

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #73

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, October 1 for a 24-hour commercial fishing period. For the week ending September 22, the Copper River Delta survey count was 38,100 coho salmon versus a projected range of 16,908–35,401. The preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period that began on Monday, September 24 is 2,300 coho salmon with 40 deliveries reported.

During the commercial fishing season, subsistence harvest may occur in the Copper River District concurrent in time and area with commercial fishing periods 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 between June 16 and October 31.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, October 1 for a 24-hour commercial fishing period. For the week ending September 8, the Bering River District survey count was 26,525 coho salmon versus a projected range of 8,803–22,345. The preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period that began on Monday, September 24 is 300 coho salmon with 5 deliveries reported.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District have been closed to commercial fishing since September 5. Due to continued poor coho salmon run entry at WNH, additional fishing time is not anticipated, therefore the 2018 commercial salmon fishing season in the Coghill district will close effective immediately.

The next salmon fisheries announcement is scheduled for 2:00 pm Friday, September 28.

Copies of the updated regulation booklet, *2015-2018 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, can be found under the ‘Regulations’ heading at the following web address:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.commercial>

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 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.