AGE, SEX AND LENGTH COMPOSITION OF CHINOOK SALMON FROM THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER SUBSISTENCE FISHERY, 2001

Age-sex-length (ASL) data were collected from Chinook salmon harvested during the 2001 Kuskokwim River subsistence fishery to characterize the ASL composition of the total annual subsistence harvest from the lower, middle and upper Kuskokwim River. Four organizations were involved in coordinating these data collections: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Orutsararmiut Native Council, Kuskokwim Native Association and McGrath Native Village Council. Most of the fish were sampled by twenty local community members who were provided with sampling kits and trained in standard sampling procedures. The information collected for each fish included scales used for age determination, length, sex that was confirmed through internal examination of gonads, date and location of capture, and gear type. A total of 1,170 Chinook salmon were sampled: 1,010 fish from the lower Kuskokwim River, 130 fish from the middle Kuskokwim River, and 30 fish from the upper Kuskokwim River. Samples were collected from a variety of gear types, but most of the fish were caught in gillnets with a mesh size 8 inches or larger. The overall age class composition was dominated by age-1.4 Chinook salmon (60.6%). The overall sex composition was 35.4% females. Comparisons among three gillnet mesh size ranges showed the proportion of female Chinook salmon increased with increasing mesh size.

Citation: DuBois, L., D. Molyneaux, G. Roczicka, W. Morgan, and T. Williams. 2001. Age, Sex and Length Composition of Chinook salmon from the 2001 Kuskokwim River Subsistence Fishery. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office Of Subsistence, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, 2001 Annual Report (Study No. 01-132). Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Commercial Fisheries Division, Artic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region, Regional Information Report No. No. 3A02-33, Anchorage, Alaska.