

**FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF August 10 – August 16, 2014.**

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Office of 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 posted on the Office of Subsistence website 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***

**Sitka and Hoonah Area – Justin Koller, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest**  
**Justin Koller**, (907)747-4297 [jpkoller@fs.fed.us](mailto:jpkoller@fs.fed.us)

**Redoubt Lake**

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, 13 sockeye passed the weir bringing the season total to 17,066. The in-season model is predicting 19,156 sockeye will enter the lake this year with mean absolute percent error 18,494-19,818. Based on the predicted escapement and in accordance with the Redoubt Lake Management Plan, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game increased the subsistence sockeye individual/household limit to 25 possession and 100 annual effective July 16<sup>th</sup>. The sport bag and possession limit was increased to six sockeye.

**Falls Lake**

The Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake operate the Falls Lake trap and video net weirs. As of August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1,521 sockeye have been trapped and about 1,300 sockeye have been harvested in the subsistence fishery. Preliminary estimates indicate that there are about 2,500 sockeye in the lake. The final escapement in 2013 was estimated at 1,120 while the final subsistence and sport harvest in the marine terminal area was 880. Subsistence harvest accounted for over 98% of terminal area harvest.

**Klag Bay**

The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the sockeye monitoring weir at Klag Bay. As of August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2,801 sockeye have been counted at the Klag Bay weir and 3,253 have been harvested in the subsistence fishery. In 2013, a total of 6,896 sockeye migrated past the weir while an estimated total of 4,550 sockeye were harvested in the marine terminal area

subsistence and sport fishery. Subsistence harvest accounted for over 99% of terminal area harvest.

**Wrangell/Petersburg Area – Bob Larson, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest**  
(907) 772-5930 [robertlarson@fs.fed.us](mailto:robertlarson@fs.fed.us)

Reporting completed for 2014 season.

[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmonfishery\\_updates](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmonfishery_updates)

**Yakutat, Juneau, and Admiralty areas of Northern Southeast Alaska - Ben Van Alen, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest**  
(907)-789-6257 [bvanalen@fs.fed.us](mailto:bvanalen@fs.fed.us) or Jake Musslewhite (907) 789-6256

In the Yakutat area, 475 large Chinook salmon have now been counted through the Situk River weir and this number is within their 450 to 1,050 biological escapement goal range. The weir count for sockeye salmon is now over 101,000.

In the Northern Inside area, purse seine boats have caught few pink salmon and the pink run appears to be consistent with the low return forecasted. There were no commercial purse seine openings in the northern inside waters of Southeast Alaska last week.

Project personnel have been using double video net weirs to get validated counts of fish into Neva Lake since June 16 and Kook Lake since June 19. As of August 17, 2,610 sockeye salmon have entered Neva Lake and as of August 11, 7,276 have entered Kook Lake.

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

No report expected until third week in August.

### **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](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=RI.home>

***Statewide ADF&G Fish counts***

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

***SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA***

**Prince William Sound – Copper River – Molly McCormick, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve. (907) 822-7280 [Molly\\_McCormick@nps.gov](mailto:Molly_McCormick@nps.gov)**

The ADF&G sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) was shut down on July 28, 2014. By that date an estimated 1,177,005 salmon had migrated upstream. This estimate is 169% of the projected escapement objective of 696,799 for this date, or 480,206 more salmon. An estimate of 6,678 salmon migrated by the sonar counter on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

**MILES LAKE SONAR ESTIMATES (TOTAL SALMON)**

Year	Estimate	Year	Estimate	Year	Estimate	Year	Estimate
<b>1978</b>	107,011	<b>1987</b>	483,478	<b>1996</b>	906,867	<b>2005</b>	854,268
<b>1979</b>	237,173	<b>1988</b>	488,398	<b>1997</b>	1,148,079	<b>2006</b>	959,731
<b>1980</b>	276,538	<b>1989</b>	607,797	<b>1998</b>	866,957	<b>2007</b>	926,438
<b>1981</b>	535,263	<b>1990</b>	581,895	<b>1999</b>	848,921	<b>2008</b>	614,999
<b>1982</b>	467,306	<b>1991</b>	579,435	<b>2000</b>	587,592	<b>2009</b>	709,330
<b>1983</b>	545,724	<b>1992</b>	601,952	<b>2001</b>	833,569	<b>2010</b>	924,010
<b>1984</b>	536,806	<b>1993</b>	797,902	<b>2002</b>	819,000	<b>2011</b>	914,285
<b>1985</b>	436,313	<b>1994</b>	715,181	<b>2003</b>	695,233	<b>2012</b>	1,271,354
<b>1986</b>	509,275	<b>1995</b>	599,265	<b>2004</b>	669,646	<b>2013</b>	1,267,060

