


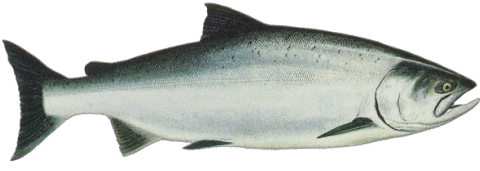


# Chinook salmon Alaska

Fishery:  Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim  Alaska  United States  Set gillnets (anchored)

## IDENTIFICATION



### SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*

### SPECIES NAME(S)

Chinook salmon, King Salmon

### COMMON NAMES

Chinook salmon, king salmon

### STOCK IDENTIFICATION

## Fishery profile for review

Click [here](#) to learn how you can contribute

This fishery was recertified by the Marine Stewardship Council system in November 2013. Click [here](#) to link to the MSC fishery page and to learn more about the MSC fishery certification unit.



### RELATED LINKS:

- [Alaska Department of Fish and Game \(ADF&G\)](#)
- [Alaska Department of Fish and Game \(ADF&G\)](#) , [Pacific Salmon Commission \(PSC\)](#)

## ASSESSMENT

### Strengths

1. Alaska is displaying responsiveness to emerging stock status issues through the regulatory listing of some stocks, declaration of a State of Disaster in some management regions in 2012, and development of a statewide research plan to address knowledge gaps with the species. 2. The 2009 edition of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) stipulated an overall reduction in exploitation rate of the Southeast troll fishery by 30% for 2009-2018 to protect weak stocks. 3. Monitoring of harvest and stock composition in the troll fishery is fairly robust.

Roughly one third of stocks in the AYK region have met their escapement goals the in majority of years since 2005, albeit not without significant commercial and subsistence restrictions, particularly in the Yukon and Norton Sound areas (Brazil et al. 2011; ADF&G 2012b; Estensen et al. 2012; Menard et al. 2012). There is considerable escapement monitoring of a high number of stocks, both with and without escapement goals, and a number of new escapement projects have been added over the past decade. Test fisheries as well as commercial, sport and subsistence catch reports provide additional management tools and insight on abundance trends. The 2012 disaster declaration affecting Kuskokwim and Yukon area Chinook salmon stocks (NMFS 2012) resulted in the allocation of additional resources for Chinook salmon research in Alaska (ADF&G 2012d). However, due to Alaska's budget deficit, the five-year Chinook Salmon Research Initiative, launched in 2013, has not been funded at the level needed to continue the project at the scale originally planned (AJC 2015; TFS 2015).

### Weaknesses

1. Many stocks in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim and Cook Inlet regions are exhibiting depressed returns. 2. Mean length at age measures are exhibiting declines among Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim stocks. 3. High cumulative overage (harvest vs. post-season allowable catch) is noted in the Southeast Alaska troll fishery in 1999-2011. Overages in one year are not corrected for in the next year. 4. The release of adipose fin-clipped hatchery fish without Coded Wire Tags by Pacific Northwest hatcheries is a potential threat to the integrity of the Coded Wire Tagging stock composition monitoring program, long used to estimate hatchery and wild contributions to catch. 5. There is high incidental mortality in the Southeast Alaska troll fishery, amounting to approximately 14% of the legal harvest.

Abundance of many AYK region stocks remains depressed, despite over a decade of conservative management (ADF&G 2012b). Factors including unfavorable climatological and oceanographic changes (ADF&G 2012c), and overharvest as bycatch in the pollock fisheries in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska (Gisclair 2009) are among proposed causes of recent declines. Stock assessment is challenging and of variable quality due to the remoteness and broad geographic area of the region, adverse weather conditions and funding constraints (Brazil et al. 2011; Estensen et al. 2012; Menard et al. 2012). due to Alaska's budget deficit, the five-year Chinook Salmon Research Initiative, launched in 2013, has not been funded at the level needed to continue the project at the scale originally planned (AJC 2015; TFS 2015). There are many mixed stock harvests in the region, and conservative management is called for to avoid overharvest of weaker stocks (SCS 2007). However, due to Alaska's budget deficit, the five-year Chinook Salmon Research Initiative, launched in 2013, has not been funded at the level needed to continue the project at the scale originally planned (AJC 2015; TFS 2015).

### Options

Further investigation of factors that may be influencing Chinook salmon abundance in the AYK region (and other areas of Alaska), including environmental conditions and bycatch of Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim area Chinook salmon stocks in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska pollock fisheries.

## SCORES

### Management Quality:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
7 to 10	6.5 to 10	7 to 10

### Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
6 to 10	6 to 10

## FIPS

No related FIPs

**MSC**

- Alaska salmon:

MSC Recertified

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

## RETAILERS &amp; SUPPLY CHAIN

- Monitor the progress in closing out conditions placed upon the MSC certification of the fishery and if agreed timelines are met. Offer assistance in closing conditions where possible.