

**FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 25 – 31, 2022.** Report #10  
Compiled by George Pappas - (907) 317-2165, [George\\_Pappas@fws.gov](mailto:George_Pappas@fws.gov) Office of  
Subsistence Management, USFWS.

The purpose of the weekly fisheries update is to provide the reader with an overall summary of the status of subsistence related fisheries throughout the state of Alaska. The target audience is the Federal Subsistence Board and its Staff Committee. The report was compiled with the assistance of the Federal in-season managers and OSM staff that provided weekly updated information by the close of business on Friday of the reporting week. My goal is to have the report sent by the close of business the following Monday. Web links have been included to provide additional information. You may obtain additional information on a fishery of particular interest by contacting the in-season manager, provided contacts, follow the provided web links, or contact me.

### **SOUTHEAST ALASKA**

#### **Sitka and Hoonah Area – Forest Service, Tongass National Forest**

Position vacant – No reports expected for remainder of season.

#### **Petersburg and Wrangell Area –Andrew Sanders, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest**

**Andrew Sanders, (907)772-3871 [andrew.sanders@usda.gov](mailto:andrew.sanders@usda.gov)**

The pre-season terminal run forecast for large Chinook Salmon in the Stikine River is 7,400 fish. This forecast is below the goal range of 14,000 to 28,000 fish. Directed commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries in the area have been closed to protect this return. Currently, all drift gillnet, purse seine and non-terminal harvest area troll fisheries for Chinook Salmon are closed in district 8.

The 2022 Stikine River pre-season Sockeye Salmon forecast is 63,000 fish, with 42,00 Tahltan and 21,000 Mainstem fish. The escapement objective for Tahltan bound Sockeye Salmon is 18,000 to 30,000, and 20,000 to 40,000 for Mainstem fish. The 2022 forecast for Tahltan is expected to meet the escapement objective with a sufficient surplus for allowable harvest. The forecast for the mainstem is not expected to exceed the escapement goal.

The 2022 Federal Stikine River Sockeye Salmon subsistence fishery began June 21, and ends July 31. A total of 100 permits have been issued for the

Stikine fishery, and total harvest is estimated at 1045 Sockeye Salmon so far this season.

**Juneau and Yakutat – Forest Service, Tongass National Forest**  
**Jake Musslewhite, 907-789-6256 [jacob.g.musslewhite@usda.gov](mailto:jacob.g.musslewhite@usda.gov)**

**August 1, 2022**

**Northern Inside Waters** – Purse seine and gillnet fisheries continue throughout northern Southeast. Sockeye catches in commercial gillnet fisheries are strong in both District 11 and District 15 gillnet fisheries. Pink Salmon abundance remains below average, though better than the early indicators were threatening. Purse seine fisheries are starting to open along the Admiralty shoreline of Chatham Strait, as well as Tenakee Inlet and the outside coast. Sockeye Salmon returns in the area appear to be reasonably strong based on anecdotal reports, test fishery catches and commercial harvest data. Sockeye catches in the Hawk Inlet test fishery have been above the ten-year average, suggesting decent returns to northern Southeast. Reports from the field are encouraged and appreciated.

*Sitkoh Lake* – The Sitkoh Lake weir was installed on July 15 (Figure 1). The Sitkoh Lake weir is a cooperative project between the Forest Service and the Angoon Community Association, and monitors Sockeye Salmon escapement to the lake using a remotely monitored video weir. In 2021, we counted a total of 5,303 Sockeye Salmon through the weir. This was an improvement from the poor escapements of 2017-2019, but less than the 8,000-12,000 fish seen in previous years (Figure 2). Returns are likely to be on the low side, based on the poor escapements in parent years.



Figure 1. The Sitkoh Lake weir, at the outlet of Sitkoh Lake, July 18, 2022..