Commercial harvests in the Copper River District of Prince William Sound as of August 7 are:

- 9,620 Chinook
- 2,067,181 sockeye
- 11,287 coho
- 11,583 pink
- 42,601 chum

The Chitina Subdistrict will remain open for the rest of the season – through September 30. Eighty-one Federal Chitina Subdistrict permits have been issued on FWS's online data base. Additional permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity. Starting on June 16, 2014, the state personal use fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict was closed to the retention of Chinook salmon for the remainder of the season, by Emergency Order from ADFG.

The Glennallen Subdistrict opened for Federal subsistence users on May 15<sup>th</sup> and is expected to remain open until September 30<sup>th</sup>. Two hundred eighty six Federal Glennallen permits have been issued on FWS's 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 state subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict opened on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Batzulnetas fishery is open. Two permits have been issued so far this year.

The Tanada Creek weir was operational on May 23. As of August 6, 24,759 sockeye and 5 Chinook have been counted through the weir.

The Long Lake weir, on the McCarthy Road was installed and operational on July 25. As of August 10, 1,889 sockeye have been counted through the weir.

1,938 Chinook were tagged at the two project fishwheels in Baird Canyon operated by the Native Village of Eyak: and 180 tagged and 2,368 untagged were captured upriver at the Canyon Creek wheels. July 27, 2104 was the final day of this project.

ADF&G's counting tower in the Gulkana River was installed on June 4. Its final day of operation was August 12. The final count at the tower for 2014 was 2,598 Chinook and 22,920 sockeye. The tower is located approximately 9 miles upstream of the Sourdough boat launch.



**Aerial photo of Gulkana River salmon counting tower. Photo courtesy of ADF&G**



**River view of Gulkana River East fish counting tower. Photo courtesy of ADF&G**



**Close up view of substrate flash panel used to contrast passing salmon at the Gulkana River fish counting tower. Photo courtesy of ADF&G**

By Emergency Order of the state of Alaska starting June 14, 2014, Chinook salmon harvest in the upper Copper River drainage sport fisheries was reduced from 4 to 1 Chinook 20 inches or more in length.

Six Special Actions relating to fisheries have been issued by the park so far this season:

- setting the tentative preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict and delaying the starting date of the Chitina Subdistrict federal salmon fishery
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of June 30 – July 6 and providing the tentative schedule for future fishing periods.
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 7 – July 13, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing.
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 14 – July 20, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 21 – July 27, increasing the number of fishing hours allowed to 156 hours
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 28 – August 3, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing.

Links

***ADF&G Miles Lake daily sonar estimates***

[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver\\_salmon\\_escapement](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>

***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?ADFG=main.LocSelectYearSpecies>

***Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Subsistence User's Guide***

<http://www.nps.gov/wrst/historyculture/upload/Subsistence%20brochure.pdf>

***Prince William Sound Federal Subsistence Regulations including Copper River.***

[http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish\\_shell/upload/Prince.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Prince.pdf)

**PWS and Copper River Flats – Milo Burcham, Forest Service, Cordova.**

(907) 424-4759 [mburcham@fs.fed.us](mailto:mburcham@fs.fed.us)

A total of 47 Federal Subsistence fishing permits have been issued to residents of Cordova for fresh waters of the Copper River Delta. Harvest is not reported until after fish reports are returned at the end of the season. Sixty-five permits were issued for the 2013 season with a reported harvest of 358 coho salmon and 102 sockeye salmon.

The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Monday, August 11 for a 36-hour commercial fishing period. The last day of sonar operation for the 2014 season was July 28. The cumulative sonar count through July 28 was 1.22 million fish whereas the anticipated count for this date is 697,000 fish. For the week ending August 2, the actual Copper River delta aerial survey count was 34,825 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 32,568–76,979. An aerial survey of the Copper River delta is anticipated to be flown when weather permits. Hatchery contributions from the period that closed on July 29 were 35% Gulkana Hatchery. Harvest from the period that closes Friday, August 8 is not yet available.

**Cook Inlet Area – Jeff Anderson, Field Supervisor, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office** (907) 260-0132 [Jeffrey\\_Anderson@fws.gov](mailto:Jeffrey_Anderson@fws.gov)

This will be the final Cook Inlet Area report for 2014.

