

## **Estimation of sockeye and coho salmon escapement in Mortensens Creek, Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, 2003**

**Abstract:** A fixed picket weir was operated 25 June to 14 October 2003 during the third year of an ongoing investigation to evaluate and provide subsistence management information for sockeye *Oncorhynchus nerka* and coho salmon *O. kisutch* in Mortensens Creek, Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. Sockeye salmon was the most abundant species counted through the weir (N=16,804) followed by coho salmon (N=8,184), pink salmon *O. gorbuscha* (N=40) and chum *O. keta* (N=18). Dolly Varden *Salvelinus malma* were also observed at the weir. Sockeye salmon sampled at the weir were 44% female, and represented nine age groups. Age 1.3 was estimated to be 70% and age 1.2 was 15% of the escapement. Mid-eye-to-fork lengths ranged from 400 to 634 mm for male and from 475 to 604 mm for female sockeye salmon. Coho salmon sampled at the weir were 53% female and represented seven age groups. The dominant coho salmon age groups were age 1.1 (21%), age 2.1 (64%), and age 3.1 (5%). Mid-eye-to-fork lengths of coho salmon ranged from 302 to 723 mm for male and from 405 to 691 mm for females.

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