

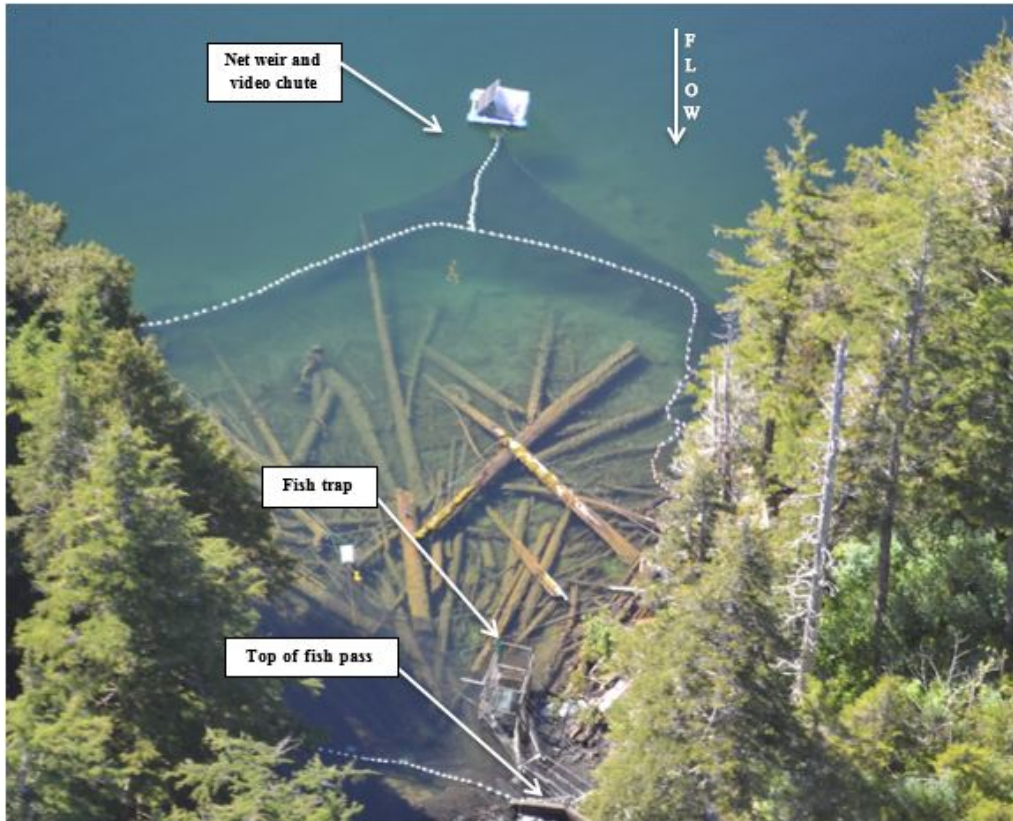
**FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 8-14, 2019.** Report #7  
Compiled by George Pappas - (907) 786-3822, [George\\_Pappas@fws.gov](mailto:George_Pappas@fws.gov) Office of  
Subsistence Management, USFWS.

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.

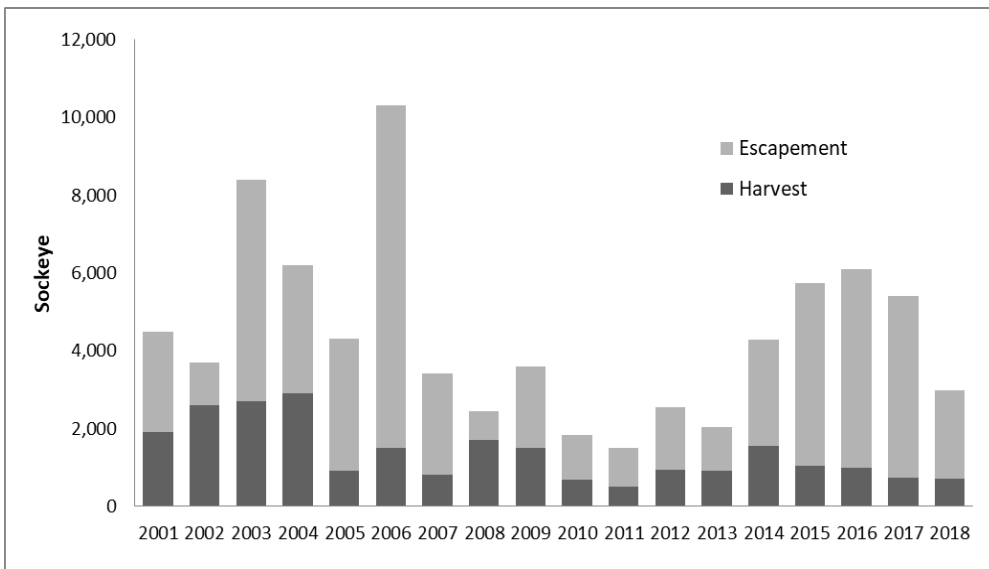
### **SOUTHEAST ALASKA**

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

**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. No Sockeye Salmon have been counted at the trap but that is not unusual because they typically begin entering the lake around in mid July. Sockeye Salmon are being caught in the State subsistence fishery at the outlet of Falls Creek. 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.



