

PACIFIC REGION

1996 SALMON NET AND TROLL MANAGEMENT PLAN

AREAS A, C, AND F

NORTH COAST

This Salmon Net and Troll Management Plan is intended for general purposes only. Where there is a discrepancy between the Plan and the regulations, the regulations are the final authority.

* Description of Areas and Subareas referenced in this Plan can be found in the Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations.



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

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Canada

Canada

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	3
3. ALLOCATIONS AND LIMITATIONS	4
4. NORTH COAST NET FISHING PLANS	4
4.1. Area 1	4
4.2. Area 2W	5
4.3. Area 2E	6
4.4. Area 3	6
4.5. Areas 4 and 5	7
4.6. Area 6	14
4.7. Area 7	14
4.8. Area 8	16
4.9. Area 9	18
4.10. Area 10	19
5. TROLL FISHING PLAN	20
5.1. Highlights	20
5.2. Recorded Phone Service	21
5.3. Management Approach - By Species	22
5.4. Plan Details	22
5.5. Dundas Island (Subarea 3-1) Management	25
5.6. Fraser Sockeye	26
5.7. North Coast Troll Test Fishery	26
5.8. Coho	26
5.9. Dundas Island Management (Subarea 3-1)	27
5.10. Northern Pink	28
5.11. Chum	28
5.12. Chinook	28
5.13. Lower Strait Of Georgia Conservation Measures	29
5.14. Chinook Encounter Rate Monitoring Program	29
5.15. Barbless Hooks	30
6. ENFORCEMENT	30

1. INTRODUCTION

This fishing plan, developed after extensive input from a number of advisory boards, is based on pre-season forecasts of abundance. Although it is not stated under each week in each area, the management plan for any area can change in-season. Open subareas, provisions for extensions, opening patterns and the duration of the fishing season can all be adjusted based on stock abundance, fishing effort, or allocation considerations. All openings indicated in this plan are expected to occur, but are not guaranteed. Catches are limited by conservation concerns, domestic allocations, and stock abundance.

Canada and the United States have not reached an agreement for 1996 Pacific Salmon Treaty fisheries. Further information will be released as soon as it is available.

2. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The fishing plan for 1996 was developed to meet a number of objectives that include the following:

- 2.1.** Manage fisheries using a risk aversion management strategy to ensure that management objectives and escapement targets are met.
- 2.2.** Meet Aboriginal fisheries obligations.
- 2.3.** Manage the troll and interception net fisheries in a manner that will provide maximum protection to passing West Coast Vancouver Island chinook stocks and ensure that WCVI chinook conservation objectives are met.
- 2.4.** Net fishers in Areas 3 to 10 are asked to release all live chinook to the water with the least possible harm.
- 2.5.** Minimize the incidental harvest of steelhead, coho, and chinook salmon. Special conservation measures for specific stocks are included in this fishing plan.
- 2.6.** Direct fisheries onto surplus stocks while minimizing impacts on depressed or weak stocks.
- 2.7.** Maintain manageability and enforceability of the plan.

3. ALLOCATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

There will be no formal allocation plan for the 1996 season. Given the uncertainties in 1996, CFIC has recommended that DFO manage the 1996 commercial salmon fishery using the following prioritized allocation criteria:

1. Maximize the commercial harvest of the available surplus by commercial gear type.
2. Do not use the 1992 allocation plan for 1996.
3. Be as fair and equitable as possible in allocating the available resources between the three gear sectors within the constraints of points 1 and 2 above.
4. The 1996 season should be considered as anomalous and, therefore, the 1996 Domestic Allocation Plan should not set any precedents for the Long Term Allocation Plan.

4. NORTH COAST NET FISHING PLANS

The following net fishing plans list only the starting dates for various fisheries. Subsequent openings will depend on stock strength.

4.1. Area 1

4.1.1. CHINOOK

Mandatory release of all chinook.

4.1.2. PINK

Even year returns. No surpluses anticipated. However, stock assessment fisheries anticipated in Masset Sound and Masset Inlet to assess the strengths of incoming stocks.

4.1.3. CHUM

No surpluses forecast, small assessment fisheries planned.

4.1.4. PROPOSED FISHING PATTERN

Effective Date	Action
Aug 12	Open to nets for 12 hours in a portion of subarea 1-6. Boundaries to be announced in season. Subsequent openings will depend on stock strength indicators.
Sept 9	Open to nets for 12 hours (0800 H to 2000 H) in a portion of 1-3 (east of a line true north from Cape Edenshaw) and 1-5 (west of a line true north from Skonun Point) to assess the strength of chum salmon migrating into Masset Inlet. Fleet size and catch are expected to be small. Subsequent openings will depend on stock strength indicators.

4.2. Area 2W

4.2.1. CHINOOK

Mandatory release of all chinook.

4.2.2. PINK

Even year returns. Little or no surplus anticipated. Returns have been highly variable in the past and forecasts have been unreliable. Directed terminal fisheries will be initiated based on in season stock assessments.

4.2.3. CHUM

Surpluses anticipated in Tasu Inlet (30,000). Returns have been highly variable in the past and forecasts have been unreliable. Directed terminal fisheries may be initiated based on in-season stock assessments.

4.2.4. PROPOSED FISHING PATTERN

There will be no commercial net openings in Rennell Sound due to concerns for WCVI chinook stocks.

Possible opening in Tasu Sound in late September, subject to in-season stock assessment.

4.3. Area 2E

4.3.1. CHINOOK

Mandatory release of all chinook.

4.3.2. PINK

Even year returns. Minor surpluses totalling about 180,000 anticipated with contributors located in Skidegate Inlet and Cumshewa Inlet. Returns have been highly variable in the past and forecasts have been unreliable. Directed terminal fisheries will be initiated based on in-season stock assessments.

4.3.3. CHUM

Surpluses anticipated to Skidegate Inlet (25,000) and Cumshewa Inlet (130,000). Directed terminal fisheries will be initiated based on in-season stock assessments.

4.3.4. PROPOSED FISHING PATTERN

Effective Date	Action
Aug 19	Open to nets for 12 hours in portions of subareas 2-1 and 2-4. Boundaries to be announced in season.
Aug 26	Open to gillnets for 12 hours in portions of subareas 2-3 and 2-4.
Sept 9	Open to nets for 12 hours in portions of subareas 2-3 and 2-4.
	Subsequent openings will depend on stock strength indicators.

