

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Date Issued: Tuesday, July 18, 2017
Time: 4:00 pm

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #40

SEINE FISHERIES: All Prince William Sound purse seine fisheries will be closed on Wednesday, July 19 to allow for further evaluation of fishery performance data.

Run entry and acquisition of broodstock have slowed at SGH and VFDA has recommended a closure within Port Valdez and the Valdez Arm for Wednesday, July 19. VFDA currently estimates there are approximately 150,000-200,000 pink salmon holding within the SHA. VFDA needs approximately 525,000 pink salmon; 75,000 for cost recovery and 450,000 for broodstock. At this time, VFDA has recommended no commercial fishery openers targeting VFDA pink salmon in order to build broodstock.

Recent aerial survey counts of wild stock chum and pink salmon in the Northern, Coghill, and Northwestern districts are slightly above anticipated based on the survey dates and an aerial survey conducted on July 18 of the Valdez Arm indicated reduced run entry of pink salmon into Port Valdez. The department does not anticipate that these stocks will sustain a consistent schedule of openings at this time. Aerial surveys of all districts are expected to continue this week, weather depending, to further assess the strength of wild stock returns throughout PWS.

An estimated 736,000 pink salmon were harvested in eastern PWS on Monday, July 17. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest in Eastern PWS through July 17 is estimated at 9.1 million CPF and 1 million VFDA cost recovery fish, for a total of 10.1 million fish. Preliminary contribution estimates from the 14-hour period that started on Sunday, July 16 in the Eastern District were 81% SGH, 2% WNH, and 17% wild pink salmon. A sex ratio taken by the department on Sunday, July 16 from Valdez Arm resulted in 49.5% female. The 5-year odd-year average (2007–2015) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through July 17 is 16.3 million fish.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 19.

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 address:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main> (Prince William Sound and Copper River 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.