

Survey of chinook and coho salmon sport fishery in the Alagnak River, Alaska, 2001 and 2002

Abstract: A survey of the sport fishery for chinook *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* and coho *Oncorhynchus kisutch* salmon was conducted on the Alagnak River from 25 June - 28 August, 2001. A total of 1,469 anglers were interviewed for information on effort, catch and harvest of chinook and coho salmon, and demographic characteristics. During the chinook salmon survey (25 June - 31 July) 1,023 anglers were interviewed. Estimated catch rate was 0.11 (SE = 0.01) chinook salmon/hour, effort was 13,813 (SE = 1,295) angler-hours, and harvest was 522 (SE = 92) chinook salmon. During the coho salmon survey (1-28 August) 446 anglers were interviewed. Overall catch rate was 0.23 (SE = 0.03) coho salmon/hour, effort was 3,117 (SE = 283) angler-hours, and harvest was 271 (SE = 91) coho salmon.

A separate angler count was also conducted on the upper 10 miles of the salmon fishery to index effort. In the lower survey area, mean angler counts ranged from a low of 1.3 to a peak of 49.7 during the chinook salmon survey, and ranged from a low of 1.0 to a peak of 21.7 during the coho salmon survey. Total angler counts in the upper area ranged from zero to 18 during the chinook salmon survey, and from zero to 9 during the coho salmon survey. During both the chinook and coho salmon surveys, most anglers were guided, non-Alaskan residents, and male. During the chinook salmon survey, most anglers used spin tackle; during the coho salmon survey most used fly tackle.

Age, sex, length, and weight data were collected from 124 chinook and 129 coho salmon. The predominant chinook salmon age group was 1.4 (51%) and the predominant sex was male (69%). Mean mid-eye fork length (MEFL) was 831 mm and mean weight was 10.4 kg for chinook salmon. The predominant coho salmon age group was 2.1 (53%) and the predominant sex was male (72%). Mean MEFL was 617 mm and mean weight was 4,356 g for coho salmon.

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