

2020 Summary

KODIAK SPORT FISH MANAGEMENT AREA



Ayakulik River

The king salmon run fell below the Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) of 4,800 - 8,400 fish with a weir count of 2,402 king salmon. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 20, 2020, which is similar to historical run timing. The Ayakulik River king salmon run has seen declines since 2006 and was designated as a stock of concern by the Board of Fisheries in 2020. The escapement objectives have been met some years; however, in the most recent years the escapement objectives have not been met. In many years, a significant portion of the estimated daily fish passage numbers occurs during the king salmon run when the weir is flooding.

Management Actions

- A pre-season emergency order effective June 1, 2020, closed king salmon fishing on the Ayakulik River drainage and only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure was allowed.

Table 1. Summary of preliminary catch, harvest and escapement, Ayakulik River king salmon fishery, 2020.

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 4,800-8,400
Total Catch	TBD
Total Harvest	0
Weir Count	2,402
Preliminary Escapement	2,402

Karluk River

The king salmon run was within the BEG of 3,000 - 7,000 fish with a weir count of 3,344 king salmon. This is the third consecutive year and the sixth time in the last ten years the run has been within the BEG. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 30, 2020, which is later than historical run-timing. The Karluk River has been not been open to the harvest of king salmon since 2007 and sport fishing for king salmon has been entirely closed since 2008.

Management Actions

- A pre-season emergency order effective June 1, 2020, closed the Karluk River drainage to sport fishing for king salmon and only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure was allowed.



Table 2. Summary of preliminary catch, harvest and escapement, Karluk River king salmon fishery, 2020.

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 3,000-6,000
Total Catch	TBD
Total Harvest	0
Weir Count	3,344
Preliminary Escapement	3,344

Chignik River

The king salmon run fell just below the BEG of 1,300 - 2,700 fish with a weir count of 1,278 king salmon and was similar to the previous three years where the Chignik River has seen small returns of both king salmon and sockeye salmon. The mid-point of the run occurred on July 18, 2020, which is similar to historical run timing.

Management Actions

- On July 18, 2020, the Chignik River was closed to king salmon fishing and only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure was allowed.

Table 3. Summary of preliminary catch, harvest and escapement, Chignik River king salmon fishery, 2020.

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 1,300-2,700
Total Catch	TBD
Total Harvest	TBD
Weir Count	1,278
Preliminary Escapement	1,078

Nelson River

The 2020 weir for king salmon was 1,998 fish and a post weir aerial survey of 300 fish is included in the preliminary escapement estimate of 2,298. This is just below the BEG of 2,400 - 4,400 salmon and much less than last years' count of over 11,000. There is no retention in this fishery throughout the season based on regulations enacted in 2011. The mid-point of the run occurred on July 3, 2020, which is earlier than historical run timing.

Management Actions

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

Table 4. Summary of preliminary catch, harvest and escapement, Nelson River king salmon fishery, 2020.

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 2,400-4,400
Total Catch	TBD
Total Harvest	0
Weir Count	1,998
Preliminary Escapement	2,298



Stocked Kodiak Road System Streams

Each year the Olds River, American River, and Salonie Creek are stocked with up to 80,000 king salmon smolt. The stocked Kodiak road system streams had very low returns this year and there was little harvest in this fishery for the fourth year in a row. Returns to the Olds River produced some early king salmon that were caught in Kalsin Bay and the lower Olds River, but much fewer than expected. No fish were observed at the American River or reported harvested. Salonie Creek also had just a couple fish return and very few harvested. Egg take goals were not met this year. To compensate for this shortfall, coho salmon will be stocked to supplement king salmon production. The 2020 king salmon egg take spawned just two pairs which should produce about 10,000 smolt, though this is far short of the goal to release 200,000 king salmon smolt. Coho salmon will be taken again from Pillar Creek in early November to supplement this shortfall.

Management Actions

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



Karluk River

The early sockeye salmon run fell within the BEG of 150,000-250,000 fish with a weir count of 157,441 sockeye salmon. Little harvest occurs upstream of the weir and escapement is likely equal to the weir count. Harvest of sockeye salmon by anglers on the Karluk River is minimal compared to the size of the run but it remains one of the larger sockeye salmon sport fisheries on Kodiak.

Management Actions

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

Ayakulik River

The early sockeye salmon run fell within the BEG of 140,000 - 280,000 fish with a weir count of 220,935 sockeye salmon. Harvest of sockeye salmon by anglers on the Ayakulik River is minimal compared to the size of the run but it is one of the larger sockeye salmon sport fisheries on Kodiak.

