



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 29, 2025

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #40

SEINE FISHERIES: PWSAC cost recovery began on July 27 – cost recovery fishing will depend on build-up and strength of run entry into SHAs. To facilitate cost recovery efforts and provide opportunities for wild stocks, time and area for future fishing opportunities will be based upon wild stock escapement, harvest contribution estimates, and harvest/effort data.

The VFDA return is almost 90% complete, and recent staff surveys indicate that the required amount of broodstock is in the port, and egg-take is expected to begin in the coming days. Based on that, there may be additional fishing opportunity targeting SGH pink salmon. Currently, broad-area opportunities targeting wild stocks cannot sustain the same fishing pressure, so while the SGH return may warrant day on/off fishing, other districts of PWS do not.

Aerial surveys of all PWS Districts were conducted last week. The Southeastern District was flown yesterday, and the Montague and Southwestern Districts are being flown today, July 29. Wild stock escapement indices remain within expected ranges for this date.

5 AAC 24.350 Closed Waters. Unless otherwise specified, all regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures are in effect. Alaska Fish Resource Monitor ([Alaska Fish Resource Monitor \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com)) has an interactive map highlighting approximate locations of cataloged anadromous streams.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District, south of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, July 30. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures in Simpson Bay will not be in effect for this period.**

Waters inside the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed to commercial fishing during this period to ensure early season escapement:

- (1) **Jack Bay:** south and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.34' N. lat., 146°35.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.17' N. lat., 146°39.77' W. long.;
- (2) **Sawmill Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.71' N. lat., 146°46.44' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.58' N. lat., 146°47.07' W. long.
- (3) **Galena Bay:** east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.87' N. lat., 146°39.87' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.55' N. lat., 146°39.65' W. long.;

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District, excluding the Perry Island and CCH Subdistricts and the CCH THA and SHA, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until

8:00 pm, on Wednesday, July 30.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District, excluding the Esther Subdistrict and WNH THA and SHA, will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, July 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 cumulative sockeye salmon weir count through July 27 was 82,019 fish compared to an escapement objective of 19,994–74,883 fish for this date. The Coghill River Weir field camp is being shut down for the season and the weir stopped counting fish at 8:00 pm on Sunday, July 27.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, July 30.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Wednesday, July 30.

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 31, for a 60-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing 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.

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 7/27 is 889,608 fish, whereas 598,246 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2025 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 7/28 is 1,281 fish. The sonar was pulled for the season on July 28. For the week ending July 19, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 69,767 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 31,424 – 74,276. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Thursday, July 24 were 4 Chinook and 23,500 sockeye salmon with 104 deliveries reported. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 5,487 Chinook and 830,000 sockeye salmon. The 5-year (2020–2024), 10-year (2015–2024), and 20-year (2005-2024) average cumulative harvests through 7/26 are 658,000, 793,000, and 1.13 million sockeye salmon, respectively.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: Bering River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 31, for a 60-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. For the week ending July 19, the actual Bering River District survey count was 19,050 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 11,015 – 24,232.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Wild sockeye, chum, and pink salmon run timing overlap is increasing and area is being reduced to provide for escapement in district streams, as well as allow for run entry to other districts. The Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 31. The AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period.

The Eshamy River weir has passed 124 sockeye salmon through 7/28 with a cumulative target of 2,498–5,381 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimates for the 24-hour period that started on Monday, July 28 are not yet available.

The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Friday, August 1.

The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Friday, August 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.

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.