

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: 06/10/2015

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 Lower River and Community Harvest Update
- Commercial Catch Report:
- Processor Report:
- Sport Fish Report:
- Intercept Fishery Report: *optional*
- Weather Forecast:
- Discussion of ADF&G Management considerations and discussion of possible alternatives (recommendations from the Working Group).
- Motion for Discussion and Action.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- USFWS Special Action #5 discussion.

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

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LOWER KUSKOKWIM RIVER INSEASON CATCH MONITORING REPORT: Orutsararmiut Native Council (ONC)

June 8, 2015

Fishing reports from June 1, 2015- June 7, 2015

Families Surveyed	Families Fishing	Drift-nets	Set-nets	>6" Mesh	>4"-6" Mesh	4" or Less	Rod & Reel	Dipnet	Fish Wheel
50	18	0	21	0	0	21	0	0	0
		0%	117%	0%	0%	117%	0%	0%	0%

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

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

CHINOOK			CHUM			SOCKEYE		
Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor
0	3	5	0	1	0	0	2	2
0%	17%	28%	0	6%	0	0	11%	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	2	5	0	1	0	1	2	2
6%	11%	28%	0	6%	0	6%	11%	11%

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

Harvest Goal Summary:

Chinook harvest goals for 28 families were from 5-100.

Chum harvest goals for 33 families were from 0-100.

Sockeye harvest goals for 35 families were from 10-100.

Coho harvest goals for 21 were from 10-250.

Chinook:

Eight families will not be targeting Chinook salmon this year. All Chinook reported this week were bright silver with reports of catching larger sizes than the previous week. The ratio of males to females was 50/50. 6% of the families fishing surveyed this week were unable to comment on Catch Rate or Run Timing.

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Chum:

Two families will not be targeting Chum salmon this year, but will be keeping by-catch. Eight families surveyed were unable to comment on Chum. A few of the Chum caught had signs of spawning colors, the rest were still bright silver.

Sockeye:

Five families were unable to comment on Sockeye this week. Four families that caught Sockeye this week commented they were still bright silver.

Coho:

One family will not start harvesting salmon until Coho arrive.

Comments:

This week's fishing opportunity was from Thursday June 4th, 2015, 6AM- Sunday, June 7th, 2015, 6AM.

32 families surveyed have not started fishing this season. Two families have reported having motor problems and will not be fishing as of this week.

Nine families have started fishing this week, but haven't caught any salmon this season.

One family stated that they are going to the coast to fish for Chinook.

A few surveyed families are moving fish camp locations due to erosion and sandbars. One family is still working on rebuilding their fish camp due to the damage of ice breakup.

Three families reported using two set nets this past fishing opportunity.

Surveyor comments:

For the week ending of June 7th, ONC surveyed 50 families from the "Y" of Akiachak and Kwethluk downriver to Napaskiak Slough. Surveyors observed 123 set nets from the top of Schwalbe Island to lower end of Napaskiak Slough.

The meeting for the Community Harvest Permit Fishery was very successful this past week. We also distributed a total of 7 ASL Kits to the designated fisherman.

The total distribution of ASL kits to date is 16 this season.

Bethel Test Fish Distribution:

ONC Fishery Technicians have distributed to the following locations: Lulu Herron, Prematernal home care, Ayalpik Apartments, Long Term Care Facility, and have started on the elder residential list. Total number of Bethel residences that received fish is 45. USFWS and ONC partnered in distributing to the community of Akiachak this past week.

ONC distribution to date:

Chinook: 37

Sockeye: 1

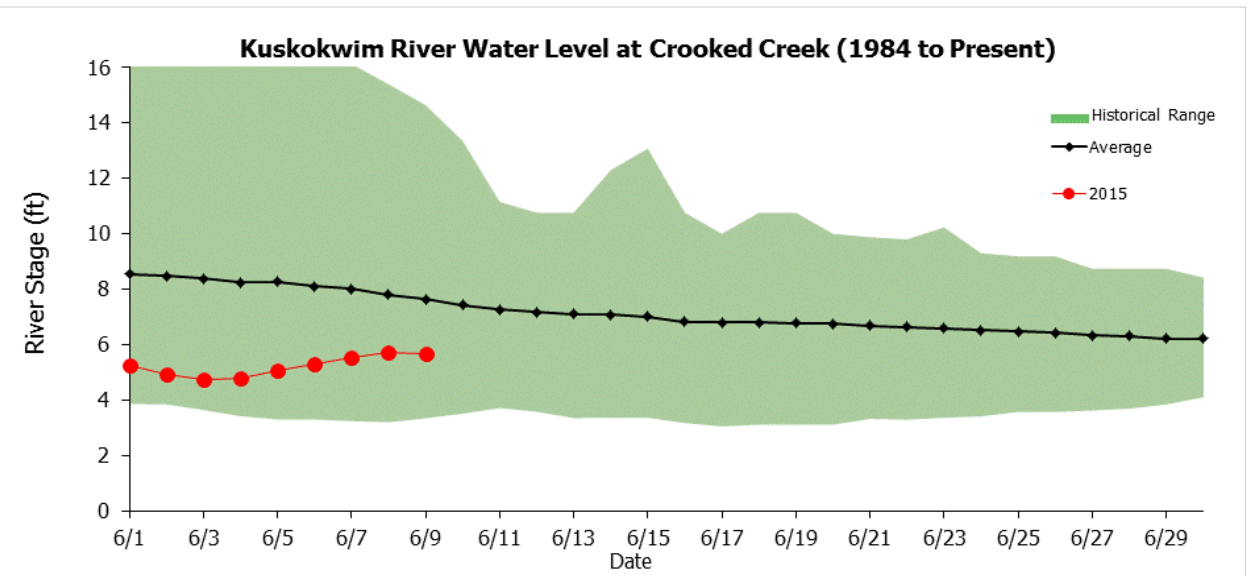
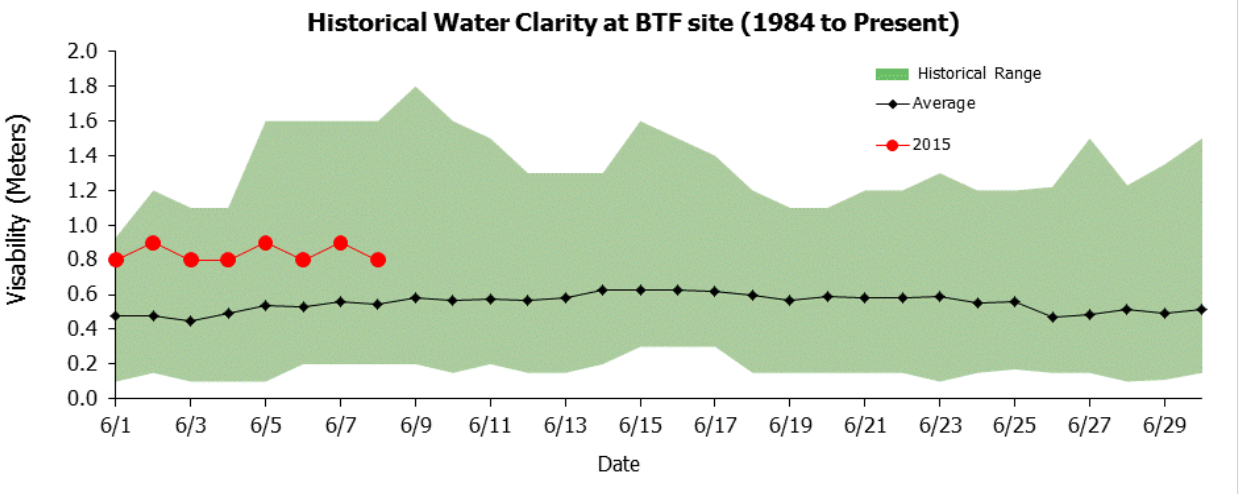
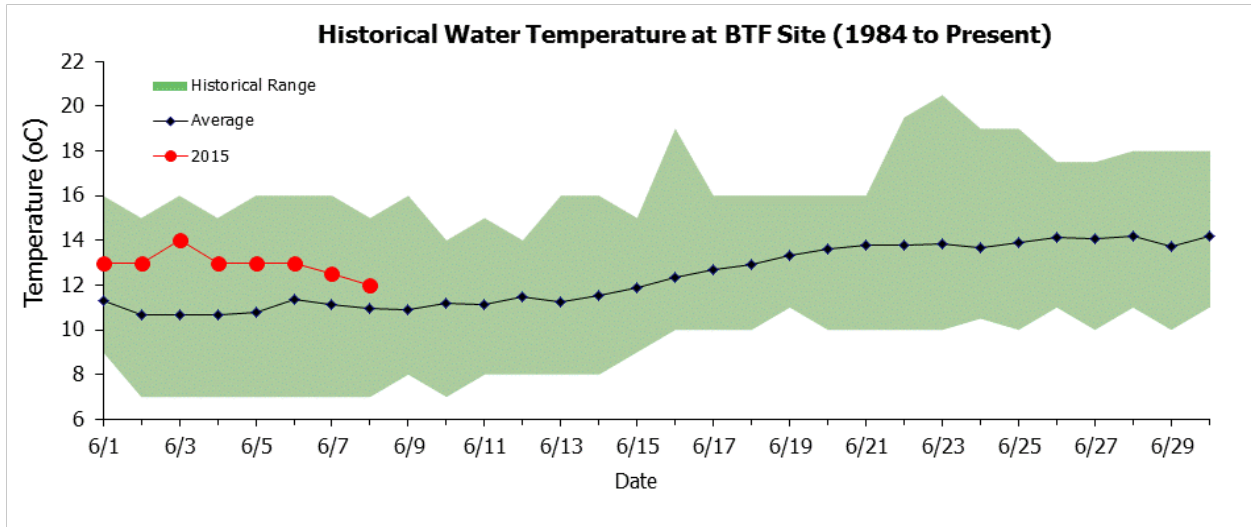
Chum: 8

