

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

1 (800) 315-6338 (MEET) Code: 58756# (KUSKO)

ADF&G Bethel toll free: 1 (855) 933-2433

Meeting Agenda

Date: 07/08/2015

Time: 10:00am

Place: Bethel

Time Called to Order:

Chair: LaMont Albertson

Time Adjourned:

ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM:

Upriver Elder:

Downriver Elder:

Commercial Fisher:

Lower River Subsistence:

Middle River Subsistence:

Upper River Subsistence:

Headwaters Subsistence:

QUORUM MET? Yes / No

Processor:

Member at Large:

Sport Fisher:

Western Interior RAC:

Y-K Delta RAC:

ADF&G:

INTRODUCTIONS:

INVOCATION:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *the agenda may be amended at this time.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Optional. ADF&G does not prepare official meeting minutes.*

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- ADF&G Management Actions under consideration
- Overview of Kuskokwim River salmon run assessment\ discussion of ADF&G considerations:
 - a. Test Fisheries (Bethel and Aniak):
 - b. Weirs/Mark-Recapture/Aerial Surveys/Other:
- Subsistence Reports: Lowest river, ONC Inseason Subsistence Report, Lower River, Middle River, Upper River, Headwaters.
 - USFWS Subsistence Report
- Commercial Catch Report:
- Processor Report:
- Sport Fish Report:
- Intercept Fishery Report: *Area M*
- Weather Forecast:
- Discussion of ADF&G Management considerations and discussion of possible alternatives (recommendations from the Working Group).
- Motion for Discussion and Action.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

OLD BUSINESS:

- Tier II discussion

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

NEXT MEETING DATE: _____ **Time:** _____ **Place:** _____

Informational Packet

Information Packets *ARE*:

- **Intended to help inform Working Group discussions.**
- **To be viewed and used in context with Working Group meetings only.**

Packets *ARE NOT*:

- **To be viewed as standalone documents.**
- **A final say on fisheries management decisions.**

Please use this information responsibly:

Packet information is an incomplete snapshot of an ongoing discussion and changing conditions. Packet information should not be reproduced for any purpose other than to describe Working Group meeting discussions.

Misuse of Packet information can contribute to misunderstandings that can **cause harm to salmon users** and potentially **damage salmon resources**.

Ask Questions: ADF&G staff will be happy to answer biology and management questions. Please call **1-855-933-2433** to reach ADF&G Kuskokwim Area staff.

Attend Meetings: Each Working Group meeting is announced at least 48 hours prior to time and date of meeting. In addition, each meeting is recorded. Recordings can be found here:
http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyarea_kuskokwim.kswg

Viewing the information packet while listening to meetings/recordings will provide a better understanding of the information presented in this packet.

Thank you.
Jennifer Peeks
Chris Shelden
Working Group coordinators

Informational Packet

LOWER KUSKOKWIM RIVER INSEASON CATCH MONITORING REPORT: Orutsararmiut Native Council (ONC)

July 6th, 2015

Fishing reports from June 29th, 2015- July 5th, 2015

Families Surveyed	Families Fishing	Drift-nets	Set-nets	>6" Mesh	>4"-6" Mesh	4" or Less	Rod & Reel	Dipnet	Fish Wheel
40	25	25	0	0	25	0	0	0	0
		100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0	0%	0%

Percentages are based on the number of families fishing each week.

Compared with this time in a normal year, how are catch rates for salmon this week?

CHINOOK			CHUM			SOCKEYE		
Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor
2	9	6	2	10	8	18	6	0
8%	36%	24%	8%	40%	32%	72%	24%	0%

Percentages are based on the number of families fishing each week.

Does the salmon run timing appear to be early, late, or normal?

CHINOOK			CHUM			SOCKEYE		
Early	Normal	Late	Early	Normal	Late	Early	Normal	Late
1	13	1	2	16	3	1	22	0
4%	52%	4%	8%	64%	12%	4%	88%	0%

Percentages are based on the number of families fishing each week.

Harvest Goal Summary:

There are no new harvest goals recorded for this week.

Chinook:

Seven families have reported meeting their harvest needs for Chinook salmon. Of the families surveyed, 32% were unable to comment on catch rate and 40% were unable to comment on run timing.

Chum:

A few families reported catching chum salmon with white and red puss oozing from the meat. Of the families surveyed, 20% were unable to comment on catch rates and 16% were unable to comment on run timing.

Sockeye:

Many of the families surveyed reported a higher catch rate of sockeye salmon this past week than any other salmon species during the previous openers. A few families commented that the meat of a sockeye salmon appeared to be sickly and lighter colored. Of the families fishing 4% were unable to comment on catch rate and 8% were unable to comment for run timing.

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Coho:

Some families are waiting for coho salmon to finish their harvest goal needs for chum salmon and sockeye salmon. There are no reports of any coho salmon being caught this week.

Comments:

Fisherman commented on using mesh size ranging from 4", 5 1/2", 5, 3/8", 5 3/4", and 6". One family reported catching pink salmon in their drift net this past subsistence opener.

Surveyor comments:

For the week ending in July 5th, 2015, ONC Surveyors observed 0 set nets and 0 drift nets.

There were no additional ASL kits distributed this week, we have been receiving trickles of ASL kits.

Bethel Test Fish Distribution:

ONC Fishery Technicians have distributed Bethel Test Fish to the following locations: Senior Center, Lions Club, Lulu Herron, Prematernal home care, Ayalpik Apartments, Long Term Care Facility, Teen Center, TWC, Moravian Volunteers, VFW, Bethel Readiness Center, ONC Community Distribution List with the priority going to elders, widows, disabled individuals, and individuals with no means to fish. USFWS and ONC partnered in distribution to the following communities Akiachak, Red Devil, Eek, Oscarville, Napaimute, and Napaskiak.

ONC Total Distribution (updated):

Chinook Salmon: 271

Sockeye Salmon: 195

Chum Salmon: 236

Pink Salmon: 1

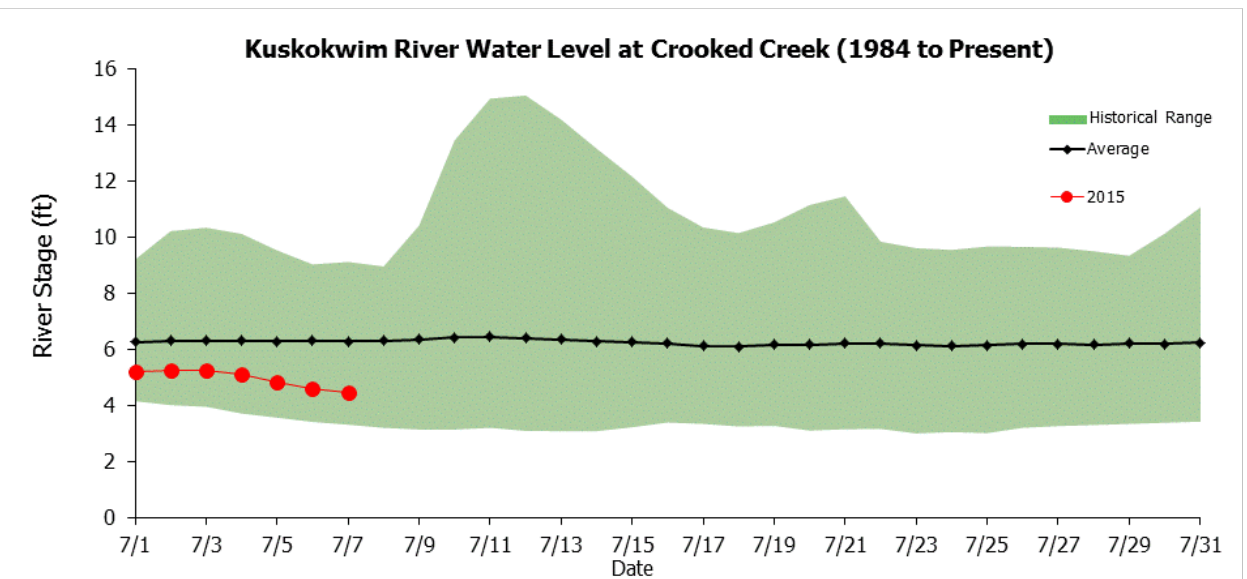
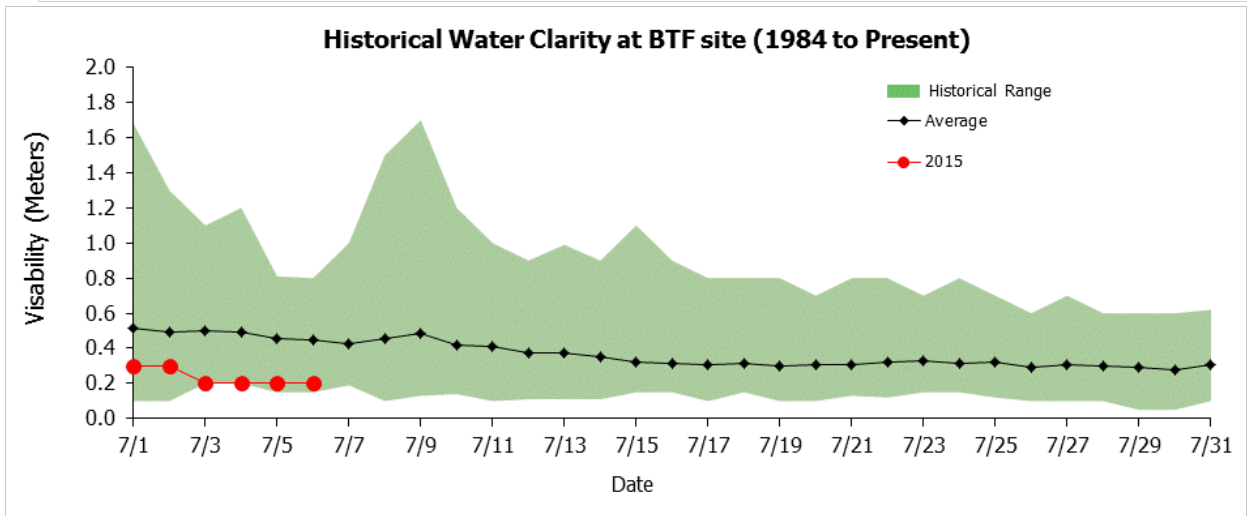
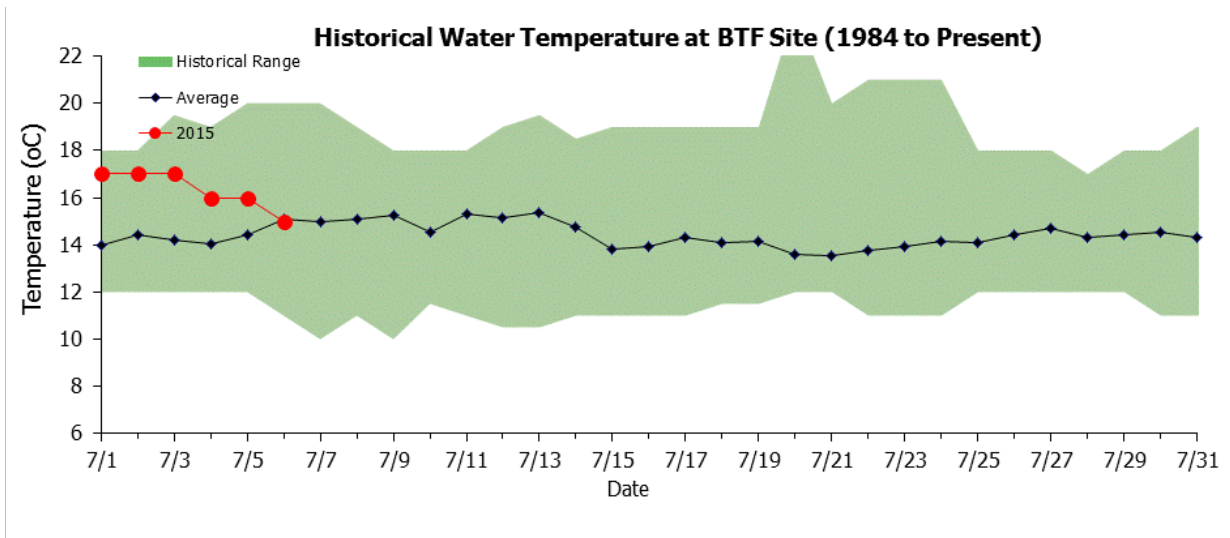
Dolly Varden: 2

Inconnu: 32

Humpback: 2

Burbot: 8

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To access BTF and weir data online, please visit <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.salmon#fishcounts>

Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery

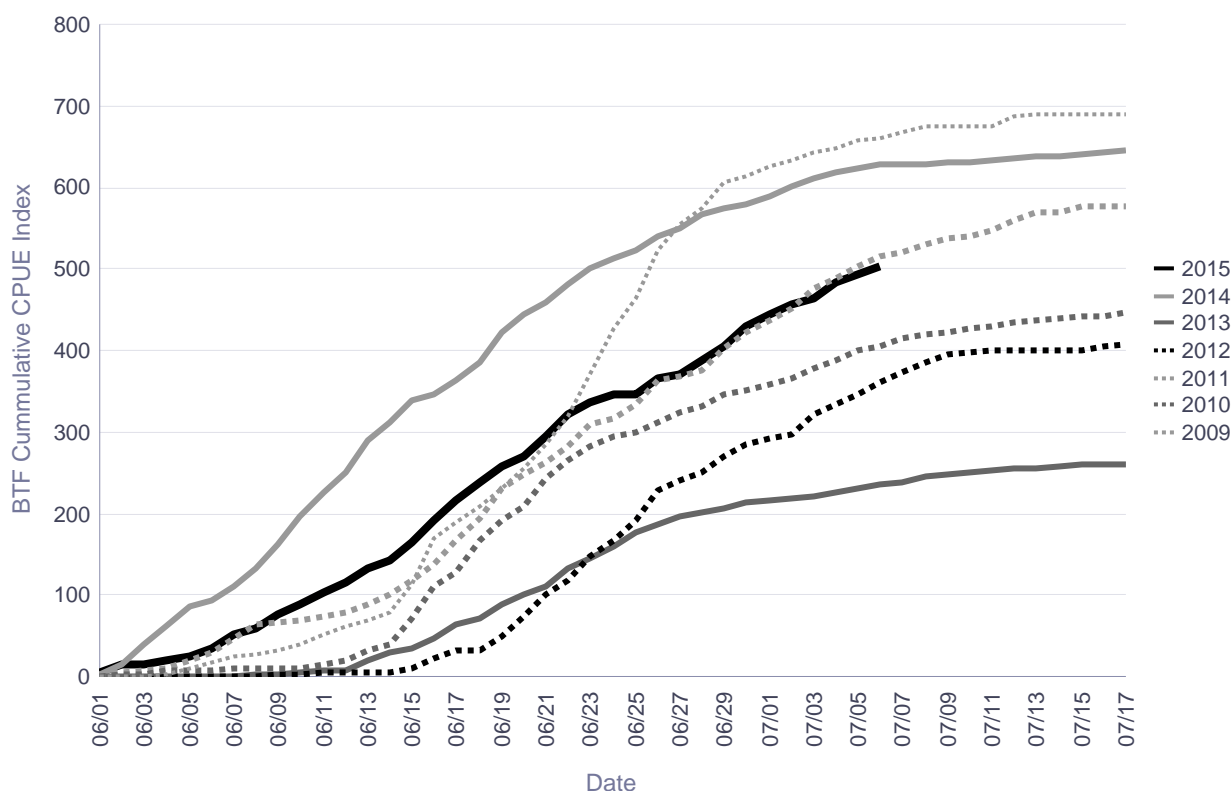
Bethel Test Fishery Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

****2015 data are PRELIMINARY and not comparable to previous years due to subsistence fishing restrictions. ****

Date	CPUE						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
06/28	575	332	376	251	202	568	387
06/29	606	345	402	270	206	573	405
06/30	614	352	423	286	214	579	431
07/01	626	359	437	293	217	588	444
07/02	634	367	452	298	218	600	456
07/03	642	378	475	321	222	611	465
07/04	649	389	489	334	226	618	484
07/05	658	401	503	347	231	624	493
07/06	661	406	516	361	237	628	504
07/07	667	414	520	374	239	629	
07/08	676	419	530	386	246	629	
07/09	676	423	538	395	248	630	
07/10	676	428	541	398	251	630	
07/11	676	430	548	401	254	633	
07/12	687	434	559	401	255	636	
07/13	690	437	569	401	257	637	
07/14	690	439	569	401	259	639	
07/15	690	441	577	401	260	641	
07/16	690	443	577	404	261	643	
07/17	690	447	577	407	261	645	

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Season Total	705	458	579	418	261	650	

Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index Chart



Resulting escapement relative to New Kuskokwim River SEG (65,000 - 120,000)

- 2009 - Achieved (+) no restrictions
- 2010 - Not Achieved (-) late tributary restrictions
- 2011 - Achieved (+) 15 days restrictions, minor reduction to subsistence harvest
- 2012 - Achieved (+) 35 days restrictions, significant reduction to subsistence harvest
- 2013 - Not Achieved (-) tributary restrictions and late main stem restrictions, significant reduction to subsistence harvest
- 2014 - Achieved (+) 30 days of restrictions, significant reduction in subsistence harvest

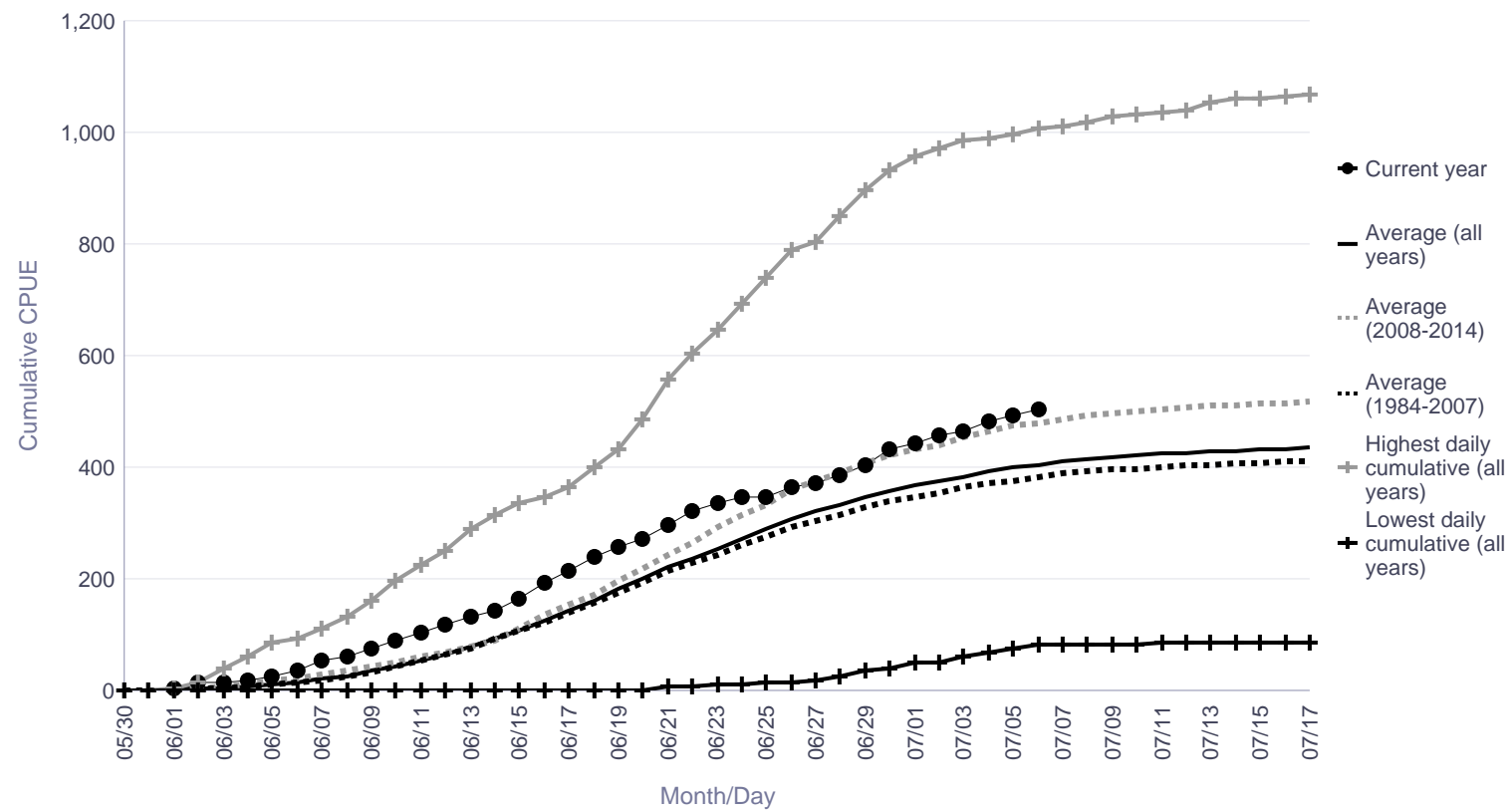
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Bethel Test Fishery Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	Average (1984-2007)	Average (2008-2014)	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current year
06/28	26.00	332.35	315.58	389.40	851.00	386.95
06/29	35.00	345.76	327.58	407.64	897.00	404.54
06/30	39.00	357.90	339.00	422.27	932.00	430.61
07/01	51.00	367.00	347.88	432.13	956.00	443.85
07/02	52.00	374.68	355.33	440.60	972.00	455.73
07/03	61.00	383.68	363.13	453.74	984.00	464.98
07/04	67.00	392.06	371.13	463.41	990.00	483.97
07/05	76.00	398.89	377.00	473.51	998.00	493.37
07/06	82.00	404.91	382.79	480.33	1,007.00	503.82
07/07	83.00	410.20	387.83	486.45	1,012.00	
07/08	83.00	414.76	391.67	493.50	1,019.00	
07/09	83.00	418.24	394.92	497.80	1,029.00	
07/10	83.00	421.29	398.17	500.16	1,032.00	
07/11	85.00	424.08	400.96	502.90	1,037.00	
07/12	85.00	426.37	402.46	507.90	1,040.00	
07/13	85.00	428.81	404.71	511.00	1,052.00	
07/14	85.00	430.59	406.75	511.88	1,059.00	
07/15	85.00	431.74	407.63	514.01	1,062.00	
07/16	85.00	433.33	409.21	515.61	1,065.00	
07/17	85.00	434.97	410.63	517.99	1,068.00	

