



## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: July 30, 2022*

**CONTACT: Heather Scannell and Jeremy Botz**

**Finfish Area Management Biologists**

**(907) 424-3212**

### Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #43

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, August 1 for a 36-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 7/28 was 786,834 fish whereas 620,039 fish are projected by this date. Salmon enumeration at the sonar ended at midnight on 7/28. For the week ending July 30, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 37,665 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 32,568 – 79,979. Observational conditions on this

survey were good. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, July 25 was 1,800 sockeye salmon with 12 deliveries reported.

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

**ESHAMY DISTRICT:** The Eshamy District **north of Loomis Creek (60° 29.44'N., 147° 58.42'W.)**, will open to commercial **drift and set gillnet** harvest for a **24-hour period** starting at 8:00 am on Monday, August 1. The AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. The Eshamy River weir has passed 3,342 sockeye salmon through 7/29 with a cumulative target of 2,611–5,623 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, July 28 was 1,600 sockeye, and 1,100 pink salmon with 19 reported deliveries.

**SEINE FISHERIES:** PWSAC has begun its cost recovery sales program at WNH and AFK and has collected approximately 5% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal. Additional cost recovery effort is ongoing and dependent upon run entry at AFK, WNH, and CCH.

Aerial surveys of all districts were flown this week and wild stocks in most districts 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 Thursday, August 4, with time and area specifics to be announced on Wednesday, August 3.

**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, south of a line from a Potato Point to Entrance Point, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Monday, August 1. Preliminary harvest for the period on Thursday, July 28 was 503,600 pink salmon with 96 reported deliveries. Pink salmon harvest contribution from the period on July 25, was 70% SGH, 28% wild, and 2% AFK.

**NORTHERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Northern District, excluding the Perry Island and Cannery Creek Subdistricts and CCH THA and SHA, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Monday, August 1. Preliminary harvest for the period on Thursday, July 28 was 193,000 pink salmon with 32 reported deliveries. Pink salmon harvest contribution from the period on July 25, was 75% SGH, 23% wild, and 2% CCH.

**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 Monday, August 1. **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 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Sunday, July 31, and for two 14-hour periods starting at 6:00 am on Tuesday, August 2, and at 6:00 am on Wednesday, August 3.** 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 Thursday, July 28 was 19,000 pink salmon with 27 reported deliveries.

**Waters inside of the following Coghill District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for the Monday, August 1, period to ensure escapement:**

- (1) **Bettles Bay:** west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.16' N. lat., 148°14.76' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°54.97' N. lat., 148°16.09' W. long.;

- (2) **Hummer Bay**: west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°53.56' N. lat., 148°16.62' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°51.56' N. lat., 148°17.52' W. long.;
- (3) **Pigot Bay**: west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°49.96' N. lat., 148°19.07' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°00.40' N. lat., 148°20.12' W. long.;

**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 Monday, August 1. Preliminary harvest for the period on Thursday, July 28 was 27,000 pink salmon with 4 reported deliveries.

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

- (1) **Port Nellie Juan**: south and west of a line from a shore marker approximately 60°30.36' N. lat, 148°15.03' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°32.36' N. lat., 148°19.42' W. long.;

**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 Monday, August 1. Preliminary harvest for the period on Thursday, July 28 was 56,200 pink salmon with 14 reported deliveries.

**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 Monday, August 1. Preliminary harvest for the period on Thursday, July 28 was 2,400 pink salmon with 4 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: [2022-2024 Prince William Sound Area Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations \(alaska.gov\)](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main)**

**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 Wednesday, August 3. The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, August 3.**

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.