

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: 07/22/2015

Time: 10:00am

Place: Bethel

Time Called to Order:

Chair: Bev 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.
 - 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:

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

NEXT MEETING DATE: _____ **Time:** _____ **Place:** _____

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=commercialbyarea_kuskokwim.kswg

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

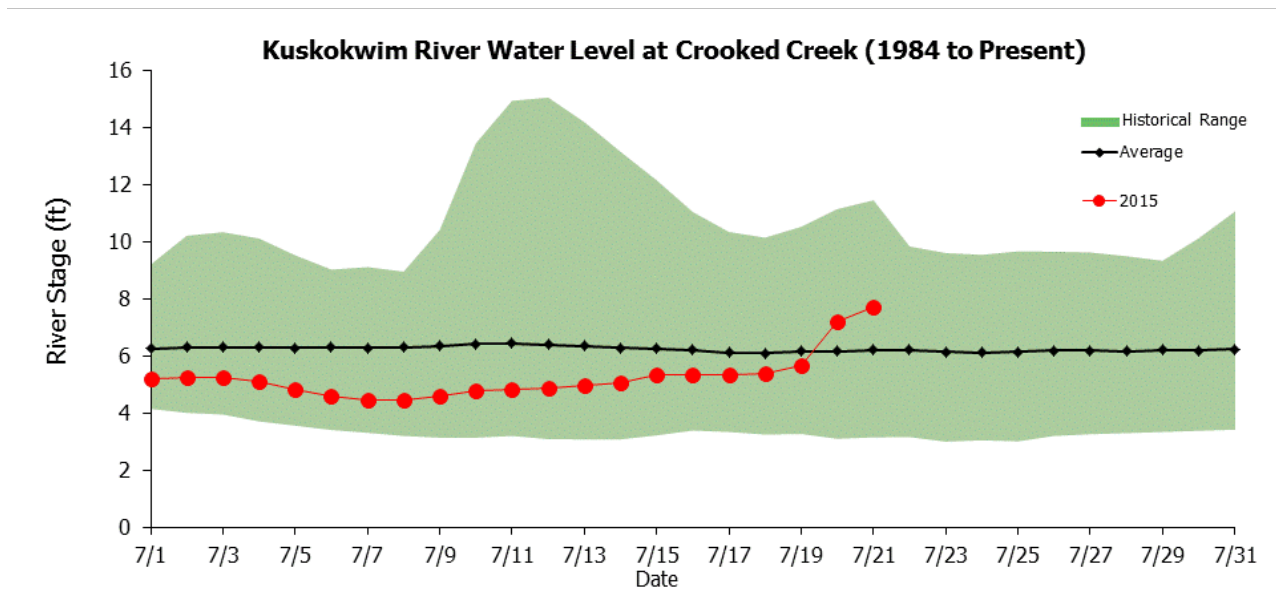
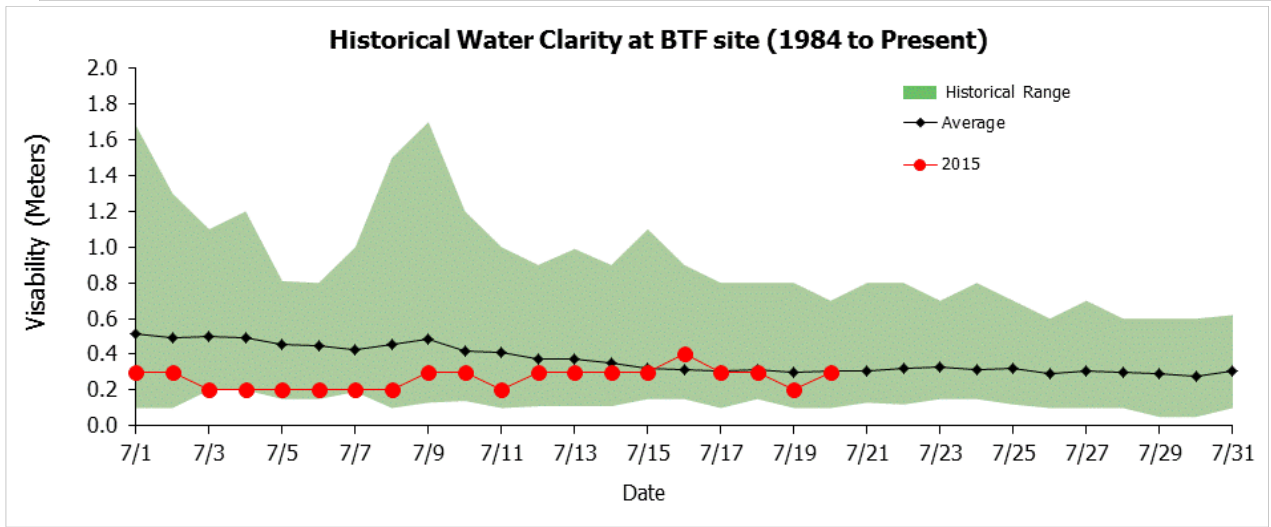
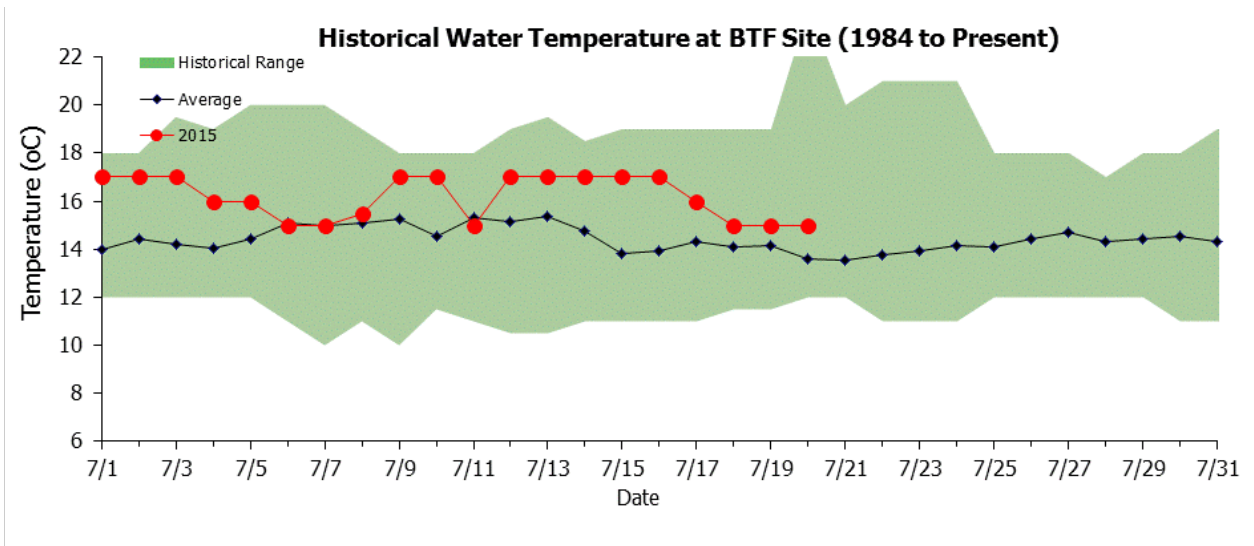
Thank you.

Jennifer Peeks

Chris Shelden

Working Group coordinators

Informational Packet



Informational Packet

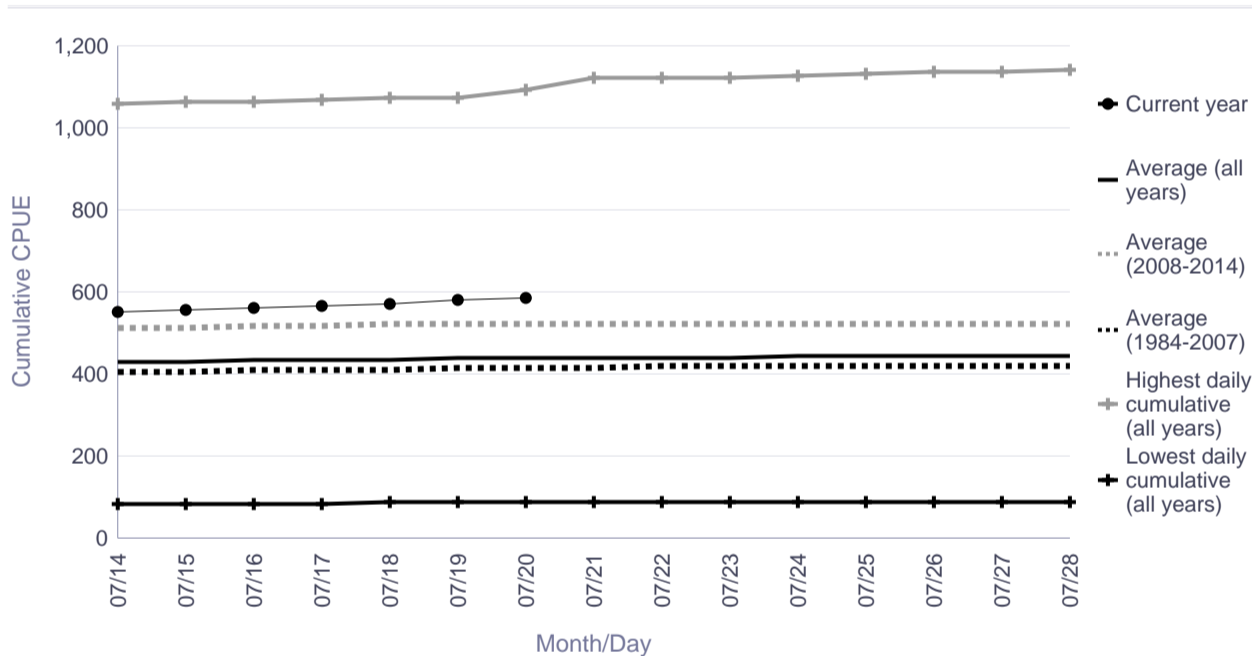
*To access BTF and weir data online, please visit: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.salmon#fishcounts>

Bethel Test Fishery Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

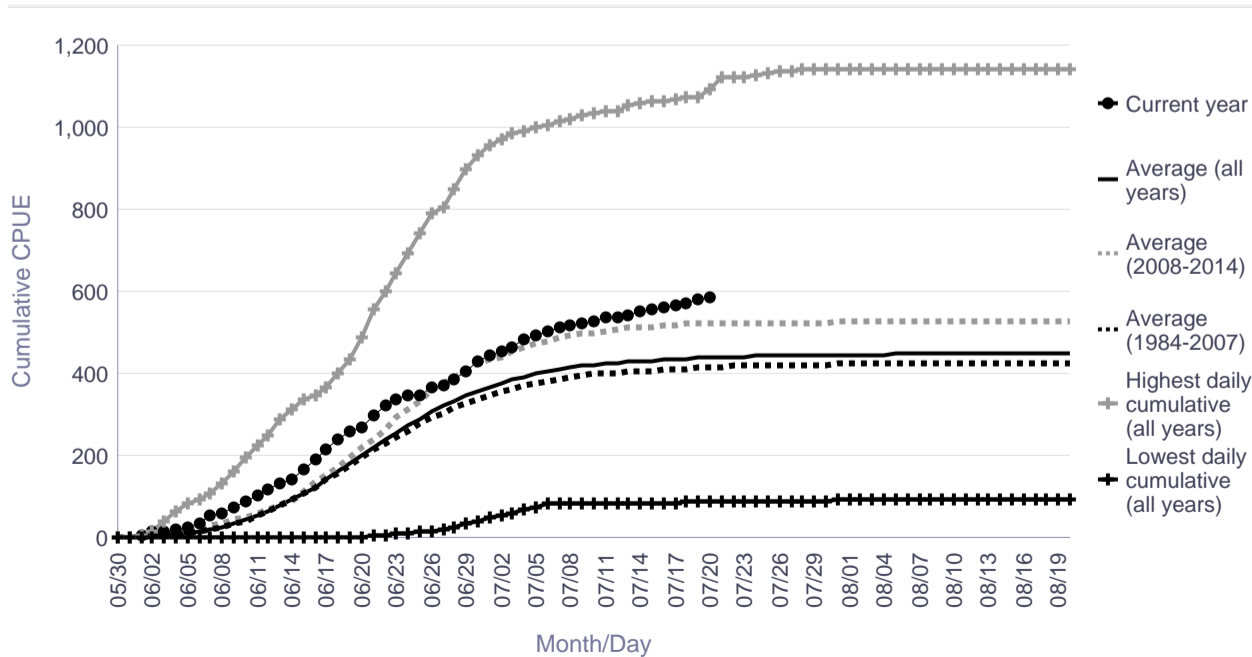
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	Average (1984-2007)	Average (2008-2014)	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current year
07/14	85	431	407	512	1,059	552
07/15	85	432	408	514	1,062	556
07/16	85	433	409	516	1,065	562
07/17	85	435	411	518	1,068	564
07/18	87	436	412	520	1,071	571
07/19	87	438	413	521	1,074	579
07/20	89	439	415	521	1,091	584
07/21	89	441	417	522	1,120	
07/22	89	441	418	522	1,122	
07/23	89	442	418	522	1,122	
07/24	89	443	419	523	1,128	
07/25	89	443	419	524	1,131	
07/26	89	444	420	524	1,136	
07/27	89	444	421	524	1,136	
07/28	89	445	421	524	1,139	

	Lowest CPUE	Average CPUE (all years)	Average CPUE (1984-2007)	Average CPUE (2008-2014)	Highest CPUE
Season Total	91	448	424	527	1,141

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



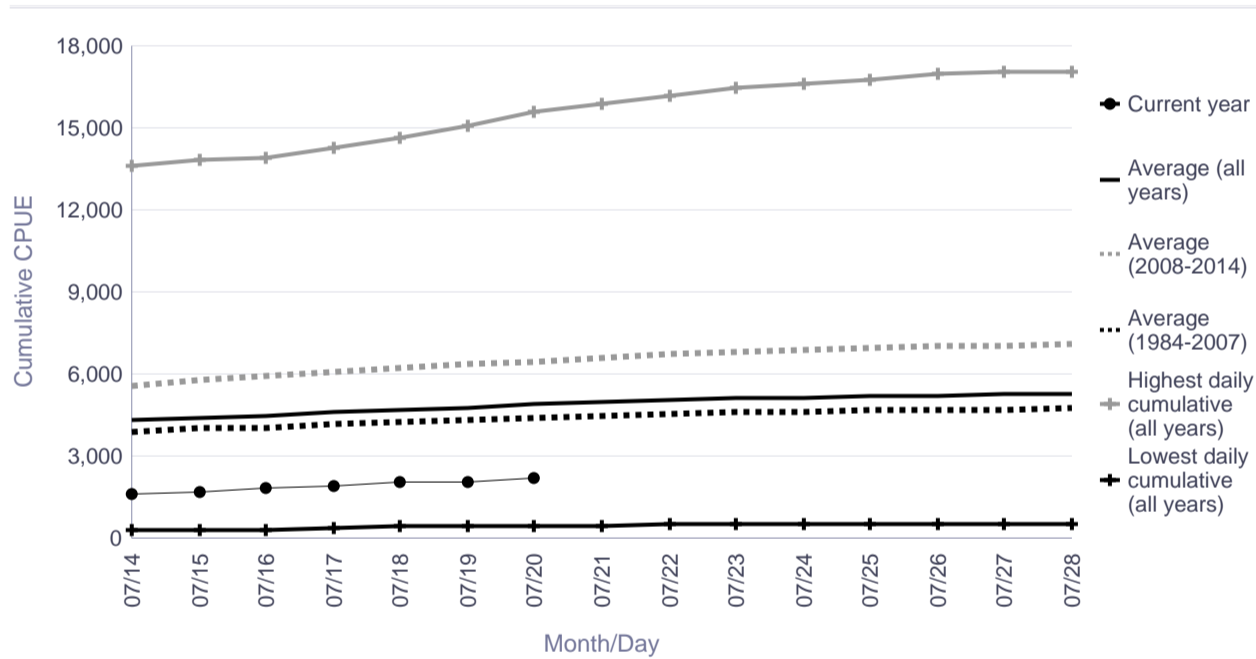
Informational Packet

Bethel Test Fishery Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

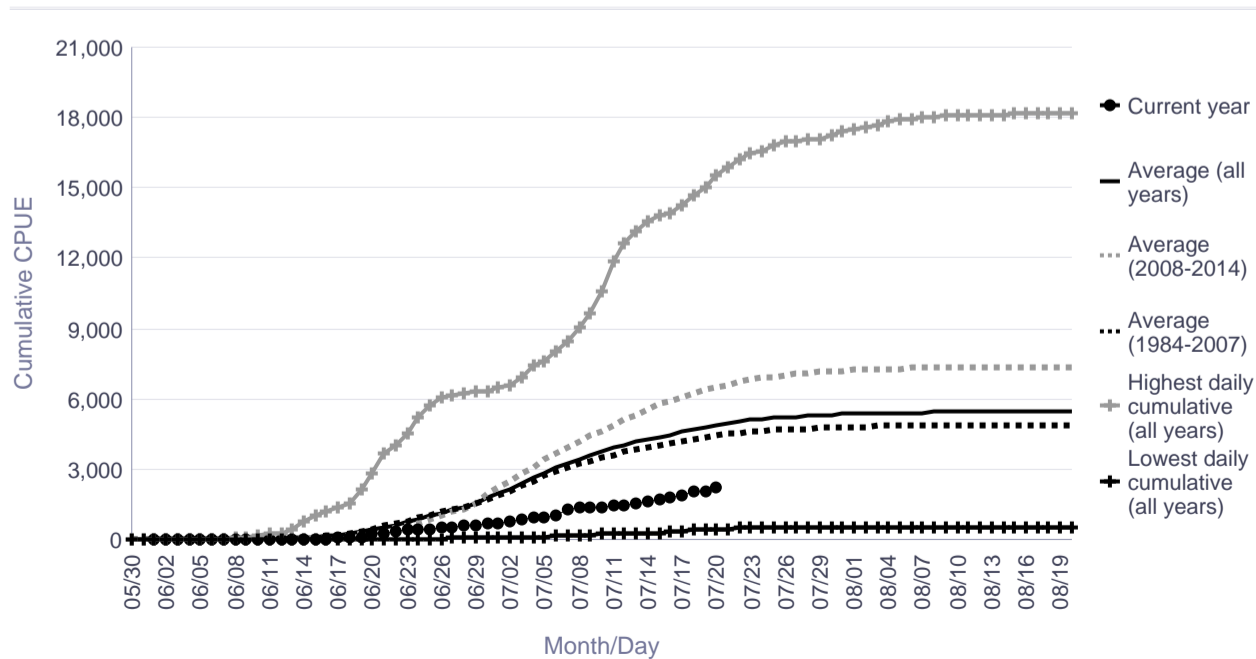
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	Average (1984-2007)	Average (2008-2014)	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current year
07/14	278	4,295	3,921	5,578	13,612	1,656
07/15	302	4,405	3,998	5,800	13,830	1,698
07/16	340	4,489	4,067	5,933	13,876	1,811
07/17	386	4,585	4,157	6,051	14,239	1,906
07/18	420	4,695	4,246	6,235	14,640	2,030
07/19	448	4,795	4,335	6,374	15,046	2,089
07/20	469	4,889	4,427	6,473	15,560	2,236
07/21	483	4,973	4,499	6,597	15,901	
07/22	505	5,045	4,558	6,715	16,177	
07/23	517	5,102	4,600	6,823	16,444	
07/24	527	5,146	4,632	6,909	16,598	
07/25	527	5,187	4,669	6,962	16,775	
07/26	535	5,226	4,703	7,020	16,969	
07/27	537	5,252	4,724	7,063	17,011	
07/28	543	5,277	4,745	7,104	17,031	

	Lowest CPUE	Average CPUE (all years)	Average CPUE (1984-2007)	Average CPUE (2008-2014)	Highest CPUE
Season Total	549	5,462	4,902	7,381	18,192

