

Abundance and run timing of adult salmon in Gisasa River, Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, 2003

Abstract: Chinook and summer chum salmon escapement counts from the Gisasa River assist state and federal managers in making decisions during in-season run activity, provide post-season evaluation of various management practices, and assist in developing future run projections. From June 28 to August 3, 2003, a resistance board weir was used to estimate 1,886 Chinook and 24,820 summer chum salmon in the Gisasa River within the Koyukuk River drainage, Alaska. The Chinook salmon escapement was 71% of the 1995-2002 average of 2,663 fish. Female Chinook salmon comprised 35% of the run. The average female Chinook salmon length was 810 mm and the average male length was 710 mm. The summer chum salmon escapement was 49% of the 1995-2002 average of 50,908 fish. Female summer chum salmon comprised 48% of the run. The average female summer chum salmon length was 559 mm and the average male length was 591 mm. The information collected in 2003 will add to the database, which began in 1995, for Chinook and summer chum salmon populations in the Gisasa River. Due to the complexity of the Yukon River fishery, the difficulty in managing specific stocks, and the scarcity of comparative long-term trend data, it is vital to continue collecting information from individual salmon populations within the Koyukuk and Yukon River drainages.

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