

Fishery Data Series No. 15-46

**Chinook Salmon Creel Survey and Inriver Gillnetting
Study, Lower Kenai River, Alaska, 2013**

by

Jeff Perschbacher

January 2016

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



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Weights and measures (metric)		General		Mathematics, statistics	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code	AAC	<i>all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations</i>	
deciliter	dL	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	alternate hypothesis	H_A
gram	g			base of natural logarithm	e
hectare	ha			catch per unit effort	CPUE
kilogram	kg	all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	coefficient of variation	CV
kilometer	km			common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)
liter	L	at	@	confidence interval	CI
meter	m	compass directions:		correlation coefficient	
milliliter	mL	east	E	(multiple)	R
millimeter	mm	north	N	correlation coefficient	
		south	S	(simple)	r
Weights and measures (English)		west	W	covariance	cov
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	copyright	©	degree (angular)	°
foot	ft	corporate suffixes:		degrees of freedom	df
gallon	gal	Company	Co.	expected value	E
inch	in	Corporation	Corp.	greater than	>
mile	mi	Incorporated	Inc.	greater than or equal to	≥
nautical mile	nmi	Limited	Ltd.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
ounce	oz	District of Columbia	D.C.	less than	<
pound	lb	et alii (and others)	et al.	less than or equal to	≤
quart	qt	et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	logarithm (natural)	ln
yard	yd	exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.	logarithm (base 10)	log
		Federal Information Code	FIC	logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ , etc.
		id est (that is)	i.e.	minute (angular)	'
Time and temperature		latitude or longitude	lat or long	not significant	NS
day	d	monetary symbols (U.S.)	\$, ¢	null hypothesis	H_0
degrees Celsius	°C	months (tables and figures): first three letters	Jan, ..., Dec	percent	%
degrees Fahrenheit	°F	registered trademark	®	probability	P
degrees kelvin	K	trademark	™	probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
hour	h	United States (adjective)	U.S.	probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
minute	min	United States of America (noun)	USA	second (angular)	"
second	s	U.S.C.	United States Code	standard deviation	SD
		U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)	standard error	SE
Physics and chemistry				variance	
all atomic symbols				population sample	Var var
alternating current	AC				
ampere	A				
calorie	cal				
direct current	DC				
hertz	Hz				
horsepower	hp				
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH				
parts per million	ppm				
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰				
volts	V				
watts	W				

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**CHINOOK SALMON CREEL SURVEY AND INRIVER GILLNETTING
STUDY, LOWER KENAI RIVER, ALASKA, 2013**

by

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January 2016

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ABSTRACT

Sport-angler effort, catch, and harvest of early- and late-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) were estimated from a creel survey conducted on the lower Kenai River in 2013. During the early- and late-run Chinook salmon sport fisheries, catch-and-release fishing restrictions and closures of the Chinook salmon sport fisheries were imposed to achieve escapement goals. During the early run, anglers caught 39 (SE 16) Chinook salmon with 3,054 (SE 275) angler-hours of effort. Guided anglers accounted for 62% of effort and 59% of catch. During the late run, anglers caught 2,554 (SE 386) and harvested 1,577 (SE 297) Chinook salmon with 59,910 (SE 2,387) angler-hours of effort. Guided anglers accounted for 64% of effort and 79% of harvest. The age composition of harvested late-run Chinook salmon was 10% age-1.1 fish, 32% age-1.2 fish, 24% age-1.3 fish, and 34% age-1.4 fish. A standardized gillnetting program estimated catch rates and species composition in the midriver insonified area at the RM 8.6 sonar site 16 May–17 August 2013. In addition, a pilot study sampled the nearshore areas behind the sonars. During the early run, midriver gillnets caught 55 Chinook salmon and 555 sockeye salmon. The estimated age composition of early-run Chinook salmon was 7% age-1.1 fish, 20% age-1.2 fish, 27% age-1.3 fish, 44% age-1.4 fish, and 2% age-1.5 fish. During the late run, midriver gillnets caught 200 Chinook, 2,066 sockeye, 403 coho, and 5 pink salmon. The estimated age composition of late-run Chinook salmon was 2% age-1.1 fish, 28% age-1.2 fish, 24% age-1.3 fish, 43% age-1.4 fish, and 3% age-1.5 fish. There was a significant difference in the length distributions of Chinook salmon netted nearshore (not insonified) vs. midriver (insonified) during the early run ($P = 0.03$) but not the late run ($P = 0.18$).

Key words: Kenai River, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, Chinook salmon, creel survey, effort, harvest, gillnet, CPUE, age composition

INTRODUCTION

The Kenai River (Figure 1) supports the largest freshwater sport fishery in Alaska. Anglers fish for Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*), pink salmon (*O. gorbuscha*), Dolly Varden (*Salvelinus malma*), and rainbow trout (*O. mykiss*). The Chinook salmon fishery is one of the largest and most intensively managed sport fisheries in Alaska (Jennings et al. 2011b). The Kenai River Chinook salmon sport fishery between the Warren Ames Bridge (river mile [RM] 5.2) and Soldotna Bridge (RM 21.1), and a standardized inriver gillnetting study (approximately RM 8.6) are the subject of this report (Figure 2).

Chinook salmon returning to the Kenai River exhibit 2 distinct run timing patterns: an early run and a late run. Telemetry studies have shown Chinook salmon that spawn in tributaries of the Kenai River (early run) enter the river from late April through early July, whereas Chinook salmon that spawn in the Kenai River mainstem (late run) enter the river from mid-June through mid-August (Bendock and Alexandersdottir 1992; Burger et al. 1985; Reimer 2013b). For management purposes, the early run is composed of all Chinook salmon entering the river before 1 July and the late run is composed of all fish entering on or after 1 July. Sport fish anglers value fish from both runs because of their large size relative to other Chinook salmon stocks (Roni and Quinn 1995). The world record sport-caught Chinook salmon (44.1 kg; 97 lb 4 oz) was harvested from the Kenai River in May 1985.

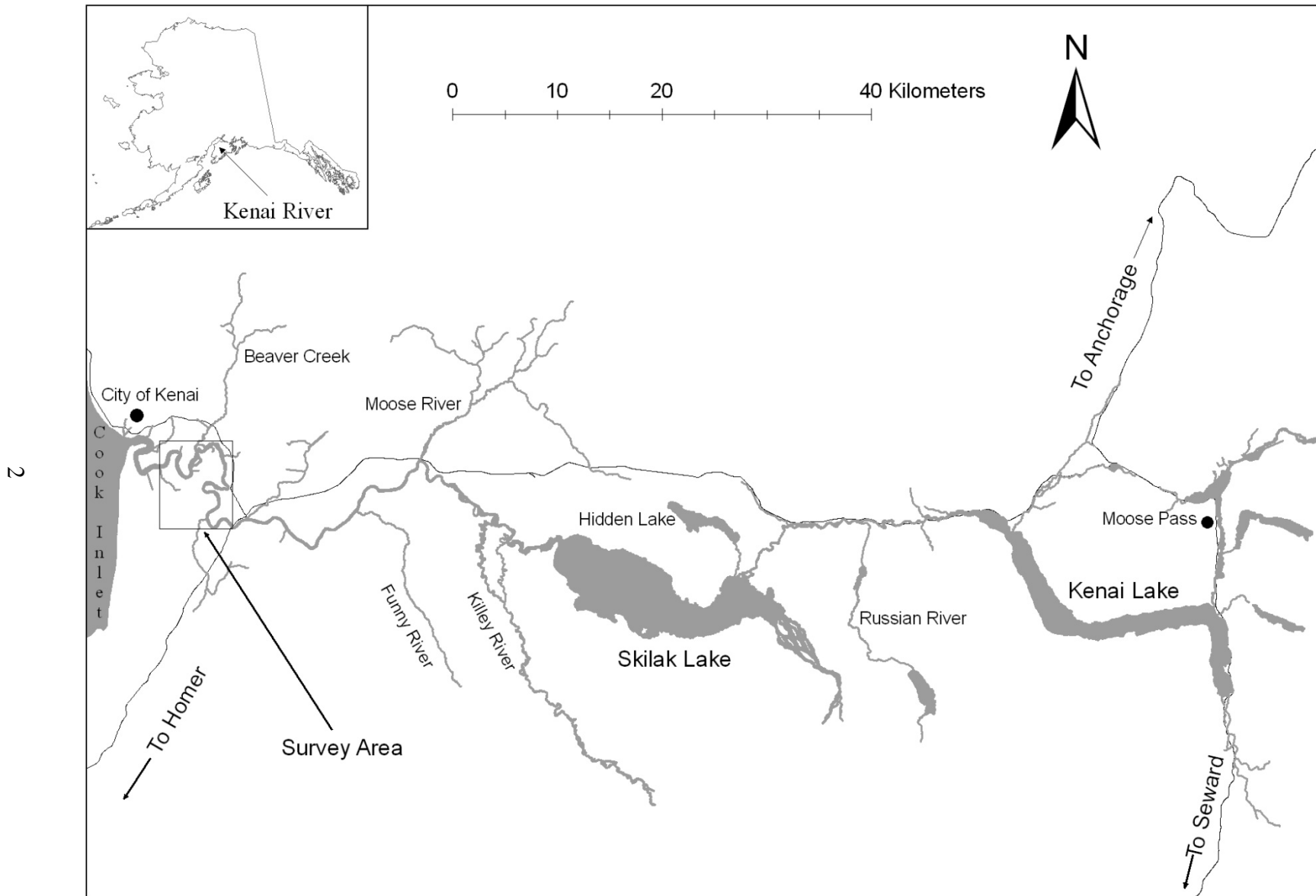


Figure 1.—Kenai River drainage on the Kenai Peninsula in Southcentral Alaska.

