

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 15-21, 2019. 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. 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

Falls Lake - The Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake operate the Falls Lake trap and video net weir which was operating as of June 26. Sockeye Salmon usually begin entering the lake around July 15. None have been counted as of July 18. Some 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.

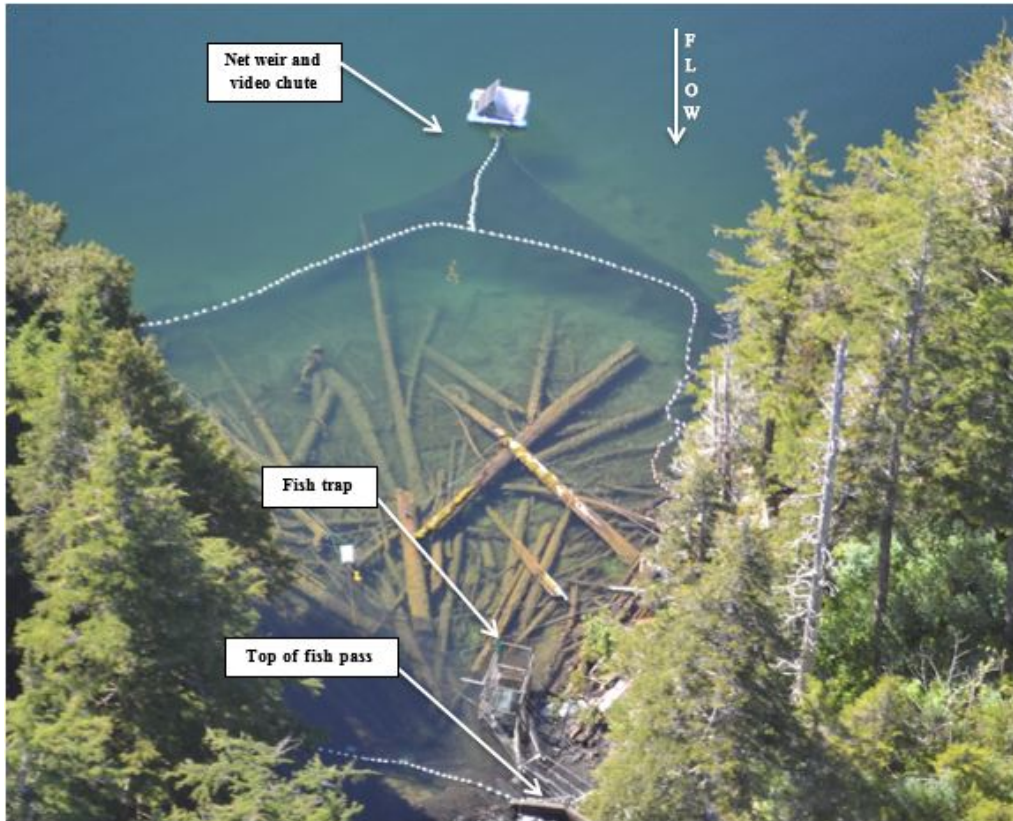


Figure 1. Aerial photo of the Falls Lake outlet illustrating the typical location of weir equipment.

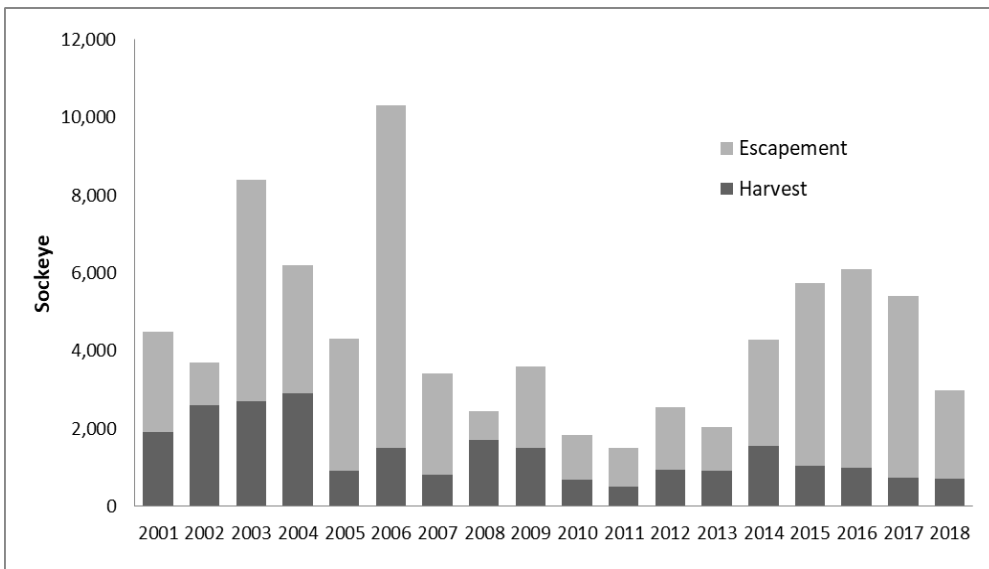


Figure 2. Escapement plus harvest equals total terminal run of Sockeye Salmon at Falls Lake, 2001-2018.

