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

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2012 Preliminary Kuskokwim Area Salmon Season Summary

Kuskokwim Area Management

The Kuskokwim River salmon fisheries were managed according to the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 07.365). The Kuskokwim Bay salmon fisheries were managed according to the District 4 Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 07.367).

Kuskokwim Area Commercial Harvest

A total of 393,319 salmon were commercially harvested from the Kuskokwim Area (Table 1). A total of 477 individual permit holders (making at least one recorded landing) participated in area commercial fisheries with an estimated exvessel value of $2,040,296; approximately 41% above the most recent 10-year average value (Table 2).

Kuskokwim River

Preseason Forecast and Management Strategies

In 2011, the Kwethluk and Tuluksak rivers did not meet Chinook salmon sustainable escapement goals (SEGs) for the fourth and fifth consecutive years, respectively. The George River had not met its SEG in three of the past four years. In 2011 aerial survey indices on Aniak River tributaries, Kipchuk and Salmon rivers were among the lowest on record. The 2012 Chinook salmon forecast was for a return of 197,000 fish (range 158,000 to 236,000). Based upon recent low runs of Chinook salmon and the 2012 forecast, the Chinook salmon run was to be managed conservatively in an effort to meet existing escapement goals.

The following preseason management actions were jointly recommended by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Federal Inseason Manager) and became effective from June 1 until July 25 in an effort to

achieve escapement goals. The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (Working Group) voted unanimously to support the joint recommendation.

Subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear was closed and subsistence fishing was restricted to the use of gillnets with 4-inch or less mesh not to exceed 60-feet in length in the following waters of the Kuskokwim River Drainage:

- The Kwethluk River drainage including its confluence with Kuskokuak Slough and downstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located at the downstream mouth of Kuskokuak Slough.
- The Kasigluk and Kisaralik River drainages including Old Kuskokuak Slough to ADF&G markers at the confluence of Old Kuskokuak Slough with Kuskokuak Slough.
- The Tuluksak River drainage including its confluence with the Kuskokwim River and downstream approximately 1-mile to ADF&G regulatory markers.
- The Aniak River drainage to ADF&G regulatory markers at its confluence with the Kuskokwim River.
- The George River drainage including its confluence with the Kuskokwim River and downstream approximately a half mile to ADF&G regulatory markers.

2012 Commercial Harvest Outlook

	Chinook	Sockeye	Chum	Coho
2012 Outlook	0 – 3,000	10,000 – 30,000	100,000 – 200,000	100,000 – 200,000
2012 Harvest	15	2,857	65,171	86,391

Harvest in numbers of fish current as of October 1, 2012.

Inseason Subsistence Management

Through much discussion ADF&G, Federal Inseason Manager, and the Working Group agreed to a 2012 inseason Chinook salmon Management Objective (Management Objective) of 127,000 fish in order to meet existing escapement goals. Also it was agreed that the Management Objective would be evaluated inseason using the Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) catch per unit effort (CPUE).

Under the management plan, during subsistence salmon fishing closures, 4-inch or less mesh size gillnets not to exceed 60-feet in length are allowed to harvest non-salmon species such as whitefish.

During the June 8 Working Group meeting a joint recommendation from ADF&G and Federal Inseason Manager, and supported unanimously by the Working Group, initiated a 7-day subsistence salmon fishing rolling closure effective Sunday, June 10 in the Lower Section of Subdistrict 1-B of District 1. BTF CPUE of Chinook salmon indicated late run timing and lower than expected abundance, and the Management Objective was unlikely to be met.

The rolling closure was implemented in a stepwise progression up the Kuskokwim River consistent with salmon run timing:

- In Rolling Closure Section 1 (Section 1), effective from June 10 to June 16, subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets and subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear was closed. Those waters were defined as that portion of the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries upstream from a line from Apokak Slough to the southernmost tip of Eek

Island to Popokamiut, to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located between the Kialik and Johnson Rivers.

