

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 7-13, 2023. Report #12
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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

Yakutat

Susan Oehlers, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, (907)784-3359;
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- **Situk River** – The Federal Chinook Salmon fishery was closed through July 30. A total of 144 Chinook Salmon were counted through the weir as of August 2nd when the State crew pulled the weir. The Sockeye Salmon run did well with 127,462 counted at the weir as of August 2nd.

Juneau

Jake Musslewhite, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, (907)789-6256,
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- **Salmon fisheries** - Sockeye fisheries in most areas have wound down, and escapements through the region are favorable. The Pink Salmon return is coming in well above the weak preseason expectations – the forecast was for a commercial harvest of 19 million fish, and now looks like it may exceed 50 million fish, limited mainly by processor capacity. Coho have begun moving into inside waters, and anecdotal reports are favorable.
- **Neva Lake** – The Neva Lake weir was installed on June 21, and is a cooperative project between the Hoonah Indian Association and the Forest Service. The weir is used to monitor Sockeye Salmon returns to Neva Lake. Harvesters are reminded that only Federally qualified subsistence users may harvest Sockeye from fresh water in the Neva/South Creek system. The harvest limit at Neva was increased from 10 to 20 Sockeye per household this year, and increased effort and harvest has been reported.



Figure 1. Video capture of a Sockeye swimming through the Neva Lake weir.

Sheet'ká and Xunaa (Sitka and Hoonah) Area

Ashley Bolwerk, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, (907)747-4299;
ashley.bolwerk@usda.gov

- **Chaaš' Geeyí (Klag Bay)** - The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the Sockeye Salmon monitoring weir at Klag Bay which counts Sockeye entering Klag Lake and conducts on-site creel surveys of harvesters. The weir was operational as of June 25. As of August 11, 4,111 Sockeye have entered the lake, and 1,523 have been harvested. August 05, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game [closed the state subsistence and sport Sockeye Salmon fishery](#) at Klag Bay. In 2022, approximately 2,029 Sockeye migrated past the weir while an estimated 1,960 were harvested in the marine terminal area subsistence and sport fishery. Subsistence harvest accounted for approximately 99% of terminal area harvest.
- **Redoubt Lake** - The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir which was operational beginning June 12. As of August 10, 123,624 Sockeye Salmon had entered the lake. With a month remaining of weir operation, this year has already surpassed the annual escapement for all other years on record (40+ seasons). On June 28, the Alaska Department of Fish and game [announced a liberalization](#) of the state personal use and subsistence fishery at Redoubt would take affect on July 1. This emergency order changes the Sockeye Salmon limit, in the state subsistence fisheries, to 25 Sockeye Salmon per household with an annual limit of 100 Sockeye Salmon per household. On July 7, an [Emergency Special Action](#) was authorized through the Federal Subsistence Program, which increases the daily limit for qualified federal subsistence users to 50 Sockeye per household with no annual limit. A separate Federal Subsistence fishing permit, which can be acquired at the Forest Service office in Sitka, is required to participate in this opportunity.

In 2022, an estimated 90,005 Sockeye Salmon passed through the weir into Redoubt Lake. On July 9, in accordance with the Redoubt Lake Management Plan, the individual/household subsistence Sockeye possession limit was set at 25 and the individual/household subsistence Sockeye annual limit was set at 100. Preliminary personal use/subsistence harvest records indicate that 5,850 Sockeye Salmon were harvested from the Redoubt system under 246 subsistence/personal use permits. Approximately 5,549 Sockeye Salmon were harvested in Sitka Sound commercial fishery openings throughout the season. Most of these Sockeye are probably of Redoubt origin.



Figure 2. Folks dipnetting for Sockeye at the base of Redoubt falls (photo credit: Elizabeth Klein)

Admiralty

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- **Sitkoh Lake** - The Sitkoh Lake weir is a cooperative project between the USFS and the Angoon Community Association (ACA). The weir was installed on July 12. The swim-through video weir records Sockeye and other fish as they enter the lake.



Figure 3. SCA intern Chaney Haavik installs electronics at the Sitkoh Lake weir.

