



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 11, 2020

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #22

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, July 13 for a 12-hour 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, will be OPEN to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on Saturday, July 18.** 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 13th 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 7/10 is 459,759 fish whereas 514,548

fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 7/11 is 1,884 fish. For the week ending July 11, the Copper River Delta survey count was 32,900 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 30,055 – 71,040.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will remain closed to commercial fishing. For the week ending July 11, the Bering River District survey count was 14,050 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 11,015 – 24,232.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding waters of the Esther and Granite Bay, and Bettles 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 13. 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 13. 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 84-hour period that started on Thursday, July 9 are not yet available. As of July 10, 33,346 sockeye salmon have passed the Coghill River weir versus a cumulative anticipated range of 13,404 – 40,213 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, **excluding Main Bay Subdistrict,** will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 12-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 13. The Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 13. The MBH AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. Regulatory closed waters in the Main Bay Subdistrict are now in effect, per 5 AAC 24.367 (g).

PWSAC has completed cost recovery and brood collection at MBH and recommends opening the Main Bay Subdistrict to the CPF. **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 13.

SEINE FISHERIES: VFDA began its cost recovery sales program on Monday, July 6 and has collected approximately 75% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through July 10. Cost recovery pink salmon harvest in Port Valdez on Friday, July 10 resulted in an average weight of 3.8 pounds per fish and 31% female.

An aerial survey was conducted in the Eastern and Northern districts on Thursday, July 9, and indicated that chum and pink salmon escapements are currently below the expected ranges for the date within the districts. Aerial surveys of most districts are expected to be conducted this week, weather depending, to further assess the strength of wild stock returns throughout PWS.

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 13. 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 9 were 2,623 chum salmon with 9 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 13. 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 Monday, July 6 were 6,200 chum and 700 sockeye salmon with 19 deliveries reported.

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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 seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Sunday, July 12.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 15.

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.

Coghill District – Port Wells and College Fiord line.

