

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #18

All scheduled fisheries remain as previously announced in Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #17, which was distributed on July 2.

SEINE FISHERIES: VFDA began its cost recovery sales program on June 30, and has collected approximately 15% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through July 2. VFDA reports that cost recovery pink salmon harvest in Port Valdez on Thursday, July 2 was approximately 144,000 fish with an average weight of approximately 3.47 pounds per fish and 17.7% female. ADF&G sampling of VFDA cost recovery harvest from July 2 resulted in 16% female. Cost recovery fishing continues today, and initial reports indicate slightly improved fishing. VFDA sex ratio sampling of fish harvested this morning at Entrance Point resulted in 20% female.

An aerial survey of eastern PWS was flown yesterday. Stream escapements were minimal, which is to be expected for the date. Additional analysis of July 2 survey data will be completed today.

The PWS purse seine fishery in eastern PWS will remain closed until further notice. Future early season commercial fishing opportunity in eastern PWS will be dependent on VFDA cost recovery progress and wild stock escapements. Daily informational announcements will continue. It is anticipated that the earliest CPF opportunity in eastern PWS could occur on Monday, July 6.

The next scheduled purse seine salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to occur at 2:00 pm Saturday, July 4. The next scheduled gillnet salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, July 4.

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).