

# Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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## Meeting Agenda

Date: August 12, 2026

Time: 10 am

Place: Bethel, AK

Time Called to Order:

Chair:

### **ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM:**

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

### **QUORUM MET? Yes / No**

Commercial Fisher:  
Member at Large:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Member at Large:  
Western Interior RAC:  
Y-K Delta RAC:  
KRITFC:  
ADF&G:

**INTRODUCTIONS:** *ADF&G, USFWS, KRITFC, ONC, NVN, AVCP, media, government representatives, public, others.*

### **INVOCATION:**

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

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

### **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

A. Subsistence Reports: Lowest River, Lower River, Middle River, Upper River, Headwaters

B. Kuskokwim River project updates:

1. ADF&G - Weirs, sonar, and telemetry. – Sean Larson
2. USFWS
3. NVN
4. ONC
5. KRITFC – Harvest and effort estimates, camera-based monitoring, and weirs. – Justin Leon

C. Marine Fishery Report: KRITFC

D. Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Fishery Management update – Spencer Rearden and Kevin Whitworth

E. ADF&G management update and considerations – Sam Decker and Madison Hardwig

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

F. Elections – Charles Guest

G. AG Decision on Area M Regulations

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

H. Letter of Support ONC

### **COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:**

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Place:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Kuskokwim River Salmon Assessment Update

## 8/10/2026

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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](mailto:sean.larson@alaska.gov)). Original development of code used to create this document is credited to Benjamin Staton.

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#### Abbreviations

- CPUE: Catch-per-unit-effort
- ADF&G: Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service

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>

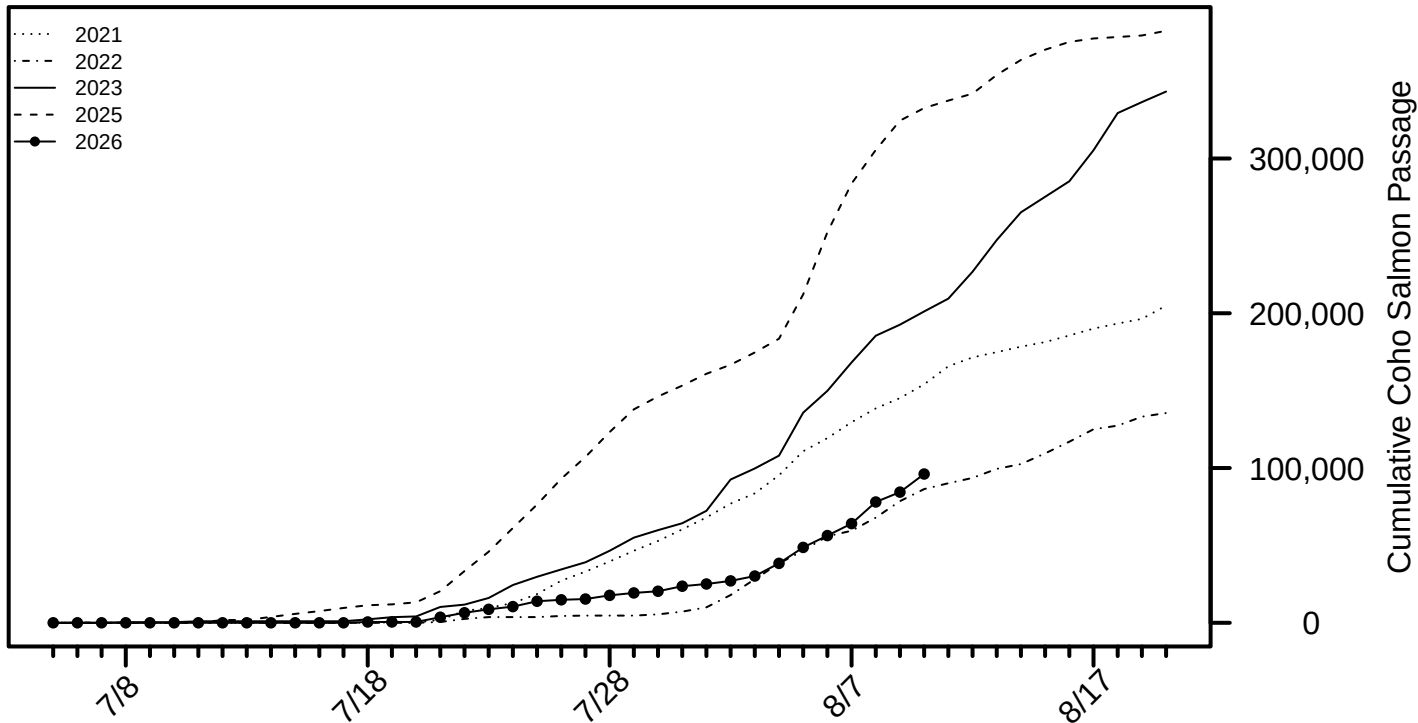
For the most up-to-date information regarding fishing opportunities please visit

