

2025 Summary

COOK INLET SPORT FISH MANAGEMENT AREAS

Northern Cook Inlet, Northern Kenai Peninsula, and Lower Cook Inlet

Northern Cook Inlet Management Area

King Salmon

Greater Susitna River/ Knik Arm Area

Below average escapements since 2012 have resulted in preseason and inseason restrictions and closures on the Susitna and Little Susitna River drainages. 2025 marks the sixth year of king salmon management under four stock-based goals set on the Susitna River drainage (Deshka, Yentna, Eastside, and Talkeetna). The preseason forecast for Deshka River king salmon was for a total run of 5,208 king salmon. Given a forecast below the low end of the BEG and that the escapement goal was missed in 2024, the Deshka king salmon fishery started the 2025 season closed as did fisheries within the Talkeetna, Yentna, Little Susitna, and Eastside Susitna areas. Escapement goals for all systems were missed in 2025.

Westside Susitna Tributaries

The BEG for the Deshka River of 9,000 - 18,000 king salmon was not achieved in 2025 despite the sport fishery remaining closed throughout the season. High water prevented weir install until June 13th. The estimated portion of king salmon missed from June 1-13 is approximately 101 fish. The final weir count was 1,690 king salmon, and adding the estimated missed counts for June 1-13 produces a season total of 1,791 fish. The age composition of the Deshka Chinook run and forecast for the 2025 season is pending analysis of scale samples collected at the weir.

A complete sonar count was conducted for Lake Creek and aerial escapement surveys were flown in late July on four streams contributing to the Yentna king salmon stock: Talachulitna River, Cache Creek, Peters Creek, and Lake Creek. Assessment of the Yentna OEG of 16,000 – 22,000 is pending data analysis; however, aerial counts were well below average, and the Lake Creek sonar count was similar to 2024.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective May 1, 2025, closed king salmon fishing in the Susitna River drainage. Gear was restricted to only one unbaited, single hook, with a gap between the point and shank of the hook of ½ inch or less when fishing in Units 1-6 of the Susitna River drainage.

Eastside Susitna and Talkeetna Tributaries

Management decisions effecting Eastside Susitna streams (Units 2, 3, 5, and 6) are based upon postseason aerial surveys over eight streams that are used to estimate run size and escapement of the Eastside (Unit 2 streams along the Parks Highway) king salmon stock and the Talkeetna River stock. Counts for the Eastside stock were successfully conducted on Willow, Deception Creek, North Fork Kashwitna, Little Willow and Montana creeks and Clear, Prairie, Indian, and Portage Creeks, were counted for the Talkeetna stock. Assessment of the Eastside and Talkeetna stock goals is pending data analysis; however, counts on these systems were some of the lowest on record and are not likely to achieve the SEG. A survey count of 289 on the Chulitna River was well below its SEG of 1,200 – 2,900 fish.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective May 1, 2025, closed king salmon fishing on Eastside Susitna (Unit 2), the Talkeetna River (Unit 5), and the Chulitna river (Unit 6). Gear was restricted to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure with a gap between the point and shank of the hook of ½ inch or less.

Knik Arm

The SEG for the Little Susitna River is 2,100 - 4,300 king salmon as assessed by weir or 700 - 1,500 fish as assessed by post season aerial survey. The Little Su weir location was moved from river mile 32.5 to 39.0 in an effort to collect data for complete seasonal counts at a location less prone to flooding. In 2025, the use of sonar at the Little Susitna Public Use Facility was explored as an alternative to weir counts and the data collected is currently being evaluated. The sport fishery was closed by emergency order pre-season. The aerial survey count was 437 king salmon which was below the aerial survey goal of 700-1,500 fish.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective May 1, 2025, closed king salmon fishing in the Little Susitna River drainage. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure with a gap between the point and shank of the hook of ½ inch or less in the waters normally open to king salmon fishing.

West Cook Inlet

Sport fisheries on the Chuitna, Theodore, Lewis, and the Beluga rivers drainages are closed by regulation. An aerial survey was conducted on the Chuitna River in which 490 king salmon were counted, well below the SEG of 1,000 – 1,500 fish. The survey of the Theodore River had only 30 king salmon in 2025, down from 33 kings in 2024.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective May 1, 2025, closed king salmon fishing in all West Cook Inlet streams north of Cape Douglas and not already closed by regulation.

Sockeye Salmon

Susitna Tributaries

A weir was operated to count sockeye salmon escapement into Larson Lake, which drains into the Talkeetna River via Larson Creek (Susitna drainage) as well as a weir on Chelatna Lake (Lake Creek headwaters). A weir on Judd Lake (Talachulitna River) was not operated this year due to budget reductions. On Larson Creek, the sport fishery, which occurs at the confluence of Larsen Creek and the Talkeetna River, is in relatively close proximity to the weir, allowing for timely inseason management of the fishery. Water levels were favorable toward consistent daily fish passage and fishing success throughout the season. The Larson Creek SEG of 15,000 - 35,000 sockeye salmon was achieved with a final count of 32,904 fish within the SEG range. The Chelatna SEG of 20,000 – 45,000 sockeye salmon was achieved with a final count of 59,987 fish over the SEG.

A Susitna River personal use dip net fishery was implemented by the Board of Fisheries in 2020 to take place on the lower Susitna River from a point located approximately one mile below the old Susitna Station, downstream to the Alexander Creek turnoff/tip of Bell Island. This fishery is remote and only accessible by boat or short field performance aircraft capable of landing on gravel bars. The fishery is part of the Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery management plan and occurs each Saturday and Wednesday between 6:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. from July 10 through July 31. This was the fifth year of this fishery. Fishing effort mostly mirrored last season with relatively low participation. Fishing success was reported as poor to fair each period through the end of July.

Management Actions

- An inseason emergency order was issued on August 13 to increase the sockeye salmon bag limit to 6 per day in Larson Creek.

Knik Arm

A weir was operated on Fish Creek to assess escapement and as a tool to manage the personal use dip net fishery. The SEG for Fish Creek is 15,000 - 45,000 sockeye salmon. By management plan, a personal use dip net fishery may be opened by emergency order between July 15 and July 31, if the escapement can be projected to be above 35,000 fish. The dip net fishery was opened on July 23 for 9 days. Positive dipnetting reports combined with a strong run suggests harvest estimates may be average to above average (5-yr mean harvest of 25,000 salmon; 22,500 sockeye salmon). The weir was successfully operated through the duration of the run, in which 42,616 sockeye salmon were counted, and sport fishing was open 7 days a week per regulation.

