

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

Douglas Vincent-Lang, Commissioner
Samuel Rabung, Director



Contact:

Jeremy Botz, Gillnet Area Management Biologist
Charles Russell, Seine Area Management Biologist
Jennifer Morella, Assistant Area Management/Research
Phone: (907) 424-3212 Fax: (907) 424-3235

Prince William Sound Area Office
401 Railroad Avenue, PO Box 669
Cordova, AK 99574-0669
Date Issued: Tuesday, August 20, 2019
Time: 2:30 pm

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #63

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: Copper River District is anticipated to remain closed through Sunday, August 25.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: Bering River District is anticipated to remain closed through Sunday, August 25.

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will detail purse seine fishing periods commencing on **Wednesday, August 21 and Thursday, August 22.** It is estimated that 2.6 million pink salmon were harvested in PWS on August 19. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through August 19 is estimated at 31 million CPF and 3.2 million cost recovery fish, for a total of 34.2 million fish. The 5-year odd-year average (2009–2017) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through August 19 is 51.5 million fish.

PWSAC recommends the AFK, CCH, and WNH SHAs, THAs, and corresponding hatchery subdistricts, remain closed in order to build broodstock. PWSAC currently estimates there are approximately 270,000–290,000 pink salmon within the AFK SHA and needs approximately 350,000 pink salmon for broodstock; 220,000–320,000 pink salmon within the CCH SHA and THA and needs approximately 360,000 pink salmon for broodstock; 250,000–260,000 pink salmon within the WNH SHA and needs approximately 300,000 pink salmon for broodstock.

Preliminary contribution estimates from the 12-hour period on Thursday, August 15 in the Northern District were 36% wild, 2% AFK, 34% CCH, 20% WNH, and 7% SGH pink salmon.

Preliminary contribution estimates from the 12-hour period on Thursday, August 15 in the Southwestern District were 33% wild, 29% CCH, 23% WNH, and 15% AFK pink salmon.

Preliminary contribution estimates from the 12-hour period on Thursday, August 15 in the Eastern District were 58% wild, 6% SGH, 29% CCH, 3% WNH, and 3% AFK pink salmon.

Aerial surveys indicate that warm water and low stream flows have led to salmon staging in stream mouths and bays across PWS. Due to drought conditions staging salmon needed for stream escapement are vulnerable to harvest. Please be aware of stream markers, regulatory closed waters, and anadromous stream closures.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of Eastern District, **south of a line from Entrance and Potato Point,** will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, August 21 and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 22. **Due to observed fuel**

sheen, waters of the Eastern District south and east of Bomb Point (60°36.81' N., 145°53.77' W.) will be closed to commercial fishing during these fishing periods.

Waters inside the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) marker will be closed for this period:

- (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.;
- (4) **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.;
- (5) **Landlocked Bay:** waters north of 60°50.76' N. lat.;
- (6) **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.;
- (7) **Port Fidalgo Subdistrict:** waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District, **excluding Perry Island Subdistrict, Cannery Creek Subdistrict, and Cannery Creek Hatchery SHA and THA**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, August 21 and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 22. **Additionally, waters of Cannery Creek Subdistrict, south of a latitude line at 60°55.63' N. lat., will open from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Wednesday, August 21.**

Waters inside of the following Northern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period:

- (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.;

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District, **excluding Esther Subdistrict, Granite Bay Subdistrict, and WNH SHA and THA**, will open to **commercial drift gillnet and purse seine** fishing for a 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, August 21 and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 22.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, August and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 22.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southwestern District, **south of 60°10.00, excluding waters of the Pt. Elrington Subdistrict, San Juan Subdistrict, AFK THA, and SHA**, will open to

commercial purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, August 21 and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 22.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, August 21 and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 22.

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

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 21.

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.