- In Rolling Closure Section 2 (Section 2), effective from June 13 to June 19, subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets and subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear was closed. Those waters were defined as that portion of the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries upstream from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located between the Kialik and Johnson Rivers to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately half a mile upstream of the Tuluksak River mouth.
- In Rolling Closure Section 3 (Section 3), effective from June 17 to June 23, subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets and subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear was closed, and a fish wheel used to take fish had to be equipped with a livebox that contained no less than 45 cubic feet of water volume while in operation. The livebox had to be checked at least once every six hours while in operation and all Chinook salmon had to be returned to the water alive. Those waters were defined as that portion of the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries upstream from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately one half mile upstream of the Tuluksak River mouth to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the downstream edge of Chuathbaluk.

During the June 15 Working Group meeting a joint recommendation from ADF&G and Federal Inseason Manager was presented extending the 7-day rolling closure along the Kuskokwim River for 5 additional days in an effort to conserve Chinook salmon. BTF CPUE indicated that there was not enough Chinook salmon to meet the Management Objective. The Working Group voted to not support the recommendation.

- In Section 1, effective from June 17 to June 21, subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets and subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear was closed.
- In Section 2, effective from June 20 to June 24, subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets and subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear was closed.
- In Section 3, effective from June 24 to June 28, subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets and subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear was closed, and a fish wheel had to be equipped with a livebox.
- In Rolling Closure Section 4 (Section 4), effective from June 22 to July 3, subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets and subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear was closed, and a fish wheel had to be equipped with a live box. Those waters were defined as that portion of the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries upstream from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the downstream edge of Chuathbaluk to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located downstream of the Holitna River mouth.
- In Rolling Closure Section 5 (Section 5), effective from June 27 to July 8, subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets and subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear was closed, and a fish wheel had to be equipped with a livebox. Those waters were defined as that portion of the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries upstream from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the Holitna River mouth upstream to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River.

During the June 20 Working Group meeting ADF&G and Federal Inseason Manager presented a recommendation for a 3-day subsistence fishing opening allowing 6-inch or smaller mesh

gillnets after each section's 12-day rolling closure. Subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remained closed. After the 3-day opening fishing was restricted to gillnet mesh of 4-inches or less in an effort to conserve Chinook salmon. The assessment of chum and sockeye salmon at BTF indicated that abundance of these species was still low, but their abundance was increasing and expected to increase further based on historic run timing. The Working Group voted to not support the recommendation.

- In Section 1, effective from June 22 to June 24, subsistence salmon fishing opened to the use of gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh. Effective June 25 fishing with gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh was scheduled to close. Subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remained closed.
- In Section 2, effective from June 25 to June 27, subsistence salmon fishing opened to the use of gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh. Effective June 28 fishing with gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh was scheduled to close. Subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remained closed.
- In Section 3, effective from June 29 to July 1, subsistence salmon fishing opened to the use of gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh. Effective July 2 fishing with gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh was scheduled to close. Subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remained closed, and a fish wheel had to be equipped with a livebox.
- In Section 4, effective from July 4 to July 6, subsistence salmon fishing opened to the use of gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh. Effective July 7 fishing with gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh was scheduled to close. Subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remained closed, and a fish wheel had to be equipped with a livebox.
- In Section 5, effective from July 9 to July 11, subsistence salmon fishing opened to the use of gillnets with 6-inch or less mesh. Effective July 12 fishing with gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh was scheduled to close. Subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remained closed, and a fish wheel had to be equipped with a livebox.

On June 23 ADF&G and Federal Inseason Manager jointly announced that subsistence salmon fishing in Section 1 with 6-inch or less mesh was extended an additional three days to June 27. Effective June 28 fishing with gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh was closed. Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remained closed. The BTF CPUE of chum and sockeye salmon indicated there was a harvestable surplus of those species. This assessment was supported by subsistence harvest reports from Section 1 on June 22. This action allowed additional opportunity to harvest chum and sockeye salmon with 6-inch or less mesh in Section 1.

During the June 26 Working Group meeting ADF&G asked for a recommendation from the Working Group on further management of the subsistence salmon fishery. The Working Group unanimously recommended that subsistence fishing opportunity with 6-inch or less mesh gillnets be extended for 3 additional days in Section 2 and the duration of closures in Section 3, 4, and 5 be reduced from 12 days to 10 days.

