

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 6 –11, 2017. Report #11.

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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.

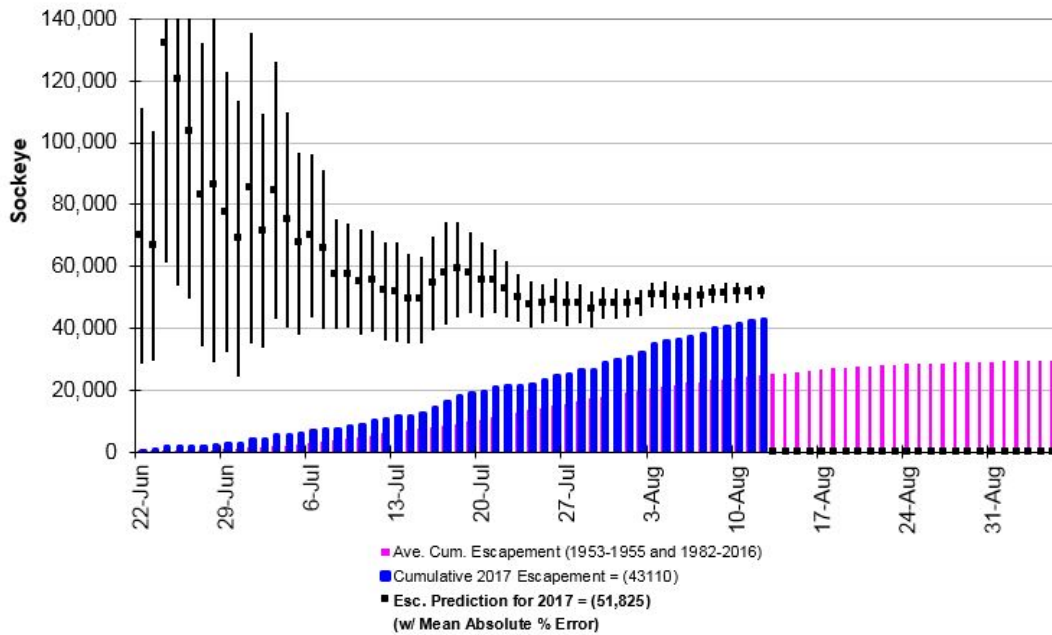
Sitka and Hoonah Area – Justin Koller, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
(907)747-4297 jpkoller@fs.fed.us

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 12, 2,921 Sockeye Salmon have been counted through the fish pass and 683 sockeye have been reported harvested. The actual number of sockeye in the lake is probably at least 5,000 since many sockeye also migrate into the lake via the falls. A final estimate will be made using recapture data generated by the video net weir. 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 12, 669 sockeye have passed the weir and harvesters have reported taking 994 sockeye. Rain in the forecast should result in sockeye moving into the system at 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 12, 43,110 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.



Final escapement predictions for Redoubt Lake Sockeye Salmon based on daily weir counts

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

On August 7, Martin Hutten reported that “There have been 127 fishing permits issued for the Stikine River subsistence salmon fishery. While weather has been excellent, fishing pressure has been very low. The estimated cumulative subsistence harvest is 10 large Chinook, 0 Coho and 1,850 Sockeye Salmon.”

Yakutat, Juneau, and Admiralty areas of Northern Southeast Alaska - Ben Van Alen (907-789-6257; bvanalen@fs.fed.us) and Jake Musslewhite (907-789-6256; 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 10 are 1,187 large Chinook Salmon, 91,146 Sockeye Salmon, 263,780 Pink Salmon, 370 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 Alsek, 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 relatively poor this week and the in-river run is projection has now dropped from 138,000 fish to a little more than 100,000 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 282 and the minimum escapement goal is 4,000. In Lynn Canal, counts of Sockeye Salmon at the Chilkat River fishwheels and through the Chilkoot River weir have been below average but the Chilkat Weir counts are within goal ranges. In the eight week of commercial purse seine openings for the season, there were openings on August 8 and 12 in Icy, upper Chatham Strait, and Tenakee Inlet. Seine effort has now shifted to the Chichagof Shore north of Sitka.

