

**FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 23 – July 29, 2017. Report #9.**

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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 fisheries managers that provided weekly updated information by the close of business on Friday of the reporting week. The goal is to have the weekly report posted on the OSM website, <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing>, by the close of business the following Monday. Additional information on a fishery of particular interest may be obtained by contacting the in-season manager, visiting the additional web links at the end of each area report, or by contacting George Pappas.

**SOUTHEAST ALASKA**

To date, 266 permits have been issued for the 2017 subsistence salmon fishery for Southeast Alaska and Yakutat areas.

**Sitka and Hoonah Area – Justin Koller, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest**  
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**Falls Lake** - The US Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake operate the Falls Lake trap and video net weir which were installed on June 29. As of July 30, 2,132 Sockeye Salmon have been counted through the fish pass and 658 sockeye have been reported harvested. The final escapement estimate in 2016 was 5,098 sockeye while the final subsistence and sport harvest in the marine terminal area was 1,000. Subsistence harvest accounted for 99% of terminal area harvest.

**Klag Bay** - The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the Sockeye Salmon monitoring weir at Klag Bay which was installed June 29. As of July 28, 206 sockeye have passed the weir and harvesters have reported taking 918 sockeye. In 2016, approximately 5,234 sockeye migrated past the weir while an estimated 2,605 sockeye were harvested in the marine terminal area subsistence and sport fishery. Subsistence harvest accounted for over 99% of terminal area harvest.

**Redoubt Lake** - The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir which was operational as of June 16. As of July 30, 29,076 Sockeye Salmon and have passed the weir. In 2016, an estimated 22,937 sockeye passed through the weir into Redoubt Lake. On July 14, in accordance with the Redoubt Lake Management Plan, the individual/household subsistence sockeye possession limit was set at 25 and the individual/household subsistence sockeye annual limit was set at 100. These limits were based on an in-season model prediction of about 33,000 sockeye returning. Subsistence sockeye harvest reported to ADF&G was 2,304.

**Wrangell/Petersburg Area Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, Contact to be announced.**

Harvests and escapements of Stikine River Sockeye Salmon have been below 10-year averages so far this season.

**Yakutat, Juneau, and Admiralty areas of Northern Southeast Alaska** - Ben Van Alen (907-789-6257; [bvanalen@fs.fed.us](mailto:bvanalen@fs.fed.us)) and Jake Musslewhite (907-789-6256; [jgmusslewhite@fs.fed.us](mailto:jgmusslewhite@fs.fed.us)), **Tongass National Forest**

Yakutat Area. Alaska Department of Fish and Game has been counting fish through their weir on the lower Situk River since May 6. Weir counts through July 25 are 593 large Chinook Salmon, 68,004 Sockeye Salmon, 15,517 Pink Salmon, and 6,042 steelhead kelts. Commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries for Chinook Salmon in the Situk River and estuary are being managed to protect Chinook Salmon. The escapement of large Chinook Salmon has now exceeded the 450 fish lower bound of the escapement goal and ADF&G has lifted the restrictions on the harvest of Chinook Salmon. The Chinook and Sockeye Salmon runs into the Situk River are about 95% through the season now. With the exception of the Alek, most Sockeye Salmon runs appear to be average to above average in the Yakutat area this season. Most traditional set net fishing areas were open and fished last week and will be open again this week.

Northern Inside Waters.

Harvests of hatchery Chum Salmon in the lower Lynn Canal and Taku Inlet areas are now declining from record levels. There was a marked increase in numbers of Taku River Sockeye Salmon this week but the cumulative catches in the fishwheels are about of the 10-year average. Counts of Sockeye Salmon have been below desired levels this season as has the Chilkoot River weir counts and Chilkat River fishwheel counts. The Chilkat Weir counts are within goal ranges. In the sixth week of commercial purse seine openings for the season, in the opening on July 23, the salmon harvest and effort was relatively high at Point Augusta, West Admiralty Shore, and the Tenakee Inlet/Basket Bay Shore. A second opening was fished on July 27 which included the Amalga Harbor Special Harvest Area. Harvests of Pink Salmon were over 11 to 14 thousand fish at Point Augusta/Whitestone Shore and West Admiralty Shore areas. Catch rates for Pink and Chum Salmon were above average in last week's test fisheries at Hawk Inlet, Point Gardner, and Kingsmill.

