



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: June 23, 2021*

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**Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #17**

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, June 24 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **standard Chinook salmon inside closure area** will be **CLOSED** during this fishing period. Daily and cumulative passage at the Miles Lake sonar station indicates that the inriver goal is likely to be met and supports opening the Copper River District commercial fishery. Copper River District Chinook salmon average harvest timing (2011-2020) is 97% complete through this date. The continued closure of the standard Chinook salmon inside closure area is in response to anticipated Chinook salmon subsistence and sport harvest restrictions (no retention).

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 standard Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays between June 24 and October 31.

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.

Subsistence users may obtain subsistence permits during regular business hours. 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 6/22 is 415,211 fish, whereas 367,689 fish are projected by this date to meet the Inriver Run Goal. The 0600 count for 6/23 is 2,017 fish. For the week ending June 19, the Copper River Delta survey count was 17,720 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 14,273 – 33,736. The Copper River District harvest for the 12-hour fishing period that started on Monday, June 21 was 27,100 sockeye and 145 Chinook salmon with 276 deliveries reported.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** The Bering River District will remain closed to commercial fishing. For the week ending June 19, the Bering River Delta survey count was 610 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 3,251 – 7,153.

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** The Coghill District, excluding the Esther and Granite Bay subdistricts and the Wally Noerenberg Hatchery (WNH) THA and SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 24. **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 a 48-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 24.** Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, June 21 were 16,200 chum and 5,300 sockeye salmon with 184 deliveries reported. The Coghill River weir has passed 3,910 sockeye salmon through 6/22 with a cumulative target of 1,444–4,332 fish for the date.

PWSAC requests that the Esther Subdistrict, the Granite Bay Subdistrict, and the WNH SHA and THA remain closed for the entirety of the 48-hour commercial fishing period commencing on Thursday, June 24. Cost recovery fishing has started at WNH and will continue as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants. **In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.**

**ESHAMY DISTRICT:** The Eshamy District, **north of 60°34.25'N, including Foul Bay, and south of 60°32.00'N,** will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 12-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 24. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 12-hour period that started on Monday, June 21 were 12,600 chum and 27,200 sockeye salmon with 244 deliveries reported.

PWSAC requests that the Main Bay Subdistrict remain closed for the entirety of the 12-hour commercial fishing period commencing on Thursday, June 24. Cost recovery harvests will continue in the Main Bay Subdistrict as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants. **In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.**

**UNAKWIK DISTRICT:** The Unakwik District will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 24.

**SEINE FISHERIES:** VFDA made two sets inside Port Valdez yesterday, Tuesday, July 22, for a total of 52 pink salmon. Test fishing will resume today.

An aerial survey of Simpson Bay, Sheep Bay, Port Gravina, Port Fidalgo, and Galena Bay was conducted yesterday, July 22. Stream escapement observations were minimal during these surveys, which is to be expected for the date. Current indices of escapement and run entry do not support a purse seine CPF targeting wild stocks in the Eastern District. The next aerial survey of the Eastern District is expected to occur early next week.

**MONTAGUE DISTRICT:** The Port Chalmers Subdistrict, north of 60°12.56' N. lat. and east of 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, June 24 with an additional 36-hour period at 8:00 am on Saturday June 26. 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. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that ended on Sunday, June 20 was 9,731 chum salmon with 22 deliveries reported. Contribution estimates from the period ending Friday, June 18 was 86% Port Chalmers, 8% WNH, and 6% AFK.

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for **24 hours beginning at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 24 with an additional 24-hour period at 8:00 am on Saturday June 26.** This time adjustment supersedes previously announced fishing periods and is intended to decrease the harvest of Main Bay sockeye salmon and expedite PWSAC cost recovery efforts. 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 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. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that ended on Sunday, June 20 was 16,054 chum salmon, and 1,553 sockeye salmon with 29 deliveries reported. Chum salmon contribution estimates from the period ending Friday, June 18 was 71% AFK, 19% WNH, 4% Port Chalmers, and 6% wild.

**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 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 Saturday, June 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.

Coghill District – Port Wells and College Fiord line.



Eshamy District – north and south Crafton Island Subdistrict areas.

