

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 19-26, 2021. Report #9
 Compiled by George Pappas - (907) 317-2165, George_Pappas@fws.gov Office of
 Subsistence Management, USFWS.

The purpose of the weekly fisheries update is to provide the reader with an overall summary of the status of subsistence related fisheries throughout the state of Alaska. The target audience is the Federal Subsistence Board and its Staff Committee. The report was compiled with the assistance of the Federal in-season managers and OSM staff that provided weekly updated information by the close of business on Friday of the reporting week. My goal is to have the report sent by the close of business the following Monday. Web links have been included to provide additional information. You may obtain additional information on a fishery of particular interest by contacting the in-season manager, provided contacts, follow the provided web links, or contact me.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

Sitka and Hoonah Area – Justin Koller, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
 Justin Koller, (907)747-4297 justin.koller@usda.gov

Herring – A commercial herring fishery occurred in Sitka Sound in 2021. Please see this [summary of Sitka Sound herring 2021](#). Also, [summary of southeast Alaska herring 2021](#).

Falls Lake - The Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake operate the Falls Lake trap and video net weir which was operational as of June 25. As of July 25, 188 sockeye have been counted in the trap and about 120 have been harvested. The current estimated escapement to-date is about 700. The final escapement estimate in 2020 was 800 Sockeye Salmon while the final subsistence and sport harvest in the marine terminal area was estimated to be 253. Subsistence harvest accounted for 96% of terminal area harvest.

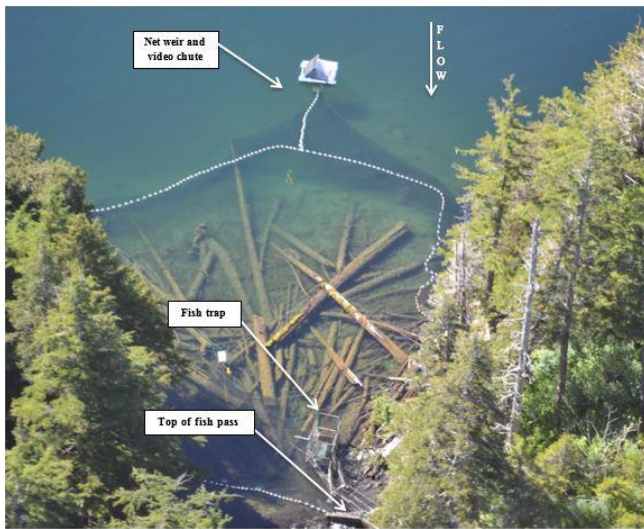


Figure 1. Aerial photo of the Falls Lake outlet illustrating the typical location of weir equipment.

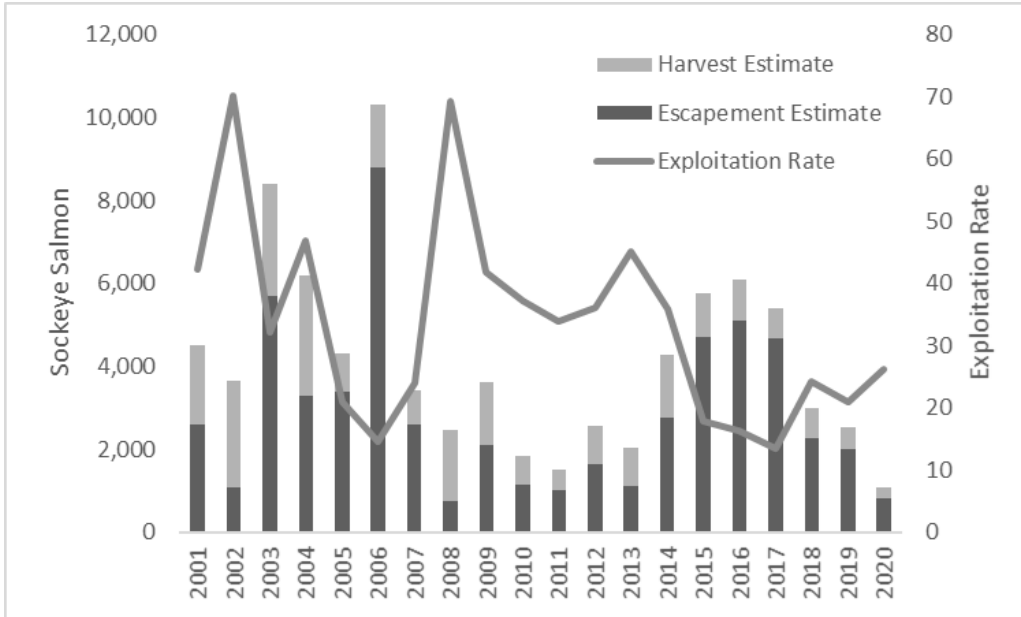


Figure 2. Escapement plus harvest equals total terminal run of Sockeye Salmon at Falls Lake, 2001-2020.

Klag Bay - The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the Sockeye Salmon monitoring weir at Klag Bay which is was installed June 30. As of July 25, 1,233 sockeye have been counted at the weir and 140 have been harvested. In 2020, approximately 4,122 sockeye migrated past the weir while an estimated 1,599 were harvested in the marine terminal area subsistence and sport fishery. Subsistence harvest accounted for over 99% of terminal area harvest.

