

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 16-22, 2015.

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Office of Subsistence Management, USFWS.

The purpose of the weekly fisheries update is to provide the reader with an overall summary of the status of subsistence related fisheries throughout the state of Alaska. The target audience is the Federal Subsistence Board and its Staff Committee. The report was compiled with the assistance of the Federal in-season managers and OSM staff that provided weekly updated information by the close of business on Friday of the reporting week. My goal is to have the report 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.

Klag Bay - The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the Sockeye Salmon monitoring weir at Klag Bay which is operational as of July 1st. As of August 20th, 2,366 sockeye have passed the weir while approximately 1,000 have been harvested in the subsistence fishery. In 2014, approximately 10,400 sockeye migrated past the weir while an estimated 4,729 sockeye were harvested in the marine terminal area subsistence and sport fishery. Subsistence harvest accounted for over 99% of terminal area harvest.

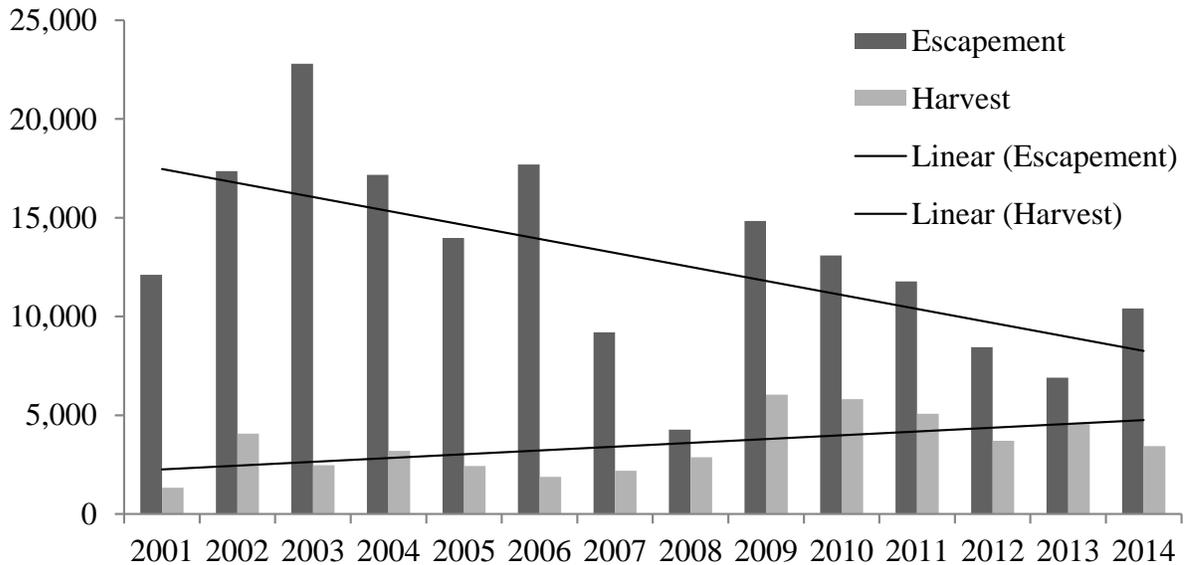


Figure 1. Escapement and harvest of sockeye at Klag Bay, 2001-2014 (Sitka Tribe of Alaska).

Redoubt Lake - The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir and video-equipped net weir which were operational June 16th. As of August 20th, 11,529 sockeye and 5,468 coho have passed the weir. High water at the weir on July 28th and 29th resulted in no fish being passed. The weir was not totally inundated and there is no reason to suspect that

fish entered the system uncounted. The in-season model is predicting that around 12,500 sockeye will return this season. Coho numbers are almost ten times higher than the long term average for August 20th. Subsistence harvest is unknown until it is reported to ADF&G. In 2014, an estimated total of 20,549 sockeye passed through the weir into Redoubt Lake. The preliminary subsistence sockeye harvest was 1,313.