Total counts of Sockeye Salmon through the Neva and Kook Lake weirs as of August 10 were 2,373 and 1,774 (Figures 1 and 2). There were 2,389 Sockeye Salmon counted through the video net weirs at Sitkoh Lake through August 3. At Kanalku Lake, the ADF&G project leader Ray Vinzant reported on August 10 that 418 Sockeye Salmon have been counted through their video weir at the outlet of the lake.

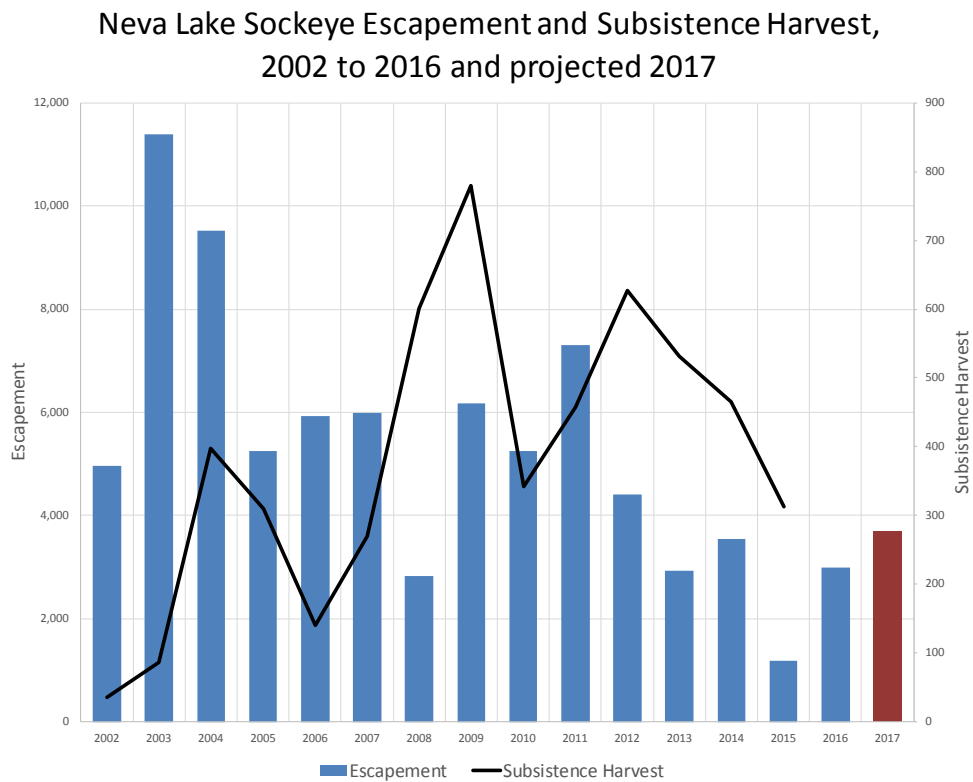
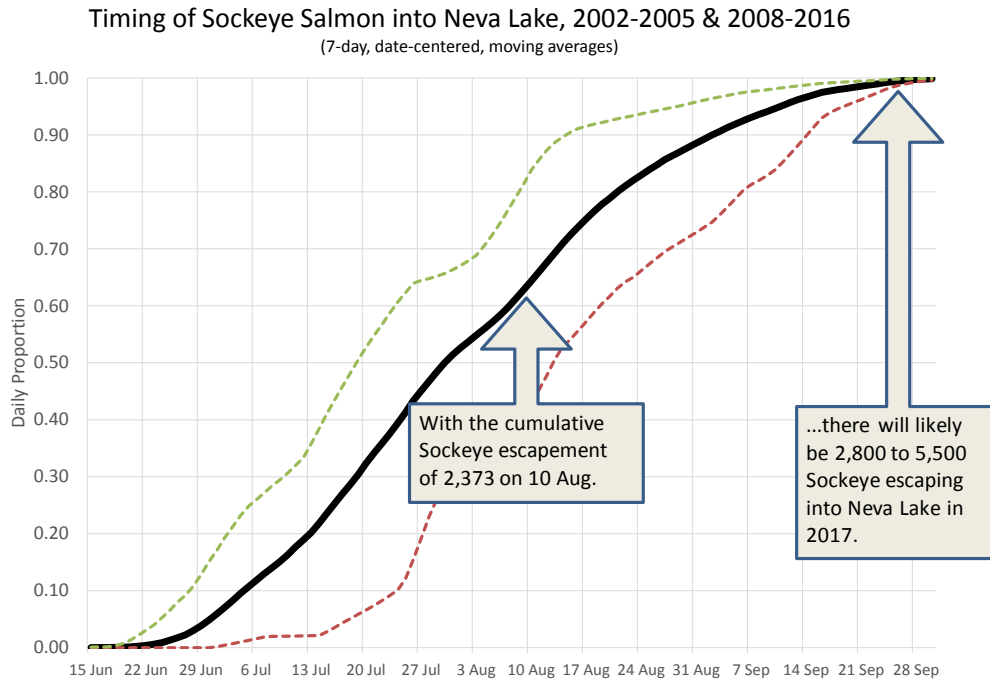
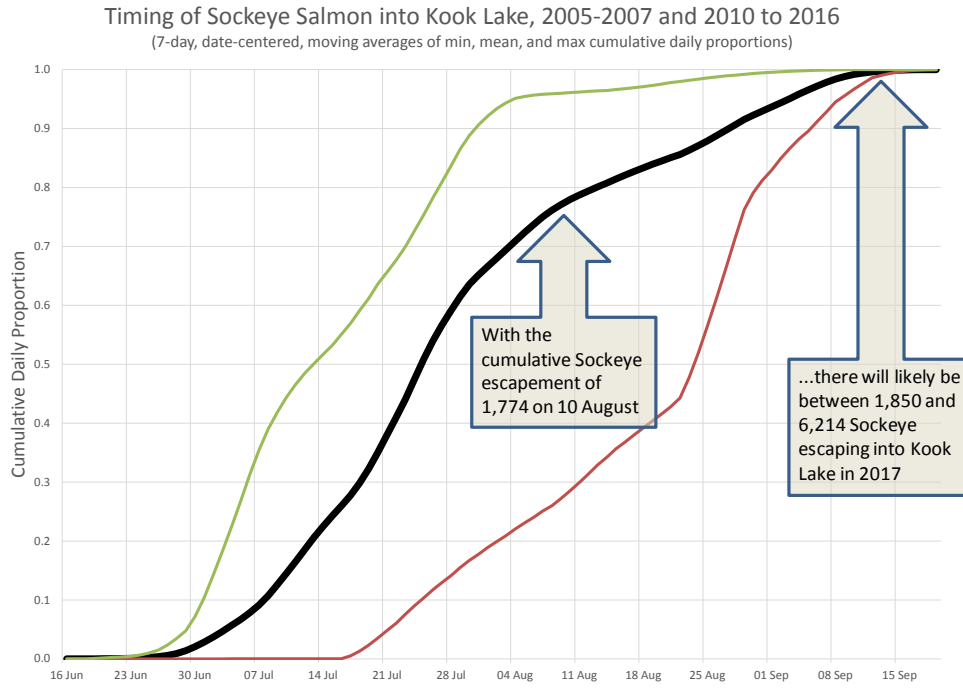