Klag Bay - The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the Sockeye Salmon monitoring weir at Klag Bay which was operational the last week in June. Five Sockeye Salmon have been counted as of July 21. This low count is not unusual because escapement is flow

dependent and we have had little precipitation recently. As of July 21, 1,133 Sockeye Salmon have been harvested in the State subsistence fishery in Klag Bay. 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.

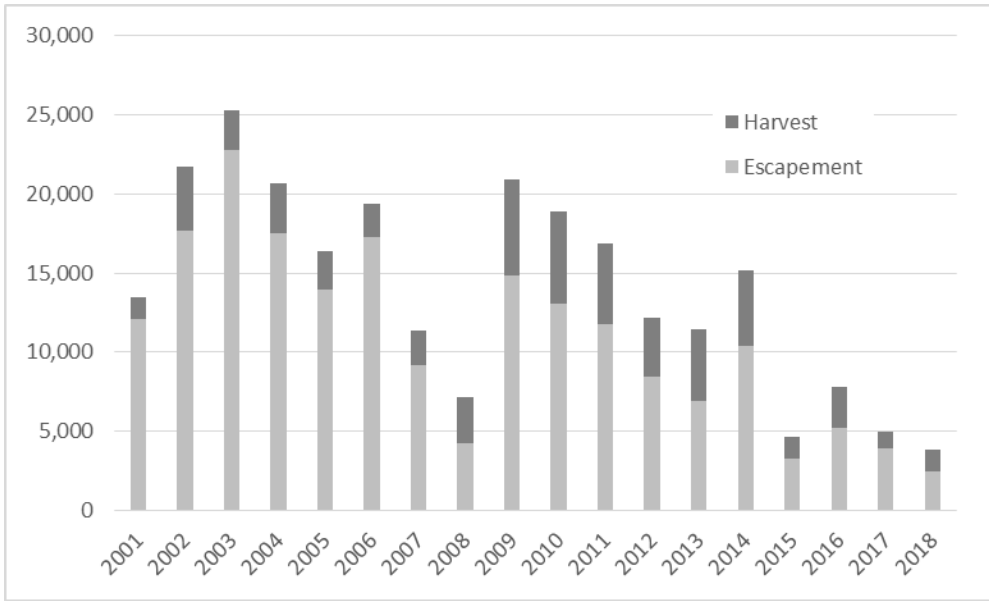


Figure 3. Reported harvest, escapement, and exploitation rate for Klag Lake Sockeye Salmon, 2001-2018.

Redoubt Lake - The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir which was operational June 15. As of July 18, 18,487 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 5,000 Sockeye Salmon have been caught in Redoubt Bay during recent commercial seine openings.

