



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #41

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open to subsistence fishing at 7:00 am on Thursday, September 12 for a 24-hour fishing period. The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, September 16 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Due to declining run entry indices, Copper River District is expected to remain closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing for the remainder of this week to build additional escapement. 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 were 5,200 coho salmon with 71 deliveries reported. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, September 9 were 6,700 coho salmon with 103 deliveries reported. The cumulative Copper River District harvest to date is 1.40 million sockeye, 8,870 Chinook, 31,600 chum, and 106,100 coho salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, September 16 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Due to declining run entry indices, Bering River District is expected to remain closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing for the remainder of this week to build additional escapement. 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 were 3,700 coho salmon with 41 deliveries reported. Preliminary harvest

estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, September 9 were 5,100 coho salmon with 55 deliveries reported. The cumulative Bering River District harvest to date is 43,900 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 12. The Eshamy District will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, September 16. The AGZ will open to SET GILLNET permit holders only during this fishing period. No harvest has been reported in the Eshamy District since late August and the district will close for the season at 8:00 am on Tuesday, September 17.

The Eshamy River weir passed 13,612 sockeye salmon this season and was within the escapement goal range of 13,000–28,000 fish. 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: The Coghill District, **including the WNH THA and SHA**, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 24-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, September 12 and at 8:00 am on Monday, September 16.

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 18.

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.