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**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: June 17, 2026*

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**Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #9**

**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 Thursday, June 18 for a 12-hour fishing period. Waters within the Chinook salmon expanded inside closure area will be **CLOSED** during this subsistence fishing period. **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. 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.

Miles Lake Sonar project apportionment data (Figure 1) indicate that the cumulative count of large Chinook salmon is low for the date. The escapement goal was met in 4 out of the last 7 years. It is too early in the run timing to determine the likelihood of meeting the goal this year. The current trend in large Chinook salmon passage does not give a clear indication of count levels at the end of sonar operation.

Cumulative sonar count through 6/16 is 204,646 fish whereas 288,020 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2026 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 6/17 is 1,704 fish. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 4,172 Chinook and 228,277 sockeye salmon.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** Bering River District will remain closed.

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** The Coghill District, excluding the Granite Bay and Esther Subdistricts and the WNH THA and SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 18. The Coghill River weir was fish tight on June 10 and 1 sockeye salmon has passed to date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, June 15 were 5,103 sockeye and 4,949 chum salmon with 102 deliveries reported.

PWSAC requests that the Granite and Esther Subdistricts 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.

**ESHAMY DISTRICT:** The Eshamy District, north of 60° 34.25'N, including Foul Bay, and south of 60° 32.00'N, will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 12-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 18.

PWSAC recommends keeping the Eshamy District closed for maximum run-entry into the MBH SHA to achieve cost recovery goals. Run entry into the MBH SHA has been good. PWSAC is 19.7% complete on the 2026 gillnet revenue goal.

**UNAKWIK DISTRICT:** The Unakwik District will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 18.

**SEINE FISHERIES:** Time and area in AFK seine fisheries may change due to a change in contribution rates or increase in sockeye harvest.

**MONTAGUE DISTRICT:** As previously announced, the Port Chalmers Subdistrict, **north of 60°12.56' N. lat. and east of a line from 60° 12.56'N., 147° 20.25'W. to 60° 20.00'N., 147° 14.30'W.,** will open to purse seine fishing for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 18, and a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, June 20. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice.** A total of 840,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to

Port Chalmers Subdistrict. The estimated harvest for the periods ending on June 9, June 12 and June 14 are confidential.

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** As previously announced, the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 18, and a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, June 20. Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice. A total of 330,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to AFK Hatchery. Historical harvest timing for these chum salmon is from June 1 – July 27. The estimated harvest for the 48-hour period ending periods ending on June 9, June 12 and June 14 are confidential.

ADF&G may release commercial fisheries data only when it is summarized to include **at least three** entities (people, permits, vessels, or buyers). Data that does not meet this threshold remain confidential under **AS16.05.815. Confidential nature of certain reports and records.**

Copies of the regulation booklet, *2025-2028 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are available in the Cordova and Anchorage ADFG office. [2025-2028 Prince William Sound Area Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations](#)

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 20.**

Announcement recordings are available for gillnet fisheries at 907-424-7535 and seine fisheries at 907-424-7345.

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.- Miles Lake Sonar large salmon apportionment, 2019-2026.

