

Regional Information Report No. DRAFT

2024 Summer Troll Fishery Management Plan

by

Grant Hagerman

and

Michael Vaughn

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries



Symbols and Abbreviations

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Weights and measures (metric)		General		Mathematics, statistics	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code AAC		<i>all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations</i>	
deciliter	dL	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	alternate hypothesis	H_A
gram	g			base of natural logarithm	e
hectare	ha	all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	catch per unit effort	CPUE
kilogram	kg			coefficient of variation	CV
kilometer	km	at	@	common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
liter	L	compass directions:		confidence interval	CI
meter	m	east	E	correlation coefficient	
milliliter	mL	north	N	(multiple)	R
millimeter	mm	south	S	correlation coefficient (simple)	r
		west	W	covariance	cov
Weights and measures (English)		copyright	©	degree (angular)	$^\circ$
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	corporate suffixes:		degrees of freedom	df
foot	ft	Company	Co.	expected value	E
gallon	gal	Corporation	Corp.	greater than	>
inch	in	Incorporated	Inc.	greater than or equal to	\geq
mile	mi	Limited	Ltd.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
nautical mile	nmi	District of Columbia	D.C.	less than	<
ounce	oz	et alii (and others)	et al.	less than or equal to	\leq
pound	lb	et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	logarithm (natural)	ln
quart	qt	exempli gratia		logarithm (base 10)	log
yard	yd	(for example)	e.g.	logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ etc.
		Federal Information Code	FIC	minute (angular)	'
Time and temperature		id est (that is)	i.e.	not significant	NS
day	d	latitude or longitude	lat or long	null hypothesis	H_0
degrees Celsius	$^\circ\text{C}$	monetary symbols (U.S.)	\$, ¢	percent	%
degrees Fahrenheit	$^\circ\text{F}$	months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan, Dec	probability	P
degrees kelvin	K	registered trademark	®	probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
hour	h	trademark	™	probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
minute	min	United States (adjective)	U.S.	second (angular)	"
second	s	United States of America (noun)	USA	standard deviation	SD
		U.S.C.	United States Code	standard error	SE
Physics and chemistry		U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)	variance	
all atomic symbols				population	Var
alternating current	AC			sample	var
ampere	A				
calorie	cal				
direct current	DC				
hertz	Hz				
horsepower	hp				
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH				
parts per million	ppm				
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰				
volts	V				
watts	W				

REGIONAL INFORMATION REPORT NO. DRAFT

2024 SUMMER TROLL FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

by

Grant Hagerman and Michael Vaughn

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Sitka

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries, Publications Section
802 3rd St, Douglas, Alaska 99824-0020

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*Grant Hagerman and Michael Vaughn
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries,
304 Lake Street, Room 103, Sitka, Alaska 99835-7563*

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ABSTRACT

This document summarizes the plan that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will follow to manage the Southeast Alaska summer commercial salmon troll fishery from July 1 through September 30, 2024. The troll fishery will be managed according to guidelines adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries as described in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code Chapter 29 - Salmon Troll Fishery. The first Chinook salmon retention period will begin on July 1 to harvest 70% of the summer troll Chinook salmon harvest limit. The remainder of the troll Chinook salmon harvest limit will be targeted in a second retention period in August. The summer troll fishery will be open to harvest coho salmon through September 20, with several inseason assessments evaluating the need for closures to address conservation or allocation concerns and to consider an extension of the coho season through September 30. Chum salmon, primarily those produced by Alaska hatcheries, are also harvested during the summer troll fishery.

Keywords: salmon, troll, summer, commercial, management plan, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, Southeast Alaska, chum salmon

INTRODUCTION

The Southeast Alaska/Yakutat (SEAK) commercial salmon troll fishery occurs in waters of the State of Alaska and the Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) east of the longitude of Cape Suckling and north of the International Boundary at Dixon Entrance. The troll fishery is managed according to regulations promulgated by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF), North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC). Regulations adopted by the BOF are filed under *Chapter 29-Salmon Troll Fishery* in Title 5 (5 AAC) of the State of Alaska Administrative Code. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) conducts inseason management under emergency order authority. SEAK fisheries are managed to achieve a harvest target based on the 2019 Bilateral Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement (PST). The PST specifies an allowable catch based on measures of Chinook abundance from the PSC Chinook model. Use of this model for setting the SEAK catch limit is required based on decisions by the PSC at the January 2024 meeting, and in accordance with Chapter 3 of the treaty. Coho salmon are managed to ensure escapement goals and to achieve BOF allocation guidelines. Coho salmon near Dixon Entrance are managed in cooperation with Canada according to the PST.

This management plan discusses objectives and methods used to achieve BOF, NPFMC, NMFS, and PSC policies and goals for the commercial summer troll fishery. This plan addresses commercial directed troll fisheries for Chinook, coho, and chum salmon; pink and sockeye salmon retained by trollers are considered incidental harvest and may be taken at any time during open fishing periods.

SUMMER TROLL FISHERY DATES

The summer troll fishing season covered in this plan is July 1 through September 30. Chinook salmon may be harvested only during open periods announced by ADF&G. The coho salmon season may be extended in portions of Districts 1–16 (Figure 1) for up to 10 days, after September 20, in years when wild coho salmon abundance is projected by the department to meet escapement needs after considering harvest and effort (5 AAC 29.110[a]).

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

CHINOOK SALMON

SEAK fisheries are managed to achieve the annual all-gear PSC allowable catch limit determined by the PSC Chinook model. The annual harvest limit is allocated through regulations established by the BOF to provide 4.3% of the Chinook salmon harvest limit to the purse seine fleet, 2.9% to

the drift gillnet fleet, and 1,000 fish to the set gillnet fleet. The total net gear allocation is then subtracted from the all-gear harvest, and the remainder of the allocation is divided between the troll and sport fisheries in an 80/20 split (5 AAC 29.060[b]). The summer troll fishery is managed in season, according to the summer salmon troll fishery management plan (5 AAC 29.100). Most of the Chinook salmon harvested in the Alaska summer troll fishery are of non-Alaska hatchery origin and are referred to as “treaty” (PST) fish. In addition to the harvest ceiling of PST fish, provisions of the PST provide for additional harvest of Chinook salmon produced in Alaska hatcheries (add-on). The add-on is the total estimated Alaska hatchery catch, minus the pre-treaty hatchery production of Chinook salmon (5,500 fish) minus the standard error of the estimate of Alaska hatchery catch multiplied by a risk adjustment factor.

Management Objectives

1. Comply with provisions and regulations established by the BOF, NPFMC, NMFS, and the PSC.
2. Comply with the conservation goals of the PST and BOF.
3. Achieve harvest allocations among user groups as directed by the BOF.
4. Achieve the annual all-gear PSC allowable catch associated with the appropriate tier of the Chinook model abundance index output.
5. Maximize the harvest of Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon.

Management Methods

The majority of the annual troll Chinook salmon harvest is taken during the general summer troll fishery when salmon may be harvested throughout most of SEAK, including the outside waters of the EEZ. The summer fishery targets the number of PST Chinook salmon remaining on the annual troll allocation after winter and spring troll PST harvests are subtracted. During years in which the summer Chinook salmon harvest limit is relatively large, daily harvest is monitored and a closing date is determined inseason. In years when the harvest limit is smaller, the appropriate fishery length is estimated and announced prior to the start of the fishery. A Fisheries Performance Data (FPD) program, consisting of confidential interviews collected from commercial trollers at the time of offload, is used to estimate daily catch rates (catch-per-boat day or CPUE) in 6 areas (Figure 2). Aerial vessel surveys are conducted to obtain an immediate estimate of fishing effort. Total harvest to date is estimated by pairing aerial vessel counts with the CPUE data obtained from FPD interviews. Summaries of conventional and electronic fish tickets are compiled daily to track harvest during each day of the summer Chinook salmon retention period. The total number of days the fishery will be open for Chinook salmon retention is calculated by dividing the harvest goal for the opening by the estimated daily catch of the troll fleet. From 1992 through 1995, and again in 2000, 2001, 2008, and 2013, ADF&G announced a fixed number of retention days beginning July 1. From 1996 to 1999, 2002–2007, 2009–2012, and 2014–2023, the Chinook salmon fishery was managed in season with no predetermined fishery length. However, in 2023, due to a reduction in the commercial troll second summer Chinook salmon retention period harvest limit, resultant of an inseason transfer of allocation from commercial troll to the sport fishery, the department announced pre-fishery that the retention period would open for 1 day.

The department manages the summer troll fishery season according to the management plan (5 AAC 29.100) which calls for harvesting 70% of the summer Chinook salmon troll harvest limit in an initial opening beginning July 1. The remainder of the Chinook salmon harvest limit is targeted

following any coho salmon conservation/allocation closure in August. Following the first Chinook salmon retention period, the waters of frequent high Chinook salmon abundance are closed for the remainder of the season consistent with 5 AAC 29.025, unless the department determines that less than 30% of the Chinook salmon harvest goal was taken in the initial retention period (Figure 3). In addition, during the second Chinook salmon retention period, if the department determines after 10 days that the annual troll Chinook salmon harvest ceiling may not be reached by September 20 with those waters closed, the department shall reopen the waters of frequent high Chinook salmon abundance by emergency order. Lastly, if the department determines that the number of Chinook salmon remaining on the annual troll Chinook salmon harvest allocation is not sufficient to allow for a competitive fishery, the commissioner may, by emergency order, reopen the troll fishery to the taking of Chinook salmon under the provisions of a limited harvest fishery (5 AAC 29.100[c][2][D]). In a limited harvest fishery, the department establishes vessel harvest limits that allow each permit holder to take a defined number of Chinook salmon over a period of up to 10 days, with the fishery taking place no earlier than September 1.

Inseason closures will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement and recorded on the Troll Fishery telephone hotlines; telephone numbers are provided in the *Fishery Contacts* section at the end of this report. Closure announcements will be submitted for broadcast on the United States Coast Guard and National Weather Service broadcasts; however, the department cannot ensure the availability or functionality of these communication systems in all areas and fishery participants are encouraged to utilize multiple sources to remain informed on the status of the fishery.

