

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 17-23, 2019. Report #4
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 jpkoller@fs.fed.us

No report this week, author deployed in field.

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

No update this week as author deployed in the field for next two weeks.

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

Yakutat area: The Situk River weir has counted 4,142 Sockeye Salmon and 27 Chinook Salmon as of June 20. The forecast is for a total return of just 300 Chinook Salmon to the Situk, well below the escapement goal of 450-1,050 large fish. Chinook retention is prohibited in both subsistence and commercial fisheries, and all Chinook should be released. Subsistence fishermen are required to monitor their gillnets at all times when fishing for salmon.

Northern Southeast inside waters: Commercial salmon fisheries are off to a slow start. Very few boats fished the initial purse seine openings, and landings in most areas were nonexistent or confidential due to low effort. The gillnet openings in Lynn Canal and Stephens Passage weren't much better, with many boats hanging it up before the end of the opening.

Neva Lake Sockeye Salmon: Crew from the Forest Service and the Hoonah Indian Association (HIA) installed the Neva Lake weir near Excursion Inlet on June 19 (Figure 1). This swim-through video weir is remotely monitored and maintained by a HIA crew

living in Excursion Inlet. The installation of the weir also kicked off the annual battle between the resident beavers and the crew (Figure 2), with one of the four underwater cameras falling prey to beaver teeth almost immediately. Only one Sockeye Salmon has been counted swimming through the weir to date. Live video from the weir is available on the internet at <http://216.252.161.242:81/>

Viewers can see underwater views of the video chute, site views from the surveillance cameras, and view recent motion-triggered clips.



Figure 1. The remotely monitored video weir at Neva Lake, near Excursion Inlet.



Figure 2. Video capture of a beaver carrying a rock through the Neva Lake video weir, 24 June, 2019.

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 241 permits issued to Federally-qualified subsistence users for the fishery. Low flows in the area, may currently be limiting subsistence fishing opportunity. Although a couple of Prince of Wales Island streams have June returns of Sockeye Salmon, most subsistence users are in preparation for subsistence harvest in July where fishing normally occurs within State managed waters.

Although Chinook Salmon abundance has been determined to be very low this year, hatchery return Chinook Salmon are present in the local Craig and Klawock area resulting in many subsistence users actively fishing under sport fishing regulations at this time. Halibut and Lingcod are also being harvested by local subsistence users under Sport fishing regulations.

There are currently some commercial Chinook troll fisheries occurring in terminal harvest areas within the Ketchikan and Craig areas. The Kendrick Bay terminal seine fishery for Chum Salmon and the District 1 drift gillnet fishery have begun. Estimated commercial harvests of salmon in Districts 1-4 are: 1800 Chinook, 450 Sockeye, 500 Coho, 600 Pink and 900 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: 15 Sockeye Salmon. At Eek Lake, the total cumulative counts is: no Sockeye Salmon counted yet.

Klawock Lake is not currently funded through the FRMP process. It is unknown, at this point, whether Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association will begin weir operations on July 1 at the Klawock Lake fish hatchery.

