

Abundance and run timing of adult salmon in three tributaries of the Koyukuk River, Alaska, 2001.

Abstract: During 2001 three-salmon escapement studies were conducted on three tributaries within the Koyukuk River drainage, Alaska. These studies were operated to collect baseline information for management purposes. Resistance board weirs were method of choice for collecting biological data from chinook *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* and summer chum salmon *O. keta* stocks spawning in the Gisasa River, Kateel River, and Henshaw Creek. Additionally, passage information on longnose sucker *Catostomus catostomus*, northern pike *Esox lucius*, Arctic grayling *Thymallus arcticus*, and whitefish *Coregonus* spp. were recorded. From July 7 to August 8, 2001 a resistance board weir was operated on the Gisasa River. This was the eighth consecutive year of operating a resistance board weir at this site. A total of 3,052 Chinook and 17,936 summer chum salmon passed through the weir. The most abundant resident species passing through the weir were longnose suckers (N=36). The chinook salmon escapement was slightly above the 1994-2000 average of 2,748 fish. The median passage date for chinook salmon was July 19. Female chinook salmon comprised 42% of the run, with age classes 1.3 and 1.4 dominating (78%) both sexes. The 2001 summer chum salmon escapement was substantially lower than the 1994-2000 average of 59,008 fish. The median passage date for summer chum salmon was July 14. Female summer chum salmon comprised 49% of the run with age class 0.4 dominating (80%) both sexes.

From July 4 to 18 a resistance board weir was constructed but not installed on the Kateel River. Due to unforeseen problems, i.e. logistical problems and reduction in crew size, the weir was not installed during the 2001 field season and therefore biological data were not collected. Even though the weir was not installed, it was constructed and prepared for installation in 2002.

From June 25 to August 12, 2001 a resistance board weir was operated on Henshaw Creek. This was the second year of operating a weir at this site. A total of 1,091 chinook and 34,777 summer chum salmon passed through the weir. The most abundant resident species passing through the weir were longnose suckers (N=2,378). The 2001 chinook salmon escapement was 5.7 times greater than the 2000 escapement. The median date of passage for chinook salmon was July 19. Female Chinook salmon comprised 40% of the run with age classes 1.3 and 1.4 dominating (87%) both sexes. The 2001 summer chum salmon escapement was 1.4 times greater than the 2000 escapement. The median date of passage for chum salmon was July 20. Female summer chum salmon comprised 61% of the run with age class 0.4 dominating (63%) both sexes.

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