

**FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 30 – August 5, 2017. Report #10.**

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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, 268 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**  
(907)747-4297 [jpkoller@fs.fed.us](mailto:jpkoller@fs.fed.us)

**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 August 5, 2,543 Sockeye Salmon have been counted through the fish pass and 678 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 August 5, 661 sockeye have passed the weir and harvesters have reported taking 940 sockeye. There is rain in the forecast for this weekend which should result in sockeye moving into the system with higher water levels. 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 August 6, 37,187 Sockeye Salmon and have passed the weir. 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 50,000 sockeye returning, which is still

the current prediction. In 2016, an estimated 22,937 sockeye passed through the weir into Redoubt Lake and the subsistence sockeye harvest reported to ADF&G was 2,304.

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

On August 1, Martin Hutten reported that “There have been 126 fishing permits issued for the Stikine River subsistence salmon fishery. While river conditions have been good, fishing pressure is low due to low catch rates of Sockeye Salmon per unit effort and high levels of Pink Salmon intercept. The estimated cumulative subsistence harvest is 10 large Chinook, 0 Coho and 1,810 Sockeye Salmon.”

The Stikine River Sockeye Salmon run size has been below average 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 August 3 are 865 large Chinook Salmon, 83,277 Sockeye Salmon, 130,665 Pink Salmon, 169 Coho Salmon, and 6,046 steelhead kelts. Commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries for Chinook Salmon in the Situk River and estuary were managed to protect Chinook Salmon this season. 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. 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 area are now declining from record levels. The catch rate for Sockeye Salmon in the Taku Inlet was above average again this week. The in-river run is projected to be 138,000 fish. The run of Sockeye Salmon to Snettisham Hatchery has started but targeting these fish is tempered by the low count to date of wild Sockeye Salmon into Speel Lake. The Speel Lake weir count is 156 and the minimum escapement goal is 4,000. In Lynn Canal, counts of Sockeye Salmon at the Chilkat River fishwheels and through the Chilkook River weir have been below average but the Chilkat Weir counts are within goal ranges. In the seventh week of commercial purse seine openings for the season, there were openings on July 31 and August 4 in Icy, upper Chatham Strait, and Tenakee Inlet. There were less than 10,000 fish per boat in all areas.

Total counts of Sockeye Salmon through the Neva and Kook Lake weirs as of August 4 were 2,074 and 1,659 (Figures 1 and 2). There were 1,337 Sockeye Salmon counted through the video net weirs at Sitkoh Lake through July 25. At Kanalku Lake, the ADF&G project leader Ray Vinzant reported on August 1 that 272 Sockeye Salmon have been counted through their video weir at the outlet of the lake.

