

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 16 – July 22, 2017. Report #8.

Compiled by Don Rivard (907) 786-3882, donald_rivard@fws.gov and George Pappas - (907) 786-3822, george_pappas@fws.gov. Fisheries Division, 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 fisheries managers that provided weekly updated information by the close of business on Friday of the reporting week. The goal is to have the weekly report posted on the OSM website, <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing>, by the close of business the following Monday. Additional information on a fishery of particular interest may be obtained by contacting the in-season manager, visiting the additional web links at the end of each area report, or by contacting George Pappas.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

To date, 216 permits have been issued for the 2017 subsistence salmon fishery for Southeast Alaska and Yakutat areas.

Sitka and Hoonah Area – Justin Koller, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
(907)747-4297 jpkoller@fs.fed.us

Falls Lake - The US Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake operate the Falls Lake trap and video net weir which were installed on June 29th. As of July 23rd, 1,597 Sockeye Salmon have been counted through the fish pass and 505 Sockeye Salmon have been reported harvested. The final escapement estimate in 2016 was 5,098 Sockeye Salmon while the final subsistence and sport harvest in the marine terminal area was 1,000. Subsistence harvest accounted for 99% of terminal area harvest.

Klag Bay - The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the Sockeye Salmon monitoring weir at Klag Bay which was installed June 29th. As of July 23rd, 199 Sockeye Salmon have passed the weir and harvesters have reported taking 738 Sockeye. In 2016, approximately 5,234 sockeye migrated past the weir while an estimated 2,605 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 as of June 16th. As of July 23rd, 21,417 Sockeye Salmon have passed the weir. In 2016, an estimated 22,937 Sockeye Salmon passed through the weir into Redoubt Lake. On July 14th, in accordance with the Redoubt Lake Management Plan, the individual/household subsistence sockeye possession limit was set at 25 and the individual/household subsistence sockeye annual limit was set at 100. These limits were based on an in-season model prediction of about 33,000 sockeye returning. Subsistence sockeye harvest reported to ADF&G was 2,304.

Wrangell/Petersburg Area Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, Contact to be announced.

As of July 15, there have been 115 fishing permits issued for the Stikine River subsistence salmon fishery. Fishing pressure is moderate with subsistence users reporting good fishing conditions and fair to good catch rates per unit effort. The estimated cumulative subsistence harvest is 1 large Chinook, no Coho and 1,150 Sockeye Salmon.

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), **Tongass National Forest**

Yakutat Area. Alaska Department of Fish and Game has been counting fish through their weir on the lower Situk River since May 6. Weir counts through July 20 are 546 large Chinook Salmon, 64,448 Sockeye Salmon, 9,396 Pink Salmon, and 6,041 steelhead kelts. Commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries for Chinook Salmon in the Situk River and estuary are being managed to protect Chinook Salmon. The escapement of large Chinook Salmon just exceeded the 450 fish lower bound of the escapement goal this week. The Chinook and Sockeye Salmon runs into the Situk River are about 85% through the season now. With the exception of the Alek, most Sockeye Salmon runs appear to be average to above average in the Yakutat area this season. Most traditional set net fishing areas were open and fished last week and will be open again this week. Pink Salmon will likely dominate harvests for the next couple of weeks.

Northern Inside Waters.

Taku and Lynn Canal drift gillnet fisheries had strong harvests of hatchery Chum Salmon and modest harvests of wild Sockeye Salmon this past week. The Taku River fishwheel counts of Sockeye Salmon have been below desired levels this season as has the Chilkoot River weir counts and Chilkat River fishwheel counts. The Chilkat Weir counts are within goal ranges. In the fifth week of commercial purse seine openings for the season, in the opening on July 16, the highest salmon harvests in the region were at Point Augusta, the West Admiralty Shoreline, and Tenakee Inlet. A second opening was fished on July 20 which included the Amalga Harbor Special Harvest Area. Almost 10,000 Pink Salmon are being caught per boat now. Catch rates for Pink and Chum Salmon were above average in last week's test fisheries at Hawk Inlet, Point Gardner, and Kingsmill.