Management Actions

- On July 23, the Fish Creek Personal Use Dip Net Fishery was opened for all salmon species, except king salmon through July 31.
- An inseason emergency order was issued on August 9 to increase the sockeye salmon bag limit to 6 per day in Fish Creek.

Coho Salmon

Susitna Tributaries

Coho salmon monitoring within the Susitna River only occurs in the Deska River. Low water conditions on the Deshka River slowed the coho salmon run into August. Water levels rose to a flash flood event on August 29th at the historic 98% of the run. Flooding then prevented counting fish at the Deshka River weir after the weir flooded and minor damages sustained, the weir was removed. 3,869 coho were counted failing to achieve the SEG of 10,200 – 24,100 fish. This count should be considered a minimum but likely did not exceed 4,000 based on historical run timing. Due to the low counts, a series of emergency orders were issued to reduce the harvest of coho salmon.

Management Actions

- On August 15, the bag limit for coho salmon was reduced to one fish and bait prohibited in the Deshka River.
- On August 21, the Deshka River was closed to retention of coho salmon.

Knik Arm

The Little Susitna weir was installed in time for coho counts on July 23. Similar to the Deshka River, the water conditions were extremely low which slowed the coho salmon run. The run progressively stalled, and the fishery was restricted to a harvest of one fish and no bait beginning August 15th. The counts failed to project meeting the necessary escapement and was closed to the retention of coho on August 21st. The weir count was 4,553, which failed to achieve the SEG of 9,200-17,700. From August 30 through September 1, high water prevented counting due to safety reasons. The weir withstood flood damage in the new location. The weir was pulled September 10 and the coho salmon count considered complete.

Fish Creek weir operated for the full coho salmon season and remained fully operational. The SEG of 1,200 – 6,000 fish was attained with a final count of 3,398 fish. Water conditions did not influence coho salmon passage.

Jim Creek weir operated for the full season. Low warm water slowed coho salmon passage through most of August and some mortality of coho and sockeye salmon were observed. Several of these fish have been sent to pathology for further fish health analyses which is pending at this time. Water temperatures cooled and fish passage improved at about the quarter point of the historical run. The SEG for Jim Creek of 250 - 700 coho salmon is assessed post season by a foot survey of McRoberts Creek, a small spawning tributary within the Jim Creek system. A survey conducted on September 25 counted 482 coho salmon, within the goal range.

Management Actions

- On August 15, the bag limit for coho salmon was reduced to one fish and bait prohibited in the Little Susitna River.
- On August 21, the Little Susitna River was closed to retention of coho salmon.

West Cook Inlet

Coho salmon escapement is not monitored on West Cook Inlet (WCI) area streams and ADF&G must rely on trends in harvest and angler effort taken from the Statewide Harvest Survey and reports from anglers and guides when assessing these stocks. Sport fishing success was reportedly good for the 2025 season.

- No management actions were implemented during the 2025 sport fishing season.

Northern Kenai Peninsula Management Area

King Salmon

Kenai River - Early Run

The outlook for the early-run of Kenai River king salmon in 2025 was below average, with a large fish (>75 cm mid eye to tail fork length or approximately >34 inches in total length) forecast of 1,531 fish. The 2025 forecasted total run was less than the optimal escapement goal (OEG) of 3,900 – 6,600 large fish which, by regulation, starts the sport fishery closed. The total estimated passage through June 30, 2025, at the river mile 14 sonar was 2,541 large king salmon. With the fishery closed and no other harvest, the preliminary spawning escapement estimate and the total inriver run estimate are also 2,541 large king salmon. This run was the largest since 2021 but was still poor and ranked 7th out of the past 12 years. Using length as a surrogate for age, the run was predominately composed of age-4 fish (48%), followed by age-2 fish (36%), age-3 fish (10%), and age-5 fish (6%). The mid-point of the run occurred on June 13, which is exactly on time when compared to the historical mid-point.

Neither the OEG nor the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) were achieved in 2025. The OEG has not been achieved in the last 4 consecutive years.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order effective May 1, 2025, king salmon fishing was closed from the Kenai River mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake until June 30.

Table 1. Summary of preliminary catch, harvest, and escapement, Kenai River early-run king salmon (≥ 750 mm) fishery, 2025.

Escapement Goal Range	3,900 – 6,600 large king salmon (≥ 75 cm)
Total Catch ^a	0
Total Harvest ^a	Below sonar =0; Above sonar =0; Total =0
Sonar Estimate In-River	2,541
Preliminary Escapement	~ 2,541

^aLower River (below Soldotna Bridge).

Kenai River - Late Run

The outlook for the late-run of Kenai River king salmon in 2025 was well below average, with a large king salmon (>75 cm mid eye to tail fork length) forecast of approximately 8,742 fish. The 2025 forecasted total run was less than the recovery goal of 14,250 – 30,000 fish so the fishery started closed. The total estimated passage through August 21, 2025, at the river mile 14 sonar was 15,641 large king salmon and the preliminary escapement is 15,641 large fish. The mid-point of the run occurred on July 28, which is one day later than the mean historical mid-point. The OEG and the Stock of Concern rebuilding goal (14,250-30,000) were both achieved in 2025. The SEG has been achieved in three of the last seven years. This is the first time the lower bound of the OEG has been achieved since it was created in 2020. Using length as a proxy for age, the predominate age classes for all sizes of fish are the ocean-age 3 (43%), ocean-age 4 (34%), ocean-age 1 fish (13%), and ocean-age 2 (10%).

Management Actions

- In accordance with the Kenai River Late-Run Stock of Concern management plan, the late-run king sport fishery remained closed for the entire season.

Table 1. Summary of preliminary catch, harvest, and escapement, Kenai River late-run king salmon (≥ 75 cm) fishery, 2023.

Escapement Goal Range	14,250 – 30,000 large king salmon (≥ 75 cm)
Total Catch ^a	0
Total Inriver Harvest ^a	Below sonar =0; Above sonar =0; Total =0
Sonar Estimate In-River	15,015
Preliminary Escapement ^b	Approximately 15,641

^a Lower River (below Soldotna Bridge).

^b Includes estimate of king salmon that spawn downstream of sonar.

Kasilof River

In June 2025, approximately 78,836 king salmon smolt were stocked into Crooked Creek to augment natural production and enhance recreational sport fishing opportunity in the Kasilof River. The wild component of the Crooked Creek early-run king salmon return is managed to achieve a SEG of 700 – 1,400 king salmon 20” or greater in length. The estimated escapement of wild (naturally-produced) king salmon was 305 fish which failed to achieve the SEG for the 3rd consecutive year. The egg take goal for future stocking of Crooked Creek was 33 pairs of naturally-produced king salmon of which 25 pairs were spawned in 2025.

