

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #36**

**SEINE FISHERIES:** This announcement provides time and area specifics for a purse seine fishery targeting VFDA pink salmon. VFDA reports improved escapement at the head of Port Valdez, and has provided area recommendations for fishing opportunity in Port Valdez on Tuesday, July 22. All other purse seine fisheries remain as previously announced. Time and area for future commercial fishing periods targeting VFDA pink salmon in Port Valdez will be based on consideration for VFDA escapement. An update on fisheries targeting VFDA pink salmon will be provided at 2 pm on Tuesday, July 22.

It is estimated that at least 1.7 million pink salmon were harvested in Valdez Narrows and Port Valdez on Sunday, July 20.

Eastern District stream escapements are slightly less than anticipated for the date. It is anticipated that fishing opportunity directed on wild stocks will initially be limited to two days per week. The next opportunity targeting wild stocks is expected to take place on Thursday, July 24, with time and area specifics provided at 2 pm on Wednesday, July 23.

PWSAC and the department made the switch to pink salmon management in PWSAC hatchery subdistricts today. PWSAC has recommended hatchery subdistrict closures in most PWSAC hatchery subdistricts for seine openings early this week. PWSAC anticipates beginning its pink salmon cost recovery program as soon as a harvestable amount of hatchery escapement is available.

**EASTERN DISTRICT:** Waters in the Eastern District, north of a line from 61° 02.855'N., 146° 44.204'W. to 61° 02.373'N., 146° 43.407'W. to 61° 02.992'N., 146° 39.165'W., will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Tuesday, July 22. 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 this fishing period.

**The next scheduled salmon purse seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Tuesday, July 22.**

**The next scheduled salmon gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 23.**

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.