A harvest of 1,321 sockeye salmon for the Russian River Falls dip net fishery and a harvest of 45 sockeye salmon for the Kasilof River dip net fishery have been reported through 15 August. Totals of 128 Kenai River permits, 16 Kasilof River permits, and 9 designated fisher permits have been issued through 15 August. A summary report will be prepared for the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council meeting in October, and a final season summary will be completed in February 2015 after all harvest reports have been turned in.

An emergency Special Action that closes subsistence fishing for Chinook salmon in all waters under Federal subsistence management jurisdiction in the Kenai River drainage downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake remains in effect through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, August 17, 2014.

**Fish Counts through 14 August:**

Russian River early-run sockeye (weir)	44,920	(counts ended on 14 July)
Russian River late-run sockeye (weir)	31,501	(counts began on 15 July)
Kenai River late-run sockeye (sonar)	1,093,272	(Counts ended on 4 August)
Kasilof River sockeye (sonar)	439,959	(Counts ended on 7 August)
Kenai River early-run Chinook (sonar)	5,311	(count ended 30 June)
Kenai River late-run Chinook (sonar)	16,671	(count through 11 August)

**Kodiak Island Area – Anne Marie LaRosa, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR**  
(907) 487-2600/0230 [AnneMarie\\_LaRosa@fws.gov](mailto:AnneMarie_LaRosa@fws.gov) or  
Kevin Van Hatten (907) 487-0230 [Kevin\\_VanHatten@fws.gov](mailto:Kevin_VanHatten@fws.gov)

Reporting completed for 2014 season.

***Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kodiak Area***

[http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish\\_shell/upload/Kodiak.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Kodiak.pdf)

**Bristol Bay and Chignik – Doug McBride Fisheries Branch Chief Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office**

(907) 271-2871 [Doug\\_McBride@fws.gov](mailto:Doug_McBride@fws.gov)

Reporting completed for 2014 season.

***Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Bristol Bay Area***

[http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish\\_shell/upload/Bristol.pdf](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](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.**

(907)455-0406 [Gerald\\_Maschmann@fws.gov](mailto:Gerald_Maschmann@fws.gov) or

Fred Bue [Fredrick\\_Bue@fws.gov](mailto:Fredrick_Bue@fws.gov)

Emmonak Summer Office (907) 949-1798

The Emmonak Field Office is open for the fall season.

The Emmonak Field Office is closed for the season.

**Fall Season Outlook**

Based upon the relationship between the summer chum run and the fall chum run, the fall chum salmon pre-season projection was for a run above 850,000 salmon. It is near the  $\frac{3}{4}$

point of the fall chum run in the lower Yukon and managers have transitioned into managing based upon in-season assessment. At this time the in-season assessment is projecting a run size of 480,000 to 572,000 based upon the reconstructed Pilot Station sonar estimate. This is lower than the pre-season projection, but still within the drainage wide escapement goal of 300,000 to 600,000. Fall chum typically enter in short, erratic pulses timed with south west winds and tides making assessment difficult. A pulse of chum started passing the sonar on August 16 and estimates are expected to rise on August 17. Fall chum runs in five of the last seven years have been later than average, and it's not unusual for a large pulse to enter the river and push the in-season projection back up. Weather conditions in the lower Yukon have not been favorable for pushing fall chum into the river; however the forecast is for favorable southwest winds on August 17-18.

### **Fall Season Assessment**

Projects in the lower Yukon are passing the  $\frac{3}{4}$  point of the fall chum run. The Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) is tracking above average while the Mt. Village Test Fishery (MVTF) is tracking below average. The Pilot Station sonar is tracking below average. The LYTF, MVTF, and Pilot Station have detected four pulses of fall chum entering the lower Yukon.

Upriver projects are tracking above average at this time. The Rapids test fish wheel project in the upper Yukon has detected the first two pulses of fall chum and is tracking well above average. The Chandalar River sonar began on August 6 and is slightly above average. The Tanana River test fish wheel at Manley began on August 9 and is well above average. Subsistence fishermen in upriver districts have reported good harvests of "red fleshed" chum, indicating that fall chum have reached these areas. Fall chum should be as far upriver as Fort Yukon.