Inconnu: 16

Burbot: 5

Humpback: 1

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

Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery

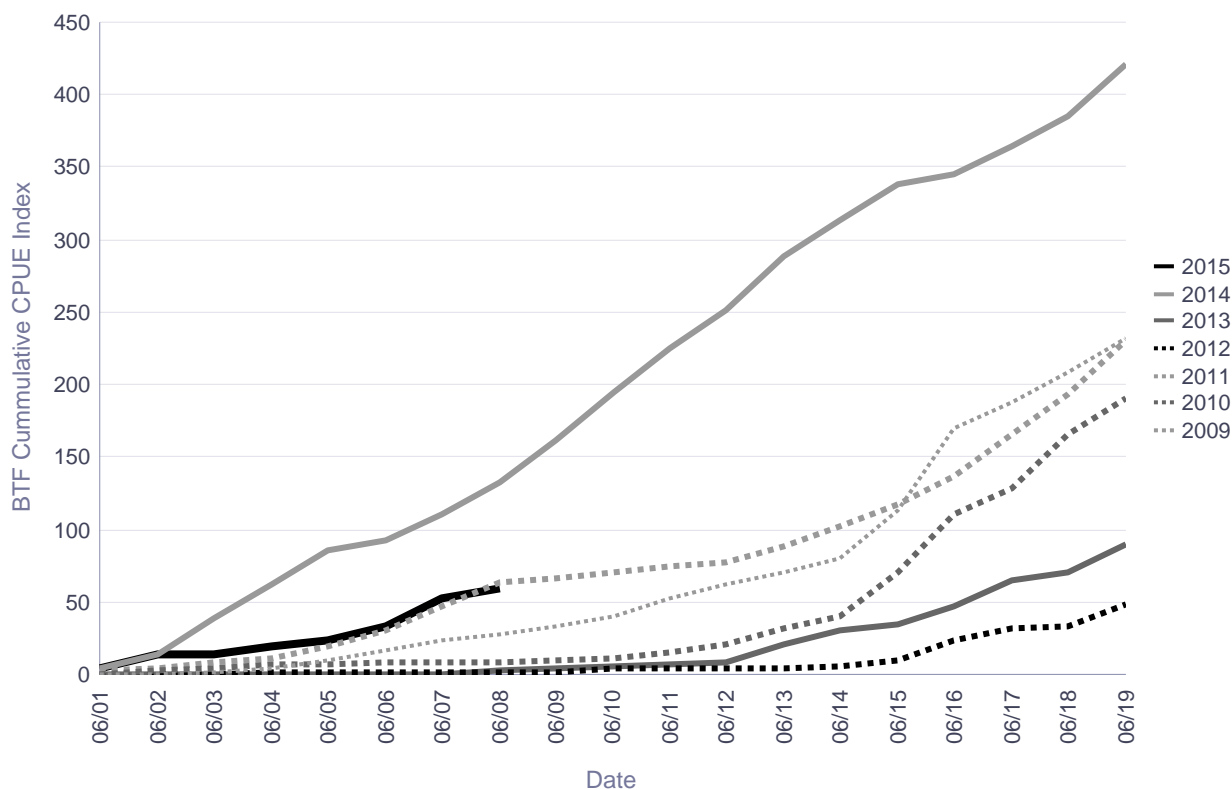
Bethel Test Fishery Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

