

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 20 - July 26, 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 at project in the field. Report expected next week.

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

Week ending July 26, 2014; statistical week 30

There have been 113 Stikine River subsistence fishing permits issued. The catch estimate through Saturday, July 26 is 50 Chinook salmon and 1,700 sockeye salmon. The Canadian government's efforts to move Chinook and sockeye salmon above a new slide on the Tahltan River that is blocking passage to major upstream spawning areas is continuing but working conditions are hazardous. Pink salmon are returning in good numbers to southern and outside portions of the region while most of the northern areas remain weak. The following link provides a summary of Southeast Alaska and Yakutat commercial fisheries:

<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

Nothing to report for this week.

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

The 2014 General salmon permits for Southeast Alaska are valid through the end of the year. Currently, 240 permits have been issued for this fishery

Most subsistence users are actively fishing marine waters for Chinook salmon and halibut under sport fishing regulations. Subsistence fishing effort at Klawock, Hetta, Sarkar and other locations is ongoing.

A sockeye salmon weir is currently active and fishing at Hatchery Creek. To date 5,469 sockeye, 34 coho and 1 steelhead have been counted at this project. Total passage at the Hetta Lake weir project is 438 sockeye. Counts at the Klawock weir are 132 sockeye, 26 coho, 2 chum and 12 pink salmon.

Commercial seine openings and drift gillnet openings are in full force. Commercial trolling for Chinook closed on July 7. All troll effort is directed now primarily at coho. Commercial salmon harvests estimated by ADF&G issued news releases are as follows: 9,550 Chinook, 132,290 sockeye, 71,650 coho, 2,673,210 pink and 529,450 chum.

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.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=R1.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

Copper River – Molly McCormick, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve

As of July 26, 2014 the ADF&G sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) estimated that 1,163,643 salmon had migrated upstream. This estimate is 170% of the projected escapement objective of 683,585 for this date, or 480,058 more salmon. An estimate of 7,482 salmon migrated by the sonar counter on July 26th.

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 July 26 are:

- 9,606 Chinook
- 2,039,454 sockeye
- 1,271 coho
- 6,349 pink
- 42,501 chum

The Chitina Subdistrict opened this week at noon on July 21 and remained open the rest of the week through July 27. It immediately reopened on July 28 and will remain open the entire week through August 3. The State and Federal fisheries in this subdistrict usually follow identical fishing schedules which are set by the state. Seventy-three 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 ADF&G.

The Glennallen Subdistrict opened for Federal subsistence users on May 15th and is expected to remain open until September 30th. Two hundred seventy two 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. One permit has been issued so far this year.

The Tanada Creek weir was operational on May 23. As of July 27, 23,696 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 July 27, 1,938 Chinook have been tagged at the two project fishwheels in Baird Canyon operated by the Native Village of Eyak and 180 tagged and 2,368 untagged have been captured at the Canyon Creek wheels.

ADF&G's counting tower in the Gulkana River was installed on June 4. As of July 24, 1,614 Chinook and 13,266 sockeye have been counted.

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 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

28 July 2014

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, July 28 for a 36-hour commercial fishing period. Cumulative sonar count to date is 1.20 million fish whereas the anticipated count for this date is 676,000 fish. For the week ending July 26, the actual Copper River delta aerial survey count was 33,050 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 32,059–75,775. An aerial survey of the Copper River delta is anticipated to be flown early next week. Hatchery contributions from the period that closed on July 18 were 38% Gulkana Hatchery. Harvest from the period that closed Friday, July 25 was 14,800 sockeye with 128 deliveries reported.

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

A harvest of 1,047 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 24 July. Totals of 122 Kenai River permits, 15 Kasilof River permits, and 9 designated fisher permits have been issued through 24 July.

An emergency Special Action was issued to extend the closure to 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 through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, August 17, 2014. The sport fishery for Chinook salmon above Slikok Creek

remains closed by the Department through Emergency Order to protect early-run fish and the Department recently issued an emergency order restricting fishing below Slikok Creek to catch-and-release and barbless hooks since projections indicate the late-run sustainable escapement goal of 15,000–30,000 may not be achieved. Therefore, it is warranted to keep the Federal subsistence fishery for Chinook salmon closed to protect spawning fish.

