

# 2018 Summary

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



### Ship Creek

Ship Creek king salmon return was poor and below average this year. High and turbid water conditions made assessing the king salmon return challenging. On June 28, 2018, a foot survey count indicated low king salmon escapement. In addition, the king salmon sport fishery was slow, and the William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery (hatchery) was not receiving the necessary fish to reach their broodstock goal of 750 fish. On July 30, a stream survey was conducted and ADF&G staff counted 182 king salmon above the fishery and 224 fish at the hatchery. This was the second year of the Ship Creek Youth-Only Fishery which was located on a pre-determined section of Ship Creek. This event was well received by many families and it had similar participation as the previous year even though fishing was slow.

### Management Actions

- On July 3, 2018, the king salmon season was closed through July 14 by emergency order for the remainder of the regulatory king salmon season.

### Prince William Sound

A survey of Fleming Spit Lagoon in Cordova revealed that an excess of approximately 50 stocked king salmon returned and were holding in the freshwater lagoon. These fish were colored up and indicated diminished quality and were no longer interested in spinners and bait. There is limited suitable spawning habitat at this terminal fishery site.

### Management Actions

- On July 10, 2018, Fleming Spit Lagoon opened to snagging for king salmon.





### **Resurrection Bay**

On June 12, 2018, over 10,100 sockeye salmon had passed 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 hatchery broodstock requirements. The final escapement was approximately 12,779 sockeye salmon. Anglers reported great sockeye salmon fishing at times.

#### **Management Actions**

- On June 15, 2018, in marine waters of Resurrection Bay north of a line from Caines Head to the north point of Thumb Cove the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits increased from six to twelve fish.
- On June 16, 2018, in fresh waters open to salmon fishing the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits increased from three to six fish.

### **Prince William Sound**

As of July 5, 2018, an estimated 25,436 sockeye salmon had passed through the Coghill River weir. The sockeye salmon escapement goal range for the Coghill River is 20,000-60,000 fish. An additional 4,000 sockeye salmon were estimated to be holding below the weir. This year the weir was out of operation for 13 days due to high water events and to date, no missed passage for this timeframe has been included into the estimated passage. The final escapement was approximately 31,000 salmon. Anglers reported difficulty catching fish because of high water conditions.

#### **Management Actions**

- On July 6, 2018, the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits increased from six per day and twelve in possession to twelve per day and twenty four in possession.



### **Ship Creek**

As of August 13, 2018, 150 coho salmon broodstock have been collected at the William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery (hatchery). An additional 1,539 coho salmon were counted by foot survey immediately below the hatchery. It is anticipated that the hatchery will meet the coho salmon broodstock goal and there is an adequate amount of fish to spawn naturally in Ship Creek. Currently, the hatchery anticipates getting coho salmon broodstock and they have over 1,281 fish in the hatchery raceway. Coho salmon egg takes, and escapement surveys will be conducted in the last weeks of September.

#### **Management Actions**

- On August 14, 2018, the coho salmon bag and possession limits, 16 inches or greater in length, increased from three to six fish.



### **Resurrection Bay**

This fishery was very good at times with angler catching and harvesting limits following historical patterns. The Bear Creek coho salmon stock is on track to get adequate broodstock. Coho salmon egg takes and escapement surveys will be conducted in the last weeks of September.

#### **Management Actions**

- To date, no management actions have been implemented during the 2018 sport fishery.

### **Prince William Sound**

Fishing has been slow in Whittier and Fleming Spit which are both terminal harvest areas. Anglers have reported coho salmon fishing in Valdez as fair to good. It is too early to determine if broodstock goals have been met by Valdez Fisheries Development Association and Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation hatcheries. No formal surveys are conducted for coho salmon in Prince William Sound.

#### **Management Actions**

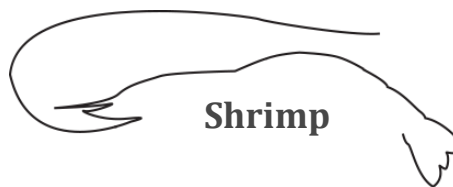
- To date, no management actions have been implemented during the 2018 sport fishery.

### **Copper River Delta**

Fishing on the Copper River Delta has been fair to good depending on water level. Through aerial surveys, the Copper River Delta coho salmon return is anticipated to be within the range of the SEG of 32,000-67,000fish.

