

2019 Summary

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



Ship Creek

King salmon fishing in Ship Creek was good this season. 891 king salmon were collected in the William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery raceway. An estimated 497 king salmon were counted in the creek below the hatchery. The hatchery was able to meet the broodstock goal of 460 king salmon.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2019 sport fishery season.



Resurrection Bay

Anglers reported good sockeye salmon fishing in Resurrection Bay. On June 11, 2019, over 11,538 sockeye salmon had passed through 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 the Trail Lakes Hatchery broodstock requirements. The final escapement was approximately 12,779 sockeye salmon.

Management Actions

- On June 14, 2019, the sockeye salmon limits were increased to twelve fish per day and in possession in the marine waters of Resurrection Bay north of a line from Caines Head to the north point of Thumb Cove. The sockeye salmon limits were increased to six fish per day and in possession in the freshwaters open to sockeye salmon. In addition, a section of the Resurrection River freshwaters opened early.

Prince William Sound

Salmon fishing in the Coghill River was reported as fair this season. On July 26, 2019, over 29,382 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.



Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2019 sport fishery season.



Ship Creek

Coho salmon fishing in Ship Creek this season was reported as good. The William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery collected 508 coho salmon for broodstock. Additionally, 363 coho salmon were counted by foot survey immediately in the creek below the hatchery.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2019 sport fishery season.

Resurrection Bay

Coho salmon fishing in Resurrection Bay was hit or miss this season. Anglers fishing from a boat were having better success than shore based anglers. The Bear Creek coho salmon stock is currently on track to provide adequate broodstock. Coho salmon egg takes, and escapement surveys will be conducted in early October.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2019 sport fishery season.

Prince William Sound

Coho salmon fishing has been fair in Whittier. Fleming Spit did not have fish returning this year because stocking did not take place due to a low broodstock year in 2016. Coho salmon fishing in Valdez has been reported by anglers as fair to good. It is too early to determine if broodstock goals have been met by the Valdez Fisheries Development Association and Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation hatcheries (PWSAC). Both locations are stocked by PWSAC and are terminal harvest areas. No formal surveys are conducted for coho salmon in Prince William Sound.

Management Actions

- To date, no management actions have been implemented during the 2019 sport fishery season.

Copper River Delta

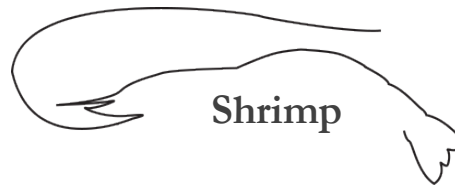
Salmon fishing on the Copper River Delta has been poor. This season the water levels have been low, and the Delta has been experiencing unusually dry conditions. Ibeck Creek had a fish stranding where 1,500-2,000 fish died or were harvested by federal subsistence anglers. Based on aerial surveys, as of September 29, 2019, the Copper River Delta coho salmon return is anticipated to be below the SEG of 32,000-67,000 fish. The coho salmon return is still being assessed.

Management Actions

- On September 18, 2019, the use of bait was prohibited in all Cooper River Highway streams.



- On September 25, 2019, coho salmon limits were reduced to one fish per day and two in possession in the Copper River Highway streams.



Prince William Sound

The Total Allowable Harvest (TAH= 170,189 pounds) was established from the results of the fall 2018 Prince William Sound shrimp survey. The Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for the noncommercial (sport and subsistence) shrimp fishery harvest was established to be 102,100 pounds. This was very similar to the TAH and GHL established for the 2018 season. Approximately 4,274 noncommercial permits were issued in 2019. 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

- A preseason emergency order effective April 15, 2019, reduced the number of allowable noncommercial shrimp pots per person and per vessel to three pots.



Table 1 – Select Southcentral Region Salmon Escapement Goals and Escapements for king salmon, 2010 to 2019 (preliminary).