- **USFWS:** [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/yukon\\_delta/wildlife\\_and\\_habitat/dailyupdate.html](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/yukon_delta/wildlife_and_habitat/dailyupdate.html)
- **ADF&G:** <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

# Coho Salmon Summary (8/10)

## Based on Kuskokwim River Sonar

- The sonar daily passage was **11,706**.
  - The sonar cumulative passage is now **96,126**.
  - The average (2020-2023 & 2025) sonar cumulative passage is **163,455** for this date.
  - **40%** of years since 2020 fell below the cumulative passage for this date.
  - **43% - 74%** of the run is likely complete based on historical run timing at the sonar.
- Coho Salmon Figure 1:** The cumulative sonar passage from 2026 plotted along with 4 prior years the sonar operated through August.



**Coho Salmon Table 1.** Cumulative passage at the Kuskokwim River sonar. Average includes years 2020-2023 and 2025. The sonar ended operations on July 25 in 2024. *Note: Estimates are subject to change.*

| Date | 2026          | 2025           | 2024          | 2023           | 2022          | 2021           | 2020          | Average        |
|------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 8/7  | 64,074        | 283,774        | 20,439        | 168,221        | 59,463        | 129,623        | 25,046        | 133,225        |
| 8/8  | 78,055        | 305,505        | 20,439        | 185,489        | 67,958        | 138,523        | 29,605        | 145,416        |
| 8/9  | 84,420        | 324,467        | 20,439        | 192,639        | 78,612        | 145,192        | 34,471        | 155,076        |
| 8/10 | <b>96,126</b> | <b>332,587</b> | <b>20,439</b> | <b>201,155</b> | <b>86,400</b> | <b>154,095</b> | <b>43,039</b> | <b>163,455</b> |
| EOS  |               | 396,141        | 20,439        | 369,648        | 154,530       | 229,689        | 157,882       | 261,578        |

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# Chinook, Chum, and Sockeye Salmon Summaries

## Chinook Salmon Summary

**Chinook Salmon Table 1.** Cumulative passage at the Kuskokwim River sonar. Sonar ended operations in July during the 2018, 2019, and 2024 seasons. Average includes years 2018-2025. *Note: Estimates are subject to change.*

| Date | 2026          | 2025           | 2024           | 2023          | 2022           | 2021           | 2020           | 2019           | 2018           | Average        |
|------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 8/7  | 95,933        | 120,492        | 142,662        | 79,166        | 145,896        | 102,549        | 106,347        | 161,888        | 132,971        | 123,996        |
| 8/8  | 95,933        | 120,492        | 142,662        | 79,166        | 145,896        | 102,549        | 106,347        | 161,888        | 132,971        | 123,996        |
| 8/9  | 95,933        | 120,492        | 142,662        | 79,166        | 145,896        | 102,549        | 106,572        | 161,888        | 132,971        | 124,024        |
| 8/10 | <b>95,933</b> | <b>120,492</b> | <b>142,662</b> | <b>79,166</b> | <b>145,896</b> | <b>102,549</b> | <b>106,572</b> | <b>161,888</b> | <b>132,971</b> | <b>124,024</b> |
| EOS  |               | 120,492        | 142,662        | 79,166        | 145,896        | 102,549        | 106,764        | 161,888        | 132,971        | 124,048        |

\*\*\* The ATF ended operations on 7/15 with a cumulative CPUE of **546 for Chinook salmon**, which was below the 2015-2025 average cumulative CPUE of **2,333** .

