



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 24, 2024

CONTACT: Heather Scannell and Jeremy Botz

Finfish Area Management Biologist
(907) 424-3212

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #28

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 25, for a 60-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 7/23 is 928,728 fish, whereas 579,057 fish are expected by this date based on historical run timing applied to the 2024 inriver goal. The daily count for 7/23 was 6,539 fish and the 0600 count for 7/24 was 3,468 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 60-hour period that started on Thursday, July 18 were 31,100 sockeye and 12 Chinook salmon with 172 deliveries reported. The cumulative Copper River District harvest to date is 1.38 million sockeye, 8,850 Chinook, and 31,500 chum salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open to commercial salmon fishing for a 60-hour period starting at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 25. 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.

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 Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 25. The AGZ will open to **SET GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period.

The Eshamy River weir has passed 851 sockeye salmon through 7/23 with a cumulative target of 1,611–3,471 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Monday, July 22 were 6,900 sockeye, 600 chum, and 5,400 pink salmon with 223 deliveries reported. The cumulative Eshamy District commercial harvest to date is 1.16 million sockeye, 71,900 chum, and 70,900 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 Thursday, July 25. The commercial salmon fishery in the Unakwik District will close for the season after this fishing period.

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for commercial purse seine fishing opportunities in PWS for Thursday, July 25.

VFDA has completed cost recovery and has begun building its brood. Future fishing opportunities will depend on continued run entry into the Port and broodstock recruitment.

PWSAC pink salmon have started to show up in contribution estimates. To facilitate PWSAC cost recovery, terminal areas, and subdistricts will be closed for these fishing periods.

An aerial survey of the Eastern and Northern Districts is expected to be conducted tomorrow, July 25, and the remaining districts will be surveyed throughout the week and weekend.

Pink salmon preliminary contribution estimates from recent fishing periods in PWS are as follows:

- Eshamy District: Period 13 – 91% wild, 5% SGH and 4% AFK.
- Southwestern District: Period 20 – 81% wild, 14% AFK, 4% SGH and 1% WNH.
- Southwestern District: Period 21 – 54% wild, 32% AFK, and 14% SGH.
- Southwestern District: Period 22 – 36% wild, 33% SGH, 21% AFK, 6% WNH, and 3% CCH.
- Port Chalmers Subdistrict: Period 22 – 61% SGH and 39% wild.
- Eastern District: Period 2 – 97% SGH and 3% wild.
- Eastern District: Period 3 – 84% SGH and 16% wild.

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 Thursday, July 25. **The waters of Port Valdez east of the longitude of 146°33.00'W will be CLOSED to commercial fishing during this period.** Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point will not be in effect during this fishing period. Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period that occurred on July 22 were 555,300 pink and 2,400 chum salmon with 128 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.;

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm, on Thursday, July 25.

Waters inside of the following Northern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure early season escapement. Waters closed for this period include the following areas:

- (1) **Long Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°57.63' N. lat., 147°13.50' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°57.01' N. lat., 147°15.47' W. long.;
- (2) **Granite Bay:** north and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°55.02' N. lat., 147°27.61' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°54.66' N. lat., 147°26.72' W. long.;
- (3) **Cedar Bay:** north and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.46' N. lat., 147°27.03' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.03' N. lat., 147°26.39' W. long.;
- (4) **Wells Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.75' N. lat., 147°29.92' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°57.08' N. lat., 147°28.14' W. long.;
- (5) **Jonah Bay:** north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°01.17' N. lat., 147°35.07' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°00.40' N. lat., 147°35.93' W. long.;
- (6) **Siwash Bay:** west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°58.26' N. lat., 147°37.32' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.96' N. lat., 147°36.02' W. long.;

- (5) **Eaglek Bay**: north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°50.66' N. lat., 147°40.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°50.56' N. lat., 147°44.57' W. long.;

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour fishing period, from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm, on Thursday, July 25.

Waters inside of the following Northwestern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure early season escapement. Waters closed for this period include the following areas:

- (1) **Cochrane Bay**: south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°44.91' N. lat., 148°17.12' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°46.01' N. lat., 148°21.77' W. long.;
- (2) **Culross Pass**: within the passage south of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°45.47' N. lat., 148°12.63' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°45.82' N. lat., 148°13.57' W. long. and north of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°37.48' N. lat., 148°10.12' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°37.16' N. lat., 148°11.42' W. long.;
- (3) **Port Nellie Juan**: south and west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°30.36' N. lat., 148°15.03' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°32.36' N. lat., 148°19.42' W. long.

COGHILL DISTRICT: The Coghill District, excluding waters of the Esther Subdistrict and WNH THA and SHA, will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet harvest for a for a 12-hour fishing period, from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm, on Thursday, July 25.

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 Friday, July 26. Regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B)), will not be in effect for this fishing period. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide. As of July 23, 81,045 sockeye salmon have passed the Coghill River weir versus a cumulative anticipated range of 19,119 – 71,698 fish. Additionally, as of July 23, 1,957 pink salmon have passed the Coghill weir. The estimated harvest for the 84-hour period ending on July 21 was 26,800 pink, 850 chum, and 370 sockeye salmon, with 97 reported deliveries.

Waters inside of the following Coghill District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure early season escapement. Waters closed for this period include the following areas:

- (1) **Bettles Bay**: west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.16' N. lat., 148°14.76' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°54.97' N. lat., 148°16.09' W. long.;
- (2) **Hummer Bay**: west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°53.56' N. lat., 148°16.62' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°51.76' N. lat., 148°17.52' W. long.;
- (3) **Pigot Bay**: west of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°49.96' N. lat., 148°19.07' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°49.08' N. lat., 148°20.12' W. long.;

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: As previously announced, 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 Thursday, July 25. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice. Following this fishing period, the Montague District will transition to pink salmon management. The estimated harvest for the 36-hour period ending on July 21 was 66,800 pink and 5,600 chum salmon, with 15 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.) and excluding waters of the San Juan Subdistrict and AFK THA and SHA, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm, on Thursday, July 25. Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period that occurred on July 22 were 88,600 pink, 12,000 sockeye, and 2,200 chum salmon, with 15 reported deliveries.

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 Thursday, July 25.

**The next scheduled salmon seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, July 27.
The next scheduled salmon gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, July 27.**

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.