

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 19 – 25, 2018.

Report #13 - Compiled by George Pappas - (907) 786-3822, George_Pappas@fws.gov
Office of Subsistence Management, USFWS.

Falls Lake Sockeye Salmon - The Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake operate the Falls Lake trap and video net weir which were installed June 29 and removed on August 18. During this time, 592 Sockeye Salmon have been counted at the trap and about 700 have been harvested in the subsistence fishery. Escapement through the net weir, which attempts to account for all fish entering the lake, is at least 1,200. On average, 96% of the run has entered the lake by August 18. The final escapement estimate in 2017 was 4,662 Sockeye Salmon while the final subsistence and sport harvest in the marine terminal area was 732. Subsistence harvest accounted for 89% of terminal area harvest.

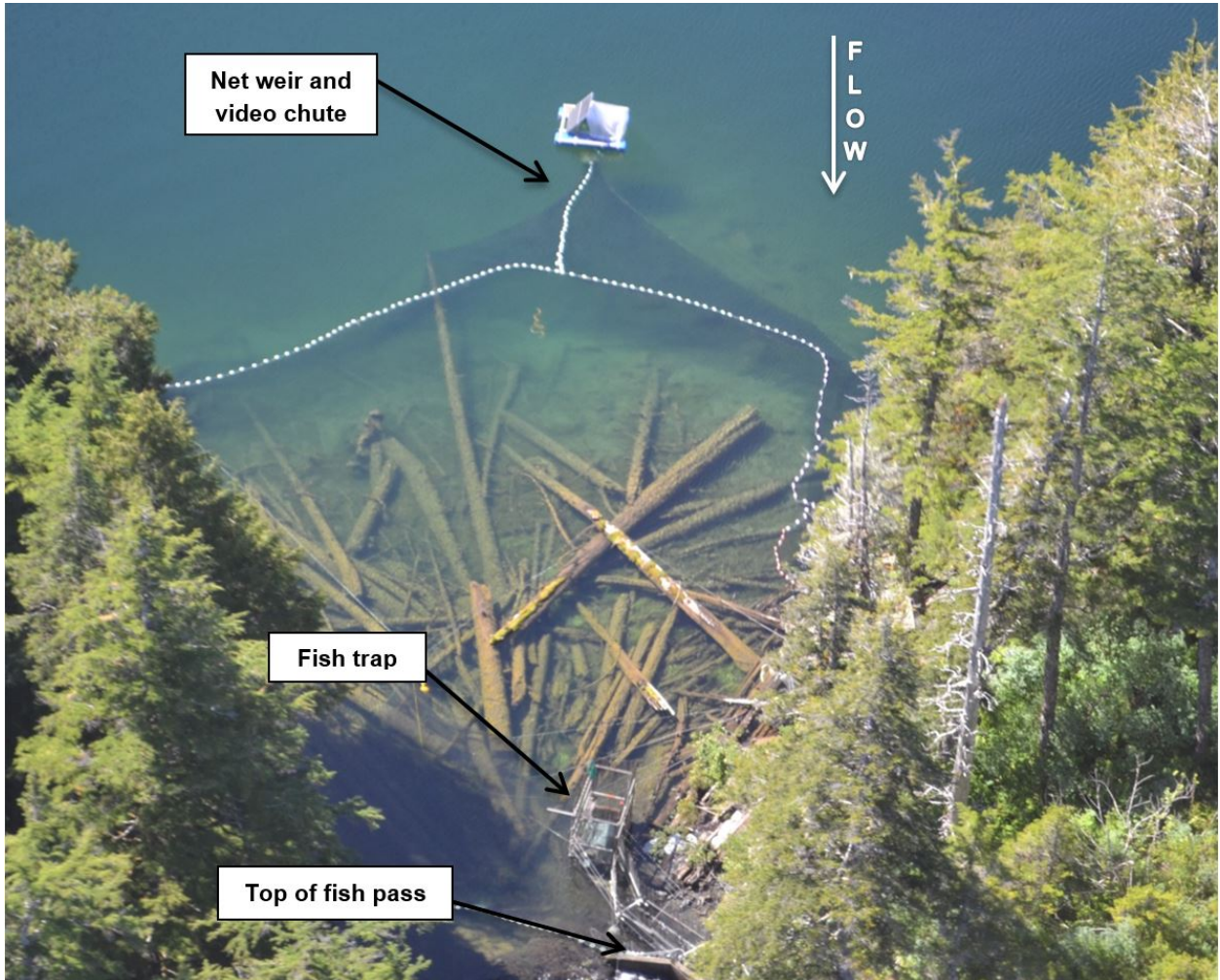


Figure 1. Aerial photo of the Falls Lake outlet illustrating the typical location of weir equipment.

