

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 15-21, 2018. Report #8
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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. 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

Falls Lake Sockeye Salmon - The Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake operate the Falls Lake trap and video net weir which were installed June 29. As of July 21, 49 Sockeye Salmon have been counted at the trap and about 400 have been harvested in the subsistence fishery. The final escapement estimate in 2017 was 4,662 Sockeye Salmon while the final subsistence and sport harvest in the marine terminal area was 732. Subsistence harvest accounted for 89% of terminal area harvest.

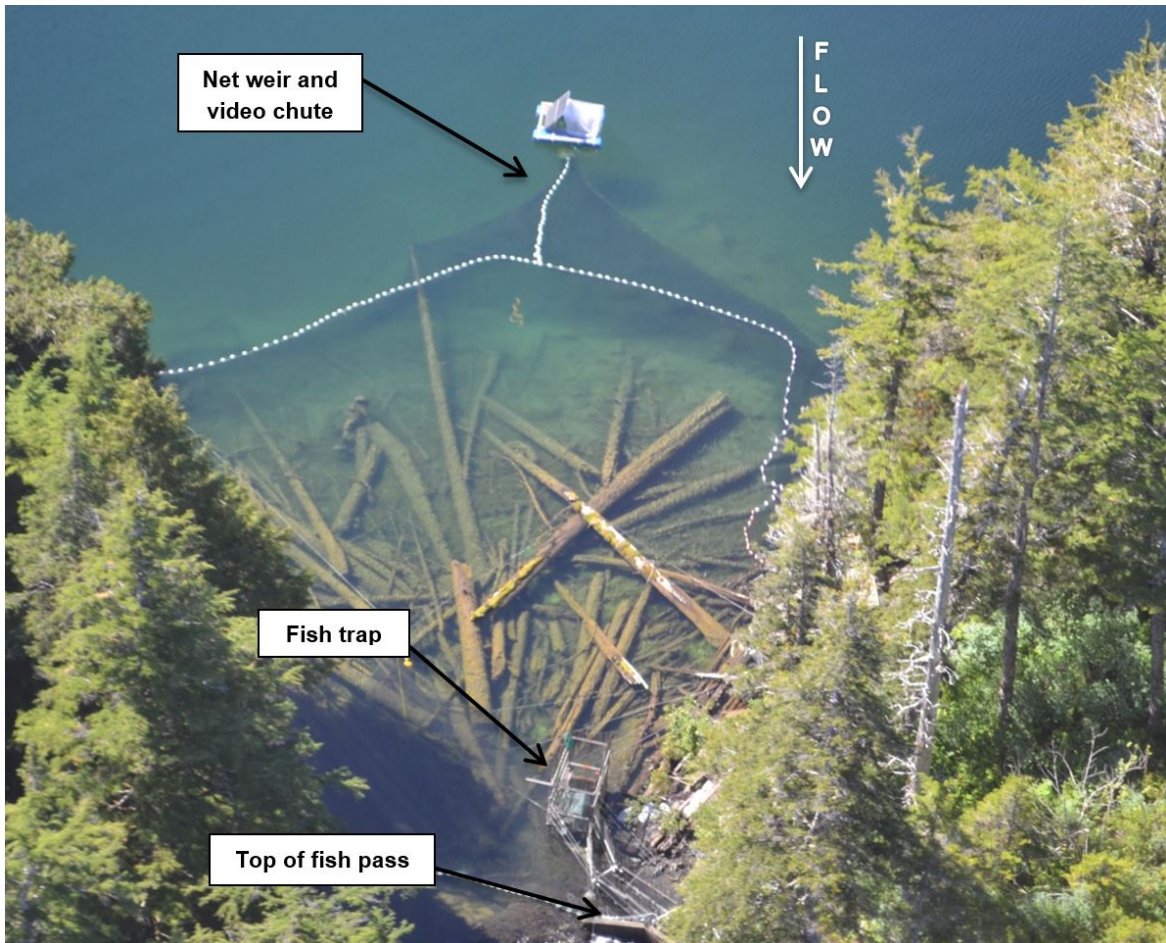


Figure 1. Aerial photo of the Falls Lake outlet illustrating the typical location of weir equipment.

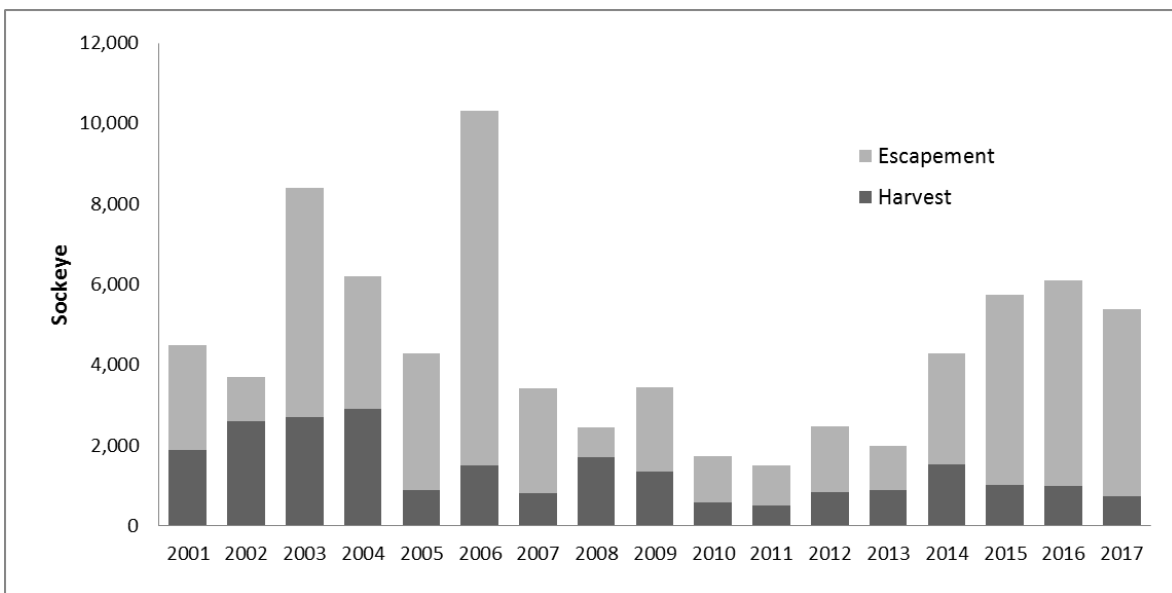


Figure 2. Escapement plus harvest equals total terminal run of Sockeye Salmon at Falls Lake, 2001-2017.

Klag Bay Sockeye Salmon - The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the Sockeye Salmon monitoring weir at Klag Bay, which was operating as of June 28. As of July 20, 95 Sockeye Salmon have been counted at the weir and 643 have been harvested in the subsistence fishery. In 2017, approximately 3,898 migrated past the weir while an estimated 1,087 were harvested in the marine terminal area subsistence and sport fisheries. Subsistence harvest accounted for over 99% of terminal area harvest.

