Compiled by George Pappas - (907) 786-3822, George_Pappas@fws.gov
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 sent 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

Klag Bay - The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the Sockeye Salmon monitoring weir at Klag Bay which is operating as of June 28th. As of July 31st, 1,140 Sockeye Salmon have been counted and about 2,100 have been harvested in the bay. The run timing is largely driven by stream flow and Sockeye Salmon began moving in with the recent rain. In 2015, approximately 3,304 sockeye migrated past the weir while an estimated 1,344 sockeye were harvested in the marine terminal area subsistence and sport fishery. Subsistence harvest accounted for over 99% of terminal area harvest.

Redoubt Lake - The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir which was operational June 13th. As of July 31st, 14,750 Sockeye Salmon were counted passing the weir with 162 passing on July 31st. Based on historic run timing and magnitude, the projected escapement is about 24,000. In accordance with the Redoubt Lake management plan, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has increased the individual/household Sockeye Salmon limit from 10/50 to 25/100 and increased the sport fish bag and possession limit to 6. In 2015, an estimated total of 13,379 Sockeye Salmon passed through the weir into Redoubt Lake.
Falls Lake - The Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake operate the Falls Lake trap and video net weir which were operating as of July 1st. On July 31st, 24 Sockeye Salmon were counted at the trap bringing the season total to 2,777. About 600 sockeye have been harvested in the subsistence fishery which reopened from the annual closure period on 7/23. No subsistence fishing occurred over that weekend due to poor weather conditions for boating across Chatham Strait. The final escapement estimate in 2015 was 4,716 Sockeye Salmon while the final subsistence and sport harvest in the marine terminal area was 1,031. Subsistence harvest accounted for 99% of terminal area harvest.
Yakutat, Juneau, and Admiralty areas of Northern Southeast Alaska

**Yakutat.** As of July 29, ADF&G personnel have counted 326 large Chinook Salmon through their picket weir on the lower Situk River. Past weir counts suggest that about 97% of the Chinook Salmon have escaped for the season and the end-of-season count will be around 336 fish which will be below the lower end of ADF&G’s 450 to 1,050 escapement goal range. Just over 49,000 Sockeye Salmon have been counted through the Situk River weir through July 29. Past weir counts suggest that about 93% of the Sockeye Salmon have now passed through the weir and the end-of-season count will be near the middle of the 30,000 to 70,000 escapement goal range.

**Northern Inside areas of Southeast Alaska.** The wild Pink and hatchery Chum Salmon runs have been weak this season. Commercial purse seine openings have been limited to 15-hour openings at Point Augusta each Sunday. Seventeen seine boats harvested only 33,000 Pink Salmon at Point Augusta on Sunday July 24. Point Augusta will be closed to seining this coming Sunday. The Amalga Harbor special hatchery harvest area was
opened to seining on July 28 and 23 seine boats harvested only 350 Pink Salmon and 16,000 Chum Salmon.

Neva Lake. Personnel from the Hoonah Indian Association have been operating a pair of video weirs at the outlet of Neva Lake since June 14. Six hundred Sockeye Salmon have escaped into the lake as of July 29. Live video, and recent motion-triggered video, from our four in-chute cameras and four project site surveillance cameras can now be seen by typing “24:237:148:82:81” into Google Chrome’s web browser. The four surveillance cameras will not always be streaming live video.

Kook Lake. Personnel from the Angoon Community Association (ACA) have been operating a pair of video net weirs at the outlet of Kook Lake since June 26. As of July 29, 2,348 Sockeye Salmon have escaped into the lake.

Sitkoh Lake. A pair of remotely monitored video net weirs were installed at the outlet of Sitkoh Lake on June 30th. The ACA project personnel who work at Kook Lake do the video review and fish counting from both the Kook and Sitkoh video weirs. As of July 25, 301 Sockeye Salmon have entered Sitkoh Lake.

**Prince of Wales and Ketchikan District Area**

The 2016 Federal subsistence salmon fishery for Southeast Alaska and Yakutat areas is on-going. To date, 213 permits have been issued.

Most subsistence Sockeye Salmon fisheries have started with subsistence users fishing marine waters, under State issued permits at Karta, Klawock, and Hetta. Effort at Klawock and Hetta is low, as most subsistence fishers are choosing to fish Karta. Some fishing effort has been noted at Hatchery Creek.

