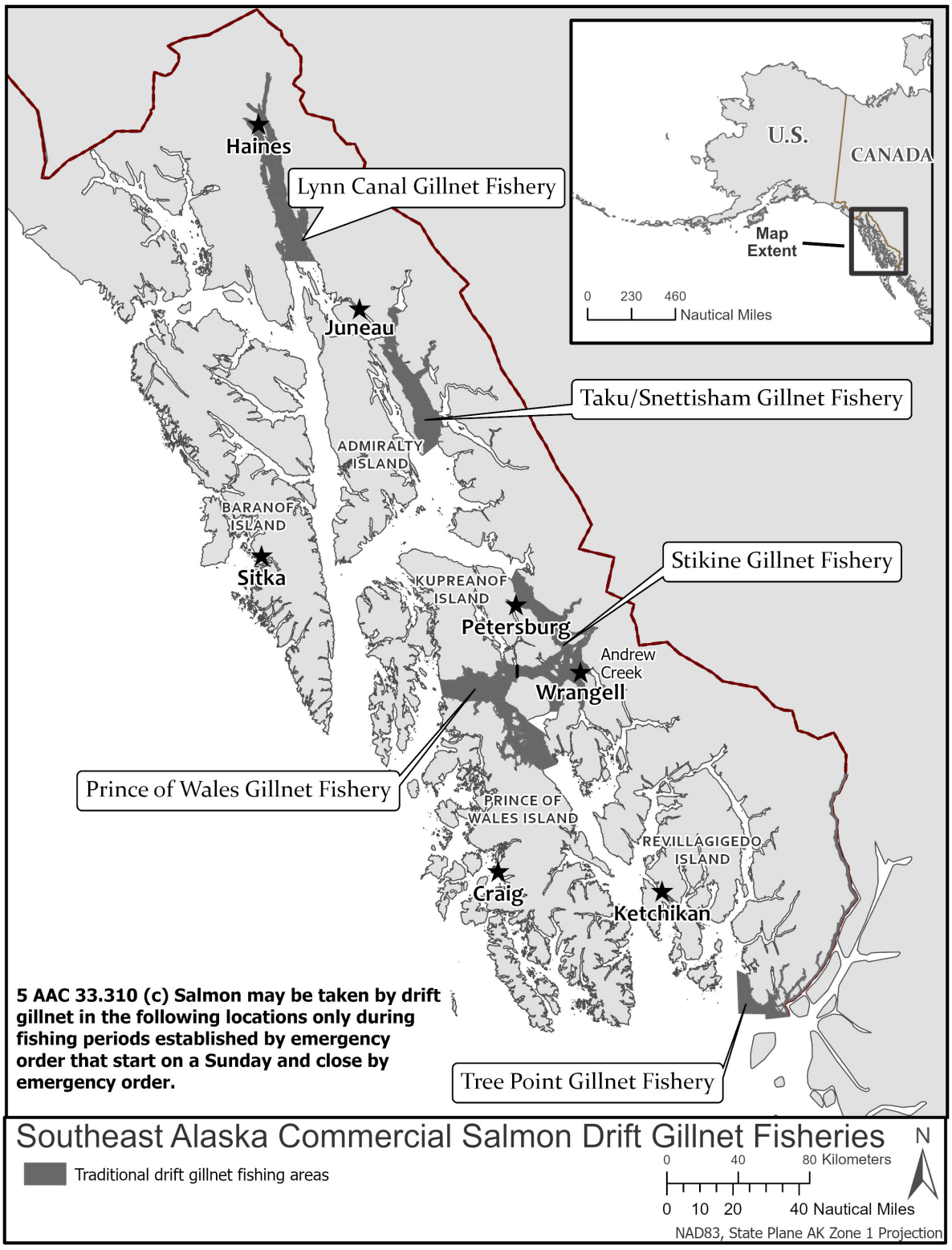

Figure 1.–Traditional drift gillnet fishing areas in Southeast Alaska.