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/>

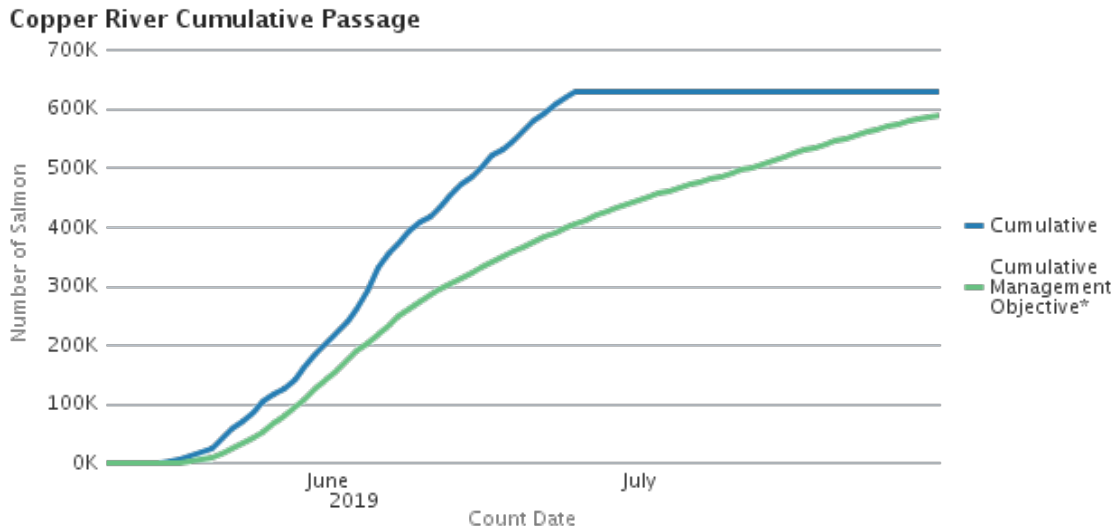
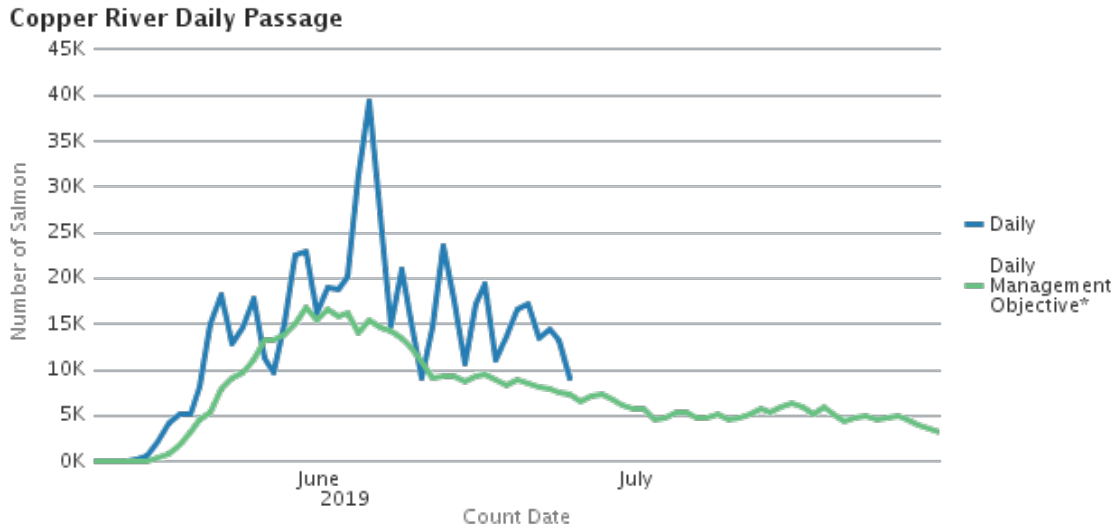
SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND – COPPER RIVER

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

The ADFG sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) began recording salmon passage on May 10. As of June 23, 621,269 salmon have been estimated migrating upstream for the season. This estimate exceeds the lower bound of the in-river goal for the season (618,000 to 1.01 million salmon) and is 55% above the projected passage of 399,704 for this date, or 221,565 more salmon. A daily estimate of 13,329 salmon were estimated to pass the sonar on June 23.

2019 Upper Copper River Salmon Passage at Miles Lake Sonar through June 7.



Source:

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

The commercial fishery in the Copper River District has opened for 11 fishing periods between May 16 and June 21. Total commercial harvest reported for the season is 852,935 Sockeye Salmon and 17,253 Chinook Salmon.

The State subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict opened on June 1. The State personal use fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict opened on June 7 and is currently scheduled to remain open through June 30.

The Federal subsistence fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict opened on May 15 and is expected to remain open through September 30. One hundred and forty-one (141) Federal Chitina Subdistrict permits have been issued on the FWS online data base. Additional

permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity.

The Glennallen Subdistrict opened for Federal subsistence users on May 15 and is expected to remain open until September 30. Two hundred seventy-three (273) Federal Glennallen permits have been issued on the FWS online data base. Additional permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity.

The Batzulnetas fishery is open. One (1) Federal permit has been issued.

The Native Village of Eyak Baird Canyon fish wheels captured and tagged 4,854 Chinook Salmon through June 23. The upriver fish wheels at Canyon Creek have captured and examined 2,343 Chinook Salmon through June 23, of which, 275 were recaptured fish that had been tagged at the downstream wheels.

Due to a lack of funding, the fish weirs at Tanada Creek and Long Lake will not be operated this year.