4.4. Area 3

4.4.1. SOCKEYE

In 1996 preliminary expectations are for an above average return of 600,000 sockeye to Canadian waters, due to strong escapements in both the 1991 and 1992 brood years and strong returns of 3 and 4 year old fish in 1995.

4.4.2. PINK

Pink expectations are for well below average returns due to below desired escapements in the brood year.

4.4.3. CHUM

Anticipate poor survivals from the 1992 chum escapement due to severe flooding and freezing conditions in the fall and winter of 1992. This will likely result in limited fishing opportunities in August in Area 3.

4.4.4. PROPOSED FISHING PATTERN

Effective Date	Action
June 10	<p>Open to gillnets for 24 hours 1800 Monday, June 10 in the portion of 3-1 north of a line running true west from Arniston Pt., 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-7 and the portion of 3-12 south of a line from Trefusis Pt. to a boundary sign on Pearse Island approximately 1.75 miles north of Lizard Pt. light. Max. mesh 137 mm.</p> <p>Future fishing opportunities based on in-season sockeye and pink run size assessment.</p>
July 14	<p>Open to nets for 24 hours 1800 hours Sunday, July 14 in the portion of 3-1 north of a line due west of Arnazazu Pt. and northeast of a line from Jacinto Pt. to the most northern tip of Prince Lebo Isl., 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-7, 3-11, 3-13 and 3-17 may open depending on pink and sockeye strength. Max mesh 137 mm.</p> <p>Future fishing opportunities based on in-season sockeye and pink run size assessment.</p>

4.5. Areas 4 and 5

4.5.1. SOCKEYE

Preliminary expectations call for an above average Skeena sockeye return of 3 to 3.5 million fish to Canadian waters. This is the result of large returns of age 3 and 4 sockeye to the Skeena in 1995.

Area 5 sockeye returns are expected to be average to slightly above average as well.

4.5.2. PINK

Due to well below desired escapement levels to all Skeena tributaries in 1994 the forecast return in 1996 of approximately 800,000 will not meet escapement requirements.

Area 5 pink returns are expected to be very poor with a total return forecast to be 125,000.

4.5.3. CHUM

It is anticipated poor survivals from the 1992 chum brood combined with low escapement levels in all brood years will result in a poor chum return in 1996 to both the Skeena and Area 5 streams.

4.5.4. PROPOSED FISHING PATTERN

The proposed fishing plan for Area 4 is much more detailed than other areas due to a fishing plan that has been agreed to by the commercial, aboriginal, and recreational sectors, accomplished through the Skeena Watershed Committee. Area 5 will generally follow Area 4 during sockeye fisheries.

1996 AREA 4 FISHING PLAN

The following fishing plan will be in place for Area 4 in 1996. As always, DFO reserves the right to alter this plan in the event of conservation concerns.

The overriding objective of the fishing plan is to establish fishing patterns that result in estimated commercial harvest rates not exceeding 19% for coho; 21% for steelhead; and 33% for early timing steelhead, while attempting to maximize the harvest rate of sockeye.

4.5.5. COMMERCIAL GILLNET FISHING PLAN

Early Chinook Fishery: weeks 24 and 25 (Jun 9 - Jun 22)

Two weeks; two daylight openings; not to exceed 4,000 chinook; minimum mesh size 203 mm (8").

Sockeye Fishery: weeks 26 through 31 (Jun 23 - Aug 3)

With ordinary run timing, the peak of the sockeye migration through the fishing area occurs on July 21. The sockeye fishing

plan is constructed to provide a controlled fishing opportunity on early run stocks, an aggressive fishing pattern in mid-July on enhanced stocks, and a cautious approach at the end of July as steelhead and summer coho stocks begin moving through the fishing area in increasing numbers.

Food fish days are incorporated into the fishing plan this year to ensure certainty to this fishery, and allow fishers participating to plan their fishing activity in advance. Indicated days are reserved for food fishing, to allow more access to those fishers that find it difficult to participate on short notice.

Due to the uncertainty in fleet size in 1996, and in keeping with the agreed upon fishing plan, an additional day of gillnet fishing will be allowed in weeks 30 and 31 if stocks warrant and if the effort is significantly below expected levels.

Pink Fishery: weeks 32 and 33 (Aug 4 - Aug 17)

Normally, management emphasis would shift to pink salmon on week 32. In 1996, pink returns to the Skeena are expected to be poor. One day per week fisheries are scheduled.

Coho Fishery: weeks 34 to 38 (Aug 18 - Sep 21)

No fishing will occur on weeks 34 to 36. Two openings are scheduled to occur in weeks 37 and 38, with a maximum harvest of 3,000 coho.

4.5.6. GILLNET SELECTIVE GEAR TEST

A test of gillnets for the purpose of finding a net that is both more selective and efficient will be conducted in the Skeena area in 1996. The study will be conducted with 100% observer coverage and will examine catches of steelhead and all salmon species, as well as mammals and birds. Vessels will be fishing in groups of four in Areas 3 and 4 outside the River/Gap/Slough area, and singly inside the River/Gap/Slough area. These vessels will be using a variety of nets, will be fishing during all the commercial openings, and will fish two extra days, indicated on the fishing plan calendar.

June 1996

Monthly Planner

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July 1996

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		2	Food Fish			6
	Gillnet Commercial	Food Fish		Gillnet Commercial		Food Fish
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Food Fish	8	9	10	11	12	13
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Food Fish	28	29	30	31		
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Test Net	Gillnet Commercial	Test Net	Food Fish			

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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AUGUST						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 1996

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
* Possible selective seine day depending on run strength				Food Fish		*
4	5	6	7 Gillnet Commercial	8	9	10 *
*	*	Gillnet Commercial		*	*	*
11	12	13 Gillnet Commercial	14 Gillnet Commercial	15	16	17
*	*	Gillnet Commercial				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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September 1996

Monthly Planner

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4.5.7. SELECTIVE SEINE FISHERY

As situations warrant, selective seine fisheries will occur in 1996. At the present time, details of this fishery are being worked out by the North Coast Advisory Board

4.6. Area 6

4.6.1. PINK

Due to well below desired escapement levels to all Area 6 streams in 1994, the forecast return for 1996 of 600,000 is below the target escapement for the area.

4.6.2. CHUM

It is anticipated poor survivals from the main brood year in 1992 due to flooding and freezing conditions will result in a poor chum return in 1996. The only surplus anticipated for 1996 is to the Kitimat hatchery.

