
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
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Date: April 7, 2016
Time: 2:00 p.m.

DEEP INLET TERMINAL HARVEST AREA FISHERIES ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka...The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information in cooperation with the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) concerning common property net and troll fisheries in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area (THA).

The Alaska Board of Fisheries, during its March 2015 meeting, passed regulations requiring the time ratio for gillnet openings to seine openings as 2:1 for the 2015–2017 seasons; except from the third Sunday in June through statistical week 30, the time ratio for gillnet openings to seine openings is 1:1. However, if the postseason preliminary enhanced salmon harvest value data from the previous season indicates the seine gear group is within its enhanced salmon allocation percentage range, based on the five-year rolling average as described in 5 AAC 33.364, the time ratio for gillnet openings to seine openings is 2:1 for the entire season

The Deep Inlet THA is scheduled to open beginning May 29, 2016. This season, NSRAA is projecting a total return of 31,200 Chinook salmon, 62,000 coho salmon, and 1,782,000 chum salmon to the Medvejie Hatchery and Deep Inlet THA. This season, 90,000 chum salmon are needed for broodstock, and up to 400,000 chum salmon are needed for cost recovery, depending on price. NSRAA anticipates a closure of the THA, in early August, will be necessary to complete cost recovery needs.

The following rotation schedule will be in effect through October 1, 2016, unless changed by a subsequent announcement:

Seine:

- From May 29 through June 18, the purse seine fishery will be open from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Sunday and Wednesday of each week.
- From June 19 through July 23, the purse seine fishery will be open from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Sunday, Thursday, and Friday of each week.
- From July 24 through August 13, the purse seine fishery will be open from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Sunday and Wednesday of each week.
- From August 14 through October 1, the purse seine fishery will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday and Wednesday of each week.

Gillnet:

- From May 29 through June 18, the drift gillnet fishery will be open from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week.

- From June 19 through July 23, the drift gillnet fishery will be open from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of each week.
- From July 24 through August 13, the drift gillnet fishery will be open from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week.
- From August 14 through October 1, the drift gillnet fishery will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week.

Troll: The troll fishery is open during periods the net fisheries are closed including:

- From May 29 through October 1, the troll fishery will be open from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., Saturday of each week.

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 56°59.35' N. latitude, 135°22.63' W. longitude 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 57°00.30' N. latitude, 135°17.67' W. longitude to a point on the southern side of the unnamed island at 57°00.08' N. latitude, 135°16.78' W. longitude and then to a point on the Baranof Island Shore at 56°59.93' N. latitude, 135°16.53' W. longitude with the following restrictions:

Sandy Cove: all waters will be closed.

The Deep Inlet THA west of 135°20.75' W. longitude will be closed to purse seine and drift gillnet gear beginning with the first emergency order of the season through the third Saturday in June.

