

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: 06/24/2015

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:

- King salmon subsistence harvest table- *Dave Cannon*

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Update from USFWS on Law Enforcement policies
2. Unit 4 resolution letter
3. Tier II process

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.

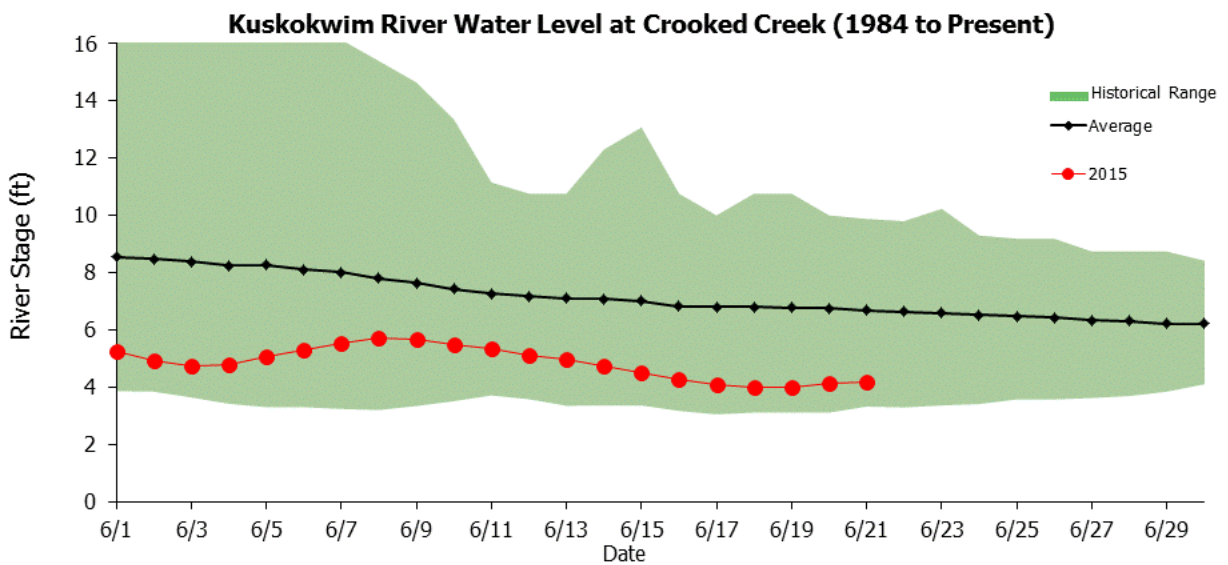
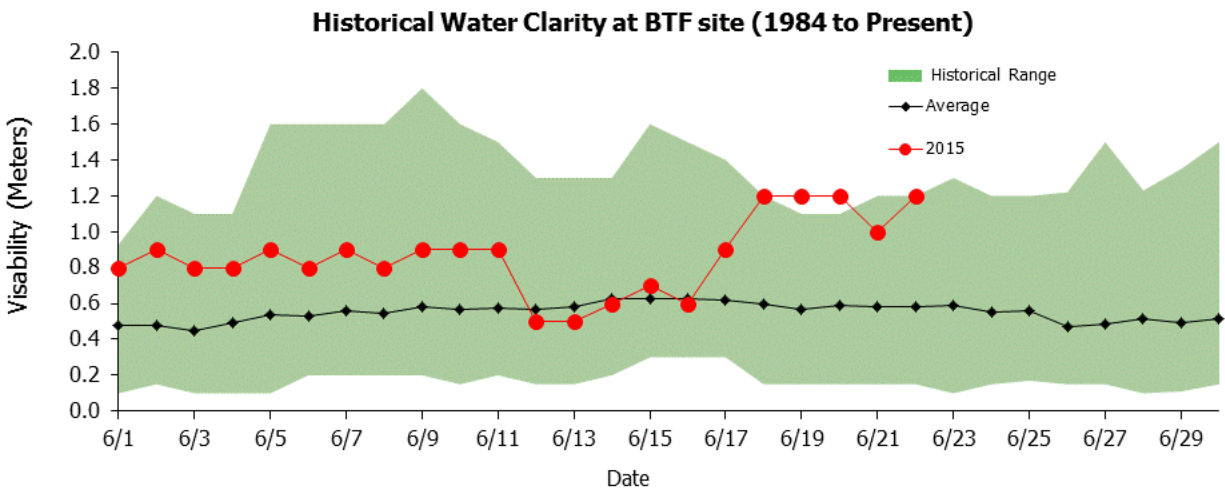
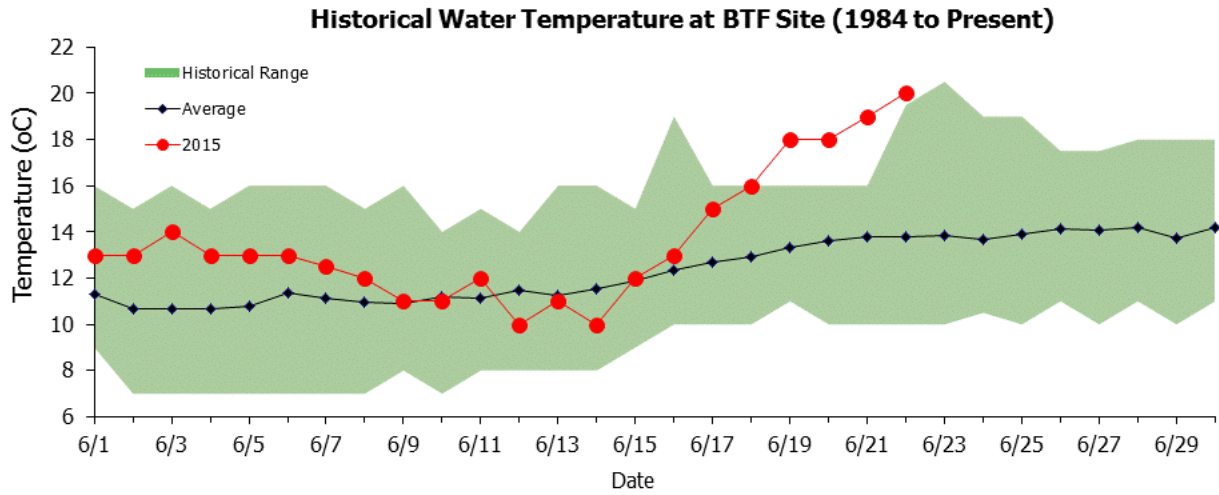
Thank you.

Jennifer Peeks

Chris Shelden

Working Group coordinators

Informational Packet



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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

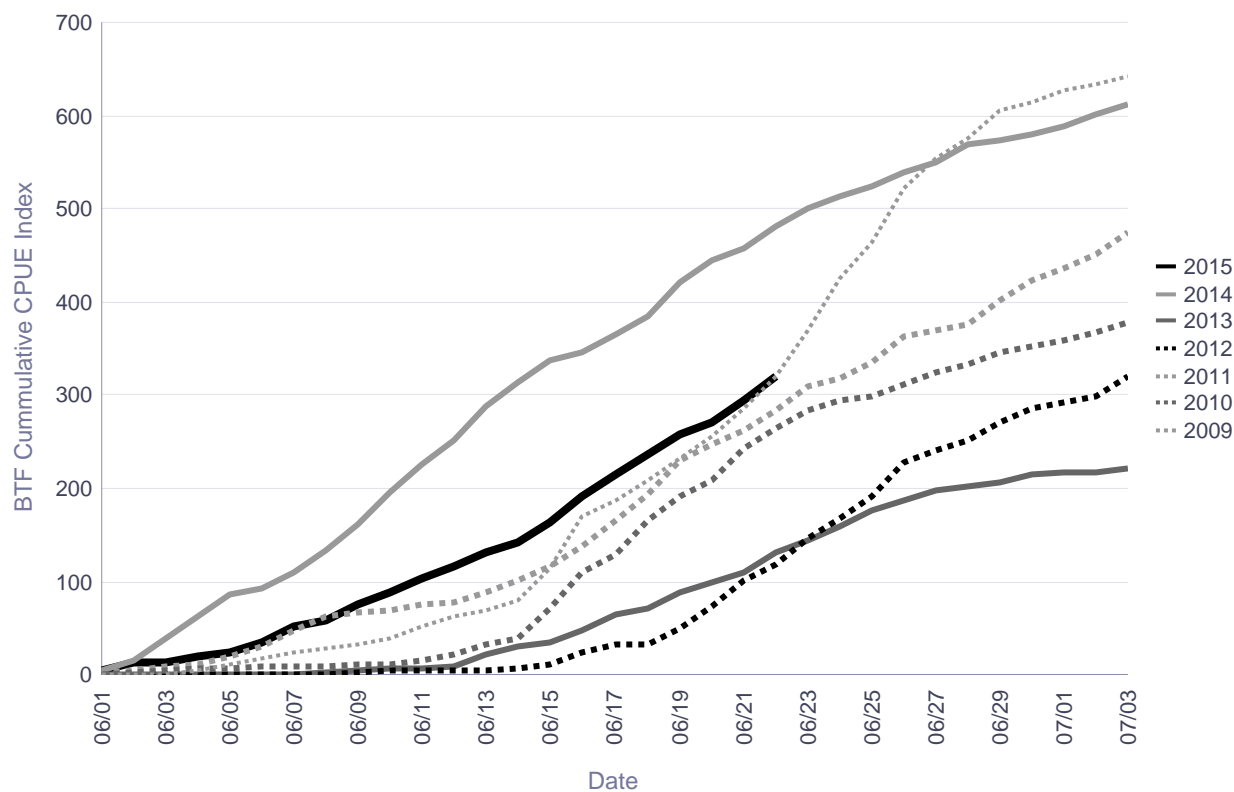
Bethel Test Fishery Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

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

Date	CPUE						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
06/14	80	40	102	6	31	313	143
06/15	113	71	117	10	35	338	164
06/16	170	110	137	23	48	346	192
06/17	188	128	166	32	65	365	215
06/18	208	166	193	33	70	385	237
06/19	232	191	230	49	89	421	258
06/20	255	208	248	73	100	445	270
06/21	285	242	263	102	110	458	295
06/22	320	265	283	118	132	481	320
06/23	370	283	309	147	145	500	
06/24	426	294	317	168	159	513	
06/25	463	299	335	192	177	524	
06/26	522	311	363	228	187	539	
06/27	555	324	369	240	197	550	
06/28	575	332	376	251	202	568	
06/29	606	345	402	270	206	573	
06/30	614	352	423	286	214	579	
07/01	626	359	437	293	217	588	
07/02	634	367	452	298	218	600	
07/03	642	378	475	321	222	611	