### **Fall Season Management Actions**

Fall chum commercial fishing opportunities have been on hold in Districts 1 and 2. A five hour commercial fishing period was opened in District 1 on August 15; however fishermen were not very successful. Only 1,037 fall chum and 3,813 coho were harvested. Managers are balancing commercial fishing opportunities with the needs of subsistence fishermen who will be looking for fall chum to supplement their subsistence harvests in place of Chinook salmon. Also, the fishermen and the processor don't want to waste gas and resources fishing when fall chum abundance is low. There have been five fall season commercial periods in District 1 and three periods in District 2. The combined harvest through August 16 is 54,000 fall chum salmon and 5,700 coho salmon.

Subsistence fishing was returned to the normal regulatory schedules at the end of the summer season. To allow additional opportunity on the projected surplus of fall chum and to make up for missed opportunity on Chinook salmon, subsistence salmon fishing in District 4 and Subdistrict 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C was relaxed to 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Additionally, upper Subdistrict 4-A was opened to drift gill net fishing six days early.

### **Coho Salmon**

Coho salmon overlap the second half of the fall chum run, and have been trickling into the lower Yukon. The first pulse of coho hit the Lower Yukon Test nets on August 13. The Pilot Station sonar has an estimated passage of 41,000 coho salmon, which is above average.

**Kuskokwim River – Neil Lalonde, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge** Brian [McCaffery@fws.gov](mailto:McCaffery@fws.gov) or Robert Sundown (907) 543-1007 [Robert\\_Sundown@fws.gov](mailto:Robert_Sundown@fws.gov)

### **Weekly Summary**

Subsistence fishermen from the middle and upper Kuskokwim indicated at this week's Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group meeting that they either had met, or soon expected to meet, their subsistence needs for coho salmon. Coincident with these positive reports, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game conducted two commercial openings on the lower Kuskokwim on 11 and 14 August, respectively. The harvests of 23,999 and 32,809 on the two dates were the fourth highest and highest single day coho catches, respectively, among the 80 openings in the Kuskokwim commercial fishery over the last 11 years. CPUEs for both days were average, and nearly identical to one another (21.39 and 21.11). The total commercial harvest of coho to date is within a couple thousand of the 5-year average, and one or two more commercial openings will likely result in harvest levels approaching the 10-year average. Meanwhile, the Bethel Test Fishery numbers remain strong, with the 2014 coho numbers ranking among the highest in the last 10 years as of 18 August.

### **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](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](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 – Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, Nome.**

(907) 443-2522 [Ken\\_Adkisson@nps.gov](mailto:Ken_Adkisson@nps.gov)

**Norton Sound**

Preliminary Norton Sound commercial salmon catches this season through the first week of August are: 280 kings, 98,000 chums, 180,000 pinks, 300 reds and 38,000 silvers by 80 permit holders. The silver salmon forecast range for the commercial fishery is a harvest of 60,000 to 90,000 fish and projections show that this should easily be reached and may be exceeded.

***Unalakleet (Subdistrict 6)***

**Sport Fishing:** The retention of king salmon is prohibited and the use of bait is banned until August 15 or subsequent emergency order in the Unalakleet River drainage. Any king salmon incidentally hooked must be immediately released in the water.

**Commercial Fishing:** In order to maximize harvest during the peak of the silver salmon run, the Subdistrict was placed on a commercial fishing schedule of one 72-hour fishing period on effective 6:00 p.m. August 11. Effective August 15, the Subdistrict was placed on a commercial fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods for the remainder of the season. The periods run from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays to 6:00 p.m. Thursdays, and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays to 6:00 p.m. Sundays.

Subsistence salmon gillnet fishing with nets restricted to 6 inches or less mesh size, is open in the marine waters and in the Unalakleet River drainage, below the Chirokey River and in all other fresh waters.

**North River Tower** – A cooperative project of Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) with assistance from Fish & Game. It 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 tower crew was unable to count for 12 days because of high water and resumed counting on July 26 with half day counts and full day counts beginning on July 29. Cumulative counts through August 8 should be considered minimal for all species and were 2,300 kings, 10,600 chums, 144,000 pinks and 1,100 silvers. The average historical midpoint of the silver run past the tower has been August 15.

**Unalakleet River Floating Weir** – A cooperative project of Fish & Game, Native Village of Unalakleet, United States BLM and NSEDC with major funding provided by

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management. There are no weir escapement goals yet. The weir crew was unable to count for nearly six days because of high water and full day counts resumed on July 27. Cumulative counts through August 8 should be considered minimal for all species and were 1,000 kings, 48,000 chums, 1.2 million pinks, 185 reds and 12,000 silvers. There are only two previous years when counting continued past the first week of August and this year's silver count is ahead of both years.

