

2024 Summary

KODIAK AND ALASKA PENINSULA SPORT FISH MANAGEMENT AREAS



Ayakulik River

The king salmon escapement fell below the biological escapement goal (BEG) of 4,800 - 8,400 fish with a weir count of 394 king salmon. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 21, 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 and the 2024 weir count was the lowest in recent history.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective April 1, 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, 2024.**

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 4,800-8,400
Total Harvest	0
Weir Count	394
Preliminary Escapement	394

Karluk River

The king salmon escapement was below the BEG of 3,000 - 6,000 fish with a weir count of just 76 king salmon. The Karluk River king salmon escapement has been below the BEG most of the last 20 years, though the goal was achieved from 2018-2020. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 18, which is similar to historical run-timing. The 2024 weir count was the lowest on record and one of the lowest king salmon returns in the State. 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 preseason emergency order effective April 1, 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 harvest and escapement, Karluk River king salmon fishery, 2024.

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 3,000-6,000
Total Harvest	0
Weir Count	76
Preliminary Escapement	76

Chignik River

The king salmon escapement fell below the BEG of 1,300 - 2,700 fish with a weir count of 1166 king salmon but was a much improved count over the previous several years. The mid-point of the run occurred on July 20, which is similar to historical run timing. While the Chignik River king salmon run has not seen as prolonged declines as Kodiak Island runs, it fell below the BEG 6 of the last 7 years.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order was issued effective June 1 to close the Chignik River downstream to Mensis Point for sport fishing for king salmon and restrict tackle to only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure. On June 13, the area closed in the Chignik River to king salmon fishing and bait and tackle restrictions was expanded to include the entire Chignik Lagoon.

Table 3. Summary of preliminary harvest and escapement, Chignik River king salmon fishery, 2024.

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 1,300-2,700
Estimated Total Harvest	0
Weir Count	1166
Preliminary Escapement	1166

Nelson River

The weir count for king salmon was 3,542 fish. This was within the BEG of 2,400 - 4,400 salmon. There is no retention in this fishery throughout the season based on regulation. The mid-point of the run occurred on July 5, which is similar to historical run timing.



Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2024 sport fishery season.

Table 4. Summary of preliminary harvest and escapement, Nelson River king salmon fishery, 2024.

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 2,400-5,000
Total Harvest	0
Weir Count	3,542
Preliminary Escapement	3,542

Stocked Kodiak Road System Streams

Each year the Olds River, American River, and/or Salonie Creek are stocked with up to 80,000 king salmon smolt. The stocked Kodiak road system streams had low returns again in 2024 and there was little harvest in this fishery. Very few fish were observed at the Olds or at Salonie Creek and no fish at American River. Egg take goals were not met this year with only 5 spawning pairs collected. To compensate for this shortfall, coho salmon will be stocked to supplement king salmon production. The 2024 king salmon egg take should produce about 20,000 smolt and is well below the target of 200,000 king salmon smolt. Coho salmon will be taken again from Pillar Creek in early November to supplement this shortfall.

Management Actions

- In 2024 the upper portions of the Olds River and Salonie Creek were closed by emergency order effective July 11 to all sport fishing to accommodate brood stock collection for the egg take.



Karluk River

The early sockeye salmon escapement below the BEG of 150,000 - 250,000 fish with a weir count of 67,743 sockeye salmon. Little harvest occurs upstream of the weir and escapement is likely equal to the weir count.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2024 sport fishery season.

Ayakulik River

The early sockeye salmon escapement fell within the BEG of 140,000 - 280,000 fish with a weir count of 221,701 sockeye salmon. An unknown amount of harvest of sockeye salmon occurs above the weir, though it is minimal compared to the size of the run.



Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2024 sport fishery season.

Dog Salmon (Frazer) River

The sockeye salmon escapement was within the BEG of 75,000 - 170,000 fish with a count of 78,504 sockeye salmon at the Frazer Lake fish pass.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2024 sport fishery season.

Buskin River

The sockeye salmon escapement was above the BEG of 5,000 - 8,000 fish with a weir count of 9,704 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 29, which is later than historical run-timing.

Management Actions

- On July 3, the bag limit for sockeye salmon was increased to 5 per day by emergency order.

Saltery Cove

The sockeye salmon escapement was above the BEG of 15,000 - 35,000 fish with a weir count of 66,110 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 24, which is later than historical run timing but similar to the last 5 years. This is the largest freshwater sport fishery on Kodiak by harvest for a single stock and the sockeye salmon run has been above the BEG most of the last 10 years. The 2024 run was still ongoing at the time the weir was pulled in mid-August.

Management Actions

- On July 11, the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits were increased to 10 fish in the Saltery Cove Drainage by emergency order.

