

RC-4, DRAFT–Unuk and Chickamin King Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2021

MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN OPTIONS FOR ADDRESSING STOCK OF CONCERN

ACTION PLAN GOAL

The goal of this plan is to rebuild Unuk and Chickamin River king salmon runs to consistently achieve escapements within the respective BEG ranges and to consistently provide harvestable yield.

ACTION PLAN ALTERNATIVES

The benefits and detriments described below are intended to reflect only those related to the goal of rebuilding king salmon to levels that achieve the current BEG ranges for Unuk and Chickamin River king salmon runs. Any board directed action will be considered the minimum action to be taken unless the conditions for reducing management restrictions or delisting a stock of concern as described in subsequent section are met. The department may have to increase management actions due to previously unaccounted for changes in fishing patterns, increases in effort, and/or new stock assessment data.

ACTION #1 – SPORT FISHERY

Objective: Reduce the sport harvest of Unuk River and Chickamin River king salmon.

Background: Unuk River and Chickamin River king salmon are harvested throughout the marine waters of SEAK, primarily in the Ketchikan area. Regionwide regulations for king salmon in the marine sport fisheries in SEAK vary annually. Bag and possession limits and other management measures are set annually as directed by the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* according to the preseason region-wide king salmon allowable catch as determined by the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission.

The Division of Sport Fish used commissioner's EO authority to restrict time and area, reduce bag and possession limits and close areas to sport fishing in the Ketchikan management area from 2014 to 2020.

Option A – Status Quo

Specific Action to Implement the Objective: Continue to manage the sport fishery per the 2018 Unuk River king salmon action plan (Figure 12).

Benefits: These management actions can be accomplished through EO authority, and the user groups are accustomed to the actions. The restrictions are directly related to historical CWT and GSI data. Sport fishing opportunity is provided to access hatchery king salmon (Figure 12).

Detriments: The harvest of king salmon would still occur, and sport harvest rates may not be lower than recent harvest rates under the same management regime. Additional management actions that further reduced the harvest rate would not be included in the plan, though would likely still be taken.

Option B – Combination of Time and Area Reductions

Specific Action to Implement the Objective: In addition to the actions prescribed in the 2018 Unuk River king salmon action plan, extend the non-retention period in the remaining waters of Ketchikan an additional 2 weeks through June 30. If additional conservation measures are necessary, terminal harvest areas in the Ketchikan area such as Neets Bay, Mountain Point and the Thomas Basin areas (Figure 12) may be delayed during the first 2 weeks of June.

Remainder of Ketchikan: From July 1 through August 14, the bag and possession limit is 1 king salmon 28 in or greater in length for all anglers and the annual limit is 3 king salmon in the marine waters of Ketchikan north and east from the International Boundary Line at Dixon Entrance from 54°42.48' N lat, 130°36.92' W long to 54°40' N lat, 131°45' W long, continuing north to Caamano Point and enclosed to the north by a line from Indian Point to Mike Point and enclosed to the southeast by a line from Thomas Basin at 55°20.29' N. lat., 131° 38.61' long to 55°20.30' N. lat., 131°38.56' long and by a line from Mountain Point at 55°17.57' N. lat., 131°32.41' W. long, to Cutter Rocks Light at 55°17.34' N. lat., 131°31.47' W. long, to 55°17.57' N. lat., 131°28.18' W. long, and by a line from Lucky Point to Middy Point, and enclosed by a line from Kah Shakes Point to Point Rosen and continuing to the Annette Island 3,000 ft boundary at the latitude of Beaver Point.

Thomas Basin and Mountain Point areas: June 1 – June 30, bag and possession limit is 1 king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length for all anglers and the annual limit is 3 king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length.

Benefits: This option will reduce harvest of king salmon returning to the Ketchikan area to a lower level than in Option A while providing harvest opportunity for sport anglers to target hatchery king salmon returning to Whitman Lake Hatchery, Neets Bay Hatchery, Deer Mountain Hatchery, and the Carroll Inlet remote release site.

Detriments: The harvest of king salmon may still occur. More restrictive options will reduce sport fishing opportunity and have economic impacts on the charter fleet.

ACTION #2 – COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Background: The approach taken by the department to date has been to reduce encounters during the late winter troll fishery with an early seasonal closure. This action shapes spring troll fisheries in a manner that reduces time and area in the immediate vicinity of the Unuk River and other regional spring troll areas where CWT recoveries of Unuk and Chickamin River king salmon have occurred. Management actions taken in the purse seine and drift gillnet fisheries have been limited to time and area restrictions in the Neets Bay THA, based on Unuk River king salmon recoveries, and regional non-retention of king salmon over 28 in in length in the purse seine fishery. Based on the most recent tag data available for Chickamin River king salmon, the non-retention period in the purse seine fishery should be extended later in the season, due to the slightly later run timing of Chickamin River king salmon compared to Unuk River king salmon.

Option A – Status Quo

Objective: Include management measures in addition to the 2018 Unuk River king salmon action plan to reduce the commercial harvest rate of Chickamin River king salmon.

Specific Action to Implement the Objective:

1. Net Gear

- Close Neets Bay THA for 6 days during SWs 24–27. Additional actions taken include keeping the Neets Bay THA closed to all gear groups until June 15.
- Regional non-retention of king salmon over 28 in in length for purse seine fisheries through at least SW 30 (specific to Chickamin River).

2. Troll Fisheries

- Continue to manage the troll fishery per the 2018 Unuk River king salmon action plan.