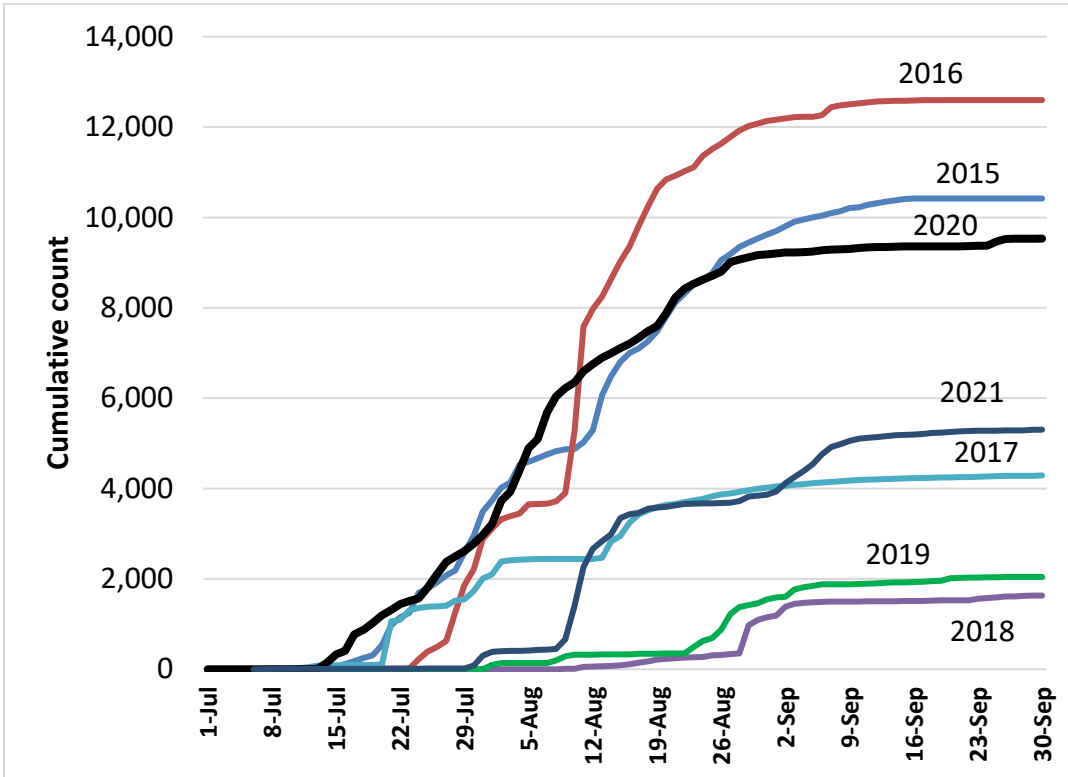


Figure 2. Estimated cumulative escapement of Sockeye Salmon into Sitkoh Lake through video weirs, 2015 to 2021.

*Neva Lake* – The Neva Lake weir was installed on June 17, 2022. The Neva Lake weir is a cooperative project operated by the Forest Service and the Hoonah Indian Association, and uses a video weir to count Sockeye Salmon entering Neva Lake, near the community of Excursion Inlet. As of July 27, the Sockeye count through the weir is at 2,357, with about half of the historical run timing remaining, so the total escapement should be somewhere in the 4,500 range. The first Pink Salmon started showing up at the weir over the weekend (Figure 4), and there are decent numbers of both Pinks and Sockeye at the stream mouth. Live video feed and clips from the Neva Lake weir can be found on the web at <http://nevalake.ddns.net:81>.



*Figure 3. A foggy evening at the Neva Lake weir, July 31, 2022.*





Figure 4. Video capture of a Pink Salmon passing through the Neva Lake weir, August 1, 2022.

*Yakutat-* Commercial fisheries in the Yakutat area continue, with openings throughout the Yakutat area. The Situk continues to have a strong sockeye return this year, with a total of over 75,000 fish having passed through as of July 25. The Chinook run has tapered off, and the count now stands at just over 800 fish. Based on weir counts, it appears unlikely that the preseason forecast of 1,600 large fish will be achieved, but the return is within the escapement goal range of 450 – 1,050 large fish. With the escapement goal met, the Situk reopened to the subsistence harvest of Chinook from July 26 through July 30, though the use of gillnets in the Situk remains prohibited.

**Prince of Wales and Ketchikan District area – TBA, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest. (907) 826-1649**

USFS Weekly Summary Author position vacant - TBA. No reports expected this season or until alternate staffing arrangements are made.

**Southeast Alaska Web Links**

Tongass National Forest News Room <http://www.fs.usda.gov/news/tongass/news-events>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Southeastern Alaska Area  
[http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish\\_shell/upload/Southeast.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Southeast.pdf)

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order Link  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R1>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southeast Alaska  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R1.home>

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

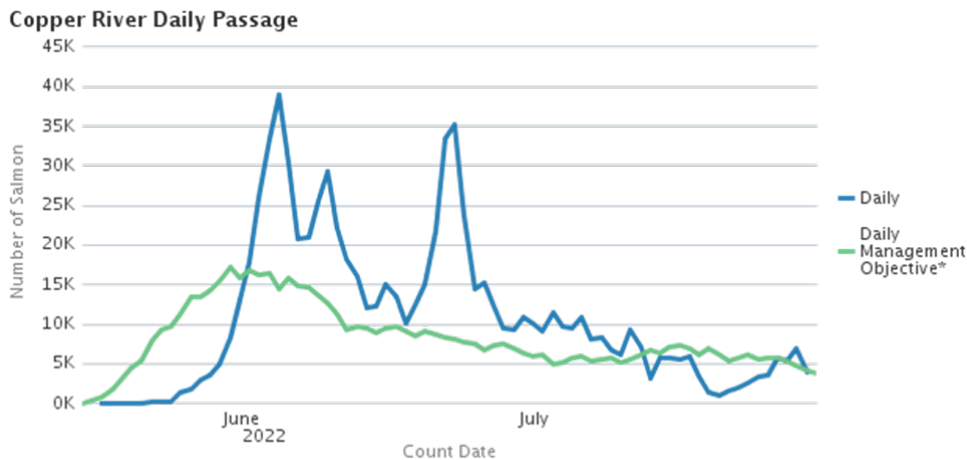
**SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA**

***PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND – COPPER RIVER***

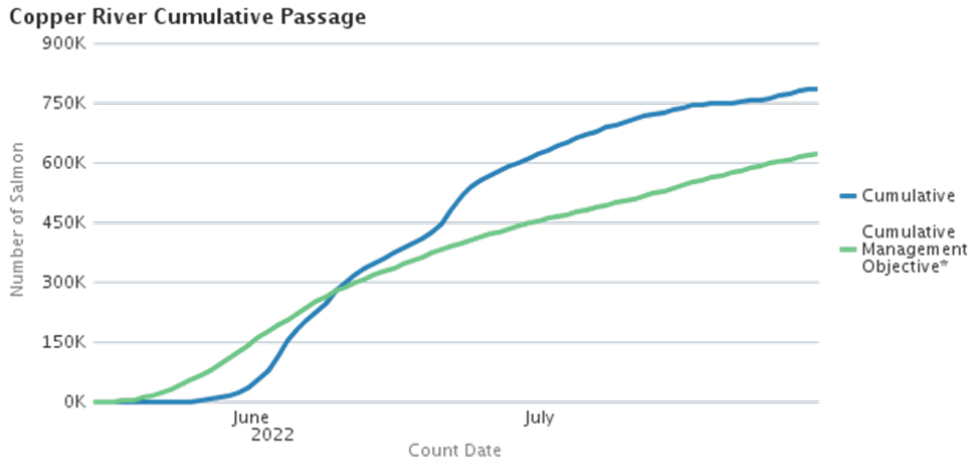
**Copper River, 7/31/2022 Update – Dave Sarafin, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST), (907) 822-7281, dave\_sarafin@nps.gov**

The total Copper River District commercial harvest reported for the season through July 30 is 589,197 Sockeye Salmon, 11,618 Chinook Salmon, 416 Coho Salmon, 58,230 Pink Salmon, and 13,174 Chum Salmon.

The ADFG sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) began limited operation of the sonar on May 17 and became fully operational on May 25. As of July 28, there have been 786,834 salmon estimated migrating upstream for the season. A daily estimate of 3,956 salmon migrated by the sonar on July 28.



**Graph of Copper River Salmon Daily Passage at Miles Lake Sonar through July 28 2022**



**Graph of Copper River Salmon Cumulative Passage at Miles Lake Sonar through July 28, 2022**

Source:

[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon\\_escapement](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon_escapement)

Performance in the commercial fishery and in river sonar salmon passage estimates provide the primary assessments of the Sockeye Salmon return to the Copper River. As of July 28, the cumulative sonar estimate for the season is 27% above the management objective of 620,039 for the season. This management objective is designed to provide harvest opportunities to both Federal subsistence and other State upriver users, as well as to achieve the sustainable escapement goal for Sockeye Salmon.

As with Sockeye Salmon, fisheries managers are also monitoring Chinook Salmon run strength; the primary assessment of this run comes from the Chinook Salmon in river abundance project operated by the Native Village of Eyak (NVE). This assessment indicates that the inriver return appears to be at a level that should meet the lower bound of the sustainable escapement goal, while continuing to provide harvest opportunities.

Federal managers will continue to monitor run strength indices to evaluate the need for appropriate fisheries management actions in the Copper River Drainage. No Federal Special Actions have been issued by the in-season manager this season.

The State subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict opened June 1. The State personal use fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict is scheduled to be closed August 1 through 5:59 p.m. August 4, then to be open from 6:00 p.m. August 4 through noon August 7.

The Federal subsistence fisheries in the Chitina Subdistrict, the Glennallen Subdistrict, and the Batzulnetas vicinity opened on May 15 and are expected to remain open through September 30. Through the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) Federal subsistence permit website, 175 Chitina Subdistrict permits, 289 Glennallen Subdistrict permits, and 2 Batzulnetas permits have been issued to date.

The Federal subsistence fishery in the Lower Copper River near Cordova has been open since June 1. Permits are available at the Cordova Ranger Station (Chugach National Forest). Salmon harvest is only allowed in the Copper River within ½ mile of the Copper River Highway, only by dip net or rod and reel, dip netting from boats is prohibited, and all salmon harvest must be reported within 48 hours. Harvest reports are being directed to a drop box at the Cordova Ranger Station. As of July 24, there have been 69 permits issued with 104 Sockeye Salmon and 3 Chinook Salmon reported in harvest. There has been no harvest reported since June 28.

With funding through the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP), WRST is now operating the Tanada Creek salmon weir located at Batzulnetas. This is the first year of operation since the 2018 season. Weir installation was completed on June 24. The first salmon was documented passing the weir on June 28. As of July 31, there have been 9,317 Sockeye Salmon and 7 Chinook Salmon recorded in passage for the season.



