



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 17, 2021

CONTACT: Jeremy Botz and Heather Scannell
Finfish Area Management Biologists
(907) 424-3212

Matt Nemeth
Regional Finfish Management Coordinator
(907) 267-2105

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #37

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, July 19 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **standard Chinook salmon inside closure area** will be **OPEN** during this fishing period.

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 standard Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays between July 4 and October 31.

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 7/16 is 674,864 fish. The 0600 count for 7/17 is 2,630 fish. For the week ending July 17, the Copper River Delta survey count was 76,020 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 31,424 – 74,276, however much of the escapement was driven by one system. The Copper River District harvest for the 36-hour fishing period that started on Thursday, July 15 was 27,611 sockeye and 181 Chinook salmon with 170 deliveries reported. At least 166 of the Chinook (92%) were harvested in **outside** waters; these fish were also extremely small (5.2 lb average), fitting a size profile of “feeder kings” or even other salmon species.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will remain closed to commercial fishing. For the week ending July 17, the Bering River Delta survey count was 10,360 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 11,051 – 24,313.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding waters of the Esther, Granite Bay, and Bettles Bay subdistricts and waters of the WNH SHA and THA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 19. Waters of the Granite Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 60-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 19. 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 60-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 19. Regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B)), will not be in effect for this fishing period. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, July 12 were 24,902 chum, 9,897 sockeye, and 54,617 pink salmon with 401 deliveries reported. As of July 16, 66,983 sockeye salmon have passed the Coghill River weir versus a cumulative anticipated range of 16,498 – 49,493 fish.

PWSAC requests that the WNH SHA and THA remain closed through Sunday. PWSAC completed its preseason WNH chum salmon cost recovery goal and is also in the process of securing broodstock. **In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.**

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Per 5 AAC 24.370 (f), the set gillnet fleet is limited to 36 hours per week starting July 10. The Eshamy District, excluding the MBH AGZ, will open to commercial **drift gillnet** harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 19. The Eshamy District will open to commercial **set gillnet** harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 19. The MBH AGZ will open to **SET GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. Regulatory closed waters in the MBH SHA and AGZ, will not be in effect for this fishing period. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, July 15 were 5,363 chum, 60,258 sockeye, and 42,962 pink salmon with 264 deliveries reported.

PWSAC has completed cost recovery and brood collection at MBH and recommends opening the Main Bay Subdistrict to the CPF. **In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.**

UNAKWIK DISTRICT: The Unakwik District will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 19. **The Unakwik District will close to commercial fishing for the season after this period.**

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for commercial purse seine fishing opportunity throughout PWS on Monday, July 19. Additionally, VFDA has recommended an additional commercial fishing period for tomorrow, July 18.

Pink salmon preliminary contribution estimates from recent fishing periods in PWS are as follows:

- Eastern District: 14-hour period ending on July 8 – 78% SGH and 22% wild.
- Eastern District: 14-hour period ending on July 12 – 96% SGH and 4% wild.
- Eastern District: 14-hour period ending on July 13 – 97.5% SGH and 2.5% wild.
- Northern District: 14-hour period ending on July 13 – 85% SGH and 15% wild.
- Port Chalmers Subdistrict: 38-hour period ending on July 9 – 59% SGH and 41% wild.
- Port Chalmers Subdistrict: 84-hour period ending on July 15 – 47% SGH, 1% AFK, and 52% wild.

Aerial surveys of the Northern, Coghill, Northwestern, Southeastern, and Eastern Districts were flown on Thursday July 15, and today, July 17. In most PWS Districts, pink salmon escapements are within or near expected ranges for the date. The department does not anticipate that these stocks will sustain a consistent schedule of openings at this time. Additional fishing opportunities will be dependent on ongoing aerial survey assessments and continued run entry of wild stocks.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District, **north of a latitude of 60° 57.00' N.**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Sunday, July 18. **On Monday, July 19, waters of the Eastern District, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm. Waters of Port Valdez east of a longitude of 146°23.00'W will be CLOSED to commercial fishing during both periods.** Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point will not be in effect during this fishing period. Preliminary harvest estimate for the period ending yesterday, July 16 was approximately 1.44 million pink salmon with 188 deliveries reported.

Waters inside of the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure early season escapement. Waters closed for this period include the following areas:

- (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 marker 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) **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.;
- (9) **Port Fidalgo Subdistrict:** waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Monday, July 19.

Waters inside of the following Northern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure early season escapement. Waters closed for this period include the following areas:

- (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.;

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour fishing period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Monday, July 19.

Waters inside of the following Northwestern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure early season escapement. Waters closed for this period include the following areas:

- (1) **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.;
- (2) **Pigot Bay:** west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°49.46' N. lat., 148°19.07' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°49.08' N. lat., 148°20.12' W. long.;

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Monday, July 19.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for a 14-hour fishing period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Monday, July 19. Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period ending on Thursday, July 15 was 8,534 pink salmon and 7,020 chum salmon with 3 deliveries reported.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: The Port Chalmers Subdistrict, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Monday, July 19. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous**

stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict WILL BE in effect for this period. Harvest estimates from the 84-hour period that ended on July 15 was 117,381 pink salmon, and 9,982 chum salmon with 14 deliveries reported.

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 seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Monday, July 19.
The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 21.**

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.