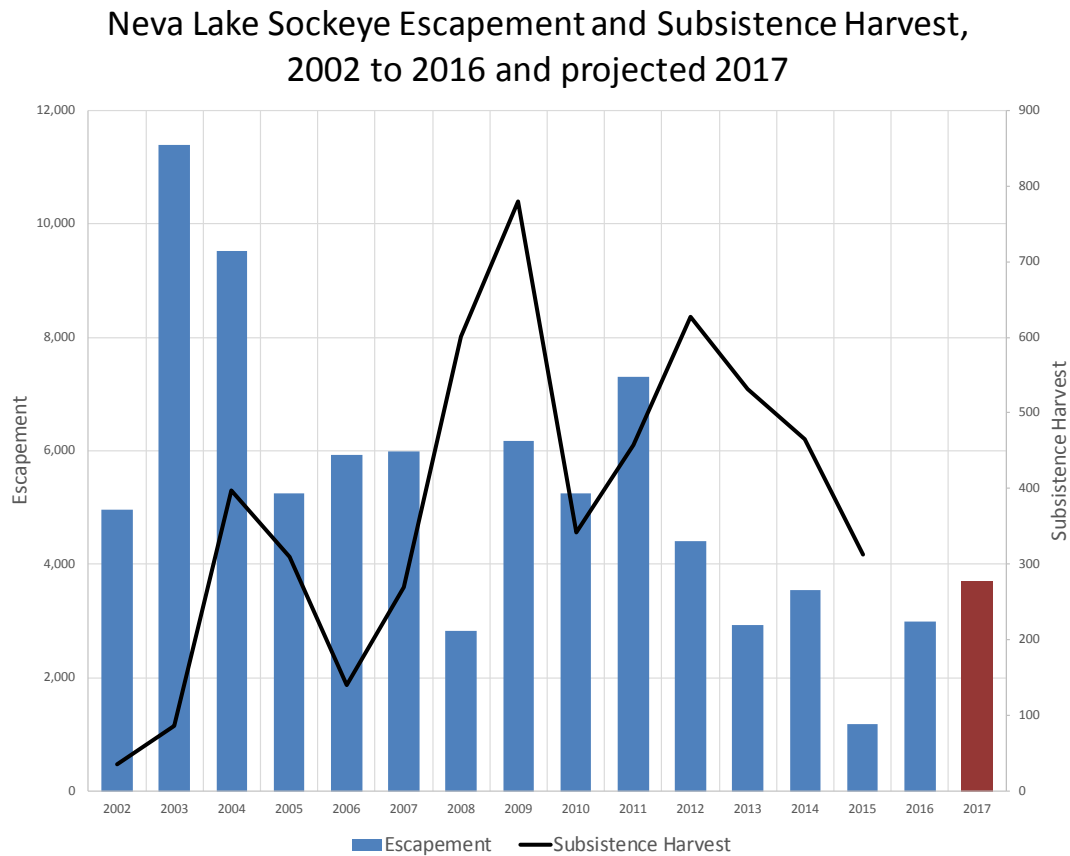
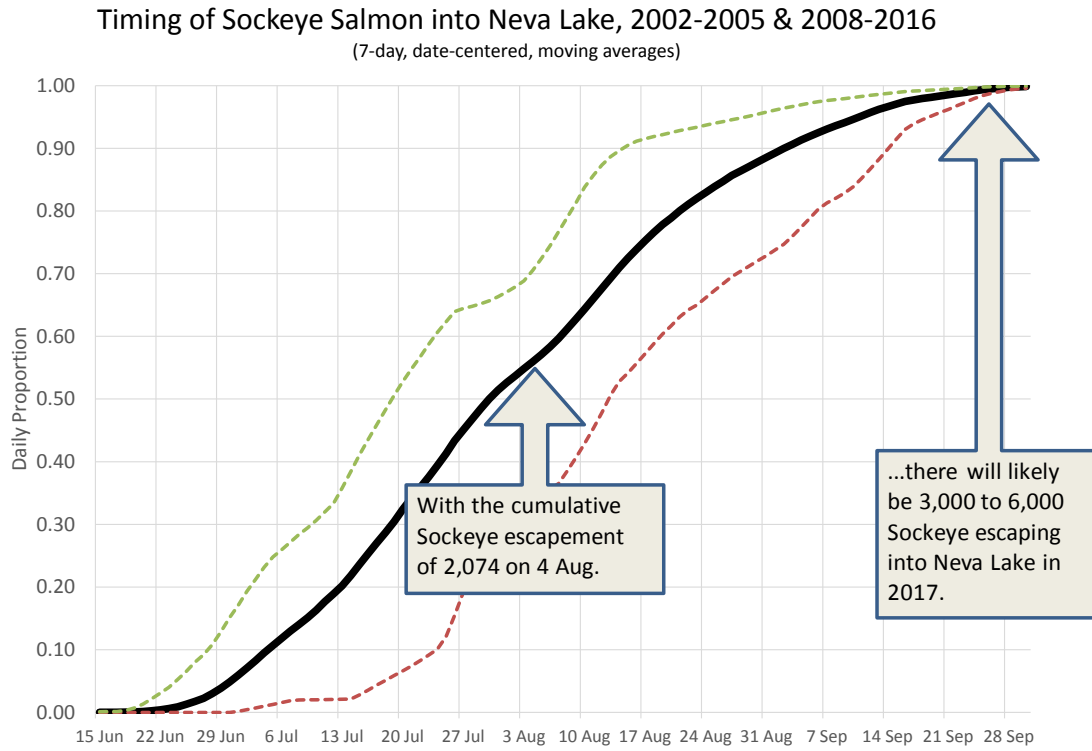
