
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2019 SOUTHEAST ALASKA TROLL CHINOOK SALMON HARVEST ALLOCATION AND CHINOOK SALMON MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS

Sitka... The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that under Chinook salmon management provisions of the recently negotiated 2019 Pacific Salmon Treaty (treaty), the annual all-gear harvest limit for Southeast Alaska (SEAK) is 137,500 treaty Chinook (non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook). This year's all-gear harvest limit includes a 2% reduction that will serve as a buffer to avoid exceeding the all-gear limit and payback provisions within the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The resulting preseason troll treaty harvest allocation for 2019 is **101,300 Chinook salmon** or 5,600 fish higher than the preseason limit available in 2018.

Under provisions of the new 2019–2028 treaty agreement, the Chinook salmon harvest limit for the SEAK all-gear fishery is determined by the estimated CPUE from the winter power troll fishery in District 113 during statistical weeks 41-48 (Oct 11-Nov 30). The estimated CPUE is translated into a seven-tiered catch ceiling table, with each tier representing a range of CPUEs, the associated Abundance Index (AI) values, and the applicable harvest ceiling.

The summer commercial troll harvest allocation is calculated by subtracting the treaty Chinook salmon harvested in the winter and spring troll fisheries from the annual troll treaty allocation. The winter fishery is generally managed to not exceed the guideline harvest level of 45,000 treaty Chinook salmon for the season. However, in 2019, under provisions of the Unuk River Chinook salmon action plan, the winter troll fishery closed March 15.

While there is no explicit guideline harvest level for Chinook salmon harvested in the spring fisheries, they are managed to limit the harvest of treaty Chinook salmon; non-Alaska hatchery fish are counted towards the annual treaty harvest limit of Chinook salmon while most of the Alaska hatchery fish are not. Since spring fisheries will be in progress through June 30, preliminary harvest estimates for treaty Chinook salmon in the spring fisheries will not be determined until late June.

The summer fishery will be managed to harvest 70% of the remaining fish on the troll allocation in the first summer Chinook salmon opening in July, with the remainder available for harvest in a second opening, which typically occurs in August. If the remainder of annual troll allocation is not harvested in the second opening, and if the department determines that the number of Chinook salmon remaining on the annual troll allocation is not sufficient to allow a competitive fishery, the commissioner may, by emergency order, reopen the troll fishery to the taking of Chinook salmon during a limited harvest fishery. The decision as to whether the first summer opening will be managed in season rather than for a fixed number of days will be announced just prior to the July 1 opening.

As a reminder, the Unuk River and the Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers Chinook salmon action plans were adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 2018 to provide direction for measures to conserve these stocks of management concern. Management actions are being taken across all SEAK fisheries, including sport, commercial, personal use, and subsistence, to reduce harvest of wild Chinook salmon.

The Unuk River Chinook salmon action plan restricts spring troll fisheries to terminal harvest areas, waters in close proximity to hatchery facilities or release sites, and in areas that have been identified as having low proportional harvests of wild stock SEAK/Yakutat Chinook salmon. In addition to the conservation measures of this action plan, supplementary actions for conservation of SEAK and TBR Chinook salmon stocks will include June fisheries in select terminal harvest areas and a few defined spring troll fishery areas located on the outside coast to target Alaska hatchery Chinook salmon during May and June.

A news release concerning spring troll and terminal harvest area opportunities for 2019, and the 2019 Spring Troll Fishery Management Plan, will be available online and in area offices by mid-April, with initial spring areas opening as early as May 1.

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

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

2019 SEAK Chinook salmon all-gear allocation press release:

- http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=pressreleases.pr&release=2019_04_01

2019 All-Gear Commercial Chinook Salmon Management Restrictions in Southeast Alaska:

- <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static-f/applications/dcfnewsrelease/1020850172.pdf>

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=news.main>

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