

Inriver abundance, spawning distribution, and run timing of Copper River Chinook salmon in 2002

Abstract: In 2002, radio telemetry methods were used to estimate inriver abundance, spawning distribution, and run timing of Chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* in the Copper River, Alaska. Two-sample mark recapture techniques were used to estimate inriver abundance at the lower boundary of the Chitina subdistrict dipnet fishery. Total abundance was estimated to be 32,873 (SE=8,863) Chinook salmon ≥ 620 mm MEF for the period 22 May-14 September. The estimated spawning proportions by major drainage were, 0.25 for the Klutina River, 0.20 for the Tonsina River, 0.16 for the Gulkana River, 0.25 for the Chitina River, 0.03 for the Tazlina River, and 0.03 for the East Fork Chistochina River. Run-timing patterns at the capture site varied among the major spawning stocks. The mean date of passage at the capture site varied from 1 June for Chinook bound for the upper Copper River to 24 June for the Klutina River mainstem spawners. In addition, the run-timing of Chinook salmon bound for the tributaries of the Tonsina and Klutina rivers was earlier than their mainstem counterparts.

Citation: Savereide, J. W. 2003. Inriver abundance, spawning distribution, and run timing of Copper River Chinook salmon in 2002. U. S. Fish and Wildlife, Office of Subsistence Management, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, 2002 Annual Report (Study No. 02-015). Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, Fairbanks, Alaska.