

# 2019 Summary

## KODIAK SPORT FISH MANAGEMENT AREA



### Ayakulik River

The king salmon run fell below the Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) of 4,800-8,400 fish with a weir count of 1,948 king salmon. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 17, 2019, which is similar to historical run-timing. The Ayakulik River king salmon run has seen declines since 2006. The escapement objectives have been met some years; however, in the most recent years the escapement objectives have not been met. In many years, a significant portion of the estimated daily fish passage numbers occurs during the king salmon run when the weir is flooding.

### Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective June 1, 2019, prohibited the retention of king salmon in the Ayakulik River drainage and only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure was allowed.
- On June 26, 2019, king salmon fishing closed on the Ayakulik River drainage and only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure was allowed.

**Table 1. Summary of preliminary catch, harvest and escapement, Ayakulik River king salmon fishery, 2019.**

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 4,800-8,400
Total Catch	TBD
Total Harvest	0
Weir Count	1,948
Preliminary Escapement	1,948

### Karluk River

The king salmon run was within the BEG of 3,000-7,000 fish with a weir count of 3,898 king salmon. This is the second consecutive year and the fifth time in the last ten years the run has been within the BEG. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 23, 2019, which is similar to historical run-timing and the same day as 2018. 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 June 1, 2019, closed the Karluk River drainage to fishing for king salmon and only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure was allowed.



**Table 2. Summary of preliminary catch, harvest and escapement, Karluk River king salmon fishery, 2019.**

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 3,000-6,000
Total Catch	TBD
Total Harvest	0
Weir Count	3,898
Preliminary Escapement	3,898

**Chignik River**

The king salmon run was within the BEG of 1,300-2,700 fish with a weir count of 1,517 king salmon and was slightly lower than the recent 10-year average. The mid-point of the run occurred on July 12, 2019, which is similar to historical run-timing.

**Management Actions**

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

**Table 3. Summary of preliminary catch, harvest and escapement, Chignik River king salmon fishery, 2019.**

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 1,300-2,700
Total Catch	TBD
Total Harvest	TBD
Weir Count	1,517
Preliminary Escapement	1,417

**Nelson River**

The 2019 weir count for king salmon was 11,653 fish. This was well above the BEG of 2,400-4,400 salmon and nearly an all-time record count. There is no retention in this fishery throughout the season based on regulations enacted in 2011. The weir count does not include a post-season estimate of fish observed below the weir when it was pulled. The mid-point of the run occurred on July 16, 2019, which is similar to historical run-timing.

**Management Actions**

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

**Table 4. Summary of preliminary catch, harvest and escapement, Nelson River king salmon fishery, 2019.**

Escapement Goal Range	BEG = 2,400-4,400
Total Catch	TBD
Total Harvest	0
Weir Count	11,653
Preliminary Escapement	11,653

**Stocked Kodiak Road System Streams**

Each year the Olds River, American River, and Salonie Creek are stocked with up to 80,000 king salmon smolt. The stocked Kodiak road system streams had low returns this year and there was little harvest in this fishery for the third year in a row. Returns to the Olds River produced some early king



salmon that were caught in Kalsin Bay and the lower Olds River, but much fewer than expected. Returns to the American River were also lower than expected though anglers did catch some fish, primarily 1- and 2-year ocean king salmon jacks. Salonie Creek had a few more fish return and was the primary collection point for broodstock for the project this season. Persistent dry conditions prevailed through the king salmon runs this season and may have also contributed to a lack of king salmon escapement in these rivers. Egg take goals were not met this year. To compensate for this shortfall, extra coho salmon will be stocked to supplement king salmon production. The 2019 king salmon egg take spawned 10 pairs which should produce at least 40,000 smolt, though this is far short of the goal to release 200,000 king salmon smolt. Coho salmon will be taken again from Pillar Creek in early November to supplement this shortfall.

### Management Actions

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



### Karluk River

The early sockeye salmon run fell within the BEG of 150,000-250,000 fish with a weir count of 186,510 sockeye salmon. Little harvest occurs upstream of the weir and escapement is likely equal to the weir count. Harvest of sockeye salmon by anglers on the Karluk River is minimal compared to the size of the run but it remains one of the larger sockeye salmon sport fisheries on Kodiak.

### Management Actions

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

### Ayakulik River

The early sockeye salmon run fell within the BEG of 140,000-280,000 fish with a weir count of 162,430 sockeye salmon. Harvest of sockeye salmon by anglers on the Ayakulik River is minimal compared to the size of the run but it is one of the larger sockeye salmon sport fisheries on Kodiak.

### Management Actions

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

### Dog Salmon (Frazer) River

The sockeye salmon run fell within the BEG of 75,000-170,000 fish with a count of 169,627 sockeye salmon at the Frazer Lake fish pass where escapement estimates are derived. Harvest of sockeye salmon by anglers on the Dog Salmon River downstream of the fish pass is minimal compared to the size of the run but it is also one of the larger sockeye salmon sport fisheries on Kodiak.

