



Advisory Announcement
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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #30

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 20 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 25.** 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 16th 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 7/17 is 506,631 fish whereas 562,018 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 7/11 is 1,265 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 Subdistrict and waters of the WNH SHA and THA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 20. **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 an 60-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 20.** Regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B)), will not be in effect during 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 Monday, July 13 was 4,843 sockeye, 22,894 chum, and 32,685 pink salmon with 281 deliveries reported. As of July 17, 46,487 sockeye salmon have passed the Coghill River weir versus a cumulative anticipated range of 16,759 – 50,277 fish.

PWSAC recommends that the Esther 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 open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 20. The MBH AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. As a reminder, anadromous stream closures in the Main Bay Subdistrict are in effect as of July 8. Harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, July 16 were 16,700 sockeye, 47,800 pink, and 4,500 chum salmon with 212 deliveries reported.

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 20.

SEINE FISHERIES: **This announcement will provide time and area specifics for commercial purse seine fishing opportunity in PWS on Sunday, July 19.** VFDA currently estimates there are approximately 100,000 pink salmon within the SHA. VFDA needs approximately 409,000 pink salmon for broodstock. Industry sampling of pink salmon caught at the Valdez Narrows on Thursday July 16 indicated 48% female. VFDA is recommending a closure of Port Valdez to build broodstock, time and area for future commercial fishing periods targeting VFDA pink salmon in Port Valdez will be based on continued run entry and broodstock needs. **Preliminary contribution estimates from the 14-hour fishing period on Wednesday, July 15 in the Eastern District were 93% SGH and 7% wild.**

Aerial surveys of all districts are expected to be conducted later this week, weather dependent, to further assess the strength of wild stock returns throughout PWS. The department does not anticipate these stocks will sustain a consistent schedule of openers at this time. The next wild stock fishing opportunity will be dependent on escapement, harvest information, and effort.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District, **south of a line from 61° 02.855' N. lat., 146° 44.204' W. long. to 61° 02.00' N. lat., 146° 40.00' W. long.,** will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Sunday, July 19.

Waters inside of all Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure escapement. Waters closed for this period include the following areas:

- (1) **Sheep Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°41.13' N. lat., 145°58.87' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°40.46' N. lat., 145°58.01' W. long.;
- (2) **Beartrap Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°45.13' N. lat., 146°06.12' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°44.51' N. lat., 146°04.57' W. long.; **this includes all waters of Port Gravina and Beartrap Bay inside of this line;**
- (3) **Olsen Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°43.46' N. lat., 146°10.14' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°43.21' N. lat., 146°13.97' W. long.;
- (4) **St. Matthews Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°43.36' N. lat., 146°19.07' W. long. to a shore maker at approximately 60°43.61' N. lat., 146°21.17' W. long.;
- (5) **Irish Cove:** south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°46.73' N. lat., 146°26.62' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°46.27' N. lat., 146°27.12' W. long.;
- (6) **Landlocked Bay:** waters north of 60°50.76' N. lat.;
- (7) **Galena Bay:** waters east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.87' N. lat., 146°39.87' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.55' N. lat., 146°39.65' W. long.;
- (8) **Sawmill Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.71' N. lat., 146°46.44' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.58' N. lat., 146°47.07' W. long.
- (9) **Port Fidalgo Subdistrict:** waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Sunday, July 19.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Sunday, July 19.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, **excluding waters of the Esther Subdistrict and waters of the WNH SHA and THA,** will open to commercial purse seine harvest for a 20-hour period starting at 12:00 am on Tuesday, July 21.

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 purse seine harvest for a 44-hour fishing period starting at 12:00 am on Tuesday July 21. Regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B)), will not be in effect during this fishing period. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide.

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 20. **Port Chalmers Subdistrict will then close to commercial purse seine fishing as the department switches to pink salmon management in the Montague District.** 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 16 were 6,500 chum salmon with 6 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 20. **The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will then close to commercial purse seine fishing as PWSAC and the department switch to pink salmon management in the Southwestern District.** Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice.

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 seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Monday, July 20.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 22.

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.