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**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: May 30, 2026*

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**Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #4**

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will remain closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing. The Copper River District will open to subsistence fishing at 7:00 am on Monday, June 1 for a 12-hour fishing period. Waters within the Chinook salmon expanded inside closure area will be **CLOSED** during this subsistence fishing period. The next commercial opening of the Copper River District is anticipated to occur on Thursday, June 4 with time and area announced by Wednesday, June 3. **Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements providing additional fishing opportunity based on Miles Lake sonar passage trends may occur at any time inseason.**

The **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be defined as waters north of a line connecting the following points:

<i>Point</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
Steamboat North	60° 22.87' N.	145° 33.50' W.
Steamboat South	60° 22.31' N.	145° 33.50' W.
West side Pete Dahl Entrance	60° 18.89' N.	145° 30.99' W.
West end Grass Island	60° 18.30' N.	145° 28.42' W.
East end Grass Island	60° 15.24' N.	145° 17.89' W.
West end Kokenhenik Bar	60° 15.00' N.	145° 16.20' W.
East end Kokenhenik Bar	60° 13.65' N.	145° 09.46' W.
Western tip of Softuk Bar	60° 13.68' N.	145° 05.78' W.
Chinook Alternate #1	60° 13.79' N.	144° 59.09' W.
Chinook Alternate #2	60° 13.64' N.	144° 53.78' W.
Chinook Alternate #3	60° 12.64' N.	144° 40.21' W.

\*Please note that the 'Coffee Creek West' point was replaced with 'Chinook Alternate #1'.

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.

Forecast, harvest, sonar apportionment, and fish wheels indicators of Chinook salmon abundance all suggest a potentially weak Copper River Chinook salmon 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 conservatively to limit harvest. The new intermediate closure line is part of an effort to increase Chinook salmon inriver abundance while providing sockeye salmon harvest opportunity. This management strategy is being implemented to ensure the achievement of the 21,000–31,000 Chinook salmon sustainable escapement goal while providing fishing opportunity on more abundant sockeye salmon.

Cumulative sonar count through 5/29 is 25,627 fish whereas 61,573 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2026 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 5/30 is 1,600 fish. North and south bank sonars have been deployed 24 hours per day since May 22 and May 27. Apportionment has occurred on both banks since May 28. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, May 28 were 1,649 Chinook and 60,100 sockeye salmon with 469 deliveries reported. This compares to a projected harvest of 41,000 sockeye salmon for this period based on the preseason forecast. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 2,936 Chinook and 134,800 sockeye salmon.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** Bering River District will remain closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing.

Copies of the regulation booklet, *2025-2028 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are available in the Cordova ADFG office.

ALL buyers purchasing fish in the PWS Management Area are required to complete a Processor Registration Form. Contact the Cordova office for any questions regarding registration.

**The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, June 3.**

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.