

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 8 - 14, 2018. Report #7
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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

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. One Sockeye Salmon has been counted at the trap and about 400 have been harvested in the subsistence fishery. 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.

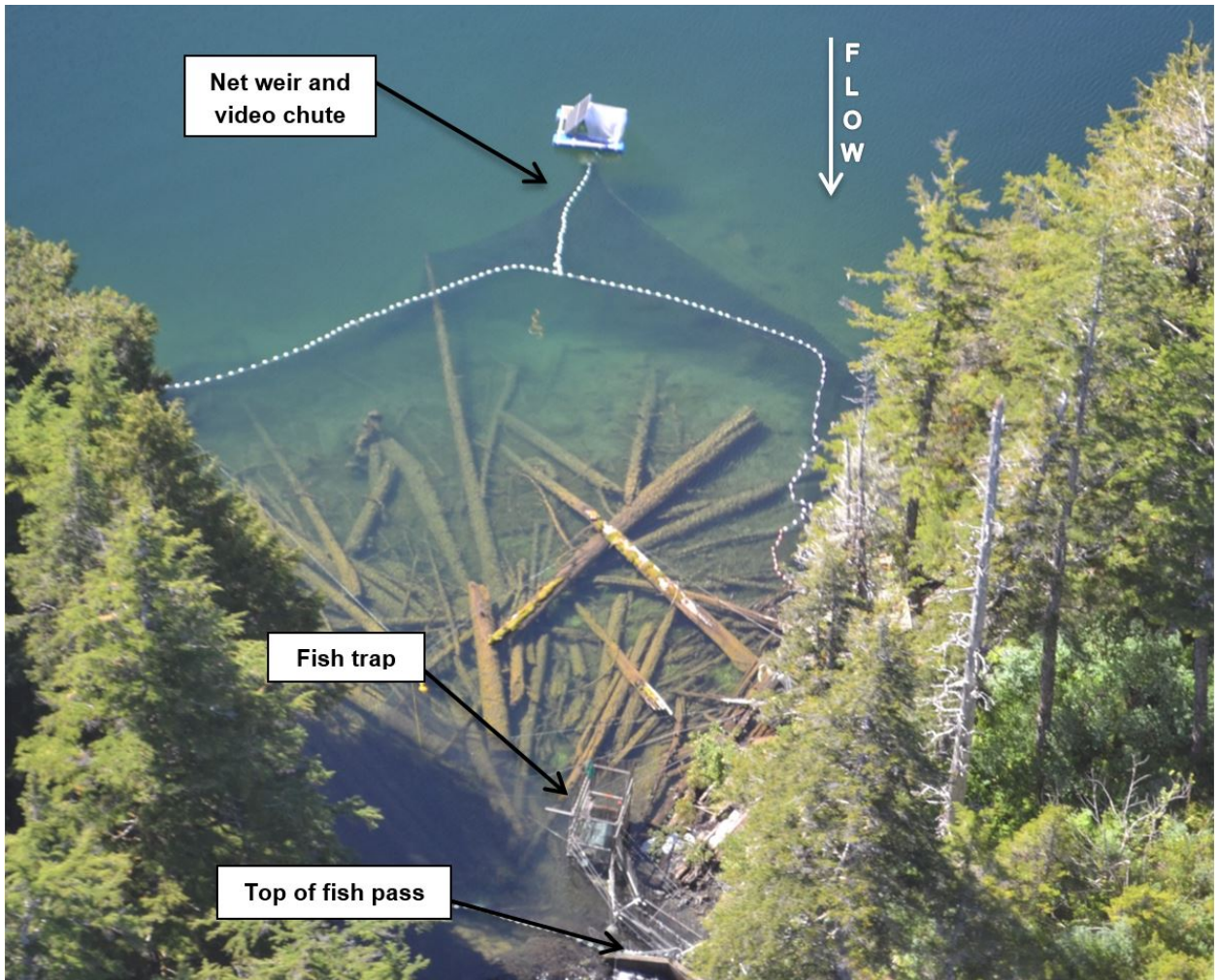


Figure 1. Aerial photo of the Falls Lake outlet illustrating the typical location of weir equipment.

