Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

1 (800) 315-6338 (MEET) Code: 58756# (KUSKO)

ADF&G Bethel toll free: 1 (855) 933-2433

Meeting Agenda

Date: **06/17/2015** Time: **10:00am** Place: **Bethel**

Time Called to Order: Chair: Fritz Charles Time Adjourned:

ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM:

Upriver Elder:
Downriver Elder:
Commercial Fisher:
Lower River Subsistence:
Middle River Subsistence:
Upper River Subsistence:
Headwaters Subsistence:

QUORUM MET? Yes / No

Processor:
Member at Large:
Sport Fisher:
Western Interior RAC:
Y-K Delta RAC:
ADF&G:

INTRODUCTIONS:
INVOCATION:
APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *the agenda may be amended at this time.*
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Optional. ADF&G does not prepare official meeting minutes.*
CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- ADF&G Management Actions under consideration
- Overview of Kuskokwim River salmon run assessment\ discussion of ADF&G considerations: ***Update on Elder Fishery request***
  a. Test Fisheries (Bethel and Aniak):
  b. Weirs/Mark-Recapture/Aerial Surveys/Other:
- Subsistence Reports: Lowest river, ONC Inseason Subsistence Report, Lower River, Middle River, Upper River, Headwaters.
  - USFWS Lower River and Community Harvest Update
- Commercial Catch Report:
- Processor Report:
- Sport Fish Report:
- Intercept Fishery Report: *optional*
- Weather Forecast:
- Discussion of ADF&G Management considerations and discussion of possible alternatives (recommendations from the Working Group).
- Motion for Discussion and Action.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- BOF Bethel visit on June 24th
- King salmon subsistence harvest table- *Dave Cannon*

COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:
NEXT MEETING DATE:_____Time:_____Place:_____

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group
ADF&G Bethel toll free: 1 (855) 933-2433

Informational Packet

Information Packets *ARE*:

- **Intended to help inform Working Group discussions.**
- **To be viewed and used in context with Working Group meetings only.**

Packets *ARE NOT*:

- **To be viewed as standalone documents.**
- **A final say on fisheries management decisions.**

Please use this information responsibly:
Packet information is an incomplete snapshot of an ongoing discussion and changing conditions. Packet information should not be reproduced for any purpose other than to describe Working Group meeting discussions.

Misuse of Packet information can contribute to misunderstandings that can **cause harm to salmon users** and potentially **damage salmon resources**.

Ask Questions: ADF&G staff will be happy to answer biology and management questions. Please call **1-855-933-2433** to reach ADF&G Kuskokwim Area staff.

Attend Meetings: Each Working Group meeting is announced at least 48 hours prior to time and date of meeting. In addition, each meeting is recorded. Recordings can be found here: **http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.kswg**

Viewing the information packet while listening to meetings/recordings will provide a better understanding of the information presented in this packet.

Thank you.
Jennifer Peeks
Chris Shelden
Working Group coordinators

LOWER KUSKOKWIM RIVER INSEASON CATCH MONITORING REPORT:

Orutsararmiut Native Council (ONC)

June 15, 2015

Fishing reports from June 8-14th, 2015

Families Surveyed	Families Fishing	Drift-nets	Set-nets	Both	>6" Mesh	>4"-6" Mesh	4" or Less	Rod & Reel	Dipnet
46	**33**	7	13	13	0	20	26	0	0
		21%	39%	39%	0%	0%	%	0%	0%

Percentages are based on the number of families fishing each week.

Compared with this time in a normal year, how are catch rates for salmon this week?

CHINOOK			CHUM			SOCKEYE		
Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor
11	7	3	5	4	7	0	4	8
33%	21%	9%	15%	12%	21%	0	12%	24%

Percentages are based on the number of families fishing each week.

Does the salmon run timing appear to be early, late, or normal?

CHINOOK			CHUM			SOCKEYE		
Early	Normal	Late	Early	Normal	Late	Early	Normal	Late
2	10	8	5	5	6	2	4	5
6%	30%	24%	15%	15%	18%	6%	12%	15%

Percentages are based on the number of families fishing each week.

Harvest Goal Summary:

This week 7 families discussed harvest goals for this season.

Chinook harvest goals ranged from 12-20. Chum harvest goals ranged from 20-100.

Sockeye harvest goals ranged from 20-100. Coho harvest goals ranged from 30-100.

Two families commented on a total salmon harvest goals ranged from 60-150.

Ten families were not able to comment on a salmon harvest goals as this week.

Chinook:

One family will not be targeting Chinook salmon this year. One family was unable to comment on catch rate or run timing, because they have not caught Chinook. Many of the Chinook caught this week were bright sliver, but one was very red. Reported gender caught this week was mainly small to medium males and some large females. 3% of the families were unable to comment on catch rate and run timing this week. 18 out of the 33 families surveyed this week were permit fisherman. Half of the families fishing reported Chinook catch rates to be improving this week.

Chum:

12% of the families were unable to comment on catch rate and 15% were unable to comment on run timing. Many of the reports of the Chum are still bright silver and look like Sockeye.

Sockeye:

27% of the families were unable comment on catch rate and 30% were unable to comment on run timing, because they have not caught any Sockeye this season. Many of the families were concerned about the Sockeye returning as of this week due to the low catch rates. One family commented on the lack of Sockeye abundance that usually runs with Chinook this time of the year. Reported Sockeye that have been caught are still bright silver and healthy looking. One family reported not catching any Sockeye in Steam Boat slough, a usual strong run many families in Steamboat traditionally rely on to harvest reds. A few families are concerned that the leaking of contamination from the barges is causing this effect. Majority of the families surveyed this week still have not harvested any sockeye.

Comments:

Two families reported fishing between Johnson River and Fowler Island and one reported to planning on fishing in that area to meet harvest goals. 13 families have not started fishing this year. Some of the families have stopped fishing this week, because they felt their nets were being checked and cleaned by others. 12 families were unavailable to comment on the salmon survey this week, because they still have not caught salmon in their setnets.

One family reported catching rotting whitefish in their net. One family reported that the temperature of the water is colder compared to last year. Two families reported still not being able to fish due to motor problems.

17 families have reported receiving their fish camp allocation from the community harvest permit this week.

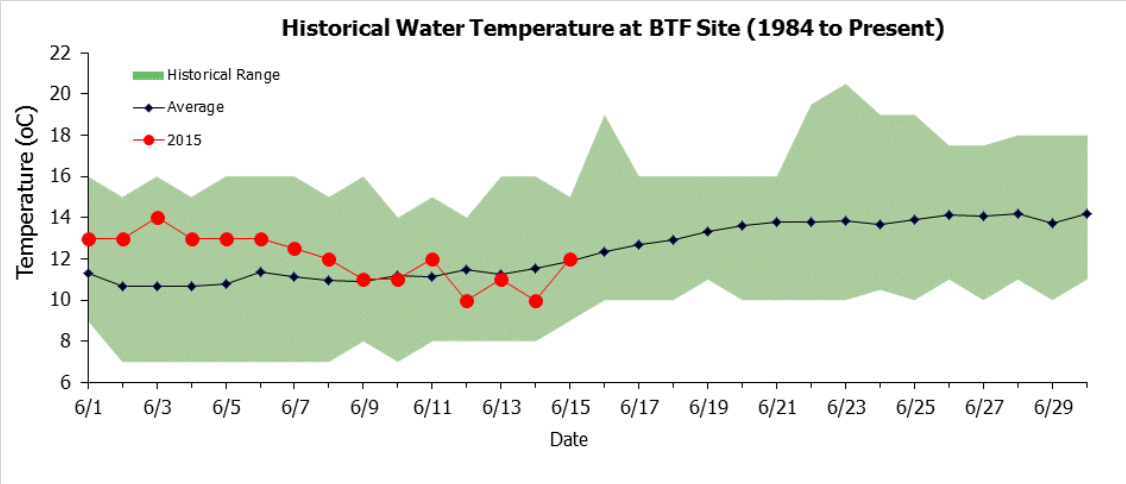
Surveyor comments:

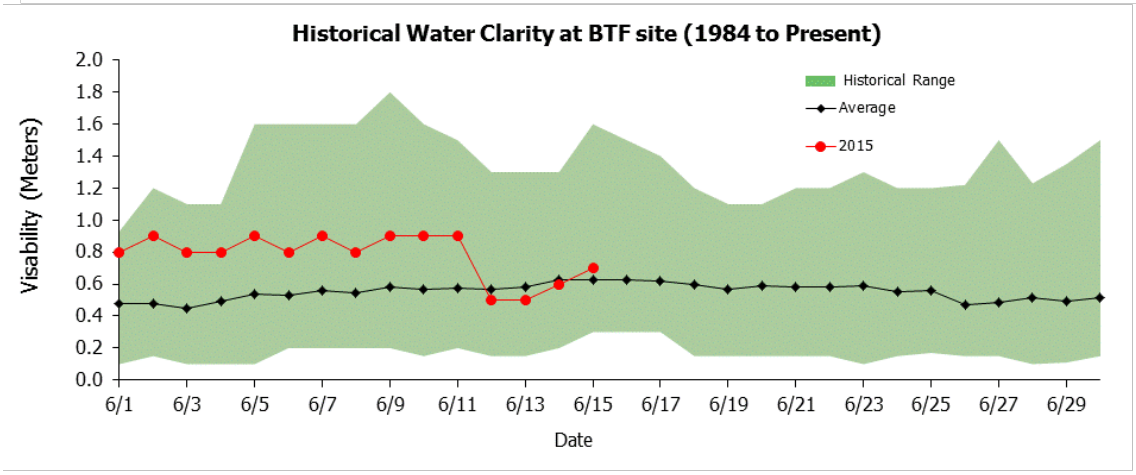
ONC Technicians have counted a total number of 176 setnets and 4 drifters. Of these 176 nets 66 were observed from the mouth of Kuskokuak Slough down to the bottom of Schwalbe Island; from the bottom of Schwalbe (including Strait & Steamboat Sloughs) down to the top of Oscarville slough there were 40 nets observed; and from Oscarville Slough to the “Choke point” sandbar 70 nets were observed.