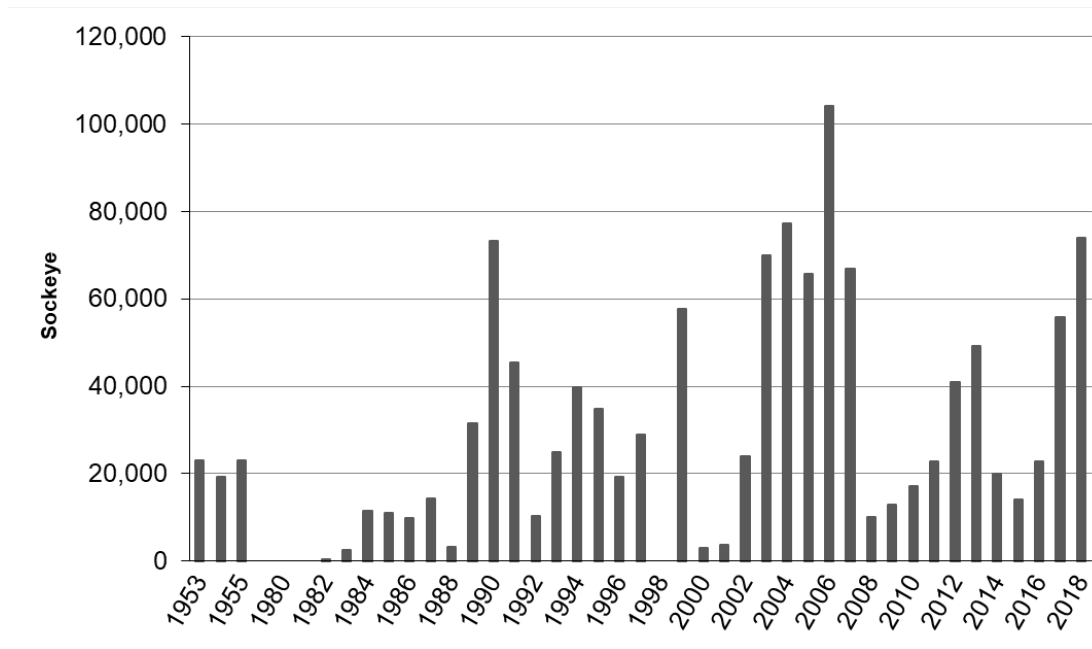


Figure 4. Annual Sockeye Salmon expanded escapement into Redoubt Lake for years with data: 1953 to 1955, 1982 to 1997, and 1999 to 2018. The weir was not operated in 1998.

Gut Bay - The Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake began monitoring escapement and harvest of Gut Bay Sockeye Salmon this year. Gut Bay is located south of Falls Lake on Baranof Island and is an important source of Sockeye Salmon for the village of Kake. Very little is known about the magnitude of this run. The weirs were installed on June 20 and as of July 21, 271 Sockeye Salmon have been counted. Several hundred have been harvested in the State subsistence fishery in Gut Bay.

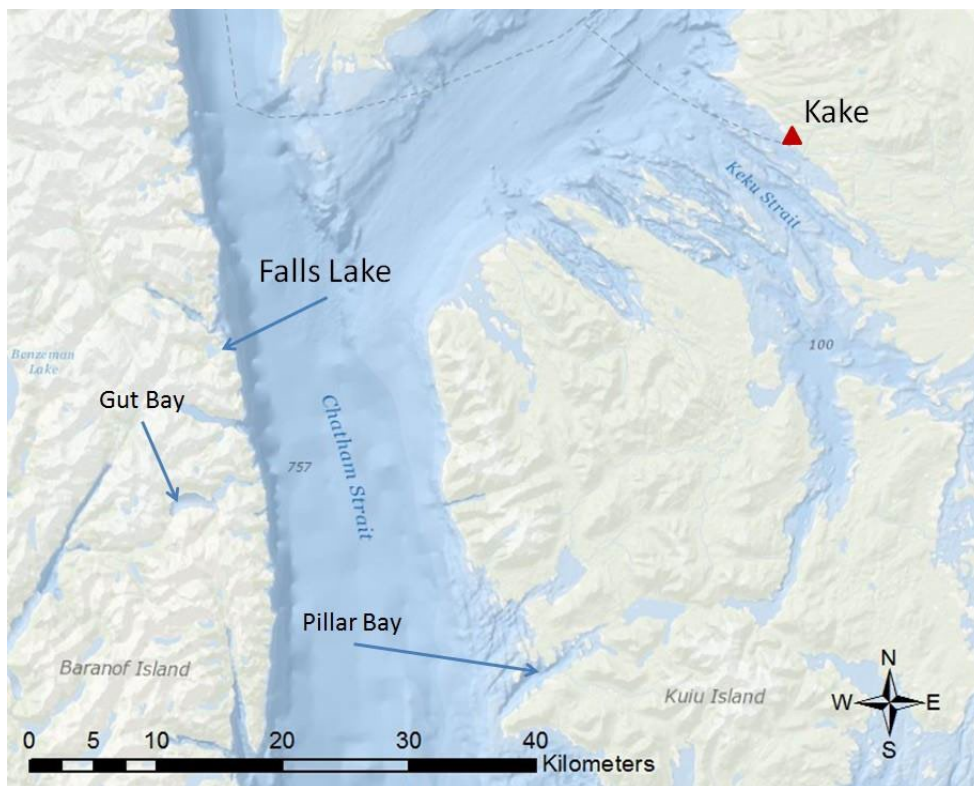


Figure 5. Location of Gut Bay in relation to Falls Lake and the village of Kake

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

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.

Due to a low forecast for the Mainstem portion of the Stikine River Sockeye Salmon run, the Federal subsistence Sockeye Salmon fishery was closed. The closure was effective Sunday, July 21, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. and will remain in effect through the rest of the 2019 season which ends July 31. The estimated cumulative subsistence salmon harvest is 20 large Chinook, and 1,700 Sockeye Salmon.