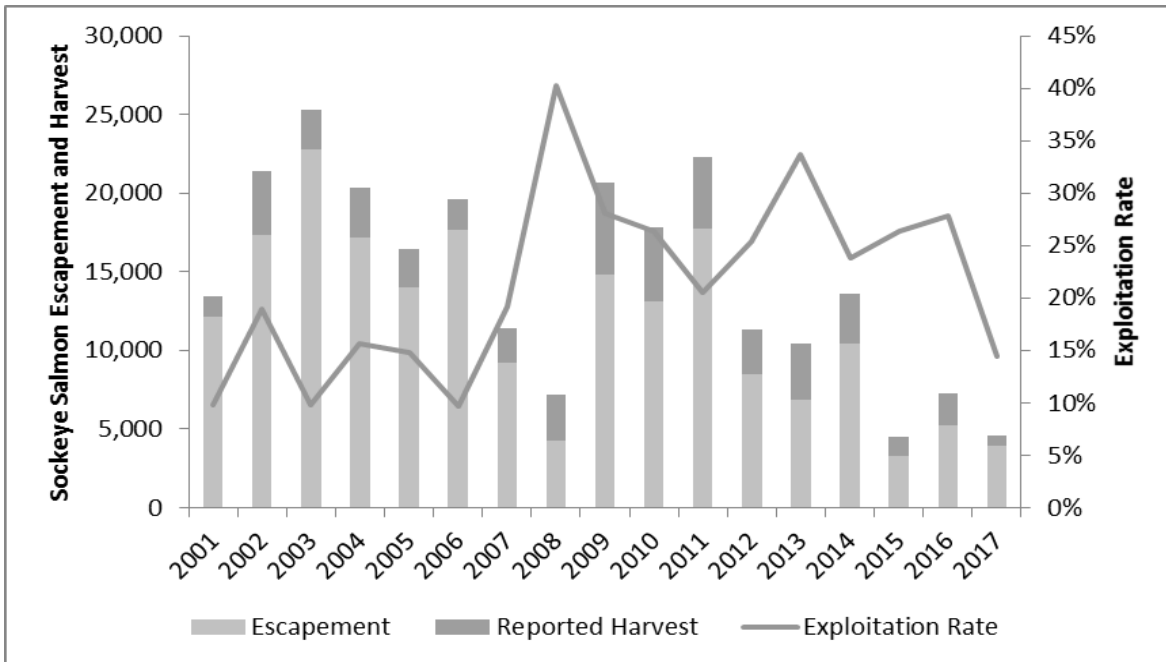


Figure 3. Reported harvest, escapement, and exploitation rate for Klag Lake Sockeye Salmon, 2001-2017.

Redoubt Lake Sockeye Salmon - The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir which was installed June 16. As of July 22, 32,993 Sockeye Salmon have entered the lake which is well above average. The Redoubt Lake Sockeye and Coho Salmon model is predicting that 83,689 Sockeye Salmon will return to Redoubt Lake this season (**Figure 4**). On July 11, in accordance with the Redoubt Bay and Lake Sockeye Salmon Management Plan, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game raised the subsistence limit from 10 daily and 50 annual per household to 25 daily and 100 annually per household. These limits were based on an in-season model prediction of about 95,000 returning. In 2017, at least 55,702 Sockeye Salmon passed through the weir into Redoubt Lake (**Figure 5**).

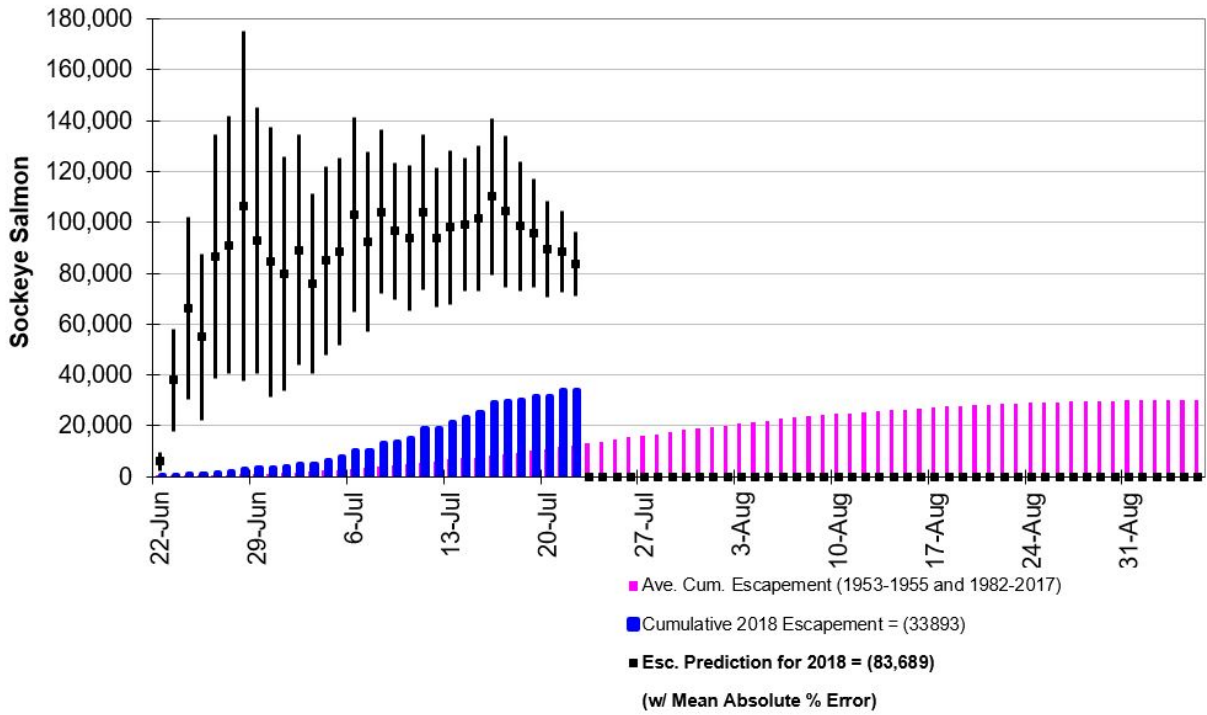


Figure 4. In season predictions of the Redoubt Lake Sockeye Salmon escapement based on weir counts through July 15.

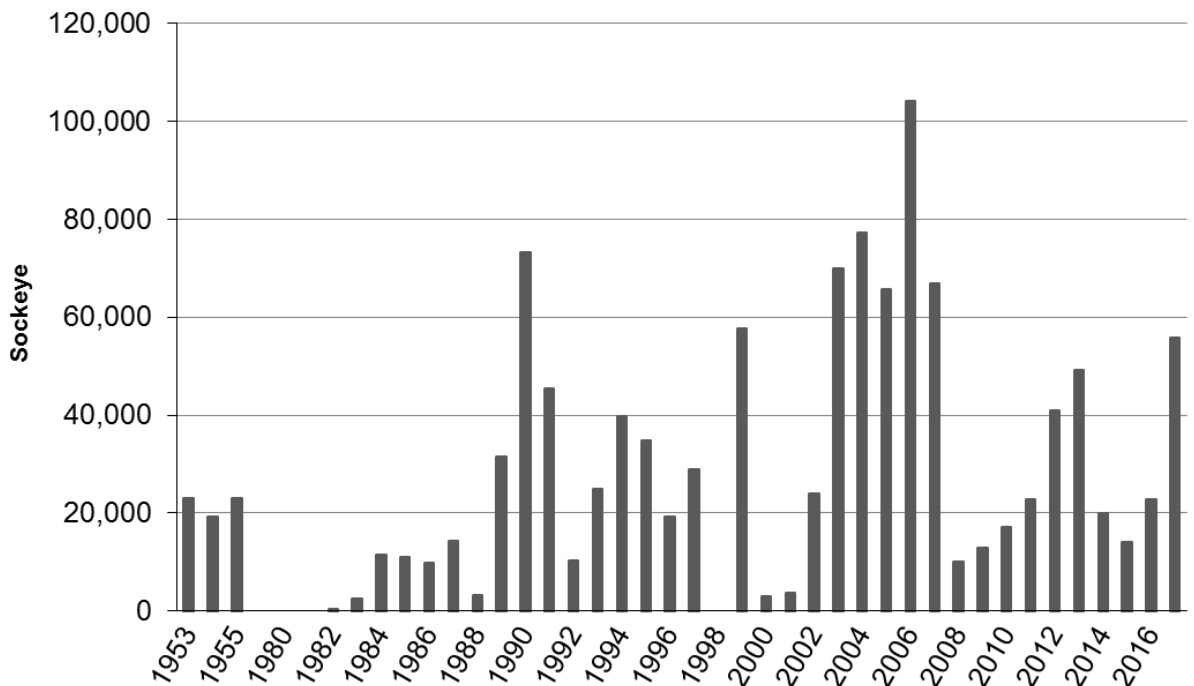


Figure 5. Annual Sockeye Salmon expanded escapement into Redoubt Lake for years with data: 1953 to 1955, 1982 to 1997, and 1999 to 2017. The weir was not operated in 1998.

