Fishery Management Report No. 06-27

Management Plan for the Spring Commercial Troll Fishery in Southeast Alaska, 2006

by

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and

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April 2006

Alaska Department of Fish and Game **Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries**

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Weights and measures (metric)

centimeter	cm
deciliter	dL
gram	g
hectare	ha
kilogram	kg
kilometer	km
liter	L
meter	m
milliliter	mL
millimeter	mm

Weights and measures (English)

cubic feet per second	ft^3/s
foot	ft
gallon	gal
inch	in
mile	mi
nautical mile	nmi
ounce	oz
pound	lb
quart	qt
yard	yd

Time and temperature

day	d
degrees Celsius	°C
degrees Fahrenheit	°F
degrees kelvin	K
hour	h
minute	min
second	s

Physics and chemistry

all atomic symbols	
alternating current	AC
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

General

Alaska Administrative Code	AAC
all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.
all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.
at	@
compass directions:	
east	E
north	N
south	S
west	W
copyright	©
corporate suffixes:	
Company	Co.
Corporation	Corp.
Incorporated	Inc.
Limited	Ltd.
District of Columbia	D.C.
et alii (and others)	et al.
et cetera (and so forth)	etc.
exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.
Federal Information Code	FIC
id est (that is)	i.e.
latitude or longitude	lat. or long.
monetary symbols (U.S.)	$, ¢
months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan,...,Dec
registered trademark	®
trademark	™
United States (adjective)	U.S.
United States of America (noun)	USA
U.S.C.	United States Code
U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)

Measures (fisheries)

fork length	FL
mideye-to-fork	MEF
mideye-to-tail-fork	METF
standard length	SL
total length	TL

Mathematics, statistics

all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations	
alternate hypothesis	H_A
base of natural logarithm	*e*
catch per unit effort	CPUE
coefficient of variation	CV
common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2, etc.)
confidence interval	CI
correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
correlation coefficient (simple)	r
covariance	cov
degree (angular)	°
degrees of freedom	df
expected value	*E*
greater than	>
greater than or equal to	≥
harvest per unit effort	HPUE
less than	<
less than or equal to	≤
logarithm (natural)	ln
logarithm (base 10)	log
logarithm (specify base)	$log_{2,}$ etc.
minute (angular)	'
not significant	NS
null hypothesis	H_O
percent	%
probability	P
probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
second (angular)	"
standard deviation	SD
standard error	SE
variance	
population	Var
sample	var

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ABSTRACT

This document summarizes the plan that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will follow to manage the 2006 Southeast Alaska spring commercial salmon troll fishery, according the Board of Fisheries adopted guidelines listed in the State of Alaska Administrative Code under 5 AAC 29.090.

Key words: Salmon, Troll, Spring, Commercial, Management Plan

INTRODUCTION

CHANGES IN THE 2006 SPRING TROLL FISHERIES

During its January meeting in Ketchikan, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted new regulations that will affect the management of the 2006 spring troll fisheries. The regulations are summarized below and described in more detail in other sections of this management plan.

1. Established management plans in regulation for fisheries in Districts 8 and 11 directed at harvesting king salmon returning to the Stikine and Taku Rivers;
2. Established criteria that allows the department to combine both adjacent spring troll areas and their associated Treaty king harvest caps into single, larger areas;
3. Established new Treaty king harvest caps and an additional harvest cap tier under the spring fishery harvest guidelines in 5 AAC 29.060(d)(1)(D);
4. Established a 1-day per week spring king salmon troll fishery in Yakutat Bay.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will open 23 spring troll areas and 5 terminal harvest areas this year. Ten existing areas will be combined into four larger areas (see MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND METHODS.) One new area will open this year: the Clarence Strait Area (106-20). The boundaries of the South Passage Area (114-23) in Icy Strait will be expanded to include the waters south and east of a line between Pt. Gustavus and the northernmost tip of Lemesurier Island and north and west of the new Icy Strait boundary (see pp. 11–22, 2006 SPRING FISHING AREAS AND MAPS). The Redoubt Bay Area (113-30) in Sitka Sound will be separated from the Biorka Island (113-31) area and again become a unique area. Five spring troll areas including the four new combined areas, Frederick Sound and two terminal areas will open April 23 and remain open until further notice. An additional 17 spring troll areas will open sometime in May, according to the schedule on pages 6–7.

Directed Chinook Salmon Fisheries in Districts 8 and 11

An agreement was approved between the United States and Canada during the Pacific Salmon Commission meeting held in February, 2005. This agreement allows directed commercial and sport fisheries on Chinook salmon returning to the Taku and Stikine Rivers. As a result of this agreement and new management plans adopted by the Board of Fisheries in January of this year, troll fisheries will be allowed in Districts 8 and 11 as follows:

District 8

The preseason king salmon return forecast for the Stikine River is 60,600 large fish. The resulting U.S. allowable commercial catch in District 8 (troll + drift gillnet + sport fish) at this level is 14,500 large (≥28”) Stikine kings. Whenever a directed Stikine River king salmon fishery is allowed, the provisions of 5 AAC 29.090 MANAGEMENT OF THE SPRING SALMON TROLL FISHERIES are **NOT** in effect and District 8 will be managed based on the

abundance of Stikine River king salmon in accordance with the new provisions of 5 AAC 29.095 **District 8 King Salmon Management Plan.**

The troll fishery will open by Emergency Order beginning on the first Monday in May in connection with the opening of the drift gillnet fishery. Trolling will open beginning Monday, May 1 throughout District 8 except for the closed areas and periods described below. New regulations adopted by the Board of Fisheries during the January, 2006 meeting, allow for open troll fishing periods based on the length of the drift gillnet fishery as follows**: trolling will be allowed for three(3) days (12:01 a.m. Monday through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday) whenever the gillnet open period is 24 hours or less and trolling will be allowed for five(5) days (12:01 a.m., Monday through 11:59 p.m., Friday) whenever the gillnet period is open for more than 24 hours.**

Whenever the preseason forecast of the return of Stikine River king salmon is below the level where there is no or very low allowable U.S. catch, the spring fishery areas open in 2005 will be open under provisions of 5AAC 29.090 and will be managed based on the abundance of Alaska hatchery king salmon. Also, should the in-season (mid-May) forecast project a return too low to allow for a directed fishery, management of the spring fishery areas open in 2005 will revert to provisions of 5 AAC 29.090.

The Board of Fish in January of this year adopted into regulation the following **closed areas** for the District 8 Stikine River king salmon directed troll fishery:

> Babbler Point Area: waters within one-quarter mile of the mainland shoreline south of 56° 30.47’ N. lat. and west of a line from Babbler Point to Hour Point, from the first Monday in May through the second Saturday in June;
>
> Wrangell Harbor Area: waters within one-quarter mile of the western shoreline of Wrangell Island south of the latitude of Point Highfield and north of the latitude of Cemetery Point, from the first Monday in May through the second Saturday in June;
>
> Greys Pass: waters west of the longitude of a line from the northernmost tip of Greys Island to Rynda Island, and waters north and east of a line from the southernmost tip of Greys Island to 56° 30.52' N. lat., 132° 34.31' W. long. on Sokolof Island, to the southernmost point on Rynda Island;
>
> Beacon Point/Point Frederick Area: waters of Frederick Sound west of a line from the District 10 boundary line one nautical mile off Kupreanof Island shoreline to Sukoi Island Light to Point Frederick from the first Monday in May through the second Saturday in June;
>
> Woodpecker Cove Area: waters of Sumner Strait north of a line from 56° 30.03’ N. lat., 132° 53.94’ W. long to Point Howe to the southeastern most tip of Station Island at 56° 29.56’ N. lat., 132° 46.27’ W. long. and west of line from Station Island light to a point Mitkof Island at 56° 30.40’ N. lat. and 132° 44.94’ W long. from the first Monday in May to the second Saturday in June for the entire troll opening when the gillnet fishery is open for more than 48 hours.

District 11

No directed king salmon troll fishery is planned for District 11 this season. The preseason king salmon return forecast for the Taku River is 64,500 large fish (≥ 28”). At this level of return, no

fish are available for a U.S. allowable catch. However, if the in-season forecast should show that the return is greater than expected and is large enough to implement a king salmon fishery in District 11, a News Release will be issued at that time announcing the new regulations, fishing periods and areas open for the troll fishery.

