



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #21

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, July 15 for a 48-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Waters within the **standard Chinook salmon inside closure area** will be **OPEN** during this fishing period. Cumulative passage at the Miles Lake sonar station indicates that the inriver goal has been met and supports opening the Copper River District commercial fishery. Fishing effort is spread out between the Copper River District and other gillnet fisheries in Prince William Sound. Copper River District Chinook salmon average harvest timing (2014-2023) is 99.6% complete through this date. Preliminary harvest reporting from the fishing period that closed this morning indicates that Chinook salmon harvest continues to decline as anticipated. The opening of the standard Chinook salmon inside closure area is to help increase sockeye salmon harvest potential.

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 will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays from July 11 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 7/12 is 780,285 fish, whereas 524,819 fish are expected by this date based on historical run timing applied to the 2024 inriver goal. The daily count for 7/12 was 18,609 fish and the 0600 count for 7/13 was 4,454 fish. A partial survey of the Copper River Delta was flown under mixed observational conditions during the week ending July 13. New peak counts were observed in most index reaches flown. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 48-hour period that started on Monday, July 8 were 145,000 sockeye and 106 Chinook salmon with 452 deliveries reported. The cumulative Copper River District harvest to date is 1.27 million sockeye, 8,800 Chinook, and 31,100 chum 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 48-hour period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, July 15. No survey was flown during the week ending July 13 due to weather conditions. **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.** The cumulative Bering River District harvest to date is 51,000 sockeye salmon.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding 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 15. **Anadromous stream closures within the Granite Bay Subdistrict will not be in effect for this fishing period.** 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 15. **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 7/12 is 58,633 fish compared to an escapement objective of 13,666–51,249 fish for this date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, July 8 were 9,400 chum and 7,900 sockeye salmon with 99 deliveries reported. The cumulative Coghill District commercial harvest to date is 77,000 sockeye and 179,400 chum salmon. PWSAC recommends keeping the Esther subdistrict closed for maximum run-entry into the WNH SHA to achieve cost recovery goals. PWSAC is approximately 18% complete on the 2024 chum revenue goal. PWSAC has resumed cost recovery with new run entry. The broodstock goal at WNH has been achieved. As of 7/12, PWSAC estimated that they had secured or harvested a total of 420,000 chum salmon for cost recovery and broodstock at WNH.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 15. The AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, July 11 were 35,400 sockeye, 5,100 chum, and 12,300 pink salmon with 157 deliveries reported. The cumulative Eshamy District commercial harvest to date is 1.06 million sockeye, 67,000 chum, and 31,300 pink salmon. PWSAC finished the initial sockeye revenue goal Monday 6/24. PWSAC initiated aggregate management and rebid sockeye to sell towards the gillnet (chum/sockeye) revenue goal. As of 7/11, PWSAC is 80% complete with the gillnet revenue goal. The 9,250 goal for brood was completed 7/6. As of 7/12, PWSAC estimated that they had secured or harvested a total of 435,000 sockeye salmon for cost recovery and broodstock at MBH.

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 15.

SEINE FISHERIES: An opportunity targeting salmon stocks in the Eastern District could occur as early as Tuesday, July 16, with time and area announced on Monday, July 15.

VFDA began its cost recovery sales program on Friday, July 5, and has collected approximately 38% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal. Pink salmon cost recovery harvest from yesterday, July 12, resulted in an average weight of 3.5 pounds per fish and 25% female. VFDA cost recovery is continuing today.

An aerial survey of the Southeastern District was flown on Sunday, July 7, and the Eastern District was flown on Tuesday, July 9. Fish observations in some bays continue to improve, but districtwide observations and escapement trends remain below what is expected for this date. An aerial survey of the Eastern District is expected to occur on Monday, July 15. Surveys of the remaining districts will occur later in the week, depending on weather conditions.

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 48-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 15, a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 18, and a 36-hour period on Saturday, July 20. 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 July 10 was 31,600 chum salmon, with 37 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 interception of salmon bound for other districts has increased in recent periods, so time is being reduced. The AFK THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for a 16-hour period starting at 6:00 am on Monday, July 15, a 16-hour period starting at 6:00 am on Thursday, July 18, and a 16-hour period starting at 6:00 am on Saturday, July 20. 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 ending on July 12 was 5,200 sockeye, 4,600 pink, and 3,200 chum salmon, with 16 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.

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 an 60-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 15. **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 next scheduled salmon seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Monday, July 15. The next scheduled salmon gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 17.

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.