	Lowest CPUE	Average CPUE	Highest CPUE
Season Total	91.00	447.69	1,141.00

Current Year: 2015



Informational Packet

Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery

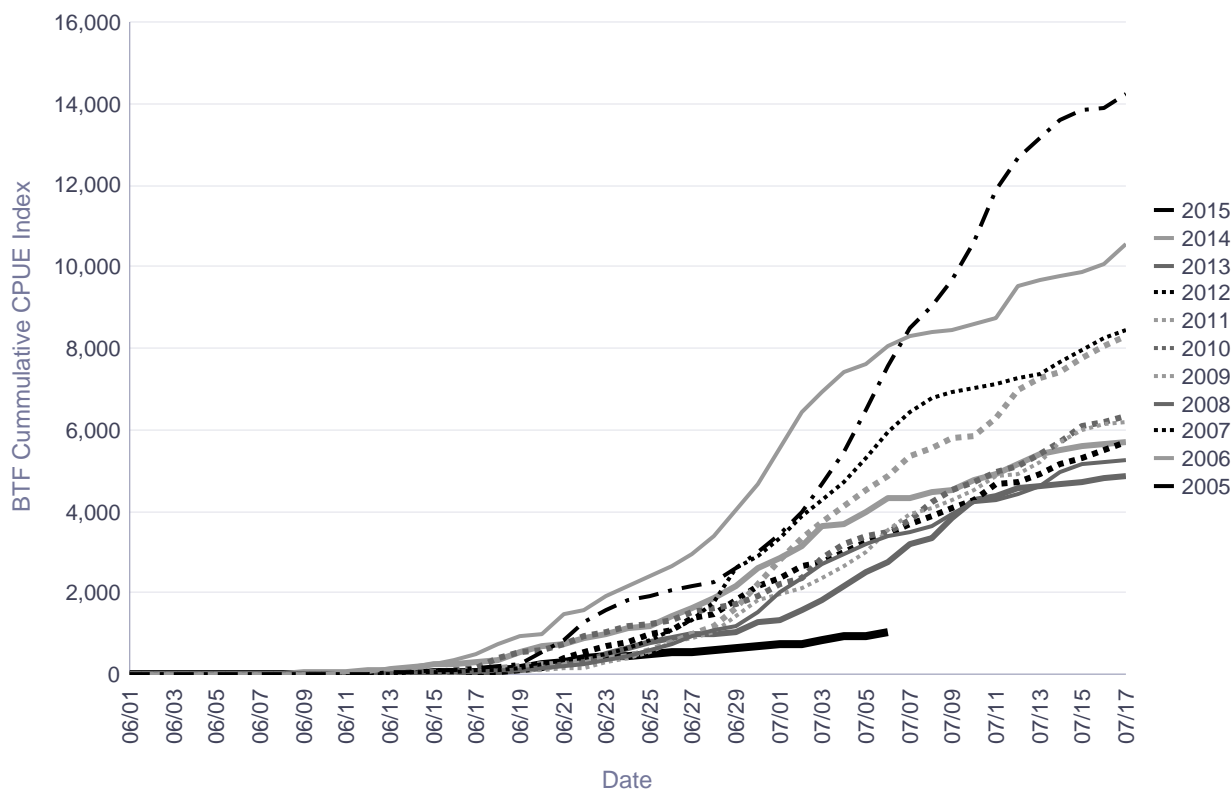
Bethel Test Fishery Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

****2015 data are PRELIMINARY and not comparable
to previous years due to subsistence fishing restrictions. ****

Date	CPUE										
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
06/28	2,273	3,401	1,784	1,101	1,028	1,613	1,166	1,495	1,007	1,851	589
06/29	2,631	4,030	2,590	1,178	1,407	1,739	1,607	1,801	1,020	2,155	627
06/30	2,989	4,659	2,918	1,551	1,800	1,932	2,223	2,188	1,297	2,596	694
07/01	3,455	5,529	3,342	2,012	1,959	2,197	2,813	2,350	1,349	2,836	721
07/02	3,982	6,436	3,862	2,379	2,104	2,379	3,354	2,653	1,584	3,144	759
07/03	4,649	6,936	4,253	2,681	2,340	2,840	3,751	2,756	1,842	3,644	828
07/04	5,463	7,423	4,737	2,954	2,664	3,174	4,128	2,998	2,146	3,708	922
07/05	6,476	7,628	5,314	3,198	3,000	3,381	4,505	3,239	2,527	3,992	943
07/06	7,541	8,053	5,927	3,392	3,530	3,480	4,854	3,423	2,757	4,308	1,042
07/07	8,496	8,278	6,414	3,473	3,916	3,804	5,340	3,695	3,176	4,333	
07/08	9,055	8,409	6,775	3,661	4,083	4,206	5,542	3,879	3,355	4,463	
07/09	9,656	8,468	6,914	3,910	4,256	4,526	5,811	4,078	3,831	4,530	
07/10	10,604	8,609	7,011	4,220	4,502	4,718	5,842	4,275	4,263	4,765	
07/11	11,899	8,744	7,127	4,262	4,855	4,942	6,263	4,675	4,394	4,910	
07/12	12,658	9,520	7,261	4,398	4,937	5,091	6,977	4,736	4,585	5,153	
07/13	13,135	9,657	7,389	4,639	5,193	5,387	7,245	4,889	4,629	5,407	
07/14	13,612	9,760	7,636	4,943	5,688	5,714	7,395	5,148	4,675	5,484	
07/15	13,830	9,888	7,976	5,137	5,977	6,088	7,769	5,318	4,729	5,581	
07/16	13,876	10,079	8,257	5,200	6,124	6,212	8,030	5,488	4,833	5,644	
07/17	14,239	10,542	8,452	5,261	6,200	6,336	8,295	5,703	4,860	5,704	

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Season Total	18,192	13,927	10,655	6,749	8,257	7,655	10,028	6,894	5,739	6,345	

Bethel Test Fishery, Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE thru 07/17



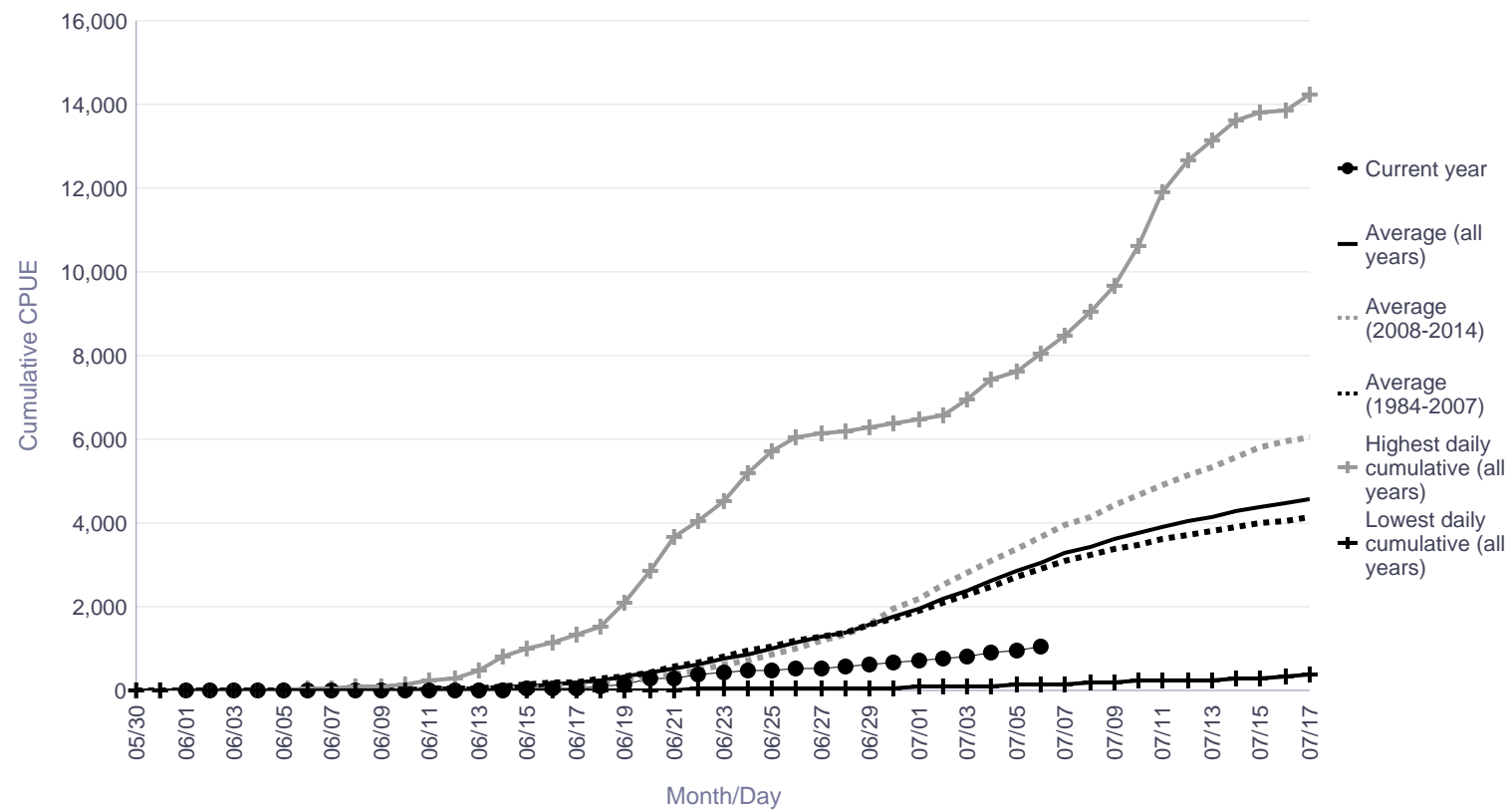
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Bethel Test Fishery Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	Average (1984-2007)	Average (2008-2014)	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current year
06/28	64.00	1,389.88	1,409.35	1,322.97	6,210.00	588.75
06/29	70.00	1,583.26	1,590.52	1,558.22	6,303.00	626.72
06/30	73.00	1,775.25	1,726.85	1,941.05	6,366.00	694.27
07/01	85.00	1,969.28	1,897.10	2,216.60	6,458.00	720.79
07/02	102.00	2,179.28	2,081.64	2,513.88	6,572.00	759.32
07/03	114.00	2,401.87	2,275.10	2,836.33	6,936.00	827.66
07/04	120.00	2,636.37	2,498.10	3,110.27	7,423.00	922.05
07/05	137.00	2,864.89	2,707.06	3,405.88	7,628.00	942.92
07/06	145.00	3,071.65	2,894.85	3,677.66	8,053.00	1,041.66
07/07	165.00	3,276.67	3,076.60	3,962.45	8,496.00	
07/08	185.00	3,443.20	3,231.23	4,169.83	9,055.00	
07/09	194.00	3,602.17	3,363.52	4,420.25	9,656.00	
07/10	235.00	3,747.13	3,482.27	4,655.08	10,604.00	
07/11	247.00	3,896.56	3,603.81	4,900.10	11,899.00	
07/12	260.00	4,042.68	3,726.85	5,125.35	12,658.00	
07/13	268.00	4,169.08	3,827.14	5,341.29	13,135.00	
07/14	278.00	4,295.29	3,921.06	5,578.21	13,612.00	
07/15	302.00	4,404.88	3,997.98	5,799.81	13,830.00	
07/16	340.00	4,488.71	4,067.39	5,933.06	13,876.00	
07/17	386.00	4,584.60	4,156.77	6,051.30	14,239.00	

	Lowest CPUE	Average CPUE	Highest CPUE
Season Total	549.00	5,461.89	18,192.00

Current Year: 2015



Informational Packet

Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery

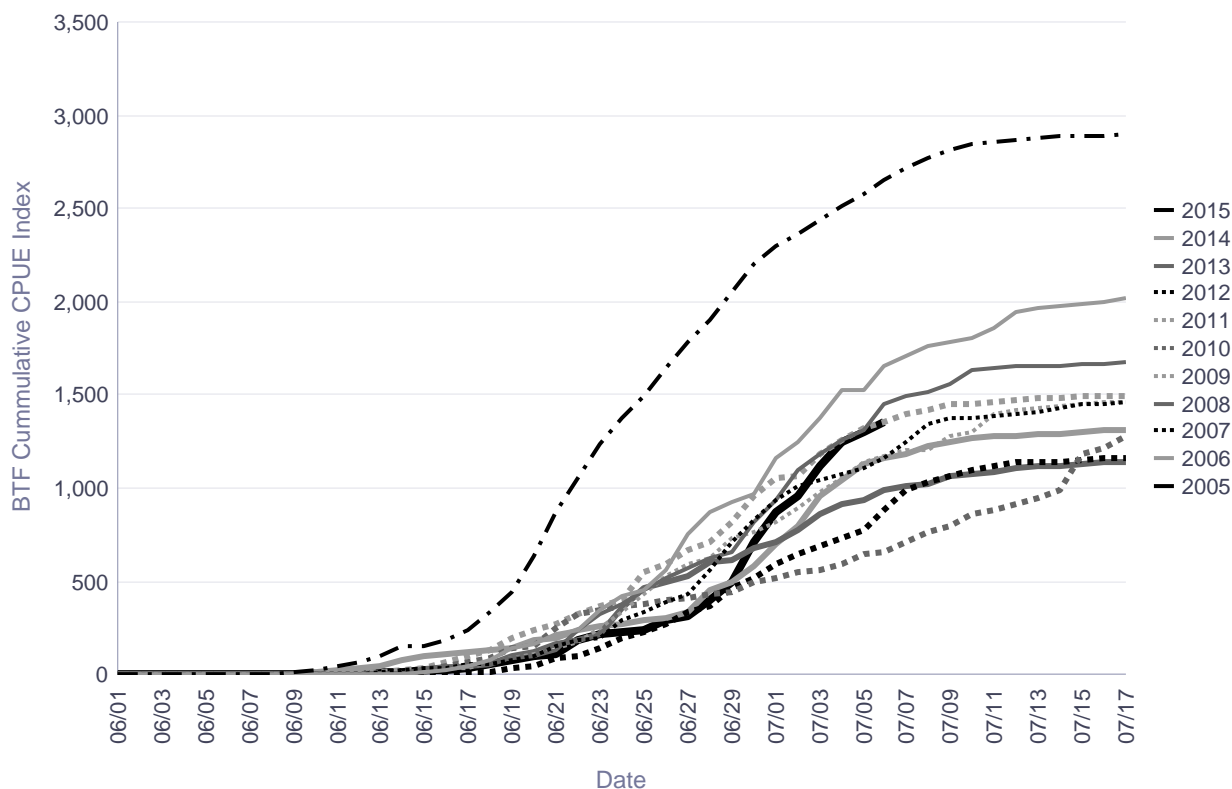
Bethel Test Fishery Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

****2015 data are PRELIMINARY and not comparable
to previous years due to subsistence fishing restrictions. ****

Date	CPUE										
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
06/28	1,901	869	559	619	629	428	710	368	601	452	393
06/29	2,052	920	709	661	729	446	813	465	614	498	499
06/30	2,203	971	832	814	766	491	952	516	674	585	713
07/01	2,297	1,165	933	934	818	515	1,049	596	712	697	873
07/02	2,363	1,248	1,012	1,093	891	545	1,059	649	773	800	955
07/03	2,438	1,380	1,044	1,179	978	561	1,181	689	862	954	1,113
07/04	2,510	1,522	1,075	1,253	1,048	594	1,253	726	915	1,041	1,248
07/05	2,580	1,530	1,105	1,314	1,136	645	1,325	778	937	1,129	1,296
07/06	2,652	1,652	1,163	1,452	1,169	654	1,354	883	992	1,160	1,351
07/07	2,712	1,706	1,242	1,489	1,208	707	1,397	987	1,011	1,181	
07/08	2,770	1,764	1,341	1,511	1,208	765	1,418	1,034	1,025	1,220	
07/09	2,813	1,785	1,370	1,560	1,277	794	1,448	1,065	1,064	1,250	
07/10	2,842	1,808	1,380	1,636	1,301	857	1,448	1,099	1,069	1,264	
07/11	2,857	1,855	1,388	1,639	1,399	877	1,459	1,120	1,087	1,280	
07/12	2,867	1,942	1,393	1,649	1,413	913	1,472	1,135	1,109	1,282	
07/13	2,877	1,969	1,404	1,653	1,427	941	1,477	1,141	1,119	1,294	
07/14	2,887	1,977	1,433	1,655	1,440	994	1,484	1,141	1,121	1,294	
07/15	2,893	1,985	1,446	1,660	1,451	1,185	1,492	1,155	1,128	1,304	
07/16	2,893	1,995	1,446	1,663	1,460	1,209	1,492	1,160	1,137	1,308	
07/17	2,901	2,018	1,457	1,671	1,460	1,275	1,492	1,160	1,139	1,315	

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Season Total	3,019	2,139	1,521	1,713	1,520	1,375	1,518	1,171	1,148	1,367	

Bethel Test Fishery, Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE thru 07/17



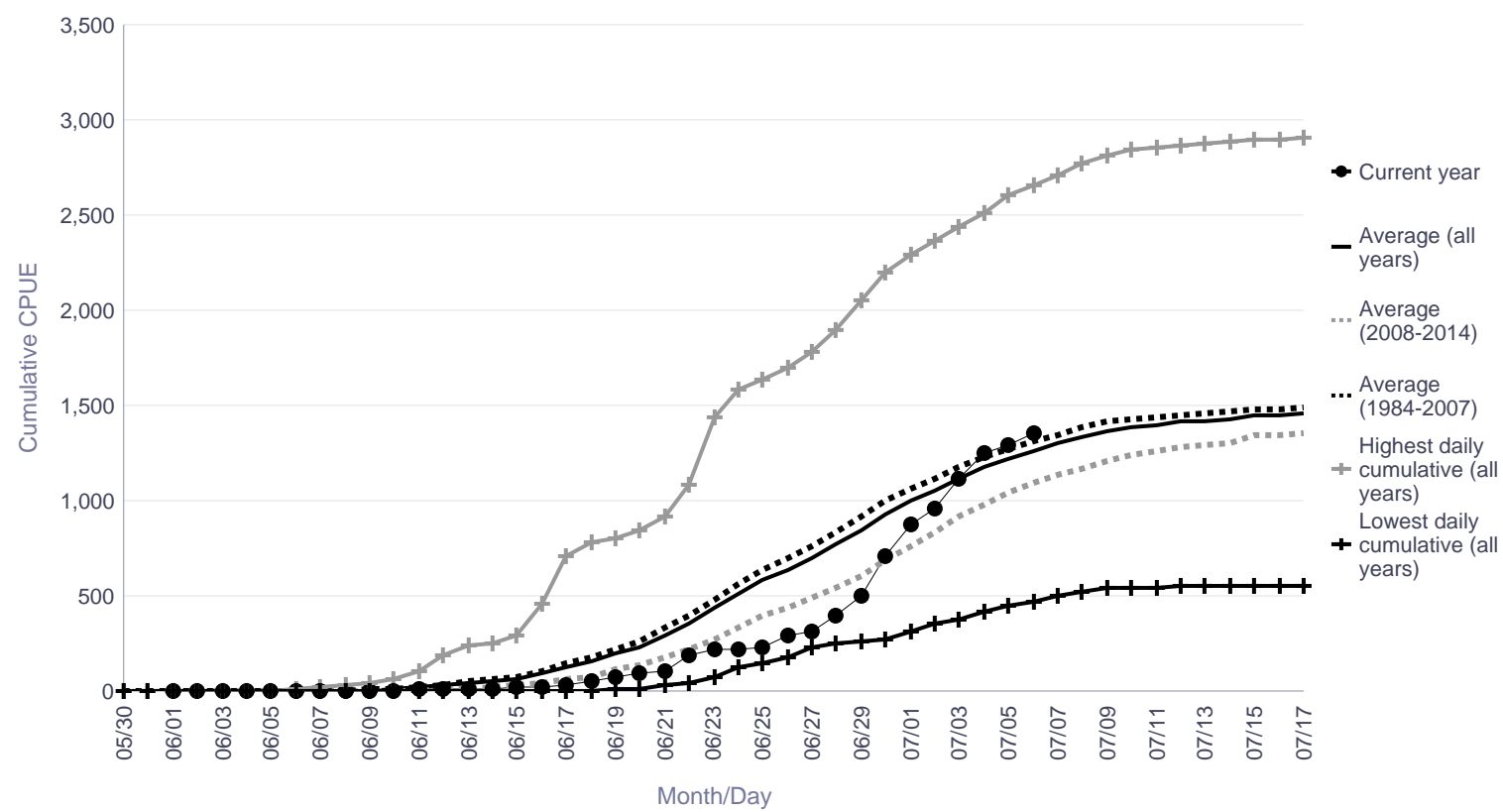
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Bethel Test Fishery Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index

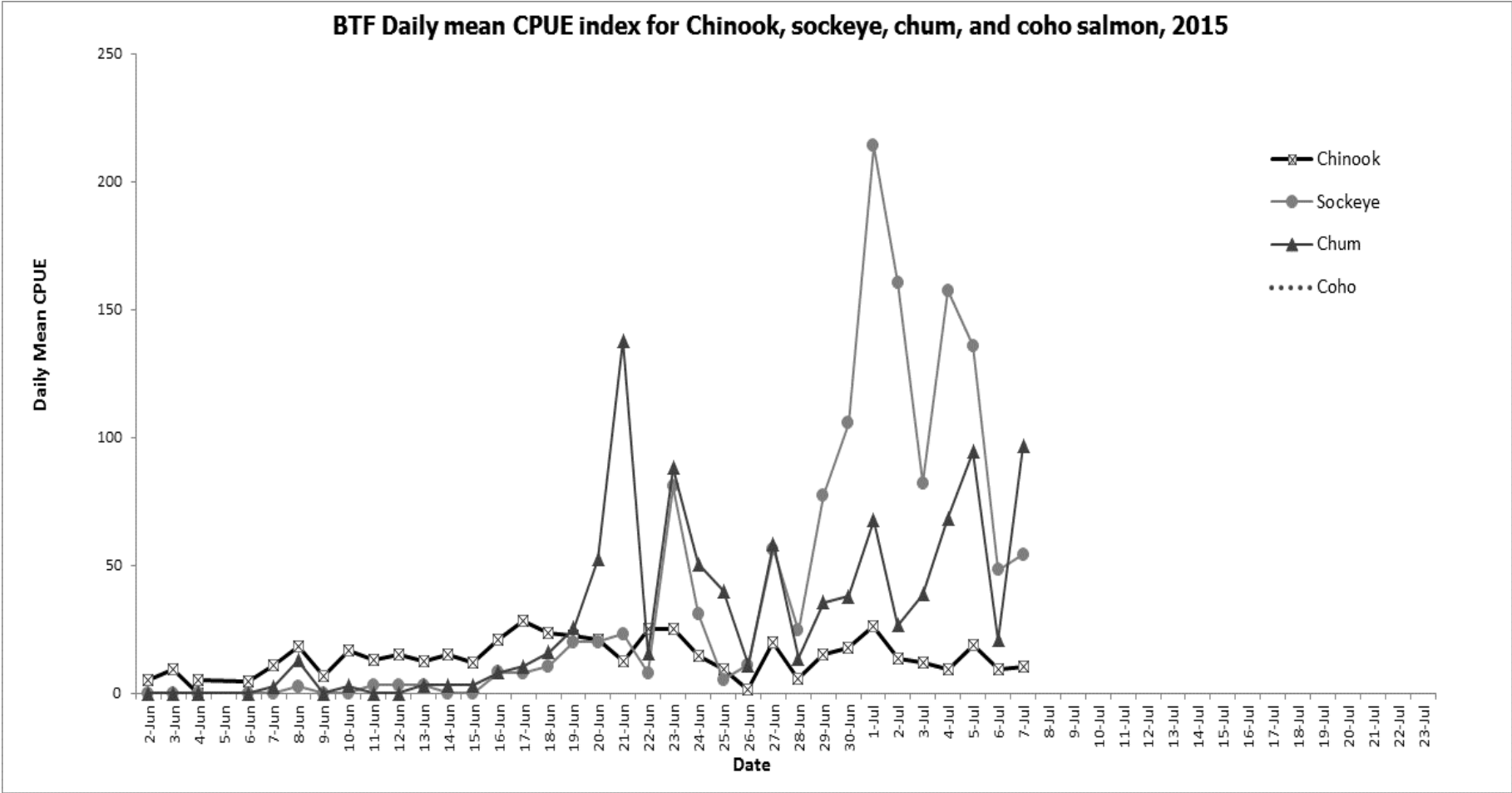
Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	Average (1984-2007)	Average (2008-2014)	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current year
06/28	256.00	766.98	832.07	543.84	1,901.00	393.41
06/29	259.00	845.05	915.45	603.71	2,052.00	498.93
06/30	277.00	926.36	996.61	685.50	2,203.00	712.71
07/01	311.00	997.25	1,066.40	760.20	2,297.00	873.22
07/02	357.00	1,052.36	1,117.24	829.95	2,363.00	955.31
07/03	381.00	1,117.96	1,177.24	914.76	2,438.00	1,112.59
07/04	417.00	1,172.71	1,230.20	975.66	2,510.00	1,248.33
07/05	452.00	1,221.80	1,275.49	1,037.74	2,601.00	1,296.30
07/06	475.00	1,264.87	1,314.49	1,094.79	2,652.00	1,350.55
07/07	499.00	1,301.75	1,348.90	1,140.09	2,712.00	
07/08	526.00	1,338.02	1,387.40	1,168.71	2,770.00	
07/09	543.00	1,367.06	1,413.36	1,208.31	2,813.00	
07/10	545.00	1,385.56	1,428.28	1,239.12	2,842.00	
07/11	547.00	1,400.47	1,439.74	1,265.84	2,857.00	
07/12	549.00	1,412.67	1,450.82	1,281.89	2,867.00	
07/13	549.00	1,422.11	1,459.74	1,293.14	2,877.00	
07/14	550.00	1,432.58	1,470.07	1,304.06	2,887.00	
07/15	553.00	1,447.15	1,478.61	1,339.29	2,893.00	
07/16	553.00	1,453.11	1,484.07	1,346.99	2,893.00	
07/17	553.00	1,458.95	1,488.15	1,358.86	2,901.00	

