

**FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 2-9, 2019.** Report #15  
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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. Please keep in mind, many of the authors do not have alternates or are deployed in the field on occasion and do not have access to communications to submit a weekly report. 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, [justin.koller@usda.gov](mailto:justin.koller@usda.gov)

Reporting complete for the 2019 season. Please contact author if you have any questions.

**Yakutat, Juneau, and Admiralty areas of Northern Southeast Alaska - Jake Musslewhite (907-789-6256); [jacob.g.musslewhite@usda.gov](mailto:jacob.g.musslewhite@usda.gov), Forest Service, Tongass National Forest - September 3, 2019**

**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). The project uses a pair of remotely monitored video net weirs to count fish entering Sitkoh Lake, on the southeast corner of Chichagof Island (Figure 1). Video from the site is streamed to the ACA office, where it is recorded on a computer. Live video feed and clips from the weir can be accessed over the internet at <http://sitkohlake.ddns.net:81>.

Sockeye are continuing to trickle into Sitkoh Lake, though the overall escapement is still below where we would like it to be. Sockeye returns to the lake have been low for the past two years, possibly due to the dryer summers and beaver dams blocking passage downstream of the lake (Figure 2). The removal of a beaver dam in earlier August helped somewhat, but this year's return appears to be similar to that seen in 2018. As of September 8, a total of 1,848 sockeye have been counted through the weir.



Figure 1. Video capture of an eagle feeding on a salmon at the Sitkoh Lake weir.

