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Advisory Announcement

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2025 CHIGNIK COMMERCIAL SALMON SEASON SUMMARY

The following is a brief overview of the 2025 Chignik Management Area (CMA; Figure 1) commercial salmon season. The numbers provided in this season summary are preliminary.

The Chignik River watershed supports two primary sockeye salmon runs which traditionally provide a majority of directed harvest opportunities within the CMA. With a total run size of 1.97 million sockeye salmon, commercial harvest opportunity targeting sockeye salmon was not provided until June 20, past historical sockeye salmon opening dates due to the weaker early-run. The overall escapement was 1,058,272 sockeye salmon, composed of approximately 399,019 early-run sockeye salmon and 659,253 late-run sockeye salmon (Table 1).

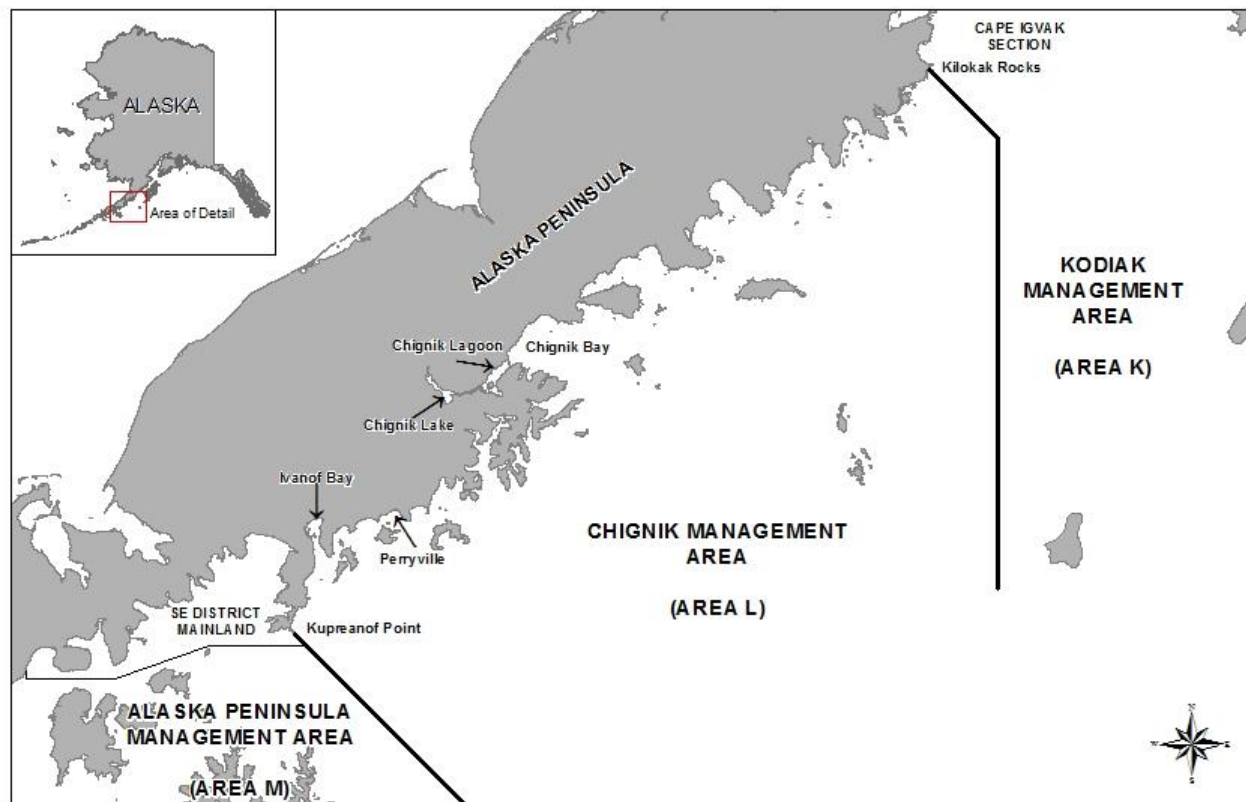


Figure 1.— Map of the Alaska Peninsula illustrating the relative locations of the Chignik, Kodiak, and Alaska Peninsula Management areas.

