

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #77

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: Copper River District will remain closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing. The fishery is closed due to survey counts remaining below weekly escapement targets. For the week ending September 28, the Copper River Delta survey count was 12,260 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 15,542 – 32,540. The 2019 cumulative coho harvest through September 25 is approximately 77,700 fish versus the recent 10-year average of 234,100 coho salmon harvested by this date.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: Bering River District will remain closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing. The fishery is closed due to survey counts remaining below weekly escapement targets. An aerial survey of Bering River District index systems should be completed by the end of the week. For the week ending September 21, the Bering River District survey count was 2,525 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 5,041 – 12,797.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District, excluding the WNH SHA, will open to **commercial drift gillnet only** for an **84-hour** period starting 8:00 am Thursday, September 26. Additionally, waters of the Coghill District, **including the WNH SHA**, will open to **commercial drift gillnet only** for a **60-hour** period starting 8:00 am Monday, September 30. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 84-hour period that closed on Sunday, September 22 was 2,200 coho salmon with 34 deliveries reported.

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 expected to be at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 2.

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.