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: 07/15/2015 Time: 10:00am Place: Bethel

Time Called to Order:

Chair: Bey Hoffman

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:
 - 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.
 - o USFWS Subsistence Report
- 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:

• Tier II discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

• Summary of LaMont Albertson's meeting with Commissioner Cotton.

COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

NEXT MEETING DATE:	 Time:	Place:

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.

<u>Attend Meetings</u>: 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: <u>http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyarea</u> <u>kuskokwim.kswg</u>

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)

July 13, 2015

Fishing reports from July 6th, 2015- July 12th, 2015

	0 - 00 0 0	, <u> </u>		,					
Families	Families	Drift-	Set-	>6"	>4"-6"	4" or	Rod &	Dipnet	Fish
Surveyed	Fishing	nets	nets	Mesh	Mesh	Less	Reel	Dipilet	Wheel
47	18	18	0	0	18	0	0	0	0
		100%	0%	0%	100%	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?

С	HINOOK			CHUM		SOCKEYE			
Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor	
2	0	6	6	6	1	6	4	2	
11%	0%	33%	33%	33%	6%	33%	22%	11%	

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	
1	3	0	1	6	4	3	8	0	
6%	17%	0%	6%	33%	22%	17%	44%	0%	

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

Harvest Goal Summary:

There are no new harvest goals recorded for this week.

Chinook:

Of the families surveyed 21% where unable to comment on catch rate and 28% where unable to comment on run timing. Thirteen families reported meeting their harvest goals for Chinook salmon, and 8 families reported being done fishing but did not meet their harvest goals for Chinook salmon this year.

Chum:

Of the families surveyed 11% where unable to comment on catch rates and 15% where unable to comment on run timing of chum salmon. Twelve families reported meeting harvest goals while 3 families reported being done fishing but not meeting their harvest goals for chum salmon.

A few families reported catching chum salmon with white and red puss oozing from the meat. One family reported catching a chum salmon with tapeworms all over the outside of the fish.

Sockeye:

Of the families surveyed 13% where unable to comment on catch rates and 15% where unable to comment on run timing of sockeye salmon. Thirteen families reported having met harvest goals while 3 families reported being done fish but not meeting their harvest goals for sockeye salmon.

A few families reported catching sockeye salmon with puss in the meat.

Coho:

Twenty-three families are waiting to fish for coho salmon to finish their harvest goals. One family reported catching one coho salmon this week.

Comments:

Of the families surveyed 10 reported using 6" mesh, 3 used 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh, 4 used 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " mesh and 1 reported using 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh.

A few families commented that the bugs are getting bad for drying fish. One family reported that due to restrictions they were unable to put away as many fish as usual and will have less fish to share with family.

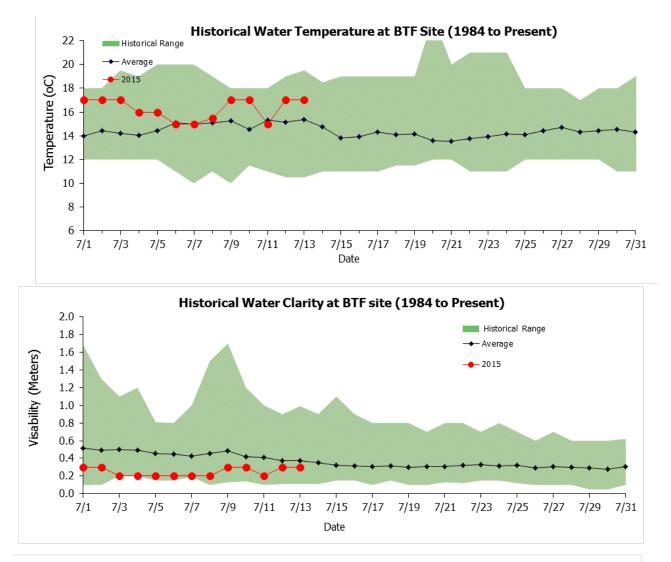
Surveyor comments:

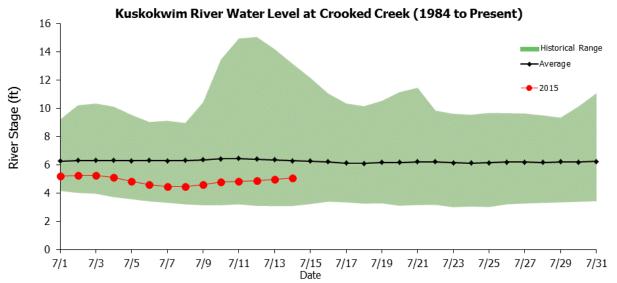
Bethel Test Fish Distribution:

ONC Fishery Technicians have distributed Bethel Test Fish to the following locations: Senior Center, Lions Club, Lulu Herron, Pre-maternal Home Care, Ayalpik Apartments, Long Term Care Facility, Teen Center, TWC, Moravian volunteers, VFW, Bethel Readiness Center, ONC Community Distribution List with the priority going to elders, widows, disabled individuals, and individuals with no means to fish. USFWS and ONC partnered in distribution to the following communities Akiachak, Red Devil, Eek, Oscarville, Napaimute, and Napaskiak.

ONC Total Distribution (updated):

Chinook Salmon: 277 Sockeye Salmon: 216 Chum Salmon: 310 Pink Salmon: 2 Dolly Varden: 2 Inconnu: 32 Humpback: 2 Burbot: 8





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

Bethel Test Fishery Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	Average	(1984-2007)	Average (200	8-2014)	Highest daily cumula (all years)	tive	Current year
07/07	83	410		388		486	1,	012	513
07/08	83	415		392		494	1,	019	518
07/09	83	418		395		498	1,	029	523
07/10	83	421		398		500	1,	032	527
07/11	85	424		401		503	1,	037	535
07/12	85	426		402		508	1,	040	537
07/13	85	429		405		511	1,	052	543
07/14	85	431		407		512	1,	059	
07/15	85	432		408		514	1,	062	
07/16	85	433		409		516	1,	065	
07/17	85	435		411		518	1,	068	
07/18	87	436		412		520	1,	071	
07/19	87	438		413		521	1,	074	
07/20	89	439		415		521	1,	091	
07/21	89	441		417		522	1,	120	
	Lowest CPUE	Average CPUE (all y	years) A	verage CPUE	(1984-2007)	Average	CPUE (2008-2014)	Hig	nest CPUE

424

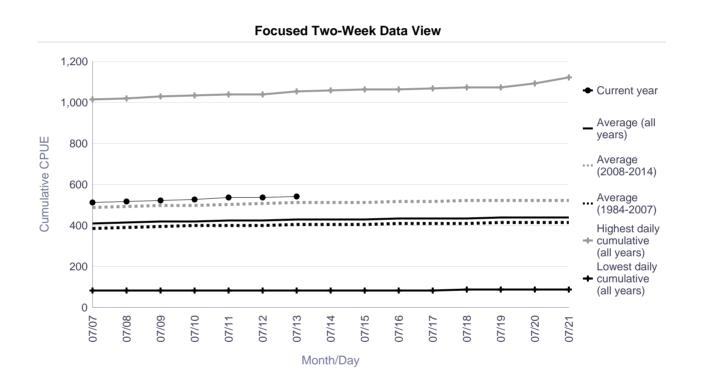
527

1,141

448

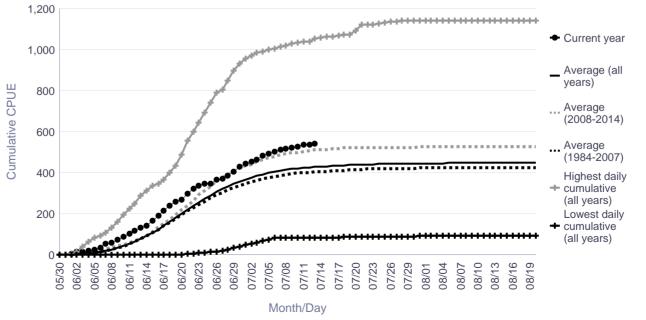
Season Total

91



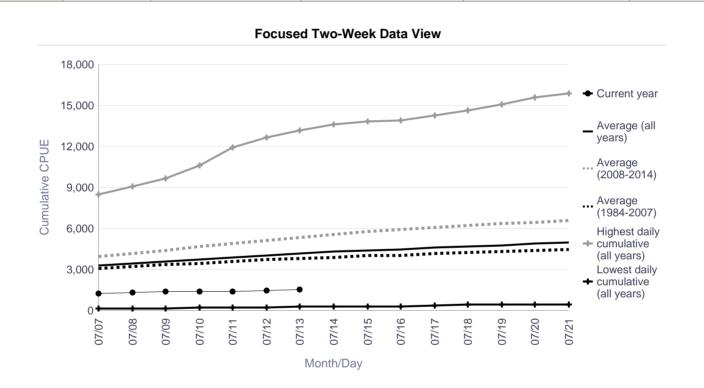


Season Total Overview

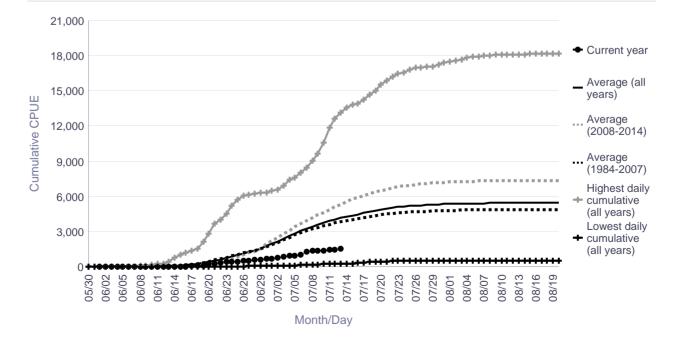


Bethel Test Fishery	
Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index	

Date	Lowest d (all years	aily cumulative	Average (all years)	Avera	ge (1984-2007)	Average (200	08-2014)	Highest daily cumula (all years)	ative	Current year	
07/07		165	3,277		3,077		3,962	8,	496	1,262	
07/08		185	3,443		3,231		4,170	9,	055	1,343	
07/09		194	3,602		3,364		4,420	9,	656	1,370	
07/10		235	3,747		3,482		4,655	10,	604	1,393	
07/11		247	3,897		3,604		4,900	11,	899	1,426	
07/12		260	4,043		3,727		5,125	12,	658	1,494	
07/13		268	4,169		3,827		5,341	13,	135	1,523	
07/14		278	4,295		3,921		5,578	13,	612		
07/15		302	4,405		3,998		5,800	13,	830		
07/16		340	4,489		4,067		5,933	13,	876		
07/17		386	4,585		4,157		6,051	14,	239		
07/18		420	4,695		4,246		6,235	14,	640		
07/19		448	4,795		4,335		6,374	15,	046		
07/20		469	4,889		4,427		6,473	15,	560		
07/21		483	4,973		4,499		6,597	15,	901		
		Lowest CPUE	Average CPUE (all)	/ears)	Average CPUE	(1984-2007)	Average	CPUE (2008-2014)	Hig	hest CPUE	
Seas	son Total	549	5,462		4,90)2	7,381			18,192	