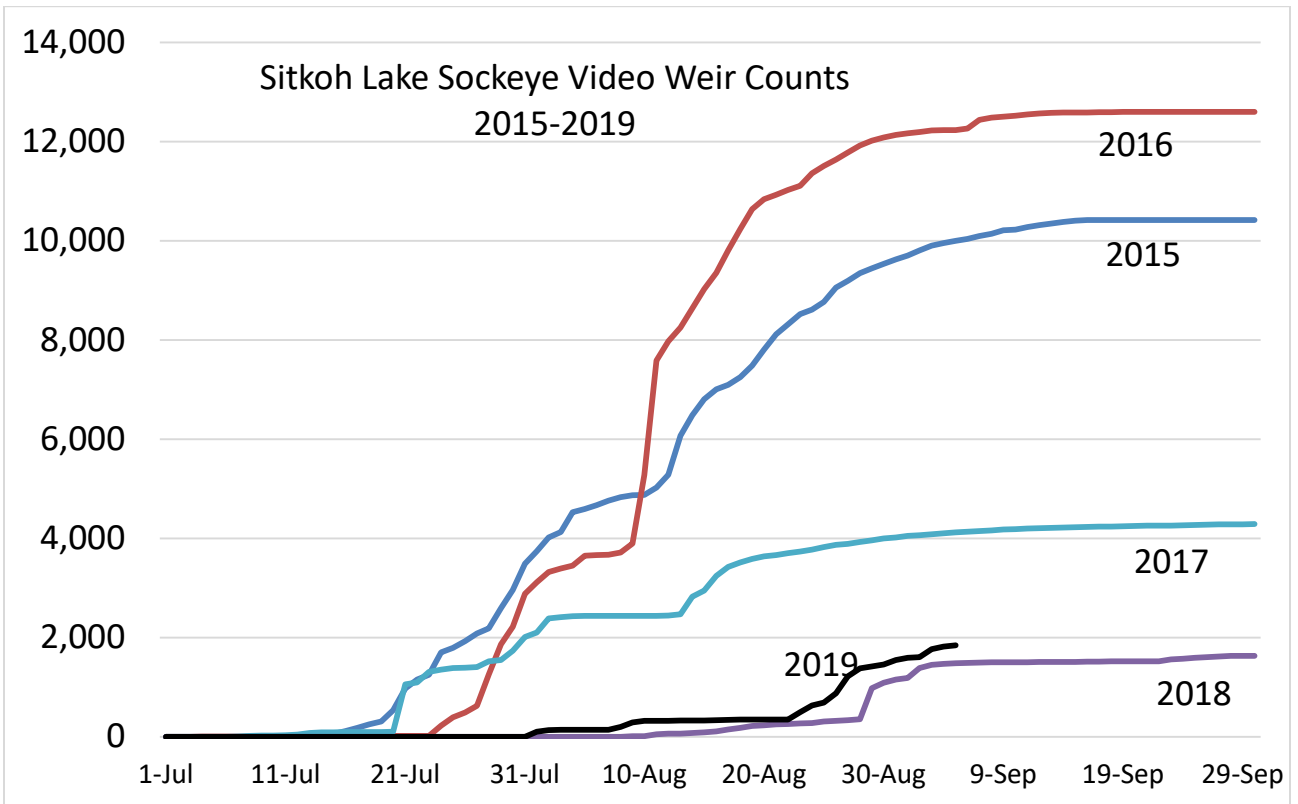


Figure 2. Sitkoh Lake Sockeye video weir counts, 2015-2019.

**Neva Lake sockeye salmon:** A crew from the Forest Service and the Hoonah Indian Association (HIA) installed the Neva Lake weir near Excursion Inlet on June 19. This swim-through video weir is remotely monitored and maintained by a HIA crew living in Excursion Inlet. With the closure of the Ocean Beauty plant in Excursion Inlet, the HIA crew has moved the video recording station to Hoonah, and will monitor the escapement from there for the remainder of the season. The move means that the live video feed is no longer available to the public, unfortunately. As of September 5, a total of 3,537 sockeye have been counted entering Neva Lake through the video weir. Due to low water levels, the sockeye return began about a month later than normal, and has been somewhat lower than average (Figure 3). We have also been seeing a handful of pink and coho salmon entering the lake.