**Tanada Creek Salmon Weir and Crew, 2022**

Links:

ADFG Miles Lake daily sonar estimates

[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon\\_escapement](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon_escapement)

NVE's Chinook Escapement Monitoring project in the Copper River

<http://eyak.fishscan.com/Summary/DailySummary.aspx>

ADFG Copper River Inseason Commercial Harvest Estimates

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.harvestsummary>

ADFG Sport Fish Emergency Orders and News Releases

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=main.home>

**PWS and Copper River Delta – Stormy Haight, Chugach National Forest, Cordova.  
1 August 2022**



Thirty-eight Federal Subsistence fishing permits have been issued for freshwaters within the Chugach National Forest portion of the Prince William Sound area (FFPW01) to date. Harvest statistics of this year's permit holders will not be known until reports are returned this winter. Most harvest under these permits takes place during the coho fishery in fresh waters of the Copper River Delta in August and September. Seventy-four permits were issued in 2021 and 28 were fished. Reported harvest was 459 Coho Salmon, 19 Sockeye Salmon and 4 Cutthroat Trout.

The new dip net fishery in the Lower Copper River Area (FFPW05) began on June 1, 2022. Sixty-nine permits have been issued so far. Most effort and harvest has taken place at 36-Mile of the Copper River Highway. Harvest must be reported with 48 hours, no reported harvest since June 28<sup>th</sup>. Season total harvest to-date of 104 Sockeye and 3 King Salmon.

### ***COOK INLET AREA – Kenneth Gates, Senior Fish Biologist, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office***

The 2022 Cook Inlet Federal subsistence fishing is underway. Federal fisheries on Kenai and Kasilof rivers began June 15 and June 16, respectively. Regulatory dates for the Kasilof River community gillnet fishery are from June 16 through August 15. Regulatory periods for the Kenai River community gillnet fishery are from July 1 through August 15 and from September 10 – 30.

Seasons for subsistence fishing with rod and reel are the same as for the taking of fish under Alaska sport fishing regulations. Most of the initial rod and reel subsistence effort will be focused at Sockeye Salmon in the Upper Kenai and Russian Rivers which opened June 11.

Four hundred fifteen permits have been issued to residents of Cooper Landing, Hope, and Ninilchik. Permit types include a general fishing, household, designated fisher, and community gillnet permits. To date, 3,921 Sockeye Salmon have been harvested in all fisheries between the Kasilof and Kenai rivers: 973 by gillnet in the Kasilof River, 1,959 by gillnet in the Kenai River, 73 by dipnet in the Kasilof River, 853 by dipnet at the Russian River Falls, and 25 in the Kenai River via rod and reel..

No special actions have been issued for Cook Inlet Federal fisheries. However, escapement remains poor for Chinook Salmon returning to upper Cook Inlet requiring State fisheries managers to close all saltwater sport fisheries north of Bluff Point targeting Chinook Salmon including Kenai and Kasilof in-river fisheries. The State of Alaska deemed it necessary to implement further conservation measures for Chinook Salmon returning to the Kenai River thereby closing the in-river sport fishery and east-side commercial set-gillnet fishery July 17, 2022 for the remainder of the season. We will be closely monitoring Federal harvest of Chinook Salmon the Kenai River.

Fish counts at some Alaska Department of Fish and Game-operated assessment projects are available on-line at

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/index.cfm?ADFG=main.home>

**Kodiak Island Area – Michael Brady, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR**

(907) 487-2600/0230 michael\_brady@fws.gov or

Kevin Van Hatten (907) 487-0230 [Kevin\\_VanHatten@fws.gov](mailto:Kevin_VanHatten@fws.gov)

No report for this week.

**FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 25, 2022.**

***BRISTOL BAY, CHIGNIK, ALASKA PENINSULA, and ALEUTIAN ISLANDS –  
Jonathon Gerken Fisheries Branch Chief Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office***

These areas support abundant returns of salmon, particularly Sockeye Salmon; as well as some of the largest commercial fisheries for salmon in Alaska. All of the assessments of salmon returns are conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), and provide the basis for any inseason assessment and management. None of the adjustments in commercial fishing management throughout any of these areas are anticipated to affect subsistence fishing in waters under Federal subsistence fisheries jurisdiction.

Bristol Bay:

Current counts for Sockeye Salmon at installed escapement projects for July 31 (\*\*note many escapement projects have closed operation for the season):

Alagnak = 1,668,222 \*\*

Egegik = 1,784,152 \*\*

Igushik = 377,760

Kvichak = 4,224,882\*\*

Naknek = 1,921,296 \*\*

Nushagak = 3,457,752; Chinook = 44,433\*\*

Togiak = 196,470

Ugashik = 1,436,784 \*\*

Wood River = 3,747,612 \*\*

The Sockeye Salmon sustainable escapement goals (SEG) for Bristol Bay systems are:

Escapement Goals:

Kvichak            SEG = 2,000,000 – 10,000,000

Alagnak            SEG = 320,000 minimum

Naknek	SEG = 800,000 – 2,000,000
Egegik	SEG = 800,000 – 2,000,000
Ugashik	SEG = 500,000 – 1,400,000
Wood River	SEG = 700,000 – 1,800,000
Igushik	SEG = 150,000 – 400,000
Nushagak	SEG = 370,000 – 900,000
Nushagak	SEG = 55,000 – 270,000; Chinook Salmon = 55,000 – 120,000
Togiak	SEG = 120,000 – 270,000

Chignik:

The Chignik River cumulative weir count as of July 31 is 664,068 Sockeye Salmon. Early run Sockeye Salmon account for 424,480 fish and late run Sockeye Salmon account for 239,588 fish. Both runs have met the escapement goals.

