



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 26, 2022

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #60

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District, east of a line from 60° 20.33'N., 145° 20.00'W. to 60° 04.90'N., 145° 38.00'W. (Figure 1), will open at 7:00 am on Monday, August 29 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Current western Copper River District harvest is tracking well below historical harvest trends. The 2019 drought in PWS may have reduced survival rates for this year's coho salmon run and conservative management is warranted. 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 open at 7:00 am on Monday, August 29 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. 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 Monday, August 29.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 29. The AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. The Eshamy River weir has passed 19,266 sockeye salmon through 8/25 with a cumulative target of 10,736–23,125 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, August 25 are not yet available.

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, at AFK on August 25, and egg take at CCH is anticipated to begin this weekend. It is estimated that PWSAC has sufficient broodstock at WNH, while broodstock acquisition at CCH and AFK is ongoing. As of today, August 26, VFDA has reached their egg take goal. 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 four 12-hour periods, from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., on Sunday, August 28, Monday, August 29, Tuesday, August 30 and Wednesday, August 31.

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 \(alaska.gov\)](http://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 fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 31.

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.

Figure 1. Copper River District closed water line, August 29-30, 2022.

