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## Advisory Announcement

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### 2025 KODIAK COMMERCIAL SALMON SEASON SUMMARY

The following is a brief overview of the 2025 Kodiak Management Area (KMA; Figure 1) commercial salmon season.

Commercial fishing effort in 2025 was well below average compared to recent years. By gear type, only 142 purse seine and 105 set gillnet permit holders made deliveries in 2025. Less than three beach seine permits were fished in 2025. Participation rates for purse seine (40%) and set gillnet (58%) were both below average (Table 1).

Table 1.– Commercial salmon fishery 2025 limited entry permit activity and 10-yr. averages, by gear type, in the KMA.

Gear Type	2025 Permits			2015–2024 Average permits		
	Available	Fished	% of permits fished	Available	Fished	% of permits fished
Purse seine	355	142	40%	372	160	43%
Beach seine	26	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	29	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>
Set gillnet	179	105	58%	188	134	71%
Total	560	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	589	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Confidential data.

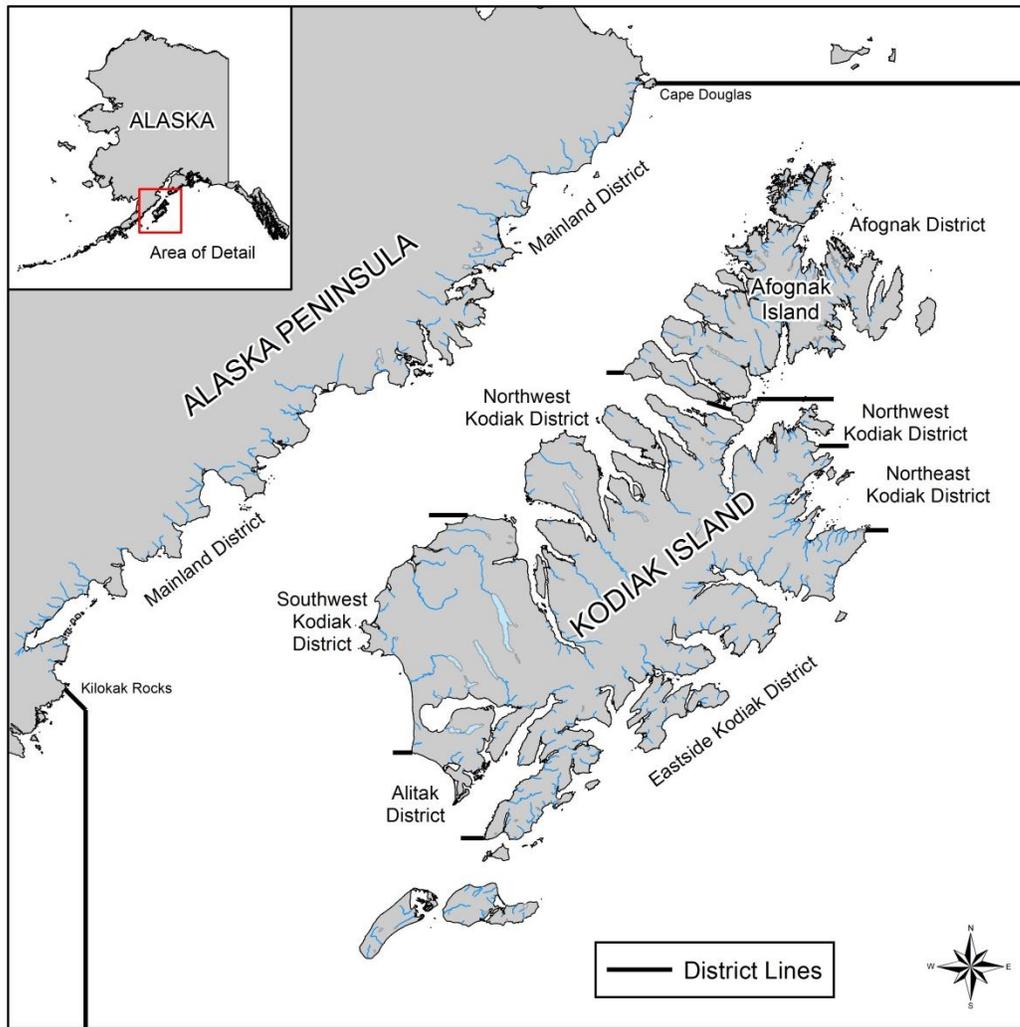


Figure 1.–Map of the commercial salmon fishing districts in the KMA.

