



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 21, 2023

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #31

SEINE FISHERIES: VFDA completed its cost recovery sales program on Friday, July 21. Sampling conducted on July 19 yielded a female ratio of 44% and an average weight of 2.8 lbs.

Aerial surveys of all purse seine districts are ongoing and stream escapements are within anticipated ranges for this time frame.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, July 22. **Waters of Port Valdez, east of the longitude of 146° 32.00' W., will be closed to fishing for this period.** Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point will not be in effect during this fishing period. Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period that occurred on July 20 were 1.93 million pink and 31,900 chum salmon with 202 reported deliveries.

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) Jack Bay: south and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.34' N. lat., 146°35.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.17' N. lat., 146°39.77' W. long.;
- (2) Sawmill Bay: north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.71' N. lat., 146°46.44' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.58' N. lat., 146°47.07' W. long.
- (3) Galena Bay: 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.;
- (4) Landlocked Bay: waters north of 60°50.76' N. lat.;
- (5) 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.;
- (6) Port Fidalgo Subdistrict: waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.
- (7) St. Matthews Bay: north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°43.36' N. lat., 146°19.07' W. long. to a shore maker at approximately 60°43.61' N. lat., 146°21.17' W. long.;
- (8) 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.;
- (9) 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;
- (10) 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.;

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District, excluding the Cannery Creek Subdistrict, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, July 22. Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period that occurred on July 20 were 137,000 pink and 5,250 chum salmon with 14 reported deliveries.

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

- (1) Eaglek Bay: north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°50.66' N. lat., 147°40.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°50.56' N. lat., 147°44.57' W. long.;
- (2) Wells Bay: north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.75' N. lat., 147°29.92' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°57.08' N. lat., 147°28.14' W. long.;
- (3) Cedar Bay: north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.75' N. lat., 147°29.92' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°57.08' N. lat., 147°28.14' W. long.;

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District, excluding the WNH SHA inside a line of buoys in front of the barrier seine, will open to purse seine and drift gillnet harvest for a 14-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 22. **Regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B), will not be in effect until further notice.** Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide.

Waters inside the following Coghill District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure escapement:

- (1) Bettles Bay: west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.16' N. lat., 148°14.76' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°54.97' N. lat., 148°16.09 W. long.;
- (2) Hummer Bay: west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°53.56' N. lat., 148°16.62' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°51.76' N. lat., 148°17.52 W. long.;
- (3) Pigot Bay: west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°49.96' N. lat., 148°19.07' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°49.08' N. lat., 148°20.12 W. long.;

Waters of Port Wells and College Fiord, north of 60° 55.81' N., and east of a line from Pakenham Point (61° 00.45' N., 148° 04.85' W.) to 60° 55.81' N., 148° 10.92' W., will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet harvest for a 14-hour period starting at 6:00 am on Sunday, July 23. Regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B), will not be in effect until further notice. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide.

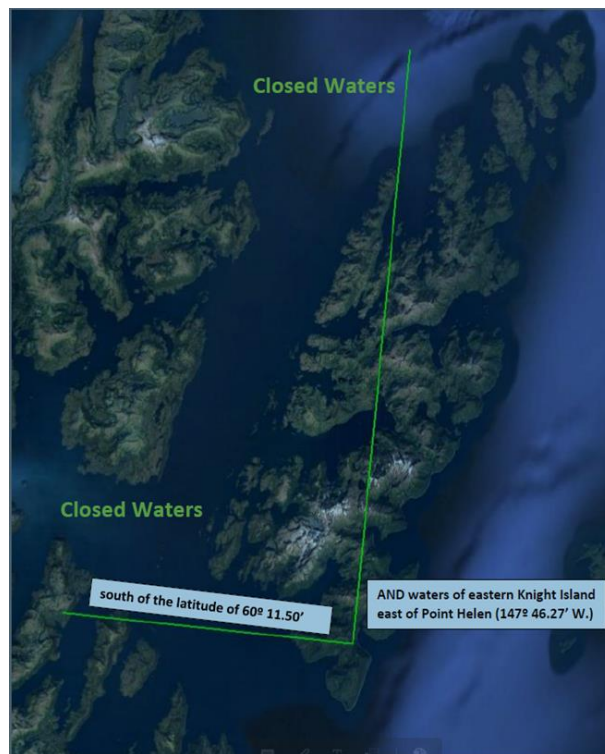
The Coghill River weir has passed 51,247 sockeye salmon through 7/20 with a cumulative target of 18,207–68,287 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, July 17 were 97,500 chum, 41,200 pink, and 6,360 sockeye salmon with 230 deliveries reported.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, July 22.

