



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: June 28, 2025

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #17

SPECIAL NOTICE: Starting this season in the Copper River District, a new statistical area (212-36) was added in the Cape St. Elias area (Figure 1). This new statistical area was also noticed at public meetings and through processor tender packets prior to the start of the season. Accurate harvest reporting from this new statistical area is a key component in evaluating harvest distribution in the district. The department has received numerous reports this season indicating that harvest from this statistical area is being reported in other statistical areas within the district. Continued underreporting of harvest from Statistical Area 212-36 may result in the closure of waters in the outer portion of the Copper River District.

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, June 30, 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.
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.**

Miles Lake Sonar project apportionment data (Figure 2) and fish wheel indicators of Chinook salmon abundance all suggest improved run strength of Copper River Chinook salmon through this stage of the 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 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 97% 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 6/27 is 539,140 fish, whereas 393,606 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2025 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 6/28 is 2,255 fish. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, June 26, were 219 Chinook and 58,705 sockeye salmon, with 293 deliveries reported. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 5,018 Chinook and 464,700 sockeye salmon. The 5-year (2020–2024), 10-year (2015–2024), and 20-year (2005-2024) average cumulative harvests through 6/27 are 424,000, 575,000, and 828,000 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 30, for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period.

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND GILLET FISHERIES: Gillnet depth restrictions, as specified in 5 AAC 24.331(b)(6), **WILL NOT BE IN EFFECT** in the Coghill District, Eshamy District, Montague, and Unakwik District fisheries starting **8:00 am, Monday, July 7.**

COGHILL DISTRICT: 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 remain open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 24-hour extension starting at 8:00 pm on Saturday, June 28. 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 30. 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 30. 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. The Coghill River weir cumulative sockeye salmon count through 6/27 is 2,155 fish. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, June 23 were 11,050 chum and 3,400 sockeye salmon with 65 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 64% complete on the 2025 gillnet revenue goal and has collected 20,000 chum salmon for broodstock at WNH.

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 30.

PWSAC recommends keeping the Eshamy District closed for maximum 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. PWSAC is 64% complete on the 2025 gillnet revenue goal. Of the 12,000 broodstock goal, approximately 2,249 sockeye salmon 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 30.

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 30 with an additional 84-hour period beginning at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 3. 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 23 were 106,300 chum, 3,960 pink, and 490 sockeye salmon with 405 deliveries reported.

SEINE FISHERIES: VFDA cost recovery fishing this past week has not produced enough fish to begin cost recovery. Additional test fishing will occur in the coming days, and subsequent announcements will provide updates.

An aerial survey of the Eastern District and portions of the Northern Districts was conducted on Thursday, June 26, and Friday, June 27. Some streams have early-season chum salmon beginning to enter, and there are pink and chum salmon staging in stream mouths and bays. Based upon current indices of run entry and escapement, a fishery targeting wild stocks may be warranted later next week; however, another aerial survey will be required before making that decision. The next aerial survey of the Eastern and Northern Districts will occur early next week, if weather allows.

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 30. **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, July 2.

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.- 2025 Copper River District statistical area map.

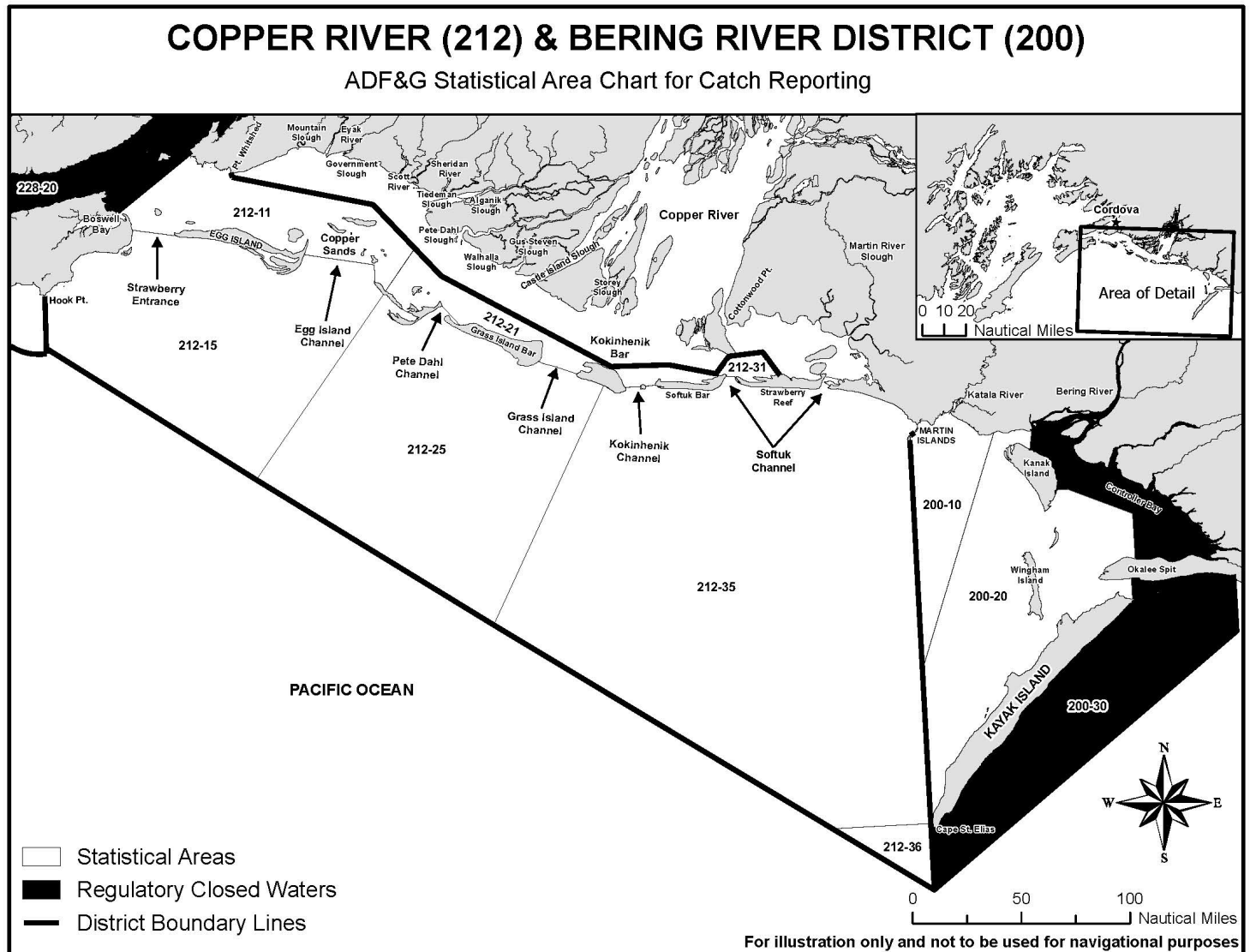


Figure 2.- Miles Lake Sonar large salmon apportionment, 2019-2025.

