

2021 Summary

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



Ship Creek

King salmon fishing in Ship Creek was good this season. 1,274 king salmon were collected in the William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery raceway. The hatchery was able to meet the broodstock goal of 460 king salmon. An estimated 561 king salmon were counted in Ship Creek for viewing and natural reproduction below the hatchery.

Management Actions

- On July 14, 2021, the king salmon season was extended through July 31 and the bag and possession limits were increased to two fish.

Prince William Sound

King salmon fishing was fair in Whittier and good in Cordova. Both locations are terminal harvest areas. Throughout the summer more reports of king salmon getting caught towards Main Bay in the south and Glacier Island towards the north were reported. No formal surveys are conducted for king salmon in Prince William Sound.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2021 sport fishery season.



Resurrection Bay

Anglers reported good sockeye salmon fishing in Resurrection Bay. On June 14, 2021, over 9,587 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 14,818 sockeye salmon.

Management Actions

- On June 17, 2021, 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 were increased 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 26, 2021, indicated over 101,216 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

- On July 15, 2021, the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits were increased to 12 fish per day and 24 in possession



Ship Creek

Coho salmon fishing in Ship Creek this season was reported as good. The William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery collected 1,536 coho salmon for broodstock. Additionally, 1,488 coho salmon were counted by foot survey immediately in the creek below the hatchery on September 15, 2021.

Management Actions

- On August 19, 2021, 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. Salmon fishing near the outflow of Scheffler Creek was reported as good. The Bear Creek coho salmon stock appears to be late but is currently on track to provide adequate brood. Escapement surveys will not be conducted due to budget cuts.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2021 sport fishery season.

Prince William Sound

Coho salmon fishing has been fair to poor in Whittier but was good outside of Passage Canal. Fleming Spit appeared to have a poor return this year but also less effort. There were very few reports of coho salmon getting caught in the terminal harvest area. Coho salmon fishing in Valdez was reported by anglers as 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). Currently the VFDA in Valdez has collected approximately 4,000 coho salmon and it is anticipated that they will have enough salmon to meet their egg take goal. 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

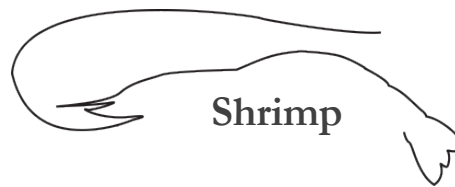
- No management actions have been implemented during the 2021 sport fishery season.

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. Based on aerial surveys, as of September 27, 2021, 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.

Management Actions

- To date, no management actions have been implemented during the 2021 sport fishery season.



Prince William Sound

The total allowable harvest (TAH) of 174,964 pounds was established from the results of the fall 2020 Prince William Sound shrimp survey. The guideline harvest level (GHL) for the noncommercial (sport and subsistence) shrimp fishery harvest was established to be 104,978 pounds. This was very similar to the TAH and GHL established for the 2020 season. Approximately 3,830 noncommercial permits were issued in 2021. 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, 2021, reduced the number of allowable noncommercial shrimp pots per person and per vessel to two pots



Table 1 – Select Southcentral Region Salmon Escapement Goals and Escapements for king salmon, 2012 to 2021 (preliminary).

