

Abundance and Run Timing of Adult Salmon in Long Lake in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, 2007

Long Lake flows into Lakina River, a tributary of the Chitina River in the Copper River drainage. It provides important spawning habitat for sockeye salmon, which contribute to intensive down-river commercial and subsistence fisheries. The monitoring and evaluation of this run is essential to ensure that Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST) maintains natural and healthy populations of fish as required by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The Long Lake weir is one of several projects providing accurate assessment of yearly run strength and migratory timing in tributaries to the Copper River. In 2007, the weir was installed July 19 and removed October 16. A total of 7,846 sockeye salmon migrated through the weir between August 15 and October 15. This was about 48% of the 34 year average weir count of 16,497 sockeye salmon, and represented about 0.8% of the total inriver run estimated by the Miles Lake sonar project. Run timing in 2007 was similar to that observed for the last four years, which have all been about one week later than the 1974-2007 average. Age, sex and length samples were collect from 12.5% of the escapement. Females comprised about 51% of the total sample. Age-1.3 sockeye salmon comprised 77.9% of the returning adults sampled. Average mid-eye-to-tail fork length of age-1.3 sockeye salmon was 576 mm for males and 556 mm for females.

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