Fish Counts through 23 July:

| | | |
|--|---------|---------------------------|
| Russian River early-run sockeye (weir) | 44,920 | (counts ended on 14 July) |
| Russian River late-run sockeye (weir) | 2,402 | (counts began on 15 July) |
| Kenai River late-run sockeye (sonar) | 578,893 | |
| Kasilof River sockeye (sonar) | 366,149 | |
| Kenai River early-run Chinook (sonar) | 5,311 | (count ended 30 June) |
| Kenai River late-run Chinook (sonar) | 7,306 | (counts through 22 July) |

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

The sockeye salmon runs around Kodiak Island have slowed considerably the past few weeks. The early run on Karluk and Ayakulik Rivers halted on July 16 with better than average numbers. The late run on the Ayakulik River started slow but has picked up in the last week. The Karluk River sockeye salmon run continues to be strong with the late run recording 17,763 fish, which is 16,514 fish above the 5 year average.

The only system that has not been doing very well is the Pasagshak River. This system has seen poor returns of sockeye salmon with a total of only 931 fish. This is 5,985 fish below the 3 year average of 6,916 fish. Due to these poor returns, subsistence users along the road system who normally rely on this fishery will have to wait for the silver salmon run to fulfill their needs.

Updates on subsistence activities throughout the Kodiak Archipelago will be provided in the coming week's report.

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

These areas support abundant returns of salmon, particularly sockeye; as well as some of the largest commercial fisheries for salmon in Alaska. All of the assessments of salmon returns are conducted by the State of Alaska, and provide the basis for any inseason assessment. None of the adjustments in commercial fishing management throughout any of these areas are anticipated to affect subsistence fishing in Federally-managed waters.

Bristol Bay:

For Bristol Bay, the forecast for total return of sockeye salmon is similar to 2013 at approximately 26 million, and escapement goals total ~ 8.5 million sockeye, leaving ~ 17 million sockeye available for harvest. Total return has far exceeded the forecast and is nearly 40 million. Commercial fishing continues throughout all districts. The returns to the Nushagak, Naknek/Kvichak, and Egegik districts were very strong. Commercial fishing management is switching to pink and coho salmon.

Gillnets are the primary gear used for most subsistence fishing for salmon. A permit is required for subsistence harvest of salmon.

Chignik:

For Chignik, the forecast for total return of sockeye salmon is approximately 0.9 million late run fish. The late-run SEG includes an additional 50,000 sockeye for additional subsistence harvest opportunity. Commercial fishing for the late run continues. Late-run sockeye escapement to date is 174 thousand.

The escapement goal for Chinook salmon is 1,300 fish. Inriver return to date through the weir is 2,609. The Federal subsistence fishery for Chinook is currently open until August 9 with rod and reel from a point 300 feet upstream of the ADFG weir to Chignik Lake with no daily harvest or possession limit under the authority of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. Most of the Chinook return occurs in July. Federal subsistence fishing permits are available in four communities through village or tribal administrators. The Chignik River sport fishery was recently reopened to harvest.

Select tributaries to Chignik Lake are open to subsistence fishing. Gillnets and seines are the primary gear used for most subsistence fishing. A permit is required for subsistence harvest of salmon.

Alaska Peninsula:

There are numerous salmon stocks and fisheries throughout the Alaska Peninsula, as well as the Aleutian Islands. Several sockeye escapements (mostly on the north peninsula) are monitored with weirs including Nelson, Bear, Sandy, Ilnik, McLees, and Orzinski rivers. Sockeye returns are nearly over. Commercial fishing continues in most districts.

A permit is required for subsistence harvest of salmon.

Stock Assessment funded under the Subsistence Fishery Resource Monitoring Program:
For 2014, there are no stock assessment projects funded under the Subsistence Fishery Resource Monitoring Program.

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 open for the fall season.

Summer Season Assessment Information

The summer season is nearly over in the Alaskan portion of the drainage. Most Chinook and summer chum have reached their spawning grounds or are passing into Canada. The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate on July 18 was 1.9 million summer chum and 136,500 Chinook salmon. Based upon the Pilot Station estimate and the commercial harvest below the sonar of 426,000 chum, the summer chum run is projecting above 2 million fish, well above the preseason projected range of 1.5-1.8 million fish. The Chinook salmon estimate of 136,500 is slightly higher than the high end of the preseason projection of 64,000-121,000 Chinook salmon.

