

2024 Summary

ANCHORAGE, NORTH GULF COAST, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SPORT FISH MANAGEMENT AREAS



Ship Creek

King salmon fishing in Ship Creek was poor this season. A total of 558 king salmon were collected in the William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery raceway. The hatchery was not able to meet the broodstock goal of 329 king salmon spawning pairs. During a foot survey on July 11, 2024, a peak count of 285 king salmon were counted in Ship Creek. The total escapement for Ship Creek is estimated at 659 king salmon.

Management Actions

- On June 29, 2024, king salmon fishing was closed in Ship Creek from its mouth upstream to a cable 100 feet downstream of the Chugach Power Plant dam.

Campbell Creek

King salmon fishing is only open for a youth-only fishery in Campbell Creek during the last weekend in June. A survey was conducted on June 25, 2024, and no king salmon were observed from Old Seward Highway to the Dimond Blvd Bridge prior to the youth-only fishery. Surveys of Campbell Creek were conducted on July 22, 2024, and escapement was estimated at 160 king salmon; the sustainable escapement goal of 340 fish was not achieved.

Management Actions

- On June 27, 2024, king salmon fishing was restricted to no bait and catch and release only for the youth-only fishery occurring on June 29 and 30, 2024.

Prince William Sound

King salmon fishing was slow to fair in Whittier and Cordova. Both locations are terminal harvest areas. Throughout the summer and fall, many anglers reported catching king salmon in Valdez Arm. There are no stockings in the Valdez vicinity. No formal surveys are conducted for king salmon in Prince William Sound.



Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2024 sport fishery season.

North Gulf Coast/Resurrection Bay

King salmon fishing was fair to good in Resurrection Bay. Angler reports indicated that the king salmon fishing in Resurrection Bay was slow and that fish seemed to be returning later and in lower numbers.

Management Actions

- On June 26, 2024, the youth-only fishery for king salmon in the Seward Lagoon and Outfall stream was extended through July 31, 2024, to allow additional harvest opportunity.



Resurrection Bay

Anglers reported good sockeye salmon fishing in Resurrection Bay but a more condensed season. On June 18, 2024, 10,761 sockeye salmon passed through the Bear Creek weir, with fair numbers of sockeye salmon still entering the river at that time. Bear Lake sockeye salmon have a sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 700 - 8,300 fish and is managed to escape 12,200 sockeye salmon, which meets both the SEG and the Trail Lakes Hatchery broodstock requirements. The final escapement (excluding broodstock) was approximately 12,564 sockeye salmon.

Management Actions

- On June 21, 2024, in marine waters of Resurrection Bay north of a line from Caines Head to the north point of Thumb Cove and the freshwaters open to sockeye salmon fishing, the bag and possession limits for sockeye salmon were increased to twelve fish.

Prince William Sound

Sockeye salmon fishing in the Coghill River was reported as fair to good this season. The final weir count on July 27, 2024 was 90,196 sockeye salmon through the Coghill River weir. The sockeye salmon SEG for the Coghill River is 20,000 - 75,000 fish.

Management Actions

- On July 3, 2024, the Coghill River drainage sockeye salmon bag limits were increased 12 fish and possession limit of 24 fish. In addition, the fishing area was increased to within 50 feet of the weir.





Ship Creek

Coho salmon fishing in Ship Creek this season was poor. The William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery collected 740 coho salmon for broodstock and achieved the egg-take goals needed to replace Ship Creek coho salmon broodstock and for stocking terminal fisheries. Multiple surveys were conducted by Division of Sport Fish staff in Ship Creek this season to monitor coho salmon returns. High water made surveys difficult in early August.

Management Actions

- On August 14, 2024, the coho salmon bag and possession limits were reduced to one fish in Ship Creek and only unbaited, artificial lures allowed from its mouth upstream to a cable 100 feet downstream of the Chugach Power Plant dam.
- Effective August 24 through September 30, 2024, coho salmon fishing was closed on Ship Creek.

Anchorage Area streams

Coho salmon fishing in Anchorage Area streams was poor. Peak stream surveys on Bird, Campbell, and Rabbit creek drainages indicated poor returns on coho salmon. Sport fishing reports were poor.

Management Actions

- On August 14, 2024, the coho salmon bag and possession limits were reduced to one fish per day, and only unbaited, artificial lures allowed in all streams excluding Bird and Campbell creeks effective through September 30, 2024.

