

**Southeast Alaska Drift Gillnet Fishery:
2006 Management Plan**

by

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



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Weights and measures (metric)		General		Measures (fisheries)	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code	AAC	fork length	FL
deciliter	dL	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	mid-eye-to-fork	MEF
gram	g	all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	mid-eye-to-tail-fork	METF
hectare	ha	at	@	standard length	SL
kilogram	kg	compass directions:		total length	TL
kilometer	km	east	E		
liter	L	north	N	Mathematics, statistics	
meter	m	south	S	<i>all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations</i>	
milliliter	mL	west	W	alternate hypothesis	H _A
millimeter	mm	copyright	©	base of natural logarithm	<i>e</i>
		corporate suffixes:		catch per unit effort	CPUE
Weights and measures (English)		Company	Co.	coefficient of variation	CV
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	Corporation	Corp.	common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
foot	ft	Incorporated	Inc.	confidence interval	CI
gallon	gal	Limited	Ltd.	correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
inch	in	District of Columbia	D.C.	correlation coefficient (simple)	r
mile	mi	et alii (and others)	et al.	covariance	cov
nautical mile	nmi	et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	degree (angular)	°
ounce	oz	exempli gratia	e.g.	degrees of freedom	df
pound	lb	(for example)		expected value	<i>E</i>
quart	qt	Federal Information Code	FIC	greater than	>
yard	yd	id est (that is)	i.e.	greater than or equal to	≥
		latitude or longitude	lat. or long.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
Time and temperature		monetary symbols (U.S.)	\$, ¢	less than	<
day	d	months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan, ..., Dec	less than or equal to	≤
degrees Celsius	°C	registered trademark	®	logarithm (natural)	ln
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	trademark	™	logarithm (base 10)	log
degrees kelvin	K	United States (adjective)	U.S.	logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ , etc.
hour	h	United States of America (noun)	USA	minute (angular)	'
minute	min	U.S.C.	United States Code	not significant	NS
second	s	U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)	null hypothesis	H ₀
Physics and chemistry				percent	%
all atomic symbols				probability	P
alternating current	AC			probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
ampere	A			probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
calorie	cal			second (angular)	"
direct current	DC			standard deviation	SD
hertz	Hz			standard error	SE
horsepower	hp			variance	
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH			population	Var
parts per million	ppm			sample	var
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰				
volts	V				
watts	W				

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**SOUTHEAST ALASKA DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY:
2006 MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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ABSTRACT

This management plan provides an overview of the expected salmon run sizes, management issues, and harvest strategies for the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fisheries in 2006. Drift gillnet fisheries occur at Tree Point and Portland Canal (District 1), Prince of Wales and Stikine River (Districts 6 and 8), Taku River/Snettisham (District 11), Lynn Canal (District 15) and in hatchery terminal areas including: Neets Bay (District 1), Nakat Inlet (District 1), Anita Bay (District 7), Speel Arm (District 11), Deep Inlet (District 13) and Boat Harbor (District 15).

Key words: Southeast Alaska, drift gillnet, management plan, salmon, outlooks, terminal harvest area.

INTRODUCTION

This management plan provides an overview of the expected salmon run sizes, management issues, and harvest strategies for the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fisheries in 2006.

For the period 1995–2004, an average of 481 Southeast Alaska drift gillnet limited entry permits were issued annually, of which an average of 87% are actively fished each year. In 2005, 478 permits were issued, of which 369 (77%) were actively fished. A record low of 351 permits were fished in 2005. Drift gillnet landings have averaged approximately 4.050 million salmon annually from 1995 to 2004. Of the total commercial salmon harvest in Southeast Alaska, the drift gillnet fishery harvests an average of 38% of the sockeye, 16% of the chum, 12% of the coho, 3% of the pink, and 4% of the Chinook salmon (1960 to 2004 data).

The drift gillnet fishery primarily targets Chinook salmon during the spring season; sockeye, pink, and summer chum salmon during the summer season; and coho and fall chum salmon during the fall season. The first commercial fisheries directed at harvesting Stikine and Taku River Chinook salmon since the 1970s took place in 2005. A Chinook fishery is planned in District 8 in 2006. Chinook salmon fisheries will also occur in terminal hatchery areas in the spring.

There are five traditional drift gillnet fishing areas in Southeast Alaska: District 1 (Tree Point and Portland Canal), District 6 (Prince of Wales), District 8 (Stikine), District 11 (Taku-Snettisham), and District 15 (Lynn Canal). In addition, drift gillnet fisheries occur in several terminal areas adjacent to hatchery facilities and at remote release sites throughout the region. Each of these gillnet fisheries are discussed separately in this management plan.

SALMON RETURNS

In Southeast Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) issues a region wide pre-season harvest forecast for pink salmon. ADF&G also derives pre-season forecasts for several specific stocks including Taku and Stikine River Chinook salmon, Stikine River sockeye salmon, and other Chinook salmon stocks. Private non-profit hatchery operators also derive pre-season forecasts for salmon returning to many enhancement projects throughout Southeast Alaska. Otherwise, the projected returns of sockeye, chum, and coho salmon presented in this management plan are qualitative and should not be considered official department forecasts. These return projections are calculated primarily from parent-year catch and escapement data and are expressed in terms of probable magnitude of return relative to historic levels.

Significant in 2006 are forecast returns of Chinook salmon to the Stikine and Taku Rivers. The United States and Canada successfully negotiated abundance based fishery regimes for those two stocks during February 2005. A major component of the negotiations was specific harvest shares for both countries that are referred to as Allowable Catch (AC). Preliminary ACs are calculated using pre-season forecasts of terminal run for each stock. The pre-season terminal run forecast for

the Stikine River of 60,600 large adults which provides for an Alaskan harvest of about 17,000 fish in District 8 by all gear groups including directed harvest by drift gillnet fisheries in District 8. The preseason terminal run forecast return to the Taku River of 64,500 large adults does not result in a U.S. Allowable Catch. The ACs for each river will be adjusted as inseason information on run strength becomes available. The harvests of Stikine and Taku River Chinook salmon in Districts 8 and 11 respectively above base harvest levels will not count against the 10,057 drift gillnet harvest ceiling allowed under Chinook salmon allocation plan adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF). Most Alaska hatchery produced Chinook salmon harvested in drift gillnet fisheries do not count against the harvest ceiling mandated by the BOF allocation plan.

The projected regionwide harvest of chum salmon is anticipated to be 10.5 million including 8.0 million of hatchery fish and 2.5 million of wild stocks. These return levels are somewhat below the recent 10-year average of 11.9 million, but would represent a substantial increase above the 2005 harvest. Chum harvest in drift gillnet fisheries has averaged 15% or 1,920,000 in the recent 10-year period from 1993-2004. Returns of hatchery-produced summer chum salmon are expected to contribute significantly to District 1, 6, 8, 11, and 15 gillnet fisheries.

Overall, returns of coho salmon should be near the 20-year average, due, in part to significant hatchery contributions. The Alaska hatchery coho salmon contributions to drift gillnet fisheries was 23% in 2002, 30% in 2003, 20% in 2004, and 20% in 2005.

The pink salmon return in 2006 is predicted to be *Strong to Excellent*, with a potential total Southeast Alaska harvest of 52 million fish, with a range of 29 to 74 million fish. The major portion of the pink salmon harvest will be taken by purse seine gear.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

A flexible management approach is required because of the lack of accurate preseason forecasts for salmon returns to the drift gillnet fishing areas. Thus, this management plan presents only a general outlook of how the season is expected to develop. Some specific management approaches may be altered depending on inseason assessments of salmon run strength. Gillnetters are encouraged to contact ADF&G management staff listed at the end of this plan for more detailed information.

The primary objectives for management of the 2006 drift gillnet fishery are:

1. Obtain overall salmon spawning escapements with the best possible distribution to all systems;
2. Provide for orderly fisheries while harvesting those salmon in excess of escapement needs;
3. Promote the harvest and processing of good quality salmon within the constraints dictated by run size;
4. Manage for a total Southeast drift gillnet harvest ceiling of 10,057 Chinook salmon (based on 2.9% of the all-gear quota), exclusive of Alaskan hatchery-produced fish;
5. Minimize, to the extent possible, the interception of salmon destined for locations where weak returns are expected;

6. Manage District 1, 6, 8, and 11 drift gillnet fisheries consistent with the provisions of the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty;
7. Manage hatchery Terminal Harvests Areas in accordance with provisions in existing terminal harvest area management plans adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries;
8. Manage Districts 8 and 11 directed Chinook fisheries for all-gear harvests as provided under the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

Achievement of these management objectives will be accomplished by inseason adjustments of fishing time and area to control harvests in specific areas in accordance with salmon run strength and timing. Comparisons of current-year fishing performance to historical fishing success (i.e., catch per unit effort, or CPUE analysis) are a major component of inseason run strength assessment. This approach assumes catch rates are an accurate reflection of run strength by time period and can be relied upon to indicate salmon escapements through the fishing area.

Past experience has demonstrated that management of salmon fisheries based only on fishery performance (CPUE) data can be misleading, especially for mixed-stock fisheries. Therefore, other available run-strength indicators will also be used including spawning escapements, stock composition estimates, test fishing, observed salmon concentrations in sanctuary areas, catches from other fisheries, and salmon run timing models.

The increasing availability of hatchery-produced salmon, in particular coho and summer chum salmon regionwide and sockeye salmon in District 11, has become a major factor in the management of the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fisheries. Where inseason management is based on fishery performance, it may be difficult to gauge natural stock run strength if significant numbers of hatchery fish are present in the catch. Where possible, the hatchery component of the catch will be separated when evaluating fishery performance.

WEEKLY FISHING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Inseason management of District 1 drift gillnet fishery is conducted by the Ketchikan area management staff; Districts 6 and 8 by the Petersburg and Wrangell area staff; District 11 by the Juneau area staff; and District 15 by the Haines area staff. Because permit holders can move freely among all drift gillnet fisheries, the Southeast regional office will coordinate weekly fishing announcements for all areas. These will normally be released simultaneously in all area offices by mid-afternoon each Thursday during the fishing season.

WEEKLY FISHING PERIODS

Weekly fishing periods in most traditional areas can generally be expected to begin on Sundays at 12:01 PM except the directed Chinook salmon drift gillnet fisheries in Districts 8 and 11 which will open on Mondays except for State or Federal holidays when the fisheries will open on Tuesday. The District 8 directed Chinook salmon fishery will open at 8:00 AM and District 11 directed Chinook salmon fishery will open at 12:01 PM. Fishing periods in hatchery terminal harvest areas, including the Northern and Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association's (NSRAA and SSRAA) terminal fisheries in Deep Inlet, Anita Bay, Neets Bay, and Nakat Inlet will be in accordance with rotational harvest management plans for drift gillnet, seine, and troll fisheries adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

FULL RETENTION

ADF&G will require full retention (5 AAC 39.265) of all salmon harvested in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area net fisheries from the beginning of the 2006 season. This regulation may be implemented by emergency order in other areas of Southeast Alaska if necessary after consultation with the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement. Further details regarding the implementation of this regulation will be announced at later dates.

