

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2008 Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #52* 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 24-hour fishing period from 7:00 am on Monday, September 1 to 7:00 am on Tuesday, September 2.

Period			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
#	Start	#Deliv	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
18	8/4	4	0	41	112	542	3
19	8/7	6	0	84	345	78	0
20	8/11	40	6	171	2,382	168	3
21	8/14	45	0	33	3,761	34	1
22	8/18	203	1	34	20,030	81	0
23	8/25	379	0	27	56,660	20	2
24	8/28	na	na	na	40,000	na	na
Totals		4,396	11,263	311,871	124,162	1,420	1,051

The Copper River harvest estimate from the last commercial period that began on Thursday, August 28 was an estimated 40 thousand coho salmon. The coho sex ratio from this period was 55.2% female. This is above the anticipated 49.4%. This indicates that run timing may be earlier than expected.

An aerial survey was flown on August 27 under marginal observational conditions. A total of 27,881 coho salmon were counted in Copper River delta index streams. These counts are within the SEG range of 16,147- 33,807 coho salmon for statistical week 35 in this district.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District is closed. An aerial survey was flown on August 27 in this district under poor observational conditions. A total of 5,903 coho salmon were counted in Bering River delta index streams. These counts are below the SEG range of 8,803- 22,345 coho salmon in the Bering River District for statistical week 35.

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' W. will open to drift gillnet for a 48-hour period and to set gillnet harvest for a 24-hour period with both beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, September 1.

The Main Bay Subdistrict, excluding the AGZ, will open to **drift gillnet** harvest for a 48-hour period beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, September 1.

The Main Bay Subdistrict, including the AGZ up to a line of buoys in front of the barrier seine, will open to **set gillnet** for a 24-hour period beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, September 1.

The Eshamy weir was installed on July 9 and was pulled on Thursday, August 28. The final count of 18,433 was

above the BEG count for that date of 16,493 coho salmon. Escapement of wild pink salmon in the Eshamy river and other systems in the Eshamy District, as counted on aerial surveys, remain significantly below anticipated levels.

SEINE FISHERIES UPDATE: The department and PWSAC anticipate an expansion of open area within the CCH THA and SHA, WNH SHA, and AFK SHA beginning Tuesday, September 2. Through Friday, the overall pink salmon harvest (both enhanced and wild stocks) from the Northern, Coghill, and Southwestern districts combined was 25.3 million pink salmon composed of 2.5 million cost recovery fish and 22.8 million common property fish. An aerial survey of the Eastern and Northern districts was flown Friday. Wild stock pink salmon escapement is below cumulative anticipated levels in all districts except Coghill and Northwestern; the Southwestern, Montague, and Southeastern districts were above daily anticipated levels as of Friday's aerial survey. Wild chum salmon escapement is below cumulative anticipated levels in all but the Coghill and Northwestern districts; the Southwestern and Southeastern districts were above daily anticipated levels as of Friday's aerial survey.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters in the Eastern District, north of a line from 61° 02.855'N, 146° 44.204'W to 61° 03.003'N 146° 39.293'W, will open to commercial fishing for a 13-hour period from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm on Tuesday, September 2 and Wednesday, September 3. Waters in Port Valdez south and east of 61° 06.00' N, 146° 21.50' W will remain closed for both periods. Anadromous stream closures and regulatory closed waters north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point will not be in effect during both periods.

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Cannery Creek Subdistrict, **north of 60° 53.70' 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: **Sunday, August 31, Monday, September 1, Tuesday, September 2, and Wednesday, September 3.** Additionally, in the Perry Island Subdistrict, **Hidden Bay, west of 148° 06.00' W. Long.,** will open for one 13-hour period, beginning at 7:00 a.m. and ending at 8:00 p.m., on **Sunday, August 31.** Anadromous stream closures will be in effect. Harvest from the fishing periods that closed on August 27, August 28, and August 29 were 171,000, 131,000, and 41,700 pink salmon, respectively.

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of the Coghill District **within the Esther Subdistrict, west of 147° 55.10' W. Long., including the WNH THA, 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 Sunday, August 31 and Tuesday, September 2.**

Waters of the Coghill District, **excluding the WNH 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 Monday, September 1 and Wednesday September 3.**

Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures will be in effect during all periods. Harvest from the fishing periods that closed on August 27, August 28, and August 29 were 98,900, 84,000, and 42,800 pink salmon, respectively.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Northwestern District, **excluding waters south of 60° 33.47' N. Lat., 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 Sunday, August 31 and Tuesday, September 2.** Regulatory closed waters and anadromous stream closures will be in effect during both 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 Sunday, August 31 and Tuesday, September 2.** 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 Monday, September 1 and Wednesday, September 3.** Anadromous stream closures will be in effect for all fishing periods. Harvest from the fishing periods that closed on August 27, August 28, and August 29 were 124,000, 235,000, and 71,000 pink salmon, respectively.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 12:00 pm on Monday, September 1.

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.