



Cordova Area Office
401 Railroad Ave.
Cordova, AK 99574

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 1, 2026

CONTACT: Todd Johnson and Jeremy Botz
Finfish Area Management Biologists
(907) 424-3212

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #15

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, July 2 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.
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.

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 6/30 is 346,177 fish whereas 419,739 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2026 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 7/1 is 3,362 fish. For the week ending June 27, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 16,970 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 17,627- 41,665. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 4,172 Chinook and 228,277 sockeye salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: Bering River District will remain closed. For the week ending June 27, the Bering River Delta survey count was 1,850 sockeye salmon versus the anticipated range of 6,092-13,402.

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND GILLET FISHERIES: Gillnet depth restrictions, as specified in 5 AAC 24.331(b)(6), **WILL NOT BE IN EFFECT** in the Coghill District, Eshamy District, Montague, and Unakwik District fisheries starting **8:00 am, Monday, July 6.**

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 24-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 2. Through Tuesday, June 30, the Coghill River weir had passed a total of 1,947 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated cumulative total of 5,530 fish. Fishing time remains reduced in general district waters to decrease the harvest of Coghill Lake sockeye salmon. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, June 29 were 9,500 chum and 2,400 sockeye salmon with 68 deliveries reported.

PWSAC requests that the Granite Bay and Esther Subdistricts remain closed for the entirety of this commercial fishing period. Cost recovery harvests will continue at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District, excluding the Main Bay Subdistrict, will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 2. The Main Bay Subdistrict, excluding the AGZ inside a line of buoys in front of the hatchery barrier seine, will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 2. The MBH AGZ will open to DRIFT GILLNET permit holders only during this fishing period. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 48-hour period that started on Thursday, June 25 were 57,700 sockeye and 8,100 chum salmon with 498 deliveries reported. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, June 29 were 62,600 sockeye, 7,700 chum, and 432 pink salmon with 451 deliveries reported.

PWSAC recommends opening the Main Bay Subdistrict up to a line of buoys in front of the hatchery barrier seine for a 24-hour fishing period. PWSAC's cumulative gillnet revenue goal is 74% complete.

UNAKWIK DISTRICT: The Unakwik District will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 2.

SEINE FISHERIES: Aerial surveys of Eastern and Northern districts are being flown today, July 1.

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, July 2, and a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 4. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice. The estimated harvest for the 36-hour period ending on June 28 was 13,700 chum salmon with 52 reported deliveries. A total of 840,000 chum salmon is forecast to return to Port Chalmers Subdistrict.

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, July 2, and a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 4. Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice. The estimated harvest for the 36-hour period ending on June 28 was 6,100 chum and 605 sockeye salmon with 32 reported deliveries. A total of 330,000 chum salmon is forecast to return to AFK Hatchery. Historical harvest timing for these chum salmon is from June 1 – July 27.

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 released by 2:00 pm on Saturday, July 4.

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.