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



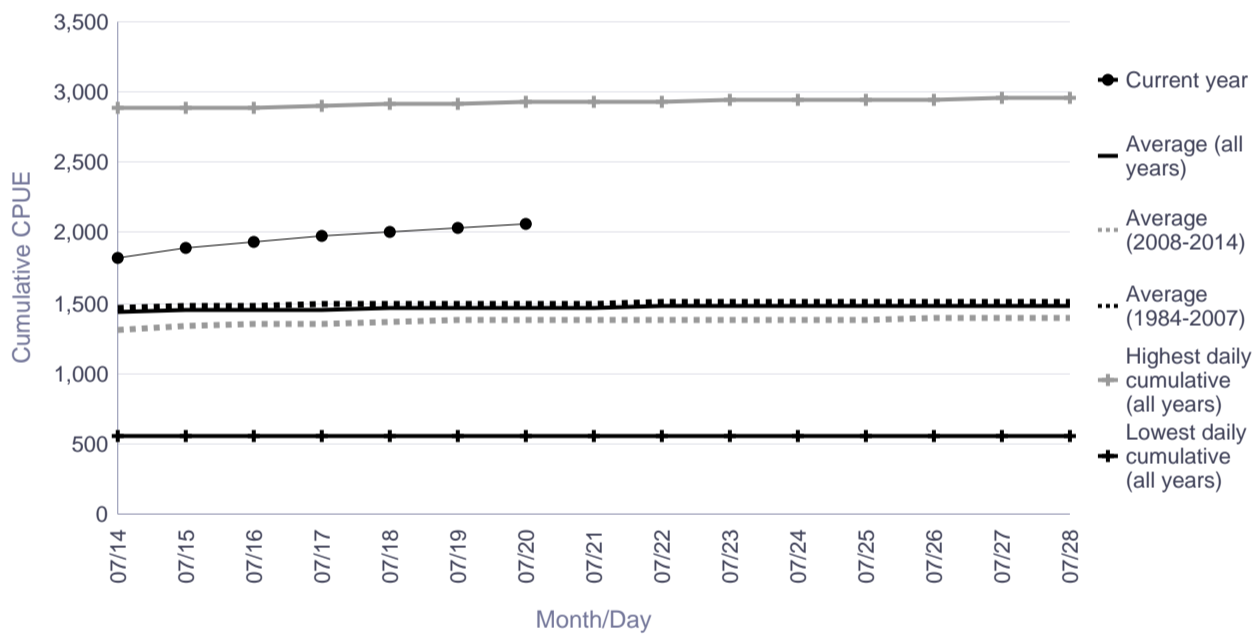
Informational Packet

Bethel Test Fishery Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

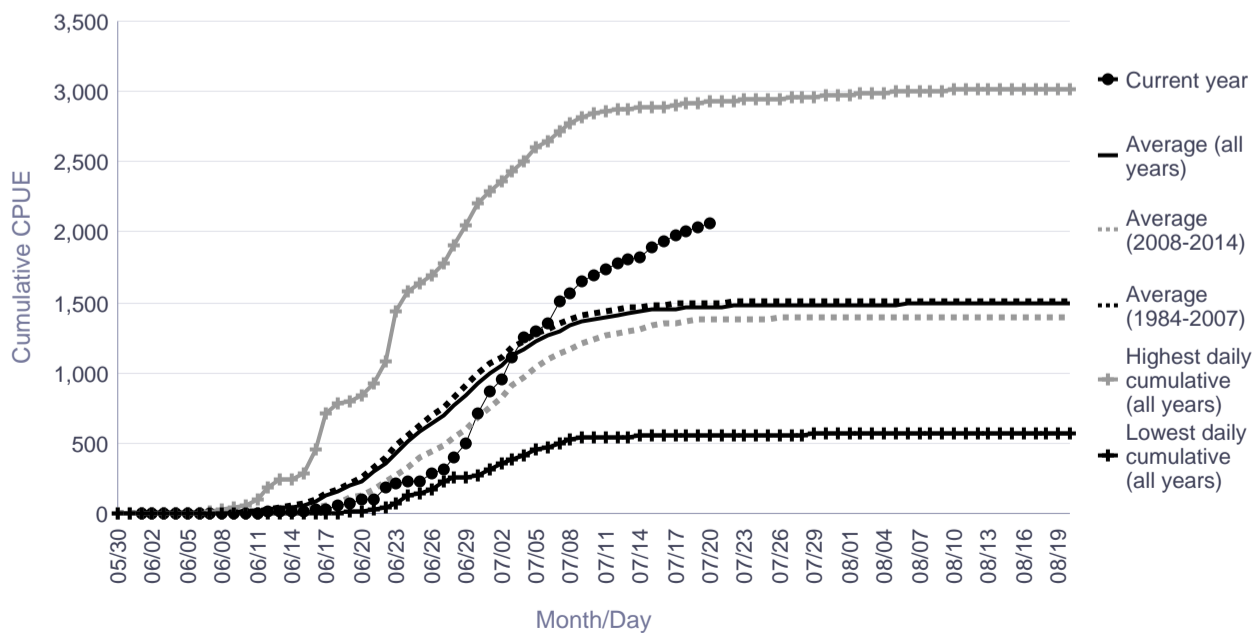
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	Average (1984-2007)	Average (2008-2014)	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current year
07/14	550	1,433	1,470	1,304	2,887	1,826
07/15	553	1,447	1,479	1,339	2,893	1,891
07/16	553	1,453	1,484	1,347	2,893	1,941
07/17	553	1,459	1,488	1,359	2,901	1,984
07/18	553	1,463	1,491	1,368	2,909	2,005
07/19	553	1,466	1,493	1,375	2,920	2,031
07/20	557	1,470	1,498	1,377	2,931	2,057
07/21	557	1,473	1,500	1,380	2,934	
07/22	559	1,475	1,502	1,382	2,936	
07/23	559	1,477	1,504	1,384	2,940	
07/24	559	1,477	1,504	1,385	2,940	
07/25	559	1,478	1,505	1,387	2,940	
07/26	561	1,480	1,506	1,389	2,944	
07/27	561	1,481	1,507	1,391	2,953	
07/28	562	1,482	1,508	1,393	2,955	

	Lowest CPUE	Average CPUE (all years)	Average CPUE (1984-2007)	Average CPUE (2008-2014)	Highest CPUE
Season Total	569	1,490	1,516	1,402	3,019

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



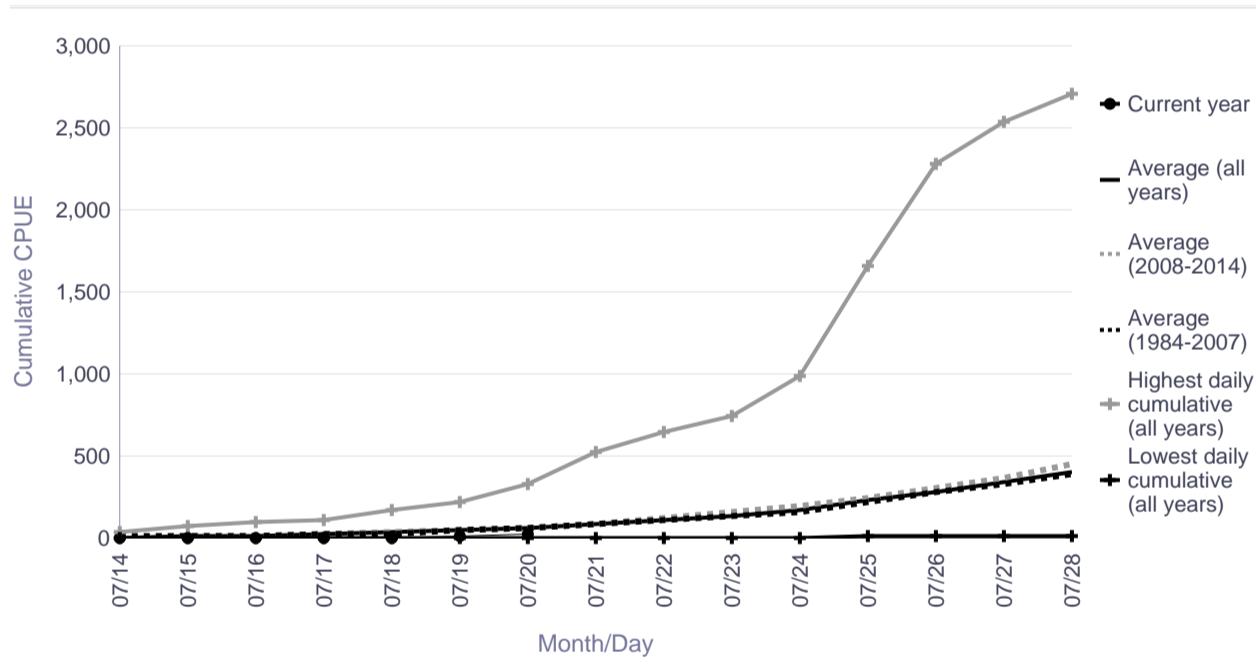
Informational Packet

Bethel Test Fishery Coho Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

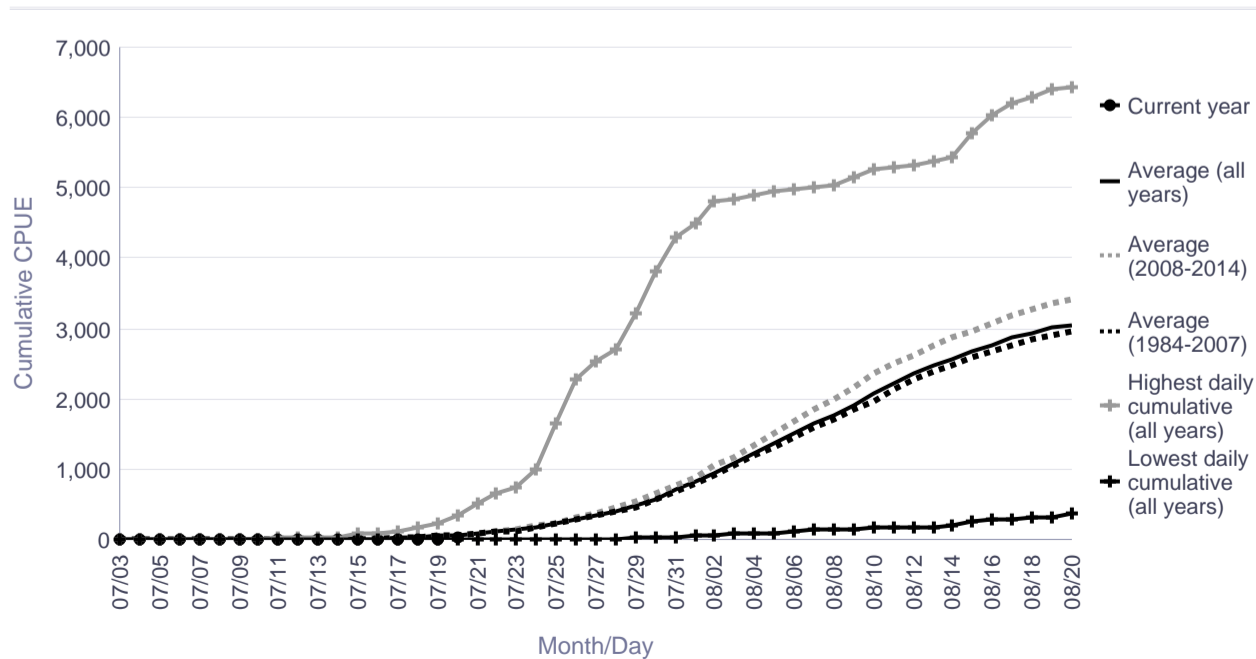
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	Average (1984-2007)	Average (2008-2014)	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current year
07/14	0	8	9	6	41	3
07/15	0	12	12	12	79	3
07/16	0	17	16	20	100	4
07/17	0	25	24	27	117	4
07/18	0	33	32	36	167	6
07/19	0	48	48	49	227	11
07/20	0	67	67	64	335	22
07/21	0	89	90	85	529	
07/22	2	115	114	121	649	
07/23	2	138	133	160	746	
07/24	6	173	166	199	986	
07/25	9	230	226	246	1,661	
07/26	9	285	280	303	2,276	
07/27	11	339	332	362	2,532	
07/28	13	404	389	455	2,702	

	Lowest CPUE	Average CPUE (all years)	Average CPUE (1984-2007)	Average CPUE (2008-2014)	Highest CPUE
Season Total	423	3,294	3,203	3,606	7,183

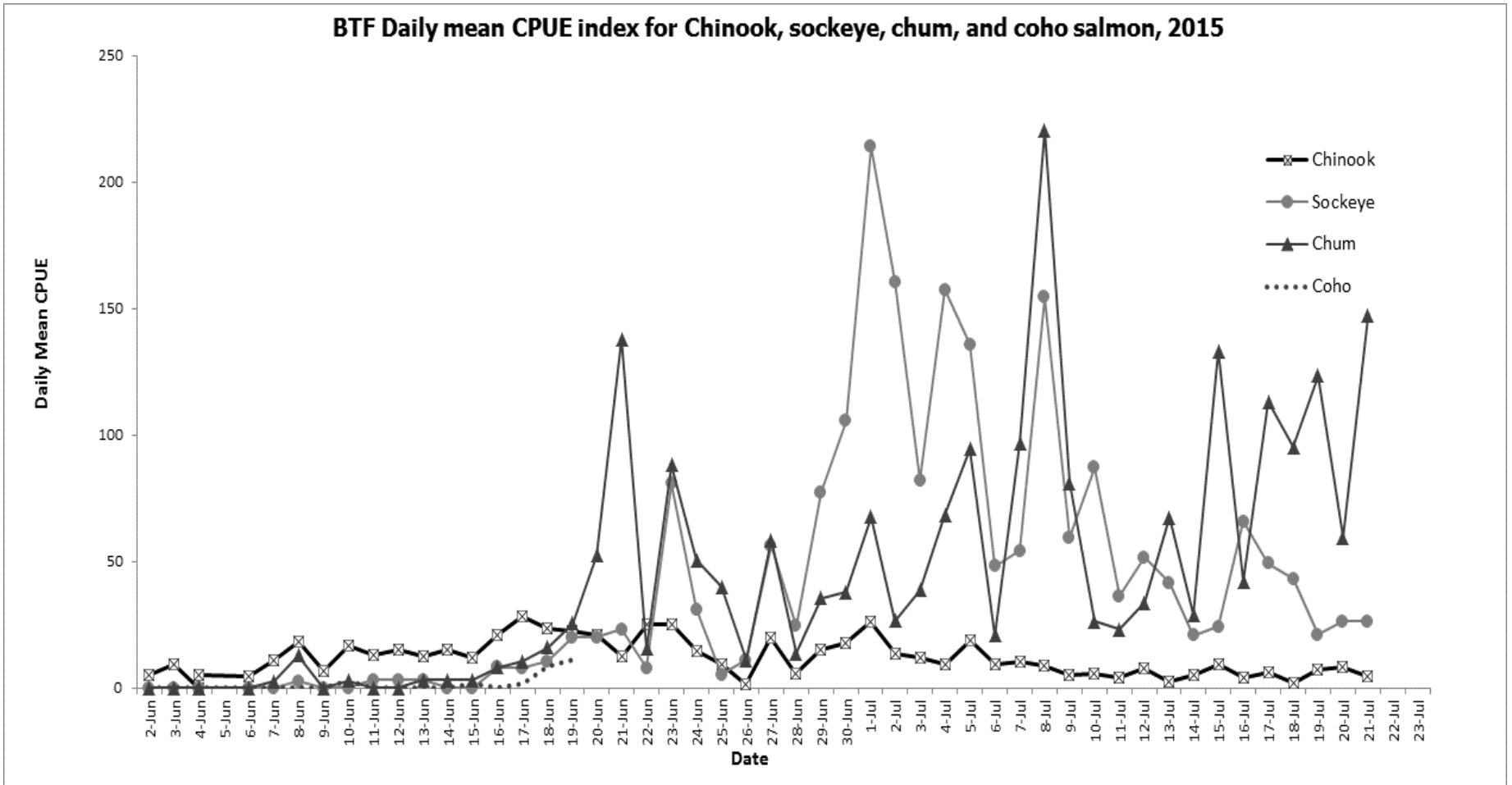
Focused Two-Week Data View



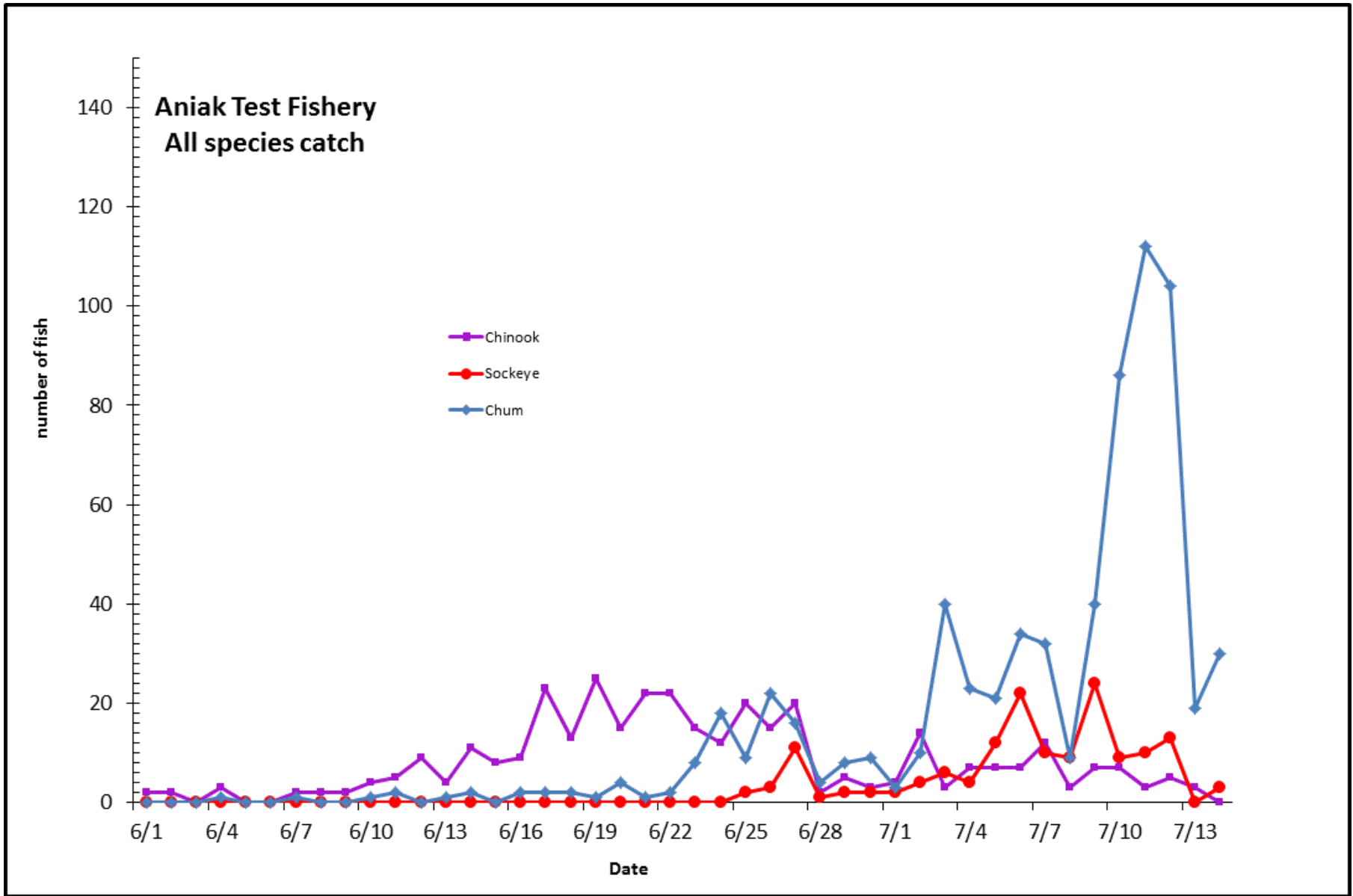
Season Total Overview



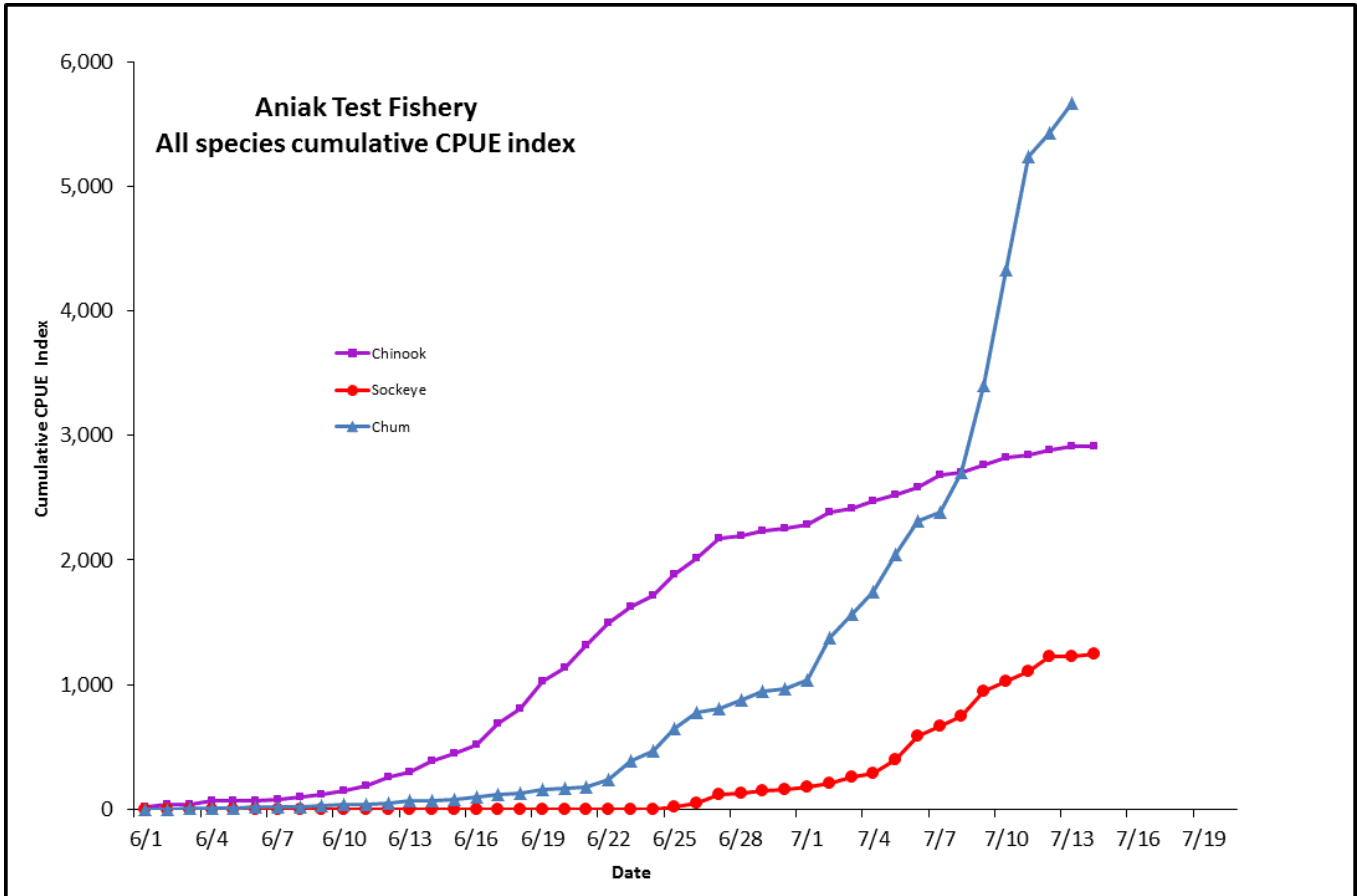
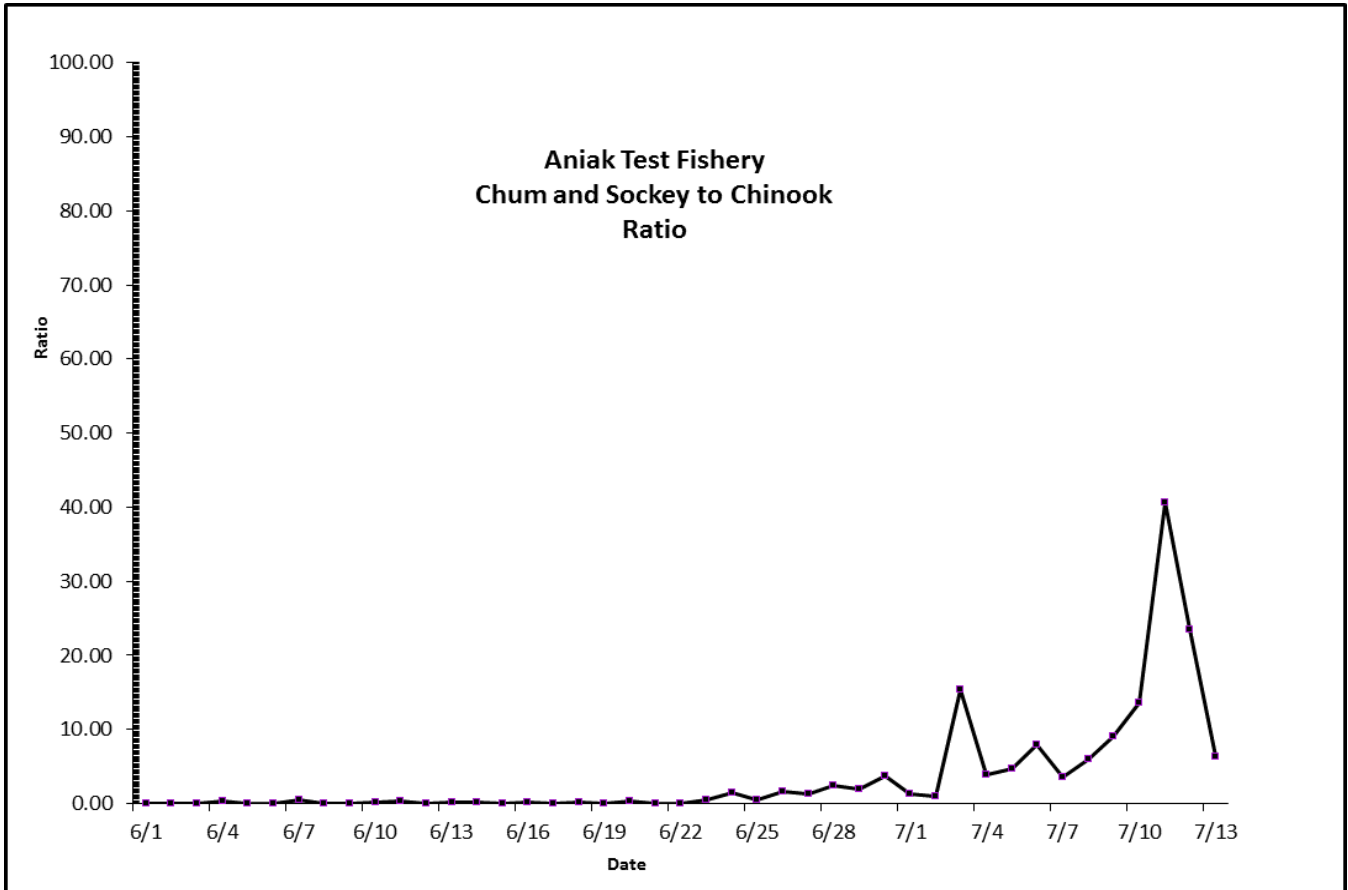
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Informational Packet