Benefits: These management actions can be accomplished through EO authority and the user groups are accustomed to the actions. The restrictions are directly related to historical CWT and GSI data. The fisheries impacted by these restrictions experience minimal disruption.

Detriments: Since 2014 for troll and 2015 for the net gear, when some of these management actions were first implemented, the Unuk River BEG was met in 2015, 2018, and 2019. In 2018 and 2019, under the current board adopted management regime, harvest rates (all gear groups combined) dropped to 30% and 18% but climbed back up to a 33% in 2020, even with the same management regime in place. The troll gear group will continue to lose opportunity, especially in the winter and spring troll fisheries. Additional management actions that further reduced the harvest rate would not be included in the plan, though would likely still be taken.

Option B – Combination of Extended Time and Area Reductions

Objective: Further reduce the commercial harvest rate of Unuk and Chickamin River king salmon.

Specific Action to Implement the Objective:

1. Net Gear

- Neets Bay will remain closed through June 15, and there may be as little as 1 opening per week for each gear group through SW 26. The THA will not expand to Chin Point until July 1.
- Regional non-retention of king salmon over 28 inches in length for purse seine fisheries through at least SW 31 due to the later run timing of Chickamin River king salmon.

2. Troll Fisheries

In addition to the actions prescribed in the 2018 Unuk River king salmon action plan, include those supplementary actions that reduce harvest on king salmon runs in southern SEAK.

- If additional conservation measures are necessary, openings in spring troll king salmon fisheries in the Ketchikan area, such as Mountain Point and Rock Point, may be delayed during the first 2 weeks of June, with reduced opening lengths prior to June 15. Delay the Neets Bay THA troll opening date until June 15 and delay the THA expansion to Chin Point until July 1.
- Close the waters of the Neets Bay THA between the longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island and the longitude of Chin Point to king salmon retention and possession by troll gear during the first summer troll king salmon retention period.
- Close the waters of Section 1-E, north of a line from Indian Point to Mike Point to king salmon retention or possession during the first general summer troll king salmon retention period.
- Close the waters of Section 1-F, enclosed by a line from Lucky Point to Middy Point, continuing to the latitude of Beaver Point, and from Point Rosen to Quadra Point, and in southeast Behm Canal south of a line from a point at 55°11.78' N lat, 131°05.13' W

long, located on Point Sykes to a point at 55°12.22' N lat, 131°05.70' W long, located one-half mile northwest of Point Sykes to Point Alava to king salmon retention or possession during the first general summer troll king salmon retention period.

Benefits: Actions could decrease wild stock king salmon harvest, specifically harvest of Unuk and Chickamin River king salmon. These management actions can be accomplished through EO authority. The restrictions are directly related to these stocks' historical harvests of fish with CWTs.

Detriments: The troll gear group will continue to lose opportunity, especially in the winter and spring troll fisheries. Closures in the THAs could create foregone harvest of hatchery king salmon, as those fish would be harvested in the Neets Bay cost recovery fishery after the rotational fisheries close. Delayed harvest of hatchery fish could also cause economic loss due to decrease in fish quality.

RC-7, DRAFT–Stikine River and Andrew Creek King Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2021

ACTION PLAN MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR ADDRESSING STOCK OF CONCERN

ACTION PLAN GOAL

The primary goal of this plan is to rebuild Stikine River and Andrew Creek king salmon runs to consistently achieve escapements within the escapement goal range and to consistently provide harvestable yield.

ACTION PLAN ALTERNATIVES

The benefits and detriments described below are intended to reflect only those related to the goal of rebuilding king salmon to levels that achieve the current escapement goal ranges for Stikine River and Andrew Creek king salmon runs. Any board directed action will be considered the minimum action to be taken unless the conditions for reducing management restrictions or delisting a stock of concern as described in subsequent section are met. The department may have to increase management actions due to previously unaccounted for changes in fishing patterns, increases in effort, and/or new stock assessment data.

Action #1–Sport Fishery

Objective: Reduce the sport harvest of Stikine River and Andrew Creek king salmon.

Background: The department has used EO authority to reduce the harvest of Stikine River and Andrew Creek king salmon by reducing bag and possession limits, restricting fishing time and area, and prohibiting the retention of king salmon. Restrictive action was taken in the sport fishery during 2017, and more restrictive regulations were applied in 2018 and continued through 2020. Apart from the City Creek release site, where Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon return, the waters adjacent to the Stikine River and Andrew Creek (District 8 and a portion of District 7) have been closed to retention of king salmon from April 1 through July 14 (Figure 6). This action protects Stikine River king salmon throughout the time period when these fish would be available for harvest in terminal marine fisheries.

In addition to the action in the terminal area, regionwide action implemented annually since 2018 to protect SEAK wild stock king salmon has prohibited the retention of king salmon in the majority of the Petersburg/Wrangell management area (Figure 6) area between April 1 and June 14. Collectively, these actions dramatically reduced the annual harvest of Stikine River king salmon in the SEAK sport fishery to an annual average of only 36 fish over the last 3 years (2018–2020). These actions are expected to have a similar reduction in harvest of Andrew Creek king salmon.

Option A – Status Quo

Continue to use EO authority to implement conservative king salmon regulations identical to those implemented from 2018 through 2020 (Figure 6). Continue to use EO authority to provide opportunity for Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon within the City Creek release site between June 15 and July 14 using the area boundaries applied in 2019 and 2020.

Specific Action to Implement the Objective: Use EO authority to restrict the king salmon sport fishery while providing opportunity to harvest Alaska hatchery king salmon at the City Creek release site.