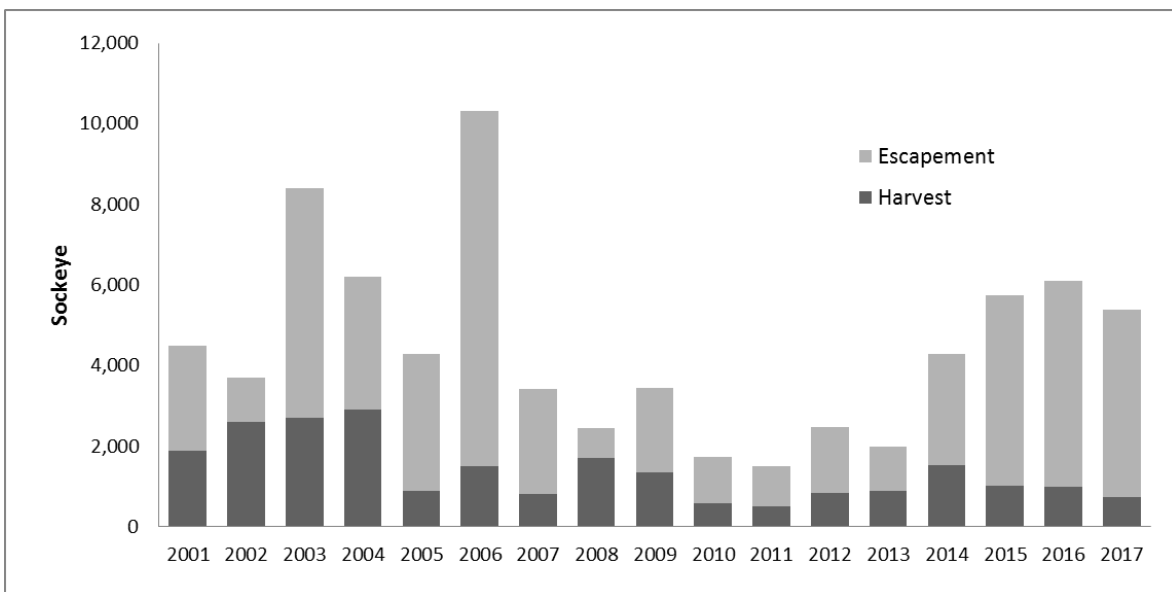


Figure 2. Escapement plus harvest equals total terminal run of Sockeye Salmon at Falls Lake, 2001-2017.

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. Eight Sockeye Salmon have been counted at the weir and 401 have been harvested 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.

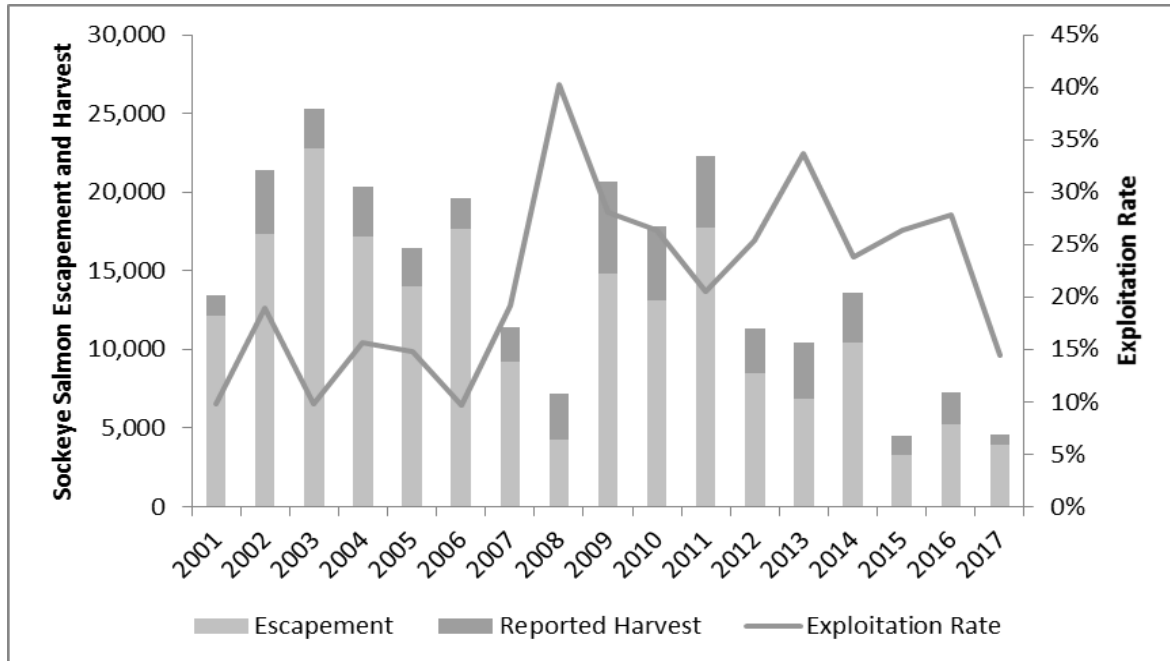


Figure 3. Reported harvest, escapement, and exploitation rate for Klag Lake Sockeye Salmon, 2001-2017.