Yakutat Spring Troll Fishery

The BOF at its January, 2006 meeting also established regulations that allow ADF&G, by Emergency Order, to open a spring salmon troll fishery for one day per week during the months of May and June in the Yakutat Bay area east of a line from Point Manby to Ocean Cape. The maximum harvest is 1,000 king salmon and is not based on the composition of Alaska hatchery fish. This fishery may be open only if the projected inriver run of three ocean age and older king salmon to the Situk River is greater than 1,050 fish [5 AAC 30.365(c)(5)]. In 2006, a spring fishery is not expected to open in Yakutat Bay due to the low preliminary return forecast. A final forecast is expected in early May.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

SPRING FISHERIES

Non-Alaska hatchery fish (treaty fish) are counted towards the season treaty quota of Chinook salmon under the Pacific Salmon Treaty, but most of the Alaska hatchery fish are not. The spring troll and terminal troll fisheries target Alaska hatchery Chinook salmon, but treaty Chinook salmon are also harvested. In 2006, the Board of Fisheries established new guideline limits of treaty fish that may be harvested in each spring fishing area as follows:

Alaska Hatchery Contribution To The Harvest	Treaty Fish Limit
Less than 25%	1,000
At least 25% and less than 35%	2,000
At least 35% and less than 50%	3,000
At least 50% and less than 66%	5,000
66% or more	no limit

In addition to the above regulation change, the Board of Fisheries also adopted a new regulation that establishes the criteria for combining spring areas. ADF&G, by Emergency Order, may now combine adjacent spring troll fishery areas and their associated treaty harvest caps if each of the areas have Alaska hatchery compositions of 25 percent or greater for three or more consecutive seasons. Prior to this action by BOF, if spring areas were combined, the Treaty caps were not combined and troll harvest opportunities would be lost. The new regulation allows the department to reduce the number of spring areas while maintaining existing harvest opportunities. This change also achieves a major initial objective of the experimental fisheries in the establishment of permanent spring troll corridors to harvest returning Alaska hatchery kings while minimizing the harvest of wild King salmon stocks. This objective was established to mitigate losses resulting from spring closures to rebuild depleted Southeast Alaska king salmon stocks.

The following spring areas will be combined for the 2006 season:

The Gravina Island (101-29), Mountain Point (101-45) and West Clarence Strait (102-50) areas will be combined to form the **Ketchikan Area (101-29)** and will have Treaty fish limits that are

3 times the allowable catch for each Alaska hatchery composition tier as provided for in 5 AAC 29.090(d)(1)(D).

The Kingsmill Point (109-51) and Chatham Strait (112-12) areas will be combined to form a new **Chatham Strait Area (112-12)** that will have Treaty fish limits of 2 times the allowable catch for each Alaska hatchery composition tier as provided for in 5 AAC 29.090(d)(1)(D).

The Homeshore (114-25) and Point Sophia (114-27) areas will be combined to form the **Icy Strait Area (114-25)** that will have Treaty fish limits of 2 times the allowable catch for each Alaska hatchery composition tier as provided for in 5 AAC 29.090(d)(1)(D).

The Middle Island (113-41), Eastern Channel (113-35) and Inner Silver Bay (113-37) will be combined to form the **Sitka Sound Area (113-41)** and will have Treaty fish limits that are 3 times the allowable catch for each Alaska hatchery composition tier as provided for in 5 AAC 29.090(d)(1)(D).

Each year fishery managers from ADF&G hold meetings in Southeast Alaska towns to discuss fishing plans with trollers, processors, and hatchery operators. A review of the previous fishing season is presented as well as an outlook for the upcoming year. New fishing areas or changes to existing areas may be proposed. These proposed areas are then scrutinized by department biologists for potential impacts on local wild stocks and to determine whether the area is one where a substantial portion of the harvest is likely to be of Alaska hatchery origin. The department also examines whether any newly proposed areas can be sampled adequately within the current funding levels. Once plans are finalized, the department issues a news release with descriptions of fishing areas and a schedule of initial fishing periods.

Each spring fishing area is managed individually. Fishing periods are opened by emergency order, ADF&G personnel sample fish deliveries and ship the heads of adipose fin-clipped fish to the state tag lab in Juneau for coded wire tag (CWT) detection and decoding. Fishery openings are announced in a series of weekly news releases.

Fishing time in an area may be extended based on in-season assessment of CWT data and historic harvest timing information. Therefore, it is imperative that fishers and tender operators keep fish from different fishing areas separated until landing so if the fish are sampled at the dock, the percentage of Alaska hatchery fish can be determined for each spring area. Separate fish tickets must also be made for each area fished (5 AAC 29.130).

In 2005, eleven spring areas that have had a consistently high percentage of Alaska hatchery fish were opened on April 15 until further notice (through June 30). Most of these areas will be combined into the four (4) large areas that were previously described and will be open until further notice beginning April 23. These areas will be monitored for Alaska hatchery percentage and fishing time will be reduced if the Alaska hatchery percent is low or if the harvest approaches the treaty fish limit. These five fisheries are Ketchikan Area, Chatham Strait Area, Frederick Sound Area, Icy Strait Area, and the Sitka Sound Area. The management of the Districts 8 and 11 fisheries were previously described under “Directed Chinook Salmon Fisheries in Districts 8 and 11”.

Historically, several spring troll spring areas have not met the 20% Alaska hatchery contribution rate necessary to continue those areas without modification (5 AAC 29.090 (d)(1)(C)) or have had very little effort over the past several years. The Sumner Strait Area is one of these and the southern boundary of that area will be moved approximately 9 miles north from former line

running from Ruins Pt. to Pt. St. Albans to the latitude of the northernmost tip of the North Barrier Island. This line change is being made in an attempt to reduce the number[s] of Treaty fish caught in this area.

Trollers can assist the sampling effort by notifying ADF&G personnel when delivering their harvest to points of sale normally not covered by department sampling, such as grocery stores, direct sale by the troller, or to small processors. The department will then attempt to obtain a sample from the harvest. Early season harvests in all areas, and harvests throughout the spring from Lisianski Inlet, Port Althorp, South Passage, Tebenkof Bay and Sumner Strait areas are of particular concern in obtaining adequate samples.

The heads of all adipose fin-clipped salmon must remain attached to the fish until the fish are sold (5 AAC 29.140 (b)). Permit holders who freeze their harvest onboard are asked to contact the department prior to fishing so that sampling and fish ticket issues can be discussed.

Terminal Fisheries

Terminal fisheries are conducted in areas near a hatchery or release site. Chinook salmon caught in most terminal areas are considered to be 100% Alaska hatchery fish, based on previous sampling. Terminal area fisheries occur at Hidden Falls, Anita Bay, Neets Bay, and Wrangell Narrows. Earl West Cove has been phased out as a remote release site by SSRAA and has been replaced with Anita Bay.

The Chinook salmon return to the Wrangell Narrows Terminal Area is projected to be 5,200 fish. At this level of return the number of fish available for the troll fishery in the Wrangell Narrows Terminal Area is 600 fish. Under the management plan (5 AAC 33.381), the troll fishery will be managed to harvest 50% of the projected return over 4,000 fish. ADF&G will announce the allowable troll Chinook salmon harvest in this area just prior to the June 1 opening date.

Cross Sound Pink and Chum Fishery

The Cross Sound pink and chum fishery is intended as an indicator for pink and chum returns to the northern portion of the region. This fishery opens for five days per week in June, Monday through Friday, from the second Monday (June 12) through June 30 (5 AAC 29.090 (f)). There is a cap of 500 Chinook salmon for this fishery because it is not intended as a Chinook salmon fishery. Trollers are required to offload fish caught in this fishery prior to fishing in the general opening beginning July 1.

FROZEN AT SEA REQUIREMENTS

Frozen at Sea (FAS) vessels participating in the spring fisheries are subject to the same landing regulations as all other vessels. Fish caught in each spring fishery must be kept separate from any other fish on board the vessel and a separate fish ticket must be issued for fish caught in each spring fishery (5 AAC 29.130). Tickets must be submitted to ADF&G within seven days of landing.