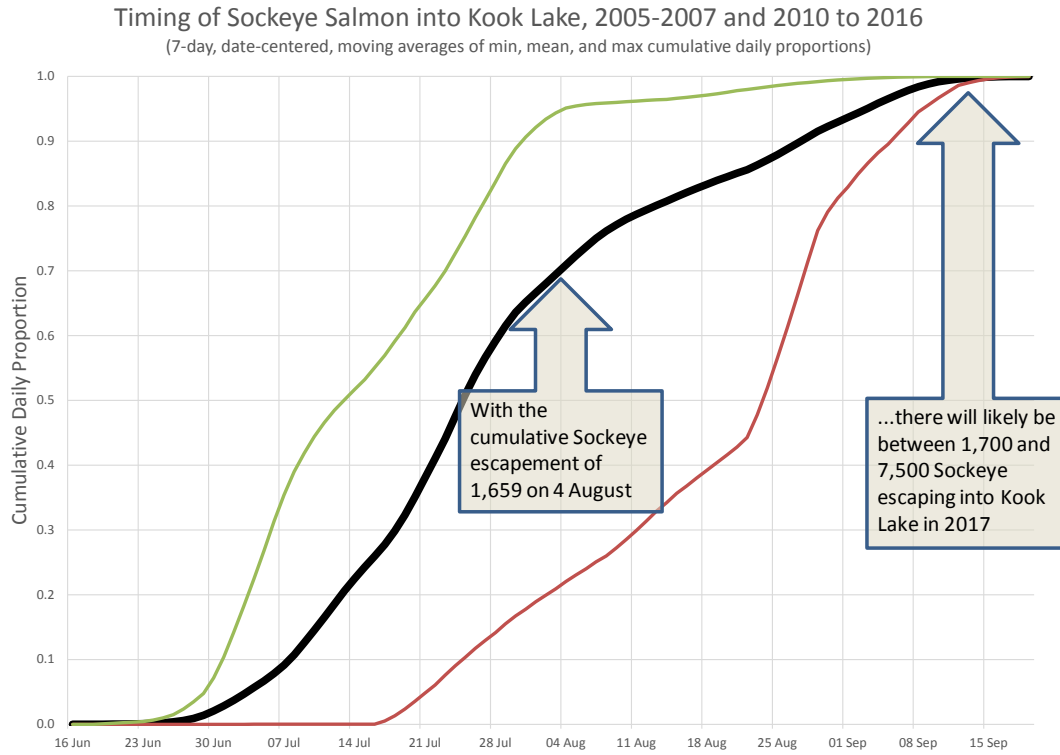