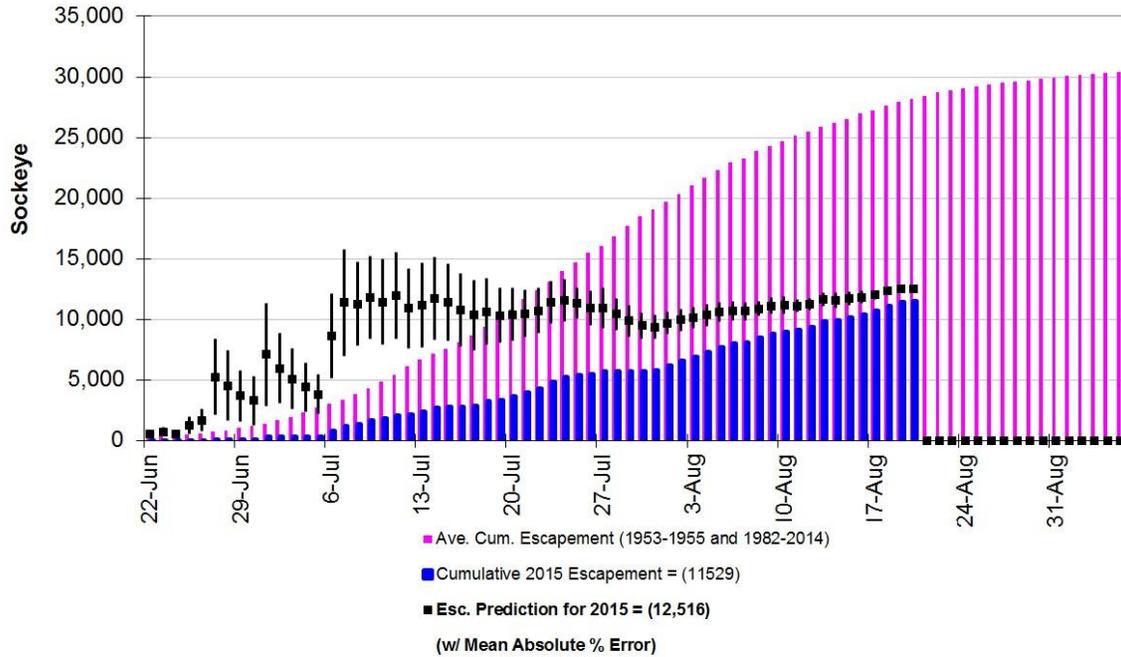


Figure 2. In-season predictions of the final Redoubt Lake sockeye escapement. Based on weir counts through 8/20/2015. The prediction dropped slightly because no fish were allowed to pass during the high water event.



Figure 3. Aerial view (2013) of the outlet lagoon of Redoubt Lake showing the typical locations of the picket weir, net weir and block nets.

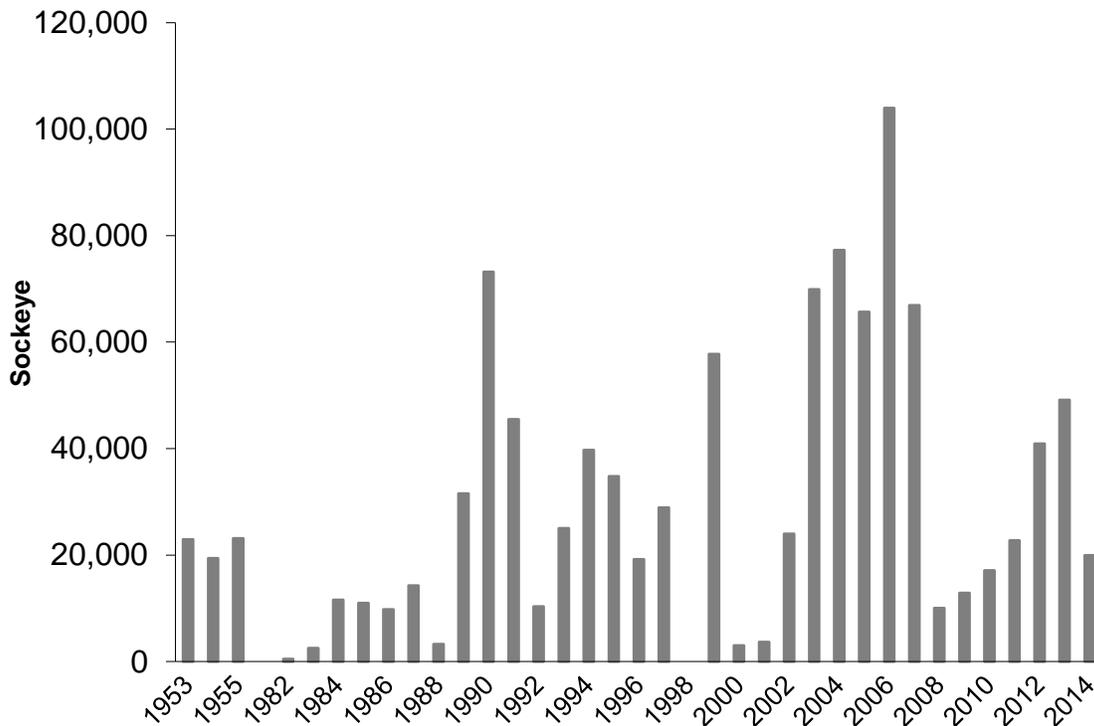


Figure 4. Annual sockeye expanded escapement into Redoubt Lake for years with data: 1953 to 1955, 1982 to 1997, and 1999 to 2014. The weir was not operated in 1998.

Falls Lake - The Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake operate the Falls Lake trap and video net weir which were operational June 30th. As of August 20th, 1,815 sockeye have been trapped above the fish pass while about 1,100 have been harvested in the subsistence fishery. Based on the annual average percentage of fish using the fish pass and fish video, we estimate the total escapement to date is around 4,200. The subsistence fishery is closed annually from July 14-22 to protect the early portion of the run. Little subsistence harvest has taken place since August 1st. The final escapement estimate in 2014 was 2,748 sockeye while the final subsistence and sport harvest in the marine terminal area was 1,542. Subsistence harvest accounted for over 95% of terminal area harvest.