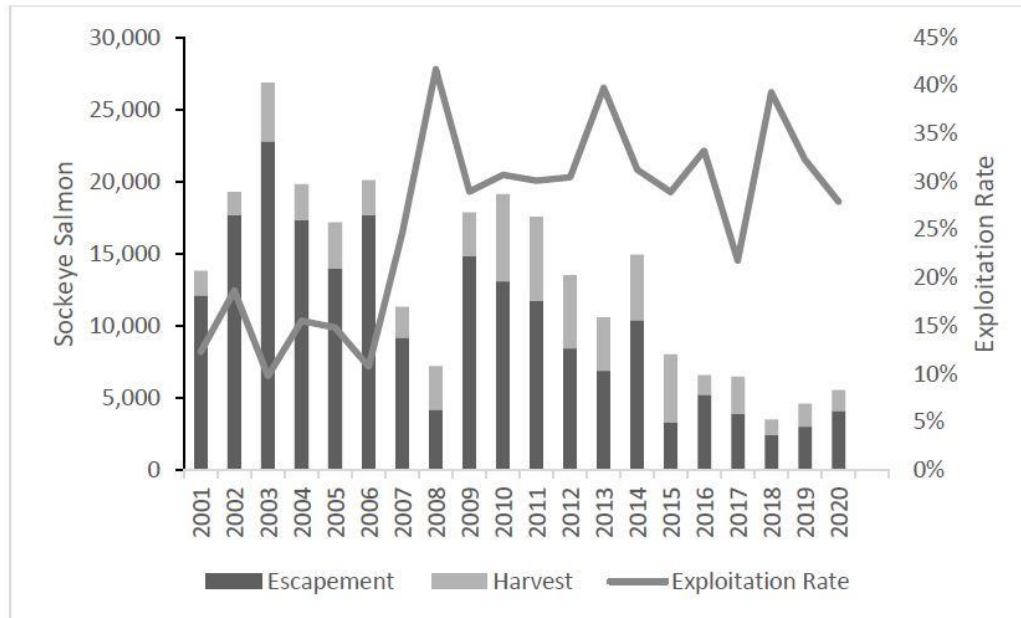


Figure 3. Creel survey harvest and escapement for Klag Lake Sockeye Salmon, 2001-2020.

Redoubt Lake - The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir which was operational as of June 15. As of July 25, 23,472 sockeye have entered the lake. We are predicting that over 50,000 sockeye will pass through the weir this year. On July 10, in accordance with the Redoubt Lake Management Plan, the individual/household subsistence sockeye possession limit was set at 25 and the individual/household annual limit was set at 100. Many people are fishing for sockeye in Redoubt Bay and reporting good success. There have been several commercial seine openings in Redoubt Bay by not much participation. In 2020, an estimated 41,279 Sockeye Salmon passed through the weir into Redoubt Lake. Over 40,000 sockeye were harvested in Sitka Sound commercial fishery openings throughout the 2020 season. Most of these sockeye are probably of Redoubt origin.

[News release, sockeye limits 2021](#)

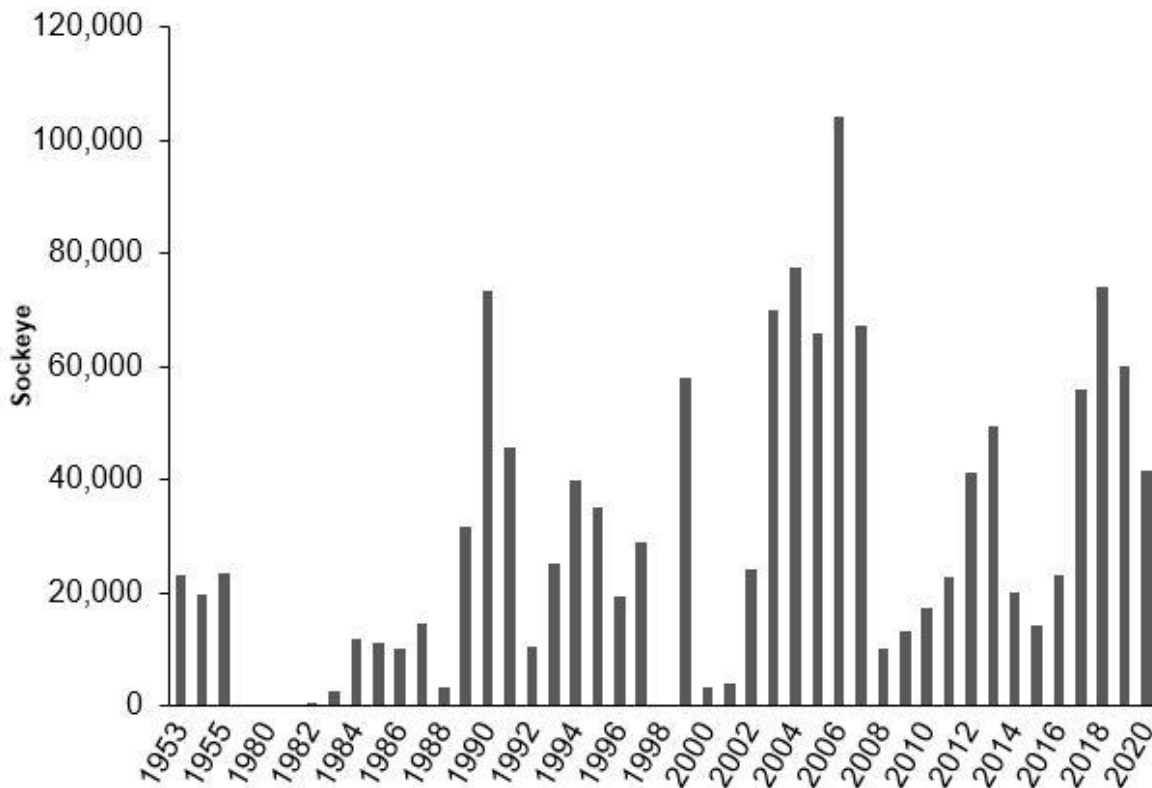


Figure 4. Annual Sockeye Salmon expanded escapement into Redoubt Lake for years with data: 1953 to 1955, 1982 to 1997, and 1999 to 2019. The weir was not operated in 1998.

Gut Bay - The Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake monitor escapement and harvest of Gut Bay Sockeye Salmon. Gut Bay is located south of Falls Lake on Baranof Island and an important source of sockeye for the village of Kake. Very little is known about the magnitude of this sockeye run. In 2019, 881 sockeye were counted at the weir and about 200 were harvested in the state subsistence fishery. The Gut Bay

project has been postponed until 2022 due to staffing shortages. Word is harvesters are catching a good amount of sockeye this year at Gut Bay.