The 2025 commercial harvest (not including personal use or ADF&G test fishery) in the KMA was 1,315 Chinook salmon, 1,436,881 sockeye salmon, 315,681 coho salmon, 34,605,698 pink salmon, and 740,485 chum salmon. The total KMA salmon harvest of 37,100,060 was above the 2025 forecast and above the previous 10-year average of approximately 23,004,553 fish (Table 2).

Table 2.–2025 commercial salmon harvest for KMA compared to the previous 10-year average and the 2025 harvest forecast.

	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
2025 Harvest	1,315	1,436,881	315,681	34,605,698	740,485	37,100,060
2015–2024 Avg.	7,558	2,300,090	296,695	19,726,543	673,668	23,004,553
2025 Forecast	8,300	1,575,800	203,000	31,800,000	615,000	34,202,100

Note: Harvest numbers do not include harvest from the ADF&G test fisheries, personal use, or aquaculture carcass sales.

The estimated exvessel value of the 2025 fishery (not including hatchery cost recovery) was approximately \$36.9 million, and above the 10-year average exvessel value of \$21.5 million (Table 3).

Purse seine permit holders accounted for most of the total harvest (in number of fish), and their earnings averaged \$241,807 per fished permit. Set gillnet earnings averaged \$23,677 per permit fished while beach seine earnings were confidential.

Table 3.—Estimated commercial salmon harvest and value, by gear type, in the KMA, 2015–2025.

Year	Total catch <sup>a</sup>	Total value <sup>b</sup>	Average exvessel value		
			Purse seine	Gillnet	Beach seine
2015	34,353,663	\$34,381,769	\$163,566	\$29,953	<sup>c</sup>
2016	5,031,781	\$14,509,665	\$66,243	\$25,972	\$7,111
2017	29,978,602	\$54,750,472	\$277,675	\$65,957	\$19,216
2018	8,618,297	\$27,263,475	\$147,748	\$35,118	<sup>c</sup>
2019	34,361,257	\$45,823,478	\$227,552	\$38,725	\$1,461
2020	23,898,965	\$26,461,042	\$157,217	\$23,187	<sup>c</sup>
2021	27,275,595	\$47,099,145	\$250,550	\$38,407	<sup>c</sup>
2022	17,202,482	\$34,785,070	\$182,515	\$31,404	<sup>c</sup>
2023	26,402,522	\$24,302,285	\$131,586	\$23,156	<sup>c</sup>
2024	8,467,057	\$14,163,740	\$102,178	\$20,387	<sup>c</sup>
2025	34,952,018	\$36,860,851	\$241,807	\$23,677	<sup>c</sup>
<u>Recent 10-year average</u>					
2015–2024	21,559,029	\$32,605,085	\$172,659	\$333,289	\$9,263

<sup>a</sup> Number of fish: Does not include hatchery cost recovery, test fisheries, personal use, or carcass sales.

<sup>b</sup> Exvessel values based on inseason price estimates and do not include postseason adjustments.

<sup>c</sup> Confidential data.

## 2025 Commercial Harvest Summary

### Chinook Salmon

There are no directed Chinook salmon commercial fisheries in the KMA, but incidental commercial harvest occurs during targeted sockeye and pink salmon fisheries. The Karluk and Ayakulik Rivers both support small populations of Chinook salmon and have seen a significant decline in escapement over the past few seasons. In response to this, the department used its Emergency Order (E.O.) authority to significantly reduce commercial fishing on the westside of Kodiak Island prior to July 15.

