



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: June 15, 2022

CONTACT: Heather Scannell and Jeremy Botz

Finfish Area Management Biologists

(907) 424-3212

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #11

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, June 16 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be **CLOSED** during this period.

Salmon passage at Miles Lake is on track to exceed the inriver run goal, however, we continue to practice conservative management for the Chinook salmon run through restrictions in time and area. The expanded inside closure area will continue to remain closed. To-date, 96 hours of commercial fishing opportunity has occurred compared to a long-term average of 175 hours. We expect low exploitation of Chinook salmon because commercial harvest is historically 92% complete by this date and fleet participation is currently only about one-quarter of early season effort.

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 6/14 was 360,902 fish whereas 328,431 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 6/15 is 2,557 fish. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period that occurred on Monday, June 13 was 386 Chinook and 27,300 sockeye salmon with 177 deliveries reported. This compares to a projected harvest of 50,000 sockeye salmon for this period.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open to commercial salmon fishing, west of a longitude line at **144° 33.60' W.**, for a **24-hour** period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 16. **Bering River sockeye salmon run timing overlap has increased and open area within the district will remain reduced until escapement indices support additional fishing area.**

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 Thursday, June 16. 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 an 84-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 16. The Coghill River weir has passed 127 sockeye salmon through 6/14 with a cumulative target of 100–299 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 84-hour period that started on Thursday, June 9 was 3,500 sockeye and 89,700 chum salmon with 539 deliveries reported.

PWSAC requests that the Esther Subdistrict and the WNH SHA and THA remain closed for the entirety of the 36-hour commercial fishing period starting on Thursday, June 16. Cost recovery has started, and harvest will continue at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District, **excluding the Main Bay Subdistrict and the Main Bay Hatchery THA, SHA, and AGZ**, will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00

am on Thursday, June 16. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, June 13 was 37,100 sockeye and 13,600 chum salmon with 304 deliveries reported.

PWSAC requests that the Main Bay Subdistrict remain closed for the entirety of the 36-hour commercial fishing period starting on Thursday, June 16. Cost recovery harvests will continue at MBH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants.

Copies of the updated regulation booklet, *2022-2024 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are not yet available in the Cordova ADFG office. In the interim, please reference https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/pdfs/commercial/2022-2024_cf_pws_salmon_regs.pdf.

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 on Saturday, June 18.

Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements based on current escapement data may occur at any time inseason either establishing an additional period or extending an open period.

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.