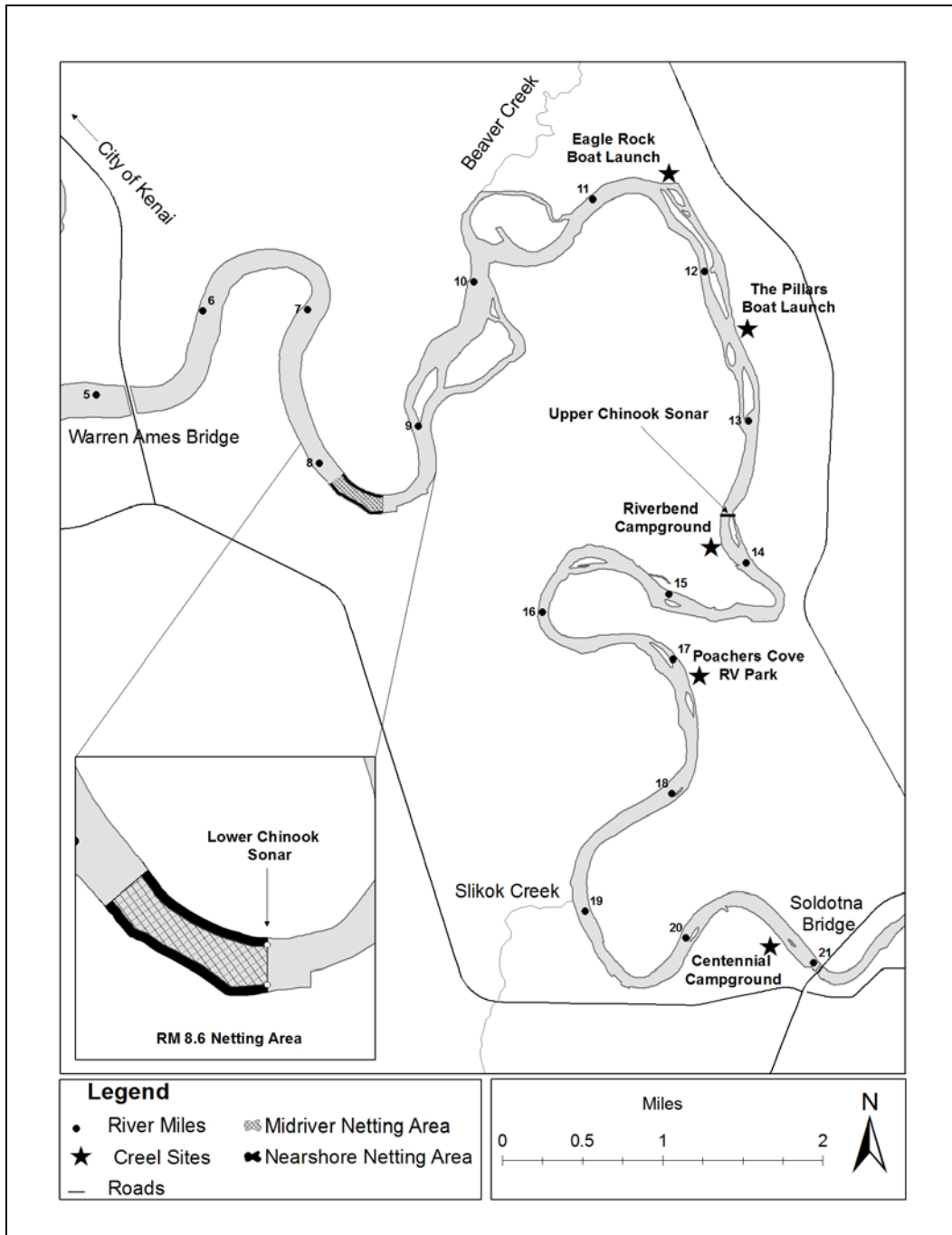


Figure 2.—Lower Kenai River from Warren Ames Bridge (RM 5.2) to Soldotna Bridge (RM 21.1).

The Kenai River Inriver Gillnetting Study and Inriver Creel Survey provide critical information for inseason management of Kenai River Chinook salmon runs. The Inriver Gillnetting Study provides species composition and length information necessary for the RM 8.6 sonar to estimate the number of Chinook salmon passing the sonar. Daily sonar passage estimates of abundance in conjunction with Creel Survey estimates of daily harvest provide fishery managers with inseason estimates of escapement. In addition to inseason management, these projects provide data used postseason to inform sonar passage estimates and a stock-specific abundance and run timing model (SSART), as well as to develop management plans and escapement goals for Kenai River Chinook salmon.

CREEL SURVEY

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) implemented a creel survey in 1974 in response to an increase in the number of boat anglers targeting Chinook salmon and to monitor the age, sex, and length (ASL) composition of harvested Chinook salmon. The Inriver Creel Survey monitors sport harvest of Chinook salmon between the Warren Ames Bridge and the Soldotna Bridge and through the Statewide Harvest Survey between the Soldotna Bridge and Skilak Lake (RM 50). A majority of the Chinook salmon sport harvest occurs below the Soldotna Bridge (Jennings et al. 2009a, 2009b, 2010a, 2010b, 2011a, 2011b). Beginning in 1981, separate effort and harvest estimates have been produced for guided and unguided anglers (Figures 3 and 4). The late-run sport fishery is more popular than the early-run fishery, and angler effort and harvest in both runs has declined significantly since 2007 due to low Chinook salmon runs and fishery restrictions.

INRIVER GILLNETTING

The Inriver Gillnetting Program began in 1979 and was originally designed to estimate the ASL composition of Chinook salmon returning to the Kenai River (Marsh 2000). The Gillnetting Program was standardized in 1998 to include catch rates (CPUE) and further standardized in 2002 to include species composition of fish passing through the insonified (midriver) area of the RM 8.6 Chinook salmon sonar site (Reimer 2004b). Although the Gillnetting Program has provided an estimate of the ASL composition of fish passing through the midriver insonified area, recent studies suggest the ASL composition estimate through the sonar may not always be representative of the Chinook salmon runs. In 2012, weirs operated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on the Killey River (Gates and Boersma 2013) and the Funny River (Boersma and Gates 2013) sampled relatively large numbers of small Chinook salmon that the gillnetting program could not account for. Furthermore, evidence of size-selective sampling in the late run was observed in the Eastside setnet (ESSN) commercial fishery, which in some years has captured large numbers of small Chinook salmon that were not reflected in the netting program (Tobias and Willette 2012). During 2013, the netting program was supplemented with a small auxiliary pilot study (netting nearshore 2 days per week) to investigate the size of Chinook salmon passing behind the sonar transducers where smaller Chinook salmon migrating closer to shore would be consistent with “the wave-drag hypothesis” (Hughes 2004). A representative sample of Chinook salmon captured with the nets would prevent biased sonar passage estimates and SSART estimates of abundance (Steve Fleischman, ADF&G, Anchorage, personal communication).

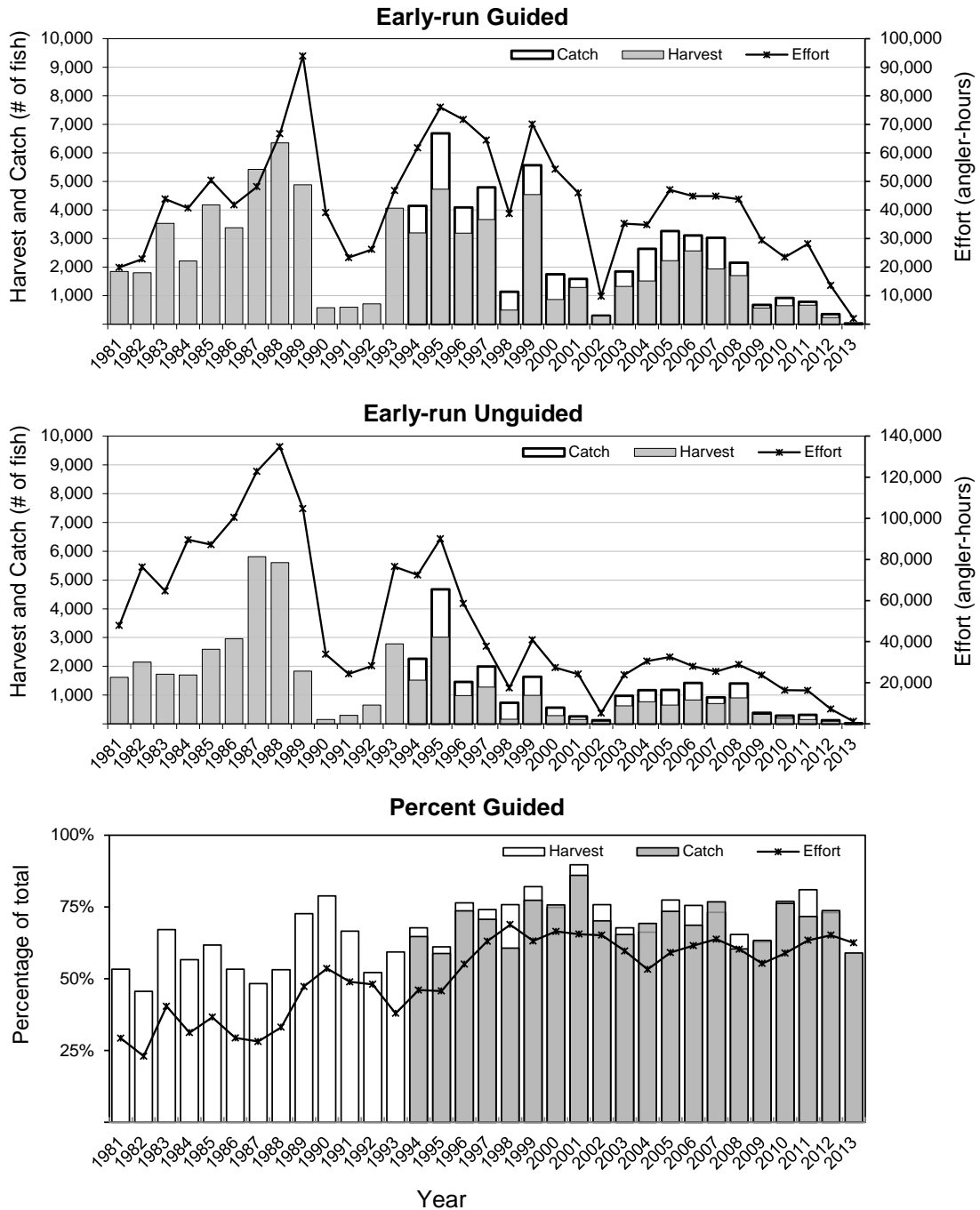


Figure 3.—Guided sport harvest, catch, and angler effort (top); unguided sport harvest, catch, and angler effort (middle); and percent of guided anglers (bottom) from ADF&G creel surveys for the early-run Kenai River Chinook salmon fishery between Soldotna Bridge and Warren Ames Bridge, 1981–2013.

Sources: Hammarstrom and Larson (1982-1984, 1986); Hammarstrom et al. (1985); Conrad and Hammarstrom (1987); Hammarstrom (1988-1994); Schwager-King (1995); King (1996-1997); Marsh (1999, 2000); Reimer et al. (2002); Reimer (2003, 2004a, 2004b, 2007); Eskelin (2007, 2009-2010); and Perschbacher (2012a, 2012b, 2012c, 2012d, 2014).

Note: Prior to 1994, catch was not estimated. The 2013 early-run sport fishery was closed to the harvest of Chinook salmon 20–55 inches total length 16 May–19 June and closed to all Chinook salmon fishing 20–30 June. “Catch” means fish harvested plus fish released; “harvest” means fish kept.

