

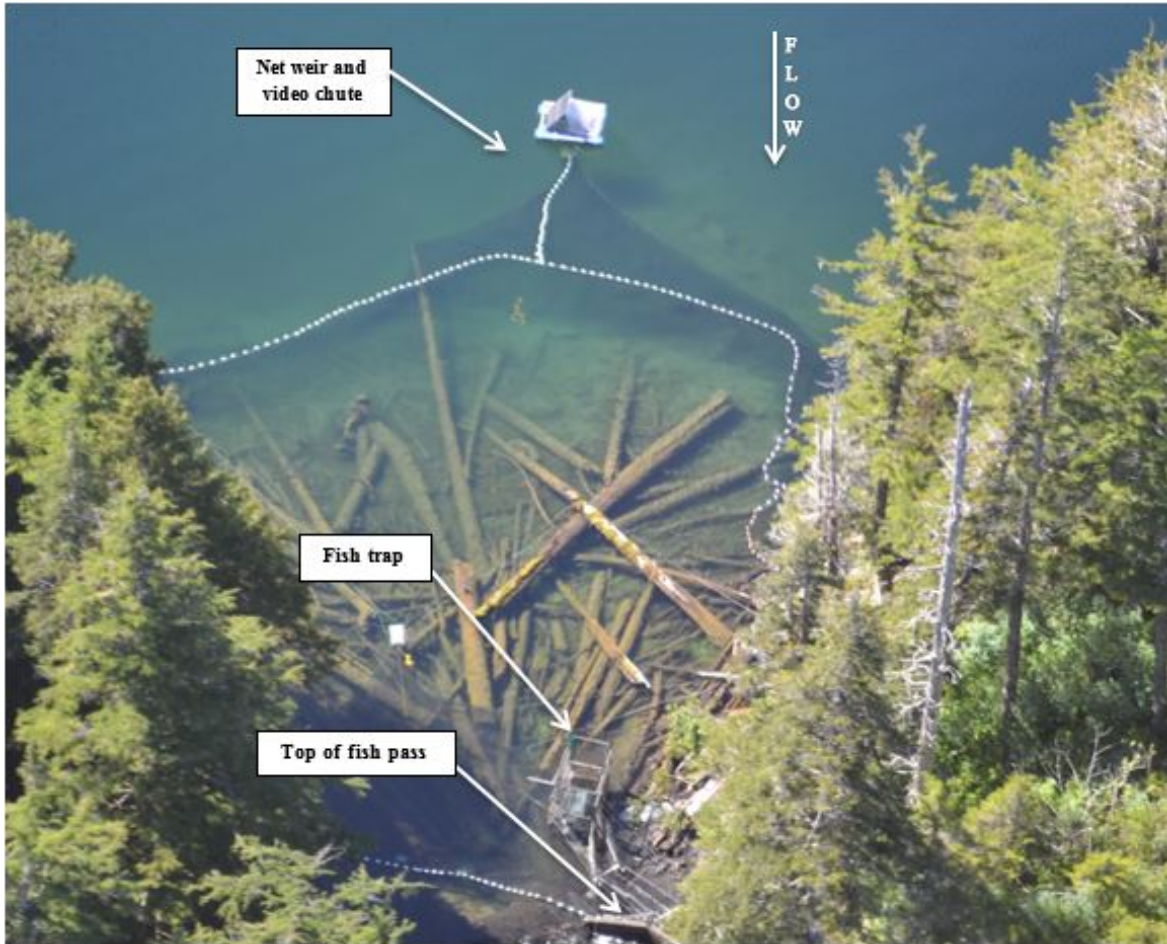
**FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 3-JUNE 9 , 2018.** Report #2  
Compiled by George Pappas - (907) 786-3822, [George\\_Pappas@fws.gov](mailto:George_Pappas@fws.gov) Office of  
Subsistence Management, USFWS.

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.

