



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 4, 2023

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SOUTHEAST ALASKA/YAKUTAT SUMMER TROLL FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Southeast Alaska/Yakutat (SEAK) commercial troll fishery will close to the taking of all salmon at 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, August 9, 2023, except within the hatchery chum salmon and terminal harvest areas noted below. The fishery will be closed for two days, from August 10–11, 2023, and will reopen to the taking of all salmon at 12:01 a.m., Saturday, August 12, 2023.

Chinook Salmon Retention Period

The troll fishery will open for the retention of Chinook salmon for **1 day, from 12:01 a.m. through 11:59 p.m., August 12, 2023**. A total of 85,000 treaty Chinook salmon were harvested by trollers during the first summer opening, leaving an estimated 25,000 Chinook salmon on the annual treaty troll allocation. However, in accordance with *Allocation of King Salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area* (5 AAC 29.060), and the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 47.055) any underage or overage in the Southeast Alaska sport fishery is added to or subtracted from the commercial troll allocation of Chinook salmon. The current king salmon harvest projection for the sport fishery indicates the sport fishery will exceed the 2023 preseason allocation by an estimated 15,000 king salmon. The second summer commercial troll fishery Chinook salmon retention period allocation will be reduced accordingly, which provides a **harvest target of 10,000 Chinook salmon for the opening**.

The waters of frequent high Chinook salmon abundance (5 AAC 29.025) will remain closed as well as those waters identified in 5 AAC 29.150.

Reporting and Landing Requirements

Following the closure of the coho salmon fishery, all coho salmon must be offloaded from a vessel prior to participating in the hatchery chum salmon fisheries described below. Fish tickets must be submitted to the department within seven days of landing. A catcher–processor (FAS) that retains frozen coho salmon onboard during the coho closure and through the Chinook salmon opening must submit a fish ticket to the department within seven days after offloading Chinook salmon. That ticket must include an estimate of the number and pounds of other salmon species that remain onboard the vessel and a notation that those fish have not been offloaded.

Hatchery Chum Salmon Fishery

Trollers may target chum salmon during the troll closure, August 10–11, 2023, in the areas described below. Chum, pink, and sockeye salmon may be retained; however, coho and Chinook salmon may not be retained during these fisheries (5 AAC 29.112). Trollers are reminded that under 5 AAC 39.290, commercial fishing for salmon is prohibited within 500 yards of the terminus of a salmon stream during the summer troll fishery.

West Crawfish Inlet (113-32): waters of West Crawfish Inlet and Windy Passage, southeast of a line from 56°47.11' N lat, 135°18.87' W long, to 56°46.89' N lat, 135°19.92' W long, northeast of a line from 56°45.80' N lat, 135°20.06' W long, to 56°45.30' N lat, 135°17.64' W long, and northwest of a line from 56°45.32' N lat, 135°16.99' W long, to 56°45.36' N lat, 135°16.89' W long, in First Narrows (Figure 1).

Crawfish Inlet THA (113-33): waters south of 56°47.14' N lat in Cedar Pass, northeast of a line from 56°43.83' N lat, 135°16.13' W long to 56°43.49' N lat, 135°15.50' W long in Middle Channel, and north of a line from 56°43.01' N lat, 135°12.93' W long to 56°43.25' N lat, 135°12.18' W long in Walker Channel (Figure 1).

Sitka Sound (113-41): waters of Sitka Sound and the Eastern Channel east of a line from Vitskari Rock Light at 57°00.00' N lat, 135°32.71' W long to Inner Point at 57°05.52' N lat, 135°34.25' W long, south of a line from Inner Point to Black Rock at 57°03.12' N lat, 135°25.63' W long, to Signal Island Light at 57°02.78' N lat, 135°23.57' W long, and north of a line from Cape Burunof at 56°59.04' N lat, 135°23.21' W long, to Kulichkof Rock at 56°59.48' N lat, 135°26.65' W long, to Vitskari Rock Light (Figure 2). Trollers are advised that the area description for the Sitka Sound Terminal Harvest chum salmon troll fishery has been modified by emergency order to more accurately reflect the location of coordinates described in this regulation.

Neets Bay (101-90): waters of Neets Bay east of the longitude of Chin Point at 131°42.10' W long and west of the longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island at 131°39.14' W long (Figure 3).

