

Kwethluk River Salmon Run Timing and Abundance. Study No. 10-306, Annual 2011

Abstract

The Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office, assisted by the Organized Village of Kwethluk, monitored the escapement of five species of Pacific salmon *Oncorhynchus* spp. returning to the Kwethluk River. From July 3 to September 10, 2011, 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 18,329 chum salmon *O. keta*, 4,079 Chinook salmon *O. tshawytscha*, 2,031 sockeye salmon *O. nerka*, 242 pink salmon *O. gorbuscha*, and a partial count of 4,482 coho salmon *O. kisutch*. Peak weekly passage occurred July 17–23 for chum, July 10–16 for Chinook, July 3–9 for sockeye, and July 24–30 for pink salmon. Age, sex, and length data were collected for each species except pink salmon. Dominant ages were 0.4 for chum, 1.2 for male and 1.4 for female Chinook, 1.3 for sockeye, and 2.1 for coho salmon. Overall percentages for female salmon were chum 36%, Chinook 32%, sockeye 57%, and coho 48%. Mean lengths varied between male and female salmon for each species.

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