

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5-11, 2023. Report #16
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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

Yakutat Susan Oehlers, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, (907)784-3359;
susan.oehlers@usda.gov

Reporting completed for the 2023 season. Please contact author if you have questions.

Juneau

Jake Musslewhite, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, (907)789-6256,
Jacob.g.musslewhite@usda.gov

A final season end report will be submitted the first week of October.

Sheet'ká and Xunaa (Sitka and Hoonah) Area

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

A final season end report will be submitted the first week of October.

- **Chaas' Geeyí (Klag Bay) -**
- **Kunáa Shak.áayi (Redoubt Lake) - probably of Redoubt origin.**

Figure 1. Weir technicians pass fish on a gorgeous sunny day at the Redoubt Lake weir.

Admiralty

Jake Musslewhite, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, (907)789-6256,
Jacob.g.musslewhite@usda.gov

- **Sitkoh Lake -**

Figure 2. SCA intern Chaney Haavik (left) and USFS fisheries technician Juliet HARRison in front of the newly installed Starlink system 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

Reporting complete for the season, please contact author if you have questions.

Prince of Wales

A final season end report will be submitted the first week of October.

- **Hetta Lake –**
- **Eek Lake –**

SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

Copper River, 8/28/2023 Update – Dave Sarafin, Copper River Federal Fisheries Management Biologist, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST), (907) 822-7281, dave_sarafin@nps.gov

Reporting completed for the 2023 season, please contact author if you have questions. Please contact author if you have questions.

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

OSM fisheries update September 10st, 2023
Chugach NF PWZ

Prince William Sound / Copper River Delta: The lower Copper River dipnet fishery opened on June 1st. As of Friday morning September 11th, 70 permits had been issued, and users reported a cumulative harvest of 176 Sockeye Salmon and 4 Chinook Salmon. No harvest has been reported since August 1st. This will be the final update for the Lower Copper dipnet fishery.

Water levels in areas streams have been high and flashy over the last week as fall storm systems have continued to move through. Coho Salmon are running and anglers have been successful in multiple Eastern Prince William Sound streams including Ibeck Creek and the Eyak River, when water levels have been low enough to fish. Angler pressure is moderate-high, with vehicles consistently seen parked at the Ibeck Creek bridge and along the Copper River Highway. As of September 11th, 94 permits have been issued for the subsistence fishery consisting of the freshwaters outside of the Copper River Drainage within the Chugach National Forest.

The Forest Service has been patrolling at Ibeck Creek to monitor conditions and to provide information on Federal subsistence regulations and bear safety. Bear activity is increasing across the Copper River delta, and the Forest Service has received multiple reports of brown bear and black bear encounters at Ibeck and other popular fishing areas. The areas with highest bear activity have also been the areas with the highest volumes of bear attractants such as discarded salmon carcasses and roe. Anglers are strongly encouraged to pack out their fish whole and process them at the cleaning stations in town (located at the city harbor and out Orca Road), to keep their stringers and gear immediately next to them, and to utilize bear spray to defend their fish if approached by a bear.

For further information about the federal subsistence fisheries of the Copper River Delta area and Prince William Sound users can contact 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

Reporting concluded for season. Please contact author if you have 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

Subsistence fishing has been completed for the 2023 season. Please call author if you have any questions.

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

Reporting complete for 2023 season.
 Please contact author if you have questions.

Yukon River –USFWS Fairbanks Office. August 28-September 4, 2023
 Federal Manager, Holly Carroll (907) 351-3029, holly_carroll@fws.gov
 Please contact author if you have questions.

**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**

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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

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