Approximately 676 Chinook Salmon have been counted at the ADFG weir as of July 31. The current projected total escapement is below the lower end of the escapement goal of 1,300 fish. As such an Emergency Special Action (8-KS-01-22) was issued on July 13 through August 30, closing fishing for Chinook Salmon in the Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage due to concerns about the viability of the population. The ADFG implemented restrictions to sport and subsistence fisheries concurrently, State and Federal restrictions remain in effect.

Escapement Goals:

Early Run Sockeye Salmon/ Black Lake	BEG = 350,000 – 450,000
Late Run Sockeye Salmon/ Chignik Lake	SEG = 200,000 – 400,000
-In-river Goal	-10,000 in August and 10,000 in September in addition to minimum escapement objectives
Chinook Salmon	BEG = 1,300 – 2,700
Pink Salmon – Even year	SEG = 170,000 – 280,000
Chum Salmon	SEG = 45,000 – 110,000

Alaska Peninsula:

Preseason forecasts are made only for the Nelson River and late-run (post July 31) Bear Lake stocks.

Current counts for Sockeye Salmon at installed escapement projects for July 31 (\*\*note many escapement projects have closed operation for the season):

Nelson = 78,398; Chinook = 2,416
Bear = 368,072
Ilnik = 93,959; Chinook = 10 **
Orzinski = 14,764
Sandy = 42,036 **
McLees = 14,015

**Escapement Goals:**

Nelson River                      BEG = 97,000 – 219,000  
 Late-run Bear Lake              BEG = 117,000 – 195,000

Aleutian Islands.

All fisheries are forecast to meet escapement goals and provide harvest opportunity.

**Yukon River –USFWS Fairbanks Office. July 12-July 18, 2022**

Federal Manager, Holly Carroll (907) 351-3029, [holly\\_carroll@fws.gov](mailto:holly_carroll@fws.gov)

**Assessment Information**

As of July 31 at Pilot station sonar, approximately 45,000 Chinook Salmon have passed the sonar compared to a historical average for this time of about 152,000 fish and the run is considered nearly complete in the lower river. Eagle Sonar passage is exceptionally low at 7, 880 fish compared to a historical average of approximately 41,000 fish for this date. So far this is the lowest Chinook run on record for the Yukon River. As of July 18, the final day of assessing summer chum at Pilot Station sonar, approximately 437,000 summer Chum Salmon passed the sonar. This run is well below the bottom end of the drainage-wide escapement goal of 500,000-1.2 million. As of July 31, the cumulative fall Chum salmon passage at Pilot Station sonar is approximately 88, 000 which is below the median for this date of approximately 150,000. Based on the summer Chum run size and the relationship between summer and fall Chum abundance, the projected fall chum run is unlikely to be large enough to meet the minimum escapement goal of 300,000 fish needed to allow harvest. So far at the Pilot Station sonar, 200 coho salmon have been counted.

Assessment and management updates will be given on the **YRDFA weekly teleconferences each Tuesday at 1:00 pm at the following number: 1-800-315-6338, Passcode: 98566#**. To hear the fishing schedule and fish counts please call the toll-free Fishing Schedule and Fish Counts hotline: 866-479-7387.

**Management Actions**

Under the Delegated letter of Authority, and in consultation with Regional Advisory Council chairs and Office of Subsistence management staff, the Federal In-season Manager began issuing emergency special actions to close salmon fishing in each district, starting on June 2, and moving the closures upriver based on salmon migration timing.

As we transition to management for fall season (fall chum and coho salmon), emergency special actions are being announced to keep fishing closed for fall chum, and to allow harvest of coho salmon for federally qualified subsistence users in Federal public waters. Chinook and summer chum continue to pass through the river, so closures to summer chum and Chinook salmon fishing continue to be in place throughout the drainage.

Fishing for non-salmon species with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets is allowed under State and Federal regulations during salmon fishing closures; however, net length is restricted to a maximum of 60 feet. If a Chinook or Chum salmon is caught in 4-inch

mesh gillnets, it should be released alive if possible, or if dead, may be kept. If fishermen are encountering salmon in a particular area, they should move their net and avoid areas where salmon are running. Other non-salmon gear types, including manned fish wheels, dip net, hook and line, longline, jigging gear, hand line, beach seine, fyke net, spear, or lead may be used but all Chinook and summer and fall Chum salmon caught must be released alive from these gears. Coho salmon, Pink Salmon or Sockeye Salmon may be retained in these gears if caught.