Kaachxana.áak'w and Séet Ká Kwáan (Wrangell and Petersburg) Area

Kevin Kocarek, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, (907) 874-2323

kevin.kocarek@usda.gov

No report

Prince of Wales

- **Hetta Lake** – The Hydaburg Cooperative Association staff have passed 2,917 Sockeye Salmon so far. Recent rain and increased flow have likely contributed to the increased number of Sockeye Salmon passing the weir.
- **Eek Lake** – The Hydaburg Cooperative Association staff have passed 409 Sockeye Salmon so far. Recent rain and increased flow have likely contributed to the increased number of Sockeye Salmon passing the weir.

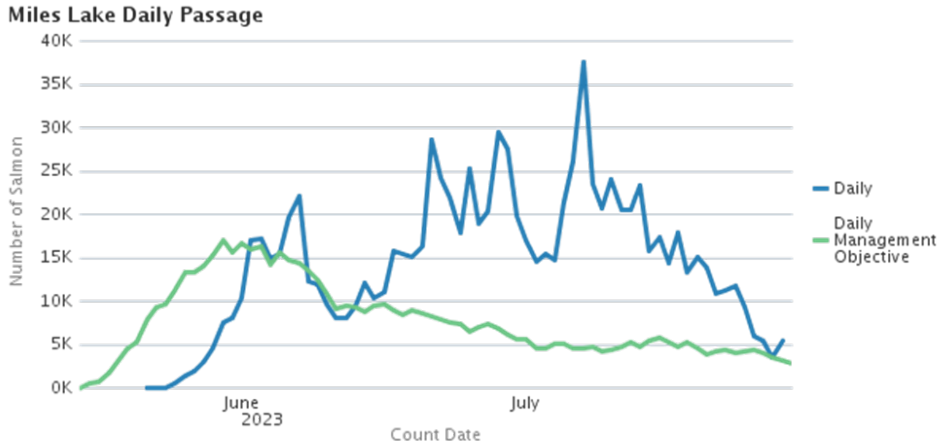
SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

Copper River, 8/14/2023 Update – Dave Sarafin, Copper River Federal Fisheries Management Biologist, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST), (907) 822-7281, dave_sarafin@nps.gov

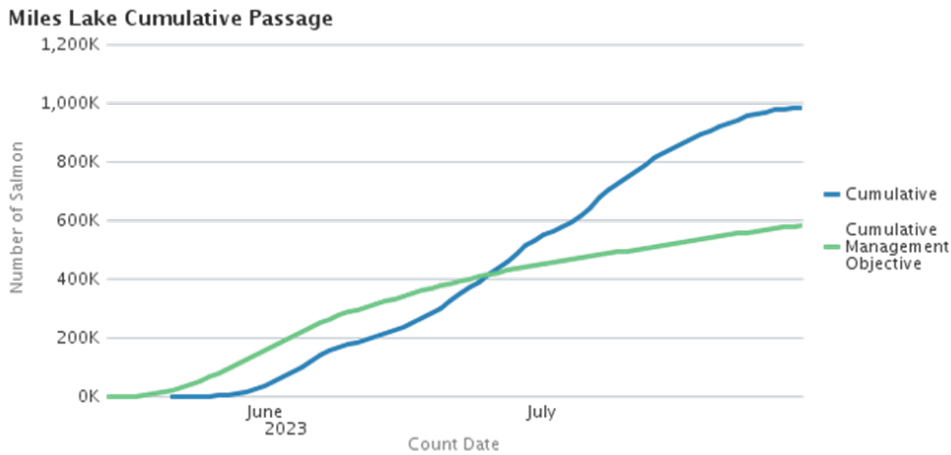
The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) reports the commercial fishing harvest in the Copper River District through August 11 to be 853,300 Sockeye Salmon and 10,400 Chinook Salmon.

The ADFG sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) estimated the passage of 987,450 salmon migrating upstream for the

season, with the seasonal operation ending on July 28. The cumulative passage is 70% above the management objective of 581,172 salmon for this date of the season.



Graph of Copper River Salmon Daily Passage at Miles Lake Sonar through July 28, 2023



Graph of Copper River Salmon Cumulative Passage at Miles Lake Sonar through July 28, 2023

Sonar salmon passage estimates are the primary assessment tool for the Sockeye Salmon return to the Copper River. The sonar season total estimate is well above the management objective and the escapement goal for the season has been achieved. Salmon harvest is being reported throughout the river.

Assessments by ADFG of in-river Chinook Salmon project an abundance that could exceed the sustainable escapement goal range of 21,000 to 31,000 fish.

