



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 21, 2021

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #41

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 22 for a 36-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**

[\(https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Harvest/\)](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Harvest/) to provide preliminary harvest reports to assist with inseason harvest tracking.

Cumulative sonar count through 7/20 is 708,567 fish. The 0600 count for 7/21 is 1,409 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 24-hour fishing period that started on Monday, July 19 was 12,344 sockeye and 11 Chinook salmon with 120 deliveries reported.

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 and Bettles Bay subdistricts and waters of the WNH SHA and THA, will **open to commercial purse seine** and drift gillnet harvest for a 14-hour period starting at 6:00 am on Thursday, July 22. 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 purse seine** and drift gillnet harvest for two 14-hr periods starting at 6:00 am on Thursday, July 22 and Friday, July 23. 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. As of July 20, 92,492 sockeye salmon have passed the Coghill River weir versus a cumulative anticipated range of 16,498 – 49,493 fish. Additionally, as of July 20, 131,820 pink salmon have passed the Coghill weir.

PWSAC requests that the WNH SHA and THA and Esther Subdistrict remain closed. 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: The Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial **drift gillnet** harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 22. The Main Bay Subdistrict, excluding the MBH AGZ, will open to commercial **set gillnet** harvest for a 12-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 22. The MBH AGZ will open to **DRIFT 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 24-hour period that started on Monday, July 19 were 14,654 sockeye, and 53,199 pink salmon with 148 deliveries reported. As of July 20, 95 sockeye salmon have passed the Eshamy River weir.

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.**

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for commercial purse seine fishing opportunity on portions of PWS on Thursday, July 22. Additionally, VFDA has recommended a port closure for this period for broodstock acquisition.

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

- Eastern District: 14-hour period ending on July 18 – 67% SGH and 33% wild.
- Port Chalmers Subdistrict: 14-hour period ending on July 18 – 41% SGH, 1% AFK, and 58% wild.

Aerial surveys of all PWS Districts are ongoing and weather dependent. The department does not anticipate that wild stocks will sustain a consistent schedule of openings at this time.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District, south of 60° 00.00' N will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 22. **Additionally, all waters of Port Gravina, north of 60° 42.56' N., and all waters of Sheep Bay, north of 60° 38.60' N will be closed to commercial fishing during this period.** Preliminary harvest estimate for the period ending yesterday, July 20 was 713,984 pink salmon with 140 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) **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.;
- (2) **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.;
- (3) **Landlocked Bay:** waters north of 60°50.76' N. lat.;
- (4) **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 Thursday, July 22.

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) **Jonah Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°01.17' N. lat., 147°35.07' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°00.40' N. lat., 147°35.93' W. long.;
- (6) **Siwash Bay:** west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°58.26' N. lat., 147°37.32' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.96' N. lat., 147°36.02' 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 Thursday, July 22.

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) **Cochrane Bay:** south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°44.91' N. lat., 148°17.12' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°46.01' N. lat., 148°21.77' W. long.;
- (2) **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.;
- (3) **Port Nellie Juan:** south and west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°30.36' N. lat., 148°15.03' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°32.36' N. lat., 148°19.42' W. long.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters south of the latitude of 60° 11.50' N., and waters of eastern Knight Island east of Point Helen (147° 46.27' W.), will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, July 22. **Waters of the AFK THA and SHA, will remain closed during this fishing period.**

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. Thursday, July 22. The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, July 24.

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.