

2020 Summary

ANCHORAGE, NORTH GULF COAST, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SPORT FISH MANAGEMENT AREAS



Ship Creek

King salmon fishing in Ship Creek was good this season. 908 king salmon were collected in the William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery (hatchery) raceway. Of those in the raceway only 446 king salmon were useable for broodstock. The hatchery was not able to meet the broodstock goal of 460 king salmon; however, enough eggs were collected to meet the stocking needs of Ship Creek. An estimated 298 king salmon were counted in Ship Creek for viewing and natural reproduction below the hatchery.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2020 sport fishery season.

Prince William Sound

King salmon fishing was fair in Whittier and good in Cordova. Fleming Spit angler reports were of improved success catching king salmon. Both locations are terminal harvest areas. No formal surveys are conducted for king salmon in Prince William Sound.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2020 sport fishery season.



Resurrection Bay

Anglers reported good sockeye salmon fishing in Resurrection Bay. On June 30, 2020, over 12,720 sockeye salmon passed through the Bear Creek weir, with large numbers of sockeye salmon still entering the river. Bear Lake sockeye salmon have a Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) of 700 - 8,300 fish and is managed to escape 5,152 - 12,752 sockeye salmon, which meets both the SEG and



the Trail Lakes Hatchery broodstock requirements. The final escapement was approximately 12,760 sockeye salmon.

Management Actions

- On June 24, 2020, in marine waters of Resurrection Bay north of a line from Caines Head to the north point of Thumb Cove and the freshwaters open to sockeye salmon fishing, the bag and possession limits for sockeye salmon was increased from six to twelve fish.

Prince William Sound

Sockeye salmon fishing in the Coghill River was reported as good this season. The final weir count on July 27, 2020, indicated over 53,891 sockeye salmon had passed through the Coghill River weir. The sockeye salmon SEG for the Coghill River is 20,000 - 60,000 fish.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2020 sport fishery season.



Ship Creek

Coho salmon fishing in Ship Creek this season was reported as good. The William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery collected 1,709 coho salmon for broodstock. Additionally, 399 coho salmon were counted by foot survey immediately in the creek below the hatchery.

Management Actions

- On August 20, 2020, the coho salmon bag and possession limits were increased to six fish in Ship Creek from its mouth upstream to a cable 100 feet downstream of the Chugach Power Plant dam.

Resurrection Bay

Coho salmon fishing in Resurrection Bay was hit or miss this season. Anglers fishing from a boat had good days and bad days. At the start of the coho season, king salmon were caught just as frequently as coho salmon by boat anglers. The Bear Creek coho salmon stock is currently on track to provide adequate brood; however, this was in question until recently. Coho salmon egg takes will be conducted in early October. Escapement surveys will not be conducted due to budget cuts.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2020 sport fishery season.

Prince William Sound

Coho salmon fishing has been poor in Whittier but was good outside of Passage Canal. Fleming Spit appeared to have a poor return this year but also less effort. Coho salmon fishing in Valdez was reported by anglers as fair to good. It has not been determined yet if broodstock goals have been met by the Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA) and Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation hatcheries (PWSAC). Egg takes for these locations occur as late as November. Both Whittier and Cordova are stocked by PWSAC and are terminal harvest areas. In Valdez, coho salmon



are stocked by VFDA. No formal surveys are conducted for coho salmon in Prince William Sound, except for on the Copper River Delta.

Management Actions

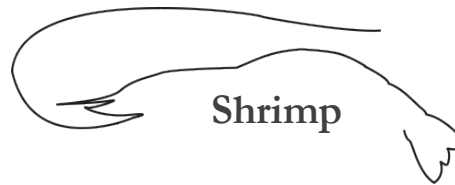
- To date, no management actions have been implemented during the 2020 sport fishery season.

Copper River Delta

Salmon fishing on the Copper River Delta has been good. Water conditions were normal this year with periods of low fishable water and normal high-water events. There was decreased effort observed this year mid-coho salmon season. Based on aerial surveys, as of September 11, 2020, the Copper River Delta coho salmon return is anticipated to meet the SEG of 32,000 - 67,000 fish. The coho salmon return is still being assessed and the final season survey has yet to be flown.

Management Actions

- To date, no management actions have been implemented during the 2020 sport fishery season.