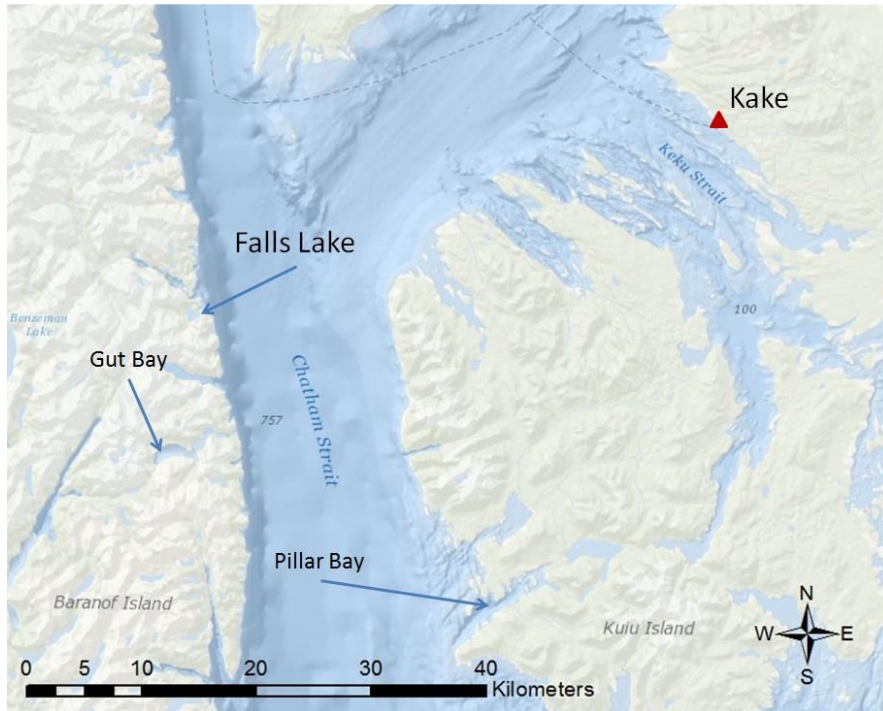


Figure 5. Location of Gut Bay in relation to Falls Lake and the village of Kake

Petersburg and Wrangell Area – Robert Cross, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest Robert Cross, (907)772-5944 robert.cross@usda.gov

The pre-season terminal run forecast for large Chinook Salmon in the Stikine River is 9,900 fish. This forecast is below the bottom range of the 14,000 to 28,000 fish goal. Directed commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries in the area have been closed to protect this return. Currently, all drift gillnet, purse seine and non-terminal harvest area troll fisheries are closed in district 8.

The 2021 Stikine River pre-season Sockeye Salmon forecast is 56,000 fish, with 28,000 Tahltan and 28,000 Mainstem fish. The 2020 Sockeye Salmon forecast was 103,400 fish, which included 64,500 Tahltan Lake and 38,900 Mainstem Sockeye. The escapement objective for Tahltan bound Sockeye Salmon is 18,000 and 30,000 for Mainstem fish. The 2021 forecast is below the escapement objective for the mainstem and may result in a season closure.

The 2021 Federal Stikine River Sockeye Salmon subsistence fishery began June 21. High water likely slowed harvest effort during the first two weeks of the fishery. Sockeye harvest has begun to increase as the river level has receded and several

households have reported harvesting their Sockeye limit. A total of 96 permits have been issued for the Stikine fishery and no harvest estimate is available at this time.

Yakutat, Juneau, and Admiralty areas of Northern Southeast Alaska - Jake Musslewhite (907-789-6256; jgmusslewhite@fs.fed.us), Forest Service, Tongass National Forest

No report submitted this week, Author went outside on leave.

July 19, 2021

Neva Lake Sockeye Salmon: A Forest Service crew installed the Neva Lake weir on June 18, 2021. This swim-through video weir is located near Excursion Inlet, and is maintained by a Hoonah Indian Association crew living onsite. As of July 13, 520 Sockeye have been counted through the weir, along with 1090 Dolly Varden and 190 Cutthroat Trout. Live video and clips from the weir can be accessed at <http://nevalake.ddns.net:81>.



Figure 1. Live video capture of a Sockeye swimming through the Neva Lake weir, July 19, 2021.

Sitkoh Lake Sockeye Salmon: The Sitkoh Lake weir was installed by a Forest Service crew over July 6-8, 2021 (Figure 2). The weir project is a partnership between the USFS

and the Angoon Community Association (ACA). Live video from the site is streamed to the ACA office in Angoon, where it is recorded on a computer and returning Sockeye are counted by ACA employees. Live video is currently not available to the public, but will be soon.



Figure 2. The Sitkoh Lake weir, located at the outlet of Sitkoh Lake.

Northern Inside water salmon fisheries: As expected, salmon fisheries throughout the northern inside waters of southeast Alaska have been relatively weak. Pink and chum salmon harvests in the gillnet and purse seine fisheries have largely been below average, and test fishery catches also have been below average. Notably to Chatham area subsistence harvesters, sockeye catches in the Hawk Inlet test fisheries have been low all season, and were 37% of the 10-year average in the most recent test fishery.



Figure 2. Forest Service crew member Shauna Riddensdale (left) and Student Conservation Association intern Sadie Swindall at the newly installed Sitkoh Lake weir, July 7, 2021.

Prince of Wales and Ketchikan District Area – TBA, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest. (907) 826-1649

USFS Weekly Summary Author position vacant - TBA.

Southeast Alaska Web Links

Tongass National Forest News Room <http://www.fs.usda.gov/news/tongass/news-events>

*Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Southeastern Alaska Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Southeast.pdf*

*ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order Link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R1>*

*ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>*

*Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southeast Alaska
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R1.home>*

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND – COPPER RIVER

Copper River, 7/26/2021 Update – Dave Sarafin, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST), (907) 822-7281, dave_sarafin@nps.gov

Management actions of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) limited early season commercial fishing opportunities in the Copper River District in response to low numbers of returning salmon. The season total commercial harvest for the Copper River District through July 23 is reported as 350,612 Sockeye Salmon and 6,934 Chinook Salmon.

The ADFG sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) is currently in operation. As of July 25, 732,135 salmon have been estimated migrating upstream for the season. This estimate is 31% above the cumulative management objective of 558,297 salmon for this date of the season and exceeds the season objective of 575,297 salmon passing the sonar. A daily estimate of 4,884 salmon migrated past the sonar on July 25.

The Native Village of Eyak (NVE) Baird Canyon fish wheels captured and tagged 1,962 Chinook Salmon through July 17. This total capture number is low, relative to historical levels. Tagging efforts for the season were discontinued on July 17. The upriver fish wheels at Canyon Creek have captured and examined 1,377 Chinook salmon through July 21, of which, 117 were recaptured fish that had been tagged at the downstream wheels.