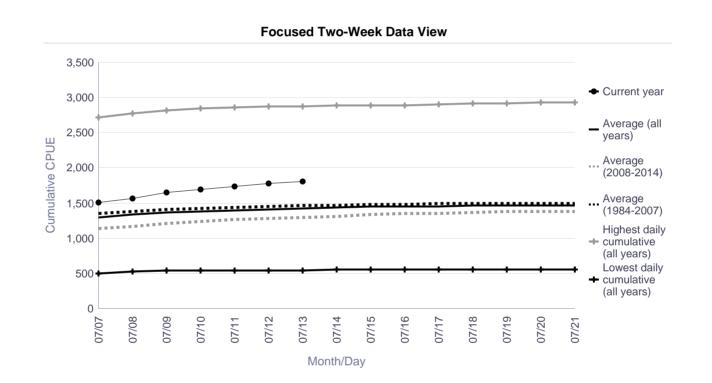




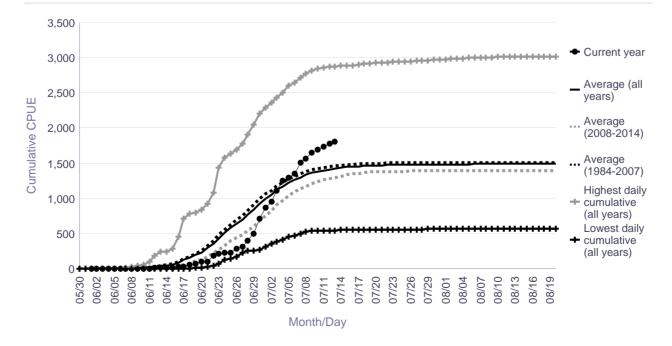


Bethel Test Fishery
Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

			cooncy		Jamaia		naox			
Date	Lowest d (all years	aily cumulative	Average (all years)	Average (19	84-2007)	Average (200	08-2014)	Highest daily cumula (all years)	ative	Current year
07/07		499	1,302		1,349		1,140	2	,712	1,505
07/08		526	1,338		1,387		1,169	2	,770	1,565
07/09		543	1,367		1,413		1,208	2	,813	1,651
07/10		545	1,386		1,428		1,239	2	,842	1,688
07/11		547	1,400		1,440		1,266	2	,857	1,739
07/12		549	1,413		1,451		1,282	2	,867	1,781
07/13		549	1,422		1,460		1,293	2	,877	1,802
07/14		550	1,433		1,470		1,304	2	,887	
07/15		553	1,447		1,479		1,339	2	,893	
07/16		553	1,453		1,484		1,347	2	,893	
07/17		553	1,459		1,488		1,359	2	,901	
07/18		553	1,463		1,491		1,368	2	,909	
07/19		553	1,466		1,493		1,375	2	,920	
07/20		557	1,470		1,498		1,377	2	,931	
07/21		557	1,473		1,500		1,380	2	,934	
		Lowest CPUE	Average CPUE (all y	/ears) Avera	age CPUE	(1984-2007)	Average	CPUE (2008-2014)	Hig	hest CPUE
Seas	son Total				1,51	516 1,402				3,019

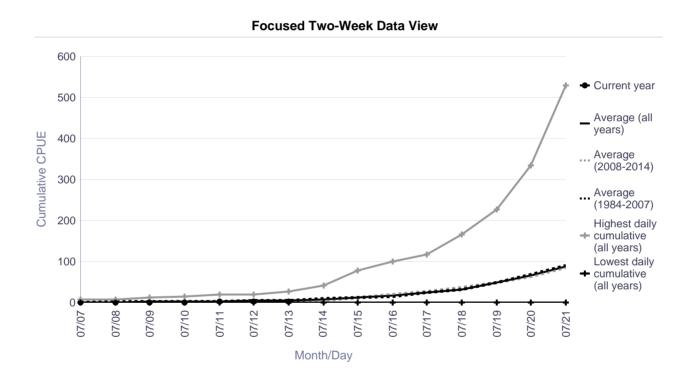


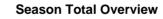


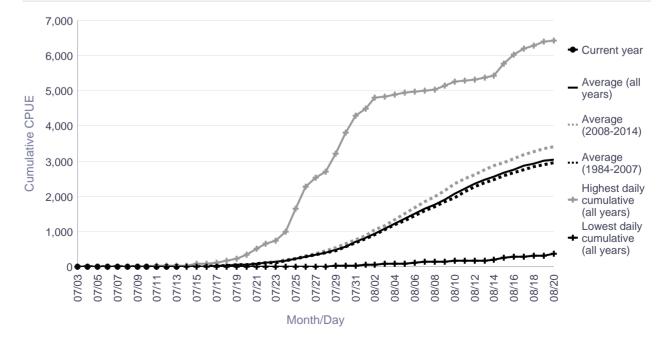


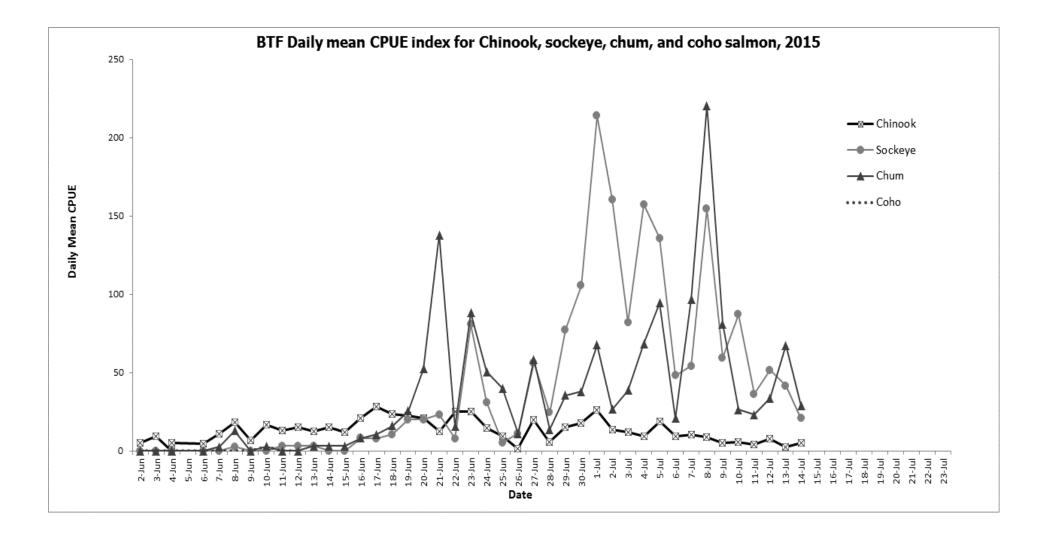
Bethel Test Fishery
Coho Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

			Conc	Canno			uon			
Date	Lowest d (all years	aily cumulative	Average (all years)	Averag	e (1984-2007)	Average (200	08-2014)	Highest daily cumula (all years)	ative	Current year
07/07		0	1		2		1		7	(
07/08		0	2		2		1		7	(
07/09		0	2		3		1		12	(
07/10		0	2		3		2		15	C
07/11		0	3		3		3		20	3
07/12		0	5		5		4		20	3
07/13		0	6		6		5		26	3
07/14		0	8		9		6		41	
07/15		0	12		12		12		79	
07/16		0	17		16		20		100	
07/17		0	25		24		27		117	
07/18		0	33		32		36		167	
07/19		0	48		48		49		227	
07/20		0	67		67		64		335	
07/21		0	89		90		85		529	
		Lowest CPUE	Average CPUE (all	years)	Average CPUE	(1984-2007)	Average	CPUE (2008-2014)	Hig	nest CPUE
Seas	son Total	423	3,294		3,20)3		3,606		7,183



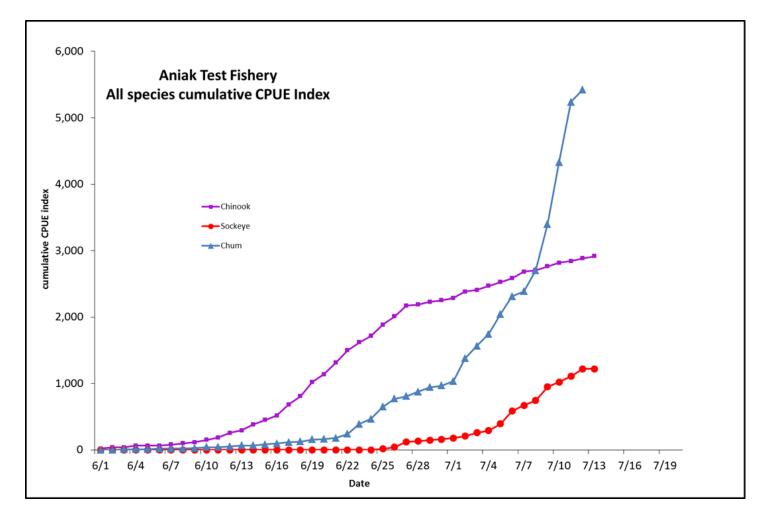


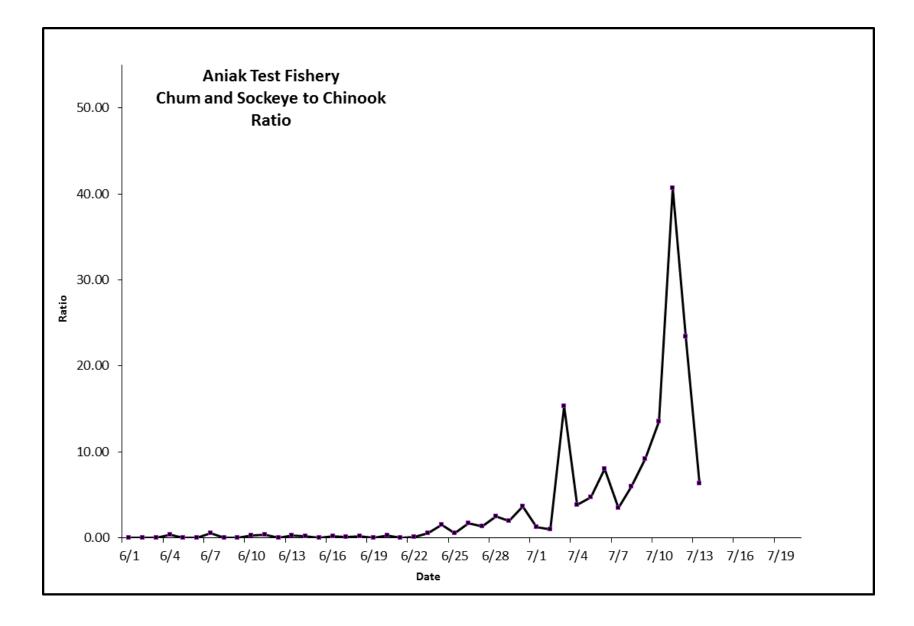




Aniak	Test	Fishery
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		Chinoo	k		Sockey	/e		Chun	1	Species
Date	Catch	Daily CPUE	Cumm. CPUE	Catch	Daily CPUE	Cumm. CPUE	Catch	Daily CPUE	Cumm. CPUE	Ratio
7/1	4	35	2288	2	17	179	3	25	967	1.3
7/2	14	95	2382	4	28	206	10	68	1035	1.0
7/3	3	27	2409	6	52	258	40	342	1377	15.3
7/4	7	59	2468	4	33	291	23	189	1566	3.9
7/5	7	59	2527	12	103	394	21	180	1745	4.7
7/6	7	59	2585	22	191	585	34	300	2045	8.0
7/7	12	96	2681	10	85	670	32	268	2313	3.5
7/8	3	24	2706	9	73	743	9	72	2385	6.0
7/9	7	56	2762	24	206	949	40	318	2703	9.1
7/10	7	55	2817	9	72	1021	86	694	3397	13.6
7/11	3	25	2842	10	87	1108	112	933	4330	40.7
7/12	5	44	2885	13	114	1221	104	908	5238	23.4
7/13	3	31	2916	0	0	1221	19	186	5424	6.3
7/14										

