

## **Kanektok River Salmon Monitoring and Assessment, 2008**

A resistance board weir was used on the Kanektok River to estimate escapement and provide a platform to collect samples used in estimating age, sex, and length for Chinook *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, sockeye *O. nerka*, chum *O. keta*, and coho *O. kisutch* salmon. The weir was installed in May, soon after river break up in that reach of the system and was operational from 17 July through 21 August. Estimating total escapement passing the weir in 2008 was not possible for Chinook, chum, or coho salmon due to the late start of the project. However, passage estimates for these species during the operational period was 4,837 Chinook, 54,024 chum, and 24,490 coho salmon. A total escapement estimate for sockeye salmon was possible in 2008 and resulted in an estimated 141,388 sockeye salmon. Aerial counts are used with weir escapement counts to derive escapement estimates for the Kanektok River drainage. The 2008 season was the sixth year Chinook, sockeye, and chum salmon escapement and age, sex, length composition data were collected and the seventh year coho salmon data was collected. Salmon destined for the Kanektok River are harvested in commercial, subsistence, and sport fisheries conducted both inriver and in adjacent marine waters of Kuskokwim Bay (District W-4). The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has quantified subsistence harvests in the Quinhagak area of the Kuskokwim Bay since 1968. From 1998 to 2007, annual subsistence harvests have averaged 3,335 Chinook, 1,510 sockeye, 1,350 chum, and 1,446 coho salmon. Subsistence harvest estimates for 2008 are currently unavailable. The 2008 District W-4 commercial salmon harvest was 13,812 Chinook, 69,743 sockeye, 94,257 coho, and 57,033 chum salmon, for a total of 234,845 fish. Samples were also collected from the District W-4 commercial catch for use in estimating age, sex, and length of the 2008 commercial harvest.

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