### Northwest Kodiak District Chinook Salmon Restrictions:

By regulation, non-retention of Chinook salmon over 28 inches was implemented for the KMA purse seine fleet areawide for the entire season. In the Northwest Kodiak District, prior to July 6, the department restricted commercial salmon fishing unless the Karluk early-run sockeye salmon escapement was projected to exceed its Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) of 150,000 to 250,000 fish. Furthermore, the department eliminated the two mandatory 33-hour fishing periods prior to June 15. The Northwest Kodiak District remained closed from June 1 through July 5.

### Southwest Kodiak District Chinook Salmon Restrictions:

In the Southwest Kodiak District, prior to July 15, the department restricted commercial salmon fishing in the Outer Ayakulik Section unless the Ayakulik early-run sockeye salmon escapement exceeded its Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) of 140,000 to 280,000 fish. The Ayakulik early-run sockeye salmon BEG was ultimately exceeded, allowing two fishing periods in July prior to July 15.

The 2025 commercial harvest of Chinook salmon in the KMA totaled 1,315 fish, which was below the previous 10-year average (7,558 fish) and the 2025 forecast (8,300 fish; Table 2). The 2025 harvest of Chinook salmon was the lowest in the past 43 years (excluding the 1989 Exxon Valdez year).

### **Sockeye Salmon**

The 2025 commercial harvest of sockeye salmon totaled 1,436,881 fish. The harvest was well below the recent 10-year average (2,300,090 fish) and below the preseason forecast (1,575,800 fish; Table 2).

Early-season management for much of the westside of Kodiak Island is driven by Karluk River early-run sockeye salmon. The 2025 Karluk River early run was very weak. Due to Chinook salmon conservation measures, no commercial salmon fishing was allowed in June along the westside of Kodiak Island until the management focus turned to pink salmon (July 6). A total of 76,769 sockeye salmon were harvested in early-season westside areas based on Karluk River early-run sockeye salmon and the beginning of the pink salmon fishery (June 1–July 15). Westside sockeye salmon numbers include an estimated contribution of 17,882 sockeye salmon from the enhanced Spiridon Lake sockeye salmon run harvested outside of the Spiridon Bay Special Harvest Area.

Late-season management for much of the westside of Kodiak is driven by the Kodiak Island pink and chum salmon fishery and the Karluk River late-run sockeye salmon run. Most of the wild pink salmon runs to the westside of Kodiak Island were well above average, and 105-hour weekly fishing periods were allowed in July. The Karluk River late-run sockeye salmon run was also below average. However, due to a very strong pink salmon run, extended fishing time was allowed until late August. A total of 378,037 sockeye salmon were commercially harvested in late-season westside areas managed based on Karluk River late-run sockeye and westside Kodiak pink and chum salmon abundance. Westside sockeye salmon numbers include an estimated contribution of 16,819 sockeye salmon from the enhanced Spiridon Lake sockeye salmon run harvested outside of the Spiridon Bay Special Harvest Area.

The Ayakulik River early-run sockeye salmon run was average, however due to the department's Chinook salmon restrictions, the Ayakulik early run exceeded its BEG and very few fishing days were allowed in the Outer Ayakulik and Halibut Bay Sections of the Southwest Kodiak District during early-run sockeye salmon management. A total of 182,620 sockeye salmon were harvested in areas managed based on abundance of Ayakulik River early-run sockeye salmon. However, the department exceeded the Ayakulik BEG by nearly 76,000 fish.

The department conducted a test fishery in the Ayakulik area and harvested a total of 58,165 sockeye salmon prior to the Ayakulik BEG being exceeded. To prioritize conservation, a custom-built live box was deployed, enabling the successful revival and release of all six Chinook salmon captured.

