

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 29 – SEPTEMBER 5, 2022.

Report #15

Compiled by George Pappas - (907) 317-2165, 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

Reporting complete for season, please contact me if you have any questions.

Juneau and Yakutat – Forest Service, Tongass National Forest

Jake Musslewhite, 907-789-6256 jacob.g.musslewhite@usda.gov

Reporting complete for season, please contact me if you have any questions.

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

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

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=RI.home>

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

SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

Copper River, 8/29/2022 Update – Dave Sarafin, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST), (907) 822-7281, dave_sarafin@nps.gov

Reporting complete for the 2022 season. Please contact me as the above if you have questions.

Links:

ADFG Miles Lake daily sonar estimates

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 In-season 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>

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PWS and Copper River Delta – Stormy Haught, Chugach National Forest, Cordova.

5 September 2022

Fifty-six Federal Subsistence fishing permits have been issued for freshwaters within the Chugach National Forest portion of the Prince William Sound area (FFPW01) to-date in 2022. 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, there has been no reported harvest since the end of June. Inseason harvest reported to-date is 107 Sockeye and 3 King Salmon. Sockeye and Chinook salmon runs to the Copper River are mostly finished for the 2022 and coho salmon are returning to Copper River Delta streams covered under FFPW01. It is likely that there will be little to no effort in the Lower Copper River dip net fishery for remainder of the season.

COOK INLET AREA – Kenneth Gates, Senior Fish Biologist, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office 907 260 0126. Or Kenneth_gates@FWS.gov

Reporting complete for the season. Please contact me if you have any questions.

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

Reporting finalized for the season. Please contact us if you have questions.

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 29, 2022.

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

Jonathon_gerken@fws.gov or 907 271-2776.

Reporting complete for 2022 season. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Yukon River –USFWS Fairbanks Office. August 30-September 5, 2022

Federal Manager, Holly Carroll (907) 351-3029, holly_carroll@fws.gov

This is the final Yukon River report of the season. Preliminary season summaries will be presented at the fall Regional Advisory Council meetings in October.

Assessment Information

Through September 5, the estimated cumulative fall Chum salmon passage at Pilot Station sonar, adjusted by genetic Mixed Stock Analysis, is approximately 235,000 which is below the median of approximately 590,000 fall chum. Therefore, 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. The Teedriinjik, Sheenjek and Porcupine River sonars are operational and estimated passage at these projects are well below average. Fall Chum salmon counting has recently begun at Eagle Sonar and the count as of September 5 is 2,168 fish.

So far at the Pilot Station sonar, 90,000 Coho salmon have been counted, compared to a cumulative median passage of approximately 142,000 for this date.

The last day of Pilot Station sonar operations is September 7.

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.

All Districts have transitioned to fall season management (fall chum and coho salmon). Emergency special actions have been announced to keep fishing closed for fall chum, and to allow harvest of coho salmon for federally qualified subsistence users in Federal public waters.

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](#))
- Subdistrict 5-D Lower, August 9, Subdistrict 5-D Middle, August 17, and Subdistrict 5-D Upper, August 26 ([2-FC-04-22](#))
- District 6 (the Tanana River Drainage), August 16 ([2-FC-05-22](#))

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. Fishermen should continue to follow salmon fishing closures that may be in place for some time. **To check for fishing regulations and schedule in your area, please call ADF&G's toll free hotline: (866) 479-7387**

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/

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

For Federal News Releases and Emergency Special actions, like: www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

In Season Manager – Boyd Blihovde, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Contact Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov; (907) 543-3151 or aaron_moses@fws.gov

Reporting complete for season, please call me if you have questions.

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

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

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/>

Northwest Alaska – Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, Nome.

(907) 443-6104 Ken_Adkisson@nps.gov

This will be the final report for the 2022 season. Commercial fishing ends after the 1st week of September. When the final season analyses and reports are completed, they can be summarized and presented in the first report for the 2023 season as a base for comparison with the 2022 season projections.

Norton Sound District**Salmon Overview:**

The silver run came in much weaker than expected with the commercial harvest in August of only 12,000 fish, well below the forecast of 50,000 to 100,000 fish. The chum run came in much better than expected this year with a harvest of over 30,000 fish, and well above the forecast of 5000 to 10,000 fish. As expected, the pink salmon run was much better than last year's run but was well below the record busting runs from 2016 to 2020, and the 84,000 fish harvested was well below last year's harvest of 289,000 fish.