U.S./CANADA PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

The U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) will influence management of Districts 1, 6, 8, and 11 drift gillnet fisheries [5 AAC 33.361]. The management provisions specified by the PST will be considered separately under the specific management plan for each respective fishery. Fishermen are encouraged to contact local ADF&G staff for more detailed information concerning Alaska's PST obligations under the 10-year agreement signed in 1999 and the Chinook salmon annex signed in 2005.

CHINOOK SALMON

The need for management measures to comply with the drift gillnet harvest quota for Chinook salmon will depend on inseason evaluation of Chinook salmon catch rates relative to the 10,057 Treaty fish ceiling. If the need arises, nighttime fishing closures may be implemented in certain areas to reduce the incidental catch of immature, "feeder" Chinook salmon. Management measures to limit the drift gillnet harvest of Treaty Chinook salmon have not been necessary since this regulation went into effect in 1998. The recent 10-year average harvest of Treaty Chinook salmon in the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fishery is approximately 5,300 fish.

The District 15 drift gillnet fishery will be managed in accordance with provisions in the Lynn Canal and Chilkat River Chinook Salmon Fishery Management Plan [5 AAC 33.384].

Drift gillnet fisheries will target Chinook salmon in District 8. Only historic base level catches will be counted towards the Treaty fish ceiling [5 AAC 29.060 (b)(2) and (e)].

TREE POINT AND PORTLAND CANAL FISHERY

INTRODUCTION

The Tree Point and Portland Canal drift gillnet fishing area consists of regulatory Sections 1-A and 1-B. This fishery targets summer chum and sockeye salmon early in the season, followed by pink salmon, and finally fall chum and coho salmon at the end of the season.

2006 OUTLOOK

Chum Salmon

Chum salmon returns to natural spawning systems have increased in recent years after a series of poor returns to Portland Canal. Chum salmon escapements to systems in Boca de Quadra and Behm Canal were at satisfactory levels during parent years. However, the returns of chum salmon to Fish Creek, located in upper Portland Canal, was the lowest in several years. This may indicate a weaker return in 2006 if the effected age classes return as they did in 2005. ADF&G will pay close attention to Portland Canal chum salmon in 2006 and will take necessary management action early in the season to ensure adequate escapements of these stocks. ADF&G

will conduct aerial surveys starting in mid-June to determine the strength of returning chum salmon to these areas.

U. S./Canada Tree Point Fishery Agreement

In the spring of 1999, the United States and Canada negotiated a 10-year annex for the Tree Point fishery. The new agreement calls for the following:

Manage the Alaskan District 1 drift gillnet fishery to:

1. Achieve an annual catch share of Nass sockeye salmon of 13.8% of the Annual Allowable Harvest (AAH) of the Nass sockeye salmon stocks that year;
2. Carry forward from year to year annual deviations from the prescribed catch share arrangement.

Nass Sockeye Salmon Annual Allowable Harvest

The AAH each year will be calculated as the total run of adult Nass sockeye salmon in that year less the escapement target of 200,000 fish. In the event that the actual Nass spawning escapement for the season is below the target level, the actual spawning escapement will be used in the AAH calculations.

The total run calculation includes the catches of Nass sockeye salmon in the principal boundary area fisheries and the spawning escapement to the Nass watershed. This includes the catch of Nass sockeye salmon in Alaskan Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 net fisheries, Canadian Areas 1, 3, 4, and 5 net fisheries and Canadian Nass inriver fisheries. Catches in other boundary area fisheries may be included as jointly agreed by the Northern Boundary Technical Committee.

Although the management intent shall be to harvest salmon at the allowable percentage AAH, it is recognized that overages and underages will occur and an accounting mechanism is required. The payback mechanism for the fishery will be based on the number of fish a party is over or under its AAH.

The management intent for the fishery shall be to return any overages to a neutral or negative balance as soon as possible. After five years of consecutive overages, a management plan must be provided to the Northern Panel with specific management actions that will eliminate the overage. The accrual of underages is not intended to allow either Alaska or Canada to modify its fishing behavior in any given year, nor to harvest the accrued underage.

During the Pacific Salmon Commission meeting in February 2006, the bi-lateral Northern Panel and the Northern Boundary Technical Committee finalized and agreed upon the run reconstruction of the Nass River for 2004. The following table (Table 1) reflects the performance of the Tree Point drift gillnet fishery under the 1999 agreement:

Table 1.—Performance of the Tree Point drift gillnet fishery under the 1999 agreement.

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 (preliminary)
Nass Total Return	842,806	625,983	580,616	1,403,976	1,176,261	985,227	550,000
Nass Escapement	200,000	200,000	167,258	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Allowable Nass AAH	642,806	425,983	413,358	1,203,976	976,261	785,227	350,000
Allowable Alaska Harvest (13.8%)	88,707	58,786	57,043	166,149	134,724	108,361	48,300
Actual Nass Alaska Harvest	129,794	46,305	55,096	90,553	72,743	110,337	64,000
Cumulative: +overage/ (-underage)	+41,087	+28,606	+26,659	-48,937	-110,918	-108,942	-92,662

Very preliminary reports indicate that the total sockeye salmon return to the Nass River in 2005 was 550,000 fish. That allowed a harvest of approximately 48,300 Nass River sockeye salmon at Tree Point in 2005. The total harvest of sockeye salmon at Tree Point in 2004 was 142,350 fish. If 85%, or 120,000 of those sockeye were Nass River fish then an overage of 21,000 sockeye salmon would be added to the underage accrued from 1999 through 2002 for a total underage of approximately 86,759 through the first six years of the 10-year annex.

The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans has a preseason expectation for 2006 returns of approximately 900,000 Nass River sockeye salmon. If the forecast is accurate, then the AAH for Tree Point will be approximately 96,000 Nass River sockeye salmon.

Chum and Coho Enhancement

Hatchery returns of summer chum, fall chum, and coho salmon to SSRAAs enhancement projects are expected to contribute significantly to the Tree Point gillnet fishery in 2006. Information concerning SSRAA forecast returns is included under the Terminal Hatchery Fisheries section of this plan.

Pink Salmon

Pink salmon returns are expected to be strong to southern Southeast Alaska in 2006. If the actual returns are as strong as forecast, Tree Point drift gillnet fishery should have four- and five-day fishing weeks beginning at the start of the District 1 Pink Salmon Management Plan (PSMP; 5 AAC 33.360).

The PSMP establishes drift gillnet fishing time in Section 1-B in relation to District 1 purse seine fishing time when both gear types are concurrently harvesting the same pink salmon stocks. By regulation, the plan starts on the third Sunday in July (July 16, 2006) with the following fishing time schedule:

1. When the purse seine fishery is open for any portion of one day during a fishing week, the drift gillnet fishery must be open for 48 hours during the same fishing week;
2. When the purse seine fishery is open for any portion of two days during a fishing week, the drift gillnet fishery must be open for 96 hours during the same fishing week;
3. When the purse seine fishery is open for any portion of three or more days during a fishing week, the drift gillnet fishery must be open for 120 hours during the same week.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management goals for the 2006 Tree Point drift gillnet fishery are as follows:

1. Manage the fishery in accordance within the Pink Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 33.360);
2. Manage the fishery consistent with the current provisions of the PST (5 AAC 33.361).

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Tree Point gillnet fishery will open by regulation in Section 1-B for four days beginning at 12:01 PM Sunday, June 18, 2006. The length of subsequent fishing periods up to the start of the Pink Salmon Management Plan on July 16 will be based on the strength of wild stock sockeye and chum salmon returns to Alaskan and Canadian waters. The effort levels at Tree Point will also influence the amount of time the fishery is given up to the start of the District 1 PSMP.

As in recent years, the catch of hatchery-produced, summer chum salmon returning to the Nakat Inlet release site will not be included in the evaluation of natural stock fishery performance. The contribution of Nakat Inlet chum salmon will be estimated by inseason analysis of coded-wire tag data. Hatchery chum salmon have contributed as much as 71% of weekly harvest at Tree Point and as much as 31% of the total harvest in recent years.

The PST requires that the harvest of natural stocks of chum salmon returning to Portland Canal streams be minimized to ensure rebuilding of these stocks. As a result, no fishing should be expected in Section 1-A for Portland Canal chum salmon unless it is determined that a harvestable surplus exists. Any management decision to fish Portland Canal must assume there is sufficient additional surplus fish to support a Canadian as well as an Alaskan fishery.

The Section 1-B drift gillnet fishery will be managed according to the District 1 PSMP starting July 16, 2006. The overall pink salmon return to southern Southeast Alaska is expected to be strong in 2006. If the returns come in as predicted then beginning in mid-July through the end of August, Tree Point drift gillnetters can anticipate four- and five-day fishing periods.

In 2006, management of the Southeast purse seine fishery is anticipated to be similar to the past two years with a four day on/one day off fishing schedule beginning in late July or early August. This should allow for five-day fishing weeks beginning in late July or early August.

Fall management at Tree Point starts after the end of the pink salmon season. During the fall season, the Tree Point fishery targets primarily fall chum and coho salmon. Little is known about the stock composition of the chum and coho salmon harvest at this time of the year. However, if the estimated exploitation rate of the Hugh Smith Lake coho salmon stock, which reaches 80% in some years, holds true for adjacent areas then wild coho salmon stocks in the surrounding Tree Point area may benefit from a closing date at Tree Point of approximately September 20. Due to the uncertainties of the escapement levels of the stocks being harvested, the documented high exploitation rate of Hugh Smith Lake coho salmon, and the high preponderance of hatchery fish in the harvest, ADF&G will continue to take a conservative approach to the fall season at Tree Point. However, fishing periods will be allowed after September 20 if fisheries performance data indicates above average returns of wild chum and coho salmon. During recent years, approximately 50% of the fall chum and coho salmon have been hatchery fish. Nakat Inlet fish not harvested in the common property fisheries can be harvested in the Nakat Inlet Terminal Harvest Area, which remains open to commercial fishing through late October.

Hugh Smith Lake Sockeye Salmon

The BOF, during the 2006 meeting in Ketchikan, delisted the Hugh Smith sockeye stock as a stock of concern. This means the Hugh Smith Lake Sockeye Action Management Plan is no longer in effect. However, ADF&G will continue to closely monitor the system and if escapement levels are below that needed to reach the lower end of the escapement goal of 8,000 both the District 1 gillnet fleet and the District 1 purse seine fleet will need to be restricted in order to reach the escapement goal.

PRINCE OF WALES AND STIKINE FISHERIES

INTRODUCTION

The District 6 drift gillnet fishery occurs in the waters of northern Clarence Strait and Sumner Strait, in regulatory Sections 6-A, 6-B, and 6-C, and portions of Section 6-D. The Stikine fishery encompasses the waters of District 8 surrounding the terminus of the Stikine River. Due to their close proximity, management of these fisheries is interrelated, resulting in some major stocks being subject to harvest by both fisheries. Two distinct management areas exist within each district: the Frederick Sound (Section 8-A) and Wrangell (Section 8-B) portions of District 8, and the Sumner Strait (Section 6-A) and Clarence Strait (Sections 6-B, 6-C, and 6-D) portions of District 6. The harvest of terminal hatchery returns to the Crystal Lake, and Anita Bay hatchery facilities will be discussed in the Terminal Hatchery Fisheries portion of this management plan.

