

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

1 (800) 315-6338 (MEET) Code: 58756# (KUSKO)

ADF&G Bethel toll free: 1 (855) 933-2433

Meeting Agenda

Date: 7/17/2024

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Place: Bethel

Time Called to Order:

Chair:

ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM:

Upriver Elder:
Downriver Elder:
Commercial Fisher:
Lower River Subsistence:
Middle River Subsistence:
Upper River Subsistence:
Headwaters Subsistence:

QUORUM MET? Yes / No

Member at Large:
Member at Large 2:
Sport Fisher:
Western Interior RAC:
Y-K Delta RAC:
KRITFC:
ADF&G:

INTRODUCTIONS:

INVOCATION:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *the agenda may be amended at this time.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Optional. ADF&G does not prepare official meeting minutes.*

USFWS MANAGEMENT UPDATE:

ADF&G MANAGEMENT ACTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION:

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD: *Non-Working Group Members*

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- Subsistence Reports: Lowest River, ONC Inseason Subsistence Report, KRITFC Inseason Harvest Report, Lower River, Middle River, Upper River, Headwaters
- Overview of Kuskokwim River salmon run assessment:
 - a. Test Fisheries (Bethel and Aniak):
 - b. Sonar/Weirs/Aerial Surveys/Other:
 - c. Subsistence Division Project Update:
- Commercial Catch Report: N/A
- Processor Report: N/A
- Sport Fish Report:
- Intercept Fishery Report: *optional*
- Weather Forecast:
- Discussion of ADF&G Management considerations and discussion of possible alternatives (recommendations from the Working Group):
- Motion for Discussion and Action:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

NEXT MEETING DATE: _____ **Time:** _____ **Place:** _____

Informational Packet

Information Packets *ARE*:

- Intended to help inform Working Group discussions.
- To be viewed and used in context with Working Group meetings only.

Packets *ARE NOT*:

- To be viewed as standalone documents.
- A final say on fisheries management decisions.

Please use this information responsibly:

Packet information is an incomplete snapshot of an ongoing discussion and changing conditions. Packet information should not be reproduced for any purpose other than to describe Working Group meeting discussions.

Misuse of Packet information can contribute to misunderstandings that can **cause harm to salmon users** and potentially **damage salmon resources**.

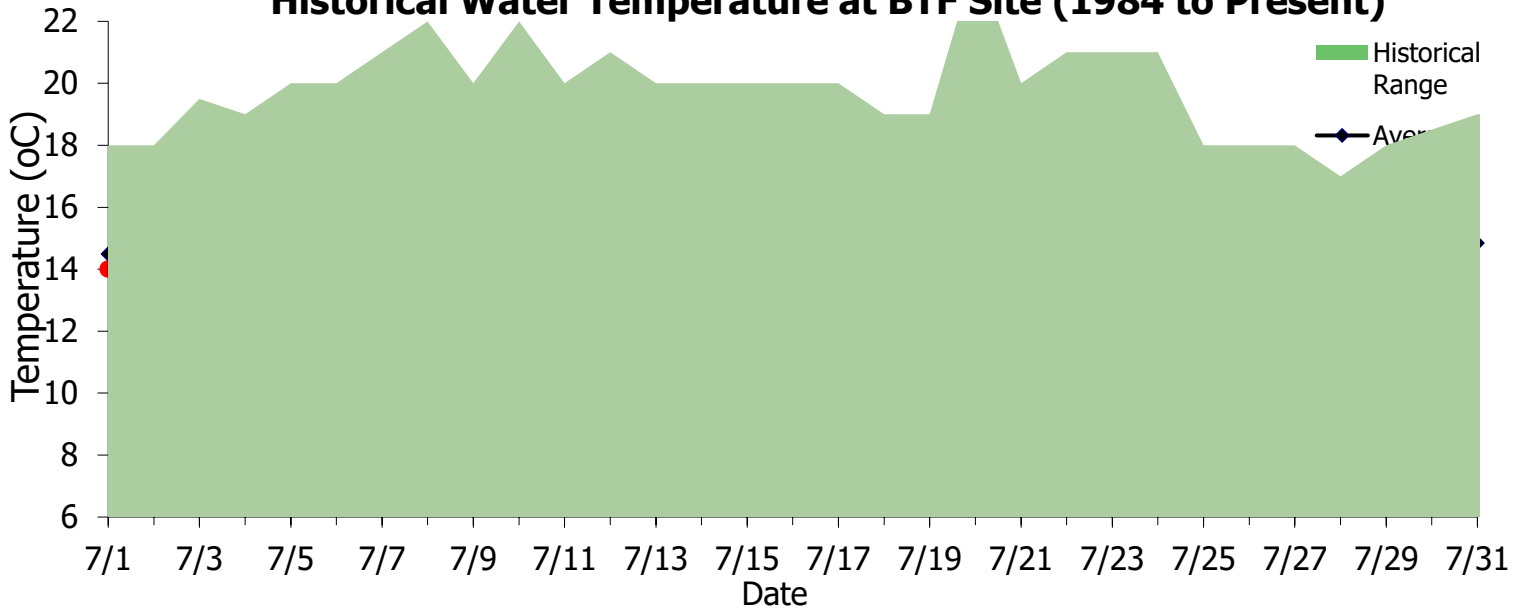
Ask Questions: ADF&G staff will be happy to answer biology and management questions. Please call **1-855-933-2433** to reach ADF&G Kuskokwim Area staff.

