



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 4, 2023

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #38

SEINE FISHERIES: Following this next fishing period, time and area may be adjusted to expedite PWSAC cost recovery. PWSAC began its cost recovery sales program on July 25, and has collected approximately 26% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal. PWSAC reports 1.66 million pink salmon have been harvested for cost recovery through August 3 and PWSAC hatchery contribution to the common property fishery, through August 1, is 1.33 million fish. PWSAC cost recovery is continuing today.

VFDA estimates about 375,000 fish near the hatchery and light, scattered fish around the Port. An increase in broodstock estimates near the hatchery may warrant an off-cycle announcement to provide fishing opportunity on surplus SGH pink salmon. VFDA began broodstock collection today.

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

Recent preliminary otolith contribution estimates are as follows:

- Southeastern District on July 30: 97% wild, 2% SGH, and 1% WNH

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District, south of a line from Entrance Point to Potato Point, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 16-hour period, from 6:00 am until 10:00 pm, on Saturday, August 5. Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period that occurred on August 2 were 689,000 pink and 49,800 chum salmon with 99 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 escapement:

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

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District, excluding the Cannery Creek Hatchery and Perry Island Subdistricts, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 16-hour period, from 6:00 am until 10:00 pm, on Saturday, August 5. Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period that occurred on August 2 were 691,000 pink and 3,600 chum salmon with 70 reported deliveries.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District, excluding the WNH SHA and THA and the Esther Subdistrict, will open to purse seine and drift gillnet fishing for a 16-hour period, from 6:00 am until 10:00 pm, on Saturday, August 5. 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. Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period that occurred on August 2 were 9,200 pink salmon with 30 reported deliveries.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 16-hour period, from 6:00 am until 10:00 pm, on Saturday, August 5. Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period that occurred on August 2 were 93,800 pink salmon with 8 reported deliveries.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: Waters of the Montague District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 16-hour period, from 6:00 am until 10:00 pm, on Saturday, August 5. Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period that closed on August 2 were 222,000 pink salmon with 25 reported deliveries.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 16-hour period, from 6:00 am until 10:00 pm, on Saturday, August 5. Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period that occurred on August 2 were 62,700 pink and 1,000 chum salmon with 9 reported deliveries.

GILLNET FISHERIES

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, August 7 for a 36-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.

For the week ending July 29, weather hampered survey efforts, resulting in two partial Copper River Delta surveys being flown. The combined number of index reaches flown was not representative enough for comparison to the

survey target range for the week. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 48-hour period that started on Monday, July 31 were 2,240 sockeye and 2,140 pink salmon with 22 deliveries reported. The cumulative Copper River District harvest to date is 10,400 Chinook and 850,000 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 36-hour period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, August 7.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, August 7. The AGZ will open to DRIFT GILLNET permit holders only during this fishing period. The Eshamy River weir has passed 1,372 sockeye salmon through 8/3 with a cumulative target of 3,358–7,233 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, July 31 were 2,050 sockeye, 15,600 pink, and 1,030 chum salmon with 52 deliveries reported.

The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Monday, August 7.

The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, August 9.

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.