
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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SOUTHEAST ALASKA DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka... The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the opening of the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fishery, during the times and in the areas listed below, beginning on Sunday, June 18, 2017:

Section 1-B: will be open from 12:01 p.m., Sunday, June 18, through 12:00 noon, Thursday, June 22, with the following restriction:

Pearse and Portland Canals: will be closed north of the latitude of Akeku Point at 54°50.03' N. latitude located at the southern entrance of Edwards Passage.

District 6: will be open from 12:01 p.m. Sunday, June 18, through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, June 20, with the following restrictions:

Section 6-D: will be closed north and east of a line from Point Nesbitt to Nesbitt Reef Light to Mariposa Rock Buoy to the northernmost tip of Point Harrington, to a point on Etolin Island at 56°09.60' N. latitude, 132°42.70' W. longitude, to the southernmost tip of Point Stanhope and south of a line from Point Stanhope to Luck Point;

Gillnet mesh restriction: maximum allowed mesh size is six inches.

District 8: will be closed.

Section 11-B: will be open from 12:01 p.m., Sunday, June 18, through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, June 20, with the following restrictions:

Taku Inlet/Stephens Passage: will be closed north and west of a line from Greely Point at 58°12.85' N. latitude, 134°05.02' W. longitude to a point at 58°12.85' N. latitude, 134°07.05' W. longitude to Cove Point at 58°07.76' N. latitude, 134°10.05' W. longitude;

Limestone Inlet: will be closed;

Port Snettisham: will be closed east of a line from Point Styleman to Point Anmer;

Gillnet mesh restriction: maximum allowed mesh size is six inches.

Section 15-A: will be open from 12:01 p.m., Sunday, June 18, through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, June 20, in the waters of Lynn Canal south of the latitude of the southernmost tip of Talsani Island at 59°04.26' N. latitude, east of a line from the southernmost tip of Talsani Island at 59°04.26' N. latitude, 135°16.25' W. longitude to Eldred Rock Light to a point two nautical miles from the eastern shoreline at 58°51.00' N. latitude, 135°12.77' W. longitude, and north of the latitude of Sherman Rock at 58°51.00' N. latitude with the following restrictions:

Gillnet mesh restriction: maximum allowed mesh size is six inches;

Night closure: all of Section 15-A will be closed between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m.

Section 15-C: will be open from 12:01 p.m., Sunday, June 18, through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, June 20, in those waters within one nautical mile of the western shoreline of Lynn Canal south of the latitude of Danger Point at 58°41.73' N. latitude and in all remaining waters of Section 15-C south of the latitude of Point Bridget at 58°40.73' N. latitude with the following restriction:

Gillnet mesh restriction: maximum allowed mesh size is six inches.

Section 15-C: (Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area (THA)): will be open from 12:01 p.m., Sunday, June 18, through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, June 20, in those waters within one nautical mile of the western shoreline of Lynn Canal south of the latitude of Danger Point at 58°41.73' N. latitude and from 12:01 p.m., Sunday, June 18, until further notice in those waters of the Boat Harbor THA west of a regulatory marker at the entrance to Boat Harbor with the following restriction:

Gillnet mesh restriction: maximum allowed mesh size is six inches, excluding the inside waters of the Boat Harbor THA west of the regulatory markers at the entrance of Boat Harbor.

Fishermen are advised that Yankee Cove is closed for the season, north and east of a line from the end of the breakwater at 58°35.28' N. latitude, 134°54.22' W. longitude to a point on the shore at 58°35.19' N. latitude, 134°54.01' W. longitude.

The Stikine River Chinook salmon run is projected to be below the lower end of the escapement goal range. Therefore, District 8 will remain closed for the initial opening and there will be a mesh restriction in District 6.

Chinook salmon less than 28" that are harvested in the commercial drift gillnet fisheries may be retained and sold. Chinook salmon less than 28" in length, and those of Alaska hatchery origin, will not be counted against the Alaska allocation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty harvest. Therefore, fishermen and tenders are asked to keep Chinook salmon harvested in THAs separate from those harvested in traditional areas. Separating these harvests will greatly assist in fish accounting purposes in regards to the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Fish and Game samplers working at the processing facilities will also identify hatchery-reared Chinook salmon so those fish are not counted against the Alaska share of the harvest.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1S1017.

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