The heads of all adipose fin-clipped salmon must remain attached to the fish until the fish are sold (5 AAC 29.140(b**)).** Permit holders who freeze their fish onboard (FAS vessels) are asked to contact ADF&G prior to fishing so that sampling and fish ticket issues can be discussed. A permit is required to allow the removal of heads from Chinook salmon harvested in the spring areas prior to delivery. This “Exemption Permit” is available in area offices and on the troll website. Depending on which area(s) a troller intends to fish in, the department may grant a

permit to allow removal of heads from adipose fin-clipped salmon. It is imperative that the department has adequate opportunity to sample all Chinook salmon landed during the spring fisheries. Spring fisheries target Alaskan hatchery fish and if adequate access to the fish for sampling purposes is not possible, then some fisheries could be closed due to the lack of data necessary to keep them open.

RETENTION OF OTHER SALMON SPECIES

Coho salmon may be retained during open fishing periods beginning June 15. Sockeye, pink, and chum salmon may be retained at any time during open fishing periods.

If an Atlantic salmon is caught, ADF&G would like to be contacted so that biological samples can be taken. The entire fish should be saved and may be frozen, with entrails intact.

2005 SPRING FISHERY SUMMARY

A total of 500 vessels participated in the 2005 spring fisheries, and harvested 58,700 Chinook, 60 sockeye, 6,300 coho, 760 pink, and 140 chum salmon. The 2005 spring fishery catch and effort data can be found in the *2005 Commercial, Personal Use, And Subsistence Salmon Fisheries: Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries*, which can be found on the Commercial Fisheries website, www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region1/pdfs/salmon/bof/fmr05-68.pdf , and on the troll fishery website at www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region1/finfish/salmon/troll/trolsprng.php. The 2005 spring Chinook salmon total harvest was the highest on record and Alaska hatchery harvest was the second highest on record. The largest Chinook salmon harvests were in the Kingsmill Point, Salisbury Sound, Gravina Island, Biorka Island, Eastern Channel, Middle Island, Tebenkof Bay areas. In the Cross Sound pink and chum spring fishery area 26 pink, 0 chum, 4 sockeye, 136 coho and 12 Chinook salmon were harvested. A total of 32 spring fisheries and five terminal fisheries were open during 2005.

2006 SPRING TROLL FISHERY—INITIAL OPENINGS

SPRING FISHERIES UPDATE FOR 2006

Following is a preliminary schedule for anticipated initial opening weeks for each area (for area descriptions and maps see Figures 1–5). Fishing periods will be opened by emergency order, with some areas open for two-days per week and other areas open for longer periods, based on inseason and historical timing of hatchery contributions in each area. Trollers should consult department news releases for weekly fishing periods and inseason adjustments. News releases will be issued each Friday with the fishing schedule for the following week. News releases may also be issued throughout the week when extensions or early closures are announced. News releases can be found on the department's web site at:
http://documents.cf1.adfg.state.ak.us/TopicContents.po

Schedule of Initial Troll Openings:
Areas Open April 23 until further notice:

Ketchikan	Icy Strait
Frederick Sound	Sitka Sound
Chatham Strait	Neets Bay THA
Hidden Falls THA	

Schedule of Initial Troll Openings (Continued):

Note: The length of the following openings will be announced in future news releases.

Areas open the week of May 1:

West Behm Canal	Little Port Walter
Sumner Strait	Tebenkof Bay
Steamer Point	Ernest Sound
Deer Island	Stag Bay
Zimovia Strait	Clarence Strait
South Passage	

Areas open the week of May 8:
Lisianski Inlet
Port Althorp
Redoubt Bay

Areas open the week of May 15:
Salisbury Sound

Areas open the week of May 22:
Western Channel
Biorka Island

TERMINAL TROLL FISHERIES

- **Hidden Falls**: opens on April 23 and will remain open until closed by emergency order. (5 AAC 33.374(b).
- **Neets Bay**: opens on April 23 and will remain open until closed by emergency order (5 AAC 33.370(b)(1)).
- **Wrangell Narrows**: opens June 1 by emergency order and will be closed by emergency order when the troll Chinook salmon guideline harvest of 600 fish has been taken (5 AAC 33.381(b)(4)).
- **Anita Bay:** opens May 1 by regulation with some area closures within the THA beginning June 15 (5 AAC 33.383(b)).
- **Deep Inlet:** open continuously May 1 in that portion of the Deep Inlet THA west of 135° 21.52 W. longitude May 1 through May 21, and the entire Deep Inlet THA is open to trolling according to the rotational gear schedule on May 4, 10, 18, 24 and June 1, 7, 15, 21, 29. Any schedule changes are made by E.O. and announced by News Release (Figure 6).

Terminal Harvest Areas may be managed for the harvest of multiple species by different gear types. Refer to management plans in regulation as listed after each THA.

CLOSED WATERS

Trollers are reminded that closed waters that apply during the summer fishery are exempted during the spring fishery. (5 AAC 29.150(a)(2). Waters within 3,000 feet of Annette Island (Annette Island Reserve) are closed.

SPORT FISHING FROM A COMMERCIALLY LICENSED TROLL VESSEL

1. Sport fishing is allowed from a registered commercial salmon troll vessel (5 AAC 47.041 (a)).
2. If sport fishing in waters closed to commercial trolling, the dorsal fin must be removed immediately from any salmon brought onboard the vessel (5 AAC 47.041(c)).
3. 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)).
4. A vessel registered for commercial trolling may also be registered as a sport charter vessel, though a vessel may not be used for both activities on the same day (5 AAC 75.995 (8)).
5. A troll gurdy may NOT be used in conjunction with a fishing rod while fishing commercially (except during the winter troll fishery) but may be legally used as a downrigger to sport fish from a hand or power troll vessel (5 AAC 29.120 (e)).
6. These regulations can be found in the 2006 Sport Fishing regulation booklet.

REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO COMMERCIAL TROLL BYCATCH OF GROUNDFISH AND HALIBUT

For a complete guide to the Southeast Alaska Groundfish regulations, refer to the 2005–2006 Groundfish Fishery Commercial Fishery Regulations books available at all Southeast ADF&G area offices.

1. Commercial halibut may be legally retained only by trollers holding individual fishing quota shares (IFQs) during the open season for halibut, March 5–November 15 (50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 679.4 (d)) and 5 AAC 28.133 (c). Trollers holding unfilled IFQs are required to retain any legal-sized halibut taken incidentally while trolling (50 CFR 679.7 (f)(11)). If trollers have no more than 500 pounds of halibut onboard and if landed concurrently with a legal landing of salmon, they can offload their catch without having to give a 3-hour notice to the National Marine Fisheries Service (50 CFR 679.5 (l)(1)(iv)). Trollers fishing for salmon in Sitka Sound must retain halibut bycatch if they hold IFQs (50 CFR 300.63). Halibut taken incidentally while trolling for salmon should be reported on the same troll ticket with the salmon harvest.
2. Lingcod greater than 27 inches (tip of snout to tip of tail) may be taken as bycatch in the commercial salmon troll fishery from **May 16 through November 30** (5 AAC 28.113 (c)) in areas in which the troll bycatch allowance has not been harvested. Troll bycatch limits have been established for the Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO) and the East Yakutat (EYKT) management areas. In the NSEO area, trollers may retain lingcod (round weight) up to 5% of the round weight of salmon onboard. In the EYKT area, trollers may retain lincod (round weight) up to 10% of the round weight of salmon onboard. When the troll lingcod quota is reached for each management area, trollers will be required to release all lingcod back into the water. There are no troll bycatch limits in the other management areas, so trollers may retain unlimited amounts of lingcod over 27 inches in

length until the troll allocation is reached in each area (5AAC 28.133(a)). Inseason closures may occur on short notice and will be announced by news release.

3. Trollers are requested to retain tagged **lingcod** of any size and to notify the nearest Fish and Game office at the time of delivery so the fish may be sampled. Tagged lingcod may be retained at any time, however tags must remain attached to any tagged lingcod that are undersized or taken out of season or in a closed area. Fish may be landed dressed, with the head attached. The date, exact location, and depth should be recorded. A reward will be given to those who turn in tagged lingcod with the necessary catch information. (in Sitka, contact Mike Vaughn, 304 Lake Street, Room 103; phone: 907-747-6688).