The ADFG counting tower in the Gulkana River was set up for operation on May 31. The reported cumulative passage estimate through June 23 is 3,420 Chinook Salmon.

No Federal Special Actions have been issued by the in-season manager this season.

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. 6 June 2017.

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

A total of 36 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.

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

A total of 288 permits for Cook Inlet Federal subsistence fisheries have been issued to qualified rural residents through June 14. This includes 209 Household Annual permits (KKTCI3), 72 General Subsistence Fishing permits (KKTCI2), and 7 Designated Fisher permits.

The 2019 subsistence dip net fisheries for salmon began on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers June 15 and June 16, respectively. Harvest reported through June 20 in the dip net fishery at Russian River Falls is 464 Sockeye Salmon. The rod and reel fishery on the Kenai River also opened on June 11 with the same seasons and areas as for the taking of fish under Alaska sport fishing regulations.

The Kasilof River experimental community gillnet fishery began on June 16 and continues through August 15. Harvest reported through June 20 includes 95 Sockeye Salmon. Regulatory periods for the Kenai River community gillnet fishery are from July 1 through August 15 and from September 10 – 30.

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

The Buskin River sockeye salmon escapement is following the pre-season projection of meeting its escapement goal of 5,000 fish. To date, the 2019 escapement is slightly lower than the 5-year average and passing about 385 fish per day over that past week.

The 2019 Afognak Lake (Litnik) sockeye salmon escapement is doing considerably better than the 2018 escapement, with 15,946 fish passing as of June 19. The escapement is on track to meet the lower escapement goal (20,000 fish). The average fish passage for the past week is about 939 fish.

The Karluk and Ayakulik River sockeye salmon escapements are medium in strength with both systems passing over 20,000 fish in the past week. To date, there has been only one commercial fishing opening for these areas, which is allowing subsistence users to attempt to meet their needs. The catch per unit effort is medium to strong for Karluk, with an abundant number of sockeye being within the Karluk Lagoon.

Any additional information that is received by our office will be amended to this report or be incorporated into next weeks' report.

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**

These areas support abundant returns of salmon, particularly Sockeye Salmon; as well as some of the largest commercial fisheries for salmon in Alaska. All of the assessments of salmon returns are conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and provide the basis for any inseason assessment and management. None of the adjustments in commercial fishing management throughout any of these areas are anticipated to affect subsistence fishing in Federally-managed waters.

Bristol Bay:

The 2019 Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon run is forecast to be approximately 40 million fish for the nine river systems: Kvichak, Alagnak, Naknek, Egegik, Ugashik, Wood, Igushik, Nushagak, and Togiak. Based on the forecast 27 million fish are available for commercial inshore harvest. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has strategies in place for all mixed stock districts to address differential run strength should that occur. Gillnets are the primary gear used for most subsistence fishing for salmon. A permit is required for subsistence harvest of salmon. The commercial salmon season in Bristol Bay opens June 1 by regulation and commercial fishing openings have been announced. The preliminary commercial harvest estimate for June 22 is 1.3 million. As each run develops and Sockeye Salmon run characteristics become defined within individual districts, fishing time will be adjusted accordingly.

Sockeye Salmon escapement counts for the date of June 22 are:

- 50,016 fish on the Egegik River
- 126 fish on the Kvichak River
- 5,748 fish on the Naknek River
- 132,830 fish on the Nushagak River
- 266,718 fish on the Wood River

The sustainable escapement goals (SEG) for Bristol Bay systems are:

Kvichak	SEG = 2,000,000 – 10,000,000
Alagnak	SEG = 320,000 minimum
Naknek	SEG = 800,000 – 2,000,000
Egegik	SEG = 800,000 – 2,000,000
Ugashik	SEG = 500,000 – 1,400,000

Wood River	SEG = 700,000 – 1,800,000
Igushik	SEG = 150,000 – 400,000
Nushagak	SEG = 370,000 – 900,000
Togiak	SEG = 120,000 – 270,000

Chignik:

The cumulative weir count as of June 23 is 103,422 Sockeye Salmon. The interim escapement goal for this time is 215,000 to 320,000. Current information indicates that the early run Sockeye Salmon is late and expectations are similar to the 2018 run. The 2018 early run Sockeye Salmon run did not 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	-10,000 in August and 10,000 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:

There are numerous salmon stocks and fisheries throughout the Alaska Peninsula, as well as the Aleutian Islands. The largest fisheries are managed under management plans. Management objectives vary by district and time. Commercial periods have been scheduled and implemented with the total commercial harvest as of June 22 at 7.8 million million fish with Pink Salmon accounting for 89% of the harvest. South side peninsula fisheries may see restrictions if Chignik River stocks do not see improvement. Several Sockeye Salmon escapements (mostly on the north peninsula) are monitored with weirs including Nelson, Bear, and Sandy, Ilnik, McLees, and Orzinski systems. Preseason forecasts are made only for the Nelson River and late-run Bear Lake stocks. The 2019 Sockeye Salmon run size projections are 217,000 – 523,000 fish for the Nelson River and 182,000 – 635,000 fish for late-run Bear Lake. A permit is required for subsistence harvest of salmon. The cumulative weir count as of June 22 for the Nelson River is 511 Sockeye Salmon and 210 Chinook Salmon. Although it is early in the return, the current Sockeye Salmon escapement is substantially below the first interim escapement goal range for the Nelson River for June 30 of 30,000-60,000 fish. Bear River is 13,036 Sockeye Salmon, Ilnik is 43,689 Sockeye Salmon, and Sandy River is 717 Sockeye Salmon.

Escapement Goals:

Nelson River	BEG = 97,000 – 219,000
Late-run Bear Lake	BEG = 117,000 – 195,000

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

Emmonak Summer Office (907) 949-1798

The Emmonak Field Office is open for summer management activities until June 28. The field office can be contacted by calling (907) 949-1798.

Summer Season Outlook

Managers are shifting the basis for management decisions from the pre-season outlook to an in-season run projection because of increasing confidence in run assessment data. The Summer Chum Salmon preseason outlook was for an above average run size, large enough to provide for escapement and subsistence uses, with a surplus of up to 1.2 million Summer Chum Salmon for commercial harvest. However, at this time, the Summer Chum Salmon run is coming in well below expectations and has the potential to be the worst run on record. However, it's still early in the season for Summer Chum Salmon where the typical first quarter point at Pilot Station for a late run is June 24. Sonar counts have picked up the last couple of days, but not in large enough numbers to lift the projection.

The Chinook Salmon outlook was for a below average run size ranging from 168,000 to 241,000 fish. At this time, assessment information indicates that the Chinook Salmon run may be coming in near the lower end of the pre-season projection and very similar to the 2018 run in both timing and magnitude. A run of this size requires restrictions to harvest to meet escapement goals and harvest sharing goals with Canada.

Assessment Information

Subsistence fishermen in the lower Yukon River area have been fishing since ice out. The debris loads that hindered fishing early in the season has passed. Reports from some lower Yukon fishermen indicate that many have met their Chinook Salmon needs and are shifting to Summer Chum Salmon. The Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) began between May 23 and June 6. The LYTF Chinook Salmon test set net has a cumulative CPUE of 17.39 through June 22, above the average of 13.66 and remains steady. The LYTF Chinook Salmon test drift net has been sporadic with a cumulative CPUE of 173.79 through June 22, below the average of 240.00. The Pilot Station sonar began full operations on June 2. The cumulative passage of Chinook Salmon past the sonar through June 22 is 76,602 fish, below the average of 84,056 fish. Efforts are being made to release Chinook Salmon alive that are caught in the test fishery in order to conserve Chinook Salmon. The Chinook Salmon run appears to be coming in at average run timing and very similar to the 2018 run. At this time, the Chinook Salmon run should be approaching the mid-point of the run, based on average run timing at Pilot Station. The LYTF Summer Chum Salmon drift net has a cumulative CPUE of 1,273 through June 22, slightly below the median of 2,561. The cumulative passage past the Pilot Station sonar is 58,807 Summer Chum salmon, well below the median of 504,236 fish. At this time, the Summer Chum Salmon run is the worst on record, and exhibiting very late run timing. The average quarter point for late summer chum runs is June 24, so potentially, there is time for the run to catch up; however, it's unlikely that this year's summer chum run will produce a harvestable surplus for commercial fishing and may require additional subsistence fishing restrictions to meet the minimum drainage-wide escapement goal of 500,000 fish.

Management Actions

With the Chinook Salmon run coming in at the low end of the pre-season forecast and the Summer Chum Salmon running in low numbers, management actions are consistent with the preseason outlook and management strategies discussed with fishermen at the preseason fishermen's meeting and regulatory management plans. The northern portion of the Coastal District and District 1 has been managed as one district for 2019.