In consideration of the Working Group's recommendation, the BTF assessment of a harvestable surplus of chum and sockeye salmon, and daily assessment of the runs, ADF&G and Federal Inseason Manager jointly announced the following actions to allow opportunity to harvest chum and sockeye salmon while conserving Chinook salmon:

- In Section 1, effective June 30, subsistence salmon fishing opened to fishing with gillnets of 6-inch or less mesh. Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remained closed.

- In Section 2 subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets of 6-inch or less mesh was extended to June 30. Effective July 1 to July 2 fishing with gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh was closed. Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remained closed. Effective July 3 Section 2 reopened to subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets of 6-inch or less mesh. Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remained closed.
- In Section 3 subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets of 6-inch or less mesh was extended to July 4. Effective July 5 to July 6 fishing with gillnets greater than 4-inch mesh was closed. Effective July 7 Section 3 reopened to subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets of 6-inch or less mesh. Fish wheel restrictions remained in effect and Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remained closed.
- In Section 4 subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets of 6-inch or less mesh was extended to July 9. Fish wheel restrictions remained in effect. Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remained closed. Section 4 subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets of 6-inch or less mesh was extended again effective July 9.
- In Section 5 subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets of 6-inch or less mesh was extended to July 14. Fish wheel restrictions remained in effect. Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear remained closed.

During the July 14 Working Group meeting the Department and Federal Inseason Manager announced relaxing subsistence salmon fishing restrictions effective July 16. Implementation of this action was in a stepwise progression up the Kuskokwim River consistent with salmon run timing:

- Section 1 opened to subsistence salmon fishing with unrestricted gillnet mesh size and Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear opened effective July 16.
- Section 2 opened to subsistence salmon fishing with unrestricted gillnet mesh size and Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear opened effective July 19.
- Section 3 opened to subsistence salmon fishing with unrestricted gillnet mesh size and Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear opened effective July 23. Additionally, a fish wheel was not required to have a livebox.
- Section 5 subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets of 6-inch or less mesh was extended effective July 14. Additionally, in Section 5 effective July 16, subsistence fishing with hook and line gear was opened with a daily bag limit of 3 and no possession, season, or size limits and a fish wheel was not required to have a livebox.

In Section 4 and 5 subsistence salmon fishing with unrestricted gear resumed effective July 23.

Post season subsistence harvest surveys are presently being conducted. An accounting of subsistence salmon harvest in 2012 will not be available until after post season harvest surveys have been completed, data has been analyzed, and preliminary harvest estimates are produced.

District 1 Commercial Fishery

The District 1 commercial fishing season began on July 13 and ended on August 27. The initiation of the commercial fishery was delayed until the majority of the Chinook run had passed through the district to ensure ongoing Chinook salmon conservation. As a result, commercial fishing occurred after the peak of the sockeye and chum salmon runs had passed through the district. Subsistence salmon fishing was closed by emergency order 6 hours before, during, and 3 hours after commercial fishing periods. There were 23 commercial fishing periods. A total of

365 Chinook; 2,857 sockeye; 65,171 chum; and 86,391 coho salmon were commercially harvested (Table 1). All but 15 of the 365 Chinook salmon reported as harvested during the commercial fishery were retained for personal use as the buyers agreed not to purchase Chinook salmon because of the poor run. Chinook salmon catch rates were below average. Catch rates for chum salmon ranged from above average to below average. Sockeye salmon catch rates ranged from average to below average. Coho salmon catch rates ranged from above average to below average. Coho salmon average weight of 6.0 pounds was notable because it was below the historical (1984-2011) average weight of 7.0 pounds. A total of 379 individual permit holders (making at least one recorded landing) participated in the fishery. Chum salmon harvest was approximately 39% above the most recent 10-year average, while Chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon harvests were below the most recent 10-year average (87%, 78%, and 48% respectively). The average price per pound of sockeye, chum, and coho salmon was $0.84, $0.65, and $0.65, respectively. Total exvessel value of the fishery was $597,998; approximately 11% above the most recent 10-year average value (Table 2).

Run Timing and Escapement

Salmon run timing based on BTF indicated Chinook, sockeye, chum, and coho salmon were three to four days later than average. Run timing at the spawning grounds was characterized as late for Chinook, chum, and sockeye salmon, while coho salmon ranged from early to average.