4.6.3. PROPOSED FISHING PATTERN

Effective Date	Action
June 24	Open to gillnets as an assessment fishery of chum in subareas 6-6 (south of a line from Cape Farewell to a boundary sign located approx. 2 miles north of Gibble Cr.), 6-7, 6-10 (inside a line running from the southern tip of Campania Isl. to McPhee Pt. on Princess Royal Isl.) and 6-26 to 6-28. Subsequent openings will depend on stock strength indicators and input from advisors.
July 14	Open to nets for 12 hours 0600 hours Monday July 15 in subareas 6-5, 6-6 (south of a line from Cape Farewell to a boundary sign located approx. 2 miles north of Gibble Cr.), 6-7, 6-10 (inside a line running from the southern tip of Campania Isl. to McPhee Pt. on Princess Royal Isl.) and 6-26 to 6-28.

4.7. Area 7

4.7.1. PINK

There is a surplus of 172,000 with the majority of the surplus expected to return to Neekas and Carter Rivers.

4.7.2. CHUM

There is no identified natural surplus in Area 7 for 1996. There are some small hatchery surpluses.

Hatchery Chum

Kitasu Creek Hatchery is expecting a surplus of 6,000 chum with no surplus of coho. The chum surplus will provide some directed fisheries.

McLoughlin Creek Hatchery is expecting a surplus of 22,000 chum and a small number of coho. This will provide directed fisheries in Lama Pass.

4.7.3. PROPOSED FISHING PATTERN

Effective Date	Action
July 15	Open to gillnets for 1 day in Subareas 7-4 (North of Oscar Pass), 7-5, 7-6 (South of Denton Point) and 7-9 (North of a line from Guard Point to Stapeleton Point). The Mary Cove boundaries will be in effect to conserve Sockeye.
Aug 12	Open to seines for 12 hours in a portion of Subarea 7-17 between Story Point and Archibald Point targeting McLoughlin Hatchery Chum. Gear types will alternate as in previous years.
Sep 2	Open to gillnets and seines for 1 day in 7-13.

NOTES

- The first in-season advisory board meeting will be held Thursday morning July 25, 1996 in Bella Bella.

- Short notice announcements and/or short duration fisheries may be held after the August 12th fishery in the McLoughlin Bay. The announcement times may be such that only vessels currently on the grounds will be able to participate. These actions are necessary to ensure safe fisheries and manageable fleet sizes when harvesting limited surpluses in confined areas.
- DFO will attempt to harvest surplus chum returning to Kitasoo Hatchery in Finlayson Channel. If surpluses are not caught in Finlayson Channel, fisheries in the Klemtu Pass area may be considered subject to conservation concerns and native food fish requirements. Openings targeting on Kitasoo Creek Hatchery stocks in terminal areas would only be considered after August 26th and would follow the pattern of gillnets fishing first and seines second.

4.8. Area 8

4.8.1. SOCKEYE

A small surplus of 9,000 sockeye is expected to the Atnarko River.

4.8.2. PINK

The total projected returning stock of pink to the Atnarko River is anticipated to be 760,000. No surplus has been forecast for Area 8 pink. Any catches will be incidental in other fisheries.

4.8.3. CHUM

A surplus of approximately 213,000 chum is anticipated to the Bella Coola River. This surplus includes the hatchery contribution of 180,000. There is no surplus identified to the Kimsquit River.

4.8.4. CHINOOK

There is a small surplus of approximately 9,000 Atnarko chinook anticipated. However, forecast returns in the past have over estimated the actual return.

4.8.5. PROPOSED FISHING PATTERN

Effective Date	Action
June 3	<p>Open to gillnets for 1 day in Subareas 8-10, 8-11, 8-12 (North of Bensins Island), 8-13 (North of the Southern most point in Restoration Bay) and 8-15.</p> <p>Minimum mesh restriction of 203 mm will be in effect. Further Chinook openings will depend on stock strength.</p>
July 1	<p>Open to gillnets for 1 day in Subareas 8-3, 8-4, 8-5, 8-10, 8-11, 8-12 (North of Bensins Island), 8-15. Minimum mesh restriction of 149 mm.</p>
July 22	<p>Open to gillnets and seines for 1 day in Subareas 8-3, 8-4 and 8-5 (South of a line from Farewell Point to a prominent point 0.7 miles North of Bold Point).</p> <p>Open to gillnets for 1 day in Subareas 8-8, 8-10, 8-11, 8-12 (North of Bensins Island), and 8-15.</p> <p>Subsequent openings will depend on in-season management actions based on run strength and input from advisors.</p> <p>Any openings in 8-5 north of Bold Pt. and 8-8 will depend on chum strength and any potential openings will be subject to steelhead conservation measures outlined below.</p> <p>Gillnets: Gillnets are required to use a weedline 100 cm to 154 cm (40 to 60 inches) below the corkline in 8-5 north of Bold Pt. and 8-8.</p> <p>Seines: Mandatory release of steelhead by seines in 8-5 north of Bold Point.</p> <p>Seine Steelhead Release Procedure: Seines are required to dry up sets alongside their vessel. Using a skiff and a small dip net, steelhead are to be removed from the pursed seine net. The remaining salmon are then to be brailed onto the deck and any remaining steelhead carefully released. In the event of large sets, salmon shall be sorted from the pursed seine net into</p>

Effective Date**Action**

the brailer. Small dip nets work well for sorting salmon and capturing steelhead from the seine net. It is not acceptable to bring fish over the stern or use stern ramps.

Non-compliance with the seine steelhead release procedure may result in closure of the fishing area.

Notes

- Mesh restrictions in the Bella Coola Gillnet Area may be rescinded to allow a targeted gillnet sockeye fishery during the week commencing July 7 if Native Food Fish catches in the Bella Coola River suggest the Atnarko sockeye return is strong.
- Weedlines and Seine Release programs for steelhead will be in effect during the period from July 14 to August 10.
- Commercial fisheries in Area 8 will be closed for 3 consecutive days in every week to protect weaker non-target salmon stocks.
- A joint Area 7 and Area 8 in-season advisory meeting is scheduled for Thursday morning July 25, 1996 at Bella Bella.

4.9. Area 9**4.9.1. SOCKEYE**

The total projected returning stock of sockeye to Rivers Inlet is estimated to be 260,000.

4.9.2. PINK

Brood year escapement continues to be extremely poor. No expected surplus.

4.9.3. CHUM

Brood year escapements continue to be extremely poor. No expected surplus.