### ***Shaktoolik (Subdistrict 5)***

**Sport Fishing:** The retention of king salmon is prohibited and the use of bait is banned until August 15 or subsequent emergency order in the Shaktoolik River drainage. Any king salmon incidentally hooked must be immediately released in the water.

**Commercial Fishing:** In order to maximize harvest during the peak of the silver salmon run, the Subdistrict was placed on a commercial fishing schedule of one 72-hour fishing period on effective 6:00 p.m. August 11. Effective August 15, the Subdistrict was placed on a commercial fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods for the remainder of the season. The periods run from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays to 6:00 p.m. Thursdays, and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays to 6:00 p.m. Sundays.

Subsistence salmon gillnet fishing, with nets restricted to 6 inches or less mesh size, is open in the marine waters and in all fresh waters.

**Shaktoolik Sonar/Tower** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. It has no escapement goals established. Cumulative counts through July 13 were 2,000 kings, 38,000 chums and 395,000 pinks. The tower crew has been unable to count since July 13 due to high water, but did get the sonar unit set back up on August 4 and it is now counting. The crew will do seining to apportion the sonar counts by salmon species.

### ***Norton Bay (Subdistrict 4)***

**Sport Fishing:** The retention of king salmon is prohibited until August 15 or subsequent emergency order. Any king salmon incidentally hooked must be immediately released in the water.

**Commercial Fishing:** In order to maximize harvest during the peak of the silver salmon run, the Subdistrict was placed on a commercial fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods per week effective Tuesday, August 12. The periods are from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays to 6:00 p.m. Thursdays, and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays to 6:00 p.m. Sundays for the remainder of the season.

Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week.

**Inglutalik River Tower** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have been established. Cumulative counts through July 12 were 1,600 kings, 61,000 chums, and 62,000 pinks. The camp was washed out during the high water and is no more. The project will no longer be included in future reports this year.

### *Elim (Subdistrict 3)*

**Sport Fishing:** The retention of king salmon is prohibited until August 15 or subsequent emergency order. Any king salmon incidentally hooked must be immediately released in the water.

**Commercial Fishing:** In order to maximize harvest during the peak of the silver salmon run, the Subdistrict was placed on a commercial fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods per week effective Tuesday, August 12. The periods are from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays to 6:00 p.m. Thursdays, and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays to 6:00 p.m. Sundays for the remainder of the season.

**Subsistence fishing:** The retention of king salmon is prohibited when hook and line fishing until August 15 or subsequent emergency order. Any king salmon incidentally hooked must be immediately released in the water.

**Kwiniuk River Tower** – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC. It has escapement goals of 300-550 kings, 11,500 – 23,000 chums, 8,400 pinks, and 650-1,300 silvers (aerial survey goal). Cumulative counts through August 8 were 429 kings, 40,000 chums, 326,000 pinks and 2,600 silvers. For the first week of August the silver count is above all years in the 2000s except for the years 2004-2007. The average historical first quarter point for silvers past the tower is August 8.

### *Golovin (Subdistrict 2)*

**Sport Fishing:** The retention of king salmon is prohibited until August 15 or subsequent emergency order. Any king salmon incidentally hooked must be immediately released in the water.

**Commercial Fishing:** In order to maximize harvest during the peak of the silver salmon run, the Subdistrict was placed on a commercial fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods per week effective Tuesday, August 12. The periods are from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays to 6:00 p.m. Thursdays, and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays to 6:00 p.m. Sundays for the remainder of the season.

**Subsistence fishing:** The retention of king salmon is prohibited when hook and line fishing until August 15 or subsequent emergency order. Any king salmon incidentally hooked must be immediately released in the water.

**Fish River Tower** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish and Game. No escapement goals established. The tower crew was unable to count for 11 days because of high water and resumed counting on July 26. Cumulative counts through August 8 should be considered minimal for all species and were 900 kings, 45,000 chums, 220,000 pinks, 15 reds and 5,000 silvers.

***Nome (Subdistrict 1)***

The ADF&G is currently managing the Nome Subdistrict for silver (coho) salmon.

The subsistence set gillnet fishing schedule in the marine waters west of Cape Nome was expanded to 7 days a week effective Saturday, August 16. The marine waters east of Cape Nome are also open seven days a week. Regulations allow for subsistence set gillnet fishing 7 days a week unless ADF&G has concerns with achieving silver salmon escapement. Historically, by mid-August silver salmon are at the quarter point run in the subdistrict and there are no concerns at this time based on escapement counts in local rivers nor with escapement counts seen in rivers with earlier run timing to the east and south of the Nome Subdistrict.

