

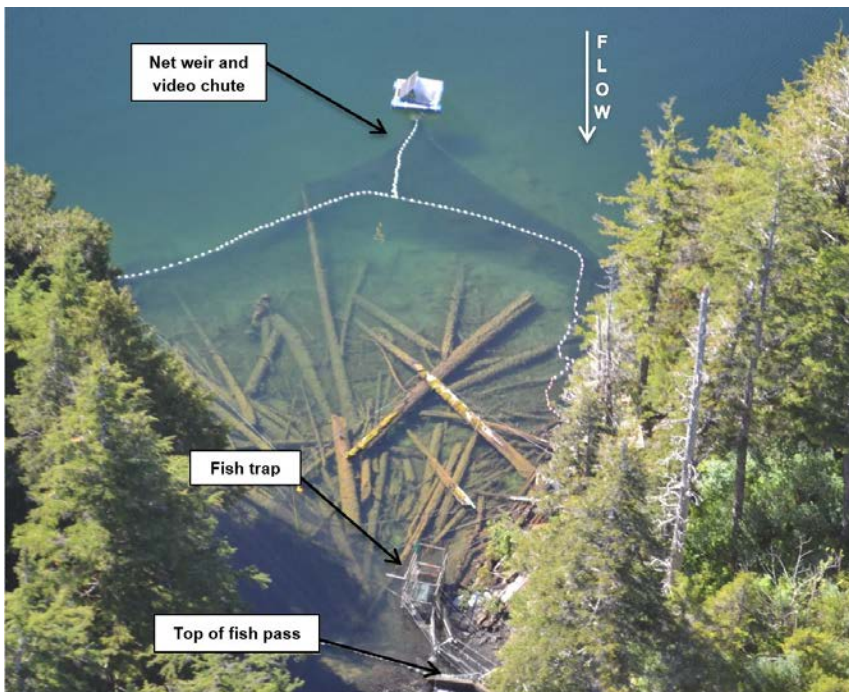
**FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 1 - 7, 2018.** Report #6  
Compiled by George Pappas - (907) 786-3822, [George.Pappas@fws.gov](mailto:George.Pappas@fws.gov) Office of  
Subsistence Management, USFWS.

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.

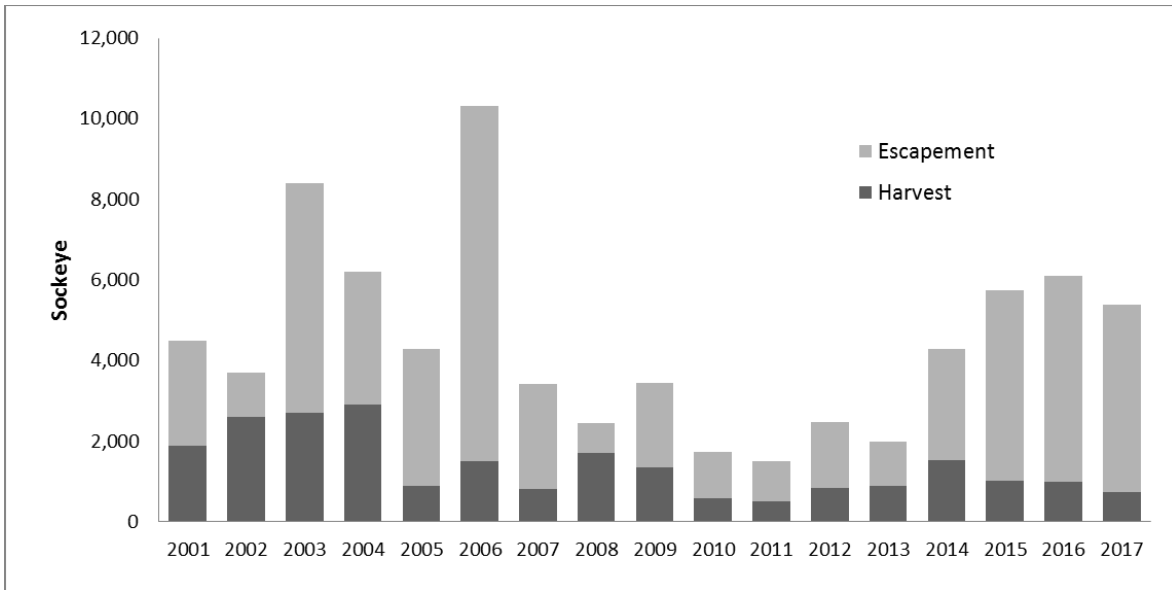
**SOUTHEAST ALASKA**

**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 were installed June 29. No Sockeye Salmon have been counted yet and only a few have been observed in the marine terminal area. 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.

