

September 11, from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m. on Friday, September 12, and from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m. on Saturday, September 13, 2003. The East Point Line is a line projected from the low water range marker in Boundary Bay on the International Boundary through the east tip of Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the East Point Light on Saturna Island in the Province of British Columbia, Canada. All sockeye salmon must be released.

Order No. 2003-13: Issued 12:30 p.m., September 9, 2003.

Treaty Indian Fisheries

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open for net fishing in that portion of Areas 6, 7, and 7A south and east of the East Point Line from 5 a.m., Friday, September 12, 2003, until 9 p.m., Saturday, September 13, 2003. The East Point Line is a line projected from the low water range marker in Boundary Bay on the International Boundary through the east tip of Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the East Point Light on Saturna Island in the Province of British Columbia, Canada. All sockeye salmon caught in purse seines must be released.

Order No. 2003-14: Issued 12:30 p.m., September 12, 2003.

Treaty Indian Fisheries

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open for net fishing in that portion of Areas 6, 7, and 7A south and east of the East Point Line from 5 a.m., Friday, September 12 until 11:59 p.m., Friday, September 12, 2003. The East Point Line is a line projected from the low water range marker in Boundary Bay on the International Boundary through the east tip of Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the East Point Light on Saturna Island in the Province of British Columbia, Canada. All sockeye salmon caught in purse seines must be released.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open for net fishing in that portion of Areas 6, 7, and 7A south and east of the Iwersen Dock Line from 12:01 a.m., Saturday, September 13 until 8:00 p.m. Friday, September 19, 2003. The Iwersen Dock Line is a line projected from the point where the Iwersen Dock was once located on Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the Georgina Point Light at the entrance to Active Pass in the Province of British Columbia, Canada. All sockeye salmon caught in purse seines must be released.

All-Citizen Fisheries

Areas 7 and 7A Purse Seine: Open in Areas 7 and 7A south and east of the Iwersen Dock Line from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Sunday, September 14, from 6

a.m. until 8 p.m. on Monday, September 15, from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16, from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17, from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, and from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Friday, September 19, 2003. The Iwersen Dock Line is a line projected from the point where the Iwersen Dock was once located on Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the Georgina Point Light at the entrance to Active Pass in the Province of British Columbia, Canada. All sockeye salmon must be released.

Areas 7 and 7A Reef Net: Open in Areas 7 and 7A south and east of the East Point Line from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m. on Friday, September 12, 2003. The East Point Line is a line projected from the low water range marker in Boundary Bay on the International Boundary through the east tip of Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the East Point Light on Saturna Island in the Province of British Columbia, Canada. All sockeye salmon must be released.

Areas 7 and 7A Reef Net: Open in Areas 7 and 7A south and east of the Iwersen Dock Line from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m. on Saturday, September 13, 2003 and from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Sunday, September 14, from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Monday, September 15, from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16, from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17, from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, and from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Friday, September 19, 2003. The Iwersen Dock Line is a line projected from the point where the Iwersen Dock was once located on Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the Georgina Point Light at the entrance to Active Pass in the Province of British Columbia, Canada. All sockeye salmon must be released.

Inseason Order 2003-14 supersedes all previous inseason orders implementing 2003 orders of the Fraser River Panel.

Order No. 2003-15: Issued 11 a.m., September 19, 2003.

Areas 6, 6A, and 7: Relinquish regulatory control effective 12:01 a.m., Saturday, September 20, 2003.

Area 7A: Relinquish regulatory control in that portion of Area 7A south and east of the Iwersen Dock Line effective 12:01 a.m., Saturday, September 20, 2003. The Iwersen Dock Line is a line projected from the point where the Iwersen Dock was once located on Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the Georgina Point Light at the entrance to Active Pass in the Province of British Columbia, Canada.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries NOAA (AA), finds that good cause exists for the inseason orders to be issued without affording the public prior notice and opportunity for comment under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such prior notice and opportunity for comments is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Prior notice and opportunity for public comment is impracticable because NMFS has insufficient time to allow for prior notice and opportunity for public comment between the time the stock abundance information is available to determine how much fishing can be allowed and the time the fishery must open and close in order to harvest the appropriate amount of fish while they are available.

Moreover, such prior notice and opportunity for public comment is contrary to the public interest because not closing the fishery upon attainment of the quota would allow the quota to be exceeded and thus compromise the conservation objectives established pre-season, and it does not allow fishers appropriately controlled access to the available fish at the time they are available.

The AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effective date, required under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), of the inseason orders. A delay in the effective date of the inseason orders would not allow fishers appropriately controlled access to the available fish at that time they are available. This action is authorized by 50 CFR 300.97, and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 3636(b).

Dated: October 21, 2003.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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