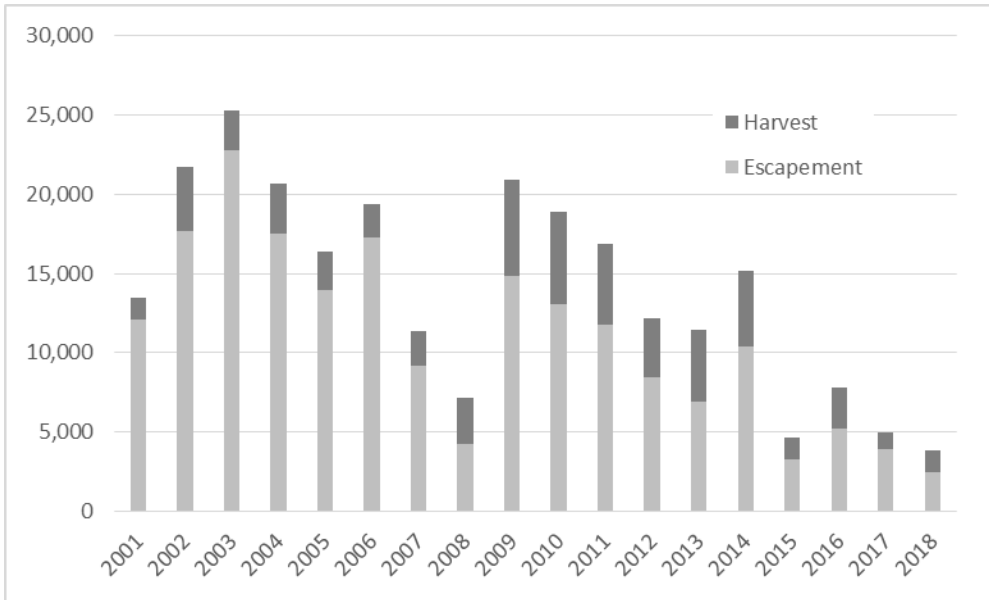
**Figure 1.** Aerial photo of the Falls Lake outlet illustrating the typical location of weir equipment.



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

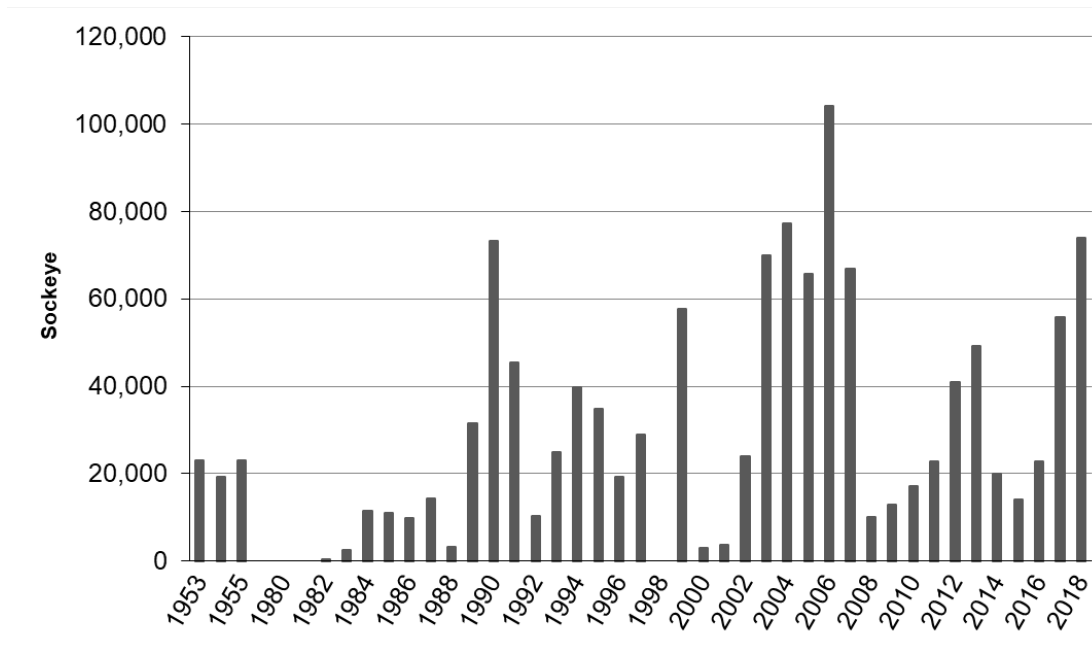
**Klag Bay** - The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the Sockeye Salmon monitoring weir at Klag Bay which was operational the last week in June. No Sockeye Salmon have been counted yet which is not unusual because escapement is flow dependent and we have had

no precipitation throughout the past few weeks. There is rain in the forecast this 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.



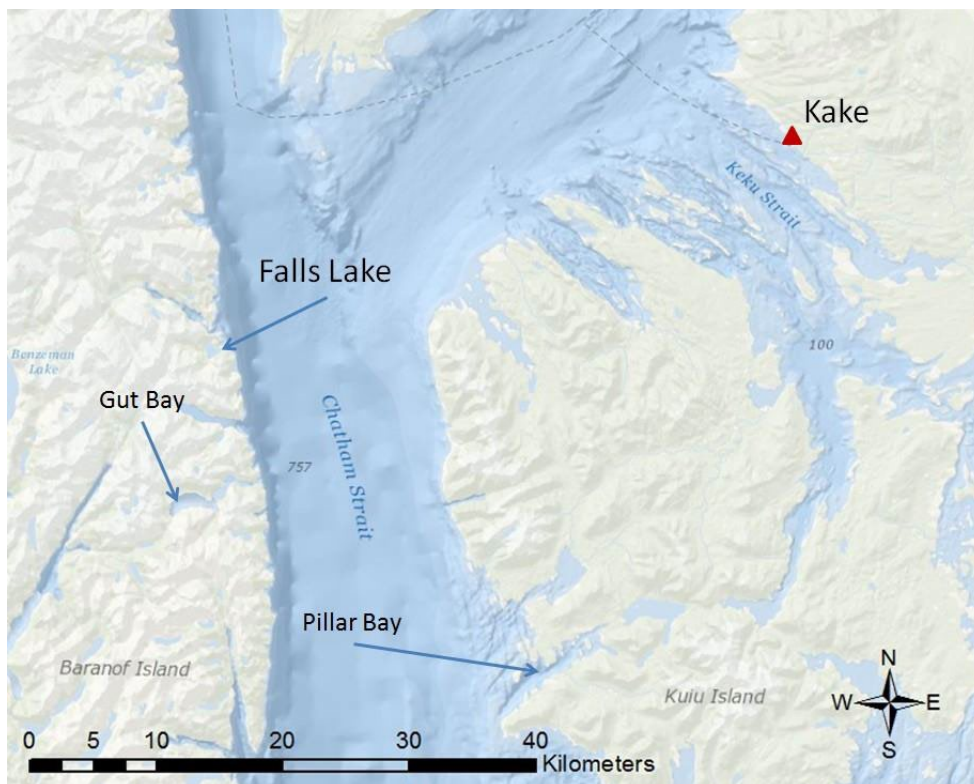
**Figure 3.** Reported harvest, escapement, and exploitation rate for Klag Lake Sockeye Salmon, 2001-2018.

