



MEMORANDUM

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Division of Commercial Fisheries
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DATE: November 19, 2013

THRU: Jeff Wadle
Regional Finfish Management Supervisor
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Kodiak

FROM: Matt Keyse and Geoff Spalinger
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SUBJECT: 2013 Kodiak Management Area Season Summary

cc:

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Wilburn	Salomone	Western Alaska Seafoods
Poetter	Fleener	Icicle Seafoods
Wilson	Fall	True World Seafoods
Nichols	Kelley	Trident Seafoods
Anderson	Gardner	Island Seafoods
Moore	KRAA, Fairbanks	Alaska Fresh Seafoods
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Schrof	Volk	USFWS – Kodiak, Wheeler
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Finkle	Sands	Chignik Advisory Committee
Linderman	Fisher	Kodiak Advisory Committee
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Kodiak Management Area 2013 Commercial Salmon Fishery Summary

The following is an overview of the 2013 Kodiak Management Area (KMA) commercial salmon season (Figure 1). The 2013 commercial salmon fishery began on June 7 and the last commercial landing occurred on September 18. Data provided in this report are preliminary and supersede any data previously published.

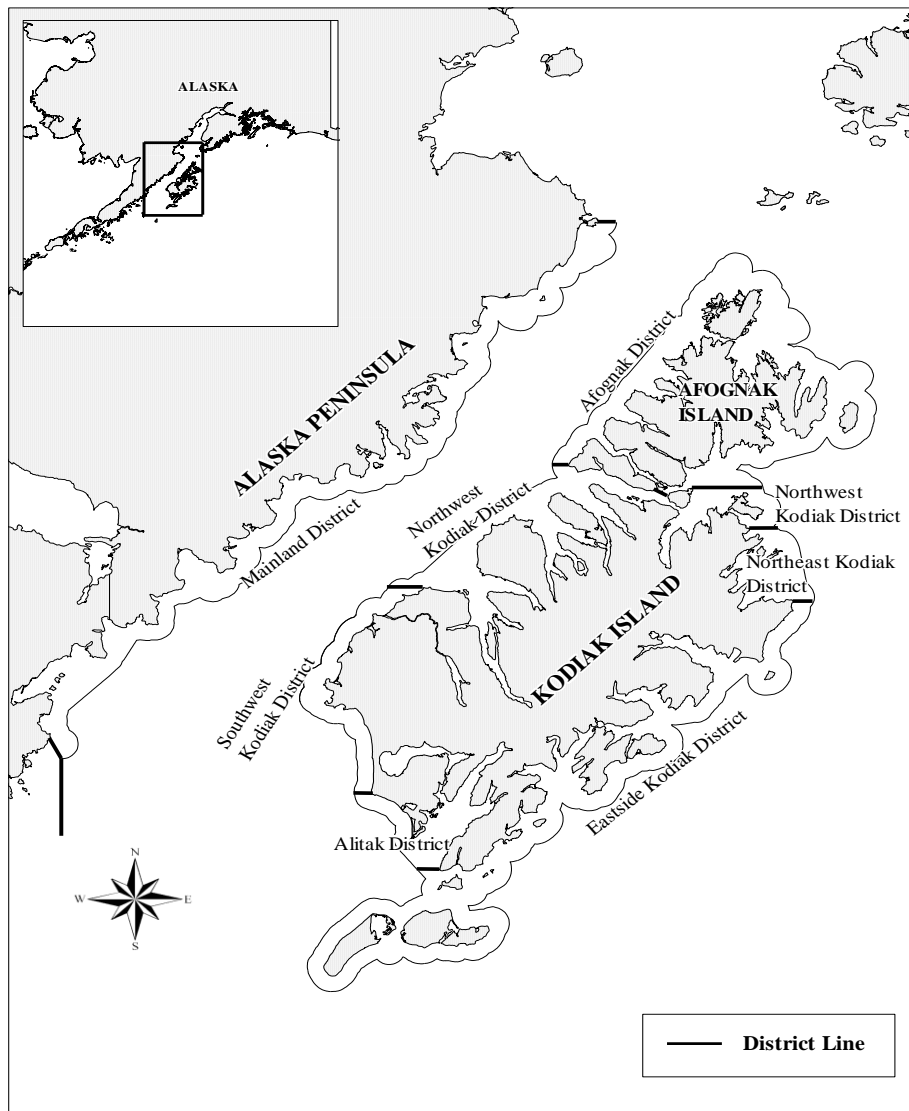


Figure 1.—Map of the commercial salmon fishing districts in the Kodiak Management Area, 2013.

