

# ADF&G issues statewide salmon report

*Editor's Note: The following commercial salmon fisheries report was provided by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game for the period ending Aug. 26.*

**Southeastern Region** — The troll fishery continued to produce coho salmon landings that were below recent years' levels. Indications of coho salmon run strength in the inside areas were mixed.

A one-day purse-seine opening toward the end of August produced poor landings of pink salmon, indicating a decline in the returns. No additional purse-seine fishing directed for pink salmon was expected to be allowed. Good sockeye catches continued in the Lynn Canal gillnet fishery.

**Upper Cook Inlet** — No further reports from this area were expected as the salmon returns and effort levels had dropped off as the end of the season approached.

**Cordova Area** — The pink salmon harvest was more than 23.5 million fish in the purse-seine fishery. However, the purse-seine fishery was to close for the season Aug. 28.

The coho salmon return on the Copper/Bering rivers was very poor. Only 86,900 coho had been taken, and the season harvest will not even ap-

proach the expected pre-season forecast level of 300,000 to 400,000 coho salmon.

Average prices per pound were reported to be: reds — \$1.40; cohos — \$.75 to \$1.50; pinks — \$.40; and chum — \$.45.

**Kuskokwim** — All districts fished three periods during the reporting period. W-4 and 5 were on three 12-hour periods a week until further notice.

The river was to close by regulation on Sept. 1, and Kuskokwim Bay closes by regulation on Tuesday. Effort was dropping off, and coho prices in all districts were about \$.75 a pound.

**Norton Sound** — The coho salmon return appeared to be average to slightly below average. Fishing effort declined in all districts as fall approached. The price for coho salmon was about \$.62 a pound.

**Kotzebue** — The ninth and final fishing period in the area produced only 7,500 chum salmon for 78 fishermen and ended Aug. 21. The total chum salmon catch for the season was 109,500 fish.

**Kodiak** — Late chum salmon harvests were picking up, but were weaker than expected. Pink salmon harvests were coming in as forecast with major pink systems getting ex-

cellent escapements. Late sockeye escapements into Karluk and Upper Station were progressing well.

**Chignik** — Pink salmon escapements were improving. The minimum escapement goals for the majority of the systems were expected to be obtained. Coho salmon returns were very slow.

**Alaska Peninsula and Aleutians** — South Peninsula pink and chum salmon escapements were generally good east of Pavlof Bay, but spotty to areas in the west. The minimum end of the post-Aug. 5 sockeye escapements goals had been reached and the fishery re-opened on a standard four days of fishing per week.