

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #24

SEINE FISHERIES: The purpose of this announcement is to provide an update on fisheries targeting VFDA pink salmon. All PWS purse seine fisheries will continue as previously announced. There will be a brief closure of the Eastern, Northern, and Southeastern district fisheries on Tuesday, July 8, to allow for further evaluation of fishery performance data. Fishing opportunity targeting VFDA pink salmon may occur again on Wednesday, July 9, with details being provided at 2 pm on Tuesday, July 8.

ADF&G sampling of CPF pink salmon harvest from Valdez Arm on July 5 resulted in an estimated 42.2% female. VFDA's historical run timing data suggests an anticipated 30.9% female at/near the Solomon Gulch Hatchery (SGH) for this date. Additional samples will be collected today. Final harvest numbers for the July 6 fishery in Prince William Sound are unavailable at the time of this announcement; however, it is estimated that 1.1 million pink salmon were harvested on July 5, with fewer fish harvested yesterday. Cumulative pink salmon harvest totals for Prince William Sound through July 5 include approximately 1.26 million VFDA cost recovery fish, and an estimated 12.75 million CPF fish. This is a record cumulative pink salmon harvest for Prince William Sound for this date. Sex ratio data and cumulative harvest to date indicate that VFDA's 2014 pink salmon return to SGH is well above forecast. VFDA needs approximately 645,000 more pink salmon (299,000 for cost recovery and 346,000 for broodstock). Time and area for commercial fishing periods beyond July 7 will be based on harvest results through the July 7 fishery, and updated sex ratios.

The next scheduled purse seine salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Tuesday, July 8.

Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements based on current escapement data may occur at any time inseason either establishing an additional period or extending an open period.

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 267-2843.**

Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web addresses:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.main> (Copper River homepage) or

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main> (Prince William Sound 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 that 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.