



**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: July 4, 2020*

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**Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #18**

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, July 6 for a 12-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be **OPEN** during this 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.
<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.

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 11.** 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 12th lowest on record (1978-2020). Cumulative commercial harvest this year is the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest harvest to-date in the last 50 years. Cumulative sonar count through 7/3 is 413,526 fish whereas 474,803

fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 7/4 is 1,830 fish. For the week ending July 4, the Copper River Delta survey count was 28,320 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 28,229 – 66,722.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** The Bering River District will remain closed to commercial fishing. For the week ending July 4, the Bering River District survey count was 10,000 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 6,092 – 13,402.

**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, July 6. 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 60-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 6. Regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B)), will not be in effect for this fishing period. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Thursday, July 2 are not yet available. As of July 3, 22,135 sockeye salmon have passed the Coghill River weir versus a cumulative anticipated range of 8,080 – 24,239 fish.

PWSAC recommends that the Esther Subdistrict, Granite Bay Subdistrict and the WNH THA and SHA remain closed. **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 12-hour period that started on Thursday, July 2 were 34,500 sockeye and 3,000 chum salmon with 320 deliveries reported.

To facilitate cost recovery harvests and broodstock collection, PWSAC recommends that all waters within the Main Bay Subdistrict remain closed. **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, July 6.

**SEINE FISHERIES:** VFDA conducted three tests sets at Rocky Point and Point Freemantle on Thursday, July 2, for 70 pink salmon. Test fishing is on hold today and will resume Sunday, July 5.

An aerial survey of the Eastern and Northern districts was conducted on Tuesday, June 30. Stream escapement observations were minimal during these surveys, which is to be expected for the date. Current indices of escapement and run entry do not support a purse seine CPF targeting wild stocks in the Eastern or Northern districts. The next aerial survey of the Eastern and Northern district is expected to occur Friday, July 10.

**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, July 6. A regular schedule of three fishing periods per week (Monday, Thursday, Saturday) 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 Thursday, July 2 were 16,800 chum salmon with 41 deliveries reported.

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for **24-hours** beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, July 6. A regular schedule of three fishing periods per week (Monday,

Thursday, 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 24-hour period that started on Thursday, July 2 were 11,815 chum and 484 sockeye salmon with 26 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 8.**

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.