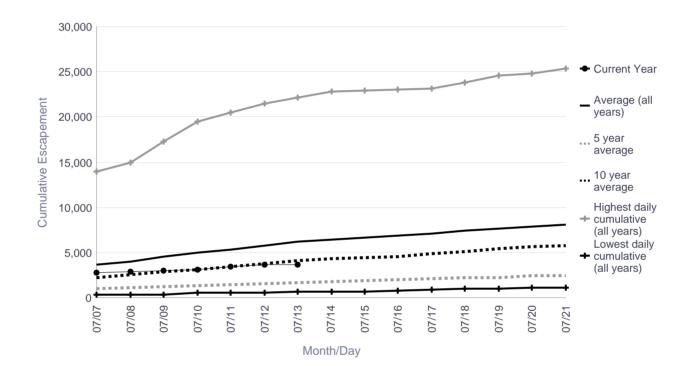


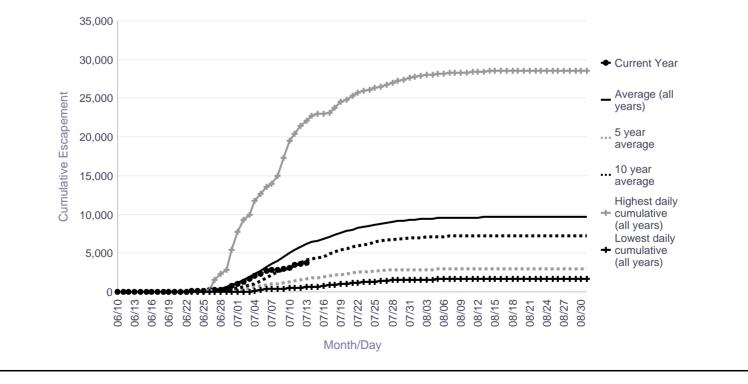


Kwethluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

Escapement Goal Range: 4,100 to 7,500 Lowest daily cumulative (all years) 5 year average 10 year average Highest daily cumulative (all years) Date Average (all years) Current Year 07/07 361 3,638 1,038 2,218 13,960 2,797 07/08 372 4,008 1,104 2,548 14,968 2,864 405 4,581 1,242 2,868 3,018 07/09 17,294 07/10 522 5,043 1,322 3,154 19,489 3,168 07/11 526 5,377 1,441 3,397 20,436 3,489 07/12 557 5,817 1,538 3,789 21,479 3,627 07/13 638 6,193 1,646 4,125 22,122 3,708 07/14 668 6,464 1,773 4,321 22,774 07/15 699 6,652 4,455 22.935 1,876 07/16 763 6,833 1,978 4,602 22,978 897 7,083 2,108 4,865 07/17 23,134 07/18 970 7,389 2,193 5,142 23,793 07/19 1,021 7,665 2,278 5,388 24,599 07/20 1,107 7,907 2,408 5,611 24,795 07/21 1,166 8,085 2,474 5,767 25.318

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	1,668	9,517	2,982	7,102	28,605

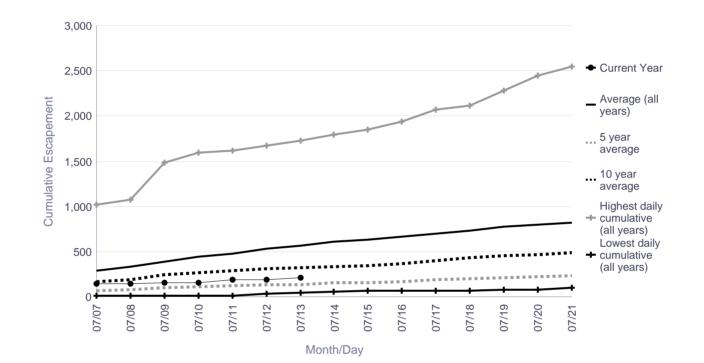


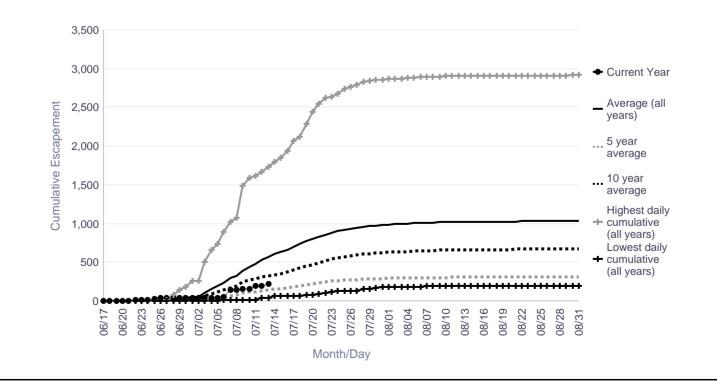


Tuluksak River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/07	12	294	71	173	1,018	143
07/08	16	331	78	191	1,078	150
07/09	17	387	99	246	1,483	153
07/10	17	444	112	272	1,592	160
07/11	17	481	120	288	1,621	191
07/12	35	529	133	310	1,667	191
07/13	47	571	139	321	1,730	217
07/14	62	611	152	336	1,793	
07/15	65	634	159	349	1,845	
07/16	66	662	173	371	1,942	
07/17	66	694	187	403	2,072	
07/18	69	737	196	432	2,119	
07/19	77	772	209	455	2,280	
07/20	84	799	220	471	2,445	
07/21	96	823	231	490	2,541	

Lowest CountAverage Count5 Year Average10 Year AverageHighest CountSeason Total1931,0343116722,918

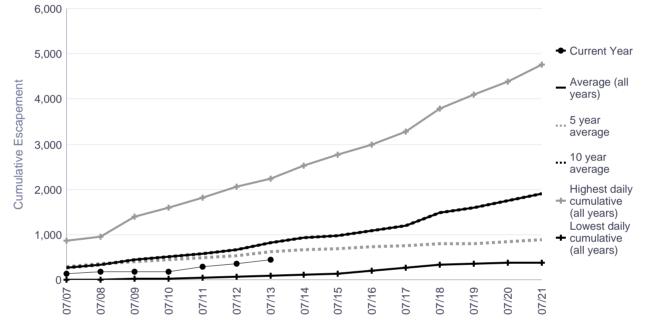




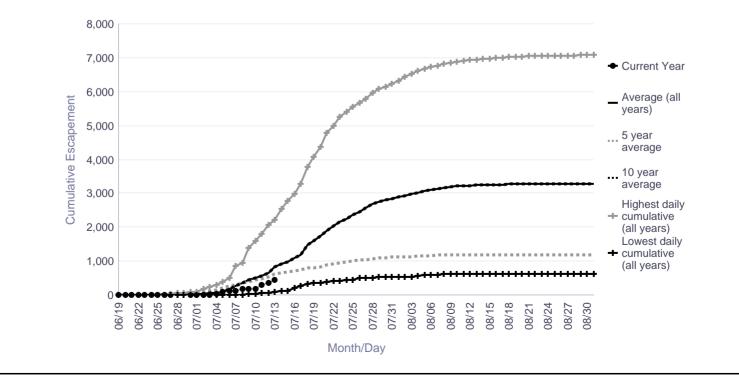
Salmon River (Aniak) Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

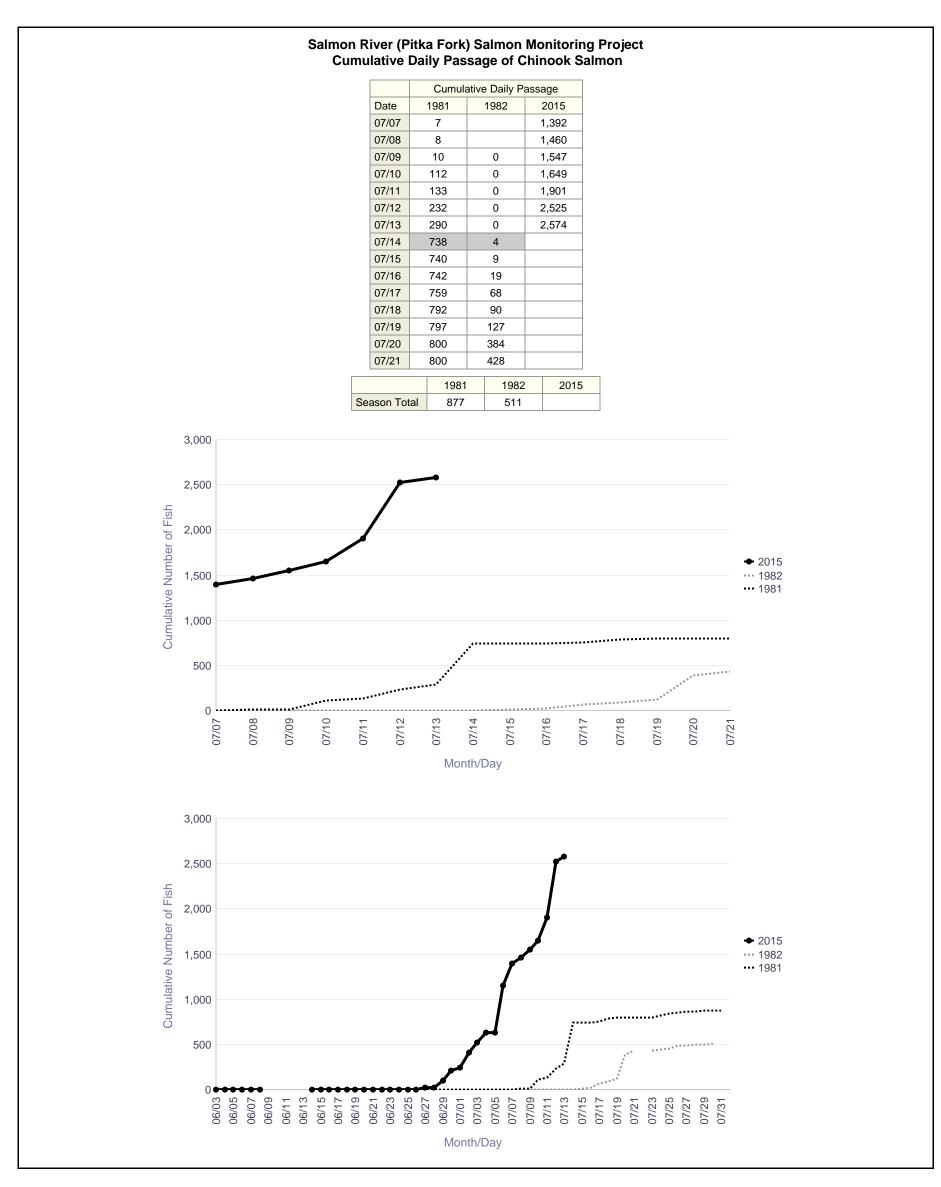
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Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/07	6	271	293	271	856	131
07/08	11	345	353	345	947	174
07/09	20	441	397	441	1,392	180
07/10	33	508	453	508	1,599	186
07/11	51	577	489	577	1,817	290
07/12	63	668	532	668	2,070	368
07/13	85	832	621	832	2,227	451
07/14	111	923	662	923	2,533	
07/15	128	985	691	985	2,764	
07/16	211	1,097	728	1,097	2,980	
07/17	269	1,195	755	1,195	3,279	
07/18	344	1,491	792	1,491	3,794	
07/19	354	1,598	807	1,598	4,089	
07/20	369	1,741	842	1,741	4,378	
07/21	390	1,907	881	1,907	4,769	