Informational Packet



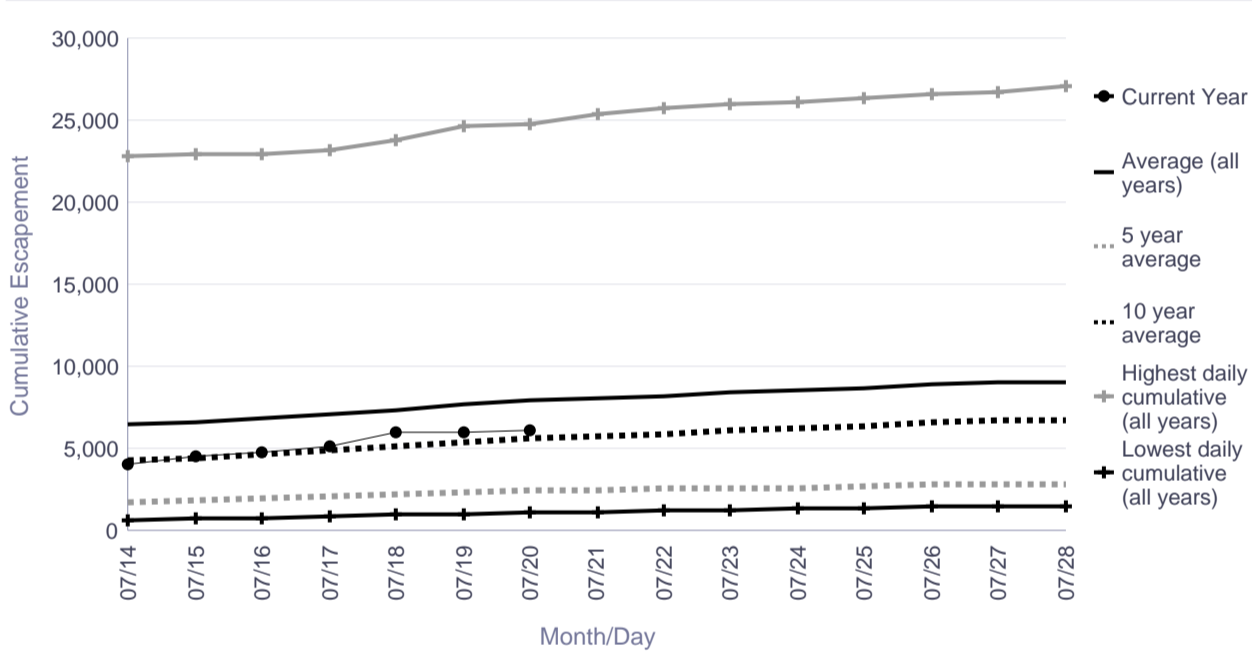
Informational Packet

Kwethluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon Escapement Goal Range: 4,100 to 7,500

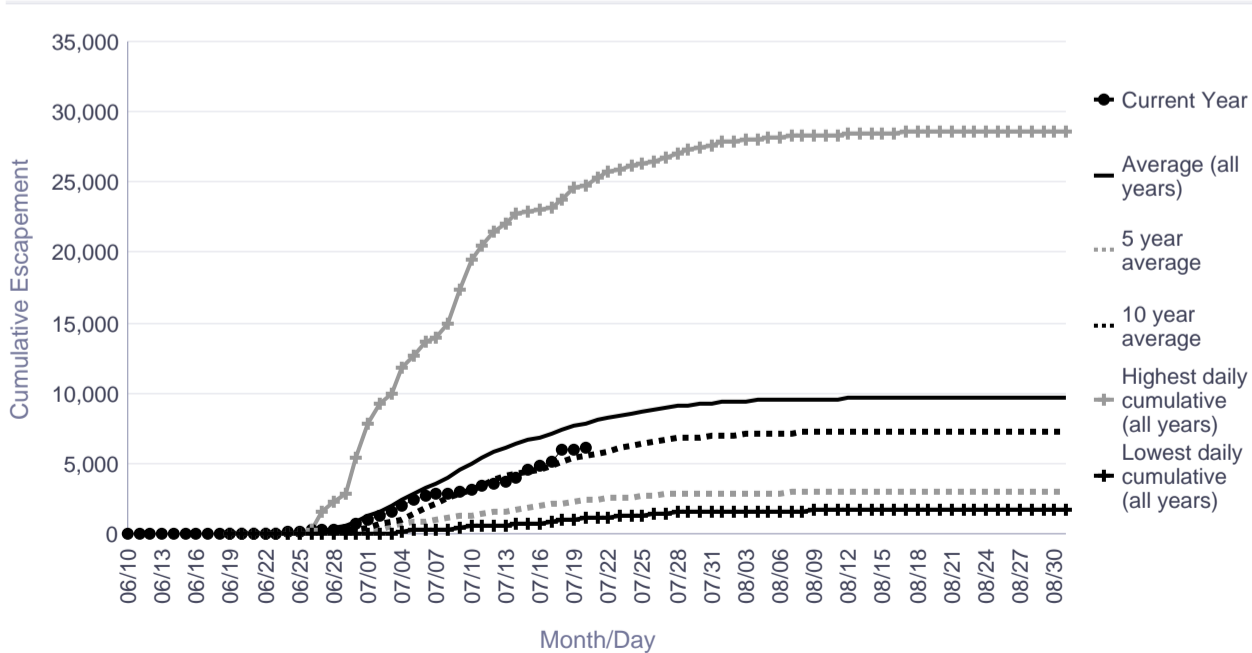
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/14	668	6,464	1,773	4,321	22,774	4,070
07/15	699	6,652	1,876	4,455	22,935	4,580
07/16	763	6,833	1,978	4,602	22,978	4,809
07/17	897	7,083	2,108	4,865	23,134	5,197
07/18	970	7,389	2,193	5,142	23,793	5,950
07/19	1,021	7,665	2,278	5,388	24,599	6,042
07/20	1,107	7,907	2,408	5,611	24,795	6,141
07/21	1,166	8,085	2,474	5,767	25,318	
07/22	1,207	8,238	2,543	5,916	25,689	
07/23	1,249	8,424	2,577	6,111	25,947	
07/24	1,308	8,558	2,629	6,227	26,139	
07/25	1,354	8,723	2,706	6,412	26,387	
07/26	1,428	8,859	2,776	6,570	26,526	
07/27	1,472	8,988	2,806	6,713	26,707	
07/28	1,522	9,079	2,840	6,778	27,026	

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

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



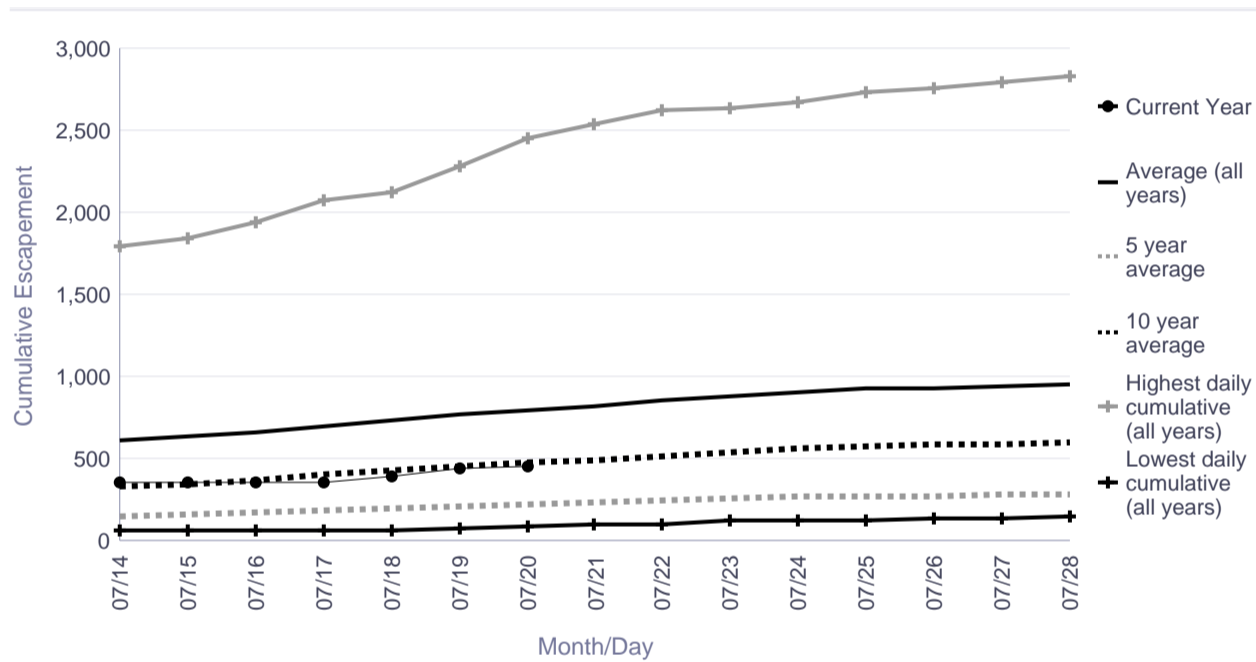
Informational Packet

Tuluksak River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

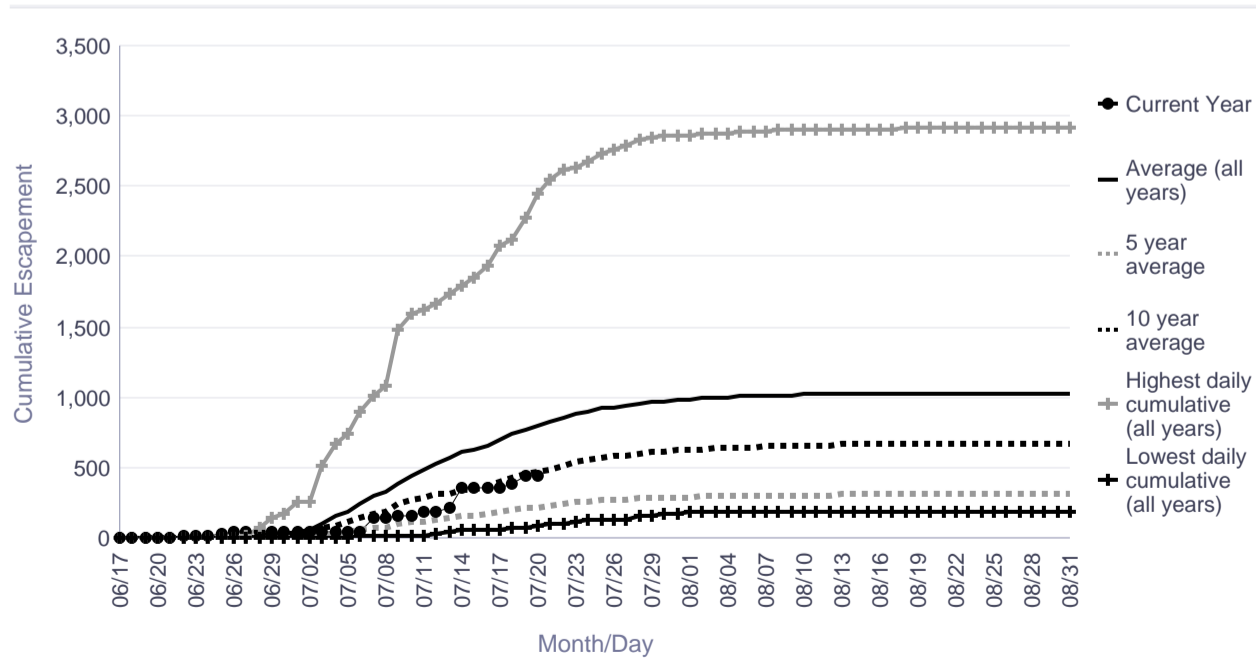
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/14	62	611	152	336	1,793	351
07/15	65	634	159	349	1,845	355
07/16	66	662	173	371	1,942	357
07/17	66	694	187	403	2,072	358
07/18	69	737	196	432	2,119	392
07/19	77	772	209	455	2,280	439
07/20	84	799	220	471	2,445	449
07/21	96	823	231	490	2,541	
07/22	103	855	246	519	2,618	
07/23	118	881	259	540	2,636	
07/24	125	902	265	562	2,668	
07/25	129	922	270	576	2,736	
07/26	132	932	274	582	2,759	
07/27	137	944	278	591	2,795	
07/28	153	957	284	603	2,831	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	193	1,034	311	672	2,918

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



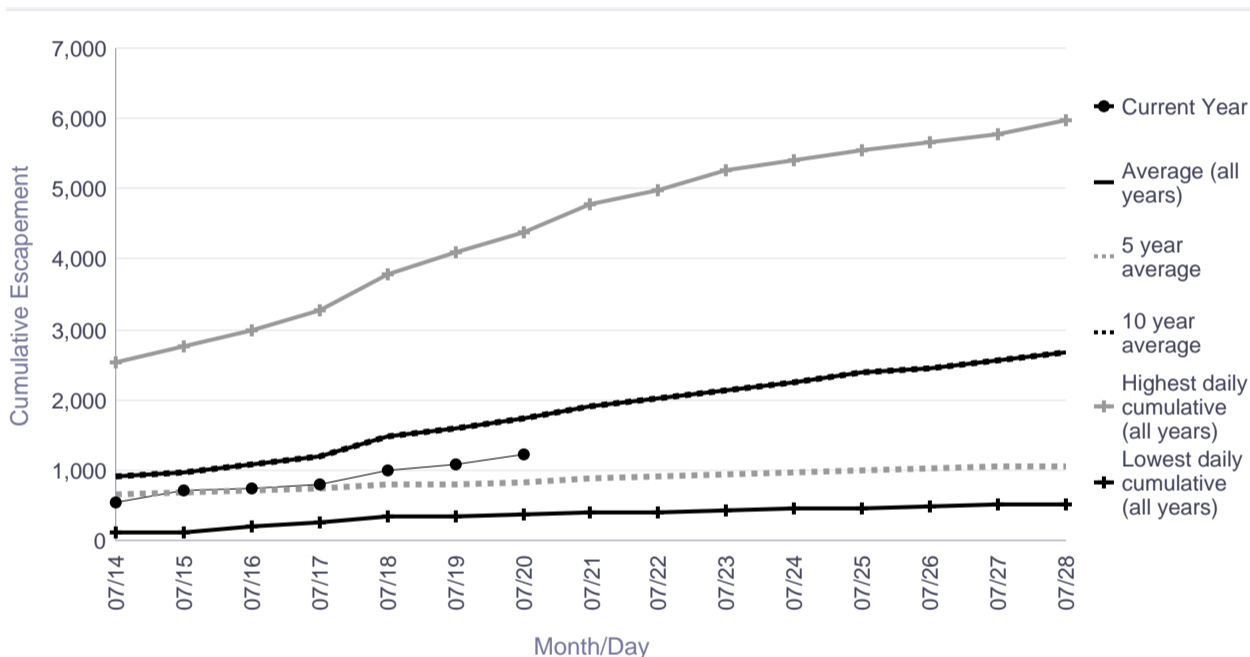
Informational Packet

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

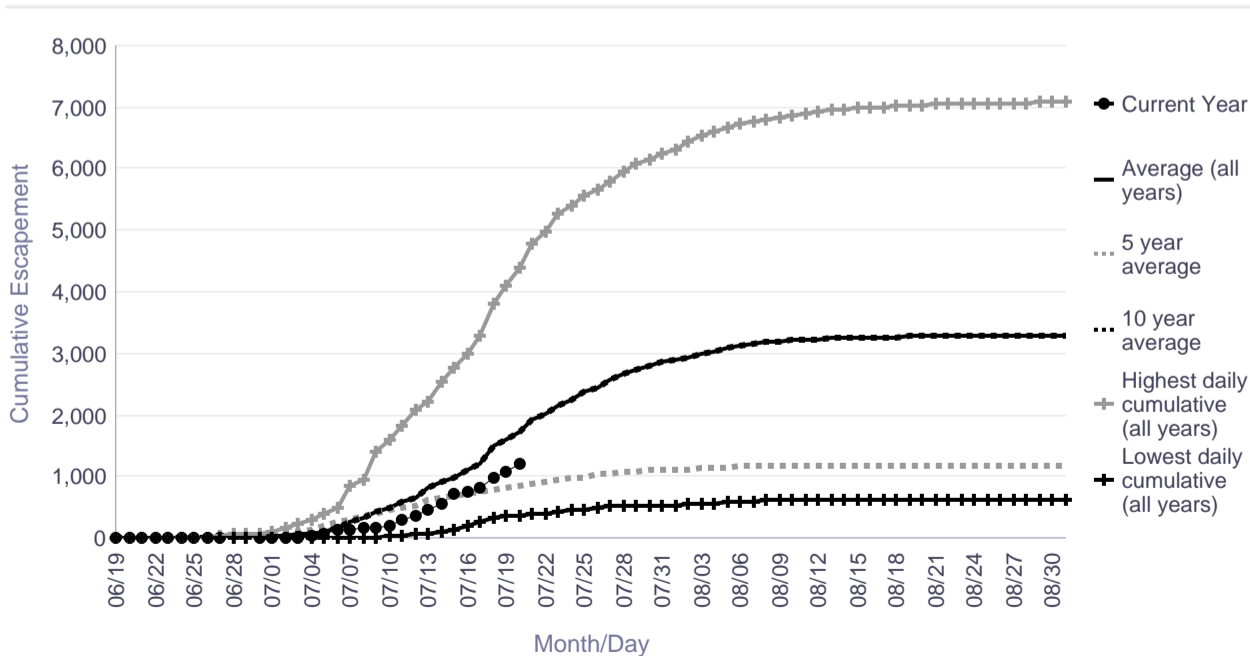
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/14	111	923	662	923	2,533	557
07/15	128	985	691	985	2,764	722
07/16	211	1,097	728	1,097	2,980	738
07/17	269	1,195	755	1,195	3,279	814
07/18	344	1,491	792	1,491	3,794	994
07/19	354	1,598	807	1,598	4,089	1,076
07/20	369	1,741	842	1,741	4,378	1,216
07/21	390	1,907	881	1,907	4,769	
07/22	405	2,026	907	2,026	4,987	
07/23	426	2,146	943	2,146	5,260	
07/24	448	2,255	971	2,255	5,396	
07/25	451	2,379	996	2,379	5,551	
07/26	497	2,458	1,031	2,458	5,655	
07/27	514	2,559	1,052	2,559	5,773	
07/28	518	2,685	1,068	2,685	5,966	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	625	3,291	1,191	3,291	7,075

