

Salmon Harvest Task Force Recommendations
to ADF&G for the 1991 Season

The Prince William Sound Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) recommends that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game adopt the following guidelines for management of the 1991 salmon fisheries in Prince William Sound. The objectives of this program, in no particular order, are as follows:

- * To provide greater fishing opportunities outside of terminal areas.
- * To increase overall quality of the Area E salmon products.
- * To maximize fishing time for all user groups.
- * To maximize utilization of the high quality harvestable surplus.
- * To provide adequate protection to natural salmon stocks.
- * To provide increased basis for a workable management system for Area E salmon stocks.
- * To learn and adjust this management system from the results obtained from the 1991 season.

I. Gillnet

- A. Prior to July 21, schedule two 24-hour fishing periods/week in the Esther Subdistrict to target returning chum salmon at Wally Norenberg Hatchery.
- B. When possible, schedule openings on the Copper River Delta to coincide with gill net openings in Prince William Sound.
- C. When hatchery pink and chum salmon mill in the lower portion of Esther Passage above the boundary of the Esther Subdistrict, the Department will consider the expansion of the subdistrict up to the vicinity of Shoestring Cove. It is recognized that wild stocks are present in Esther Passage and their escapement will be considered before action.

II. Seine

- A. The SHTF recommends that the Department establish enlarged closures at the heads of bays as a management tool to provide a greater assurance of meeting minimum wild stock pink and chum salmon escapement objectives while permitting as much fishing time as possible during a given season, and at the same time assuring a high quality product to be taken by fishermen. These enlarged closures are anticipated to improve the quality of the salmon harvest by eliminating the harvest of poor quality "back out" fish taken at the present marker system and targeting the harvest on "bright" fish taken at the bay entrances, outer points and migratory passages.

These new closures are to be established by emergency order at the start of the pink salmon season however flexibility will be maintained to allow for the harvest of early chums. Once established the enlarged closures are intended to remain in effect throughout the entire season. The enlarged closures will be subject to modification if the SHTF and/or the department see inadequacies that have developed and it is felt that adjustments are necessary during and/or post season.

- B. The SHTF recommends that the Department establish a weekly fishing schedule for the seine season permitting two 12 hour fishing periods per week, on Mondays and Thursdays, commencing

no later than Monday, July 1st, and opening at 6:00 a.m. These openings would include as many districts as possible.

After the first 12 hour opener, the subsequent three openings will proceed unless wild stock pink and chum escapement levels fall below 50% of the desired levels for a given date. After the first four openings, if the wild stock pink and chum escapement levels falls below 75% of the minimum desired escapement levels for a given date, the openings will be reduced to 1 period per week and will continue at this rate until such time that the escapement rate recovers to 105% of the daily anticipated and 95% of the cumulative. If the escapement levels fail to improve above 75% of the minimum for that date, then all fishing will be curtailed until the above thresholds are reached.

After an opening, ADF&G will use catch information provided as expediently as possible by the processors, as well as survey results, to determine if additional fishing time is warranted per each general district opening during that week.

We also recommend that as many areas as possible be opened concurrently including any and all hatchery openings. The purpose of this is to spread the fleet and leave time for decisions of the fishermen.

- C. An additional airplane and personnel will be hired to supplement the present ADF&G aerial survey program and will be administrated by ADF&G. The Department will fund the personnel costs for the additional surveyor. The air charter costs are projected to be \$35,000. The air charter costs will be borne by processors and fishermen organizations.

This additional spotter will be expected to supplement the present pink and chum salmon escapement program that is in place (which is stream and bay surveys) by staggering surveys on opposite ends of the week from the normal department flights.

In addition, this spotter would spend one full day per week ascertaining the overall condition of the fishery in Prince William Sound and report subjectively to the Area Biologist trends observed during this flight.

III. Hatchery cost recovery management

- A. The Task Force recommends that the Department of Fish and Game manage PWSAC cost recovery such that a large portion of the pink salmon sales harvest is taken early in the run. ADF&G will manage PWSAC harvests so that 50% of the pink salmon sales harvest needs will be available in the special harvest areas by August 5.
- B. It is PWSAC's goal to provide a minimum of 70% of their hatchery production to the common property fishery and no more than 30% for corporate cost recovery and broodstock. As stated in the 1991 management plan, this policy will continue unless changed by the PWSAC Executive Board.
- C. The Point Elrington, Port San Juan, Perry Island and Esther Subdistricts are not expected to open until July 29 to allow PWSAC access to the early return of pink salmon. These areas

will be managed prior to August 5 primarily for cost recovery however commercial harvest will be allowed to prevent excessive buildup of salmon above those provided for cost recovery.