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 and is scheduled to remain open through September 30. The State personal use fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict is scheduled to remain open for the remainder of the season.

The Federal subsistence fisheries in the Chitina Subdistrict, the Glennallen Subdistrict, and the Batzulnetas vicinity are open May 15 through September 30. Records of the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) Federal subsistence permit website indicate that 198 Chitina Subdistrict, 286 Glennallen Subdistrict, and 2 Batzulnetas permits have been issued to date.

The Federal subsistence salmon fishery in the Lower Copper River near Cordova is open from June 1 through September 30. To date, there have been 61 permits issued through the OSM database. A total of 176 Sockeye Salmon and 4 Chinook Salmon have been reported in harvest through July 29.

With funding through the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP), WRST is again operating the Tanada Creek salmon weir located at Batzulnetas. As of August 12, preliminary count estimates are of 4,118 Sockeye Salmon and 8 Chinook Salmon passing the weir. Through this date of the season, the count of salmon passing the weir is well below average.



Tanada Creek Salmon Weir, 2023

Links:

ADFG Miles Lake daily sonar estimates

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon_escapement

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, Copper River Delta, Chugach – Dr. Andrew Sanders, Chugach National Forest, Cordova. July 7, 2023 Contact – (907) 250-0439 or Andrew.sanders@usda.gov

Prince William Sound / Copper River Delta: The lower Copper River dipnet fishery opened on June 1st. As of Friday morning August 11th, 60 permits had been issued, and users reported a cumulative harvest of 176 Sockeye Salmon and 4 Chinook Salmon. The Copper River Highway is accessible to 36 Mile. For more information about conditions in the Copper River and the commercial drift gillnet fishery, please see the *Prince William Sound – Copper River* weekly update which can also be found in this report.

Water levels in area streams are moderate and have been stable over the past week. Coho Salmon have started moving in and anglers have been successful with rod and reel in multiple Eastern Prince William Sound streams including Ibeck Creek and the Eyak River. Angler pressure is low but steadily increasing, with vehicles consistently seen parked at the Ibeck Creek bridge. Success is also low, but fish are being caught and jacks are giving way to mature males.

For further information about the federal subsistence fishery in the Lower Copper River, users can contact the US Forest Service Cordova District office by calling 907-424-7661 or Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve staff -- Dave Sarafin at 907-822-7281 or Barbara Cellarius at 907-822-7236. Updates regarding changes affecting the Federal subsistence fisheries in the Copper River are available by calling the Wrangell-St. Elias Visitor Center at 907-822-7250. More information regarding the federal subsistence fisheries in the remainder of the Copper River Delta area and Prince William Sound can be obtained by contacting the Chugach National Forest Subsistence Staff – Andrew Sanders at 907-424-4759

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

No summary submitted this reporting period.

The 2023 Cook Inlet Federal subsistence fishing is nearing completion on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers. 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 on Sockeye Salmon in the Upper Kenai and Russian Rivers.

Federal subsistence fishing permits have been issued to 478 residents of Cooper Landing, Hope, Ninilchik, and Moose Pass. Permit types include a general fishing, household, designated fisher, and community gillnet permits. To date, 5,936 Sockeye Salmon have been reported as being harvested in all fisheries between the Kasilof and Kenai rivers: 1,978 by gillnet in the Kasilof River; 2,771 by gillnet in the Kenai River; 56 by dip net in the Kasilof River; and 1,131 by dipnet at the Russian River falls through 8/3/2023.

No special actions have been issued for Cook Inlet Federal fisheries. However, escapement remains very poor for Chinook Salmon returning to upper Cook Inlet. The early-run Chinook Salmon escapement was not met in the Kenai River with only 1,961 large fish passing the Alaska Department of Fish and Game sonar by June 30, 2023. We are closely monitoring the late-run Chinook Salmon escapement and Federal harvest of Chinook Salmon in the Kenai River and will take necessary action if warranted. The late-run of Chinook Salmon returning to the Kenai River is currently not predicted to meet the established in-river escapement goal. Escapement to date is at 9,667.

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

No summary submitted this reporting period.

Deer hunting opened on August 1, 2023, and many subsistence users have turned their attention to harvesting deer. Those individuals who were not able to meet their subsistence fishing needs close to town are targeting Coho salmon. Many of the weirs will be pulled within the next 2-3 weeks.

