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## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: February 13, 2026*

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### 2026 SOUTHEAST ALASKA EULACHON SMELT FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

The following describes open and closed areas and fisheries for eulachon smelt (*Thaleichthys pacificus*) for the 2026 season. These closures will be in effect beginning 12:01 a.m., March 1, 2026:

**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 shown large fluctuations over the last 25 years in the observed systems with traditional eulachon runs. Stock status information for these areas remains limited; however, recent returns to the Unuk River show a positive and increasing trend of eulachon abundance based on aerial and on-the-ground surveys conducted by biologists from the United States Forest Service (USFS), Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District. USFS biologists have monitored the system since 2011, and surveys characterized the run in both 2024 and 2025 as *abundant*, the highest category used by the USFS biologists to describe run strength.

On February 9, 2026, the United States Forest Service (USFS) announced a limited Federal Subsistence eulachon fishery for federally qualified users 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 February 2025, the FSB passed a proposal designating the Ketchikan area and its residents as rural. This regulatory change was not in place for the 2025 eulachon season but will be in effect for 2026. Residents of Ketchikan are considered federally qualified users and qualify for the 2026 federal subsistence eulachon fishery. For questions about this regulatory change or to obtain a federal subsistence permit for eulachon on the Unuk River contact the Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District Office at (907) 225-4100.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1H0126.

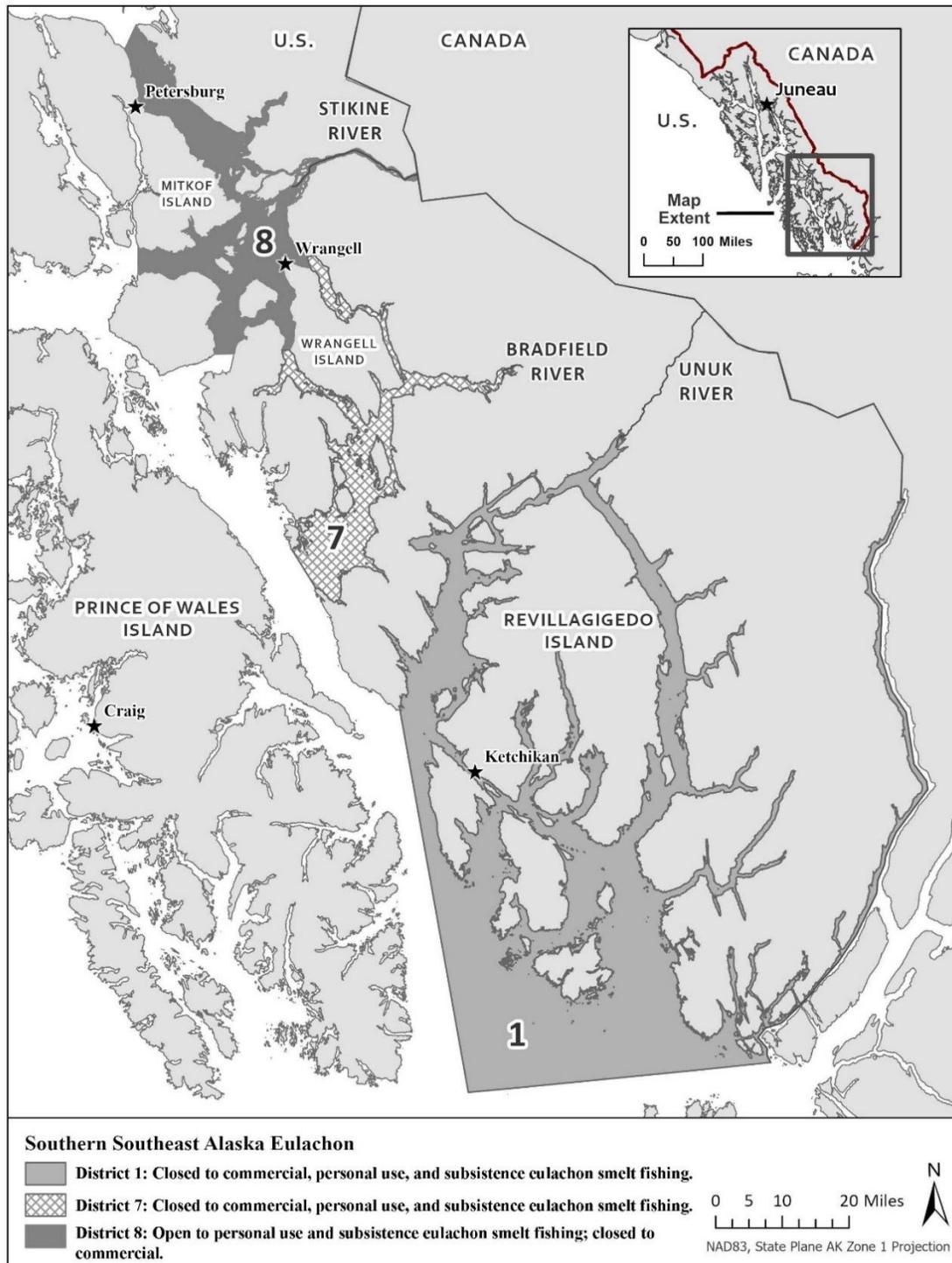


Figure 1. Map of southern Southeast Alaska eulachon fisheries.

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

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