4. Trollers are reminded that the waters of Sitka Sound are closed permanently to the taking of lingcod and black rockfish (5 AAC 28.150 (a) (Figure 3). Troll bycatch of lingcod will be allowed, as of May 16, in a small portion of the Biorka Island and Salisbury Sound spring troll areas when those areas are open to trolling. Trollers who have lingcod onboard may not fish in areas closed to lingcod retention.

5. Full retention of Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) is required in all state waters. All CFEC permit holders must retain, weigh, and report all DSR taken. All DSR in excess of 10% round weight, of all salmon species 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 shall be surrendered to the state (5 AAC 28.171 (a)). The seven species of rockfish in the DSR assemblage are yelloweye, quillback, canary, rosethorn, copper, china, and tiger rockfish. Retention of other rockfish species is allowed but is not required. DSR bycatch overages must be reported on fish tickets but may be kept for personal use.

6. Trollers are allowed to longline for groundfish and troll for salmon on the same trip as long as salmon are not onboard the vessel in an area closed to trolling and the fisher has both a commercial salmon permit and a commercial longline permit.

2006 ALASKA HATCHERY CHINOOK RETURN FORECAST

Hatchery facility managers are predicting total returns of approximately 101,370 Chinook salmon for 2006, as compared to estimated returns of 114,512 fish (Table 1). The largest returns for 2006 are expected to Hidden Falls, Medvejie Creek, Whitman Lake and Neets Bay.

Table 1.–2006 Alaska hatchery Chinook and Neck Lake coho return forecasts.

Release Site	2005 Total Return Projection	2005 Total Return	2006 Total Return Projection
Ketchikan Area			
Whitman Lake	15,600	17,750	16,700
Neets Bay	14,300	14,800	11,500
Deer Mountain	1,063	1,462	1,089
Tamgas Creek	11,500	10,163	8,000
Total	*42,463*	*44,175*	*37,289*
Chatham Strait			
Little Port Walter	900	4,325	2,300
Hidden Falls	32,500	18,894	22,400
Port Armstrong	854	1,656	1,536
Total	*34,254*	*24,875*	*26,236*
Juneau Area			
Gastineau Channel	6,100	3,459	3,023
Auke Creek	1,600	1,209	735
Fish Creek	2,100	1,172	1,187
Total	*9,800*	*5,840*	*4,945*
Wrangell/Petersburg			
Anita Bay	7,000	2,940	3,600
Crystal Lake	8,800	8,550	8,300
Total	*15,800*	*11,490*	*11,900*
Sitka Area			
Medvejie Creek	62,400	28,132	21,000
Southeast Alaska Chinook Hatchery Totals	**164,717**	**114,512**	**101,370**
Neck Lake Coho	120,000	35,500	68,000

2006 SPRING FISHING AREAS AND MAPS

Maps show approximate fishing area boundaries. Refer to area descriptions for a legal description of area boundaries. Refer to the regulation book for descriptions of district and section boundaries (5 AAC 33.200).

Ketchikan Area (Fishery area 101-29): New Area: Combines former Gravina Island, West Clarence Strait and Mountain Point Areas. Waters of Clarence Strait and Nichols Passage north of a line from a point on Prince of Wales Island at 54°54.27’ N. latitude (the northern entrance to Kendrick Bay) to a point on Duke Island at 54°55' N. latitude (south of Point White) and south of the District 2/6 boundary (a line from the easternmost tip of Narrow Point to the northernmost tip of Lemesurier Point); Tongass Narrows north of the latitude of Rosa Reef light and south of a line from Point Higgins (55°27.47' N. lat., 131°50' W. long.) to the southernmost point on the peninsula at the eastern entrance to Bond Bay (55°31.5’ N. lat.); in Revillagigedo Channel and George Inlet south of the latitude of the George Inlet cannery site at 55°23' N. latitude; and north of a line from 55°13.60' N. latitude, 131°17.30' W. longitude (approximately 1-mile south of Cone Point) to Harbor Point (55°13' N. lat., 131°25' W. long.). Waters of Carroll Inlet and Thorne Arm are open. Waters within 3,000 feet of Annette Island (Annette Island Reserve) are closed.

Neets Bay Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery area 101-95): In Neets Bay, east of a longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island to the closed waters area at the head of the bay. From the second Sunday in June (June 9) through June 29, the area will be expanded to waters of Neets Bay east of the longitude of Chin Point to the closed waters at the head of the bay (5 AAC 33.370(b)(5)).

West Behm Canal (Fishery area 101-90): New lines. In waters of W. Behm Canal within one nautical mile of the western shore of Revillagigedo Island south of the latitude of Brow Point, 55°50.13' N. latitude and north of the latitude of the northernmost tip of Grant Island including all waters of Naha and Mosher Bays and waters of Neets Bay west of the easternmost tip of Bug Island until June 8. As of June 9, waters east of the longitude of Chin Point will be managed as part of the Neets Bay terminal area and harvest from this area should be reported as Neets Bay Terminal Area (101-95).

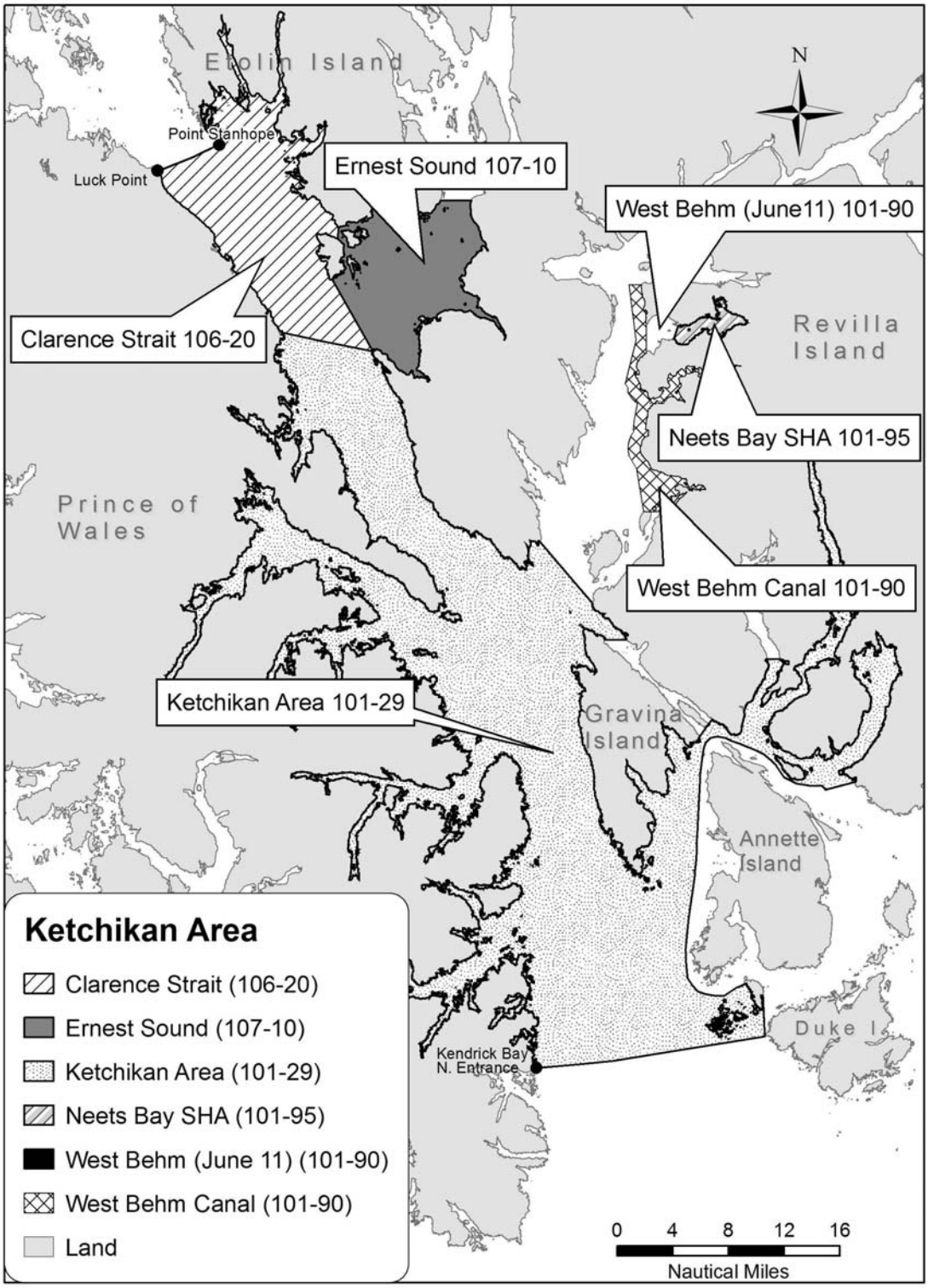

Figure 1.–Ketchikan area spring trolling areas, 2006.

