

## **Estimation of the sockeye salmon escapement into McLees Lake, Unalaska Island, Alaska, 2001**

**Abstract:** From June 15 to July 30, 2001, a flexible picket weir was used to collect abundance, run timing, and biological data from sockeye salmon returning to McLees Lake on Unalaska Island. A total of 45,866 sockeye *Oncorhynchus nerka*, one Chinook *O. tshawytscha*, and one coho *O. kisutch* salmon were counted through the weir. Peak passage occurred during the last week in June and the first week in July when 25,868 (56%) sockeye salmon entered McLees Lake. The sockeye salmon return to McLees Lake during 2001 was much larger than anticipated based on aerial survey counts in past years which ranged from 300-11,000 fish.

Seven age groups were identified from 480 sockeye salmon sampled from the weir escapement between June 19 and July 16. This escapement was composed primarily of age 1.3 (94.5%) and 1.2 (3.8%) fish. Females composed an estimated 41.9% of the sampled sockeye salmon escapement. Age composition did not differ between sexes.

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