



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 18, 2020

CONTACT: Jeremy Botz and Charlie Russell

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

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #51

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for a broad area commercial purse seine fishing opportunity in PWS on Wednesday, August 19. An estimated 220,000 pink salmon were harvested in PWS on Monday, August 17. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through August 17 is estimated at 17.6 million CPF and 3.3 million cost recovery fish, for a total of 20.9 million fish. The 5-year even-year average (2010–2018) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through August 17 is 33.0 million fish.

PWSAC recommends the AFK, CCH, and WNH SHAs, THAs, and corresponding hatchery subdistricts remain closed to build broodstock.

PWSAC currently estimates there are approximately 240,000-280,000 pink salmon near the AFK hatchery and needs approximately 363,000 pink salmon for broodstock; 90,000-120,000 pink salmon within the CCH SHA and needs approximately 357,000 pink salmon for broodstock; 240,000 pink salmon within the WNH SHA and needs approximately 283,000 pink salmon for broodstock.

Preliminary contribution estimates from the 12-hour fishing period on August 15 in the Northern District were 57% CCH, 20% WNH, 14% Wild, 4% AFK, and 4% SGH.

Preliminary contribution estimates from the 12-hour fishing period on August 15 in the Southwestern District were 35% CCH, 30% WNH, 21% Wild, and 14% AFK.

An aerial survey of the Port Fidalgo is expected for Wednesday, August 19, weather dependent, to further assess the strength of late season chum returns. **The next wild stock fishing opportunity in Port Fidalgo will be dependent on chum salmon escapement.**

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, August 19. **Waters of Port Valdez north of a line from Entrance Point to Potato Point will be closed to commercial fishing during this period.**

Waters inside the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure late season chum salmon escapement:

- (1) **Port Fidalgo Subdistrict:** waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District, **east of 147°31.15 W.**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour fishing period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, August 19.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District, **excluding waters of the Esther Subdistrict, Granite Bay Subdistrict, and WNH SHA and THA**, will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, August 19.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, August 19.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Southwestern District is closed for this period.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: Waters of the Montague District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, August 19.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, August 19.

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, August 19.

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.