Redoubt Lake Sockeye Salmon - The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir which was installed June 16. As of July 15, 25,271 Sockeye Salmon have entered the lake which is well above average. The Redoubt Lake Sockeye and Coho Salmon model is predicting that 101,633 Sockeye Salmon will return to Redoubt Lake this season (**Figure 4**). On July 11, in accordance with the Redoubt Bay and Lake Sockeye Salmon management plan, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game raised the subsistence limit from 10 daily and 50 annual per household to 25 daily and 100 annually per household. These limits were based on an in-season model prediction of about 95,000 returning.

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.

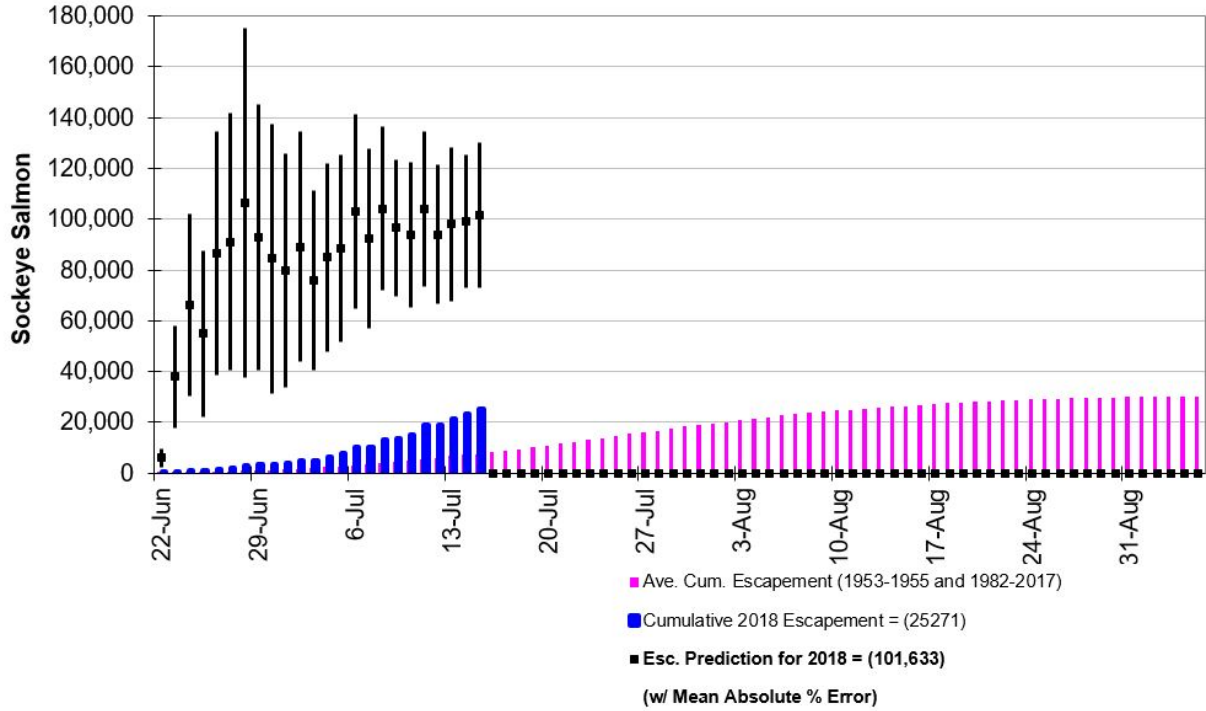


Figure 4. In season predictions of the Redoubt Lake Sockeye Salmon escapement based on weir counts through July 15.