Total counts of Sockeye Salmon through the Neva and Kook Lake weirs are 1,573 and 1,564. At Kanalku Lake, the ADF&G project leader Ray Vinzant reported last week that 228 Sockeye Salmon were counted through their video weir at the outlet of the lake. Good numbers of Sockeye Salmon have been passing through our remotely monitored video net weirs at the outlet of Sitkoh Lake but the counts are still preliminary. This video is reviewed by the crew working at Kook Lake and they spent part of last week rebuilding their floating tent (Figures 1 to 3).



Figure 1. Rebuilding the raft for the floating wall tent at Kook Lake, July 26, 2017.



Figure 2. Floor in and bunks built, Kook Lake, July 26, 2017..



Figure 3. Tent and awning on, furniture going in, Kook lake, July 26, 2017.

**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)**

Of the 266 permits issued to date across the region for the 2017 subsistence salmon season, 188 have been issued to Federally-qualified subsistence users residing on Prince of Wales Island.

The Hydaburg Cooperative Association projects at Hetta and Eek Lakes are on-going. The Hetta weir has had 3,544 Sockeye Salmon counted to date. The Eek Lake weir project has counted 103 Sockeye Salmon to date. The Klawock River weir has passed 234 sockeye to date.

Commercial seine and drift gillnet fishing in Districts 1-4 has started. The Chinook troll fishery began on July 1 and closed to the retention of Chinook Salmon at the end of the day on July 4. Estimated harvests for Districts 1-4 are: 1,455 Chinook, 38,345 Sockeye, 33,200 Coho, 416,050 Pink, and 740,400 Chum Salmon. Please note that Chinook and Coho Salmon estimates reported in this report are far lower as they do not include commercial troll harvest estimates for these districts.

**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, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve, (907) 822-7281, [dave\\_sarafin@nps.gov](mailto:dave_sarafin@nps.gov)**

As of July 26, 2017 the ADF&G sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) estimated that 717,558 salmon had migrated upstream for the season. This estimate is 15% more than the projected escapement of 625,472 for this date, or 92,086 more salmon. A daily estimate of 3,342 salmon migrated by the sonar counter on July 26.

The Chitina Subdistrict is currently open and scheduled to close at 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 30. It is scheduled to reopen at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 2 and remain open through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, August 6. The state and federal fisheries usually follow identical fishing schedules which are set by the state. One hundred and three (103) 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 June 1 and is expected to remain open until September 30<sup>th</sup>. Two hundred eighty-nine (289) Federal Glennallen permits have been issued on the FWS online data base. Additional permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity. The state subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict opened on June 1.

The Batzulnetas fishery is open. One (1) Federal permit has been issued so far.

The Tanada Creek salmon weir was installed and fish tight on June 7. The first Sockeye Salmon was counted past the weir on June 11. As of July 26, cumulative weir counts are 12,938 Sockeye Salmon and 4 Chinook Salmon.

The Long Lake salmon weir was installed on July 19. Salmon have not yet arrived at the site.

The Native Village of Eyak inriver Chinook Salmon estimation project shut down for the season on July 20. For the season, 3,635 Chinook Salmon were tagged at the two project fishwheels at the lower river site and 1,669 were captured by the upriver fishwheels at Canyon Creek. Of the Chinook Salmon captured at the upriver site, 181 were recaptured fish that had been tagged at the downstream wheels.

ADF&G's counting tower in the Gulkana River began operation on June 2. As of July 26, two thousand seven hundred twenty-four (2,724) Chinook Salmon have been estimated past the site.