The Hydaburg Cooperative Association projects at both Hetta Lake and Eek Lake are on-going. No Sockeye Salmon have been counted yet at Eek. There have been 228 Sockeye Salmon counted at Hetta to date. The Klawock Lake project has had 217 Sockeye Salmon counted to date.

Commercial seining is ongoing for Chum Salmon in a hatchery terminal areas in District 2 and directed effort for Pink and Sockeye Salmon occurring in Districts 1 and 4. Drift gillnet openings are occurring weekly in District 1. The summer season commercial troll for Chinook Salmon began July 1 summer. The commercial troll fishery for Chinook Salmon has been closed since July 6 and is now primarily targeting Coho Salmon in non-terminal harvest areas. Commercial harvest to date is 20,775 Chinook Salmon, 265,395 Sockeye Salmon, 159,700 Coho Salmon, 5,797,700 Pink Salmon and 1,154,900 Chum Salmon from Districts 1-4.
Sitka and Hoonah Area – Justin Koller, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
Justin Koller, (907)747-4297  jpkoller@fs.fed.us

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

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

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

Southeast Alaska Web Links


Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Southeastern Alaska Area

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

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southeast Alaska

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts
http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/

SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND – COPPER RIVER

Copper River – Dave Sarafin, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve

As of July 28, 2016 the ADF&G sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the
Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) estimated that 801,593 salmon had migrated
upstream for the season.  This estimate is 21% more than the projected escapement of
663,261 for this date, or 138,332 more salmon. A daily estimate of 3,147 salmon
migrated by the sonar counter on July 28. The sonar was removed from the river as of
July 29.
The Chitina Subdistrict was closed for 8 hours from midnight through 8:00 a.m. on July 25. It then reopened at 8:00 a.m. on that day and remained open for the remainder of the week, closing at 11:59 p.m. on July 31. It is then scheduled to reopen 12:01 a.m. on August 3 and remain open the entire week. The state and federal fisheries usually follow identical fishing schedules which are set by the state. Ninety-two (92) Federal Chitina Subdistrict permits have been issued on the FWS 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 Glennallen Subdistrict opened for Federal subsistence users on May 15th and is expected to remain open until September 30th. Two hundred seventy-two (272) Federal Glennallen permits have been issued on the FWS online data base. Additional permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity. The state subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict opened on June 1.

The Batzulnetas fishery is open. No Federal permits have been issued, as of the online data base.

The Tanada Creek fish weir is continuing to operate. The cumulative season counts through July 29 are 6,532 Sockeye Salmon and 2 Chinook Salmon.

The Long Lake fish weir was installed on July 26. As of July 27, no salmon have been observed in the creek.

2,508 Chinook Salmon were tagged this season at the two project fishwheels in Baird Canyon operated by the Native Village of Eyak. The upriver fishwheels at Canyon Creek have captured 1,085 Chinook Salmon, of which, 172 were recaptured fish that had been tagged at the downstream wheels.

ADF&G’s counting tower in the Gulkana River has estimated 1,032 Chinook Salmon migrating past the site as of July 29. (The 2015 estimate to this date was 3,216 fish.)

Six Special Actions have been issued by the park this season:

- delaying the starting date of the Chitina Subdistrict federal subsistence salmon fishery and setting the tentative pre-season schedule for this fishery.
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 4 – July 10, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing and providing the tentative schedule for future fishing periods.
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 11-17, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing.
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 18-24, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing.
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 25-31, allowing for 160 hours of fishing.
amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of August 1-7, allowing for 118 hours of fishing.

Links
- ADF&G Miles Lake daily sonar estimates
- NVE’s Chinook Escapement Monitoring project in the Copper River
- ADF&G Copper River Inseason Commercial Harvest Estimates
- Gulkana River counting tower – ADF&G
  http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/index.cfm?ADFG=main.LocSelectYearSpecies

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

Out of office working with bears and will submit summary when back in office.

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

Harvest of 953 Sockeye Salmon from the Russian River Falls dip net fishery and 6 Sockeye Salmon in the Kasilof River dip net fishery have been reported through July 28. Harvest of 94 Sockeye Salmon has been reported for the Kasilof River experimental community gillnet fishery through July 27. Totals of 149 Kenai River permits, 42 Kasilof River permits, and 13 Designated Fisher permits have been issued through July 23.