The Ayakulik River late-run sockeye salmon run was weak. A total of 72,836 sockeye salmon were harvested in areas managed based on Ayakulik River late-run sockeye salmon. A total of 255,456 sockeye salmon (not including ADF&G test fish harvest) were harvested from Westside sections managed based on abundance of Ayakulik River sockeye salmon.

Upper Station early-run sockeye salmon escapement was average, and the traditional fishing areas of the Alitak District (i.e. purse seine and set gillnet sections) were open for several fishing periods in June. However, the Frazer Lake sockeye salmon escapement was weak, and a significant closure in late June and most of July was needed to achieve the escapement goal. The Alitak District early-run sockeye salmon harvest was only approximately 19,646 fish.

Commercial set gillnet effort in the Alitak District was low, allowing for liberal fishing time. Upper Station late-run sockeye salmon escapement was slightly below average and well within the BEG range. The Alitak District late-run sockeye salmon harvest was 166,604 fish. The total harvest of the Alitak District sockeye salmon was only 186,250 fish.

***Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan:*** This regulatory management plan (5 AAC 18.360) allocates up to 7.5% of the total Chignik-bound sockeye salmon harvest to KMA fishermen in the Cape Igvak Section. Based on regulations, ninety percent (90%) of all sockeye salmon caught prior to July 5 in the Cape Igvak Section are considered to be Chignik-bound.

The Chignik early-run sockeye salmon run was stronger than the past few seasons, but the majority of the harvest was after the management plan timeframe, and the allocative and biological criteria were never met in order to allow fishing in the Cape Igvak Section. No sockeye salmon were harvested in the Cape Igvak Section through July 5.

***North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Salmon Management Plan:*** From July 6 to August 1, this regulatory management plan (5 AAC 18.363) places harvest limits on areas along the Mainland District and northern Shelikof Strait to limit harvest of sockeye salmon that are considered Cook Inlet-bound. During the period that this management plan is in effect, KMA fisheries are managed based on local pink and chum salmon runs. If it appears that the sockeye salmon harvest will meet or exceed limits set by the management plan, then fisheries are to be restricted to inshore “Shoreward Zones” only, and offshore “Seaward Zones” are closed (Figure 2).

A department biologist was present on the grounds to determine the sockeye salmon catch and to facilitate orderly and short-notice closures if the harvest limits are met. The Seaward Zones in the North Shelikof Strait Management Unit closed at 3:00 p.m. July 23. The total July 6 to August 1 harvest in the North Shelikof Unit was 183,553 sockeye salmon, which included both the Shoreward and Seaward Zone harvests. The Seaward Zones in the Cape Igvak Management Unit closed at 1:00 p.m. July 15 based on inseason numbers. The total July 6 to August 1 harvest in the Cape Igvak Management Unit was 17,855 sockeye salmon, which included both the Shoreward and Seaward Zone harvests.

No Seaward Zone closures were implemented in the Southwest Afognak Section through July 25. The cumulative sockeye salmon harvest never approached the 50,000 sockeye salmon limit. The total July 6 to July 25 harvest in the Southwest Afognak Section Unit was 6,194 sockeye salmon, which included both the Shoreward and Seaward Zone harvests.