Nine Special Actions have been issued by the inseason manager this season:

- Delaying Upper Copper River District Federal subsistence fisheries until June 1.
- Reducing the Chinook Salmon harvest limit to 2 for the combined gear types of dip net or rod and reel in Upper Copper River District Federal subsistence fisheries.
- Delaying the starting date of the Chitina Subdistrict Federal subsistence salmon fishery to June 8 and setting the tentative pre-season schedule for this fishery.
- Allowing the use of bait and multiple hooks by Federal subsistence users while fishing with rod and reel in the mainstem Copper River.
- Revising the starting date for the Chitina Subdistrict Federal subsistence salmon fishery to June 7.
- Rescinding the Chinook Salmon harvest limit reduction for dip net or rod and reel and returning the limit to 5 taken by dip net and 5 taken by rod and reel, in the Upper Copper River District Federal subsistence fisheries.
- Increasing the period open to subsistence fishing in the Chitina Subdistrict during the week of July 3 through July 9.
- Decreasing the period open to subsistence fishing in the Chitina Subdistrict during the week of July 17 through July 23.
- Increasing the period open to subsistence fishing in the Chitina Subdistrict during the week of July 24 through July 30 and decreasing the open period in this fishery during the week of July 31 through August 6.

#### 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.**  
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No report submitted.

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A total of 351 permits for Cook Inlet Federal subsistence fisheries have been issued to qualified households through July 26. This includes 94 Kenai River permits (FFCI01) and 7 Designated Fisher permits to Cooper Landing households; 34 Kenai River permits (FFCI01) and 2 Designated Fisher permit to Hope households; and 106 Kenai River permits (FFCI01), 103 Kasilof River permits (FFCI02), and 5 Designated Fisher permits to Ninilchik households.

Harvest reported through July 26 in the dip net fishery at Russian River Falls is 1,449 Sockeye Salmon. Harvest reported to date in the Kasilof River dip net fishery is 13 Sockeye Salmon.

The Kasilof River experimental gillnet fishery began on June 16 and continues through August 15. Harvest reported through July 26 is 315 Sockeye and 8 Pink salmon.

The Kenai River community gillnet fishery began on July 1 and continues through August 15, then from September 10 – 30. Harvest reported through July 26 is 648 Sockeye Salmon and 8 Pink Salmon.

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

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

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>

## **SOUTHWEST ALASKA**

**Kodiak Island Area – Michael Brady, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR**  
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No report submitted

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

**Bristol Bay and Chignik – Johnathon Gerken Fisheries Branch Chief Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office** (907) 271-2776 [jonathon\\_gerken@fws.gov](mailto: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 inseason assessment and management.

#### Bristol Bay:

The Sockeye Salmon and Chinook Salmon runs are nearing the end of the 2017 run. Most escapement projects are no longer operational. The total Bristol Bay run size was near 54 million Sockeye Salmon of which approx. 36 million were harvested in commercial fisheries and approx. 18 million were counted at escapement projects.

#### Escapement counts:

Kvichak – approx. 3.1 million Sockeye Salmon as of July 29. This count is within the escapement goal range.

Alagnak – Aerial surveys.

Naknek – approx. 1.9 million Sockeye Salmon as of July 22. This count is near the upper end of the escapement goal range. This escapement project is no longer operational.

Egegik – approx. 2.6 million Sockeye Salmon as of July 18. This count exceeds the upper escapement goal range. This escapement project is no longer operational.

Ugashik – approx. 1.2 million Sockeye Salmon as of July 25. This count is near the upper end of the escapement goal range. This escapement project is no longer operational.

Wood – approx. 4.3 million Sockeye Salmon as of July 21. This goal exceeds the upper escapement goal range. This escapement project is no longer operational.

Igushik – approx. 580,000 Sockeye Salmon as of July 25. This count exceeds the upper escapement goal range. This escapement project is no longer operational.

Nushagak – 56,351 Chinook Salmon and approx. 2.8 million Sockeye Salmon as of July 19. The Chinook Salmon count is within the escapement goal. The Sockeye Salmon count exceeds the upper escapement goal range. This escapement project is no longer operational.

Togiak – 117,150 Sockeye Salmon as of July 27 which is nearing the lower the escapement goal range of 150,000 fish.

#### Chignik:

The biological escapement goal for Chinook Salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 1,300 to 2,700 fish. The weir count as of July 28 was 931 Chinook Salmon. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers have implemented restrictions to sport, commercial, and subsistence fisheries. Concurrent with state restrictions the Federal In-season manager closed subsistence fishing for Chinook Salmon to all users on July 23. This action was necessary to ensure the continued viability of the Chignik River Chinook Salmon population.

Sockeye Salmon escapement in the Chignik River early run as of July 28 was approx. 451,000 fish which exceeds the upper end of the escapement goal range. The late run Sockeye Salmon escapement was approx. 174,000 for July 28 which is below the escapement goal and in-river goals. No directed Sockeye Salmon fisheries have been announced in an effort to conserve late run Sockeye Salmon.



