



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: September 6, 2023

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #58

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, September 11 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. The standard management strategy for coho salmon is one or two 24-hour periods per week depending on escapement and harvest levels.

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.

For the week ending September 9, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 17,300 coho salmon versus an anticipated range 21,447 – 44,904. Overall observational conditions during this survey were fair with some index reaches unsurveyable due to high water conditions. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, September 4 were 50 sockeye and 28,200 coho salmon with 222 deliveries reported. The cumulative Copper River District harvest to date is 68,900 coho and 855,000 sockeye salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, September 11 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. The standard management strategy for coho salmon in the Bering River District is to fish concurrent fishing time with the Copper River District. For the week ending September 9, the actual Bering River District survey count was 12,200 coho salmon versus an anticipated range 6,969 – 17,691. Overall observational conditions during this survey were fair with some index reaches unsurveyable due to high water conditions. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, September 4 were 6,500 coho salmon with 41 deliveries reported.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, September 11. The AGZ will open to SET GILLNET permit holders only during this fishing period. No harvest was reported for the 24-hour period that started on Monday, September 4. The Eshamy District commercial salmon fishing season will close at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 12.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding the WNH SHA and THA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 7. Additionally, the Coghill District, excluding the WNH SHA and THA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, September 11.

The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, September 13.

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.