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

Date	CPUE						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
06/01	0	0	3	0	0	4	5
06/02	0	3	5	0	0	15	14
06/03	1	4	8	0	0	39	14
06/04	4	7	11	1	0	63	19
06/05	10	7	20	1	0	85	23
06/06	17	8	31	1	0	92	34
06/07	24	9	47	1	0	110	52
06/08	28	9	63	1	2	133	59
06/09	33	10	67	2	4	162	
06/10	40	11	70	4	6	195	
06/11	52	15	75	5	8	226	
06/12	62	21	78	5	9	252	
06/13	70	32	88	5	21	289	
06/14	80	40	102	6	31	313	
06/15	113	71	117	10	35	338	
06/16	170	110	137	23	48	346	
06/17	188	128	166	32	65	365	
06/18	208	166	193	33	70	385	
06/19	232	191	230	49	89	421	

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

Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index Chart



Resulting escapement relative to New Kuskokwim River SEG (65,000 - 120,000)

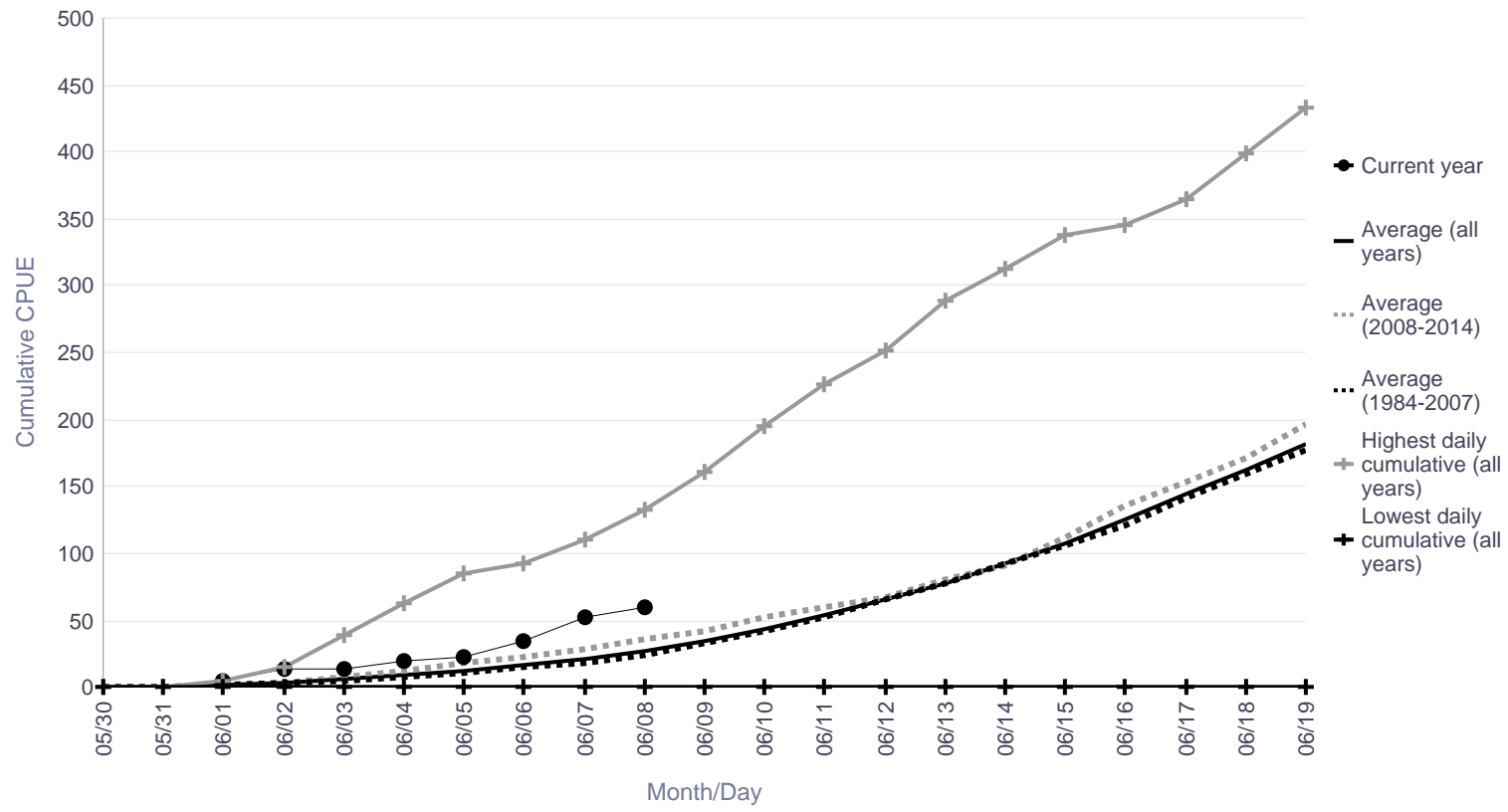
- 2009 - Achieved (+) no restrictions
- 2010 - Not Achieved (-) late tributary restrictions
- 2011 - Achieved (+) 15 days restrictions, minor reduction to subsistence harvest
- 2012 - Achieved (+) 35 days restrictions, significant reduction to subsistence harvest
- 2013 - Not Achieved (-) tributary restrictions and late main stem restrictions, significant reduction to subsistence harvest
- 2014 - Achieved (+) 30 days of restrictions, significant reduction in subsistence harvest

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Bethel Test Fishery Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	Average (1984-2007)	Average (2008-2014)	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current year
06/01	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	4.00	5.00
06/02	0.00	3.13	2.95	3.65	14.57	14.00
06/03	0.00	5.69	4.95	7.88	39.13	14.00
06/04	0.00	8.50	7.17	12.65	62.54	19.00
06/05	0.00	12.53	10.79	18.06	85.45	23.00
06/06	0.00	16.33	14.58	21.90	92.33	34.00
06/07	0.00	20.62	18.38	27.87	110.11	52.00
06/08	0.00	26.92	24.38	35.23	133.16	59.00
06/09	0.00	35.11	32.83	42.47	161.54	
06/10	0.00	43.99	41.58	51.82	195.41	
06/11	0.00	54.33	52.54	60.05	225.72	
06/12	0.00	66.05	65.50	67.51	251.67	
06/13	0.00	77.76	76.96	80.08	288.77	
06/14	0.00	91.83	92.04	90.66	312.92	
06/15	0.00	107.54	106.29	111.38	337.73	
06/16	0.00	124.50	121.17	135.49	345.77	
06/17	0.00	144.16	141.13	154.13	364.57	
06/18	0.00	161.63	158.75	171.09	399.00	
06/19	0.00	181.53	177.17	196.06	433.00	

Current Year: 2015



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Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery

