

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #45

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for commercial purse seine fishing opportunity throughout PWS on Saturday, August 1, **along with continued opportunity throughout eastern PWS on Sunday, August 2.** All other previously announced seine fisheries remain as announced. It is expected that there will be a broad area commercial purse seine fishing period taking place throughout PWS on Monday, August 3, with time and area to be announced at 2 pm on Sunday, August 2.

Aerial surveys of Prince William Sound indicate that pink salmon escapement indices continue to track ahead of anticipated numbers.

VFDA reports that they have secured sufficient broodstock at SGH, and has recommended continued fishing opportunity in Port Valdez and Valdez Arm.

PWSAC began its pink salmon cost recovery program on July 25, and has collected approximately 40% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through July 30. ADF&G sampling of cost recovery pink salmon harvested at WNH on July 29 resulted in an estimated sex ratio of 31% female (sample size of 900 fish); ADF&G sampling of cost recovery pink salmon harvested at AFK on July 28 resulted in an estimated sex ratio of 22% female (900 fish).

ADF&G sampling of the July 27 Coghill District CPF resulted in a harvest composition of approximately 72% WNH, 26% wild, and 2% SGH pink salmon; ADF&G sampling of the July 27 Southwestern District CPF resulted in a harvest composition of approximately 38.3% AFK, 26.5% wild, 17.7% SGH, 14.7% WNH, and 3% CCH pink salmon.

ADF&G sampling of CPF pink salmon harvests throughout PWS in 2015 result in an average weight of 3.78 pounds per fish (1,759 fish sampled).

It is estimated that at least 3.1 million pink salmon were harvested in PWS on Thursday, July 30. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through July 30 is estimated at 46.8 million CPF and 3 million cost recovery fish (VFDA and PWSAC), for a total of 49.8 million fish; this is a record cumulative total for the date.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District, **excluding waters of the WNH SHA**, will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, August 1.

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 Saturday, August 1, and Sunday, August 2.**

Waters of Port Valdez east of 146° 23.00' W. 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. WILL BE IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. 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.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: Waters of the Montague District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm on Saturday, August 1.

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, August 1. Anadromous stream closures within the CCH THA will not be in effect until further notice. Waters inside of the following Northern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers are closed to commercial fishing during this period:

- (1) 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.;
- (2) Granite Bay: north and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°55.02' N. lat., 147°27.61' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°54.66' N. lat., 147°26.72' W. long.;
- (3) Cedar Bay: north and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.46' N. lat., 147°27.03' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.03' N. lat., 147°26.39' W. long.;
- (4) Wells Bay: north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.75' N. lat., 147°29.92' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°57.08' N. lat., 147°28.14' W. long.;
- (5) Siwash Bay: west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°58.26' N. lat., 147°37.32' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.96' N. lat., 147°36.02' W. long.;
- (6) Jonah Bay: west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°01.17' N. lat., 147°35.07' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°00.40' N. lat., 147°35.93' W. long.;
- (7) Eaglek Bay: north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°50.66' N. lat., 147°40.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°50.56' N. lat., 147°44.57' W. long.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, August 1.

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 Saturday, August 1, and Sunday, August 2.**

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters within 1 nautical mile of Latouche Island east of Pt. Grace and east of the southern tip of the Latouche Island, waters of the Elrington Subdistrict, waters of the San Juan Subdistrict, and waters of the AFK THA **excluding the AFK SHA**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, August 1.

The next scheduled purse seine salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to occur at 2:00 pm Sunday, August 2.
The next scheduled gillnet salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, August 1.

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.