Lowest CountAverage Count5 Year Average10 Year AverageHighest CountSeason Total6253,2911,1913,2917,075





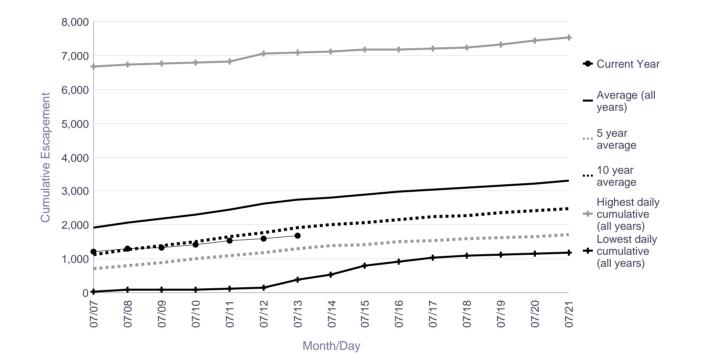


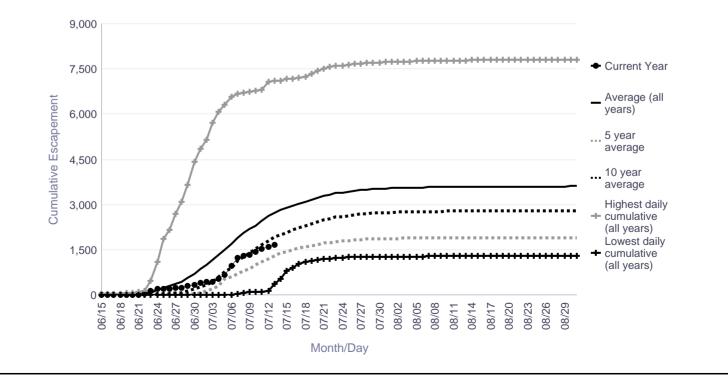


George River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/07	31	1,908	716	1,117	6,683	1,218
07/08	81	2,059	789	1,274	6,717	1,308
07/09	89	2,195	883	1,402	6,754	1,340
07/10	102	2,297	1,003	1,523	6,783	1,423
07/11	112	2,465	1,092	1,656	6,816	1,542
07/12	153	2,626	1,187	1,784	7,061	1,592
07/13	384	2,735	1,314	1,927	7,092	1,676
07/14	541	2,815	1,383	2,010	7,103	
07/15	788	2,895	1,433	2,079	7,168	
07/16	910	2,970	1,506	2,160	7,174	
07/17	1,042	3,041	1,550	2,236	7,196	
07/18	1,090	3,097	1,590	2,289	7,238	
07/19	1,126	3,173	1,637	2,355	7,325	
07/20	1,152	3,231	1,671	2,414	7,436	
07/21	1,193	3,297	1,717	2,494	7,519	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	1,292	3,607	1,906	2,797	7,810

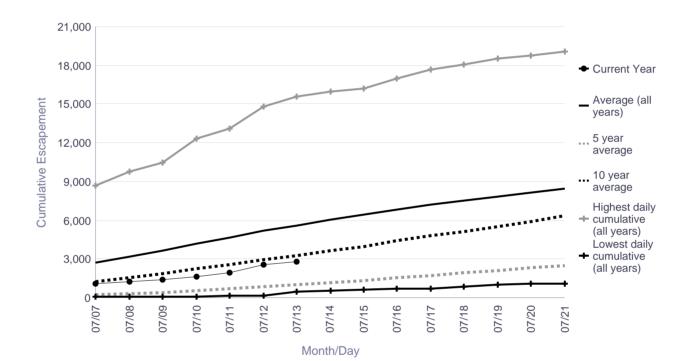


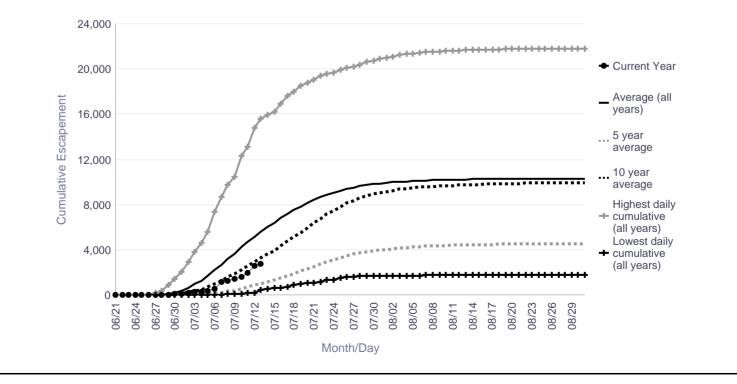


Kogrukluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

Escapement Goal Range: 4,800 to 8,800 Lowest daily cumulative (all years) Highest daily cumulative (all years) Current Year Date Average (all years) 5 year average 10 year average 07/07 56 2,692 220 1,240 8,649 1,132 07/08 83 3,181 335 1,584 9,782 1,282 07/09 104 3,685 403 1,895 10,461 1,397 07/10 116 4.225 517 2,249 12,287 1,614 07/11 167 4,669 729 2,593 13,084 1,934 07/12 191 5,178 892 2,923 14,798 2,591 07/13 484 5,601 997 3,260 15,562 2,771 07/14 574 6,044 1,202 3,635 15,937 07/15 618 1,349 3,939 16,183 6,411 07/16 678 6,836 1,526 4,390 16,957 7,217 1,728 4,803 07/17 739 17,646 07/18 862 7,540 1,914 5,158 18,019 07/19 993 7,844 2,096 5,509 18,494 07/20 1,075 8,128 2,305 5,926 18,768 07/21 8,442 2,511 6,370 19,034 1,113

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	1,819	10,316	4,524	9,925	21,819



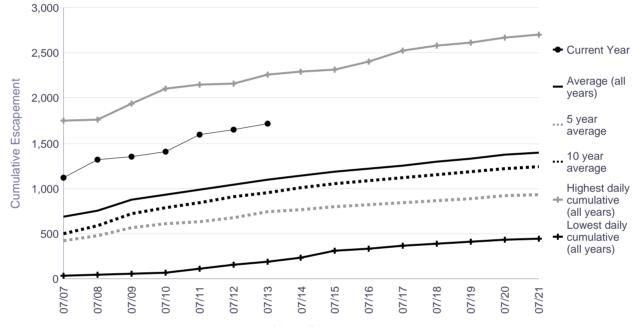


Tatlawiksuk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

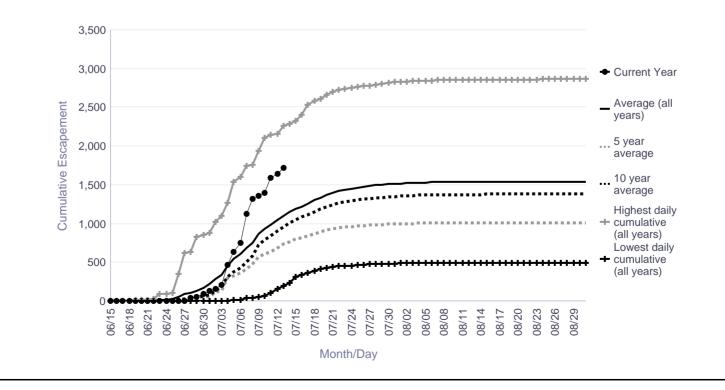
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/07	35	688	421	504	1,747	1,123
07/08	43	752	476	584	1,757	1,319
07/09	54	870	570	723	1,937	1,355
07/10	70	933	609	786	2,102	1,402
07/11	109	986	636	845	2,145	1,591
07/12	160	1,042	682	904	2,161	1,646
07/13	195	1,100	738	958	2,259	1,717
07/14	229	1,145	760	1,010	2,288	
07/15	315	1,187	797	1,051	2,319	
07/16	334	1,219	818	1,084	2,397	
07/17	367	1,257	841	1,116	2,527	
07/18	384	1,299	870	1,156	2,580	
07/19	409	1,329	890	1,191	2,612	
07/20	434	1,376	916	1,218	2,664	
07/21	444	1,398	931	1,244	2,700	

 Lowest Count
 Average Count
 5 Year Average
 10 Year Average
 Highest Count

 Season Total
 495
 1,542
 1,011
 1,380
 2,864





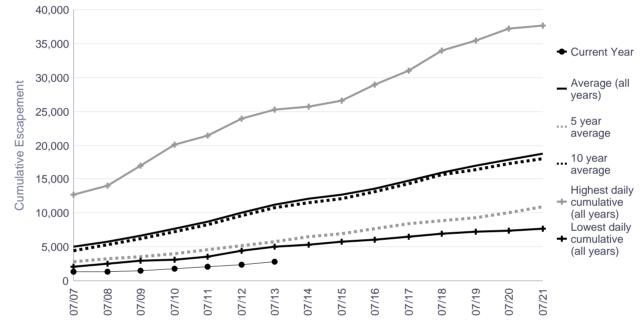


201	2014 Chinook salmon cumulative escapement at Kuskokwim River weir projects.									
	Kwethluk	Tuluksak	Salmon (Aniak)	George	Tatlawiksuk	Kogrukluk				
1-Jul	625	10	104	58	195	149				
2-Jul	728	32	181	212	475	212				
3-Jul	983	49	236	415	504	346				
4-Jul	1,262	61	288	693	1,227	398				
5-Jul	1,387	166	384	1,290	1,260	452				
6-Jul	1,578	179	493	1,324	1,289	494				
7-Jul	1,738	180	538	1,568	1,421	592				
8-Jul	1,878	183	615	1,718	1,604	846				
9-Jul	1,970	187	686	1,955	1,623	968				
10-Jul	2,009	189	779	2,194	1,677	1,128				
11-Jul	2,144	208	806	2,255	1,704	1,483				
12-Jul	2,275	221	867	2,303	1,716	1,691				
13-Jul	2,334	224	1,025	2,392	1,728	1,791				
14-Jul	2,460	239	1,081	2,451	1,744	2,062				

