



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: July 14, 2021*

**CONTACT: Jeremy Botz and Heather Scannell**  
**Finfish Area Management Biologists**  
**(907) 424-3212**

**Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #32**

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 15 for a 36-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **standard Chinook salmon inside closure area** will be **OPEN** during this fishing period. Copper River District Chinook salmon average harvest timing (2011-2020) is 99% complete through this date.

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, **including** the standard Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays between July 4 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 7/13 is 634,758 fish. The 0600 count for 7/14 is 3,472 fish. For the week ending July 3, the Copper River Delta survey count was 27,550 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 28,229 – 66,722. This survey was impacted by poor survey conditions that likely resulted in reduced counts relative to actual abundance. The Copper River District harvest for the 24-hour fishing period that started on Monday, July 12 was 41,217 sockeye and 8 Chinook salmon with 76 deliveries reported.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** The Bering River District will remain closed to commercial fishing. For the week ending July 3, the Bering River Delta survey count was 4,650 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 6,092 – 13,402.

**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 15. Waters of Granite Bay Subdistrict and Waters of the Esther Subdistrict, excluding the WNH THA and SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for an 84-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 15. 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 15. Regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B)), will not be in effect for 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 8 were 152,000 chum, 26,600 sockeye, and 55,600 pink salmon with 875 deliveries reported. As of July 13, 56,197 sockeye salmon have passed the Coghill River weir versus a cumulative anticipated range of 14,770 – 44,311 fish.

PWSAC requests that the WNH SHA and THA remain closed through Sunday. PWSAC completed its preseason WNH chum salmon cost recovery goal and is also in the process of securing broodstock. **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 15. The Eshamy District, excluding waters of the MBH AGZ, will open to commercial set gillnet harvest for a 12-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 15. The MBH AGZ will open to DRIFT GILLNET permit holders only during this fishing period. Regulatory closed waters in the MBH SHA and AGZ, will not be in effect for this fishing period.

PWSAC has completed cost recovery and brood collection at MBH and recommends opening the Main Bay Subdistrict to the CPF. **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 15.

**SEINE FISHERIES:** Prince William Sound purse seine fisheries targeting VFDA pink salmon will be closed on Thursday, July 15 to allow for further evaluation of fishery performance data. The next potential commercial fishing opportunity for VFDA pink salmon will be on Friday, July 16 with time and area announced tomorrow, July 15. Future wild stock fishing opportunities will be dependent on aerial survey assessments, harvest data, and

effort. An estimated 1.53 million pink salmon were harvested in portions of eastern and northern PWS on July 13.

Aerial surveys of the Eastern, Northern, and Southeastern Districts were conducted on Monday, July 12, and Tuesday, July 13. Stream escapements were below anticipated for these surveys. The next aerial survey for the Eastern and Northern District is scheduled for Saturday, July 17. The remaining PWS purse seine districts will also be surveyed later this week.

**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 seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Thursday, July 15.**

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.