



Advisory Announcement

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CONTACT:

Zachary Liller
AYK Regional Research Coordinator
zachary.liller@alaska.gov
(907) 267-2135

Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region, Salmon Escapement Goal Review

The purpose of this advisory announcement is to inform the public of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (department) ongoing effort to review salmon escapement goals throughout the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) Region and upcoming opportunities for public engagement through the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) process.

In preparation for the 2022 AYK finfish board meeting, the department has undertaken a comprehensive escapement goal review and is in the process of finalizing escapement goal recommendations. Final recommendations will be submitted for approval by the directors of the Division of Commercial Fisheries and Division of Sport Fish.

The department's AYK Region has a long history of public engagement on escapement goals prior to formalizing recommendations. Unfortunately, COVID-19 travel and meeting restrictions prevented in-person stakeholder meetings over the past year compared to prior review cycles. AYK staff determined that alternative virtual meeting options would likely be ineffective. Options for public engagement regarding AYK Region salmon escapement goals will be available through the board process.

The department will submit to the board a publicly available memo outlining escapement goal recommendations, by March 10, 2021. The timing of the department's escapement goal memo precedes the board's revised May 10, 2021 deadline for regulatory proposals pertaining to AYK finfish. This approach and timeline were intended to ensure that all interested stakeholders will be informed of the department's escapement goal recommendations and will have options to engage through the board process. As always, department staff will be available to address public inquiry.

Information about the board process can be found at [Alaska Board of Fisheries Home](#).

The following highlights the department's ongoing review efforts for AYK salmon by management area. A detailed escapement goal review report will be publicly available prior to the 2022 board meeting, and staff presentations will be provided at the 2022 board meeting.

Norton Sound-Port Clarence and Kotzebue Management Areas

Department review and discussion focused on Pilgrim River sockeye salmon. The department anticipates no changes to existing escapement goals and no new goals for the Norton Sound Port Clarence or Kotzebue management areas.

Yukon Management Area

Department review and discussion focused on Chena River Chinook salmon, Salcha River Chinook salmon, and Delta Clearwater River coho salmon. A comprehensive analysis was undertaken to evaluate existing escapement goals for the Chena and Salcha Rivers, and recommendations will be forthcoming. The department anticipates recommending discontinuation of the Delta Clearwater River coho salmon goal. The department anticipates no changes to existing escapement goals pertaining to summer chum salmon or fall chum salmon and no new goals for any species within the Yukon Management Area.

Kuskokwim Management Area

Department review and discussion focused on Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon. A comprehensive analysis was undertaken to evaluate the existing drainagewide and tributary escapement goals. The department anticipates no changes to the Kuskokwim River drainagewide Chinook salmon escapement goal or tributary escapement goals based on weir assessment. The department anticipates recommending discontinuation of a subset of the Kuskokwim River tributary escapement goals based on aerial survey data. Within the Kuskokwim River, the department anticipates no changes to existing escapement goals pertaining to chum, sockeye, or coho salmon and no new goals for any species. Within Kuskokwim Bay, the department anticipates no changes to existing escapement goals and no new goals.

Important dates:

March 10, 2021 – anticipated date of department’s escapement goal memo to the board

May 10, 2021 – board proposal deadline

Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting schedule – [Alaska Board of Fisheries Home](#)

For additional information concerning this advisory announcement contact:

Zachary Liller, ADF&G, Division of Commercial Fisheries, AYK Regional Research Coordinator, 907-267-2135

James Savereide, ADF&G, Division of Sport Fish, AYK Regional Research Coordinator, 907-459-7252

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