Management Actions

- A pre-season emergency order effective May 1, 2025, the early-run king salmon bag and possession limits were restricted to two hatchery-produced fish, 20 inches or greater in length in the Kasilof River drainage. The retention of naturally-produced king salmon was prohibited. The use of bait and multiple hooks was prohibited downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge.
- On July 10, 2025, the king salmon fishery was closed from the mouth of the Kasilof River upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge.

Sockeye Salmon

Kenai River

The 2025 Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) sockeye salmon forecast projected a total run of 6.92 million fish: 4.19 million fish to the Kenai River, 1.24 million fish to the Kasilof River, with the remaining fish being comprised of Susitna River, Fish Creek, and unmonitored systems. Based on the pre-season forecast, the sockeye salmon run was managed on the highest tier for runs greater than 4.6 million Kenai River sockeye salmon, with an inriver goal of 1.2 – 1.6 million sockeye salmon. The preliminary inriver sonar passage estimate was 4,252,747 sockeye salmon. Subtracting the recent 10-year average harvest upstream of the sonar (337,820 fish) produces a preliminary escapement estimate of 3,914,927 sockeye salmon, which exceeds the sockeye salmon SEG 750,000–1.30 million fish. Final estimates will be available when the 2025 Statewide Harvest Survey is completed in the fall of 2026.

Management Actions

- On August 16, 2025, the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits were increased to six per day and twelve in possession from the Kenai River mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake.

Russian River - Early Run

The escapement goal for Russian River early-run sockeye salmon is a biological escapement goal (BEG) of 22,000 – 42,000 fish. The weir count on July 14, 2023, was 37,153 sockeye salmon and exceeded the lower end of the BEG.

Management Actions

- On July 1, 2025, the Russian River Sanctuary Area opened early for sport fishing.

Russian River - Late Run

The escapement goal for Russian River late-run sockeye salmon is an SEG of 44,000 – 85,000 fish. The final Russian River weir count on September 1, 2025, was 66,591 sockeye salmon, which was within the SEG.

Management Actions

- On July 31, 2025, the sockeye salmon bag and possession limits were increased to six per day and twelve in from Skilak Lake upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman’s Landing (including the Russian River Sanctuary Area) and the Russian River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located approximately 600 yards downstream from the Russian River Falls.

Kasilof River

The forecast for Kasilof River sockeye salmon was 1,240,000 fish. Kasilof River sockeye salmon are managed for a BEG of 140,000 – 320,000 salmon, and an OEG of 140,000 – 370,000 fish. The sockeye salmon sonar enumerated salmon passage through August 9, 2025, with a preliminary estimate of 1,197,471 fish.

Management Actions

- On June 25, 2025, sockeye salmon limits were increased in all portions of the Kasilof River open to salmon fishing to six per day and twelve in possession.

Coho Salmon

Kenai River

Kenai River coho salmon are not monitored for abundance inseason and are managed through angler reporting, observations, and conservative general regulation. Angler reports indicate that coho salmon were showing up in the harvest during the last week of July and catches were reported as fair to good through August and fair into September. September reports generally indicated a mix of angler success from day to day.

Management Actions

- No management actions were taken for coho salmon in 2025.

Personal Use Dip Net Fisheries

Kasilof River and Kenai River

Harvest and participation information for the 2025 season are currently being compiled and will be available this coming winter. The Kasilof River set gill net personal use fishery was closed by emergency order for the first three days of the fishery, to reduce mortality of Kenai River bound king salmon. The Kasilof River dipnet fishery was open by regulation from June 25 through August 7. The area open to dipnetting was expanded by emergency order for the Kasilof fishery on June 25. The Kenai River dipnet fishery opened by regulation on July 10 through July 31, with no retention of king salmon allowed in compliance with the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon. Stock of Concern action plan

Harvest Reports

- Harvest reporting was required to be completed online by August 15. Reminder letters were mailed to permit holders who have not yet returned their harvest record. Estimates of total harvest will be available in January 2026.

Management Actions

- The Kasilof River personal use set gillnet fishery season was reduced by 3 days closing June 15 through June 17.
- On June 25, 2025, the Kasilof River personal use dipnetting area was expanded. Dipnetting from the shore was allowed from ADF&G markers on Cook Inlet beaches upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge and dipnetting from a boat was allowed from ADF&G markers located on Cook Inlet beaches upstream to ADF&G markers at approximately river mile 3 of the Kasilof River.
- On July 18, 2025, The Kenai River personal use dipnet fishery was extended to 24 hours per day.

