Abundance and Run Timing of Adult Salmon in the Gisasa River, Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, 2007

Abstract

A resistance board weir was operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office to collect information on abundance, run timing, and biology of returning adult Chinook salmon and chum salmon in the Gisasa River. This was the thirteenth year of operating the weir at this location. In 2007, the weir was operated from June 23 through July 28 with no lost counting time. An estimated 1,427 Chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* and 46,257 summer chum salmon *O. keta* passed through the weir. The most abundant non-salmon species was northern pike *Esox lucius* (N=67), followed by whitefish spp. (Coregoninae; N=53), Arctic grayling *Thymallus arcticus* (N=19), and longnose sucker *Catostomus catostomus* (N=8). The estimated weekly sex composition for Chinook salmon ranged from 21% to 51% 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 (47%). The estimated weekly sex composition for summer chum salmon ranged from 51% to 68% female fish. There were two primary age classes identified, 0.3 and 0.4, with a dominant age class of 0.3 (55%).