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ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS RELEASE



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2008 Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #20 Prince William Sound and Copper River Announcement Districts Affected: Bering River, Copper River

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open for a 12-hour commercial fishing period on Saturday, July 5 from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm.

Yesterdays sonar count was 21,090 salmon. This is close to double yesterdays midnight to 0600 estimate of 11,400 salmon. Todays midnight to 0600 count is 7,056 salmon, multiplied by 4, this forecasts a passage of 28,224 for today.

An aerial survey of delta stocks was flown on July 1 under excellent observational conditions. A total of 33,900 sockeye salmon were counted in the Copper River District versus an SEG range of 28,229- 66,722 for statistical week 27 (June 29- July 5). While this is above the lower end of the SEG, it is below the midpoint of 43,318 sockeye salmon for this statistical week.

A 12 hour commercial fishing period is anticipated at this time for Monday, July 7.

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

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District is closed. An aerial survey of delta stocks in the Bering River District was flown on July 1 under excellent observational conditions. A total of 6,910 sockeye salmon were counted. This is below the SEG range of 9,341- 14,214 for statistical week 27 (June 29- July 5).

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm on Saturday, July 5.

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.