

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #30

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for commercial purse seine fishing opportunity in eastern PWS on Tuesday, July 14. All other previously announced seine fisheries remain as announced. VFDA began its cost recovery sales program on June 30, and has collected approximately 91.7% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through July 7. VFDA has recommended some additional area restrictions at the head of Port Valdez to provide sanctuary for hatchery escapement. VFDA estimates remaining escapement needs of 514,000 pink salmon (168,000 for cost recovery and 346,000 for broodstock).

Aerial surveys of eastern and northern PWS flown this past week indicated that early wild pink salmon returns are greater than anticipated for the dates flown; chum salmon escapements are within anticipated ranges. A total of 83,900 pink salmon have been passed at the Coghill River weir through July 12; this is the fourth largest cumulative passage on record for the date.

ADF&G sampling of the Southwestern District CPF ending on July 8 result in a harvest composition of approximately 78% SGH and 21% wild, and 1% AFK pink salmon.

Local processing capacity has been exceeded in recent days, resulting in some haul out of pink salmon to Kodiak and Southeast Alaska. It is estimated that 1.75 million pink salmon were harvested in eastern PWS on Sunday, July 12. With the majority of the PWS purse seine fleet targeting Solomon Gulch Hatchery pink salmon and wild stock escapements exceeding expectations, daily fishing periods and broad fishing area are being provided to ensure that fish quality remains high.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Tuesday, July 14.

Waters of Port Valdez east of 146° 30.62' W. longitude 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 and west of 146° 30.62' W. longitude will not be in effect during this fishing period.

Waters inside of the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be CLOSED for this period:

- (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.

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District east of Granite Point will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Tuesday, July 14. Waters of 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. will be closed to commercial fishing during this period.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Tuesday, July 14.

The next scheduled purse seine salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to occur by 2:00 pm Tuesday, July 14. The next scheduled gillnet salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 15.

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 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.