



## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: July 3, 2023*

**CONTACT: Jeremy Botz and Heather Scannell**  
**Finfish Area Management Biologists**  
**(907) 424-3212**

### Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #18

**SEINE FISHERIES:** VFDA started cost recovery fishing today and updates will be provided in subsequent announcements.

An aerial survey of the Eastern District and portions of the Northern District was conducted on June 27. Based upon current indices of run entry and escapement, a fishery targeting wild stocks is warranted. Depending on wild stock run entry and escapement and VFDA cost recovery progress, the next anticipated fishing period may occur as early as Saturday, July 8, with time and area announced on Friday, July 7. Aerial surveys of the Eastern, Northern and Southeastern Districts are expected to occur next week.

**EASTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Eastern District, **excluding all waters north of line from a point on shore at Bidarka Point (60° 49.30' N, 146° 38.25' W.) to the Eastern District boundary at 60° 49.30' N., 146° 58.73' W.,** will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, July 5. **All waters of Sheep Bay, north of 60° 39.70' 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) **Beartrap Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60° 45.13' N., 146° 06.12' W., to a shore marker at approximately 60° 44.51' N., 146° 04.57' W.; **this includes all waters of Port Gravina and Beartrap Bay inside of this line;**
- (2) **St. Matthews Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60° 43.36' N., 146° 19.07' W., to a shore maker at approximately 60° 43.61' N., 146° 21.17' W.;
- (3) **Olsen Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60° 43.46' N., 146° 10.14' W., to a shore marker at approximately 60° 43.21' N., 146° 13.97' W.;

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** The AFK Hatchery SHA and THA will open to purse seine fishing for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Wednesday, July 5. **Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery SHA and THA will not be in effect until further notice.** Preliminary harvest estimates from the period ending on Sunday, July 2 were 15,600 chum and 2,270 sockeye salmon with 35 deliveries reported.

Copies of the updated regulation booklet, *2022-2024 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are available in the Cordova ADFG office.

ALL buyers purchasing fish in the PWS Management Area are required to complete a Processor Registration Form. Contact the Cordova office for any questions regarding registration.

**The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Friday, July 7.**

**The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 5.**

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 907-267-2843.

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.