1. **In waters adjacent to the Stikine River:** Retention of king salmon is prohibited from April 1 through July 14. Includes the waters of District 8 as described in 5 AAC 47.057(d) and a portion of District 7 in the waters of Eastern Passage west of a line from a point on Wrangell Island at 56° 22.19' N lat, 132° 11.75' W long to a point on the mainland shore at 56° 22.76' N lat, 132° 10.62' W long (Figure 6).
2. **In most marine waters within the Petersburg/Wrangell management area:** Retention of king salmon is prohibited from April 1 through June 14. Includes the waters of District 5 north of line between Point Baker and a point on the shore of Kuiu Island at 56° 20.80' N. lat., 133° 50.87' W. long., District 6, District 7 excluding the waters of Eastern Passage west of a line from a point on Wrangell Island at 56° 22.19' N lat, 132° 11.75' W long to a point on the mainland shore at 56° 22.76' N. lat., 132° 10.62' W. long., District 9 north of line between Point Ellis and Patterson Point, and District 10 as described in 5 AAC 33.200.
3. **In the City Creek release site:** Between June 15 and July 14 the bag and possession limit is 1 king salmon of any size. The area boundaries are described as the marine waters adjacent to City Creek between a point on the Mitkof Island shore, at 56° 47.83' N. lat., 132° 51.57' W. long. to 56° 48.30' N. lat., 132° 51.50' W. long. to 56° 49.77' N lat, 132° 55.78' W long and back to the Mitkof Island shore at Hungry Point (56° 49.36' N lat, 132° 56.38' W long), and includes the freshwaters of City Creek.
4. **Remainder of Petersburg/Wrangell management area:** Regional king salmon regulations established under the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* apply.

Benefits: The proposed dates and areas of nonretention provide protection to Stikine River, Andrew Creek, and other SEAK wild stock king salmon populations while allowing sport fishing opportunity for Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon. These management actions successfully reduced harvest of wild stock king salmon in the sport fishery between 2018 and 2020.

Detriments: The king salmon fishery has been restricted throughout the majority of the Petersburg/Wrangell management area and during the historical peak timing of the fishery. Opportunity to harvest king salmon has been limited to periods of lower catch rates and within areas where Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon are available.

Option B – Reduce Size of the City Creek release site.

In addition to management actions listed in Option A, reduce the size of the City Creek release site where opportunity to harvest Alaska hatchery king salmon is provided. The reduced size of the City Creek release site effectively restricts fishing opportunity to a shoreline fishery immediately adjacent to City Creek. This action may further reduce the harvest of Stikine River and Andrew Creek king salmon.

Specific Action to Implement the Objective: In addition to management actions in Option A, use EO authority to reduce the fishing area available to harvest Alaska hatchery king salmon at the City Creek release site.

1. **In the City Creek release site:** The area boundaries are described as the marine waters adjacent to City Creek between markers posted on the Mitkof Island shore (56° 48.10' N lat, 132° 53.78' W long, and 56° 47.98' N lat, 132° 53.23' W long) and seaward to a line approximately 250 yards offshore between points at 56° 48.20' N lat, 132° 53.70' W long and 56° 48.09' N lat, 132° 53.15' W long, and includes the freshwaters of City Creek.

Benefits: The proposed dates and areas of nonretention provide protection to Stikine River, Andrew Creek, and other nearby SEAK wild stock king salmon populations. These management actions successfully reduced harvest in the sport fishery between 2018 and 2020. Reducing the fishing area in the City Creek release site may further reduce the harvest of Stikine River or Andrew Creek king salmon.

Detriments: Opportunity to harvest Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon at the City Creek release site would be further limited, resulting in an unharvested surplus of hatchery fish. The king salmon fishery has been restricted throughout the majority of the Petersburg/Wrangell management area during the historical peak timing of the fishery. Opportunity to harvest king salmon has been limited to periods of lower catch rates and within areas where Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon are available.

Action #2—Commercial Fisheries

Option A—Status Quo

Objective: Continue to manage per the PST and take management actions that reduced the commercial harvest of Stikine River/Andrew Creek king salmon.

Specific Action to Implement the Objective:

3. Drift Gillnet Fisheries

Continue to manage the District 6 and 8 drift gillnet fisheries according to provisions of annual management plans produced by the Transboundary Technical Committee and approved by the Transboundary Rivers Panel, as directed by Chapter 1 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Management actions per the annual management plan include but are not limited to: delay start of District 8 drift gillnet fishery for at least 2 weeks and delay the start of the District 6 drift gillnet fishery up to 1 week; implement area restrictions in District 8 near the mouth of the Stikine River through SW 28; and restrict mesh size to a maximum of 6 inches through SW 28 in District 6 and through SW 29 in District 8.

4. Troll Fisheries

Implement broadscale regional troll fishery provisions outlined in the 2018 Unuk River king salmon action plan that also benefit both Stikine River and Andrew Creek king salmon. The actions taken that conserved these stocks under the 2018 Unuk River king salmon action plan from 2018 to 2020 include:

- Notwithstanding any remaining portion of the seasonal guideline harvest level, the winter troll fishery will close by EO in all waters of SEAK on March 15, 6 weeks prior to the regulatory closing date.
- Spring troll king salmon fisheries will be limited to outer coastal areas near hatchery or hatchery release sites in Districts 1, 3, 13, and 183—all other waters of the region will be closed.
- Hatchery-produced chum salmon fishery openings in Districts 9 and 10 will be delayed until June 15 and closed to the retention of king salmon.
- Continue to manage the troll fishery in District 8 fisheries according to provisions of annual management plans produced by the Transboundary Technical Committee and approved by the Transboundary Rivers Panel, as directed by Chapter 1 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Management actions taken in the District 8 troll fishery will include closing the waters of District 8 to king salmon retention and possession during the first general summer troll king salmon retention period.