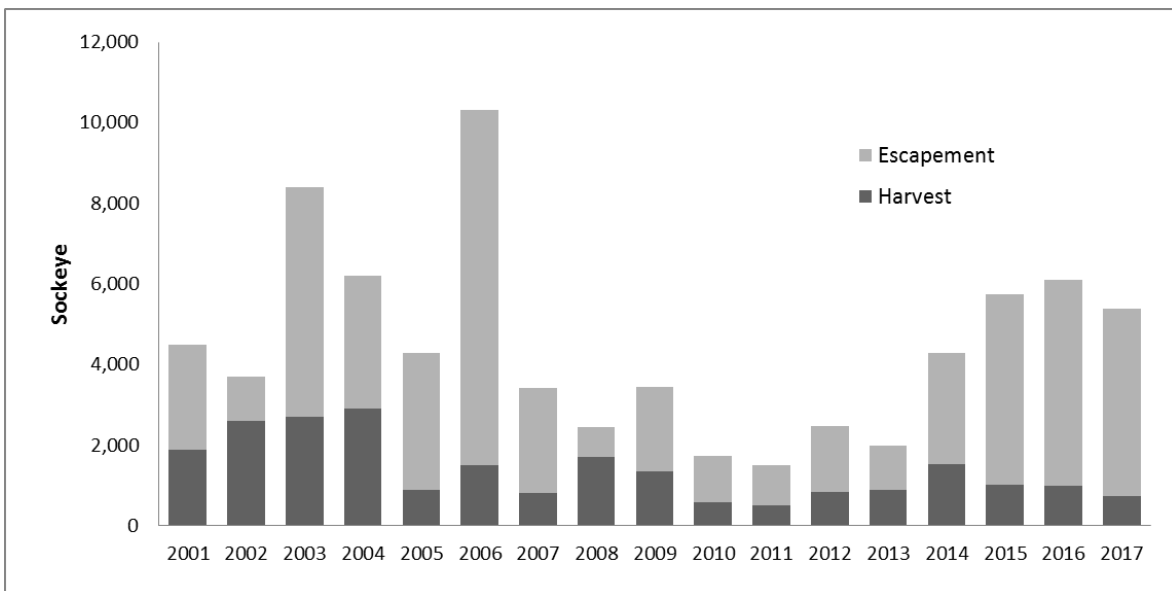
### **SOUTHEAST ALASKA**

**Sitka and Hoonah Area – Justin Koller, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest**  
Justin Koller, (907)747-4297 [jpkoller@fs.fed.us](mailto:jpkoller@fs.fed.us)

**Falls Lake Sockeye Salmon** - The Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake operate the Falls Lake trap and video net weir which will be operational the first week of July. The final escapement estimate in 2017 was 4,662 Sockeye Salmon while the final subsistence and sport harvest in the marine terminal area was 732. Subsistence harvest accounted for 89% of terminal area harvest.

