

2024 Summary

BRISTOL BAY SPORT FISH MANAGEMENT AREA



Naknek River

Based on inseason information from anglers and guides, the inriver king salmon abundance appeared to be fair with the run appearing to be slightly late and fishing generally being below average. Effort appeared to be near average.

Management Actions

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

Alagnak River

Inseason reports from anglers and guides indicated a fair inriver abundance of king salmon with the run appearing to be slightly early and fishing generally being below average. Effort appeared to be near average.

Management Actions

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

Nushagak-Mulchatna River

The preliminary estimate of king salmon passing the Portage Creek sonar was 41,893 salmon. King salmon are managed to achieve an inriver return of 95,000 fish, to provide for a sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 55,000 - 120,000 spawning salmon.

Commercial, sport, and subsistence catch information indicated average run timing with a return that was well below the historical average. Approximately 4,340 king salmon were harvested during the sockeye salmon commercial fishery. Harvest estimates for the sport and subsistence fisheries are not currently available. Reports from creel staff, anglers, guides, and subsistence users suggest a low abundance with more difficulty in harvest in the sport fishery and subsistence fisheries. Effort appeared to be near average.

Management Actions



- On July 3, 2024, retention of king salmon of any size and the use of bait were prohibited in the Nushagak-Mulchatna River drainage.

Togiak River

Based on inseason reports from anglers, guides, and subsistence users, inriver king salmon abundance was low with the run appearing to be near average timing. Fishing success was generally below average for the duration of the run from late June through late July. Effort appeared to be near average.

Management Actions

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



Naknek River

The sockeye salmon escapement was within the Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) range of 800,000 - 2.0 million fish for the Naknek River with an estimate of 926,112 salmon.

Management Actions

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

Kvichak River

The sockeye salmon escapement was within the SEG range of 2.0 - 10.0 million fish for the Kvichak River with an estimate of 6,644,490 salmon.

Management Actions

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

Alagnak River

The sockeye salmon escapement exceeded the lower bound SEG of 320,000 minimum fish with an estimate of 2,356,560 salmon.

Management Actions

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

Nushagak-Mulchatna River

The sockeye salmon escapement exceeded the SEG range of 370,000 - 900,000 fish with an estimate of 1,708,693 salmon.

Management Actions

- On July 3, 2024, the bag and possession limits for sockeye salmon were increased to ten fish in all waters of the Nushagak-Mulchatna drainage.

Wood River



The sockeye salmon escapement exceeded the SEG range of 700,000 - 1.8 million fish with an estimate of 4,404,654 salmon.

Management Actions

- On July 3, 2024, the bag and possession limits for sockeye salmon were increased to ten fish in all waters of the Wood River drainage.

Togiak River

The sockeye salmon escapement was within the SEG range of 120,000 - 270,000 fish with an estimate of 361,578 salmon.

Management Actions

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



Naknek River

Based on reports from creel staff, anglers and guides, inriver abundance of coho salmon was average for the duration of the run from late July through early September, with the peak occurring during mid-August. Effort appeared to be near average.

Management Actions

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

Nushagak-Mulchatna River

Sport and subsistence catch information indicated an average return during 2024. Approximately 21,453 coho salmon were harvested in the commercial fishery in the Nushagak district. Harvest estimates for the sport and subsistence fisheries are not available; however, angler, guide, and subsistence user reports suggest an average harvest in the sport and subsistence fisheries. Effort appeared to be near average.

Management Actions

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

Togiak River

Based on reports from anglers and guides, inriver abundance was good for the duration of the run from early August through early September. Effort appeared to be near average.

Management Actions

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



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			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	1674	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	1483	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