Counting Projects:

High water continues in southern Norton Sound making counting tower projects inoperable and all projects have been pulled for the season.

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

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)

Subsistence Fishing:

Net fishing is open 7 days a week except beach seining for salmon is now closed.

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing opened for 48 hours in the Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 1, until 6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 3. Nets were restricted to 6-inch mesh size, or smaller, and 100 fathoms in aggregate length for all of Norton Sound Subdistricts. Silver salmon have exceeded chum salmon catch in the commercial harvest and the department has transitioned to management based on silver salmon.

Commercial fishing: harvest is 250 sockeye, 3500 chum, 44,000 pink and 4500 silver salmon by 35 permit holders.

The commercial fishing harvest is 240 sockeye, 3,300 chum, 44,000 pink and 3,100 silver salmon by 35 permit holders.

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. High water has prevented project operation.

Subdistrict 5 (Shaktoolik)

Subsistence Fishing:

Net fishing is open 7 days a week except beach seining for salmon is closed.

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing opened for 48 hours in the Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 22, until 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 24. Nets are restricted to 6-inch mesh size, or smaller, and 100 fathoms in aggregate length for all of Norton Sound Subdistricts.

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing reopened for 48 hours in the Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 1, until 6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 3. Nets were restricted to 6-inch mesh size, or smaller, and 100 fathoms in aggregate length for all of Norton

Sound Subdistricts. Silver salmon have exceeded chum salmon catch in the commercial harvest and the department has transitioned to management based on silver salmon.

The cumulative commercial fishing: harvest is 485 sockeye, 7500 chum, 33,000 pink and 5000 silver salmon by 25 permit holders.

The commercial harvest is 460 sockeye, 7,200 chum, 33,000 pink and 3,700 silver salmon by 25 permit holders.

Shaktoolik Tower – No escapement goals yet established, A NSEDC project. Cumulative counts through July 22 were 975 kings, 159 sockeyes, 13,329 chums and 1.4 million pinks. High water has prevented project operation.

Subdistrict 4 (Norton Bay)

Subsistence Fishing:

Net fishing is open 7 days a week.

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing opened for 24 hours periods in the Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 28, until 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 29. Nets were restricted to 6-inch mesh size, or smaller, and 100 fathoms in aggregate length for all of Norton Sound Subdistricts.

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing reopened for 48 hours in the Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 1, until 6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 3. Nets were restricted to 6-inch mesh size, or smaller, and 100 fathoms in aggregate length for all of Norton Sound Subdistricts. Silver salmon have exceeded chum salmon catch in the commercial harvest and the department has transitioned to management based on silver salmon.

The cumulative commercial fishing: harvest is 1 king, 35 sockeye, 3500 chum, 3000 pink and 70 silver salmon by 6 permit holders.

Inglutalik River Tower - no escapement goals yet established. A NSEDC project. The cumulative counts through August 14 were 180 kings, 6,200 chums, 40,000 pinks and 303 silvers. High water has prevented operation.

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

Cumulative counts through August 14 were 891 kings, 42 sockeyes, 17,000 chums, 618,000 pinks and 5,565 silvers. High water has prevented project operation.

Subdistrict 3 (Elim)

Subsistence Fishing:

Net fishing is open 7 days a week.

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing opened for 24 hours periods in the Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 28, until 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 29. Nets were restricted to 6-inch mesh size, or smaller, and 100 fathoms in aggregate length for all of Norton Sound Subdistricts.

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing reopened for 48 hours in the Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 1, until 6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 3. Nets were restricted to 6-inch mesh size, or smaller, and 100 fathoms in aggregate length for all of Norton Sound Subdistricts. Silver salmon have exceeded chum salmon catch in the commercial harvest and the department has transitioned to management based on silver salmon.

The cumulative commercial fishing: harvest is 2 king, 130 sockeye, 4,000 chum, 2,600 pink and 1,000 silver salmon by 12 permit holders.

Kwiniuk River Tower-Camp Joel - escapement goals: king 250, chum 9,400, pink 412,600, 3,400, silver 650-1,300 (aerial survey goal). Fish and Game project.