The 2019 preseason forecast for the Stikine River is 90,000 Sockeye Salmon which is below the average 153,000 fish. The forecast includes 66,000 Tahltan Lake and 24,000 Mainstem Sockeye Salmon. The escapement objective for Tahltan bound Sockeye Salmon is 18,000 and 30,000 for the Mainstem component. Both Canadian and US fisheries are seeing harvests below expectations, indicating a total run size lower than the preseason forecast. This action is necessary for Sockeye Salmon conservation in the Stikine River and to meet obligations of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has also taken actions in the State managed fisheries to reduce the harvest of Stikine River Sockeye Salmon. The closure of the Sockeye Salmon fishery does not affect the Stikine River Federal subsistence Coho Salmon fishery beginning August 1, 2019.

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., Thursday, July 18, 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 200 chum salmon.

	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
District 7	0	8	2	1,167	300	1,477

A restricted commercial drift gillnet fishery is open in Districts 6 from 12:01 p.m., Sunday, July 21, through 12:00 noon, Tuesday, July 23, and District 8 from 12:01 p.m., Sunday, July 21, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, July 24. More details can be found in the [ADF&G press release](#). The total commercial drift gillnet harvest estimate in Anita Bay (District 7) is 3,300 Chinook and 1,200 chum salmon.

	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
District 6	150	3,000	1,700	40,000	8,500	53,350
District 8	500	800	90	1,800	3,000	6,190

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

July 22, 2019

Yakutat area: Returns of Sockeye and Chinook Salmon to the Situk remain below the ten-year average, though a recent surge of Sockeye Salmon has passed through the weir. The Situk River weir has counted 38,896 Sockeye Salmon and 360 large Chinook Salmon as of July 18. This puts the Sockeye Salmon return just over the lower range of the escapement goal of 30,000 – 70,000 fish, but the Chinook run will likely not reach the escapement goal of 450-1,050 large fish.

Northern southeast inside waters: Returns of both chum and pink salmon continue to be weak throughout the region. On the bright side, catches of Sockeye Salmon in test fisheries appear to be somewhat higher than average. Combined with the reduced commercial fishing pressure, returns to subsistence fishing areas may be stronger than in recent years.

Sitkoh Lake sockeye salmon:

The Sitkoh Lake video weir was installed on July 6 by project personnel from the Forest Service and the Angoon Community Association (ACA). The project uses a pair of remotely monitored video net weirs to count fish entering Sitkoh Lake, on the southeast corner of Chichagof Island. Video from the site is streamed to the ACA office, where it is recorded on a computer. Live video feed and clips from the weir can be accessed over the internet at <http://sitkohlake.ddns.net:81> . No Sockeye Salmon have been observed swimming through the weir to date, though several boreal toads have been recorded. The Sitkoh Lake outlet stream is extremely low and warm (20° C at the time of weir installation), 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. A group of Sitka blacktail deer walk past the Sitkoh Lake video weir.



Figure 2. Video capture of a boreal toad in the video chute at the Sitkoh Lake weir.



Figure 3. Video capture of an eagle landing at the Sitkoh Lake weir.

Neva Lake sockeye salmon:

A crew from the Forest Service and the Hoonah Indian Association (HIA) installed the Neva Lake weir near Excursion Inlet on June 19. This swim-through video weir is remotely monitored and maintained by a HIA crew living in Excursion Inlet. 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, which is the latest return since monitoring began in 2002. Typically, about 33% of the run has passed through the weir by this date. Live video from the weir is available on the internet at <http://nevalake.ddns.net:81>. Viewers can see underwater views of the video chute, site views from the surveillance cameras, and view recent motion-triggered clips.



Figure 4. Video capture of an otter carrying a fish through the Neva Lake 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>

