



# SPAWNING NEWS

SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL  
AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

14 Borch Street  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
[www.ssraa.org](http://www.ssraa.org)

Vol. 40 No. 2  
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REDLINING NEETS BAY | GREENLIGHTING TROLL CHUMS

## The 2018 fishing season and beyond

By **DAVE LANDIS**  
SSRAA General Manager

**I**n the spring issue of *Spawning News*, SSRAA typically includes a preview of the upcoming fishing season at Neets Bay. Neets is a complicated picture, though, since there are so many factors affecting how Neets Bay is managed—from the standpoints of both SSRAA and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

The other reason that we pay so much attention to Neets Bay is that, as SSRAA's largest production facility and cost recovery site, Neets is by far the largest revenue generator for fishermen and for SSRAA's cost recovery. To top it off, Neets is also a site running at maximum capacity and then some, in terms of fresh water for incubation and rearing, incubator space, raceway space and permitted capacity—and pretty much every other category you can think of. We actually coined a term for this several years ago: "Neets Bay is on the red line." The red line: as in, running at a speed that's one step away from a major problem ... *that* red line!

Fortunately, the Board of Directors took the red line issue to heart several years ago and began the chum conversion and expansion of Burnett Inlet Hatchery to share some of the production and cost recovery burden with Neets Bay. In 2018, we finally have quantities of adults returning to Burnett sufficient to provide some much-needed relief. For example, we project that we'll be able to take as much as 25 percent of the overall summer chum broodstock at Burnett Inlet this year, which greatly helps to lighten the load at Neets Bay.

**We also expect** the chinook returning to Neets Bay this year to be more abundant than they were last year. This sounds like a better thing than it really is. Due to closures in traditional commercial and sport districts through which these fish migrate, the interception rate will be lower for kings and we will have more terminal fish with less value than we would have had if they had been caught as intended. For the same reason, we also expect some additional sport fishing effort in the Neets Bay terminal harvest area.

Some bright spots at Neets Bay, however, are the

expected high prices for chum salmon and the promise of commercial fishing opportunity for those Neets chum. Although the forecast is very similar to last year, we are fortunate to be receiving \$2 million in DIPAC cost recovery offset funding that will enable us to open Neets Bay to rotations much sooner than we could do without that offset. The good market and high prices for chum will also combine to help get the fleets fishing there sooner.

**Finally, the chum troll target** set by the SSRAA Board has increased from 200,000 fish to 300,000 in the Neets Bay THA, which is another way that the generous DIPAC funding will directly enable fishermen to put fish in their holds.

### Summer chum and chinook

The Neets Bay fishing schedule for 2018 is different from the schedules in previous years. Again, these changes were partly the result of Unuk River chinook concerns by ADF&G or because of the DIPAC cost recovery offset.

Here is a brief description of these changes.

Neets Bay will be open to all gear groups in May, and then in June continuously until noon on Saturday, June 10. This is the usual beginning-of-season pattern, the same as in previous years.

There will be six net gear rotations starting at noon on June 11, for 24-hour periods. The breaks between these periods were strategically placed to offer "full day" rest times interspersed throughout. These are the Unuk chinook conservation measures that appeared to be effective in the past.

**Also starting the week** of June 11, there will be commercial troll fishing from Bug Island to the mid-bay line (see the map on page 5 for the approximate location).

The Neets Bay THA will *not* expand out to Chin Point in mid-June, as is traditional, but will do so on July 1 instead. This was ADF&G's response to allow additional migration space for Unuk kings.

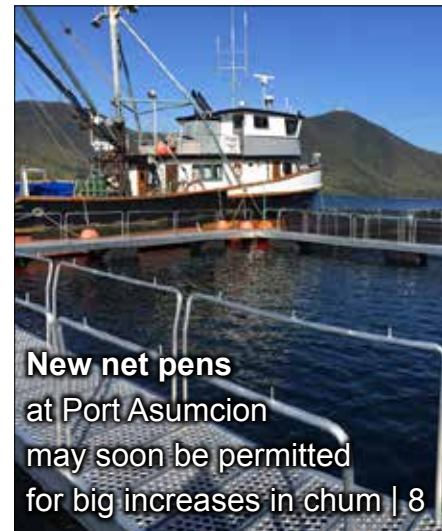
The net rotations will end on June 29 and cost recovery starts on June 30. This is similar to last year and is intended to maximize the cost recovery potential for summer chum while still preserving hatchery chinook opportunity for net fishermen earlier in June.

Finally, a target number of 300,000 chum to be caught on troll gear was established. Favorable chum troll weather and fish depth patterns as they return are certainly factors in troll interception and aren't known at this point.

See 'Neets Bay' on 6

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TOOK THAT RED LINE ISSUE TO HEART SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND BEGAN THE CHUM CONVERSION AND EXPANSION OF BURNETT INLET HATCHERY TO SHARE SOME OF THE PRODUCTION AND COST RECOVERY BURDEN WITH NEETS BAY. IN 2018, WE FINALLY HAVE QUANTITIES OF ADULTS RETURNING TO BURNETT SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE SOME MUCH-NEEDED RELIEF.

## IN THIS ISSUE



**New net pens**  
at Port Asumcion  
may soon be permitted  
for big increases in chum | 8

### ■ Seat at the table |

Association asks for nominees to represent gear groups on the board | 2

■ **President's pen** | Board president reflects on releases, revenues and relationships among the gear groups | 3

■ **Catch calendars** | Terminal harvest area timing and boundaries set out for 2018 season | 4-6

■ **Allocations** | ADF&G reports 2017 gear-group catches and ex-vessel returns along the five-year targets | 7

■ **Forecast** | SSRAA posts anticipated return numbers for 2018 season | 8

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## Nominees sought for gear-group seats on the association board of directors

Nominations are open now through mid-October for four seats on the SSRAA Board of Directors.

SSRAA encourages salmon fishers to turn in nominations for gear seats that come open in January 2019. Nominations are due at the SSRAA office on Oct. 17, 2018.

Gear groups will elect board members to one seine seat, two gillnet seats and one power troll seat. All board members elected to seats representing commercial fishing gear groups serve three-year terms.

Nominations must be in writing and must include the permit holder's name; address; vessel name; and phone number. Include a brief statement of interest with self-nominations; if you're nominating another fisher, provide a short summary of the nominee's background. Limited-entry permit holders nominate only people in their gear groups. Nominees must be active southern Southeast commercial salmon permit holders.