Total counts of Sockeye Salmon through the Neva and Kook Lake weirs are 1,219 and 591. At Kanalku Lake, the ADF&G project leader Ray Vinzant reports 228 Sockeye Salmon through their video weir at the outlet of the lake. There was the first surge of Sockeye Salmon into Sitkoh Lake late this week (Figure 1).



Figure 1. One of the first Sockeye Salmon escaping into Sitkoh Lake, July 21, 2017.

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

No report submitted

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 – Dave Sarafin, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve, (907) 822-7281, dave_sarafin@nps.gov

No report submitted

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 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>

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

No report submitted.

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

A total of 345 permits for Cook Inlet Federal subsistence fisheries have been issued to qualified households through July 20. This includes 94 Kenai River permits (FFCI01) and 7 Designated Fisher permits to Cooper Landing households; 34 Kenai River permits (FFCI01) and 2 Designated Fisher permit to Hope households; and 103 Kenai River permits (FFCI01), 100 Kasilof River permits (FFCI02), and 5 Designated Fisher permits to Ninilchik households.

Harvest reported through July 20 in the dip net fishery at Russian River Falls is 1,424 Sockeye Salmon. Harvest reported to date in the Kasilof River dip net fishery is 13 Sockeye Salmon.

The Kasilof River experimental gillnet fishery began on June 16 and continues through August 15. Harvest reported through July 20 is 315 Sockeye and 8 Pink salmon. The Kenai River community gillnet fishery began on July 1 and continues through August 15,

then from September 10 – 30. Harvest reported through July 20 is 259 Sockeye Salmon and 5 Pink Salmon.

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>

Alaska Department of Fish and Game emergency orders and news releases affecting upper Kenai Peninsula sport fisheries can be found at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=area.list&Year=2017&AreaID=5>

SOUTHWEST ALASKA

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

No report submitted

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kodiak Area

<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/fishregs13/kodiak.pdf>

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 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and provide the basis for any inseason assessment and management. 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:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has strategies in place for all mixed stock districts to address differential run strength should that occur. Gillnets are the primary gear used for most subsistence fishing for salmon. A permit is required for subsistence harvest of salmon. Subsistence fishing opportunity has been made available around commercial fishing periods.

Current escapement counts as of July 19:

Kvichak – approx. 2.6 million Sockeye Salmon. This count is within the escapement goal range.

Alagnak – Aerial surveys

Naknek – approx. 1.9 million Sockeye Salmon. This count is within the escapement goal range.

Egegik – approx. 2.6 million Sockeye Salmon. This count exceeds the upper escapement goal range. This escapement project no longer operational.

Ugashik – approx. 1.1 million Sockeye Salmon. This count is within the escapement goal range.

Wood – approx. 4.2 million Sockeye Salmon. This goal exceeds the upper escapement goal range.

Igushik – 531,438 Sockeye Salmon. This count exceeds the upper escapement goal range.

Nushagak – 56,522 Chinook Salmon and approx. 2.8 million Sockeye Salmon. The Chinook Salmon count is within the escapement goal. The Sockeye Salmon count exceeds the upper escapement goal range. This escapement project is no longer operational.

Togiak – 62,538 Sockeye Salmon as of July 20 which is similar to 2016 counts.

The total commercial harvest from the Ugashik (5.0 million fish), Egegik (11.2 million fish), Naknek-Kvichak (7.9 million fish), Nushagak (11.5 million fish), and Togiak (352,111 fish) is 36.1 million Sockeye Salmon.

The Port Moller Test Fishery operated by The Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute conducted its last test fish day on July 11.