Attend Meetings: Each Working Group meeting is announced at least 48 hours prior to time and date of meeting. In addition, each meeting is recorded. Recordings can be found here:
http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyarea_kuskokwim.kswg

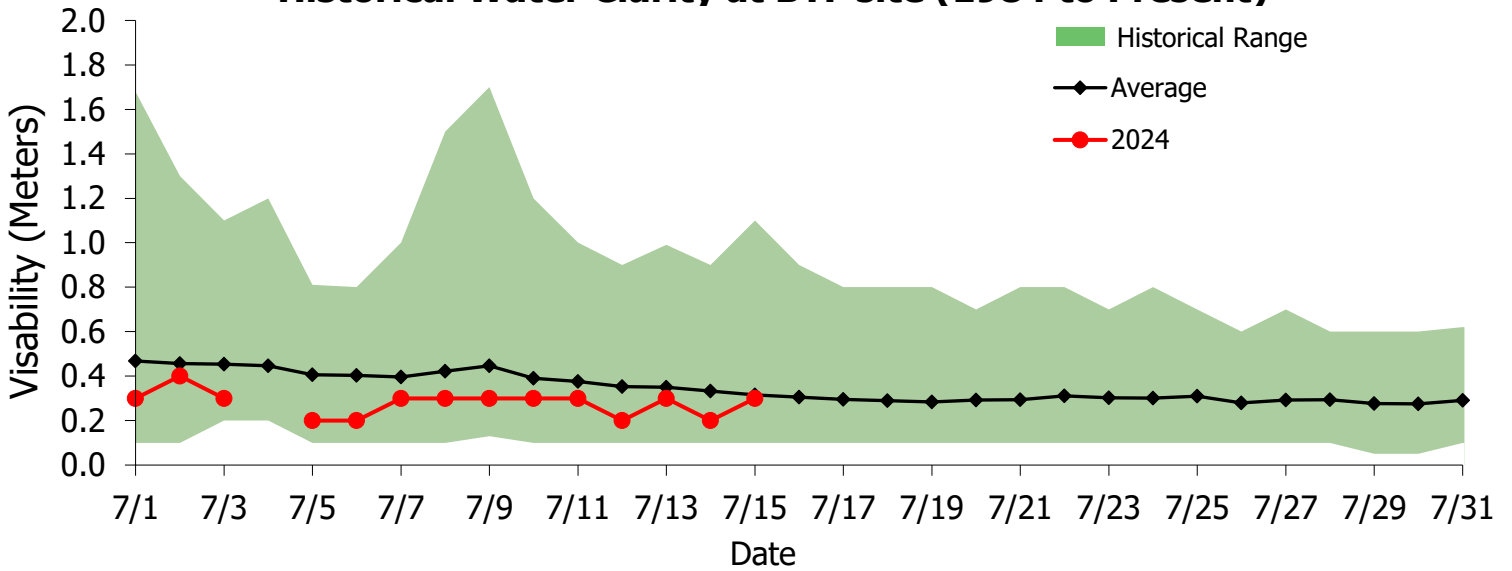
Viewing the information packet while listening to meetings/recordings will provide a better understanding of the information presented in this packet.

Thank you,
Savannah Hollingworth
Working Group Coordinator

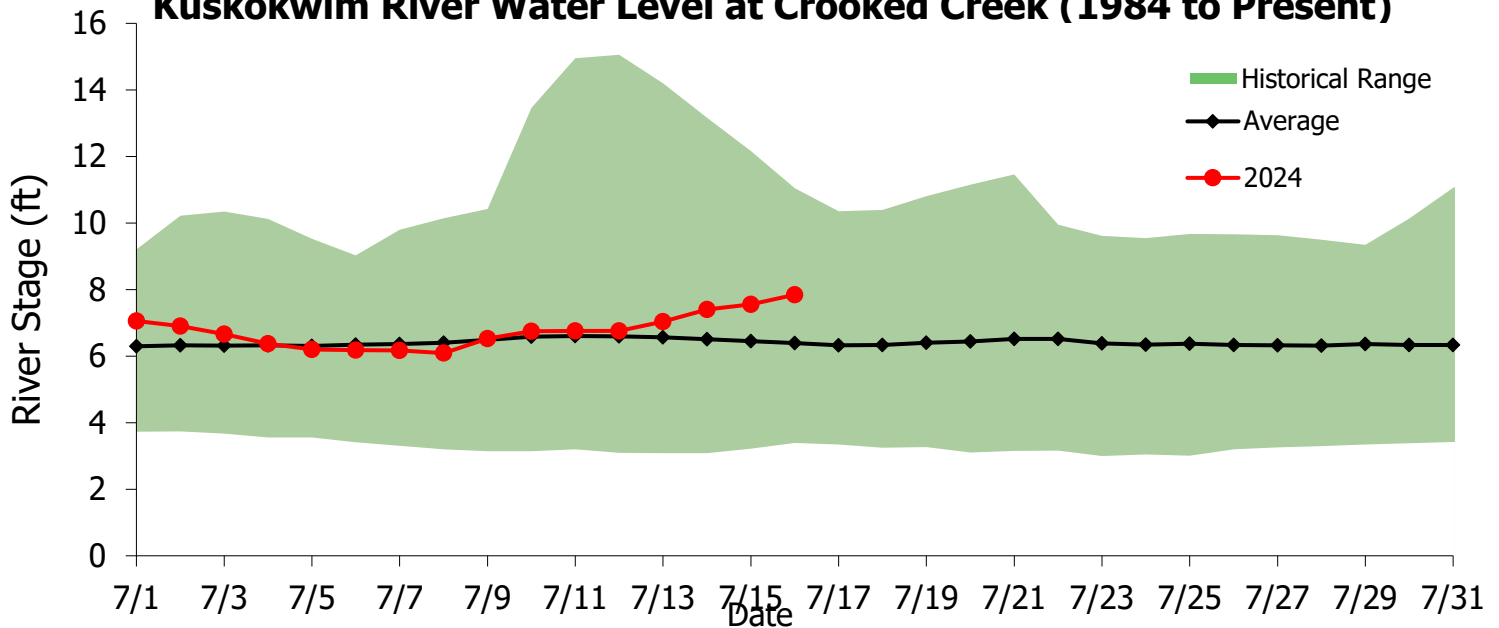
Historical Water Temperature at BTF Site (1984 to Present)



Historical Water Clarity at BTF site (1984 to Present)



Kuskokwim River Water Level at Crooked Creek (1984 to Present)



Kuskokwim River Salmon Assessment Update

7/15/2024



The data summaries presented in this document are provided by ADF&G. **All data and analyses contained are preliminary and are subject to change, so please make interpretations carefully.**

If you have any questions about the content, please contact Sean Larson (ADF&G; sean.larson@alaska.gov). Original development of code used to create this document is credited to Benjamin Staton.