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

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

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

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

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

July 19, 2018

Yakutat area: Sockeye Salmon returns to the Yakutat area continue to be dismal, with only 14,395 fish counted through the Situk River weir as of July 18. Historically, more than 50% of the escapement is past the weir by now, so the goal of 30,000-70,000 fish is unlikely to be reached. Commercial and subsistence fisheries are closed throughout the area, and the sport fishery is closed to Sockeye Salmon retention. One short commercial opener on the Alsek River occurred on July 8 to assess run strength, and catches from that opener were below average.

Northern inside waters: Indicators of the Sockeye and Pink Salmon returns to northern inside waters range from weak to disastrous. Escapement counts of Sockeye Salmon on the Chilkat River, the Chilkoot River, and Hugh Smith Lake are all well below average, and appear unlikely to meet escapement goals. Catches in the Taku River fishwheels had a hopeful bump in recent weeks, as did catches in the Taku area commercial drift gillnet fishery, so there was at least one bright “sucker hole” in the clouds. Also on the brighter side, catches of Sockeye Salmon in Chatham area test fisheries have been better than expected, given the lack of Sockeye elsewhere, so it’s possible that Chatham Strait

Sockeye Salmon systems may fare better than most others this year. Subsistence fishers from the Angoon area have been successfully harvesting Sockeye Salmon from the Hanus Bay/Lake Eva area, which has been increasingly popular over the past couple of years.

Early season commercial purse seine and test fishery catches of Pink Salmon, which are used to assess run strength, have been disappointing so far this season. The Hawk Inlet test fishery, used to assess returns to Chatham Strait systems, have been about 5-10% of the 10 year average, and test fisheries at Pt. Gardner and Kingsmill were even worse. However, the most recent test fisheries have improved somewhat, going from “worst ever” to just “pretty bad.” The best hopeful sign was the most recent harvest in the Pt. Augusta index fishery, which was well above the recent even-year (i.e. weak year) average.

Neva Lake Sockeye Salmon: Crews from the Forest Service and the Hoonah Indian Association installed the remotely monitored swim-through video weir at the outlet of Neva Lake on June 21 and 22. The pair of picket weirs lead fish through a video chute with four cameras set to record motion (fish) triggered footage on on-site SD memory cards and an off-site computer running the Blue Iris video record and review program. We installed an additional three above water cameras, two fixed and one pan-tilt-zoom, to allow 24/7 intra/internet monitoring of the weir site since weir personnel are living and counting fish off-site at Ocean Beauty Seafood’s plant in Excursion Inlet. Live video feed and clips from the weir can be accessed over the internet at <http://216.252.161.242:81/ui3.htm#> . Interested parties are welcome to view the project feed, but please try to conserve bandwidth.

Sockeye Salmon finally began showing up at Neva Lake with the recent rainy weather (**Figure 1**). The first fish showed up on July 10, which is the latest start since 2002, by about a week. By that time, about 15% of the run has typically passed through the weir into the lake. A decent pulse went through over the next few days, and the current tally stands at 877 Sockeye Salmon through July 18. That puts us on track for a total escapement in the 3,000-4,000 fish range, which isn’t great, but isn’t that terrible either. Project personnel from the Hoonah Indian Association have been having an industriousness competition with the local beavers, which attempt to plug the video chute with sticks, vegetation and rocks each night (**Figure 2**), and the crew cleans it out each morning. The match continues to be a stalemate.

Sitkoh Lake Sockeye Salmon: The Sitkoh Lake video weir (**Figure 3**) was installed on July 6 by project personnel from the Forest Service and the Angoon Community Association (ACA). The project uses a pair of remotely monitored video net weirs to count fish entering Sitkoh Lake, on the southeast corner of Chichagof Island. Video from the site is streamed to the ACA office, where it is recorded on a computer. Live video feed and clips from the weir can be accessed over the internet at <http://24.237.128.185:81/ui3.htm#> . Again, please try and conserve bandwidth while using the site.

So far, no Sockeye Salmon have been recorded passing through the Sitkoh Lake weir. By this time, we have typically seen at least one pulse of fish entering the lake, but it's too early to panic. Hopefully we will start seeing some fish within the next week or so.



Figure 1. A Sockeye Salmon passing through the video chute at the Neva Lake weir.



Figure 2. A beaver carrying a stone into the video chute at the Neva Lake weir.



Figure 3. Live video capture from a surveillance camera at the Sitkoh Lake video weir.

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

Currently 211 Federal salmon/trout/char permits have been issued in the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat region. Of these, 141 have been issued to Federally-qualified subsistence users residing on Prince of Wales Island.

Subsistence fishing opportunity for Sockeye Salmon began on July 1. Prominent fisheries include: Hetta Lake, Klawock Lake, Klakas Lake, Hunter Bay, Sarkar, Karta River, Salmon Bay Lake, Red Lake, Kegan Lake, Shipley Bay, Thorne River and Hatchery Creek. Fishing in these areas has been slower than usual, with hopes that most returns are several weeks later than normal. There are no forecasts for returns to these locations.

The Hetta Lake weir has been operational since June 7, with 598 Sockeye Salmon counted at the site. The Eek Lake weir has been operational since June 12th with 7 Sockeye Salmon counted. Both projects are run by the Hydaburg Cooperative Association (HCA). HCA has requested local residents to not engage in any subsistence fishing activity at Eek until 1000 fish have been counted through the weir. The Klawock fish hatchery, operated by Southern Southeast Alaska Regional Aquaculture Association, has been in place since July 1. To date, 89 Sockeye Salmon have been counted

All commercial fisheries net fisheries are currently active in Districts 1, 2 and 4 while commercial troll fisheries are open in Districts 1-4. The commercial troll fishery for Chinook Salmon closed on July 14, with fishing effort now being directed at Coho and Chum Salmon. Cumulative harvest to date for Districts 1-4 are 3710 Chinook Salmon, 18,510 Sockeye Salmon, 11,290 Coho Salmon, 157,595 Pink Salmon and 291,500 Chum Salmon.



Figure 1. Sockeye Salmon on sampling cradle table being sampled for sex, size, and scales to later determine age of fish.

Petersburg/Wrangell area

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

Currently, all purse seine fisheries are closed in the area. The drift gillnet and commercial troll fisheries are currently open in Districts 6 and 8. Cumulative harvest to date for Districts 6-8 are: 3540 Chinook Salmon, 11,400 Sockeye Salmon, 9300 Coho Salmon, 106,100 Pink Salmon and 125,900 Chum Salmon.

There have been 96 fishing permits issued for the Stikine River subsistence salmon fishery. Weather, river conditions and participation have been good. The catch per unit of effort was very good early this week and subsequently slowed. The estimated cumulative subsistence harvest is 6 large Chinook, no Coho and 1,150 Sockeye Salmon.

Currently 211 Federal salmon/trout/char permits have been issued in the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat region. Of these, 43 have been issued to Federally-qualified subsistence users residing in the Petersburg/Wrangell area.

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

Yakutat area: Sockeye Salmon returns to the Yakutat area are setting records this year – just not the kind of records we hope for. Weir counts on the Situk River are the lowest ever, at just about 5,000 fish through July 7. This compares to an average count of 30,000 fish for the date. All State commercial and subsistence fisheries have been closed, and the sport fishery is closed to the retention of Sockeye Salmon. It appears unlikely that the escapement goal of 30,000 – 70,000 Sockeye Salmon will be met.

Northern Southeast inside waters: Things aren't looking much better on the Sockeye Salmon front in northern inside waters. Weir counts at Chilkat and Chilkoot River escapement projects are lagging behind normal, and appear to be running under the escapement goal ranges. The harvest of Sockeye Salmon in the Taku area drift gillnet fishery is among the lowest on record. On the bright side, the return of hatchery Chum Salmon continues to be strong in both the Lynn Canal and Taku area gillnet fisheries.

Neva Lake Sockeye Salmon: The Neva Lake video weir was set up on June 22, but so far no Sockeye Salmon have been counted passing through the weir. Historically, about 15% of the run has passed through the weir into the lake by this date. That's not very encouraging, but dry weather and low stream flows are contributing to the lack of fish. Hopefully, the first good rain will bring a pulse of fish, and we will have a better idea of the run strength.

