

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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

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

Meeting Agenda

Date: 06/07/2018

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Bethel

Time Called to Order:

Chair: Alissa Rogers

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:
KRITFC:
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.*

ELECTIONS:

- Middle River Subsistence
- Upriver Subsistence

ADF&G MANAGEMENT ACTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION:

KRITFC UPDATE: *LaMont Albertson/ Nick Kameroff*

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- Subsistence Reports: Lowest River, ONC Inseason Subsistence Report, Lower River, Middle River, Upper River, Headwaters
- Overview of Kuskokwim River salmon run assessment:
 - a. Test Fisheries (Bethel and Aniak):
 - b. Sonar/Weirs/Aerial Surveys/Other:
 - c. Subsistence Division Project Update:
 - d. NVN Project Updates:
- Commercial Catch Report: N/A
- Processor Report: N/A
- 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:

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
Aaron Tiernan
Working Group Coordinators

Informational Packet
2018 Working Group Members ROSTER

DOWN RIVER ELDER	JAMES CHARLES	Tuntutuliak
	JOHN W ANDREW	Kwethluk
UPRIVER ELDER	VACANT	
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	MIKE WILLIAMS	Akiak
	ALISSA ROGERS	Bethel
	MARY PELTOLA	Anchorage
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE	VACANT	
	LISA FEYEREISEN	Crow Village/ Aniak
UPRIVER SUBSISTENCE	MARK LEARY	Napaimute
	BARBARA CARLSON	Sleetmute
HEADWATERS	DANIEL ESAI	Nikolai
MEMBER AT LARGE	FRITZ CHARLES	Bethel
	CHARLES GUEST	Bethel
	<i>BARBARA CARLSON*</i>	Sleetmute
YK DELTA RAC	BOB ALOYSIUS	Kalskag
	<i>JOHN W ANDREW*</i>	Kwethluk
PROCESSOR	VACANT	
COMMERCIAL FISHING	CHARLIE BROWN	Eek
	GREG HOFFMAN, JR	Bethel
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	RAY COLLINS	McGrath
	VACANT	
SPORT FISHING	LAMONT ALBERTSON	Anchorage
	VACANT	
KRITFC	NICK KAMEROFF	Aniak
	JAMES NICORI	Kwethluk
ADF&G	AARON TIERNAN	Anchorage/ Bethel
	COLTON LIPKA	Anchorage/ Bethel

Bold denotes primary representative

**Member serves in two alternate seats*

Informational Packet

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group Elections for Vacant Seats

Elections will be held during the June 7, 2018 Working Group meeting provided that a quorum is established. Elections will be determined by a Roll Call vote by voting members in attendance.

Each member will announce his/her vote when called upon by the Coordinator. Members may select one (1) name for each seat. The person receiving the majority of votes for each seat will be appointed.

MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE

Select One

- Darren Deacon**, Kalskag
- Joe Kameroff Jr.**, Aniak
- Walter Morgan**, Lower Kalskag
- Jerry Peterson**, Chuathbaluk
- Mike Savage**, Kalskag
- Allen Simeon**, Aniak

UPRVIER ELDER

Select One

- Mishka Andreanoff**, Crooked Creek
- Pete Mellick**, Sleetmute

Informational Packet

Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council (OTNC) Inseason Harvest Monitoring Weekly Report

June 7, 2018

Summary of Interview Activities

OTNC conducted surveys with 8 fish camps from Friday, June 1 through Monday, June 4. This past weekend, there were very few active fish camps. Only one of the eight surveyed fish camps went out during the 4-inch gillnet opportunity and caught zero fish. Two fish camps attributed high waters and rough winds as reasons for not going fishing during the 4-inch gillnet opportunity. One fish camp did not want whitefish and is waiting to harvest Chinook salmon. Several fish camps commented on the high water levels of the Kuskokwim River. One respondent claimed the cold spring may result in high fish abundance. One respondent expressed concern about the short fishing block openers we've had the past few years and claimed the block openers were forcing people to fish more intensively whereas, before, fishing pressure was more evenly distributed and people had more freedom as to when they wanted to go out fishing. Lastly, one fish camp recommends managers to take weather, more specifically, wind patterns and precipitation, into consideration weather when deciding to have a fishing opportunity.

