

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #73

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: Copper River District will remain closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing. The fishery is closed due to survey counts remaining below weekly escapement targets and due to drought conditions. For the week ending September 14 the Copper River Delta survey count was 8,565 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 18,286 – 38,285. The 2019 cumulative coho harvest through September 11 is approximately **77,000** fish versus the 10-year average of 198,390 coho salmon harvested by this date.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: Bering River District will remain closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing. The fishery is closed due to survey counts remaining below weekly escapement targets and due to drought conditions. For the week ending September 14, the Bering River District survey count was 4,200 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 6,969 – 17,691.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District excluding the WNH SHA will open to **commercial drift gillnet only** for an **84-hour** period starting 8:00 am Thursday, September 12. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, September 9 is not yet available.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Eshamy District is closed for the season.

SEINE FISHERIES: There have been no reported purse seine deliveries in PWS since Friday, September 6. The 2019 PWS purse seine season will close at 8:00 pm on Wednesday, September 11. Any permit holders interested in additional fishing opportunities should contact ADF&G in Cordova.

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. Friday, September 13.

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.