	Lowest CPUE	Average CPUE	Highest CPUE
Season Total	569.00	1,489.82	3,019.00

Current Year: 2015



Informational Packet

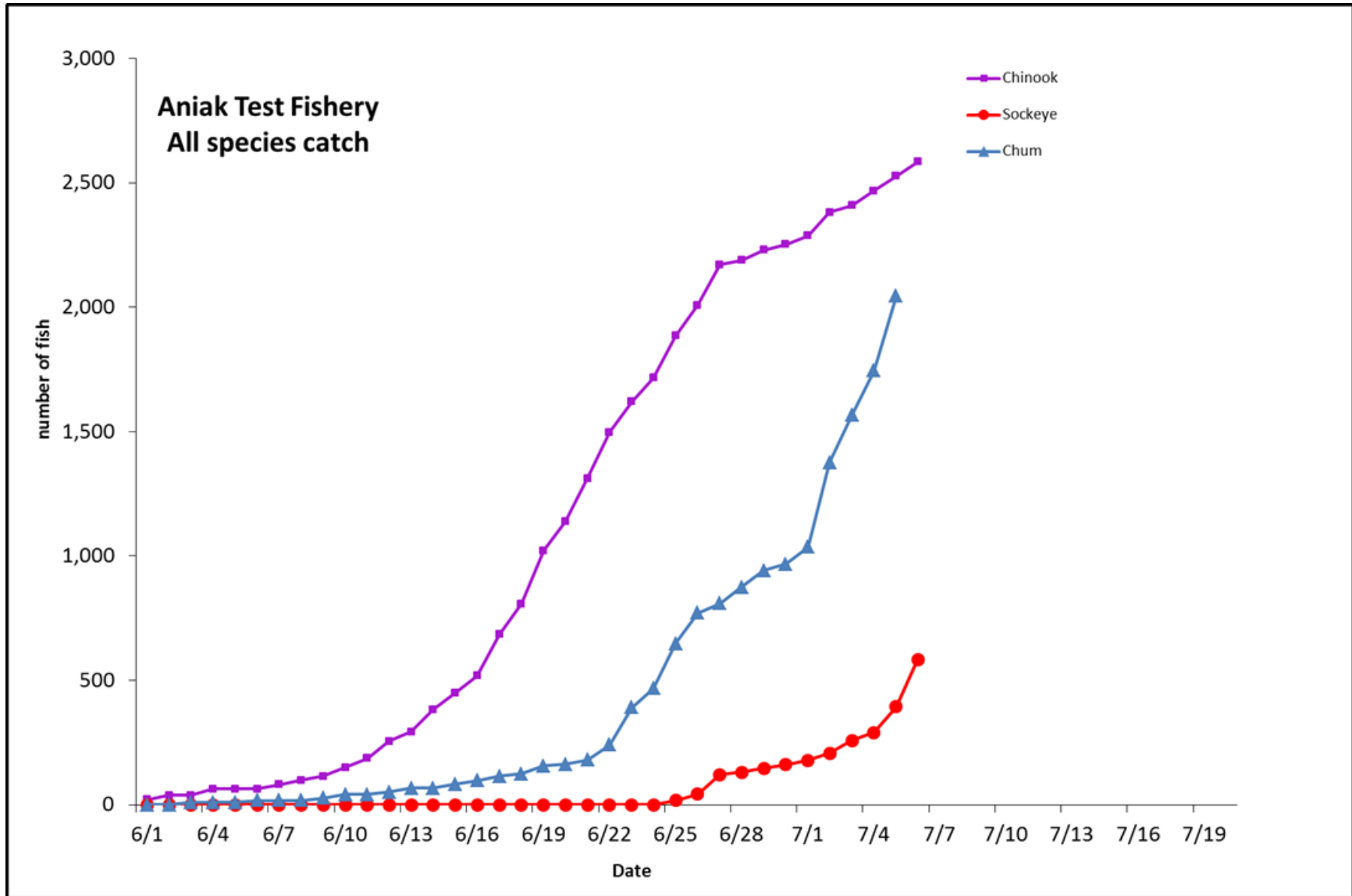


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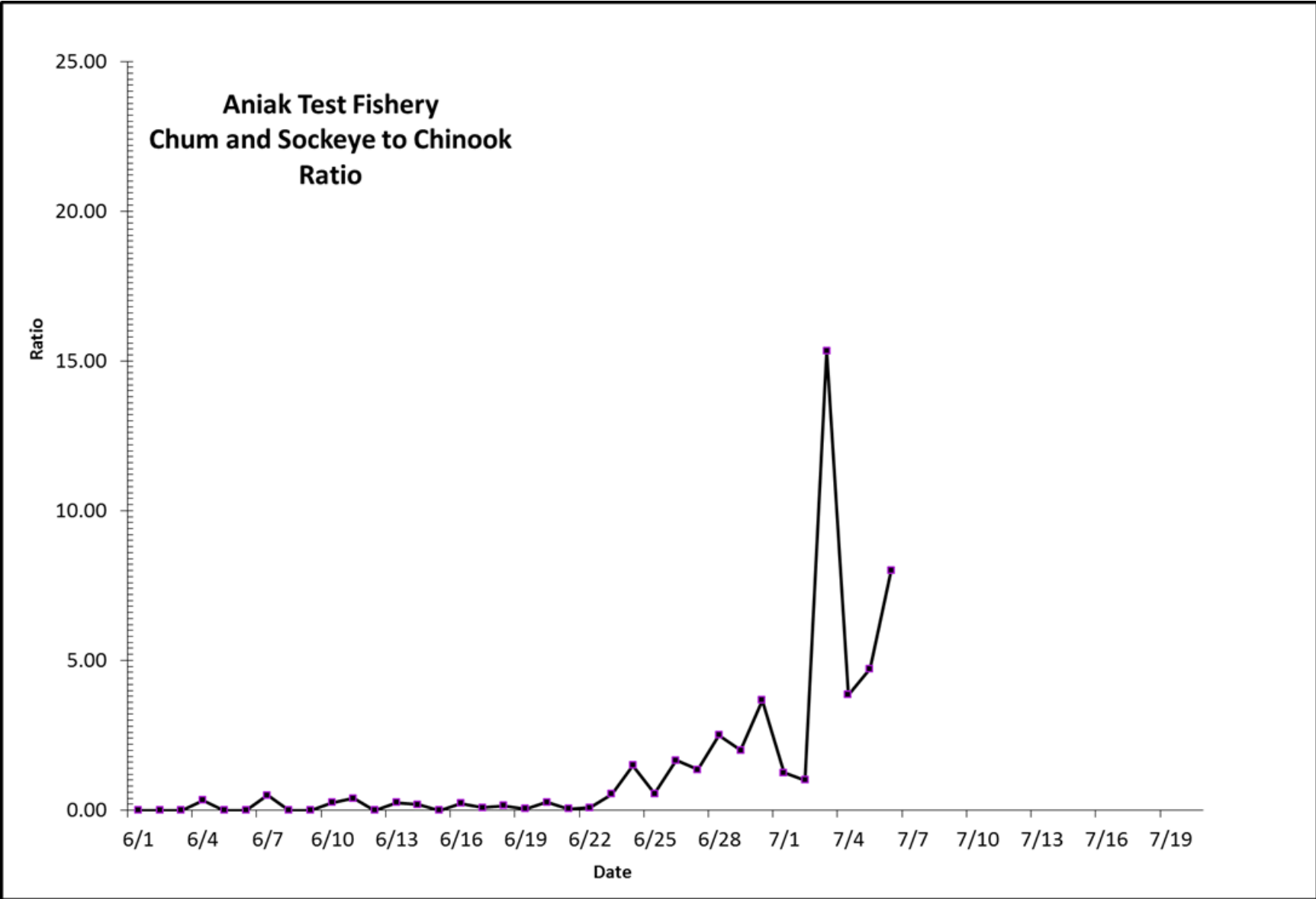
Aniak Test Fishery

Date	Chinook			Sockeye			Chum			Species Ratio
	Catch	Daily CPUE	Cumm. CPUE	Catch	Daily CPUE	Cumm. CPUE	Catch	Daily CPUE	Cumm. CPUE	
6/1	2	20	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
6/2	2	18	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
6/3	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
6/4	3	26	64	0	0	0	1	9	9	0.3
6/5	0	0	64	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.0
6/6	0	0	64	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.0
6/7	2	17	81	0	0	0	1	8	18	0.5
6/8	2	17	98	0	0	0	0	0	18	0.0
6/9	2	17	115	0	0	0	0	0	18	0.0
6/10	4	34	149	0	0	0	1	8	26	0.3
6/11	5	37	186	0	0	0	2	15	41	0.4
6/12	9	70	256	0	0	0	0	0	41	0.0
6/13	4	37	293	0	0	0	1	9	51	0.3
6/14	11	89	382	0	0	0	2	17	67	0.2
6/15	8	67	449	0	0	0	0	0	67	0.0
6/16	9	70	519	0	0	0	2	15	82	0.2
6/17	23	165	685	0	0	0	2	16	98	0.1
6/18	13	122	807	0	0	0	2	18	115	0.2
6/19	25	214	1021	0	0	0	1	9	124	0.0
6/20	15	118	1139	0	0	0	4	31	155	0.3
6/21	22	173	1311	0	0	0	1	7	163	0.0
6/22	22	185	1497	0	0	0	2	17	180	0.1
6/23	15	123	1620	0	0	0	8	61	241	0.5
6/24	12	97	1717	0	0	0	18	150	390	1.5
6/25	20	168	1885	2	17	17	9	77	467	0.6
6/26	15	124	2009	3	25	43	22	182	649	1.7
6/27	20	161	2170	11	78	121	16	123	771	1.4
6/28	2	18	2189	1	9	130	4	38	809	2.5
6/29	5	41	2230	2	16	146	8	67	875	2.0
6/30	3	23	2253	2	15	161	9	67	942	3.7
7/1	4	35	2288	2	17	179	3	25	967	1.3
7/2	14	95	2382	4	28	206	10	68	1035	1.0
7/3	3	27	2409	6	52	258	40	342	1377	15.3
7/4	7	59	2468	4	33	291	23	189	1566	3.9
7/5	7	59	2527	12	103	394	21	180	1745	4.7
7/6	7	59	2585	22	191	585	34	300	2045	8.0
7/7										

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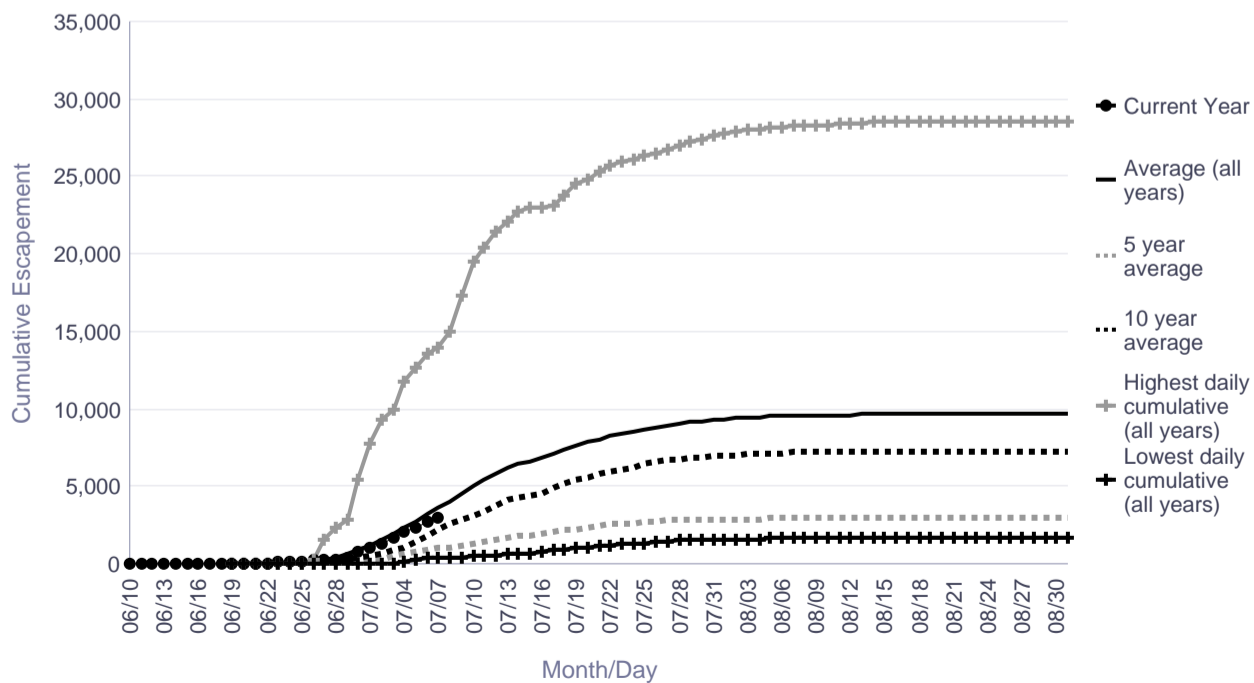
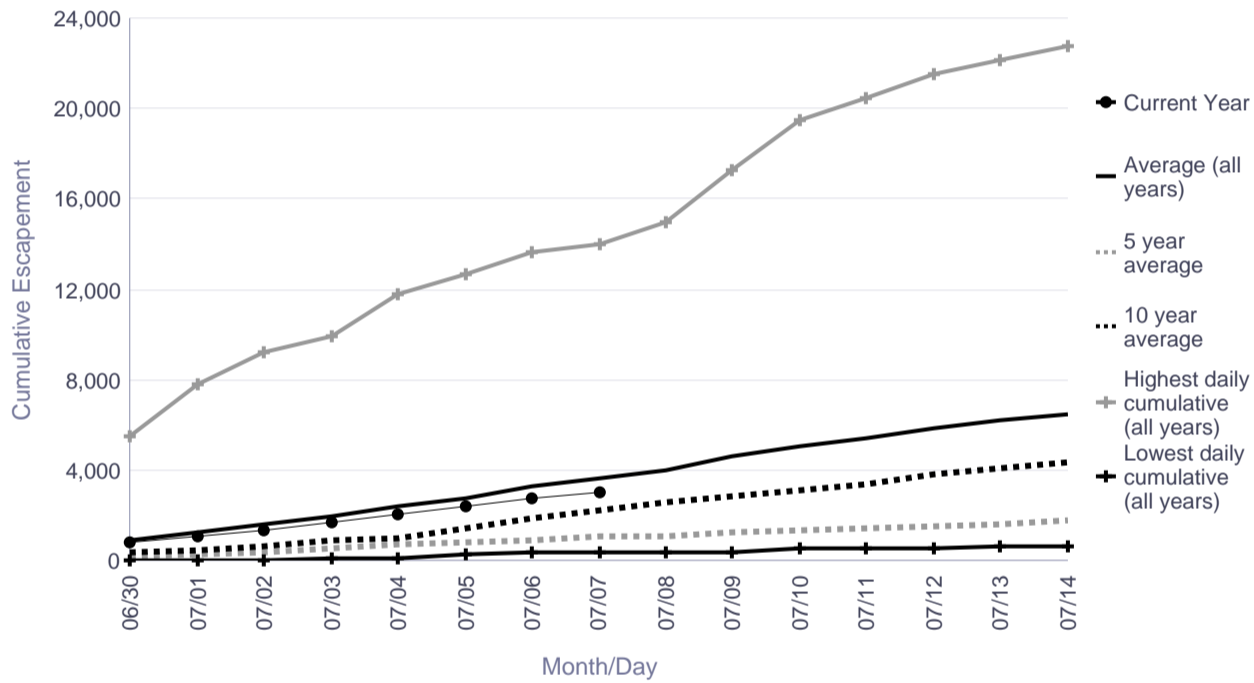


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Kwethluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon Escapement Goal Range: 4,100 to 7,500

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/30	8	933	172	372	5,460	773
07/01	18	1,239	279	500	7,774	1,073
07/02	32	1,621	342	672	9,257	1,348
07/03	81	1,957	529	871	9,951	1,654
07/04	135	2,372	699	1,025	11,804	2,068
07/05	292	2,796	816	1,440	12,700	2,393
07/06	360	3,298	937	1,844	13,621	2,721
07/07	361	3,638	1,038	2,218	13,960	3,035
07/08	372	4,008	1,104	2,548	14,968	
07/09	405	4,581	1,242	2,868	17,294	
07/10	522	5,043	1,322	3,154	19,489	
07/11	526	5,377	1,441	3,397	20,436	
07/12	557	5,817	1,538	3,789	21,479	
07/13	638	6,193	1,646	4,125	22,122	
07/14	668	6,464	1,773	4,321	22,774	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	1,668	9,517	2,982	7,102	28,605

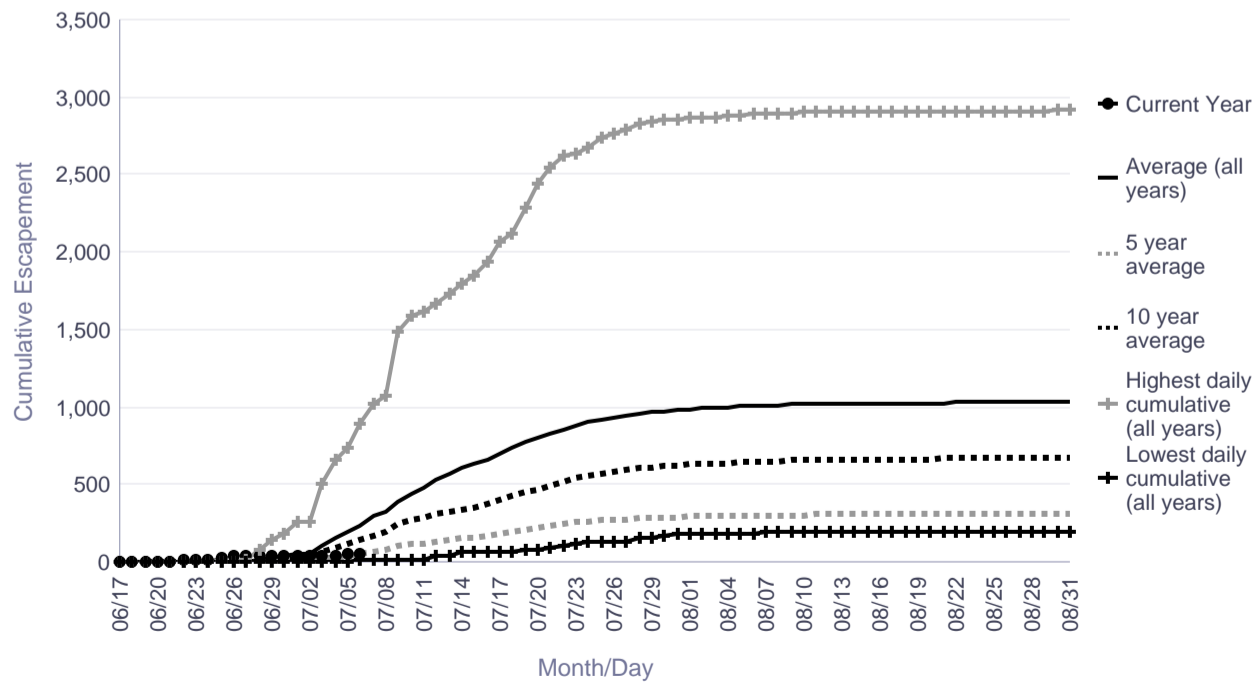
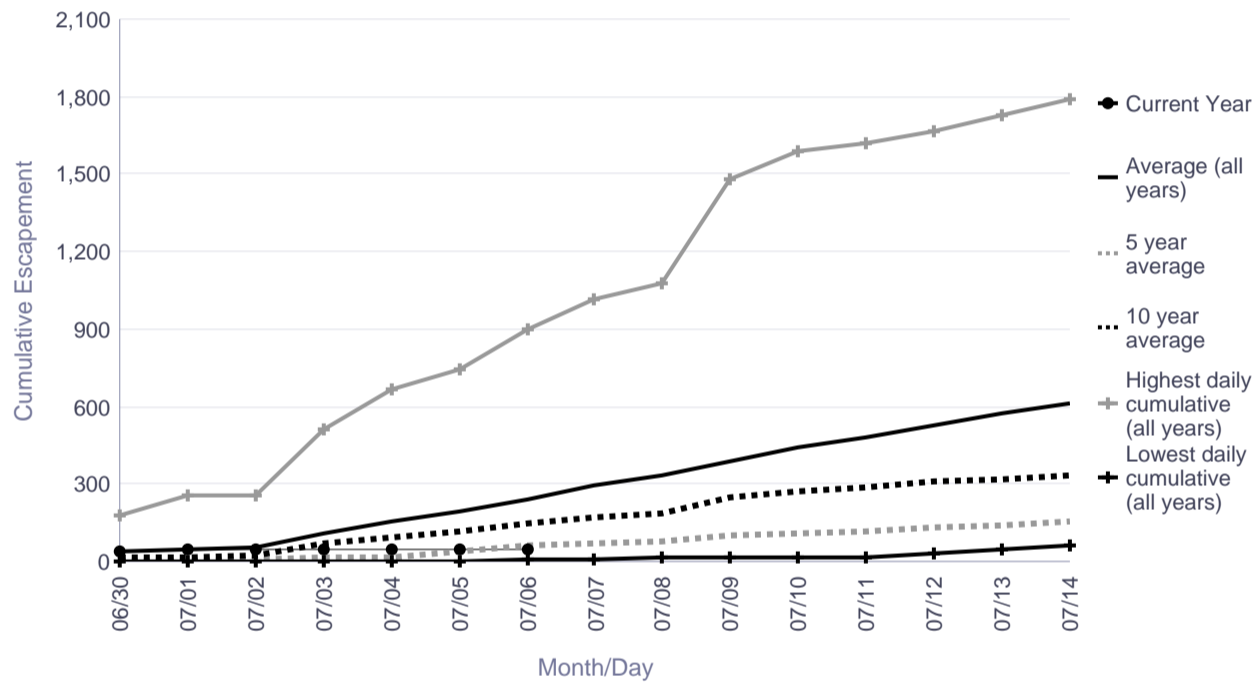