Lower Cook Inlet Management Area

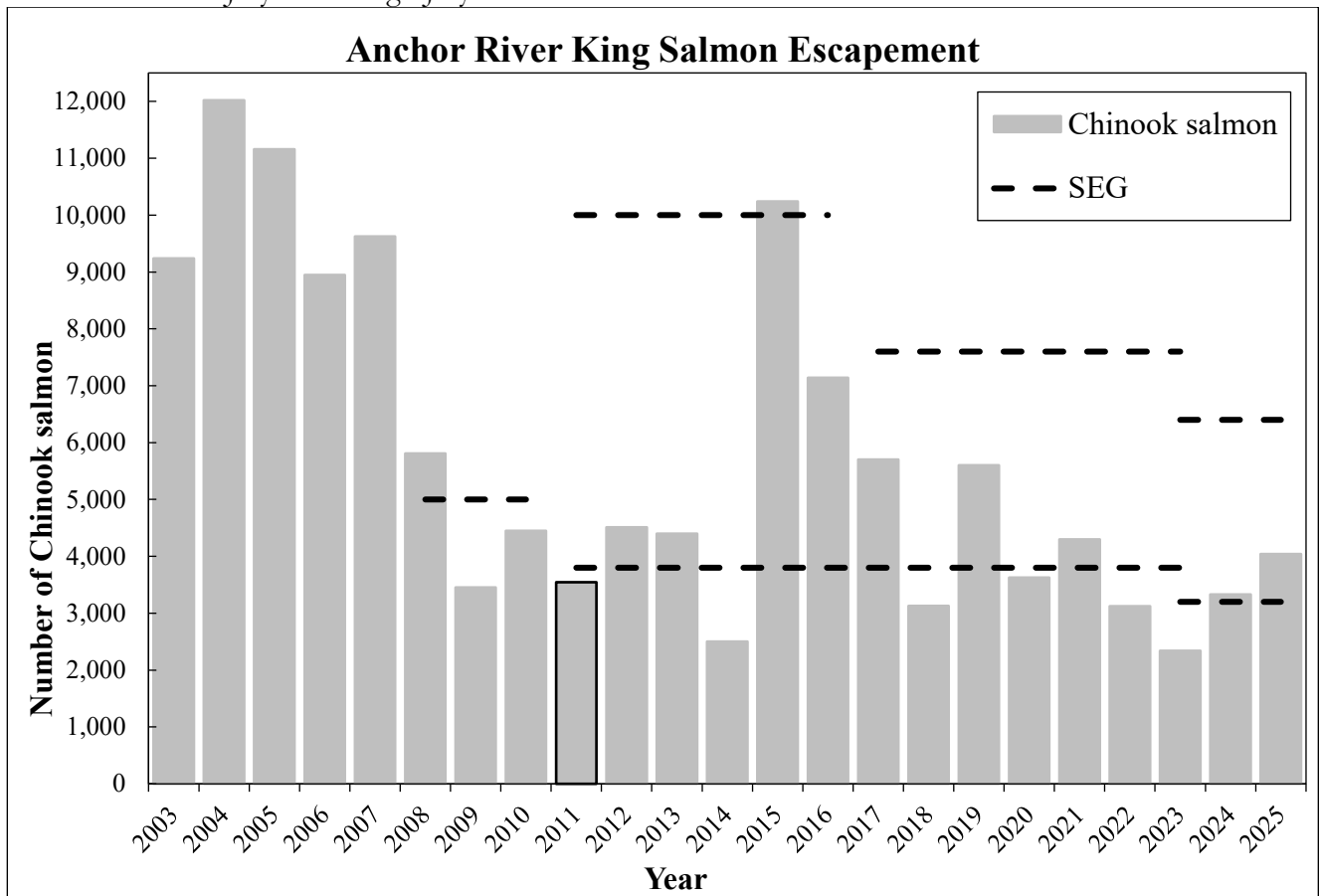
King Salmon

Anchor River

The 2025 preseason inriver forecast of 2,931 king salmon was below the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 3,200-6,400 fish. With this forecast, the inriver sport fishery was closed preseason based on the management plan. King salmon escapement monitoring occurred at approximately one mile upstream of the river mouth. The preliminary escapement estimate was 4,040 fish, which achieved the SEG for the second consecutive year. The cumulative run-timing mid-point (June 29) was similar to the most recent 5-year average but was still substantially later than historical run timing. When the sport fishery was scheduled to open on July 16 for other species, water conditions were low and there were a large number of king salmon staging in the lower river. This triggered an emergency order to restrict gear to single hook artificial lures and prohibited the use of bait in all of the lower Kenai Peninsula roadside streams through the end of July. The intention of this action was to reduce the incidental catch of king salmon when targeting other species.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order closed the Anchor River and Deep Creek to all sport fishing through July 15.
- An inseason emergency order restricted gear to single hook artificial lures and prohibited the use of bait from July 16 through July 31.



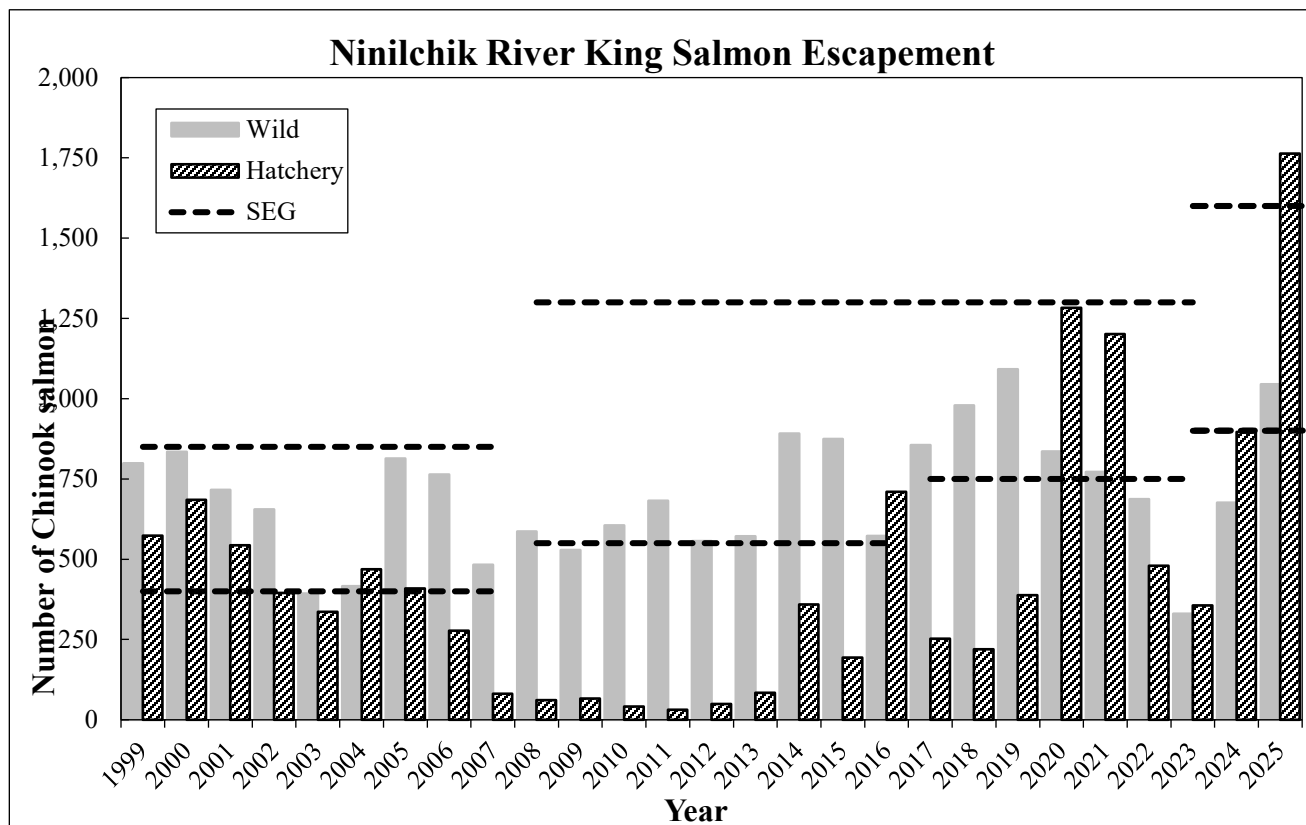
Ninilchik River

No preseason forecast was estimated for the 2025 wild Ninilchik River king salmon run. Preseason actions restricted gear to single hook artificial lures and prohibited the use of bait through the king salmon season. This action was taken based on the recent poor performance toward achieving the SEG. Effort and success generally increased over the weekend openers. The youth-only fishery occurred without many fish in the river, but some youth anglers still caught king salmon. The best fishing of the season occurred at the start of the continuous fishery on June 16. The inseason projection of wild king salmon in late June was projecting not to achieve the SEG so an emergency order was issued to close the river to all sport fishing through July 15. An additional emergency order was issued in mid-July to close the king salmon fishery for the remainder of the year. These actions helped achieve the SEG.

