

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #47

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, August 7 for a 36-hour commercial fishing period. The last day of sonar operation for the 2014 season was July 28. The cumulative sonar count through July 28 was 1.22 million fish whereas the anticipated count for this date is 697,000 fish. For the week ending August 2, the actual Copper River delta aerial survey count was 34,825 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 32,568–76,979. An aerial survey of the Copper River delta is anticipated to be flown this week. Hatchery contributions from the period that closed on July 29 were 35% Gulkana Hatchery. Harvest from the period that closed Tuesday, August 5 was 887 sockeye and 122 coho salmon with 9 deliveries reported.

During the commercial fishing season subsistence harvest may occur in the Copper River District concurrent with commercial periods until the Copper River District is closed at the end of the season. Subsistence users may obtain subsistence permits during regular business hours. The Cordova ADF&G office is open to the public Monday– Friday, 8:00 am–12:00 pm and 1:00 pm– 5:00 pm. **Subsistence permits are not available outside of regular office hours.**

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, August 7 for a 36-hour commercial fishing period. For the week ending August 2, the actual Bering River District aerial survey count was 6,310 versus an anticipated range of 8,409–18,499 sockeye salmon. The next aerial survey of the Bering River District is anticipated to be flown this week. No harvest was reported from the period that closed Tuesday, August 5.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Main Bay Subdistrict, excluding the AGZ, will open at 8:00 am on Thursday, August 7 for a 36-hour commercial gillnet fishing period. The AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. The Eshamy River video monitoring project started enumerating salmon on July 17, with 1,157 sockeye salmon counted through July 26. The anticipated range for sockeye salmon escapement on July 26 was 2,160–4,652. No harvest was reported from the period that closed Tuesday, August 5.

SEINE FISHERIES: Weather has grounded the PWS aerial survey program in recent days. An aerial survey of the fishery was attempted yesterday, and a survey of CCH, WNH and AFK is scheduled for this afternoon.

VFDA reports adequate broodstock escapement at SGH, and has recommended a continued closure of Port Valdez. Eggtakes are underway at SGH, with approximately 37% of the final goal completed through August 5.

Processors have reported female percentages from the August 4 commercial harvest that range from 49% to 53% female in Southwestern District, 62% in Coghill District, and 47% in the Northern District. ADF&G sampling of CPF pink salmon harvested in the vicinity of Unakwik Point on August 5 resulted 53.7% female. ADF&G sampling of CPF pink salmon harvested in the Coghill and Northern districts on August 4 and 5 resulted 56.1% female. These ratios are greater than anticipated for the date. **The department and PWSAC have opted to utilize both time and area restrictions to ensure that hatchery escapement goals are met.**

PWSAC has provided area requests in hatchery subdistricts for a purse seine fishery targeting PWSAC pink salmon on Thursday, August 7. The PWS purse seine fishery will close for the day on Friday, August 8. Fishing opportunity targeting PWSAC pink salmon will occur again on Saturday, August 9, with details being provided at 2 pm on Friday. It is anticipated that a day on, day off schedule will take place until hatchery escapement goals are met.

The August 3 harvest estimate has been upgraded to approximately 3.49 million pink salmon, with just over 12.5 million pounds harvested. This is the fourth largest number of pink salmon caught on any single day in PWS, and the second largest daily number of pounds harvested in PWS. An estimated 1.56 million pink salmon were harvested on August 4, in

poor weather conditions. Harvest reporting for the August 5 PWS purse seine fishery is not complete at the time of this announcement. However, it is estimated that 1.5 million pink salmon were harvested. Including CPF harvest estimates through August 5, VFDA cost recovery fish, and PWSAC cost recovery fish, the cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest to date is approximately 37.4 million pink salmon.

Fishery participants are advised of ongoing salvage operations of a capsized purse seine vessel southwest of Olsen Island in the vicinity of Kiniklik.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District, **excluding the WNH SHA and WNH THA**, will open to commercial DRIFT GILLNET and PURSE SEINE fishing for a 14-hour fishing period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 7. Harvest reporting indicates that 1.37 million pink salmon were harvested on August 3, with 133 deliveries reported, and 1.38 million on August 4, with 256 deliveries.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District south of Black Point will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour fishing period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 7. No harvest has been reported for the August 3 through August 5 fishing periods.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: Waters of the Montague District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour fishing period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 7. No harvest has been reported for the August 3 through August 5 fishing periods.

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District, **excluding the CCH SHA, CCH THA, and excluding all waters of the Cannery Creek Subdistrict north and east of a line with a northwest terminus of 61° 00.97' N. lat., 147° 35.50' W. long., and a southeast terminus of 60° 59.12' N. lat., 147° 32.35' W. long.,** will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour fishing period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 7. Harvest reporting indicates that 1.13 million pink salmon were harvested on August 3, with 109 deliveries reported, and 310,000 on August 4, with 64 deliveries.

