

## AK Yakutat Salmon Set Gillnet Fishery

**Fishing Gear Type:** Gillnet

**Current category:** Category II\*

**Basis for current classification on the LOF:** Due to insufficient information on this particular fishery, it was classified as a Category II fishery based on analogy to other Category II AK set gillnet fisheries that use similar gear and operate in the same manner as this fishery.

**Current list of marine mammal species/stocks injured/killed:** Gray Whale, Eastern North Pacific; Harbor seal, Southeast AK; Humpback whale, Central North Pacific (Southeast AK).

**Estimated number of current participants:** 166

**Take Reduction Teams/Plans that affect this fishery:** None.

**Year added to LOF:** 1996

**Category when originally listed:** Category II

**Basis for original classification on the LOF:** This fishery was categorized as a Category II based on analogy with other gillnet fisheries because observer coverage was inadequate. Logbook data showed the total known mortality and serious injury for harbor seals across all fisheries did not exceed 10% of the Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level, but low levels of observer coverage were inadequate and data suggests take levels may be exceed 10%. The known mortality and serious injury of harbor seals (Southeast AK) in this fishery was 30 animals/year, or 1.5% of PBR (PBR=2,000).

**Estimated number of participants when originally listed:** 152

**Past names, if any:** None.

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**Gear description/method for fishing:** This fishery uses set gillnet gear with continuous soak times during the opener<sup>†</sup>, throughout during the day and night. The catch is picked from the net every 2-4 hours each day or continuously during peak fishing times.

**Target species:** Salmon (sockeye and Coho).

**Spatial/temporal distribution of effort:** This fishery generally operates from June 4 to the end of August. The Yakutat salmon set gillnet fishery consists of multiple set gillnet fisheries occurring in two fishing districts, the Yakutat District and the Yakataga District. As many as 25 different areas in the Yakutat and Yakataga Districts are open to commercial fishing each year. The Yakutat District fisheries primarily target sockeye and Coho salmon, although all species of salmon are harvested. The Yakataga District fisheries target Coho salmon. With a few exceptions, set gillnetting is confined to the intertidal area inside the mouths of rivers and streams, and to the ocean waters immediately adjacent to each.

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\* The fishery is classified by analogy to other gear types or fisheries that are known to cause mortality or serious injury of marine mammals.

† Salmon may only be fished commercially during periods known as openers established by the AK Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) in-season. Openers may last days or weeks. The ADFG posts weekly notices of fishing openers and announces the openers on regular radio channels. Fishing periods are often extended by emergency order during the last 24 hours of the opener.

**Levels of observer coverage each year<sup>‡</sup>:** This fishery has not been observed by the Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program.

**Management and regulations:** This fishery is managed by the AK Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) as a limited entry fishery with gear restrictions on the mesh and net size, and area closures. Due to the terminal nature of these fisheries, ADFG has developed salmon escapement goals for most of the major, and several of the minor, fisheries.

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**History of Changes on the LOF**

2009 LOF: Estimated number of participants updated from 170 to 166.

2006 LOF:

- Humpback whale (Central North Pacific (Southeast AK)), added to list of species incidentally killed/injured to update the stocks associated with the newly delineated fisheries in 2004 (delineated into more discrete fisheries according to area, gear and target species to reflect fisheries as managed under the relevant Fishery Management Plans).
- Added a superscript “2” in Table 1 after this fishery, indicating this fishery is classified by analogy.

2001 LOF:

- Estimated number of participants updated from 139 to 170.

1999 LOF:

- Gray whale (Eastern North Pacific) added to the list of species/stocks incidentally killed/ injured in this fishery based on recent reported interactions.
- Estimated number of participants updated from 147 to 139.

1998 LOF: Estimated number of participants updated from 152 to 147.

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<sup>‡</sup> Observer coverage levels include the latest information reported in the most current final Stock Assessment Reports (SAR).