Inriver sonar salmon passage estimates provide the primary assessment of the Sockeye Salmon return to the Copper River. Although fishing opportunities and harvest in the commercial fishery were limited in the early part of the season, the assessment of inriver Sockeye Salmon run strength has now exceeded ADFG management objectives for the season, as estimated by the sonar. These objectives are designed to provide harvest opportunities to both Federal subsistence and other State upriver users, as well as to achieve the sustainable escapement goal for Sockeye Salmon.

As with Sockeye Salmon, fisheries managers also monitor assessments of the Chinook Salmon run strength; the primary mid-season indicator are data from the Chinook Salmon inriver abundance project operated by NVE. Additional insight is gained from the recent application of updated technology at the Miles Lake sonar site to provide species apportionment data. Assessments indicate a weak return and managers believe that the Chinook Salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) will likely not be met.

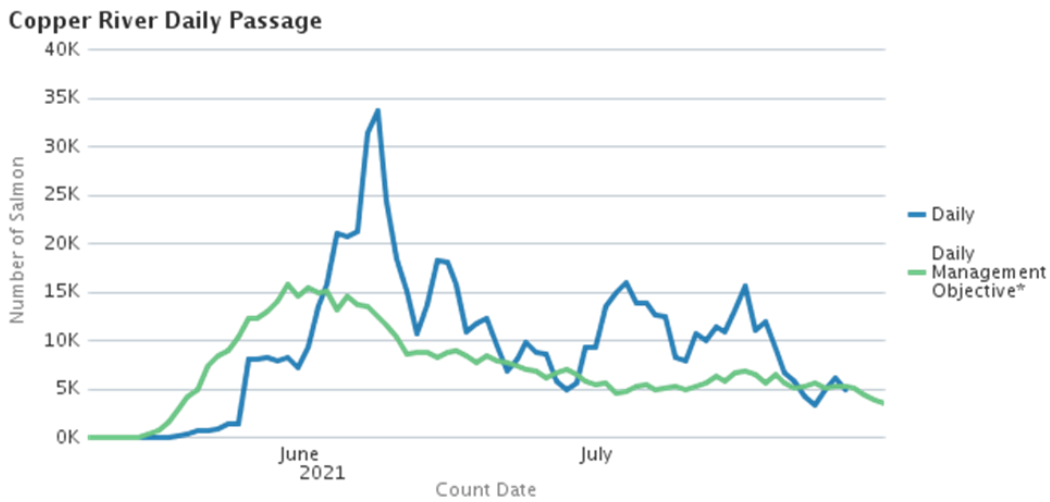
In response to this assessment of a weak Chinook Salmon return, the ADFG closed all State fisheries of the Upper Copper River drainage to the retention of Chinook Salmon; including the personal use fishery of the Chitina Subdistrict, the sport fisheries, and the subsistence fishery of the Glennallen Subdistrict. Concurrent with these closures, including that of the upper river subsistence fishery, the ADFG has continued to

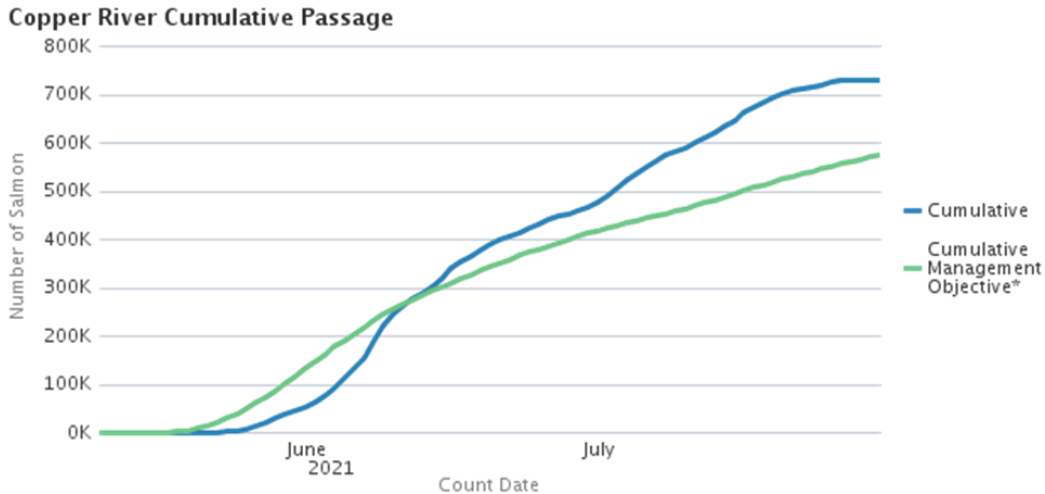
authorize periodic openings of the commercial and subsistence fisheries of the Copper River District to continue since the Chinook Salmon entry to the Copper River is historically nearly complete by early July.

The Chinook Salmon closures do not affect those fishing under Federal subsistence regulations. Harvest by Federal users through the remainder of the season is not expected to be high enough to have a significant impact on the sustainability of the stocks. At this time, no Federal Special Action has been issued by the inseason manager to restrict the harvest of Chinook Salmon, or for any other purpose, in the fisheries of the Upper Copper River. Federal managers will continue to monitor run strength indices to evaluate the need for appropriate fisheries management actions in the Federal waters of the Copper River Drainage.

Although Federal actions have not been taken, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST) prepared and distributed an advisory announcement intended to inform all subsistence users of the present concerns for Copper River Chinook Salmon. This announcement was sent to all Upper Copper River District Federal subsistence fishing permit holders with email addresses on record. In the announcement, WRST requested that users consider voluntarily releasing healthy Chinook Salmon that may be beyond their subsistence needs.

2021 Upper Copper River Salmon Passage at Miles Lake Sonar through July 25





*Management objectives are based on historical run-timing to achieve the in-river goal.

Source:

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon_escapement

The State subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict opened on June 1, and closed to Chinook Salmon, effective June 28 through July 31. The State Chinook Salmon sport fisheries closed beginning June 26. With no retention of Chinook Salmon, the State personal use fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict is scheduled to be open for total of 168 hours during the week of July 26 through August 1.

The Federal subsistence fisheries in the Chitina Subdistrict, the Glennallen Subdistrict, and the Batzulnetas area opened on May 15 and are expected to remain open through September 30. Through the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) Federal subsistence permit database website, one hundred and eighty-seven (187) Chitina Subdistrict permits, three hundred and forty-five (345) Glennallen Subdistrict permits, and one (1) Batzulnetas area permit have been issued to date.

