

Abundance and Run Timing of Adult Pacific Salmon in the Tuluksak River, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, 2009

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Abstract

The Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office, assisted by the Tuluksak Native Community, monitored the escapement of the five species of Pacific salmon returning to the Tuluksak River, a tributary to the lower Kuskokwim River. From June 25 to September 10, 2009, a resistance board weir was utilized to collect abundance, run timing, age, sex, and length data from returning adult salmon. These data support inseason and post-season management of the commercial and subsistence fisheries that occur on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and the Kuskokwim River. In 2009, an estimated 13,671 chum salmon *Oncorhynchus keta*, 362 Chinook salmon *O. tshawytscha*, 686 sockeye salmon *O. nerka*, 51 pink salmon *O. gorbuscha* and 8,137 coho salmon *O. kisutch* passed through the Tuluksak River weir. Peak weekly passage occurred July 19–25 for chum, Chinook and pink salmon, July 12–18 for sockeye salmon, and August 30 to September 5 for coho 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 30%, Chinook 44%, sockeye 49%, and coho 31%.