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Advisory Announcement

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2025 SOUTHEAST ALASKA EULACHON SMELT FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

The following describes open and closed areas and fisheries for eulachon smelt (*Thaleichthys pacificus*) for the 2025 season. These closures will be in effect beginning 12:01 a.m., March 1, 2025:

District 1: **will be closed** to commercial, personal use, and subsistence eulachon smelt fishing in all waters. This includes all Revillagigedo Island and mainland drainages;

District 7: **will be closed** to commercial, personal use, and subsistence eulachon smelt fishing in all waters;

District 8: **will be closed** to commercial eulachon fishing. **Subsistence and personal use fishing for eulachon smelt will remain open.**

Eulachon smelt spawning runs in the southern portions of Southeast Alaska have had large fluctuations over the last 25 years and continue to show poor to moderate abundance in the systems with traditional runs of eulachon smelt. Stock status information for each of the above areas is limited and a conservative approach is necessary for sustaining and rebuilding the health of these stocks.

On February 24, 2025, the United States Forest Service (USFS) announced a limited Federal Subsistence eulachon fishery for federally qualified users only in the waters of the Unuk River, while closing all other Federal waters that flow into District 1 to all users. At the statewide Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) meeting in early February, the FSB passed a proposal designating the Ketchikan area and its residents as rural. However, this regulatory change will take time to be processed and codified into regulation and will not be in effect for the upcoming 2025 eulachon season on the Unuk River. Currently, residents of Ketchikan are not considered federally qualified users and will not qualify for the 2025 federal subsistence eulachon fishery. For any further questions about this regulatory change, contact the Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District Office at (907) 225-2148.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will continue communicating with USFS personnel on the grounds and monitoring eulachon runs to the Unuk River and other District 1 systems as funding and staff time allow.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1H0125.

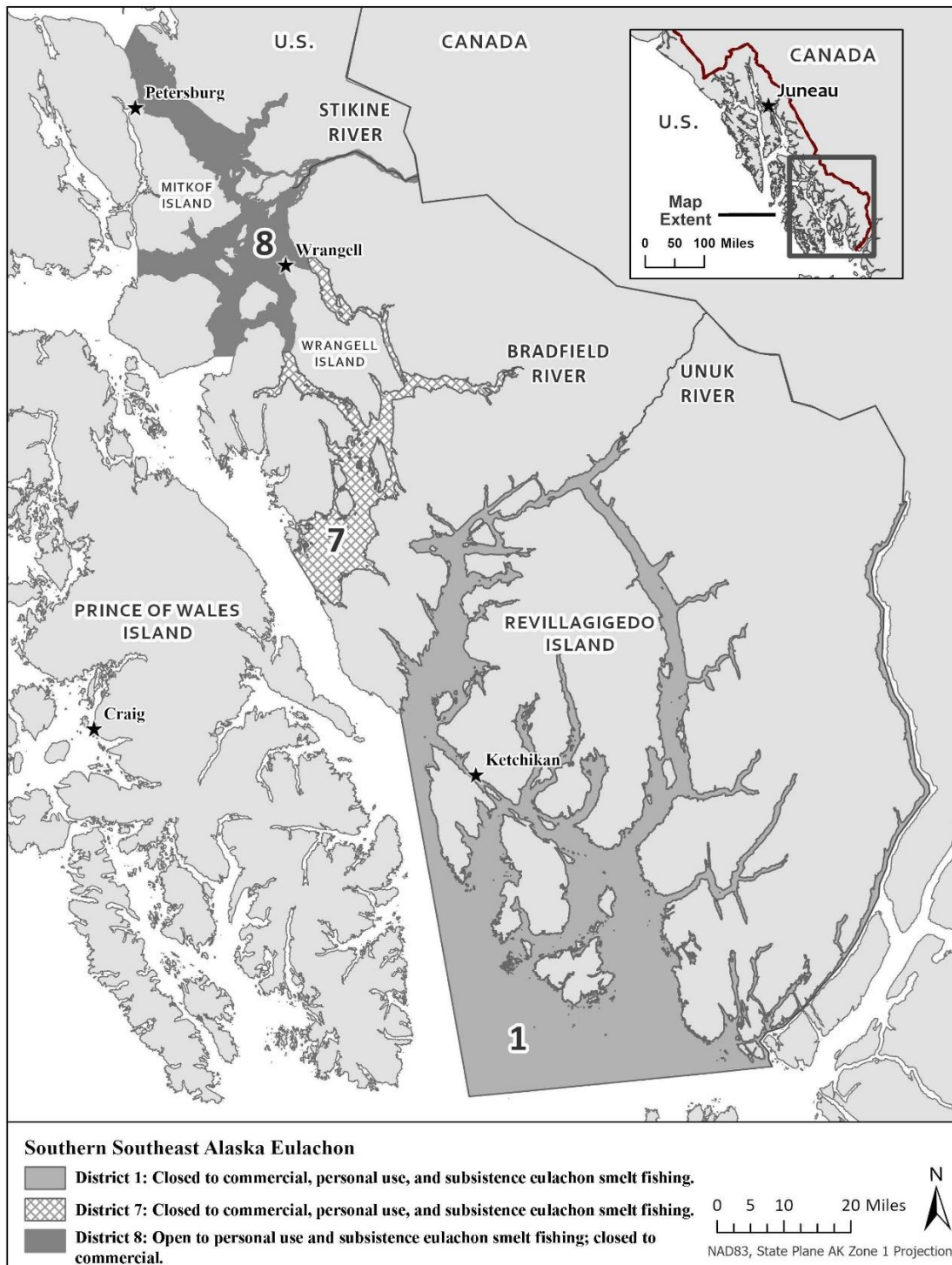


Figure 1. Map of southern Southeast Alaska eulachon fisheries.

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

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220