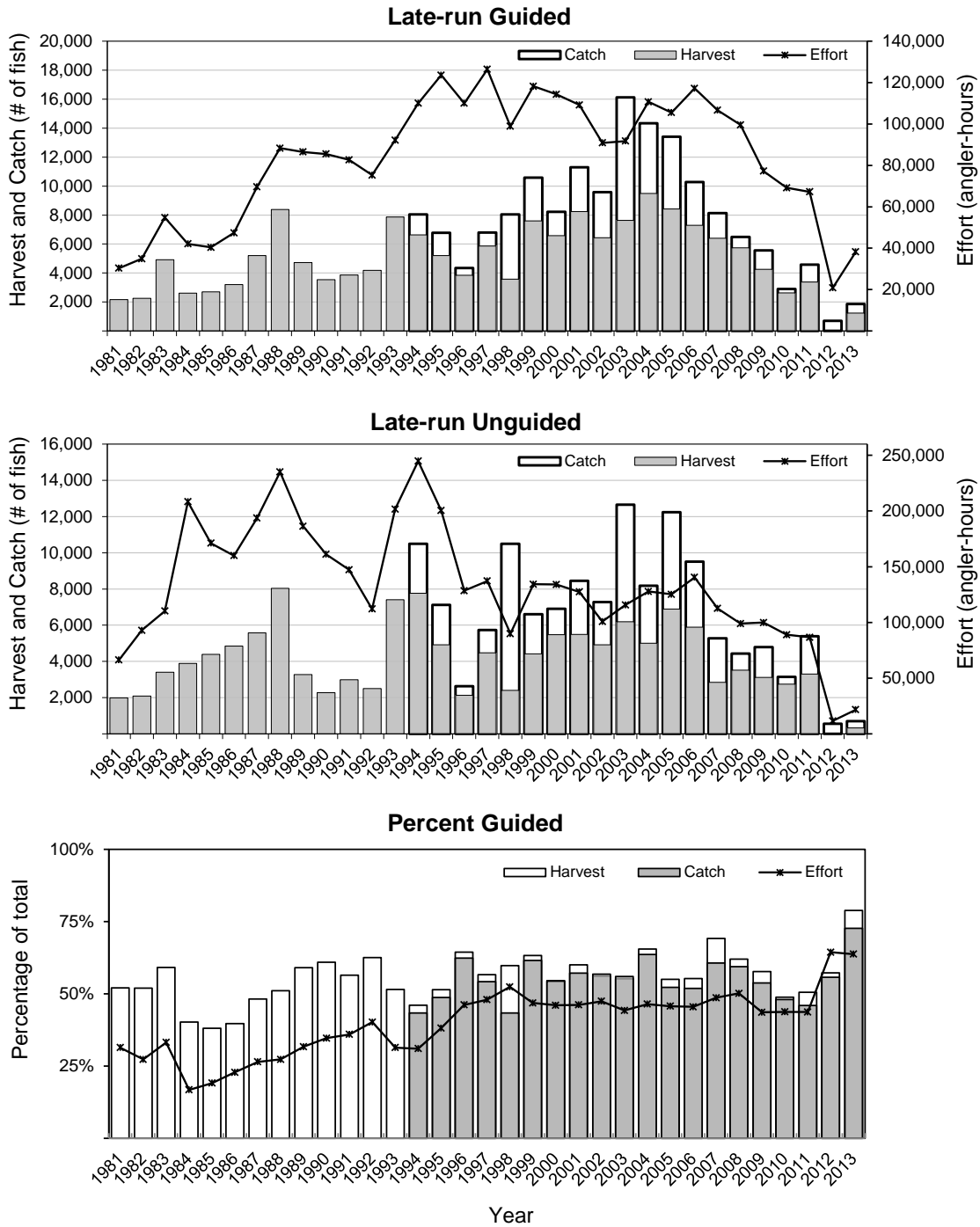


Figure 4.—Guided sport harvest, catch, and angler effort (top); unguided sport harvest, catch, and angler effort (middle); and percent of guided anglers (bottom) from ADF&G creel surveys for the late-run Kenai River Chinook salmon fishery between Soldotna Bridge and Warren Ames Bridge, 1981–2013.

Sources: Conrad and Hammarstrom (1987); Eskelin (2007, 2009–2010); Hammarstrom (1977–1981, 1988–1994); Hammarstrom et al. (1985); Hammarstrom and Larson (1982–1984, 1986); King (1996–1997); Marsh (1999, 2000); Perschbacher (2012a, 2012b, 2012c, 2012d); Reimer (2003, 2004a, 2004b, 2004c, 2004d, 2007); Reimer et al. (2002); and Schwager-King (1995).

Note: Prior to 1994, catch was not estimated. The 2013 late-run sport fishery was closed to the harvest of Chinook salmon 20–55 inches total length on 25 July and closed to all Chinook salmon fishing 28–31 July. “Catch” means fish harvested plus fish released; “harvest” means fish kept.

MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) has adopted separate management plans for the early and late Kenai River Chinook salmon runs. Management within these plans utilizes inseason estimates of inriver run and harvest. Estimates of inriver run are obtained with sonar (Miller et al. 2011), whereas estimates of harvest are obtained from creel surveys. Previous Kenai River Chinook salmon creel surveys are published in Conrad and Hammarstrom (1987); Eskelin (2007, 2009–2010); Hammarstrom (1977–1981, 1988–1994); Hammarstrom et al. (1985); Hammarstrom and Larson (1982–1984, 1986); King (1996–1997); Marsh (1999, 2000); Perschbacher (2012a, 2012b, 2012c, 2012d, 2014); Reimer (2003, 2004a, 2004b, 2007); Reimer et al. (2002); and Schwager-King (1995).

The early run is managed under the *Kenai River and Kaslof River Early-Run King Salmon Conservation Management Plan* (5 AAC 56.070) to attain an optimal escapement goal (OEG) of 5,300 to 9,000 Chinook salmon. If the spawning escapement is projected to exceed 9,000 fish, the fishery may be liberalized to allow the use of bait. If the spawning escapement is projected to be less than 5,300 fish, ADF&G may close the fishery or implement more conservative regulations (adopted by BOF) that restrict harvest of Chinook salmon. In March 2003, BOF introduced a slot limit into the early-run management plan. Under the current slot limit, anglers were allowed to retain Chinook salmon less than 46 inches total length (TL) or 55 inches TL or greater until 1 July below the Soldotna Bridge and until 15 July above the Soldotna Bridge. The slot limit regulation was implemented to protect early-run Chinook salmon that spend 5 winters in salt water.

Management of the late-run Chinook salmon sport fishery is more complex because multiple fisheries harvest Chinook salmon prior to the inriver sport fishery. The inriver late-run Chinook salmon sport fishery is managed under the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 21.359) which mandates the late run be managed to achieve a spawning escapement goal (SEG) of 15,000–30,000 Chinook salmon. The current management plan adopted by the BOF allows the use of bait starting 1 July from the Kenai River mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake. If the spawning escapement is projected to exceed 30,000 fish, the fishery may be liberalized to allow harvest of Chinook salmon through the first week of August. If the spawning escapement is projected to be less than 15,000 fish, ADF&G may close the fishery or implement more conservative regulations (adopted by BOF) to reduce mortality. Inriver regulations may include restricting the use of bait, allowing catch-and-release fishing only, reducing the amount of river open to Chinook salmon fishing, or closing the fishery. During times of Chinook salmon conservation, other fisheries may be affected, such as through non-retention of Chinook salmon in the personal use fisheries, or reduced fishing time and areas allowed for commercial fisherman in the Cook Inlet.

To achieve escapement goals during 2013, the early- and late-run Chinook salmon sport fisheries, personal use fishery, and Eastside setnet (ESSN) commercial fishery were restricted inseason by emergency orders to limit harvest of Chinook salmon. During the early run, the Kenai River from the mouth upstream to Skilak Lake and the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge were closed to harvest of Chinook salmon 20–55 inches TL (catch-and-release trophy fishing) from 16 May through 19 June, before closing to all Chinook salmon fishing 20–30 June. During the late run, the Kenai River drainage upstream of the Slikok Creek confluence area (RM 18.9) was closed to harvest of

Chinook salmon, and the use of bait was prohibited upstream of the Kenai River mouth 1 July through 31 July. The Kenai River downstream of the Slikok Creek closure area was restricted to catch-and-release trophy fishing 25–27 July before the fishery was closed to all Chinook salmon fishing 28–31 July.

OBJECTIVES

Objectives for the 2013 study were as follows:

- 1) Estimate catch and harvest¹ of Chinook salmon by the sport fishery in the mainstem Kenai River between the Warren Ames and Soldotna bridges from 16 May through 30 June (early run) and from 1 July through 31 July (late run) such that the estimates for each run are within 20% of the true values of catch and harvest, or 1,000 fish of the true values 95% of the time.
- 2) Estimate the proportion by age of the Chinook salmon population passing through the insonified zone (midriver) at RM 8.6 from 16 May through 17 August such that all age-proportion estimates for each run are within 10 percentage points of the true values 95% of the time².
- 3) Estimate the proportion by age of Chinook salmon harvested by the sport fishery in the mainstem Kenai River downstream from the Soldotna Bridge such that all age-proportion estimates for each run are within 20 percentage points of the true values 80% of the time.
- 4) Test the hypothesis that the length distributions of Chinook salmon sampled nearshore (behind the sonar transducers) in drift gillnets at RM 8.6 (pilot study) is the same as the length distributions of Chinook salmon sampled midriver (existing study).

In addition to the objectives outlined above, the project was responsible for completing the following tasks³:

- 1) Estimate total sport angler effort, by run, in angler-hours. Precision of the effort estimates are driven by that of the catch and harvest estimates (Objective 1).
- 2) Estimate daily catch per unit effort (CPUE) and harvest per unit effort (HPUE) of sport anglers for days surveyed between the Warren Ames and Soldotna bridges.
- 3) Estimate daily CPUE of Chinook salmon captured in midriver gillnets at RM 8.6. Precision of the CPUE estimates is driven by that of the Chinook salmon proportion estimates by age (Objective 2).
- 4) Calculate the proportion of fish captured in the midriver drift gillnets that are Chinook salmon.
- 5) Investigate the feasibility of sampling Chinook salmon that migrate outside of the midriver insonified zone.
- 6) Examine Chinook salmon sampled from the sport harvest and the inriver drift gillnets for external sexual characteristics, presence or absence of the adipose fin, and presence of a radio tag.

¹ Harvest is the number of fish caught and retained, whereas catch is the total number of fish caught (including those intentionally released).

² The inriver gillnetting study was extended through 17 August in 2013 due to later than average run timing of late-run Chinook salmon.

³ Tasks are of secondary importance and collected as ancillary information.

- 7) Collect tissue samples for genetic analysis from Kenai River Chinook salmon sampled from inriver gillnets and the sport fish harvest.
- 8) Insert esophageal radio transmitters into Chinook salmon captured in inriver gillnets from 16 May through 17 August in conjunction with the *Kenai River Chinook Salmon Abundance and Migratory Timing* study (Reimer 2013a).
- 9) Collect Secchi disk and water temperature readings midchannel at RM 15.3 during creel survey sampling days and collect daily Secchi disk readings at RM 8.6.

