

**Submitted by Board Member Marit Carlson-Van Dort, prepared by the
Alaska Department of Fish and Game.**

Nushagak Area Subsistence Restrictions 1990-2022

November 29, 2022

Between 1990–2022, there have been two subsistence restrictions for the conservation of king salmon (1999 and 2010). The 1999 restriction reduced the time open for subsistence fishing from 7 days per week to 3 days per week. The 2010 restrictions reduced the time open for subsistence fishing from 7 days per week to 5 days per week.

July 1, 1999 – Emergency Order Number 22:

“For the purpose of Chinook conservation and according to the Nushagak-Mulchatna Chinook Salmon Management Plan, we are restricting subsistence fishing on the entire Nushagak River and the Wood River downstream of the Dagnet Fisheries dock to the same 3-day per week schedule during the same time period. Effective 9:00 a.m., Friday, July 2, subsistence fishing is allowed on the Nushagak River and the Wood River downstream from the Dagnet dock for three 24-hour periods per week; 9:00 a.m. Monday to 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, from 9:00 a.m. Wednesday to 9:00 a.m. Thursday; and from 9:00 a.m. Friday to 9:00 a.m. Saturday. This schedule will be in effect through July 17.”

The cumulative king sonar count before this restriction (June 30, 1999) was 17,000. The season total count through the sonar, which ended operations on August 25, was 62,331. The 1999 subsistence harvest was 10,057 in the Nushagak reporting area, 9,927 of which were thought to be of Nushagak River origin, in addition to 29,387 sockeye salmon.

July 15, 2010 - Emergency Order Number 42:

“Effective at 9:00 a.m. on July 17, subsistence fishing on the Dillingham beaches and in the Nushagak-Mulchatna watershed will be allowed for 5 days per week from 9:00 a.m. Thursdays until 9:00 a.m. Tuesdays until August 1, when subsistence fishing will be allowed without restriction.”

Without this emergency order, on July 17, subsistence fishing would have reverted to the standard 7 days a week, 24-hour a day subsistence schedule. The emergency order implemented a 5 day per week restriction from July 17-August 1 for king salmon conservation.

The cumulative king salmon sonar count before this restriction (July 16, 2010) was 36,182. The season total count through the sonar, which ended operations on July 18, was 36,625. The 2010 subsistence harvest was 9,150 king salmon in the Nushagak reporting area, 8,190 if which were thought to be of Nushagak River origin, in addition to 22,326 sockeye salmon. Subsequently in 2012, the Bendix-DIDSON conversion adjusted the end of season sonar count to 60,185. (Appendix A19 - Salomone et. al 2019)

Salomone, P., T. Elison, T. Sands, J. Head, and T. Lemons. 2019. 2018 Bristol Bay annual management report. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fishery Management Report No. 19-12, Anchorage.