Prince William Sound

The Total Allowable Harvest (TAH= 170,182 pounds) was established from the results of the fall 2019 Prince William Sound shrimp survey. The Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for the noncommercial (sport and subsistence) shrimp fishery harvest was established to be 102,100 pounds. This was very similar to the TAH and GHL established for the 2019 season. Approximately 4,545 noncommercial permits were issued in 2020. Effort and harvest are assessed post-season after harvest reports are received. Anecdotal reports from permit holders indicate that shrimping was good this season.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective April 15, 2020, reduced the number of allowable noncommercial shrimp pots per person and per vessel to three pots, just as it was in 2019.



Table 1 – Select Southcentral Region Salmon Escapement Goals and Escapements for king salmon, 2011 to 2020 (preliminary).

System	2020 Goal Range		Type	Initial Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Preliminary
	Lower	Upper												2020
KING SALMON														
<i>Bristol Bay</i>														
Nushagak River	55,000	120,000	SEG	2013	102,258	167,618	107,602	70,482	98,019	125,368	56,961	97,239	47,882	43,032
Alagnak River	2,700		LB SEG	2007	NS	NS	NS	NS	917	1,283	435	NS	NS	NS
<i>Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula</i>														
Karluk River	3,000	6,000	BEG	2011	3,420	3,197	1,824	1,182	2,777	3,434	2,600	3,155	3,898	3,344
Ayakulik River	4,800	8,400	BEG	2017	4,251	4,556	2,304	789	2,392	4,594	3,712	2,149	1,948	2,402
Chignik River	1,300	2,700	BEG	2002	2,490	1,404	1,185	2,895	2,041	1,843	1,137	825	1,517	1,278
Nelson River	2,400	4,400	BEG	2004	1,704	1,192	1,421	3,801	2,440	4,618	1,502	5,022	11,653	2,298
<i>Upper Cook Inlet</i>														
Alexander Creek	1,900	3,700	SEG	2020	343	181	588	911	1,117	754	170	296	1,297	596
Campbell Creek	380		LB SEG	2011	260	NS	NS	274	654	544	475	287	393	154
Chuitna River	1,000	1,500	SEG	2002	719	502	1,690	1,398	1,965	1,372	235	939	2,115	869
Chulitna River	1,200	2,900	SEG	2020	1,875	667	1,262	1,011	3,137	1,151	NC	1125	2,765	845
Clear (Chunilna) Creek	eliminated (see Talkeetna Stock)			2020	512	1,177	1,471	1,390	1,205	NS	780	940	1,511	
Crooked Creek	700	1,400	SEG	2002	654	631	1,103	1,411	1,456	1,747	911	714	1,444	830
Deshka River	eliminated (see Deshka Stock)			2020	19,026	14,010	18,531	16,335	24,316	22,874	11,383	8,544	9,711	
Deshka Stock	9,000	18,000	BEG	2020										10,638
Eastside Susitna Stock	13,000	25,000	SEG	2020										14,995
Goose Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	80	57	62	232	NC	NC	148	90	NC	
Kenai River - Early Run (all fish)	eliminated ^d			2017	8,448	5,044	2,148	5,311	6,190	9,177				
Kenai River - Early Run (large fish)	3,900	6,600	OEG	2017							6,553	3,000	4,173	2,427
	2,800	5,600	SEG	2017										
Kenai River - Late Run (all fish)	eliminated			2017	19,680	27,710	15,395	16,263	22,626	18,790				
Kenai River - Late Run (large fish)	13,500	27,000	SEG	2017							20,731	16,957	11,671	11,908
Lake Creek	eliminated (see Yetna Stock)			2020	2,563	2,366	3,655	3,506	4,686	3,588	1,601	1,767	2,692	
Lewis River	eliminated			2020	92	107	61	61	5 ^b	0	0 ^b	0	0 ^b	
Little Susitna River (Aerial) ^c	700	1,500	SEG	2020	887	1,154	1,651	1,759	1,507	1,622	1,192	530	NC	NC
Little Susitna River (weir)	2,100	4,300	SEG	2017							2,531	549 ^c	3,666	2,445 ^d
Little Willow Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	713	494	858	684	788	675	840	280	631	
Montana Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	494	416	1,304	953	1,416	692	603	473	789	
Peters Creek	eliminated (see Yetna Stock)			2020	1,103	459	1,643	1,443	1,514	1,122	307	1674	1,209	
Prairie Creek	eliminated (see Talkeetna Stock)			2020	2,038	1,185	3,304	2,812	3,290	1,853	1,930	1,194	2,371	
Sheep Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	350	363	NC	262	NC	NC	NC	334	NC	
Talachulitna River	eliminated (see Yetna Stock)			2020	1,368	847	2,285	2,256	2,582	4,295	1,087	1483	3,225	
Talkeetna Stock	9,000	17,500	SEG	2020										7,283
Theodore River	500	1,000	SEG	2020	327	179	476	312	426	68	21	18	201	111
Willow Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	1,061	756	1,752	1,335	2,046	1,814	1,329	411	897	
Yetna Stock	16,000	22,000	OEG	2020										14,709
<i>Lower Cook Inlet</i>														
Anchor River	3,800	7,600	SEG	2017	3,545	4,509	4,388	2,497	10,241	7,146	5,796	3,162	5,691	3,558
Deep Creek	350		LB SEG	2017	696	447	475	601	535	NS	753	182	751	327
Nimilchik River	750	1,300	SEG	2017	668	555	571	891	874	572	855	979	1,185	833