METHODS

CREEL SURVEY

To avoid biases, a stratified, 2-stage roving-access creel survey (Bernard et al. 1998) was employed to estimate sport fishing effort, catch, and harvest of Chinook salmon from the Warren Ames Bridge (RM 5.2) to the Soldotna Bridge (RM 21.1) (Figure 2). Although the 2013 creel survey was planned for 16 May–30 June and 1–30 July, fishery closures restricted the creel survey to 16 May–19 June and 1–27 July. The survey’s first-stage sampling units were the sampling period “angler-days.” The unguided angler-day was assumed to be 20 h long (0400 to 2400 hours), whereas the guided angler-day was 12 h long (0600 to 1800 hours) by regulation. Daily catch and harvest were estimated as the product of effort (angler-hours) and CPUE or HPUE. The second-stage sampling units, for estimating angler effort and CPUE or HPUE, were periodic angler counts and angler trips. Angler trips were sampled by interviewing anglers at the end of their fishing trips.

Stratification was used to account for the geographical, temporal, and regulatory factors affecting the fishery (Table 1). Because significant harvest below the sonar site would affect inriver run and escapement estimates, angler counts were geographically stratified into 2 areas: 1) between the Soldotna Bridge and the Chinook salmon sonar site (RM 8.6) and 2) between the Chinook salmon sonar site and the Warren Ames Bridge. Angler interviews did not include this level of stratification because past attempts to estimate catch and harvest downstream of the sonar site using geographically stratified angler interviews were ineffective (Marsh 2000). Therefore, catch and harvest downstream of the sonar site are based on estimated effort downstream of the sonar site, and CPUE and HPUE are assumed constant throughout the study area.

Because the harvest and catch rates of anglers can differ by time and by whether or not they are guided, the creel survey was temporally stratified by week and day type (weekday or weekends and holidays), and by angler type (guided or unguided). Due to budgetary constraints, nonholiday Mondays were assessed with an “index” angler count and ad hoc procedure to generate effort, catch, and harvest estimates⁴. The sampling strata used for conducting Kenai River Chinook salmon angler counts and estimating creel statistics are presented in Table 1.

Two of 4 available weekdays and both weekend days were sampled each week the fishery was open to Chinook salmon fishing. An exception was the Memorial Day weekend of 25–27 May, when 2 days were selected randomly from the 3 weekend or holiday days available. The early run was composed of 22 strata and the late run was composed of 20 strata (Tables 2 and 3).

⁴ See “Angler Effort, Catch, and Harvest on Mondays” in the Data Analysis section for an explanation of Monday angler counts.

Water clarity was measured to the nearest 0.05 m with a Secchi disk, and temperature was measured to the nearest 0.1°F twice daily near midchannel at RM 15.3.

Table 1.—Sampling strata used for conducting Kenai River Chinook salmon angler counts and estimating creel statistics, 2013.

Type	Number	Description
Geographic ^a	2	Warren Ames Bridge (RM 5.1) to the Chinook salmon sonar site (RM 8.6) Chinook salmon sonar site (RM 8.6) to Soldotna Bridge (RM 21.1)
Temporal ^b	6	Early run: 16–19 May, 21–27 May, 28 May–2 June, 4–9 June, 11–16 June, 18–19 June
	4	Late run: 2–7 July, 9–14 July, 16–21 July, 23–27 July
Day type ^c	3	Weekdays
		Weekends and holidays
		Late-run Mondays
Angler type	2	Guided
		Unguided

^a Used for angler counts only.

^b The early-run sport fishery was closed to harvest of Chinook salmon 20–55 inches TL from 16 May to 19 June and closed to all Chinook salmon fishing from 20 to 30 June. The late-run sport fishery was closed to harvest of Chinook salmon 20–55 inches TL from 25 to 27 July and closed to all Chinook salmon fishing from 28 to 31 July.

^c Creel statistics for Mondays were not sampled but were estimated using an index during the late run.

Angler Counts

Four angler counts were conducted during each sampled day. The first count began at the start of a randomly chosen hour (0400, 0500, 0600, 0700, or 0800 hours) with the remaining counts done every 5 hours thereafter. The schedule ensured that at least 2 angler counts were conducted while guided anglers were fishing (between 0600 and 1800 hours) each day.

Counts were conducted from a survey boat between the Soldotna Bridge and the Warren Ames Bridge, a distance of 15.9 mi. To maximize interview time, the direction (upstream or downstream) traveled to conduct angler counts was preselected to minimize total distance traveled and time spent conducting the count. Anglers were counted while driving the survey boat through the survey area, and counts were typically completed in less than 1 hour. Angler counts were treated as instantaneous counts; they reflect fishing effort at the time the count began. Anglers were counted if they were fishing or rigging their lines when observed during an angler count. Boats were counted as fishing if the boat contained at least 1 angler. Ten hand-held counters were used to sum the following categories for each geographic stratum: 1) unguided power boats, 2) unguided drift boats, 3) guided power boats, 4) guided drift boats, 5) unguided anglers in power boats, 6) unguided anglers in drift boats, 7) guided anglers in power boats (excluding the guide), 8) guided anglers in drift boats (excluding the guide), 9) active boats⁵, and

⁵ Boats were counted as active boats if there were no anglers actively fishing from the boat but the boat and motor were in operation.

10) nonactive boats⁶. Only categories 5–8 were required for this project; categories 1–4 and 9–10 were supplementary information for management purposes.

A single boat count was completed between 0800 and 1400 hours for each Monday of the late run (restricted to unguided drift boats) to generate index estimates of effort, catch, and harvest.

Angler Interviews

Anglers who completed fishing were interviewed at the following boat launch sites (Figure 2):

- 1) Pillars Boat Launch
- 2) Riverbend Campground
- 3) Stewart's Landing
- 4) Centennial Campground
- 5) Poacher's Cove
- 6) Eagle Rock Campground

When the creel survey began on 16 May, interviews were conducted only at Pillars Boat Launch because of low water levels typical of the beginning of the early run. As water levels increased, other boat launch sites were added to the sampling schedule immediately after sufficient boat traffic was observed. For each day sampled, the first randomly scheduled boat count of the day was completed prior to conducting interviews (between 0500 and 0900 hours). There was a smaller probability of conducting an interview during the first 1–4 hours of the angler-day than other times; however, the chance of introducing length-of-stay bias (Bernard et al. 1998) was small. In 2001, only 2% of the interviews were conducted from 0400 to 0759 hours, and the mean CPUE for that period was similar to the overall mean (Reimer 2003). During 2007–2009, the most recent years without inseason fishery restrictions, 1–2% of the interviews were conducted from 0400 to 0759. The mean CPUE and HPUE for that period compared to each year's overall mean were similar in 2007, lower in 2008, and higher during 2009.

There were 4 time intervals per day during which interviews could be conducted: 3 intervals between consecutive angler counts and 1 interval after the last angler count. During the early run, when there were more interview periods than active boat launches, each launch was sampled once before it was repeated in the daily schedule. During the late run, when there were more accessible boat launches than interview periods, access location was chosen with replacement from the locations available. Time and boat launch were paired randomly.

The following information was recorded for each interviewed angler: 1) time of interview, 2) guided or unguided angler, 3) number of hours spent fishing downstream of the Soldotna Bridge⁷, 4) number of Chinook salmon harvested downstream of the Soldotna Bridge, 5) number of Chinook salmon released downstream of the Soldotna Bridge, and 6) whether released Chinook salmon were less than 46 inches TL, 46–55 inches TL, or 55 inches TL or greater (during the early run only).

⁶ Boats were counted as nonactive boats if there were no anglers actively fishing from the boat and the motor was not in operation, but it was obvious the motor had been run during the day.

⁷ Hours fishing were rounded to the nearest 0.25 hour and included when an angler's line was in the water or being rigged but did not include travel time or time after an angler had harvested a fish.

Age, Sex, and Length of the Sport Harvest

Harvested Chinook salmon were sampled for ASL during angler interviews. Sex was identified from external morphological characteristics (i.e., protruding ovipositor on females or a developing kype on males). Lengths from mid eye to tail fork (METF) were measured to the nearest half-centimeter. Three scales were removed from the preferred area of each fish and placed on an adhesive-coated card (Clutter and Whitesel 1956; Welander 1940). Acetate impressions of the scales were aged using a microfiche reader.

All harvested sampled fish were inspected for an adipose fin. A missing adipose fin indicated the fish was either missing the fin naturally or received a coded wire tag as a juvenile. Presence of a coded wire tag may identify a hatchery-produced Chinook salmon stray or a wild Chinook salmon tagged in another river system that strayed to the Kenai River. If a fish without an adipose fin was found, and permission was granted from the angler, the fish's head was removed and examined later for a coded wire tag.

Additionally, all harvested Chinook salmon sampled for ASL in the creel survey were examined for the presence of an esophageal radio transmitter. If a fish with a radio transmitter was found, the transmitter was collected and the date and location (RM) the angler caught the Chinook salmon were recorded.

INRIVER GILLNETTING

In 2013, midriver gillnetting was conducted each day from 16 May through 17 August. The same section of river has been used for inriver gillnetting since 1998, which is an area approximately 0.3 RMs long and located at RM 8.6 (Figure 2). Nets of 2 mesh sizes were fished with equal frequency. Specifications of the nets used during the years 2002–2013 are shown below:

- 1) 5.0 inch (stretched mesh) multifilament, 80 meshes deep, 10 fathoms long, R44 color, MS73 (14 strand) twine
- 2) 7.5 inch (stretched mesh) multifilament, 55 meshes deep, 10 fathoms long, R44 color, MS93 (18 strand) twine

Each midriver drift was positioned to sample fish that pass through the insonified river channel (approximately 3 m offshore from the right-bank transducer to 3 m offshore from the left-bank transducer). The drift area began immediately downstream from the sonar transducers (RM 8.6) and ended approximately 0.3 mi downstream (RM 8.3). Drifts were terminated when any of the following occurred: 1) the crew believed there were more than 5 fish in the net, 2) the net was drifting outside of the area insonified by the Chinook salmon sonar, 3) the net became snagged on the bottom or was not fishing properly, or 4) the end of the drift area was reached. Drifts always began at the upstream end of the study area. Two drifts (1 starting on each bank) were completed with 1 mesh size before switching to the other mesh size. For each set, the mesh size, starting bank, start and stop times, and number of fish caught by species were recorded on a Juniper Systems Allegro CX⁸ field computer.

Water clarity was measured to the nearest 0.05 m with a Secchi disk 3 times daily (beginning, middle, and end of scheduled shift) in midchannel, near the sonar site.

⁸ Product names used in this publication are included for completeness but do not constitute product endorsement.

Age, Sex, and Length of the Inriver Run

Chinook salmon captured in midriver gillnets within the insonified area (at RM 8.6) constituted the ASL sample for the inriver run. Prior to 30 June, every Chinook salmon captured in gillnets was removed and placed in a tagging cradle (Larson 1995) and sampled for ASL data, which were recorded on a field computer. ASL data collection was similar to the methods described for sport harvested Chinook salmon. To prevent resampling, a quarter-inch hole was punched in the dorsal lobe of the caudal fin on every Chinook salmon handled, and each captured Chinook salmon was examined for a hole-punch prior to sampling. Chinook salmon were also checked for an adipose fin. If a Chinook salmon adipose fin was missing, the fish was sacrificed, and the head was removed and examined later for a coded wire tag. Injuries sustained by Chinook salmon during the capture and handling process were also recorded. Samples were stratified into 2 approximately 3-week strata during each run with a sample-size goal of 149 fish for each stratum. Strata for the early run were 16 May–9 June and 10–30 June; strata for the late run were 1–20 July and 21 July–17 August.

