



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: June 22, 2024

CONTACT: Heather Scannell and Jeremy Botz
Finfish Area Management Biologist
(907) 424-3212

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #14

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, June 24 for a 36-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **standard Chinook salmon inside closure area** will be **CLOSED** during this fishing period. The trend in daily and cumulative passage at the Miles Lake sonar station indicates that the inriver goal is likely to be met and supports opening the Copper River District commercial fishery. Fishing effort is shifting from the Copper River District to other gillnet fisheries in Prince William Sound. Copper River District Chinook salmon average harvest timing (2014-2023) is 97% complete through this date. The continued closure of the standard Chinook salmon inside closure area is to help meet the escapement goal, and in response to Chinook salmon personal use and sport harvest restrictions (no retention).

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

<i>Point</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
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.
Coffee Creek West	60° 14.13' N.	144° 58.31' W.

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:

<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, excluding the standard Chinook salmon inside closure area, will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays from June 17 through October 28. **Subsistence fishing in the Copper River District is not allowed 24 hours before open commercial fishing periods.** 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. To assist with inseason harvest tracking, 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.

Cumulative sonar count through 6/21 is 465,086 fish whereas 400,703 fish are expected by this date based on historical run timing applied to the 2024 inriver goal. The daily count for 6/21 was 6,737 fish and the 0600 count for 6/22 was 1,380 fish. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 48-hour period that started on Thursday, June 20 are not yet available.

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 36-hour period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, June 24. **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.**

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding the Granite Bay Subdistrict, the Esther Subdistrict, and the WNH THA and SHA, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour fishing period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 24. 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 a 60-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 24. The Coghill River weir cumulative sockeye salmon count through 6/21 is 4,283 fish compared to an escapement objective of 1,192–4,469 fish for this date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, June 17 were 16,000 chum and 4,000 sockeye salmon with 90 deliveries reported.

PWSAC recommends keeping the Esther and Granite Bay Subdistricts closed for maximum run-entry into the WNH SHA to achieve cost recovery goals. PWSAC is approximately 10% complete on the 2024 chum revenue goal and will continue fishing as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants. Zero brood of the 228,000 fish goal has been collected to date.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District, excluding the Main Bay Subdistrict, will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 24. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, June 20 were 119,000 sockeye and 2,400 chum salmon with 445 deliveries reported.

PWSAC recommends keeping the Main Bay subdistrict closed to maximum run-entry into the Main Bay SHA to achieve cost recovery goals. PWSAC also recommends 24 hours of fishing time in the remainder of the Eshamy District. PWSAC is 70% percent complete on the 2024 sockeye revenue goal and will fish with a seiner/tender as run entry allows. Zero brood of the 9,250 goal has been collected to date.

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 Monday, June 24. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, June 20 were 700 sockeye salmon with 3 deliveries reported.

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 48 hours starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 24, for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 27, and for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, June 29. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice. The estimated harvest for the 36-hour period ending on June 21 was 34,500 chum salmon with 30 reported deliveries. A total of 920,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to Port Chalmers Subdistrict. Historical harvest timing for these chum salmon is from June 1 – July 27.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The AFK THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for 36 hours starting at 8:00 am on Monday, June 24, for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, June 27, and for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, June 29. Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice. The estimated harvest for the 36-hour period ending on June 19 was 3,840 chum, and 1,860 sockeye salmon with 10 reported deliveries. A total of 240,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to AFK Hatchery. Historical harvest timing for these chum salmon is from June 1 – July 27.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, June 26.

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: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main> (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.