SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for commercial purse seine fishing opportunity throughout PWS on Saturday, July 20.

An estimated 600,000 pink salmon were harvested in PWS on Thursday, July 18. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through July 18 is estimated at 6.9 million CPF and 1.2 million VFDA cost recovery fish, for a total of 8.1 million fish. The 5-year odd-year average (2009–2017) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through July 18 is 15.0 million fish.

A sex ratio taken by the department on Thursday, July 18 from the upper Valdez Arm resulted in 48% female.

VFDA currently estimates there are approximately 400,000 pink salmon in the SHA. VFDA needs approximately 409,000 pink salmon for broodstock.

Aerial surveys of all districts are currently ongoing to further assess the strength of wild stock returns throughout PWS. Additional wild stock fishing opportunities will be dependent on aerial survey assessments, harvest data, and continued run entry of wild stocks.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, July 20.

Waters of Port Valdez east of a line from a point on shore at approximately 61°04.95’ N., 146°32.00’ W. to a point on shore at approximately 61°08.00’ N., 146°26.00’ W., will be CLOSED to commercial fishing during this period.

Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point will not be in effect during this fishing period.

Waters inside of all Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure escapement. Waters closed for this period include the following areas:

1. **Sheep Bay**: north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°41.13’ N. lat., 145°58.87’ W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°40.46’ N. lat., 145°58.01’ W. long.;

2. **Beartrap Bay**: north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°45.13’ N. lat., 146°06.12’ W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°44.51’ N. lat., 146°04.57’ W. long.; **this includes all waters of Port Gravina and Beartrap Bay inside of this line**;

3. **Olsen Bay**: north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°43.46’ N. lat., 146°10.14’ W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°43.21’ N. lat., 146°13.97’ W. long.;
St. Matthews Bay: north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°43.36’ N. lat., 146°19.07’ W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°43.61’ N. lat., 146°21.17’ W. long.;

Irish Cove: south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°46.73’ N. lat., 146°26.62’ W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°46.27’ N. lat., 146°27.12’ W. long.;

Landlocked Bay: waters north of 60°50.76’ N. lat.;

Galena Bay: waters east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.87’ N. lat., 146°39.87’ W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.55’ N. lat., 146°39.65’ W. long.;

Sawmill Bay: north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.71’ N. lat., 146°46.44’ W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.58’ N. lat., 146°47.07’ W. long.

Jack Bay: waters south and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.34’ N. lat., 146°35.27’ W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.17’ N. lat., 146°39.77’ W. long.;

Port Fidalgo Subdistrict: waters east of 146°24.12’ W. long.

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District, excluding the Perry Island Subdistrict, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, July 20. Anadromous stream closures within the CCH THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice.

Waters inside of all Northern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure escapement. Waters closed for this period include the following areas:

1. **Long Bay**: north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°57.63’ N. lat., 147°13.50’ W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°57.01’ N. lat., 147°15.47’ W. long.;
2. **Granite Bay**: north and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°55.02’ N. lat., 147°27.61’ W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°54.66’ N. lat., 147°26.72’ W. long.;
3. **Cedar Bay**: north and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.46’ N. lat., 147°27.03’ W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.03’ N. lat., 147°26.39’ W. long.;
4. **Wells Bay**: north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.75’ N. lat., 147°29.92’ W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°57.08’ N. lat., 147°28.14’ W. long.;
5. **Siwash Bay**: west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°58.26’ N. lat., 147°37.32’ W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.96’ N. lat., 147°36.02’ W. long.;
6. **Jonah Bay**: west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°01.17’ N. lat., 147°35.07’ W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°00.40’ N. lat., 147°35.93’ W. long.;
7. **Eaglek Bay**: north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°50.66’ N. lat., 147°40.27’ W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°50.56’ N. lat., 147°44.57’ W. long.;

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour fishing period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, July 20.