Chignik:

The biological escapement goal for Chinook Salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 1,300 to 2,700 fish. The weir count as of July 21 was 726 Chinook Salmon. Based on historical run timing, approximately 75% of the escapement has occurred by July 21, and the current projected total escapement is approximately 900 fish. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers have implemented restrictions to sport, commercial, and subsistence fisheries. Effective July 14, the Chignik River sport fishery was restricted to catch and release for Chinook Salmon; effective July 16, the Chignik Bay District commercial fishery was restricted to non-retention of Chinook Salmon greater than 28 inches; effective July 23, the Chignik River sport fishery for Chinook Salmon will be closed; effective July 23, the Chignik River state subsistence fishery for Chinook Salmon fishery will be closed.

The Federal In-season Manager, pursuant to delegated authority from the Federal Subsistence Board under ANILCA Title VIII section 816, will issue an emergency special action (**8-KS-01-17**) to close subsistence fishing for Chinook Salmon to all users, non-federal and Federally qualified users, in Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage, effective 12:01 a.m. Sunday July 23. This action is necessary to ensure the continued viability of the Chignik River Chinook Salmon population. This action

prohibits all subsistence fishing for Chinook Salmon and they may not be retained or possessed. Chinook Salmon accidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

Alaska Peninsula:

As of July 20, the Nelson River escapement count is 314,063 Sockeye Salmon which is nearing the upper end of the escapement goal and 1,286 Chinook Salmon which is halfway towards the escapement goal of 2,400 fish. The early run Bear Lake escapement count is 491,280 Sockeye Salmon which is above the 10 year average. The cumulative commercial harvest is approximately 9.5 million for the Alaska Peninsula Management Area.

Aleutian Islands.

The Sockeye salmon escapement through the McLees Lake weir as of July 24 was greater than 10,000 fish meeting the minimum escapement goal. The weir will be removed within the next week.

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

YUKON REGION

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 the fall season. The office staff can be contacted by calling Emmonak at (907) 949-1798.

Summer Season Outlook

The summer season is over in the lower Yukon River. District 1 transitioned to fall season management on July 16. The Summer Chum passage at Pilot Station through July 18 is the third highest since 1995 and is projecting a total run size of approximately 3.5 million. A run of this size should support all escapement goals, provide for normal subsistence harvests, and provide for a commercial surplus of approximately 2.0 million fish. Chinook Salmon assessment is indicating a run abundance above the upper end of the preseason forecast with approximately 259,000 passing the Pilot Station sonar, the highest since 2005. At this time we are projecting to meet our escapement and harvest sharing obligations into Canada.

Summer Season Escapement

The Anvik River sonar project began on June 16 and has passed 410,000 Summer Chum Salmon through July 22, surpassing its minimum escapement goal of 350,000. The Andreafsky River weir began operations on June 14 and through July 22 has passed 2,868 Chinook Salmon, below the average of 3,720, but above the lower end of the escapement goal of 2,100. The Summer Chum Salmon passage of 53,000 is near the average of 54,000 and above the escapement goal of 40,000. The Gisasa River weir project began operations on June 18. Through July 22, the weir has passed 976 Chinook Salmon, below the average of 1,844, and 69,000 Summer Chum Salmon, above the average of 38,100. The Henshaw Creek weir began operations on June 25. Through July 22, the weir has passed 605 Chinook Salmon, below the average of 978, and 329,000 Summer Chum Salmon, well above the average of 89,000. The Chena and Salcha Rivers Chinook Salmon runs are assumed to be near average at this time although both have incomplete counts due to high water. The Eagle sonar began operations on July 1 and has passed 39,800 Chinook Salmon through July 22, above the average of 26,000. The Eagle sonar is most likely near the midpoint of the run.

Summer Chum genetics through July 18 is showing that the chum run is over 98% summer chum. Managers expect the proportion of Fall Chum to increase over the next two weeks.

Summer Season Management Actions

Management actions have followed the strategies outlined in the preseason plan. Subsistence fishing for Chinook Salmon was restricted early in the season in the lower and middle Yukon areas when uncertainty in the run was high. As managers gained confidence that the Chinook Salmon run was coming in better than expected, subsistence fishing was relaxed to allow for the harvest of Chinook Salmon. At this time, subsistence salmon fishing is open in all areas on each district's regulatory schedule with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fishwheels.