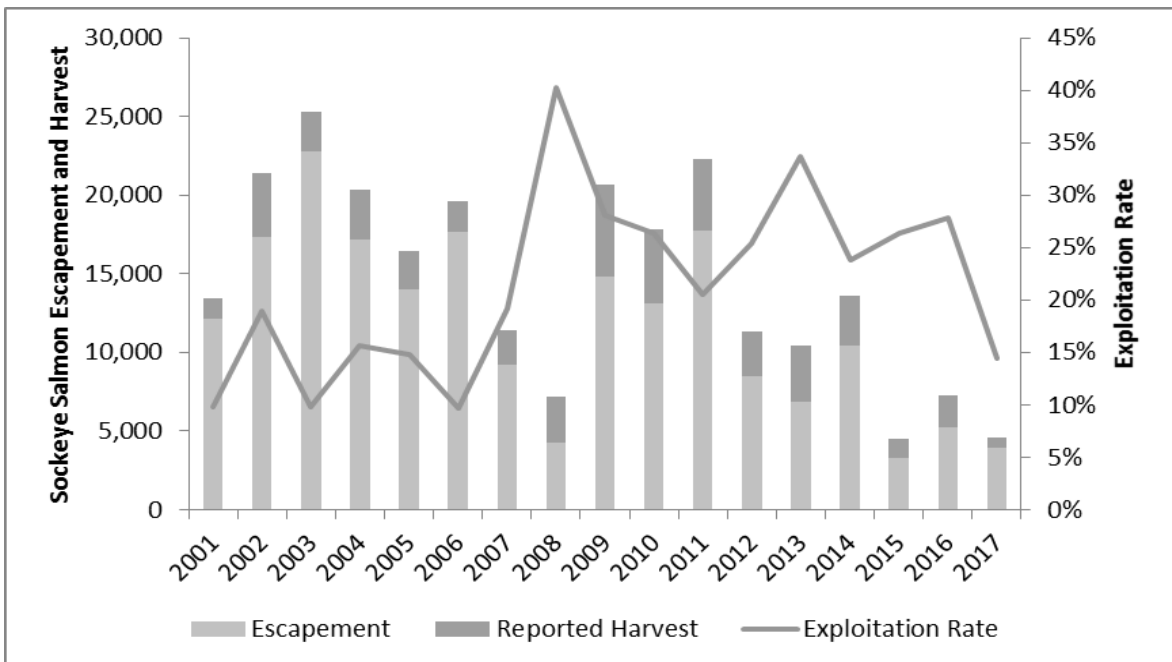


**Figure 1.** Aerial photo of the Falls Lake outlet illustrating the typical location of weir equipment.



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

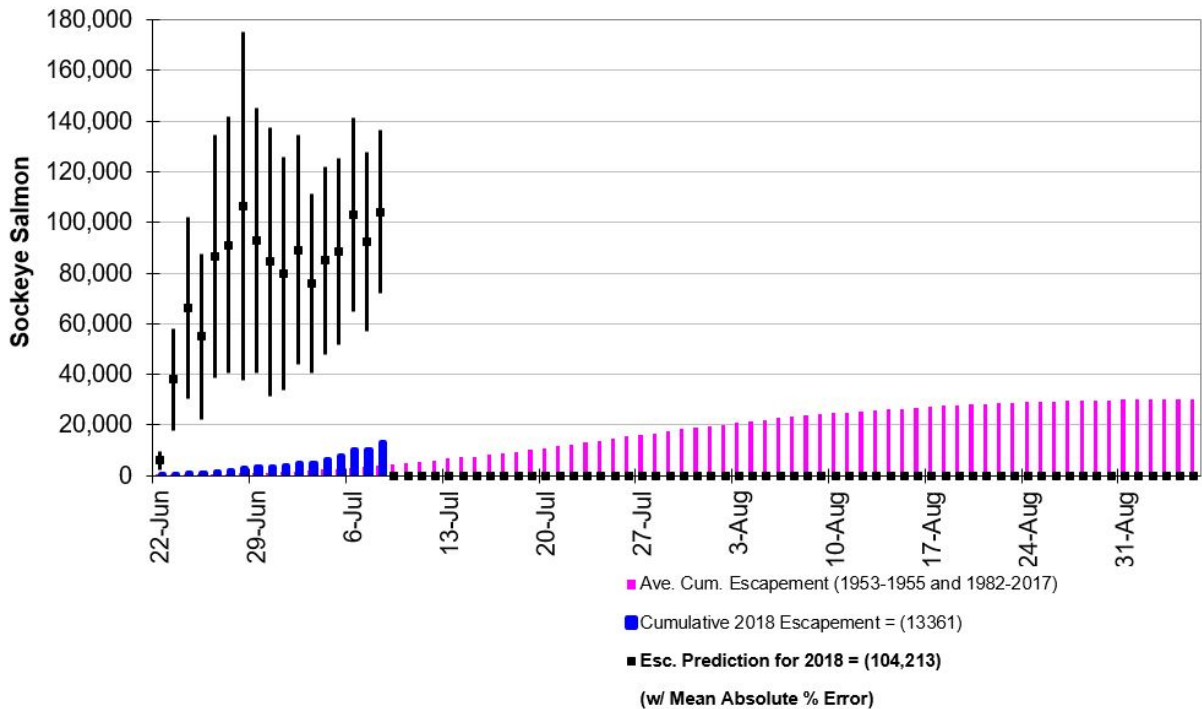
**Klag Bay Sockeye Salmon** - The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the Sockeye Salmon monitoring weir at Klag Bay which was operating as of June 28. No Sockeye Salmon have been counted yet and few have been caught in the subsistence fishery. In 2017, approximately 3,898 sockeye migrated past the weir while 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.