The number and species of all fish captured were recorded. In addition, METF lengths of captured sockeye, pink, and coho salmon were measured every other day. Length distribution of captured salmon was used as one variable in a mixture model to evaluate species composition in the insonified area at RM 8.6 (Miller et al. 2005).

After 30 June, every other captured Chinook salmon per drift was sampled for ASL data. All other captured Chinook salmon were not placed in the cradle but had a tissue sample taken for genetic analysis (see Genetics Sampling section) and were given a hole-punch on the dorsal lobe of the caudal fin to prevent resampling before being released. Estimates of age, sex, and length composition of the inriver run were generated using the midriver Chinook salmon catches from 5.0- and 7.5-inch mesh gillnets combined.

Nearshore Gillnetting Pilot Study

During 2013, the netting program was supplemented with a small auxiliary study to investigate the size of Chinook salmon passing the Chinook salmon sonar nearshore (behind the sonar transducers) versus midriver (within the insonified area). The pilot study incorporated gillnetting nearshore with a separate crew in addition to the standard midriver gillnetting. Gillnets were deployed from each bank to a point 3 m from the face of the dual frequency identification sonar (DIDSON) (noninsonified area) where the midriver gillnetting (insonified area) began (see location of lower Chinook salmon sonar in Figure 2). The nearshore netting schedule was designed for 2 days per week beginning approximately 2 hours before high tide to 4 hours after high tide. All other aspects of nearshore gillnetting were similar to the midriver gillnetting regarding data collection.

Radio Transmitter Deployment

The inriver gillnetting study served as the marking event for a separate *Kenai River Chinook Salmon Abundance and Migratory Timing* study (Reimer 2013a). In the midriver netting study, every Chinook salmon sampled for ASL from 16 May through 15 July, and every other Chinook salmon sampled for ASL from 16 July through 15 August, received an Advanced Telemetry Systems (ATS; Isanti, MN) model F1845B radio transmitter. In the nearshore netting study, every Chinook salmon sampled for ASL in the early and late runs received a radio transmitter. Fish with profusely bleeding gills, measuring 550 mm METF or less, or observed to be injured,

were released without tagging to minimize potential differences in survival and behavior between tagged and untagged populations.

GENETIC SAMPLING

In the creel survey, tissue samples (tip of axillary process) were taken from harvested fish for genetic analysis. In the inriver gillnetting study, tissue samples (dorsal finclips) were collected from all captured Chinook salmon because the axillary process, on the ventral side of the fish, was difficult to remove from Chinook salmon held in sampling cradles suspended in the water. Axillary process and dorsal finclip samples consisted of a half-inch piece of tissue that was placed in a 2 ml plastic vial and completely covered with a buffered 95% alcohol solution such that the liquid to tissue ratio was approximately 3:1. Plastic vials were sequentially number for each project and stored at the ADF&G Gene Conservation Laboratory for future analysis.

DATA ANALYSIS

Effort, catch, and harvest were estimated separately for guided and unguided anglers using the following procedures.

Angler Effort

The mean number of anglers on day i in stratum h was estimated as follows:

$$\bar{x}_{hi} = \frac{\sum_{g=1}^{r_{hi}} x_{hig}}{r_{hi}} \quad (1)$$

where

x_{hig} = the number of anglers observed in the g th count of day i in stratum h , and

r_{hi} = the number of counts on day i in stratum h .

Angler counts were conducted systematically within each sample day. The variance of the mean angler count was estimated as follows:

$$\hat{V}(\bar{x}_{hi}) = \frac{\sum_{g=2}^{r_{hi}} (x_{hig} - x_{hi(g-1)})^2}{2r_{hi}(r_{hi} - 1)}. \quad (2)$$

Effort (angler-hours) during day i in stratum h was estimated by

$$\hat{E}_{hi} = L_{hi} \bar{x}_{hi} \quad (3)$$

where

L_{hi} = length of the sample day (20 hours for unguided anglers, 12 hours for guided anglers).

The within-day variance (effort) was estimated as follows:

$$\hat{V}(\hat{E}_{hi}) = L_{hi}^2 \hat{V}(\bar{x}_{hi}). \quad (4)$$

The mean effort for stratum h was estimated by

$$\bar{E}_h = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{d_h} \hat{E}_{hi}}{d_h} \quad (5)$$

where

d_h = number of days sampled in stratum h .

The sample variance of daily effort for stratum h was estimated as follows:

$$S^2(E)_h = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{d_h} (\hat{E}_{hi} - \bar{E}_h)^2}{(d_h - 1)}. \quad (6)$$

Total effort for stratum h was estimated by

$$\hat{E}_h = D_h \bar{E}_h \quad (7)$$

where

D_h = total number of days the fishery was open in stratum h .

The variance of total effort for each stratum in a 2-stage design, omitting the finite population correction factor for the second stage, was estimated by Bernard et al. (1988) as follows:

$$\hat{V}(\hat{E}_h) = (1-f)D_h^2 \frac{S^2(E)_h}{d_h} + fD_h^2 \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{d_h} \hat{V}(\hat{E}_{hi})}{d_h^2} \quad (8)$$

where

f = fraction of days sampled (= d_h / D_h).

Catch and Harvest

Catch and harvest per unit (hour) of effort for day i was estimated from angler interviews using the jackknife method to minimize the bias of these ratio estimators (Efron 1982). The jackknife estimate of CPUE (similarly HPUE) for angler j was as follows:

$$CPUE_{hij}^* = \frac{\sum_{\substack{a=1 \\ a \neq j}}^{m_{hi}} c_{hia}}{\sum_{\substack{a=1 \\ a \neq j}}^{m_{hi}} e_{hia}} \quad (9)$$

where

c_{hia} = catch of angler a interviewed on day i in stratum h ,

e_{hia} = effort (hours fished) by angler a interviewed on day i in stratum h , and

m_{hi} = number of anglers interviewed on day i in stratum h .

The jackknife estimate of mean CPUE for day i was the mean of the angler estimates:

$$\overline{CPUE}_{hi}^* = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{m_{hi}} CPUE_{hij}^*}{m_{hi}} \quad (10)$$

and the bias-corrected mean was

$$\overline{CPUE}_{hi}^{**} = m_{hi} \left(\overline{CPUE}_{hi} - \overline{CPUE}_{hi}^* \right) + \overline{CPUE}_{hi}^* \quad (11)$$

where

$$\overline{CPUE}_{hi} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{m_{hi}} c_{hij}}{\sum_{j=1}^{m_{hi}} e_{hij}}. \quad (12)$$

The variance of the jackknife estimate of CPUE was estimated as follows:

$$\hat{V} \left(\overline{CPUE}_{hi}^{**} \right) = \frac{m_{hi} - 1}{m_{hi}} \sum_{j=1}^{m_{hi}} \left(CPUE_{hij}^* - \overline{CPUE}_{hi}^* \right)^2. \quad (13)$$

Catch during each sample day was estimated as the product of effort and CPUE by

$$\hat{C}_{hi} = \hat{E}_{hi} \overline{CPUE}_{hi}^{**} \quad (14)$$

and the variance was estimated as follows (Goodman 1960):

$$\hat{V} \left(\hat{C}_{hi} \right) = \hat{V} \left(\hat{E}_{hi} \right) \left(\overline{CPUE}_{hi}^{**} \right)^2 + \hat{V} \left(\overline{CPUE}_{hi}^{**} \right) \hat{E}_{hi}^2 - \hat{V} \left(\hat{E}_{hi} \right) \hat{V} \left(\overline{CPUE}_{hi}^{**} \right). \quad (15)$$

HPUE was estimated by substituting angler harvest for angler catch in Equations 9–13. Harvest during sample day i was estimated by substituting the appropriate $HPUE_{hi}$ statistics into Equations 14 and 15. Total catch and harvest during stratum h was estimated using Equations 5–8, substituting estimated catch (\hat{C}_{hi}) and harvest (\hat{H}_{hi}) during sample day i for the estimated effort (\hat{E}_{hi}) during day i .

When no interviews from a particular angler type were obtained during a particular day, there were no CPUE and HPUE estimates to pair with angler counts. For these days, pooled estimates of CPUE and HPUE calculated from interviews obtained during the remaining days within the stratum, or similar strata, were imputed. A bootstrap procedure was used to estimate the variance introduced by use of imputed values.

Total effort, catch, and harvest estimates, and their respective variances, were summed across strata within each run. Technically, estimates of catch and harvest by geographic location and angler type were not statistically independent, because HPUE and CPUE were estimated from

the same interviews for both geographic strata, and estimates were poststratified by angler type. This lack of independence between strata could underestimate variances; however, the bias in variance estimates is small.

Angler Effort, Catch, and Harvest on Mondays

Regulations allow only unguided fishing from drift boats or from shore on Mondays. Due to budgetary constraints, the creel survey was not conducted on Mondays for the years 2001–2008 and 2011–2013; rather, a single “index” angler count was conducted each late-run Monday between 0800 and 1400 hours. The index count was used in the following ad hoc procedure to estimate effort, catch, and harvest on drift-boat Mondays:

- 1) The relationship between index counts and mean angler counts on Mondays for 2009–2010 angler count data was used to estimate the relationship between index counts and mean angler counts on Mondays for 2013. The mean number of anglers was approximately 52% of the number of anglers counted during the “index” period.
- 2) To estimate angler-hours of effort E , the estimated mean count (52% of the index count) was multiplied by the length of the unguided angler-day (20 hours).
- 3) To estimate CPUE and HPUE on Mondays without angler interviews, we exploited the tendency for angler success to exhibit an autocorrelated time trend. CPUE and HPUE were plotted versus time for days sampled with angler interviews, and then we imputed CPUE and HPUE values for each Monday.
- 4) Catch and harvest were estimated as the product of the imputed values of CPUE and HPUE and the estimate of E derived from the index count.

CPUE of Inriver Gillnetting

Two gillnet mesh sizes were deployed: 5.0 and 7.5 inches. Two drifts, originating from each side k of the river, were conducted with 1 mesh size; the sequence was then repeated with the other mesh size. A repetition j consisted of a complete set of 4 such drifts. Daily CPUE r of species s in mesh size m for day i was estimated as follows:

$$\hat{r}_{smi} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{J_i} \sum_{k=1}^2 c_{smijk}}{\sum_{j=1}^{J_i} \sum_{k=1}^2 e_{mijk}} \quad (16)$$

with variance

$$\hat{V}(\hat{r}_{smi}) = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{J_i} (c_{smij} - \hat{r}_{smi} e_{mij})^2}{\bar{e}_{mi}^2 J_i (J_i - 1)} \quad (17)$$

where c_{smijk} is the catch of species s in mesh m during a drift originating from bank k during repetition j on day i , e_{mijk} is the effort (soak time in minutes) for that drift, J_i is the number of repetitions completed on day i , c_{smij} is the catch of species s in mesh m summed across drifts on both banks conducted during repetition j of day i , e_{mij} is the effort for mesh m summed across

drifts on both banks conducted during repetition j of day i , and \bar{e}_{mi} is the mean of e_{mij} across all repetitions j for mesh m on day i . The variance follows Cochran (1977: 66).

