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Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #7

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, June 6 for a 12-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be **CLOSED** during this period.

The **expanded** 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.
Chinook Alternate #1	60° 13.79' N.	144° 59.09' W.
Chinook Alternate #2	60° 13.64' N.	144° 53.78' W.
Chinook Alternate #3	60° 12.64' N.	144° 40.21' W.

*Please note that the 'Coffee Creek West' point was replaced with 'Chinook Alternate #1'.

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.

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 expanded Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays between May 16 and October 31. 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 6/3 is 114,141 fish whereas 193,614 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 6/4 is 7,584 fish. Both north and south bank sonars are currently deployed. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 12-hour period that occurred on Thursday, June 2 was 1,000 Chinook and 84,600 sockeye salmon with 424 deliveries reported. This compares to a projected harvest of 40,664 sockeye salmon for this period.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: Bering River District, west of a longitude line at 144° 28.20' W., will open at 7:00 am on Monday, June 6 for a 12-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, **excluding the Esther Subdistrict and the Wally Noerenberg Hatchery (WNH) THA and SHA**, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 6. 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 Monday, June 6.

PWSAC requests that the Esther Subdistrict and the WNH SHA and THA remain closed for the entirety of the 36-hour commercial fishing period commencing on Monday, June 6. Cost recovery harvests will commence at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants.

The Coghill River weir is expected to start operations during the second week of June. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, May 30 was 3,500 sockeye and 13,400 chum salmon with 169 deliveries reported.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District, **excluding the Main Bay Subdistrict**, will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 6. The AGZ will open to **SET GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, June 2 was 2,060 sockeye and 219 chum salmon with 36 deliveries reported.

PWSAC requests that the Main Bay Subdistrict remain closed for the entirety of the 36-hour commercial fishing period commencing on Monday, June 6. Cost recovery harvests will commence at MBH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: The Port Chalmers Subdistrict, east of Green Island, north of a line from 60° 9.52' N., 147° 22.38' W. to 60° 13.58' N., 147° 29.29' W. and south of a line from 60° 18.22' N., 147° 20.46' W to 60° 20.00' N., 147° 13.25' W, will open to purse seine fishing for 48 hours starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 6 with

additional 36-hour periods starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 9, and 8:00 am on Saturday June 11. 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 280,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to Port Chalmers Subdistrict.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for 48 hours starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 6 with additional 36-hour periods starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 9, and 8:00 am on Saturday June 11. A regular schedule of three fishing periods per week is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. **Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice.** A total of 360,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to AFK Hatchery.

Copies of the updated regulation booklet, *2022-2024 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are **not** yet available in the Cordova ADFG office. In the interim, please reference https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/pdfs/commercial/2022-2024_cf_pws_salmon_regs.pdf.

ALL buyers purchasing fish in the PWS Management Area are required to complete a Processor Registration Form. Contact the Cordova office for any questions regarding registration.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, June 8.

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.