	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

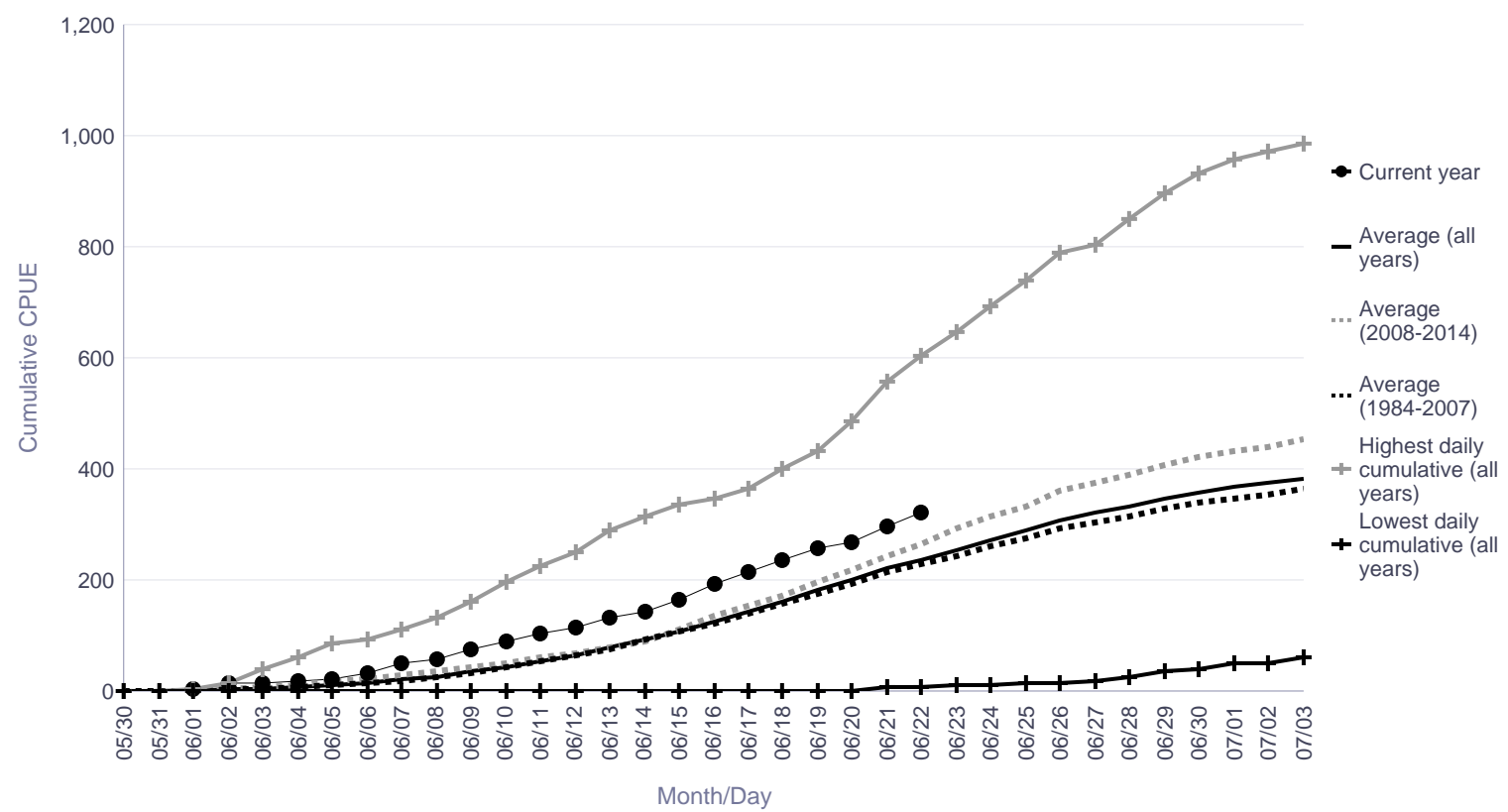
Informational Packet

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
06/14	0.00	91.83	92.04	90.66	312.92	143.00
06/15	0.00	107.54	106.29	111.38	337.73	164.00
06/16	0.00	124.50	121.17	135.49	345.77	192.00
06/17	0.00	144.16	141.13	154.13	364.57	215.00
06/18	0.00	161.63	158.75	171.09	399.00	237.00
06/19	0.00	181.53	177.17	196.06	433.00	258.00
06/20	1.00	199.58	194.17	217.70	486.00	270.00
06/21	8.00	220.38	214.04	241.67	558.00	295.00
06/22	8.00	237.43	229.00	265.90	602.00	320.00
06/23	11.00	255.27	244.08	293.21	646.00	
06/24	11.00	272.12	259.67	314.38	694.00	
06/25	15.00	289.09	276.21	332.80	741.00	
06/26	15.00	307.26	291.54	360.72	788.00	
06/27	18.00	320.14	303.63	376.32	804.00	
06/28	26.00	332.35	315.58	389.40	851.00	
06/29	35.00	345.76	327.58	407.64	897.00	
06/30	39.00	357.90	339.00	422.27	932.00	
07/01	51.00	367.00	347.88	432.13	956.00	
07/02	52.00	374.68	355.33	440.60	972.00	
07/03	61.00	383.68	363.13	453.74	984.00	

	Lowest CPUE	Average CPUE	Highest CPUE
Season Total	91.00	447.69	1,141.00

Current Year: 2015



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Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery

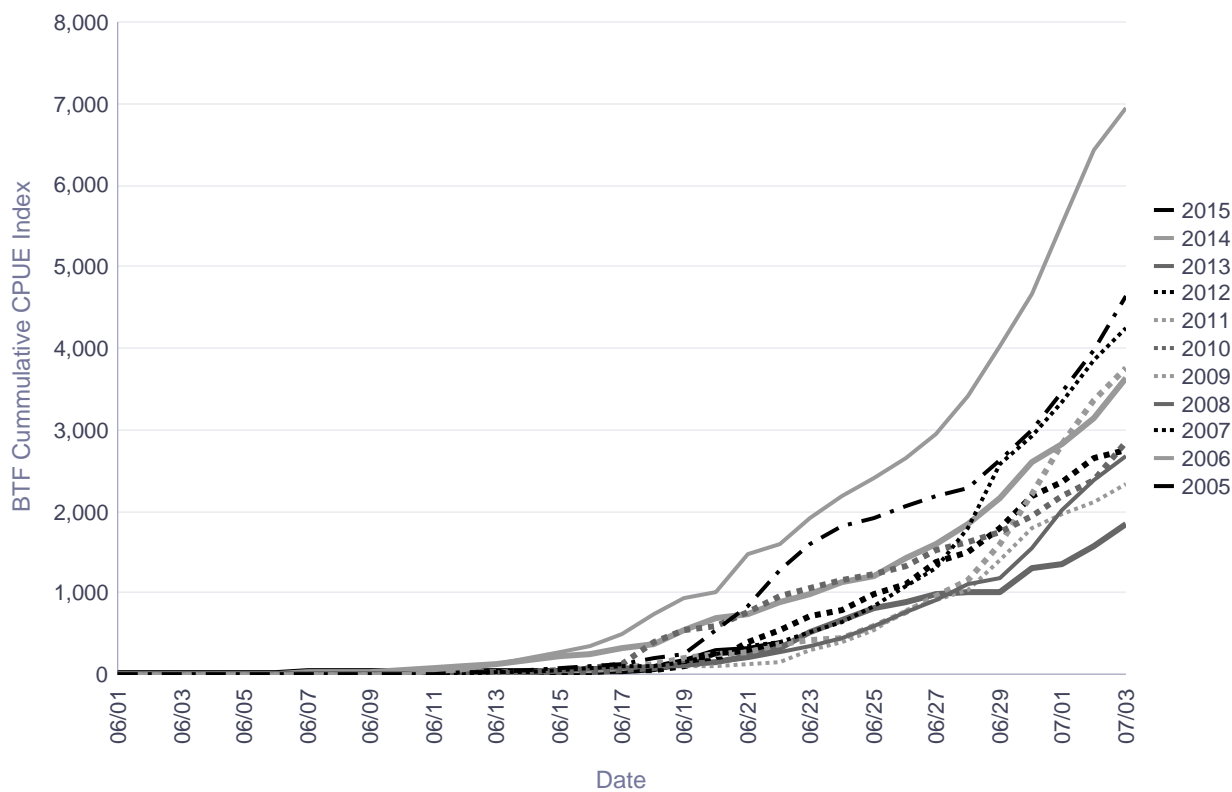
Bethel Test Fishery Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

****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
06/14	50	210	35	21	20	33	40	24	4	169	28
06/15	88	266	58	42	41	52	61	24	14	236	36
06/16	96	350	75	67	69	87	64	27	37	255	46
06/17	131	499	94	81	74	134	86	42	48	316	62
06/18	188	747	111	95	90	387	136	57	69	365	87
06/19	252	926	139	106	98	543	200	99	115	532	139
06/20	537	1,011	258	161	104	589	242	171	139	686	277
06/21	844	1,481	344	190	134	765	277	387	235	731	292
06/22	1,288	1,594	408	264	148	955	372	553	313	886	380
06/23	1,587	1,915	507	337	300	1,050	415	705	511	995	
06/24	1,816	2,187	633	437	396	1,164	434	798	669	1,120	
06/25	1,917	2,410	841	598	531	1,225	598	989	805	1,195	
06/26	2,076	2,645	1,075	754	782	1,340	770	1,110	881	1,434	
06/27	2,182	2,939	1,309	922	903	1,524	964	1,386	979	1,608	
06/28	2,273	3,401	1,784	1,101	1,028	1,613	1,166	1,495	1,007	1,851	
06/29	2,631	4,030	2,590	1,178	1,407	1,739	1,607	1,801	1,020	2,155	
06/30	2,989	4,659	2,918	1,551	1,800	1,932	2,223	2,188	1,297	2,596	
07/01	3,455	5,529	3,342	2,012	1,959	2,197	2,813	2,350	1,349	2,836	
07/02	3,982	6,436	3,862	2,379	2,104	2,379	3,354	2,653	1,584	3,144	
07/03	4,649	6,936	4,253	2,681	2,340	2,840	3,751	2,756	1,842	3,644	