Pink Salmon continue to have strong returns with well over 16,000 fish passing through the weir, as of August 3. The sockeye salmon run is close being over and it's unfortunate that it will meet the lower escapement goal. Coho Salmon are being caught by sport fishing users around Kodiak.

Any reports of subsistence activities will be reported during the upcoming week.

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF August 13, 2023.

***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 covered in this report.

Bristol Bay:

Current counts for Sockeye Salmon at installed escapement projects for August 7: All projects have met escapement goals.

Alagnak = No counts reported

Egegik = 1,562,700 (project removed on July 25)

Igushik = 542,496 (project removed on August 2)

Kvichak = 3,751,260 (project removed on July 28)

Naknek = 1,156,206 (project removed on July 22)

Nushagak = 1,772,675; Chinook = 31,497 (project removed on July 25)

Togiak = 268,218 (project removed on August 7)

Ugashik = 1,128,188 (project removed on July 28)

Wood River = 2,648,616 (project removed on July 25)

Chignik:

The Chignik River cumulative weir count as of August 13 is 743,913 Sockeye Salmon with 306,860 fish representing the late run. Both runs have met escapement goals.

There has been only 261 Chinook Salmon counted at the ADFG weir as of August 13. It is unlikely, based on the current rate of escapement, that the lower range (1,300) of the escapement goal for Chignik River Chinook Salmon will be achieved. In an effort to conserve the Chinook Salmon run, both state and Federal fisheries closures remain in effect. The Federal closures are in place until August 30.

Alaska Peninsula:

Current counts for Sockeye Salmon at installed escapement projects for August 13:

Nelson = 230,213; Chinook = 4,078 (weir removed on July 27)

Bear = 371,491; 81,390 are late run fish

Ilnik = 99,021 (weir removed July 19)

Orzinski = 19,512 (weir removed August 3)

Sandy = 36,257 (weir removed July 22)
 McLees = 26,945 (weir removed August 2)

Escapement Goals:

Nelson River BEG = 97,000 – 219,000
 Late-run Bear Lake BEG = 117,000 – 195,000 (counts begin Aug 1)

Aleutian Islands.

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

Yukon River –USFWS Fairbanks Office. August 7-13, 2023

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

Assessment and Management Information

The fall season is underway in the lower river. The Canadian-origin component of the fall chum run has been poor the last few years, so the run may not be large enough to meet escapement goals for the Canadian stocks of fall chum. At this time, closures to retention of chum salmon are already in place in Districts 1 through 4 and are announced in Subdistrict 5-ABC. Closures will be necessary until it is projected that all escapement goals will be met for fall chum salmon. Throughout the drainage, Chinook salmon still need to be released, but, pink, coho and sockeye salmon can be retained from selective gears. Gillnets are still limited to 4-inches maximum mesh size, and 60 feet maximum length. Selective gear salmon fishing opportunities in fall season are limited to federally qualified users in federal public waters by Temporary special action, and fishing closures for fall chum salmon are announced for the Coastal District and Districts 1-3 here: [TSA-02-FC-01-23](#); and for District 4 here: [TSA-02-FC-02-23](#); and for District 5-ABC here: [TSA-02-FC-03-23](#).

Eagle sonar is counting passage of Chinook with the run ³/₄ point of the run for that project. Counts are somewhat higher than what escaped over the border last year, but are still well below the previous Interim Management Escapement Goal of 42,500-55,000. **It is imperative that all Chinook be released alive from selective gear.**

YR DFA weekly teleconferences each Tuesday at 1:00 pm at the following number: 1-800-315-6338, Passcode: 98566#.

Management Strategies based on the preseason outlooks and inseason assessment:

The Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) received special action request FSA23-02 asking the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) to close Federal public waters of the Yukon River drainage to the harvest of Chinook, Chum and Coho salmon except by federally qualified subsistence users from June 1 through September 30, 2023, and to require that Federal subsistence fishing schedules, openings, closures and methods be determined by the Federal Fisheries Manager. This request falls within the scope of authority of the Federal manager, Holly Carroll and has been transferred to her by the Board. See detailed management strategy here:

[2023 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE FISHERY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE YUKON AREA \(doi.gov\)](#)

This week's Advisory Announcements co-authored by ADF&G and USFWS and distributed by ADF&G were:

- **Yukon River Fall Assessment Update #3:**
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/dcfnewsrelease/1525456646.pdf>

Where to Find Yukon Fishery Information:

To hear the fishing schedule and fish counts please call the toll-free Fishing Schedule and Fish Counts hotline: 866-479-7387.