4.9.4. PROPOSED FISHING PATTERN

A precautionary, risk averse approach to in-season management will be adopted for 1996. The strength of sockeye returns to Rivers and Smith inlets has been highly correlated in past years; strong returns to Smith Inlet in 1996 would indicate that severe marine mortality was not a general problem and this would reduce the concern for a poor return to Rivers Inlet in 1996. Based on this reasoning, the Docee River Counting Fence in Area 10 (Smith Inlet) will be used as an initial indicator of returns to Rivers Inlet. The Docee Fence Index is defined as the theoretical fence count (catch plus escapement past the fence).

A modified assessment fishery will occur in Rivers Inlet only if the Docee Fence Index reaches or exceeds 50,000 by July 13. To safeguard against the chance of opening on a small run, the size of the commercial fishing area will be reduced during the modified assessment fishery to limit potential harvest. This restricted area will be the average distance that a sockeye swims in a day (approximately 20 km). This assessment fishery will last for 24 hours. The current in-season management model will be used to assess run strength using catch rate and total catch information. Further commercial openings will depend on the results of the assessment fishery.

The open area in any fishery as described above would be from Bilton Island to the most prominent point on the opposite shore north of Duncanby Landing and from the mainland across to the northern tip of Edna Mathews Island to a prominent point on the opposite side.

Notes

- The in-season Advisory meetings will likely be set for 10:00 a.m. on the day following the last day of fishing for the week. Announcements on the grounds will be made confirming the dates and times.

4.10. Area 10

4.10.1. SOCKEYE

1991 and 1992 brood escapements met the target and were 260,000 and 220,000 respectively. The return of age 4 sockeye from the 1991 brood in 1995 was very poor. It is anticipated that this condition will likely apply to the return of age 5 sockeye in 1996.

4.10.2. PINK

Brood year escapement continues to be extremely poor. No surplus projected.

4.10.3. CHUM

Brood year escapements continue to be extremely poor. No surplus projected.

4.10.4. PROPOSED FISHING PATTERN

Effective Date	Action
July 1	Open to gillnets 1 day in Subareas 10-3, 10-4, 10-5, 10-6, 10-7, 10-8, and 10-9. Maximum mesh size is 150 mm.
July 8	Open to gillnets 1 day in Subareas 10-3, 10-4, 10-5, 10-6, 10-7, 10-8, and 10-9. Maximum mesh size is 150 mm.
	Subsequent openings will depend on Docee River fence count and total catch to date.

5. TROLL FISHING PLAN

5.1. Highlights

5.1.1. Trolling for sockeye, coho, pink and chum will start July 8, 1996. Recent North Coast troll fisheries have closed prior to September 15. The length of the troll season will be dependent on a combination of viable catch, effort and shaker incidence. Any single factor or combination of these factors which are negatively impacted may result in the closure of the fishery.

- 5.1.2. There are severe conservation concerns with WCVI chinook stocks in 1996. Management actions require the implementation of non-retention and non-possession of chinook salmon in Area F - North Coast for the 1996 season, as well as closures in chinook red-line areas.
- 5.1.3. There will be no fisheries on southern bound (Fraser River) sockeye stocks.
- 5.1.4. Conservation measures implemented to address upper Skeena coho stocks will remain in effect in 1996.
- 5.1.5. Skeena River pink stocks are expected to return in very low numbers.
- 5.1.6. All times referred to in this plan are local times.
- 5.1.7. The North Coast Troll test fishery is suspended in 1996.
- 5.1.8. Proposed management actions and catch information for the North Coast will be broadcast to the fleet only on an as required basis due to the limited nature of the fishery in 1996. Dates and times of any broadcasts will be transmitted to the fleet via DFO patrol vessels, Coast Guard weather channels and via the 24 hour troll fishery information service.
- 5.1.9. Clarification of management actions or information should be directed to In-season Advisors on the North Coast Troll Management Committee.

5.2. Recorded phone service for troll information is provided at the following locations.

Vancouver	666-1506
Prince Rupert	627-3470*
Tofino	725-3245
Port Hardy	949-8181
Nanaimo	754-0281
Pacific Salmon Commission	666-8200

* Fishers are advised that the Prince Rupert information number has been changed.

5.3. MANAGEMENT APPROACH - BY SPECIES

5.3.1. SOCKEYE

The Outside troll catch ceiling has been 5% of the Areas 1, 3, 4 and 5 all-gear, non-Fraser sockeye catch. The returns of North Coast sockeye are expected to be average to above average. When and as opportunities arise, additional opportunities will be provided to harvest Skeena River sockeye. There will be no fisheries directed on southern bound (Fraser River) sockeye stocks.

5.3.2. COHO

Skeena coho returns are expected to be poor based on recent trends. The Skeena coho conservation actions implemented in 1995 will remain in effect for 1996 to further the objective of increasing escapements to the Upper Skeena River.

5.3.3. PINK

North coast pink returns are expected to be below average.

There is no Pacific Salmon Treaty agreement for Area 1 pink salmon.

5.3.4. CHUM

Chum abundance is expected to be below average.

5.3.5. CHINOOK

The North Coast Troll fishery will be managed to address conservation on domestic stock concerns relative to West Coast Vancouver Island chinook.

In order to achieve minimum escapement targets, non-retention and non-possession of chinook will be in effect for the 1996 season.

5.4. PLAN DETAILS

5.4.1. NORTH COAST COHO, PINK AND CHUM OPENINGS

The following management Areas will open, 7 days per week, to commercial trolling for coho, pink, and chum salmon on:

July 8, 1996 (0001 hours)

Outside Surfline - Areas 102, 105 to 110, and portions of Areas 101 (Chinook Red-line boundary in effect), 103 and 104 (Area 111 closed for the 1996 season).

Inside Surfline - AREAS 1 to 5 and 11

Area	Subareas Open
1	Subarea 1-5 and that portion of Subarea 1-3 easterly and seaward of a line running true North from Cape Naden to its intersection with the surfline at 54 degrees 08.9 minutes N. and 132 degrees 34.9 minutes west (Chinook Redline Boundary in effect).
2E	All Subareas.
2W	None.
3	That portion of Subarea 3-1 (Caamano Passage) eastward of a line running from the flashing light on the south end of Zayas Island to the southernmost point on Prince Leebo Island and north of 54 degrees 37.00 minutes N. from the most northwesterly point on Zayas Island.
4	None.
5	All Subareas.
11	None.

