

2025 Summary

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

King Salmon

Ship Creek

King salmon fishing in Ship Creek was good this season. A total of 1,109 king salmon were collected in the William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery raceway. The hatchery was able to meet the broodstock goal of 335 king salmon spawning pairs. During a foot survey on July 15, 2025, a peak count of 470 king salmon was observed in Ship Creek. The total escapement for Ship Creek, which was observed on July 29, 2025, is estimated at 1,177 king salmon with 117 of those fish in the creek and 1,060 fish in the hatchery raceway.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2025 sport fishery season.

Campbell Creek

King salmon fishing is only open for a youth-only fishery in Campbell Creek during the last weekend in June. A survey was conducted on June 27, 2025, and one king salmon was observed from Old Seward Highway to the Dimond Blvd Bridge prior to the youth-only fishery. Surveys of Campbell Creek were conducted on July 16, 2025, and escapement was estimated at 160 king salmon; the sustainable escapement goal of 340 fish was not achieved.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective on June 15, 2025 restricted king salmon fishing to no bait and catch and release only for the Campbell Creek youth-only fishery occurring on June 28 and 29, 2025. In addition, the use of bait in Campbell Creek was prohibited June 15 – July 31, 2025.

Prince William Sound

King salmon fishing was slow in Whittier and Cordova. Both locations are terminal harvest areas. Throughout the summer and fall, many anglers reported catching king salmon in Valdez Arm. There are no stockings in the Valdez vicinity. No formal surveys are conducted for king salmon in Prince William Sound.

Management Actions

- Effective April 1 – September 15, 2025, the bag and possession limit for king salmon was reduced to 1 per day and 1 in possession, excluding the Terminal Harvest Areas.
- New in 2025, charter captains and crew may not retain king salmon with clients onboard their vessel.

North Gulf Coast/Resurrection Bay

King salmon fishing was fair to good in Resurrection Bay. Angler reports indicated fish seemed to be returning later and in low numbers.

Management Actions

- On June 26, 2025, the youth-only fishery for king salmon in the Seward Lagoon and Outfall stream was extended through July 31, 2025, to allow additional harvest opportunity.

Sockeye Salmon

Resurrection Bay

Anglers reported fair to good sockeye salmon fishing in Resurrection Bay but with a more condensed season. Bear Lake sockeye salmon have a sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 700 – 8,300 fish and are managed to escape 12,000 sockeye salmon, which meets both the SEG and the Trail Lakes Hatchery broodstock goals. Both goals were achieved in 2025.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2025 sport fishery season.

Prince William Sound

Sockeye salmon fishing in the Coghill River was reported as fair to good this season. The Coghill River weir was installed on June 21st (about a week later than usual) with dozens of fish entering shortly after installation. The final weir count on July 27, 2025, was 82,019 sockeye salmon through the Coghill River. The sockeye salmon SEG for the Coghill River of 20,000 – 75,000 fish was exceeded in 2025.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2025 sport fishery season.
- New regulations in 2025 adjusted the distance from the barrier seine that anglers were allowed to fish for sockeye salmon to within 200 ft seaward of the Main Bay hatchery barrier seine (when present).\

Coho Salmon

Ship Creek

Coho salmon fishing in Ship Creek this season was good. The William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery collected 2,474 coho salmon for broodstock and achieved the egg-take goals needed to replace Ship Creek coho salmon broodstock and for stocking terminal fisheries. Additional fish were taken to supplement the Anchorage and Mat-Su area lake stocking programs. Multiple surveys were conducted by Division of Sport Fish staff in Ship Creek this season to monitor coho salmon returns. Survey conditions were good throughout the season. During a foot survey on August 12, 2025, a peak count of 1,416 coho salmon were observed in Ship Creek. The total escapement for Ship Creek is estimated at 2,903 coho salmon with 666 of those fish in the creek and 2,237 fish in the hatchery raceway.

Management Actions

- On July 31, 2025, the bag and possession limits were increased to six salmon, excluding king salmon, in Ship Creek from its mouth upstream to a cable 100 feet downstream of the Chugach Power Plant dam.

Anchorage Area streams

Coho salmon fishing in Anchorage Area streams was good. Peak stream surveys on Campbell and Rabbit creek drainages indicated average returns on coho salmon. Bird Creek was not surveyed for coho salmon.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2025 sport fishery season.

North Gulf Coast and Resurrection Bay

Coho salmon fishing in the North Gulf Coast including Resurrection Bay was great this season for both boat and shore anglers. Catches of coho salmon started picking up at the end of June and continued into September. Escapement surveys were conducted for coho salmon in Seward-area streams in mid-October. A total of 1,629 coho salmon were counted in the Resurrection Bay drainage.

Management Actions

- On September 8, 2025, the youth-only fishery for coho salmon in the Seward Lagoon and Outfall stream was extended through September 30, 2025, to allow additional harvest opportunity.

Prince William Sound

Coho salmon fishing was good throughout Prince William Sound. Coho salmon fishing at Fleming Spit was late and not nearly as good as observations in previous years. 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 were implemented during the 2025 sport fishery season.

Copper River Delta

Coho salmon fishing on the Copper River Delta was good. Water conditions were variable throughout the season with fewer high-water events and more periods of average to low fishable water. The Copper River Delta coho salmon aerial sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 32,000 – 50,000 was met with a final escapement count of 47,295 coho salmon on September 30

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2025 sport fishery season.

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Shrimp

Prince William Sound

The 2025 total allowable harvest (TAH) of 80,646 pounds was established from the results of the fall 2024 Prince William Sound shrimp survey. The 2025 guideline harvest level (GHL) for the noncommercial (sport and subsistence) shrimp fishery harvest was established to be 48,388 pounds. This was approximately a 31% reduction in the TAH and GHL from the 2024 season. Approximately 3,455 noncommercial permits were issued in 2025. Effort and harvest are assessed post-season after harvest reports are received. Anecdotal reports from permit holders indicate that shrimping was fair this season and slower than in past years.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective April 15, 2025, reduced the number of allowable noncommercial shrimp pots per person and per vessel to two pots in all of Prince William Sound. In addition, the season was shortened from 5 months to 3 months with an established season of May 1 – July 31.

Rockfish

Prince William Sound

The harvest of rockfish has increased in Prince William Sound and sustainable levels of rockfish harvest are currently unknown. Preliminary stock assessment work review is ongoing. The 2025 harvest information will not be finalized until the fall of 2026.

Management Actions

- Due to Board of Fisheries regulatory action in December 2024, effective January 1 – June 30, 2025, no retention of yelloweye rockfish was allowed in the Prince William Sound Management Area. In addition, the bag and possession limit for all rockfish was reduced to 3 per day and 6 in possession, and charter captains and crew can no longer retain rockfish when clients are onboard their vessel.

North Gulf Coast/Resurrection Bay

The harvest of rockfish has increased in the North Gulf Coast, and sustainable levels of rockfish harvest are currently unknown. Preliminary stock assessment work review is ongoing. The 2025 harvest information will not be finalized until the fall of 2026. In spring 2025, stock assessment work for NGC black rockfish indicated the need for further reductions for pelagic rockfish harvest.

Management Actions

- Effective May 27 – September 15, 2025, the bag and possession limit for pelagic rockfish was reduced to 2 per day and 4 in possession.