Commercial fishing effort decreased slightly during 2013. Of the 595 eligible commercial salmon permits, 335 (55%) made commercial landings. By gear type, a total of 170 purse seine, 3 beach seine, and 152 set gillnet permit holders fished in 2013. Participation by purse and beach seine gear was above the previous 10-year average, but participation by set gillnet gear was below the 10-year average (Table 1).

Table 1. Commercial salmon fishery 2013 limited entry permit activity and 10 yr. averages, by gear type, in the Kodiak Management Area, 2013.

Gear Type	2013 Permits			2003-2012 Average Permits		
	Available	Fished	% of permits fished	Available	Fished	% of permits fished
Purse Seine	376	170	45%	375	147	39%
Beach Seine	31	3	10%	31	2	2%
Set Gillnet	188	152	81%	188	156	80%
Total	595	335	55%	596	305	51%

The 2013 commercial harvest in the KMA was 33,966 Chinook salmon, 2,569,672 sockeye salmon, 268,666 coho salmon, 28,167,660 pink salmon, and 791,879 chum salmon. The total harvest of approximately 31.8 million salmon is above the 2013 forecast and the previous 10-year average of approximately 23.8 million salmon (Table 2).

Table 2.—2013 commercial salmon harvest for KMA compared to the previous 10-year average and the 2013 harvest forecast.

	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
2013 Harvest	33,973	2,569,779	268,667	28,167,703	791,877	31,831,999
2003-2012 Avg.	17,153	2,433,176	338,777	20,096,622	885,011	23,770,739
2013 Forecast	20,000	2,702,770	158,690	17,402,031	963,719	21,247,210

Note: harvest numbers do not include harvest from the ADF&G test fisheries or personal use but includes cost recovery.

The estimated exvessel value of the 2013 fishery was approximately \$59.3 million, which is the highest since 1995. This is also well above the previous 10-year exvessel value of \$28.3 million (Table 3).

Purse seine fishermen accounted for 94.1% of the total harvest and their earnings averaged \$304,105 per fished permit. Set gillnet fishermen accounted for 5.8% of the total harvest and their earnings averaged \$55,671 per permit fished, the second highest since 1999. Beach seine fishermen harvested 0.1% of the total catch and averaged \$24,550 per permit fished (Table 3).

Table 3.–Estimated commercial salmon harvest and value, by gear type, in the Kodiak Management Area, 2003 - 2013.

Year	Total Catch ^a	Total Value	Average Exvessel Value		
			Purse Seine	Set Gillnet	Beach Seine
2003	18,030,034	\$16,307,461	\$79,869	\$30,349	\$0
2004	25,359,691	\$19,260,231	\$93,942	\$37,246	\$0
2005	31,434,179	\$24,067,755	\$129,181	\$40,172	\$0
2006	32,595,862	\$23,788,440	\$150,318	\$27,740	Confidential
2007	26,238,930	\$27,224,796	\$148,355	\$41,058	\$3,484
2008	10,127,638	\$25,415,333	\$148,605	\$43,202	\$0
2009	28,338,462	\$33,713,563	\$174,661	\$47,593	Confidential
2010	10,291,449	\$24,267,934	\$130,009	\$25,720	Confidential
2011	18,228,922	\$44,247,431	\$224,349	\$31,155	\$13,572
2012	19,030,756	\$44,975,796	\$219,164	\$52,007	\$16,367
2013	30,114,749	\$59,321,331	\$304,105	\$55,672	\$24,550
2003-2012					
Avg.	21,967,592	\$28,326,874	\$149,845	\$37,624	\$4,775

^a Number of fish: Does not include test fisheries and Kitoi Bay Hatchery and Telrod Cove cost recovery or personal use harvests.