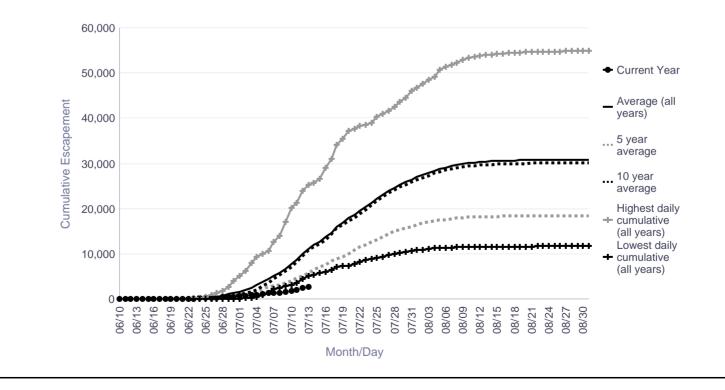
Kwethluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/07	2,160	5,051	2,874	4,406	12,646	1,367
07/08	2,487	5,795	3,245	5,266	14,065	1,414
07/09	2,910	6,671	3,578	6,190	17,038	1,552
07/10	3,089	7,725	4,054	7,194	20,074	1,727
07/11	3,626	8,755	4,598	8,229	21,339	2,077
07/12	4,482	10,076	5,149	9,644	23,940	2,442
07/13	5,062	11,208	5,744	10,806	25,299	2,769
07/14	5,305	12,058	6,525	11,542	25,719	
07/15	5,719	12,754	7,005	12,106	26,606	
07/16	6,066	13,662	7,656	13,118	28,951	
07/17	6,461	14,746	8,400	14,400	31,045	
07/18	7,027	16,015	8,880	15,654	34,001	
07/19	7,245	16,937	9,312	16,397	35,418	
07/20	7,418	17,923	10,011	17,224	37,219	
07/21	7,701	18,690	10,865	18,003	37,706	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	11,691	30,588	18,508	29,804	54,913





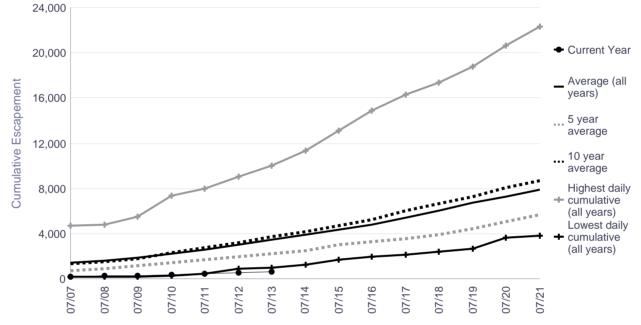


Tuluksak River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

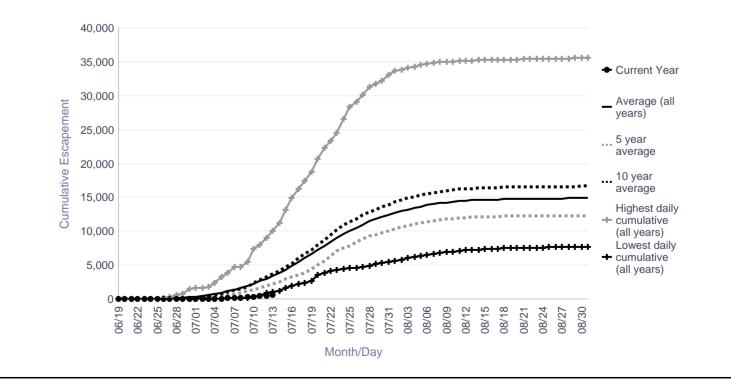
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/07	160	1,403	756	1,319	4,735	229
07/08	169	1,608	885	1,510	4,802	241
07/09	176	1,870	1,157	1,826	5,535	279
07/10	249	2,244	1,413	2,357	7,346	338
07/11	460	2,623	1,667	2,766	7,974	417
07/12	857	3,022	1,938	3,235	9,021	509
07/13	1,013	3,466	2,218	3,742	10,003	627
07/14	1,256	3,866	2,526	4,149	11,302	
07/15	1,716	4,335	2,991	4,687	13,140	
07/16	1,929	4,836	3,253	5,232	14,901	
07/17	2,172	5,445	3,587	6,017	16,282	
07/18	2,413	6,068	3,905	6,608	17,371	
07/19	2,691	6,712	4,482	7,303	18,752	
07/20	3,628	7,304	5,079	8,037	20,661	
07/21	3,848	7,851	5,680	8,702	22,306	

 Lowest Count
 Average Count
 5 Year Average
 10 Year Average
 Highest Count

 Season Total
 7,675
 14,608
 12,204
 16,492
 35,696





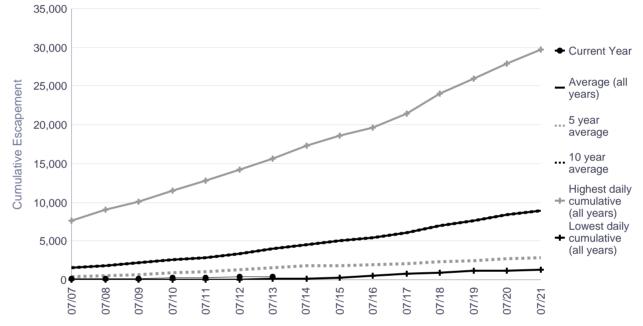


Salmon River (Aniak) Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

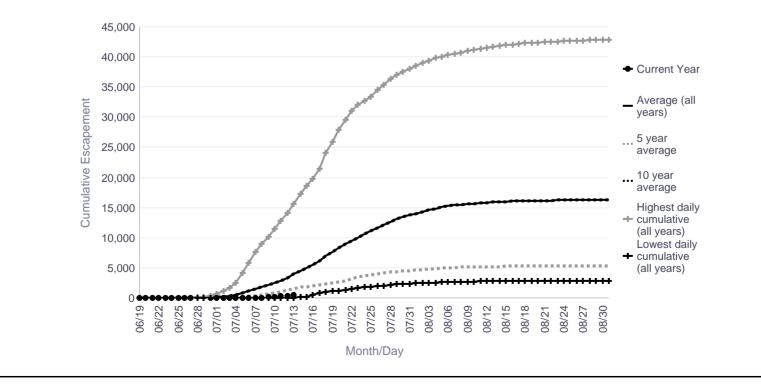
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/07	1	1,521	387	1,521	7,644	93
07/08	3	1,841	519	1,841	9,007	109
07/09	8	2,171	665	2,171	10,097	160
07/10	17	2,560	862	2,560	11,488	240
07/11	32	2,925	1,078	2,925	12,734	318
07/12	57	3,418	1,291	3,418	14,188	387
07/13	95	3,981	1,582	3,981	15,654	459
07/14	195	4,534	1,776	4,534	17,358	
07/15	233	4,999	1,888	4,999	18,624	
07/16	492	5,436	1,952	5,436	19,700	
07/17	797	6,105	2,117	6,105	21,408	
07/18	978	7,004	2,381	7,004	24,005	
07/19	1,162	7,631	2,532	7,631	25,897	
07/20	1,208	8,349	2,715	8,349	27,915	
07/21	1,293	8,979	2,912	8,979	29,645	

 Lowest Count
 Average Count
 5 Year Average
 10 Year Average
 Highest Count

 Season Total
 2,890
 16,272
 5,307
 16,272
 42,825



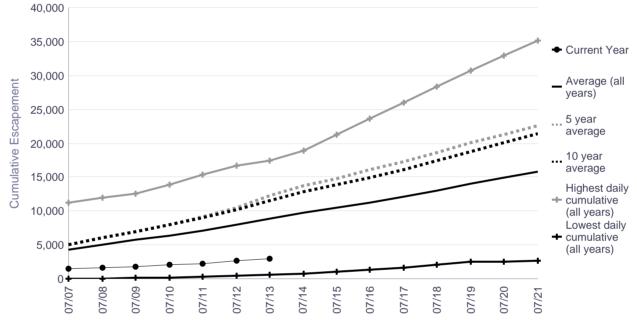




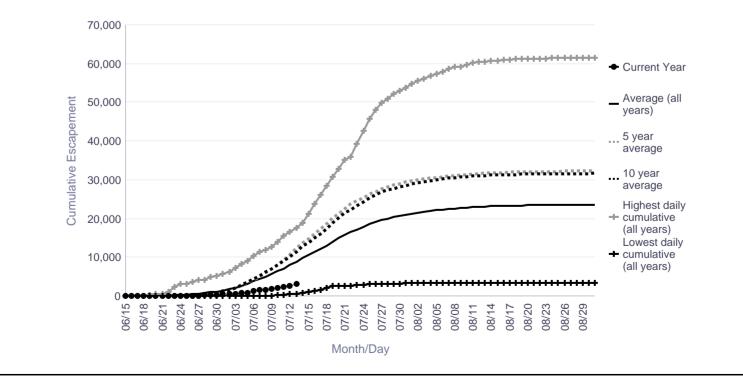
George River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
			<u> </u>	, ,		
07/07	33	4,364	5,031	5,089	11,293	1,555
07/08	62	5,076	6,084	6,124	11,972	1,692
07/09	111	5,743	7,025	7,008	12,590	1,818
07/10	186	6,376	8,037	7,940	13,890	2,028
07/11	296	7,100	9,208	8,976	15,426	2,304
07/12	447	7,932	10,560	10,193	16,624	2,671
07/13	646	8,863	12,325	11,515	17,482	3,018
07/14	828	9,808	13,740	12,821	18,971	
07/15	1,022	10,560	14,806	13,818	21,305	
07/16	1,355	11,300	16,076	14,955	23,666	
07/17	1,682	12,107	17,328	16,150	26,030	
07/18	2,076	12,967	18,680	17,398	28,374	
07/19	2,561	14,009	20,112	18,802	30,677	
07/20	2,579	14,928	21,335	20,093	32,923	
07/21	2,620	15,793	22,600	21,346	35,097	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	3,507	23,671	32,252	31,729	61,531



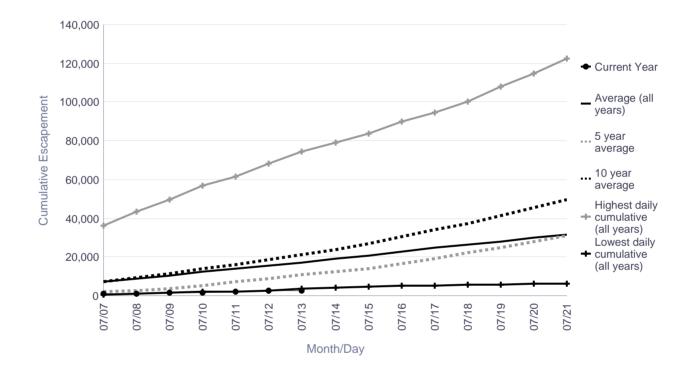


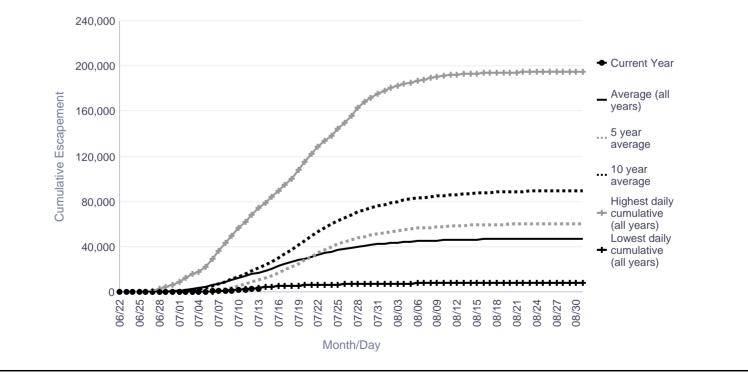


Kogrukluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/07	783	7,488	2,040	7,165	36,192	875
07/08	1,233	9,001	2,747	9,225	43,627	1,157
07/09	1,598	10,579	3,840	11,400	49,581	1,422
07/10	1,937	12,313	5,319	13,846	56,718	1,713
07/11	2,388	13,983	7,128	16,206	61,725	2,176
07/12	2,760	15,696	9,015	18,725	68,339	2,546
07/13	3,636	17,375	10,747	21,208	74,233	2,793
07/14	4,300	19,157	12,513	23,990	79,261	
07/15	4,720	20,880	14,205	26,798	83,914	
07/16	5,024	22,844	16,530	30,517	89,805	
07/17	5,271	24,622	19,215	34,037	94,567	
07/18	5,584	26,317	22,095	37,408	100,390	
07/19	5,904	28,063	25,115	41,378	107,716	
07/20	6,078	29,773	28,220	45,431	114,926	
07/21	6,341	31,502	31,045	49,429	122,595	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	7,975	47,231	60,622	89,507	194,887

