

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #44

SEINE FISHERIES: Commercial common property purse seine fishing in Prince William Sound will be closed Tuesday, August 2 and Wednesday, August 3.

A VFDA assessment of Port Valdez on August 1 indicated 400,000 fish within the SHA and security zone. **VFDA is recommending a closure of Port Valdez.** VFDA continues daily surveys of the SHA and THA, and will provide daily recommendations to ADF&G on potential commercial openers within Port Valdez. VFDA began egg takes on July 27 and is 3% complete. Egg takes are expected to continue today.

Aerial surveys of Southeastern, Eastern, Northern, Coghill, and Northwestern districts were flown on July 29 and indicated stronger than average pink salmon escapement to-date in most streams throughout PWS. The first aerial survey of Southwestern and Montague districts is expected to be conducted today.

PWSAC began its pink salmon cost recovery program on July 27, and has collected approximately 10% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through August 1. Cost recovery fishing continues today and early reports indicate run entry remains slow.

Approximately 544,000 pink salmon were harvested in PWS on Sunday, July 31, with 173 deliveries. Cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through August 1 is estimated at 6.7 million CCPF, 1.5 million VFDA cost recovery fish, and 214,000 PSWAC cost recovery for a total of 8.4 million fish.

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.

The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, August 3.

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.