

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #67

GILLNET FISHERIES: Additional time is being added to Thursday's fishing period in the Copper River District. All previously announced gillnet fisheries remain as announced. Fishery participants should assure a market before harvesting fish.

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: Copper River District will open for a 60-hour fishing period, starting at 7:00 am on Thursday, September 17. For the week ending September 5, the actual Copper River delta survey count was 21,880 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 16,147 – 33,807. Harvest from the fishing period that closed Friday, September 11 was 11,500 coho and 35 sockeye salmon with 92 deliveries reported.

SEINE FISHERIES: All previously announced seine fisheries remain as announced. The 2015 commercial purse seine salmon fishing season will come to a close at 8:00 pm on Saturday, September 19. This is the last scheduled purse seine announcement for the 2015 season.

PWSAC began their pink salmon egg take operations at WNH, AFK, and CCH on August 24, August 25, and August 29. PWSAC achieved the egg collection goals at AFK, WNH, and CCH on September 6, September 10, and September 16, respectively.

VFDA reports that the coho salmon broodstock collection goal has been met at SGH.

There has been no purse seine harvest reported in PWS since Saturday, August 29. The preliminary cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest estimate through September 15 is 91.7 million CPF and 6.9 million cost recovery fish (VFDA and PWSAC), for a total of 98.6 million fish. This is the largest cumulative harvest total on record for PWS, exceeding the 2013 harvest of 92.6 million pink salmon.

The next scheduled gillnet salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to occur by 2:00 pm on Saturday, September 19.

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.