2006 OUTLOOK

King Salmon

The BOF met in January, and using guidelines suggested by the Stikine King Salmon Workgroup, adopted new regulations concerning the District 8 directed Stikine King salmon fishery. This will be the second consecutive year of directed Stikine King salmon fishing as the BOF was able to reopen the fishery last year due to successful negotiations with Canada on abundance based fishing regimes and harvest sharing. Preseason forecasts indicate that substantial returns of king salmon will be available in 2006. The forecast of the Stikine stock returning to District 8 is approximately 60,600 king salmon over 28 inches, well in excess of the escapement point-goal of 17,400 fish. The preseason total allowable catch for all Alaska gear groups is about 17,000 fish. Although the preseason forecast is smaller than last year, it is sizeable enough to allow fishing starting on May 1.

Sockeye Salmon

The 2006 Stikine River sockeye salmon return is expected to be average. The Tahltan sockeye salmon escapement goal of 24,000 fish was achieved in 2005 for the third consecutive year. The 2006 Tahltan Lake sockeye salmon return is expected to be less than the 2005 return but near the 1996–2005 average. The Tuya Lake enhanced sockeye salmon return is expected to be minimal and substantial returns are not expected until 2007. Returns of mainstem Stikine River sockeye salmon stocks are expected to be similar to 2005. Due to the near identical return timing of the Tahltan Lake and Tuya Lake stocks, any open fishing periods in District 8, and to a limited extent in District 6, will be determined by the actual inseason abundance of the wild Tahltan Lake stock. The returns of local area sockeye salmon stocks should be similar to the past four years. Parent-year escapements into Salmon Bay, Red Bay, and Luck Lake were near the average of the previous four years. Enhanced sockeye salmon will be returning to Neck Lake for the fourth year in 2006. Returns in 2005 were minimal and returns are expected to be higher in 2006.

Pink Salmon

Large numbers of pink salmon are forecasted to return to District 6 spawning streams, and fisheries targeting pink salmon should be extensive. Parent-year escapements to District 6 were excellent.

Chum Salmon

No directed fishing occurs on chum salmon in either District 6 or 8. Chum salmon are caught incidentally in fisheries targeting sockeye, pink, and coho salmon. Significant returns of chum salmon to Anita Bay, as well as Ketchikan area hatcheries, may result in increased harvest in Districts 6 and 8. Chum salmon releases from Earl West Cove were discontinued in 2000 and production at this site was moved to Anita Bay. Anita Bay is expecting a total run of 310,000 summer chum salmon in 2006 which is substantially larger than last year's preseason forecast. Summer chum salmon production from Ketchikan area hatcheries is expected to be higher than in 2005. Chum salmon returning to the Ketchikan area hatchery facilities migrate through District 6 and are expected to contribute significantly to the harvest in this district. Alaska hatchery contributions to the chum salmon catch for the past 10 years have averaged 35% of the District 6 catch and 22% of the District 8 catch.

Coho Salmon

The overall coho salmon returns for 2006 are expected to be slightly larger than the 2005 returns. The combined 2005 returns to Neck Lake and Burnett Inlet in upper Clarence Strait were approximately 40,000 coho salmon. 2006 total forecast returns to Neck Lake and Burnett Inlet are 68,000 and 8,000 coho. Coho salmon returns to Earl West Cove have been shifted to Anita Bay. The 2005 coho salmon return to Anita Bay was approximately 15,000 fish, and the forecast return for 2006 is also 15,000. Approximately 150,000 fall coho salmon returned to enhancement projects in the Ketchikan area in 2005. Total forecast coho returns for 2006 to Ketchikan area coho enhancement projects are 173,000, and include: Neets Bay (150,000), Nakat Inlet (14,000) and Whitman Lake (9,000). Wild coho salmon returns for 2006 are expected to be similar to the long-term average. Extended fishing periods in Districts 6 or 8 could occur beginning in Statistical Week 36 (September 3); however, actual fishing periods will be determined weekly inseason, based on wild coho salmon harvest rates.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management goals for the District 6 and District 8 drift gillnet fisheries for the 2006 season are as follows:

1. Achieve the Stikine River King salmon escapement goal while harvesting the Alaskan share of the king salmon in excess of the goal;
2. Achieve the Tahltan Lake sockeye salmon escapement goal while maximizing the harvest of Tahltan Lake sockeye above that goal and maximizing the harvest of Tuya Lake sockeye salmon;
3. Achieve pink salmon spawning escapement goals in District 6 and District 7;
4. Achieve good spawning escapements of sockeye salmon in local Alaskan systems;
5. Manage the District 6 and District 8 drift gillnet fisheries consistent with the provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (5 AAC 33.361).

MANAGEMENT PLAN

King Salmon

The first opening of the king salmon season will start in District 8 at 8:00 AM on Monday, May 1 and close at 8:00 AM on Wednesday, May 3. The length of subsequent openings each week will depend upon the numbers of boats fishing, the numbers of king salmon harvested, and results from stock assessment projects. The old Stikine closure lines will be in effect for the initial openings. These lines will close waters inside a line from Babbler Point to Hour Point along the shore of Wrangell Island to Point Highfield to the southern end of Liesnoi Island to the southern end of Greys Island to the small island near the eastern entrance of Blind Slough to the nearest point of Mitkof Island to the prominent point of Mitkof Island nearest Coney Island to the northern end of Coney Island to a point 500 yards north of Jap Creek on the mainland shore. The allowable harvest for the first three weeks of the fishery will be based upon the preseason forecast. The final three weeks of the fishery will be based upon inseason projections, which are derived from returning king salmon caught at the marking sight near Shakes Slough on the Stikine River.

The Board of Fisheries adopted a minimum mesh restriction of seven inches for the District 8 directed Stikine King gillnet fishery. Based on inseason surveys from last year's fishery, the new mesh restriction will result in increased king harvest while minimizing the harvest of steelhead. The standard 300-fathom length and 60 meshes deep net restrictions will be used in this fishery.

The Board of Fisheries adopted specific closed waters for the District 8 fishery. There are six areas where king salmon are usually concentrated that can possibly be closed to drift gillnetting for varying lengths of time. These closures were supported by the Stikine King Salmon Work Group and are designed to provide sport fishermen with exclusive areas for fishing without interference from commercial fishing gear and/or to provide increased protection for steelhead returning to Petersburg Creek and to Bear Creek on Mitkof Island.

Closed waters for drift gillnetting in District 8 include areas near Babbler Point, Wrangell Harbor, the Nose on Woronkofski Island, Woodpecker Cove, Bear Creek, and Point Frederick to Beacon Point. The exact closed waters will be identified in the drift gillnet news release prior to each opening. Most closures will remain in effect throughout the entire fishery, through the second Saturday in June. The two exceptions are the Nose and Woodpecker Cove Area closures. These closures will only be in effect if the gillnet fishery is open for more than 48 hours. The closure from Point Frederick to Beacon Point will continue during the sockeye fishery to protect Petersburg Creek sockeye stocks.

In District 8, for the week before Memorial Day, the drift gillnet fishery will be open a maximum of 2 days to prevent conflicts with the king salmon derbies in Petersburg and Wrangell. There will be no openings on weekends or holidays to decrease any potential conflict with other user groups.

Drift gillnet fishermen are asked to notify management biologists, who will be monitoring the fishery, of any incidence of steelhead. For the 2006 season, any steelhead that are retained during the directed king salmon fishery must be recorded on fish tickets.

King salmon less than 28" that are harvested in the commercial drift gillnet fisheries may be retained and sold as usual. King salmon less than 28" in length and those of Alaska hatchery origin will not be counted against the Alaskan share of the allowable harvest. Processors are

requested to identify the numbers of king salmon less than 28" on the fish tickets as well as the numbers of king salmon 28" or greater. ADF&G samplers working at the processing facilities will identify hatchery-reared king salmon so those fish are not counted against the Alaskan share of the harvest.

Sockeye Salmon

The length of the first sockeye opening, which will begin on Sunday, June 11, will depend on the preseason forecast for Tahltan Lake sockeye salmon. That forecast will be completed by the end of May. Current indications point towards an average return of sockeye salmon to the Stikine River. Subsequent openings will be determined inseason based on catches and stock proportion data. If inseason catch and stock data indicate that the Tahltan sockeye salmon return is strong, then more liberal fishing periods and/or mid-week openings will be allowed in District 8. Reduced fishing time in District 8 to conserve Stikine River mainstem sockeye salmon in July is not anticipated. Extended fishing time in District 6 will be based primarily on the abundance of sockeye salmon from local island stocks.

The sockeye salmon fishery in both districts will be managed in accordance with the Transboundary Rivers (TBR) Annex of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Annex allows the District 6 fishery to be managed for harvesting local Alaskan sockeye stocks and normally is not influenced under most conditions by the presence of sockeye salmon stocks of Stikine River origin. Management of the District 8 fishery is based on the need to harvest sockeye salmon of Stikine River origin, as allowed by the sharing provisions of the TBR Annex, and the conservation of the resource.

Management actions during the sockeye salmon fishing season will be based on analysis of CPUE and stock identification data to determine the availability of Stikine River fish. These stock abundance indicators, along with fishery performance and stock composition data obtained from a Canadian test fishery, will be incorporated into a Stikine sockeye salmon management model. As the season progresses, this model will be the primary method used to estimate the availability of sockeye salmon for harvest by the Alaskan drift gillnet fishery in District 8 and the Canadian inriver fisheries. Any conservation measures required for Stikine River sockeye salmon are implemented first in District 8 followed by Sumner Strait in District 6. Reductions in fishing time, area or districtwide closures will be used when conservation measures are needed. All openings will be based upon the most recent Stikine sockeye model update and the current weekly sockeye salmon harvest.

The numbers of Stikine River sockeye generally begin to decrease in mid-July and other stocks including McDonald Lake sockeye salmon begin to pass through the fishery. McDonald Lake sockeye escapements have been below the escapement goal for four of the past five seasons. Because of an increasing concern for this productive system, a more conservative fishing regime will occur during the peak of the McDonald Lake sockeye salmon return. This means that for two to four weeks from mid-July through early August the maximum fishing time in District 6 could be two days per week.

Any announcements of fishery extensions or mid-week openings will be made on the fishing grounds by 10:00 AM of the last day of the regular fishery opening. Open area and fishing time during any extensions may not necessarily be the same as the general weekly opening.

Pink Salmon

Pink salmon normally begin entering District 6 in significant numbers by the third or fourth week of July. The early portion of the pink salmon fishery will be managed primarily on CPUE and parent year escapement. By mid-August, pink salmon destined for local systems will begin to enter the fishery in greater numbers and at that time, management will be based on observed escapements.