Waters inside of the following Northern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers are closed to commercial fishing during this period:

- (1) **Long Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°57.63' N. lat., 147°13.50' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°57.01' N. lat., 147°15.47' W. long.;
- (2) **Granite Bay:** north and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°55.02' N. lat., 147°27.61' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°54.66' N. lat., 147°26.72' W. long.;
- (3) **Cedar Bay:** north and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.46' N. lat., 147°27.03' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.03' N. lat., 147°26.39' W. long.;
- (4) **Wells Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.75' N. lat., 147°29.92' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°57.08' N. lat., 147°28.14' W. long.;
- (5) **Siwash Bay:** west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°58.26' N. lat., 147°37.32' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.96' N. lat., 147°36.02' W. long.;
- (6) **Jonah Bay:** west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°01.17' N. lat., 147°35.07' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°00.40' N. lat., 147°35.93' W. long.;
- (7) **Eaglek Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°50.66' N. lat., 147°40.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°50.56' N. lat., 147°44.57' W. long.;

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour fishing period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 7. No harvest was reported for the August 3 or August 4 fishing periods.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour fishing period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 7. No harvest has been reported for the August 3 through August 5 fishing periods.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southwestern District, **excluding the AFK SHA and AFK THA**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour fishing period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 7. **Waters north of the latitude of Squire Point and west of the longitude of Herring Point will be CLOSED to commercial fishing during this period. These waters are being closed to allow for passage of Eshamy**

Lake sockeye salmon. Harvest reporting indicates that 1.59 million pink salmon were harvested on August 3, with 132 deliveries reported, and 876,000 on August 4, with 108 deliveries.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Friday, August 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.

PWS commercial fishers are reminded that area fisheries often necessitate fishing in close proximity to marine mammals. Under the Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA), the PWS drift gillnet fishery is classified as a Category II fishery. Participants in Category I and II fisheries must be registered in the Marine Mammal Avoidance Program (MMAP) to be authorized for lawful incidental, but not intentional, marine mammal takes during fishing. However, this authorization explicitly does **not** exempt holders of commercial fishing permits from the MMPA prohibition on takes of marine mammals listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. As a participant in the PWS drift gillnet fishery you are automatically registered in the Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP) by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). As a participant in a Category II fishery, you must:

- Maintain an MMAP Authorization Certificate, or a photocopy, on board the vessel while engaging in any of the fisheries identified on the reverse side of the certificate. For non-vessel or set net fisheries, the enclosed Certificate, or a photocopy, must be in the possession of the permit holder during fishing operations. This Certificate, in combination with a current, valid state or Federal fishing permit, will serve as your authorization to incidentally take non-endangered or non-threatened marine mammals in the course of commercial fishing operations.
- Report all injuries and mortalities of marine mammals within 48 hours of returning from the trip during which these takes occurred using the MMAP Mortality/Injury Reporting Form (visit http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/interactions/mmap_reporting_form.pdf for a copy).
- If so requested, take an observer aboard your vessel.

Purse seine and set gillnet gear are classified as a category III fisheries under the MMPA. Category III fishery participants are automatically exempted from the incidental take prohibition in the MMPA. Therefore, you do not need to maintain the MMAP certificate aboard your vessel, but must report any incidental takes of marine mammals within 48 hours of the incident or your return to port. Such reports must be made on the Marine Mammals Authorization Program Mortality/Injury Reporting Form.

Because some marine mammals are also listed under the Endangered Species Act, incidental takes are also regulated under that act and are not authorized. **All** MMPA category fisheries are liable for incidentally taking ESA listed species.

Please reference http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/esa_factsheet.pdf for a list of marine mammals currently listed under the ESA (you should periodically check with the National Marine Fisheries Service for any changes in listed species).

Under the ESA, “take” means to “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” “16U.S.C. 1532(19); and “harass” means an “intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to the wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering.” (50 C.F.R. 17.3).

To reduce the possibility of incidentally taking an ESA listed species and its associated liability ADF&G recommends that:

- Fishermen participating in area fisheries remain vigilant in monitoring gear when marine mammals may be present.
- Fishermen use avoidance measures (e.g., not fishing or relocating fishing activities when marine mammals are present or likely to be present) to minimize interactions with marine mammals.
- Avoid fishing in areas where marine mammals are likely to be present at night or when visibility or weather conditions make it difficult to spot marine mammals.

For further questions concerning marine mammal regulations call NMFS at 907-271-5006.