Waters inside of the following Northwestern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure escapement. Waters closed for this period include the following areas:

1. **Culross Pass**: within the passage south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°45.47’ N. lat., 148°12.63’ W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°45.82’ N. lat., 148°13.57’ W.
long. and north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°37.48' N. lat., 148°10.12' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°37.16' N. lat., 148°11.42' W. long.;

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District, west of 146°19.00’ W., will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, July 20. An aerial survey of the Southeastern District was flown on Wednesday, July 17 and indicated that pink salmon escapements on Hawkins Island are well below the expected for the date and that area will be closed for this period to ensure escapement.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for a 14-hour fishing period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, July 20. Due to increasing sockeye and pink salmon harvest, shorter duration periods are necessary to focus efforts on enhanced chum salmon returning to AFK. A regular schedule of three fishing periods per week (Monday, Thursday, and Saturday) is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 14-hour period that started on Thursday, July 18 was 7,210 chum and 2,596 sockeye salmon with 13 deliveries reported.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, July 20.

Copies of the updated regulation booklet, 2019–2021 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound, are available in the Cordova ADFG office.

Announcement recordings are available for gillnet fisheries at 907-424-7535 and seine fisheries at 907-424-7345. In addition, announcement recordings are available in Anchorage at 267-2843.

Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web address: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main (Prince William Sound and Copper River homepage).

Unless otherwise specified, all openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111.

The department encourages commercial permit holders to renew their licenses early and to check their CFEC vessel registration stickers to make sure they are current.

The department also encourages permit holders to report observed violations to Wildlife Safeguard at 800-478-3377. Reports are anonymous and cash rewards may be paid for successful prosecution of violations.

PWS commercial fishers are reminded that area fisheries often necessitate fishing in close proximity to marine mammals. Under the Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA), the PWS drift gillnet fishery is classified as a Category II fishery. Participants in Category I and II fisheries must be registered in the Marine Mammal Avoidance Program (MMAP) to be authorized for lawful incidental, but not intentional, marine mammal takes during fishing. However, this authorization explicitly does not exempt holders of commercial fishing permits from the MMPA prohibition on takes of marine mammals listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. As a participant in the PWS drift gillnet fishery, you are automatically registered in the Marine Mammal Authorization
Program (MMAP) by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). As a participant in a Category II fishery, you must:

- Maintain an MMAP Authorization Certificate, or a photocopy, on board the vessel while engaging in any of the fisheries identified on the reverse side of the certificate. For non-vessel or set net fisheries, the enclosed Certificate, or a photocopy, must be in the possession of the permit holder during fishing operations. This Certificate, in combination with a current, valid state or Federal fishing permit, will serve as your authorization to incidentally take non-endangered or non-threatened marine mammals in the course of commercial fishing operations.

- Report all injuries and mortalities of marine mammals within 48 hours of returning from the trip during which these takes occurred using the MMAP Mortality/Injury Reporting Form (https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/webdam/download/75366778).

- If so requested, take an observer aboard your vessel.

Purse seine and set gillnet gear are classified as a Category III fisheries under the MMPA. Category III fishery participants are automatically exempted from the incidental take prohibition in the MMPA. Therefore, you do not need to maintain the MMAP certificate aboard your vessel, but must report any incidental takes of marine mammals within 48 hours of the incident or your return to port. Such reports must be made on the Marine Mammals Authorization Program Mortality/Injury Reporting Form.

Because some marine mammals are also listed under the Endangered Species Act, incidental takes are also regulated under that act and are not authorized. All MMPA category fisheries are liable for incidentally taking ESA listed species.

Please reference https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/endangered-species-conservation/endangered-threatened-and-candidate-species-alaska for a list of marine mammals currently listed under the ESA (you should periodically check with the National Marine Fisheries Service for any changes in listed species).

Under the ESA, “take” means to “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” (16U.S.C. 1532(19)); and “harass” means an “intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to the wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering.” (50 C.F.R. 17.3).

To reduce the possibility of incidentally taking an ESA listed species and its associated liability ADF&G recommends that:

- Fishermen participating in area fisheries remain vigilant in monitoring gear when marine mammals may be present.
- Fishermen use avoidance measures (e.g., not fishing or relocating fishing activities when marine mammals are present or likely to be present) to minimize interactions with marine mammals.
- Avoid fishing in areas where marine mammals are likely to be present at night or when visibility or weather conditions make it difficult to spot marine mammals.

For further questions concerning marine mammal regulations call NOAA at 907-586-7221.