



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 3, 2020

CONTACT: Jeremy Botz and Charlie Russell

**Finfish Area Management Biologists
(907) 424-3212**

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #42

SEINE FISHERIES: A broad area fishing opportunity within Prince William Sound could occur as early as Wednesday, August 5, dependent upon further analysis of fishery data, aerial surveys, and hatchery recommendations. An estimated 1.45 million pink salmon were harvested in PWS on Saturday, August 1. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through August 1 is estimated at 10.5 million CPF and 1.5 million cost recovery fish, for a total of 12.0 million fish. The 5-year even-year average (2010–2018) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through August 1 is 17.8 million fish.

PWSAC began its cost recovery sales program on Friday, July 24, and has collected approximately 46% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through Sunday, August 2. Sampling of cost recovery pink salmon harvest from Sunday, August 2 resulted in an average weight of 3.4 pounds per fish and 37% female at WNH.

Aerial surveys of all districts are expected to be conducted later this week, weather dependent, to further assess the strength of wild stock returns throughout PWS. 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 5:00 pm Tuesday, August 4.

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?adf=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.