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Advisory Announcement

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2026 KODIAK COMMERCIAL SALMON SEASON SUMMARY

The following is a brief overview of the 2026 Kodiak Management Area (KMA; Figure 1) commercial salmon season.

Commercial fishing effort in 2026 was well below average compared to recent years. By gear type, only 128 purse seine and 118 set gillnet permit holders made deliveries in 2026. Less than three beach seine permits were fished in 2026. Participation rates for purse seine (35%) and set gillnet (63%) were both below average (Table 1).

Table 1.– Commercial salmon fishery 2026 limited entry permit activity and 10-yr. averages, by gear type, in the KMA.

Gear Type	2026 Permits			2016–2025 Average permits		
	Available	Fished	% of permits fished	Available	Fished	% of permits fished
Purse seine	367	128	35%	371	156	42%
Beach seine	26	[a]	[a]	29	[a]	[a]
Set gillnet	186	118	63%	188	130	69%
Total	579	[a]	[a]	588	[a]	[a]

[a] Confidential data.

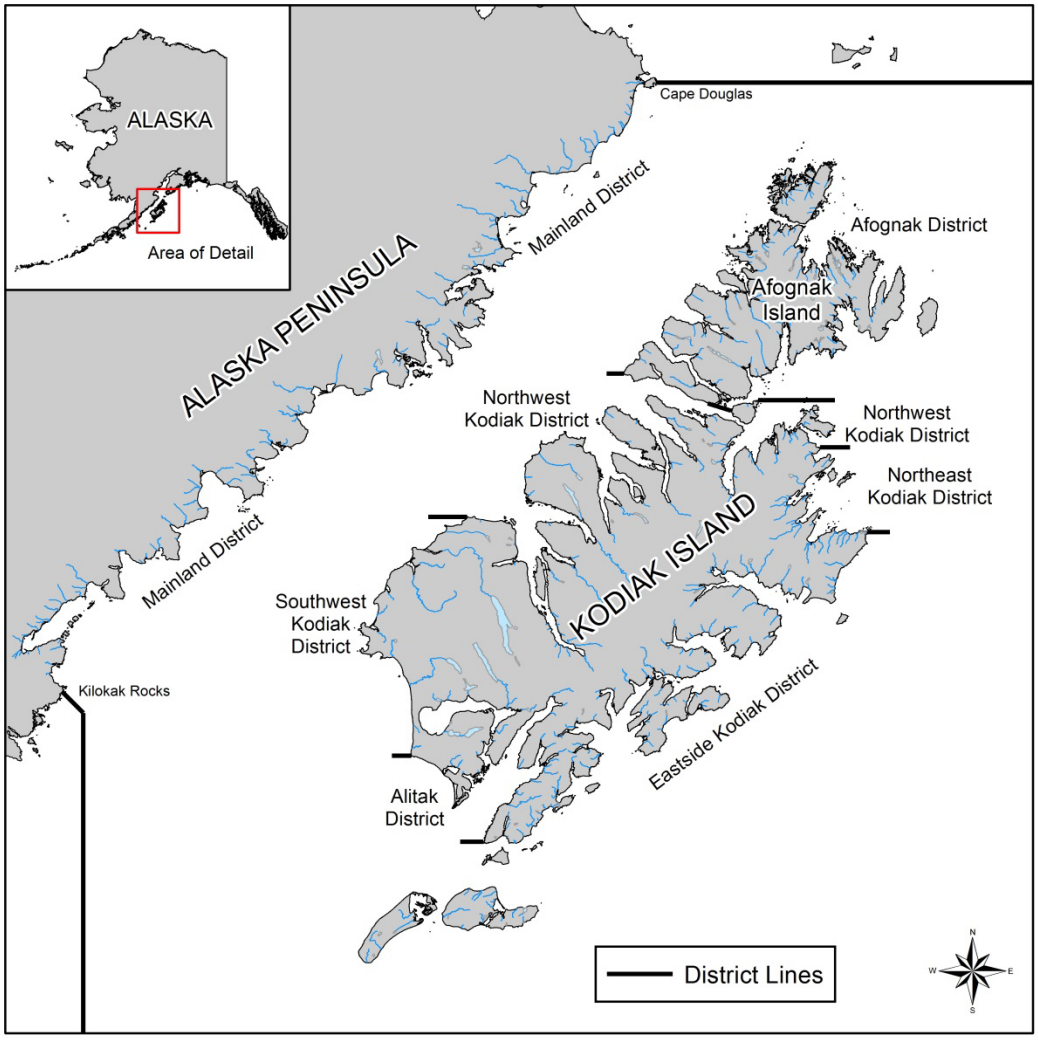


Figure 1.–Map of the commercial salmon fishing districts in the KMA.

