

At their January 2018 shellfish & finfish meeting in Sitka, the board approved the department's draft action plans for managing king salmon for three stocks of concern for the Chilkat, King Salmon, and Unuk rivers as described in RC 422. **RC 422**

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of Alaska Board of Fisheries.

January 23, 2018

Alaska Board of Fisheries recommendations on Unuk, Chilkat, and King Salmon rivers king salmon action plans.

Guiding principles in implementing these action plans

Notwithstanding auxiliary preseason information, elements of these king salmon action plans and selection of the various inseason management measures will be formulated based upon preseason run forecasts for the Chilkat, Unuk, Taku, Stikine, Situk rivers and will be evaluated relative to the established escapement goals for these king salmon stocks. Further changes to management measures will be based on inseason run assessment information as it becomes available **and be balanced with requirements and provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and allowable harvests.**

Chilkat and King Salmon rivers

Purse seine and drift gillnet fisheries

Option B

Specific Action to Implement the Objective:

- Using emergency order authority, reduce the open area in northern Chilkat Inlet during the first 5 weeks of the season by implementing and exceeding conservation measures of the *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* by closing the area north of Eldred Rock Lighthouse.
- Using emergency order authority, impose 6-inch maximum mesh restriction in first through third weeks of the season in Section 15-A (**Proposal 171**).
- Using emergency order authority, close western half of Section 15-A in first through fifth week of the season in Section 15-A.
- Using emergency order authority, impose night closures between 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. in first through fourth week of the season in Section 15-A and Section 15-C.
- Using emergency order authority, impose 6-inch maximum mesh restriction in first and second weeks of the season in Section 15-C (**Proposal 171**).
- Using emergency order authority, limit time and area open to 2 days/week in the “postage stamp” area only in the first week of the season in Section 15-C.
- By regulation, the inside area of Boat Harbor THA (west of marker) is open 7 days/week in first through fourth week of the season.

- Using emergency order authority, open outside of Boat Harbor THA only 2 days/week during first and second weeks of the season.
- Using emergency order authority limit time and area open to 2 days/week in the area south of the latitude of Vanderbilt Reef in the second week of the season in section of 15-C.
- Using emergency order authority, impose 6-inch maximum mesh restriction in first and second week in outside area of Boat Harbor THA (**Proposal 171**).
- Using emergency order authority, impose non-retention of king salmon over 28 inches in regional purse seine fisheries (requires adoption of **non-retention provisions attached**).
- Using emergency order authority, reduce area open in Taku Inlet for the first 5 weeks of the District 11 drift gillnet fishery; close Taku Inlet north and west of a line from Point Greely to Cove Point for first week and north of Point Greely, Cooper Point or Jaw Point for second through fifth week of the season.
- Using emergency order authority, do not open Section 11-C to drift gillnetting.
- Using emergency order authority, impose night closures between 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. in Subdistrict 111-31, and Section 11-C if open.
- Using emergency order, impose 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction for the first 3 weeks of the District 11 drift gillnet fishery (**Proposal 171**).

Troll Fishery

Option A

Specific Action to Implement the Objective:

- Using emergency order authority, close the waters of Section 15-A in Lynn Canal/Chilkat Inlet north of the latitude of Sherman Rock to commercial trolling from April 15 to December 31; close the waters of Sections 15-C and 12-B to troll gear April 15 to 30; close the waters of 15-C and 12-B to spring troll fisheries, remaining closed during May and June.
- Using emergency order authority, close the waters of Section 11-B south of the latitude of Grave Point Light, 11-C, and 11D, to troll gear April 1–30; these waters closed to spring troll fisheries, remaining closed during May and June.
- Using emergency order authority, delay initial opening dates from May 1 to June 15 for Homeshore, South Passage, and Cross Sound spring troll fisheries.
- Using emergency order authority, reduce initial opening lengths during SW 18–22 for Point Sophia and Hawk Inlet spring troll fisheries. Both areas having initial opening lengths of 7 days/week but reduced to 3 days/week in May.
- Using emergency order authority, limit Port Althorp spring troll fishery to opening lengths of 2 days/week through SW 22, while Lisianski Inlet fishery has limited openings of 3 days/week through SW 22; both fisheries increased to 4–5 days/week during May.

