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## **Advisory Announcement**

For Immediate Release: June 9, 2024

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## Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #10

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Tuesday, June 11 for a 24hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the Chinook salmon expanded inside closure area will be CLOSED during this fishing period. There will be no Copper River District subsistence fishery on Monday, June 10.

The expanded Chinook salmon inside closure area will be defined as waters north of a line connecting the following points:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
Steamboat North	60° 22.87' N.	145° 33.50' W.
Steamboat South	60° 22.31' N.	145° 33.50' W.
West side Pete Dahl Entrance	60° 18.89' N.	145° 30.99' W.
West end Grass Island	60° 18.30' N.	145° 28.42' W.
East end Grass Island	60° 15.24' N.	145° 17.89' W.
West end Kokenhenik Bar	60° 15.00' N.	145° 16.20' W.
East end Kokenhenik Bar	60° 13.65' N.	145° 09.46' W.
Western tip of Softuk Bar	60° 13.68' N.	145° 05.78' W.
Chinook Alternate #1	60° 13.79' N.	144° 59.09' W.
Chinook Alternate #2	60° 13.64' N.	144° 53.78' W.
Chinook Alternate #3	60° 12.64' N.	144° 40.21' W.

<sup>\*</sup>Please note that the 'Coffee Creek West' point was replaced with 'Chinook Alternate #1'.

The grass bank marker line is defined in 5 AAC 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 <u>during all periods</u>.

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. Subsistence fishing in the Copper River District is not allowed within 24 hours of the start of a commercial fishing period. Barring this scenario, waters of the Copper River District, excluding the expanded Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays from May 18 through October 28. Prince William Sound Management Area salmon subsistence permits may be obtained through any ADF&G office or online (<a href="https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/">https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/</a>). 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. To assist with inseason harvest tracking, permit holders are encouraged to call the Cordova office at 907-424-3212 or report online (<a href="https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Harvest/">https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Harvest/</a>) to provide preliminary harvest reports.

The cumulative sonar count through 6/8 is 187,037 fish whereas 274,001 fish are expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2024 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 6/9 is 11,730 fish. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 12-hour period that occurred on Saturday, June 8 were 500 Chinook and 73,400 sockeye salmon with 347 deliveries reported. This compares to a projected harvest of 85,000 sockeye salmon for this period. The cumulative harvest to date is 6,500 Chinook and 327,000 sockeye salmon.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** The Bering River District will open to commercial salmon fishing, west of a longitude line at 144° 33.60′ W., for a 24-hour period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 11. Bering River sockeye salmon run timing overlap has increased and open area within the district will remain reduced until escapement indices support additional fishing area.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, June 12.

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 907-267-2843.

Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web address: <a href="http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main">http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main</a> (Prince William Sound and Copper River homepage).

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.