

# APPENDIX E

## FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT AND HARVEST AREA CATEGORIES

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The fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas used by The Prince Williams Sound Area Plan resource inventory are described below. They were developed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for the Fish and Wildlife Element.

### **Crucial Fish and Wildlife Habitat.**

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Areas that serve as 1) a limited, concentrated use area for fish and wildlife species during a sensitive life history stage where alteration of the habitat or human disturbance could result in a permanent loss of population and species sustained yield. A list of habitat categories included under crucial fish and wildlife habitat is given in Appendix E.

**Bald Eagle Known Concentration Area.** Areas where concentrations of bald eagles have been observed feeding or roosting during more than one year.

**Bird Rookeries.** Areas where concentrations of one or more species of seabirds have been observed nesting during more than one year.

**Crucial Mountain Goat Winter Range.** Limited habitat that has been repeatedly observed to support discrete populations of mountain goats during the winter.

**Crucial Sea Otter Concentrations.** Limited areas with extremely dense concentrations of sea otters have repeatedly been observed breeding, pupping, resting, or molting. These areas exist only in Hawkins Cutoff.

**Essential Swan Habit.** Areas where relatively high densities of trumpeter swans have been observed molting, nesting or brood rearing; or during spring, fall or winter migration, for more than one year.

**Essential Waterfowl Concentration Areas.** Areas where concentrations of one or more species of molting or nesting ducks or geese have been observed during more than one year.

**Estuary(ies).** Locations usually adjacent to anadromous fish streams that include, within them, areas providing important cover and habitat for rearing salmon and shellfish. These areas may contain kelp, eelgrass beds, mudflats, or vegetation important for its habitat and primary production value.

**Salmon Spawning Areas.** Waters and the beds beneath waters specified as important for salmon spawning pursuant to AS 16.05.870 and depicted in An Atlas to the Waters Specified as Important for the Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fish (commonly known as the Anadromous Stream Catalog).

**Seal Haulout.** Locations where concentrations of harbor seals numbering 25 or more animals have been observed hauled out on-shore for breeding, pupping, resting, and/or molting purposes during more than one year.

**Sea Lion Haulout Area.** Areas where concentrations of sea lions have been observed hauled out during more than one year.

## **Prime Fish and Wildlife Habitat.**

Areas that contain 1) productive components of ecosystems where alteration of the habitat or human disturbance would reduce yield of fish and wildlife populations either indirectly or cumulatively. A list of habitat categories included under prime fish and wildlife habitat is given in Appendix E.

**Salmon Rearing and Migration Areas.** Waters and the beds beneath waters specified as important for salmon rearing and migration pursuant to AS 16.05.870 and depicted in An Atlas to the Waters Specified as Important for the Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fish (commonly known as the Anadromous Stream Catalog).

**Bear Use.** Areas where concentrations of black or brown bears have been observed during more than one year.

**Deer Concentration.** Areas where large concentrations of Sitka black-tailed deer have been observed during more than one winter.

**Herring Spawning.** Areas where the presence of spawning Pacific herring or herring roe-on-substrate have been observed.

**Moose Winter Concentration.** Areas where concentrations of moose have been observed during more than one winter.

**Mountain Goat Winter Range.** Areas where concentration of mountain goats have been observed during the winter for more than one year.

**Otter Concentrations.** Areas where large concentrations of sea otters have been observed breeding, pupping, resting, or molting during more than one spring or winter.

**Razor Clam Concentration Area.** Areas where concentrations of razor clams have been observed.

**Trumpeter Swan General Distribution.** Suitable habitat within the known range of trumpeter swan, including but not limited to known seasonal and life function use areas.

**Waterfowl Concentrations.** Areas where concentrations of one or more species of ducks or geese.

**Important Fish and Wildlife Habitat.** Areas that 1) sustain productive fish and wildlife populations; 2) support moderate or seasonally high concentrations of fish and wildlife populations; or 3) support widespread (vs. localized) or dispersed populations which are sedentary or substrate-dependent. Important-rated habitat includes the following categories:

**Deer Area.** Areas where concentrations of deer have been observed for more than one year, or areas known to have been used consistently over time for deer hunting.

**Otter Area.** Areas where seasonally high concentrations of sea otters have been observed during more than one year.

**Seal Area.** Areas where seasonally high concentrations of seals have been observed during more than one year.

## **Fish and Wildlife Harvest Areas.**

Areas used for the harvest of fish and wildlife. Some harvest areas, for example deer hunting areas, are mapped with the habitat categories because of the overlap between the location of the habitat and the location of the harvest activities. For the definition of unusual terms -- for example, sac roe herring fishing, gill net, etc. -- see the glossary in Appendix A.

**Concentrated-Use Purse Seine/Gill Net Area.** Areas along the shore that receive concentrated harvest by the purse seine, drift net, or set net commercial fishing fleet.

**Drift Net Harvest.** Areas used for drift-net commercial salmon fishing.

**Hatchery Harvest Area.** An area adjacent to a salmon hatchery that at certain seasons contain dense concentrations of hatchery-raised salmon. In these locations, returning hatchery stock is naturally separated from wild stock, and at certain seasons they receive concentrated commercial fishing harvest activities. The exact areas described by the term are referenced in Chapter 3. These areas may include part or all of the "Special Harvest Area" or "Terminal Harvest Area" or other regulatory area established by ADF&G adjacent to the Sound's salmon hatcheries. These areas also support dense concentrations of rearing juvenile salmon (smolts) when the hatchery releases smolts in the spring.

**Herring Fishing.** Areas used by commercial fishermen for the harvest of herring including harvest by sac roe, herring pounds, or wild kelp harvest.

**Purse Seine Hookoff Point.** A point on the shore where the free end of the purse seine is temporarily anchored while the net is deployed to encircle a school of fish.

**Purse Seine Salmon Harvest.** Areas used for purse-seine commercial salmon fishing.

**Set Net Harvest.** Areas used for set-net commercial salmon fishing. The Eshamy District is the only district in Prince William Sound opened for commercial set-net fishing by ADF&G. It is located approximately between the Entrance to Port Nellie Juan and Point Nowell.

**Sport Fishing.** Areas known to have been used consistently over time for sport fishing.

**Waterfowl Harvest.** Areas known to have been used consistently over time for the hunting and harvest of ducks and geese.