



## Advisory Announcement

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### Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #18

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, July 4 for a 36-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be **OPEN** during this period.

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.
<b>Little Softuk</b>	<b>60° 13.16' N.</b>	<b>144° 41.38' W.</b>

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 expanded Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays between June 22 and October 31. 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 7/1 was 632,332 fish whereas 461,965 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 7/2 is 3,023 fish. For the week ending June 25, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 23,900

sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 17,627 – 41,665. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 48-hour period that started on Thursday, June 30 is not yet available.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** The Bering River District will remain closed.

**PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND GILLNET FISHERIES:** Gillnet depth restrictions, as specified in 5 AAC 24.331(b)(6), **WILL NOT BE IN EFFECT** in the Coghill District, Eshamy District, and Unakwik District fisheries starting **8:00 am, Monday, June 27.**

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** The Coghill District, excluding the Bettles Bay Subdistrict, Granite Bay Subdistrict, the Esther Subdistrict, and the Wally Noerenberg Hatchery (WNH) THA and SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 4. 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 4.

Until further notice, regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B)), will not be in effect during open commercial fishing periods. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide.

The Coghill River weir has passed 20,231 sockeye salmon through 7/1 with a cumulative target of 5,543–16,628 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, June 27 was 38,200 sockeye and 83,600 chum salmon with 664 deliveries reported.

PWSAC requests that the Granite Bay Subdistrict, the Esther Subdistrict, and the WNH SHA and THA remain closed for the entirety of the 60-hour commercial fishing period starting on Monday, July 4. Cost recovery is currently 63% complete, and harvest will continue at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants.

**ESHAMY DISTRICT:** The Eshamy District, excluding the Main Bay Subdistrict, and excluding the MBH THA, SHA, and AGZ, will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 4. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, June 30 was 68,800 sockeye and 11,000 chum salmon with 433 deliveries reported.

PWSAC recommends that the Main Bay Subdistrict remain closed for the entirety of the 24-hour commercial fishing period starting on Monday, July 4.

**UNAKWIK DISTRICT:** The Unakwik District will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 4.

**SEINE FISHERIES:** VFDA began its cost recovery sales program on Friday, July 1 and has collected approximately 3% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal. Harvest from yesterday resulted in an average weight of 3.6 pounds per fish and 3.3% female. VFDA cost recovery is continuing today.

An aerial survey of portions of the Eastern District was conducted on June 30. Stream escapement observations were minimal during these surveys, which is to be expected for the date. Current indices of escapement and run entry do not support a purse seine fishery targeting wild stocks in the Eastern District. The next aerial survey of the Eastern and Northern Districts is expected to occur later next week.

**MONTAGUE DISTRICT:** The Port Chalmers Subdistrict, north of 60°12.56' N. lat. and east of 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 a 48-hour

period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 4. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice. Preliminary harvest for the period ending on Friday, July 1 was 43,000 chum salmon with 48 reported deliveries.

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for a 48-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 4. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice. Preliminary harvest for the period ending on Friday, July 1 was 23,300 chum salmon and 4,400 sockeye salmon with 31 reported deliveries. The contribution estimate from the period ending on June 21 was 69% AFK, 16% Port Chalmers, 9% WNH, and 6% wild, from the period ending on June 23, the contribution estimate was 55% AFK, 31% Port Chalmers, 9% WMH, and 5% wild.

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** The Coghill District, waters of College Fiord, north of a latitude line at 61°01.80'N., will open to commercial purse seine harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 pm on Saturday, July 2, and for a 60-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 4.

Copies of the updated regulation booklet, *2022-2024 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are **not** yet available in the Cordova ADFG office. In the interim, please reference [https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/pdfs/commercial/2022-2024\\_cf\\_pws\\_salmon\\_regs.pdf](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/pdfs/commercial/2022-2024_cf_pws_salmon_regs.pdf).

**ALL buyers purchasing fish in the PWS Management Area are required to complete a Processor Registration Form. Contact the Cordova office for any questions regarding registration.**

**The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, July 6.**

Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements based on current escapement data may occur at any time inseason either establishing an additional period or extending an open period.

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.