

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Date Issued: August 27, 2008
Time: 2:00 pm

2008 Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #48

Prince William Sound and Copper River Announcement

Districts Affected: Bering River, Copper River, Eastern, Northern, Coghill, Northwestern,
Eshamy Main Bay, Southwestern

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open for a 12-hour fishing period from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 28.

The preliminary harvest estimate from the period that closed yesterday is 63,000 coho salmon. An aerial survey flown under excellent observational conditions on Monday, August 11 counted 42,654 sockeye and 7,922 coho salmon in Copper River delta streams. These counts are within the SEG range for sockeye (26,465- 62,553) and coho (5,846- 12,239) salmon for statistical week 33. An aerial survey is currently being flown.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District is closed. An aerial survey flown under excellent observational conditions on Monday, August 11 counted 1,691 sockeye and 1,170 coho salmon in Bering River delta streams. These counts are below the SEG range for sockeye (6,595- 10,036) and coho salmon (4,002- 10,158) for statistical week 33. An aerial survey is currently being flown.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: Waters of Eshamy Bay east of 148° 04.250' W. and west of a line from 60° 28.012' N., 147° 57.812' W. to 60° 28.818' N., 147° 58.544' will open to drift gillnet for a 48-hour period and set gillnet harvest for a 12-hour period with both periods beginning at 8:00 am on Thursday, August 28.

The Main Bay Subdistrict, including the AGZ up to a line of buoys in front of the barrier seine, will open to **drift gillnet** harvest for a 48-hour period beginning at 8:00 am on Thursday, August 28. The Main Bay Subdistrict, excluding the AGZ, will open to **set gillnet** harvest for a 12-hour period beginning at 8:00 am on Thursday, August 28.

Recent harvests from the Eshamy district are as follows,

Period			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
#	Start	#Deliv	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
19	8/4	37	0	1,977	23	5,307	385
20	8/7	18	0	1,828	95	6,436	288
21	8/11	37	0	1,648	136	15,571	103
22	8/14	4	3	352	60	4,769	30
23	8/18	24	0	485	94	14,798	41
24	8/21	21	0	259	76	11,499	4
Totals		5,955	64	667,891	1,635	116,881	264,321

The Eshamy weir was installed on July 9. As of yesterday, 18,300 sockeye salmon have passed the weir versus a minimum Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) for August 26 of 16,619. Escapement of wild pink salmon in the Eshamy River and other systems in the Eshamy District, as counted on aerial surveys, are significantly below

anticipated levels.

SEINE FISHERIES UPDATE: The department and PWSAC anticipate that a regular schedule of open periods will continue; fishing period frequency and area will be adjusted based on hatchery run entry and wild stock escapement indices. Through Tuesday, the overall pink salmon harvest (both enhanced and wild stocks) from the Northern, Coghill, and Southwestern districts combined was 24.0 million pink salmon composed of 2.5 million cost recovery fish and 21.5 million common property fish. Wild stock pink salmon escapement is below cumulative anticipated levels in all districts except Coghill and Northwestern; the Eastern, Northern, Coghill and Northwestern districts were above daily anticipated levels as of Monday's aerial survey. Wild chum salmon escapement is below cumulative anticipated levels in all but the Coghill and Northwestern districts; the Eastern, Northern, Coghill, Northwestern, and Southwestern districts were above daily anticipated levels as of Monday's aerial survey.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Portions of Port Valdez will open to commercial fishing Tuesday, September 2. Area and time for this opening will be announced on Saturday, August 30.

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Cannery Creek Subdistrict, **north of 60° 54.22' N. Lat. and east of 147° 34.40' W. Long., excluding the CCH THA and SHA**, will open for a 13-hour commercial fishing period, beginning at 7:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm, on the following days: **Thursday, August 28, Friday, August 29, and Saturday, August 30**. Anadromous stream closures will be in effect. Harvest from the fishing periods that closed on August 23, August 24, August 25, and August 26 were 252,000, 433,000, 189,000, and 230,000 pink salmon, respectively.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District, **excluding the WNH THA and SHA, the Granite Bay Subdistrict east of 148° 03.80' W Long., and Bettles Bay west of 148° 15.98' W. Long., Hummer Bay west of 148° 17.48' W. Long., and Pigot Bay west of 148° 20.10' W. Long.,** will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet fishing for a 13-hour commercial fishing period, beginning at 7:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm, on **Thursday, August 28 and Saturday, August 30**.

Waters of the Coghill District **within the Esther Subdistrict, west of 147° 55.10' W. Long., excluding the WNH THA and SHA, and within the Granite Bay Subdistrict, west of 148° 03.80' W. Long.,** will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet fishing for a 13-hour commercial fishing period, beginning at 7:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm, **on Friday, August 29**.

Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures will be in effect during all periods. Harvest from the fishing periods that closed on August 23, August 24, August 25, and August 26 were 256,000, 290,000, 142,000, and 127,000 pink salmon, respectively.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District, **excluding waters south of 60° 33.47' N. Lat., waters of Kings Bay, and the waters of Culross Passage south of 60° 45.47' N. Lat. and north of 60° 37.16' N. Lat.,** will open for a 13-hour commercial fishing period, beginning at 7:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm, on **Thursday, August 28 and Saturday, August 30**. Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures will be in effect during both periods. No harvest was reported from the last two fishing periods.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Port San Juan Subdistrict **south of 60° 05.50' N. Lat., including the AFK THA and SHA north and east of a line from 60° 03.38' N., 148° 03.35' W. to 60° 03.02' N., 148° 02.52' W.** will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 13-hour commercial fishing period, beginning at 7:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm, on **Thursday, August 28 and Saturday, August 30**. Additionally, the AFK THA and SHA **north and east of a line from 60° 03.38' N., 148° 03.35' W. to 60° 03.02' N., 148° 02.52' W.** will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 13-hour commercial fishing period, beginning at 7:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm, **on Friday, August 29**. Anadromous stream closures will be in effect for all fishing periods. Harvest from the fishing periods that closed on August 23, August 24, August 25, and August 26 were 250,000, 427,000, 216,000, and 202,000 pink salmon, respectively.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm on Saturday, August 30.

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.