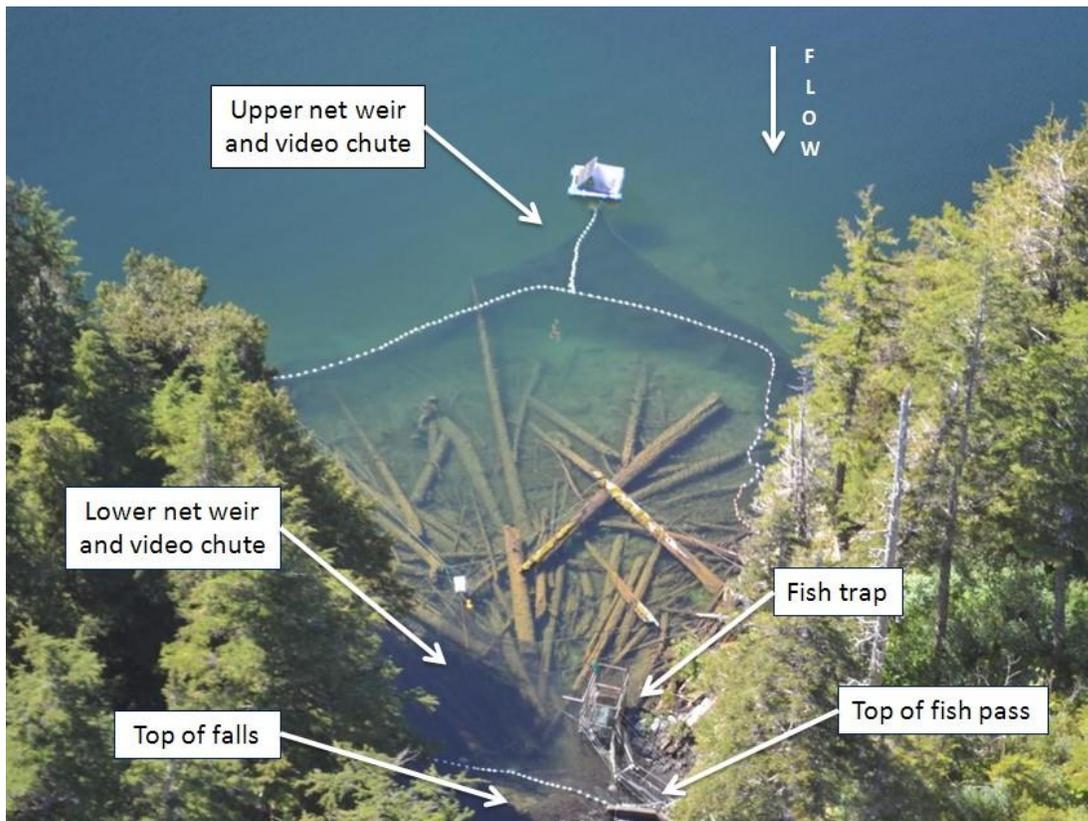


Figure 5. Aerial photo (2013) of the Falls Lake outlet illustrating the typical location of weir equipment.

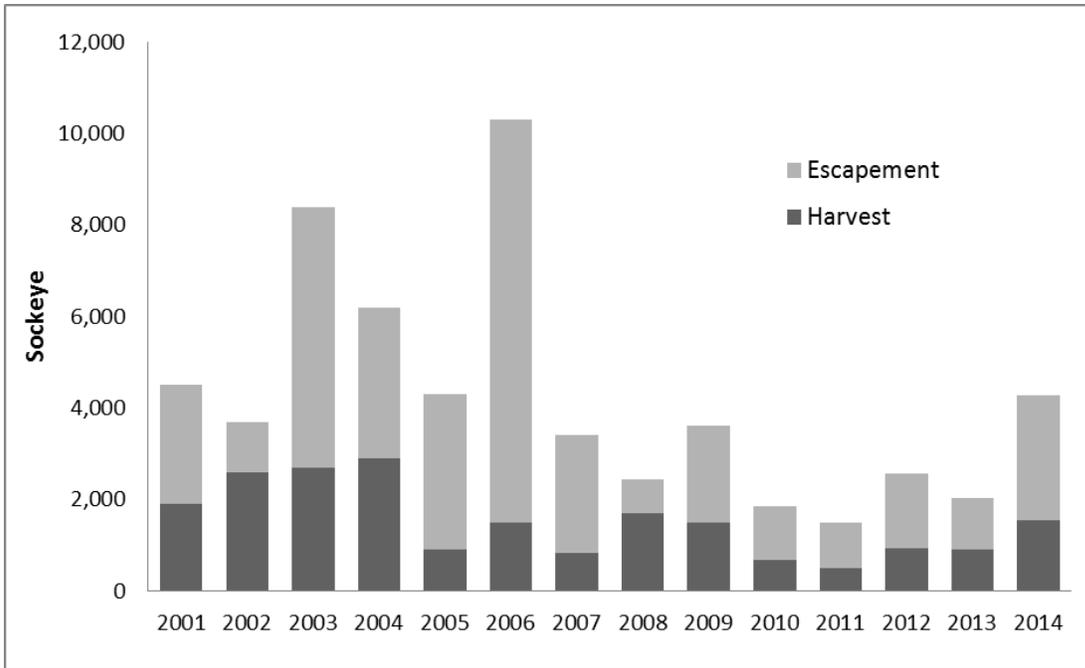


Figure 6. Escapement and harvest of Sockeye Salmon at Falls Lake, 2001-2014.

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

Reporting concluded for 2015 season. Please contact author directly with questions.

The following link is the ADF&G weekly salmon commercial fishery update for Yakutat and Southeast Alaska.

