



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 19, 2023

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #30

SEINE FISHERIES: VFDA began its cost recovery sales program on Monday, July 3, and has collected approximately 98% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal. Sampling conducted by VFDA yielded a female ratio of 44% with an average weight of 2.8 lbs. VFDA cost recovery is continuing today.

Aerial surveys of all purse seine districts are ongoing and stream escapements are within anticipated ranges for this time frame.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 20. **Waters of Port Valdez, east of the longitude of 146° 32.00' W., will be closed to fishing for this period.** Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point will not be in effect during this fishing period. Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period that occurred on July 18 were 1.61 million pink and 7,800 chum salmon with 200 reported deliveries. Contribution estimates from the period occurring on July 16 were 93% SGH and 7% wild.

Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures of Simpson Bay (5 AAC 24.350 (3)(A)) will not be in effect for this fishing period. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of streams at any stage of the tide. Additionally, it is unlawful to drive or attempt to drive salmon from freshwater.

Waters inside the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed to commercial fishing during this period to ensure early season escapement:

- (1) **Jack Bay:** south and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.34' N. lat., 146°35.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.17' N. lat., 146°39.77' W. long.;
- (2) **Sawmill Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.71' N. lat., 146°46.44' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.58' N. lat., 146°47.07' W. long.
- (3) **Galena Bay:** 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.;
- (4) **Landlocked Bay:** waters north of 60°50.76' N. lat.;
- (5) **Irish Cove:** south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°46.73' N. lat., 146°26.62' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°46.27' N. lat., 146°27.12' W. long.;
- (6) **Port Fidalgo Subdistrict:** waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.
- (7) **St. Matthews Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°43.36' N. lat., 146°19.07' W. long. to a shore maker at approximately 60°43.61' N. lat., 146°21.17' W. long.;

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District, excluding the Perry Island and Cannery Creek Subdistricts, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 20.

Waters inside the following Northern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed to commercial fishing during this period to ensure early season escapement:

- (1) **Eaglek Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°50.66' N. lat., 147°40.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°50.56' N. lat., 147°44.57' W. long.;

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the WNH THA and SHA outside a line of buoys in front of the barrier seine, and waters of College Fiord, north of a latitude line at Pt. Pakenham (61°0.36' N.), will open to commercial purse seine harvest for a 16-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 20. The Coghill District, excluding the Bettles Bay Subdistrict and the WNH SHA inside a line of buoys in front of the barrier seine, will open to purse seine harvest for a 20-hour period starting at 12:00 am on Friday, July 21. **Regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B), will not be in effect until further notice.** Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 20.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 20. Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery SHA and THA will not be in effect for this period.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: Waters of the Montague District, excluding the Port Chalmers Subdistrict, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 20.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 20.

GILLNET FISHERIES

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 20 for a 60-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period.

The grass bank marker line is defined in 5 AAC 24.350(1)(A) with the exception of this year's extension of the closure line across Little Softuk (**see bold font below**). This closure line is defined with the following points:

<i>Point</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
Point Whitshed South	60° 26.49' N.	145° 52.86' W.
Alaganik Slough North	60° 24.65' N.	145° 36.70' W.
Pete Dahl East	60° 20.44' N.	145° 29.14' W.
West Kokenhenik	60° 14.88' N.	145° 10.01' W.
East "East Side"	60° 14.83' N.	145° 03.36' W.

Coffee Creek East	60° 14.19' N.	144° 58.01' W.
Charlie Mohr North	60° 15.15' N.	144° 56.43' W.
Martin River North	60° 15.29' N.	144° 52.52' W.
Strawberry Reef	60° 13.93' N.	144° 50.66' W.
Little Softuk	60° 13.16' N.	144° 41.38' W.

Waters north of this line, within sloughs, and in Boswell Bay within the bay (5 AAC 24.350 (1)(A)) are closed to commercial and subsistence salmon fishing during all periods.

Cumulative sonar count through 7/18 is 894,403 fish whereas 540,192 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 7/19 is 2,826 fish. For the week ending July 15, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 62,395 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 31,424 – 74,276. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Thursday, July 13 were 49,400 sockeye and 50 Chinook salmon with 209 deliveries reported. The cumulative Copper River District harvest to date is 10,400 Chinook and 758,000 sockeye salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open to commercial salmon fishing, west of a longitude line at 144° 33.60' W., for a 60-hour period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 20.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, **excluding the Bettles Bay Subdistrict and the WNH SHA inside a line of buoys in front of the barrier seine**, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 20. **Until further notice, regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B)), will not be in effect during open commercial fishing periods. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide.** The Coghill River weir has passed 47,559 sockeye salmon through 7/18 with a cumulative target of 17,440–65,410 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 84-hour period that started on Thursday, July 13 were 126,000 chum, 35,400 pink, and 18,400 sockeye salmon with 498 deliveries reported.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District will remain closed. The next anticipated opening of the Eshamy District is anticipated to occur on Monday, July 24. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, July 17 were 9,100 sockeye, 9,200 pink, and 3,700 chum salmon with 81 deliveries reported.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: The Port Chalmers Subdistrict will open to drift gillnet fishing for an 84-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 20 with an additional 60-hour period beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, July 24. A regular schedule of two fishing periods per week is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. The western boundary of the Port Chalmers Subdistrict is defined by lines from 60°20.00'N., 147°26.59'W. to 60°14.75'N., 147°35.35'W. to 60°02.50'N., 147°44.41'W. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice.** Preliminary harvest estimates from the 84-hour period that started on Thursday, July 13 were 44,800 chum, 1,420 pink, and 60 sockeye salmon with 70 deliveries reported.

UNAKWIK DISTRICT: The Unakwik District will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 20. The Unakwik District will close commercial salmon fishing for the season at 8:00 pm on Friday, July 21. No harvest was reported for the 36-hour period that started on Monday, July 17.

The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Friday, July 21.
The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Friday, July 21.

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 907-267-2843.