



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 20, 2020

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #31

SEINE FISHERIES: VFDA surveyed Port Valdez on Monday, July 20 and reported an improvement in pink salmon within the THA. VFDA currently estimates there are approximately 100,000 pink salmon within the SHA. VFDA needs approximately 409,000 pink salmon for broodstock and is recommending a closure within Port Valdez. Time and area for future commercial fishing periods targeting VFDA pink salmon in Port Valdez will be based on continued run entry and broodstock needs.

An estimated 800,000 pink salmon were harvested in PWS on Sunday, July 19. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through July 19 is estimated at 5.6 million CPF and 1 million VFDA cost recovery fish, for a total of 6.6 million fish. The 5-year even-year average (2010–2018) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through July 19 is 11.3 million fish.

Preliminary contribution estimates from the 14-hour fishing period on Thursday, July 16 in the Northwestern District were 98% Wild and 2% WNH.

Preliminary contribution estimates from the 36-hour fishing period on Thursday, July 16 in the Eshamy District were 88% Wild, 7% WNH, and 5% SGH.

An aerial survey of the Eastern, Northern, and Southeastern districts is expected for Tuesday, July 21, weather dependent, to further assess the strength of wild stock returns. The department does not anticipate these stocks will sustain a consistent schedule of openers at this time. **The next wild stock fishing opportunity will be dependent on escapement, harvest information, and effort.**

COGHILL DISTRICT: As previously announced, the Coghill District, excluding waters of the Esther Subdistrict and waters of the WNH SHA and THA, will open to commercial purse seine harvest for a 20-hour period starting at 12:00 am on Tuesday, July 21.

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 harvest for a 44-hour fishing period starting at 12:00 am on Tuesday July 21. Regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B)), will not be in effect during 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 salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 22.

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.