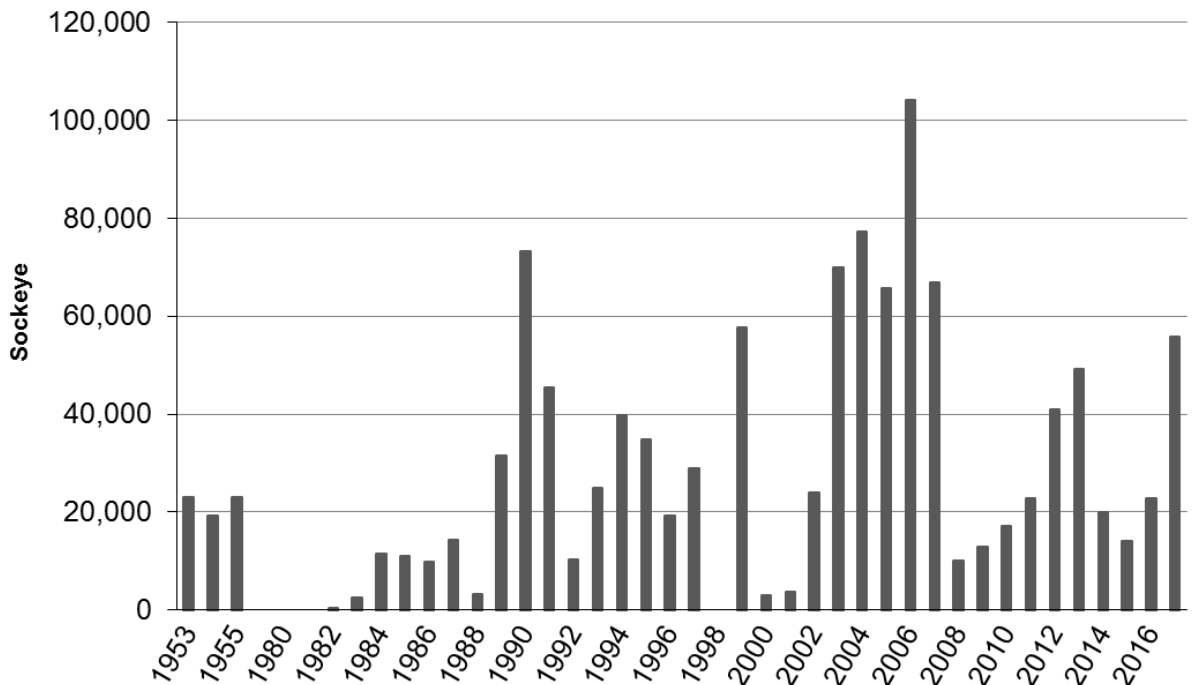


Figure 5. Annual Sockeye Salmon expanded escapement into Redoubt Lake for years with data: 1953 to 1955, 1982 to 1997, and 1999 to 2017. The weir was not operated in 1998.

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

Currently 196 Federal salmon/trout/char permits have been issued in the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat region. Of these, 134 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.

Subsistence fishing opportunity for Sockeye Salmon began on July 1. Prominent fisheries include: Hetta Lake, Klawock Lake, Klakas Lake, Hunter Bay, Sarkar, Karta River, Salmon Bay Lake, Red Lake, Kegan Lake, Shipley Bay, Thorne River and Hatchery Creek. There are no forecasts for returns to these locations.

The Hetta Lake weir has been operational since June 7, with 598 Sockeye Salmon counted at the site. The Eek Lake weir has been operational since June 12th with 7 Sockeye Salmon counted. 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. The Klawock fish hatchery, operated by Southern Southeast Alaska Regional Aquaculture Association, has been in place since July 1. To date, 41 Sockeye Salmon have been counted

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. The commercial troll fishery for Chinook Salmon will close on July 14. Cumulative harvest to date for Districts 1-4 are 3740 Chinook Salmon, 8510 Sockeye Salmon, 3330 Coho Salmon, 32,095 Pink Salmon and 202,500 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 fisheries are closed in the area. The drift gillnet and commercial troll fisheries are currently open in Districts 6 and 8. Cumulative harvest to date for Districts 6-8 are: 3190 Chinook Salmon, 8100 Sockeye Salmon, 6950 Coho Salmon, 8500 Pink Salmon and 47,300 Chum Salmon

There have been 94 fishing permits issued for the Stikine River subsistence salmon fishery. Weather has been good and catch per unit of effort has improved. Participation has been substantial. The estimated cumulative subsistence salmon harvest is 6 large Chinook, no Coho and 650 Sockeye Salmon. Several large Chinook were released unharmed.

