



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 16, 2025

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

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #31

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 17, for a 60-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing 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.

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 7/15 is 802,819 fish, whereas 537,816 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2025 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 7/16 is 2,817 fish. For the week ending July 19, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 69,767 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 31,424 – 74,276. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Thursday, July 10 were 19 Chinook and 24,800 sockeye salmon with 105 deliveries reported. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 5,410 Chinook and 654,000 sockeye salmon. The 5-year (2020–2024), 10-year (2015–2024), and 20-year (2005–

2024) average cumulative harvests through 7/11 are 598,000, 729,000, and 1.03 million 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 17, for a 60-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding the Esther Subdistrict and 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 17. The Granite Bay Subdistrict 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 17. 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 7/15 is 30,316 fish versus a target escapement range of 16,076–58,216. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 84-hour period that started on Thursday, July 10 were 39,200 chum, 14,800 pink, and 11,800 sockeye salmon with 233 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.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Wild sockeye, chum, and pink salmon run timing overlap is increasing and area is being reduced to provide for escapement in district streams and to allow for run entry to other districts. The Eshamy District **north of Loomis Creek (60° 29.44'N., 147° 58.42'W.)**, will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 17. The AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period.

The Eshamy River weir has passed 30 sockeye salmon through 7/15 with a cumulative target of 934–2,012 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, July 14 were 17,500 sockeye, 8,250 chum, and 10,000 pink salmon with 86 deliveries reported.

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 17.

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 17 with an additional 60-hour period beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, July 21. 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, July 10 were 84,000 chum, 1,780 pink, and 21 sockeye salmon with 157 deliveries reported.

SEINE FISHERIES: VFDA completed cost recovery on July 14 and has recommended a commercial fishing period targeting SGH pink salmon.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 16-hour period, from 5:00 am until 9:00 pm, on Thursday, July 17. **Waters of Port Valdez east of a longitude of 146° 28.00' W. will be CLOSED to commercial fishing during this period.** 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 15, was 2.20 million pink salmon, with 231 deliveries reported.

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**: 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 shore marker 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**: 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 17, and for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 19. **Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice.**

The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Friday, July 18.

The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, July 19.

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.

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.

