

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #53

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: Copper River District will open to commercial salmon fishing for a **24-hour** period from 7:00 a.m. Monday, August 12 to 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 13. Copper River District is switching to coho salmon management starting Monday, August 12. The standard management strategy for coho salmon is one or two 24-hour periods per week depending on escapement and harvest levels.

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.
Little Softuk	60° 13.16' N.	144° 41.38' W.

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 8 was 7,800 sockeye and 23,500 pink salmon with 89 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. Monday, August 12 to 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 13. Bering River District is switching to coho salmon management starting Monday, August 12. The standard management strategy for coho salmon is one or two 24-hour periods per week depending on escapement and harvest levels. An aerial survey of Bering River sockeye and coho salmon index systems will be flown as flights are available and weather permits. 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: Eshamy District 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. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, August 8 was 600 sockeye and 7,000 pink salmon with 18 deliveries reported.

SEINE FISHERIES: **The next broad area fishing opportunity is dependent on cost recovery progress, PWSAC recommendations, and wild stock indices. Tomorrow's announcement is anticipated to be released at 4:00 p.m. to ensure that the most recent aerial survey indices can be incorporated into any decision on the next fishery opening.** Aerial surveys are currently ongoing, but a survey of the Eastern, Northern, and Southeastern district conducted on August 9 indicated continued improvement in escapement. PWSAC began its cost recovery sales program on Tuesday, July 30, and has collected approximately 61% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through August 10. Industry sampling of CCH cost recovery harvest from August 9 was 37.3% female, which is slightly below average for the date.

It is estimated that 2.1 million pink salmon were harvested in PWS on August, 8. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through August 8 is estimated at 13.90 million CPF and 2.4 million cost recovery fish, for a total of 16.3 million fish. The 5-year odd-year average (2009–2017) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through August 8 is 37 million fish.

Preliminary contribution estimates from the 6-hour period on Thursday, August 8 in the Southwestern District were 44% wild, 30% AFK, 16% CCH, 7% WNH, and 3% SGH pink salmon.

Preliminary contribution estimates from the 6-hour period on Thursday, August 8 in the Northern District were 39% wild, 33% CCH, 19% WNH, 7% SGH, and 2% AFK pink salmon.

Preliminary contribution estimates from the 6-hour period on Thursday, August 8 in the Eastern District were 74% wild, 16% SGH, 7% CCH, and 2% WNH pink salmon.

VFDA began egg takes on July 29 and has completed approximately 30% of their pink salmon egg-take goal.

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 4:00 p.m. Sunday, August 11.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 14.

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.