

**Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #55

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, August 25 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. The standard management strategy for coho salmon is one or two 24-hour periods per week depending on escapement and harvest levels.

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.

For the week ending August 23, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 9,575 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 9,298 – 19,468. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday

August 18, were 10,960 coho and 365 sockeye salmon with 100 deliveries reported. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 18,628 coho, 5,493 Chinook, and 839,344 sockeye salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, August 25 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. The standard management strategy for coho salmon in the Bering River District is to fish concurrent fishing time with the Copper River District. For the week ending August 23, the actual Bering River District survey count was 2,410 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 4,002 – 10,158.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, August 25. The AGZ will open to **SET GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period.

The Eshamy River weir has passed 6,108 sockeye salmon through 8/21 with a cumulative target of 9,353–21,144 fish for the date. Harvest reporting for the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, August 21 is not yet available.

The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, August 23.
The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday August 27.

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.