



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: September 2, 2022

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #62

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open to **subsistence** fishing at 7:00 am on Monday, September 5 for a 24-hour fishing period. Copper River District is anticipated to remain closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing through Wednesday, September 7 due to survey counts remaining below weekly escapement targets. The next aerial survey will likely be flown early next week. 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 September 2 is approximately **35,100** including the **11,300** coho salmon harvested for the fishing period that started August 29. This cumulative harvest is **91,000** fish below the recent 10-year average of 126,000 coho salmon harvested by this date.

The Coast Guard will decommission for the season the following lights on the Copper River Delta starting September 12, 2022 due to limited equipment availability:

Peter Dahl Bar Channel Light (60-18-16.716N, 145-34-25.243W)

Grass Island Light (60-15-19.680N, 145-18-14.934W)

Kokenhenic Bar Channel Light (60-13-31.771N, 145-09-49.458W)

Softuk Bar Channel Light (60-13-13.789N, 144-58-58.908W)

Mariners are requested to transit the area with caution. Any questions or concerns can be directed to LTJG Matt Hall at 907-424-3434.

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 Kokenhenic	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
Little Softuk

60° 13.93' N.
60° 13.16' N.

144° 50.66' W.
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 is anticipated to remain closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing through Wednesday, September 7. 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 Saturday, September 3 and a 60-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, September 5. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, September 1 are not yet available.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, September 5. The AGZ will open to **SET GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. No harvest has been reported for more than a week and the Eshamy District is anticipated to close for the season at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 6.

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 \(alaska.gov\)](#)

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 gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 7.

The next scheduled seine 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.