2025 Escapement Summary`

Escapement through the Chignik River weir was monitored using underwater digital video equipment from May 28 through August 28. Two underwater camera gates in the weir were open to provide uninterrupted passage. Fish passing through the weir were counted, by species, for the first 10 minutes of each hour. The counts were expanded to obtain hourly escapement estimates and then summed to estimate daily fish passage. A digital video archive was kept of each 10-minute counting period throughout the entire monitoring time. Additionally, 24/7 footage was archived from May 28 through August 28.

Aerial surveys were flown throughout the season to monitor pink and chum salmon escapement into CMA streams. Peak survey counts, by index stream and species, were summed and compared to areawide sustainable escapement goals (SEG) established by Schaberg et al. (2019).

Chinook salmon

The Chignik River is the only major Chinook salmon-producing stream within the CMA and supports the largest Chinook salmon stock on the South Alaska Peninsula. The biological escapement goal range (BEG) for Chinook salmon into the Chignik River watershed is 1,300–2,700 fish (Schaberg et al. 2019). The 2025 Chignik River Chinook salmon escapement of 1,391 fish (Table 1) was within the escapement goal and was above recent 5- and 10-year escapement averages.

Sockeye salmon

Sockeye salmon escapement to the Chignik River in 2025 was managed based on separate optimal escapement goal (OEG) objectives for both early-run and late-run sockeye salmon. During 2025, the commercial salmon fishery targeting sockeye salmon in the CMA was managed based upon in-season escapement information gathered at the Chignik River weir. In addition to daily escapement observations, a total of approximately 240 adult sockeye salmon were sampled each week for age, sex, and length (ASL) information. Apportionment between early- and late-run sockeye salmon was achieved in season using a historic run timing curve built using a combination of an Expectation-Maximization algorithm and historical genetic information. ASL information was also used in season to help inform management decisions.

Postseason, all sockeye salmon caught in the CMA and, as outlined in regulation, harvest from Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) of Registration Area M and the Cape Igvak Section of Registration Area K, are apportioned as Chignik-bound sockeye salmon based on genetic stock information (Dann et al. 2012, Shedd et al. 2016). Chignik-bound harvest data are temporally aligned with Chignik River weir escapement counts to the day the harvest would have arrived at the weir had they not been caught based on Conrad (1983). The mixDist package in R is used to identify daily early- and late-run stock proportions for building the run reconstruction by modeling probability density functions with an Expectation-Maximization algorithm. This method employs the best available data, is reproducible, and yields stock proportions not significantly different than those derived using genetic information. A post-weir estimate of escapement is also calculated.

Early-run sockeye salmon have an OEG range of 300,000–400,000 fish. The early-run was weak, trending along minimum management objectives before an increase in escapement mid June. The early-run escapement objective was ultimately met with an estimated escapement of 399,019 fish (Table 1). The early-run sockeye salmon escapement was above all recent escapement averages.

Late-run sockeye salmon have an OEG range of 240,000–360,000 fish. The late-run was strong with an estimate of 659,253 sockeye salmon escaping into the Chignik River system (Table 1). Interim escapement objectives for the late run were exceeded throughout the entire season.

A total of 51,025 sockeye salmon were estimated to have escaped into the river system after August 28, when the weir was removed.

Coho salmon

Coho salmon begin to enter CMA drainages in mid-August and continue through November. In 2025, 5,101 coho salmon were observed passing the weir (Table 1). It should be noted that the weir's last day of counting was August 28, which is early in the coho salmon run.

Pink salmon

Indexed pink salmon escapements to CMA streams were estimated via aerial surveys. The odd-year pink salmon SEG range of 260,000–450,000 fish is based on pink salmon escapement for four of the five districts and eight total index streams within those districts (Schaberg et al. 2019). In 2025, pink salmon peak estimated escapement for the eight representative index streams was 474,900 fish, near recent odd-year averages and above the bound of the SEG range (Table 2).

Chum salmon

Indexed chum salmon escapements to CMA streams were estimated via aerial surveys. The chum salmon SEG range of 45,000–110,000 fish is based on escapement of six total index streams within four of the five districts (Schaberg et al. 2019). The 2025 estimated total peak chum escapement for the six index streams was 95,000 fish, near recent averages and within the bound of the SEG range (Table 2).

Table 1.— Estimated Chinook, sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon, and Dolly Varden escapement to the Chignik River, 2010 to 2025.

