

## ABSTRACT

From 2007 – 2009 sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) escapement into Klag Lake and sockeye salmon harvest in Klag Bay was estimated by means of weir counts and creel surveys. In 2007 9,194 sockeye salmon were counted migrating through the weir. In 2008, only 4,213 sockeye salmon were counted and in 2009, 14,841 sockeye salmon were counted migrating through the weir. The most abundant age classes were 1.3 at 54.6% (2007) of the samples aged, 1.2 at 43.5% (2008), and 1.3 at 46.9% (2009). Low water levels in 2009 prevented sockeye salmon from migrating upstream early in the season. By July 23<sup>rd</sup> only 106 sockeye salmon had passed through the weir and over 5,000 had been harvested from Klag Bay prompting Alaska Department of Fish and Game to issue a fishery closure emergency order effective as of 12:01 am July 25<sup>th</sup>. At the time of the closure, a total of 6,047 sockeye salmon were harvested from Klag Bay and only 485 had been counted through the weir. Escapement remained low (a total of approximately 1,700 sockeye salmon) until August 16<sup>th</sup> when the water level in the stream raised from 0.7 to 1.1 m and close to 7,870 sockeye salmon migrated through over the following three days. In 2007 approximately 3,011 sockeye salmon were harvested from Klag Bay. Harvest was almost identical at 3,013 in 2008 and a record harvest of 6,047 was taken in 2009. Sport harvest was negligible in all three years at only 25 sockeye salmon in both 2007 and 2008 and 159 in 2009.

Mann, B. 2010. Klag Lake Sockeye Salmon Stock Assessment Project 2009 Annual Report and 2007-2009 Final Report. Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Sitka.