

Abundance and Run Timing of Adult Salmon in Henshaw Creek, Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, 2008–2011

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Abstract

From 2008 to 2011, a resistance board weir was used to collect information on abundance, run timing, and biology of returning salmon and other resident fish species migrating up Henshaw Creek, a tributary to the Koyukuk River, Alaska. The four-year mean Chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* escapement was 1,246 fish (range, 766–1,796). The average Chinook salmon sex ratio was 40% female fish (range, 26%–50% female fish). Age class 1.3 predominated in 2008, 2010, and 2011, whereas age class 1.4 predominated in 2009. The four-year mean chum salmon *O. keta* escapement was 151,827 fish (range, 96,731–248,247). The average chum salmon sex ratio was 51% female fish (range, 46%–58% female fish). Age class 0.3 predominated from 2008 to 2010, whereas age class 0.4 predominated in 2011. The four other fish species that were counted were: longnose sucker *Catostomus catostomus*, arctic grayling *Thymallus arcticus*, whitefish (Coregoninae), and northern pike *Esox lucius*. The continued operation of this weir has provided a valuable data set going back to the year 2000. The future analysis of these data will be crucial for the management of Yukon River Chinook salmon and chum salmon.