- D. The Southwestern District should only be opened if the escapement of wild stocks to that district justify an opening. The Southwestern District is recognized as containing a mixture of wild and enhanced stocks, many of which are destined for other areas of the Sound.
- E. PWSAC will conduct cost recovery at AFK, Esther, and Cannery Creek, however SHTF recommends that PWSAC concentrate sales harvests at AFK and Esther.
PWSAC will solicit bids to ensure that all fish in the Special Harvest Areas are taken each day. PWSAC will provide ADF&G, by 10:00 a.m. each morning, the average weight, sex ratio, pounds of fish harvested, name of tenders, by facility for the previous day.
- F. During periods when the Area 3 closure of Unakwik Inlet is in effect to provide protection to cost recovery fish, the Department may expand the hatchery's special harvest area south to 60° 58.0' N. latitude to maintain fish quality. When Unakwik Inlet is open to the common property fishery the special harvest area will not be expanded.
- G. The SHTF will meet in season as needed. It is the responsibility of the members of the SHTF to relay the content of these meetings to their constituents.

P.W.S. SALMON HARVEST TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADF&G

Chris Nerison, CDFU (Seine Division)	Date
Thea Thomas, CDFU (Gill Net Division)	Date
Dave Clark, PWS Seiners Association	Date
Tom Kohler, PWS Set Net Association	Date
Dan Lowell, PWS Alliance	Date
Mike Glasen, PWS Fish and Game Advisory Committee	Date
Ray Cesarini, SeaHawk Seafoods	Date
Jim Poor, Peter Pan Seafoods	Date
Steve Meuter, Chugach Fisheries	Date
Bill Terhar, St. Elias Ocean Products	Date
Ken Roemhildt, North Pacific Processors	Date
John Woodruff, Seward Fisheries	Date
Bruce Suzumoto, PWS Aquaculture Corp.	Date
Paul McCollum, Valdez Fisheries Development Assn.	Date
Roy Jones, John Cabot Fisheries	Date

Salmon Harvest Task Force Recommendations to ADF&G for the 1992 Season

The Salmon Harvest Task Force recommendations are guidelines put forth by the industry for management of the fishery. All parties must recognize that inseason adjustments to the proposed guidelines will undoubtedly be required as the season develops. The Board of Fisheries recognizes that wild stock management has the highest priority in determining fishery openings in the general waters of Prince William Sound.

SEINE RECOMMENDATIONS JULY 17, 1992

The wild stock pink salmon forecast for 1992 is weak. The projected wild return is 2.35 million, one of the weakest on record. If the run develops as forecast, an overall harvest rate of 43% will be required to achieve escapement. The forecast return of hatchery pinks is 28 million and a common property harvest rate of 70% is expected. The Department needs to maintain the ability to correct for escapement shortfalls by establishing migration corridors while permitting the timely harvest of the large hatchery return.

Based on the forecast, these recommendations are drafted to provide protection to early return wild stocks. These recommendations also provide protection to the middle and late wild stocks, however fishing opportunities outside of terminal areas will be permitted as the PWSAC run develops. By providing non-terminal fishing opportunities, fishermen and processors will benefit by improving quality, early access, and by assessing the magnitude of the expected large hatchery return.

Goal: To provide protection to wild stocks and allow for the timely harvest of late run hatchery produced pink salmon.

Objectives: Maintain Department's ability to correct for wild stock escapement shortfalls.
Establish acceptable levels of wild stock risk.
Prevent overloading the system during PWSAC return.
Allow assessment of run entry.
Improve quality to the extent escapement will allow.

The Department will conduct aerial surveys beginning in late June. Depending upon funding, the Department will conduct two aerial surveys per week. The Department will fund the personnel costs for the additional surveyor and industry will fund the airplane charter costs. The additional surveyor will supplement the existing pink and chum salmon escapement program that is in place by staggering surveys on opposite ends of the week from the normal department flights. This additional survey will allow the Department to respond to changes in wild stock escapement in a timely manner.

Management recommendations:

During early and mid-July the following scenario (depending upon wild stock escapement) will be implemented in the Eastern and or Northern Districts.

Escapement level

1) Shortfall - Wild stocks (combined bay, mouth, stream) less than 80% of expected weekly escapement.

No general district fishing. Area specific chum fisheries can occur if little impact to early pinks. VFDA return harvested in terminal areas.

2) Adequate - Wild stocks between 80 - 90% of the expected weekly escapement.

Two 12-hour periods/week will occur with enlarged bay closures. VFDA return harvested in near terminal areas.

3) Achievement - Districts performing at 90% of weekly escapement expectations or above.

Allow fishing in eastern P.W.S to balance wild escapement with common property harvest. Valdez Arm area managed to achieve VFDA corporate escapement.

During the week of July 27 the following scenario will be implemented as the PWSAC return develops.

- Wild stocks (combined bay, mouth, stream) less than 80% of expected weekly escapement.