On July 27, the Federal Subsistence Board approved Emergency Special Action Request FSA16-02 with modification, providing for the issuance of a 2016 permit allowing for executing an experimental Kenai River community gillnet fishery for residents of Ninilchik. Harvest of 13 Sockeye Salmon was reported from the Kenai River experimental community gillnet fishery on July 28.

Fish counts at some Department-operated assessment projects are available on-line at http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/index.cfm?ADFG=main.home

Kodiak Island Area – Anne Marie La Rosa, 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 continued to be relatively strong over the past few weeks. The Karluk and Ayakulik River Sockeye Salmon early run has achieved their respective escapement goal. The early run Sockeye Salmon escapement on the Karluk River was 164,760 salmon (110,000 to 250,000 escapement goal range) and on the Ayakulik River there were 182,589 Sockeye Salmon (140,000 to 280,000 escapement goal range) counted through the weir. The Karluk River late run has picked up over the past week with an escapement count of 20,797 late run Sockeye Salmon. The Ayakulik River late run Sockeye Salmon escapement has also picked up with a count of 29,699 salmon passing the weir being recorded as of July 27.

The Chinook Salmon runs on the Karluk and Ayakulik Rivers have continued to decrease with less than 50 fish being counted through each weir. The Karluk River Chinook Salmon escapement is 3,360 fish and the Ayakulik River Chinook Salmon escapement is 4,550 fish.

Subsistence needs of many villagers around Kodiak have exceeded their goals for harvesting Sockeye Salmon. The strong run of sockeye at Litnik has faded and residents are now shifting their focus to coho and pink salmon. Most residents of Port Lions have harvested the Sockeye Salmon they need.

Any reports of subsistence activities will be reported during the upcoming week.

_Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kodiak Area_  

Bristol Bay and Chignik – Johnathon Gerken Fisheries Branch Chief Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office  
(907) 271-2776 Jonathon_Gerken@fws.gov

These areas support abundant returns of salmon, particularly Sockeye Salmon; 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.

Bristol Bay:  
For Bristol Bay, the forecast is for 46.6 million Sockeye Salmon, which is lower than the preseason forecast of 54 million for 2015. Most of the sustainable escapement goals (SEG) for Bristol Bay systems were recently revised to increase the upper ranges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System</th>
<th>SEG</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ugashik</td>
<td>500,000 – 1,400,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
As of July 25, the Egegik District has a cumulative escapement of 1.8 million and a commercial harvest of 8.3 million Sockeye Salmon. Commercial fishing in the Egegik District with drift and set gillnet gear will be extended through August 1. After that time, the fall fishing schedule will resume. The fall fishing schedule is 9:00 a.m. Monday to 9:00 a.m. Friday. The Ugashik District cumulative escapement is 1.6 million with a cumulative harvest is 6.6 million Sockeye Salmon on July 26. Commercial fishing in the Ugashik District with drift and set gillnet gear will be extended through August 4. After that time, the fall fishing schedule will resume. The fall fishing schedule is 9:00 a.m. Thursday to 9:00 a.m. Monday. As of July 14, the Naknek River escapement is 1.2 million and the Kvichak River escapement is 3.2 million Sockeye Salmon. Commercial fishing openings are currently scheduled and continuous fishing with drift and set gillnet gear will occur until August 1 when the fall fishing schedule will commence. The fall fishing schedule is 9:00 a.m. Monday to 9:00 a.m. Friday. As of July 22, the Nushagak River escapement is above 3.2 million Sockeye Salmon. Commercial harvest for the Nushagak District is 7.9 million Sockeye Salmon. Commercial fishing with set and drift gillnets remains open until further notice in the Nushagak Section. Escapement monitoring for the Nushagak and Wood Rivers has ceased. An announcement switching management from Sockeye Salmon to Pink and Coho Salmon is expected. The Wood River escapement was 975,585 and the Igushik River escapement is 167,286 Sockeye Salmon as of July 12. Stock composition estimates for Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon populations are based on 190 fish sampled at Port Moller on July 9-10. Prevalent stocks are Ugashik (29.5%), Egegik (20.5%), and Kvichak (16.9%). Results for all stocks can be found here:


The Togiak run is considered to have late run timing. As of July 27, the commercial harvest is 520,500 Sockeye Salmon with an escapement count at the Togiak Tower of 116,320. The Togiak District Salmon Management Plan calls for a Sockeye Salmon escapement of 150,000 counted past the Togiak Tower.