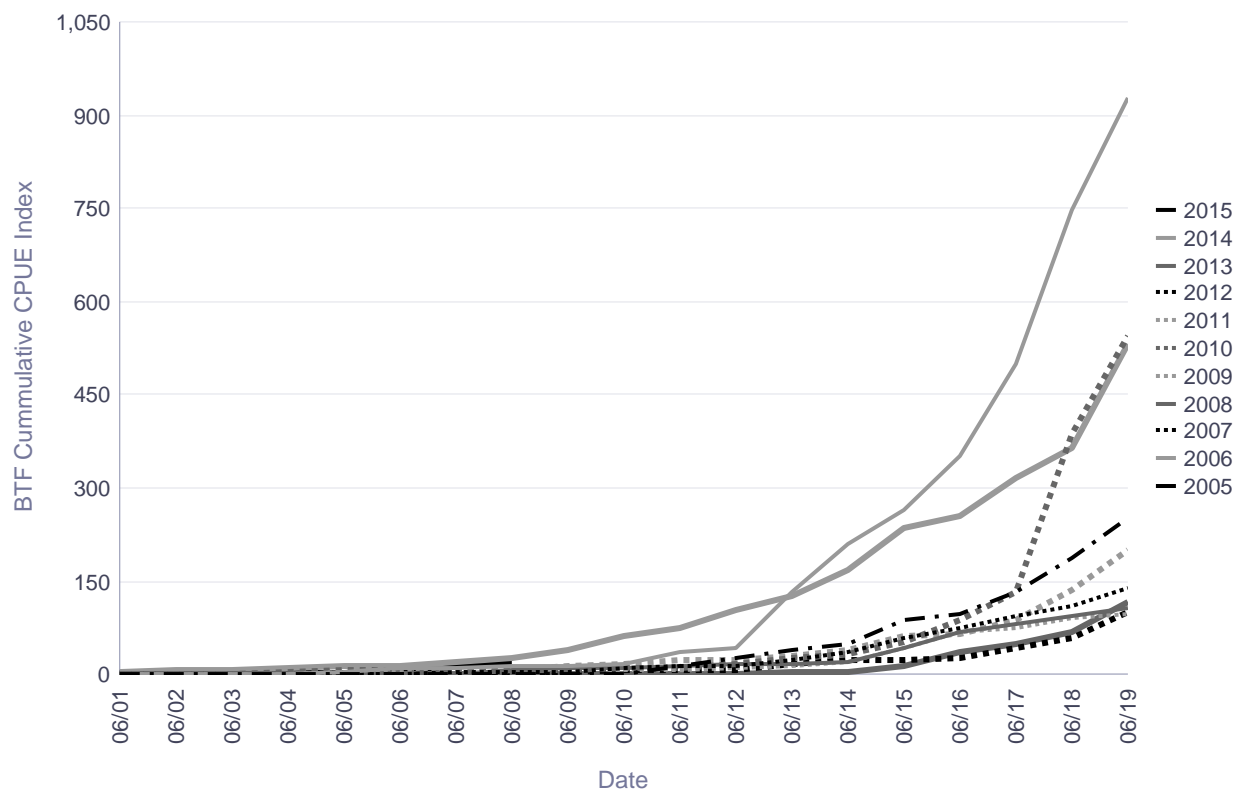
Bethel Test Fishery Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

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

Date	CPUE										
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
06/01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
06/02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
06/03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
06/04	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	11	0
06/05	0	3	0	0	3	7	3	0	0	14	0
06/06	0	9	0	0	4	7	3	3	0	14	3
06/07	0	9	3	0	4	7	3	3	0	21	16
06/08	0	12	3	6	5	7	6	3	0	26	16
06/09	0	12	3	9	8	7	12	3	0	39	
06/10	0	15	9	9	8	10	18	8	0	60	
06/11	13	35	12	12	8	10	23	8	0	76	
06/12	25	41	12	18	11	16	23	8	0	105	
06/13	39	133	24	18	14	27	31	16	4	125	
06/14	50	210	35	21	20	33	40	24	4	169	
06/15	88	266	58	42	41	52	61	24	14	236	
06/16	96	350	75	67	69	87	64	27	37	255	
06/17	131	499	94	81	74	134	86	42	48	316	
06/18	188	747	111	95	90	387	136	57	69	365	
06/19	252	926	139	106	98	543	200	99	115	532	

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

Bethel Test Fishery, Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE thru 06/19



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Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery

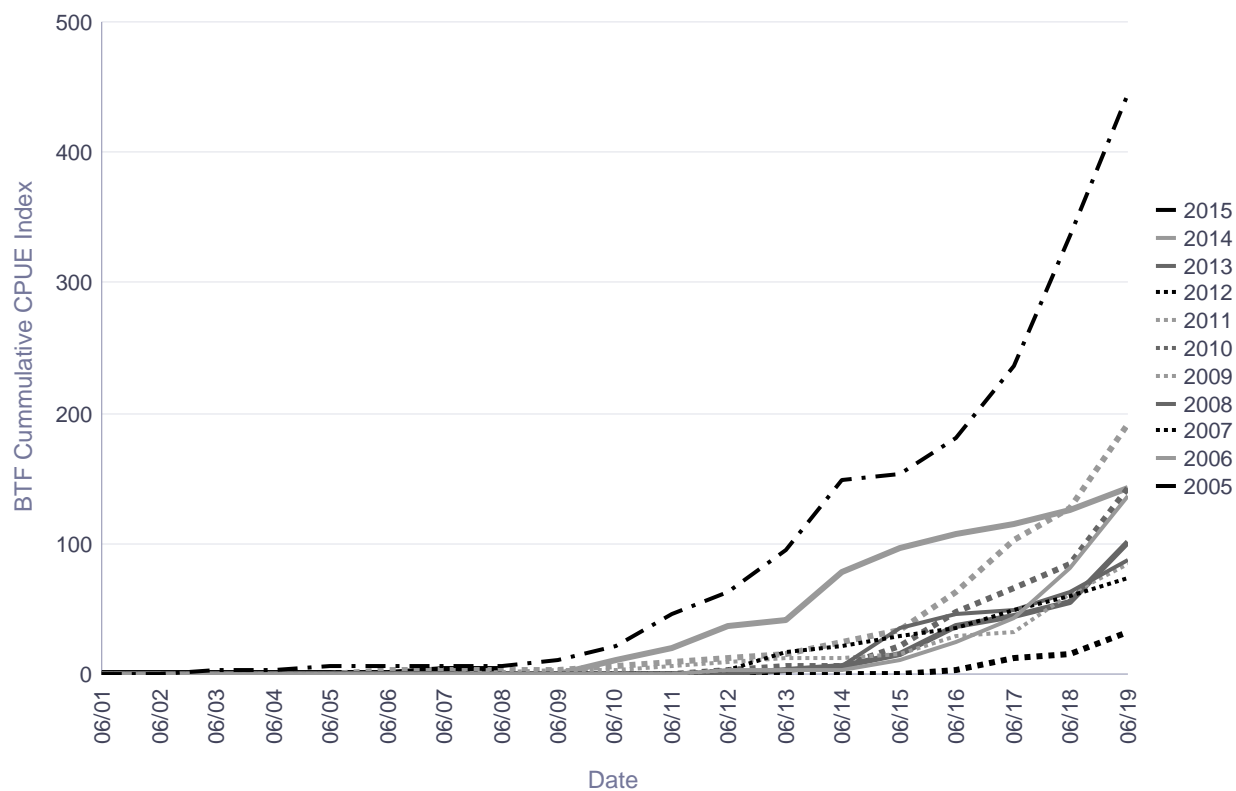
Bethel Test Fishery Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