Pasagshak River

The sockeye salmon escapement was within the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 2,000 to 10,000 fish with a weir count of 7,641 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 24, which is later than historical run timing but similar to the previous 5 years. This is the first season using the weir-based SEG versus the aerial survey based SEG and bag limits were able to be liberalized due correspondingly.



Management Actions

- On July 11, the sockeye salmon bag limit was increased to 4 fish per day by emergency order.

Afognak (Litnik) River

The sockeye salmon escapement was within the BEG of 20,000 - 50,000 fish with a weir count of 32,218 sockeye salmon. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 21 which is later than historical run timing but similar to recent years.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2024 sport fishery season.



Buskin River - Preliminary Summary

The SEG for Buskin River coho salmon is 4,700 - 9,600 fish and the 2024 weir count was 2,238. The mid-point of the run typically occurs in the third week of September, however, the last 5 years have seen much of the Kodiak Road Zone coho salmon escapement in October and it is unknown at this date if the weir count is a complete count. Estimates will continue to be made into October as information is gathered.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2024 sport fishery.

Olds River - Preliminary Summary

The lower bound SEG for Olds River coho salmon is 500 fish and the 2024 run is ongoing. The 2024 run appears to be average so far, though no surveys have been conducted to date. The Olds River coho salmon run is assessed via in season drone surveys, though conditions were poor to get reliable survey estimates. Final escapement estimates will be documented via post season foot surveys in late October or November.

Management Actions

- No management actions have been implemented during the 2024 sport fishery season so far.

American River - Preliminary Summary

The lower bound SEG for American River coho salmon is 400 fish and the 2024 run is weak so far. Foot and drone surveys conducted in late September showed no more than 30 fish in the



drainage and the run does not appear it will achieve the SEG. Final escapement estimates will be documented via post season foot surveys in late October or November.

Management Actions

- The American River was closed to coho salmon fishing and the use of bait restricted by emergency order on September 25.

Pasagshak River - Preliminary Summary

The lower bound SEG for Pasagshak River coho salmon is 1,200 fish and the 2024 run is ongoing. The 2024 run appears to be average. The latest drone survey counted 2,326 coho salmon in Lake Rose Teed. The Pasagshak River coho salmon run is assessed via in season drone surveys but final escapement estimates will be documented via post season foot surveys in November.

Management Actions

- No management actions have been implemented during the 2024 sport fishery season.



Table 1 – Select Southcentral Region Salmon Escapement Goals and Escapements for king salmon, 2015 to 2024 (preliminary).														
	2024 Goal Range		Type	Initial Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Preliminary	
System	Lower	Upper											2023	2024
KING SALMON														
Bristol Bay														
Nushagak River	55,000	120,000	SEG	2013	98,019	125,368	56,961	97,239	47,882	43,032	55,222	44,434	31,499	41,893
Alagnak River	2,700		LB SEG	2007	917	1,283	435	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula														
Karluk River	3,000	6,000	BEG	2011	2,777	3,434	2,600	3,155	3,898	3,344	2,796	2,629	378	76
Ayakulik River	4,800	8,400	BEG	2017	2,392	4,594	3,712	2,149	1,948	2,402	2,961	2,845	590	394
Chignik River	1,300	2,700	BEG	2002	2,041	1,843	1,137	825	1,517	1,278	1,072	661	267	1,166
Nelson River	2,400	5,000	BEG	2019	2,440	4,618	1,502	5,022	11,653	2,298	4,539	3,785	4,078	3,542
Upper Cook Inlet														
Alexander Creek	1,900	3,700	SEG	2020	1,117	754	170	296	1,297	596	288	NC	NC	51
Campbell Creek	380		LB SEG	2011	654	544	475	287	393	154	339	423	171	160
Chuitna River	1,000	1,500	SEG	2002	1,965	1,372	235	939	2,115	869	806	NC	372	402
Chulitna River	1,200	2,900	SEG	2020	3,137	1,151	NC	1125	2,765	845	1,535	NC	494	272
Clear (Chunilna) Creek	eliminated (see Talkeetna Stock)			2020	1,205	NS	780	940	1,511					461
Crooked Creek	700	1,400	SEG	2002	1,456	1,747	911	714	1,444	830	594	735	500	550
Deshka River	eliminated (see Deshka Stock)			2020	24,316	22,874	11,383	8,544	9,711					
Deshka Stock	9,000	18,000	BEG	2020						10,638	18,674	5,440	3,741	3,440 ^d
Eastside Susitna Stock	13,000	25,000	SEG	2020						14,995	15,208	7,654	4,003	Pending
Goose Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	NC	NC	148	90	NC					
Kenai River - Early Run (all fish)	eliminated ^a			2017	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	2,047	1,975	1,365
Kenai River - Late Run (all fish)	eliminated ^a			2017	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	13,952	14,502 ^c	6,959
Lake Creek	eliminated (see Yetna Stock)			2020	4,686	3,588	1,601	1,767	2,692					
Lewis River	eliminated			2020	5 ^b	0	0 ^b	0	0 ^b					
Little Susitna River (Aerial) ^e	700	1,500	SEG	2020	1,507	1,622	1,192	530	NC	NC	889	NC	NC	NC
Little Susitna River (weir)	2,100	4,300	SEG	2017			2,531	549 ^d	3,666	2,445 ^d	3,121	2,288	799 ^d	964 ^d
Little Willow Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	788	675	840	280	631					
Montana Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	1,416	692	603	473	789					
Peters Creek	eliminated (see Yetna Stock)			2020	1,514	1,122	307	1674	1,209					
Prairie Creek	eliminated (see Talkeetna Stock)			2020	3,290	1,853	1,930	1194	2,371					
Sheep Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	NC	NC	NC	334	NC					
Talachulitna River	eliminated (see Yetna Stock)			2020	2,582	4,295	1,087	1483	3,225					
Talkeetna Stock	9,000	17,500	SEG	2020						7,283	9,107	4,288	2,216	Pending
Theodore River	500	1,000	SEG	2020	426	68	21	18	201	111	38	NC	NC	33
Willow Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	2,046	1,814	1,329	411	897					
Yentna Stock	16,000	22,000	OEG	2020						14,850	18,890	16,583	8,294	Pending
Lower Cook Inlet														
Anchor River	3,800	7,600	SEG	2017	10,241	7,146	5,796	3,162	5,691	3,558	4,300	3,147	23,338	3,331
Deep Creek	350		LB SEG	2017	535	NS	753	182	751	327	NC	NC	NC	NC
Ninilchik River	750	1,300	SEG	2017	874	572	855	979	1,185	833	772	687	330	676
Note : NA = data not available; NC = no count; LB SEG = lower-bound SEG.														
^a Kenai River king salmon all fish SEG's were eliminated and large fish goals were instituted														
^b Lewis River mouth naturally obstructed.														
^c Little Susitna River king salmon aerial survey goal is only used to assess escapement if weir count is not available.														
^d Incomplete count because weir was pulled before end of run due to flood/fire evacuation, etc														
^e Sonar assessment extended seven days, count August 20 was 13,257 large king salmon														