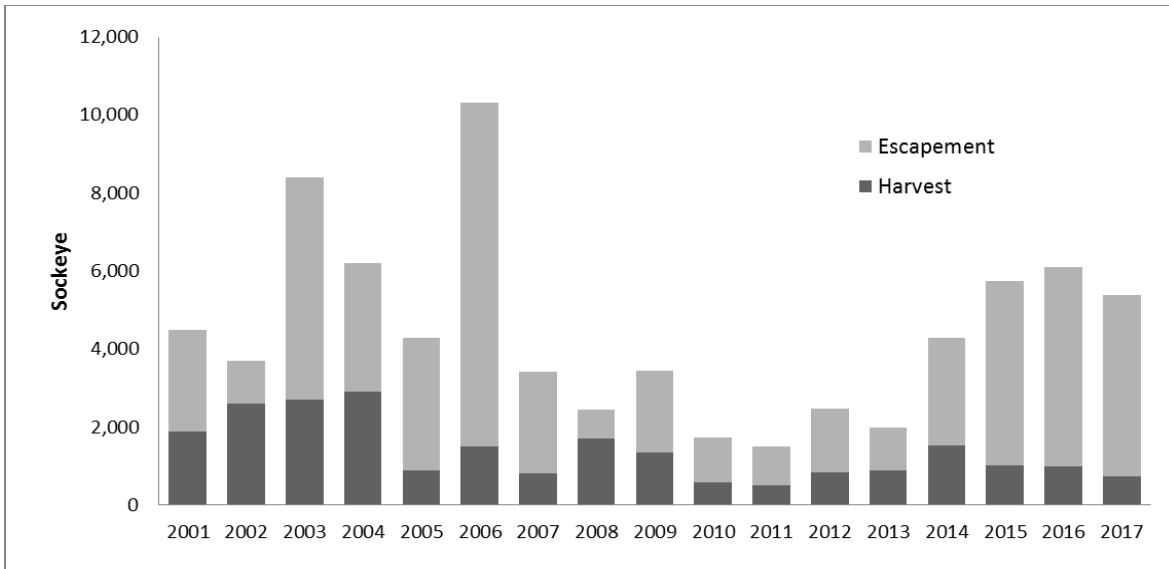


Figure 2. Escapement plus harvest equals total terminal run of Sockeye Salmon at Falls Lake, 2001-2017.

Klag Bay Sockeye Salmon - The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the Sockeye Salmon monitoring weir at Klag Bay, which was operating as of June 28. As of August 26, 2,035 Sockeye Salmon have been counted at the weir and 881 have been harvested in the subsistence fishery. On average, 82% of the run has entered the lake by August 26. In 2017, approximately 3,898 migrated past the weir while an estimated 1,087 were harvested in the marine terminal area subsistence and sport fisheries. Subsistence harvest accounted for over 99% of terminal area harvest.

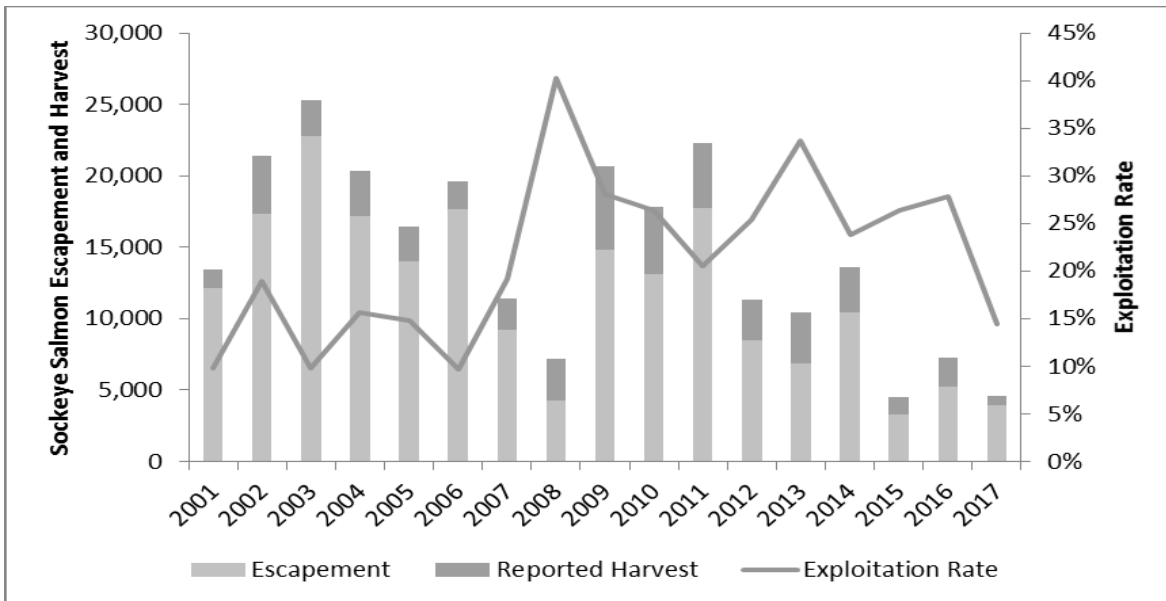


Figure 3. Reported harvest, escapement, and exploitation rate for Klag Lake Sockeye Salmon, 2001-2017.

