

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 19-25 2019. Report #13
Compiled by George Pappas - (907) 786-3822, George_Pappas@fws.gov Office of
Subsistence Management, USFWS.

The purpose of the weekly fisheries update is to provide the reader with an overall summary of the status of subsistence related fisheries throughout the state of Alaska. The target audience is the Federal Subsistence Board and its Staff Committee. The report was compiled with the assistance of the Federal in-season managers and OSM staff that provided weekly updated information by the close of business on Friday of the reporting week. My goal is to have the report sent by the close of business the following Monday. Please keep in mind, many of the authors do not have alternates or are deployed in the field on occasion and do not have access to communications to submit a weekly report. Web links have been included to provide additional information. You may obtain additional information on a fishery of particular interest by contacting the in-season manager, provided contacts, follow the provided web links, or contact me.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

Sitka and Hoonah Area – Justin Koller, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
Justin Koller, (907)747-4297, justin.koller@usda.gov

Falls Lake - The Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake operate the Falls Lake trap and video net weir which was operating as of June 26. Sockeye Salmon began entering the lake on July 23, which is over a week later than usual. The water temperature peaked at 19C (66F) on July 14, which may have delayed escapement. The temperature has been fluctuating between 14-15C recently. As of August 25, about 800 sockeye have entered the lake which is among the lowest escapements on record. About 450 have been harvested in the subsistence fishery. The final escapement estimate in 2018 was 2,261 Sockeye Salmon while the final subsistence and sport harvest in the marine terminal area was 720. Subsistence harvest accounted for 90% of terminal area harvest.

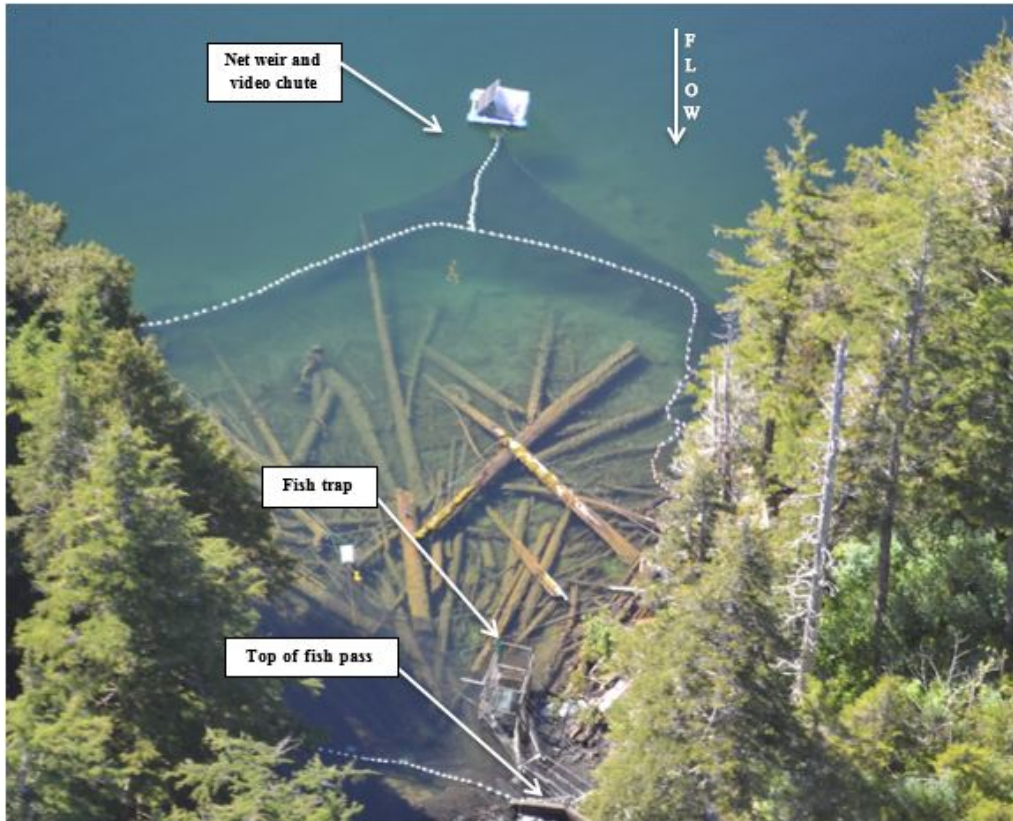


Figure 1. Aerial photo of the Falls Lake outlet illustrating the typical location of weir equipment.

