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Advisory Announcement

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KODIAK COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHERY UPDATE # 01

Due to the recent record low Chinook salmon escapements to both the Karluk and Ayakulik Rivers, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is issuing the following commercial salmon fishery update:

Karluk River:

The Karluk River early-run sockeye salmon forecast is estimated to be 115,000 fish, which falls significantly below the established Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) of 150,000 to 250,000 fish. Additionally, Karluk River Chinook salmon escapements have experienced record lows over the past three seasons: only 379 fish in 2023, 76 fish in 2024, and 93 fish in 2025. These escapements are far below the BEG range of 3,000 to 6,000 Chinook salmon.

Due to recent record low Chinook salmon escapements, it is not expected that the Karluk Chinook salmon BEG range will be achieved in 2026. If both sockeye salmon and Chinook salmon runs materialize as predicted, there is a high likelihood the Northwest Kodiak District and Inner and Outer Karluk Sections of the Southwest Kodiak District will be closed from June 1 through July 5. The department would also rescind the two regulatory 33-hour fishing periods scheduled from June 1 and June 15 in the Northwest Kodiak District (5 AAC 18.362). The department will continue monitoring both salmon runs throughout June and early July to determine if a commercial salmon fishing period is justified.

Ayakulik River:

The Ayakulik River total run (early run and late run) sockeye salmon forecast is estimated to be 1,021,000 fish, well above the combined early-run and late-run Sustainable Escapement Goals (SEG) of 200,000 to 400,000 fish. However, Ayakulik River Chinook salmon escapements have experienced record lows over the past three seasons: only 590 fish in 2023, 354 fish in 2024, and 444 fish in 2025. These escapements are far below the BEG range of 4,800 to 8,400 Chinook salmon.

Due to recent record low Chinook salmon escapements, it is not expected that the Ayakulik Chinook salmon BEG range will be achieved in 2026. To attain as much Chinook salmon escapement as possible, the Inner Ayakulik Section will remain closed throughout the entire early-run timeframe of June 1 through July 15. The department will only open the Outer Ayakulik Section of the Southwest Kodiak District to commercial salmon fishing if the department determines that the upper end of the early-run sockeye salmon SEG of 140,000 to 280,000 fish will be exceeded. The department will continue monitoring the salmon runs throughout June and early July to determine if a commercial salmon fishing period is justified.