Subsistence salmon fishing in Districts 1-3 was placed on half their regulatory schedule with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear then further restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear. Due to the low Chinook Salmon numbers, a period is being cancelled in Districts 1-3. Announcements have been made to begin subsistence salmon fishing in District 4, and Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C on half their regulatory schedule for two, 24-hour open periods per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear consistent with Chinook Salmon migratory timing upriver. Subsistence fishing in the Innoko and Koyukuk rivers are open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 7.5-inch or less mesh

gillnet and fish wheel gear. The personal use fishery in Subdistrict 6-C is open on its regulatory schedule of two, 42-hour periods per week restricted to 7.5-inch or less mesh gillnet gear and fish wheels. During subsistence salmon fishing closures, gillnets that have mesh size 4-inches or smaller may be used to target non-salmon species. The sequential activation of the reduced and restricted subsistence fishing schedule will continue in all districts as the Chinook Salmon migrate upstream. Fishermen should also expect a period cancellation in their district similar to actions in the lower river.

The Alaska Board of Fish (BOF), in their January 2019 meeting, passed new regulations making dip nets a legal subsistence salmon fishing gear in the Yukon. Subsistence fishermen may use dip nets for salmon during the open subsistence salmon fishing periods. Additionally, the BOF legalized the use of drift gill nets in District 4. Subsistence fishermen in District 4 may use drift gill nets during the open subsistence salmon fishing periods. Directed Summer Chum Salmon commercial fishing in District 1 is not anticipated to begin until Summer Chum numbers increase, if at all.

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. Run outlook and possible management strategies were discussed at Federal RAC meetings and State AC meetings, the Yukon River Panel meeting, at the annual Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association Board meeting, and at the Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commission annual meeting. On April 24, a pre-season planning meeting was held in Fairbanks that brought together representatives from most Alaskan Yukon River communities to discuss the run outlook and management options.

The third YRDFA weekly teleconference occurred on June 11. Some fishermen in Districts 1 and 2 reported being done with their Chinook Salmon fishing needs and are shifting to Summer Chum. Most fishermen in Districts 3 and 4 were just starting or gearing up for the season. Some fishermen reported early consistent low catches of Chinook salmon in Koyukuk, Galena, and Ruby, and as far up river as Rampart.

Additional reports indicate that Chinook Salmon are present in the Tanana River.

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

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.

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.

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.

Counting Projects: Southern Norton Sound escapement projects are becoming operational with NSEDC crews on North, Shaktoolik and Inglutalik rivers providing data. The cooperative Unalakleet River floating Weir project is expected to be fish tight by Friday evening. High water has slowed progress on getting Northern Norton Sound counting projects operational but some are expected to get running within a week.

Sport Fishing: The Division of Sport Fish closed all fresh waters from Bald Head to Point Romanof to sport fishing for king salmon effective 12:01 a.m., June 15, 2019. This closure includes, but is not limited to, the Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Ungalik, Inglutalik, and Golsovia Rivers' drainages. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook,

artificial lure may be used in these drainages. These temporary regulations will remain in effect through August 15, 2019, or until there are indications of a harvestable surplus above escapement objectives, which are indexed by a counting tower on the North River, a tributary of the Unalakleet River.

Subsistence Fishing: *Southern Norton Sound*. The ADF&G discussed at meetings in Shaktoolik and Unalakleet on Tuesday, June 18 that the department would have one subsistence salmon fishing period weekly and would attempt to schedule it during favorable weather conditions.

Other Coastal Waters (Stebbins and St. Michael)

Subsistence Fishing: All waters from Wood point west to Point Romanof, subsistence salmon fishing will remain open seven days a week.

Subdistricts 6 (Unalakleet)

Subsistence Fishing: There was a 36-hour subsistence fishing period from noon Wednesday, June 19 until midnight Thursday evening June 20. The period applied only to the marine waters from Cape Denby south to Black point and gill nets were restricted to 50 fathoms in length and a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

Unalakleet River Floating Weir — A cooperative project of Fish and Game, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC), 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 project is expected to be fish tight by Friday evening.

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 project has begun operation.