The fresh water subsistence area set gillnet schedule is from 6 p.m. Monday until 6 p.m. Wednesday and from 6 p.m. Thursday until 6 p.m. Saturday. Fishermen need to check the back of the Nome Subdistrict subsistence salmon permit for the subsistence areas where set gillnetting is allowed. Beach seining is not allowed.

All pink salmon subsistence catch limits throughout Nome Subdistrict are waived, and except for the Solomon, Penny and Cripple rivers all chum salmon subsistence catch limits are waived throughout Nome Subdistrict.

Commercial salmon fishing will remain closed until the ADF&G projects there are sufficient silvers for both subsistence and escapement.

**Solomon River Weir** – A Fish & Game project has no escapement goals established. Cumulative counts through August 8 were 1,375 chums and 20,000 pinks. The count last year by the same date was 1,294 chums and 23 silvers with a final count of 1,377 chums and 168 silvers.

**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 project completed operations on July 27 with cumulative counts provided last week. The project will be dropped from any future reports this year.

**Nome River Weir** – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has an escapement goal of 2,900 – 4,300 chum salmon and 3,200 pink salmon. Cumulative counts through August 8 were 2 kings, 5,300 chums, 94,000 pinks, 17 reds and 75 silvers. The average historical first quarter point for silvers past the weir is August 14 and the midpoint is August 28.

**Snake River Weir** – A cooperative project between Fish & Game and NSEDC has an escapement goal of 1,600 – 2,500 chum salmon. Cumulative counts through August 8 were 8 kings, 3,700 chums, 18,000 pinks, 31 reds and 30 silvers. The average historical first quarter point for silvers past the weir is August 17 and the midpoint is August 26.

**Glacial Lake Weir** – A cooperative project between and Fish & Game and NSEDC has an escapement goal of 800 – 1,600 sockeyes based on aerial survey. A video system is being used exclusively this year and cumulative counts through July 25 were 4,167 reds, 1 beaver and 3 otters. The red count is the highest since 2007. An aerial survey estimate on August 5 was just over 2,300 red salmon in Glacial Lake. This the second year in a row the escapement goal range was reached or exceeded.

### **Port Clarence District**

The Pilgrim River and Lower Kuzitrin River were reopened to net fishing Saturday, August 2. There have been 259 Pilgrim River subsistence salmon permits issued this season; the second highest number in the 51 years permits have been required. Last year 265 permits were issued.

**Pilgrim River Weir** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has an escapement goal of 4,000 – 8,000 sockeyes (reds) based on aerial survey at Salmon Lake & Grand Central tributary to Salmon Lake. Cumulative counts through August 8 were 44 kings, 19,000 chums, 4,000 pinks, 9,250 reds and 60 silvers. An aerial survey estimate on August 5 was just over 5,300 red salmon in Salmon Lake. This is the fourth year in a row that escapement into Salmon Lake has been within in the escapement goal range, but in three of the four years the department needed to close net fishing in Pilgrim River to make sure the goal was obtained.

### **Kotzebue District**

Commercial salmon openings were announced for Sunday, August 10 (4 hours); Monday, August 11 (5 hours); Tuesday, August 12 (4 hours), with no fishing on Wednesday, August 13. Also, ADF&G closed to fishing on the 13th a rectangular area offshore of the main runway to three nautical miles out in the ocean from the Weather Service Dome and the NANA building when concerns arose that birds attracted to the fishing activity can create a hazardous situation for airplanes. Additionally, the Kotzebue airport was closed for three nights between August 13 and 15 potentially affecting fishing schedules. This was followed by a commercial opening on Thursday, August 14 (3 hours). Another 3-hour opening has been announced for Friday, August 15. The total harvest this season is nearly 530,000 chum salmon – the highest harvest since 1981.

Overall, the 2014 Kotzebue commercial salmon fishery continues to roll along with catches by 70 permit holders, and ranks fifth greatest all-time. For the first time since 1988, the inseason payouts to fishermen have exceeded one million dollars.

**Kobuk River Test Fish** - Fish & Game project. The test fishing chum salmon catch index is still soaring. It looked like catches were starting to slow on the 7th but then picked back up on the 8th. This year was the greatest chum catch index in the 22-year project history. The last day of test fishing will be August 13.

***Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for the Kotzebue and Norton Sound Areas***

[http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish\\_shell/upload/Kotz.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Kotz.pdf)

[http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish\\_shell/upload/Norton.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Norton.pdf)