

## **Cooperative Salmon Drift Gillnet Test Fishing in the Lower Yukon River, 2005**

The Lower Yukon River drift gillnet test fishery program was used to estimate the run timing and to a lesser extent relative abundance of fall chum *Oncorhynchus keta*, and coho *O. kisutch* salmon entering the drainage. The project was operated from 16 July through 29 August 2005 on the Lower Yukon River near the village of Emmonak, Alaska. Catch per unit effort (CPUE), age, sex, and size composition were derived from drift gillnet catches from the Big Eddy test fishery operated on the Kwiluak Pass (South Mouth) and the Middle Mouth test fishery operated on the Kawanak Pass (Middle Mouth). The test fishery recorded a cumulative CPUE of 2,337.21 for fall chum salmon with the midpoint occurring on 5 August. Fall chum salmon were predominantly age 0.3, comprising 94.8% of the unweighted age, sex, and length (ASL) sample. The cumulative CPUE for coho salmon was 300.73 with the corresponding midpoint occurring on 18 August. Age-2.1 coho salmon were the most abundant, making up 80.2% of the unweighted ASL sample. The Pilot Station sonar project recorded the passage of 1,813,589 fall chum salmon with the midpoint occurring on 9 August and 184,718 coho salmon with the midpoint observed 19 August. The drift gillnet test fishery provided supplemental information that was used to evaluate data provided by other assessment projects in the Lower Yukon River. Comparing trends observed from the Lower Yukon drift gillnet test fishery to Pilot Station sonar passage estimates provided critical information to fishery management staff regarding run timing.

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