Figure 1. Timing and annual escapement charts for Sockeye Salmon escapements into Neva Lake, 2002 to 2017.



### Kook Lake Sockeye Escapement 2005 to 2007, 2010 to 2016, and Projected 2017

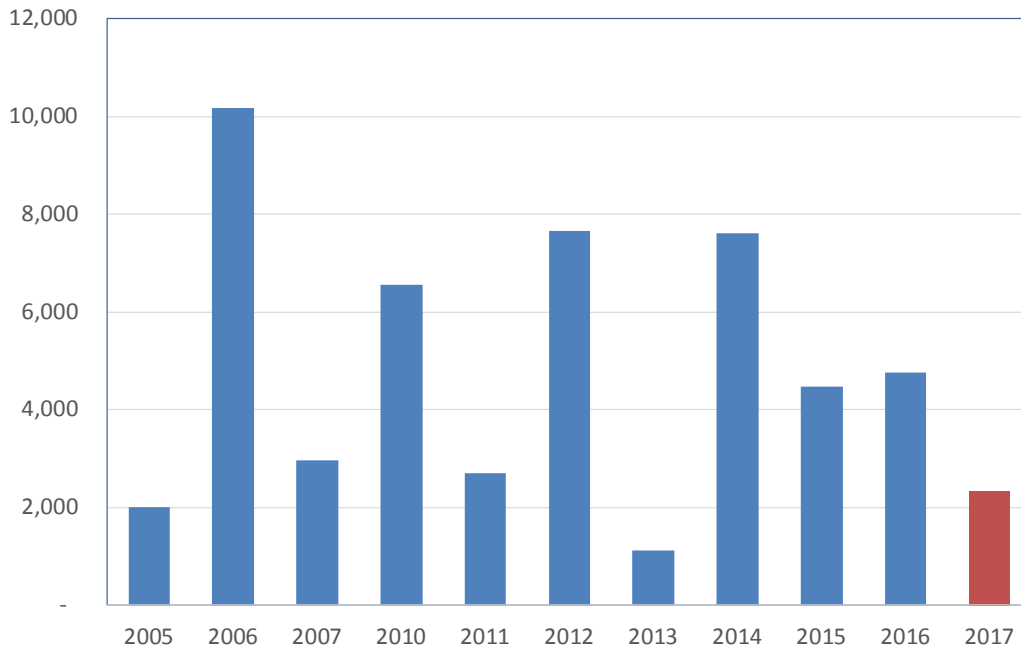


Figure 2. Timing and annual escapement charts for Sockeye Salmon escaping into Kook Lake, 2005-2007 and 2010 to 2017.

**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 268 permits issued to date across the region, 190 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 1,329 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: 1,985 Chinook, 47,245 Sockeye, 35,500 Coho, 561,050 Pink, and 748,400 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)**

The ADFG sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) discontinued data collection for the season on July 28 and provided an escapement estimate of 723,426 salmon for the season. This estimate is 13% more than the projected escapement of 638,159 for this date, or 85,267 more salmon. A daily estimate of 3,096 salmon migrated by the sonar counter on July 28.

The Chitina Subdistrict closed at 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 6. It is scheduled to reopen at 6:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 9 and remain open through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, August 13. The state and federal fisheries usually follow identical fishing schedules which are set by the state. One hundred and four (104) 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 ninety-three (293) 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 August 6, cumulative weir counts are 16,634 Sockeye Salmon and 4 Chinook Salmon.

The Long Lake salmon weir was installed on July 19 and is presently being checked on a weekly schedule. As of August 2, salmon had 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 August 6, three thousand one hundred eight (3,108) Chinook Salmon have been estimated past the site.

Ten 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.
- Decreasing the period open to subsistence fishing in the Chitina Subdistrict during the week of August 7 through August 13.

#### 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.**  
(907) 424-4759 [mburcham@fs.fed.us](mailto:mburcham@fs.fed.us)

A total of 54 Federal Subsistence fishing permits have been issued for freshwaters within the Prince William Sound of Chugach National Forest to date. One-hundred and ten permits were issued in 2016. Harvest by this year's permit holders will not be known until reports are returned this winter. In 2016, 555 Coho and 234 sockeye were reported harvested on Copper River Delta fresh waters in this fishery.

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

A total of 360 permits for Cook Inlet Federal subsistence fisheries have been issued to qualified households through August 3. 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 111 Kenai River permits (FFCI01), 107 Kasilof River permits (FFCI02), and 5 Designated Fisher permits to Ninilchik households.

Harvest reported through August 2 in the dip net fishery at Russian River Falls is 1,471 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 August 2 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 August 2 is 1,900 Sockeye Salmon and 11 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**

(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)

Subsistence fishing around the Kodiak Archipelago has been dwindling down the past couple of weeks. Many villagers have turned their attention to hunting as the season opened on August 1, 2017. Some of the weirs operated by Alaska Department of Fish and Game – Commercial Fisheries Division will be pulled during the next 2 weeks. It is understood that many subsistence users are waiting for the Coho (silver) Salmon to start migrating in before continuing their harvest efforts.

Pink Salmon are slowly returning to the Buskin River. Silvers are being caught by sport fishermen around Kodiak.

### ***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 – 180,126 Sockeye Salmon as of August 4 which is within the escapement goal range.