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Abbreviations:

- BTF: Bethel Test Fishery
- ATF: Aniak Test Fishery
- CPUE: Catch-per-unit-effort
- EOS: End-of-Season
- ADF&G: Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- KRITFC: Kuskokwim River Inter-tribal Fisheries Commission
- OTNC: Orutsaramiut Traditional Native Council
- USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- YDNWR: Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

To view escapement information, please visit the ADF&G Kuskokwim River Fish Counts page:

- <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.salmon#fishcounts>

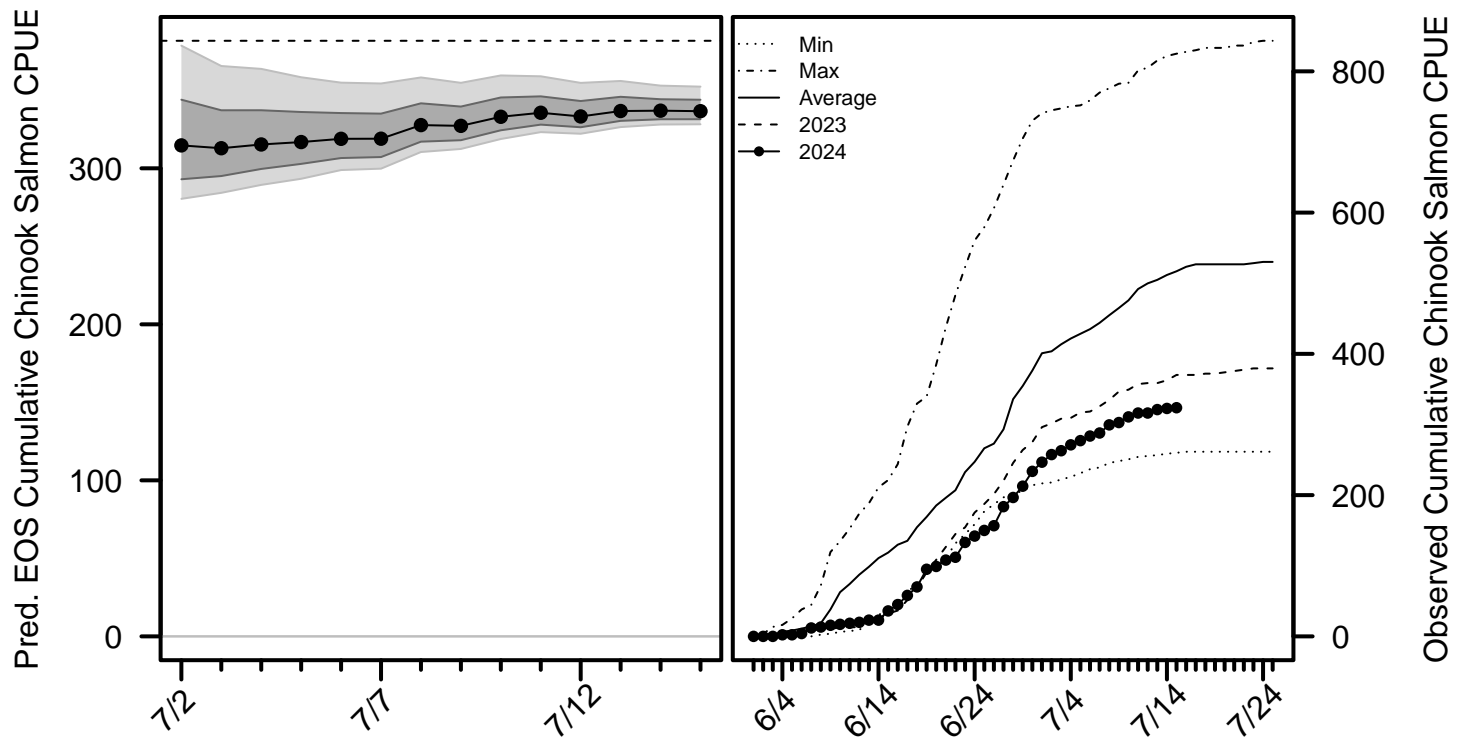
For the most up-to-date information regarding fishing opportunities please visit:

- USFWS: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/yukon_delta/wildlife_and_habitat/dailyupdate.html
- ADF&G: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Chinook Salmon BTF Summary (7/15)

- The BTF daily CPUE was 1.
- The BTF cumulative CPUE is now **324**.
- 7% years since 2008 fell below this cumulative CPUE on this date.
- 94% - 98% of the run is likely complete based historical run timing.

Chinook Salmon Figure 1. *Left:* predicted cumulative EOS BTF CPUE according to various run timing scenarios: central 80% (light grey band), central 50% (dark grey band), and the historical median (circles). The dashed horizontal line shows the EOS value from 2023. *Right:* The cumulative BTF CPUE from 2024 plotted along with the prior year, a year with an average (2008-2023) cumulative CPUE, and years with the minimum and maximum (2008-2023) cumulative CPUEs.



