



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: June 3, 2026*

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**Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #5**

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, June 4 for a 12-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **intermediate Chinook salmon closure area** (see map in updated Figure 1) will be **CLOSED** during this period.

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

<i>Point</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
<b>Pt. Bentinck</b>	<b>60° 23.80' N.</b>	<b>146° 06.04' W.</b>
<b>Egg Is. Channel West</b>	<b>60° 21.98' N.</b>	<b>145° 45.33' W.</b>
<b>Egg Is. Channel East</b>	<b>60° 21.32' N.</b>	<b>145° 41.14' W.</b>
<b>Pete Dahl Channel West</b>	<b>60° 18.36' N.</b>	<b>145° 35.32' W.</b>
<b>Pete Dahl Channel East</b>	<b>60° 18.11' N.</b>	<b>145° 30.45' W.</b>
<b>Grass Is. Channel West</b>	<b>60° 15.10' N.</b>	<b>145° 19.64' W.</b>
<b>Grass Is. Channel East</b>	<b>60° 14.65' N.</b>	<b>145° 15.83' W.</b>
<b>Kokenhenik Channel West</b>	<b>60° 13.40' N.</b>	<b>145° 09.98' W.</b>
<b>Kokenhenik Channel East</b>	<b>60° 13.28' N.</b>	<b>145° 05.46' W.</b>
<b>Softuk Channel West</b>	<b>60° 12.83' N.</b>	<b>144° 57.21' W.</b>
<b>Softuk Channel East</b>	<b>60° 13.36' N.</b>	<b>144° 53.71' W.</b>
<b>Little Softuk Channel East</b>	<b>60° 12.64' N.</b>	<b>144° 40.21' W.</b>

The subsistence fishery will be open concurrent in time and area with the Copper River District commercial fishery in addition to waters west of a line from 60° 19.23' N., 145° 37.03' W. to 60° 22.87' N., 145° 33.50' W. This Egg Island channel area is open to subsistence users only to provide access to sheltered inside waters for small boat subsistence users (see map in updated Figure 1). Additionally, waters of the Copper River District, excluding the expanded Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays from May 23 through October 31.

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.

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.

Cumulative sonar count through 6/2 is 47,339 fish whereas 107,378 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2026 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 6/3 is 1,318 fish. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that occurred on Thursday, May 28 were 1,730 Chinook and 62,970 sockeye salmon with 495 deliveries reported. This compares to a projected harvest of 40,950 sockeye salmon for this period based on the preseason forecast. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 3,015 Chinook and 137,700 sockeye salmon.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** Bering River District, west of a longitude line at 144° 28.20’ W., will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, June 4 for a 12-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period.

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** The Coghill District, excluding the Wally Noerenberg Hatchery (WNH) SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 4.

PWSAC requests that the WNH SHA remain closed for the entirety of this 36-hour commercial fishing period. Cost recovery harvests will commence at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants. A total run of 1.87 million WNH chum salmon are projected to return to the hatchery. Historical harvest timing for these chum salmon is from June 1 – July 27. A total of 104,000 Coghill Lake sockeye salmon are projected to be available for common property harvest. The harvest timing for these sockeye salmon is from June 1 – August 1.

**ESHAMY DISTRICT:** The Eshamy District, excluding the MBH AGZ, will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 4. The 2026 sockeye salmon run to MBH is forecast to be 431,000 fish. The historical harvest timing for these sockeye salmon is from June 1 – August 1.

PWSAC recommends a 36-hour fishing period in the Main Bay Subdistrict, excluding waters of the AGZ.

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 Saturday, June 6.**

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.- Copper River District Chinook salmon outside closure and subsistence only areas.