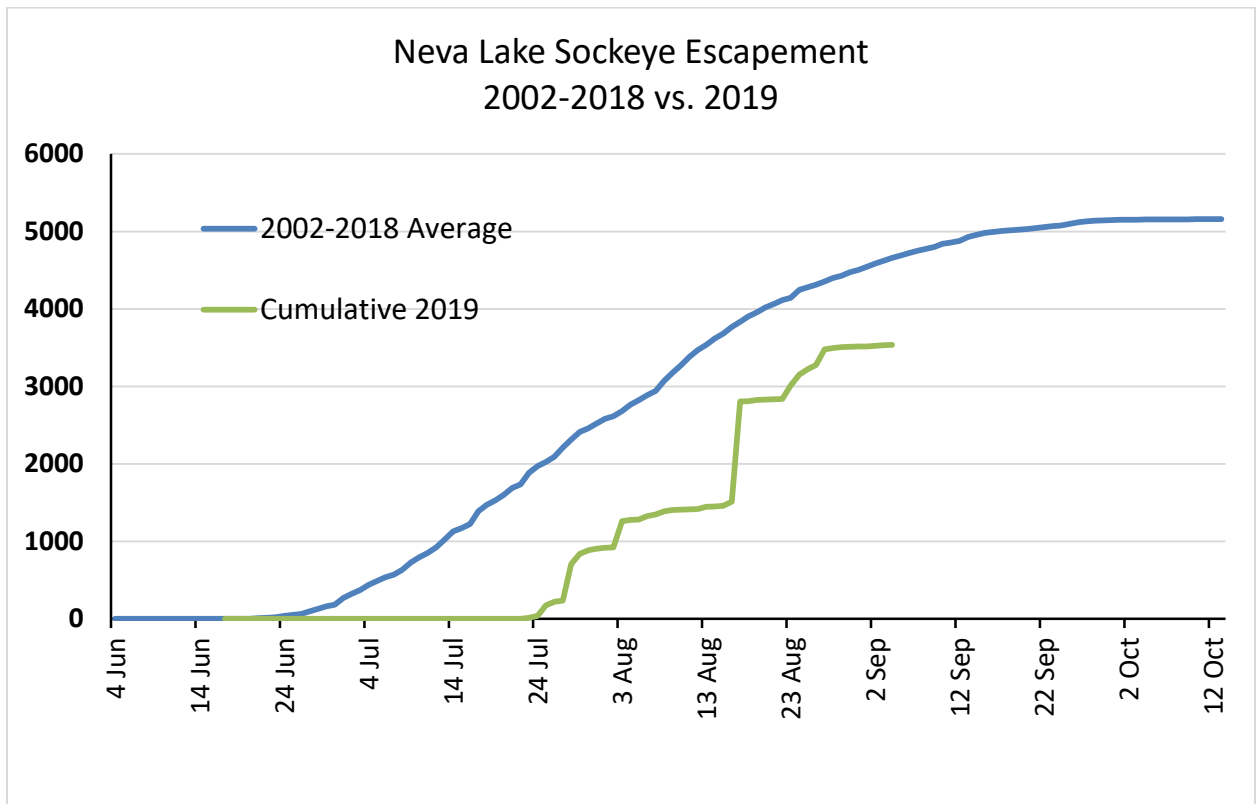


Figure 3. Neva Lake sockeye escapement, 2002-2019.

**Petersburg and Wrangell Area – Robert Cross, Forest Service Tongass National Forest,**  
 Robert Cross, (907)772-5944, [robert.cross@usda.gov](mailto:robert.cross@usda.gov)

Reporting complete for the 2019 season. Please contact author with questions.

**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)

Reporting complete for the 2019 season. Please contact author with questions.

### **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, 8/11/2019 Update – Dave Sarafin, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve, (907) 822-7281, [dave\\_sarafin@nps.gov](mailto:dave_sarafin@nps.gov)**

Reporting complete for 2019 season. Please contact author with questions.

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 In-season Commercial Harvest Estimates  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.harvestsummary>

ADF&G Gulkana River counting tower  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/index.cfm?ADFG=main.displayResults&COUNTLOCATIONID=6&SpeciesID=410>

ADF&G Emergency Orders and News Releases  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=area.list&Year=2018&AreaID=33>

**PWS and Copper River Delta – Milo Burcham, Chugach National Forest, Cordova.**  
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Reporting concluded for 2019 season. Please contact author with questions.

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

Reporting completed for 2019 season. Please contact author with questions.

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

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

**Kodiak Island Area – Michael Brady, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR**  
(907) 487-0226 or [michael\\_brady@fws.gov](mailto:michael_brady@fws.gov) or Kevin Van Hatten (907) 487-0230  
[Kevin\\_VanHatten@fws.gov](mailto:Kevin_VanHatten@fws.gov)

Reporting completed for 2019 season. Please contact authors with questions.

***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 or [jonathon\\_gerken@fws.gov](mailto:jonathon_gerken@fws.gov)

This will be the final weekly summary submitted for the 2019 season. Please contact author with questions.

All of the assessments of salmon returns are conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and provide the basis for any inseason assessment and management.

Updated Information: Commercial fishing in the Chignik Management Area was extended through September 6 in the Chignik Bay, Central, Eastern, and Western districts. Commercial fishing in the South Peninsula fisheries, excluding Orzinski Bay and Stepovak Flats districts, was extended through September 10.

Bristol Bay:

All rivers have met escapement goals.

Sockeye Salmon escapement counts for the date of August 15 were:

- 820,458 fish on the Alagnak River (weir pulled on July 24)

- 2,326,176 fish on the Egegik River (weir pulled on July 23)
- 256,074 fish on the Igushik River (weir pulled on July 27)
- 2,371,242 fish on the Kvichak River (weir pulled on July 25)
- 2,911,470 fish on the Naknek River (weir pulled on July 23)
- 705,029 fish on the Nushagak River, 47,882 Chinook Salmon.(weir pulled on August 15)
- 351,846 fish on the Togiak River (weir pulled on August 8)
- 1,547,748 fish on the Ugashik River (weir pulled on July 28)
- 2,073,276 fish on the Wood River (weir pulled on July 21)

The preliminary commercial harvest estimate for August 28 was 44.5 million, with Sockeye Salmon accounting for 97% of the harvest.

#### Chignik:

The early-run Sockeye Salmon run nearly met the escapement goal, while the late-run and Chinook Salmon run met escapement goals.

