

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #69

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open to **subsistence** fishing at 7:00 am on Monday, September 26 for a 24-hour fishing period. Copper River District is anticipated to remain closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing through Wednesday, September 28 due to low survey counts and late stage of the run indicating continued potential for low run entry. The next aerial survey will be flown as early as next week when conditions permit. For the week ending September 24, the Copper River Delta survey count was 18,630 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 15,542 – 32,540. Survey conditions were largely good to fair during this flight, but a few index reaches were poor to unsurveyable due to high turbidity. Peak coho salmon survey counts to date add up to approximately 20,400 fish versus an escapement goal range of 32,000 to 67,000 fish. The 2022 cumulative harvest through September 14 is approximately **35,100**. This cumulative harvest is **183,000** fish below the recent 10-year average of 218,000 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: The Bering River District is anticipated to remain closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing through Wednesday, September 28. 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 22 and a 60-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, September 26. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, September 12 were 76 coho salmon with 4 deliveries reported. No harvest was reported for the 84-hour period that started on Thursday, September 15.

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/2022-2024-Prince-William-Sound-Area-Commercial-Salmon-Fishing-Regulations)

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 28.

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.