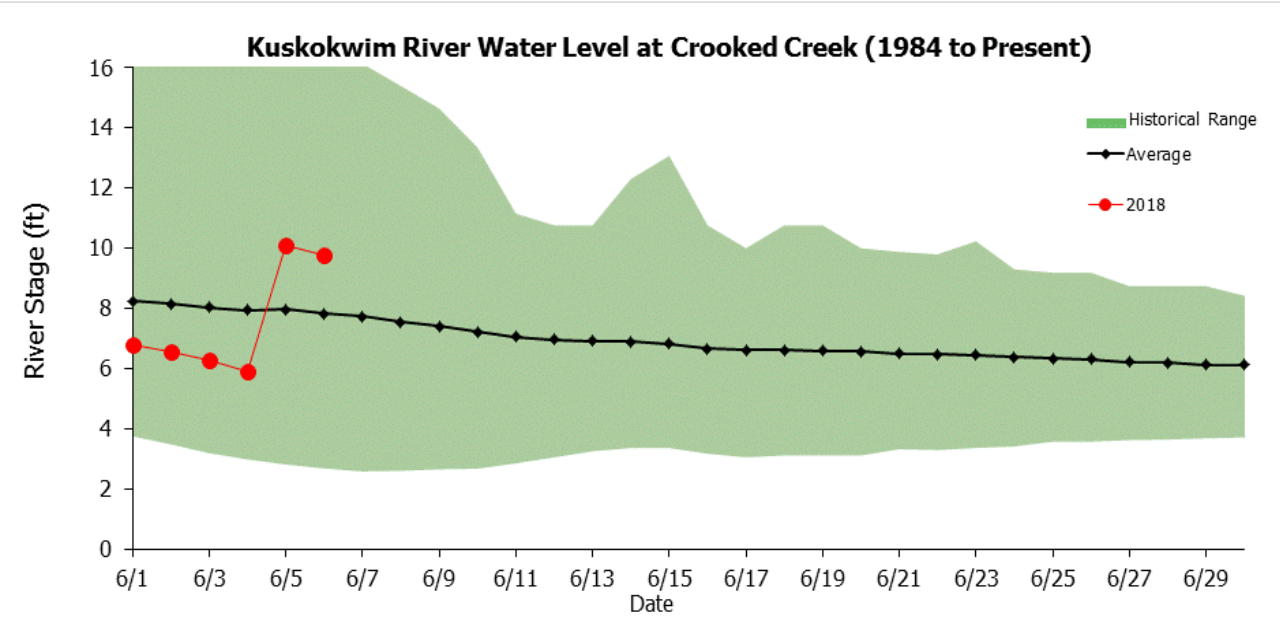
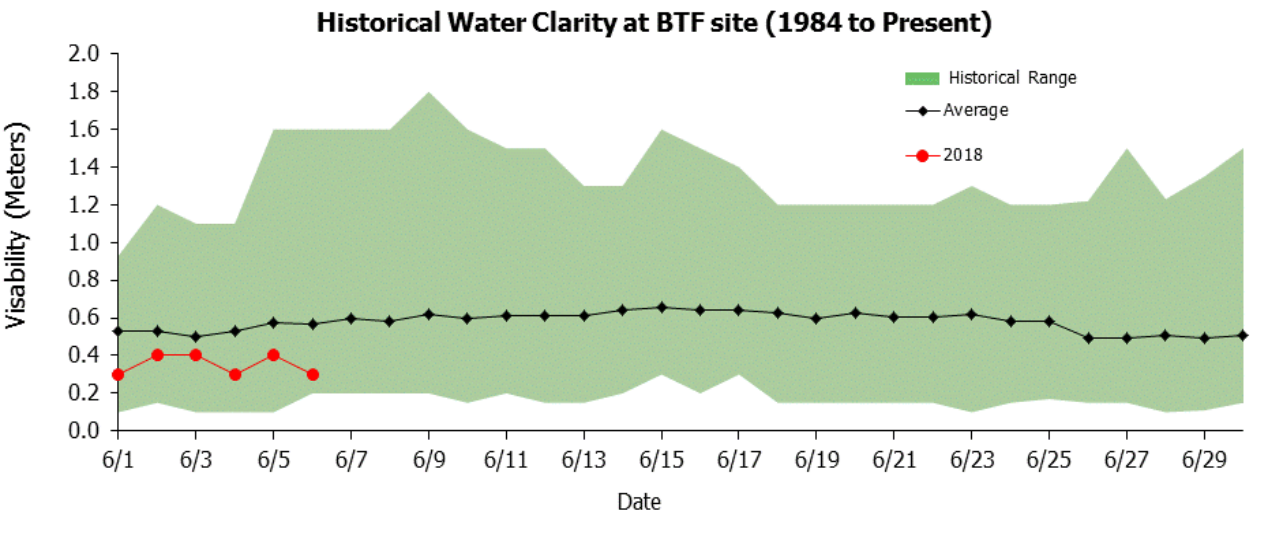
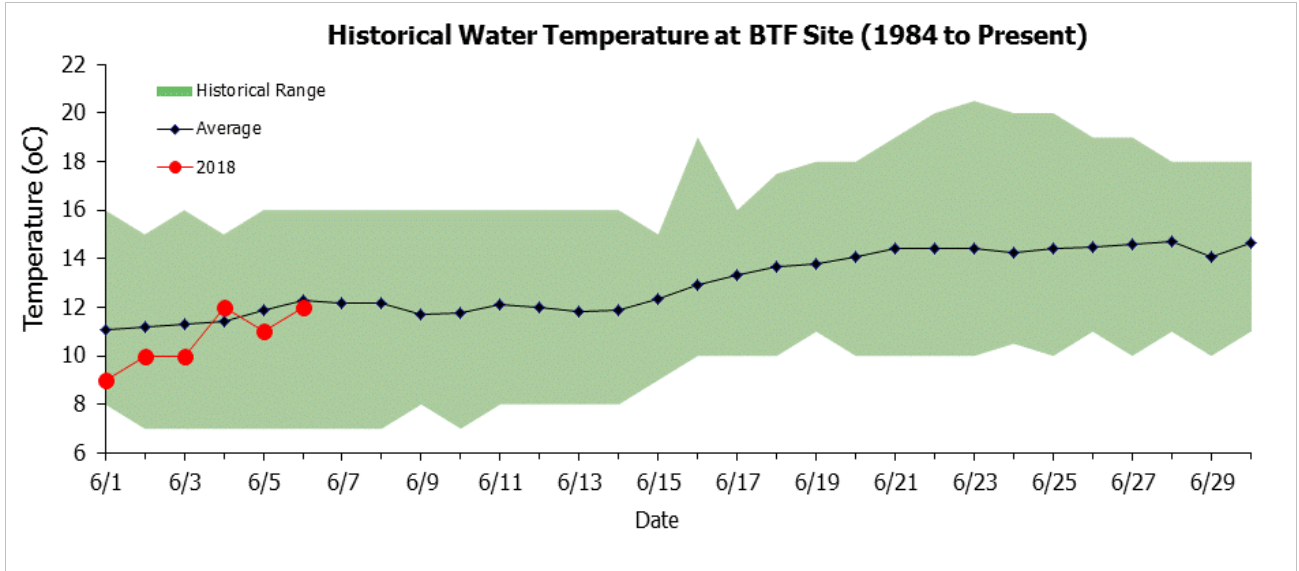
Chinook Salmon Age-Sex-Length Sampling Program