Based on escapements at weirs and through aerial surveys, preliminary Chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon abundance was below average and chum salmon abundance was above average.

Chinook salmon

Overall, preliminary data indicated Chinook salmon abundance was below average. Due to high water events during the season, only four of six tributaries were successfully monitored by weirs, of which, only Tuluksak River has an escapement goal and that goal was not achieved. When compared to 2011 escapements, all four tributaries monitored by weir had higher escapements in 2012. Seven tributaries have aerial survey escapement goals. Of the five tributaries that were assessed, two (Kisaralik River and Salmon River on the Pitka Fork) achieved their respective escapement goals and three (Cheeneetnuk River, Gagaryah River, and Salmon River on the Aniak) did not.

	Chinook Salmon Escapement					
Year	Kwethluk	Tuluksak	George	Kogrukluk	Tatlawiksuk	Takotna
2000	3,547	a	2,960	3,310	810	345
2001	a	998	3,309	9,298	2,010	721
2002	8,502	1,346	2,444	10,104	2,237	316
2003	14,474	1,064	4,693	11,771	1,683	378
2004	28,605	1,475	5,207	19,651	2,833	461
2005	a	2,653	3,845	22,000	2,918	499
2006	17,619	1,043	4,357	19,414	1,700	539
2007	13,267	374	4,883	13,029	2,061	418
2008	5,312	701	2,698	9,730	1,071	413
2009	5,710	362	3,663	9,702	1,071	311
2010	1,693	201	1,500	5,690	567	178
2011	4,079	288	1,571	6,891	1,012	134
2012[b]	a	545	2,071	a	1,114	227
Esc Goal	6,000-11,000	1,000-2,100	3,100-7,900	5,300-14,000		

[a] Weir did not operate or counts were incomplete.
[b] Preliminary numbers subject to change.

Sockeye salmon

Overall, preliminary data indicated sockeye salmon abundance was below average. Five tributaries were successfully monitored by weirs for sockeye salmon escapement. The Kogrukluk River has the only established sockeye salmon escapement goal and it was not operational for a large portion of the sockeye salmon run.

	Sockeye Salmon Escapement						
Year	Kwethluk	Tuluksak	George	Kogrukluk	Tatlawiksuk	Takotna	Telaquana
2000	1,049	a	22	2,865	0	3	a
2001	a	137	24	8,776	3	1	a
2002	272	82	17	4,050	1	1	a
2003	2,928	288	16	9,164	a	3	a
2004	3,490	136	177	6,775	10	17	a
2005	a	642	276	37,939	77	34	a
2006	6,732	985	164	60,807	41	59	a
2007	5,262	352	74	16,525	27	13	a
2008	2,451	188	94	19,675	39	12	a
2009	4,385	686	54	23,785	39	3	a
2010	4,242	437	115	13,995	33	8	72,021
2011	2,031	126	43	8,132	23	1	35,105
2012[b]	a	181	78	a	9	0	22,760
Esc Goal	4,400-17,000						

[a] Weir did not operate or counts were incomplete.
[b] Preliminary numbers subject to change.

Chum salmon

Overall, preliminary data indicates chum salmon abundance was above average. Three tributaries were successfully monitored by weirs for chum salmon escapement. Only the Aniak and Kogrukluk rivers, have established escapement goals and they were not operational for some or all of the chum salmon run.

	Chum Salmon Escapement						
Year	Kwethluk	Tuluksak	George	Kogrukluk	Tatlawiksuk	Takotna	Aniak
2000	11,691	a	3,492	11,491	6,965	1,254	177,384
2001	a	19,311	11,601	30,570	23,718	5,414	408,830
2002	35,854	9,958	6,543	51,570	24,542	4,377	472,346
2003	41,812	11,724	33,666	23,413	a	3,393	477,544
2004	38,646	11,796	14,409	24,201	21,245	1,630	672,931
2005	a	35,696	14,828	197,723	55,720	6,467	1,151,505
2006	47,490	25,650	41,467	180,594	32,301	12,598	1,108,626
2007	54,913	17,286	55,842	49,505	83,246	8,900	696,801
2008	20,030	12,550	29,978	44,978	30,896	5,691	427,911
2009	32,191	13,671	7,941	84,940	19,975	2,487	479,531
2010	19,242	13,042	26,154	63,583	36,701	4,057	429,643
2011	18,329	9,828	44,640	76,384	84,202	8,414	345,630
2012[b]	a	16,782	32,172	a	44,944	a	a
Esc Goal				15,000-49,000			222,000-480,000

[a] Did not operate or counts were incomplete.
[b] Numbers are preliminary subject to change.

