



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: May 28, 2022

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #5

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will remain closed to commercial fishing. The Copper River District will open to subsistence fishing at 7:00 am on Monday, May 30 for a 12-hour fishing period. Waters within the Chinook salmon **expanded** inside closure area will be **CLOSED** during this subsistence fishing period. The next commercial opening of the Copper River District is anticipated to occur on Thursday, June 2 with time and area announced by Wednesday, June 1.

The **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be defined as waters north of a line connecting the following points:

<i>Point</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
Steamboat North	60° 22.87' N.	145° 33.50' W.
Steamboat South	60° 22.31' N.	145° 33.50' W.
West side Pete Dahl Entrance	60° 18.89' N.	145° 30.99' W.
West end Grass Island	60° 18.30' N.	145° 28.42' W.
East end Grass Island	60° 15.24' N.	145° 17.89' W.
West end Kokenhenik Bar	60° 15.00' N.	145° 16.20' W.
East end Kokenhenik Bar	60° 13.65' N.	145° 09.46' W.
Western tip of Softuk Bar	60° 13.68' N.	145° 05.78' W.
Chinook Alternate #1	60° 13.79' N.	144° 59.09' W.
Chinook Alternate #2	60° 13.64' N.	144° 53.78' W.
Chinook Alternate #3	60° 12.64' N.	144° 40.21' W.

*Please note that the 'Coffee Creek West' point was replaced with 'Chinook Alternate #1'.

The grass bank marker line is defined in 5AAC 24.350(1)(A) with the exception of this year's extension of the closure line across Little Softuk (**see bold font below**). This closure line is defined with the following points:

<i>Point</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
Point Whitshed South	60° 26.49' N.	145° 52.86' W.
Alaganik Slough North	60° 24.65' N.	145° 36.70' W.
Pete Dahl East	60° 20.44' N.	145° 29.14' W.
West Kokenhenik	60° 14.88' N.	145° 10.01' W.
East "East Side"	60° 14.83' N.	145° 03.36' W.
Coffee Creek East	60° 14.19' N.	144° 58.01' W.
Charlie Mohr North	60° 15.15' N.	144° 56.43' W.

Martin River North	60° 15.29' N.	144° 52.52' W.
Strawberry Reef	60° 13.93' N.	144° 50.66' W.
Little Softuk	60° 13.16' N.	144° 41.38' W.

Waters north of this line, within sloughs, and in Boswell Bay within the bay (5 AAC 24.350 (1)(A)) are closed to commercial and subsistence salmon fishing during all periods.

During the commercial fishing season, subsistence harvest may occur in the Copper River District concurrent in time and area with commercial fishing periods until the Copper River District is closed at the end of the season. Additionally, waters of the Copper River District, excluding the expanded Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays between May 16 and October 31. Prince William Sound Management Area salmon subsistence permits may be obtained through any ADF&G office or online (<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/>). **In Cordova, permits will be available during normal business hours Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** ADF&G staff will not be available to issue permits before hours, after hours, on state holidays, or on weekends. **Permit holders are encouraged to call the Cordova office at 907-424-3212 or report online (<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Harvest/>) to provide preliminary harvest reports to assist with inseason harvest tracking.**

Cumulative sonar count through 5/27 is 6,808 fish whereas 81,600 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 5/28 is 686 fish. Both north and south bank sonars are currently deployed. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 12-hour period that occurred on Thursday, May 26 was 1,980 Chinook and 69,300 sockeye salmon with 465 deliveries reported. This compares to a projected harvest of 51,100 sockeye salmon for this period.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will remain closed to commercial fishing.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding the Esther Subdistrict and the Wally Noerenberg Hatchery (WNH) THA and SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, May 30. Waters of Port Wells and College Fiord, north of 60° 55.81' N., and east of a line from Pakenham Point (61° 00.45' N., 148° 04.85' W.) to 60° 55.81' N., 148° 10.92' W., will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 60-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, May 30. A total run of 2.48 million WNH chum salmon are projected to return to the hatchery. Historical harvest timing for these chum salmon is from June 1 – July 27.

PWSAC requests that the Esther Subdistrict and the WNH SHA and THA remain closed for the entirety of the 36-hour commercial fishing period commencing on Monday, May 30. Cost recovery harvests will commence at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants.

A total of 384,000 Coghill Lake sockeye salmon are projected to be available for common property harvest. The harvest timing for these sockeye salmon is from June 1 – August 1. The Coghill River weir is expected to start operations during the second week of June.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, May 30. The 2022 sockeye salmon run to MBH is forecast to be 841,000 fish. The historical harvest timing for these sockeye salmon is from June 1 – August 1. The AGZ will open to **SET GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. **As a result of regulatory language adopted at the 2021 PWS Board of Fisheries meeting, no portion of a drift gillnet may be operated within 30 fathoms of a set gillnet in the Main Bay Subdistrict, except in the zone outside of the offshore end of the set gillnet (5 AAC 24.367 (b)(1)).**

Cost recovery harvests will commence at MBH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants.

SEINE FISHERIES: New in 2022, for all dual permit purse seine operations “D boats” operating in PWS, salmon buyers must check the “Dual/Stacked Permit” on fish tickets, and both CFEC permit holders will have to provide their permit card and sign the fish ticket. Specific to paper tickets- both CFEC permit cards must be imprinted on the ticket.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: The Port Chalmers Subdistrict, east of Green Island, north of a line from 60° 9.52’N., 147° 22.38’W. to 60° 13.58’N., 147° 29.29’W. and south of a line from 60° 18.22’N., 147° 20.46’W to 60° 20.00’N., 147°13.25’W., will open for the 2022 season to purse seine fishing for 48 hours starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 2 with an additional 48-hour period at 8:00 am on Saturday, June 4. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice.** A total of 280,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to Port Chalmers Subdistrict. Historical harvest timing for these chum salmon is from June 1 – July 27.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open for the 2022 season to purse seine fishing for 48 hours starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 2 with an additional 48-hour period at 8:00 am on Saturday, June 4. **Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice.** A total of 360,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to AFK Hatchery. Historical harvest timing for these chum salmon is from June 1 – July 27.

Copies of the updated regulation booklet, *2022-2024 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are available in the Cordova ADFG office

ALL buyers purchasing fish in the PWS Management Area are required to complete a Processor Registration Form. Contact the Cordova office for any questions regarding registration.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, June 1.

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.