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

Date	CPUE										
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
06/01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06/02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06/03	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06/04	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06/05	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06/06	6	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
06/07	6	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	3
06/08	6	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	3
06/09	11	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	
06/10	22	0	0	0	4	0	7	0	0	10	
06/11	46	0	0	0	7	0	10	0	0	21	
06/12	63	3	3	0	10	3	13	0	0	36	
06/13	96	3	17	3	13	6	16	0	3	42	
06/14	149	3	22	6	13	6	25	0	6	78	
06/15	154	11	30	35	15	21	34	0	15	97	
06/16	181	24	36	46	30	47	63	3	37	108	
06/17	236	43	50	49	33	66	103	12	45	115	
06/18	336	81	60	63	61	85	127	15	56	126	
06/19	444	137	74	88	85	143	192	32	102	142	

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

Bethel Test Fishery, Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE thru 06/19



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Aniak Test Fishery 2015

Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index		
	Daily	Cumulative
6/1	19.56	19.56
6/2	17.78	37.34
6/3	0.00	37.34
6/4	26.44	63.78
6/5	0.00	63.78
6/6	0.00	63.78
6/7	16.48	80.26
6/8	17.31	97.57
6/9		

Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index		
	Daily	Cumulative
6/1	0.00	0.00
6/2	0.00	0.00
6/3	0.00	0.00
6/4	9.41	9.41
6/5	0.00	9.41
6/6	0.00	9.41
6/7	8.42	17.83
6/8	0.00	17.83
6/9		

Lower River Chinook Salmon Tagging Update

During the first week of tagging operations (May 28–June 7), 84 Chinook Salmon were captured and implanted with radio tags. An additional 15 tags were deployed on June 8th for a total of 99 tags to date. The first of a series of stationary telemetry tracking data downloads were completed on Tuesday, June 9. On Wednesday, June 10, ADF&G will conduct its first of four aerial telemetry tracking flights. Results from stationary and aerial tracking data will be presented at the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group meeting scheduled on Wednesday, June 17. Two aerial telemetry surveys conducted by the USFWS have identified that radio-tagged Chinook salmon are migrating upriver.

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2015 Inseason Salmon Assessment Update for the Kuskokwim Area #1

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.

The following salmon assessment projects will operate in 2015:

Kuskokwim River

- Chinook Salmon Tagging
- Bethel Test Fishery
- Inseason Subsistence Harvest Monitoring
- Lower Kuskokwim River Subsistence Chinook Age, Sex, Length Sampling
- Aniak Test Fishery
- Kwethluk River Weir
- Tuluksak River Weir
- Salmon (Aniak) River Weir
- George River Weir
- Tatlawiksuk River Weir
- Kogruklu River Weir
- Telaquana Lake Weir (Stony River drainage)
- Salmon River (Pitka Fork) Weir
- Chinook Salmon Aerial Surveys

Kuskokwim Bay

- Kanektok River Weir (District 4)
- Goodnews River Weir (District 5)
- Chinook Salmon Aerial Surveys
- Sockeye Salmon Aerial Surveys

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>

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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.

Adult Chinook salmon are captured with 7.5" drift gillnets, tagged with radio and external tags, and released alive. We hope to tag approximately 500–800 fish. Tagged fish will be recaptured at 7 weirs located on key spawning tributaries. Tagged fish are tracked throughout the drainage using aerial surveys and 19 tracking towers located between Bethel and McGrath. USFWS will fly aerial tracking surveys on the Kwethluk, Kisaralik, and Tuluksak rivers three days per week throughout June and July. ADF&G will fly surveys every two weeks focused on a broad geographic area.

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 1-800-267-2404 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.

Since May 28th, ADF&G has tagged and released 99 Chinook salmon. At this time only limited tracking data is available through USFWS aerial surveys. Tagged fish have been detected as far upstream as Akiak. The first significant tracking event will occur the week of June 8th.

Bethel Test Fishery

Bethel Test Fishery is the primary inseason run assessment tool for Kuskokwim River salmon and is operated the same way each year. The project calculates a tidal and daily Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) by drifting 5 3/8" mesh and 8" mesh gillnets at multiple stations for up to 20 minutes. The daily CPUE is used to index run timing and relative abundance of Chinook, chum, sockeye, and coho salmon. The data has only limited utility for estimating total run size or escapement. **The 2015 data is not directly comparable to prior years due to subsistence harvest restrictions.**

Bethel Test Fishery was started on May 25th – six days ahead of schedule. The first Chinook salmon was caught on May 25th. The first chum was caught on May 31st. Official drifts began on June 1st. The cumulative CPUE as of June 8th is 59 Chinook salmon, 16 chum salmon, and 3 sockeye salmon.

It is still early in the run for all species. Since 1984, the portion of the total annual run past Bethel by June 8th has averaged 6% for Chinook salmon and less than 1% for sockeye and chum salmon. The peak of the Chinook salmon run is anticipated around June 22nd. The peak of sockeye and chum salmon runs are typically the last week of June and first week of July respectively.

Inseason Subsistence Harvest Monitoring

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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.

Lower Kuskokwim River Chinook Age, Sex, Length Sampling

Since 2001, ADF&G and ONC have partnered to recruit lower river residents to sample age, sex, and length (ASL) from Chinook salmon harvested for subsistence. Sampling is easy, you get paid for your time, all information is confidential, and you get to keep your fish.

Recruitment is done through a variety of ways. ONC staff recruits participants from the Bethel area during weekly fish camp visits. In 2015, ONC is also encouraging community designated fishermen who are participating in the USFWS Chinook salmon subsistence permit program to collect ASL samples. ADF&G recruits from outside the Bethel area by mailing notices and information material to community Tribal Councils. ADF&G also hosts sampling training workshops. The first workshop was held in Bethel on June 6th and another on June 9th. If you would like to participate in this program, contact Zachary Liller with ADF&G (907)-717-3419 or Dustin Wagner with ONC (907)-543-0523.

Aniak Test Fishery

The Aniak Test Fishery is operated cooperatively by the Native Village of Napaimute (NVN) and ADF&G. The test fishery will operate until approximately July 15 to assist with management of Chinook salmon fisheries in State waters upriver from the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge boundary. The project calculates a morning, evening, and daily CPUE by drifting 6” mesh gillnets at three stations for up to 10 minutes. The daily CPUE is used to index run timing of Chinook salmon and evaluate the ratio of Chinook salmon to chum and sockeye salmon. **The 2015 data is not directly comparable to CPUE observed at the Bethel Test Fishery.**

The 2015 season is the first time a test fishery has operated in the middle Kuskokwim River in many years. A test fishery was operated in Aniak from 1992 until 1995 by the commercial industry interested in salmon fisheries in District 2. Data from the 2015 season is not comparable to these prior years due to changes in methodology.