## Chum Salmon Summary

**Chum Salmon Table 1.** Cumulative passage at the Kuskokwim River sonar. Sonar ended operations in July during the 2018, 2019, and 2024 seasons. Average includes years 2018-2025. *Note: Estimates are subject to change.*

| Date | 2026           | 2025           | 2024           | 2023           | 2022           | 2021          | 2020          | 2019           | 2018           | Average        |
|------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 8/7  | 547,567        | 157,561        | 253,825        | 245,104        | 100,950        | 26,763        | 75,378        | 385,409        | 552,011        | 224,625        |
| 8/8  | 550,103        | 158,074        | 253,825        | 247,857        | 101,983        | 26,763        | 75,378        | 385,409        | 552,011        | 225,162        |
| 8/9  | 551,792        | 159,001        | 253,825        | 247,960        | 102,068        | 26,763        | 75,378        | 385,409        | 552,011        | 225,302        |
| 8/10 | <b>551,792</b> | <b>159,001</b> | <b>253,825</b> | <b>247,960</b> | <b>102,068</b> | <b>26,763</b> | <b>75,378</b> | <b>385,409</b> | <b>552,011</b> | <b>225,302</b> |
| EOS  |                | 159,622        | 253,825        | 251,542        | 103,864        | 26,973        | 76,432        | 385,409        | 552,011        | 226,210        |

\*\*\* The ATF ended operations on 7/15 with a cumulative CPUE value of **1,623 for chum salmon** , which was below the 2015-2025 average cumulative CPUE of **4,143**.

## Sockeye Salmon Summary

**Sockeye Salmon Table 1.** Cumulative passage at the Kuskokwim River sonar. Sonar ended operations in July during the 2018, 2019, and 2024 seasons. Average includes years 2018-2025. *Note: Estimates are subject to change.*

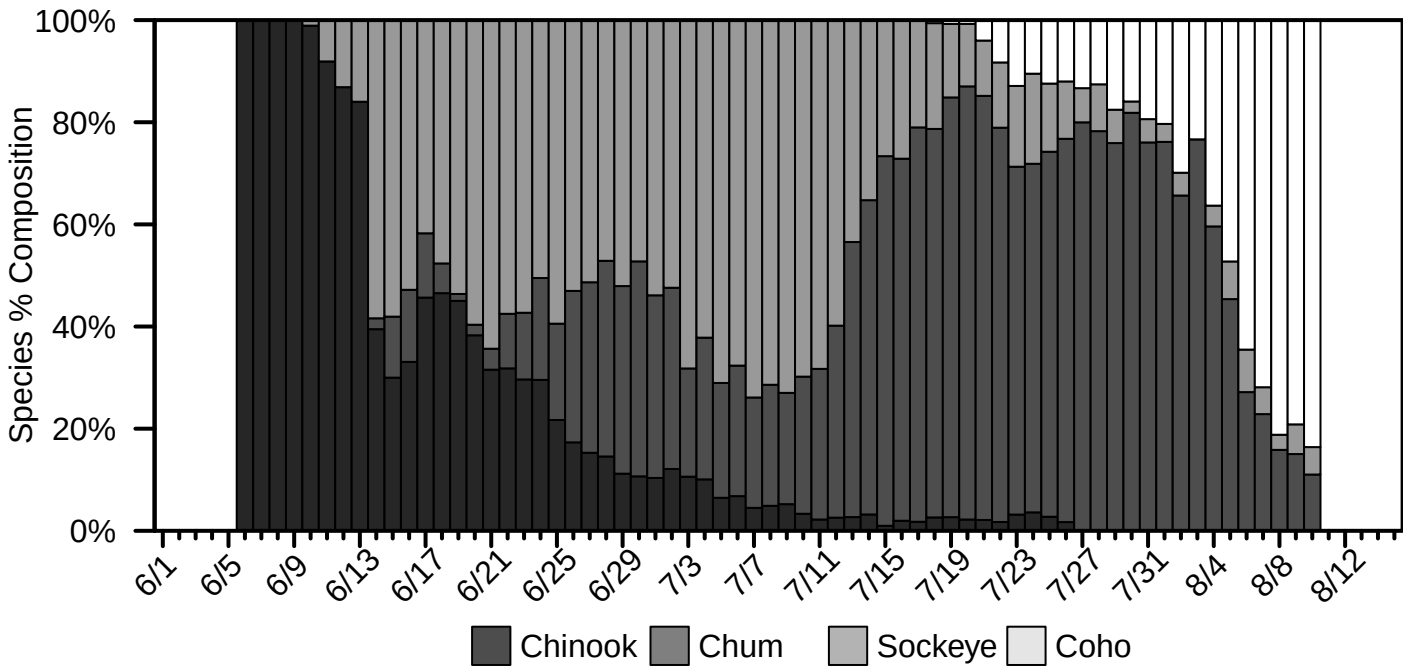
| Date | 2026           | 2025           | 2024           | 2023           | 2022           | 2021           | 2020           | 2019           | 2018           | Average        |
|------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 8/7  | 494,833        | 914,983        | 695,724        | 895,537        | 606,404        | 868,399        | 569,842        | 924,354        | 635,493        | 763,842        |
| 8/8  | 495,903        | 914,983        | 695,724        | 897,224        | 611,051        | 868,399        | 570,269        | 924,354        | 635,493        | 764,687        |
| 8/9  | 496,893        | 915,704        | 695,724        | 897,713        | 611,051        | 868,399        | 570,526        | 924,354        | 635,493        | 764,870        |
| 8/10 | <b>496,893</b> | <b>917,080</b> | <b>695,724</b> | <b>897,713</b> | <b>611,357</b> | <b>868,399</b> | <b>570,968</b> | <b>924,354</b> | <b>635,493</b> | <b>765,136</b> |
| EOS  |                | 924,085        | 695,724        | 899,180        | 613,874        | 869,268        | 574,928        | 924,354        | 635,493        | 767,113        |

