

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
January 15, 2016

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

**FINDINGS AND DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO ADOPT AND AMEND
REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING BAG, POSSESSION, AND ANNUAL HARVEST LIMITS
FOR CERTAIN FISH STOCKS IN THE SUBSISTENCE AND PERSONAL USE FISHERIES
IN THE SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA, THE PERSONAL USE FISHERIES IN THE
YUKON AREA, AND THE SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES IN THE NORTON SOUND-PORT
CLARENCE AREA AND THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA**

2016-__-FB

The Board of Fisheries (“board”) makes the following findings:

1. The board has adopted regulations at 5 AAC 01.001-.040 (statewide subsistence finfish), 5 AAC 01.150-.190 (Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area subsistence finfish), 5 AAC 01.600-.648 (Prince William Sound Area subsistence finfish), and 5 AAC 01.700-.760 (Southeastern Alaska Area subsistence finfish), providing a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses of finfish, including salmon in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area (including chum salmon in Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District) and Southeastern Alaska Area, and of freshwater finfish in the Prince William Sound Area.
2. The board has adopted regulations at 5 AAC 77.001-.035 (statewide personal use fishery), 5 AAC 77.650-.699 (Southeastern Alaska Area personal use fishery), and 5 AAC 77.150-.190 (Yukon Area personal use fishery), that, among other things, allocate salmon and shrimp resources to personal use fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska Area, and whitefish resources to personal use fisheries in the Yukon Area.
3. For certain fish stocks in the subsistence fisheries in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area (including Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District) and Prince William Sound Area, in the subsistence and personal use fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska Area, and in the personal use fisheries in the Yukon Area, bag, possession, and annual harvest limits are necessary to ensure sustained yield of those stocks.
4. Pursuant to 5 AAC 01.015(b) and 5 AAC 01.180(b) for certain subsistence salmon fisheries in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area (including Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District), 5 AAC 01.015(b) and 5 AAC 01.730(e) for certain subsistence salmon fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska Area, and 5 AAC 01.015(b) and 5 AAC 01.630(b) for certain subsistence freshwater finfish fisheries in the Prince William Sound Area, and consistent with 5 AAC 39.222(c)(2)(B), which states in part that “unless otherwise directed, the department will manage Alaska’s salmon fisheries, to the extent possible, for maximum sustained yield,” the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) establishes and amends bag, possession, and annual harvest limits by permit for certain fish stocks in these subsistence fisheries and manages these fisheries, to the extent possible, to ensure maximum sustained yield of these fish stocks.
5. Pursuant to 5 AAC 77.015(c)(4) and 5 AAC 77.660(6) for personal use shrimp fisheries in

the Southeastern Alaska Area, 5 AAC 77.015(c)(4) and 5 AAC 77.682(b) for personal use salmon fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska Area, and 5 AAC 77.015(c)(4) and 5 AAC 77.190(a) for personal use whitefish fisheries in the Yukon Area, and consistent with 5 AAC 39.222(c)(2)(B), ADF&G establishes and amends, bag, possession, and annual harvest limits by permit for certain fish stocks in these personal use fisheries and manages these fisheries, to the extent possible, to ensure maximum sustained yield of these fish stocks.

6. On November 20, 2015, the Alaska Supreme Court issued an opinion in the matter of *Estrada v. State of Alaska*, Supreme Court No. S-15434, in which the court held that harvest limits established by ADF&G by permit pursuant to 5 AAC 01.015(b) and 5 AAC 01.730(e) for the sockeye salmon stock in Kanalku Bay in the Southeastern Alaska Area, had to be adopted in regulation in compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62).

7. The Supreme Court's decision in *Estrada* casts doubt on the enforceability of certain bag, possession, and annual harvest limits established by ADF&G by permit and not in regulation, as is the case for certain fish stocks in the subsistence fisheries in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area (including Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District) and Prince William Sound Area, in the subsistence and personal use fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska Area, and in the personal use fisheries in the Yukon Area.

THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD, pursuant to AS 16.05.270, makes the following delegation of the board's rulemaking authority under AS 16.05.251 to the commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game:

A. The commissioner may adopt and amend, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, and consistent with the criteria in this delegation, permanent regulations establishing or amending bag, possession, and annual harvest limits for:

1. Salmon stocks in the subsistence salmon fisheries in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area (including Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District).
2. Salmon stocks in the subsistence and personal use salmon fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska Area.
3. Freshwater finfish stocks in the subsistence freshwater finfish fisheries in the Prince William Sound Area.
4. Shrimp stocks in the personal use shrimp fisheries in the Southeastern Alaska Area.
5. Whitefish stocks in the personal use whitefish fisheries in the Yukon Area.

B. In adopting or amending regulations that establish or amend bag, possession, and annual harvest limits pursuant to this delegation of authority, the commissioner shall comply with the following criteria:

1. The commissioner may only establish a bag, possession, or annual harvest limit for a fish stock if the limit is necessary to ensure maximum sustained yield of the fish stock; however, if the commissioner determines that it is not possible, because of

insufficient information and data or otherwise, to manage a fish stock for maximum sustained yield, the commissioner may establish a bag, possession, or annual harvest limit necessary to ensure sustained yield of the fish stock.

2. For all fish stocks for which ADF&G has established a bag, possession, or annual harvest limit by permit for the most recent fishing season, the commissioner shall adopt regulations maintaining those limits unless the commissioner determines that a different limit is necessary to ensure maximum sustained yield or sustained yield of the fish stock.
3. The commissioner may only establish a bag, possession, or annual harvest limit for a fish stock in a subsistence fishery if the limit is consistent with the statutory preference for subsistence uses of fishery resources.
4. The commissioner shall use what the commissioner considers to be the best available data and information concerning a fish stock when establishing a bag, possession, or annual harvest limit for a fish stock.