During the week of July 27, two 6-hour periods in the southern half of Southwestern District (general waters). Department may adjust area based on need to correct for shortfalls. Two 12-hour periods in hatchery subdistricts will occur on the same day as the 6-hour openers. Additional openers in the subdistricts adjusted to balance corporate escapement with common property harvest.

- During the week of July 27, if the wild stock escapement calculation is greater than 80 percent, the two 6-hour periods will be replaced with two 12-hour periods in the southern half of the Southwestern District.

- If wild stock escapement performs at 90% of weekly escapement expectations or above, fishing will occur in all general districts that warrant fishing. Hatchery subdistricts will be managed for corporate escapement.

Beginning on or about August 1 the following management strategy will be implemented as the PWSAC return develops.

Fishing periods of 12-hours duration will be scheduled every other day. To provide a migration corridor for wild stocks, the general waters of the southern half of the Southwestern district will be divided into an east and west corridor. The eastern corridor is referred to as Montague Strait and the western corridor is referred to as Knight Island. The Knight Island corridor will include the east shore of Chenega Island except when a sockeye escapement shortfall develops at Eshamy Lake.

Areas open on August 1 will include the hatchery terminal areas of Unakwik Inlet, Esther Subdistrict, Port San Juan and Elrington Subdistrict plus the Montague Strait corridor of the Southwestern district. The period scheduled for August 3 will include the hatchery terminal areas of Unakwik Inlet, Esther Subdistrict, and Elrington Subdistrict plus the Knight Island corridor of the Southwestern district. The east and west corridors will alternate by fishing period. The Port San Juan subdistrict will only be open when the Montague Strait corridor is open to fishing to provide protection for PWSAC corporate escapement.

This schedule is subject to inseason modifications based upon processing considerations, actual run entry, PWSAC's corporate escapement and wild stock assessment.

Qualifications:

A) When calculating escapement percentages to determine the wild stock escapement level the Southwestern, Montague and Southeastern Districts will not be included.

B) If any district other than the Southwestern District meets or exceeds an adequate level of wild stock escapement, then harvest will be permitted on surplus in the respective district.

C) The Coghill, Northwestern and Eshamy Districts will be considered in aggregate when calculating escapement performance.

D) If wild stock escapement in the Eastern, Northern or the aggregate Coghill/Northwestern/Eshamy Districts exceeds expectations, that district will be excluded from the escapement performance calculation.

GILLNET RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Whenever possible, fishing periods in gill net districts will be open simultaneously.
- 2) When the common property fishery is open in the Eshamy District both the Crafton Island and Main Bay Subdistricts shall be open to harvest Coghill stock returns to the Main Bay hatchery. The preferred schedule is two 36-hour periods per week.
- 3) Fishing periods in the Esther Subdistrict will be scheduled to harvest Noerenberg hatchery chum salmon and minimize interception of Coghill Lake sockeyes. Markers at the south end of Esther Pass will be moved up to the vicinity of Shoestring Cove to harvest milling chum salmon. It is recognized that wild stocks are present in Esther Passage and their escapement will be considered before action.

To successfully manage natural and enhanced stocks of the northwestern Sound the harvest strategy must be based upon the less abundant wild stocks. Due to the location of two major hatcheries in the northwestern Sound, this area is viewed as a unit for management purposes.

In the event that the sockeye escapement goal is not achieved at Coghill Lake, sockeyes returning to Davis Lake will be used as a fail safe mechanism. It is agreed that PWSAC will use a portion of the remote egg take at Davis Lake to stock fry into Coghill Lake in the spring of 1993. Fry stocking shall occur at a level to be determined on the best biological information in the fall of 1992.

P.W.S. SALMON HARVEST TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADF&G

Chris Nerison, CDFU Seine Division

Date

Guido Casciano, CDFU Gill Net Division

Date

Brian King, PWS Seiners Association

Date

Tom Kohler, PWS Set Net Association

Date

John Bocci, PWS Alliance

Date

Tom Johnson, CAMA Gillnet Division

Date

Jack Hopkins, CAMA Seine Division

Date

George Covell, PWS Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Date

Ray Cesarini, SeaHawk Seafoods

Date

Pan Seafoods

Date

Jim Poor, Peter

Bill Terhar, St. Elias Ocean Products

Date

Ken Roemhildt, North Pacific Processors

Date

Jeff Poole, Seward Fisheries

Date

John McMullen, PWS Aquaculture Corporation

Date

Paul McCollum, Valdez Fisheries Development Assn.