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) (Figures 1 and 2) The project uses a pair of remotely monitored video net weirs to count fish entering Sitkoh Lake, on the southeast corner of Chichagof Island. Video from the site is streamed to the ACA office, where it is recorded on a computer.



Figure 1. Forest Service intern Brian Donovan and ACA crewmember Ed Gamble take a well deserved break in the shade of solar panels at the Sitkoh Lake video weir.



Figure 2. View of the solar panel array and net weirs 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

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order Link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R1>

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

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southeast Alaska
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R1.home>

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

SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

Prince William Sound – Copper River

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

Week 8 Fisheries Update (as of 7/20/2018)

Prince William Sound – Copper River

Copper River – Barbara Cellarius, Subsistence Coordinator, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve, (907) 822-7236 or barbara_cellarius@nps.gov

The Sockeye Salmon return to the Copper River was extremely low during the early portion of the season. During the month of June, the State of Alaska issued Emergency Orders restricting or closing all state fisheries except for the subsistence fishery of the Copper River District near Cordova. These restrictions included the following: limited early season commercial fishing periods, Chitina personal use fishery closure, Sockeye Salmon sport fishing closure, and limiting the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery to 2 days per week.

Federal managers are continuing to monitor run strength indicators to evaluate the need for appropriate management actions. Recent trends of increasing run strength have been reported from in-river indicators, which provide the likelihood of achieving the established sustainable escapement goal for wild Sockeye Salmon spawning populations.

In response to the increasing run strength, along with consideration of the total estimated in-river return to date, on July 8, the State of Alaska opened the state subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict, 7 days per week for the remainder of the season. The personal use fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict is being managed on a weekly basis based on fish passage at the Miles Lake sonar. It opened for 84-hour fishing periods from noon on July 12 through 11:59 p.m. on July 15, and from 6:00 a.m. on July 19, through 6:00 p.m. on July 22. It will open for a 90-hour period from 6:00 a.m. Thursday, July 26, through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, July 29. The Sockeye Salmon sport fisheries in the Upper Copper River Drainage reopened on July 13.

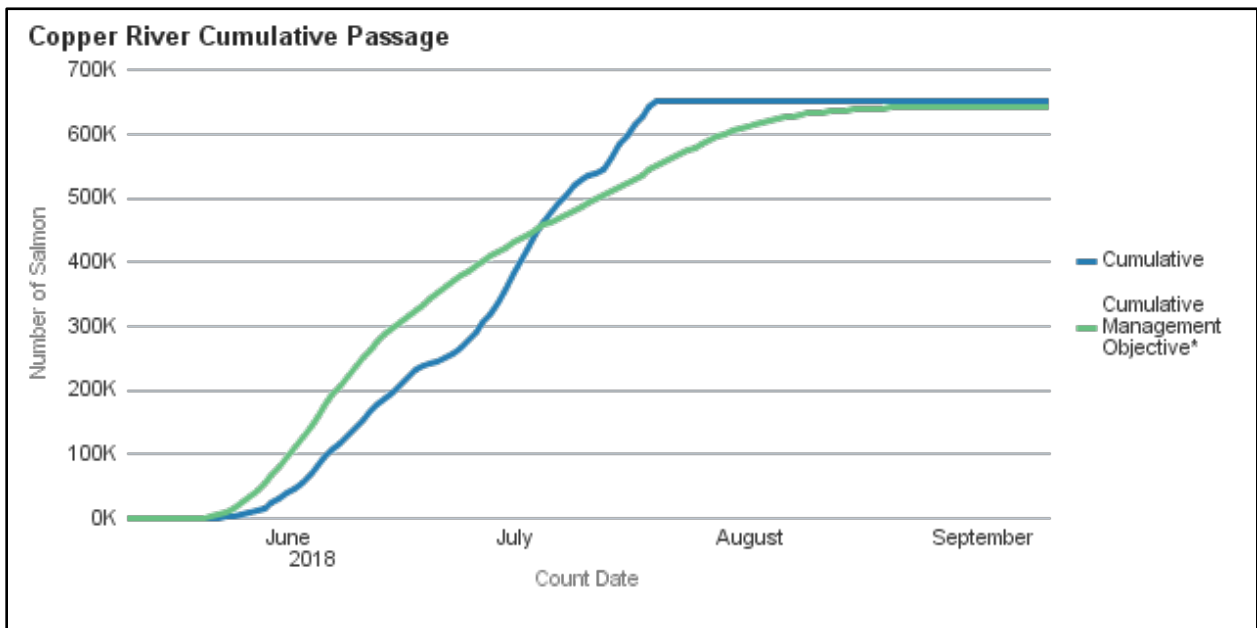
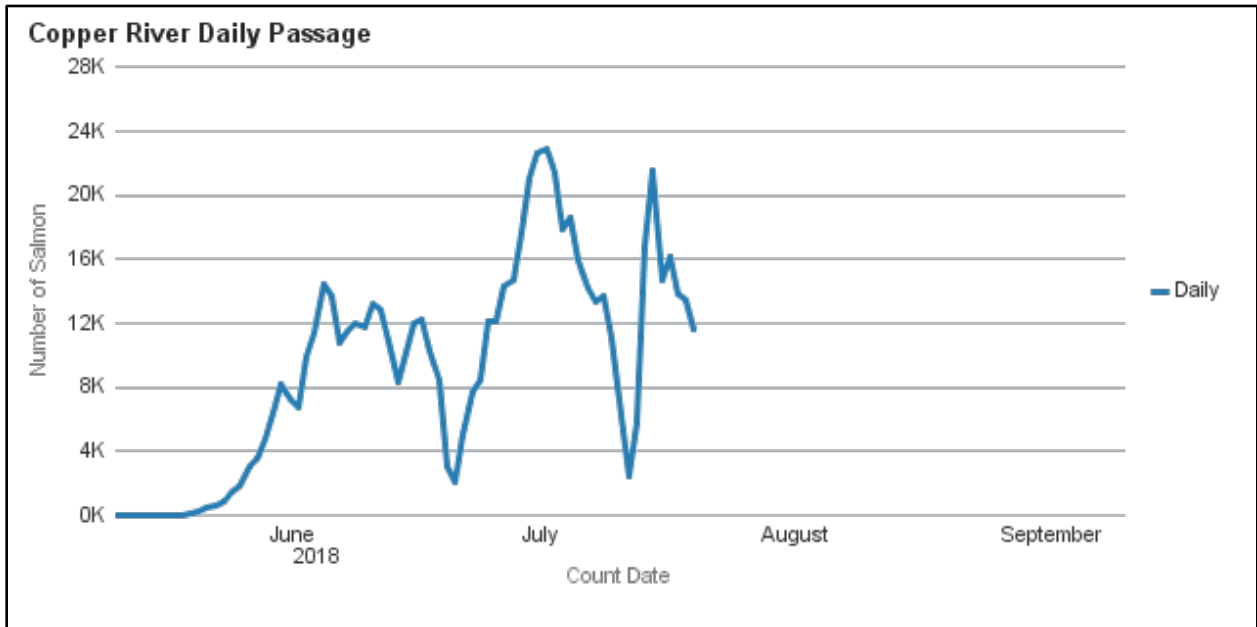
The commercial fishery in the Copper River District was limited during the early season in response to low numbers of Sockeye Salmon observed in run strength indices. Three 12-hour commercial fishing periods occurred during the month of May. Additional 12-hour commercial fishing periods occurred on July 9 and July 19. As of late afternoon on 7/20, total Sockeye Salmon commercial harvest for the season has been 37,302.

As of July 19, 2018, the ADF&G sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) estimated that 653,749 salmon had migrated upstream past the sonar thus far during the season. This estimate is 19 percent above the

cumulative management objective of 550,403 salmon for this date in the season and also above the cumulative management objective for the season (644,233).

2018 Upper Copper River Salmon Passage at Miles Lake Sonar

(as of July 19)



Source:

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

The Federal subsistence fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict opened on June 1 and is expected to remain open through September 30. As of 7/20, one hundred (100) 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/McCarthy, 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. As of July 20, two hundred eighty-five (285) Federal Glennallen permits have been issued using the FWS online data base. Additional permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott/McCarthy, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity.

