



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: May 29, 2025

CONTACT: Jeremy Botz and Heather Scannell
Finfish Area Management Biologists
(907) 424-3212

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #5

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District, excluding waters north of a line from 60° 11.14' N., 144° 36.03' W. to 60° 12.34' N., 145° 09.97' W. to 60° 17.88' N., 145° 38.40' W. and east of a line from 60° 17.88' N., 145° 38.40' W. to 60° 22.87' N., 145° 33.50' W. (Figure 1), will open at 7:00 am on Saturday, May 31 for a 12-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period.

The Saturday May 31 Copper River District subsistence fishing period will be concurrent in time and area with this commercial fishing period. This supersedes the previously announced time and area for this subsistence fishing period.

Low Chinook salmon commercial harvest to date indicates that the Copper River Chinook salmon run is likely small. Closed waters are being expanded offshore of the barrier islands. This fishing area restriction is being implemented to ensure the achievement of the 21,000–31,000 Chinook salmon sustainable escapement goal. The expanded closed waters are expected to reduce Chinook salmon harvest potential while providing fishing opportunity on more abundant sockeye salmon.

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.

Cumulative sonar count through 5/28 is 75,157 fish, whereas 52,240 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2025 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 5/29 is 2,153 fish. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 2,000 Chinook and 80,100 sockeye salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: Bering River District, west of a longitude line at 144° 28.20' W., will open at 7:00 am on Saturday, May 31 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.

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 Sunday, June 1.

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.

Figure 1.- Copper River District Chinook salmon outside closure area.

