



Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #37

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: As previously announced, 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 15, the Copper River Delta survey count was 478 coho salmon which falls below the anticipated range of 5,846–12,239. Harvest estimates from the 24-hour fishing period that started on Thursday, August 13 were 15,100 coho salmon with 121 deliveries reported. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 4,250 Chinook, 243,000 sockeye, and 15,600 coho salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: As previously announced, 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 15, the Bering River District survey count was 380 coho salmon, which is below the anticipated range of 2,533–6,431. No harvest was reported for the 24-hour fishing period that started on Thursday, August 13.

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 4,619 sockeye salmon through 8/18 with a cumulative target of 8,164–17,585 fish for the date. Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Thursday, August 13 were 16,900 pink and 246 sockeye salmon with 9 deliveries reported.

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for a broad area commercial purse seine fishing opportunity in PWS on Thursday, August 20.

Aerial surveys have shown improvement in wild stock escapement. Aerial surveys are expected to continue, as weather permits.

PWSAC completed its 2026 pink salmon cost recovery goal on August 10. Broodstock continues to build at AFK, CCH and WNH.

PWSAC recommends the AFK, CCH, and WNH SHAs, THAs, and corresponding hatchery subdistricts remain closed to build broodstock.

Through August 18, VFDA has collected 38% of the 270 million pink salmon egg take goal. VFDA estimates that broodstock needs have been secured at the hatchery.

Preliminary harvest estimates from the fishing period on August 18 are as follows:

- Eastern District harvest was 17,600 pink, 9,300 coho and 7,400 chum salmon with 36 deliveries
- Northern District harvest was 52,600 pink, 1,300 coho and 200 chum salmon with 13 deliveries
- Coghill District harvest 69,000 pink, 2,450 coho and 134 chum salmon with 54 deliveries
- Northwestern District harvest was 15,600, pink, 430 coho and 220 chum salmon with 4 deliveries
- Southwestern District harvest was 265,000 pink, 3,030 coho, and 100 chum salmon with 37 deliveries

Contribution estimates from the fishing period occurring on August 13 are as follows:

- Eastern District was 53% wild, 32% SGH, and 15% CCH
- Northwestern District was 52% WNH, 36% wild, 8%AFK, 2% SGH and 2% CCH
- Coghill District was 86% WNH and 14% wild

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District, south of a line from 61° 02.855' N., 146° 44.204' W. to 61° 02.373' N., 146° 43.407' W. to 61° 02.992' N., 146° 39.165' W., will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, August 20.

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northern District, east of a longitude line of 147° 23.00' W. (Granite Point) will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, August 20.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of 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 12-hour fishing period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, August 20.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District will remain closed.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southwestern District will remain closed.

MONTAGUE DISTRICT: Waters of the Montague District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour fishing period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, August 20.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Southeastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour fishing period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, August 20.

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 21.

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.