	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 07/03



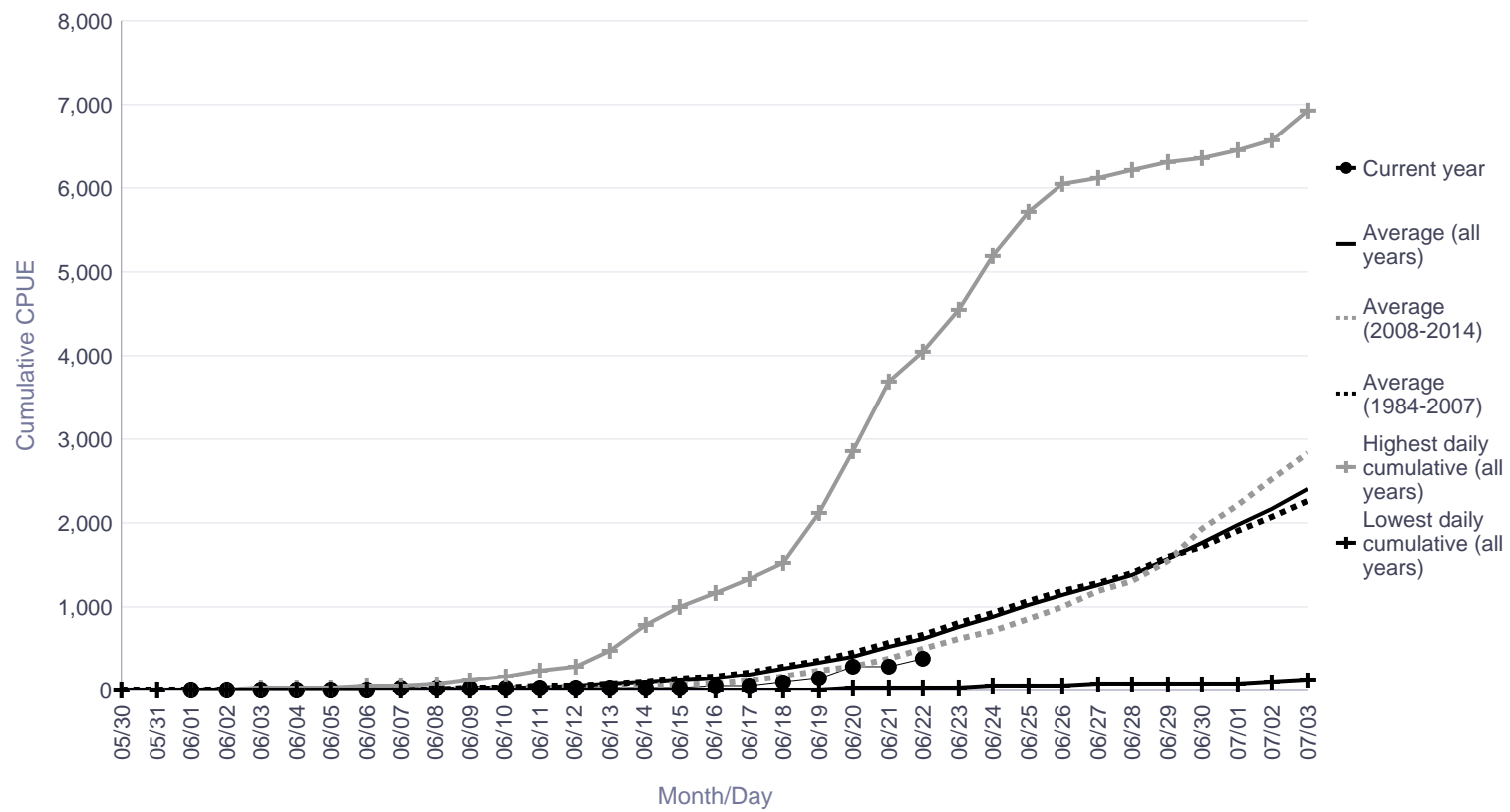
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Bethel Test Fishery Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	Average (1984-2007)	Average (2008-2014)	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current year
06/14	3.00	91.48	105.14	44.49	796.00	28.00
06/15	6.00	125.54	142.52	67.17	1,000.00	36.00
06/16	9.00	155.27	175.27	86.56	1,168.00	46.00
06/17	9.00	195.07	219.35	111.64	1,339.00	62.00
06/18	9.00	258.49	283.85	171.38	1,526.00	87.00
06/19	9.00	335.91	363.31	241.82	2,120.00	139.00
06/20	18.00	416.79	451.14	298.85	2,862.00	277.00
06/21	30.00	533.24	575.43	388.39	3,682.00	292.00
06/22	36.00	633.14	672.27	498.82	4,039.00	380.00
06/23	39.00	764.47	807.73	616.02	4,537.00	
06/24	50.00	886.11	935.43	716.84	5,202.00	
06/25	56.00	1,020.54	1,070.64	848.60	5,715.00	
06/26	56.00	1,146.40	1,186.06	1,010.24	6,040.00	
06/27	64.00	1,268.37	1,292.98	1,183.83	6,130.00	
06/28	64.00	1,389.88	1,409.35	1,322.97	6,210.00	
06/29	70.00	1,583.26	1,590.52	1,558.22	6,303.00	
06/30	73.00	1,775.25	1,726.85	1,941.05	6,366.00	
07/01	85.00	1,969.28	1,897.10	2,216.60	6,458.00	
07/02	102.00	2,179.28	2,081.64	2,513.88	6,572.00	
07/03	114.00	2,401.87	2,275.10	2,836.33	6,936.00	

	Lowest CPUE	Average CPUE	Highest CPUE
Season Total	549.00	5,461.89	18,192.00

Current Year: 2015



Informational Packet

Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery

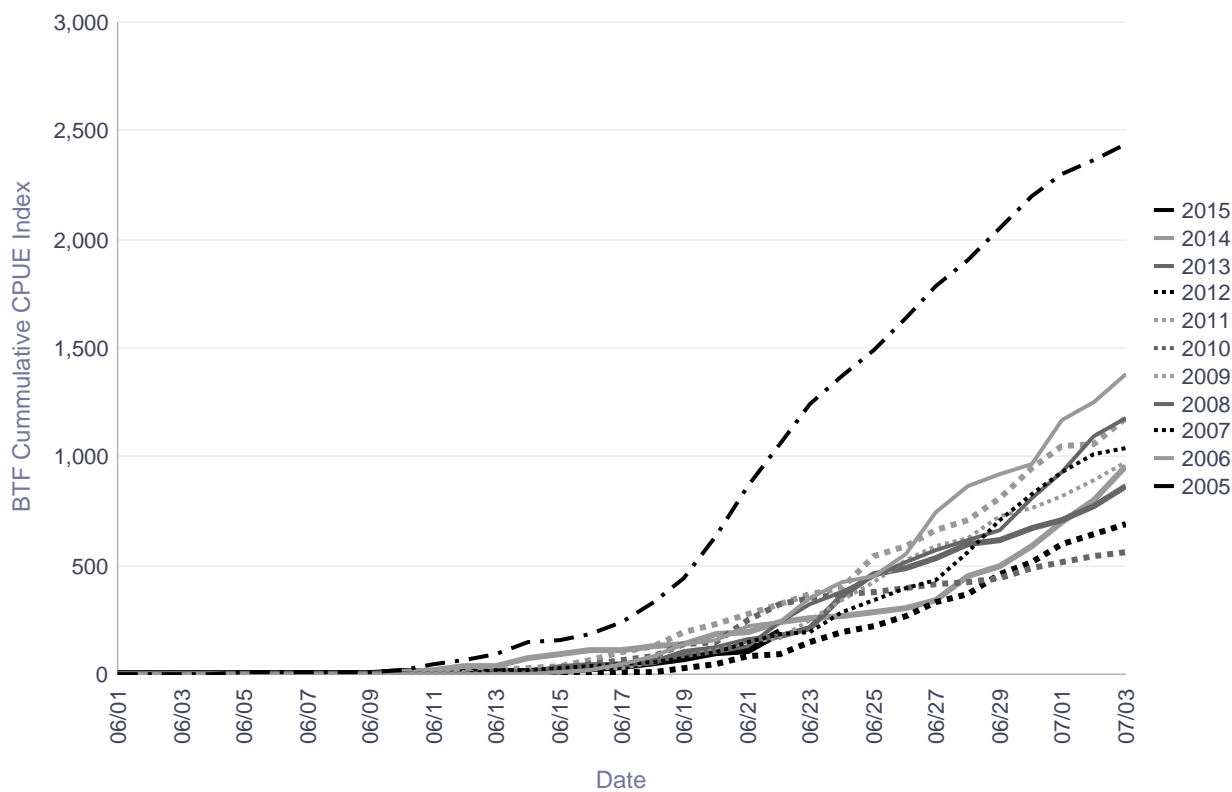
Bethel Test Fishery Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

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to previous years due to subsistence fishing restrictions. ****

Date	CPUE										
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
06/14	149	3	22	6	13	6	25	0	6	78	12
06/15	154	11	30	35	15	21	34	0	15	97	20
06/16	181	24	36	46	30	47	63	3	37	108	28
06/17	236	43	50	49	33	66	103	12	45	115	38
06/18	336	81	60	63	61	85	127	15	56	126	58
06/19	444	137	74	88	85	143	192	32	102	142	78
06/20	634	161	98	103	112	150	233	45	123	188	101
06/21	866	219	147	129	145	252	275	83	162	193	109
06/22	1,056	239	186	238	170	324	327	94	179	239	190
06/23	1,239	350	197	322	250	348	366	146	213	262	
06/24	1,370	422	290	382	339	367	401	194	358	271	
06/25	1,489	454	338	456	428	375	544	225	461	286	
06/26	1,640	556	393	519	527	394	587	269	492	303	
06/27	1,785	748	436	573	587	411	664	332	531	338	
06/28	1,901	869	559	619	629	428	710	368	601	452	
06/29	2,052	920	709	661	729	446	813	465	614	498	
06/30	2,203	971	832	814	766	491	952	516	674	585	
07/01	2,297	1,165	933	934	818	515	1,049	596	712	697	
07/02	2,363	1,248	1,012	1,093	891	545	1,059	649	773	800	
07/03	2,438	1,380	1,044	1,179	978	561	1,181	689	862	954	

	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 07/03



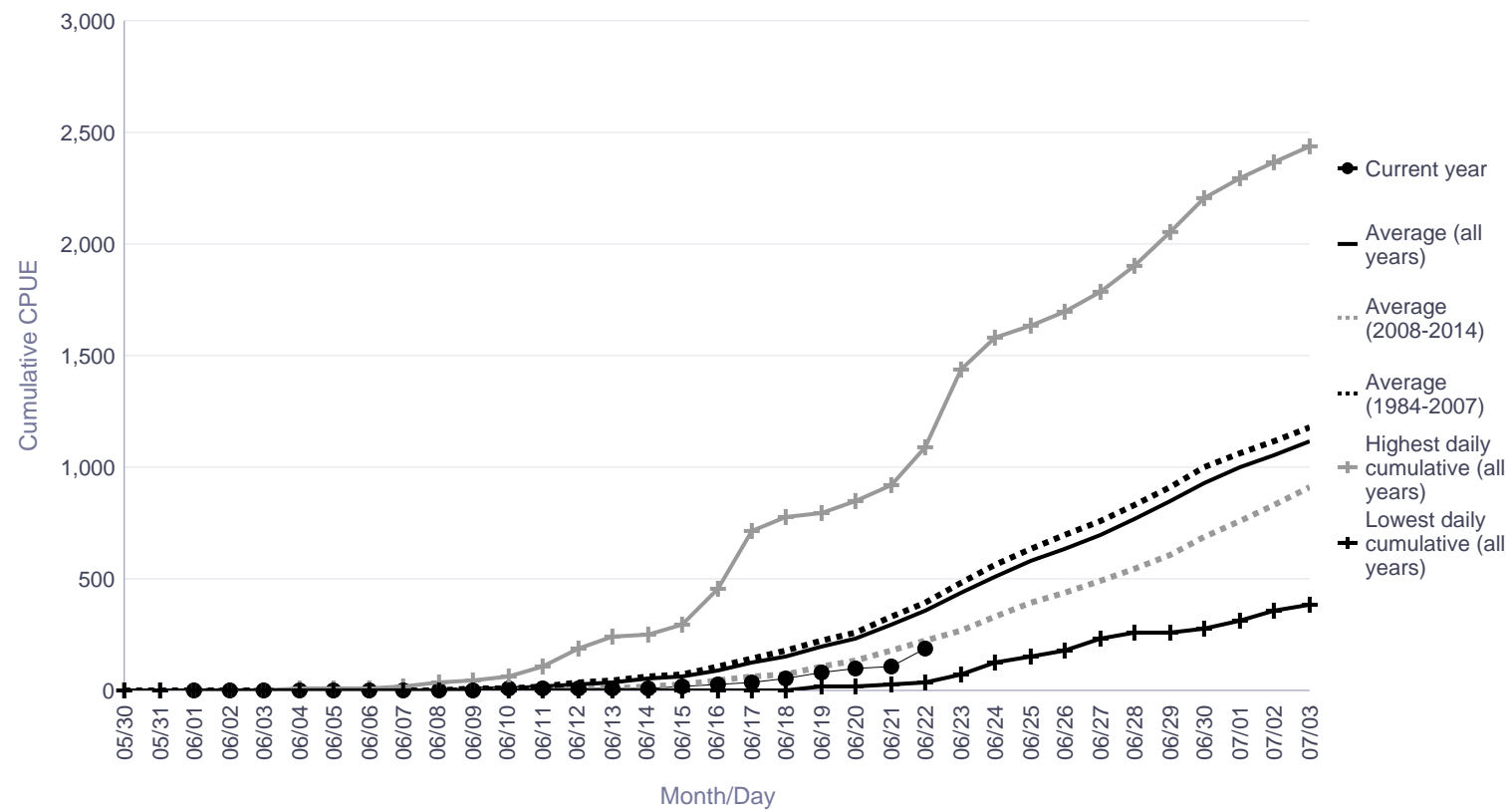
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Bethel Test Fishery Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	Average (1984-2007)	Average (2008-2014)	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current year
06/14	0.00	51.35	60.78	19.05	250.00	12.00
06/15	0.00	65.39	75.45	30.95	292.00	20.00
06/16	0.00	93.53	106.90	47.71	460.00	28.00
06/17	0.00	125.56	144.53	60.53	712.00	38.00
06/18	3.00	156.23	179.61	76.08	781.00	58.00
06/19	16.00	195.94	220.45	111.96	798.00	78.00
06/20	16.00	231.31	259.03	136.28	845.00	101.00
06/21	28.00	295.91	330.61	176.97	921.00	109.00
06/22	39.00	356.09	394.49	224.48	1,087.00	190.00
06/23	75.00	435.51	483.07	272.48	1,442.00	
06/24	128.00	507.66	559.40	330.27	1,584.00	
06/25	151.00	579.48	632.86	396.49	1,633.00	
06/26	180.00	637.58	694.74	441.64	1,695.00	
06/27	233.00	699.15	759.95	490.74	1,785.00	
06/28	256.00	766.98	832.07	543.84	1,901.00	
06/29	259.00	845.05	915.45	603.71	2,052.00	
06/30	277.00	926.36	996.61	685.50	2,203.00	
07/01	311.00	997.25	1,066.40	760.20	2,297.00	
07/02	357.00	1,052.36	1,117.24	829.95	2,363.00	
07/03	381.00	1,117.96	1,177.24	914.76	2,438.00	

