



**Advisory Announcement**  
**For Immediate Release: June 21, 2025**

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**Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #15**

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, June 23 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be **OPEN** during this period.

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**.

Miles Lake Sonar project apportionment data (Figure 1) and fish wheel indicators of Chinook salmon abundance all suggest improved run strength of Copper River Chinook salmon with recent days of higher passage at Miles Lake. 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 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 escapement goal was met in 3 out of the last 6 years. 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 2015-2024 average cumulative Chinook salmon harvest to date in the Copper River District is 95% complete.

During the commercial fishing season, subsistence harvest may occur in the Copper River District concurrent in time and area with commercial fishing periods, unless otherwise stated, until the Copper River District is closed at the end of the season. **Additionally, waters of the Copper River District will open to subsistence fishing**

**from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays from June 28 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 6/20 is 464,303 fish, whereas 329,133 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2025 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 6/21 is 1,787 fish. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, June 19 were 344 Chinook and 56,100 sockeye salmon with 294 deliveries reported. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 4,530 Chinook and 636,000 sockeye salmon. The 5-year (2020–2024), 10-year (2015–2024), and 20-year (2005–2024) average cumulative harvests through 6/20 are 345,000, 489,000, and 713,000 sockeye salmon, respectively.

**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 23 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period.

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** The Coghill District, excluding the Granite Bay and Esther Subdistricts 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 23. 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 23. 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. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, June 16 were 6,190 chum and 600 sockeye salmon with 44 deliveries reported.

PWSAC requests that the Granite Bay and Esther Subdistrict remain closed. Cost recovery effort will continue at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants. PWSAC is 42% complete on the 2025 total gillnet revenue goal.

**ESHAMY DISTRICT:** The Eshamy District, **north of 60° 34.25'N, including Foul Bay, and south of 60° 32.00'N**, will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a **12-hour** period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 23.

PWSAC recommends keeping the Eshamy District closed to improve run-entry into the MBH SHA to achieve cost recovery goals. Run entry into MBH has been slow. PWSAC needs to see a substantial increase in fish available for cost recovery to accomplish the revenue goal before other PWS fisheries complicate tender and catcher boat availability. To date, PWSAC has taken 35,000 pounds towards the sockeye salmon cost recovery goal. Of the 12,000 broodstock goal, 0% have been collected to date.

**UNAKWIK DISTRICT:** The Unakwik District will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 23.

**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 23 with an additional 84-hour period beginning at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 26. 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.** Preliminary harvest

estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, June 16 were 91,000 chum, 3,440 pink, and 771 sockeye salmon with 369 deliveries reported.

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for a 48-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 23. 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.**

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 25.**

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

