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Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery–2026 Allocation Plan (5 AAC 24.370)

The *Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan* (5AAC 24.370) specifies methods, percentage triggers, and corrective measures for allocating Prince William Sound Aquaculture Association (PWSAC)-produced salmon harvested in the commercial common property fishery. The set gillnet gear group allocation is 4% of the five-year average value of PWSAC-produced salmon harvested in the commercial common property fishery. If the set gillnet gear group exceeds 5% of the five-year average value of PWSAC-produced salmon, they will be limited to no more than 36 hours of fishing time per week beginning July 10 in the year following this calculation. After excluding set gillnet harvest values, the drift gillnet and purse seine gear groups are each allocated 50% of the remaining value of PWSAC-produced salmon harvested in the commercial common property fishery. If the drift gillnet gear group harvest value is 45% or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the drift gillnet gear group shall have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 through July 30. If the purse seine gear group harvest value is 45% or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the purse seine gear group shall have exclusive access to the Esther Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 through July 20 during fishing periods established by emergency order.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) calculated exvessel value percentages for each gear group using the Commercial Operators Annual Report (COAR) area-specific prices and weights, and ADF&G harvest estimates of PWSAC-produced fish by species and gear type (Table 1). The trigger points for corrections to allocation are 45% for purse seine and drift gillnet gear groups, and 5% for the set gillnet gear group. The five-year (2021–2025) average value percentages for each gear type are **4.9%** set gillnet, **50.8%** drift gillnet, and **49.2%** purse seine (Table 2). The five-year average value percentages did not trigger corrective allocation measures. Therefore, **the purse seine gear group will have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict in 2027.**

Table 1.–The 2025 COAR price per pound by gear type, species, and area.

	Drift Gillnet		Purse Seine	Set Gillnet
Species	Copper/Bering	Prince William Sound	Prince William Sound	Prince William Sound
Chinook	$18.18	$2.94	$1.15	$4.09
Chum	$0.30	$0.69	$0.73	$0.65
Coho	$2.07	$1.69	$1.53	$1.55
Pink	$0.28	$0.45	$0.47	$0.34
Sockeye	$2.96	$1.95	$1.50	$1.89

Table 2.–Values and percentages by gear type for Area E (*please note*- drift gillnet and purse seine percentages are calculated using values that exclude set gillnet).

Year	Drift Gillnet		Purse Seine		Set Gillnet	
2021	$13,292,185	32.5%	$27,566,130	67.5%	$893,088	2.1%
2022	$14,208,932	62.2%	$8,631,964	37.8%	$1,747,074	7.1%
2023	$11,832,911	48.0%	$12,842,706	52.0%	$915,032	3.6%
2024	$13,042,736	80.7%	$3,114,473	19.3%	$2,234,732	12.2%
2025	$13,444,533	53.7%	$11,594,080	46.3%	$952,890	3.7%
Grand Total	$65,821,297		$63,749,353		$6,742,817	
5-yr Average		50.8%		49.2%		4.9%