



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 27, 2024

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #29

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, July 29 for a 60-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **standard Chinook salmon inside closure area** will be **OPEN** during this fishing period. Cumulative passage at the Miles Lake sonar station indicates that the inriver goal has been met and supports opening the Copper River District commercial fishery. Fishing effort is spread out between the Copper River District and other gillnet fisheries in Prince William Sound. Copper River District Chinook salmon average harvest timing (2014-2023) is 100% complete through this date. The opening of the standard Chinook salmon inside closure area is to help increase sockeye salmon harvest potential.

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 will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays from July 11 through October 28. **Subsistence fishing in the Copper River District is not allowed 24 hours before open commercial fishing periods.** 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.

Cumulative sonar count through 7/26 is 941,870 fish, whereas 592,232 fish are expected by this date based on historical run timing applied to the 2024 inriver goal. The daily count for 7/26 was 4,390 fish and the 0600 count for 7/27 was 698 fish. For the week ending July 20, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 72,826 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 31,424 – 74,276. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 48-hour period that started on Monday, July 22 were 8,300 sockeye and 11 Chinook salmon with 66 deliveries reported. The cumulative Copper River District harvest to date is 1.40 million sockeye, 8,860 Chinook, and 31,600 chum salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open to commercial salmon fishing for a 60-hour period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, July 29. For the week ending July 20, the actual Bering River District survey count was 19,560 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 11,004 – 24,208. The cumulative Bering River District harvest to date is 58,700 sockeye salmon.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Wild sockeye, chum, and pink salmon run timing overlap is increasing and area is being reduced to provide for escapement in district streams and to allow for run entry to other districts. The Eshamy District north of Loomis Creek (60° 29.44'N., 147° 58.42'W.), will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 29. The AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period.

The Eshamy River weir has passed 1,737 sockeye salmon through 7/26 with a cumulative target of 2,160–4,652 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, July 25 were 2,800 sockeye, 170 chum, and 1,010 pink salmon with 12 deliveries reported. The cumulative Eshamy District commercial harvest to date is 1.16 million sockeye, 72,100 chum, and 71,900 pink salmon.

UNAKWIK DISTRICT: The Unakwik District is closed for the 2024 season.

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for commercial purse seine fishing opportunities in PWS on Sunday, July 28. Future opportunities targeting wild stocks will depend on aerial survey results, run entry, and otolith contributions. Cumulative pink salmon common property pink salmon harvest through July 26 is very poor at 3.94 million, which is 68% below the 10-year, even-year average (2004-2022) of 12.22 million fish.

VFDA has recommended a fishing opportunity in the Port to target surplus SGH pink salmon. Future fishing opportunities targeting SGH pink salmon will depend on continued run entry into the Port and broodstock recruitment. To date, the SGH total run size is tracking below the lower end of their forecast of 7.77 million fish.

PWSAC pink salmon have started to appear in contribution estimates. To facilitate PWSAC cost recovery, terminal areas and subdistricts will be closed for these fishing periods. Future fishing opportunities targeting PWSAC pink salmon will depend on run entry and cost recovery progress. Cost recovery is expected to begin early next week.

An aerial survey of the Eastern District was conducted on July 25, the Southeastern District is being surveyed today, and the Northern, Coghill, and Northwestern Districts are scheduled to be surveyed tomorrow, July 28. To date, districtwide Eastern District escapement trends are within the expected ranges for this timeframe. Other districts that have not had the same aerial survey coverage as the Eastern District are below or within expected ranges; however, some of those districts have later run-timed stocks, so current escapement trends to those districts are not unexpected.

Pink salmon preliminary contribution estimates from recent fishing periods are as follows:

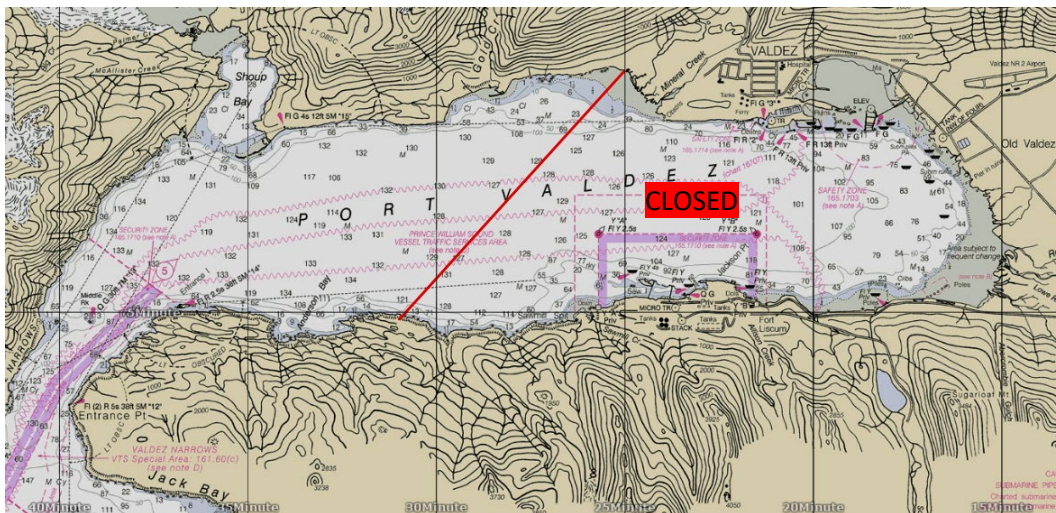
- Eastern District: Period 4 – 79% SGH, and 21% wild
- Northern District: Period 1 – 55% SGH, 41 % wild, and 4% CCH
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5 AAC 24.350 Closed Waters. Unless otherwise specified, all regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures are in effect.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm, on Sunday, July 28. **The waters of Port Valdez east of a line from a point on shore at 61°04.90' N. lat., 146°31.00' W. long. to a point on shore at 61°08.10' N. lat., 146°25.00' W. long.; will be CLOSED to commercial fishing during this period.** Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point will not be in effect during this fishing period. Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period that occurred on July 25 were 540,000 pink and 1,900 chum salmon with 111 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 early season 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.



NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District, excluding the Cannery Creek and Perry Island Subdistricts, and CCH THA and SHA, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm, on Sunday, July 28. Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period that occurred on July 25 were 36,500 pink salmon with 8 reported deliveries.

Waters inside of the following Northern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure early season escapement. Waters closed for this period include the following areas:

- (1) **Long Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°57.63' N. lat., 147°13.50' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°57.01' N. lat., 147°15.47' W. long.;
- (2) **Granite Bay:** north and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°55.02' N. lat., 147°27.61' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°54.66' N. lat., 147°26.72' W. long.;
- (3) **Cedar Bay:** north and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.46' N. lat., 147°27.03' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.03' N. lat., 147°26.39' W. long.;
- (4) **Wells Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.75' N. lat., 147°29.92' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°57.08' N. lat., 147°28.14' W. long.;
- (5) **Eaglek Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°50.66' N. lat., 147°40.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°50.56' N. lat., 147°44.57' W. long.;

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour fishing period, from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm, on Sunday, July 28. Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period that occurred on July 25 were 24,900 pink salmon with 6 reported deliveries.

Waters inside of the following Northwestern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure early season escapement. Waters closed for this period include the following areas:

- (1) **Cochrane Bay:** south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°44.91' N. lat., 148°17.12' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°46.01' N. lat., 148°21.77' W. long.;
- (2) **Culross Pass:** within the passage south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°45.47' N. lat., 148°12.63' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°45.82' N. lat., 148°13.57' W. long. and north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°37.48' N. lat., 148°10.12' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°37.16' N. lat., 148°11.42' W. long.;
- (3) **Port Nellie Juan:** south and west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°30.36' N. lat., 148°15.03' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°32.36' N. lat., 148°19.42' W. long.;

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding waters of the Esther Subdistrict and WNH THA and SHA, will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet harvest for a 12-hour fishing period, from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm, on Sunday, July 28. The estimated harvest for the 12-hour period ending on July 25 is confidential.

Waters of College Fiord, north of a latitude line at 61°01.80'N., will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet harvest for a 60-hour period starting at 7:00 am on Monday, July 29. Regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B)), will not be in effect for this fishing period. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide. As of July 26, 85,562 sockeye salmon have passed the Coghill River weir versus a cumulative anticipated range of 19,888 – 74,579 fish. Additionally, as of July 26, 4,644 pink salmon have passed the Coghill weir.

Waters inside of the following Coghill District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure early season escapement. Waters closed for this period include the following areas:

- (1) **Bettles Bay:** west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.16' N. lat., 148°14.76' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°54.97' N. lat., 148°16.09' W. long.;

- (2) **Hummer Bay:** west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°53.56' N. lat., 148°16.62' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°51.76' N. lat., 148°17.52' W. long.;
- (3) **Pigot Bay:** west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°49.96' N. lat., 148°19.07' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°49.08' N. lat., 148°20.12' W. long.;

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: Waters of the Montague District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm, on Sunday, July 28.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., on Sunday, July 28. The estimated harvest for the 12-hour period ending on July 25 was 28,000 pink salmon, with 6 reported deliveries.

The next scheduled salmon seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 31. The next scheduled salmon gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 31.

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.