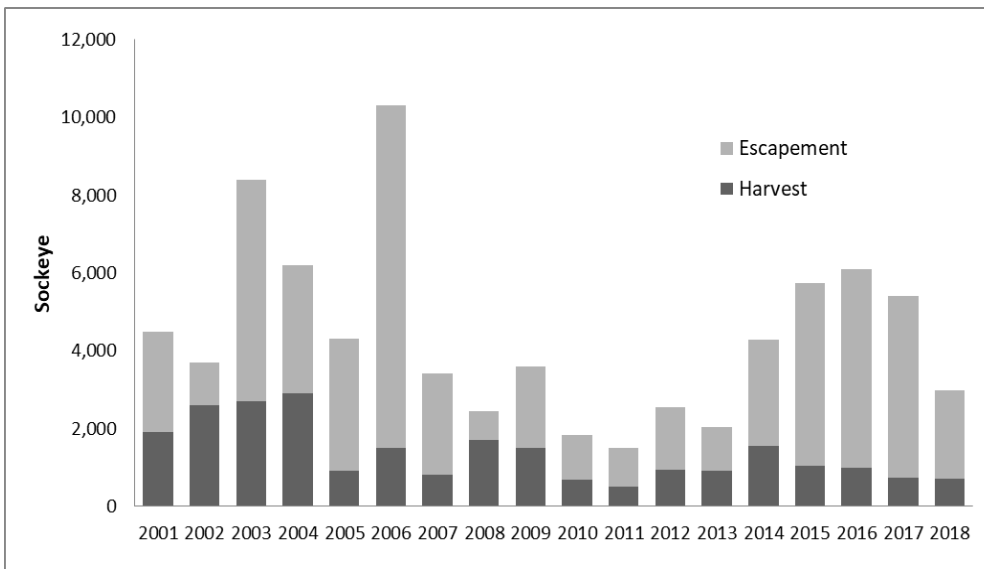


Figure 2. Escapement plus harvest equals total terminal run of Sockeye Salmon at Falls Lake, 2001-2018.

Klag Bay - The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the Sockeye Salmon monitoring weir at Klag Bay which was operational the last week in June. As of August 24, 2,170 Sockeye Salmon have been counted at the weir, which is below average. The State subsistence

fishery in Klag Bay has harvested 1,302 sockeye. In 2018, approximately 2,444 sockeye migrated past the weir while an estimated 1,387 were harvested in the marine terminal area subsistence and sport fishery. Subsistence harvest accounted for over 99% of terminal area harvest.

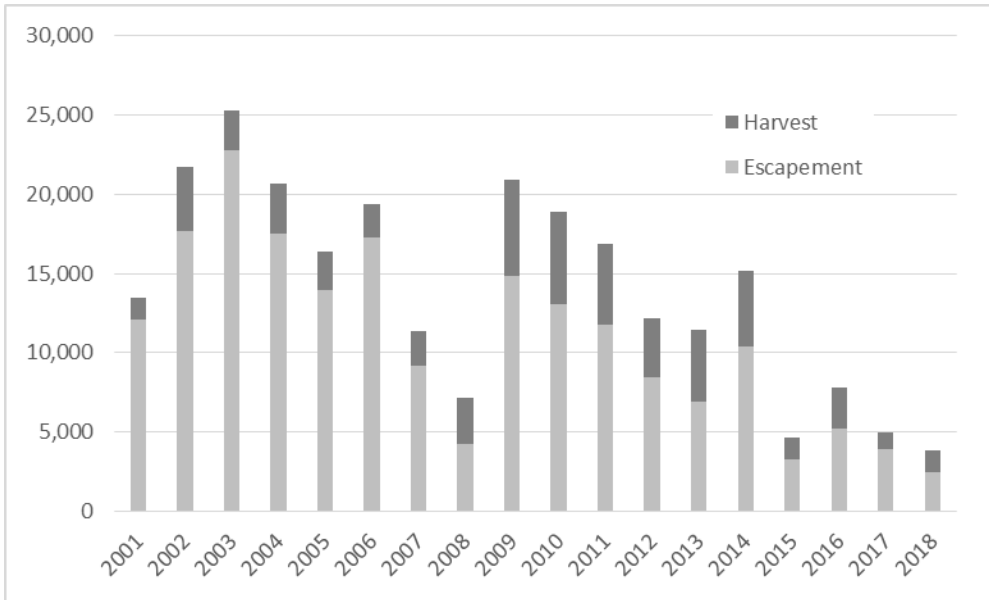


Figure 3. Reported harvest, escapement, and exploitation rate for Klag Lake Sockeye Salmon, 2001-2018.