Year	Escapement						
	Chinook ^a	Sockeye ^d		Coho	Pink	Chum	Dolly Varden
		Early-run	Late-run ^b				
2010	3,679	450,518	293,395	5,152	3,670	95	17,578
2011	2,728	492,557	261,259	5,293	16,298	145	19,225
2012	1,449	360,709	351,682	2,663	2,849	73	18,032
2013	1,253	404,753	351,349	16,783	7,231	72	17,230
2014	2,895	353,798	297,812	15,572	3,171	58	44,899
2015	2,054	421,848	702,051	60,209	4,269	54	16,346
2016	1,843	416,711	356,464	14,187	486	114	24,625
2017	1,137	420,497	372,064	33,270	123,531	615	7,664
2018	825	182,974	356,724	64,214	3,222	54	4,550
2019	1,517	387,110	294,889	282	18,073	67	6,242
2020	1,278	178,785	152,192	6,964	10,614	124	4,919
2021	1,172	295,726	345,216	0	6,057	25	4,363
2022	761	412,228	395,858	10,903	12,558	90	1,238
2023	267	431,283	457,071	1,366	19,696	26	605
2024	1,166	372,831	354,749	1,082	2,836	58	1,428
2025	1,391	399,019	659,253	5,101	260,769	54	2,174
Averages ^c							
2015–2024	1,202	351,999	378,728	19,248	34,325	123	7,198
2020–2024	929	338,171	341,017	4,063	12,877	65	2,511

^a No escapement adjustments were made for Chinook salmon that spawn below the weir, or those removed by the sport and subsistence fisheries above the weir.

^b Late-run sockeye salmon totals include a weir estimate and post-weir escapement estimate using a time series analysis.

^c Pink salmon averages include odd years only.

^d Escapement values have been retroactively updated with a run timing model implemented in 2022.

Table 2.— Estimated indexed, peak pink and chum salmon escapement in the Chignik Management Area, 2010 to 2025.

Year	Indexed Peak Escapement	
	Pink	Chum
2010	98,400	102,625
2011	272,000	119,000
2012	111,000	93,800
2013	231,800	109,900
2014	87,240	46,720
2015	404,000	123,400
2016	68,100	69,900
2017	586,000	96,900
2018	41,900	33,400
2019	432,373	98,000
2020	118,675	35,455
2021	392,000	107,000
2022	303,600	73,200
2023	621,000	183,000
2024	262,700	83,100
2025	474,900	95,000
Averages ^a		
2015-2024	487,075	90,336
2020-2024	506,500	96,351

Note: Peak escapements are calculated using aerial surveys from the eight pink salmon and six chum salmon index streams established in Schaberg et al. 2019.

^a Pink salmon averages include odd years only.

2025 Commercial Fishery Summary

In early June, commercial salmon fishing is based on the strength of Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon. Fishing periods are determined by daily escapements as well as harvest information. From mid-June thru July, the CMA is managed to achieve adequate escapement of the Chignik River early- and late-run sockeye salmon, as well as local pink and chum salmon stocks. Beginning in early July, opportunity to target pink and chum salmon may occur in select bays of the Central, Western, Eastern, and Perryville Districts. In August, and for the remainder of the season, management of the CMA is based on achieving the Chignik River late-run sockeye salmon goal or on the department's evaluation of local stocks of pink, chum, and coho salmon. If the Chignik River sockeye salmon late run is not meeting interim escapement objectives and a harvestable surplus of pink, chum, or coho salmon is available, the department may restrict fishing to certain areas in the CMA to allow fishing, while minimizing the harvest of sockeye salmon. In order to conserve Chinook salmon, the Chignik Bay District was restricted to no more than 48 hours of commercial fishing openings per week throughout July. Additionally, the CMA had a Chinook salmon harvest cap of 1,000 fish within a 48-hour period which, if triggered, would cause the districts primarily responsible to be immediately closed for one week.

Sockeye salmon

In 2025, the department managed the commercial salmon fishery based upon daily escapement levels, ASL data, and an applied average stock apportionment curve developed from using a combination of an Expectation-

Maximization algorithm and historical genetic information to apportion stocks of sockeye salmon to early or late runs.

Early-run sockeye salmon escapement was weak and trended along lower interim escapement objectives early in June before increasing mid-June. As a result of the poor early-run escapement early June, there were no fishing periods until June 20 after interim objectives began tracking for the midpoint of the OEG.

