



2024

ANNUAL  
PERSONAL USE FISHERY  
REPORT

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor Gabriel and Council Members

**THROUGH:** Terry Eubank, City Manager

**FROM:** Tyler Best, Parks and Recreation Director

**DATE:** 11/19/2024

**SUBJECT:** 2024 Dipnet Report – Parks and Recreation

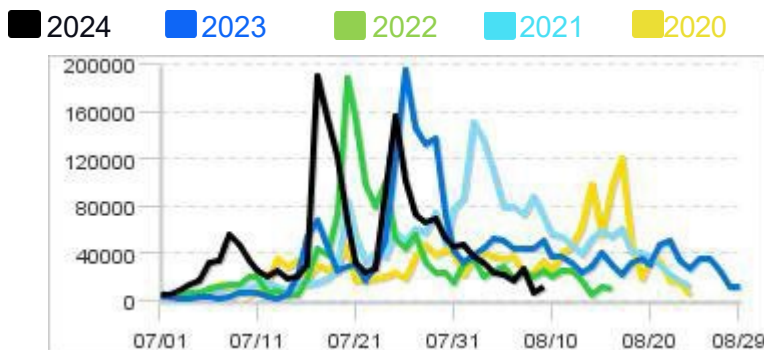
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### General Overview

The Dipnet Fishery started July 10 and continued through July 31. Alaska Residents could utilize the Fishery from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. until July 18, when it became open 24 hours a day through July 31.

The river's escapement totaled over 1.9 million fish, exceeding the sustainable escapement goal for sockeye by over 600,000. This is a smaller escapement than last year's with 2.3 million escapement in 2023.

The following table depicts the daily escapement for the duration of the summer over the last five years.



This year, the peak of the run came slightly earlier than in the last several years. Eighty-five percent of the total escapement made it up the river by July 31st, accounting for approximately 1.7 million fish. Last year, only fifty-five percent of the total escaped fish had made it up the river by July 31st, accounting for approximately 1.3 million fish. So, even though the total run and escapement were smaller, more fish were available during the dip net fishery.

## Operational Changes in 2024

Three operational changes occurred in 2024 worth noting:

- A beach attendant was added to North Beach so there were be a total of 2 attendants on North Beach
- We removed a Dock attendant position so there would be a total of 5 attendants at the dock
- The bluff was closed in front of Toyon Way, and no climbing on the bluff signage was added along the base

## DipNet App

2024 marked the 8th anniversary of the Dipnet Kenai Smartphone app. Use of the app was down about 26 percent from the 5-year average, which could indicate a need for an app update. The Administration is looking at options that could be incorporated into the FY26 budget so the update could roll out for the Dipnet fishery in 2026.

Summary of app usage

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5yr Average	Diff from Avg
Pageviews	182,000	228,600	156,600	192,400	131,200	115,600	164,880	70%
Sessions	71,100	99,300	81,400	97,600	71,500	64,700	82,900	78%
Unique Sessions	28,800	40,100	32,500	33,900	28,500	25,100	32,020	78%
Downloads	3,744	4,057	3,190	3,719	2,087	2,197	3,050	72%

## Parks and Rec

The Parks and Recreation Administrative staff interviewed and hired all temporary positions for the PU Fishery, excluding the temporary enforcement officers. Fifteen temporary employees were employed, including six beach shack attendants, two dock shack attendants, five dock attendants, and two beach attendants.

The Parks and Recreation Maintenance Staff worked in late June and early July to help set up the Fishery. This includes building temporary fencing to protect the dunes, installing signage, painting parking lines, and setting up the new North Beach Bypass Lane. Throughout the Fishery, the parks staff acts as support staff, including mechanical repairs, supply runs, directing traffic, or helping clean toilets, beaches, and parking lots.

Alaska Mission and Retreats, also known as the Salmon Frenzy, partnered with the City of Kenai and brought various groups of volunteers to serve hot dogs and coffee during the peak days of the PU fishery. At North Beach, they helped direct traffic and pick up litter on the beaches.

The Kenai Nordic Ski Team coordinated with the City of Kenai to provide two clean-up days a week for the duration of the Fishery. At the end of the Fishery, the team went through and helped clean the beach and parking lots. Our department provided them with trash bags, gloves, and trash grabbers. The City donated two thousand dollars to the Nordic Ski Team for this service.