- Using emergency order authority, reduce initial opening length of Chatham Strait spring troll fishery from 7 to 4 days during May, and keep opening lengths during June at 7 days/week.
- Using emergency order authority, close Tebenkof Bay spring troll fishery.
- Using emergency order authority, may close regionwide spring troll fishery from May 29 to June 14.

Sport fishery

Option A with modification

Specific actions to implement the objective: Implement restrictions inseason through emergency order authority in the Haines, Skagway, and Juneau areas as follows:

District 15: Section 15-A, April 15 – December 31, no retention of king salmon; Sections 15-B and 15-C, April 15 – June 14, no retention of king salmon. Chilkat Inlet, north of Seduction Point, April 15 – June 30, closed to king salmon fishing (5 AAC 33.384 (e)(2)(B)(i)).

District 12: Section 12-B, April 15 – June 14, no retention of king salmon.

District 11: Sections 11-A, 11-B and 11-C, April 15 – June 14, no retention of king salmon; Section 11-D closed to king salmon fishing April 15 – June 30.

THA near Juneau: If surplus hatchery king salmon return to the DIPAC Hatchery in excess of broodstock needs, the designated sport THA near Juneau will be liberalized with a bag and possession limit of 2 king salmon any size, no annual limit from June 15 – August 31.

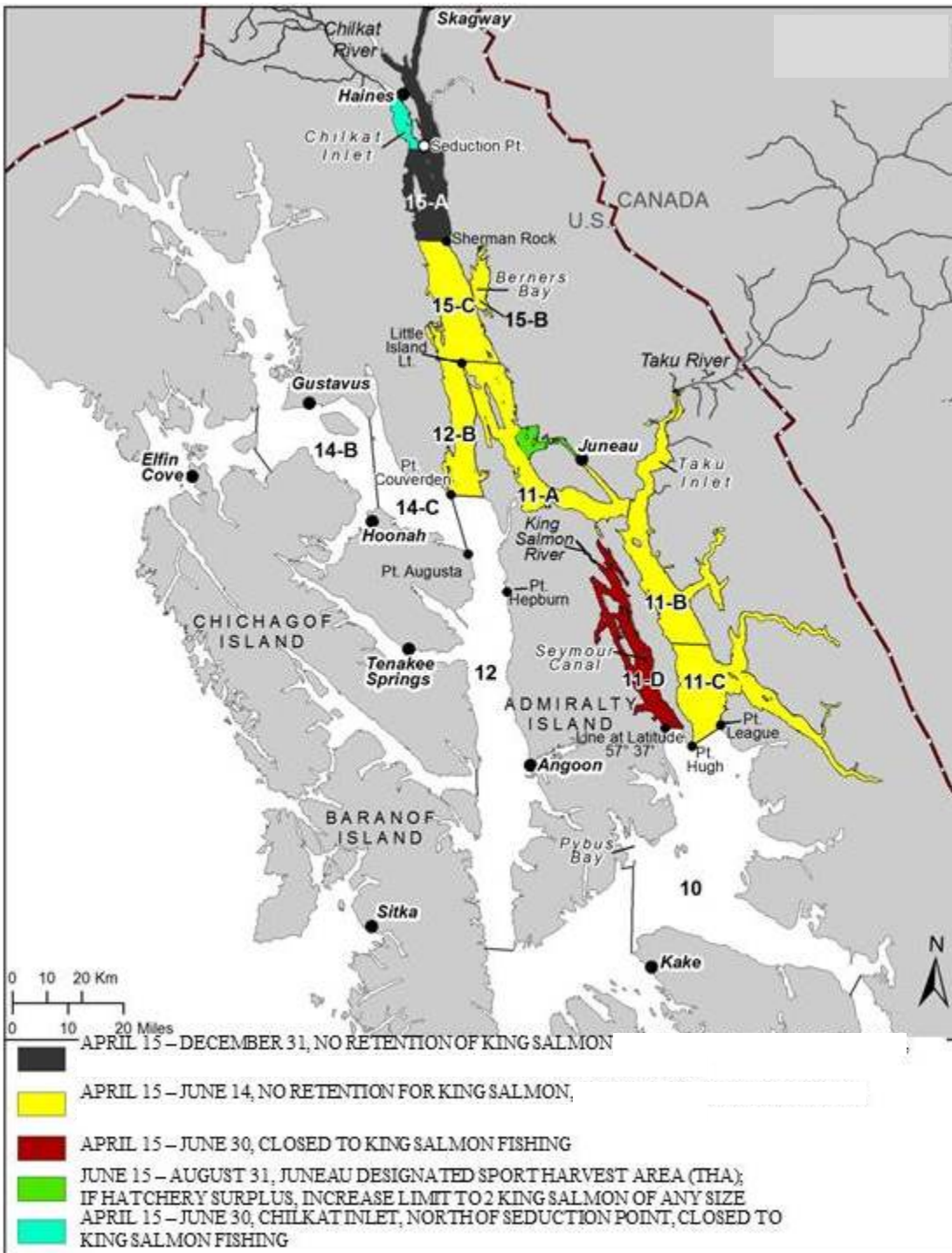


Figure 1. Map depicting sport fishery management measures to implement Chilkat and King salmon rivers king salmon action plan Option A with modification.

Subsistence fishery**Option A****Specific Action to Implement the Objective: Same management decisions as 2017.**

- Using emergency order authority, reduce area and duration open in Chilkat Inlet and in the Chilkat River to subsistence fishing during the first 5 weeks of the season by implementing and exceeding conservation measures of the *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan*.
- Using emergency order authority, open entire Chilkat River June 1–14.