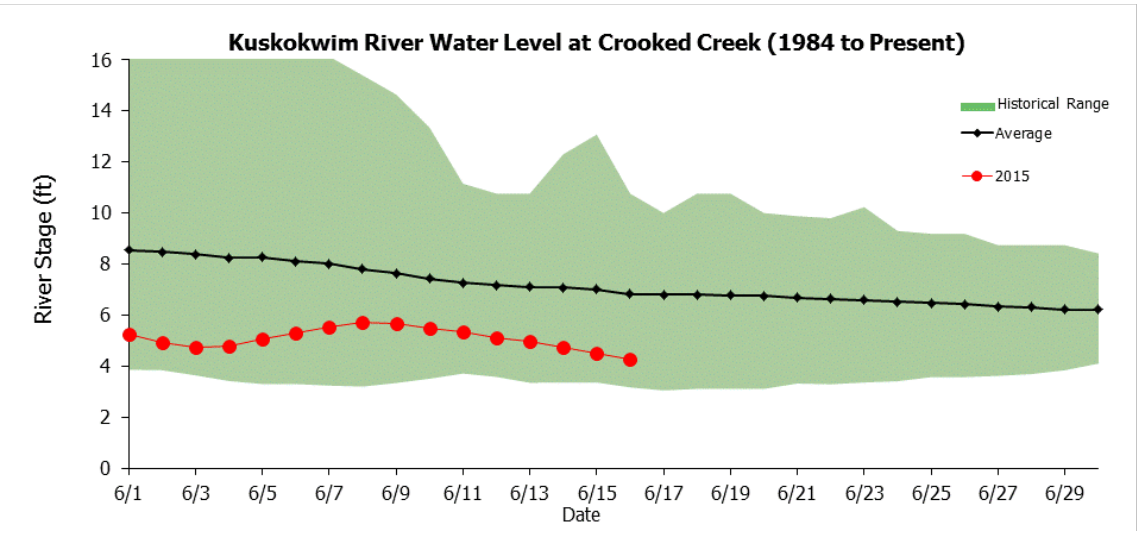
Surveyors have distributed 4 ASL kits this week and 1 set of ASL samples has been turned in.

ONC Fishery Technicians have distributed to the following locations: Lulu Herron, Prematernal home care, Ayalpik Apartments, Long Term Care Facility, and are continuing on the elder and disabled residential list. Fish were also distributed to Napaskiak slough fishcamp elders that have been on our survey route. Total number of distributed Chinook: 119, Chum: 19, Red: 7, Shee: 23, and Burbot: 6.

Informational Packet







Informational Packet

*To access BTF and weir data online, please visit http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.salmon#fishcounts

Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery

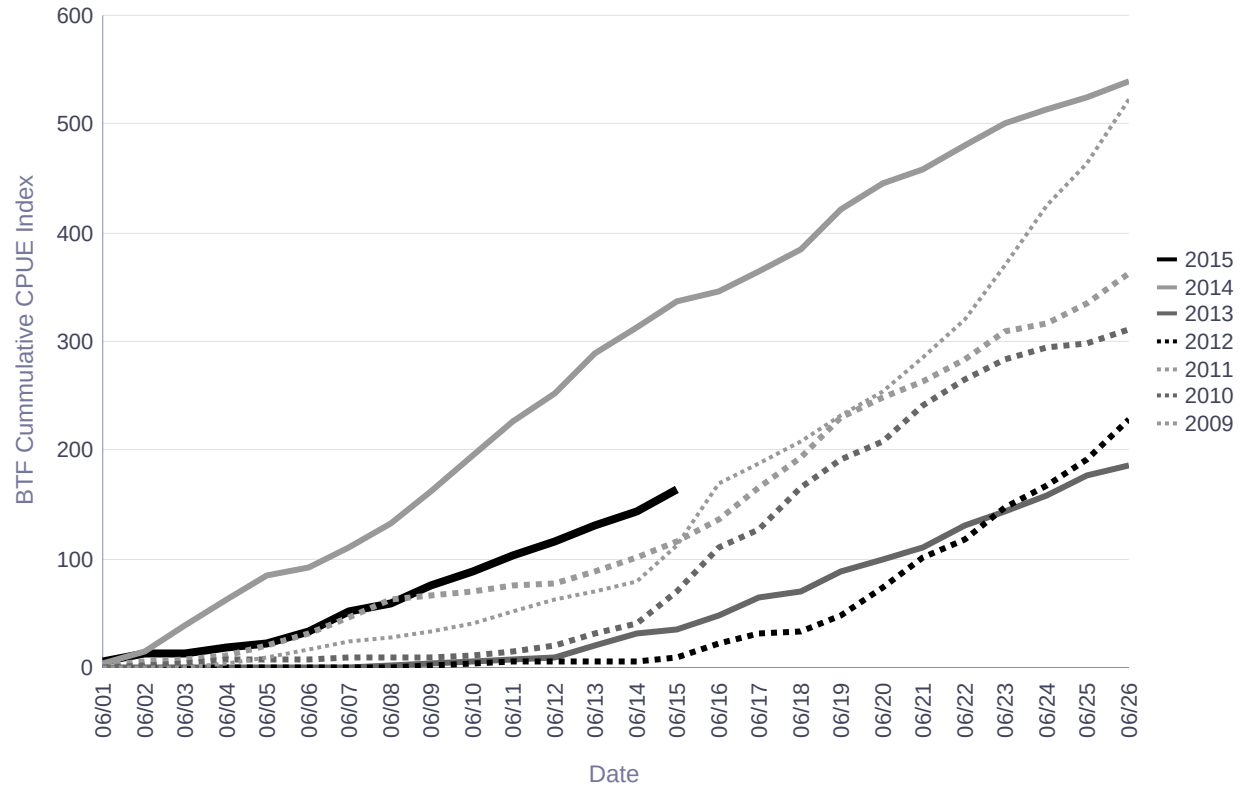
Bethel Test Fishery
Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

****2015 data are PRELIMINARY and not comparable to previous years due to subsistence fishing restrictions. ****

	CPUE						
Date	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
06/07	24	9	47	1	0	110	52
06/08	28	9	63	1	2	133	59
06/09	33	10	67	2	4	162	76
06/10	40	11	70	4	6	195	89
06/11	52	15	75	5	8	226	104
06/12	62	21	78	5	9	252	116
06/13	70	32	88	5	21	289	131
06/14	80	40	102	6	31	313	143
06/15	113	71	117	10	35	338	164
06/16	170	110	137	23	48	346	
06/17	188	128	166	32	65	365	
06/18	208	166	193	33	70	385	
06/19	232	191	230	49	89	421	
06/20	255	208	248	73	100	445	
06/21	285	242	263	102	110	458	
06/22	320	265	283	118	132	481	
06/23	370	283	309	147	145	500	
06/24	426	294	317	168	159	513	
06/25	463	299	335	192	177	524	
06/26	522	311	363	228	187	539	

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Season Total	705	458	579	418	261	650	

Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index Chart

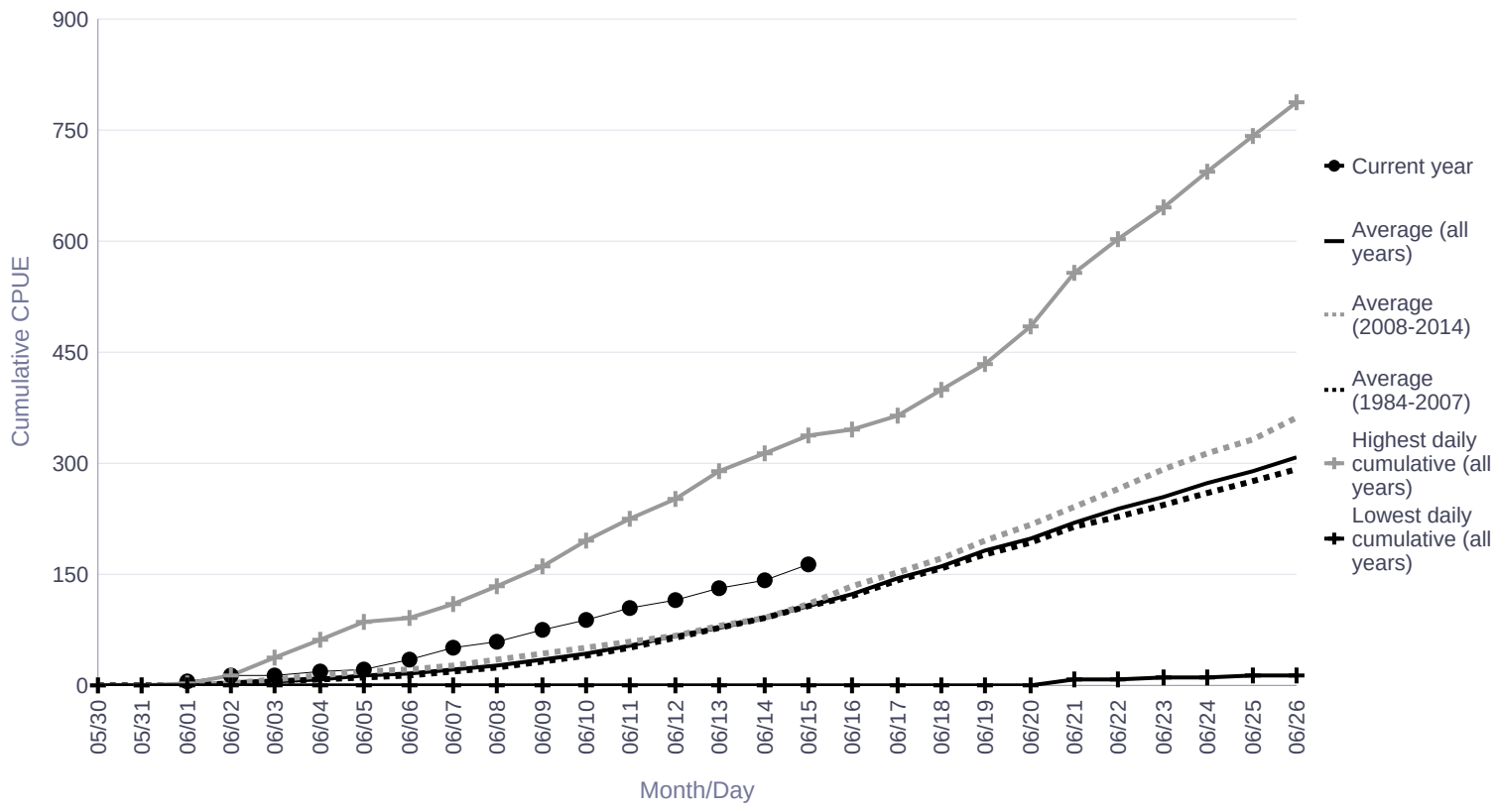


Resulting escapement relative to New Kuskokwim River SEG (65,000 - 120,000)
2009 - Achieved (+) no restrictions
2010 - Not Achieved (-) late tributary restrictions
2011 - Achieved (+) 15 days restrictions, minor reduction to subsistence harvest
2012 - Achieved (+) 35 days restrictions, significant reduction to subsistence harvest
2013 - Not Achieved (-) tributary restrictions and late main stem restrictions, significant reduction to subsistence harvest
2014 - Achieved (+) 30 days of restrictions, significant reduction in subsistence harvest

Bethel Test Fishery
Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	Average (1984-2007)	Average (2008-2014)	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current year
06/07	0.00	20.62	18.38	27.87	110.11	52.00
06/08	0.00	26.92	24.38	35.23	133.16	59.00
06/09	0.00	35.11	32.83	42.47	161.54	76.00
06/10	0.00	43.99	41.58	51.82	195.41	89.00
06/11	0.00	54.33	52.54	60.05	225.72	104.00
06/12	0.00	66.05	65.50	67.51	251.67	116.00
06/13	0.00	77.76	76.96	80.08	288.77	131.00
06/14	0.00	91.83	92.04	90.66	312.92	143.00
06/15	0.00	107.54	106.29	111.38	337.73	164.00
06/16	0.00	124.50	121.17	135.49	345.77	
06/17	0.00	144.16	141.13	154.13	364.57	
06/18	0.00	161.63	158.75	171.09	399.00	
06/19	0.00	181.53	177.17	196.06	433.00	
06/20	1.00	199.58	194.17	217.70	486.00	
06/21	8.00	220.38	214.04	241.67	558.00	
06/22	8.00	237.43	229.00	265.90	602.00	
06/23	11.00	255.27	244.08	293.21	646.00	
06/24	11.00	272.12	259.67	314.38	694.00	
06/25	15.00	289.09	276.21	332.80	741.00	
06/26	15.00	307.26	291.54	360.72	788.00	

Current Year: 2015



Informational Packet

Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery

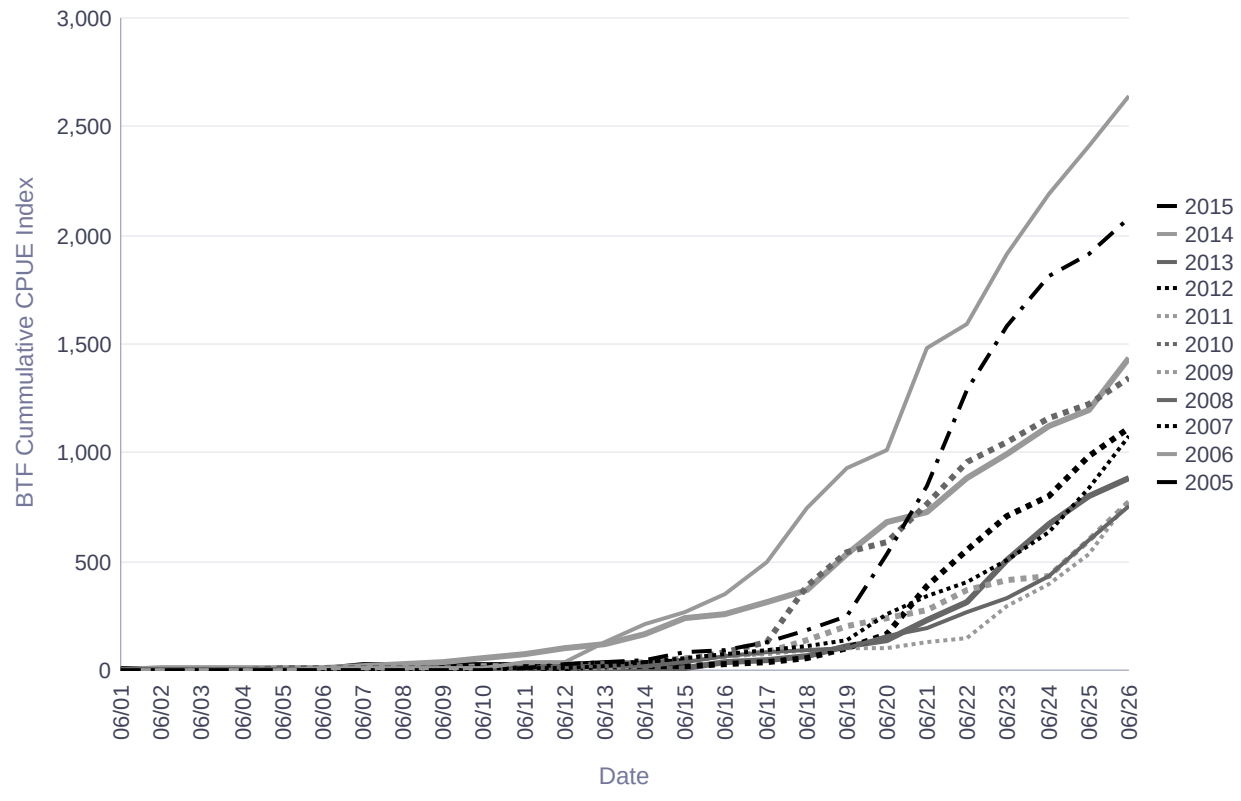
Bethel Test Fishery
Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

****2015 data are PRELIMINARY and not comparable to previous years due to subsistence fishing restrictions. ****

	CPUE										
Date	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
06/07	0	9	3	0	4	7	3	3	0	21	16
06/08	0	12	3	6	5	7	6	3	0	26	16
06/09	0	12	3	9	8	7	12	3	0	39	19
06/10	0	15	9	9	8	10	18	8	0	60	19
06/11	13	35	12	12	8	10	23	8	0	76	19
06/12	25	41	12	18	11	16	23	8	0	105	22
06/13	39	133	24	18	14	27	31	16	4	125	25
06/14	50	210	35	21	20	33	40	24	4	169	28
06/15	88	266	58	42	41	52	61	24	14	236	36
06/16	96	350	75	67	69	87	64	27	37	255	
06/17	131	499	94	81	74	134	86	42	48	316	
06/18	188	747	111	95	90	387	136	57	69	365	
06/19	252	926	139	106	98	543	200	99	115	532	
06/20	537	1,011	258	161	104	589	242	171	139	686	
06/21	844	1,481	344	190	134	765	277	387	235	731	
06/22	1,288	1,594	408	264	148	955	372	553	313	886	
06/23	1,587	1,915	507	337	300	1,050	415	705	511	995	
06/24	1,816	2,187	633	437	396	1,164	434	798	669	1,120	
06/25	1,917	2,410	841	598	531	1,225	598	989	805	1,195	
06/26	2,076	2,645	1,075	754	782	1,340	770	1,110	881	1,434	

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Season Total	18,192	13,927	10,655	6,749	8,257	7,655	10,028	6,894	5,739	6,345	

