



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #20

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, July 10 for a 48-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period.

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.

Cumulative sonar count through 7/6 is 644,583 fish whereas 480,597 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 7/7 is 6,933 fish. For the week ending July 8, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 35,350 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 30,055 – 71,040. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 48-hour period that started on Monday, July 3 were 43,200 sockeye and 120 Chinook salmon with 161 deliveries reported. The cumulative Copper River District harvest to date is 9,950 Chinook and 620,000 sockeye salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open to commercial salmon fishing, west of a longitude line at 144° 33.60' W., for a 48-hour period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, July 10.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Granite Bay Subdistrict within Esther Passage east of a longitude line at 148° 02.94' W. will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 8. The Esther Subdistrict, excluding the area along the south shore of Esther Island inside of lines from 60° 47.30' N., 148° 00.60' W. to 60° 46.20' N., 148° 00.60' W. to 60° 46.20' N., 148° 07.50' W. to 60° 47.40' N., 148° 07.50' W, and excluding the WNH THA and SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest

for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 pm on Saturday, July 8. The Coghill District, excluding the area along the south shore of Esther Island inside of lines from 60° 47.30' N., 148° 00.60' W. to 60° 46.20' N., 148° 00.60' W. to 60° 46.20' N., 148° 07.50' W. to 60° 47.40' N., 148° 07.50' W, and excluding the WNH THA and SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 60-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 10. . **Until further notice, regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B)), will not be in effect during open commercial fishing periods. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide.** The Coghill River weir has passed 14,993 sockeye salmon through 7/6 with a cumulative target of 10,202–38,259 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, July 3 were 234,000 chum and 32,500 sockeye salmon with 745 deliveries reported.

PWSAC recommends opening the Esther Subdistrict starting at 8:00 pm, Saturday, July 8, with area in front of the WNH THA and SHA remaining closed for broodstock protection. Hatchery staff estimate approximately 150,000 chum salmon of the 228,000 broodstock goal inside the barrier seine. Brood collection continues daily as run entry allows.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District, excluding the Main Bay Hatchery AGZ inside a line of buoys in front of the barrier seine, will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 10. The AGZ will open to **SET GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, July 6 is not yet available.

PWSAC recommends keeping the inner portion of the MBH AGZ closed for broodstock collection. PWSAC is 100% complete on the 2023 MBH sockeye revenue goal.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: The Port Chalmers Subdistrict will open to drift gillnet fishing for a 60-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 10 with an additional 84-hour period beginning at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 13. A regular schedule of two fishing periods per week is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. The western boundary of the Port Chalmers Subdistrict is defined by lines from 60°20.00'N., 147°26.59'W. to 60°14.75'N., 147°35.35'W. to 60°02.50'N., 147°44.41'W. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice.** Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, July 3 were 74,300 chum, 1,400 pink, and 120 sockeye salmon with 135 deliveries reported.

UNAKWIK DISTRICT: The Unakwik District will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 10. The harvest for the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, July 6 is not yet available.

SEINE FISHERIES: VFDA began its cost recovery sales program on Monday, July 3, and has collected approximately 18% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal. Pink salmon cost recovery harvest from yesterday, July 6, resulted in an average weight of 3.18 pounds per fish and 10% female. VFDA cost recovery is continuing today.

An aerial survey of the Southeastern District was conducted on Wednesday, July 5 and a partial survey of the Eastern District was conducted yesterday, July 6. A full survey of the Eastern and Northern Districts is expected to occur tomorrow, July 8. Based upon current indices of run entry and escapement, a fishery targeting wild stocks

is warranted. Depending on wild stock run entry and escapement and VFDA cost recovery progress, the next anticipated fishing period may occur as early as Monday, July 10, with time and area announced on Sunday, July 9.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District, **excluding all waters north of the latitude of 60° 52.00'N.**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, July 8. Otolith contribution estimates from the period occurring on July 5 were 89% wild and 11% SGH. Preliminary harvest estimates from the period occurring on Wednesday, July 5 were 117,000 pink and 20,400 chum salmon with 102 deliveries reported.

Waters inside the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed to commercial fishing during this period to ensure early season escapement:

- (1) **Sheep Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60° 41.13' N., 145° 58.87' W. to a shore marker at approximately 60° 40.46' N., 145° 58.01' W.
- (2) **Beartrap Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60° 45.13' N., 146° 06.12' W., to a shore marker at approximately 60° 44.51' N., 146° 04.57' W.; **this includes all waters of Port Gravina and Beartrap Bay inside of this line;**
- (3) **St. Matthews Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60° 43.36' N., 146° 19.07' W., to a shore maker at approximately 60° 43.61' N., 146° 21.17' W.;
- (4) **Olsen Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60° 43.46' N., 146° 10.14' W., to a shore marker at approximately 60° 43.21' N., 146° 13.97' W.;
- (5) **Irish Cove:** south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60° 46.73' N., 146° 26.62' W. to a shore marker at approximately 60° 46.27' N., 146° 27.12' W.
- (6) **Landlocked Bay:** waters north of 60° 50.76' N.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, July 8.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery SHA and THA will open to purse seine fishing for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 8. **Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery SHA and THA will not be in effect until further notice.** Preliminary harvest estimates from the period ending on Thursday, July 6 were 24,200 chum, 3,900 pink and 1,900 sockeye salmon with 24 deliveries reported.

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 seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Sunday, July 9.

The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 12.

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.