

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2014 Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery Update #3

Kuskokwim Bay Commercial Salmon Fishing and Escapement Monitoring

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at Bethel for commercial salmon fisherman in the Kuskokwim Area.

Commercial Fisheries

Commercial salmon fishing will be suspended for approximately one week due to low abundances of salmon in both District W4 and District W5. It is anticipated that fishing will resume on Monday, August 4, 2014.

District 4 (Quinhagak)

There have been eight commercial salmon fishing periods in District W4 to date. Preliminary cumulative harvest from those periods is 2,104 king, 55,647 sockeye, and 13,241 chum salmon. King and chum salmon harvests are below historical averages, while sockeye harvest is slightly above the historical average.

District 5 (Goodnews Bay)

There have been seven commercial salmon fishing periods in District W5 to date. Preliminary cumulative harvest from those periods is 182 king, 17,578 sockeye, and 3,149 chum salmon. King, sockeye, and chum salmon harvests are below historical averages.

Inseason Assessment

The Kanektok River weir has been in operation since June 26. As of July 27, total passage through the weir is 2,806 king, 233,332 sockeye, 14,168 chum, and 110 coho salmon. King and chum salmon escapements are below average, while the escapement of sockeye salmon is the highest on record. It is still too early to determine the strength of the coho run.

The Middle Fork Goodnews River weir has been in operation since June 25. As of July 27, total passage through the weir is 675 king, 40,424 sockeye, 9,226 chum, and 0 coho salmon. The king

and chum salmon passage are well below average. Sockeye passage is above average for this date and has exceeded the upper bound of the escapement goal range of 18,000–40,000 fish.

Inseason indicators of salmon run strength include weir escapement projects, verbal subsistence catch reports, commercial catch statistics, and aerial escapement surveys. The Kanektok River Weir will cease operations in mid-August to address operational concerns caused by high water events common in August and September. The department would like to extend a big thank you to Coastal Villages Regional Fund for providing the funding needed to operate the Kanektok and Middle Fork Goodnews River weirs for the 2014 season.

For Kuskokwim Bay weirs inseason escapement monitoring counts visit:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.emihd>

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