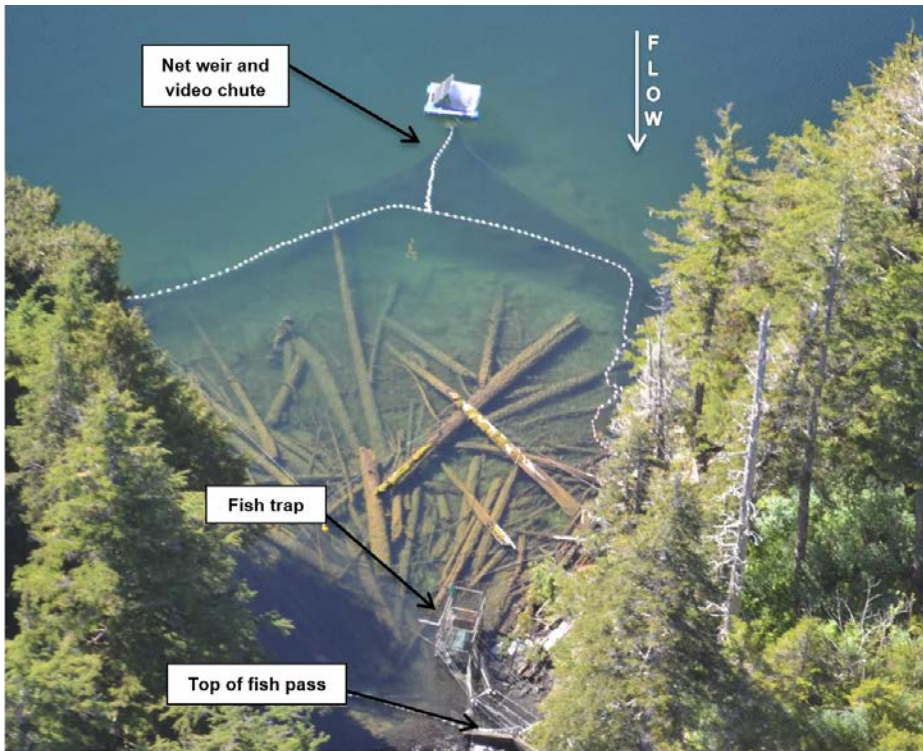


**FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 22-28, 2018.** Report #9  
Compiled by George Pappas - (907) 786-3822, [George\\_Pappas@fws.gov](mailto:George_Pappas@fws.gov) Office of  
Subsistence Management, USFWS.

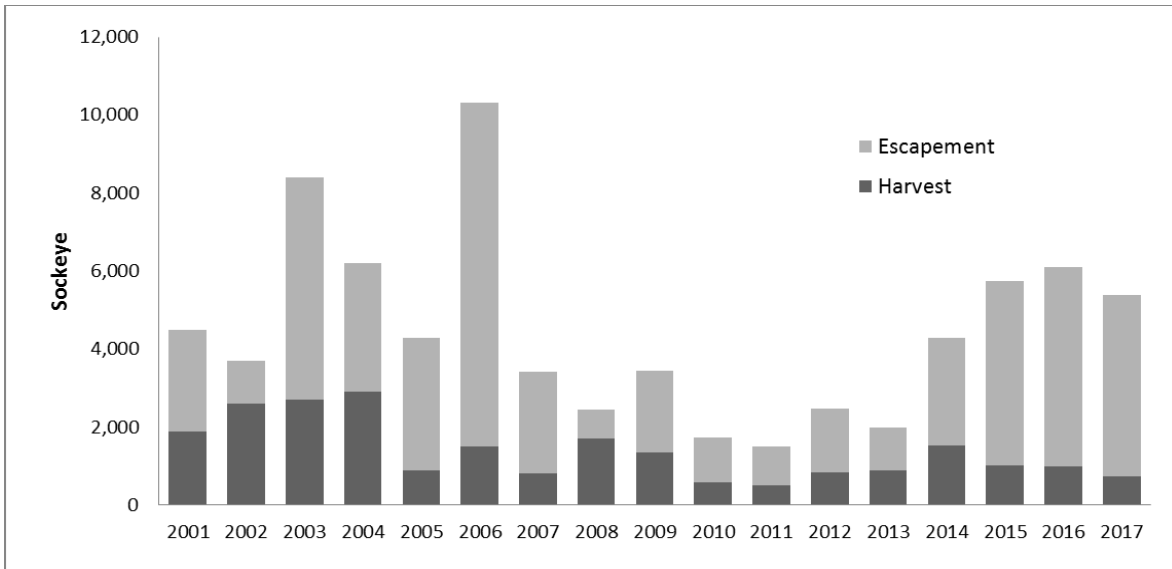
The purpose of the weekly fisheries update is to provide the reader with an overall summary of the status of subsistence related fisheries throughout the state of Alaska. The target audience is the Federal Subsistence Board and its Staff Committee. The report was compiled with the assistance of the Federal 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**

**Falls Lake Sockeye Salmon** - The Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake operate the Falls Lake trap and video net weir which were installed June 29. As of July 25, 81 Sockeye Salmon have been counted at the trap and 635 have been harvested in the subsistence fishery. The escapement is well below average for this date. The final escapement estimate in 2017 was 4,662 Sockeye Salmon while the final subsistence and sport harvest in the marine terminal area was 732. Subsistence harvest accounted for 89% of terminal area harvest.