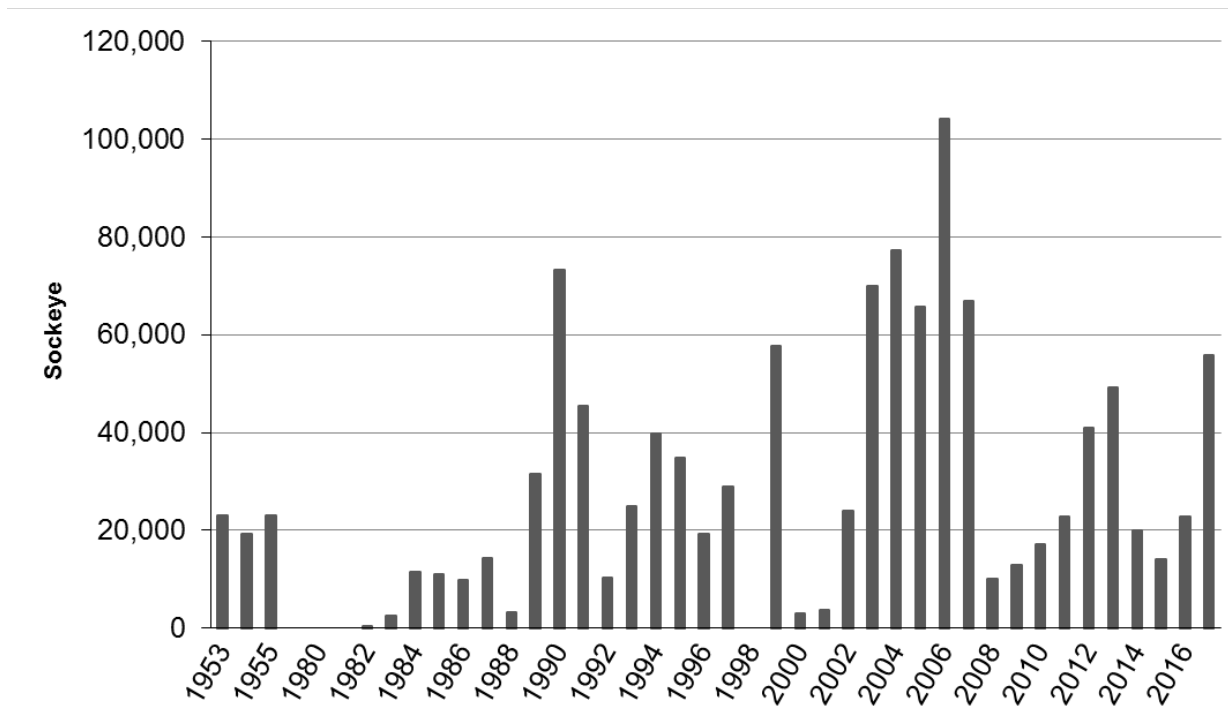
**Figure 3.** Reported harvest, escapement, and exploitation rate for Klag Lake Sockeye Salmon, 2001-2017.

**Redoubt Lake Sockeye Salmon** - The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir which was operating as of June 16. As of July 8, 13,361 Sockeye Salmon have entered the lake which is well above average. The model is predicting that about 104,213 Sockeye Salmon will return to Redoubt Lake this season (**Figure 4**). In accordance with the Redoubt Bay and Lake Sockeye Salmon management plan, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has raised the subsistence limit from 10 daily and 50 annual per household to 25 daily and 100 annually per household.

In 2017, an estimated 67,556 Sockeye Salmon passed through the weir into Redoubt Lake (**Figure 5**). Almost half of the escapement consisted of jacks which is unusual. Jacks are male Sockeye Salmon that spend only one year in saltwater before returning to spawn. On July 11, 2017, in accordance with the Redoubt Lake Management Plan, the individual/household subsistence Sockeye Salmon 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 returning.



**Figure 4.** In season predictions of the Redoubt Lake Sockeye Salmon escapement based on weir counts through July 8.



**Figure 5.** 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 Chinook Salmon season in Sitka continues to be slow in 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)**

Currently 173 Federal salmon/trout/char permits have been issued in the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat region. Of these, 119 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 operational since June 7, with 491 Sockeye Salmon counted at the site. The Eek Lake weir has been operational since June 12<sup>th</sup> with no fish reported to date. Both projects are run by the Hydaburg Cooperative Association (HCA). HCA has requested local residents to not engage in any subsistence fishing activity at Eek until 1000 fish have been counted through the weir.

There are currently some commercial Chinook troll fisheries occurring in terminal harvest areas within the Ketchikan and Craig areas. Other open commercial fisheries include The Kendrick Bay terminal seine fishery for Chum Salmon in District 2 and the drift gillnet fishery in District 1. Commercial troll will begin on July 1 with an allocation of 52,800 Chinook Salmon. Cumulative harvest to date for Districts 1-4 are 3470 Chinook Salmon, 5740 Sockeye Salmon, 1680 Coho Salmon, 4095 Pink Salmon and 124,500 Chum Salmon.

**Petersburg/Wrangell area**

This year's run of Chinook Salmon to the Stikine River is weak and was forecasted at 6,900 fish. This forecast is less than half of 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 purse seine and non-terminal harvest area troll fisheries are closed in the area. There is limited drift gillnet opportunity in District 6 as this is the only commercial fishing district open at the moment in the area. District 8 will have its first opening this weekend. Cumulative harvest to date for Districts 6-8 are: 1590 Chinook Salmon, 4700 Sockeye Salmon, 4200 Coho Salmon, 2950 Pink Salmon and 23,300 Chum Salmon

There have been 61 fishing permits issued for the Stikine River subsistence salmon fishery. Fishing conditions have improved and participation has increased, however the catch per unit effort has been low. The estimated cumulative subsistence harvest is 0 large Chinook and 200 Sockeye Salmon.

Currently 173 Federal salmon/trout/char permits have been issued in the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat region. Of these, 29 have been issued to Federally-qualified subsistence users residing in the Petersburg/Wrangell area.

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

**Yakutat area:** Sockeye Salmon returns to the Yakutat area are setting records this year – just not the kind of records we hope for. Weir counts on the Situk River are the lowest ever, at just about 5,000 fish through July 7. This compares to an average count of 30,000 fish for the date. All State commercial and subsistence fisheries have been closed, and the sport fishery is closed to the retention of Sockeye Salmon. It appears unlikely that the escapement goal of 30,000 – 70,000 Sockeye Salmon will be met.

**Northern Southeast inside waters:** Things aren't looking much better on the Sockeye front in northern inside waters. Weir counts at Chilkat and Chilkoot River escapement projects are lagging behind normal, and appear to be running under the escapement goal ranges. The harvest of Sockeye in the Taku area drift gillnet fishery is among the lowest on record. On the bright side, the return of hatchery chum salmon continues to be strong in both the Lynn Canal and Taku area gillnet fisheries.

