



## Advisory Announcement

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### Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #68

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open to **subsistence** fishing at 7:00 am on Monday, September 19 for a 24-hour fishing period. Copper River District is anticipated to remain closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing through Wednesday, September 21 due to survey counts being below weekly escapement targets. The next aerial survey will be flown as early as next week when conditions permit. For the week ending September 10, the Copper River Delta survey count was 11,240 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 18,286 – 38,285. The 2022 cumulative harvest through September 14 is approximately **35,100**. This cumulative harvest is **165,000** fish below the recent 10-year average of 200,000 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.
<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 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 is anticipated to remain closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing through Wednesday, September 21. The fishery is closed due to survey counts remaining below weekly escapement targets. For the week ending September 10, the Bering River District survey count was 4,595 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 6,969 – 17,691.

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** The Coghill District, excluding the Esther Subdistrict and WNH THA and SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for an 84-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 15 and a 60-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, September 19. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, September 5 were 10,600 coho salmon with 166 deliveries reported. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 84-hour period that started on Thursday, September 8 were 3,200 coho salmon with 32 deliveries reported.

**SEINE FISHERIES:** The 2022 PWS purse seine season will close at 8:00 am on Saturday, September 17. Any permit holders interested in additional fishing opportunities should contact ADF&G in Cordova. Preliminary commercial common property pink salmon harvest estimates for the 2022 PWS season are 24.43 million pink salmon, composed of 18.42 million SGH pink salmon, 5.11 million wild pink salmon, and 900,000 PWSAC pink salmon.

**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 commercial fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21.**

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.