

Division of Commercial Fisheries  
Forrest Bowers, Acting Director

Kuskokwim Area Office  
P.O. Box 1467  
Bethel, AK 99559



Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
www.adfg.alaska.gov

## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: May 29, 2025*

**Time: 5:00 p.m.**

**CONTACT: Madison Hardwig, Sam Decker**

**Kuskokwim Area Management Biologists  
(907) 543-2433**

### Kuskokwim Bay Fishery Announcement #1

#### Kuskokwim Bay Fishery Outlook

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) for subsistence fishermen in the Kuskokwim Bay area.

#### 2024 Run Summary

ADF&G successfully conducted an aerial survey in the Kanektok River in 2024. During the survey, 4,689 Chinook salmon were counted, which was within the sustainable escapement goal (SEG). The same aerial survey counted 179,470 sockeye salmon, which was well above the upper bound of the SEG. Aerial surveys on the North Fork Goodnews River were not accomplished due to poor weather conditions and the Middle Fork Goodnews River weir did not operate. Amounts Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) for Districts 4 and 5 are 6,900-17,000 salmon for all salmon species combined. The subsistence harvest in Districts 4 and 5 fell within ANS in 2024.

#### Sustainable Escapement Goals for Kuskokwim Bay Rivers:

River	Chinook	Chum	Sockeye	Coho
Kanektok	3,900-12,000	NA	15,300-41,000	NA
Middle Fork Goodnews	1,500-3,600	>12,000	22,000-43,000	>12,000
North Fork Goodnews	640-3,300	NA	9,600-18,000	NA

#### 2025 Run and Harvest Outlook for Kuskokwim Bay Salmon:

	Chinook	Chum	Sockeye	Coho
<b>Projection:</b>	Recent Average	Near Average	Above Average	Average
<b>Escapement:</b>	Expect to meet goals	Expect to meet goal	Expect to meet goals	Expect to meet goals
<b>Subsistence:</b>	Normal Harvest	Normal Harvest	Normal Harvest	Normal Harvest
<b>Commercial:</b>	None	None	None	None

Kuskokwim Bay has no formal forecast for salmon returns. Broad expectations are developed based on parent-year escapements and recent year trends. Normal subsistence fishing for all salmon species is expected. ADF&G anticipates subsistence management to be similar to previous seasons. It is the intent of ADF&G that all Kuskokwim Bay salmon stocks shall be managed in a conservative manner consistent with the Policy for the

Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries under 5 AAC 39.222 to meet escapement goals and the subsistence priority.

Commercial fishing in Districts 4 and 5 is managed in accordance with the Districts 4 and 5 Salmon Management Plan (5AAC 07.367) and targets salmon bound for the Kanektok and Goodnews rivers. Due to lack of a commercial buyer, there have been no commercial fisheries in Districts 4 and 5 in six of the previous eight fishing seasons. In 2020 and 2021, a single salmon processor operated within Kuskokwim Bay. The commercial fishing season was delayed until late June in 2020 and early July in 2021 because of low Chinook salmon returns and to achieve escapement goals for the species. Apart from sockeye salmon, commercial harvests for all species in Districts 4 and 5 were well below average in 2020 and 2021. Chum salmon harvest and catch per unit effort was among the lowest recorded.

Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the State of Alaska website (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), local radio stations, and Kuskokwim River Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/KuskoRiverFishingADFG/>). Advisory Announcements will be faxed to area villages.

**For additional information concerning this advisory announcement:**

**ADF&G:** Madison Hardwig, Sam Decker (907) 543-2433

**More information can be found:**

**ADF&G Bethel toll free:** 1 (855) 933-2433

**KYUK Fish Talk**

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