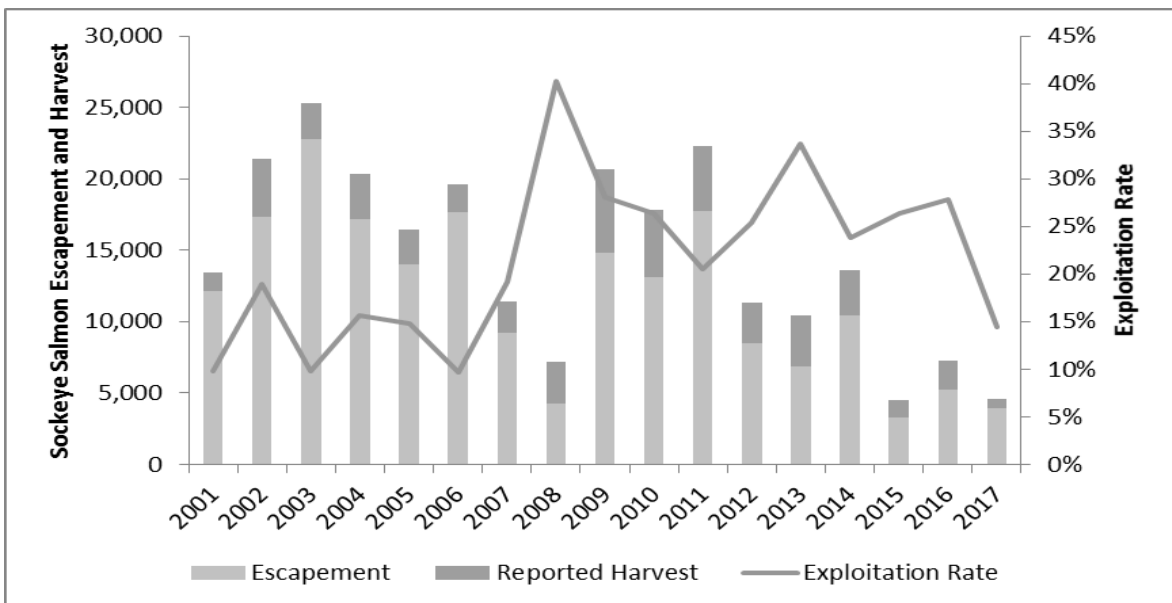


**Figure 1.** Aerial photo of the Falls Lake outlet illustrating the typical location of weir equipment.



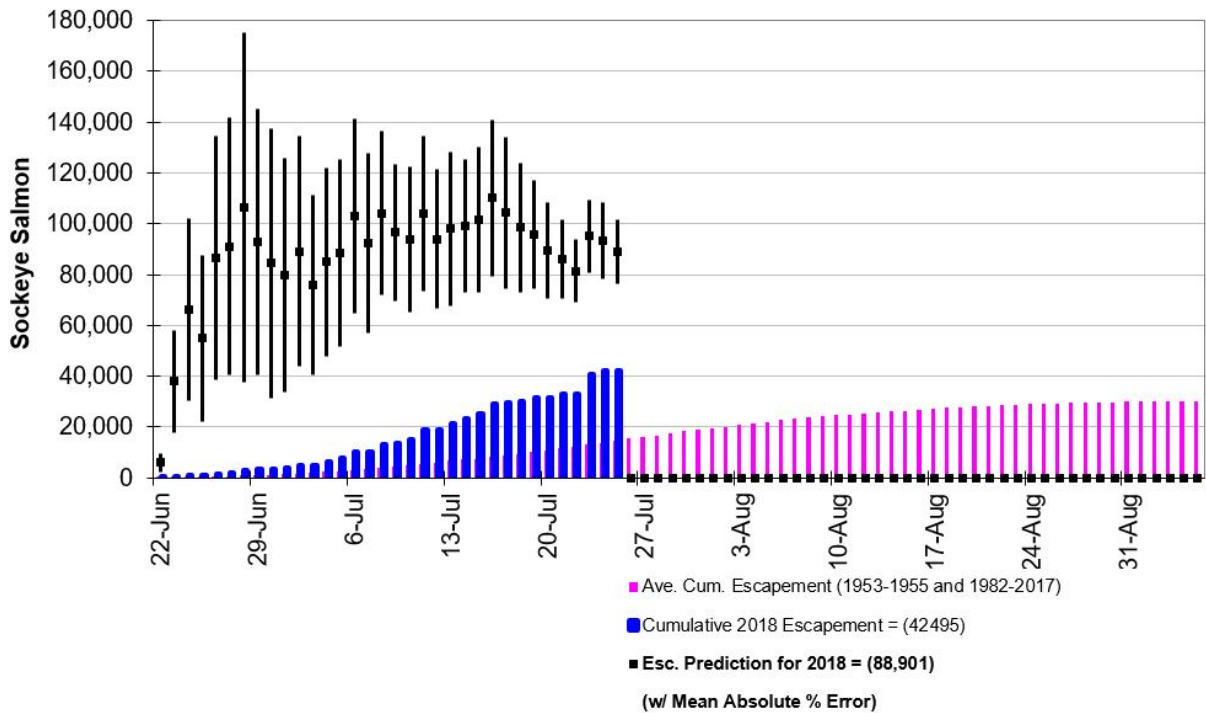
**Figure 2.** Escapement plus harvest equals total terminal run of Sockeye Salmon at Falls Lake, 2001-2017.

**Klag Bay Sockeye Salmon** - The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the Sockeye Salmon monitoring weir at Klag Bay, which was operating as of June 28. As of July 24, 95 Sockeye Salmon have been counted at the weir and 874 have been harvested in the subsistence fishery. Sockeye Salmon at Klag Bay generally move into the river during rain events and it has been very dry with no precipitation in the forecast until August 3. In 2017, approximately 3,898 migrated past the weir while an estimated 1,087 were harvested in the marine terminal area subsistence and sport fisheries. Subsistence harvest accounted for over 99% of terminal area harvest.

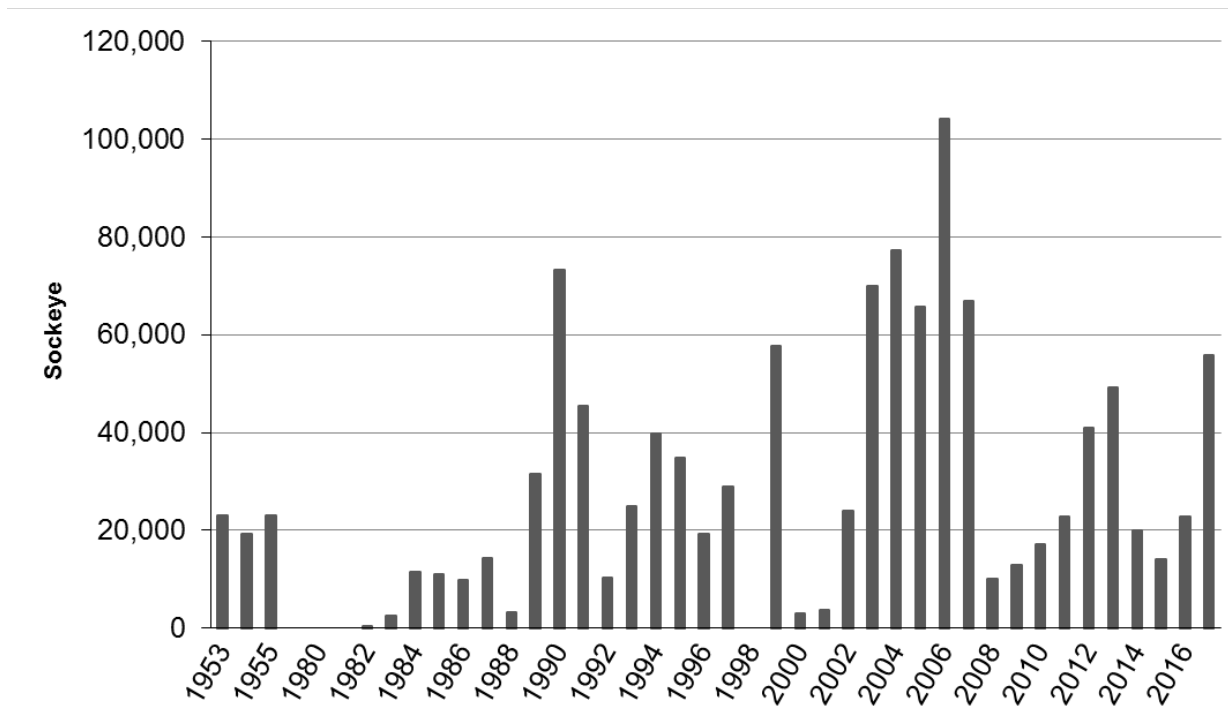


**Figure 3.** Reported harvest, escapement, and exploitation rate for Klag Lake Sockeye Salmon, 2001-2017.

**Redoubt Lake Sockeye Salmon** - The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir which was installed June 16. As of July 25, 42,495 Sockeye Salmon have entered the lake which is well above average. The Redoubt Lake Sockeye and Coho Salmon model is predicting that 88,901 Sockeye Salmon will return to Redoubt Lake this season (**Figure 4**). On July 11, in accordance with the Redoubt Bay and Lake Sockeye Salmon Management Plan, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game raised the subsistence limit from 10 daily and 50 annual per household to 25 daily and 100 annually per household. These limits were based on an in-season model prediction of about 95,000 returning. In 2017, at least 55,702 Sockeye Salmon passed through the weir into Redoubt Lake (**Figure 5**).