The 2025 Ninilchik River wild king salmon escapement was 1,045 after broodstock removals. The hatchery king salmon count upstream of the sport fishery was 3,374 fish, and after culling of small males and removals for broodstock, the hatchery escapement was 1,763 fish. Broodstock collection at the Ninilchik River met both the wild and hatchery collection goals which will result in stocking the Ninilchik River with 150,000 king salmon smolt in 2026.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order restricted gear to single hook artificial lures and prohibited bait for the king salmon season.
- An inseason emergency order closed the Ninilchik River to all sport fishing through July 15.
- An inseason emergency order closed the king salmon sport fishery for the remainder of the season.



Deep Creek

The sport fishery was closed with preseason restrictions along with the Anchor River based on management actions outlined in the management plan. Deep Creek has a SEG of 350 king salmon and is assessed postseason via a single aerial survey. No survey was conducted in 2025 due to a lack of funding.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order closed the Anchor River and Deep Creek to all sport fishing through July 15.

Marine Fisheries

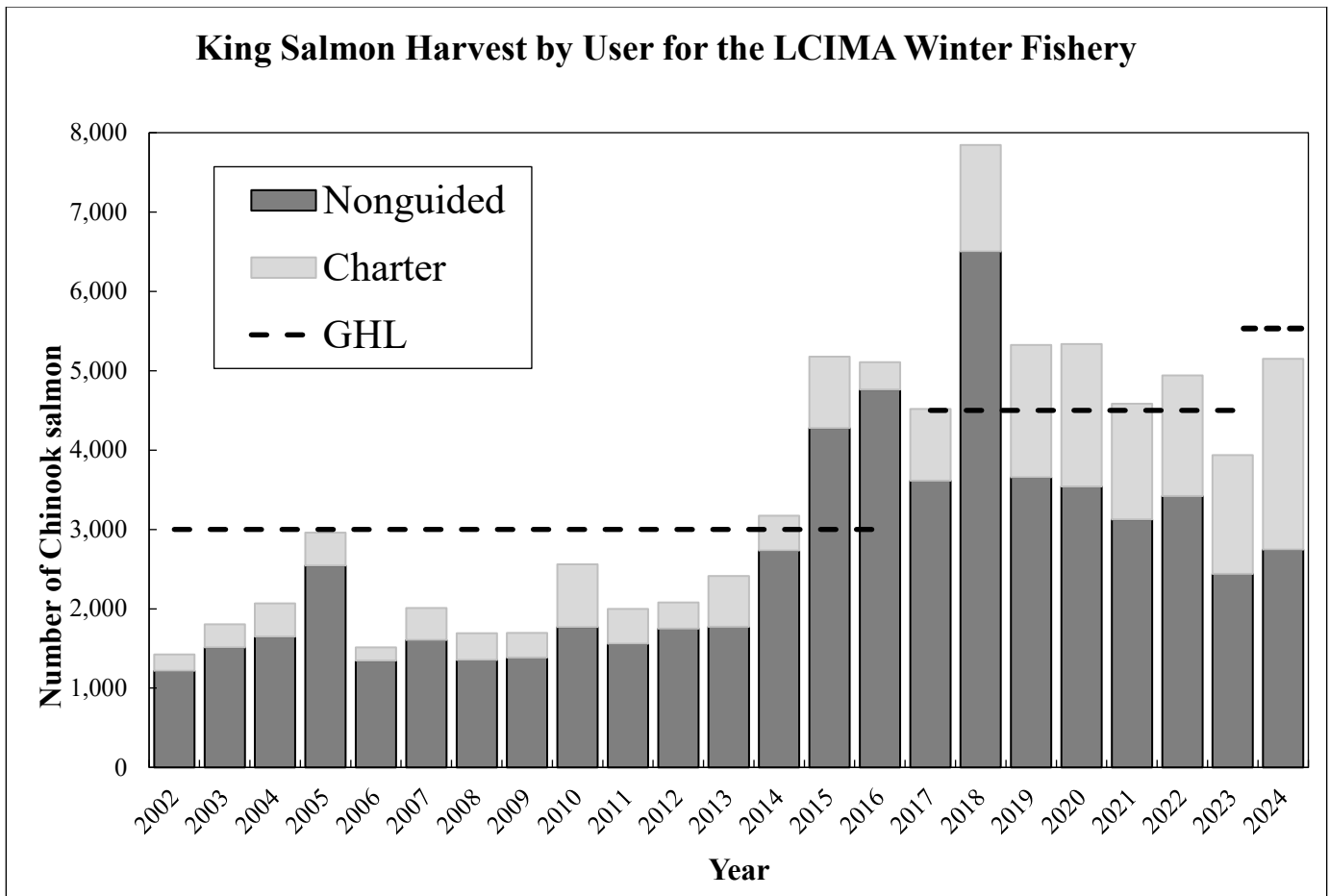
Sport fishing for king salmon in Cook Inlet is structured into the Winter (September 1–March 31) and the Summer (April 1–August 31) Fisheries. The Summer Fishery is separated into two fisheries with the Lower Cook Inlet fishery occurring south of the Bluff Point latitude (lat 59°40.00' N) and the Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) fishery occurring north. There are preseason and inseason management actions within the Upper Cook Inlet Summer Fishery management plan based on forecasts and inseason projections for early-run stocks (Deshka, Kenai, and Anchor Rivers). For early-run stocks, the effective dates for the management actions are May 1 through July 15. This fishery is closed in regulation from June 20 through August 15 in the Kenai River Late Run King Salmon Recovery Plan. In the recovery plan, the Upper Cook Inlet Summer Fishery is closed in regulation from June 20 through August 15. With these plan stipulations, sport fishing for king salmon was closed in UCI from May 1 through August 15. For the Lower Cook Inlet (LCI) Summer Fishery, the bag limit was reduced from two to one king salmon any size in LCI from April 1 through August 31, based on the closure in UCI and anticipated poor returns of Cook Inlet. Additionally, this bag limit reduction was extended through September 15 for all of Cook Inlet salt waters in the Winter Fishery. The bag limit of 1 king salmon from April 1 through September 15 occurred throughout the sport fisheries in northern Gulf of Alaska from Prince William Sound to Kodiak and Alaska Peninsula.

