



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #28

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 14 for a 48-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing 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 7/12 was 723,005 fish whereas 524,352 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 7/13 is 1,161 fish. For the week ending July 9, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 38,740 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 30,055 – 71,040. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 48-hour period that started on Thursday, July 7 was 22,000 sockeye and 7,900 pink salmon with 118 deliveries reported.

Preliminary harvest estimate from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, July 11 was 11,300 sockeye and 4,000 pink salmon with 106 deliveries reported.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will remain closed.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding the Bettles Bay Subdistrict and 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, July 14. 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, July 14.

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 29,600 sockeye salmon through 7/12 with a cumulative target of 14,249–42,747 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 84-hour period that started on Thursday, July 7 was 26,000 sockeye and 112,700 chum salmon with 584 deliveries reported.

PWSAC recommends closing the Esther Subdistrict and the WNH THA and SHA to allow run entry for resumed cost recovery operations on chum salmon. Cost recovery is currently 68% complete, and harvest will continue at WNH as run entry, catcher boat availability, and hatchery escapement warrants.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Per 5 AAC 24.370 (f), the set gillnet fleet is limited to 36 hours per week starting July 10. The Eshamy District, excluding the Main Bay Subdistrict, and excluding the MBH THA, SHA, and AGZ, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 14. The Eshamy District, excluding the Main Bay Subdistrict, and excluding the MBH THA, SHA, and AGZ, will open to commercial set gillnet harvest for a 12-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 14. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, July 11 was 16,900 sockeye, 21,700 pink, and 9,600 chum salmon with 147 deliveries reported.

PWSAC recommends closing the Main Bay subdistrict to allow run entry for resumed cost recovery operations on sockeye salmon.

UNAKWIK DISTRICT: The Unakwik District will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 14. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, July 7 was 3,100 sockeye and 375 chum salmon with 26 deliveries reported.

SEINE FISHERIES: Prince William Sound purse seine fisheries targeting VFDA pink salmon will be closed on Thursday, July 14 to allow for further evaluation of fishery performance data. A broad area opener is anticipated to occur on Friday, July 15 with time and area announced Thursday, July 14. At this time, wild stocks cannot sustain the same fishing pressure that enhanced stocks may be able to sustain. Additional wild stock fishing opportunities will be dependent on aerial survey assessments, harvest data, and effort. Preliminary harvest from the Eastern District for the period ending on Tuesday, July 12 was 1.18 million pink salmon with 153 reported deliveries.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: The Port Chalmers Subdistrict, north of 60°12.56' N. lat. and east of 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 a 38-hour period starting at 6:00 am on Thursday, July 14. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice. Preliminary harvest for the period

ending on Friday, July 8 was 37,350 chum salmon and 6,100 pink salmon with 35 reported deliveries.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for a 38-hour period starting at 6:00 am on Thursday, July 14. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice. Preliminary harvest for the period ending on Friday, July 8 was 7,100 chum salmon and 850 sockeye salmon with 10 reported deliveries.

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 seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm on Thursday, July 14. The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm on Saturday, July 16.

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:

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.