



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 21, 2020

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #55

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for a broad area commercial purse seine fishing opportunity in PWS on Sunday, August 23.

PWSAC recommends the AFK, CCH, and WNH SHAs, THAs, and corresponding hatchery subdistricts remain closed to build broodstock. PWSAC currently estimates there are approximately 265,000 pink salmon near the AFK hatchery and needs approximately 363,000 pink salmon for broodstock; 220,000 pink salmon within the CCH SHA and needs approximately 357,000 pink salmon for broodstock; 270,000 pink salmon within the WNH SHA and needs approximately 283,000 pink salmon for broodstock.

ADF&G survey estimates on August 19 indicated a harvestable surplus within the Cannery Creek Subdistrict, however PWSAC remains concerned about achieving their pink salmon broodstock goal and requests the subdistrict remain closed.

VFDA has completed approximately 75% of their pink salmon egg-take goal through August 20. Currently VFDA does not expect to have surplus broodstock.

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 Sunday, August 23. **Waters of Port Valdez north of a line from Entrance Point to Potato Point will be closed to commercial fishing during this period.**

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District, **excluding waters of the Cannery Creek Subdistrict, Perry Island Subdistrict, and CCH SHA and THA**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Sunday, August 23.

Waters within Hidden Bay on Culross Island, west of 148° 06.40' W. long, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Sunday, August 23. All regulatory closed waters within Hidden Bay, west of 148° 06.40' W., will not be in effect for these fishing periods.

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 Sunday, August 23.

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 Sunday, August 23.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southwestern District, **excluding waters of the San Juan Subdistrict, Port Ellrington Subdistrict, and AFK SHA and THA**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Sunday, August 23.

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 Sunday, August 23.

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 Sunday, August 23.

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 Sunday, August 23.

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.