



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #14

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, June 23 for a 36-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be **OPEN** during this period.

Salmon passage at Miles Lake is on track to exceed the inriver run goal. Projections of inriver Chinook salmon abundance have improved and now support opening the expanded inside closure area. We expect low exploitation of Chinook salmon because commercial harvest is historically 97% complete by this date and fleet participation is currently only about one-quarter of early season effort.

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, **including** the expanded Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays between June 22 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 6/21 was 482,507 fish whereas 391,564 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 6/22 is 6,666 fish. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period that occurred on Thursday, June 20 was 430 Chinook and 36,900 sockeye salmon with 212 deliveries reported. This compares to a projected harvest of 47,200 sockeye salmon for this period.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open to commercial salmon fishing, west of a longitude line at 144° 33.60' W., for a 36-hour period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 23. **Bering River sockeye salmon run timing overlap has increased and open area within the district is being reduced until escapement indices support additional fishing area.**

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND GILLET FISHERIES: Gillnet depth restrictions, as specified in 5 AAC 24.331(b)(6), **WILL NOT BE IN EFFECT** in the Coghill District, Eshamy District, and Unakwik District fisheries starting **8:00 am, Monday, June 27.**

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 Thursday, June 23. 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, June 23. The Coghill River weir has passed 3,335 sockeye salmon through 6/21 with a cumulative target of 1,216–3,648 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 84-hour period that started on Thursday, June 16 was 6,800 sockeye and 52,500 chum salmon with 494 deliveries reported.

PWSAC requests that the Esther Subdistrict and the WNH SHA and THA remain closed for the entirety of the 36-hour commercial fishing period starting on Thursday, June 23. Cost recovery is currently 32% complete, and harvest will continue at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 23. 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 Monday, June 20 was 73,900 sockeye and 21,500 chum salmon with 505 deliveries reported.

PWSAC recommends that the Main Bay Subdistrict open for the entirety of the 36-hour commercial fishing period starting on Thursday, June 23. The preseason cost recovery target was achieved yesterday, Tuesday, June 21.

UNAKWIK DISTRICT: The Unakwik District will open for the season to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 23.

SEINE FISHERIES: To reduce the harvest of salmon destined for other areas of PWS, time is being adjusted at the AFK Hatchery. This adjustment supersedes the previously announced time for Saturday, June 25.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for **12 hours** starting at 8:00 am on Saturday June 25. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that ended on Tuesday, June 21 were 17,600 chum salmon and 4,605 sockeye salmon with 18 deliveries reported.

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 Saturday, June 25.

Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements based on current escapement data may occur at any time inseason either establishing an additional period or extending an open period.

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.