District 1 had 10 commercial fishing periods directed at Summer Chum Salmon with gear restricted to dip nets and beach seines. Those periods were followed by four periods directed at Summer Chum Salmon with 5.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets no greater than 30 meshes deep and eight periods with 6.0-inch or smaller mesh gillnets. The preliminary commercial harvests in District 1 through July 16 is 342,000 Summer Chum Salmon, 3,876 Chinook Salmon caught and released, and 5,503 Chinook Salmon caught and taken home for subsistence purposes. District 2 had seven commercial fishing periods directed at Summer Chum Salmon with gear restricted to dip nets and beach seines then followed by two periods with 6.0-inch or smaller mesh gillnets. The preliminary commercial harvests in District 2 are 47,700 Summer Chum Salmon, and 742 Chinook Salmon caught and released and 76 caught and retained for subsistence purposes. Commercial fishing in Subdistrict 4-A for Summer Chum Salmon with live release fish wheels has been open 24/7 since June 25. Chinook Salmon must be immediately released alive in this fishery. Preliminary harvest estimates are 144,000 Summer Chum Salmon. Commercial fishing began in Subdistrict 6-B on July 14 with

2,000 Summer Chum harvested and 62 Chinook Salmon caught and released and 124 Chinook Salmon retained for subsistence purposes.

Fall Season Outlook

The Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan went into effect for District 1 beginning July 16. Upriver management districts will switch to fall season management as the fall chum salmon migration reaches those areas. The 2017 fall chum salmon preseason run projection, based on the summer chum to fall chum salmon relationship, is for a run size greater than 1.1 million fish. This level of abundance is typically sufficient to meet escapement and subsistence needs, and provide a surplus for commercial and personal use purposes.

Fall Season Assessment Information

The LYTF began fall season operations on July 16, and has a cumulative CPUE of 129, near the average of 126. The Mountain Village test fishery (MVTF) began on July 18, and has a cumulative CPUE of 771, well above the average of 233. The mainstem sonar near Pilot Station began reporting all chum salmon as fall chum salmon on July 19. Through July 21, the Pilot Station sonar project has a cumulative passage estimate of 205,000 fall chum, well ahead of the average of 58,000 fall chum. It appears that the first pulse of fall chum salmon hit Pilot Station on July 20.

Fall Season Management Actions

The Coastal District and Districts 1-3 are under fall season management. Subsistence fishing in the Coastal District and District 3 is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Subsistence fishing in District 1 and 2 is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. Effective July 25, subsistence fishing in Subdistrict 4-A will be relaxed from two, 48-hr periods per week to 5 days per week. Drift gillnet fishing will be open in the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A on August 3. Subsistence fishermen in all areas throughout the river may use gillnets with a maximum mesh size of 7.5 inches

Two commercial fishing periods have occurred in District 1 with a preliminary harvest of 73,730 Fall Chum Salmon and 273 Coho Salmon. One commercial fishing period has occurred in District 2 with a preliminary harvest of 8,851 Fall Chum Salmon.

Consultation

Extensive public outreach and consultation had occurred during the fall of 2016 and spring of 2017 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 Fairbanks that brought together representatives from most Alaskan Yukon River communities to discuss the run outlook and management options. On June 26, the Yukon River Advisory Group (YAG) comprised of the Yukon River Panel delegation members teleconferenced with agency managers to discuss subsistence fishery pulse protection and potential options for selling incidentally harvested Chinook

Salmon in the directed Summer Chum Salmon commercial fishery. There was support for not continuing pulse protection in Subdistrict 5-D and a majority opposition to selling incidental Chinook Salmon during the summer season then allowing sales of the stragglers during the fall season with these views guiding management actions this week. The seventh Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association teleconference was held on July 18. Fishermen in the lower and middle Yukon reported good numbers of fish on their fish rack, and were thankful for the opportunity to fish for Chinook Salmon. Fishermen in District 5 are still fishing, however some are reporting being done. Upriver fishermen expressed dissatisfaction with allowing the sale of incidentally caught Chinook Salmon in the fall season fishery.

KUSKOKWIM REGION

Kuskokwim River – Ken Stahlnecker, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Contact kenneth_stahlnecker@fws.gov; (907) 543-3151 or lewis_coggins@fws.gov

Summary:

Subsistence fishing in the Kuskokwim River Drainage, from the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River up to the confluence of the Johnson River (Section 1), will be allowed from 12:01 p.m. Thursday, July 13, 2017 with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or less mesh, 45 meshes deep, and 50 fathoms in length until further notice.

Test fisheries and weir escapement within YDNWR:

As of July 20, the cumulative catch per unit of effort (CPUE) of Chinook salmon at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s Bethel Test Fishery is 358 (Chinook Salmon Table A1). Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2016 and 2015 were 666 and 584, respectively. Chinook salmon counts at the Kwethluk river weir as of July 20, is at 5,262. Fish counts on this day during 2016 and 2015 were 2,328 and 6,141, respectively. **The Kwethluk River has passed its lower bound of its escapement goal (4,100-7,500) for Chinook Salmon and has already exceeded the end of year count from 2016 which was 3,428.**

Chinook Salmon Table A1. Cumulative CPUE from the BTF.

Date	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	5-Yr Avg.	2008 - 2016 Avg.
7/17	347	654	564	645	261	506	539
7/18	352	659	571	645	261	509	542
7/19	358	664	579	646	261	512	544
7/20	358	666	584	648	261	514	545
7/21		666	589	648	261	515	546
7/22		666	597	648	261	517	547
7/23		667	600	648	261	518	548
EOS		687	625	650	261	528	557

Cumulative CPUE for chum salmon is at 6,242. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2016 and 2015 were 3,296 and 2,235, respectively (Chum Salmon Table A1). Chum salmon counts at the Kwethluk river weir as of July 20, is at 26,972. Fish counts on this day during 2016 and 2015 were 12,185 and 11,014, respectively. **Chum salmon on the Kwethluk River have already exceeded the end of year count from 2016 which was 21,785.**

Chum Salmon Table A1. Cumulative CPUE from the BTF.

Date	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	5-Yr Avg.	2008 - 2016 Avg.
7/17	5,947	2,938	1,905	5,704	4,829	4,216	5,241
7/18	6,060	3,052	2,028	5,756	4,983	4,336	5,410
7/19	6,217	3,187	2,088	5,796	5,111	4,443	5,540
7/20	6,242	3,296	2,235	5,804	5,218	4,559	5,645
7/21		3,326	2,275	5,832	5,336	4,623	5,749
7/22		3,405	2,378	5,871	5,431	4,704	5,861
7/23		3,466	2,442	5,937	5,475	4,772	5,959
EOS		3,894	2,943	6,343	5,708	5,156	6,496

Cumulative CPUE for sockeye salmon is at 2,520. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2016 and 2015 were 1,902 and 2,057, respectively (Sockeye Salmon Table A1). Sockeye salmon counts at the Kwethluk river weir as of July 20 is at 23,040. Fish counts on this day during 2016 and 2015 were 4,778 and 6,574, respectively. **Sockeye salmon on the Kwethluk River have already exceeded the end of year count from 2016 which was 20,113.**

Sockeye Salmon Table A1. Cumulative CPUE from the BTF.

Date	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	5-Yr Avg.	2008 - 2016 Avg.
7/17	2,409	1,791	1,984	1,315	1,137	1,477	1,476
7/18	2,429	1,822	2,005	1,319	1,137	1,489	1,489
7/19	2,462	1,860	2,031	1,323	1,139	1,503	1,501
7/20	2,520	1,902	2,057	1,323	1,141	1,517	1,511
7/21		1,929	2,073	1,323	1,144	1,527	1,518
7/22		1,979	2,091	1,328	1,144	1,541	1,526
7/23		2,030	2,098	1,334	1,144	1,554	1,534
EOS		2,463	2,157	1,367	1,146	1,661	1,603

Cumulative CPUE for Coho salmon is at 13. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2016 and 2015 were 24 and 25, respectively (Coho Salmon Table A1). Coho salmon counts at the Kwethluk river weir as of July 20 is at 3. Fish counts on this day during 2016 and 2015 were both 0.