North Gulf Coast and Resurrection Bay

Coho salmon fishing in the North Gulf Coast including Resurrection Bay was poor this season for both boat and shore anglers. While coho salmon returning to the Seward Lagoon arrived later in the season, fishing was still poor. Fishing at the mouth of Resurrection River was reportedly poor this season for coho salmon. As of October 17, 693 coho salmon have entered the Bear Creek weir, which will not provide adequate escapement for broodstock goals. Egg takes were conducted with only 60 female coho salmon at the Bear Creek. Escapement surveys were not conducted for coho salmon due to budget cuts.

Management Actions

- On August 21, 2024, the coho salmon bag and possession limits were reduced to 1 per day and in possession in the North Gulf Coast fresh and salt waters (excluding Resurrection Bay).
- On August 21, 2024, the coho salmon bag and possession limits were reduced to 3 per day and in possession in Resurrection Bay Terminal Harvest Area.



Prince William Sound

Coho salmon fishing was poor throughout Prince William Sound. Coho salmon fishing at Fleming Spit was better than previous years but not nearly as good as observations in 2023. It has not been determined yet if broodstock goals have been met by the Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA) and Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation hatcheries (PWSAC). Currently the VFDA in Valdez does not have enough coho salmon to meet their egg take goal and PWSAC also may not meet their egg take goals at the Wally Noerenberg hatchery. Egg takes for these locations have not yet occurred. Both Whittier and Cordova are stocked by PWSAC and are terminal harvest areas. In Valdez, coho salmon are stocked by VFDA. No formal surveys are conducted for coho salmon in Prince William Sound, except for on the Copper River Delta.

Management Actions

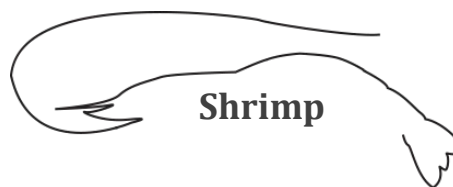
- On August 19, 2024, the coho salmon bag and possession limits were reduced to 3 per day and 6 in possession in the Valdez Terminal Harvest Area.
- On August 24, 2024, the coho salmon bag and possession limits were reduced to 1 per day and in possession in the Prince William Sound Area, excluding the Terminal Harvest Areas.
- On September 13, 2024, the Valdez Terminal Harvest area was closed to fishing for coho salmon through October 31.

Copper River Delta

Coho salmon fishing on the Copper River Delta was good. Water conditions were variable throughout the season with some high-water events and some normal periods of low fishable water. As of early September, the Copper River Delta coho salmon return was anticipated to meet the SEG of 32,000 - 50,000 fish based on aerial survey counts. The coho salmon return is still being assessed.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2024 sport fishery season.



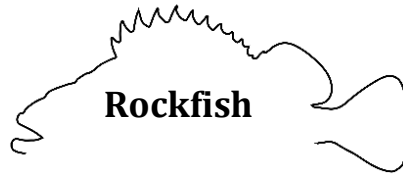
Prince William Sound

The total allowable harvest (TAH) of 117,023 pounds was established from the results of the fall 2023 Prince William Sound shrimp survey. The 2024 guideline harvest level (GHL) for the noncommercial (sport and subsistence) shrimp fishery harvest was established to be 70,214 pounds. This was approximately 30% lower than the TAH and GHL established for the 2023 season. Approximately 4,143 noncommercial permits were issued in 2024. Effort and harvest are assessed post-season after harvest reports are received. Anecdotal reports from permit holders indicate that shrimping was fair to good this season.



Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective April 15, 2024, reduced the number of allowable noncommercial shrimp pots per person and per vessel to two pots in areas near the ports of Valdez and Whittier, and three pots in outer areas of Prince William Sound.



Prince William Sound

The harvest of rockfish has increased and sustainable levels of rockfish harvest are currently unknown. Preliminary stock assessment work was reviewed in spring 2023 and changes in the biological data along with the increased harvest are indicators of a possible change in the population structure of rockfish in this area. In addition, harvest rates of yelloweye rockfish specifically appear to be unsustainable into the future and a seasonal restriction was put in place for the second year in a row to reduce harvest and protect these fish during the period of time that females are gravid and release larvae. The 2024 harvest information will not be finalized until the fall of 2025.

Management Actions

- Effective April 1 – June 30, 2024, no retention of yelloweye rockfish was allowed in the Prince William Sound Management Area.
- Effective April 1 – December 31, the bag and possession limit for all rockfish was reduced to 3 per day and 6 in possession.