### Alaska Peninsula:

As of July 27, the Nelson River weir was removed. The final escapement count was 357,967 Sockeye Salmon which exceeds the upper end of the escapement goal and 1,502 Chinook Salmon which is below the lower end of escapement goal of 2,400 fish. The Bear Lake escapement count is 556,905 Sockeye Salmon which is above the 10 year average. The cumulative commercial harvest is approx. 12.2 million for the Alaska Peninsula Management Area.

### Aleutian Islands.

The Sockeye salmon escapement through the McLees Lake weir as of July 24 was greater than 10,000 fish meeting the minimum escapement goal.

#### *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)

## **YUKON REGION**

### **Yukon River – Gerald Maschmann, Fish Biologist USFWS Fairbanks Office.**

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Emmonak Summer Office (907) 949-1798

The Emmonak Field Office is open for the fall season. The office staff can be contacted by calling Emmonak at (907) 949-1798.

### **Summer Season Outlook**

The summer season is over in the lower and middle Yukon River. Districts 1-4 have transitioned to fall season management. The Summer Chum passage at Pilot Station through July 18 is the third highest since 1995 and is projecting a total run size of approximately 3.5 million. A run of this size should support all escapement goals, provide for normal subsistence harvests, and provide for a commercial surplus of approximately 2.0 million fish. Chinook Salmon assessment is indicating a run abundance above the upper end of the preseason forecast with approximately 259,000 passing the Pilot Station sonar, the highest since 2005. At this time, run size projections will meet escapement and harvest sharing objectives in Canada.

### **Summer Season Escapement**

The Anvik River sonar project began on June 16 and has passed 415,000 Summer Chum Salmon through July 26, the last day of operations, surpassing its minimum escapement goal of 350,000. The Andreafsky River weir began operations on June 14 and through

July 27 has passed 2,950 Chinook Salmon, below the average of 3,883, but above the lower end of the escapement goal of 2,100. The Summer Chum Salmon passage of 55,000 is near the average of 56,000 and above the escapement goal of 40,000. The Gisasa River weir project began operations on June 18. Through July 27, the weir has passed 1,039 Chinook Salmon, below the average of 2,074, and 72,000 Summer Chum Salmon, above the average of 43,000. The Henshaw Creek weir began operations on June 25. Through July 27, the weir has passed 667 Chinook Salmon, below the average of 1,108, and 355,000 Summer Chum Salmon, well above the average of 132,000. The Chena and Salcha Rivers Chinook Salmon runs are assumed to be near average at this time although both have incomplete counts due to high water. The Eagle sonar began operations on July 1 and has passed 55,000 Chinook Salmon through July 27, above the average of 38,000. The Eagle sonar is most likely near the  $\frac{3}{4}$  point of the run.

Summer Chum genetics through July 18 is showing that the Summer Chum run is over 98% summer chum. The proportion of Fall Chum Salmon entering the river has increased based on visual identification of the test and commercial fisheries.

### **Summer Season Management Actions**

Management actions have followed the strategies outlined in the preseason plan. Subsistence fishing for Chinook Salmon was restricted early in the season in the lower and middle Yukon areas when uncertainty in the run was high. As managers gained confidence that the Chinook Salmon run was coming in better than expected, subsistence fishing was relaxed to allow for the harvest of Chinook Salmon. At this time, subsistence salmon fishing is open in all areas on each district's regulatory schedule with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fishwheels.

The preliminary commercial harvests in Districts 1 and 2 are 400,000 Summer Chum Salmon, and 4,623 Chinook Salmon caught and released and 5,579 caught and retained for subsistence purposes. Commercial fishing in Subdistrict 4-A for Summer Chum Salmon with live release fish wheels has been open 24/7 since June 25. Chinook Salmon must be immediately released alive in this fishery. Preliminary harvest estimates are 149,000 Summer Chum Salmon. Commercial fishing began in Subdistrict 6-B on July 14 with 3,400 Summer Chum harvested and 62 Chinook Salmon caught and released and 159 Chinook Salmon retained for subsistence purposes.