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Tuluksak River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/30	0	36	1	16	180	43
07/01	0	47	3	19	255	46
07/02	0	57	10	27	259	46
07/03	2	106	14	69	511	46
07/04	3	156	19	91	665	46
07/05	5	192	44	119	744	48
07/06	10	239	60	148	896	50
07/07	12	294	71	173	1,018	
07/08	16	331	78	191	1,078	
07/09	17	387	99	246	1,483	
07/10	17	444	112	272	1,592	
07/11	17	481	120	288	1,621	
07/12	35	529	133	310	1,667	
07/13	47	571	139	321	1,730	
07/14	62	611	152	336	1,793	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	193	1,034	311	672	2,918

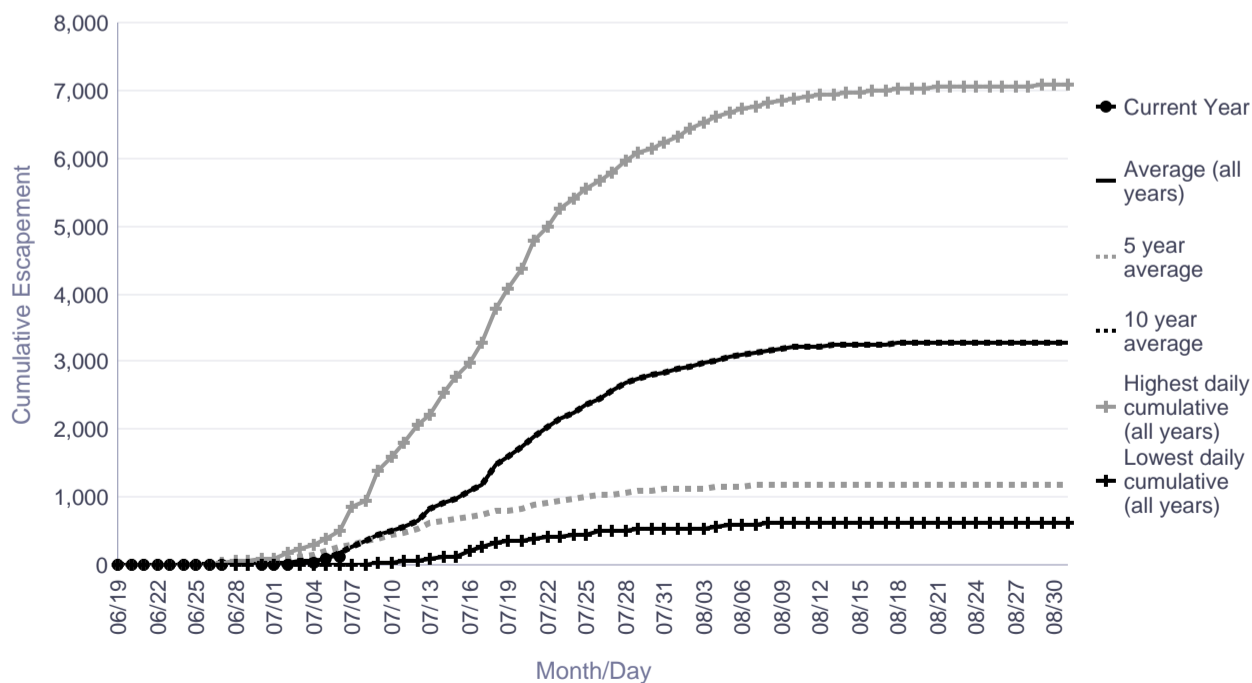
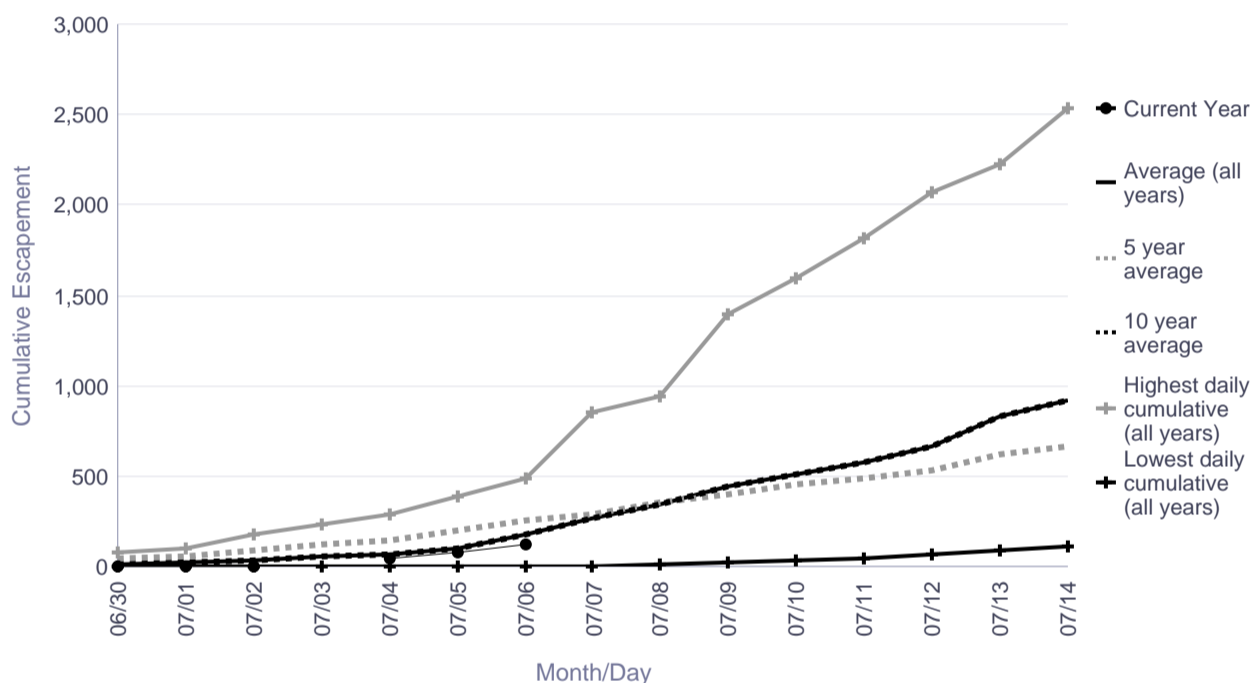


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Salmon River (Aniak) Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/30	0	17	42	17	83	2
07/01	0	24	53	24	104	7
07/02	0	39	92	39	181	7
07/03	0	56	119	56	236	
07/04	0	71	148	71	288	42
07/05	1	102	199	102	384	82
07/06	3	176	261	176	493	126
07/07	6	271	293	271	856	
07/08	11	345	353	345	947	
07/09	20	441	397	441	1,392	
07/10	33	508	453	508	1,599	
07/11	51	577	489	577	1,817	
07/12	63	668	532	668	2,070	
07/13	85	832	621	832	2,227	
07/14	111	923	662	923	2,533	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	625	3,291	1,191	3,291	7,075

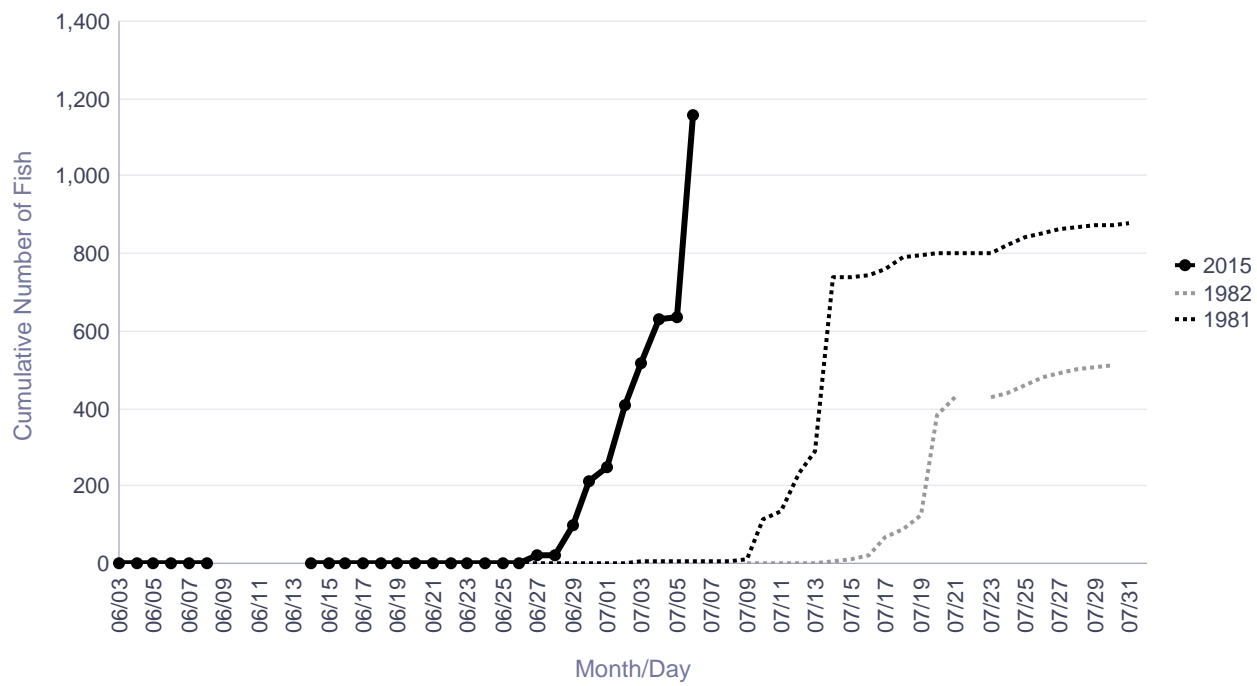
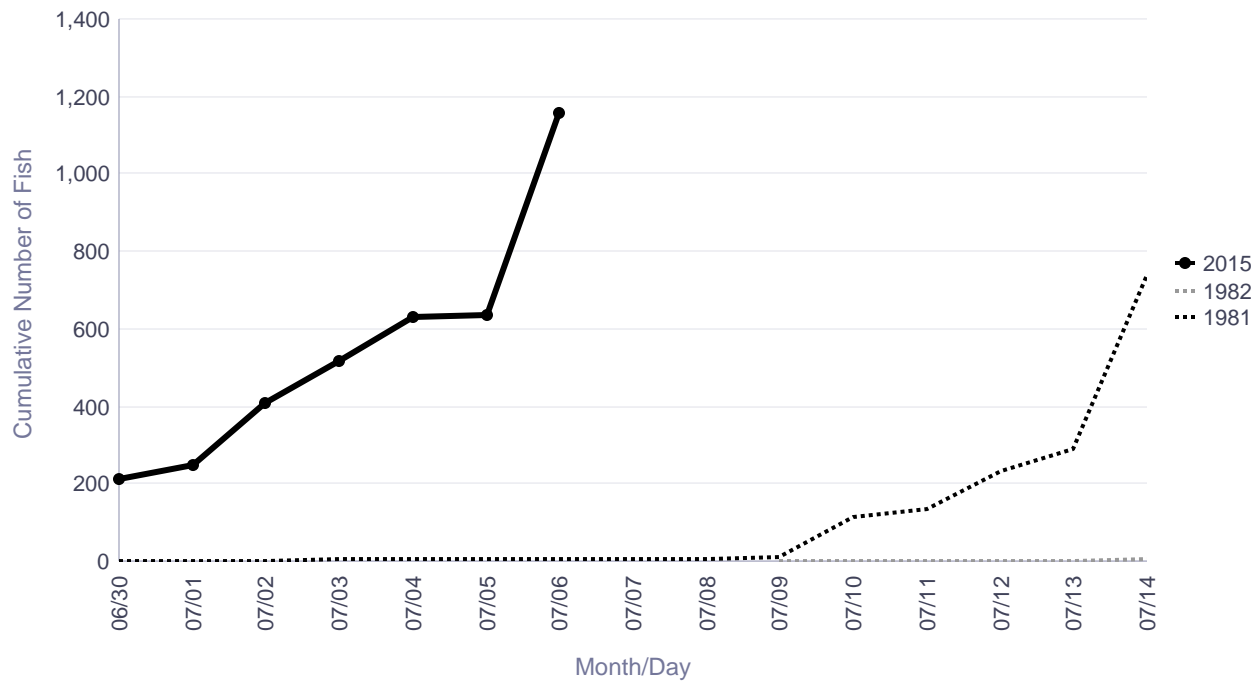


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Salmon River (Pitka Fork) Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

	Cumulative Daily Passage		
Date	1981	1982	2015
06/30	1		212
07/01	1		247
07/02	3		411
07/03	5		517
07/04	6		629
07/05	6		637
07/06	7		1,157
07/07	7		
07/08	8		
07/09	10	0	
07/10	112	0	
07/11	133	0	
07/12	232	0	
07/13	290	0	
07/14	738	4	

	1981	1982	2015
Season Total	877	511	



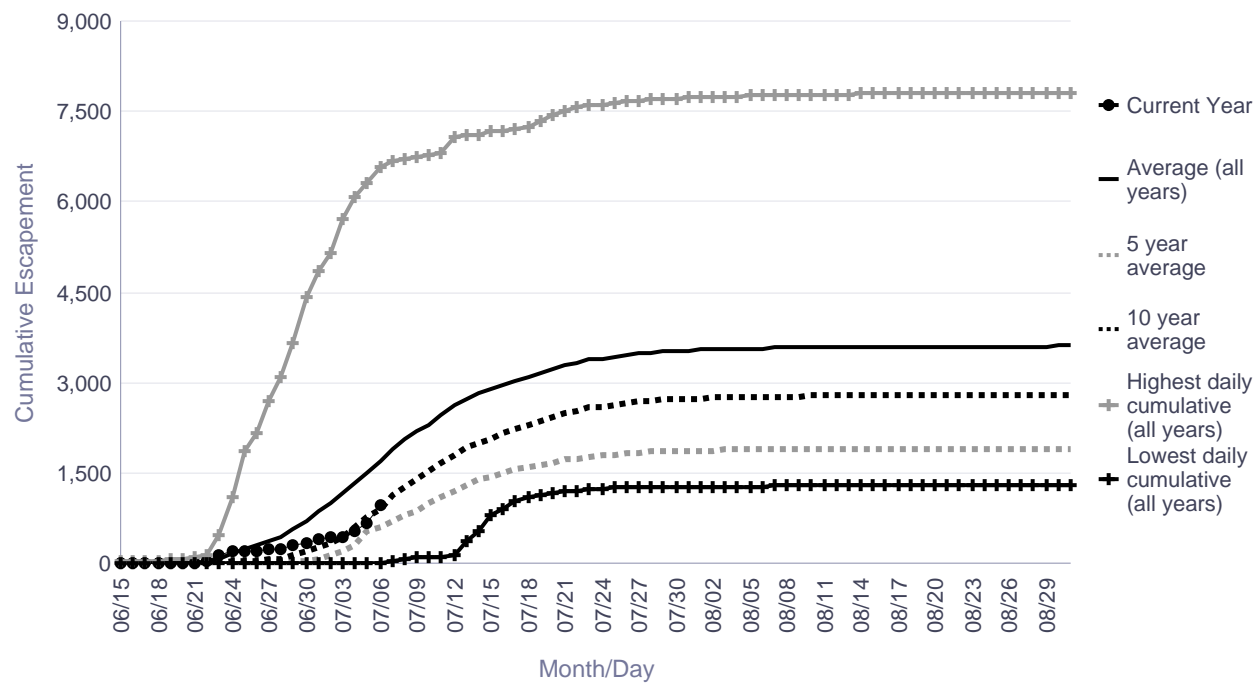
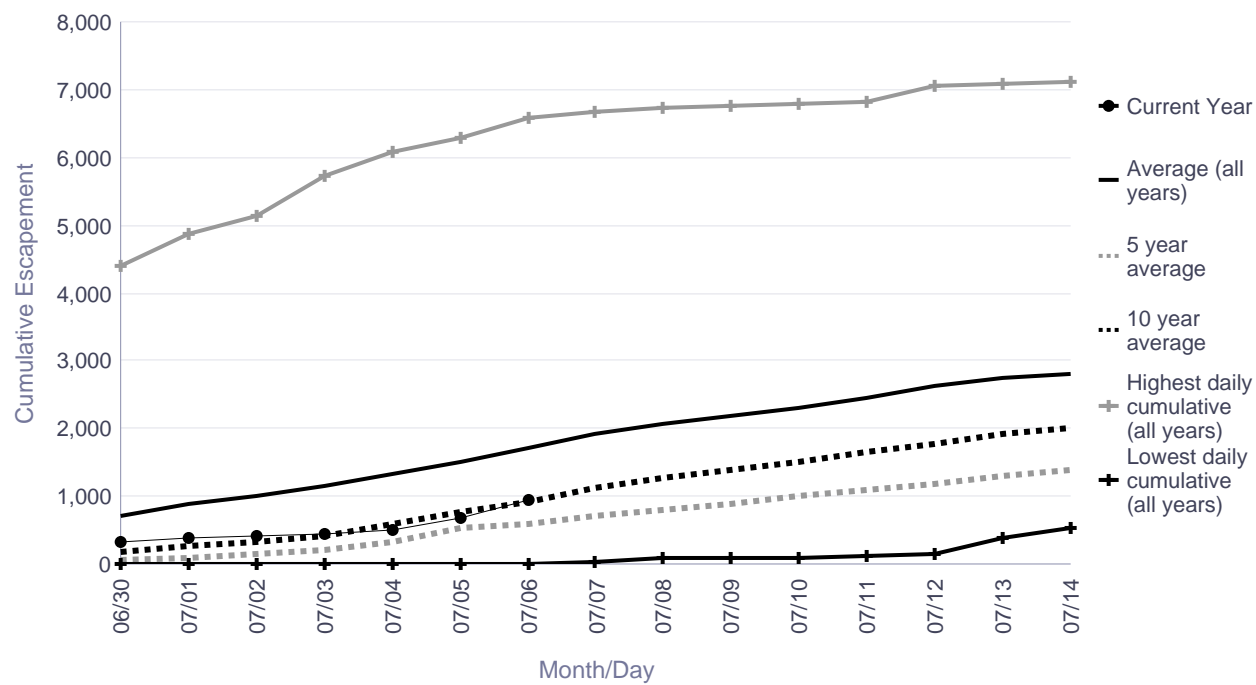
Informational Packet

George River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

Escapement Goal Range: 1,800 to 3,300

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/30	11	698	54	194	4,411	323
07/01	11	876	79	272	4,867	397
07/02	11	994	143	332	5,144	424
07/03	11	1,154	207	427	5,728	441
07/04	12	1,318	318	593	6,075	520
07/05	14	1,510	525	777	6,296	677
07/06	18	1,712	593	908	6,590	959
07/07	31	1,908	716	1,117	6,683	
07/08	81	2,059	789	1,274	6,717	
07/09	89	2,195	883	1,402	6,754	
07/10	102	2,297	1,003	1,523	6,783	
07/11	112	2,465	1,092	1,656	6,816	
07/12	153	2,626	1,187	1,784	7,061	
07/13	384	2,735	1,314	1,927	7,092	
07/14	541	2,815	1,383	2,010	7,103	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	1,292	3,607	1,906	2,797	7,810



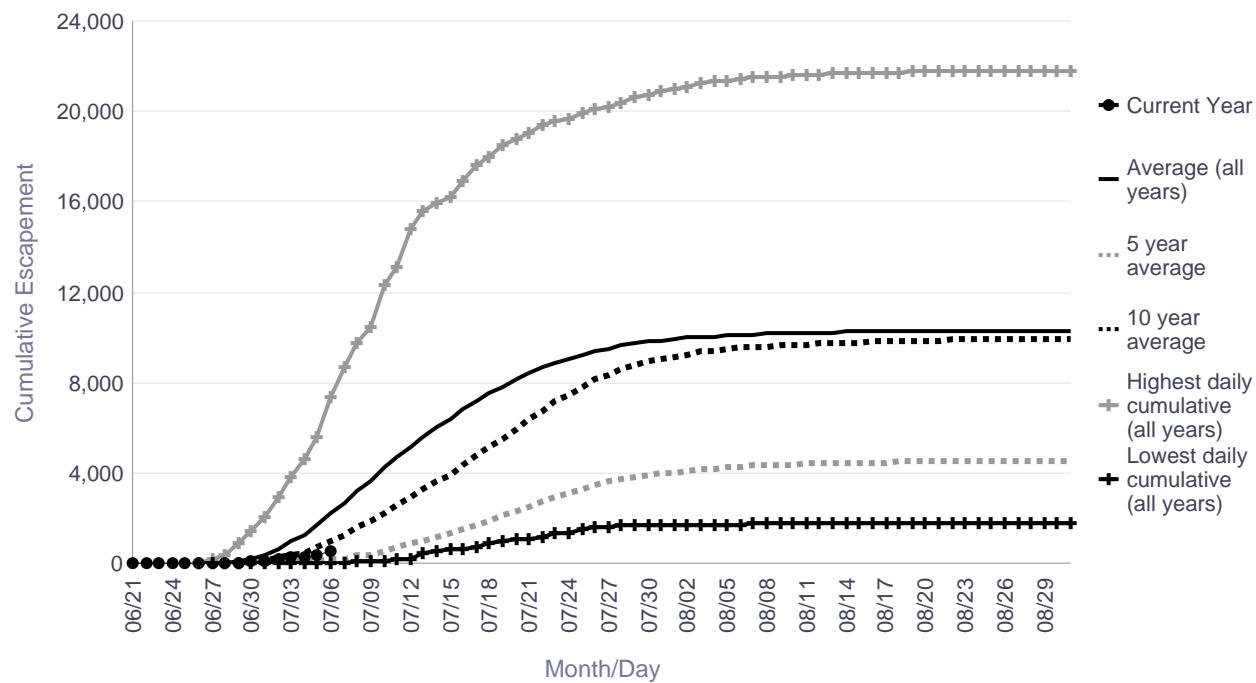
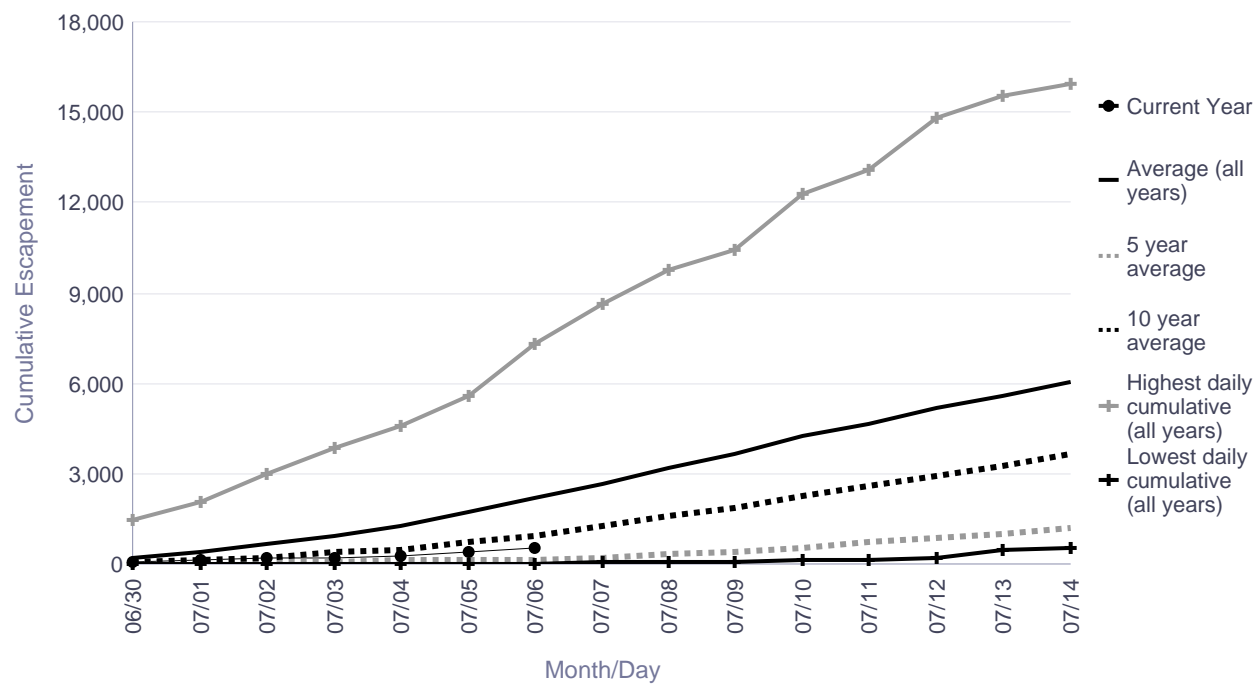
Informational Packet

Kogrukluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

Escapement Goal Range: 4,800 to 8,800

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/30	0	236	34	61	1,448	106
07/01	0	394	45	125	2,065	141
07/02	0	645	67	237	2,969	187
07/03	0	946	103	391	3,848	237
07/04	1	1,282	122	500	4,588	286
07/05	4	1,714	148	735	5,589	391
07/06	21	2,196	166	960	7,343	555
07/07	56	2,692	220	1,240	8,649	
07/08	83	3,181	335	1,584	9,782	
07/09	104	3,685	403	1,895	10,461	
07/10	116	4,225	517	2,249	12,287	
07/11	167	4,669	729	2,593	13,084	
07/12	191	5,178	892	2,923	14,798	
07/13	484	5,601	997	3,260	15,562	
07/14	574	6,044	1,202	3,635	15,937	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	1,819	10,316	4,524	9,925	21,819

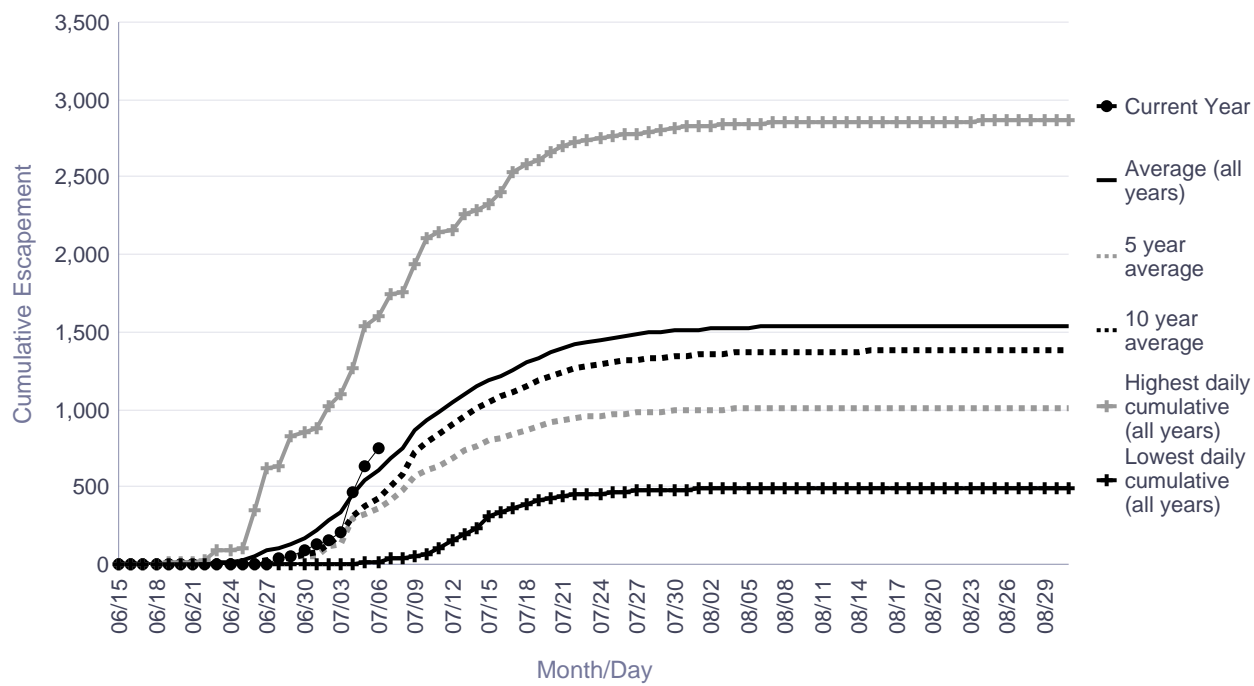
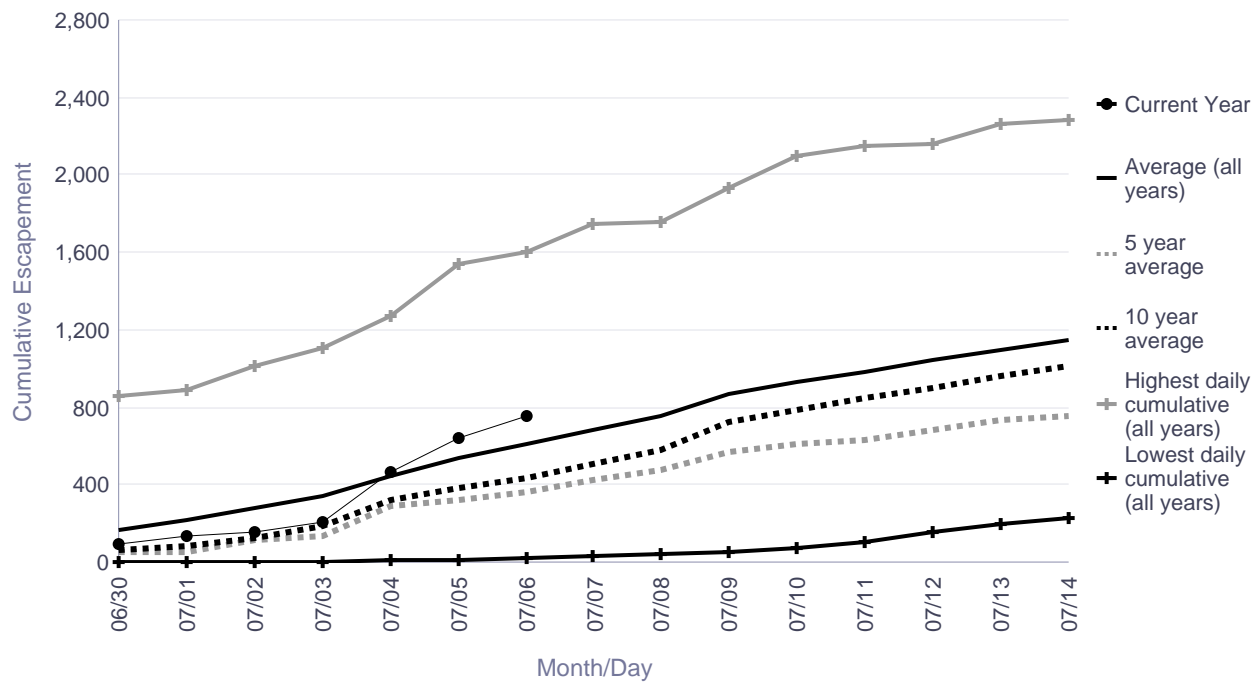


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Tatlawiksuk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chinook Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/30	2	164	53	67	858	92
07/01	2	223	56	82	886	131
07/02	3	280	120	128	1,017	155
07/03	4	342	138	192	1,103	208
07/04	7	450	296	318	1,268	469
07/05	12	540	322	379	1,538	640
07/06	21	611	362	432	1,602	756
07/07	35	688	421	504	1,747	
07/08	43	752	476	584	1,757	
07/09	54	870	570	723	1,937	
07/10	70	933	609	786	2,102	
07/11	109	986	636	845	2,145	
07/12	160	1,042	682	904	2,161	
07/13	195	1,100	738	958	2,259	
07/14	229	1,145	760	1,010	2,288	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	495	1,542	1,011	1,380	2,864

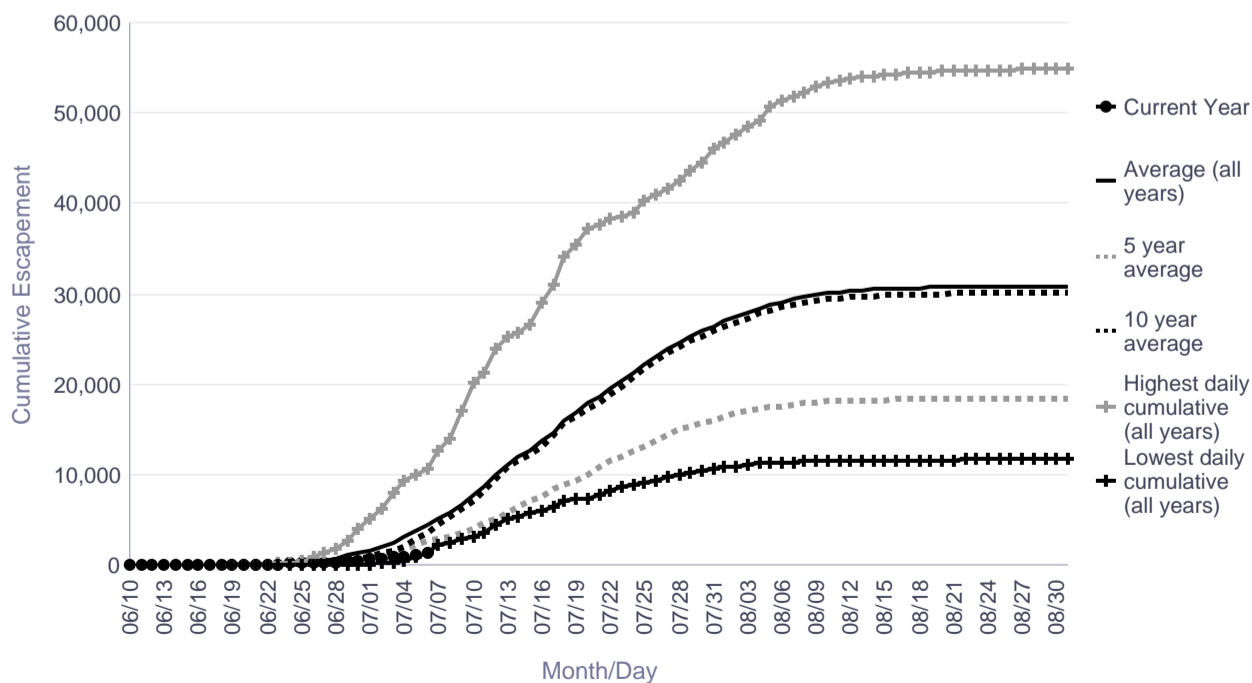
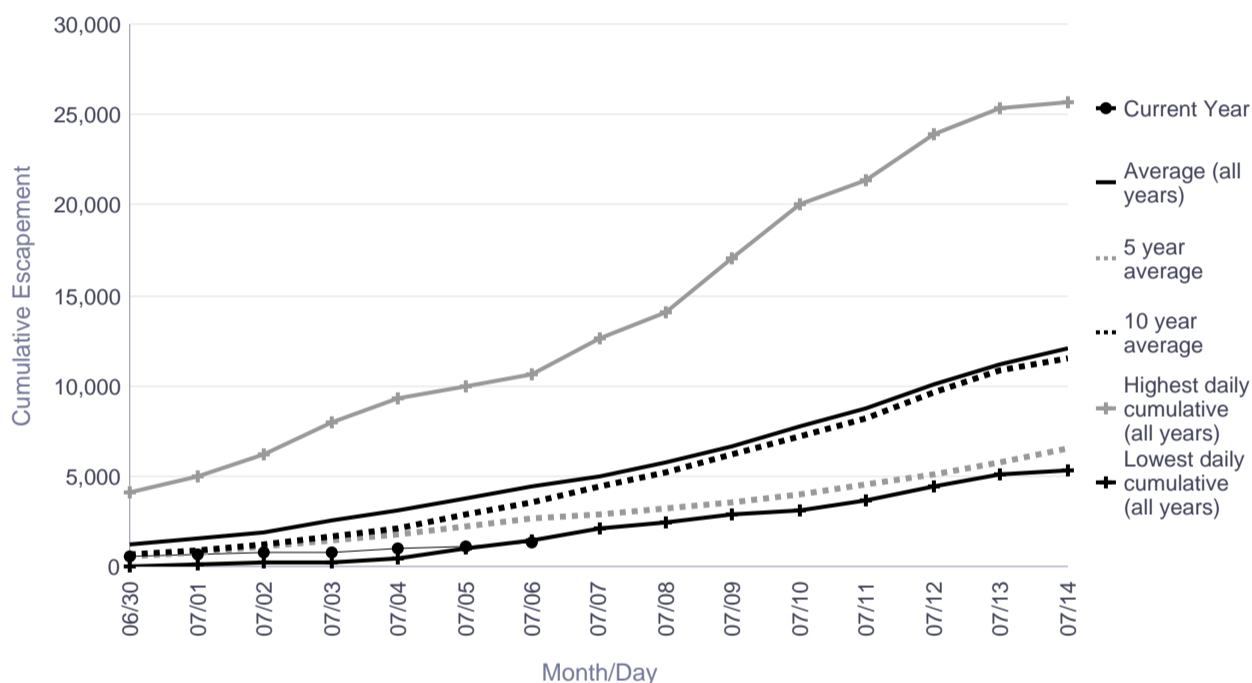


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Kwethluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/30	30	1,273	524	729	4,106	566
07/01	97	1,540	774	953	5,035	683
07/02	200	1,951	1,095	1,265	6,203	751
07/03	289	2,538	1,438	1,656	8,014	821
07/04	475	3,093	1,790	2,129	9,260	1,005
07/05	1,014	3,726	2,225	2,871	9,965	1,094
07/06	1,419	4,400	2,639	3,572	10,653	1,293
07/07	2,160	5,051	2,874	4,406	12,646	
07/08	2,487	5,795	3,245	5,266	14,065	
07/09	2,910	6,671	3,578	6,190	17,038	
07/10	3,089	7,725	4,054	7,194	20,074	
07/11	3,626	8,755	4,598	8,229	21,339	
07/12	4,482	10,076	5,149	9,644	23,940	
07/13	5,062	11,208	5,744	10,806	25,299	
07/14	5,305	12,058	6,525	11,542	25,719	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	11,691	30,588	18,508	29,804	54,913

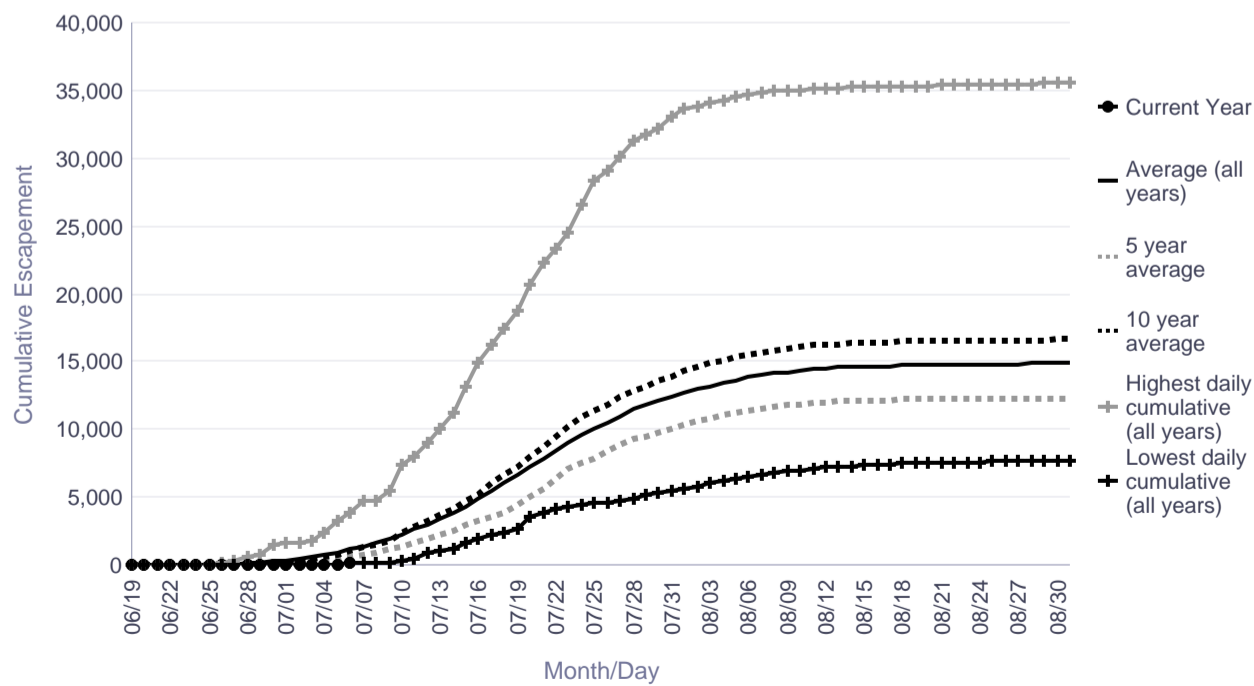
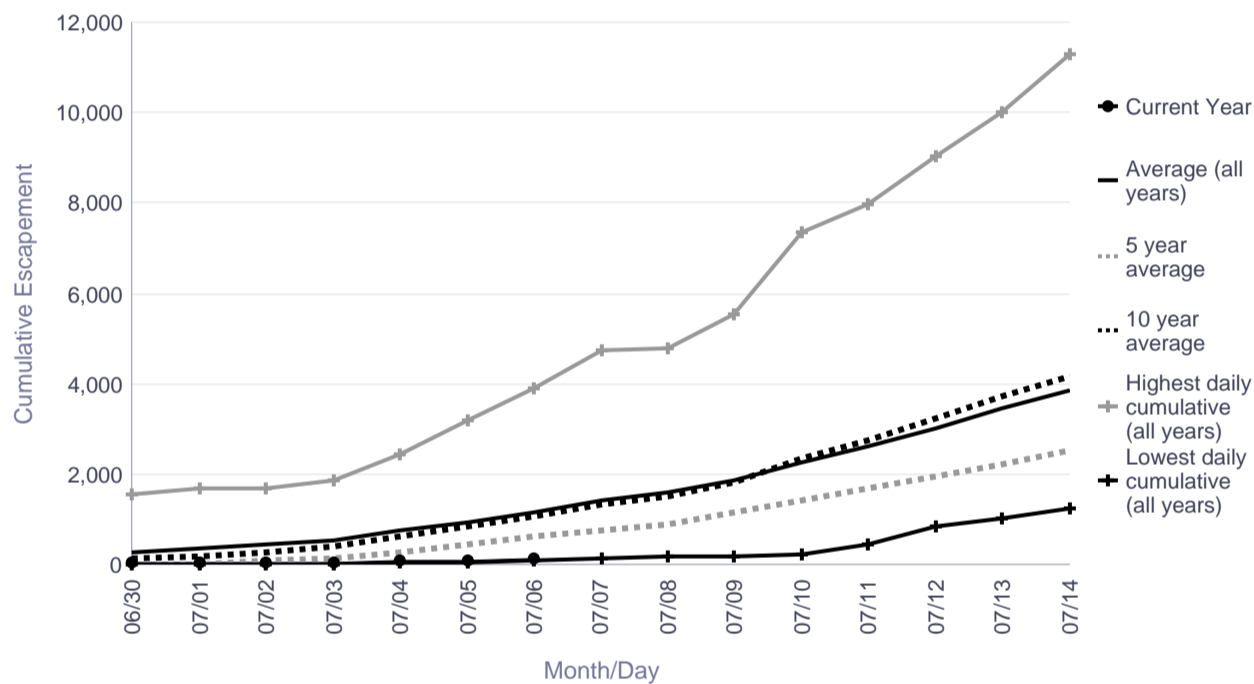


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Tuluksak River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/30	1	273	7	148	1,568	34
07/01	2	357	27	206	1,706	50
07/02	3	431	80	275	1,707	66
07/03	11	549	159	395	1,859	73
07/04	35	749	287	607	2,443	87
07/05	44	958	446	834	3,201	97
07/06	101	1,163	648	1,077	3,881	138
07/07	160	1,403	756	1,319	4,735	
07/08	169	1,608	885	1,510	4,802	
07/09	176	1,870	1,157	1,826	5,535	
07/10	249	2,244	1,413	2,357	7,346	
07/11	460	2,623	1,667	2,766	7,974	
07/12	857	3,022	1,938	3,235	9,021	
07/13	1,013	3,466	2,218	3,742	10,003	
07/14	1,256	3,866	2,526	4,149	11,302	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	7,675	14,608	12,204	16,492	35,696

