



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: May 23, 2025*

**CONTACT: Jeremy Botz**  
**Finfish Area Management Biologist**  
**(907) 424-3212**

**Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #2**

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 10:00 am on Monday, May 26 for a 12-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be **CLOSED** during this period. To reduce Chinook salmon harvest during the next fishing period, the start time will be delayed to avoid opening on an extreme low tide (minus 3.2), when Chinook salmon are more vulnerable to harvest. These actions are being taken to ensure the achievement of the 21,000–31,000 Chinook salmon sustainable escapement goal.

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.        |
| <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, 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 24 through October 25. 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 5/22 is 9,727 fish whereas 11,435 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2025 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 5/23 is 1,420 fish. North and south bank sonars have been deployed 24 hours per day since May 16.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** Bering River District, west of a longitude line at 144° 28.20' W., will open at 10:00 am on Monday, May 26 for a 12-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. The intent of this opening is to target Copper River sockeye salmon that are traveling through the western portion of this district. As overlap with the Bering River sockeye salmon run timing increases, the likelihood of future early season opening in the Bering River District will diminish. Additionally, future openings of the Bering River District will be contingent on accurate reporting of harvest from within this district.

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** The Granite Bay Subdistrict and the Esther Subdistrict, including 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, May 26. A total run of 1.45 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 hatchery subdistricts open for a 36-hour commercial fishing period. An early group of chum salmon has been observed traveling between the Esther Subdistrict and the WNH THA and SHA. Cost recovery harvests will commence at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants.

A total of 301,000 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.

Copies of the regulation booklet, *2022-2025 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are available in the Cordova ADFG office. Regulation booklets that include changes made at the December 2024 Board of Fisheries meeting are not yet available.

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 28.**

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.