

## **Abundance and run timing of adult salmon in the Kwethluk River, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, 2002**

**Abstract:** From June 28 to September 19, 2002 a resistance board weir was used to collect abundance, run timing, and biological data from salmon returning to spawn in the Kwethluk River, a tributary to the lower Kuskokwim River. This was the third year of a cooperative project between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Organized Village of Kwethluk. This project was initiated under the Federal Subsistence Fishery Management program to obtain the reliable data necessary for managing the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge fishery resources that support intense commercial and subsistence uses.

A total of 34,681 chum *Oncorhynchus keta*, 8,395 Chinook *O. tshawytscha*, 272 sockeye *O. nerka*, 1,415 pink *O. gorbuscha* and 23,298 coho *O. kisutch* salmon were counted through the weir. Peak weekly passage occurred as follows: June 30 to July 6 for sockeye, July 7 to 13 for Chinook and pink, July 14 to 20 for chum, and September 1 to 7 for coho salmon.

Age and sex data was collected for all species but pink salmon. Dominant age groups were as follows: 0.3 for chum, 1.4 for female Chinook, 1.2 for male Chinook, 1.3 for sockeye, and 2.1 for coho salmon. Overall percentage of females was as follows: 47% for chum, 21% for Chinook, 60% for sockeye, and 45% for coho salmon.

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