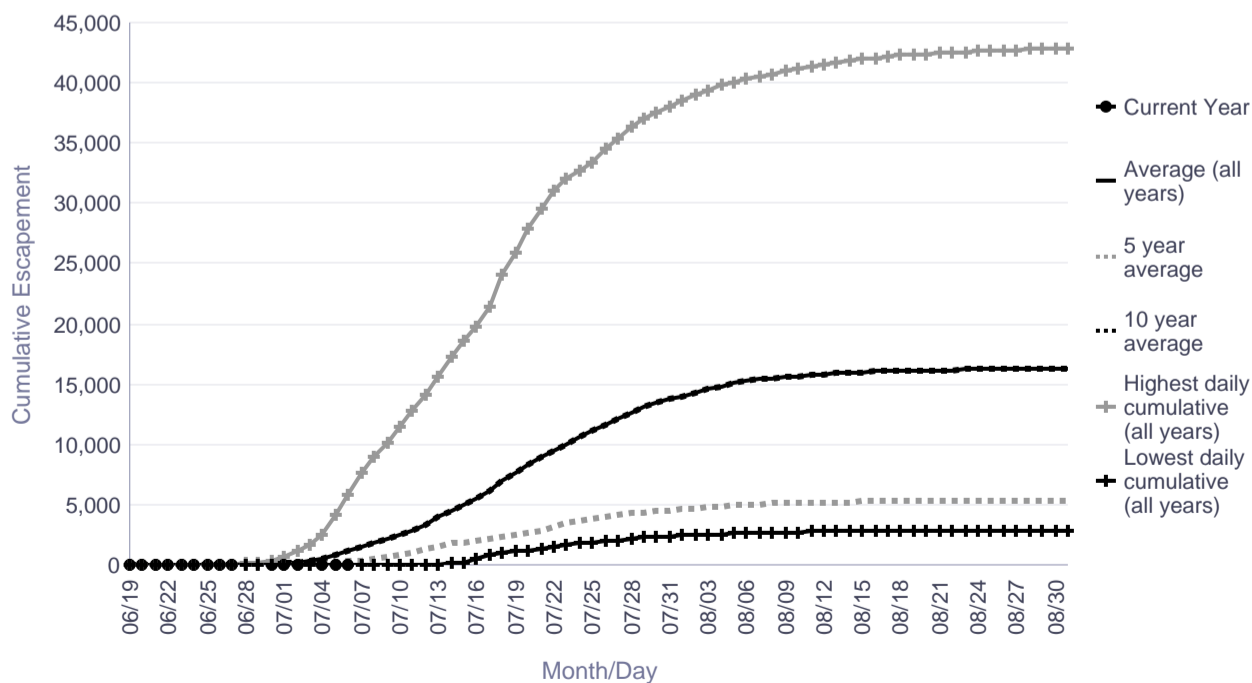
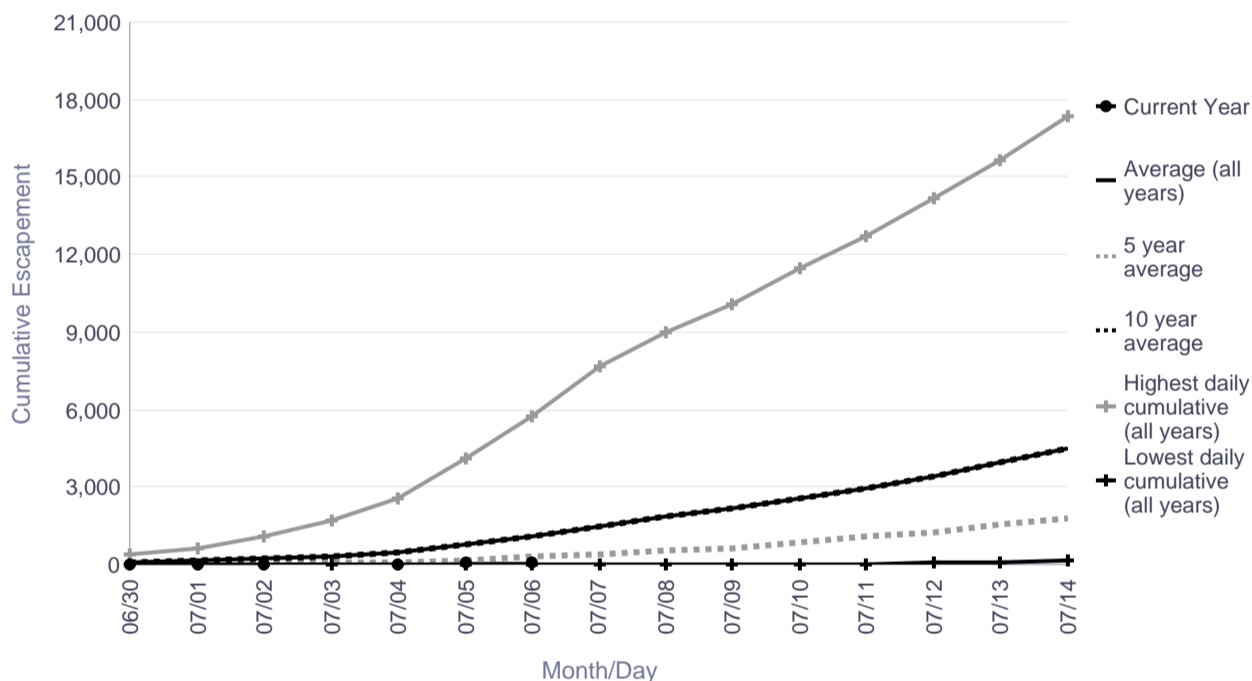


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Salmon River (Aniak) Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/30	0	77	27	77	369	10
07/01	0	134	51	134	647	21
07/02	0	221	71	221	1,112	35
07/03	0	344	90	344	1,748	
07/04	0	495	117	495	2,554	43
07/05	0	803	206	803	4,117	69
07/06	0	1,134	295	1,134	5,758	82
07/07	1	1,521	387	1,521	7,644	
07/08	3	1,841	519	1,841	9,007	
07/09	8	2,171	665	2,171	10,097	
07/10	17	2,560	862	2,560	11,488	
07/11	32	2,925	1,078	2,925	12,734	
07/12	57	3,418	1,291	3,418	14,188	
07/13	95	3,981	1,582	3,981	15,654	
07/14	195	4,534	1,776	4,534	17,358	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	2,890	16,272	5,307	16,272	42,825

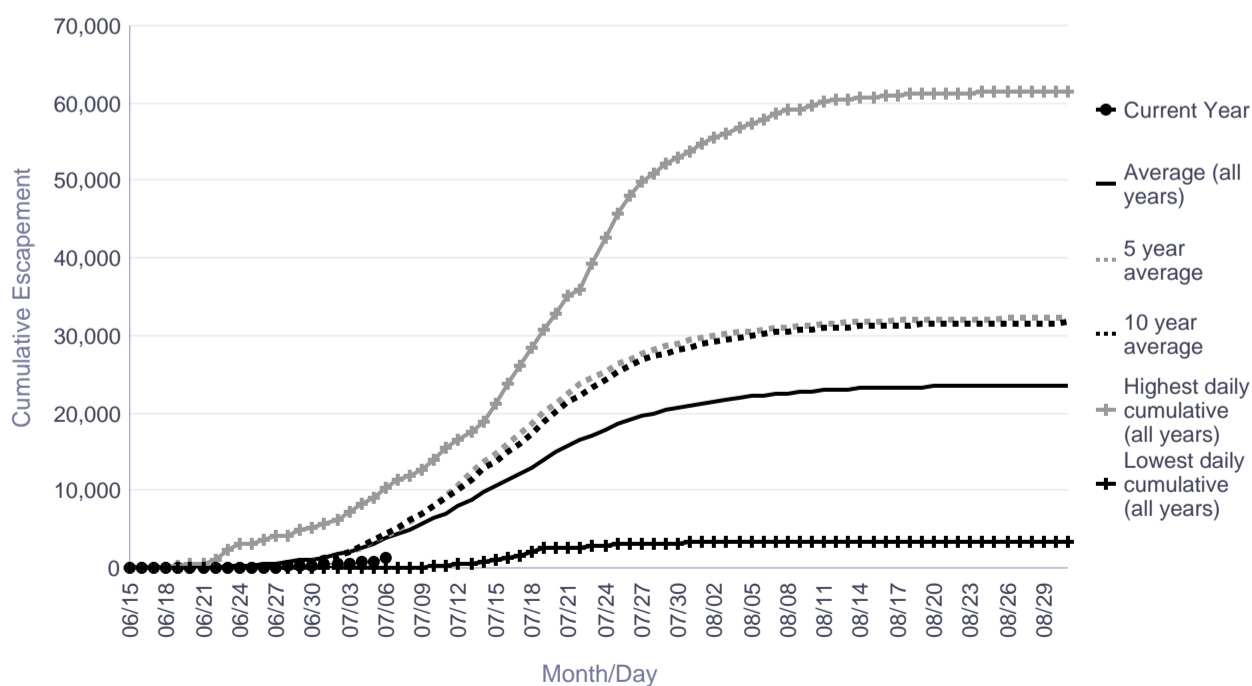
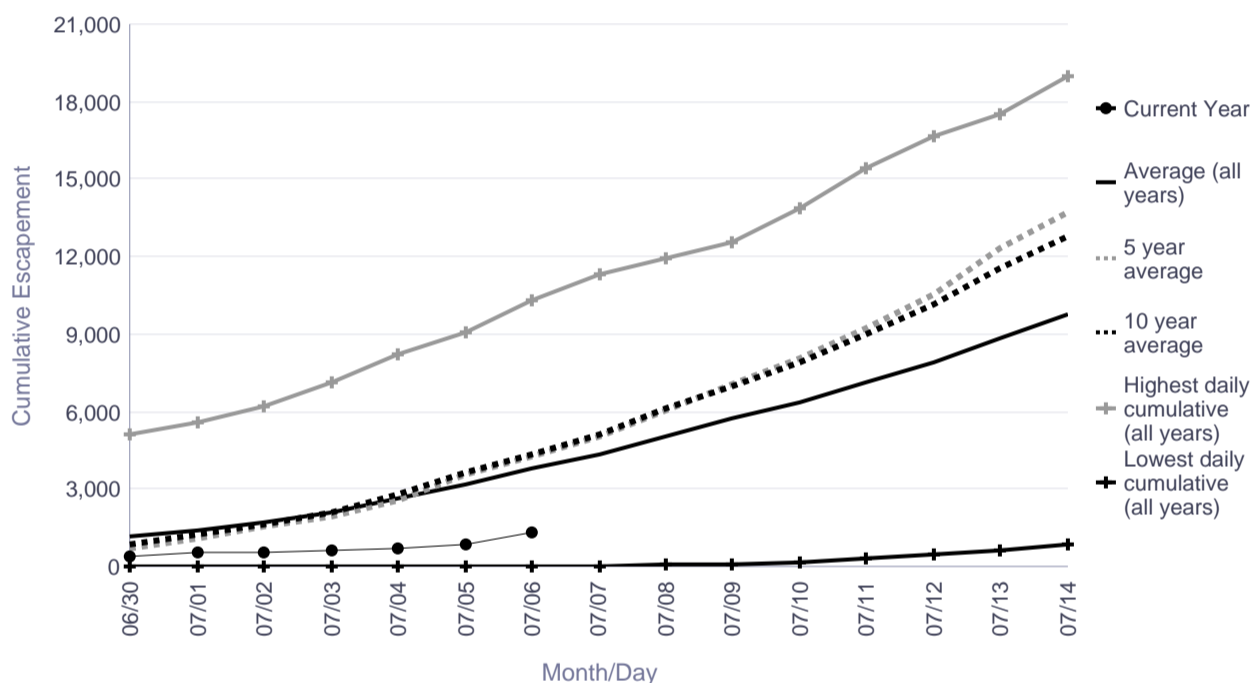


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George River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/30	0	1,155	693	862	5,097	392
07/01	0	1,426	1,069	1,226	5,595	530
07/02	0	1,743	1,533	1,641	6,204	578
07/03	1	2,139	1,980	2,112	7,165	620
07/04	3	2,633	2,602	2,781	8,239	730
07/05	7	3,198	3,542	3,617	9,060	879
07/06	16	3,790	4,262	4,382	10,334	1,320
07/07	33	4,364	5,031	5,089	11,293	
07/08	62	5,076	6,084	6,124	11,972	
07/09	111	5,743	7,025	7,008	12,590	
07/10	186	6,376	8,037	7,940	13,890	
07/11	296	7,100	9,208	8,976	15,426	
07/12	447	7,932	10,560	10,193	16,624	
07/13	646	8,863	12,325	11,515	17,482	
07/14	828	9,808	13,740	12,821	18,971	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	3,507	23,671	32,252	31,729	61,531



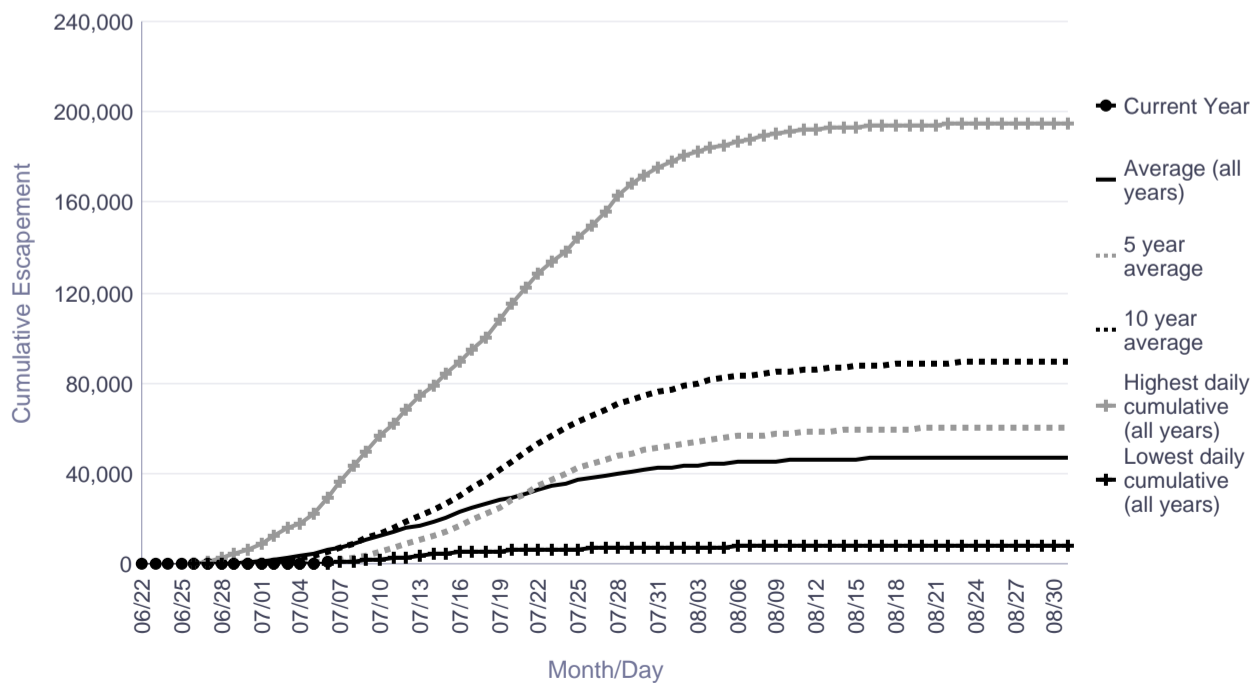
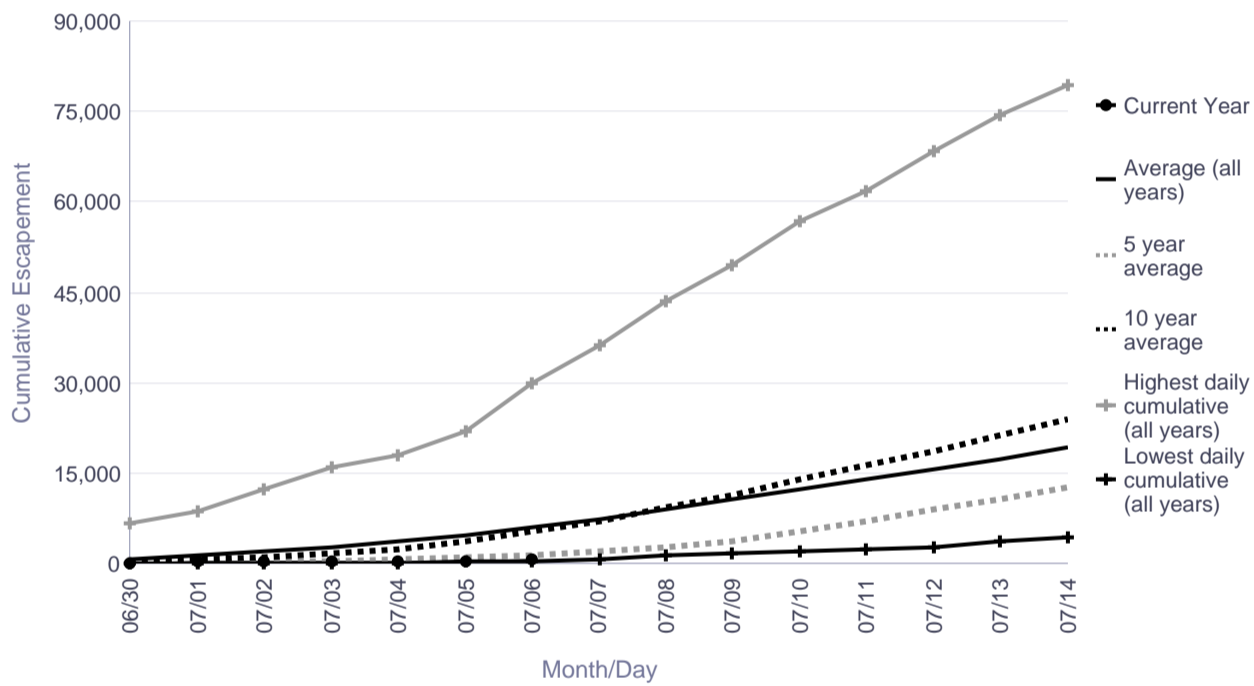
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Kogrukluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

Escapement Goal Range: 15,000 to 49,000

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/30	0	862	122	420	6,766	185
07/01	0	1,301	192	741	8,821	225
07/02	1	1,944	287	1,126	12,310	259
07/03	4	2,728	399	1,641	15,917	318
07/04	124	3,627	580	2,437	18,024	374
07/05	234	4,810	958	3,744	22,060	450
07/06	405	6,139	1,464	5,483	29,780	615
07/07	783	7,488	2,040	7,165	36,192	
07/08	1,233	9,001	2,747	9,225	43,627	
07/09	1,598	10,579	3,840	11,400	49,581	
07/10	1,937	12,313	5,319	13,846	56,718	
07/11	2,388	13,983	7,128	16,206	61,725	
07/12	2,760	15,696	9,015	18,725	68,339	
07/13	3,636	17,375	10,747	21,208	74,233	
07/14	4,300	19,157	12,513	23,990	79,261	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	7,975	47,231	60,622	89,507	194,887

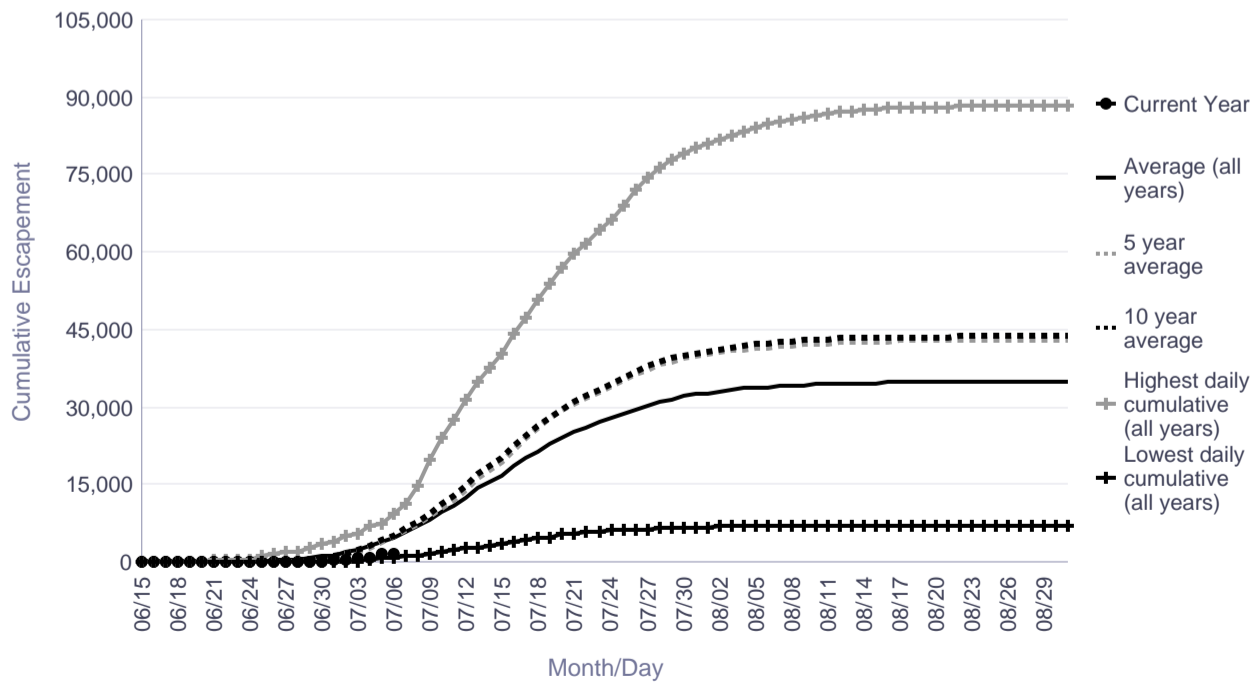
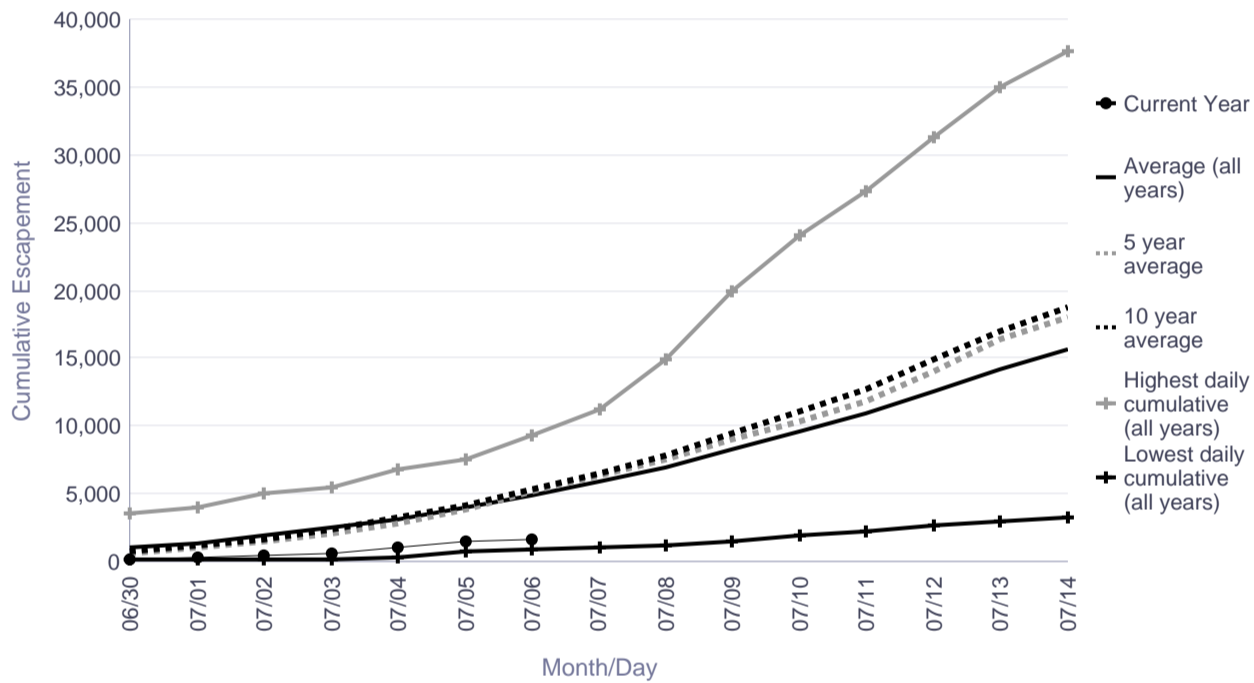


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Tatlawiksuk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Chum Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/30	132	1,054	639	814	3,535	244
07/01	165	1,388	1,014	1,156	3,959	350
07/02	221	1,898	1,569	1,675	4,996	458
07/03	226	2,490	2,114	2,393	5,497	650
07/04	276	3,190	2,822	3,273	6,851	1,032
07/05	742	3,953	3,804	4,151	7,534	1,430
07/06	849	4,890	5,118	5,265	9,296	1,709
07/07	1,054	5,894	6,368	6,513	11,183	
07/08	1,212	6,911	7,513	7,774	14,915	
07/09	1,536	8,308	8,985	9,517	19,984	
07/10	1,927	9,622	10,402	11,139	24,018	
07/11	2,247	10,913	11,874	12,779	27,384	
07/12	2,663	12,548	14,043	14,874	31,300	
07/13	2,943	14,194	16,364	17,012	34,932	
07/14	3,304	15,585	18,052	18,782	37,592	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	7,076	34,909	43,042	43,718	88,202