**Figure 4.** In season predictions of the Redoubt Lake Sockeye Salmon escapement based on weir counts through July 25.



**Figure 5.** Annual Sockeye Salmon expanded escapement into Redoubt Lake for years with data: 1953 to 1955, 1982 to 1997, and 1999 to 2017. The weir was not operated in 1998.

**Sitka Sound Pacific Herring** – The commercial, subsistence, and spawning season for Pacific Herring in Sitka Sound occurs about mid-March through mid-April. According to preliminary accounts and data, the commercial and subsistence seasons were not successful in 2018 while the spawning season was marginally successful. The commercial fishery closed on April 3 with only about one third of the guideline harvest level (GHL) harvested. Accounts from the Sitka Tribe of Alaska indicate poor quantity and quality of subsistence harvest, and that their subsistence needs were not met. Other harvesters have said their catch rates were lower than the Tribes. Miles of shoreline receiving herring spawn indicates the spawning season was below average. However, preliminary estimates of spawn extent from shore and deposition are encouraging as related to the post spawn biomass calculation. This estimate will be available this Fall.

[Alaska Department of Fish and Game news release with a synopsis of the commercial season](#)

**Sitka Chinook Salmon** – The Chinook Salmon season in Sitka was poor for both the commercial and sport fisheries. Fishers from both groups reported below average catch rates. Management measures decreased the bag limits for resident and non-resident sport anglers and curtailed commercial fishery opportunity.

[More information on King Salmon management in Southeast Alaska.](#)

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

**Prince of Wales Island/Ketchikan area**

Currently 216 Federal salmon/trout/char permits have been issued in the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat region. Of these, 143 have been issued to Federally-qualified subsistence users residing on Prince of Wales Island.

Subsistence fishing opportunity for Sockeye Salmon began on July 1. Prominent fisheries include: Hetta Lake, Klawock Lake, Klakas Lake, Hunter Bay, Sarkar, Karta River, Salmon Bay Lake, Red Lake, Kegan Lake, Shipley Bay, Thorne River and Hatchery Creek. Fishing in these areas has been slower than usual, with hopes that most returns are several weeks later than normal. There are no forecasts for returns to these locations.

The Hetta Lake weir has been operational since June 7, with 847 Sockeye Salmon counted at the site. The Eek Lake weir has been operational since June 12<sup>th</sup> with 7 Sockeye Salmon counted. Both projects are run by the Hydaburg Cooperative Association (HCA). HCA has requested local residents to not engage in any subsistence fishing activity at Eek until 1,000 fish have been counted through the weir. The Klawock fish hatchery, operated by Southern Southeast Alaska Regional Aquaculture Association, has been in place since July 1. To date, 160 Sockeye Salmon have been counted.

All commercial fisheries net fisheries are currently active in Districts 1, 2 and 4 while commercial troll fisheries are open in Districts 1-4. The commercial troll fishery for Chinook Salmon closed on July 14, with fishing effort now being directed at Coho and Chum Salmon. Cumulative harvest to date for Districts 1-4 are 3,750 Chinook Salmon, 31,360 Sockeye Salmon, 16,090 Coho Salmon, 3,595 Pink Salmon and 445,700 Chum Salmon.



Image of Sockeye Salmon being held in mesh pen for sampling at the Klawock Hatchery on Prince of Wales Island.

### **Petersburg/Wrangell area**

This year's run of Chinook Salmon to the Stikine River is weak and was forecasted at 6,900 fish. This forecast is less than half of the bottom range of the 14,000 to 28,000 fish goal. Directed commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries in the area have been closed to protect this return.

Currently, all purse seine fisheries are closed in the area. The drift gillnet and commercial troll fisheries are currently open in Districts 6 and 8. Cumulative harvest to date for Districts 6-8 are: 3920 Chinook Salmon, 16,700 Sockeye Salmon, 11,700 Coho Salmon, 263,600 Pink Salmon and 224,900 Chum Salmon.

There have been 111 fishing permits issued for the Stikine River subsistence salmon fishery. Weather and river conditions have been good and catch per unit of effort for

Sockeye Salmon continue to be good to fair. Participation was high during the early part of the week. The estimated cumulative subsistence harvest is 8 large Chinook, 10 Coho and 1,525 Sockeye Salmon.

Currently 216 Federal salmon/trout/char permits have been issued in the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat region. Of these, 45 have been issued to Federally-qualified subsistence users residing in the Petersburg/Wrangell area.

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

**Yakutat area:** Sockeye Salmon returns to the Situk River continue to be the lowest on record. As of July 25, approximately 22,700 fish have been counted through the Situk River weir. About 85% of the run has historically passed through the weir by this date, so it is unlikely that the escapement goal of 30,000 – 70,000 fish will be reached this year.

Sockeye Salmon escapements into other Yakutat area systems are also weak. Most commercial and subsistence fisheries have remained closed, and sport fishing is closed to the retention of Sockeye Salmon. Some limited commercial openings are planned for the Alsek and Dangerous Rivers, as well as the Manby Shore.

**Northern inside waters:** The outlook for Sockeye Salmon in northern inside waters has improved somewhat from previous weeks. Cumulative catches in the Taku River fishwheels are now close to the 10 year average thanks to a recent surge of fish, and commercial catches in the Taku area gillnet fishery have also improved. A similar story in the Lynn Canal area, as escapement counts at the Chilkoot Lake weir are now back on track to meet escapement goals after a weak start. However, counts from escapement projects on the Chilkat River are still lagging behind the escapement goals. Chatham strait area Sockeye Salmon stocks may be tracking stronger than others in the region, as catches in the Hawk Inlet test fishery have been above the 10 year average.

Pink Salmon returns to northern inside waters appear to be following in the footsteps of their parent year of 2016, when escapements were among the lowest on record. While it is still too early to assess escapements, catches in commercial and test fisheries have been below average.

**Neva Lake Sockeye Salmon:** Crews from the Forest Service and the Hoonah Indian Association installed the remotely monitored swim-through video weir at the outlet of Neva Lake on June 21 and 22 (Figure 1). The pair of picket weirs lead fish through a video chute with four cameras set to record motion (fish) triggered footage on on-site SD memory cards and an off-site computer running the Blue Iris video record and review program. We installed an additional three above water cameras, two fixed and one pan-tilt-zoom, to allow 24/7 intra/internet monitoring of the weir site since weir personnel are living and counting fish off-site at Ocean Beauty Seafood's plant in Excursion Inlet.

Live video feed and clips from the weir can be accessed over the internet at <http://216.252.161.242:81/ui3.htm#> . Interested parties are welcome to view the project feed, but please try to conserve bandwidth.

The cumulative count of Sockeye Salmon through the Neva Lake weir stands at 921 fish through July 26, which puts us on pace for a total return of about 2,200 fish. The lake and creek are extremely low due to the dry conditions, so fish are likely waiting for higher water to move into the lake.

**Sitkoh Lake Sockeye Salmon:** The Sitkoh Lake video weir was installed on July 6 by project personnel from the Forest Service and the Angoon Community Association (ACA). The project uses a pair of remotely monitored video net weirs to count fish entering Sitkoh Lake, on the southeast corner of Chichagof Island. Video from the site is streamed to the ACA office, where it is recorded on a computer. Live video feed and clips from the weir can be accessed over the internet at <http://24.237.128.185:81/ui3.htm#> . Again, please try and conserve bandwidth while using the site.

