ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #69

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: Copper River District will open to commercial salmon fishing for a **24-hour** period from 7:00 a.m. Monday, September 2 to 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 3. 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:

Point	*Latitude*	*Longitude*
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.**

For the week ending August 31, the Copper River Delta survey count was 19,750 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 19,762 – 46,711 and 8,815 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 16,147 – 33,807.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District west of a longitude line at 144° 28.20' W., will open to commercial salmon fishing for a **24-hour** period from 7:00 a.m. Monday, September 2 to

7:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 3. The standard management strategy for coho salmon is one or two 24-hour periods per week depending on escapement and harvest levels. Fishing area is being adjusted due to low warm water and absence of water in some index streams. For the week ending August 31, the Bering River District survey count was 900 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 1,044 – 2,297 and 1,080 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 8,732 – 22,165.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District, **excluding Esther Subdistrict west of a longitude line at 147°59.56' W., and the WNH SHA, and THA**, will open to **commercial drift gillnet and purse seine** fishing for a **12-hour** period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Sunday, September 1. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within Esther Subdistrict will not be in effect for Sunday, September 1. Additionally, waters of the Coghill District excluding the WNH SHA and THA will open to **commercial drift gillnet only** for a **60-hour** period starting 8:00 am Monday, September 2.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Eshamy District will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a **24-hour** period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, September 2. The AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period.

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will detail purse seine fishing periods commencing on Sunday, September 1; Monday, September 2; Tuesday, September 3; and Wednesday September 4. Approximately 343,000 pink salmon were harvested in PWS on August 30. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through August 29 is estimated at 42.8 million CPF and 3.6 million cost recovery fish, for a total of 46.4 million fish. The 5-year odd-year average (2009–2017) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through August 29 is 56.9 million fish.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of Eastern District, **south of a line from Entrance and Potato Point,** will open to commercial purse seine fishing for **12-hour** periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Sunday, September 1; 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Monday, September 2; 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Tuesday, September 3; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Wednesday, September 4.

Additionally, waters of Port Valdez north of a line from Entrance Point to Potato Point, excluding waters east of a line from 61° 05.00' N, 146° 21.50' W to 61° 06.00' N, 146° 21.50' W and south of a line from 61° 06.00' N, 146° 21.50' W to 61° 06.00' N, 146° 15.10' W., will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Tuesday, September 4 and Wednesday, September 5.

Waters inside the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) marker will be closed for this period to ensure late season escapement:

(1) **Sheep Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°41.13' N. lat., 145°58.87' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°40.46' N. lat., 145°58.01' W. long.;

(2) **Beartrap Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°45.13' N. lat., 146°06.12' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°44.51' N. lat., 146°04.57' W. long.; **this includes all waters of Port Gravina and Beartrap Bay inside of this line;**

(3) **Olsen Bay**: north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°43.46' N. lat., 146°10.14' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°43.21' N. lat., 146°13.97' W. long.;

(4) **St. Matthews Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°43.36' N. lat., 146°19.07' W. long. to a shore maker at approximately 60°43.61' N. lat., 146°21.17' W. long.;

(5) **Irish Cove:** south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°46.73' N. lat., 146°26.62' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°46.27' N. lat., 146°27.12' W. long.;
(6) **Landlocked Bay:** waters north of 60°50.76' N. lat.;
(7) **Galena Bay:** waters east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.87' N. lat., 146°39.87' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.55' N. lat., 146°39.65' W. long,;
(8) **Sawmill Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.71' N. lat., 146°46.44' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.58' N. lat., 146°47.07' W. long.
(9) **Jack Bay:** waters south and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.34' N. lat., 146°35.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.17' N. lat., 146°39.77' W. long.;
(10) **Port Fidalgo Subdistrict:** waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Perry Island Subdistrict will open to commercial purse seine fishing for **12-hour** periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Sunday, September 1; 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Monday, September 2; 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Tuesday, September 3; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Wednesday, September 4.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District, **excluding Esther Subdistrict west of a longitude line at 147°59.56' W., WNH SHA, and THA**, will open to **commercial drift gillnet and purse seine** fishing for a **12-hour** period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Sunday, September 1. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within Esther Subdistrict will not be in effect for Sunday, September 1.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for **12-hour** periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Sunday, September 1; 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Monday, September 2; 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Tuesday, September 3; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Wednesday, September 4.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southwestern District excluding San Juan Subdistrict, and the AFK SHA and THA, will open to purse seine fishing for **12-hour** periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Sunday, September 1; 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Monday, September 2; 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Tuesday, September 3; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Wednesday, September 4. The Southwestern District Priority Stream list will be in effect during these fishing periods.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: Waters of the Montague District will open to purse seine fishing for **12-hour** periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Sunday, September 1; 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Monday, September 2; 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Tuesday, September 3; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Wednesday, September 4.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District **east of a longitude line at 146°17.49' W.,** will open to purse seine fishing for **12-hour** periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Sunday, September 1; 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Monday, September 2; 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Tuesday, September 3; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Wednesday, September 4.

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. Wednesday, September 4.

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.