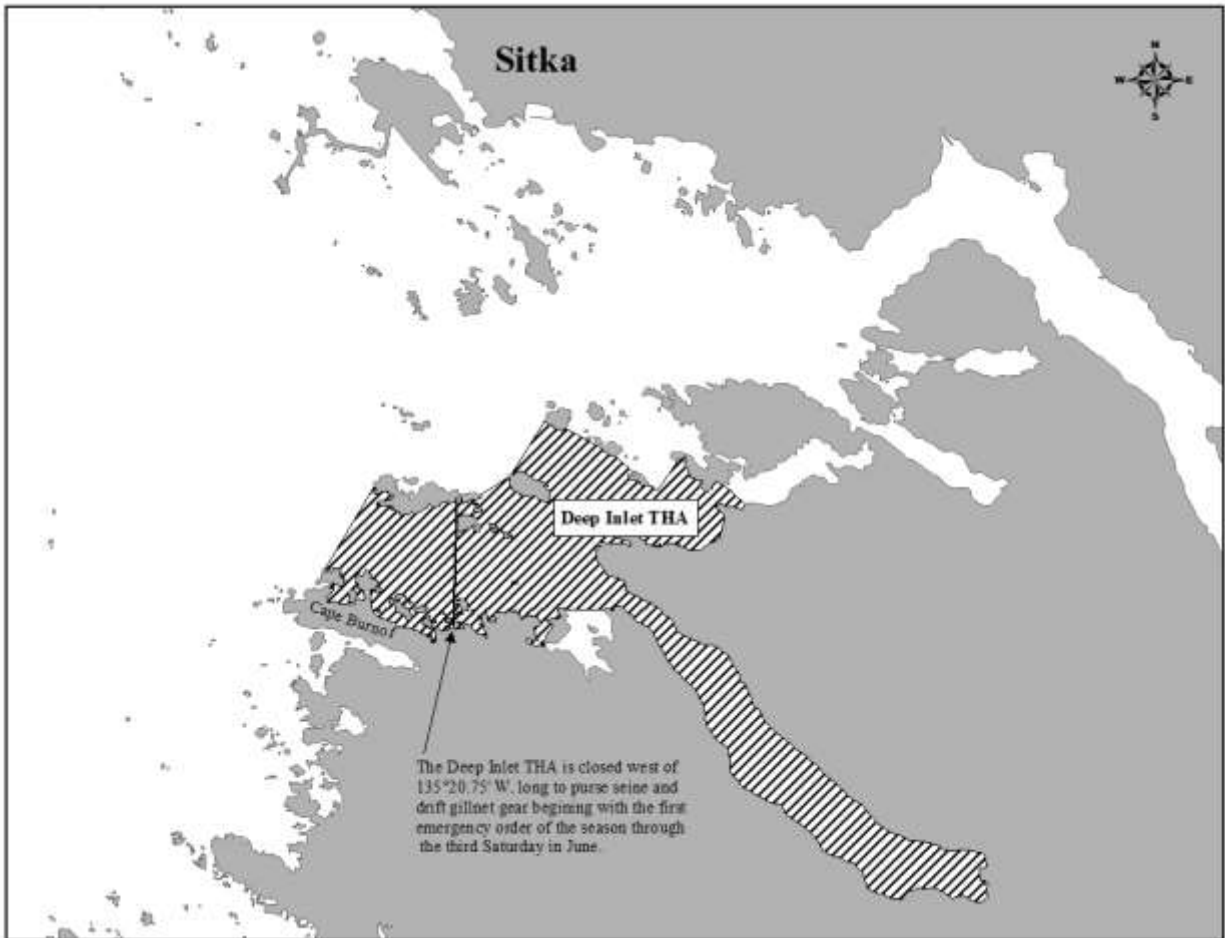
Anadromous stream closures within the Deep Inlet THA (defined above) will not be in effect during the period this news release is in effect.

By emergency order issued under 5 AAC 33.376 (b) (4), drift gillnet fishermen will be required to fish with a minimum mesh size of 6 inches prior to June 18. The purpose of the minimum mesh restriction is to reduce the harvest of wild sockeye salmon returning to Silver Bay that are passing through the Deep Inlet THA.

By emergency order issued under 5 AAC 39.265, harvesters participating in net fisheries in the Deep Inlet THA fishery are required to retain and utilize all salmon harvested this season. This action is being taken 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 so the department and NSRAA have full and accurate reporting of returns. This requires that all sockeye and coho salmon caught in the Deep Inlet THA fishery which are retained for personal use and not sold must be reported on fish tickets at the same time other salmon harvested during the opening are off-loaded and recorded on a fish ticket. Fishermen are advised that if they have fish on board from other openings, in addition to the Deep Inlet THA fishery, they should keep them separate for reporting and sampling purposes.

Chinook Salmon Landing Restrictions for the Deep Inlet THA: Purse seine and gillnet fishermen must retain all Chinook salmon harvested in the Deep Inlet THA. Chinook salmon of any size harvested by both purse seine and drift gillnet fishermen may be sold. Troll fishermen may only retain and sell Chinook salmon greater than 28 inches.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1E0116.



News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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