- Using emergency order authority, close Chilkat River June 15 to July 31, except for the portion of the river between Haines Highway mile 19 and the Wells Bridge; this section open only 4 days/week.
- Using emergency order authority, close Chilkat Inlet until July 22.

Unuk River**Purse seine and drift gillnet fisheries****Option A****Specific Action to Implement the Objective:**

- Using emergency order authority, close Neets Bay THA for 6 days during SWs 24–27.
- Using emergency order authority, impose regional non-retention of king salmon over 28 inches in length for purse seine fisheries (requires adoption of **non-retention provisions attached**).

Troll fishery**Option B with modification****Specific Action to Implement the Objective:**

1. Winter Troll:

- Notwithstanding any remaining seasonal guideline harvest level, the winter troll fishery will be closed by emergency order in all waters of Southeast Alaska/Yakutat on March 15.

2. Spring Troll:

- Using emergency order authority, opportunities during May and June spring troll king salmon fisheries will be limited to THAs, waters in close proximity to hatchery facilities or release sites, and in areas that have been identified as having low proportional harvests of wild stock Southeast Alaska/Yakutat king salmon. Spring troll chum fisheries, as provided for in the *District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan*, will begin June 15, with retention of king salmon prohibited.

3. Summer Troll:

- The first retention period for king salmon during the general summer troll fishery will open July 1 to target 70% of the remaining troll king salmon annual allocation, minus the number of treaty king salmon harvested in winter and spring troll fisheries.
- The second summer retention period for king salmon, occurring in August would open by emergency order to target any remaining portion of the annual troll allocation following the first retention period.

