



Advisory Announcement

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Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery Advisory Announcement #20

The Outer, Eastern, Southern, and Kamishak Bay districts closed to purse seine harvest for the 2026 season at 10:00 PM on Tuesday, September 1. The commercial set gillnet fishery in the Southern District closed on August 15. There have been no commercial salmon deliveries reported since July 30 for purse seine, and August 12 for set gillnet.

The 2026 Lower Cook Inlet Area commercial salmon preliminary harvest estimate was 353,726 fish. The harvest was composed of 282 Chinook, 341,686 sockeye, 438 coho, 9,064 pink, and 2,256 chum salmon of which 192,745 (55%) were commercial harvest and 160,782 (45%) were hatchery cost recovery (Table 1).

Southern District

The 2026 preseason commercial harvest forecast for purse seine in the Southern District was 103,800 sockeye and 38,900 pink salmon with an additional 30,500 hatchery-produced sockeye salmon available in special harvest areas (SHAs). The purse seine preliminary harvest estimate is 148 Chinook, 114,186 sockeye, 122 coho, 2,804 pink, and 824 chum salmon with 19 permit holders reporting deliveries. This compares to previous 10-year average harvests of 94 Chinook, 85,557 sockeye, 1,150 coho, 161,996 pink, and 830 chum salmon with an average of 15 permit holders reporting deliveries.

The 2026 preseason commercial harvest forecast for set gillnet is 130 Chinook, 27,000 sockeye, 170 coho, 8,600 pink, and 1,900 chum salmon. The set gillnet preliminary harvest estimate was 132 Chinook, 20,126 sockeye, 249 coho, 2,566 pink, and 637 chum salmon with 17 permit holders reporting deliveries. The previous 10-year average harvests for this gear type were 294 Chinook, 22,914 sockeye, 2,132 coho, 18,458 pink, and 3,273 chum salmon with an average of 17 permit holders reporting deliveries.

Escapement surveys are scheduled to continue through mid-September, however the current preliminary escapement for Southern District pink salmon is within the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 50,000–110,000. The current preliminary chum salmon escapement for the Southern District is within the SEG range of 1,500 – 5,000 fish.

Outer District

The 2026 preseason commercial harvest forecast for the Outer District was 25,000 sockeye, 134,500 pink, and 17,700 chum salmon. Harvest from this district is confidential as fewer than three permit holders reported deliveries. The most recent previous 10-year average harvest is 35 Chinook, 12,311 sockeye, 451 coho, 716,166 pink, and 40,065 chum salmon with an average of 12 permit holders reporting deliveries.

The current preliminary escapement of pink salmon to Outer District index streams is within the Outer District SEG of 105,000 – 235,000 fish. The current preliminary chum salmon escapement for the Outer District was within the 17,500–32,000 fish SEG range. The current Desire Lake sockeye salmon peak count of 8,800 was within the 4,800 – 11,900 fish SEG range, whereas the current Delight Lake sockeye peak count of 1,550 fish was below the 5,100 – 10,600 SEG range. Sockeye salmon escapement surveys are also ongoing.

Kamishak Bay District

The 2026 preseason commercial harvest forecast for the Kamishak Bay District was 46,200 sockeye, 1,000 pink, and 1,800 chum salmon. Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) forecasted a run of 21,400 sockeye salmon to the Kirschner Lake remote release site. The preliminary harvest estimate from the 8 permit holders that delivered is 50,000 sockeye, and 3 chum salmon. In addition, 30,203 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 47,319 sockeye, 1,330 coho, 49,153 pink, and 9,982 chum salmon with an average of 4 permit holders reporting deliveries.

The current preliminary escapement of pink salmon to index streams in this district is below the 35,000 – 150,000 SEG range. The current preliminary chum salmon escapement for the Kamishak District is below the 50,000 – 115,000 SEG range. Sockeye salmon escapement to Chenik Lake was over 9,000 fish, and within the 2,900 – 13,700 SEG range. Sockeye salmon escapement to Mifik Lake was over 6,000 fish which is within the 3,400 – 11,000 SEG.

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 2026. CIAA forecasted a total run of 84,000 sockeye salmon to Resurrection Bay release sites with 76,800 fish needed for broodstock and cost recovery. Total cost recovery harvest from this district was 32,603 sockeye salmon. Commercial common property harvest from this district is confidential as fewer than three permit holders reported deliveries. The previous 10-year commercial harvest average for sockeye salmon in this district is 3,784 fish with all of those fish harvested in Resurrection Bay. CIAA passed 12,000 sockeye salmon through the Bear Creek weir in 2026. However, 1,578 sockeye salmon were subsequently removed from Bear Lake for broodstock, leaving a final spawning escapement of 10,635 fish, which is above the SEG of 700–8,300 fish. 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 over 7,000 fish is above the 3,200 – 5,200 fish SEG.

Table 1. Lower Cook Inlet Management Area preliminary commercial salmon harvest, 2026.

District	Permit holders ^a	Chinook ^a	Sockeye ^a	Coho ^{a, b}	Pink ^a	Chum ^a	Total
Southern District	19	148	114,186	122	2,804	824	118,084
Kamishak District	8		50,000			3	50,003
Eastern and Outer districts	<3	----- confidential -----					
Purse seine total	22	148	164,186	122	3,001	1,578	169,035
Southern District	17 ^c	132	20,126	249	2,566	637	23,710
Set gillnet total	17	132	20,126	249	2,566	637	23,710
Commercial common property total		280	184,312	371	5,567	2,215	192,745
China Poot SHA			28,821				28,821
Hazel Lake SHA			711				711
Tutka Bay SHA			64,962	1	3,460	3	68,426
Resurrection Bay SHA			32,603			7	32,610
Kirschner Lake SHA			30,203		11		30,214
Hatchery cost recovery total ^d		0	157,300	1	3,471	10	160,782
Commercially sold total		280	341,612	372	9,038	2,225	353,527
Homepack	11	2	74	66	26	31	199
Hatchery donated fish ^e		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Misc. Total		2	74	66	26	31	199
Lower Cook Inlet total		282	341,686	438	9,064	2,256	353,726

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

^b 771 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 17 permit holders that delivered, 5 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,

