



Advisory Announcement

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2024 NEETS BAY TERMINAL HARVEST AREA FISHERIES ANNOUNCEMENT

The following information details the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) Neets Bay Terminal Harvest Area (THA) commercial fishing open waters and fishing schedules for the 2024 season.

SSRAA is forecasting total runs of 1,540,000 summer chum, 100 Chinook, 109,700 coho, and 40,000 fall chum with anticipated terminal runs of 1,078,000 summer chum, 100 Chinook, 43,900 coho, and 23,200 fall chum salmon.

The Neets Bay THA (101-95) consists of those waters east of the longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island at 131°39.14' W long (Bug Island line). Waters at the head of the bay east of 131°29.86' W long will be closed until the barrier net is in place; at that time, waters at the head of the bay east of the barrier net will be closed. The Neets Bay THA will be expanded on July 1 to Chin Point at 131°42.10' W long (Chin Point Line) for **troll gear only**. Chinook salmon may **NOT** be retained in this expanded area. A map of Neets Bay including the THA boundaries and fishery lines are included in Figure 1.

Troll Fishery

Salmon may be taken in the Neets Bay THA by troll gear beginning 12:01 a.m., Thursday, June 27, through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, August 1, unless closed by emergency order as follows:

- 12:01 a.m., Thursday, June 27, to 11:59 p.m., Sunday, June 30, **east of the Bug Island line;**
- 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 1, to 12:00 noon, Monday, July 15, **east of the Chin Point line;**
- 12:00 noon, Monday, July 15, to 11:59 p.m., Thursday, August 1, **east of the Chin Point line and west of the Bug Island line.**

Net Fisheries

From 12:00 noon, Saturday, June 29, through 12:00 noon, Saturday, July 6, 2024, salmon may be taken in the Neets Bay THA by drift gillnet and purse seine gear as follows:

Drift Gillnet

- 12:00 noon, Saturday, June 29, to 12:00 noon, Sunday, June 30 **east of the Bug Island line;**
- 12:00 noon, Wednesday, July 3, to 12:00 noon, Thursday, July 4 **east of the Bug Island line.**

Purse Seine

- 12:00 noon, Monday, July 1, to 12:00 noon, Tuesday, July 2 **east of the Bug Island line;**
- 12:00 noon, Friday, July 5, to 12:00 noon, Saturday, July 6 **east of the Bug Island line.**

All Commercial Fisheries

The Neets Bay THA will close to the harvest of salmon **by drift gillnet and purse seine gear** at 12:00 noon, Saturday, July 6, to allow for exclusive troller access, cost recovery fishing, and broodstock collection. If chum salmon abundance is sufficient in the Neets Bay THA, the net rotations may be extended through Sunday, July 14. Additional rotational openings
Neets Bay THA

for net gear beyond July 6 will be released by advisory announcement on or before Thursday, July 4. Any additional opportunities in the THA after August 1 will be announced in a future advisory announcement.

Chinook Salmon Landing Restrictions for Neets Bay THA: Purse seine and drift gillnet fishermen may retain all Chinook salmon harvested within the Neets Bay THA from 12:00 noon, Saturday, June 29, through 12:00 noon, Saturday, July 6, 2024. Chinook salmon of any size harvested by purse seine or drift gillnet gear may be sold. Troll fisherman may retain and sell Chinook salmon greater than 28 inches only from those waters east of the Bug Island line. During the first summer troll Chinook salmon retention period, retention and possession of Chinook salmon in the THA is prohibited between the longitude of Chin Point and the Bug Island lines. Trollers may not retain or possess Chinook salmon if fishing the waters between the Chin Point and Bug Island lines but may transit through those waters to offload Chinook salmon harvest if gear is not deployed.

The Emergency Order corresponding to this announcement is EO 1E0524.

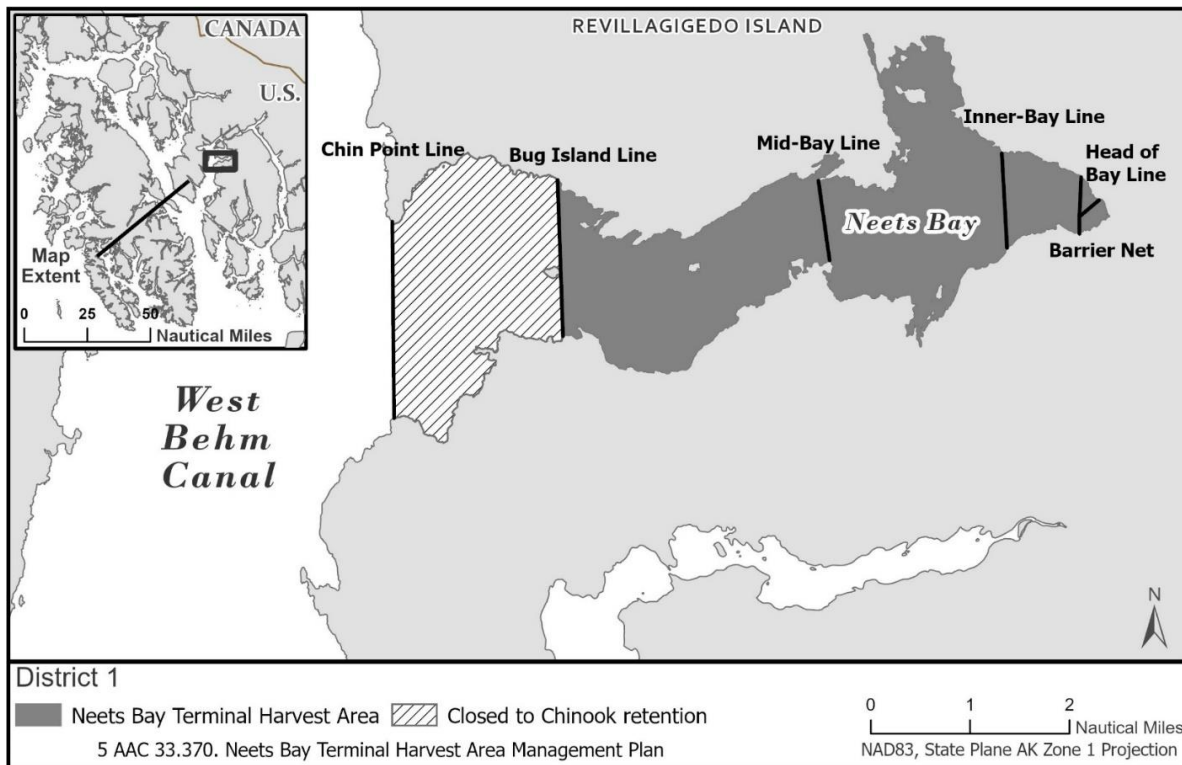


Figure 1. Map of Neets Bay THA.

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

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