

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #25

**SEINE FISHERIES:** The purpose of this announcement is to provide time and area specifics for fisheries targeting VFDA pink salmon for Wednesday, July 9. It is possible that these fisheries will close again on Thursday, July 10, with details being provided at 2 pm on Wednesday, July 9.

Aerial surveys of Eastern and Northern district streams were flown on Wednesday, July 2, and Friday, July 4. Early wild pink and chum salmon returns have begun in these districts. Very few of these fish have entered the streams, which is to be expected for this date. **Parent year escapements to Northern District streams have been below average. Additional fishing opportunity in the Northern District will be dependent upon future escapement indices.** An aerial survey of the Eastern, Northern, and Southeastern districts is scheduled for tomorrow.

ADF&G sampling of July 6 CPF harvest from Valdez Arm resulted in an estimated 46.6% female. VFDA's historical run timing data suggests an anticipated 26.8% female at/near the Solomon Gulch Hatchery (SGH) for this date. Final harvest numbers for the July 7 fishery in Prince William Sound are unavailable at the time of this announcement; however, it is estimated that 1 million pink salmon were harvested. Cumulative pink salmon harvest totals for Prince William Sound through July 7 include approximately 1.26 million VFDA cost recovery fish, and an estimated 14.6 million CPF fish. This is a record cumulative pink salmon harvest for Prince William Sound for this date. VFDA estimates remaining escapement needs of 645,000 pink salmon (299,000 for cost recovery and 346,000 for broodstock). VFDA reports that cost recovery fishing will take place today. **VFDA reports broodstock collection less than would be expected for the date, and has recommended area restrictions in Port Valdez.** Time and area for future commercial fishing periods will be based on consideration for VFDA escapement, harvest results from the July 9 fishery, and wild stock escapement indices.

**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 Wednesday, July 9. **Waters of Port Valdez east of 146° 23.00' W Long., will be closed to commercial fishing during this period.** Waters within the Alyeska Marine Terminal (Trans Alaska Pipeline System) Security Zone are closed to commercial fishing. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point will not be in effect during these fishing periods.

Fishery participants are advised of a capsized fishing vessel currently moored to the Mineral Creek Mooring Buoy. Salvage operations are currently taking place in the vicinity of this vessel.

**Waters inside of the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for these periods to ensure early season escapement:**

- (1) **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.;
- (2) **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;**
- (3) **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.;
- (4) **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.;
- (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) Landlocked Bay: waters north of 60°50.76' N. lat.;
- (7) Port Fidalgo Subdistrict: waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.
- (8) 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.;
- (9) 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.;
- (10) 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.

SHTF marker coordinates will also be available in the Cordova ADF&G office, and have been provided to area processors, VFDA and PWSAC for distribution to fishery participants. A copy of these coordinates may also be found on the ADF&G Web-site at the following address:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.salmon#/maps>

**MONTAGUE DISTRICT:** As previously announced, the Port Chalmers Subdistrict north of 60°12.56' N. lat. and within 0.5 miles of Montague Island is currently open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 60-hour period ending at 8:00 pm on Wednesday, July 9. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice. There have been no harvests reported for recent fishing periods.

**SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, July 9. There have been no harvests reported for recent fishing periods.

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** As previously announced, the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA are currently open to purse seine fishing for a 60-hour period ending at 8:00 pm on Wednesday, July 9. Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice. Harvest from the period that closed Sunday, July 6 was 0 chum and 62,900 pink salmon with 13 deliveries reported.

**UNAKWIK DISTRICT:** As previously announced, the Unakwik District is currently open for a 36-hour commercial purse seine and drift gillnet fishing period ending at 8:00 pm on Tuesday, July 8. No harvest was reported for the period that closed Friday, July 4.

**The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 9.**

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.