Areas 2, 3 (except portion of Subarea 3-1) and 5 will also open to trolling for **sockeye**, coho, pink, and chum **during net times and net areas** after 0001 hours July 8, 1996. Area 4 (except a portion of Subarea 4-1) will remain closed during net fishing times and areas all year.

In response to domestic stock concerns on WCVI chinook, troll opportunities in Areas 6 to 10 will be limited to net fishing times and areas only until 2359 hours July 31, 1996 with non-retention and non-possession of chinook salmon in effect.

5.4.2. CENTRAL COAST COHO, PINK AND CHUM OPENINGS

The following management Areas will open, 7 days per week, to commercial trolling for coho, pink and chum on (see Figure 8):

August 1, 1996 (0001 hours).

Inside Surfline - AREAS 6 to 10

Area	Subareas Open
6	6-9, 6-11, 6-13, 6-17 and that portion of 6-10 seaward of a line from McPhee Point on Princess Royal Island to Eclipse Point on Campania Island.
7	7-1, 7-2, 7-18, 7-19, 7-20, 7-23, 7-25, 7-26, 7-27, 7-31 and 7-32.
8	8-1.
9	That portion of 9-1 seaward and outside of a line running from Harold Point to Kelp Head.
10	Those portions of 10-1 and 10-2 lying north of a line due West from Bay Point to the surfline.

Areas 6 to 10 will also open to trolling for **sockeye**, coho, pink, and chum **during net times and net areas** after 0001 hours August 1, 1996. Further measures may be required inside surfline areas to address conservation concerns on Fraser River sockeye.

5.4.3. NORTH COAST SOCKEYE OPENINGS

The following portion of Dixon Entrance and Hecate Strait will open to sockeye troll fishing 7 days/week:

July 8, 1996 (0001 hours) **until July 19, 1996** (2359 hours)

Outside Surfline - Subareas 101-3 (except that portion inside the Chinook Red-line Boundary), 101-4 to 101-6, 101-7 (except that portion inside the Chinook Red-line Boundary), 101-8 to 101-10, Subarea 102-1, Area 103 north of 54 degrees 37.00 minutes North, a portion of Subarea 104-1 outside and westerly of 131 degrees 18.00 minutes West, a portion of 104-3 Wouth of 54 degrees 00.00 minutes North, 104-4, 104-5, and Area 105.

Inside Surfline - A portion of Subarea 1-3 easterly and seaward of a line running true North from Cape Naden to its intersection with the surfline at 54 degrees 08.9 minutes North, 132 degrees 34.9 minutes West, subarea 1-5, portions of Subarea

3-1 North of 54 degrees 37.00 minutes North and that portion which is Caamano Passage eastward of a line running from the flashing light on the south end of Zayas Island to the southernmost point on Prince Leebo Island and Area 5 (all Subareas) (see Figure 1).

The following Areas will remain open throughout the season to allow for continued harvesting of Skeena sockeye:

Portions of Areas 1 and 101 (except those portions inside the Chinook Red-line Boundary) easterly of 133 degrees 00.00 minutes West, Subarea 102-1, portion of Subarea 3-1, Areas 5 and 105 (see Figure 2).

5.5. Dundas Island (Subarea 3-1) Management

The following Areas will open to sockeye retention in conjunction with the implementation of the coho closure in Subarea 3-1:

Those previously closed portions Area 103 and Subarea 3-1;

Those portions of Subareas 104-1 and 104-2 North of 54 degrees 24.00 minutes North;

That portion of Subarea 4-1 seaward and westerly of a line running true south from the flashing light on the southernmost point of Dundas Island to 54 degrees 24.00 minutes North, thence running true West along 54 degrees 24.00 minutes North to its intersection with the surfline (see Figure 3).

Non-retention and non-possession of chinook and coho will be in effect in these Areas and trollers are requested to crimp the barbs on their hooks to reduce shaker mortalities. These Areas will be closely monitored and if excessive shakers are observed, further actions including a closure may be necessary.

Non-retention and non-possession of sockeye will be in effect in Areas 7 to 10 except during net fishing times and areas (for conservation of Fraser River sockeye).

Trollers must offload their sockeye catches prior to engaging in fisheries outside the surfline where non-retention/non-possession of sockeye is in effect.

5.6. Fraser Sockeye

Sockeye returns to the Fraser River are not expected to provide harvestable surpluses. Consequently, there will be no directed fisheries on these stocks in 1996 and future fisheries conducted in Area F- North Coast will be limited to assessment purposes only.

Any assessment fisheries will be conducted in accordance with Regional management objectives and strategies implemented on these stocks and in consultation with the North Coast Troll Management Committee.

5.7. North Coast Troll Test Fishery

The North Coast Troll test fishery conducted in Area 2W over the past two years will be suspended for 1996. Future test fisheries will be implemented based on need and the ability to meet the objectives/requirements set out for such fisheries and will be developed in consultation with the North Coast Troll Management Committee.

5.8. Coho

Conservation measures implemented since 1989 continue to be monitored for their effectiveness in addressing conservation concerns for upper Skeena stocks. Area 4 (except portion of Subarea 4-1) inside the surfline will be closed to trolling all year including during net fishing times and areas.

In addition, effective 0001 hours July 8, 1996 and until further notice the following Areas will remain closed to all trolling to conserve upper Skeena coho (see Figure 4):

A portion of Subarea 3-1 westerly of a line running from the flashing light on the south end of Zayas Island to the southernmost point on Prince Leebo Island and south of 54 degrees 37.00 minutes North from the most northwesterly point on Zayas Island.

Area 103 south of 54 degrees 37.00 minutes North.

Subarea 104-2.

A portion of Subarea 104-1 inside and easterly of 131 degrees 18.00 minutes West.

A portion of Subarea 104-3 North of 54 degrees 00.00 minutes North.

Every attempt will be made to lift the Skeena River Coho Closure in a timely manner to provide for fall coho harvest opportunities. Criteria that will be utilized to lift this closure will include positive indications of overall abundance of coho stock strength in the Dixon Entrance and Hecate Strait approaches to the terminal area, shaker incidence, and meeting desired escapement indices as observed in the test fishery on the Skeena River.

5.9. Dundas Island Management (Subarea 3-1)

A large portion of the North coast is closed to address domestic stock concerns related to WCVI chinook and early timed Skeena coho. As a result of these closures, effort in 1995 far exceeded recommended levels in the Subarea 3-1 periphery of the Skeena River Coho Closure.

Effort levels in 1996 are again expected to exceed these recommended levels. Accordingly an effort limitation of 50 boats per day; 350 boat days per week guideline has been established for Subarea 3-1. If these effort levels are compromised, non-retention of coho will be implemented.

