



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: August 11, 2021*

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**Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #60**

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, August 12 for a 36-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period and at 7:00 am on Monday, August 16 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. The Copper River District is switching to coho salmon management starting Monday, August 16. The standard management strategy for coho salmon is one or two 24-hour periods per week depending on escapement and harvest levels.

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 August 7 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.

For the week ending August 7, the Copper River Delta survey count was 44,215 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 24,976 – 59,034. The Copper River District harvest for the 36-hour fishing period that started on Thursday, August 5 was 3 Chinook, 11,997 sockeye, 3,618 coho, 8,163 pink with 97 deliveries reported. The Copper River District harvest for the 24-hour fishing period that started on Monday, August 9 was 1 Chinook, 1,767 sockeye, 952 coho, 595 pink with 39 deliveries reported.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** The Bering River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, August 16 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. For the week ending August 7, the Bering River Delta survey count was 11,124 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 8,409 – 18,499.

**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, August 12. The Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial **set gillnet** harvest for a 12-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, August 12. 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 16. The Eshamy District will open to commercial **set gillnet** harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, August 16. 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.

No preliminary harvest estimates were reported from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, August 5. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, August 9 were 1,297 sockeye, 176 coho, 28,295 pink, and 322 chum salmon with 30 deliveries reported. As of August 11, 2,226 sockeye salmon have passed the Eshamy River weir.

**SEINE FISHERIES:** This announcement provides time and area for a commercial purse seine fishing opportunity on Thursday, August 12. VFDA estimates that 300,000-400,000 pink salmon are at the hatchery and not many fish are being observed elsewhere in the Port of Valdez. VFDA began their egg-take on August 9 and are approximately 9% complete versus and anticipated 50-55% complete. Future opportunities targeting VFDA pink salmon will be dependent on run entry and broodstock acquisition.

PWSAC began its cost recovery sales program on Monday, July 26, and has collected approximately 73% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal. Run entry has continued to improve and cost recovery fishing at WNH, CCH, and AFK continues today. The most recent female percentages from industry sampling of cost recovery fish are as follows:

- CCH on August 9: 18%
- WHN on August 9: 31%
- AFK on August 9: 36%
- WNH on August 10: 37%

Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing periods ending yesterday, August 10, are as follows:

- Eastern District: 1,006,035 pink salmon with 108 deliveries reported.
- Northwestern District: 147,359 pink salmon with 21 deliveries.
- Montague District: 393,098 pink salmon with 42 deliveries reported.
- Southeastern District: 238,713 pink salmon with 23 deliveries reported.

Recent preliminary contribution estimates are as follows:

- Eastern District on August 3: 43% SGH, 23% WNH, and 35% wild.
- Eastern District on August 5: 55% SGH, 2% CCH, and 43% wild.
- Montague District on August 3: 10% SGH, 8% WNH, 2% AFK, 2% CCH, and 79% wild.

**5 AAC 24.350 Closed Waters.** Unless otherwise specified all regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures are in effect.

**EASTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Eastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, August 12. **Waters east of the longitude of 146°37' W. will be closed for this period.**

**Waters inside the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure escapement:**

- (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) **Port Fidalgo Subdistrict:** waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.

**NORTHERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Northern District, **east of a longitude line at 147° 23.00' W.,** will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, August 12.

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** Waters of the Coghill District, excluding the Esther and Granite Bay Subdistricts and the WNH SHA and THA, will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet harvest for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, August 12.

Water 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 purse seine and drift gillnet harvest for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Friday, August 13. 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.

**NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, Thursday, August 12.

**MONTAGUE DISTRICT:** Waters of the Montague District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, August 12.

**SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, August 12.

**In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.**

**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 Mandates 10, 11, 12, and 17 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 COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>.**

**The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Friday, August 13.  
The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 18.**

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.