Four of the eight fish camps expressed interest in participating in the Chinook salmon ASL sampling program and were given sampling supplies. An additional five individuals signed up to participate in the ASL sampling program at our community training.

Fish Distribution

Thus far, we've distributed seven Chinook salmon to Bethel elders. This is a collaborative effort between OTNC natural resource department, ADF&G and Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission (KRITFC).

Informational Packet



Informational Packet

Kuskokwim River Salmon Assessment Update

6/5/2018



This document presents the key assessment information considered by managers in-season. The production of this document is a collaborative effort between USFWS and ADF&G. **All data and analyses contained are preliminary and are subject to change, so please make interpretations carefully.**

If you have any questions about the content, please contact Ben Staton (USFWS; benjamin_staton@fws.gov) or Nick Smith (ADF&G; nick.smith@alaska.gov).

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Abbreviations:

- BTF: Bethel Test Fishery
- ATF: Aniak Test Fishery
- CPUE: Catch-per-unit-effort
- EOS: End-of-Season

To view escapement information, please visit the ADF&G Kuskokwim River Fish Counts page:

- <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.salmon#fishcounts>

For the most up-to-date information regarding fishing opportunities please visit:

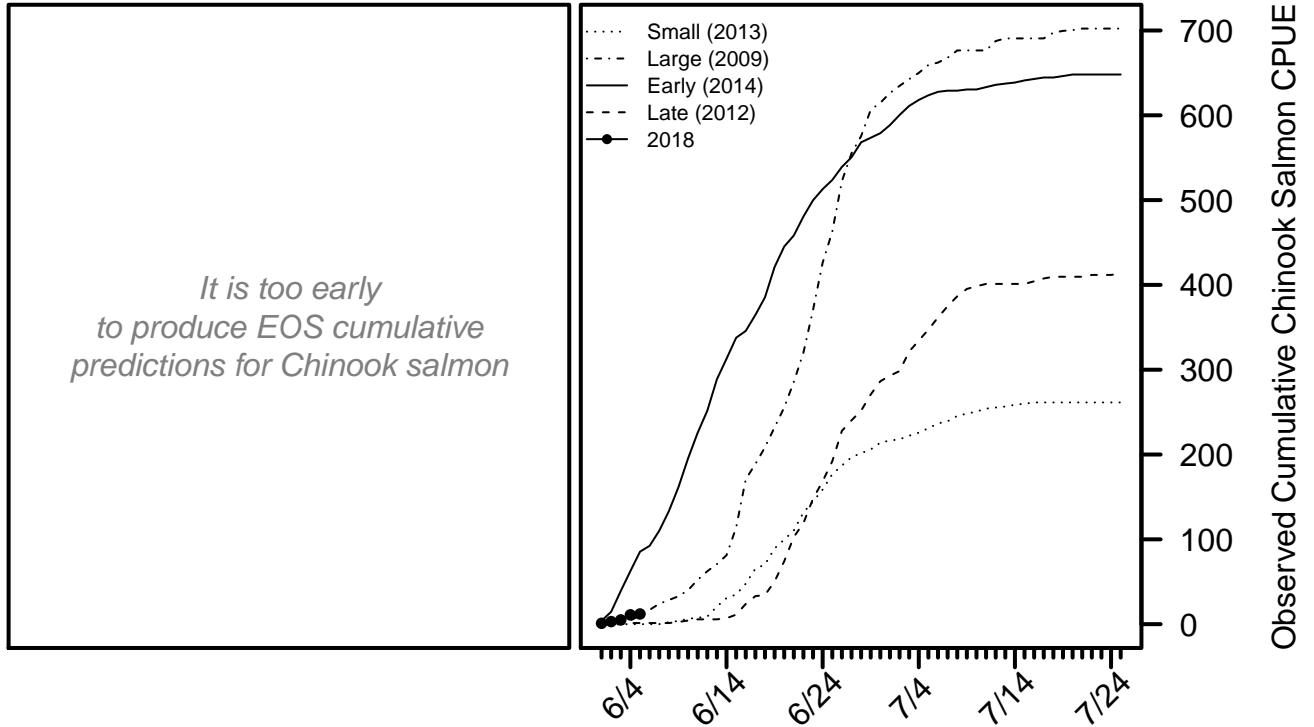
- USFWS: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/yukon_delta/wildlife_and_habitat/dailyupdate.html
- ADF&G: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Informational Packet

Chinook Salmon BTF Summary (6/5)

- The BTF daily CPUE was **1**.
- The BTF cumulative CPUE is now **12**.
- **60%** years since 2008 fell below this cumulative CPUE on this date.
- **1%** of the run is complete based on historical average run timing.
- **<1% - 4%** of the run is complete based the central 50% of all historical run timing scenarios.
- **3% - 9%** of the run is expected to pass Bethel in the next 5 days.
- Over the last 3 days, Chinook salmon made up **75%** of the BTF catches, compared to **71%** on average.

Chinook Salmon Figure 1. *Left:* will show predicted cumulative EOS BTF CPUE according to various run timing scenarios when enough data have been collected. *Right:* The cumulative BTF CPUE from 2018 plotted along with four previous years intended to represent a range of early/late and small/large index values.



For more detailed information, see the [Chinook salmon appendix](#) at the end of this document.

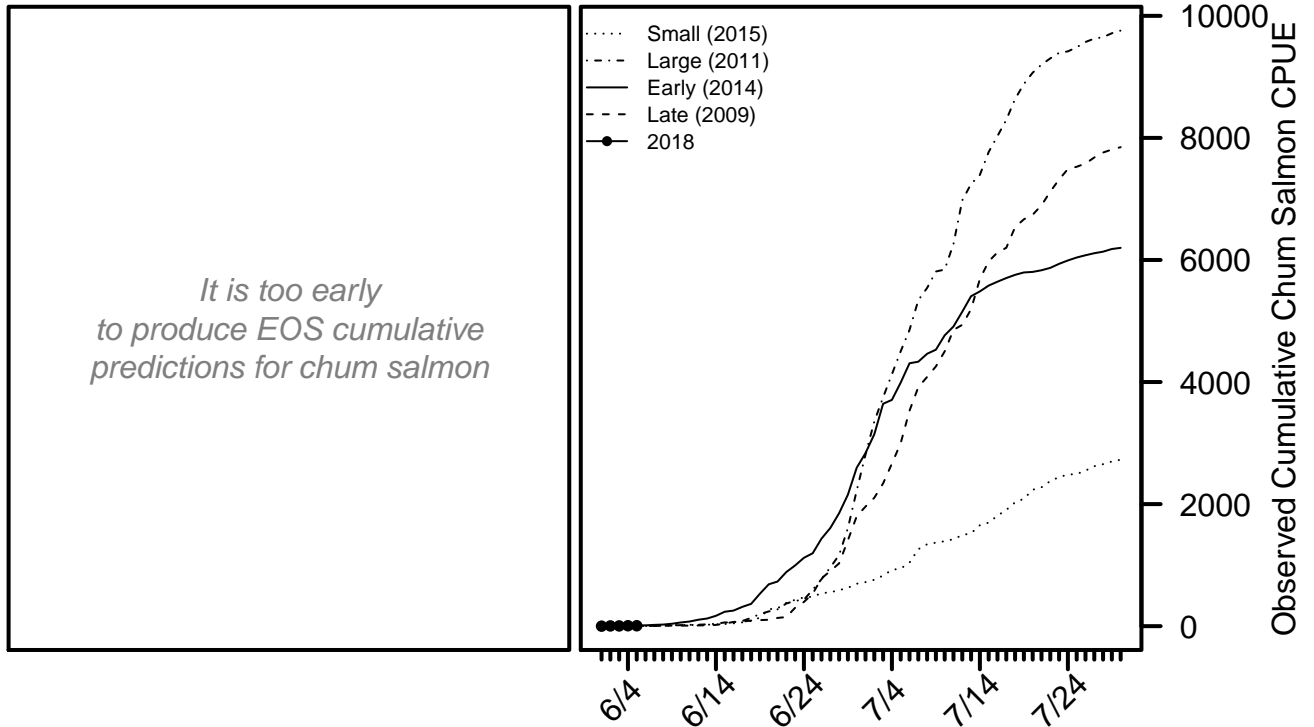
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Informational Packet