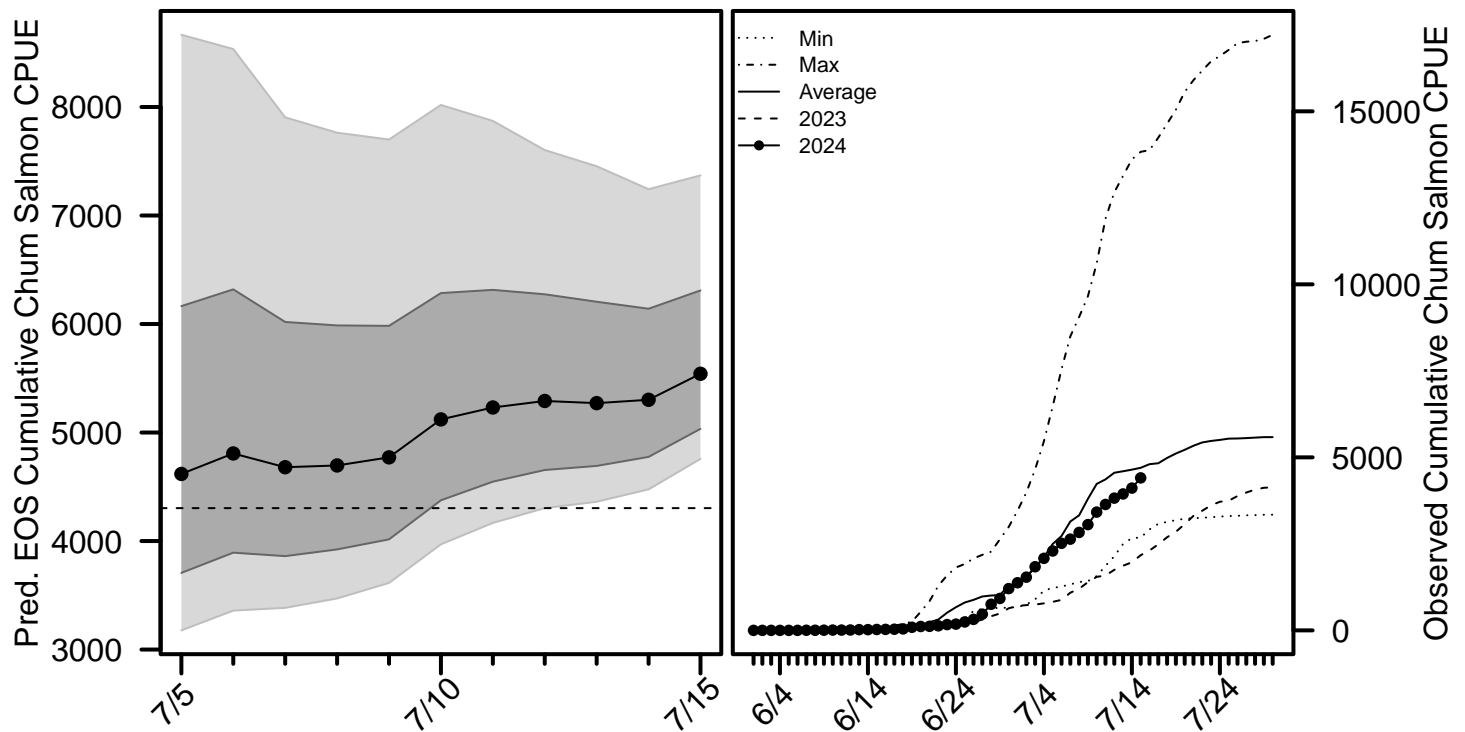
For more detailed information, see the [Chinook salmon appendix](#) at the end of this document.

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Chum Salmon BTF Summary (7/15)

- The BTF daily CPUE was **295**.
- The BTF cumulative CPUE is now **4,406**.
- **47%** years since 2008 fell below this cumulative CPUE on this date.
- **70% - 87%** of the run is likely complete based historical run timing.

Chum Salmon Figure 1. *Left:* predicted cumulative EOS BTF CPUE according to various run timing scenarios: central 80% (light grey band), central 50% (dark grey band), and the historical median (circles). The dashed horizontal line shows the EOS value from 2023. *Right:* The cumulative BTF CPUE from 2024 plotted along with the prior year, a year with an average (1984-2023) cumulative CPUE, and years with the minimum and maximum cumulative CPUEs.



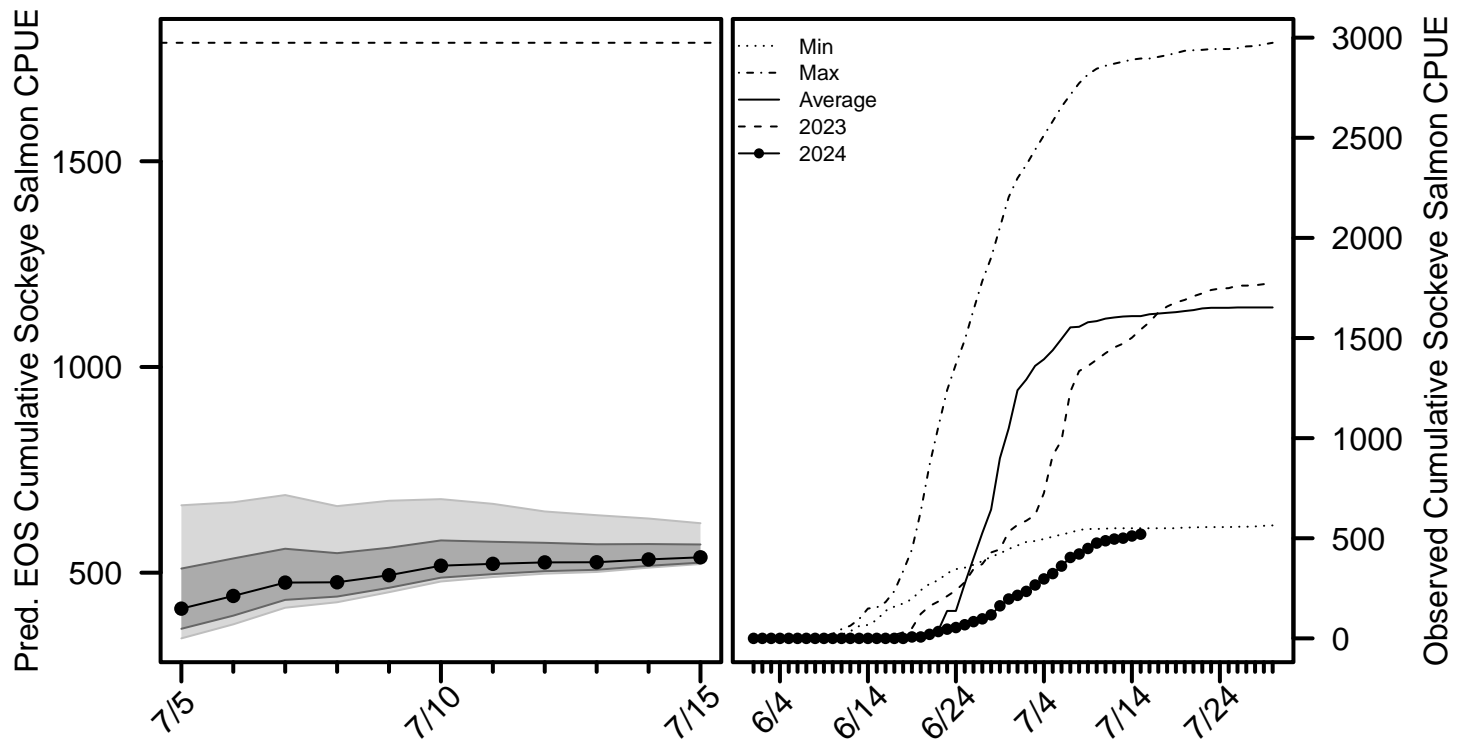
For more detailed information, see the [chum salmon appendix](#) at the end of this document.