**Redoubt Lake** - The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir which was operational June 15. As of July 14, 16,352 Sockeye Salmon have been counted which is above average. In 2018, an estimated 73,810 Sockeye Salmon passed through the weir into Redoubt Lake. 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. These limits were based on an in-season model prediction of about 95,000 sockeye returning. Over 4,000 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 July 14, 200 Sockeye Salmon have been counted.



**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](mailto:robert.cross@usda.gov)**

This year’s run of Chinook Salmon to the Stikine River is weak, forecasted at 8,250 fish. This forecast is well below the bottom range of the 14,000 to 28,000 fish goal. Directed commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries in the area have been closed to protect this return.

Currently, all purse seine and non-terminal harvest area troll fisheries are closed in Districts 6 and 8. There was a restricted drift gillnet opportunity in Districts 6 and 8 open from 12:01 p.m., Sunday, July 7, through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, July 9, 2019. District 7 purse seining opened from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Sunday, July 14, 2019. More information can be found in the [ADG&G press release](#). The total commercial purse sein harvest estimate in district 7 (Anita Bay) is 1,000 Chinook and 100 chum salmon.

A restricted commercial drift gillnet fishery is open in Districts 6 and 8 from 12:01 p.m., Sunday, July 14, through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, July 16, 2019. More details can be found in the [ADF&G press release](#). The total commercial drift gillnet harvest estimate in Anita Bay (District 7) is 3,100 Chinook and 500 chum salmon.

	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
District 6	3	58	35	419	151	666
District 8	52	24	3	32	192	303

The Federal Stikine River Chinook subsistence fishery was closed by the in-season manager. The Sockeye fishery opened on 21 June 2019. There have been 100 fishing permits issued for the Stikine River subsistence salmon fishery. Participation was substantial, but appears to be tapering off somewhat. The estimated cumulative subsistence salmon harvest is 4 large Chinook, and 850 Sockeye Salmon. Several larger Chinook were released unharmed. Users so far have not reported Coho Salmon.

The preseason forecast of Stikine River Sockeye salmon is 90,000 fish and is well below the average of 153,000 fish. This forecast includes: 66,000 Tahltan Lake and 24,000 mainstem Sockeye salmon. The escapement objective for Tahltan bound fish is 18,000 fish and 30,000 fish for the mainstem component. Both Canadian and US fisheries are seeing harvests of less than expectations in recent weeks, indicating a total run size lower than the preseason forecast. Additionally, the first Stikine Sockeye Management Model was produced last week and estimates are below expectations and may indicate the need for an in-season closure. More information will be available this week from the District 8 Gillnet fishery which is used as an indicator of the mainstem run strength.

**Yakutat, Juneau, and Admiralty areas of Northern Southeast Alaska Forest Service, Tongass National Forest - Jake Musslewhite (907-789-6256; [jgmusslewhite@fs.fed.us](mailto:jgmusslewhite@fs.fed.us)).**  
Report not updated this week as author deployed in field.

**Yakutat area:** Returns of Sockeye and Chinook Salmon to the Situk remain below the ten-year average. The Situk River weir has counted 25,350 Sockeye Salmon and 249

Chinook Salmon as of July 11. 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.

**Northern Southeast inside waters:** Some mixed signals for salmon returns to northern inside waters. After several weeks of poor harvests in seine and gillnet fisheries, and test fishery catches well below average, recent test fisheries are finally showing some positive signs. The Hawk Inlet shoreline catches were above the ten-year average for pink, chum, and sockeye salmon. Further south, catches of both pink and chum were weak in the Point Gardner test fishery, but the Kingsmill test fishery had a strong showing of chum salmon. In general, the enhanced chum salmon returns throughout southeast Alaska appear to be weak this year.

**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. As with many places in southeast Alaska, low and warm water is discouraging fish from moving upstream and entering the lake. Only one sockeye 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. As of July 12, the live feed is temporarily not available on the internet, but it should be back up and running next week.

**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 (Figures 1 and 2). 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 Sitkoh Lake outlet stream is extremely low and warm, and a sizable beaver dam is currently located downstream of the weir, so sockeye returning to the lake would benefit from some decent rainfall. Last year, under similar conditions, the sockeye return was extremely late and likely experienced significant instream mortality, so we will be monitoring the situation closely.



*Figure 1. Roger Williams (left, Angoon Community Association) and Amber Wendler (right, Student Conservation Association) install solar panels at the Sitkoh Lake video weir.*





Figure 2. Live video capture from surveillance camera at the Sitkoh Lake video weir.

