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Advisory Announcement
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LOWER KUZITRIN RIVER AND PILGRIM RIVER CLOSES TO ALL NET FISHING

Sockeye salmon escapement past the Pilgrim River weir for the first week of July is at trailing all years, except for years when the escapement goal was not reached in 20 years of the weir project.

Last year the sockeye salmon escapement was one-third below the minimum escapement goal of 6,800 fish. The department closed all subsistence net fishing in mid-July last year for the first time since 2014, but the escapement goal was not reached for the first time since 2010.

Effective Friday, July 8, at 6 p.m. all net fishing is closed in the lower Kuzitrin River from 300 yards upstream of the outlet of the Pilgrim River to the Kuzitrin River mouth and in the entire Pilgrim River and its tributaries until further notice.

The department believes that this year's earlier closure will help enough fish to reach the Salmon Lake spawning grounds. Therefore, if escapement improves to ensure the Pilgrim River weir escapement goal range of 6,800 to 36,000 sockeye salmon will be reached, the department will reopen the subsistence fishery to net fishing.

Here are the cumulative escapement counts in Norton Sound:

Eldorado River: 1 king, 382 chums, 3 sockeyes, 1,000 pinks
Inglutalkik River: 15 kings, 2,187 chums, 12,000 pinks
Kwiniuk River: 18 kings, 4,392 chums, 91,000 pinks
Niukluk River: 40 kings, 4,773 chums, 432 sockeyes, 21,000 pinks
Nome River: 8 chums, 270 pinks
North River: 348 kings, 285 chums, 207,000 pinks
Pilgrim River: 1 king, 1 chum, 199 sockeyes, 13 pinks
Shaktoolik River: 843 kings, 6,054 chums, 607,000 pinks
Snake River: 29 chums, 70 sockeyes, 3,885 pinks
Unalakleet River: 58 kings, 1,482 chums, 76 sockeyes
Ungalik River: 51 kings, 6,030 chums, 120,000 pinks