



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: September 13, 2023

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #59

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, September 14 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Additionally, the Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, September 18 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 11 were 22,200 coho salmon with 141 deliveries reported. The cumulative Copper River District harvest to date is 91,200 coho salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, September 14 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Additionally, the Bering River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, September 18 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 11 were 6,400 coho salmon with 25 deliveries reported.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District will remain closed. Coho salmon brood stock abundance indices remain well below anticipated at WNH and PWSAC recommends keeping the fishery closed. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, September 7 were 2,150 coho salmon with 36 deliveries reported. No harvest was reported for the 36-hour period that started on Monday, September 11.

SEINE FISHERIES: The last reported purse seine delivery occurred on August 26. The PWS purse seine fishery will close for the 2023 season at 8:00 pm tonight, September 13.

The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, September 20.

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.