

## **Tatlawiksuk River Salmon Studies, 2008**

The Tatlawiksuk River weir has operated since 1998 to estimate the return and age-sex-length compositions of salmon escapements, monitor environmental variables, and facilitate other Kuskokwim Area fisheries projects. In 2008, a resistance board weir was operated in the Tatlawiksuk River from 15 June through 18 September to estimate escapements of 3 species of Pacific salmon *Oncorhynchus* spp. The total annual Chinook salmon *O. tshawytscha* escapement of 1,071 was below average. The total escapement of chum salmon *O. keta* (30,869) was near average. The total escapement of coho salmon *O. kisutch* (11,065) was above average. Age-sex-length samples taken from fish caught in a live trap were used to describe the age-sex structure of the Chinook, chum, and coho salmon escapements. Females comprised 39.0% of the Chinook salmon escapement, 52.3% of the chum salmon escapement, and 52.7% of the coho salmon escapement. The Chinook salmon escapement was comprised of 3 age classes, dominated by age-1.3 fish (57.4%). The chum salmon escapement was comprised of 5 age classes, dominated by age-0.4 fish (76.2%). The coho salmon escapement was comprised of 3 age classes, dominated by age-2.1 fish (84.3%).

The Tatlawiksuk River weir is one of several components, which form an integrated array of escapement monitoring projects in the Kuskokwim Area. This array of projects provides a means to monitor and assess escapement trends that must be considered in harvest management decisions in accordance with the State of Alaska's Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222).

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