**Neva Lake Sockeye Salmon:** The Neva Lake video weir was set up on June 22, but so far no Sockeye Salmon have been counted passing through the weir. Historically, about 15% of the run has passed through the weir into the lake by this date. That's not very encouraging, but dry weather and low stream flows are contributing to the lack of fish. Hopefully, the first good rain will bring a pulse of fish, and we will have a better idea of the run strength.

**Sitkoh Lake Sockeye Salmon:** The Sitkoh Lake video weir was installed on July 6 by project personnel from the Forest Service and the Angoon Community Association (ACA) (Figures 1 and 2) The project uses a pair of remotely monitored video net weirs to count fish entering Sitkoh Lake, on the southeast corner of Chichagof Island. Video from the site is streamed to the ACA office, where it is recorded on a computer.





Figure 1. Forest Service intern Brian Donovan and ACA crewmember Ed Gamble take a well deserved break in the shade of solar panels at the Sitkoh Lake video weir.



Figure 2. View of the solar panel array and net weirs at the Sitkoh Lake video weir.

### **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**

The Sockeye Salmon return to the Copper River was extremely low during the early portion of the season. During the month of June, the State of Alaska issued Emergency Orders restricting or closing all state fisheries except for the subsistence fishery of the Copper River District near Cordova. These restrictions included: limited early season commercial fishing periods, Chitina personal use fishery closure, Sockeye Salmon sport fishing closure, and limiting the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery to 2 days per week.

Federal managers are continuing to monitor run strength indicators to evaluate the need for appropriate management actions. Recent trends of increasing run strength have been reported from in river indicators, which provide the likelihood of achieving the established sustainable escapement goal for wild Sockeye Salmon spawning populations.

In response to the increasing run strength, along with consideration of the total estimated in river return to date, the State of Alaska announced on July 3, that effective July 8, the state subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict will open 7 days per week for the remainder of the season. On July 7, a 12 hour fishing period to occur on July 9 in the Copper River District was announced. Discussion with the local, up river state management biologist indicated a likelihood that restrictions on the up river Sockeye Salmon sport fishery and the Chitina personal use fishery may be relaxed by the State in following the week.

The commercial fishery in the Copper River District was limited during the early season in response to low numbers of Sockeye Salmon observed in run strength indices. Three 12 hour open commercial fishing periods occurred during the month of May. Total Sockeye Salmon harvest from the three commercial fishing periods was approximately 26,000 fish. ADF&G reported the cumulative harvest to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest harvest to date in the last 50 years.

As of July 7, 2018 the ADF&G sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) estimated that 505,987 salmon had migrated upstream past the sonar thus far during the season. This estimate is 6% above the cumulative management objective of 475,180 salmon for this date in the season. A daily number of 13,362 salmon was estimated to pass by the sonar counter on July 7. This daily passage estimate is over double the projected passage of 6,104 salmon for this date based on average daily sonar counts since 1978. The water level of the Copper River at the sonar site remains high.

The Federal subsistence fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict opened on June 1 and is expected to remain open through September 30. The State closed the Chitina personal use fishery on June 18. Eighty-nine (89) 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. The State closed all Sockeye Salmon sport

fishing in the Upper Copper River Drainage on June 18. The state subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict opened on June 1. Beginning Monday June 25, state subsistence fisheries in the Glennallen Subdistrict were limited to 2 days per week, but will reopen to continuous fishing on July 8. Two hundred fifty-four (254) 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 Batzulnetas fishery is open. One Federal permit has been issued so far.

Installation of the Tanada Creek fish weir was completed Thursday, June 21. The first Sockeye Salmon was recorded passing the weir on July 4. As of July 7, 13 Sockeye Salmon have been recorded passing the site for the season. The water level in the creek was higher than average for the week of July 1 - 7.

As of July 7, 5,578 Chinook Salmon had been tagged at the two project fishwheels in Baird Canyon operated by the Native Village of Eyak. The upriver fishwheels at Canyon Creek have captured 3,573 Chinook Salmon, of which, 365 were recaptured fish that had been tagged at the downstream wheels.

ADF&G's counting tower in the Gulkana River has reported passage estimates for the periods of June 8 - 11 and June 17 - July 7, with a season total of 828 Chinook Salmon reported.

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

- Delaying the starting date of the Chitina Subdistrict Federal subsistence salmon fishery 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. 2 July 2018.** (907) 424-4759 [mburcham@fs.fed.us](mailto:mburcham@fs.fed.us)

A total of 46 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 by this year's permit holders will not be known until reports are returned this winter. Ninety-seven permits were issued in 2017. In 2017, 514 Coho Salmon and 127

Sockeye Salmon were reported harvested on Copper River Delta fresh waters in this fishery.

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

A total of 322 permits for Cook Inlet Federal subsistence fisheries have been issued to qualified households through July 6. This includes 85 Kenai River permits (FFCI01) and 10 Designated Fisher permits to Cooper Landing households; 32 Kenai River permits (FFCI01) and 2 Designated Fisher permit to Hope households; and 108 Kenai River permits (FFCI01), 80 Kasilof River permits (FFCI02), and 5 Designated Fisher permits to Ninilchik households.

The 2018 subsistence dip net fisheries for salmon opened on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers June 15 and June 16, respectively. Harvest reported to date in the dip net fishery at Russian River Falls is 1,265 Sockeye Salmon. The rod and reel fishery on the Kenai River also opened on June 11 with the same seasons and areas as for the taking of fish under Alaska sport fishing regulations.

The Kasilof River experimental community gillnet fishery began on June 16 and continues through August 15. Harvest reported through July 5 includes 678 Sockeye Salmon. Regulatory periods for the Kenai River community gillnet fishery are from July 1 through August 15 and from September 10 – 30.