Waters inside the following Northwestern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure escapement:

- (1) Cochrane Bay: south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°44.91' N. lat., 148°17.12' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°46.01' N. lat., 148°21.77' W. long.;
- (2) Culross Pass: within the passage south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°45.47' N. lat., 148°12.63' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°45.82' N. lat., 148°13.57' W. long. and north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°37.48' N. lat., 148°10.12' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°37.16' N. lat., 148°11.42' W. long.;
- (3) Port Nellie Juan: south and west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°30.36' N. lat., 148°15.03' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°32.36' N. lat., 148°19.42' W. long.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southwestern District, excluding the AFK SHA and THA, waters north of the latitude of 60°11.50' N., and waters of Knight Island Passage, west of Point Helen (147°46.27' W.), will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, July 22. Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period that occurred on July 20 were 408,000 pink and 8,700 chum salmon with 33 reported deliveries.



MONTAGUE DISTRICT: Waters of the Montague District, excluding 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 Saturday, July 22. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures of the Montague District, excluding Port Chalmers Subdistrict, are in effect until further notice.**

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, July 22.

GILLNET FISHERIES

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, July 24 for a 48-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period.

The grass bank marker line is defined in 5 AAC 24.350(1)(A) with the exception of this year’s extension of the closure line across Little Softuk (**see bold font below**). This closure line is defined with the following points:

<i>Point</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
Point Whitshed South	60° 26.49’ N.	145° 52.86’ W.
Alaganik Slough North	60° 24.65’ N.	145° 36.70’ W.
Pete Dahl East	60° 20.44’ N.	145° 29.14’ W.
West Kokenhenik	60° 14.88’ N.	145° 10.01’ W.
East “East Side”	60° 14.83’ N.	145° 03.36’ W.
Coffee Creek East	60° 14.19’ N.	144° 58.01’ W.
Charlie Mohr North	60° 15.15’ N.	144° 56.43’ W.
Martin River North	60° 15.29’ N.	144° 52.52’ W.
Strawberry Reef	60° 13.93’ N.	144° 50.66’ W.
Little Softuk	60° 13.16’ N.	144° 41.38’ W.

Waters north of this line, within sloughs, and in Boswell Bay within the bay (5 AAC 24.350 (1)(A)) are closed to commercial and subsistence salmon fishing during all periods.

Cumulative sonar count through 7/20 is 923,449 fish whereas 548,719 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 7/21 is 2,639 fish. For the week ending July 15, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 62,395 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 31,424 – 74,276. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 48-hour period that started on Monday, July 17 were 41,500 sockeye and 30 Chinook salmon with 235 deliveries reported. The cumulative Copper River District harvest to date is 10,400 Chinook and 800,000 sockeye salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open to commercial salmon fishing, west of a longitude line at 144° 33.60’ W., for a 48-hour period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, July 24.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 24. The AGZ will open to DRIFT GILLNET permit holders only during this fishing period.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: The Port Chalmers Subdistrict will open to drift gillnet fishing for a 60-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 24 with an additional 84-hour period beginning at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 27. A regular schedule of two fishing periods per week is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. The western boundary of the Port Chalmers Subdistrict is defined by lines from 60°20.00’N., 147°26.59’W. to 60°14.75’N., 147°35.35’W. to 60°02.50’N., 147°44.41’W. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream**

closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, July 17 were 30,900 chum and 30 pink salmon with 35 deliveries reported.

The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Sunday, July 23.

The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 26.

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.