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

Installation of the Tanada Creek fish weir was completed on Thursday, June 21. The first Sockeye Salmon was recorded passing the weir on July 4. As of midnight on July 19, a total of 617 Sockeye Salmon and no Chinook Salmon have been recorded passing the site for the season. Fish passage has picked up significantly this week, with 321 Sockeye passing through on July 18 and 195 Sockeye on July 19.



Tanada Creek fish weir



Fisheries Technician Mike Wilcox downloading data at Tanada Creek weir.

The Native Village of Eyak Baird Canyon fish wheels captured and tagged 5,578 Chinook Salmon through July 8 (no new data after this date). As of 7/19, the upriver fish wheels at Canyon Creek have captured 3,617 Chinook Salmon, of which, 424 were recaptured fish that had been tagged at the downstream wheels.

ADF&G's counting tower in the Gulkana River has reported passage estimates for the periods of June 8 – 11 and June 17 – July 19, with a season total of 1,728 Chinook Salmon reported.

One Federal Special Action has been issued by the in season manager this season:

- Delaying the starting date of the Chitina Subdistrict Federal subsistence salmon fishery to June 1.

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 Inseason Commercial Harvest Estimates
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.harvestsummary>
- Gulkana River counting tower – ADF&G
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/index.cfm> (select Gulkana River, then 2018)

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

A total of 48 Federal Subsistence fishing permits have been issued for freshwaters within the Chugach National Forest portion of the Prince William Sound area of to date. Harvest by this year's permit holders will not be known until reports are returned this winter. Ninety-seven permits were issued in 2017 resulting in the reported harvest of 514 Coho and 127 Sockeye Salmon from Copper River Delta fresh waters in this fishery.

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

A total of 333 permits for Cook Inlet Federal subsistence fisheries have been issued to qualified households through July 21. This includes 86 Kenai River permits (FFCI01) and 10 Designated Fisher permits to Cooper Landing households; 32 Kenai River permits (FFCI01) and 2 Designated Fisher permit to Hope households; and 113 Kenai River permits (FFCI01), 85 Kasilof River permits (FFCI02), and 5 Designated Fisher permits to Ninilchik households.

The 2018 subsistence dip net fisheries for salmon opened on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers June 15 and June 16, respectively. Harvest reported to date in the dip net fishery at Russian River Falls is 1,390 Sockeye Salmon. Harvest reported to date in the Kasilof River dip net fishery is 47 Sockeye Salmon.

The Kasilof River experimental community gillnet fishery began on June 16 and continues through August 15. Harvest reported through July 21 includes 716 Sockeye Salmon. The Kenai River community gillnet fishery began on July 1 and continues through August 15, and then from September 10 – 30. Harvest reported through July 21 is 25 Sockeye Salmon.

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

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

Alaska Department of Fish and Game emergency orders and news releases affecting upper Kenai Peninsula sport fisheries can be found at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=area.list&Year=2017&AreaID=5>

Kodiak Island Area – Michael Brady, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR
(907) 487-2600/0230 or michael_brady@fws.gov or Kevin Van Hatten (907) 487-0230
Kevin_VanHatten@fws.gov

The Sockeye Salmon runs around Kodiak Island are considered to be average, to date. Management practices for the Karluk, Ayakulik, and Upper Station systems switched from the early to late run Sockeye Salmon on July 16. Escapements for early run sockeye salmon within these systems have met their respective escapement goals.

The Chinook salmon runs on the Karluk and Ayakulik Rivers failed to meet their respective escapement goals, with only 2,853 Chinook salmon being recorded on the Karluk River and 2,031 Chinook salmon being recorded on the Ayakulik River.

Subsistence needs of many villagers around Kodiak continue to have a hard time meeting their needs for harvesting sockeye salmon. Due to these poor returns, subsistence users along the road system who normally rely on this fishery will have to wait for silver salmon for their needs.

Any reports of subsistence activities will be reported during the upcoming week.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kodiak Area

<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/fishregs13/kodiak.pdf>

**BRISTOL BAY, CHIGNIK, ALASKA PENINSULA, and ALEUTIAN ISLANDS –
Jonathon Gerken Fisheries Branch Chief Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office**

(907) 271-2776 Jonathon_Gerken@fws.gov

Bristol Bay:

The 2018 Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon run is forecast to be approximately 41 to 61 million fish for nine river systems: Kvichak, Alagnak, Naknek, Egegik, Ugashik, Wood, Igushik, Nushagak, and Togiak Rivers. The commercial salmon season in Bristol Bay opened June 1. Commercial harvest as of July 19 is approximately 36.7 million fish for all salmon species throughout all districts.

The Sockeye Salmon cumulative counts for July 20 are:

Kvichak River = 4,043,574 fish, met escapement goal.

Alagnak River = 1,354,866 fish, met escapement goal

Naknek River = 2,174,550 fish, met escapement goal

Egegik River = 1,554,264 fish, met escapement goal

Ugashik River = 1,083,462 fish, met escapement goal.

Wood River = 7,349,406 fish, met escapement goal.

Igushik River = 590,922 fish, met escapement goal.

Nushagak River = 1,049,563 fish, met escapement goal.

Nushagak River = Chinook Salmon = 88,776 fish, met escapement goal.

Togiak River = 137,094 fish, escapement goal = 150,000 – 270,000

Chignik:

As of July 19, 182,587 early-run Sockeye Salmon have been enumerated at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game operated weir, where a minimum of 348,000 fish were anticipated. It is unlikely, based on the current rate of escapement, that the lower end of

the escapement goal for early-run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage will be achieved. Through Section 815 of ANILCA Emergency special action (**8-SS-01-18**) closed Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by Federally qualified subsistence users who are in the possession of a Social and Cultural Harvest Permit beginning June 22, 2018 and remains in effect through July 31, 2018. Thus far, two permits have been issued. A Social and Cultural Harvest Permit restricts harvest of Sockeye Salmon for a community to 100 fish.

Late-run Sockeye Salmon are tracking the minimum escapement goal for the date of July 19, to date, 67,233 late-run Sockeye Salmon were enumerated where 68,000 – 136,000 fish were forecast. There is concern regarding the strength of the late-run Sockeye Salmon run.

The Chinook Salmon count as of July 19 is 605 fish. The historical average count for this date is 1,383 fish. Based on historical run timing, approximately 69% of the escapement has occurred by July 19, and the current projected total escapement is not expected to meet escapement. Through Section 816 of ANILCA, this Emergency Special Action (**8-KS-01-18**) closes fishing for Chinook Salmon in the Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage due to concerns about the viability of the population effective July 13. In parallel with the Federal closures, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has closed the state subsistence fishery and sport fishery for Chinook Salmon through August 9.

Escapement Goals:

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

The Chignik Advisory Committee and Bristol Bay Native Association discussed an emergency petition with the Board of Fisheries specific to the low returns in 2018 for both the early and late run Sockeye Salmon populations on Tuesday, July 17. The Board of Fisheries found the Chignik early and late run Sockeye Salmon populations met the definition of an emergency and instructed the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to restrict commercial fishing in the Dolgoi Section of the South Peninsula Management area through August 8 if interim escapement objectives at the Chignik weir were not being met. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will manage accordingly.

Alaska Peninsula:

The current commercial harvest in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area through July 19 is 3.7 million, of which 2.4 million were Sockeye Salmon.

Escapement Goals:

Nelson River Sockeye Salmon	BEG = 97,000 – 219,000
Nelson River Chinook Salmon	BEG = 2,400 – 4,400
Late-run Bear Lake	BEG = 117,000 – 195,000

To date, the cumulative counts as of July 19 for Sockeye Salmon are:

Nelson River = 172,110 fish, met escapement goal.

Chinook Salmon = 4,929 fish, met escapement goal.

Bear River = 300,027 fish, 5 year average = 271,687 fish.

Sandy River = 32,456 fish, 5 year average = 89,450 fish.

