



**Advisory Announcement**  
**For Immediate Release: July 2, 2025**

**CONTACT: Jeremy Botz and Heather Scannell**  
**Finfish Area Management Biologists**  
**(907) 424-3212**

**Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #19**

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 3, for a 36-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be **OPEN** during this period.

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.**

Miles Lake Sonar project apportionment data (Figure 1) and fish wheel indicators of Chinook salmon abundance all suggest improved run strength of Copper River Chinook salmon through this stage of the run. Chinook salmon abundance in the commercial fishery peaks during the end of May through early June, and the commercial fishery is continuing to be managed to ensure the achievement of the 21,000–31,000 Chinook salmon sustainable escapement goal while providing fishing opportunity on more abundant sockeye salmon. The escapement goal was met in 3 out of the last 6 years. The current trend in large Chinook salmon passage does not give a clear indication of count levels at the end of sonar operation. While this apportionment data provides additional insight on Chinook salmon, the apportionment method to count Chinook salmon has not undergone an in-depth analysis or review on how those data compare with the NVE mark-recapture project, which is what the final escapement estimate is based on. The 2015-2024 average cumulative Chinook salmon harvest to date in the Copper River District is 98% complete.

During the commercial fishing season, subsistence harvest may occur in the Copper River District concurrent in time and area with commercial fishing periods, unless otherwise stated, 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 from June 28 through October 25.** Prince William Sound

Management Area salmon subsistence permits may be obtained through any ADF&G office or online (<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/>). In Cordova, permits will be available during normal business hours Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. To assist with inseason harvest tracking, permit holders are encouraged to call the Cordova office at 907-424-3212 or report online (<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Harvest/>) to provide preliminary harvest reports.

Cumulative sonar count through 7/1 is 583,735 fish, whereas 428,851 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2025 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 7/2 is 3,416 fish. For the week ending June 28, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 12,760 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 17,627 – 41,665. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, June 30, were 121 Chinook and 51,100 sockeye salmon, with 308 deliveries reported. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 5,256 Chinook and 515,000 sockeye salmon. The 5-year (2020–2024), 10-year (2015–2024), and 20-year (2005–2024) average cumulative harvests through 6/27 are 445,000, 601,000, and 868,000 sockeye salmon, respectively.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** Bering River District, west of a longitude line at 144° 28.20' W., will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 3, for a 36-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period.

**PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND GILLET FISHERIES:** Gillnet depth restrictions, as specified in 5 AAC 24.331(b)(6), **WILL NOT BE IN EFFECT** in the Coghill District, Eshamy District, Montague, and Unakwik District fisheries starting **8:00 am, Monday, July 7.**

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** The Coghill District, excluding the Granite Bay and Esther Subdistricts and the Wally Noerenberg Hatchery (WNH) THA and SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 48-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 3. **The Granite Bay Subdistrict, excluding waters on the west side of Esther Island south of a latitude line at 60° 49.53' N., will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 48-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 3.** Waters of Port Wells and College Fiord, north of 60° 55.81' N., and east of a line from Pakenham Point (61° 00.45' N., 148° 04.85' W.) to 60° 55.81' N., 148° 10.92' W., will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for an 84-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 3. Until further notice, regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B), will not be in effect during open commercial fishing periods. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide. The Coghill River weir cumulative sockeye salmon count through 7/1 is 5,392 fish. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 84-hour period that started on Thursday, June 26 were 92,900 chum and 15,740 sockeye salmon with 323 deliveries reported.

PWSAC requests that the Esther Subdistrict and the southwest section of the Granite Bay Subdistrict remain closed. Cost recovery effort will continue at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants. PWSAC is 80% complete on the 2025 gillnet revenue goal and has collected 1000,000 chum salmon for broodstock at WNH.

**ESHAMY DISTRICT:** The Eshamy District will remain closed to commercial fishing. The next commercial fishing period in the Eshamy District may occur as early as Monday, July 7, with time and area announced on Saturday, July 5. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 12-hour period that started on Monday, June 30 were 15,400 sockeye and 11,000 chum salmon with 117 deliveries reported.

PWSAC recommends keeping the Eshamy District closed for maximum run-entry into the MBH SHA to achieve cost recovery goals. Run entry into MBH has been slow. PWSAC needs to see a substantial increase in fish available for cost recovery to accomplish the revenue goal before other PWS fisheries complicate tender and catcher boat availability. PWSAC is 80% complete on the 2025 gillnet revenue goal. Of the 12,000 broodstock goal, approximately 7,400 sockeye salmon have been collected to date.

**UNAKWIK DISTRICT:** The Unakwik District will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 3.

**MONTAGUE DISTRICT:** The Port Chalmers Subdistrict will open to drift gillnet fishing for an 84-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 3 with an additional 60-hour period beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, July 7. A regular schedule of two fishing periods per week is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. The western boundary of the Port Chalmers Subdistrict is defined by lines from 60°20.00'N., 147°26.59'W. to 60°14.75'N., 147°35.35'W. to 60°02.50'N., 147°44.41'W. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice.** Preliminary harvest estimates from the 84-hour period that started on Thursday, June 26 were 185,000 chum, 2,340 pink, and 200 sockeye salmon with 464 deliveries reported.

Copies of the regulation booklet, *2022-2025 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are available in the Cordova ADFG office. Regulation booklets that include changes made at the December 2024 Board of Fisheries meeting are not yet available.

ALL buyers purchasing fish in the PWS Management Area are required to complete a Processor Registration Form. Contact the Cordova office for any registration questions.

**The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Thursday, July 3.**

**The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, July 5.**

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.

Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web address: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main> (Prince William Sound and Copper River homepage).

Unless otherwise specified, all openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111.

The department encourages commercial permit holders to renew their licenses early and to check their CFEC vessel registration stickers to make sure they are current.

The department also encourages permit holders to report observed violations to Wildlife Safeguard at 800-478-3377. Reports are anonymous and cash rewards may be paid for successful prosecution of violations.

Figure 1.- Miles Lake Sonar large salmon apportionment, 2019-2025.

