



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #15

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will remain closed to commercial fishing. Permit holders are advised that the Copper River commercial fishery may open on short notice should indices of sockeye salmon abundance support fishing. A minimum of 17 hours advance notice of a fishery opening is anticipated. The Copper River District will open to subsistence fishing at 7:00 am on Monday, June 29 for a 12-hour fishing period. Waters within the Chinook salmon inside closure area will be **OPEN** during this subsistence fishing period.

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 be OPEN to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on Saturday, July 4.** 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.

To date, the sonar count is the 14th lowest on record (1978-2020). Cumulative commercial harvest this year is the 4th lowest harvest to-date in the last 50 years. Cumulative sonar count through 6/25 is 346,401 fish whereas 431,156 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 6/27 is 1,511 fish. For the week ending June 27, the Copper River Delta survey count was 13,035 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 17,627 – 41,665.

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

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding waters of the Esther and Granite Bay subdistricts and waters of the WNH SHA and THA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 29. Waters of Port Wells and College Fiord, north of 60° 55.81' N., and east of a line from Pakenham Point (61° 00.45' N., 148° 04.85' W.) to 60° 55.81' N., 148° 10.92' W., will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 48-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 29. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 48-hour period that started on Thursday, June 25 are not yet available. As of June 26, 8,446 sockeye salmon had passed the Coghill River weir versus a minimum cumulative anticipated of 3,112 fish.

PWSAC is currently conducting cost recovery in WNH subdistricts. **In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.**

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District will remain closed to increase sockeye salmon run entry into the Main Bay Subdistrict to support PWSAC cost recovery efforts. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, June 25 were 72,300 sockeye and 14,000 chum salmon with 567 deliveries reported.

To facilitate cost recovery harvests and broodstock collection, PWSAC recommends that all waters within the Main Bay Subdistrict remain closed. PWSAC has shifted to an aggregate cost recovery goal, harvesting enhanced sockeye and chum salmon as they become available in MBH and WNH subdistricts. Through June 26, PWSAC is approximately 22% complete towards its aggregate cost recovery goal. **In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.**

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 Monday, June 29.

SEINE FISHERIES: VFDA made three sets inside Port Valdez today, Saturday, July 27, for a total of 40 pink salmon.

An aerial survey was conducted on June 22, of Simpson Bay, Sheep Bay, and Port Gravina and indicated that wild salmon have yet to arrive to Eastern District streams. The next aerial survey of the Eastern and Northern district is planned for Tuesday, June 30.

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 to purse seine fishing for **48-hours** beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, June 29. A regular schedule of three 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.** Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Friday, June 26 is not yet available.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for **24-hours** beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, June 29. Due to increasing sockeye salmon harvest, shorter duration periods are necessary to focus efforts on enhanced chum salmon returning to AFK. A regular schedule of three

fishing periods per week (Monday, Thursday, and Saturday) 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.** Preliminary harvest estimates from the 48-hour period that started on Monday, June 22 were 49,050 chum and 3,289 sockeye salmon with 42 deliveries reported.

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 Wednesday, July 1.

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.