Wrangell and Prince of Wales Areas

Sumner Strait (Fishery area 105-51): New southern boundary: In District 106, the waters of Sumner Strait west of a line from Point Colpoys (56°20' N. lat., 133°12' W. long.) to Mitchell Point (56°27' N. lat., 133°12' W. long) and in District 105, the waters of Sumner Strait north of a line at the latitude of the northernmost tip of the northern Barrier Island at 56°13.4' N. Latitude.

Clarence Strait (Fishery area 106-20): New Area: Only those waters of Section 6D south of a line from Luck Pt. to Pt. Stanhope and including the waters of Rocky Bay Cooney Cove, Mosman Inlet, Burnett Inlet, and McHenry Inlet.

Steamer Point (Fishery area 106-30): In Stikine Strait, only in those waters of Sections 6C and 6D north and east of a line from Point Nesbitt (56°14.00' N. lat., 132°52.00' W. long.) to Key Reef Light to Point Harrington (56°10.17' N. lat., 132°43.5' W. long.).

Wrangell Narrows Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery area 106-44): The waters of Section 6A south of 56°46' N. latitude (Martinsen's Dock), west of a line between Blind Point (56°39' N. lat., 132°54.83' W. long.) and Anchor Point (56°38.25' N. lat., 132°55.58' W. long.) and north of the latitude and east of the longitude of the northern tip of Woewodski Island.

Ernest Sound (Fishery Area 107-10): The waters of Ernest Sound in Section 7B east of a line from Lemesurier Point to Ernest Point to the southernmost point of Etolin Island and south of the latitude of Eaton Point at 55°56.30' N. latitude.

Deer Island (Fishery Area 107-20): The waters of Ernest Sound in Section 7A north of the latitude of Eaton Point at 55°56.30' N. latitude, and east of 132°07' W. longitude, west of 131°56' W. longitude and south of the southernmost tip of Wrangell Island.

Zimovia Strait (Fishery Area 107-30): The waters of Section 7A north of the southernmost tip of Wrangell Island.

Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery area 107-35): includes those waters of Anita Bay west of a line from Anita Point to 56°14.26' N. latitude, and 132°23.92' W. latitude.

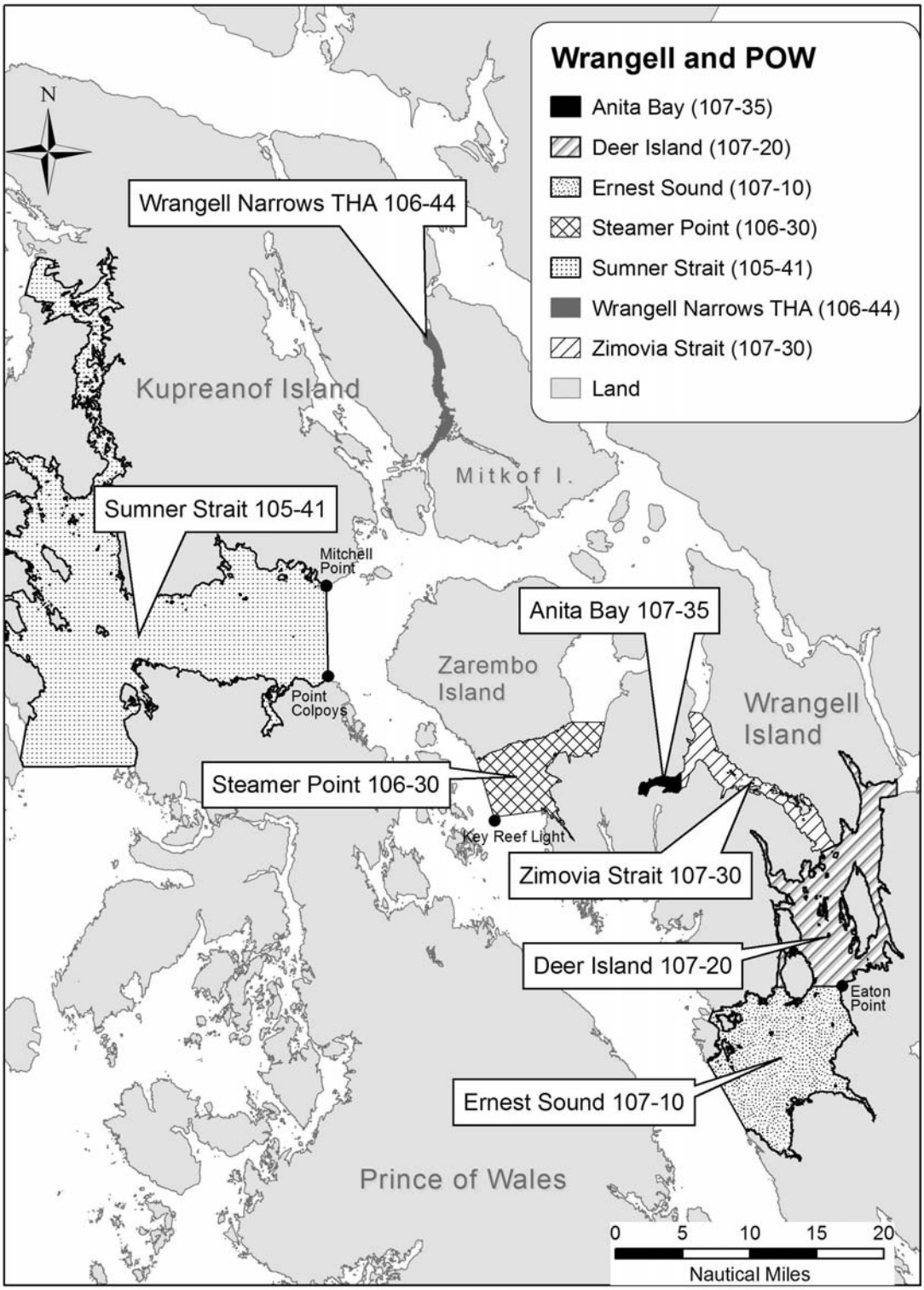

Figure 2.–Wrangell and Prince of Wales spring trolling areas, 2006.

Chatham Strait and Frederick Sound Areas

Chatham Strait (Fishery area 112-12): New Area: Combines the former Chatham Strait and Kingsmill Point areas. The waters of Chatham Strait and Frederick Sound south of the latitude of Point Hepburn, including the waters of Freshwater Bay, Tenakee Inlet, and Kelp Bay, and excluding the waters of the Hidden Falls Terminal Area (112-22), north of Point Ellis including Keku Strait and Port Camden and west of the District 9/10 boundary (the southernmost tip of Elliot Island to Pt. McCartney) including the waters of District 13 north of Pogibishi Point, including Peril Strait and Hoonah Sound.

Hidden Falls Terminal Harvest Area (Fishery area 112-22): In Chatham Strait, only those waters of Section 12A within two nautical miles of the Baranof Island shoreline south of the latitude of South Point (57°20' N. lat.) and north of 57°06.83' N. latitude (south of Takatz Bay) excluding waters of Kelp Bay (5 AAC 33.374(a)).

Frederick Sound (Fishery area 110-31): In Frederick Sound, those waters north and east of a line from the westernmost tip of Point Macartney to 57°06' N. latitude, 134°03.35' W. longitude; south and east of a line from 57°06' N. latitude., 134°03.35' W. longitude to McDonald Rock buoy; south of the line from McDonald Rock buoy to the point of land on the mainland east of Entrance Island at 57°25.32' N. latitude, 133°25.63' W. longitude; and north and west of a line from Boulder Point (57°00.83' N. lat., 133°18.92' W. long.) to Point Highland (57°09' N. lat., 133°27.75' W. long.). Waters of Port Houghton east of 133°11' W. longitude are closed to protect the run of wild Chinook salmon at the head of Port Houghton.