Coho Salmon

The coho salmon season will begin during late August or early September. Management of the District 6 fishery will be based predominantly on wild stock CPUE. Crystal Lake Hatchery, Burnett Inlet Hatchery, facilities in the Ketchikan area, the Anita Bay remote release site, and the Neck Lake remote release site at Whale Pass all contribute coho salmon to the District 6 and District 8 fisheries. Inseason estimates from coded-wire tag recovery data will be used to identify the hatchery component of the harvest.

Screen Island Shore Drift Gillnet

Regulation 5 AAC 33.310(c)(2)(B) allows drift gillnetting along the Screen Island shore of Section 6-D only during the early and late portions of the season. Specifically, this area encompasses those waters of Section 6-D west of a line from Mariposa Rock Buoy to the northernmost tip of Point Harrington to a point on the shore of Etolin Island at 56°09.60' N. latitude, 132°42.70' W. longitude to the southernmost tip of Point Stanhope. Actions by the BOF, based on an agreement between drift gillnet and purse seine representatives at the board meeting in February of 2000 increased the fishing time for drift gillnetting in this area by one week on each end of the closure. The periods when fishing may be allowed are now: 1) from the second Sunday in June (June 11) through the first Saturday in August (August 5) and, 2) from the first Sunday in September (September 3) until the season is closed. During this time, drift gillnetting is allowed during the same time periods that the adjoining waters of Section 6-C are open.

TAKU/SNETTISHAM GILLNET FISHERY

INTRODUCTION

The Taku/Snettisham (District 11) gillnet area encompasses Section 11-B (Taku Inlet, Port Snettisham, and Stephens Passage north of Midway Island) and Section 11-C (Midway Island south to a line from Point League to Point Hugh). This fishery has traditionally targeted sockeye salmon during the early portion of the season and fall chum and coho salmon later in the season. In recent years, the fishery has also targeted hatchery summer chum and sockeye salmon. Since 2005, a directed king salmon fishery will occur in District 11 when run strength is sufficient.

2006 OUTLOOK

King Salmon

In 2003 the BOF adopted regulatory language establishing directed king salmon commercial drift gillnet and sport fisheries in Taku Inlet contingent upon the outcome of Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiations with Canada. The directed king salmon fishery in District 11 had been closed since 1975 in order to rebuild Taku River stocks. In February 2005, negotiations with Canada successfully established agreed upon abundance based fishing regimes and harvest sharing arrangements. The result of this agreement allowed directed king salmon fishing in District 11

for the first time in 30 years. The BOF met in January 2006, and using guidelines suggested by the Taku King Salmon Workgroup (and Juneau Advisory Committee), adopted new regulations concerning the District 11 directed Taku king salmon fishery. The 2006 preseason forecast of 64,500 large king salmon is insufficient to open the fishery at the beginning of May. Near the end of May however, the inseason terminal run projection may provide the basis for a fishery. If the opportunity does arise, plans for the fishery will be announced in late May.

Sockeye Salmon

The total return of wild Taku River sockeye salmon in 2006 is expected to be about average. This is based on both spawner-recruit analysis and a sibling forecast. The 2001 main parent year escapement of 144,000 fish was well above the PST escapement goal 75,000 fish, as well as the 10-year average escapement of approximately 100,000 sockeye salmon. The 2002 parent year had an escapement of 109,000 fish. Adult returns to date from the joint U.S./Canada Taku River sockeye salmon enhancement project at Tatsamenie Lake have been very low and the number of enhanced sockeye salmon returning to Tatsamenie Lake is not expected to contribute significant numbers of fish to harvest in 2006. Returns of wild Port Snettisham sockeye salmon stocks are difficult to project because escapement enumeration programs were not in place during all brood years. Escapement through the Speel Lake weir of the 2001 parent year was 8,100 sockeye salmon, and the escapement in 2002 was 5,000 sockeye salmon, both below average but within the escapement goal range of 4,000–13,000 sockeye salmon. The peak aerial survey estimates for Crescent Lake escapements in parent year 2001 was 13,500 fish, and in 2002 was 10,000 fish. The 1990 to 2005 average is 8,100 fish. Enhanced sockeye salmon returning to the Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. (DIPAC) Snettisham Hatchery, based on DIPAC's forecast is 265,000 fish, very similar to last year's forecast.

Chum Salmon

Approximately 1,363,000 summer chum salmon are forecast to return in 2006 from DIPAC hatchery releases in Gastineau Channel, and 125,000 chum from Limestone Inlet remote releases. The total estimated DIPAC chum salmon contribution to the Section 11-B drift gillnet fishery is 645,000 fish. Additional fishing time can again be expected south of Circle Point in order to harvest summer chum salmon returns to the Limestone Inlet remote release site. As in recent years, ADF&G may implement a six-inch minimum mesh size restriction south of Circle Point to reduce the harvest rate on wild sockeye salmon returning to Crescent and Speel lakes. Returns of fall chum salmon to the Taku River are expected to be poor.

Pink Salmon

Returns of pink salmon to District 11 systems are expected to be above average in 2006. Parent year pink salmon escapements to District 11 were excellent overall but numbers through the Canyon Island fish wheel were below the odd-year average, and indicated below average escapement in the Taku River. The pink salmon program at DIPAC has been discontinued and there will be no returns in 2006.

Coho Salmon

Returns of Taku River coho salmon are expected to be good. Parent-year escapements of coho salmon in Canadian portions of the Taku River were a record 219,800 fish in 2002, and 183,000 in 2003. The smolt outmigration of 2005 was about average at 1,600,000 fish. DIPAC projects

a 2006 return of approximately 35,000 hatchery coho salmon from their smolt releases into Gastineau Channel, approximately half of the recent years returns.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management goals for the 2006 Taku/Snettisham drift gillnet fishery are as follows:

1. Provide for sufficient salmon spawning escapements to Taku River, Port Snettisham, and Stephens Passage streams while harvesting those fish in excess of escapement needs;
2. Monitor the incidental harvest of king salmon to stay within the Board of Fisheries Southeast drift gillnet allocation of 10,057 non-Alaska hatchery Chinook salmon;
3. Manage the fishery consistent with current provisions of the PST (5 AAC 33.361);
4. Maximize the harvest of hatchery-produced chum salmon returning to Limestone Inlet while minimizing the incidental harvest of Port Snettisham wild sockeye salmon;
5. Manage the return of enhanced Port Snettisham sockeye salmon consistent with the Board of Fisheries Snettisham Hatchery Management Plan (5 AAC 33.378);
6. Manage the Speel Lake sockeye salmon return to achieve an escapement to the lake of between 4,000 to 13,000 spawners. This goal is a biological escapement goal based on an updated analysis completed during the winter of 2002–2003;
7. Manage the District 11 directed king salmon fishery to harvest large adult king salmon in accordance with the Pacific Salmon Treaty and the BOF District 11 king salmon management plan.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The District 11 gillnet fishery will be managed in accordance with the Transboundary River (TBR) Annex of the PST. Harvest sharing arrangements for king, sockeye, and coho salmon through the 2008 fishing season are specified in the annex.

King Salmon

The 2006 preseason forecast of 64,500 large king salmon is insufficient to open the District 11 drift gillnet directed king salmon fishery at the beginning of May. Near the end of May however, the inseason terminal run projection may support a fishery. If the opportunity does arise, plans for the fishery will be announced in late May.

If directed king salmon fishing in Section 11-B is supported by inseason stock assessment data, openings will begin on a Monday at 12:01 PM and close at 12 NOON on the day specified in a news release. There will be no openings on weekends or holidays. The length of subsequent openings will depend upon the numbers of boats fishing, the numbers of king salmon harvested, and results from stock assessment projects.

New regulations adopted by the BOF provide for a 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction through the third Saturday in June for the District 11 fishery. The standard 200 fathom length and 60 meshes deep net restrictions will be used in this fishery.

The waters open to drift gillnet fishing prior to the third Sunday in June are the waters of Section 11-B north of the latitude of Graves Point Light. The western boundary in regulations last year from Point Bishop to Cove Point has been changed under new BOF regulations to the section boundary between 11-A and 11-B (Point Bishop to Point Arden).

King salmon less than 28" that are harvested in the commercial drift gillnet fisheries may be retained and sold as usual. King salmon less than 28" in length and those of Alaska hatchery origin will not be counted against the Alaskan share of the allowable harvest. Processors are requested to identify the numbers of king salmon less than 28" on the fish tickets as well as the numbers of king salmon 28" or greater. Fish and Game samplers working at the processing facilities will identify hatchery-reared king salmon so those fish are not counted against the Alaskan share of the harvest.

Sockeye Salmon

Section 11-B will open for directed sockeye salmon fishing on the third Sunday in June (June 18) for a three-day fishing period. Subsequent openings will be based on inseason fishery performance and stock assessment information. The Canadian inriver gillnet fishery is allocated 18% of the total allowable catch (TAC) of wild Taku sockeye salmon originating from Canadian portions of the Taku drainage, and can harvest 20% of inriver escapements above 100,000 sockeye salmon. Harvests of sockeye salmon produced from joint U.S./Canada enhancement programs in the Taku River are to be shared equally by the two countries. The incidental harvests of coho salmon in the Canadian directed sockeye salmon fishery are allowed with directed harvests of 3,000 to 10,000 coho salmon, depending on run size.

The District 11 fishery will be managed through mid-August primarily on the basis of sockeye salmon abundance. Run strength will be evaluated using fishery catch and CPUE data and weekly inriver run size estimates derived from the Taku River fish wheel mark-recapture project operated at Canyon Island. Contribution of enhanced stocks of sockeye salmon will be estimated inseason by analysis of salmon otoliths sampled from the commercial harvests. The age and stock compositions of the harvest of wild sockeye salmon will be estimated after the fishing season by analysis of scale pattern and parasite incidence data from commercial catch samples.

The return of enhanced Port Snettisham sockeye salmon will be managed according to the Board of Fisheries' Snettisham Hatchery Management Plan. The plan provides basic guidelines for managing enhanced sockeye salmon production from Port Snettisham including the following provisions, in order of priority:

1. Sustainable production of wild sockeye salmon from Crescent and Speel Lakes;
2. Management of enhanced Snettisham sockeye salmon returns may not prevent achieving escapement goals or PST harvest sharing agreements for Taku River salmon stocks;
3. Assessment programs shall be conducted to estimate Snettisham wild sockeye salmon stock escapements and contributions of enhanced sockeye salmon to the District 11 commercial fishery;
4. Common property harvests in the Speel Arm SHA shall be conducted by limiting time and area to protect wild sockeye salmon returns.

Peak migration timing for wild Snettisham sockeye salmon through Stephens Passage is normally from mid-July through the first week in August.

Management of the fishery in Stephens Passage south of Circle Point will focus on conservation of the wild Snettisham sockeye salmon stocks, particularly in July however extended fishing time is expected in Stephens Passage south of Circle Point to harvest the return of enhanced summer chum salmon to the Limestone Inlet remote release site. ADF&G may implement a six-inch minimum mesh size restriction in Section 11-B south of Circle Point beginning in early July

to minimize the incidental harvest of wild Port Snettisham sockeye salmon during these openings. The mesh restriction in Section 11-B, if implemented, may be relaxed at the end of July or after the peak migration timing of wild Snettisham sockeye salmon stocks through Stephens Passage.

