



Advisory Announcement
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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #26

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 10, for a 60-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.
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.

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 99% 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 7/8 is 700,269 fish, whereas 486,477 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2025 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 7/9 is 1,868 fish. For the week ending July 5, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 48,000 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 28,229 – 66,722. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, July 7 were 60 Chinook and 41,600 sockeye salmon with 185 deliveries reported. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 5,385 Chinook and 623,000 sockeye salmon. The 5-year (2020–2024), 10-year (2015–2024), and 20-year (2005–2024) average cumulative harvests through 7/4 are 577,000, 705,000, and 997,000 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 10, for a 60-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding the WNH THA and SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 10. **The Granite Bay and Esther Subdistrict, excluding the WNH THA and SHA,** and 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 10. 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 7/8 is 13,452 fish versus a target escapement range of 11,629–40,855. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 84-hour period that started on Thursday, July 3 were 203,000 chum, 4,370 pink, and 25,800 sockeye salmon with 508 deliveries reported.

PWSAC recommends opening the Esther subdistrict excluding the THA and SHA to protect traveling fish still needed for brood. PWSAC is 100% complete on the 2025 gillnet revenue goal and has collected 125,000 chum salmon of the 228,000 fish broodstock goal at WNH.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District, **excluding the AGZ inside a line of buoys in front of the barrier seine,** will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 10. The MBH AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during the 36-hour fishing period. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, July 7 were 28,400 sockeye, 20,800 chum, and 4,240 pink salmon with 170 deliveries reported.

PWSAC recommends keeping the MBH AGZ inside a line of buoys in front of the barrier seine closed to protect brood. Run entry into MBH has been slow. PWSAC is 100% complete on the 2025 gillnet revenue goal. All 12,000 sockeye salmon needed for broodstock have been passed into the holding pond.

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 10.

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 10 with an additional 60-hour period beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, July 14. 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 hours that started on Thursday, July 3 were 169,000 chum, 5,000 pink, and 233 sockeye salmon with 374 deliveries reported.

SEINE FISHERIES: VFDA began its cost recovery sales program on Sunday, June 29, and has collected approximately 66% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through July 7. Industry sampling of pink salmon cost recovery harvest on July 7 resulted in an average weight of 3.3 pounds per fish and 26-33% female. VFDA cost recovery is continuing today.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District, **north of a latitude of 60° 54.00' N.**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm, on Thursday, July 10. Waters of Port Valdez inside of a line from the brown oil boom container van located between Solomon Gulch Hatchery and Allison Point, along the outermost yellow SERVS buoys around Solomon Gulch Hatchery to the brown oil boom container east of the hatchery between VFDA and PetroStar will be CLOSED to commercial fishing during this period.

Waters within 200 yards of the AMHS Valdez Ferry Terminal are closed to commercial fishing when the ferry is arriving and departing. All waters of the Valdez small boat harbors and within 50 yards of the entrance to the harbors are closed to commercial fishing. Waters within the Alyeska Marine Terminal (Trans-Alaska Pipeline System) Security Zone are closed to commercial fishing. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point will not be in effect during this fishing period.

The preliminary harvest estimate for Tuesday, July 8, was 3.24 million pink salmon, with 240 deliveries reported. Otolith contribution estimates for the fishing period on Saturday, July 5, were 94% SGH and 6% wild.

Waters inside the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed to commercial fishing during this period to ensure early season escapement:

- (1) **Jack Bay:** waters south and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.34' N. lat., 146°35.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.17' N. lat., 146°39.77' W. long.;
- (2) **Sawmill Bay:** north of a line from a marker on shore at approximately 61°02.71' N. lat., 146°46.44' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.58' N. lat., 146°47.07' W. long.;
- (3) **Galena Bay:** waters east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.87' N. lat., 146°39.87' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.55' N. lat., 146°39.65' W. long.;

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 10. **Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice.**

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 Friday, July 11.

The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, July 12.

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.

