

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #31

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for commercial purse seine fishing opportunity in eastern PWS on Wednesday, July 15. All other previously announced seine fisheries remain as announced.

ADF&G sampling of CPF pink salmon harvested in Valdez Arm on July 11 resulted in 33.3% female (sample size of 948 fish), and 3.43 pounds per fish; ADF&G sampling of CPF pink salmon harvested in Valdez Arm on July 12 resulted in 38.7% female (915 fish). These ratios are low for the dates. Historical ADF&G sex ratio sampling data for Eastern District on July 11 and 12 results in an average of 48.8% and 54% female for the dates.

ADF&G sampling of the Eastern District CPF on July 9 resulted in a harvest composition of 87.5% SGH and 12.5% wild pink salmon.

It is estimated that 2.25 million pink salmon were harvested in eastern PWS on Monday, July 13.

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 Wednesday, July 15.

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 during 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.

The Coast Guard wishes to remind fishermen that Rule 9 of the Navigation Rules for international waters applies in Valdez Narrows. Rule 9-c states that "A vessel engaged in fishing shall not impede the passage of any other vessel navigating within a narrow channel or fairway." Security zones in Port Valdez (in front of the Valdez Marine Terminal) and in the Valdez Narrows will continue to be enforced as detailed in Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #24, which was distributed on Wednesday, July 8. All further questions should be directed to the USCG Marine Safety Unit Valdez at (907) 835-7216.

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 Wednesday, July 15. 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 Wednesday, July 15.

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