	Lowest CPUE	Average CPUE	Highest CPUE
Season Total	569.00	1,489.82	3,019.00

Current Year: 2015



Informational Packet

Aniak Test Fishery 2015

Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index		
	Daily	Cumulative
6/1	20	20
6/2	18	37
6/3	0	37
6/4	26	64
6/5	0	64
6/6	0	64
6/7	17	81
6/8	17	98
6/9	17	115
6/10	34	149
6/11	37	186
6/12	70	256
6/13	37	293
6/14	89	382
6/15	67	449
6/16	70	519
6/17	165	685
6/18	122	807
6/19	214	1,021
6/20	118	1,139
6/21	173	1,311
6/22	185	1,497
6/23		

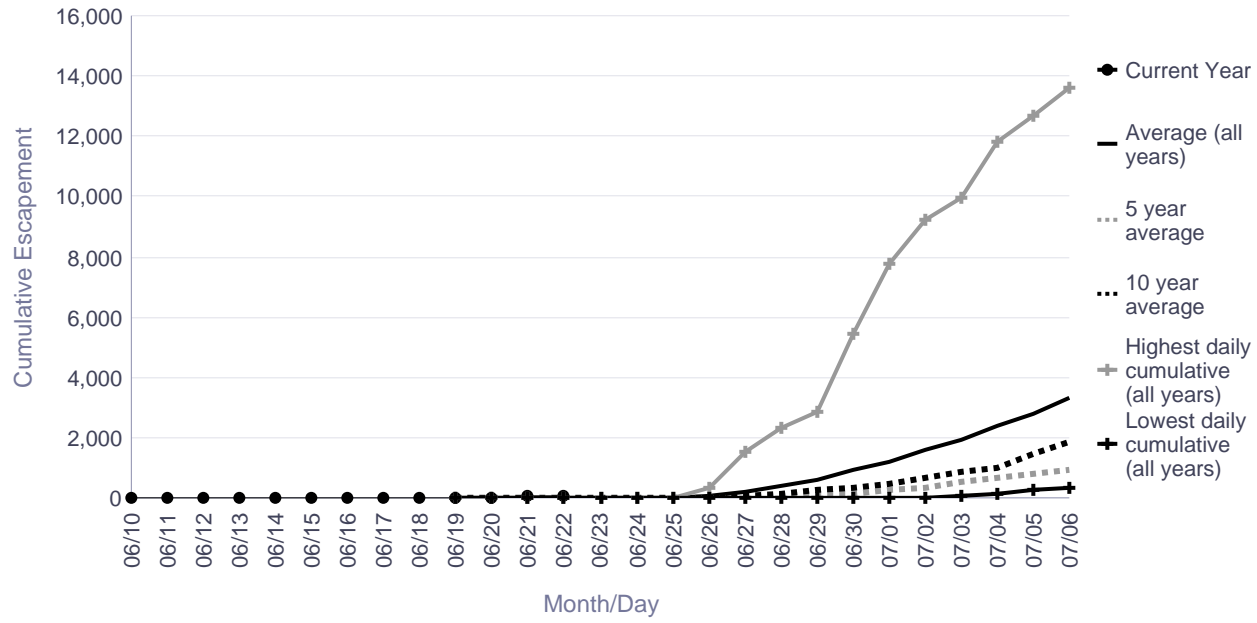
Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index		
	Daily	Cumulative
6/1	0	0
6/2	0	0
6/3	0	0
6/4	9	9
6/5	0	9
6/6	0	9
6/7	8	18
6/8	0	18
6/9	0	18
6/10	8	26
6/11	15	41
6/12	0	41
6/13	9	51
6/14	17	67
6/15	0	67
6/16	15	82
6/17	16	98
6/18	18	115
6/19	9	124
6/20	31	155
6/21	7	163
6/22	17	180
6/23		

Informational Packet

Kwethluk 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
06/20	0	0	0	0	2	44
06/21	0	1	0	0	3	72
06/22	0	1	0	0	3	78
06/23	0	4	0	2	7	
06/24	0	9	1	5	19	
06/25	0	25	10	15	43	
06/26	0	76	27	40	327	
06/27	0	233	37	83	1,528	

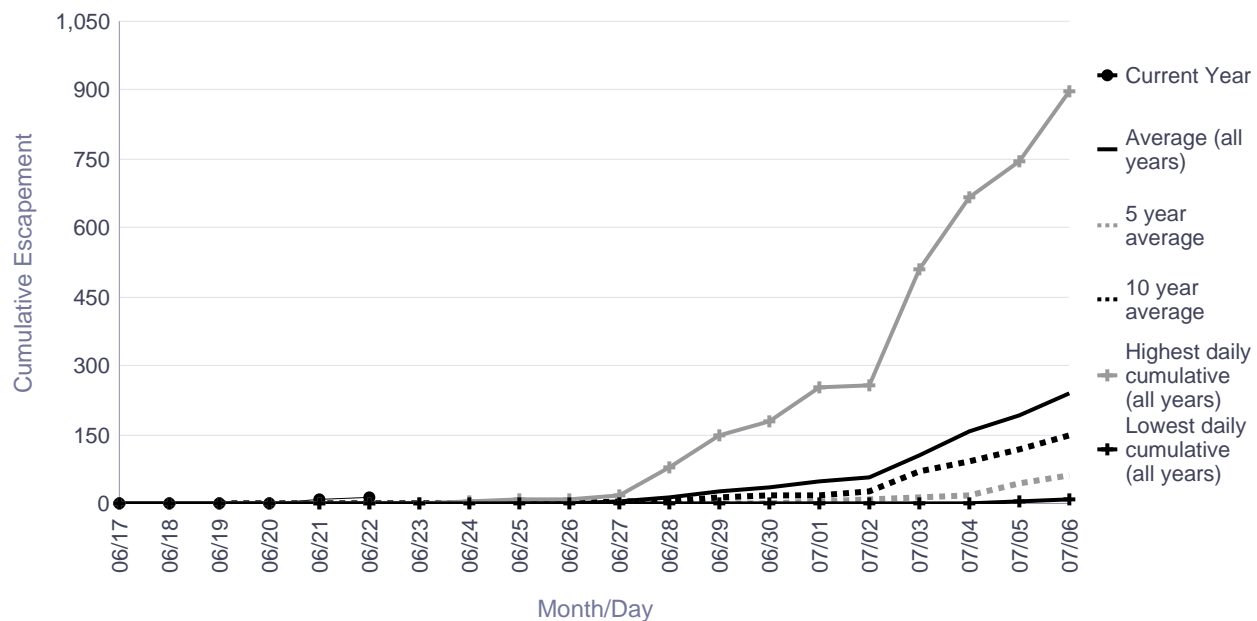
	Lowest Count	Average Count	Highest Count
Season Total	1,668	9,517	28,605



Tuluksak River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/20	0	0	0	0	0	0
06/21	0	0	0	0	1	8
06/22	0	1	0	0	3	12
06/23	0	1	0	0	3	
06/24	0	1	0	0	5	
06/25	0	2	0	0	8	
06/26	0	3	0	1	8	
06/27	0	5	0	3	19	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	Highest Count
Season Total	193	1,034	2,918

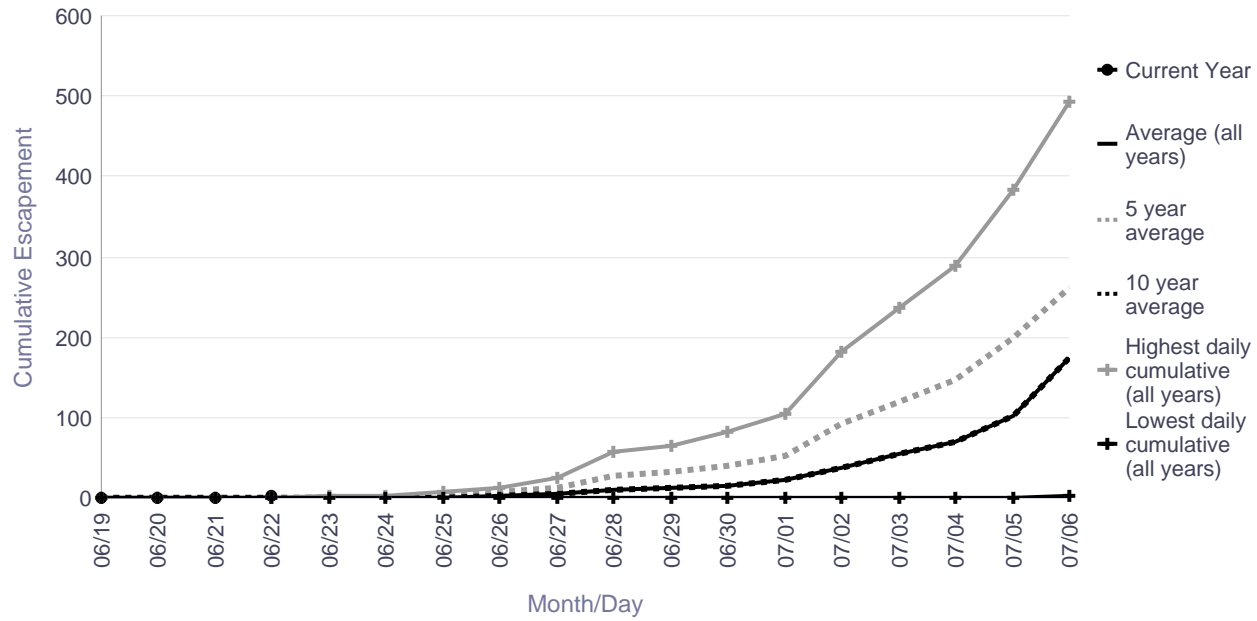


Informational Packet

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
06/20	0	0	0	0	0	0
06/21	0	0	0	0	0	1
06/22	0	0	0	0	0	2
06/23	0	1	1	1	2	
06/24	0	1	2	1	3	
06/25	0	2	4	2	7	
06/26	0	3	7	3	14	
06/27	0	5	13	5	25	