The ADFG counting tower in the Gulkana River has reported a cumulative passage estimate through July 24 of 2,394 Chinook Salmon. This is a relatively very low estimate for this date in the season but is above the 2020 season count of 2,028 through this date.

Links:

ADFG Miles Lake daily sonar estimates

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon_escapement

NVE’s Chinook Escapement Monitoring project in the Copper River

<http://eyak.fishscan.com/Summary/DailySummary.aspx>

ADFG Copper River Inseason Commercial Harvest Estimates

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.harvestsummary>

ADFG Sport Fish Emergency Orders and News Releases

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=main.home>

ADFG Gulkana River counting tower

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/index.cfm?ADFG=main.displayResults&COUNTLOCATIONID=6&SpeciesID=410>

**PWS and Copper River Delta – Milo Burcham, Chugach National Forest, Cordova.
26 July 2021.**

(907) 424-4759 mburcham@fs.fed.us

26 July 2021

A total of 37 Federal Subsistence fishing permits have been issued for freshwaters within the Chugach National Forest portion of the Prince William Sound area of to date. Harvest statistics of this year's permit holders will not be known until reports are returned this winter. Most harvest under these permits takes place during the coho fishery in fresh waters of the Copper River Delta in August and September. Ninety permits were issued in 2020

COOK INLET AREA – Kenneth Gates, Senior Fish Biologist, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (907) 260-0132 Kenneth_Gates@FWS.GOV

No report submitted this week. Author on leave.

The 2021 subsistence dip net fisheries for salmon is underway on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers. Each fishery began on June 15 and June 16, respectively. Regulatory dates for the Kasilof River community gillnet fishery are from June 16 through August 15. Regulatory periods for the Kenai River community gillnet fishery are from July 1 through August 15 and from September 10 – 30.

Seasons for subsistence fishing with rod and reel are the same as for the taking of fish under Alaska sport fishing regulations. Most of the initial rod and reel subsistence effort will be focused at Sockeye Salmon in the Upper Kenai and Russian Rivers which opened on June 11.

A total of 433 permits have been issued to date to residents of Cooper Landing, Hope, and Ninilchik. Permit types include a general fishing permit and household permit. All permits were issued through the U.S. Postal Service.

No special actions have been issued to date. The early-run escapement of Chinook Salmon returning to the Kenai River was 4,131 large fish which is just above the minimum OEG of 3,900. The late-run of Kenai River Chinook Salmon is under performing for this period of time and as a result the in-river sport fishery has been

restricted to catch and release. Currently the late-run of Kenai River Chinook Salmon are not forecasted to meet the lower end of the OEG of 15,000 – 30,000 fish greater than 34 inches.

To date, 1,307 Sockeye Salmon have been reported as being harvested from the Kasilof River in the Community Gillnet Fishery of which only 845 have been reported as being received on a federal subsistence permit. A total of 663 Sockeye Salmon have been reported as being harvested to date in the dip net fishery at the Russian River falls. Ninety Sockeye Salmon have been harvested on the Kasilof River in the Federal dip net fishery.

Fish counts at some Alaska Department of Fish and Game-operated assessment projects are available on-line at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/index.cfm?ADFG=main.home>

Kodiak Island Area – Michael Brady, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR

(907) 487-2600/0230 michael_brady@fws.gov or

Kevin Van Hatten (907) 487-0230 Kevin_VanHatten@fws.gov

No report submitted for this week.

The sockeye salmon runs around Kodiak Island are considered to be average, to date. Management practices for the Karluk, Ayakulik, and Upper Station systems switched from the early to late run sockeye salmon on July 16. Afognak, Litnik, sockeye escapement counts have met the lower escapement goal, with 28,641 fish passing the weir as of July 16. The Ayakulik River early sockeye escapement counts were strong with 265,755 fish passing the weir (escapement goal, E.G., range 140,000 – 280,000 fish). Karluk River early sockeye escapement counts did not meet the lower escapement counts with 128,423 fish passing the weir (E.G. range 150,000 – 250,000 fish). The Buskin River sockeye salmon run had very little fish returning to the system with only 942 passing the weir. To protect this run, all fishing activities have been restricted. Many subsistence users have continued to travel to other systems within the area of Kodiak to meet their needs, i.e. Port Lions and Pasagshak. Upper Station, Alitak District, has had a strong run of sockeye salmon, and the upper escapement goal was reached, 108,225 fish counted passing the weir.

The Chinook salmon runs on the Karluk and Ayakulik Rivers are failing to meet their respective escapement goals, with only 2,491 Chinook salmon being recorded on the Karluk River and 2,860 Chinook salmon being recorded on the Ayakulik River.

The Akalura video project continues to collect data via still photos and video. Review of photos for the month of June did not have any sockeye salmon moving into the system. It is unknown why no fish have been recorded migrating into the Akalura system as Dog

Salmon weir recorded 61,503 fish and Upper Station recorded 35,328 fish. Kodiak staff are working on getting the photos reviewed to date as soon as possible.

Any reports of subsistence activities will be reported during the upcoming week.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kodiak Area
<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/fishregs13/kodiak.pdf>

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF July 26, 2021.

***BRISTOL BAY, CHIGNIK, ALASKA PENINSULA, and ALEUTIAN ISLANDS –
Jonathon Gerken Fisheries Branch Chief Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office***

These areas support abundant returns of salmon, particularly Sockeye Salmon; as well as some of the largest commercial fisheries for salmon in Alaska. All of the assessments of salmon returns are conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and provide the basis for any inseason assessment and management.

Bristol Bay:

Subsistence fishing is open in all districts but will close around commercial fishing openings.

The Sockeye Salmon sustainable escapement goals (SEG) for Bristol Bay systems are: (The current count as of July 23 are noted).

Escapement Goals:

Alagnak	SEG = 320,000 minimum / current escapement = 3,155,046
Egegik	SEG = 800,000 – 2,000,000 / current escapement = 1,826,574
Igushik	SEG = 150,000 – 400,000 / current escapement = 851,922
Kvichak	SEG = 2,000,000 – 10,000,000 / current escapement = 4,663,812
Naknek	SEG = 800,000 – 2,000,000 / current escapement = 2,796,534
Nushagak	SEG = 370,000 – 900,000 / current escapement = 4,688,358
Nushagak	SEG = 55,000 – 270,000 Chinook Salmon / current escapement = 54,309
Togiak	SEG = 150,000 – 270,000 / Installed July 5 – current escapement = 143,640
Ugashik	SEG = 500,000 – 1,400,000 / current escapement = 2,749,698
Wood River	SEG = 700,000 – 1,800,000 / current escapement = 4,369,446

The cumulative commercial Sockeye Salmon catch is 39,511,687 fish.

