

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #40

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for commercial purse seine fishing opportunity in eastern PWS on Friday, July 24, Saturday, July 25, and Sunday, July 26. All other previously announced seine fisheries remain as announced. It is expected that there will be a regular schedule of broad area commercial purse seine fishing periods taking place throughout PWS on Monday, July 27, and Thursday, July 30.

PWSAC anticipates beginning its pink salmon cost recovery program this weekend or early next week. The R/V Solstice will be on station in the Southwestern District beginning July 23, gauging pink salmon run entry and stock composition.

It is estimated that 1.9 million pink salmon were harvested in PWS on Wednesday, July 22. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through July 22 is estimated at 31.7 million CPF and 1.8 million VFDA cost recovery fish, for a total of 33.5 million fish; this is a record cumulative total for the date.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for daily 14-hour periods, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Friday, July 24, Saturday, July 25, and Sunday, July 26.

Waters of Port Valdez east of 146° 23.00' W. longitude will be closed to commercial fishing during these periods. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point and west of 146° 23.00' W. longitude will not be in effect during these fishing periods. 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. Waters inside of the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed during these periods:

- (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.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for daily 14-hour periods, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Friday, July 24, Saturday, July 25, and Sunday, July 26.

The next scheduled purse seine salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to occur by 2:00 pm Saturday, July 25.
The next scheduled gillnet salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, July 25.

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.