



Cordova Area Office
401 Railroad Ave.
Cordova, AK 99574

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: May 17, 2023

CONTACT: Jeremy Botz
Finfish Area Management Biologist
(907) 424-3212

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #2

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, May 18 for a 12-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be **CLOSED** during this period.

The **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be defined as waters north of a line connecting the following points:

| <i>Point</i> | <i>Latitude</i> | <i>Longitude</i> |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Steamboat North | 60° 22.87' N. | 145° 33.50' W. |
| Steamboat South | 60° 22.31' N. | 145° 33.50' W. |
| West side Pete Dahl Entrance | 60° 18.89' N. | 145° 30.99' W. |
| West end Grass Island | 60° 18.30' N. | 145° 28.42' W. |
| East end Grass Island | 60° 15.24' N. | 145° 17.89' W. |
| West end Kokenhenik Bar | 60° 15.00' N. | 145° 16.20' W. |
| East end Kokenhenik Bar | 60° 13.65' N. | 145° 09.46' W. |
| Western tip of Softuk Bar | 60° 13.68' N. | 145° 05.78' W. |
| Chinook Alternate #1 | 60° 13.79' N. | 144° 59.09' W. |
| Chinook Alternate #2 | 60° 13.64' N. | 144° 53.78' W. |
| Chinook Alternate #3 | 60° 12.64' N. | 144° 40.21' W. |

*Please note that the 'Coffee Creek West' point was replaced with 'Chinook Alternate #1'.

The grass bank marker line is defined in 5 AAC 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, excluding the expanded Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays from May 20 through October 28. 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. To assist with inseason harvest tracking, 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.

The Miles Lake sonar crew deployed on May 7. The banks of the river are currently covered with shore ice in the vicinity of the sonar sites. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 12-hour period that occurred on Monday, May 15 was 1,100 Chinook and 10,900 sockeye salmon with 359 deliveries reported. This compares to a projected harvest of 17,600 sockeye salmon for this period.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: Bering River District, west of a longitude line at 144° 28.20' W., will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, May 18 for a 12-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. The intent of this opening is to target Copper River sockeye salmon that are traveling through the western portion of this district. **As overlap with the Bering River sockeye salmon run timing increases, the likelihood of future early season opening in the Bering River District will diminish. Additionally, future openings of the Bering River District will be contingent on accurate reporting of harvest from within this district.**

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND: Subsistence fishing will be open on Saturdays, 6:00 am to 10:00 pm, from May 20 through October 28 during the commercial fishing season in all PWS salmon fishing districts. On May 15 at 8:00 am, districts in PWS outside of the Chenega and the Tatitlek Subsistence Areas (5 AAC 01.648) opened for subsistence harvest to the gear types specified in 5 AAC 24.330(a), (b), and (c), until two days prior to the commercial opening of that district and will reopen concurrent with commercial fishing periods until that district is closed at the end of the season. Gear is restricted to gillnets that are up to 50 fathoms in length and seines that are up to 50 fathoms in length and 100 meshes deep as described in 5AAC 01.620(b)(3). The Tatitlek and Chenega Subsistence Areas described in 5 AAC 01.648 will also open to subsistence harvest at 8:00 am on May 15. Legal gear types in the Tatitlek and Chenega Subsistence Areas are 150 fathom set or drift gillnets, 50 fathom seines, and dipnets in freshwater for pink salmon. Commercial fishing districts within these subsistence areas will close to subsistence harvest two days prior to the commercial opening of that district and will reopen concurrent with commercial fishing periods until that district is closed at the end of the season. 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. To assist with inseason harvest tracking, 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.

Copies of the updated regulation booklet, *2022-2024 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are available in the Cordova ADFG office.

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 salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Friday, May 19.

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 907-267-2843.

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 Copper River 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.

The department also encourages permit holders to report observed violations to Wildlife Safeguard at 800-478-3377. Reports are anonymous and cash rewards may be paid for successful prosecution of violations.