Emergency Special Action 10-KS-01-18 was issued to close the Federal subsistence rod and reel fishery for early-run Chinook Salmon in the Kenai River downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake through July 15. The early-run will likely not achieve the lower bound of the optimal escapement goal and the restriction was necessary to conserve early-run Kenai River Chinook Salmon.

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

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

Alaska Department of Fish and Game emergency orders and news releases affecting upper Kenai Peninsula sport fisheries can be found at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=area.list&Year=2017&AreaID=5>

**Kodiak Island Area – Michael Brady, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR**  
(907) 487-2600/0230 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)

The Buskin River Sockeye Salmon escapement has not met its lower escapement goal (5,000 fish) and the forecast is poor.

The Sockeye Salmon escapement for the Afognak drainage (Litnik) is also poor and is below the 5 year average.

The Karluk and Ayakulik River Sockeye Salmon escapement continues to be strong but is slowing down, with the Ayakulik River Sockeye Salmon escapement exceeding its upper escapement goal and the Karluk River Sockeye Salmon escapement being close to exceeding its upper range. Increased commercial fishing activities have controlled high numbers of Sockeye Salmon from entering their respective systems. Discussions with villagers from Karluk and Larsen Bay have indicated catch per unit effort for subsistence harvest to be medium to strong.

***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

All of the assessments of salmon returns are conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and provide the basis for any in-season assessment and management.

Bristol Bay:

The 2018 Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon run is forecast to be approximately 41 to 61million fish for nine river systems: Kvichak, Alagnak, Naknek, Egegik, Ugashik, Wood, Igushik, Nushagak, and Togiak Rivers. 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 opened June 1. Commercial harvest as of July 5 is approximately 14,849,740 fish for all salmon species (94% Sockeye Salmon) throughout all districts with the majority of harvest occurring in the Nushagak district.

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

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

Togiak River                    SEG = 120,000 – 270,000

The Sockeye Salmon cumulative counts and the 5 year average for July 5 are:

- Kvichak River = 168,114 fish, 5 year average = 1,378,007 fish.
- Alagnak River = 75,732 fish, 2017 count = 433,620 fish
- Naknek River = 762,726 fish, 5 year average = 756,722 fish.
- Egegik River = 703,224 fish, 5 year average = 1,084,490 fish.
- Ugashik River = 59,976 fish, 5 year average = 197,346 fish.
- Wood River = 3,772,290 fish, 5 year average = 1,320,175 fish - met escapement goal.
- Igushik River = 160,992 fish, 5 year average = 146,210 fish - met escapement goal.
- Nushagak River = 467,548 fish, 5 year average = 823,185 fish.
- Nushagak River = Chinook Salmon SEG = (55,000 – 120,000), 75,098 fish, 5 year average = 75,800 fish – met escapement goal.
- Togiak River = 816 fish, 5 year average = 5,848 fish.

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. As of July 7, 159,683 Sockeye Salmon have been enumerated at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game operated weir, where a minimum of 300,000 fish were anticipated. It is unlikely, based on the current rate of escapement, that the lower end of the escapement goal for early-run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage will be achieved. Emergency special action (**8-SS-01-18**) closed Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by Federally qualified subsistence users who are in the possession of a Social and Cultural Harvest Permit beginning June 22, 2018 and remains in effect through July 31, 2018. Thus far, one permit has been issued.

Late-run Sockeye Salmon are tracking the minimum escapement goal for the date of July 5, as 12,996 late-run Sockeye Salmon were enumerated where 10,000 to 23,000 fish were forecast. It is still early in the late-run Sockeye Salmon run.

The Chinook Salmon count as of July 5 is 170 fish. The historical average count for this date is 627 fish. The historical average quarter point of the Chinook Salmon run at the weir is July 7.

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:

In response to low Sockeye Salmon escapement to the Chignik River, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has reduced the seine, set gillnet, and drift gillnet fishing periods to 33 hours per week on July 5. This is a reduction in normal fishing hours. The management action is designed to allow more fish to escape through the South Peninsula fisheries. The current commercial harvest in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area through July 5 is 1.9 million, of which 1.0 million were Sockeye Salmon.

There are numerous salmon stocks and fisheries throughout the Alaska Peninsula, as well as the Aleutian Islands. Several Sockeye Salmon escapements (mostly on the north peninsula) are monitored with weirs including Nelson, Bear, Sandy, Ilnik, and Orzinski systems. To date, counts appear to be lower than historical 5 year averages. The cumulative counts and 5 year average as of July 5 are:

Nelson River = 37,702 fish, 5 year average = 134,484 fish.  
 Bear River = 96,046 fish, 5 year average = 131,881 fish.  
 Sandy River = 17,314 fish, 5 year average = 42,898 fish.  
 Ilnik River = 54,629 fish, 5 year average of 63,134 fish.  
 Orzinski River = 270 fish, 5 year average of 3,165 fish.

Preseason forecasts are made only for the Nelson River and late-run Bear Lake stocks. The 2018 Sockeye Salmon run size projections were 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 closed until July 16.

### **Summer Season Outlook**

The summer management season is winding down in the lower Yukon. Both the Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon runs are 90% past District 1 and 2. District 1 will transition to fall season management on July 16.

