

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #59

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will detail purse seine fishing periods commencing on **Saturday, August 17**. It is estimated that 2.94 million pink salmon were harvested in PWS on August 15. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through August 15 is estimated at 25.4 million CPF and 3.2 million cost recovery fish, for a total of 28.6 million fish. The 5-year odd-year average (2009–2017) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through August 15 is 47.5 million fish.

PWSAC recommends the AFK, CCH, and WNH SHAs, THAs, and corresponding hatchery subdistricts, remain closed in order to build broodstock.

PWSAC began its cost recovery sales program on Tuesday, July 30, and has collected approximately 97% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through Thursday, August 15. PWSAC currently estimates there are approximately 190,000–215,000 pink salmon within the AFK SHA and needs approximately 350,000 pink salmon for broodstock; 50,000–80,000 pink salmon within the CCH SHA and needs approximately 360,000 pink salmon for broodstock; 140,000–160,000 pink salmon within the WNH SHA and needs approximately 300,000 pink salmon for broodstock.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Due to observed fuel sheen, waters of the Eastern District east of **145°59.9' W**, will be closed to commercial fishing this period. Eastern District, south of a line from **Entrance and Potato Point**, and west of 145°59.9' W will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, August 17.

Waters inside the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) marker will be closed for this period:

- (1) **Port Fidalgo Subdistrict:** waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District, east of **147°31.15 W.**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, August 17.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District, excluding **Esther Subdistrict, Granite Bay Subdistrict, and WNH SHA and THA**, will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, August 17.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, August 17.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southwestern District, south of 60°10.00, excluding waters of the Pt. Elrington Subdistrict, San Juan Subdistrict, AFK THA, and SHA, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, August 17.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Due to observed fuel sheen, waters of the Southeastern District east of 145°59.9' W, will be closed to commercial fishing this period. Waters of the Southeastern District west of 145°59.9' W will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, August 17.

Copies of the updated regulation booklet, *2019–2021 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are available in the Cordova ADFG office.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, August 17.

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.