Redoubt Lake Sockeye Salmon - The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir which was installed June 16. As of August 25, 71,421 Sockeye Salmon have entered the lake which is well above average. The Redoubt Lake Sockeye Salmon model is predicting that 75,000 Sockeye Salmon will return to Redoubt Lake this season (**Figure 4**). On July 11, in accordance with the Redoubt Bay and Lake Sockeye Salmon Management Plan, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game raised the subsistence limit from 10 daily and 50 annual per household to 25 daily and 100 annually per household. These limits were based on an in-season model prediction of about 95,000 returning. The number of Sockeye Salmon harvested is expected to be high given the level of effort observed. Total harvest will not be available until early 2019. In 2017, at least 55,702 Sockeye Salmon passed through the weir into Redoubt Lake (**Figure 5**) and 4,294 were harvested.

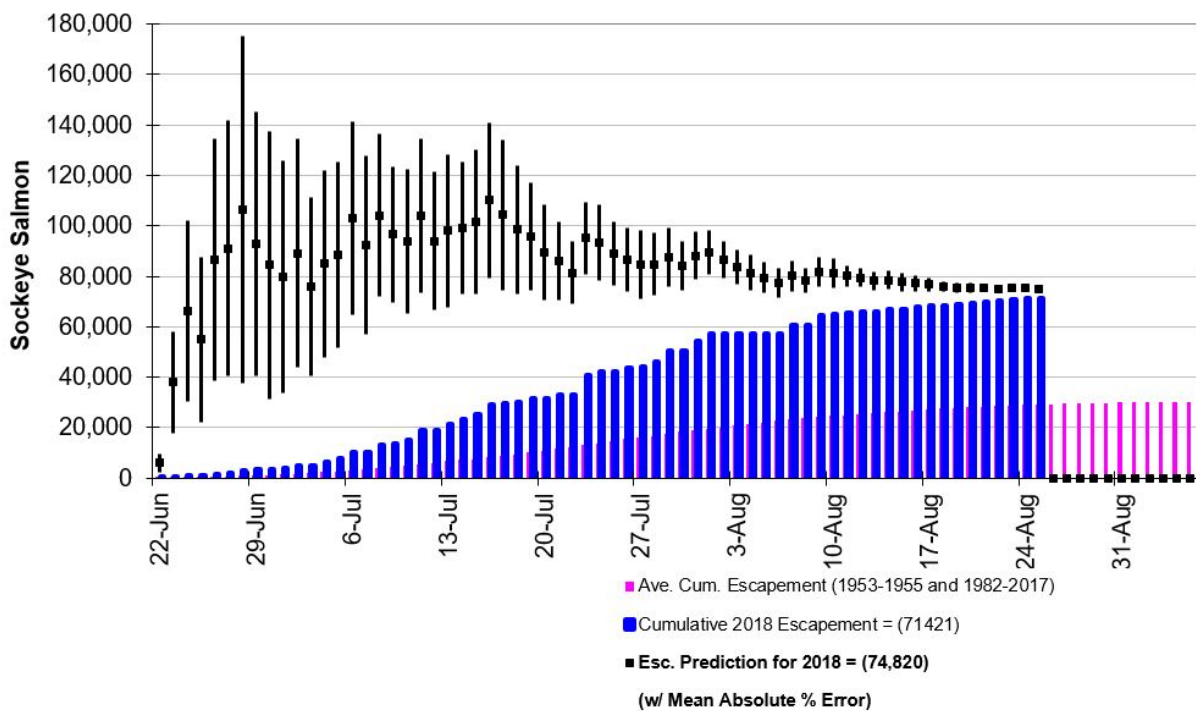


Figure 4. In season predictions of the Redoubt Lake Sockeye Salmon escapement based on weir counts through August 25.