The performance of these fisheries is only assessed postseason with the Statewide Harvest Survey and charter logbook data, and harvest estimates for 2025 will not be available until 2026. For 2024, the SWHS estimates of king salmon harvest for the Summer and Winter Fisheries were all below their GHs and their respective averages for the past three years.

Management Actions

- A preseason emergency order closed king salmon fishing in the Cook Inlet salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.) from May 1 through August 15.
- A preseason emergency order reduced the king salmon bag limit from 2 to 1 fish any size south of Bluff Point from April 1 through August 31.
- A preseason emergency order reduced the king salmon bag limit in all Cook Inlet salt waters during the Winter Fishery from September 1 through September 15.

Lower Cook Inlet Management Area												
Year	UCI Summer			LCI Summer			Winter			Total MA		Overall total
	Charter	Non-guided	Total	Charter	Non-guided	Total	Charter	Non-guided	Total	Charter	Non-guided	
2014	1,160	1,379	2,539	2,964	2,095	5,059	438	2,735	3,173	4,562	7,427	11,989
2015	2,282	1,904	4,186	3,594	4,472	8,066	902	4,277	5,179	6,778	12,737	19,515
2016	1,962	1,801	3,763	5,335	4,533	9,868	344	4,762	5,106	7,641	12,364	20,005
2017	1,862	1,294	3,156	5,059	3,628	8,687	903	3,615	4,518	7,824	9,614	17,438
2018	1,436	1,541	2,977	3,318	3,500	6,818	1,341	6,503	7,844	6,095	12,062	18,157
2019	1,586	645	2,231	4,246	2,589	6,835	1,667	3,656	5,323	7,499	8,151	15,650
2020	592	1,188	1,780	4,756	2,319	7,075	1,795	3,540	5,335	7,143	8,002	15,145
2021	1,315	464	1,779	7,471	3,544	11,015	1,455	3,128	4,583	10,241	8,100	18,341
2022	1,490	896	2,386	4,534	3,853	8,387	1,520	3,422	4,942	7,544	9,216	16,760
2023	877	487	1,364	4,211	2,509	6,720	1,497	2,439	3,936	6,301	6,239	12,540
2024	713	228	941	4,099	1,789	5,888	2,409	2,746	5,155	7,221	5,912	13,133
Averages												
2002–2013	1,854	1,664	3,485	2,234	2,163	4,397	510	2,433	2,943	5,100	8,522	12,038
2014–2021	1,524	1,277	2,801	4,593	3,335	7,928	1,106	4,027	5,133	7,223	9,807	17,030
2022–2024	1,027	537	1,564	4,281	2,717	6,998	1,809	2,869	4,678	7,022	7,122	14,144



Coho Salmon

Freshwater Fisheries

There are no preseason forecasts and no escapement goals for any coho salmon stocks in the lower Kenai Peninsula roadside streams (Anchor and Ninilchik Rivers, Deep and Stariski Creeks). A video weir was operated on the Anchor River to enumerate coho salmon escapement for the entire run. The preliminary escapement count was 4,432 fish, which was similar to the historical average. Coho salmon escapement was also monitored on the Ninilchik River for the first time using a video weir, but the operation ended on September 4. The count was 1,357 coho salmon which likely represented around 50% of the total run based on the Anchor River run timing.

Sport fishing effort was low throughout August on all lower Kenai Peninsula roadside streams. Some sport harvest monitoring occurred on the Anchor River in late August to assess the proportion of the total harvest that occurred above the weir. Almost all of the observed coho salmon harvest occurred below the weir. The Statewide Harvest Survey estimates of harvest for these fisheries will not be available until 2025.

Anchor River												
Year	Project Dates	Chinook salmon				Coho salmon				Steelhead		
		Escapement	Harvest	Catch	Harvest Rate	Escapement	Harvest	Catch	Harvest Rate	Count	Catch	Catch Rate
1987	05 Jul–11 Sep	ND	2,489	NA	--	2,409	2,010	NA	0.45	136	NA	4.7
1988	03 Jul–06 Oct	ND	2,548	NA	--	2,805	2,219	NA	0.44	878	NA	0.2
1989	06 Jul–07 Nov	ND	2,182	NA	--	20,187	2,635	NA	0.12	769	2,066	2.7
1992	04 Jul–02 Oct	ND	8,389	18,994	--	4,596	2,267	4,850	0.33	1,261	4,578	2.2
2003	30 May–9 July	9,238	1,011	4,311	0.10	ND	3,999	12,133	--	ND	3,409	--
2004	15 May–15 Sep	12,016	1,561	5,561	0.11	5,728	4,383	10,194	0.43	20	3,710	--
2005	13 May–09 Sep	11,156	1,432	5,028	0.11	18,977 ^b	5,314	11,639	0.22	107	2,524	--
2006	15 May–24 Aug	8,945	1,394	4,638	0.13	10,181 ^b	3,920	7,634	0.28	4	4,513	--
2007	14 May–12 Sep	9,622	2,081	9,792	0.18	8,226	3,962	9,881	0.33	325	8,365	--
2008	13 May–12 Sep	5,806	1,486	3,245	0.20	5,951	4,790	7,658	0.45	258	8,733	--
2009	12 May–11 Sep	3,455	737	2,296	0.18	2,692 ^b	3,882	6,332	0.59	85	4,119	--
2010	12 May–29 Sep	4,449	364	889	0.08	6,014	2,863	4,799	0.32	586	2,018	3.4
2011	13 May–21 Sep	3,545	573	1,227	0.14	1,866	808	1,275	0.30	132	401	3.0
2012	14 May–3 Aug	4,509	38	189	0.01	ND	1,121	1,548	--	ND	1,833	--
2013	15 May–3 Aug	4,401	97	423	0.02	ND	912	1,360	--	ND	2,246	--
2014	14 May–3 Aug	2,499	203	926	0.08	ND	1,528	2,638	--	ND	3,621	--
2015	10 May–3 Aug	10,241	344	1,159	0.03	ND	2,072	5,070	--	ND	2,892	--
2016	3 May–3 Aug	7,142	1,384	4,232	0.16	ND	651	1,638	--	ND	2,516	--
2017	4 May–4 Aug	5,700	845	2,888	0.13	ND	934	1,912	--	ND	3,010	--
2018	3 May–8 Aug	3,129	40	305	0.01	ND	1,071	1,353	--	ND	2,052	--
2019	7 May–31 Aug	5,603	151	424	0.07	ND	263	538	--	ND	1,368	--
2020	4 May–26 Oct	3,624	364	206	0.15	2,272	1,498	1,910	0.40	552	1,468	2.7
2021	7 May–24 Sept	4,300	0	104	0.00	3,801	742	983	0.16	103	260	2.5
2022	16 May–14 Oct	3,123	0	47	0.00	3,312	356	624	0.10	1,210	857	0.7
2023	16 May–26 Aug	2,338	0	0	0.00	1,487	259	805	--	18	604	--
2024	15 May–31 Oct	3,331	0	0	0.00	2,138	401	487	0.16	1,390	2,870	2.1
2025	21 May–29 Sep	4,040	--	--	--	4,432	--	--	--	522	--	--
Averages												
1987–2009		8,605	2,301	6,733	0.14	7,129	3,580	8,790	0.36	384	4,669	2.5
2010–2022		4,790	339	1,001	0.07	3,453	1,140	1,973	0.26	517	1,888	2.5
2023–2025		3,236	0	0	0.00	2,686	330	646	0.16	643	1,737	2.1

