ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #50

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for commercial purse seine fishing opportunity throughout PWS on Tuesday, August 1.

VFDA reports that they have secured sufficient broodstock at SGH, and has recommended a fishing opportunity in Port Valdez on August 1.

PWSAC began its cost recovery sales program on Wednesday, July 26 at AFK, and has collected approximately 14% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through July 30. PWSAC reports cost recovery is continuing today at AFK and WNH. PWSAC recommends the AFK, CCH, and WNH SHAs, THAs, and select hatchery subdistricts remain closed to help facilitate cost recovery.

An estimated 1.75 million pink salmon were harvested in PWS on Sunday, July 30 with 213 deliveries reported, of which 600,250 were harvested in the Eastern District and 529,000 were harvested in the Northern District. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through Sunday, July 30 is estimated at 20.3 million CPF and 1 million VFDA cost recovery fish, for a total of 21.3 million fish. Preliminary contribution estimates from the 14-hour period that began on Friday, July 28 in the Eastern District were 16% SGH and 84% wild pink salmon. Preliminary contribution estimates from the 14-hour period that began on Friday, July 28 in the Northern District were 32% SGH, 5% CCH, 5% WNH, 2% AFK, and 57% wild pink salmon.

Recent aerial surveys of all districts indicate escapement levels within anticipated ranges based on the survey date.

As a reminder, all regulatory closed waters and all anadromous stream closures are in effect unless otherwise stated.

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

Waters of Port Valdez east of a diagonal line from 61°04.56 N, 146°30.62 W to 61°07.28 N, 146°23.00 W will be closed to commercial fishing during this period.

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

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District, **excluding Perry Island Subdistrict and CCH SHA and THA,** will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm on Tuesday, August 1.

Waters inside of the following Northern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers are closed to commercial fishing during this period:

(1) **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.;

(2) **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.;

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District, **excluding Esther Subdistrict and WNH THA and 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 Tuesday, August 1.

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

Waters inside of the following Northwestern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers are closed to commercial fishing during this period:

(1) **Culross Pass:** within the passage south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°45.47' N. lat., 148°12.63' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°45.82' N. lat., 148°13.57' W. long. and north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°37.48' N. lat., 148°10.12' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°37.16' N. lat., 148°11.42' W. long.;

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of eastern Knight Island east of Point Helen and south of 60º 20.00'N., and waters within 1 nautical mile of the eastern shore of Latouche Island east of Pt. Grace and east of the southernmost tip of the Latouche Island, will be open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm on Tuesday, August 1.

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 Tuesday, 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.

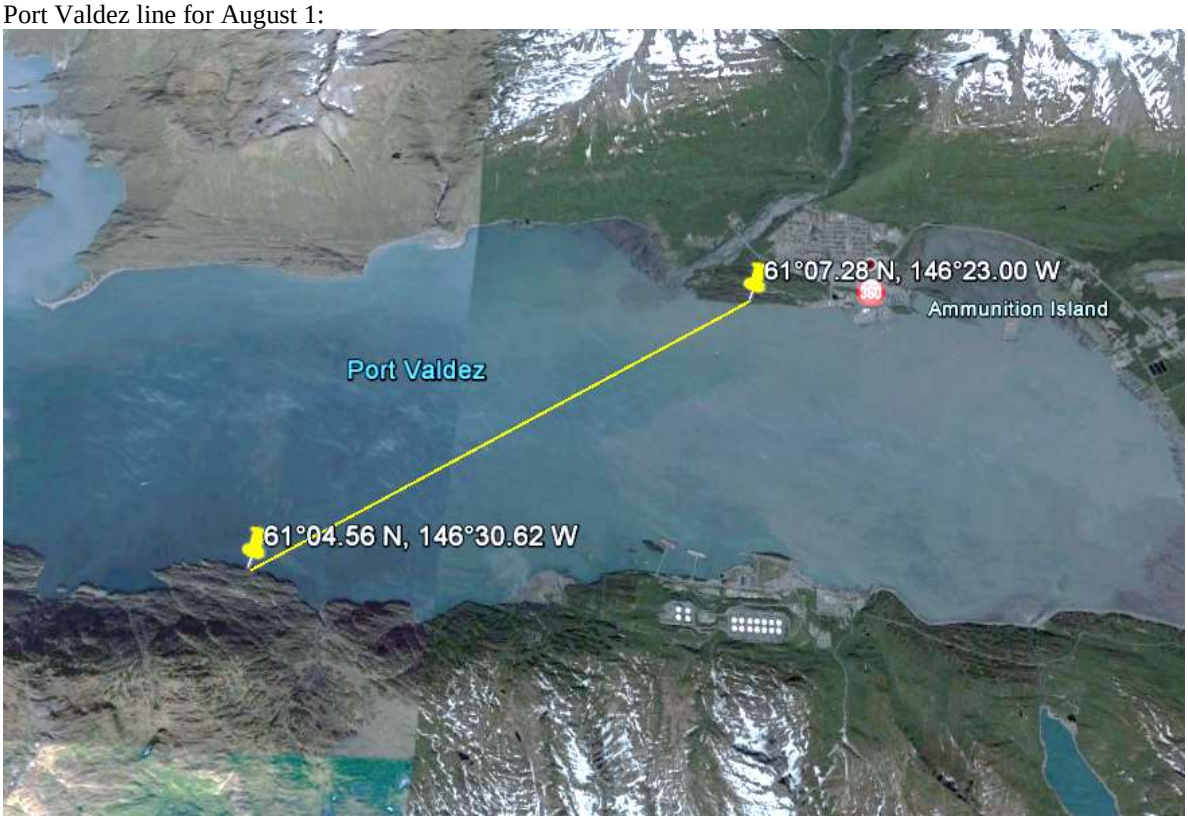
The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, August 2.

