Overview of Sport Fisheries in the Prince William Sound Management Area

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RC3 Tab 10
Prince William Sound Management Area (PWSMA)
Division of Sport Fish
Copper River Highway Streams
PWSMA Sport Fisheries Overview

• Saltwater
  • Halibut, lingcod, rockfish, all salmon species, and shellfish

• Freshwater
  • Lakes – stocked in the Valdez area
  • Streams within PWS
  • Copper River delta – target species include coho and sockeye salmon
Sport Fish Data & Monitoring

• Sport Fishery Data
  • Effort, catch & harvest data – SWHS, charter logbook
  • Sport fisheries angler interview & harvest sampling

• Escapement
  • Coho salmon aerial surveys by the Division of Commercial Fisheries
  • No current ground-based salmon monitoring projects in the Copper River Delta.
PWSMA Sportfishing Effort (SWHS)

Copper River Highway
Sport Fishing Regulations

1) Only unbaited, artificial lures allowed from April 15 – June 14.

2) Bag/possession limit is 3 coho salmon (any size).

3) A person may not remove a coho salmon from the water before releasing it.

4) A coho salmon removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of your daily bag/possession limit.

5) Once your daily bag limit of coho salmon has been reached, you may not fish with bait for the remainder of the day.

5) Eyak River – Special Regulation: fly-fishing only from June 1 – September 30.

6) Ibeck Creek – Closed to sport fishing 3 miles upstream of the Copper River Highway Bridge.
Additional Sport Fishing Opportunities
Lake Trout

Proposal 37:

Establish sport bag and possession limit for lake trout in the Prince William Sound area.
Copper River Delta – Coho Salmon

Proposal 38:

Establish additional restrictions in the Copper River Delta coho salmon sport fishery based on the number of days the commercial fishery is closed.
### Coho Salmon Harvest (Average 2010-2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Coho Salmon Estimated Total Harvest</th>
<th>Copper River Delta Estimated Escapement (SEG 32,000-67,000)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>228,405</td>
<td>41,077</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>143,756</td>
<td>38,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>147,344</td>
<td>37,010</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>264,007</td>
<td>34,680</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>334,477</td>
<td>43,010</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>164,959</td>
<td>41,665</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>383,222</td>
<td>76,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>319,236</td>
<td>43,760</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>318,077</td>
<td>53,800</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>93,598</td>
<td>36,620</td>
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*Full details found in RC2 for Proposal 38.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emergency Order #</th>
<th>Issued</th>
<th>Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-SS-6-53-19</td>
<td>9/16/2019</td>
<td>No bait allowed in Copper River Highway streams</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-SS-6-54-19</td>
<td>9/23/2019</td>
<td>Coho salmon bag limit reduced from 3/3 to 1/2</td>
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</table>
Copper River Delta – Ibeck Creek

Proposal 39:

Extend the area closed to sport fishing in Ibeck Creek.
Proposed Ibeck Creek
CURRENT MARKER (3 MILES)
Copper River Delta – 18-Mile Creek

Proposal 40:

Close 18-Mile or Silver Creek to coho salmon fishing August 1 to November 1, ¼ mile upstream of the confluence with Alaganik Slough.
Proposed

18-Mile Creek confluence with Alaganik Slough
Questions?