Chum Salmon BTF Summary (6/5)

- The BTF daily CPUE was **0**.
- The BTF cumulative CPUE is now **7**.
- **90%** years since 2008 fell below this cumulative CPUE on this date.
- **<1%** of the run is complete based on historical average run timing.
- **<1%** - **<1%** of the run is complete based the central 50% of all historical run timing scenarios.
- **0%** - **1%** of the run is expected to pass Bethel in the next 5 days.
- Over the last 3 days, chum salmon made up **25%** of the BTF catches, compared to **26%** on average.

Chum Salmon Figure 1. *Left:* will show predicted cumulative EOS BTF CPUE according to various run timing scenarios when enough data have been collected. *Right:* The cumulative BTF CPUE from 2018 plotted along with four previous years intended to represent a range of early/late and small/large index values.



For more detailed information, see the [chum salmon appendix](#) at the end of this document.

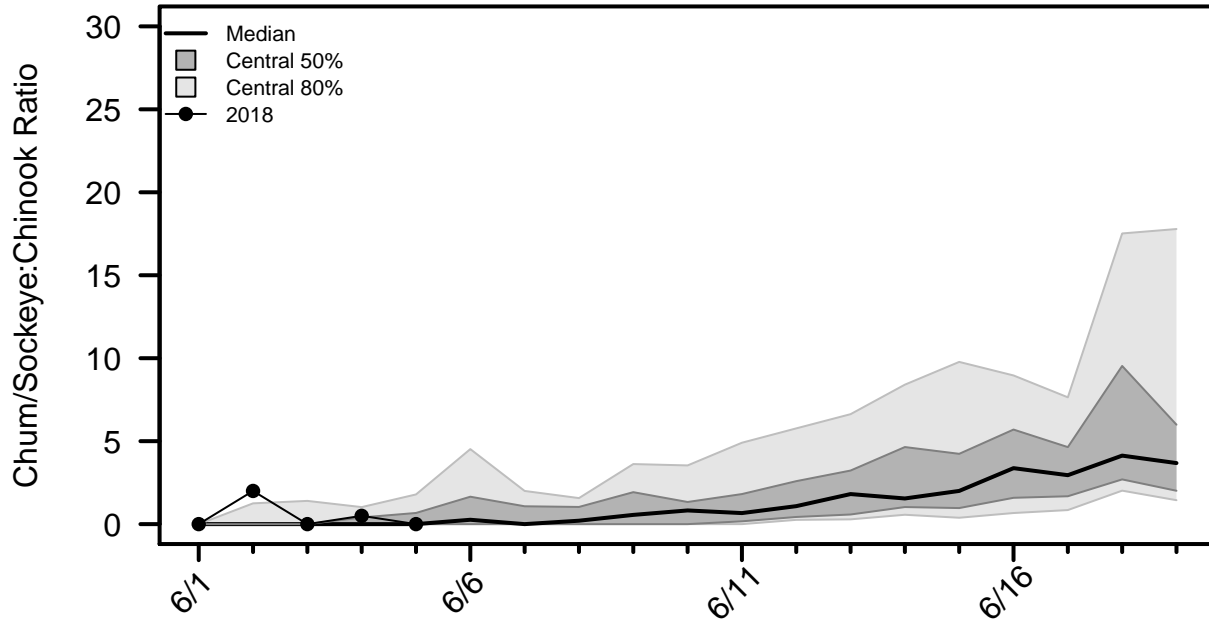
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Chum/Sockeye:Chinook Salmon Ratio

This ratio is calculated by dividing the total number of chum and sockeye salmon counted by the number of Chinook salmon counted by a project each day. A value of zero indicates Chinook salmon were counted that day, but not chum or sockeye salmon. A missing value on a day the project operated indicates no Chinook salmon were counted that day.