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmonfishery_updates

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

In the Yakutat area, ADF&G personnel operated the weir on the lower Situk River through August 5 before pulling it for the season. There were 94,484 sockeye salmon and 172 large Chinook salmon counted through the weir this season. The count of sockeye salmon was above ADF&G’s 30,000 to 70,000 biological escapement goal range. In contrast, the count of Chinook salmon through the Situk River weir is well below ADF&G’s 450 to 1,050 goal range. ADF&G has not allowed retention of Chinook salmon in their sport and commercial set gillnet fisheries and the Forest Service has not

issued permits for the subsistence take of Chinook salmon. ADF&G has also moderated fishing times in the set net fishery and closed waters near the mouth of the Situk River in an effort to protect Chinook salmon. This is the sixth season that we have taken management actions to protect Chinook salmon returning to the Situk River. The broad overlap in timing of these two species through the Situk/Ahrnklin set gillnet fishery makes it difficult to harvest sockeye without catching Chinook salmon. The count of Chinook salmon through the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans weir on the Klusku River weir was within goal ranges this year.

In the northern inside waters of Southeast Alaska, ADF&G projects that the escapement of sockeye salmon into Chilkoot Lake will be well within their 38,000 to 86,000 goal ranges. The Chilkat River fishwheel catches have been over twice the historical average and scale pattern analysis finds that most of these fish are mainstem spawners. The sockeye count through ADF&G's weir on the Chilkat River weir is projected to be within ADF&G's 70,000 to 150,000 goal range. Catches of sockeye salmon in the joint U.S./Canadian Taku River fishwheels are near the 10-year average and the escapement is projected to be above the goal range. ADF&G reports that the escapement of sockeye salmon into Speel Lake is now close to the lower end of the 4,000 fish goal range.

This week the commercial purse seine fishery fished a two-day opening on August 15-16 and a two day opening on August 19-20. Areas open included the Whitestone/Augusta, Tenakee Inlet, and Admiralty Island shoreline both north of Parker Point and south of Point Samuel. During the August 19-20 opening the harvest of pink salmon was about 18,000 fish/boat in the area, ADF&G anticipates a total commercial purse seine harvest of 30-35 million pink salmon this season and about 25 million have been harvested to date.

As of August 22, project personnel from the Hoonah Indian Association have counted and validated 1,199 sockeye salmon through the pair of video weirs at the outlet of Neva Lake. This run is about 80% over based on 11-years of weir counts. Angoon Community Association employees now have validated counts of 4,194 sockeye salmon through the pair of video weirs on Kook Lake. It is difficult to use historical weir counts to access the timing of this run since the migration of fish into the lake is directly affected by the commercial purse seine fishing effort in Icy Strait and Chatham Strait. The Angoon Community Association crew has also been counting sockeye salmon through the pair of remotely monitored video weirs at the outlet of Sitkoh Lake and 5,905 sockeye salmon have been counted as of August 16. At Kanalku Lake, ADF&G reported on August 13 that they had video weir counts of 1,570 sockeye salmon to the base of the falls and 887 (56%) into the lake.

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

There have been 245 permits issued for the 2015 Federal subsistence salmon fishery in the Southeast Alaska and Yakutat areas. Most effort typically occurs on Prince of Wales Island and is directed at Coho Salmon.

Subsistence fishing for Sockeye Salmon closed in most Prince of Wales Systems July 31st. The Klawock fishery closed August 7th and the Hetta/Eek fisheries will continue through the remainder of the month.

Sockeye Salmon weirs are currently active and fishing at Hatchery Creek and Hetta. To date 4,865 Sockeye and 958 Coho Salmon have passed through at Hatchery Creek. Total count at the Hetta weir is 3,678 Sockeye Salmon. Salmon are continuing to move into Klawock Lake with counts at 4,659 Sockeye, 19,111 Pink, 22 Chum and 9 Chinook Salmon.

Commercial fisheries within Districts 1-4 are in full swing. Total estimated harvests in these districts to date are: 533,925 Sockeye, 133,085 Coho, 7,836,600 Pink and 1,714,800 Chum Salmon.

Southeast Alaska Web Links

Tongass National Forest News Room <http://www.fs.usda.gov/news/tongass/news-events>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Southeastern Alaska Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Southeast.pdf

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order Link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R1>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southeast Alaska
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R1.home>

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

SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

Prince William Sound – Copper River – Molly McCormick, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve. (907) 822-7280 Molly_McCormick@nps.gov

The ADF&G sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the lower Copper River) was pulled on July 27 with a final estimate of 1,341,545 salmon. This estimate is 192% of the projected escapement objective of 700,490 for this date, or 641,055 more salmon. It is the highest escapement counted at the Miles Lake sonar since it started in 1978. An estimate of 4,386 salmon migrated by the sonar counter on the final day of counting.

