



Advisory Announcement
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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #8

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The current Copper River District fishing period is being extended by 12 hours to provide more harvest opportunity. Reports from the fishing grounds indicate that poor weather conditions have significantly impacted fishing effort and catch rates. 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 remain open to commercial drift gillnet fishing until 1:00 pm on Tuesday, June 3.

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.

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 6/1 is 112,775 fish, whereas 95,139 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2025 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 6/2 is 2,760 fish. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 12-hour period that occurred on Saturday, May 31 were 532 Chinook and 57,600 sockeye salmon with 380 deliveries reported. This compares to a projected harvest of 165,000 sockeye salmon for this period based

on the preseason forecast. 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 remain open to commercial drift gillnet fishing until 1:00 pm on Tuesday, June 3. 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.

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.

