



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: June 19, 2021

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #16

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, June 21 for a 12-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **standard Chinook salmon inside closure area** will be **CLOSED** during this fishing period. Increasing daily passage at the Miles Lake sonar station indicates that the inriver goal is likely to be met and supports opening the Copper River District commercial fishery. Copper River District Chinook salmon average harvest timing (2011-2020) is 95% complete through this date.

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, excluding the Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays between June 21 and October 31.

The **standard Chinook salmon inside closure area** will be defined as waters north of a line connecting the following points:

| <i>Point</i> | <i>Latitude</i> | <i>Longitude</i> |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Steamboat North | 60° 22.87' N. | 145° 33.50' W. |
| Steamboat South | 60° 22.31' N. | 145° 33.50' W. |
| West side Pete Dahl Entrance | 60° 18.89' N. | 145° 30.99' W. |
| West end Grass Island | 60° 18.30' N. | 145° 28.42' W. |
| East end Grass Island | 60° 15.24' N. | 145° 17.89' W. |
| West end Kokenhenik Bar | 60° 15.00' N. | 145° 16.20' W. |
| East end Kokenhenik Bar | 60° 13.65' N. | 145° 09.46' W. |
| Western tip of Softuk Bar | 60° 13.68' N. | 145° 05.78' W. |
| Coffee Creek West | 60° 14.13' N. | 144° 58.31' W. |

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.

Subsistence users may obtain subsistence permits during regular business hours. Prince William Sound Management Area salmon subsistence permits may be obtained through any ADF&G office or online (<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/>). **In Cordova, permits will be available during normal business hours Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** ADF&G staff will not be available to issue permits before hours, after hours, on state holidays, or on weekends. **Permit holders are encouraged to call the Cordova office at 907-424-3212 or report online (<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Harvest/>) to provide preliminary harvest reports to assist with inseason harvest tracking.**

Cumulative sonar count through 6/18 is 378,456 fish, whereas 336,143 fish are projected by this date to meet the Inriver Run Goal. The 0600 count for 6/19 is 2,280 fish. The Copper River District harvest for the 24-hour fishing period that started on Thursday, June 17 was 37,600 sockeye and 430 Chinook salmon with 396 deliveries reported.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will remain closed to commercial fishing.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding the Esther and Granite Bay subdistricts and the Wally Noerenberg Hatchery (WNH) THA and SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 24-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 21. **Waters of Port Wells and College Fiord, north of 60° 55.81' N., and east of a line from Pakenham Point (61° 00.45' N., 148° 04.85' W.) to 60° 55.81' N., 148° 10.92' W., will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 21.** Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, June 17 were 2,700 chum and 3,800 sockeye salmon with 97 deliveries reported. The Coghill River weir has passed 1,906 sockeye salmon through 6/18 with a cumulative target of 535–1,604 fish for the date.

PWSAC requests that the Esther Subdistrict, the Granite Bay Subdistrict, and the WNH SHA and THA remain closed for the entirety of the 24-hour commercial fishing period commencing on Monday, June 21. Cost recovery fishing has started at WNH and will continue as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants. **In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.**

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District, excluding the Main Bay Subdistrict and Main Bay Hatchery (MBH) THA, SHA, and AGZ, will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a **12-hour** period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 21. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, June 17 were 7,700 chum and 16,000 sockeye salmon with 218 deliveries reported.

PWSAC requests that the Main Bay Subdistrict remain closed for the entirety of the 24-hour commercial fishing period commencing on Thursday, June 17. Cost recovery harvests will commence at MBH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants. **In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.**

UNAKWIK DISTRICT: The Unakwik District will open for the season to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 21.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: The Port Chalmers Subdistrict, **north of 60°12.56' N. lat. and east a line from 60° 12.56'N., 147° 20.25'W. to 60° 20.00'N., 147° 14.30'W.,** will open to purse seine fishing for 48 hours beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, June 21 with additional 36-hour periods at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 24, and 8:00 am on Saturday June 26. A reduction in area is necessary to reduce the harvest of WNH chum salmon and expedite PSWAC cost recovery efforts. A regular schedule of three fishing periods per week is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice.** A total of 320,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to Port Chalmers. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 36-hour period that ended on Friday, June 18 was 8,453 chum salmon with 30 deliveries reported. Contribution estimates from the period ending Wednesday, June 16 was 55% Port Chalmers, 39% WNH, 4% AFK, and 1% wild.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for 48 hours beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, June 21 with additional 36-hour periods at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 24, and 8:00 am on Saturday June 26. A regular schedule of three fishing periods per week is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice.** A total of 150,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to AFK.Hatchery. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that ended on Friday, June 18 were 15,292 chum salmon, and 558 sockeye salmon with 25 deliveries reported. Chum salmon contribution estimates from the period closing on Wednesday, June 16 was 90% AFK, 7% WNH, and 3% Port Chalmers.

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

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, June 23.

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.
Coghill District – Port Wells and College Fiord line.

