

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



## NEWS RELEASE

*Douglas Vincent-Lang, Commissioner  
Samuel Rabung, Director*



---

**Contact:**

Jeremy Botz, Gillnet Area Management Biologist  
Charles Russell, Seine Area Management Biologist  
Jennifer Morella, Assistant Area Management/Research  
Phone: (907) 424-3212 Fax: (907) 424-3235

Prince William Sound Area Office  
401 Railroad Avenue, PO Box 669  
Cordova, AK 99574-0669  
Date Issued: Wednesday, August 28, 2019  
Time: 1:30 pm

### **Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #68**

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** Copper River District is anticipated to remain closed through Sunday, September 1. The standard management strategy for coho salmon is one or two 24-hour periods per week depending on escapement and harvest levels. The 2019 cumulative harvest through August 27 is approximately **48,000** including the **30,500** coho salmon harvested for the fishing period that closed August 27. This cumulative harvest is **39,000** fish below the recent 10-year average of 87,000 coho salmon harvested by this date.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** Bering River District is anticipated to remain closed through Sunday, September 1. The standard management strategy for coho salmon is one or two 24-hour periods per week depending on escapement and harvest levels.

**ESHAMY DISTRICT:** The Eshamy District, excluding waters south the latitude of Loomis Creek (60° 29.44'N.) will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a **24-hour** period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, August 29. The AGZ will open to **SET GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, August 26 was 50 sockeye, 160 coho, and 1,900 pink salmon with 6 deliveries reported.

**SEINE FISHERIES:** This announcement will detail purse seine fishing periods commencing on **Thursday, August 29; Friday, August 30; and Saturday, August 31.** Approximately 839,000 pink salmon were harvested in PWS on August 27. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through August 27 is estimated at 42 million CPF and 3.2 million cost recovery fish, for a total of 45.2 million fish. The 5-year odd-year average (2009–2017) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through August 28 is 55.3 million fish.

PWSAC recommends daily commercial fishing openers in some hatchery subdistricts due to improved broodstock acquisition. PWSAC currently estimates there are approximately 250,000 pink salmon within the AFK SHA and needs approximately 350,000 pink salmon for broodstock; 150,000–200,000 pink salmon within the CCH SHA and THA and needs approximately 360,000 pink salmon for broodstock; 440,000 pink salmon within the WNH SHA and needs approximately 300,000 pink salmon for broodstock.

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. **All regulatory closed waters and all anadromous stream closures are in effect unless otherwise stated.**

**Pink salmon preliminary contribution estimates from the 12-hour period on Sunday, August 25 in the Southwestern District were 29% AFK, 26% wild, 11% WNH, 32% CCH, and 1% SGH fish.**

**EASTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of Eastern District, **south of a line from Entrance and Potato Point**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 29; 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Friday, August 30; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Saturday, August 31.

**Waters inside the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure late season escapement:**

- (1) **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.;
- (2) **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;**
- (3) **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.;
- (4) **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.;
- (5) **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.;
- (6) **Landlocked Bay:** waters north of 60°50.76' N. lat.;
- (7) **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.;
- (8) **Sawmill Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker 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.
- (9) **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.;
- (10) **Port Fidalgo Subdistrict:** waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.

**NORTHERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Perry Island Subdistrict will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 29; 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Friday, August 30; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Saturday, August 31. All regulatory closed waters within Hidden Bay, west of 148° 06.40' W., will not be in effect during these fishing periods.

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** Waters of the Coghill District, **excluding Esther Subdistrict west of a longitude line at 147°59.56' W., and excluding WNH SHA and THA**, will open to **commercial drift gillnet and purse seine** fishing for 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 29; 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Friday, August 30; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Saturday, August 31.

**NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 29; 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Friday, August 30; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Saturday, August 31.

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Point Elrington Subdistrict will open to purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on **Friday, August 30**; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on **Saturday, August 31**. The Southwestern District Priority Stream list will be in effect within waters of Point Elrington Subdistrict during these fishing periods.

**MONTAGUE DISTRICT:** Waters of the Montague District will open to purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 29.

**SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Southeastern District **east of a longitude line at 146°17.49' W.**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, August 29; 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Friday, August 30; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Saturday, August 31. Waters in the remainder of the district will stay closed in order to ensure escapement.

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 salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, August 31.**

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.