

This final report documents subsistence salmon harvest estimates for the Kuskokwim Fisheries Management Area for the year 2004, on the basis of surveys in 30 communities along the Kuskokwim River and Kuskokwim Bay, including Nelson Island. Methods used to collect salmon harvest information included household surveys, harvest calendars and postcard surveys; household surveys in Bethel also gathered information on non-salmon fish harvested for subsistence purposes. Data include numbers of salmon harvested for subsistence uses, gear used, numbers of salmon used for dog food, and numbers of salmon retained from commercial catches. Estimates of the subsistence salmon harvest for communities contacted in the Kuskokwim area in 2004 were 85,086 Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), 55,575 chum salmon (*O. keta*), 34,892 sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*), and 39,406 coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), for a total of 214,959 salmon. These harvest estimates were within, or were higher than, the amounts that the Alaska Board of Fisheries considered reasonably necessary to provide for customary and traditional uses. Compared to 2003 harvest estimates, harvests increased, with the exception of sockeye salmon, demonstrating again the importance of salmon for subsistence in this area. In Bethel, non-salmon fish comprised about 18% of total fish harvested for subsistence. This salmon harvest monitoring research continues to be critical for fisheries managers for their use in planning for adequate salmon escapement and providing continued uses of salmon for subsistence purposes.

Simon, J., T. Krauthoefer, D. Koster, and D. Caylor. 2007. Subsistence salmon harvest monitoring report, Kuskokwim Fisheries Management Area, Alaska, 2004. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Final Report (Project no. FIS 04 – 3591). Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence Technical Paper No. 313. Juneau.