Abundance and run timing of adult salmon in the Kwethluk River, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, 2003

Abstract: From June 20 to September 14, 2003, a resistance board weir was used to collect abundance, run timing, and biological data from salmon returning to spawn in the Kwethluk River, a tributary to the lower Kuskokwim River. This was the fourth year of a cooperative project between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Organized Village of Kwethluk. This project was initiated under the Federal Subsistence Fishery Management Program to obtain the reliable data necessary for managing the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge fishery resources which support intense subsistence and limited commercial fisheries. A total of 41,812 chum *Oncorhynchus keta,* 14,474 Chinook *O. tshawytscha,* 2,928 sockeye *O. nerka,* 1,885 pink *O. gorbuscha,* and 107,789 coho *O. kisutch* salmon were counted through the weir. Peak-weekly passage occurred as follows: June 29 to July 5 for Chinook, July 6 to July 12 for sockeye, July 13 to July 19 for chum, July 20 to July 26 for pink, and August 31 to September 6 for coho salmon. Age and sex information was collected for all species except pink salmon. Dominant age groups were as follows: 0.3 for chum, 1.3 for male Chinook, 1.4 for female Chinook, 1.3 for sockeye, and 2.1 for coho salmon. Female percentage of total escapement is as follows: 44% for chum, 19% for Chinook, 55% for sockeye, and 51% for coho salmon.

Citation: Roettiger, T. G., F. Harris, and K. C. Harper. 2004. Abundance and run timing of adult salmon in the Kwethluk River, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, 2003. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, 2003 Annual Report (Study No. 00-019). U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office, Alaska Fisheries Data Series No. 2004-8, Kenai, Alaska.