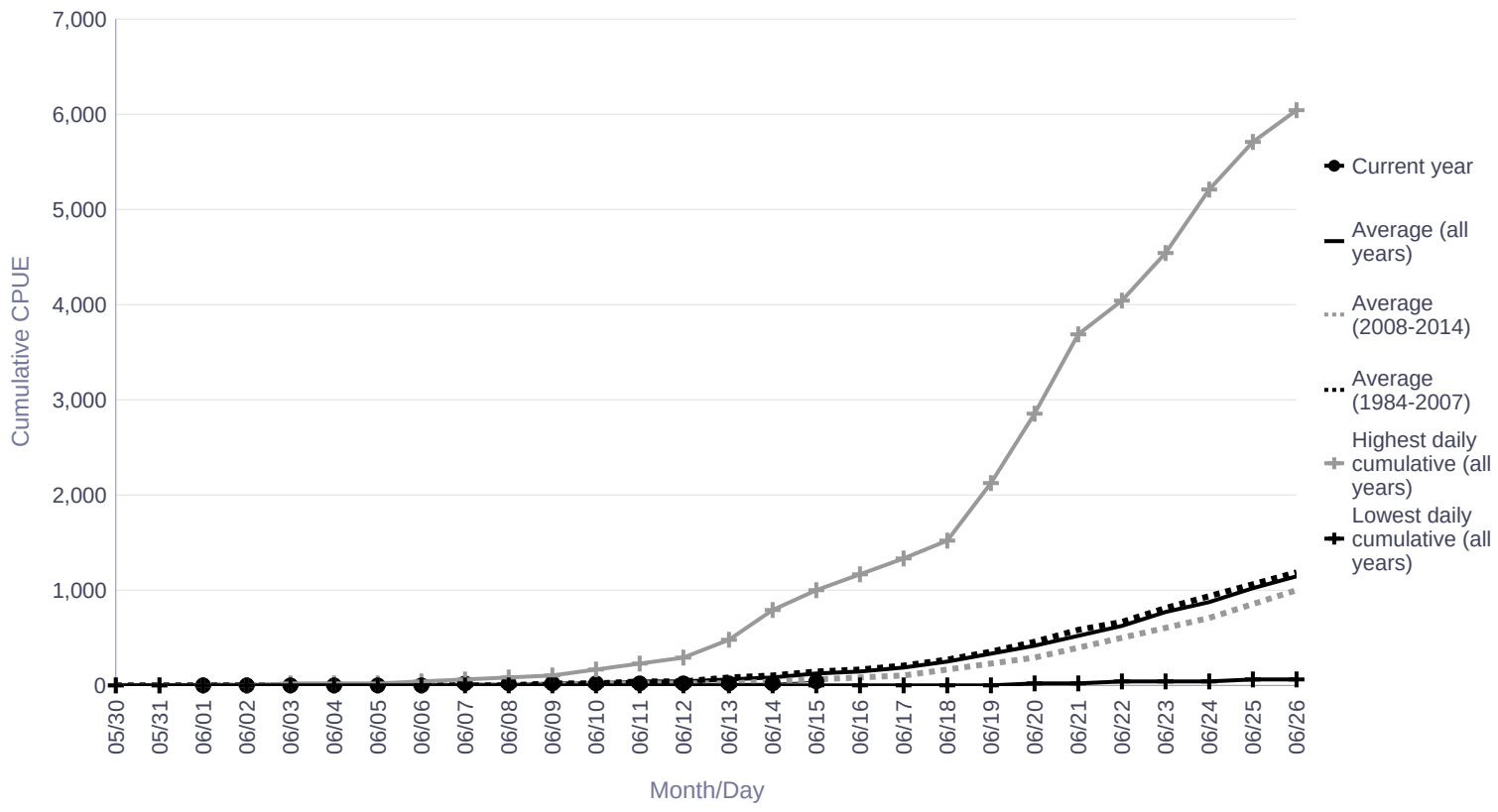
Bethel Test Fishery, Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE thru 06/26



Bethel Test Fishery
Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	Average (1984-2007)	Average (2008-2014)	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current year
06/07	0.00	8.34	9.14	5.43	56.00	16.00
06/08	0.00	11.34	12.39	7.59	79.00	16.00
06/09	0.00	18.54	20.64	11.16	114.00	19.00
06/10	0.00	24.71	27.14	16.19	168.00	19.00
06/11	0.00	34.82	39.23	19.56	235.00	19.00
06/12	0.00	46.54	52.52	25.86	300.00	22.00
06/13	3.00	67.78	77.68	33.66	475.00	25.00
06/14	3.00	91.48	105.14	44.49	796.00	28.00
06/15	6.00	125.54	142.52	67.17	1,000.00	36.00
06/16	9.00	155.27	175.27	86.56	1,168.00	
06/17	9.00	195.07	219.35	111.64	1,339.00	
06/18	9.00	258.49	283.85	171.38	1,526.00	
06/19	9.00	335.91	363.31	241.82	2,120.00	
06/20	18.00	416.79	451.14	298.85	2,862.00	
06/21	30.00	533.24	575.43	388.39	3,682.00	
06/22	36.00	633.14	672.27	498.82	4,039.00	
06/23	39.00	764.47	807.73	616.02	4,537.00	
06/24	50.00	886.11	935.43	716.84	5,202.00	
06/25	56.00	1,020.54	1,070.64	848.60	5,715.00	
06/26	56.00	1,146.40	1,186.06	1,010.24	6,040.00	

Current Year: 2015



Informational Packet

Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery

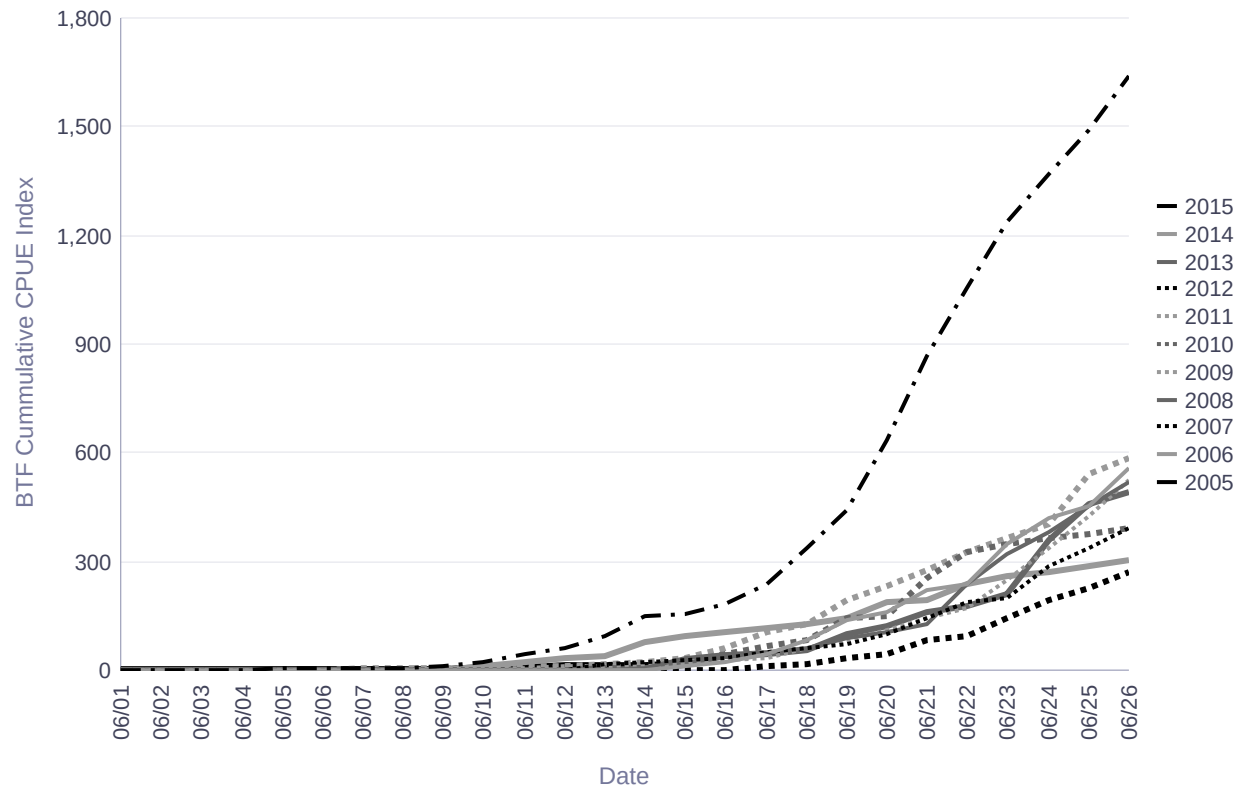
Bethel Test Fishery
Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

****2015 data are PRELIMINARY and not comparable to previous years due to subsistence fishing restrictions. ****

	CPUE										
Date	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
06/07	6	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	3
06/08	6	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	3
06/09	11	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	3
06/10	22	0	0	0	4	0	7	0	0	10	6
06/11	46	0	0	0	7	0	10	0	0	21	9
06/12	63	3	3	0	10	3	13	0	0	36	12
06/13	96	3	17	3	13	6	16	0	3	42	12
06/14	149	3	22	6	13	6	25	0	6	78	12
06/15	154	11	30	35	15	21	34	0	15	97	20
06/16	181	24	36	46	30	47	63	3	37	108	
06/17	236	43	50	49	33	66	103	12	45	115	
06/18	336	81	60	63	61	85	127	15	56	126	
06/19	444	137	74	88	85	143	192	32	102	142	
06/20	634	161	98	103	112	150	233	45	123	188	
06/21	866	219	147	129	145	252	275	83	162	193	
06/22	1,056	239	186	238	170	324	327	94	179	239	
06/23	1,239	350	197	322	250	348	366	146	213	262	
06/24	1,370	422	290	382	339	367	401	194	358	271	
06/25	1,489	454	338	456	428	375	544	225	461	286	
06/26	1,640	556	393	519	527	394	587	269	492	303	