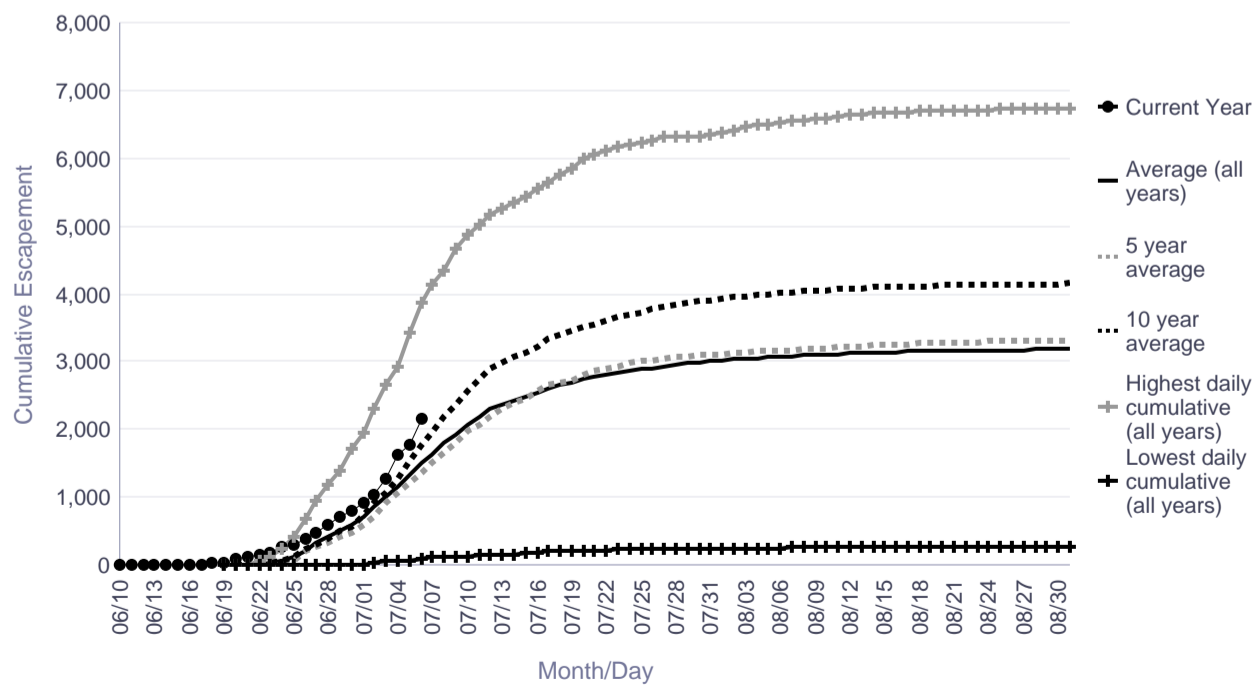
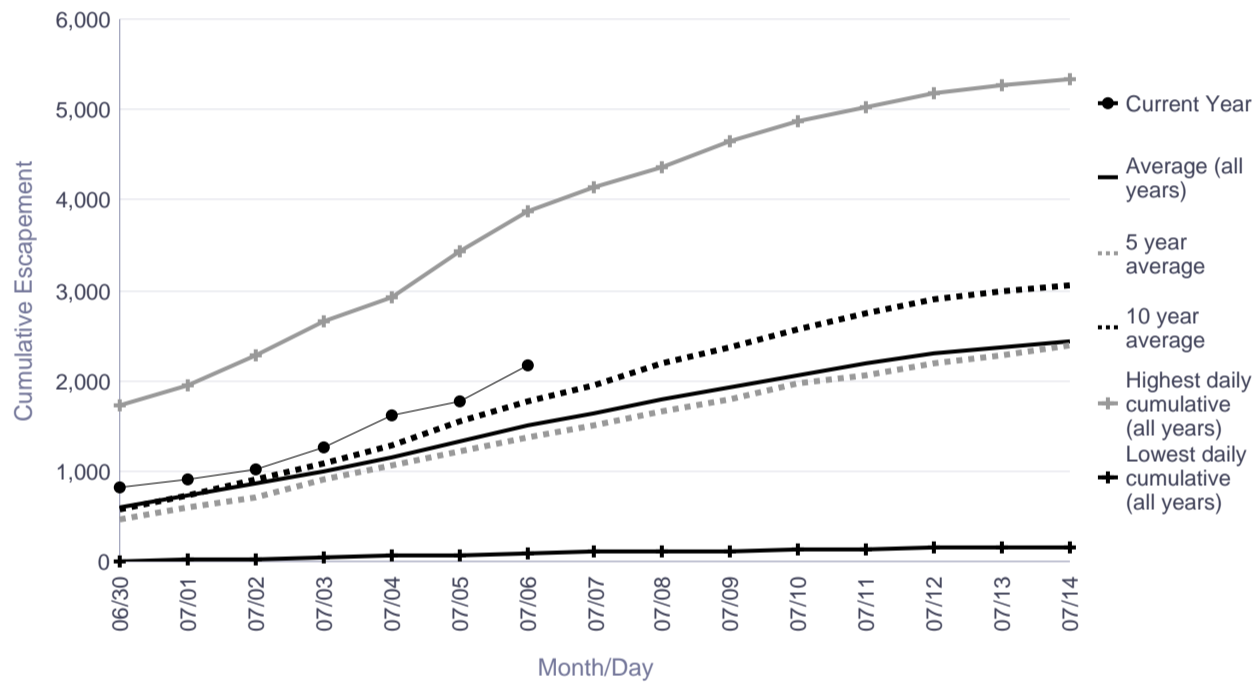


Informational Packet

Kwethluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Sockeye Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/30	7	604	475	578	1,724	816
07/01	16	723	594	728	1,946	906
07/02	37	869	712	906	2,293	1,030
07/03	59	1,007	916	1,081	2,667	1,263
07/04	70	1,156	1,065	1,285	2,913	1,616
07/05	77	1,335	1,212	1,551	3,424	1,774
07/06	99	1,498	1,373	1,765	3,867	2,168
07/07	109	1,631	1,501	1,948	4,145	
07/08	113	1,791	1,670	2,187	4,356	
07/09	115	1,934	1,806	2,379	4,651	
07/10	134	2,071	1,972	2,575	4,879	
07/11	145	2,186	2,064	2,740	5,027	
07/12	154	2,303	2,187	2,907	5,176	
07/13	157	2,373	2,291	2,998	5,267	
07/14	163	2,427	2,383	3,063	5,337	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	272	3,069	3,327	4,036	6,733

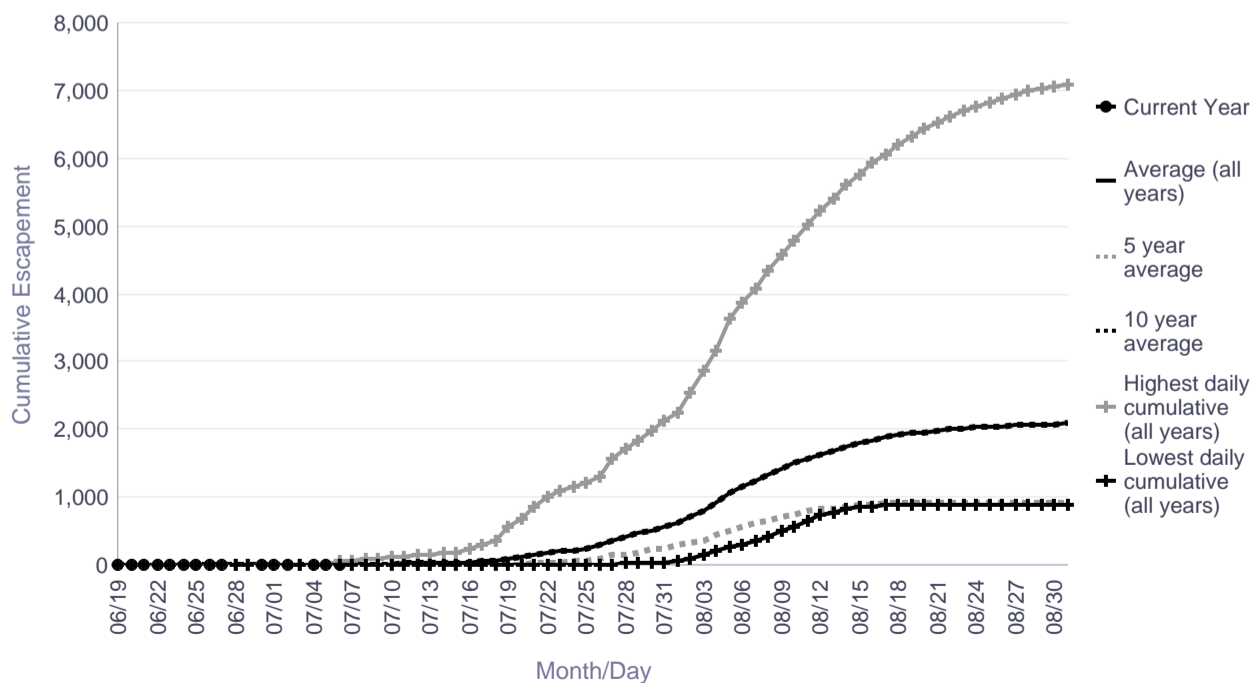
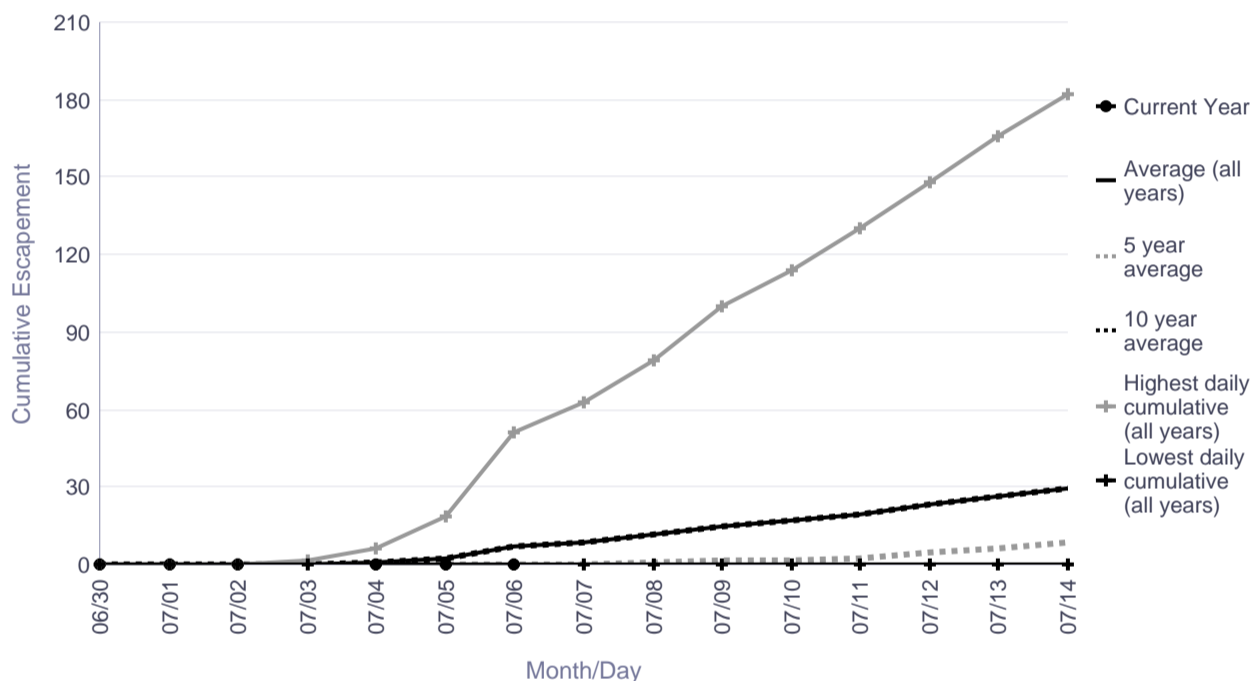


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Salmon River (Aniak) Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Sockeye Salmon

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/30	0	0	0	0	0	0
07/01	0	0	0	0	0	0
07/02	0	0	0	0	0	0
07/03	0	0	0	0	0	2
07/04	0	1	0	1	6	0
07/05	0	3	0	3	19	0
07/06	0	7	0	7	51	0
07/07	0	9	0	9	63	0
07/08	0	12	1	12	79	0
07/09	0	15	2	15	100	0
07/10	0	17	2	17	114	0
07/11	0	20	3	20	130	0
07/12	0	23	5	23	148	0
07/13	0	26	6	26	166	0
07/14	0	30	8	30	182	0

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	894	2,087	928	2,087	7,086

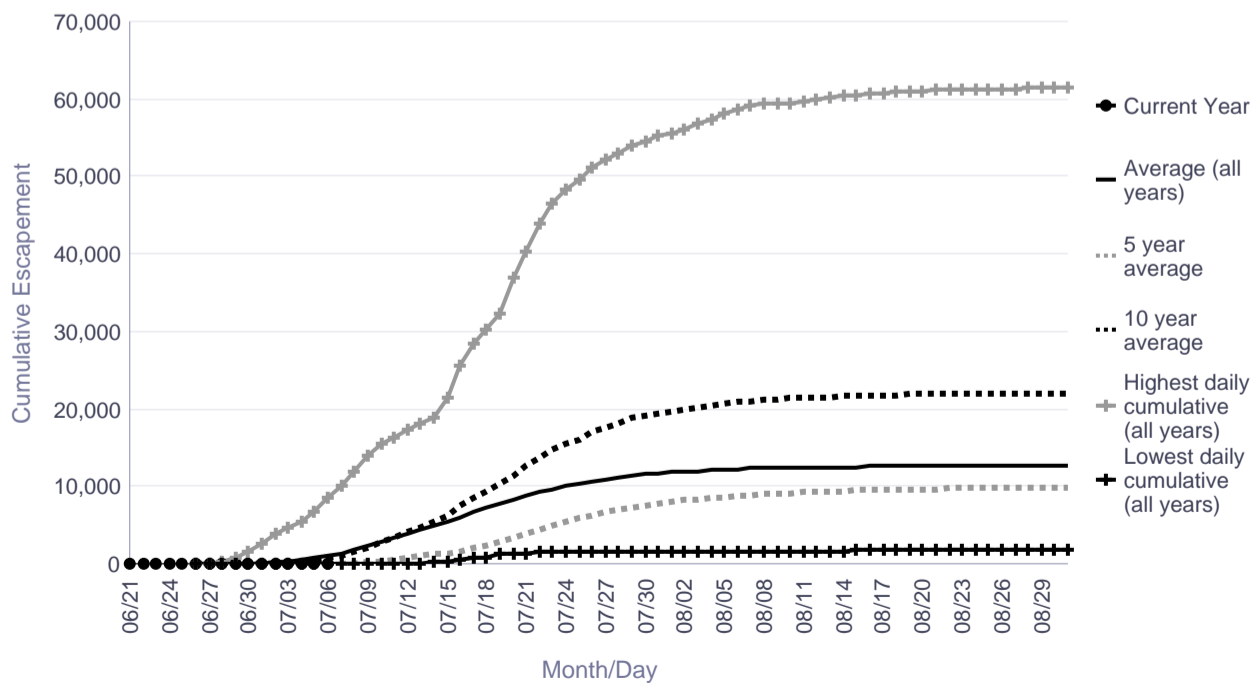
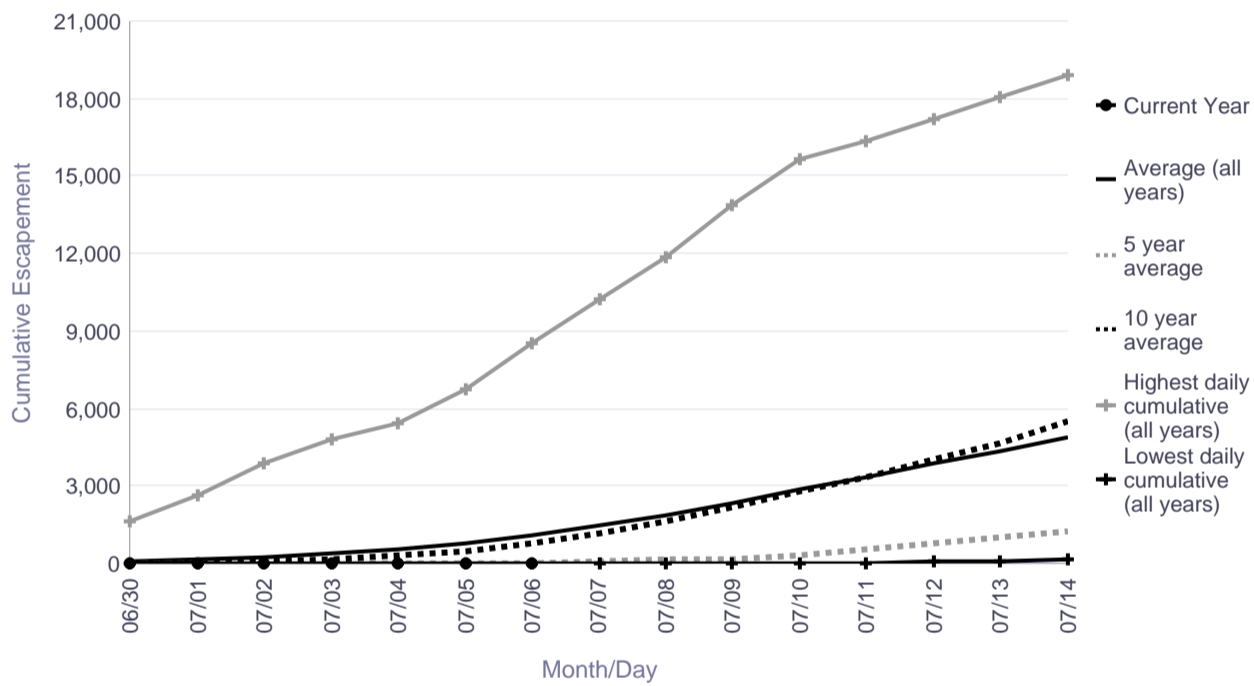


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Kogrukluk River Salmon Monitoring Project Cumulative Daily Passage of Sockeye Salmon Escapement Goal Range: 4,400 to 17,000

Date	Lowest daily cumulative (all years)	Average (all years)	5 year average	10 year average	Highest daily cumulative (all years)	Current Year
06/30	0	78	1	11	1,637	1
07/01	0	146	3	34	2,611	1
07/02	0	256	6	74	3,863	1
07/03	0	398	8	139	4,803	4
07/04	0	570	14	291	5,427	4
07/05	0	797	30	489	6,736	5
07/06	0	1,114	36	809	8,498	8
07/07	8	1,447	61	1,143	10,227	
07/08	14	1,877	133	1,659	11,866	
07/09	16	2,357	205	2,165	13,891	
07/10	22	2,870	355	2,777	15,641	
07/11	37	3,339	587	3,347	16,389	
07/12	66	3,853	802	4,050	17,219	
07/13	118	4,341	1,018	4,677	18,040	
07/14	203	4,895	1,251	5,477	18,884	

	Lowest Count	Average Count	5 Year Average	10 Year Average	Highest Count
Season Total	1,732	12,652	9,834	22,024	61,382



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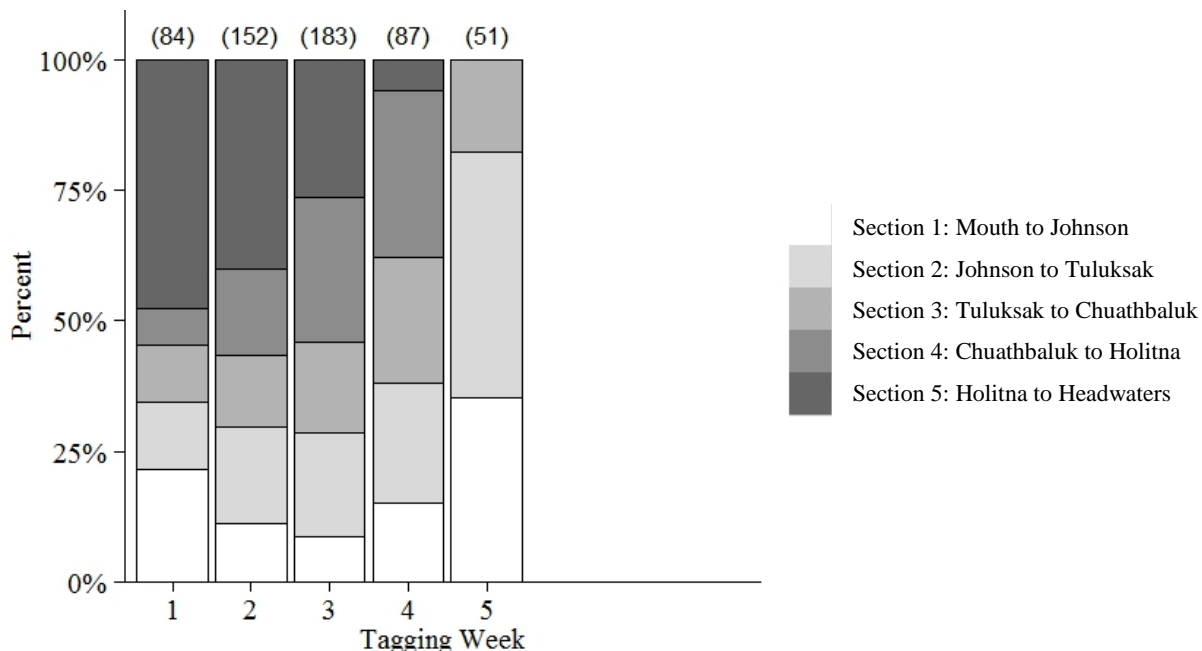
Lower River Chinook Tagging

Tag Week	Date	Captured	Tagged	Chum	Sockeye	Notes
1	6/1	2	2 (2)	0	0	
1	6/2	1	1 (1)	0	0	
1	6/3	11	11 (11)	0	0	
1	6/4	3	3 (2)	0	0	Half Effort
1	6/5	21	20 (20)	0	0	
1	6/6	16	16 (16)	0	0	
1	6/7	29	29 (29)	0	0	
2	6/8	15	15 (15)	0	0	Half Effort
2	6/9	29	29 (29)	0	0	
2	6/10	29	28 (28)	0	0	Half Effort
2	6/11	31	31 (20)	1	0	Half Effort
2	6/12	31	30 (19)	0	0	
2	6/13	35	34 (20)	0	0	
2	6/14	54	54 (21)	2	2	
3	6/15	36	36 (35)	1	1	Half Effort
3	6/16	48	47 (40)	0	0	
3	6/17	60	60 (31)	4	0	
3	6/18	76	76 (18)	5	4	
3	6/19	12	12 (12)	1	0	Half Effort
3	6/20	61	61 (17)	2	3	
3	6/21	42	41 (30)	2	2	
4	6/22	23	23 (17)	0	0	Half Effort
4	6/23	26	26 (12)	8	0	
4	6/24	52	51 (14)	11	3	
4	6/25	45	45 (12)	7	1	
4	6/26	28	26 (11)	12	5	Half Effort
4	6/27	28	28 (10)	11	3	
4	6/28	43	41 (11)	4	3	
5	6/29	38	38 (9)	6	1	
5	6/30	33	32 (8)	12	3	Half Effort
5	7/1	35	35 (8)	4	4	
5	7/2	29	27 (6)	16	13	
5	7/3	7	7 (7)	1	2	Half Effort
5	7/4	25	22 (7)	8	4	
5	7/5	15	14 (6)	21	5	
6	7/6	16	16 (5)	25	2	
6	7/7					
	Total	1087	1069 (562)	164	61	

Note: Tagging operations began on June 1, 2015. Two crews fish both incoming tides daily. Half effort refers to days when only one crew fished. All fish received external tags. The number of Chinook salmon that received a radio tag is indicated in the parentheses. An additional 3 fish were tagged prior to June 1.

