

EXAMPLES OF SUSTAINABLE SALMON MANAGEMENT TO MEET ESCAPEMENT GOALS RC 079

In every other fishery in Alaska - except Area M- the policy and practice of the Board of Fish & ADF&G is to close commercial or restrict fishing on a stock when escapement subsistence needs are not being met. This map shows the location of several examples. There are many more.

YUKON CHINOOK & CHUM SALMON

Based on concerns over Chinook and summer chum returns, no commercial openings occurred during the 2021 and 2022 summer seasons. In addition, closures to subsistence fishing for salmon began on June 2 each year, although non-salmon gear could be used to target species other than Chinook and chum. With the start of the fall salmon season July 16, all fishing for Chinook and chum, both summer and fall, remained closed for the remainder of the year, although other species could be harvested with selective gear.

SOUTHERN NORTON SOUND CHINOOK

From 1987 to 1990 there was a near total closure of subsistence in order to meet escapement needs. The state's one and only "Tier II Fishery" was implemented in this region during these severe declines.

COOK INLET NORTHERN DISTRICT CHINOOK

Due to listing of Chinook salmon returning to the Theodore, Lewis, and Chuitna rivers as stocks of concern, sport fishing has been closed by regulation, complimented by a closure of commercial fishing during the timing of the Chinook salmon return over the past decade.

KVICHAK RIVER SOCKEYE

Returns to world's largest sockeye run over the last century were so low in the late 1990s and early 2000s that harvest was severely restricted, despite considerable foregone commercial harvest in the Alagnak River that surged during this time.

KENAI RIVER CHINOOK

Due to a low forecast, restricted gear allowances in recent years for the Upper Subdistrict setnet fishery and fishing time allowed only by Emergency Order. When sport fishing was closed for Chinook, the Eastside set gillnet commercial fishery was also closed.

CHILKAT, KINGSALMON, & TAKU RIVERS CHINOOK

After failing to meet escapement goals in all or most of the years 2017-21, these were designated as stocks of concern. An Action Plan was developed that includes restrictions or closures to: commercial fisheries personal use; and subsistence.

