



## Advisory Announcement

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### Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #39

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, September 5 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.        |
| <b>Little Softuk</b>  | <b>60° 13.16' N.</b> | <b>144° 41.38' W.</b> |

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 7, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 30,920 coho salmon versus an anticipated range 21,447 – 44,904. High water and associated turbidity resulted in some index reaches not being surveyed. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, September 2 was 27,100 coho salmon with 199 deliveries reported. The cumulative Copper River District harvest to date is 1.40 million sockeye, 8,870 Chinook, 31,600 chum, and 92,300 coho salmon.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** The Bering River District will open to commercial salmon fishing for a 24-hour period starting at 7:00 am on Thursday, September 5. 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 24, the actual Bering River District survey count was 4,350 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 4,002 – 10,158. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, September 2 was 21,200 coho salmon with 125 deliveries reported. The cumulative Bering River District harvest to date is 36,900 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,

September 5. The Eshamy District will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, September 9. The AGZ will open to DRIFT GILLNET permit holders only during this fishing period.

The Eshamy River weir passed 13,612 sockeye salmon this season and was within the escapement goal range of 13,000–28,000 fish. No harvest was reported for the 24-hour period that started on Monday, September 2. The cumulative Eshamy District commercial harvest to date is 1.17 million sockeye, 73,700 chum, 98,700 pink, and 520 coho salmon.

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** Harvestable surplus in the Coghill District is anticipated to no longer be predominately pink salmon and, per 5 AAC 24.370 (e)(5)(B), drift gillnet is anticipated to be the only legal commercial salmon fishing gear type for the remainder of the season. The Coghill District, excluding the WNH SHA and THA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 24-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 5.

**SEINE FISHERIES:** This announcement provides time and area specifics for harvesting surplus pink salmon. Most hatchery subdistricts will remain closed to facilitate PWSAC and VFDA escapement. Fishermen are encouraged to confirm their market prior to fishing. Prince William Sound fisheries will close following the period occurring on Friday, September 13.

**EASTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Eastern District, **south of the latitude of 60° 59.00' N. lat.,** will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12 hours daily, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., beginning Thursday, September 5, through Friday, September 13.

**NORTHERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Northern District, excluding waters of the Cannery Creek and Perry Island Subdistricts and CCH THA and SHA, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12 hours daily, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., beginning Thursday, September 5, through Friday, September 13.

**NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12 hours daily, beginning Thursday, September 5, through Friday, September 13.

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Southwestern District, south of the latitude of 60° 11.50' N and east of Point Helen (147° 46.27' W.) and excluding waters of the Port San Juan and Pt. Elrington Subdistricts and AFK THA and SHA, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12 hours daily, beginning Thursday, September 5, through Friday, September 13.

**MONTAGUE DISTRICT:** Waters of the Montague District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12 hours daily, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., beginning Thursday, September 5, through Friday, September 13.

**SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12 hours daily, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., beginning Thursday, September 5, through Friday, September 13.

**The next scheduled salmon seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Friday, September 13.**

**The next scheduled salmon gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, September 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.