As of June 8th, the Aniak Test Fishery has caught 11 Chinook salmon and 2 chum salmon. No sockeye salmon have been harvested. Cumulative CPUE is 98 Chinook salmon and 18 chum salmon. The CPUE indicates the run is still building in the Aniak area and Chinook salmon are more abundant than chum salmon.

Tributary Escapement Monitoring – Weirs

Weirs will be installed on 8 tributaries throughout Kuskokwim River and 2 tributaries in Kuskokwim Bay. Weirs provide the most complete and accurate assessment of escapement to important spawning tributaries. Information from weirs is used as an index of escapement to broader geographic areas. Weirs operated on the Kwethluk and Tuluksak rivers are used to index escapement to the lower Kuskokwim River. The Salmon (Aniak) River weir is used to index the Aniak River drainage. The Kogrukluk River

Informational Packet

weir is used to index the Holitna River drainage. The George and Tatlawiksuk River weirs index portions of the Middle Kuskokwim River. The Salmon River (Pitka Fork) weir indexes the headwaters. The Telaquana Lake weir indexes escapement for lake-spawning sockeye salmon. Kanektok and Goodnews River weirs index escapement to Districts 4 and 5 respectively in Kuskokwim Bay.

Weirs are installed throughout the month of June and early July. As of June 8th, only the Kwethluk and Salmon River (Pitka Fork) weirs have been installed. Agency staff is currently working to install the remaining weirs. We anticipate the Tuluksak, Salmon, George, and Tatlawiksuk River weirs to be installed by June 15th. Kuskokwim Bay weirs will be installed by June 25th. Kogrukuk River weir will be installed by June 26th. Telaquana Lake weir will be installed by July 3rd.

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. Aerial surveys will be flown between July 17th and August 5th starting with headwater tributaries and ending in the lower Kuskokwim River and Bay.

Informational Packet

****Submitted by the USFWS***

Description of Netting Effort Survey Reaches

Johnson River to the Tuluksak River:

This includes all reaches flown in the aerial surveys and is the sum of the sum of counts observed in the seven reaches described below.

Johnson River and Napakiak:

The upstream boundary of this reach is just upstream of the village of Napakiak.

Napakiak to Napaskiak:

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

Napaskiak to Bethel:

The upstream boundary of this reach is just above the mouth of Browns Slough.

Bethel to Akiachak:

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

Akiachak to Akiak:

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

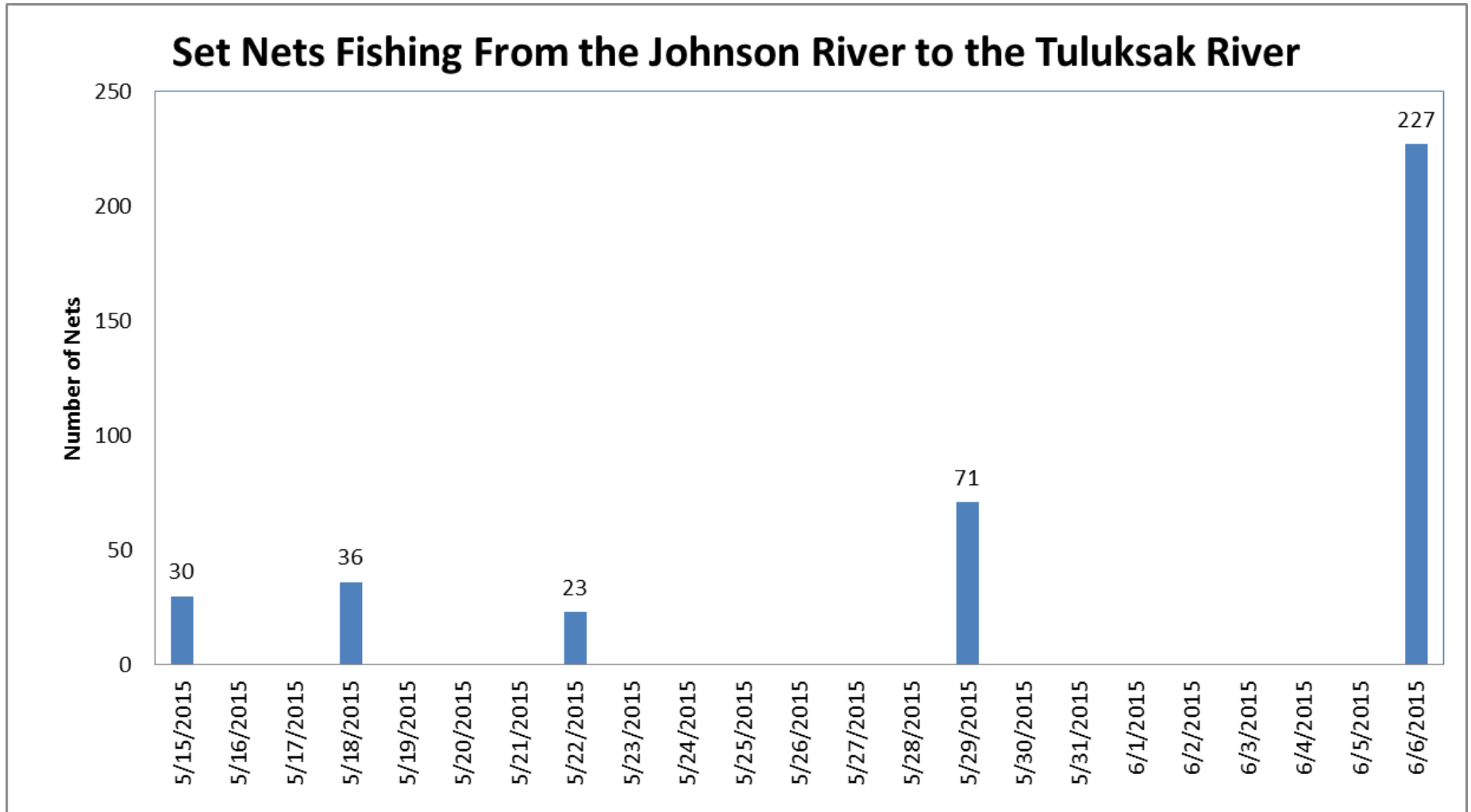
Akiak to Tuluksak:

Upstream boundary of this reach is the upstream end of Nelson Island.