The 2026 commercial harvest (not including personal use or ADF&G test fishery) in the KMA was 3,414 Chinook salmon, 1,661,721 sockeye salmon, 249,509 coho salmon, 13,389,228 pink salmon, and 274,741 chum salmon. The total KMA salmon harvest of 15,578,613 fish was slightly above the 2026 forecast and below the previous 10-year average of approximately 22,924,489 fish (Table 2).

Table 2.–2026 commercial salmon harvest for KMA compared to the previous 10-year average and the 2026 harvest forecast.

	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
2026 Harvest	3,414	1,661,721	249,509	13,389,228	274,741	15,578,613
2016–2025 Avg.	6,880	2,134,023	288,648	19,824,275	670,663	22,924,489
2026 Forecast	6,900	2,036,300	163,000	12,300,000	494,000	15,000,200

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 2026 fishery (not including hatchery cost recovery) was approximately $38.6 million, and above the 10-year average exvessel value of $32.9 million (Table 3).

Purse seine permit holders accounted for most of the total harvest (in number of fish), and their earnings averaged $266,770 per fished permit. Set gillnet earnings averaged $31,402 per permit fished while beach seine earnings were confidential.

Table 3.–Estimated commercial salmon harvest and value, by gear type, in the KMA, 2016–2026.

Year	Total catch[a]	Total value[b]	Average exvessel value		
			Purse seine	Gillnet	Beach seine
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	[c]
2019	34,361,257	$45,823,478	$227,552	$38,725	$1,461
2020	23,898,965	$28,104,638	$168,662	$23,493	[c]
2021	27,275,659	$48,010,434	$258,500	$38,697	[c]
2022	17,202,482	$34,785,070	$182,515	$31,404	[c]
2023	26,402,522	$24,302,285	$131,578	$23,156	[c]
2024	8,467,057	$14,119,564	$102,549	$20,416	[c]
2025	36,665,448	$36,859,541	$241,797	$23,678	[c]
2026	14,455,508	$38,607,978	$266,770	$31,402	[c]
Recent 10-year average					
2016–2025	21,790,207	$32,852,862	$180,482	$32,662	$9,263

[a] Number of fish: Does not include hatchery cost recovery, test fisheries, personal use, or carcass sales.
[b] Exvessel values based on inseason price estimates and do not include postseason adjustments.
[c] Confidential data.

2026 Commercial Harvest Summary

Chinook Salmon

The 2026 commercial harvest of Chinook salmon in the KMA totaled 3,414 fish, which was below the previous 10-year average (6,880 fish) and the 2026 forecast (6,900 fish; Table 2). The 2026 harvest of Chinook salmon was the third lowest in the past 44 years (excluding the 1989 Exxon Valdez year).

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 (EO) 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 the upper end of its Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) range 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 the upper end of its Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) range of 140,000 to 280,000 fish. The Ayakulik early-run sockeye salmon BEG was exceeded on June 20, allowing for fishing to occur prior to July 15.

Sockeye Salmon

The 2026 commercial harvest of sockeye salmon totaled 1,661,721 fish. The harvest was well below the recent 10-year average (2,134,023 fish) and below the preseason forecast (2,036,300 fish; Table 2).

Early-season management for much of the westside of Kodiak Island is driven by Karluk River early-run sockeye salmon. The 2026 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 53,313 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).

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 arrived late and were average. Weekly fishing periods of 57 hours were allowed in July. The Karluk River late-run sockeye salmon run was average, and liberal fishing time was allowed in August and September. A total of 428,912 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.

The Ayakulik River early-run sockeye salmon run was very large; however, due to the department's Chinook salmon restrictions, fishing opportunities were only allowed in the Outer Ayakulik Section after the Ayakulik River early-run sockeye salmon BEG of 140,000 to 280,000 had been exceeded. A total of 379,656 sockeye salmon were harvested in areas managed based on abundance of Ayakulik River early-run sockeye salmon. The Ayakulik BEG was exceeded by nearly 215,000 fish.

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

The Ayakulik River late-run sockeye salmon run was also strong. A total of 167,623 sockeye salmon were harvested in areas managed based on Ayakulik River late-run sockeye salmon. A total of 547,279 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 strong, and the traditional fishing areas of the Alitak District (i.e. purse seine and set gillnet sections) were open in early June. However, the Frazer Lake sockeye salmon escapement was weak, and a significant closure in mid June was needed. In order to harvest surplus Upper Station sockeye and protect Frazer sockeye salmon, fishing periods from mid-June to early-July only occurred in the Inner and Outer Upper Station Sections. The Alitak District early-run sockeye salmon harvest was 90,001 fish.

