

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #49

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open to commercial salmon fishing for a **24-hour** period from 7:00 a.m. Monday, August 5 to 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 6.

The grass bank marker line is defined in 5AAC 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.
<b>Little Softuk</b>	<b>60° 13.16' N.</b>	<b>144° 41.38' W.</b>

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 until the Copper River District is closed at the end of the season. Additionally, waters of the Copper River District, including the Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on all Saturdays between June 15 and October 31. Subsistence permits may be obtained at the Cordova ADF&G office during regular business hours (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.). **Subsistence permits are not available outside of regular office hours.**

Cumulative sonar count through July 28, the last day of counting this season, is 1,039,354 fish. For the week ending August 3, the Copper River Delta survey count was 44,220 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 32,568 – 76,979. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, August 1 was 13,000 sockeye and 10,100 pink salmon with 102 deliveries reported.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** For the week ending August 3, the Bering River District survey count was 4,530 sockeye salmon compared to a range of 8,409 – 18,499. The Bering River District will open

to commercial salmon fishing for a **24-hour** period from 7:00 a.m. Monday, August 5 to 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 6.

**ESHAMY DISTRICT:** Waters of Eshamy Bay, west of a line from 60° 28.51'N., 147° 59.10'W. to 60° 27.94'N., 147° 57.87'W., and waters of the Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a **24-hour** period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 5. The AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. Fishing time and area is being reduced in the Eshamy District based on wild stock abundance indices. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, August 1 was 3,800 sockeye, 3,700 pink, and 190 chum salmon with 31 deliveries reported.

**SEINE FISHERIES:** Fishing opportunity in Eastern District on Sunday, August 4 is detailed below. Prince William Sound purse seine fisheries will be closed on Monday, August 5 to allow for further evaluation of fishery performance data and to allow for additional broodstock collection at VFDA. Additional broodstock is needed due to a higher than expected green egg and male percentage. VFDA has collected 29 million eggs (10.7%) of a 270 million egg take goal. VFDA currently estimates there are approximately 300,000-350,000 pink salmon within the SHA.

An estimated 342,000 pink salmon were harvested in PWS on Friday, August 2. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through August 2 is estimated at 11.8 million CPF and 1.4 million cost recovery fish, for a total of 13.2 million fish. The 5-year odd-year average (2009–2017) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through August 2 is 28.5 million fish.

PWSAC began its cost recovery sales program on Tuesday, July 30, and has collected approximately 3.5% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through August 2.

Current indices of escapement and run entry do not support a purse seine CPF targeting wild stocks in PWS. Aerial surveys of all districts are ongoing to further assess the strength of wild stock returns throughout PWS.

**EASTERN DISTRICT:** Waters in the Eastern District, north of a line from 61° 02.855' N., 146° 44.204' W. to 61° 02.373' N., 146° 43.407' W. to 61° 02.992' N., 146° 39.165' W., will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., Sunday, August 4.

**Waters of Port Valdez east of 146°38.00' 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.**

Copies of the updated regulation booklet, *2019–2021 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are available in the Cordova ADFG office.

**The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Monday, August 5.**

**The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 7.**

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.