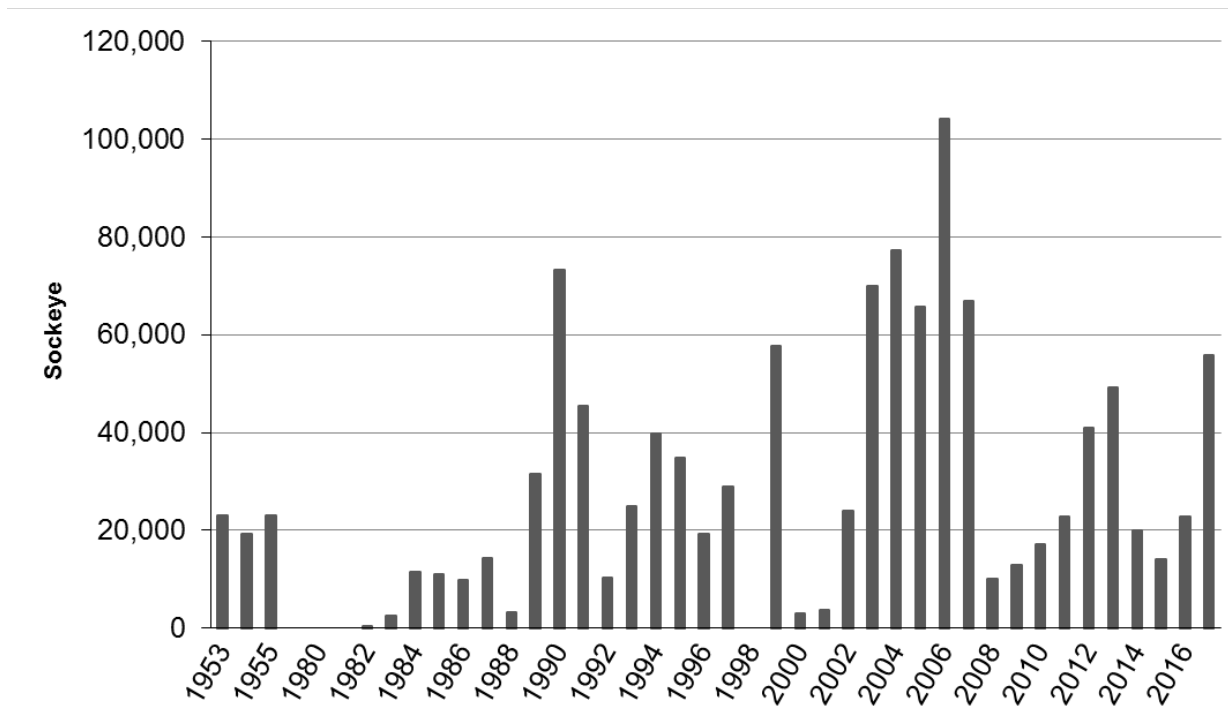


Figure 5. Annual Sockeye Salmon expanded escapement into Redoubt Lake for years with data: 1953 to 1955, 1982 to 1997, and 1999 to 2017. The weir was not operated in 1998.

Sitka Sound Pacific Herring – The commercial, subsistence, and spawning season for Pacific Herring in Sitka Sound occurs about mid-March through mid-April. According to preliminary accounts and data, the commercial and subsistence seasons were not successful in 2018 while the spawning season was marginally successful. The commercial fishery closed on April 3 with only about one third of the guideline harvest level (GHL) harvested. Accounts from the Sitka Tribe of Alaska indicate poor quantity and quality of subsistence harvest, and that their subsistence needs were not met. Other harvesters have said their catch rates were lower than the Tribes. Miles of shoreline receiving herring spawn indicates the spawning season was below average. However, preliminary estimates of spawn extent from shore and deposition are encouraging as related to the post spawn biomass calculation. This estimate will be available this Fall.

[Alaska Department of Fish and Game news release with a synopsis of the commercial season](#)

Sitka Chinook Salmon – The Chinook Salmon season in Sitka was poor for both the commercial and sport fisheries. Fishers from both groups reported below average catch rates. Management measures decreased the bag limits for resident and non-resident sport anglers and curtailed commercial fishery opportunity. There have been recent reports of increased King Salmon catch in the sport fishery around Sitka.

[More information on King Salmon management in Southeast Alaska.](#)

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

Prince of Wales Island/Ketchikan Area

Currently 232 Federal salmon/trout/char permits have been issued in the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat region. Of these, 151 have been issued to Federally-qualified subsistence users residing on Prince of Wales Island.

The Hetta Lake weir has been operational since June 7, with 6983 Sockeye Salmon counted at the site. The Eek Lake weir has been operational since June 12th with 46 Sockeye Salmon counted. Both projects are run by the Hydaburg Cooperative Association (HCA). HCA has requested local residents to not engage in any subsistence fishing activity at Eek until 1000 fish have been counted through the weir. The Klawock fish hatchery weir, operated by Southern Southeast Alaska Regional Aquaculture Association, has been in place since July 1. To date, 1627 Sockeye Salmon have been counted.

All commercial fisheries net fisheries are currently active in Districts 1, 2 and 4 while commercial troll fisheries are open in Districts 1-4. The second commercial troll fishery for Chinook Salmon closed on August 19th. Cumulative harvest to date for Districts 1-4 are 3,920 Chinook Salmon, 158,710 Sockeye Salmon, 86,540 Coho Salmon, 3,042,595 Pink Salmon and 782,500 Chum Salmon.