Redoubt Lake - The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir which was operational June 15. As of August 24, 56,432 Sockeye Salmon have been counted which is above average. On July 9, 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. There are many people catching Sockeye Salmon at Redoubt Lake outlet and almost all reports indicate excellent fishing opportunity. Over 5,000 Sockeye Salmon have been caught in Redoubt Bay during recent commercial seine openings.

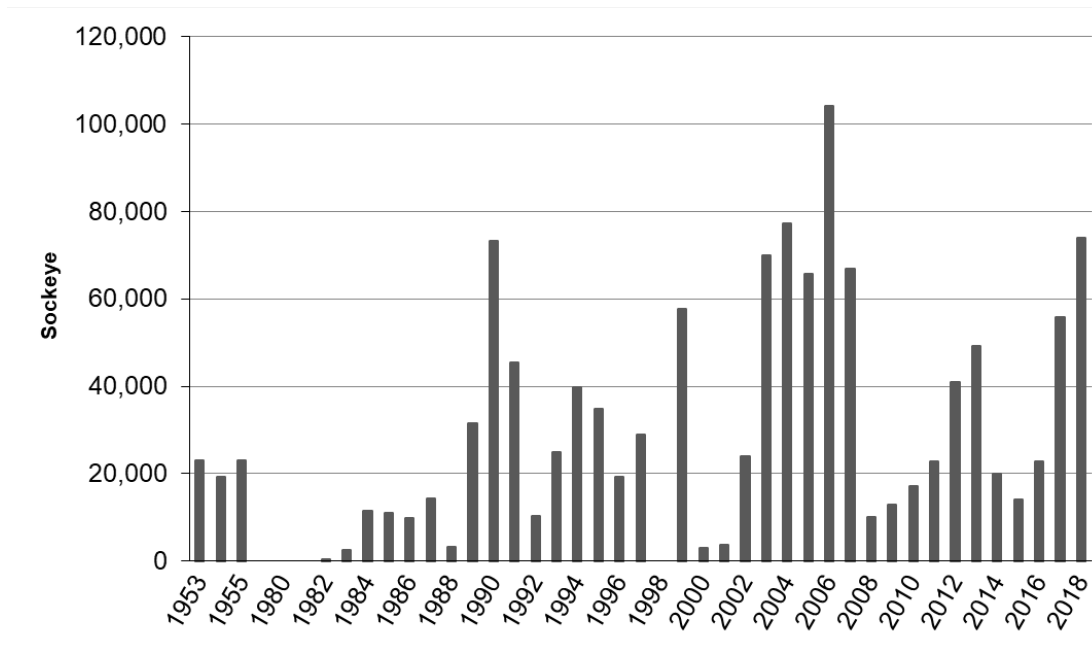


Figure 4. Annual Sockeye Salmon expanded escapement into Redoubt Lake for years with data: 1953 to 1955, 1982 to 1997, and 1999 to 2018. The weir was not operated in 1998.

Gut Bay - The Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake began monitoring escapement and harvest of Gut Bay Sockeye Salmon this year. Gut Bay is located south of Falls Lake on Baranof Island and is an important source of Sockeye Salmon for the village of Kake. Very little is known about the magnitude of this run. The weirs were installed on June 20 and as of August 25, 752 Sockeye Salmon have been counted. About 200 have been harvested in the State subsistence fishery in Gut Bay. The water temperature was 9C during project setup on June 20. The water temperature peaked at 15C on July 18 and is now about 11C. This drainage is probably one of the cooler Sockeye Salmon systems because the lake is small and does not receive much solar energy.

