



Advisory Announcement
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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #20

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 1 for a 36-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 99% complete through this date. The continued closure of the standard Chinook salmon inside closure area is in response to 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 **standard Chinook salmon inside closure area** will be defined as waters north of a line connecting the following points:

<i>Point</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
Steamboat North	60° 22.87' N.	145° 33.50' W.
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.
Coffee Creek West	60° 14.13' N.	144° 58.31' W.

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.

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 6/29 is 468,485 fish, whereas 413,971 fish are projected by this date to meet the Inriver Run Goal. The 0600 count for 6/30 is 2,521 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 24-hour fishing period that started on Monday, June 28 was 24,500 sockeye and 61 Chinook salmon with 121 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 waters of the Esther, Granite Bay, and Bettles Bay subdistricts and waters of the WNH SHA and THA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 48-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 1. Waters of Granite Bay Subdistrict, within Esther Passage and on the western side of Esther Island north of a latitude line at **60° 49.02' N.**, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 48-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 1. Waters of Esther Subdistrict east of a longitude line at **147° 55.75' N.**, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 48-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 1. 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 **60-hour period** starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 1. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 48-hour period that started on Monday, June 28 are not yet available. As of June 29, 8,252 sockeye salmon have passed the Coghill River weir versus a cumulative anticipated range of 4,052 – 12,157 fish.

PWSAC requests that a portion of the Esther and Granite Bay subdistricts, and the WNH SHA and THA remain closed for all of the 48-hour commercial fishing period commencing on Thursday, July 1. PWSAC completed its preseason WNH chum salmon cost recovery goal and is now in the process of securing broodstock. **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, July 1. Preliminary

harvest estimates from the 12-hour period that started on Monday, June 28 were 19,000 chum and 61,200 sockeye salmon with 324 deliveries reported.

PWSAC requests that the Main Bay Subdistrict remain closed for the entirety of the 12-hour commercial fishing period commencing on Thursday, July 1. 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, July 1.

SEINE FISHERIES: Time and area is being adjusted in the Port Chalmers Subdistrict and AFK THA and SHA. These adjustments supersede previously announced time and area and are necessary in order to reduce the harvest of salmon destined for other parts of PWS.

VFDA made two sets inside Port Valdez on Tuesday, June 29, for a total of 203 pink salmon. Test fishing will resume today.

An aerial survey of portions of the Eastern District was conducted yesterday, July 29. 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 and Northern Districts is expected to occur next week.

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 1 with an additional 36-hour periods at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 3. This area adjustment supersedes previously announced area. 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. Harvest estimates from the 48-hour period that ended today, June 30 is not yet available.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery SHA will open to purse seine fishing for **36 hours beginning at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 1, with an additional 36-hour period at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 3.** 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 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 24-hour period that ended on Tuesday, June 29 was 29,241 chum salmon, and 3,038 sockeye salmon with 44 deliveries reported. Chum salmon contribution estimates from the period ending Friday, June 25 was 86% AFK, 9% WNH, 4% Port Chalmers, and 1% 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, July 3.

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:

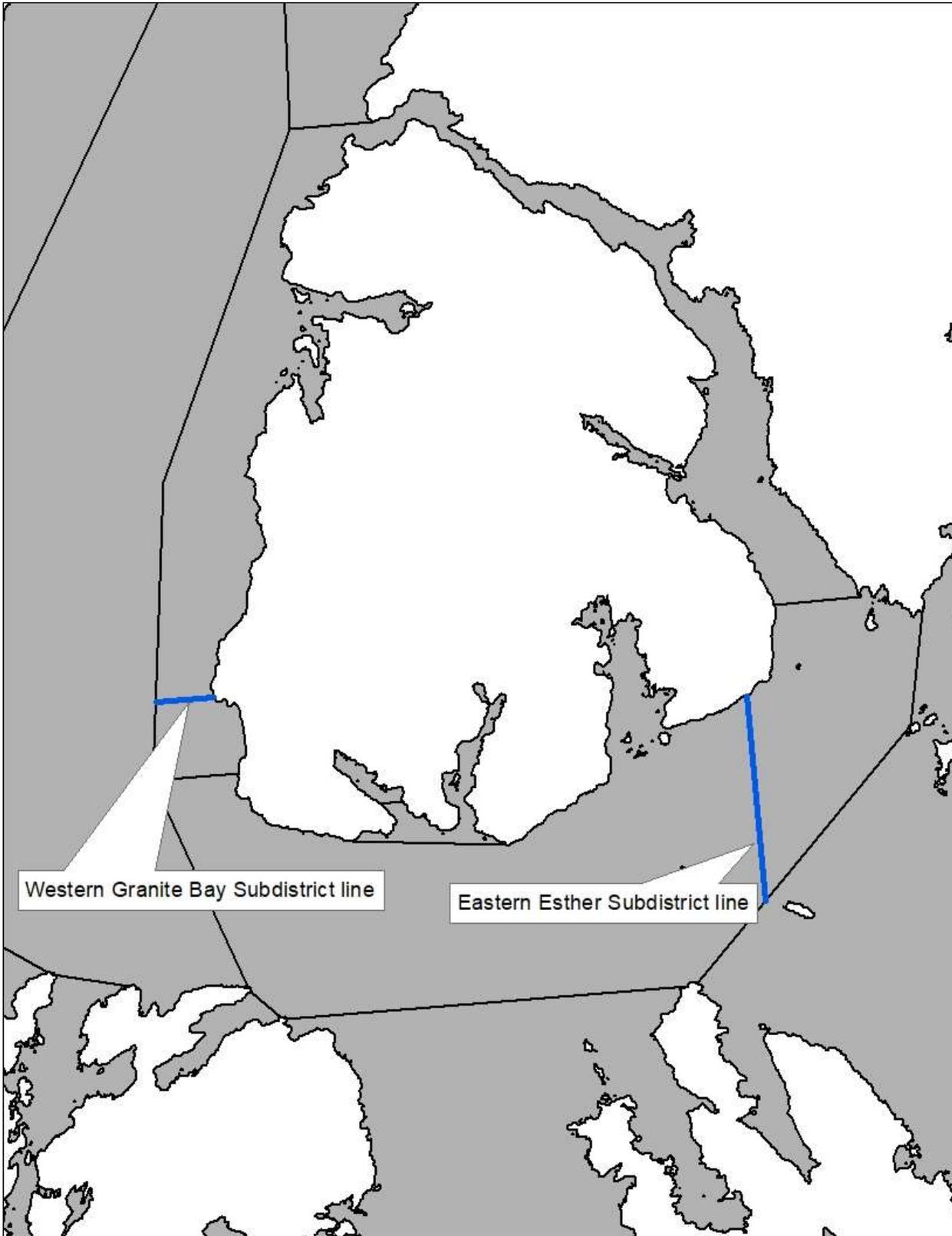
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main> (Prince William Sound and Copper River homepage).

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 – Granite Bay and Esther subdistrict lines.



Coghill District – Port Wells and College Fiord line.



Eshamy District – north and south Crafton Island Subdistrict areas.