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Season Total	3,019	2,139	1,521	1,713	1,520	1,375	1,518	1,171	1,148	1,367	

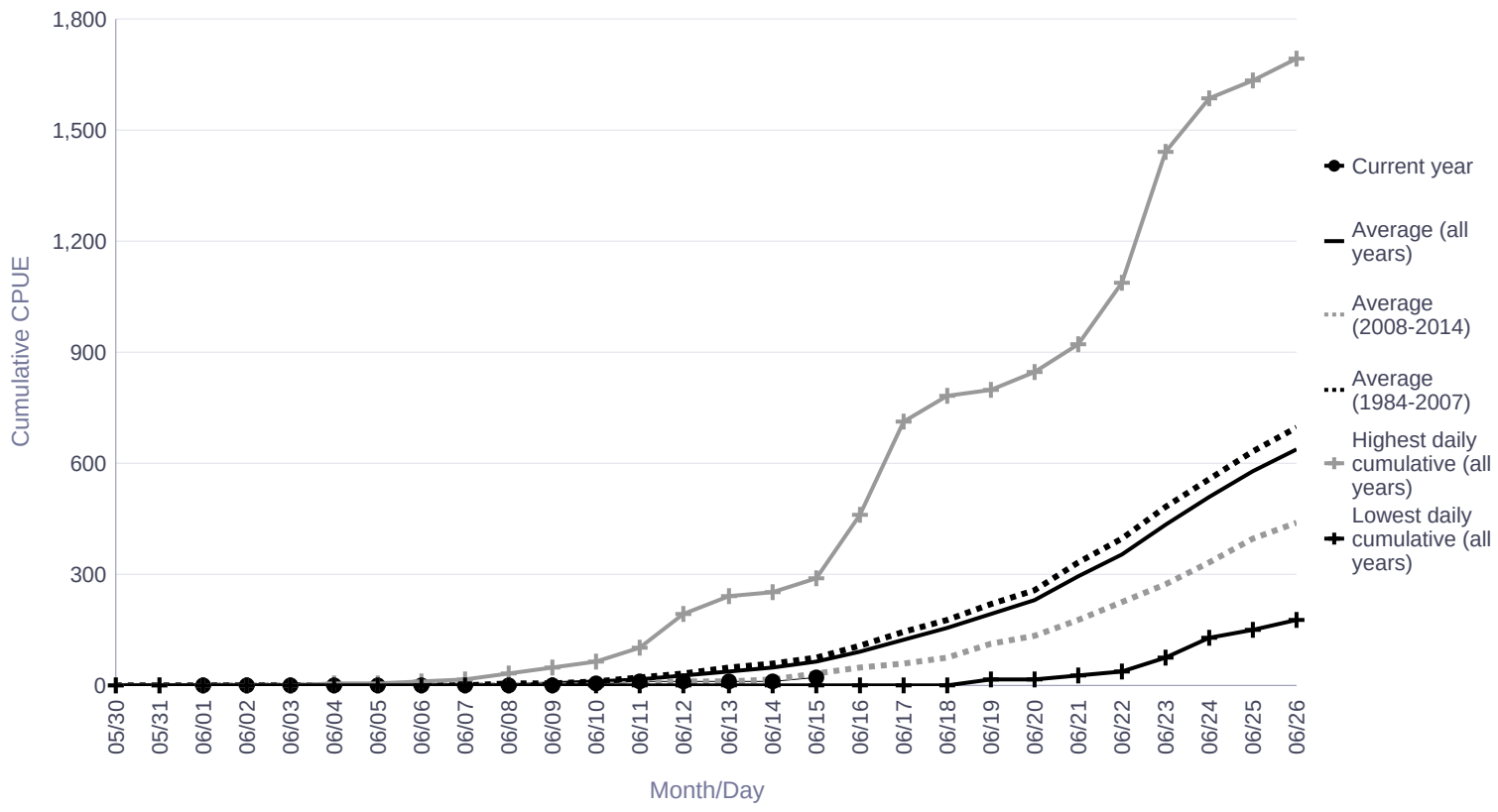
Bethel Test Fishery, Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE thru 06/26



Bethel Test Fishery
Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	Average (1984-2007)	Average (2008-2014)	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current year
06/07	0.00	1.79	2.15	0.57	18.00	3.00
06/08	0.00	3.21	3.95	0.71	35.00	3.00
06/09	0.00	5.95	7.36	1.14	48.00	3.00
06/10	0.00	10.13	12.20	3.06	64.00	6.00
06/11	0.00	18.69	22.57	5.41	105.00	9.00
06/12	0.00	29.10	34.99	8.92	192.00	12.00
06/13	0.00	40.32	48.65	11.75	241.00	12.00
06/14	0.00	51.35	60.78	19.05	250.00	12.00
06/15	0.00	65.39	75.45	30.95	292.00	20.00
06/16	0.00	93.53	106.90	47.71	460.00	
06/17	0.00	125.56	144.53	60.53	712.00	
06/18	3.00	156.23	179.61	76.08	781.00	
06/19	16.00	195.94	220.45	111.96	798.00	
06/20	16.00	231.31	259.03	136.28	845.00	
06/21	28.00	295.91	330.61	176.97	921.00	
06/22	39.00	356.09	394.49	224.48	1,087.00	
06/23	75.00	435.51	483.07	272.48	1,442.00	
06/24	128.00	507.66	559.40	330.27	1,584.00	
06/25	151.00	579.48	632.86	396.49	1,633.00	
06/26	180.00	637.58	694.74	441.64	1,695.00	

Current Year: 2015



Aniak Test Fishery 2015

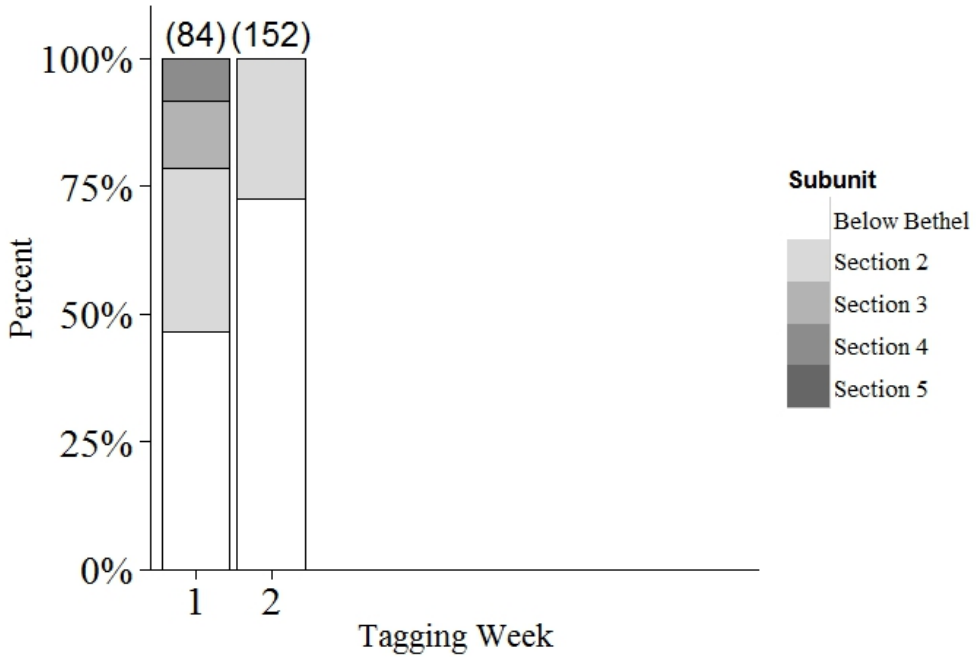
Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index		
	Daily	**Cumulative**
6/1	19.56	19.56
6/2	17.78	37.34
6/3	0.00	37.34
6/4	26.44	63.78
6/5	0.00	63.78
6/6	0.00	63.78
6/7	16.48	80.26
6/8	17.31	97.57
6/9	17.41	114.98
6/10	33.68	148.66
6/11	36.71	185.37
6/12	70.10	255.47
6/13	37.12	292.59
6/14	89.31	381.90
6/15	69.95	451.85
6/16		

Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index		
	Daily	**Cumulative**
6/1	0.00	0.00
6/2	0.00	0.00
6/3	0.00	0.00
6/4	9.41	9.41
6/5	0.00	9.41
6/6	0.00	9.41
6/7	8.42	17.83
6/8	0.00	17.83
6/9	0.00	17.83
6/10	8.42	26.25
6/11	14.89	41.14
6/12	0.00	41.14
6/13	9.41	50.55
6/14	16.89	67.44
6/15	0.00	67.44
6/16		

Lower River Chinook Tagging

	Captured	Tagged	Chum	Sockeye	Notes
To Date	**346**	**342 (271)**	**4**	**3**	
5/28	3	3 (3)	0	0	
5/30	0	0 (0)	0	0	
5/31	0	0 (0)	0	0	
6/1	2	2 (2)	0	0	
6/2	1	1 (1)	0	0	
6/3	11	11 (11)	0	0	
6/4	3	3 (2)	0	0	Half Effort
6/5	21	20 (20)	0	0	
6/6	16	16 (16)	0	0	
6/7	29	29 (29)	0	0	
6/8	15	15 (15)	0	0	Half Effort
6/9	29	29 (29)	0	0	
6/10	29	28 (28)	0	0	
6/11	31	31 (20)	1	0	Half Effort
6/12	31	30 (19)	0	0	
6/13	35	34 (20)	0	0	
6/14	54	54 (21)	2	2	
6/15	36	36 (35)	1	1	Half Effort

Note: All fish received external tags. The number of Chinook salmon that received a radio tag is indicated in parentheses.