The cumulative counts through August 22 were 39 kings, 18 sockeyes, 9,400 chums, 412,000 pinks, and 3,400 silvers. The historical average midpoint of silver passage at the tower is August 22.

Subdistrict 2 (Golovin)Subsistence Fishing:

Net fishing is open 7 days a week.

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing opened for a 24-hour period in the Golovin Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 28, until 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 29. Nets were restricted to 6-inch mesh size, or smaller, and 100 fathoms in aggregate length.

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing reopened for 48 hours in the Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 1, until 6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 3. Nets were restricted to 6-inch mesh size, or smaller, and 100 fathoms in aggregate length for all of Norton Sound Subdistricts. Silver salmon have exceeded chum salmon catch in the commercial harvest and the department has transitioned to management based on silver salmon.

The cumulative commercial harvest is 190 sockeye, 8900 chums, 1600 pink and 1000 silver 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.

Cumulative counts were 42 kings, 900 sockeyes, 37,000 chums, 305,000 pinks and 1,900 silvers. High water prevented counting after August 25 and the project was pulled. The historical average third quart point of silver passage at the tower is August 25.

Subdistrict 1 (Nome)

Subsistence Fishing:

Subsistence fishing: The marine waters are open 7 days a week. There are no catch limits when fishing in marine waters. The net fishing schedule in all freshwater subsistence areas is from 6 PM Wednesday until 6 PM Monday. Check to subsistence salmon permit for the freshwater catch limits that vary by river. Beach seines are no longer a legal gear. Cast nets, dip nets, and set gillnet can be used during the net fishing schedule but only in the subsistence areas.

Subsistence set gillnet fishing in Subdistrict 1, the Nome Subdistrict, opened to subsistence fishing 7 days per week 24 hours per day beginning at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, September 1. The subsistence fishing schedule has been lifted in the freshwaters of the Nome Subdistrict. Nets in fresh waters are restricted to 50 feet in length and not blocking more than ½ of any channel and restricted to 300 feet in marine waters. Additionally, beach seines are no longer permitted for subsistence fishing in the waters of the Nome Subdistrict.

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing opened for a 24-hour period in the Nome Subdistrict from 9:00 p.m. Sunday, August 28, until 9:00 p.m. Monday, August 29. Nets were restricted to 6-inch mesh size, or smaller, and 100 fathoms in aggregate length.

The commercial fishing: harvest is 1 king, 90 sockeye, 1,200 chum, 25 pinks and 500 silver salmon by 8 permit holders.

Nome River Weir - escapement goals: chum 1,600 – 5,300, pink 13,000. A Fish and Game project. The cumulative counts through August 30 were 4 kings, 13 sockeyes, 2,400 chums, 50,000 pinks and 700 silvers. The historical average midpoint of silver passage at the weir is September 2.

Snake River Weir - escapement goal: chum 2,000-4,200. A NSEDC project. The cumulative counts through August 26 were 4 kings, 500 sockeyes, 4,700 chums, 48,000

pinks and 250 silvers. The historical average midpoint 1st quarter point of silver passage at the weir is September 3.

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 to all salmon fishing. Elsewhere subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week. The Pilgrim River weir has been pulled and the escapement count was just over 1,500 sockeyes this year. A recent aerial survey of Salmon Lake and Grand Central River estimated just under 1,100 sockeyes.

Pilgrim River floating Weir-escapement goal: sockeye 6,802 36,000-NSEDC project. The weir has been pulled and the escapement count was just over 1,500 sockeyes this year.

Kotzebue District

Subsistence Fishing:

No subsistence fishing restrictions are expected in 2022.

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon fishing in the Kotzebue Sound District was opened for 9 hours from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily from Sunday, August 28, through Wednesday, August 31.

Chum salmon catches have remained strong this last week and is on track for a top 5 harvest. The season harvest is now projected to be near 500,000 chum salmon and is well above the department preseason forecast of 100,000 to 200,000 chum salmon. This season's harvest was over 475,000 chum salmon and was the 8th highest harvest in the 61- year commercial salmon fishing history, and over double the departments forecast. The department offered his congratulations to the fishing cruise, the buyers and there processing cruise on the 3rd top 10 harvest in the past decade.

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