DIPAC Speel Arm Special Harvest Area

Common property fishery openings are expected to occur during August in the DIPAC Speel Arm SHA, which is located in waters of Speel Arm north of 58°03.42' N. latitude. Timing of these openings will depend on DIPAC progress toward brood stock and cost recovery goals and the sockeye salmon escapement to Speel Lake. DIPAC cost recovery efforts in the SHA during July will be limited to waters in the immediate vicinity of the hatchery where wild and hatchery stocks are well segregated.

Fishery management decisions for the Speel Arm SHA will be made jointly by ADF&G and DIPAC. As mentioned above, ADF&G and industry formalized the notification procedure for any extended fishery openings in Speel Arm.

The Southeast Alaska Drift Gillnet Task Force agreement specified:

1. That ADF&G include notice in the Southeast Alaska Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan that extended openings in Speel Arm could be expected on short notice once Speel Lake escapement goals are met;
2. That ADF&G include notice in the region wide news release on or near the end of July that extended openings in Speel Arm could be expected on short notice once Speel Lake escapement goals are met;
3. If an announcement is made for extended fishing time in Speel Arm, ADF&G shall provide a minimum of **six hours** notice from the time of the news release to the time the fishery opens.

A personal use fishery will be allowed in Sweetheart Creek to ensure enhanced returns to this site are fully utilized; Sweetheart Creek is naturally blocked to anadromous fish migration several hundred yards upstream from the mouth. The Sweetheart Creek personal use fishery will be open seven-days per week.

Pink salmon will be harvested in Section 11-B incidental to the sockeye salmon and enhanced summer chum fisheries. Fishing time for a directed pink fishery in Section 11-C will depend upon the strength of pink salmon returns in lower Stephens Passage, Seymour Canal, and the northern portions of District 10. Returns will be closely monitored and if surpluses are present, openings could occur in August.

Beginning in mid-August, management of the Taku/Snettisham gillnet fishery will be based on the run strength of coho and fall chum salmon. The Transboundary River Annex of the PST calls for the U.S. to manage its fisheries to achieve a minimum above-border run size of 38,000 coho salmon. Inseason management will be based on evaluation of the fishery catch, effort, and CPUE relative to historical levels, inriver run size estimates from the Taku River mark-recapture project, and recovery of coded wire tagged wild Taku River and hatchery coho salmon in marine fisheries. Coho salmon is the primary species managed during the fall season, but area and time restrictions may be necessary to further protect the weaker fall chum salmon returns.

In order to avoid gear conflicts, the District 11 drift gillnet fishery will not be open concurrent with the 2005 Juneau Golden North Salmon Derby (August 4-6). Consequently, during Statistical Week 32, the District 11 gillnet fishery will not open until Monday, August 7.

LYNN CANAL FISHERY

INTRODUCTION

The Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery operates in the waters of District 15. The district is divided into three regulatory sections: 15-A (upper Lynn Canal), 15-B (Berners Bay), and 15-C (lower Lynn Canal). The Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery targets sockeye, summer chum, coho, and fall chum salmon. Chinook and pink salmon are taken incidentally.

Sockeye salmon are targeted from June through early September. The primary stocks originate from Chilkat Lake, Chilkoot Lake, Berners Bay rivers, and mainstem spawning areas of the Chilkat River. Escapement goals for Chilkoot Lake and Chilkat Lake sockeye stocks were revised during the Board of Fish meetings in January. Hatchery and wild summer chum salmon are harvested from late June through early August, and fall chum and coho salmon are targeted from September through early-October. The primary fall chum salmon stocks originate in the Klehini and Chilkat rivers and the primary coho salmon stocks originate in the Chilkat and Berners Bay rivers.

Escapement goals for Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon have not changed other than this stock will no longer have separate escapement goals for the early and late run segments of this stock. Weekly escapement goals are based on the historical run timing of sockeye salmon through the Chilkoot Lake weir. Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon escapement goals are now be based on a mark-recapture program that has been in place since 1994. The mark-recapture program replaces reliance of weir counts at the outlet of Chilkat Lake to determine escapement of this stock.

The sockeye salmon run in Lynn Canal has historically been among the largest in Southeast Alaska. The coho salmon run to the Chilkat River is among the largest in northern Southeast Alaska. Currently sockeye salmon, Lynn Canal coho and fall chum salmon stocks are considered healthy. Fall chum salmon returns have improved in recent years since a decline in abundance beginning in 1989. Results from aerial escapement information and mark-recapture work, indicate improved returns of Chilkat River fall chum salmon.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Specific management goals for the 2006 Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery are as follows:

1. Obtain an escapement of between 50,000 and 90,000 sockeye salmon to Chilkoot Lake.
2. Obtain an escapement of between 80,000 and 200,000 sockeye salmon to Chilkat Lake. The escapement will be monitored in season by the lower Chilkat River fish wheel project and the final escapement will be derived post season from mark-recapture methods.
3. Manage the commercial drift gillnet fishery in a manner that is consistent with the Lynn Canal and Chilkat River king salmon fishery management plan. Obtain an escapement of between 1,750-3,500 three-ocean age and older king salmon to the Chilkat River.
4. Obtain a peak foot escapement count between 4,000 and 9,200 coho salmon to Berners River.

5. Obtain a peak index stream count for Chilkat River drainage coho salmon that corresponds to 30,000-70,000 fish.
6. Provide for sufficient chum, coho, and pink salmon spawning escapements to the Chilkat, Chilkoot, and Berners rivers and other Lynn Canal systems, while harvesting those fish in excess of escapement needs.
7. Harvest all DIPAC hatchery-produced chum salmon available in the Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area while conserving wild stock summer chum salmon migrating to streams on the western shoreline of Lynn Canal.

2006 OUTLOOK

Sockeye Salmon

The 2006 total forecast return of Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon is approximately 185,000 fish. The expected return is 90% of the 1976 to 2005 historical average of 210,000 fish. The 2006 run size of Chilkat River mainstem sockeye salmon are expected to be above average during 2006.

Escapement estimates to Chilkat Lake were within the sustainable escapement goal range for the dominant brood years (2000 and 2001) for the 2006 return. The dominant smolt years for the 2006 return (2003 and 2004), were estimated to be approximately 1.46 million fish for both years. The sockeye salmon smolt abundance estimates are similar to the historical 1996–2005 average of 1.55 million smolt. The average weight and length of age-1.0 Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon smolt in 2003 and 2004 were below average. Historically, 72% of the Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon escapements are 3-ocean age fish and the remainder are 2-ocean age fish. This information suggests a near average total return of 2 and 3-year ocean-age fish. Based on the very low total returns of 5-year old Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon in 2005 (from brood year 2000), the total return of age 2.3 (6-year old) fish is expected to be below average in 2006. Historically, the fish in this age class has a return timing that is later in the run. It is expected that late summer returns of Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon will be weak in 2006.

Mark-recapture estimates of the Chilkat River mainstem sockeye salmon escapements in 2001, 2002, and 2003, (the dominant parent-years) were 21,900 39,000, and 36,100 fish, respectively. The estimates of abundance for the 2006 returns are below the historical 1994–2005 average of 34,700 fish for brood year 2001 but above average 2002 and 2003. The dominant age classes for this run includes age-0.2 (19.9%), age-0.3 (39.1%), and age-1.3 (29.8%) fish. The proportion of age-0.2 fish from the 2005 escapement was above average indicating that the 2006 return of age-0.3 fish to the mainstem Chilkat River may be larger than average. The Lower Chilkat River fish wheel project has been providing inseason stock assessment and post-season escapement estimates of Chilkat River mainstem sockeye salmon since 1994.

Total returns of Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon in 2006 are expected to be near the long-term average of approximately 167,000 fish. The Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon weir count during the dominant parental brood year (2001) for the 2005 return was 76,300 fish. The escapement was within the desired escapement goal range for this stock. The Chilkoot River weir is used to monitor this stock inseason.

Although the 2002 fall hydroacoustic estimate was above average, zooplankton abundance was below average during 2002; the dominant brood year sockeye salmon juveniles would have been rearing in the lake. Management will be monitoring the escapements during 2006 closely and

will implement management decisions to the commercial drift gillnet salmon fishery to target escapement levels near the mid-point of the escapement goal range for Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon.

The total return of Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon in 2001 was near the 1987-2005 average. Age composition of the 2005 escapement was near average for most of the dominant age classes. Given this information, ADF&G is expecting an average return of Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon and will base management decisions for the District 15 drift gillnet fishery on inseason information.

An average run of Berners Bay sockeye salmon is expected in 2006. Escapements are monitored by aerial surveys conducted on Berners Bay streams beginning in late July. Peak aerial escapements to Berners Bay streams were above average for all brood years. The average dominant age classes for Berners Bay streams are age-0.3 (15.4%), 1.2 (13%), and age-1.3 (67.4%). Age compositions of 2-ocean age fish in the 2005 escapement were near the historical average indicating an average predicted return of 3-ocean age (dominant) fish in 2006. The 2002 and 2003 commercial harvest of Berners Bay and Chilkat River mainstem sockeye salmon was estimated at 10,500 and 12,600 fish respectively. This harvest was below but close to the historic 1976–2005 average harvest of 14,400 fish.

Summer Chum Salmon

The majority of the summer chum salmon harvest is comprised of hatchery fish from remote release sites at Boat Harbor and Amalga Harbor in section 15-C. Smaller numbers of wild chum salmon are produced from local area streams such as Sawmill Creek and Berners Bay streams on the eastern side of Lynn Canal. The Endicott, Beardslee, and St. James rivers located on the western side of Lynn Canal are also important wild chum salmon producers. These stocks are important contributors to the wild summer chum salmon harvest in the lower Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery.

Projections for the Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area in 2006 are approximately 192,000 fish. This is an increase compared to the actual total return in 2005 and 1.4 times the 1991–2005 average. The preseason projection for the Amalga Harbor project is approximately 1.33 million fish, 1.3 times the 1994–2005 average of 1.04 million fish.

Peak aerial escapement counts of summer chum salmon in Sawmill Creek in 2002, 2003, and 2004 were 720, 399, and 550 fish respectively. The peak aerial escapements are well below the 1995–2005 average for this index system for all brood years. Cumulative peak counts of chum salmon in western Lynn Canal streams for the same brood years were 7,100, 8,600, and 27,100 fish respectively. All peak counts conducted during these brood years were near or exceeded the prior-ten-year average. Based on parental-year escapement counts, the wild summer chum salmon return in 2006 should be average to above average in run strength but at a much lower scale than the hatchery summer chum salmon return.

Fall Chum Salmon

The 2006 return of the Chilkat River drainage fall chum salmon stock is expected to be average. For the Chilkat River, the peak aerial survey counts were 3,200 and 63,300 fish (2001 and 2002), well below the peak aerial escapement count average of 22,800 for the year 2001 but well above this average in brood year 2002. Peak aerial counts in the Klehini River were 1,500 and 1,600 fish respectively, well below average for this system. The total drainage wide estimated

escapement in 2002 based on mark-recapture methods was 206,000 chum salmon. This estimate is near the 2002-2005 average mark-recapture estimate of 221,000 fish.

