



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 16, 2020

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #28

SEINE FISHERIES: The Eastern and Northwestern district seine fisheries will be closed on Friday, July 17 to allow for brood stock acquisition and further evaluation of fishery performance data. A broad area commercial fishing opener is expected within PWS on Saturday, July 18 or Sunday, July 19.

VFDA completed its cost recovery goal on Tuesday, July 14. VFDA currently estimates there are approximately 100,000 pink salmon within the SHA. VFDA needs approximately 409,000 pink salmon for broodstock. Industry sampling of pink salmon caught within Port Valdez indicated 40-42% female. **VFDA is recommending a closure within Port Valdez to build broodstock.**

An estimated 1.9 million pink salmon were harvested in PWS on Wednesday, July 15. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through July 16 is estimated at 3.9 million CPF and 1 million VFDA cost recovery fish, for a total of 4.9 million fish. The 5-year even-year average (2010–2018) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through July 16 is 9.6 million fish.

An aerial survey of Eastern and Northern districts was conducted on July 15 and indicated that salmon escapements are within expected ranges within the Eastern District, but below expected ranges within the Northern District. Based on the most recent aerial survey data, the department does not anticipate that these stocks will sustain a consistent schedule of openings at this time. **Additional wild stock fishing opportunities will be dependent on aerial survey assessments, harvest data, and effort.**

In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.

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

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 11, 12, and 17 commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>.

The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Friday, July 17.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, July 18.

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.