2013 Commercial Harvest Summary

Chinook Salmon

There are no directed Chinook salmon commercial fisheries in the KMA but incidental commercial harvest occurs during targeted sockeye salmon fisheries. The Ayakulik and Karluk river systems support the largest Chinook salmon populations in the KMA. Non-retention of Chinook salmon was implemented from June 7 till the end of the season along the Westside of Kodiak from the latitude of Cape Kuliuk to the latitude of Low Cape. Neither Karluk nor Ayakulik Chinook salmon achieved their escapement goals and non-retention of Chinook salmon was implemented till the end of the season. The 2013 commercial harvest of Chinook salmon in the KMA totaled 33,973 fish which was above the previous 10-year average (17,153 fish) and above the 2013 forecast (20,000 fish; Table 2).

Sockeye Salmon

The 2013 commercial harvest of sockeye salmon in the KMA totaled 2,569,779 fish. The harvest was above the recent 10-year average (2,433,176 fish), but below the forecast (2,702,770 fish; Table 2).

Early season management for much of the Westside and north end of Kodiak Island is driven by Karluk early-run sockeye salmon (through July 15). The Karluk early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal (110,000-250,000) was achieved. Extended fishing was allowed along the Westside of Kodiak in the Central, North Cape, Southwest Afognak, Inner Karluk, and Outer Karluk sections until the management focus turned to pink salmon (July 6-15). A total of 716,071 sockeye salmon were harvested in early-season (through July 15) Westside fisheries, which was above the Karluk early-run projected harvest of 158,361. A total of 365,965 sockeye salmon were harvested in the late-season Westside fishery, which was below the Karluk late-run sockeye salmon projected forecast of 428,955 fish. These harvest numbers include a contribution from the enhanced Spiridon Lake sockeye salmon run.

The Ayakulik River was forecasted to have a surplus of sockeye salmon (302,363 fish) available for harvest. The first commercial opening occurred in the Outer Ayakulik Section on June 17. The first commercial fishing period in the Inner Ayakulik occurred from June 27 to June 28, and there were several short openings throughout the season. A total of 76,945 sockeye salmon were harvested from the Inner Ayakulik and Outer Ayakulik sections.

The early-run sockeye salmon to Upper Station was weak. The Frazer Lake sockeye salmon run came in as expected and openings and closures were executed to allow harvest opportunity on Frazer Lake sockeye salmon while allowing passage of Upper Station sockeye salmon through the fishery. The Alitak District early-run sockeye salmon harvest was 170,623 fish, above the projected harvest of 58,684 fish. The Upper Station late-run sockeye salmon came in weaker than expected and only two fishing periods were permitted after August 9 (management focus changes from Frazer System pinks to Upper Station late-run sockeye salmon). The total harvest of the Alitak District late-run sockeye salmon was 51,531 fish, which was below the forecasted harvest of 59,278.

Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan: This regulatory management plan (5 AAC 18.360) allocates up to 15% of the total Chignik-bound sockeye salmon harvest to KMA fishermen in the Cape Igvak Section. Based on regulations, ninety percent (90%) of all sockeye salmon caught prior to July 25 in the Cape Igvak Section are considered to be Chignik-bound.

The early Chignik sockeye salmon run was strong and the allocative and biological criteria were met to allow fishing in the Cape Igvak Section beginning June 8. Five days of fishing were allowed in June during the early run and eleven days were allowed in July targeting the late run.

Through July 25, the Cape Igvak harvest of sockeye salmon considered to be Chignik-bound (90%) was 354,179 fish. This represented only 12.79% of the total Chignik sockeye salmon harvest (15% allocation). Overall, the total sockeye salmon harvest in the Cape Igvak Section through July 25 was 393,532 fish, which was below the preseason forecast of approximately 452,000 fish.

North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Salmon Management Plan: From July 6 to July 25, this regulatory management plan (5 AAC 18.363) places harvest limits on areas along the northern Shelikof Strait to limit interception of sockeye salmon that are considered Cook Inlet-bound. During the period that this management plan is in effect, KMA fisheries are targeting local pink salmon runs and fishing periods are based on projected pink salmon run strength. If it appears that the sockeye salmon harvest will meet or exceed limits set by the management plan, then fisheries are to be restricted to inshore “Shoreward Zones” only, and offshore “Seaward Zones” are closed (Figure 2).

