



Advisory Announcement

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CONTACT: Heather Scannell and Jeremy Botz

Finfish Area Management Biologists

(907) 424-3212

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #61

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: Copper River District will remain closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing. The fishery is closed due to survey counts remaining below weekly escapement targets. For the week ending September 3, the Copper River Delta survey count was 6,530 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 21,447 – 44,904. The 2022 cumulative harvest through August 31 is approximately **35,100** including the **11,300** coho salmon harvested for the fishing period that started August 29. This cumulative harvest is **74,000** fish below the recent 10-year average of 109,000 coho salmon harvested by this date.

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: Bering River District will remain closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing. The fishery is closed due to survey counts remaining below weekly escapement targets. For the week ending September 3, the Bering River District survey count was 1,520 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 8,803 – 22,345. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, August 29 were 7,800 coho salmon with 67 deliveries reported.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding the WNH SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 1. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, August 29 were 2,900 coho salmon with 21 deliveries reported.

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, September 1. 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, September 1. **Regulatory closed waters will be in effect for this period.** No harvest was reported for the 24-hour period that started on Monday, August 29.

SEINE FISHERIES: PWS purse seine fisheries will be closed through Monday, September 5. The next commercial purse seine fishery is anticipated to occur within Port Valdez, targeting VFDA surplus coho salmon, with time and area announced on Saturday, September 3. To date, PWSAC eggtake is 67% complete at WNH, 58% complete at AFK, and 18% complete at CCH. Future fishing opportunities targeting PWSAC enhanced pink salmon will be contingent on broodstock acquisition.

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 fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 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.