

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 26-SEPTEMBER 1, 2019.**Report #14**

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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 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

This is my final report for the season. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Falls Lake - The Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake operate the Falls Lake trap and video net weir which was operating June 26 – August 29. About 850 sockeye 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.

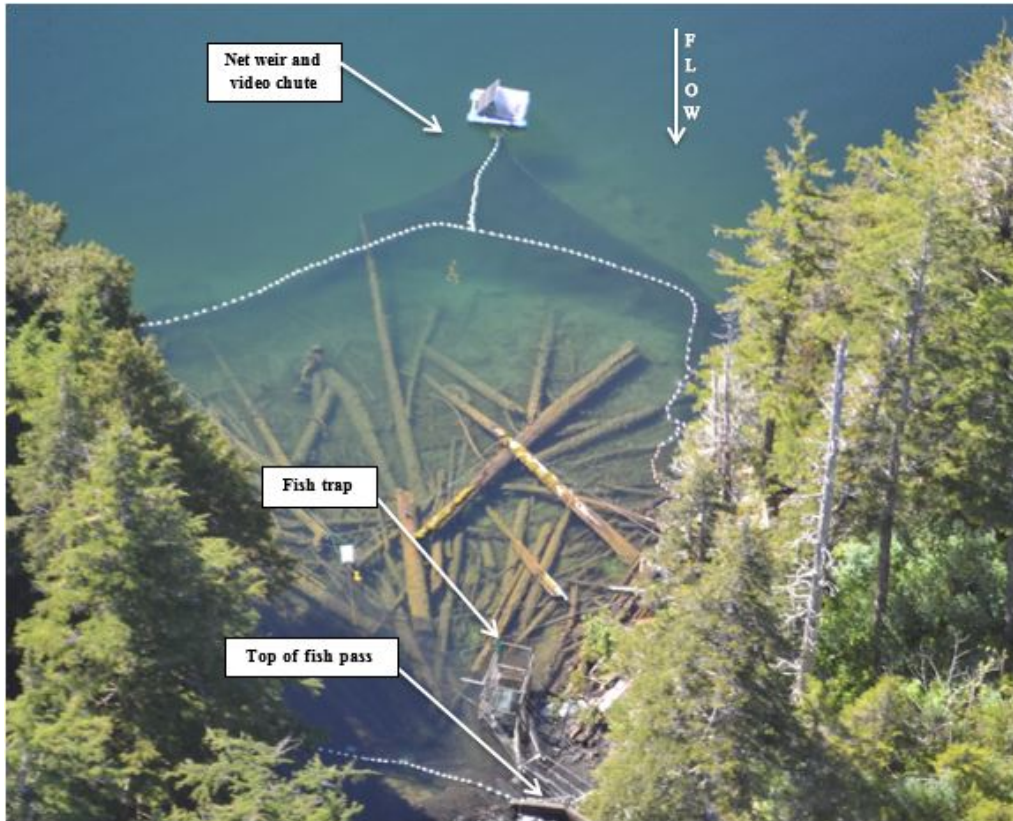


Figure 1. Aerial photo of the Falls Lake outlet illustrating the typical location of weir equipment.