Kuskokwak Slough, Kwethluk River to above Birch Slough, Church Slough:

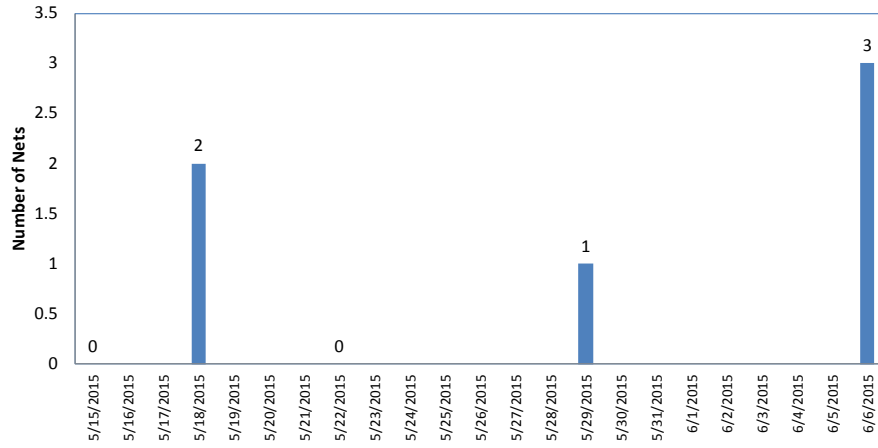
This reach includes the Kuskokwak Slough from upstream of the mouth of the Kisaralik River to the “Y” downstream of the village of Kwethluk, including the cutoff oxbow portion near the village of Kwethluk. It also includes the Kwethluk River from the mouth to approximately 7.5 miles upstream.

Informational Packet

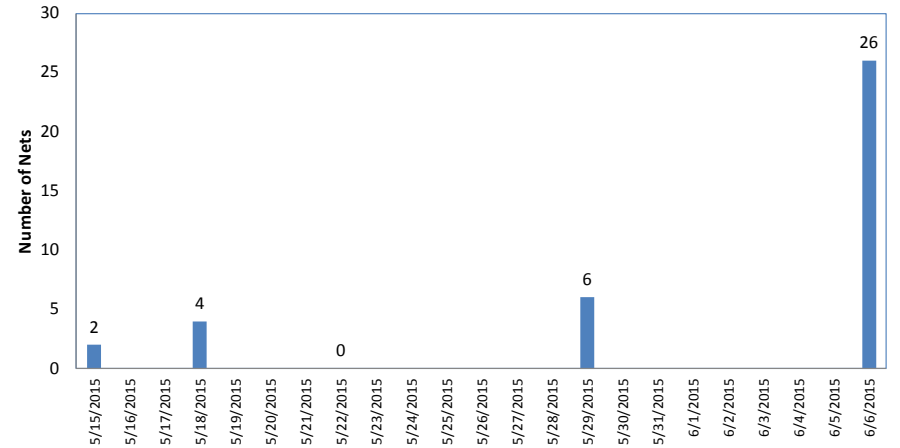


Informational Packet

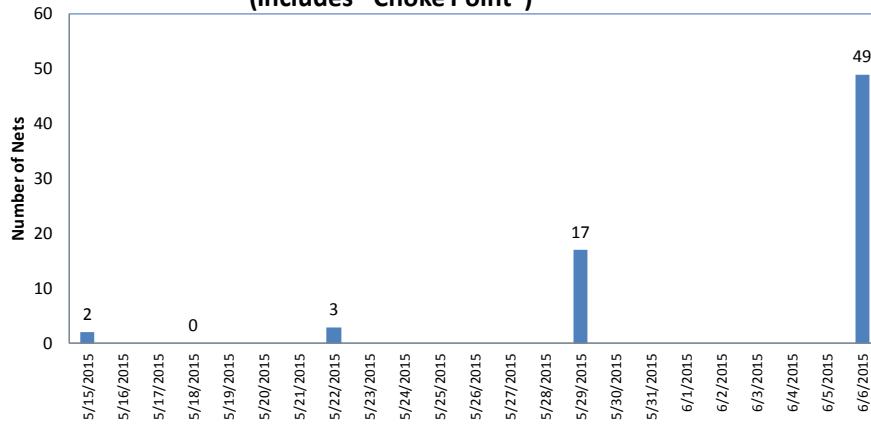
Set Nets Fishing From Johnson River to Napakiak



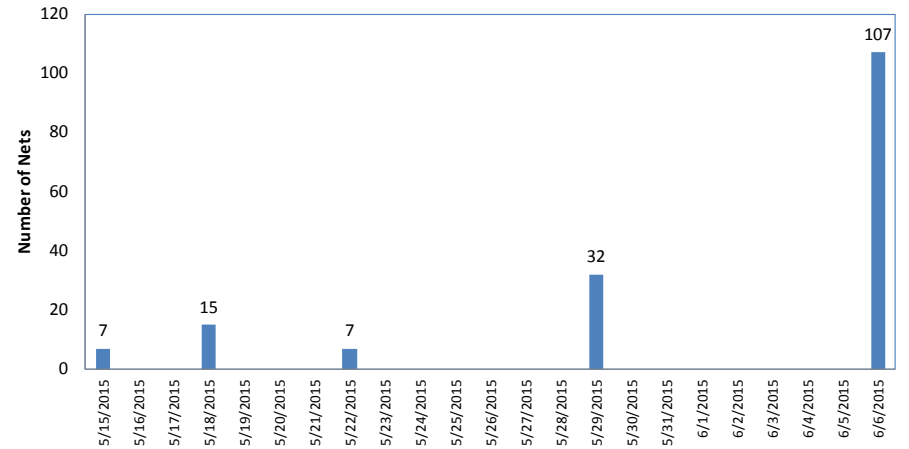
Set Nets Fishing From Napaskiak to Bethel



Nets Fishing From Napakiak to Napaskiak (Includes "Choke Point")

