



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: September 18, 2024

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #43

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: Fishing effort is anticipated to be low moving forward and a regular fishing schedule is being established to provide harvest opportunity through the remainder of the season. The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, September 19, Monday, September 23, Thursday, September 26, Monday, September 30, Thursday, October 3, Monday, October 7, and Thursday, October 10 for 36-hour commercial fishing periods. **The commercial salmon fishing season in the Copper River District will close at 7:00 pm on Friday, October 11.**

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 between September 21 and October 31.

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 Monday, September 16 were 6,100 coho salmon with 88 deliveries reported. The cumulative Copper River District harvest to date is 1.40 million sockeye, 8,870 Chinook, 31,600 chum, and 113,800 coho salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: Fishing effort is anticipated to be low moving forward and a regular fishing schedule is being established to provide harvest opportunity through the remainder of the season. The Bering

River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, September 19, Monday, September 23, Thursday, September 26, Monday, September 30, Thursday, October 3, Monday, October 7, and Thursday, October 10 for 36-hour commercial fishing periods. **The commercial salmon fishing season in the Bering River District will close at 7:00 pm on Friday, October 11.**

For the week ending August 21, the actual Bering River District survey count was 28,700 sockeye salmon versus an SEG range 13,000 – 33,000 fish. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, September 5 were 3,700 coho salmon with 41 deliveries reported. No harvest was reported for the 24-hour period that started on Monday, September 16 were 5,100 coho salmon with 55 deliveries reported. The cumulative Bering River District harvest to date is 42,000 coho and 58,700 sockeye salmon.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Fishing effort is anticipated to be low moving forward and a regular fishing schedule is being established to provide harvest opportunity through the remainder of the season. The Coghill District, **including the WNH THA and SHA**, will open at 8:00 am on Thursday, September 19, Monday, September 23, Thursday, September 26, Monday, September 30, Thursday, October 3, Monday, October 7, and Thursday, October 10 for 36-hour commercial fishing periods. **The commercial salmon fishing season in the Coghill District will close at 8:00 pm on Friday, October 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.