ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner Jeff Regnart, Director

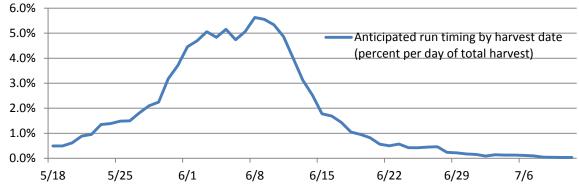


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Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery News Release #3

EASTERN DISTRICT: Cost recovery harvest of returning hatchery produced sockeye salmon in Resurrection Bay began on Wednesday, May 21. No fish have been harvested to date. The anticipated cumulative harvest for this date is 3,200 fish based on normal run timing where 4.8% of the total return typically are harvested by this date, with a total anticipated return of 66,000 fish in 2014. The historic mid-point for this fishery where generally 50% of the final harvest have been taken is June 6. Below is a graph showing anticipated run timing for this return.



Special Harvest Areas (SHAs) may be opened to commercial common property seining for sockeye or pink salmon in 2014 if the CIAA revenue goal of 2.9 million dollars and brood goals are achieved, or if their attainment can be projected. All other commercial salmon fishing in the Eastern District remains CLOSED.

Vessels participating in the CIAA cost recovery fishery should note that the Memorial Day holiday occurs on Monday, May 26, and a large recreational fleet will likely be present in Resurrection Bay on that day. Although mostly minimal interaction between the recreational and seine user groups has occurred during past seasons, seiners are advised that the Resurrection Bay Salmon Management Plan specifically directs the department to manage the commercial fishery in a manner that does not interfere with the recreational fishery. The staff is reliant on the voluntary cooperation of the seine fleet to comply with this regulation if conflicts arise.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT: Within the Southern District, portions of the Barabara Creek Subdistrict, the Tutka Bay Subdistrict, the Halibut Cove Subdistrict and the Seldovia Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial salmon set gillnet fishing for the 2014 season at 6:00 am on Monday, June 2 for a 48-hour period. Commercial fishing periods will continue on a regular schedule of two 48-hour fishing periods per week, from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 a.m. Wednesday, and from 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 6:00 a.m. Saturday until further notice. Waters of the Port Graham Subdistrict, including both the Port Graham and English Bay sections, will remain CLOSED to commercial salmon set gillnet fishing until further notice as a precautionary measure to protect sockeye salmon returning to English Bay lakes. These areas may open to commercial harvest when spawning escapement levels are tracking to meet the sustainable escapement goal for English Bay Lakes.

KAMISHAK BAY DISTRICT: In the Kamishak Bay District, all waters, with the exception of the Chenik, McNeil, Paint River subdistricts, will open at 6:00 A.M. on June 1 to commercial salmon seining seven days per week, until further notice. The McNeil and Paint River subdistricts are being closed early as a precautionary measure specifically to protect sockeye salmon returning to Mikfik Lake. The Chenik Subdistrict is anticipated to open to commercial harvest when returns to Chenik Lake are tracking to achieve the SEG for that system. Video monitoring equipment will be installed prior to the June 10-18 tide series.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be on Friday, May 30.

Announcement recordings are available on the 24-hour telephone recording in the Homer office at 907/235-7307. Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web address: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyarealci.salmon

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.