MILES LAKE SONAR ESTIMATES (TOTAL SALMON)

Year	Estimate	Year	Estimate	Year	Estimate	Year	Estimate
1978	107,011	1988	488,398	1998	866,957	2008	614,999
1979	237,173	1989	607,797	1999	848,921	2009	709,330
1980	276,538	1990	581,895	2000	587,592	2010	924,010
1981	535,263	1991	579,435	2001	833,569	2011	914,285
1982	467,306	1992	601,952	2002	819,000	2012	1,271,354
1983	545,724	1993	797,902	2003	695,233	2013	1,267,060
1984	536,806	1994	715,181	2004	669,646	2014	1,218,418
1985	436,313	1995	599,265	2005	854,268	2015	1,341,545
1986	509,275	1996	906,867	2006	959,731		
1987	483,478	1997	1,148,079	2007	926,438		

Commercial harvests in the Copper River District of Prince William Sound so far are:

- 22,765 Chinook
- 1,556,223 sockeye
- 16,359 coho
- 80,364 pink
- 15,044 chum

The Chitina Subdistrict is open and scheduled to remain open throughout the rest of the season – through September 30, 2015. The state and federal fisheries in the Chitina Subdistrict usually follow identical fishing schedules which are set by the state. Eighty-two Federal Chitina Subdistrict permits have been issued on FWS's online data base plus additional permits that have been issued in NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity.

The Glennallen Subdistrict opened for Federal subsistence users on May 15th and is expected to remain open until September 30th. 297 Federal Glennallen Subdistrict permits have been issued on FWS's online data base. Additional permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity. The state subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict opened on June 1st.

The Batzulnetas Area fishery opened on May 15 and is expected to remain open until September 30, 2015. Four permits have been issued so far.

The Tanada Creek weir was operational on May 27. The crew has counted 7,637 sockeye salmon and no Chinook migrating through the weir as of August 23. The Long Lake weir started operating on July 28. One hundred twenty four sockeye and no coho have migrated through the weir as of August 21. Ten kids from the Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment (WISE) visited the weir last week and helped count sockeye escapement and check minnow traps. This was day 3 of the annual WISE Aquatic Ecology Camp held in Copper Basin.



WISE kids counting salmon at the Long Lake weir. The weir's underwater camera records fish passage 24 hours a day and the salmon migration through the weir can be counted from the monitor inside a tent. The entire recording operation runs on solar power.



The WISE kids also collected freshwater snail shells in the creek in front of the weir and checked out a minnow trap in Long Lake that contained 4 slimy sculpin, *Cottus cognatus*.

The two project fishwheels in Baird Canyon operated by the Native Village of Eyak tagged 2,626 Chinook; 128 were recaptured at the Canyon Creek wheels. The Baird Canyon wheels stopped operating for the season on July 10. The Canyon Creek wheels stopped operating for the season on July 26.

ADF&G's counting tower in the Gulkana River was installed on June 2. The tower stopped operations for the season on August 6, with a final count of 3,648 Chinook and 23,292 sockeye.

Effective June 20, 2015, by emergency order of ADF&G, the bag and possession limit for sport-caught sockeye salmon 16 inches or longer in the Copper River drainage increased from 3 to 6.

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

- delaying the starting date of the Chitina River federal salmon fishery and setting the pre-season schedule for the fishery
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 6 – July 12, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing, and providing the tentative schedule for future fishing periods
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 13-19, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 20-26, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 27- August 2, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing

Links

ADF&G Miles Lake daily sonar estimates

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon_escapement

NVE's Chinook Escapement Monitoring project in the Copper River

<http://eyak.fishscan.com/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>

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Subsistence User's Guide

<http://www.nps.gov/wrst/historyculture/upload/Subsistence%20brochure.pdf>

Prince William Sound Federal Subsistence Regulations including Copper River.

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Prince.pdf

Gulkana River counting tower – ADF&G

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

Link to article in the Peninsula Clarion about the smaller-than-average trend for sockeye salmon this season

<http://peninsulaclarion.com/news/2015-06-25/across-state-early-salmon-catches-underweight>

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

Copper River District opened at 7:00 am, Thursday, August 13 for a 36-hour commercial fishing period. For the week ending August 1, the actual Copper River delta survey count was 38,180 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range 32,568 – 76,979. Hatchery contributions from the period that closed on July 24 were 46% Gulkana Hatchery.

A total of 47 Federal Subsistence fishing permits have been issued for freshwaters within the Prince William Sound of Chugach National Forest to date. There are reports of anglers beginning to catch coho in the Eyak River and Ibeck Creek. Ninety-one permits were issued last season. Harvest by this year’s permit holders will not be known until reports are returned this winter. In 2014, 630 coho and 76 sockeye were harvested on Copper River Delta fresh waters in this fishery.

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

This will be the final Cook Inlet Area report for 2015. A harvest of 1,327 Sockeye Salmon for the Russian River Falls dip net fishery and a harvest of 65 Sockeye Salmon for the Kasilof River dip net fishery have been reported through August20. Harvest of 223 Sockeye Salmon has been reported in the Kasilof River experimental community gillnet fishery through July 31 which was the regulatory end date for the fishery. Totals of 140 Kenai River permits, 33 Kasilof River permits, and 14 Designated Fisher permits have been issued through August 20. Totals of 28 Kenai River harvest reports, 8 Kasilof River harvest reports, and 5 Designated Fisher harvest reports have been received through August 20. A summary report will be prepared for the Southcentral Regional Subsistence Advisory Council meeting in October and a final season summary will be completed in February 2016 after all harvest reports have been turned in.