System	2021 Goal Range		Type	Initial Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Preliminary
	Lower	Upper												2021
KING SALMON														
<i>Bristol Bay</i>														
Nushagak River	55,000	120,000	SEG	2013	167,618	107,602	70,482	98,019	125,368	56,961	97,239	47,882	43,032	55,222
Alagnak River	2,700		LB SEG	2007	NS	NS	NS	917	1,283	435	NS	NS	NS	NS
<i>Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula</i>														
Karluk River	3,000	6,000	BEG	2011	3,197	1,824	1,182	2,777	3,434	2,600	3,155	3,898	3,344	2,796
Ayakulik River	4,800	8,400	BEG	2017	4,556	2,304	789	2,392	4,594	3,712	2,149	1,948	2,402	2,961
Chignik River	1,300	2,700	BEG	2002	1,404	1,185	2,895	2,041	1,843	1,137	825	1,517	1,278	1,072
Nelson River	2,400	4,400	BEG	2004	1,192	1,421	3,801	2,440	4,618	1,502	5,022	11,653	2,298	4,539
<i>Upper Cook Inlet</i>														
Alexander Creek	1,900	3,700	SEG	2020	181	588	911	1,117	754	170	296	1,297	596	288
Campbell Creek	380		LB SEG	2011	NS	NS	274	654	544	475	287	393	154	339
Chuitna River	1,000	1,500	SEG	2002	502	1,690	1,398	1,965	1,372	235	939	2,115	869	806
Chulitna River	1,200	2,900	SEG	2020	667	1,262	1,011	3,137	1,151	NC	1125	2,765	845	1,535
Clear (Chunilna) Creek	eliminated (see Talkeetna Stock)			2020	1,177	1,471	1,390	1,205	NS	780	940	1,511		1,040
Crooked Creek	700	1,400	SEG	2002	631	1,103	1,411	1,456	1,747	911	714	1,444	830	594
Deshka River	eliminated (see Deshka Stock)			2020	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	57	62	232	NC	NC	148	90	NC		NA
Kenai River - Early Run (all fish)	eliminated ^a			2017	5,044	2,148	5,311	6,190	9,177					
Kenai River - Early Run (large fish)	2,800	5,600	SEG	2017										
	3,900	6,600	OEG	2017						6,726	2,910	4,128	2,439	4,045
Kenai River - Late Run (all fish)	eliminated ^a			2017	21,417	19,342	17,451	22,642	18,790					
Kenai River - Late Run (large fish)	13,500	27,000	SEG	2017						20,615	17,289	11,638		
	15,000	30,000	OEG	2020									11,909	12,176
Lake Creek	eliminated (see Yetna Stock)			2020	2,366	3,655	3,506	4,686	3,588	1,601	1,767	2,692		
Lewis River	eliminated			2020	107	61	61	5 ^b	0	0 ^b	0	0 ^b		
Little Susitna River (Aerial) ^c	700	1,500	SEG	2020	1,154	1,651	1,759	1,507	1,622	1,192	530	NC	NC	889
Little Susitna River (weir)	2,100	4,300	SEG	2017						2,531	549 ^c	3,666	2,445 ^d	3,121
Little Willow Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	494	858	684	788	675	840	280	631		
Montana Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	416	1,304	953	1,416	692	603	473	789		
Peters Creek	eliminated (see Yetna Stock)			2020	459	1,643	1,443	1,514	1,122	307	1674	1,209		
Prairie Creek	eliminated (see Talkeetna Stock)			2020	1,185	3,304	2,812	3,290	1,853	1,930	1194	2,371		
Sheep Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	363	NC	262	NC	NC	NC	334	NC		
Talachulitna River	eliminated (see Yetna Stock)			2020	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	179	476	312	426	68	21	18	201	111	38
Willow Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	756	1,752	1,335	2,046	1,814	1,329	411	897		
Yentna Stock	16,000	22,000	OEG	2020										14,709
<i>Lower Cook Inlet</i>														
Anchor River	3,800	7,600	SEG	2017	4,509	4,388	2,497	10,241	7,146	5,796	3,162	5,691	3,558	4,300
Deep Creek	350		LB SEG	2017	447	475	601	535	NS	753	182	751	327	NS
Ninilchik River	750	1,300	SEG	2017	555	571	891	874	572	855	979	1,185	833	772

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

^a Kenai River Chinook salmon all fish SEG's were eliminated and large fish goals were instituted

^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, 2012 to 2021 (preliminary).