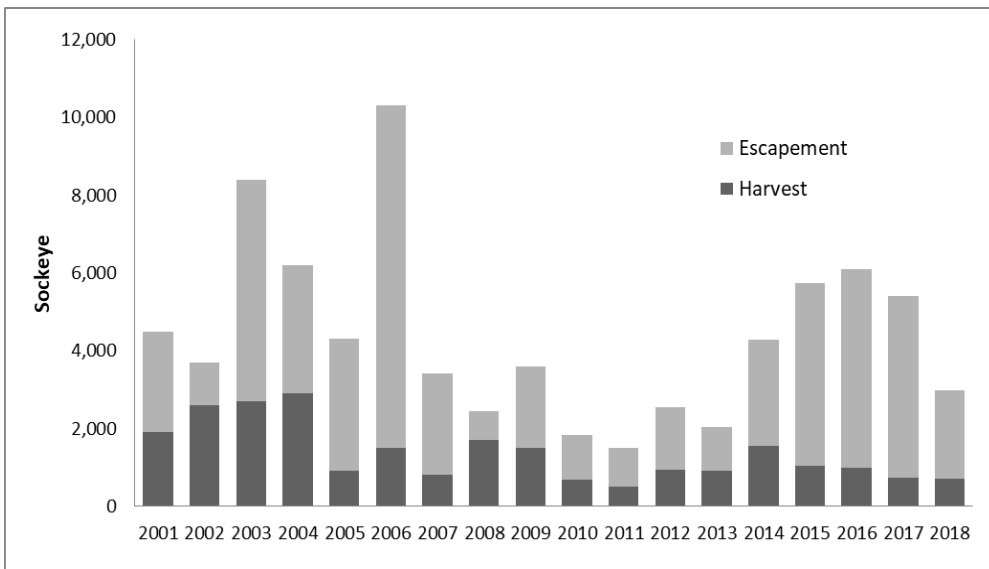


Figure 2. Escapement plus harvest equals total terminal run of Sockeye Salmon at Falls Lake, 2001-2018.

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 September 1, 2,946 Sockeye Salmon have been counted at the weir, which is below average. The State

subsistence fishery in Klag Bay has harvested 1,302 sockeye. The weir is scheduled to be removed next week. 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.

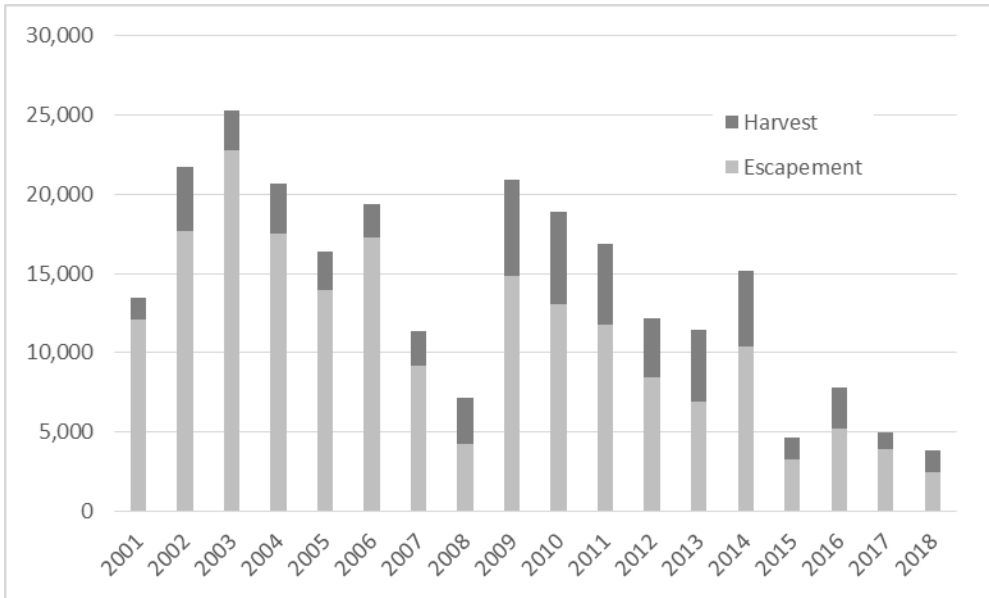


Figure 3. Reported harvest, escapement, and exploitation rate for Klag Lake Sockeye Salmon, 2001-2018.

Redoubt Lake - The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir which was operational June 15. As of September 1, 58,471 Sockeye Salmon have been counted which is above average. The weir will be removed the week of September 9 and we expect a final escapement of about 60,000. 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.