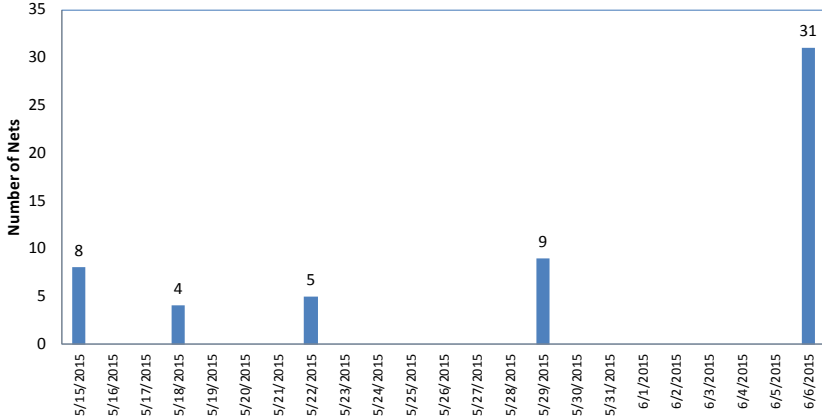


Set Nets Fishing From Bethel to Akiachak

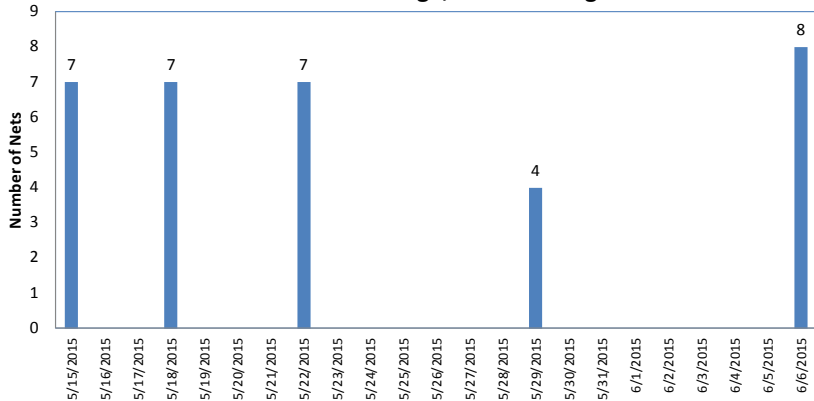


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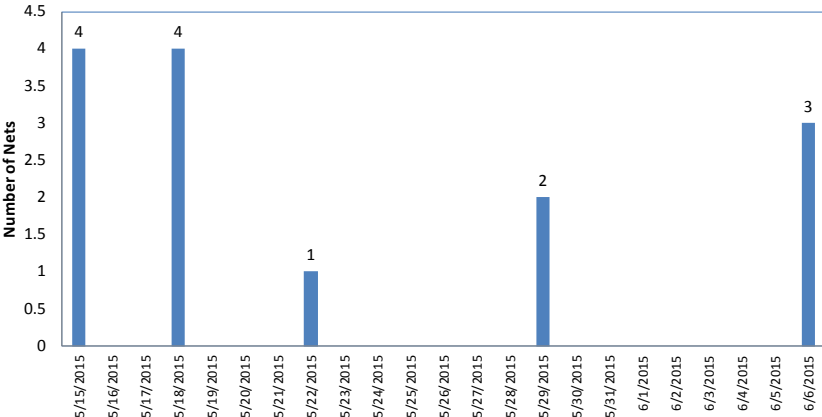
Set Nets Fishing From Akiachak to Akiak



Set Nets Fishing in Kuskokwak Slough, Kwethluk River to above Birch Slough, Church Slough



Set Nets Fishing From Akiak to Tuluksak



Informational Packet

Bethel's Community Harvest Opportunity:

- ONC is responsible for administering the federal community harvest permit for king salmon that is available only for Bethel residents, and was finalized for all Kuskokwim communities just a few short days ago. Due to our size and social diversity it is a highly complicated and logistical challenge to put together - or give people a clear notice and understanding of - in only 6 days.
- Through the ANILCA (Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980) Section 804 analysis (when there is not enough resource for all subsistence uses, how to allocate to those most dependent on a given fish or game population), it was determined that: "Work (family) groups at Bethel area fish camps have the greater customary and direct dependence on Chinook Salmon from the Kuskokwim River drainage than do most other residents of Bethel after consideration of the three criteria... Further, the domestic (family) mode of production should be the basis for any allocation system."
- So, the majority of Bethel's allocation will be divided equally between all established fish camps that we have registered by next Wednesday, June 3rd. The actual number of fish allotted to each camp (estimated in range of 10-15 at present) will depend on what this final number of fish camps actually is.
- Due to the known high number of fish camps and limited number of permits available, we will also develop a list of designated fishermen from among these camps. In addition to their own family group, they will be responsible to fish for, or fish with members of, other fish camps to achieve those other quotas. The first day of fishing under this permit is scheduled for June 10th, with a limit for each permit holder at 40 fish each to distribute among multiple fish camps, and they will be required to report their catch every two days. Gear will be limited to 50 fathom, 6 inch or less mesh, by drift net only.
- Finally, while identification of individuals who may have a greater dependence on Chinook salmon is not possible, it can be safely assumed that some Bethel residents who do not have access to fish camp participation, and do not depend on earlier season drying and smoking to reduce spoilage, could consider their other use as highly important and irreplaceable. Therefore, a smaller portion of Bethel's allocation will be reserved for those who wish to register for a delivery of 1-2 fish sometime during the harvest period. If the number of registrants exceeds the number of fish available for this portion, recipients will be determined in a random drawing.

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Anyone interested in participating in either of these two Community Harvest opportunities should contact ONC's Natural Resource Department by the close of business on Wednesday, June 3rd, at 545-1272, 543-0523, 543-0521, or can email us at: Fishtech@nativecouncil.org, dwagner@nativecouncil.org, or groczicka@nativecouncil.org .

Informational Packet

June 6, 2015

ONC's Designated Fisherman's Meeting – Bethel Community Harvest Permits Guidelines

1. You are not fishing for yourself – you are a Designated Fisherman that has accepted responsibility for getting at least 3 Bethel fish camps (one of which is likely, but not guaranteed, to be your own family group) their allocation of 12 King salmon each between June 10 & June 20th this year. You will be given the contact information for those camps and will need to coordinate w/ them on fishing time and delivery.
2. If desired, you can arrange to trade designated camps w/ another designated fisherman, but not to fish for them until you notify ONC fisheries staff of the change.
3. The permit number issued to you by FWS-YKD Refuge will determine the days you can fish. Even numbered permits fish on even numbered days, odd numbered permits on odd numbered days. There are no other time or date restrictions for when you can be out fishing.
4. Gear is limited to 50 fathom, 6 inch or less mesh, drift net only; and you must report your catch and delivery progress to ONC every Monday, Wednesday & Friday. ONC is responsible for compiling and providing this information to the Refuge manager.
5. You do not have to be the one actually fishing or use only your own gear and gas (ONC does not provide gas money). You only have to be physically present w/ your permit in whatever boat is being used to catch for your designated fish camps. It is your choice what to do with any other species (chum, red, whitefish, etc.) caught incidentally while you are fishing this permit.
6. Your initial target catch is for 36 fish (3 camps) w/ the possibility of additional camp assignments later. In event of catching more than that in a 3rd or 4th drift, (second or third day going out, etc.) you will need to contact another designated fisherman, or ONC fisheries staff on where they can be delivered.
7. You are encouraged, but not required, to collect ASL/bio information on all king salmon you catch for which you will be paid \$3.50 for each complete sample you collect. Training will be provided for those interested in participating.
8. You are placed with a high level of trust and confidence that you will hold to the allocations you are given; do your best not to exceed them; and truthfully report your progress on achieving them. Should it be determined afterwards that too many designated fisherman failed to do that, this early opportunity for a small directed subsistence harvest for kings in times of severe conservation concerns, could well be lost for the future. Good luck fishing!