Proportion of Chinook Salmon Captured by Inriver Gillnetting

The proportion of species s passing through the insonified zone of the river channel (midriver) on day i was estimated as follows:

$$\hat{p}_{si} = \frac{\sum_j \hat{r}_{sij}}{\sum_s \sum_j \hat{r}_{sij}} \quad (18)$$

with variance

$$\hat{V}(\hat{p}_{si}) = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{J_i} (\hat{r}_{sij} - \hat{p}_{si} \hat{r}_{ij})^2}{\bar{r}_i^2 J_i (J_i - 1)} \quad (19)$$

where CPUE r of species s during repetition j of day i was estimated as the mean of the 5.0 and 7.5 inch mesh CPUEs; each CPUE is calculated by pooling catch and effort across banks:

$$\hat{r}_{sij} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{m=1}^2 \frac{\sum_{k=1}^2 c_{smijk}}{\sum_{k=1}^2 e_{mijk}} \quad (20)$$

where

$$\hat{r}_{ij} = \sum_s \hat{r}_{sij} \quad (21)$$

and

$$\bar{r}_i = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{J_i} \hat{r}_{ij}}{J_i} \quad (22)$$

where

\hat{r}_{ij} = the CPUE summed across all species caught during repetition j of day i , and

\bar{r}_i = is the mean CPUE of salmon (all species) caught across all drifts k during day i .

Only data from repetitions with at least 1 drift with each mesh were used for estimation of species proportions.

Age and Sex Composition

Age and sex compositions of the Chinook salmon harvest were estimated for each run by time stratum t . The proportion of Chinook salmon in age or sex group b in time stratum t was estimated as follows:

$$\hat{p}_{bt} = \frac{n_{bt}}{n_t} \quad (23)$$

where

n_{bt} = the number of Chinook salmon of age or sex group b sampled during stratum t , and

n_t = the number of successfully aged Chinook salmon sampled during stratum t .

The variance of \hat{p}_{bt} was approximated⁹ as follows (Cochran 1977):

$$\hat{V}(\hat{p}_{bt}) = \frac{\hat{p}_{bt}(1 - \hat{p}_{bt})}{(n_t - 1)}. \quad (24)$$

Contingency tables and chi-square tests were used to determine if age or sex composition differed significantly ($P < 0.05$) among strata. If not, the proportion of Chinook salmon in age or sex group b during an entire run, and its variance, were estimated by pooling data across strata (Equations 23–24 without stratum subscripts t).

The harvest of each age or sex group by time stratum t and geographic stratum g (above and below the sonar), was estimated by

$$\hat{H}_{gbt} = \hat{H}_{gt} \hat{p}_{bt} \quad (25)$$

with variance (Goodman 1960)

$$\hat{V}(\hat{H}_{gbt}) = \hat{H}_{gt}^2 \hat{V}(\hat{p}_{bt}) + \hat{p}_{bt}^2 \hat{V}(\hat{H}_{gt}) - \hat{V}(\hat{p}_{bt}) \hat{V}(\hat{H}_{gt}) \quad (26)$$

where

\hat{H}_{gt} and $\hat{V}(\hat{H}_{gt})$ = estimated harvest and its variance in geographic stratum g during temporal stratum t .

If age or sex composition differed ($P < 0.05$) among strata, a weighted proportion and its variance were calculated as follows:

$$\hat{p}_{gb} = \frac{\sum_t \hat{H}_{gt} \hat{p}_{bt}}{\sum_t \hat{H}_{gt}} \text{ and} \quad (27)$$

$$\hat{V}(\hat{p}_{gb}) = \frac{1}{\hat{H}_g^2} \left[\frac{\hat{v}(\hat{H}_{g1}) [\hat{p}_{b1} \hat{H}_{g2} - \hat{H}_{gb2}]^2}{\hat{H}_g^2} + \frac{v(\hat{H}_{g2}) [\hat{p}_{b2} \hat{H}_{g1} - \hat{H}_{gb1}]^2}{\hat{H}_g^2} + \hat{v}(\hat{p}_{b1}) \hat{H}_{g1}^2 + \hat{v}(\hat{p}_{b2}) \hat{H}_{g2}^2 \right]. \quad (28)$$

⁹ Variance estimates for species proportions assume that each fish sampled is an independent observation (i.e., that simple random sampling, SRS, was employed). In reality, the sport harvest is sampled with a multistage design (creel survey) and the inriver run with a cluster design (netting), and technically, the age proportion variances should be estimated in the context of those designs. However, age composition changes very slowly over time, and in the past we have assumed that variability between sampling stages and among clusters is negligible. To verify this, we reanalyzed the 2006 netting data, calculated the age proportions using a modified version of Equation 8, and compared them to the SRS estimates in Equation 23. The point estimates and their standard errors were essentially equivalent. Based on this evidence, we continue to use the SRS equations for convenience.

The number of Chinook salmon passing the sonar N was apportioned by age and sex similarly using Equations 23–28, ignoring geographic stratum subscript g , substituting N for H , and using the net-captured Chinook salmon to estimate p . The inriver run R of age or sex group b was estimated as the sum of the age- or sex-specific sonar passage N_b and harvest below the sonar H_{2b} as follows:

$$\hat{R}_b = \hat{N}_b + \hat{H}_{2b}. \quad (29)$$

Nearshore and Midriver Chinook salmon Size

A 2-sample Kolmogorov–Smirnov test (K–S test) was used to test the difference between the length distributions of Chinook salmon sampled in nearshore nets and those sampled in midriver nets for the early run and the late run. A one-sample K–S test compared the length distribution of early-run Chinook salmon sampled in midriver nets with the reference distribution (Killey River weir and Funny River weir combined length distribution weighted by abundance). The Killey River and Funny River account for a majority of spawning early-run Chinook salmon (Reimer 2013b), and in the 1-sample K–S test we assumed the Killey River weir and Funny River weir combined length distribution was an adequate representation of Kenai River early-run Chinook salmon. The D statistic and the associated P -value were reported for each test.

RESULTS

CREEL SURVEY

Effort, Catch, and Harvest

The creel survey was conducted from 16 May through 19 June, and 1–27 July 2013. The fishery was closed to all Chinook salmon fishing 20–30 June and 28–31 July. During the early run, the creel survey sampled 65% (17/26) of the days the fishery was open to guided anglers and 68% (21/31) of the days open to unguided anglers (Table 2). During the late run, the creel survey sampled 60% (12/20) of the days the fishery was open to guided anglers and 65% (15/23) of the days the fishery was open to unguided anglers (Table 3). Index estimates of catch, harvest, and effort on the 3 late-run Mondays are not included in the unguided angler subtotals and season totals presented herein. A total of 750 angler interviews were conducted: 147 during the early run and 603 during the late run (Tables 2 and 3).

The estimated early-run effort of 3,054 (SE 275) angler-hours (Table 2) was the lowest on record dating back to 1981 (Figure 3), with guided anglers accounting for 62% of the early-run effort. The maximum counts within a time stratum were 18 unguided anglers on 16 June and 25 guided anglers on 18 June. (Appendix A1). The estimated late-run effort of 59,910 (SE 2,387) angler-hours (Table 3) was the second lowest on record (Figure 4). During 2012 and 2013, guided anglers accounted for the highest percentage of late run effort on record (each 64% of total late-run effort). The maximum counts within a time stratum during the 2013 late run occurred on 23 July for both unguided anglers (177) and guided anglers (406) (Appendix A2).

Table 2.—Estimated early-run Kenai River Chinook salmon sport fishery, effort, catch, and harvest between the Soldotna Bridge and the Warren Ames Bridge, 16 May–19 June 2013.

Fishing periods ^a	Days open to fishing from powerboats	Sampling days	Number of interviews	Effort		Chinook salmon				
				Hours fished	SE	Catch ^b		Harvest ^c		
						No. fish	SE	No. fish	SE	
16–19 May										
Guided WD	2	1	2	36	25	0	0	0	0	
Guided WE	1	1	8	48	24	0	0	0	0	
Unguided WD	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Unguided WE	2	2	3	13	16	0	0	0	0	
21–27 May										
Guided WD	4	2	4	284	106	8	12	0	0	
Guided WE-H	2	2	6	84	25	2	5	0	0	
Unguided WD	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Unguided WE-H	3	2	12	188	48	6	4	0	0	
28 May–2 June										
Guided WD	4	2	8	264	85	0	0	0	0	
Guided WE	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Unguided WD	4	2	3	30	27	0	0	0	0	
Unguided WE	2	2	5	70	25	0	0	0	0	
4–9 June										
Guided WD	4	2	4	420	79	4	3	0	0	
Guided WE	1	1	10	140	67	2	2	0	0	
Unguided WD	4	2	15	160	90	0	0	0	0	
Unguided WE	2	2	18	165	52	5	5	0	0	
11–16 June										
Guided WD	4	2	4	256	76	0	0	0	0	
Guided WE	1	1	4	92	39	0	0	0	0	
Unguided WD	4	2	10	270	81	0	0	0	0	
Unguided WE	2	2	14	230	88	0	0	0	0	
18–19 June										
Guided WD	2	2	12	284	91	6	5	0	0	
Unguided WD	2	2	2	20	9	5	4	0	0	
Day type subtotals										
Guided WD	20	11	34	1,544	199	18	14	0	0	
Guided WE-H	6	6	28	364	85	4	5	0	0	
Unguided WD	20	11	33	480	124	5	4	0	0	
Unguided WE-H	11	10	52	666	117	11	6	0	0	
Angler type subtotals										
Guided	26	17	62	1,908	216	23	15	0	0	
% Guided			42%	62%		59%				
Unguided ^d	31	21	85	1,146	171	16	8	0	0	
% Unguided			58%	38%		41%				
Early-run total ^d	57	38	147	3,054	275	39	16	0	0	

Note: WD is weekday, WE is weekend, and WE-H is weekend and holiday.

^a The early-run sport fishery was closed to harvest of Chinook salmon 20–55 inches TL from 16 May–19 June and closed to all Chinook salmon fishing 20–30 June.

^b “Catch” is fish harvested plus fish released; catch estimates may not sum to total due to rounding.

^c “Harvest” is fish kept; harvest estimates may not sum to total due to rounding.

^d Because Mondays were not sampled, unguided angler estimates are biased and may underestimate the true value.

Table 3.—Estimated late-run Kenai River Chinook salmon sport fishery effort, catch, and harvest between Soldotna Bridge and Warren Ames Bridge, 1–27 July 2013.

