

Abundance and Run Timing of Adult Salmon in Henshaw Creek, Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, 2007

Abstract

During 2007, a resistance board weir was used to record escapement information from Chinook *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* and chum salmon *O. keta* in Henshaw Creek, a tributary of the Koyukuk River, Alaska. The weir operated from June 27 through August 6 with six days of flooding. An estimated 740 Chinook salmon and 44,425 chum salmon migrated through the weir. The most abundant non-salmon species was longnose sucker *Catostomus catostomus* (N=5,039), followed by whitefish (Coregoninae) (N=218), arctic grayling *Thymallus arcticus* (N=136) and northern pike *Esox lucius* (N=23). The estimated weekly sex composition for Chinook salmon ranged from 22% to 45% female fish. Three primary age classes were identified, 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4, for Chinook salmon, with a dominant age class of 1.4 (43%). The estimated weekly sex composition for chum salmon ranged from 41% to 49% female fish. There were two primary age classes identified 0.3 and 0.4, with a dominant age class of 0.3 (59%). Chinook salmon and chum salmon escapement counts from this portion of the Koyukuk River drainage support fisheries management decisions during the Yukon River commercial and subsistence fishing seasons, provide post-season evaluation of various management practices, and assist in developing future run projections.