Coho Salmon Table A1. Cumulative CPUE from the BTF.

Date	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	5-Yr Avg.	2008 - 2016 Avg.
7/17	5	12	4	45	50	23	23
7/18	5	18	6	57	56	28	30
7/19	10	20	14	70	77	38	42
7/20	13	24	25	83	90	47	55
7/21		29	44	90	111	58	74
7/22		59	63	102	139	77	109
7/23		82	94	154	156	105	144
EOS		3,530	2,736	4,697	2,865	3,241	3,495

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

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 District

Sport Fishing:

The fresh waters from Bald Head (Isaac's Point) to Point Romanof remain open to sport fishing. The annual limit king salmon is one king salmon and the use of bait is allowed.

Commercial Fishing:

All six subdistricts continue commercial fishing. Chum salmon catches remain well above average. Fishing periods occur when the buyer notifies the ADF&G that they have sufficient capacity to allow additional fishing time. The cumulative catch to July 18 is 282 kings, 89,500 chums, 450 sockeyes, 16,600 pinks and 29 silvers. The chum harvest has blown past the ADF&G forecast of 50,000 to 80,000 chum salmon.

Nome (Subdistrict 1)

Commercial Fishing: The latest commercial fishing period is from 9 PM Wednesday, July 19 to 9 PM Sunday, July 30. The cumulative catch through June 17 was 4 kings, 3,500 chums, 660 pinks and 72 sockeyes by 2 permit holders who waived confidentiality. Another commercial opening was announced from 9 PM Wednesday, July 19 until 9 PM Sunday, July 23.

Subsistence Fishing: The Nome Subdistrict subsistence salmon gillnet fishing schedule is in effect. It runs from 6 PM Wednesday to 6 PM Monday in all freshwater subsistence areas and the marine waters west of Cape Nome. The marine waters east of Cape Nome continue to be open seven days a week. There are no catch limits when fishing in the marine waters. Catch limits in the freshwater subsistence areas vary by river; a permit is required and the catch limits can be found on the back of the permit. Beach seines, cast nets and dip nets can be used in the subsistence areas during the net fishing schedule.

Solomon River Weir - A Fish and Game project. It has no escapement goals established. The cumulative counts through July 17 were 2 kings, 2,000 chums, 8,800 pinks and 14 silvers. High water created some holes in the weir on Monday and Tuesday. The chum count for the same date is the highest in the 5-year project history.

Eldorado River Weir - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish and Game. It has an escapement goal of 6,000-9,200 chum salmon. The cumulative counts through July 17 were 3 kings, 50,000 chums, 4,500 pinks, and 8 sockeyes. The chum count is the highest for that date in the 23-year project history.

Nome River Weir - A Fish and Game project with assistance from NSEDC. It has escapement goals of 2,900 – 4,300 chum salmon and 3,200 pink salmon. The cumulative counts through July 17 were 3,300 chums, 90,000 pinks, 110 sockeyes and 13 silvers. The chum count for the same date is the second highest in the 25-year project history. The historical average midpoint of the chum run is July 22.

Snake River Weir - A Fish and Game project between Fish and Game and NSEDC. It has an escapement goal of 1,600 – 2,500 chum salmon. The cumulative counts through July 17 were 2,900 chums, 3,000 pinks, 7 sockeyes and 1 silver. The chum count for the same date is the highest in the 23-year project history. The historical average midpoint of the chum run is July 22.

Golovin (Subdistrict 2)

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative commercial catch to July 18 is 3 kings, 4,500 chums, 200 pinks and 19 sockeyes. The chum salmon harvest may finish fifth highest since fishing resumed in 2008 after a 6-year pause in commercial fishing due to the lack of a buyer. The next fishing period announced was for 24 hours from 6 PM Tuesday until 6 PM Wednesday with nets limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less. This period was then extended 24 hours to close

Thursday at 6 PM. The fishery was then reopened at 6 PM on Friday for 48 hours to close at 6 PM Sunday, July 30. Chum salmon catches have dropped off in all subdistricts and the buyer notified the ADF&G that it has the capacity to handle the catch at current catch rates.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week with no mesh size restrictions and gillnets limited to 50 fathoms in length.

