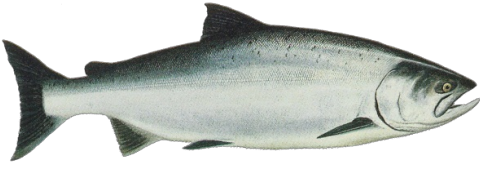


Chinook salmon Alaska

Fishery:  Bristol Bay  Alaska  United States  Drift gillnets

IDENTIFICATION



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Oncorhynchus tshawytscha

SPECIES NAME(S)

Chinook salmon, King Salmon

COMMON NAMES

Chinook salmon, king salmon

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

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 \(ADF&G\)](#)

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.

1. The main stock in the fishery, the Nushagak River stock, has met its escapement goal in every year of the last 15 years. 2. There is accurate sonar escapement monitoring in place on the Nushagak River.

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.

1. Due to funding limitations, escapement monitoring is not currently ongoing for two of the three stocks for which escapement goals are in place. It has not been possible to determine whether or not these stocks are meeting their goals since 2008. 2. Harvest was below the 20-year average in 2012.

Options

1. Oppose the proposed construction of the Pebble Mine in the headwaters of the Kvichak and Nushagak Rivers. 2. If additional funding becomes available, reinstate escapement monitoring for Chinook salmon in the Alagnek and Naknek systems.

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:


RECOMMENDATIONS

RETAILERS & 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.