



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 14, 2026

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #34

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, August 20 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. The standard management strategy for coho salmon is one or two 24-hour periods per week depending on escapement and harvest levels.

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. Harvest estimates from the 24-hour fishing period that started on Thursday, August 13 are not yet available. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 4,250 Chinook and 243,000 sockeye salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, August 20 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. The standard management strategy for coho salmon in the Bering River District is to fish concurrently with the Copper River District. 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. Harvest estimates from the 24-hour fishing period that started on Thursday, August 13 are not yet available.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Eshamy District will remain closed. Sockeye salmon passage at the Eshamy River weir continues to track below target levels and closure time is being expanded to increase escapement.

The Eshamy River weir has passed 2,460 sockeye salmon through 8/13 with a cumulative target of 6,099–13,137 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, August 13 are not yet available.

SEINE FISHERIES: Prince William Sound purse seine fisheries will be closed on Saturday, August 15, to allow further evaluation of fishery performance data. The next broad area commercial purse seine fishing period may occur as early as Sunday, August 16. Time and area specifics will be announced on Saturday, August 15. It is anticipated that future fishing opportunities will transition to a regular schedule of a 12-hour period every other day.

Aerial surveys from the week of August 10 show improvement in wild stock escapement. Eastern, Coghill, Eshamy and Southeastern Districts are within anticipated ranges for the date.

Through August 12, VFDA has collected 20% of the 270 million pink salmon egg take goal. VFDA estimates that broodstock needs have been secured at the hatchery.

PWSAC completed its 2026 pink salmon cost recovery goal on August 10 and begun building their brood.

Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period on August 13 were 332,000 pink salmon with 110 reported deliveries. Preliminary harvests of pink salmon by district are as follows:

- Eastern District harvest was 15,000 pink salmon with 6 deliveries
- Northern District harvest was 262,000 pink salmon with 87 deliveries
- Coghill District harvest was confidential
- Northwestern District harvest was 17,700 pink salmon with 4 deliveries
- Montague District harvest was 33,600 pink salmon with 10 deliveries
- Southeastern District harvest was 3,400 pink salmon with 3 deliveries

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 seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be released by 2:00 pm on Saturday, August 15.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be released by 2:00 pm on Wednesday, August 19.

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.