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



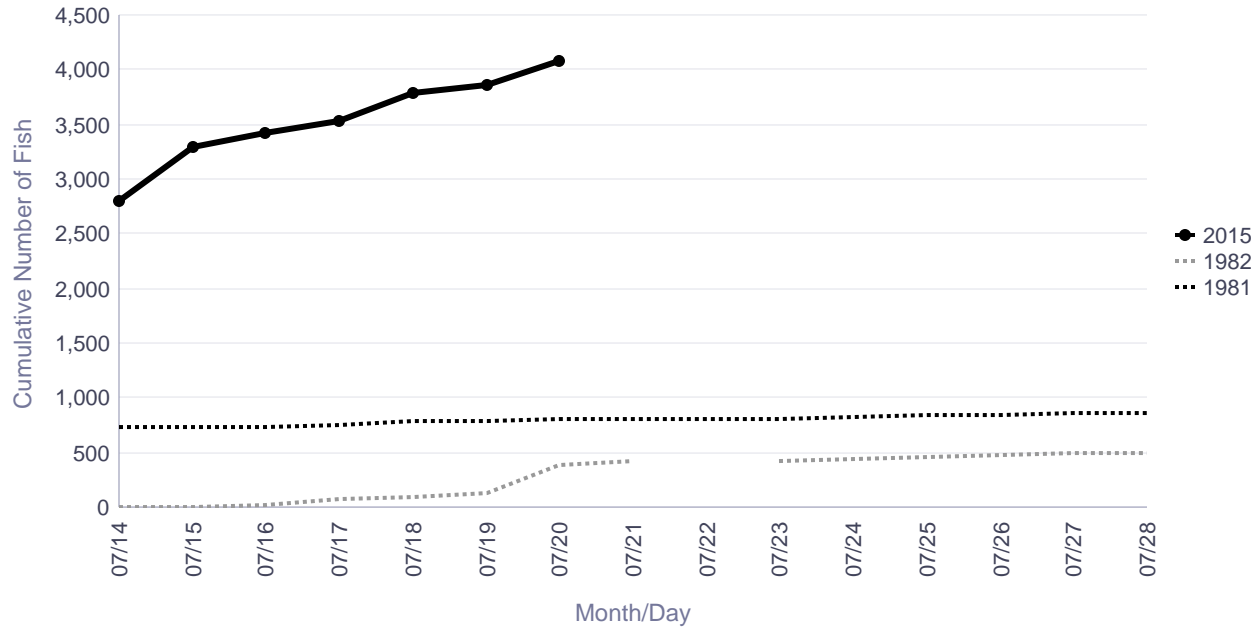
Informational Packet

Salmon River (Pitka Fork) Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

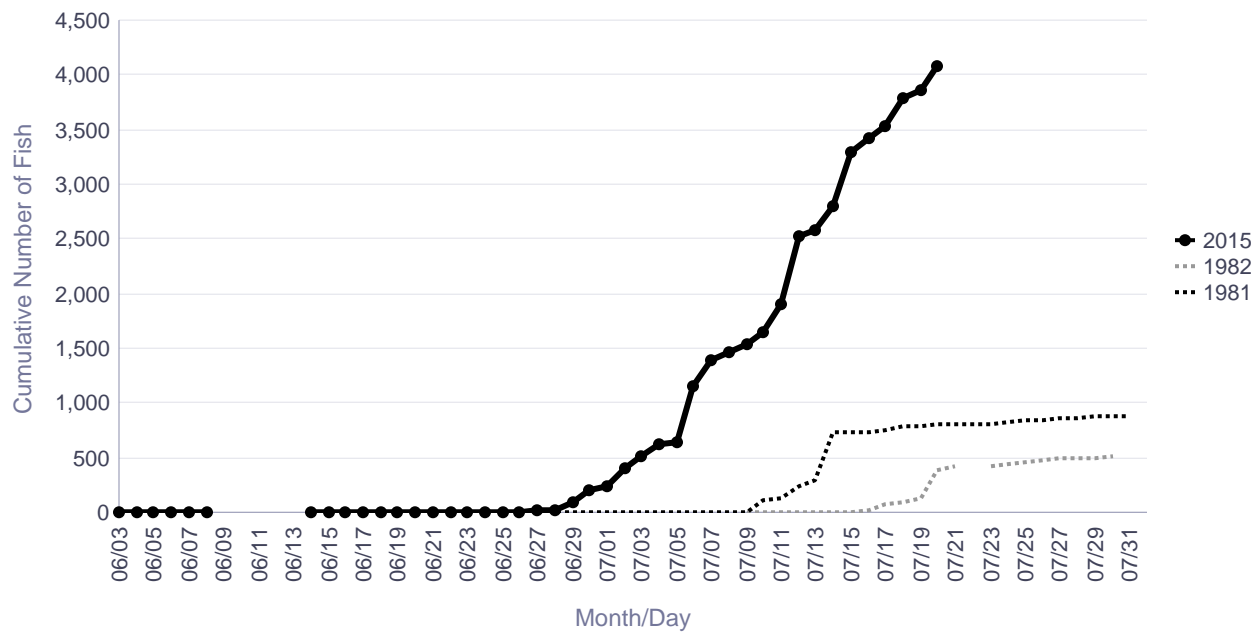
Date	Cumulative Daily Passage		
	1981	1982	2015
07/14	738	4	2,799
07/15	740	9	3,287
07/16	742	19	3,420
07/17	759	68	3,522
07/18	792	90	3,793
07/19	797	127	3,861
07/20	800	384	4,084
07/21	800	428	
07/22	800		
07/23	802	428	
07/24	820	442	
07/25	840	458	
07/26	851	483	
07/27	861	490	
07/28	866	503	

	1981	1982	2015
Season Total	877	511	

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



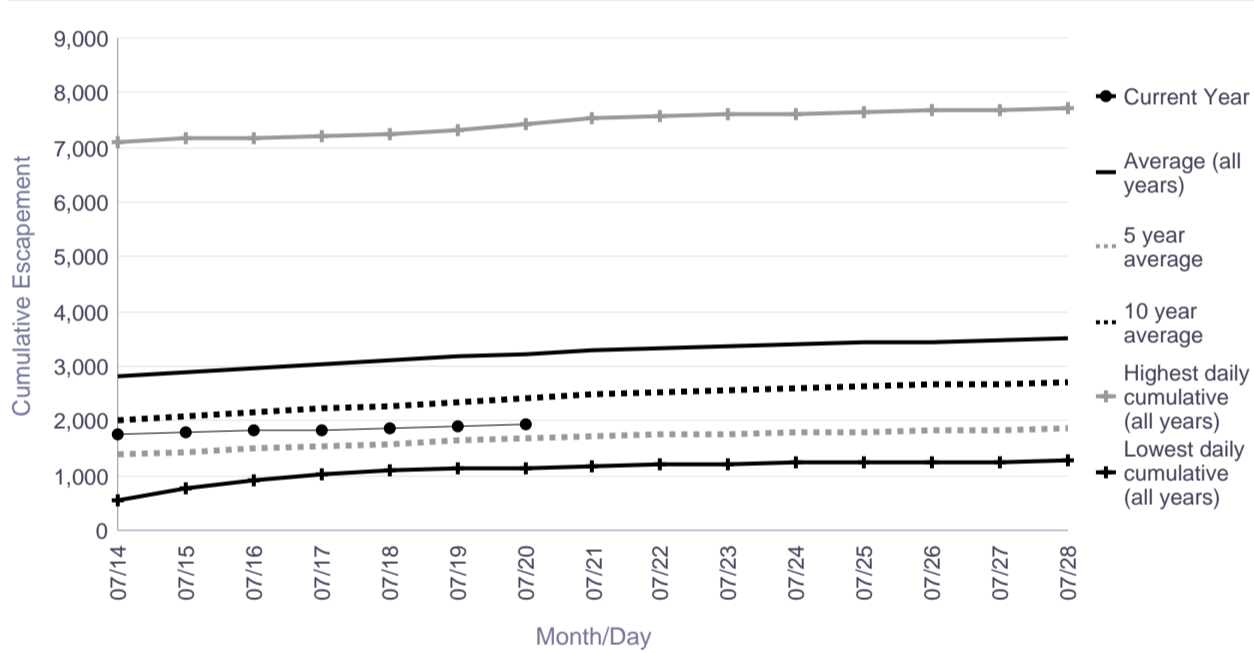
Informational Packet

George River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon Escapement Goal Range: 1,800 to 3,300

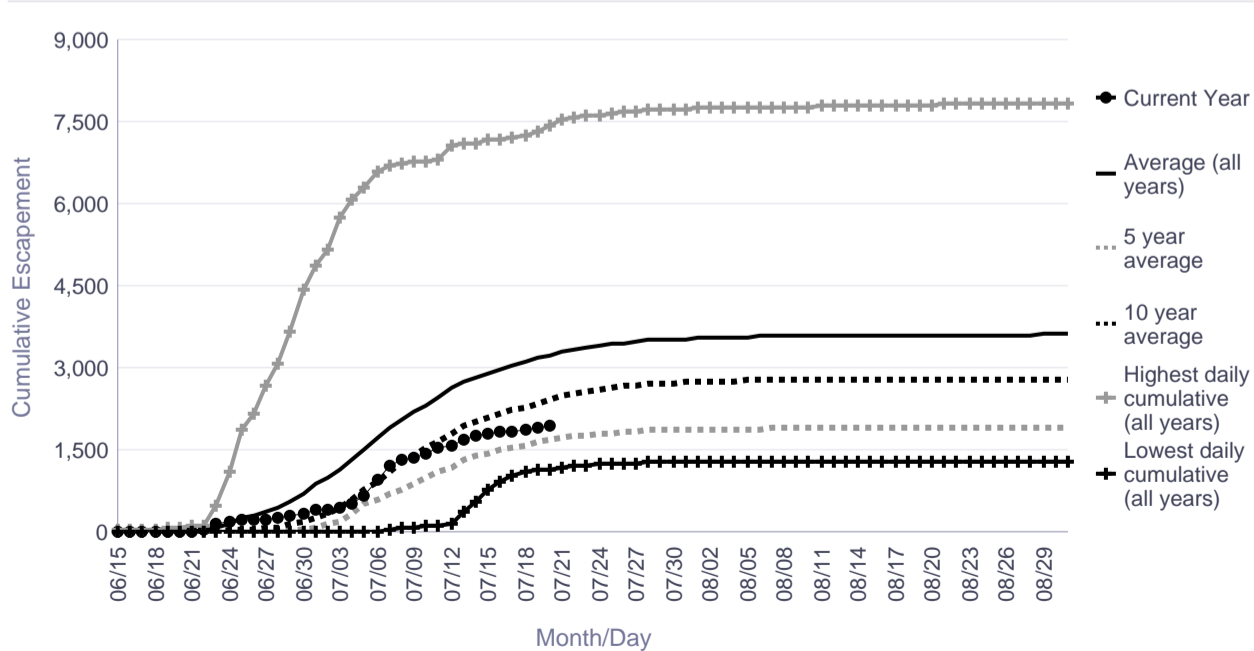
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/14	541	2,815	1,383	2,010	7,103	1,744
07/15	788	2,895	1,433	2,079	7,168	1,807
07/16	910	2,970	1,506	2,160	7,174	1,824
07/17	1,042	3,041	1,550	2,236	7,196	1,844
07/18	1,090	3,097	1,590	2,289	7,238	1,871
07/19	1,126	3,173	1,637	2,355	7,325	1,893
07/20	1,152	3,231	1,671	2,414	7,436	1,943
07/21	1,193	3,297	1,717	2,494	7,519	
07/22	1,214	3,332	1,745	2,528	7,568	
07/23	1,230	3,378	1,763	2,580	7,600	
07/24	1,240	3,404	1,788	2,608	7,607	
07/25	1,251	3,435	1,814	2,643	7,648	
07/26	1,260	3,458	1,827	2,665	7,666	
07/27	1,264	3,479	1,843	2,685	7,675	
07/28	1,272	3,498	1,855	2,702	7,700	

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

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



Informational Packet

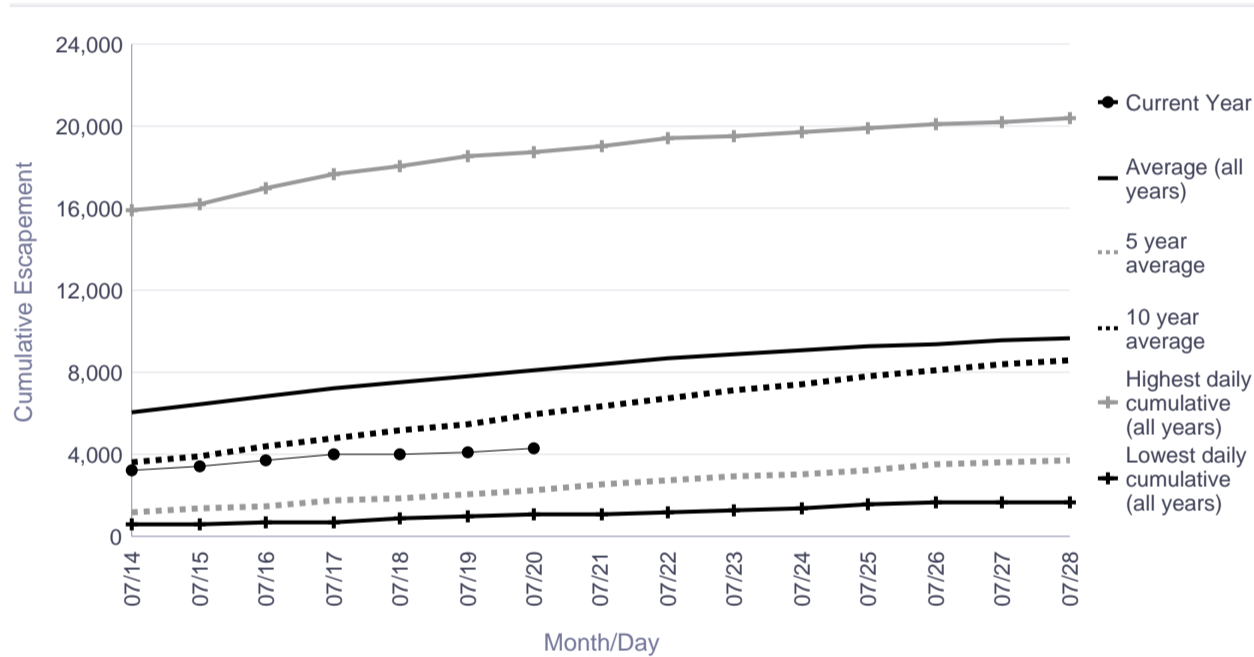
Kogrukluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

Escapement Goal Range: 4,800 to 8,800

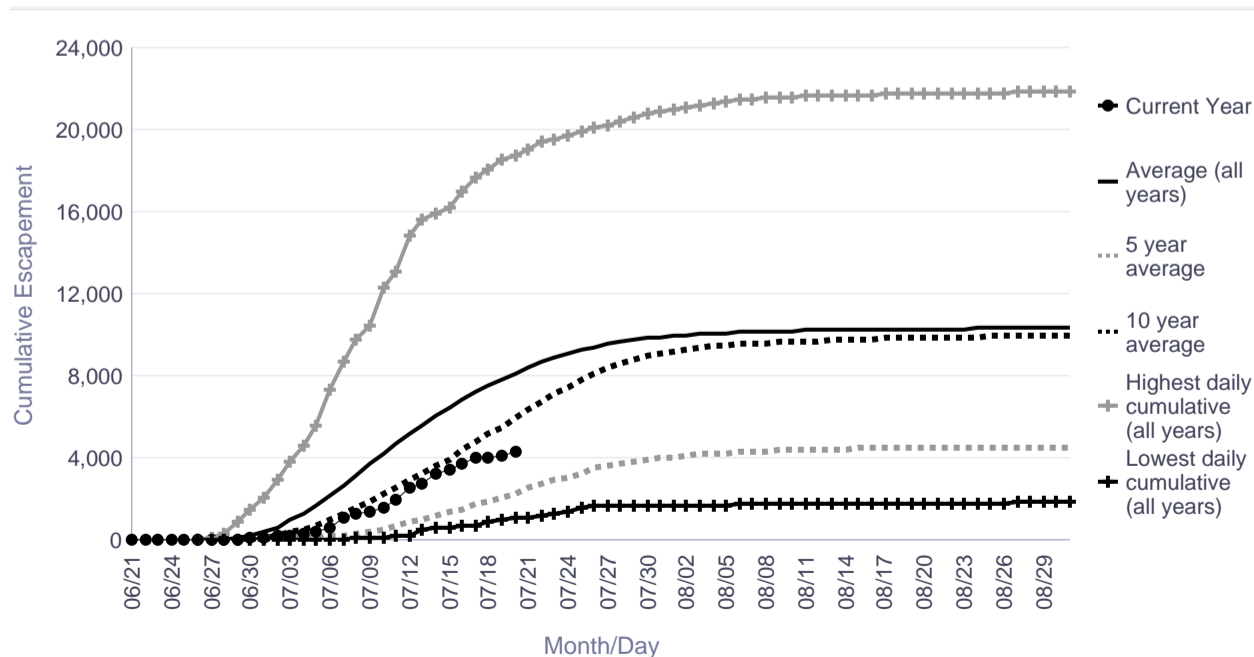
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/14	574	6,044	1,202	3,635	15,937	3,192
07/15	618	6,411	1,349	3,939	16,183	3,430
07/16	678	6,836	1,526	4,390	16,957	3,681
07/17	739	7,217	1,728	4,803	17,646	4,059
07/18	862	7,540	1,914	5,158	18,019	4,059
07/19	993	7,844	2,096	5,509	18,494	4,076
07/20	1,075	8,128	2,305	5,926	18,768	4,291
07/21	1,113	8,442	2,511	6,370	19,034	
07/22	1,208	8,683	2,777	6,740	19,396	
07/23	1,321	8,889	2,934	7,148	19,547	
07/24	1,361	9,065	3,081	7,442	19,681	
07/25	1,559	9,251	3,276	7,808	19,901	
07/26	1,629	9,398	3,477	8,130	20,060	
07/27	1,648	9,523	3,607	8,370	20,195	
07/28	1,654	9,634	3,711	8,599	20,362	

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

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



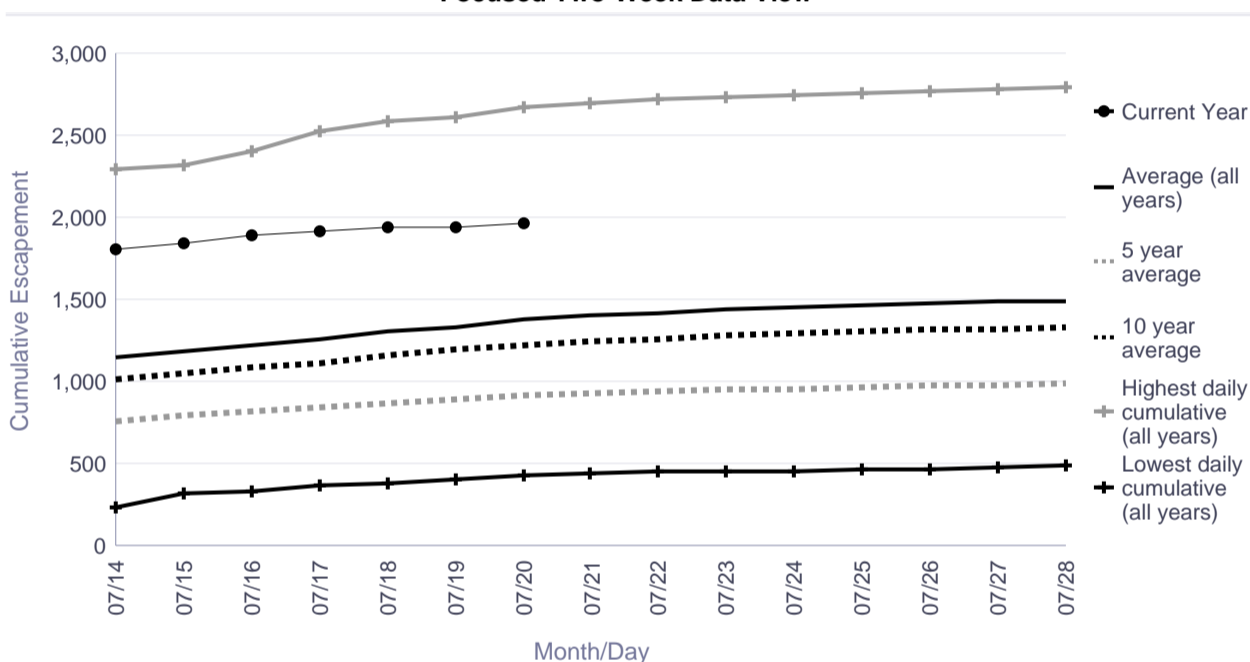
Informational Packet

Tatlawiksuk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

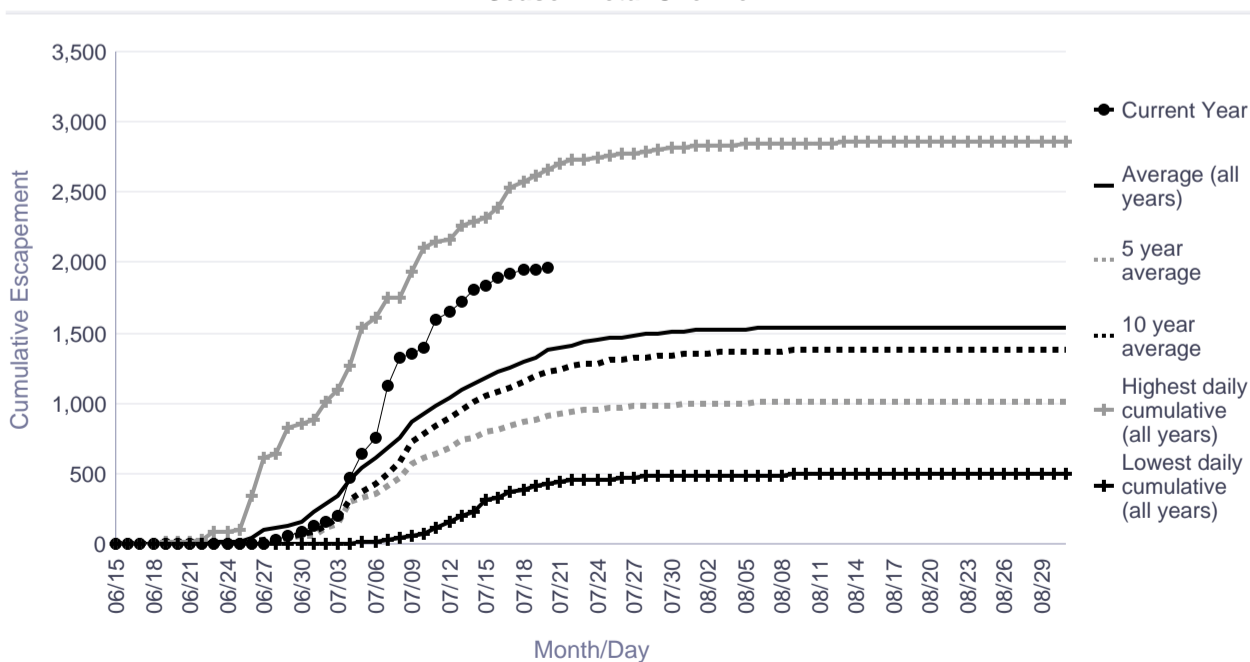
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/14	229	1,145	760	1,010	2,288	1,810
07/15	315	1,187	797	1,051	2,319	1,842
07/16	334	1,219	818	1,084	2,397	1,886
07/17	367	1,257	841	1,116	2,527	1,914
07/18	384	1,299	870	1,156	2,580	1,945
07/19	409	1,329	890	1,191	2,612	1,945
07/20	434	1,376	916	1,218	2,664	1,960
07/21	444	1,398	931	1,244	2,700	
07/22	450	1,416	944	1,262	2,724	
07/23	454	1,434	953	1,275	2,734	
07/24	458	1,448	958	1,288	2,749	
07/25	462	1,463	965	1,303	2,760	
07/26	465	1,473	973	1,313	2,771	
07/27	478	1,484	979	1,321	2,776	
07/28	484	1,494	984	1,330	2,788	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	495	1,542	1,011	1,380	2,864

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



Informational Packet

Comparison of 2014 and 2015 Chinook salmon cumulative escapements at Kuskokwim River weir projects.