Sport fishery

Option B with modification

Specific actions to implement the objective: Implement actions by EO or by regulation:

North and Northeast Behm Canal: In Behm Canal and the contiguous bays enclosed to the north by a line from the western entrance of Bailey Bay to the northern tip of Hassler Island, and a line from Fin Point to Dress Point to a line from Cactus Point to Point Eva, January 1 – December 31, closed to salmon fishing.

West Behm Canal: In West Behm Canal and the contiguous bays enclosed to the north by a line from the western entrance of Bailey Bay to the northern tip of Hassler Island, and a line from Fin Point to Dress Point, and to the south by a line from Indian Point to Mike Point, April 1 – August 14, no retention of king salmon.

Southeast Behm Canal and Southern Revillagigedo Channel: In the waters of southern Revillagigedo Channel enclosed from a line from Lucky Point to Middy Point, continuing to the latitude of Beaver Point, and from Point Rosen to Quadra Point, and in southeast Behm Canal from Cactus Point to Eva Point, April 1 – August 14, no retention of king salmon.

Remainder of Ketchikan: In the marine waters of Ketchikan north and east from the International Boundary Line at Dixon Entrance from 54°42.48' N. lat., 130°36.92' W. long to 54°40' N. lat., 131°45' W. long, continuing north to Caamano Point and enclosed to the north by a line from Indian Point to Mike Point and to the southeast from Lucky Point to Middy Point, continuing to the latitude of Beaver Point, and from Point Rosen to Quadra Point, April 1 – August 14, the bag and possession limit is one king salmon 28 in or greater in length for all anglers; nonresident annual limit of 3 king salmon.

Herring Bay THA: In the waters of Herring Bay west of a line from the southernmost entrance of Hole-In-The-Wall harbor to ADF&G markers located ½ mile north of Whitman Creek to the fresh/salt water boundary signs located at the mouth of Herring Cove Creek, June 1 – July 31, the bag and possession limit is 6 king salmon, with no size limit or annual limit.

Neets Bay: East of the longitude of the eastern most tip of Bug Island the bag and possession limit is one king salmon, 28 in or greater in length for all anglers; annual limit of 3 king salmon.

Personal use fishery

Option A

Specific Action to Implement the Objective:

1. Using emergency order authority, prohibit the retention of king salmon in the Yes Bay and Unuk River personal use fisheries.