North Gulf Coast/Resurrection Bay

The harvest of rockfish has increased, and sustainable levels of rockfish harvest are currently unknown. Preliminary stock assessment work was reviewed in spring 2023 and changes in the biological data along with the increased harvest are indicators of a possible change in the population structure of rockfish in this area. The 2024 harvest information will not be finalized until the fall of 2025.

Management Actions

- Due to Board of Fisheries regulatory action, effective January 1 – December 31, 2024, the bag and possession limit for rockfish was reduced to 3 per day and 6 in possession.



Table 1 – Select Southcentral Region Salmon Escapement Goals and Escapements for king salmon, 2015 to 2024 (preliminary).

System	2024 Goal Range		Type	Initial Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Preliminary	
	Lower	Upper			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
KING SALMON														
<i>Bristol Bay</i>														
Nushagak River	55,000	120,000	SEG	2013	98,019	125,368	56,961	97,239	47,882	43,032	55,222	44,434	31,499	41,893
Alagnak River	2,700		LB SEG	2007	917	1,283	435	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
<i>Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula</i>														
Karluk River	3,000	6,000	BEG	2011	2,777	3,434	2,600	3,155	3,898	3,344	2,796	2,629	378	76
Ayakulik River	4,800	8,400	BEG	2017	2,392	4,594	3,712	2,149	1,948	2,402	2,961	2,845	590	394
Chignik River	1,300	2,700	BEG	2002	2,041	1,843	1,137	825	1,517	1,278	1,072	661	267	1,166
Nelson River	2,400	5,000	BEG	2019	2,440	4,618	1,502	5,022	11,653	2,298	4,539	3,785	4,078	3,542
<i>Upper Cook Inlet</i>														
Alexander Creek	1,900	3,700	SEG	2020	1,117	754	170	296	1,297	596	288	NC	NC	51
Campbell Creek	380		LB SEG	2011	654	544	475	287	393	154	339	423	171	160
Chuitna River	1,000	1,500	SEG	2002	1,965	1,372	235	939	2,115	869	806	NC	372	402
Chulitna River	1,200	2,900	SEG	2020	3,137	1,151	NC	1,125	2,765	845	1,535	NC	494	272
Clear (Chunilna) Creek	eliminated (see Talkeetna Stock)			2020	1,205	NS	780	940	1,511					461
Crooked Creek	700	1,400	SEG	2002	1,456	1,747	911	714	1,444	830	594	735	500	550
Deshka River	eliminated (see Deshka Stock)			2020	24,316	22,874	11,383	8,544	9,711					
Deshka Stock	9,000	18,000	BEG	2020						10,638	18,674	5,440	3,741	3,440 ^d
Eastside Susitna Stock	13,000	25,000	SEG	2020						14,995	15,208	7,654	4,003	Pending
Goose Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	NC	NC	148	90	NC					
Kenai River - Early Run (all fish)	eliminated ^a			2017	6,190	9,177								
Kenai River - Early Run (large fish)	2,800	5,600	SEG	2017										
	3,900	6,600	OEG	2017			6,726	2,910	4,128	2,439	4,045	2,047	1,975	1,365
Kenai River - Late Run (all fish)	eliminated ^a			2017	22,642	18,790								
Kenai River - Late Run (large fish)	13,500	27,000	SEG	2017			20,615	17,289	11,638					
	15,000	30,000	OEG	2020						11,909	12,176	13,952	14,502 ^e	6,959
Lake Creek	eliminated (see Yetna Stock)			2020	4,686	3,588	1,601	1,767	2,692					
Lewis River	eliminated			2020	5 ^b	0	0 ^b	0	0 ^b					
Little Susitna River (Aerial) ^c	700	1,500	SEG	2020	1,507	1,622	1,192	530	NC	NC	889	NC	NC	NC
Little Susitna River (weir)	2,100	4,300	SEG	2017			2,531	549 ^d	3,666	2,445 ^d	3,121	2,288	799 ^d	964 ^d
Little Willow Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	788	675	840	280	631					
Montana Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	1,416	692	603	473	789					
Peters Creek	eliminated (see Yetna Stock)			2020	1,514	1,122	307	1,674	1,209					
Prairie Creek	eliminated (see Talkeetna Stock)			2020	3,290	1,853	1,930	1,194	2,371					
Sheep Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	NC	NC	NC	334	NC					
Talachulitna River	eliminated (see Yetna Stock)			2020	2,582	4,295	1,087	1,483	3,225					
Talkeetna Stock	9,000	17,500	SEG	2020						7,283	9,107	4,288	2,216	Pending
Theodore River	500	1,000	SEG	2020	426	68	21	18	201	111	38	NC	NC	33
Willow Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	2,046	1,814	1,329	411	897					
Yetna Stock	16,000	22,000	OEG	2020						14,850	18,890	16,583	8,294	Pending
<i>Lower Cook Inlet</i>														
Anchor River	3,800	7,600	SEG	2017	10,241	7,146	5,796	3,162	5,691	3,558	4,300	3,147	23,338	3,331
Deep Creek	350		LB SEG	2017	535	NS	753	182	751	327	NC	NC	NC	NC
Ninilchik River	750	1,300	SEG	2017	874	572	855	979	1,185	833	772	687	330	676

