

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director*



Contact:
Jeremy Botz, Gillnet Area Management Biologist
Charles Russell, Seine Area Management Biologist
Stacy Vega, Assistant Area Management/Research Biologist
Phone: (907) 424-3212 Fax: (907) 424-3235

Prince William Sound Area Office
401 Railroad Avenue, PO Box 669
Cordova, AK 99574-0669
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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #44

SEINE FISHERIES: Prince William Sound seine fisheries will be closed on Wednesday, August 8 to allow for PWSAC broodstock acquisition and further evaluation of fishery performance data. An estimated 1.5 million pink salmon were harvested in PWS on Monday, August 6 with 318 deliveries reported. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through August 6 is estimated at 14.6 million CPF, 1.1 million VFDA cost recovery fish, and 1.3 million PWSAC cost recovery fish, for a total of 17 million pink salmon. The 5-year even-year average (2008–2016) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through August 6 is 25 million fish.

PWSAC is recommending a closure for Wednesday, August 8 in the AFK, CCH, and WNH SHAs, THAs, and corresponding hatchery subdistricts in order to start building broodstock. PWSAC sampling of cost recovery fish from AFK and WNH on Saturday, August 5 indicated 37% and 48% female, respectively. Industry sampling of CPF from CCH on Monday, August 6 indicated 39% female.

Preliminary contribution estimates from the 14-hour period that began on Saturday, August 4 in the Southwestern District are 40% AFK, 6% SGH, 13% CCH, 13% WNH, and 28% wild pink salmon; Northern District 94% CCH, 2% WNH, and 4% wild pink salmon.

Aerial surveys of all districts are expected to be conducted this week, weather depending, to further assess the strength of wild stock returns throughout PWS.

The next salmon fisheries announcement is scheduled for 2:00 pm Wednesday, August 8.

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>

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).