5. Purse Seine Fishery

Continue to implement nonretention of king salmon until at least the third week of July in traditional fisheries and in THAs that do not have hatchery king salmon runs.

6. Terminal Harvest Area Fisheries

Continue to delay the start of the Anita Bay THA from May 1 to June 1.

Benefits: These management actions can be accomplished through EO authority, they have been effective in reducing harvest rates, and user groups are accustomed to the actions.

Detriments: Opportunity to harvest other salmon stocks, specifically sockeye salmon, and hatchery-produced chum and king salmon would be impacted. Troll harvest opportunity for hatchery-produced SEAK king salmon, as well as for species other than king salmon, may be lost due to king salmon restrictions.

Option B – Increased Management Actions

Specific Action to Implement the Objective:

3. Drift Gillnet Fisheries

Continue to manage the District 6 and 8 drift gillnet fisheries according to provisions of annual management plans produced by the Transboundary Technical Committee and approved by the Transboundary Rivers Panel, as directed by Chapter 1 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Additional Management actions could include but are not limited to: delay opening of District 8 for 3 weeks; restrict open area in District 8 through SW 29; delay opening of District 6 for up to 2 weeks; and consider an area closure in eastern Section 6-A the first week the district opens.

4. Troll Fisheries

No additional restrictions considered. Closing the winter troll fishery early, closing most spring troll fisheries, particularly in Districts 6 and 8, and implementing nonretention of king salmon in District 8 during the first summer troll fishery has reduced the harvest of Stikine River and Andrew Creek king salmon to zero or very low levels.

5. Purse Seine Fishery

No additional restrictions considered. Implementing nonretention of king salmon in the purse seine fishery through at least the third week in July is beyond the run timing of Stikine River and Andrew Creek king salmon in those areas the purse seine fishery would be open.

6. Terminal Harvest Area Fisheries

No additional restrictions considered.

Benefits: These management actions can be accomplished through EO authority. The restrictions are directly related to historical run timing of Stikine River king salmon.

Detriments: Harvest opportunity for sockeye salmon and hatchery-produced chum and king salmon may be lost due to conservation measures implemented to protect Stikine River and Andrew Creek king salmon.

Action #3 – Subsistence Fisheries

Objective: Reduce subsistence harvest of Stikine River and Andrew Creek king salmon.

No board action recommended. The subsistence fishery is managed under provisions of annual management plans produced by the Transboundary Technical Committee and approved by the Transboundary Rivers Panel, as directed by Chapter 1 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. In addition, the subsistence fishery is federally managed by the USFS; therefore, the board has no jurisdiction over the fishery. Department management

staff recommend actions to the USFS based on stock status and preseason expectations of allowable catch. If there is no allowable catch, the department recommends closure of the directed subsistence king salmon fishery.

RC-6, DRAFT—Northern Southeast Alaska King Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2021 *(Note: This draft was amended 12-20-21 to include portions of Districts 9 and 13 in options A, B, and C for sport fish management actions and figures 5, 6, and 7 were updated to reflect these changes.)*

ACTION PLAN MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR ADDRESSING STOCKS OF CONCERN

ACTION PLAN GOAL

The primary goal of this action plan is to rebuild king salmon runs in the Chilkat, King Salmon, and Taku Rivers to consistently achieve escapement goals while providing historical levels of fishing opportunity.

ACTION PLAN ALTERNATIVES

Potential management actions and the benefits and detriments described below are intended to reflect only those related to the goal of rebuilding king salmon runs to levels that achieve the current BEG for stocks from the Chilkat, King Salmon, and Taku Rivers. The King Salmon River king salmon stock is a small, unique island population that current genetic analysis of fishery harvest samples cannot discern due to its very small contribution to the harvest. The King Salmon River stock is combined with other king salmon stocks infrequently encountered as a reporting group in the GSI analysis of annual fishery harvests. Conservative management actions taken to reduce harvest of king salmon from the Chilkat, Taku, and Stikine Rivers are assumed to reduce harvest of King Salmon River king salmon, due to proximity of these stocks and common migration corridors and rearing areas. Any board directed action will be considered the minimum action to be taken unless the conditions for reducing management restrictions or delisting a stock of concern as described in subsequent section are met. The department may have to increase management actions due to previously unaccounted for changes in fishing patterns, increases in effort, and/or new stock assessment data.

ACTION #1—SPORT FISHERY

Objective: Reduce the sport harvest of Chilkat River, King Salmon River, and Taku River king salmon.

Background: The department used EO authority to restrict time and area, reduce bag and possession limits and close areas since 2018 to reduce Chilkat River and Taku River (and thus, by default, the King Salmon River) king salmon harvest under board direction given in the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan. The Taku River was not listed as a SOC and restrictive management actions were implemented in all fisheries to meet escapement as is mandated in the PST. Despite closures to the terminal sport fisheries near the Chilkat, King Salmon, and Taku Rivers in 2016 through 2020, escapements failed to meet the escapement goals in the Chilkat River in 2016 through 2018, in the King Salmon River in 2017 through 2020, and in the Taku River in 2016 through 2020 (Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4).