Note : NA = data not available; NC = no count; LB SEG = lower-bound SEG.

^a Kenai River king salmon all fish SEG's were eliminated and large fish goals were instituted

^b Lewis River mouth naturally obstructed.

^c Little Susitna River king salmon aerial survey goal is only used to assess escapement if weir count is not available.

^d Incomplete count because weir was pulled before end of run due to flood/fire evacuation, etc

^e Sonar assessment extended seven days, count August 20 was 13,257 large king salmon

Table 2 – Select Southcentral Region Salmon Escapement Goals and Escapements for sockeye and coho salmon, 2015 to 2024 (preliminary).

System	2024 Goal Range		Type	Initial Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Preliminary
	Lower	Upper												2024
COHO SALMON														
<i>Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula</i>														
Buskin River	4,700	9,600	BEG	2014	3,363	2,513	5,559	1,066	5,537	630 ^a	7,919	2,526	NC	NA
Olds River	500		LB SEG	2019	1,357	1,634	10,54	1,000	NS	794	923	1,129	857	NA
American River	400		LB SEG	2011	530	500	410	300	NS	279	297	360	434	NA
Pasagshak River	1,200		LB SEG	2011	1,790	667	701	1,200	488	2,031	4,721	618	2,297	NA
<i>Upper Cook Inlet</i>														
Fish Creek (Knik)	1,200	6,000	SEG	2020	7,912	2,484 ^a	8,966	5,022	3,025	4,555 ^a	6,424 ^a	NC ^a	1,534	235
Jim Creek	250	700	SEG	2020	571	106	5,646	758	162	735	1,499	1,899	378	376
Little Susitna River	9,200	17,700	SEG	2020	11,554 ^a	9,096	17,600	6,423 ^a	3,552	10,229	2,816 ^a	3,562 ^a	703 ^{ab}	703 ^{ab}
Deshka River	10,200	24,100	SEG	2017			36,869	12,962	10,445	5,368 ^a	3,431 ^a	3,137 ^a	1,817 ^a	642 ^a
SOCKEYE SALMON														
<i>Bristol Bay</i>														
Kvichak River ^c	2,000,000	10,000,000	SEG	2010	7,341,612	4,462,728	3,163,404	4,398,708	2,371,242	4,030,968	4,703,520	4,224,882	3,751,686	6,644,490
Alagnak River (Tower) ^d	210,000		LB SEG	2018	5,770,650	NA	2,041,825	1,581,426	820,458	2,386,518	3,236,904	1,668,222	1,099,050	2,356,560
Alagnak River (Aerial) ^e	125,000		LB SEG	2016		696,400	629,200							
Naknek River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG ^f	2015	1,920,954	1,691,910	1,899,972	2,221,152	2,911,470	4,112,160	2,796,534	1,921,296	1,156,206	926,112
Egegik River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG	2015	2,160,792	1,837,260	2,600,982	1,608,354	2,340,210	2,389,728	1,832,196	1,786,152	1,562,700	1,114,008
Ugashik River	500,000	1,400,000	SEG	2015	1,564,638	1,635,270	1,186,446	1,167,792	1,547,748	1,745,940	2,859,930	1,436,784	1,128,896	1,759,776
Wood River	700,000	1,800,000	SEG	2015	1,941,474	1,309,707	4,274,224	7,507,254	2,073,276	2,243,886	4,410,156	3,747,612	2,648,616	4,404,654
Igushik River	150,000	400,000	SEG	2015	651,172	469,230	578,700	1,581,426	256,074	323,814	878,952	378,768	542,496	692,616
Nushagak River	370,000	900,000	SEG	2015	796,684	680,513	2,852,308	1,164,701	709,349	1,228,059	4,697,299	3,455,272	1,914,555	1,708,693
<i>Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula</i>														
Buskin River	5,000	8,000	SEG	2011	8,719	11,584	7,214	4,281	12,297	7,739	2,230	8,117	1,755	9,704