Date	Kwethluk		Tuluksak		Salmon (Aniak)		George		Tatlawiksuk		Kogrukluk	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
15-Jul	2,558	4,580	243	356	1,132	722	2,556	1,807	1,779	1,842	2,189	3,430
16-Jul	2,587	4,809	260	358	1,202	738	2,734	1,824	1,787	1,886	2,321	3,681
17-Jul	2,702	5,197	266	359	1,222	814	2,776	1,844	1,807	1,914	2,564	4,059
18-Jul	2,752	5,950	272	393	1,239	994	2,782	1,871	1,809	1,945	2,640	4,059
19-Jul	2,753	6,042	278	440	1,259	1,076	2,787	1,893	1,812	1,945	2,708	4,076
20-Jul	2,826	6,141	278	450	1,314	1,216	2,792	1,943	1,853	1,960	2,831	4,291
21-Jul	2,922		285		1,371		2,826		1,856		3,054	
22-Jul	2,928		298		1,408		2,849		1,862		3,114	
23-Jul	2,933		301		1,460		2,864		1,868		3,209	
24-Jul	2,955		302		1,493		2,876		1,868		3,274	
25-Jul	2,997		307		1,541		2,889		1,872		3,331	
26-Jul	3,052		309		1,565		2,902		1,875		3,416	
27-Jul	3,069		311		1,590		2,933		1,878		3,490	
28-Jul	3,075		311		1,617		2,941		1,881		3,548	

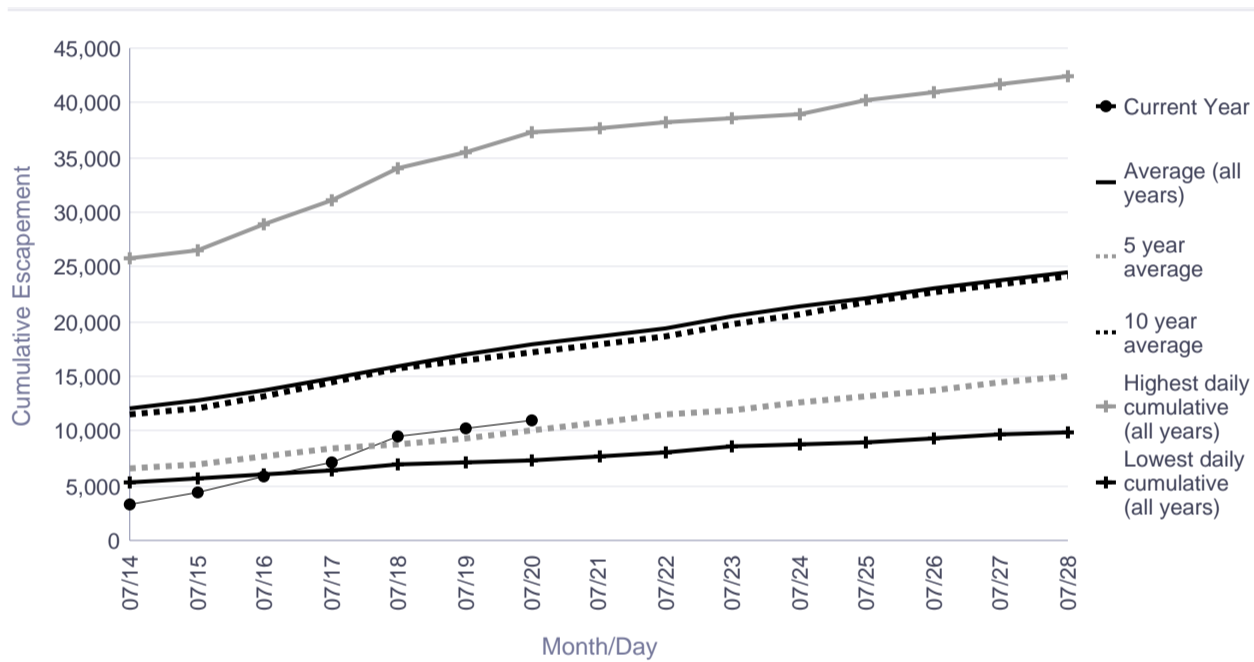
Informational Packet

Kwethluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

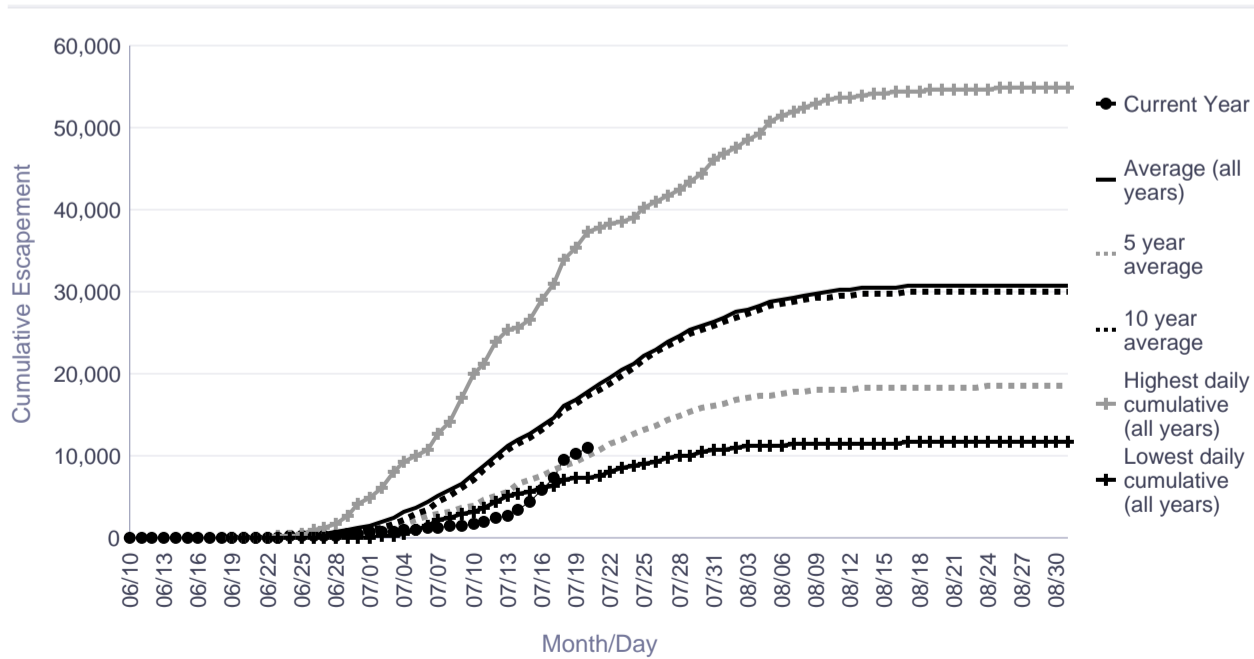
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/14	5,305	12,058	6,525	11,542	25,719	3,385
07/15	5,719	12,754	7,005	12,106	26,606	4,386
07/16	6,066	13,662	7,656	13,118	28,951	5,937
07/17	6,461	14,746	8,400	14,400	31,045	7,232
07/18	7,027	16,015	8,880	15,654	34,001	9,500
07/19	7,245	16,937	9,312	16,397	35,418	10,273
07/20	7,418	17,923	10,011	17,224	37,219	11,014
07/21	7,701	18,690	10,865	18,003	37,706	
07/22	8,122	19,444	11,578	18,742	38,285	
07/23	8,590	20,441	11,957	19,792	38,513	
07/24	8,807	21,320	12,590	20,757	38,913	
07/25	9,015	22,214	13,173	21,724	40,246	
07/26	9,346	23,055	13,792	22,629	41,025	
07/27	9,711	23,864	14,415	23,500	41,681	
07/28	9,928	24,566	15,012	24,165	42,419	

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

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



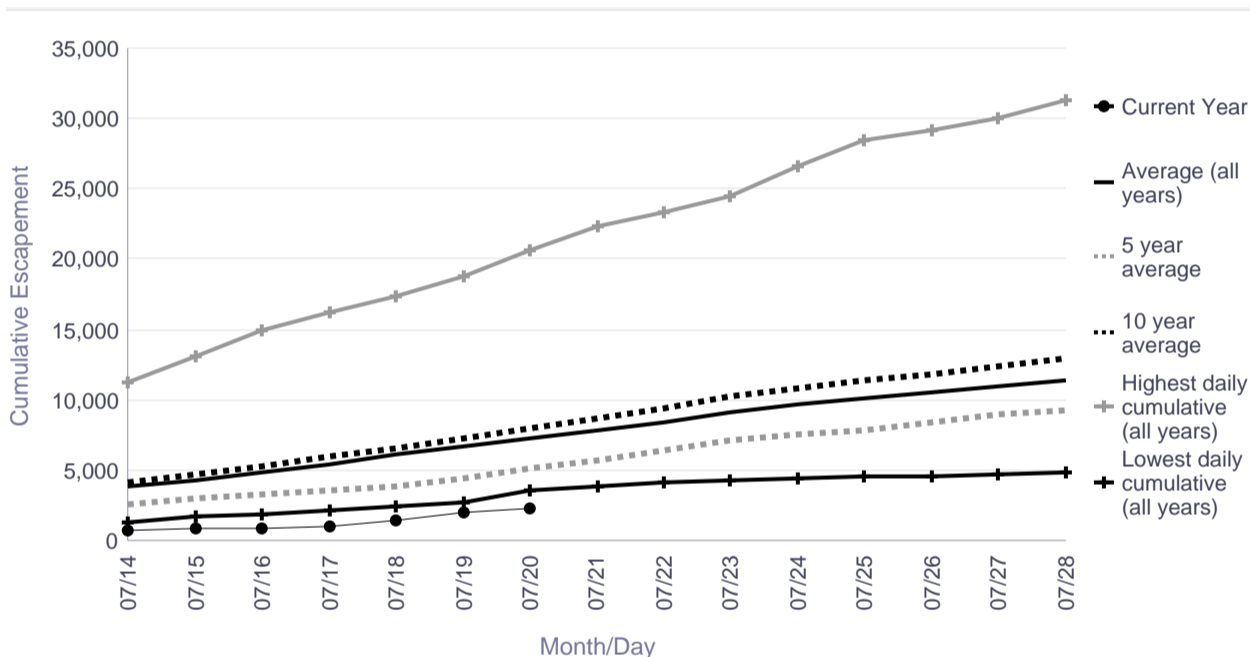
Informational Packet

Tuluksak River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

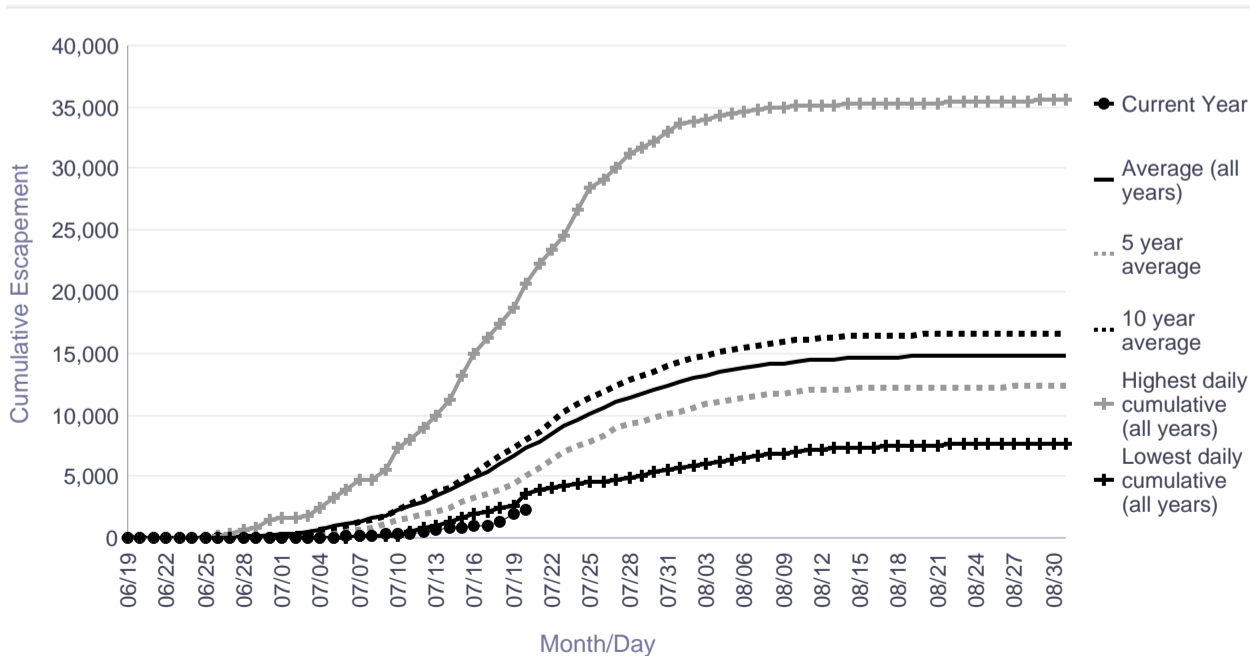
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/14	1,256	3,866	2,526	4,149	11,302	797
07/15	1,716	4,335	2,991	4,687	13,140	838
07/16	1,929	4,836	3,253	5,232	14,901	945
07/17	2,172	5,445	3,587	6,017	16,282	1,066
07/18	2,413	6,068	3,905	6,608	17,371	1,379
07/19	2,691	6,712	4,482	7,303	18,752	1,962
07/20	3,628	7,304	5,079	8,037	20,661	2,286
07/21	3,848	7,851	5,680	8,702	22,306	
07/22	4,102	8,444	6,407	9,424	23,384	
07/23	4,256	9,092	7,081	10,200	24,520	
07/24	4,380	9,623	7,500	10,884	26,610	
07/25	4,535	10,114	7,882	11,395	28,407	
07/26	4,642	10,536	8,385	11,861	29,100	
07/27	4,736	11,006	8,918	12,412	30,075	
07/28	4,878	11,459	9,270	12,895	31,252	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	7,675	14,608	12,204	16,492	35,696

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



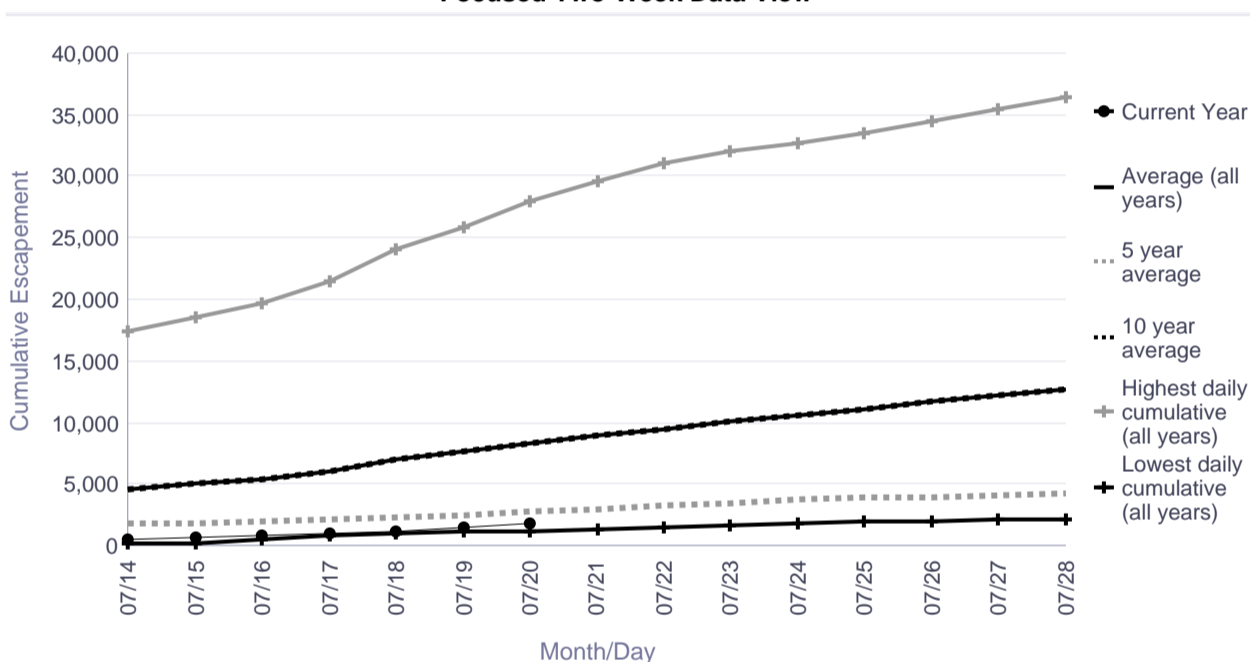
Informational Packet

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

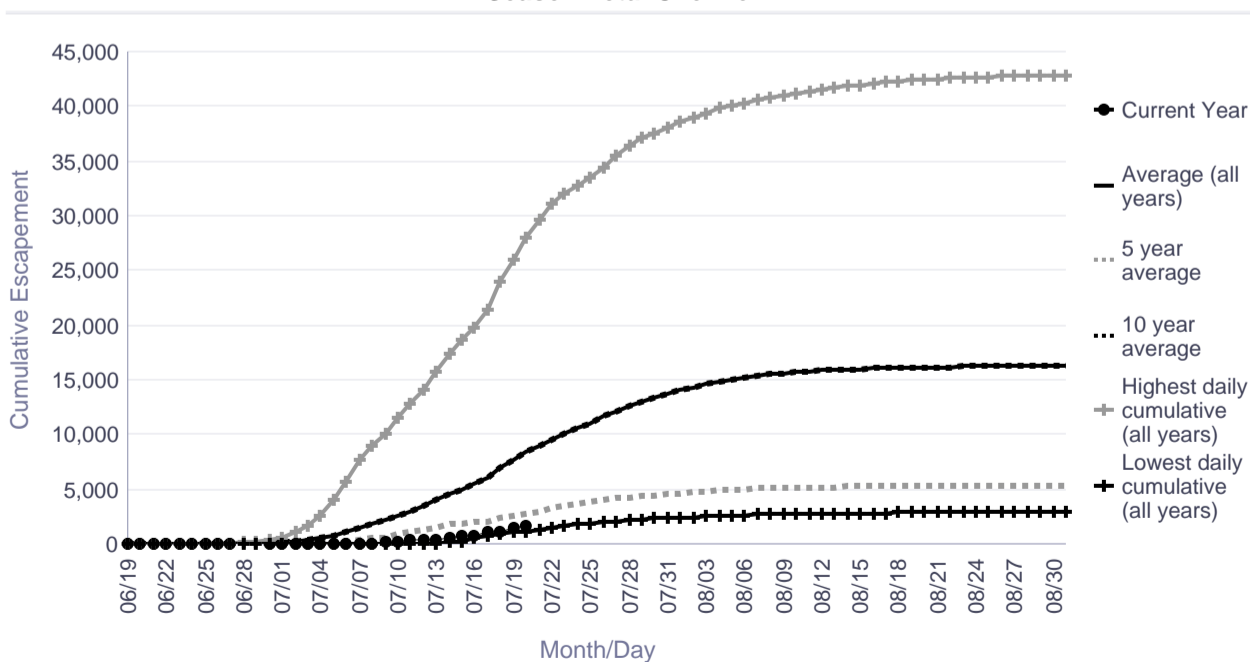
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/14	195	4,534	1,776	4,534	17,358	508
07/15	233	4,999	1,888	4,999	18,624	670
07/16	492	5,436	1,952	5,436	19,700	792
07/17	797	6,105	2,117	6,105	21,408	1,045
07/18	978	7,004	2,381	7,004	24,005	1,215
07/19	1,162	7,631	2,532	7,631	25,897	1,458
07/20	1,208	8,349	2,715	8,349	27,915	1,740
07/21	1,293	8,979	2,912	8,979	29,645	
07/22	1,528	9,497	3,260	9,497	31,006	
07/23	1,641	10,028	3,512	10,028	31,988	
07/24	1,783	10,591	3,752	10,591	32,735	
07/25	1,920	11,080	3,871	11,080	33,441	
07/26	1,991	11,687	3,978	11,687	34,472	
07/27	2,098	12,171	4,157	12,171	35,394	
07/28	2,213	12,678	4,276	12,678	36,375	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	2,890	16,272	5,307	16,272	42,825