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 August 2 was 1,009 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 through August 9. 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 31 was approx. 453,000 fish which exceeds the upper end of the escapement goal range. The late run Sockeye Salmon escapement was approx. 218,000 for August 2 which is currently below the escapement goal and in-river goal of 275,000 – 400,000 allocated as 25,000 in August and 75,000 in September. Commercial fishing periods have been announced.

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 as of August 2 is 596,388 Sockeye Salmon which is above the 10 year average. The cumulative commercial harvest is approx. 14.5 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.**

[gerald\\_maschmann@fws.gov](mailto:gerald_maschmann@fws.gov) or Fred Bue [fredrick\\_bue@fws.gov](mailto:fredrick_bue@fws.gov)

Emmonak Summer Office (907) 949-1798

The Emmonak Field Office is closed for the season. The office staff can be contacted by calling Fairbanks at (907) 455-1849.

### **Summer Season Outlook**

The summer season is over in the lower and middle Yukon River. Districts 1-4 have transitioned to fall season management and District 5 and 6 will begin transitioning to fall season management the second week of August. The Summer Chum passage at Pilot Station through July 18 was 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**

Summer season assessment projects on the Andreafsky, Anvik, and Gisasa Rivers as well as Henshaw Creek have finished operations for the summer season. The Anvik River sonar passed 415,000 Summer Chum Salmon surpassing its minimum escapement goal of 350,000. The Andreafsky River weir passed 2,950 Chinook Salmon, below the average of 3,883, but within the escapement goal range of 2,100 to 4,900. 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 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 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 67,000 Chinook Salmon through August 4, above the average of 51,200. The Eagle sonar is past the  $\frac{3}{4}$  point of the run.

### **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 150,000 Summer Chum Salmon. Commercial fishing began in Subdistrict 6-B on July 14 with 3,631 Summer Chum harvested and 62 Chinook Salmon caught and released and 162 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 and, at this time, appears to be entering above expectations. 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 as of August 5 has a cumulative Fall Chum Salmon CPUE of 719, above the median of 538. The Mountain Village test fishery (MVTF) began on July 18, and has a cumulative CPUE of 2,127, well above the median of 804. The mainstem sonar near Pilot Station began reporting all Chum Salmon as Fall Chum Salmon on July 19. Through August 5, the Pilot Station sonar project has a cumulative passage estimate of 469,000 Fall Chum Salmon, well ahead of the average of 244,000. It appears that the first pulse of Fall Chum Salmon hit Pilot Station on July 20, the second pulse hit on July 29, and the third on August 3.

### **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 was relaxed from two, 48-hr. periods per week to 5 days per week. Drift gillnet fishing opened in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A on August 3. Subsistence fishing in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C will be relaxed from two, 48-hr. periods per week to 5 days per week on August 8. Subsistence fishermen in all areas throughout the river may use gillnets with a maximum mesh size of 7.5 inches.

Six commercial fishing periods have occurred in District 1 with a preliminary harvest of 145,000 Fall Chum Salmon and 1,871 Coho Salmon. Five commercial fishing periods have occurred in District 2 with a preliminary harvest of 38,300 Fall Chum and 222 Coho Salmon. Fall season commercial salmon fishing started in Subdistrict 4-A on July 29. Preliminary harvests after three, 24-hr. periods are 6,600 Fall Chum Salmon. Fall season commercial harvests are expected in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C as well as in District 6.

**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 ninth Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association teleconference was held on July 4. 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:**

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 August 3, the cumulative catch per unit of effort (CPUE) of Chinook salmon at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Bethel Test Fishery is 373 (Chinook Salmon Table A1). Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2016 and 2015 were 682 and 620, respectively. Chinook salmon counts at the Kwethluk river weir as of August 3, is at 7,185. Fish counts on this day during 2016 and 2015 were 3,181 and 7,887, 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 3,555.**

Date	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	5-Yr Avg.	Avg.
<b>7/31</b>	369	682	610	650	261	524	552
<b>8/1</b>	371	682	618	650	261	525	553
<b>8/2</b>	371	682	620	650	261	526	554
<b>8/3</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>554</b>
<b>EOS</b>		687	625	650	261	528	557