Gillnets are the primary gear used for most subsistence fishing for salmon. A permit is required for subsistence harvest of salmon for both the State and Federal subsistence fisheries.

Chignik:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sockeye Salmon</th>
<th>Escapement Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Run – Black Lake</td>
<td>BEG = 350,000 – 450,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Late Run – Chignik Lake \( \text{SEG} = 200,000 \text{–} 400,000 \)
Inriver Subsistence Goal \( 25,000 \text{ in August and } 50,000 \text{ in September in addition to late run escapement goals } \)
Chinook Salmon \( \text{BEG} = 1,300 \text{ –} 2,700 \)
Pink Salmon – Even year \( \text{SEG} = 170,000 \text{ –} 280,000 \)
Chum Salmon \( \text{SEG} = 45,000 \text{ –} 110,000 \)

The 2016 total Sockeye Salmon forecast run for the Chignik River watershed is approximately 2,910,000 fish. Current escapement estimates through the Chignik weir are 415,767 early run and 170,996 late run Sockeye Salmon and 1,650 Chinook Salmon as of July 27. As of July 27, 2016 the commercial catch is estimated at 1.2 million Sockeye Salmon, 15,265 Chinook Salmon, 88,902 Pink Salmon, and 87,636 Chum Salmon. Stock composition on the Sockeye Salmon escapement is 19.9% early run and 80.1% late run based on 190 fish on July 17. Commercial fishing periods are scheduled. Subsistence fishing is closed for salmon 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours following a commercial fishing period.

Alaska Peninsula:
The commercial salmon fishing season in the Alaska Peninsula is open, but specific to location and section. Specific fishing locations and timing, open to commercial fishing, should be verified by the ADFG Port Moller Office.

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

**Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Chignik Area**

**Southcentral Alaska Web Links**

**Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases**

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

**ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link**

**Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southcentral Alaska**

**Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:**
[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/)
Yukon River – Gerald Maschmann, Fish Biologist USFWS Fairbanks Office.  
Gerald_Maschmann@fws.gov or  
Fred Bue Fredrick_Bue@fws.gov  
Emmonak Summer Office (907) 949-1798

The Emmonak Field Office is open for fall management activities. For management questions call (907) 949-1798.

Summer Season Outlook, Management Strategies, and Assessment
The Yukon River summer season has ended in the lower Yukon and management has switched to fall season in the Coastal District and Districts 1-4. At this time, both the Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon runs appear to be winding down as expected. The fourth and final pulse of Chinook Salmon is passing into Canada and entering their terminal streams. The Pilot Station sonar had an estimated passage through July 18 of 175,000 Chinook Salmon. This is at the upper end of the pre-season outlook range of 130,000 to 175,000 and near the historical cumulative average of 185,000 for the project. The Eagle sonar estimated passage through July 28 is 62,300 Chinook Salmon, above the upper end of the escapement goal range of 42,500-55,000. Passage rates at the Eagle sonar are trending down during the week as the last pulse passes the sonar. At this time, the Canadian harvest sharing agreement has been met with most Canadian escapement needs likely provided for.

As in recent years, initial management was based on the expectation that the 2016 Chinook Salmon run size would likely be near the lower end of this range. Management strategies have followed those agreed to during pre-season management meetings. Early subsistence fishing opportunities targeted non-Chinook Salmon species, such as whitefish and Summer Chum Salmon. The majority of the Chinook Salmon run has been protected to some extent with closures and restrictive fishing gear all the way upriver and into the spawning areas. As the season progressed and managers became more confident in the assessment information, fishing restrictions were relaxed to allow for some Chinook Salmon harvests. With a run size similar to 2015, managers were successful in providing slightly more subsistence fishing opportunity for both Summer Chum and directed Chinook Salmon harvest while achieving escapement objectives.

The Summer Chum Salmon run was projected to be average to above average and to provide for escapement and subsistence uses with a surplus of 450,000 to 950,000 anticipated to be available for commercial harvest. The Summer Chum Salmon run exceeded the upper end of the pre-season expectation. The final passage estimate of Summer Chum past the Pilot Station sonar was 1.9 million fish. Approximately 525,000 Summer Chum Salmon were harvested in the commercial fishery.