## **Public Works**

The Street Division helps set up the Fishery by placing over 100 jersey barriers for the direction of traffic, placing the fee shacks and installing temporary access roads at both beaches. During the Fishery, the Street Division help maintain the roads by grading and putting down calcium chloride to keep the beach and dock accessible and safe.

## **Financial Report**

### **Capital Improvements**

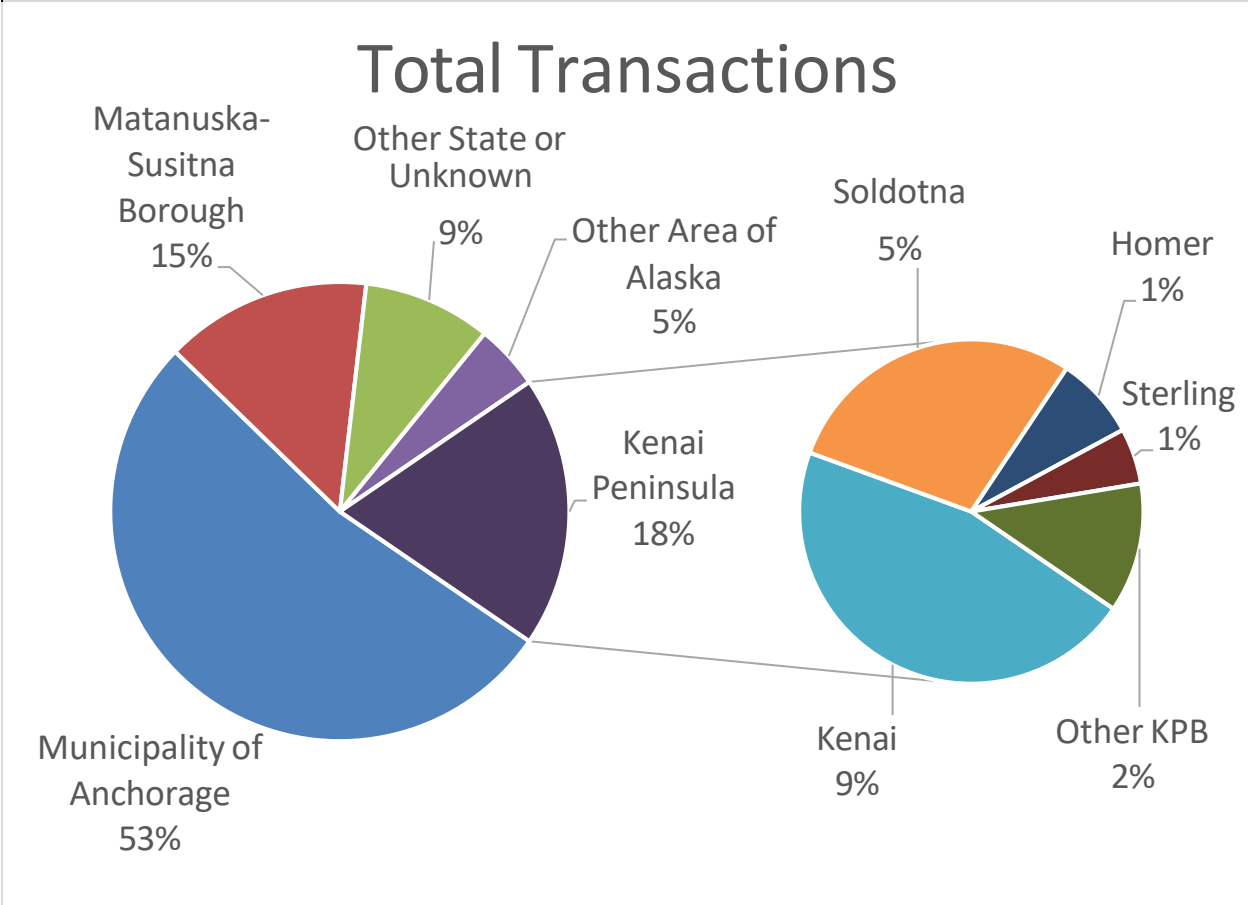
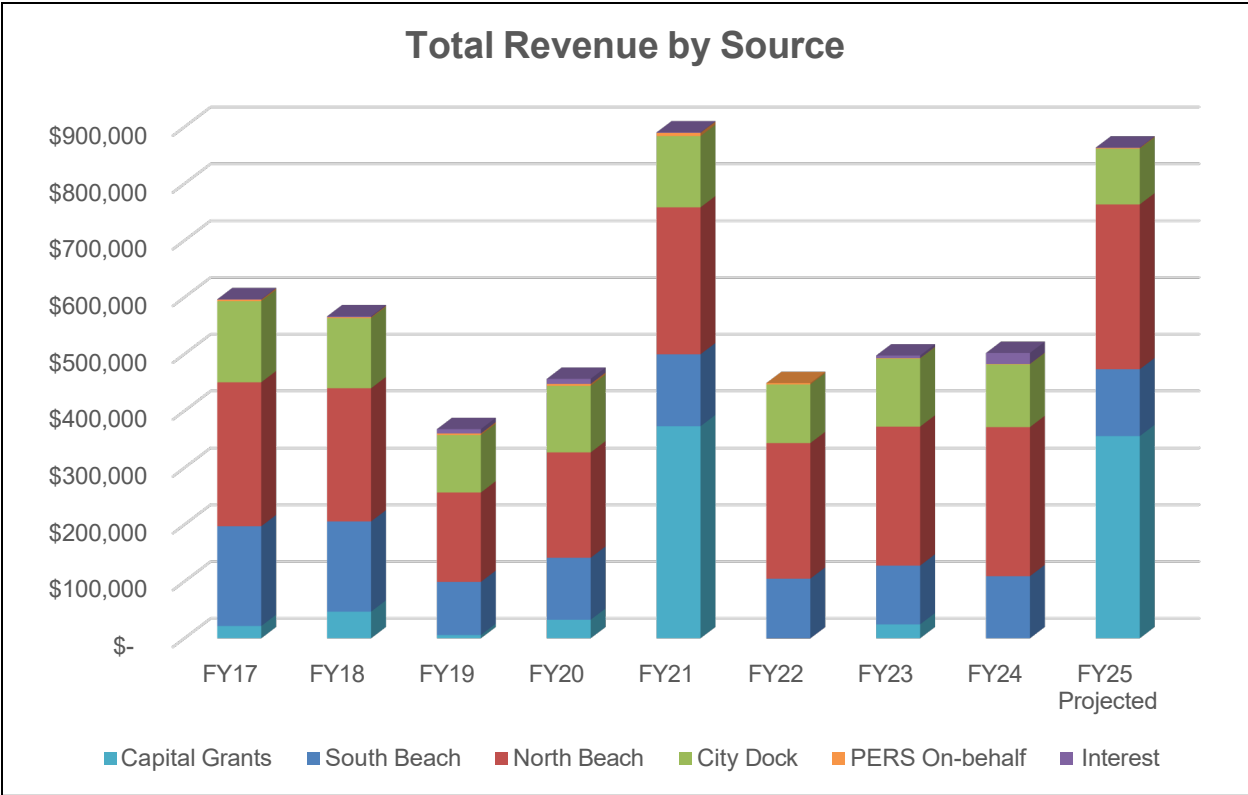
There is \$355,700 remaining in a State of Alaska legislative grant for dipnet improvements on the City's north and south beaches. \$125,000 of the \$355,856 remaining was previously allocated to construction of permanent restrooms at the Kenai Little League fields complex.

