



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 26, 2020

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #58

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: Copper River District is anticipated to remain closed through Sunday, August 30. The standard management strategy for coho salmon is one or two 24-hour periods per week depending on escapement and harvest levels. The Copper River District will open to subsistence fishing at 7:00 am on Thursday, August 27 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, August 29.** 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.

For the week ending August 22, the Copper River Delta survey count was 9,800 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 9,298 – 19,468. The next aerial survey is expected to be flown prior to Saturday, August 29. The harvest for the 24-hour fishing period that started on Monday, August 24 was approximately 39,400 coho salmon compared to an expected 30,000 fish. Run entry is skewed towards the eastern side of the district currently. West

end harvest declined significantly during this last period and escapement in the western delta is low for the date. With distribution of harvest and fishing effort focused to the east side of the district during this last fishing period, there is a need to allow for additional run entry into eastern delta index systems. This management strategy should allow for a more consistent fishery in coming weeks and a good distribution of escapement.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: Bering River District is anticipated to remain closed through Sunday, August 30. The standard management strategy for coho salmon in the Bering River District is to fish concurrent fishing time with the Copper River District. For the week ending August 22, the Bering River District survey count was 5,920 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 4,002 – 10,158. The next aerial survey is expected to be flown prior to Saturday, August 29. The harvest for the 24-hour fishing period that started on Monday, August 24 was approximately 8,923 coho salmon.

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 purse seine salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm today, August 26.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Friday, August 28.

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.