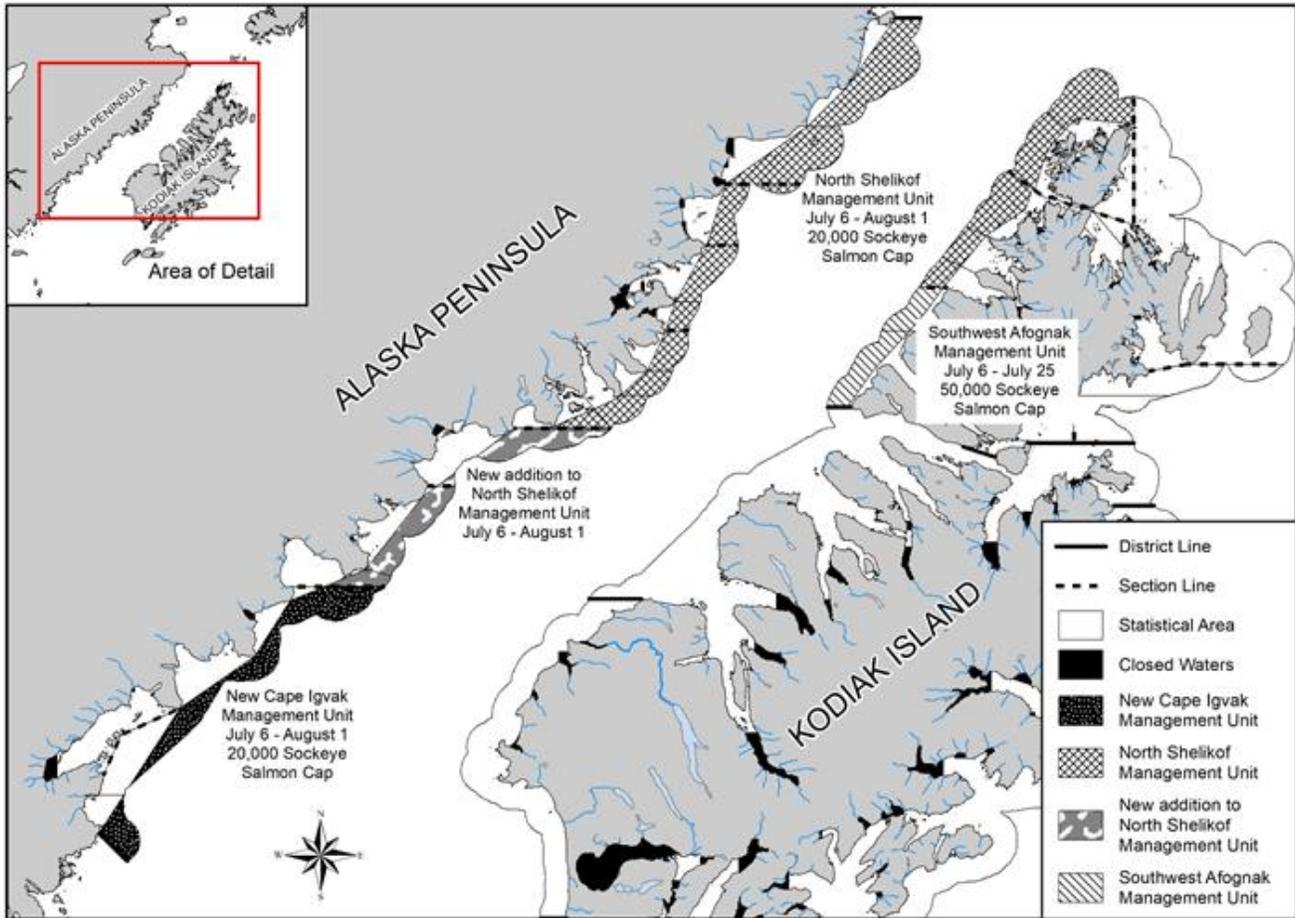


Figure 2.—Map of the North Shelikof Management Area.

**Terminal and Special Harvest Areas:** Some fisheries occur in areas where salmon enhancement projects create surplus production.

A total of 10,398 sockeye salmon were harvested in the Foul Bay Special Harvest Area (SHA) in June.

In the Spiridon Bay SHA (Telrod Cove) and the Spiridon Bay Section, about 41,021 sockeye salmon were harvested. Cost-recovery fish harvested by Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association accounted for 73% of the harvest within the SHA or 30,567 fish. The harvest in the Spiridon Bay SHA and the Spiridon Bay Section represents only a portion of the total harvest of Spiridon enhancement fish; the remainder is harvested in traditional pink and chum fisheries along the westside of Kodiak. It is estimated that approximately 34,701 Spiridon enhancement fish were harvested outside of Telrod Cove and the Spiridon Bay Section, bringing the total Spiridon enhancement sockeye salmon harvest to 75,722 fish, which was well below the forecast.

