



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #48

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, August 11 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. The Copper River District is switching to coho salmon management starting Monday, August 15. The standard management strategy for coho salmon is one or two 24-hour periods per week depending on escapement and harvest levels.

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 will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all remaining Saturdays through 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.

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 estimates from Prince William Sound Salmon Announcement

the 48-hour period that started on Thursday, August 4 were 300 sockeye and 50 coho salmon with 3 deliveries reported. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, August 8 were 400 sockeye and 250 coho salmon with 12 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 **drift gillnet** harvest for a **24-hour** period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 11. 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 **set gillnet** harvest for a **12-hour** period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 11. **Regulatory closed waters defined in 5 AAC 24.350 (8) (A) will not be in effect for this period. The anadromous stream closure pertaining specifically to the Eshamy River will not be in effect for this period. All other anadromous stream closures for this period within Eshamy Lagoon will be defined as 200 yards from the stream terminus.** The Eshamy River weir has passed 12,873 sockeye salmon through 8/9 with a cumulative target of 4,475–7,650 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, August 4 were 2,100 sockeye, 11,800 pink, and 900 chum salmon with 39 deliveries reported. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, August 8 were 2,700 sockeye, 32,100 pink, and 1,200 chum salmon with 72 deliveries reported.

SEINE FISHERIES: Aerial surveys are occurring today, August 10 and will continue throughout the week as weather allows. Dependent on aerial survey results, fishing opportunity targeting wild stocks may occur as early as Friday, August 12, with time and area specifics to be announced on Thursday, August 11. PWSAC cost recovery fishing is ongoing and they have collected approximately 50% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal. Department sampling of cost recovery harvest occurring at WNH on August 8 was 37.2% female. Department sampling of cost recovery harvest occurring at AFK yesterday, August 9 was 29.6% female. Cost recovery fishing at all PWSAC facilities is anticipated to occur today.

VFDA began their eggtake on August 1 and has completed 34% of their egg take goal as of yesterday, August 9.

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 Thursday, August 11. The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm on Saturday, August 13.

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 Prince William Sound Salmon Announcement

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.