If you're interested in serving on the board of directors, or want to nominate a fellow gear-group fisher, please mail a nomination to ...

- SSRAA, Attn: Liz Jones, 14 Borch St., Ketchikan, AK 99901

You may also send a nomination via email to ...

- [lizj@ssraa.org](mailto:lizj@ssraa.org)

For more information, call the association at 907-225-9605.



## SSRAA calendar

Oct. 26, 2018

Board of Directors

Ketchikan / Cape Fox Lodge

### SSRAA Staff

#### ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

Dave Landis	General Manager
Bret Hiatt	Operations Manager
Bill Gass	Production Manager
Steve Reid	Assistant Production Manager
Cindy Walters	Executive Administrative Assistant
Liz Jones	Administrative Assistant
Jay Johnson LLC	Accounting Services

#### RESEARCH & EVALUATION

John Holt	Research & Evaluation Manager
Stephanie Sanguinetti	Lab Supervisor
Alan Murray	Lead Research Technician
Whitney Crittenden	Lead Research Technician
Taylor Pearson	Research Technician

#### WHITMAN LAKE HATCHERY

Jay Creasy	Hatchery Manager
Cody Pederson	Assistant Hatchery Manager
Mike Moreno	Lead Fish Culturist
Vacant	Fish Culturist
Erik Mattek	Maintenance Technician / Fish Culturist

#### NEETS BAY HATCHERY

Craig Parry	Hatchery Manager
Justin Rose	Assistant Hatchery Manager
Dale Wainscott	Lead Fish Culturist
Stan Rice	Fish Culturist
Ryan Patten	Fish Culturist
Andy Gilsdorf	Fish Culturist (10 month)
Andrew Pung	Fish Culturist (10 month)
Richard Flagg	Maintenance Supervisor
Daniel Perry	Lead Maintenance Technician
James Adams	Maintenance Technician (10 month)

#### BURNETT INLET HATCHERY

Jon Thorington	Hatchery Manager
Cain DePriest	Assistant Manager
Vacant	Fish Culturist
Kaylie Carr	Fish Culturist (10 month)

#### CRYSTAL LAKE HATCHERY

Loren Thompson	Hatchery Manager
Kevin Chase	Assistant Hatchery Manager
Wesley Malcom	Fish Culturist
Anna Tollfeldt	Fish Culturist

#### NECK LAKE REARING AND HARVEST FACILITY

JR Parsley	Facility Manager
Dolores Loucks	Lead Fish Culturist
William Pattison	Fish Culturist (10 month)

#### DEER MOUNTAIN HATCHERY

Matt Allen	Assistant Hatchery Manager
Michelle Leitz	Lead Fish Culturist

#### KLAWOCK RIVER HATCHERY

Jeff Lundberg	Hatchery Manager
Troy Liske	Assistant Hatchery Manager
Sheldon Sammon	Fish Culturist
Paul Young	Fish Culturist
Jesse Knock	Fish Culturist (10 month)
Stuart Cole	Maintenance Supervisor

#### MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Ted Addington	Maintenance Manager
Jake Arnold	Lead Maintenance Technician
Tim Emmons Doerschuck	Maintenance Technician

### SSRAA Board of Directors

<b>SEINERS</b> Dan Castle	Ketchikan	F/V Little Lady
Leif Dobszinsky (secretary)	Port Townsend, Wash.	F/V Chasina
Nyle Thomas	Petersburg	F/V Barbara
Garret Vincentz	Ketchikan	F/V Lady Jane
<b>GILLNETTERS</b>		
Brennon Eagle	Wrangell	F/V Danegeld
Chris Guggenbickler (president)	Wrangell	F/V Maranatha
David Klepser	Ketchikan	F/V Hannah Point
Bob Martin	Petersburg	F/V Sumner
<b>POWER TROLLERS</b>		
Tom Fisher (vice president)	Ketchikan	F/V Aquarius
Pat Tyner	Craig	F/V Rauma
Brian Warmuth	Ketchikan	F/V Shannon Hope
Brant Widness	Ketchikan	F/V Alyeska
<b>HAND TROLLER</b>		
Craig Ring	Ketchikan	
<b>APPOINTEES</b>		
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Paul Cyr (treasurer)	Ketchikan	Processor
Dennis Nickerson	Klawock	Native Corp.
Mike Painter	Ketchikan	Public at Large
Lynnette Logan	Craig	Chamber of Comm.
David Powell	Wrangell	Municipality
Sandy Souter	Kent, Wash.	Public at Large
John Yeager	Wrangell	Subsistence

The 21-member SSRAA Board of Directors includes 13 commercial fishers along with representatives of interest groups and the public.

**SSRAA Spawning News** is published by the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, a private, non-profit aquaculture corporation based in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Our web site is [www.ssraa.org](http://www.ssraa.org).

This publication is mailed free to all limited-entry salmon permit holders for purse seine, drift gillnet, power troll and hand troll in Alaska Districts 1-8. It is also mailed free to any person interested in SSRAA.

To receive Spawning News, send a request with your name, your organization's name and your address to: Spawning News / 14 Borch St. / Ketchikan, AK 99901.

For changes of address for permit holders, notify: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission / 8800-109 Glacier Highway / Juneau, AK 99801. The CFEC fax number is 907-789-6170.

SSRAA uses mailing labels from the CFEC. If your address is wrong, please contact CFEC; SSRAA cannot correct your address for CFEC.



# President's message to the fleets

By **CHRIS GUGGENBICKLER**

*President of the SSRAA Board of Directors*

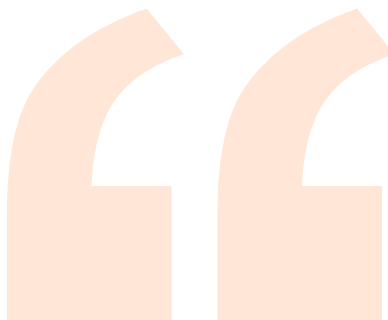
As I reflect on this past winter's meeting cycles, I would like to touch on some of the decisions the SSRAA Board has made and ideas looking forward.