Terminal Harvest Areas (THA)

During the closure period, trolling will remain open to all species of salmon in the Herring Bay Troll THA (101-40). The Deep Inlet (113-38) THA will be open only during those periods that net fisheries are closed, according to the rotational schedule announced in the April 24 advisory announcement. Chinook and coho salmon harvested in THAs listed above must be offloaded prior to trolling outside THA boundaries during the coho closure.

The Nakat Inlet THA (101-10) remains open to troll gear during the closure period for harvest of coho, chum, pink and sockeye salmon.

Hidden Falls THA (112-22) will be open to the retention of coho, pink, and sockeye salmon during the August troll fishery closure. The THA during the closure is defined in 5 AAC 33.374(e) as:

Hidden Falls THA (112-22): waters within one mile of shore south of 57°15.00' N lat, north of 57°10.00' N lat, and west of a line from 57°15.00' N lat, 134°48.60' W long, to 57°10.00' N lat, 134°46.40' W long (Figure 4), with the following exception:

Waters north and west of a line from 57°13.17' N lat, 134°51.86' W long to 57°13.08' N lat, 134°52.02' W long, and the waters north of a line from 57°13.05' N lat, 134°52.24' W long, to 57°13.06' N lat, 134°52.20' W long will remain closed.

Groundfish Bycatch in Troll Fishery

Permit holders are reminded that lingcod bycatch in the salmon troll fishery closed for the remainder of the year in the Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section on July 20, 2023.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement 1S5623.

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

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	747-3254	465-4000		945-3620	
Troll Hotline	225-6870		747-8765	465-8765			

