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Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #4

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will remain closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing. The Copper River District will open to subsistence fishing at 7:00 am on Monday, May 27 for a 12-hour fishing period. Waters within the Chinook salmon expanded inside closure area will be **CLOSED** during this subsistence fishing period. The next commercial opening of the Copper River District may occur as early as Thursday, May 30 with time and area announced by Wednesday, May 29.

The expanded 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.
Chinook Alternate #1	60° 13.79' N.	144° 59.09' W.
Chinook Alternate #2	60° 13.64' N.	144° 53.78' W.
Chinook Alternate #3	60° 12.64' N.	144° 40.21' W.

*Please note that the 'Coffee Creek West' point was replaced with 'Chinook Alternate #1'.

The grass bank marker line is defined in 5 AAC 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.

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 expanded Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays from May 18 through October 28. 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. To assist with inseason harvest tracking, 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.

Cumulative sonar count through 5/24 is 2,808 fish whereas 44,862 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 5/25 is 256 fish. North bank sonar is currently deployed 24 hours per day, and south bank sonar is not deployed due to shore ice and low water levels. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 12-hour period that occurred on Thursday, May 23 were 1,700 Chinook and 73,900 sockeye salmon with 422 deliveries reported. This compares to a projected harvest of 66,100 sockeye salmon for this period. The cumulative harvest to date is 4,100 Chinook and 168,000 sockeye salmon.

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

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding 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 Thursday, May 30. 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 an 84-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, May 30. A total run of 2.82 million WNH chum salmon are projected to return to the hatchery. Historical harvest timing for these chum salmon is from June 1 – July 27.

PWSAC requests that the WNH SHA and THA remain closed for the entirety of the 36-hour commercial fishing period commencing on Thursday, May 30. Cost recovery harvests will commence at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants.

A total of 273,000 Coghill Lake sockeye salmon are projected to be available for common property harvest. The harvest timing for these sockeye salmon is from June 1 – August 1. The Coghill River weir is expected to start operations during the second week of June.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District, excluding the MBH AGZ, will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, May 30. The 2024 sockeye salmon run to MBH is forecast to be 864,000 fish. The historical harvest timing for these sockeye salmon is from June 1 – August 1.

PWSAC recommends that the MBH AGZ remain closed to allow for hatchery operations and barrier seine installation. Cost recovery harvests will commence at MBH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants.

SEINE FISHERIES: D boat permit holders are asked to have the primary permit holder record their permit card first when delivering fish to a tender. Swapping the order of permit cards on fish tickets leads to double reporting and requires considerable post-season error checking.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: The Port Chalmers Subdistrict, east of Green Island, north of a line from 60° 9.52'N., 147° 22.38'W. to 60° 13.58'N., 147° 29.29'W. and south of a line from 60° 18.22'N., 147° 20.46'W to 60° 20.00'N., 147°13.25'W., will open for the 2024 season to purse seine fishing for 36 hours starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, June 1, for a 48-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 3, and a 36-hour period starting on 8:00 am on Thursday, June 6. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice.** A total of 920,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to Port Chalmers Subdistrict. Historical harvest timing for these chum salmon is from June 1 – July 27.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open for the 2024 season to purse seine fishing for 36 hours starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, June 1, for a 48-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 3, and a 36-hour period starting on Thursday, June 6. Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice. A total of 240,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to AFK Hatchery. Historical harvest timing for these chum salmon is from June 1 – July 27.

Copies of the updated regulation booklet, *2022-2024 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are available in the Cordova ADFG office.

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 Wednesday, May 29.

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 907-267-2843.

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.