The East Fork Andreafsky River weir has passed a below average 2,676 Chinook Salmon and an above median 50,362 Summer Chum Salmon. Escapement goals for both salmon species have been met in the Andreafsky River and operations ceased on July 24. The Anvik River sonar has estimated a below median Summer Chum Salmon passage with
330,700 fish and ceased operations on July 24. The minimum escapement goal of 350,000 Summer Chum Salmon for the Anvik River was not met. The Gisasa River weir has passed a below average 1,395 Chinook Salmon and a well above average 66,670 Summer Chum Salmon. The Henshaw Creek weir has passed a near average 1,318 Chinook Salmon and a well above average 274,022 Summer Chum Salmon. Assessment at the Chena and Salcha Rivers has been hindered by high water.

**Fall Season Outlook and Management Strategies**

The 2016 Fall Chum Salmon preseason run projection, based on the Summer Chum to Fall Chum Salmon relationship, is for a run size between 800,000 and 900,000 fish. This level of abundance should be sufficient to provide for escapement, an above average subsistence harvest, and a surplus available for commercial and personal use purposes. Subsistence salmon fishing is being relaxed to the normal regulatory salmon fishing schedule and gear which allows gillnets with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh. Commercial fishing will generally be a standard schedule of 2 periods per week in each of Districts 1 and 2 with some juggling to target pulses of Fall Chum Salmon as warranted based on assessment.

**Assessment**

The Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) shifted to fall season assessment on July 16. Through July 28, the cumulative CPUE is 307.15 is above the average of 274.94. The Mt. Village Test Fishery (MVTF) began operations on July 18 and has a cumulative CPUE of 1,059.51, above the average at this time of 441.02. The Pilot Station sonar shifted to fall season assessment on July 19 and has a cumulative estimated passage of 356,000 Fall Chum Salmon, well above the median estimated passage of 135,000. The first pulse of approximately 300,000 Fall Chum passed the sonar on July 19 through 23.

**Management Actions**

Subsistence fishing in the Coastal District and Districts 1-3 has been relaxed to 24 hours per day, seven days per week restricted to 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear. In District 4, subsistence fishing has been relaxed to 24 hours per day, seven days per week restricted to 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear and fish wheels. Subsistence fishing in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C will be relaxed to 24 hours per day, seven days per week restricted to 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear and fish wheels on August 2. Subdistrict 5-D was relaxed to 24 hours per day, seven days per week restricted to 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear and fish wheels on July 26.

Commercial fishing for Fall Chum Salmon began in District 1 on July 18 and District 2 on July 20. Four periods in District 1 have an estimated harvest of 37,000 Fall Chum Salmon, and three periods in District 2 have an estimated harvest of 45,000 Fall Chum Salmon.

**Consultation**

Extensive public outreach and consultation occurred during the fall of 2015 and spring of 2016 to inform and seek input from Yukon River fishermen and stakeholders. Run outlook and possible management strategies were discussed at Federal RAC meetings.
and State AC meetings, the Yukon River Panel meeting and at the annual Yukon River Drainage Fishermen’s Association Board meeting. In April, a pre-season planning meeting was held in Anchorage that brought together representatives from most Alaskan Yukon River communities to discuss the run outlook and management options. Assessment and management actions were discussed on the seventh YRDFA teleconference on July 26. Alaska members of the Yukon River Panel, their alternates, and advisors (YAG) teleconferenced with State and Federal managers on June 22 and July 12. Participants were brought up to date on current run assessment, mid-season run expectations, and summarized management actions to date. Management options and strategies were discussed with concerns and suggestions identified for management consideration.

Kuskokwim River – Ray Born, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Contact Vernon_Born@fws.gov; (907) 543-3151 or Lewis_Coggins@fws.gov

Summary:

State of Alaska Provides Commercial Salmon Fishing Opportunity

The State of Alaska opened Subdistrict 1-A to commercial fishing for 6 hours from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm on June 29, 2016. This area is defined as that portion of District 1 upstream of regulatory markers located at Bethel to Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) regulatory markers at the mouth of the Bogus Creek. As there are no commercial salmon processors registered in the Kuskokwim Management Area, this opportunity is being provided for those individuals registered with ADF&G as catchers/sellers. This marks the first commercial salmon fishing opportunity for the Summer 2016 fishing season.