System	2019 Goal Range		Type	Initial Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Preliminary 2019
	Lower	Upper												
KING SALMON														
<i>Bristol Bay</i>														
Nushagak River	55,000	120,000	SEG	2013	56,088	102,258	167,618	107,602	70,482	98,019	125,368	56,961	97,239	47,882
Alagnak River	2,700		LB SEG	2007	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	917	1,283	435	NS	NS
<i>Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula</i>														
Karluk River	3,000	6,000	BEG	2011	2,917	3,420	3,197	1,824	1,182	2,777	3,434	2,600	3,155	3,898
Ayakulik River	4,800	8,400	BEG	2017	5,197	4,251	4,556	2,304	789	2,392	4,594	3,712	2,149	1,948
Chignik River	1,300	2,700	BEG	2002	3,845	2,490	1,404	1,185	2,895	2,041	1,843	1,137	825	1,517
Nelson River	2,400	4,400	BEG	2004	2,767	1,704	1,192	1,421	3,801	2,440	4,618	1,502	5,022	11,653
<i>Upper Cook Inlet</i>														
Alexander Creek	2,100	6,000	SEG	2002	177	343	181	588	911	1,117	754	170	296	1,297
Campbell Creek	380		LB SEG	2011	290	260	NS	NS	274	654	544	475	287	393
Chuitna River	1,200	2,900	SEG	2002	735	719	502	1,690	1,398	1,965	1,372	235	939	2,115
Chulitna River	1,800	5,100	SEG	2002	1,052	1,875	667	1,262	1,011	3,137	1,151	NC	1125	2,765
Clear (Chumilna) Creek	950	3,400	SEG	2002	903	512	1,177	1,471	1,390	1,205	NS	780	940	1,511
Crooked Creek	650	1,700	SEG	2002	1,088	654	631	1,103	1,411	1,459	1,747	911	714	1,444
Deshka River	13,000	28,000	SEG	2011	18,594	19,026	14,010	18,531	16,335	24,316	22,874	11,383	8,544	9,711
Goose Creek	250	650	SEG	2002	76	80	57	62	232	NC	NC	148	90	NC
Kenai River - Early Run (all fish)	eliminated ^a			2017	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	4,173
	2,800	5,600	SEG	2017										
Kenai River - Late Run (all fish)	eliminated			2017	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	11,671
Lake Creek	2,500	7,100	SEG	2002	1,617	2,563	2,366	3,655	3,506	4,686	3,588	1,601	1,767	2,692
Lewis River	250	800	SEG	2002	56	92	107	61	61	5 ^b	0	0 ^b	0	0 ^b
Little Susitna River (Aerial) ^c	900	1,800	SEG	2002	589	887	1,154	1,651	1,759	1,507	1,622	1,192	530	NC
Little Susitna River (weir)	2,300	3,900	SEG	2017								2,531	549 ^c	3,666
Little Willow Creek	450	1,800	SEG	2002	468	713	494	858	684	788	675	840	280	631
Montana Creek	1,100	3,100	SEG	2002	755	494	416	1,304	953	1,416	692	603	473	789
Peters Creek	1,000	2,600	SEG	2002	NC	1,103	459	1,643	1,443	1,514	1,122	307	1674	1,209
Prairie Creek	3,100	9,200	SEG	2002	3,022	2,038	1,185	3,304	2,812	3,290	1,853	1,930	1,194	2,371
Sheep Creek	600	1,200	SEG	2002	NC	350	363	NC	262	NC	NC	NC	334	NC
Talachulitna River	2,200	5,000	SEG	2002	1,499	1,368	847	2,285	2,256	2,582	4,295	1,087	1483	3,225
Theodore River	500	1,700	SEG	2002	202	327	179	476	312	426	68	21	18	201
Willow Creek	1,600	2,800	SEG	2002	1,173	1,061	756	1,752	1,335	2,046	1,814	1,329	411	897
<i>Lower Cook Inlet</i>														
Anchor River	3,800	7,600	SEG	2017	4,449	3,545	4,509	4,388	2,497	10,241	7,146	5,796	3,162	5,691
Deep Creek	350		LB SEG	2017	387	696	447	475	601	535	NS	753	182	751
Ninilchik River	750	1,300	SEG	2017	605	668	555	571	891	874	572	855	979	1,185

Note: NA = data not available; NC = no count; NS = no survey; LB SEG = lower-bound SEG.
^a Kenai River early-run Chinook salmon (all fish) SEG was eliminated and OEG was revised by BOF.
^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, 2010 to 2019 (preliminary).