The Kitoi Bay Hatchery harvest was 38,645 sockeye salmon, which was below the forecast. This includes the commercial harvest of both enhanced and wild salmon from the Inner Kitoi Bay, Outer Kitoi Bay, Duck Bay, and Izhut Bay Sections.

**Coho Salmon**

The commercial coho salmon harvest of 315,681 fish was well above the forecast and above the previous 10-year average (296,695 fish; Table 2). The majority of the coho salmon were harvested near Kitoi Bay Hatchery in August and September.

**Pink Salmon**

The 2025 KMA pink salmon harvest (including cost recovery) of 34,605,698 fish was the second largest on record and above the forecast and the previous 10-year average harvest of 19,726,543 fish (Table 2). Pink salmon harvested in the areas managed on KMA wild stocks totaled 24,907,602 fish, which was well above forecast. Most of the wild area pink salmon harvested were from the Northwest Kodiak and Eastside Kodiak Districts.

The Kitoi Bay Hatchery pink salmon run was also above average with 9,698,096 pink salmon harvested in sections near the hatchery and only slightly below the 2025 forecast (10,800,000 fish). Kitoi-bound pink salmon are likely harvested along the west and east sides of Kodiak and Afognak Islands. Likewise, additional wild stock salmon are likely harvested in areas associated with Kitoi Bay Hatchery. The department does not have a stock separation program for pink salmon and is unable to differentiate the KMA wild and hatchery stocks. Cost-recovery fish harvested by Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association accounted for 17% of the harvest or 1,653,604 fish. An additional 434,406 pink salmon carcasses were also sold but not included in the totals.

**Chum Salmon**

Most of the KMA wild chum salmon are harvested during the directed pink and chum salmon fisheries in July. Most of the 2025 KMA chum salmon runs were average to below average except several runs in the Northwest Kodiak District were particularly strong. The 2025 KMA chum salmon harvest of 740,485 fish was above the 2025 forecast (615,000 fish). Additionally, the Kitoi Bay Hatchery chum salmon harvest of 270,380 chum salmon was above the forecast (243,000 fish).

**2025 Escapement Summary**

Fish counting weirs were operated on eight systems in 2025, including the Karluk, Ayakulik, Upper Station, Dog Salmon, Litnik, Buskin, Saltery, and Pasagshak systems. Three observers also flew a record low 15 aerial surveys, and several observers conducted foot and skiff survey escapement estimates.

**Chinook Salmon**

The total Chinook salmon escapement (550 fish) was the second lowest on record, and below the previous 10-year average of 4,957 fish (Table 4). Escapement goals for Chinook salmon have been developed for the Karluk and Ayakulik Rivers, and escapements are estimated using fish counting weirs (Table 5).

Despite the unprecedented commercial salmon closure on Kodiak's westside from June 1 through July 5, Chinook salmon escapement through the Karluk River weir ranked as the second lowest on record (93 fish; Table 5) falling well below the Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) range of 3,000 to 6,000 fish.

Despite the unprecedented commercial salmon closure on Kodiak's westside from June 1 through July 5, Chinook salmon escapement through the Ayakulik River weir ranked as the second lowest on record (444 fish; Table 5) falling well below the Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) range of 4,800 to 8,400 fish.

**Sockeye Salmon**

Sockeye salmon runs in many systems in the KMA were below average. Most sockeye salmon systems in the Kodiak Area met their established escapement goals, except the Karluk early run. (Table 5). The entire KMA

estimated sockeye salmon escapement of 1,177,751 fish (Table 4) was below the previous 10-year average of 1,450,191 fish (Table 4).