Species Ratio Figure 1. Time series of the species ratio in the BTF with historical quantiles shown as grey regions and the ratio time series for 2018 shown with points connected by lines.



Ratio Table 1. A subset of the species ratios displayed in **Ratio Figure 1**, including the ratios from the ATF.

Date	2018 BTF	BTF Median	BTF Lower 10%	BTF Upper 10%	2018 ATF
6/2	2	0	0	1.25	–
6/3	0	0	0	1.4	–
6/4	0.5	0	0	1.03	0
6/5	0	0	0	1.79	–
6/6		0.26	0	4.52	
6/7		0	0	2	
6/8		0.21	0	1.57	

Ratio Table 2. The percent of previous years in which a given species ratio was exceeded at least once before a certain day in the BTF.

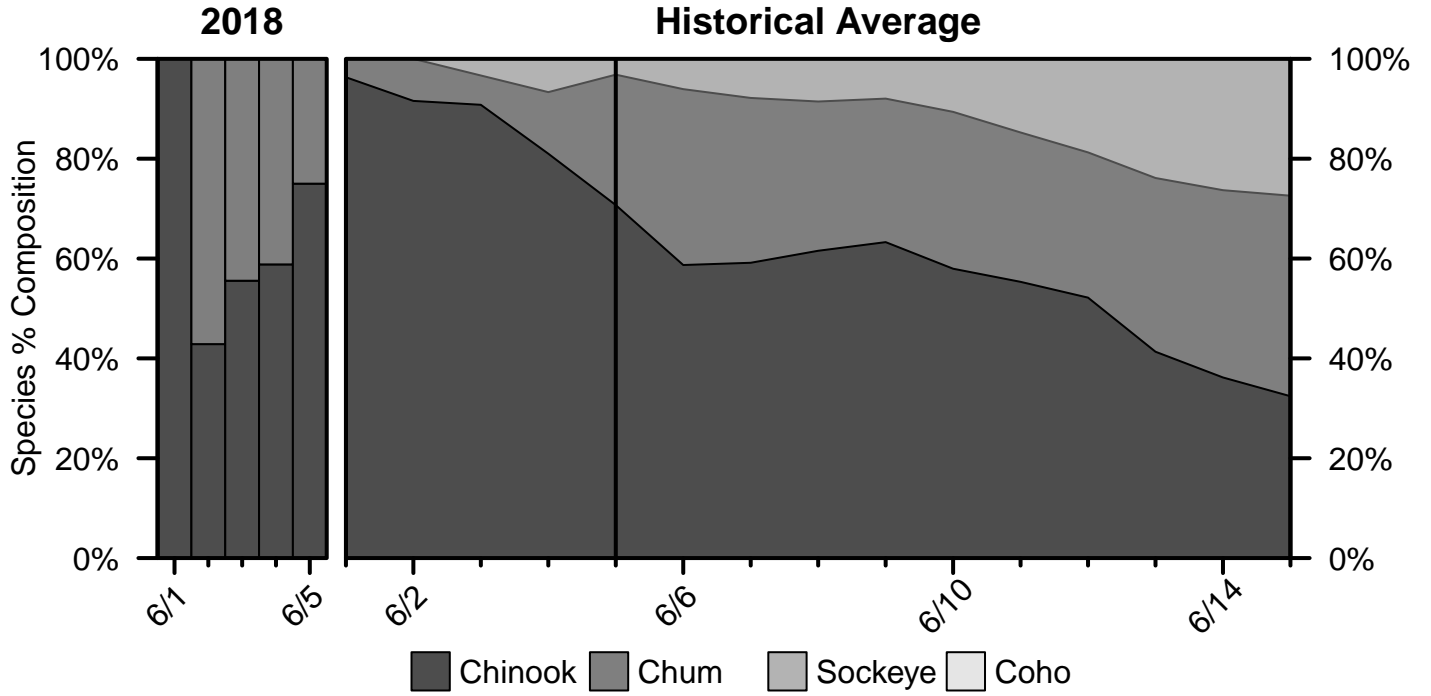
Date	Ratio > 1	Ratio > 3	Ratio > 5	Ratio > 10	Ratio > 20
6/2	6%	3%	3%	0%	0%
6/3	9%	3%	3%	0%	0%
6/4	12%	3%	3%	0%	0%
6/5	26%	9%	3%	0%	0%
6/6	41%	18%	9%	0%	0%
6/7	50%	21%	9%	0%	0%
6/8	56%	24%	9%	0%	0%

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Percent Composition by Salmon Species

Percent Composition Figure 1. Species percent composition in the BTF from 2018 and based on the historical average. The composition presented on each day represents the average composition over the past 2 days.