Date

P.W.S. SALMON HARVEST TASK FORCE SEINE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADF&G

Chris Nerison, CDFU Seine Division

Date

Floyd Hutchins, PWS Seiners Association

Date

Jack Hopkins, CAMA Seine Division

Date

George Covell, PWS Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Date

Ray Cesarini, SeaHawk Seafoods

Date

Pan Seafoods

Date

Jim Poor, Peter

Bill Terhar, St. Elias Ocean Products

Date

Ken Roemhildt, North Pacific Processors

Date

Jeff Poole, Seward Fisheries

Date

John McMullen, PWS Aquaculture Corporation

Date

DRAFT 1/25/93

Salmon Harvest Task Force Recommendations to ADF&G for the 1993 Season

The Salmon Harvest Task Force recommendations are guidelines put forth by recognized members of the industry for management of the area's fisheries. All parties recognize that inseason adjustments to Task Force recommendations may be required as the season develops.

SEINE RECOMMENDATIONS

The wild stock pink salmon forecast for 1993 is 5.4 million fish or 2.3 million below the long term average run size. The escapement goal is 1.4 million and the projected harvest is 4 million. If the wild run develops as forecast, a harvest rate of 74% can be permitted and achieve escapement.

Actual run strength will be assessed as the season progresses. The primary method of wild stock assessment is by aerial survey of representative streams and bays in the area. Inseason assessment of escapement will be the major factor to determine the harvest strategy. Input from Task Force members will also be considered.

Wild salmon are taken in both the common property fishery and to a lesser extent during hatchery sales harvests. The Task Force recognizes that fishing in terminal harvest areas is necessary to decrease the wild stock harvest rate when the wild run is weak. Conversely, as the wild run size increases, the area can expand outside of terminal areas to raise the wild stock harvest rate.

WILD RUN SIZE (Millions)

HARVEST RATE TO ACHIEVE ESCAPEMENT

10	0.86
9	0.85
8	0.83
7	0.80
6	0.77
5	0.72
4	0.65
3	0.53
2	0.30
1	0.0

The forecast of hatchery pink salmon is 22.2 million. The VFDA run 2.22 million, and the PWSAC run 20 million. The common property harvest of PWSAC pink salmon is projected to be 14 million. The harvest rate (common property fishery and corporate sales) of PWSAC pink salmon is expected to be 95 percent.

Since in most years the desired harvest rate for wild and hatchery salmon will be different, the department must establish harvest areas that will reduce the harvest rate on wild fish and permit a higher rate on hatchery fish.

Goal: To provide a framework to ADF&G that provides for wild stock escapement, corporate escapement and timely harvest of surplus in areas that warrant harvest.

Objectives: Maintain department's ability to correct for wild stock escapement shortfalls.
Establish acceptable levels of wild stock risk.
Allow assessment of run entry.
Improve quality to the extent escapement will allow.

The department will conduct aerial surveys beginning in late June. Depending upon funding, two aerial surveys per week will be employed to track escapement. The department will fund the personnel costs for the additional surveyor and industry will fund the airplane charter costs. The additional surveyor will supplement the existing pink and chum salmon escapement program that is in place by staggering surveys on opposite ends of the week from the normal department flights.

Management recommendations:

During early and mid-July the following scenario will be implemented in the Eastern and or Northern Districts.

Escapement level

1) Shortfall - Wild stocks (combined bay, mouth, stream) less than 80% of expected weekly escapement.

No general district fishing. Area specific chum fisheries can occur if little impact to early pink escapement. VFDA return harvested in terminal area.

2) Adequate - Wild stocks between 80 - 90% of the expected weekly escapement.

Two 12-hour periods/week will occur with enlarged bay closures. VFDA return harvested in near terminal area.

3) Achievement - District(s) performing at 90% of weekly escapement expectations or above.

Allow fishing in eastern P.W.S to balance wild escapement with common property harvest. Valdez

Arm area managed for VFDA corporate escapement.

If by July 20 and July 30 escapement indices are less than 80% of the weekly goal, a SHTF subcommittee will meet with ADF&F management and research staff to review the status of wild stocks and exchange information.

If by July 27 wild stock escapement is below 80% of the weekly goal (unless the cumulative is more than 90%) then common property harvest will be confined to terminal harvest areas to help reduce the exploitation of wild stocks. This policy will remain in effect until escapement reaches 80%.

If by July 27 wild stock escapement is at least 80% of the weekly goal, the Task Force recommends that general district fishing be allowed in the southern half of the Southwestern District coinciding with periods in the hatchery subdistricts.

Beginning on or about August 1 periods in the general waters or terminal harvest areas should be scheduled frequently to keep pace with PWSAC run entry.

Periods in the terminal harvest areas and the general districts will be a minimum of 12-hours duration. Terminal harvest areas will be managed to balance corporate escapement with common property harvest.

This schedule is subject to inseason modifications based upon actual run entry, PWSAC's corporate escapement, wild stock assessment and processing considerations.