Fishing periods ^a	Days open to fishing from powerboats	Sampling days	Number of interviews	Effort		Chinook salmon				
				Hours fished	SE	Catch ^b		Harvest ^c		
						No. fish	SE	No. fish	SE	
2–7 July										
Monday ^d	0	1	0	62	NA	1	NA	0	NA	
Guided WD	4	2	70	6,504	1,186	127	64	98	43	
Guided WE	1	1	2	1,056	302	19	23	15	17	
Unguided WD	4	2	31	1,520	229	20	15	0	0	
Unguided WE	2	2	33	1,395	181	44	20	37	18	
8–14 July										
Monday ^d	0	1	0	260	NA	7	NA	7	NA	
Guided WD	4	2	79	5,424	710	347	182	216	102	
Guided WE	1	1	72	2,298	294	48	16	29	12	
Unguided WD	4	2	4	2,450	513	0	0	0	0	
Unguided WE	2	2	41	2,710	349	75	33	63	30	
15–21 July										
Monday ^d	0	1	0	229	NA	10	NA	9	NA	
Guided WD	4	2	31	11,964	1,068	760	235	600	215	
Guided WE	1	1	21	2,160	620	62	41	62	41	
Unguided WD	4	2	29	4,200	370	245	61	131	56	
Unguided WE	2	2	52	3,235	319	111	51	86	45	
22–27 July										
Monday ^d	0	1	0	312	NA	13	NA	6	NA	
Guided WD	4	2	55	7,748	1,043	421	198	224	144	
Guided WE	1	1	4	1,026	234	71	69	0	0	
Unguided WD	4	2	59	5,330	474	168	47	19	19	
Unguided WE	1	1	20	890	110	35	18	0	0	
Day type subtotals										
Monday ^d	0	4	0	863	NA	31	NA	22	NA	
Guided WD	16	8	235	31,640	2,034	1,655	362	1,137	281	
Guided WE	4	4	99	6,540	785	200	85	106	46	
Unguided WD	16	8	123	13,500	823	433	78	149	59	
Unguided WE	7	7	146	8,230	518	265	67	185	57	
Angler type subtotals										
Guided	20	12	334	38,180	2,180	1,855	372	1,243	285	
% Guided			55%	64%		73%		79%		
Unguided ^e	23	15	269	21,730	972	698	103	334	82	
% Unguided			45%	36%		27%		21%		
Late-run total ^e	43	27	603	59,910	2,387	2,554	386	1,577	297	

Note: WD is weekday, WE is weekend, and WE-H is weekend and holiday. NA is no data available.

^a Emergency order prohibited the use of bait starting 1 July. The sport fishery was closed to harvest of Chinook salmon 20–55 inches TL on 25 July and closed to all Chinook salmon fishing 28–31 July.

^b “Catch” is fish harvested plus fish released; catch estimates may not sum to total due to rounding.

^c “Harvest” is fish kept; harvest estimates may not sum to total due to rounding.

^d Mondays were days when unguided drift boat fishing only was allowed. Estimates of effort, catch, and harvest were based on an index (see Methods).

^e Unguided angler totals do not include Monday index estimates.

During the early run, daily CPUE for unguided anglers was the highest (0.250 fish per hour) on 18 and 19 June and averaged 0.029 fish per hour, whereas daily CPUE for guided anglers was the highest (0.029 fish per hour) on 21, 22, and 25 May and averaged 0.010 fish per hour (Appendices B1–B2). In the late run, daily CPUE for unguided anglers was the highest (0.060 fish per hour) on 19 July and averaged 0.026 fish per hour, whereas daily CPUE for guided anglers was the highest (0.113 fish per hour) on 11 July and averaged 0.042 fish per hour (Appendices B3–B4).

The early-run Chinook salmon fishery was restricted to catch-and-release trophy fishing, resulting in no Chinook salmon harvest documented in the creel survey. The estimated catch of early-run Chinook salmon was 39 (SE 16) fish. Anglers reported releasing 6 Chinook salmon, of which 4 were below 46 inches TL and 2 were within the slot limit (46–55 inches TL) (Table 4). The absolute precision for total early-run catch (± 31 fish) satisfied the project objectives.

Table 4.–Kenai River Chinook salmon reported to be released during the slot-limit sport fishery between Warren Ames Bridge and Soldotna Bridge, 2003–2013.

Year	Below slot limit ^a	Within slot limit ^a	Total number released ^b
	% released ^c	% released ^c	
2003	52%	48%	64
2004	67%	33%	73
2005	65%	35%	109
2006	65%	35%	100
2007	70%	30%	67
2008	78%	22%	89
2009	85%	15%	20
2010	80%	20%	35
2011	83%	17%	23
2012	62%	38%	21
2013	67%	33%	6
Min	52%	15%	6
Mean	70%	30%	55
Max	85%	48%	109

^a During 2003–2007 the 44–55 inch slot limit was in effect and during 2008–2013 the 46–55 inch slot limit was in effect.

^b There were no fish reported to be released above the slot limit.

^c The number of fish released below or within the slot limit was given by anglers during creel survey interviews.

The estimated late-run harvest of Chinook salmon (1,577 fish, SE 297) in 2013 was the second lowest on record dating back to 1981 (Table 3, Figure 4). Guided anglers accounted for 79% of the harvest, which was the highest on record (Figure 4); the 30-year average is 55%. The estimated catch of late-run Chinook salmon was 2,554 (SE 386) and 38% of the catch was released. The absolute precision for total late-run harvest (± 582) and catch (± 757) satisfied the project objectives.

No early-run effort and 2.3% of late-run effort occurred downstream of the RM 8.6 Chinook salmon sonar site (Appendices C1–C2). The estimate of late-run harvest below the sonar site was 37 (SE 11), whereas 1,541 (SE 297) Chinook salmon were harvested from the Chinook salmon sonar site to the Soldotna Bridge (Appendix C2).

The daily angler count for each late-run Monday (Appendix A2) and interpolated values of HPUE and CPUE (Appendix B3) were used to index effort, harvest, and catch estimates (Table

3). It was estimated that unguided drift boat anglers caught 31 and harvested 22 Chinook salmon with 863 angler-hours of effort during late-run Mondays (Table 3). Harvest of Chinook salmon on drift-boat Mondays was less than 1.5% of the total late-run harvest in 2013 and has been less than 4% (approximately 400 fish) of the total late-run harvest since 2009 (Perschbacher 2014).

INRIVER GILLNETTING SPECIES COMPOSITION AND CPUE

Midriver Gillnetting

During the early run, 55 Chinook salmon and 557 sockeye salmon greater than 400 mm METF length were captured with midriver gillnets (Appendix D1). A total of 843 other fish (4 starry flounder [*Platichthys stellatus*], 836 eulachon [*Thaleichthys pacificus*], 2 Dolly Varden, and 1 rainbow trout) were also captured. Only salmonids greater than 400 mm METF were used to calculate both daily CPUE by species and daily Chinook salmon proportions. Daily Chinook salmon CPUE for both mesh sizes was the highest (0.043 fish per minute) on 29 June and averaged 0.008 fish per minute, whereas daily sockeye salmon CPUE was the highest (0.324 fish per minute) on 30 June and averaged 0.082 fish per minute (Appendix D2). The daily proportions of captured Chinook salmon to total number of captured fish ranged from 0 to 0.47 and averaged 0.13 (Appendix D2).

During the late run, 200 Chinook salmon, 2,066 sockeye salmon, 403 coho salmon, and 5 pink salmon greater than 400 mm METF length were captured with midriver gillnets (Appendix D3). A total of 6 other fish (4 Dolly Varden and 2 rainbow trout) were also captured. Daily Chinook salmon CPUE for both mesh sizes combined was the highest (0.142 fish per minute) on 14 July and averaged 0.037 fish per minute, whereas daily sockeye salmon CPUE was the highest (1.843 fish per minute) on 19 July and averaged 0.377 fish per minute (Appendix D4). The daily proportions of captured Chinook salmon to total number of captured fish ranged from 0 to 0.34 and averaged 0.10.

During both the early and late run, Chinook salmon cumulative CPUE was significantly below the respective 10-year (2003–2012) average (Figure 5). Sockeye salmon cumulative CPUE was significantly below the early-run 10-year average, and slightly below the late-run 10-year average.

Nearshore Gillnetting

During the early run, 18 Chinook salmon and 250 sockeye salmon greater than 400 mm METF were captured with nearshore nets (Appendix D5). A total of 7 other fish (3 Dolly Varden and 4 rainbow or steelhead trout) were also captured. Eulachon and starry flounder were also captured in nearshore nets but were not enumerated in the early or late run. Daily Chinook salmon CPUE for both mesh sizes was the highest (0.061 fish per minute) on 13 June and averaged 0.017 fish per minute, whereas daily sockeye salmon CPUE was the highest (0.642 fish per minute) on 10 June and averaged 0.206 fish per minute.

During the late run, 19 Chinook salmon, 1,261 sockeye salmon, 103 coho salmon, and 4 pink salmon greater than 400 mm METF were captured with nearshore nets (Appendix D6). Five Dolly Varden were also captured. Daily Chinook salmon CPUE for both mesh sizes was the highest (0.099 fish per minute) on 15 July and averaged 0.016 fish per minute, whereas daily sockeye salmon CPUE was the highest (6.572 fish per minute) on 15 July and averaged 1.192 fish per minute.

During the early run, the nearshore netting CPUEs for each tide stage (numbers of each species caught per drift minute) of Chinook salmon and sockeye salmon were greater in the tide stage lasting 2 hours before high tide to high tide compared to the CPUEs of the other tide stages (Figure 6). During the late run, nearshore netting CPUE for Chinook salmon was greatest during the tide stages lasting 2 hours before high tide to 2 hours after high tide. The nearshore CPUE for late-run sockeye salmon was greatest during the tide stage lasting 2–4 hours after high tide.

