



**Advisory Announcement**  
**For Immediate Release: June 1, 2025**

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**Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #6**

**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 Monday, June 2 for an 18-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period.

Forecast, harvest, sonar apportionment, and fish wheels indicators of Chinook salmon abundance all suggest a potentially weak Copper River Chinook salmon run. Chinook salmon abundance in the commercial fishery peaks during the end of May through early June, and the commercial fishery is continuing to be managed conservatively to limit harvest. The new offshore area closure line is part of an effort to increase Chinook salmon inriver abundance while providing sockeye salmon harvest opportunity. This management strategy is being implemented to ensure the achievement of the 21,000–31,000 Chinook salmon sustainable escapement goal while providing fishing opportunity on more abundant sockeye salmon.

Miles Lake Sonar project apportionment data (Figure 2) indicate that the 2025 cumulative count of large Chinook is tracking near the average (2019–2024). During those years the escapement goal was met 3 out of 6 years. It is too early in the run timing to determine the likelihood of meeting the goal this year. The current trend in large Chinook salmon passage does not give a clear indication of count levels at the end of sonar operation. While this apportionment data provides additional insight on Chinook salmon, the apportionment method to count Chinook salmon has not undergone an in-depth analysis or review on how those data compare with the NVE mark-recapture project, which is what the final escapement estimate is based on.

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.

Cumulative sonar count through 5/31 is 100,813 fish, whereas 83,401 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2025 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 6/1 is 2,435 fish. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 2,570 Chinook and 138,000 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 Monday, June 2 for an 18-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 openings 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 Coghill District, excluding 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, June 2. 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, June 2. 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.

PWSAC requests that the Esther Subdistrict remain closed for the entirety of the 36-hour commercial fishing period commencing on Monday, June 2. Cost recovery harvests will commence at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants. 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. 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.

**ESHAMY DISTRICT:** The Eshamy District, excluding the MBH AGZ inside of the barrier seine, will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 2. The 2025 sockeye salmon run to MBH is forecast to be 1.0 million fish. The historical harvest timing for these sockeye salmon is from June 1 – August 1.

PWSAC recommends a 36-hour fishing period in the Main Bay Subdistrict, excluding waters inside of the hatchery barrier seine.

**MONTAGUE DISTRICT:** The Port Chalmers Subdistrict will open to drift gillnet fishing for a 60-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 2 with an additional 84-hour period beginning at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 5. A regular schedule of two fishing periods per week is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. The western boundary of the Port Chalmers Subdistrict is defined by lines from 60°20.00'N., 147°26.59'W. to 60°14.75'N., 147°35.35'W. to 60°02.50'N., 147°44.41'W. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice.** A total of 780,000 chum salmon are anticipated to return to Port Chalmers and be available for common property harvest. The 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 2025 season to purse seine fishing for 48 hours beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, June 2, with additional 36-hour periods at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 5, and 8:00 am on Saturday, June 7. A regular schedule of three fishing periods per week is expected to remain in effect until further notice. **Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA**

**and SHA will not be in effect until further notice.** A total of 210,000 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 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 registration questions.

**The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, June 4.**

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.



Figure 2.- Miles Lake Sonar large salmon apportionment, 2019-2025.

