

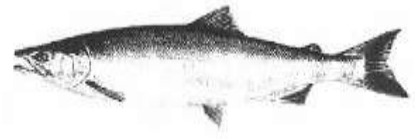
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery News Release #4

EASTERN DISTRICT: Cost recovery harvest of returning hatchery-produced sockeye salmon in Resurrection Bay began on Wednesday, May 21. An estimated 7,000 fish with an average size of 4.2 pounds have been harvested as of yesterday (5/29) of a total anticipated harvest of 62,000 fish for this season. The anticipated cumulative harvest for this date is 8,700 fish based on historic *normal* run timing where 14% of the total annual catch over the last 5 years have been harvested by 5/29. In addition, the average size of the earliest portion of the harvest historically has been approximately 5.7 pounds with the preponderance of these early fish being 5 and 6 year old fish. Later returning fish are generally younger and smaller. The cost recovery vessel reported that the harvest has been comprised of a mixture of various sized fish. The mid-point for this fishery based on the last 5-years catch where 50% of the final harvest has been taken is June 6. As of yesterday, a total of 795 sockeye have been counted at the Bear Creek weir versus an anticipated count of 17 fish based on *normal* run timing. The timing of this run overall appears to be approximately 7-10 days *advanced*.

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.

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 and allow for adequate subsistence harvest to meet customary and traditional use amounts outlined in 5AAC 01.566(d). These areas may open to commercial harvest when escapement levels are tracking to meet the sustainable escapement goal for English Bay Lakes as well as subsistence harvest needs.

As of yesterday, (5/29), a total of 9 fish had passed the English Bay River weir. This level of escapement is normal to only slightly advanced for this date.

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 Chenik Subdistrict is anticipated to open to commercial harvest when returns to Chenik Lake are tracking to achieve the SEG for that system. Video escapement monitoring equipment is anticipated to be installed at Chenik Lake on Wednesday, June 4. The McNeil and Paint River subdistricts are being closed early as a precautionary measure specifically to protect sockeye salmon returning to Mikfik Lake. Sockeye salmon were observed in McNeil Cove on Thursday, May 22. Video equipment was installed on Friday, May 23. A survey on Monday, May 26 documented 800 sockeye salmon in the lower Mikfik River and in McNeil Cove combined. Video data was retrieved on this flight from Mikfik Lake with no sockeye documented entering the lake. Video data is anticipated to be retrieved on Thursday, June 5. The SEG for Mikfik Lake is 6,300 – 12,150 sockeye salmon.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be on Friday, June 6.

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.