Subdistrict 5 (Shaktoolik)

Subsistence Fishing: There was a 36-hour subsistence fishing period from noon Wednesday, June 19 until midnight Thursday evening June 20. The period applied only to the marine waters from Cape Denby south to Black point and gill nets were restricted to 50 fathoms in length and a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

Shaktoolik Sonar/Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has no escapement goals established. The sonar crew has begun operations.

Subdistrict 4 (Norton Bay)

Subsistence Fishing: Effective the evening of June 14 at midnight, all marine waters and freshwater of the Subdistrict except for the Koyuk River drainage were placed on a

subsistence gillnet fishing schedule of two 36-hour periods per week. The schedule will be from 6 AM Saturdays to 6 PM Sundays and from 6 AM Mondays to 6 PM Tuesdays. During the openings from Mondays to Tuesdays, subsistence users will be restricted to set gill nets with a stretch mesh size of 6 inches or smaller. For the weekend openings from Saturdays to Sundays, there will be no restrictions on mesh size. The Koyuk River is not affected by this action and will remain open seven days a week.

Commercial Fishing: ADF&G announced that a commercial salmon fishing period would open for a period of 24-hours from 6 PM Monday, June 17 until 6 PM Tuesday, June 18. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gill nets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

A second commercial salmon fishing period opened for 24 hours in the subdistrict from 6 PM Friday, June 21 until 6 PM Saturday, June 22. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gill nets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

The first opening had week catches of chum salmon. After this second short duration commercial fishing period, the department will determine if further commercial fishing time as warranted.

Subdistrict 3 (Elim)

Subsistence Fishing: A subsistence salmon fishing permit is required for fishing in State managed waters. Catch limits are listed on the back of the permit for the rivers that have catch limits. Other than the possibility of inseason king salmon restrictions, no other restrictions are expected,

Commercial Fishing: ADF&G announced that a commercial salmon fishing period would open for a period of 24-hours from 6 PM Monday, June 17 until 6 PM Tuesday, June 18. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gill nets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

A second commercial salmon fishing period opened for 24 hours in the subdistrict from 6 PM Friday, June 21 until 6 PM Saturday, June 22. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gill nets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

The first opening had week catches of chum salmon. After this second short duration commercial fishing period, the department will determine if further commercial fishing time as warranted.

Subdistrict 2 (Golovin)

Subsistence Fishing: A subsistence salmon fishing permit is required in State managed waters. Catch limits are listed on the back of the permit for the rivers that have catch limits. No other restrictions in subsistence fishing are expected.

Commercial Fishing: ADF&G announced that a commercial salmon fishing period would open for a period of 24-hours from 6 PM Monday, June 17 until 6 PM Tuesday, June 18. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gill nets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

A second commercial salmon fishing period opened for 24 hours in the subdistrict from 6 PM Friday, June 21 until 6 PM Saturday, June 22. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gill nets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

The first opening had week catches of chum salmon. After this second short duration commercial fishing period, the department will determine if further commercial fishing time as warranted.

Subdistrict 1 (Nome)

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence salmon fishing permits are required, and stream specific harvest limits are listed on the permit. These include: Cripple River - no chum catch allowed; Penny River - no chum catch allowed; Nome River - 100 coho per household; Salmon River - 40 chum per household and 20 coho per household. There are no catch limits in the marine waters.

Effective June 15, the Nome Subdistrict was placed on a subsistence salmon fishing schedule of from 6 PM Wednesday until 6 PM Monday for the marine and fresh waters, except that the marine waters east off Cape Nome will remain open 7 days a week.

Commercial Fishing: On June 14 ADF&G announced that a 24 hours fishing period originally announced on June 13 as from 6 PM Monday, June 17 until 6 PM Tuesday, June 18 would be changed to 9 PM Monday, June 17 until 9 PM Tuesday, June 18. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gill nets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

A second commercial salmon fishing opening for 24 hours in the Nome Subdistrict from 6 PM Friday, June 21 until 6 PM Saturday, June 22 with permit holders again limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gill nets of a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

The first opening had week catches of chum salmon. After this second short duration commercial fishing period, the department will determine if further commercial fishing time as warranted.

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 and 25 sockeye salmon per household; Salmon Lake: open by emergency order only: 200 sockeye salmon per household

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..

Kotzebue District

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

Commercial Fishing: The department intends to open the commercial fishery any time after July 9 when the buyers are ready or permit holders indicate they are ready to fish and a market is available.