



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: May 21, 2021*

**CONTACT: Jeremy Botz**  
**Finfish Area Management Biologist**  
**(907) 424-3212**

**Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #3**

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, May 24 for a 12-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be **CLOSED** during this period (Map 1).

The **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be defined as waters north of a line connecting the following points (bold font is for points not defined in regulation):

<i>Point</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
<b>Steamboat North</b>	<b>60° 22.87' N.</b>	<b>145° 33.50' W.</b>
Steamboat South	60° 22.31' N.	145° 33.50' W.
West side Pete Dahl Entrance	60° 18.89' N.	145° 30.99' W.
West end Grass Island	60° 18.30' N.	145° 28.42' W.
East end Grass Island	60° 15.24' N.	145° 17.89' W.
West end Kokenhenik Bar	60° 15.00' N.	145° 16.20' W.
East end Kokenhenik Bar	60° 13.65' N.	145° 09.46' W.
Western tip of Softuk Bar	60° 13.68' N.	145° 05.78' W.
<b>Chinook Alternate #1</b>	<b>60° 13.79' N.</b>	<b>144° 59.09' W.</b>
<b>Chinook Alternate #2</b>	<b>60° 13.64' N.</b>	<b>144° 53.78' W.</b>
<b>Chinook Alternate #3</b>	<b>60° 12.64' N.</b>	<b>144° 40.21' W.</b>

\*Please note that the 'Coffee Creek West' point was replaced with 'Chinook Alternate #1'.

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.
<b>Little Softuk</b>	<b>60° 13.16' N.</b>	<b>144° 41.38' W.</b>

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, excluding the expanded Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays between May 17 and October 31. Prince William Sound Management Area salmon subsistence permits may be obtained through any ADF&G office or online (<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/>). **In Cordova, permits will be available during normal business hours Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** ADF&G staff will not be available to issue permits before hours, after hours, on state holidays, or on weekends. **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.**

Cumulative sonar count through 5/20 is 661 fish, whereas 10,114 fish are projected by this date to meet the Inriver Run Goal. The 0600 count for 5/21 is 126 fish. Only the north bank sonar has been deployed so far this season. Shore ice and ice flows are currently preventing south bank sonar deployment. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 12-hour period that occurred on Thursday, May 20 was 1,100 Chinook and 11,300 sockeye salmon with 307 deliveries reported. This compares to a projected harvest of 29,300 sockeye salmon for this period. The Prince William Sound Science Center's Lower Copper River Sonar Station is operational near the mouth of Clear Martin River on the lower east side of the Copper River (60° 22.48' N., 144° 53.68' W.) and fish passage summaries can be viewed at <https://pwssc.org/2021-lower-copper-sonar/>.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** Bering River District, west of a longitude line at 144° 28.20' W., will open at 7:00 am on Monday, May 24 for a 12-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. The intent of this opening is to target Copper River sockeye salmon that are traveling through the western portion of this district. **As overlap with the Bering River sockeye salmon run timing increases, the likelihood of future early season opening in the Bering River District will diminish to protect the Bering River stock. Additionally, future openings of the Bering River District will be contingent on accurate reporting of harvest from within this district.**

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** The Coghill District, excluding the Esther Subdistrict and the Wally Noerenberg Hatchery (WNH) THA and SHA, will open for the 2021 season to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, May 31. A total run of 1.68 million WNH chum salmon are projected to return to the hatchery. Historical harvest timing for these chum salmon is from June 1 – July 27.

PWSAC requests that the Esther Subdistrict and the WNH SHA and THA remain closed for the entirety of the 36-hour commercial fishing period commencing on Monday, May 31. Cost recovery harvests will commence at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants. **In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.**

A total of 252,000 Coghill Lake sockeye salmon are projected to be available for common property harvest. The harvest timing for these sockeye salmon is from June 1 – August 1. The Coghill River weir is expected to start operations during the second week of June.

**ESHAMY DISTRICT:** The Eshamy District, excluding the Main Bay Subdistrict and Main Bay Hatchery (MBH) THA, SHA, and AGZ, will open for the 2021 season to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, May 31. The 2021 sockeye salmon run to MBH is forecast to be 1.08 million fish. The historical harvest timing for these sockeye salmon is from June 1 – August 1.

PWSAC requests that the Main Bay Subdistrict remain closed for the entirety of the 36-hour commercial fishing period commencing on Monday, May 31. Cost recovery harvests will commence at MBH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants. **In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.**

**MONTAGUE DISTRICT:** The Port Chalmers Subdistrict, **east of Green Island, north of a line from 60° 9.52'N., 147° 22.38'W. to 60° 13.58'N., 147° 29.29'W. and south of a line from 60° 18.22'N., 147° 20.46'W to 60° 20.00'N., 147° 13.25'W.,** will open for the 2021 season to purse seine fishing for 48 hours beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, May 31 with additional 36-hour periods at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 3, and 8:00 am on Saturday June 5. 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.** A total of 320,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to Port Chalmers Subdistrict.

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for 48 hours beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, May 31 with additional 36-hour periods at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 3, and 8:00 am on Saturday June 5. 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.** A total of 150,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to AFK Hatchery.

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

**ALL buyers purchasing fish in the PWS Management Area are required to complete a Processor Registration Form. Contact the Cordova office for any questions regarding registration.**

**Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, 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 COVID19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.**

**The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, May 26.**

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.

Map 1. Copper River District May 24, 2021 Chinook salmon expanded inside closure area.