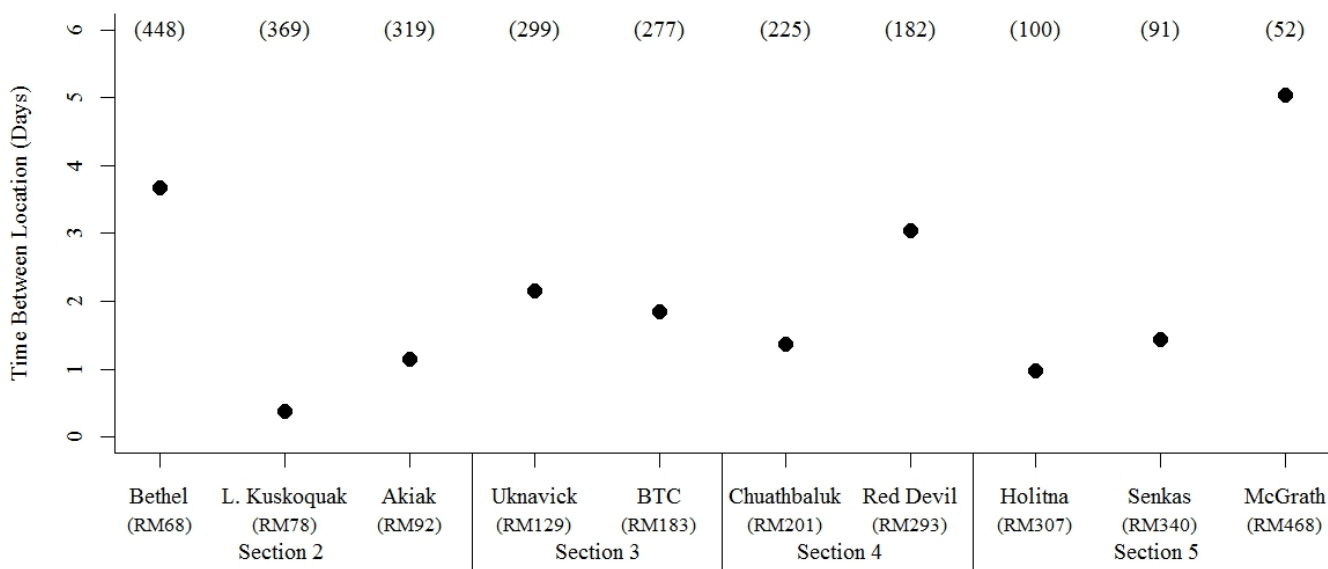
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Distribution of radiotagged Chinook salmon among the 5 Kuskokwim River conservation sections



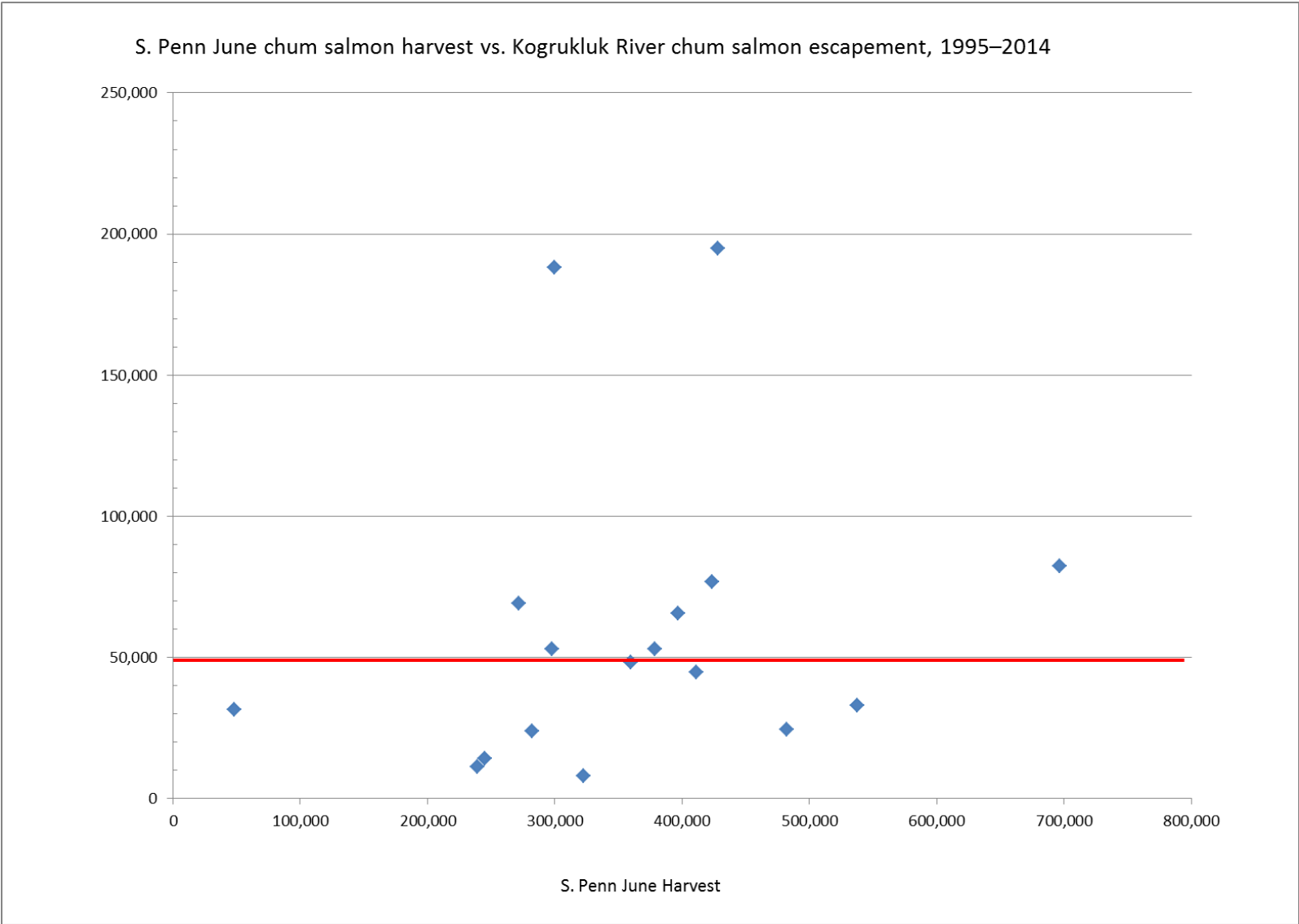
Note: Tagged fish are stratified by week and tracked separately in an attempt to monitor groups of fish migrating upriver. This figure represents our most complete understanding of where groups of tagged fish are currently. Comparing this figure to prior versions from earlier Working Group packets shows the movement of groups of fish over time. The number of radiotagged fish by week is shown in parentheses.

Average travel time between successive telemetry towers along the mainstem Kuskokwim River



Note: The number of radiotagged fish used to calculate the average shown in parentheses. This figure represents our most complete understanding of how many days it takes fish to travel among telemetry towers.

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2015 Inseason Salmon Assessment Update for the Kuskokwim Area #5

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) works cooperatively with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and various Tribal or community groups to monitor the health of Kuskokwim Area salmon stocks and provide data for inseason management.

ADF&G ensures that all assessment data are publicly available inseason. Detailed project summaries are prepared each week and presented to the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group. Management meetings are held each Wednesday at the ADF&G office in Bethel. Working Group meetings are open to the public, in person or via teleconference. Project summaries and associated meeting materials are available online by 5:00 PM Tuesday during the salmon season. In addition, select data are available daily by 10:00 AM.

Working Group Information

Packets: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.kswg>

Inseason Bethel Test Fish and Escapement Monitoring Data:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.salmon#fishcounts>

Assessment Overview

The 2015 Chinook salmon forecast is 96,000–163,000 fish. A run size within this range is well below the historical average of 240,000 fish. A run size near the lower end of the forecast range would be one of the lowest run sizes on record. As a result substantial fishing restrictions have been enacted to conserve Chinook salmon and provide for drainage-wide and tributary escapement goals. ADF&G has determined that a drainage-wide escapement of 65,000–120,000 Chinook salmon is needed to ensure the long-term health of Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon, sustain the subsistence fishery, and provide opportunity for other sources of harvest.

The Chinook salmon run is nearing completion in the lower portion of the Kuskokwim River and is progressing upriver. Aniak Test Fishery and telemetry tracking data indicate that the peak of the Chinook salmon run has likely passed the Aniak area and is beginning to show up throughout the headwaters. Telemetry tracking data confirm that Chinook salmon are entering spawning tributaries throughout the drainage. Chum and sockeye salmon abundance has exceeded Chinook salmon throughout much of the lower and middle portions of the Kuskokwim River, although the observed ratios are low for this time of year.

Mounting evidence suggests that the 2015 Chinook salmon run was early and weak. Inseason assessment data has only limited utility for estimating total run size; however, our best estimate is that the run will be near the lower bound of the forecasted range. As a result, continued conservation measures are warranted. It is too early to determine the effects of the conservation measures on drainage-wide escapement. Tributary escapement observations to date are mixed. In particular, escapement at Kwethluk River weir appears strong, while escapement at Kogruklu River weir appears weak.

The sockeye salmon run started out very slow in the Bethel Area, but abundance has increased considerably in the past week. The 2015 sockeye salmon run appears to be late and strong compared to

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prior years. Bethel Test Fishery indicates that the peak of the sockeye salmon run has passed the Bethel Area. Aniak Test Fishery indicates that the peak of the run has arrived in the middle river.

The chum salmon run continues to be of concern. Bethel Test Fishery indicates the 2015 chum run may be one of the lowest on record. Similarly, Aniak Test Fishery indicates low numbers of chum salmon in the middle river relative to other species. Chum salmon escapement at all monitoring locations are well below average. The likelihood of achieving the established escapement goal on the Kogrukluk River is uncertain. Conservation for chum salmon is warranted.

Chinook Salmon Tagging

ADF&G is tagging Chinook salmon downstream of Bethel near Fowler Island. The purpose of this study is to estimate the total number of Chinook salmon that return to the Kuskokwim River in 2015 and monitor the migration timing and speed of fish as they travel through the primary harvest areas towards their spawning grounds. Abundance estimation will be completed post season. Migration timing will be assessed inseason and preliminary results presented weekly.

As of July 6, ADF&G has caught 1,087 Chinook salmon of which 562 have been radiotagged. Peak daily catches ranging from 60–80 fish per day were observed at the tag site between June 17 and June 20. Since that time, daily catches have declined slowly to 15–20 Chinook salmon per day. Our best estimate is that 95%–99% of the Chinook salmon run has passed the tag site. We expect catches of Chinook salmon to decline over the coming days as the final few Chinook salmon pass through the Bethel area.

Radio tagged fish are being monitored as they migrate upriver using aerial surveys and tracking towers located between Bethel and McGrath. On average, tagged fish are swimming 21.7 miles per day, and fish tagged later in the season are swimming faster than fish that were tagged at the beginning of the run. Tagged fish continue to move upriver towards their spawning grounds. Approximately 64% of the tagged fish are upriver from Tuluksak, 47% are upriver from Chuathbaluk, and 28% are upriver from Sleetmute. Of the tagged fish located downriver of Tuluksak, 30% have been detected in the Kwethluk and Kisaralik Rivers combined. Tagged fish have begun to enter spawning tributaries in the middle and headwaters portions of the Kuskokwim River. However, the majority of tagged fish that have passed upriver of Tuluksak are still in the mainstem Kuskokwim River.

ADF&G is conducting a Salmon Tag Lottery. Tagged fish are identifiable by a brightly colored plastic tag attached to their back, and a metal antennae coming out of their mouth. *It is okay if you harvest one of these tagged fish.* If you do, please call 1-800-267-2104 and return the radio tag to the ADF&G office in Bethel. In appreciation, you will be entered into the monthly Lottery and eligible for a cash prize of \$200 and a seasonal cash prize of \$500. So far, 64 tagged fish have been reported harvested in the subsistence fishery – 11% of all tags deployed. Thank you to all who reported catching a tagged fish – you have been entered into the monthly lottery.

Bethel Test Fishery

Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) is the primary inseason run assessment tool for Kuskokwim River salmon and is operated the same way each year. The daily Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) is used to index run timing and relative abundance of Chinook, chum, sockeye, and coho salmon. These data have only limited utility

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for estimating total run size or escapement. *The 2015 data is not directly comparable to prior years due to subsistence fishing restrictions.* The Bethel Test Fishery continues to operate on schedule.

Chinook salmon cumulative CPUE as of July 6 is 504. The cumulative CPUE is below the 10-yr average for this date. The cumulative CPUE is above the recent 5-yr average; however, those years include some of the lowest run sizes on record. The historical mid-point of the Chinook salmon run is June 22. On average, 89% of the Chinook salmon run has passed Bethel as of July 6. It appears that the Chinook salmon run was early compared to past years, and our best estimate is that 94%–98% of the run has passed the test site. We expect BTF catches of Chinook salmon to decline over the coming days as the final few Chinook salmon pass through the Bethel area. Inseason projections suggest that the end of season CPUE for Chinook salmon will most likely be between 516 and 535, which corresponds to a below average run size, similar to what has been observed in recent years.

Bethel Test Fish observed a considerable increase in sockeye salmon catches over the past week. As of July 6, cumulative CPUE is 1,352, which is above the 5 and 10-yr averages for this date. The historical mid-point of the sockeye salmon run is June 28. On average, 85% of the sockeye salmon run has passed Bethel as of July 6. The 2015 run appears to be late compared to past years, and our best estimate is that 76%–86% of the run has passed the test site. There is considerable uncertainty in our inseason projections of season total CPUE; however, the 2015 sockeye salmon run is shaping up to be relatively strong.

The chum salmon run past the BTF site continues to be weak. Chum salmon cumulative CPUE as of July 6 is 1,041. The cumulative CPUE is the fifth lowest on record for this date and is well below the 5- and 10-yr averages. The historical mid-point of the chum salmon run is July 4. On average 58% of the chum salmon run has passed Bethel, as of July 6. We have begun to rule out the possibility of late run timing. The 2015 chum salmon run appears to be early and weak. Our best estimate is that 58%–76% of the run has passed the test site. Although there is uncertainty in our inseason projections of season total CPUE, the 2015 chum salmon run is shaping up to be one of the weakest on record.

Aniak Test Fishery

The Aniak Test Fishery is operated cooperatively by the Native Village of Napaimute and ADF&G. *The 2015 data is not directly comparable to CPUE observed at the Bethel Test Fishery.*

As of July 6, the Aniak Test Fishery has caught 317 Chinook salmon, 247 chum salmon, and 71 sockeye salmon. Cumulative CPUE is 2,585 Chinook salmon, 2,045 chum salmon, and 585 sockeye salmon. Over the past week, the Chinook salmon CPUE has remained relatively low and consistent; indicating the final third of the run is likely passing the Aniak area. Chum and sockeye salmon abundance continued to build over the past week. Beginning on July 3, the ratio of chum and sockeye salmon to Chinook salmon has averaged 8:1. The observed species ratios are low for this time of year based on past fishing efforts by ADF&G downriver from Aniak.

Kwethluk River Weir

The Kwethluk River weir is operated by USFWS and used to index salmon escapement to the lower Kuskokwim River tributaries. As of July 6, a total of 2,710 Chinook salmon, 1,293 chum salmon, and 2,168 sockeye salmon have been counted past the weir. On average, the mid-point of the escapement past the weir is July 8 for sockeye salmon, July 14 for Chinook salmon, and July 19 for chum salmon. It is too

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early to accurately project the end of season escapement for any species. However, the Chinook salmon escapement is shaping up to be much larger than in recent years and there is considerable evidence that the escapement goal could be achieved. Chum salmon escapement is well below the historical average for this date. Sockeye salmon escapement to date is the third largest on record for this location.

A sustainable escapement goal of 4,100–7,500 Chinook salmon has been established by ADF&G for this river. The escapement goal has not been achieved since 2009.

Tuluksak River Weir

The Tuluksak River weir is operated by USFWS. As of July 6, 50 Chinook salmon, 138 chum salmon, and 7 sockeye salmon have been counted past the weir. On average, the mid-point of the escapement past the weir is July 14 for Chinook salmon and July 21 for chum salmon.

No salmon escapement goals have been established by ADF&G for this river.

Salmon River (Aniak River) Weir

The Salmon River (Aniak) weir is operated by ADF&G and used to index salmon escapement to the Aniak River drainage. The weir was successfully installed on June 19. Over the past week, the project has been fully staffed and operational. As of July 6, a total of 126 Chinook salmon and 82 chum salmon have been counted past the weir. No sockeye salmon have been observed to date. On average, the mid-point of the escapement past the weir is July 21 for Chinook salmon, July 22 for chum salmon, and August 6 for sockeye salmon. It is too early to accurately project the end of season escapement for any species. Cumulative Chinook salmon escapement to date is similar to the average escapement for the 6 prior years of this project. Chum salmon escapement is the second lowest on record.

No weir-based salmon escapement goals have been established by ADF&G for this river.

George River Weir

The George River weir is operated by ADF&G and used to index salmon escapement to middle Kuskokwim River tributaries. The weir was successfully installed on June 15. As of July 6, a total of 959 Chinook salmon and 1,309 chum salmon have been counted past the weir. On average, the mid-point of the escapement past the weir is July 9 for Chinook salmon and July 16 for chum salmon. It is too early to accurately project the end of season escapement for any species. Chinook salmon escapement to date is below the historical average for this location. At this point, Chinook salmon escapement relative to the established goal is uncertain. Chum salmon escapement to date is well below the historical average, and is the fifth lowest escapement on record at this location.

A sustainable escapement goal of 1,800–3,300 Chinook salmon has been established by ADF&G for this river. The escapement goal was achieved in 2014.

Tatlawiksuk River Weir

The Tatlawiksuk River weir is operated by ADF&G and used to index salmon escapement to middle Kuskokwim River tributaries. The weir was successfully installed on June 13. As of July 6, a total of 756 Chinook salmon and 1,709 chum salmon have been counted past the weir. On average, the mid-point of

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the escapement past the weir is July 10 for Chinook salmon and July 16 for chum salmon. It is too early to accurately project the end of season escapement for either species. Chinook salmon escapement to date is near average for this location. Chum salmon escapement is well below average, and is the fifth lowest on record for this location.

No salmon escapement goals have been established by ADF&G for this river.

Kogrukluk River Weir

The Kogrukluk River weir is operated by ADF&G and used to index salmon escapement to the Holitna River drainage. The weir was successfully installed on June 21. As of July 6, a total of 555 Chinook salmon, 615 chum salmon, and 8 sockeye salmon were counted past the weir. On average, the mid-point of the escapement past the weir is July 13 for Chinook salmon, July 15 for chum salmon, and July 16 for sockeye salmon. It is too early to accurately project the end of season escapement for any species. Chinook salmon escapement to date is well below the historical average for this location, and there is considerable evidence that the end of season escapement could be below the established goal. Chum salmon escapement is well below average and is the fifth lowest on record for this location. Sockeye salmon escapement is well below average, but within the range of observations for years with average to late run timing.

Sustainable escapement goals have been established by ADF&G for Chinook salmon (4,800–8,800), chum salmon (15,000–49,000), sockeye salmon (4,400–17,000), and coho salmon (13,000–28,000). Goals were achieved for all species except Chinook salmon in 2014.

Telaquana Lake Weir

The Telaquana Lake weir is operated cooperatively by ADF&G and National Park Service. The weir is used to index escapement for lake-spawning sockeye salmon. Staff arrived on site to install the weir on June 18, but was evacuated due to numerous wildfires in the area. Staff will be redeployed to the lake on July 8 to resume installation of the weir. We hope to begin counting fish by July 10. In prior years, the weir was operational by July 3. On average <1% of the escapement would have passed by July 6.

Salmon River (Pitka Fork) Weir

The Salmon River (Pitka Fork) weir is operated by ADF&G and MTNT (McGrath, Takotna, Nikolai, Telida) and used to index Chinook salmon escapement to the headwaters upriver from McGrath. The weir was successfully installed on June 1. The very early installation date was in response to local area residents who reported seeing Chinook salmon historically in early June. The first Chinook salmon passed the weir on June 27. Chinook salmon escapement has increased considerably over the past week with a peak passage of 520 fish in one day. As of July 6, a total of 1,157 Chinook salmon have passed the weir. No other salmon species have been counted. This is the first year that this weir has operated since 1981, and no comparable data exists at this time.

Kuskokwim Bay Weirs

The Kanektok and Goodnews River weirs are operated by ADF&G and used to index escapement to Districts 4 and 5, respectively, in Kuskokwim Bay. The Kanektok River weir has been in operation since

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June 22. As of July 6, total passage through the weir is 793 Chinook, 10,338 sockeye, and 1,114 chum salmon. Chinook salmon escapements are above average for this date, while the escapement of sockeye and chum salmon are below average. The Middle Fork Goodnews River weir has been in operation since June 25. As of July 6, total passage through the weir is 265 Chinook, 11,952 sockeye, and 601 chum salmon. Chinook, sockeye and chum salmon passage is below average.

Inseason Subsistence Harvest Monitoring

Orutsarmiut Native Council (ONC) in coordination with ADF&G collect subsistence fishing reports from Bethel area fish camps in an attempt to understand salmon harvest timing and success. ONC staff visit area fish camps each week during the salmon season, share fisheries updates, and answer questions about research and management. In addition, this project provides an opportunity for subsistence fishermen to share information and feedback with managers. Project updates will be provided every Wednesday by ONC to the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group.

Lower Kuskokwim River Chinook Age, Sex, Length Sampling

Since 2001, ADF&G and ONC have partnered to recruit lower river residents to sample age, sex, and length (ASL) from Chinook salmon harvested for subsistence. Sampling is easy, you get paid for your time, all information is confidential, and you get to keep your fish. All lower river communities have been notified of this sampling opportunity by phone, mail, and Delta Discovery newspaper. The first sampling workshop was held in Bethel on June 6 and another on June 9. If you would like to participate in this program, contact Zachary Liller with ADF&G (907)-717-3419 or Dustin Wagner with ONC (907)-543-0523.

Kuskokwim River Sonar Feasibility

ADF&G is assessing the feasibility of operating sonar on the mainstem Kuskokwim River to count the total number of salmon by species. If the project proves viable, it could provide daily counts of salmon and greatly strengthen inseason management capabilities. The feasibility efforts began in 2014 and are continuing in 2015.

Two potential sonar sites have been identified. One is located near the upper confluence of the Kuskokwim River and Church Slough and the other is located downriver from the community of Akiak. Staff has completed 1–2 weeks of feasibility work at the both sites – including testing sonar equipment and drift gillnet fishing. All fish harvested were donated to the communities of Kwethluk and Akiak. Over the next week staff will review data collected to date and consider if additional data collection is needed this season.