C. All regulatory changes adopted by the commissioner under this delegation of authority shall be consistent with the above expressions of the board's intent and criteria. The commissioner may also make corresponding corrections in other regulations that are consistent with the board's intent and criteria.

D. Nothing in this delegation shall be construed as authorizing the commissioner to allocate fishery resources among fisheries.

E. Nothing in this delegation of authority shall be construed as delegating any of the board's powers and responsibilities under AS 16.05.258, and the board shall review its regulations, as appropriate, to ensure that the regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity and the appropriate preference for subsistence uses of salmon in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area (including chum salmon in Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District) and Southeastern Alaska Area, and freshwater finfish in the Prince William Sound Area.

This delegation of authority shall remain in effect unless revoked by the board.

Date Adopted: January ____, 2016
Fairbanks, AK

VOTE:

Tom Kluberton, Chairman

Species	Harvest Limit		Limit Justification
	Possession	Annual	
freshwater fish (whitefish, suckers, Arctic grayling, lake trout, burbot, Dolly Varden)	see below	see below	Allowable gear specified on permit and there are limits to gear and bag limit dependent on water body. These are dependent on abundance estimates and potential conservation concerns for individual water bodies. Permits for whitefish and suckers and 1,500 limit have been in place since statehood. C&T for other species was adopted by the BOF in 2008, discussion at that meeting resulted in the limits for other species. Areas in Lake Louise/Lake Susitna closed to gillnet use for conservation of non-target species (lake trout, grayling, burbot), permits not issued for stocked lakes.
whitefish	-	500-1,500	Harvest levels sustainable at this limit, given the current level of participation. Limit and season are established by permit, depending on gear and water body.
suckers	-	No limit	Harvest levels sustainable at this limit, given the current level of participation. Limit and season are established by permit, depending on gear and water body.
Arctic grayling	sport fish limit	20 per water body	Harvest levels sustainable at this limit, given the current level of participation. Limit and gear are established by permit, depending on water body - some water bodies are closed (stocked lakes).
lake trout	sport fish limit	10 per water body	Harvest levels sustainable at this limit, given the current level of participation. Limit and gear are established by permit, depending on water body.

Species	Harvest Limit		Limit Justification
	Possession	Annual	
burbot	sport fish limit	10 per water body	Harvest levels sustainable at this limit, given the current level of participation. Limit and gear are established by permit, depending on water body.
rainbow trout	sport fish limit	10 per water body	Harvest levels sustainable at this limit, given the current level of participation. Limit and gear are established by permit, depending on water body - some water bodies are closed (those that are catch-and-release for sport fishery).
steelhead trout	sport fish limit	10 per water body	Harvest levels sustainable at this limit, given the current level of participation. Limit and gear are established by permit, depending on water body - some water bodies are closed (those that are catch-and-release for sport fishery).
Dolly Varden	10 per day	20 per water body	Harvest levels sustainable at this limit, given the current level of participation. Limit and season are established by permit, depending on gear and water body.

Management Area	Location	Species	Harvest Limit		Limit Justification
			Possession	Annual	
Subdistrict 1	Nome River	coho salmon	-	100	Harvest levels sustainable at this limit, given current fishing effort. This stock is easily accessible by road system. The waters of the Nome Subdistrict are subject to closures from June 15 to September 30.
Subdistrict 1	Snake River	coho salmon	-	100	Harvest levels sustainable at this limit, given current fishing effort. This stock is easily accessible by road system. The waters of the Nome Subdistrict are subject to closures from June 15 to September 30.
Subdistrict 1	Solomon River	chum salmon	-	40	Harvest levels sustainable at this limit, given current fishing effort. This stock is easily accessible by road system. The waters of the Nome Subdistrict are subject to closures from June 15 to September 30.
Subdistrict 1	Solomon River	coho salmon	-	20	Harvest levels sustainable at this limit, given current fishing effort. This stock is easily accessible by road system. The waters of the Nome Subdistrict are subject to closures from June 15 to September 30.
Port Clarence	Pilgrim River	king salmon	-	3	Harvest levels sustainable at this limit, given current fishing effort. This stock is easily accessible by road system. Subsistence fishing in Port Clarence district is open 7 days per week unless closed by Emergency Order.

Management Area	Location	Species	Harvest Limit		Limit Justification
			Possession	Annual	
Port Clarence	Pilgrim River	sockeye salmon	-	25	Harvest levels sustainable at this limit, given current fishing effort, in most years. This stock is easily accessible by road system. Subsistence fishing in Port Clarence district is open 7 days per week unless closed by Emergency Order. Abundance of this stock is volatile with very large abundance years and very low abundance years; if abundance information indicates escapement goals will be met or exceeded, then limits may be increased or removed by Emergency Order to allow harvest of surplus salmon.
Port Clarence	Salmon Lake	sockeye salmon	-	200	This fishery is opened by Emergency Order during high sockeye salmon runs to Pilgrim River/Salmon Lake. This is primary spawning area for Pilgrim River/Salmon Lake sockeye and the intent of the limit is to constrain disturbance on the spawning grounds. This stock is easily accessible by road system. Subsistence fishing in Port Clarence district is open 7 days per week unless closed by Emergency Order.
Tanana Area	Chatanika River - PU	whitefish	-	10	Harvest levels sustainable at this limit, given the current level of participation. Harvest quota of 1,000 whitefish (humpback and least cisco). Limit and season are established by permit, season is generally set for 3rd week of September to 2nd week of October to align with the spawning migration.

