

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF August 17 – August 23, 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

Deployed in field, no report submitted this week.

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

Reporting completed for 2014 season.

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmonfisheryupdates>

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

In the Yakutat area, the coho salmon return is projected to be about average and most of the commercial set gillnet effort will target coho salmon in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Tsiu River area.

In the Northern Inside area of Southeast Alaska, the pink salmon run was extremely weak this year. There have not been any commercial purse seine openings in the northern inside waters (Districts 110, 111, 112, and 114) in recent weeks. Returns of hatchery chum salmon have also been relatively low and below forecasted levels in northern inside waters. Sockeye salmon escapements to Chilkat Lake and Speel Lake are now approaching the lower end of ADF&G's escapement goal range.

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 23, 2,794 sockeye salmon have entered Neva Lake and 7,450 have entered Kook Lake. Project personnel counted 3,796 sockeye salmon into Sitkoh Lake through a double video net weir operated at the outlet of Sitkoh Lake from August 8 to 16. IP cameras were used to remotely monitor the video chutes and net weirs.

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

No report expected until last 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

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order Link

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.RI>

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

Updated Information

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 28th.

MILES LAKE SONAR ESTIMATES (TOTAL SALMON)

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

Commercial harvests in the Copper River District of Prince William Sound as of August 21 are:

- **9,624 Chinook**
- **2,068,010 sockeye**
- **51,959 coho**
- **11,601 pink**
- **42,606 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 15th and is expected to remain open until September 30th. 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 1st.

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 21, 27,292 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 21, 4,902 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.

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

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

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

(907) 424-4759 mburcham@fs.fed.us

Deployed in field, no report submitted this week.

Cook Inlet Area – Jeff Anderson, Field Supervisor, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office (907) 260-0132 Jeffry_Anderson@fws.gov

Reporting completed for 2014 season.

Kodiak Island Area – Anne Marie LaRosa, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR

(907) 487-2600/0230 AnneMarie_LaRosa@fws.gov or

Kevin Van Hatten (907) 487-0230 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

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

(907) 271-2871 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

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.

(907)455-0406 Gerald_Maschmann@fws.gov or

Fred Bue Fredrick_Bue@fws.gov

Emmonak Summer Office (907) 949-1798

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. The fall chum run in the lower Yukon is past the $\frac{3}{4}$ point and managers have transitioned into managing based upon in-season assessment. At this time the in-season assessment is projecting a run size of 779,000 to 945,000 based upon the reconstructed Pilot Station sonar estimate. The drainage wide escapement goal for fall chum is between 300,000 and 600,000 fall chum. This season's fall chum run should meet escapement goals, provide for a normal subsistence harvest, and provide for commercial fishing opportunities. Fall chum typically enter in short, erratic pulses timed with south west winds and tides making assessment difficult.

Fall Season Assessment

Projects in the lower Yukon are past 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 above average and through August 23 has passed 600,912 fall chum. The LYTF, MVTF, and Pilot Station have detected five pulses of fall chum entering the lower Yukon with the fifth pulse passing over 250,000 fall chum salmon.

Upriver projects are tracking above average at this time. The Rapids test fish wheel project in the upper Yukon is just past the $\frac{1}{4}$ point and is tracking above average. The Chandalar River sonar began on August 6 and is well above average; however it's still early for this project. The Tanana River test fish wheel at Manley began on August 9 and is well above average; however it's still early for this project. The Eagle sonar switched to fall chum assessment on August 13 and is tracking 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 are just beginning to cross the Canadian Border.

Fall Season Management Actions

Fall chum commercial fishing opportunities are increasing in Districts 1 and 2 based on the recent increase in fall chum abundance in the fifth pulse. The combined harvest through August 22 is 84,000 fall chum salmon and 48,000 coho salmon. Additionally commercial fishing opportunities are expected through September 1, when commercial fishing for fall chum closes by regulation.

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 is coming in above average at this time. The first pulse of coho hit the Lower Yukon Test Fishery nets on August 13 and the second hit on August 17. The LYTF is above average and the Mt. Village Test Fishery is below average at this time. The Pilot Station sonar has an estimated passage of 142,000 coho salmon through August 23, which is above average and near the midpoint of the run.

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

Weekly Summary

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has announced a commercial fishing period for coho salmon on Tuesday, August 26th. Preliminary commercial coho salmon harvest for the August 21 Subdistrict 1-B fishing period was 18,898 fish which is above average compared to historical harvests. The total coho salmon harvested since August 11 is 102,192 fish. Based on historical Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) data, 90% of the coho salmon run has typically passed through the lower Kuskokwim River at this date. The BTF data indicates that the coho salmon run is tracking above the 5-year and 10-year averages.

Escapement Projects

Bethel Test Fish: Through August 23rd

- Coho salmon have an index of 4,569. Highest in previous six years.

Kwethluk River Weir: Through August 22nd

- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 15,863.

Tuluksak River Weir: Through August 22nd

- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 5,094.

Salmon River Weir: Through August 22nd

- Cumulative sockeye salmon total 1,653.

George River Weir: Through August 22nd

- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 9,920. Highest in previous 7 years.

Tatlawiksuk River Weir: Through August 22nd

- Coho salmon cumulative count total 12,973. Highest in previous 7 years.

Kogrugluk River Weir: Through August 22nd

- Cumulative king salmon counts total 3,121. Second highest in previous 7 years.