### **Coho Salmon**

Although the KMA has substantial coho salmon runs, the department no longer has the funds to monitor most stocks. The only established coho salmon escapement goals occur in the Northeast Kodiak and Eastside Kodiak Districts for the following systems: American (400 fish), Olds (1,000 fish), Buskin (4,700 to 9,600 fish), and the Pasagshak Rivers (1,200 fish). At the time of this report, the final estimated escapement numbers have not been finalized.

### **Pink Salmon**

The KMA pink salmon escapement of 6,595,124 fish was above the previous 10-year average of 5,537,005 fish (Table 4). However, this should be seen as a minimal estimate given the lack of aerial surveys conducted due to an insufficient budget and increased costs. Pink salmon escapement goals have been established as aggregate goals for the entire Kodiak Archipelago and the Mainland District. The 2025 escapement for the Kodiak Archipelago (5,676,124 fish) was above the escapement goal range of 2.0 to 5.0 million fish (Table 5). The Mainland District pink salmon escapement of only 918,700 fish was above average and within the established escapement goal range (250,000 to 1,000,000 fish; Table 5).

### **Chum Salmon**

The overall KMA chum salmon escapement of 428,718 fish was above the previous 10-year average (364,727 fish; Table 4). A peak indexed escapement goal based on 17 streams on Kodiak Island has been established; the 2025 peak indexed escapement of 103,500 fish was above the goal of 101,000 fish (Table 5).

Table 4. Total salmon escapements in the KMA for all species in 2025 compared to average escapements from 2015 to 2025.

Species	2025 KMA escapement <sup>a</sup>	2015–2024 average KMA escapement
Chinook	550	4,957
Sockeye	1,147,751	1,450,191
Coho	55,601	67,049
Pink	6,595,124	5,537,005
Chum	428,718	364,727

<sup>a</sup> 2025 escapement estimates are the sum of all weir, aerial survey, and foot survey estimates. These are minimum estimates and are incomplete due to limited dates of weir operation and poor survey conditions. This includes escapement from all streams surveyed including many non-index streams that are not measured against established escapement goals.

Table 5. Salmon peak escapements and escapement goals by species in the KMA, 2025.

Species	District/System (stock)	Stream Number	Escapement Goal		2025 Peak Escapement
			Lower	Upper	
<b>Chinook</b>					
	Karluk	255-101	3,000	6,000	93
	Ayakulik	256-201	4,800	8,400	444
		<b>Total</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>14,400</b>	<b>537</b>
<b>Sockeye</b>					
	Afognak	252-342	20,000	50,000	22,195
	Karluk	255-101			
	Early run		150,000	250,000	64,469
	Late run		200,000	450,000	203,202
	Ayakulik	256-201			
	Early run		140,000	280,000	355,800
	Late run		60,000	120,000	85,186
	Upper Station	257-304			
	Early run		43,000	93,000	81,086
	Late run		120,000	265,000	162,325
	Frazer Lake	257-403	75,000	170,000	92,875
	Buskin	259-211	5,000	8,000	10,584
	Pasagshak	259-411	3,000		5,366
	Saltery	259-415	15,000	35,000	48,550
			<b>832,000</b>	<b>1,731,000</b>	<b>1,131,638</b>
<b>Pink<sup>a</sup></b>					
	Mainland District		250,000	1,000,000	918,700
	Kodiak Archipelago		2,000,000	5,000,000	5,676,124
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2,250,000</b>	<b>6,000,000</b>	<b>6,595,124</b>
<b>Chum<sup>b</sup></b>					
		Kodiak Archipelago	101,000		103,500
		<b>Total</b>	<b>101,000</b>		<b>103,500</b>

<sup>a</sup> 2025 escapement estimates are the sum of all weir, aerial survey, and foot survey estimates. These may be minimum estimates only and are incomplete due to limited dates of weir operation and poor survey conditions.

<sup>b</sup> The Kodiak Archipelago peak index escapement goal is based on 17 Kodiak Archipelago index streams and does not represent the entire KMA chum salmon escapement.