#### **Management Actions**

- To date, no management actions have been implemented during the 2018 sport fishery.



### **Prince William Sound**

The Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) 168,017 pounds was established from the results of the 2017 fall Prince William Sound shrimp survey. The Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for the noncommercial harvest was established to be 100,800 pounds. This was very similar to TAH and GHL established for the 2017 season. Approximately 3,837 non-commercial permits were issued this year. Effort and harvest is assessed post-season after harvest reports are received. Anecdotal reports from anglers indicate that shrimping was good this season.

#### **Management Actions**

- On April 15, 2018, the number of non-commercial shrimp pots allowed to harvest shrimp decreased from five pots per person with a maximum of five pots per vessel, to four pots per person with a maximum of four pots per vessel.



Table 1 – Select Southcentral Region Salmon Escapement Goals and Escapements, 2008 to 2018 (preliminary).

System	2017 Goal Range		Type	Initial Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Preliminary
	Lower	Upper												
KING SALMON														
Bristol Bay														
Nushagak River	55,000	120,000	SEG	2013	74,781	56,088	102,258	167,618	107,602	70,482	98,019	125,368	56,961	97,239
Alagnak River	2,700		LB SEG	2007	1,957	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	917	1,283	435	NS
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula														
Karluk River	3,000	6,000	BEG	2011	1,306	2,917	3,420	3,197	1,824	1,182	2,777	3,434	2,600	3,155
Ayakulik River	4,800	8,400	BEG	2017	2,615	5,197	4,251	4,556	2,304	789	2,392	4,594	3,712	2,149
Chignik River	1,300	2,700	BEG	2002	1,590	3,845	2,490	1,404	1,185	2,895	2,041	1,843	1,137	825
Nelson River	2,400	4,400	BEG	2004	2,048	2,767	1,704	1,192	1,421	3,801	2,440	4,618	1,502	5,022
Upper Cook Inlet														
Alexander Creek	2,100	6,000	SEG	2002	275	177	343	181	588	911	1,117	754	170	296
Campbell Creek	380		LB SEG	2011	554	290	260	NS	NS	274	654	544	475	
Chuitna River	1,200	2,900	SEG	2002	1,040	735	719	502	1,690	1,398	1,965	1,372	235	939
Chulitna River	1,800	5,100	SEG	2002	2,093	1,052	1,875	667	1,262	1,011	3,137	1,151	NC	1,125
Clear (Chunilna) Creek	950	3,400	SEG	2002	1,205	903	512	1,177	1,471	1,390	1,205	NS	780	940
Crooked Creek	650	1,700	SEG	2002	617	1,088	654	631	1,103	1,411	1,459	1,747	911	714
Deshka River	13,000	28,000	SEG	2011	11,967	18,594	19,026	14,010	18,531	16,335	24,316	22,874	11,383	8,544
Goose Creek	250	650	SEG	2002	65	76	80	57	62	232	NC	NC	148	90
Kenai River - Early Run (all fish)	eliminated <sup>d</sup>			2017	6,163	6,393	8,448	5,044	2,148	5,311	6,190	9,177		
Kenai River - Early Run (large fish)	3,900	6,600	OEG	2017									6,553	3,000
	2,800	5,600	SEG	2017										
Kenai River - Late Run (all fish)	eliminated			2017	21,390	16,210	19,680	27,710	15,395	16,263	22,626	18,790		
Kenai River - Late Run (large fish)	13,500	27,000	SEG	2017									20,731	16,957
Lewis River	250	800	SEG	2002	111	56	92	107	61	61	5 <sup>b</sup>	0	0 <sup>b</sup>	0
Little Susitna River (Aerial) <sup>c</sup>	900	1,800	SEG	2002	1,028	589	887	1,154	1,651	1,759	1,507	1,622	1,192	530
Little Susitna River (weir)	2,100	4,300	SEG	2017									2,531	549 <sup>e</sup>
Little Willow Creek	450	1,800	SEG	2002	776	468	713	494	858	684	788	675	840	280