Initially, we were all too aware of issues surrounding low chinook survivals and voted in December to move kings from Neets Bay to Carroll Inlet and Port St. Nicholas. The hope is that these areas will provide more access, since the return timing doesn't mirror the Unuk fish—as it does for our Neets Bay kings. This decision was largely based on loss of troll access to hatchery kings in the spring of 2017 and on a better alternative to scrapping the chinook program down to a minimum needed to continue broodstock for now. In 2017, the cost/benefit on chinook was less than a dollar of return for each dollar it cost us to produce the release. The main reason for this is loss of access and the inability of the troll fleet to harvest fish at a higher price per pound.

**In January at the** Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, SSRAA was able to get a terminal harvest area for Carroll Inlet. We expect a small return of 4-year old chinook to this site in 2018. We have set rotations that will create access for each fleet in June: exclusive troll in the first part of the month and net rotations in the last half. Unfortunately, it is unlikely there will be any THA opportunity after the first of July. This is not a perfect scenario, as any adults returning after that date will most likely go unharvested and their value lost to us due to the timing of wild chum and pink returns to the area. Our original proposal was to create a large area for troll opportunity from California Head to Nigelius Point, as we felt trollers would have success with very little to no Unuk River impact. Unfortunately, the Department of Fish and Game pulled this language from our proposal and we were told that the area in question could be opened by the troll biologist and area manager on a year-by-year basis. We will encourage them to do just that so that a viable troll opportunity is created and sampled for Unuk River interception.

We will watch closely in the next few years for fleet contribution and access to these fish by the commercial fleets. Other options for these fish would be release at another site or a 1-to-1 ratio substitute for additional coho production.

**Coho is always** a discussion topic at production meetings: how to create more and how to maximize survival. This is an ongoing struggle, and unfortunately at the moment we are having survival issues at both Neets Bay and Neck Lake. This is something we work on continually, but it seems to be a moving target. The department, though, has been very conservative on allowing us to spread out our coho releases and to come up with alternate sites. Frankly, it's an ongoing battle. We will continue evaluating our coho program and strive to maximize their value. Coho and chinook take a lot of money and water to raise and more than 50 percent of SSRAA's budget goes to raising



It is fortunate that the  
Regional Planning  
Team unanimously  
recommended an increase  
in SSRAA's release of  
summer chum at Port  
Asumcion, to 20 million.



... If our return to Neets  
and Burnett is sufficient to  
reach our eggtake goal this  
summer, we will have our  
first 20 million release in  
2019. Our intent is to create  
a cost recovery program  
with these fish at this site  
to help balance our budget  
and pay for the Burnett  
expansion loans ...



*Chris Guggenbickler*

these smolts—and this takes cost recovery monies. It is fortunate that the Regional Planning Team unanimously recommended an increase in SSRAA's release of summer chum at Port Asumcion, to 20 million. We presently have 8 million summer chum in pens at Asumcion, ready to be released any day. If our return to Neets and Burnett is sufficient to reach our eggtake goal this summer, we will have our first 20 million release in 2019. Our intent is to create a cost recovery program with these fish at this site to help balance our budget and pay for the Burnett expansion loans that come due as these fish return. There are no plans at present to have rotational fisheries in the Port Asumcion SHA.

**SSRAA anticipates** a significant bump in revenue this summer, thanks to a generous grant from DIPAC. If the summer chum return is near forecast, look for increased opportunity in Neets Bay. It is likely that this will help to spread the fleet out this summer. Many thanks to DIPAC.

On a little different note, I would like to personally add that many of our board members were present at the Board of Fisheries meetings during development of the "stock of concern" action plans. This was a very anxious time, as individual fleets faced drastic conservation measures across the board. It was refreshing to see each user group work well with the department to reduce the individual fleets' impact on depressed stocks while attempting to retain the most value for their fleets—all the while refraining from finger-pointing, for the most part. Unfortunately, in the aftermath word of mouth and social media created a wealth of misinformation that pitted sport fishing against commercial fishing and individuals against their own gear groups and treaty representatives. This is unfortunate, as I have found gear groups' representatives to be excellent stewards for their groups as a whole, looking at greatest value for their respective fleets.

It's always good to hear from others that have productive points and fresh ideas, but let's keep it positive and work together, not against each other. Our house seems to be more fragile than ever these days.

I wish you all full hatches and safe travel this summer.

# FISHING CALENDAR 2018

## MAY 2018—NEETS BAY

### Terminal Harvest Area (THA) Rotation Calendar-5AAC33.370 THA Open East of the Bug Island Line

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						
27	28	29	30	31		
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						

## JUNE 2018 - NEETS BAY

### Terminal Harvest Area (THA) Rotation Calendar—5AAC 33.370 July 1, 2018 THA Expands to Chin Point. No Fishing Out to Chin Point in June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
				OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Troll Exclusive into Mid-Bay Line This Week Only						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Troll						
Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon			Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Troll						
	Noon Gillnet Noon			Noon Seine Noon		CR W/in SHA

## July 2018— Neets Bay

### Terminal Harvest Area (THA) Calendar—5AAC 33.370 Troll Chin Point to Bug Island—Cost Recovery Inside Bug Island

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Troll						
COST RECOVERY—Within SHA						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Troll						
COST RECOVERY—Within SHA						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Troll						
COST RECOVERY—Within SHA						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Troll						
COST RECOVERY—Within SHA						
29	30	31				
Troll - Through July 31						
COST RECOVERY—Within SHA—Through July 31						

## TERMINAL HARVEST AREAS

### NEETS BAY T.H.A. OPENING

For details, please see G.M. Dave Landis' article on page 1.

### KENDRICK BAY T.H.A. OPENING

The return at Kendrick Bay in 2018 is expected to be approximately 632,500 summer chum (442,750 common property and 189,750 terminal). Kendrick Bay is an exclusive purse seine fishery. Kendrick Bay will open on Friday, June 15, 2018, and will remain open through Sunday, Sept. 30, 2018.