> **NOTE:** Beginning June 1, the Frederick Sound area will be extended to include those waters of District 10 that are north and west of a line from Wood Point (56°59.75' N. lat., 132°56.95' W. long.) to Beacon Point (56°56.25' N. lat., 132°59.50' W. long.), excluding waters of Farragut Bay north and east of a line from Bay Point (57°06.50' N. lat., 133°19' W. long.) to Grand Point (57°05' N. lat., 133°11' W. long.), and also excluding those waters of Thomas Bay that are north and east of a line from Point Vandeput (57°01.25' N. lat., 133°00' W. long.) to Wood Point.

Little Port Walter (Fishery area 109-10): In Chatham Strait, only in those waters of Section 9-A south of the latitude of Patterson Point (56°32.50' N. lat., 134°38.33' W. long.) and north of 56°15.83' N. latitude (located immediately south of Graveyard Cove), including all waters of Patterson Bay, Deep Cove, Port Herbert, Port Walter, Port Lucy, and Port Conclusion.

Tebenkof Bay (Fishery area 109-62): in waters of Tebenkof Bay in Section 9B south of the latitude of Point Ellis (56°33'40" N. lat.), north of the latitude of Point Harris (56°17'30" N. lat., 134°17'45" W. long.), and east of 134°24'00" W. longitude (These boundaries are the same as they were in 2001).

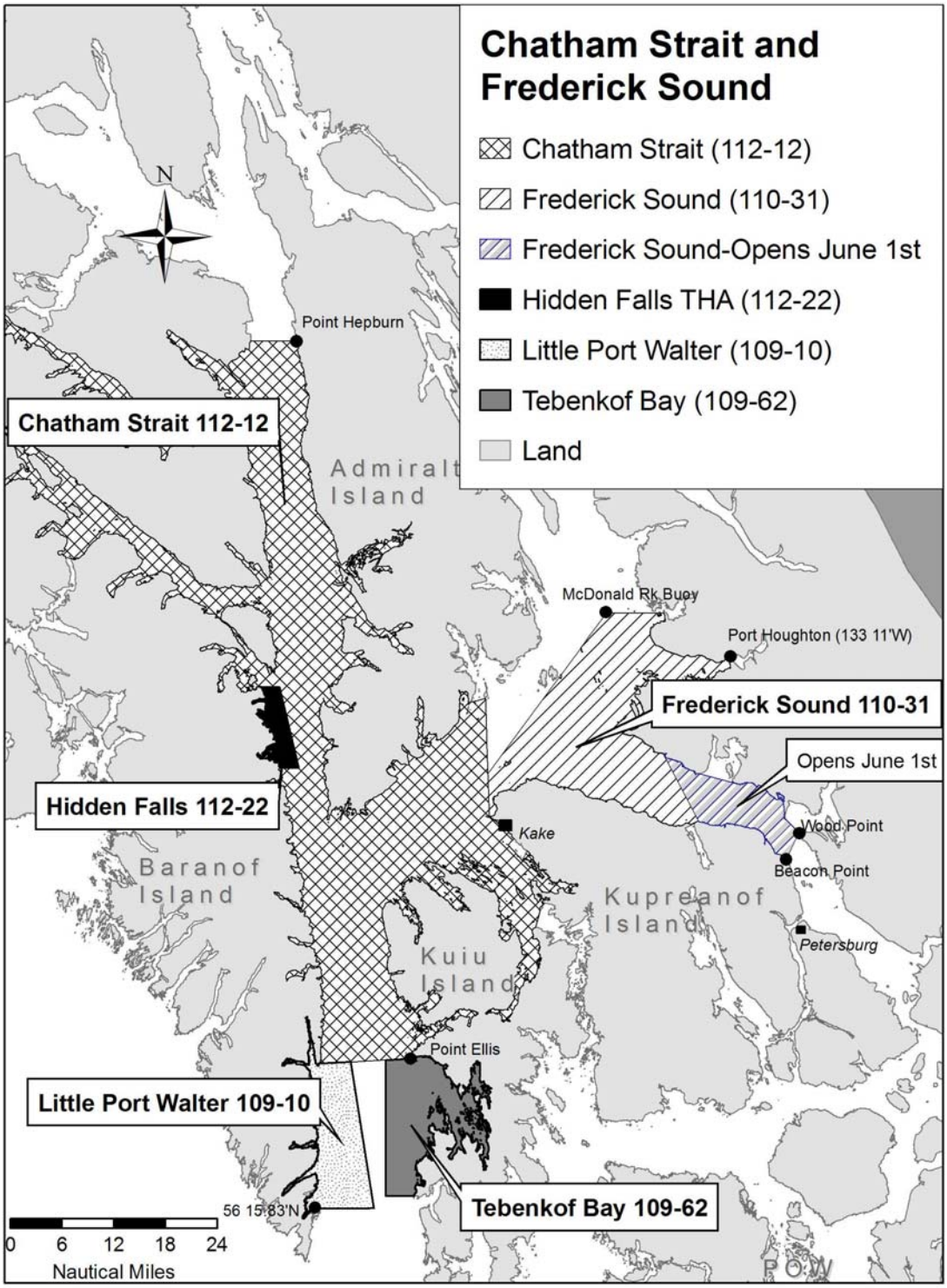

Figure 3.–Chatham Strait and Frederick Sound spring trolling areas, 2006.

North Chatham Strait and Icy Strait Areas

Cross Sound Pink and Chum (Fishery area 114-21): In the waters of Section 14A west of the longitude of Point Dundas (136°16.75' W. long.), south of the latitude of Point Dundas (58°19' N. lat.), and east of the longitude of the southern tip of Taylor Island (136°29.01' W. long.) to 58°10' N. latitude, then east to Althorp Rock Light, then north to the light at the entrance to Elfin Cove.

Lisianski Inlet (Fishery area 113-95): In Section 13A, in waters of Lisianski Inlet south of a line from **Soapstone Point (56°06.21' N. lat., 136°29.58' W. long.)**, to Column Point (58°07.42' N. lat., 136°26.83' W. long.), and east of the longitude of the navigational marker at Rock Point at approximately 58°00.17' N. latitude, 136°21.15' W. longitude

Port Althorp (Fishery area 114-50): In waters of Section 14A bounded by a line from Column Point to **Soapstone Point (56°06.21' N. lat., 136°29.58' W. long.)**, then from Soapstone Point to the longitude of the southern tip of Taylor Island at 58°10' N. latitude then east to Althorp Rock Light, then north to the light at the entrance to Elfin Cove.

Icy Strait (Fishery area 114-25): New: Combines the former Homeshore and Point Sophia areas. In the waters of Icy Strait and Chatham Strait, east of the longitude of Noon Pt. (135°32.2' W. long.), west of 135°09.6' W. longitude, and the waters bounded by a line from Point Adolphus (58°17.25' N. lat., 135°47' W. long.) to a point one-mile due north of Point Adolphus to the northern tip of the northernmost island of the Sisters Islands at 58°10.90' N. latitude, 135°15.58' W. longitude to Hanus Reef Light to the southernmost tip of Hawk Point (at the entrance to Hawk Inlet), and north of the latitude of Point Hepburn (58°56.42' N. lat.), including waters of Port Frederick and Hawk Inlet.

South Passage (Fishery area 114-23): New lines. In waters of Icy Strait south and east of a line extending from the prominent point on northeastern side of the Inian Peninsula at 58°13.43' N. latitude, 136°16.75' W. longitude to the westernmost tip of Lemesurier Island to the northernmost tip of Lemesurier Island to Point Gustavus and north and west of the northern and western boundaries of the new Icy Strait area (see above), including the waters of Icy Passage.

Stag Bay (Fishery area 113-97): In waters of Lisianski Strait north of a line from Point Theodore through Point Urey and south and west of the navigational marker at Rock Point at approximately 136°21.15' W. longitude, including the waters of Stag Bay.

