

GOODNEWS RIVER SALMON MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT, 2009

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 Middle Fork Goodnews River. In 2009, a total of 1,630 Chinook *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, 25,465 sockeye *O. nerka*, 19,715 chum *O. keta*, 714 pink *O. gorbuscha*, and 20,000 coho salmon *O. kisutch*, and 1,608 Dolly Varden *Salvelinus malma* were estimated to have passed through the weir from 28 June through 21 September. Escapements for Chinook, sockeye, chum, and coho salmon were below average. Chinook and sockeye salmon biological escapement goals, and chum and coho salmon sustainable escapement goals were either met or exceeded in 2009. 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 stock. The Chinook salmon escapement was comprised of 52.6% males and dominated by age-1.4 (57.9%) fish. The sockeye salmon escapement was comprised of 42.2% males and dominated by age-1.3 (54.7%) fish. The chum salmon escapement was comprised of 41.3% males and dominated by age-0.3 (53.6%) fish. The coho salmon escapement was comprised of 51.8% males and dominated by age-2.1 (87.3%) fish. Aerial surveys for the drainage were not conducted in 2009.

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