

Abstract

Kwethluk River Salmon Run Timing and Abundance. 10-306. Annual 2010

The Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office, assisted by the Organized Village of Kwethluk, monitored the escapement of five species of Pacific salmon returning to the Kwethluk River. From June 25 to September 6, 2010, a resistance board weir was utilized to collect abundance, run-timing, age, sex, and length data from returning adult salmon. These data support in-season and post-season management of the commercial and subsistence fisheries that occur on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and the Kuskokwim River drainage. The estimated escapement was 19,222 chum salmon *Oncorhynchus keta*, 1,669 Chinook salmon *O. tshawytscha*, 4,187 sockeye salmon *O. nerka*, 565 pink salmon *O. gorbuscha*, and a partial count of 795 coho salmon *O. kisutch*. Peak weekly passage occurred July 11–17 for chum, July 4–10 for *Chinook* and sockeye, and July 18–24 for pink salmon. Age, sex, and length data were collected for each species except pink salmon. Dominant ages were 0.3 for chum, 1.3 for male and 1.4 for female Chinook, 1.3 for sockeye, and 2.1 for coho salmon. Over all percentages for female salmon were chum 41%, Chinook 44%, sockeye 49%, and coho 29%. Mean lengths varied between male and female salmon for each species. The estimated Chinook salmon escapement during 2010 was the lowest on record and below the escapement goal range of 6,000 to 11,000 for the third consecutive year.

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