



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #59

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will remain closed. A coho salmon aerial survey will be conducted when observational conditions improve in Copper River Delta index systems. The preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, August 22 was 20,000 coho salmon with 168 deliveries reported.

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 will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on all remaining Saturdays through 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.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will remain closed. A coho salmon aerial survey will be conducted when observational conditions improve in Bering River District index systems. No harvest was reported

for the 24-hour period that started on Monday, August 22.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Available harvestable surplus in the Coghill District is no longer predominately pink salmon and, per 5 AAC 24.370 (e)(5)(B), drift gillnet is anticipated to be the only legal commercial salmon fishing gear type for the remainder of the season. The Coghill District, excluding the WNH SHA and THA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 25.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Waters of Eshamy Bay, west of a line from 60° 28.51'N., 147° 59.10'W. to 60° 27.94'N., 147° 57.87'W., will open to commercial **drift gillnet** harvest for a **24-hour** period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 25. Waters of Eshamy Bay, west of a line from 60° 28.51'N., 147° 59.10'W. to 60° 27.94'N., 147° 57.87'W., will open to commercial **set gillnet** harvest for a **12-hour** period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 25. **Regulatory closed waters will be in effect for this period.** Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, August 22 were 400 sockeye, 15,300 pink, and 600 chum salmon with 25 deliveries reported.

SEINE FISHERIES: Fishing effort is declining and fishermen are encouraged to confirm their market prior to fishing. PWSAC began egg-take operations at WNH on August 23 and broodstock acquisition at AFK and CCH is ongoing. VFDA is approximately 80% complete with egg-take goal as of August 23. Future fishing opportunities targeting PWSAC enhanced pink salmon will be contingent on broodstock acquisition.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District, south of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for three 12-hour periods, from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., on Thursday, August 25, Friday, August 26, and Saturday, August 27.

Waters inside the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) marker will be closed for these periods to ensure late season chum escapement:

(1) **Port Fidalgo Subdistrict:** waters east of 146° 24.12' W. long.

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 p.m. on Saturday, August 27. The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 27.

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.