Cumulative CPUE for chum salmon is at 6,667. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2016 and 2015 were 3,785 and 2,819, respectively (Chum Salmon Table A1). Chum salmon counts at the Kwethluk river weir as of August 3, is at 49,229. Fish counts on this day during 2016 and 2015 were 19,865 and 20,602, respectively. **Chum salmon on the Kwethluk River have already exceeded the end of year count from 2016 which was 22,878.**

Date	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	5-Yr Avg.	Avg.
<b>7/31</b>	6,633	3,743	2,751	6,217	5,584	5,017	6,325
<b>8/1</b>	6,641	3,762	2,776	6,234	5,587	5,033	6,351
<b>8/2</b>	6,655	3,777	2,806	6,246	5,596	5,050	6,371
<b>8/3</b>	<b>6,667</b>	<b>3,785</b>	<b>2,819</b>	<b>6,254</b>	<b>5,611</b>	<b>5,063</b>	<b>6,386</b>
<b>EOS</b>		3,894	2,943	6,343	5,708	5,156	6,496

Cumulative CPUE for sockeye salmon is at 2,618. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2016 and 2015 were 2,300 and 2,145, respectively (Sockeye Salmon Table A1). Sockeye salmon counts at the Kwethluk river weir as of August 3 are at 27,889. Fish counts on this day during 2016 and 2015 were 10,173 and 8,690, respectively. **Sockeye salmon on the Kwethluk River have already exceeded the end of year count from 2016 which was 20,495.**

Date	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	5-Yr Avg.	Avg.
<b>7/31</b>	2,578	2,222	2,135	1,355	1,146	1,606	1,568
<b>8/1</b>	2,593	2,250	2,139	1,355	1,146	1,612	1,572
<b>8/2</b>	2,603	2,266	2,143	1,360	1,146	1,617	1,575
<b>8/3</b>	<b>2,618</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>1,624</b>	<b>1,579</b>
<b>EOS</b>		2,463	2,157	1,367	1,146	1,661	1,603

Cumulative CPUE for Coho salmon is at 530. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2016 and 2015 were 615 and 661, respectively (Coho Salmon Table A1). Coho salmon counts at the Kwethluk river weir as of August 3 are at 621. Fish counts on this day during 2016 and 2015 were 1,658 and 251, respectively.

Date	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	5-Yr Avg.	Avg
<b>7/31</b>	247	412	461	892	416	499	701
<b>8/1</b>	319	487	531	969	463	561	812
<b>8/2</b>	418	528	601	1,073	523	632	937
<b>8/3</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>1,191</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>1,057</b>
<b>8/4</b>		678	756	1,391	793	848	1,197
<b>8/5</b>		717	872	1,448	1,027	962	1,367

**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**

The chum salmon run has been well above average and chum salmon passages at the Norton Sound salmon counting projects have exceeded all escapement goal ranges. Silver salmon catches have now exceeded chum salmon catches in Elim, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet and the ADF&G has switched to silver salmon management in those subdistricts. To date silver salmon catches have been above average.

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

Commercial Fishing: Two 48-hour commercial salmon fishing periods opened in the Nome subdistrict from 9 PM Tuesday, August 1 until 9 PM Thursday, August 3 and from 9 PM Friday, August 4 until 9 PM Sunday, August 6.

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 to July 31 were 5 kings, 3,400 chums, 49,000 pinks, 2 sockeyes and 48 silvers.

**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 to July 31 were 6 kings, 73,000 chums, 11,000 pinks, 12 sockeyes and 29 silvers.

**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 to July 31 were 12 kings, 6,000 chums, 491,000 pinks, 170 sockeyes and 41 silvers.

**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 to July 31 were 1 king, 4,000 chums, 12,000 pinks, 8 sockeyes and 3 silvers.

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

Commercial Fishing: Two 48-hour commercial salmon fishing periods were opened in the subdistrict from 6 PM Tuesday, August 1 until 6 PM Thursday, August 3 and from 6

PM Friday, August 4 until 6 PM Sunday, August 6. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets of 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 to July 31 were 168 kings, 155,000 chums, 1 million pinks and 800 silvers.

