



Advisory Announcement
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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #33

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, July 21, for a 48-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 7/17 is 829,861 fish, whereas 550,752 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2025 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 7/17 is 2,419 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 48-hour period that started on Monday, July 14 were 23 Chinook and 33,600 sockeye salmon with 165 deliveries reported. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 5,430 Chinook and 686,000 sockeye salmon. The 5-year (2020–2024), 10-year (2015–2024), and 20-year (2005–

2024) average cumulative harvests through 7/16 are 625,000, 755,000, and 1.08 million sockeye salmon, respectively.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: Bering River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, July 21, for a 48-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. For the week ending July 19, the actual Bering River District survey count was 19,050 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 11,015 – 24,232.

GILLNET FISHERIES: The Coghill District has transitioned to pink salmon management and openings will be in the seine section of this announcement.

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 Monday, July 21. The AGZ will open to **SET GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period.

The Eshamy River weir has passed 37 sockeye salmon through 7/17 with a cumulative target of 1,108–2,387 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, July 17 are not yet available.

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 Monday, July 21.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: The Port Chalmers Subdistrict will open to drift gillnet fishing for a 60-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 21 with an additional 84-hour period beginning at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 24. 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 60-hour period that started on Monday, July 14 were 102,000 chum, 6,840 pink, and 71 sockeye salmon with 198 deliveries reported.

SEINE FISHERIES: VFDA completed cost recovery on July 14 and has recommended a commercial fishing period targeting SGH pink salmon. Extended fishing periods are warranted to keep up with run entry into Valdez Arm and Port Valdez and maintain an every-other-day fishing schedule. As wild stocks come online and area is expanded, the duration of fishing periods will be reduced.

An aerial survey of the Eastern and Northern Districts was flown yesterday, July 17, and the Coghill, Northwestern, and Eshamy Districts are being flown today. Wild stock run entry and escapement indices are improving and within anticipated ranges for this date. Currently, a strong SGH pink return warrants continued fishing pressure, and at this time, wild stocks cannot sustain that same fishing pressure. Fishing opportunity targeting wild stocks may occur as early as next week.

The preliminary contribution estimate for the July 15 Eastern District fishing period was 97.5% SGH and 2.5% wild. The preliminary contribution estimate for the July 15 Northern District fishing period was 94% SGH, 4% WNH, and 2% wild.

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 16-hour period, from 5:00 am until 9:00 pm, on Saturday, July 19. **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 Thursday, July 17, was 2.18 million pink salmon, with 235 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) **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.;

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of Granite Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 7:00 am on Monday, July 21. **Waters of College Fiord, north of a latitude line at 61°01.80'N.,** will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet harvest for a 60-hour period starting at 7:00 am on Monday, July 21. **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 cumulative sockeye salmon weir count through July 17 was 38,775 fish compared to an escapement objective of 17,024–62,192 fish for this date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, July 14 were 27,700 chum, 19,300 pink and 13,600 sockeye salmon with 201 deliveries reported.

The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Sunday, July 20.

The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 23.

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.