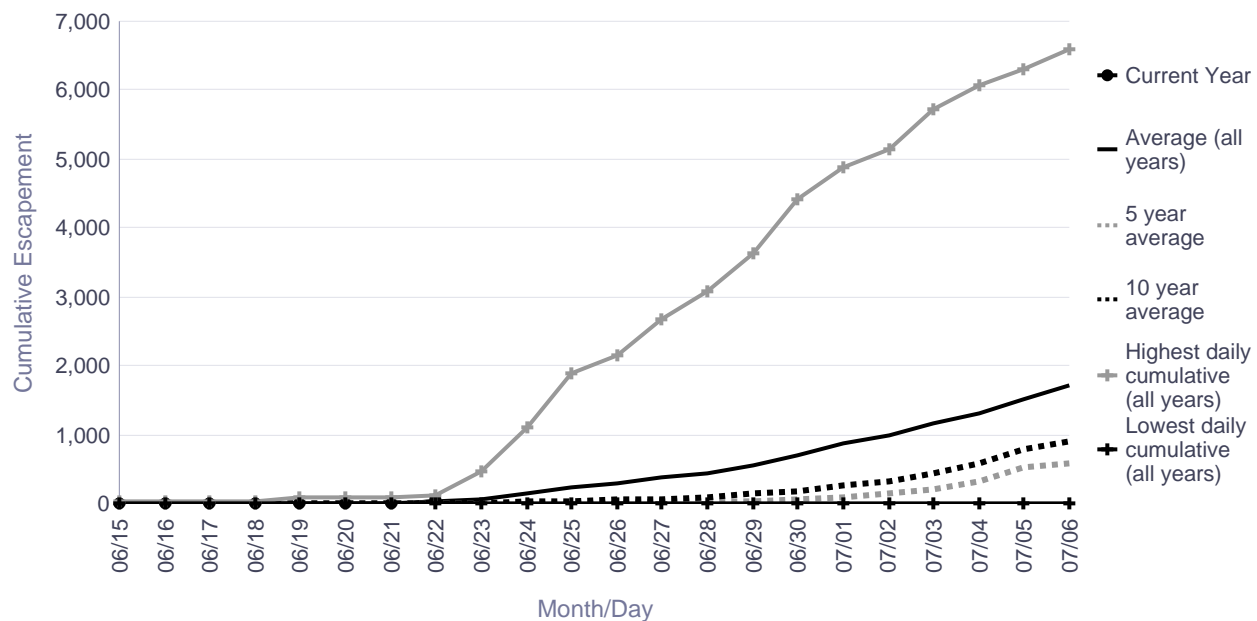
	Lowest Count	Average Count	Highest Count
Season Total	625	3,291	7,075



George River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/20	0	12	1	6	87	13
06/21	0	16	1	7	104	19
06/22	0	27	2	14	122	51
06/23	0	74	3	17	484	
06/24	1	165	4	29	1,104	
06/25	3	249	10	40	1,879	
06/26	3	288	17	50	2,167	
06/27	10	372	21	68	2,681	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	Highest Count
Season Total	1,292	3,607	7,810

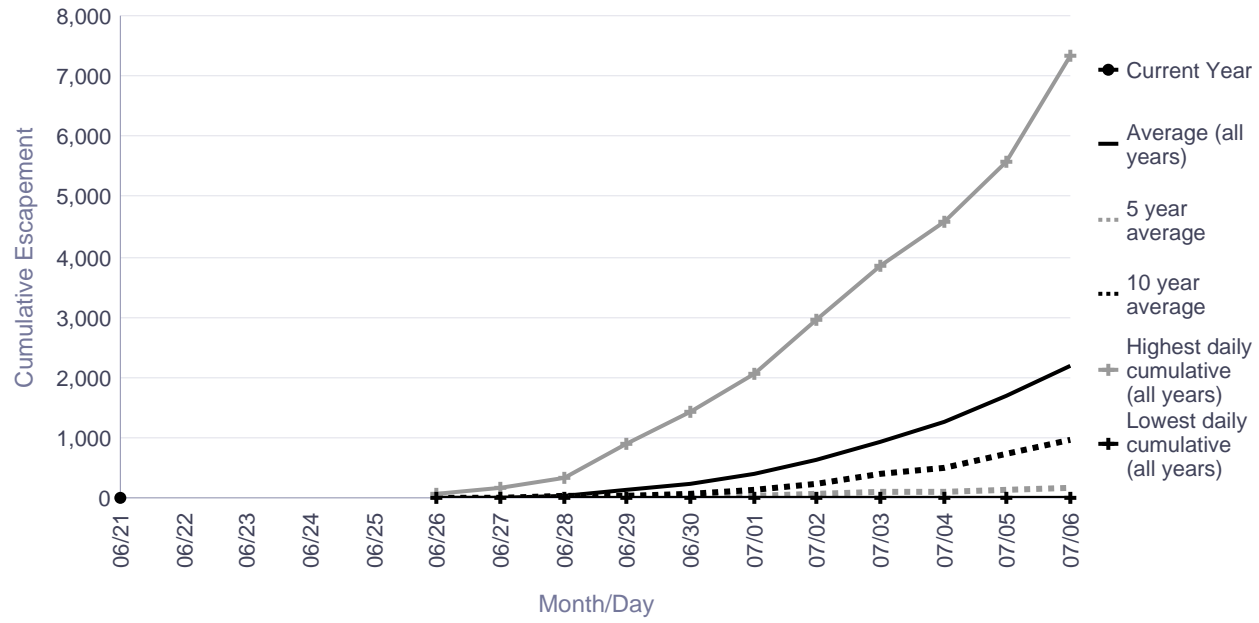


Informational Packet

Kogrukluk 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
06/20						
06/21						0
06/22						
06/23						
06/24						
06/25						
06/26	0	5	1	8	58	0
06/27	0	19	9	16	159	0

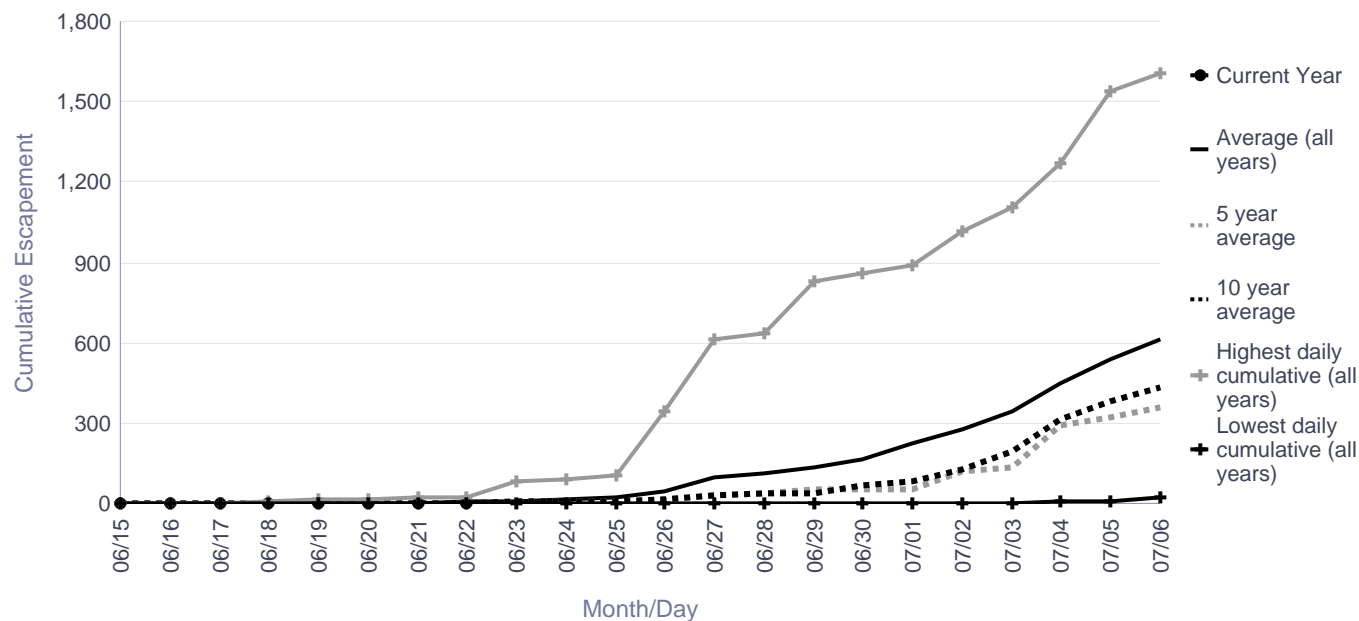
	Lowest Count	Average Count	Highest Count
Season Total	1,819	10,316	21,819



Tatlawiksuk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/20	0	2	1	1	19	0
06/21	0	3	3	2	21	1
06/22	0	6	5	4	24	2
06/23	0	12	7	6	87	
06/24	0	15	9	7	90	
06/25	0	22	12	9	107	
06/26	1	48	14	15	348	
06/27	1	95	34	29	617	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	Highest Count
Season Total	495	1,542	2,864

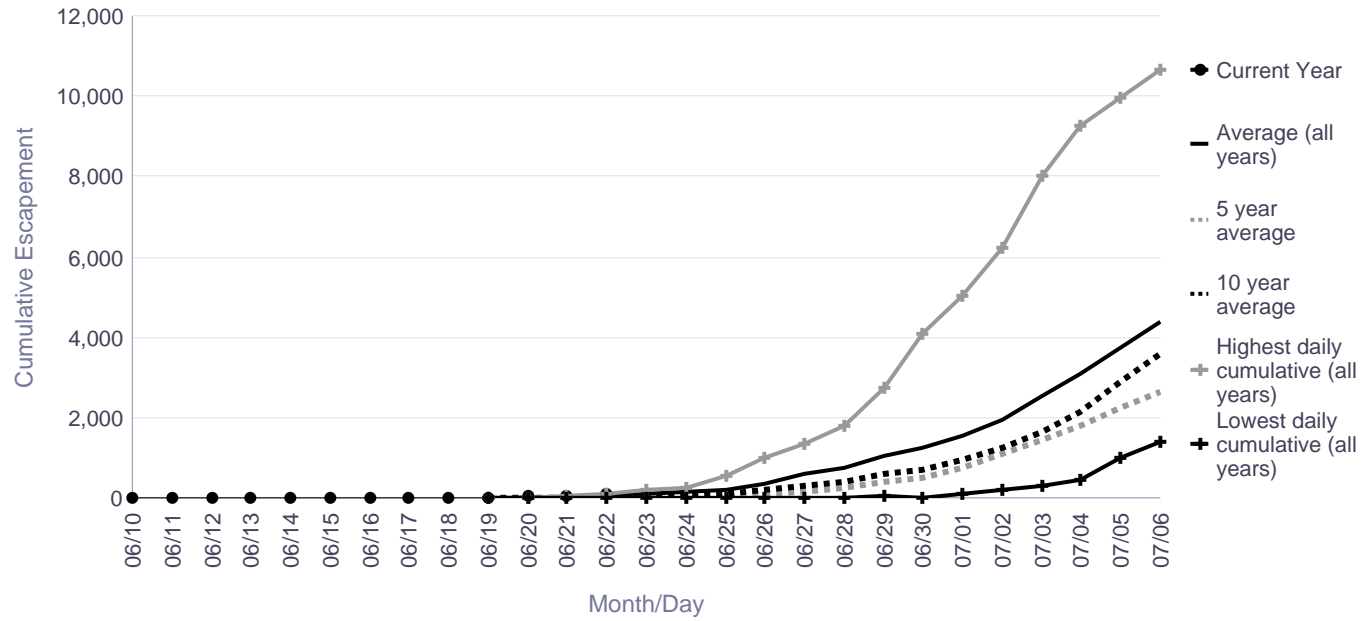


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Kwethluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/20	0	2	2	1	4	42
06/21	0	24	4	10	64	70
06/22	0	51	10	24	110	91
06/23	0	91	19	47	188	
06/24	0	141	34	78	271	
06/25	0	228	70	124	552	
06/26	0	383	117	202	1,001	
06/27	0	586	161	292	1,347	