In order to minimize disruption to fishing trips, non-possession of coho will be implemented five days after the non-retention provision takes effect. It is anticipated that the non-retention provision may be implemented by July 15, with non-possession taking effect by July 20. In conjunction with this coho closure, further opportunities to harvest Skeena sockeye will be provided.

As there is no chinook allocation for 1996, the following troll closure will be implemented at 2359 hours, August 25, 1996 to reduce chinook shaker problems (see Figure 5).

That portion of Subarea 105-1 south of 54°00'.00" N. and inside and easterly of 131°18'.00" W. to its intersection with the seaward/westward boundary of Subarea 102-1.

If in-season information suggests that the relative abundance of coho in Subarea 105-1 will permit the coho fishery to continue, then consideration will be given to adjusting the closed area.

Adjustments will be made in consultation with designated in-season advisors. The intent of this closure is to enhance the opportunity to fish coho in September, dependent on coho abundance.

Further opportunities to harvest late run coho in other North coast areas will be implemented when surpluses are identified and where shaker incidence is minimal.

5.10. Northern Pink

There is no Pacific Salmon Treaty catch ceiling on Area 1 pinks in 1996. If it becomes evident that Skeena / Nass pinks are at very low levels, then restrictions can be expected on troll fisheries.

5.11. Chum

No restrictions are anticipated in 1996.

5.12. Chinook

The management intent for the North Coast troll fishery is to address Canadian stock concerns. The fishing plan has been developed in consideration of minimizing chinook encounter rates and shakers while providing the opportunity to extend the season to harvest other species.

In response to recommendations from the North Coast Troll Management Committee, modifications to some closed areas may be implemented in order to provide harvest opportunities on anticipated fall coho and chum surpluses. Trollers are advised that these opportunities may be limited both in area and time duration. Any areas opened on this accord will be monitored for shaker incidence and be subject to effort controls. Consequently, these fisheries may close on short notice.

In order to address these criteria and achieve minimum escapement targets for WCVI chinook, non-retention and non-possession of chinook salmon will be implemented for the 1996 fishing season.

In accordance with the aforementioned the following measures will be implemented.

1. The following Subareas will be closed from 0001 hours July 8, 1996 until further notice: Subareas 1-1, 1-2, 1-7, 101-1, 101-2, 2-31 to 2-100, 130 and 142 (see Figure 6).
2. In 1996, an area closure (CHINOOK RED LINE BOUNDARY) will be implemented from 0001 hours July 8, 1996 for the season. The following points define the outside boundary of the closed area (see Figure 7):

		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
POINT 1)	Commencing at Cape Naden		
POINT 2)	thence true North for approx. 6 miles to	54°13.20'N	132°35.00'W
POINT 3)	thence 275° true for 11.8 miles to	54°14.20'N	132°55.00'W
POINT 4)	thence 329° true for 3.2 miles to	54°17.00'N	132°57.80'W
POINT 5)	thence 270° true West for 9.19 miles to	54°17.00'N	133°13.40'W
POINT 6)	thence 215° true to its intersection with	54°14.96'N	

Trollers are reminded that the latitudes and longitudes of the aforementioned points are the legal positions of the boundary and the bearings and ranges off points of land are only an "aid to navigation" and should be used with discretion.

3. Areas 6 to 10 will open, subject to net fishing times and areas only until 2359 hours July 31, 1996.
4. Areas 11 and 111 will remain closed for all salmon species for the 1996 season.

5.13. Lower Strait Of Georgia Conservation Measures

The following portions of Areas 10 and 11 will be closed to trolling for the season (see Figure 8):

1. Those shaded portions of sub-areas 10-1 and 10-2 lying south of a line due West from Bay Point to the Surfline.
2. The shaded portion of 11-2 lying easterly and shoreward of a line from the northwest corner of Subarea 11-2, to Pine Island, to Bright Island in the Buckle Group, then to the mainland following the Area 11 and 12 boundary.

5.14. Chinook Encounter Rate Monitoring Program

This fishing plan has been developed to allow fishing in those areas where chinook encounter rates will be minimized and to take advantage of the migratory timing of the stocks of concern. WCVI stocks will be encountered in open areas throughout the fishing season. A monitoring program will be implemented to ensure that conservation objectives are being met and that in-season adjustments can be made if required.

DFO will require the cooperation of trollers in providing information on the frequency of chinook encountered when fishing. In support of this program, logbooks will be issued randomly to the fleet and DFO requests that this information be recorded on a daily basis. All information received during this program will be strictly confidential between participants and the Department.

5.15. Barbless Hooks

The Northern Trollers Association has endorsed the utilization of barbless hooks for the 1996 season. DFO fully supports this initiative and requests the co-operation of all trollers to use barbless hooks. Further discussion on this and other initiatives will be undertaken both in-season and post-season with representatives of the North Coast Troll Management Committee.

