



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #44

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will remain closed to commercial fishing. **Given current indices of escapement, it is likely that the Copper River District will remain closed to commercial fishing until the transition to Coho management in August.** The Copper River District will open to subsistence fishing at 7:00 am on August 6, for a 12-hour 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, August 8.** 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.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will remain closed to commercial fishing.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy district will remain closed to commercial fishing with an anticipated opportunity on Monday, August 10. Fishing time and area is being reduced in the Eshamy District based on wild

stock abundance indices. Harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, August 3 were 2,400 sockeye salmon, and 21,700 pink salmon with 74 deliveries reported.

SEINE FISHERIES: A broad area fishing opportunity within Prince William Sound is expected for Saturday, August 8, with time and area to be announced at 2:00 pm on Friday, August 7. PWSAC began its cost recovery sales program on Friday, July 24, and has collected approximately 71% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through Tuesday, August 4. Sampling of cost recovery pink salmon harvest from Tuesday, August 4 resulted in an average weight of 3.3 pounds per fish and 26.2% female at CCH; harvest from Monday, August 3 resulted in an average weight of 3.5 pounds per fish and 42% female at AFK and an average weight of 3.4 pounds per fish and 48% female at WNH.

VFDA reports adequate broodstock escapement at SGH and has recommended a continued closure of Port Valdez at this time.

An aerial survey was conducted in the Eastern, Northern, and Southeastern district on Tuesday, August 4 indicated pink salmon escapements are within the expected ranges for the date within the districts.

Preliminary contribution estimates from the 14-hour fishing period on Saturday, August 1 in the Northwestern District were 76% Wild, 21% WNH, and 3% CCH; in the Eastern District were 55% Wild, 44% SGH, and 2% CCH; and in the Northern District were 60% Wild, 30% SGH, 8% CCH, and 2% WNH.

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

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 salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Friday, August 7.

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.