Currently 196 Federal salmon/trout/char permits have been issued in the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat region. Of these, 40 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 Salmon 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 Salmon 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

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, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve

7/14/2018 Update

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, on July 8, the State of Alaska opened the state subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict, 7 days per week for the remainder of the season. The personal use fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict opened for an 84 hour fishing period from 12 noon, July 12 through 11:59 p.m. July 15.

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. One additional 12 hour commercial fishing period occurred on July 9. Total Sockeye Salmon commercial harvest for the season has been 30,649 fish.

As of July 14, 2018 the ADF&G sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) estimated that 583,771 salmon had migrated upstream past the sonar thus far during the season. This estimate is 13% above the cumulative management objective of 517,153 salmon for this date in the season. A daily number of 21,536 salmon was estimated to pass by the sonar counter on July 14. This daily passage estimate is over triple the projected passage of 6,464 salmon for this date based on average daily sonar counts since 1978.

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. Ninety-five (95) 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 seventy-one (271) 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.

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 14, 56 Sockeye Salmon have been recorded passing the site for the season.

The Native Village of Eyak Baird Canyon fishwheels captured and tagged 5,578 Chinook Salmon through July 14. The upriver fishwheels at Canyon Creek have captured 3,848 Chinook Salmon, of which, 399 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 14, with a season total of 1,212 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

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

12 July 2018

A total of 48 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 resulting in the reported harvest of 514 Coho and 127 Sockeye Salmon from 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

A total of 327 permits for Cook Inlet Federal subsistence fisheries have been issued to qualified households through July 6. This includes 86 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 110 Kenai River permits (FFCI01), 82 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 1,355 Sockeye Salmon. Harvest reported to date in the Kasilof River dip net fishery is 18 Sockeye Salmon.

The Kasilof River experimental community gillnet fishery began on June 16 and continues through August 15. Harvest reported through July 13 includes 716 Sockeye Salmon. The Kenai River community gillnet fishery began on July 1 and continues through August 15, and then from September 10 – 30. Harvest reported through July 13 is 4 Sockeye Salmon.

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

The Chinook salmon runs throughout the Kodiak Area have pretty much ended, with very few salmon still trickling in. The Ayakulik River and Karluk River Chinook Salmon escapements are fair but still below their respective averages for this date. Good numbers of Sockeye Salmon are still showing up in many systems on the southern portion of Kodiak island but continue to be very poor in many northern systems. Pink Salmon are starting to show up in most of the area streams and in good numbers in a couple of the monitored streams.

Subsistence users from Old Harbor are focusing on silvers (coho) returning to Big Creek. Fishing for sockeye salmon at Pasagshak and Saltery Rivers and other road system rivers has continues to be poor with fishing restrictions being imposed July 12, 2018.

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.

The commercial salmon season in Bristol Bay opened June 1. Commercial harvest as of July 12 is approximately 25,418,589 fish for all salmon species (96% 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 for July 12 are:

Kvichak River = 1,354,866 fish, 5 year average = 2,893,954 fish.
 Alagnak River = 483,954 fish, met escapement goal
 Naknek River = 1,527,766 fish, met escapement goal
 Egegik River = 1,146,186 fish, met escapement goal
 Ugashik River = 241,656 fish, 5 year average = 597,126 fish.
 Wood River = 6,132,264 fish, met escapement goal.
 Igushik River = 312,102 fish, met escapement goal.
 Nushagak River = 803,410 fish, met escapement goal
 Nushagak River = Chinook Salmon SEG = (55,000 – 120,000), 85,746 fish, met escapement goal.
 Togiak River = 32,400 fish, 5 year average = 22,727 fish.

Chignik:

As of July 12, 168,683 early-run Sockeye Salmon have been enumerated at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game operated weir, where a minimum of 330,000 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, two permits have been issued. A Social and Cultural Harvest Permit restricts harvest of Sockeye Salmon for a community to 100 fish.

Late-run Sockeye Salmon are tracking the minimum escapement goal for the date of July 12, to date, 22,242 late-run Sockeye Salmon were enumerated where 22,000 – 42,000 fish were forecast. There is concern regarding the strength of the late-run Sockeye Salmon run.

