

Estimation of the sockeye salmon escapement into McLees Lake, Unalaska Island, Alaska, 2003

Abstract: From May 31 to July 28, 2003, 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 101,793 sockeye *Oncorhynchus nerka*, and 19 pink *O. gorbuscha* salmon were counted through the weir. Peak weekly passage occurred between June 21 and June 27 when 29,774 (29%) sockeye salmon entered McLees Lake. The sockeye salmon return to McLees Lake during 2003 was the largest recorded to date, approximately 4% greater than that observed in 2002 ($N=97,780$) and more than twice that observed during 2001 ($N=45,866$).

Nine age groups were identified from 752 sockeye salmon sampled from the weir escapement between May 31 and July 27. This escapement was composed primarily of age 1.3 (79%) fish. Females composed an estimated 46.3% of the sampled sockeye salmon escapement.

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