



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #15

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, June 27 for a 36-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be **OPEN** during this period.

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 6/23 was 541,502 fish whereas 407,321 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 6/24 is 3,454 fish. For the week ending June 25, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 23,900

sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 17,627 – 41,665. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, June 23 is not yet available.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will remain closed after the conclusion of the current fishing period.

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 Granite Bay Subdistrict**, the Esther Subdistrict, and the Wally Noerenberg Hatchery (WNH) THA and SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 60-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 27. **Waters of the Granite Bay Subdistrict within Esther Pass east of a longitude line at 148° 02.94' W., and within Granite Bay east of a line from 60° 54.00' N., 148° 06.33' W. to 60° 52.82' N., 148° 6.35' W., will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 12-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 27.**

Effective immediately and until further notice, regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B)), will not be in effect during open commercial fishing periods. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide.

The Coghill River weir has passed 6,630 sockeye salmon through 6/23 with a cumulative target of 1,689–5,068 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, June 20 was 10,000 sockeye and 89,800 chum salmon with 548 deliveries reported.

PWSAC requests that the Granite Bay Subdistrict, the Esther Subdistrict, and the WNH SHA and THA remain closed for the entirety of the 60-hour commercial fishing period starting on Monday, June 27. Cost recovery is currently 39% 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 Monday, June 27. The AGZ up to a line of buoys outside the barrier seine will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, June 23 is not yet available.

PWSAC recommends that the Main Bay Subdistrict open for the entirety of the 36-hour commercial fishing period starting on Monday, June 27. The preseason cost recovery target has been achieved.

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 Monday, June 27.

SEINE FISHERIES: To reduce the harvest of salmon destined for other areas of PWS, next week's fishing schedule will shift to multiple 12-hour periods. This announcement does not impact time and area previously announced for Saturday, June 25.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: The Port Chalmers Subdistrict, north of 60°12.56' N. lat. and east a line from 60° 12.56' N., 147° 20.25' W. to 60° 20.00' N., 147° 14.30' W., will open to purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 27 and at 8:00 am on Tuesday June 28. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice. Preliminary harvest estimates for the 36-hour period ending on June 23 was 80,400 chum salmon with 57 reported deliveries.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 27 and at 8:00 am on Tuesday June 28. 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 36-hour period that ended on Thursday, June 23 were 12,700 chum salmon and 2,300 sockeye salmon with 17 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 Wednesday, June 29.

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.