



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 31, 2024

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #30

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, August 1 for an 84-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period and for a 60-hour period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, August 5. Waters within the **standard Chinook salmon inside closure area** will be **OPEN** during these fishing periods. 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 low and 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 7/28 is 946,638 fish, whereas 599,155 fish are expected by this date based on historical run timing applied to the 2024 inriver goal. The daily count for 7/28 was 2,580 fish and represents the last daily count of the season. 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 60-hour period that started on Thursday, July 25 were 3,200 sockeye and 7 Chinook salmon with 34 deliveries reported. The cumulative Copper River District harvest to date is 1.40 million sockeye, 8,870 Chinook, and 31,600 chum salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open to commercial salmon fishing for an 84-hour period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 1 and for a 60-hour period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, August 5. 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 Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, August 1. The AGZ will open to **SET GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. 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, August 5. The AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period.

The Eshamy River weir has passed 2,435 sockeye salmon through 7/29 with a cumulative target of 2,611–5,623 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, July 29 are not yet available. The cumulative Eshamy District commercial harvest to date is 1.16 million sockeye, 72,100 chum, and 71,900 pink salmon.

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for commercial purse seine fishing opportunities in PWS on Saturday, August 3. Future opportunities targeting wild stocks will depend on aerial survey results, run entry, and otolith contributions. Cumulative pink salmon common property harvest through July 30 is at 4.48 million compared to a 10-year, even-year average (2004-2022) of 13.25 million fish for the same date.

Aerial surveys of the Southeastern, Northern, Coghill, and Northwestern Districts were conducted this weekend, and the remaining districts will be surveyed today and later this week. Escapement trends are within the expected ranges for this timeframe; however, that is with minimal fishing pressure. It is anticipated that pink and chum salmon wild stocks may sustain a fishing schedule of 1 period per week.

VFDA is in the process of collecting and securing broodstock, and PWSAC pink salmon cost recovery is expected to begin later this week.

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

- Northwestern District: Period 2 – 90% wild, 3% SGH, 3% WNH, and 3% AFK
- Northern District: Period 2 – 56% wild, 22 % CCH, 16% SGH, and 5% WNH
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5 AAC 24.350 Closed Waters. Unless otherwise specified, all regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures are in effect. Alaska Fish Resource Monitor ([Alaska Fish Resource Monitor \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)) has an interactive map highlighting approximate locations of cataloged anadromous streams.

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 12-hour period, from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm, on Saturday, August 3.

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.

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 Saturday, August 3.

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: 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 an 84-hour period starting at 7:00 am on Thursday, August 1. 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 27, 86,969 sockeye salmon have passed the Coghill River weir versus a cumulative anticipated range of 19,970 – 74,889 fish. Additionally, as of July 26, 4,733 pink salmon have passed the Coghill weir. The Coghill weir was pulled for the 2024 season at 11:30 am on July 27.

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 Saturday, August 3.

The next scheduled salmon seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, August 7.

The next scheduled salmon gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, August 7.

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.