

2021 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 2,961 king salmon. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 20, 2021, 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, 2021, closed king salmon fishing on the Ayakulik River drainage and only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure was allowed.

Table 1. Summary of preliminary harvest and escapement, Ayakulik River king salmon fishery, 2021.

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 4,800-8,400
Total Harvest	0
Weir Count	2,961
Preliminary Escapement	2,961

Karluk River

The king salmon run was below the BEG of 3,000 - 7,000 fish with a weir count of 2,796 king salmon. The Karluk River king salmon run has been below the BEG most of the last 20 years; however, recent escapements were within the BEG until 2021. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 25, 2021, which is later than historical run-timing. The Karluk River has 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, 2021, 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, 2021.

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 3,000-7,000
Total Catch	TBD
Total Harvest	0
Weir Count	2,796
Preliminary Escapement	2,796

Chignik River

The king salmon run fell just below the BEG of 1,300 - 2,700 fish with a weir count of 1,172 king salmon and was similar to the previous several 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 21, 2021, which is similar to historical run timing.

Management Actions

- On July 14, 2021, the Chignik River was closed to king salmon fishing and only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure was allowed.

Table 3. Summary of preliminary harvest and escapement, Chignik River king salmon fishery, 2021.

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 1,300-2,700
Estimated Total Harvest	100
Weir Count	1,172
Preliminary Escapement	1,072

Nelson River

The 2021 weir count for king salmon was 4,539 fish. This is above the BEG of 2,400 - 4,400 salmon. 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 5, 2021, which is earlier than historical run timing.

Management Actions

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

Table 4. Summary of preliminary catch, harvest and escapement, Nelson River king salmon fishery, 2021.

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 2,400-4,400
Total Catch	TBD
Total Harvest	0
Weir Count	4,539
Preliminary Escapement	4,539



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 fifth year in a row. Returns to the Olds River were the strongest, but much fewer than expected and just a few were caught by anglers. Very few fish were observed at the American River or reported harvested. Salonie Creek also had few fish return as well 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 2021 king salmon egg take spawned 14 pairs which should produce about 60,000 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 2021 sport fishery season.



Karluk River

The early sockeye salmon run fell below the BEG of 150,000 - 250,000 fish with a weir count of 128,373 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 2021 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 265,756 sockeye salmon. Harvest of sockeye salmon by anglers on the Ayakulik River 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

- On June 23, 2021, the bag and possession limits for sockeye salmon was increased to 10 fish in the Ayakulik River.

Dog Salmon (Frazer) River

The sockeye salmon run was above the BEG of 75,000 - 170,000 fish with a count of 186,632 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 2021 sport fishery season.



Buskin River

The sockeye salmon run was below the BEG of 5,000 - 8,000 fish with a weir count of 2,230 sockeye salmon. This was the lowest weir count on record for this run. 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 July 20, 2021, which is much later than historical run timing.

Management Actions

- On June 15, 2021, fishing for sockeye salmon in the Buskin River was closed.

Saltery Cove

The sockeye salmon run was above the BEG of 15,000 - 35,000 fish with a weir count of 64,602 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 27, 2021, which is later than historical run timing. This is the largest freshwater sport fishery on Kodiak by harvest for a single stock. The 2021 run was one of the largest on record and likely benefitted from the very wet conditions prevalent in the 2021 season.

Management Actions

- On July 24, 2021, the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits was increased to 10 fish in the Saltery River.

Pasagshak River

The sockeye salmon run was above the lower bound sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 3,000 fish with a weir count of 8,551 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 23, 2021, which is similar to historical run timing.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2021 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 31,997 sockeye salmon. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 19, 2021, and was similar to historical run timing.

Management Actions

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



Buskin River - Preliminary Summary

The BEG for Buskin River coho salmon is 4,700 - 9,600 fish and the 2021 weir count was 7,919. The mid-point of the run occurred on September 8, 2021, which was earlier than historical run-timing and much earlier than the previous 5 years.



Management Actions

- On September 16, 2021, the coho salmon bag and possession limits were increased to two fish in the Buskin River drainage.

Olds River - Preliminary Summary

The lower bound SEG for Olds River coho salmon is 500 fish and the 2021 run is ongoing. The 2021 run is expected to be above the range and the run appears to be strong, though no surveys have been conducted yet and reports are from staff and angler observations only. The Olds River coho salmon run is assessed via in season drone surveys, though conditions were poor for surveys this season. Final escapement estimates will be documented via post season foot surveys in late October or November.

Management Actions

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

American River - Preliminary Summary

The lower bound SEG for American River coho salmon is 400 fish and the 2021 run is ongoing. The 2021 run is expected to be above the range and the run appears average so far. The American River coho salmon run is assessed via in season drone surveys though survey conditions have been poor this season. Final escapement estimates will be documented via post season foot surveys in late October or November.

Management Actions

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

Pasagshak River - Preliminary Summary

The lower bound SEG for Pasagshak River coho salmon is 1,200 fish and the 2021 run is ongoing. The 2021 run is expected to be above the range and recent observations indicate a strong run. The latest drone survey counted 6,215 coho salmon in Lake Rose Tead. The Pasagshak River coho salmon run is assessed via in season drone surveys though only one survey was able to be conducted this season. Final escapement estimates will be documented via post season foot surveys in November.

Management Actions

- On September 24, 2021, the bag and possession limits for coho salmon was increased to two fish in the Pasagshak River drainage.



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	NA
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	NA
<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