Most of the spawning escapement projects in the Alaskan portion of the drainage are well past the $\frac{3}{4}$ point of both the Chinook and summer chum runs. The Andreafsky weir has an estimated passage of 5,861 Chinook, well above average and above the high end of the escapement goal, while 36,760 summer chum have passed, which is slightly below average and may end just below the escapement goal of 40,000. The Anvik River sonar has an estimated passage of 397,579 summer chum through July 25 which is below average, but above the lower end of its escapement goal. The Gisasa River weir started late and high water since July 14 has stopped run assessment, but the weir had passed 1,570 Chinook salmon and 32,137 summer chum, which were both above average at the time assessment was interrupted. The Henshaw Creek weir, Salcha River tower, and the Chena River tower have been hampered by persistent high water in interior Alaska and will not operate this season. The Eagle sonar has an estimated passage of 51,827 Chinook salmon through July 25. This is above average and within the border escapement goal of 42,500-55,000 Chinook. The Eagle sonar is past the $\frac{3}{4}$ point and Chinook salmon passage should tail off beginning this week. Managers are estimating a final border passage of approximately 60,000 Chinook salmon.

Fishermen in the lower Yukon have reported finishing most of their chum salmon subsistence needs, while fishermen in the middle and upper Yukon are waiting for fall chum salmon to finish their subsistence needs.

Commercial fishing for summer chum salmon began in the lower river districts in early June and is still ongoing in District 6. A total of 524,055 summer chum salmon have been harvested, and a total of 5,915 Chinook salmon caught and released and 440 Chinook salmon caught but not sold.

At this time the lower Yukon has transitioned to fall season management. Subsistence fishing has been relaxed to allow the use of 7.5-inch or smaller gill net gear and unmanned fish wheels in Districts 1-4. Subsistence fishermen may keep Chinook salmon incidentally caught in these gear types. Subsistence fishing in District 5 is anticipated to be relaxed further sometime this coming week.

Fall Season Outlook and Assessment

Districts 1, 2, and 3, and Subdistrict 4A began transitioning into fall season management on July 16 starting in District 1 and moving upriver chronologically timed with the swimming speed of fall chum. It is still very early in the fall season and management actions will be based upon the pre-season projection. At this time based upon the relationship between the summer chum run and the fall chum run, managers are anticipating a fall chum run above 850,000 salmon. This is enough to meet escapement goals, provide for a normal subsistence harvest, and provide for commercial fishing opportunities. Through July 25, two pulses of fall chum have passed through the lower Yukon as detected by the LYTF, the Mt. Village Test Fishery, and the Pilot Station sonar. The Pilot Station sonar has passed an estimated 93,000 fall chum. Fall chum commercial fishing opportunities have already been opened in Districts 1 and 2. Managers will be balancing the 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. There has been three fall season commercial periods in District 1 and one period in District 2 with a combined harvest of 37,509 fall chum salmon and 266 coho salmon. Commercial fishing was delayed in order to slow the early fall season commercial harvest rate and move those early fall chum upriver for subsistence opportunity. The Pilot Station sonar passage and the commercial harvests are in line with recent averages when escapement goals have been met as well as providing for normal subsistence harvests as well as commercial harvests.

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 suspended commercial fishing for coho salmon due to a below average forecast and an above average subsistence need. The commercial fishery transitioned to the coho management plan early in the week as coho numbers outpaced chums in the commercial catch and the Bethel Test Fishery. There have been numerous Special Action requests from communities upriver of Kalskag to limit commercial fishing in the lower Kuskokwim so people can meet their subsistence needs for salmon, these proposals are currently being taken up by the Federal Subsistence Board.

Escapement Projects

Bethel Test Fish: Through July 27th

- The cumulative index for kings was 648 (unchanged for the last week)
- For chum salmon the cumulative chum index was 6,111.
- Sockeye salmon have an index of 1,347.
- Coho salmon have an index of 446.

Kwethluk River Weir: Through July 25th

- Cumulative king salmon counts total 2,998.
- Cumulative chum salmon counts total 12,203.
- Cumulative sockeye salmon counts total 3,226.

Tuluksak River Weir: Through July 25th

- Cumulative king salmon counts total 301.
- Cumulative chum salmon counts total 6,009.
- Cumulative sockeye salmon counts total 381.

Salmon River Weir: Through July 27th

- Cumulative king salmon counts total 1,557.
- Cumulative chum salmon counts total 2,031.

- Cumulative sockeye salmon total 195.

George River Weir: Through July 27th

- Cumulative king salmon counts total 2,620.
- Cumulative chum salmon counts total 13,513.

Tatlawiksuk River Weir: Through July 27th

- King salmon cumulative count total 1,871.
- Cumulative chum salmon counts total 10,935.