The Chinook Salmon count as of July 12 is 315 fish. The historical average count for this date is 1,383 fish. Based on historical run timing, approximately 43% of the escapement has occurred by July 12, and the current projected total escapement is not expected to meet escapement. Through Section 816 of ANILCA, this Emergency Special Action (**8-KS-01-18**) closes fishing for Chinook Salmon in the Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage due to concerns about the viability of the population effective July 13. In parallel with the Federal closures, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has closed the state subsistence fishery and sport fishery for Chinook Salmon through August 9.

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

The Chignik Advisory Committee and Bristol Bay Native Association will discuss an emergency petition with the Board of Fisheries to discuss the low returns in 2018 for both the early and late run Sockeye Salmon populations on Tuesday, July 17.

Alaska Peninsula:

The current commercial harvest in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area through July 11 is 2.8 million, of which 1.7 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. 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 Sockeye Salmon	BEG = 97,000 – 219,000
Nelson River Chinook Salmon	BEG = 2,400 – 4,400
Late-run Bear Lake	BEG = 117,000 – 195,000

To date, the cumulative counts as of July 12 for Sockeye Salmon are:

Nelson River = 85,579 fish, 5 year average = 198,570 fish.

Chinook Salmon = 4,598 fish, met escapement goal.

Bear River = 255,259 fish, 5 year average = 215,269 fish.

Sandy River = 24,020 fish, 5 year average = 69,502 fish.

Ilnik River = 70,972 fish, 5 year average of 83,246 fish.

Orzinski River = 955 fish, 5 year average of 7,299 fish.

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

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Chignik Area
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 or

Fred Bue Fredrick_Bue@fws.gov

Emmonak Summer Office (907) 949-1798

The Emmonak Field Office is closed until July 16.

Summer Season Update Summary

The summer management season is coming to an end in the lower Yukon. Both the Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon runs are over 95% past District 1 and 2. District 1 will transition to fall season management on July 16.

The Summer Chum Salmon run size is projected to total around 1.6 million fish for the season. Although below average and below the preseason outlook, 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 has been dependent upon available markets and conservation measures for the overlapping Chinook Salmon run.

The Chinook Salmon run is projecting a below average to poor run size past Pilot Station sonar, around 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 slightly better than higher 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 forecast, managers are projecting that the combination of the late 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 the Canadian border passage objective. 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 .

Summer Assessment Information

The Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon run is nearly complete in the lower Yukon and just starting to build in the upper Yukon. The Lower Yukon Test Fish (LYTF) project has a cumulative Chinook Salmon set net ended with a CPUE of 23.52 through July 12, near the average of 24.44; 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 432.13 through July 13, above the average of 393.82. 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 estimate past the Pilot Station sonar through July 13 is 157,000 , below the average of 177,000 salmon. 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 forecast and similar to 2015. The first pulse of Chinook Salmon which typically arrives just before the first quarter point should be near the Canadian Border. The second pulse should be passing Fort Yukon. And the third pulse should be around the Stevens Village area.

The Summer Chum Salmon run is tapering-off below expectations in the lower river. The Summer Chum Salmon drift gillnet project has a cumulative CPUE of 17,485.25 through July 13, well above the average of 6,160.39. The cumulative Summer Chum Salmon estimates past the Pilot Station sonar through July 13 is 1,553,000, below the median of 1,800,000 salmon. The 4th and largest Summer Chum Salmon pulse of the season is nearing Kaltag at this time. The average $\frac{3}{4}$ point for Summer Chum Salmon at the Pilot Station sonar is July 4.

Most escapement projects are being hampered by high water so far including Henshaw Creek, Chena River, and Salcha River. The Andreafsky River weir has passed 2,492 Chinook Salmon and 24,996 Chum Salmon through July. Chinook Salmon have exceeded their escapement goal and Chum Salmon are on track to end below their escapement goal for the Andreafsky. Additionally, the Anvik River Summer Chum Salmon run is well below average for this date and is expected to end below it's escapement goal, which continues a trend of poor production in the tributary. The Eagle Sonar near the Canadian Border began counting on July 4 and has a cumulative passage of 3,889 Chinook Salmon through July 13. The passage estimate is below average; however, the Chinook Salmon run is just beginning to build at that location with roughly only 10 percent of the run past by this date on average; consequently, it is still too early to make Canadian Chinook Salmon stock escapement projections .