With the assistance of Senator Bjorkman and Representative Ruffridge, the City successfully amended the grants scope to include the City's Dock facility in addition to the North and South Beaches previously included. The Administration is reviewing needs and will be seeking appropriation to complete identified projects in the future.

### **FY24 Revenues**

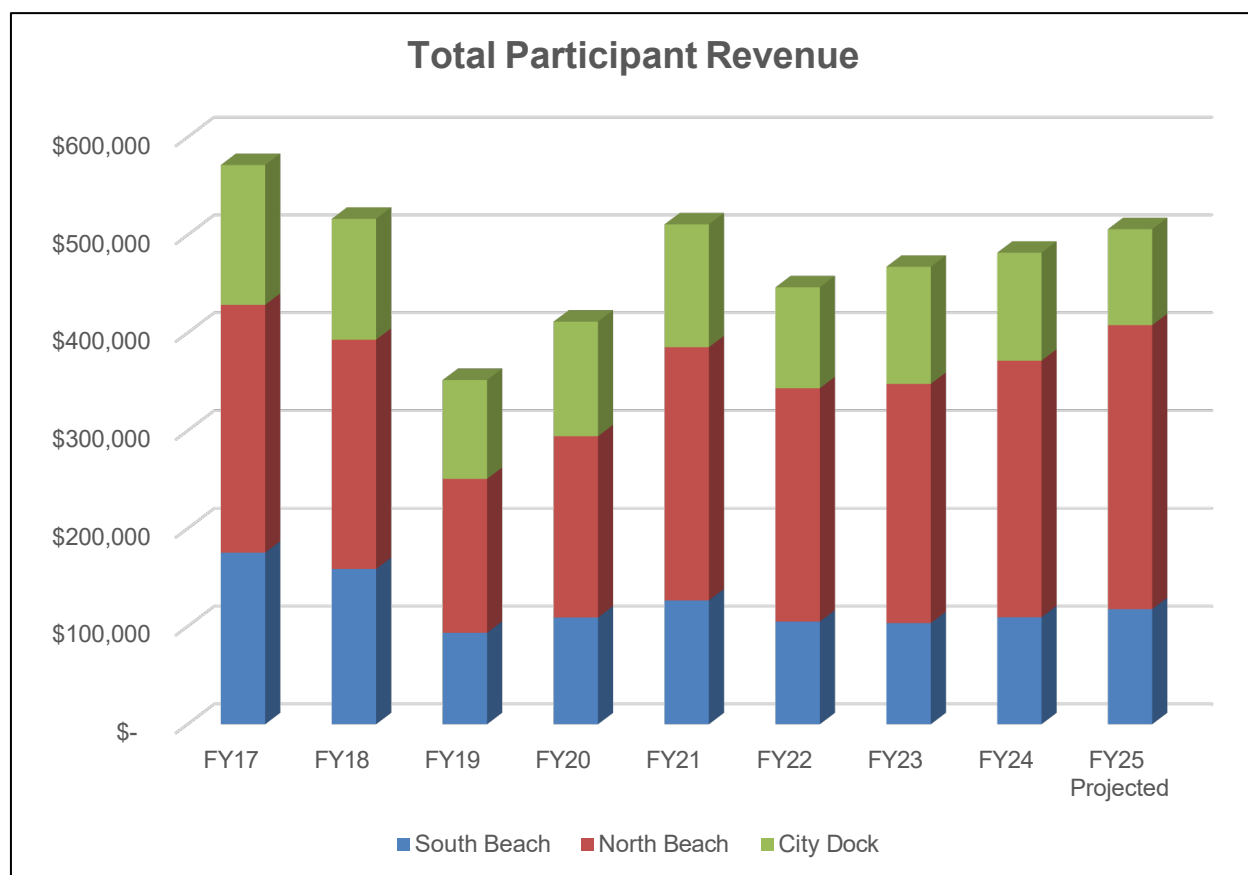
FY25 fees collected increased 4.8% over FY24. FY25 fishery revenues, not including capital grant revenues and net of sales tax and transaction fees, are projected to be \$505,986, which is \$12,948 greater than budgeted and \$24,039 more than FY24 fishery revenues. Capital grant revenue is projected to be \$355,700, assuming complete expenditure of the remaining state grant. A comparison of FY25 fishery revenue to prior years is shown below, the breakdown by site and service for FY17 thru FY25 is based upon actual transactions.

	<b>FY17</b>	<b>FY18</b>	<b>FY19</b>	<b>FY20</b>	<b>FY21</b>	<b>FY22</b>	<b>FY23</b>	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25 Projected</b>
South Beach	\$ 175,439	\$ 158,665	\$ 93,448	\$ 109,080	\$ 126,577	\$ 104,940	\$ 103,400	\$ 109,361	\$ 117,627
North Beach	253,218	234,298	157,293	185,269	258,782	238,471	244,436	262,202	290,242
City Dock	142,901	123,612	101,104	117,172	125,534	103,171	119,681	110,384	98,117
Interest	671	1,522	7,624	8,836	750	(4,412)	4,755	19,502	750
PERS On-behalf	2,688	1,546	2,743	3,355	5,688	2,394	694	549	1,270
Capital Grants	21,725	46,920	5,770	32,699	373,076	-	24,579	-	355,701
Total	<u>\$ 596,642</u>	<u>\$ 566,563</u>	<u>\$ 367,982</u>	<u>\$ 456,411</u>	<u>\$ 890,407</u>	<u>\$ 444,564</u>	<u>\$ 497,545</u>	<u>\$ 501,998</u>	<u>\$ 863,707</u>