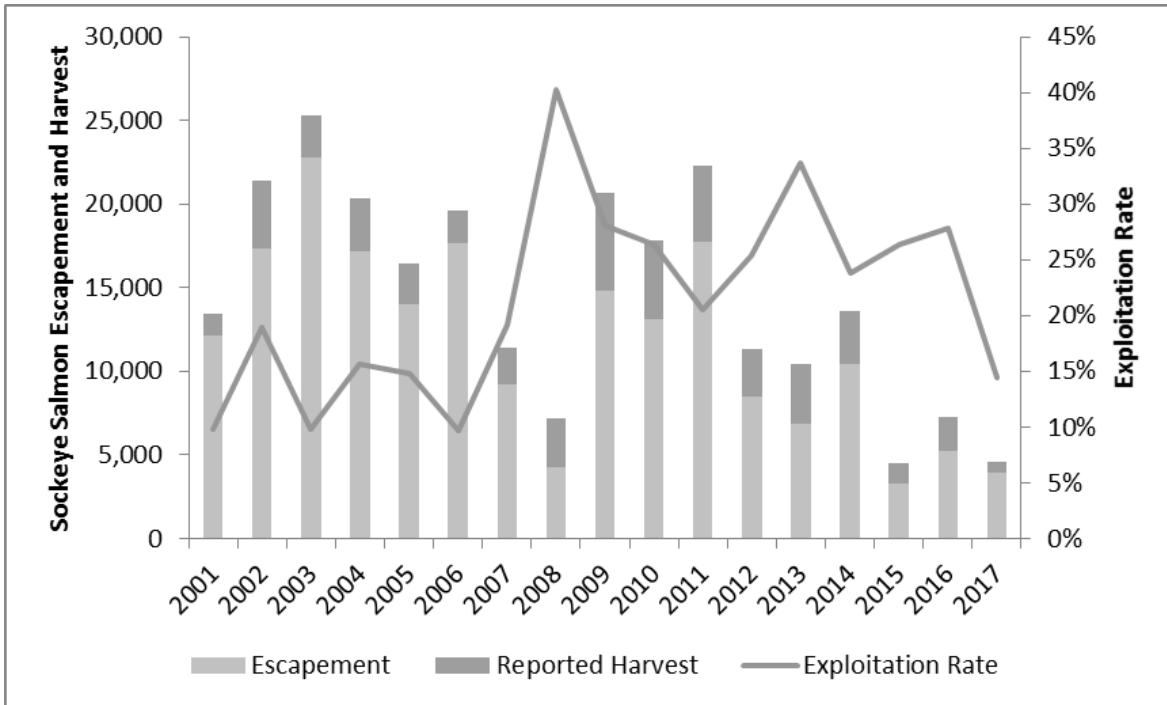


**Figure 1.** Aerial photo of the Falls Lake outlet illustrating the typical location of weir equipment.



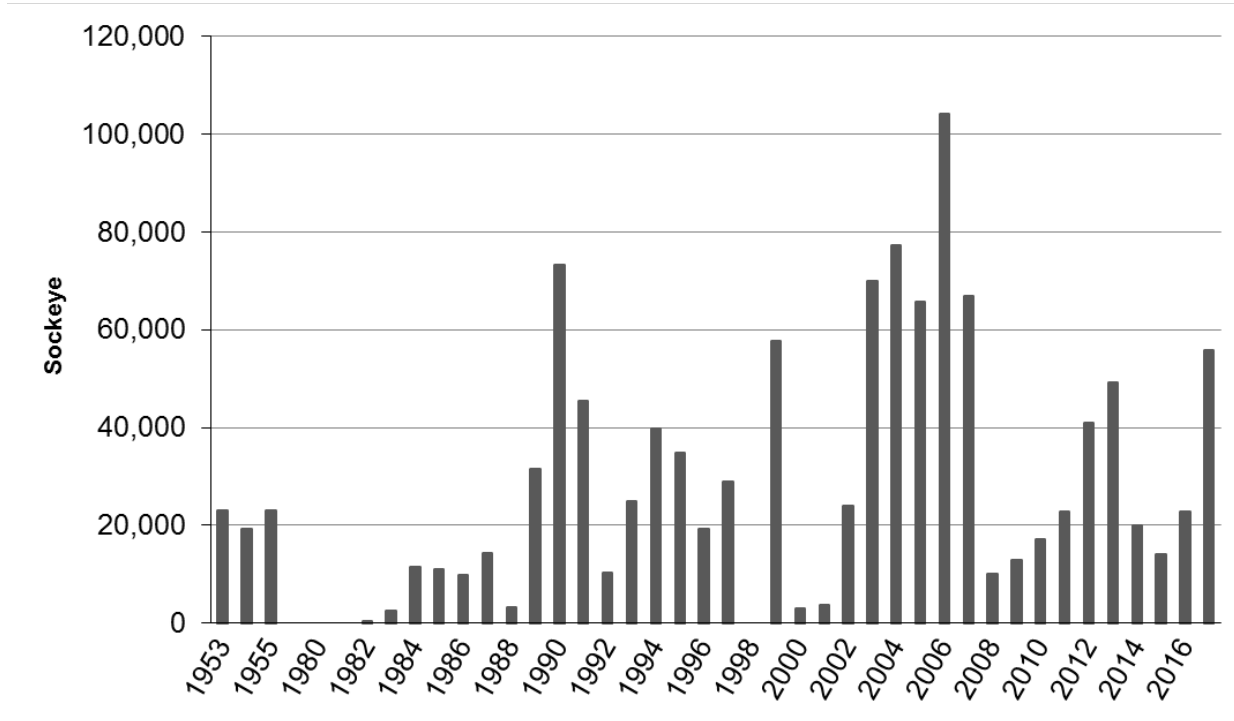
**Figure 2.** Escapement plus harvest equals total terminal run of Sockeye Salmon at Falls Lake, 2001-2017.

**Klag Bay Sockeye Salmon** - The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the Sockeye Salmon monitoring weir at Klag Bay which is scheduled to be operational the last week in June. In 2017, approximately 3,898 sockeye migrated past the weir while an estimated 1,087 sockeye were harvested in the marine terminal area subsistence and sport fishery. Subsistence harvest accounted for over 99% of terminal area harvest.



**Figure 3.** Reported harvest, escapement, and exploitation rate for Klag Lake Sockeye Salmon, 2001-2017.

**Redoubt Lake Sockeye Salmon** - The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir which is scheduled to be operational in mid-June. In 2017, an estimated 55,397 Sockeye Salmon passed through the weir into Redoubt Lake. On July 11, in accordance with the Redoubt Lake Management Plan, the individual/household subsistence sockeye possession limit was set at 25 and the individual/household subsistence sockeye annual limit was set at 100. These limits were based on an in-season model prediction of about 55,000 sockeye returning.



**Figure 4.** Annual Sockeye Salmon expanded escapement into Redoubt Lake for years with data: 1953 to 1955, 1982 to 1997, and 1999 to 2017. The weir was not operated in 1998.

**Sitka Sound Pacific Herring** – The commercial, subsistence, and spawning season for Pacific Herring in Sitka Sound occurs about mid-March through mid-April. According to preliminary accounts and data, the commercial and subsistence seasons were not successful in 2018 while the spawning season was marginally successful. The commercial fishery closed on April 3 with only about one third of the guideline harvest level (GHL) harvested. Accounts from the Sitka Tribe of Alaska indicate poor quantity and quality of subsistence harvest, and that their subsistence needs were not met. Other harvesters have said their catch rates were lower than the Tribes. Miles of shoreline receiving herring spawn indicates the spawning season was below average. However, preliminary estimates of spawn extent from shore and deposition are encouraging as related to the post spawn biomass calculation. This estimate will be available this Fall.