Kogruluk River Weir: Through July 27th

- Cumulative king salmon counts total 3,485.
- Cumulative chum salmon counts total 24,992.
- Sockeye escapement to date total 5,014.

Telequana Lake Weir: Through July 27th

- Cumulative sockeye salmon counts total 21,112.

Kuskokwim Bay (courtesy of ADF&G)

Commercial salmon fishing will be suspended for approximately one week due to low abundances of salmon in both District W4 and District W5. It is anticipated that fishing will resume on Monday, August 4, 2014.

District 4 (Quinhagak)

There have been eight commercial salmon fishing periods in District W4 to date. Preliminary cumulative harvest from those periods is 2,104 king, 55,647 sockeye, and 13,241 chum salmon. King and chum salmon harvests are below historical averages, while sockeye harvest is slightly above the historical average. The Kanektok River weir has been in operation since June 26. As of July 27, total passage through the weir is 2,806 king, 233,332 sockeye, 14,168 chum, and 110 coho salmon. King and chum salmon escapements are below average, while the escapement of sockeye salmon is the highest on record. It is still too early to determine the strength of the coho run.

District 5 (Goodnews Bay)

There have been seven commercial salmon fishing periods in District W5 to date. Preliminary cumulative harvest from those periods is 182 king, 17,578 sockeye, and 3,149 chum salmon. King, sockeye, and chum salmon harvests are below historical averages. Inseason Assessment of the Middle Fork Goodnews River weir has been in operation since June 25. As of July 27, total passage through the weir is 675 king, 40,424 sockeye, 9,226 chum, and 0 coho salmon. The king and chum salmon passage are well below average. Sockeye passage is above average for this date and has exceeded the upper bound of the escapement goal range of 18,000–40,000 fish.

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

All the counting towers in the district have been knocked out by high water except for Kwiniuk River. All weirs are standing strong and counting continues.

ADF&G opened the commercial salmon fishery in Subdistricts 2 – 6 until 6 p.m. Thursday, July 24. The buyer is setting up commercial salmon fishing periods based on weather and available capacity. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less mesh size and are reminded to stay in close contact with the buyer to make sure there is a market for their fish. Preliminary Norton Sound commercial salmon catches this season are: 250 kings, 68,000 chums, 150,000 pinks, 230 reds and 260 silvers by 80 permit holders.

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.

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 Chiroskey River and in all other fresh waters. Beach seining is open in all fresh waters 7 days a week. All king salmon captured in beach seines must be immediately released in the water unharmed.

The federal waters of the Unalakleet National Wild River remain closed to the taking of Chinook salmon between July 1 and July 31 by federal regulation.

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. Cumulative counts through July 13 were 2,172 kings, 6,660 chums and 139,236 pinks. The crew has been unable to count since the evening of July 13 due to high water. The average historical midpoint for chums at the tower is July 22 and the average third quarter points are July 15 for pinks and July 18 for kings.

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. Cumulative counts through July 18 were 1,044 kings, 38,000 chums, 1.16 million pinks, 150 silvers, and 185 reds. Counts for kings and pinks by this date are the highest in the 5-year project history, and chums are in the middle. The average historical midpoints for chums and pinks are July 16, and for kings the third quarter point is July 18, however there has been no king passage the last three days.

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.

Subsistence salmon gillnet fishing, with nets restricted to 6 inches or less mesh size, is open in the marine waters and all fresh waters 7 days a week. Beach seining is open in all fresh waters 7 days a week. All king salmon captured in beach seines must be immediately released in the water unharmed.

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 crew has been unable to count

since July 13 due to high water. When the crew cannot count from the tower the sonar counts are then used, but on July 14 the sonar tumbled into the deepest part of the channel and cannot be retrieved until water levels drop.

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.

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. Counts for all species by this date were the highest in the 4-year project history, except for kings which were second highest. Unfortunately it looks like the end of the counting season because of high water. The crew left for Koyuk because of high water and when they returned to the camp, or where camp had been located, the camp was gone and presumably taken downstream. Once water levels drop a new site for the project may be located.

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.

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 July 18 were 405 kings, 34,000 chums and 225,000 pinks. The average historical third quarter points at the tower are July 13 for chums, July 17 for pinks and July 18 for kings. The chum count ranks seventh best in the 50-year project history.

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.

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. Cumulative counts through July 14 were 840 kings, 33,000 chums and 155,000 pinks. The tower crew has been unable to count since July 14 because of high water.

