



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: September 6, 2024

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #40

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, September 9 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 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 Thursday, September 5 are not yet available. 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 Monday, September 9. 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 Thursday, September 5 are not yet available. The cumulative Bering River District harvest to date is 36,900 coho and 58,700 sockeye salmon.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: 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. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, September 5 are not yet available. 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 Monday, September 9.

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 Wednesday, September 11.

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.