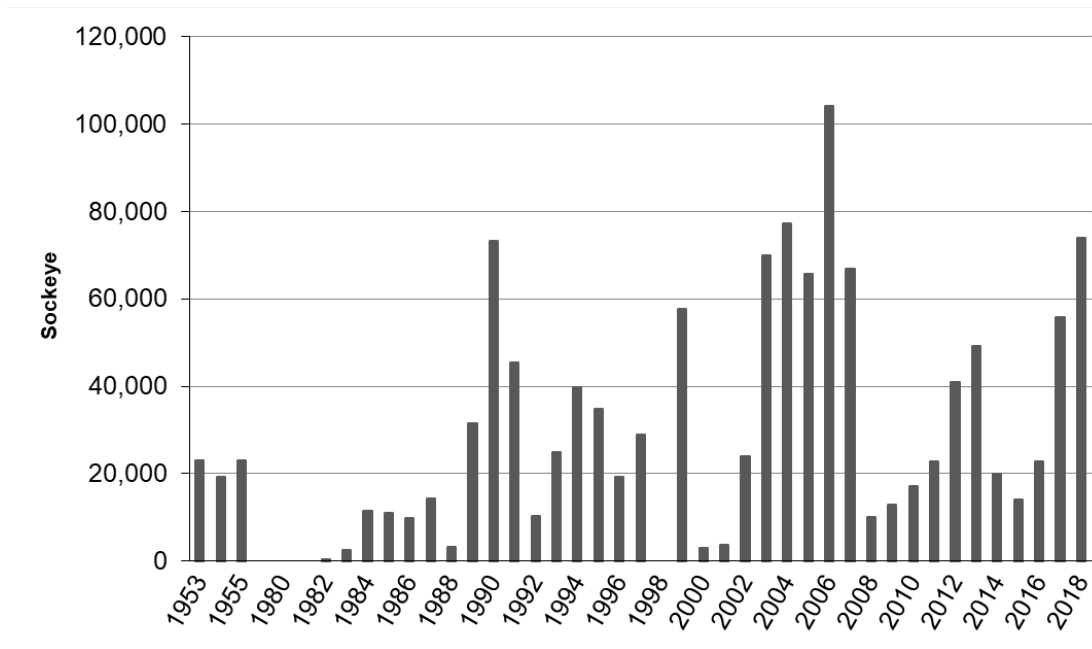


Figure 4. Annual Sockeye Salmon expanded escapement into Redoubt Lake for years with data: 1953 to 1955, 1982 to 1997, and 1999 to 2018. The weir was not operated in 1998.

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 September 1, 860 Sockeye Salmon have been counted. About 200 have been harvested in the State subsistence fishery in Gut Bay. The weir will be removed this week.

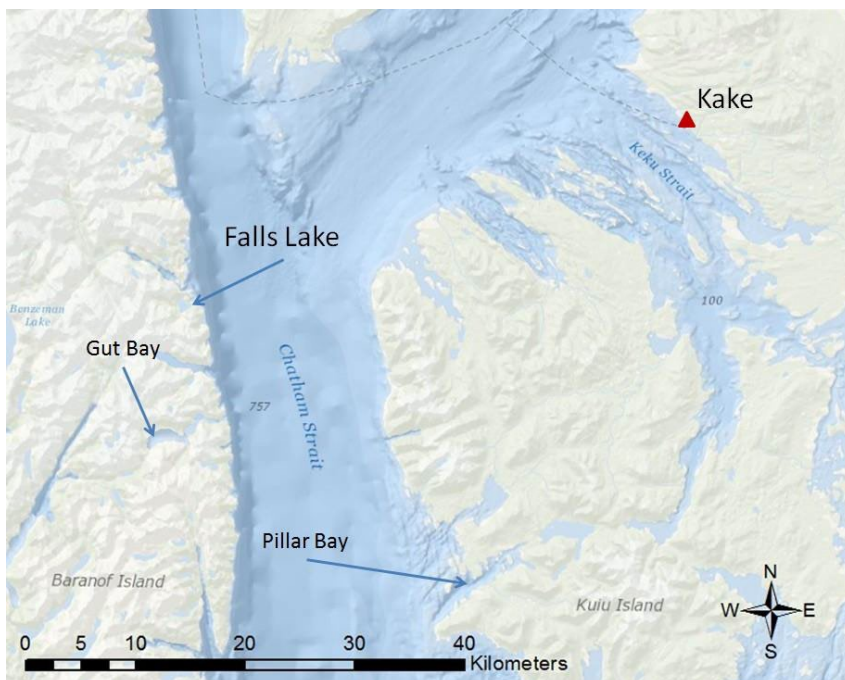


Figure 5. Location of Gut Bay in relation to Falls Lake and the village of Kake

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

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

Sitkoh Lake sockeye salmon: The Sitkoh Lake video weir was installed on July 6 by project personnel from the Forest Service and the Angoon Community Association (ACA). The project uses a pair of remotely monitored video net weirs to count fish entering Sitkoh Lake, on the southeast corner of Chichagof Island. Video from the site is streamed to the ACA office, where it is recorded on a computer. Live video feed and clips from the weir can be accessed over the internet at <http://sitkohlake.ddns.net:81>.

