

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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### 2008 Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #60

#### Prince William Sound and Copper River Announcement

Districts Affected: Bering River, Copper River, Eastern, Northern, Coghill, 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 8 to 7:00 am on Tuesday, September 9. The Copper River harvest estimate from the last commercial period that closed Tuesday, September 2 was 20,000 coho salmon. The coho sex ratio from this period was 56.4% female. This is above the anticipated 52.4%. This indicates that run timing may be earlier than expected.

An aerial survey was flown on August 30 under excellent observational conditions. A total of 29,155 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 will open for a 24-hour fishing period from 7:00 am on Monday, September 8 to 7:00 am on Tuesday, September 9. Fishers are requested to confirm with tender operators that harvest from this district is reported properly on fish tickets. The preliminary harvest estimate from the Bering River District fishing period that closed Tuesday, September 2 was 10,400 coho salmon.

An aerial survey was flown on August 30 in this district under excellent observational conditions. A total of 11,911 coho salmon were counted in Bering River delta index streams. These counts are within 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 for a 24-hour period with both beginning at 8:00 am on Monday, September 8.

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 8.

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 8.

The Eshamy weir was installed on July 9 and pulled on August 28. The final count of 18,433 was above the BEG count of 16,493 coho salmon for that date. 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.

**COGHILL DISTRICT:** Waters of the Coghill District, excluding 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 **drift gillnet fishing only (per 5 AAC 24.370)** for a **13-hour** commercial fishing period, beginning at 7:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm, on Saturday, September 6 and for a **60-hour** commercial fishing period, beginning at 8:00 am, Monday, September 8 and ending at 8:00 pm, Wednesday, September 10. During these fishing periods, the WNH SHA is open to a line of buoys in front of the barrier seine. Anadromous stream closures will not be in effect in the WNH THA and SHA during these periods.

Harvest from the fishing period that closed on September 4 was 3,800 coho salmon and 1,000 pink salmon.

**SEINE FISHERIES UPDATE:** The department, VFDA, 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 Thursday, the overall pink salmon harvest (both enhanced and wild stocks) from the Northern, Coghill, and Southwestern districts combined was 25.6 million pink salmon composed of 2.5 million cost recovery fish and 23.1 million common property fish. An aerial survey of the Northern, Coghill, Northwestern, and Eshamy districts is currently on weather hold. 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 of 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 the following days: Saturday, September 6, Sunday, September 7, Monday, September 8, Tuesday, September 9, and Wednesday, September 10. **Waters inside of a line from the brown oil boom container van between Solomon Gulch Hatchery and Allison Point, along the yellow SERVS buoys around VFDA Hatchery to the brown oil boom container east of the hatchery between VFDA and PetroStar will be closed all periods.** Waters of Port Valdez within the Valdez small boat harbor and all waters within 50 yards of the entrance to the Valdez small harbor will remain closed to commercial fishing during these periods. Anadromous stream closures and regulatory closed waters north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point will not be in effect during these periods. Harvest from the fishing period that closed on September 4 is confidential.

**NORTHERN DISTRICT:** This announcement supersedes the Northern District portion of Wednesday's announcement. Waters of the Cannery Creek Subdistrict, north of 60° 53.70' N. Lat. and east of 147° 34.40' W. Long., including the CCH THA and SHA, will open for a 15-hour commercial fishing period, beginning at 7:00 am and ending at 10:00 pm, on the following days: Saturday, September 6, Sunday, September 7, Monday, September 8, Tuesday, September 9, and Wednesday, September 10. Anadromous stream closures within the CCH THA and SHA will not be in effect during all periods. Harvest from the fishing periods that closed on September 3 and September 4 is confidential.

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT:** Waters of the AFK THA and SHA north and east of a line from 60° 03.25' N., 148° 03.56' W. to 60° 02.95' N., 148° 02.64' 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, September 7 and Tuesday, September 9.** Additionally, 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° 03.25' N., 148° 03.56' W. to 60° 02.95' N., 148° 02.64' 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 8 and Wednesday, September 10.** Anadromous stream closures in the AFK SHA will not be in effect for all fishing periods. Harvest from the fishing period that closed on September 3 is confidential. No harvest was reported for the period that closed on September 4

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm on Monday, September 8.

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 .