### **Fall Season Outlook**

The Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan went into effect for District 1 beginning July 16. Upriver management districts will switch to fall season management as the Fall Chum Salmon migration reaches those areas. The 2017 Fall Chum Salmon preseason run projection, based on the Summer Chum to Fall Chum Salmon relationship, is for a run size greater than 1.1 million 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 Assessment Information**

The LYTF began fall season operations on July 16, and has a cumulative Fall Chum Salmon CPUE of 389, above the average of 223. The Mountain Village test fishery (MVTf) began on July 18, and has a cumulative CPUE of 1,186, well above the average of 380. The mainstem sonar near Pilot Station began reporting all Chum Salmon as Fall Chum Salmon on July 19. Through July 27, the Pilot Station sonar project has a cumulative passage estimate of 270,000 Fall Chum Salmon, well ahead of the average of 126,000. It appears that the first pulse of Fall Chum Salmon hit Pilot Station on July 20, and the second pulse hit the LYTF on July 26 and 27.

**Fall Season Management Actions**

The Coastal District and Districts 1-4 are under fall season management. Subsistence fishing in the Coastal District and District 3 is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Subsistence fishing in District 1 and 2 is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. Subsistence fishing in District 4-A was relaxed from two, 48-hr periods per week to 5 days per week. Drift gillnet fishing will be open in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A on August 3. Subsistence fishermen in all areas throughout the river may use gillnets with a maximum mesh size of 7.5 inches

Four commercial fishing periods have occurred in District 1 with a preliminary harvest of 126,000 Fall Chum Salmon and 1,030 Coho Salmon. Two commercial fishing periods has occurred in District 2 with a preliminary harvest of 15,600 Fall Chum and 10 Coho Salmon.

**Consultation**

Extensive public outreach and consultation had occurred during the fall of 2016 and spring of 2017 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 and at the annual Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association Board meeting. In April, a pre-season planning meeting was held in Fairbanks that brought together representatives from most Alaskan Yukon River communities to discuss the run outlook and management options. On June 26, the Yukon River Advisory Group (YAG) comprised of the Yukon River Panel delegation members teleconferenced with agency managers to discuss subsistence fishery pulse protection and potential options for selling incidentally harvested Chinook Salmon in the directed Summer Chum Salmon commercial fishery. There was support for not continuing pulse protection in Subdistrict 5-D and a majority opposition to selling incidental Chinook Salmon during the summer season then allowing sales of the stragglers during the fall season with these views guiding management actions this week. The eighth Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association teleconference was held on July 25. Fishermen, for the most part, are waiting for Fall Chum to arrive, with a few still fishing for Chinook Salmon in Subdistrict 5-D.

**KUSKOKWIM REGION**

**Kuskokwim River – 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)**

**Summary:**

Effective 12:01 p.m. Thursday, July 27, 2017 the following restrictions to the main stem Kuskokwim River subsistence salmon fishery are rescinded:

- 6-inch or less mesh requirements for subsistence gillnets;
- 25 fathom gill net length restrictions from the mouth of the Johnson River up to the mouth of the Holitna River:
- The live release requirement of Chinook salmon caught in beach seines, fish wheels, and by hoot and line:
- The use of dip nets for the taking of salmon
- The closed waters within Kuskokuak and Old Kuskokuak sloughs and around the mouth of the Aniak River.

Subsistence fishing with gillnets will remain closed in the Kwethluk, Kasigluk, Kisaralik, Tuluksak and Aniak rivers. In addition, subsistence fishing with hook and line for Chinook salmon will remain closed within the Kwethluk, Kisaralik, Kasigluk, Tuluksak, and Aniak river drainages. Any Chinook salmon caught must be returned to the water alive.