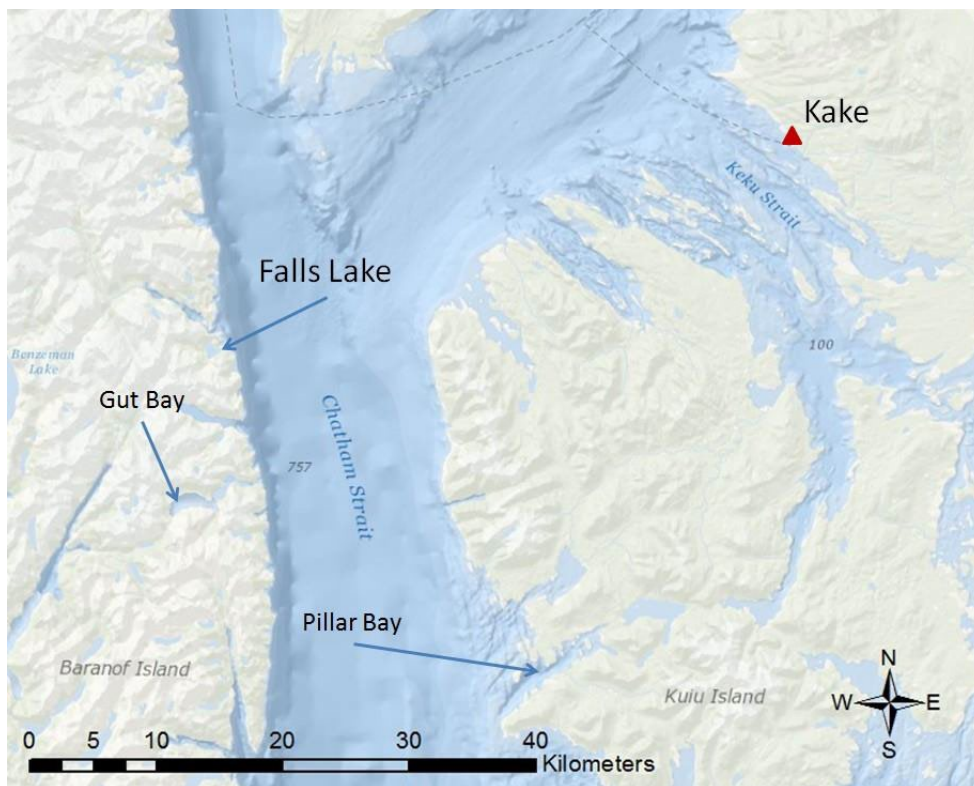


Figure 5. Location of Gut Bay in relation to Falls Lake and the village of Kake

Sitka Sound Pacific Herring – The commercial, subsistence, and spawning season for Pacific Herring in Sitka Sound occurs about mid-March through mid-April. The commercial sac roe herring fishery did not occur in 2018. The guideline harvest level (GHL) was 12,869, however, marketable size fish could not be located in high enough quantity to warrant a fishery. Accounts from the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and other harvesters indicate good quantity and quality of subsistence roe harvest. Miles of shoreline receiving herring spawn indicates the spawning season was about average. However, preliminary estimates of spawn-extent from shore, and deposition are encouraging and may bolster the post spawn biomass population estimate. This estimate will be available this Fall.

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

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

The Stikine River Federal subsistence Coho Salmon fishery is open until October 1. There have been 117 fishing permits issued for the Stikine River subsistence salmon

fishery. River conditions have been good, but there has been little participation in the Coho fishery so far this season. At this time 25 harvest reports have already been returned, suggesting that the interest in Coho fishing may continue to be relatively low, even if Coho salmon become more abundant. Several users reported high numbers of Pink and Chum salmon in the lower river. The estimated cumulative subsistence harvest is 20 large Chinook, 10 Coho and 1810 Sockeye Salmon.

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

To date, the 2019 Federal subsistence salmon fishery for Southeast Alaska and Yakutat areas has had 212 permits issued to Federally-qualified subsistence users for the fishery. Many subsistence users engaged in subsistence fishing for Sockeye Salmon within State managed portions of Klawock Inlet, Sarkar/Deweyville, Hetta Inlet and Karta. Most of these fisheries are closed, with exception to Hetta Inlet that will close at the end of the month.

Although the Chinook Salmon abundance index was estimated to be very low this year, Chinook Salmon are still present in the local Craig and Klawock area resulting in many subsistence users actively fishing under sport fishing regulations. Coho Salmon numbers are slowly building in outside marine water areas. Halibut, Lingcod and other bottom fish are also being harvested by local subsistence users under Sport fishing regulations. A closure to demersal rockfish on the outside of coast of Prince of Wales was implemented on July 25th.

The commercial troll fishery is on-going for species other than Chinook Salmon. The fishery will occur until mid-September, unless extended by ADF&G managers.

Commercial seine fishing effort targeting Pink Salmon continues both offshore in District 4, as well as inside areas in Districts 1, 2 and 3. The Kendrick Bay terminal seine fishery for Chum Salmon has been occurring weekly. The District 1 drift gillnet fishery is ongoing with weekly openings. The Neets Bay terminal harvest area has been closed to commercial fishing for Chum Salmon in order to allow for brood stock needs to be met.