The hatchery add-on is calculated in season through data generated from the port sampling program. Department personnel are deployed to observe salmon deliveries to assess hatchery contribution to each fishery. The head of each tagged fish is shipped to the Mark, Tag, and Age Laboratory in Juneau for coded wire tag (CWT) detection and decoding. The number of Alaska hatchery fish is calculated by expanding the number of Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon in the sampled catch to the total catch.

2024 Chinook Salmon Treaty Harvest Limit and Allocations

Under management provisions of the PST, the projected coastwide abundance of Chinook salmon results in an all-gear harvest limit for SEAK of 211,400 treaty Chinook salmon (non-Alaska hatchery-produced fish). This year’s all-gear harvest target of 207,150 includes a 2% reduction that will serve as a buffer to avoid exceeding the all-gear limit and payback provisions of the PST. The resulting preseason troll fishery treaty harvest allocation for 2024 is 153,000 Chinook salmon.

The all-gear harvest limit is allocated among commercial and sport fisheries according to management plans established by the BOF (5 AAC 29.060[b] and 47.055). The annual harvest limit is allocated to provide 4.3% of the Chinook salmon catch limit to the purse seine fleet, 2.9% to the drift gillnet fleet, and 1,000 fish to the set gillnet fleet. The total net gear allocation is then subtracted from the all-gear harvest, and the remainder of the allocation is divided between the troll and sport fisheries in an 80/20 split. Most Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon harvested do not count against the annual treaty harvest limit.

Table 1.–Allocations of the Chinook salmon harvest limit for 2024.

All-gear PST Harvest target	Purse Seine	Drift Gillnet	Set Gillnet	Total Net	Sport	Troll
207,150	8,900	6,000	1,000	15,900	38,250	153,000

The summer troll fishery treaty harvest limit is calculated by subtracting the sum of the winter treaty harvest, the projected spring treaty harvest, the proportionally adjusted pre-treaty Alaska hatchery harvest of 4,100 Chinook salmon for troll gear, and a risk adjustment of 1,000 Chinook salmon from the annual troll allocation. Under the BOF plan, 70% of the summer harvest limit is targeted during the first summer opening beginning July 1. **The preliminary harvest target for the July Chinook salmon retention period and estimated length of the fishery will be announced in an advisory announcement issued in late June.**

COHO SALMON

Most coho salmon harvested in the troll fishery are of Alaska origin. They spawn in approximately 2,500 streams in Southeast Alaska during the fall and early winter months. Coho salmon harvests were depressed in the mid to late 1970s but improved through most of the 1980s and 1990s. Factors contributing to the increased harvests include the improved spawning escapement levels achieved under the conservative management regime implemented in 1980, increased marine survival due to favorable ocean conditions, increased targeting of coho salmon by trollers, and an increase in Alaska hatchery production. Hatchery coho salmon production (almost entirely from Southeast Alaska facilities) first became significant in 1980. During the recent 30-year period from 1994–2023, the contribution of hatchery coho salmon has varied from 13% of the total troll catch in 1994 to 33% in 2018.

Early in the season, coho salmon stocks returning to southern Southeast Alaska are harvested by the troll fishery in northern and central outside areas, where they school with coho salmon bound for those sections of the region. Troll fishery harvests of coho salmon in outer coastal areas generally peak during mid-July to mid-August while inside fisheries generally peak during late August to mid-September.

Management Objectives

1. Provide adequate escapement of coho salmon, by area, to ensure sustainable populations.
2. Provide maximum opportunities for harvest consistent with conservation objectives.
3. Maintain allocation guidelines over the long term, consistent with BOF regulations.
4. Comply with provisions of the PST in managing coho salmon on the U.S./Canada border.

Management Methods

Management of coho salmon is based on aggregate abundance. Lack of a general coho salmon stock identification technique prevents assessment of run strength of individual stock groups contributing to these early-season mixed stock fisheries. The widespread and complex nature of the troll fishery necessitates a closely coordinated management program. Inseason management is accomplished through a team consisting of the Southeast regional supervisor, the regional management coordinator, 2 troll fishery management biologists, a regional coho salmon research biologist, and 12 area management biologists. ADF&G staff contact information is provided at the end of this document.

Coho salmon fisheries are managed to comply with the SEAK coho salmon fishery management plan (5 AAC 29.110). Inseason run strength is evaluated to achieve ADF&G conservation and BOF allocation objectives adopted in the management plan. The management plan calls for a troll closure of up to 7 days in late July if the total projected commercial harvest of wild coho salmon

is less than 1.1 million fish (5 AAC 29.110[b][1]). A troll closure, up to 10 days, typically occurs in mid-August and is required by regulation to be a minimum of 2 days to provide for a fair start prior to the second Chinook salmon opening. The actual length of that closure is determined in early August, when an assessment evaluates whether the number of coho salmon reaching inside areas is adequate to provide for spawning requirements, given normal or restricted inside fisheries on coho and other salmon species (5 AAC 29.110[b][2][A]) or the proportional share of coho salmon harvest by the troll fishery is larger than that of inside gillnet and sport fisheries compared to average 1971–1980 levels (5 AAC 29.110[b][2][B]). There are no harvest ceilings for SEAK coho salmon fisheries. However, under the 2019 PST, the area near the U.S./Canada border will close in late July if Alaska troll harvest rates in the border area fall below specified thresholds.

The regulatory period for coho salmon retention in the troll fishery is June 1 through September 20, with a potential extension through September 30. The criteria for extending the coho salmon fishery after September 20 were modified through the BOF process in 2012. The newly adopted regulatory language, under 5 AAC 29.110, specifies that in years when wild coho salmon abundance is projected by ADF&G to meet escapement needs after considering harvest and effort, the commissioner may extend the coho salmon fishery by emergency order in any portion of Districts 1–16 for up to 10 days after September 20. Prior to 2012, the decision to extend the general summer troll season beyond September 20 was based on an ADF&G determination of high or above-average wild coho salmon abundance.

Long-term wild stock and hatchery stock CWT programs, dockside sampling programs, escapement monitoring projects, and the troll FPD collection program all began in the early 1980s and continue through the present day. As years of data were gathered from each program, more information and understanding of stock movement, timing, and harvest were accumulated. As a result, a model was developed in 1989 to accurately estimate the end of season all-gear coho salmon commercial harvest using the salmon troll FPD through late July. In the mid-1990s, escapement goals were established for several stocks in SEAK based on spawner-recruit relationships from long-term databases of harvest rate, harvest, age composition, and escapement information. These long-term monitoring programs have provided the backbone for successful conservation of coho salmon in SEAK.

Coho Salmon Allocation

The BOF has established long-term allocation goals for coho salmon harvest by each commercial gear type. Target percentages established by the BOF are 61% for troll, 19% for purse seine, 13% for drift gillnet, and 7% for set gillnet. The BOF stated that subsistence, personal use, and sport harvests of coho salmon are not affected by the established allocations among commercial gear types. The BOF also stated that:

“These percentages are guidelines only and may vary from season to season given natural fluctuations in salmon abundance and distribution and the limitations of fisheries management. It is, however, the board’s intent that these allocation guidelines be met as closely as possible over the long term. It is not the board’s intent for the department to disrupt any of the traditional commercial fisheries that the historical allocation is founded. The department may, however, make inseason adjustments to attempt to achieve these long-term allocation guidelines.”

The department will implement applicable, existing regulations prescribed for summer salmon troll fishery management (5 AAC 29.110). These regulations indicate that a regionwide troll closure for up to 10 days is required during the coho salmon season to address allocations between

outer coastal and inside water fisheries if ADF&G determines that the proportional share of coho salmon harvest by the troll fishery is larger than that of inside drift gillnet and sport fisheries compared to the 1971–1980 levels. Primary inside fishery indicators for this assessment are overall coho salmon harvests, escapement projections for streams where escapement goals have been established, and CPUE in the Tree Point, Prince of Wales, Taku/Snettisham, and Lynn Canal drift gillnet fisheries.

If a regionwide troll closure is implemented to conserve coho salmon during late July or early August, the department will consider the combined impacts of both closures when setting the length and timing of an additional August closure. Any transfer of coho salmon harvest to inside fisheries resulting from an early closure, if implemented, should be reflected in inside fishery performance indicators, and would be used for comparison against the allocation criteria.

TENTATIVE 2024 SUMMER SEASON SCHEDULE

Following is a generalized timetable for summer salmon management; however, some modifications to this schedule may be required.

Table 2.–Anticipated regulatory actions and dates for 2024.

July 1	The general summer troll fishery opens in most waters of the region, including outer coastal waters. The initial Chinook salmon retention period begins July 1 and targets 70% of the Chinook salmon remaining on the annual troll treaty allocation. The length of the retention period varies annually and may be opened for a predetermined number of days or managed in season. The waters of frequent high Chinook salmon abundance will close following the end of the first retention period.
Late July	Regional coho salmon run strength is assessed. If the total projected commercial harvest of wild coho salmon is less than 1.1 million fish, up to a 7-day regionwide conservation closure may be implemented on or after July 25. The projected total commercial wild coho salmon harvest will be used as an index of run strength. Coho salmon run strength near the U.S./Canada border is also assessed, based on Alaska Fisheries Performance Data. Portions of Districts 1–4 will close, beginning the last week of July, if early July Alaska troll harvest rates fall below specified thresholds.
Early August	A second assessment of coho salmon run strength will determine the length of a mid-August troll closure.
Mid- to late-August	A regionwide coho closure of up to 10 days will be implemented if required for conservation or allocation, based on assessment of stock and fishery performance data relative to criteria established by the BOF. If a regionwide conservation closure has occurred during late July, the likelihood of a closure being implemented for allocation at this time will be reduced. Following any closure of the troll fishery, the Chinook salmon fishery will reopen to take the remaining Chinook salmon treaty harvest limit. A minimum closure of 2 days is required prior to the second Chinook salmon opening to allow for a fair start (5 AAC 29.100[c][1][B][ii]).
Late August to September 20	Coho salmon conservation measures may be implemented regionwide or by area, as required to protect weak coho stocks.
Mid-September	If wild coho salmon abundance is projected by ADF&G to meet escapement needs after considering harvest and effort, the coho fishery may be extended by up to 10 days after September 20.

