

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 27 – August 2, 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

Redoubt Lake

On July 31st 364 sockeye passed the weir bringing the season total to 14,776. The in-season model is predicting 23,767 sockeye will enter the lake this year with mean absolute percent error 21,325-26,210. 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 in possession and 100 annual effective July 16th. 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 7/31, 833 sockeye have been trapped and 1,208 sockeye have been harvested in the subsistence fishery. Preliminary estimates indicate that there are about 1,400 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 than 98% of terminal area harvest.

Klag Bay

The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the sockeye monitoring weir at Klag Bay. As of 7/31, 5,322 sockeye have been counted at the Klag Bay weir and 3,149 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

Week ending August 2, 2014; statistical week 31

There have been 117 Stikine River subsistence fishing permits issued. The catch estimate through Saturday, August 2 is 50 Chinook salmon and 2,000 sockeye salmon. The latest Stikine River in-season sockeye salmon forecast is 227,000 fish. The pre-season forecast was 152,000 sockeye salmon. There is good news regarding the slide on the Tahltan River. The river bed has shifted and water levels have dropped enough to pass sockeye salmon. The weir count at the lake outlet is now 34,807 sockeye salmon; almost 20,000 fish passed in two days. This level of escapement is above the upper end of the escapement goal range.

In the Southeast Region catch rates for coho salmon are above average and sockeye salmon escapements in most systems appear to be good. Pink salmon are abundant in Southern Southeast and coastal areas with the seine fishery operating at two openings a week. Pink escapements in much of Northern Southeast are very poor. The following link provides a summary of Southeast Alaska and Yakutat commercial fisheries:

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 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 100,000.

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. Only four boats fished the 15-hour opening at Point Augusta this past 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 3, 1,947 sockeye salmon have entered Neva Lake and 6,570 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

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

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

As of July 28, 2014 the ADF&G sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) estimated that 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. This was the final day of operation for the Miles Lake sonar.

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:

- 9,609 Chinook
- 2,050,356 sockeye
- 1,846 coho
- 8,533 pink
- 42,538 chum

The Chitina Subdistrict opened this week on August 3rd. It will remain open for the rest of the season – through September 30. Eighty 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 seventy nine 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 31, 24,242 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 29, 17 sockeye have been counted through the weir.



Long Lake weir with camera box and fish chute. The structure of the weir is very similar to the original 1974 weir – it may even have some of the original parts and pieces. The camera and fish chute were installed in 2010.

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. It looks like the final day of this project was July 27. 2104.

ADF&G's counting tower in the Gulkana River was installed on June 4. As of July 29, 1,806 Chinook and 13,824 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

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 4 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 next week. Hatchery contributions from the period that closed on July 25 were 40% Gulkana Hatchery. Harvest from the period that closed Friday, August 1 was 8,660 sockeye and 630 coho salmon with 80 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 1,086 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 31 July. Totals of 125 Kenai River permits, 15 Kasilof River permits, and 9 designated fisher permits have been issued through 31 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 throughout the Kenai River was closed by the Department through Emergency Order starting on 26 July 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 30 July:

Russian River early-run sockeye (weir)	44,920	(counts ended on 14 July)
Russian River late-run sockeye (weir)	6,764	(counts began on 15 July)
Kenai River late-run sockeye (sonar)	828,814	
Kasilof River sockeye (sonar)	407,135	
Kenai River early-run Chinook (sonar)	5,311	(count ended 30 June)
Kenai River late-run Chinook (sonar)	12,706	

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 returns to the Kodiak archipelago continues to be strong, with most systems meeting their lower escapement goals and some exceeding the upper escapement goals while one has not materialized.

The sockeye salmon escapement into the Buskin River continues to slow with daily fish passage averaging only 9 fish per day. As of July 31, 2014, a total of 13,198 fish have migrated past the ADF&G weir. This level of escapement has occurred the second year in a row. There have not been any reports of subsistence fishing for sockeye salmon for the past couple of weeks.

