

Estimation of late run sockeye and coho salmon escapement in the Clark River, a tributary to Chignik Lake, Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge, 2003

Abstract: Sockeye salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka* in the Chignik Lake system are an important species for commercial and subsistence harvest. In recent years, subsistence fishers in the Chignik area have had difficulty harvesting enough fish and are concerned that the runs have declined and may be over-exploited by the commercial fishery. This project was initiated to address these concerns, and the objective for 2003 was to estimate the escapement of late run sockeye and coho *O. kisutch* salmon in the Clark River. Stream walking surveys were scheduled to accomplish this objective in 2003. However, personnel issues prevented the ground surveys, and two aerial surveys were conducted. In October 2003, 6,100 sockeye salmon and 900 coho salmon were observed in the Clark River; 9,700 sockeye salmon and 300 coho salmon were observed in November 2003.

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