[Alaska Department of Fish and Game news release with a synopsis of the commercial season](#)

**Sitka Chinook Salmon** – The King Salmon season in Sitka is off to a slow start for both the commercial and sport fisheries. Fishers from both groups report below average catch rates. Management measures have decreased the bag limits for resident and non-resident sport anglers and curtailed commercial fishery opportunity.

[More information on King Salmon management in Southeast Alaska.](#)

**Prince of Wales and Ketchikan District Area – Jeff Reeves, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest. (907) 826-1649 [jreeves@fs.fed.us](mailto:jreeves@fs.fed.us)**

The 2018 Prince of Wales/Kosciusko spring subsistence steelhead fishery ended on May 31<sup>st</sup>. A total of 42 permits were issued to Prince of Wales Island residents during this fishery. Permits from this fishery being are being returned and are due back by June 15. The total reported harvest to date is 14 Steelhead Trout.

Currently 160 Federal salmon/trout/char permits have been issued in the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat region. Of these, 121 have been issued to Federally-qualified subsistence users residing on Prince of Wales Island.

Although Chinook Salmon abundance has been determined to be very low this year, hatchery return Chinook Salmon are present in the local Craig and Klawock area resulting in many subsistence users actively fishing under sport fishing regulations at this time. Although a couple of Prince of Wales Island streams have June returns of sockeye, most subsistence users are in preparation for subsistence harvest in July.

Sockeye Salmon should be beginning to show at both the Thorne River and Hatchery Creek. Limited subsistence activity has started to occur at these sites. The larger, more historic fisheries will not begin until July. These fisheries include: Hetta Lake, Klawock Lake, Sarkar, Karta River, Salmon Bay Lake and Red Lake. There are no forecasts for returns to these locations.

The Hetta Lake weir has been built and was deemed fish tight as of June 7. The Hydaburg Cooperative Association crews are also attempting to get the Eek Lake weir in, however, recent rain events have elevated stream levels preventing weir installation.

There are currently some commercial Chinook troll fisheries occurring in terminal harvest areas within the Ketchikan and Craig areas. Harvest to date is 1135 Chinook. The Kendrick Bay terminal seine fishery for Chum Salmon in District 2 and the drift gillnet fisheries in Districts 1 and 6 are scheduled to open June 17.

### **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](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 – Dave Sarafin, (907) 822-7281- [Dave.Sarafin@NPS.gov](mailto:Dave.Sarafin@NPS.gov), Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve**

Prior to the start of the Federal subsistence fisheries of the Upper Copper River District, the delegated in-season manager delayed the season start date of the Chitina Subdistrict from May 15 to June 1. This was done as a precautionary measure designed to minimize potential impact to early season salmon runs bound for upriver locations. Federal managers are presently monitoring run strength indicators to evaluate the need for additional restrictions.

The commercial fishery in the Copper River District has been limited in response to low numbers of Sockeye Salmon observed in run strength indices. Three 12-hour commercial fishing periods have occurred through June 7, all of which were in the month of May. ADF&G has reported the cumulative harvest to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest harvest to date in the last 50 years.

As of June 7, 2017 the ADF&G sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) estimated that 117,850 salmon had migrated upstream for the season. This estimate is 57% of the projected escapement of 206,185 for this date, or 88,335 less salmon. A daily estimate of 11,484 salmon migrated by the sonar counter on June 7.

The Chitina Subdistrict opened on June 1 and is expected to remain open through September 30. Thirty-seven (37) Federal Chitina Subdistrict permits have been issued on the FWS online data base. Additional permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity. The Glennallen Subdistrict opened for Federal subsistence users on May 15 and is expected to remain open until September 30. One hundred nine (109) Federal Glennallen permits have been issued on the FWS online data base. Additional permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity. The state subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict opened on June 1.

The Batzulnetas fishery is open. One Federal permit has been issued so far. Installation of the Tanada Creek fish weir is presently delayed, due to the high water level of the creek and associated current force that limit the crew's capability of installing the weir panels. The water level in the creek is above average for early June and is likely related to a delayed spring melt off of an unusually high winter snow load for the drainage area.

As of June 6, 2,335 Chinook Salmon had been tagged at the two project fish wheels in Baird Canyon operated by the Native Village of Eyak. The upriver fish wheels at Canyon Creek have captured 566 Chinook Salmon, of which, 27 were recaptured fish that had been tagged at the downstream wheels.

ADF&G's counting tower in the Gulkana River is in the process of being installed, as of June 5.

One Special Action has been issued by the in-season manager this season:

- Delaying the starting date of the Chitina Subdistrict Federal subsistence salmon fishery from May 15 to June 1.