So far, we have not counted any Sockeye Salmon through the Sitkoh Lake weir. As with other area streams, the dry conditions and low water are likely hampering their spawning migration, so we hope to see a surge of fish with the first good rain. Project personnel have had to be content with counting Dolly Varden (Figure 2) and Cutthroat Trout passing through the video weirs.



Figure 1. A Belted Kingfisher surveys the Neva Lake weir while perched near one of the site's surveillance cameras on July 26.





Figure 2. Video capture of a Dolly Varden passing through the Sitkoh Lake weir on July 26.

### **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](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, (907) 822-7281- [Dave Sarafin@NPS.gov](mailto:Dave.Sarafin@NPS.gov), Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve**

The Sockeye Salmon return to the Copper River was extremely low during the early portion of the season. During the month of June, the State of Alaska issued Emergency Orders restricting or closing all state fisheries except for the subsistence fishery of the Copper River District near Cordova. These restrictions included: limited early season commercial fishing periods, Chitina personal use fishery closure, Sockeye Salmon sport fishing closure, and limiting the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery to 2 days per week.

Federal managers are continuing to monitor run strength indicators to evaluate the need for appropriate management actions. Recent trends of increasing run strength have been reported from in-river indicators, which provide the likelihood of achieving the established sustainable escapement goal for wild Sockeye Salmon spawning populations.

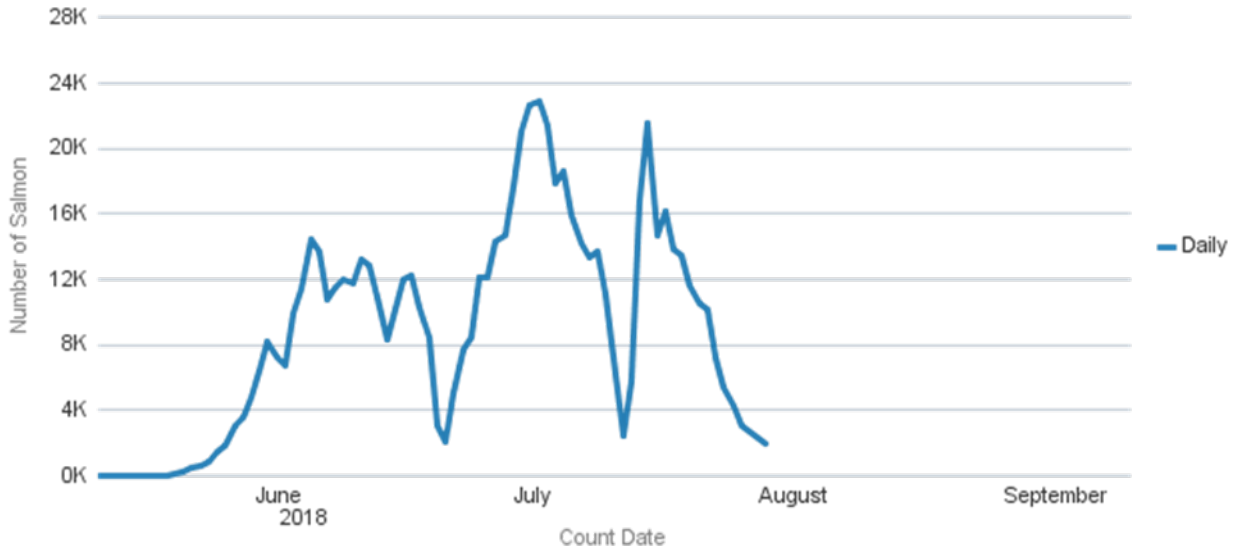
In response to the increasing run strength, along with consideration of the total estimated in river return to date, on July 8, the State of Alaska opened the state subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict, 7 days per week for the remainder of the season. Periodic openings of the personal use fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict began on July 12. This fishery is currently being managed on a weekly basis based on fish passage at the Miles Lake sonar. On July 13, the Sockeye Salmon sport fisheries of the Upper Copper River Drainage were opened for the remainder of the season.

The commercial fishery in the Copper River District was limited throughout the season in response to low numbers of Sockeye Salmon observed in run strength indices. Six 12 hour open commercial fishing periods occurred between the period of May 17 and July 26. Total commercial harvest for the season has been 40,499 Sockeye Salmon and 7,160 Chinook Salmon.

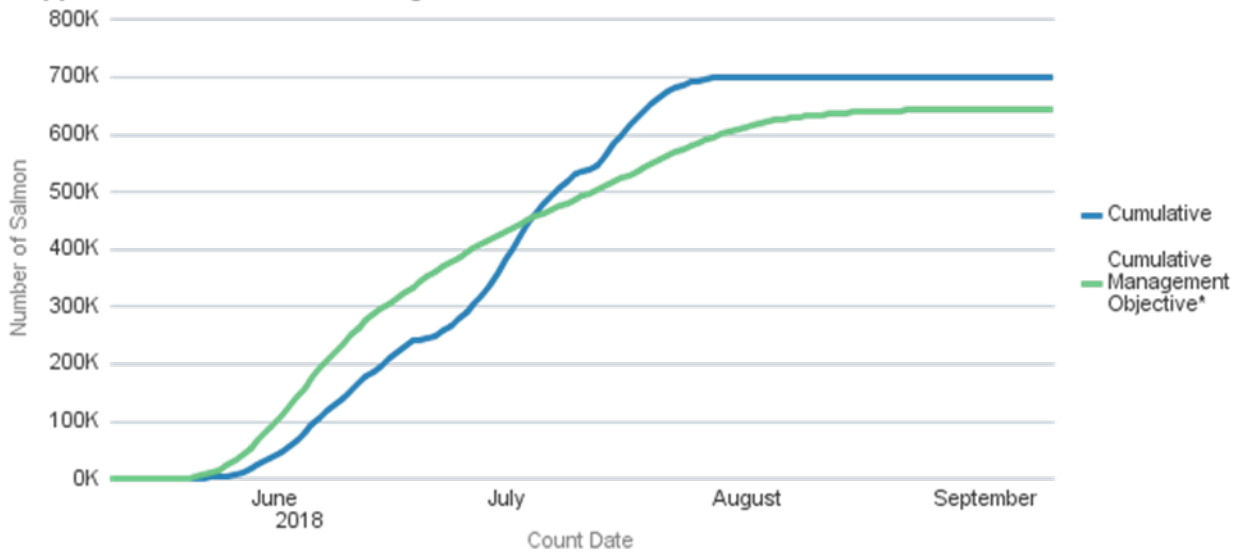
As of July 28, the ADF&G sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) estimated that 701,577 salmon had migrated upstream past the sonar thus far during the season. This estimate is 17% above the cumulative management objective of 601,096 salmon for this date in the season. A daily number of 1,974 salmon was estimated to pass by the sonar counter on July 28.

**2018 Upper Copper River Salmon Passage at Miles Lake Sonar**  
(as of July 28)

**Copper River Daily Passage**



**Copper River Cumulative Passage**



Source:

[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon\\_escapement](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon_escapement).

The Federal subsistence fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict opened on June 1 and is expected to remain open through September 30. One hundred six (106) 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 15 and is expected to remain open until September 30. Three hundred two (302) 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 Batzulnetas fishery is open. One Federal permit has been issued.

Installation of the Tanada Creek fish weir was completed Thursday, June 21. The first Sockeye Salmon was recorded passing the weir on July 4. As of July 28, 2,997 Sockeye Salmon and 0 Chinook Salmon have been recorded passing the site for the season.