Sockeye salmon escapement to the Litnik River on Afognak Island continues at a modest rate. As of July 31, 2014, a total of 35,647 fish have passed through the weir. The reduction of closed waters near the stream mouth remains in effect to allow subsistence users to meet their needs. Port Lions villagers reported their needs have been met for this season and they have turned their attention to other areas of food gathering.

The Karluk River late sockeye salmon escapement continues at a fairly strong rate with a total of 28,200 fish passing through the weir as of July 31, 2014. Subsistence users from Karluk village and Larsen Bay have largely met their needs. Due to the high sockeye salmon harvest numbers, villagers are able to share their catch with others and have been hard at work smoking their catch.

Chinook returns to the Karluk River are nearly complete, but not expected to meet the lower escapement goal. The total escapement for Karluk Chinook was 1,177 as of July 31, 2014. To protect this fish stock, the State and Federal managers issued a special action closing the Karluk River to subsistence fishing to Chinook salmon before the start of the fishing season. It is doubtful this closure will be lifted due to the run size being very low.

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.

This is the final inseason summary for Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula for 2014.

Bristol Bay:

Total return of 40 million sockeye has far exceeded the forecast of 26 million. The returns to the Nushagak, Naknek/Kvichak, and Egegik districts were very strong. Commercial fishing is now focused on pink and coho returns and continues throughout all districts.

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 191 thousand.

The escapement goal for Chinook salmon is 1,300 fish. Inriver return to date through the weir is 2,735. 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 and several of the weirs removed. 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 preliminary summer chum total run size is projected to be above 2 million fish, well above the preseason projected range of 1.5-1.8 million fish. The preliminary Chinook salmon estimate past Pilot Station of 136,500 is slightly higher than the high end of the preseason total run size projection of 64,000-121,000 Chinook salmon. An estimate of total Chinook salmon run size will be determined post season.

The Andrefsky weir ended operations on July 31 and has an estimated passage of 5,949 Chinook, which is well above average and above the high end of the escapement goal, while 37,793 summer chum have passed, which is below average and just below the escapement goal of 40,000. The Anvik River sonar ended operations on July 26 and has an estimated passage of 399,223 summer chum, 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 for the season. However 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. Aerial surveys are being conducted on these streams to get a minimum assessment of their escapement. Also, a DIDSON sonar has been operating on the Chena and a Chinook salmon estimate will be calculated post season. The Eagle sonar has an estimated passage of 60,739 Chinook salmon through August 1. This is above average and above the border escapement goal of 42,500-55,000 Chinook. Chinook salmon past the Eagle sonar is beginning to tail off for the season.

Commercial fishing for summer chum salmon has been ongoing in Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6 since June 9. A total of 529,629 summer chum salmon have been harvested, and a total of 5,928 Chinook salmon caught and released and 446 Chinook salmon caught but not sold.

Fall Season Outlook

District 1 transitioned into fall season management on July 16. Districts 2 through 4 transitioned into fall season management chronologically based upon the swimming speed of fall chum. Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C will transition to fall season management on August 3. Based upon the relationship between the summer chum run and the fall chum run, the fall chum salmon pre-season projection is for a run above 850,000 salmon. This is enough to meet escapement goals, provide for a normal subsistence harvest, and provide for commercial fishing opportunities. Up to this point, managers have been basing management decisions on the pre-season projection, but are beginning to transition into managing based upon in-season assessment.

Fall Season Assessment

The Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) is tracking above average while the Mt. Village Test Fishery is tracking below average. Both projects are between the ¼ point and mid-point of the run. The Pilot Station sonar is at the ¼ point and is tracking below average, however, when the commercial harvest is taken into account, the reconstructed Pilot Station sonar is tracking with the average. The LYTF detected a pulse of fall chum entering the lower Yukon on August 1, and the Pilot Station sonar fall chum estimates should rise with this pulse beginning on August 3.