Petersburg/Wrangell area

This year's run of Chinook Salmon to the Stikine River is weak and was forecasted at 6,900 fish. This forecast is less than half of the bottom range of the 14,000 to 28,000 fish goal. Directed commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries in the area have been closed to protect this return.

Currently, all commercial fisheries are open in the area. The second commercial troll fishery for Chinook Salmon closed on August 19th. Cumulative harvest to date for Districts 6-8 are: 4880 Chinook Salmon, 37,990 Sockeye Salmon, 68,100 Coho Salmon, 1,763,400 Pink Salmon and 510,000 Chum Salmon.

There have been 117 fishing permits issued for the Stikine River subsistence salmon fishery. A rapidly rising river resulted in poor fishing conditions for part of the week and a field survey observed no one fishing. The estimated cumulative subsistence harvest is 10 large Chinook, 35 Coho and 1,730 Sockeye Salmon.

Currently 232 Federal salmon/trout/char permits have been issued in the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat region. Of these, 49 have been issued to Federally-qualified subsistence users residing in the Petersburg/Wrangell area.

Yakutat, Juneau, and Admiralty areas of Northern Southeast Alaska - Jake Musslewhite (907-789-6256; jgmusslewhite@fs.fed.us), Forest Service, Tongass National Forest.

August 24, 2018

Yakutat area: Recent high water has hampered fisheries in the Yakutat area and forced the removal of the Situk River weir. The final escapement estimates of 35,322 Sockeye Salmon and 375 large Chinook Salmon are below the goals for both species. Limited commercial fisheries have been conducted, but effort and catch have been below average.

Northern Inside waters: Pink salmon catches in the commercial purse seine fishery continue to be poor, with only 5.6 million fish harvested Southeast-wide of August 16. Future seine openings will likely be restricted to District 13, due to poor returns throughout Southeast Alaska. Gillnet fishing in the Taku area was slow, as Sockeye Salmon runs have tapered off. It was a similar story in the Lynn Canal area, with Sockeye catches below historical averages. While counts of Sockeye Salmon at the Chilkoot River weir are at the upper part of the escapement goal, the numbers through the Chilkat weir appear unlikely to reach the lower end of the escapement goal.

Neva Lake Sockeye Salmon: As the rains came, so did the fish. Counts of Sockeye Salmon through the Neva Lake video weir have dramatically improved over the past few weeks. Over 1,000 fish passed through the weir on August 8, and the (incomplete) count now stands at 3,238. While this count is not spectacular, it's a definite improvement from earlier in the season. Due to the seasonal closure of the Ocean Beauty Seafoods plant, the crew was forced to vacate their comfy cabin in Excursion Inlet and move the operation to Hoonah, where they are now viewing and recording the live video feed over the internet (**Figure 1**). Luckily, the construction of a fence around the video chute exit seems to be working to keep the beavers out, while allowing fish to pass freely into the lake (**Figure 2**).



Figure 1. Video capture of Sockeye Salmon passing through the Neva Lake video weir.



Figure 2. Screen capture of surveillance video feed from the Neva Lake weir, showing the beaver-deterrent fence around the video chute.

Sitkoh Lake Sockeye Salmon: We are still waiting for numbers to improve at the Sitkoh Lake weir (**Figure 3**). As of August 22, just over 200 Sockeye Salmon had passed through the weir, which is drastically below normal. For comparison, about 3,700 fish had passed the weir at this time last year, and 11,205 in 2016. Many fish have been observed to have injuries, so there may be some sort of passage impediment downstream of the weir. A field crew will be visiting the site next week and will investigate further. While Sockeye Salmon have been scarce, we did see a Boreal Toad pass through the weir, which was a first (**Figure 4**).



Figure 3. Surveillance camera image of a pair of deer walking by the Sitkoh Lake net weirs.



Figure 4. A Boreal Toad and a sculpin hang out in a video chute at the Sitkoh Lake weir.

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, 8/18/2018 Update – Dave Sarafin, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve, (907) 822-7281, dave_sarafin@nps.gov

Author is deployed in the field conducting a mark and recapture project within the Wrangell- St. Elias National Park. Author expected to provide summary next week.

Links:

ADFG 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>

ADFG Copper River Inseason Commercial Harvest Estimates

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

ADFG Gulkana River counting tower

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

ADFG 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.
(907) 424-4759 mburcham@fs.fed.us

A total of 79 Federal Subsistence fishing permits have been issued for freshwaters within the Chugach National Forest portion of the Prince William Sound area of to date. Harvest by this year's permit holders will not be known until reports are returned this winter. Ninety-seven permits were issued in 2017 resulting in the reported harvest of 514 Coho and 127 Sockeye Salmon from Copper River Delta fresh waters in this fishery.

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

Reporting concluded for season. Contact author with questions and comments at above contact information.