Montana Creek	1,100	3,100	SEG	2002	1,460	755	494	416	1,304	953	1,416	692	603	473
Peters Creek	1,000	2,600	SEG	2002	1,283	NC	1,103	459	1,643	1,443	1,514	1,122	307	1,674
Prairie Creek	3,100	9,200	SEG	2002	3,500	3,022	2,038	1,185	3,304	2,812	3,290	1,853	1,930	1,194
Sheep Creek	600	1,200	SEG	2002	500	NC	350	363	NC	262	NC	NC	NC	334
Talachulitna River	2,200	5,000	SEG	2002	2,608	1,499	1,368	847	2,285	2,256	2,582	4,295	1,087	1,483
Theodore River	500	1,700	SEG	2002	352	202	327	179	476	312	426	68	21	18
Willow Creek	1,600	2,800	SEG	2002	1,133	1,173	1,061	756	1,752	1,335	2,046	1,814	1,329	411
Lower Cook Inlet														
Anchor River	3,800	7,600	SEG	2017	3,455	4,449	3,545	4,509	4,388	2,497	10,049	7,146	5,796	3,049
Deep Creek	350		LB SEG	2017	483	387	696	447	475	601	535	NS	753	2,190
Ninilchik River	750	1,300	SEG	2017	528	605	668	555	571	891	874	572	855	944
COHO SALMON														
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula														
Buskin River	4,700	9,600	BEG	2014	9,583	6,239	5,298	4,906	4,401	7,345	3,363	2,513	5,559	1,066
Olds River	1,000		LB SEG	2011	697	NA	1,003	624	2,145	1,320	1,357	1,634	10,54	1,000
American River	400		LB SEG	2011	639	NA	1,061	427	841	1,595	530	500	410	300
Pasagshak River	1,200		LB SEG	2011	2,385	1,971	1,083	3,132	1,648	4,934	1,790	667	701	1,200
Upper Cook Inlet														
Fish Creek (Knik)	1,200	4,400	SEG	2011	8,214	6,977	1,428 <sup>d</sup>	1,237	7,593 <sup>d</sup>	10,283	7,912	2,484	8,966	5,022
Jim Creek	450	1,400	SEG	2014	1,331	242	229	213	663	122	571	106	607	758
Little Susitna River	10,100	17,700	SEG	2002	9,523	9,214	4,826	6,779	13,583 <sup>e</sup>	24,211	12,756 <sup>e</sup>	10,049	17,781	7,583
Deshka River	10,200	24,100	SEG	2017									36,869	12,962
SOCKEYE SALMON														
Bristol Bay														
Kvichak River <sup>f</sup>	2,000,000	10,000,000	SEG	2010	2,266,140	4,207,410	2,264,352	4,164,444	2,088,576	4,458,540	7,341,612	4,462,728	3,163,404	4,398,708
Alagnak River (Tower) <sup>g</sup>	320,000		LB SEG	2007	970,818	1,187,730	883,794	861,747	1,095,950	200,524	5,770,650	NA	2,041,825	1,581,426
Alagnak River (Aerial) <sup>h</sup>	125,000		LB SEG	2016								696,400	629,200	
Naknek River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG <sup>i</sup>	2015	1,169,466	1,463,928	1,177,074	900,312	938,160	1,474,428	1,920,954	1,691,910	1,899,972	2,221,152
Egegik River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG	2015	1,146,276	927,054	961,200	1,233,900	1,113,630	1,382,466	2,160,792	1,837,260	2,600,982	1,608,354
Ugashik River	500,000	1,400,000	SEG	2015	1,364,338	830,886	1,029,853	670,578	898,110	640,158	1,564,638	1,635,270	1,186,446	1,167,792
Wood River	700,000	1,800,000	SEG	2015	1,319,232	1,804,344	1,098,006	764,202	1,183,348	2,764,614	1,941,474	1,309,707	4,274,224	7,507,254
Igushik River	150,000	400,000	SEG	2015	514,188	518,040	421,380	193,770	387,036	340,590	651,172	469,230	578,700	1,581,426
Nushagak River	260,000	760,000	OEG	2012	484,149	468,696	428,191	432,438	894,172	618,477	796,684	680,513	2,852,308	1,164,701
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula														
Buskin River	5,000	8,000	BEG	2011	7,757	9,800	11,982	8,565	16,189	13,976	8,719	11,584	7,214	4,281
Afognak River	20,000	50,000	BEG	2005	31,358	52,255	49,193	41,553	42,153	36,345	38,151	33,167	22,151	17,601
Saltery River	15,000	35,000	BEG	2011	43,468	24,102	27,803	25,155	35,939	29,047	42,468	57,867	39,315	22,845