Ilnik River = 79,393 fish, 5 year average of 88,516 fish (weir is pulled out)

Orzinski River = 1,676 fish, 5 year average of 11,467 fish.

Aleutian Islands.

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

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Bristol Bay Area

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

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Chignik Area

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

Southcentral Alaska Web Links

Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases

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

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.R2>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southcentral Alaska

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R2.Home>

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

Yukon River – Gerald Maschmann, Fish Biologist USFWS Fairbanks Office.

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Emmonak Summer Office (907) 949-1798

The Emmonak Field Office is open for the season. You can contact the Emmonak Field Office at 907-949-1798

Summer Season Update Summary

Summer season management is over in the lower Yukon. Districts 1, 2, and 3 have transitioned to fall season management. Subdistrict 4-A will transition on July 31.

1.6 million Summer Chum Salmon passed the Pilot Station sonar. Combined with over 425,000 Summer Chum Salmon harvested in the Districts 1 and 2 subsistence and commercial fisheries, puts the preliminary Summer Chum Salmon run size over 2 million fish for the season. A run of this size is large enough to provide for escapement and subsistence uses, while providing a surplus of up to 800,000-1,000,000 Summer Chum Salmon for commercial harvest. Commercial harvest opportunities have been dependent upon available markets and hindered by conservation measures for the overlapping Chinook Salmon run.

159,000 Chinook Salmon passed the Pilot Station sonar. Combined with approximately 5,000 Chinook Salmon harvested in the Districts 1 and 2 subsistence fishery, puts the preliminary Chinook Salmon run size at 164,000 fish for the season. This is below the lower end of the preseason forecast of 173,000 to 251,000 fish and tracked slightly better than 2015. Subsistence conservation measures were implemented early in the run, and continue to be implemented in the upper Yukon, to spread out the available subsistence harvest and meet escapement goals. Starting in the lower Yukon and moving up river with the Chinook Salmon migration, subsistence was placed on half their normal regulatory windows schedule, subsistence fishing was restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear and some subsistence periods were cancelled. Additional subsistence periods with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gill nets were scheduled to allow for some subsistence Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon harvest later in the season. Although the Chinook Salmon run came in below the lower end of the preseason forecast, managers are optimistic that the restrictions implemented this season based on the estimated passage past the Pilot Station sonar, will be adequate for the 2018 Chinook Salmon run to meet escapement goals and the Canadian border passage objective.

Summer Assessment Information

The Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon run is over in the lower Yukon and continuing in the upper Yukon. The Lower Yukon Test Fish (LYTF) project has an end of season cumulative Chinook Salmon set net CPUE of 23.52 through July 12, near the average of 24.44; however, fishing was inefficient early in the season due to high debris loads. The Chinook Salmon drift gillnet test fishery has a final cumulative CPUE of 433.71 through July 15, above the average of 393.95. The Pilot Station sonar began full operations on June 1 with early test fishing catches also hampered by high debris loads the first week of operations. The cumulative Chinook Salmon passage estimate past the Pilot Station sonar through July 20 is 159,324, below the average of 180,558 salmon. Pulse one is well into Canada or on their spawning grounds. The second pulse has passed by the

Eagle Sonar or entering their spawning streams. The third pulse should be between Circle and Eagle. The fourth and final pulse should be headed into the Tanana drainage or passing through the Rapids area of Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C.

The Summer Chum Salmon drift gillnet project has a final cumulative CPUE of 17,578.34 through July 15, well above the average of 6,178.14. The cumulative Summer Chum Salmon estimates past the Pilot Station sonar through July 18 is 1,613,076, below the median of 1,898,620 salmon. The 4th and largest Summer Chum Salmon pulse of the season is in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C at this time.

The E.F. Andreafsky River weir has passed 3,396 Chinook Salmon and 29,237 Chum Salmon through July 19. The E.F. Andreafsky Chinook Salmon run has met its goal of 2,100-4,900 Chinook Salmon, and is below its goal of greater than 40,000 Summer Chum Salmon. It's unlikely that the E.F. Andreafsky will meet its Summer Chum Salmon goal this season. The Anvik River sonar has an estimated passage of 271,508 Summer Chum Salmon, well below the average for this date of 512,412, and is expected to end below its escapement goal of 350,000-700,000, which continues a trend of poor production in this tributary.

The Eagle Sonar near the Canadian Border began counting on July 4 and has a cumulative passage of 14,824 Chinook Salmon through July 19. The passage estimate is below the average of 18,299 and near the ¼ point. Early projections are putting the Eagle sonar passage estimate between 43,000-58,000.

Directed Summer Chum Salmon commercial fishing began in District 1 on June 9 and District 2 on June 12. All periods were initially directed towards Summer Chum Salmon using dip nets and beach seines with incidentally caught Chinook Salmon being immediately released alive. District 1 had its first commercial gillnet opening to target Summer Chum Salmon with mesh size restricted to 6-inches or less on July 4. District 2 had its first commercial gillnet opening on July 7 also to target Summer Chum Salmon with 6-inch or smaller mesh size nets. Through July 17, Districts 1 and 2 harvested 422,000 Summer Chum Salmon, caught and released approximately 11,326 Chinook Salmon, and caught and retained for personal use 2,761 Chinook Salmon. Commercial fishing began in Subdistrict 4-A near Kaltag on June 26. All periods are directed towards Summer Chum Salmon using live release fish wheels with all Chinook Salmon being released immediately back into the water. A preliminary 101,500 Summer Chum Salmon have been harvested through July 19. Beginning July 21, commercial fish wheels will no longer be required to be manned and fishermen may retain incidentally caught Chinook Salmon for personal use. A small, commercial fishery began in District 6 on July 13. 323 Summer Chum Salmon have been harvested, 45 Chinook Salmon have been caught and released, and 99 Chinook Salmon have been caught and retained for personal use.

Fall Season Outlook

The 2018 fall chum salmon pre-season run projection, based on the summer chum to fall chum salmon relationship, is for a run size range of 700,000 to 900,000 fish. This level of

abundance is typically sufficient to meet escapement and subsistence needs, and provide a surplus for commercial and personal use purposes.

Fall Assessment Information

Fall season assessment has just begun in the lower Yukon. The 6-inch LYTF began on July 16 and has a cumulative CPUE through July 20 of 233.43, above the average of 146.31. The Mt. Village Test Fishery (MVTf) began on July 18 and has a cumulative CPUE through July 20 of 122.84, below the average of 204.16. The Pilot Station sonar transitioned to fall season management on July 19 and has a two day cumulative passage of 38,341, above the average of 32,476.

Fall Season Management Actions

Effective 12:00 a.m. Monday, July 16, the Coastal District transitioned to fall season management with subsistence fishing continuing to be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Effective 3:00 p.m. Sunday, July 15, District 1 transitioned to fall season management and subsistence fishing in District 1 was opened 7 days per week, 24 hours a day except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. Effective 3:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 18, Districts 2 and 3 transitioned to fall season management and subsistence fishing in Districts 2 and 3 were opened 7 days per week, 24 hours a day except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. Subsistence fishermen may use gillnets with a maximum mesh size of 7.5 inches in all areas during the fall season.

One fall season commercial period has occurred in each of Districts 1 and 2 so far this season with a preliminary combined harvest of 47,000 fall chum salmon.

For several years there has been repeated violations of commercial fishermen harvesting salmon from the closed waters of Pastolik and Pastoliak rivers just a few miles north of Kotlik outside the Yukon River. Working with the State of Alaska Wildlife Enforcement officers, we have jointly closed these waters to all gillnet fishing, including subsistence, for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial period. Typically, subsistence fishing allows gillnets of 4 inch mesh or smaller during salmon closures to permit opportunity to harvest non-salmon fish. However, enforcement officers are having a difficult time distinguishing mesh size from the air during patrols thereby requiring them to land in order to assess mesh size which becomes a safety judgement. Even though this may appear as an additional burden on the subsistence user due to a commercial opportunity, it is a matter of maintaining an orderly fishery and it is in response to members of the local community requesting enforcement support to protect their local streams. We will adjust this action as necessary based on local feedback and results.

