



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 28, 2021

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #50

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 29 for a 36-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period and at 7:00 am on Monday, August 2 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet 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 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.

Cumulative sonar count through 7/27 is 744,140 fish. The 0600 count for 7/28 is 1,331 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 Monday, July 26 was 7,300 sockeye and 1 Chinook salmon with 62 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 Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial **drift gillnet** harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 29. The Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial **set gillnet** harvest for a 12-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 29. The MBH AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. Regulatory closed waters in the MBH AGZ, will not be in effect for this fishing period.

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, August 2. The Eshamy District will open to commercial **set gillnet** harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, August 2. The MBH AGZ will open to **SET GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. Regulatory closed waters in the MBH AGZ, will not be in effect for this fishing period.

Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, July 26 were 9,800 sockeye and 33,000 pink salmon with 112 deliveries reported. As of July 27, 329 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.**

The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, July 29.

The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 4.

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.