



## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: July 22, 2022*

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### Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #40

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, July 25 for a 36-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing 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 7/21 was 755,242 fish whereas 582,506 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 7/22 is 469 fish. For the week ending July 16, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 32,135 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 31,424 – 74,276. Observational conditions on this survey were poor in some index

reaches. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 48-hour period that started on Thursday, July 14 was 11,900 sockeye and 6,000 pink salmon with 90 deliveries reported. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, July 18 was 4,800 sockeye and 1,700 pink salmon with 33 deliveries reported.

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

**ESHAMY DISTRICT:** The Eshamy District **north of Loomis Creek (60° 29.44'N., 147° 58.42'W.)**, will open to commercial **drift and set gillnet** harvest for a **24-hour period** starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 25. The AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. The Eshamy River weir has passed 976 sockeye salmon through 7/21 with a cumulative target of 1,406–3,028 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, July 18 was 47,600 sockeye, 49,600 pink, and 11,100 chum salmon with 216 deliveries reported.

**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 [2022-2024 Prince William Sound Area Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations \(alaska.gov\)](https://www.alaska.gov/2022-2024-Prince-William-Sound-Area-Commercial-Salmon-Fishing-Regulations)**

**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 seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm on Sunday, July 24.  
The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, July 27.**

Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements based on current escapement data may occur at anytime 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: [Prince William Sound, Alaska Department of Fish and Game](https://www.alaska.gov/Prince-William-Sound-Alaska-Department-of-Fish-and-Game)

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.