Consultation

Extensive public outreach and consultation was performed during the fall of 2017 and spring of 2018 to inform and seek input from Yukon River fishermen and stakeholders.

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 May 2, a pre-season planning meeting was held in Anchorage that brought together representatives from most Alaskan Yukon River communities to discuss the run outlook and management options.

The seventh YRDFA weekly teleconference was held on July 17. Lower Yukon fishermen reported being mostly done with summer season subsistence harvests. Fishermen in the middle portion of the river were mostly done but a few felt they were still short of their Chinook Salmon subsistence needs. Fishermen in the upper river portion of the drainage reported that some were successful harvesting Chinook Salmon while some were doing poorly. Furthermore, the fall season outlook and management strategies were discussed on recent YRDFA teleconferences. Participants communicated the importance of the fall chum salmon run in meeting their subsistence needs due the lack of Chinook salmon in this year's harvests.

On June 26, 27, and 28, a series of public meetings were held in the Yukon River communities of Russian Mission, Shageluk, Grayling, Anvik, and Holy Cross to discuss local fisheries issues. Among the participants from outside the area were the Lieutenant Governor, the ADF&G Commissioner, the President of TCC, the Director of the Yukon InterTribal Fish Commission, an Alaska Board of Fisheries member, and the ADF&G Subsistence Division Director as well as both State and Federal fisheries and Refuge managers. The USFWS Regional Director had planned to accompany the group, but did not make it unfortunately. Public turnout was very good and the opportunity to directly communicate with high-ranking officials was appreciated.

KUSKOKWIM RIVER

In Season Manager – Ken Stahlnecker, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Contact [Kenneth Stahlnecker@fws.gov](mailto:Kenneth_Stahlnecker@fws.gov); (907) 543-3151 or [Lewis Coggins@fws.gov](mailto:Lewis_Coggins@fws.gov) or author Aaron Moses [Aaron Moses@fws.gov](mailto:Aaron_Moses@fws.gov)

Summary:

Effective July 6, 2018, through Special Action 3-KS-10-18 Yukon Delta NWR rescinds all previously issued special actions regarding the management of Chinook Salmon in the Kuskokwim River Drainage. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will manage fishing openings, closings and fishing methods.

Through Alaska Department of Fish and Game Emergency Order #3-S-WR-8-18, Subsistence fishing below the Johnson River are restricted to gillnets 6-inch mesh, 45 meshes in depth, and 50 fathoms in length is allowed until further notice. Above the Johnson River, gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or less mesh, 45 meshes in depth and 25 fathoms in length.

Kwethluk River weir Chinook Salmon counts as of July 19, 2018 is at 1,384. In 2017 and 2016, Chinook Salmon counts for the Kwethluk River were at 5,121 and 2,272, respectively. The Kwethluk weir was not fish tight until last week because of high water.

Kogruklu River weir Chinook Salmon counts as of July 21, 2018 is at 3,137. In 2017 and 2016, Chinook Salmon counts were at 4,655 and 5,238, respectively.

Salmon River Pitka Fork weir Chinook Salmon counts as of July 21, 2018 is at 3,901. In 2017 and 2016 Chinook Salmon counts were at 3,668 and 5,156, respectively.

Test Fisheries:

As of July 22, the cumulative catch per unit of effort (CPUE) of Chinook salmon at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Bethel Test Fishery is 650. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2017 and 2016 were 358 and 662, respectively.

Cumulative CPUE for chum salmon is at 7,393. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2017 and 2016 were 6,326 and 3,508 respectively. Cumulative CPUE for Sockeye is at 1,950. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2017 and 2016 were 2,447 and 1,965, 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

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/>

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Norton Sound District

Mid-July run analysis shows a well above average runs of chum and pink salmon, and an above average run of sockeye salmon. The king run has been below average but has shown some improvement recently.

Sport Fishing: Effective Thursday, July 19 at 12:01 AM The ADF&G Division Sport Fish opened all waters of the Unalakleet River to sport fishing for king salmon and also is allowing the use of bait. The bag and possession limit is one fish with no size limit, and an annual harvest limit of two fish. The escapement counts of king salmon at the North River tower on the Unalakleet River have recently increased and the Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) of 1,900 fish is projected to be exceeded. This action is in accordance with the King Salmon Management Plan for Subdistricts 5 and 6 and the Unalakleet River drainage. Inseason stock assessments from the Shaktoolik and Inglutalik River drainage indicate that king salmon escapements are below average so those areas will remain closed. Additionally, all the other fresh waters in Southern Norton Sound that do not have in season information including the Koyuk, Ungalik and Golsovia river drainages will remain closed. (Note below that the federal waters of the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River remain closed.)

Commercial Fishing: Chum salmon catches in the commercial fishery continue to be strong. ADF&G, in consultation with the buyer, is setting up a commercial fishing schedule through the first weekend of August. The commercial chum salmon harvest is nearing the midpoint of the department forecast of 150,000 to 200,000 chum salmon, and catch projections show the harvest may exceed 200,000 chums. This year's chum Salmon harvest is the largest in 35 years and is on track for a Top 5 finish.

Other Norton Sound Coastal Waters

All waters from Wood Point west to Point Romanof are open to subsistence salmon fishing seven days a week.

Subdistrict 6 (Unalakleet)

Federal Closure: Federal public waters of the Unalakleet River upstream from the mouth of the Chirosky River remain closed by federal regulation to the taking of king salmon by all users from July 1 to July 31.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence salmon fishing reopened in the marine and fresh waters extending south to Wood Point effective midnight Sunday evening, July 15 until further

notice. Subsistence gillnets were restricted to 50 fathoms or shorter in all marine and fresh waters, and no net can block more than half of any channel at any tide stage. Beach seining, dip netting and cast netting is allowed 7 days a week, and king salmon captured while subsistence fishing may be kept.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catches to July 16 are 188 king, 53,000 chum, 14,000 pin, 670 sockeye and 11 silver salmon by 45 permit holders. An all-time record catch for a 48-hour fishing period occurred on July 9-11 when 24,081 chums were caught by 38 permit holders. Commercial fishing opened from 6 PM Tuesday, July 17 until 6 PM Thursday, July 19. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets limited to a mesh size of 6 inches or less. Captured king salmon could be retained for personal use, but could not be sold. Because rough sea conditions prevented some permit holders from fishing, this period was extended to close at 6 PM Friday, July 20. Effective Friday, July 20, commercial fishing opened for weekly two 48-hour periods from 6 PM Saturdays until 9 PM Mondays and from 6 PM Wednesdays until 6 PM Fridays.

Unalakleet River Floating Weir — A cooperative project of Fish and Game, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDG), Native Village of the Unalakleet and BLM, with major funding provided by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management. Escapement goals for the weir have not yet been established. The cumulative counts to July 18 are 2,600 king, 60,000 chum and 200 silver salmon. The historical average midpoint for kings is July 11, and for chums is July 15. The king count is above average with nearly 1,000 passing in two days. The chum count is average. The weir no longer counts all the pinks passing because the new weir panels are wider, letting pink salmon pass through.

North River Tower — Camp J. B. — A Cooperative Project of NSEDG with assistance from ADF&G. The project has escapement goals of 1,200-2,600 kings, 25,000 pinks, 550-1,100 silvers (aerial survey) and no goal yet established for chums. The cumulative counts to July 18 are 1,950 king, 14,000 chum, 350,000 pink and 3 silver salmon. For the first time in three years, the king passage has exceeded the low end of the escapement goal range. Chum and pink passages have been well above average. The historical average midpoint for pinks, kings and chums is July 14, July 16, and s July 21 respectively.

Subdistrict 5 (Shaktoolik)

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence salmon fishing reopened in the marine and fresh waters extending south to Wood Point effective midnight Sunday evening, July 15 until further notice. Subsistence gillnets were restricted to 50 fathoms or shorter in all marine and fresh waters, and no net can block more than half of any channel at any tide stage. Beach seining, dip netting and cast netting is allowed 7 days a week. King salmon captured while subsistence fishing may now be kept.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catches to July 17 are 8 king, 25,000 chum, 1,500 pink, 270 sockeye and 7 silver salmon by 21 permit holders. Chum Catches have been well above average. Commercial fishing opened from 6 PM Tuesday, July 17 until 6 PM Thursday, July 19. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets limited to a mesh size of 6 inches or less. Captured king salmon could be retained for personal use, but could not be sold. Because rough sea conditions prevented some permit holders from fishing, this period was extended to close at 6 PM Friday, July 20. Effective Friday, July 20, commercial fishing opened for weekly two 48-hour periods from 6 PM Saturdays until 9 PM Mondays and from 6 PM Wednesdays until 6 PM Fridays.

