



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #23

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, July 11 for a 36-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.
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, **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 7/8 was 697,240 fish whereas 500,610 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 7/9 is 1,860 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, July 7 is not yet available.

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

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding the Bettles Bay Subdistrict and 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, July 11. 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, July 11.

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 24,586 sockeye salmon through 7/8 with a cumulative target of 11,424–34,273 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, July 4 was 28,600 sockeye and 63,300 chum salmon with 591 deliveries reported.

PWSAC requests that the Esther Subdistrict and the WNH SHA and THA remain closed for the entirety of the 60-hour commercial fishing period starting on Monday, July 11. Cost recovery is currently 67% complete, and harvest will continue at WNH as run entry, catcher boat availability, 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 Monday, July 11. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, July 7 was 13,700 sockeye, 8,400 pink, and 4,500 chum salmon with 112 deliveries reported.

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

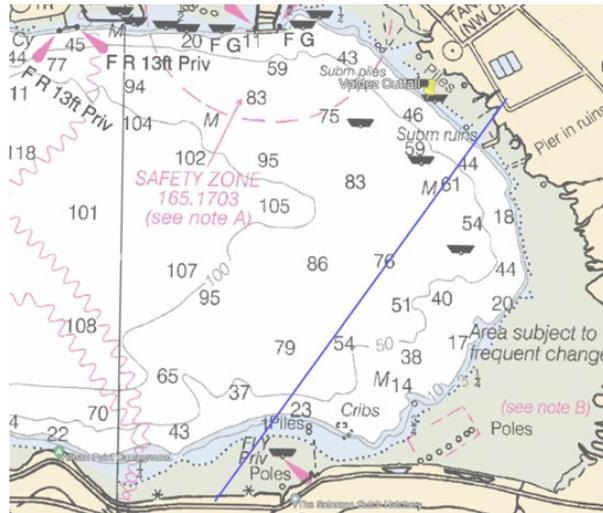
UNAKWIK DISTRICT: The Unakwik District will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 11. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, July 7 was 2,600 sockeye and 300 chum salmon with 23 deliveries reported.

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement provides time and area for a commercial purse seine fishing period in the Eastern District and portions of the Northern District on Monday, July 11. Based on strong entry into Port Valdez there is potential for daily fishing opportunities with additional information being provided in the next announcement. At this time, wild stocks cannot sustain the same fishing pressure as VFDA stocks so area available for commercial fishing will be reduced for any fishing period occurring after Monday. Based upon fisheries performance data collected from Monday's fishing period, additional opportunities targeting wild stocks will be considered.

VFDA began its cost recovery sales program on Friday, July 1 and as of Friday, July 8, has collected approximately 90% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal. Harvest from Friday, July 8, resulted in an average weight of 3.9 pounds per fish and 9% female.

An aerial survey of the Eastern and Northern Districts was conducted on Wednesday, July 6. Stream escapements were minimal, which is anticipated for this date. The next aerial survey of the Eastern and Northern Districts is expected to occur late next week.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Monday, July 11. **Waters of Port Valdez east of a diagonal line from 146° 19.00'W., 61° 5.00' N', to 146° 16.00'W., 61° 7.00' N', will be CLOSED to commercial fishing during this period.** Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point will not be in effect during this fishing period.



Waters within 200 yards of the AMHS Valdez Ferry Terminal are closed to commercial fishing when the ferry is arriving and departing. All waters of the Valdez small boat harbors and within 50 yards of the entrance to the harbors are closed to commercial fishing. Waters within the Alyeska Marine Terminal (Trans-Alaska Pipeline System) Security Zone are closed to commercial fishing.

Waters inside of the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure chum salmon escapement.

- (1) **Galena Bay:** waters east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.87' N. lat., 146°39.87' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.55' N. lat., 146°39.65' W. long.;
- (2) **Jack Bay:** waters south and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.34' N. lat., 146°35.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.17' N. lat., 146°39.77' W. long.;
- (3) **Sawmill Bay:** north of a line from a marker on shore at approximately 61°02.71' N. lat., 146°46.44' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.58' N. lat., 146°47.07' W. long.;
- (4) **Port Fidalgo Subdistrict:** waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.
- (5) **Landlocked Bay:** waters north of 60°50.76' N. lat.;
- (6) **Sheep Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°41.13' N. lat., 145°58.87' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°40.46' N. lat., 145°58.01' W. long.;
- (7) **Beartrap Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°45.13' N. lat., 146°06.12' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°44.51' N. lat., 146°04.57' W. long.; **this includes all waters of Port Gravina and Beartrap Bay inside of this line;**
- (8) **Olsen Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°43.46' N. lat., 146°10.14' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°43.21' N. lat., 146°13.97' W. long.;

- (9) **St. Matthews Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°43.36' N. lat., 146°19.07' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°43.61' N. lat., 146°21.17' W. long.;
- (10) **Irish Cove:** south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°46.73' N. lat., 146°26.62' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°46.27' N. lat., 146°27.12' W. long.;

****The City of Valdez has requested that purse seiners be advised that there is an underwater outfall pipe located at 61° 6.982'N, 146° 16.844'W.**

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District, east of a longitude line at 147° 23.00' W., will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Monday, July 11.

Waters inside of the following Northern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure early season escapement. Waters closed for this period include the following area:

- (1) **Long Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°57.63' N. lat., 147°13.50' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°57.01' N. lat., 147°15.47' W. long.;

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 50-hour period starting at 6:00 am on Monday, July 11. 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 Friday, July 8 was 39,600 chum salmon and 6,100 pink salmon with 35 reported deliveries.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for a 50-hour period starting at 6:00 am on Monday, July 11. 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 Friday, July 8 was 7,600 chum salmon and 820 sockeye salmon with 10 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.

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 Monday, July 11. The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, July 13.

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.