6. ENFORCEMENT

OBSERVE, RECORD AND REPORT

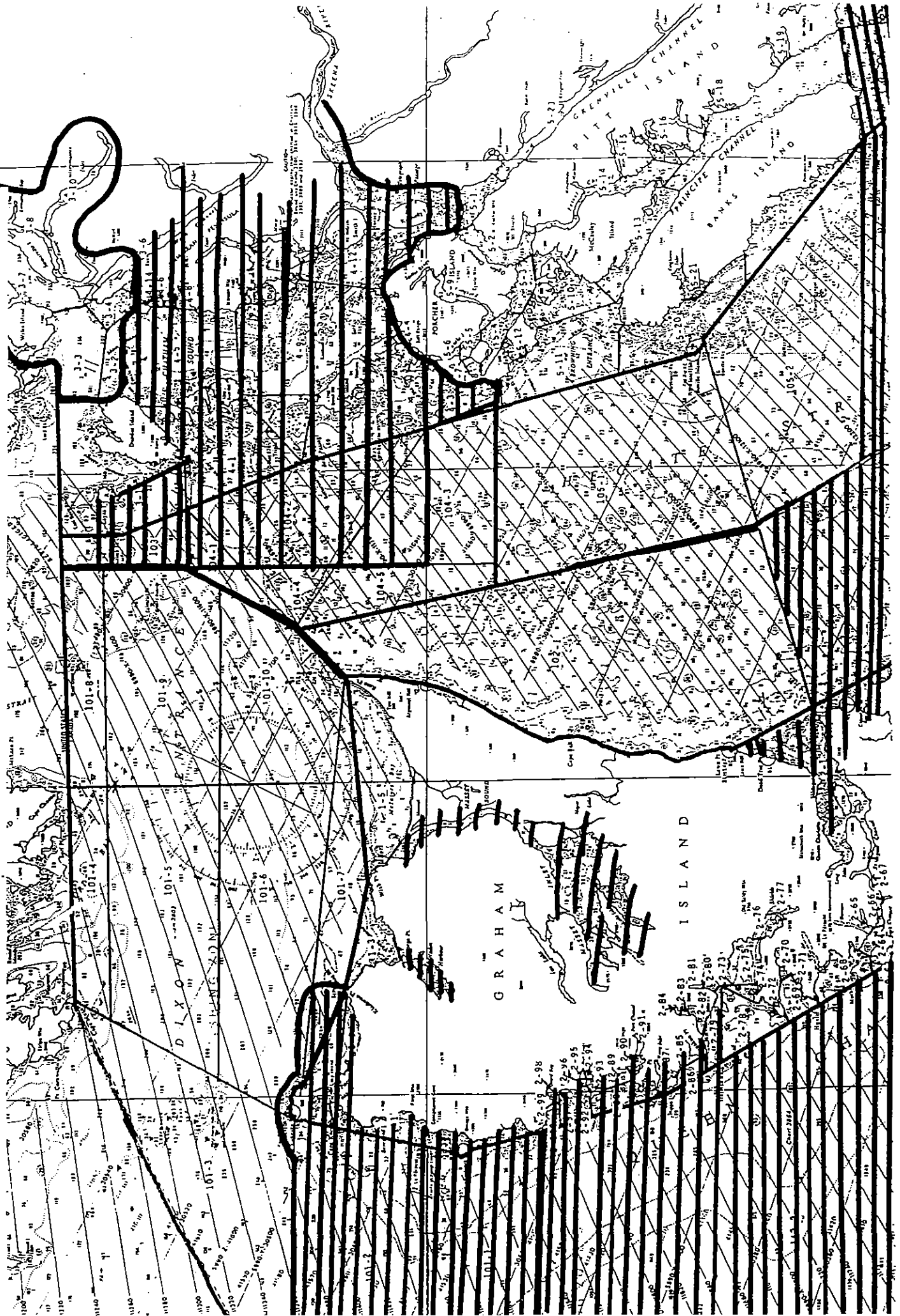
FISHERIES VIOLATIONS 1-800-465-4336

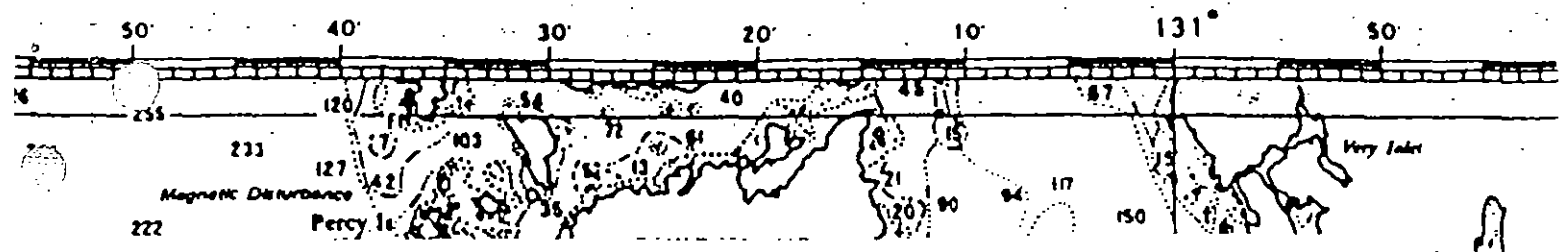
WILDLIFE AND POLLUTION VIOLATIONS 1-800-663-9453

Users of the resource have a responsibility to report violators. Any suspected or actual violations can be quickly and discretely passed on to the appropriate Enforcement Officer by telephoning the toll-free Observe, Record and Report (ORR) Numbers for reporting fisheries or wildlife and pollution violations.

June 15, 1996 - March 31, 1997: 24 hour coverage

FIGURE I. - SKEENA SOCKEYE FISHING AREAS (Non-dashed areas) - July 8 to 2359 hours July 19.





229
222
West Bay
22
McLean
212

FIGURE 3. - EXPANDED SKEENA SOCKEYE FISHING AREA - Opened in conjunction with coho closure in Subarea 3-1 on or about July 20. Voluntary compliance of barbless hooks in effect.

