

Lower Kuskokwim River Inseason Subsistence Salmon Catch Monitoring, FD 06-306
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Abstract: Through a collaborative effort with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) the Orutsararmiut Native Council (ONC) conducted inseason subsistence salmon surveys addressing qualitative assessment of run timing and abundance at selected fish camps and in communities of fishers in the lower Kuskokwim River during the summer of 2006. The project ran for 7 weeks starting June 1 to July 15. Information collected from these surveys was provided to fishery managers on a weekly basis. Information collected from this project provided fishery managers with timely inseason information on relative strength by species. The inseason subsistence catch monitoring project provided additional information to evaluate salmon run strength by indicating the relative success of some subsistence fishers in achieving their harvest goals. Additionally, this project provided a venue for local user input into the evaluation of salmon abundance and corresponding management strategies. The ONC inseason subsistence monitoring program, initiated in 2001, increased the quality and consistency of information obtained from subsistence fishers. Improvements to project operations since 2001 has increased the number and frequency of fishing family interviews, thereby increasing the credibility of the salmon catch information. Comparisons of inseason subsistence catch information can now be made between weeks within a given year and between years. Inseason subsistence catch information has also been used in combination with other information to evaluate the management actions taken.

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