### **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](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>

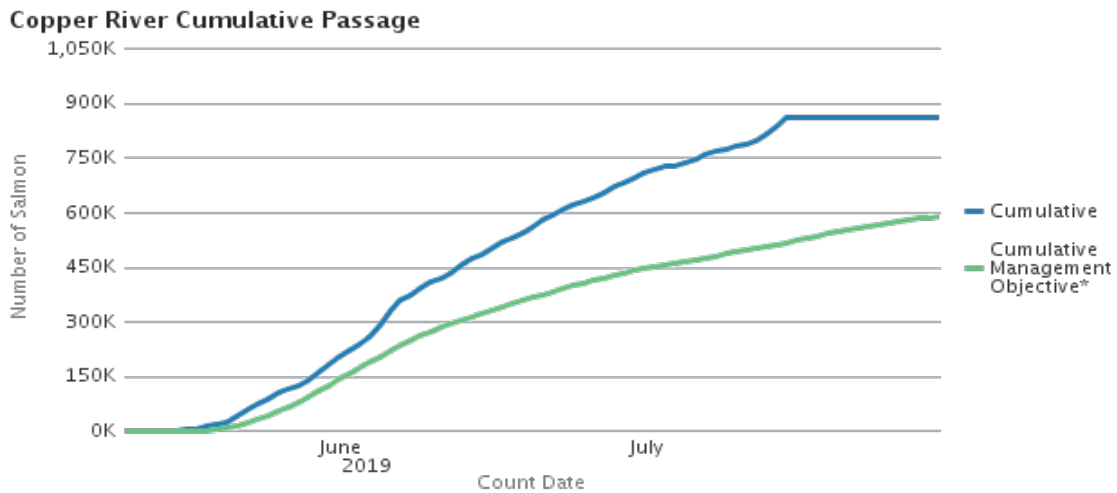
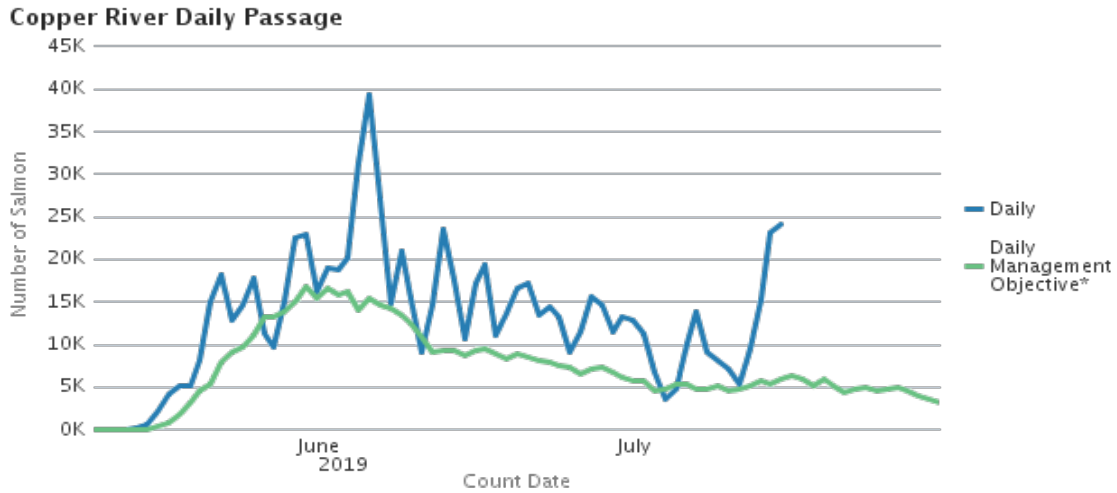
Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southeast Alaska  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=RI.home>

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

**SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA**

**PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND – COPPER RIVER**

**2019 Upper Copper River Salmon Passage at Miles Lake Sonar through July 14.**



Source:

[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon\\_escapement](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon_escapement)

The total Copper River District commercial harvest reported for the season is 1,149,869 Sockeye Salmon, 17,803 Chinook Salmon, 379 Coho Salmon, 88,925 Pink Salmon, and 22,662 Chum 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 be open through July 21.

The Federal subsistence fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict opened on May 15 and is expected to remain open through September 30. One hundred and sixty-nine (169) 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. Three hundred and seventeen (317) 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 Camp fish wheels captured and tagged 4,946 Chinook Salmon for the season. Tagging operations were discontinued on July 2. The upriver fish wheels at Canyon Creek captured and examined 2,488 Chinook Salmon for the season, of which, 286 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 July 14 is 7,290 Chinook Salmon.

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

ADF&G Miles Lake daily sonar estimates

[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon\\_escapement](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.**

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A total of 37 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](mailto:Jeffry_Anderson@fws.gov)**

A total of 329 permits for Cook Inlet Federal subsistence fisheries have been issued to qualified rural residents through July 12. This includes 242 Household Annual permits (KKTCI3), 79 General Subsistence Fishing permits (KKTCI2), and 8 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 July 12 in the dip net fishery at Russian River Falls is 998 Sockeye Salmon. Harvest reported through July 12 in the Kasilof River dip net fishery is 10 Sockeye Salmon.

The Kasilof River experimental community gillnet fishery began on June 16 and continues through August 15. Harvest reported through July 12 includes 553 Sockeye Salmon.

Regulatory periods for the Kenai River community gillnet fishery are from July 1 through August 15 and from September 10 – 30. No effort has been reported to date in this fishery.

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](mailto:michael_brady@fws.gov) or Kevin Van Hatten (907) 487-0230 [Kevin\\_VanHatten@fws.gov](mailto:Kevin_VanHatten@fws.gov)**

The Ayakulik and Karluk River Chinook salmon runs have slowed considerably. It is not anticipated for either system to meet their respective escapement goal. Good numbers of sockeye are still showing up in the Olga Bay streams and Saltery Creek. Very little subsistence fishing has occurred over the past week due to multiple commercial openings throughout the management areas.

Pink salmon are starting to show up in most of the area streams and in good numbers in a couple of the monitored streams.

Any additional information received by our office will be submitted in the following 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**

Bristol Bay:

All rivers are projected to meet escapement goals and provide for subsistence fisheries.

Sockeye Salmon escapement counts for the date of July 13 are:

- 342,912 fish on the Alagnak
- 1,864,974 fish on the Egegik River
- 44,940 fish on the Igushik River
- 1,227,037 fish on the Kvichak River
- 2,112,978 fish on the Naknek River
- 630,474 fish on the Nushagak River, 40,733 Chinook Salmon.
- 34,590 fish on the Togiak River
- 108,288 fish on the Ugashik River
- 1,759,398 fish on the Wood River

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 July 13 is 35.4 million. As each run develops and Sockeye Salmon run characteristics become defined within individual districts, fishing time will be adjusted accordingly.