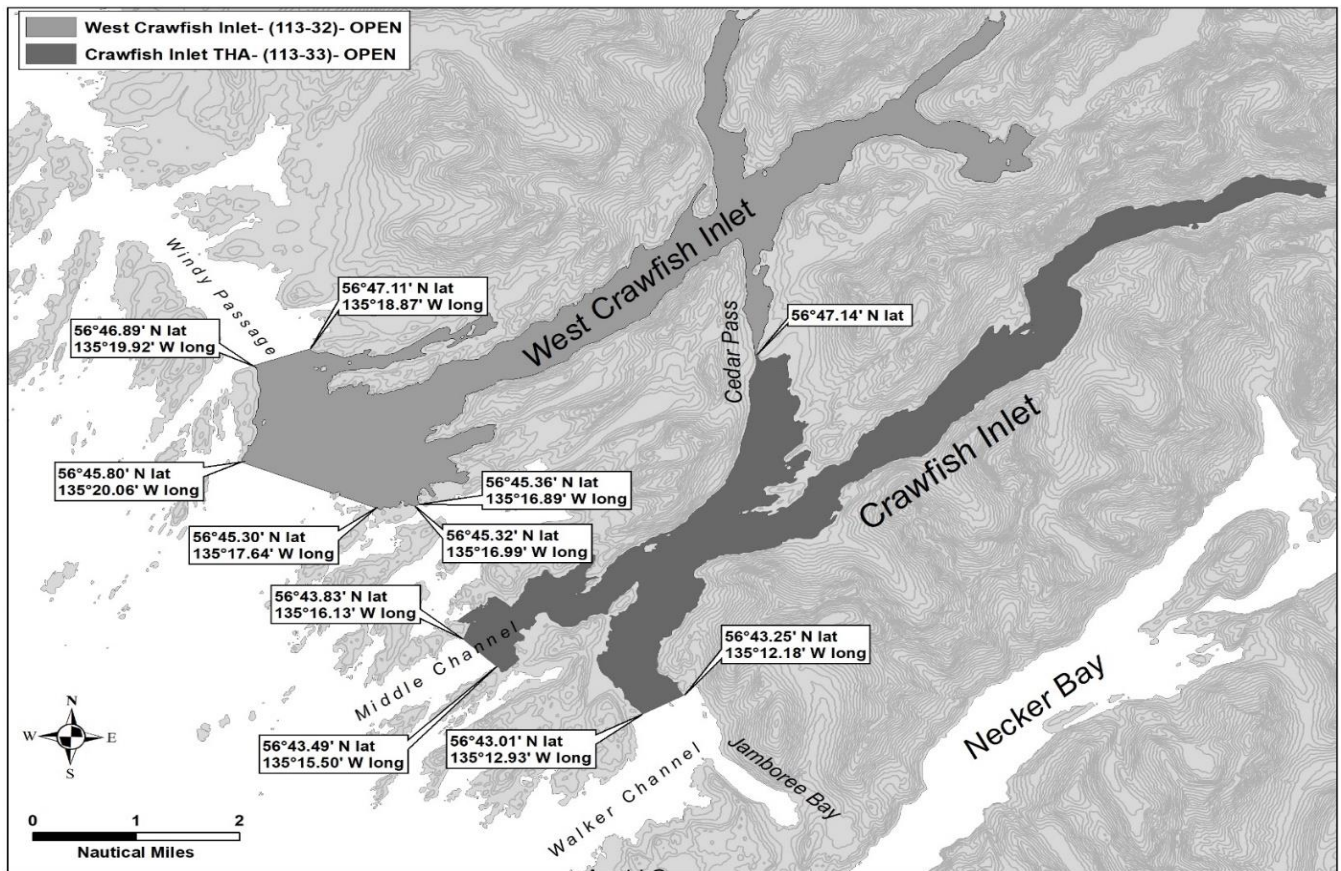


Figure 1.—Waters open to chum trolling in Crawfish Inlet THA and West Crawfish Inlet during coho closure.

