

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #34

SEINE FISHERIES: PWS seine fisheries will be closed on Tuesday, July 24 to allow for VFDA broodstock acquisition and evaluation of fishery performance data. An estimated 1.95 million pink salmon were harvested in PWS on Sunday, July 22. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest in the Eastern District through July 22 is estimated at 7.2 million CPF and 1.1 million VFDA cost recovery fish, for a total of 8.3 million fish. The 5-year even-year average (2008–2016) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through July 22 is 13.5 million fish.

VFDA surveyed Port Valdez on July 23 and currently estimates there are approximately 300,000 pink salmon holding throughout the THA, with few fish currently holding within the SHA. VFDA needs approximately 410,000 pink salmon for broodstock and is recommending a closure within Port Valdez in order to build broodstock within the SHA.

Recent aerial surveys of Southeastern, Montague, and Southwestern districts indicated that pink and chum salmon counts are within expected ranges for the date. Aerial surveys of all districts are expected to be conducted later this week, weather dependent, to further assess the strength of wild stock returns throughout PWS.

Copies of the updated regulation booklet, *2015-2018 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, can be found under the 'Regulations' heading at the following web address:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial>

The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Tuesday, July 24.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 25.

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).