#### Links

ADF&G Miles Lake daily sonar estimates

[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon\\_escapement](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>

ADF&G Copper River Inseason Commercial Harvest Estimates

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

Gulkana River counting tower – ADF&G

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

**PWS and Copper River Delta – Milo Burcham, Chugach National Forest, Cordova. 6 June 2017.** (907) 424-4759 [mburcham@fs.fed.us](mailto:mburcham@fs.fed.us)

No report submitted, expect first report at end of June.

**Cook Inlet Area – Jeff Anderson, Field Supervisor, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office** (907) 260-0132 [Jeffry\\_Anderson@fws.gov](mailto:Jeffry_Anderson@fws.gov)



The 2018 subsistence dip net fisheries for salmon will begin on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers June 15 and June 16, respectively. 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 opens on June 11.

Permits will be issued next week for community gillnet fisheries on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers. Regulatory dates for the Kasilof River experimental 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.

USFWS and USFS staff issued permits in Cooper Landing on June 6 and in Hope on June 7. USFWS staff will issue permits in Ninilchik on June 13.

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) 487-0226 or [michael\\_brady@fws.gov](mailto:michael_brady@fws.gov) or Kevin Van Hatten (907) 487-0230  
[Kevin\\_VanHatten@fws.gov](mailto:Kevin_VanHatten@fws.gov)

No weekly report submitted. Report expected next week.

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

***BRISTOL BAY, CHIGNIK, ALASKA PENINSULA, and ALEUTIAN ISLANDS –  
Jonathon Gerken Fisheries Branch Chief Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office***  
(907) 271-2776 [Jonathon\\_Gerken@fws.gov](mailto:Jonathon_Gerken@fws.gov)

*Update:* Escapement and assessment projects are being installed. Subsistence fisheries are open. Commercial fishing periods have been announced in Bristol Bay Management Area and the South Alaska Peninsula Management Area. Fisherman should consult with Alaska Department of Fish and Game emergency orders and fishing regulations prior to fishing. The Chignik Management Area weir has counted a total of 1,995 Sockeye Salmon as of June 10.

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. None of the adjustments in commercial fishing management throughout any of these areas are anticipated to affect subsistence fishing in Federally-managed waters.

#### Bristol Bay:

The 2018 Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon run is forecast to be approximately 41 to 61 million fish for nine river systems: Kvichak, Alagnak, Naknek, Egegik, Ugashik, Wood, Igushik, Nushagak, and Togiak. Based on the forecast 31.2 to 51.7 million fish are available for commercial inshore harvest. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has strategies in place for all mixed stock districts to address differential run strength should that occur. Gillnets are the primary gear used for most subsistence fishing for salmon. A permit is required for subsistence harvest of salmon.

The commercial salmon season in Bristol Bay opens June 1 by regulation and commercial fishing openings have been announced. Fishing in eastside districts and Togiak will be allowed using a weekly schedule that will vary by district. The schedules are in place to balance fishing opportunity with escapement in the early part of the season, particularly for Chinook Salmon. As each run develops and Sockeye Salmon run characteristics become defined within individual districts, fishing time will be adjusted accordingly. In the Nushagak District, management of the Chinook Salmon fishery will govern fishing time in the early part of the season, followed by directed Sockeye Salmon management as abundance dictates.

The sustainable escapement goals (SEG) for Bristol Bay systems are:

#### Escapement Goals:

|            |                              |
|------------|------------------------------|
| Kvichak    | SEG = 2,000,000 – 10,000,000 |
| Alagnak    | SEG = 320,000 minimum        |
| Naknek     | SEG = 800,000 – 2,000,000    |
| Egegik     | SEG = 800,000 – 2,000,000    |
| Ugashik    | SEG = 500,000 – 1,400,000    |
| Wood River | SEG = 700,000 – 1,800,000    |
| Igushik    | SEG = 150,000 – 400,000      |
| Nushagak   | SEG = 370,000 – 900,000      |
| Togiak     | SEG = 120,000 – 270,000      |

#### Chignik:

The 2018 Sockeye Salmon forecasted run size for the Chignik River Management Area (CMA) is 1,749,000 fish with a harvest estimate of 1,011,000 Sockeye Salmon. The CMA is composed of five fishing districts: Eastern, Central, Chignik Bay, Western, and Perryville. In June, the first commercial fishing period in the Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern districts and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District may occur after approximately 20,000 Sockeye Salmon have escaped or are expected to escape into the Chignik River. The Chignik River Chinook Salmon harvest is dependent upon the amount of commercial fishing time for Sockeye Salmon in July. The commercial harvest 10 year average is 7,000 fish.

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                        | -25,000 in August and 50,000 in September in addition to late run escapement goals |
| 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:

There are numerous salmon stocks and fisheries throughout the Alaska Peninsula, as well as the Aleutian Islands. The largest fisheries are managed under management plans. Management objectives vary by district and time. Several Sockeye Salmon escapements (mostly on the north peninsula) are monitored with weirs including Nelson, Bear, Sandy, Ilnik, McLees, and Orzinski systems. Preseason forecasts are made only for the Nelson River and late-run Bear Lake stocks. The 2018 Sockeye Salmon run size projections are 428,000 for the Nelson River and 308,000 for late-run Bear Lake. A permit is required for subsistence harvest of salmon.