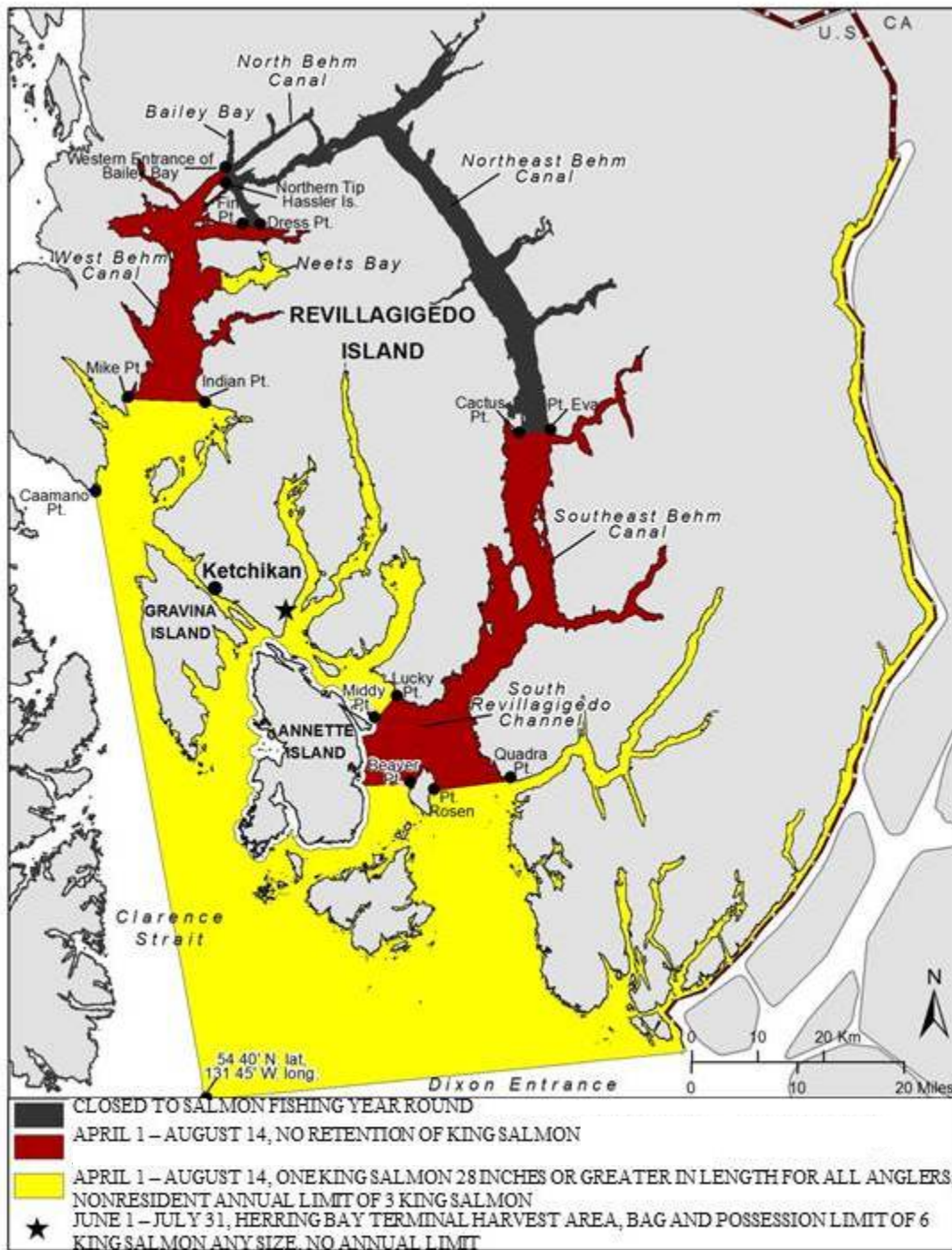


Figure 2. Map depicting sport fishery management measures to implement Unuk River king salmon action plan Option B with modification.

Substitute language to provide the department the authority to set annual limits by residency in the Southeast Alaska Area king salmon sport fishery:

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(1) king salmon, may be taken from January 1 – December 31:

(A) king salmon must be 28 inches or greater in length; the commissioner shall establish bag, possession, and annual limits, by emergency order, as specified in 5 AAC 47.055; a harvest record is required for a nonresident as specified in 5 AAC 75.006;

(B) in times of king salmon conservation, the department may establish annual limits, pursuant to 5 AAC 75.003, for king salmon for residents and nonresidents.

Substitute language to provide the department the authority prohibit retention of king salmon of king salmon greater than 28 inches in length in the commercial salmon purse seine fishery:

5 AAC 33.392. Size limits and landing of king salmon.

...

(b) A CFEC purse seine salmon permit holder may take but may not sell king salmon [BETWEEN THE SIZES OF GREATER THAN 21 INCHES FROM THE TIP OF THE SNOUT TO TIP OF TAIL (IN ITS NATURAL AND OPEN POSITION) AND] less than the legal length size limit specified in (a) of this section. King salmon taken in the purse seine fishery that are less than the legal size limit will not be counted against the king harvest quota;

(g) Notwithstanding (a), if the department determines that it is necessary for the conservation of king salmon or to meet obligations of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the purse seine salmon fishery and immediately reopen the fishery during which king salmon equal to or greater in length than the limits set forth in (a) of this section that are taken incidentally in the purse seine salmon fishery must be returned to the water unharmed;

(h) A person may not mutilate or otherwise disfigure king salmon in any manner that prevents determining the size limits set out in this section.