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Sockeye Salmon BTF Summary (7/15)

- The BTF daily CPUE was **9**.
- The BTF cumulative CPUE is now **520**.
- **0%** years since 2008 fell below this cumulative CPUE on this date.
- **91% - 99%** of the run is likely complete based historical run timing.

Sockeye Salmon Figure 1. *Left:* predicted cumulative EOS BTF CPUE according to various run timing scenarios: central 80% (light grey band), central 50% (dark grey band), and the historical median (circles). The dashed horizontal line shows the EOS value from 2023. *Right:* The cumulative BTF CPUE from 2024 plotted along with the prior year, a year with an average (1984-2023) cumulative CPUE, and years with the minimum and maximum cumulative CPUEs.

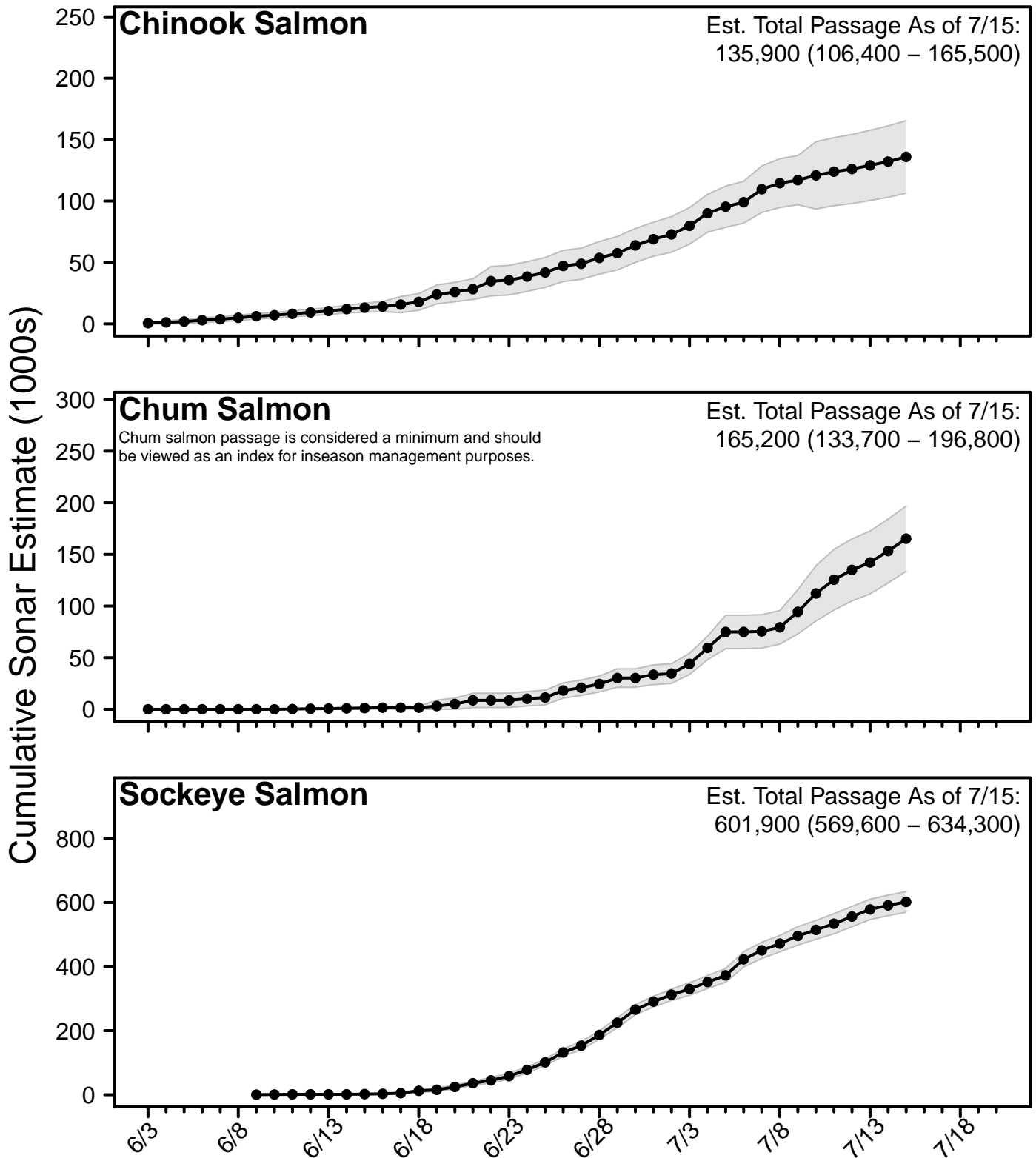


For more detailed information, see the [sockeye salmon appendix](#) at the end of this document.