### *Elim (Subdistrict 3)*

Commercial Fishing: Two 48-hour commercial salmon fishing periods were opened in the subdistrict from 6 PM Tuesday, August 1 until 6 PM Thursday, August 3 and from 6 PM Friday, August 4 until 6 PM Sunday, August 6. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets of 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 to July 31 were 45 kings, 32,000 chums, 390,000 pinks, 3 sockeyes and 600 silvers.

### *Norton Bay (Subdistrict 4)*

Commercial Fishing: Two 48-hour commercial salmon fishing periods were opened in the subdistrict from 6 PM Tuesday, August 1 until 6 PM Thursday, August 3 and from 6 PM Friday, August 4 until 6 PM Sunday, August 6. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets of 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 to July 31 were 2,200 kings, 89,000 chums, 1.5 million pinks, 15 sockeyes and 2,300 silvers.

### *Shaktoolik (Subdistrict 5)*

Commercial Fishing: Two 48-hour commercial salmon fishing periods were opened in the subdistrict from 6 PM Tuesday, August 1 until 6 PM Thursday, August 3 and from 6 PM Friday, August 4 until 6 PM Sunday, August 6. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets of 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 to July 31 were 1,270 kings, 113,000 chums, 1.6 million pinks and 2,400 silvers.

### *Unalakleet (Subdistrict 6)*

Federal Regulatory Restriction: The closure of Federal public waters of the Unalakleet River upstream from the mouth of the Chirosky River expired Tuesday, August 1 by federal regulation.

Commercial Fishing: Two 48-hour commercial salmon fishing periods were opened in the subdistrict from 6 PM Tuesday, August 1 until 6 PM Thursday, August 3 and from 6 PM Friday, August 4 until 6 PM Sunday, August 6. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets of 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 to July 31 were 2,900 kings, 134,000 chums, 5.2 million pinks, 1,100 sockeyes and 4,000 silvers.

**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 to July 31 were 1,000 kings, 22,000 chums, 1.4 million pinks and 700 silvers.

### **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 to July 31 were 75 kings, 32,000 chums, 67,000 pinks and 46,000 sockeyes.

## **Kotzebue District**

Commercial Fishing: There were two commercial salmon fishing openings for eight hour fishing periods from 11 AM until 7 PM on Sunday, July 30 and 12 noon until 8 PM on Monday, July 31. The commercial harvest to Monday, July 31 was 153,000 chum salmon. Last year's commercial fishing harvest was 126,000 chum salmon at the same point. The number of permit holders fishing has been 15% higher this year. The peak of the chum salmon run past Kotzebue should be the first and second weeks of August as the Noatak River run combines with the upper Kobuk River run. Daily commercial salmon fishing periods were announced later in the week from 10 AM to 12 midnight on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. However, both buyers could set their own hours so permit holders would need to check with their buyer to make sure they are buying for the entire fishing period. The ADF&G announced on Monday, July 31 that concerns had arisen over fishing effort occurring offshore the Kotzebue airport runway. The fishing activity often attracts birds and can create a hazardous situation for airplanes. Therefore, the department closed fishing in the area offshore of the main runway to one nautical mile out in the ocean from the Weather Service Dome south of the runway and the Nana building north of the runway effective August 1.

**Kobuk River Test Fish** - a Fish and Game project. The Kobuk River (ADF&G) test fish crew at Kiana has reported increasing chum salmon catches, and the July catch ranks 9<sup>th</sup> highest in the 25-year project history. The midpoint of the chum run at Kiana is usually the end of the first week of August. In the previous 24 years of test fishing at Kiana the north bank chum salmon catches only exceeded the south bank chum salmon catches in 2007 and 2016. In 2007 the north bank had 55% of the chum catch, and in 2016 the north bank had 57% of the chum catch. So far this year the north bank drifts at the test fishing site have caught 75% of the chum salmon. So the usual south bank hot spot on the Kobuk River downstream of Kiana has gone cold.

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