Typically, in early- to mid-July, late-run sockeye salmon begin to enter the Chignik watershed. Commercial fishing is frequently curtailed during this time for the department to evaluate the strength of the late run. The late run of sockeye salmon met all interim escapement goals throughout the 2025 season, with escapement trending above the upper interim escapement objectives through July and August. Harvest effort ceased after August 30 when processors ended fish purchasing operations.

Pink and chum salmon

Aerial surveys to monitor pink and chum salmon escapement began on July 10. Aerial surveys for each district were flown approximately once a week, beginning in early July and through late August. Starting June 20, commercial salmon fishing was allowed in all districts. This decision was based upon increasing numbers of sockeye salmon observed escaping into the Chignik River. Barring mandatory regulatory closures in the Perryville and Central Districts, commercial salmon fishing in the Eastern, Central, Western, and Perryville Districts remained open throughout the rest of the season due to high sockeye, pink, and chum escapement.

2025 Commercial Harvest Summary

Chinook salmon

A total of 2,962 Chinook salmon were harvested during the 2025 season, below recent historical averages (Table 3). The majority of harvest occurred in the Western District (Table 4). Chinook salmon harvest was incidental to fisheries targeting other species. In addition to the stock of concern action plan, a Chinook salmon harvest cap of 1,000 fish within a 48-hour period was implemented, which, if triggered, would cause the districts primarily responsible to be immediately closed for one week. Additionally, fishing time in the Chignik Bay District was restricted to a maximum of 48 hours per week throughout July.

Sockeye salmon

A total of 823,419 sockeye salmon were harvested withing the CMA during 2025, above recent historical averages (Table 3). The majority of the harvest occurred in the Chignik Bay District (Table 4).

The June 1–July 25 allocation period for SEDM commercial salmon fishing opened for 36 hours from 6 a.m. July 22 until 6 p.m. July 23 and during which 35,196 sockeye were harvested. The Cape Igvak fishery was not opened during the June 1–July 5 allocation period. Both the SEDM and Cape Igvak fisheries depend upon sockeye salmon harvest in the CMA reaching certain thresholds. Generally, no commercial salmon fishing will occur in Cape Igvak or SEDM unless the department believes at least 300,000 sockeye salmon will be harvested by July 5 within the CMA, and 600,000 sockeye salmon will be harvested by July 25 for SEDM.

Coho salmon

Coho salmon harvest in the CMA totaled 50,937 fish, below recent historical averages (Table 3). The majority of the coho salmon harvest occurred in the Western District (Table 4).

Pink salmon

A total of 1.96 million pink salmon were harvested in the CMA during 2025, between the odd 5- and 10-year average pink salmon harvest (Table 3). Most of the pink salmon harvest occurred in the Western District (Table 4).

Chum salmon

A total of 86,649 chum salmon were harvested in the CMA during 2025, between recent 5- and 10-year historical averages (Table 3). Most of the chum salmon harvest occurred in the Western District (Table 4).

Table 3.– Total commercial salmon harvests, including home pack and department test fishery, from the Chignik Management Area by species and year, 2015 through 2025.

Year	Permits ^a	Landings	Chignik Management Area Harvest					Total
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
2015	71	2,276	9,204	1,552,495	82,054	1,978,211	101,017	3,722,981
2016	69	2,554	20,719	1,394,091	94,397	140,913	118,435	1,768,555
2017	67	2,408	3,946	897,489	226,829	7,077,924	609,236	8,815,424
2018	6	6	0	128	1	6	924	1,059
2019	51	1,503	4,312	638,784	248,282	2,452,838	157,517	3,501,733
2020	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021	31	439	1,422	118,839	84,453	1,321,454	43,187	1,569,355
2022	35	582	3,630	334,704	40,099	1,043,282	70,886	1,492,601
2023	35	951	2,302	1,069,712	52,644	2,143,701	109,695	3,378,054
2024	54	693	12,172	281,080	68,020	892,098	61,316	1,314,686
2025	38	810	2,962	823,419	50,940	1,975,146	86,649	2,939,116
Averages ^{b,c}								
2015–2024	47	1,268	6,412	698,591	99,642	2,495,688	141,357	2,840,494
2020–2024	39	666	4,882	451,084	61,304	1,732,578	71,271	1,938,674

^a Includes the department's test fishery permit.

^b Pink salmon averages include odd years only.

