

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery News Release #37

SOUTHERN DISTRICT: Purse seine: Effective Monday, September 10 waters of the Tutka Bay Subdistrict including Tutka Bay lagoon and channel are open on a schedule of daily 16-hour fishing periods beginning at 6:00 AM. An aerial survey of Tutka lagoon earlier today documented 15,000 pink salmon in the lagoon and channel. A ground survey of Tutka Creek on August 28 counted 35,730 pink salmon in the creek. This is above the sustainable escapement goal for this system of 6,500–17,000 pink salmon.

The following areas remain open on a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday schedule of 16 hour fishing periods from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM,

- the Humpy Creek Subdistrict up to the freshwater of Humpy Creek,
- the Halibut Cove Subdistrict,
- the China Poot Section excluding the China Poot special harvest area (SHA),
- the Neptune Bay Section,
- the Seldovia Subdistrict, and
- the Port Graham Subdistrict excluding waters south and west of a point at 59° 21.27' N. lat., 151° 49.45' W. long.

Anadromous waters closures associated with Humpy Creek and within the Tutka Hatchery SHA are suspended until further notice with commercial fishing permitted up to the freshwater of streams in these areas using the definition of “fresh water” in 5AAC 39.975(a)(26). This clearly states that, “fresh water of streams and rivers” means fresh water separated from salt water at the mouth of streams and rivers by a line drawn between the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks at the present stage of the tide. Commercial fishermen are explicitly reminded that 5 AAC 39.290(a)(1) remains in effect at Humpy Creek and throughout the Tutka SHA.

Set gillnet: Waters of the Southern District identified in 5AAC 21.330(b)(1) remain open to commercial set gillnet harvest on a regular schedule of two 48-hour fishing periods per week beginning at 6:00 AM on Mondays and Thursdays as defined in 5AAC 21.320(a)(3).

OUTER DISTRICT: The following areas remain open on a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday schedule of 16 hour fishing periods from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM,

- the Koyuktolik (Dogfish) Bay Subdistrict,
- the Port Chatham Subdistrict,
- the Windy Bay Subdistrict, and
- the Rocky Bay Subdistrict.

Waters of the East Nuka Subdistrict remain open on a schedule of daily 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM fishing periods. Harvest as of 9/7 from this subdistrict is confidential due to fewer than 3 permit holders reporting deliveries. Regulatory closed waters (5AAC 21.350(f)(12), (13)) that apply to Delight and Desire lakes are suspended. Fishing is permitted up to the freshwater of the Desire Lake river using the definition of “fresh water” in 5AAC 39.975(a)(26). This clearly states that, “fresh water of streams and rivers” means fresh water separated from salt water at the mouth of streams and rivers by a line drawn between the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks at the present stage of the tide. The Delight Lake freshwater lagoon and channel draining the lagoon are closed to commercial salmon

fishing. Permit holders are explicitly reminded that 5 AAC 39.290(a)(1) remains in effect for the streams, rivers, and lagoons associated with Delight and Desire lakes.

A total of 13,428 sockeye salmon were counted through the weir at Delight Lake by Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association staff. The SEG for this system based on aerial salmon monitoring is 5,100–10,600. An earlier SEG based on weir monitoring of fish passing into the lake is 7,500–17,650. Both are relevant and have applicability depending on the method of assessment used to measure salmon escapement. An aerial survey was flown on August 4 of Delight Lake. At that time only 410 sockeye were counted in Delight Lake. An aerial survey of Desire Lake on that date counted 1,600 pink salmon in freshwater. This is within the pink salmon SEG for that system of 1,500–18,000 fish.

KAMISHAK DISTRICT: Anadromous waters closures for the Bruin River downstream of and including the pothole have been rescinded. The closed waters associated with the Chenik Lagoon, (5 AAC 21.350(e)(2)) are suspended until further notice with commercial fishing permitted up to the freshwater of Chenik Creek using the definition of “fresh water” in 5AAC 39.975(a)(26). This clearly states that, “fresh water of streams and rivers” means fresh water separated from salt water at the mouth of streams and rivers by a line drawn between the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks at the present stage of the tide. Commercial permit holders are explicitly reminded that 5 AAC 39.290(a)(1) remains in effect at the Bruin and Chenik rivers.

The McNeil River Subdistrict, and the Paint River Subdistrict remain closed until further notice.

The next scheduled commercial salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be on Friday, September 14.

Announcement recordings are available on the 24-hour telephone recording in the Homer office at 907/235-7307. 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.