Escapement Goals:

|                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Nelson River       | BEG = 97,000 – 219,000  |
| Late-run Bear Lake | BEG = 117,000 – 195,000 |

Aleutian Islands.

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

***Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Bristol Bay Area***  
[http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish\\_shell/upload/Bristol.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Bristol.pdf)

***Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Chignik Area***  
[http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish\\_shell/upload/chignik.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/chignik.pdf)

**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 – Gerald Maschmann, Fish Biologist USFWS Fairbanks Office.**

[Gerald\\_Maschmann@fws.gov](mailto:Gerald_Maschmann@fws.gov) or

Fred Bue [Fredrick\\_Bue@fws.gov](mailto:Fredrick_Bue@fws.gov)

Emmonak Summer Office (907) 949-1798

The Emmonak Field Office is open for summer management activities. The office can be contacted by calling (907) 949-1798.

**Summer Season Outlook**

The Summer Chum Salmon outlook is for an above average run size large enough to provide for escapement and subsistence uses. A surplus of up to 1.4 million Summer Chum Salmon is anticipated to be available for commercial harvest. However, commercial harvest opportunity will depend upon available markets and the strength of the overlapping Chinook Salmon run. The Chinook Salmon outlook is for a below average run size of 173,000 to 251,000 fish. The Chinook Salmon run abundance came in near the upper end of the outlook ranges the last four seasons, possibly indicating an improvement in productivity. The 2018 salmon runs may be large enough to provide for normal subsistence harvests. However, a cautionary approach is being taken early in the season, and inseason management strategies will be based on run assessment information once fish begin entering the river. If assessment indicates the Chinook salmon run size is near the upper end of the outlook range, and goals are projected to be met, subsistence fishing restrictions would likely be relaxed. If that occurs, commercial Chum Salmon fishermen may be given the opportunity to sell Chinook Salmon incidentally-caught in the Chum Salmon fishery. This would likely be near the tail end of the run, when the majority of Chinook Salmon have passed upriver for escapement and subsistence harvest purposes. If inseason assessment indicates a poorer than anticipated run, subsistence fishing time may be reduced or gear may be limited to selective gear types with no retention of Chinook salmon allowed.

**Assessment Information**

A few Subsistence fishermen in the lower Yukon River area have been fishing since ice out. High debris loads immediately following ice out hindered both subsistence fishing and lower Yukon test fishing efforts. Debris loads have decreased significantly this week and fishing is well under way in the lower Yukon. The first subsistence caught Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon was reported on May 27. Lower Yukon drift test fishing began on May 29 for Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon at the Big Eddy site near Emmonak. Middle Mouth Chinook Salmon set net test fishing began on June 7. Drift net test fishing for Chum Salmon at Middle Mouth began June 6. Chinook and Summer

Chum Salmon catches for both subsistence fishermen and the test fishery have been sporadic; however Summer Chum Salmon catches are increasing. Managers anticipate test fishery catches to increase in the coming days. The Pilot Station sonar began full operations on June 1; however, test fishing catches were also hampered by high debris loads the first week of operations. Efforts are being made to release Chinook Salmon alive that are caught in the test fishery in order to conserve Chinook Salmon. At this time, it is too early to assess the overall strength of either the Chinook or Chum Salmon runs. The test fishery has not yet detected what managers would consider the first pulse of Chinook Salmon which typically arrives just before the first quarter. The average first quarter point in the LYTF for Chinook Salmon is June 15, and June 19 for Summer Chum Salmon.

### **Management Actions**

Until more assessment data become available, management decisions will be consistent with the preseason outlook. The northern portion of the Coastal District and District 1 will be managed as one district for 2018. Subsistence salmon fishing in District 1 was placed on half its regulatory schedule of two, 18-hour periods per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear June 8. Subsistence salmon fishing in Districts 2 and 3 will be placed on half their regulatory schedules of two, 18-hour periods per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear on June 11. Subdistrict 4-A will be placed on half its regulatory schedule of two, 24-hour periods per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear on June 14. Chinook Salmon caught incidentally may be retained for subsistence purposes. Subsistence fishing in the Innoko and Koyukuk rivers, District 5, Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B, Old Minto and Upper Tanana Areas are open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and restricted to 7.5-inch or less mesh gillnet and fish wheel gear. The personal use fishery in Subdistrict 6-C is open on its regulatory schedule of two, 42-hour periods per week restricted to 7.5-inch or less mesh gillnet gear and fish wheels.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, gillnets that have mesh size 4-inches or smaller not exceeding 60 feet in length may be used to target non-Salmon species. The sequential activation of subsistence fishing restrictions will continue in all districts as the Chinook Salmon migrate upstream.

