



## Advisory Announcement

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## 2023 SOUTHEAST ALASKA TROLL CHINOOK SALMON HARVEST ALLOCATION

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that under Chinook salmon management provisions of the 2019–2028 Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement (treaty), the annual all-gear allowable harvest limit for Southeast Alaska/Yakutat (SEAK) is 201,900 treaty Chinook salmon (non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon). This year's all-gear harvest limit includes a 2% reduction that will serve as a buffer to avoid exceeding the all-gear limit and payback provisions within the treaty. The resulting preseason troll treaty harvest allocation for 2023 is **149,100 Chinook salmon**, which is 44,100 fish below the preseason limit available in 2022.

Annual catch limits for the SEAK Chinook salmon fishery will now be established using measures of Chinook abundance using the catch per unit effort (CPUE) from the winter power troll fishery in District 113 during statistical weeks 41–48 in combination with output from the PSC Chinook model. This multivariate method for estimating abundance in the SEAK fishery is new, includes additional information, and was approved for use by the PSC on February 16, 2023. The Abundance Index (AI) value from the multivariate model is translated into a new 17-tier catch ceiling table, with each tier representing a range of AI values and the applicable harvest ceiling. The new catch ceiling table can be found at:

[https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/news/pressreleases/pdfs/adfg\\_press\\_release\\_pacific\\_salmon\\_treaty\\_chinook\\_cat\\_ch\\_limits\\_02\\_24\\_2023.pdf](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/news/pressreleases/pdfs/adfg_press_release_pacific_salmon_treaty_chinook_cat_ch_limits_02_24_2023.pdf).

The summer troll fishery harvest allocation is calculated by subtracting the sum of the treaty Chinook salmon harvested in winter and spring troll fisheries from the annual troll treaty allocation. The winter fishery is managed to a guideline harvest level of 45,000 treaty Chinook salmon for the season. However, in 2023, notwithstanding any remaining winter season treaty Chinook salmon allocation, the winter troll fishery will close April 15.

While there is no explicit guideline harvest level for Chinook salmon harvested in the spring, fisheries 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 the annual troll allocation is not harvested during that second opening, and if the department determines that the remaining troll allocation is insufficient to allow for a competitive fishery, the commissioner may, by emergency order, reopen the troll fishery to the taking of Chinook salmon during a limited harvest fishery.

**An Advisory Announcement concerning spring troll and terminal harvest area opportunities for 2023 will be available online and in area offices by mid-April, with initial spring areas opening as early as May 1.**

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

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