Fish Counts through August19:

Russian River early-run sockeye (weir)	50,226	(count ended on July 14)
Russian River late-run sockeye (weir)	35,249	(count began on July 15)
Kenai River late-run sockeye (sonar)	1,532,041	(counts through Aug. 19)
Kasilof River sockeye (sonar)	470,410	(counts ended Aug. 14)
Kenai River early-run Chinook (sonar)	6,190	(counts ended on June 30)
Kenai River late-run Chinook (sonar)	23,542	(counts through Aug. 19)

Kodiak Island Area – Anne Marie LaRosa, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR
(907) 487-2600/0230 AnneMarie.LaRosa@fws.gov or
Kevin Van Hatten (907) 487-0230 Kevin.VanHatten@fws.gov

Reporting concluded for 2015 season. Please contact author with questions or to request additional information.

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

**Bristol Bay and Chignik – Jon Gerken – Acting Inseason Manager Fisheries Branch
Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office**
Jon.Gerken@fws.gov 907-271-2776

Reporting concluded for 2015 season. Please contact author with questions or to request additional information.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Bristol Bay Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Bristol.pdf

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Chignik Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/chignik.pdf

Southcentral Alaska Web Links

Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases
<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.R2>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

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

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

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

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

Fred Bue Fredrick_Bue@fws.gov

Emmonak Summer Office (907) 949-1798

The Emmonak Field Office closed for the season. Please call the Fairbanks office at (907) 455-1849.

Fall Season Outlook and Management Actions

The fall chum salmon run in the lower Yukon has passed the $\frac{3}{4}$ point of the run. Based on the in-season run assessment at the Pilot Station sonar the projected fall chum salmon run size is falling between 625,000 to 780,000 fish. This level of abundance should be adequate to meet escapement and subsistence priorities and provide for commercial harvest.

Subsistence fishermen had been heavily restricted during the summer season and are looking for fall chum to supplement their unfulfilled subsistence salmon needs. Subsistence salmon fishing has been relaxed in Districts 1, 2, and 3 to 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, restricted to 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear. In Districts 1 and 2, subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 12-hours before, during, and 12-hours after each commercial fishing period. Subsistence salmon fishing in Districts 4 and 5 has been liberalized to 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, restricted to 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear and fish wheels. District 6 remains on their normal regulatory subsistence fishing schedule.

Unfortunately, Porcupine River fall chum salmon stock abundance has been low in recent years when compared to other stocks in the Yukon River drainage. Fall chum salmon escapements into the Canadian Fishing Branch River, a tributary of the Porcupine River, have fallen short of meeting the escapement objective agreed upon by U.S. and Canadian representatives in 3 of the last 5 years despite other Yukon River stocks meeting or exceeding their escapement goals or objectives. In an attempt to improve fall chum escapement into the Canadian portion of the drainage, the department is closing subsistence salmon fishing in the Alaska portion of the mainstem Porcupine River for the 2015 fall season. At this time, Pilot Station sonar and genetic stock identification are not indicating an abundance of Porcupine River stocks that would warrant maintaining an open subsistence fishery on the Porcupine River.

Nine commercial fishing periods have been opened in District 1 and eight periods have been opened in District 2. The preliminary fall chum salmon commercial harvest in Districts 1 and 2 is 132,326 fish. This harvest amount is within the manager's expectations for the projected amount of available surplus. The preliminary coho salmon commercial harvest in Districts 1 and 2 is 62,356 fish. This is a much higher coho harvest than average for this time of the season and higher than expected based upon in-season assessment information.

Fall Season Assessment Information

Assessment through August 20th shows the cumulative CPUE at the Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) is 970.90, below the median of 1,145.90. The Mt. Village Test Fishery (MVTF) has a cumulative CPUE of 1,152.88, near the median at this date of 1,129.26. The Pilot Station sonar has a cumulative estimated passage of 405,250 fall chum, below the median estimated passage of 459,104. Taking into account the harvests below the sonar, the Pilot Station sonar reconstructed passage is 550,894 fall chum, below the median of 592,471. Five pulses of fall chum salmon have passed through the lower Yukon. The first pulse is passing through upper Subdistrict 5D and was detected by the Rapids video test fish wheel. The second pulse is near the village of Beaver, the third pulse is near Tanana, and the fourth pulse is passing through Subdistrict 4-A at this time. The fifth pulse hit the LYTF on August 19, and will be passing the sonar beginning on August 21. The Pilot Station genetic stock identification project is showing typical stock proportions.

Coho typically enter the Yukon River during the second half of the fall chum run. At this time the cumulative CPUE at the LYTF is 263.52, near the median of 270.19. The MVTF has a cumulative CPUE of 601.61, above the median at this time of 455.14. The Pilot Station sonar has a cumulative estimated passage of 41,480 coho salmon, below the median estimated passage of 63,250. Taking into account the harvests below the sonar, the Pilot Station sonar reconstructed passage is 81,297 coho salmon, near the median of 79,223. The in-season run outlook is for a near average coho salmon run with a potential for 60,000-80,000 fish available for commercial harvests. Managers have been somewhat confounded by the proportion of coho salmon caught in some commercial openings has been significantly greater than the estimated passage proportions by the Pilot Station sonar project.

