

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #22

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide an update on VFDA cost recovery progress, along with time and area specifics for commercial purse seine fishing opportunity in eastern PWS on Wednesday, July 8, and Thursday, July 9. VFDA began its cost recovery sales program on June 30, and has collected approximately 71.5% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through July 5. VFDA reports that cost recovery pink salmon harvest in Port Valdez on Sunday, July 5 was approximately 364,000 fish with an average weight of approximately 3.37 pounds per fish and 20.8% female. Cost recovery fishing continues today; initial reports indicate similar fishing conditions to Sunday. VFDA sampling of fish harvested this morning at Entrance Point resulted in an average weight of approximately 3.24 pounds per fish and 32% female. VFDA does not anticipate reaching its cost recovery goal today. It is anticipated that cost recovery fishing could resume on Friday, July 10.

It is estimated that 1.16 million pink salmon were harvested in eastern PWS on Monday, July 6, with 186 boats participating in the fishery. ADF&G sampling of CPF pink salmon harvested in Valdez Arm on July 6 resulted in 28.1% female (sample size of 2,862 fish).

ADF&G sampling of the Southwestern District CPF ending on July 5 result in a harvest composition of 62% SGH and 38% wild pink salmon.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 14-hour periods, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, July 8, and Thursday, July 9. Waters within 200 yards of the AMHS Valdez Ferry Terminal are closed to commercial fishing when the ferry is arriving and departing. All waters of the Valdez small boat harbor and within 50 yards of the entrance to the harbor are closed to commercial fishing. 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 these fishing periods.**

On Wednesday, July 8, waters of Port Valdez east of 146° 19.00' W will be CLOSED to commercial fishing.

On Thursday, July 9, waters of Port Valdez east of a line from 61° 05.00' N, 146° 21.50' W to 61° 06.00' N, 146° 21.50' W and south of a line from 61° 06.00' N, 146° 21.50' W to 61° 06.00' N, 146° 15.10' W will be CLOSED to commercial fishing.

Waters inside of the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be CLOSED for these periods to ensure early season escapement:

- (1) Galena Bay: waters east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.87' N. lat., 146°39.87' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.55' N. lat., 146°39.65' W. long.;
- (2) Jack Bay: waters south and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.34' N. lat., 146°35.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.17' N. lat., 146°39.77' W. long.;
- (3) Sawmill Bay: waters north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.71' N. lat., 146°46.44' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.58' N. lat., 146°47.07' W. long.

Harvest from Monday's period is estimated at 1.14 million pink, 7,950 sockeye, 2,630 chum, 903 coho, and 7 Chinook salmon, with 163 deliveries reported.

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District will remain closed to commercial fishing.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 14-hour periods, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, July 8, and Thursday, July 9. Harvest from Monday's period is estimated at 26,200 pink salmon, with 5 deliveries reported.

Please refer to the ADF&G *2015–2018 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound* booklet for regulations regarding commercial salmon fisheries in the Prince William Sound Area. This booklet is available in the Cordova ADF&G office and at the following web address:

[www.adfg.alaska.gov/static-f/regulations/fishregulations/pdfs/commercial/2015-2018PrinceWilliamSoundAreaSalmonFishingRegulations.pdf](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/f/regulations/fishregulations/pdfs/commercial/2015-2018PrinceWilliamSoundAreaSalmonFishingRegulations.pdf)

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