Management Actions

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

Dog Salmon (Frazer) River

The sockeye salmon run fell within the BEG of 75,000 - 170,000 fish with a count of 137,570 sockeye salmon at the Frazer Lake fish pass where escapement estimates are derived. Harvest of sockeye salmon by anglers on the Dog Salmon River downstream of the fish pass is minimal compared to the size of the run but it is also one of the larger sockeye salmon sport fisheries on Kodiak.

Management Actions

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

Buskin River

The sockeye salmon run was within the BEG of 5,000 - 8,000 fish with a weir count of 7,739 sockeye salmon. No harvest occurs upstream of the weir which is located just downstream from Buskin Lake



and escapement is equal to the weir count. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 24, 2020, which is later than historical run timing.

Management Actions

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

Saltery Cove

The sockeye salmon run was within the BEG of 15,000 - 35,000 fish with a weir count of 24,987 sockeye salmon. No harvest occurs upstream of the weir and escapement is equal to the weir count. The mid-point of the run occurred on August 5, 2020, which is much later than historical run timing. This is the largest freshwater sport fishery on Kodiak by harvest for a single stock. The 2020 run was similar to the 2018 and 2019 runs and late run timing due to low water conditions necessitated restrictions in sport and subsistence fisheries for part of the season.

Management Actions

- On July 25, 2020, the sockeye salmon limits were reduced to two per day and in possession in the Saltery River drainage.
- On August 1, 2020, the Saltery River drainage was closed sockeye salmon fishing.
- On August 11, 2020, the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits were restored to five fish.

Pasagshak River

The sockeye salmon run was above the lower bound Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) of 3,000 fish with a weir count of 3,522 sockeye salmon. No harvest occurs upstream of the weir and escapement is equal to the weir count. The mid-point of the run occurred on July 22, 2020, which is similar to historical run timing.

Management Actions

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

Afognak (Litnik) River

The sockeye salmon run was within the BEG of 20,000 - 50,000 fish with a weir count of 24,284 sockeye salmon. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 22, 2020, and was later than historical run timing.

Management Actions

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



Buskin River - Preliminary Summary

The BEG for Buskin River coho salmon is 4,700 - 9,600 fish and the 2020 weir count was 630 as of September 21, 2020. Although the weir project usually runs through the end of September, beginning September 22, the weir was out for the remainder of the season due to high water. Escapement estimates will be available at a later date.



Management Actions

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

Olds River - Preliminary Summary

The lower bound SEG for Olds River coho salmon is 500 fish and the 2020 run is ongoing. The 2020 run is expected to be above the range and the run appears to be strong, though the Olds River was also affected by low water conditions through mid-September. The latest drone survey showed that there were significant schools of fish in many of the pools in the lower river. The Olds River coho salmon run is assessed via in season drone surveys and post season foot surveys. Final escapement estimates will be documented via post season foot surveys in late October or November.

Management Actions

- On September 16, 2020, the bag and possession limits of two coho salmon was extended in the Olds, Pasagshak, and American rivers.

American River - Preliminary Summary

The lower bound SEG for American River coho salmon is 400 fish and the 2020 run is ongoing. The 2020 run is expected to be above the range and the run appears average to be strong so far. The latest drone survey observed a large number of coho salmon in the lower river. The American River coho salmon run is assessed via in season drone surveys and post season foot surveys. Final escapement estimates will be documented via post season foot surveys in late October or November.

Management Actions

- On September 16, 2020, the bag and possession limits of two coho salmon was extended in the American, Olds, and Pasagshak rivers.

Pasagshak River - Preliminary Summary

The lower bound SEG for Pasagshak River coho salmon is 1,200 fish and the 2020 run is ongoing. The 2020 run is expected to be above the range and recent observations indicate a strong run. The latest drone survey showed several large schools of coho salmon in Lake Rose Tead. The Pasagshak River coho salmon run is assessed via in season drone surveys and post season foot surveys. Final escapement estimates will be documented via post season foot surveys in November.

Management Actions

- On September 16, 2020, the bag and possession limits of two coho salmon was extended in the Pasagshak, American, and Olds rivers.



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	1,125	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 ^a			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	1,674	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	1,483	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
Ninilchik 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													
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 ¹	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) ⁸	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 ¹	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 ¹	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 ¹	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.

⁸ 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.

¹ Naknek River has an OEG of 800,000-2,000,000 sockeye salmon when the Naknek River Special Harvest Area is open to fishing.

¹ 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.