2019 Summary

BRISTOL BAY SPORT FISH MANAGEMENT AREA

King Salmon

Naknek River

Based on inseason information from anglers and guides, the inriver king salmon abundance seemed to be good despite the run appearing to be late and fishing generally below average. Angler effort appeared to be near average; however, higher than average water temperatures negatively impacted the success rate of anglers.

Management Actions

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

Alagnak River

During the 2018 Bristol Bay Board of Fish meeting, the Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) of 2,700 king salmon was dropped and aerial surveys were discontinued. Inseason reports from anglers and guides indicated a fair inriver abundance of king salmon despite the run appearing to be late. Angler effort appeared to be near average and reports on the river indicated a range of success from poor to good by various operators. An onsite angler survey for the 2019 season yielded a high count of 41 anglers on July 9, 2019.

Management Actions

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

Nushagak-Mulchatna River

The preliminary estimate of king salmon passing the Portage Creek sonar was 47,882 salmon. King salmon are managed to achieve an inriver return of 95,000 fish to provide for 55,000-120,000 spawning salmon.

Commercial, sport, and subsistence catch information indicated a late return that was likely below the historical average. Unprecedented high water temperatures and low water levels were likely key factors affecting fish movement this season. Approximately 20,783 king salmon were harvested during the sockeye salmon commercial fishery. Harvest estimates for the sport and subsistence fisheries are not currently available. Reports from anglers, guides, and subsistence users suggest a below average harvest in the sport fishery and an average harvest in the subsistence fishery. The higher than average water temperatures noticeably affected the success rate of anglers; however, effort appeared to be near average.

Management Actions

- On July 3, 2019, the limits for king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, were reduced to one fish per day with an annual limit of two fish in the Nushagak-Mulchatna River drainage.
- On July 10, 2019, the retention of king salmon of any size and the use of bait were prohibited on the Nushagak-Mulchatna River drainage.

Togiak River

Based on inseason reports from anglers, guides, and subsistence users, inriver king salmon abundance was good for the duration of the run from late June through late July, and angler effort appeared to be average.

Management Actions

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

Naknek River

The sockeye salmon escapement exceeded the SEG range of 800,000-2.0 million fish for the Naknek River with an estimate of 2.9 million salmon.

Management Actions

- On July 10, 2019, the sockeye salmon limits were increased to ten fish per day and in possession in all waters of the Naknek River drainage.

Kvichak River

The sockeye salmon escapement was within the SEG range of 2.0-10.0 million fish for the Kvichak River with an estimate of 2.3 million salmon.

Management Actions

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

Alagnak River

The sockeye salmon escapement exceeded the lower bound SEG of 210,000 fish with an estimate of 820,458 salmon.

Management Actions

- On July 16, 2019, the sockeye salmon limits were increased to ten fish per day and in possession in all waters of the Alagnak River drainage.

Nushagak-Mulchatna River

The sockeye salmon escapement was within the SEG range of 370,000-900,000 fish with an estimate of 709,349 salmon.

Management Actions

- On July 5, 2019, the sockeye salmon limits were increased to ten fish per day and in possession in all waters of the Nushagak-Mulchatna River drainage, excluding the Wood River drainage.

Wood River

The sockeye salmon escapement exceeded the SEG range of 700,000-1.8 million fish with an estimate of 2.1 million salmon.

Management Actions

- On July 5, 2019, the sockeye salmon limits were increased to ten fish per day and in possession in all waters of the Wood River drainage.

Togiak River

The sockeye salmon escapement exceeded the SEG range of 120,000-270,000 fish with an estimate of 351,846 salmon.

Management Actions

- On July 27, 2019, the sockeye salmon limits were increased to ten fish per day and in possession in all waters of the Togiak River drainage.

Naknek River

Based on reports from anglers and guides, inriver abundance of coho salmon was good for the duration of the run from late July through early September despite the run appearing to be slightly late. Higher than average water temperatures noticeably affected the success rate of anglers; however, angler effort appeared to be near average.

Management Actions

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

Nushagak-Mulchatna River

The preliminary estimate of coho salmon passing the Portage Creek sonar was 51,852 salmon. Coho salmon are managed to achieve an inriver return of 70,000-130,000 fish to provide for 60,000-120,000 spawning salmon.

Sport and subsistence catch information indicated an average to slightly below average return during 2019 despite the lower indication given by the sonar. Approximately 28,195 coho salmon were harvested in the commercial fishery. Commercial fishing in the Nushagak Section of the Nushagak District was closed on July 31, 2019. Harvest estimates for the sport and subsistence fisheries are not available; however, angler, guide, and subsistence user reports suggest an average to below average harvest in the sport and subsistence fisheries. Higher than average water temperatures noticeably affected the success rate of anglers; however, effort appeared to be near average.

Management Actions

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

Togiak River

Based on reports from anglers and guides, inriver abundance was good to very good for the duration of the run from early August through early September. Angler effort appeared to be near average.

Management Actions

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

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

	2019 Goal Range			Initial										Preliminary
System	Lower	Upper	Type	Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
KING SALMON														
Bristol Bay														
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
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula														
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
Upper Cook Inlet														
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 (Chunilna) 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	0b
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	1194	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
Lower Cook Inlet														
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 Lower	2019 Goal Range Upper	Type	Initial Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Preliminary 2019
COHO SALMON														
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula														
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
Upper Cook Inlet														
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														
Bristol Bay														
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
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula														
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
Upper Cook Inlet														
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
	160,000	340,000	BEG	2011										
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			
	700,000	1,200,000	SEG	2011								1,055,091	NA	1,849,054
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
Lower Cook Inlet														
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] Alagnek 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