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 was entering below expectations, additional subsistence restrictions were put in place. These included pulling one to two periods in lower and middle river districts and restricting fishing to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in all districts. Subsistence fishing with dip nets or beach seines were not employed as they had in recent seasons. Managers have relaxed 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 where Summer Chum Salmon are confounding gear. 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 had its first commercial gillnet opening on July 7 also to target Summer Chum Salmon with 6-inch or smaller mesh size nets. Through July 13, Districts 1 and 2 harvested 369,850 Summer Chum Salmon, caught and released approximately 10,900 Chinook Salmon, and caught and not sold 2,369 Chinook Salmon. 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 66,500 Summer Chum Salmon have been harvested through July 12. Additional, small, commercial fishing periods are anticipated to start in District 6 next week.

Fall Season Outlook

The Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan goes into effect for District 1 beginning July 16. Upriver management districts and subdistricts will switch to fall season management as the fall chum salmon migration reaches those areas. The ADF&G Emmonak field office will be open for fall season operations. The lower river test fishery will begin fall season operations on July 16, the Mountain Village test fishery on July 18, and the mainstem sonar near Pilot Station will begin reporting all chum salmon as fall chum salmon on July 19. The 2018 fall chum salmon preseason run projection, based on the summer chum to fall chum salmon relationship, is for a run size range of 700,000 to 900,000 fish. This level of abundance is typically sufficient to meet escapement and subsistence needs, and provide a surplus for commercial and personal use purposes.

Fall Season Management Actions

Effective 12:00 a.m. Monday, July 16, the Coastal District will transition to fall season management with subsistence fishing continuing to be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Effective 3:00 p.m. Sunday, July 15, subsistence fishing in District 1 will be open during the fall season for 7 days per week, 24 hours a day except for 12 hours before,

during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. Effective 3:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 18, subsistence fishing in Districts 2 and 3 will be open during the fall season for 7 days per week, 24 hours a day except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. Subsistence fishermen may use gillnets with a maximum mesh size of 7.5 inches in all areas during the fall season.

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 sixth YRDFFA weekly teleconference held on July 10, heard reports of some subsistence fishing activity on lower river districts subsiding as fish move out of the area. Fishermen in the middle portion of the river felt they were still short of their Chinook Salmon subsistence needs, but did comment that the most recent reduced subsistence fishing period with 7.5 inch gillnets was good for many who participated. Fishermen in the upper river portion of the drainage reported some success harvesting Chinook Salmon while many were just beginning to fish as the first Chinook Salmon are only now reaching their fishing areas. Furthermore, the fall season outlook and management strategies were discussed on recent YRDFFA teleconferences. Participants communicated the importance of the fall chum salmon run in meeting their subsistence needs due the lack of Chinook salmon in this year's harvests.

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)

Summary:

Effective July 6, 2018 Through Special Action 3-KS-10-18 Yukon Delta NWR rescinds all previously issued special actions regarding the management of Chinook Salmon in the Kuskokwim River Drainage. The Alaska Department of fish and game will manage fishing openings, closings and fishing methods.

Test Fisheries:

As of July 16, the cumulative catch per unit of effort (CPUE) of Chinook salmon at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Bethel Test Fishery is 635. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2017 and 2016 were 304 and 601, respectively.

Cumulative CPUE for chum salmon is at 6,413. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2017 and 2016 were 5,723 and 2,633 respectively. Cumulative CPUE for Sockeye is at 1,692. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2017 and 2016 were 2,256 and 1,706, 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

Kuskokwim River Updates Hosted on OSM Website

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/kuskokwim.cfm>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kuskokwim Area

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Kusko.pdf

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

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R3>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link:

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

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Interior Alaska:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R3.home>

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:

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

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Norton Sound District

Mid-July run analysis shows a well above average run of chum and pink salmon, and an above average run of sockeye salmon. The king run has been below average but has shown some improvement recently.

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.

Commercial Fishing: Chum salmon catches in the commercial fishery continue to be above average to well above average and upcoming fishing periods have been set in consultation with the buyer.

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. 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: Commercial fishing was open for 48 hours from 6 PM Monday, July 9 until 6 PM Wednesday, July 11. The cumulative catches to July 10 are 188 king, 18,876 chum, 9,276 pink and 205 sockeye salmon by 37 permit holders. Chum Catches have been well above average, On July 12, another open period of 48 hours was announced from 6 PM Friday, July 13 until 6 PM Sunday, July 15. 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 (NSEDC), 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 cumulative counts to July 12 are 714 king, and 29,000 chum salmon. The historical average midpoint for kings is July 11, and for chums is July 15. The weir no longer counts all the pinks passing because the new weir panels are wider, letting pink salmon pass through.