A department biologist was present on the grounds to determine the sockeye salmon catch and to facilitate orderly and short notice closures if the harvest limits are met. A Seaward Zone closure was implemented in the North Shelikof Unit at 9:00 p.m. July 15 when it was estimated that the cumulative sockeye salmon harvest had approached the 15,000 fish limit. The total July 6 to July 25 harvest in the North Shelikof Unit was 15,565 sockeye salmon, which included both the Shoreward and Seaward Zone harvests. A Seaward Zone closure was not required in the Southwest Afognak Section as the harvest cap of 50,000 sockeye salmon was not met. The July 6 to July 25 harvest in the Southwest Afognak Section was 16,993 sockeye salmon.

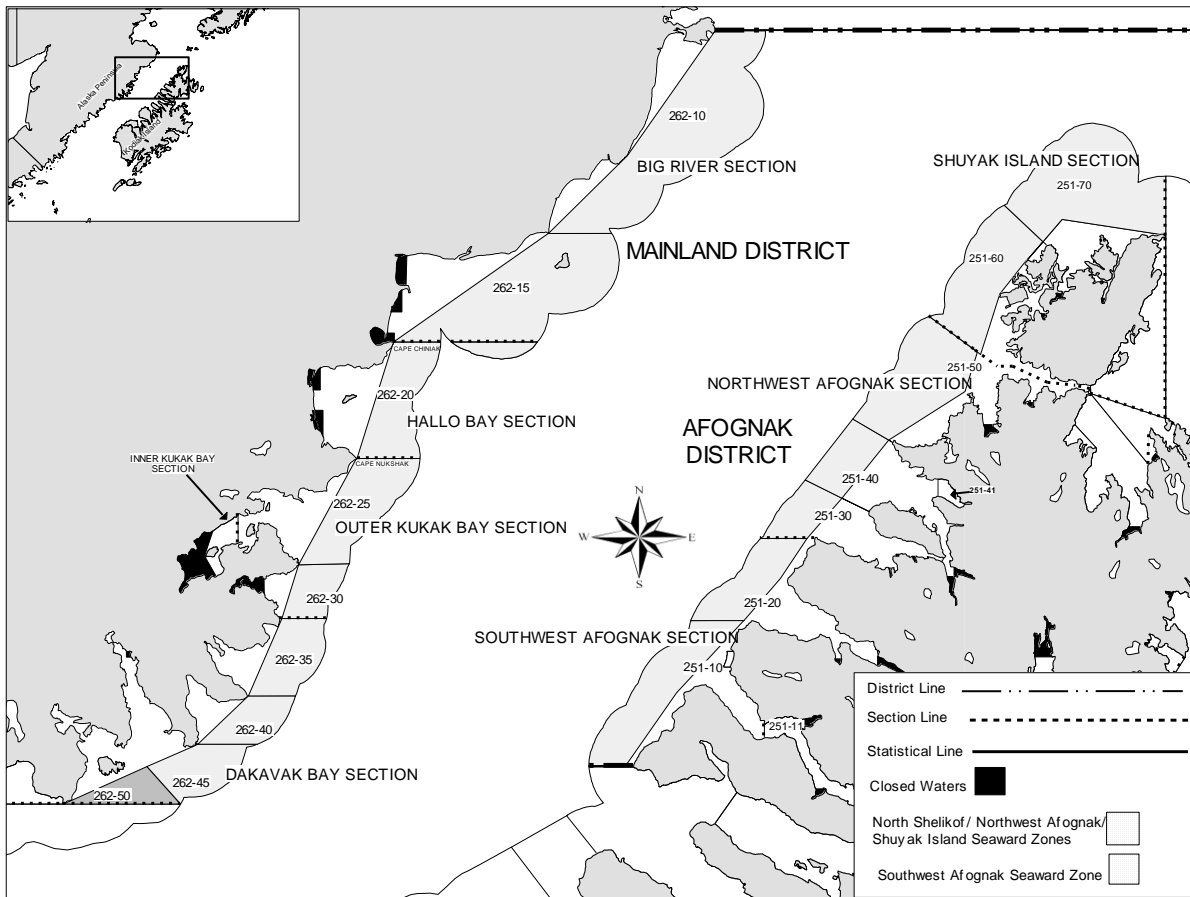


Figure 2.—Map of the North Shelikof Management Area.