Marine Fisheries

Sport fishing for coho salmon in Cook Inlet was improved from 2024 but was still poor in comparison to other years from late-July through early-September. The Statewide Harvest Survey estimates for this fishery will not be available until 2024.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during 2025 for freshwater and marine coho salmon fisheries.

Terminal Stocked Salmon Fisheries

Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon

In 2025, the stocking goals were not met for king salmon in the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon (NDFL) on the Homer Spit and the Seldovia Slough due to broodstock collection shortages throughout the region in 2024. Approximately 189,000 and 74,000 king salmon smolt were stocked in NDFL and Seldovia, respectively. The coho stocking goal at NDFL was met with approximately 120,000 smolt. The Statewide Harvest Survey estimates harvest for these fisheries will not be available until 2026. Overall, the king and coho salmon fisheries were below the recent averages. There were not as many king salmon harvested by anglers during the period open to snagging compared to other recent years.

Management Actions

- Snagging was allowed in the NDFL from July 3 through July 6 to harvest the remainder of the king salmon milling in the lagoon prior to coho salmon returning.

Year	Effort		Chinook salmon		Coho salmon	
	Number of Anglers	Angler-days	Harvest	Catch	Harvest	Catch
2014	8,544	20,566	1,060	1,200	9,418	11,315
2015	7,877	17,026	1,766	2,234	2,930	3,402
2016	6,737	13,384	1,033	1,268	1,404	1,901
2017	5,655	12,861	933	1,371	1,313	1,530
2018	7,975	14,183	518	1,186	4,477	4,998
2019	4,680	11,618	1,226	1,830	2,097	2,512
2020	4,238	8,368	906	1,192	1,215	1,585
2021	5,531	10,753	907	1,241	1,381	1,475
2022	5,738	11,856	947	1,063	3,201	4,529
2023	6,832	12,333	372	516	1,378	1,632
2024	5,555	11,397	554	811	269	670
Averages						
1986–2005	10,507	21,416	2,651	4,072	8,065 ^a	10,999
2006–2021	5,893	12,477	947	1,376	2,442	2,999
2022–2024	6,042	11,862	624	797	1,616	2,277

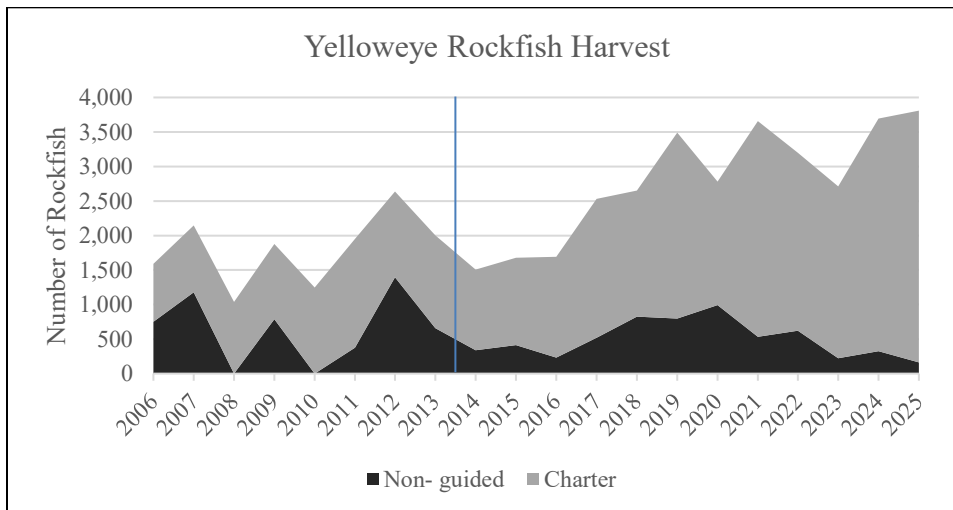
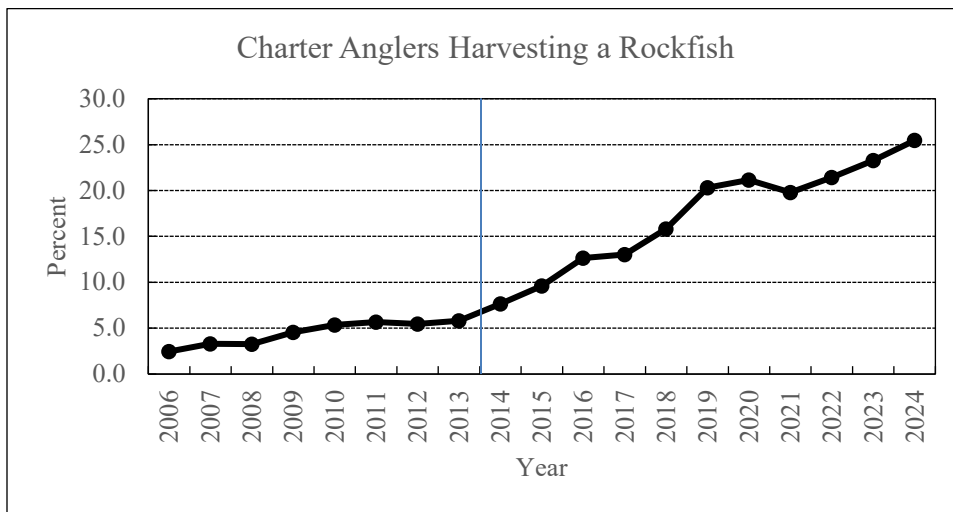
Rockfish

Marine Fisheries

The harvest of rockfish has increased steadily since 2013, and sustainable levels of rockfish harvest are currently unknown. The sport fishery is monitored with harvest data from SWHS and Charter Logbook program and biological data from port sampling program in the Homer Harbor. Preliminary stock assessment work that was reviewed in spring 2025 suggests the sport fishery is harvesting black rockfish at too high of a level. Additionally, the yelloweye rockfish harvest is continuing to increase annually. This resulted in an inseason action to reduce the bag limit. Preliminary 2025 harvest data suggest that the harvest of black rockfish remained similar to the 2024 level and the 2025 yelloweye rockfish harvest increased from 2024.