Nome (Subdistrict 1)

All Nome Subdistrict chum salmon escapement goals have been achieved, including the Nome Subdistrict biological escapement goal of 23,000 -35,000 chum salmon. The preliminary 2014 chum salmon escapement is 86,000 chums which is projected to be the third highest, and the fifth consecutive season in which the upper end of the BEG has been exceeded.

ADF&G reopened the entire Nome Subdistrict from Cape Rodney east to Topkok Head to commercial salmon fishing for 48 hours from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 24 to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 28. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less.

The subsistence set gillnet fishing schedule in the marine waters west of Cape Nome is from 6 p.m. Monday until 6 p.m. Saturday. The marine waters east of Cape Nome are open seven days a week. 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. Beach seining is allowed at the same time gillnetting is allowed in both the marine waters and fresh water subsistence areas through July 25. Effective July 26 beach seining will no longer be allowed.

All pink salmon subsistence catch limits throughout the Nome Subdistrict are waived, and except for the Solomon, Penny and Cripple rivers all chum salmon subsistence catch limits are waived throughout Nome Subdistrict. The Penny and Cripple rivers are closed to all fishing for chum salmon by regulation. The subsistence chum salmon catch limit in Solomon River is 40 fish. The back of the Nome Subdistrict subsistence salmon permit lists the subsistence areas where set gillnetting and beach seining (until July 26) is allowed. There are no subsistence salmon catch limits in the marine waters.

Solomon River Weir – A Fish & Game project has no escapement goals established. . The weir was fish tight on July 2. Cumulative counts through July 18 were 697 chums and 7,700 pinks. Last year by the same date the count was 456 chums with a final count of 1,377 chums.

Eldorado River Weir – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has an escapement goal of 6,000 – 9,200 chum salmon. Cumulative counts through July 18 were 15 kings, 22,000 chums and 35,000 pinks. The chum salmon escapement is double the 5-year and 10-year averages by the same date and for the fifth consecutive year the chum salmon escapement goal range has been exceeded.

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 July 18 were 3,175 chums, 28,000 pinks and 13 reds. The average historical midpoint at the weir is July 18 for pinks and July 23 for chums. The chum salmon escapement is triple the 5-year average and double the 10-year average by the same date, and for the last four out of five years the chum salmon escapement goal range has been met or exceeded.

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 July 18 were 2,300 chums and 6,000 pinks. The average historical midpoint at the weir is July 20 for pinks and July 21 for chums. The chum salmon escapement is double the 5-year and 10-year averages by this date and for the last four out of five years the chum salmon escapement goal range has been met or exceeded.

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 midday July 8 were 3,223 reds, 1 beaver and 1 otter. This is the best red salmon count by the same date since 2005. The Glacial Lake counts usually drop off about one week earlier than the Pilgrim River counts. The video has been retrieved with counts through July 15, so with Pilgrim River counts in a free fall since July 14 the video would likely show Glacial Lake counts dropping off too.

Port Clarence District

The Pilgrim River and Lower Kuzitrin River is closed to all net fishing. No nets or seines can be put into the Pilgrim River or its tributaries or the Lower Kuzitrin River from 300 yards upstream of the confluence with the Pilgrim River to the mouth of Kuzitrin River.

At this time the Pilgrim River would not be expected to reopen to net fishing until the second week of August when historically over 95% of the red salmon run has passed through the weir. There have been 234 Pilgrim River subsistence salmon permits issued this season; the third highest number in the 51 years permits have been required.

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 July 18 were 36 kings, 4,600 chums, 2,450 pinks, and 3,475 reds. The count on July 14 (when net fishing closed) was 601 reds through the weir. The next 4 days have had counts of less than 100 reds a day with total for those 4 days of 227 reds.

Kotzebue District

The commercial fishery has taken off with 66 permit holders already participating surpassing the 65 permits that fished all of last year. The price has now hit 78 cents a

pound for chum salmon. If that price were to hold throughout the season it would be the second highest price on record without adjusting for inflation. The highest price was 1988 when it averaged 85 cents a pound. The cumulative catch was 75,830 chum salmon by 66 permit holders. The catch and effort are well above average and the CPUE is average.

Kobuk River Test Fish - Fish & Game project. The crew got off to a fast start both on the water and catching fish on July 17. Extremely high water is causing some difficulties, but the test fish cumulative catch of 128 chums ranks sixth best in 22 years.

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