

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #60

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: Copper River District will open to commercial salmon fishing for a **24-hour** period from 7:00 a.m. Monday, August 19 to 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 20. Copper River District switched to coho salmon management starting Monday, August 12. 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, including the Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on all Saturdays between June 15 and October 31. Subsistence permits may be obtained at the Cordova ADF&G office during regular business hours (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.). **Subsistence permits are not available outside of regular office hours.**

For the week ending August 17, the Copper River Delta survey count was 7,127 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 26,465 – 62,553 and 315 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 5,846 – 12,239.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open to commercial salmon fishing for a **24-hour** period from 7:00 a.m. Monday, August 19 to 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 20. Bering River District switched to coho salmon management starting Monday, August 12. The standard management strategy for coho salmon is one or two 24-hour periods per week depending on escapement and harvest levels. For the week ending August 17, the Bering River District survey count was 1,560 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 2,416 – 5,316 and 50 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 2,533 – 6,431.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Eshamy District will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a **24-hour** period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 19. The AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, August 15 was 845 sockeye and 53,000 pink salmon with 86 deliveries reported.

SEINE FISHERIES: All Prince William Sound purse seine fisheries will be closed on Sunday, August 18. A broad area fishing opportunity is anticipated for Monday, August 19, with time and area to be announced on Sunday, August 18.

Aerial surveys indicate that warm water and low stream flows have led to salmon staging in stream mouths and bays across PWS. Due to drought conditions staging salmon needed for stream escapement are vulnerable to harvest. Please be aware of stream markers, regulatory closed waters, and anadromous stream closures.

PWSAC recommends the AFK, CCH, and WNH SHAs, THAs, and corresponding hatchery subdistricts, remain closed in order to build broodstock. In total, PWSAC needs roughly 1 million pink salmon to complete egg takes, and currently PWSAC has acquired 42% of their goal with minimal observed run entry at both WNH and CCH in recent days. Once brood is reasonably assured, recommendations will adjust accordingly to provide opportunity to harvest any surplus PWSAC fish by utilizing hatchery SHAs, THAs, and corresponding hatchery subdistricts as warranted.

PWSAC currently estimates there are approximately 190,000–215,000 pink salmon within the AFK SHA and needs approximately 350,000 pink salmon for broodstock; 75,000–100,000 pink salmon within the CCH SHA and needs approximately 360,000 pink salmon for broodstock; 155,000–165,000 pink salmon within the WNH SHA and needs approximately 300,000 pink salmon for broodstock.

Preliminary contribution estimates from the 12-hour period on Tuesday, August 13 in the Northern District were 59% CCH, 23% wild, 11% WNH, 5% AFK, and 2% SGH pink salmon.

Preliminary contribution estimates from the 12-hour period on Tuesday, August 13 in the Southeastern District were 93% wild and 7% AFK pink salmon.

VFDA began egg takes on July 29 and has completed approximately 50% of their pink salmon egg-take goal.

Copies of the updated regulation booklet, *2019–2021 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are available in the Cordova ADFG office.

The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, August 18.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 21.

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.