

## **MSC Re-Assessment of Alaska Commercial Salmon Fisheries**

### **Final Units of Certification**

The requirements under the Marine Stewardship Council program is that all fisheries must be assessed using a defined unit of certification. The “Unit of Certification” is defined by the MSC as “the fishery or fish stock (=biologically distinct population unit) combined with the fishing method/gear and practice (=vessel(s) pursuing the fish of that stock).

As part of the re-assessment process for the commercial fisheries on Alaska salmon, Scientific Certification Systems, Inc. (SCS) provided a public announcement and solicited comment on a set of 12 proposed units. Based on comments and further discussion with ADF&G, SCS finalized 16 units for the re-assessment of Alaska’s commercial salmon fisheries. Units of certification are defined by a combination of regulatory area and gear type. Main target species for the certification units are listed; however, the remaining species are often also part of the unit if they contribute to the harvest in that unit. The evaluation of each unit will include all species harvested in that unit. Each unit must pass the evaluation process independent of any other component or evaluation unit to be considered for MSC certification.

Certification Units	Regulatory Area	Gear <sup>b</sup> Type	Target Species in Each Unit				
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1	Southeast	Drift Gillnet	X	X	X	X	X
2	Southeast	Seine		X		X	X
3	Southeast/Yakutat	Troll	X		X		
4	Yakutat	Set Gillnet		X	X		
5	Prince William Sound	Seine, Gillnet		X		X	X
6	Copper/Bering Districts	Drift Gillnet	X	X	X		
7	Lower Cook Inlet	Seine, Set Gillnet		X		X	
8	Upper Cook Inlet	Gillnet		X			
9	Bristol Bay	Gillnet	X	X	X		
10	Yukon River	Gillnet, Fishwheel	X		X		X
11	Kuskokwim	Gillnet	X	X	X		X
12	Kotzebue	Set Gillnet					X
13	Norton Sound	Gillnet	X		X	X	X
14	Kodiak	Gillnet, Seine		X	X	X	X
15	Chignik	Seine		X		X	X
16	Peninsula/Aleutian Is.	Seine, Gillnet		X	X	X	X