Conservation measures taken in 2018 through 2020 under the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan reduced harvest of king salmon stocks from the Chilkat, King Salmon, and Taku Rivers. Prior to the action plan, in 2008 to 2017 the average sport fishery harvest of Chilkat River king salmon was 250 fish in all SEAK, while in 2018 to 2020 the SEAK sport fishery harvest averaged 48 Chilkat River king

salmon, as estimated by CWT recoveries. CWT recoveries indicate that a significant portion of Chilkat River king salmon rear primarily in the inside waters of northern SEAK, so harvest reduction actions under the action plan were focused in those waters. Similarly, King Salmon River stocks appear to rear in inside waters, thus restrictive measures applied to Chilkat and Taku river stocks should have reduced harvest. Based on CWT recoveries in District 11 sport fisheries, about 90% of Taku River king salmon were harvested from April 15 to June 30 from 2000 to 2017, with over 80% of the fish on average past the fish wheels on Taku River by June 15. Conservative management actions around Juneau in the spring of 2018, 2019, and 2020 reduced sport harvest. Harvest in 2018 through 2020 has ranged from 2% to 25% of the prior 5-year (2013–2017) average harvest of 443 fish. District 11 terminal sport harvest of large Taku River king salmon was 9 fish in 2018, 94 fish in 2019, and 112 fish in 2020. Spring and early summer closures around the King Salmon River estuary (Section 11D) also provided protection for King Salmon River king salmon.

Option A—Status Quo

Use department EO authority to implement conservative king salmon regulations in Districts 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 that are essentially identical to those implemented in 2018 to 2020 under the guidance of the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers action plan. In 2018 through 2020, nonretention of king salmon and closures to king salmon fishing were started on April 1, 2 weeks earlier than Action #2: Sport Fishery in the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan. Regional king salmon regulations established under the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 47.055) would apply in the restricted areas during the remainder of the year when fishing is allowed. The proposed closure boundaries for Option A in the respective districts and sections for the management options discussed below are depicted in Figure 5.

Specific Actions to Implement the Objective: Implement closures and nonretention periods inseason in the Haines, Skagway, and Juneau areas as follows:

District 15: Chilkat Inlet closed to king salmon fishing April 1 to July 15, and retention of king salmon prohibited July 16 to December 31; remainder of Section 15-A, retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 to December 31; Sections 15-B and 15-C, retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 to June 14.

District 14: Sections 14-B and 14-C, retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through June 14. Inclusion of these sections expand the inside waters nonretention area in Action #2: Sport Fishery in the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan.

District 13: in the waters of Section 13-C southeast of a line from Nismeni Point to a point on the Chichagof Island shoreline at 57°35.59' N. lat., 135°22.33' W. long., retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through June 14.

District 12: Retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through June 14. The inclusion of section 12-A increases the inside waters nonretention area more than Action #2: Sport Fishery in the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan.

District 11: Sections 11-A, 11-B and 11-C retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through June 14; Section 11-D closed to king salmon fishing April 1 through June 30. The marine waters of Taku Inlet north of a line from Point Bishop to Point Greely, retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through June 30.

District 10: Retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 to June 14. Including District 10 expands the inside waters nonretention area in Action #2: Sport Fishery in the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan.

District 9: waters of District 9 north of line between Point Ellis and Patterson Point, retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through June 14.

DHSHA near Juneau: If the surplus hatchery king salmon return to the Macaulay Hatchery is in excess of broodstock needs, the DHSHA near Juneau will be liberalized with a bag and possession limit of 2 king salmon any size, no annual limit from June 1 through August 31. The June 1 DHSHA fishing start date is 2 weeks earlier than Action #2: Sport Fishery in the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan.

Benefits: The proposed dates and areas of nonretention provide protection to Chilkat, King Salmon, and Taku Rivers, and other SEAK wild stock king salmon populations while allowing sport fishing opportunity for Alaska hatchery produced king salmon. These management actions successfully reduced harvest of wild stock king salmon in the sport fishery between 2018 and 2020.

Detriments: Reduction in sport fishing opportunity and economic impacts on the charter fleet would continue. The king salmon fishery has been restricted throughout the majority of the Haines/Skagway and Juneau management areas and during the historical peak timing of the fishery. Opportunity to harvest king salmon has been limited to periods of lower catch rates and within areas where Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon are available.

Option B—Further Reduce Time and Area Open to King Salmon Sport Fishing

Further reduce king salmon sport fishing time and area in Districts 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and the eastern sections of District 14. The proposed closure boundaries for Option B in the respective districts and sections for the management options discussed below are depicted in Figure 6.

Specific Actions to Implement the Objective:

District 15: Chilkat Inlet closed to king salmon fishing April 1 through July 15, and retention of king salmon prohibited July 16 through December 31; remainder of Section 15-A, retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through December 31; Sections 15-B and 15-C, retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through June 14 and August 1 through September 14.

District 14: Sections 14-B and 14-C: king salmon bag and possession limit of 1 fish \geq 28 inches in length, nonresident annual limit of 3 fish \geq 28 inches in length, January 1 to December 31; retention of king salmon prohibited from April 1 through June 14.

District 13: in the waters of Section 13-C southeast of a line from Nismeni Point to a point on the Chichagof Island shoreline at 57°35.59' N. lat., 135°22.33' W. long., retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through June 14.

District 12: Retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through June 14. In addition, in Section 12-B, retention of king salmon prohibited August 1 through September 15.

