



## Advisory Announcement

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## CONTACT:

Jeremy Botz and Heather Scannell  
Finfish Area Management Biologists  
(907) 424-3212

### Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #72

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, September 18, for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Additionally, the Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, September 22 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:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
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.

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 September 6, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 16,030 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 21,447 – 44,904. High water and associated turbidity resulted in poor survey conditions in some index reaches. The Eyak Lake drainage, which historically represents approximately 22% of Copper River

Delta coho salmon escapement indices, was largely unsurveyable. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, September 11 are 13,000 coho salmon with 107 deliveries. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, September 15 are 3,023 coho salmon with 36 deliveries.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** The Bering River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, September 18 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Additionally, the Bering River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, September 22 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 September 6, the actual Bering River District survey count was 3,590 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 8,803 – 22,345. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, September 11 are 5,800 coho salmon with 24 deliveries. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, September 15 are confidential.

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** The Coghill District, excluding the Esther Subdistrict and the WNH THA and SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 18. Additionally, the Coghill District, excluding the Esther Subdistrict and the WNH THA and SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, September 22. PWSAC recommends keeping the Esther Subdistrict closed to allow for coho brood collection. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, September 11, were 194 coho salmon with 4 deliveries reported. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, September 15 560 coho salmon with 16 deliveries.

**The next scheduled fisheries announcement is anticipated at 2:00 pm Wednesday, September 24.**

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.