SUMMER TROLL FISHING PERIODS AND CLOSED WATERS

Salmon trolling is permitted in most waters of SEAK during the first Chinook salmon retention period of the general summer season, except for those waters described in 5 AAC 29.100, closed waters listed in 5 AAC 29.150, and any additional waters closed by emergency order. Following the closure of the first Chinook retention period, waters designated as areas of frequent high Chinook salmon abundance (5 AAC 29.025) will be closed to trolling for the remainder of the summer season, except as necessary under provisions of 5 AAC 29.100(c)(2) (Figure 3).

The Annette Islands Reserve is a federally recognized Indian reservation in Alaska. The waters within 3,000 feet of Annette Island, Ham Island, Hemlock Island, Spire Island, Walker Island, Lewis Island, and adjacent rocks and islets are designated within the fishing reserve. Fisheries within the reserve are managed by the Metlakatla Indian Community for authorized fisheries participants only.

FISHING PERIODS UNDER 5 AAC 29.100

Wild Chinook salmon stocks are in a period of very low production for the majority of rivers in SEAK where these runs are monitored. In 2023, 6 of the 11 monitored Chinook salmon index systems were below their escapement goal ranges. In addition, only 1 of the 5 Chinook salmon stocks (Chilkat River) for which the department develops formal forecasts is anticipated to achieve escapement. The Unuk River forecast is at the lower bound of the escapement range and would only make escapement if no harvest occurred, the Stikine and Taku Rivers forecasts are below the lower end their goal ranges, and the Situk River had insufficient data available to produce a forecast. To meet escapement goals in 2024, restrictions will be implemented in drift gillnet, purse seine, troll, sport, personal use, and subsistence fisheries throughout SEAK. **Additional conservation measures and updates to area descriptions that will be implemented in the troll fishery by emergency order for 2024 are bolded in the summer troll regulatory language below.**

Regulations under 5 AAC 29.100 describe open fishing periods as follows:

(d) Sections 1-C, 1-E, and 1-F (Figure 4), salmon may be taken only as follows:

(1) Section 1-C: from August 15 through September 20;

(2) Section 1-E:

(A) in the waters of Section 1-E, bounded by a line from the southernmost tip of Nose Point at **55°48.32' N lat, 131°42.53' W long** to a point in West Behm Canal at 55°48.78' N lat, 131°44.00' W long, located approximately 1.0 nmi west of Nose Point, then south to a point at 55°43.92' N lat, 131°45.44' W long, located approximately 1.0 nmi west of the northernmost tip of Bushy Point, then south to a point at 55°39.09' N lat, 131°44.69' W long, located approximately 1.0 nmi west of Escape Point, to the northernmost tip of Escape Point at **55°39.07' N lat, 131°43.04' W long**, and in waters of Neets Bay west of the longitude of the southernmost tip of Chin Point at **131°42.10' W long**, and in Traitors Cove west of 131°41.88' W long, from July 1 through September 20;

(B) all other waters of Section 1-E, from July 13 through September 20;

(C) **in the waters of Section 1-E, north of a line from Indian Point at 55°36.85' N lat, 131°42.00' W long to Mike Point at 55°37.38' N lat, 131°52.90' W**

long, Chinook salmon may not be retained or in possession during the first general summer troll Chinook salmon retention period.

(3) Section 1-F: open from July 1 through September 20, with the following restrictions:

(A) from July 1 through July 12, the waters of Section 1-F east of line from the northernmost tip of Kirk Point at 54°59.98' N lat, 131°00.78' W long, to Mary Island Light at 55°05.94' N lat, 131°10.96' W long, to the southernmost tip of Cone Island at 55°14.47' N lat, 131°19.36' W long, are closed;

(B) from July 13 through July 31, the waters of Section 1-F east of a line from the southernmost tip of Black Island at 55°07.85' N lat, 131°04.96' W long, to the westernmost tip of Slate Island at 55°05.73' N lat, 131°03.87' W long, to the westernmost tip of White Reef at 55°03.98' N lat, 131°02.47' W long, to the easternmost tip of Black Rock at 55°01.43' N lat, 131°03.57' W long, to the northernmost tip of Kirk Point at 54°59.98' N lat, 131°00.78' W long, are closed;

(C) in the waters of Section 1-F, south of a line from Lucky Point at 55°12.62' N lat, 131°15.92' W long, to Middy Point at 55°10.15' N lat, 131°19.60' W long, and waters north of the latitude of Beaver Point at 55°05.22' N lat, and north of a line from Point Rosen at 55°04.70' N lat, 131°10.82' W long, to Quadra Point at 55°05.17' N lat, 130°59.05' W long, and in southeast Behm Canal south of a line from a point at 55°11.89' N lat, 131°05.04' W long, located on Point Sykes, to a point at 55°12.22' N lat, 131°05.70' W long, located approximately 0.5 nmi northwest of Point Sykes, to Point Alava at 55°11.63' N lat, 131°10.70' W long, Chinook salmon may not be retained or in possession during the first general summer troll Chinook salmon retention period.

(e) In District 8, the weekly fishing periods for trolling are the same as for drift gillnetting.

(1) The waters of District 8 are closed to Chinook salmon retention and possession during the first general summer troll Chinook salmon retention period.

*Additional closures restricting the District 8 troll fishery are described in 5 AAC 29.150 (i), (Figure 5).

(f) In District 11, salmon may be taken only in Sections 11-C and 11-D (Figure 6).

(g) In District 15, salmon may be taken only in Section 15-C (Figure 6).

(i)(2) from August 7 through September 20, salmon may not be taken in waters bounded on the west by the 3-nmi limit of the territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59°30.49' N lat, 139°46.58' W long, and intersecting the 3-nmi limit at 59°28.44' N lat, 139°51.68' W long, and on the south by a line extending seaward from 59°21.07' N lat, 139°19.73' W long, and intersecting the 3-nmi limit at 59°19.08' N lat, 139°24.98' W long (Figure 7)

CLOSED WATERS UNDER 5 AAC 30.365 AND 5 AAC 29.100

In accordance with the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan (5 AAC 30.365[c]), **waters near the mouth of the Situk River will be closed to the retention of Chinook salmon effective 12:01 a.m., July 1.** The Situk River is managed for a biological escapement goal of 450 to 1,050 large Chinook salmon. The inriver run goal was not

achieved in 2010–2012, and 2015–2016, 2018, and 2023 and restrictive management measures were deemed necessary. Due to the poor return in 2023, no run forecast was generated. Based on recent and historical trends in run size, it is expected that the lower end of the Chinook salmon escapement goal will not be achieved in 2024; therefore, conservation actions are necessary to ensure adequate levels of escapement.

In accordance with 5 AAC 29.100(i)(2), **waters near the mouth of the Situk River will be closed to the retention of all salmon from August 7 to September 20.**

The coordinates specified in **5 AAC 30.365** are modified by emergency order to match those provided in 5 AAC 29.100(i)(2) and these 2 Yakutat area troll fishery closures apply in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the 3-nmi limit of the territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59°30.49' N lat, 139°46.58' W long, and intersecting the 3-nmi limit at 59°28.44' N lat, 139°51.68' W long, and on the south by a line extending seaward from 59°21.07' N lat, 139°19.73' W long, and intersecting the 3-nmi limit at 59°19.08' N lat, 139°24.98' W long (Figure 7).

TERMINAL HARVEST AREA CHUM SALMON FISHERIES

ICY STRAIT

Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. (DIPAC) projects a total run of 3.64 million chum salmon to the Macaulay Hatchery and other release sites in 2024, a 30% increase from the 2023 preseason projection of 2.8 million (postseason return was 3.89 million). Trollers have targeted DIPAC-produced chum salmon in Icy Strait during June and early July since 2010.

HIDDEN FALLS TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

The Hidden Falls Hatchery, operated by the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), forecasts a run of 1.55 million chum salmon in 2024. In the Hidden Falls THA, the number of chum salmon onboard a troll vessel or recorded on a troll fish ticket, may not exceed the number of Chinook salmon onboard or recorded on a troll fish ticket in this area beginning July 1 (5 AAC 33.374[d]). Beginning July 1, Chinook salmon may be retained and possessed in the THA by troll gear only during an open summer Chinook salmon troll fishery retention period as established by emergency order (5 AAC 33.374[d][3]). For additional information on the Hidden Falls THA (statistical area 112-22), refer to the advisory announcement issued on April 25, 2024.

SITKA SOUND/DEEP INLET TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

NSRAA has projected a total run of 2.45 million chum salmon to the Deep Inlet THA (113-38) and Medvejie Hatchery in 2024, an increase of 158% from the 2023 projected run of 951,000 fish. The Deep Inlet THA rotational fishing schedule began on June 1 to harvest Medvejie Hatchery Chinook salmon. The THA is open to trolling during periods when net fisheries are closed, and each Saturday through September 20. NSRAA is planning to conduct cost recovery in the THA this season, and waters within Deep Inlet are closed to commercial salmon fishing beginning June 1. Additional waters of the THA may be closed in late August to facilitate broodstock collection at Medvejie Hatchery. The troll and net gear fishing schedule and a description of THA boundaries and closure can be found in the Deep Inlet advisory announcement issued on April 19, 2024.

Troll harvest of returning chum salmon typically takes place in Eastern Channel and in Sitka Sound from the last week of July through August. An area has been established in Sitka Sound where

trollers may target chum salmon during the August coho troll closure. Coho salmon cannot be retained in that area during the closure (5 AAC 29.112).

CRAWFISH INLET TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

NSRAA has forecasted a run of 1.34 million chum salmon to Crawfish Inlet in 2024, a 54% increase from the 2024 projected run of 867,000 fish. The timing of troll harvest in the Crawfish Inlet THA (113-33) should be similar to that of the Deep Inlet and Sitka Sound chum fisheries, with returns beginning in late July and continuing through August. This troll THA was established during the 2018 BOF cycle and allowed trollers to target chum salmon during the August troll closure in portions of Crawfish Inlet east of 135°11.05' W long, as determined by the department for conservation management reasons (5 AAC 29.112).