The Native Village of Eyak Baird Canyon fishwheels captured and tagged 5,578 Chinook Salmon through July 7. The upriver fishwheels at Canyon Creek have captured 4,125 Chinook Salmon through July 21, of which, 432 were recaptured fish that had been tagged at the downstream wheels.

ADF&G's counting tower in the Gulkana River has reported a total passage estimate of 3,300 Chinook Salmon through July 26.

One Federal Special Action has been issued by the in season manager this season:

- Delaying the starting date of the Chitina Subdistrict Federal subsistence salmon fishery to June 1.
- ADF&G Miles Lake daily sonar estimates  
[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon\\_escapement](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> (select Gulkana River, then 2018)

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

### **30 July 2018**

A total of 55 Federal Subsistence fishing permits have been issued for freshwaters within the Chugach National Forest portion of the Prince William Sound area of to date. Harvest by this year's permit holders will not be known until reports are returned this winter. Ninety-seven permits were issued in 2017 resulting in the reported harvest of 514 Coho and 127 Sockeye Salmon from Copper River Delta fresh waters in this fishery.

**Cook Inlet Area – Jeff Anderson, Field Supervisor, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office** (907) 260-0132 [Jeffrey\\_Anderson@fws.gov](mailto:Jeffrey_Anderson@fws.gov)

A total of 352 permits for Cook Inlet Federal subsistence fisheries have been issued to qualified households through July 21. This includes 90 Kenai River permits (FFCI01) and 11 Designated Fisher permits to Cooper Landing households; 33 Kenai River permits (FFCI01) and 3 Designated Fisher permit to Hope households; and 119 Kenai River permits (FFCI01), 91 Kasilof River permits (FFCI02), and 5 Designated Fisher permits to Ninilchik households.

The 2018 subsistence dip net fisheries for salmon opened on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers June 15 and June 16, respectively. Harvest reported to date in the dip net fishery at Russian River Falls is 1,433 Sockeye Salmon. Harvest reported to date in the Kasilof River dip net fishery is 47 Sockeye Salmon.

The Kasilof River experimental community gillnet fishery began on June 16 and continues through August 15. Harvest reported through July 27 includes 716 Sockeye Salmon. The Kenai River community gillnet fishery began on July 1 and continues through August 15, and then from September 10 – 30. Harvest reported through July 27 is 392 Sockeye Salmon.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game closed the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery at midnight Sunday July 29 due to low Sockeye Salmon abundance. The inriver Sockeye Salmon sport fishery bag limit was restricted to one fish per day due to low abundance also.

Fish counts at some Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Department)-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>

**Kodiak Island Area – Michael Brady, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR**

(907) 487-2600/0230 or [michael\\_brady@fws.gov](mailto:michael_brady@fws.gov) or Kevin Van Hatten (907) 487-0230  
[Kevin\\_VanHatten@fws.gov](mailto:Kevin_VanHatten@fws.gov)

The sockeye salmon returns to the Kodiak archipelago continues to be strong on the southern end of the island, with most systems meeting their lower escapement goals and northern systems still being low.

The sockeye salmon escapement into the Buskin River continues to be slow. As of July 27, 2018, a total of 2,845 fish have migrated past the ADF&G weir. The Buskin system will remain closed through the end of the season.

Sockeye salmon escapement to the Litnik River on Afognak Island has improved but is still well below the 10 year average. As of July 27, 2018, a total of 17,258 fish have passed through the weir. The reduction of closed waters near the stream mouth remains in effect to allow subsistence users to meet their needs. Port Lions villagers reported their needs have not been met for this season and have turned their attention to other areas of food gathering.

The Karluk River late sockeye salmon escapement continues at a fairly moderate rate with a total of 12,691 fish passing through the weir as of July 27, 2018. Subsistence users from Karluk village and Larsen Bay have largely met their needs. Due to the high sockeye salmon harvest numbers, villagers are able to share their catch with others and have been hard at work smoking their catch.

Chinook returns to the Karluk River are nearly complete, but not expected to meet the lower escapement goal. The total escapement for Karluk Chinook was 3,006 as of July 27, 2018. To protect this fish stock, the State and Federal managers issued a special action closing the Karluk River to subsistence fishing to Chinook salmon before the start of the fishing season. It is doubtful this closure will be lifted due to the run size being very low.

***Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kodiak Area***

<http://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 Jonathon\_Gerken@fws.gov

Bristol Bay:

The 2018 Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon run is forecast to be approximately 41 to 61million fish for nine river systems: Kvichak, Alagnak, Naknek, Egegik, Ugashik, Wood, Igushik, Nushagak, and Togiak Rivers. As of July 20 all river met escapement goals. The commercial salmon season in Bristol Bay opened June 1. Commercial harvest as of July 26 is approximately 41 million fish for all salmon species throughout all districts. Commercial fishing in the Nushagak District has been closed due to a fuel spill in the area that could cause safety concerns. Additional commercial opening may be scheduled when the danger of contamination subsides.

Chignik:

As of July 26, 189,938 early-run Sockeye Salmon have been enumerated at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game operated weir. It is unlikely, based on the current rate of escapement, that the lower end of the escapement goal for early-run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage will be achieved. Through Section 815 of ANILCA Emergency special action (**8-SS-01-18**) closed Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by Federally qualified subsistence users who are in the possession of a Social and Cultural Harvest Permit beginning June 22, 2018 and remains in effect through July 31, 2018. Thus far, two permits have been issued. A Social and Cultural Harvest Permit restricts harvest of Sockeye Salmon for a community to 100 fish. July 31, 2018 is the date when the Sockeye Salmon run is composed of nearly all late-run Sockeye Salmon. Beginning August 1, 2018this emergency action will expire and no restrictions will be in place for Sockeye Salmon on Federal public waters.

Late-run Sockeye Salmon are tracking with the interim escapement goal for the date of July 26. To date, 128,990 late-run Sockeye Salmon were enumerated where 98,000 – 196,000 fish were forecast. There is concern regarding the strength of the late-run Sockeye Salmon run.

The Chinook Salmon count as of July 26 is 708 fish. The historical average count for this date is 2,730 fish. Based on historical run timing, approximately 85% of the escapement has occurred by July 19, and the current projected total escapement is not expected to meet escapement. Through Section 816 of ANILCA, this Emergency Special Action (**8-KS-01-18**) closes fishing for Chinook Salmon in the Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage due to concerns about the viability of the population effective July 13. In parallel with the Federal closures, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has closed the state subsistence fishery and sport fishery for Chinook Salmon through August 9.

Escapement Goals:

Early Run Sockeye Salmon/ Black Lake	BEG = 350,000 – 450,000
Late Run Sockeye Salmon/ Chignik Lake	SEG = 200,000 – 400,000

-In-river Goal	-25,000 in August and 50,000 in September in addition to late run escapement goals
Chinook Salmon	BEG = 1,300 – 2,700
Pink Salmon – Even year	SEG = 170,000 – 280,000
Chum Salmon	SEG = 45,000 – 110,000

#### Alaska Peninsula:

The current commercial harvest in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area through July 26 is 4.8 million, of which 2.8 million were Sockeye Salmon. Pink and Chum Salmon catches have increased.