Fish counts at some Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Department)-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>

Kodiak Island Area – Michael Brady, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR

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Kevin_VanHatten@fws.gov

Reporting concluded for season. Contact author with questions and comments at above contact information.

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

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All of the assessments of salmon returns are conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and provide the basis for any in-season assessment and management.

Bristol Bay:

The 2018 Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon run is forecast to be approximately 41 to 61 million fish for nine river systems: Kvichak, Alagnak, Naknek, Egegik, Ugashik, Wood, Igushik, Nushagak, and Togiak Rivers. All river met escapement goals. The commercial salmon season in Bristol Bay opened June 1. Commercial harvest as of August 23 is approximately 43.6 million fish for all salmon species throughout all districts.

Chignik:

Chignik River bound Sockeye Salmon fisheries are not performing well this season specific to achieving escapement goals and meeting subsistence fishing goals. The escapement goal for early-run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage of 350,000 – 450,000 through July 30 was not achieved. The final count was 263,979 on July 31.

As of August 20, the day the weir was pulled for season, a cumulative 180,578 late-run Sockeye Salmon were estimated through the weir for the season. The late-run Sockeye Salmon run is not expected to meet escapement goals. Subsistence fishing has been reported to be low as Chignik residents focused on caribou hunting. Chignik subsistence fisherman do intend to fish for Sockeye Salmon within Chignik Lake that have turned red and likely have already spawned, this fishery called a Red Fish fishery occurs on solely on Federal waters and targets fish that have arrived on their spawning grounds and are milling or are milling in area after spawning. Red Fish will be available until ice up and can have been harvested up until January. The majority of Red Fish fishing in the

Chignik watershed occurs between September and November. There is concern that there will be additional subsistence harvest beyond average due to the poor summer salmon runs. The inseason manager with assistance from OSM staff is having conversations with local area fisherman to gauge the amount of interest.

The Chinook Salmon count as of August 20 is 825 fish, small numbers of Chinook Salmon will continue to be enumerated at the weir through the end of August; however, the run is not expected to meet escapement goals.

Escapement Goals:

Early Run Sockeye Salmon/ Black Lake	BEG = 350,000 – 450,000
Late Run Sockeye Salmon/ Chignik Lake	SEG = 200,000 – 400,000
-In-river Goal	-25,000 in August and 50,000 in September in addition to late run escapement goals
Chinook Salmon	BEG = 1,300 – 2,700
Pink Salmon – Even year	SEG = 170,000 – 280,000
Chum Salmon	SEG = 45,000 – 110,000

Alaska Peninsula:

The current commercial harvest in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area through August 25 is near 5.8 million, of which 3.4 million were Sockeye Salmon. The only remaining escapement project still operating is the Bear River, with a BEG of 117,000 – 195,000 for late-run Sockeye Salmon. The late-run began on August 5 and thus far has a cumulative count of 145,170 fish through August 23, meeting the escapement goal.

Aleutian Islands.

All fisheries are forecast to meet escapement goals and provide harvest opportunity.

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

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.

Gerald_Maschmann@fws.gov or Fred Bue Fredrick_Bue@fws.gov

The Emmonak Field Office is closed for the season. You can contact management staff at 907-455-1849 or 907-456-0406.

The summer salmon season is over in the Alaskan portion of the drainage and the fall season is well underway.

The 2018 Fall Chum Salmon inseason run is on track for a total run size in the range of 900,000 to 1,100,000 fish, slightly above the median and expectations. This level of abundance is typically sufficient to meet escapement and subsistence needs, and provide a surplus for commercial and personal use purposes. The Coho Salmon run appears to be tracking near the expected average total run size at this time.

Fall Assessment Information

Fall season assessment with the 6-inch Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) has a cumulative CPUE through August 26 of 1,917, above the median of 1,419. The Mt. Village Test Fishery (MVTF) has a cumulative CPUE through August 26 of 2,419, above the median of 1,731. The Pilot Station sonar transitioned to fall season assessment on July 19 and has a cumulative passage of 638,197 through August 25, near the median of 652,789. The Fall Chum Salmon genetics sampling program at the Pilot Station is showing stock proportions within expectations. The Fall Chum Salmon run is nearing the end in the lower Yukon. The Chandalar River sonar began operations on August 12 and has an estimated passage of 6,451 Fall Chum Salmon through August 25, well below the average of 22,438. It is still early at this project, however, based on the timing past the Pilot Station sonar, Fall Chum passage is expected to increase at the Chandalar sonar in the coming days.

Coho Salmon typically overlap the second half of the Fall Chum Salmon run. The Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) which has a cumulative Coho Salmon CPUE through August 26 of 120, below the median of 356. The Mt. Village Test Fishery (MVTF) has a cumulative Coho Salmon CPUE through August 26 of 483, below the median of 757. The Pilot Station sonar has a cumulative Coho Salmon passage of 65,437 through August 25, below the median of 107,655. The Coho Salmon passage is between the average mid-point and $\frac{3}{4}$ point at the Pilot Station sonar.

