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Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery—2020 Allocation Plan (5 AAC 24.370)

In December 2005, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified the *Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan (5AAC 24.370)* to eliminate wild stocks and Valdez Fisheries Development Association enhanced fish from the plan and allocate only Prince William Sound Aquaculture Cooperation (PWSAC) enhanced fish from the calculation. In addition, the calculations are now based on a five-year average exvessel value, not annual value percentages. The set gillnet gear group allocation is now 4% of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks. The drift gillnet and purse seine gear groups each receive 50% of the remaining value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks. If the set gillnet gear group exceeds 5% of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced stocks, they will be limited to no more than 36 hours of fishing time per week beginning July 10 in the year following this calculation. If the drift gillnet gear group harvest value is 45% or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the drift gillnet gear group shall have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 through July 30. If the purse seine gear group harvest value is 45% or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the purse seine gear group shall have exclusive access to the Esther Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 through July 20 during fishing periods established by emergency order.

The department calculated exvessel value percentages for each gear group using the Commercial Operators Annual Report (COAR) area specific prices and weights and ADF&G harvest estimates of Prince William Sound Aquaculture Cooperation (PWSAC) enhanced fish by species and gear type (Table 1). The trigger points for corrections in allocation are 45% for purse seine and drift gillnet gear groups and 5% for the set gillnet gear group. The five-year (2014–2018) average value percentages for each gear type are **52.3%** drift gillnet, **47.7%** purse seine, and **5.4%** set gillnet (Table 2). **As a result, the purse seine gear group will have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict in 2020 and the set gillnet gear group will be limited to 36 hours per week in the Eshamy District starting July 10, 2020.**

Table 1.–The 2018 COAR price per pound by gear type, species, and area.

2018 Species	Drift Gillnet		Purse Seine		Set Gillnet	
	Copper/Bering	Prince William Sound				
Chinook	\$13.56	\$2.36	\$1.19	\$6.27		
Chum	\$0.93	\$0.94	\$0.95	\$0.89		
Coho	\$1.68	\$1.03	\$1.33	\$0.86		
Pink	\$0.42	\$0.37	\$0.44	\$0.39		
Sockeye	\$3.25	\$2.35	\$2.44	\$2.24		

Table 2.–Values and percentages by gear type for Area E.

Year	Drift Gillnet		Purse Seine		Set Gillnet	
	Value	Percentage	Value	Percentage	Value	Percentage
2014	\$20,330,294	57.7%	\$14,894,564	42.3%	\$2,725,780	7.2%
2015	\$13,178,750	35.6%	\$23,825,054	64.4%	\$1,930,673	5.0%
2016	\$13,947,405	86.0%	\$2,279,015	14.0%	\$1,821,330	10.1%
2017	\$18,746,118	43.6%	\$24,231,312	56.4%	\$1,657,029	3.7%
2018	\$24,386,998	58.6%	\$17,232,200	41.4%	\$1,779,424	4.1%
Grand Total	\$90,589,564		\$82,462,145		\$9,914,236	
5-yr Average		52.3%		47.7%		5.4%