

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner*  
*John Hilsinger, Director*



**Contact:**

Jeremy Botz, Area Management Biologist (Seine)  
Glenn Hollowell, Area Management Biologist (Gillnet)  
Jenefer Bell, Asst. Area Management Biologist  
Phone: (907) 424-3212  
Fax: (907) 424-3235

PWS Area Office  
401 Railroad Avenue, P.O. Box 669  
Cordova, AK 99574  
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### **2008 Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #12**

#### **Prince William Sound and Copper River Announcement**

Districts Affected: Bering River, Copper River, Eastern, Northern, Coghill, Eshamy Main Bay,  
Southwestern, Montague, Southeastern, Unakwik

**COPPER RIVER DISTRICT:** There will be no commercial opening on Monday, June 23. The possibility of a Thursday period will be evaluated next week

The Copper River harvest estimate from the Monday, June 16 opening was 25,717 sockeye and 918 Chinook salmon. The anticipated harvest for this opening was 32,289 sockeye and 2,111 Chinook salmon based on the pre-season total commercial harvest forecast of 742,166 sockeye and 46,908 Chinook salmon. The cumulative commercial harvest as of June 17 for all eight periods fished this season is 274,455 sockeye and 11,194 Chinook salmon. The anticipated cumulative harvest for this date based on the pre-season forecast is 394,133 sockeye and 43,678 Chinook salmon. The ten year average cumulative harvest for June 17 is 749,248 sockeye and 40,356 Chinook salmon. Since 1969 there have been four seasons where cumulative sockeye salmon commercial harvests have been lower and one other season where cumulative Chinook salmon commercial harvests have been lower for this date.

As of yesterday, a total of 344,648 salmon have been counted by the sonar at Miles Lake since counting started on May 16. The anticipated cumulative minimum inriver escapement count for yesterday is 368,979 salmon. Passage yesterday was 4,872 salmon versus a daily inriver goal of 7,512. The midnight to 6 am count for today was 798. Multiplied by four this is 3,192 and provides a forecast of passage today. An aerial survey of delta stocks is currently being conducted.

Sonar counts are posted on the ADF&G website at <http://csfish.adfg.state.ak.us/pws/pwscopperesc.php>.

The Copper River District will open for a 48-hour **subsistence only** drift gillnet period from 7:00 am, Sunday, June 23 to 7:00 am on Tuesday, June 24. Fishers are advised that vessels used to subsistence fish may not deploy more than the legal quantity of gear (50 fathoms) regardless of the number of subsistence permit holders onboard.

**BERING RIVER DISTRICT:** The Bering River District is closed. The Bering River District is anticipated to open when the Copper River District is reopened to commercial harvest. The commercial harvest from the Monday, June 16 period was 378 sockeye and 21 Chinook salmon with 6 deliveries reported.

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** The Coghill District, excluding the Esther Subdistrict, will open to commercial drift gillnet harvest for a 36-hour period from 8:00 am on Monday, June 23 until 8:00 pm on Tuesday, June 24. The harvest from the period that closed on Wednesday, June 18 was 159,338 chum salmon and 2,947 sockeye salmon. PWSAC has harvested 160,000 fish as of this morning and are 52% complete towards achieving their cost recovery goal. PWSAC has harvested zero broodstock towards a goal of 59,281 for this date.

**ESHAMY DISTRICT:** The Eshamy District will open to commercial gillnet harvest for a 48-hour period from 8:00 am on Monday, June 23 until 8:00 am on Wednesday, June 25. The AGZ will be closed to commercial fishing to allow installation of the barrier seine. Harvest numbers from the period that closed at 8:00 am this

morning are not available yet. The harvest from the period that closed on Wednesday, June 18 was 12,571 chum salmon and 16,901 sockeye salmon.

**UNAKWIK DISTRICT:** The Unakwik District will open to commercial drift gillnet and purse seine harvest for a 48-hour period from 8:00 am on Monday, June 23 until 8:00 am on Wednesday, June 25.

**EASTERN DISTRICT:** Waters in the Eastern District south of the Latitude of Rocky Point (60° 57.00 N Lat.) will be open for a 12-hour period from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Monday, June 23. The department does not anticipate a regular schedule of openings at this time. This opening is intended to provide opportunity for an early season sustainable harvest targeting wild chum salmon. On June 19, chum salmon were observed during the first aerial survey of the Eastern District. Additionally, VFDA initiated pink salmon cost recovery today. VFDA estimates a total return of 9.8 million pink salmon with a preseason estimate of 5.0 million fish required for cost recovery and broodstock.

**NORTHERN DISTRICT:** Waters in the Northern District east of the Longitude Payday Point (Unakwik Point) will be open for a 12-hour period from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Monday, June 23. The department does not anticipate a regular schedule of openings at this time. This opening is intended to provide opportunity for an early season sustainable harvest targeting wild chum salmon.

**SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT:** Waters in the Southeastern District will be open for a 12-hour period from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm on Monday, June 23. The department does not anticipate a regular schedule of openings at this time. This opening is intended to provide opportunity for an early season sustainable harvest targeting wild chum salmon.

**PORT CHALMERS SUBDISTRICT:** The Port Chalmers Subdistrict remains open to purse seine fishing on a regular schedule of open periods from Monday at 8:00 am through Sunday at 8:00 pm. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures within the Port Chalmers Subdistrict will not be in effect until further notice.

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** On the east side of Knight Island, the waters of Marsha Bay, west of 147° 39.75' W. long., remain open to purse seine fishing on a regular schedule of open periods from Monday at 8:00 am through Sunday at 8:00 pm. This schedule will remain in effect until further notice. Anadromous stream closures within Marsha Bay will not be in effect until further notice.

The waters of the AFK Hatchery Terminal Harvest Area (THA) and Special Harvest Area (SHA) remain open to commercial purse seine fishing on a regular schedule of fishing periods from Monday at 8:00 am through Sunday at 8:00 pm. Anadromous stream closures within the AFK Hatchery THA and SHA will not be in effect until further notice.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, June 25.

Announcement recordings are available at 907-424-7535.

Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web addresses:

<http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region2/crhome.php> (Copper River homepage) or

<http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region2/pwshome.php> (Prince William Sound 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.