



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 30, 2020

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #39

SEINE FISHERIES: A broad area fishing opportunity is expected for either Saturday, August 1 or Sunday, August 2 within Prince William Sound, with time and area to be announced on Friday, July 31. An estimated 1.45 million pink salmon were harvested in PWS on Tuesday, July 28. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through July 28 is estimated at 8.9 million CPF and 1 million VFDA cost recovery fish, for a total of 9.9 million fish. The 5-year even-year average (2010–2018) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through July 28 is 15.3 million fish.

PWSAC began its cost recovery sales program on Friday, July 24, and has collected approximately 17% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through Wednesday, July 29. Sampling of cost recovery pink salmon harvest from Wednesday, July 29 resulted in an average weight of 3.5 pounds per fish and 32% female at WNH.

An aerial survey was conducted in the Eastern District on Wednesday, July 29, and indicated that pink salmon escapements are within the expected ranges for the date, but chum salmon escapements are below the expected ranges for the date. An aerial survey was conducted in the Northern District on Wednesday, July 29, and indicated that pink and chum salmon escapements are slightly below the expected for the date. It is anticipated that future fishing opportunity directed on wild stocks will be limited to two days per week. **Time and area for future commercial fishing periods targeting wild stock pink and chum salmon will be dependent upon escapement, harvest, and effort.**

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 Friday, July 31.

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.