

Abundance and Run Timing of Adult Salmon in Gisasa River,
Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, 2006

Abstract: A resistance board weir was operated on the Gisasa River between June 28 and July 29, 2006 to collect information on abundance, run timing, and biology of returning salmon. This was the thirteenth year of operating a weir at this location. A total estimate of 3,030 Chinook *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* and 261,305 chum salmon *O. keta* passed through the weir. Also counted were 44 pink salmon *O. gorbuscha* and 25 sockeye salmon *O. nerka*. The most abundant non-salmon species was Arctic grayling *Thymallus arcticus* (N=19), followed by northern pike *Esox lucius* (N=17), longnose sucker *Catostomus catostomus* (N=8), and whitefish (Coregoninae; N=7). The estimate for the weekly sex ratio for Chinook salmon ranged from 26% to 35% female fish. Three primary age classes, 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4, were identified from 530 Chinook salmon aged. Age class 1.3 dominated with weekly estimates ranging from 56% to 86%. Female Chinook salmon ranged from 435 to 980 mm mid-eye-to fork length (MEL) and males ranged from 440 to 900 mm MEL. Mean length-at-age measurements of female fish older than 5 years were larger than males. Chum salmon weekly sex ratios ranged from 43% to 63% female fish. There were two primary age classes, 0.3 and 0.4, identified from 496 chum salmon aged. The run was dominated by age class 0.4 which comprised 76-93 % of the weekly estimates.

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