Coho salmon

Overall, preliminary data indicates coho salmon abundance appears to be below average. Four tributaries were successfully monitored by weirs for coho salmon escapement. Kwethluk and Kogrukluk rivers, have established escapement goals. The Kogrukluk River escapement goal was not assessed due to high water. The Kwethluk River escapement goal (>19,000) was achieved with an estimated 19,960 coho salmon passing the weir.

	Coho Salmon Escapement					
Year	Kwethluk	Tuluksak	George	Kogrukluk	Tatlawiksuk	Takotna
2000	25,610	a	11,262	33,135	a	3,957
2001	21,596	23,768	14,398	19,387	10,539	2,606
2002	23,298	11,487	6,759	14,516	11,345	3,984
2003	107,789	41,071	33,280	74,604	a	7,171
2004	64,216	20,336	12,499	27,041	16,410	3,207
2005	a	11,324	8,200	24,116	7,495	2,216
2006	25,664	6,111	11,296	17,011	9,453	5,548
2007	20,257	2,807	29,317	27,033	8,685	2,853
2008	49,971	7,457	21,931	29,661	11,065	2,817
2009	21,911	8,137	12,573	22,981	10,148	2,708
2010	a	1,216	12,961	13,971	3,520	3,217
2011	a	a	30,028	24,174	12,928	4,063
2012[b]	19,960	4,407	14,295	a	7,479	a
Esc Goal	>19,000			13,000-28,000		

[a] Weir did not operate or counts were incomplete.
[b] Numbers are preliminary subject to change.

Kuskokwim Bay

2012 Commercial Harvest Outlook, Districts 4 and 5

	Chinook	Sockeye	Chum	Coho
2012 Outlook	10,000 – 17,000	40,000 – 60,000	75,000 – 150,000	40,000 – 80,000
2012 Harvest	8,206	88,323	85,627	56,625

District 4 (Quinhagak) Commercial Fishery

The District 4 commercial fishing season began on June 27 and ended on August 29. There were 22 commercial fishing periods. The commercial fishing season was delayed from the normal start of June 15 due to concerns for Chinook salmon abundance and subsistence fishing reports of late run timing. Subsistence fishing was closed 8 hours before, during, and 6 hours after commercial fishing periods. A total of 6,675 Chinook salmon; 37,688 sockeye salmon; 61,140 chum salmon and 31,214 coho salmon were commercially harvested (Table 1). Chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon catch rates were below average. Catch rates for chum salmon were average. A total of 179 individual permit holders (making at least one recorded landing) participated in the commercial fishery. Coho salmon average weight of 6.1 pounds was notable because it was below the historical (1984-2011) average weight of 7.6 pounds. Chum salmon harvest was approximately 7% above the most recent 10-year average. Chinook, sockeye and coho salmon harvests were below the most recent 10-year average (64%, 51%, and 35% respectively) (Table 1). The Chinook salmon harvest was the lowest since 1975. Chinook, sockeye, chum, and coho salmon were all purchased for $0.85 per pound. Total exvessel value of the fishery was $824,435; approximately 18% above the most recent 10-year average value (Table 2).

Run Timing and Escapement

Based escapements at the Kanektok River weir; Chinook, sockeye, chum, and coho salmon run timing were one to two days earlier than average. An aerial survey was flown on the Kanektok River, but the survey was rated as poor. Chinook salmon escapement at the Kanektok River weir was 1,475 and the chum salmon escapement was 20,116. These were the lowest recorded escapements for these species since the weir started operating in 2002. The sockeye salmon escapement of 69,640 was the second lowest recorded at the weir. Coho salmon were not enumerated at the Kanektok River weir.