Fish River Tower - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have been established. The cumulative counts through July 17 were 168 kings, 130,000 chums and 420,000 pinks. The king count is the lowest, and the chum count is the highest for that date in the 4-year history of the project.

Elim (Subdistrict 3)

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative commercial catch through July 17 is 22 kings, 8,400 chums, 1,700 pinks, 76 sockeyes and 1 silver for 20 permit holders. The chum salmon harvest has been above average and will finish fifth highest since fishing resumed in 2007 after a 5-year pause in commercial fishing due to the lack of a buyer. The next fishing period announced was for 24 hours from 6 PM Tuesday until 6 PM Wednesday with nets limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less. This period was then extended 24 hours to close Thursday at 6 PM. The fishery was then reopened at 6 PM on Friday for 48 hours to close at 6 PM Sunday, July 30. Chum salmon catches have dropped off in all subdistricts and the buyer notified the ADF&G that it has the capacity to handle the catch at current catch rates.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week with no mesh size restrictions, and gillnets limited to 50 fathoms in length.

Kwiniuk River Tower – Camp Joel – 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). The cumulative counts through July 17 were 39 kings, 28,000 chums, 110,000 pinks and 12 silvers. The king count was well below both the short and long term averages. The chum count was above all averages for that date. The pink count is the second highest all-time for an odd-numbered year since counting began in 1965.

Norton Bay (Subdistrict 4)

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch through July 17 is 39 kings, 14,900 chums, 2,300 pinks, 22 sockeyes and 1 silver by 12 permit holders. The chum salmon harvest was above average and will finish third highest since fishing resumed in 2008 after a 10-year pause in commercial fishing due to the lack of a buyer. The next fishing period announced was for 24 hours from 6 PM Tuesday until 6 PM Wednesday with nets limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less. This period was then extended 24 hours to close Thursday at 6 PM. The fishery was then

reopened at 6 PM on Friday for 48 hours to close at 6 PM Sunday, July 30. Chum salmon catches have dropped off in all subdistricts and the buyer notified the ADF&G that it has the capacity to handle the catch at current catch rates.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week with no mesh size restrictions and gillnets limited to 50 fathoms in length. When beach seining, all king salmon must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

Inglutalik River Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from ADF&G. No escapement goals have been established. The cumulative counts through July 17 were 2,200 kings, 68,000 chums, 785,000 pinks and 2,000 silvers. In the 7-year history of the project, the chum count is the second highest. The pink count is the highest.
Shaktoolik (Subdistrict 5)

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch through July 17 is 33 kings, 25,600 chums, 1,500 pinks, 55 sockeyes and 14 silvers by 20 permit holders.. The chum catch has been well above average. When silver salmon catches outnumber chum catches the ADF&G will switch to silver salmon management. The switch usually occurs in late July. The next fishing period announced was for 24 hours from 6 PM Tuesday until 6 PM Wednesday with nets limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less. This period was then extended 24 hours to close Thursday at 6 PM. The fishery was then reopened at 6 PM on Friday for 48 hours to close at 6 PM Sunday, July 30. Chum salmon catches have dropped off in all subdistricts and the buyer notified the ADF&G that it has the capacity to handle the catch at current catch rates.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week with no mesh size restrictions. Fishing with beach seines is allowed, but all king salmon must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

Shaktoolik Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has no escapement goals established. The cumulative counts through July 17 were 1,260 kings, 96,000 chums and 750,000 pinks. The king count was the second highest, and the chum the highest in the four-year history of the project for that date.