Location	Positive C&T	Species	Harvest Limit Possession	Annual	Limit Justification
All C&T areas	yes	Chinook	2	none	Add to 01:730(j) "The possession limit for king salmon is two fish." to address king salmon bycatch in C&T areas. This would mirror PU bycatch limits found in 77.682(c).
Chilkat River, Chilkat Inlet, Lutak Inlet, Chilkoot Inlet	yes	Sockeye salmon	25	50	The salt water subsistence drift net fisheries in Chilkat Inlet, Chilkoot Inlet, and Lutak Inlet are in the northern end of Lynn Canal, adjacent to Haines. Nearby boat launches and harbors provide easy access. The Chilkat River is accessible by road. Recent annual sockeye harvests have been a few thousand fish above the long term average of 6,000 fish, and the number of permits issued has also been above average. Residents of Haines are the primary harvesters of subsistence fish, but many people come by ferry or road as well. Sockeye salmon escapement is monitored with weirs and a mark/recapture program, and returns to the Chilkat and Chilkoot Rivers have been of sufficient strength to support this level of subsistence harvest. .
Chilkat River, Chilkat Inlet, Lutak Inlet, Chilkoot Inlet	yes	Coho salmon	20	40	The subsistence fishery for coho salmon is conducted primarily on the Chilkat River, with some salt water drift gillnetting in Chilkat Inlet. The average harvest is 238 fish, although recent (2014) harvest have been as high as 485 fish. Residents of Haines are the primary harvesters of subsistence coho salmon. The escapement of coho salmon is estimated by stream surveys, and returns to the Chilkat River have been of sufficient strength to support this level of subsistence harvest.
Chilkat River, Chilkat Inlet, Lutak Inlet, Chilkoot Inlet	yes	Pink and/or chum salmon	75	100	The subsistence harvest of pink salmon is usually incidental to the sockeye salmon harvest. The chum salmon fishery is conducted primarily on the Chilkat River, with some salt water drift gillnetting in Chilkat Inlet. The average pink salmon harvest is 786 fish, and the average chum salmon harvest is 581 fish. Residents of Haines are the primary harvesters of these subsistence fish. The chum salmon escapement in the Chilkat River is estimated as a percentage of the fish wheel catch. The pink and chum salmon returns to the Chilkat and Chilkoot Rivers have been of sufficient strength to support this level of subsistence harvest.
All C&T streams not listed with a harvest limit for salmon	yes	All salmon	0	0	There a number of small salmon systems that are easily accessible and/or could only support a very limited harvest. Allowing a limited harvest could not be achieved without very proactive management. As a result, these small salmon systems not listed would possibly be overharvested. Harvest opportunity on many of these systems is available under sport regulations. The language on the Haines area subsistence permits specifically allows subsistence salmon fishing only in the mainstem and side channels of the Chilkat River, not in any tributaries to the Chilkat River.
All non-C&T streams in the Haines management area EXCEPT Taiya River.	no	All salmon	0	0	There a number of small salmon systems that are easily accessible and/or could only support a very limited harvest. Allowing a limited harvest could not be achieved without very proactive management. As a result, these small salmon systems would possibly be overharvested.
Taiya River	no	Pink and/or chum salmon	10	20	Since 1990 the Haines ADFG office has issued personal permits to Skagway residents for the harvest of salmon in the Taiya River. Often only 1-2 permits a year are issued, and the historic maximum is 5 permits. Since 1990 there have been 7 years when no permit was requested for Skagway. The average annual harvest since 1990 is 4 pink salmon and 40 chum salmon. A very few sockeye and coho salmon have also been reported. There are no stock assessment projects conducted on the Taiya River, and no salmon escapement goals. The effort and harvest has been minimal, current harvest levels are sustainable at this limit. If conservation issues arise, the system can be closed inseason.
Section 11-A	no	Shrimp	3 pounds or 3 quarts	none	This area is immediately adjacent to the City of Juneau and experiences high levels of use by local area fishermen. Commercial, PU and sport shrimp fisheries in Section 11-A have been closed for 3 years to allow the shrimp population to rebound from depressed levels and are scheduled to reopen in 2016. Current PU regulations have no harvest limits for shrimp. In 2015, the BOF adopted a regulation requiring a permit to shrimp in Section 11-A. Adopting the existing possession limit in sportfish regulations (5AAC 47.020(16)) will provide PU opportunity along with conservation necessary for sustainable harvests. Some lodges in the area provide sport gear to non-resident clients, and having the same harvest limit for PU and sport will be less confusing to local fishermen and enforcement.
Hasselborg River/Salt Lake	yes	Coho salmon	20	20	This system is near the community of Angoon and was the first system to have a subsistence coho salmon fishery in the region. Current limits set in 2002 and harvest levels are sustainable at this limit. Harvest has decreased in recent years with no indication of poor stock health. This system is assessed through aerial surveys.
All C&T streams	yes	Coho salmon	20	40	Current harvest levels are sustainable at this limit. If conservation issues arise, specific systems can be closed inseason.
All C&T streams	yes	Pink salmon	150	none	Current harvest levels are sustainable at this limit. If conservation issues arise, specific systems can be closed inseason.

