

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Forrest Bowers, Acting Director

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Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

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Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: June 2, 2026
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Kuskokwim Bay Fishery Announcement #1

2026 Kuskokwim Bay Fishery Outlook

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

2025 Run Summary

ADF&G successfully conducted an aerial survey on the Kanektok River in 2025. During the survey, 6,676 Chinook salmon were counted, which achieved the sustainable escapement goal (SEG). Aerial surveys on the North Fork Goodnews River were not accomplished due to poor weather conditions. Amounts Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) for Districts 4 and 5 are 6,900-17,000 salmon for all salmon species combined. The 2025 subsistence harvest in Districts 4 and 5 fell within ANS.

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

2026 Run and Harvest Outlook for Kuskokwim Bay Salmon:

	Chinook	Chum	Sockeye	Coho
Projection:	Recent Average	Near Average	Above Average	Average
Escapement:	Expect to meet goals	Expect to meet goal	Expect to meet goals	Expect to meet goals
Subsistence:	Normal Harvest	Normal Harvest	Normal Harvest	Normal Harvest
Commercial:	Limited harvest	Limited harvest	Limited Harvest	Limited harvest

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. Kuskokwim Bay salmon stocks will be managed in a conservative manner. Through the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries under 5 AAC 39.222, the state's priority is achieving escapement goals, prioritizing subsistence harvest opportunity, and offering commercial harvest opportunity.

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. There has not been a commercial fishery since 2021 due to no commercial buyer. Recent sockeye salmon run strength projections indicate a surplus available for commercial harvest. Any commercial opportunity offered would target sockeye salmon and minimize catch of other salmon species.

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) 459-7213

More information can be found:

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

KYUK Fish Talk

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