Chignik:

The cumulative weir count as of July 14 is 360,731 Sockeye Salmon with 281,110 fish attributed to the early run and 79,621 attributed to the late run. The interim escapement goal based on historical run timing for this date is 340,000 to 430,000 early run fish and 40,000 – 85,000 late run fish. Current information indicates that the early run Sockeye Salmon is weak and unlikely to meet the lower end of the biological escapement goal of 350,000 fish. The ADF&G conducts weekly genetic sampling to distinguish early and late run fish, on average July 10 is when the genetic composition between early and late run fish is 50/50. As of July 8, the percentage ratio was 64% early and 36% late.

The Bristol Bay Native Association will host a teleconference on July 19 to provide a forum for local subsistence users and managers to share information. The previous teleconference on July 3 was valuable and included input from Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, and Chignik Lake.

Federal waters in the Chignik River Management Area remain open to federally qualified users only through July 31.

The ADFG scheduled a commercial to target Pink and Chum Salmon in the outer districts of the Chignik Management Area. The period begins Tuesday July 16 through Wednesday July 17 and is open for 48 hours.

Chinook Salmon counts enumerated at the ADF&G weir as of July 14 are 945 fish. The mid-point of the Chinook Salmon run is approximately July 15.

#### Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands:

There are numerous salmon stocks and fisheries throughout the Alaska Peninsula. Federal waters are primarily located on upper headwater portions of the streams flowing on the North Peninsula, whereas Federal waters on those streams flowing on the South Peninsula are more encompassing within each watershed.

Sockeye Salmon escapement count for the date of July 14 are:

- 69,697 fish on the Nelson River, 5,075 Chinook Salmon
- 176,704 fish on the Bear River
- 73,579 fish on the Ilnik River
- 2,839 fish on Orizinski River (south peninsula)
- 44,725 fish on the Sandy River

Subsistence fisheries in these areas take place in marine environments under State of Alaska subsistence fishing permits. Annual subsistence harvest for all species in all areas is typically around 10,000 fish. On the Alaska Peninsula, the largest fisheries are managed under management plans by the ADF&G. Management objectives vary by district and time. Commercial periods have been scheduled and implemented with the total commercial harvest as of July 13 at 12.5 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](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](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](mailto:Gerald_Maschmann@fws.gov) or

Fred Bue [Fredrick\\_Bue@fws.gov](mailto:Fredrick_Bue@fws.gov)

### **Summer Season Summary**

The summer management season is coming to an end in the lower Yukon. Both the Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon runs are over 95% past District 1 and 2. District 1 will transition to fall season management on July 16.

The Summer Chum Salmon run size is projected to total around 1.45 million fish for the season. Although below average and below the preseason outlook, a run of this size is large enough to provide for escapement and subsistence uses. A surplus of up to 800,000 Summer Chum Salmon is anticipated to be available for commercial harvest. However, commercial opportunity and harvests have been limited this season due to the late run timing and compressed nature of this year's Summer Chum Salmon run.

The Chinook Salmon run is projecting a near average size (1995-2018) of 220,000 fish at this time. This is just below the upper end of the preseason forecast of 168,000 to 241,000 fish and is tracking better than 2018. Subsistence conservation measures were implemented early in the season to spread out the available subsistence harvest and meet escapement goals. When managers become confident that this year's run was coming in above 200,000, managers began relaxing the subsistence salmon fishing schedule back to the normal regulatory windowed schedule with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear in all districts except Districts 1 and 2. Districts 1 and 2 were relaxed to 7.5 inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear but remained on half their regulatory windowed schedule. Commercial fishermen had additional opportunity to harvest subsistence salmon during the commercial openings if they chose so. Based on the Chinook Salmon passage past the Pilot Station sonar and the harvest restrictions that were implemented early in the season, the 2019 Chinook Salmon run should be adequate to meet escapement goals and the Canadian border passage objective.

### **Summer Season Assessment Information**

Subsistence fishermen in the lower Yukon River report that most have met their Chinook Salmon and Summer Chum Salmon needs. Fishermen in the middle Yukon River are

reporting good catches of Chinook Salmon and are finishing up. Upper Yukon fishermen are just starting, but a few have reported this week that Chinook Salmon catches are up.

The Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) Chinook Salmon test set net has a cumulative CPUE of 37.90 through July 13, above the average of 24.51. The LYTF Chinook Salmon test drift net has a cumulative CPUE of 390 through July 13, near the average of 396. The cumulative passage of Chinook Salmon past the sonar through July 13 is 209,000 fish, above the average of 176,039 fish. Efforts are being made to release Chinook Salmon alive that are caught in the test fishery in order to conserve Chinook Salmon. The run was tracking very similar to the 2018 run in timing and magnitude through the first half of the season, but is now tracking better than 2018 with a later run timing.

The LYTF Summer Chum Salmon drift net has a cumulative CPUE of 7,740 through July 13, above the median of 6,684. The cumulative passage past the Pilot Station sonar is 1,246,451 Summer Chum salmon, below the median of 1,773,114 fish. The average  $\frac{3}{4}$  point at the sonar is July 5, however, the 2019 run appears to be coming in late. At this time, the Summer Chum Salmon run is projecting a total run size near 1.45 million with a potential commercial surplus of 800,000 fish.

The East Fork Andreafsky River, Gisasa River, and Henshaw Creek weir installation was delayed this year due to high water, but are now fully operational. Through July 13, the East Fork Andreafsky River weir has passed 4,793 Chinook Salmon, well above the average for this date and near the top end of the escapement goal range of 2,100-4,900, and 30,893 Summer Chum Salmon, well below the median of 44,278 for this date, and below the minimum escapement goal of 40,000. The Anvik Sonar has passed 151,447 Summer Chum Salmon, well below the median of 419,424, and well below the minimum escapement goal range of 350,000-700,000. The Gisasa River weir has passed 603 Chinook Salmon, below the average of 953, and 7,173 Summer Chum Salmon, well below the average of 27,967. The Henshaw Creek weir has passed 76 Chinook Salmon, well below the average of 378, and 872 Summer Chum Salmon, below the average 24,424. The Chena River tower has passed 416 Chinook Salmon, well below the average of 1,026, and below the minimum escapement goal range of 2,800-5,700. The Salcha River tower has passed 540 Chinook Salmon, well below the average of 1,073, and below the minimum escapement goal range of 3,300-6,500. It's still too early in the season to assess Summer Chum Salmon at the Chena and Salcha River towers. The Eagle sonar has passed an estimated 4,136 Chinook Salmon, below the average of 6,089. It's still early for the Eagle sonar project, but the first pulse of Chinook Salmon should begin passing this week.