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Sonar Passage Estimates

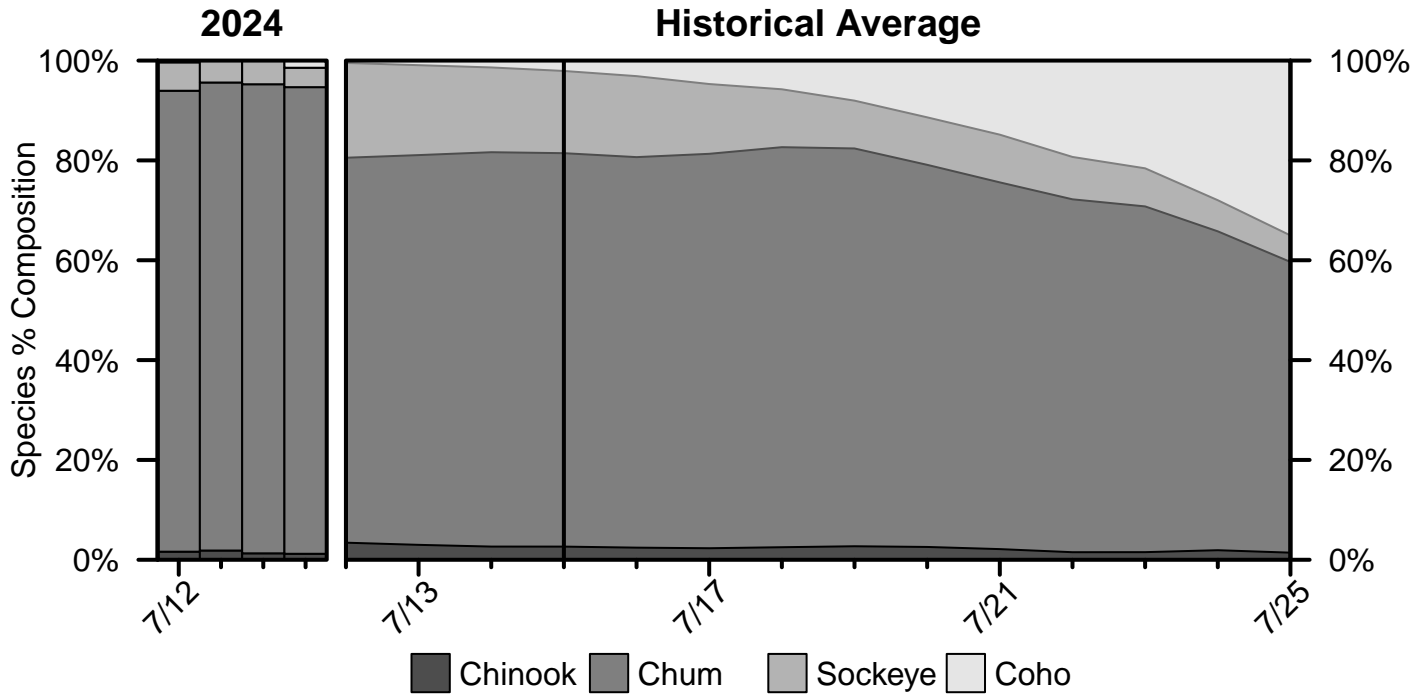
Sonar Figure 1. Cumulative estimates of salmon passage from the 2024 sonar operation. Grey bands show the 95% confidence intervals. *Note: Estimates are subject to change.*



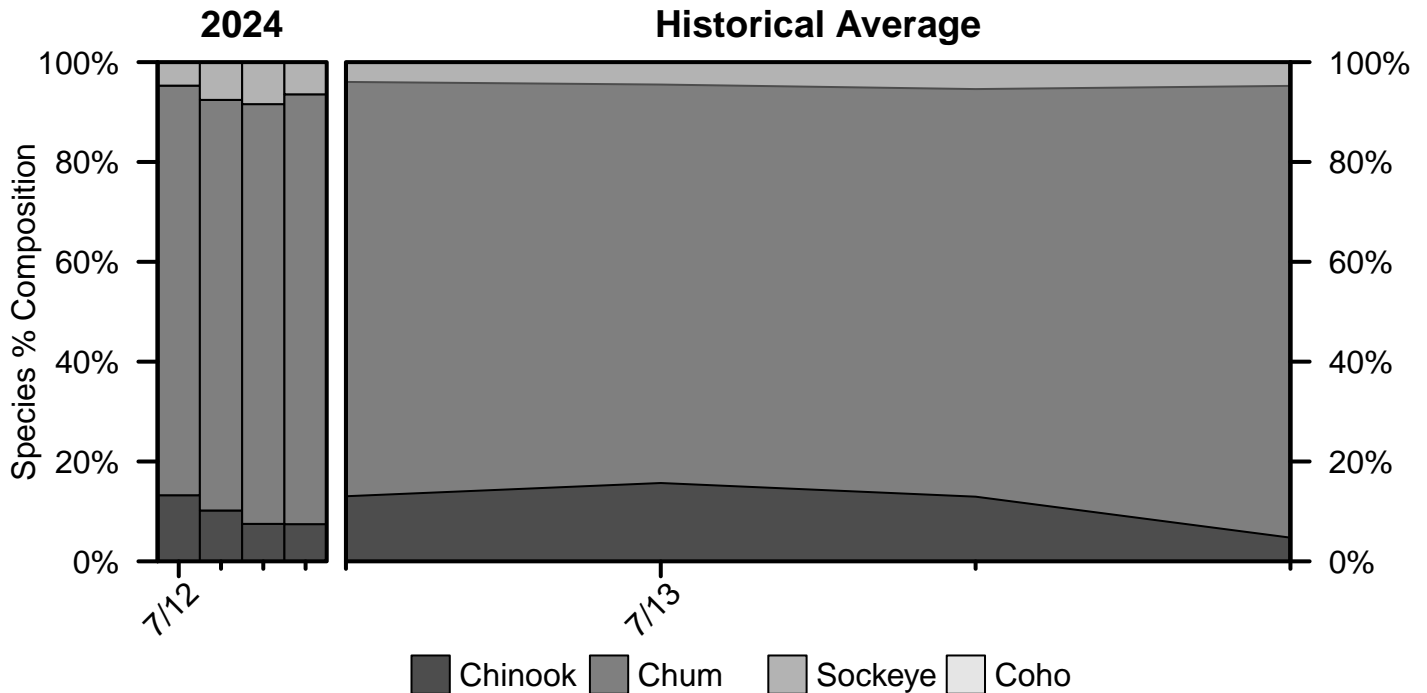
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Percent Composition by Salmon Species

Percent Composition Figure 1. Species percent composition in the BTF from 2024 and based on the historical average. The composition presented on each day represents the average composition over the past 2 days.