Consultation

Weekly YR DFA teleconferences began on June 2. The final YR DFA teleconference of the season will occur on August 25. A review of the fall season management occurred during a Yukon Advisory Group (YAG) meeting Monday, July 13. The ADF&G fall season manager attended a fishery meeting in person, in Fort Yukon, on Wednesday, August 12, to closing subsistence salmon fishing on the Porcupine River. Furthermore, the ADF&G manager arranged and participated via teleconference in a discussion as an agenda item during a Tribal meeting in Fort Yukon on Monday, August 17 which gained local support for this action.

Kuskokwim River – Neil Lalonde, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Neil.Lalonde@fws.gov or
Robert Sundown (907) 543-1007 Robert.Sundown@fws.gov

Kuskokwim River

Summary: Taken from ADF&G Update #10

Coho salmon are the most abundant species in the lower portion of the Kuskokwim River, and ADF&G has shifted toward coho salmon management. The historical average midpoint of the coho salmon run past Bethel is August 8. Daily CPUE in the Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) has increased over the past week, indicating an increase in coho salmon abundance. Cumulative CPUE is below average for this time of year, indicating the coho salmon run is either late, weak, or both. Coho salmon are continuing to arrive in consistent numbers at tributary escapement monitoring projects; however, it is still early in the coho salmon escapement. Escapement is average to below average at monitored locations. There was commercial harvest opportunity for coho salmon on August 10 and August 17, downriver from Bethel. Total harvest and CPUE from the commercial opportunities were above average for this time of year. Inseason projections of run strength suggest that coho salmon abundance is adequate to meet escapement needs, provide for subsistence harvest compared to recent years, and allow for limited commercial harvest.

The first commercial harvest opportunity in District W1 was August 10. Total harvest was 3 Chinook salmon, 100 sockeye salmon, 366 chum salmon, and 23,335 coho salmon. Coho salmon harvest and CPUE was average. A second commercial harvest opportunity took place on August 17. Total harvest on August 17 was 27,535 coho, 100 chum, and 4 sockeye salmon.

Bethel Test Fish:

- Through the evening tide on August 22nd the cumulative coho index was 2,629, at this time last year the cumulative index was 4,495.

Kwethluk River Weir: Through August 22nd

- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 5,467, at this time last year the cumulative index was 15,863.

Tuluksak River Weir: Through August 22nd

- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 1,295, at this time last year the cumulative index was 5,094.

George River Weir: Through August 21nd

- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 2,255, at this time last year the cumulative index was 9,965.

Tatlawiksuk River Weir: Through August 22nd

- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 7,045, at this time last year the cumulative index was 12,965.

Kogruluk River Weir: Through August 22nd

- Cumulative coho salmon counts total 1,646, at this time last year the cumulative index was 8,970.

Management Actions:

A special action request was made on Thursday, August 20th to limit the commercial fishery in the lower Kuskokwim. The Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge acting manager declined to take action.

Yukon-Kuskokwim-Interior Alaska Web Links

Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases:

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

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Yukon–Northern Area

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Yukon.pdf

NEW = Kuskokwim River Updates Hosted on OSM Website

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/kuskokwim.cfm>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kuskokwim Area

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Kusko.pdf

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

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R3>

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

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

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Interior Alaska:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R3.home>

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

Northwest Alaska – Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, Nome.

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Norton Sound District

The silver run has picked up this week and the commercial harvest has surpassed 100,000 silvers for the second year in a row and the seventh time in history. The department forecast of 60,000 to 90,000 silvers in the commercial fishery has been shattered and this year's harvest looks to be on track to break into the top 3 greatest harvests that occurred from 2006-2008. The preliminary Norton Sound salmon catches this season are 1,100 kings, 150,000 chums, 4,000 sockeyes, 65,000 pinks and 104,000 silvers by 125 permit

holders. The chum catch finished 11th best in the 55-year history of the commercial fishery and was the best harvest since 1983.

Unalakleet (Subdistrict 6) and Shaktoolik (Subdistrict 5)

Commercial Fishing: Two 48-hour fishing periods a week unless changed at the request of the buyer. The schedule is from Sunday at 6 p.m. until Tuesday at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 6 p.m. until Friday 6 at p.m.

The commercial catch this season for the **Unalakleet Subdistrict** is 300 kings, 500 sockeyes, 33,000 pinks, 38,000 chums and 70,000 silvers. The silver catch is sixth highest in history. The 72-hour period that ended Saturday night on August 15 had one of the greatest single fishing period harvests with a catch of 18,000 silvers.

North River Tower – Camp J.B. - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has escapement goals of 1,200-2,600 kings; 25,000 pinks; 550-1,100 silvers (aerial survey); and no goal yet established for chums. Cumulative counts through August 14 were 1,900 kings, 22,000 chums, 455,000 pinks and 3,600 silvers. The silver count through mid-August is the second highest in 5 years. The average historical third quarter point for silver passage at the tower is August 23.

Unalakleet River Floating Weir – A cooperative project of Fish & Game, Native Village of Unalakleet, United States BLM and NSEDC with major funding provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management. The project is completed for the season. Cumulative counts through August 15 were 2,775 kings, 97,000 chums, 1.6 million pinks, 900 sockeyes and 41,000 silvers. The project started in 2010 and the silver count was the best in history.

The commercial catch this season in the **Shaktoolik Subdistrict** is 34 kings, 55 sockeyes, 14,000 pinks, 26,000 chums and 18,000 silvers. The silver catch through mid-August is the best since 2008 and is eighth highest in history.