### **Summer Season Management Actions**

Early assessment indicated that the Chinook Salmon run was coming in at the low end of the pre-season forecast and the Summer Chum Salmon were running in low numbers for the first half of the season. Therefore, management actions were consistent with the pre-season outlook and management strategies discussed with fishermen at the pre-season 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 first 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 assessment of the Chinook Salmon numbers after the average first quarter point in the run, a period was cancelled in Districts 1-3 and an additional canceled period was being considered in Districts 1 and 2. Also at the time, the low numbers of Summer Chum Salmon triggered restrictive management in the South Coastal District to a reduced fishing schedule of 3 ½ days per week; half their normal 7 days per week schedule. Subsistence salmon fishing in District 4, and Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C were placed 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. One period was canceled in District 4. Subsistence fishing in the Innoko and Koyukuk rivers had been open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with 7.5-inch or less mesh gillnet and fish wheel gear. The Innoko was scheduled to be restricted to 3 ½ days per week; half their normal 7 days per week schedule with 7.5-inch gillnets and fishing time in the Koyuku River was expected to be reduced similarly when Summer Chum Salmon begin to reach that portion of the drainage. Lower and Middle Subdistricts 5-D were scheduled to be reduced to half their normal subsistence fishing schedule to 3 ½ days per week, restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear and fish wheels. Subsistence fishing in Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B had been placed on a schedule of two, 24-hour periods per week restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear and fish wheels. The Old Minto area has been placed on their normal schedule of 5 days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear and fish wheels. The personal use fishery in Subdistrict 6-C was placed on a schedule of two, 24-hour periods per week restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear.

With the mid-season surge of both Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon into the Yukon River, subsistence restrictions have been relaxed through districts moving upstream. The previously announced subsistence salmon fishing closures in the South Coastal District and the Innoko River drainage were rescinded. Subsistence fishermen in these areas may fish their normal schedule with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear 24-hours per day, 7 days per week. The 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnet restrictions in Districts 1-3 have been relaxed back to 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets. Districts 1 and 2 will remain on their half regulatory schedule of two, 18-hour periods per week until further notice; however, fishermen will have the opportunity to take home salmon for subsistence purposes during commercial fishing periods. The District 3 subsistence salmon fishing schedule has been relaxed to their full regulatory schedule. Subsistence salmon fishing in District 4 has been relaxed from 6-inch or smaller to 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and returned to their normal regulatory schedule of two, 48-hour periods per week. Districts 5 and 6 have returned to their normal regulatory schedules with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear and fish wheels.

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.

With the late surge of Summer Chum Salmon, directed Summer Chum Salmon commercial fishing in Districts 1 and 2 has begun. Furthermore, the sale on incidentally harvested Chinook Salmon in the directed Summer Chum Salmon commercial fishery is now allowed because escapement objectives are expected to be achieved, all subsistence fishing restrictions have been lifted, and because there remains a surplus beyond normal subsistence harvest levels. At this time, the preliminary harvest from the first ten periods is 165,000 Summer Chum Salmon and 1,970 Chinook Salmon. 870 Chinook Salmon are estimated to have been harvested and taken home for subsistence purposes.

### **Fall Season Outlook**

The Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan goes into effect for District 1 beginning July 16. Upriver management districts and subdistricts will switch to fall season management as the Fall Chum Salmon migration reaches those areas. The ADF&G Emmonak field office will be open for fall season operations. The lower river test fishery will begin fall season operations on July 16, the Mountain Village test fishery on July 18, and the mainstem sonar near Pilot Station will begin reporting all chum salmon as fall chum salmon on July 19. The 2019 Fall Chum Salmon preseason run projection, based on the summer chum to fall chum salmon relationship, is for a run size range of 500,000 to 700,000 fish. This level of abundance is typically sufficient to meet escapement and subsistence needs. A run near the top end could provide a surplus for commercial and personal use purposes.

### **Fall Season Management Actions**

Effective 12:00 a.m. Monday, July 16, the Coastal District and District 1 will transition to fall season management with subsistence salmon fishing open 7 days per week except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after commercial fishing periods.

### **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 sixth YRDFFA weekly teleconference occurred on July 9. Many District 1 and 2 fishermen reported being done with their Chinook Salmon fishing needs. Some were finished with their chum needs, but others were still fishing for chum. Fishermen in District 3 appear to be close to finishing up their Chinook Salmon needs, but some still need more. District 4 fishermen have reported catching good numbers of Chinook salmon, but some have not yet met their needs. Fishermen in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and

5-C and District 6 have reported catching Chinook salmon in low numbers. Some fishermen reported seeing “puss pockets” in their chum salmon. It’s unclear if fishermen are seeing an increase in diseased fish, or if they are just reporting it more this year, however, quality was reported better this week. Nearly all comments during the call were in support of selling Chinook Salmon incidentally during the directed Summer Chum directed commercial fishery which included YRDFA Board members and Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commissioners.

The OSM held a teleconference on June 26 with the three chairs of the YKRAC, WIRAC, and the EIRAC along with several other council members, and staff at the request of the WIRAC Chair. The main concern was the unexpectedly low Summer Chum Salmon run and whether a federal special action was needed to limit fishing on the Yukon to federally qualified users only. Participants were given a brief run assessment update, summary of the management actions taken so far, and potential upcoming actions focused on Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon conservation. A discussion was had on the merits of limiting the Yukon to federally qualified users only. All agreed that the cooperative management scheme was working well and that a special action was not warranted at this time.

