



Advisory Announcement

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CONTACT: Todd Johnson and Jeremy Botz

**Finfish Area Management Biologists
(907) 424-3212**

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #24

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will remain closed. The Copper River District will open to subsistence fishing at 7:00 am on Thursday, July 23 for a 12-hour fishing period. Waters within the Chinook salmon expanded inside closure area will be OPEN during this subsistence fishing period.

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.

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 7/21 is 559,018 fish whereas 573,257 fish would be expected by this date based on historical timing applied to the 2026 inriver goal. The 0600 count for 7/22 is 66 fish. South bank sonar is currently inoperable due to electrical issues, but counts are expected to resume later today. A delta aerial survey will be flown as soon as weather and plane availability permit. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 4,250 Chinook and 243,000 sockeye salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: Bering River District will remain closed. An aerial survey will be flown as soon as weather and plane availability permit.

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 Tuesday, July 21, the Coghill River weir had passed a total of 6,877 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated cumulative total of 18,743 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. Run entry has slowed at WNH and PWSAC anticipates that they may end up short of their chum salmon broodstock goal.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Wild sockeye, chum, and pink salmon run timing overlap is increasing. Fishing area is being reduced to provide for district stream escapement and to allow for run entry to other districts. Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial **drift gillnet** harvest for a **36-hour** period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 23. The Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial **set gillnet** harvest for a **12-hour** period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 23. The MBH AGZ will open to **SET GILLNET** permit holders only from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Thursday, July 23. The MBH AGZ will open to **DRIFT GILLNET** harvest for 24 hours starting at 8:00 pm on Thursday, July 23. 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 Monday, July 20 were 6,970 sockeye, 2,030 chum, and 35,900 pink salmon with 131 deliveries reported.

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 Thursday, July 23. **The commercial salmon fishery in the Unakwik District will close for the season after this fishing period.**

SEINE FISHERIES: Aerial surveys of the Southwestern and Montague Districts were conducted on Tuesday, July 21. Fish observations were minimal and well below anticipated survey counts based on date. Aerial surveys are anticipated for the other districts later this week, as weather permits.

VFDA continues to prioritize brood recruitment. There is an estimated 100,000 pink salmon in the SHA, with a small number of pink salmon staging in the upper port. A sample of 231 were fish taken at Entrance Point which yielded an average weight of 3.66 pounds and had a female percentage of 41.5%. Cost recovery is paused to recruit sufficient brood stock to the hatchery.

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 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 36-hour period ending on July 19 was 1,258 chum salmon and 3,700 pink salmon with 19 reported deliveries. There has been a cumulative harvest of 414,000 chum salmon at Port Chalmers. A total of 840,000 chum salmon are forecast to return to Port Chalmers Subdistrict.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: The Southwest District will remain closed. PWSAC recommends that AFK, THA, and SHA be closed to allow for pink salmon run entry for cost recovery.

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 Friday, July 24.

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.

