



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 26, 2026

CONTACT: Todd Johnson and Jeremy Botz
Finfish Area Management Biologists
(907) 424-3212

Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #41

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:

The Copper River District will remain closed for the remainder of the week. Copper River Delta coho salmon escapement numbers are below the lower end of the target range for the week and the fishery remains closed to improve escapement. The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, August 31 for a 12-hour commercial drift gillnet 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 29, the Copper River Delta survey count was 6,800 coho salmon which falls below the anticipated range of 16,147–33,807. Harvest estimates from the 12-hour fishing period that started on Monday, August 24 were 41,000 coho salmon with 188 deliveries reported. The cumulative commercial harvest to date is 4,250 Chinook, 243,000 sockeye, and 87,200 coho salmon.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will remain closed for the remainder of the week. The Bering District aerial survey is currently in progress. The Bering River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, August 31 for a 12-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period. Harvest estimates from the 12-hour fishing period that started on Monday, August 24 were 4,200 coho salmon with 16 deliveries reported.

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 10,307 sockeye salmon through 8/25 with a cumulative target of 10,736–23,125 fish for the date.

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 28.

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.