Fall Season Management Actions

The entire Alaska portion of the Yukon River has now transitioned to fall season management. The Coastal District and Districts 1 through 3 are open to subsistence salmon fishing 24 hours a day, seven days a week except Districts 1 and 2 are typically closed for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. District 4 and Subdistricts 5A, 5B, and 5C have subsistence fishing opportunity increased from 5 to 7 days per week as an effort to compensate fishermen for foregone harvest when conserving Chinook Salmon earlier in the season. Subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 5D is open on its full standard schedule of 24 hours a day, seven days a week and Subdistricts 6A and 6B are on their standard schedules of two 42-hour periods per week. At this time all areas allow 7.5" or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels during salmon fishing periods.

Fourteen fall season commercial periods have occurred in each of Districts 1 and 2 so far this season with a preliminary combined harvest of 244,503 Fall Chum Salmon and 53,736 Coho Salmon. Subdistrict 4-A has had one fall season commercial period with an estimated harvest of 596 Chum Salmon. No additional commercial periods are anticipated for Subdistrict 4-A. Commercial fishing is open 24-hours per day, seven days per week in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C. 900 Fall Chum Salmon have been harvested through August 20. This is a small scale commercial fishery with an expected harvest of around 2,000 Fall Chum Salmon. Commercial fishing is also open in District 6; however, harvests are not expected to occur until Fall Chum Salmon numbers increase in this area.

Consultation

Extensive public outreach and consultation was performed during the fall of 2017 and spring of 2018 to inform and seek input from Yukon River fishermen and stakeholders. Outreach efforts continued during the season. The twelfth YRDFA weekly teleconference was held on August 21 with very few subsistence fishermen reporting this week. Yukon River fishermen on the Alaskan side of the border are done with summer season subsistence harvests because salmon abundance has tapered off. Fishermen are berry picking while waiting for fall chum salmon to enter their sections of river. Some fishermen were satisfied with their Chinook Salmon harvest and others were short of filling their subsistence needs. Canadian fishermen reported disappointing catches at this time, with some pulling their nets. Furthermore, the fall season outlook and management strategies were discussed on recent YRDFA teleconferences. Participants communicated the importance of the fall chum salmon run in meeting their subsistence needs due the lack of Chinook salmon in this year's harvests.

KUSKOKWIM RIVER

In Season Manager – 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) or author Aaron Moses [Aaron Moses@fws.gov](mailto:Aaron_Moses@fws.gov)

Reporting concluded for season. Contact author with questions and comments at above contact information.

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/>

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>

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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

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. Several of the counting projects are no longer operational and commercial salmon fishing ends in the Kotzebue District after August 31 by regulation. The final 2018 season results will be summarized in the initial report for the 2019 season for comparison with the 2019 season forecasts.

Norton Sound District

The Norton Sound commercial silver salmon harvest is a record and will exceed 200,000 silvers this season. There have been 152 permit holders fishing so far this season – the most since 1993 when 153 permit holders fished. The ADF&G forecast was for a well above average harvest of 170,000 to 220,000 silvers. Last year was the only year that exceeded 170,000 silvers caught. If moderate weather prevails, the harvest should go over 220,000 silvers.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week in all marine and fresh waters of Norton Sound except for the Nome Subdistrict which is on the silver salmon schedule for fresh waters.

Sport Fishing: From Bald Head (Isaac's Point) to Point Romanof, king salmon fishing is closed and the use of bait is prohibited, except in the Unalakleet River drainage where the limit is 2 king salmon harvested for the year and bait is allowed. The pink salmon catch limit has been doubled to 20 fish a day and 20 pinks in possession in the Unalakleet River drainage and all marine and fresh waters from Golovin Subdistrict north to Cape Prince

of Wales. The silver salmon sport fishing limit has been raised to 10 silvers daily and 10 silvers in possession in the Unalakleet River drainage.

Commercial Fishing: Cumulative catches are 500 kings, 230,000 chums, 39,000 pinks, 2,900 sockeyes and 191,000 silvers by 152 permit holders. Commercial fishing time is being set in consultation with the buyer.

Subdistrict 6 (Unalakleet)

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week in all marine and fresh waters of the Subdistrict.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catches are 260 king, 103,000 chum, 19,000 pink, 1,600 sockeye and 112,000 silver salmon by 81 permit holders. The silver harvest has pulled even with last year's record catch.

North River Tower — Camp J. B. — A Cooperative Project of NSEDC with assistance from ADF&G. The project has escapement goals of 1,200-2,600 kings, 25,000 pinks, 550-1,100 silvers (aerial survey) and no goal yet established for chums. The cumulative counts through August 20 were 2,577 king, 26,000 chum, 500,000 pink and 17,000 silver salmon. The silver count to August 24 was 19,000 silver salmon. The silver count is a record for the same date.