Figure 1. Timing and annual escapement charts for Sockeye Salmon escapements into Neva Lake, 2002 to 2017.



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

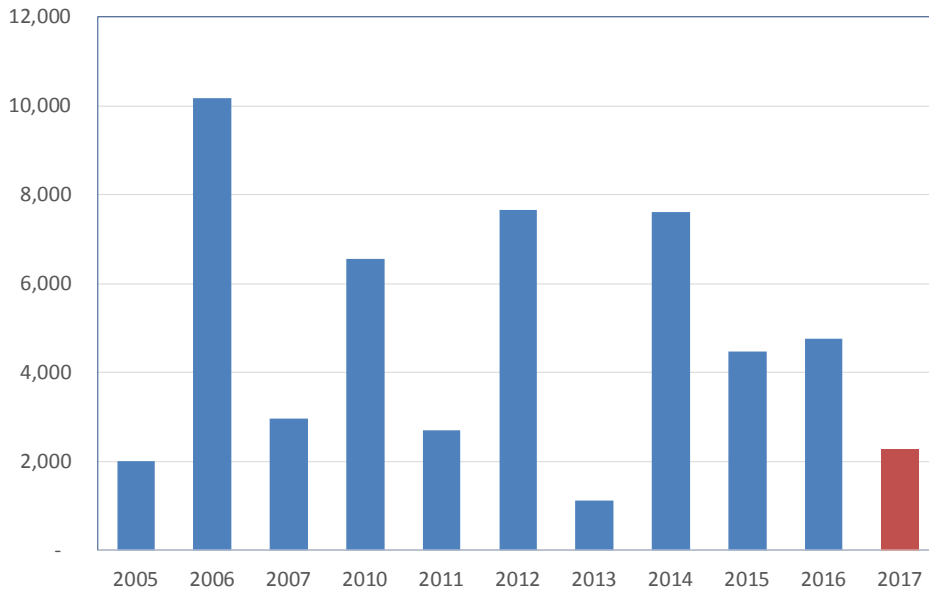


Figure 2. Timing and annual escapement charts for Sockeye Salmon escaping into Kook Lake, 2005-2007 and 2010 to 2017.

Prince of Wales and Ketchikan District Area – Jeff Reeves, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest. (907) 826-1649 jreeves@fs.fed.us

Of the 268 permits issued to date across the region, 191 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 5,081 Sockeye Salmon counted to date. The Eek Lake weir project has counted approximately 200 Sockeye Salmon to date. The Klawock River weir has passed 3,118 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: 2,305 Chinook, 62,695 Sockeye, 39,400 Coho, 965,050 Pink, and 765,800 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*

*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

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 13. It is scheduled to reopen at 12:01 p.m. Tuesday, August 15 and remain open through September 30. 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 30th. Two hundred ninety-four (294) 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 this season.

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 13, cumulative weir counts are 18,730 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 9, 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 10, three thousand one hundred twenty-six (3,126) Chinook Salmon have been estimated past the site.

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

- Delaying Upper Coper 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 and during the week of August 14 through 20.

Links

ADF&G Miles Lake daily sonar estimates

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon_escapement

NVE's Chinook Escapement Monitoring project in the Copper River

<http://eyak.fishscan.com/Summary/DailySummary.aspx>

ADF&G Copper River Inseason Commercial Harvest Estimates

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.harvestsummary>

Gulkana River counting tower – ADF&G

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

PWS and Copper River Delta – Milo Burcham, Chugach National Forest, Cordova.
(907) 424-4759 mburcham@fs.fed.us

No report submitted.

Cook Inlet Area – Jeff Anderson, Field Supervisor, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office (907) 260-0132 jeffry_anderson@fws.gov

This is the final weekly report for the Cook Inlet Area 2017 fishing season.

A total of 360 permits for Cook Inlet Federal subsistence fisheries have been issued to qualified households through August 11. 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 11 in the dip net fishery at Russian River Falls is 1,493 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 11 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 11 is 2,169 Sockeye Salmon and 11 Pink Salmon. Terminal gear (anchor, buoy, sandbags) for the gillnet was reported stolen on August 7 and law enforcement officials are investigating.

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

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

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. Escapement projects are no longer operational and have been removed. The total Bristol Bay run size was approx. 56 million Sockeye Salmon of which approx. 38 million were harvested in commercial fisheries and approx. 18 million were counted at escapement projects. Subsistence harvest opportunity was provided for all users.

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 – 190,098 Sockeye Salmon as of August 5 which is within the escapement goal range. This escapement project is no longer operational.

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 9 was 1,045 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. 255,000 for August 9 which is currently below the escapement goal of 275,000 – 400,000, this number includes the in-river goals for August and September. The current escapement count has met the August in-river goal of 25,000. The remaining in-river goal of 50,000 in September will be monitored during the timeframe. 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 9 was approx. 659,000 Sockeye Salmon which is above the 10 year average. The cumulative commercial harvest is approx. 19 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

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Chignik Area

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 or Fred Bue 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 Alaskan portion of the drainage. 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 total run abundance above the upper end of the preseason forecast with approximately 259,000 passing the Pilot Station sonar, the highest since 2005. Chinook Salmon passage past the Eagle sonar is winding down. At this time 71,000 have been estimated to have passed the sonar. This is enough to meet Canadian escapement needs and harvest sharing commitments.

