

Goodnews River Salmon Monitoring and Assessment, 2008

The Goodnews River is the primary salmon spawning drainage in the Goodnews Bay area and supports subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries near the communities of Goodnews Bay and Platinum in Southwest Alaska. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, operates a resistance board weir to enumerate fish returning to the Middle Fork Goodnews River. In 2008, a total of 2,161 Chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, 50,459 sockeye salmon *O. nerka*, 35,350 chum salmon *O. keta*, 9,807 pink salmon *O. gorbuscha*, 36,630 coho salmon *O. kisutch*, and 1,416 Dolly Varden *Salvelinus malma* were estimated to have passed through the weir from 2 July through 15 September. Escapements for sockeye, chum, and coho salmon were above average; however, Chinook salmon escapement was below average. Chinook and sockeye salmon biological escapement goals, and chum and coho salmon sustainable escapement goals were either met or exceeded in 2008. A live trap was used to collect samples from Chinook, sockeye, chum, and coho salmon to estimate the age, sex, and length composition for each population. The Chinook salmon run was comprised of 53.3% males and dominated by age-1.3 (42.9%) fish. The sockeye salmon run was comprised of 44.3% male and dominated by age-1.3 (78.5%) fish. The chum salmon run was comprised of 38.5% male and dominated by age-0.4 (49.1%) fish. The coho salmon run was comprised of 47.1% male and dominated by age-2.1 (85.5%) fish. Aerial surveys in the Goodnews River drainage were completed in 2008 and total drainagewide run abundance was estimated using aerial survey proportions between Middle Fork and North Fork aerial survey estimates that resulted in total drainagewide escapement estimates of 4,802 Chinook salmon and 168,142 sockeye salmon, with estimated exploitation rates of 31.2% for Chinook salmon and 14.3% for sockeye salmon.

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