



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #32

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will remain closed to commercial fishing. **Given current indices of escapement, it is likely that the Copper River District will remain closed until the transition to Coho management in August.** The Copper River District will open to subsistence fishing at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 23 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 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 12th 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 7/21 is 521,678 fish whereas 586,593 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 7/22 is 318 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. Passage at Miles Lake and run entry into Delta index systems are low considering the absence of regular commercial fishing effort in the Copper River District. Additional fishing opportunity will need to be supported by ongoing assessment of run entry for both upriver and delta stocks.

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: Waters of the Coghill District, **excluding waters of the Esther Subdistrict, Granite Bay Subdistrict, and waters of the WNH SHA and THA,** will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 23.

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 and drift gillnet fishing for a 38-hour period starting, from 6:00 am on Thursday, July 23 until 8:00 pm on Friday, July 24. 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.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Per 5 AAC 24.370 (f), the set gillnet fleet is limited to 36 hours per week starting July 10. The Eshamy District will open to commercial **drift gillnet** harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 23. The Eshamy District will open to commercial **set gillnet** harvest for a 12-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 23. The AGZ will open to **set gillnet** permit holders only for the first 12 hours of this fishing period and then open to **drift gillnet** permit holders for the last 24 hours of 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 Monday, July 20 were 8,358 sockeye, 44,117 pink, and 1,468 chum salmon with 187 deliveries reported.

UNAKWIK DISTRICT: The Unakwik District is closed for the season.

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for a broad area commercial purse seine fishing opportunity in PWS on Thursday, July 23. VFDA surveyed Port Valdez on Wednesday, July 22 and indicated that broodstock needs are close to being met. **VFDA is recommending an opener within Port Valdez to harvest surplus SGH pink salmon.**

Preliminary contribution estimates from the 14-hour fishing period on Sunday, July 19 in the Eastern District were 62% wild and 38% SGH.

Recent aerial surveys of Eastern, Northern, and Southeastern districts indicated that pink and chum salmon counts are within expected ranges for the date, but new run entry has slowed. It is anticipated that future fishing opportunity directed on wild stocks will initially be limited to one to two days per week. **Time and area for future commercial fishing periods targeting wild stock pink and chum salmon will be dependent upon escapement, harvest, and effort.**

PWSAC and the department will switch to pink salmon management in PWSAC hatchery subdistricts on Thursday, July 23. **PWSAC recommends the AFK and WNH SHAs, THAs, and corresponding hatchery subdistricts, remain closed for cost recovery.**

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 23.

Waters of Port Valdez east of a line from a point on shore at 61° 04.75' N., 146°29.00' W., to the Security Zone A Buoy at 61° 06.00' N., 146° 25.42' W., to a point on shore at 61° 07.36' N., 146° 20.00' W., will be closed to commercial fishing during this period.

Waters within 200 yards of the AMHS Valdez Ferry Terminal are closed to commercial fishing when the ferry is arriving and departing. All waters of the Valdez small boat harbors and within 50 yards of the entrance to the harbors are closed to commercial fishing. Waters within the Alyeska Marine Terminal (Trans-Alaska Pipeline System) Security Zone are closed to commercial fishing. **Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point will not be in effect during this fishing period.**

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

- (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) **Jack Bay:** waters south and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.34' N. lat., 146°35.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.17' N. lat., 146°39.77' W. long.;
- (10) **Port Fidalgo Subdistrict:** waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District, **excluding the Perry Island Subdistrict,** will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, July 23.

Waters inside the following Northern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure escapement:

- (1) **Long Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°57.63' N. lat., 147°13.50' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°57.01' N. lat., 147°15.47' W. long.;
- (2) **Granite Bay:** north and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°55.02' N. lat., 147°27.61' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°54.66' N. lat., 147°26.72' W. long.;

- (3) **Cedar Bay:** north and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.46' N. lat., 147°27.03' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.03' N. lat., 147°26.39' W. long.;
- (4) **Wells Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.75' N. lat., 147°29.92' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°57.08' N. lat., 147°28.14' W. long.;
- (5) **Eaglek Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°50.66' N. lat., 147°40.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°50.56' N. lat., 147°44.57' W. long.;

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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 Thursday, July 23.

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 Thursday, July 23.

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 Thursday, July 23.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, July 25.

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.

Eastern District – Port Valdez closure line.



Coghill District – Port Wells and College Fiord line.