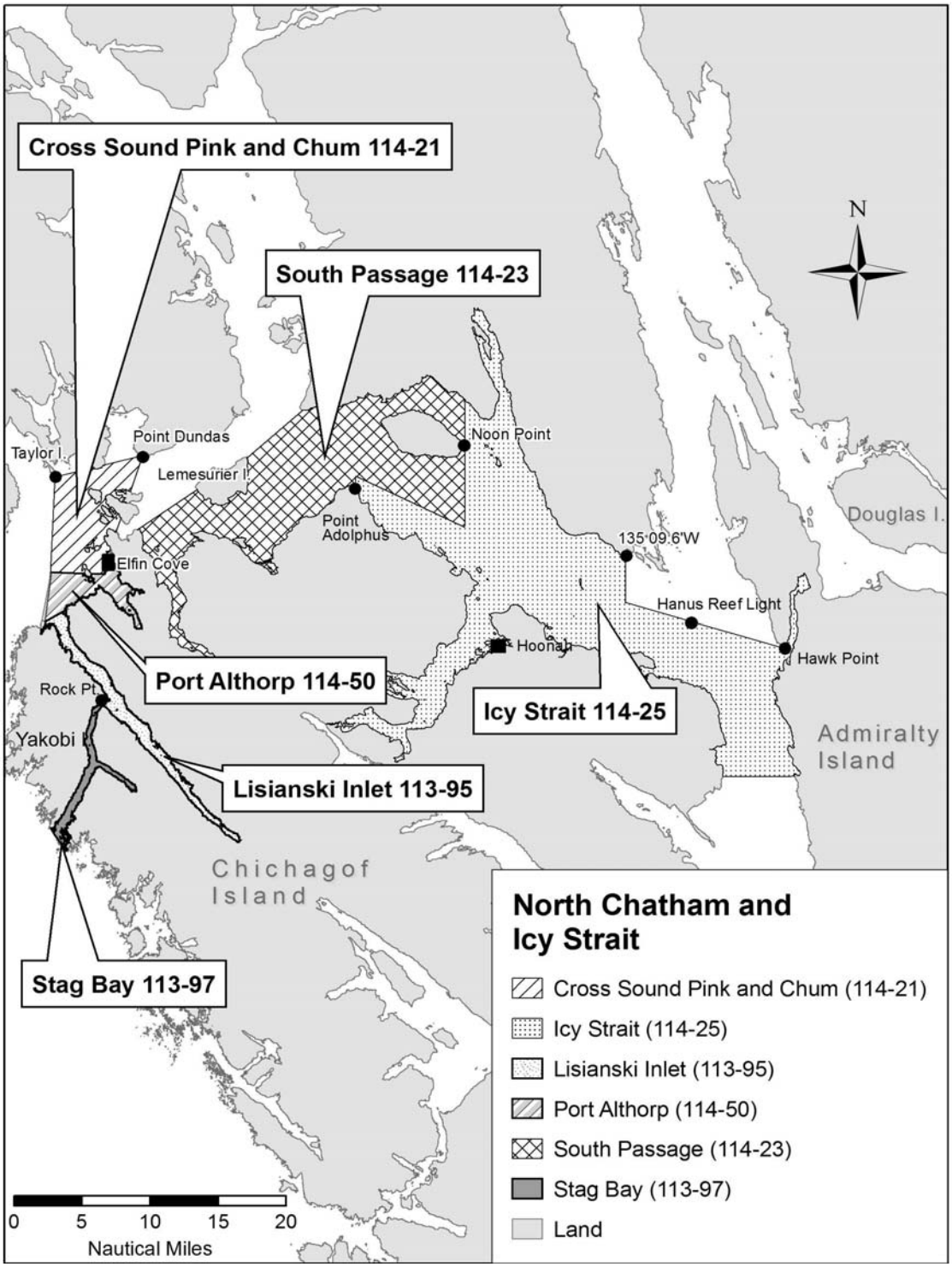

Figure 4.–North Chatham and Icy Strait spring trolling areas, 2006

Sitka Areas

Western Channel (Fishery area 113-01): In waters of Sitka Sound northeast of a line from Kulichkof Rock (56°59.5' N. lat., 135°26.5' W. long.) to Vitskari Island Light to a point on Kruzof Island at 57°3.42' N. latitude, 135°36' W. longitude, south of a line from a point on Kruzof Island at 57°05' N. latitude, 135°35' W. longitude to 57°2.05' N. lat., 135°23.45' W. long. (the intersection of a line from a point on Kruzof Island at 57°05' N. latitude, 135°35' W. longitude through The Eckholms Light with a line from the southernmost tip of Makhnati Island to Kulichof Rock) to Kulichof Rock.

Redoubt Bay (Fishery area 113-30): (new for 2006): In waters of Sitka Sound south of a line from Cape Burunof (56°59' N. lat., 135°23' W. long.) to Kulichof Rock (56°59.5' N. lat., 135°26.5' W. long.) and east and north of a line from Kulichof Rock to the northwesternmost point on Peisar Island to the southernmost point on Peisar Island to the southernmost point on Viesokoi Rock to a point on Baranof Island at 56°51.42' N. lat., 135°23.17' W. long.

Biorka Island (Fishery area 113-31) (new boundaries for 2006): In waters of Sitka Sound south and east of a line from the northernmost tip of Biorka Island to the northwesternmost point on Peisar Island, north and west of a line from the northwesternmost point on Peisar Island to the southernmost point on Peisar Island to the southernmost point on Viesokoi Rock to a point on Baranof Island at 56°51.42' N. lat., 135°23.17' W. long. to the southernmost point on Torsar Island to the northernmost point on Legma Island to the southernmost point on Legma Island, and north and east of a line from the southernmost point on Legma Island to the southernmost point on Liesnoi Island to Point Woodhouse.

Sitka Sound Area (Fishery area 113-41): Combines the former Middle Island, Eastern Channel and Inner Silver Bay areas.

The waters of Sitka Sound, including Krestof Sound and Neva Strait south of 57°15' N. latitude, and north and east of a line from line from Cape Burunof (56°59' N. lat., 135°23' W. long.) to Kulichkof Rock (56°59.5' N. lat., 135°26.5' W. long.) to 57°2.05' N. lat., 135°23.45' W. long. (**the intersection of a line from a point on Kruzof Island at 57°05' N. latitude, 135°35' W. longitude through The Eckholms Light with a line from the southernmost tip of Makhnati Island to Kulichof Rock**) to a point on Kruzof Island at 57°05' N. latitude, 135°35' W. longitude, including the waters of Nakwasina Passage, Nakwasina Sound, Katlian Bay and Silver Bay will be open. **The waters of the Deep Inlet THA, as described below, are not included**:

> **Deep Inlet THA**: Deep Inlet, Aleutkina Bay, and contiguous waters south of a line from a point west of Pirates Cove at 135°22.63' W. longitude, 56°59.35' N. latitude to the westernmost tip of Long Island to the easternmost tip of Long Island to the westernmost tip of Emgeten Island to the westernmost tip of Error Island to the westernmost tip of Berry Island to the southernmost tip of Berry Island to the westernmost tip of the southernmost island in the Kutchuma Island group to the easternmost tip of the southernmost island in the Kutchuma Island group to the westernmost tip of an unnamed island at 135°17.67' W. longitude, 57°00.30' N. latitude to a point on the southern side of the unnamed island at 135°16.78' W. longitude, 57°00.08' N. latitude and then to a point on the Baranof Island Shore at 135°16.53' W. longitude 56°59.93' N. latitude with the following restrictions:

Salisbury Sound (Fishery area 113-62): In waters of Peril Strait south of the latitude of Pogibshi Point at 57°30.5' N. latitude, waters of Salisbury Sound east of 135°46' W. longitude, and waters of Sukoi Strait and Neva Strait north of 57°15' N. latitude