Salmon escapement counts for August 18 when the weir was pulled were:

- 633,663 total Sockeye Salmon
- 345,918 Sockeye Salmon attributed to the early-run
- 287,745 Sockeye Salmon attributed to the late-run.
- 1,517 Chinook Salmon

The preliminary commercial harvest for August 28 was 3.2 million fish, with 2.2 million Pink Salmon and 613,946 Sockeye Salmon composing the majority of the catch.

#### Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands:

The Nelson River and late-run Bear Lake are the only runs that have escapement goals and both goals have been met.

Sockeye Salmon escapement count for the date of August 26 were:

- 115,000 fish on the Nelson River, 11,653 Chinook Salmon (weir pulled July 28)
- 471,219 fish on the Bear River (early-run approx. 265,000, weir pulled August 26)
- 74,345 fish on the Ilnik River (weir pulled on July 18)
- 4,367 fish on Orizinski River (south peninsula, weir pulled on August 9)
- 71,000 fish on the Sandy River (weir pulled on July 24)

The preliminary commercial harvest estimate for August 28 was 25.8 million fish, with Pink Salmon accounting for 77% of the harvest.

Aleutian Island fisheries are projected to provide for escapement and subsistence harvests.

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

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

### **Southcentral Alaska Web Links**

***Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases***  
<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

***ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link***  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.R2>

***ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link***  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

***Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southcentral Alaska***  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R2.Home>

***Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:***  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

### **Yukon River**

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

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

### **Fall Season Update**

The last 2019 Fall Chum Salmon run projection, based on inseason run assessment projects, was for a run size range of 750,000 to 850,000 fish. At this time, it appears that the Fall Chum Salmon run came in above this projection. The Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) is nearing the end of fall season operations and is slightly above average through September 6. The Mountain Village Test Fishery (MVTF) will continue operations into the first two weeks of September and through September 6, is above average at this time. The Pilot Station sonar began reporting all chum salmon as Fall Chum Salmon for management purposes on July 19 and has ended operations on August 31. The estimated passage past the sonar through August 31 is 843,464 Chum Salmon, above the median of 718,052. However, genetic analysis of the first fall season strata of 208,000 Chum Salmon shows that it was made up of 88% Summer Chum Salmon. This is the largest proportion of Summer Chum Salmon in the first strata on record since the genetic sampling program began. The second fall season strata of 241,000 Chum Salmon shows that it was made up of 38% Summer Chum Salmon. The third fall season strata of 187,000 Chum Salmon was made up of 11% Summer Chum Salmon. The fourth and final fall strata of 197,799 Chum Salmon was made up of 1% Summer Chum Salmon. Based on average genetic proportions, it appears that the Fall Chum Salmon run could be coming in 5 days later than normal. Taking into account the large proportion of Summer

Chum Salmon that entered the Yukon during the first week of fall season management, the number of Fall Chum Salmon estimated to have passed the sonar through August 31 is 843,464, near the median of 718,052.

The Treedriinjik (Chandalar) River sonar has been in operation since August 8 and has an estimated passage of 28,712 Fall Chum Salmon through September 8, well behind the average of 87,703. However, based on the late entry timing of the Fall Chum Salmon run, this level of passage is not unexpected. Passage estimates began picking up on September 3 and looks similar to the 2018 passage estimates, which was also late. The Eagle sonar switched over to estimating Fall Chum Salmon on August 15 and has an estimated passage through September 8 of 10,198 Fall Chum Salmon, behind the average of 22,081 Fall Chum Salmon. The typical first quarter point at the Eagle sonar is September 16

The Coho Salmon run appears to be poor at this time based on the LYTF and MVTF, and slightly below average based on the Pilot Station sonar. However, managers are anticipating the run to be late this season based on the lateness of both the Summer and Fall Chum Salmon runs. Coho Salmon passage picked up this week but appears to have dropped back off.

Fall Season management has nearly ended in the lower Yukon and assessment has focused to upriver projects. The Treedriinjik (Chandalar) River is anticipated to continue operations until sometime in the first week of October, weather permitting. The Eagle Sonar is anticipated to continue operations into the third week of October.

