



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #45

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 Monday, August 10 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:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
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, August 15.** 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.

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

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Waters of Eshamy Bay, west of a line from 60° 28.51'N., 147° 59.10'W. to 60° 27.94'N., 147° 57.87'W., and waters of the Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 10. The AGZ will open to SET GILLNET permit holders only during this fishing period. Fishing time and area is being reduced in the Eshamy District based on wild stock abundance indices.

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.**

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for a broad area commercial purse seine fishing opportunity in PWS on Saturday, August 8. An estimated 1.25 million pink salmon were harvested in PWS on Wednesday, August 5. The cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest through August 5 is estimated at 11.8 million CPF and 2.2 million cost recovery fish, for a total of 14.0 million fish. The 5-year even-year average (2010–2018) cumulative PWS pink salmon harvest (cost recovery and CPF fish) through August 5 is 22.8 million fish.

PWSAC began its cost recovery sales program on Friday, July 24, and has collected approximately 85% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal through Thursday, August 6. Sampling of cost recovery pink salmon harvest from Thursday, August 6 resulted in an average weight of 3.4 pounds per fish and 49% female at WNH and an average weight of 3.2 pounds per fish and 23% female at CCH. The anticipated female ratio on August 6 at WNH is 33% and at CCH is 24%. PWSAC discontinued cost recovery harvests at AFK on August 4 to build broodstock due to poor run entry and advanced female ratio for the date. Broodstock collection is also underway at WNH due to the advanced female ratio.

PWSAC recommends the AFK, CCH, and WNH SHAs, THAs, and corresponding hatchery subdistricts remain closed. Future CPF openings targeting PWSAC enhanced pink salmon in hatchery subdistricts will be based on completion of cost recovery, brood stock collection, and PWSAC recommendations.

VFDA reports adequate broodstock escapement at SGH and has recommended a continued closure of Port Valdez at this time. Egg takes are currently underway at SGH and VFDA has completed approximately 12% of their pink salmon egg-take goal through August 6.

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 Saturday, August 8. **Waters of Port Valdez north of a line from Entrance Point to Potato Point will be closed to commercial fishing during this period.**

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District, **excluding waters of the Perry Island Subdistrict, Cannery Creek Subdistrict, and CCH SHA and THA**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour fishing period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, August 8.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District, **excluding waters of the Esther Subdistrict, Granite Bay Subdistrict, and 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 Saturday, August 8.

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 Saturday, August 8.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: Waters of the Montague District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period, from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Saturday, August 8.

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 Saturday, August 8.

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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 salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Sunday, August 9.

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.