State of Alaska Rescinds Several Subsistence Salmon Fishing Restrictions on the Kuskokwim River

On Wednesday, July 27, 2016, State Emergency Order # EO 3-S-WR-6-16 lifted the following requirements to the Kuskokwim River subsistence salmon fishery:

- Gillnet use in the Kwethluk, Kasigluk, Kisaralik, Tuluksak, Aniak, and Eek Rivers;
- 6-inch or less mesh requirement for subsistence gillnets; and
- The closed waters at the mouth of the Aniak.

Test Fisheries:
As of July 28, the cumulative catch per unit of effort (CPUE) of Chinook Salmon at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) is 672. Cumulative Chinook CPUE on this date during 2015 and 2014 was 610 and 648, respectively. The
The cumulative CPUE for Chum Salmon at the BTF as of July 28 was 3743, compared to 2655 and 6136 on this date in 2015 and 2014, respectively. The cumulative Sockeye Salmon CPUE at the BTF as of July 28 is 2150, and was 2127 and 1347 on this date in 2015 and 2014, respectively. The cumulative CPUE for Coho Salmon at the BTF as of July 28 was 236, compared to 277 and 512 on this date in 2015 and 2014, respectively. The Aniak Test Fishery concluded on July 15 and catch rates from the Aniak Test Fishery will no longer be included in this report.

Yukon-Kuskokwim-Interior Alaska Web Links

Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases:

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Yukon–Northern Area

NEW = Kuskokwim River Updates Hosted on OSM Website
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/kuskokwim.cfm

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kuskokwim Area

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

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link:

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Interior Alaska:

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:
http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/

(907) 443-2522 Ken_Adkisson@nps.gov

Norton Sound District

A late surge of pink and chum salmon is occurring throughout Norton Sound. In consultation with the buyer, the ADF&G announced additional 48-hour commercial salmon fishing periods. Pink salmon are still expected to be the majority of the catch, but silver salmon should start to show up in fisherman’s nets.
High water has knocked out four escapement counting projects in southern Norton Sound (see below for Subdistricts 4, 5 and 6).

**Unalakleet (Subdistrict 6)**

The Federal public waters of the Unalakleet River upstream from the Chirosky River remain closed until July 31 to the taking of Chinook salmon by Federal subsistence regulation. This closure affects all users.

**Sport Fishing:** The harvest restrictions for Chinook salmon in the Unalakleet River drainage will remain in place through August 15, 2016 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

**Commercial fishing:** Commercial salmon fishing opened in the subdistrict for two 48-hour periods from 6 PM Friday, July 22 until 6 PM Sunday, July 24, and from 6 PM Tuesday, July 26 until 6 PM Thursday, July 28. The two additional periods are from 6 PM Friday, July 29 until 6 PM Sunday, July 31, and from 6 PM Monday, August 1 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 3. Permit holders are restricted to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretched mesh size. The commercial catch for this season so far has been 130 sockeyes, 7,200 chums, 73,000 pinks and 300 silvers by 40 permit holders.

**Subsistence Fishing:** Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week. Beach seines are restricted to 4 ½ inches or less mesh size. Any king salmon captured in beach seines must be immediately returned to the water unharmed. Through August 1, commercial fishermen may take salmon for subsistence purposes 7 days per week in the Unalakleet River drainage with gillnets restricted to 4 ½ inches or less mesh size and beach seines. There are no gillnet mesh size restrictions for subsistence fishermen who are not participating in the commercial salmon fishery.

North River Tower – Camp J.B. - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game 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. Counts were suspended on July 20 because of high water. Cumulative counts through July 19 were 510 kings, 9 sockeyes, 16,000 chums and 1 million pinks.

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. Counts were suspended on July 22 because of high water. The cumulative counts through July 21 were 505 kings, 574 sockeyes, 32,000 chums, 4.9 million pinks and 142 silvers.

