



Advisory Announcement
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**SOUTHEAST ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS FOR
TROLL, PURSE SEINE, AND DRIFT GILLNET FISHERIES**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries approved action plans for the Unuk, King Salmon, and Chilkat Rivers Chinook salmon stocks as Stocks of Management Concern (SOC) at the 2018 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish Meeting. In October 2020, the department recommended the board continue the Unuk, King Salmon, and Chilkat Rivers as SOC and recommended the board declare the Andrew Creek and the Chickamin, Taku, and Stikine Rivers stocks of Chinook salmon as SOC. The Unuk River escapement goal was met in 2018 and 2019, the Chilkat River escapement goal was met in 2019 and 2020, while the King Salmon River escapement goal has not been met in recent years. Of the eleven Chinook salmon stocks with escapement goals in Southeast Alaska, five did not meet their goal in 2020. In addition, four of the five Chinook salmon stocks for which the department develops formal forecasts have projected 2021 runs less than what is needed to achieve minimum escapements: Chilkat, Taku, Stikine, and Unuk Rivers. Management actions to reduce harvest of wild Chinook salmon are being implemented across all Southeast Alaska salmon fisheries, including sport, commercial, personal use, and subsistence.

This advisory announcement provides a summary of expected management actions for the commercial troll and net fisheries in 2021 intended to conserve wild Chinook salmon returning to Southeast Alaska. For complete details of intended management actions, refer to the action plans provided at the bottom of this advisory announcement, and the forthcoming 2021 troll, purse seine, and drift gillnet management plans and announcements.

Troll Fishery

Winter Troll Fishery

The waters of Section 15-A will close from October 11 to December 31. Notwithstanding, any remaining portion of the 45,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon guideline harvest level, the commercial winter troll fishery will close in all waters of Southeast Alaska/Yakutat on March 15.

Spring Troll Fisheries

Beginning May 1, spring troll fisheries located in Districts 103, 113, and 183 may open, with all other districts remaining closed. Initial opening dates for the District 101 Mountain Point and Rock Point spring fisheries, as well as all regional terminal harvest areas (THA; except for Neets Bay), will be delayed until after May 31. For the Neets Bay THA, as well as the Districts 109, 110, 112, and 114 enhanced chum salmon fisheries, the openings will be delayed further, with initial opening dates after June 14.

- THAs: All THAs will open June 1, except for the Neets Bay THA, which will initially open June 15.

Summer Troll Fishery

During the first summer troll fishery Chinook salmon retention period, the following areas will remain closed to retention and possession of Chinook salmon:

- Section 1-E: waters north of a line from Indian Point to Mike Point;
- Section 1-F: waters enclosed by a line from Lucky Point to Middy Point, continuing to the latitude of Beaver Point, and from Point Rosen to Quadra Point, and in southeast Behm Canal south of a line from a

point at 55°11.78' N lat, 131°05.13' W long, located on Point Sykes to a point at 55°12.22' N lat, 131°05.70' W long, located 0.5 nautical mile (nmi) northwest of Point Sykes to Point Alava;

- District 8: all waters of the district; and
- Section 15-A: all waters of the section.

During the second Chinook salmon retention period, the following area will remain closed to Chinook salmon retention and possession:

- Section 15-A: all waters of the section.

Purse Seine Fishery

Other than within THAs that have returns of hatchery-produced Chinook salmon, the purse seine fishery will be prohibited from retaining Chinook salmon over 28" in length through at least July 24. Chinook salmon retention after July 24 will be dependent on areas open to directed pink salmon fisheries and the magnitude of the pink salmon harvests. Chinook salmon harvests will be monitored closely, and the purse seine fishery will return to nonretention in advance of exceeding 98% of the purse seine allocation as described in 5 AAC 29.060. *Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area.*

Drift Gillnet Fishery

District 6

The start of the District 6 drift gillnet fishery will be delayed by one week until June 20. A maximum mesh size restriction of six inches will be in place through July 10.

District 8

The start of the District 8 drift gillnet fishery will be delayed by at least two weeks until June 27. Time and/or area restrictions will occur through July 10. A maximum mesh size restriction of six inches will be in place through July 17.

District 11

Time and area restrictions will be imposed in Taku Inlet through July 17 and will include two-day openings through July 10. Waters on the east side of Taku Inlet south of Point Greely will open during the week of June 20; waters south of Point Cooper will open during the week of June 27; and waters south of Jaw Point will open during the weeks of July 4 and July 11. Night closures from 10:00 p.m. through 4:00 a.m. will be in effect districtwide through July 3 and a maximum mesh size restriction of six inches will be in effect districtwide through July 10.

District 15

Section 15-A open area will be limited to south of Eldred Rock Lighthouse and east of a line from Eldred Rock Lighthouse to a point 2.0 nmi from the eastern shoreline at 58°51.00' N lat, 135°12.77' W long, and limited to two days a week through July 24. Section 15-C open area will be limited to the Postage Stamp (waters of Section 15-C south of the latitude of Vanderbilt Reef Light and east of a line from Vanderbilt Reef Light to Little Island Light) to two days a week through July 10. A maximum mesh size restriction of six inches will be in effect in Section 15-A through July 24 and in Section 15-C through July 17. Night closures from 10:00 p.m. through 4:00 a.m. will be in effect districtwide (including outside waters of the Boat Harbor THA) through July 17.

Hatchery Terminal Harvest Areas

Neets Bay

The start date will be June 15. Gear rotations for purse seine and drift gillnet will have additional closures between June 15 and July 4. In addition, the THA will not expand to Chin Point until July 1.

Anita Bay

Start date will be delayed from May 1 to June 1.

Boat Harbor

Will open by regulation June 20. Outside waters will be restricted within 1.0 nmi of the shoreline for two days per week with a maximum mesh size restriction of six inches through July 11. Inside Boat Harbor (west of 135°09.57' W long) will open seven days a week without gear or time restrictions.

Hidden Falls

Will open June 1 and open waters of the THA will be restricted to approximately 1.0 nmi of the Baranof Island shoreline through June 26.

Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Action Plans

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

2021 Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon All Gear Harvest Limit Press Release

- http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=pressreleases.pr&release=2021_02_05

Under Alaska's Health Orders 5, 6, and 8, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Orders. COVID-19 Health Orders may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-order/>.

Advisory Announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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