Unalakleet (Subdistrict 6)

Federal Regulatory Restriction: The Federal public waters of the Unalakleet River upstream from the mouth of the Chirosky River closed by federal regulation to the taking of Chinook (king) salmon by all users effective July 1. The closure will remain in effect to July 31 unless the run strength of king salmon warrants the BLM field manager announcing an earlier opening of the closed area to Federally qualified subsistence users or to all users.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative commercial catch through July 17 is 181 kings, 32,685 chums, 10,300 pinks, 720 sockeyes and 13 silvers for 39 permit holders. The chum catch has been well above average. When silver salmon catches outnumber chum

catches the ADF&G will switch to silver salmon management. The switch usually occurs in late July. The next fishing period announced was for 24 hours from 6 PM Tuesday until 6 PM Wednesday with nets limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less. This period was then extended 24 hours to close Thursday at 6 PM. The fishery was then reopened at 6 PM on Friday for 48 hours to close at 6 PM Sunday, July 30. Chum salmon catches have dropped off in all subdistricts and the buyer notified the ADF&G that it has the capacity to handle the catch at current catch rates.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week with no mesh size restrictions. Fishing with beach seines is allowed, but all king salmon must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

Unalakleet River Floating Weir – a cooperative project of Fish and Game, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC), Native Village of Unalakleet and BLM, with major funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management. No escapement goals have yet been established. The cumulative counts through July 17 were 2,800 kings, 93,000 chums, 2.35 million pinks, 900 sockeyes and 14 silvers. Both the king and chum counts were the highest in the eight-year history of the project for the same date. The pink count is a record for an odd-numbered year surpassing the 1,6 million pinks counted in 2015, but half of last year's pink count at this point.

North River Tower – Camp J. B. – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from ADF&G. It has escapement goals of 1,200-2,600 kings, no goal established for chums, 25,000 pinks and 550-1,100 silvers (aerial survey goal). The cumulative counts through July 17 were 1,000 kings, 14,000 chums and 865,000 pinks. The king count for the same date is above the 5 year average and slightly above the 10-year average. The king count is projected to reach the escapement goal range. The chum count is the second highest in the 22-year project history. The pink count is second highest for an odd-numbered year and is higher than 8 of 11 previous even-numbered year counts for the same date.

Port Clarence District

Subsistence gillnet and beach seining are open seven days a week. All subsistence sockeye limits have been waived.

Pilgrim River Weir – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish and Game. It has an escapement goal of 4,000-8,000 sockeyes based on aerial survey at Salmon Lake & the Grand Central tributary to Salmon Lake. The cumulative counts through July 17 were 54 kings, 13,000 chums, 4,500 pinks and 29,000 sockeyes. The sockeye count was the third highest for that date in the 15-year project history. The historical average midpoint past the weir is July 19. However the midpoint has often been before mid-July in years with big runs.

Kotzebue District

Commercial Fishing: The commercial harvest after the first week of fishing (week of July 13) was 33,000 chum salmon. Last year during the first week of commercial fishing the catch was 22,000 chum salmon. Commercial fishing was open for 55 hours compared to 50 hours during the first week of fishing last year. There were approximately one-third more permit holders fishing during the first week this year compared to last year. Catch per unit of effort (CPEU) was slightly higher during the first week this year compared to last year. With two major buyers this season, capacity has not yet been an issue. A commercial fishing period was announced for Sunday, July 16 from 11 AM until 7 PM. The preliminary commercial harvest reported by the buyers was 11,321 chum salmon. Forty-three permit holders fished during the 8-hour period. The CPUE was the highest for a fishing period in the second week of the season since 2014. Commercial fishing openings from 2 PM until 10 PM were announced for Monday and Tuesday, July 17 and 18. High surf conditions Monday, July 17 resulted in only 18 permit holders fishing with a catch of 1,959 chum salmon. Eight-hour commercial openings (2 PM until 10 PM) were also announced for Wednesday and Thursday, July 19 and 20.

Kobuk River Test Fish - a Fish and Game project. The project is set to go in July 20.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for the Kotzebue Area
<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/fishregs11/norton.pdf>