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.
PWS commercial fishers are reminded that area fisheries often necessitate fishing in close proximity to marine mammals. Under the Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA), the PWS drift gillnet fishery is classified as a Category II fishery. Participants in Category I and II fisheries must be registered in the Marine Mammal Avoidance Program (MMAP) to be authorized for lawful incidental, but not intentional, marine mammal takes during fishing. However, this authorization explicitly does **not** exempt holders of commercial fishing permits from the MMPA prohibition on takes of marine mammals listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. As a participant in the PWS drift gillnet fishery, you are automatically registered in the Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP) by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). As a participant in a Category II fishery, you must:

- Maintain an MMAP Authorization Certificate, or a photocopy, on board the vessel while engaging in any of the fisheries identified on the reverse side of the certificate. For non-vessel or set net fisheries, the enclosed Certificate, or a photocopy, must be in the possession of the permit holder during fishing operations. This Certificate, in combination with a current, valid state or Federal fishing permit, will serve as your authorization to incidentally take non-endangered or non-threatened marine mammals in the course of commercial fishing operations.
- Report all injuries and mortalities of marine mammals within 48 hours of returning from the trip during which these takes occurred using the MMAP Mortality/Injury Reporting Form (visit http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/interactions/mmap_reporting_form.pdf for a copy).
- If so requested, take an observer aboard your vessel.

Purse seine and set gillnet gear are classified as a Category III fisheries under the MMPA. Category III fishery participants are automatically exempted from the incidental take prohibition in the MMPA. Therefore, you do not need to maintain the MMAP certificate aboard your vessel, but must report any incidental takes of marine mammals within 48 hours of the incident or your return to port. Such reports must be made on the Marine Mammals Authorization Program Mortality/Injury Reporting Form.
Because some marine mammals are also listed under the Endangered Species Act, incidental takes are also regulated under that act and are not authorized. **All** MMPA category fisheries are liable for incidentally taking ESA listed species.
Please reference http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/esa_factsheet.pdf for a list of marine mammals currently listed under the ESA (you should periodically check with the National Marine Fisheries Service for any changes in listed species).
Under the ESA, "take" means to "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." (16U.S.C. 1532(19)); and "harass" means an "intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to the wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering." (50 C.F.R. 17.3).
To reduce the possibility of incidentally taking an ESA listed species and its associated liability ADF&G recommends that:

- Fishermen participating in area fisheries remain vigilant in monitoring gear when marine mammals may be present.
- Fishermen use avoidance measures (e.g., not fishing or relocating fishing activities when marine mammals are present or likely to be present) to minimize interactions with marine mammals.
- Avoid fishing in areas where marine mammals are likely to be present at night or when visibility or weather conditions make it difficult to spot marine mammals.

For further questions concerning marine mammal regulations call NMFS at 907-271-5006.

Port Valdez line for August 1: