

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #33**

**SEINE FISHERIES: This is an update on fisheries targeting VFDA pink salmon. All PWS purse seine fisheries remain as previously announced.**

The department conducted an aerial survey of Valdez Arm and Port Valdez on Tuesday, July 15, and Wednesday, July 16. The department and VFDA conducted a boat survey of Port Valdez on Wednesday, July 16. VFDA and the department report less broodstock escapement than is expected for the date at the head of Port Valdez, and far less than is needed to meet broodstock goals. VFDA will continue to monitor escapement in Port Valdez. Time and area for future commercial fishing periods targeting VFDA pink salmon in Port Valdez will be based on consideration for VFDA escapement.

Cumulative pink salmon harvest totals for Prince William Sound through July 15 include approximately 1.53 million VFDA cost recovery fish, and an estimated 18 million CPF fish. This harvest is well above average for the date, and slightly less than a record cumulative pink salmon harvest of 21 million (cost recovery and CPF) harvested through July 15, 2013. Otolith contribution estimates to date indicate that approximately 97% of pink salmon harvested in PWS are SGH fish, with 2.8% wild, and less than 0.2% AFK and CCH fish.

It is anticipated that fishing opportunity directed on wild stocks will initially be limited to two days per week. Time and area for future commercial fishing periods targeting wild stock pink and chum salmon will be dependent upon escapement, harvest, and effort.

**The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, July 19.**

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.