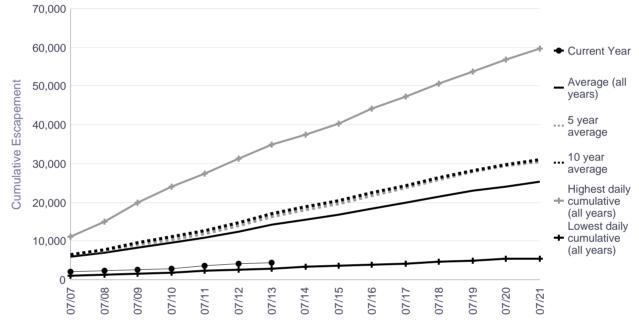




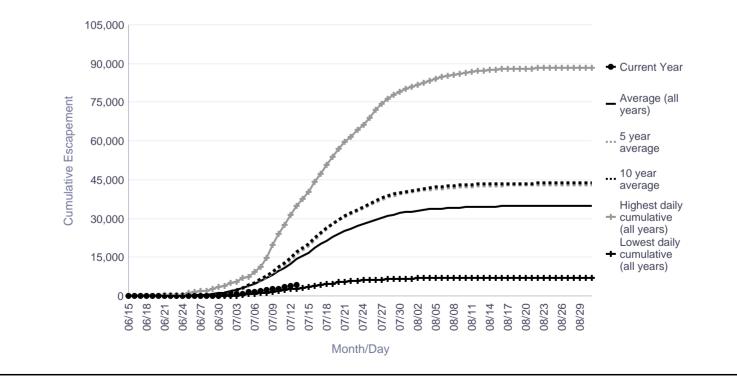
Tatlawiksuk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/07	1,054	5,894	6,368	6,513	11,183	2,027
07/08	1,212	6,911	7,513	7,774	14,915	2,376
07/09	1,536	8,308	8,985	9,517	19,984	2,601
07/10	1,927	9,622	10,402	11,139	24,018	2,942
07/11	2,247	10,913	11,874	12,779	27,384	3,584
07/12	2,663	12,548	14,043	14,874	31,300	4,097
07/13	2,943	14,194	16,364	17,012	34,932	4,436
07/14	3,304	15,585	18,052	18,782	37,592	
07/15	3,572	16,875	19,610	20,354	40,347	
07/16	3,949	18,471	21,706	22,413	44,078	
07/17	4,288	20,019	23,893	24,373	47,310	
07/18	4,692	21,531	25,915	26,254	50,746	
07/19	4,852	22,918	27,820	28,082	53,774	
07/20	5,344	24,124	29,378	29,642	56,861	
07/21	5,520	25,235	30,623	31,078	59,592	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	7,076	34,909	43,042	43,718	88,202







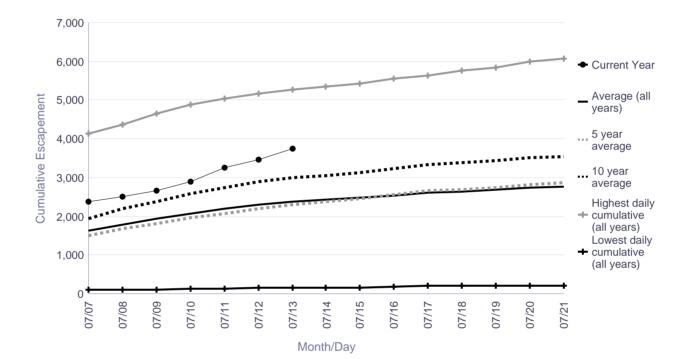
	2014 chum	salmon cumulat	tive escapemen	t at Kuskokwi	2014 chum salmon cumulative escapement at Kuskokwim River weir projects.								
	Kwethluk	Tuluksak	Salmon (Aniak)	George	Tatlawiksuk	Kogrukluk							
1-Jul	720	72	97	351	227	516							
2-Jul	993	215	137	533	628	749							
3-Jul	1,310	274	170	773	768	922							
4-Jul	1,580	327	199	1,303	1,235	1,066							
5-Jul	1,956	370	295	1,668	1,456	1,375							
6-Jul	2,482	427	362	1,812	1,599	1,689							
7-Jul	2,783	431	433	2,213	2,052	2,038							
8-Jul	2,998	510	526	2,704	2,588	2,733							
9-Jul	3,414	847	621	3,336	2,972	3,413							
10-Jul	3,711	1,159	682	3,892	3,542	4,342							
11-Jul	4,523	1,543	780	4,591	4,080	5,479							
12-Jul	5,256	1,704	898	5,516	4,665	6,423							
13-Jul	5,942	1,879	1,036	6,476	5,204	7,142							
14-Jul	6,463	2,336	1,092	7,295	5,835	8,421							

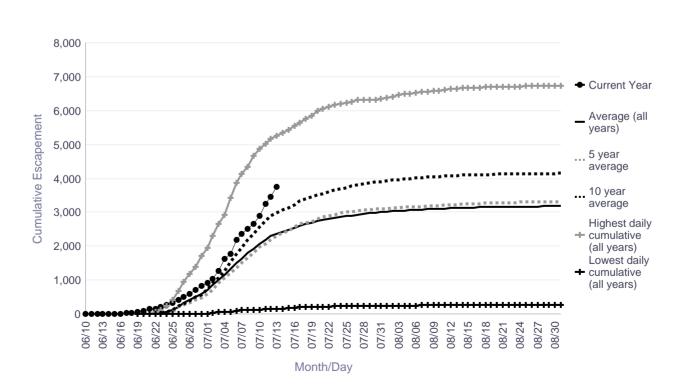
Kwethluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Sockeye Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/07	109	1,631	1,501	1,948	4,145	2,378
07/08	113	1,791	1,670	2,187	4,356	2,519
07/09	115	1,934	1,806	2,379	4,651	2,674
07/10	134	2,071	1,972	2,575	4,879	2,898
07/11	145	2,186	2,064	2,740	5,027	3,261
07/12	154	2,303	2,187	2,907	5,176	3,469
07/13	157	2,373	2,291	2,998	5,267	3,743
07/14	163	2,427	2,383	3,063	5,337	
07/15	170	2,476	2,452	3,132	5,433	
07/16	182	2,539	2,559	3,229	5,542	
07/17	204	2,603	2,667	3,329	5,629	
07/18	208	2,648	2,701	3,392	5,751	
07/19	214	2,687	2,731	3,444	5,845	
07/20	219	2,734	2,806	3,511	5,994	
07/21	222	2,764	2,857	3,552	6,058	

 Lowest Count
 Average Count
 5 Year Average
 10 Year Average
 Highest Count

 Season Total
 272
 3,069
 3,327
 4,036
 6,733

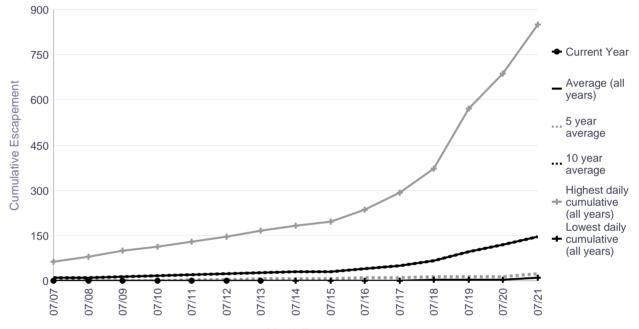




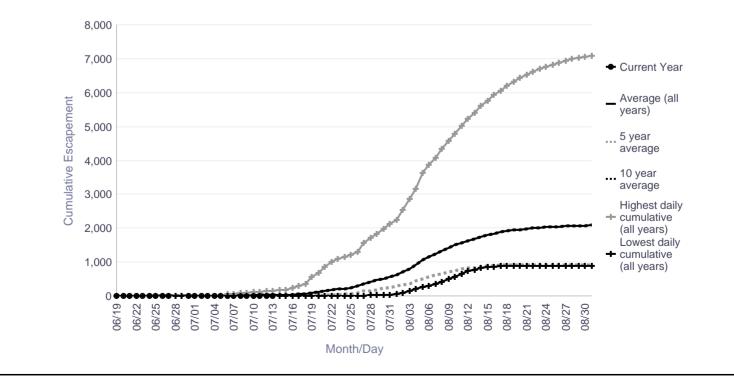
Salmon River (Aniak) Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Sockeye Salmon

				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/07	0	9	0	9	63	0
07/08	0	12	1	12	79	0
07/09	0	15	2	15	100	0
07/10	0	17	2	17	114	1
07/11	0	20	3	20	130	1
07/12	0	23	5	23	148	2
07/13	0	26	6	26	166	2
07/14	0	30	8	30	182	
07/15	0	32	8	32	196	
07/16	0	39	10	39	237	
07/17	0	51	11	51	291	
07/18	4	66	13	66	371	
07/19	5	97	14	97	573	
07/20	5	120	15	120	688	
07/21	10	148	25	148	851	

Lowest CountAverage Count5 Year Average10 Year AverageHighest CountSeason Total8942,0879282,0877,086