All non-C&T streams in Juneau management area EXCEPT along the Juneau road system.	no	Pink salmon	150	none	Current harvest levels are sustainable at this limit. If conservation issues arise, specific systems can be closed inseason.
All C&T streams	yes	Chum salmon	50	none	Current harvest levels are sustainable at this limit. If conservation issues arise, specific systems can be closed inseason.
All non-C&T streams in Juneau management area EXCEPT along the Juneau road system.	no	Chum salmon	50	none	Current harvest levels are sustainable at this limit. If conservation issues arise, specific systems can be closed inseason.
Kamaklu Bay	yes	Sockeye salmon	20	20	This system has rebuilt from very poor escapements in the early 2000s. It is heavily utilized by residents of nearby Angoon, and has had stable escapements (weir counts) in recent years under the current limit, which was established in 2012.
Basket Bay	yes	Sockeye salmon	15	30	This system is utilized by residents of Angoon, Hoonah and Juneau. Current harvest levels are sustainable at this limit. There has been a decreasing long-term annual harvest trend with decreasing participation in recent years. Escapements are variable year to year but the trend (weir count) is stable; current limits were set in 2007. Increasing the possession limit to equal the annual limit was considered, but with reduction in Neva Creek limits in 2016, there is concern about increased effort levels from redirected Juneau-based harvesters.
Berg Bay	yes	Sockeye salmon	25	25	Traditionally utilized by residents of Hoonah, current harvest levels are sustainable at this limit. This system receives little effort with correlating small harvests in part due to its location within Glacier Bay National Park; current limits were set in 2002. Escapements assessed by aerial survey.
Neva Creek	yes	Sockeye salmon	10	10	Recent harvest levels do not appear sustainable, so harvest limits will be reduced to 10 sockeye salmon per household. In recent years, increasing effort and harvest and decreasing escapements (weir counts) have been observed. Limits were increased from 10 to 25 in 2002; and to 40 in 2004 in response to strong escapements. In 2015 the limit was decreased to 30 in response to recent declines in escapements. The 2015 escapement measured by USFS operated video weir was 1,188, the smallest escapement since assessment projects were started in 2002. From 2002 to 2014 escapement has averaged 5,800 sockeye salmon per year. This system is utilized by residents of Hoonah, Gustavus, Excursion Inlet and increasingly Juneau. Due to its location, this system experiences minimal incidental harvest in the commercial purse seine fishery conducted in Icy Strait. Concerned residents of Excursion Inlet and Gustavus have advocated for a reduction in harvest limits to preserve the sustainability of this system.
Hasselborg River/Salt Lake	yes	Sockeye salmon	50	50	This system is near Angoon and is likely underutilized. The 2012-2014 Chatham/Icy Strait sockeye GSI study suggests this stock as the most significant single Chatham Strait stock contributing to the commercial purse seine fishery and can sustain higher subsistence harvest levels. Current subsistence harvest is low; limits were increased from 25 to 2015. This system is assessed by aerial surveys.
Sweetheart Creek	no	Sockeye salmon	25	none	This system has the highest PU effort levels in the Juneau Management Area. This is a 100% enhanced sockeye salmon run with fishing allowed only in the stream; the possession limit was set in 1994 and the annual limit was removed in 2002. There are no biological concerns and the possession limit was established as a fairness measure to provide opportunity to a greater number of households.
All C&T areas not listed with a harvest limit for sockeye salmon	yes	Sockeye salmon	0	0	There a number of small sockeye salmon systems that are easily accessible and unlikely to sustain significant harvests. The small sockeye salmon systems not listed are closed to subsistence harvest.
All non-C&T areas not listed with a harvest limit for sockeye salmon	no	Sockeye salmon	0	0	There a number of small sockeye salmon systems that are easily accessible and unlikely to sustain significant harvests. The small sockeye salmon systems not listed are closed to personal use harvest.
Sitkoh Bay/Lake	yes	Sockeye salmon	50	50	In 2002, the limit was raised from 15 possession/annual. Mark-recapture stock assessments have been conducted most years since 1996. Average escapement is 10,874 with a high of 17,040 and a low of 3,700 sockeye salmon. There has been stable long-term annual harvest with quite variable escapements over the past 20+ years; terminal run exploitation is generally less than 3% but has been as high as 34% when escapement is low. Current harvests are sustainable at this limit.
Hanus Bay/Lake Eva	yes	Sockeye salmon	50	50	In 2002, the limit was raised from 10 possession to 50 possession/annual. The system is moderately productive though highly variable. Weirs have been operated from 1962 through 1964 and 1995. Escapements ranged from 1,448-13,847 averaging 6,456 sockeye salmon. Reported harvests are minimal averaging 43 sockeye annually with no trend up or down in harvest. Harvest levels are sustainable at this limit.
Hoktaheen	yes	Sockeye salmon	50	50	In 2002, the limit was raised from 20 possession to 50 possession/annual. Attempts were made using OSM funding to conduct assessment but logistically it was difficult and generally unsuccessful. There was no increase in reported annual harvest indicated after the limit increase in 2002. Harvests have been relatively stable at around 650 sockeye annually and appear sustainable at this limit. This is an important system for Hoonah residents.