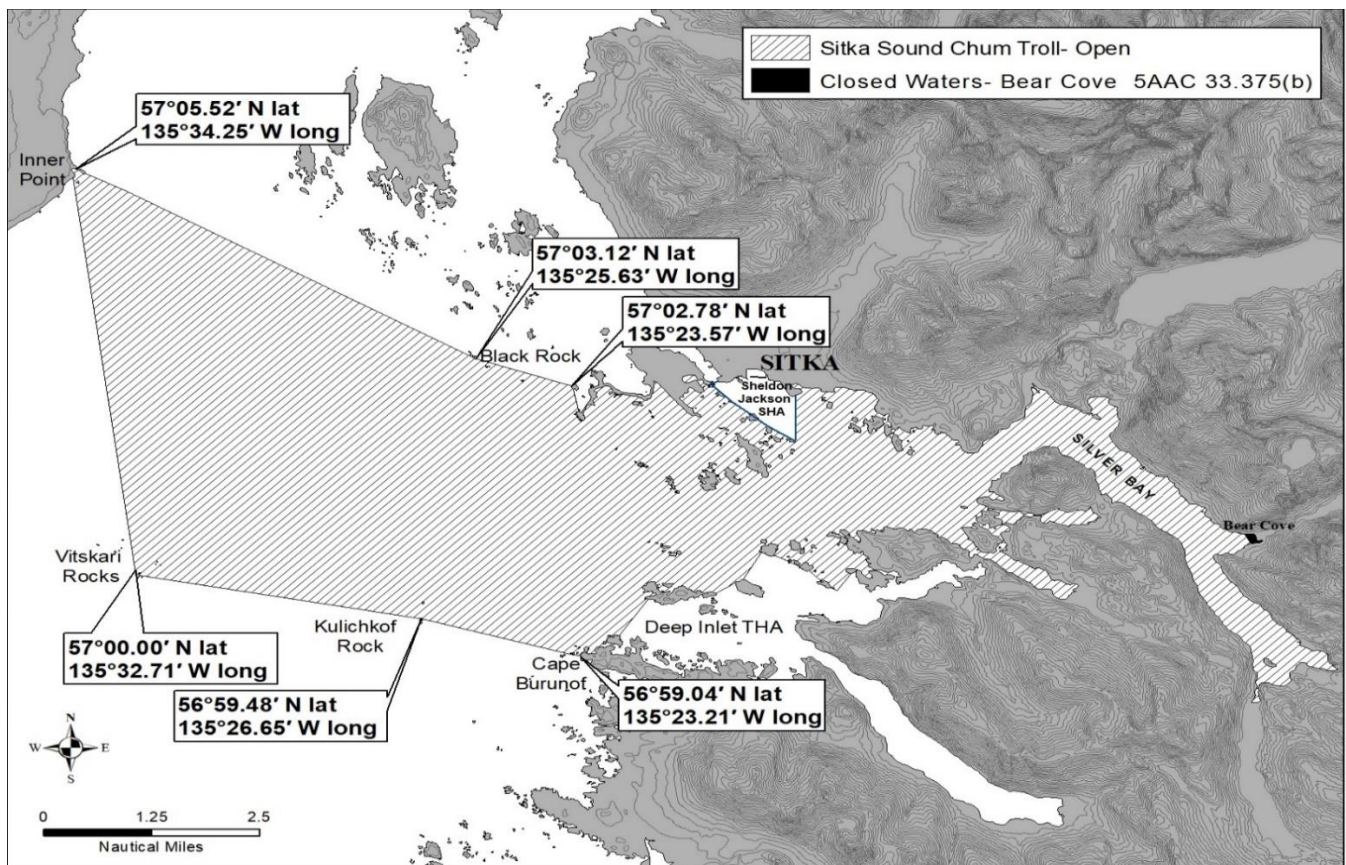


Figure 2.—Waters open to chum trolling in Sitka Sound during coho closure.

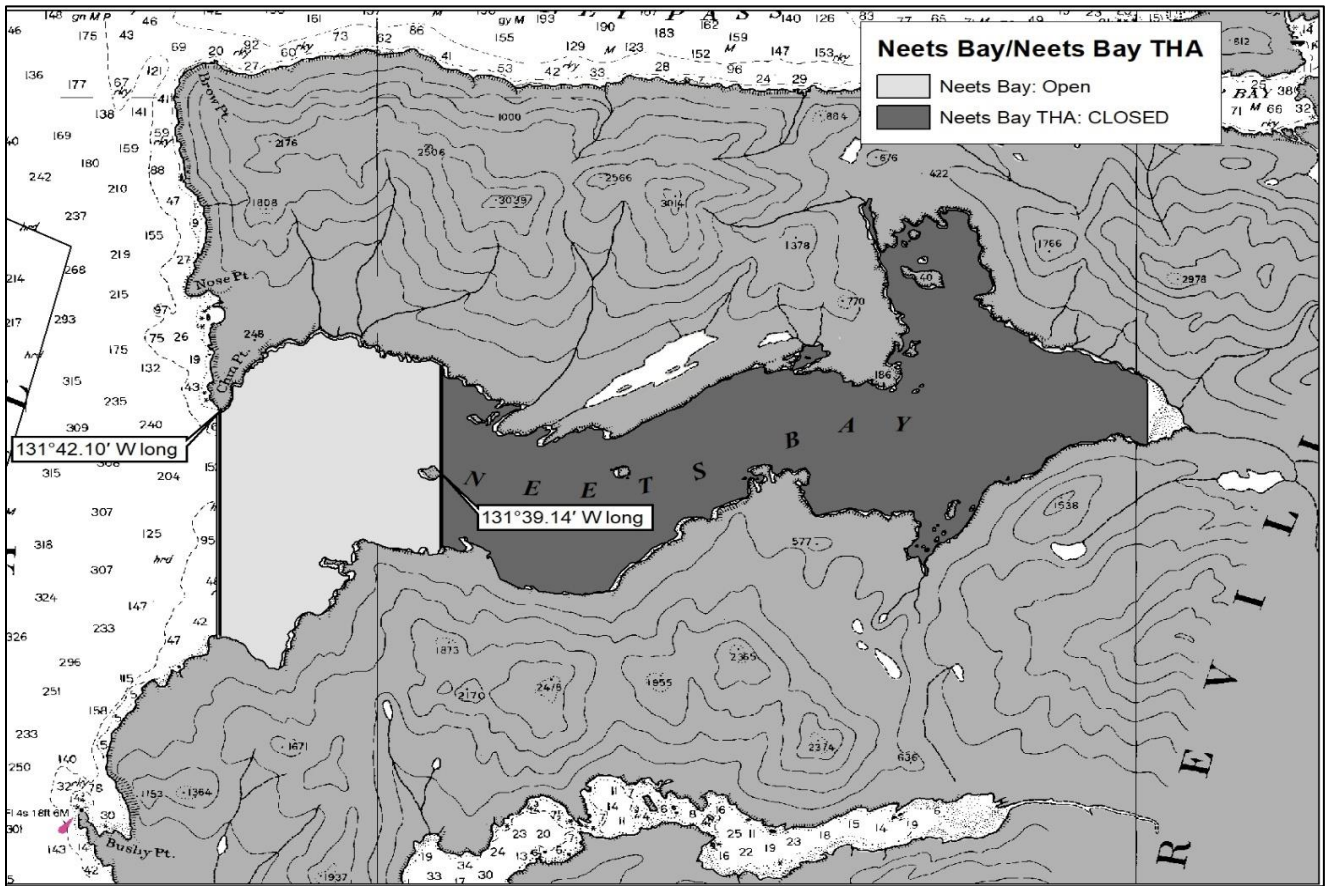


Figure 3.—Waters open to chum trolling in Neets Bay during coho closure.