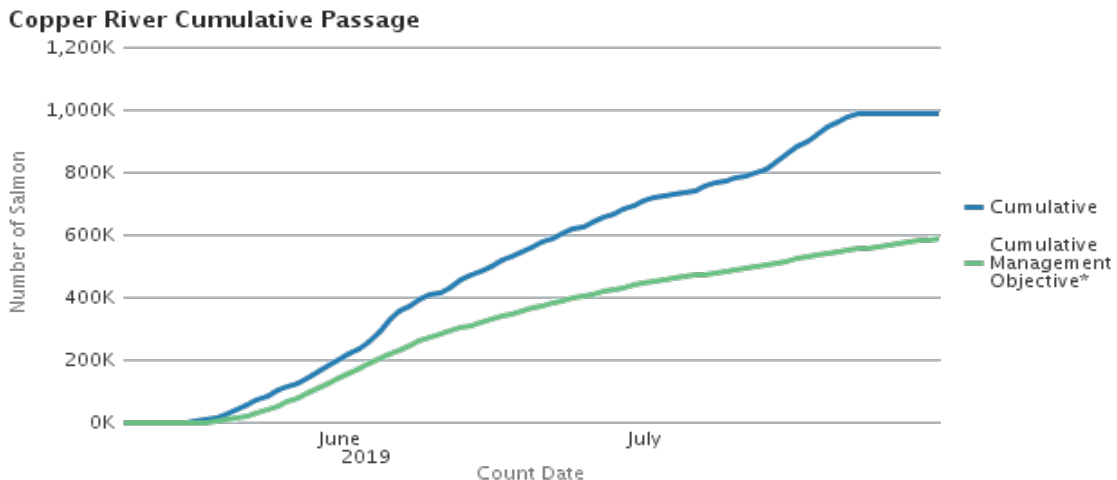
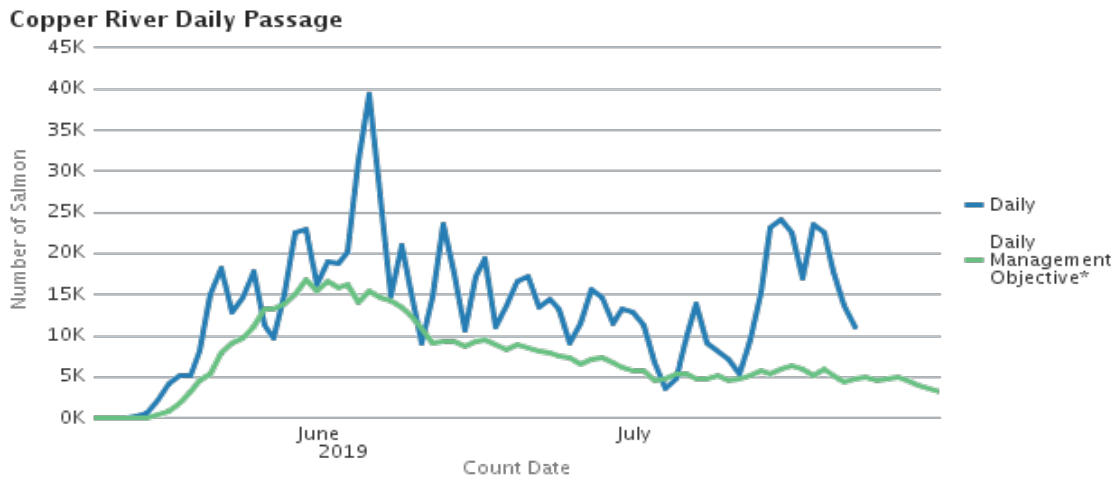
Statewide ADF&G Fish counts
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND – COPPER RIVER

The ADFG sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) has estimated 990,528 salmon to have migrated upstream for the season through July 21. This estimate is near the upper bound of the in-river goal for the season (618,000 to 1.01 million salmon) and is 78% above the projected passage of 556,820 for this date, or 433,708 more salmon. Due to high water levels in the Copper River, the sonar located on the north bank did not operate from July 2 through July 11. Estimates are currently being reported from both the south and north bank sonars, with a daily estimate of 11,160 salmon passing the sonar on July 21.

2019 Upper Copper River Salmon Passage at Miles Lake Sonar through July 21.



Source:

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

The total Copper River District commercial harvest reported for the season through July 19 is 1,199,892 Sockeye Salmon, 17,837 Chinook Salmon, 415 Coho Salmon, 92,272 Pink Salmon, and 22,794 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 28.

The Federal subsistence fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict opened on May 15 and is expected to remain open through September 30. One hundred and seventy-two (172) 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 twenty-three (323) 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 have captured and examined 2,725 Chinook Salmon for the season, of which, 307 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 21 is 7,578 Chinook Salmon.

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

Links:

ADF&G Miles Lake daily sonar estimates

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

NVE's Chinook Escapement Monitoring project in the Copper River

<http://eyak.fishscan.com/Summary/DailySummary.aspx>

ADF&G Copper River In-season Commercial Harvest Estimates

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.harvestsummary>

ADF&G Gulkana River counting tower

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

ADF&G Emergency Orders and News Releases

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=area.list&Year=2018&AreaID=33>

**PWS and Copper River Delta – Milo Burcham, Chugach National Forest, Cordova.
6 June 2017.**

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A total of 46 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 Jeffrey_Anderson@fws.gov

A total of 343 permits for Cook Inlet Federal subsistence fisheries have been issued to qualified rural residents through July 19. This includes 253 Household Annual permits (KKTCI3), 80 General Subsistence Fishing permits (KKTCI2), and 10 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 19 in the dip net fishery at Russian River Falls is 998 Sockeye Salmon. Harvest reported through July 19 in the Kasilof River dip net fishery is 21 Sockeye Salmon.

The Kasilof River experimental community gillnet fishery began on June 16 and continues through August 15. Harvest reported through July 19 includes 553 Sockeye Salmon and 6 Pink Salmon.

