



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #19

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The current Copper River District fishing period is being extended by 12 hours and will now close at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 6. Waters within the standard Chinook salmon inside closure area will remain **CLOSED** for the duration of the current fishing period. Additionally, the Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, July 8, for a 48-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 spread out between the Copper River District to other gillnet fisheries in Prince William Sound. Copper River District Chinook salmon average harvest timing (2014-2023) is 99% 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 subsistence, 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 7/4 is 604,332 fish whereas 486,081 fish are expected by this date based on historical run timing applied to the 2024 inriver goal. The daily count for 7/4 was 29,832 fish and the 0600 count for 7/5 was 6,001 fish. For the week ending June 29, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 33,650 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 17,627 – 41,665.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The current Bering River District fishing period in waters west of a longitude line at 144° 33.60' W. is being extended by 12 hours and will now close at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 6. Additionally, the Bering River District will open to commercial salmon fishing west of a longitude line at 144° 33.60' W. for a 48-hour period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, July 8. For the week ending June 29, the actual Bering River District survey count was 9,000 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 6,092 – 13,402. **Bering River sockeye salmon run timing overlap has increased, and the open area within the district will remain reduced until escapement indices support additional fishing areas.**

COGHILL DISTRICT: The current commercial drift gillnet fishing period in 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., is being extended by 24 hours and will now close at 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 7. Additionally, 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, July 8. 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, July 8. **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 cumulative sockeye salmon count through 7/4 is 37,044 fish compared to an escapement objective of 8,196–30,736 fish for this date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, July 1 were 18,900 chum and 12,700 sockeye salmon with 164 deliveries reported.

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, July 8.

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, July 8.

SEINE FISHERIES: Starting at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 6, a portion of the Coghill District will be open to purse seine gear. This opening is intended to increase fishing effort on Coghill River sockeye salmon.

VFDA cost recovery began today, July 5, and updates will be provided in subsequent announcements.

An aerial survey of the Eastern and Northern Districts was flown yesterday, July 4. Fish observations in some bays improved slightly, but overall observations and stream indices remain below what is expected for this date. Based upon current indices of run entry and escapement, a fishery targeting wild stocks is not warranted at this time, and future fishing opportunities will depend on VFDA cost recovery progress and wild stock escapement trends. Future aerial surveys of all districts are weather-dependent.

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 a 36-hour period on Saturday, July 6, a 48-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 8, a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 11, and a 36-hour period on Saturday, July 13. 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 48-hour period ending on July 3 was 76,200 chum salmon, with 52 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 a 24-hour period on Saturday, July 6, a 36-hour period on Monday, July 8, a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 11, and a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 13. Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice. The estimated harvest for the 24-hour period that ended today is unavailable. 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.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, waters of College Fiord, north of a latitude line at 61°00.45'N. (Point Pakenham), will open to commercial purse seine harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 6, and for a 60-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 8. **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 cumulative sockeye salmon count through 7/4 is 37,044 fish compared to an escapement objective of 8,196–30,736 fish for this date.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 10.

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.