Afognak River	20,000	50,000	BEG	2005	38,151	33,167	22,151	17,601	26,817	24,284	31,997	29,509	35,559	32,218
Saltery River	15,000	35,000	BEG	2011	42,468	57,867	39,315	22,845	22,183	24,987	64,602	25,615	47,936	66,110
Pasagshak River	3,000		LB SEG	2011	2,077	7,053	11,021	2,019	4,537	3,522	8,551	4,377	4,345	7,641
Karluk River Early Run	150,000	250,000	BEG	2014	260,097	164,760	242,599	205,054	186,510	157,441	128,373	175,336	182,172	67,743
Ayakulik River Early Run	140,000	280,000	SEG	2011	218,178	182,589	204,497	266,333	279,639	220,935	265,756	251,690	200,143	221,701
Fraser River	75,000	170,000	BEG	2008	219,093	122,585	129,227	201,161	169,627	137,570	186,632	118,509	100,477	78,504
<i>Upper Cook Inlet</i>														
Fish Creek (Knik)	15,000	45,000	SEG	2017	102,309	46,202	63,882	72,157	76,264	64,408	99,324 ^a	58,333 ^a	44,960	37,920
Kasilof River	140,000	370,000	OEG	2020	470,679	239,981	358,724	394,309	378,416	545,654	521,859	971,604	932,896	1,048,092
	140,000	320,000	BEG	2020										
Kenai River ^g		OEG eliminated		2017	1,400,047	1,119,988								
	750,000	1,300,000	SEG	2017			1,071,064	886,761	1,457,031	1,505,940	2,148,955	1,263,170	2,046,439	1,384,836
		varies based on tier	Inriver				1,308,498	1,035,761	1,849,054	1,714,565	2,441,825	1,567,750	2,351,020	1,538,593
Russian River - Early Run	22,000	42,000	BEG	2011	50,226	38,739	37,123	44,110	125,942	27,103	46,976	61,098	66,818	34,697
Russian River - Late Run	44,000	85,000	SEG	2020	46,223	37,837	45,012	71,052	64,585 ^h	78,832	123,950	124,561	160,430	70,009
Chelatna Lake	20,000	45,000	SEG	2017	69,750	60,792	26,986	20,438	26,303 ^h	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Judd Lake	15,000	40,000	SEG	2017	47,684	NA	35,731	30,844	44,145	31,220	49,250	38,442	NC	NC
Larson Lake	15,000	35,000	SEG	2017	23,214	14,333	31,866	23,444	9,699	12,018	21,987	17,436	38,069	16,133
<i>Lower Cook Inlet</i>														
English Bay	6,000	13,500	SEG	2002	6,290	7,673	20,751	18,083	24,044	31,486	6,328	11,425	23,661	19,529
Delight Lake	5,100	10,600	SEG	2017	3,220	5,110	5,380	13,428	17,410	12,299	7,525	22,717	6,901	8,410
Desire Lake	4,800	11,900	SEG	2017	2,830	6,740	9,450	9,840	9,040	2,260	3,323	20,460	14,700	12,250
Bear Lake	700	8,300	SEG	2002	9,560	9,011	9,207	10,568	9,185	8,212	11,318	9,962	7,975	11,721

Note : NA = data not available; NC = no count; LB SEG = lower-bound SEG.

^a Incomplete count because weir was pulled before end of run due to flood/fire evacuation, etc

^b Preliminary escapement estimate uses weir count minus five year average harvest above the weir.

^c Prior to 2010 Kvichak River had a pre-peak/peak-cycle escapement goal of 6-10 million sockeye and an off-peak escapement goal of 2-10 million fish.

^d 2009 to 2015 Alagnak River sockeye salmon escapements for Alagnak River (Tower) escapement goal are expanded aerial surveys.

^e Alagnak River sockeye salmon aerial survey-based escapement goal will be used in years that the Alagnak River tower is not operated.

^f Naknek River has an OEG of 800,000-2,000,000 sockeye salmon when the Naknek River Special Harvest Area is open to fishing.

^g Kenai River sockeye salmon uses the best estimate of sport harvest upstream of sonar.

^h Weir not operational