Upper Station late-run sockeye salmon escapement was below average but well within the BEG range. Commercial set gillnet effort in the Alitak District was low, allowing for liberal fishing time. The Alitak District

late-run sockeye salmon harvest was 215,926 fish. The total harvest of the Alitak District sockeye salmon was 305,927 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 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. There was no closure of the Seaward Zones in the North Shelikof Strait Management Unit as the 20,000 sockeye salmon harvest cap was not met. The total July 6 to August 1 harvest in the North Shelikof Unit was 15,706 sockeye salmon, which included both the Shoreward and Seaward Zone harvests. The Seaward Zones in the Cape Igvak Management Unit closed at 9:00 p.m. July 8 based on inseason numbers. The total July 6 to August 1 harvest in the Cape Igvak Management Unit was 53,159 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 is confidential because of the low number of participating fishers.

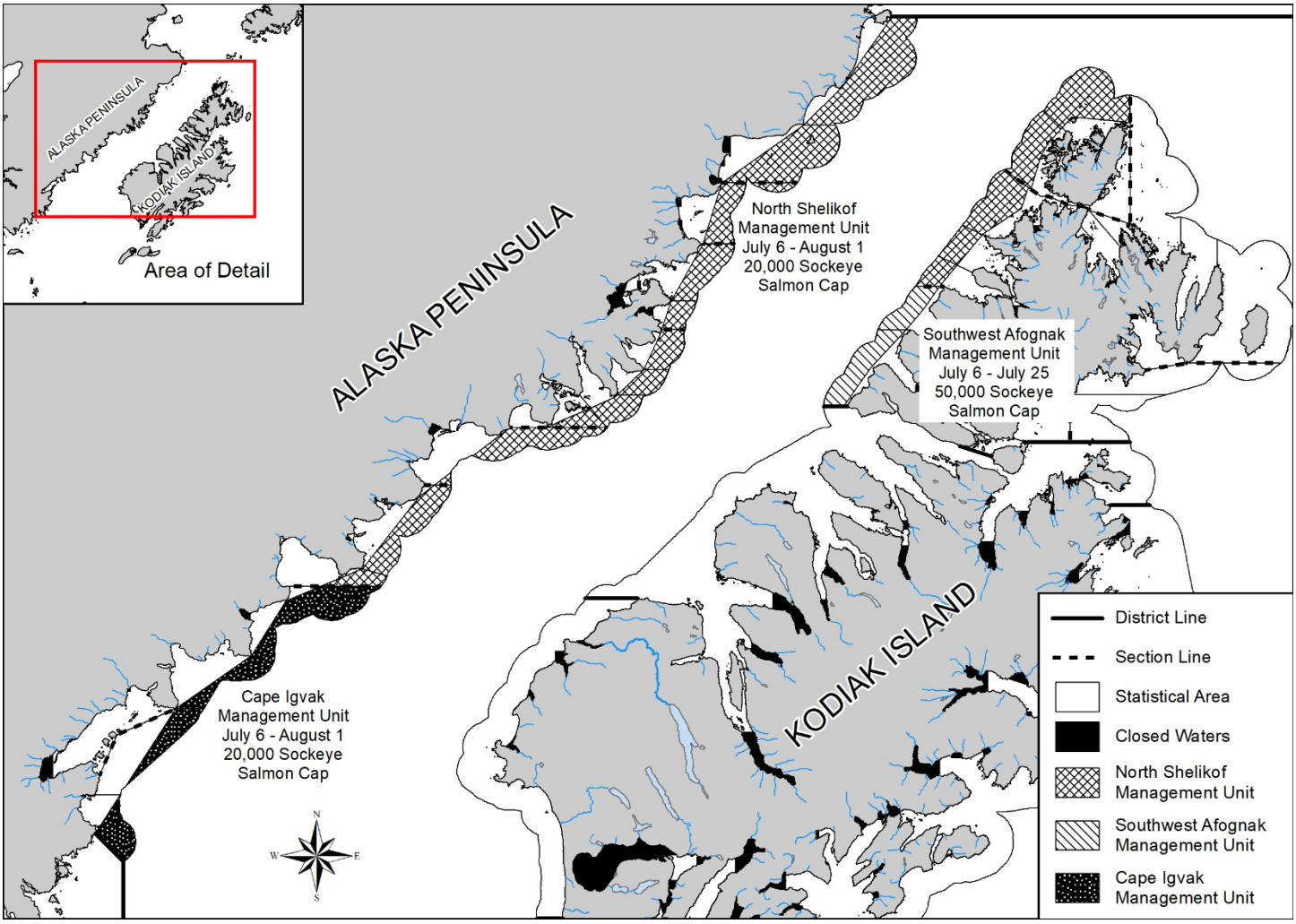


Figure 2.–Map of the North Shelikof Management Area.

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

A total of 12,184 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, 177,635 sockeye salmon were harvested. 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 130,881 Spiridon enhancement fish were harvested outside of Telrod Cove and the Spiridon Bay Section, bringing the total Spiridon enhancement sockeye salmon harvest to 308,516 fish, which was well above the forecast.