Kanektok River Weir Escapement

Year	Chinook	Sockeye	Chum	Coho
2002	5,343	58,326	42,009	24,840
2003	8,231	127,471	40,066	72,448
2004	19,528	102,867	46,444	87,828
2005	14,331	242,208	53,580	26,343
2006	a	a	a	a
2007	14,120	307,750	133,215	30,471
2008	6,578	141,388	54,024	24,490
2009	6,841	272,483	51,652	a
2010	5,800	202,634	62,567	a
2011	5,032	84,805	50,908	a
2012[b]	1,475	69,640	20,116	a

[a] Weir did not operate or counts were incomplete
[b] Numbers are preliminary subject to change.

District 5 (Goodnews Bay) Commercial Fishery

District 5 commercial fishing season began on June 27 and ended on August 29. There were 28 commercial fishing periods. Subsistence fishing was closed 8 hours before, during, and 6 hours after commercial fishing periods. A total of 1,531 Chinook salmon; 50,635 sockeye salmon; 24,487 chum salmon and 25,515 coho salmon were commercially harvested (Table 1). Chinook salmon catch rates were below average. Catch rates for chum, sockeye, and coho salmon were above average. Coho salmon average weight of 6.6 pounds was notable because it was below the recent 10-year (2002-2011) average weight of 7.9 pounds and below historical (1984-2011) average weight of 7.0 pounds. A total of 58 individual permit holders (making at least one recorded landing) participated in the fishery. Sockeye, chum and coho salmon harvests were above the most recent 10-year average (66%, 127%, and 85% respectively). The sockeye and chum salmon harvests were the third and fourth highest on record, respectively. Chinook salmon harvest was approximately 28% below the most recent 10-year average. Chinook, sockeye, chum, and coho salmon were all purchased for $0.85 per pound. Total exvessel value of the fishery was $617,766; approximately 194% above the most recent 10-year average value (Table 2).

Run Timing and Escapement

Based on commercial harvests and escapements at the Goodnews River weir; Chinook and chum salmon run timing was later than average. Sockeye and coho salmon run timing was about average.

The Middle Fork Goodnews River (MFGR) weir was plagued by high water in 2012 and large portions of the Chinook, chum, and coho salmon escapements were missed. The MFGR weir sockeye salmon biological escapement goal (range 18,000-40,000) was achieved with a minimum estimated escapement of 26,947 fish. The Goodnews River (North Fork) aerial Chinook salmon survey goal (range 640-3,300) was not achieved with 382 fish observed. The North Fork sockeye salmon aerial survey goal (range 5,500-19,500) was achieved with 16,700 fish observed.

	Middle Fork Goodnews River Weir Escapement			
Year	Chinook	Sockeye	Chum	Coho
2001	5,351	21,024	26,829	19,626
2002	3,085	22,101	30,300	27,364
2003	2,389	44,387	21,637	52,810
2004	4,388	55,926	31,616	47,916
2005	4,633	113,809	26,690	15,683
2006	4,559	126,772	54,699	15,969
2007	3,852	72,282	49,285	20,975
2008	2,161	51,763	44,699	36,630
2009	1,630	25,465	19,715	20,000
2010	2,244	35,762	26,687	23,839
2011	1,861	17,946	19,974	23,826
2012[b]	a	26,947	a	a
Esc Goal	1,500-2,900	18,000-40,000	>12,000	>12,000

[a] Weir did not operate or counts were incomplete
[b] Numbers are preliminary subject to change.

Table 1.–Commercial salmon harvest and exvessel value by District, Kuskokwim Area, 2012.