Chignik:

The cumulative weir count as of July 25 is 260,420 early-run and 148,412 late-run Sockeye Salmon resulting in a total of 408,832 fish. The interim escapement objective

for July 20 is 460,000 – 648,000 fish. The Federal Inseason manager issued an Emergency Special Action on July 21, **8-SS-02-21**, rescinding Emergency Special Action **8-SS-01-21** and opened the Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage to the harvest of Sockeye by all users. At this time the escapement is primary composed of late-run sockeye salmon and the late-run is tracking within the established escapement objectives for this time frame.

The ten-year average (2010 – 2019), genetic proportions of early-run and late-run Sockeye Salmon for July 25 are approximately 10% early-run and 90% late-run.

The cumulative weir count as of July 25 for Chinook Salmon is 937 fish. The typical mid-point of the Chinook Salmon run is July 20. It is unlikely, based on the current rate of escapement, that the lower range (1,300) of the escapement goal for Chignik River Chinook salmon will be achieved. In an effort to conserve the lower than expected Chinook salmon run, both state and Federal fisheries will be closed concurrently to maintain viability of the Chignik River Chinook salmon population on July 14, as stated in Emergency Special Action, **8-KS-01-21**.

Escapement Goals:

Early-Run Sockeye Salmon/ Black Lake	BEG = 350,000 – 450,000
Late-Run Sockeye Salmon/ Chignik Lake	SEG = 200,000 – 400,000
-In-river Goal	-10,000 in August and 10,000 in September in addition to minimum escapement objectives
Chinook Salmon	BEG = 1,300 – 2,700
Pink Salmon – Even year	SEG = 170,000 – 280,000
Chum Salmon	SEG = 45,000 – 110,000

Alaska Peninsula:

Subsistence fishing is open in all districts but will close around commercial fishing openings.

North Peninsula Management Area Escapement Goals and Counts for July 24:

Nelson River	BEG = 97,000 – 219,000, current escapement = 89,846
Bear River	BEG = 117,000 – 195,000, current escapement = 360,046

South Peninsula Management Area Escapement Counts for July 24:

- Inlik River current escapement = 69,211 (weir pulled 7/17)
- Orzinski River current escapement = 17,849
- Sandy River current escapement = 52,857 (weir pulled 7/24)
- McLees River current escapement = 15,861

The cumulative commercial catch is 10,472,918 fish with 5,806,393 Sockeye Salmon and 3,642,272 Pink Salmon being the largest components of harvest.

Aleutian Islands.

All fisheries are forecast to meet escapement goals and provide harvest opportunity.

Southcentral Alaska Web Links

Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.R2>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southcentral Alaska

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R2.Home>

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

Yukon River – Keith Herron Ivy, Biologist USFWS Fairbanks Office. July 19-26, 2021

Federal Manager, Holly Carroll (907) 351-3029, holly_carroll@fws.gov, Keith Herron Ivy, (907) 312-3397, keith_ivy@fws.gov, Gerald Maschmann, (907) 456-0406, Gerald_Maschmann@fws.gov

Assessment Information

The Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon runs are essentially over in the lower Yukon River and management has transitioned to the Fall Chum and Coho Salmon season in the Coastal District, Districts 1, 2, and 3, and lower Subdistrict 4-A. Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon escapements at the East Fork Andreafsky Weir are both at record lows with escapement goals unlikely to be met. The Anvik River sonar Summer Chum escapement estimate is at a record low and the escapement goal is unlikely to be met. The Henshaw Creek Weir Chinook and Summer Chum escapement estimates are both at record lows. Chinook Salmon escapement estimates at the Chena and Salcha Rivers are below average. The Eagle Sonar Chinook Salmon passage estimates are below average at this time, and it's unclear if the interim management escapement goal of 42,500-55,000 will be met at the border. The typical mid-point for late timing runs at Eagle Sonar is July 27.

The Fall Chum Salmon preseason projection, based on the relationship between Summer Chum Salmon and Fall Chum Salmon run sizes, is for a run size less than 300,000 fish, which is critically low. According to the Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan, the preseason projection does not meet the threshold of 300,000 fish needed to allow

subsistence fishing. The current projected run size is unlikely to meet the drainagewide escapement goal of 300,000-600,000 Fall Chum Salmon, tributary escapement goals and Canadian treaty objectives. Therefore, subsistence fishing for Chum Salmon will remain closed to begin the fall season.

Fall season assessment started at the Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) on July 16 and the Pilot Station sonar transitioned on July 19. It's still early for fall season assessment, but so far, the Fall Chum Salmon at LYTF, Mt. Village Test Fishery (MVTF), and the Pilot Station sonar are all well below average.

The latest fish passage and escapement estimates can be found at ADF&G's website at www.adfg.alaska.gov/yukonfishcounts

Management Actions

The Yukon River Coastal District, District 1, District 2, District 3, and Innoko River have transitioned to fall season management. District 4-A Lower will transition to fall season management on Saturday, July 24 at 12:01am.

Effective July 22, for the Yukon River Coastal District, Districts 1, 2, and 3, and Innoko River, and July 24 for lower Subdistrict 4-A, subsistence fishing is open to the use of dip nets and hook and line gear to target non-salmon and salmon species other than Chinook and Chum Salmon (such as Pink, Sockeye and Coho Salmon). All Chinook and Chum Salmon caught using selective gear must be released alive immediately. Subsistence salmon fishing with other gear types remain closed.

Salmon fishing is closed in Subdistrict 4-A Upper, Subdistrict 4-B, 4-C, Koyokuk River, District 5, and District 6. Pink and Sockeye Salmon are not present in these districts, and selective gear opportunities are expected when Coho Salmon are more abundant.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets are restricted to a maximum length of 60 feet. This gear may be used to target non-salmon species. Fishermen are reminded to use this gear in areas where non-salmon species are abundant to avoid incidentally harvesting Chinook and Chum Salmon.

