



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: April 27, 2022

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**SOUTHEAST ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS FOR
TROLL, PURSE SEINE, AND DRIFT GILLNET FISHERIES**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) approved action plans for the Unuk, King Salmon, and Chilkat Rivers Chinook salmon stocks as Stocks of Management Concern (SOC) at the 2018 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish Meeting. In October 2020, the department recommended the board continue the Unuk, King Salmon, and Chilkat Rivers as SOC and to adopt the Andrew Creek, and Chickamin, Taku, and Stikine Rivers stocks of Chinook salmon as SOC. The BOF adopted these stocks as SOC during the October 2020 work session and reviewed draft action plans for these 7 stocks during the 2022 Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting. For the last several years, the department has been taking management measures that have effectively reduced harvest of Chinook salmon and recommended that those actions be formally adopted through the BOF process. The BOF concurred with the proposed management actions for each of these stocks but directed the department to apply more restrictive management measures where and/or when appropriate. The BOF also gave the department direction to relax management measures where and/or when the department determined there was opportunity to do so.

These 7 Chinook salmon stocks have missed their escapement goals in most years during the previous 10 years. Through effective management actions, harvest rates have decreased, and escapement has improved for some systems in recent years despite continued poor runs. In 2021, 7 of the 11 Chinook salmon stocks with escapement goals in Southeast Alaska met their goal; however, the total run sizes were still poor. Chinook salmon runs are again expected to be poor in 2022 with 3 of the 5 Chinook salmon stocks for which the department develops formal forecasts having projected runs less than what is needed to achieve minimum escapement goal bounds (Chilkat, Taku, and Stikine Rivers). The remaining two stocks (Unuk and Situk Rivers) will likely not achieve escapement if restrictive management measures aren't enacted to reduce harvest. Management actions in accordance with Pacific Salmon Treaty, regulations, and BOF recommended actions will again be implemented to reduce harvest of wild Chinook salmon across Southeast Alaska salmon fisheries, including sport, commercial, personal use, and subsistence.

This advisory announcement provides a summary of expected management actions for the commercial troll and net fisheries in 2022 intended to conserve wild Chinook salmon returning to Southeast Alaska. For complete details of intended management actions, refer to the action plans link provided at the end of this advisory announcement, forthcoming 2022 troll, purse seine, and drift gillnet management plans, and inseason advisory announcements.

Troll Fishery

Winter Troll Fishery

The waters of Section 15-A will close from October 11 to December 31. Notwithstanding, any remaining portion of the 45,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon guideline harvest level (GHL), the commercial winter troll fishery closed in all waters of Southeast Alaska/Yakutat on March 15. The fishery re-opened from April 3 through 30 or until the remaining portion of the winter troll GHL is harvested but is restricted to areas of low wild Southeast Alaska/Yakutat and Transboundary River Chinook salmon encounter rates in select outer coastal waters of Districts 3, 4, 5, 9, 13, 14, 181, and 183.

Spring Troll Fisheries

Beginning May 1, spring troll fisheries located in Districts 103, 113, and 183 may open, with all other districts remaining closed. Initial opening dates for all regional terminal harvest areas (THA; except for Neets Bay), will be delayed until after May 31, with the District 101 Mountain Point and Rock Point spring fisheries opening June 8. For the Neets Bay THA, as well as the Districts 109, 110, 112, and 114 enhanced chum salmon fisheries, the openings will be delayed further, with initial opening dates after June 14.

- THAs: All THAs will open June 1, except for the Neets Bay THA, which will initially open June 15.

Summer Troll Fishery

During the first summer troll fishery Chinook salmon retention period, the following areas will remain closed to retention and possession of Chinook salmon:

- Neets Bay THA: waters between the longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island and the longitude of Chin Point;
- Section 1-E: waters north of a line from Indian Point to Mike Point;
- Section 1-F: waters 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 0.5 nautical mile (nmi) northwest of Point Sykes to Point Alava;
- District 8: all waters of the district; and
- Section 15-A: all waters of the section.