#### Escapement Goals:

Nelson River Sockeye Salmon	BEG = 97,000 – 219,000
Nelson River Chinook Salmon	BEG = 2,400 – 4,400
Late-run Bear Lake	BEG = 117,000 – 195,000

To date, the cumulative counts as of July 26 for Sockeye Salmon are:

Nelson River = 191,006 fish, met escapement goal. (weir was removed on July 24)

Chinook Salmon = 5,022 fish, met escapement goal.

Bear River = 317,532 fish, 5 year average = 307,742 fish.

Sandy River = 34,164 fish, 5 year average = 102,700 fish. (weir was removed on July 24)

Ilnik River = 79,393 fish, 5 year average of 89,200 fish (weir was removed on July 19)

Orzinski River = 2,368 fish, 5 year average of 14,808 fish.

Aleutian Islands.

All fisheries are forecast to meet escapement goals and provide harvest opportunity.

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

[http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish\\_shell/upload/Bristol.pdf](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](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/chignik.pdf)

### **Southcentral Alaska Web Links**

#### ***Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases***

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

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

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.R2>

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

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>



***Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southcentral Alaska***  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R2.Home>

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

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

[Gerald\\_Maschmann@fws.gov](mailto:Gerald_Maschmann@fws.gov) or

Fred Bue [Fredrick\\_Bue@fws.gov](mailto:Fredrick_Bue@fws.gov)

Emmonak Summer Office (907) 949-1798

**Summer Season Update Summary**

Summer season management is over in the lower Yukon. Districts 1, 2, and 3 have transitioned to fall season management. Subdistrict 4-A will transition on July 31.

1.6 million Summer Chum Salmon passed the Pilot Station sonar. Combined with over 425,000 Summer Chum Salmon harvested in the Districts 1 and 2 subsistence and commercial fisheries, puts the preliminary Summer Chum Salmon run size over 2 million fish for the season. A run of this size is considered large enough to provide for escapement and subsistence uses, while providing a surplus of up to 800,000-1,000,000 Summer Chum Salmon for commercial harvest. Commercial harvest opportunities have been dependent upon available markets and hindered by conservation measures for the overlapping Chinook Salmon run. The Summer Chum Salmon drainage-wide escapement goal is expected to be exceeded. However, Summer Chum Salmon are not expected to make escapement goals in the E.F. Andreafsky and Anvik Rivers.

159,000 Chinook Salmon passed the Pilot Station sonar. Combined with approximately 5,000 Chinook Salmon harvested in the Districts 1 and 2 subsistence fishery, puts the preliminary Chinook Salmon run size at 164,000 fish for the season. This is below the lower end of the preseason forecast of 173,000 to 251,000 fish and tracked slightly better than 2015. Subsistence conservation measures were implemented early in the run, and continue to be implemented in the upper Yukon, to spread out the available subsistence harvest and meet escapement goals. Starting in the lower Yukon and moving up river with the Chinook Salmon migration, subsistence was placed on half their normal regulatory windows schedule, subsistence fishing was restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear and some subsistence periods were cancelled during pulses. Additional subsistence periods with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gill nets were scheduled to allow for some subsistence Chinook Salmon harvest later in the season when Summer Chum Salmon abundance dominated the run. Although the Chinook Salmon run came in below the lower end of the preseason forecast, managers are optimistic that the restrictions implemented this season based on the estimated passage past the Pilot Station sonar, will be adequate for the 2018 Chinook Salmon run to meet escapement goals and the Canadian border passage objective.

**Summer Assessment Information**

The E.F. Andreafsky River weir has ceased operations on July 29 and has passed a final 3,972 Chinook Salmon and 36,312 Chum Salmon through July 29. The E.F. Andreafsky Chinook Salmon run has met its goal of 2,100-4,900 Chinook Salmon, and is below its goal of greater than 40,000 Summer Chum Salmon. The Anvik River sonar ceased operations on July 26. The season ending estimated passage of 304,938 Summer Chum Salmon is well below the average for this date of 551,189. The Anvik River ended below its escapement goal of 350,000-700,000, which continues a trend of poor production in this tributary.

The Eagle Sonar near the Canadian Border began counting on July 4 and has a cumulative passage of 35,336 Chinook Salmon through July 28. The passage estimate is below the average of 40,134 and near the 3/4 point. Projections are putting the Eagle sonar passage estimate between 48,000-52,000. Based on inseason stock assessment, the Canadian total allowable catch (TAC) is expected to range from 4,000 to 7,000 Chinook Salmon. When subtracting the Canadian TAC from the projected Eagle sonar estimate, it appears the 2018 Canadian final escapement may be near the lower end of the Canadian Interim Management Escapement Goal (IMEG) of 42,500 to 55,000 Chinook Salmon.

The preliminary summer season commercial harvests for Districts 1 and 2 are 426,000 Summer Chum Salmon, approximately 11,326 Chinook Salmon were caught and released, and approximately 2,807 Chinook Salmon caught and retained for personal use. Commercial fishing began in Subdistrict 4-A near Kaltag on June 26 and will switch to fall season management on July 31. All periods are directed towards Summer Chum Salmon using live release fish wheels with most Chinook Salmon being released immediately back into the water. A preliminary 118,500 Summer Chum Salmon have been harvested through July 26. On July 21, commercial fish wheels were no longer required to be manned and fishermen may retain incidentally caught Chinook Salmon for personal use because the vast majority have moved out of the area. A season total of 279 Chinook Salmon have been caught and released and one Chinook Salmon has been retained for personal use in Subdistrict 4-A. A small, commercial fishery began in District 6 on July 13. 1,564 Summer Chum Salmon have been harvested, 51 Chinook Salmon have been caught and released, and 131 Chinook Salmon have been caught and retained for personal use.

**Fall Season Outlook**

The 2018 Fall Chum Salmon preseason run projection, based on the Summer Chum to Fall Chum Salmon relationship, is for a run size range of 700,000 to 900,000 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 Assessment Information**

Fall season assessment has just begun in the lower Yukon. The 6-inch LYTF began on July 16 and has a cumulative CPUE through July 28 of 272.18, below the median of 292.96. The Mt. Village Test Fishery (MVTF) began on July 18 and has a cumulative CPUE through July 28 of 275.51, below the median of 459.01. The Pilot Station sonar

transitioned to fall season management on July 19 and has a cumulative passage of 127,505, below the median of 141,373.

### **Fall Season Management Actions**

Effective 12:00 a.m. Monday, July 16, the Coastal District transitioned to fall season management with subsistence fishing continuing to be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Effective 3:00 p.m. Sunday, July 15, District 1 transitioned to fall season management and subsistence fishing in District 1 was opened to the lower river regulatory schedule of 7 days per week, 24 hours a day except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. Effective 3:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 18, Districts 2 and 3 transitioned to fall season management and subsistence fishing in Districts 2 and 3 were opened 7 days per week, 24 hours a day except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. Subsistence fishermen may use gillnets with a maximum mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller in all areas during the fall season.

Seven fall season commercial periods have occurred in Districts 1 and 2 so far this season with a preliminary combined harvest of 48,000 fall chum salmon.

For several years there has been repeated violations of commercial fishermen harvesting salmon from the closed waters of Pastolik and Pastoliak rivers just a few miles north of Kotlik outside the Yukon River. Working with the State of Alaska Wildlife Enforcement officers, we have jointly closed these waters to all gillnet fishing, including subsistence, for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial period. Typically, subsistence fishing allows gillnets of 4 inch mesh or smaller during salmon closures to permit opportunity to harvest non-salmon fish. However, enforcement officers are having a difficult time distinguishing mesh size from the air during patrols thereby requiring them to land in order to assess mesh size which becomes a safety judgement. Even though this may appear as an additional burden on the subsistence user due to a commercial opportunity, it is a matter of maintaining an orderly fishery and it is in response to members of the local community requesting enforcement support to protect their local streams. After the first week of implementing this restrictive measure, no complaints have been received. We will adjust this action as necessary based on local feedback and results.