Directed Summer Chum Salmon commercial fishing began in District 1 on June 9. Three, 12-hour periods were scheduled for June 9, 10, and 11. Two, 12-hour periods have been scheduled for District 2 for June 12 and 13. All periods are directed towards Summer Chum Salmon using dip nets and beach seines with incidentally caught Chinook Salmon being immediately released alive.

### **Consultation**

Extensive public outreach and consultation was performed during the fall of 2017 and spring of 2018 to inform and seek input from Yukon River fishermen and stakeholders. Run outlook and possible management strategies were discussed at Federal RAC meetings and State AC meetings, the Yukon River Panel meeting, at the annual Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association Board meeting, and at the Yukon River Intertribal Fish Commission annual meeting. On May 2, a pre-season planning meeting

was held in Anchorage that brought together representatives from most Alaskan Yukon River communities to discuss the run outlook and management options.

The first YRDFA weekly teleconference occurred on June 4. Most reports were of very high debris loads coming down river with a few reports of salmon being caught in the lower Yukon in District 1.

## **KUSKOKWIM RIVER**

**In Season Manager – Ken Stahlnecker, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Contact [kenneth\\_stahlnecker@fws.gov](mailto:kenneth_stahlnecker@fws.gov); (907) 543-3151 or [Lewis\\_Coggins@fws.gov](mailto:Lewis_Coggins@fws.gov)**

No weekly report submitted, report expected next week.

### **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](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Yukon.pdf)

*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](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/>

**Northwest Alaska – Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, Nome.**  
(907) 443-2522 [Ken\\_Adkisson@nps.gov](mailto:Ken_Adkisson@nps.gov)

The area covered in these weekly Fisheries Updates for Northwest Alaska includes two federal subsistence management regions (the Seward Peninsula and the Northwest Arctic) and three districts (Norton Sound, Port Clarence and Kotzebue). The Seward Peninsula Region contains two of the districts: Norton Sound and Port Clarence. In turn, the Norton Sound District includes six numbered subdistricts: Unalakleet (6), Shaktoolik (5), Norton Bay (4), Elim (3), Golovin (2) and Nome (1). The Port Clarence District also includes the Pilgrim River and Salmon Lake. The Northwest Arctic Region contains one district (Kotzebue). The districts and subdistricts are based on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game organizational structure for the management of commercial and subsistence fisheries. Two other references a reader might encounter are Northern Norton Sound and Southern Norton Sound. Northern Norton Sound includes all marine and fresh waters of Subdistricts 1 through 3 (Nome, Golovin and Elim) as well as the Cape Wooley area of the Norton Sound District, and the Port Clarence District. Southern Norton Sound waters include the Norton Bay Subdistrict beginning at Bald Head, between Elim and Koyuk, to the southern Norton Sound District boundary at Point Romanof. This area includes Subdistricts 4 (Norton Bay), 5 (Shaktoolik) and 6 (Unalakleet).

Report updates will begin with the southernmost areas, then move progressively northwards

### **Norton Sound District**

#### **Sport Fishing:**

All the fresh waters from Bald Head to Point Romanof remain closed to sport fishing for king salmon by State E.O. The closure includes, but is not limited to, the Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Ungalik, Inglutalik, and Golsovia river drainages. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure may be used in these drainages. The 2018 preseason outlook for the Unalakleet River drainage king salmon run is expected to be insufficient to provide for a moderate harvestable surplus. According to the Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District and the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan, when the inriver subsistence fishery is closed to the retention of king salmon, sport fishing for king salmon will be closed. The department does not have reliable in season stock assessment information for the Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Ungalik, Inglutalik, and Golsovia River drainages, but these king salmon runs generally cycle in accordance with the Unalakleet River stocks. The closure of sport fishing for king salmon in these rivers will provide protection for returning fish. The prohibition of bait while sport fishing should minimize catch-and-release mortality for king salmon incidentally caught while sport fishing for other species. This emergency order will remain in effect through August 15, 2018 or until inseason assessments project that the escapement goal will be met for king salmon on the Unalakleet River.

#### **Other Norton Sound Coastal Waters**

All Marine Waters from the western tip of Cape Denby east to Point Dexter, and All Marine Waters from Black Point south to Wood Point, east of St. Michael will close to subsistence salmon fishing effective the evening of June 8 at midnight. However all waters from Wood Point west to Point Romanof are open to subsistence salmon fishing seven days a week.

#### ***Subdistrict 6 (Unalakleet)***

Subsistence Fishing: Effective the evening of June 8 at midnight, all marine waters and fresh waters of Norton Sound Subdistrict 6 were closed to subsistence salmon fishing. The North River and the Unalakleet River drainage downstream of the North River including the marine waters within 500 yards of the Unalakleet River mouth have been closed to subsistence gill net fishing since June 1, and will remain closed. Dip nets and cast nets may also be used, but any king salmon captured must be immediately released. Next week the department plans to have a 24-hour fishing period in the marine waters during favorable weather conditions with gillnet mesh size restricted to 6 inches or smaller.