Shaktoolik Sonar/Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has no escapement goals established. The cumulative counts to July 18 are 970 king, 32,000 chum and 300,000 pink salmon. The king count has been average, and the chum count has been below average.

Subdistrict 4 (Norton Bay)

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week with no mesh size restrictions, and gillnets limited to 50 fathoms in length. When beach seining, dip netting or cast netting, all king salmon must be immediately returned to the water,

Commercial Fishing: Cumulative catches to July 17 are 36 king, 10,000 chum, 300 pink and 50 sockeye salmon harvested by 21 permit holders. The chum salmon catch has been above average. Commercial fishing opened from 6 PM Tuesday, July 17 until 6 PM Thursday, July 19. Nets were restricted to 100 fathoms in aggregate length and a mesh size of 6 inches or less. Captured king salmon could be retained for personal use, but could not be sold. Because rough sea conditions prevented some permit holders from fishing, this period was extended to close at 6 PM Friday, July 20. Effective Friday, July 20, commercial fishing opened for weekly two 48-hour periods from 6 PM Saturdays until 9 PM Mondays and from 6 PM Wednesdays until 6 PM Fridays.

Inglutalik River Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from ADF&G. No escapement goals have been established. The cumulative counts to July 18 are 186 king, 915,000 chum, and 5,000 pink salmon. All counts have been below average.

Subdistrict 3 (Elim)

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week with no mesh size restrictions, and gillnets limited to 50 fathoms in length.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catches to July 17 are 99 king, 22,232 chum, 930 pink and 34 sockeye salmon harvested by 24 permit holders. The chum salmon catch has been well above average. Commercial fishing opened from 6 PM Tuesday, July 17 until 6 PM Thursday, July 19. . Nets were restricted to 100 fathoms in aggregate length and a

mesh size of 6 inches or less. Captured king salmon could be retained for personal use, but could not be sold. Because rough sea conditions prevented some permit holders from fishing, this period was extended to close at 6 PM Friday, July 20. Effective Friday, July 20, commercial fishing opened for weekly two 48-hour periods from 6 PM Saturdays until 9 PM Mondays and from 6 PM Wednesdays until 6 PM Fridays

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 counts to July 18 were 63 king, 30,000 chum and 850,000 pink salmon. The king passage is below average. The chum and pink passages are well above average. The historical average third quarter points of the runs past the tower are usually July 12 for chums, July 16 for kings, and July 18 for pinks.

Subdistrict 2 (Golovin)

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week with no mesh size restrictions, and gillnets limited to 50 fathoms in length.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catches to July 17 are 31 king, 19,000 chum, 1,300 pink and 40 sockeye salmon harvested by 14 permit holders. The chum salmon catch has been well above average. Commercial fishing opened from 6 PM Tuesday, July 17 until 6 PM Thursday, July 19. Nets were restricted to 100 fathoms in aggregate length and a mesh size of 6 inches or less. Captured king salmon could be retained for personal use, but could not be sold. Because rough sea conditions prevented some permit holders from fishing, this period was extended to close at 6 PM Friday, July 20. Effective Friday, July 20, commercial fishing opened for weekly two 48-hour periods from 6 PM Saturdays until 9 PM Mondays and from 6 PM Wednesdays until 6 PM Fridays.

Fish River Tower - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have been established. The cumulative counts to July 18 are 72 king, 27,000 chum and 700,000 pink salmon. Counting began on July 10 which was past the average historical midpoint for kings and chums, and the quarter point for pinks.

Subdistrict 1 (Nome)

The pink salmon are going to plug the rivers. Some of the rivers will have over a million pinks. The Flambeau and Eldorado rivers are the only two rivers where the chum are likely to outnumber the pink salmon.

Subsistence Fishing: By regulation, the summer subsistence salmon gillnet fishing schedule went into effect in the Nome Subdistrict on June 15. The marine waters east of Cape Nome continue to be open seven days a week. All Nome Subdistrict freshwater subsistence areas and the marine waters west of Cape Nome are open to gillnet fishing for five days each week from 6 PM Wednesday until 6 PM Monday. Also effective June 15, beach seining for salmon opened in all subsistence areas of the Nome Subdistrict whenever subsistence gillnet fishing is open. Unless closed by emergency order, beach

seining will remain open during gillnet fishing periods through August 15. Dip nets and cast nets can also be used anytime gillnet fishing is open. Also, effective June 15, all gillnet and beach seine fishing upstream of Boulder Creek on the Sinuk River was closed. This closure is in effect to protect migrating sockeye salmon that hold in the Sinuk River Bridge area before reaching the spawning grounds.

Subsistence salmon fishing permits are required, and stream specific harvest limits are listed on the permit. There are no catch limits in the marine waters.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch to July 17 is 8 king, 7,000 chum, 1,400 pink and 42 sockeye, salmon by 5 permit holders. The chum salmon catch has been well above average. Commercial salmon fishing opened from 9 PM Tuesday, July 17 until 9 PM Thursday, July 19. Nets were restricted to 100 fathoms in aggregate length. Captured king salmon could be retained for personal use, but could not be sold. Because rough sea conditions prevented some permit holders from fishing, this period was extended to close at 9 PM Friday, July 20. Effective Friday, July 20, commercial fishing opened for weekly two 48-hour periods from 9 PM Fridays until 9 PM Tuesdays until and from 9 PM Tuesdays until 9 PM Thursdays.

Solomon River Weir – A Fish & Game project, has no escapement goals yet established. The cumulative counts to July 18 were 1 king, 600 chum and 120,000 pink salmon. The historical first quarter point of the chum run has been July 15.

Bonanza River Weir – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have yet been established. The counts to July 18 were 2,000 chum and 150,000 pink salmon. It's the first year for the project. Hundreds of thousands of pinks were observed in the lower river by aerial survey.

Eldorado River Weir – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has an escapement goal of 6,000 – 9,200 chum salmon. Counting began June 28. Cumulative counts to July 18 were 27 king, 29,600 chum and 30,000 pink salmon. The chum count is above average. The historical average midpoint of the chum run has been July 14.

Nome River Weir – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has an escapement goal of 2,900 – 4,300 chum salmon and 13,000 pink salmon. The cumulative counts to July 18 were 7 king, 1,100 chum, 750,000 pink, 33 sockeye and 2 silver salmon. The historical average midpoint of the chum run has been July 20, and for pinks July 22.

Snake River Weir – A cooperative project between Fish & Game and NSEDC has an escapement goal of 1,600 – 2,500 chum salmon. The cumulative counts to July 18 were 500 chum and 40,000 pink salmon. The historical average midpoint of the chum run has been July 20.

Port Clarence District

Subsistence Fishing: 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. On July 10, ADF&G announced waiving the subsistence sockeye salmon catch limit in the Pilgrim River since sockeye escapement is ensured. The escapement count at the weir on July 10 was 7,000 sockeyes. The escapement goal range at Salmon Lake is 4,000 to 8,000 sockeyes determined by aerial count. Subsistence gillnet and beach seining are open seven days a week.

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

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 counts to July 18 were 50 king, 5,000 chum, 6,000 pink and 14,000 sockeye salmon. The historical average midpoint of the sockeye passage at the weir is July 18; however, last year, it was July 15.

Kotzebue District

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

Commercial Fishing: Catches during this past week were like last year's catches for the same time. The catch for the first two weeks of fishing this season was nearly 90,000 chums caught by 60 permit holders.

Kobuk River Test Fish - Fish & Game project. The crew began drifts downstream of Kiana on Wednesday, July 18, and have caught chums, sheefish and a pink with catch rates like last year.

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

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