The Kitoi Bay Hatchery harvest was 21,009 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 249,509 fish was above the forecast, but below the previous 10-year average (288,648 fish; Table 2). The majority of the coho salmon were harvested in fisheries along the westside of Kodiak, the eastside of Kodiak, and near Kitoi Bay Hatchery in August and September.

Pink Salmon

The 2026 KMA pink salmon harvest (including cost recovery) of 13,389,228 fish was slightly above the forecast, but below the previous 10-year average harvest of 19,824,275 fish (Table 2). Pink salmon harvested in the areas managed on KMA wild stocks totaled 8,511,734 fish, which was slightly 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 average with 4,877,494 pink salmon harvested in sections near the hatchery and slightly above the 2026 forecast (4,700,000 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 23% of the harvest or 1,123,105 fish. An additional 460,712 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 2026 KMA chum salmon runs were average to below average. The 2026 KMA chum salmon harvest of 274,741 fish was below the 2026 forecast (494,000 fish). Additionally, the Kitoi Bay Hatchery chum salmon harvest of 73,967 chum salmon was below the forecast (98,000 fish).

2026 Escapement Summary

Fish counting weirs were operated on nine systems in 2026, including the Karluk, Ayakulik, Upper Station, Dog Salmon, Litnik, Buskin, Saltery, Pasagshak, and Pauls Bay systems. Two observers also flew 15 aerial surveys, and several observers conducted foot and skiff survey escapement estimates.

Chinook Salmon

The total Chinook salmon escapement (1,131 fish) was the fourth lowest on record, and below the previous 10-year average of 4,487 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 commercial salmon closure on Kodiak's westside from June 1 through July 5, Chinook salmon escapement through the Karluk River weir ranked as the fourth lowest on record (308 fish; Table 5) falling well below the Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) range of 3,000 to 6,000 fish.

Despite the commercial salmon closure on Kodiak's westside from June 1 through July 5, Chinook salmon escapement through the Ayakulik River weir ranked as the fourth lowest on record (807 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 for the Buskin and Karluk early run. (Table 5). The

entire KMA estimated sockeye salmon escapement of 1,441,055 fish (Table 4) was slightly above the previous 10-year average of 1,413,020 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 5,554,739 fish nearly matched the previous 10-year average of 5,543,546 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 2026 escapement for the Kodiak Archipelago (5,455,339 fish) was within the escapement goal range of 3.0 to 7.0 million fish (Table 5). Despite an extended closure throughout August and September, pink salmon escapement in the Mainland District reached only 99,400 fish, well below the long-term average and the established escapement goal range of 250,000 to 1,000,000 fish (Table 5).

Chum Salmon

The overall KMA chum salmon escapement of 189,168 fish was below the previous 10-year average (363,531 fish; Table 4). A peak indexed escapement goal based on 17 streams on Kodiak Island has been established; the 2026 peak indexed escapement of 108,200 fish was above the goal of 101,000 fish (Table 5).

Table 4. Total salmon escapements in the KMA for all species in 2026 compared to average escapements from 2016 to 2025.

Species	2026 KMA escapement[a]	2016–2025 average KMA escapement
Chinook	1,131	4,487
Sockeye	1,441,055	1,413,020
Coho	42,224	69,390
Pink	5,554,739	5,543,546
Chum	189,168	363,531

[a] 2026 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, 2026.

Species	District/System (stock)	Stream Number	Escapement Goal Lower	Escapement Goal Upper	2026 Peak Escapement
Chinook					
	Karluk	255-101	3,000	6,000	308
	Ayakulik	256-201	4,800	8,400	807
		Total	**7,800**	**14,400**	**1,115**
Sockeye					
	Afognak	252-342	20,000	50,000	38,233
	Karluk	255-101			
	Early run		150,000	250,000	110,522
	Late run		200,000	450,000	226,694
	Ayakulik	256-201			
	Early run		140,000	280,000	494,776
	Late run		60,000	120,000	165,000
	Upper Station	257-304			
	Early run		43,000	93,000	110,414
	Late run		120,000	265,000	145,078
	Frazer Lake	257-403	75,000	170,000	79,120
	Buskin	259-211	5,000	8,000	2,017
	Pasagshak	259-411	2,000	8,000	3,484
	Saltery	259-415	15,000	35,000	23,034
			831,000	**1,739,000**	**1,398,372**
Pink[a]	Mainland District		250,000	1,000,000	99,400
	Kodiak Archipelago		3,000,000	7,000,000	5,455,339
		Total	**3,250,000**	**8,000,000**	**5,554,739**
Chum[b]		Kodiak Archipelago	101,000		108,200
		Total	**101,000**		**108,200**

[a] 2026 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.

[b] 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.