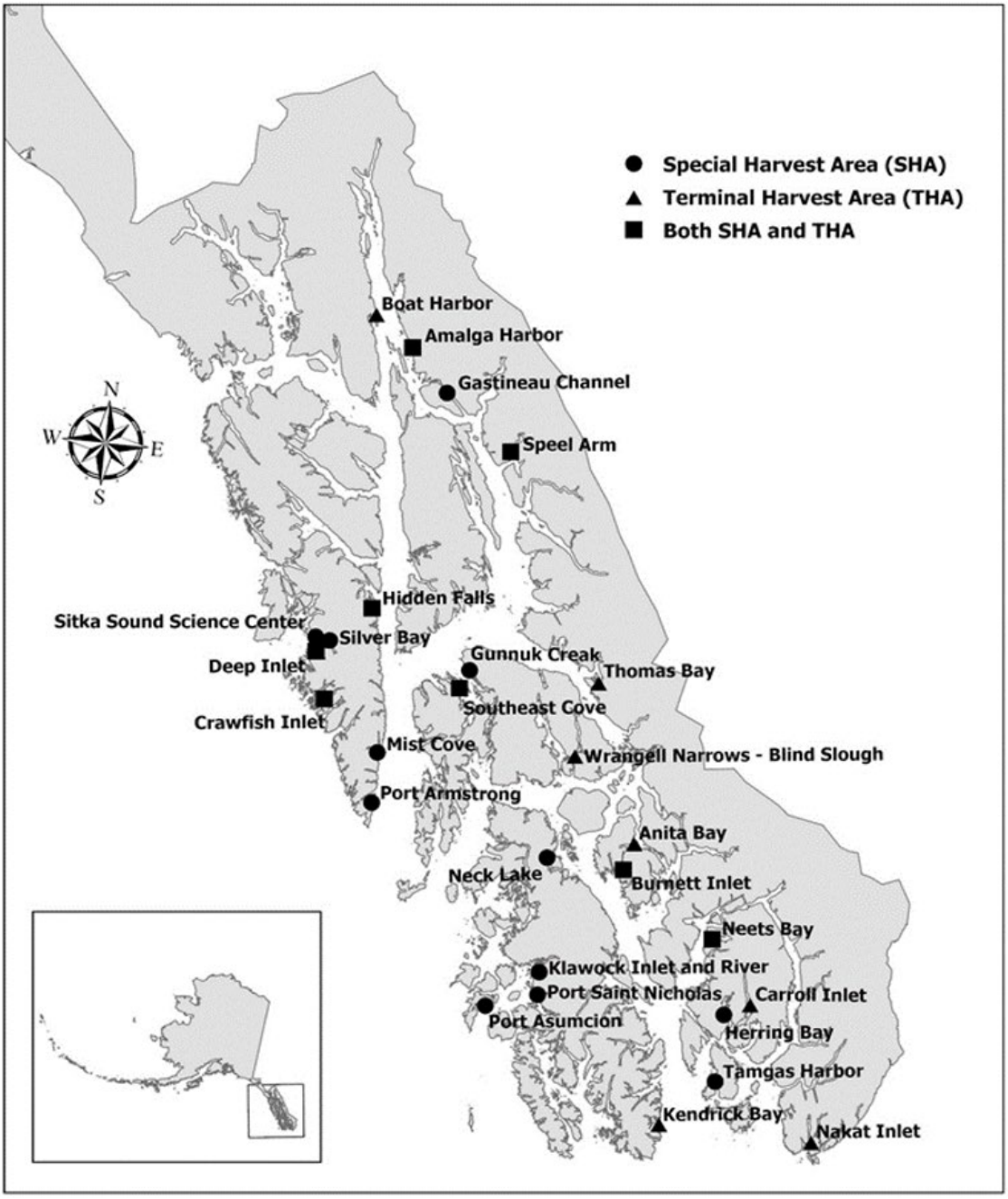

Figure 2.–Salmon hatchery terminal and special harvest areas in Southeast Alaska.