**Test fisheries and weir escapement within YDNWR:**

As of July 29, the cumulative catch per unit of effort (CPUE) of Chinook salmon at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s Bethel Test Fishery is 369 (Chinook Salmon Table A1). Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2016 and 2015 were 679 and 610, respectively. Chinook salmon counts at the Kwethluk river weir as of July 27, is at 6,900. Fish counts on this day during 2016 and 2015 were 2,864 and 7,474, respectively. **The Kwethluk River has passed its lower bound of its escapement goal (4,100-7,500) for Chinook salmon and has already exceeded the end of year count from 2016 which was 3,428.**

Date	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	5-Yr Avg.	2008 - 2016
							Avg.
7/26	367	676	606	648	261	521	550
7/27	367	679	610	648	261	522	551
7/28	367	679	610	648	261	522	551
7/29	369	679	610	650	261	523	552
EOS		687	625	650	261	528	557

Cumulative CPUE for chum salmon is at 6,626. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2016 and 2015 were 3,677 and 2,698, respectively (Chum Salmon Table A1). Chum salmon counts at the Kwethluk river weir as of July 27, is at 41,754. Fish counts on this

day during 2016 and 2015 were 16,758 and 17,339, respectively. **Chum salmon on the Kwethluk River have already exceeded the end of year count from 2016 which was 21,785.**

Date	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	5-Yr Avg.	2008 - 2016 Avg.
7/26	6,569	3,582	2,548	6,078	5,546	4,886	6,137
7/27	6,597	3,601	2,621	6,111	5,556	4,921	6,181
7/28	6,615	3,639	2,654	6,136	5,570	4,945	6,221
7/29	<b>6,626</b>	<b>3,677</b>	<b>2,698</b>	<b>6,180</b>	<b>5,584</b>	<b>4,977</b>	<b>6,263</b>
EOS		3,894	2,943	6,343	5,708	5,156	6,496

Cumulative CPUE for sockeye salmon is at 2,557. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2016 and 2015 were 2,188 and 2,130, respectively (Sockeye Salmon Table A1). A sockeye salmon count at the Kwethluk river weir as of July 27 is at 26,627. Fish counts on this day during 2016 and 2015 were 6,930 and 8,001, respectively. **Sockeye salmon on the Kwethluk River have already exceeded the end of year count from 2016 which was 20,113.**

Date	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	5-Yr Avg.	2008 - 2016 Avg.
7/26	2,517	2,115	2,116	1,341	1,144	1,577	1,550
7/27	2,539	2,127	2,120	1,347	1,144	1,581	1,553
7/28	2,546	2,162	2,127	1,347	1,146	1,590	1,559
7/29	<b>2,557</b>	<b>2,188</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>1,354</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>1,597</b>	<b>1,564</b>
EOS		2,463	2,157	1,367	1,146	1,661	1,603

Cumulative CPUE for Coho salmon is at 196. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2016 and 2015 were 303 and 319, respectively (Coho Salmon Table A1). A Coho salmon count at the Kwethluk river weir as of July 27 is at 250. Fish counts on this day during 2016 and 2015 were 521 and 91, respectively.

Date	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	5-Yr Avg.	2008 - 2016 Avg.
7/26	120	156	177	324	228	201	274
7/27	137	184	244	446	252	258	330
7/28	167	235	277	512	317	303	411
7/29	<b>196</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>499</b>
7/30		361	371	736	379	428	587
7/31		412	461	892	416	499	701
8/1		487	531	969	463	561	812
EOS		3,530	2,736	4,697	2,865	3,241	3,495

### 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/>

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### **Norton Sound District**

Chum salmon passage in Norton Sound salmon counting projects has exceeded all escapement goal ranges. Commercial fishing is continuing in all six subdistricts with chum salmon catches well above average. The cumulative catch is 315 kings, 121,000 chums, 1,000 sockeyes, 18,000 pinks and 500 silvers by 99 permit holders. This year's chum harvest is the second highest harvest in the last 30 years.

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

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch is 5 kings, 4,600 chums, 1,100 pinks, 135 sockeyes and 8 silvers by 2 permit holders who waived confidentiality. The chum harvest is the second highest in the last 5 years. Commercial salmon fishing openings were announced for two 48-hour fishing periods in the Subdistrict from 9 PM Tuesday, July 25 until 9 PM Thursday, a July 27 and from 9 PM Friday, July 28 until 9 PM Sunday, July 30.

Subsistence Fishing: The Nome Subdistrict subsistence salmon gillnet fishing schedule is in effect. It runs from 6 PM Wednesday to 6 PM Monday in all freshwater subsistence areas and the marine waters west of Cape Nome. The marine waters east of Cape Nome continue to be open seven days a week. There are no catch limits when fishing in the marine waters. Catch limits in the freshwater subsistence areas vary by river; a permit is required and the catch limits can be found on the back of the permit. Beach seines, cast nets and dip nets can be used in the subsistence areas during the net fishing schedule.