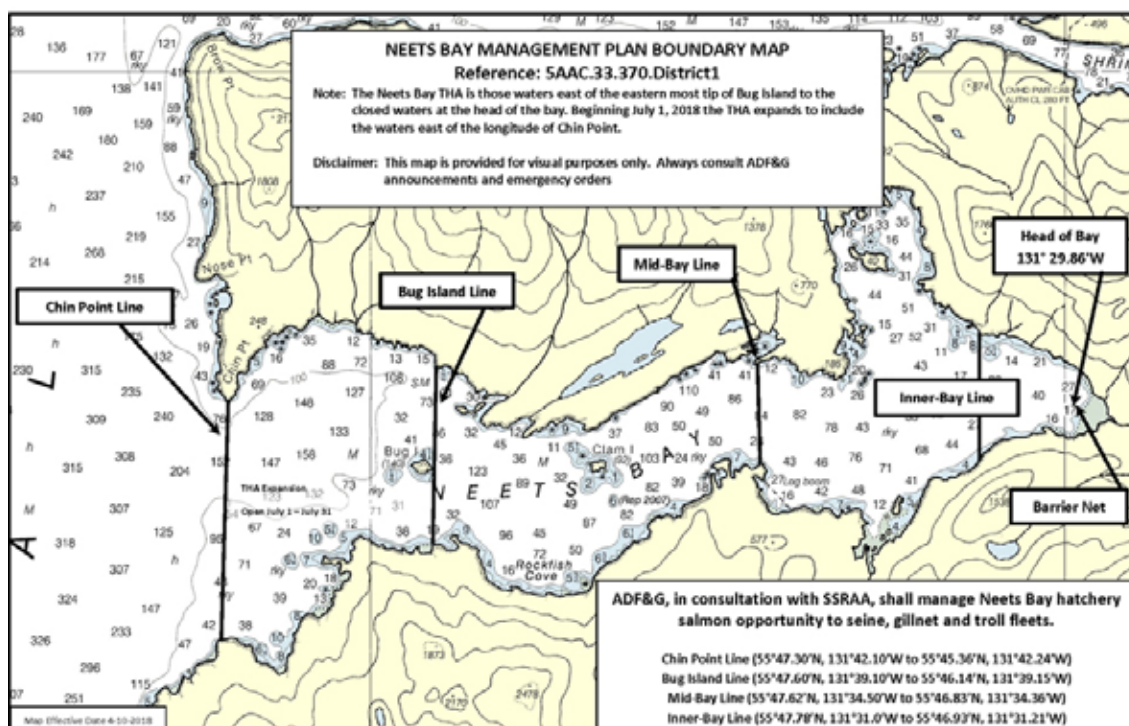
### NAKAT INLET T.H.A. OPENING

The Nakat Inlet THA opens on Friday, June 1, 2018, and is an exclusive gillnet/troll fishery. Projected returns are 260,300 summer chum (130,150 common property and 130,150 terminal); 56,900 fall chum (19,900 common property and 37,000 terminal). Expected coho return is approximately 21,850 (19,665 common property and 2,185 terminal). The THA will remain open until Saturday, Nov. 10, 2018.

### ANITA BAY T.H.A. OPENING

The Anita Bay THA will open Monday, May 15, 2018. Gear access changes throughout the opening until it closes Saturday, Nov. 10, 2018. The expected return for summer chum is 459,000 (229,500 common property and 229,500 terminal); for chinook, 15,400 (4,620 common property and 10,780 terminal); and for coho, 9,900 (7,600 common property and 2,300 terminal).

For [CARROLL INLET T.H.A.](#), see page 6.



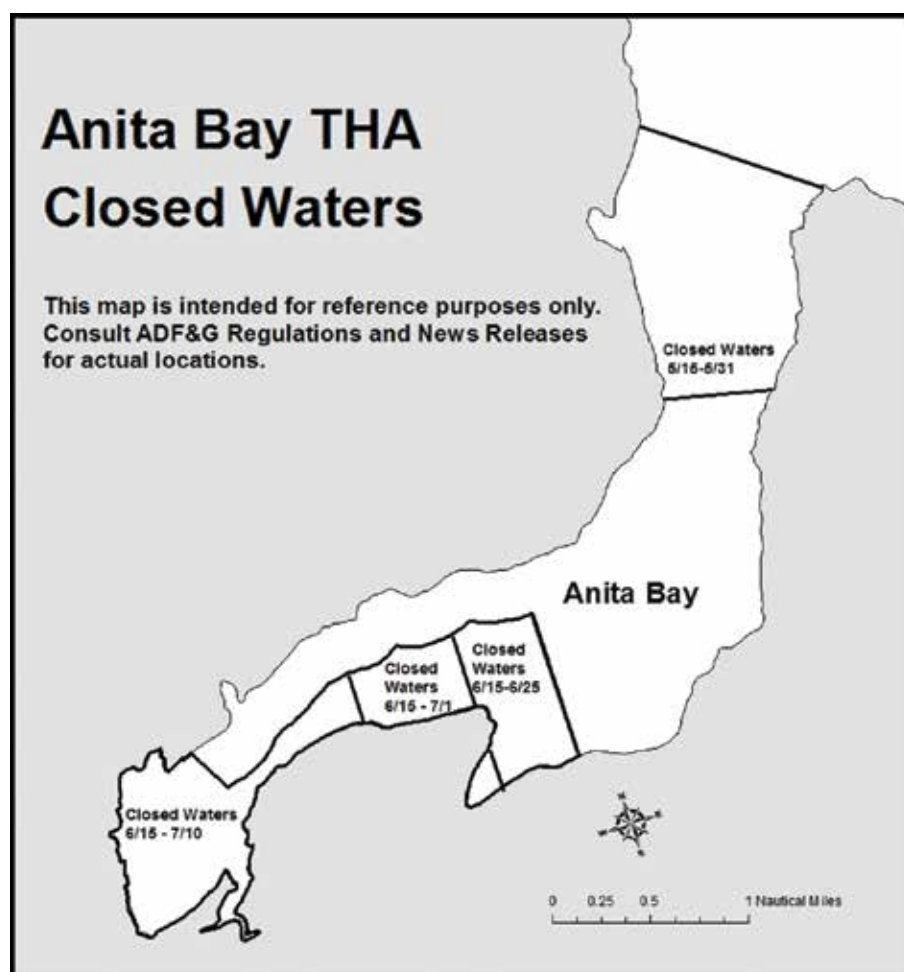


**May 2018- Anita Bay**  
Terminal Harvest Area Rotation Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Noon OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						
27	28	29	30	31		
OPEN AT ALL TIMES TO ALL FISHERS UNTIL CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER						

**June 2018 - Anita Bay**  
Terminal Harvest Area Rotation Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
OPEN CONTINUOUSLY TO ALL FISHERS						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
OPEN CONTINUOUSLY TO ALL FISHERS						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
OPEN CONTINUOUSLY TO ALL FISHERS						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Troll						
Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Troll						
Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon



5

See the following page for the Carroll Inlet terminal harvest area opening

**July 2018- Anita Bay**  
Terminal Harvest Area Rotation Calendar—5.AAC 33.383

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Troll						
Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Troll						
Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Troll						
Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Troll						
Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon
29	30	31				
Troll						
Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon

**August 2018- Anita Bay**  
Terminal Harvest Area Rotation Calendar—5 AAC.33.383

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
Troll						
			Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Troll						
Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Troll						
Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Troll						
Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Troll						
Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	Noon Gillnet Noon	Noon Seine Noon	END Rotation

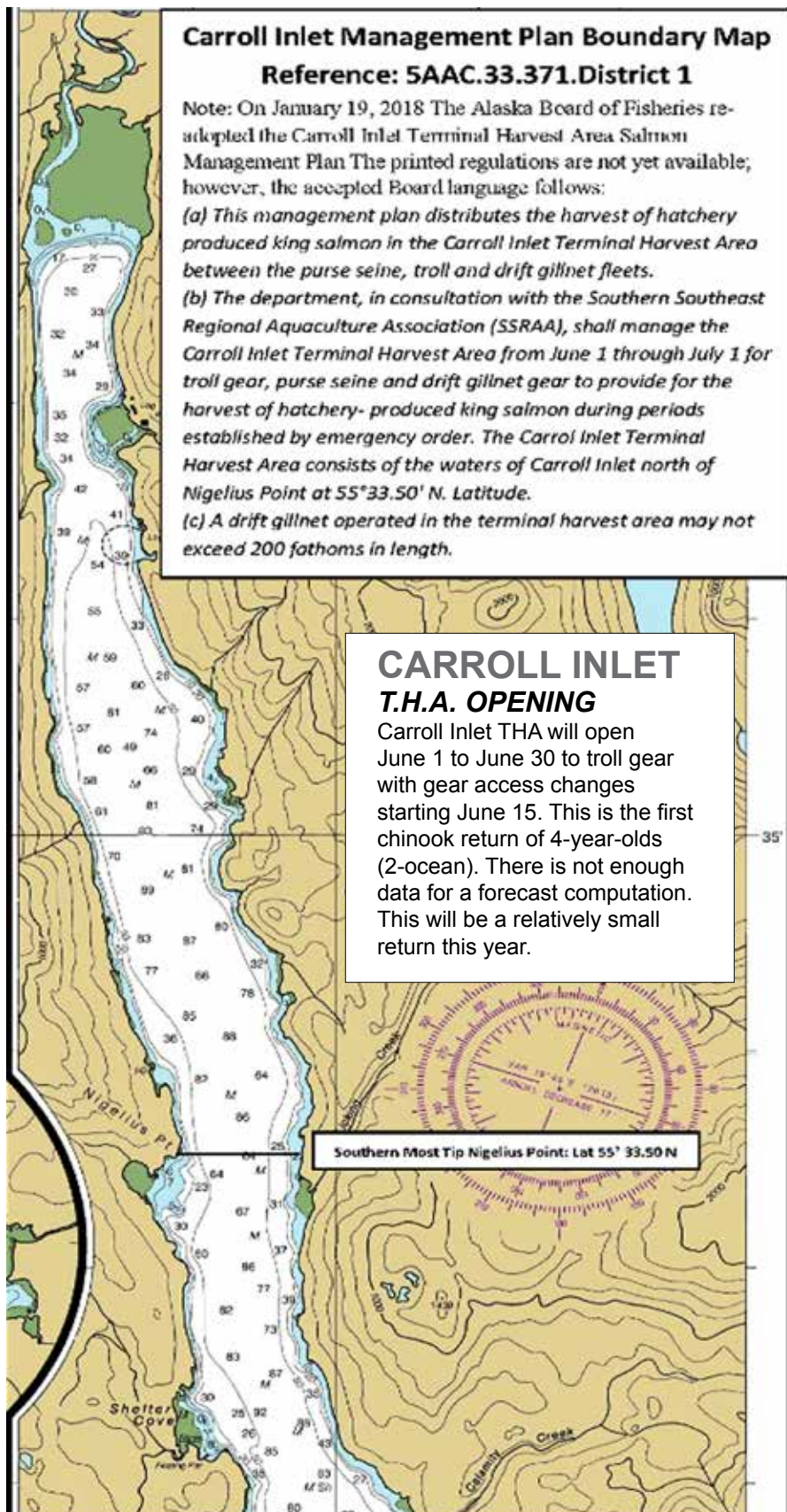
**September 2018- Anita Bay**  
Terminal Harvest Area Rotation Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
OPEN CONTINUOUSLY TO ALL FISHERS						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
OPEN CONTINUOUSLY TO ALL FISHERS						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
OPEN CONTINUOUSLY TO ALL FISHERS						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
OPEN CONTINUOUSLY TO ALL FISHERS Until closed on November 10 or by emergency order						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
OPEN CONTINUOUSLY TO ALL FISHERS Until closed on November 10 or by emergency order						
						30



**JUNE 2018 - Carroll Inlet**  
Terminal Harvest Area (THA) Rotation Calendar—5AAC 33.371

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					Troll	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Troll						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Troll						
					Noon Gillnet Noon	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Troll						
Noon Seine Noon		Noon Gillnet Noon		Noon Seine Noon		GN - Noon
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Troll						
GN - Noon	Noon Seine Noon		Noon Gillnet Noon		Noon Seine Noon	



## PRODUCTION UPDATE

### Spring 2018 releases are on track at SSRAA sites

SSRAA's first releases of the year occurred on April 25 at Neets Bay, where the hatchery staff released about 20 million summer chum.

Releases of summer chum were scheduled for late April at Nakat Inlet and Kendrick Bay; nearly 45 million more summer chum were set for release from Neets Bay. Coho and chinook are to be released in the last two weeks of May.

Projected production releases for 2018 are shown in the table below.

There will be a detailed accounting of all releases on the SSRAA web site by mid-June, when all fish have been released.