Surge Bay/Lake	yes	Sockeye salmon	50	50	In 2002, the limit was raised from 20 possession to 50 possession/annual. This is a very remote system on the outer coast of Yakobi Island with no stock assessment. Aerial surveys conducted in the 60's and 70's had several counts in the 15,000-17,000 fish range. Reported harvests are erratic maybe due to the remote location though there was an increase of harvests after the limit was raised in 2002. The average was 78 sockeye in the 10 years prior to 2002 with an average of 215 sockeye since 2002. Current harvest levels appear sustainable at this limit. Although effort and harvest have increased in recent years, harvest per permit remains above average; there is no indication of poor stock health.
Klag Bay/Lake	yes	Sockeye salmon	50	50	In 2002, limit was raised from 20 possession to 50 possession/annual. Weir assessment in place since 2001 operated by Sitka Tribe of Alaska. This project also conducts a creel survey. The average escapement was 12,118 sockeye with a range of 3,504-23,666 sockeye. Very popular harvest location for Sitka residents. Significant increasing trend of annual harvests reported on permits since 2002. Average of 921 sockeye prior to in 2002 and 3,360 sockeye since. Highest harvest rate of terminal returning fish was 47%. High harvest rate at lower return levels may be of some concern if there are back to back years of lower returns, but so far that has not occurred. Creel survey harvest numbers on average are 17% higher than reported on permits.
Lake Anna	yes	Sockeye salmon	25	25	In 2002, limit was raised from 20 possession to 50 possession/annual then reduced to 25 possession/annual in 2006. No stock assessment. Aerial and boat counts off the mouth of the stream have been as high as 5,000 fish. Reported annual harvests are highly variable with an average of around 40 fish and a high of 163 fish.
Ford Arm/Lake	yes	Sockeye salmon	25	25	In 2002, limit was raised from 20 possession to 50 possession/annual then subsequently reduced back to 25 possession/annual in 2006 due to decreasing harvest trend and user concern for stock. As part of the Ford Arm coho project, sockeye mark-recapture assessments have been done most years since 1983. Sockeye runs have been highly variable with generally low median returns. The long-term average escapement has been about 3,000. Annual harvests were generally small for the period 1985-1996 averaging only 86 sockeye followed by an increasing trend peaking in 2002 with 1,156 fish then declining down back to lower levels (<100) by 2005 where it has remained.
Leo's Anchorage	yes	Sockeye salmon	10	10	There has been no change to the 10 fish possession limit but an annual limit was instituted in 2002. This is a small system just north of Salsbury Sound on the outer coast. No stock assessment. Historically, reported harvests from this system have been relatively small with a high harvest of 259 sockeye and a long term average of 60 sockeye.
Silver Bay/Salmon Lake	yes	Sockeye salmon	10	10	In 2002, limit changed from 10 possession to 10 possession/20 annual. In 2005 annual limit reduced to 10. Weir operated 2001-2009 with average escapement of 1,144 sockeye. System located at head of Silver Bay and easily accessible by Sitka residents. The declining trend of harvest beginning from 1993 maybe due to gauntlet of hatchery fisheries in Deep Inlet/Eastern Channel/Silver Bay. Recent management includes a large closure area to gillnet and seine gear off the creek mouth. Harvest average 223 during period 1993-2001. Since 2002 harvest has averaged 44.
Necker Bay/Benzeman Lake	yes	Sockeye salmon	100	none	In 2002, limit raised from 50 possession to 100 possession/annual. Highly productive system with occasional directed commercial purse seine harvest. Aerial surveys are used to gauge run strength for management of commercial fishery. Though generally abundant, these sockeye are small (2.5 pounds) and for that reason less desired. Long term average harvest of 4,200. Has shown recent decreasing harvest trend likely due to increasing other opportunities at systems that have normal size fish.
Whale Bay/Poliofski Lake	yes	Sockeye salmon	50	50	Limits raised in 2001 from 10 possession to 20 possession then raised again in 2002 to 50 possession/annual. No stock assessment. High aerial count of 12,500 in 2002 with aerial counts ranging from 1,000-4,500 in the 60's. Reported annual harvests small and variable with a high of 168 and averaging around 40.
Redfish Bay/Lake	yes	Sockeye salmon	50	100	In 2002, limit raised from 25 possession to 50 possession/100 annual. Highly productive system with directed commercial purse seine openings most years. Run strength gauged for management of commercial fishery using aerial surveys. Weir operated 1966-1971 and 2002-2004 with average escapement of 37,877 sockeye. Located on SW Baranof Island requiring traveling 30 miles of open ocean from Sitka. For this reason the long term average harvest is only 897 sockeye. There is an increasing trend of harvest with recent 10-year average of 1,544.
Gut Bay	yes	Sockeye salmon	10	20	In 2002, limit changed from 10 possession to 10 possession/20 annual. No stock assessment though assessments project attempted in early 2000's but aborted for similar reason of Hokabeen A foot survey in 1963 counted 2,500 sockeye. Reported harvests are generally stable with a high harvest of 732 and long term average harvest of 425 fish. Used primarily by Kake residents.

Falls Lake	yes	Sockeye salmon	25	25	In 2002, limit changed from 10 possession to 50 possession/50 annual. Reduced in 2009 to 25 possession/annual due to increasing harvest and declining escapements. Long term stock assessment with weir operations all years during 2001-2015 and all but one year from 1981-1989. Average escapement for period 1981-1989 was 2,535 ranging from 1,114 to 5,789. Average escapement for period 2001-2015 was 2,753 ranging from 700-7,900. Back to back high harvest rates on lower returns of concern. For example in 2008, 1,534 sockeye were harvested and 700 escaped into lake. This prompted the department to reduce the possession/annual limit from 50 to 25 in 2009. High vulnerability of fish staging off the falls also prompted the department to implement a closure area directly off the creek mouth as well as a 10-day closure during peak of run. Very important system to Kake residents.
Takamis Bay/Lake	no	Sockeye salmon	50	50	In 2002, limit was raised from 20 possession to 50 possession/annual. This system on the outer coast of Yakobi Island fell out of any C&T designated area so is a PU fishery. No stock assessment though there is an aerial survey count of 10,000 in 1972 with a number of other counts of 2,000-5,000 in the 60's and 70's. This remote system sees variable annual harvests averaging around 75 fish with a high harvest of 300 fish.
All Other C&T Streams not Listed	yes	Sockeye salmon	10	10	Streams not listed on the permit have small returns of sockeye salmon and can allow only a limited harvest.
All C&T areas	yes	Pink salmon	100	none	Not a lot of harvest and no concerns of sustainability.
All C&T areas	yes	Chum salmon	50	none	Not a lot of harvest and no concerns of sustainability.
All C&T areas	yes	Coho salmon	20	40	Subsistence for coho was not allowed, with a couple of specific exceptions such as Mitchell Bay, under state regulations until 2002. With Federal Subsistence Board providing for a coho subsistence fishery, the BOF removed the restriction on coho subsistence fisheries and the department implemented through the permit a 20 fish possession and 40 annual in C&T areas mirroring federal limits beginning in 2003. Current reported harvest levels not of concern for sustainability.
Aleck's Creek	Yes	Sockeye salmon	50	50	Aleck's Creek is located in Tebenkof Bay on SW Kuiu Island. It is accessible only by boat or plane. Residents of the community Kake have been the primary harvesters of sockeye salmon from this system. Aleck's Creek is located approximately 55 miles by boat from Kake. Aleck's Creek is a small to medium size island stock of sockeye salmon. Index counts obtained by aerial surveys are typically 1,500 to 2,000 fish. Harvest has been highly variable, but generally low, averaging 90 with a high of over 200 sockeye since 2002. The current harvest limits have been in place since 2002 and were set higher than many other systems of similar production due to limited access to Aleck's Creek resulting in generally low participation and resultant low, but likely sustainable, harvest levels for this system.
Bay of Pillars	Yes	Sockeye salmon	50	50	Kutiaku Lake in Bay of Pillars is located on middle, western Kuiu Island. Bay of Pillars is 45 miles by boat from the community of Kake going down Chatham Straits or 30 miles using the traditional route down Port Camden and portaging overland to Bay of Pillars. Kutiaku Lake is medium size island sockeye salmon stock. It was historically thought to be a small to medium producer, but escapement work done in the early to mid-2000's indicated escapement is typically 10,000 to 20,000 fish and the sockeye run may have early and late component. Bay of Pillars is primarily utilized by residents of Kake. Sockeye salmon have been consistently harvested from this system since permits were first issued in 1985. Harvest has averaged 550 fish with a peak reported harvest of 1,375 fish. The proposed harvest limits have been in place since 2002 and were set with input from residents of Kake. Since 2000 participation has generally declined and since 2002 the harvest has averaged 320 fish. The current harvest limits were set higher than many other systems of similar production due to difficult access to Bay of Pillars resulting in generally lower participation and resultant low, but likely sustainable, harvest levels for this system.
Shipley Bay	Yes	Sockeye salmon	25	50	Shipley Bay is located on the northwestern portion of Kosciusko Island. It is only accessible by boat or plane. The nearest community by boat is Port Protection located approximately 22 boat miles to the north. Shipley Bay Lake is a small to medium size island sockeye salmon stock. Index counts obtained by aerial surveys are typically 1,500 to 2,000 fish. Harvest has been highly variable, but generally low, averaging 175 sockeye salmon, with a high of over 500 fish harvested since 1985. There has been only 1 year with any effort during the past 10 years. The current harvest limits have been in place since 2003. Shipley Bay is one of the few areas where set nets are allowed in Southeast Alaska. The current harvest limits were set higher than many other systems of similar production due to the limited access resulting in generally low participation and resultant low, but likely sustainable, harvest levels for this system.