Subsistence salmon fishing has been closed in Federal public waters by Emergency Special Action in the following Districts and Subdistricts:

Summer Season:

- Coastal District and District 1, June 2 ([2-KS-01-22](#))
- District 2, June 4 ([2-KS-01-22](#))
- District 3, June 7 ([2-KS-02-22](#))
- Subdistrict 4-A Lower, June 12 ([2-KS-03-22](#))
- Subdistrict 4-A Upper, June 15 ([2-KS-03-22](#))
- Subdistricts 4-B/C, June 17 ([2-KS-04-22](#))
- Innoko River, June 17 ([2-KS-05-22](#))
- Subdistricts 5-A/B/C, June 21 ([2-KS-06-22](#))
- Koyukuk River, June 25 ([2-KS-07-22](#))
- Subdistrict 5-D Lower, June 25 ([2-KS-08-22](#))
- Subdistrict 5-D Middle, June 28 ([2-KS-08-22](#))
- Subdistrict 5-D Upper, June 30 ([2-KS-08-22](#))
- Subdistrict 6A, June 23 ([2-KS-09-22](#))
- Upper Tanana River June 28 ([2-KS-09-22](#))

Fall Season:

- Coastal District and District 1, July 16 ([2-FC-01-22](#))
- District 2, July 19 ([2-FC-01-22](#))
- District 3, July 21 ([2-FC-01-22](#))
- District 4 and the Koyukuk River, July 28 ([2-FC-02-22](#))
- Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B and 5-C, August 5 ([2-FC-03-22](#))

These management actions were taken in consultation with Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). State-managed waters in these areas have been closed concurrently by ADF&G.

For detailed information on management actions and weekly assessment updates, subscribe to ADF&G advisory announcements at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.search> For daily counts and State Advisory announcements like the ADF&G Yukon River Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG/](http://www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG/)

Recent Fishery special actions are posted here:

[Fisheries Special Actions | U.S. Department of the Interior \(doi.gov\)](#)



If you'd like to receive emails and notifications on the Federal Subsistence Management Program you may subscribe for regular updates by emailing [fws-fsb-subsistence-request@lists.fws.gov](mailto:fws-fsb-subsistence-request@lists.fws.gov)

For Federal News Releases and Emergency Special actions, like:  
[www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska](https://www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska).

**In Season Manager – Boyd Blihovde, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Contact [Boyd\\_Blihovde@fws.gov](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov); (907) 543-3151 or [aaron\\_moses@fws.gov](mailto:aaron_moses@fws.gov)**

No report forwarded for this period.

### **Yukon-Kuskokwim-Interior Alaska Web Links**

*Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases:*

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

*Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Yukon–Northern Area*

[http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish\\_shell/upload/Yukon.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Yukon.pdf)

*NEW = Kuskokwim River Updates Hosted on OSM Website*

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/kuskokwim.cfm>

*Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kuskokwim Area*

[http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish\\_shell/upload/Kusko.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Kusko.pdf)

*ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link:*

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R3>

*ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link:*

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

*Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Interior Alaska:*

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R3.home>

*Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:*

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

**FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 17 - JULY 23, 2022** REPORT #9

Northwest Alaska – Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, Nome.  
(907) 443-6104 [Ken\\_Adkisson@nps.gov](mailto:Ken_Adkisson@nps.gov)

**Norton Sound District**

### Salmon Overview:

The king, chum and pink runs are winding down. King salmon runs were weak this year. Chum salmon were weaker in southern Norton sound and became stronger as they moved into northern Norton sound. The pink salmon run was just the opposite with above average runs in the South and the runs became much weaker as they moved further north. All minimum chum salmon escapement goals have been reached and the north except for Nome River that is projected slightly below the goal for now. All pink salmon goals were easily reached. The sockeye salmon run has been very weak and all net fishing remains closed on the lower Kuzitrin River and Pilgrim River and its tributaries. The department switched to silver salmon management in southern Norton sound, will switch in early August in northern Norton sound. Numerous salmon counting projects have been unable to count this week because of high and murky water.

### Sport Fishing:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game closed fresh waters from Bald Head to Point Romanof to sport fishing for king salmon effective 12:01 a.m. June 23, 2022. This closure includes, but is not limited to, the Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Ungalik, Inglutalik, and Golovin River drainages. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in these drainages. These temporary regulations will remain in effect through August 15, 2022, or until there are indications of a harvestable surplus above escapement objectives. Escapements are indexed by a counting tower on the North River, a tributary of the Unalakleet River, and a floating weir which is located on the mainstem Unalakleet River.

### **St. Michael and Stebbins**

#### Subsistence Fishing:

Subsistence fishing is open 7 days per week in southern Norton Sound from Pt. Romanof to Black Point. Regulation does allow for the restriction of gillnet mesh size in the subsistence fisheries throughout Norton Sound if it is necessary to conserve Chinook salmon.

#### ***Subdistrict 6 (Unalakleet)***

#### Federal Regulation:

Federal public waters of the Unalakleet River, upstream from the mouth of the Chirosky River, are closed to the taking of Chinook Salmon from July 1–to July 31, by all users. The BLM field manager is authorized to open the closed area to Federally qualified subsistence users or to all users when run strength warrants.

#### Subsistence Fishing:

Net fishing is open 7 days a week. When beach seining, king salmon must be immediately released unharmed in the water.