### INVENTORY — SMOLTS ON HAND APRIL 2018

Brood Year Species	BY17 S Chum	BY17 F Chum	BY16 F Coho	BY16 S Coho	BY16 Chinook
Neets Bay Hatchery	64,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000		300,000
Whitman Lake Hatchery			300,000	225,000	580,000
Burnett Inlet Hatchery	23,500,000	3,500,000			
Crystal Lake Hatchery			80,000		600,000
Deer Mountain - Ketchikan Creek			100,000		
Neck Lake Rearing Facility				1,750,000	
Nakat Remote Rearing	8,000,000		600,000		
Anita Bay Remote Rearing	24,000,000		575,000		450,000
Kendrick Bay Remote Rearing	29,500,000				
Carroll Inlet Remote Rearing					580,000
Port Asumcion	7,500,000		230,000		
Klawock River Hatchery			4,200,000		
Port St. Nicholas					330,000
City Creek Remote Rearing					110,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>149,000,000</b>	<b>7,500,000</b>	<b>9,755,000</b>	<b>1,975,000</b>	<b>2,950,000</b>

## Neets Bay CONTINUED FROM 1

### Fall chum and coho

These returns traditionally start on Sept. 1. The last summer chum are cleaned up from the barrier net and a somewhat arbitrary decision to deem all remaining chum as fall stock is made. We can make an essentially clean division of these stocks as they return, but to erase any ambiguity, the first lots of eggs that are taken from the fall chum are reserved for transport to Nakat Inlet, where both summer and fall chum are released. Because it is particularly likely this year that we will make cost recovery at Neets Bay, we will take eggs for fall chum brood and finish up as soon as possible. Net rotations for these fish will begin as soon as we are sure that, between Neets and Burnett, we can get a full complement of brood eggs. The goal for fall chum is 35 million eggs (about 40,000 fish).

**Coho are not forecast** to do well at Neets Bay this year, but these are also returns that can be quite different than we expect. One of the frustrating hallmarks of the fall fish returns at Neets is that when fall chum are strong, coho are weaker - and vice versa.

The barrier net is generally removed and all fishing is over on or about October 10.



# ADF&G posts stats for gear-group catches of hatchery salmon

*Southeast biologists tally data for two seasons to compile ex-vessel values of enhanced harvests across the region*

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game presented allocations of hatchery-produced salmon estimated value in Southeast Alaska at the Southern, Northern and Joint Regional Planning Team meeting in Juneau on April 4. The department announced the preliminary 2017 and final 2016 enhanced salmon allocations and updated five-year rolling allocation averages.

## Preliminary enhanced salmon allocation estimates for 2017:

- Seine, 41 percent
- Gillnet, 46 percent
- Troll, 13 percent

## Preliminary five-year rolling allocation averages (2013-2017) by gear group:

- Gillnet, 41 percent (target allocation range 24-29 percent)
- Seine, 41 percent (target allocation range 44-49 percent)
- Troll, 18 percent (target allocation range 27-32 percent)

## Final 2012-2016 rolling allocation averages by gear group:

- Gillnet, 39 percent
- Seine, 43 percent
- Troll, 17 percent

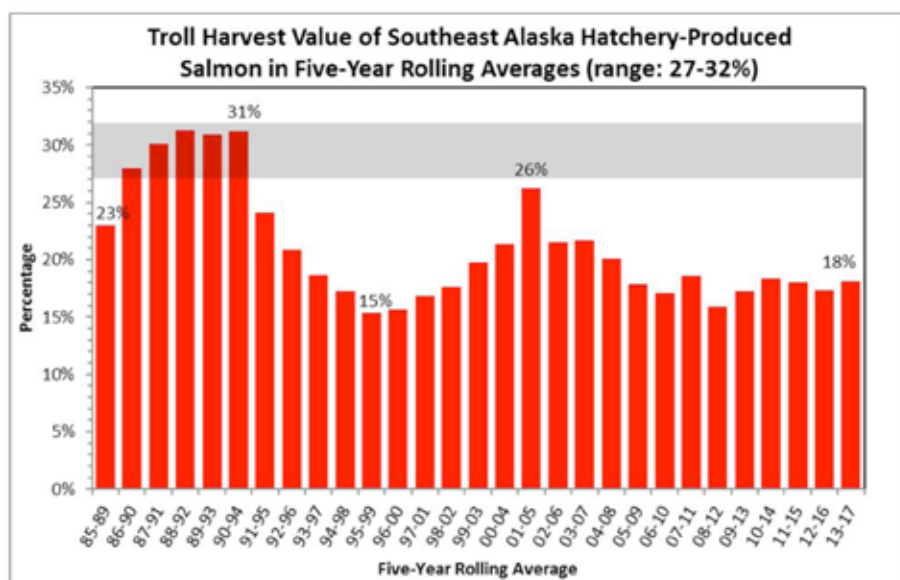
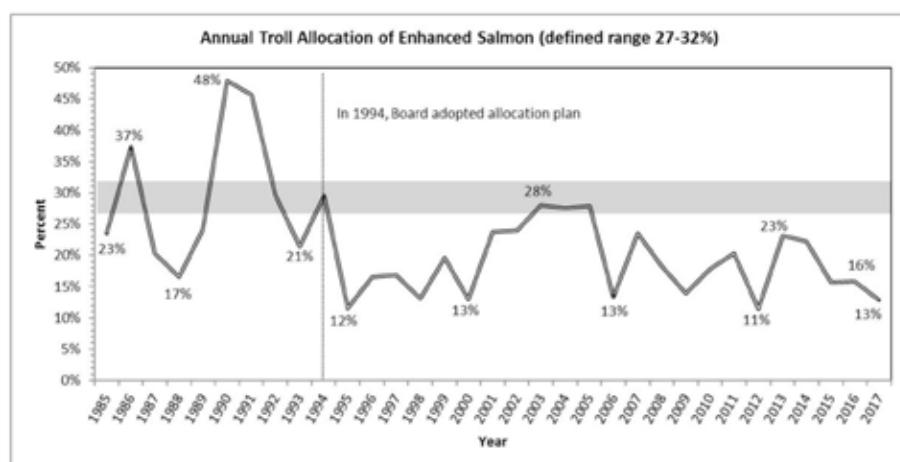
Preliminary total ex-vessel value for all enhanced salmon was estimated to be \$54.8 million in 2017.

About \$22.6 million of hatchery-produced fish went to seiners; \$25.2 million to gillnetters; and \$7.1 million to the troll fleet.