	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Lower Kuskokwim River, District 1						
Fish	15	2,857	86,391	0	65,171	154,434
Pounds	225	19,254	501,245	0	399,334	920,098
Price	$0.85	$0.84	$0.65	$0.00	$0.65	
Value	$225	$16,154	$323,687	$0	$257,932	$597,998
Recent 10-yr Average 2002-2011						
Fish	2,858	12,704	165,144	2	46,749	227,459
Value	$24,347	$58,181	$389,803	$1	$65,027	$537,637
Quinhagak, District 4						
Fish	6,675	37,688	31,214	0	61,140	136,717
Pounds	101,099	244,733	197,221	0	426,871	969,924
Price	$0.85	$0.85	$0.85	$0.00	$0.85	
Value	$85,934	$208,023	$167,638	$0	$362,840	$824,435
Recent 10-yr Average 2002-2011						
Fish	18,437	76,325	47,753	1	57,391	199,910
Value	$149,808	$308,212	$139,381	$0	$101,748	$699,148
Goodnews Bay, District 5						
Fish	1,531	50,635	25,515	0	24,487	102,168
Pounds	24,128	352,255	177,257	0	173,413	727,053
Price	$0.85	$0.85	$0.85	$0.00	$0.85	
Value	$20,509	$299,187	$150,669	$0	$147,401	$617,766
Recent 10-yr Average 2002-2011						
Fish	2,115	30,484	13,813	0	10,785	57,198
Value	$17,418	$130,418	$45,069	$0	$17,128	$210,033
Kuskokwim Area Total						
Fish	8,221	91,180	143,120	0	150,798	393,319
Pounds	125,492	616,242	875,723	0	999,618	2,617,075
Price	$0.85	$0.85	$0.73	$0.00	$0.77	
Value	$106,668	$523,364	$642,091	$0	$768,173	$2,040,296
Recent 10-yr Average 2002-2011						
Fish	21,980	113,559	223,914	4	112,845	472,302
Value	$191,600	$487,602	$574,514	$1	$183,923	$1,437,640

Table 2.– Commercial salmon fishing estimated exvessel value and permits fished by district, Kuskokwim Area, 1990–2012.

	District 1		District 2		District 4		District 5			
Year	Value of Catch	Permits Fished [a]	Value of Catch	Permits Fished [a]	Value of Catch	Permits Fished [a]	Value of Catch	Permits Fished [a]	Total Value	Total Permits
1990	$3,385,636	742	$121,329	22	$1,013,472	390	$361,203	82	$4,881,640	823
1991	$2,971,767	749	$111,651	23	$592,436	346	$273,795	72	$3,949,649	819
1992	$3,764,804	741	$147,992	22	$993,664	349	$439,331	111	$5,345,791	814
1993	$2,533,895	737	$90,906	20	$898,255	408	$440,955	114	$3,964,011	804
1994	$3,559,114	706	$129,555	17	$837,157	307	$591,903	116	$5,117,729	793
1995	$2,776,677	712	$107,913	21	$1,047,188	382	$287,599	87	$4,219,377	798
1996	$2,108,418	620	$11,015	8	$534,726	218	$222,388	54	$2,876,547	714
1997	$430,614	604	$2,944	4	$497,071	289	$121,973	53	$1,052,602	702
1998	$982,791	615	$617	3	$467,843	203	$184,060	50	$1,635,311	707
1999	$170,278	509	$0	0	$279,092	218	$102,803	73	$552,173	604
2000	$509,594	532	$3,039	4	$466,560	230	$212,336	46	$1,191,529	623
2001	$429,534	412	$0	0	$228,615	159	$98,458	32	$756,607	514
2002	$127,208	318	$0	0	$167,748	114	$28,704	30	$323,660	407
2003	$453,187	359	$0	0	$304,553	114	$135,287	34	$893,027	438
2004	$943,767	390	$0	0	$405,344	116	$227,680	29	$1,484,358	467
2005	$448,853	403	$0	0	$571,965	145	$134,295	29	$1,155,113	484
2006	$451,390	373	$0	0	$551,182	132	$141,235	24	$1,143,806	453
2007	$380,842	366	$0	0	$660,865	125	$223,329	28	$1,265,034	456
2008	$538,310	374	$0	0	$750,731	146	$198,070	25	$1,487,234	462
2009	$502,848	342	$0	0	$747,326	179	$192,031	39	$1,442,202	434
2010	$765,607	433	$0	0	$1,655,326	241	$473,674	48	$2,894,766	530
2011	$764,358	413	$0	0	$1,176,435	219	$346,022	48	$2,287,202	510
2012	$597,998	379	$0	0	$824,435	179	$617,766	58	$2,040,296	477
10 Yr Ave[b]	**$537,637**	**377**	**$0**	**0**	**$699,148**	**153**	**$210,033**	**33**	**$1,437,640**	**464**

[a] Number of permits that made at least one delivery.
[b] 2002-2011