In March of 2020, the BOF expanded hatchery chum troll opportunities in this area to include waters of the Crawfish Inlet THA south of 56°47.14' N lat in Cedar Pass, northeast of a line from **56°43.82' N lat, 135°16.11' W long** to 56°43.49' N lat, 135°15.50' W long in Middle Channel, and north of a line from 56°43.01' N lat, 135°12.93' W long to 56°43.25' N lat, 135°12.18' W long in Walker Channel. Also included in 2020 BOF regulatory changes was the addition of West Crawfish Inlet to areas that may remain open to target hatchery chum salmon during the August coho salmon conservation closure. The area is described as the waters of West Crawfish Inlet and Windy Passage, southeast of a line from 56°47.11' N lat, 135°18.87' W long, to 56°46.89' N lat, 135°19.92' W long, northeast of a line from 56°45.80' N lat, 135°20.06' W long, to 56°45.30' N lat, 135°17.64' W long, and northwest of a line from **56°45.32' N lat, 135°16.99' W long**, to **56°45.36' N lat, 135°16.89' W long**, in First Narrows.

Salmon may be taken in the Crawfish Inlet THA by troll gear from 12:01 a.m., June 1 through 11:59 p.m., September 20, unless closed by emergency order. Beginning July 1, Chinook salmon may be retained and possessed in the THA by troll gear only during an open summer Chinook salmon troll fishery retention period as established by emergency order (5 AAC 33.380[b][1]). Under provisions of the chum salmon troll fishery plan (5 AAC 29.112[d]), when the summer coho salmon troll fishery is closed, a person may not have coho salmon on board a salmon troll vessel while fishing for chum salmon. For additional information on the Crawfish Inlet THA, refer to the Crawfish Inlet advisory announcement issued on April 25, 2024.

SOUTHEAST COVE TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

NSRAA is forecasting a run of 215,000 chum salmon to the Southeast Cove THA, and an additional 211,000 fish to the Gunnuk Creek THA. A portion of the run may be harvested in common property fisheries in Chatham Strait. The Southeast Cove THA (109-41) will be open to common property troll fisheries from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., Monday, Friday, and Saturday each week from June 17 through August 3, unless closed by emergency order (5 AAC 33.387). For additional information, refer to the Southeast Cove advisory announcement issued on April 23, 2024.

THOMAS BAY TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

NSRAA is forecasting a run of 381,000 chum salmon to the Thomas Bay THA. This year's run will be the sixth for this project and will be comprised of all 3–5 year old age classes. A portion of the run may be harvested in common property fisheries in Chatham Strait and Frederick Sound. The Thomas Bay THA (110-12) will be open to common property fisheries from 12:01 a.m. June 16 through 11:59 p.m., August 3. Purse seine openings will occur each week on Sunday and

Thursday from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and the troll fishery will be open during those periods the purse seine fishery is closed. For additional information, refer to the Thomas Bay advisory announcement issued on April 18, 2024.

ANITA BAY TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

The Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) is forecasting a run of 458,000 summer chum salmon to Anita Bay in 2024. The Anita Bay THA (107-35) will open to the harvest of salmon by troll gear from 12:01 a.m., June 1 through 11:59 p.m., November 10. For additional information, refer to the Anita Bay advisory announcement issued on April 18, 2024.

NEETS BAY TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

SSRAA is forecasting a run of 1.54 million summer chum salmon to Neets Bay in 2024, a 94% increase from the 792,000 summer chum projected run in 2023. Salmon may be taken in the Neets Bay THA (101-95) by troll gear from 12:01 a.m., June 27 through 11:59 p.m., August 1, unless closed by emergency order. The Neets Bay THA will expand to the longitude of Chin Point on July 1, for troll gear only; however, Chinook salmon retention is prohibited in the expanded area between the longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island and the longitude of Chin Point. Trollers fishing the waters between Chin Point and Bug Island may not possess Chinook salmon. Beginning 12:00 noon, July 15 troll gear is restricted to the waters of Neets Bay that are west of the Bug Island line and east of the Chin Point line. Trollers may target Neets Bay chum salmon outside the THA in West Behm Canal when those waters are open to trolling (Figure 4). For additional information, refer to the Neets Bay THA advisory announcement issued on April 20, 2024.

KENDRICK BAY TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

SSRAA is forecasting a run of 1.24 million summer chum salmon to Kendrick Bay in 2024. The Kendrick Bay THA (102-15) includes the waters of Kendrick Bay west of 131°59.00' W long and the waters of McLean Arm west of 131°57.80' W long. The THA will be open to commercial salmon fishing with troll and purse seine gear from 12:01 a.m., June 15 through 11:59 p.m., September 30. For additional information, refer to the Kendrick Bay THA advisory announcement issued on April 25, 2024.

PORT ASUMCION TERMINAL HARVEST AREA

SSRAA is forecasting a run of 755,000 summer chum salmon to Port Asumcion in 2024. The Port Asumcion THA includes the waters north and west of a line from Point Cosinas at 55°21.80' N lat, 133°30.64' W long, to a point west of Point Maria located at 55°22.04' N lat, 133°30.26' W long. There are no common property fisheries scheduled for Port Asumcion and excess chum salmon will be taken as cost recovery.

TERMINAL HARVEST AREA CHINOOK SALMON RETENTION

Retention of Chinook salmon 28" and greater is permitted as outlined in THA advisory announcements for the following areas, unless closed earlier by emergency order:

The **Herring Bay THA** (101-40) will be open to troll gear for retention of all salmon species from July 1 through August 30 (5 AAC 33.369). The **Silver Bay THA** (113-35) is open to troll gear to harvest all salmon species from June 1 through July 30, if Chinook salmon broodstock needs are met at the Medvejie Creek hatchery. Waters of Bear Cove are closed to salmon fishing with troll

gear. The **Anita Bay THA** (107-35) is open to troll gear for retention of all salmon species in portions of the THA from June 1 through November 10 (5 AAC 33.383). The **Port Saint Nicholas THA** (103-63) is open to troll gear for retention of all salmon species from June 1 through July 31. The **Deep Inlet THA** (113-38) is open to troll gear from June 1 through September 20 for retention of all salmon species and will follow the gear rotational schedule published in the Deep Inlet advisory announcement (5 AAC 33.376). Refer to advisory announcements issued in 2024 for additional information on THAs.

The Crawfish Inlet, Southeast Cove, Thomas Bay, Neets Bay, Mist Cove (109-13), Port Armstrong (109-11) and Hidden Falls THAs are closed to Chinook salmon retention in the troll fishery whenever the general summer Chinook salmon retention periods are closed.

REGULATION SUMMARY

For information on Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations, refer to the current regulation booklet available at ADF&G area offices or online at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial>.

GEAR

Legal gear for the commercial summer troll fishery includes power and hand troll gear types. From each power or hand troll gurdy, only 1 line to which multiple leaders and hooks may be attached.

Power trollers are limited to no more than 4 lines operated by hydraulic, electrical, or mechanical powered gurdies, except that no more than 6 lines may be operated in the EEZ north of the latitude of the southernmost tip of Cape Spencer at 58°12.63' N lat (5 AAC 29.120[b][1]).

Vessels using hand troll gear are limited to the operation of no more than 2 hand-operated gurdies or 4 fishing rods, except that in the waters of the EEZ north of the latitude of the southernmost tip of Cape Spencer at 58°12.63' N lat, following the closure of the initial summer fishery Chinook salmon retention period, no more than 4 hand troll gurdies may be operated from a hand troll vessel during the remainder of the summer season (5 AAC 29.120[b][2]). A downrigger or hand troll gurdy may not be used in conjunction with a fishing rod during the summer troll season (5 AAC 29.120[b][2] and [g]).

SIZE AND LANDING REQUIREMENTS

Chinook salmon taken and retained in the summer troll fishery must measure at least 28 inches in total length (from tip of snout to tip of tail, in its natural open position) or 23 inches from the midpoint of the clethral arch to the tip of the tail (5 AAC 29.140). Undersized Chinook salmon that are taken must be returned to the water unharmed. A person may not mutilate or otherwise disfigure a Chinook salmon in any manner that would prevent the determination of the minimum size restriction. There are no minimum size restrictions on the other salmon species.

The heads of all adipose-fin-clipped salmon must remain attached to the fish until the fish are offloaded from the vessel, except as authorized by permit (5 AAC 29.140[b]). Permit holders who freeze their harvest onboard are directed to contact the department prior to fishing so that fish ticket requirements can be reviewed, and necessary permits issued.

An “ADF&G Salmon Troll Exemption Permit” issued by the department for the 2024 summer troll fishery is required for catcher–processors that intend to remove heads from salmon prior to

delivery of those fish (5 AAC 29.145[c]). Additional information about the Exemption Permit is available on the ADF&G troll web site and permits are available in local area offices.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Fish ticket requirements include an **imprint of the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission salmon troll permit card, 5-digit salmon statistical area(s) of harvest and percent of harvest by statistical area if harvest occurred in multiple areas, start and end date of fishing, date of landing, and number of salmon recorded by species**, as well as other information required under 5 AAC 39.130. **Catcher-processors delivering frozen at sea (FAS) product shall submit a fish ticket for each week fished** that documents the number and estimated pounds of salmon caught during that week and must indicate on that fish ticket that fish were frozen (5 AAC 29.145[a]). The statistical week for fish ticket reporting begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday. If a fishing trip continues beyond Saturday, a fish ticket is required that documents the start date and end date (Saturday) of fishing for that week. Effort and harvest that occurs during the following weekly period (Sunday through Saturday) is reported on a separate fish ticket. FAS vessels are defined as processors by ADF&G, Department of Environmental Conservation, and Department of Revenue and as such must issue their own fish tickets imprinted with their processor code plate following reporting requirements of 5 AAC 39.130. Fish tickets are required to be submitted to the department not later than 7 days after a delivery (5 AAC 39.130[c]).