**Shaktoolik (Subdistrict 5)**
Sport Fishing: The harvest restrictions for Chinook salmon in the Shaktoolik River drainage will remain in place through August 15, 2016 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

Commercial Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing opened in the subdistrict for two 48-hour periods from 6 PM Friday, July 22 until 6 PM Sunday, July 24, and from 6 PM Tuesday, July 26 until 6 PM Thursday, July 28. The two additional periods are from 6 PM Friday, July 29 until 6 PM Sunday, July 31, and from 6 PM Monday, August 1 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 3. Permit holders are restricted to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretched mesh size. The commercial catch so far this season has been 140 sockeyes, 7,500 chums, 17,000 pinks and 75 silvers by 17 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week. Beach seines are restricted to 4 ½ inches or less mesh size. Any king salmon captured in beach seines must be immediately returned to the water unharmed. Through August 1, commercial fishermen may take salmon for subsistence purposes 7 days per week in the Shaktoolik River drainage with gillnets restricted to 4 ½ inches or less mesh size and beach seines. There are no gillnet mesh size restrictions for subsistence fishermen who are not participating in the commercial salmon fishery.

Shaktoolik Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has no escapement goals yet established. Tower counts were suspended on July 18 because of high water. The sonar is now operating. Cumulative counts until late afternoon July 18 were 350 kings, 14,800 chums, 1.2 million pinks and 500 silvers.

Norton Bay (Subdistrict 4)

Commercial Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing opened in the subdistrict for two 48-hour periods from 6 PM Friday, July 22 until 6 PM Sunday, July 24, and from 6 PM Tuesday, July 26 until 6 PM Thursday, July 28. The two additional periods are from 6 PM Friday, July 29 until 6 PM Sunday, July 31, and from 6 PM Monday, August 1 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 3. Permit holders are restricted to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretched mesh size. The commercial catch this season has been 75 kings, 65 sockeyes, 8,000 chums, 17,000 pinks and 50 silvers by 12 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week.

Inglutalik River Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC and ADF&G. No escapement goals have been established. Counting was suspended on July 18 when water levels rose 5 feet. Cumulative counts through July 17 were 3,200 kings, 42,000 chums, 77,000 pinks and 700 silvers.

Elim (Subdistrict 3)

Commercial Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing in the subdistrict was placed on two 48-hour fishing periods from 6 p.m. Friday, July 22 until 6 p.m. Sunday, July 24 and from 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 26 until 6 p.m. Thursday, July 28. The two additional periods are
from 6 PM Friday, July 29 until 6 PM Sunday, July 31, and from 6 PM Monday, August 1 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 3. Permit holders are restricted to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretch mesh size. The commercial catch so far this season has been 40 kings, 325 sockeyes, 5,400 chums, 30,000 pinks and 80 silvers by 20 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week. Kwiniuk River Tower – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has escapement goals of 250 kings; 11,500 – 23,000 chums; 8,400 pinks; and 650-1,300 silvers (aerial survey goal). Cumulative counts to July 28 were 130 kings, 8,400 chums, 1.9 million pinks and 100 silvers. Based on counts through July 24, both kings (126) and chums (8,300) failed to reach escapement goals; and the pinks (1.6 million) ranked third highest in the 52-year project history, trailing 1994 (2.3 million) and 2005 (3 million).

Golovin (Subdistrict 2)

Commercial Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing in the subdistrict was placed on two 48-hour fishing periods from 6 p.m. Friday, July 22 until 6 p.m. Sunday, July 24 and from 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 26 until 6 p.m. Thursday, July 28. The two additional periods are from 6 PM Friday, July 29 until 6 PM Sunday, July 31, and from 6 PM Monday, August 1 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 3. Permit holders are restricted to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretch mesh size. The commercial catch so far this season has been 10 kings, 125 sockeyes, 5,000 chums, 12,400 pinks and 5 silvers by 8 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week.

Fish River Tower - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have been established. Cumulative counts to July 28 were 830 kings, 70,000 chums, 1.2 million pinks, 25 sockeyes and 2,500 silvers. This is the third year of the project. The July 23 king count (822) was a little more than one-third of last year’s count and two-thirds of the 2014 count. The July 23 chum count (67,000) was half of last year’s count. Previous radio telemetry studies found one-third of Fish River tagged chum salmon going into the Niukluk River. Based on that, the previous escapement goal of 23,000 chum salmon past the Niukluk River tower would not have been met.