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



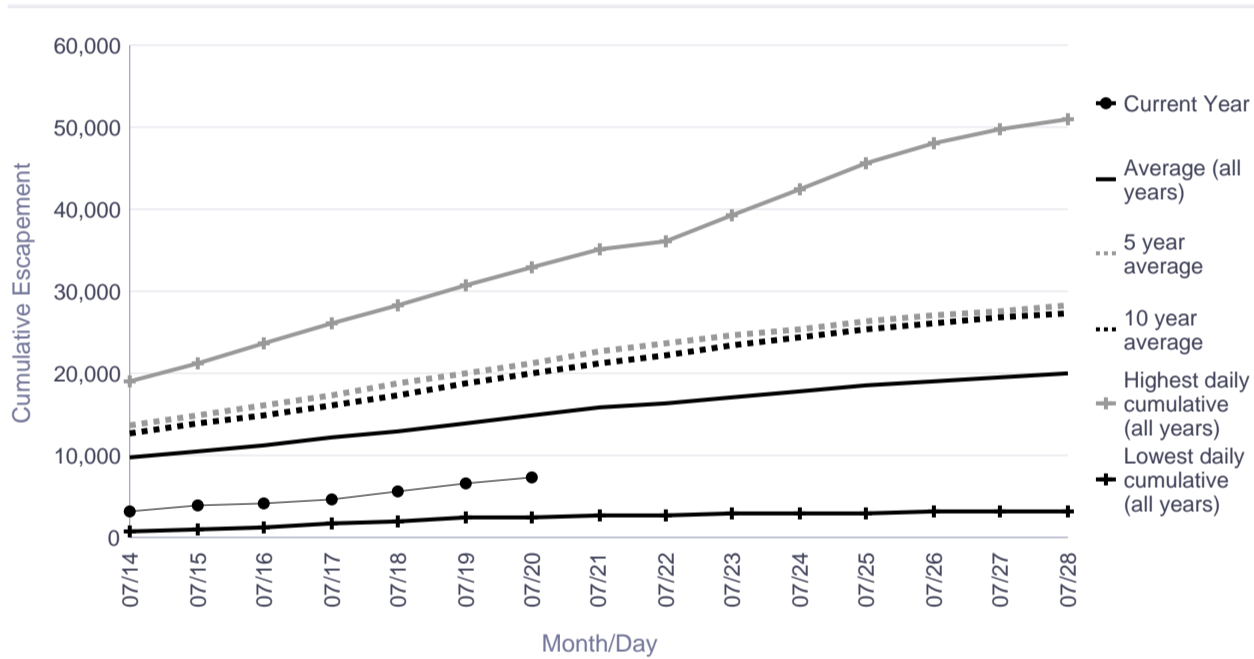
Informational Packet

George River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

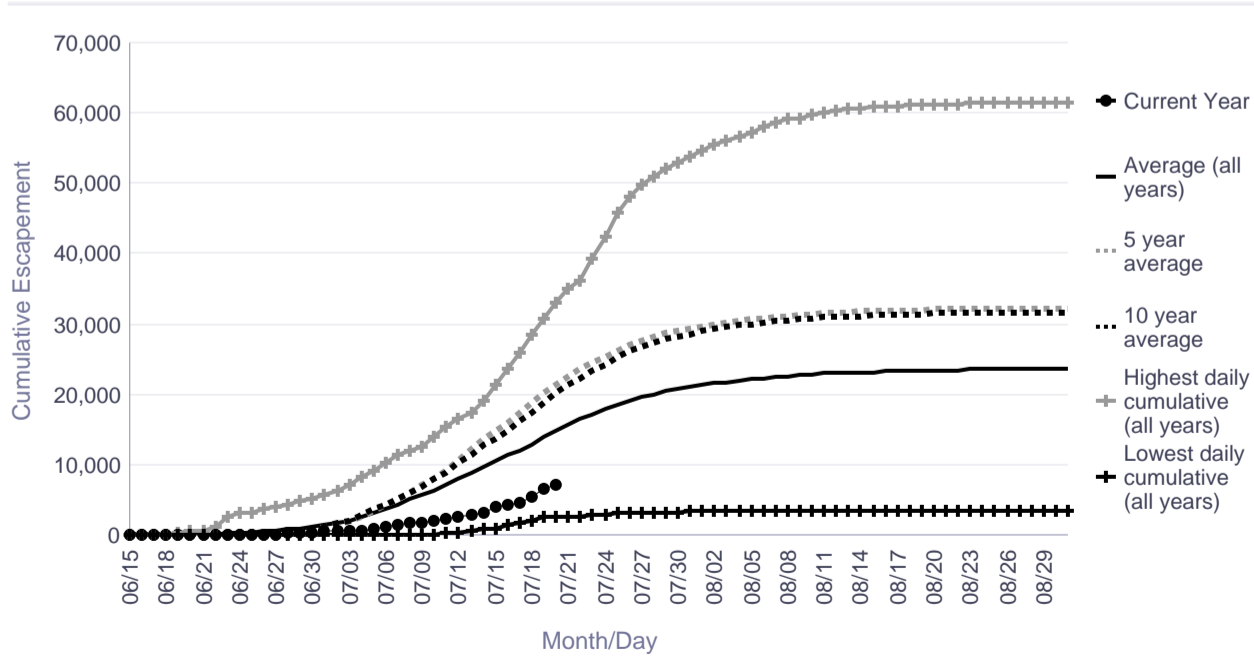
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/14	828	9,808	13,740	12,821	18,971	3,290
07/15	1,022	10,560	14,806	13,818	21,305	3,919
07/16	1,355	11,300	16,076	14,955	23,666	4,300
07/17	1,682	12,107	17,328	16,150	26,030	4,737
07/18	2,076	12,967	18,680	17,398	28,374	5,575
07/19	2,561	14,009	20,112	18,802	30,677	6,524
07/20	2,579	14,928	21,335	20,093	32,923	7,263
07/21	2,620	15,793	22,600	21,346	35,097	
07/22	2,707	16,464	23,667	22,286	36,026	
07/23	2,879	17,193	24,566	23,319	39,190	
07/24	2,995	17,875	25,378	24,291	42,524	
07/25	3,071	18,557	26,281	25,272	45,702	
07/26	3,127	19,137	26,983	26,074	48,103	
07/27	3,174	19,625	27,687	26,763	49,825	
07/28	3,208	20,031	28,249	27,291	50,935	

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

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



Informational Packet

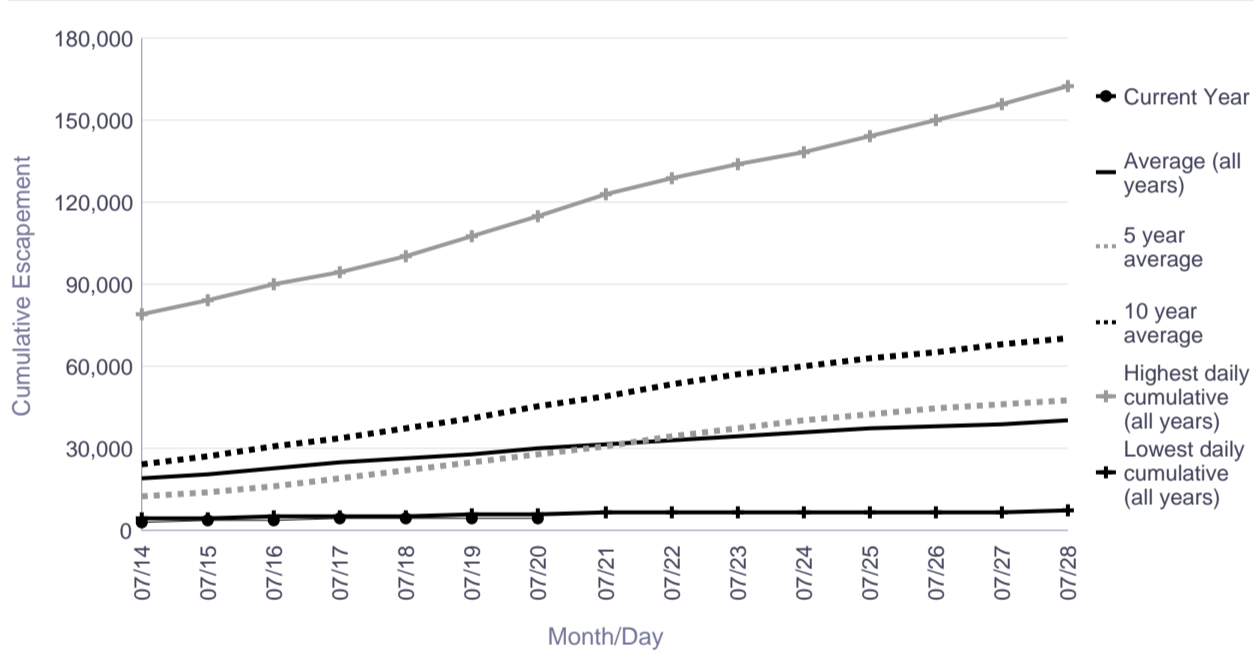
Kogrukluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

Escapement Goal Range: 15,000 to 49,000

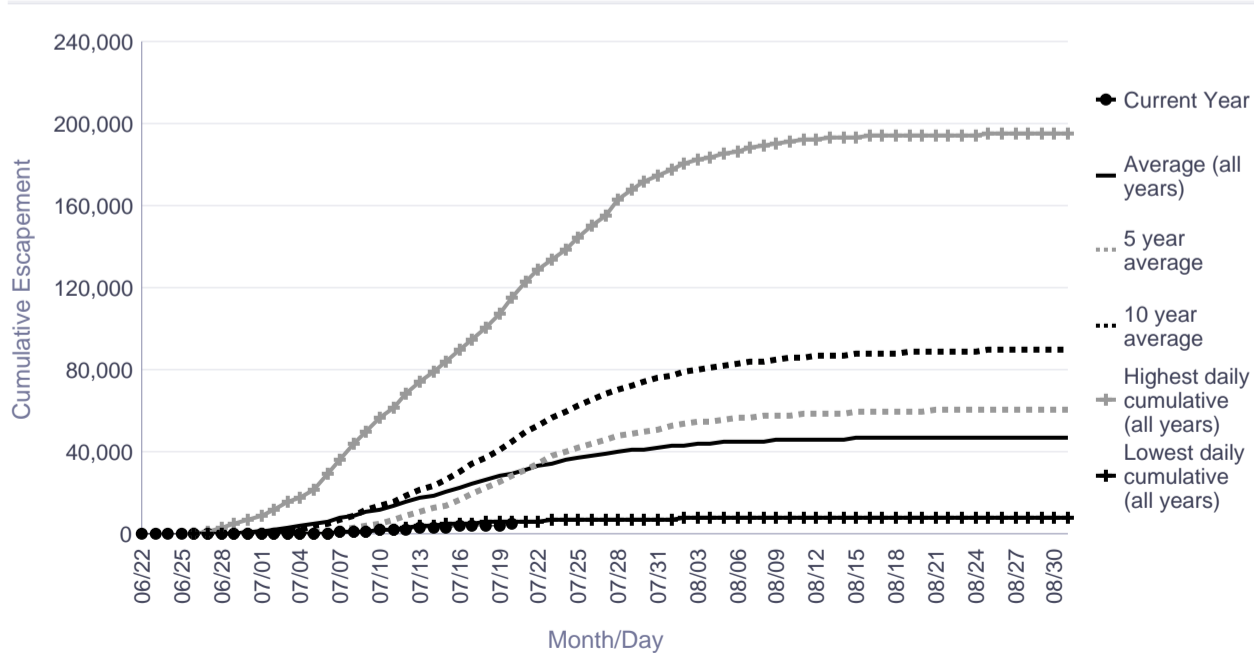
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/14	4,300	19,157	12,513	23,990	79,261	3,117
07/15	4,720	20,880	14,205	26,798	83,914	3,447
07/16	5,024	22,844	16,530	30,517	89,805	3,846
07/17	5,271	24,622	19,215	34,037	94,567	4,183
07/18	5,584	26,317	22,095	37,408	100,390	4,183
07/19	5,904	28,063	25,115	41,378	107,716	4,237
07/20	6,078	29,773	28,220	45,431	114,926	4,842
07/21	6,341	31,502	31,045	49,429	122,595	
07/22	6,469	33,072	34,648	53,234	128,542	
07/23	6,632	34,551	37,721	56,856	134,124	
07/24	6,703	35,898	40,343	60,014	138,620	
07/25	6,758	37,060	42,509	62,876	144,412	
07/26	6,881	38,080	44,473	65,489	149,874	
07/27	6,981	39,035	46,182	67,925	155,537	
07/28	7,173	40,040	47,701	70,576	162,694	

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

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



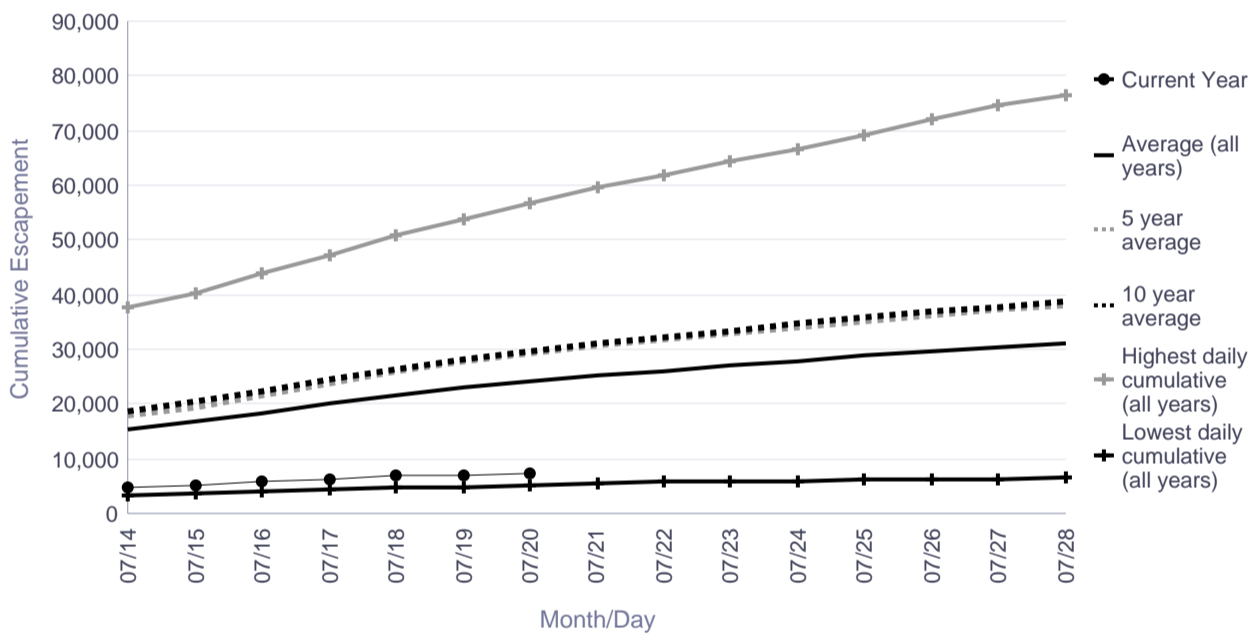
Informational Packet

Tatlawiksuk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

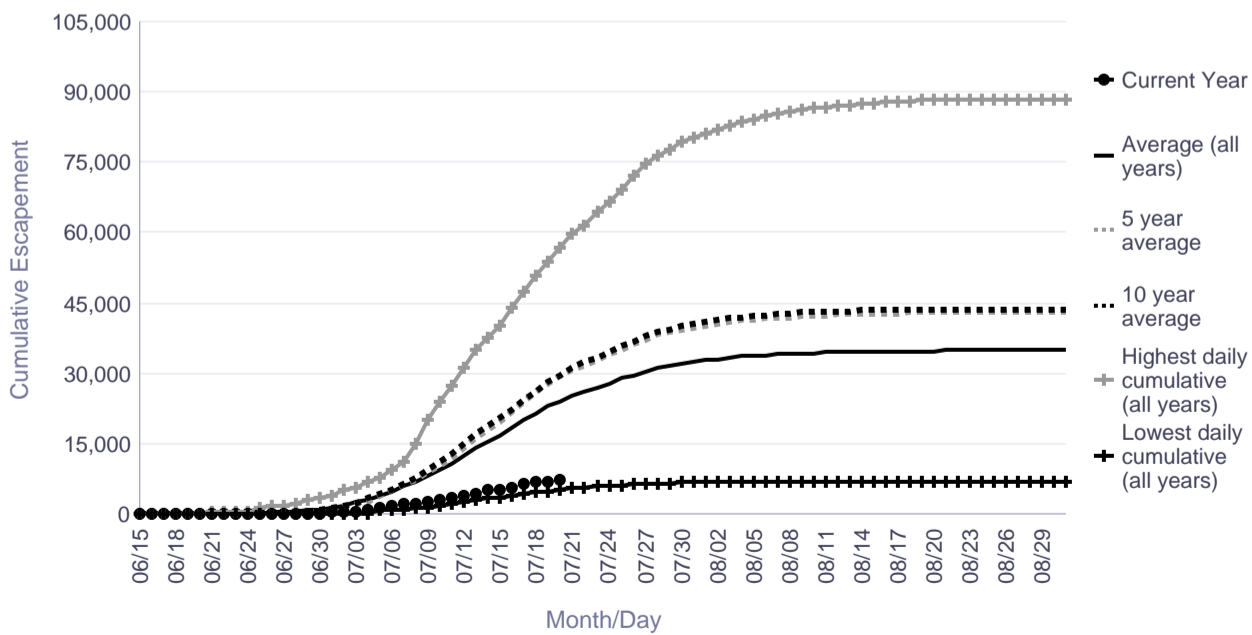
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/14	3,304	15,585	18,052	18,782	37,592	4,978
07/15	3,572	16,875	19,610	20,354	40,347	5,251
07/16	3,949	18,471	21,706	22,413	44,078	5,740
07/17	4,288	20,019	23,893	24,373	47,310	6,265
07/18	4,692	21,531	25,915	26,254	50,746	6,855
07/19	4,852	22,918	27,820	28,082	53,774	6,855
07/20	5,344	24,124	29,378	29,642	56,861	7,274
07/21	5,520	25,235	30,623	31,078	59,592	
07/22	5,758	26,170	31,790	32,263	61,660	
07/23	5,916	27,107	32,957	33,437	64,291	
07/24	6,068	27,997	34,007	34,598	66,453	
07/25	6,182	28,885	35,120	35,769	69,119	
07/26	6,267	29,662	36,266	36,822	71,939	
07/27	6,389	30,429	37,355	37,829	74,471	
07/28	6,482	31,099	38,240	38,729	76,396	

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

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



Informational Packet

Comparison of 2014 and 2015 chum salmon cumulative escapements at Kuskokwim River weir projects.

Date	Kwethluk		Tuluksak		Salmon (Aniak)		George		Tatlawiksuk		KogrukluK	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
15-Jul	6,678	4,379	2,820	837	1,124	670	7,984	3,908	6,552	5,251	9,415	3,447
16-Jul	7,033	5,930	2,937	944	1,143	792	8,990	4,289	7,056	5,740	10,884	3,846
17-Jul	7,559	7,225	3,399	1,065	1,165	1,045	9,609	4,726	7,247	6,265	12,321	4,183
18-Jul	7,968	9,493	3,734	1,378	1,178	1,215	9,912	5,564	7,747	6,855	13,464	4,183
19-Jul	8,245	10,266	4,048	1,961	1,190	1,458	10,247	6,513	8,245	6,855	14,864	4,237
20-Jul	8,949	11,007	4,154	2,285	1,208	1,740	10,586	7,252	8,898	7,274	15,913	4,842
21-Jul	10,353		4,779		1,293		11,136		9,360		17,116	
22-Jul	10,832		5,141		1,528		11,705		9,983		18,470	
23-Jul	11,134		5,313		1,641		12,185		10,477		20,239	
24-Jul	11,728		5,599		1,783		12,725		10,822		21,239	
25-Jul	12,203		5,846		1,920		13,226		11,026		22,314	
26-Jul	12,833		6,248		1,991		13,564		11,132		23,386	
27-Jul	13,495		6,540		2,098		14,034		11,353		24,283	
28-Jul	13,849		6,628		2,213		14,354		11,426		25,001	