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing opened for 24 hours in the Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 28 until 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 29. Gillnets were restricted to 6-inch stretched mesh, or smaller. Commercial salmon gillnet fishing reopened for 12 hours in the Subdistrict from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday, July 30. During Saturday's fishing period gillnets were restricted to 4 ½ inches or smaller. For both fishing periods in the Subdistrict, king salmon were not to be sold but could be retained for personal use.

The commercial fishing harvest is 117 sockeyes, 1,200 chums and 44,000 pink salmon by 20 permit holders.

**Unalakleet River Floating Weir** - No escapement goals yet established. A cooperative project of Fish & Game, BLM and NSEDC; major funding provided by USFWS, Office of Subsistence Management. Cumulative counts through July 25 were 95 kings, 315 sockeyes and 6,300 chums and 21 silvers. In 12 years of counts both king and chum passage are the lowest ever. The historical average 95% point of passage at the weir is July 26 for kings and the 90% point is August 1 for chums.

**North River Tower Camp J. B.** - Escapement goals: king 1,200 to 2,600, chum no goal established, pink 25,000, silver 550-1,100 (aerial survey goal), A NSEDC project. Cumulative counts through July 25 were 1,119 kings, 66 sockeyes, 1,100 chums, 687,000 pinks and 93 silvers. King passage is in the top half of all escapement years for this date, ranking 10th highest in 27 years of counting, and may still make the lower end of the goal for the 1st time in 3 years. Chum counts are the 4th poorest. Pink counts are the 7th highest. The historical average third-quarter point of passage at the tower is July 25 for chums, and the 90% of passage for kings and pinks, July 19 for kings and pinks is July 25. The crew is unable to count now because of high water.

***Subdistrict 5 (Shaktoolik)***

Subsistence Fishing:

Net fishing is open 7 days a week. When beach seining, king salmon must be immediately released unharmed in the water.

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing opened for 24 hours in the Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 28 until 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 29. Gillnets were restricted to 6-inch stretched mesh, or smaller. Commercial salmon gillnet fishing reopened for 12 hours in the Subdistrict from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday, July 30. During Saturday's fishing

period gillnets were restricted to 4 ½ inches or smaller. For both fishing periods in the Subdistrict, king salmon were not to be sold but could be retained for personal use.

The commercial fishing: harvest is 230 sockeye, 4,400 chums and 30,000 pink salmon by 12 permit holders.

**Shaktoolik Tower** – No escapement goals yet established, A NSEDC project. The crew has been unable to count because of high and murky water. Cumulative counts through July 22 were 975 kings, 159 sockeyes, 13,329 chums and 1.4 million pinks. There were no counts on July 18 because of high water. Kings rank 5th highest in 9 years of counting. Chums are below average ranking 7th highest, and pinks are well above average ranking 3rd highest. Kings are about at the end. The historical average 95% point of passage at the tower is July 28 for pinks, and the average 90% point of passage is July 28 for chums.

#### ***Subdistrict 4 (Norton Bay)***

##### Subsistence Fishing:

Net fishing is open 7 days a week.

##### Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing opened for 48 hours in the subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 22, until 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 24. Nets were restricted to 6-inch stretched mesh, or less, and 100 fathoms in aggregate. Fish retained for personal use must be recorded on a fish ticket. The pink salmon run has been building and is sufficient to allow for pink salmon. Commercial fishing in most subdistricts based on the buyer's capacity.

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing reopened for 48 hours in the Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 27, until 6 p.m. on Friday, July 29.

The commercial fishing: harvest is 1 king, 26 sockeyes, 2,900 chum and 2,600 pink salmon by 6 permit holders.

**Inglutalik River Tower** - no escapement goals yet established. A NSEDC project. Cumulative counts through July 25 were 177 kings, 5,900 chum and 35,000 pinks. Kings were near the recent year average. Chums and pink counts although above last year are well below average. The crew is unable to count now because of high water.

**Ungalik River Tower** - no escapement goals established yet. A NSEDC project.

Cumulative counts through July 25 were 747 kings, 17,000 chums and 567,000 pinks. King and chum counts rank highest, but pink counts are 2nd lowest in the four-year project history.

***Subdistrict 3 (Elim)***Subsistence Fishing:

Net fishing is open 7 days a week.

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing opened for 48 hours in the subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 22, until 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 24. Nets were restricted to 6-inch stretched mesh, or less, and 100 fathoms in aggregate. Fish retained for personal use must be recorded on a fish ticket. The pink salmon run has been building and is sufficient to allow for pink salmon. Commercial fishing in most subdistricts based on the buyer's capacity.

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing reopened for 48 hours in the Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 27, until 6 p.m. on Friday, July 29. Gillnets were restricted to 6-inch stretched mesh, or smaller, and 100 fathoms in aggregate length.

The commercial is 2 king, 66 sockeye, 2,800 chum and 2,000 pink salmon by 10 permit holders.

**Kwiniuk River Tower-Camp Joel** - escapement goals: king 250, chum 9,100-32,600, pink 8,400, silver 650-1,300 (aerial survey goal). Fish and Game project.