Shaktoolik Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has no escapement goals yet established. Cumulative counts through August 13 were 600 kings, 27,000 chums, 400,000 pinks and 11,500 silvers.

Norton Bay (Subdistrict 4), Elim (Subdistrict 3), and Golovin (Subdistrict 2)

The Golovin, Elim, and Norton Bay subdistricts reopened for two 48-hour commercial salmon fishing periods from 6:00 p.m. Saturday, August, 15 to 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 17 and from 6:00 Wednesday, August 19 to 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 21.

The commercial catch this season in the **Norton Bay Subdistrict** is 225 kings, 250 sockeyes, 12,000 pinks, 24,000 chums and 6,600 silvers. The silver catch through mid-August is a record.

Inglutalik River Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC and ADF&G. No escapement goals have been established. Cumulative counts through August 10 were 1,400 kings, 68,000 chums, 825,000 pinks and 8,000 silvers. Silvers counts are above average.

The commercial catch this season in the **Elim Subdistrict** is 500 kings, 2,200 sockeyes, 4,500 pinks, 39,000 chums and 6,600 silvers. The silver catch is the sixth highest in history.

Kwiniuk River Tower – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has escapement goals of 300-550 kings; 11,500 – 23,000 chums; 8,400 pinks; and 650-1,300 silvers (aerial survey goal). Cumulative counts through August 15 were 320 kings, 38,000 chums, 102,000 pinks, 27 sockeyes and 2,200 silvers. The silver count is second highest in the last 5 years. The average historical midpoint for silver passage at the tower is August 15.

The commercial catch this season in the **Golovin subdistrict** is 60 kings, 1,000 sockeyes, 1,300 pinks, 17,000 chums and 2,500 silvers. The silver catch is sixth highest in history.

Fish River Tower - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have been established. Cumulative counts through August 15 were 2,300 kings, 145,000 chums, 215,000 pinks and 8,000 silvers. This is the second year of the Fish River project. The previous tower project at Niukluk River had an average historical midpoint of August 21 for silver passage at the tower and escapement goal range was 2,400 to 7,200 fish. Tagging studies have shown that one-third of the silvers go up Niukluk River and the Niukluk River escapement goal range would have been met this year.

Nome (Subdistrict 1)

Commercial Fishing: The commercial catch this season is 3 kings, 90 sockeyes, 550 pinks, 5,000 chums and 15 silvers. No more commercial fishing periods are expected. The chum catch was the best since 1987.

Subsistence Fishing: Beach seining is no longer allowed. Subsistence set gillnet fishing in the marine waters of the subdistrict is open seven days a week. There are no catch limits when fishing in marine waters. The fresh water subsistence area set gillnet schedule is from 6:00 p.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Wednesday and from 6:00 p.m. Thursday until 6:00 p.m. Saturday. Catch limits vary by river, and fishermen should check the backs of their permits. The chum salmon limit has been waived in the Nome and Snake rivers. A record of 515 Nome subdistrict subsistence permits have been issued so far season. The previous record was 494 permits issued in 2010.

Solomon River Weir – A Fish & Game project, has no escapement goals yet established. Cumulative counts through August 15 were 3 kings, 1,030 chums, 18,000 pinks and 30 silvers.

Nome River Weir – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has an escapement goal of 2,900 – 4,300 chum salmon and 3,200 pink salmon. Cumulative counts through August 15 were 20 kings, 5,800 chums, 75,000 pinks, 60 sockeyes and 70 silvers. The silver count has been lagging and is the lowest since 2009. The average historical midpoint for silver passage at the weir is August 29.

Snake River Weir – A cooperative project between Fish & Game and NSEDC has an escapement goal of 1,600 – 2,500 chum salmon. Cumulative counts through August 15 were 3 kings, 4,200 chums, 16,000 pinks and 75 silvers. The silver count ranks third highest since 2009. The average historical midpoint for silver passage at the weir is August 28.

Port Clarence District

Gillnetting and beach seining are allowed 7 days per week. All subsistence sockeye salmon catch limits have been waived on the Pilgrim River. Fishermen need to check the back of their permit for limits on other salmon. Pilgrim River has required subsistence permits since 1964 and a record 368 permits have been issued so far this season. The previous record was 265 permits issued in 2013. Salmon lake is within the Port Clarence District and the ADF&G opened to subsistence fishing that half of Salmon Lake that drains into the Pilgrim River.

Pilgrim River Weir –A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has an escapement goal of 4,000 – 8,000 sockeyes based on aerial survey at Salmon Lake & Grand Central tributary to Salmon Lake. Cumulative counts through August 15 were 97 kings, 37,000 chums, 2,700 pinks, 35,000 sockeyes and 125 silvers. The sockeye escapement was the best since 2007.

Kotzebue District

Daily commercial salmon fishing openings between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. were announced beginning Sunday, August 16 through Friday, August 21. Fishermen were limited by the buyer to a daily catch limit of 1,500 pounds.

The 2015 commercial harvest through mid-August is 255,000 chum salmon, and is half of last year's record harvest, but will likely finish third highest in the last 20 years. On Tuesday, August 11, 72 permit holders fished which was the most permit holders to fish in one fishing period since 1994.

Kobuk River Test Fish - Fish & Game project. The chum catch through mid-August is only half of last year's catch but ranks sixth highest in the 23-year history of the project.

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