SPORT FISHING AND CHARTERING FROM A REGISTERED TROLL VESSEL

- A person may sport fish from a registered commercial salmon hand troll or power troll vessel (5 AAC 47.041[a]), however, **may not sport fish and commercial fish for salmon from the same vessel on the same day** (5 AAC 47.041[f]). A person who sport fishes from a vessel licensed for commercial salmon fishing, other than a charter vessel when paying clients are onboard, shall, immediately upon bringing a salmon on board, mark the salmon by **removing its dorsal fin** (5 AAC 47.041[c]).
- Sport fishing from a commercially licensed vessel while commercially caught salmon are in possession is illegal in waters closed to commercial salmon fishing (5 AAC 47.041[d]).
- A downrigger may be used in conjunction with a fishing rod when sport fishing; however, a downrigger may **not** be used in conjunction with a fishing rod to take salmon when engaged in commercial hand trolling during summer troll fisheries (5 AAC 29.120[b][2][B]).
- A **registered troll vessel may also be registered as a charter vessel**, though that vessel may not be used to commercial fish and charter on the same day (5 AAC 75.995[a][8]).
- A person **may possess sport-caught salmon** on board a commercial salmon vessel while that vessel is engaged in commercial salmon fishing only if the salmon is preserved fish at the time the vessel is engaged in commercial fishing (5 AAC 47.041[g]). The definition of “preserved fish” excludes unfrozen fish temporarily stored in coolers that contain ice or dry ice or fish that are lightly salted (5 AAC 75.995[a][21]).
- No person may possess sport-caught halibut aboard a vessel when other fish or shellfish aboard the vessel are destined for sale, trade, or barter (5 AAC 75.070[a]).

GROUND FISH AND HALIBUT BYCATCH INFORMATION

For information on Southeast Alaska Groundfish regulations, refer to the current Statewide Commercial Groundfish Fishing Regulations booklet available at ADF&G area offices or online at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial>. For details on groundfish bycatch allowances in the troll fishery refer to the “Groundfish Bycatch in the 2024 Salmon Troll Fishery” advisory announcement, issued on January 2, 2024.

STATE BYCATCH ALLOWANCES

In the state waters portion of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, commercial salmon trollers operating hand or power troll gear during an open commercial salmon fishing period may legally retain and possess incidentally taken groundfish (5 AAC 28.133). The commissioner may establish groundfish bycatch limits in the salmon troll fishery if it is deemed necessary to manage groundfish bycatch harvest within total catch limits. Allowable bycatch percentages for the 2024 summer salmon troll fishery are provided in Table 3. The bycatch allowance for each species or species group reflects the percentage that may be retained and sold and is **based on the round weight of salmon on board**. State bycatch allowances that apply in adjacent federal waters (3-200 nmi) are noted.

Table 3.—Bycatch provisions for the 2024 Summer Troll Salmon Fishery in State Waters.

BYCATCH SPECIES	BYCATCH ALLOWANCE
Lingcod ¹	100%, IBS, CSEO, NSEI, and SSEIW. 50%, EYKT and SSEOC. 5%, NSEO. Lingcod bycatch allowances also apply in federal waters.
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)	10%. DSR bycatch allowance also applies in federal waters, excluding IBS .
Black, Blue, and Dark Rockfish	No limit on incidental harvest. Also applies in federal waters.
Other Rockfish	No limit on incidental harvest in state waters. 5% in aggregate in federal waters. In IBS federal waters, DSR are included as part of this "Other Rockfish" category when computing bycatch allowances.
Spiny Dogfish	35%.
Sablefish	0%, no retention.
Other Groundfish	No limit on incidental harvest.

¹ See Lingcod section of the report for additional regulations pertaining to lingcod retention.

Groundfish taken as bycatch must be reported on an ADF&G fish ticket by **species code, 6-digit groundfish statistical area, delivery condition code, disposition code, and pounds landed**. Bycatch caught in excess of the allowable bycatch limit for a management area are required to be released at sea; bycatch retained and landed in excess of the allowable bycatch limit must be forfeited to the State of Alaska and are subject to enforcement action.

LINGCOD

Lingcod may be taken as bycatch in the commercial salmon troll fishery **only from May 16 through November 30** (5 AAC 28.113[c]). Lingcod must measure at least 27 inches from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail, or 20.5 inches from the front of the dorsal fin to the tip of the tail. Lingcod harvest allocations for the troll fishery are set by management area and area closures will occur as allocations are taken. Inseason closures will be announced by ADF&G advisory announcement and recorded on the Troll Fishery and the Groundfish ([907] 747-4882) telephone hotlines. Closures will be announced on the United States Coast Guard and National Weather

Service broadcasts; however, the department cannot ensure the availability or functionality of these communication systems in all areas. For updates on lingcod area closures contact Groundfish Project staff in Sitka at (907) 747-6688.

Lingcod Management Areas are described in 5 AAC 28.105 and include: Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS), East Yakutat (EYKT) Section, Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) Section, Central Southeast Outside (CSEO) Section, Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC) Sector, Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict, and Southern Southeast Internal Waters (SSEIW) Sector (Figure 8). Lingcod bycatch allowances in federal waters are identical to those set for state waters within each management area. Lingcod bycatch caught in excess of the allowable bycatch limit for a management area are required to be released at sea; lingcod bycatch retained and landed in excess of the allowable bycatch limit must be forfeited to the State of Alaska and are subject to enforcement action.

Lingcod harvest is restricted in the waters of Sitka Sound (5 AAC 28.150[b]). Commercial salmon trollers are permitted to retain and possess up to 2 lingcod aboard a vessel while actively fishing for salmon within waters of the Sitka Sound Special Use Area during the open CSEO lingcod bycatch season; however, the amount of lingcod retained may not exceed the 100% CSEO lingcod bycatch weight allowance. Lingcod taken within this area may be retained for a permit holder's personal use only and may not be sold. Upon taking a lingcod in this area, the permit holder shall mark that lingcod for personal use by immediately removing the dorsal fin of that fish. The head of each personal use lingcod must remain attached to the fish as evidence of meeting the 27-inch minimum size restriction, until that lingcod is weighed and reported on the ADF&G troll salmon fish ticket documenting that lingcod as personal use harvest (disposition code "95"), as required under 5 AAC 28.173[a][4]).

Having taken no more than 2 lingcod outside of the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, a permit holder may fish for salmon within the Sitka Sound Special Use Area only after removing the dorsal fin of those lingcod. Vessels in possession of more than 2 lingcod may not fish for salmon in this area until those lingcod are offloaded.

The Sitka Sound Special Use Area is defined in 5 AAC 28.150(a) as the waters that are enclosed on the north by lines from Kruzof Island at 57°20.50' N lat, 135°45.17' W long to Chichagof Island at 57°22.05' N lat, 135°43.00' W long, and from Chichagof Island at 57°22.58' N lat, 135°41.30' W long, to Baranof Island at 57°22.28' N lat, 135°40.95' W long, and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point at 56°59.38' N lat, 135°49.57' W long, to Hanus Point at 56°51.92' N lat, 135°30.50' W long to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows at 56°49.28' N lat, 135°22.75' W long, to Baranof Island at 56°49.28' N lat, 135°22.60' W long (Figure 8).

ROCKFISH BYCATCH IN STATE WATERS

All Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) retained in excess of 10% of the round weight of salmon on board the vessel must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess DSR bycatch taken in state waters shall be surrendered to the state (5 AAC 28.171[a]) and DSR bycatch overages must be reported on fish tickets. The 7 species in the DSR assemblage are yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, China, tiger, and rosethorn rockfish.

Other rockfish taken while trolling for salmon in state waters (internal waters of Alaska and 0–3 nmi on the outer coast) are legally retained and possessed with no limit on incidental harvest.

BYCATCH IN FEDERAL WATERS

In federal waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, all incidental troll bycatch of state-managed black, blue, and dark rockfish may be retained and sold. In federal waters east of 140° W long (Southeast Outside District), the troll bycatch allowance for DSR is 10% and all other rockfish are limited to 5% in aggregate. In federal waters west of 140° W long, all rockfish bycatch (excluding black, blue, and dark rockfish) is limited to 5% in aggregate.

Vessels trolling for salmon in federal waters in the Gulf of Alaska that retain federal groundfish bycatch must have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) endorsed for troll gear. FFPs are not required to retain lingcod or black, blue, or dark rockfish as these species are not managed under the Federal Management Plan. For information on FFP requirements and bycatch allowances in federal waters contact NOAA Fisheries at (907) 586-7225 (Juneau), (907) 747-6940 (Sitka), (907) 772-2285 (Petersburg), or (907) 247-5804 (Ketchikan).

Groundfish and halibut may not be taken in the Edgecumbe Pinnacles Marine Reserve (Figure 8) described as the waters off Cape Edgecumbe enclosed by a box defined as 56°55.50' N lat, 56°57.00' N lat, 135°54.00' W long, and 135°57.00' W long (5 AAC 28.150[c]).

HALIBUT

Halibut incidentally taken during an open commercial halibut season by power and hand troll gear operated for salmon consistent with applicable state laws and regulations are legally taken and possessed (5 AAC 28.133[c]). Commercial halibut may be retained only by Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) permit holders during the open season for halibut. Trollers making an IFQ halibut landing of 500 lb or less of IFQ weight as determined pursuant to 50 CFR 679.40(h) are exempted from the 3-hour prior notice of landing if landed concurrently with a legal landing of salmon harvested using hand troll or power troll gear (50 CFR 679.5[i][iv][A]). Halibut taken incidentally during the troll fishery shall be reported on an ADF&G troll salmon fish ticket. Contact NOAA Fisheries for detailed information on regulations and landing requirements for the federal IFQ halibut fishery.

An individual aboard a commercial troll vessel operating **hand troll gear** for salmon may retain incidentally taken halibut for subsistence use only under the following conditions:

- There are not any commercial or sport-caught halibut on board the vessel;
- The individual possesses a Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate issued by NOAA and is fishing in waters designated for subsistence halibut fishing;
- The vessel is not operating an amount of hooks that exceeds hook limits permitted under federal subsistence fishing regulations; and
- There is not any unused halibut IFQ held by any individual on board the vessel for that regulatory area and for the vessel category from which they are fishing.

Power troll gear is not a legal gear for subsistence halibut fishing; therefore, the retention of incidentally taken halibut for subsistence use while trolling for salmon with power troll gear is prohibited.

