



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #20

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will remain closed. The Copper River District will open to subsistence fishing at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 16 for a 12-hour fishing period. Waters within the Chinook salmon expanded inside closure area will be OPEN during this subsistence fishing period. **Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements providing additional fishing opportunity based on Miles Lake sonar passage trends may occur at any time inseason.**

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.

Sockeye salmon abundance trends at the sonar indicate a smaller than forecast run with passage projections through the end of sonar operation suggesting that the inriver goal is likely to be met. Forecast, harvest, sonar apportionment, and fish wheels indicators of Chinook salmon abundance all suggest a weak Copper River Chinook salmon run. Chinook salmon abundance in the commercial fishery peaks during the end of May through early June. Miles Lake Sonar project apportionment data (Figure 1) indicate that the cumulative count of large Chinook salmon is low for the date. The escapement goal was met in 4 out of the last 7 years. The current trend in large Chinook salmon passage indicates that count levels at the end of sonar operation are likely to be around the lower end of the escapement goal.

Cumulative sonar count through 7/14 is 544,769 fish whereas 530,183 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2026 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 7/15 is 385 fish. For the week ending July 18, no delta survey is expected due to weather conditions. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 4,250 Chinook and 242,000 sockeye salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: Bering River District will remain closed. Due to weather conditions, no survey is expected to be flown the week ending July 18.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District will remain closed due to low WNH chum salmon escapement and low sockeye salmon escapement at Coghill River weir. Through Friday, July 10, the Coghill River weir had passed a total of 6,877 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated cumulative total of 15,524 fish. Due to high water, fish are currently not being enumerated at the weir. PWSAC requests that the Granite Bay and Esther Subdistricts remain closed for the entirety of this commercial fishing period. Cost recovery harvests will continue at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants. An estimated 112,000 fish of the 228,000 broodstock goal have been collected to date.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Fishing area is being reduced in the Eshamy District to focus fishing effort on surplus salmon returning to the district. Main Bay Subdistrict, excluding the MBH AGZ, will open to commercial **drift gillnet** harvest for a **36-hour** period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 16. The Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial **set gillnet** harvest for a **12-hour** period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 16. The MBH AGZ will open to **SET GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. Regulatory closed waters in the MBH SHA and AGZ, will not be in effect for this fishing period. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, July 13 were 12,600 sockeye, 22,700 pink, and 3,900 chum salmon with 153 deliveries reported.

PWSAC recommends opening the Main Bay Subdistrict to target remaining hatchery surplus. Brood collection is complete at MBH and the barrier seine is expected to be removed today.

UNAKWIK DISTRICT: The Unakwik District will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 16.

SEINE FISHERIES: A partial aerial survey of the Coghill, Northwestern and Eshamy Districts was conducted on Saturday, July 11. Remaining surveys will occur as weather permits. Chum and pink salmon escapement trends are tracking below anticipated levels for this date.

VFDA pink salmon cost recovery efforts continue to lag behind historic catches for the date. As of July 14, VFDA has achieved 4% of its pink salmon revenue goal. Test sets from yesterday, July 14, at Rocky and Freemantle Points showed less than 100 pinks total for each site. Sets in the Valdez Narrows ranged from 300 to 2,500 pounds. A 300 fish sample from Valdez Narrows area showed 17.7% female and an average weight of 3.7 pounds. Cost recovery will be paused after today in an effort to build hatchery brood stock.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: As previously announced, the Port Chalmers Subdistrict, **north of 60°12.56' N. lat. and east of a line from 60° 12.56'N., 147° 20.25'W. to 60° 20.00'N., 147° 14.30'W.**, will open to purse seine fishing for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 16, and a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 18. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice. The estimated harvest for the 36-hour period ending on July 12 was 3,450 chum salmon with 20 reported deliveries. There has been a cumulative harvest of 407,000 chum salmon at Port Chalmers. A total of 840,000 chum salmon is forecast to return to Port Chalmers Subdistrict.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: As previously announced, 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 16, and a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 18. Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice. The estimated harvest for the 36-hour period ending on July 12 was 1,302 chum and

76 sockeye salmon with 12 reported deliveries. There has been a cumulative harvest of 163,000 chum salmon at AFK. A total of 330,000 chum salmon is forecast to return to AFK Hatchery. Historical harvest timing for these chum salmon is from June 1 – July 27.

Copies of the regulation booklet, *2025-2028 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are available in the Cordova and Anchorage ADFG office. [2025-2028 Prince William Sound Area Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations](#)

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

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be released by 2:00 pm on Saturday, July 18.

Announcement recordings are available for gillnet fisheries at 907-424-7535 and seine fisheries at 907-424-7345.

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, 2019-2026.

