



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: Fri., Sept. 5, 2025

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Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery Advisory Announcement #28

The Outer, Eastern, Southern, and Kamishak Bay districts will close to purse seine harvest for the 2025 season at 10:00 PM on Friday, September 5. The commercial set gillnet fishery in the Southern District closes at 6:00 AM on September 27 per regulation. There have been no commercial salmon deliveries reported since August 25 for purse seine, and August 5 for set gillnet.

The 2025 Lower Cook Inlet Area commercial salmon preliminary harvest estimate was 994,000 fish. The harvest was composed of 203 Chinook, 437,400 sockeye, 1,700 coho, 529,000 pink, and 25,000 chum salmon (Table 1), of which 889,100 (90%) were commercial harvest and 102,500 (10%) were hatchery cost recovery.

Southern District

The 2025 preseason commercial harvest forecast for purse seine in the Southern District was 55,000 sockeye and 73,000 pink salmon with an additional 10,900 hatchery-produced sockeye and 73,000 hatchery pink salmon available in special harvest areas (SHAs). The purse seine preliminary harvest estimate was 45 Chinook, 256,746 sockeye, 259 coho, 1,333 pink, and 283 chum salmon with 11 permit holders reporting deliveries. This compares to previous 10-year average harvests of 95 Chinook, 65,360 sockeye, 1,224 coho, 176,023 pink, and 947 chum salmon with an average of 15 permit holders reporting deliveries.

The 2025 preseason commercial harvest forecast for set gillnet was 150 Chinook, 25,000 sockeye, 150 coho, 9,100 pink, and 1,300 chum salmon. The set gillnet preliminary harvest estimate was 117 Chinook, 33,264 sockeye, 550 coho, 1,535 pink, and 3,779 chum salmon with 12 permit holders reporting deliveries. The previous 10-year average harvests for this gear type were 357 Chinook, 23,129 sockeye, 2,382 coho, 21,077 pink, and 4,049 chum salmon with an average of 18 permit holders reporting deliveries.

Escapement surveys are scheduled to continue through mid-September, however the current projected escapement for Southern District pink salmon is 30.4 thousand fish, which is below the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 50,000–110,000. The current chum salmon escapement projection for the Southern District is 8.5 thousand fish, and above the SEG range of 1,500 – 5,000 fish.

Outer District

The 2025 preseason commercial harvest forecast for the Outer District was 26,800 sockeye, 920,100 pink, and 12,800 chum salmon. The preliminary harvest estimate from the 10 permit holders that delivered, was 30 Chinook, 6,441 sockeye, 728 coho, 458,373 pink, and 17,603 chum salmon. This harvest compares to previous 10-year average harvests of 36 Chinook, 11,727 sockeye, 382 coho, 1.1 million pink, and 48,102 chum salmon with an average of 13 permit holders reporting deliveries.

The current projected escapement of pink salmon to Outer District index streams is 133 thousand fish, which is within the Outer District SEG of 105,000 – 235,000 fish. The current chum salmon escapement projection for the Outer District is 30 thousand fish, within the 17,500–32,000 fish SEG range. The current Desire Lake sockeye salmon peak count of 7,520 was within the 4,800 – 11,900 fish SEG range, whereas the Delight Lake sockeye peak count of 2,310 fish was below the 5,100 – 10,600 SEG range. Sockeye salmon escapement surveys are also ongoing.

Kamishak Bay District

The 2025 preseason commercial harvest forecast for the Kamishak Bay District was 50,000 sockeye, 47,800 pink, and 1,400 chum salmon. Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) forecasted a run of 27,700 sockeye salmon to the Kirschner Lake remote release site. The preliminary harvest estimate from the 3 permit holders that delivered, was 54,939 sockeye, 91 coho, 49,733 pink, and 3,274 chum salmon. In addition, 33,570 sockeye salmon were harvested by CIAA from the Kirschner Lake

SHA for cost recovery. This year's Kamishak District harvest compares to previous 10-year average harvests of 41,825 sockeye, 1,321 coho, 47,553 pink, and 9,717 chum salmon with an average of 3 permit holders reporting deliveries. The current projected escapement of pink salmon to index streams in this district is 98.7 thousand fish, which is within the 35,000 – 150,000 SEG range. The current chum salmon escapement projection for the Kamishak District is 157 thousand fish, above the 50,000 – 115,000 SEG range. Sockeye salmon escapement to Chenik Lake was over 14,000 fish, and above the 2,900 – 13,700 SEG range.