Subdistrict 5 (Shaktoolik)

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week in all marine and fresh waters of the Subdistrict.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catches are 23 king, 40,000 chum, 2,500 pink, 470 sockeye and 51,000 silver salmon by 36 permit holders. The silver catch is a record.

Shaktoolik Sonar/Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has no escapement goals established. The cumulative counts through August 20 were 1,035 king, 50,000 chum, 800,000 pink and 44,000 silver salmon. The silver count to August 24 was 47,000 silvers. The silver count is a record in in the 4-year history of the project.

Subdistrict 4 (Norton Bay)

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week in all marine and fresh waters of the Subdistrict.

Commercial Fishing: Cumulative catches are 45 king, 13,700 chum, 1,000 pink, 160 sockeye and 1,500 silver salmon harvested by 12 permit holders. This season, Norton Bay has not been having the big catches like the other subdistricts. The silver harvest

might reach tenth highest, but it will be less than one-third of recent 5-year average harvests that had had the 4 highest harvests in history.

Inglutalik River Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from ADF&G. No escapement goals have been established. The cumulative, and project final counts through August 20 were 200 king, 28,000 chum, 20,000 pink, 100 sockeye and 2,300 silver salmon. In only two years has counting continued into mid-august, but most years had a much higher silver count before counting was suspended.

Subdistrict 3 (Elim)

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week in all marine and fresh waters of the Subdistrict.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catches are 122 king, 38,000 chum, 9,000 pink, 340 sockeye and 15,000 silver salmon harvested by 35 permit holders. The silver salmon catch is already the third highest in history.

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 20 were 87 king, 41,000 chum, 1.8 million pink and 10,400 silver salmon. The silver count to August 24 was 11,000 silvers. The silver count is third highest in the 2000s.

Subdistrict 2 (Golovin)

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week in all marine and fresh waters of the Subdistrict.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catches are 31 king, 24,000 chum, 4,000 pink, 70 sockeye and 1,200 silver salmon harvested by 18 permit holders. The silver harvest may fall short of a Top 10 harvest. Fishing participation has been down to three or less as more permit holders have headed to other subdistricts to fish.

Fish River Tower - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have been established. Cumulative counts through August 20 were 72 king, 45,000 chum, 2.7 million pink and 13,000 silver salmon. The silver count to August 24 was 17,000 silver salmon. The silver count is the second highest in the four years of counting this late into the season.

Subdistrict 1 (Nome)

Subsistence Fishing: A subsistence net fishing schedule is in effect in all fresh water subsistence areas from 6 PM Wednesday until 6 PM Monday. Marine waters are open seven days per week. There are no catch limits in the marine waters. Catch limits in the fresh waters vary by river and can be found on the back of the subsistence permit. Cast

nets and dip nets can be used during the net fishing schedule, but only in the subsistence areas. Effective August 16, beach seines are no longer allowed.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch to has been 12 king, 9,900 chum, 3,500 pink, 250 sockeye and 3,300 silver salmon by 6 permit holders. The silver salmon harvest is the second highest in history.

Bonanza River Weir – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have yet been established. The cumulative counts through August 19 were 10 king, 7,500 chum, 900,000 pink, 190 sockeye and 1,000 silver salmon. This is a first year project. It has now been pulled for the season.

Nome River Weir – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has an escapement goal of 2,900 – 4,300 chum salmon and 13,000 pink salmon. The cumulative count through August 20 were 51 king, 5,000 chum, 3.2 million pink, 85 sockeye and 1,500 silver salmon. The silver count to August 24 was 2,200 silvers. The silver count has been well above average.

Snake River Weir – A cooperative project between Fish & Game and NSEDC has an escapement goal of 1,600 – 2,500 chum salmon. The cumulative counts through August 20 were 3 king, 2,800 chum, 460,000 pink, 80 sockeye and 210 silver salmon. The silver count to August 24 was 300 silvers. The silver count is average.

Port Clarence District

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence gillnet and beach seining are open 7 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. Catch limits on sockeye salmon have been waived.

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 Pilgrim River being expected to be reached.

Kotzebue District

Subsistence Fishing: No subsistence fishing restrictions are expected in 2018.

Commercial Fishing: The commercial catch to August 21 was 583,000 chum salmon caught by 95 permit holders. That catch ranks the fourth highest in history and will easily exceed 600,000 is on track to exceed 600,000 chums. The ADF&G forecast was for a harvest of 400,000 to 600,000 chums.

Kobuk River Test Fish - Fish & Game project. The Kobuk River test chum catches remain above the long-term average and, and the catch index is nearly 10% ahead of last year's catches for the same time.

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