District 11: King salmon bag and possession limit of 1 fish \geq 28 inches in length, nonresident annual limit of 3 fish \geq 28 inches in length, January 1 through December 31; Sections 11-A, 11-B, and 11-C, retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through June 14, Upper Taku Inlet retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through June 30; Section 11-D closed to king salmon fishing April 1 through July 31.

District 10: Retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through June 14.

District 9: waters of District 9 north of line between Point Ellis and Patterson Point, retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through June 14.

Designated Hatchery Sport Harvest area near Juneau: If the surplus hatchery king salmon return to the Macaulay Salmon Hatchery is in excess of broodstock needs, the DHSHA near Juneau will be liberalized with a bag and possession limit of 2 king salmon any size, no nonresident annual limit, June 1 through August 31. The June 1 DHSHA fishing start date is 2 weeks earlier than Action #2: Sport Fishery in the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan.

Benefits: The proposed dates and areas of nonretention provide protection to Chilkat, King Salmon, and Taku Rivers, and other SEAK wild stock king salmon populations while allowing sport fishing opportunity for Alaska hatchery produced king salmon. These management actions successfully reduced harvest of wild stock king salmon in the sport fishery from 2018 through 2020.

Detriments: Reduction in sport fishing opportunity and economic impacts on the charter fleet would continue. The king salmon fishery has been restricted throughout the majority of the Haines/Skagway and Juneau management areas and during the historical peak timing of the fishery. Opportunity to harvest king salmon has been limited to periods of lower catch rates and within areas where Alaska hatchery produced king salmon are available.

Option C—Further Reduce Time and Area Open to King Salmon Sport Fishing

In addition to actions prescribed in Option B, implement the following actions to further reduce king salmon sport fishing time and area in Districts 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and the eastern sections of District 14. The proposed closure boundaries for Option C in the respective districts and sections for the management options discussed below are depicted in Figure 7.

Specific Actions to Implement the Objective:

District 15: Chilkat Inlet closed to king salmon fishing April 1 through July 15, and retention of king salmon prohibited July 16 through December 31; remainder of Section 15-A, retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through December 31; Sections 15-B and 15-C, retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through July 15 and August 1 through September 15.

District 14: Sections 14-B and 14-C, King salmon bag and possession limit of 1 fish \geq 28 inches in length, nonresident annual limit of 3 fish \geq 28 inches in length, January 1 through December 31. Retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through July 15.

District 13: in the waters of Section 13-C southeast of a line from Nismeni Point to a point on the Chichagof Island shoreline at 57°35.59' N. lat., 135°22.33' W. long., retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through July 15.

District 12: Retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through July 15. In addition, in Section 12-B, retention of king salmon prohibited August 1 through September 15.

District 11: King salmon bag and possession limit of 1 fish \geq 28 inches in length, nonresident annual limit of 3 fish \geq 28 inches in length, January 1 through December 31; Sections 11-A, 11-B and 11-C closed to retention of king salmon April 1 through July 15. Section 11-D closed to king salmon fishing April 1 through July 15. Section 11-A outside of THAs retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through December 31.

District 10: King salmon bag and possession limit of 1 fish \geq 28 inches in length, nonresident annual limit of 3 fish \geq 28 inches in length, January 1 through December 31; retention of king salmon prohibited from April 1 through July 15.

District 9: waters of District 9 north of line between Point Ellis and Patterson Point, retention of king salmon prohibited April 1 through July 15.

Designated Hatchery Sport Harvest Area near Juneau: If the surplus hatchery king salmon return to the Macaulay Salmon Hatchery is in excess of broodstock needs, the DHSHA near Juneau will be liberalized with a bag and possession limit of 2 king salmon any size, no nonresident annual limit, July 1 through August 31.

Benefits: The proposed dates and areas of nonretention provide protection to Chilkat, King Salmon, and Taku Rivers, and other SEAK wild stock king salmon populations while allowing sport fishing opportunity for Alaska hatchery produced king salmon. These management actions successfully reduced harvest of wild stock king salmon in the sport fishery between 2018 and 2020.

Detriments: Reduction in sport fishing opportunity and economic impacts on the charter fleet would continue. The king salmon fishery has been restricted throughout the majority of the Haines/Skagway and Juneau management areas and during the historical peak timing of the fishery. Opportunity to harvest king salmon has been limited to periods of lower catch rates and within areas where Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon are available.

ACTION #2—COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Objective: Reduce the commercial harvest rate of Chilkat, King Salmon, and Taku Rivers king salmon.

Option A—Status Quo

Specific Actions to Implement the Objective:

Continue to manage per the 2018 action plans and continue to manage the District 11 fisheries per annual management plans produced by the TTC under provisions of the PST.

Drift Gillnet Fisheries

District 15

- Continue to manage the District 15 drift gillnet fishery per the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan.

District 11

- Continue to manage the District 11 drift gillnet fishery per the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan and under provisions of annual management plans produced by the TTC and approved by the Transboundary Panel, as directed by Chapter 1 of the PST. Management actions per the annual management plan include but are not limited to reduced time and area open in Taku Inlet through SW 29 in the District 11 drift gillnet fishery; restrict the fishery to 2 days per week through SW 28; close Taku Inlet north and west of the latitude of Point Greely and 134°07.5' W longitude through SW 26, north of Cooper Point in SW 27, and Jaw Point in SWs 28–29; and implement a 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction through at least SW 27.

Troll Fisheries

- Continue to manage the troll fishery per the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan, the 2018 Unuk River king salmon action plan, and provisions of the PST.