A recent pulse of Summer Chum Salmon passage, the largest this season, has increased the Summer Chum Salmon projection from about 1.3 - 1.4 million fish to about 1.6 million fish at this time. Although below average, a run of this size is large enough to provide for escapement and subsistence uses. A surplus of up to 750,000-850,000 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 run is projecting a below average to poor total run size of 160,000 – 165,000 fish at this time. This is below the lower end of the preseason forecast of 173,000 to 251,000 fish and is tracking similar to 2015. Subsistence conservation measures have been implemented to spread out the available subsistence harvest and meet escapement goals. Starting in the lower Yukon and moving up river with the Chinook Salmon migration, subsistence has been placed on half their normal regulatory windows schedule, subsistence fishing has been restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear, and some subsistence periods have been cancelled. Although, the Chinook Salmon run is still projecting below the lower end of the preseason projection, managers are projecting that the combination of the recent increase in Chinook Salmon passage at Pilot Station and the restrictions already implemented will be adequate for the 2018 Chinook Salmon run to meet escapement goals and Canadian border passage objectives. Additional subsistence periods with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gill nets are being scheduled to allow for some subsistence Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon harvest .

**Assessment Information**

The Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon run is nearly 90% complete in the lower Yukon, but just getting started in the upper Yukon. The Lower Yukon Test Fish (LYTF) project has a cumulative Chinook Salmon set net CPUE of 22.69 through July 5, near the average of 23.17; however, fishing was inefficient early in the season due to high debris loads. The Chinook Salmon drift gillnet test fishery has a cumulative CPUE of 427.42 through July 5, above the average of 385.11. The Pilot Station sonar began full operations on June 1 with early test fishing catches also hampered by high debris loads the first week of operations. The cumulative Chinook Salmon passage estimates past the Pilot Station sonar through July 5 are 145,846 salmon; below the average of 163,582 salmon. A third pulse of 29,000 Chinook Salmon passed the sonar on July 28 – 30, the largest pulse of the season. A weaker, but significant fourth pulse of 16,000 Chinook Salmon is passing the sonar at this time. The Chinook Salmon run migration is currently well past the  $\frac{3}{4}$  point in timing, which is on average June 30 at Pilot Station. At this time, the Chinook Salmon run is tracking below the low end of preseason projection and similar to 2015. The first pulse of Chinook Salmon which typically arrives just before the first quarter point should be near Beaver. The second pulse should be passing Tanana. The third pulse should be in upper Subdistrict 4-A.

Summer Chum Salmon are entering in good numbers at this time, although lower than expectations. The Summer Chum Salmon drift gillnet project has a cumulative CPUE of 15,927.94 through July 5, well above the average of 5,721.90. The cumulative Summer Chum Salmon estimates past the Pilot Station sonar through July 5 is 1,361,228, slightly below the median of 1,470,928 salmon. The largest Summer Chum Salmon pulse of the season appears to be passing the sonar at this time. The average  $\frac{3}{4}$  point for Summer Chum Salmon at the Pilot Station sonar is July 4.

Escapement projects on the East Fork Andreafsky River, Henshaw Creek, Chena River, and Salcha River are just getting started. The Eagle Sonar near the Canadian border began on July 4.

**Management Actions**

Management decisions have been consistent with the preseason outlook and discussions held with fishermen prior to the start of the season. Subsistence fishing was unrestricted early in the season. As Chinook Salmon began entering the river, the regulatory windows subsistence salmon fishing schedule was implemented at half the normal fishing time. The schedule was implemented in up-river districts with the migration timing of Chinook Salmon. When assessment indicated that the Chinook Salmon run was entering below expectations, additional subsistence restrictions were put in place. These included pulling one to two periods in most districts and restricting fishing to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets. Subsistence fishing with dip nets or beach seines has not been implemented at this time. Managers are beginning to relax subsistence salmon fishing and have opened periods in Districts 1-4 to 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets to allow some harvest opportunity for Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon. During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fishing for non-salmon species is allowed. However, only gillnets with a 4-inch or smaller mesh size may be used. Chinook Salmon caught incidentally may be retained for subsistence purposes.

Directed Summer Chum Salmon commercial fishing began in District 1 on June 9 and District 2 on June 12. All periods were initially directed towards Summer Chum Salmon using dip nets and beach seines with incidentally caught Chinook Salmon being immediately released alive. District 1 had its first commercial gillnet opening to target Summer Chum Salmon with mesh size restricted to 6-inches or less on July 4. District 2 is scheduled to have its first commercial gillnet opening on July 7 also with to target Summer Chum Salmon with 6-inch or smaller mesh size nets. Through July 6, the preliminary Districts 1 and 2 Summer Chum Salmon harvest estimates are 235,000 fish with approximately 10,700 Chinook Salmon caught and released and 600 caught and retained for personal use. Commercial fishing began in Subdistrict 4-A near Kaltag on June 26. All periods are directed towards Summer Chum Salmon using live release fish wheels with all Chinook Salmon being released immediately back into the water. A preliminary 32,600 Summer Chum Salmon have been harvested through July 5. Additional, small, commercial fishing periods are anticipated to start in District 6 next week.

### **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 fifth YRDFA weekly teleconference held on July 3, heard reports of some subsistence fishing activity on lower river districts and water levels beginning to drop in upper river areas. Fishermen in the middle portion of the river complained of not being able to get enough Chinook Salmon and requested fishing with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear. A Chinook salmon has been reported as being caught as far up river as Circle.

On June 26, 27, and 28, a series of public meetings were held in the Yukon River communities of Russian Mission, Shageluk, Grayling, Anvik, and Holy Cross to discuss local fisheries issues. Among the participants from outside the area were the Lieutenant Governor, the ADF&G Commissioner, the President of TCC, the Director of the Yukon InterTribal Fish Commission, an Alaska Board of Fisheries member, and the ADF&G Subsistence Division Director as well as both State and Federal fisheries and Refuge managers. The USFWS Regional Director had planned to accompany the group, but did not make it unfortunately. Public turnout was very good and the opportunity to directly communicate with high-ranking officials was appreciated.

