

2025 SUMMARY

KODIAK AND ALASKA PENINSULA SPORT FISH MANAGEMENT AREAS

King Salmon

Ayakulik River

King salmon escapement fell well below the biological escapement goal (BEG) of 4,800 - 8,400 fish with a weir count of just 444 king salmon. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 22, 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 BEG has been met some years; however, in the most recent years the BEG has not been met and the 2025 weir count was one of the lowest on record.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective April 1, 2025 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, 2025.

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Escapement Goal Range | BEG = 4,800-8,400 |
| Total Harvest | 0 |
| Weir Count | 444 |
| Preliminary Escapement | 444 |

Karluk River

King salmon escapement was also well below the BEG of 3,000 - 6,000 fish with a weir count of just 93 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 July 18, which is much later than historical run-timing. The 2025 weir count was the second lowest on record and one of the lowest king salmon returns in the State for the second year in a row. 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, 2025 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, 2025.

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Escapement Goal Range | BEG = 3,000-6,000 |
| Total Harvest | 0 |
| Weir Count | 93 |
| Preliminary Escapement | 93 |

Chignik River

King salmon escapement achieved the BEG of 1,300 - 2,700 fish with a weir count of 1,391 king salmon and has continued a trend of slowly improving escapements. The mid-point of the run occurred on July 18, which is similar to historical run timing. While the Chignik River king salmon run has not seen as prolonged declines as Kodiak Island runs, the BEG has only been achieved 3 times in the last 10 years.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order was issued effective June 1, 2025 to close the Chignik River and lagoon to sport fishing for king salmon and restrict tackle to only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure.

Table 3. Summary of preliminary harvest and escapement, Chignik River king salmon fishery, 2025.

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Escapement Goal Range | BEG = 1,300-2,700 |
| Estimated Total Harvest | 0 |
| Weir Count | 1,391 |
| Preliminary Escapement | 1,391 |

Nelson River

The weir count for king salmon was 4,251 fish and a post-weir aerial survey counted an additional 300 king salmon. Escapement was within the BEG of 2,400 – 5,000 salmon at 4,551 king salmon. There is no retention in this fishery throughout the season based on regulation. The mid-point of the run occurred on July 9, which is similar to historical run timing.

Management Actions

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

Table 4. Summary of preliminary harvest and escapement, Nelson River king salmon fishery, 2025.

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Escapement Goal Range | BEG = 2,400-5,000 |
| Total Harvest | 0 |
| Weir Count | 4,251 |
| Preliminary Escapement | 4,551 |

Stocked Kodiak Road System Streams

Salonie Creek has been stocked with up to 40,000 king salmon smolt in recent years. The stocked Kodiak road system streams had low returns again in 2025 and there was little harvest in this fishery. Very few fish were observed at the Olds, American (previously stocked) or at Salonie Creek. Egg take goals were not met this year with only 3 spawning pairs available for the egg take. The 2025 king salmon egg take should produce about 12,000 smolt and are not likely to produce sufficient returns for continuation of the brood stock. To supplement these low returns, 153,000 king salmon eggs from egg takes on Ship Creek king salmon at William Jack Hernandez Sportfish Hatchery were sent to Pillar Creek Hatchery for rearing and stocking in road system rivers in 2027.

Management Actions

- No management actions were taken during the 2025 season for road system hatchery king salmon runs.

Sockeye Salmon

Karluk River

Early sockeye salmon escapement fell below the BEG of 150,000 - 250,000 fish with a weir count of 64,413 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 2025 sport fishery season.

Ayakulik River

Early sockeye salmon escapement was above the BEG of 140,000 - 280,000 fish with a weir count of 355,800 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

- An emergency order was issued effective July 9, 2025 increasing the Ayakulik River sockeye salmon bag limit to 10 per day.

Dog Salmon (Frazer) River

Sockeye salmon escapement was within the BEG of 75,000 - 170,000 fish with a count of 92,875 sockeye salmon at the Frazer Lake fish pass.

Management Actions

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

Buskin River

Sockeye salmon escapement was above the BEG of 5,000 - 8,000 fish with a weir count of 10,584 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 22, which is similar to historical run-timing. The Buskin River sockeye run has exceeded the BEG in most of the last 10 years.

Management Actions

- On June 18, 2025 the bag limit for sockeye salmon was increased to 5 per day by emergency order.
- On July 2, 2025 the bag limit for sockeye salmon was increased to 10 per day by emergency order.

Saltery Cove

Sockeye salmon escapement was above the BEG of 15,000 - 35,000 fish with a weir count of 48,550 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, which is similar to historical run timing. 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 2025 run was still ongoing at the time the weir was pulled in mid-August.

Management Actions

- On July 11, 2025 the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits were increased to 10 fish in the Saltery Cove Drainage by emergency order.

Pasagshak River

Sockeye salmon escapement was within the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 2,000 to 8,000 fish with a weir count of 5,366 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 17, which is similar to historical. This is the second season using the weir-based SEG versus the aerial survey based SEG.

Management Actions

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

Afognak (Litnik) River

Sockeye salmon escapement was within the BEG of 20,000 - 50,000 fish with a weir count of 22,195 sockeye salmon. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 17, which is similar to historical run timing, though the second half of the run has been exceptionally prolonged in recent years and the 2025 run followed this trend.

Management Actions

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

Coho Salmon

Buskin River - Preliminary Summary

The SEG for Buskin River coho salmon is 4,700 - 9,600 fish and the 2025 weir count was 5,015. The mid-point of the run typically occurs in the third week of September, however, most recent years have seen much of the Kodiak Road Zone coho salmon escapement in October and the coho salmon run was ongoing at the time the weir was removed. Escapement estimates will be available when 2025 sport harvests above the weir are estimated through the Statewide Harvest Survey.

Management Actions

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

Olds River - Preliminary Summary

The lower bound SEG for Olds River coho salmon is 500 fish and the 2025 run is ongoing. The 2025 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 due to large pink salmon returns. 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 2025 sport fishery season so far.

American River - Preliminary Summary

The lower bound SEG for American River coho salmon is 400 fish and the 2025 run appears to be average so far. Foot and drone surveys conducted in late September showed ongoing coho salmon escapement, but exceptionally large pink salmon returns made surveys difficult. 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 2025 sport fishery season.

Pasagshak River - Preliminary Summary

The lower bound SEG for Pasagshak River coho salmon is 1,200 fish and the 2025 run is ongoing. The 2025 run appears to be average, and the latest drone survey counted 1,914 coho salmon in Lake Rose Teed on September 23. 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 2025 sport fishery season