Estimated commercial harvests of salmon in Districts 1-4 are: 21,230 Chinook, 325,975 Sockeye, 142,400 Coho, 12,223,100 Pink and 1,071,150 Chum Salmon.

Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) funded monitoring projects for 2019 Sockeye Salmon returns are happening at Hetta Lake and Eek Lake. Cumulative escapement at Hetta Lake is: 3766 Sockeye Salmon. At Eek Lake, the total cumulative counts is: 93 Sockeye and 12 Coho Salmon.

The Klawock Lake weir has been operational since July 19th. To date, the following number of fish have been passed: 1970 Sockeye, 304 Coho and 10,057 Pink Salmon.

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, 8/11/2019 Update – Dave Sarafin, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve, (907) 822-7281, dave_sarafin@nps.gov

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

Links:

ADF&G Miles Lake daily sonar estimates
http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon_escapement

NVE's Chinook Escapement Monitoring project in the Copper River
<http://eyak.fishscan.com/Summary/DailySummary.aspx>

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

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

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

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

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

A total of 58 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 2018 resulting in the reported harvest of 255 coho and 96 sockeye from fresh waters of the Copper River Delta. Low water and warm water temperatures continue to influence fisheries in Prince William Sound and on the Copper River Delta.

COOK INLET AREA – Jeff Anderson, Field Supervisor, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office (907) 260-0132 Jeffrey_Anderson@fws.gov

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

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

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

Kodiak Island Area – Michael Brady, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR
(907) 487-0226 or michael_brady@fws.gov or Kevin Van Hatten (907) 487-0230
Kevin_VanHatten@fws.gov

This will be the last summary submitted for 2019 season.

Subsistence fishing has pretty much been completed for the 2019 season and this will be the final report from the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. The one area that has not completely halted has been that area in the Olga Bay area. It has been reported that villagers from Ahkiok have been traveling to the mouth of Olga Creek to harvest salmon. Due to the prolonged commercial openings within this area, users are finally able to take advantage of the salmon schooling at the mouth of this system. The catch per unit effort is relatively strong with about 30 to 50 salmon being harvested within 2-3 hours.

Any additional information that will be received will be forwarded to the Office of Subsistence Management.

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**

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

Bristol Bay:

All rivers have met escapement goals.

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

- 820,458 fish on the Alagnak River (weir pulled on July 24)
- 2,326,176 fish on the Egegik River (weir pulled on July 23)
- 256,074 fish on the Igushik River (weir pulled on July 27)
- 2,371,242 fish on the Kvichak River (weir pulled on July 25)
- 2,911,470 fish on the Naknek River (weir pulled on July 23)
- 705,029 fish on the Nushagak River, 47,882 Chinook Salmon.(weir pulled on August 15)
- 351,846 fish on the Togiak River (weir pulled on August 8)
- 1,547,748 fish on the Ugashik River (weir pulled on July 28)
- 2,073,276 fish on the Wood River (weir pulled on July 21)

The preliminary commercial harvest estimate for August 24 was 44.5 million, with Sockeye Salmon accounting for 97% of the harvest.

Chignik:

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

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

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

The preliminary commercial harvest for August 21 was 2.5 million fish, with 1.6 million Pink Salmon and 560,274 Sockeye Salmon composing the majority of the catch.

Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands:

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

Sockeye Salmon escapement count for the date of August 18 were:

- 115,000 fish on the Nelson River, 11,653 Chinook Salmon (weir pulled July 28)

- 467,730 fish on the Bear River (early-run approx. 265,000)
- 74,345 fish on the Ilnik River (weir pulled on July 18)
- 4,367 fish on Orizinski River (south peninsula, weir pulled on August 9)
- 71,000 fish on the Sandy River (weir pulled on July 24)

The preliminary commercial harvest estimate for August 24 was 24.8 million fish, with Pink Salmon accounting for 77% of the harvest.

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

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Bristol Bay Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Bristol.pdf

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 staff at the Fairbanks Office at 907-456-0406.

