



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 3, 2022

CONTACT: Heather Scannell and Jeremy Botz

Finfish Area Management Biologists

(907) 424-3212

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #44

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, August 4 for a 48-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing 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 7/28 was 786,834 fish whereas 620,039 fish are projected by this date. Salmon enumeration at the sonar ended at midnight on 7/28. For the week ending July 30, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 37,665 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 32,568 – 79,979. Observational conditions on this

survey were good. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, August 1 was 850 sockeye and 180 coho salmon with 30 deliveries reported.

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

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Waters of Eshamy Bay, west of a line from 60° 28.51' N., 147° 59.10' W. to 60° 27.94' N., 147° 57.87' W., will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 4. The Eshamy River weir has passed 5,964 sockeye salmon through 8/2 with a cumulative target of 3,214–6,923 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, August 1 was 2,100 sockeye, 900 chum, and 11,800 pink salmon with 39 reported deliveries.

SEINE FISHERIES: Seine fisheries will be closed to evaluate fisheries performance data. PWSAC cost recovery fishing is ongoing and has collected approximately 19% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal. Additional cost recovery effort is dependent upon run entry at AFK, WNH, and CCH.

5 AAC 24.350 and 5 AAC 39.290 Closed Waters: Unless otherwise specified all regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures are in effect.

COGHILL DISTRICT: 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 purse seine and drift gillnet harvest for three 14-hour periods starting at 6:00 am on Thursday, August 4, at 6:00 am on Friday, August 5, and at 6:00 am on Saturday, August 6. Regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B), will not be in effect for this fishing period. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide. Preliminary harvest estimate for the period ending on Monday, August 1 was 10,900 pink and 2,200 chum salmon with 31 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: [2022-2024 Prince William Sound Area Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations \(alaska.gov\)](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main)

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 Saturday, August 6. The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm on Saturday, August 6.

Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements based on current escapement data may occur at anytime 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 CopperRiver 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.