

Abundance and Run Timing of Adult Salmon in Long Lake in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, 2005

Tanada Creek sockeye are one of the uppermost runs of sockeye salmon in the Copper River and support a subsistence salmon fishery both in the Copper River and in Tanada Creek. The native villages of Mentasta and Chistochina harvest salmon in the Batzulnetas Area fishery. The monitoring and evaluation of this run is essential to ensure that Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST) maintains natural and healthy populations of fish as required by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The Tanada Creek video weir is one of several projects providing accurate assessment of yearly run strength and migratory timing in tributaries to the Copper River. In 2005, the weir was operational beginning 26 May and continuing through 22 September. During this time high water events flooded over and around the weir for a total of eighteen days. A total of 4659 sockeye salmon were counted by the video equipment. Age, sex and length samples were collect from 473 fish.. The sockeye age composition included 27 % age-1.2 fish and 73% age 1.3-fish. In addition, 34% of the sockeye salmon passing through the weir were females.

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