Qualifications:

- A) When calculating escapement percentages to determine the wild stock escapement level the Southwestern, Montague and Southeastern Districts will not be included.
- B) If any district, other than the Southwestern District, meets or exceeds an adequate level of wild stock escapement, then harvest will be permitted on surplus in the respective district.
- C) The Coghill, Northwestern and Eshamy Districts will be considered in aggregate when calculating escapement performance.
- D) If wild stock escapement in the Eastern, Northern or the aggregate Coghill/Northwestern/Eshamy Districts exceeds expectations, fishing will be permitted in that district(s) and will be excluded from the escapement performance calculation.

The predominance of pink or coho salmon in the waters of Lake and Quillion Bays of the Coghill District after September 4 will be based on the number of salmon as summarized by processor reports. Seine openings in Lake and Quillion Bays after September 4 will be of short duration (12-hours).

GILLNET RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Whenever possible, fishing periods in gillnet districts will be open simultaneously.
- 2) Prior to the wild pink and chum runs, when the common property fishery is open in the Eshamy District the Crafton Island and Main Bay Subdistricts shall be open to harvest Coghill stock returns to the Main Bay hatchery. The preferred schedule is two 36-hour periods per week.
- 3) Fishing periods in the Esther Subdistrict will be scheduled to harvest Noerenberg hatchery chum salmon and minimize interception of Coghill Lake sockeyes. Markers at the south end of Esther Pass will be moved up to the vicinity of Shoestring Cove to harvest milling chum salmon. It is recognized that wild stocks are present in Esther Passage and their escapement will be considered before action.
- 4) Eshamy Bay & Lagoon terminal fishing area. If necessary a terminal fishing area will be established to harvest excess sockeye in Eshamy Bay and/or Lagoon. The Task Force recommends that the harvest area boundaries be at prominent locations.
- 5) Port Wells terminal fishing area. When feasible a terminal fishing area will be utilized to harvest excess sockeye in Port Wells. The recommended area is north of a line from Harrison Lagoon to the east shore of Port Wells.

To successfully manage natural and enhanced stocks of the northwestern Sound the harvest strategy must be based upon the less abundant wild stocks. Due to the location of two major hatcheries in the northwestern Sound, this area is viewed as a unit for management purposes.

Preliminary Prince William Sound Salmon Forecast – 1993

PINK SALMON	Point	Range		
	Estimate	(80% confidence interval)		
	(Millions)	Lower		Upper
Natural Production				
Total Return	5.41	1.76	–	16.66
Escapement Goal	1.35			
Harvest	4.06	0.00	–	15.31
Supplemental Production				
VFDA – Solomon Gulch Hatchery				
Total Return	3.36	2.33	–	4.40
Brood Stock Needs	0.27			
Hatchery Sales Harvest	1.41			
Common Property Harvest	1.68	0.65	–	2.72
PWSAC – Cannery Creek Hatchery				
Total Return	5.97	2.47	–	9.47
Brood Stock Needs	0.30			
Hatchery Sales Harvest	1.49			
Common Property Harvest	4.18	0.68	–	7.68
PWSAC – Wallace H. Noernberg Hatchery				
Total Return	8.41	5.35	–	11.47
Brood Stock Needs	0.33			
Hatchery Sales Harvest	2.20			
Common Property Harvest	5.88	2.82	–	8.94
PWSAC – Armin F. Koernig Hatchery				
Total Return	5.63	4.80	–	6.46
Brood Stock Needs	0.22			
Hatchery Sales Harvest	1.48			
Common Property Harvest	3.93	3.10	–	4.76
Total Supplemental Production				
Total Return	23.37	14.95	–	31.80
Brood Stock Needs	1.12			
Hatchery Sales Harvest	6.58			
Common Property Harvest	15.67	7.25	–	24.10
Combined Natural and Supplemental Production				
Total Return	28.78	16.71	–	48.46
Natural Escapement Goal	1.35			
Brood Stock Needs	1.12			
Hatchery Sales Harvest	6.58			
Common Property Harvest	19.73	7.66	–	39.41