Purse Seine Fishery

- Continue to implement nonretention of king salmon until at least the third week of July in traditional purse seine fishery and in THAs that do not have hatchery-produce king salmon runs.

Benefits: These management actions were approved by the board in 2018 and have been effective in reducing harvest rates of Chilkat and Taku Rivers king salmon and presumably King Salmon River king salmon. Management actions in the District 11 fisheries are reviewed annually by the PSC through the Transboundary Panel. These actions are enacted by EO authority, the user groups are accustomed to these actions, and they have been effective in reducing harvest rates on these stocks. District 11 fisheries will continue to be managed under provisions of the PST. If the Taku River king salmon stock were to quickly rebound, Alaska fisheries could react in a timely manner to exploit harvest opportunity in District 11.

Detriments: The ability of the fleet to harvest early runs of Taku and Chilkat Rivers sockeye salmon will continue to be reduced. The troll gear group will continue to lose opportunity, especially in the winter and spring troll fisheries. Issues with the 2018 action plans would persist and additional management actions that further reduced king salmon harvest rates would not be included in the plan, though would likely still be implemented.

Option B—Modify 2018 Action Plan

Specific Actions to Implement the Objective:

Clarify management actions and remove unneeded actions listed in the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan, include actions for the troll fishery listed in the 2018 Unuk River king salmon action plan, include select additional actions taken from 2018 to 2020, and continue to manage the District 11 fisheries per annual management plans produced by the TTC under provisions of the PST.

Drift Gillnet Fisheries

District 15

- Using EO authority, reduce the open area in northern Chilkat Inlet through SW 29 by implementing and exceeding conservation measures of the Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC 33.384) and the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan by closing the area north of Eldred Rock Lighthouse.
- In Section 15-A, using EO authority:
 - Close waters on the east side of upper Lynn Canal south of Eldred Rock through SW 29.

- Implement a 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction in Section 15-A through SW 27.
- In Sections 15-A and 15-C (excluding inside waters of the Boat Harbor THA), using EO authority, implement night closures between 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. through SW 28.
- In Section 15-C, using EO authority:
 - Limit time and area open to 2 days/week in the postage stamp through SW 26.
 - Limit time and area open to 2 days/week in the area south of the latitude of Vanderbilt Reef which encompasses the postage stamp through SW 27.
 - Impose 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction through SW 27.
- In the outside waters of the Boat Harbor THA, using EO authority:
 - Limit time to 2 days/week through SW 27.
- Inside waters of Boat Harbor THA (west of marker) would continue to be open by regulation 7 days/week in first through fourth week of the season.

District 11

- Continue to manage the District 11 drift gillnet fishery per the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan and under provisions of annual management plans produced by the TTC and approved by the Transboundary Panel, as directed by Chapter 1 of the PST. Additional actions to Option A would be taken using EO authority and may include but are not limited to:
 - Reduce open area in Taku Inlet through SW 29.
 - Close Taku Inlet north and west of a line from Point Greely to 134°07.05' W long through SW26 and north of Point Greely, Cooper Point or Jaw Point for SW 27 through SW 29.
 - Close Section 11-C through SW 29.
 - Implement night closures between 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. through SW 27 in District 11.
 - Impose 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction through SW 27.

Troll Fishery

- Using EO authority, close the winter troll fishery in all waters of Southeast and Yakutat beginning March 16, with Section 15-A in Lynn Canal/Chilkat Inlet north of the latitude of Sherman Rock remaining closed to commercial trolling through December 31.
- Using EO authority, beginning May 1 and through June 30, reduce spring troll king salmon fisheries in northern Southeast to areas of the outer coast near hatcheries, hatchery release sites, or areas with low proportion harvest of wild SEAK king salmon located in Districts 113 and 183, with all other districts remaining closed.
- Using EO authority, delay opening all THAs in northern SEAK until June 1.
- Using EO authority, delay the Districts 109, 110, 112, and 114 enhanced chum salmon fishery openings until June 15 and close to the retention of king salmon.

Purse Seine Fishery

- Using EO authority, implement nonretention of king salmon until at least the third week of July in traditional fisheries and in THAs that do not have hatchery king salmon runs.

Benefits: Benefits would be the same as Option A with unforeseen complications with language in the 2018 action plans clarified. Management actions in troll fishery that affect northern stocks would be included.

Detriments: Same as Option A.

Option C—Increase Management Actions

Specific Action to Implement the Objective:

In addition to actions prescribed in Option B, implement the following actions to further reduce harvest rates.

Drift Gillnet Fisheries

District 15

- In Section 15-A, using EO authority:
 - Delay opening by 2 weeks beyond initial regulatory opening date.
 - Reduce open area in northern Chilkat Inlet through SW 29 by implementing and exceeding conservation measures of the Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC 33.384) and the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan by closing the western half of Section 15-A.
 - Through SW 29, impose 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction.
- In Sections, 15-A and 15-C (including outside waters of the Boat Harbor THA), using EO authority implement night closures between 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. through SW 29.
- In Section 15-C, using EO authority:
 - Delay opening of Section 15-C by 1 week beyond initial regulatory opening date.
 - Through SW 27, implement 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction.
 - Through SW 28, limit time and area open to 2 days/week in the postage stamp area.
- In the outside waters of the Boat Harbor THA, using EO authority:
 - Through SW 27, limit fishing time to 2 days/week and restrict open area to within 1.0 nmi of western shoreline.
 - Through SW 27, implement a 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction.
- Inside waters of the Boat Harbor THA would remain unrestricted (open 7 days a week with no mesh restrictions or night closures).