### Management Actions

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

### Buskin River

The sockeye salmon run was above the BEG of 5,000-8,000 fish with a weir count of 12,296 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 25, 2019, which is about 10 days later than historical run-timing.

#### Management Actions

- On June 28, 2019, the sockeye salmon limits were increased to five fish per day and in possession in the Buskin River drainage.

#### Saltery Cove

The sockeye salmon run was within the BEG of 15,000-35,000 fish with a weir count of 22,183 sockeye salmon though this was the lowest count on record for this run. No harvest occurs upstream of the weir and escapement is equal to the weir count. The mid-point of the run occurred on July 28, 2019, which is later than historical run-timing. This is the largest freshwater sport fishery on Kodiak by angler effort and harvest for a single stock. The 2019 run was similar to the 2018 and was small in comparison to most years; however, the run was well within the escapement goal range.

#### Management Actions

- On July 24, 2019, the sockeye salmon limits were reduced to two fish per day and in possession in the Saltery River drainage.
- On August 9, 2019, the sockeye salmon limits were restored to five fish per day and in possession in the Saltery River drainage.

#### Pasagshak River

The sockeye salmon run was above the lower bound Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) of 3,000 fish with a weir count of 4,537 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 21, 2019, which is similar to historical run-timing. The weir has only been in operation since 2011.

#### Management Actions

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

#### Afognak (Litnik) River

The sockeye salmon run was within the BEG of 20,000-50,000 fish with a weir count of 26,817 sockeye salmon. The mid-point of the run occurred on June 15, 2019 and was similar to historical run-timing.

#### Management Actions

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



#### Buskin River - Preliminary Summary

The BEG for Buskin River coho salmon is 4,700-9,600 fish and the 2019 weir count was 5,537 salmon, though escapement estimates subtract sport harvest above the weir and will be lower than the weir count. The run was very late and almost all fish were counted in the last few days of September and first few days of October. Coho salmon are still entering the Buskin River though the weir has been pulled for the season.



### Management Actions

- On September 18, 2019, coho salmon fishing closed on the Buskin River drainage.
- On October 4, 2019, the Buskin River drainage reopened to coho salmon fishing with the regular bag limit of 1 fish per day and in possession.

### Olds River - Preliminary Summary

The lower bound SEG for Olds River coho salmon is 1,000 fish and the 2019 run is ongoing. The 2019 run is expected to be above the range and the run appears to be normal, though the Olds River was also affected by low water conditions for much of August and September. The latest drone survey showed that there were significant schools of fish in many of the pools in the lower river. The Olds River coho salmon run is assessed via in season drone surveys and post season foot surveys. Final escapement estimates will be documented via post season foot surveys in October or November.

### Management Actions

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

### American River - Preliminary Summary

The lower bound SEG for American River coho salmon is 400 fish and the 2019 run is ongoing. The 2019 run is expected to be above the range and the run appears average to strong so far. The latest drone survey was not able to detect coho salmon due to a large number of pink salmon in the river but on the ground observations show significant numbers of coho salmon mixed in with pink salmon. The American River coho salmon run is assessed via in season drone surveys and post season foot surveys. Final escapement estimates will be documented via post season foot surveys in October or November.

### Management Actions

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

### Pasagshak River - Preliminary Summary

The lower bound SEG for Pasagshak River coho salmon is 1,200 fish and the 2019 run is ongoing. The 2019 run is expected to be above the range and recent observations indicate a strong run. The latest drone survey showed several large schools of coho salmon in Lake Rose Tead. The Pasagshak River coho salmon run is assessed via in season drone surveys and post season foot surveys. Final escapement estimates will be documented via post season foot surveys in November.

### Management Actions

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



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												
<b>KING SALMON</b>														
<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 <sup>a</sup>			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 <sup>b</sup>	0	0 <sup>b</sup>	0	0 <sup>b</sup>
Little Susitna River (Aerial) <sup>c</sup>	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 <sup>c</sup>	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.  
<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 mouth 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.



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													
<b>COHO SALMON</b>															
<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 <sup>d</sup>	1,237	7,593 <sup>d</sup>	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 <sup>d</sup>	6,779	13,583	24,211 <sup>e</sup>	12,756	10,049	17,781	7,583	4,229	
Deshka River	10,200	24,100	SEG	2017								36,869	12,962	10,445	
<b>SOCKEYE SALMON</b>															
<i>Bristol Bay</i>															
Kvichak River <sup>f</sup>	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) <sup>g</sup>	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) <sup>h</sup>	125,000		LB SEG	2016							696,400	629,200			
Naknek River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG <sup>i</sup>	2015	1,463,928	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 <sup>j</sup>	160,000	340,000	BEG	2011											
	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	
<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.

<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 2011 due to breach of weir and 2014 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> Alagnak 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.

<sup>k</sup> Weir evacuated August 18 (2 weeks early) due to swan lake fire, incomplete count

