



Advisory Announcement
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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #27

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 16 for a 12-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 will OPEN to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on Saturday, July 18.** Subsistence users may obtain subsistence permits during regular business hours. The Cordova ADF&G office is open to the public Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. **Subsistence permits are not available outside of regular office hours.** 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.

To date, the sonar count is the 14th lowest on record (1978-2020). Cumulative commercial harvest this year is the 4th lowest harvest to-date in the last 50 years. Cumulative sonar count through 7/14 is 484,971 fish whereas 541,205 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 7/15 is 2,504 fish. For the week ending July 11, the Copper River Delta survey count was 32,900 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 30,055 – 71,040. Passage at Miles Lake and run entry into Delta index systems are low considering the absence of regular commercial fishing effort

in the Copper River District. Additional fishing opportunity will need to be supported by ongoing assessment of run entry for both upriver and delta stocks.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will remain closed to commercial fishing. For the week ending July 11, the Bering River District survey count was 14,050 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 11,015 – 24,232.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding waters of the Esther Subdistrict and waters of the WNH SHA and THA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 16. **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 drift gillnet harvest for an 84-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 16.** Regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B)), will not be in effect during 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 estimates from the 84-hour period that started on Thursday, July 9 was 3,500 sockeye, 10,600 chum, and 13,600 pink salmon with 188 deliveries reported. As of July 14, 38,907 sockeye salmon have passed the Coghill River weir versus a cumulative anticipated range of 15,586 – 46,757 fish.

PWSAC recommends that the Esther Subdistrict and the WNH THA and SHA remain closed for the commercial fishing period commencing Thursday, July 16. **In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.**

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Per 5 AAC 24.370 (f), the set gillnet fleet is limited to 36 hours per week starting July 10. The Eshamy District will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 16. The Eshamy District will open to commercial set gillnet harvest for a 12-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 16. The AGZ will open to set gillnet permit holders only for the first 12 hours of this fishing period and then open to drift gillnet permit holders for the last 24 hours of this fishing period. As a reminder, anadromous stream closures in the Main Bay Subdistrict are in effect as of July 8. Harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, July 9 were 39,200 sockeye, 28,000 pink, and 9,800 chum salmon with 380 deliveries reported.

In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.

UNAKWIK DISTRICT: The Unakwik District will remain closed to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest.

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for commercial purse seine fishing opportunity in PWS on Thursday, July 16. VFDA completed its cost recovery goal on Tuesday, July 14. VFDA currently estimates there are approximately 100,000 pink salmon within the SHA. VFDA needs approximately 409,000 pink salmon for broodstock. **VFDA is recommending an opener within Port Valdez.**

An aerial survey of Southeastern, Coghill, and Northwestern districts was conducted on July 14 and pink salmon counts are within expected ranges for the date. An aerial survey of the Eastern and Northern district is currently ongoing. Based on the most recent aerial survey data, the department does not anticipate that these stocks will sustain a consistent schedule of openings at this time. **Additional wild stock fishing opportunities will be dependent on aerial survey assessments, harvest data, and effort.**

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters in the Eastern District, north of a line from 61° 02.855' N., 146° 44.204' W. to 61° 02.373' N., 146° 43.407' W. to 61° 02.992' N., 146° 39.165' W., will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 16.

Waters of Port Valdez east of a line from 61° 05.00' N, 146° 21.50' W to 61° 06.00' N, 146° 21.50' W and south of a line from 61° 06.00' N, 146° 21.50' W to 61° 06.00' N, 146° 15.10' W will be CLOSED to commercial salmon fishing during this period.

Waters within 200 yards of the AMHS Valdez Ferry Terminal are closed to commercial fishing when the ferry is arriving and departing. All waters of the Valdez small boat harbors and within 50 yards of the entrance to the harbors are closed to commercial fishing. Waters within the Alyeska Marine Terminal (Trans-Alaska Pipeline System) Security Zone are closed to commercial fishing. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point will not be in effect during this fishing period.**

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 16.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: The Port Chalmers Subdistrict, north of 60°12.56' N. lat. and east a line from 60° 12.56'N., 147° 20.25'W. to 60° 20.00'N., 147° 14.30'W., will open to purse seine fishing for **36-hours** beginning at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 16 and for **36-hours** beginning at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 18. A regular schedule of three fishing periods per week is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice.** Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Saturday, July 11 were 3,800 chum salmon with 5 deliveries reported.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for **24-hours** beginning at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 16 and for **24-hours** beginning at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 18. A regular schedule of three fishing periods per week is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. **Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice.**

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

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 11, 12, and 17 commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>.

The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Thursday, July 16.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, July 18.

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.

Coghill District – Port Wells and College Fiord line.