## **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) or author Aaron Moses [Aaron\\_Moses@fws.gov](mailto:Aaron_Moses@fws.gov)**

The Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (YDNWR) in season manager, with the authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board and in consultation with the Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission, announced a subsistence fishing opportunity for Chinook salmon within YDNWR waters for federally qualified users. This opportunity was 6 hours in duration, starting at 12:00PM June 29 and ending 6:00PM June 29, 2018. An estimated 28,950 (24,190-34,380) salmon were harvested. Chinook salmon harvest was estimated at 3,160 (2,560- 3,890) Chum salmon harvest was estimated at 18,260 (14,610- 22,670) and Sockeye harvest was estimated at 7,530 (5,980 – 9,340). A total of 387 drift boats were estimated to have occurred during this opportunity. Estimated Chinook salmon harvested on the Kuskokwim River as of June 29, 2018 was at 20,410.

There was one more fishing opportunity on July 5, 2018. The opportunity was 12 hours in duration starting at 9:00AM July 5 and ending at 9:00PM July 5, 2018. An estimated 24,800 (21,210-28,680) salmon were harvested. Chinook salmon harvest was estimated at 1,020 (820 -1,240). Chum salmon harvest was estimated at 12,500 (10,380- 14,760). Sockeye salmon harvest was estimated at 11,280 (9,250- 13,490). A total of 276 drift boats were estimated to have occurred during this opportunity. Estimated Chinook salmon harvested on the Kuskokwim River as of July 5, 2018 was at 21,430.

### **Test Fisheries:**

As of July 8, the cumulative catch per unit of effort (CPUE) of Chinook salmon at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Bethel Test Fishery is 599. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2017 and 2016 were 304 and 601, respectively.

Cumulative CPUE for chum salmon is at 3,270. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2017 and 2016 were 4,088 and 1,618 respectively. Cumulative CPUE for Sockeye is at 1,272. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2017 and 2016 were 1,593 and 1,206, 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](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.**  
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### **Norton Sound District**

Sport Fishing: All 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. 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 waters from Wood Point west to Point Romanof are open to subsistence salmon fishing seven days a week.

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

Federal Closure: Federal public waters of the Unalakleet River upstream from the mouth of the Chirosky River were closed by federal regulation to the taking of king salmon by all users from July 1 to July 31.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence salmon gillnet fishing is prohibited in all marine and fresh waters extending south to Wood Point. All gillnet fishing in the Unalakleet River downstream of the confluence with the North River and including the North River and within 500 yards of the Unalakleet River mouth is prohibited, Beach seining, dip netting and cast netting is allowed 7 days a week, but all king salmon must be immediately returned to the water alive. The department will announce subsistence salmon gillnet fishing periods in marine and fresh waters through mid-July. The marine waters south to

Wood Point opened to subsistence gillnet fishing with mesh size restricted to 6 inches or less for 24 hours from 6 PM July 3 until 6 PM July 4. The fresh waters of the Subdistrict opened for 12 hours only for subsistence gillnetting with a mesh size restricted to 4½ inches or less from 6 PM July 4 until 6 AM July 5. Nets cannot block more than one-half the width of any channel or side channel of a fish stream. Gillnets in the Unalakleet River were limited to 25 fathoms in length and could not be unanchored. Effective July 1, the fresh waters were also opened to beach seining 7 days a week. All king salmon captured in beach seines must be immediately released. Dip nets and cast nets may be used, but any king salmon captured must be immediately released.

Commercial Fishing: The first commercial salmon fishing opened for 24 hours in the Subdistrict from 6 PM Sunday, July 1 until 6 PM, Monday, July 2. The preliminary catch through early Monday was 8 king, 675 chum, 2,324 pink and 6 sockeye salmon for 19 permit holders. All kings were required to be retained by permit holders for subsistence. Commercial salmon fishing reopened for 48 hours from 6 PM Thursday, July 5 until 6PM Saturday, July 7. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets limited to a mesh size of 6 inches or less. Captured king salmon could be retained for personal use, but could not be sold.

**Unalakleet River Floating Weir** — A cooperative project of Fish and Game, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDG), Native Village of the Unalakleet and BLM, with major funding provided by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management. Escapement goals for the weir have not yet been established. The Unalakleet River floating weir is now operational and counting began the evening of Monday, July 2. The cumulative counts to July 5 are 116 king, 5,000 chum and 65,800 pink salmon.

**North River Tower — Camp J. B.** — A Cooperative Project of NSEDG with assistance from ADF&G. 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. Counting began the evening of June 26. The cumulative counts to July 5 are 72 king, 2,100 chum and 40,200 pink salmon. The historical average passages at the weir have been 15 percent for kings and 5 percent for chums by July 4.

### *Subdistrict 5 (Shaktoolik)*

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence salmon gillnet fishing is prohibited in all marine and fresh waters. Beach seining, dip netting and cast netting is allowed 7 days a week, but all king salmon must be immediately returned to the water alive. The department will announce subsistence salmon gillnet fishing periods in marine and fresh waters through mid-July. The department opened the marine waters to subsistence gillnet fishing with mesh size restricted to 6 inches or less for 24 hours from 6 PM July 3 until 6PM July 4. The fresh waters of the Subdistrict opened for 12 hours only for subsistence gillnetting with a mesh size restricted to 4½ inches or less from 6 PM July 4 until 6 AM July 5.

**Commercial Fishing:** The first commercial salmon fishing period opened for 24 hours in the Subdistrict from 6 PM Sunday, July 1 until 6 PM, Monday, July 2. The preliminary catch through Sunday evening was 1,291 chum, 36 pink and 3 sockeye salmon by 10 permit holders. Commercial salmon fishing reopened for 48 hours from 6 PM Thursday, July 5 until 6PM Saturday, July 7. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets limited to a mesh size of 6 inches or less. Captured king salmon could be retained for personal use, but could not be sold.