Fall Season Outlook

The Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan went into effect for District 1 beginning July 16. Most the Alaskan portion of the drainage has switched to fall season management. The 2017 Fall Chum Salmon preseason run projection, based on the Summer Chum to Fall Chum Salmon relationship, is for an above average run size greater than 1.1 million fish and, at this time, appears to be entering near 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 10 has a cumulative Fall Chum Salmon CPUE of 811, above the median of 693. The Mountain Village test fishery (MVTF) began on July 18, and has a cumulative CPUE of 2,207, well above the median of 1,106. The mainstem sonar near Pilot Station began reporting all Chum Salmon as Fall Chum Salmon on July 19. Through August 10, near the average mid-point of the run, the Pilot Station sonar project has a cumulative passage estimate of 497,000 Fall Chum Salmon which is well ahead of the median of 323,500. 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. A fourth pulse appears to be entering on August 11. The Coho Salmon run appears to be off to a slow start. However, it is still well before the typical first quarter point in normal run timing and expectations are for a near average over-all Coho Salmon run yet to come. The Chandalar River sonar began operations on August 8 and has an estimated fall chum salmon passage of 4,300 through August 10.

Fall Season Management Actions

Most of the Alaskan portion of the drainage is 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 and Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C was relaxed from two, 48-hr. periods per week to 5 days per week at the start of their fall season. Drift gillnet fishing opened in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A on August 3. Subsistence fishermen in the middle river requested additional subsistence fishing time to harvest a strong pulse expected to pass their area during a scheduled closed fishing period. Because assessment near the mid-point in the run indicates with confidence that the Fall Chum Salmon run could support the additional fishing opportunity, District 4 and Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C were liberalized to 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Subsistence fishermen in all areas throughout the river may use gillnets with a maximum mesh size of 7.5 inches.

Seven commercial fishing periods have occurred in District 1 with a preliminary harvest of 147,000 Fall Chum Salmon and 2,619 Coho Salmon. Six commercial fishing periods have occurred in District 2 with a preliminary harvest of 42,000 Fall Chum and 1,200 Coho Salmon. Fall season commercial salmon fishing started in Subdistrict 4-A on July 29. Preliminary harvest after four, 24-hr. commercial fishing periods is 7,243 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. The tenth Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association teleconference was held on August 8. 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; (907) 543-3151 or lewis_coggins@fws.gov

No report submitted.

Yukon-Kuskokwim-Interior Alaska Web Links

Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases:

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Yukon–Northern Area

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

Kuskokwim River Updates Hosted on OSM Website

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

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kuskokwim Area

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

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

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

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

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

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Interior Alaska:

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

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:

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

Northwest Alaska – Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, Nome.
(907) 443-2522 ken_adkisson@nps.gov

Norton Sound District

The ADF&G reports that catches in the latest commercial openings indicate that a top 10 silver harvest is a possibility this year. Silver salmon catches have been average to well above average in all six subdistricts. As a result of high water, all the southern Norton Sound counting towers have been out of commission. Remaining weirs and counting towers in northern Norton Sound currently remain operational; however, heavy rains might knock out some more projects this coming weekend.

Commercial Fishing: Commercial fishing continues in all 6 subdistricts. The cumulative catch is 390 kings, 155,000 chums, 2,000 sockeyes, 20,000 pinks and 59,000 silvers by 120 permit holders. The commercial fishing periods in Subdistricts 2-6 are from 6 PM Tuesday until 6 PM Thursday, and from 6 PM Friday until 6 PM Monday.

Nome (Subdistrict 1)

Commercial Fishing: The Cumulative catches are 7 Kings, 6,000 chums, 1,700 pinks, 225 sockeyes and 400 silvers by 4 permit holders. The next fishing period is from 9 PM Friday until 9 PM Sunday.

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 August 10 were 8 kings, 4,000 chums, 61,000 pinks and 170 silvers. The chum count is a record. The silver count for the date is a record 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. Final counts to July 31 were 6 kings, 73,500 chums, 12,000 pinks, 12 sockeyes and 30 silvers. The weir project was pulled on August 1. The pink count was the 2nd highest for an odd-numbered year. The chum count was a record for the 23-year project history, nearly doubling the previous record of 42,000 chum salmon counted in 2006. The Eldorado chum salmon escapement was higher than all but 5 entire Nome subdistrict chum salmon escapements in the 2000's. 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 August 10 were 14 kings, 7,700 chums, 700,000 pinks, 230 sockeyes and 600 silvers. In the 25-year project history, the chum count is a record, and the pink count is a record for an odd numbered year and is over double the previous record pink count set in 2005. The silver count is off to the best start in 10 years.