Percent Composition Figure 2. Species percent composition in the ATF from 2024 and based on the historical average. The composition presented on each day represents the average composition over the past 2 days.



Chinook Salmon Appendix

Chinook Salmon Table A1. Cumulative CPUE from the BTF.

Date	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	5-Yr Avg.	2008 - 2023 Avg.
7/12	316	359	477	500	445	517	517
7/13	321	359	479	505	448	521	521
7/14	323	363	479	512	457	526	524
7/15	324	370	479	517	462	531	528
7/16		370	479	523	469	534	530
7/17		370	482	527	474	537	533
7/18		372	485	527	476	539	536
EOS		382	504	532	487	551	550

Chinook Salmon Table A2. Cumulative CPUE from the ATF.

Date	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
7/12	2,567	734	1,277	1,879	1,796	1,691	767
7/13	2,615	734	1,277	1,891	1,831	1,691	804
7/14	2,647	748	1,277	1,891	1,856	1,691	812
7/15	2,673	748	1,277	1,891	1,874	1,691	820
EOS		748	1,277	1,891	1,874	1,691	820

Chinook Salmon Table A3. Cumulative passage at the Kuskokwim River sonar. *Note: Estimates are subject to change.*

Date	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
7/12	126,079	70,923	128,096	89,455	97,546	152,380	126,964
7/13	129,033	71,173	128,738	89,728	97,546	155,816	128,006
7/14	132,106	71,946	130,474	89,728	99,184	158,847	128,476
7/15	135,939	72,615	130,474	90,694	101,313	158,847	129,484
7/16		72,615	137,346	95,601	103,345	158,847	129,484
7/17		72,615	137,972	97,186	103,345	159,616	129,484
7/18		72,962	138,695	98,133	103,913	159,616	130,674
EOS		79,166	145,896	102,549	106,764	161,888	132,971

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Chum Salmon Appendix

Chum Salmon Table A1. Cumulative CPUE from the BTF.

Date	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	5-Yr Avg.	2008 - 2023 Avg.
7/12	3,822	1,748	917	176	903	1,290	3,557
7/13	3,942	1,868	961	184	930	1,341	3,704
7/14	4,111	1,966	980	210	987	1,412	3,870
7/15	4,406	2,172	1,014	234	1,020	1,511	4,036
7/16		2,307	1,063	246	1,055	1,601	4,165
7/17		2,486	1,153	256	1,131	1,742	4,304
7/18		2,691	1,210	257	1,156	1,860	4,454
EOS		4,303	2,193	327	1,442	2,938	5,509

Chum Salmon Table A2. Cumulative CPUE from the ATF.

Date	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
7/12	4,961	955	952	255	2,073	1,051	7,618
7/13	5,260	982	952	267	2,291	1,051	8,729
7/14	5,608	996	952	267	2,422	1,051	9,297
7/15	5,906	996	952	267	2,611	1,051	10,277
EOS		996	952	267	2,611	1,051	10,277

Chum Salmon Table A3. Cumulative passage at the Kuskokwim River sonar. *Note: Chum salmon passage is considered a minimum and should be viewed as an index for inseason management purposes. Estimates are subject to change.*

Date	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
7/12	134,969	85,875	51,068	12,089	45,970	167,919	350,105
7/13	142,194	87,658	52,509	12,405	51,598	175,783	364,921
7/14	153,282	91,628	63,956	12,405	59,305	204,771	385,762
7/15	165,236	98,213	66,055	12,405	61,807	217,903	400,576
7/16		107,536	69,440	12,405	62,489	239,124	428,016
7/17		119,741	70,646	13,614	62,821	267,589	446,858
7/18		128,706	71,521	14,117	63,425	286,629	465,730
EOS		251,542	103,864	26,973	76,432	385,409	552,011

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Sockeye Salmon Appendix

Sockeye Salmon Table A1. Cumulative CPUE from the BTF.

Date	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	5-Yr Avg.	2008 - 2023 Avg.
7/12	496	1,453	1,245	1,458	838	1,364	1,415
7/13	500	1,472	1,265	1,485	850	1,393	1,442
7/14	511	1,502	1,268	1,513	887	1,426	1,472
7/15	520	1,542	1,273	1,533	904	1,454	1,512
7/16		1,579	1,278	1,568	923	1,484	1,535
7/17		1,628	1,289	1,585	949	1,521	1,563
7/18		1,657	1,292	1,592	967	1,545	1,582
EOS		1,788	1,372	1,694	1,060	1,720	1,749

Sockeye Salmon Table A2. Cumulative CPUE from the ATF.

Date	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
7/12	569	362	129	241	131	33	75
7/13	586	369	129	241	155	33	75
7/14	628	369	129	241	179	33	75
7/15	651	369	129	241	209	33	75
EOS		369	129	241	209	33	75

Sockeye Salmon Table A3. Cumulative passage at the Kuskokwim River sonar. *Note: Estimates are subject to change.*

Date	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
7/12	556,218	708,551	538,664	680,932	422,556	686,685	442,233
7/13	578,547	721,756	544,739	705,859	443,110	704,204	460,299
7/14	591,111	735,764	551,515	749,940	479,038	725,185	476,988
7/15	601,943	753,904	557,540	764,250	501,084	749,336	488,705
7/16		760,353	561,950	784,755	512,477	769,387	502,498
7/17		780,814	568,524	800,892	520,749	786,963	514,275
7/18		804,626	574,415	808,353	534,034	801,308	529,222
EOS		899,180	613,874	869,268	574,928	924,354	635,493

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KUSKOKWIM IN-SEASON HARVEST ESTIMATES – RECENT YEARS COMPARISON – MINIMUM IN-SEASON ESTIMATES