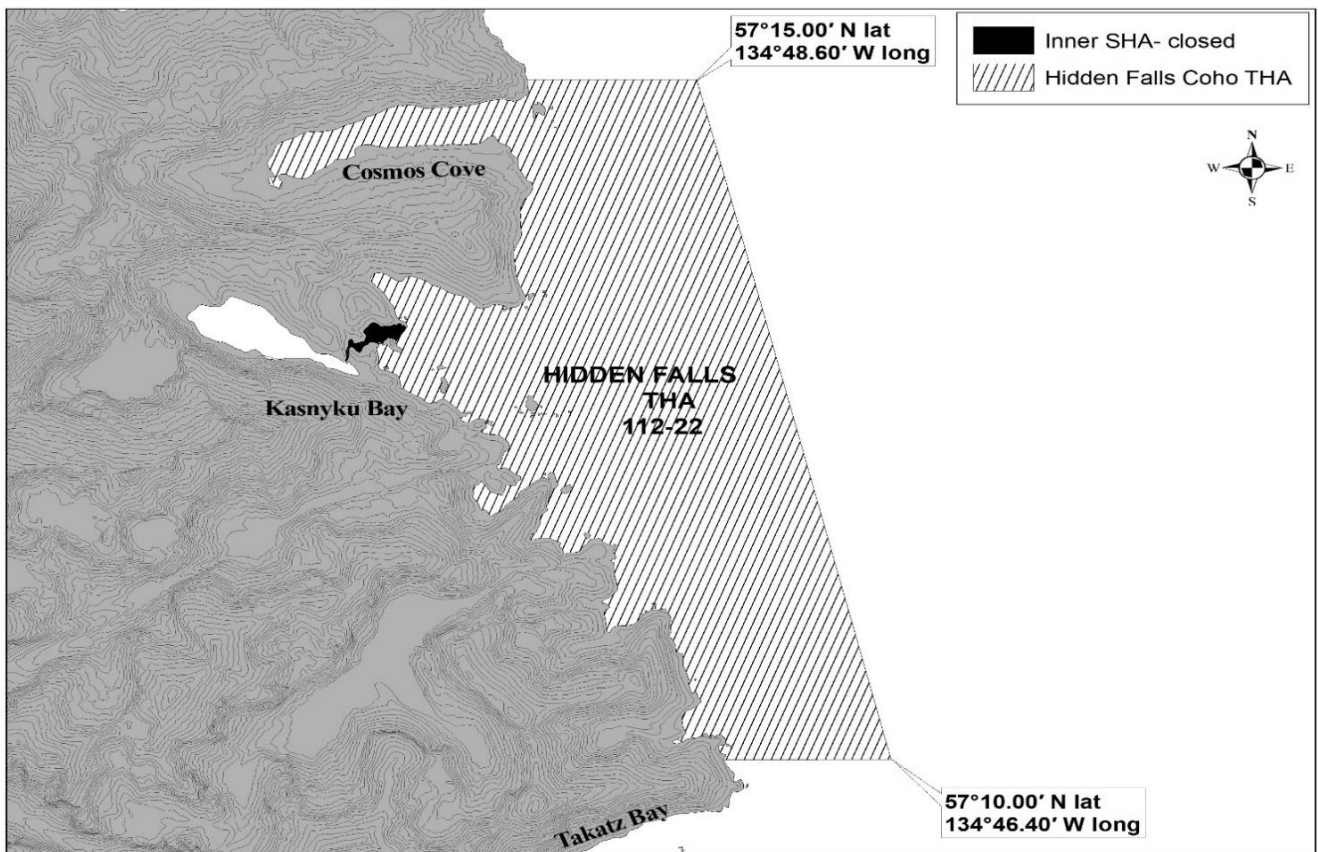


Figure 4.—Waters open to chum trolling in Hidden Falls THA during coho closure.