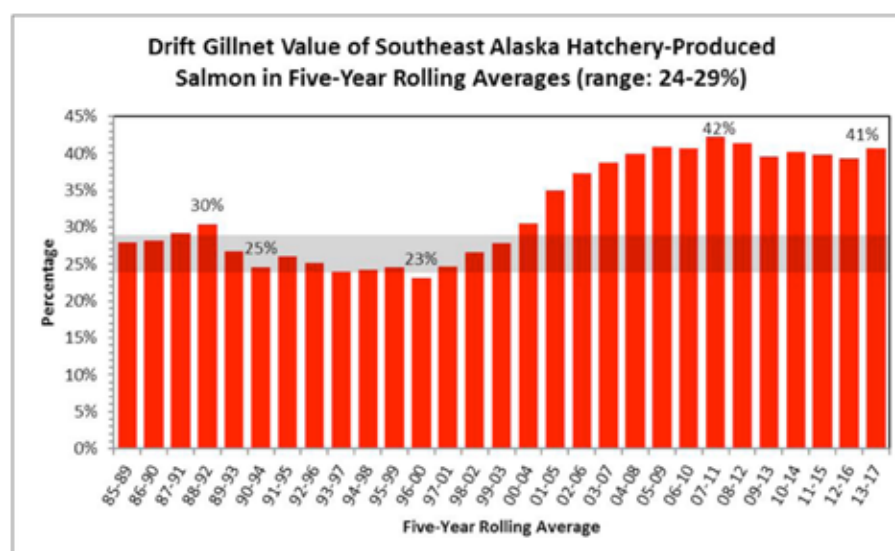
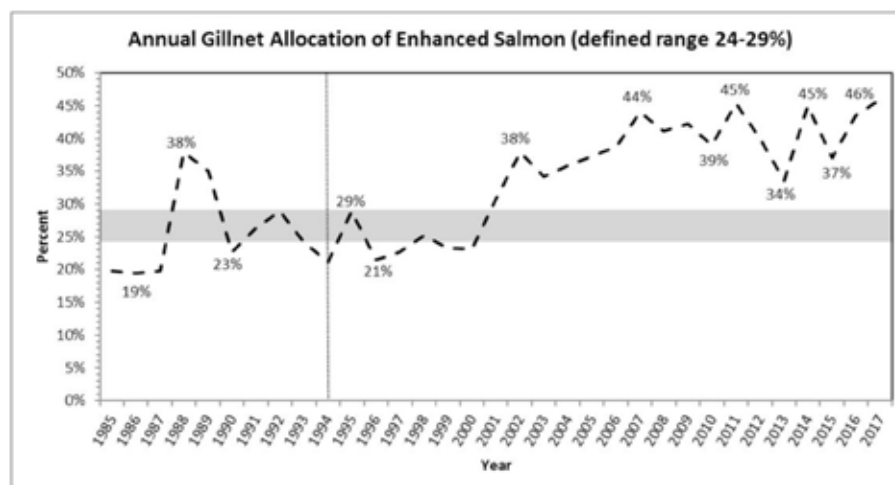
A complete summary of the 2017 Alaska salmon enhancement program is available on the ADFG web site at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingHatcheriesOtherinfo.reports](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingHatcheriesOtherinfo.reports).

Source for data: ADF&G

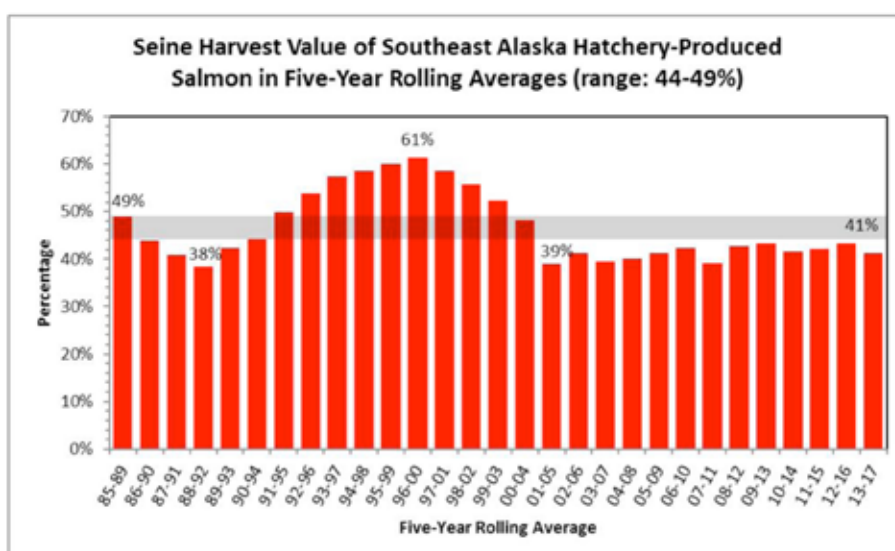
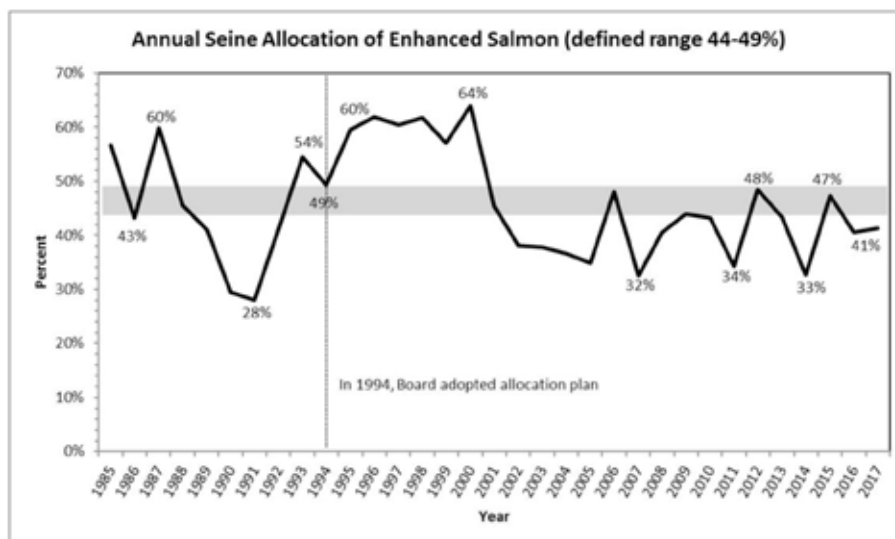
## TROLL