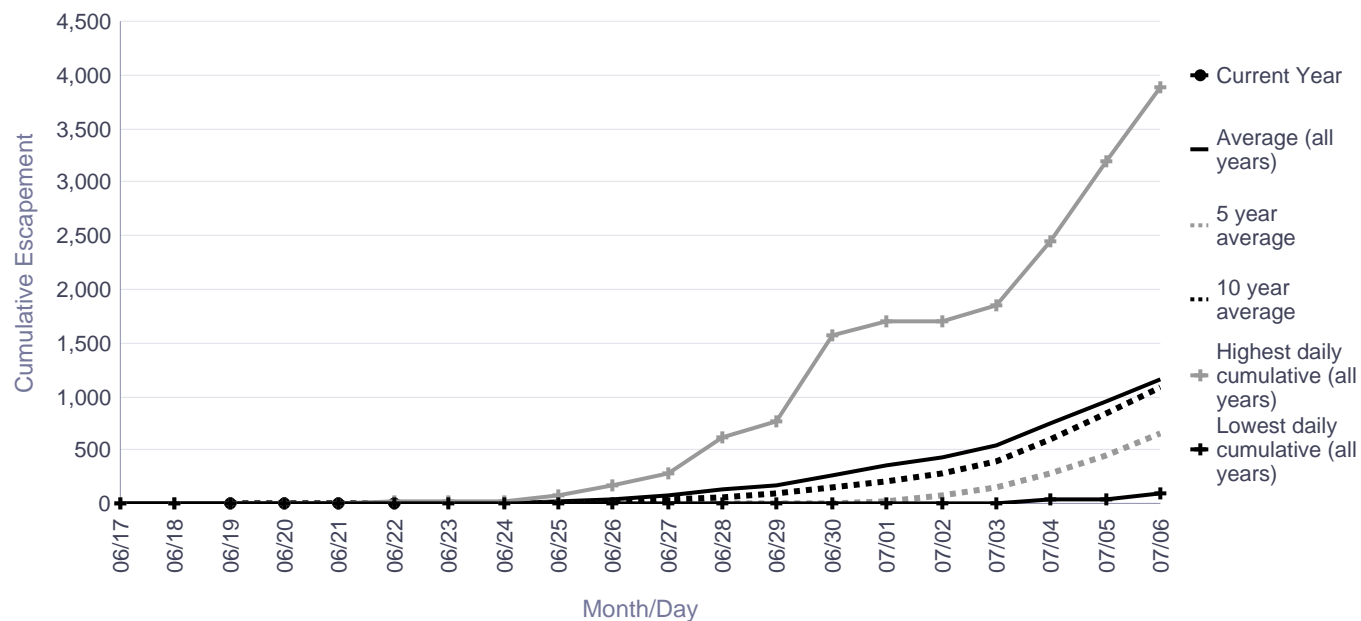
	Lowest Count	Average Count	Highest Count
Season Total	11,691	30,588	54,913



Tuluksak River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/20	0	2	0	0	2	4
06/21	0	3	0	0	12	5
06/22	0	5	0	0	17	5
06/23	0	6	0	0	17	
06/24	0	9	0	2	27	
06/25	0	25	0	10	82	
06/26	0	45	0	19	167	
06/27	0	74	0	39	290	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	Highest Count
Season Total	7,675	14,608	35,696

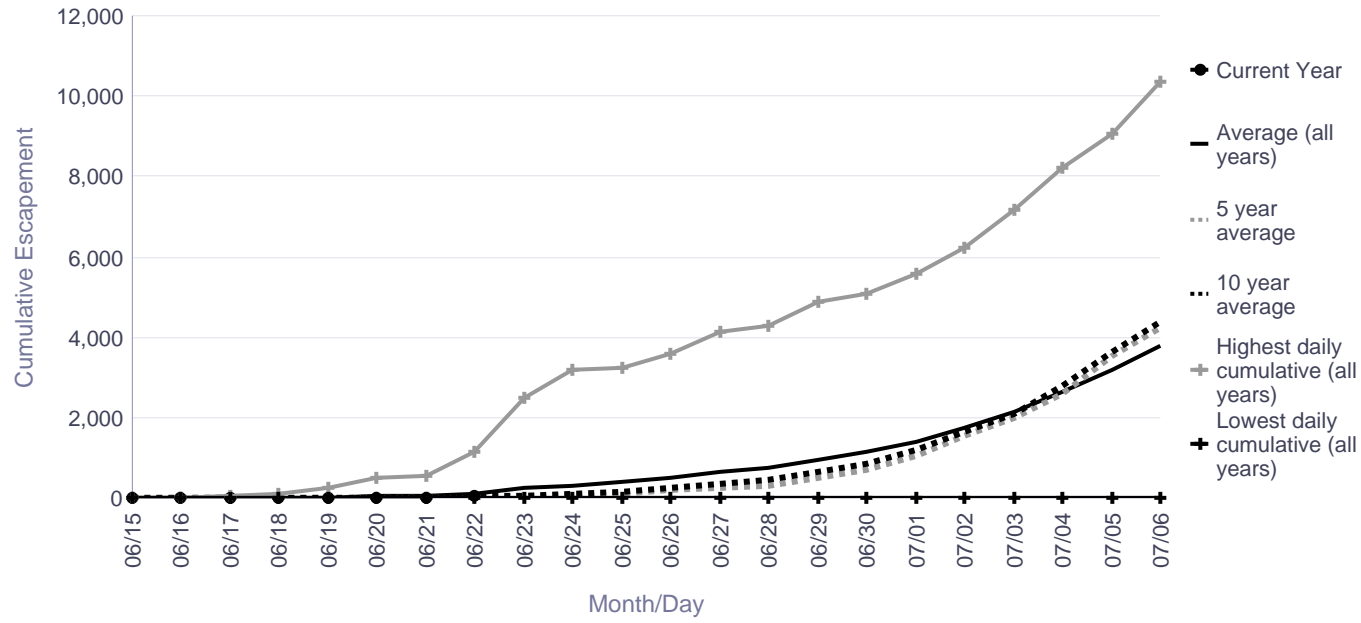


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George River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/20	0	45	8	14	500	31
06/21	0	64	18	26	565	35
06/22	0	131	29	51	1,178	67
06/23	0	243	41	81	2,492	
06/24	0	329	69	124	3,184	
06/25	0	396	112	182	3,233	
06/26	0	501	202	258	3,609	
06/27	0	648	256	350	4,117	

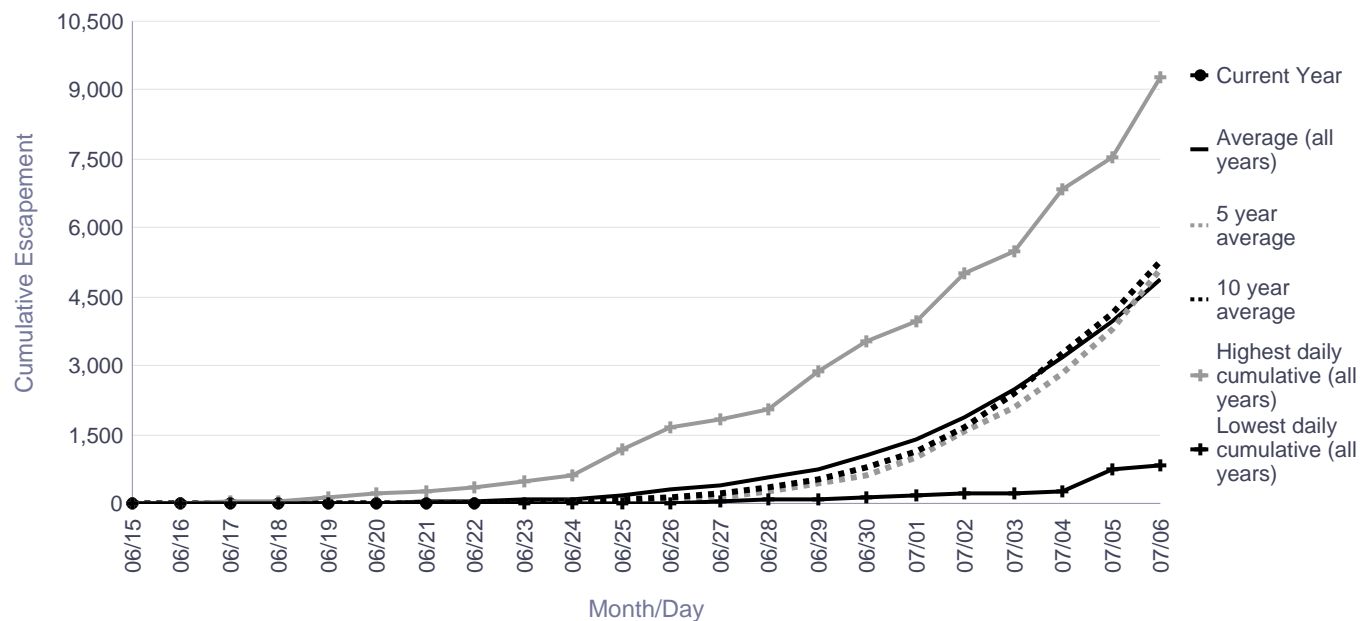
	Lowest Count	Average Count	Highest Count
Season Total	3,507	23,671	61,531



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
06/20	0	22	9	8	233	2
06/21	0	33	18	15	286	2
06/22	0	55	25	22	367	3
06/23	0	86	30	32	487	
06/24	11	118	39	54	607	
06/25	15	197	53	93	1,201	
06/26	19	314	87	151	1,651	
06/27	43	422	145	246	1,826	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	Highest Count
Season Total	7,076	34,909	88,202

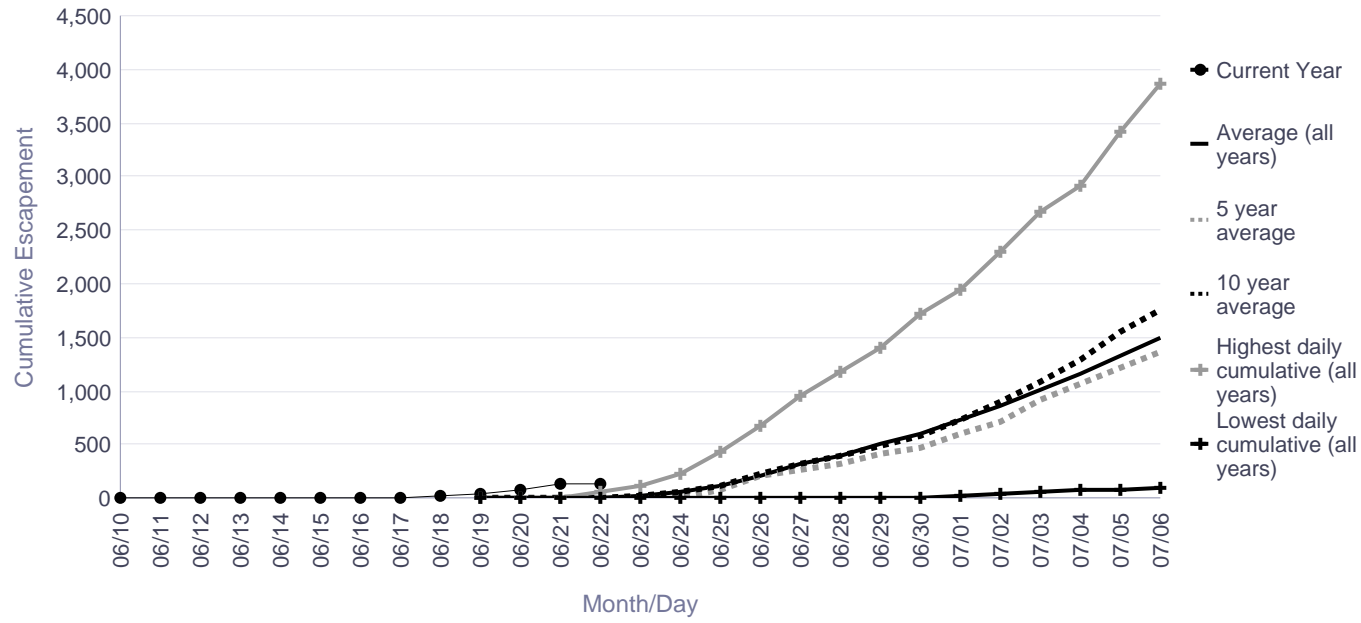


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Kwethluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Sockeye Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/20	0	0	0	0	0	82
06/21	0	0	0	0	0	129
06/22	0	12	2	9	54	140
06/23	0	30	5	25	112	
06/24	0	61	11	53	234	
06/25	0	122	74	119	430	
06/26	0	211	200	233	672	
06/27	0	320	264	314	953	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	Highest Count
Season Total	272	3,069	6,733