Note: The number of radio-tagged fish by week shown in parentheses. No data has been downloaded upstream of Red Devil or Holitna River (Section 5).

2015 Inseason Salmon Assessment Update for the Kuskokwim Area #2

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) works cooperatively with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and various Tribal or Community groups to monitor the health of Kuskokwim Area salmon stocks and provide data for inseason management.

ADF&G ensures that all assessment data are publicly available inseason. Detailed project summaries are prepared each week and presented to the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group. Management meetings are held each Wednesday at the ADF&G office in Bethel. Working Group meetings are open to the public, in person or via teleconference. Project summaries and associated meeting materials are available online by 5:00 PM Tuesday during the salmon season. In addition, select data are available daily by 10:00 AM.

Working Group Information
Packets: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.kswg

Inseason Bethel Test Fish and Escapement Monitoring Data:
http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.salmon#fishcounts

Chinook Salmon Tagging

ADF&G is tagging Chinook salmon downstream of Bethel near Fowler Island. The purpose of this study is to estimate the total number of Chinook salmon that return to the Kuskokwim River in 2015 and monitor the migration timing and speed of fish as they travel through the primary harvest areas towards their spawning grounds. Abundance estimation will be completed post season. Migration timing will be assessed inseason and preliminary results presented weekly.

As of June 15, ADF&G has caught 346 Chinook salmon of which 271 have been radiotagged. Daily catches at the tag site have increased considerably over the past week, which suggests the run is building in the lower river. Radio tagged fish are being monitored as they migrate upriver using aerial surveys and tracking towers located between Bethel and McGrath. Most of the tagged fish are still migrating through the lower portion of the Kuskokwim River downriver from the community of Tuluksak. Fish tagged during the first week of June are just now starting to show up in the middle portion of the Kuskokwim River between Kalskag and Chuathbaluk. Tagged fish are traveling on average 18.5 miles per day. The first considerable tracking effort upriver from Chuathbaluk will occur during the week of June 22.

ADF&G is conducting a Salmon Tag Lottery. Tagged fish are identifiable by a brightly colored plastic tag attached to their back, and a metal antennae coming out of their mouth. *It is okay if you harvest one of these tagged fish*. If you do, please call 1-800-267-2104 and return the radio tag to the ADF&G office in Bethel. In appreciation, you will be entered into the monthly Lottery and eligible for a cash prize of $200 and a seasonal cash prize of $500. So far, 16 tagged fish have been reported harvested in the subsistence fishery. Thank you to all who reported catching a tagged fish – you have been entered into the June Lottery.

Bethel Test Fishery

Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) is the primary inseason run assessment tool for Kuskokwim River salmon and is operated the same way each year. The daily Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) is used to index run timing

and relative abundance of Chinook, chum, sockeye, and coho salmon. The data has only limited utility for estimating total run size or escapement. *The 2015 data is not directly comparable to prior years due to subsistence fishing restrictions*.

As of June 15, the cumulative CPUE for Chinook salmon is 164. The CPUE is above the 5 and 10-yr average for this date, but well below the cumulative CPUE observed in 2014 which was a weak run. Since 1984, the portion of the total annual run past Bethel by June 15 has averaged 22%. On average, the peak of Chinook salmon run occurs on June 22.

BTF data indicates that conservation of Chinook salmon is still warranted. Chinook salmon are still the most abundant species in the river at this time, as evidenced by the ratio of Chinook salmon to other species in the test fishery. There is considerable uncertainty regarding the 2015 run timing and abundance of Chinook salmon. Management actions in 2015 have restricted fishing during the early portion of the Chinook salmon run for conservation to achieve drainage and tributary escapement goals. When fishing restrictions are in place downriver of the BTF site, it alters the CPUE number and timing of Chinook salmon observed compared to prior years when restrictions were not in place. As a result, the 2015 data is not directly comparable to prior years. BTF catches so far suggest the run is late, weak, or both.

Sockeye and chum salmon are just now starting to show up in the BTF. Cumulative CPUE as of June 15 is 20 sockeye salmon and 35 chum salmon. CPUE for both species are below the 5 and 10-yr averages for this date, but within historical ranges. It is still very early in the run for both species. Since 1984, the portion of the total annual run past Bethel by June 15 has averaged only 4% for sockeye salmon and 2% for chum salmon. The 2015 sockeye and chum runs appear to be slightly later than average; however, we should start to see the runs build over the next few days. The peak of sockeye and chum salmon runs are typically the last week of June and first week of July respectively.

Inseason Subsistence Harvest Monitoring

Orutsararmiut Native Council (ONC) in coordination with ADF&G collect subsistence fishing reports from Bethel area fish camps in an attempt to understand salmon harvest timing and success. ONC staff visit area fish camps each week during the salmon season, share fisheries updates, and answer questions about research and management. In addition, this project provides an opportunity for subsistence fishermen to share information and feedback with managers. Project updates will be provided every Wednesday by ONC to the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group.

Lower Kuskokwim River Chinook Age, Sex, Length Sampling

Since 2001, ADF&G and ONC have partnered to recruit lower river residents to sample age, sex, and length (ASL) from Chinook salmon harvested for subsistence. Sampling is easy, you get paid for your time, all information is confidential, and you get to keep your fish. All lower river communities have been notified of this sampling opportunity by phone, mail, and Delta Discovery newspaper. The first sampling workshop was held in Bethel on June 6th and another on June 9th. If you would like to participate in this program, contact Zachary Liller with ADF&G (907)-717-3419 or Dustin Wagner with ONC (907)-543-0523.

Aniak Test Fishery

The Aniak Test Fishery is operated cooperatively by the Native Village of Napaimute (NVN) and ADF&G. *The 2015 data is not directly comparable to CPUE observed at the Bethel Test Fishery*.

As of June 15, the Aniak Test Fishery has caught 54 Chinook salmon and 8 chum salmon. No sockeye salmon have been harvested. Cumulative CPUE is 452 Chinook salmon and 67 chum salmon. The CPUE indicates the run is still building in the Aniak area and Chinook salmon are more abundant than chum salmon.

Kwethluk and Tuluksak River Weirs

The Kwethluk and Tuluksak River weirs are operated by USFWS and used to index salmon escapement to the lower Kuskokwim River tributaries. Both weirs have been successfully installed.

George, Tatlawiksuk, and Salmon (Pitka Fork) River Weirs

The George and Tatlawiksuk River weirs are operated by ADF&G, and the Salmon (Pitka Fork) River weir is operated cooperatively with MTNT (McGrath, Telida, Nikoli, and Takotna). The George and Tatlawiksuk River weirs are used to index salmon escapement to middle Kuskokwim River tributaries. The Salmon Pitka Fork River weir is used to index salmon escapement to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River. All three weirs have been successfully installed. As of June 15, no salmon have been observed.

Salmon (Aniak) and Kogrukluk River Weirs

The Salmon (Aniak) and Kogrukluk River weirs are operated by ADF&G. The Salmon and Kogrukluk River weirs are used to index salmon escapement to the Aniak River and Holtina Rivers respectively. ADF&G staff will be installing these weirs over the next week. We anticipate both weirs will be operational by June 26.

Telaquana Lake Weir

The Telaquana Lake weir is operated cooperatively by ADF&G and National Park Service. The weir is used to index escapement for lake-spawning sockeye salmon. Staff will begin installing the weir over the next week. We anticipate the weir will be operational by July 3.

Kuskokwim Bay Weirs

The Kanektok and Goodnews River weirs are operated by ADF&G and used to index escapement to Districts 4 and 5 respectively in Kuskokwim Bay. Staff will begin installing the weir over the next week. We anticipate the weirs will be operational by June 25.

Kuskokwim River Sonar Feasibility

ADF&G is assessing the feasibility of operating sonar on the mainstem Kuskokwim River to count the total number of salmon by species. If the project proves viable, it could provide daily counts of salmon and greatly strengthen inseason management capabilities.

The feasibility efforts began in 2014 and are continuing in 2015. To date, two potential sites have been identified. One is located near the upper confluence of the Kuskokwim River and Church Slough. The

other is located downriver from the community of Akiak. Both sites have good bottom profiles, consistent currents, and few snags. ADF&G staff will be testing sonar equipment and drift fishing at both sites throughout June and early July. All harvested fish will be donated to local communities.

Submitted by the USFWS

Description of Netting Effort Survey Reaches

Johnson River to the Tuluksak River:
This includes all reaches flown in the aerial surveys and is the sum of the sum of counts observed in the seven reaches described below.

Johnson River and Napakiak:
The upstream boundary of this reach is just upstream of the village of Napakiak.

Napakiak to Napaskiak:
The upstream boundary of this reach is just above the villages of Oscarville and Napaskiak where the Kuskokwim River turns to an approximately north-south orientation. This includes the majority of the area called the "choke point". This reach also includes the downstream 2.5 miles of Tupuknuk (Napaskiak) Slough.

