



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: July 12, 2020*

**CONTACT: Jeremy Botz and Charlie Russell**  
**Finfish Area Management Biologists**  
**(907) 424-3212**

**Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #23**

**SEINE FISHERIES:** A commercial fishing opener is expected in portions of the Eastern District as early as Tuesday, July 14 or Wednesday, July 15, dependent on completion of VFDA cost recovery and further evaluation of fishery data. An estimated 2.1 million pink salmon were harvested in eastern PWS on Saturday, July 11. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through July 12 is estimated at 2.2 million CPF and 771,000 VFDA cost recovery fish, for a total of 2.9 million fish. The 5-year even-year average (2010–2018) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through July 12 is 7.3 million fish.

VFDA began its cost recovery sales program on Monday, July 6 and has collected approximately 75% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through July 12. Cost recovery pink salmon harvest in Port Valdez on Friday, July 10 resulted in an average weight of 3.8 pounds per fish and 31% female. VFDA cost recovery is continuing today.

An aerial survey was conducted in the Eastern and Northern districts on Thursday, July 9, and indicated that chum and pink salmon escapements are currently below the expected ranges for the date within the districts. Aerial surveys of most districts are expected to be conducted this week, weather depending, to further assess the strength of wild stock returns throughout PWS.

**MONTAGUE DISTRICT:** The Port Chalmers Subdistrict, north of 60°12.56' N. lat. and east a line from 60°12.56'N., 147°20.25'W. to 60°20.00'N., 147°14.30'W., will open to purse seine fishing for 48-hours beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, July 13. A regular schedule of three fishing periods per week (Monday, Thursday, Saturday) is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. **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 36-hour period that started on Thursday, July 9 were 8,214 chum salmon with 32 deliveries reported.

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for 24-hours beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, July 13. A regular schedule of three fishing periods per week (Monday, Thursday, Saturday) is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. **Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice.** Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, July 9 were 6,200 chum and 500 sockeye salmon with 16 deliveries reported.

**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 pm Monday, July 13.**

**The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 15.**

**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.