For detailed information on management actions and assessment, subscribe to ADF&G advisory announcements at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.search>

Inseason Outreach

The eighth YR DFA teleconference occurred on July 20. Many fishermen shared how important fishing is for their families and the hardship of not fishing. There was much discussion on the need to support communities in finding alternative food sources, emergency aid and solutions to address food security issues. **Call in to the YR DFA weekly teleconferences each Tuesday at 1:00 pm at the following number: 1-800-315-6338, Passcode: 98566#.**

Get announcements and more by liking the ADF&G Yukon River Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/YukonRiverFishingADFG/

KUSKOKWIM RIVER

In Season Manager – Boyd Blihovde, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Contact Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov; (907) 543-3151 or spencer_rearden@fws.gov

Summary:

As of July 21, 2021 Kuskokwim inseason manager relinquished authority back to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Under the Alaska Department of Fish and Game the Kuskokwim River is still closed to the use of gillnets due to the low abundance of Chum Salmon during the 2021 season. Future management actions will be presented during weekly Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group Meetings held every Wednesday from 10 AM to Noon. Access up-to-date information on fishing opportunities by calling 907-543-3151 or visit the Refuge Facebook page or www.fws.gov/refuge/yukon_delta/.

Test Fisheries and Harvest Estimate:

As of July 25, 2021 the CPUE for Chinook at the Bethel test fish is at 533. The 2020 and 2019 Chinook CPUE for this day were at 480 and 843, respectively.

Cumulative harvest of Chinook salmon on the Kuskokwim as of 7/05 is currently at 21,320.

As of July 25, 2021 the CPUE for Chum at the Bethel test fish is at 296. The 2020 and 2019 Chinook CPUE for this day were at 1,250 and 5,099, respectively.

As of July 25, 2021 the CPUE for Sockeye at the Bethel test fish is at 1,649. The 2020 and 2019 Chinook CPUE for this day were at 1,007 and 2,462, respectively.

As of July 25, 2021 the CPUE for Coho at the Bethel test fish is at 65. The 2020 and 2019 Chinook CPUE for this day were at 26 and 57, respectively.

Yukon-Kuskokwim-Interior Alaska Web Links

Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases:
<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Yukon–Northern Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Yukon.pdf

NEW = Kuskokwim River Updates Hosted on OSM Website
<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/kuskokwim.cfm>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kuskokwim Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Kusko.pdf

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R3>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Interior Alaska:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R3.home>

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

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Norton Sound District

Mid-July Salmon Assessment:

Chum salmon runs have been weak throughout Norton sound. Pink salmon look to be on track from a normal odd-numbered year run and not like the last two odd-numbered years' record runs. Sockeye passage has been low at the Pilgrim River weir and the run is at the average historical midpoint. Weights for chum, sockeye and silvers in the commercial catches have been much lower than average. Commercial fishing for pinks will continue this week based on buyer capacity.

Subdistricts 6 (Unalakleet)

Federal Regulation:

By federal regulation, the Federal public waters of the Unalakleet River, upstream from the mouth of the Chirosky River, are closed to the taking of Chinook salmon from July 1–to July 31, by all users.

Subsistence Fishing:

Subsistence net fishing is open 7 days a week with all kings required to be released when beach seining.

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 8 hours in Norton Sound Subdistrict 6, the Unalakleet Subdistrict, from 8:00 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday, July 17, for beach seining and experimental purse seining only. This is a pink salmon directed fishing period. Beach seines must be no more than 150 fathoms in length, 100 meshes in depth, and less than 4 inches stretched mesh and all king salmon must be returned immediately to the water alive. Purse seines must comply with stipulations outlined on the commissioner's permit and all king and chum salmon must be returned immediately to the water alive. Any king or chum salmon mortality must be donated to local villages.

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 12 hours in the Subdistrict from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday, July 19. All gillnet fishing periods are pink salmon directed periods and nets are restricted to a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or smaller and 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing opened in Norton Sound Subdistrict 6, the Unalakleet Subdistrict, from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 21 and from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday July 22. Gillnets are restricted to a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or smaller and 200 fathoms of gillnets in aggregate length.

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing opened in Norton Sound Subdistrict 6, the Unalakleet Subdistrict, from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Friday, July 22. Gillnets are restricted to a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or smaller and 200 fathoms of gillnets in aggregate length. Permit holders are reminded to check with

The cumulative catch to July 22 is 1 king, 256 chums, 55,000 pinks, 30 sockeyes and 8 silvers caught by 25 permit holders.

Unalakleet River Floating Weir — A cooperative project of Fish and game United States BLM and NS EDC major funding provided by US Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Subsistence Management.

Counts through July 19 were 440 kings, 11,700 chums, 70,000 pinks, 665 sockeyes and 270 silvers. The average historical 90 percent point of king passage is July 21. This is the lowest chum count in 11 years of the project. Previous lows were 28,000 chums in 2012 and 31,000 and 2019. The average historical third-quarter point for chums is July 24. Through July 12 the counts were 207 kings, 3,884 chums, 1,627 pinks, 213 sockeyes and 41 silvers. The average historical 1st quarter point for kings is now. This is the lowest chum count to date. The previous low was 14,000 chums in 2012. The average historical midpoint for chums is now.

North River Tower — Camp J. B. — A NSEDC project. The project has escapement goals of 1,200-2,600 kings, 25,000 pinks, 550-1,100 silvers (aerial survey) and no goal yet established for chums.

Cumulative counts through July 19 were 500 kings, 600 chums, 140,000 pinks, 3 sockeyes and 84 silvers. Average historical third-quarter point for kings is now. The chum count is a historical low and the average historical third-quarter point is July 26. Last year was the second lowest chum count by this date with 700 chums. The pink average historical midpoint is July 22.

Subdistrict 5 (Shaktoolik)

Subsistence Fishing:

Subsistence net fishing is open 7 days a week with all kings required to be released when beach seining.

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing opened for 12 hours in the Subdistrict from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Sunday, July 18. and from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday, July 19. All gillnet fishing periods are pink salmon directed periods and nets are restricted to a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or smaller and 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

Commercial salmon fishing opened for gillnetting for 24 hours in the Shaktoolik Subdistrict from 8 a.m. Friday, July 23 until 8 a.m. Saturday July 24. All gillnet fishing periods are pink salmon directed periods and nets are restricted to a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or smaller and 200 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 36 hours in Subdistrict 5, Shaktoolik, from 8 p.m. July 22 until 8 a.m. Saturday, July 24 for purse seining. Only those with the commissioner's permit for experimental purse seining can participate.