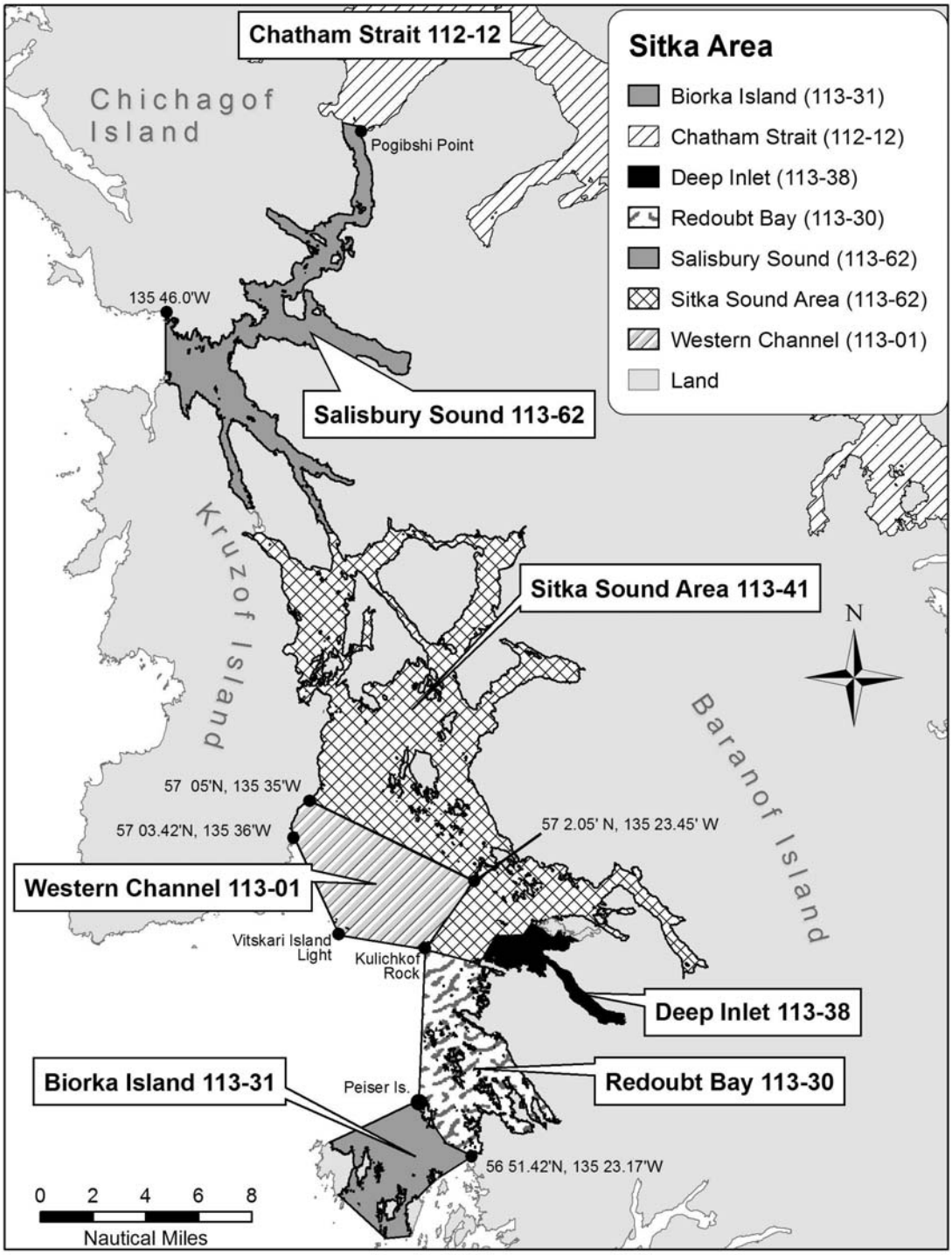

Figure 5.–Sitka spring trolling areas 2006.

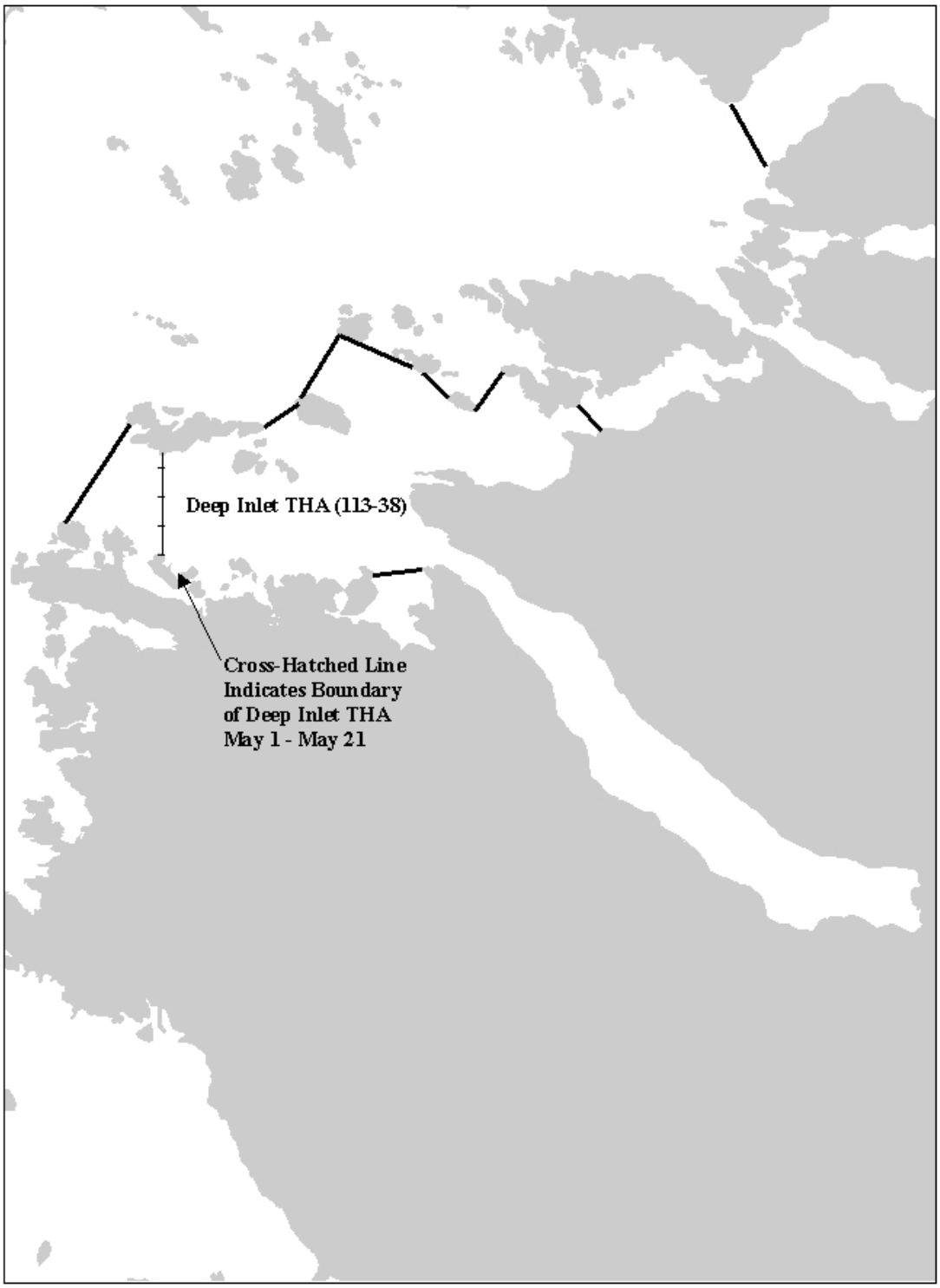

Figure 6 –Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area boundaries, 2006.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME CONTACTS

The following are Division of Commercial Fisheries contacts regarding this management plan:

Scott Kelley, Southeast Commercial Fisheries Regional Supervisor	P.O. Box 240020 Douglas, Alaska 99824-0020 (907) 465-4250
Bill Davidson, Regional Management Coordinator	304 Lake Street, #103 Sitka, Alaska 99835 (907) 747-6688
Brian Lynch, Southeast Regional Salmon Troll Biologist	P.O. Box 667 Petersburg, Alaska 99833-0667 (907) 772-3801
Pattie Skannes, Assistant Regional Salmon Troll Biologist	304 Lake Street, #103 Sitka, Alaska 99835 (907) 747-6688
Juneau Troll Recorded Information Line	(907) 465-8765 (TROL)
Sitka Troll Recorded Information Line	(907) 747-8765 (TROL)
Petersburg Recorded Information Line	(907) 772-3700

Troll Website: http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region1/finfish/salmon/troll/trolinfo.php

News Release Website: http://documents.cf1.adfg.state.ak.us/TopicContents.po