PWSAC 2017 Fisheries Updates

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Chum Salmon Update

Wally Noerenberg Hatchery:

Fresh chum salmon are still arriving. The peak of the three year component appears to be showing up at this time. The large return of pink salmon to Eastern Prince William Sound has impacted the processing capacity and has resulted in limits being imposed on the gillnet fleet harvesting chum salmon. In some cases, some processors have temporarily stopped buying chum salmon from the gillnet fleet. Chum salmon egg take started on July 7, and as of July 12, was 50% complete. The hatchery is using about 15,000 fish a day at their current pace. An estimated 100,000 fish are inside the barrier net at this time. With new fish entering the SHA, the area open for commercial fishing inside the SHA has been expanded to catch chum salmon beyond the needs of the hatchery. The chum salmon harvest in the Coghill District as of 7/9 was just over 2,040,000 fish. PWSAC harvested 444,000 chum salmon of that total.

Main Bay Hatchery:

The Main Bay sockeye salmon return is short of the 1.15 million fish return forecast. Total harvest as of 7/9 in the Eshamy District is approximately 419,000 sockeye salmon all caught in the CPF fishery. MBH is continuing to capture brood fish this week. As of July 13, the hatchery has removed approximately 34,000 jack salmon and has retained 5,331 large adults. The hatchery needs between 10,000 and 11,000 large adults. Main Bay was closed this period to try to increase the number of large adult salmon entering the brood area.

AFK Hatchery:

The chum salmon fishery at AFK hatchery is very close to forecast. Approximately, 368,000 chum salmon have been harvested as of 7/8. The chum harvest at AFK has slowed considerably.

Port Chalmers:

Total harvest of chum salmon as of 7/11 is approximately 491,000 fish, which is above forecast. Chum salmon are starting to slow at that location.