During the second Chinook salmon retention period, the following area will remain closed to Chinook salmon retention and possession:

- Section 15-A: all waters of the section.

Purse Seine Fishery

Other than within THAs that have runs of hatchery-produced Chinook salmon, the purse seine fishery will be prohibited from retaining Chinook salmon over 28 inches in length through at least July 24. Chinook salmon retention after July 24 will be dependent on areas open to directed pink salmon fisheries and the magnitude of the pink salmon harvests. In 2021, retention of Chinook salmon was allowed in the outside districts and Northern Southeast, while the southern southeast inside waters remained on Chinook salmon nonretention throughout the summer. This approach allowed the purse seine gear group to approach their Chinook salmon harvest allocation while providing additional conservation for Unuk and Chickamin Rivers Chinook salmon. Depending on pink salmon abundance, a similar management approach may be implemented in 2022. Chinook salmon harvests will be monitored closely, and the purse seine fishery will return to nonretention in advance of exceeding 98% of the purse seine allocation as described in 5 AAC 29.060. *Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area.*

Drift Gillnet Fishery

District 6

The start of the District 6 drift gillnet fishery will be delayed by one week until June 19. A maximum mesh size restriction of six inches will be in place through July 9.

District 8

The start of the District 8 drift gillnet fishery will be delayed by at least two weeks until June 26. Time and/or area restrictions will occur through July 9. A maximum mesh size restriction of six inches will be in place through July 16.

District 11

Time and area restrictions will be imposed in Taku Inlet through July 16 and will include two-day openings through July 9. Waters on the east side of Taku Inlet south of Point Greely will open during the week of June 19; waters south of Point Cooper will open during the week of June 26; and waters south of Jaw Point will open during the weeks of July 3 and July 10. Night closures from 10:00 p.m. through 4:00 a.m. and a maximum mesh size restriction of six inches will be in effect districtwide through July 2.

District 15

The fishery will open districtwide on June 19. In section 15-A, fishing time will be limited to two days a week and fishing area will be limited to south of Eldred Rock Lighthouse and east of a line from Eldred Rock Lighthouse to a point 2.0 nmi from the eastern shoreline at 58°51.00' N lat, 135°12.77' W long through July 23. Section 15-C open area will be limited to the Postage Stamp (waters of Section 15-C south of the latitude of Vanderbilt Reef Light and east of a line from Vanderbilt Reef Light to Little Island Light) to two days a week through July 9. A maximum mesh size restriction of six inches will be in effect in Section 15-A through July 23 and in Section 15-C through July 16. Night closures from 10:00 p.m. through 4:00 a.m. will be in effect through July 23 in Section 15-A and through July 16 in Section 15-C.

Hatchery Terminal Harvest AreasNeets Bay

The start date will be June 15. Gear rotations for purse seine and drift gillnet will have additional closures between June 15 and July 4. In addition, for troll gear only, the THA expansion to Chin Point will be delayed until July 1.

Anita Bay

Start date will be delayed from May 1 to June 1.

Boat Harbor

Will open by regulation June 19. Outside waters will be restricted within 1.0 nmi of the shoreline for two days per week through July 2. A maximum mesh size restriction of six inches and night closures will be imposed through July 16. Inside Boat Harbor (west of 135°09.57' W long) will open seven days a week without gear or time restrictions.

Hidden Falls

Will open June 1 and open waters of the THA will be restricted to approximately 1.0 nmi of the Baranof Island shoreline through June 25.

Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Action Plans

The department is currently in the process of formalizing action plans based on final board actions. The plans will be published later this summer. The draft plans can be found on the BOF website at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo&date=03-10-2022&meeting=anchorage>

2022 Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon All Gear Harvest Limit Press Release

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=pressreleases.pr&release=2022_02_01

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

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