Note: NA = data not available; NC = no count; NS = no survey; LB SEG = lower-bound SEG.

^a Kenai River early-run Chinook salmon (all fish) SEG was eliminated and OEG was revised by BOF.

^b Lewis River mouth naturally obstructed.

^c Little Susitna River Chinook salmon aerial survey goal is only used to assess escapement if weir count is not available.

Table 2 – Select Southcentral Region Salmon Escapement Goals and Escapements for sockeye and coho salmon, 2011 to 2020 (preliminary).

System	2020 Goal Range		Type	Initial Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Preliminary
	Lower	Upper													2020
COHO SALMON															
<i>Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula</i>															
Buskin River	4,700	9,600	BEG	2014	5,298	4,906	4,401	7,345	3,363	2,513	5,559	1,066	NA	NA	540
Olds River	1,000		LB SEG	2011	1,003	624	2,145	1,320	1,357	1,634	10,54	1,000	NA	NA	NA
American River	400		LB SEG	2011	1,061	427	841	1,595	530	500	410	300	NA	NA	NA
Pasagshak River	1,200		LB SEG	2011	1,083	3,132	1,648	4,934	1,790	667	701	1,200	NA	NA	NA
<i>Upper Cook Inlet</i>															
Fish Creek (Knik)	1,200	6,000	SEG	2020	1,428 ^d	1,237	7,593 ^d	10,283	7,912	2,484	8,966	5,022	3,025	4,555 ^d	
Jim Creek	250	700	SEG	2020	229	213	663	122	571	106	5,646	758	162	735	
Little Susitna River	9,200	17,700	SEG	2020	4,826 ^d	6,779	13,583	24,211	12,756	10,049	17,781	7,583	4,229	9,931 ^e	
Deshka River	10,200	24,100	SEG	2017							36,869	12,962	10,445	5,368 ^d	
SOCKEYE SALMON															
<i>Bristol Bay</i>															
Kvichak River ^f	2,000,000	10,000,000	SEG	2010	2,264,352	4,164,444	2,088,576	4,458,540	7,341,612	4,462,728	3,163,404	4,398,708	2,371,242	4,030,968	
Alagnak River (Tower) ^g	320,000		LB SEG	2007	883,794	861,747	1,095,950	200,524	5,770,650	NA	2,041,825	1,581,426	820,458	2,386,518	
Alagnak River (Aerial) ^h	125,000		LB SEG	2016						696,400	629,200				
Naknek River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG ⁱ	2015	1,177,074	900,312	938,160	1,474,428	1,920,954	1,691,910	1,899,972	2,221,152	2,911,470	4,112,160	
Egegik River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG	2015	961,200	1,233,900	1,113,630	1,382,466	2,160,792	1,837,260	2,600,982	1,608,354	2,340,210	2,389,728	
Ugashik River	500,000	1,400,000	SEG	2015	1,029,853	670,578	898,110	640,158	1,564,638	1,635,270	1,186,446	1,167,792	1,547,748	1,745,940	
Wood River	700,000	1,800,000	SEG	2015	1,098,006	764,202	1,183,348	2,764,614	1,941,474	1,309,707	4,274,224	7,507,254	2,073,276	2,243,886	
Igushik River	150,000	400,000	SEG	2015	421,380	193,770	387,036	340,590	651,172	469,230	578,700	1,581,426	256,074	323,814	
Nushagak River	260,000	760,000	OEG	2012	428,191	432,438	894,172	618,477	796,684	680,513	2,852,308	1,164,701	709,349	1,228,059	
<i>Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula</i>															
Buskin River	5,000	8,000	BEG	2011	11,982	8,565	16,189	13,976	8,719	11,584	7,214	4,281	12,297	7,739	
Afognak River	20,000	50,000	BEG	2005	49,193	41,553	42,153	36,345	38,151	33,167	22,151	17,601	26,817	24,284	
