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Commissioner



Department of
Fish and Game

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

ADF&G Announces 2023 Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon All-Gear Catch Limit

March 30, 2023 –

(Anchorage, AK) — Under the management provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (treaty), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced today that the preseason all-gear catch limit for Southeast Alaska (SEAK) is 206,027 treaty Chinook salmon for 2023. The ADF&G target will be **201,900 Chinook salmon**. This year's target includes a 2% reduction from the treaty catch limit that will serve as a buffer to avoid exceeding the all-gear limit and payback provisions of the treaty.

The all-gear catch limit for SEAK is based 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 Pacific Salmon Commission on February 16, 2023.

The SEAK Chinook salmon all-gear catch limit is distributed among sport and commercial fisheries under management plans specified by the Alaska Board of Fisheries as follows:

Sector	2023 Chinook Salmon Target
Commercial purse seine (4.3% of all-gear)	8,680
Commercial drift gillnet (2.9% of all-gear)	5,850
Commercial set gillnet (1,000)	1,000
Commercial troll (80% after net gear subtracted)	149,100
Sport (20% after net gear subtracted)	37,280
Total catch target	201,910

The preseason outlook is for continued poor production of SEAK Chinook salmon stocks, including seven stocks (Chilkat, Taku, King Salmon, Stikine, Unuk and Chickamin rivers and Andrew Creek) previously listed or recently adopted as Stocks of Management Concern. Although the Chilkat and Taku stocks are projected to meet their escapement goals, run forecasts are still well below long-term average production. This will necessitate a management regime aimed at minimizing catches of these stocks.

Related Division of Sport Fish Advisory Announcements:

- <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=area.R1&Year=2023>

Related Division of Commercial Fisheries Advisory Announcements:

- <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon>

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