



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 24, 2021

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #45

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, July 26 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **standard Chinook salmon inside closure area** will be **OPEN** during this fishing period.

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.
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**

[\(https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Harvest/\)](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Harvest/) to provide preliminary harvest reports to assist with inseason harvest tracking.

Cumulative sonar count through 7/23 is 721,159 fish. The 0600 count for 7/24 is 1,656 fish. For the week ending July 17, the Copper River Delta survey count was 76,020 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 31,424 – 74,276, however much of the escapement was driven by one system. The Copper River District harvest for the 36-hour fishing period that started on Thursday, July 22 was 7,440 sockeye and 9 Chinook salmon with 51 deliveries reported.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will remain closed to commercial fishing. For the week ending July 17, the Bering River Delta survey count was 10,360 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 11,051 – 24,313.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District, excluding the MBH AGZ, will open to commercial **drift gillnet** harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 26. The Eshamy District will open to commercial **set gillnet** harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 26. The MBH AGZ will open to **SET 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. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, July 22 were 7,730 sockeye, and 7,650 pink salmon with 60 deliveries reported. As of July 22, 125 sockeye salmon have passed the Eshamy River weir.

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.**

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement does not affect the previously announced purse seine period in the Coghill District.

An aerial survey of the Coghill, Northwestern and Eshamy Districts took place yesterday, July 23 and the Southeastern District was surveyed today, July 24. Pink and chum salmon escapements are within or near expected ranges for the date. Depending on weather, aerial surveys of other PWS Districts are expected to occur next week. At this time, the department does not anticipate that wild stocks will sustain a consistent schedule of openings.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District, **of a latitude of 60° 54.00' N., excluding the waters of Port of Valdez, inside of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point** will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Sunday, July 25.

- (1) **Galena Bay:** waters east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.87' N. lat., 146°39.87' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.55' N. lat., 146°39.65' W. long.;
- (2) **Jack Bay:** waters south and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.34' N. lat., 146°35.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.17' N. lat., 146°39.77' W. long.;
- (3) **Sawmill Bay:** north of a line from a marker on shore at approximately 61°02.71' N. lat., 146°46.44' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.58' N. lat., 146°47.07' W. long.;

The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, July 25.

The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 28.

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.