OTHER REGULATIONS

A person aboard a vessel may not fish for groundfish with dinglebar troll or mechanical jigging machines if salmon are on board. A vessel fishing for groundfish with dinglebar troll gear must display the letter “D” and a vessel fishing for groundfish with mechanical jigging machines must display the letter “M”, at all times when fishing with or transporting fish taken with dinglebar troll gear or mechanical jigging machines (5 AAC 28.135[a][4]). Letters must be displayed on both sides of the hull, cabin, or mast in symbols at least 12 inches high and 1 inch wide that contrast with the background and in a manner that leaves the letter plainly visible and unobscured. A person may not operate a vessel that is displaying 1 of these letters when the vessel is being used to fish for salmon (5 AAC 28.135[c]).

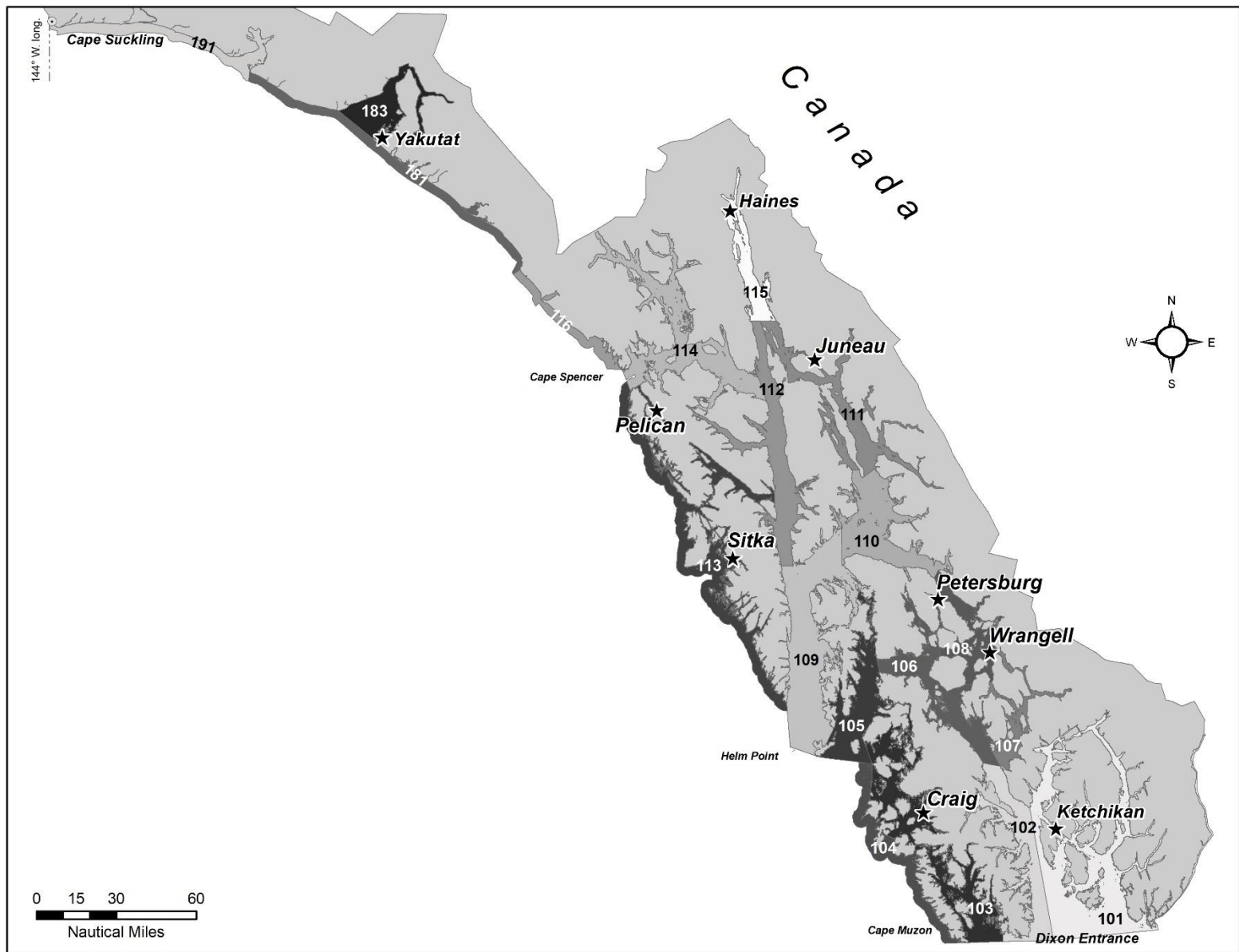


Figure 1.-Summer troll fishing districts for Southeast Alaska/Yakutat.

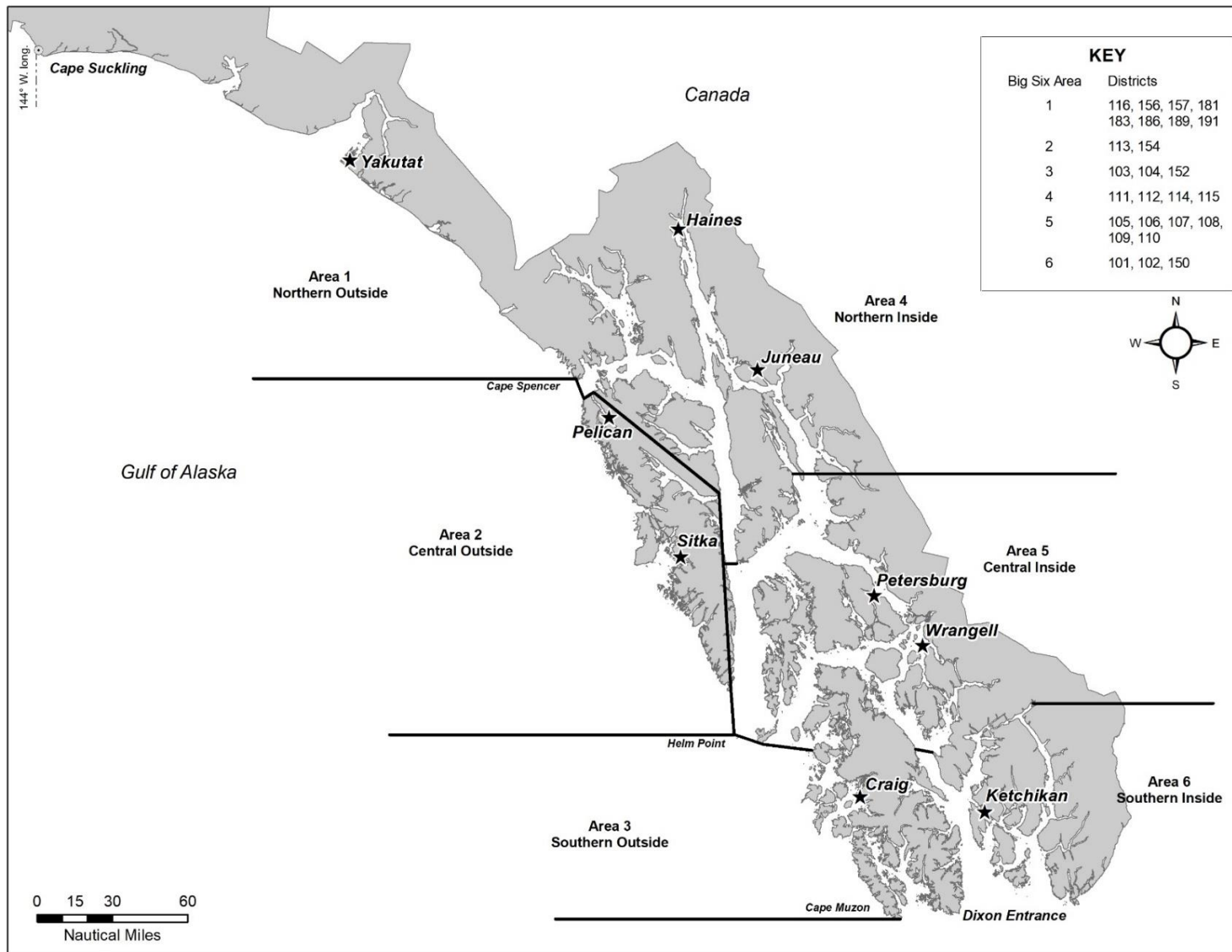


Figure 2.—Fisheries Performance Data program reporting areas by district in Southeast Alaska/Yakutat.