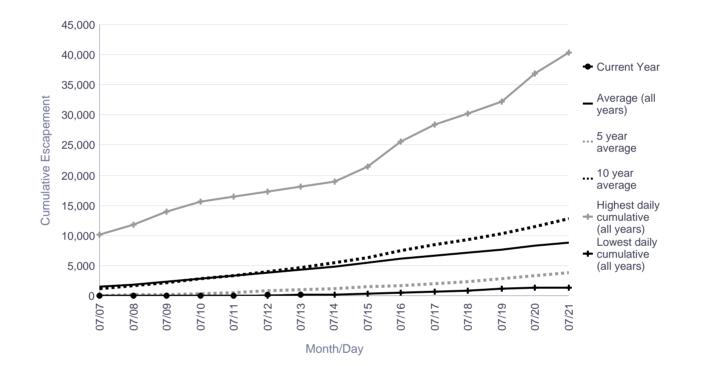


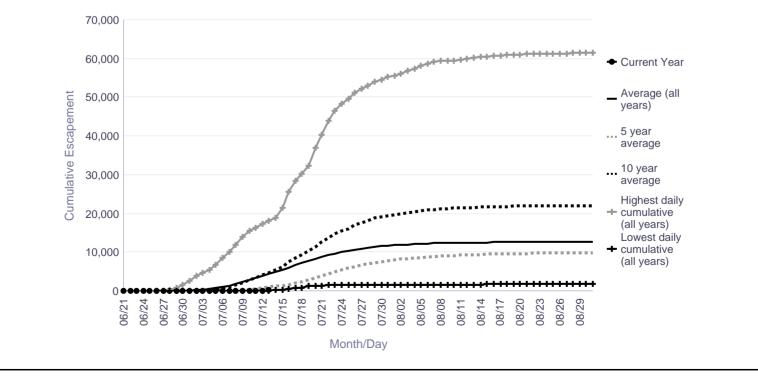


Kogrukluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Sockeye Salmon

	Escapement Goal Range: 4,400 to 17,000									
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year				
07/07	8	1,447	61	1,143	10,227	50				
07/08	14	1,877	133	1,659	11,866	56				
07/09	16	2,357	205	2,165	13,891	63				
07/10	22	2,870	355	2,777	15,641	70				
07/11	37	3,339	587	3,347	16,389	104				
07/12	66	3,853	802	4,050	17,219	168				
07/13	118	4,341	1,018	4,677	18,040	179				
07/14	203	4,895	1,251	5,477	18,884					
07/15	329	5,446	1,448	6,294	21,504					
07/16	503	6,084	1,718	7,442	25,641					
07/17	728	6,688	2,019	8,505	28,331					
07/18	866	7,182	2,374	9,342	30,165					
07/19	1,271	7,694	2,833	10,280	32,268					
07/20	1,396	8,260	3,353	11,509	36,932					
07/21	1,420	8,823	3,891	12,729	40,408					
	.,	-,		,		1				

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	1,732	12,652	9,834	22,024	61,382

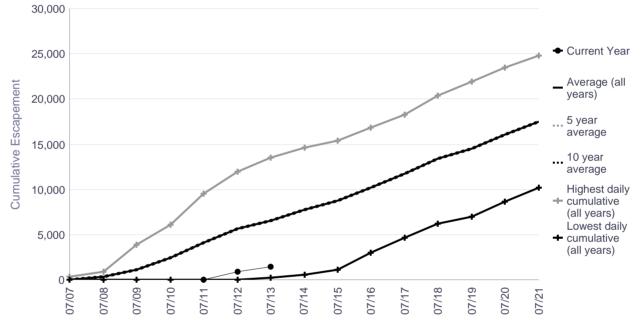




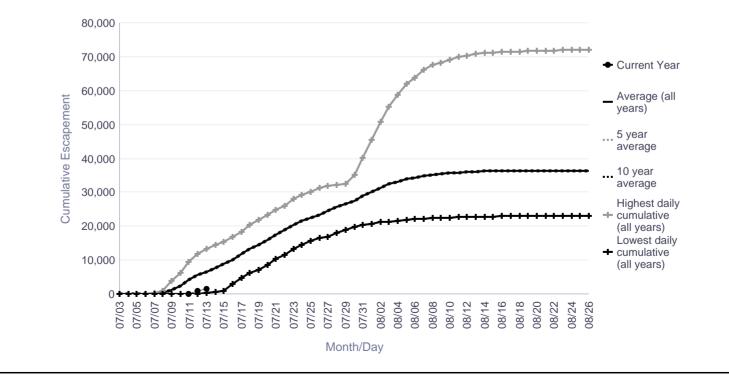
Telaquana River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Sockeye Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/07	0	61	61	61	302	
07/08	0	315	315	315	928	
07/09	0	1,174	1,174	1,174	3,921	
07/10	0	2,401	2,401	2,401	6,135	
07/11	0	4,136	4,136	4,136	9,584	0
07/12	3	5,607	5,607	5,607	11,918	872
07/13	197	6,569	6,569	6,569	13,466	1,510
07/14	600	7,721	7,721	7,721	14,612	
07/15	1,072	8,799	8,799	8,799	15,403	
07/16	3,054	10,180	10,180	10,180	16,784	
07/17	4,636	11,740	11,740	11,740	18,240	
07/18	6,266	13,450	13,450	13,450	20,398	
07/19	7,014	14,482	14,482	14,482	21,937	
07/20	8,623	16,098	16,098	16,098	23,451	
07/21	10,234	17,534	17,534	17,534	24,753	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	23,005	36,476	36,476	36,476	71,932





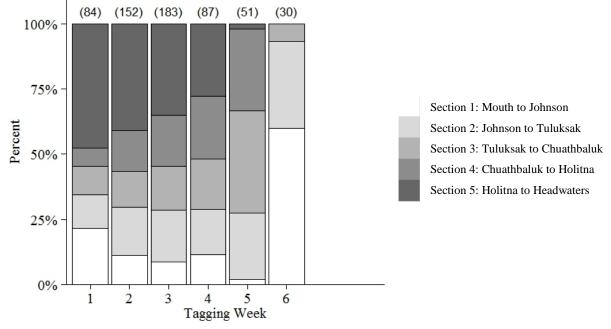


		2014 sockeye salmon cumulative escapement at Kuskokwim River						
	weir projects.							
Kwethluk	uk Salmon Kogrukluk		Telaquana					
	(Aniak)							
478	0	4	0					
660	0	10	0					
942	0	18	0					
1,128	0	25	0					
1,340	0	40	0					
1,595	0	41	1					
1,823	0	60	2					
1,982	2	97	18					
2,237	3	156	31					
2,312	3	212	1,022					
2,455	3	352	1,773					
2,611	7	439	2,556					
2,748	9	475	3,145					
2,866	14	604	4,189					
	660 942 1,128 1,340 1,595 1,823 1,982 2,237 2,312 2,455 2,611 2,748	Kwethluk Salmon (Aniak) 478 0 660 0 942 0 1,128 0 1,340 0 1,595 0 1,823 0 1,982 2 2,237 3 2,312 3 2,455 3 2,611 7 2,748 9	KwethlukSalmon (Aniak)Kogrukluk478046600109420181,1280251,3400401,5950411,8230601,9822972,23731562,31232122,45533522,61174392,7489475					

	-			~1	~ 1	
Tag Week	Date	Captured	Tagged	Chum	Sockeye	Notes
1	6/1	2	2 (2)	0	0	
1	6/2	1	1 (1)	0	0	
1	6/3	11	11 (11)	0	0	
1	6/4	3	3 (2)	0	0	Half Effort
1	6/5	21	20 (20)	0	0	
1	6/6	16	16 (16)	0	0	
1	6/7	29	29 (29)	0	0	
2	6/8	15	15 (15)	0	0	Half Effort
2	6/9	29	29 (29)	0	0	
2	6/10	29	28 (28)	0	0	Half Effort
2 2	6/11	31	31 (20)	1	0	Half Effort
2	6/12	31	30 (19)	0	0	
2	6/13	35	34 (20)	0	0	
2	6/14	54	54 (21)	2	2	
3	6/15	36	36 (35)	1	1	Half Effort
3	6/16	48	47 (40)	0	0	
3	6/17	60	60 (31)	4	0	
3	6/18	76	76 (18)	5	4	
3	6/19	12	12 (12)	1	0	Half Effort
3	6/20	61	61 (17)	2	3	
3	6/21	42	41 (30)	2	2	
4	6/22	23	23 (17)	0	$\frac{1}{0}$	Half Effort
4	6/23	26	26 (12)	8	0	
4	6/24	52 52	51 (14)	11	3	
4	6/25	45	45 (12)	7	1	
4	6/26	28	26 (11)	12	5	Half Effort
4	6/27	28	28 (10)	11	3	Han Liton
4	6/28	43	41 (11)	4	3	
5	6/28 6/29	38	38 (9)	6	1	
5	6/30	33	32 (8)	12	3	Half Effort
5	7/1	35		4	3 4	Hall Ellott
5	7/1 7/2	33 29	35 (8)	4 16	4 13	
5	7/2	29 7	27 (6)	10	2	Half Effort
			7 (7)			nall Ellon
5	7/4	25 15	22 (7)	8	4	
5	7/5	15	14 (6) 16 (5)	21	5	
6	7/6	16	16 (5)	25	2	
6	7/7	11	11 (5)	10	9	Half Effort
6	7/8	17	17 (5)	7	4	
6	7/9	9	9 (5)	6	2 2 5 5	TT 10 7000
6	7/10	8	8 (4)	11	2	Half Effort
6	7/11	11	11 (3)	10	5	
6	7/12	9	8 (3)	2		
7	7/13	9	9 (2)	8	6	
7	7/14					
	Total	1161	1142 (589)	218	94	

Lower River Chinook Tagging

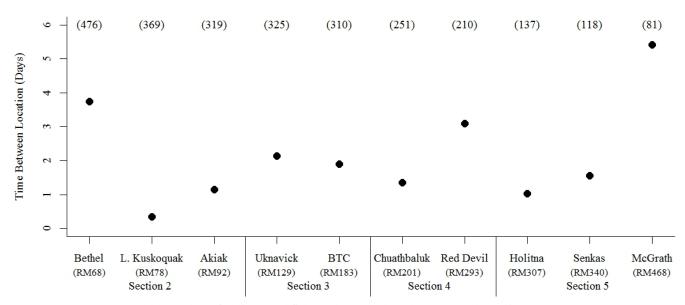
Note: Tagging operations began on June 1, 2015. Two crews fish both incoming tides daily. Half effort refers to days when only one crew fished. All fish received external tags. The number of Chinook salmon that received a radio tag is indicated in the parentheses. An additional 3 fish were tagged prior to June 1.



Distribution of radiotagged Chinook salmon among the 5 Kuskokwim River conservation sections

Note: Tagged fish are stratified by week and tracked separately in an attempt to monitor groups of fish migrating upriver. This figure represents our most complete understanding of where groups of tagged fish are currently. Comparing this figure to prior versions from earlier Working Group packets shows the movement of groups of fish over time. The number of radiotagged fish by week is shown in parentheses.





Note: The number of radiotagged fish used to calculate the average shown in parentheses. This figure represents our most complete understanding of how many days it takes fish to travel among telemetry towers.

2015 Inseason Salmon Assessment Update for the Kuskokwim Area #6

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: <u>http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.kswg</u>

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

Assessment Overview

The Chinook salmon run is nearing completion in the lower and middle portions of the Kuskokwim River. It appears that the run timing was slightly early but very protracted compared to previous years. Bethel Test Fishery indicated that the run was weak and conservation measures were necessary to achieve drainage and tributary escapement goals. Telemetry tracking data confirm that Chinook salmon are entering spawning tributaries throughout the drainage. Weir escapements suggest that the peak of the Chinook salmon escapement has been observed at tributary monitoring locations. There is considerable evidence that established escapement goals will be achieved on the Kwethluk and George Rivers. Escapement success is uncertain for the Kogrukluk River weir. The improved escapement compared to recent years indicates that conservation measures and sacrifices by local subsistence users were effective. Aerial surveys will be flown during the coming weeks to assess escapement, but the inseason evidence is encouraging.

The sockeye salmon run appears to be late and strong compared to prior years. Bethel Test Fishery indicates that the peak of the sockeye salmon run has passed the Bethel area. Aniak Test Fishery indicates that the peak of the run has likely passed in the middle river.

The chum salmon run continues to be of concern. Bethel Test Fishery indicates the 2015 chum salmon run may be one of the lowest on record. Similarly, Aniak Test Fishery indicates low numbers of chum salmon in the middle river relative to other species. Chum salmon escapement at all monitoring locations are well below average. There is mounting evidence that the established escapement goal on the Kogrukluk River may not be achieved. Conservation for chum salmon was warranted.