Shaktoolik Sonar/Tower – An NSEDC project with no escapement goals yet established.

Counts through July 19 were 900 kings, 6,000 chums, 210,000 pinks, 63 sockeyes and 12 silvers. The king count ranks 5th out of 8 years of counts. King passage is usually passed 90 percent now. Chums are about the same as last year and well below other years. Pinks should be near the midpoint now.

Subdistrict 4 (Norton Bay)

Subsistence Fishing:

Net fishing is open 7 days a week,

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing opened for 12 hours in the Subdistrict from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Sunday, July 18. C. All gillnet fishing periods are pink salmon directed periods and nets are restricted to a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or smaller and 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 32 hours in Subdistrict 4, Norton Bay, from 4 p.m. Monday, July 19 until 12 midnight Tuesday, July 20, for purse seining. Only those with the commissioner's permit for experimental purse seining can participate.

The cumulative catch is 18 chums and 5,000 pinks by 3 permit holders.

Inglutalik River Tower – A NSEDC project. No escapement goals yet established.

Counts through July 19 were 237 kings, 2,000 chums, 110,000 pinks, 15 sockeyes. Except for kings and pinks the other salmon species are tracking below all other years.

Ungalik River Tower – A NSEDC project. No escapement goals yet established.

Counts through July 19 were 290 kings, 8,500 chums, 300,000 pinks and 1.850 Sockeyes. No comparison could be made because the two previous years the earliest counting began was July 9.

Subdistrict 3 (Elim)Subsistence Fishing:

Net fishing is open 7 days a week,

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing opened for 12 hours in the Subdistrict from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Sunday, July 18. All gillnet fishing periods are pink salmon directed periods and nets are restricted to a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or smaller and 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

Commercial salmon fishing opened for gillnetting for 8 hours in the Subdistrict from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesday, July 20. All gillnet fishing periods are pink salmon directed periods and nets are restricted to a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or smaller and 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length

The cumulative counts were 196 chums, 2,577 pinks, 8 sockeyes and 2 silvers by 5 permit holders.

Kwiniuk River Tower-Camp Joel – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has escapement goals of 250 kings, 9,100 – 32,600 chums, 8,400 pinks and 650-1,300 silvers (aerial survey goal).

Counts through July 19 were 156 kings, 2,700 chums, 16,000 pinks, 36 sockeyes and 18 silvers. Kings are usually at 90 percent of passage by July 22. Chums are usually at 90% of passage by July 20. Pinks are tracking like a normal odd--numbered year and much lower than recent record year runs. The average historical midpoint of pink passage is July 23.

Subdistrict 2 (Golovin)

Subsistence Fishing:

Subsistence fishing is open is open 7 days a week

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon gillnet fishing opened for 12 hours in the Subdistrict. s from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Sunday, July 18. All gillnet fishing periods are pink salmon directed periods and nets are restricted to a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or smaller and 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

Fish River Tower - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have been established.

High water has prevented tower operations to date.

Subdistrict 1 (Nome)

Subsistence Fishing:

The subsistence fishing net fishing schedule is in effect in all freshwater subsistence areas and the marine waters west of Cape Nome is open from 6 PM Wednesday until 6 PM Monday. East of Cape Nome the marine waters are open 7 days a week

Stream-specific harvest limits are listed on the subsistence salmon fishing permits. There are no catch limits in marine waters.

Commercial Fishing:

No upcoming fishing periods.

Solomon River Weir – A Fish & Game project, has no escapement goals yet established.

Counts to July 19 were 3 kings, 73 chums, 2,600 pinks and 4 silvers. Chum counts are the lowest for this date and the average midpoint is July 21. Pink counts are much lower than the record runs in the average midpoint is late July.

Eldorado River Weir – A NSEDC project has an escapement goal range at the weir of 4,400 – 14, 200 chum salmon.

Counts through July 19 were 12 kings, 3,400 chums, 2,100 pinks and 36 sockeyes. The average historical third-quarter point for chum past the weir is July 21. The average midpoint for pinks is July 22.

Nome River Weir – A Fish & Game project with escapement goals of 1,600 – 5,300 chum salmon and 13,000 pink salmon.

Counts through July 19 were 20 chums, 1200 pinks and 6 sockeyes. The chum count is 1 of the lowest in the average midpoint of chum passage is July 22. Pinks are tracking like a normal odd-numbered year and much lower than the recent years record runs the average 1st quarter point for pinks is July 21.

Snake River Weir – A NSEDC project has an escapement goal of 2,000 – 4,200 chum salmon.

Th cumulative counts to July 19 were 1 king, 175 chums, 1,800 pinks, and 45 sockeyes. Chum escapement counts are less than half of last year's count and the average midpoint is July 20 1st. Pinks are tracking much lower than the recent years record runs in the average midpoint is July 25

Port Clarence District

Subsistence Fishing:

Effective Thursday, July 22, at midnight all net fishing was closed in the lower Kuzitrin River from 300 yards upstream of the outlet of the Pilgrim River to the Kuzitrin River mouth and in the entire Pilgrim River and its tributaries until further notice.

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon fishing remains closed in the Port Clarence Subdistrict due to lack of buyer interest.

Pilgrim River Weir – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish and Game. It has an escapement goal of 4,000-8,000 sockeyes based on aerial survey at Salmon Lake & the Grand Central tributary to Salmon Lake.

Sockeye salmon escapement past the Pilgrim River weir is at the average historical midpoint of the run and through July 21, only 2,970 sockeye salmon have passed upstream of the weir. The last three days have had declining numbers of sockeyes passing

the weir with only 67 sockeyes passing the weir yesterday. Run projections show the escapement will likely not be reached unless there is a closure to subsistence net fishing to allow more fish to pass upstream to spawn in Salmon Lake..

Kotzebue District.

Subsistence Fishing:

Subsistence net fishing is open seven days a week.

Commercial Fishing:

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 8 hours from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Thursday, July 22 and Friday, July 23 in the Kotzebue Sound District.

The cumulative catch is 5600 chums by 20 permit holders the run has been below average. Catches in the commercial fishery continue to trail last year.

Kobuk River Test Fish - Fish & Game project.

The test Fish catch is for 4 days of fishing are 15 chums and 71 sheefish and the chum catch is tracking like last year.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for the Kotzebue Area
<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/fishregs11/norton.pdf>