Fall Season Outlook

The latest 2019 Fall Chum Salmon run projection, based on inseason run assessment projects, is for a run size range of 750,000 to 850,000 fish. This level of abundance is typically sufficient to meet escapement and subsistence needs with a surplus available for commercial and personal use purposes. The Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan went into effect for most of the Alaskan portion of the Yukon drainage. The Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) began fall season operations on July 16 and is average at this time. The Mountain Village Test Fishery (MVTF) began on July 18 and is above average at this time. The Pilot Station sonar began reporting all chum salmon as Fall Chum Salmon for management purposes on July 19. The estimated passage past the sonar through August 24 is 646,943 Chum Salmon, near the median of 642,273. However, genetic analysis of the first fall season strata of 208,000 Chum Salmon shows that it was made up of 88% Summer Chum Salmon. This is the largest proportion of Summer Chum Salmon in the first strata on record since the genetic sampling program began. The second fall season strata of 271,000 Chum Salmon shows that it was made up of 38% Summer Chum Salmon. The third fall season strata of 185,000 was made up of 11% Summer Chum Salmon. Based upon average genetic proportions, it appears that the Fall Chum Salmon run could be coming in 10 days later than normal. Taking into account the large proportion of Summer Chum Salmon that entered the Yukon during the first week of fall season management, the number of Fall Chum Salmon estimated to have passed the sonar through August 24 is 557,716, above the average of 458,357.

The Coho Salmon run appears to be poor at this time based on the LYTF, MVTF, and the Pilot Station sonar, however managers are anticipating the run to be late this season, based on the lateness of both the Summer and Fall Chum Salmon runs. Coho Salmon passage has been picking up this week.

Fall Season Management Actions

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

Nine fall season commercial periods have occurred in District 1, and eight have occurred in District 2. Preliminary harvests estimates are 189,000 Chum Salmon, 33,500 Coho Salmon, and 518 Chinook Salmon.

Consultation

Extensive public outreach and consultation was performed during the fall of 2018 and spring of 2019 to inform and seek input from Yukon River fishermen and stakeholders. Outreach has continued through the summer via the YRDFA weekly teleconferences. The twelfth teleconference occurred on August 20. Fishermen in Subdistricts 4-B, 4-C, 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C are starting to catch fall chum. Fishermen in Eagle are done with Chinook Salmon fishing for the season and reported being happy with their harvests.

KUSKOKWIM RIVER

In Season Manager – Vernon “Ray” Born, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Contact Vernon_Born@fws.gov (907) 543-3151 or Lewis_Coggins@fws.gov

This will be the last weekly summary submitted for the 2019 season. Please contact author if you have questions.

The Kuskokwim River main stem currently has no restrictions. All tributaries of the Kuskokwim River area still closed to the retention of Chinook Salmon until further notice.

As of August 25, 2019 the escapement of Chinook salmon at the Kwethluk weir has met its lower end of its escapement goal at 6,946. The 2018 and 2017 Kwethluk weir counts for this day for Chinook Salmon were 2,439 and 7,412 respectively.

Chum salmon counts at the Kwethluk weir are at 41,454. The 2018 and 2017 Kwethluk weir counts for this day for Chum salmon were 29,091 and 53,512 respectively.

Sockeye salmon counts at the Kwethluk weir are at 29,735. The 2018 and 2017 Kwethluk weir counts for this day for Sockeye salmon were 5,879 and 29,382 respectively. Coho salmon counts at the Kwethluk weir are at 8,443. The 2018 and 2017 Kwethluk weir counts for this day for Sockeye salmon were 1,169 and 11,253 respectively.

Test Fisheries:

As of August 24, 2019 the CPUE for Chinook at the Bethel test fish is at 850. The 2018 and 2017 Chinook CPUE for this day were at 667 and 373, respectively.

As of August 24, 2019 the CPUE for Chum at the Bethel test fish is at 4,990. The 2018 and 2017 Chum CPUE for this day were at 8,212 and 6,785, respectively.

As of August 24, 2019 the CPUE for Sockeye at the Bethel test fish is at 1,753. The 2018 and 2017 Sockeye CPUE for this day were at 2,275 and 2,690, respectively.

As of August 24, 2019 the CPUE for Coho at the Bethel test fish is at 1,799. The 2018 and 2017 Sockeye CPUE for this day were at 901 and 3,245, respectively.

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

NEW = Kuskokwim River Updates Hosted on OSM Website
<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/kuskokwim.cfm>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kuskokwim Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Kusko.pdf

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R3>

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

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Interior Alaska:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R3.home>

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

Northwest Alaska

Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, Nome.
(907) 443-6104 ken_adkisson@nps.gov

Norton Sound District

Commercial Fishing: The commercial catch through Tuesday morning, August 20 was 1,390 kings, 6,600 sockeyes, 75,000 pinks, 157,000 chums and 95,000 silvers. The king harvest is the highest in 20 years. The sockeye harvest is a record, surpassing the 4,100 sockeyes caught in 2015. The chum and silver catches are above average, and the silver harvest this year will easily be a Top 10 harvest.

