



## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: July 17, 2026*

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### Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #22

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** The Copper River District will remain closed. The Copper River District will open to subsistence fishing at 7:00 am on Monday, July 20 for a 12-hour fishing period. Waters within the Chinook salmon expanded inside closure area will be OPEN during this subsistence fishing period. **Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements providing additional fishing opportunity based on Miles Lake sonar passage trends may occur at any time inseason.**

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.        |
| <b>Little Softuk</b>  | <b>60° 13.16' N.</b> | <b>144° 41.38' W.</b> |

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.

Sockeye salmon abundance trends at the sonar indicate a smaller than forecast run with passage projections through the end of sonar operation suggesting that the inriver goal is likely to be met. Forecast, harvest, sonar apportionment, and fish wheels indicators of Chinook salmon abundance all suggest a weak Copper River Chinook salmon run. Chinook salmon abundance in the commercial fishery peaks during the end of May through early June. Miles Lake Sonar project apportionment data (Figure 1) indicate that the cumulative count of large Chinook salmon is low for the date. The escapement goal was met in 4 out of the last 7 years. The current trend in large Chinook salmon passage indicates that count levels at the end of sonar operation are likely to be around the lower end of the escapement goal.

Cumulative sonar count through 7/16 is 548,882 fish whereas 543,916 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2026 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 7/17 is 511 fish. For the week ending July 18, no delta survey is expected due to weather conditions. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 4,250 Chinook and 243,000 sockeye salmon.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** Bering River District will remain closed. Due to weather conditions, no survey is expected to be flown the week ending July 18.

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** The Coghill District will remain closed due to low WNH chum salmon escapement and low sockeye salmon escapement at Coghill River weir. Through Thursday, July 16, the Coghill River weir had passed a total of 6,877 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated cumulative total of 16,584 fish. Due to high water, fish are currently not being enumerated at the weir. PWSAC requests that the Granite Bay and Esther Subdistricts remain closed for the entirety of this commercial fishing period. Cost recovery harvests will continue at WNH as run entry and hatchery escapement warrants.

**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 drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 20. The Eshamy District **north of Loomis Creek (60° 29.44'N., 147° 58.42'W.)**, will open to commercial set gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 20. The AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. Regulatory closed waters in the MBH SHA and AGZ, will not be in effect for this fishing period. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 36-hour period that started on Thursday, July 16 are not yet available.

PWSAC recommends opening the Main Bay Subdistrict to target remaining hatchery surplus. Brood collection is complete at MBH.

**UNAKWIK DISTRICT:** The Unakwik District will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 20.

**SEINE FISHERIES:** An aerial survey of Eastern district was conducted yesterday, Thursday, July 17. Fish observations from the survey were minimal. An aerial survey is anticipated for Southwestern and Montague tomorrow, Saturday, July 18, and remaining surveys will occur as weather permits.

VFDA has achieved 13% of its 2026 pink salmon revenue goal. Run entry in the Valdez narrows continues to be very low. A sample from fish caught at the narrows Wednesday averaged 25% female and an average weight of 3.7 pounds. A survey of hatchery brood stock on Thursday showed approximately 10,000 within the SHA, with little fish showing around the port. Cost recovery is paused to build brood stock.

**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, July 20, for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 23, and a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 25. 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 14 was 2,900 chum salmon with 25 reported deliveries. There has been a cumulative harvest of 410,000 chum salmon at Port Chalmers. A total of 840,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to Port Chalmers Subdistrict.

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** The AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will open to purse seine fishing for 48 hours starting at 8:00 am on Monday, July 20, for a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 23, and a 36-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 25. Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice. The estimated harvest for the 48-hour period ending on July 14, was 1,300 chum and 105 sockeye salmon with 10 reported deliveries. There has been a cumulative harvest

of 164,000 chum salmon at AFK. A total of 330,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to AFK Hatchery. Historical harvest timing for these chum salmon is from June 1 – July 27.

Copies of the regulation booklet, *2025-2028 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound*, are available in the Cordova and Anchorage ADFG office. [2025-2028 Prince William Sound Area Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations](#)

ALL buyers purchasing fish in the PWS Management Area are required to complete a Processor Registration Form. Contact the Cordova office for any questions regarding registration.

**The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be released by 2:00 pm on Wednesday, July 22.**

Announcement recordings are available for gillnet fisheries at 907-424-7535 and seine fisheries at 907-424-7345.

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).

Unless otherwise specified, all openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111.

The department encourages commercial permit holders to renew their licenses early and to check their CFEC vessel registration stickers to make sure they are current.

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.

Figure 1.- Miles Lake Sonar large salmon apportionment, 2019-2026.

