



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #5

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will remain closed to commercial fishing. The Copper River District will open to subsistence fishing at 7:00 am on Thursday, May 28 for a 12-hour fishing period. Waters within the Chinook salmon expanded inside closure area will be **OPEN** during this subsistence fishing period. The next commercial opening of the Copper River District is anticipated to occur on Monday, June 1 with time and area announced on Saturday, May 30.

The grass bank marker line is defined in 5AAC 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.

During the commercial fishing season, subsistence harvest may occur in the Copper River District concurrent in time and area with commercial fishing periods until the Copper River District is closed at the end of the season. **Additionally, waters of the Copper River District, including the Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on Saturday, May 30.** Subsistence users may obtain subsistence permits during regular business hours. The Cordova ADF&G office is open to the public Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. **Subsistence permits are not available outside of regular office hours.** 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 to assist with inseason harvest tracking.

Cumulative sonar count through 5/26 is 26,991 fish whereas 68,443 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 5/27 is 1,427 fish. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 12-hour period that occurred on Monday, May 25 was 1,470 Chinook and 33,750 sockeye salmon with 448 deliveries reported. This compares to a projected harvest of 60,050 sockeye salmon for this period. The Prince William Sound Science Center's Lower Copper River Sonar Station is operational near the mouth of Clear Martin River on the lower east side of the Copper River (60° 22.48' N., 144° 53.68' W.) and fish passage summaries can be viewed at <https://pwssc.org/2020-lower-copper-sonar/>.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will remain closed to commercial fishing.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding the Esther Subdistrict and the Wally Noerenberg Hatchery (WNH) THA and SHA, will open for the 2020 season to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 1. Additionally, the Esther Subdistrict, excluding the WNH THA and SHA, will open for the 2020 season to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 12-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 1. A total run of 2.55 million WNH chum salmon are projected to return to the hatchery. Historical harvest timing for these chum salmon is from June 1 – July 27.

PWSAC requires approximately 50% of the WNH chum salmon run for cost recovery and broodstock in 2020, and requests that the WNH SHA and THA remain closed for the entirety of the 36-hour commercial fishing period commencing on Monday, June 1. Further, PWSAC recommends that the Esther Subdistrict be opened for the first 12 hours of the commercial fishing period commencing on Monday, June 1, and remain closed for the remainder of the period. Cost recovery harvests will commence at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants. **In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.**

A total of 145,000 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. The Coghill River weir is expected to start operations during the second week of June.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District will open for the 2020 season to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 1. A total of 989,000 MBH sockeye salmon are anticipated to be available for common property harvest. The historical harvest timing for these sockeye salmon is from June 1 – August 1.

PWSAC requires approximately 5% of the Main Bay Hatchery (MBH) sockeye salmon run for cost recovery and broodstock in 2020. Cost recovery harvests will commence at MBH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants. **In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.**

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: The Port Chalmers Subdistrict, **north of 60°12.56' N. lat. and east a line from 60° 12.56'N., 147° 20.25'W. to 60° 20.00'N., 147° 14.30'W.,** will open for the 2020 season to purse seine fishing for **48-hours** beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, June 1. A regular schedule of two fishing periods per week is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice.** A total of 810,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to Port Chalmers Subdistrict. The historical run timing for these chum salmon is from June 1 – July 27.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open for the 2020 season to purse seine fishing for **48-hours** beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, June 1. A regular schedule of two fishing periods per week is anticipated to remain in effect until further notice. **Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice.** A total of 500,000 chum salmon are forecast

to return to AFK Hatchery. The historical run timing for these chum salmon is from June 1 – July 27. **In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.**

Copies of the updated regulation booklet, *2019-2021 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are available in the Cordova ADFG office

Under Alaska’s Health Mandates 10, 11, 12, and 17 commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska’s Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, May 30.

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 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.