

## ABSTRACT

The George River is a major tributary of the Kuskokwim River and produces Chinook *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, chum *O. keta*, sockeye *O. nerka*, and coho salmon *O. kisutch* which contribute to subsistence and commercial salmon fisheries of the Kuskokwim River. A weir has been operated annually on the George River since 1996, and is part of an array of projects used to monitor salmon escapement in the Kuskokwim River drainage. Salmon were enumerated by species as they migrated through the weir to determine daily and annual escapements. Samples were collected from fish as they migrated through the weir to estimate the age, sex, and length composition of escapements.

Operations were successful in 2009 and escapements of 3,663 Chinook, 7,941 chum, 54 sockeye, and 12,464 coho salmon were estimated at George River weir. Chinook salmon met the escapement goal range in 2009; chum salmon were below the historical median; and coho salmon escapements were above the historical median. Age and sex sampling in 2009 indicated the Chinook salmon escapement consisted of 52.0% age-1.4, 25.0% age-1.3, 21.1% age-1.2, 1.0% age-1.5, and 0.9% age-2.4 fish with 41.9% female fish. The chum salmon escapement consisted of 52.7% age-0.3, 30.6% age-0.4, 10.6% age- 0.2, and 6.1% age-0.5 fish. The coho salmon escapement consisted of 92.8% age-2.1, 5.6% age-3.1, and 1.6% age- 1.1 fish.

**Key words:** Escapement, George River, Kuskokwim River, Chinook salmon, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, chum salmon, *O. keta*, coho salmon, *O. kisutch*, longnose suckers, *Catostomus catostomus*, ASL, age-sex-length, salmon age composition, salmon sex composition, salmon length composition, resistance board weir.