#### ***Subdistrict 5 (Shaktoolik)***

Subsistence Fishing: Effective the evening of June 8 at midnight, all marine waters and fresh waters of Subdistrict 5 were closed to subsistence salmon fishing. Next week the department plans to have a 24-hour subsistence fishing period in the marine waters with gillnet mesh size restricted to 6 inches or smaller during favorable weather conditions. The Shaktoolik River drainage will remain closed to subsistence salmon fishing until further notice. Gill nets used to target trout and whitefish in the Shaktoolik River and all other freshwater areas of Subdistrict 5 must have a mesh size no greater than 4 inches. Dip nets and cast nets may also be used, but any king salmon captured must be immediately released.

#### ***Subdistrict 4 (Norton Bay)***

Subsistence Fishing: Effective the evening of June 8 at midnight, all flowing waters training the Inglutalik and Ungalik rivers, and all marine waters of the Norton Bay Subdistrict, will be placed on a subsistence gillnet fishing schedule of two 36-hour periods per week. Periods will be from 6 AM Mondays to 6 PM Tuesdays, and from 6 AM Saturdays to 6 PM Sundays. During the openings from Mondays to Tuesdays, subsistence users will be restricted to set gill nets with a stretch mesh size of 6 inches or smaller. For weekend openings from Saturdays to Sundays there will be no restrictions on mesh size. The schedule remain in place until July 1, however fishing restrictions on the Inglutalik River may be relaxed earlier in season depending upon escapement. The Koyuk River drainage is not affected by this action and will remain open to subsistence fishing with no restrictions in place. Additionally, the use of beach seines dip nets and cast nets is open continuously by regulation in all waters of Norton Bay Subdistrict, but any king salmon incidentally captured in these gear types must be immediately released alive and unharmed.



Commercial Fishing: Commercial harvests of chum salmon are expected to be above average in 2018, and average for silver salmon. However restrictions on subsistence fishing time to protect king salmon will again be needed.

### ***Subdistrict 3 (Elim)***

Subsistence fishing: Except for 2014, when hook and line subsistence fishing for king salmon was closed, there have been no other subsistence restrictions and over 25 years in Subdistrict 3. Subsistence permits are required when subsistence salmon fishing in the Subdistrict. Other than the possibility of in-season king salmon restrictions no other restrictions are expected

Commercial Fishing: Commercial fishing for chum salmon is expected to begin in mid to late June, and for silver beginning the end of July with gear restricted to a mesh size of 6 inches or less. If there is a commercial directed pink salmon fishery, gear will be restricted to a maximum mesh size of 4½ inches.

### ***Subdistrict 2 (Golovin)***

Subsistence Fishing: Permits are required for subsistence salmon fishing and no restrictions is subsistence fishing time are expected.

Commercial Fishing: The chum salmon run is expected to be above average this year, thus providing for a commercial chum fishery. Expected runs of pink and silver salmon would also provide commercial fishing opportunity.

### ***Subdistrict 1 (Nome)***

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is allowed in the marine waters seven days a week prior to June 15 and after August 15. From June 15 through August 15. The marine waters of the Nome Subdistrict west of Cape Nome will be open to set gill net fishing from 6 PM Wednesday until 6 PM Monday unless closed by emergency order. Marine waters east of Cape Nome will remain open seven days a week throughout the season unless closed by emergency order. And fresh waters, subsistence fishing is open seven days a week prior to June 15 and after August 31. Beginning June 15 through August 31 subsistence set gill net fishing will be open in the fresh waters from 6 PM Wednesday until 6 PM Monday. Subsistence permits are required and subsistence salmon fishing.

Commercial Fishing: Commercial fishing periods are expected for chum salmon and possibly pink salmon (depending on buyer interest) and silver salmon (depending on run strength).

### **Port Clarence District**

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence salmon fishing permits are required for the Port Clarence district, Pilgrim River drainage and Salmon Lake. Catch limits are listed on the subsistence permits. No subsistence fishing closures are expected, but the department will limit sockeye salmon subsistence to a harvest of 25 fish initially, and will re-increase or waive the limit if the run is similar to the last several years.

Commercial Fishing: The department expects the commercial fishery to remain closed because of a lack of buyer interest despite the in-river goal of 30,000 sockeye salmon of Pilgrim River expected to be reached.

### **Kotzebue District**

Subsistence Fishing: No subsistence fishing restrictions are expected in 2018.

Commercial fishing: the department intends to open the commercial fishery any time after July 9 when the buyers are ready, or the permit holders indicate they are ready to fish and a market is available.

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