Eastern District

Due to few commercial common property deliveries in the last 10 years, no wild stock sockeye or pink salmon were forecasted from the Eastern District in 2025. CIAA forecasted a total run of 83,600 sockeye salmon to Resurrection Bay release sites with 76,400 fish needed for broodstock and cost recovery. Total cost recovery harvest from this district was 6,233 sockeye salmon. While this district was open to commercial seine harvest in 2025 targeting returns to Aialik Lake, there were no commercial harvests reported. The previous 10-year commercial harvest average for sockeye salmon in this district is 4,298 fish with all of those fish harvested in Resurrection Bay. CIAA passed 12,000 sockeye salmon through the Bear Creek weir in 2025. However, 1,578 sockeye salmon were subsequently removed from Bear Lake for broodstock, leaving a final spawning escapement of 10,422 fish, which is above the SEG of 700–8,300. Hatchery returns of sockeye salmon to this district were below preseason anticipated levels. The only other index stock in the Eastern District is Aialik Lake sockeye salmon where the current peak count of 5,700 fish is above the 3,200 – 5,200 fish SEG.

Table 1. Lower Cook Inlet Management Area commercial salmon harvest based on preliminary fish ticket data, 2025.

District	Permit holders ^a	Chinook ^a	Sockeye ^a	Coho ^{a, b}	Pink ^a	Chum ^a	Total
Southern District	11	45	256,746	259	1,333	283	258,666
Outer District	10	30	6,441	728	458,373	17,603	483,175
Eastern District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kamishak Bay District	3	0	54,939	91	49,733	3,274	108,037
Purse seine total	11	75	318,126	1,078	509,439	21,160	849,878
Southern District	12 ^c	117	33,264	550	1,535	3,779	39,245
Set gillnet total	12	117	33,264	550	1,535	3,779	39,245
Commercial common property total		192	351,390	1,628	510,974	24,939	889,123
China Poot SHA		0	20,766	0	0	0	20,766
Tutka Bay SHA		0	23,600	0	17,954	0	41,554
Resurrection Bay SHA		4	6,233	0	0	0	6,237
Kirschner Lake SHA		0	33,570	0	309	0	33,879
Hatchery cost recovery total ^d		4	84,169	0	18,263	0	102,436
Commercially sold total		196	435,559	1,628	529,237	24,939	991,559
Homepack		7	151	82	72	43	355
Hatchery donated fish ^e		0	1,731	0	0	0	1,731
Misc. Total		7	1,882	82	72	43	2,086
Lower Cook Inlet total		203	437,441	1,710	529,309	24,982	993,645

^a Numbers of fish and permit holders delivering are from preliminary ADF&G fish ticket data.

^b 1,686 coho salmon were harvested in the Seward Salmon Derby. These were sold by the sponsor to commercial processors. These fish were caught by sport permit holders using troll gear. This harvest is not included in the commercial harvest total catch.

^c Of the 12 permit holders that delivered, 4 were dual permits.

^d Hatchery sales for hatchery operating costs.

^e Hatchery excess fish donated to public.

Announcement recordings are available on the 24-hour telephone recording in the Homer office at 907/235-7307.

Current Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing regulation books are available at ADF&G offices, and online here:

https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/pdfs/commercial/2024_2027_cf_cook_inlet_salmon.pdf

This website may also be accessed by scanning the QR code at right.

Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web address:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyarealci.salmon>,

which may also be accessed by scanning the adjacent QR code,