The crew has been unable to count because of high and murky water. Cumulative counts through July 20 were 30 kings, 15 sockeyes, 9,372 chums, and 400,000 pinks. King counts have fallen flat. Chums made the tower and of the escapement goal for the 1st time in 3 years. Pink passage has slowed and will fall well short of the million pinks for the 1st time in an even numbered year since 2014.

***Subdistrict 2 (Golovin)***Subsistence Fishing:

Net fishing is open 7 days a week.

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing opened for 48 hours in the subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 22, until 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 24. Nets were restricted to 6-inch stretched mesh, or less, and 100 fathoms in aggregate. Fish retained for personal use must be recorded on a fish ticket.

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing reopened for 48 hours in the Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 27, until 6 p.m. on Friday, July 29. Gillnets were restricted to 6-inch stretched mesh, or smaller, and 100 fathoms in aggregate length.



Golovin subdistrict commercial fishing harvest was 80 sockeyes, 7,600 chum and 1,500 pink salmon by 10 permit holders.

**Niukluk River Tower**-escapement goals: chum 23,000, silver 750-600 (aerial survey goal includes Ophir Creek)-NS DC project. The crew has been unable to count because of high, murky water. Cumulative counts through July 20 were 42 kings, 886 sockeyes, 34,000 chums and 290,000 pinks. Kings and chums are above average, and pinks have slowed and are below average. The project was operated from 1993 to 2012 and the historical averages 90% of chum and pink passage at the tower is July 28.

### ***Subdistrict 1 (Nome)***

#### Subsistence Fishing:

The subsistence net fishing schedule in all freshwaters subsistence areas and the marine waters west of Cape Nome is from 6 PM Wednesday until 6 PM Monday. East of Cape Nome the marine waters are open 7 days a week. There are no catch limits when fishing in marine waters. Check the subsistence salmon permits for the freshwater catch limits vary by river. Beach seines, cast nets, dip nets and set gillnets can be used during the net fishing schedules. But only in the subsistence areas.

#### Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing was open for 48 hours in the Subdistrict from 9 p.m. Wednesday, July 27 until 9 p.m. Friday, July 29. Gillnets were restricted to 6-inch stretched mesh, or smaller, and 100 fathoms in aggregate length.

**Eldorado River Weir** -escapement goals-chum 4,400-14,200. A NSEDC project. Cumulative counts through July 25 were 5 kings, 16 sockeyes, 7,430 chums and 39,000 pinks. Chums are below average, but the lower end of the escapement goal was reached for the 13th year in a row. Pinks are below average.

**Nome River Weir** - escapement goals: chum 1,600 – 5,300, pink 13,000. A Fish and Game project. Cumulative counts through July 25 were 3 kings, 9 sockeyes, 706 chums, 35,000 pinks and 21 silvers. The chum run is below average, and the pink run is well below average. Counts have slowed recently. The historical average midpoint of passage at the weir is July 25 for chums and the third quarter point is August 1.

**Snake River Weir** - escapement goal: chum 2,000-4,200. A NSEDC project. Cumulative counts through July 25 were 3 kings, 211 sockeyes, 2,130 chums, 31,000 pinks and 1 silver. The chum run is tracking above average, but the pink run is well below average. The historical average third quarter point of passage at the weir is the end of July for chums and pinks.

**Solomon River Weir**-no escapement goals yet established-Fish and Game project. Counting has been suspended because of high and murky water. Cumulative counts through July 20 were 71 chums and 4,200 pinks. The project was delayed this year and aerial survey before the weir was installed estimated 25 chums and 25,000 pinks upriver from the weir this. The historical average third quarter point of passage at the weir is July 29 for chums and pinks.

### **Port Clarence District**

All net fishing is closed in the lower Kuzitrin River from 300 yards upriver of the confluence with the Pilgrim River to the Kuzitrin River mouth and the entire Pilgrim River and its tributaries until further notice, Salmon Lake is closed. Elsewhere subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week.

Pilgrim River Floating Weir has an escapement goal of 6,500 – 36,000height hot Pilgrim River floating Weir: establish goal: sockeye 6800-36,000 sockeye – A NSEDC project.

Cumulative counts through July 25 were 28 kings, 1,088 sockeyes, 1,368 chums and 4,500 pinks. Sockeye counts continue to be poor even though all net fishing has been closed since July 8. The only years with lower sockeye passage are the crash years of 2009 and 2010. The historical average third quarter point of sockeye passage at the weir is July 29.

### **Kotzebue District**

#### Subsistence Fishing:

No subsistence fishing restrictions are expected in 2022.

#### Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon fishing was open for 8 hours daily from 9 AM until 5 PM Sunday, July 24 through Friday, July 29.

Catch is now 29,000 chums. Weather hampered the fleet getting on the water and the second week of catches was the same as the first week, but Sunday's catch had the highest CPUE since 2018.

### **Kobuk River Test Fishery** – A Fish and Game project.

Catches have been very strong for sheefish and slow for chum salmon. The crew has been hampered getting on the water because of inclement weather.

<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/fishregs11/norton.pdf>

