



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 6, 2021

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #23

SEINE FISHERIES: VFDA began its cost recovery sales program on Monday, July 1 and has collected approximately 26.8% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through July 5. Cost recovery pink salmon harvest in Port Valdez on Monday, July 5, resulted in an average weight of 3.0 pounds per fish and 8% female. VFDA cost recovery is continuing today.

An aerial survey of portions of the Eastern and Northern District was conducted on July 4. Stream escapement observations in the Eastern District were near anticipated for this date. Stream escapement observations in the Northern District were minimal, which expected for this date. Current indices of escapement and run entry in the Eastern District support limited purse seine fishing opportunity targeting wild stocks. The next aerial survey of the Eastern and Northern Districts is expected to occur next week.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District, south of a latitude of 60° 57.00' N., will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 8. **All water of Galena Bay will be closed during this period. All waters of Port Gravina, north of 60° 40.50' N., and all waters of Sheep Bay, north of 60° 38.60' N will be closed to commercial fishing during this period.**

Waters inside the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed to commercial fishing during this period to ensure early season escapement:

- (1) **Port Fidalgo Subdistrict:** waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: The Port Chalmers Subdistrict, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 8. Waters of the Port Chalmers, north of 60°12.56' N. lat. and east a line from 60° 12.56'N., 147° 20.25'W. to 60° 20.00'N., 147° 14.30'W., will open to purse seine fishing for 36 hours beginning at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 8. A regular schedule of three fishing periods per week is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice.** A total of 320,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to Port Chalmers. Harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that ended on July 4 was 54,507 pinks salmon, and 15,072 chum salmon with 36 deliveries reported.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery SHA will open to purse seine fishing for 14 hours beginning at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 8. A regular schedule of three fishing periods per week is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream**

closures within the AFK Hatchery SHA will not be in effect until further notice. A total of 150,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to AFK Hatchery. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that ended on Sunday, July 4 was 16,084 chum salmon and 3,075 sockeye salmon with 28 deliveries reported.

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 Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, 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 COVID19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 7.

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.