Fall chum commercial fishing opportunities are occurring in Districts 1 and 2. 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. There has been four fall season commercial periods in District 1 and two periods in District 2 with a third scheduled for August. The combined harvest through July 27 is 44,651 fall chum salmon and 1,010 coho salmon. Commercial fishing was delayed in order to slow the early fall season commercial rate and move 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.

The coho salmon run overlaps the second half of the fall chum run. Coho are trickling into the lower Yukon, however it is still too early to assess the strength of the coho 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 Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group met on Wednesday, July 30. No major actions were taken. The commercial coho fishery is still in suspension to meet subsistence needs. The king salmon run is near end at the escapement projects, it appears that in the Kwethluk and Kogrugluk rivers, despite all the conservation measure for king salmon will not meet escapement goals. This is also the weakest run of chum salmon in

the Tuluksak in the previous 7 years and also the weakest run in the Kwethluk since 2008 (no data in 2012 and 2013). This last week saw the first major push of coho salmon into the escapement projects. There is a Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 6.

Escapement Projects

Bethel Test Fish: Through August 2nd

- Coho salmon have an index of 1,073.

Kwethluk River Weir: Through August 1st

- Cumulative king salmon counts total 3,095.
- Cumulative chum salmon counts total 15,189.
- Cumulative sockeye salmon counts total 3,285.
- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 249.

Tuluksak River Weir: Through August 1st

- Cumulative king salmon counts total 313.
- Cumulative chum salmon counts total 7,397.
- Cumulative sockeye salmon counts total 398.
- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 61.

Salmon River Weir: Through August 3rd

- Cumulative king salmon counts total 1,670.
- Cumulative chum salmon counts total 2,406.
- Cumulative sockeye salmon total 464.
- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 41.

George River Weir: Through August 3rd

- Cumulative king salmon counts total 2,657.
- Cumulative chum salmon counts total 15,027.
- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 82.

Tatlawiksuk River Weir: Through August 3rd

- King salmon cumulative count total 1,891.
- Cumulative chum salmon counts total 11,483.
- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 176.

Kogrugluk River Weir: Through August 3rd

- Cumulative king salmon counts total 3,658.
- Cumulative chum salmon counts total 28,207.
- Sockeye escapement to date total 6,196.
- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 61.

Telequana Lake Weir: Through August 3rd

- Cumulative sockeye salmon counts total 23,359.

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. Monday, August 4, 2014.

District 5, Goodnews Bay, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Monday, August 4, 2014.

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.
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Norton Sound

The ADF&G announced several commercial directed chum salmon openings in Norton Sound late last week and early this week. Permit holders in all subdistricts were limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less. These openings were intended to utilize remaining chum salmon harvestable surpluses while indexing early coho salmon run strength. This will ensure that commercial fishing can continue without jeopardizing subsistence uses and escapement needs for coho salmon.

Unalakleet (Subdistrict 6)

The Subdistrict reopened to commercial salmon fishing for 72 hours beginning at 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 25. The subdistrict was also reopened for two 48-hour periods beginning at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 29 and again at 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 1.

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 Chirokey 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 remained 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. Escapement counts through July 31 were 2,300 kings, 10,000 chums, 150,000 pinks, and 30 silvers.

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. Escapement counts through July 31 were 1,000 kings, 40,000 chums, 1, 200,000 pinks, and 900 silvers.

Shaktoolik (Subdistrict 5)

The Subdistrict reopened to commercial salmon fishing for 72 hours beginning at 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 25. The subdistrict was also reopened for two 48-hour periods beginning at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 29 and again at 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 1.

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. No new information is available since the report last week. Updates will be provided when available.

Norton Bay (Subdistrict 4)

The Subdistrict reopened to commercial salmon fishing for 54 hours beginning at 12:00 noon, Saturday, July 26. The Subdistrict was also reopened for a 48-hour period beginning at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 31.