Regulatory periods for the Kenai River community gillnet fishery are from July 1 through August 15 and from September 10 – 30. Harvest reported through July 19 includes 10 Sockeye Salmon.

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>

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Kodiak Island Area

Michael Brady, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR

(907) 487-0226 or michael_brady@fws.gov or Kevin Van Hatten (907) 487-0230
Kevin_VanHatten@fws.gov

The 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 3,714 Chinook salmon being recorded on the Karluk River and 1,869 Chinook salmon being recorded on the Ayakulik River.

Subsistence needs of many villagers around Kodiak continue to have be successful in meeting their needs for harvesting sockeye salmon. The good returns have enabled many subsistence users to meet their needs along the northern section of the Kodiak Management Area.

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

Bristol Bay:

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

Sockeye Salmon escapement counts for the date of July 21 are:

- 772,284 fish on the Alagnak
- 2,285,232 fish on the Egegik River
- 115,710 fish on the Igushik River
- 2,248,843 fish on the Kvichak River
- 2,873,520 fish on the Naknek River
- 678,811 fish on the Nushagak River, 43,962 Chinook Salmon.
- 118,998 fish on the Togiak River
- 590,058 fish on the Ugashik River
- 2,073,276 fish on the Wood River

There is concern for the Igushik River as escapement goals have typically been met by the date of July 20. Reports of extremely high water temperature (>23 deg C, 73 deg F) have been noted. Temperatures like these create a thermal barrier deterring fish from beginning upstream migrations. There are large numbers of fish in the bay that have not began their migration due to this barrier. The ADF&G has closed down commercial fishing in the Igushik District to allow these fish opportunity to migrate upstream. The expectation is that once the water temperature decreases that fish will start migrating.

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 21 is 42.2 million, with Sockeye Salmon accounting for 98% of the harvest.

Chignik:

The cumulative weir count as of July 20 is 478,558 Sockeye Salmon with 300,930 fish attributed to the early run and 168,628 attributed to the late run. The interim escapement goal based on historical run timing for this date is 340,000 to 440,000 early run fish and 70,000 – 140,000 late run fish. Current information indicates that the early run Sockeye Salmon is unlikely to meet the lower end of the biological escapement goal of 350,000 fish. The late run appears to be average to above average and currently on track to exceed the upper end of the escapement goal. The transition point from early run to late run typically occurs on July 31 as most fish entering the river are genetically identified as late run fish. The ADF&G conducts weekly genetic sampling to distinguish early and late run fish, as of July 8, the percentage ratio was 59% early run and 41% late run.

The Bristol Bay Native Association hosted a teleconference on July 19 to provide a forum for local subsistence users and managers to share information, no fisherman called into the teleconference. Both ADF&G and FWS fisheries managers were present. The first 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 period to target Pink and Chum Salmon in the outer districts of the Chignik Management Area. The period began Tuesday July 16 and has been extended through July 23.

Chinook Salmon counts enumerated at the ADF&G weir as of July 20 are 1,155 fish. The mid-point of the Chinook Salmon run is approximately July 15. The Chinook Salmon run is on track to meet the lower end of the escapement goal. This goal has not been met since 2016.

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 21 are:

- 97,995 fish on the Nelson River, 10,663 Chinook Salmon
- 234,821 fish on the Bear River
- 74,345 fish on the Ilnik River (Weir was pulled on July 18).
- 3,662 fish on Orzinski River (south peninsula)
- 63,376 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 20 at 14.2 million fish, with Pink Salmon accounting for 74% of the harvest.

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

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

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

Southcentral Alaska Web Links

Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases
<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.R2>

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

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southcentral Alaska
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R2.Home>

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

Yukon River

Gerald Maschmann, Fish Biologist USFWS Fairbanks Office.

Gerald_Maschmann@fws.gov or

Fred Bue Fredrick_Bue@fws.gov

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

Summer Season Summary

The summer management season has ended in the lower Yukon. Districts 1 - 3 transitioned to fall season management and District 4 will transition this week. The preliminary Summer Chum Salmon run size is projected to total around 1.75 million fish for the season. This includes the number estimated to have passed the Pilot Station sonar, the Andreafsky River, and harvest below the sonar. Although below average and below the preseason outlook, a run of this size is large enough to provide for escapement, subsistence harvests, and other uses. 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 better than 2018. 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 Escapement Information

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 20, the East Fork Andreafsky River weir has passed 4,983 Chinook Salmon, well above the average for this date and near the top end of the escapement goal range of 2,100-4,900. The Summer Chum Salmon passage of 42,364 is below the median of 51,085 for this date, but above the escapement goal of 40,000. The Anvik Sonar has passed 227,579 Summer Chum Salmon, well below the median of 516,509, and well below the minimum escapement goal range of 350,000-700,000. The Gisasa River weir has passed 1,109 Chinook Salmon, below the average of 1,656, and 17,036 Summer Chum Salmon, well below the median of 36,409. The Henshaw Creek weir has passed 233 Chinook Salmon, well below the average of 852, and 7,670 Summer Chum Salmon, below the median 97,678. Through July 18 the Chena River tower has passed 925 Chinook Salmon, well below the average of 3,745, and below the minimum escapement goal range of 2,800-5,700. Through July 18 the Salcha River tower has passed 1,437 Chinook Salmon, well below the average of 4,220, 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 11,555 Chinook Salmon through July 20, well below the average of 21,402. Pulse 2 should be arriving this week and passage is expected to pick up.