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Chinook Salmon Appendix

Chinook Salmon Table A1. Cumulative CPUE from the BTF.

Date	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	5-Yr Avg.	2008 - 2017 Avg.
6/2	3	1	16	14	15	9	6
6/3	5	3	31	14	39	17	10
6/4	11	5	39	20	63	25	15
6/5	12	5	53	24	85	33	21
6/6		5	60	35	92	39	25
6/7		8	79	53	110	50	34
6/8		8	89	60	133	58	41
EOS		374	687	625	650	519	538

Chinook Salmon Table A2. Cumulative CPUE from the ATF.

Date	2018	2017	2016	2015
6/2	0	0	108	38
6/3	0	0	182	38
6/4	8	8	234	64
6/5	8	8	251	64
6/6		24	300	64
6/7		40	344	81
6/8		48	397	98
EOS		6,508	2,729	2,916

Chinook Salmon Table A3. Percent of run complete according to various historical run timing scenarios from the BTF.

Timing	Midpoint	6/5 Cumulative %
Earliest	6/14	11%
Early 10%	6/17	6%
Early 25%	6/21	3%
Median	6/22	1%
Late 25%	6/24	<1%
Late 10%	6/27	<1%
Latest	7/3	<1%

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Chum Salmon Appendix

Chum Salmon Table A1. Cumulative CPUE from the BTF.

Date	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	5-Yr Avg.	2008 - 2017 Avg.
6/2	4	0	0	0	8	2	1
6/3	4	0	0	0	8	2	1
6/4	7	0	0	0	11	2	2
6/5	7	0	0	0	14	3	3
6/6		3	3	3	14	4	4
6/7		5	3	15	21	9	6
6/8		8	16	15	26	13	9
EOS		6,785	3,894	2,943	6,343	5,135	6,525

Chum Salmon Table A2. Cumulative CPUE from the ATF.

Date	2018	2017	2016	2015
6/2	0	0	5	0
6/3	0	0	5	0
6/4	0	0	5	9
6/5	8	8	5	9
6/6		8	5	9
6/7		8	12	17
6/8		8	12	17
EOS		11,588	5,304	5,669

Chum Salmon Table A3. Percent of run complete according to various historical run timing scenarios from the BTF.

Timing	Midpoint	6/5 Cumulative %
Earliest	6/23	<1%
Early 10%	7/1	<1%
Early 25%	7/2	<1%
Median	7/5	<1%
Late 25%	7/7	<1%
Late 10%	7/11	<1%
Latest	7/14	<1%

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Supplemental Document

Submitted by US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Summary of Net Effort Flights (05/28/2018 – 6/6/2018)

Refuge staff flew five flights from May 28 to June 6, 2018 to enumerate netting effort during the two 12 hour set net opportunities in the mainstem Kuskokwim River (covering the area from Eek to Akiak), as well as enumerate netting effort in the following non-salmon spawning tributaries: Eenayarak River, Tagarayak River, Tuntutuliak River, Kialik River, Johnson River, and Gweek River. Flights occurred on the following dates and times: **May 28** (3 – 5PM), **May 30** (2 – 4PM), **June 2** (7 – 8PM), **June 3** (10 – 11 AM), and **June 6** (2 – 4 PM). Flights were scheduled around high tides, typically the higher of the two high tides. Observed counts during these flights are shown in the tables and figures below.

Table X. Number of total observed nets across set net opportunities in mainstem Kuskokwim River and non-salmon spawning tributaries by date and net method from May 28 – June 6, 2018.