The fishery performance in the dominant parental brood years (2001 and 2002) was slightly below the 10-year average. Escapements of Chilkat River fall chum salmon since 1999 have improved and management strategies designed to reduce harvests of these stocks have been effective. Fish wheel catch, mark-recapture estimates and aerial escapement surveys have indicated an increasing trend in escapement since 1999.

Coho Salmon

The Lynn Canal coho salmon return is expected to be slightly above average during 2006. Coho salmon systems in the area include the Chilkat River, Berners River and Chilkoot River. Parent-year survey counts at the Chilkat River tributaries and Chilkoot River drainage were generally above the ten-year average. The 2002 mark-recapture estimate for Chilkat River drainage coho salmon was 209,300, the highest estimate on record. The 2002 and 2003 escapements to Berners Bay were well above the escapement goal range of 4,000 to 9,200 fish.

Sport Fish Division has been conducting coho salmon smolt coded wire-tagging (CWT) studies on the Chilkat River to estimate smolt size, age structure, and production of coho salmon smolts since 1999. The 2005 trap CPUE of coho smolt of 8.6 smolt/trap-day was near the 1999-2005 average of 7.7 fish/trap-day. The 2002 and 2003 Chilkat River fish wheel catch of 5,090 and 5,300 coho exceeded the 1994-2005 average for both years. The District 15 gillnet catch of 78,000 coho salmon in 2002 and 57,100 in 2003 was well above the previous ten-year average for both brood years. This data suggests an above average coho salmon return in 2006.

Chinook Salmon

The 2006 preseason forecast for mature (\geq age 1.3) Chilkat River Chinook salmon is estimated to be near the upper range of the biological escapement goal range of 1,750-3,600 fish.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 2006, ADF&G intends to manage the summer Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery to obtain the mid-points of the escapement goal ranges for early and late stocks of Chilkoot Lake and Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon. The department intends to manage the fishery to minimize harvest of wild stock summer chum salmon while harvesting expected large returns of hatchery chum salmon. The fall Lynn Canal drift gillnet fishery will be managed to conserve Klehini River (early-run) fall chum salmon while providing opportunity to harvest Chilkat River fall chum and coho salmon.

Section 15-A

Section 15-A will open for two days south of the latitude of Seduction Point beginning 12:01 PM Sunday June 18 (Statistical Week 26) with no mesh restriction. If the Chilkoot River weir count through June 15 is less than 2,500 sockeye salmon, the eastern side of Section 15-A will be closed. If the weir count is 2,500 sockeye salmon or greater on June 15, the eastern portion of 15-A may be opened. During the first three weeks of the season, Chilkat Inlet will be managed in accordance to the Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan. The first week of the season, Chilkat Inlet will be closed north of the latitude of Seduction Point. In week 27, Chilkat Inlet will be open south of the latitude of Glacier Point. In week 28, Chilkat Inlet may be open south of the latitude of Cannery Point depending on the strength of the Chilkat Lake sockeye

salmon return. It is likely that the northern boundary line in Chilkat Inlet will remain at Cannery Point for the remainder of the summer season if escapements of Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon are projected to be within the desired goal range. If the Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon return is strong, all of Section 15-A south of the latitude of Seduction point may be opened during the fourth week of the season for 2 or 3 days. Since ADF&G is forecasting an average return of sockeye salmon to both sockeye producing systems, openings will be dictated by the results of various in season stock assessment programs operating on the Chilkat and Chilkoot River drainages. Additional fishing opportunity in Chilkoot Inlet north of the latitude of Mud Bay Point for 2 or 3 days each in weeks 31 through 37 may be possible if the Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon return is as strong as expected. If the inseason information system indicates that the Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon return is not forecasted to meet minimum escapement goals, limits in time and area of Section 15-A will be implemented until the department can project sockeye escapement within desired goal ranges. Data from the Chilkat River fish wheel mark-recapture program will be used to judge run strength inseason and escapement levels post season.

Fall fishery management in Section 15-A will begin from week 35 until the end of the season. As in recent years, the northern boundary line in Section 15-A will move southward in stages as the coho and fall chum stocks begin to migrate back to parental streams. Depending on effort levels, and coho and chum salmon run strength, fishing opportunity in Section 15-A may be similar to openings in 2005.

Section 15-B

Based on inseason information for coho salmon to Berners Bay, Section 15-B may be opened from week 38 to the end of the season south of the latitude of Cove Point for 2 or 3 days each. Inseason information collected from coded wire tag recoveries and commercial harvest from various gear types will provide the data to manage fishing opportunity in Section 15-B.

Section 15-C

Section 15-C will open for two days beginning 12:01 PM Sunday, June 18 with no mesh restriction. If the Chilkoot River weir count is less than 2,500 sockeye salmon through June 15, the eastern side of Section 15-C will be closed north of the latitude of Bridget Point (excluding the Boat Harbor area).

Due to the expected average returns of Chilkat and Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon, open fishing time in Section 15-C will be limited to 2 or 3 days (except for the Boat Harbor area). If inseason projections for the Chilkat and Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon returns are below the escapement goal range, it is possible that additional time, area and gear restrictions be placed in Section 15-C during the summer season to boost escapement of sockeye salmon at desired levels.

If sockeye salmon escapements fall short of inseason escapement objectives, openings of the small area in eastern Section 15-C defined as: the waters of Section 15-C from the eastern shoreline of Lynn Canal at the latitude of Vanderbilt Reef Light to Vanderbilt Reef Light and east of a line from Vanderbilt Reef Light to Little Island Light, may occur on the 3rd or 4th day of each opening during peak weeks (statistical weeks 27 through 31) of the hatchery chum salmon return. This strategy will be used to provide opportunity to harvest summer chum salmon while reducing the harvest of sockeye salmon migrating through Section 15-C. The decision to use this strategy will be considered inseason based on Chilkat River fish wheel counts, Chilkat Lake weir counts and results from site-specific sampling of the commercial fishery.

The Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area (THA) will be opened for extended periods beginning in week 28, (July 2). The Boat Harbor THA is defined as: those waters within two nautical miles of the western shoreline of Lynn Canal south of the latitude of Danger Point at 58°41.73' N. latitude and north of a point 2.4 miles north of Point Whidbey at 58°37.05' N. latitude. The northern line of the Boat Harbor area will remain at the latitude of Danger Point through week 31. The purpose of this change in area is to decrease the harvest rate on wild Endicott River and other western Lynn Canal wild chum salmon stocks that migrate through this area during the early summer season when large returns of hatchery chum salmon are present. This action has been in place for the last four seasons. Escapements of wild chum salmon to the Endicott River have improved because of this action.

The section within the Boat Harbor area west of a line from the entrance to the Boat Harbor proper area will be opened continuously beginning the first week of the season. This strategy will be used to harvest expected large returns of hatchery chum salmon without any risk to wild salmon stocks outside of this area.

Fall season management will begin in late August or early September in Section 15-C. Management of Section 15-C during the fall season will be based on coho and chum salmon overall run strength and fishing effort levels. Commercial fishing effort will be directed at harvesting coho salmon in Section 15-C while conserving the harvest of early run fall chum salmon. Fishing time will be limited from 2 to 3 days each, beginning in statistical week 34.

In order to avoid gear conflicts, the District 11 drift gillnet fishery will not be open concurrent with the 2006 Juneau Golden North Salmon Derby (August 4-6). Consequently, during Statistical Week 32, the District 11 gillnet fishery will not open until Monday, August 7.

As in previous years, ADF&G's management crews, as part of the marine fishery performance project, will be on the fishing grounds during commercial fishing periods to sample sockeye and Chinook salmon and to monitor the fishery during each opening. ADF&G requests that commercially caught sockeye and king salmon are retained in separate fish holds or totes so department staff can collect scale and length data from salmon while on the grounds monitoring the fishery. The sockeye salmon scale samples that are collected from the commercial gillnet fishery form the basis of our stock separation analysis and is a very important part of the management of this fishery. ADF&G vessels stand by on channel 10 VHF when on the fishing grounds.

TERMINAL HATCHERY FISHERIES

For the 2006 season, drift gillnet terminal area fisheries can be expected in Deep Inlet, Neets Bay, Nakat Inlet, Anita Bay, Speel Arm, and Boat Harbor to harvest salmon returning to DIPAC, NSRAA, and SSRAA enhancement facilities.

NORTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION TERMINAL AREA FISHERIES

The terminal hatchery fishery at Deep Inlet will be managed jointly with NSRAA and according to Board of Fisheries management plans. The open gillnet fishing times and any modifications of the terminal fishing area will be announced by ADF&G news releases prior to, and during, the fishing season.

Terminal Area–Deep Inlet [5 AAC 33.376]

NSRAA expects a return of 1,822,000 chum salmon to the Deep Inlet remote release site and the Medvejie Hatchery in 2006. Cost recovery and broodstock goals for the Deep Inlet returns are 340,000 fish and 55,000 fish respectively, allowing for a common property harvest of approximately 1,427,000 chum salmon by purse seine, drift gillnet, and troll gear. Actual numbers of chum salmon harvested for cost recovery will be adjusted to achieve a total weight of 2.72 million pounds. The majority of the common property harvest can be expected to occur in the Deep Inlet THA by drift gillnet and purse seine gear, but some harvest is likely outside the THA by troll and purse seine gear as well.

The Deep Inlet THA fishery will be managed jointly with NSRAA, and in accordance with the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Management Plan (5 AAC 33.376). The plan provides for the distribution of the harvest of hatchery-produced salmon between the purse seine and drift gillnet fleets. The ratio of gillnet fishing time to purse seine fishing time will be 2:1. Additionally, the Board of Fisheries has allowed trolling to occur when net fisheries are closed and when trolling does not interfere with cost recovery.

The NSRAA board has requested that the common property rotational fishery begin April 30 in order to provide for additional common property harvest of king salmon returning to the Medvejie Hatchery. NSRAA expects a return of 22,400 Chinook salmon to Medvejie Hatchery in 2006. THA rotational gear fisheries are scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 30 and continue through July 1 with four days of gillnet and two days of seine per week.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries during its January 2006 meeting has adopted a regulation which allow ADF&G to require that commercial gillnets fished in the Deep Inlet THA prior to July 1 have a minimum mesh size of six inches. In 2006, drift gillnet fishermen will be required to fish with a minimum mesh size of 6 inches prior to June 21. The purpose of the minimum mesh restriction is to reduce the harvest of local wild sockeye salmon returning to Silver Bay that are passing through the Deep Inlet THA. The Board of Fish also closed a portion of the terminal harvest area, during the period May 1-21, the western boundary of the THA from Long Island to the Baranof Island shoreline will be moved eastward to 135° 21.52' W. longitude to exclude a small area traditionally used by trollers during that period.