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. No new information is available since the report last week. Updates will be provided when available.

Elim (Subdistrict 3)

The Subdistrict reopened to commercial salmon fishing for 54 hours beginning at 12:00 noon, Saturday, July 26. The Subdistrict was also reopened for a 48-hour period beginning at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 31.

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). Escapement counts through July 31 were 400 kings, 40,000 chums, 325,000 pinks, and 700 silvers.

Golovin (Subdistrict 2)

The Subdistrict reopened to commercial salmon fishing for 54 hours beginning at 12:00 noon, Saturday, July 26. The Subdistrict was also reopened for a 48-hour period beginning at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 31.

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. Escapement counts through July 31 were 900 kings, 45,000 chums, 200,000 pinks, and 1,100 silvers.

Nome (Subdistrict 1)

ADF&G reopened all the marine waters of the Subdistrict to commercial salmon fishing for one 48-hour beginning at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 30. This will be the last directed chum salmon period in the Nome Subdistrict this season. ADF&G intends to hold off on setting commercial periods directed at coho salmon until the run strength indicators suggest that subsistence uses and escapement needs for coho salmon will be achieved.

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. Escapement counts through July 31 were 1,200 chums, 1 7,000 pinks and 12 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. Escapement counts through July 31 were 27,000 chums and 47,000 pinks.

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. Escapement counts through July 31 were 4,400 chums, 80,000 pinks and 25 silvers.

Snake River Weir – A cooperative project between Fish & Game and NSEDC has an escapement goal of 1,600 – 2,500 chum salmon. Escapement counts through July 31 were 3,300 chums and 14,000 pinks.

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. Escapement counts through July 31 were 4,000 sockeyes.

Port Clarence District

The escapement of sockeye salmon past the Pilgrim River weir has improved over the last several days with over 1,000 fish passing the weir. The cumulative passage this year has been 7,400 sockeye salmon. Enough sockeye salmon should reach Salmon Lake by Saturday to achieve the escapement goal range of 4,000 to 8,000 sockeye salmon. Therefore, ADF&G is reopening the Lower Kuzitrin River and Pilgrim River to net fishing effective 12 noon, Saturday, August 2.

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. The escapement count this year has included 10,000 chums, 4,000 pinks, 10 silvers, and 7,400 sockeyes.

Kotzebue District

The preliminary commercial salmon catch through the first 14 fishing periods has been approximately 245,000 chum salmon for about 68 permit holders fishing. The catch and fishing effort have been well above average. The commercial harvest for the opening on Monday, July 28 was very large with about 64,000 fish taken. There was no commercial fishing opening on Tuesday, July 29. There was another opening for 5 hours on Wednesday, July 30 beginning at 7:00 p.m. The preliminary harvest from that opening is 18,500 chum salmon taken by 66 permit holders. This was followed by another 5 hour opening on Thursday, July 31. The preliminary catch for the Thursday opening was 18,000 chums from 62 permit holders.

The preliminary catch through the first 16 periods now brings that total to approximately 272,000 chum salmon with 80 permit holders fishing. The catch and fishing effort remain well above average. The end of July and the first week of August historically provide the peak weeks for the commercial salmon harvest. The catch in July alone has reached ADF&G's forecast of 250,000 to 275,000 chum salmon. With three weeks of commercial salmon fishing complete, and another month left, the fishery is on track for possibly falling within the top 5 greatest harvests. ADF&G plans on continuing with one or two day closures to commercial fishing during the week in order to allow fish to pass through the district and provide for escapement and subsistence, In keeping with this plan a 5 hour opening has been announced for Friday evening, August 1. There will be no opening on Saturday, August 2.

Kobuk River Test Fish - Fish & Game project. The chum salmon index was the third best out of 22 years earlier in the week. Forty percent of the catch came in the two days period of Sunday, July 27 and Monday, July 28. Catches have been skyrocketing the last several days and through the end of July now rank the best in the 22-year project history.

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