



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 26, 2023

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #34

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District, south of a line from Entrance Point to Potato Point, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 27. Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period that occurred on July 24 were 1.44 million pink and 26,500 chum salmon with 181 reported deliveries.

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

- (1) **Jack Bay:** south and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.34' N. lat., 146°35.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.17' N. lat., 146°39.77' W. long.;
- (2) **Sawmill Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.71' N. lat., 146°46.44' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.58' N. lat., 146°47.07' W. long.
- (3) **Galena Bay:** east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.87' N. lat., 146°39.87' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.55' N. lat., 146°39.65' W. long.;
- (4) **Landlocked Bay:** waters north of 60°50.76' N. lat.;
- (5) **Irish Cove:** south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°46.73' N. lat., 146°26.62' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°46.27' N. lat., 146°27.12' W. long.;
- (6) **Port Fidalgo Subdistrict:** waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.

GILLNET FISHERIES

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 27 for a 60-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 7/25 is 972,814 fish whereas 570,339 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 7/26 is 1,750 fish. For the week ending July 15, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 62,395 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 31,424 – 74,276. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Thursday, July 20 were 28,300 sockeye salmon with 196 deliveries reported. The cumulative Copper River District harvest to date is 10,400 Chinook and 829,000 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 60-hour period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 27.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The MBH SHA and AGZ will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 27. The AGZ will open to SET GILLNET permit holders only during this fishing period.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: The Port Chalmers Subdistrict will open to drift gillnet fishing for an 84-hour period beginning at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 27. **The drift gillnet fishing season in the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will close at 8:00 pm on Sunday, July 30.** 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 for this fishing period.** Preliminary harvest estimates from the 84-hour period that started on Thursday, July 20 were 16,500 chum with 22 deliveries reported.

The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, July 29.
The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, July 29.

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.