Pasagshak River	3,000		lower-bound SEG	2011	1,400	4,800	8,100	2,600	9,750	1,582	2,077	7,053	11,021	2,019
Karluk River	150,000	250,000	BEG	2014	52,798	71,453	87,049	188,085	234,880	252,097	233,036	164,760	235,225	475,279
Ayakulik River	140,000	280,000	SEG	2011	200,648	201,933	177,480	213,501	214,969	210,040	218,178	182,589	204,497	266,333
Fraser River	75,000	170,000	BEG	2008	101,845	94,680	134,642	148,884	136,059	200,296	219,093	122,585	129,227	201,161
Upper Cook Inlet														
Fish Creek (Knik)	15,000	45,000	SEG	2017	83,480	126,836	66,678	18,813	18,912	43,915	102,309	46,202	63,882	72,157
Kasilof River	160,000	390,000	OEG	2011	324,783	293,765	243,767	372,523	487,700	438,238	470,677	239,981	358,724	394,288
	160,000	340,000	BEG	2011										
Kenai River <sup>j</sup>	OEG eliminated			2017	848,117	1,038,302	1,280,733	1,212,921	980,208	1,218,342	1,400,047	1,120,717		
	700,000	1,200,000	SEG	2011									1,055,091	NA
Russian River - Early Run	22,000	42,000	BEG	2011	52,178	27,074	29,129	24,115	35,776	44,920	50,226	38,739	37,123	44,110
Russian River - Late Run	30,000	110,000	SEG	2005	80,088	38,848	41,529	54,911	31,364	52,277	46,223	37,837	45,012	71,052
Chelatina Lake	20,000	45,000	SEG	2017	17,721	37,784	70,353	36,577	70,555	26,212	69,750	60,792	26,986	20,438
Judd Lake	15,000	40,000	SEG	2017	44,616	18,361	39,997	18,303	14,088	22,416	47,684	NA	35,731	30,844
Larson Lake	15,000	35,000	SEG	2017	40,933	20,324	12,413	16,708	21,821	12,040	23,214	14,333	31,866	23,444
Lower Cook Inlet														
English Bay	6,000	13,500	SEG	2002	18,183	12,253	9,920	3,444	10,891	7,832	6,290	7,673	20,751	18,083
Delight Lake	5,100	10,600	SEG	2017	12,700	23,775	20,190	10,887	5,961	22,289	3,220	5,110	5,380	13,428
Desire Lake	4,800	11,900	SEG	2017	16,000	6,320	9,630	8,840	8,400	11,480	2,830	6,740	9,450	9,840
Bear Lake	700	8,300	SEG	2002	10,364	8,880	9,608	8,031	8,999	9,090	9,560	9,011	9,207	12,753
Note: NA = data not available; NC = no count; NS = no survey; LB SEG = lower-bound SEG.														
<sup>a</sup> Kenai River early-run Chinook salmon (all fish) SEG was eliminated and OEG was revised by BOF.														
<sup>b</sup> Lewis River monthly naturally obstructed.														
<sup>c</sup> Little Susitna River Chinook salmon aerial survey goal is only used to assess escapement if weir count is not available.														
<sup>d</sup> Incomplete counts for Fish Creek (Knik) coho salmon in 2011 and 2013 because weir was pulled before end of run.														
<sup>e</sup> Incomplete counts for Little Susitna River coho salmon in 2013 and Chinook salmon in 2018 due to breach of weir and coho salmon in 2015 because weir was pulled before end of run.														
<sup>f</sup> 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.														
<sup>g</sup> 2009 to 2015 Alagnak River sockeye salmon escapements for Alagnak River (Tower) escapement goal are expanded aerial surveys.														
<sup>h</sup> Alagnek River sockeye salmon aerial survey-based escapement goal will be used in years that the Alagnak River tower is not operated.														
<sup>i</sup> Naknek River has an OEG of 800,000-2,000,000 sockeye salmon when the Naknek River Special Harvest Area is open to fishing.														
<sup>j</sup> Kenai River sockeye salmon uses the best estimate of sport harvest upstream of sonar.														