



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #35

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, August 22 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 August 17, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 24,070 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 26,465 – 62,553. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, August 15 were 1,900 coho and 180 sockeye salmon with 28 deliveries reported. The cumulative Copper River District harvest to date is 1.40 million sockeye, 8,870 Chinook, 31,600 chum, and 4,020 coho salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open to commercial salmon fishing for a 24-hour period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 22. 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 August 17, the actual Bering River District survey count was 1,850 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 2,416 – 5,316. The cumulative Bering River District harvest to date is 210 coho and 58,700 sockeye salmon.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Waters of Eshamy Bay, west of a line from 60° 28.51'N., 147° 59.10'W. to 60° 27.94'N., 147° 57.87'W., will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 22. The Eshamy District will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, August 26. The AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period.

The Eshamy River weir has passed 12,066 sockeye salmon through 8/20 with a cumulative target of 8,921–19,214 fish for the date. No harvest was reported for the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, August 15. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, August 19 are not yet available. The cumulative Eshamy District commercial harvest to date is 1.17 million sockeye, 73,700 chum, 95,600 pink, and 370 coho salmon.

SEINE FISHERIES: Price William Sound purse seine fisheries will remain closed. The next commercial fishing opportunity will depend on PWSAC coast recovery progress and broodstock recruitment.

PWSAC began its cost recovery sales program on Friday, August 2, and has collected approximately 58% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal.

AFK: Cost recovery took place on Sunday, August 18. The average weight was 3.1 pounds, and the female percentage was 56%. Brood collection began on 8/14. Staff estimates that the hatchery has its brood stock goal available in front of it. Brood collection and cost recovery are assessed daily.

WNH: Brood collection began on 8/14. An estimated 75,000 fish are behind the barrier seine and available as brood. Run entry is currently only supporting brood collection. Brood collection at WNH remains below expectations. PWSAC is consulting with ADF&G on implementing the collection of more fish available as brood at AFK to potentially collect eggs for WNH.

CCH: Cost recovery took place yesterday, with an average weight of 3.1 pounds and a female percentage daily average of 37%. Sampling near the end of the day averaged 50% female. Brood collection began on 8/16. To date, an estimated 240,000 fish are available as brood. Brood collection and cost recovery are assessed daily.

Egg-take operations at VFDA began on Monday, August 5. VFDA continues to experience reduced entry into the hatchery raceways and high male counts, affecting egg-take progress. Through August 20th, VFDA has collected approximately 31% of its 270 million pink salmon green egg take goal.

Aerial surveys of all districts will continue through early September to monitor the escapement of later-timed stocks returning to PWS.

The next scheduled salmon seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, August 28.

The next scheduled salmon gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, August 28.

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.