### **Consultation**

Extensive public outreach and consultation was performed during the fall of 2017 and spring of 2018 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, at the annual Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association Board meeting, and at the Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commission annual meeting. On May 2, 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.

The eight YRDFA weekly teleconference was held on July 24. Lower and middle Yukon River fishermen reported being done with summer season subsistence harvests because salmon abundance has tapered off. Some fishermen were satisfied with their Chinook Salmon harvest and others were short of filling their subsistence needs. Fishermen in the upper river portion of the drainage reported that some were successful harvesting Chinook Salmon while some were doing poorly. Furthermore, the fall season outlook and management strategies were discussed on recent YRDFA teleconferences. Participants communicated the importance of the fall chum salmon run in meeting their subsistence needs due the lack of Chinook salmon in this year's harvests.

On June 26, 27, and 28, a series of public meetings were held in the Yukon River communities of Russian Mission, Shageluk, Grayling, Anvik, and Holy Cross to discuss local fisheries issues. Among the participants from outside the area were the Lieutenant Governor, the ADF&G Commissioner, the President of TCC, the Director of the Yukon InterTribal Fish Commission, an Alaska Board of Fisheries member, and the ADF&G Subsistence Division Director as well as both State and Federal fisheries and Refuge managers. The USFWS Regional Director had planned to accompany the group, but did not make it unfortunately. Public turnout was very good and the opportunity to directly communicate with high-ranking officials was appreciated.

## **KUSKOKWIM RIVER**

**In Season Manager – Ken Stahlnecker, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Contact [Kenneth Stahlnecker@fws.gov](mailto:Kenneth_Stahlnecker@fws.gov); (907) 543-3151 or [Lewis Coggins@fws.gov](mailto:Lewis_Coggins@fws.gov) or author Aaron Moses [Aaron Moses@fws.gov](mailto:Aaron_Moses@fws.gov)**

### **Summary:**

Through Alaska Department of Fish and Game Emergency Order #3-S-WR-9-18, effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 26, 2018, the following restrictions to the mainstem Kuskokwim River subsistence salmon fishery are rescinded:

- 6-inch or less mesh requirements for subsistence gillnets;
- 25 fathom gillnet length restrictions from the mouth of the Johnson River upstream to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River (Sections 2–5);
- The live release requirement of Chinook Salmon caught in beach seines, fish wheels, and by hook and line;
- The use of dip nets for the taking of salmon; and
- The closed waters within Kuskokuak and Old Kuskokuak sloughs and around the mouth of the Aniak River.

Subsistence fishing with gillnets will remain closed in the following tributaries:

- The Kwethluk River drainage to its confluence with Kuskokuak Slough.

- The Kasigluk and Kisaralik river drainages to their confluences with Old Kuskokuak Slough.
- The Tuluksak River drainage including its confluence with the Kuskokwim River and downstream approximately 1-mile to ADF&G regulatory markers.
- The Aniak River drainage to ADF&G regulatory markers at its confluence with the Kuskokwim River

In addition, subsistence fishing with hook and line for Chinook Salmon will remain closed within the Kwethluk, Kisaralik, Kasigluk, Tuluksak, and Aniak river drainages. Any Chinook Salmon caught must be returned to the water alive.

### **Kuskokwim Weir Chinook Counts:**

Kwethluk River weir Chinook Salmon counts as of July 27, 2018 is at 2,003. In 2017 and 2016, Chinook Salmon counts for the Kwethluk River were at 6,862 and 2,820 respectively.

Kogrukluk River weir Chinook Salmon counts as of July 28, 2018 is at 4,757. In 2017 and 2016, Chinook Salmon counts were at 6,964 and 6,426, respectively.

Salmon River Pitka Fork weir Chinook Salmon counts as of July 28, 2018 is at 5,017. In 2017 and 2016 Chinook Salmon counts were at 6,577 and 6,076, respectively.

### **Test Fisheries:**

As of July 29, the cumulative catch per unit of effort (CPUE) of Chinook Salmon at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Bethel Test Fishery is 662. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2017 and 2016 were 366 and 675, respectively.

Cumulative CPUE for Chum Salmon is at 7,945. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2017 and 2016 were 6,622 and 3,779 respectively.

Cumulative CPUE for Sockeye is at 2,116. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2017 and 2016 were 2,572 and 2,174, respectively.

Cumulative CPUE for Coho is at 92. Cumulative CPUE on this date during 2017 and 2016 were 195 and 303, respectively.

### **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](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](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/>

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**Norton Sound District**

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week in all marine and fresh waters of Norton Sound except for the Nome Subdistrict which is on the summer schedule.

Sport Fishing: Effective Thursday, July 19 at 12:01 AM The ADF&G Division Sport Fish opened all waters of the Unalakleet River to sport fishing for king salmon and also is allowing the use of bait. The bag and possession limit is one fish with no size limit, and an annual harvest limit of two fish. The escapement counts of king salmon at the North River tower on the Unalakleet River have recently increased and the Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) of 1,900 fish is projected to be exceeded. This action is in accordance with the King Salmon Management Plan for Subdistricts 5 and 6 and the Unalakleet River drainage. Inseason stock assessments from the Shaktoolik and Inglutalik River drainage indicate that king salmon escapements are below average so those areas will remain closed. Additionally, all the other fresh waters in Southern Norton Sound that do not have in season information including the Koyuk, Ungalik and Golsovia river drainages will remain closed. (Note below that the federal waters of the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River remain closed.)

By Emergency Order, effective Saturday, July 21, 2018 the ADF&G, Division of Sport Fish increased the sport fish bag and possession limit for pink salmon to 20 fish in the Northern Norton Sound, which includes all flowing waters draining into Norton Sound from Cape Darby to Cape Prince of Wales and the Unalakleet River drainage.

Commercial Fishing: The Norton Sound commercial chum salmon harvest is the greatest in 35 years and will easily exceed the upper end of the department forecast of 150,000-200,000 fish. The silver catches are picking up and are above average for late July.

### ***Subdistrict 6 (Unalakleet)***

Federal Closure: Federal public waters of the Unalakleet River upstream from the mouth of the Chirosky River remain closed by federal regulation to the taking of king salmon by all users from July 1 to July 31.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week in all marine and fresh waters of the Subdistrict.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catches to July 24 are 200 king, 83,000 chum, 18,000 pink, 1,000 sockeye and 4,000 silver salmon by 52 permit holders. The chum harvest is the best in 35 years. Effective Friday, July 20, commercial fishing opened for two 48-hour periods per week from 6 PM Saturdays until 6 PM Mondays and from 6 PM Wednesdays until 6 PM Fridays. .

**Unalakleet River Floating Weir** — A cooperative project of Fish and Game, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDG), Native Village of the Unalakleet and BLM, with major funding provided by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management. Escapement goals for the weir have not yet been established. The cumulative counts through July 23 are 3,200 king, 100,000 chum and 5,000 silver salmon. The king count is the highest in the 9-year project history. The chum count is above average. The silver count is the highest for this date,

**North River Tower — Camp J. B.** — A Cooperative Project of NSEDG with assistance from ADF&G. The project 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. The cumulative counts through July 22 are 2,400 king, 18,000 chum, 410,000 pink and 240 silver salmon. For the first time in four years, the king passage has exceeded the midpoint of the escapement goal range. Chum and pink passages have been well above average.