Preliminary Prince William Sound Salmon Forecast – 1993

CHUM SALMON	Point Estimate (Thousands)	Range	
		(80% confidence interval)	
		Lower	Upper
Natural Production			
Total Return	201.2	94.8	450.6
Escapement Goal	225.0		
Harvest	0.0	0.0	225.6
Supplemental Production			
VFDA – Solomon Gulch Hatchery			
Total Return	53.8	41.7	66.0
Brood Stock Needs	24.1		
Hatchery Sales Harvest	0.0		
Common Property Harvest	29.7	17.6	41.8
PWSAC – Cannery Creek Hatchery (based 1.82% avg. marine survival)			
Total Return	0.0	0.0	0.0
Brood Stock Needs	0.0		
Hatchery Sales Harvest	0.0		
Common Property Harvest	0.0	0.0	0.0
PWSAC – Wallace H. Noernberg Hatchery, Early (based 1.82% avg. marine survival)			
Total Return	748.1	442.8	1,053.4
Brood Stock Needs	119.0		
Hatchery Sales Harvest	105.4		
Common Property Harvest	523.7	218.3	829.0
Total Supplemental Production			
Total Return	801.9	484.5	1,119.4
Brood Stock Needs	143.1		
Hatchery Sales Harvest	105.4		
Common Property Harvest	553.4	235.9	870.8
Combined Natural and Supplemental Production			
Total Return	1,003.2	579.3	1,570.0
Natural Escapement Goal	225.0		
Brood Stock Needs	143.1		
Hatchery Sales Harvest	105.4		
Common Property Harvest ¹	553.4	129.5	1,120.2

1/ The common property harvest is greater than the total return less natural escapement, brood, and sales needs because the total wild return is projected to be less than the escapement goal.

Preliminary Prince William Sound Salmon Forecast – 1993

SOCKEYE SALMON		Point	Range	
		Estimate	(80% confidence interval)	
		(Thousands)	Lower	Upper
Natural Production (Coghill Stock)				
	Total Return	57.7	25.0	167.6
	Escapement Goal	25.0		
	Harvest	32.7	0.0	142.6
Natural Production (Eshamy Stock)				
	Total Return	78.3	9.2	147.5
	Escapement Goal	40.0		
	Harvest	38.3	0.0	107.5
Natural Production (Unakwik)				
		12.94	0.0	27.64
Supplemental Production				
PWSAC – Main Bay Hatchery (On Site Coghill Stock)				
	Total Return	393.0	259.4	746.6
	Brood Stock Needs	4.6		
	Hatchery Sales Harvest	130.9		
	Common Property Harvest	257.4	123.8	611.1
PWSAC – Main Bay Hatchery (Remote Coghill Stock)				
	Total Return	58.9	38.9	111.8
	Brood Stock Needs	0.0		
	Hatchery Sales Harvest	0.0		
	Common Property Harvest	58.9	38.9	111.8
PWSAC – Main Bay Hatchery (On Site Eshamy Stock)				
	Total Return	124.9	82.4	237.2
	Brood Stock Needs	1.8		
	Hatchery Sales Harvest	74.2		
	Common Property Harvest	48.8	6.4	161.2
PWSAC – Main Bay Hatchery (Remote Eshamy Stock)				
	Total Return	128.6	84.9	244.4
	Brood Stock Needs	0.0		
	Hatchery Sales Harvest	0.0		
	Common Property Harvest	128.6	84.9	244.4
Coghill Natural Production & Main Bay Supplemental Production				
	Total Return	854.3	499.7	1682.9
	Natural Escapement Goal	65.0		
	Brood Stock Needs	6.4		
	Hatchery Sales Harvest	205.2		
	Common Property Harvest	577.7	123.8	753.7

Preliminary Prince William Sound Salmon Forecast – 1993

COHO SALMON	Point	Range		
	Estimate	(80% confidence interval)		
	(Thousands)	Lower	Upper	
Harvest Projection for other PWS stocks				
Harvest	11.9	0.0	—	29.5
Supplemental Production				
VFDA — Solomon Gulch Hatchery				
Total Return	88.1	70.1	—	106.1
Brood Stock Needs	2.7			
Hatchery Sales Harvest	27.4			
Common Property Harvest	58.1	40.1	—	76.0
PWSAC — Wallace H. Noernberg Hatchery				
Total Return	199.1	147.2	—	251.0
Brood Stock Needs	1.3			
Hatchery Sales Harvest	38.1			
Common Property Harvest	159.7	107.8	—	211.6
Total Supplemental Production				
Total Return	287.2	217.3	—	357.1
Brood Stock Needs	4.0			
Hatchery Sales Harvest	65.5			
Common Property Harvest	217.7	147.8	—	287.6
Combined Natural and Supplemental Production				
Total Return ¹	299.0	217.3	—	386.6
Natural Escapement Goal ¹	NA			
Brood Stock Needs	4.0			
Hatchery Sales Harvest	65.5			
Common Property Harvest	229.6	147.8	—	317.2

1/ No stated escapement goal for wild coho salmon in PWS. Because wild escapement is not enumerated it is not included in the total hatchery and supplemental return estimate.