Other Coastal Waters (Stebbins and St. Michael)

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

Subdistricts 6 (Unalakleet)

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

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch is 910 kings, 3,200 sockeyes, 29,000 pinks, 59,000 chums and 55,000 silvers by 65 permit holders. The silver catch is above average and tracking for a Top 10 harvest.

Stormy weather last week prevented many fishers from getting out on the water last week. Because of forecasted better weather this week, the commercial salmon fishing period scheduled to close on Sunday, August 18 was extended for 24 hours to close Monday, August 19 at 6 p.m. Commercial fishing then resumed on schedule from 6 p.m. Tuesday, August 20 until 6 p.m. Thursday, August 22, and from 6 p.m. Friday, August 23 until 6 p.m. Sunday, August 25. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

Unalakleet River Floating Weir — A cooperative project of Fish and Game, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDCC), Native Village of the Unalakleet and BLM, with major funding provided by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management. Escapement goals for the weir have not yet been established. The weir has been out since August 3 and will be pulled this week as water levels drop. A record 6,600 kings were counted this year.

North River Tower — Camp J. B. — A Cooperative Project of NSEDCC 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 tower has been out since August 2. The cumulative counts prior to the project becoming compromised are 3,300 kings, 11,000 chums, 2.1 million pinks and 1,500 silvers.

Subdistrict 5 (Shaktoolik)

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

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch was 320 kings, 1,900 sockeyes, 19,000 pinks, 43,000 chums and 24,000 silvers by 32 permit holders. The silver catch is above average and is tracking for a Top 10 harvest.

Stormy weather last week prevented many fishers from getting out on the water last week. Because of forecasted better weather this week, the commercial salmon fishing period scheduled to close on Sunday, August 18 was extended for 24 hours to close Monday, August 19 at 6 p.m. Commercial fishing then resumed on schedule from 6 p.m. Tuesday, August 20 until 6 p.m. Thursday, August 22, and from 6 p.m. Friday, August 23 until 6 p.m. Sunday, August 25. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

Shaktoolik Sonar/Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDCC with assistance from Fish & Game has no escapement goals established. The tower has been out since August 1. The cumulative counts prior to the project becoming compromised were 2,700 kings, 170 sockeyes, 29,000 chums, 4.2 million pinks and 5,100 silvers.

Subdistrict 4 (Norton Bay)

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

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch was 7 kings, 100 sockeyes, 1,900 chums, and 1,100 pinks by 7 permit holders. This past week fishing effort resumed for the first time in August. The cumulative catch was 7 kings, 100 sockeyes, 1,900 chums, and 1,100 pinks by 7 permit holders. No one has tried fishing in August.

Stormy weather last week prevented many fishers from getting out on the water last week. Because of forecasted better weather this week, the commercial salmon fishing period scheduled to close on Sunday, August 18 was extended for 24 hours to close Monday, August 19 at 6 p.m. Commercial fishing then resumed on schedule from 6 p.m. Tuesday, August 20 until 6 p.m. Thursday, August 22, and from 6 p.m. Friday, August 23 until 6 p.m. Sunday, August 25. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

Inglutalik River Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from ADF&G. No escapement goals have been established. The project has been pulled and no longer will be reported this season.

Ungalik River Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance of ADF&G. No escapement goals yet established. The project has been pulled and no longer will be reported this season. .

Subdistrict 3 (Elim)

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch was 100 kings, 610 sockeyes, 13,000 chums, 13,600 pinks and 8,00 silvers by 20 permit holders. The silver catch is above average and a top 10 harvest.

Stormy weather last week prevented many fishers from getting out on the water last week. Because of forecasted better weather this week, the commercial salmon fishing period scheduled to close on Sunday, August 18 was extended for 24 hours to close Monday, August 19 at 6 p.m. Commercial fishing then resumed on schedule from 6 p.m. Tuesday, August 20 until 6 p.m. Thursday, August 22, and from 6 p.m. Friday, August 23 until 6 p.m. Sunday, August 25. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

Kwiniuk River Tower-Camp Joel – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has escapement goals of 250 kings, 11,500 – 23,000 chums, 8,400 pinks and 650-1,300 silvers (aerial survey goal). The cumulative counts through August 19 were 111 kings, 18,000 chums, 667,000 pinks and 2,300 silvers. The silver count is average.