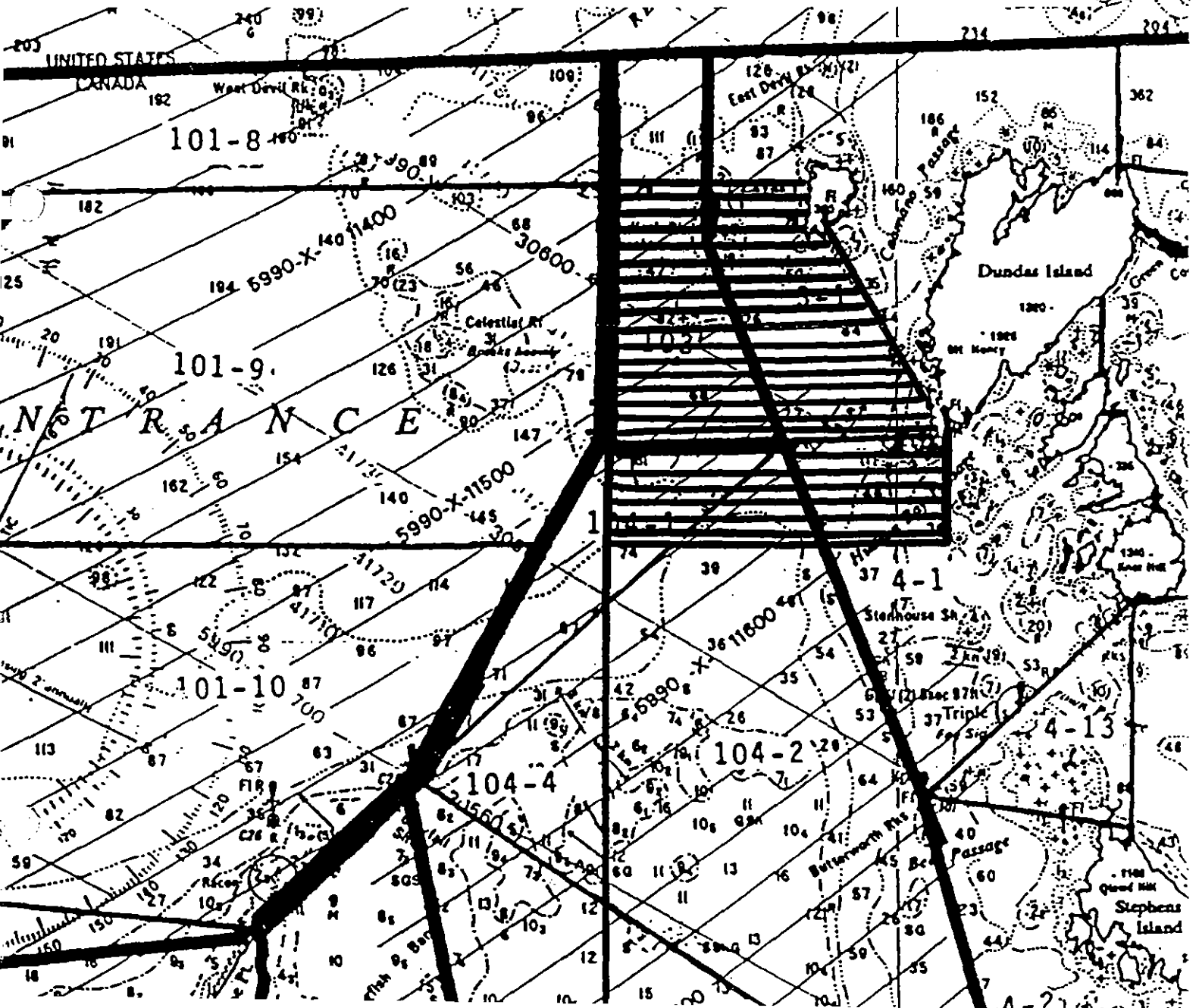


FIGURE 5. - HECATE STRAIT CLOSURE - After August 25 to reduce Chinook shakers.

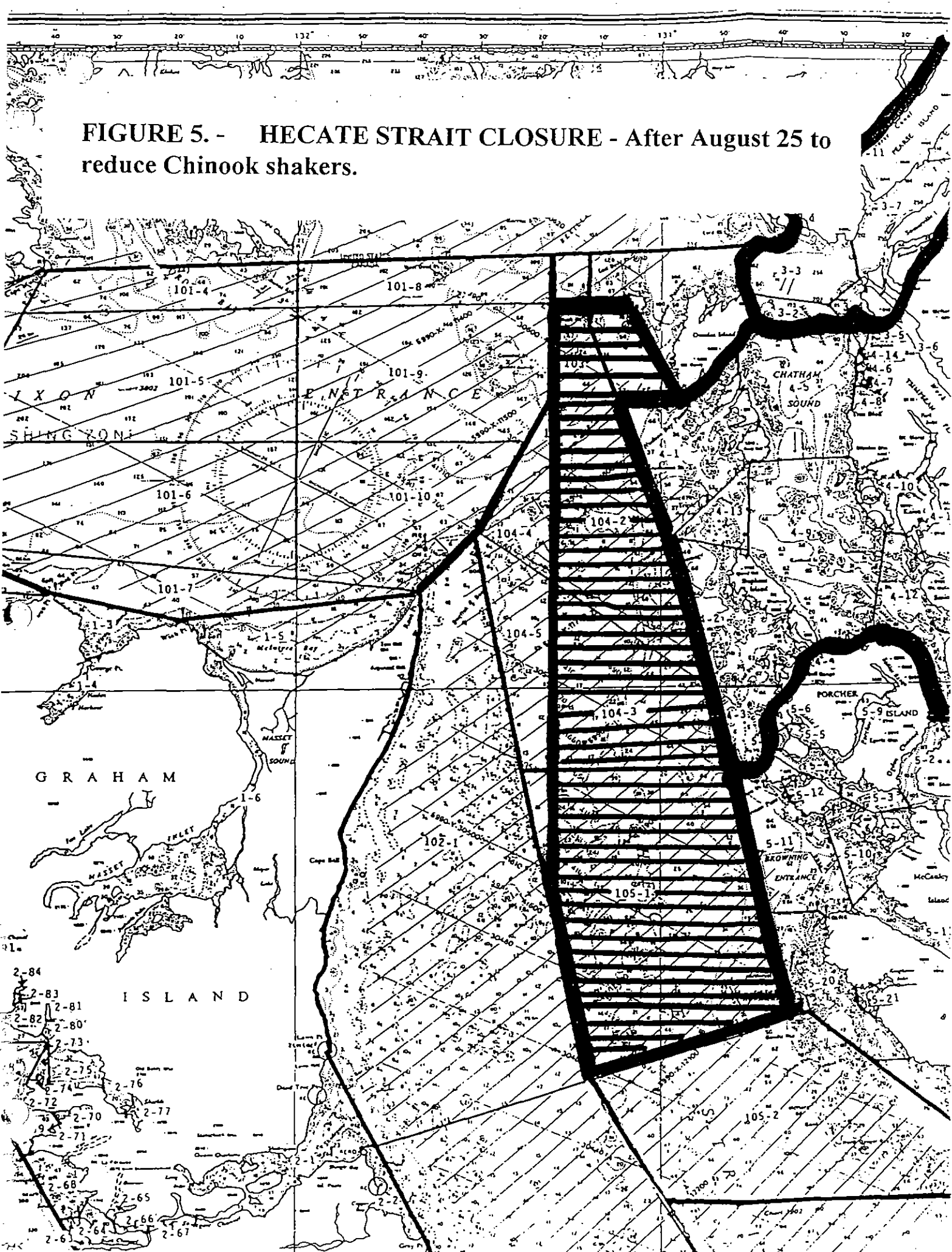


FIGURE 8. - AREAS 6 TO 11 - Closures for conservation of WCVI and lower Strait of Georgia chinook.

CENTRAL COAST - AREAS 6 TO 10

July 8 to July 31 - Open during net fishing times and areas.

August 1 until further notice - open 7 days per week - non-retention and non-possession of chinook in effect. Areas 7 to 10 - non-retention of sockeye except during net fishing times and areas.

**AREAS 10 AND 11 - Lower Georgia Strait
Chinook conservation
Areas (shaded zones).**

**AREAS 11 AND 111
Closed for the season.**

