

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16-22, 2019.

Report #17 – Final report for 2019 season.

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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 sent by the close of business the following Monday. Please keep in mind, many of the authors do not have alternates or are deployed in the field on occasion and do not have access to communications to submit a weekly report. 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, justin.koller@usda.gov

Reporting complete for the 2019 season. Please contact author if you have any questions.

Yakutat, Juneau, and Admiralty areas of Northern Southeast Alaska - Jake Musslewhite (907-789-6256); jacob.g.musslewhite@usda.gov, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest

This is the last weekly summary submitted for the 2019 season. Please contact author with questions.

Petersburg and Wrangell Area – Robert Cross, Forest Service Tongass National Forest, Robert Cross, (907)772-5944, robert.cross@usda.gov

Reporting complete for the 2019 season. Please contact author with questions.

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

Reporting complete for the 2019 season. Please contact author with questions.

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

Copper River, 8/11/2019 Update – Dave Sarafin, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve, (907) 822-7281, dave_sarafin@nps.gov

Reporting complete for 2019 season. Please contact author with questions.

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/Summary/DailySummary.aspx>

ADF&G Copper River In-season Commercial Harvest Estimates
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.harvestsummary>

ADF&G Gulkana River counting tower
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/index.cfm?ADFG=main.displayResults&COUNTLOCATIONID=6&SpeciesID=410>

ADF&G Emergency Orders and News Releases
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=area.list&Year=2018&AreaID=33>

PWS and Copper River Delta – Milo Burcham, Chugach National Forest, Cordova.
Milo Burcham (907) 424-4759 mburcham@fs.fed.us

Reporting concluded for 2019 season. Please contact author with questions.

COOK INLET AREA – Jeff Anderson, Field Supervisor, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office (907) 260-0132 Jeffry_Anderson@fws.gov

Reporting completed for 2019 season. Please contact author with questions.

Fish counts at some Alaska Department of Fish and Game-operated assessment projects are available on-line at

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/index.cfm?ADFG=main.home>

Kodiak Island Area – Michael Brady, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR
(907) 487-0226 or michael_brady@fws.gov or Kevin Van Hatten (907) 487-0230
Kevin_VanHatten@fws.gov

Reporting completed for 2019 season. Please contact authors with questions.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kodiak Area
<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/fishregs13/kodiak.pdf>

BRISTOL BAY, CHIGNIK, ALASKA PENINSULA, and ALEUTIAN ISLANDS – Jonathon Gerken Fisheries Branch Chief Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office
(907)271-2776 or jonathon_gerken@fws.gov

Reporting complete for the 2019 season. Please contact author with questions.

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>

Yukon River – Gerald Maschmann, Fish Biologist USFWS Fairbanks Office.

Gerald_Maschmann@fws.gov or

Fred Bue Fredrick_Bue@fws.gov

This is the final weekly summary for the 2019 season. Please contact Author with questions.

The Emmonak Field Office is closed for the season. You can contact staff at the Fairbanks Office at 907-456-0406.

Fall Season Update

Fall Season management has ended in the lower Yukon and assessment has focused to upriver projects. The Teedriinjik (Chandalar) River sonar has been in operation since August 8 and has an estimated passage of 85,219 Fall Chum Salmon through September 22, well behind the average of 186,646, but within the escapement goal range of 85,000 to 234,000. The Eagle sonar began estimating Fall Chum Salmon on August 15 and has an estimated passage through September 20 of 42,303 Fall Chum Salmon, behind the average of 69,904 Fall Chum Salmon. The typical mid-point at the Eagle sonar is September 22, however counts are continuing to rise. The Porcupine River sonar at Old Crow has an estimated passage of 14,253 Fall Chum Salmon through September 18, below the average of 21,131. This project's typical $\frac{3}{4}$ point is September 23. The Fishing Branch River weir in the upper Porcupine River drainage has an estimated passage through September 18 of 2,598 Fall Chum Salmon, below the average of 10,701. The typical mid-point of this project is September 21. Based on the Pilot Station sonar run timing, the 2019 Fall Chum Salmon run does appear late.

The Coho Salmon run appears to be poor at this time based on the LYTF and MVTF, and slightly below average based on the Pilot Station sonar. The only Coho Salmon assessment project in the Yukon drainage is at Delta Clear Water River near Delta Junction. Assessment will begin at this project sometime in October.

Fall Season Management Actions

Subsistence salmon fishing in the Coastal District and District 1-3 is open 7 days per week. Managers adjusted the subsistence salmon fishing closures around commercial fishing periods to accommodate short notice openings, as per regulation. Subsistence salmon fishing in Districts 4 and 5 have been relaxed to 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The mainstem Porcupine River in Alaska is closed to salmon fishing with no gillnets larger than 4-inches allowed in order to protect Canadian-bound Fall Chum Salmon. However, tributaries are open to subsistence salmon fishing for local users.

Thirteen fall season commercial periods have occurred in District 1, and twelve have occurred in District 2. Preliminary harvest estimates are 253,865 Chum Salmon, 56,305 Coho Salmon, and 544 Chinook Salmon. 900 Fall Chum Salmon have been harvested in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C. District 6 is open to commercial fishing where 1,618 Fall Chum Salmon and 212 Coho Salmon have been harvested at this time.

Consultation

Extensive public outreach and consultation was performed during the fall of 2018 and spring of 2019 to inform and seek input from Yukon River fishermen and stakeholders.

Outreach continued through the summer via the YRDFA weekly teleconferences. The thirteenth and final teleconference occurred on August 27.

KUSKOKWIM RIVER

In Season Manager – Vernon “Ray” Born, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Contact Vernon_Born@fws.gov (907) 543-3151 or Lewis_Coggins@fws.gov

Reporting complete for 2019 season. Please contact author if you have questions.

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

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) 443-6104 ken_adkisson@nps.gov

Reporting for the 2019 season complete. Please contact author with questions.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for the Kotzebue Area

<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/fishregs11/norton.pdf>