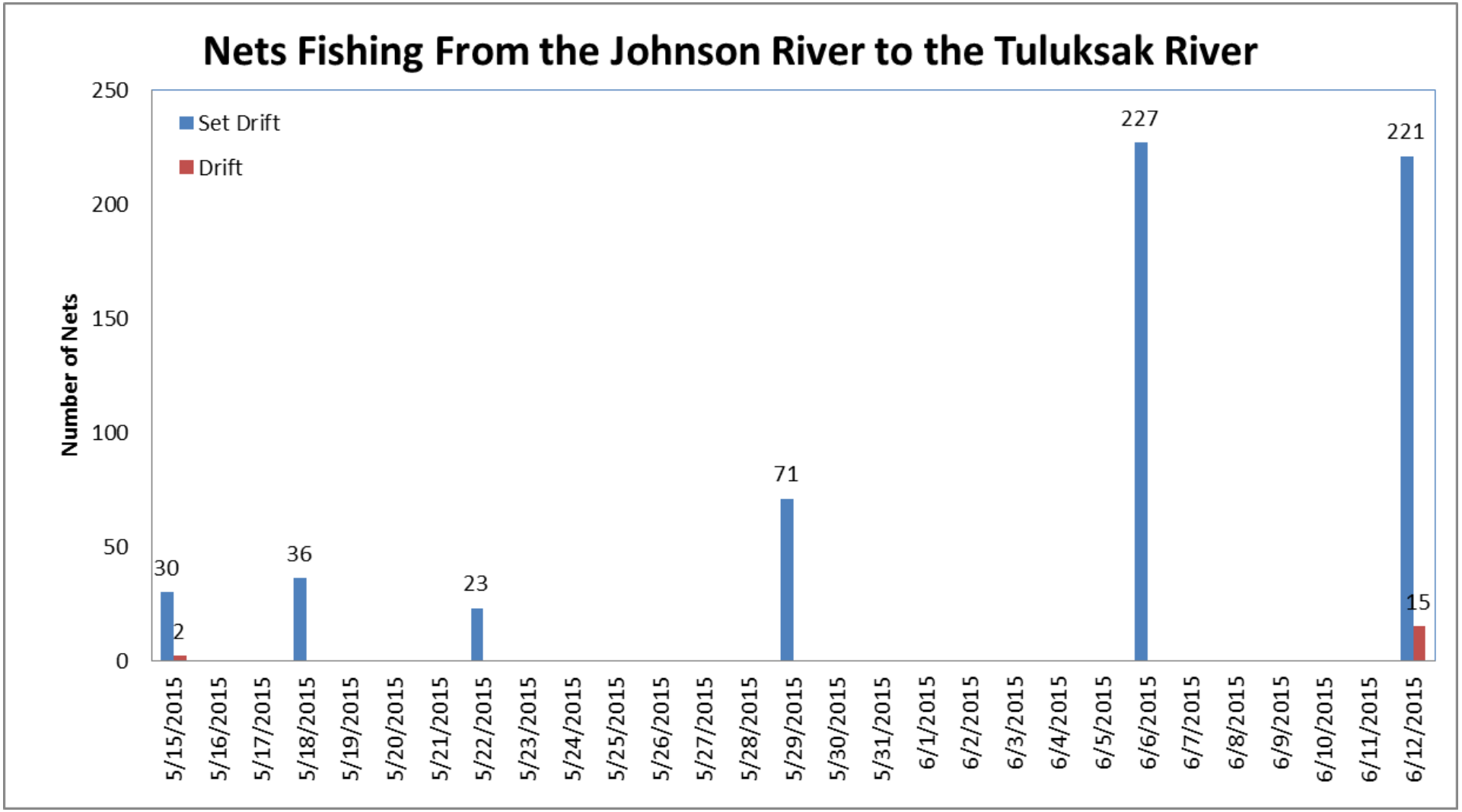
Napaskiak to Bethel:
The upstream boundary of this reach is just above the mouth of Browns Slough.

Bethel to Akiachak:
The upstream boundary of this reach is near the downstream end of the island that is located just upstream of Akiachak. This stretch includes Straight and Steamboat Sloughs and the stretch of the Kuskokwim locally called "Joe Pete's Bend" near the town of Bethel.

Akiachak to Akiak:
The upstream boundary of this reach is the upstream end of the island just upstream of Akiak.

Akiak to Tuluksak:
Upstream boundary of this reach is the upstream end of Nelson Island.

Kuskokwak Slough, Kwethluk River to above Birch Slough, Church Slough:
This reach includes the Kuskokwak Slough from upstream of the mouth of the Kisaralik River to the "Y" downstream of the village of Kwethluk, including the cutoff oxbow portion near the village of Kwethluk. It also includes the Kwethluk River from the mouth to approximately 7.5 miles upstream.


Nets Fishing From the Johnson River to the Tuluksak River
Number of Nets
250
200
150
100
50
0
Set Drift
Drift
30
2
36
23
71
227
221
15
5/15/2015
5/16/2015
5/17/2015
5/18/2015
5/19/2015
5/20/2015
5/21/2015
5/22/2015
5/23/2015
5/24/2015
5/25/2015
5/26/2015
5/27/2015
5/28/2015
5/29/2015
5/30/2015
5/31/2015
6/1/2015
6/2/2015
6/3/2015
6/4/2015
6/5/2015
6/6/2015
6/7/2015
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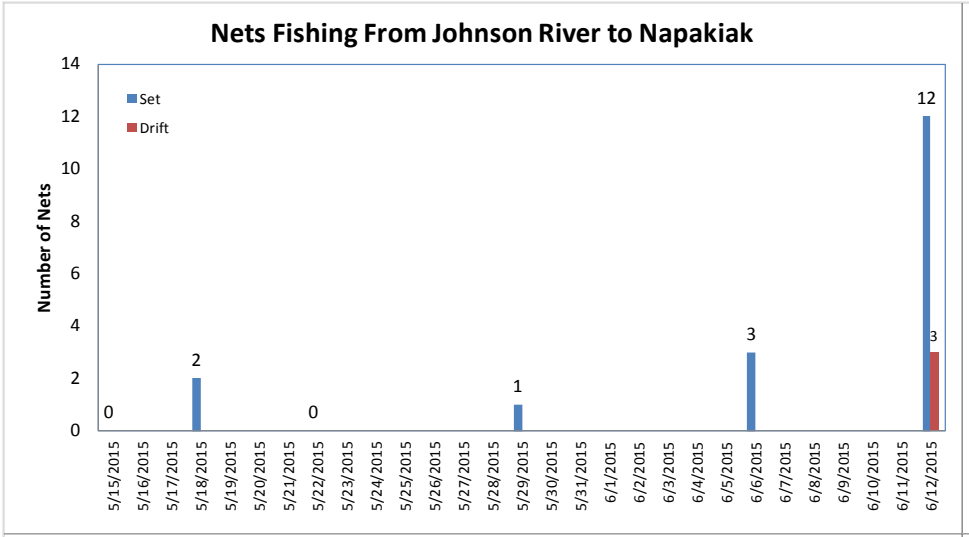
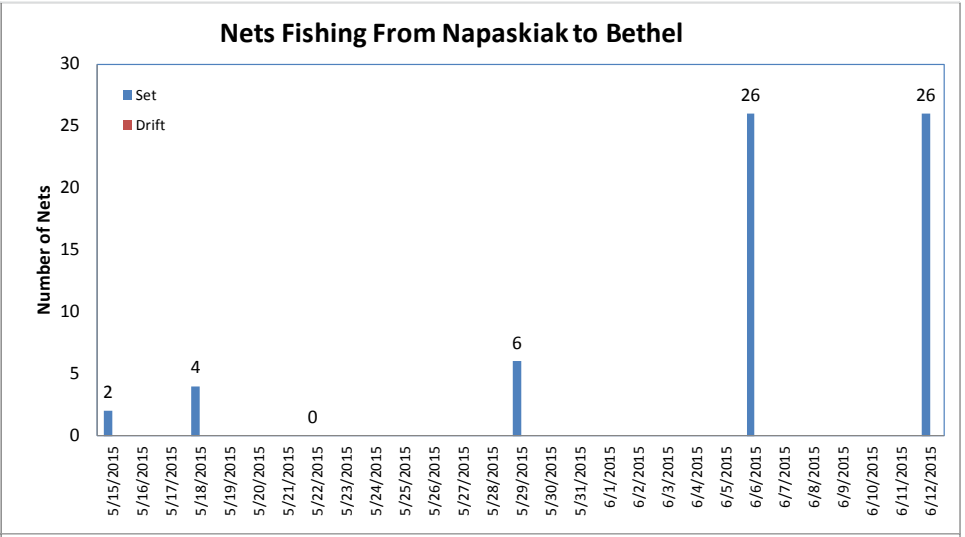
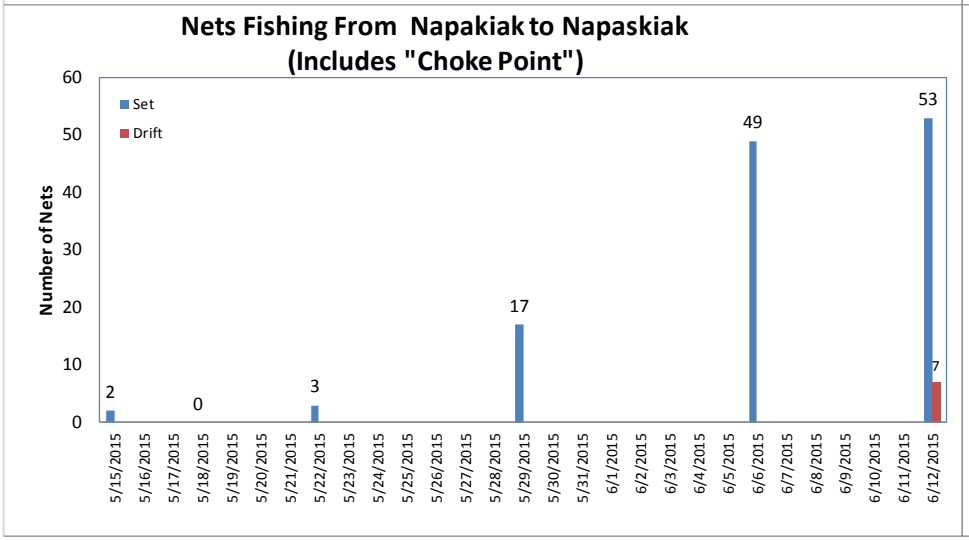
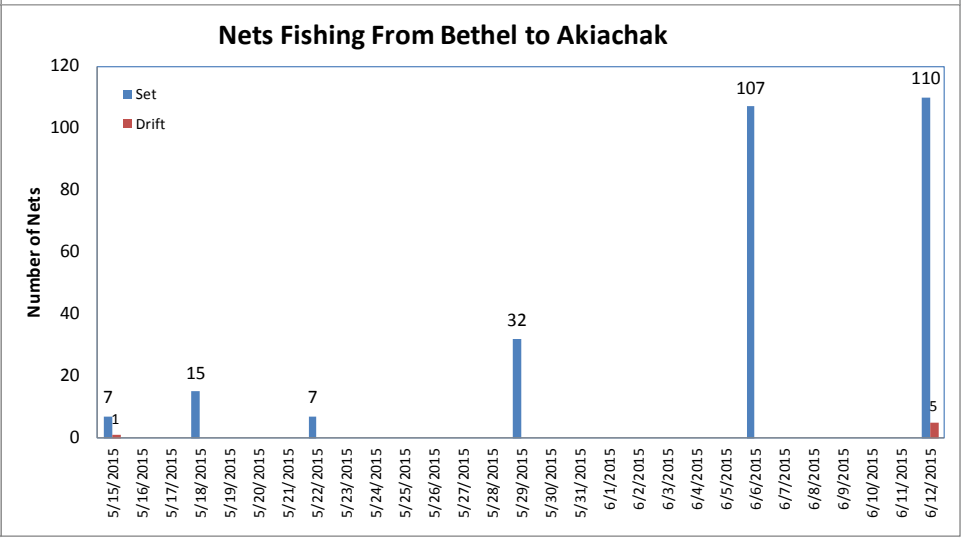
6/9/2015
6/10/2015
6/11/2015
6/12/2015