District 11

- Additional actions for the conservation of Taku River king salmon will be vetted through the TTC and the TBR Panel and will be included in the annual management plan. Additional actions would be taken by using EO authority and may include but are not limited to:
 - Delay opening the District 11 drift gillnet fishery by 1 week.
 - Reduce area open to the drift gillnet fishery in Taku Inlet by closing Taku Inlet north of the latitude of Point Greely and west of 134° 7.0' W. longitude through SW 26 and north of Point Greely, Cooper Point or Jaw Point through SW 29.
 - Implement 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction through SW 27.
 - Do not open Section 11-C to drift gillnetting.
 - Reduce drift gillnet fishing time in Subdistrict 111-31.
 - Implement night closures between 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. in all of District 11.

Purse Seine Fishery

- Using EO authority, implement nonretention of king salmon in traditional fisheries and in THAs that do not have hatchery king salmon returns until at least the third week in July regionwide and through SW 31 in Districts 9–12 and 14.

Troll Fishery

- Using EO authority, close northern SEAK spring troll fisheries.

Benefits: These management actions can be accomplished through EO authority and include additional actions to the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan that were implemented in 2019 and 2020 drift gillnet fisheries. The District 11 drift gillnet fishery would continue to be managed under provisions of the PST. Any action taken for Taku and Chilkat Rivers king salmon will benefit King Salmon River king salmon.

Detriments: There would be further reduced opportunity for sockeye salmon and hatchery king and chum salmon harvest.

ACTION #3—SUBSISTENCE FISHERY

Objective: Reduce the subsistence harvest of Chilkat River king salmon.

Option A—Status Quo

Specific Action to Implement the Objective:

Continue to manage the subsistence fishery per the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan and in accordance with the subsistence preference at AS 16.05.258.

Option B—Modify 2018 Action Plan

Specific Action to Implement the Objective:

Clarify the following language in the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan.

- Using EO authority, reduce time and area open to subsistence fishing in Chilkat Inlet and in the Chilkat River through SW 29 by implementing and exceeding conservation measures of the Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC 33.384) and the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan by implementing the following:
 - Open Chilkat River to subsistence fishing from June 1 through June 14.
 - Close Chilkat River to subsistence fishing from June 15 to July 31, except for the portion of the river between Haines Highway mile 19 and the Wells Bridge—this section opens 4 days/week.
 - Close Chilkat Inlet to subsistence fishing through SW 29.

Benefits: Same as Option A with clarity added to the effective period of management actions.

Detriments: Same as Option A.

Option C—Further Reduced Time and Area

Specific Action to Implement the Objective:

In addition to the actions in the 2018 Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers king salmon action plan and the clarifying language provided in Option B, increase restrictions as follows.

- Using EO authority, close Chilkat River to subsistence fishing through third Saturday of June.
- Using EO authority, close Chilkat River to subsistence fishing from third Saturday of June to July 31, except for the portion of the river between Haines Highway mile 19 and the Wells Bridge; this section may open only 3 days/week.
- Using EO authority, close Chilkat Inlet to subsistence fishing through July 31.
- Via subsistence permit restriction, impose 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction for Chilkat River through July 31.

Benefits: Potentially reduces king salmon harvest.

Detriments: Subsistence opportunity for sockeye salmon would be reduced as the subsistence fishery has traditionally been open 7 days/week from June 1 to September 30 with no mesh size restrictions.

ACTION #4 – PERSONAL USE FISHERY

Objective: Reduce the personal use harvest of Taku River king salmon.

Option A–Status Quo

Specific Action to Implement the Objective:

Continue to implement the following management actions that began in 2017.

- Manage per the annual bilateral Transboundary River Management Plan of the PST. Actions taken to reduce incidental harvest of king salmon include delaying the month-long personal use fishery by up to 2 weeks, opening on a Monday.

Benefits: Management actions are reviewed annually by the PSC through the Transboundary Panel. They can be accomplished by EO authority, the user groups are accustomed to the actions, and they have been effective in reducing harvest rates of Taku River king salmon. If the Taku River king salmon stock were to quickly rebound, Alaska fisheries would not forgo harvest opportunity in District 11.

Detriments: Reduced personal use opportunity for those who target early season sockeye salmon.

RC-5, DRAFT–Klukshu River Sockeye Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2021

ACTION PLAN MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR ADDRESSING STOCK OF CONCERN

ACTION PLAN GOAL

The primary goal of this action plan is to rebuild the Klukshu River sockeye salmon run to consistently achieve the BEG range while providing historical levels of fishing opportunity.

ACTION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The department recommends the board take no additional management actions in Alaska fisheries for Klukshu River sockeye salmon. Alsek River fisheries, in both the U.S. and Canada, are managed under provisions of the PST and United States–Canada Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 33.361). Management actions are included in annual management plans produced by the TTC and reviewed by the TBR Panel in accordance with the PST. There are two U.S. fisheries that harvest Alsek River sockeye salmon: a commercial set gillnet fishery and a subsistence fishery, both of which take place in the lower Alsek River and in and near Dry Bay. The U.S. subsistence fishery has priority, the subsistence harvest has been and is expected to continue to be minimal, and no management actions have been taken nor are recommended to be taken to reduce harvest in the subsistence fishery. Management actions have been taken and will continue to be taken in the U.S. commercial fishery to reduce harvest of Alsek River sockeye salmon and by default Klukshu River sockeye salmon.