



## Advisory Announcement

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### Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #16

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, June 30 for a 48-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **expanded** Chinook salmon inside closure area will be **OPEN** during this 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.
<b>Little Softuk</b>	<b>60° 13.16' N.</b>	<b>144° 41.38' W.</b>

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, **including** the expanded Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays between June 22 and October 31. Prince William Sound Management Area salmon subsistence permits may be obtained through any ADF&G office or online (<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/>). **In Cordova, permits will be available during normal business hours Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** ADF&G staff will not be available to issue permits before hours, after hours, on state holidays, or on weekends. 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.

Cumulative sonar count through 6/28 was 602,273 fish whereas 443,568 fish are projected by this date. The 0600 count for 6/29 is 2,486 fish. For the week ending June 25, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 23,900

sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 17,627 – 41,665. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, June 27 was 190 Chinook and 34,200 sockeye with 163 deliveries reported.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** The Bering River District will remain closed.

**PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND GILLNET FISHERIES:** Gillnet depth restrictions, as specified in 5 AAC 24.331(b)(6), **WILL NOT BE IN EFFECT** in the Coghill District, Eshamy District, and Unakwik District fisheries starting **8:00 am, Monday, June 27.**

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** The Coghill District, excluding the Granite Bay Subdistrict, the Esther Subdistrict, and the Wally Noerenberg Hatchery (WNH) THA and SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 48-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 30. 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 84-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 30. Waters of the Granite Bay Subdistrict within Esther Pass east of a longitude line at 148° 02.94' W., will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 12-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 30.

Until further notice, regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B)), will not be in effect during open commercial fishing periods. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide.

The Coghill River weir has passed 17,233 sockeye salmon through 6/28 with a cumulative target of 3,570–10,711 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 84-hour period that started on Thursday, June 23 was 19,300 sockeye and 47,400 chum salmon with 501 deliveries reported.

PWSAC requests that the Granite Bay Subdistrict, the Esther Subdistrict, and the WNH SHA and THA remain closed for the entirety of the 84-hour commercial fishing period starting on Thursday, June 30. Cost recovery is currently 63% complete, and harvest will continue at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants.

**ESHAMY DISTRICT:** The Eshamy District will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 30. The AGZ up to a line of buoys outside the barrier seine will open to **SET GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. Preliminary harvest estimate from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, June 27 was 59,400 sockeye and 11,300 chum salmon with 322 deliveries reported.

PWSAC recommends that the Main Bay Subdistrict open for the entirety of the 36-hour commercial fishing period starting on Thursday, June 30. The preseason cost recovery target has been achieved.

**UNAKWIK DISTRICT:** The Unakwik District will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 30.

**SEINE FISHERIES:** VFDA has begun test fishing for their cost recovery program. On June 24, 21 pink salmon were caught and on June 26, 77 pink salmon were caught. Test fishing continues today, and the frequency of test fishing will be dependent on run entry. Aerial surveys of the Eastern District and portions of the Northern District will be conducted tomorrow to evaluate wild chum salmon escapement. Aerial surveys to evaluate wild pink salmon escapement will begin in early July.

**MONTAGUE DISTRICT:** The Port Chalmers Subdistrict, north of 60°12.56' N. lat. and east of 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 36-hour periods starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 30 and at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 2. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice.

Harvest reporting for the periods ending on June 27 and June 28 are incomplete at this time. Contribution estimates for the period ending on June 21, was 93% Port Chalmers, 3% WNH, 2% AFK, and 2% wild. For the period ending on June 23, the contribution estimate was 97% Port Chalmers, 2% WNH, and 1% wild.

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for 36-hour periods starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 30 and at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 2. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice. Harvest reporting for the periods ending on June 27 and June 28 are incomplete at this time.

Copies of the updated regulation booklet, *2022-2024 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are **not** yet available in the Cordova ADFG office. In the interim, please reference [https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/pdfs/commercial/2022-2024\\_cf\\_pws\\_salmon\\_regs.pdf](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/pdfs/commercial/2022-2024_cf_pws_salmon_regs.pdf).

**ALL buyers purchasing fish in the PWS Management Area are required to complete a Processor Registration Form. Contact the Cordova office for any questions regarding registration.**

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

Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements based on current escapement data may occur at any time inseason either establishing an additional period or extending an open period.

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.