Preliminary Prince William Sound Salmon Forecast – 1993

CHINOOK SALMON	Point Estimate (Thousands)	Range			
		(80% confidence interval)			
		Lower		Upper	
Supplemental Production					
PWSAC – Wallace H. Noernberg Hatchery					
Total Return	3.3	0.2	–	6.3	
Brood Stock Needs	0.4				
Hatchery Sales Harvest	1.6				
Common Property Harvest	1.3	0.0	–	4.3	

Preliminary PWS Harvest Projections For 1993

PINK SALMON	Point	Range	
	Estimate	(80% confidence interval)	
	(Millions)	Lower	Upper
Common Property Harvest			
	19.7	7.7	39.4
CHUM SALMON	Point	Range	
	Estimate	(80% confidence interval)	
	(Thousands)	Lower	Upper
Common Property Harvest			
	553.4	129.5	1120.2
SOCKEYE SALMON	Point	Range	
	Estimate	(80% confidence interval)	
	(Thousands)	Lower	Upper
Common Property Harvest			
	577.7	123.8	753.7
COHO SALMON	Point	Range	
	Estimate	(80% confidence interval)	
	(Thousands)	Lower	Upper
Common Property Harvest			
	447.3	295.7	604.8
CHINOOK SALMON	Point	Range	
	Estimate	(80% confidence interval)	
	(Thousands)	Lower	Upper
Common Property Harvest			
	1.3	0.0	4.3

**1995 GILLNET RECOMMENDATIONS
TO THE SALMON HARVEST TASK FORCE
FROM
CORDOVA DISTRICT FISHERMAN UNITED GILLNET DIVISION**

1. COPPER RIVER/BERING RIVER

1.1 KINGS & SOCKEYE

Copper River Sockeyes and Kings still the bread and butter of the gillnet fleet, the fishermen oppose closures early in the fishery. It is best to have weekly openers in order to assess the run strength, prior to fish passing the Miles Lake sonar counter. We believe strongly in weekly openers even in the event that early season catch numbers do not track with ADFG pre-season catch curve. We recommend that the SHTF support that ADFG manage the Copper/Bering River fishing districts with a minimum of two regular, weekly fishing periods of a duration of 24 hours, with a minimum duration of twelve (12) hours to the maximum extent possible. This scheduled should only be deviated from in the event that the catch numbers drop below 50% of the pre-season forecasted catch.

1.2 COHO

We recommend that the SHTF support that ADFG manage the Copper/Bering River fishing districts with a minimum ^{one} two weekly fishing periods of a duration of ⁴⁸ 24 hours, and to increase the fishing time as the run strength warrants.

2. ESTHER SUBDISTRICT

2.1 CHUM

In view of the large (1.2 million) forecasted Chum salmon return expected at the Wally Nounenburg hatchery, we recommend that PWSAC and ADFG agree to share some of the risk upfront and allow the commercial fishery to begin early. There are many benefits to this: 1) in order to harvest the fish at their peak quality, when they are still ocean bright, prior to build up in the terminal harvest area where quality tends to deteriorate, 2) the early fish are at a premium in the market, traditionally the highest ex-vessel price is prior to the July 4th, and 3) early openers would reduce pressure on the Copper River. Therefore we recommend that the SHTF support an Esther Subdistrict opening of June 1, and continue with regular weekly openers. We understand that at some point conservation efforts may need to be taken for the escapement of Coghill Sockeye.

3. CRAFTON ISLAND SUBDISTRICT

3.1 ESTHER CHUMS

Crafton Is. Subdistrict is a corridor for Chum salmon returning to Esther, for all the reasons listed above along with the fact that ADFG data shows that both pre-hatchery and post-hatchery

The Esthery Dist gillnet fisheries shall be managed based on the surplus of wild & enhanced fish returning to the district.
SACC 24.370 (4)

harvest of Coghill Sockeye occurs from approximately June 20 to July 15, we believe that the entire Crafton Island Subdistrict could be opened concurrently with the Esther Subdistrict on June 1st without detriment to the Coghill Sockeye return. Therefore we recommend that the SHTF support a district wide opener on June 1st.

3.2 ESHAMY HATCHERY SOCKEYE

*Spn's is 67,000
by PWSAC*

With The return forecast for the remote release Eshamy Hatchery Sockeye projected at 194,000 and with no escapement needs and 100% going to the Common Property Fishery. This valuable resource can not be wasted again. The fishery needs to be conducted in an orderly manner, to insure the highest quality and minimize congestion. PWSAC needs the Salmon Enhancement Tax from these fish also. Every effort should be made to conduct a fishery on the returning Eshamy hatchery sockeye. Both pre and post hatchery data shows that the peak of the Coghill Sockeye harvest to occur between June 20 and July 15. The effort must be made to harvest the fish as they move into the district. We do not recommend any lagoon or bay only openers. Lagoon and Bay only openers harvest to many milling wildstocks. Thus we recommend that the entire Crafton Island subdistrict be opened beginning July 15 with regularly scheduled weekly openers to harvest the returning Eshamy hatchery sockeye.