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 August 10 were 2 kings, 4,500 chums, 19,000 pinks, 12 sockeyes and 50 silvers. The chum count for the date is the fifth highest, and the pink count is the 2nd highest for an odd-numbered year in the 23-year project history. The silver count is slightly below average.

Golovin (Subdistrict 2)

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch is 3 kings, 6,900 chums, 200 pinks, 75 sockeyes and 530 silvers by 7 permit holders. The silver catch has been average.

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 August 10 were 168 kings, 161,000 chums, 1.3 million pinks, 18 sockeyes and 7,500 silvers. The silver count is the highest in the 3 years counting occurring this late in the season.

Elim (Subdistrict 3)

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch is 28 kings, 11,000 chums, 2,900 pinks, 270 sockeyes and 4,000 silvers by 21 permit holders. The silver catch has been well above average.

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 August 10 were 54 kings, 33,000 chums, 500,000 pinks and 3,100 silvers. The silver count is off to the best start in 10 years.

Norton Bay (Subdistrict 4)

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catches through August 10 were 52 kings, 29,000 chums, 3,300 pinks, 200 sockeyes and 1,500 silvers by 16 permit holders. The silver

catch is well below recent record catches but is near the historical average.

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 until July 30 were 2,200 kings, 90,000 chums, 1.6 million pinks and 2,400 silvers. High water has prevented further counting.

Shaktoolik (Subdistrict 5)

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch is 38 kings, 41,000 chums, 1,500 pinks, 330 sockeyes and 21,000 silvers by 24 permit holders. Silver catches are on a near record pace.

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 until August 2 were 1,270 kings, 114,000 chums, 1.7 million pinks and 3,600 silvers. The crew got the sonar going on August 4 and has estimated an additional 2,000 chums, 29,000 pinks and 1,500 silvers passing.

Unalakleet (Subdistrict 6)

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch 260 kings, 61,000 chums, 10,300 pinks, 870 sockeyes and 31,000 silvers by 51 permit holders. Silver catches are well above average.

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 August 10 were 2,900 kings, 144,000 chums, 5.8 million pinks, 1,100 sockeyes and 18,000 silvers. The weir was submerged for 2 days but counting resumed on August 5. However, the weir is now being pulled. The silver count was the second highest, trailing only the 2015 run.

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). Cumulative counts to August 1 were 1,044 kings, 23,000 chums, 1.4 million pinks and 900 silvers. High water has prevented further counting.

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 August 10 were 96 kings, 43,000 chums, 80,000 pinks, 54,700 sockeyes and 110 silvers. The sockeye count may end up finishing second highest (56,000) to the record 85,000 sockeyes counted in 2004. From August 2-5 over 1,100 sockeyes were counted through the weir daily. In only one other year (2006) was there one day in August when more than 1,000 sockeyes were counted through the weir. Thursday's count dropped to 125 sockeyes after the previous four days averaging 400 sockeyes/day. The average midpoint of the sockeye passage through the weir this season was July 14, about 5 days earlier than the historical average.

Kotzebue District

Commercial Fishing: The 2017 commercial harvest is 353,000 chum salmon and ranks 10th highest all-time, and may finish as high as 6th best in the 56-year history of the fishery. The ADF&G forecast was for a harvest of 250,000 to 450,000 chum salmon this year. The average number of permit holders fishing daily has increased 67% compared to last year, and commercial fishing hours increased 30% more than last year. Commercial fishing continues to be open from 9 AM to 11 PM through Friday evening.

Kobuk River Test Fish - a Fish and Game project. The water level was way up at the test net in Kiana which resulted in an expected drop off in the catches. However, catches have rebounded with the biggest catches of the season occurring on Tuesday. Tuesday's test net catch was the 11th highest one day chum salmon catch in history trailing only 10 days of catches during the record run of 2014. The cumulative chum salmon catch index through Thursday ranks 8th 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. Catches have picked up on the south bank and now comprise the majority chum salmon catches this season which is consistent with historical catches at the Kiana drift gillnet project.

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