^c Averages do not include 2020 due to no fishing opportunity.

Table 4.– Chignik Management Area commercial salmon harvest, excluding home pack and department test fishery, by district, 2025.

District	Chinook		Sockeye		Coho		Pink		Chum	
	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds
Chignik Bay	107	769	514,717	2,927,611	3,536	25,493	233,055	767,630	10,466	66,133
Central	308	1,821	114,977	667,690	8,110	55,047	276,388	846,944	15,492	95,953
Eastern	54	494	3,464	19,088	1,501	10,125	352,773	1,121,524	6,381	40,921
Western	2,297	16,166	175,512	1,020,967	34,847	233,456	1,061,590	3,364,261	49,878	313,722
Perryville	142	1,169	5,425	31,982	2,943	18,978	51,030	168,325	4,322	26,383
Total	2,908	20,418	814,095	4,667,338	50,937	343,099	1,974,836	6,268,684	86,539	543,112

Exvessel value

The total 2025 exvessel value in the CMA without any postseason adjustments was approximately \$7.44 million, or about \$201,000 per active participant in the fishery (Table 5). The majority of the exvessel value (\$5.60 million) was made up of sockeye salmon, followed by pink salmon (\$1.57 million, Table 5).

Table 5.— Total value, by species, and average value per active permit, in dollars, in the Chignik Management Area, 2015 to 2025.

Year	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Permits ^b	Value per permit
2015	\$74,403	\$6,600,110	\$101,967	\$940,236	\$164,225	\$7,880,941	71	\$110,999
2016	\$176,800	\$8,044,321	\$158,010	\$95,776	\$161,028	\$8,635,935	69	\$125,158
2017	\$51,611	\$7,182,853	\$546,586	\$6,579,390	\$1,439,418	\$15,799,858	67	\$235,819
2018	\$0	\$860	\$1	\$3	\$1,235	\$2,099	6	\$350
2019	\$31,628	\$5,062,351	\$506,047	\$2,047,651	\$363,019	\$8,010,696	51	\$157,072
2020	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	\$0
2021	\$2,807	\$867,612	\$143,434	\$1,332,609	\$120,000	\$2,466,462	31	\$79,563
2022	\$4,193	\$2,259,129	\$51,567	\$1,193,624	\$176,974	\$3,685,488	35	\$105,300
2023	\$3,816	\$3,849,293	\$26,009	\$1,086,898	\$161,174	\$5,127,190	35	\$146,491
2024	\$1,598	\$1,758,954	\$309,423	\$724,904	\$123,492	\$2,918,370	53	\$55,064
2025	\$13,719	\$5,600,806	\$68,620	\$1,567,171	\$190,089	\$7,440,405	37	\$201,092
Averages^c								
2015-2024	\$38,540	\$3,958,387	\$204,783	\$1,555,677	\$301,174	\$6,058,560	46	\$112,868
2020-2024	\$3,104	\$2,183,747	\$132,608	\$1,084,509	\$145,410	\$3,549,377	39	\$96,604

Note: Values do not include home pack or department test fishery.

^a Values represent the initial price paid, and do not include any postseason adjustments by any processor. The average 2025 prices per pound were: Chinook - \$0.67, sockeye - \$1.20, coho - \$0.20, pink - \$0.25, chum - \$0.35.

^b Includes the number of commercial permits that received income from the harvest. These figures do not include department test fishery harvests.

^c Average values do not include 2020 due to no fishing opportunity.

Test Fishery and Cost Recovery

The department conducted test and cost recovery fisheries in June within the Chignik Bay District to generate revenue and get an estimate of fish population within the CMA and Chignik Lagoon. An estimated 9,324 sockeye salmon were harvested, which provided the department approximately \$26,980 that was used to offset the cost of operations at the Chignik River weir.

Subsistence

State and Federal subsistence fishing was open for sockeye salmon the entire season in the CMA.

Due to poor Chinook salmon escapement through the Chignik weir, state subsistence fishing for Chinook salmon was restricted on May 1. The department closed the Chignik Lagoon and Chignik River watershed to the harvest of Chinook salmon to all users through December 31, 2025. Subsistence fishing for Chinook salmon on all Federal public waters was closed June 20 through August 18, 2025.

State subsistence harvest totals for 2025 will not be known until the spring of 2026 when all permits have been returned.

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