*This is entry
to 92+93
test fish
results for
Sockeye*

4. GENERAL RECCOMENDATIONS

4.1 We recommend that the SHTF support that all gillnet districts both set and drift be opened concurrently.

~~4.2 We recommend that the SHTF support that as much as possible to have gillnet openers concurrent with seine openers.~~

4.3 We recommend that the SHTF support increased enforcement on Copper River for all fisheries (commercial, sport, personal use and subsistance) and that the SHTF write a resolution to this effect.

4.4 We reccommend that the SHTF support aerial surveys of the upper Copper River, and that the SHTF write a resolution to support the ADFG project involving the upper Copper River aerial surveys of chinook and sockeye spawning grounds.

FOR THE 1995 SEASON

SALMON HARVEST TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADF&G
FROM THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SETNETTERS

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS: The fishing periods in gillnet districts should open simultaneously.

The fishery shall open whenever possible in the entire Eshamy District.

During the Eshamy-stock sockeye run to the Main Bay Hatchery ~~and the chum run to the Noerenberg Hatchery~~, the harvest strategy will be influenced by the number of sockeye ~~and the number of chums~~ available in the district, *+ PWSACC Cost Recovery*.

The preferred schedule is two periods per week in the entire district. The department could regulate fishing by the use of large mesh and shallow gear when pink salmon escapements are moderate or weak.

ESHAMY DISTRICT MANAGEMENT

1. Whenever possible all waters of the Eshamy District will be opened to allow fishing at all traditional and historic setnet sites.
2. Gillnet mesh size, gillnet depth, and time restrictions will be utilized as tools to allow for district-wide openings.
3. Optimally, openings will occur twice per week with a minimum duration of 24 hours.
4. Use openings of the drift gillnet and setnet fishery to determine availability of stock.
5. Area closures are the least preferred option in achieving management objectives.
6. Begin on or as near as possible to June 1 for two fishing periods per week until June 20 when escapement may be needed for Coghill sockeye.
7. Open season for the Eshamy-stock sockeye should begin on or about July 6 and continue until approximately the middle of August to successfully manage natural and enhanced stocks to Eshamy Lake. Then if more escapement is needed over Eshamy weir, close season after August 15 until goal is reached.
8. To avoid opening historically closed waters and to avoid sport/commercial conflict, Eshamy Lagoon is to remain closed to commercial harvest and hatchery harvest.

CDFU/Seine Division Recommendations

RE: 3/20/95 SHTF Meeting - VFDA returns.

CDFU's Seine Division recommends supporting management of VFDA's 1995 pink salmon return to meet their revenue goal provided that VFDA's income requirements fairly and accurately reflect the actual cost of hatchery operation and administration. To better evaluate the proposed VFDA cost recovery request, the CDFU Seine Division Board considers it necessary that a more detailed breakdown of VFDA's operational and administrative budget requests be required. The two methods that would be considered acceptable for such a budget review would be either when the VFDA Annual Management Plan is reviewed by the RPT, or by a review by the newly created VFDA Fishery Advisory Committee.

CDFU Seine division recommends that when the coho brood stock needs and coho project costs have been met or when it becomes apparent that an appropriate run curve shows that these needs will likely be met, then it is desired that all surplus coho's be allocated to the CPF by having appropriate openers. Coho salmon in excess of brood stock and specific project cost requirements should only be taken for sale by VFDA if the fish are in such a biologically advanced state that a CPF fishery is not justified.

1995 GILLNET RECOMMENDATIONS
TO THE SALMON HARVEST TASK FORCE
FROM THE CORDOVA DISTRICT FISHERMAN UNITED GILLNET DIVISION

2. ESTHER

2.1 CHUMS

In view of the large anticipated Chum salmon return (approximately 1.2 million) expected at the Wally Nourenburg Hatchery, we recommend that PWSAC and ADFG in cooperation with Area E gillnetters agree to share some of the risk upfront and allow the commercial fishery to begin as early as possible. We understand PWSAC is concerned with maintaining the 60/40 CPF/Corporate Escapement ratio. We also understand ADFG is concerned with the possibility of conducting a fishery without a sufficient number of fish present to harvest. Area E gillnetters very much share the concern expressed by processors about deteriorating quality as the Chum harvest progresses. Thus with the following three goals in mind; 1) conduct a fishery when a viable amount of fish are present, 2) maintain the 60/40 CPF/hatchery ratio and 3) harvest the fish at the maximum quality, we propose opening the Esther Subdistrict when PWSAC's corporate escapement is between 18,000 and 20,000 fish. With a corporate escapement of this amount, maintaining a 60/40 ratio could allow for a CPF harvest of 27,000 to 30,000. The CDFU Gillnet Division, after polling several members puts forth that this amount for a potential CPF harvest is sufficient to conduct a fishery.