Recent Fishery special actions are posted here:

<https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries-special-actions>

For Federal News Releases and Special actions, like

www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

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/

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

In Season Manager – Boyd Blihovde, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov; Contact Spencer Reardon (907)543-1023 or spencer_reardon@fws.gov

The Bethel Test Fish numbers for coho salmon are indicating promising numbers (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.salmon#fishcounts>). Therefore, the USFWS and the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission agreed to two 12-hour drift and set net openers for August 9 and 12.

With relatively low effort and a building coho salmon run, the USFWS and the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission agreed to relinquish Kuskokwim River salmon management back to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game starting August 14.

This summary report will serve as the last one for year 2023.

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

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

Norton Sound District

Sport Fishing:

To help protect king salmon during periods of low abundance and provide future sport fishing opportunities, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game closed all fresh waters in Northwest Alaska from Bald Head to Point Romanof to sport fishing for king salmon effective 12:01 a.m. April 5, 2023. This closure includes, but is not limited to, the Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Ungalik, Inglutalik, and Golsovia River drainages. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in these drainages. Restricting fishing gear to one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure should minimize catch-and-release mortality for king salmon incidentally caught while sport fishing for other species. All king salmon caught incidentally may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

These temporary regulations will remain in effect through August 15, 2023, or until there are indications of a harvestable surplus of king salmon above escapement objectives.

Escapements are determined by counts compiled at a counting tower on the North River, a tributary of the Unalakleet River, and counts at a floating weir located on the mainstem Unalakleet River.

The 2023 preseason outlook for the Unalakleet River drainage king salmon run is low, and the number of returning king salmon may be insufficient to meet escapement objectives and provide a moderate harvestable surplus for the subsistence fishery. According to the [Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District and the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan \(5 AAC 04.395\)](#), when the inriver subsistence fishery is closed to the retention of king salmon, sport fishing for king salmon will be closed.

Shaktoolik (5) and Unalakleet (6) Subdistricts

Subsistence Fishing:

The Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts reopened to subsistence fishing in the marine and fresh waters to provide opportunity for subsistence fishermen to harvest coho salmon. The department relaxed restrictions after over 90 percent of the king and chum salmon runs were no longer susceptible to harvest. An aerial survey of the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet River drainages indicated that returns inot hose systems is poor and well behind historical averages.

Commercial Fishing:

The Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts reopened to commercial fishing for one24-hour period at 6:00 p.m. Monday. August 7 to gauge the strength of the coho runs in those districts.

Unalakleet River Floating Weir - No escapement goals yet established. A cooperative project of Fish & Game, Native Village of Unalakleet, BLM and NSEDC; major funding provided by USFWS, Office of Subsistence Management. The weir was fish tight on July 1. The cumulative counts passed are 35 kings, 3,120 coho, 150 sockeyes and 7,000 pinks and 12,230 chums. Recent rains have caused the river to rise to such an extent that counting operations were suspended Monday, July 10 and resumed July 20.

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. The tower has been operational since June 24 and has remained operational most of the season with the exception with a few days missed due to high, murky water. The tower has passed 380 king, 520 chum, 200 coho and 8,350 pink salmon.

Shaktoolik Tower – No escapement goals yet established, A NSEDC project. The tower began operations on June 26 and has passed an estimated 780 king, 4,100 chum, 21,300 pink and 50 sockeye salmon. The tower was inoperable from July 10 through July 30.

NORTON Bay Subdistrict (4)

Subsistence Fishing:

There are currently no restrictions to Subsistence fishing.

Commercial Fishing:

The Subdistrict opened to commercial fishing for one 24-hour period at 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 7 to gauge the strength of the coho run.

Inglutalik River Tower - no escapement goals yet established. A NSEDC project. The project became operational on June 28. Estimated passages are 200 king, 1,800 chum and 200 pink salmon. High water closed operations July 10,

Ungalik River Tower - no escapement goals established yet. A NSEDC project. The tower became operational on June 28. Estimated passage is 63 king, 4,700 chum, 250 coho and 11,900 pink salmon. The tower has experienced high water events that have caused the tower to be inoperable since August 4.