The NSRAA Board decided at their March meeting in Sitka that cost recovery fishing will begin around July 1. THA openings during the periods July 2-22 and August 6-19, will be on a single rotation, of 2 days for gillnet and 1 day for seine per week, and area within Deep Inlet would be closed in order to help achieve the season's cost recovery goal, and to reach 50% of the cost recovery goal by August 1. Cost recovery in the Deep Inlet THA is scheduled to take a two-week break beginning about July 22, due to historically slow cost recovery harvest during this period. During this period, inner Deep Inlet will be re-opened to commercial fishing and fishing will return to the double rotation. NSRAA plans to resume cost recovery harvest activities on August 6. The THA rotational schedule will change to two days of seine and four days of gillnet once NSRAA has reached or is close to reaching the cost recovery goal for the season. The change in schedule is expected to occur sometime during the mid-August period of peak returns. The NSRAA board has directed NSRAA staff to manage cost recovery fishing in-season in order to achieve the cost recovery goal. A portion of Deep Inlet southwest of a line from 56°58.50' N. latitude, 135°16.50' W. longitude to 56°58.35' N. latitude, 135°17.10' W longitude will be closed beginning July 2 until cost recovery goals can be met.

Table 2.–The following rotational fishing schedule will be in effect for the 2006 season.

ROTATION	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DOUBLE	30-Apr Seine	1-May Gillnet	2-May Gillnet	3-May Seine	4-May Troll	5-May Gillnet	6-May Gillnet
DOUBLE	7-May Seine	8-May Gillnet	9-May Gillnet	10-May Troll	11-May Seine	12-May Gillnet	13-May Gillnet
DOUBLE	14-May Seine	15-May Gillnet	16-May Gillnet	17-May Troll	18-May Seine	19-May Gillnet	20-May Gillnet
DOUBLE	21-May Seine	22-May Gillnet	23-May Gillnet	24-May Troll	25-May Seine	26-May Gillnet	27-May Gillnet
DOUBLE	28-May Seine	29-May Gillnet	30-May Gillnet	31-May Seine	1-Jun Troll	2-Jun Gillnet	3-Jun Gillnet
DOUBLE	4-Jun Seine	5-Jun Gillnet	6-Jun Gillnet	7-Jun Troll	8-Jun Seine	9-Jun Gillnet	10-Jun Gillnet
DOUBLE	11-Jun Seine	12-Jun Gillnet	13-Jun Gillnet	14-Jun Seine	15-Jun Troll	16-Jun Gillnet	17-Jun Gillnet
DOUBLE	18-Jun Seine	19-Jun Gillnet	20-Jun Gillnet	21-Jun Troll	22-Jun Seine	23-Jun Gillnet	24-Jun Gillnet
DOUBLE	25-Jun Seine	26-Jun Gillnet	27-Jun Gillnet	28-Jun Seine	29-Jun CR/*Troll	30-Jun Gillnet	1-Jul Gillnet
SINGLE	2-Jul Seine	3-Jul CR/*Troll	4-Jul CR/*Troll	5-Jul Gillnet	6-Jul Gillnet	7-Jul CR/*Troll	8-Jul CR/*Troll
SINGLE	9-Jul Seine	10-Jul CR/*Troll	11-Jul CR/*Troll	12-Jul Gillnet	13-Jul Gillnet	14-Jul CR/*Troll	15-Jul CR/*Troll
SINGLE	16-Jul Seine	17-Jul CR/*Troll	18-Jul CR/*Troll	19-Jul Gillnet	20-Jul Gillnet	21-Jul CR/*Troll	22-Jul CR/*Troll
DOUBLE	23-Jul Seine	24-Jul Gillnet	25-Jul Gillnet	26-Jul Seine	27-Jul CR/*Troll	28-Jul Gillnet	29-Jul Gillnet
DOUBLE	30-Jul Seine	31-Jul Gillnet	1-Aug Gillnet	2-Aug CR/*Troll	3-Aug Seine	4-Aug Gillnet	5-Aug Gillnet
SINGLE	6-Aug Seine	7-Aug CR/*Troll	8-Aug CR/*Troll	9-Aug Gillnet	10-Aug Gillnet	11-Aug CR/*Troll	12-Aug CR/*Troll
SINGLE	13-Aug Seine	14-Aug CR/*Troll	15-Aug CR/*Troll	16-Aug Gillnet	17-Aug Gillnet	18-Aug CR/*Troll	19-Aug CR/*Troll
Double (Possibly Single)	20-Aug Seine	21-Aug Gillnet	22-Aug Gillnet	23-Aug Seine	24-Aug CR/*Troll	25-Aug Gillnet	26-Aug Gillnet
DOUBLE	27-Aug Seine	28-Aug Gillnet	29-Aug Gillnet	30-Aug CR/*Troll	31-Aug Seine	1-Sep Gillnet	2-Sep Gillnet
DOUBLE	3-Sep Seine	4-Sep Gillnet	5-Sep Gillnet	6-Sep Seine	7-Sep CR/*Troll	8-Sep Gillnet	9-Sep Gillnet
DOUBLE	10-Sep Seine	11-Sep Gillnet	12-Sep Gillnet	13-Sep CR/*Troll	14-Sep Seine	15-Sep Gillnet	16-Sep Gillnet
DOUBLE	17-Sep Seine	18-Sep Gillnet	19-Sep Gillnet	20-Sep Seine	21-Sep CR/*Troll	22-Sep Gillnet	23-Sep Gillnet
DOUBLE	24-Sep Seine	25-Sep Gillnet	26-Sep Gillnet	27-Sep CR/*Troll	28-Sep Seine	29-Sep Gillnet	30-Sep Gillnet

Table provided by NSRAA

The schedule indicated above is subject to in-season adjustments to ensure that NSRAA cost recovery remains on schedule and the seasonal cost recovery goal is achieved. The rotational fishery schedule will be announced in ADF&G News Releases prior to and during the season.

The Deep Inlet THA is described as follows:

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: all waters of Sandy Cove and Leesofskaia Bay will be closed.

During the period May 1 - 21 the waters of the Deep Inlet THA west of 135° 21.52' W Longitude will be closed.

Cost recovery management is planned such that NSRAA may conduct cost recovery in the Deep Inlet Special Harvest Area (SHA) and in the Silver Bay SHA. The Silver Bay SHA is expanded to include the waters of Eastern Channel and Silver Bay enclosed by a line from Entry Point Light, to the southernmost tip of Harris Island, to the southernmost tip of Galankin Island, to Simpson Rock Light, to the southernmost tip of Makhnati Island, to Sentinel Rock, to the westernmost tip of Cape Burunof, to a point west of Pirates Cove at 135° 59.35' N. lat., to the westernmost tip of Long Island, to the westernmost tip of Emgeten Island, to the westernmost tip of Error Island, to the northernmost tip of Luce Island, and to the westernmost tip of Silver Point; through July 22 and after 12:01 AM the day before the troll coho salmon fishery is reopened in August. The Silver Bay SHA, from July 22 to 12:01 AM the day before the end of August coho salmon fishery closure, includes the waters of Eastern Channel and Silver Bay south of a line from Entry Point Light to the southernmost tip of Harris Island, to the southernmost tip of Galankin Island, and east of a line from Galankin Island to the northernmost point of Silver Point; and the waters of Sitka Sound enclosed by a line from the southernmost tip of Galankin Island, to Simpson Rock light, to the Makhnati Island buoy, to Black Rock, to the southernmost tip of Neva Island to the northernmost tip of Sasendi Island, from the southernmost tip of Volga Island , to the northernmost tip of Galankin Island. In addition, the Deep Inlet SHA is expanded to include the waters east of a line from the westernmost end of cape Burunoff at 56°59.04' N Latitude, 135°23.23' W Longitude to a point west of Cape Burunoff at 56° 59.11' N Latitude, 135° 23.59' W. Longitude to 57° 00.17' N Latitude, 135° 22.69' W. Longitude to the westernmost tip of Long Island.

From July 2 and until cost recovery goals are assured of being met, portions of Deep Inlet southwest of a line from 56°58.50' N. latitude, 135°16.50 W. longitude to 56°58.35 N. latitude, 135°17.10 W longitude will be closed to provide an area for cost recovery.

In order to promote full utilization of salmon, to prevent waste of salmon, to determine harvest patterns of incidentally harvested coho and sockeye salmon, and to allow full and accurate reporting of returns, the Deep Inlet THA fishery will be managed in 2006 by emergency order under authority of 5 AAC 39.325 FULL RETENTION AND UTILIZATION OF SALMON. This requires that all salmon harvested in net fisheries are retained, utilized, and reported on fish tickets whether they are sold or retained for personal use.

During the 2006 season, the boundaries of the Deep Inlet THA may be changed by Emergency Order to help resolve conflicts between fishers and local private landowners, in the area, if they occur. Conflicts can be avoided by reducing boat wakes in areas near private docks, by reducing excessive noise and lights prior to openings, and by anchoring well away from private residences.

In early September, the Deep Inlet THA boundaries may be adjusted by ADF&G to reduce interception of wild coho salmon returning to Salmon Lake or hatchery coho salmon returning to Medvejie Hatchery needed for broodstock. THA boundary adjustments to protect coho salmon will be based on historic run timing and inseason observations of abundance. Since voluntary compliance with reporting of coho salmon in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area fishery has in the past been poor and the department needs detailed information on coho and sockeye salmon harvest patterns, personnel from the department or Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement may board some vessels and conduct hold inspections to ensure compliance, as well as to sample marked coho for coded wire tags.

SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION TERMINAL AREA FISHERIES

The terminal hatchery fisheries at Neets Bay, Nakat Inlet, and Anita Bay will be managed jointly with SSRAA and according to Board of Fisheries management plans. The open drift gillnet fishing times listed here were agreed upon by the SSRAA Board of Directors but are subject to change if necessary. Any changes to these schedules will be announced via news releases prior to, and during, the fishing season.

Terminal Area – Neets Bay [5 AAC 33.370]

From May 15 through August 15 the Neets Bay THA shall include those waters of Neets Bay east of the longitude of the easternmost point of Bug Island to the closed waters at the head of the bay. From the second Sunday in June through the third Sunday in July, the Neets Bay THA shall include those waters of Neets Bay east of the longitude of Chin Point to the closed waters at the head of the bay. After the third Sunday in July, the Neets Bay THA consists of those waters east of the longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island to the closed waters at the head of the bay.

In 2006, SSRAA is expecting a total return of 1,094,500 million summer chum, 197,200 fall chum, 150,000 coho, and 11,500 Chinook salmon to return to Neets Bay.

The fisheries in Neets Bay will be opened by ADF&G via emergency order in consultation with SSRAA. The Neets Bay fishery will be a rotational fishery according to 5 AAC 33.370 and the gillnet fisheries will open according to the following schedule:

May: The Neets Bay fishery will open May 15 beginning at 12:01 AM and ending at 11:59 PM May 31. During this time the fishery will be open concurrently to drift gillnet, purse seine, and troll gear unless closed by emergency order.

The remaining openings for the Neets Bay gillnet fishery follow in Table 3.

Table 3.—Neets Bay gillnet fishery openings schedule, June 1 through October 12.