### **KUSKOKWIM RIVER**

**In Season Manager – Vernon “Ray” Born, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Contact [Vernon\\_Born@fws.gov](mailto:Vernon_Born@fws.gov) (907) 543-3151 or [Lewis\\_Coggins@fws.gov](mailto:Lewis_Coggins@fws.gov)**

#### **Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement #6 Emergency Order #3-S-WR-5-19**

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Bethel for subsistence fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will be managing the chum and sockeye salmon fishery in the Kuskokwim River drainage effective 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 26. Subsistence fishing periods announced by the State of Alaska will be open to all Alaska State residents.

**Yukon Delta NWR boundary at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River upstream to the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak (Sections 1–3): Subsistence fishing will open beginning 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 26 until further notice. Below the Johnson River, gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or less mesh, 45 meshes in depth, and 50 fathoms in length. Above the Johnson River, gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or less mesh, 45 meshes in depth, and 25 fathoms in length.**

Live release requirements of Chinook salmon while fishing with hook and line, dip nets, fish wheels, and beach seines are rescinded within the mainstem of the Kuskokwim River. Live release requirements will remain in effect within the closed waters of the Kwethluk, Kasigluk, Kisaralik, Tuluksak River drainages as previously announced; any Chinook salmon caught with these gear types in these waters must be returned immediately to the water alive

**Test Fisheries:**

As of July 13, 2019 the CPUE for Chinook at the Bethel test fish is at 817. The 2018 and 2017 Chinook CPUE for this day were at 628 and 331, respectively.

As of July 13, 2019 the CPUE for Chum at the Bethel test fish is at 1,474. The 2018 and 2017 Chum CPUE for this day were at 5,878 and 5,515, respectively.

As of July 13, 2019 the CPUE for Sockeye at the Bethel test fish is at 1,024. The 2018 and 2017 Sockeye CPUE for this day were at 1,596 and 2,049, 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](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](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**

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**Norton Sound District**

ADF&G has been receiving reports of large die-offs of pink salmon in the Koyuk, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet area rivers. Lower water levels combined with water

temperatures reported as high as 70° at some locations is most likely resulting in oxygen deprivation in shallow areas of the rivers. This would be expected to continue with temperatures forecasted to be 80° for the next few days. The die-off is a natural occurrence when there are low water levels combined with huge numbers of pink salmon crowding into the rivers.

### Counting Projects:

Water levels are starting to drop at Northern Norton Sound escapement Counting projects and the department and Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) expect to be able to start getting weirs fish tight, and the Fish River Tower counting project operational sometime later this week. Salmon passage continues to be good at counting projects with escapement goals projected to be reached. The department thanked NSEDC for over two decades of support at salmon counting projects. Toward the end of the week the department and NSEDC have been making progress to get the weirs operational in northern Norton Sound as the water levels have been dropping. Bonanza and Nome weirs are now fish tight and Eldorado, Snake and Pilgrim weirs are expected to be fish tight in the coming days.

### ***Other Coastal Waters (Stebbins and St. Michael)***

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

### ***Subdistricts 6 (Unalakleet)***

Federal Closure: Effective July 1, 2019, the Federal public waters of the Unalakleet River upstream from the Chirosky River were closed by Federal regulation to the taking of Chinook salmon by all users from July 1 to July 31. The BLM field manager is authorized to open the closed area to federally qualified subsistence users or to all users when run strength warrants.

Subsistence Fishing: The regular subsistence fishing schedule in the marine waters is now in effect with no mesh size restrictions and salmon may be taken for two 48-hour fishing periods from 6 PM Mondays until 6 PM Wednesdays and from 6 PM Thursdays until 6 PM Saturdays, Gillnets are restricted to 50 fathoms in aggregate length.

In the Unalakleet River drainage, the regular subsistence fishing schedule is now in effect with no mesh size restrictions and salmon may be taken for two 36-hour fishing periods a week from 8 AM Mondays until 8 PM Tuesdays and from 8 AM Fridays until 8 PM Saturdays. Gill nets restricted to 25 fathoms in aggregate length and cannot block more than one half of any channel. All gill nets must be anchored; no drift gillnetting is allowed. King salmon may be kept when beach seining. Beach seine mesh size is restricted to 4 1/2 inches or smaller.

Commercial Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing in the Subdistrict opened for 24 hours from 6 PM Tuesday, July 9 until 6 PM Wednesday, July 10. Gillnets were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length. Permit holders could use larger than 6-inch mesh size

if they wanted to try and avoid loading up on pink salmon. On July 10, ADF&G extended the July 9 to July 10 period by an additional 24 hours from Wednesday, July 10 at 6 PM until 6 PM Thursday, July 11. Because of capacity concerns, the buyer had requested the initial period be limited to 24 hours with the option of an extension if catches did not exceed capacity, thus allowing for a normal 48-hour period.

**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 cumulative counts to July 11 are 6,000 kings, 24,000 chums, 500 sockeyes and 500,000 pinks.\* The king count is a record for the 10-year history of the project. The chum count is 10,000 fish behind the recent 5-year average. The sockeye count is on a record pace. Comparisons with past pink counts cannot be made as a result of the current picket spacing allowing uncounted pinks to pass. The historical average midpoint passage at the weir is July 12 for kings and July 14 for chums.

\*Picket spacing at the Unalakleet weir allows most pinks to pass through without being counted.

**North River Tower — Camp J. B.** — A Cooperative Project of NSEDC with assistance from ADF&G. The project has escapement goals of 1,200-2,600 kings, 25,000 pinks, 550-1,100 silvers (aerial survey) and no goal yet established for chums. The cumulative counts to July 11 are 2,800 kings, 5,000 chums and 700,000 pinks. For the 24-year history of the project, the king count is second highest and the pink count the third highest for the date. The chum count is below the 5-year average. The historical average midpoint past the tower for kings is July 12, and for chums is July 16.

### ***Subdistrict 5 (Shaktoolik)***

Subsistence Fishing: The regular subsistence fishing schedule in the marine waters is now in effect with no mesh restrictions for gill nets and salmon may be taken for two 48-hour fishing periods a week from 6 PM Mondays until 6 PM Wednesdays and from 6 PM Thursdays until 6 PM Saturdays.