The escapement of Sockeye Salmon into the lake has improved with the recent rainfall. As of August 28, 1,381 Sockeye have been counted through the Sitkoh Lake weir. That's still behind the optimum escapement level, but a welcome improvement from earlier in the summer. Fish are still entering the lake, and we expect to see more over the next few weeks.



Figure 1. A much-needed rainy day at Sitkoh Lake weir.

Neva Lake sockeye salmon: A crew from the Forest Service and the Hoonah Indian Association (HIA) installed the Neva Lake weir near Excursion Inlet on June 19. This swim-through video weir is remotely monitored and maintained by a HIA crew living in Excursion Inlet. With the closure of the Ocean Beauty plant in Excursion Inlet, the HIA crew has moved the video recording station to Hoonah, and will monitor the escapement from there for the remainder of the season. The move means that the live video feed is no longer available to the public, unfortunately. As of August 29, 3,505 sockeye have been counted entering Neva Lake through the video weir. We have also been seeing a handful of pink and coho salmon entering the lake.



Figure 2. Video capture of a Sockeye Salmon passing through the Neva Lake video weir.

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 poor, and there has been little participation in the Coho fishery so far this season. At this time 41 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, 11 Coho and 1813 Sockeye Salmon.

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

No report submitted for reporting period.

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.RI>

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=RI.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

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

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

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

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

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kodiak Area
<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/fishregs13/kodiak.pdf>

BRISTOL BAY, CHIGNIK, ALASKA PENINSULA, and ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

Jonathon Gerken Fisheries Branch Chief Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office
(907) 271-2776 or jonathon_gerken@fws.gov

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

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

Updated Information: All escapement projects have been removed in all management areas. The last commercial fishing period announced in the Bristol Bay fishing area was on August 29 in the Togiak district. Commercial fishing in the Chignik Management Area closed in the Chignik Bay, Central, Eastern, and Western districts on August 31. The Bear River weir was pulled on August 26, the late-run met its escapement goal.

Bristol Bay:

All rivers have met escapement goals.

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

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

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

Chignik:

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

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

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

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

Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands:

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

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

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

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

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

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Bristol Bay Area

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

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) is nearing the end of fall season operations and is average at this time. The Mountain Village Test Fishery (MVTF) will continue operations into the first two weeks of September 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 and has ended operations on August 31. The estimated passage past the sonar through August 31 is 843,464 Chum Salmon, above the median of 718,052. However, genetic analysis of the first fall season strata of 208,000 Chum Salmon shows that it was made up of 88% Summer Chum Salmon. This is the largest proportion of Summer Chum Salmon in the first strata on record since the genetic sampling program began. The second fall season strata of 241,000 Chum Salmon shows that it was made up of 38% Summer Chum Salmon. The third fall season strata of 187,000 Chum Salmon was made up of 11% Summer Chum Salmon. The fourth fall strata of 197,799 Chum Salmon has just finished passing the sonar and should be analyzed this week. Based on average genetic proportions, it appears that the Fall Chum Salmon run could be coming in 7 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 29 is 784,105, near the average of 753,071 and within the preseason projection range.

The Chandalar River sonar has been in operation since August 8 and has an estimated passage of 9,248 Fall Chum Salmon through September 2, well behind the average of 50,302. However, based on the late entry timing of the Fall Chum Salmon run, this level of passage is not unexpected. The Eagle sonar switched over to estimating Fall Chum Salmon on August 15 and has an estimated passage through September 2 of 5,093 Fall Chum Salmon, a little behind the average of 6,441 Fall Chum Salmon.

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.

Twelve fall season commercial periods have occurred in District 1, and twelve have occurred in District 2. Preliminary harvests estimates are 248,498 Chum Salmon, 52,925 Coho Salmon, and 538 Chinook Salmon. Commercial fishing for the fall season has begun in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C where 900 Fall Chum Salmon have been harvested in the first period.

Consultation

Extensive public outreach and consultation was performed during the fall of 2018 and spring of 2019 to inform and seek input from Yukon River fishermen and stakeholders. Outreach has continued through the summer via the YR DFA weekly teleconferences.

The thirteenth and final teleconference occurred on August 27. Fishermen in the lower Yukon are mostly done with Fall Chum Salmon harvests and are transitioning to other fall season subsistence activities. Fishermen in the middle Yukon are finishing up their subsistence fishing activities for the season, while upper Yukon fishermen are just getting started.

