



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 21, 2026

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #38

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, August 24 for a 12-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Harvest from the fishing period that started Thursday, August 20 is not yet available, but preliminary reports indicate that it was above anticipated for the date. Escapement levels were low last week but should be building quickly considering harvest rates from this last fishing period. An aerial survey is expected to be flown early next week. As a compromise to allow for additional fishing opportunities while continuing to build early escapement, a 12-hour fishing period is being utilized on Monday.

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.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, August 24 for a 12-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.

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 5,344 sockeye salmon through 8/20 with a cumulative target of 8,921–19,214 fish for the date.

SEINE FISHERIES: This announcement will provide time and area specifics for a broad area commercial purse seine fishing opportunity in PWS on Saturday, August 22.

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. Egg take is anticipated to begin next week.

Through August 20, VFDA has collected 45% 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 20 are as follows:

- Eastern District harvest was 8,600 pink, 11,900 coho, and 6,100 chum salmon with 51 deliveries
- Northern District harvest was 22,500 pink, 1,300 coho, and 168 chum salmon with 17 deliveries
- Coghill District harvest was 21,500 pink, 2,900 coho, and 51 chum salmon with 42 deliveries
- Montague District harvest was 4,900 pink, 140 coho, and 2 chum salmon with 3 deliveries
- Southeastern District harvest was confidential

Preliminary contribution estimates from the fishing period occurring on August 16 are as follows:

- Eastern District was 76% wild, 20% SGH, and 2% CCH
- Northern District was 75% WNH, 13% CCH, 6% AFK, and 6% wild

Contribution estimates from the fishing period occurring on August 18 are as follows:

- Southwestern District was 54% AFK, 32% wild, 8% CCH, and 5% WNH
- Eastern District was 47% wild, 35% SGH, and 18% CCH

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 Saturday, August 22.

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 Saturday, August 22.

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 Saturday, August 22.

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 Sunday, August 23.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be released by 2:00 pm on Wednesday, August 26.

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.