Kuskokwim Bay (courtesy of ADF&G)

District 4, Quinhagak, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Friday, August 22, 2014. The preliminary harvest from the August 18 opener was 5 king, 134 sockeye, 48 chum, and 4,517 coho salmon from 58 permits. The harvest and catch rate of coho salmon was below average.

District 5, Goodnews Bay, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Friday, August 22, 2014. The preliminary harvest from the August 18 opener was 2 king, 95 sockeye, 11 chum, and 5,647 coho salmon from 26 permits. The harvest and catch rate for coho salmon was above average.

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 – Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, Nome.

(907) 443-2522 Ken_Adkisson@nps.gov

Norton Sound

The preliminary Norton Sound commercial salmon catches this season are 280 kings, 102,000 chums, 180,000 pinks, 350 reds and 61,000 silvers by 80 permit holders. The ADF&G silver salmon forecast for the commercial fishery harvest was 60,000 to 90,000 fish and projections show that the upper end of the range should nearly be reached and may be exceeded.

Unalakleet (Subdistrict 6)

The commercial harvest through mid-August was 60 kings, 140 reds, 30,800 chums, 82,200 pinks and 34,000 silvers. All kings harvested were not sold, but kept for personal use. The silver harvest is on track for a top 15 finish.

The Subdistrict remains open on a commercial fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods per week for the remainder of the season. 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. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or less.

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 15 should be considered minimal for all species and were 2,300 kings, 11,000 chums, 144,000 pinks and 2,000 silvers. The average historical midpoint of the silver run past the tower has been August 5.

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 15 should be considered minimal for all species and were 1,000 kings, 52,000 chums, 1.2 million pinks, 200 reds and 27,000 silvers. There are only two previous years when counting continued until mid-August and this year's silver count is nearly 50% ahead of both years.

Shaktoolik (Subdistrict 5)

The commercial harvest through mid-August was 16 kings, 39 reds, 28,400 chums, 33,000 pinks and 12,900 silvers. All kings harvested were not sold, but kept for personal use. The silver harvest is on track for a top 10 finish.

The Subdistrict remains open on a commercial fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods per week for the remainder of the season. 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. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or less.

Shaktoolik Sonar/Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. It has no escapement goals established. The tower crew was 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. Cumulative counts through August 13 should be considered minimal for all species and were 2,000 kings, 52,000 chums, 420,000 pinks and 3,000 silvers.

Norton Bay (Subdistrict 4)

The commercial harvest through mid-August was 70 kings, 15 reds, 12,600 chums, 28,000 pinks and 5,300 silvers. The silver harvest trails only last year's record harvest of 5,485 silvers.

The Subdistrict remains open on a commercial fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods per week for the remainder of the season. 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. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or less.

Elim (Subdistrict 3)

The commercial harvest through mid-August was 96 kings, 116 reds, 16,700 chums, 28,200 pinks and 7,500 silvers. The silver harvest by mid-August is ahead of all years. The record harvest was 10,180 silvers in 2010.

The Subdistrict remains open on a commercial fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods per week for the remainder of the season. 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. Permit holders

are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or less.

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 15 were 429 kings, 40,000 chums, 326,000 pinks and 7,700 silvers. For mid-August the silver count is above all years, except for the record count of 2006. The average historical midpoint for silvers past the tower is August 15.

Golovin (Subdistrict 2)

The commercial harvest through mid-August was 28 kings, 44 reds, 13,500 chums, 7,900 pinks and 2,000 silvers. The silver harvest is on track for a top 5 finish. The record harvest was 5,586 silvers in 2010 and last year's harvest was second best with 5,362 silvers.

The Subdistrict remains open on a commercial fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods per week for the remainder of the season. 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. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or less.

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 15 should be considered minimal for all species and were 900 kings, 45,000 chums, 220,000 pinks, 15 reds and 12,500 silvers.

Nome (Subdistrict 1)

Subsistence set gillnet fishing is open in the marine waters 7 days a week with no catch limits. 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 and the catch limits by river. 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 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 15 were 1,475 chums, 20,000 pinks and 50 silvers. By the same date last year the count was 1,331 chums and 89 silvers with a final count of 1,377 chums and 168 silvers.

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 15 were 5 kings, 5,400 chums, 95,000 pinks, 20 reds and 300 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 15 were 8 kings, 3,900 chums, 19,000 pinks, 60 reds and 80 silvers. The average historical first quarter point for silvers past the weir is August 17 and the midpoint is August 26.

Port Clarence District

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 15 were 47 kings, 24,000 chums, 4,100 pinks, 9,600 reds and 170 silvers.

Kotzebue District

Commercial salmon openings were announced for Sunday, August 17 (3 hours); Monday, August 18 (6 hours); Tuesday, August 19 (3 hours); Wednesday, August 20 (3 hours); Thursday, August 21 (5 hours); and Friday, August 22 (5 hours); with no fishing on Saturday, August 23.

The commercial catch from the Thursday night (August 21) opening was over 10,000 chum salmon by 53 permit holders. The total harvest this season is over 598,000 chum salmon. Friday night's opening will likely push this season's harvest to over 600,000 chum salmon for only the third time in history. With only two buyers for the Friday, August 22 opening, fishermen were reminded to check with their buyers to make sure the buyers have sufficient capacity to purchase their catch. A series of airport closures due to runway improvement work has affected fishing times because of how they limit the buyers' ability to ship out the fish.

Kobuk River Test Fish - Fish & Game project. The last day of test fishing was August 13. The chum salmon catch index this year was all-time record even though the number of test fish drifts completed this year was the least in the 22-year project history. The last day for the project was 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/Norton.pdf