



Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: 12/13/2019

CONTACT: M. Birch Foster
Finfish Research Biologist
907-486-1857

Preliminary 2020 Westward Region Salmon Forecasts

Regional research, management, and biometric staff have developed and reviewed the 2020 run forecasts for pink and sockeye salmon stocks in Region IV. This is an early release for Region IV forecasts, and numbers should be considered preliminary until inclusion in the annual statewide document to be released in early 2020.

Total run forecasts are shown in Tables 1 and 2 as point estimates and ranges. The ranges are 80% prediction intervals, meaning that we have 80% confidence that the actual 2020 run will fall within this range. Estimated escapements are subtracted from the total run forecasts to yield estimated 2020 harvests; these harvest estimates are shown as point estimates for pink and sockeye salmon. Pink salmon (as well as Spiridon sockeye salmon) harvests are also reported as 80% ranges. Confidence in each forecast varies based on data relationships in the underlying models. Full methods and discussion will be included in the statewide document.

Table 1.—Point estimate and ranges of preliminary 2020 Region IV pink salmon forecasts.

PINK				
Stock	Escapement goal (millions)	2020 run	Point estimate (millions)	Range (millions)
Kodiak Management Area	SEG: 3.3–8.0	Wild stock total run forecast	14.9	8.3–21.6
	Even Year, Mainland and Kodiak Archipelago combined	Wild stock escapement	5.0	
		Wild stock harvest estimate	9.9	3.3–16.6
		Kitoi Bay hatchery harvest	2.3	1.6–3.0
		Total KMA harvest estimate	12.2	4.9–19.6
		Harvest category ^a	<i>Average</i>	
South Alaska Peninsula	SEG: 1.75–4.0	Total run forecast ^b	2.20	0–7.8
		Escapement	1.75	
		Post-June harvest estimate	0.45	0–3.8
		Harvest category ^a	<i>Poor</i>	

^a Harvest categories were delimited from the 20th, 40th, 60th, and 80th percentiles of historical commercial harvest in the area (~1980 to present) and categorized as *Poor*, *Weak*, *Average*, *Strong*, and *Excellent*.

^b Post-June harvest and escapement. The 5-year average harvest of pink salmon in June is 2.8 million fish.

Table 2.–Point estimate and ranges of preliminary 2020 Region IV sockeye salmon forecasts.

SOCKEYE				
Stock	Escapement goal (thousands)	2020 run	Point estimate (thousands)	Range (thousands)
Spiridon Lake/ Telrod Cove	NA	Spiridon Run	53	11–96
		Telrod Run	62	7–117
		Harvest estimate	115	18–213
Ayakulik	SEG (early and late runs combined): 200–400	Forecast	375	196–622
		Escapement	300	200–400
		Harvest estimate	75	
Early-run Karluk	BEG: 150–250	Early-run forecast	274	56–489
		Early-run escapement	200	150–250
		Early-run harvest estimate	74	
Late-run Karluk	BEG: 200–450	Late-run forecast	849	507–1,317
		Late-run escapement	325	200–450
		Late-run harvest estimate	524	
Total Karluk		Total Karluk run forecast	1,123	564–1,806
		Total Karluk escapement	525	350–700
		Total Karluk harvest estimate	598	
Early-run Upper Station	BEG: 43–93	Early-run forecast	80	49–130
		Early-run escapement	65	43–93
		Early-run harvest estimate	15	
Late-run Upper Station	BEG: 120–265	Late-run forecast	263	148–396
		Late-run escapement	186	120–265
		Late-run harvest estimate	77	
Frazer Lake	BEG: 75–170	Forecast	407	238–707
		Escapement (Dog Salmon Crk)	137	95–190
		Harvest estimate	270	
Total Alitak District		Total Alitak run forecast	750	435–1,233
		Total Alitak escapement	388	258–548
		Total Alitak harvest estimate	362	

-continued-

Table 2.–Page 2 of 2.

SOCKEYE

Stock	Escapement goal (thousands)	2020 run	Point estimate (thousands)	Range (thousands)
Early-run Chignik	BEG: 350–450	Early-run forecast	501	226–1,110
		Early-run escapement	400	350–450
		Early-run harvest estimate	101	
Late-run Chignik	SEG: 200–400	Late-run forecast	795	281–1,482
		Late-run escapement ^a	310	220–400
		Late-run harvest estimate	485	
Total Chignik		Total Chignik run forecast	1,296	507–2,591
		Total Chignik escapement	710	570–850
		Total Chignik harvest estimate ^b	586	
Nelson River	BEG: 97–219	Forecast	362	154–567
		Escapement	158	97–219
		Harvest estimate	204	
Late-run Bear Lake	BEG: 117–195	Late-run forecast	408	106–706
		Late-run escapement	156	117–195
		Late-run harvest estimate	252	

^a Harvest represents the midpoint of the escapement goal. An inriver run goal of 20,000 sockeye salmon is added to the lower bound of the late-run escapement goal.

^b A harvestable surplus of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is forecast to be below 600,000 fish in the Chignik Area, therefore, as outlined in regulations 5 AAC 09.360 and 5 AAC 18.360, no commercial fisheries are anticipated in the Southeastern District Mainland and Cape Igvak during the regulatory timeframe (June 1–July 25; June 1–June 30 for NW Stepovak Section).