Management Actions

- An emergency order was issued on May 27 to prohibit the harvest of yelloweye rockfish through June 30 and to restructure the bag limit to 2 pelagic rockfish and 1 nonpelagic rockfish per day.



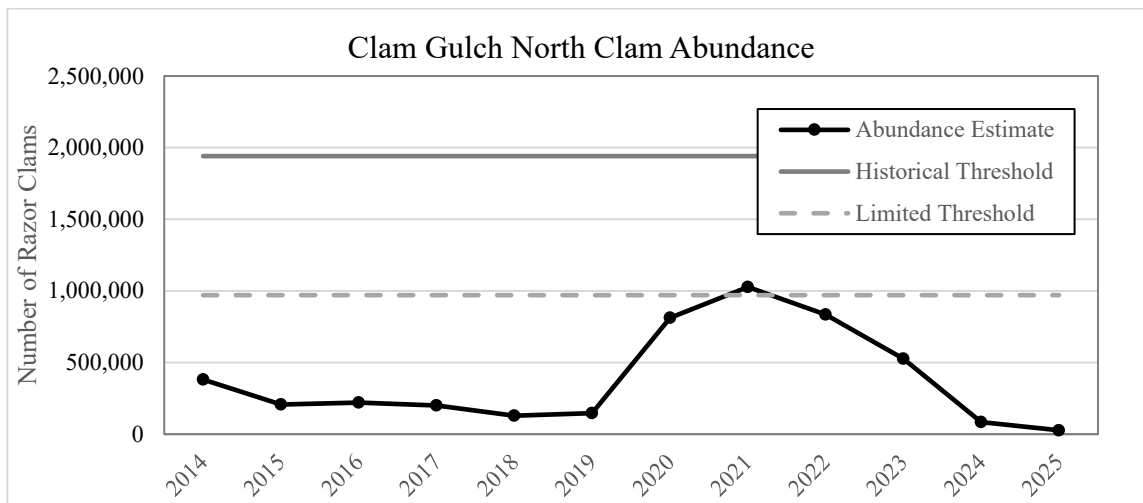
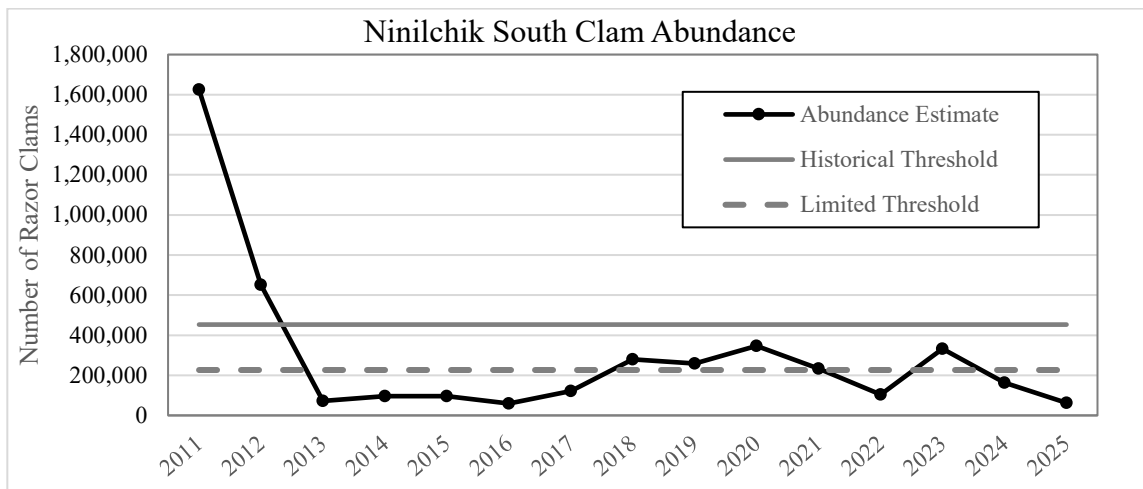
Razor Clams

East

All East Cook Inlet beaches remained closed to sport and personal use clamming for the start of 2025 until abundance surveys could be conducted in the spring. Surveys were conducted in April and May at both Clam Gulch and Ninilchik area beaches. Abundances of adult-sized razor clams at both beaches were below the threshold outlined in the management plan to open the fishery and were at historical lows. Additionally, the abundance of juvenile clams at both beaches were also at historical lows, which suggests that the stock is not rebuilding and won't support harvest opportunities for the next few years.

Management Actions

- The fishery was closed in 2025 based on the stipulations outlined in the management plan.



West

The West Cook Inlet beaches remained open to sport, and personal use clamming in 2025. Harvest estimates for the sport fishery are not available yet, but clambers report good success at Polly Creek and Crescent River Bar areas with larger clams being found at Crescent River Bar.

Management Actions

- The BOF adopted a department proposal to implement a harvest permit starting in 2026.

Tanner Crab

Cook Inlet Tanner Crab

No trawl surveys have been conducted since 2019, so the limited fishery was implemented for this season. Permits are available through ADF&G's online store for the 2025–2026 season. Effort and Tanner crab harvest has been stable in recent years.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented for the 2025-2026 fishery season.
- The BOF adopted a department proposal to change the harvest strategy to allow the standard fishery to open based on the most recent trawl survey instead of a 3-year average.

Tanner Crab Sport Fishery				
Year	Permits Issued	Percent Fished	Kachemak Bay	
			Effort (crabber-days)	Harvest (tanner crab)
2017–2018	1,782	55	3,030	8,010
2018–2019	1,587	62	2,986	8,139
2019–2020	1,327	55	1,537	7,106
2020–2021	1,889	69	1,914	5,458
2021–2022	1,712	72	2,079	5,991
2022–2023	2,396	70	2,449	7,043
2023–2024	2,162	78	2,062	5,821
2024–2025	2,177	69	2,012	5,546
Averages				
2017–2022	1,659	63	2,309	6,941
2022–2024	2,245	72	2,174	6,137

Personal Use Dip Net Fisheries

China Poot Creek

The China Poot Creek personal use dip net fishery does not require a permit for participation. Harvest and effort data available from the SWHS. The Commercial Fish Division conducts weekly foot surveys to count sockeye and pink salmon. Success through most of July was fair to good but not exceptional like other Kenai Peninsula sockeye salmon runs. The success in this fishery is most likely attributed to changes in commercial fishing and cost recovery operations associated with the stocking.

Management Actions

- No management actions occurred in 2025.