Total transactions in 2024 were up 4% from 2023, and down 1% from the 5-year average. Person-sessions were up 2% over previous years. North beach continues to increase participation, while participation at the dock continues to decline, with a 13% decrease year over year. South Beach had an increase of 9% this year, marking the first year-over-year increase since 2020. North

beach now accounts for 62% of all transactions, with south beach at 21% and the dock at 17%. The percentages of participants from different regions didn't vary significantly from previous years.



## **Future Considerations**

### **North Beach Third Shack**

As the number of transactions continues to grow on North Beach, providing a third fee shack at this location may be necessary. The third shack would be located in the lower parking lot and serve as an information booth and a fee shack. Users could renew their permits or upgrade from drop-off passes without going to the top of the hill. This could be done via a temporary shack, such as a trailer brought down via peak traffic time.

### **Pedestrian Pathway to Beach**

An alternative to installing a third shack is to address the high pedestrian traffic along Spruce Street, where fishery visitors often walk to the fee shacks. A dedicated pedestrian or bike pathway could help reduce congestion by separating foot and vehicle traffic along the road. This pathway would also benefit residents and beachgoers, enhancing safety and accessibility for all users.



# KENAI

City of Kenai | 210 Fidalgo Ave, Kenai, AK 99611-7794 | 907.283.7535 | [www.kenai.city](http://www.kenai.city)

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor Gabriel and Council Members

**THROUGH:** Terry Eubank, City Manager

**FROM:** Dave Ross, Police Chief

**DATE:** September 11, 2024

**SUBJECT:** **2024 Dipnet Report - Police**

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The 2024 Dipnet fishery opened on July 10 and ended as scheduled on July 31. From July 18 until the end of the fishery on July 31, the fishery was open 24 hours per day. In 2024 the City employed five temporary enforcement officers (TEOs) dedicated to Police dipnet operations. Due to one leaving employment early for full time employment, there were four TEOs the majority of the fishery. Significant 2024 Police dipnet information includes:

- Police handled 64 dipnet-related calls for service during the month of July, approximately 25% less than 2023. Those calls included a wide variety of issues: 11 (9-1-1) misdials, 6 parking problems, 2 traffic congestion, 1 motor vehicle crash, 3 vehicle lock-outs, 11 lost & found property, 3 disorderly complaints, 1 boat collision, 1 boat capsize, 2 camping complaints, 3 thefts, and 20 miscellaneous calls for service.
- Despite the very large influx of people on the busiest weekend there were no major police incidents to report during the fishery.
- TEOs wrote 142 dipnet related citations (primarily for paid parking and other parking related violations). This is a substantial increase from 2023.
- Salmon Frenzy volunteers were again present at the fishery and provided invaluable assistance to the police department. Volunteers assisted at the beach with traffic flow along Kenai Avenue.
- Commercial setnet traffic on the beach was again eliminated this year due to an emergency closure of that fishery. The City installed a bypass lane at the pay shacks in 2023 for local traffic and those that already had purchased passes. This lane worked extremely well again this year to reduce congestion on Spruce Street.
- The City Parks Department continues to take a very hands-on proactive approach to management of the event, leading to a number of improvements over the last two years.



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor Gabriel and Council Members  
**THROUGH:** Terry Eubank, City Manager  
**FROM:** Jay Teague  
**DATE:** September 11, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** 2024 Dipnet Report – Fire & EMS

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For the 2024 season, we had 13 dipnet fishery-related calls compared to 8 in 2023. KFD responded to 2 dipnet-related EMS calls, 1 Fire call, and one technical rope rescue on the bluffs. We conducted 3 dipnet “no wake” patrols in coordination with KPD. KFD responded to one beach fatality involving a dipnet fisherman who suffered a cardiac arrest.

The Fire Department had the following service calls directly related to Dipnet Season:

Fires: (1)

Trauma Related Calls: (0)

Medical/Illness Calls: (1)

Cardiac Arrest: (1)

Boat Rescues: (6)

Boat Patrols: (3)

Technical/Rope Rescues: (1)