Elim Subdistrict (3)

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 tower became operational July 5. Current escapements for the project are 18 kings 3,500 chum, 17,780 pink, 2,200 coho and 18 sockeye salmon. Escapements have lagged expectations, and commercial fishing has been delayed attempting to get more fish to the spawning grounds.

Subsistence Fishing:

Subsistence fishing is allowed 7 days per week.

Commercial Fishing:

Escapements at the Kwiniuk Tower have been lagging so ADF&G is forgoing a commercial harvest this week in order to bolster escapement into the system. However, coho salmon escapement is beginning to ramp up at the Kwiniuk tower so the department scheduled one 24-hour commercial period at 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 7 to gauge run strength in the marine waters of the subdistrict.

Golovin Subdistrict (2)

Niukluk River Tower – NSEDC Project. The project became operational July 25 and passage has been 18 kings, 5,000 chum, 400 coho, and 5,000 pink salmon.

Subsistence Fishing:

Subsistence fishing is allowed 7 days per week.

Commercial Fishing:

Subdistrict 2 (Golovin) opened to commercial salmon fishing for a weekly schedule of one 48-hour period with a mesh size of 6 inches or less. The cumulative harvest is 11,250 chum, 150 sockeye, 270 coho and 350 pink salmon.

Nome Subdistrict (1)

Subsistence Fishing:

The Nome Subdistrict remains on a subsistence fishing schedule in marine waters west of Cape Nome and in all fresh waters of the Nome Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays till 6:00 p.m. Mondays. Marine waters of the Nome Subdistrict east of Cape Nome remain open 7 days per week.

Effective June 15, beach seines, dip nets, and cast net could be used for salmon and will be open in all subsistence areas of the Nome Subdistrict whenever subsistence gillnet fishing is open. Unless closed by emergency order, beach seining will remain open during gillnet fishing periods through August 15.

Commercial Fishing:

Subdistrict 1 (Nome) opened for two 48-hour periods per week, Monday, from 9:00 p.m. August 7 through 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 9, and from 9:00 p.m. Thursday, August 10, through 9:00 p.m. Saturday, August 12 with gillnet mesh size restricted to 6 inches or smaller targeting chum salmon. The commercial harvest in the Subdistrict is confidential.

Eldorado River Weir -escapement goals-chum 4,400-14,200. A NSEDC project. The weir was fish tight the evening of June 30. Escapement has passed 10 kings, 8,000 chum, 20 sockeye, 5 coho and 500 pink salmon. The project has met and escapement goals for chum salmon and ceased operations on June 26.

Nome River Weir – ADF&G Project. Water conditions finally allowed the installation of the weir on July 28 and current escapements are 1 king, 900 chum, 2 coho and 2,100 pink salmon.

Snake River Weir – NSEDC Project. The weir started counting on July 24 and current escapements are 2 king, 1,000 chum, 40 coho and 1,000 pink salmon.

Port Clarence District

Pilgrim River Weir – A NSEDC project. The weir has been fish tight since July 6. Passage has been slow so far with 10 kings, 5,500 chums, 1,600 sockeyes and 600 pink salmon passed the weir. Sockeye salmon are not projected to meet the escapement goal.

Nome River Weir – ADF&G Project

Subsistence Fishing:

The Pilgrim River will remain closed to subsistence net fishing given the weak salmon returns. Escapement will continue to be monitored and restrictions may be relaxed if inseason assessment indicates there is a surplus to escapement needs.

Commercial Fishing:

No commercial fishing periods are expected due to lack of market interest and the likelihood of sockeye salmon escapement goals not being met. The Pilgrim River will be closed to subsistence net fishing. Escapement will be monitored and if run strength warrants it, restrictions may be relaxed.

Kotzebue District

Subsistence Fishing:

No changes to existing subsistence fishing are anticipated.

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 8 hours daily from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Sunday, August 6 through Friday, August 11 in the Kotzebue Sound District. In Subdistrict 1 of the Kotzebue District, marine waters adjacent to the end of the runway from the Weather Service Dome south of the main runway to the NANA building north of the main runway and extending one mile offshore into Kotzebue Sound perpendicular to the beach remains closed to both subsistence and commercial fishing in order to avoid birds being attracted to fishing nets near the end of the airport runway and becoming a safety hazard.