

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #42

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement provides time and area specifics for a purse seine fishery targeting VFDA pink salmon, and an update on fisheries targeting PWSAC pink salmon. VFDA reports adequate broodstock escapement at the head of Port Valdez, and has provided area recommendations for fishing opportunity in Port Valdez on Wednesday, July 30. Fishing opportunity targeting VFDA pink salmon in Port Valdez and Valdez Arm may occur again on Thursday, July 31, with details provided at 2 pm on Wednesday, July 30. Time and area for future commercial fishing periods targeting VFDA pink salmon in Port Valdez will be based on consideration for VFDA escapement.

PWSAC began its pink salmon cost recovery program on July 23, and has collected approximately 30% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through July 28. The July 27 cost recovery harvest estimate at AFK and WNH is approximately 165,000 pink salmon. ADF&G sampling of cost recovery pink salmon caught at WNH on July 27 results in 13.7% female. ADF&G sampling of cost recovery pink salmon caught at AFK on July 27 results in 16.9% female. Both of these ratios are lower than anticipated based on PWSAC historical run timing data. PWSAC reports a 3.5 pound average weight for July 27 WNH cost recovery harvest, and 4.4 pounds for fish caught at AFK on the same date. Future CPF openings targeting PWSAC enhanced pink salmon in hatchery subdistricts will be based on cost recovery fishing progress, run entry, and PWSAC recommendations. **An update on fisheries targeting PWSAC pink salmon will be provided at 2 pm on Wednesday, July 30. The department anticipates a broad area fishery in PWS on Thursday, July 31.**

ADF&G test fishing in the Southwestern District began on July 22, gauging pink salmon run entry and stock composition. The R/V Solstice did not fish during yesterday's Southwestern District fishery. ADF&G otolith contribution estimates for test fishery sampling from July 26 result in a harvest composition of 94% hatchery and 6% wild stock pink salmon. The hatchery composition for this sample is as follows: 37% AFK, 34% WNH, 15% CCH, and 14% SGH.

It is estimated that at least 1.5 million pink salmon were harvested in Prince William Sound on Monday, July 28.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of 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 Wednesday, July 30. **Waters of Port Valdez east of 146° 30.62' W Long. will be closed to commercial fishing during this period.** Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point **WILL BE IN EFFECT** until further notice.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 30.

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.