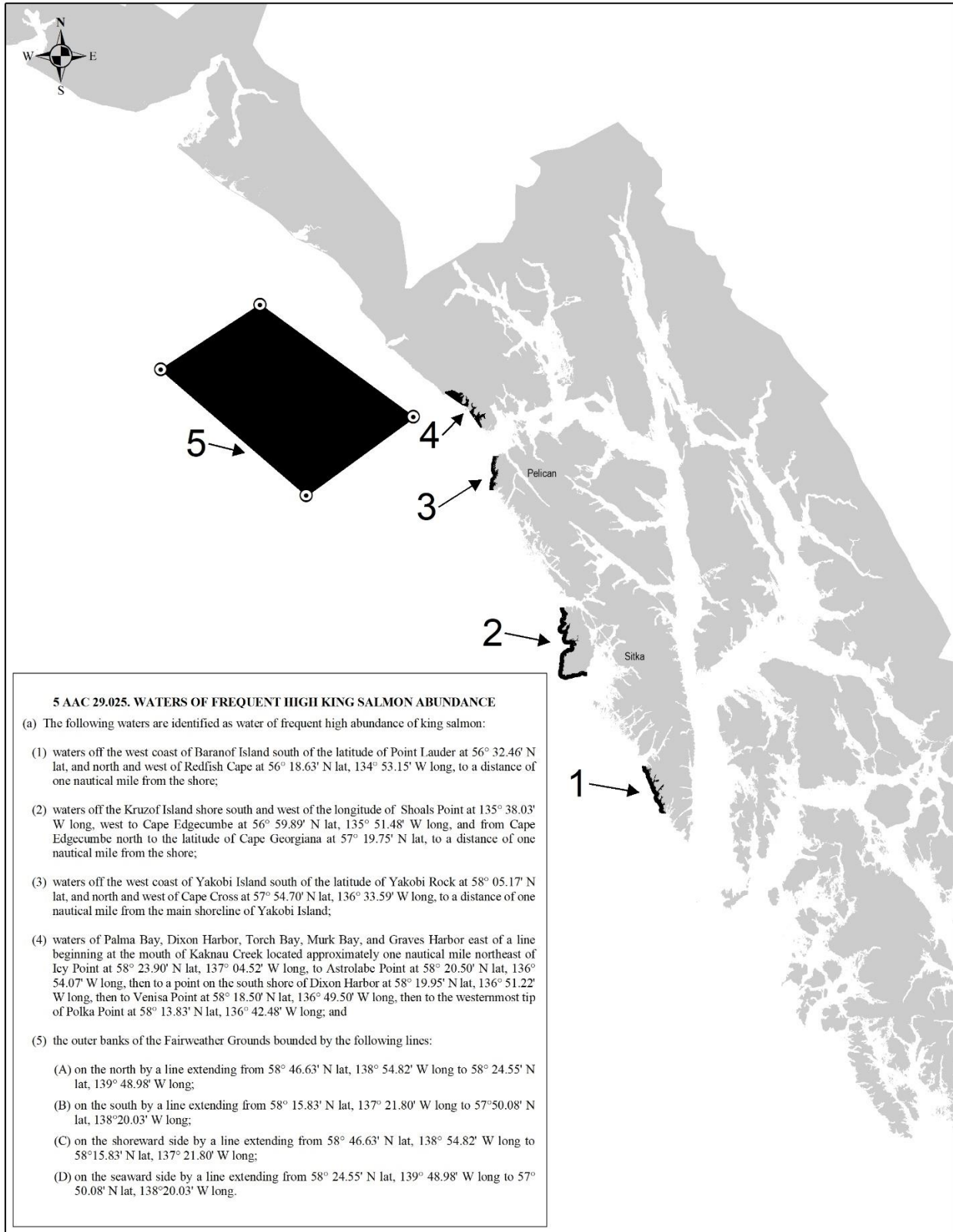


Figure 3.—Areas of high king salmon abundance closed to salmon trolling following the closure of the first summer Chinook salmon retention period.

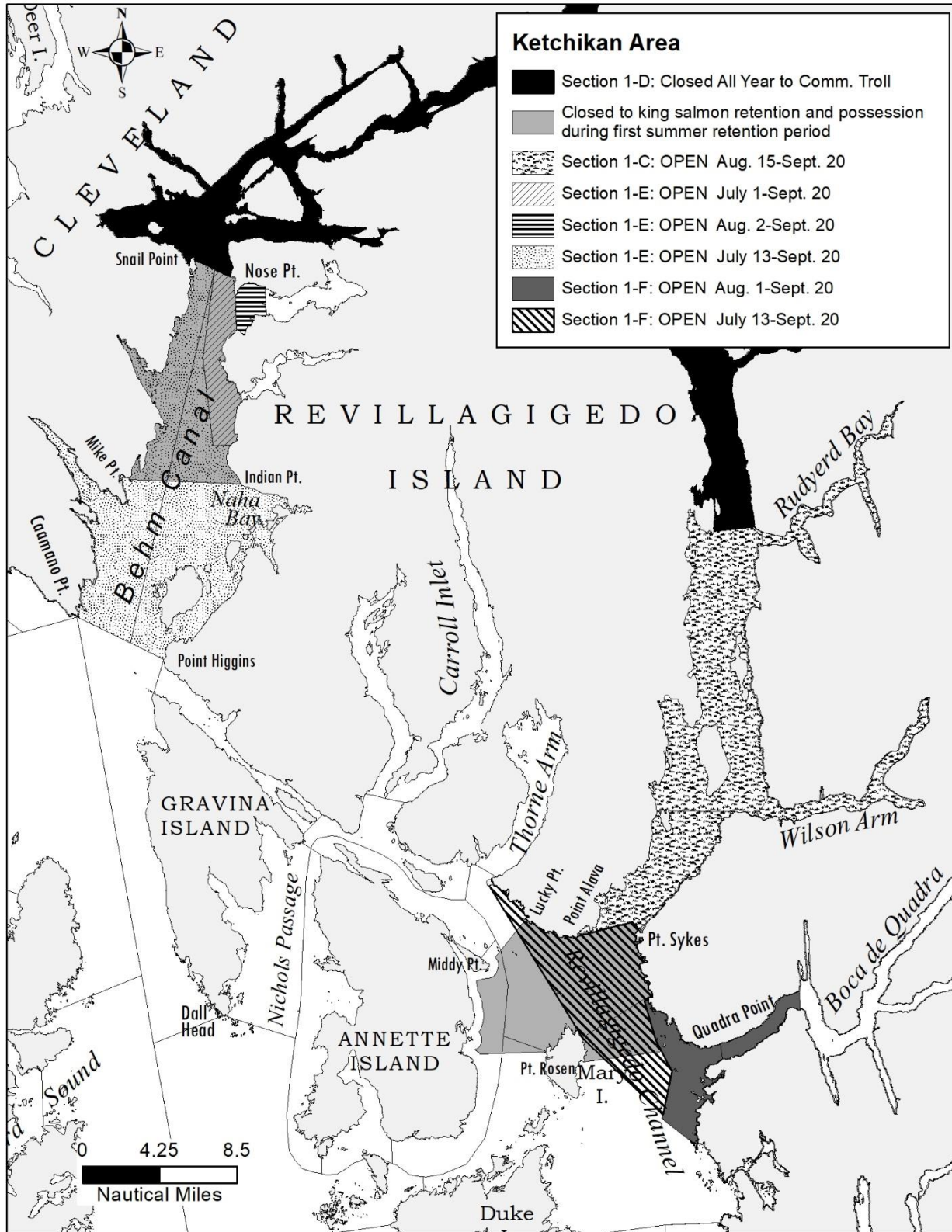


Figure 4.—Ketchikan area summer troll fishery seasonal restrictions (5 AAC 29.100[d]).

Note: This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in 5AAC 29.150 (CLOSED WATERS) or emergency orders issued by ADF&G. The general summer troll fishing season applies to those areas not specified in the key or in 5AAC 29.150.



Figure 5.—District 8 closed waters for 2024 summer troll fishery.

Note: This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in 5 AAC 29.150 (CLOSED WATERS) or emergency orders issued by ADF&G. The general summer troll fishing season applies to those areas not specified in the key or in 5 AAC 29.150.

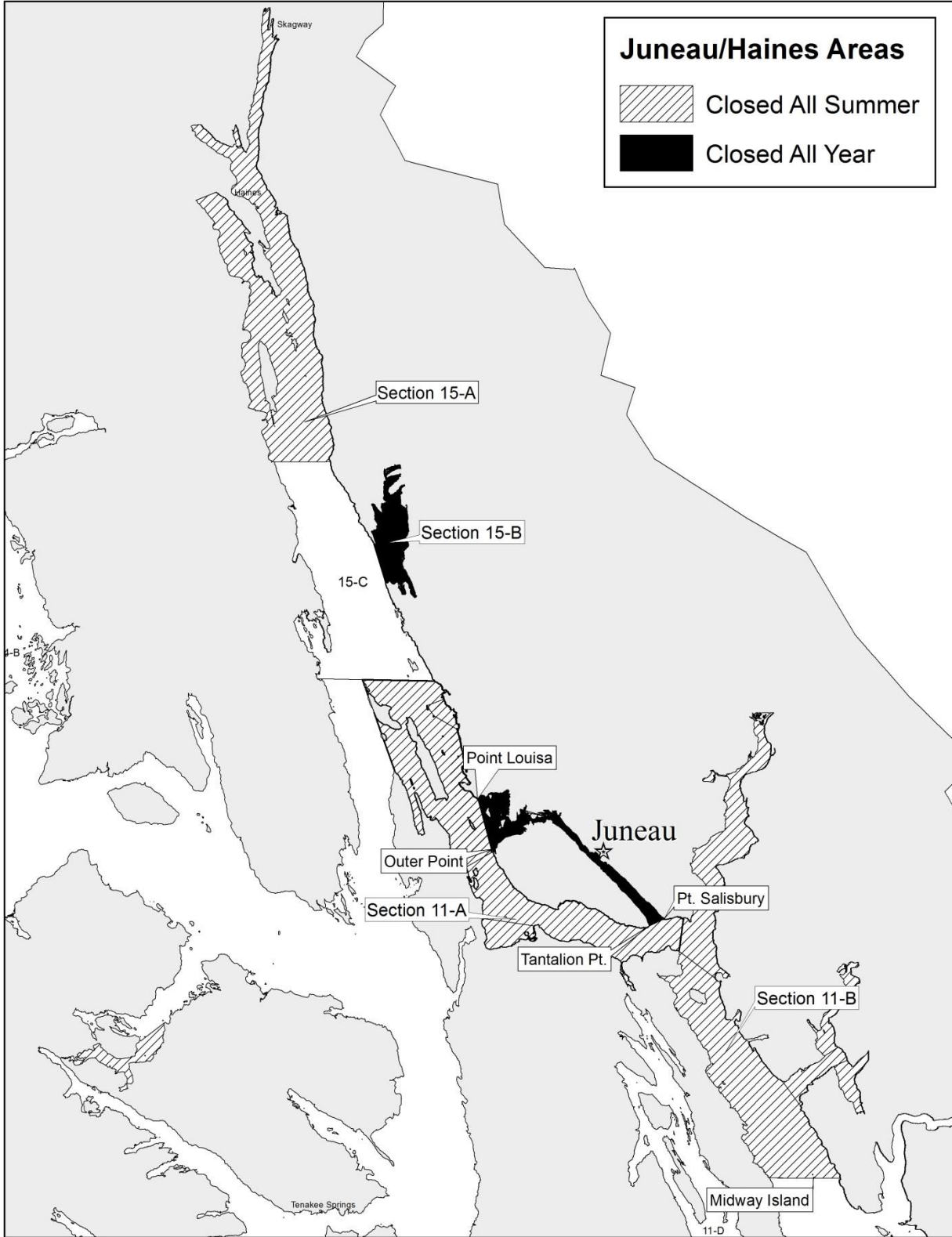


Figure 6.—Juneau/Haines areas closed waters for 2024 summer troll fishery (5 AAC 29.100[f] and [g]).