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 July 13, ADF&G has caught 1,161 Chinook salmon of which 589 have been radiotagged. Peak daily catches ranging from 60–80 fish per day were observed at the tag site between June 17 and June 20. Since that time, daily catches have declined slowly to 10–15 Chinook salmon per day over the past week. Our best estimate is that 98%–99% of the Chinook salmon run has passed the tag site. We expect to catch very few Chinook salmon over the coming days. The tagging crew will attempt to deploy radio tags in the final few Chinook salmon. This end of season effort will help inform our understanding of where in the drainage the latest arriving fish are bound.

Radio tagged fish are being monitored as they migrate upriver using aerial surveys and tracking towers located between Bethel and McGrath. On average, tagged fish are swimming 22.5 miles per day. Tagged fish continue to move upriver towards their spawning grounds. Approximately 80% of the tagged fish are upriver from Tuluksak, 60% are upriver from Chuathbaluk, 38% are upriver from Sleetmute, and 16% are upriver from McGrath. Of the tagged fish located downriver of Tuluksak, 48% have been detected in the Kwethluk and Kisaralik Rivers combined. Majority of tagged fish have begun to enter spawning tributaries in the middle and headwaters portions of the Kuskokwim River.

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, 72 tagged fish have been reported harvested in the subsistence fishery – 6% of all tags deployed. Thank you to all who reported catching a tagged fish – you have been entered into the monthly 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. These data have only limited utility for estimating total run size or escapement. <u>The 2015 data is not directly comparable to prior years due to subsistence fishing restrictions</u>. The Bethel Test Fishery continues to operate on schedule.

The Chinook salmon run through the lower Kuskokwim River is coming to an end. Over the past week, daily CPUE has fallen below 10. Cumulative CPUE as of July 13 is 543, which is below the recent 10-yr average and above the recent 5-yr average for this date. However, recent years include some of the lowest run sizes on record. The historical mid-point of the Chinook salmon run is June 22. On average, 95% of the Chinook salmon run has passed Bethel as of July 13. It appears that the Chinook salmon run was a few days early and protracted compared to past years. Our best estimate is that 95%–98% of the run has passed the test site. Inseason projections suggest that the end of season CPUE for Chinook salmon will likely be between 550 and 560, which corresponds to a below average run size, similar to what has been observed in recent years.

The peak of the sockeye salmon run has passed through the lower river. BTF observed a considerable decrease in sockeye salmon catches over the past week, indicating the run is coming to an end. As of July 13, cumulative CPUE is 1,803, which is above the 5- and 10-yr averages for this date. The historical midpoint of the sockeye salmon run is June 28. On average, 95% of the sockeye salmon run has passed Bethel as of July 13. The 2015 run appears to be late compared to past years, and our best estimate is that 94%–95% of the run has passed the test site. Inseason projections suggest the end of season CPUE for sockeye salmon will likely be between 1,850 and 1,920, which corresponds to a very strong run.

The peak of the chum salmon run has passed through the lower river. BTF continues to catch small numbers of chum each day. Chum salmon cumulative CPUE as of July 13 is 1,521. The cumulative CPUE is the fifth lowest on record for this date and is well below the 5- and 10-yr averages. The historical mid-point of the chum salmon run is July 4. Chum salmon run timing appears to be average. On average, 78% of the chum salmon run has passed Bethel, as of July 13. Our best estimate is that 69%–89% of the run has passed the test site. Inseason projections suggest that the end of season CPUE for chum salmon will likely be between 1,730 and 1,990 which correspond to a very weak run.

The first coho salmon was captured in the BTF on July 11, which is similar to past years. The historical mid-point of the coho salmon run is August 8. We expect the coho salmon run to build over the coming weeks. ADF&G will shift toward coho salmon management in late July as the abundance of coho salmon begins to exceed other species.

Aniak Test Fishery

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

As of July 13, the Aniak Test Fishery has caught 357 Chinook salmon, 6,497 chum salmon, and 146 sockeye salmon. Cumulative CPUE is 2,916 Chinook salmon, 5,424 chum salmon, and 1,221 sockeye salmon. Over this past week, daily catches of Chinook salmon were low indicating the peak of the run has passed the Aniak area. The chum and sockeye salmon abundance continued to build over the past week; although, relatively low catches of both species on July 13 may indicate the peak of the run has passed the Aniak area. The last day of project operations will be July 14. The Aniak Test Fishery proved to be an informative tool for evaluating the run timing and relative abundance of salmon species in the middle portion of the Kuskokwim River.

Kwethluk River Weir

The Kwethluk River weir is operated by USFWS and used to index salmon escapement to the lower Kuskokwim River tributaries. As of July 13, a total of 3,708 Chinook salmon, 2,769 chum salmon, and 3,743 sockeye salmon have been counted past the weir. On average, the mid-point of the escapement past the weir is July 8 for sockeye salmon, July 14 for Chinook salmon, and July 19 for chum salmon. The Chinook salmon escapement is shaping up to be much larger than in recent years. Inseason projections suggest that the escapement goal will likely be achieved. Chum salmon escapement is the second lowest on record for this date. Sockeye salmon escapement to date is the second largest on record for this location.

A sustainable escapement goal of 4,100–7,500 Chinook salmon has been established by ADF&G for this river. The escapement goal has not been achieved since 2009.

<u>Tuluksak River Weir</u>

The Tuluksak River weir is operated by USFWS. As of July 13, a total of 217 Chinook salmon, 627 chum salmon, and 95 sockeye salmon have been counted past the weir. On average, the mid-point of the escapement past the weir is July 14 for Chinook salmon and July 21 for chum salmon. Chinook salmon escapement to date is similar to the small returns observed at this location in recent years. The chum salmon escapement is the lowest on record for this date.

No salmon escapement goals have been established by ADF&G for this river.

Salmon River (Aniak River) Weir

The Salmon River (Aniak) weir is operated by ADF&G and used to index salmon escapement to the Aniak River drainage. The weir was successfully installed on June 19. As of July 13, a total of 451 Chinook salmon and 459 chum salmon have been counted past the weir. Only 2 sockeye salmon have been observed to date. On average, the mid-point of the escapement past the weir is July 21 for Chinook salmon, July 22 for chum salmon, and August 6 for sockeye salmon. Cumulative Chinook salmon escapement to date is below average for this location. Chum salmon escapement is the second lowest on record.

No weir-based salmon escapement goals have been established by ADF&G for this river.

George River Weir

The George River weir is operated by ADF&G and used to index salmon escapement to middle Kuskokwim River tributaries. The weir was successfully installed on June 15. As of July 13, a total of 1,676 Chinook salmon and 3,018 chum salmon have been counted past the weir. On average, the midpoint of the escapement past the weir is July 9 for Chinook salmon and July 16 for chum salmon. Chinook salmon escapement to date is below the historical average for this location. However, inseason projections suggest the escapement goal will likely be achieved. Chum salmon escapement to date is well below the historical average, and is the fifth lowest escapement on record at this location.

A sustainable escapement goal of 1,800–3,300 Chinook salmon has been established by ADF&G for this river. The escapement goal was achieved in 2014.

Tatlawiksuk River Weir

The Tatlawiksuk River weir is operated by ADF&G and used to index salmon escapement to middle Kuskokwim River tributaries. The weir was successfully installed on June 13. As of July 13, a total of 1,717 Chinook salmon and 4,436 chum salmon have been counted past the weir. On average, the midpoint of the escapement past the weir is July 10 for Chinook salmon and July 16 for chum salmon. Chinook salmon escapement to date is above average for this location. Chum salmon escapement is well below average, and is the fourth lowest on record for this location.

No salmon escapement goals have been established by ADF&G for this river.

Kogrukluk River Weir

The Kogrukluk River weir is operated by ADF&G and used to index salmon escapement to the Holitna River drainage. The weir was successfully installed on June 21. As of July 13, a total of 2,771 Chinook salmon, 2,793 chum salmon, and 179 sockeye salmon were counted past the weir. On average, the midpoint of the escapement past the weir is July 13 for Chinook salmon, July 15 for chum salmon, and July 16 for sockeye salmon. Chinook salmon escapement to date is below the historical average for this location and there is evidence that the end of season escapement may be below the established goal. Chum salmon escapement is well below average and is the third lowest on record for this location. It is unlikely that the chum salmon escapement goal will be achieved at this location. Sockeye salmon escapement is well below average, but within the range of observations for years with late run timing.

Sustainable escapement goals have been established by ADF&G for Chinook salmon (4,800–8,800), chum salmon (15,000–49,000), sockeye salmon (4,400–17,000), and coho salmon (13,000–28,000). Goals were achieved for all species except Chinook salmon in 2014.

<u>Telaquana Lake Weir</u>

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 was redeployed to the lake on July 9, and the weir was successfully installed on July 11. We believe that <1% of the escapement would have passed prior to the weir being installed. As of July 13, at total of 1,510 sockeye salmon have been observed past the weir. Cumulative escapement is the second lowest on record for this location; however, it is very early in the escapement at this location.

Salmon River (Pitka Fork) Weir

The Salmon River (Pitka Fork) weir is operated by ADF&G and MTNT (McGrath, Takotna, Nikolai, Telida) and used to index Chinook salmon escapement to the headwaters upriver from McGrath. The weir was successfully installed on June 1. The very early installation date was in response to local area residents who reported seeing Chinook salmon historically in early June. The first Chinook salmon passed the weir on June 27. As of July 13, a total of 2,574 Chinook salmon and one chum salmon have passed the weir. This is the first year that this weir has operated since 1981, and no comparable data exists at this time.

Kuskokwim Bay Weirs

The Kanektok River weir has been in operation since June 22. As of July 12, total passage through the weir is 1,620 Chinook, 30,212 sockeye, and 1,841 chum salmon. Chinook salmon escapements are above average for this date, while the escapement of sockeye and chum salmon are below average.

The Middle Fork Goodnews River weir has been in operation since June 25. As of July 12, total passage through the weir is 416 Chinook, 27,018 sockeye, and 1,504 chum salmon. Sockeye salmon escapement has exceeded the lower bound of the biological escapement goal (18,000–40,000 fish). Chinook, sockeye and chum salmon passage is below average.

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.

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.

Two potential sonar sites have been identified. One is located near the upper confluence of the Kuskokwim River and Church Slough and the other is located downriver from the community of Akiak. Staff has completed 1–2 weeks of feasibility work at both sites – including testing sonar equipment and drift gillnet fishing. All fish harvested were donated to the communities of Kwethluk and Akiak. Over the past week, staff relocated to the lower site to collect additional data. The data collection phase of the feasibility study is scheduled to end in mid-July. Staff will relocate to Fairbanks to begin the analysis portion of this project.

Tributary Escapement Monitoring – Aerial Surveys

Aerial surveys are flown throughout 15 Kuskokwim River tributaries for Chinook salmon and 3 Kuskokwim Bay tributaries for Chinook salmon and sockeye salmon. Aerial surveys are an index of escapement to a very broad geographic area – meaning not all fish are counted, but the number of fish observed is related to the number of fish that escaped. ADF&G will begin flying aerial surveys this coming week. Aerial surveys will be flown between July 17th and August 5th starting with headwater tributaries and ending in the lower Kuskokwim River and Bay.