**Solomon River Weir** - A Fish and Game project. It has no escapement goals established. The cumulative counts through July 26 were 3 kings, 3,100 chums, 36,000 pinks and 36 silvers. Pickets were pulled Sunday because of high water, but counting has since resumed. The chum count is a record for the same date. The silver count is the highest in the 5-year project history.

**Eldorado River Weir** - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish and Game. It has an escapement goal of 6,000-9,200 chum salmon. The cumulative counts through July 26 were 3 kings, 70,000 chums, 8,000 pinks, 12 sockeyes and 13 silvers. Pickets were pulled Sunday because of high water, but counting has since resumed. The pink count is a record for an odd-numbered year. The chum count is a record for the 23-year project history. The Eldorado chum salmon escapement is higher than all but five entire Nome Subdistrict chum salmon escapements in the 2,000s. The Nome Subdistrict escapement goal range is 23,000 to 35,000 chum salmon.

**Nome River Weir** – A Fish and Game project with assistance from NSEDC. It has escapement goals of 2,900 – 4,300 chum salmon and 3,200 pink salmon. The cumulative counts through July 26 were 4 kings, 5,700 chums, 312,000 pinks, 140 sockeyes and 15

silvers. The chum count for the same date is the highest in the 25-year project history. The pink count is a record for an odd-numbered year in the 25-year project history.

**Snake River Weir** – A Fish and Game project between Fish and Game and NSEDC. It has an escapement goals of 1,600 – 2,500 chum salmon. The cumulative counts through July 26 were 1 king, 3,900 chums, 11,000 pinks, 8 sockeyes and 1 silver. Pickets were pulled Sunday because of high water, but counting has since resumed. The chum count for the same date is the third highest in the 23-year project history. The pink count was the second highest for an odd-numbered year in the 23-year project history.

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

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative commercial catch is 3 kings, 6,400 chums, 200 pinks and 55 sockeyes by 7 permit holders. The chum salmon harvest is the fifth highest since fishing resumed in 2008 after a 6-year pause in commercial fishing due to the lack of a buyer. Two 48-hour commercial salmon fishing periods were announced for the subdistrict from 6 PM Tuesday, July 25 until 6 PM Thursday, July 27 and from 6 PM Friday, July 28 until 6 PM Sunday, July 30 permit holders were restricted to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets to a mesh size of 6 inches or less.

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

**Fish River Tower** - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have been established. The cumulative counts through July 26 were 168 kings, 150,000 chums, 840,000 pinks and 132 silvers. The king count is the lowest, and the chum count is the highest for that date in the 4-year history of the project. The diversionary weir was knocked out and high winds prevented counting from the towers from late Sunday morning through the night, but counting has since resumed.

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

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative commercial catch is 22 kings, 9,300 chums, 2,250 pinks, 110 sockeyes and 10 silvers for 18 permit holders. The chum salmon harvest is the fifth highest since fishing resumed in 2007 after a 5-yr pause in commercial fishing due to the lack of a buyer. Two 48-hour commercial salmon fishing periods were announced for the subdistrict from 6 PM Tuesday, July 25 until 6 PM Thursday, July 27 and from 6 PM Friday, July 28 until 6 PM Sunday, July 30 permit holders were restricted to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets to a mesh size of 6 inches or less.

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

**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 cumulative counts through July 26 were 45



kings, 32,000 chums, 290,000 pinks and 90 silvers. The king count failed to reach the escapement goal for the second year in a row. The chum count was above all averages for that date. The pink count is the third highest all-time for an odd-numbered year since counting began in 1965.

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

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch is 44 kings, 21,000 chums, 2,800 pinks, 80 sockeyes and 20 silvers by 15 permit holders. The chum salmon harvest is the third highest in over 30 years. Two 48-hour commercial salmon fishing periods were announced for the subdistrict from 6 PM Tuesday, July 25 until 6 PM Thursday, July 27 and from 6 PM Friday, July 28 until 6 PM Sunday, July 30 permit holders were restricted to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets to a mesh size of 6 inches or less.