**Shaktoolik Sonar/Tower** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has no escapement goals established. Counting began June 26 after being delayed due to high water. The cumulative counts to July 5 are 273 king, 7,300 chum and 32,100 pink salmon.

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

**Subsistence Fishing:** Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week with no mesh size restrictions, and gillnets limited to 50 fathoms in length. When beach seining, dip netting or cast netting, all king salmon must be immediately returned to the water,

**Commercial Fishing:** There have been three previous commercial fishing periods this season with a cumulative catch of 24 king, 4,845 chum, 17 pink and 3 sockeye salmon harvested by nine permit holders. The chum salmon catch has been above average. Commercial salmon fishing reopened for 48 hours from 6 PM Tuesday, July 3 until 6 PM Thursday, July 5. Nets were restricted to 100 fathoms in aggregate length and a mesh size of 6 inches or less. Captured king salmon could be retained for personal use, but could not be sold.

**Inglutalik River Tower** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from ADF&G. No escapement goals have been established. Counting began on June 21. The cumulative counts to July 5 are 114 king, 6,400 chum, 126 pink and 3 sockeye salmon. Counts have been below average.

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

**Subsistence Fishing:** Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week with no mesh size restrictions, and gillnets limited to 50 fathoms in length.

**Commercial Fishing:** There have been three previous commercial fishing periods this season with a cumulative catch of 92 king, 15,441 chum, 132 pink and 16 sockeye salmon harvested by 19 permit holders. The chum salmon catch has been well above average. Commercial salmon fishing reopened for 48 hours from 6 PM Tuesday, July 3 until 6 PM Thursday, July 5. Nets were restricted to 100 fathoms in aggregate length and a mesh size of 6 inches or less. Captured king salmon could be retained for personal use, but could not be sold.

**Kwiniuk River Tower-Camp Joel** – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has escapement goals of 250 kings, 11,500 – 23,000 chums, 8,400 pinks and 650-1,300 silvers (aerial survey goal). The project became operational July 4. The counts to July 5 were 4,000 chums and 25,600 pink salmon. The historical average midpoints of the runs past the tower are usually July 6 for chums and July 8 for kings.

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

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week with no mesh size restrictions, and gillnets limited to 50 fathoms in length.

Commercial Fishing: There have been three previous commercial fishing periods this season with a cumulative catch of 25 king, 7,940 chum, 152 pink and 18 sockeye salmon harvested by 10 permit holders. The chum salmon catch has been well above average. Commercial fishing reopened for 48 hours from 6 PM Tuesday, July 3 until 6 PM Thursday, July 5. Nets were restricted to 100 fathoms in aggregate length and a mesh size of 6 inches or less. Captured king salmon could be retained for personal use, but could not be sold.

**Fish River Tower** - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have been established. High water has delayed counting at the tower. In recent years the average first quarter chum passage has been July 4.

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

Subsistence Fishing: By regulation, the summer subsistence salmon gillnet fishing schedule went into effect in the Nome Subdistrict on June 15. The marine waters east of Cape Nome continue to be open seven days a week. All Nome Subdistrict freshwater subsistence areas and the marine waters west of Cape Nome are open to gillnet fishing for five days each week from 6 PM Wednesday until 6 PM Monday. Also effective June 15, beach seining for salmon opened in all subsistence areas of the Nome Subdistrict whenever subsistence gillnet fishing is open. Unless closed by emergency order, beach seining will remain open during gillnet fishing periods through August 15. Dip nets and cast nets can also be used anytime gillnet fishing is open. Also, effective June 15, all gillnet and beach seine fishing upstream of Boulder Creek on the Sinuk River was closed. This closure is in effect to protect migrating sockeye salmon that hold in the Sinuk River Bridge area before reaching the spawning grounds.

Subsistence salmon fishing permits are required, and stream specific harvest limits are listed on the permit. There are no catch limits in the marine waters.

Commercial Fishing: There have been two previous commercial salmon fishing openings this season with a cumulative catch of 7 king, 3,413 chum, 254 pink and 13 sockeye, salmon by 5 permit holders. The chum salmon catch has been well above average. Commercial fishing reopened for 24 hours from 9 PM Tuesday, July 3 until 9 PM Wednesday, July 4. Nets were restricted to 100 fathoms in aggregate length. Captured

king salmon could be retained for personal use, but could not be sold.

**Solomon River Weir** – A Fish & Game project, has no escapement goals yet established. The weir is scheduled to be fish tight by this coming weekend. The historical first quarter point of the chum run has been July 15.

**Bonanza River Weir** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have yet been established. This is a new project and is scheduled to be installed the second week of July.

**Eldorado River Weir** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has an escapement goal of 6,000 – 9,200 chum salmon. Counting began June 28. Cumulative counts to July 5 were 3 king, 3,600 chum and 44 pink salmon. The chum count is above average. The average first quarter point of the chum run has been July 9.

**Nome River Weir** – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has an escapement goal of 2,900 – 4,300 chum salmon and 13,000 pink salmon. The weir is scheduled to be fish tight by this coming weekend. The historical first quarter point of the chum run has been July 14.

**Snake River Weir** – A cooperative project between Fish & Game and NSEDC has an escapement goal of 1,600 – 2,500 chum salmon. The weir is scheduled to be fish tight by this coming weekend. The historical first quarter point of the chum run has been July 15.

### **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. Subsistence gillnet and beach seining are open seven days a week.

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.

**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. The weir became operational July 4. The counts to July 5 were 1 king, 69 chum and 408 sockeye salmon. The historical average first quarter point for passage at the weir is July 12; however, last year, it was July 9.



## **Kotzebue District**

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

Commercial Fishing: Fishing is scheduled to start July 10. Two or three buyers are expected his season.

**Kobuk River Test Fish** - Fish & Game project. The project is scheduled to start the third week of July,

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