Informational Packet

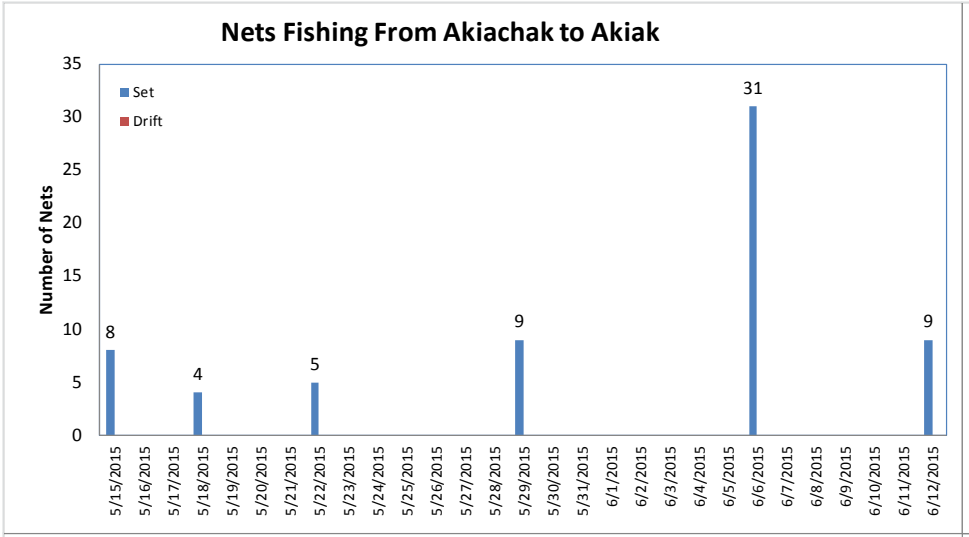


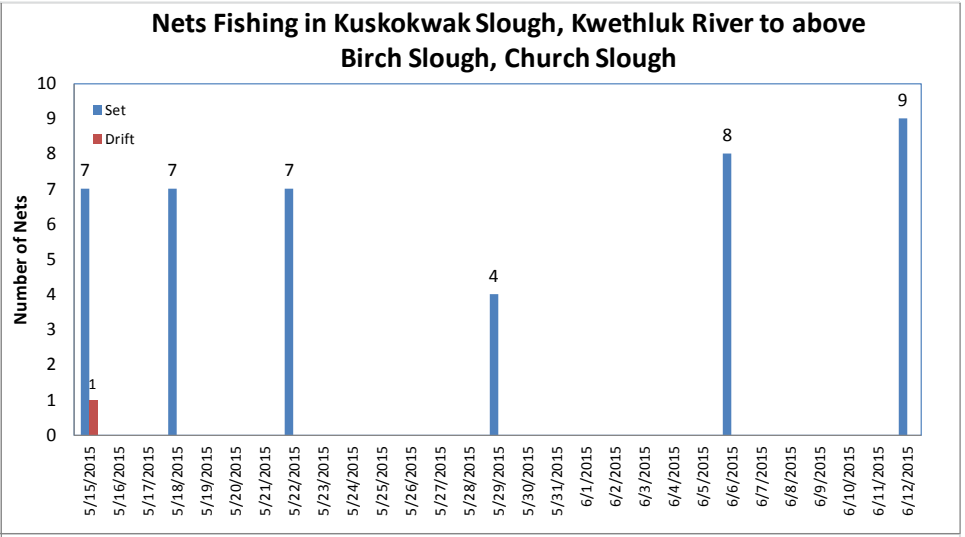


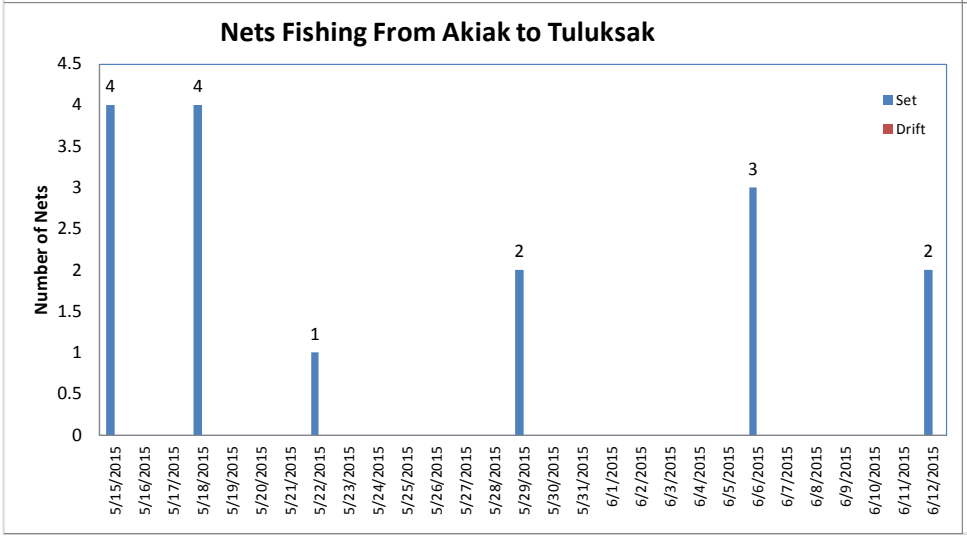




Informational Packet







Submitted by Mark Leary (Upriver Subsistence)

June 16, 2015 Census of Elder's Living in State Waters:*

- Chuathbaluk – 11
- Sleetmute – 15
- Crooked Creek – 9
- Napaimute – 3
- Aniak – ~50 (Tribal and non-Tribal Elders)
- Red Devil – 7
- Stony River – 2

*This includes tribal members and non-tribal members

Submitted by Dave Cannon (Middle River Subsistence)

The success of subsistence king salmon harvest as a percent of the previous 10-year average* for the years 2009 to 2013 for several select Kuskokwim villages in order from the lower river to upper

Village	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013**
Napaskiak	119%	93%	72%	24%	68%
Bethel	101%	100%	94%	28%	68%
Akiak	91%	98%	64%	33%	42%
L Kalskag	126%	51%	64%	25%	43%
Aniak	76%	80%	81%	37%	62%
Chuathbaluk	110%	70%	51%	13%	21%
Crooked Cr	86%	34%	60%	19%	25%
Sleetmute	106%	40%	36%	21%	22%

* For example, for the year 2009 the 10-year avg. ran from 1999-2008, for 2010 the previous 10-year avg. ran from 2000-2009, etc.

** The numbers for 2013 are preliminay, but are within the ballpark to demonstrate the disparity of opportunity for fishers to meet their needs during years of low king salmon returns as one progresses upriver in the least populations sections of river.

Granted, some of the reduction in the middle and upper village harvest levels may be due to families leaving villages and moving to regional hubs or cities like Anchorage where more work is available; but the major reason is fewer fish as a result of the immense fishing power of the subsistence fleet from the large population of the lower river.