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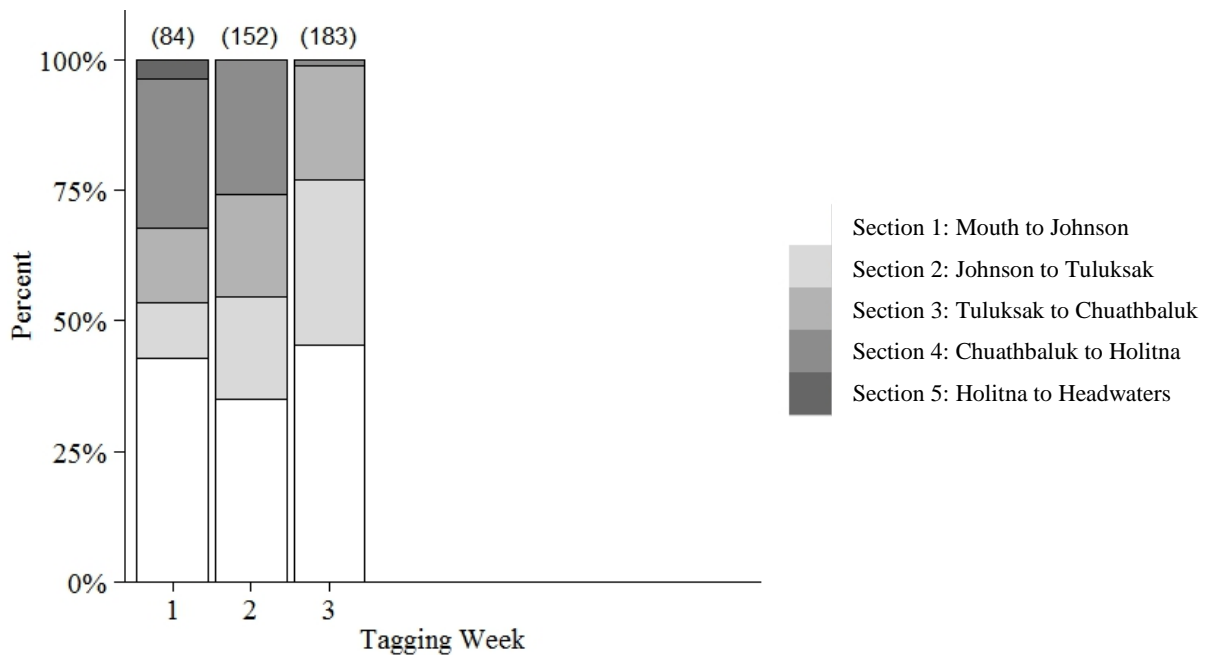
Lower River Chinook Tagging

Tag Week	Date	Captured	Tagged	Chum	Sockeye	Notes
1	6/1	2	2 (2)	0	0	
1	6/2	1	1 (1)	0	0	
1	6/3	11	11 (11)	0	0	
1	6/4	3	3 (2)	0	0	Half Effort
1	6/5	21	20 (20)	0	0	
1	6/6	16	16 (16)	0	0	
1	6/7	29	29 (29)	0	0	
2	6/8	15	15 (15)	0	0	Half Effort
2	6/9	29	29 (29)	0	0	
2	6/10	29	28 (28)	0	0	Half Effort
2	6/11	31	31 (20)	1	0	Half Effort
2	6/12	31	30 (19)	0	0	
2	6/13	35	34 (20)	0	0	
2	6/14	54	54 (21)	2	2	
3	6/15	36	36 (35)	1	1	Half Effort
3	6/16	48	47 (40)	0	0	
3	6/17	60	60 (31)	4	0	
3	6/18	76	76 (18)	5	4	
3	6/19	12	12 (12)	1	0	Half Effort
3	6/20	61	61 (17)	2	3	
3	6/21	42	41 (30)	2	2	
4	6/22	23	23 (17)	0	0	
4	6/23					
	Total	668	662 (436)	18	12	

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

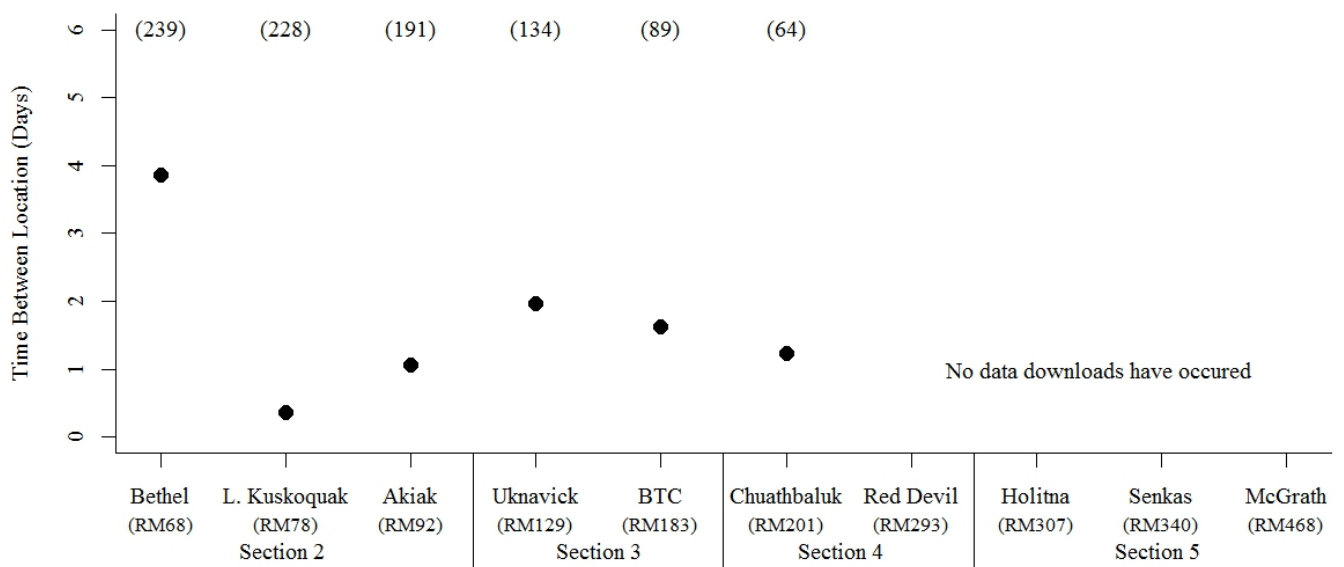
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Distribution of radiotagged Chinook salmon among the 5 Kuskokwim River conservation sections



Note: Tagged fish are stratified by week and tracked separately in an attempt to monitor groups of fish migrating upriver. This figure represents our most complete understanding of where groups of tagged fish are currently. Comparing this figure to prior versions from earlier Working Group packets shows the movement of groups of fish over time. The number of radiotagged fish by week is shown in parentheses. Only limited data has been downloaded from towers within conservation section 5.

Average travel time between successive telemetry towers along the mainstem Kuskokwim River



Note: The number of radiotagged fish used to calculate the average shown in parentheses. This figure represents our most complete understanding of how many days it takes fish to travel among telemetry towers. Only limited data has been downloaded above Red Devil.

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2015 Location of Chinook Salmon by Date Past Bethel Continuing Up the Kuskokwim River

Community	RIVER MILES	DAYS BETWEEN SITES	Season Start	Index 1	Index 2	Index 3	Index 4
		Number of Days					
		Bethel Test Index	5.00	7.00	15.00	28.00	25.00
		Cumulative to Date	5	60	131	215	295
Travel in miles per day		12	12	12	12	12	12
Apokak Slough S1 L	0	0	27-May	3-Jun	8-Jun	11-Jun	16-Jun
Tuntutuliak	28	2.3	29-May	5-Jun	10-Jun	13-Jun	18-Jun
Johnson R S2 L	48	4.0	31-May	7-Jun	12-Jun	15-Jun	20-Jun
Napaskiak	60	5.0	1-Jun	8-Jun	13-Jun	16-Jun	21-Jun
Bethel	66	5.5	1-Jun	8-Jun	13-Jun	16-Jun	21-Jun
Kwethluk	82	6.8	2-Jun	9-Jun	14-Jun	17-Jun	22-Jun
Akiak	100	8.3	4-Jun	11-Jun	16-Jun	19-Jun	24-Jun
Tuluksak S3 L	120	10.0	6-Jun	13-Jun	18-Jun	21-Jun	26-Jun
Kalskag	163	13.6	9-Jun	16-Jun	21-Jun	24-Jun	29-Jun
Travel in miles per day		22	22	22	22	22	22
Birch Tree	183	14.5	10-Jun	17-Jun	22-Jun	25-Jun	30-Jun
Aniak	191	14.9	10-Jun	17-Jun	22-Jun	25-Jun	30-Jun
Chuathbaluk S4 L	201	15.3	11-Jun	18-Jun	23-Jun	26-Jun	1-Jul
Napaimiut	223	16.3	12-Jun	19-Jun	24-Jun	27-Jun	2-Jul
Crooked Creek	259	17.9	13-Jun	20-Jun	25-Jun	28-Jun	3-Jul
Holitna River S5 L	305	20.0	16-Jun	23-Jun	28-Jun	1-Jul	6-Jul
Tatlawiksuk River	350	22.1	18-Jun	25-Jun	30-Jun	3-Jul	8-Jul
McGrath	468	27.4	23-Jun	30-Jun	5-Jul	8-Jul	13-Jul
Nikolai	585	32.8	28-Jun	5-Jul	10-Jul	13-Jul	18-Jul

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2015 Location of Chum Salmon by Date Past Bethel Continuing Up the Kuskokwim River

Community	RIVER MILES	DAYS BETWEEN SITES	Index 1
	Bethel Test Index		138.00
	Cumulative to Date		276
Travel in miles per day		20	20
Apokak Slough S1 L	0	0	17-Jun
Tuntutuliak	28	1.4	18-Jun
Johnson R S2 L	48	2.4	19-Jun
Napaskiak	60	3.0	20-Jun
Bethel TF	66	3.3	20-Jun
Kwethluk	82	4.1	21-Jun
Akiak	100	5.0	22-Jun
Tuluksak S3 L	120	6.0	23-Jun
Kalskag	163	8.2	25-Jun
Birch Tree	183	9.2	26-Jun
Aniak	191	9.6	26-Jun
Chuathbaluk S4 L	201	10.1	27-Jun
Napaimiut	223	11.2	28-Jun
Crooked Creek	259	13.0	29-Jun
Holitna River S5 L	305	15.3	2-Jul
Tatlawiksuk River	350	17.5	4-Jul
McGrath	468	23.4	10-Jul
Nikolai	585	29.3	16-Jul

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2015 Inseason Salmon Assessment Update for the Kuskokwim Area #3

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 2015 Chinook salmon forecast is 96,000–163,000 fish. A run size within this range is well below the historical average of 240,000 fish. A run size near the lower end of the forecast range would be one of the lowest run sizes on record. As a result substantial fishing restrictions have been enacted to conserve Chinook salmon and provide for drainage-wide and tributary escapement goals. ADF&G has determined that a drainage-wide escapement of 65,000–120,000 Chinook salmon is needed to ensure the long-term health of Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon, sustain the subsistence fishery, and provide opportunity for other sources of harvest.