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, all king salmon must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

**Inglutalik River Tower** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from ADF&G. No escapement goals have been established. The cumulative counts through July 26 were 2,200 kings, 84,000 chums, 1.2 million pinks and 2,300 silvers. In the 7-year history of the project, the chum pink counts are the highest. The silver count is the second highest.

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

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch is 33 kings, 33,800 chums, 1,500 pinks, 200 sockeyes and 200 silvers by 22 permit holders. The chum salmon harvest is the second highest in over 30 years. Two 48-hour commercial salmon fishing periods were announced for the subdistrict from 6 PM Tuesday, July 25 until 6 PM Thursday, July 27 and from 6 PM Friday, July 28 until 6 PM Sunday, July 30 permit holders were restricted to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets to a mesh size of 6 inches or less.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week with no mesh size restrictions. Fishing with beach seines is allowed, but all king salmon must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

**Shaktoolik Tower** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has no escapement goals established. The cumulative counts through July 26 were 1,270 kings, 112,000 chums, 1.6 million pinks and 800 silvers. In only one other year did the tower count this late in the season, and the silver count in 2015 was over 7 times higher than the 2017 count.

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

**Federal Regulatory Restriction:** The Federal public waters of the Unalakleet River upstream from the mouth of the Chirosky River closed by federal regulation to the taking of Chinook (king) salmon by all users effective July 1. The closure will remain in effect to July 31 unless the run strength of king salmon warrants the BLM field manager announcing an earlier opening of the closed area to Federally qualified subsistence users or to all users.

**Commercial Fishing:** The cumulative catch is 207 kings, 46,300 chums, 10,300 pinks, 500 sockeyes and 275 silvers by 40 permit holders. Two 48-hour commercial salmon fishing periods were announced for the subdistrict from 6 PM Tuesday, July 25 until 6 PM Thursday, July 27 and from 6 PM Friday, July 28 until 6 PM Sunday, July 30 permit holders were restricted to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets to a mesh size of 6 inches or less.

**Subsistence Fishing:** Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week with no mesh size restrictions. Fishing with beach seines is allowed, but all king salmon must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

**Unalakleet River Floating Weir** – a cooperative project of Fish and Game, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC), Native Village of Unalakleet and BLM, with major funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management. No escapement goals have yet been established. The cumulative counts through July 26 were 2,870 kings, 124,000 chums, 4.7 million pinks, 1,100 sockeyes and 2,700 silvers. Both the king and chum counts were the highest in the eight-year history of the project for the same date. The silver count is the second highest trailing the 2015 count by 1,000 fish.

**North River Tower – Camp J. B.** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from ADF&G. It has escapement goals of 1,200-2,600 kings, no goal established for chums, 25,000 pinks and 550-1,100 silvers (aerial survey goal). The cumulative counts through July 26 were 1,035 kings, 21,000 chums, 1.3 million pinks and 250 silvers. The king counts have fallen flat and the escapement goal range is unlikely to be met. The pink count is a record for an odd-numbered year and is the second highest for all years combined in the 22-year project history.

### **Port Clarence District**

Subsistence gillnet and beach seining are open seven days a week. All subsistence sockeye limits have been waived.

**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 cumulative counts through July 26 were 70 kings, 26,000 chums, 40,000 pinks and 41,000 sockeyes. The sockeye count is projected to finish fourth highest in the 15-year project history. The historical average midpoint past the weir is July 19. However the midpoint has often been

before mid-July in years with big runs; and this year the run midpoint appears to be July 13.

### **Kotzebue District**

Commercial Fishing: The 2017 commercial harvest through July 24 is 105,000 chum salmon. Last year's commercial fishing harvest was 72,000 chum salmon at the same point. Weather has slowed fishing efforts but conditions are forecast to improve. The commercial harvest is about 25% above last year and fishing effort and price per pound for chums is about 15% above last year. The ADF&G announced a series of daily eight-hour commercial salmon fishing openings from 12 noon until 8 PM, Monday, July 24 through Friday, July 28.

**Kobuk River Test Fish** - a Fish and Game project. The Kobuk test Fish crew at Kiana has been reporting catches slightly above the long-term average but below the recent short-term average of the 2010s that had some of the highest catches in the 25-year project history. Compared to 17 years of test fish catches from 1993 through 2009, this year's catch ranks fifth highest.

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