



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 5, 2026

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #29

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, August 6 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.

For the week ending August 1, the Copper River Delta survey count was 37,569 sockeye salmon which falls within the anticipated range of 32,568–76,979. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 4,250 Chinook and 243,000 sockeye salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: Bering River District will remain closed. For the week ending August 1, the Bering River District survey count was 5,520 sockeye salmon, which is below the anticipated range of 8,409–18,499.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a **24-hour** period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, August 6. The Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial set gillnet harvest for a **24-hour** period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, August 6. The AGZ will open to **SET 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. The Eshamy River weir has passed 1,527 sockeye salmon through 8/4 with a cumulative target of 3,551–7,650 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, July 30 were 1,014 sockeye, 121 chum, and 2,216 pink salmon with 29 deliveries reported.

Preliminary harvest estimates from the 12-hour period that started on Monday, August 3 were 1,841 sockeye, 405 chum, and 12,746 pink salmon with 49 deliveries reported.

SEINE FISHERIES: Prince William Sound purse seine fisheries will remain closed. The next commercial fishing opportunity will depend on aerial survey results. Although recent reports of increasing pink salmon abundance throughout PWS are encouraging, conservative management is warranted until these fish begin showing up in stream counts.

A partial aerial survey of the Southeastern district was flown, Saturday, August 1. Aerial surveys are anticipated for the rest of PWS later this week as weather permits. While escapement trends are improving, they remain below what is projected for this date.

VFDA harvested 16% of the pink salmon revenue goal and paused effort on August 4. Surveys showed adequate broodstock within the SHA, but not a surplus above VFDA's anticipated needs. Egg take will continue throughout the week as fish become available.

PWSAC began its cost recovery sales program on Friday, July 31, and to date has collected approximately 21% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal. Sampling of cost recovery pink salmon at AFK on August 4, resulted in an average weight of 3.5 pounds per fish and 19% female ratio. Sampling of cost recovery pink salmon at WNH on August 4, resulted in an average weight of 3.4 pounds per fish and a 19% female ratio. Sampling of cost recovery pink salmon at CCH on August 4, resulted in an average weight of 3.2 pounds per fish and 19.5% female ratio.

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, August 7.

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.