Subdistrict 2 (Golovin)

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

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch was 31 kings, 115 sockeyes, 25,200 chums, 7,500 pinks and 1,900 silvers by 12 permit holders. The silver catch is above average and a Top 10 haqr4vest.

Stormy weather last week prevented many fishers from getting out on the water last week. Because of forecasted better weather this week, the commercial salmon fishing period scheduled to close on Sunday, August 18 was extended for 24 hours to close Monday, August 19 at 6 p.m. Commercial fishing then resumed on schedule from 6 p.m. Tuesday, August 20 until 6 p.m. Thursday, August 22, and from 6 p.m. Friday, August 23 until 6 p.m. Sunday, August 25. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

Fish River Tower - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have been established. The project has been pulled and will no longer be reported this season.

Subdistrict 1 (Nome)

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

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

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch was 25 kings, 650 sockeyes, 14,700 chums, 4,800 pinks and 5,100 silvers by 5 permit holders. The chum and silver catches are the third highest on record.

Stormy weather last week prevented many fishers from getting out on the water last week. Because of forecasted better weather this week, the commercial salmon fishing period scheduled to close on Sunday, August 18 was extended for 24 hours to close Monday, August 19 at 9 p.m. Commercial fishing then resumed on schedule from 9 p.m. Tuesday, August 20 until 9 p.m. Thursday, August 22, and from 9 p.m. Friday, August 23 until 9 p.m. Sunday, August 25. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

Solomon River Weir – A Fish & Game project, has no escapement goals yet established. The weir has been out since August 2. The project has been pulled and will no longer be reported this season.

Bonanza River Weir – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have yet been established. The project has been pulled and will no longer be reported this season.

Eldorado River Weir – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has an escapement goal of 6,000 – 9,200 chum salmon. This project has been pulled so will no longer be reported this season.

Nome River Weir - A Fish and Game project with assistance from NSEDC. It has escapement goals of 1,600 – 5,300 chum salmon and 3,200 pink salmon. The weir has been out since August 2. The cumulative counts prior to the project becoming compromised were 6 kings, 9 sockeyes, 3,000 chums, 600,000 pinks, and 216 silvers. The weir is expected to be fish tight this week sometime.

Snake River Weir – A cooperative project between Fish & Game and NSEDC has an escapement goal of 2,000 – 4,200 chum salmon. The weir has been out since August 1. The cumulative counts prior to the project becoming compromised were 1 king, 11 sockeyes, 2,100 chums, 100,000 pinks and 81 silvers. Because of sunny weather and dropping water levels, the Snake River weir crew got the weir fish tight on the afternoon of Wednesday, August 21 with 31 silvers counted through that day. Hundreds of silvers have been observed downstream of the weir. ADF&G thanked Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) for their operation of the weir.

Port Clarence District

Subsistence Fishing: Gillnet and beach seining are open seven days a week. Subsistence salmon fishing permits are required for the Port Clarence District, Pilgrim River drainage and Salmon Lake. Catch limits are listed on the subsistence permits. These are: Pilgrim River - 3 king salmon per household; the department waived the sockeye limit on Tuesday, July 16; Salmon Lake - open by emergency order only - 200 sockeye salmon per household. The department waived the sockeye limit.

Commercial Fishing: The department expects the commercial fishery to remain closed because of a lack of buyer interest despite the in-river goal of 30,000 sockeye salmon in the Pilgrim River being expected to be reached.

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 weir has been pulled. The cumulative counts through August 18 were 172 kings, 26,750 sockeyes, 18,500 chums, 367,000 pinks and 240 silvers. The king count was the highest since 2007. Sockeye passage was still averaging above 200 fish daily the last week of counting.

Kotzebue District

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

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

Commercial Fishing: The commercial catch has been average. The cumulative catch through Monday was 353,000 chums by 80 permit holders and was above average for late August. While the harvest is projected to fall short of the departmental forecast of a 450,000 to 650,000 chum salmon harvest, it still ranks 12th highest in the 58-year history of the fishery and should easily crack the Top 10.

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 12 hours daily from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Sunday, August 18, through Friday, August 23 in the Kotzebue District.

Kobuk River Test Fish - a Fish and Game project. Chum catches have come on strong as the water levels have subsided the past week and are above average for late August.

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