Salmon Bay is located on northern Prince of Wales Island and is only accessible by boat or plane. It is located approximately 40 miles by boat from both the communities of Petersburg and Wrangell. Salmon Bay Lake is medium size island sockeye salmon stock. Harvest is primary conducted by residents of the Petersburg and Wrangell. Effort and harvest is typically the highest of any state managed sockeye system in the Petersburg-Wrangell Area. Effort is typically 40 permits per year with a high of 99 and reported harvest is typically around 600 sockeye salmon with a high of over 2,000 fish. The current limits have been in place since 2001. Prior to that the limit was 10 in possession with no annual limit. The limit was raised in 2001 by request of the USFS to match their permits and to better allow people to maximize their harvest after traveling the long distance to Salmon Bay. Consequently, harvest increased averaging over 1,500 fish from 2001 through 2004. The run declined as indicated by low index counts and poor harvest and the harvest averaged less than 400 fish from 2006 through 2012 with a low harvest of 24 fish occurring in 2008. The current harvest limits may be too high in some years. However, pressure has been taken off Salmon Bay since the Stikine River opened up for harvest in 2004. As a result the current harvest limits and resultant harvest levels may be sustainable.

Yes

Salmon Bay

Sockeye salmon

30

30

Red Bay is located on the northern shore of Prince of Wales Island and can be accessed by the Prince of Wales Island road system; however, there are no boat launch facilities and the area is primarily accessed by boat or plane. Red Bay is approximately 40 miles by boat from Petersburg and Wrangell and approximately 15 mile by boat from Port Protection. Effort and harvest in this system has decreased with from 1 to 8 permits fished and has averaged 38 sockeye harvested per season from 2006-2015. In addition, harvest also occurs by those people utilizing a Federal subsistence harvest permit. Prior to 2006, more fishing pressure existed on this system with up to 14 permits averaging 114 sockeye harvested per season from 2005-1996. The current harvest level has been in place since the 2002 season. Prior to 2002, harvest limits in this system were set at 10 sockeye with no annual limit. Red Bay's sockeye run is a small to medium run. At current levels of effort and harvest the current levels of harvest appear to be sustainable; however, if effort and harvest increase in the future this additional harvest may not be sustainable.

Yes

Red Bay

Sockeye salmon

30

30

Thom's Creek is located on the southern end of Wrangell Island approximately 20 miles from Wrangell and is primarily used by residents of Wrangell. Thom's Creek is accessible from the Wrangell Island road system; however, access is primarily by boat or plane. Thom's Creek is a small to medium island sockeye stock with an average indexed escapement of approximately 1,800 fish from 2006 through 2014. Effort and harvest have varied throughout the years with the largest harvest of 572 sockeye salmon in 1992. Effort has remain stable since 2005 from 10 to 16 permits being fished with an average harvest of 187 sockeye salmon for this time period. In 2005, a subsistence fishery opened on the Stikine River near Wrangell). Prior to 2005, there was more effort and harvest of this stock. In addition, there has been some additional harvest by persons utilizing the Federal subsistence permit over the past 10 years. In 2003, Thom's Creek's was reclassified under subsistence regulations from personal use and retained the current limits that were put in place starting with the 2001 season. Current effort and harvest appear to be sustainable.

Yes

Thom's Creek

Sockeye salmon

20

40

Mill Creek is located approximately 7 miles east of Wrangell by boat on the Alaskan mainland and is primarily utilized by residents of Wrangell. Mill Creek is accessible primarily by boat. Mill Creek is the outlet stream for Virginia Lake, which is a large lake; however, sockeye escapement assessment has been sporadic and is likely incomplete. Effort and harvest have varied throughout the years with the largest harvest of 755 sockeye salmon in 2002. However, unlike most other systems in the Petersburg/Wrangell area, effort and harvest have remained high for Mill Creek even after access to subsistence fishing on the Stine River was allowed in 2005. Starting in 1994 (the first year with effort similar to current levels), effort has varied from a low of 19 in 2007 to a high of 48 in 2013 and 2014. Harvest has averaged 456 sockeye from an average of 36 permits, which is near historical (1994-2015) average of 414 sockeye harvested and 36 permits fished. In 2003, Mill Creek was reclassified under subsistence regulations from personal use and retained the current limits that were put in place starting with the 2001 season. Although escapement data for this system is lacking, or incomplete, for most years it appears that the current effort and harvest are likely sustainable with the current harvest limits.