Net Method	5/28	5/30 ^a	6/2	6/3	6/5 ^c	6/6 ^a
Set	0	11	3	2	NA	84
Drift	0	2 ^b	1	0	NA	2 ^d
Total	0	13	4	2	NA	86

^a days in which ≤ 4" set gillnet opportunities occurred; ^b drift netting occurred in Eek River and Eenayarak River; ^c flight cancelled; ^d drift netting occurred in Johnson River and Eenayarak River

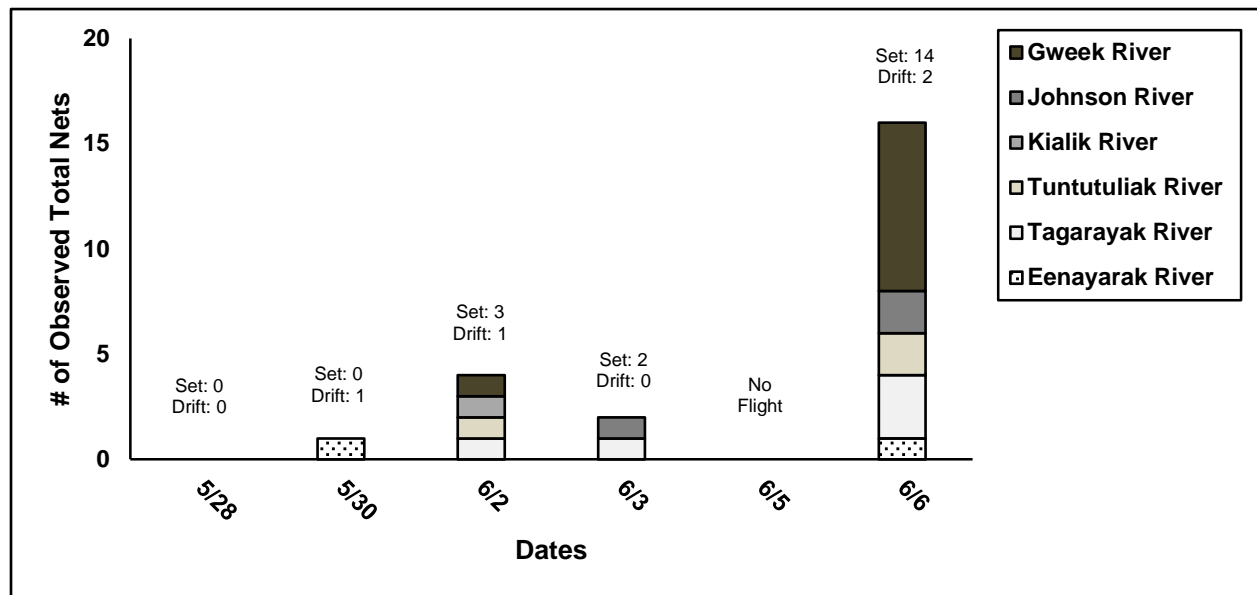


Figure 1. Location composition of observed nets in sampled nonsalmon spawning tributaries within Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge from May 28 – June 6, 2018.

Supplemental Document
Submitted by US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Table Y. Number of nets observed by date and method in sampled non-salmon spawning tributaries within Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge from May 28 – June 6, 2018.

Location	Net Method	Week 1 (May 28 - June 3)				Week 2 (June 4 - June 10)			
		5/28	5/30	6/2	6/3	6/5	6/6	6/7	6/10
Eenayarak River	Set	0	0	0	0	NA	0	NA	NA
	Drift	0	1	0	0	NA	1	NA	NA
	Total	0	1	0	0	NA	1	NA	NA
Tagarayak River	Set	0	0	1	1	NA	3	NA	NA
	Drift	0	0	0	0	NA	0	NA	NA
	Total	0	0	1	1	NA	3	NA	NA
Tuntutuliak River	Set	0	0	0	0	NA	2	NA	NA
	Drift	0	0	1	0	NA	0	NA	NA
	Total	0	0	1	0	NA	2	NA	NA
Kialik River	Set	0	0	1	0	NA	0	NA	NA
	Drift	0	0	0	0	NA	0	NA	NA
	Total	0	0	1	0	NA	0	NA	NA
Johnson River	Set	0	0	0	1	NA	1	NA	NA
	Drift	0	0	0	0	NA	1	NA	NA
	Total	0	0	0	1	NA	2	NA	NA
Gweek River	Set	0	0	1	0	NA	8	NA	NA
	Drift	0	0	0	0	NA	0	NA	NA
	Total	0	0	1	0	NA	8	NA	NA
TOTAL	Set	0	0	3	2	NA	14	NA	NA
	Drift	0	1	1	0	NA	2	NA	NA
	Total	0	1	4	2	NA	16	NA	NA

Table Z. Number of set nets observed by date in mainstem Kuskokwim River during 12 hour ≤4” set net opportunities on May 30 and June 6, 2018.

Description	Location	5/30	6/6
Below Johnson River	A	1	0
Johnson River to Napaskiak	B	1	16
Napaskiak to Akiakchak	C	5	35
Akiakchak to Akiak	D	4	19
	Total	11	70