Subsistence fishing in the fresh waters is open 7 days a week. Gill nets are restricted to 50 fathoms in aggregate length and cannot block more than one-half of any channel. King salmon may be kept when beach seining. Beach seine mesh size is restricted to 4 ½ inches or smaller.

Commercial Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing in the Subdistrict opened for 24 hours from 6 PM Tuesday, July 9 until 6 PM Wednesday, July 10. Gillnets were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length. Permit holders could use larger than 6-inch mesh size if they wanted to try and avoid loading up on pink salmon. . On July 10, ADF&G extended the July 9 to July 10 period by an additional 24 hours from Wednesday, July 10 at 6 PM until 6 PM Thursday, July 11. Because of capacity concerns, the buyer had

requested the initial period be limited to 24 hours with the option of an extension if catches did not exceed capacity, thus allowing for a normal 48-hour period.

**Shaktoolik Sonar/Tower** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has no escapement goals established. The sonar crew has begun operations. The cumulative counts to July 11 are 2,600 kings, 12,000 chums and 4 million pinks. For the 6-year project history, the king count is a record, and the chum count is half the recent 5-year average, and the pink count is on a record track. The historical average third quarter point of passage for kings is July 8 and July 13 for chums.

#### ***Subdistrict 4 (Norton Bay)***

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week. There are no gillnet mesh size restrictions, and king salmon may be kept when beach seining. Gillnets are restricted to 50 fathoms in aggregate length and cannot block more than one-half of any channel.

Commercial Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing in the Subdistrict opened for 24 hours from 6 PM Tuesday, July 9 until 6 PM Wednesday, July 10. Gillnets were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length. Permit holders could use larger than 6-inch mesh size if they wanted to try and avoid loading up on pink salmon. . On July 10, ADF&G extended the July 9 to July 10 period by an additional 24 hours from Wednesday, July 10 at 6 PM until 6 PM Thursday, July 11. Because of capacity concerns, the buyer had requested the initial period be limited to 24 hours with the option of an extension if catches did not exceed capacity, thus allowing for a normal 48-hour period.

**Inglutalik River Tower** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from ADF&G. No escapement goals have been established. The cumulative counts to July 1 are 160 kings, 13,000 chums and 39,000 pinks. The king count is similar to last year. The chum count is trailing the 5-year average. The pink count is average.

#### ***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.

Commercial Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing in the Subdistrict opened for 24 hours from 6 PM Tuesday, July 9 until 6 PM Wednesday, July 10. Gillnets were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length. Permit holders could use larger than 6-inch mesh size if they wanted to try and avoid loading up on pink salmon. . On July 10, ADF&G extended the July 9 to July 10 period by an additional 24 hours from Wednesday, July 10 at 6 PM until 6 PM Thursday, July 11. Because of capacity concerns, the buyer had requested the initial period be limited to 24 hours with the option of an extension if catches did not exceed capacity, thus allowing for a normal 48-hour period.

**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 to July 11 are 78 kings, 9,600 chums and 93,000 pinks. The historical average third quarter points of passage is usually July 12 for chums, and July 16 for kings.

### ***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: Commercial salmon fishing in the Subdistrict opened for 24 hours from 6 PM Tuesday, July 9 until 6 PM Wednesday, July 10. Gillnets were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length. Permit holders could use larger than 6-inch mesh size if they wanted to try and avoid loading up on pink salmon. . On July 10, ADF&G extended the July 9 to July 10 period by an additional 24 hours from Wednesday, July 10 at 6 PM until 6 PM Thursday, July 11. Because of capacity concerns, the buyer had requested the initial period be limited to 24 hours with the option of an extension if catches did not exceed capacity, thus allowing for a normal 48-hour period.

**Fish River Tower** - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have been established. High water has prevented operation of the project to date.

### ***Subdistrict 1 (Nome)***

Subsistence Fishing: 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.

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.

Commercial Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing opened in the Subdistrict for 48 hours from 9 PM Tuesday, July 9 until 9 PM Thursday, July 11. This fishing period was then extended until 9 PM Sunday, July 14. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length. Fishing effort has been light. Based on counting projects that have been operational and catch reports in the commercial fishery the department projects that the chum salmon run has enough surplus to allow for additional fishing time.

**Bonanza River Weir** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have yet been established. The department did get the weir



operational this past Saturday, but with continuing high water and more rain, it too was short lived. It finally became operational later in the week. The cumulative counts to July 11 are 5 chums and 200 pinks. The historical average midpoint of passage at the weir for chums is July 14.

**Eldorado River Weir** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has an escapement goal of 6,000 – 9,200 chum salmon. The weir was operational for less than a day before high water required it to be pulled.

**Nome River Weir** - A Fish and Game project with assistance from NSEDC. It has escapement goals of 2,900 – 4,300 chum salmon and 3,200 pink salmon. The cumulative counts to July 11 are 113 chums and 23,000 pinks. The historical average first quarter point of chum passage at the weir is July 14.

### **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.

**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 project has been delayed by high water. Some sockeyes were observed on an aerial survey of Salmon Lake on July 8. The historical average midpoint of sockeye passage at the weir is July 19.

### **Kotzebue District**

ADF&G issued a reminder to all subsistence and commercial fishers that the area offshore or the Kotzebue airport's main runway to one mile out in the ocean is closed to all commercial and subsistence fishing. 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. The closure will remain in effect until mid-October.

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

Commercial Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing opened for 10 hours daily from 10 AM until 8 PM Wednesday, July 10 through Friday, July 12 in the Kotzebue District. Three

buyers have registered to buy salmon in the Kotzebue Sound District. The 2019 commercial harvest forecast is 450,000 to 650,000 chum salmon depending on enough airplane cargo capacity to haul fish out of Kotzebue. A processing vessel with tenders is expected to arrive in late July and will help to alleviate capacity issues.

**Kobuk River Test Fish** - a Fish and Game project. The project is set scheduled to start late next week.

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