Inseason assessment data collected to date is not adequate to accurately estimate the abundance of the 2015 Chinook salmon run. However, inseason data suggests the Chinook run is weak and conservation measures are warranted. The Bethel Test Fishery and Lower River Tagging projects indicate that the peak of the Chinook salmon run is likely passing the Bethel Area. Telemetry tracking data and Aniak Test Fishery confirm that Chinook salmon are building in the middle river, and the early part of the Chinook salmon run is just now approaching communities upriver of Sleetmute. Weir projects and telemetry data indicate that Chinook salmon are beginning to enter spawning tributaries. Chinook salmon continue to be the most abundant species throughout much of the Kuskokwim River mainstem upriver from Bethel. The chum salmon and sockeye salmon runs appear later than average but are building in the lower river. Within the past week, sockeye and chum salmon have surpassed Chinook salmon as the most abundant species in the lower river near Bethel.

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

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their spawning grounds. Abundance estimation will be completed post season. Migration timing will be assessed inseason and preliminary results presented weekly.

As of June 22, ADF&G has caught 668 Chinook salmon of which 436 have been radiotagged. Daily catches at the tag site appear to have peaked over the past week. Fish tagged to date likely represent the first half to two-thirds of the run. We expect daily catches to decline slowly over the coming weeks as the final portion of the Chinook salmon run passes through the lower river.

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 21.7 miles per day. Most tagged fish (60%) are currently upriver from Tuluksak; however a substantial percentage (39%) is still in the Bethel area. Fish tagged in early June are just now starting to show up near Sleetmute. USFWS aerial survey flights confirm that some tagged fish are beginning to enter spawning tributaries in the lower river. A total of 14 tagged fish have been located in the Kwethluk River and 3 have been located in the Kisaralik River. The first considerable tracking effort upriver from Chuathbaluk will occur this week on June 23 and 24.

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, 33 tagged fish have been reported harvested in the subsistence fishery. Thank you to all who reported catching a tagged fish – you have been entered into the June Lottery.

Bethel Test Fishery

Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) is the primary inseason run assessment tool for Kuskokwim River salmon and is operated the same way each year. The daily Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) is used to index run timing and relative abundance of Chinook, chum, sockeye, and coho salmon. The data has only limited utility for estimating total run size or escapement. *The 2015 data is not directly comparable to prior years due to subsistence fishing restrictions.*

The Bethel Test Fishery continues to operate on schedule. As of June 22, the cumulative CPUE is 320 Chinook salmon, 190 sockeye salmon, and 379 chum salmon. The Chinook salmon CPUE is above the 5 and 10-yr average for this date, but well below the cumulative CPUE observed in 2014 which was a weak run. Sockeye salmon and chum salmon CPUE values have been increasing modestly over the past week, but remain below average for this date. Over the past week, sockeye salmon and chum salmon combined outnumber Chinook salmon; however, the ratio is low for this time of year. Chinook salmon abundance has likely started to peak in the Bethel area while sockeye and chum salmon abundance is just now starting to increase. The average mid-point of the Chinook salmon run is June 22, and we expect BTF catches of Chinook salmon to decline slowly over the coming weeks as the remainder of the run passes through the Bethel area. As of June 22, an average of 23% of the sockeye salmon and 12% of the chum salmon runs has passed Bethel. We expect sockeye salmon and chum salmon abundance to continue to increase with peak CPUEs in late June and early July respectively.

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There is considerable difficulty interpreting the size of salmon runs based on BTF CPUE values, especially in years of low abundance when fishing restrictions are in place. Fishing restrictions downriver from the test site alters the CPUE number and timing of Chinook salmon observed compared to prior years when restrictions were not in place. As a result, the 2015 data is not directly comparable to prior years. BTF catches so far suggest the Chinook salmon run is weak and conservation measures are warranted. Sockeye salmon and chum salmon runs are either late, weak, or both.

Aniak Test Fishery

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

As of June 22, the Aniak Test Fishery caught 183 Chinook salmon and 22 chum salmon. No sockeye salmon have been harvested. Cumulative CPUE is 1,497 Chinook salmon and 180 chum salmon. The CPUE indicates the Chinook salmon run is still building in the Aniak area. Over the past week, chum salmon have begun to show up in the Aniak area; however, daily catches are very low. Chinook salmon are still the most abundant species in the middle 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 June 22, 78 Chinook salmon, 91 chum salmon, and 140 sockeye salmon have been counted past the weir. The current cumulative passage is greater than all prior years of this project for Chinook salmon and sockeye salmon, and all but one year for chum salmon. It is still very early in the salmon escapement for this location. Sockeye salmon escapement typically peaks in early to mid-July. Chinook salmon escapement typically peaks in mid-July. Chum salmon escapement typically peaks in mid to late-July.

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

Tuluksak River Weir

The Tuluksak River weir is operated by USFWS. As of June 22, 12 Chinook salmon and 5 chum salmon have been counted past the weir. The current cumulative passage is greater than all prior years of this project for Chinook salmon and all but two years for chum salmon. It is still very early in the salmon escapement for this location. Chinook salmon escapement typically peaks in mid-July. Chum salmon escapement typically peaks in mid to late-July.

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 June 22, 2 Chinook salmon have been counted past the weir. No other salmon species have been observed. It is still very early in the salmon escapement for this location. Chinook salmon and chum salmon escapement typically peaks in mid to late-July. Sockeye salmon typically peak in early August.

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

George River Weir

The George River weir is operated by ADF&G and used to index salmon escapement to middle Kuskokwim River tributaries. The weir was successfully installed on June 15. As of June 22, 51 Chinook salmon and 67 chum salmon have been counted past the weir. The current Chinook salmon cumulative passage is greater than all but two prior years of this project. Chum salmon escapement is average for this time of the year. It is still very early in the salmon escapement for this location. Chinook salmon typically peak early to mid-July. Chum salmon typically peak in mid-July.

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

Tatlawiksuk River Weir

The Tatlawiksuk River weir is operated by ADF&G and used to index salmon escapement to middle Kuskokwim River tributaries. The weir was successfully installed on June 13. As of June 22, 2 Chinook salmon and 3 chum salmon have been counted past the weir. The current cumulative passage counts are similar to prior years at this location. It is still very early in the salmon escapement for this location. Chinook salmon typically peak early to mid-July. Chum salmon typically peak in mid-July.

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. One Chinook salmon and 6 chum salmon were counted past the weir during the first day of counts. It is still very early in the salmon escapement for this location. Chinook salmon and chum salmon typically peak mid-July. Sockeye salmon typically peak mid to late-July.

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

Telaquana Lake Weir

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

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

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residents who reported seeing Chinook salmon historically in early June. As of June 22, no salmon have been counted past the weir.

Kuskokwim Bay Weirs

The Kanektok and Goodnews River weirs are operated by ADF&G and used to index escapement to Districts 4 and 5, respectively, in Kuskokwim Bay. Staff are onsite and in the process of installing the weirs. We anticipate the weirs will be operational by June 25.

Inseason Subsistence Harvest Monitoring

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

Lower Kuskokwim River Chinook Age, Sex, Length Sampling

Since 2001, ADF&G and ONC have partnered to recruit lower river residents to sample age, sex, and length (ASL) from Chinook salmon harvested for subsistence. Sampling is easy, you get paid for your time, all information is confidential, and you get to keep your fish. All lower river communities have been notified of this sampling opportunity by phone, mail, and Delta Discovery newspaper. The first sampling workshop was held in Bethel on June 6 and another on June 9. 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.

Kuskokwim River Sonar Feasibility

ADF&G is assessing the feasibility of operating sonar on the mainstem Kuskokwim River to count the total number of salmon by species. If the project proves viable, it could provide daily counts of salmon and greatly strengthen inseason management capabilities. The feasibility efforts began in 2014 and are continuing in 2015.

Two potential sonar sites have been identified. One is located near the upper confluence of the Kuskokwim River and Church Slough and the other is located downriver from the community of Akiak. Staff has spent much of the past week testing sonar equipment at the lower site. They have successfully installed multiple types of sonar to determine which technology is most appropriate at that location. The crew will begin testing feasibility of drift gillnet fishing on June 23, which is necessary to determine which species of fish are being counted by the sonar. Staff has been in contact with the community of Kwethluk and made arrangements to donate all fish harvested while fishing in this location. Staff will likely begin feasibility work at the second site during the upcoming weeks.

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Unit 4 Villages

Akiachak Native Community and Akiachak Limited
Akiak Native Community and Kokarmiut Corporation
Organized Village of Kwethluk and Kwethluk Incorporated
Tuluksak Native Community and Tuluksak Corporation

Resolution Number: 15-05-01

A resolution of the Unit 4 Villages and ANCSA Village Corporations requesting that the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group be dissolved.

Whereas, the Unit 4 Villages are comprised of: Akiachak Native Community, Akiak Native Community, Organized Village of Kwethluk and Tuluksak Native Community, Federally Recognized tribal governments and Akiachak Limited, Kokarmiut Corporation, Kwethluk Incorporated and Tuluksak Corporation, Village Corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; and,

Whereas, the Unit 4 Villages meet regularly to discuss issues that the people of the Unit 4 face on a day to day basis concerning subsistence and food security among other issues; and,

Whereas, 32 villages on the Kuskokwim River met on May 5 & 6, 2015 and established a Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission therefore establishing a need to dissolve the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group which was established to control the "Commercial Fishing" industry on the Kuskokwim River with selected individuals as its advisory group; and,


Whereas, when the Kuskokwim River salmon started to decline in numbers, the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group started to dilute the subsistence needs of the Kuskokwim River subsistence users, therefore not following the intent of its original formation; and,

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the State of Alaska, Alaska Department of Fish and Game dissolves the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group and starts working and communicating with the newly established Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in the co-management of salmon on the Kuskokwim River.

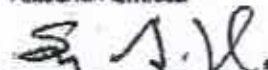
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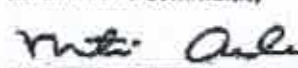
Resolution Number 15-05-01 was passed in a duly established meeting of the Unit 4 Villages on this 4th day of June, 2015 in Kwethluk Alaska and voting: 14 in favor and 0 against.

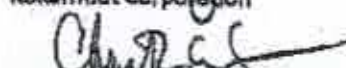

Akiachak Native Community

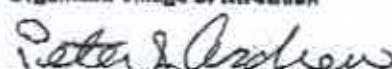

Akiachak Limited

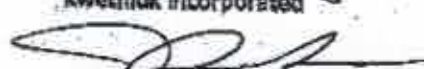

Akiak Native Community


Kokarmiut Corporation


Organized Village of Kwethluk


Kwethluk Incorporated


Tuluksak Native Community


Tuluksak Corporation