



## Advisory Announcement

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### Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #19

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 7 for a 48-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be **OPEN** during this period.

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.
<b>Little Softuk</b>	<b>60° 13.16' N.</b>	<b>144° 41.38' W.</b>

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, **including** the expanded Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays between June 22 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 7/5 was 673,972 fish whereas 484,031 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 7/6 is 2,377 fish. For the week ending July 9, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 38,740 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 30,055 – 71,040. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 48-hour period

that started on Thursday, June 30 was 185 Chinook, 37,600 sockeye, and 6,570 pink salmon with 209 deliveries reported. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, July 4 was 77 Chinook, 36,400 sockeye, and 31,000 pink salmon with 218 deliveries reported.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** The Bering River District will remain closed.

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** The Coghill District, excluding the Bettles Bay Subdistrict, Granite Bay Subdistrict, 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, July 7. 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, July 7.

Until further notice, regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B)), will not be in effect during open commercial fishing periods. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide.

The Coghill River weir has passed 22,391 sockeye salmon through 7/5 with a cumulative target of 9,340–28,021 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 84-hour period that started on Thursday, June 30 was 35,500 sockeye and 63,650 chum salmon with 610 deliveries reported.

PWSAC requests that the Granite Bay Subdistrict, the Esther Subdistrict, and the WNH SHA and THA remain closed for the entirety of the 84-hour commercial fishing period starting on Thursday, July 7. Cost recovery is currently 67% complete, and harvest will continue at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants.

**ESHAMY DISTRICT:** The Eshamy District, excluding the Main Bay Subdistrict, and excluding the MBH THA, SHA, and AGZ, will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 7. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, July 4 was 24,800 sockeye, 7,300 pink, and 8,800 chum salmon with 205 deliveries reported.

PWSAC recommends closing the Main Bay subdistrict to allow run entry for resumed cost recovery operations on sockeye.

**UNAKWIK DISTRICT:** The Unakwik District will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 7. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, July 4 was 8,900 sockeye and 1,100 chum salmon with 35 deliveries reported.

**SEINE FISHERIES:** VFDA began its cost recovery sales program on Friday, July 1 and has collected approximately 33% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal. Harvest from yesterday, July 5, resulted in an average weight of 3.8 pounds per fish and 10% female. VFDA cost recovery is continuing today.

An aerial survey of the Eastern and Northern Districts is being conducted today, July 6. To date, stream escapement observations have been minimal during these surveys, which is to be expected for the date. Current indices of escapement and run entry do not support a purse seine fishery targeting wild stocks in the Eastern District.

**MONTAGUE DISTRICT:** The Port Chalmers Subdistrict, north of 60°12.56' N. lat. and east of a line from 60° 12.56'N., 147° 20.25'W. to 60° 20.00'N., 147° 14.30'W., will open to purse seine fishing for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 7. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice. Preliminary harvest for the period

ending on Sunday, July 3 was 30,500 chum salmon with 32 reported deliveries. Harvest contribution from the period ending on July 3 was estimated to be 91% Port Chalmers, 3% AFK, and 6% wild.

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 7. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice. Preliminary harvest for the period ending on Sunday, July 3 was 11,700 chum salmon and 2,300 sockeye salmon with 25 reported deliveries.

**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](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 seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm on Thursday, July 7. The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm on Saturday, July 9.**

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.