



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: September 1, 2020

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #61

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open to commercial salmon fishing for a 24-hour period from 7:00 a.m. Thursday, September 3 to 7:00 a.m. Friday, September 4.

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, September 5.** 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 29, the Copper River Delta survey count was 21,530 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 16,147 – 33,807. The harvest for the 24-hour fishing period that started on Monday, August 31 is not yet available.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: Bering River District District will open to commercial salmon fishing for a 24-hour period from 7:00 a.m. Thursday, September 3 to 7:00 a.m. Friday, September 4. For the week ending August

29, the Bering River District survey count was 13,200 coho salmon versus an anticipated range of 8,732 – 22,165. The harvest for the 24-hour fishing period that started on Monday, August 31 is not yet available.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Eshamy District is closed for the season. No harvest has been reported since August 17.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District, excluding the WNH SHA and THA, will open to commercial drift gillnet only for a 60-hour period starting 8:00 am Thursday, September 3.

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will detail purse seine fishing periods commencing on Thursday, September 3; Friday, September 4; Saturday, September 5; and Sunday, September 6.

PWSAC recommends the AFK and CCH SHAs, THAs, and corresponding hatchery subdistricts and the WNH SHA and THA remain closed to build broodstock.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, September 3; Friday, September 4; from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Saturday, September 5; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Sunday, September 6. **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 Cannery Creek Subdistrict, Perry Island Subdistrict, and CCH SHA and THA**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, September 3; Friday, September 4; from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Saturday, September 5; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Sunday, September 6.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, September 3; Friday, September 4; from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Saturday, September 5; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Sunday, September 6.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southwestern District, **excluding waters of the San Juan Subdistrict, Port Ellington Subdistrict, and AFK SHA and THA**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, September 3; Friday, September 4; from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Saturday, September 5; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Sunday, September 6.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: Waters of the Montague District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, September 3; Friday, September 4; from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Saturday, September 5; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Sunday, September 6.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Thursday, September 3; Friday, September 4; from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Saturday, September 5; and 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Sunday, September 6.

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 salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Friday, September 4.

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.