



# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
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Report # B: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Report to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, February 2026.

## **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Staffing/Representation**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be taking a coordinated team approach to our representation at the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. The current team includes Pete Fasbender, Boyd Blihovde, Jill Klein, and Tahzay Jones. Boyd Blihovde will be representing the Service at the February meeting.

## **2025 In-season Management Summary (Bristol Bay/Chignik/AK Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Area Federal Subsistence Fisheries)**

The responsibility for in-season management of the Federal subsistence fisheries within the Bristol Bay/Chignik/AK Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Area has been delegated from the Federal Subsistence Board to the Fisheries Branch Chief of the Southern Alaska Fish and Wildlife Field Office. The authority is specific to the issuance of emergency or temporary special actions when necessary to ensure the conservation of a healthy fish population, to continue subsistence uses of fish, for the continued viability of a fish population, or for public safety reasons. This delegation only applies to Federal public waters subject to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act Title VIII in the Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Chignik Management Areas. Coordination took place with the Regional Advisory Councils representatives, the Office of Subsistence Management, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, stakeholder groups and subsistence users.

For the Chignik area, all of the assessments of salmon returns were conducted by Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and provided the basis for any federal in-season assessment and management. Pre-season coordination efforts were focused on the Chinook Salmon and Sockeye Salmon subsistence fisheries in the Chignik River. The declines in Chignik River Chinook Salmon returns have heightened management concerns for this fishery as well as recent low returns of Sockeye Salmon for the early-run and late-run in the Chignik River. The biological escapement goal for Chinook Salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 1,300 to 2,700 fish. Following in-person meetings in Chignik Lake, Lagoon, and Bay, an Emergency Special Action for Chinook Salmon in the Chignik River watershed was issued for June 20 through August 18, 2025, as it appeared the escapement goal would not be reached. The biological escapement goal has not been achieved in seven of the last eight years. The 2023 weir count (267 fish) was the lowest on record; 1,166 fish were counted during 2024. The final count for the ADF&G Chignik River weir in 2025 was 1,391 which met the escapement goal for only the second time in nine years. No other Emergency Special Actions were issued in 2025.

## **Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge**

Overall, 2025 was a good year for breeding success of seabirds across Alaska, with only a few exceptions. Of note, Tufted puffins failed to fledge any chicks from Buldir Island. Reproductive performance, including clutch size, laying/hatching/fledging success, and overall productivity, is just one of many seabird metrics we track at the Refuge. Where possible, we also track breeding chronology, population trends, food habits, survival and chick growth for nearly 20 species.