Note: This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in 5 AAC 29.150 (CLOSED WATERS) or emergency orders issued by ADF&G. The general summer troll fishing season applies to those areas not specified in the key or in 5 AAC 29.150.

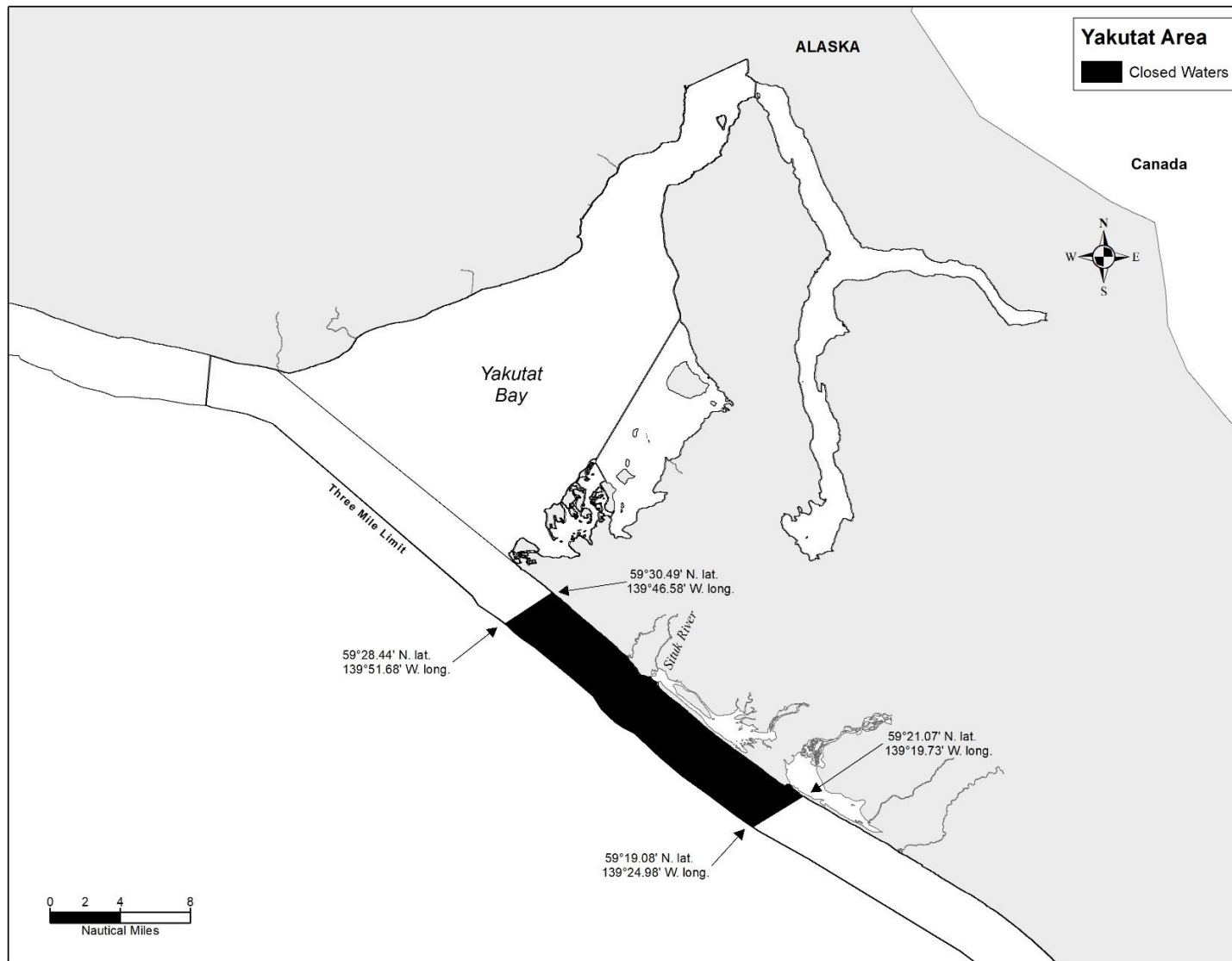


Figure 7.—Yakutat area closed waters for 2024 summer troll fishery. Chinook salmon retention prohibited July 1–September 20 (5 AAC 30.365[c]); salmon fishing prohibited August 7–September 20 (5 AAC 29.100[i]).

Note: This map is for general information only and does not exempt trollers from provisions in 5 AAC 29.150 (CLOSED WATERS) or emergency orders issued by ADF&G. The general summer troll fishing season applies to those areas not specified in the key or in 5 AAC 29.150.

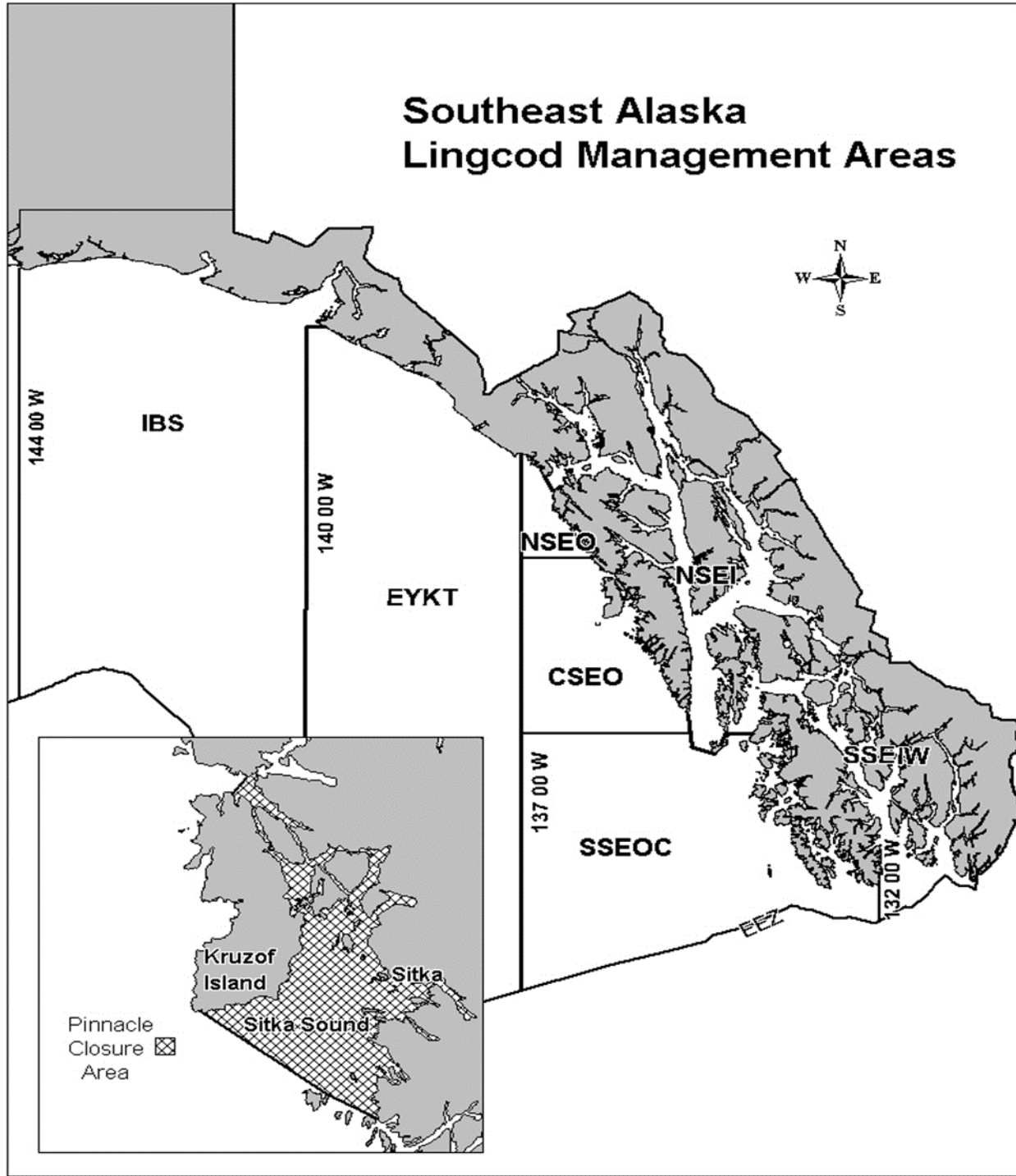


Figure 8.—Southeast Alaska lingcod management areas, restricted waters of Sitka Sound, and Edgumbe Pinnacles Marine Reserve.

FISHERY CONTACTS

The following are commercial fisheries division contacts regarding this management plan:

Grant Hagerman
Troll Management Biologist
304 Lake Street, #103
Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-6688

Mike Vaughn
Assistant Troll Management Biologist
304 Lake Street, #103
Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-6688

Troy Thynes
Regional Management Coordinator
P. O. Box 667
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
(907) 772-3801

Anne Reynolds-Manney
Southeast Alaska Regional Supervisor
2030 Sea Level Drive Suite 205
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
(907) 228-3013

Katie Taylor and Tom Kowalske
Management Biologists
P. O. Box 667
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
(907) 772-3801

Aaron Dupuis and Anthony Walloch
Management Biologists
304 Lake Street, # 103
Sitka, Alaska 99835-7653
(907) 747-6688

Bo Meredith, Justin Breese,
and Whitney Crittenden
Management Biologists
2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite, 205
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
(907) 225-5195

Scott Forbes and Ray Vinzant
Management Biologists
P.O. Box 110024
Juneau, AK 99811-0024
(907) 465-4250

Nicole Zeiser
Management Biologist
P.O. Box 330
Haines, Alaska 99827-0330
(907) 766-2830 or 3124

Rick Hoffman and Krista Mahan
Management Biologists
P. O. Box 49
Yakutat, Alaska 99689-0049
(907) 784-3255

Rhea Ehresmann and Alex McCarrel
Groundfish Biologists
304 Lake Street, #103
Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-6688

For updated information on the troll fishery, call the 24-hour information hotline in Douglas (907) 465-TROL (8765), Sitka (907) 747-8765, or Ketchikan (907) 225-6870.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA TROLL WEBSITE INFORMATION:

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