Nome (Subdistrict 1)

Sport fishing: The pink salmon catch limits for the Nome River has been doubled to 20 fish per day. Commercial Fishing: The previous commercial opening was for one 48-hour period in the subdistrict from 6 p.m. Friday, July 22 until 6 p.m. Sunday July 24. Commercial fishing reopened for one 48-hour period in the Nome Subdistrict from 6 PM Friday, July 29 until 6 PM Sunday, July 31. Permit holders are restricted to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretch mesh size. Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week 7 days a week until August 1. Beach seines, cast nets and dip nets can only be used in the subsistence fishing areas which are listed on the back of the Nome subdistrict subsistence salmon permits.
All chum salmon escapement goals have been reached and a record 539 Nome Subdistrict subsistence salmon permits have been issued.

Solomon River Weir – A Fish & Game project, has no escapement goals yet established. The cumulative counts to July 21 were 1,200 chums, 48,000 pinks and 4 silvers. The cumulative counts to July 28 were 1 king, 1,600 chums, 80,000 pinks, 3 sockeyes and 30 silvers. The July 24 chum count (1460) was the highest chum passage for that date in the 4 year project history. The July 24 pink passage (65,000) was a record. The historical average third-quarter point of chum passage is August 1.

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 to July 28 were 17,000 chums, 21,000 pinks, 16 sockeyes and 8 silvers. The July 24 cumulative chum count (16,200) ranks the 6th highest in the last 10 years. The historical average 90% point of the chum passage is July 23. Pink salmon apparently chose other rivers as the cumulative count for July 24 (14,300) was the lowest all time for an even numbered year.

Nome River Weir – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has an escapement goal of 2,900 – 4,300 chum salmon and 13,000 pink salmon. Cumulative counts to July 28 were 3 kings, 5,300 chums, 1 million pinks, 80 sockeyes and 50 silvers. The July 24 chum count (4,600) was the second highest in the 24-year history of the project. The July 24 pink passage (430,000) ranks 4th highest and will finish at least third-highest. The historical average 3rd quarter point of passage for pinks is July 26, and for chums is July 31.

Snake River Weir – A cooperative project between Fish & Game and NSEDC has an escapement goal of 1,600 – 2,500 chum salmon. The cumulative counts to July 28 were 6 kings, 2,900 chums, 130,000 pinks, 15 sockeyes and 8 silvers. The chum count is slowing down and the July 24 count (2500) is the 10th highest in 20 years. The July 24 passage for pink salmon (82,000) ranks 4th highest. The historical average 3rd quarter point for pinks is July 27, and for chums is July 29.

Port Clarence District

Subsistence gillnet and beach seining are open 7 days a week in the district and sockeye limits have been waived. A record of 471 Pilgrim River permits have been issued surpassing last year’s record of 377 permits issued.

Pilgrim River Weir – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has an escapement goal of 4,000 – 8,000 sockeyes based on aerial survey at Salmon Lake & Grand Central tributary to Salmon Lake. The cumulative counts to July 28 were 27 kings, 13,000 chums, 2000 pinks and 11,000 sockeye’s. The July 24 sockeye passage (10,100) ranks 9th highest in the 14 years of weir counts. The historical average third-quarter point of sockeye passage is July 26, and last year’s 3rd quarter point was July 29. Chum salmon run later, and the historical average midpoint is August 1.
Kotzebue District

At the request of the buyer, commercial salmon fishing resumed for daily 8 hour periods from 10 AM until 6 PM beginning Sunday July 24 through Friday, July 29 with no fishing on Saturday. Processing capacity remains a concern, so fishermen were reminded that the buyer might need to reduce fishing time or suspend buying for a day if there is a large catch and limited plane capacity. For example, the record catch of over 64,000 chum salmon during an 8-hour fishing period on July 28, 2014 required 21 plane loads to ship the catch out of Kotzebue, so there was no fishing on the following day.

After three weeks of commercial fishing this year’s catch of 125,000 chum salmon is similar to last year. However, last year the buyer limited permit holders to 3,000 pounds daily during the second week; and to 1,500 pounds daily through the remainder of the season beginning the third week. So far this year, the buyer has not had catch limits. However, fishing effort is down by one-third compared to last year, and the average of 34 permit holders fishing daily is down from 51 last year.

Kobuk River Test Fish - Fish & Game project. The crew at Kiana continues to report good catches of chum salmon. The chum salmon catch index ranks ninth highest in 24 years of fishing. The catch index projection indicates the chum salmon run will be adequate to provide for subsistence needs and escapement.

*Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for the Kotzebue Area*