The preliminary summer season commercial harvest from fifteen periods is 225,000 Summer Chum Salmon and 2,569 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 went into effect for District 1 beginning July 16, District 2 on July 19, and District 3 July 21. Upriver management districts and subdistricts will switch to fall season management as the Fall Chum Salmon migration reaches those areas. The lower river test fishery began fall season operations on July 16, the Mountain Village test fishery began 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 750,000 fish. This level of abundance is typically sufficient to meet escapement and subsistence needs with very little surplus available for commercial and personal use purposes.

Fall Season Management Actions

Subsistence salmon fishing in the Coastal District and District 1-3 is open 7 days per week except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after commercial fishing periods.

Consultation

Extensive public outreach and consultation was performed during the fall of 2018 and spring of 2019 to inform and seek input from Yukon River fishermen and stakeholders. Outreach has continued through the summer via the YRDLFA weekly teleconferences. The seventh teleconference occurred on July 16. Fishermen in Districts 1-3 are done with summer season fishing and reported meeting their needs. Most fishermen in District 4 are done or just finishing up. Subdistrict 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C fishermen are well on their way while Subdistrict 5-D fishermen are just getting started. Fishermen reported seeing an unusual number of dead fish for this time of year and biologists are looking into the possibility that the warm water is a contributing factor.

KUSKOKWIM RIVER

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

No report submitted for this period.

Yukon-Kuskokwim-Interior Alaska Web Links

Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases:
<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Yukon–Northern Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Yukon.pdf

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

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

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

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

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

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

Northwest Alaska

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Norton Sound District

Counting Projects: ADF&G reports that the weirs are in and the fish are being counted.

Salmon Returns: The mid-July assessment shows the king run to be much better than expected, the sockeye and pink runs are strong as were forecast and the chum run is average and lower than the above average run forecast.

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

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch is 730 kings, 1,600 sockeyes 29,000 pinks, 26,000 chums and 20 Silvers by 45 permit holders. The king catch is the highest in 20 years and the sockeye catch is on a record pace. The chum catch has been average.

Commercial salmon fishing in the Subdistrict opened for two 48-hours periods in the subdistrict from 6 PM Tuesday, July 16 until 6 PM Thursday, July 18 and from 6 PM Friday, July 19 until 6 PM Sunday, July 21. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length

Unalakleet River Floating Weir — A cooperative project of Fish and Game, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDCC), Native Village of the Unalakleet and BLM, with major funding provided by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management. Escapement goals for the weir have not yet been established.

The cumulative counts to July 16 are 6,200 kings, 30,000 chums, 600 sockeyes, 43,000 pinks* and 5 silvers. The king count is a record for the 10-year history of the project. The chum count is 20,000 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 third-quarter points of passage at the weir are July 17 for kings and July 23 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 NSEDCC with assistance from ADF&G. The project has escapement goals of 1,200-2,600 kings, 25,000 pinks, 550-1,100 silvers (aerial survey) and no goal yet established for chums. The cumulative counts to July 16 are 3,000 kings, 6,400 chums, 1.3 million pinks and 6 silvers. For the 24-year history of the project, the king count is second highest, and the pink count the fifth highest for the date. The chum count is below the 5-year average. The historical average third-quarter points of passage at the weir are July 17 for kings and July 27 for chums.

Subdistrict 5 (Shaktoolik)

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

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch is 230 kings, 1,245 sockeyes, 19,000 pinks, 25,000 chums and 50 Silvers by 25 permit holders. The king catch is the highest in 20 years, the sockeye catch is a record and the chum catch is above average.

Commercial salmon fishing in the Subdistrict opened for two 48-hours periods in the subdistrict from 6 PM Tuesday, July 16 until 6 PM Thursday, July 18 and from 6 PM

Friday, July 19 until 6 PM Sunday, July 21. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

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 16 are 2,700 kings, 16,000 chums, 18 sockeyes, 2.3 million pinks (errata note that last week's report of 1.4 million pinks was incorrectly reported as 4 million pinks due to a typo mistake), and 135 silvers. For the 6-year project history, the king and pink counts are records. The chum count is half the recent 5-year average.