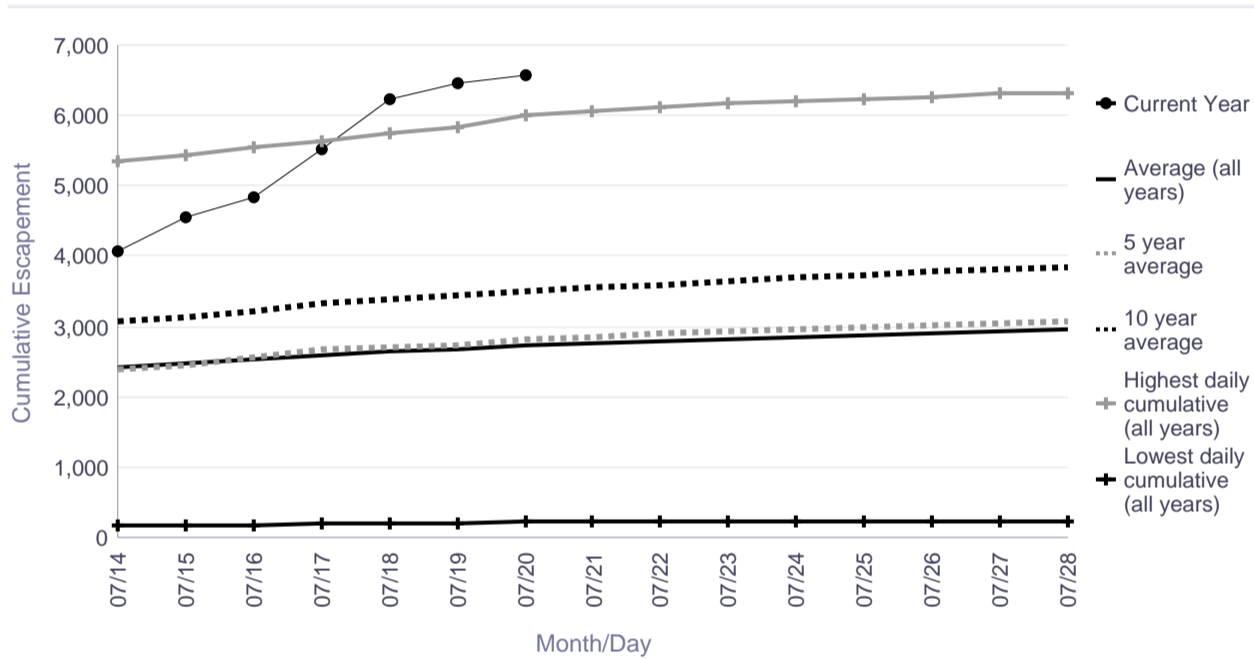
Informational Packet

Kwethluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Sockeye Salmon

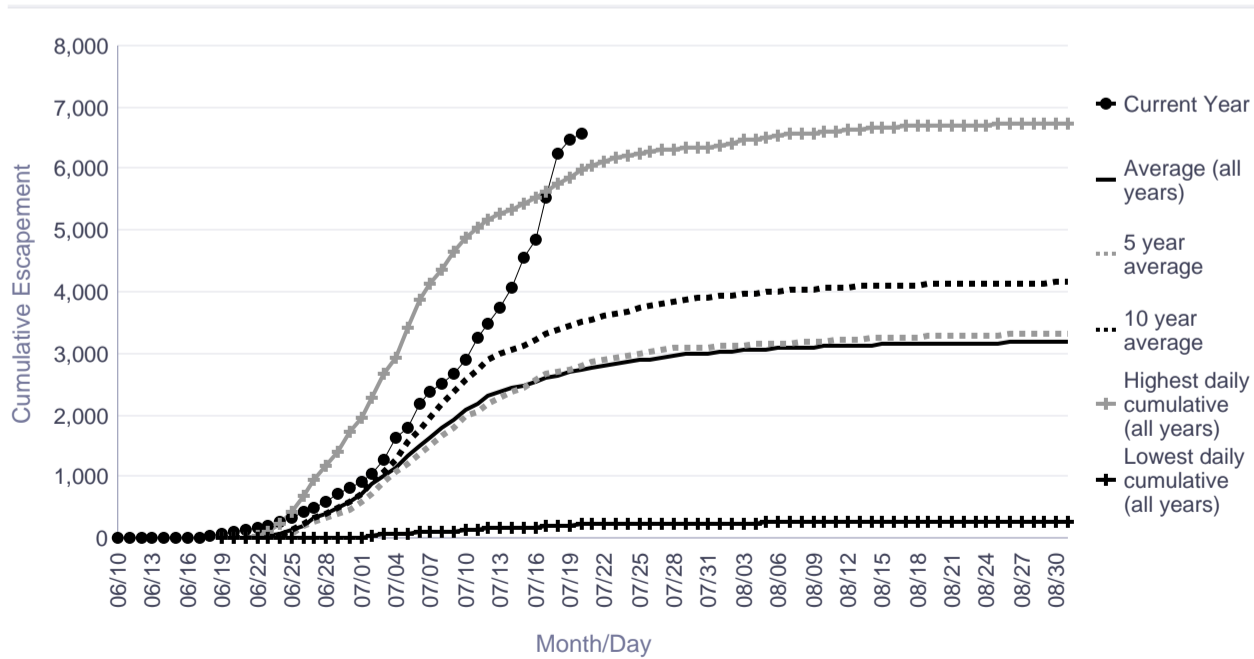
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/14	163	2,427	2,383	3,063	5,337	4,059
07/15	170	2,476	2,452	3,132	5,433	4,557
07/16	182	2,539	2,559	3,229	5,542	4,832
07/17	204	2,603	2,667	3,329	5,629	5,517
07/18	208	2,648	2,701	3,392	5,751	6,240
07/19	214	2,687	2,731	3,444	5,845	6,464
07/20	219	2,734	2,806	3,511	5,994	6,574
07/21	222	2,764	2,857	3,552	6,058	
07/22	224	2,797	2,900	3,599	6,125	
07/23	228	2,831	2,928	3,651	6,180	
07/24	228	2,855	2,970	3,689	6,201	
07/25	228	2,885	2,999	3,735	6,242	
07/26	233	2,909	3,027	3,772	6,265	
07/27	233	2,938	3,056	3,817	6,306	
07/28	234	2,957	3,076	3,842	6,315	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	272	3,069	3,327	4,036	6,733

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



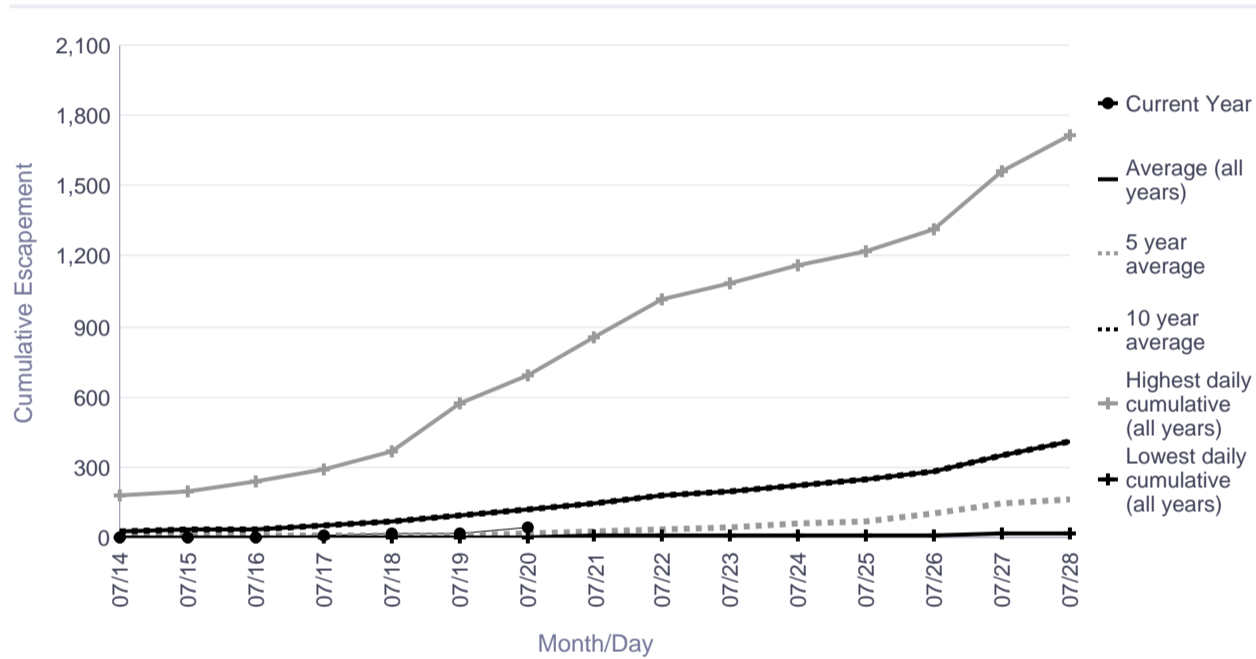
Informational Packet

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

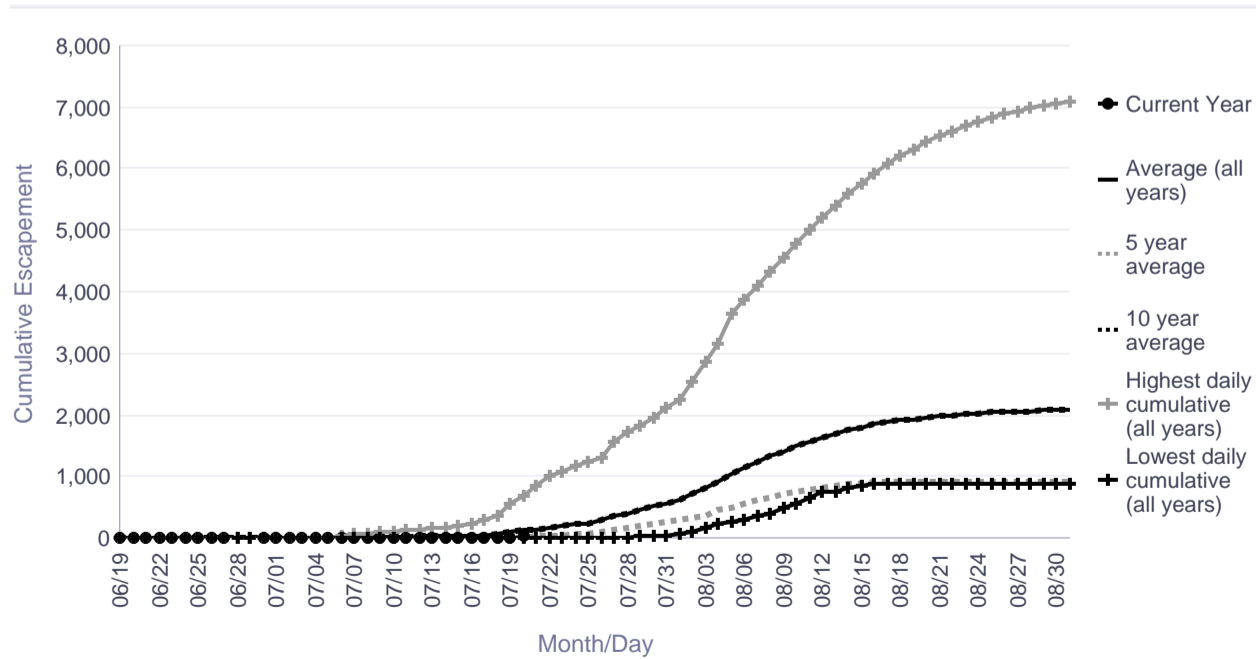
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/14	0	30	8	30	182	2
07/15	0	32	8	32	196	3
07/16	0	39	10	39	237	3
07/17	0	51	11	51	291	7
07/18	4	66	13	66	371	16
07/19	5	97	14	97	573	16
07/20	5	120	15	120	688	45
07/21	10	148	25	148	851	
07/22	10	180	35	180	1,013	
07/23	10	200	46	200	1,087	
07/24	10	225	59	225	1,161	
07/25	11	245	68	245	1,224	
07/26	12	287	106	287	1,316	
07/27	18	353	143	353	1,560	
07/28	20	407	161	407	1,717	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	894	2,087	928	2,087	7,086

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



Informational Packet

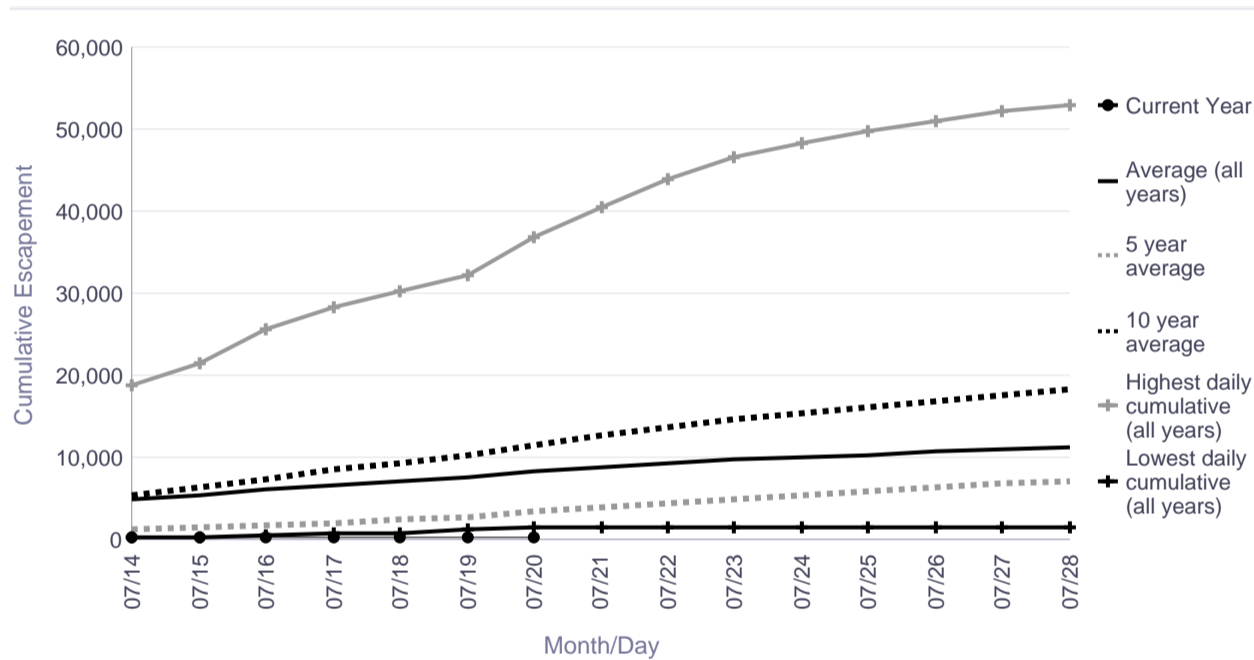
Kogrukluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Sockeye Salmon

Escapement Goal Range: 4,400 to 17,000

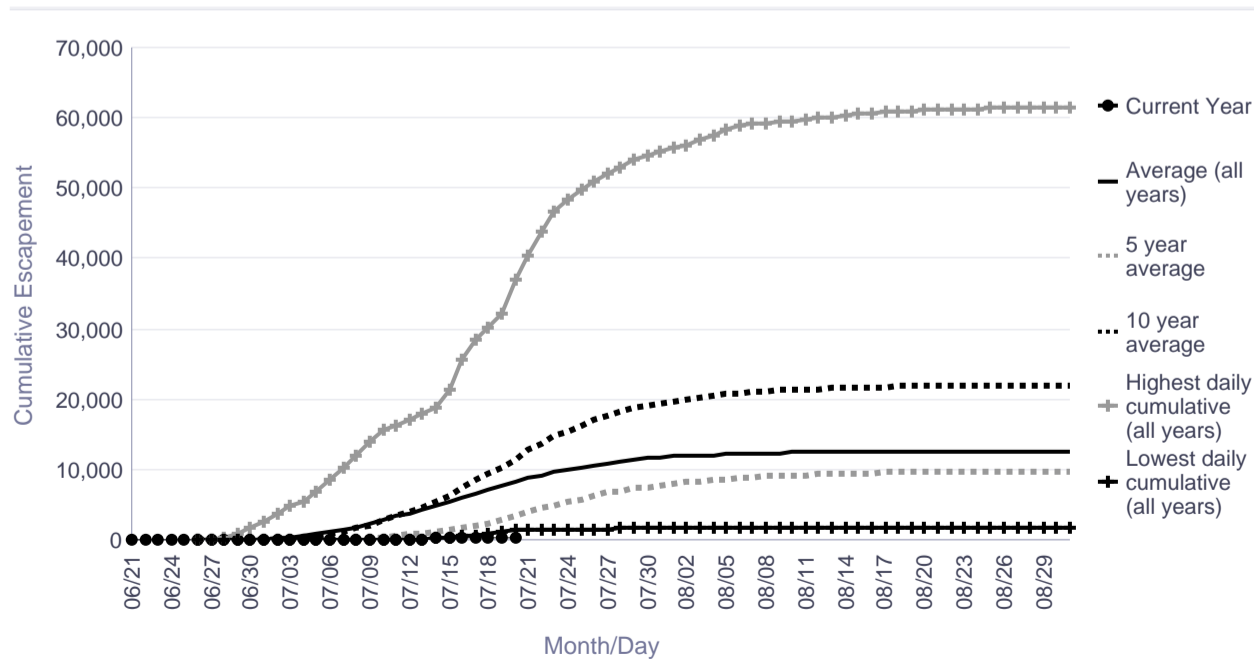
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/14	203	4,895	1,251	5,477	18,884	253
07/15	329	5,446	1,448	6,294	21,504	288
07/16	503	6,084	1,718	7,442	25,641	294
07/17	728	6,688	2,019	8,505	28,331	322
07/18	866	7,182	2,374	9,342	30,165	322
07/19	1,271	7,694	2,833	10,280	32,268	324
07/20	1,396	8,260	3,353	11,509	36,932	358
07/21	1,420	8,823	3,891	12,729	40,408	
07/22	1,469	9,279	4,480	13,773	43,827	
07/23	1,509	9,684	5,001	14,744	46,547	
07/24	1,550	10,002	5,400	15,450	48,302	
07/25	1,582	10,328	5,855	16,168	49,672	
07/26	1,597	10,642	6,347	16,972	51,054	
07/27	1,605	10,930	6,749	17,630	52,086	
07/28	1,620	11,176	7,011	18,209	52,945	

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

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



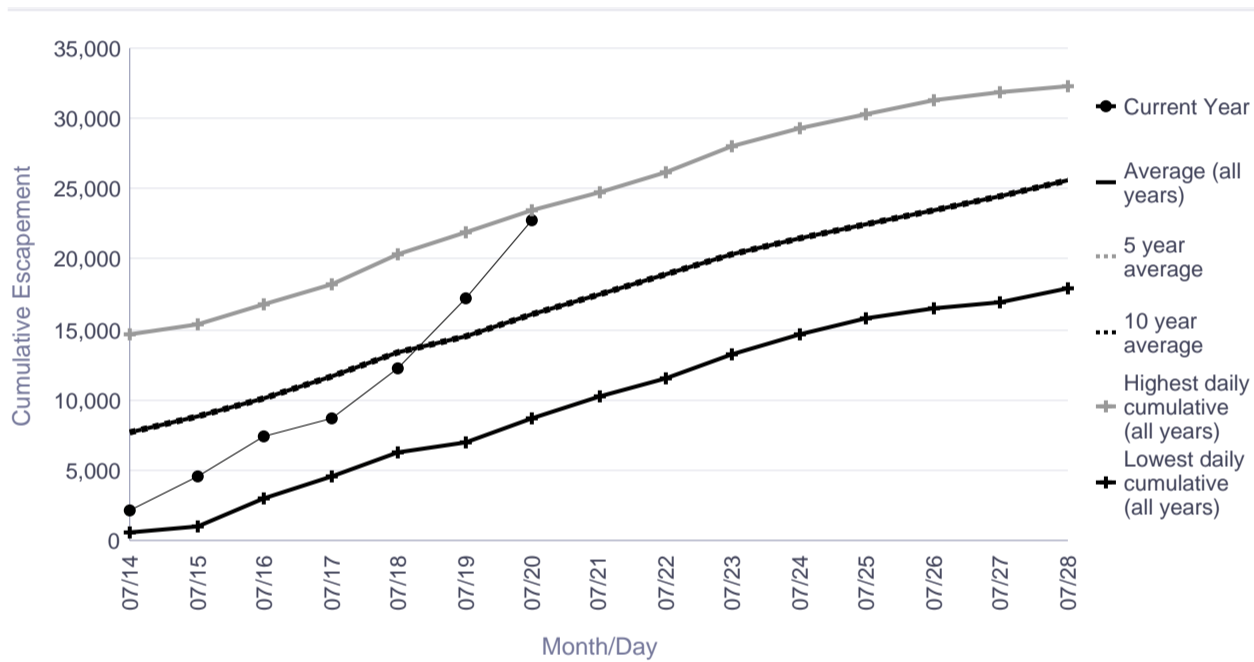
Informational Packet

Telaquana River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Sockeye Salmon

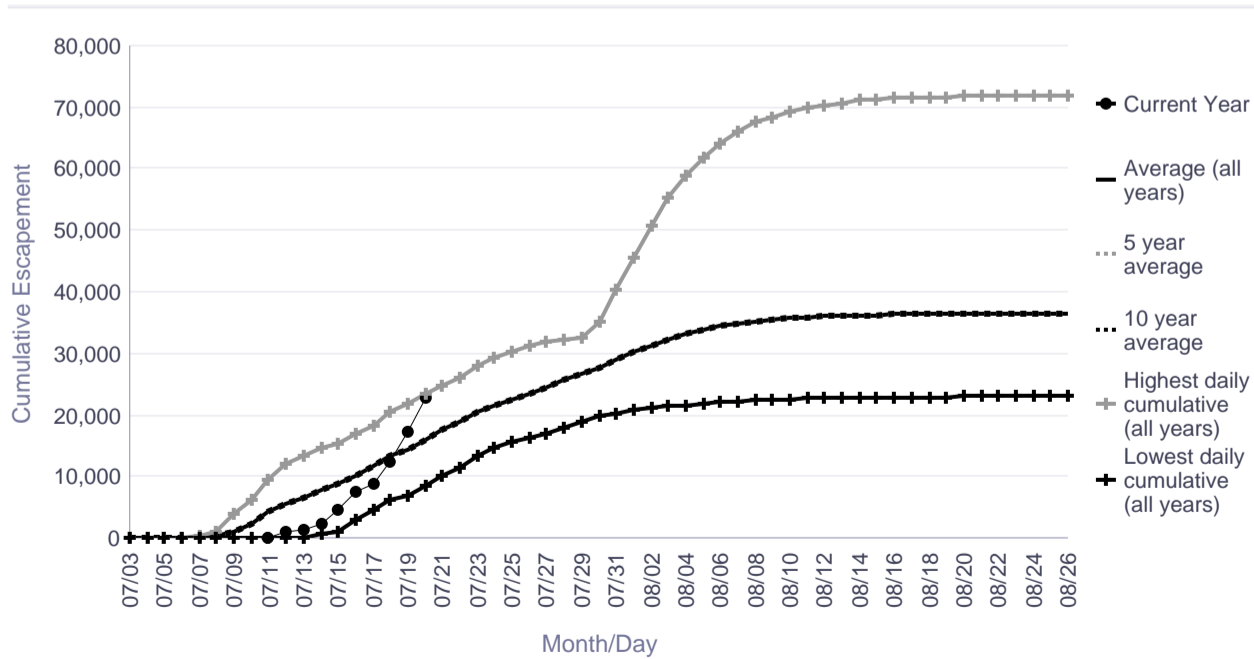
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
07/14	600	7,721	7,721	7,721	14,612	2,213
07/15	1,072	8,799	8,799	8,799	15,403	4,587
07/16	3,054	10,180	10,180	10,180	16,784	7,380
07/17	4,636	11,740	11,740	11,740	18,240	8,756
07/18	6,266	13,450	13,450	13,450	20,398	12,277
07/19	7,014	14,482	14,482	14,482	21,937	17,181
07/20	8,623	16,098	16,098	16,098	23,451	22,741
07/21	10,234	17,534	17,534	17,534	24,753	
07/22	11,467	18,864	18,864	18,864	26,123	
07/23	13,293	20,388	20,388	20,388	28,047	
07/24	14,622	21,488	21,488	21,488	29,369	
07/25	15,784	22,477	22,477	22,477	30,234	
07/26	16,443	23,473	23,473	23,473	31,240	
07/27	16,969	24,516	24,516	24,516	31,911	
07/28	17,964	25,599	25,599	25,599	32,240	

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

Focused Two-Week Data View



Season Total Overview



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Comparison of 2014 and 2015 sockeye salmon cumulative escapements at Kuskokwim River weir projects.