Table 2 – Select Southcentral Region Salmon Escapement Goals and Escapements for sockeye and coho salmon, 2015 to 2024 (preliminary).

	2024 Goal Range			Initial										Preliminary
System	Lower	Upper	Type	Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
COHO SALMON														
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula														
Buskin River	4,700	9,600	BEG	2014	3,363	2,513	5,559	1,066	5,537	630 ^a	7,919	2,526	NC	NA
Olds River	500		LB SEG	2019	1,357	1,634	10,54	1,000	NS	794	923	1,129	857	NA
American River	400		LB SEG	2011	530	500	410	300	NS	279	297	360	434	NA
Pasagshak River	1,200		LB SEG	2011	1,790	667	701	1,200	488	2,031	4,721	618	2,297	NA
Upper Cook Inlet														
Fish Creek (Knik)	1,200	6,000	SEG	2020	7,912	2,484 ^a	8,966	5,022	3,025	4,555 ^a	6,424 ^a	NC ^a	1,534	235
Jim Creek	250	700	SEG	2020	571	106	5,646	758	162	735	1,499	1,899	378	376
Little Susitna River	9,200	17,700	SEG	2020	11,554 ^a	9,096	17,600	6,423 ^a	3,552	10,229	2,816 ^a	3,562 ^a	703 ^{ab}	703 ^{ab}
Deshka River	10,200	24,100	SEG	2017			36,869	12,962	10,445	5,368 ^a	3,431 ^a	3,137 ^a	1,817 ^a	642 ^a
SOCKEYE SALMON														
Bristol Bay														
Kvichak River ^c	2,000,000	10,000,000	SEG	2010	7,341,612	4,462,728	3,163,404	4,398,708	2,371,242	4,030,968	4,703,520	4,224,882	3,751,686	6,644,490
Alagnak River (Tower) ^d	210,000		LB SEG	2018	5,770,650	NA	2,041,825	1,581,426	820,458	2,386,518	3,236,904	1,668,222	1,099,050	2,356,560
Alagnak River (Aerial) ^e	125,000		LB SEG	2016		696,400	629,200							
Naknek River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG ^f	2015	1,920,954	1,691,910	1,899,972	2,221,152	2,911,470	4,112,160	2,796,534	1,921,296	1,156,206	926,112
Egegik River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG	2015	2,160,792	1,837,260	2,600,982	1,608,354	2,340,210	2,389,728	1,832,196	1,786,152	1,562,700	1,114,008
Ugashik River	500,000	1,400,000	SEG	2015	1,564,638	1,635,270	1,186,446	1,167,792	1,547,748	1,745,940	2,859,930	1,436,784	1,128,896	1,759,776
Wood River	700,000	1,800,000	SEG	2015	1,941,474	1,309,707	4,274,224	7,507,254	2,073,276	2,243,886	4,410,156	3,747,612	2,648,616	4,404,654
Igushik River	150,000	400,000	SEG	2015	651,172	469,230	578,700	1,581,426	256,074	323,814	878,952	378,768	542,496	692,616
Nushagak River	370,000	900,000	SEG	2015	796,684	680,513	2,852,308	1,164,701	709,349	1,228,059	4,697,299	3,455,272	1,914,555	1,708,693
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula														
Buskin River	5,000	8,000	SEG	2011	8,719	11,584	7,214	4,281	12,297	7,739	2,230	8,117	1,755	9,704
Afognak River	20,000	50,000	BEG	2005	38,151	33,167	22,151	17,601	26,817	24,284	31,997	29,509	35,559	32,218
Saltery River	15,000	35,000	BEG	2011	42,468	57,867	39,315	22,845	22,183	24,987	64,602	25,615	47,936	66,110
Pasagshak River	3,000		LB SEG	2011	2,077	7,053	11,021	2,019	4,537	3,522	8,551	4,377	4,345	7,641