## GILLNET



## SEINE

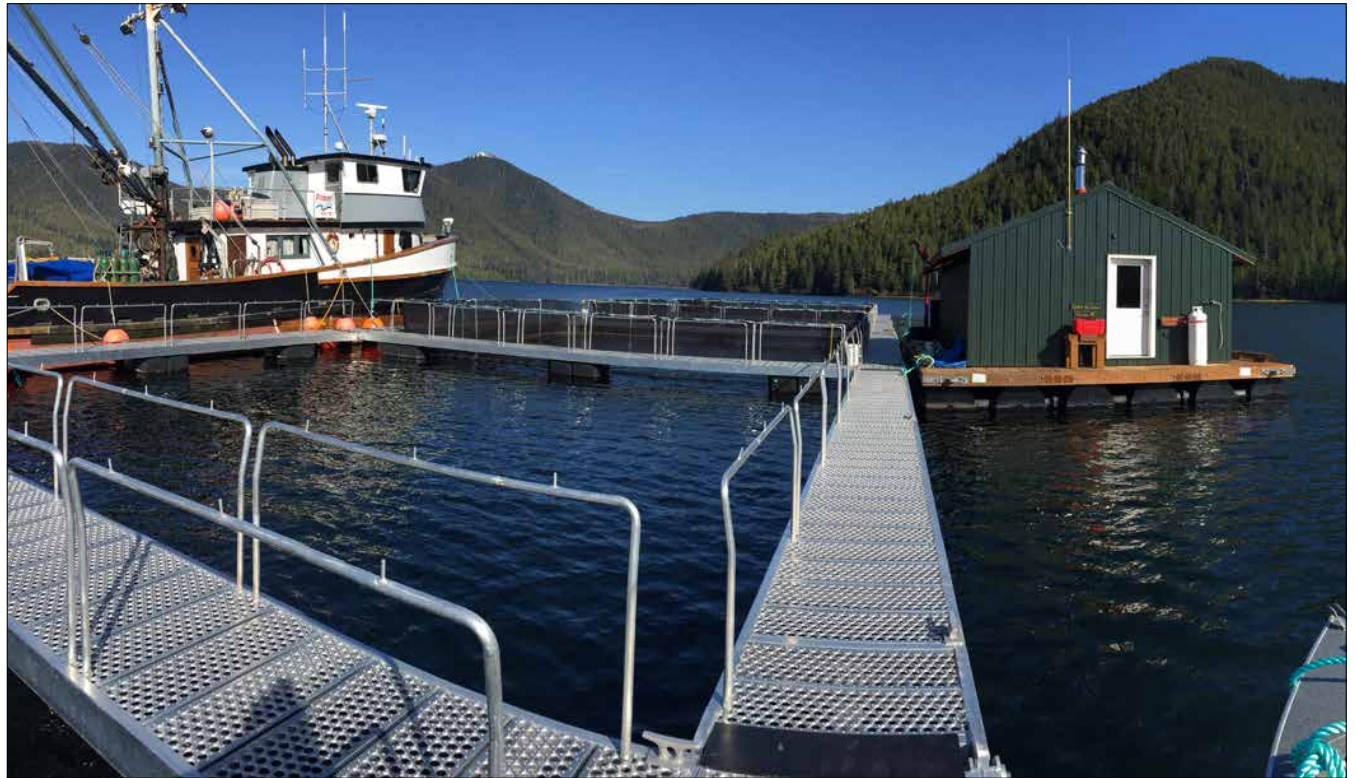


## Regional panel sends nod for increased releases to commissioner's desk

SSRAA brought four permit alteration requests (PARs) to the Regional Planning Team meeting April 4 in Juneau. Two of the proposals were sent to the commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game with votes of 6–0 recommending approval. These requests deal with summer chum production: one would increase the release at Port Asumcion from 8 million fish to 20 million and the other would add 6 million fish to the current release of 8 million at Nakat Inlet.

If the commissioner approves the requests, the increase at Port Asumcion will go into effect with eggs collected in 2018 and the Nakat increase will occur with broodyear 2019. The eggs for the chum increase will come out of Burnett Inlet as the summer chum broodstock program at that facility reaches maturity.

Two other requests related to coho production were tabled at the meeting to allow more time to address concerns related to potential straying.



Net pens at Port Asumcion may hold more chum, subject to a final OK by the commissioner. PHOTO BY JILL LINDGREN

## SSRAA forecast for all species / all sites

Species	Site	5 YR	4 YR	3 YR	CP	Terminal	Total	2017 Return
S Chum	Neets	123,300	868,300	356,300	363,933	983,967	1,347,900	1,289,000
S Chum	Nakat	41,000	187,200	32,100	130,150	130,150	260,300	214,000
S Chum	Anita	77,000	290,000	92,000	229,500	229,500	459,000	482,000
S Chum	Kendrick	57,300	434,200	141,000	442,750	189,750	632,500	645,000
S Chum	Burnett	Not enough data for forecast computation						28,000
F Chum	Neets	4,000	50,000	5,400	14,850	44,550	59,400	22,500
F Chum	Nakat	no release	34,655	22,235	19,912	36,979	56,890	15,000
F Chum	Burnett	Not enough data for forecast computation						35,000

Species	Site	6 YR	5 YR	4 YR	CP	Terminal	Total	2017 Return
Chinook	Whitman	700	6,600	5,000	3,690	8,610	12,300	8,600
Chinook	Neets	1,000	10,000	7,100	5,430	12,670	18,100	12,100
Chinook	Anita	2,000	9,000	4,400	4,620	10,780	15,400	12,100
Chinook	Crystal	600	2,000	700	1,650	1,650	3,300	3,600
		5 YR	4 YR	3 YR	CP	Terminal	Total	
Chinook	Port St Nich	24	422	533	294	685	979	1,700

Species	Site	CP	Terminal	Total	2017 Return
Coho	Whitman FC	15,488	5,163	20,650	
Coho	Neets	57,901	24,815	82,716	18,000
Coho	Nakat	19,665	2,185	21,850	24,000
Coho	Anita	7,600	2,300	9,900	4,000
Coho	Neck	27,550	27,550	55,100	27,000
Coho	Whitman SC	10,300	3,500	13,800	11,000
Coho	Crystal	5,300	960	6,260	7,500
Coho	Klawock	156,835	67,215	224,050	187,000