Yes

Mill Creek

Sockeye salmon

20

40

There a number of small sockeye salmon systems that are easily accessible and/or could only support a very limited harvest. Allowing a limited harvest could not be achieved without very proactive management. As result, these small sockeye salmon stocks not listed would likely be overharvested and are closed to harvest.

Yes

All C&T areas not listed with a harvest limit for sockeye salmon

Sockeye salmon

0

0

There are hundreds of systems that coho salmon return to in the Petersburg-Wrangell Management Area C&T areas. The systems range in escapement of less than 100 fish to 10,000's of fish. Many of these systems are easily accessible by land, boat or plane. The current limits are set as to not overharvest coho salmon in smaller systems, yet allow sustainable harvest in larger systems.

Yes

All C&T streams

Coho salmon

20

40

All C&T streams	Yes	Pink salmon	100	No Limit	There are hundreds of systems that pink salmon return to within the Petersburg-Wrangell Area C&T areas. Escapements range from less than 100 to more than 200,000 pink salmon in the varied systems from year to year, which are accessible by boat, plane, and, to a limited extent, road systems. The current limits are set as to not overharvest pink salmon in smaller systems, yet allow sustainable harvest in larger systems.
All C&T streams	Yes	Chum salmon	50	No Limit	There are a number systems that chum salmon return to within the Petersburg-Wrangell Area C&T areas. Escapements range from 10's of fish to 1,000's of chum salmon in the varied systems, which are accessible by boat, plane, and, to a limited extent, road systems. The current limits are set as to not overharvest chum salmon in smaller systems, yet allow sustainable harvest in larger systems.
All non-C&T Areas	No	Sockeye salmon	0	0	There are a number of small sockeye salmon systems that are easily accessible and/or could only support a very limited harvest. Allowing a limited harvest could not be achieved without very proactive management. As result, these small sockeye salmon stocks not listed would likely be overharvested and are closed to harvest.
All non-C&T Areas	No	Pink salmon	100	No Limit	There are hundreds of systems that pink salmon return to within the Petersburg-Wrangell Area C&T areas. Escapements range from less than 100 to more than 200,000 pink salmon in the varied systems from year to year, which are accessible by boat, plane, and, to a limited extent, road systems. The current limits are set as to not overharvest pink salmon in smaller systems, yet allow sustainable harvest in larger systems.
All non-C&T Areas	No	Chum salmon	50	No Limit	There are a number systems that chum salmon return to within the Petersburg-Wrangell Area C&T areas. Escapements range from 10's of fish to 1,000's of chum salmon in the varied systems, which are accessible by boat, plane, and, to a limited extent, road systems. The current limits are set as to not overharvest chum salmon in smaller systems, yet allow sustainable harvest in larger systems.
All specific sockeye fishing areas	Both	Pink & Chum Salmon	0	0	All subsistence and PU sockeye fishing areas with specific limits will be closed to directed pink and chum salmon fishing. Bycatch of pink and chum salmon is allowed in sockeye fishing areas. Allowing directed pink and chum harvest in the sockeye fishing areas could effectively extend the fishing time allowed for directed sockeye salmon fishing creating harvest beyond the intent of the sockeye salmon fishing limits and seasons that were set for sustainable harvest.
Hatchery Creek - PU	No	Sockeye salmon	6	18	Hatchery Creek is located on northeastern Prince of Wales Island and is accessible by road and a USFS trail. Hatchery Creek sockeye salmon are a small to medium size island stock and are one of the earliest run sockeye salmon stocks in the region. There are two falls that the sockeye salmon have to negotiate. Annual assessment has been conducted through weir counts above the falls since 2007. Limits have varied over the years depending on use and abundance and are reviewed annually. This system has had several closures to personal use fishing in recent years. The run seems to have stabilized in part due to the many harvest restrictions in time and limits over the past 10 years and the completion of fish ladder at the upper falls. Harvest limits may need to be revised on an annual basis to reflect changing abundance as the run size increases. Compounding management of this system is the higher level of harvest by persons using the Federal Subsistence permit.
Blind Slough/Wrangell Narrows - PU	No	Coho salmon	25	25	Coho salmon runs to Blind Slough are combination of hatchery and wild stocks. The personal use fishery is included in regulation as part of the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 33.381), although harvest limits are not set in regulation, a percent of the total harvest is set at 5%. It is popular fishery with residents of Petersburg due to its proximity to Petersburg. Effort and harvest in this fishery has been consistent ranging between 18 and 56 permits with an average of 26 and harvest ranging between 170 and 759 fish with an average of 321. Harvest levels have likely been with the intent of the management plan and wild stocks harvest has likely been sustainable at the current harvest limits.
Hugh Smith Lake/Sockeye Creek/District 1: Boca De Quadra Inlet	yes	Sockeye salmon	12	no annual limit	Sockeye salmon returns to Hugh Smith Lake are sufficient to support this level of harvest based on the historical effort. Hugh Smith is remote and has a long standing weir project conducted by Fish and Game. Salmon are susceptible to harvest when they school adjacent to the stream mouth in years of low abundance. The sockeye season was extended from July 12 to July 31 for the 2013 season after many years of achieving the sockeye escapement goal.
McDonald Lake - District 1	no	Sockeye salmon	30	30	Sockeye salmon returns to McDonald Lake are sufficient to support a robust harvest on most years. During the last decade we have struggled to meet escapements and fell into a stock of concern for a few years. We have met escapements now for 3 of the last 5 years. Fishing occurs primarily in the salt water bay adjacent to the system. This is the only wild run system in the Ketchikan Management Area that allows set and drift gillnet as gear. Yes Bay is remote and has a long standing assessment project utilizing foot surveys. Abundance is not known until after fishing is over. Historically, this is the largest personal use sockeye harvest in the Ketchikan management area.

