

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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LOWER KUZITRIN RIVER AND PILGRIM RIVER CLOSURES TO ALL NET FISHING

Sockeye salmon escapement past the Pilgrim River weir is nearing the average historical midpoint of the run and as of July 12, only 2,530 sockeye salmon have passed the weir. Although the average historical midpoint of sockeye salmon passage at the weir is July 18, last year it was July 12 and this year may be earlier than average historical midpoint again. To date age composition data of the escapement shows that over half the sockeye salmon sampled are from the parent year of 2008 when over 20,000 sockeye salmon passed the weir. Five-year-olds from the 2009 sockeye salmon escapement of 950 fish and four-year olds from the 2010 sockeye salmon escapement of 1,650 fish are starting to appear in the escapement, but will likely not be in enough numbers to reach the escapement goal range unless fishing restrictions are taken. The escapement goal range at Salmon Lake is 4,000 to 8,000 sockeye salmon observed by aerial survey.

Effective at 6 p.m., Monday, July 14, all net fishing is closed in the lower Kuzitrin River from 300 yards upstream of the mouth of the Pilgrim River to the Kuzitrin River mouth and in the Pilgrim River and its tributaries until further notice.

If sockeye salmon passage at the weir improves to ensure that the Salmon Lake escapement goal range will be reached then the department will reopen the lower Kuzitrin River and the Pilgrim River drainage to net fishing.

Here are the escapement counts in Norton Sound this season.

North River: 1,800 kings, 5,000 chums, 115,000 pinks
Unalakleet River: 1,000 kings, 35,000 chums, 1,100,000 pinks, 50 cohos
Shaktoolik River: 2,000 kings, 35,000 chums, 350,000 pinks
Inglutalik River: 1,600 kings, 61,000 chums, 62,000 pinks
Kwiniuk River: 400 kings, 30,000 chums, 200,000 pinks
Fish River: 800 kings, 30,000 chums, 125,000 pinks

Eldorado River: 16,000 chums, 21,000 pinks

Solomon River: 300 chums, 2,000 pinks

Nome River: 2,100 chums, 18,000 pinks

Snake River: 1,300 chums, 2,000 pinks

Glacial Lake: 1,000 sockeyes