Terminal and Special Harvest Areas: Some fisheries occur in areas where salmon enhancement projects create surplus production.

There was below average effort and harvest in the Waterfall and Foul Bay Special Harvest Areas (SHAs) with a total of 16,474 sockeye salmon harvested from both areas.

In the Spiridon Bay SHA (Telrod Cove), 129,024 sockeye salmon were harvested. This includes a cost recovery of 95,725 by Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association. The harvest in the Spiridon Bay SHA represents only a portion of the total harvest of Spiridon enhancement fish, the remainder is harvested in traditional fisheries along the Westside of Kodiak and that total has not been estimated at this time.

The Kitoi Bay Hatchery harvest was an estimated 109,706 sockeye salmon, which was above the forecast of 79,200 fish. This includes the commercial harvest of both enhanced and wild salmon from the Inner Kitoi Bay, Outer Kitoi Bay, Duck Bay, and Izhut Bay sections. Additional enhanced sockeye salmon may have been harvested in adjacent sections, but stock separation data are not available.

Coho Salmon

The commercial coho salmon harvest of 268,667 fish was above the forecast (158,690 fish) but below the previous 10 year average (338,777 fish; Table 2).

The majority of the coho salmon were caught in the Eastside, Northwest Kodiak, and Afognak districts. Those three districts accounted for 200,344 of the total harvest. In areas associated with Kitoi Bay Hatchery (Inner Kitoi Bay, Outer Kitoi Bay, Duck Bay, and Izhut Bay sections) a total of 52,714 coho salmon were harvested, which was above the forecast of 8,736 fish.

Pink Salmon

The 2013 pink salmon harvest of 28,167,703 fish was above forecast (17.4 million fish) and above the previous 10-year average harvest of 20,096,622 fish (Table 2).

Wild stock pink salmon harvest was above the forecast (6.8 million fish) with 16,409,031 pink salmon harvested in the KMA. Westside fisheries (Southwest Afognak to Ayakulik) accounted for 5,122,378 pink salmon, the Alitak District had a harvest of 2,648,475 pink salmon, and the Eastside and Northeast Kodiak districts had a combined harvest of 7,459,447 pink salmon.

The Kitoi Bay Hatchery pink salmon run was strong with 11,758,629 pink salmon harvested in sections near the hatchery (10,585,000 forecast). Kitoi-bound pink salmon were likely harvested along the west and east sides of Kodiak and Afognak islands. Likewise, additional wild stock salmon were likely harvested in areas associated with Kitoi Bay Hatchery. However, the department does not have a stock separation program for pink salmon and is unable to differentiate stocks. There was a cost recovery fishery near the hatchery with sockeye, pink, and chum salmon harvested and sold by the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association.

Chum Salmon

The chum salmon harvest of 791,877 fish was below the forecast (963,719) and the previous 10-year average (885,011 fish; Table 2). The Eastside and Northeast Kodiak districts accounted for 329,957 chum salmon, the Mainland District had a harvest of 83,366 chum salmon and Westside fisheries (southwest Afognak to Ayakulik) had a harvest of 62,557 chum salmon. Kitoi Bay Hatchery chum salmon production was weaker than expected with 96,142 chum salmon harvested, which is below the preseason forecast of 289,182 fish.

2013 Escapement Summary

Fish counting weirs were operated on eight systems in 2013, including the Karluk, Ayakulik, Litnik, Upper Station, Frazer, Buskin, Saltery, and Pasagshak systems. Three observers also flew 38 aerial surveys and several observers conducted foot and skiff survey escapement estimates.

Chinook Salmon

The total Chinook salmon escapement (4,291) was below the previous 10-year average (Table 4). Escapement goals for Chinook salmon have been developed for the Karluk and Ayakulik rivers and escapements are estimated using fish counting weirs (Table 5).

The Chinook salmon escapement through the Karluk weir (1,805 fish; Table 5) was below the escapement goal range of 3,000 to 6,000 fish. Chinook salmon escapement through the Ayakulik weir (2,363 fish; Table 5) was below the escapement goal range of 4,000 to 8,000 fish.

Sockeye Salmon

Sockeye salmon runs to most systems in the KMA were strong. All systems either met or exceeded their established escapement goals (Table 5). The entire KMA estimated sockeye salmon escapement (1,326,667 fish; Table 4) was slightly above the previous 10-year average of 1,311,408 fish (Table 4).