Month	Neets Bay Gillnet Start Date/Time	End Date/Time
June	June 1 (Thursday) NOON	through June 3 (Saturday) NOON
	June 6 (Tuesday) NOON	through June 8 (Thursday) NOON
	June 11 (Sunday) NOON	through June 13 (Tuesday) NOON
	June 16 (Friday) NOON	through June 18 (Sunday) NOON
September	September 25 (Monday) NOON	through September 27 (Wednesday) NOON
	September 30 (Saturday) NOON	through October 2 (Monday) NOON
October	October 5 (Thursday) NOON	through October 7 (Saturday) NOON
	October 10 (Tuesday) NOON	through October 12 (Thursday) NOON

Effective 12:01 AM Sunday, October 15, 2006 the Neets Bay terminal harvest area will be open to the harvest of salmon concurrently by drift gillnet, purse seine, and troll gear. The Neets Bay Terminal Harvest Area will close for the season at 11:59 PM Tuesday, November 14, 2006.

Terminal Area—Nakat Inlet [5 AAC 33.372]

The Nakat Inlet drift gillnet fishing area includes the waters of Nakat Inlet between 54°50' N. latitude and 54°56' N. latitude. In 2006, approximately 264,650 summer chum, 104,700 fall chum, and 14,000 coho salmon are expected to return to Nakat Inlet. Peak chum salmon catches from these releases are expected between mid-July to mid-August for summer chum and late August to early September for fall chum and coho salmon.

The fisheries in Nakat Inlet will be opened by ADF&G via emergency order in consultation with SSRAA. The Nakat Inlet fishery will be a rotational fishery according to 5 AAC 33.372 and the gillnet fisheries will open according to the following schedule (Table 4).

Table 4.—Nakat Inlet gillnet fishery openings schedule.

Month	Nakat Inlet Gillnet Start Date/Time	End Date/Time
June	June 1 (Thursday) NOON	through June 2 (Friday) NOON
	June 4 (Sunday) NOON	through June 5 (Monday) NOON
	June 7 (Wednesday) NOON	through June 8 (Thursday) NOON
	June 10 (Saturday) NOON	through June 11 (Sunday) NOON
	June 13 (Tuesday) NOON	through June 14 (Wednesday) NOON
	June 16 (Friday) NOON	through June 17 (Saturday) NOON
	June 19 (Monday) NOON	through June 20 (Tuesday) NOON

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Month	Nakat Inlet Gillnet Start Date/Time	
	June 22 (Thursday) NOON	through June 23 (Friday) NOON
	June 25 (Sunday) NOON	through June 26 (Monday) NOON
	June 28 (Wednesday) NOON	through June 29 (Thursday) NOON
July	July 1 (Saturday) NOON	through July 2 (Sunday) NOON
	July 4 (Tuesday) NOON	through July 5 (Wednesday) NOON
	July 7 (Friday) NOON	through July 8 (Saturday) NOON
	July 10 (Monday) NOON	through July 11 (Tuesday) NOON
	July 13 (Thursday) NOON	through July 14 (Friday) NOON
	July 16 (Sunday) NOON	through July 17 (Monday) NOON
	July 19 (Wednesday) NOON	through July 20 (Thursday) NOON
	July 22 (Saturday) NOON	through July 23 (Sunday) NOON
	July 25 (Tuesday) NOON	through July 26 (Wednesday) NOON
	July 28 (Friday) NOON	through July 29 (Saturday) NOON
	July 31 (Monday) NOON	through August 1 (Tuesday) NOON
August	August 3 (Thursday) NOON	through August 4 (Friday) NOON
	August 6 (Sunday) NOON	through August 7 (Monday) NOON
	August 9 (Wednesday) NOON	through August 10 (Thursday) NOON
	August 12 (Saturday) NOON	through August 13 (Sunday) NOON
	August 15 (Tuesday) NOON	through August 16 (Wednesday) NOON
	August 18 (Friday) NOON	through August 19 (Saturday) NOON
	August 21 (Monday) NOON	through August 22 (Tuesday) NOON
	August 24 (Thursday) NOON	through August 25 (Friday) NOON
	August 27 (Sunday) NOON	through August 28 (Monday) NOON
	August 30 (Friday) NOON	through August 31 (Thursday) NOON
September	September 2 (Saturday) NOON	through September 3 (Sunday) NOON
	September 5 (Tuesday) NOON	through September 6 (Wednesday) NOON
	September 8 (Friday) NOON	through September 9 (Saturday) NOON
	September 11 (Monday) NOON	through September 12 (Tuesday) NOON
	September 14 (Thursday) NOON	through September 15 (Friday) NOON

Beginning 12:01 AM Sunday, September 17, 2006, the Nakat Inlet SHA will be open to the harvesting of salmon concurrently by drift gillnet, purse seine, and troll gear. The Nakat Inlet THA will close for the season at 12:00 NOON Friday, November 10, 2006.

Terminal Area—Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough [5 AAC 33.381]

The projected Crystal Lake Chinook salmon total return is 8,500 adults. In the Wrangell Narrows (District 6) terminal area, around 5,200 may be expected. Under provisions of the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan the commercial fishery will be open to harvest 50% of the projected terminal return over 4,000 fish. Fish designated for commercial harvest in 2006 will be available for commercial troll catch in the terminal area. No terminal gillnet fishery will occur in 2006.

The total Crystal Lake Hatchery coho salmon return is expected to be 6,000; of that, an estimated 2,500 fish will be available for sport and commercial harvest in the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough area. No commercial gillnet fishery is expected on these fish in 2006.

Terminal Area—Anita Bay [5 AAC 33.383]

The Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area consists of the waters of Anita Bay west of a line from Anita Point to 56° 14.26' N. latitude 132° 23.92' W. longitude.

In 2006, approximately 310,000 summer chum, 3,600 Chinook and 15,000 coho salmon are expected to be returning in total. Based on very rough assumptions of returns to the terminal area, it is anticipated that approximately 155,000 chum, 600 Chinook and 1,500 coho will be available for harvesting in the rotational fisheries. The SSRAA Board of Directors adopted the following drift gillnet fishing schedule for Anita Bay THA in 2006:

May: May 1 beginning at 12:01 AM through June 1, 11:59 PM open to troll, purse seine and drift gillnet gears concurrently and continuously, unless closed by emergency order.

The remaining openings for the Anita Bay gillnet fishery follow in Table 5.

Table 5.—Anita Bay gillnet fishery openings schedule, June 4 through October 9.

Month	Anita Bay Gillnet Start Date/Time	End Date/Time
June	June 4 (Sunday) NOON	through June 6 (Tuesday) NOON
	June 9 (Thursday) NOON	through June 11 (Sunday) NOON
	June 14 (Wednesday) NOON	through June 16 (Thursday) NOON
	June 19 (Monday) NOON	through June 21 (Wednesday) NOON
	June 24 (Saturday) NOON	through June 26 (Monday) NOON
	June 29 (Thursday) NOON	through July 1 (Saturday) NOON
July	July 4 (Tuesday) NOON	through July 6 (Thursday) NOON
	July 9 (Sunday) NOON	through July 11 (Tuesday) NOON
	July 14 (Friday) NOON	through July 16 (Sunday) NOON
	July 19 (Wednesday) NOON	through July 21 (Friday) NOON
	July 24 (Monday) NOON	through July 26 (Wednesday) NOON
	July 29 (Saturday) NOON	through July 31 (Monday) NOON

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Table 5.–Page 2 of 2.

Month	Anita Bay Gillnet Start Date/Time	End Date/Time
August	August 3 (Thursday) NOON	through August 5 (Saturday) NOON
	August 8 (Monday) NOON	through August 10 (Thursday) NOON
	August 13 (Sunday) NOON	through August 15 (Tuesday) NOON
	August 18 (Friday) NOON	through August 20 (Sunday) NOON
	August 23 (Wednesday) NOON	through August 25 (Friday) NOON
	August 28 (Monday) NOON	through August 30 (Wednesday) NOON
September	September 2 (Saturday) NOON	through September 4 (Monday) NOON
	September 7 (Thursday) NOON	through September 9 (Saturday) NOON
	September 12 (Tuesday) NOON	through September 14 (Thursday) NOON
	September 17 (Sunday) NOON	through September 19 (Tuesday) NOON
	September 22 (Friday) NOON	through September 24 (Sunday) NOON
	September 27 (Wednesday) NOON	through September 29 (Friday) NOON
October	October 2 (Monday) NOON	through October 4 (Wednesday) NOON
	October 7 (Saturday) NOON	through October 9 (Monday) NOON

Beginning 12:01 AM Thursday, October 12, 2005, the Anita Bay THA will be open to the harvesting of salmon concurrently by drift gillnet, purse seine, and troll gear. The Anita Bay THA will close for the season at 12:00 NOON Thursday, November 10, 2005

DOUGLAS ISLAND PINK AND CHUM INC. TERMINAL AREA FISHERIES

Terminal Area–Boat Harbor

Projections for the Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area in 2006 are approximately 192,000 fish. This is an increase compared to the actual total return in 2005 and 1.4 times the 1991–2005 average. The preseason 2006 projection for the Amalga Harbor project is approximately 1.33 million fish, 1.3 times the 1994–2005 average of 1.04 million fish.

The Boat Harbor THA will be open for extended periods of time beginning July 2. The Boat Harbor THA is defined as: those waters within two nautical miles of the western shoreline of Lynn Canal south of the latitude of Danger Point at 58°41.73' N. latitude and north of a point 2.4 miles north of Point Whidbey at 58°37.05' N. latitude. The northern line of the Boat Harbor area will remain at the latitude of Danger Point through July 29. The specific area within Boat Harbor proper will be open continuously from the start of the season until closed.

Special Harvest Area–Speel Arm

The forecast total return of Snettisham Hatchery sockeye salmon in 2006 is 265,000 fish. This is similar to last year's total return of approximately 200,500 fish. This return will be principally

harvested in the traditional District 11 commercial gillnet fishery. Common property fishery openings are also expected to occur during August in the DIPAC Speel Arm SHA, which is located in waters of Speel Arm north of 58°03.42' N. latitude. Timing of openings in the SHA will depend on DIPACs progress toward brood stock and cost recovery goals and the sockeye salmon escapement to Speel Lake. DIPAC cost recovery efforts in the SHA during July will be limited to waters in the immediate vicinity of the hatchery where wild and hatchery stocks are well segregated. Fishery management decisions for the Speel Arm SHA will be made jointly by ADF&G and DIPAC.

FISHERY CONTACTS

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

Scott Kelley
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P.O. Box 240020
Douglas, AK 99824
(907) 465-4250

William Davidson
Region 1 Management Coordinator
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-6688

Kevin Monagle or Dave Harris
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(907) 465-4205

Phil Doherty, Bo Meredith, or Justin Breese
Area Management Biologists
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Petersburg, AK 99833
(907) 772-3801

Randy Bachman
Area Management Biologist
P.O. Box 330
Haines, AK 99827
(907) 766-2830

Scott Forbes
Assistant Area Management Biologist
P.O. Box 200
Wrangell, AK 99929
(907) 874-3822

The following is a list of telephone numbers that may be called during the gillnet fishing season to obtain recorded announcements concerning areas open to gillnet fishing:

Ketchikan: (907) 225-6870
Petersburg: (907) 772-3700
Juneau: (907) 465-8905
Haines: (907) 766-2830