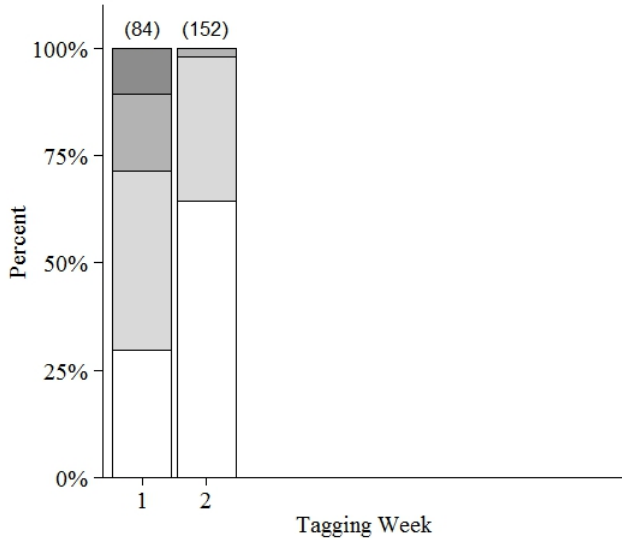
Date	Kwethluk		Salmon (Aniak)		Kogrukuk		Telaquana	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
15-Jul	2,940	4,544	14	3	721	288	5,138	4,587
16-Jul	2,996	4,819	17	3	905	294	6,408	7,380
17-Jul	3,047	5,504	18	7	1,141	322	8,110	8,756
18-Jul	3,071	6,227	18	16	1,277	322	9,606	12,277
19-Jul	3,081	6,451	18	16	1,403	324	10,081	17,181
20-Jul	3,110	6,561	20	45	1,687	358	11,591	22,741
21-Jul	3,152		37		2,290		13,573	
22-Jul	3,167		55		2,476		15,506	
23-Jul	3,184		75		2,936		17,529	
24-Jul	3,209		89		3,316		18,815	
25-Jul	3,226		112		3,942		19,861	
26-Jul	3,241		152		4,377		20,657	
27-Jul	3,248		195		4,780		21,183	
28-Jul	3,258		216		5,038		21,745	

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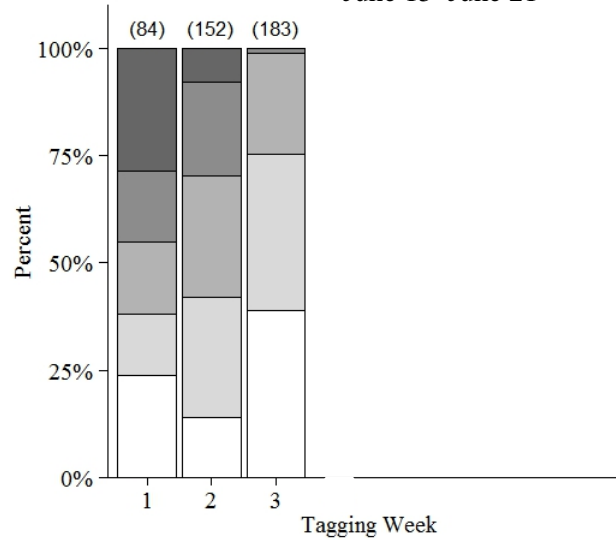
Lower River Chinook Tagging

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

June 1–June 14

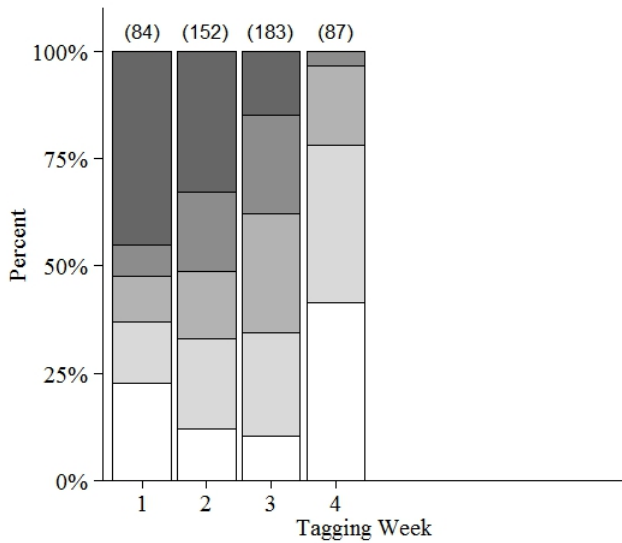


June 15–June 21

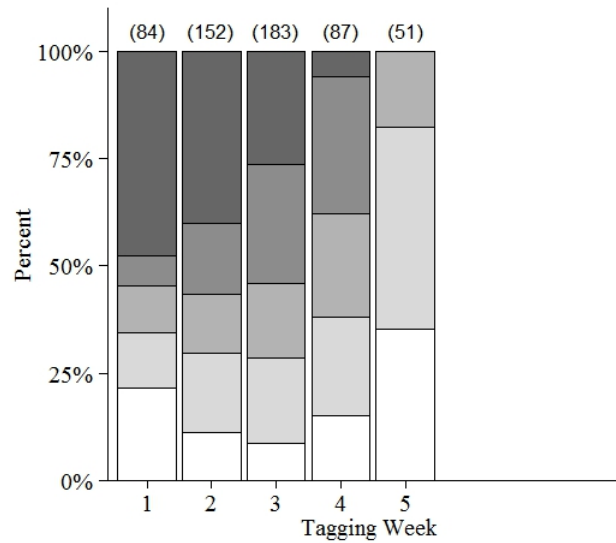


Section 1: Mouth to Johnson
 Section 2: Johnson to Tuluksak
 Section 3: Tuluksak to Chuathbaluk
 Section 4: Chuathbaluk to Holitna
 Section 5: Holitna to Headwaters

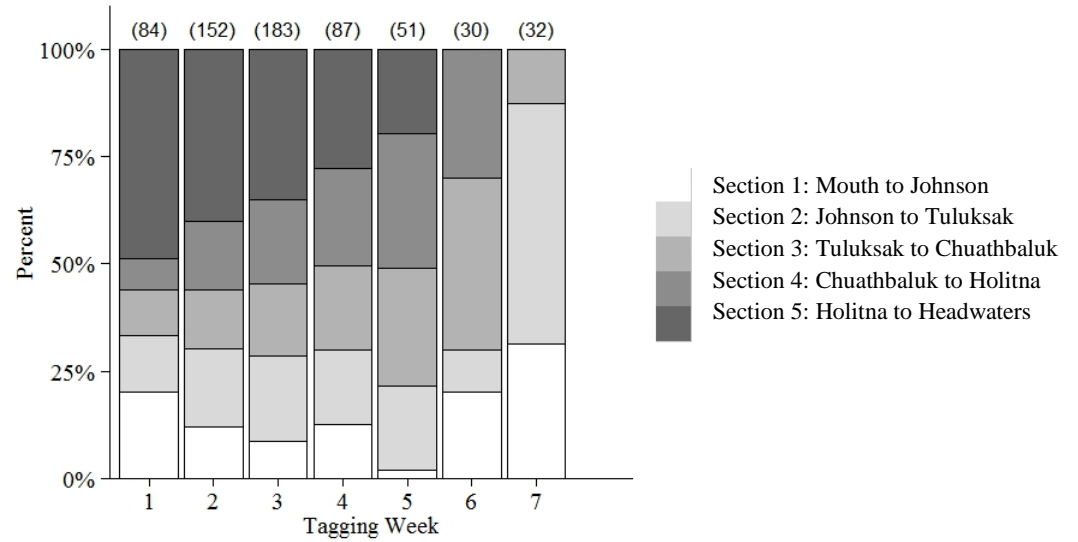
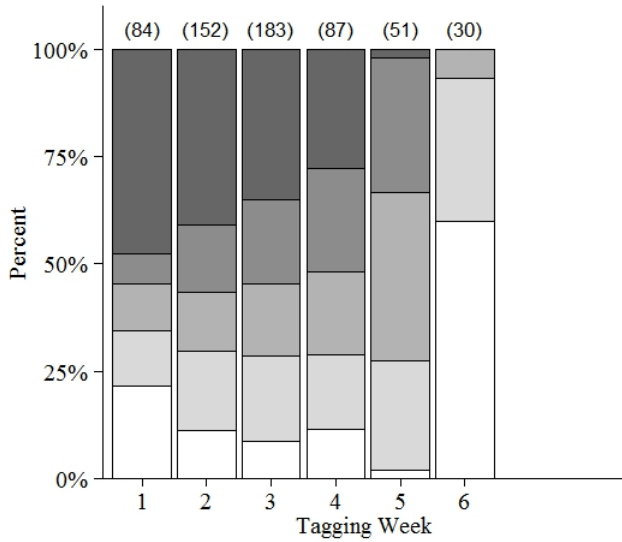
June 22–June 28



June 29–June 5



Section 1: Mouth to Johnson
 Section 2: Johnson to Tuluksak
 Section 3: Tuluksak to Chuathbaluk
 Section 4: Chuathbaluk to Holitna
 Section 5: Holitna to Headwaters



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.

Lower River Chinook Tagging Summary

Date		Captured	Tagged	Chum	Sockeye
6/20/2015	Total	1204	1185 (619)	269	144

Note: Tagging operations began on June 1, 2015. Two crews fish both incoming tides daily. All fish received external tags. The number of Chinook salmon that received a radio tag is indicated in the parentheses.

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Appendix- Chinook salmon spawning aerial survey index estimates, Kuskokwim River Drainage, Kuskokwim Management Area, 1975-2015.

Year	Lower Kuskokwim River ^a				Middle Kuskokwim River ^a							Upper Kuskokwim River ^a			
	Eek	Kwethluk Canyon C.	Kisaralik	Tuluksak	Aniak	Kipchuk	Salmon (Aniak)	Holokuk	Oskawalik	Holitna	Gagarayah	Cheeneetnuk	Bear (Pitka)	Salmon (Pitka)	Upper Pitka Fork
1975													36		
1976									2,571				182		
1977		2,075		424						897	2,407		1,930		
1978		1,722	2,417				289		2,766	504	268	227	1,100		
1979													682		
1980	2,378			975			1,186								
1981					9,074							93			
1982			81				126		521			127	413		
1983	188	471		186	1,909		231		1,069		173		572		
1984											1,177		545		
1985	1,118		63	142							1,002		620		
1986					424		336		650						
1987	1,740					193	516		193		317				
1988	2,256	622	869	195	954		244		80				474		
1989	1,042	1,157	152		2,109	1,598	631						452		
1990			631	200	1,255	537	596		113						
1991	1,312		217	358	1,564	885	583								
1992					2,284	670	335		91	2,022	328	1,050		2,536	
1993					2,687	1,248	1,082	233	103	1,573	419	678		1,010	
1994			1,243			1,520	1,218				807	1,206		1,010	
1995			1,243		3,171	1,215	1,446		326	1,887	1,193	1,565		1,911	
1996							985								
1997			439		2,187	855	980		1,470	2,093	364	345			
1998	523		457		1,930	443	425								
1999								98	741						
2000					714	182	238		301					362	151
2001							598	52	4,156	143			175	1,033	
2002		1,795	1,727			1,615	1,236	513	295	733		730	211		165
2003	1,525	2,661	654	94	3,514	1,493	1,242	1,096	844		1,093	810	176		197
2004	4,653	6,801	5,157	1,196	5,362	1,868	2,177	539	293	4,051	670	918	206	1,138	290
2005		5,059	2,206	672		1,679	4,097	510	582	1,760			367	1,801	744
2006			4,734		5,639	1,618		705	386	1,866	531	1,015	347	862	170
2007			692	173	3,984	2,147	1,458				1,035		165	943	131
2008		487	1,074		3,222	1,061	589	418	213		177	290	245	1,033	248
2009								565	379		303	323	209	632	187
2010			235					229			62		75	135	67
2011	263					116	79	61	26		96	249	145	767	85
2012			588			193	49	36	51		178	229		670	
2013	240	1,165	599	83	754	261	154		38	532	74	138	64	469	
2014	189		622		3,201	1,220	497	80	200		359	340		1,865	
2015													1,381	1,916	
Escapement Goal		400-1,200			1,200-2,300	330-1,200			970-2,100	300-830	340-1,300		470-1,600		
10-yr ave	231	2,237	1,344	309	3,360	1,037	989	326	234	1,386	313	369	202	918	233

^a Estimates are from aerial surveys conducted during peak spawning periods under 'good' or 'fair' survey conditions.

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2015 Inseason Salmon Assessment Update for the Kuskokwim Area #7

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>

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 average but very protracted compared to previous years. Bethel Test Fishery indicates that the run was modestly larger compared to recent years and conservation measures were necessary to achieve drainage and tributary escapement goals. Telemetry tracking data confirm that Chinook salmon have entered spawning tributaries throughout the drainage. Weir escapements suggest that the peak of the Chinook salmon escapement has been observed at tributary monitoring locations. Established escapement goals have been achieved on the Kwethluk and George Rivers, and there is considerable evidence that the goal may be achieved on the Kogrukuk River. Aerial survey assessments of peak spawning abundance began this past week, beginning with select headwater tributaries. The aerial survey goal for the Salmon River of the Pitka Fork was exceeded. The improved escapements compared to recent years indicate that the conservation measures and sacrifices by local subsistence users were effective. It is too soon to determine the adequacy of drainage-wide escapement, but the inseason evidence is encouraging.

The sockeye salmon run is nearing completion in the lower and middle portions of the Kuskokwim River. It appears that the run was late and strong compared to prior years. Adequacy of sockeye salmon escapement is uncertain. Large numbers of sockeye salmon have passed the Kwethluk River and Telaquana Lake weirs. However, very few sockeye salmon have been observed at the Kogrukuk or Salmon (Aniak) Rivers. There is considerable evidence that the established escapement goal may not be achieved for the Kogrukuk River.

The chum salmon run continues to be very weak; however, a modest increase in catches at the Bethel Test Fishery may indicate a much later than expected run timing. Overall, the data collected to date indicates that the 2015 chum salmon run may be one of the lowest on record. Chum salmon escapements are well below average at all projects except the Kwethluk River, where escapement is average. There is

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considerable evidence that the established escapement goal on the Kogrukluk River may not be achieved. Conservation for chum salmon was warranted.

Coho salmon are just now beginning to show up in the Bethel Test Fishery. ADF&G will shift toward coho salmon management in late July as the abundance of coho salmon begins to exceed other species.

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 20, ADF&G has caught 1,204 Chinook salmon of which 619 have been radiotagged. Tagging operations are scheduled to end on Friday July 24. Telemetry tracking and recapture efforts will continue throughout the month of August.

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 21.4 miles per day. Approximately 80% of the tagged fish are upriver from Tuluksak, 61% are upriver from Chuathbaluk, 41% are upriver from Sleetmute, and 16% are upriver from McGrath.

Majority of tagged fish have entered spawning tributaries in the lower, middle, and headwaters portions of the Kuskokwim River. Tag recoveries at tributary monitoring projects have increased considerably over the past few weeks. To date, a total of 73 tags have been physically recaptured at weirs located on middle and headwaters tributaries – 20 of which were recaptured at the new weir located on the Salmon River of the Pitka Fork. A total of 30 radiotagged Chinook salmon have been located in the Kwethluk River using aerial survey methods. An additional 12 tags have been located in the Kisaralik River. No radio tagged fish have been located in the Tuluksak 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, 97 tagged fish have been reported harvested in the subsistence fishery – 7% of all tags deployed. Thank you to all who reported catching a tagged fish. The winner of the June lottery has been notified – congratulations.

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. *The 2015 data is not directly comparable to prior years due to subsistence fishing restrictions.* The Bethel Test Fishery continues to operate on schedule.

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A few Chinook salmon are still being caught in the lower Kuskokwim River. Cumulative CPUE as of July 20 is 584, which is above both the recent 5- and 10-year averages for this date. However, recent years include some of the lowest run sizes on record. On average, 98% of the Chinook salmon run has passed Bethel as of July 20. It appears that the timing of the Chinook salmon run was average but protracted compared to past years.

Small numbers of sockeye salmon are still being caught in the lower Kuskokwim River. As of July 20, cumulative CPUE is 2,059, which is well above the 5- and 10-year averages for this date. On average, 99% of the sockeye salmon run has passed Bethel as of July 20. The 2015 run was late compared to past years.

Modest numbers of chum salmon continue to be caught in the lower Kuskokwim River. As of July 20, cumulative CPUE is 2,235. The cumulative CPUE is the fifth lowest on record for this date and is well below the 5- and 10-year averages. Daily CPUE increased over the past week, averaging more than 100 fish. Prior to July 14, only two days saw CPUE values larger than 100. This recent pulse of chum salmon may indicate late run timing; however, a chum salmon run this late has not been seen before in the Kuskokwim River. The average mid-point of the chum salmon run past Bethel is July 4. The latest mid-point on record is July 14. On average, 90% of the chum salmon run has passed Bethel as of July 20.

The first coho salmon was captured in the BTF on July 11, which is similar to past years. As of July 20, cumulative CPUE is 25. 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 was operated from June 1 until July 14 by the Native Village of Napaimute and ADF&G. *The 2015 data is not directly comparable to CPUE observed at the Bethel Test Fishery.*

The last day of project operations was July 14. Daily CPUE data indicate that the peak of the Chinook salmon run passed through the Aniak area between June 17 and June 27. The peak of the sockeye salmon run passed between July 5 and July 12. The peak of the chum salmon run passed between July 3 and July 12. Chinook salmon were the most abundant salmon species in the Aniak area throughout much of the month of June. The combined abundance of chum salmon and sockeye salmon exceeded that of Chinook salmon in late June. The relative abundance of chum salmon was lower than expected. 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 20, a total of 6,141 Chinook salmon, 11,014 chum salmon, and 6,574 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. Chinook salmon escapement is much larger than in recent years. Chum salmon escapement is above the recent 5-year average but below the long-term average for this date. Sockeye salmon escapement to date is the largest on record for this location.

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A sustainable escapement goal of 4,100–7,500 Chinook salmon has been established by ADF&G for this river. The lower bound of the Chinook salmon escapement goal was achieved on July 15.

Tuluksak River Weir

The Tuluksak River weir is operated by USFWS. As of July 20, a total of 449 Chinook salmon, 2,286 chum salmon, and 366 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 is larger than the recent 5-year average but smaller than the long-term historical average for this date. 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 20, a total of 1,216 Chinook salmon, 1,740 chum salmon, and 45 sockeye salmon have been counted past the weir. 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 similar to the long-term average for this location. Chum salmon escapement is the third 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. Rain over the past week has increased water depth at the weir site; however, the weir continues to operate normally. As of July 20, a total of 1,943 Chinook salmon and 7,263 chum salmon have been counted past the weir. On average, the mid-point 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. Chum salmon escapement to date is well below the historical average.

A sustainable escapement goal of 1,800–3,300 Chinook salmon has been established by ADF&G for this river. The lower bound of the Chinook salmon escapement goal was achieved on July 15.

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. Rain over the past week has increased water depth at the weir site. Operations were interrupted on July 19 and normal operations were resumed on July 20. As of July 20, a total of 1,960 Chinook salmon and 7,274 chum salmon have been counted past the weir. On average, the mid-point 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.

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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. Rain over the past week has increased water depth at the weir site. Operations were interrupted on July 17 and normal operations were resumed on July 20. As of July 20, a total of 4,291 Chinook salmon, 4,842 chum salmon, and 358 sockeye salmon were counted past the weir. On average, the mid-point 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. Inseason projections suggest that the established escapement goal will likely be achieved. 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 the lowest on record for this location. It is unlikely that the sockeye salmon escapement goal will be achieved.

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).

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. 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 20, a total of 22,741 sockeye salmon have been observed past the weir. Cumulative escapement to date is above average for 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 20, a total of 4,084 Chinook salmon and nine 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 20, total passage through the weir is 4,320 Chinook, 64,084 sockeye, and 5,175 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 20, total passage through the weir is 908 Chinook salmon, 45,787 sockeye salmon, and 4,422 chum salmon. Sockeye salmon escapement has exceeded the upper bound of the biological escapement goal (18,000–40,000 fish). Chinook, sockeye and chum salmon passage is below average.

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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.

Tributary Escapement Monitoring – Aerial Surveys

ADF&G began flying aerial surveys on June 20 in the McGrath and headwaters areas. As of July 21, four tributaries surveys have been flown: Salmon River of the Pitka Fork; Bear Creek; Little Tonzona; and Sullivan Creek. Only the Salmon River of the Pitka Fork has an established escapement goal (470–1,600). A total of 1,916 Chinook salmon were observed in the Salmon River of the Pitka Fork, exceeding the upper bound of the goal. A total of 1,381 Chinook salmon were observed in Bear Creek, which is the largest count on record for that location. A total of 175 and 62 fish were observed in Little Tonzona and Sullivan Creek, respectively.

Aerial surveys will be flown throughout the Kuskokwim River over the next two weeks, progressing from the headwaters to the mouth of the river. 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.

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 with initial site surveys. Extensive site surveys were conducted in 2015. Two favorable candidate sites were selected near the upper confluence of the Kuskokwim River and Church Slough and downriver from the community of Akiak. The field component of the 2015 feasibility work was completed on July 17. Staff will spend the winter months determining which of the two sites has the highest chance for success. A full year of feasibility work and extensive data collection focused on the best site is planned for 2016.