

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #32

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 17 for a 36-hour commercial fishing period. Cumulative sonar count to date is 1.04 million fish whereas the anticipated count for this date is 592,000 fish. For the week ending July 19, the actual Copper River delta aerial survey count was 29,545 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 31,424–74,276. An aerial survey of the Copper River delta is anticipated to be flown early next week. Hatchery contributions from the period that closed on July 8 were 45% Gulkana Hatchery. Harvest from the period that closed Tuesday, July 15 was 35,700 sockeye with 364 deliveries reported.

During the commercial fishing season subsistence harvest may occur in the Copper River District concurrent with commercial periods until the Copper River District is closed at the end of the season. Subsistence users may obtain subsistence permits during regular business hours. The Cordova ADF&G office is open to the public Monday– Friday, 8:00 am–12:00 pm and 1:00 pm– 5:00 pm. **Subsistence permits are not available outside of regular office hours.**

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 17 for a 36-hour commercial fishing period. For the week ending July 19, the actual Bering River District aerial survey count was 9,675 versus an anticipated range of 11,004–17,606 sockeye salmon. The next aerial survey of the Bering River District is anticipated to be flown early next week. No harvest was reported from the period that closed Tuesday, July 15.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding Bettles Bay Subdistrict and the WNH THA and SHA, will open at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 17 for a 48-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Coghill River regulatory closed waters are in effect. Harvest from the period that closed Tuesday, July 15 was 3,440 chum, 25,100 pink, and 3,820 sockeye salmon with 131 deliveries reported.

A total of 284 sockeye salmon were passed at the Coghill River weir yesterday for a season cumulative of 15,142 fish. This compares to an anticipated range of 15,140 – 45,421 fish for this date.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District, excluding the AGZ shoreward of a line of buoys in front of the barrier net, will open at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 17 for a 48-hour commercial gillnet fishing period. The AGZ, up to a line of buoys in front of the barrier net, will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. Harvest from the period that closed Tuesday, July 15 was 28,600 sockeye, 11,400 pink, and 2,650 chum salmon with 220 deliveries reported.

UNAKWIK DISTRICT: The Unakwik District will open at 8:00 am Thursday, July 17 for a 36-hour commercial purse seine and drift gillnet fishing period. No harvest was reported for the period that closed Tuesday, July 15.

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement provides time and area specifics for purse seine fisheries starting on Thursday, July 17. It is possible that fishing opportunity targeting VFDA pink salmon will be offered again in the near future, with additional information provided at 2 pm on Thursday, July 17. Time and area for future commercial fishing periods targeting VFDA pink salmon in Port Valdez will be based on consideration for VFDA escapement.

Stream escapements are slightly less than anticipated for the date. Salmon Harvest Task Force area closures will continue as an intermediate conservation measure. **Parent year escapements and 2014 observations to date would not indicate a significant wild stock surplus available for commercial harvest.** It is anticipated that fishing opportunity directed on wild stocks will initially be limited to two days per week. Time and area for future commercial fishing periods targeting wild stock pink and chum salmon will be dependent upon escapement, harvest, and effort.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period at 6:00 am on Thursday, July 17. **Waters of Port Valdez north of a line from Entrance Point to Potato Point will be closed to commercial fishing during this period.**

Waters inside of the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period:

- (1) **Sheep Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°41.13' N. lat., 145°58.87' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°40.46' N. lat., 145°58.01' W. long.;
- (2) **Beartrap Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°45.13' N. lat., 146°06.12' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°44.51' N. lat., 146°04.57' W. long.; **this includes all waters of Port Gravina and Beartrap Bay inside of this line;**
- (3) **Olsen Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°43.46' N. lat., 146°10.14' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°43.21' N. lat., 146°13.97' W. long.;
- (4) **St. Matthews Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°43.36' N. lat., 146°19.07' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°43.61' N. lat., 146°21.17' W. long.;
- (5) **Irish Cove:** south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°46.73' N. lat., 146°26.62' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°46.27' N. lat., 146°27.12' W. long.;
- (6) **Landlocked Bay:** waters north of 60°50.76' N. lat.;
- (7) **Port Fidalgo Subdistrict:** waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.
- (8) **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.;
- (9) **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.;
- (10) **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.

SHTF marker coordinates will also be available in the Cordova ADF&G office, and have been provided to area processors, VFDA and PWSAC for distribution to fishery participants. A copy of these coordinates may also be found on the ADF&G Web-site at the following address:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.salmon#/maps>

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: The Port Chalmers Subdistrict, north of 60°12.56' N. lat. and within 0.5 miles of Montague Island, will open to purse seine fishing for 84 hours at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 17. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the open area of Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 17.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for 84 hours at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 17. **The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will then close to commercial purse seine fishing as PWSAC and the department switch to pink salmon management in the Southwestern District.** Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect for this fishing period.

The next scheduled salmon purse seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Thursday, July 17.

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

Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements based on current escapement data may occur at any time inseason either establishing an additional period or extending an open period.

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 267-2843.**

Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web addresses:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.main> (Copper River homepage) or

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main> (Prince William Sound 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 that 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.