System	2019 Goal Range		Type	Initial Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Preliminary
	Lower	Upper													
COHO SALMON															
<i>Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula</i>															
Buskin River	4,700	9,600	BEG	2014	6,239	5,298	4,906	4,401	7,345	3,363	2,513	5,559	1,066		NA
Olds River	1,000		LB SEG	2011	NA	1,003	624	2,145	1,320	1,357	1,634	10,54	1,000		NA
American River	400		LB SEG	2011	NA	1,061	427	841	1,595	530	500	410	300		NA
Pasagshak River	1,200		LB SEG	2011	1,971	1,083	3,132	1,648	4,934	1,790	667	701	1,200		NA
<i>Upper Cook Inlet</i>															
Fish Creek (Knik)	1,200	4,400	SEG	2011	6,977	1,428 ^d	1,237	7,593 ^d	10,283	7,912	2,484	8,966	5,022		3,025
Jim Creek	450	1,400	SEG	2014	242	229	213	663	122	571	106	5,646	758		162
Little Susitna River	10,100	17,700	SEG	2002	9,214	4,826 ^d	6,779	13,583	24,211 ^e	12,756	10,049	17,781	7,583		4,229
Deshka River	10,200	24,100	SEG	2017								36,869	12,962		10,445
SOCKEYE SALMON															
<i>Bristol Bay</i>															
Kvichak River ^f	2,000,000	10,000,000	SEG	2010	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		2,371,242
Alagnak River (Tower) ^g	320,000		LB SEG	2007	1,187,730	883,794	861,747	1,095,950	200,524	5,770,650	NA	2,041,825	1,581,426		820,458
Alagnak River (Aerial) ^h	125,000		LB SEG	2016							696,400	629,200			
Naknek River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG ⁱ	2015	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		2,911,470
Egegik River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG	2015	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		2,340,210
Ugashik River	500,000	1,400,000	SEG	2015	830,886	1,029,853	670,578	898,110	640,158	1,564,638	1,635,270	1,186,446	1,167,792		1,547,748
Wood River	700,000	1,800,000	SEG	2015	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		2,073,276
Igushik River	150,000	400,000	SEG	2015	518,040	421,380	193,770	387,036	340,590	651,172	469,230	578,700	1,581,426		256,074
Nushagak River	260,000	760,000	OEG	2012	468,696	428,191	432,438	894,172	618,477	796,684	680,513	2,852,308	1,164,701		709,349
<i>Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula</i>															
Buskin River	5,000	8,000	BEG	2011	9,800	11,982	8,565	16,189	13,976	8,719	11,584	7,214	4,281		12,297
Afognak River	20,000	50,000	BEG	2005	52,255	49,193	41,553	42,153	36,345	38,151	33,167	22,151	17,601		26,817
Saltery River	15,000	35,000	BEG	2011	24,102	27,803	25,155	35,939	29,047	42,468	57,867	39,315	22,845		22,183
Pasagshak River	3,000		lower-bound SEG	2011	4,800	8,100	2,600	9,750	1,582	2,077	7,053	11,021	2,019		4,537
Karluk River Early Run	150,000	250,000	BEG	2014	71,453	87,049	188,085	234,880	252,097	260,097	164,760	242,599	205,054		186,510
Ayakulik River	140,000	280,000	SEG	2011	201,933	177,480	213,501	214,969	210,040	218,178	182,589	204,497	266,333		279,639
Fraser River	75,000	170,000	BEG	2008	94,680	134,642	148,884	136,059	200,296	219,093	122,585	129,227	201,161		169,627
<i>Upper Cook Inlet</i>															
Fish Creek (Knik)	15,000	45,000	SEG	2017	126,836	66,678	18,813	18,912	43,915	102,309	46,202	61,469	71,556		76,031
Kasilof River	160,000	390,000	OEG	2011	293,765	243,767	372,523	487,700	438,238	470,677	239,981	358,724	394,288		378,416
Kenai River ^j		OEG eliminated		2017	1,038,302	1,280,733	1,212,921	980,208	1,218,342	1,400,047	1,120,717				
Russian River - Early Run	22,000	42,000	BEG	2011	27,074	29,129	24,115	35,776	44,920	50,226	38,739	37,123	44,110		125,942
Russian River - Late Run	30,000	110,000	SEG	2005	38,848	41,529	54,911	31,364	52,277	46,223	37,837	45,012	71,052		64,585k
Chelatna Lake	20,000	45,000	SEG	2017	37,784	70,353	36,577	70,555	26,212	69,750	60,792	26,986	20,438		26,303
Judd Lake	15,000	40,000	SEG	2017	18,361	39,997	18,303	14,088	22,416	47,684	NA	35,731	30,844		44,145
Larson Lake	15,000	35,000	SEG	2017	20,324	12,413	16,708	21,821	12,040	23,214	14,333	31,866	23,444		9,699
<i>Lower Cook Inlet</i>															
English Bay	6,000	13,500	SEG	2002	12,253	9,920	3,444	10,891	7,832	6,290	7,673	20,751	18,083		24,044
Delight Lake	5,100	10,600	SEG	2017	23,775	20,190	10,887	5,961	22,289	3,220	5,110	5,380	13,428		17,410
Desire Lake	4,800	11,900	SEG	2017	6,320	9,630	8,840	8,400	11,480	2,830	6,740	9,450	9,840		9,040
Bear Lake	700	8,300	SEG	2002	8,880	9,608	8,031	8,999	9,090	9,560	9,011	9,207	10,568		9,185

Note : NA = data not available; NC = no count; NS = no survey; LB SEG = lower-bound SEG.

^d Incomplete counts for Fish Creek (Knik) coho salmon in 2011 and 2013 because weir was pulled before end of run.

^e Incomplete counts for Little Susitna River coho salmon in 2011 due to breach of weir and 2014 because weir was pulled before end of run.

^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 Weir evacuated August 18 (2 weeks early) due to swan lake fire, incomplete count

