



## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: July 27, 2022*

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### Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #42

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 28 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.
<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.

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 7/26 was 776,005 fish whereas 610,975 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 7/27 is 1,756 fish. For the week ending July 16, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 32,135 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 31,424 – 74,276. Observational conditions on this survey were poor in some index

reaches. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 48-hour period that started on Thursday, July 21 was 4,800 sockeye salmon with 23 deliveries reported.

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

**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, July 28. The Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial **set gillnet** harvest for a **12-hour period** starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 28. The AGZ will open to **SET GILLNET** permit holders only during the **first 12 hours** of this fishing period. The Eshamy River weir has passed 1,441 sockeye salmon through 7/26 with a cumulative target of 2,160–4,652 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, July 25 was 7,200 sockeye, 19,700 pink, and 1,400 chum salmon with 65 deliveries reported.

**SEINE FISHERIES:** An aerial survey of the Montague, Southwestern, Northern and Eastern Districts were flown this past weekend, the Southeastern District was flown yesterday, July 26, and the Northwestern, Coghill, and Eshamy Districts are being flown today, July 27. Wild stocks are within anticipated levels for this date and can support limited commercial fishing opportunities. Dependent on fisheries performance data and effort, the next broad area commercial purse seine fishing period may occur as early as Sunday, July 31, with time and area specifics to be announced, July 30.

**5 AAC 24.350 and 5 AAC 39.290 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 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 28. **Waters of Port Valdez east of longitude 146°33.00' W. will be closed to commercial fishing during this period.** Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point will not be in effect during this fishing period. Preliminary harvest for the period on Monday, July 25 was 1.32 million pink salmon with 185 reported deliveries. Pink salmon harvest contribution from the period on July 22, was 61% SGH, 2% WNH, and 38% wild.

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

- (1) **Jack Bay:** waters south and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.34' N. lat., 146°35.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.17' N. lat., 146°39.77' W. long.;
- (2) **Sawmill Bay:** north of a line from a marker on shore at approximately 61°02.71' N. lat., 146°46.44' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.58' N. lat., 146°47.07' W. long.;
- (3) **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.;

**NORTHERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Northern District, **excluding the Perry Island Subdistrict**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 28. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the CCH THA and SHA will not be in effect for this period. Preliminary harvest for the period on Monday, July 25 was 40,200 pink salmon with 10 reported deliveries. Pink salmon harvest contribution from the period on July 22, was 65% SGH, 6% CCH, 6% WNH, and 24% wild.

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** The Coghill District, excluding waters of the Esther Subdistrict and WNH SHA and THA, will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet harvest for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 28. **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 purse**

**seine and drift gillnet harvest for a 48-hour period starting at 6:00 am on Friday, July 29.** 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. Preliminary harvest estimate for the period ending on Monday, July 25 was 14,200 pink, 1,400 sockeye salmon, and 2,000 chum salmon with 39 deliveries reported.

**NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 28. Preliminary harvest for the period on Monday, July 25 was 106,700 pink salmon and 6,200 chum salmon with 13 reported deliveries.

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Southwestern District, excluding the San Juan Subdistrict and AFK THA and SHA, **south of the latitude of 60°11.50' N. lat., and waters of eastern Knight Island east of Point Helen (147°46.27' W. long.),** will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, July 28.

**MONTAGUE DISTRICT:** Waters of the Montague District, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period starting at 6:00 am on Thursday, July 28.

**SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 28.

**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: [2022-2024 Prince William Sound Area Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations \(alaska.gov\)](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws)**

**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 Saturday, July 30. The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm on Saturday, July 30.**

Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements based on current escapement data may occur at anytime 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 CopperRiver 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.

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