Saltery River	15,000	35,000	BEG	2011	27,803	25,155	35,939	29,047	42,468	57,867	39,315	22,845	22,183	24,987	
Pasagshak River	3,000		lower-bound SEG	2011	8,100	2,600	9,750	1,582	2,077	7,053	11,021	2,019	4,537	3,522	
Karluk River Early Run	150,000	250,000	BEG	2014	87,049	188,085	234,880	252,097	260,097	164,760	242,599	205,054	186,510	157,441	
Ayakulik River	140,000	280,000	SEG	2011	177,480	213,501	214,969	210,040	218,178	182,589	204,497	266,333	279,639	220,935	
Fraser River	75,000	170,000	BEG	2008	134,642	148,884	136,059	200,296	219,093	122,585	129,227	201,161	169,627	137,570	
<i>Upper Cook Inlet</i>															
Fish Creek (Knik)	15,000	45,000	SEG	2017	66,678	18,813	18,912	43,915	102,309	46,202	61,469	71,556	76,031	64,234	
Kasilof River	160,000	390,000	OEG	2011	245,727	374,523	490	439,977	470,679	239,981	358,724	394,309	378,416	545,651	
Kenai River ^d	OEG eliminated			2017	1,280,733	1,212,835	980,208	1,218,342	1,400,047	1,120,710					
	700,000	1,200,000	SEG	2011							1,073,290	888,268	1,459,290	1,516,386	
Russian River - Early Run	22,000	42,000	BEG	2011	29,129	24,115	35,776	44,920	50,226	38,739	37,123	44,110	125,942	27,103	
Russian River - Late Run	30,000	110,000	SEG	2005	41,529	54,911	31,364	52,277	46,223	37,837	45,012	71,052	64,585 ^e	78,832	
Chelatna Lake	20,000	45,000	SEG	2017	70,353	36,577	70,555	26,212	69,750	60,792	26,986	20,438	26,303 ^f	NA	
Judd Lake	15,000	40,000	SEG	2017	39,997	18,303	14,088	22,416	47,684	NA	35,731	30,844	44,145	31,220	
Larson Lake	15,000	35,000	SEG	2017	12,413	16,708	21,821	12,040	23,214	14,333	31,866	23,444	9,699	12,018	
<i>Lower Cook Inlet</i>															
English Bay	6,000	13,500	SEG	2002	9,920	3,444	10,891	7,832	6,290	7,673	20,751	18,083	24,044	31,486	
Delight Lake	5,100	10,600	SEG	2017	20,190	10,887	5,961	22,289	3,220	5,110	5,380	13,428	17,410	12,299	
Desire Lake	4,800	11,900	SEG	2017	9,630	8,840	8,400	11,480	2,830	6,740	9,450	9,840	9,040	2,260	
Bear Lake	700	8,300	SEG	2002	9,608	8,031	8,999	9,090	9,560	9,011	9,207	10,568	9,185	8,212	

Note: NA = data not available; NC = no count; NS = no survey; LB SEG = lower-bound SEG.

^d Incomplete counts for coho salmon because weir was pulled before end of run.

^e Preliminary escapement estimate uses weir count minus five year average harvest above the weir.

^f Prior to 2010 Kvichak River had a pre-peak/peak-cycle escapement goal of 6-10 million sockeye and an off-peak escapement goal of 2-10 million fish.

^g 2009 to 2015 Alagnak River sockeye salmon escapements for Alagnak River (Tower) escapement goal are expanded aerial surveys.

^h Alagnak River sockeye salmon aerial survey-based escapement goal will be used in years that the Alagnak River tower is not operated.

ⁱ Naknek River has an OEG of 800,000-2,000,000 sockeye salmon when the Naknek River Special Harvest Area is open to fishing.

^j Kenai River sockeye salmon uses the best estimate of sport harvest upstream of sonar.

^k Weir evacuated August 18 (2 weeks early) due to Swan Lake Fire, incomplete count

^l Weir not operational in 2020.