### **Fall Season Management Actions**

Subsistence salmon fishing in the Coastal District and District 1-3 is open 7 days per week except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after commercial fishing periods. Managers have adjusted the subsistence salmon fishing closures around commercial fishing periods to accommodate short notice openings, as per regulation. However, at this time it appears that the fall commercial activities are done for the season. Subsistence salmon fishing in Districts 4 and 5 have been relaxed to 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Thirteen fall season commercial periods have occurred in District 1, and twelve have occurred in District 2. Preliminary harvests estimates are 253,897 Chum Salmon, 56,245 Coho Salmon, and 544 Chinook Salmon. Commercial fishing for the fall season has begun in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C where 900 Fall Chum Salmon have been harvested in the first period. District 6 is open to commercial fishing, however no harvests have been reported at this time.

### **Consultation**

Extensive public outreach and consultation was performed during the fall of 2018 and spring of 2019 to inform and seek input from Yukon River fishermen and stakeholders. Outreach has continued through the summer via the YR DFA weekly teleconferences. The thirteenth and final teleconference occurred on August 27. Fishermen in the lower



Yukon are mostly done with Fall Chum Salmon harvests and are transitioning to other fall season subsistence activities. Fishermen in the middle Yukon are finishing up their subsistence fishing activities for the season, while upper Yukon fishermen are just getting started.

### **KUSKOKWIM RIVER**

**In Season Manager – Vernon “Ray” Born, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Contact [Vernon\\_Born@fws.gov](mailto:Vernon_Born@fws.gov) (907) 543-3151 or [Lewis\\_Coggins@fws.gov](mailto:Lewis_Coggins@fws.gov)**

Reporting complete for 2019 season. Please contact author if you have questions.

### **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)

***NEW = Kuskokwim River Updates Hosted on OSM Website***

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

***Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kuskokwim Area***

[http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish\\_shell/upload/Kusko.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Kusko.pdf)

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

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

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

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

***Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Interior Alaska:***

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

***Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:***

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

**Northwest Alaska****Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, Nome.**(907) 443-6104 [ken\\_adkisson@nps.gov](mailto:ken_adkisson@nps.gov)**Norton Sound District**

This will be the last report from Northwest Alaska for the 2018 season. The ADF&G has essentially shifted to silver salmon management in the Norton Sound District as the commercial season winds down. Most of the counting projects are no longer operational and commercial salmon fishing ends in the Kotzebue District after August 31 by regulation. The final 2019 season results will be summarized in the initial report for the 2020 season for comparison with the 2020 season forecasts.

Counting Projects: Only three escapement counting projects, all in northern Norton Sound, were able to resume counting after the August high water levels.

Commercial Fishing: The commercial catch through Sunday, September 1 was 1,390 kings, 6,900 sockeyes, 75,000 pinks, 157,000 chums and 133,000 silvers. The silver catch is 4<sup>th</sup> highest on record, but below the recent 5-year average of 164,000 silvers caught. Having the three highest silver catches in the last five years including the record 260,000 silvers caught last year has skewed the average upward. Four of the last five years have had Top 5 catches, and for the last six years in a row there have been Top 10 catches of silvers.

***Other Coastal Waters (Stebbins and St. Michael)***

Subsistence Fishing: The coastal waters are open to subsistence fishing 7 days a week.

***Subdistricts 6 (Unalakleet)***

Subsistence Fishing: Net fishing is open seven days a week. Gillnet length allowed is 50 fathoms except in the Unalakleet River only 25 fathoms is allowed.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch through Sunday September 1 was 910 kings, 3,300 sockeyes, 29,000 pinks, 59,000 chums and 78,000 silvers by 65 permit holders. The silver catch is above average and ranks 8<sup>th</sup> highest of all-time.

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 96 hours in the Subdistrict from 6 p.m. Tuesday, September 3, until 6 p.m. Saturday, September 7. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

***Subdistrict 5 (Shaktoolik)***

Subsistence Fishing: Net fishing is open seven days a week.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch was 320 kings, 2,000 sockeyes, 19,000 pinks, 43,000 chums and 34,000 silvers by 32 permit holders. The silver catch is above average and ranks 4<sup>th</sup> highest all-time.

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 96 hours in the Subdistrict from 6 p.m. Tuesday, September 3, until 6 p.m. Saturday, September 7. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

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

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch was 7 kings, 100 sockeyes, 1,900 chums, and 1,200 pinks and 128 silvers by 7 permit holders. There has been limited fishing effort in August.