North River Tower — Camp J. B. — A Cooperative Project of NSEDC 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. The cumulative counts to July 12 are 744 king, 9,700 chum and 221,000 pink salmon. King passage has been average. Chum passage has been well above average. The historical average midpoint for kings is July 1, and for chums is July 21.

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.

Commercial Fishing: Commercial fishing was open for 48 hours from 6 PM Monday, July 9 until 6 PM Wednesday, July 11. The cumulative catches to July 10 are 8 king, 14,823 chum, 606 pink and 121 sockeye salmon by 14 permit holders. Chum Catches have been well above average. On July 12, another open period of 48 hours was announced from 6 PM Friday, July 13 until 6 PM Sunday, July 15. 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. The cumulative counts to July 12 are 696 king, 25,000 chum and 176,000 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: Cumulative catches to July 10 are 32 king, 8,100 chum, 106 pink and 23 sockeye salmon harvested by 10 permit holders. The chum salmon catch has been above average. Commercial fishing opened for 24 hours from 6 PM Tuesday, July 10 until 6 PM Wednesday, July 11. On July 12, another open period of 48 hours was announced from 6 PM Friday, July 13 until 6 PM Sunday, July 15. 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. The cumulative counts to July 12 are 168 king, 9,600 chum, 1,500 pink and 3 sockeye salmon. All 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: The cumulative catches to July 10 are 99 king, 22,232 chum, 930 pink and 34 sockeye salmon harvested by 24 permit holders. The chum salmon catch has been well above average. Commercial fishing opened for 24 hours from 6 PM Tuesday, July 10 until 6 PM Wednesday, July 11. On July 12, another open period of 48 hours was announced from 6 PM Friday, July 13 until 6 PM Sunday, July 15. 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 counts to July 12 were 51 king, 23,000 chum and 445,000 pink salmon. The king passage is below average. The chum passage is well above average. The historical average third quarter points of the runs past the tower are usually July 12 for chums and July 16 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: The cumulative catches to July 10 are 29 king, 14,292 chum, 580 pink and 37 sockeye salmon harvested by 12 permit holders. The chum salmon catch has been well above average. Commercial fishing opened for 24 hours from 6 PM Tuesday, July 10 until 6 PM Wednesday, July 11. On July 12, another open period of 48 hours was announced from 6 PM Friday, July 13 until 6 PM Sunday, July 15. 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. The tower crew began counting on July 10. The cumulative counts to July 12 are 24 king, 3,800 chums and 9,800 pink salmon.

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: The cumulative catch to July 10 is 8 king, 4,799 chum, 419 pink and 26 sockeye, salmon by 5 permit holders. The chum salmon catch has been well above average. Commercial fishing opened for 48 hours from 9 PM Tuesday July 10 until 9 PM Thursday, July 12. On July 12, that period was extended by 48 hours and will now close at 6 PM Saturday, July 14. 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 cumulative counts to July 12 were 1 king, 200 chum and 10,000 pink salmon. 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. The counts to July 12 were 800 chum and 9,600 pink salmon.

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 cumulative counts to July 12 were 3 king, 700 chum, 215,000 pink and 28 sockeye salmon. 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 cumulative counts to July 12 were 300 chum and 12,000 pink salmon. 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. On July 10, ADF&G announced waiving the subsistence sockeye salmon catch limit in the Pilgrim River since sockeye escapement is ensured. The escapement count at the weir on July 10 was 7,000 sockeyes. The escapement goal range at Salmon Lake is 4,000 to 8,000 sockeyes determined by aerial count. 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 counts to July 12 were 28 king, 2,000 chum, 1,100 pink and 9,000 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: Commercial fishing opened July 10 with three buyers registered. Fishing periods were 12 hours daily from 8 AM to 8 PM Tuesday, July 10 through Friday, July 13. The commercial harvest forecast is 400,000 to 600,000 chum salmon depending on if there is sufficient airplane cargo space to haul the fish out of Kotzebue. Because of past concerns over fishing effort near the Kotzebue airport runway, the ADF&G closed the area offshore of the main runway to one nautical out in the ocean to both subsistence and commercial fishing. The reason is that the fishing activity attracts birds which can create a hazardous situation for airplanes. Two buyers bought fish during the first week of the fishery. The daily catches were below those last year but similar to those of 2016. 18,300 chum salmon were caught by 40 permit holders.

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>