KUSKOKWIM RIVER

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

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

Yukon-Kuskokwim-Interior Alaska Web Links

Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases:

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

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Yukon–Northern Area

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

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**

Silvers are continuing to enter the rivers in good numbers and this year's run is again above average.

Commercial Fishing: The commercial catch through last Tuesday morning was 1,390 kings, 6,800 sockeyes, 75,000 pinks, 157,000 chums and 122,000 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 catch is above average. The silver catch ranks 6th highest all-time and is on track for a Top 5 catch for the third year in a row.

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, 3,300 sockeyes, 29,000 pinks, 59,000 chums and 70,000 silvers by 65 permit holders. The silver catch is above average and ranks 8th highest all-time.

Commercial fishing continues on a weekly schedule from 6 p.m. Tuesday until 6 p.m. Thursday, and from 6 p.m. Friday until 6 p.m. Sunday.

Unalakleet River Floating Weir — A cooperative project of Fish and Game, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDG), 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. Water levels dropped enough for the crew and reinforcements from Nome to get the floating weir out of the river.

North River Tower — Camp J. B. — A Cooperative Project of NSEDG 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, but the crew hoped to begin counting again if water levels continued to drop.

Subdistrict 5 (Shaktoolik)

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

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch was 320 kings, 2,000 sockeyes, 19,000 pinks, 43,000 chums and 32,000 silvers by 32 permit holders. The silver catch is above average and ranks 6th highest all-time.

Commercial fishing continues on a weekly schedule from 6 p.m. Tuesday until 6 p.m. Thursday, and from 6 p.m. Friday until 6 p.m. Sunday.

Shaktoolik Sonar/Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has no escapement goals established. The project has been pulled. The cumulative counts through July 31 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 and 128 silvers by 7 permit holders. There has been limited fishing effort in August.

Commercial fishing continues on a weekly schedule from 6 p.m. Tuesday until 6 p.m. Thursday, and from 6 p.m. Friday until 6 p.m. Sunday.

Subdistrict 3 (Elim)

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch was 100 kings, 630 sockeyes, 13,000 chums, 13,600 pinks and 14,000 silvers by 20 permit holders. The silver catch is above average and ranks 6th highest all-time.

Commercial fishing continues on a weekly schedule from 6 p.m. Tuesday until 6 p.m. Thursday, and from 6 p.m. Friday until 6 p.m. Sunday.

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 26 were 111 kings, 18,000 chums, 670,000 pinks and 3,700 silvers. The silver count is average.

Subdistrict 2 (Golovin)

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

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

Commercial fishing continues on a weekly schedule from 6 p.m. Tuesday until 6 p.m. Thursday, and from 6 p.m. Friday until 6 p.m. Sunday.

Subdistrict 1 (Nome)

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

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

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

Due to poor weather last week preventing many fishers from getting out on the water, the commercial fishing period scheduled to close Thursday, August 29 at 9 p.m. was extended for 24 hours to combine with the next scheduled fishing period beginning at 9 p.m. Friday, August 30. Commercial salmon fishing in the Subdistrict would then close at 9 p.m. Sunday, September 1.

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 crew was able to get the weir fish tight again. As of August 1, 216 silvers had been counted. The average historical midpoint of silver passage at the weir is September 1.

Snake River Weir – A cooperative project between Fish & Game and NSEDC has an escapement goal of 2,000 – 4,200 chum salmon. The weir was fish tight again on August 21 after being out since August 1. The cumulative counts through August 26 were 1 king, 30 sockeyes, 2,100 chums, 100,000 pinks and 350 silvers. The average historical midpoint of silver passage at the weir is September 1.

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

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

Commercial Fishing: The commercial catch through last Monday was 457,000 chums by 85 permit holders. Catches are above average for late August and have reached the lower end of the department forecast 450,000 to 650,000 chum salmon and 8th highest in the 58-year history of the fishery. This is the 4th year in a row for a Top 10 catch.

Commercial salmon fishing opened for 12 hours daily from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Sunday, August 25, through Friday, August 30 in the Kotzebue District.

Kobuk River Test Fish - a Fish and Game project. Chum catches have been some of the highest on record for late August.

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