System	2021 Goal Range		Type	Initial Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Preliminary
	Lower	Upper												2021
COHO SALMON														
<i>Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula</i>														
Buskin River	4,700	9,600	BEG	2014	4,906	4,401	7,345	3,363	2,513	5,559	1,066	5,537	NA	7,919
Olds River	1,000		LB SEG	2011	624	2,145	1,320	1,357	1,634	10,54	1,000	NA	794	NA
American River	400		LB SEG	2011	427	841	1,595	530	500	410	300	NA	279	NA
Pasagshak River	1,200		LB SEG	2011	3,132	1,648	4,934	1,790	667	701	1,200	488	2,031	NA
<i>Upper Cook Inlet</i>														
Fish Creek (Knik)	1,200	6,000	SEG	2020	1,237	7,593 ^d	10,283	7,912	2,484	8,966	5,022	3,025	4,555 ^d	0 ^{ok}
Jim Creek	250	700	SEG	2020	213	663	122	571	106	5,646	758	162	735	1,499
Little Susitna River	9,200	17,700	SEG	2020	6,779	13,583	24,211	12,756	10,049	17,781	7,583	4,229	9,931 ^e	10,123 ^{oc}
Deshka River	10,200	24,100	SEG	2017						36,869	12,962	10,445	5,368 ^d	3,431 ^d
SOCKEYE SALMON														
<i>Bristol Bay</i>														
Kvichak River ^f	2,000,000	10,000,000	SEG	2010	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	4,703,520
Alagnak River (Tower) ^g	320,000		LB SEG	2007	861,747	1,095,950	200,524	5,770,650	NA	2,041,825	1,581,426	820,458	2,386,518	3,236,904
Alagnak River (Aerial) ^h	125,000		LB SEG	2016					696,400	629,200				
Naknek River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG ⁱ	2015	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	2,796,534
Egegik River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG	2015	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	1,832,196
Ugashik River	500,000	1,400,000	SEG	2015	670,578	898,110	640,158	1,564,638	1,635,270	1,186,446	1,167,792	1,547,748	1,745,940	2,859,930
Wood River	700,000	1,800,000	SEG	2015	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	4,410,156
Igushik River	150,000	400,000	SEG	2015	193,770	387,036	340,590	651,172	469,230	578,700	1,581,426	256,074	323,814	878,952
Nushagak River	260,000	760,000	OEG	2012	432,438	894,172	618,477	796,684	680,513	2,852,308	1,164,701	709,349	1,228,059	4,697,299
<i>Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula</i>														
Buskin River	5,000	8,000	BEG	2011	8,565	16,189	13,976	8,719	11,584	7,214	4,281	12,297	7,739	2,230
Afognak River	20,000	50,000	BEG	2005	41,553	42,153	36,345	38,151	33,167	22,151	17,601	26,817	24,284	31,997
Saltery River	15,000	35,000	BEG	2011	25,155	35,939	29,047	42,468	57,867	39,315	22,845	22,183	24,987	64,602
Pasagshak River	3,000		lower-bound SEG	2011	2,600	9,750	1,582	2,077	7,053	11,021	2,019	4,537	3,522	8,551
Karluk River Early Run	150,000	250,000	BEG	2014	188,085	234,880	252,097	260,097	164,760	242,599	205,054	186,510	157,441	128,373
Ayakulik River	140,000	280,000	SEG	2011	213,501	214,969	210,040	218,178	182,589	204,497	266,333	279,639	220,935	265,756
Fraser River	75,000	170,000	BEG	2008	148,884	136,059	200,296	219,093	122,585	129,227	201,161	169,627	137,570	186,632
<i>Upper Cook Inlet</i>														
Fish Creek (Knik)	15,000	45,000	SEG	2017	18,813	18,912	43,915	102,309	46,202	61,469	71,556	76,031	64,234	70,000 ^k
Kasilof River	140,000	370,000	OEG	2020	374,523	490	439,977	470,679	239,981	358,724	394,309	378,416	545,654	521,859
Kenai River ^l	140,000	320,000	BEG	2020										
	OEG eliminated			2017	1,212,835	980,208	1,218,342	1,400,047	1,119,988					
	750,000	1,300,000	SEG	2017						1,071,064	886,761	1,457,031	1,505,940	2,148,955
	varies based on tier		Inriver							1,308,498	1,035,761	1,849,054	1,714,565	2,441,825
Russian River - Early Run	22,000	42,000	BEG	2011	24,115	35,776	44,920	50,226	38,739	37,123	44,110	125,942	27,103	46,976
Russian River - Late Run	44,000	85,000	SEG	2020	54,911	31,573	52,277	46,223	37,837	45,012	71,052	64,585 ^d	78,832	123,950
Chelatna Lake	20,000	45,000	SEG	2017	36,577	70,555	26,212	69,750	60,792	26,986	20,438	26,303 ^l	NA	NC
Judd Lake	15,000	40,000	SEG	2017	18,303	14,088	22,416	47,684	NA	35,731	30,844	44,145	31,220	49,250
Larson Lake	15,000	35,000	SEG	2017	16,708	21,821	12,040	23,214	14,333	31,866	23,444	9,699	12,018	21,987
<i>Lower Cook Inlet</i>														
English Bay	6,000	13,500	SEG	2002	3,444	10,891	7,832	6,290	7,673	20,751	18,083	24,044	31,486	6,328
Delight Lake	5,100	10,600	SEG	2017	10,887	5,961	22,289	3,220	5,110	5,380	13,428	17,410	12,299	7,525
Desire Lake	4,800	11,900	SEG	2017	8,840	8,400	11,480	2,830	6,740	9,450	9,840	9,040	2,260	3,323
Bear Lake	700	8,300	SEG	2002	8,031	8,999	9,090	9,560	9,011	9,207	10,568	9,185	8,212	11,318

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

^d Incomplete count because weir was pulled before end of run due to flood/fire evacuation, etc

^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 Incomplete count, video review still in progress

^l Weir not operational