Naha River - District 1: Naha Bay	yes	Sockeye salmon	12	no annual limit	The Naha River is close to Ketchikan and easily accessible. The harvest is sporadic but can be large on years when sockeyes school in saltwater. Escapement to the system is not currently monitored. Current daily limits are appropriate to ensure escapements. The area open for harvest has recently been minimized to allow for escapements during years when schooling behavior has allowed high harvest rates.
Karta River - District 2: Kasaan Bay	yes	Sockeye salmon	20	no annual limit	The Karta River is a heavily utilized subsistence sockeye system and it has a long history of stable escapement levels which justify these harvest limits. Post season foot surveys are done some years which provide limited escapement estimates. The Karta has had 12 year of weir data that has provided historical run timing.
Kegan River - District 2	no	Sockeye salmon	12	50	The Kegan River has a small to moderate sockeye return with little harvest. Aerial surveys are conducted during pink salmon flights. This systems has a long history of stable escapement levels which justify these harvest limits.
Thome River - District 2	no	Sockeye salmon	12	50	The Thome River has a small sockeye return with little harvest from State permit holders. No projects currently monitor escapements. Information is collected from a federal harvest permit. This systems has a long history of stable escapement levels which justify these harvest limits.
Klawock River - Section 3B: Klawock Inlet	yes	Sockeye salmon	20	no annual limit	The Klawock River is a heavily utilized subsistence sockeye system. It is accessible along the Prince of Wales road system and supports annual subsistence harvest from the town of Klawock. The Prince of Wales Hatchery Association runs a wier that monitors to majority of sockeye returns. Opening dates, newly closed waters and a horsepower restriction are in regulation. Harvest records and escapement data show this is an appropriate level of harvest for most years.
Hetta - Section 3A: Hetta Inlet	yes	Sockeye salmon	20	no annual limit	Hetta Lake Creek is a heavily utilized subsistence sockeye system, predominantly by the residents of Hydalburg. A wier has been in operation for the last 11 years by the department and the village of Hydalburg. Returns into the lake indicate the run strength is sufficient to support this level of harvest.
Eek - Section 3A: Hetta Inlet	yes	Sockeye salmon	20	no annual limit	Eek Lake has low effort levels and sporadic harvest. On years of low abundance, subsistence users will go elsewhere. In 2015, a video weir was installed on the river with limited results.
Klakas Lake - Section 3A: Klakas Inlet	yes	Sockeye salmon	20	no annual limit	Harvest on the Klakas River sockeyes occur primarily in the intertidal by a small number of fishermen. No escapement monitoring program is in effect but aerial surveys suggest the run strength is adequate and consistent enough to support the minimal effort this system receives.
Sarkur - Section 3C: El Capitan Passage	yes	Sockeye salmon	20	40	This system is easily accessible along the Prince of Wales road system and has had large harvests in past years. No monitoring takes place on this system except for occasional aerial surveys that have limited ability to access run strength. On years of low abundance, an annual limit of 40 sockeye per household has been established to prevent potential overharvest of this stock. A recent permit stipulation prevents obstructing more than one-half of the estuary mouth.
All Other C&T Area Streams - Districts 1 - 4	yes	Sockeye salmon	10	20	Streams not listed on the permit have small returns of sockeye salmon and can allow only a limited harvest.
All Other non-C&T Area Streams - Districts 1 - 4	no	Sockeye salmon	10	20	Streams not listed on the permit have small returns of sockeye salmon and can allow only a limited harvest.
Districts 1-4 - All C & T areas	yes	Pink Salmon	150	no annual limit	Aerial surveys are conducted in the Ketchikan management area throughout the summer and fall to enumerate the returns of pink salmon. The department has determined that the escapement levels to the Ketchikan area are adequate to allow harvest that provides the necessary amount to meet subsistence needs.
Districts 1-4 - PU areas	no	Pink Salmon	150	no annual limit	Aerial surveys are conducted in the Ketchikan management area throughout the summer and fall to enumerate the returns of pink salmon. The department has determined that the escapement levels to the Ketchikan area are adequate to allow harvest that provides the necessary amount to provide for personal use harvest.
Districts 1-4 - All C & T areas	yes	Chum salmon	25	no annual limit	Aerial surveys are conducted in the Ketchikan management area throughout the summer and fall to enumerate the returns of Chum salmon. The department has determined that the escapement levels to the Ketchikan area are adequate to allow harvest that provides the necessary amount to meet subsistence needs.
Districts 1-4 - PU areas	no	Chum salmon	25	no annual limit	Aerial surveys are conducted in the Ketchikan management area throughout the summer and fall to enumerate the returns of Chum salmon. The department has determined that the escapement levels to the Ketchikan area are adequate to allow harvest that provides the necessary amount to provide for personal use harvest.
Districts 1-4 - All C & T areas	yes	Coho salmon	20	40	With the Federal Subsistence Board providing for a coho subsistence fishery, the BOF removed the restriction on coho subsistence fisheries and the department implemented through the permit a 20 fish possession and 40 annual in C&T areas mirroring federal limits beginning in 2003. Aerial surveys are conducted in the Ketchikan management area throughout the fall to enumerate the returns of coho salmon. The department has determined that these harvest levels pose no concern to sustainability.
Leask Creek, Mahoney Lake and Creek and marine waters within 500 yards of the terminus of these creeks.	no	All salmon species	Closed	Closed	Orderly and sustainable fisheries on these two systems are not feasible due to their proximity to the community of Ketchikan, and their small run size.