\*\*\* The ATF ended operations on 7/15 with a cumulative CPUE value of **96 for sockeye salmon** , which was below the 2015-2025 average cumulative CPUE of **346**.

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# Percent Composition by Salmon Species

**Species Composition Figure 1.** Species percent composition from the sonar estimates from 2026 (salmon species only, excluding pink salmon). The composition presented on each day represents the average composition over the past 3 days.



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# Kuskokwim River

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July X, 2026

**To:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Subsistence Management

**Subject:** Support for ADF&G and ONC proposal to continue collection of subsistence harvest data and Chinook salmon age, sex, length data from lower river subsistence harvest.

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (Working Group) was formed in 1988 and is composed of 14 member seats representing Elders, subsistence fishermen, processors, commercial fishermen, sport fishermen, members at large, federal subsistence regional advisory committees, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Agency members participate on a voluntary basis and receive no compensation. The Working Group serves as an advisory committee to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) on salmon fisheries management decisions within the Kuskokwim River. In addition, the Working Group has a long history of collaboration with fishery research planners and project leaders to ensure that adequate data is collected to inform sustainable management of Kuskokwim River salmon. This relationship ensures that Working Group participants remain up-to-date on data collection plans and new information which will help them to continue providing sound advice to State fisheries managers.

The Working Group would like to express our support for the inseason harvest monitoring project proposed by Orutsarmiut Native Council (ONC) and ADF&G. This project has two critical components: (1) Provides accurate and timely subsistence harvest data from the Bethel area fish camps and Bethel boat harbor (2) Estimates the annual age-sex-length (ASL) composition of Chinook salmon harvested in the Bethel area subsistence fishery. Furthermore, the project allows for fishers to share their comments, concerns and observations regarding the health and management of the Kuskokwim salmon fishery. ONC has provided weekly summaries of the data to fisheries managers, scientists, Working Group members and people of the public for many years, and we hope they can continue sharing important information with us well into the future.

ONC and ADF&G have provided real-time harvest data and have helped managers to gauge whether subsistence fishers in the Bethel area have met their Chinook, chum and sockeye salmon needs each fishing season. Both entities have also continued to successfully recruit local fishers to participate in the ASL Chinook salmon sampling program. Collection of ASL data is critical for sustainable management of Kuskokwim River salmon fisheries. Each year, ADF&G and the Working Group review ASL data collected from Kuskokwim River salmon assessment projects and consider those results when making management decisions. The data collected from the subsistence fishery is used in conjunction with ASL data collected from commercial and escapement projects to estimate the composition of the total annual return. Additionally, this data helps us evaluate the effects of harvest on escapement quality and make recommendations to State fisheries managers. This project is the only source of ASL information from the very large and culturally important subsistence fishery.

The Working Group recognizes the value this project has regarding outreach and community involvement. The Working Group is pleased that ADF&G and ONC are continuing their partnership. ONC and ADF&G have conducted inseason monitoring for nearly 20 years and have fostered great trust and support from the community and agency partners in this work. Over the past years that this project has operated, hundreds of individuals from several lower river communities have participated - many of whom are contacted weekly by local ONC technicians. ONC has employed many Tribal youth to work on this project, many of which have gained invaluable experiences from the project and have made important contributions due to their experiences living and fishing along the Kuskokwim, thus bringing a wealth of knowledge and wisdom to this work. This project continues to provide an important opportunity for information and knowledge sharing between subsistence users, ADF&G, ONC staff and other agencies

Because of these reasons, we strongly support this ADF&G and ONC proposal. Thank you for consideration of this proposal.

On behalf of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group,