### ***Subdistrict 5 (Shaktoolik)***

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week in all marine and fresh waters of the Subdistrict.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catches to July 23 are 13 king, 34,000 chum, 2,000 pink, 300 sockeye and 2,000 silver salmon by 21 permit holders. The chum catch is third best in 35 years. Effective Friday, July 20, commercial fishing opened for two 48-hour periods per week from 6 PM Saturdays until 6 PM Mondays and from 6 PM Wednesdays until 6 PM Fridays.

**Shaktoolik Sonar/Tower** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has no escapement goals established. The cumulative counts through July 22 18 were 1,050 king, 40,000 chum, 600,000 pink, and 6,000 silver salmon. The king count is above average. The chum count is average. The silver count is the best for the same date in the 4-year project history.

#### ***Subdistrict 4 (Norton Bay)***

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week in all marine and fresh waters of the Subdistrict.

Commercial Fishing: Cumulative catches to July 24 are 37 king, 12,000 chum, 900 pink, 100 sockeye, and 26 silver salmon harvested by 13 permit holders. The chum salmon catch is 75 percent of the recent 5-year average, but 3 of the previous 5 years of chum harvest are in the Top 5 all time. Effective Friday, July 20, commercial fishing opened for two 48-hour periods per week from 6 PM Saturdays until 6 PM Mondays and from 6 PM Wednesdays until 6 PM Fridays.

**Inglutalik River Tower** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from ADF&G. No escapement goals have been established. The cumulative counts through July 22 were 192 king, 20,000 chum, 10,000 pink, 45 sockeyes, and 225 silver salmon. All counts have been below average.

#### ***Subdistrict 3 (Elim)***

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week in all marine and fresh waters of the Subdistrict.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catches to July 24 are 109 king, 36,000 chum, 7,000 pink, 125 sockeye, and 175 silver salmon harvested by 31 permit holders. The chum salmon catch is the best in 35 years. Effective Friday, July 20, commercial fishing opened for weekly two 48-hour periods from 6 PM Saturdays until 6 PM Mondays and from 6 PM Wednesdays until 6 PM Fridays.

**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 23 were 75 king, 38,000 chum, 1.5 million pink, and 400 silver salmon. The king count is below average. The chum and pink counts are well above average. The silver count is off to the best start in over 10 years,

#### ***Subdistrict 2 (Golovin)***

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week in all marine and fresh waters of the Subdistrict.



Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catches to July 24 are 31 king, 22,000 chum, 2,300 pink, 50 sockeye and 18 silver salmon harvested by 14 permit holders. The chum salmon catch is the best in in 30 years. Effective Friday, July 20, commercial fishing opened for two 48-hour periods per week from 6 PM Saturdays until 9 PM Mondays and from 6 PM Wednesdays until 6 PM Fridays.

**Fish River Tower** - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have been established. The cumulative counts through July 22 were 72 king, 35,000 chum and 1.5 million pink salmon. Counting began on July 10 which was past the average historical midpoint for kings and chums, and the first quarter point for pinks.

### ***Subdistrict 1 (Nome)***

Pink salmon are still piling into the rivers and records are falling. The Flambeau River is the only river that has few pinks and is loaded with chums.

Subsistence Fishing: By regulation, the summer subsistence salmon gillnet fishing schedule went into effect in the Nome Subdistrict on June 15. The marine waters east of Cape Nome continue to be open seven days a week. All Nome Subdistrict freshwater subsistence areas and the marine waters west of Cape Nome are open to gillnet fishing for five days each week from 6 PM Wednesday until 6 PM Monday. Subsistence salmon fishing permits are required, and stream specific harvest limits are listed on the permit. There are no catch limits in the marine waters. Also effective June 15, beach seining for salmon opened in all subsistence areas of the Nome Subdistrict whenever subsistence gillnet fishing is open. Unless closed by emergency order, beach seining will remain open during gillnet fishing periods through August 15. Dip nets and cast nets can also be used anytime gillnet fishing is open.

Commercial Fishing: The cumulative catch to July 24 is 8 king, 8,000 chum, 2,000 pink, 60 sockeye and 60 silver salmon by 5 permit holders. The chum salmon catch is the best in over 30 years. Effective Friday, July 20, commercial fishing opened for two 48-hour periods per week from 9 PM Fridays until 9 PM Tuesdays until and from 9 PM Tuesdays until 9 PM Thursdays.

**Solomon River Weir** – A Fish & Game project, has no escapement goals yet established. The cumulative counts through July 23 were 1 king, 2,000 chum, 250,000 pink, and 18 silver salmon. The chum count is above average and the pink count is a record.

**Bonanza River Weir** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have yet been established. The cumulative counts through July 23 were 2 king, 4,700 chum, 540,000 pink, 100 sockeye and 25 silver salmon.

**Eldorado River Weir** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has an escapement goal of 6,000 – 9,200 chum salmon. Counting began June 28. Cumulative counts through July 23 were 29 king, 37,000 chum, 107,000 pink, and 6

silver salmon. The chum and pink counts are above average. The historical average midpoint of the chum run has been July 14.

**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. The cumulative counts through July 23 were 22 king, 2,100 chum, 2 million pink, 40 sockeye and 6 silver salmon. The previous pink record was 1.2 million set in 2008. The lower river is still packed with pinks and they are backed up in the ocean trying to get in the river mouth. The historical average midpoint of passage at the weir is July 20 for pinks, and July 22 for chums.

**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 through July 23 were 1 king, 1,400 chum, 150,000 pink, and 5 sockeye salmon. The chum count is below average, and the pink count is well above average.

### **Port Clarence District**

Subsistence Fishing: Gillnet and beach seining are open 7 days a week. Subsistence salmon fishing permits are required for the Port Clarence District, Pilgrim River drainage and Salmon Lake. Catch limits are listed on the subsistence permits. On July 10, ADF&G announced waiving the subsistence sockeye salmon catch limit in the Pilgrim River since sockeye escapement was ensured. The escapement count at the weir on July 10 was 7,000 sockeyes. The escapement goal range at Salmon Lake is 4,000 to 8,000 sockeyes determined by aerial count.

Commercial Fishing: The department expects the commercial fishery to remain closed because of a lack of buyer interest despite the in-river goal of 30,000 sockeye salmon in Pilgrim River being expected to be reached.

**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 counts through July 23 were 68 king, 13,000 chum, 19,000 pink and 19,000 sockeye salmon. The historical average third quarter point of the sockeye passage at the weir is July 26.

### **Kotzebue District**

Subsistence Fishing: No subsistence fishing restrictions are expected in 2018.

Commercial Fishing: Beginning Sunday, July 22 the District opened to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours daily from 8 AM until 8 PM through Tuesday, July 24, with ADF&G setting periods for the remainder of the week after Tuesday based on consultation with the buyer. The catch through July 23 was 120,000 chums by 72 permit holders. That was 20 percent over the catch last year for the same time. One buyer put the fleet on catch limits Tuesday when airplane cargo capacity became a problem.

**Kobuk River Test Fish - Fish & Game project.** The crew began drifts downstream of Kiana on Wednesday, July 18, and have caught chums, sheefish and a pink with catch rates like last year giving an early indication of a good chum rate.

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

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