Subdistrict 4 (Norton Bay)

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

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch is 6 kings, 56 sockeyes, 1,100 pinks and 1,300 chums by seven permit holders. The sockeye catches are average and the other catches are well below average.

Commercial salmon fishing in the Subdistrict opened for two 48-hours periods in the subdistrict from 6 PM Tuesday, July 16 until 6 PM Thursday, July 18 and from 6 PM Friday, July 19 until 6 PM Sunday, July 21. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

Inglutalik River Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from ADF&G. No escapement goals have been established. The cumulative counts to July 16 are 170 kings, 20,000 chums, 36 sockeyes and 90,000 pinks. The king count is similar to last year. The chum count is trailing the 5-year average. The pink count is average.

Ungalik River Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance of ADF&G. No escapement goals yet established. Cumulative counts to July 16 are 9 kings, 2,300 chums, 18 sockeyes and 312,000 pinks. This is the first year for the project.

Subdistrict 3 (Elim)

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch is 90 Kings, 170 sockeye's, 8000 pinks, 6500 chums and to Silvers by 20 permit holders. King and chum catches are below average but at the median of the last 10 years.

Commercial salmon fishing in the Subdistrict opened for two 48-hours periods in the subdistrict from 6 PM Tuesday, July 16 until 6 PM Thursday, July 18 and from 6 PM Friday, July 19 until 6 PM Sunday, July 21. Permit holders were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

Kwiniuk River Tower-Camp Joel – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has escapement goals of 250 kings, 11,500 – 23,000 chums, 8,400 pinks and 650-1,300 silvers (aerial survey goal). The cumulative counts to July 16 are 100 kings, 13,000 chums and 312,000 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: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch is 28 kings 95 sockeyes 6,100 pinks and 19,000 chums by 11 permit holders. All catches have been above average.

Fish River Tower - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have been established. Water levels willing, the project was expected to begin operation late in the week but no counting information is was yet available.

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: The cumulative catch is 17 kings, 157 sockeyes, 2,500 pinks, 6,200 chums and 1 silver by five permit holders all catches have been above average.

Commercial salmon fishing opened in the subdistrict for two 48-hours periods from 9 PM Tuesday, July 16 until 9 PM Thursday, July 18 and from 9 PM Friday, July 20 until Sunday, July 21. The ongoing commercial salmon fishing period (scheduled to close at 9 PM Thursday, July 18 was extended until 9 PM Friday, since fishing effort had been light, and based on catch reports and escapement data the department decided that chum salmon would be in a surplus and subsistence and escapement needs would still allow for additional fishing time. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

Solomon River Weir – A Fish & Game project, has no escapement goals yet established. The cumulative counts to July 16 are 54 chums and 14,000 pinks.

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 16 are 7 kings, 1,800 chums, 53,000 pinks and 6 silvers. 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 cumulative counts to July 16 are 4 kings, 7,400 chums, 11,000 pinks and 2 sockeyes.

Nome River Weir - A Fish and Game project with assistance from NSEDC. It has escapement goals of 1,600 – 5,300 chum salmon and 3,200 pink salmon. The cumulative counts to July 16 are 1 king, 570 chums, 250,000 pinks, 6 sockeyes and 44 silvers. The historical average first quarter point of chum passage at the weir is July 14.

Snake River Weir – A cooperative project between Fish & Game and NSEDC has an escapement goal of 2,000 – 4,200 chum salmon. The cumulative counts to July 16 are 370 chums, 11,000 pinks, 9 sockeyes and 23 silvers.

Port Clarence District

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

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

Pilgrim River Weir – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish and Game. It has an escapement goal of 4,000-8,000 sockeyes based on aerial survey at Salmon Lake & the Grand Central tributary to Salmon Lake. Cumulative counts to July 16 are 22 kings, 900 chums, 3,300 sockeyes and 13,000 pinks. Over 1,300 sockeye salmon passed through the Pilgrim River weir July 15, and that brings the passage this season to 3,300 sockeyes. Nearly 5,000 sockeyes were observed during an aerial survey flown on July 15. Historically the average midpoint of sockeye passage at the Weir has been July 19. Because of high water the Pilgrim River weir did not become operational until July 10, two weeks later than normal.

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 12 hours daily from 8 AM until 8 PM Sunday, July 14 through Friday, July 19 in the Kotzebue District. Through nine fishing periods the catch has been 42,000 chums. The catch rate has been tracking like the 2016 season when the harvest for the season was just over 400,000 chum salmon.

Kobuk River Test Fish - a Fish and Game project. The test fish crew began fishing in Kiana on Wednesday, July 17. Chum catches have been average.

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