Coho Salmon

The only established coho salmon escapement goals occur in the Northeast Kodiak and Eastside Kodiak districts for the following systems; American (400 fish), Olds (1,000 fish), Buskin (3,200 to 7,200 fish) and the Pasagshak rivers (1,200 fish; Table 5). Escapement goals were met for all these systems (Table 5).

It is expected that coho salmon enter systems in the fall after weirs have been removed and aerial and foot surveys have concluded. The estimated coho salmon escapement of 77,310 fish was below the previous 10-year average of 90,154 fish (Table 4).

Pink Salmon

The KMA pink salmon escapement of 5,071,191 fish was above the previous 10-year average of (4,657,828 Fish; Table 4). Pink salmon escapement goals have been established as aggregate goals for the entire Kodiak Archipelago and the Mainland District. Escapement for the Kodiak Archipelago (4,450,711 fish) was within the escapement goal range of 2.0 to 5.0 million fish (Table 5). The Mainland District pink salmon escapement of 620,480 fish was within the established escapement goal range (250,000 to 750,000 fish; Table 5).

Chum Salmon

Overall chum salmon escapement (397,499 fish) was above the previous 10-year average (382,056 fish; Table 4). Escapement goals have been established for the Kodiak Archipelago and the Mainland District. The escapement in the Kodiak Archipelago was above the escapement goal of 151,000 fish with an estimated 284,799 fish and the Mainland District escapement of 112,700 fish was also above the escapement goal of 104,000 fish (Table 5).

Table 4. Total salmon escapements in the KMA for all species in 2013, compared to average escapement from 2003 to 2012.

Species	2013 KMA Escapement ^a	2003-2012 Average KMA Escapement
Chinook	4,291	12,035
Sockeye	1,326,677	1,311,408
Coho	78,958	90,154
Pink	5,071,191	4,657,828
Chum	397,499	382,056

^a2013 escapement estimates are the sum of all weir, aerial survey, and foot survey estimates. These are minimum estimates, and are incomplete due to limited dates of weir operation, and poor survey conditions. This includes escapement from all streams surveyed including many non-index streams that are not measured against established escapement goals.



Table 5. Salmon peak escapements and escapement goals by species, in the Kodiak Management Area, 2013.

Species District/System (stock)	Stream Number	Escapement Goal		2013 Peak Escapement ^a
		Lower	Upper	
Chinook				
Karluk	255-101	3,000	6,000	1,805
Ayakulik	256-201	4,000	7,000	2,363
	Total	7,000	13,000	4,168
Sockeye				
Malina	251-105	1,000	10,000	3,800
Afognak	252-342	20,000	50,000	42,153
Little River	253-115	3,000		17,600
Uganik	253-122	24,000		26,000
Karluk	255-101			
Early run		110,000	250,000	232,936
Late run		170,000	380,000	338,423
Ayakulik	256-201			
Early run		140,000	280,000	214,969
Late run		60,000	120,000	67,195
Upper Station	257-304			
Early run ^b		25,000	93,000	27,712
Late run		120,000	265,000	125,573
Frazer	257-403	70,000	150,000	135,411
Buskin	259-211	5,000	8,000	16,189
Pasagshak	259-411	3,000		11,421
Saltery	259-415	15,000	35,000	39,679
	Total	766,000		1,299,061
Coho				
Buskin	259-211	3,200	7,200	5,386
American	259-231	400		841
Olds (Sid Olds)	259-242	1,000		2,145
Pasagshak	259-411	1,200		1,648
	Total	5,800		10,020
Pink				
Mainland District		250,000	750,000	620,480
Kodiak Archipelago		2,000,000	5,000,000	4,450,711
	Total	2,250,000	5,750,000	5,071,191
Chum				
Mainland District		104,000		112,700
Kodiak Archipelago		151,000		284,799
	Total	204,000		397,499

^a 2013 escapement estimates are the sum of all weir, aerial survey, and foot survey estimates. These may be minimum estimates only, and are incomplete due to limited dates of weir operation, and poor survey conditions.

^b An OEG of 25,000 fish is established for Upper Station early-run sockeye.