2021 Lower River Harvest Estimates (Tuntutuliak to Akiak) – KRITFC + ONC + USFWS Data

2021 FISHING DATE	PERIOD	GEAR TYPE	TRIPS	CHINOOK SALMON HARVEST	CHUM SALMON HARVEST	SOCKEYE SALMON HARVEST	TOTAL SALMON HARVEST
6/2/2021	16 h	S	29S	30	0	0	30
6/5/2021	16 h	S	91S	300	10	40	350
6/9/2021	16 h	S	107S	390	0	20	410
6/12/2021	12 h	D/S	381D/23S	3,260	70	350	3,640
6/15/2021	12 h	D/S	467D/31S	8,580	360	1,400	10,340
6/19/2021	12 h	D/S	511D/31S	6,190	990	2,400	9,580
6/28/2021	12 h	D/S	220D/8S	3,010	970	6,960	10,940
7/2/2021	9 h	D/S	211D/4S	1,330	1,150	8,990	11,460
7/16/2021	12 h	D/S	189D/4S	250	660	3,400	4,320
2021 CUMULATIVES				23,340	4,210	23,560	51,110

2022 Lower River Harvest Estimates (Tuntutuliak to Akiak) – KRITFC + ONC + USFWS Data

2022 FISHING DATE	PERIOD	GEAR TYPE	TRIPS	CHINOOK SALMON HARVEST	CHUM SALMON HARVEST	SOCKEYE SALMON HARVEST	TOTAL SALMON HARVEST
6/1/2022	16 h	S	30S	30	0	0	30
6/4/2022	16 h	S	75S	80	0	0	80
6/8/2022	16 h	S	78S	120	0	20	140
6/12/2022	12 h	D/S	457D/22S	4,700	60	360	5,120
6/16/2022	12 h	D/S	473D/32S	7,680	160	1,920	9,770
6/22/2022	12 h	D/S	572D/17S	14,000	950	13,720	28,670
6/30/2022	18 h	S	72S	970	180	1,270	2,420
7/3/2022	18 h	S	69S	660	300	1,160	2,120
7/9/2022	12 h	D/S	147D	480	1,730	3,730	5,940
2022 CUMULATIVES				29,300	3,650	22,180	55,130

2023 Lower River Harvest Estimates (Tuntutuliak to Tuluksak) – KRITFC + ONC + USFWS Data

2023 FISHING DATE	PERIOD	GEAR TYPE	TRIPS	CHINOOK SALMON HARVEST	CHUM SALMON HARVEST	SOCKEYE SALMON HARVEST	COHO SALMON HARVEST	TOTAL SALMON HARVEST
6/3/2023	16 h	S	60S	376	4	0	0	381
6/6/2023	16 h	S	82S	220	1	0	0	221
6/9/2023	16 h	S	129S	1,064	15	122	0	1,201
6/12/2023	12 h	D/S	202D/31S	1,003	107	414	0	1,524
6/17/2023	12 h	D/S	484D/36S	10,437	2,957	6,160	0	19,554
6/23/2023	12 h	D/S	449D/33S	6,949	4,647	9,541	38?	21,175
6/30/2023	24 h	S	101S	593	1,298	6,454	0	8,345
7/4/2023	48h	S	39S	117	280	1,232	0	1,629
7/11/2023	6h	D/S	120D/16S	260	1,914	4,475	0	6,649
7/17/2023	12h	S	14S	17	108	180	0	305
7/19/2023	12h	S	17S	13	159	136	0	308
7/24/2023	6h	S	7S	13	65	56	30	164
8/3/2023	12h	D/S	129D/6S	35	521	188	4,027	4,771
8/9/2023	12h	D/S	41D/1S	0	27	36	1,225	1,288
8/12/23	12h	D/S	62D/9S	0	75	37	2,161	2,273
2023 CUMULATIVES				21,119	12,178	29,031	7,481	69,809



KUSKOKWIM IN-SEASON HARVEST ESTIMATES – RECENT YEARS COMPARISON – MINIMUM IN-SEASON ESTIMATES

2024 Lower River Harvest Estimates (Tuntutuliak to Tuluksak) – KRITFC + ONC + USFWS Data

2024 FISHING DATE	PERIOD	GEAR TYPE	TRIPS	CHINOOK SALMON HARVEST	CHUM SALMON HARVEST	SOCKEYE SALMON HARVEST	COHO SALMON HARVEST	TOTAL SALMON HARVEST
6/3/2024	16 h	S	78S	44	4	0	0	48
6/6/2024	16 h	S	156S	407	8	22	0	437
6/10/2024	16 h	S	214S	576	87	52	0	715
6/12/2024	12 h	D/S	449D/20S	3,348	648	211	0	4,207
6/16/2024	12 h	D/S	506D/85S	6,551	1,439	928	0	8,918
6/22/2024	12 h	D/S	476D/39S	8,468	7,649	8,167	0	24,284
7/1/2024	24 h	S	148S	988	1,836	2,185	0	5,009
7/6/2024	48 h	S	113S	804	1,222	1,977	0	4,003
7/12/2024	24 h	D/S	-	-	-	-	-	-
2024 CUMULATIVES (up to 7/15/24)				21,186	12,893	13,542	0	47,621

2024 South Peninsula Commercial Harvest

Harvest updated through July 14

Species	Cumulative Harvest
Chinook	3,420
Sockeye	1,924,866
Coho	4,462
Pink	286,711
Chum	449,061

*Note: Total June chum salmon harvest was 417,316 fish.

2023 Stock Composition Summary

- Due to concerns from stakeholders, a study was designed to estimate genetic stock ID, age, and length compositions in South Alaska Peninsula fisheries in 2022–2026.
 - Nearly all the chum harvest occurs in the South Peninsula Area.
- Stock composition of the harvest:
 - June Fishery: 39.5% Asia, **28.4% CWAK**, 20.0% East of Kodiak, 12.1% Other.
 - Post-June Fishery: 50.3% South Peninsula, 26.9% Chignik/Kodiak, 11.5% Asia, **2.6% CWAK**, 8.7% Other.
 - Entire Season: 41.5% South Peninsula, 22.9% Chignik/Kodiak, 16.6% Asia, **7.3% CWAK**, 11.7% Other.
- The Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) group includes Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim, Yukon, and Norton Sound stocks.

Helpful Link

Harvest numbers and information on the stock composition study are available at: [Alaska Peninsula Management Area Salmon, Alaska Department of Fish and Game](#).