Karluk River Early Run	150,000	250,000	BEG	2014	260,097	164,760	242,599	205,054	186,510	157,441	128,373	175,336	182,172	67,743
Ayakulik River Early Run	140,000	280,000	SEG	2011	218,178	182,589	204,497	266,333	279,639	220,935	265,756	251,690	200,143	221,701
Fraser River	75,000	170,000	BEG	2008	219,093	122,585	129,227	201,161	169,627	137,570	186,632	118,509	100,477	78,504
Upper Cook Inlet														
Fish Creek (Knik)	15,000	45,000	SEG	2017	102,309	46,202	63,882	72,157	76,264	64,408	99,324 ^a	58,333 ^a	44,960	37,920
Kasilof River	140,000	370,000	OEG	2020	470,679	239,981	358,724	394,309	378,416	545,654	521,859	971,604	932,896	1,048,092
	140,000	320,000	BEG	2020										
Kenai River ^g	OEG eliminated		OEG eliminated	2017	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	1,263,170	2,046,439	1,384,836
	varies based on tier		Inriver				1,308,498	1,035,761	1,849,054	1,714,565	2,441,825	1,567,750	2,351,020	1,538,593
Russian River - Early Run	22,000	42,000	BEG	2011	50,226	38,739	37,123	44,110	125,942	27,103	46,976	61,098	66,818	34,697
Russian River - Late Run	44,000	85,000	SEG	2020	46,223	37,837	45,012	71,052	64,585 ^a	78,832	123,950	124,561	160,430	70,009
Chelatna Lake	20,000	45,000	SEG	2017	69,750	60,792	26,986	20,438	26,303 ^h	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Judd Lake	15,000	40,000	SEG	2017	47,684	NA	35,731	30,844	44,145	31,220	49,250	38,442	NC	NC
Larson Lake	15,000	35,000	SEG	2017	23,214	14,333	31,866	23,444	9,699	12,018	21,987	17,436	38,069	16,133
Lower Cook Inlet														
English Bay	6,000	13,500	SEG	2002	6,290	7,673	20,751	18,083	24,044	31,486	6,328	11,425	23,661	19,529
Delight Lake	5,100	10,600	SEG	2017	3,220	5,110	5,380	13,428	17,410	12,299	7,525	22,717	6,901	8,410
Desire Lake	4,800	11,900	SEG	2017	2,830	6,740	9,450	9,840	9,040	2,260	3,323	20,460	14,700	12,250
Bear Lake	700	8,300	SEG	2002	9,560	9,011	9,207	10,568	9,185	8,212	11,318	9,962	7,975	11,721
Note : NA = data not available; NC = no count; LB SEG = lower-bound SEG.														
^a Incomplete count because weir was pulled before end of run due to flood/fire evacuation, etc														
^b Preliminary escapement estimate uses weir count minus five year average harvest above the weir.														
^c 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.														
^d 2009 to 2015 Alagnak River sockeye salmon escapements for Alagnak River (Tower) escapement goal are expanded aerial surveys.														
^e Alagnak River sockeye salmon aerial survey-based escapement goal will be used in years that the Alagnak River tower is not operated.														
^f Naknek River has an OEG of 800,000-2,000,000 sockeye salmon when the Naknek River Special Harvest Area is open to fishing.														
^g Kenai River sockeye salmon uses the best estimate of sport harvest upstream of sonar.														
^h Weir not operational														