



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: August 8, 2021

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #59

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement provides time and area for a commercial purse seine fishing opportunity on Monday, August 9 and **Tuesday, August 10**. VFDA estimates that 300,000-400,000 pink salmon are at the hatchery and not many fish are being observed elsewhere in the Port. With a low female percentage and high number of green fish, VFDA estimates they'll need 450,000-550,000 fish for broodstock. Future opportunities targeting VFDA pink salmon will be dependent on run entry and broodstock acquisition.

PWSAC began its cost recovery sales program on Monday, July 26, and has collected approximately 43% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal. Run entry at all PWSAC facilities has increased in recent days but remains behind anticipated levels for this date. The most recent female percentage is from August 8 and was 31% at AFK and 32% at WNH. Cost recovery fishing at WNH, CCH, and AFK continues today. To expedite PWSAC cost recovery efforts, with the intention of providing more consistent common property fishing periods, the area available for cost recovery fishing has been expanded to portions of each facilities' respective subdistricts, through Wednesday, August 11. Area was adjusted in each subdistrict to allow for passage of wild stocks.

Recent aerial surveys of the Southeastern, Southwestern, Montague, and portions of the Eastern District indicate pink and chum salmon are within or above anticipated levels for this date. Additional aerial surveys assessing the strength of wild stocks is ongoing and dependent on weather.

Recent preliminary contribution estimates, are as follows:

- Eastern District on August 1: 38% SGH, 7% CCH, and 55% wild.
- Coghill District on August 1: 56% WNH, 3% CCH, 1% AFK, and 39% wild.
- Northern District on August 3: 30% WNH, 23% CCH, 11% SGH, and 36% wild.
- Southeastern District on July 28: 3% SGH, and 97% wild.

5 AAC 24.350 Closed Waters. Unless otherwise specified all regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures are in effect.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District **south of a latitude of 61° 01.90' N**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Tuesday, August 10

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

- (1) **Galena Bay:** waters east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.87' N. lat., 146°39.87' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.55' N. lat., 146°39.65' W. long.;
- (2) **Port Fidalgo Subdistrict:** waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.

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, Tuesday, August 10.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: Waters of the Montague District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Tuesday, August 10.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Tuesday, August 10.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of Port Wells and College Fiord, north of 60° 55.81' N., and east of a line from Pakenham Point (61° 00.45' N., 148° 04.85' W.) to 60° 55.81' N., 148° 10.92' W., will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet harvest for three 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Monday, August 9, Tuesday, August 10, and Wednesday, August 11. Regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B)), will not be in effect for this fishing period. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide.

In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.

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

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 11, 12, and 17 commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>.

**The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 11.
The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 11.**

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.