



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 20, 2024

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #26

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, July 22, 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 100% complete through this date. 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 7/19 is 883,892 fish, whereas 561,864 fish are expected by this date based on historical run timing applied to the 2024 inriver goal. The daily count for 7/19 was 22,729 fish and the 0600 count for 7/20 was 4,729 fish. For the week ending July 20, the actual Copper River Delta survey count was 72,826 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 31,424 – 74,276. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 48-hour period that started on Monday, July 15 were 33,300 sockeye and 18 Chinook salmon with 235 deliveries reported. The cumulative Copper River District harvest to date is 1.35 million sockeye, 8,840 Chinook, and 31,400 chum salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open to commercial salmon fishing for a 48-hour period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, July 22. For the week ending July 20, the actual Bering River District survey count was 19,560 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 11,004 – 24,208. The cumulative Bering River District harvest to date is 58,700 sockeye salmon.

GILLNET FISHERIES: The Coghill District has transitioned to pink salmon management and openings will be in the seine section of this announcement.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Wild sockeye, chum, and pink salmon run timing overlap is increasing and area is being reduced to provide for escapement in district streams and to allow for run entry to other districts. The Eshamy District **north of Loomis Creek (60° 29.44'N., 147° 58.42'W.)**, will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 22. The AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period.

The Eshamy River weir has passed 168 sockeye salmon through 7/19 with a cumulative target of 1,244–2,680 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, July 18 were 23,000 sockeye, 2,000 chum, and 14,000 pink salmon with 246 deliveries reported. The cumulative Eshamy District commercial harvest to date is 1.15 million sockeye, 71,300 chum, and 65,500 pink salmon.

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 22.

SEINE FISHERIES: VFDA has completed cost recovery and has begun building their brood. Future fishing opportunities will be dependent on continued run entry into the Port and broodstock recruitment.

Aerial surveys of all the PWS Districts were flown this week. Wild stocks have started to build in some portions of PWS, and stream escapement indices are within the expected range for this timeframe.

5 AAC 24.350 Closed Waters. Unless otherwise specified, all regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures are in effect.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm, on Monday, July 22. **The northern boundary of the Eastern District will be announced tomorrow after VFDA completes a survey of the Port and evaluates their broodstock recruitment.** Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period that occurred on July 19 were 978,100 pink and 1,400 chum salmon with 153 reported deliveries.

Waters inside the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed to commercial fishing during this period to ensure early season escapement:

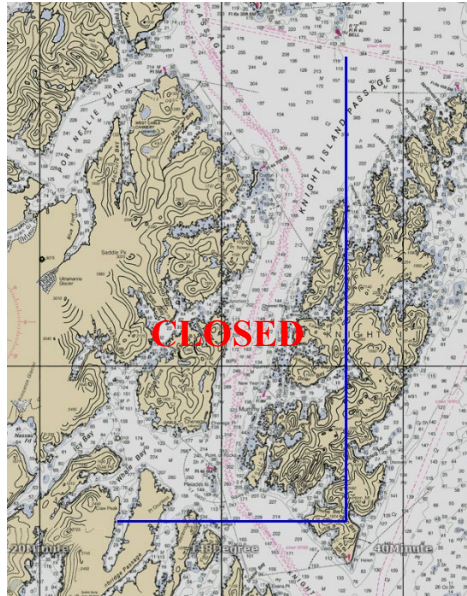
- (1) **Jack Bay:** south and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.34' N. lat., 146°35.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.17' N. lat., 146°39.77' W. long.;

- (2) **Sawmill Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.71' N. lat., 146°46.44' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.58' N. lat., 146°47.07' W. long.
- (3) **Galena Bay:** east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.87' N. lat., 146°39.87' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.55' N. lat., 146°39.65' W. long.;
- (4) **Landlocked Bay:** waters north of 60°50.76' N. lat.;
- (5) **Irish Cove:** south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°46.73' N. lat., 146°26.62' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°46.27' N. lat., 146°27.12' W. long.;
- (6) **Port Fidalgo Subdistrict:** waters east of 146°24.12' W. long.
- (4) **St. Matthews Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°43.36' N. lat., 146°19.07' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°43.61' N. lat., 146°21.17' W. long.;
- (5) **Olsen Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°43.46' N. lat., 146°10.14' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°43.21' N. lat., 146°13.97' W. long.;
- (6) **Beartrap Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°45.13' N. lat., 146°06.12' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°44.51' N. lat., 146°04.57' W. long.; this includes all waters of Port Gravina and Beartrap Bay inside of this line;
- (7) **Sheep Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°41.13' N. lat., 145°58.87' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°40.46' N. lat., 145°58.01' W. long.;

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm, on Monday, July 22.

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 22, and for a 36-hour period on Thursday, July 25. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice. Following the Thursday fishing period, the Montague District will transition to pink salmon management. The estimated harvest for the 36-hour period ending on July 19 was 24,300 pink and 13,800 chum salmon, with 22 reported deliveries. A total of 920,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to Port Chalmers Subdistrict.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southwestern District, south of the latitude of 60°11.50' N and east of Point Helen (147°46.27' W.), will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm, on Monday, July 22. Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery SHA and THA will not be in effect for this period. The estimated harvest for the 16-hour period ending on July 18 was 21,500 pink, 2,700 chum, and 2,500 sockeye salmon, with 4 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: Waters of Esther and Granite Bay Subdistricts, excluding the WNH THA and SHA, will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 7:00 am on Monday, July 22. **Waters of College Fiord, north of a latitude line at 61°01.80'N.,** will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet harvest for a 60-hour period starting at 7:00 am on Monday, July 22. **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 cumulative sockeye salmon weir count through July 19 was 69,018 fish compared to an escapement objective of 17,513–65,675 fish for this date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 60-hour period that started on Monday, July 15 were 17,400 chum, 2,200 pink and 1,400 sockeye salmon with 55 deliveries reported.

The next scheduled salmon seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Sunday, July 21. The next scheduled salmon gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 24.

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.