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 96 hours in the Subdistrict from 6 p.m. Tuesday, September 3, until 6 p.m. Saturday, September 7. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

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

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch was 100 kings, 7000 sockeyes, 13,000 chums, 13,600 pinks and 11,000 silvers by 20 permit holders. The silver catch is above average and ranks 6<sup>th</sup> highest all-time.

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 96 hours in the Subdistrict from 6 p.m. Tuesday, September 3, until 6 p.m. Saturday, September 7. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate 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 September 2 were 111 kings, 18,000 chums, 670,000 pinks and 5,500 silvers. The silver count is average.

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

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch was 31 kings, 115 sockeyes, 25,200 chums, 7,500 pinks and 2,300 silvers by 12 permit holders. The chum catch is the highest since fishing resumed in 2008. The silver catch is above average and ranks 10th highest all-time.

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 96 hours in the Subdistrict from 6 p.m. Tuesday, September 3, until 6 p.m. Saturday, September 7. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

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

Subsistence Fishing: Silver Salmon season regulations are in effect. Beach seines are no longer legal gear to harvest salmon. The marine waters are now open continuously and there are no catch limits in the marine waters. Gillnet lengths up to 300 feet are allowed. The net fishing schedule in all fresh water subsistence areas is from 6 PM Wednesday until 6 PM Monday. Gillnet length is limited to up to 50 feet and no more than one-half of any channel may be blocked at any one time. No drift gillnetting is allowed.

Subsistence salmon fishing permits are required, and stream specific harvest limits are listed on the permit.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch was 30 kings, 700 sockeyes, 15,000 chums, 4,800 pinks and 7,100 silvers by 5 permit holders. The chum catch ranks third highest. The silver catch is ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> highest all-time.

Commercial salmon fishing opened in the Subdistrict for 96 hours at 9 p.m. Tuesday, September 3, until 9 p.m. Saturday, September 7. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

**Nome River Weir** - A Fish and Game project with assistance from NSEDC. It has escapement goals of 1,600 – 5,300 chum salmon and 3,200 pink salmon. The weir was fish tight on August 28 after being out of the water since August 2, and 1,891 silvers had been counted to date. The average historical third quarter point of silver passage at the weir is September 10.

**Snake River Weir** – A cooperative project between Fish & Game and NSEDC has an escapement goal of 2,000 – 4,200 chum salmon. The weir was fish tight again on August 21 after being out since August 1. The cumulative counts through September 2 were 6 kings, 22 sockeyes, 2,400 chums, 100,000 pinks and 2,400 silvers. The average historical third quarter point of silver passage at the weir is September 9.

### **Port Clarence District**

Subsistence Fishing: Gillnet and beach seining are open seven days a week. 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. These are: Pilgrim River - 3 king salmon per household; the department waived the sockeye limit on Tuesday, July 16; Salmon Lake - open by emergency order only - 200 sockeye salmon per household. The department waived the sockeye limit.

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 in the Pilgrim River being expected to be reached.

### **Kotzebue District**

The closure to all subsistence and commercial fishing in the area offshore or the Kotzebue airport's main runway to one mile out in the ocean remains in effect until mid-October. Fishing boats and other marine vessels may still transit through the closed fishing area, but no fishing gear can be in the water within the closed area. The reason for the closure is that fishing often attracts birds that can create a hazardous situation for aircraft arriving at or departing from Kotzebue.

Subsistence Fishing: No other subsistence fishing restrictions are expected in 2019.

Commercial Fishing: The commercial catch was 494,000 chums by 85 permit holders. This year's catch reached the lower end of the department forecast 450,000 to 650,000 chum salmon. It ranked 8<sup>th</sup> highest in the 58-year history of the fishery. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row for a Top 10 catch.

Commercial salmon fishing ends in the Kotzebue District after August 31 by regulation.

**Kobuk River Test Fish** - a Fish and Game project. The project was pulled after the August 28 drifts. The crew had very high catches for late August before catches fell well off the last few days of fishing.

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