

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



### NEWS RELEASE

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### Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #52

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open to commercial salmon fishing for a **24-hour** period from 7:00 a.m. Thursday, August 8 to 7:00 a.m. Friday, August 9.

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.**

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 Monday, August 5 was 10,700 sockeye and 27,600 pink salmon with 107 deliveries reported.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** The Bering River District will open to commercial salmon fishing for a **24-hour** period from 7:00 a.m. Thursday, August 8 to 7:00 a.m. Friday, August 9. 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.

**ESHAMY DISTRICT:** Waters of the Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a **24-hour** period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 8. The AGZ will open to **SET 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 Monday, July 29 was 1,800 sockeye and 6,300 pink salmon with 22 deliveries reported.

**SEINE FISHERIES:** This announcement will detail purse seine fishing periods commencing on **Thursday, August 8.** Aerial surveys have indicated increased run entry and buildups of pink salmon throughout PWS. Short duration fishing periods are being used to gauge the magnitude of the wildstock and PWSAC returns. **Future fishing opportunities will be dependent on further evaluations of fishery performance data.**

PWSAC began its cost recovery sales program on Tuesday, July 30, and has collected approximately 35% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through August 6. ADF&G sampling of CCH cost recovery harvest from August 6 was 23.84% female, which is below average for the date.

**PWSAC recommends the AFK, CCH, and WNH SHAs, THAs, and corresponding hatchery subdistricts, except the Pt. Elrington Subdistrict, remain closed. Future CPF openings targeting PWSAC enhanced pink salmon in hatchery subdistricts will be based on cost recovery fishing progress, run entry, and PWSAC recommendations.**

It is estimated that 275,000 pink salmon were harvested in PWS on August, 6. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through August 6 is estimated at 12.4 million CPF and 2.1 million VFDA cost recovery fish, for a total of 14.5 million fish. The 5-year odd-year average (2009–2017) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through August 6 is 34.2 million fish. **Preliminary contribution estimates from the 14-hour period that started on Sunday, August 4 in the Eastern District were 74% wild, 24% SGH, and 2% CCH pink salmon.**

VFDA began egg takes on July 29 and has completed approximately 21% of their pink salmon egg-take goal. VFDA currently estimates there are 300,000 pink salmon holding within the SHA.

Recent aerial surveys of the Northern, Northwestern, and Coghill districts indicate escapements are within the minimum expected for the date. Escapements within Eastern and Southeastern district are improving, but indicate that salmon are still holding offshore in many areas due to warm water and low stream flows. These areas will remain closed to ensure escapement.

**EASTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Eastern District, **south of a line from Entrance and Potato Point and west of a longitude line at 146° 38.09'W**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 6-hour period, from 6:00 am until 12:00 pm, on Thursday, August 8.

**NORTHERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Northern District, **excluding the Perry Island Subdistrict, Cannery Creek Subdistrict, and CCH SHA and THA**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 6-hour period, from 6:00 am until 12:00 pm, on Thursday, August 8.

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

- (1) **Long Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°57.63' N. lat., 147°13.50' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°57.01' N. lat., 147°15.47' W. long.;
- (2) **Granite Bay:** north and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°55.02' N. lat., 147°27.61' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°54.66' N. lat., 147°26.72' W. long.;
- (3) **Cedar Bay:** north and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.46' N. lat., 147°27.03' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.03' N. lat., 147°26.39' W. long.;
- (4) **Wells Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.75' N. lat., 147°29.92' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°57.08' N. lat., 147°28.14' W. long.;
- (5) **Eaglek Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°50.66' N. lat., 147°40.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°50.56' N. lat., 147°44.57' W. long.;

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** Waters of the Coghill District, **excluding Esther Subdistrict, Granite Bay Subdistrict, and WNH SHA and THA**, will open to **commercial drift gillnet and purse seine** fishing for 6-hour period, from 6:00 am until 12:00 pm, on Thursday, August 8.

**Waters inside of the following Coghill District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers are closed to commercial fishing during this period:**

- (1) **Bettles Bay:** west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.16' N. lat., 148°14.76' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°54.97' N. lat., 148°16.09' W. long.;
- (2) **Hummer Bay:** west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°53.56' N. lat., 148°16.62' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°51.76' N. lat., 148°17.52' W. long.;
- (3) **Pigot Bay:** west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°49.96' N. lat., 148°19.07' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°49.08' N. lat., 148°20.12' W. long.;

**NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 6-hour period, from 6:00 am until 12:00 pm, on Thursday, August 8.

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

- (1) **Cochrane Bay:** south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°44.91' N. lat., 148°17.12' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°46.01' N. lat., 148°21.77' W. long.;
- (2) **Culross Pass:** within the passage south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°45.47' N. lat., 148°12.63' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°45.82' N. lat., 148°13.57' W. long. and north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°37.48' N. lat., 148°10.12' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°37.16' N. lat., 148°11.42' W. long.;
- (3) **Port Nellie Juan:** south and west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°30.36' N. lat., 148°15.03' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°32.36' N. lat., 148°19.42' W. long.;

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Point Elrington Subdistrict will open to purse seine fishing for a 6-hour period, from 6:00 am until 12:00 pm, on Thursday, August 8. **The Southwestern District Priority Stream list will be in effect within waters of Point Elrington Subdistrict.**

**MONTAGUE DISTRICT:** Waters of the Montague District will open to purse seine fishing for a 6-hour period from 6:00 am until 12:00 pm on Thursday, August 8.

**SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the Southeastern District, **excluding waters east of 146°19.00' W.**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 6-hour period, from 6:00 am until 12:00 pm, on Thursday, August 8.

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 salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, August 10.**

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.