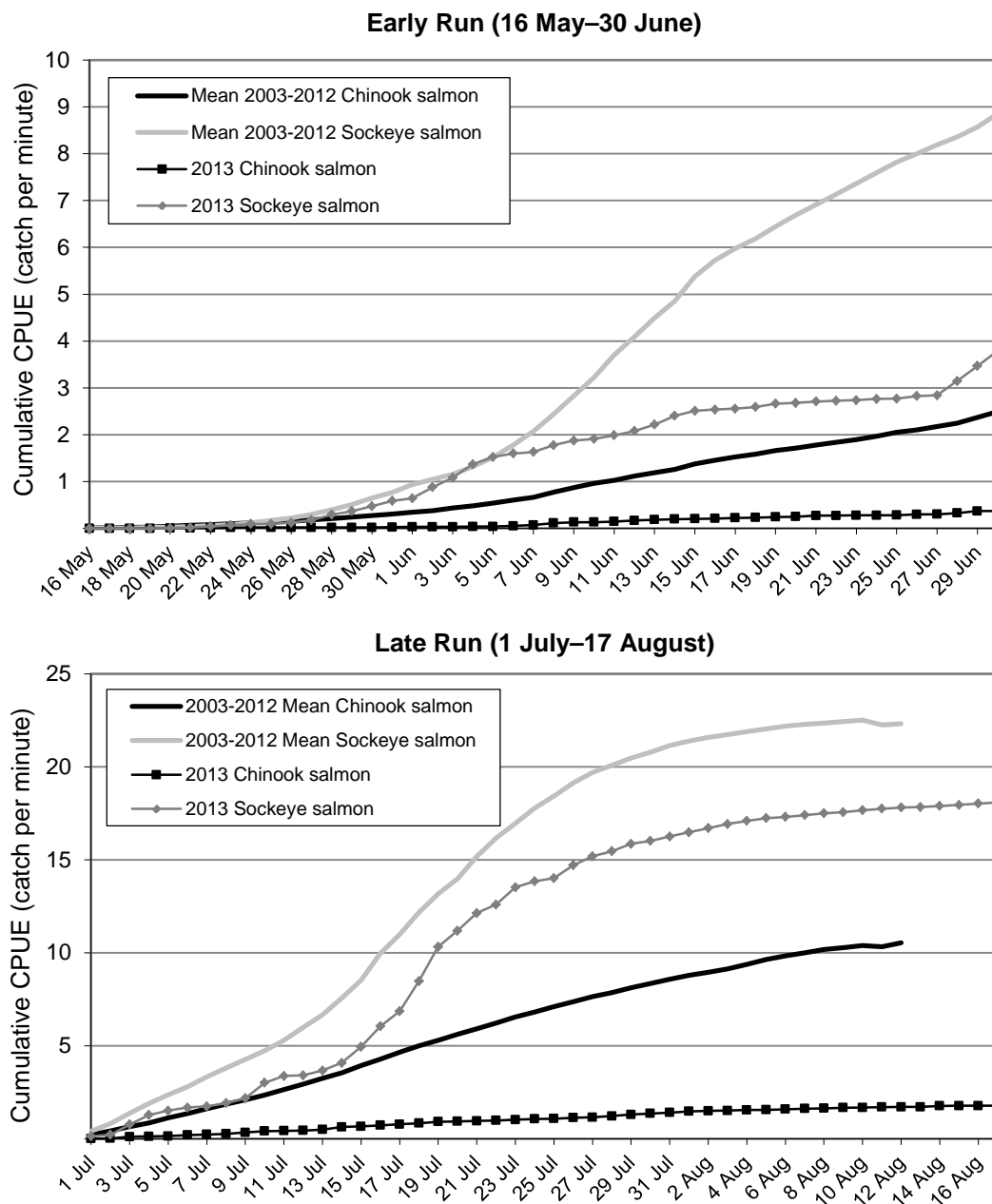


Figure 5.—Cumulative CPUE for early-run (top) and late-run (bottom) Kenai River Chinook and sockeye salmon midriver gillnet catches, 2002–2013.

Note: Late-run inriver netting was conducted through 10 August during 2002–2011, 15 August during 2012, and 17 August during 2013.

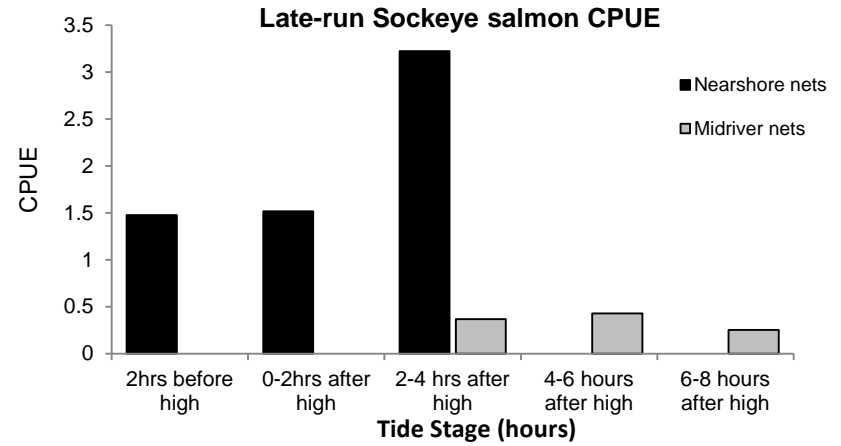
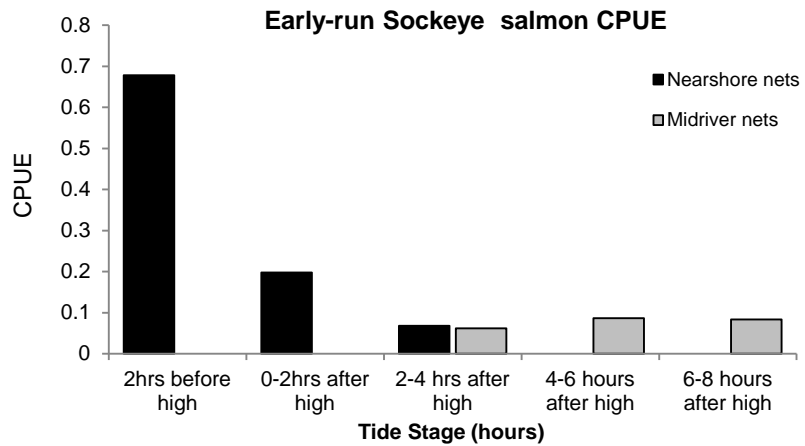
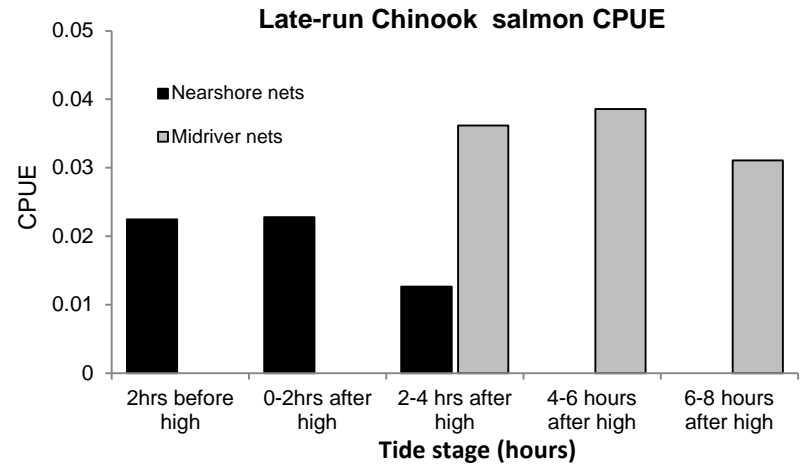
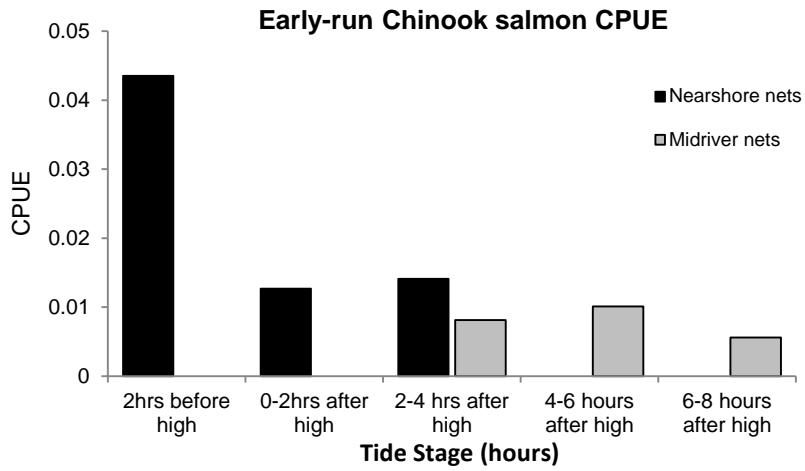


Figure 6.–Chinook (top) and sockeye (bottom) salmon CPUE for midriver gillnets and nearshore gillnets by run during hours of the tide ranging from 2 hours before high tide to 8 hours after high tide, 2013.

Note: The scale of the y-axes (CPUEs [catch per drift minutes]) vary between graphs.

AGE, SEX, AND LENGTH

Creel Survey

The early-run Chinook salmon fishery was restricted to catch-and-release trophy fishing and no Chinook salmon were sampled.

The 50 age samples collected in the late-run sport fishery met the goal of 49 valid scale ages. The age composition of the late-run harvest was composed of approximately 10% age-1.1 fish, 32% age-1.2 fish, 24% age-1.3 fish, and 34% age-1.4 fish (Table 5). Age-1.1 and -1.2 males accounted for 42% of the late-run harvest. Overall, 76% of the harvested late-run Chinook salmon were males; the remaining 24% were females.

Table 5.—Age composition and estimated sport harvest by age class and geographic strata for late-run Kenai River Chinook salmon between the Soldotna Bridge and the Warren Ames Bridge, 1–27 July 2013.

Parameter ^a	Age				Total
	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	
Female					
Sample size			3	9	12
% Sample			6.0%	18.0%	24.0%
SE % sample			3.4%	5.5%	6.1%
Downstream harvest			1	8	9
SE downstream harvest			1	4	4
Upstream harvest			48	346	394
SE upstream harvest			29	130	134
Total harvest			49	355	404
SE total harvest			29	132	136
Male					
Sample size	5	16	9	8	38
% Sample	10.0%	32.0%	18.0%	16.0%	76.0%
SE % sample	4.3%	6.7%	5.5%	5.2%	6.1%
Downstream harvest	2	9	8	8	27
SE downstream harvest	1	3	4	4	8
Upstream harvest	80	390	346	330	1,147
SE upstream harvest	38	121	130	129	244
Total harvest	82	399	355	338	1,174
SE total harvest	39	123	132	131	245
Both sexes combined					
Sample size	5	16	12	17	50
% Sample	10.0%	32.0%	24.0%	34.0%	100.0%
SE % sample	4.3%	6.7%	6.1%	6.8%	0.0%
Downstream harvest	2	9	9	16	37
SE downstream harvest	1	3	4	6	11
Upstream harvest	80	390	394	677	1,541
SE upstream harvest	38	121	134	192	297
Total harvest	82	399	404	693	1,577
SE total harvest	39	123	136	194	297

Note: Values given by age and sex may not sum to totals due to rounding.

^a “Downstream” is the Kenai River reach between Warren Ames Bridge and the RM 8.6 Chinook salmon sonar site; “upstream” is the Kenai River reach between the Chinook salmon sonar site and the Soldotna Bridge.

Midriver Gillnetting

Only 41 Chinook salmon were sampled midriver in the early run (Table 6), far less than the goal of 127 valid scale ages and the lowest ever sampled historically. The age composition was 7.3% age-1.1 fish, 19.5% age-1.2 fish, 26.8% age-1.3 fish, 43.9% age-1.4 fish, and 2.4% age-1.5 fish (Table 6 and Figure 7). Females were a larger percentage of the catch in age-1.3 and -1.4 fish, whereas males were a larger percentage of age-1.1, -1.2, and -1.5 age classes (Table 6). Overall, approximately equal proportions of males (51.2%) and females (48.8%) were captured. During the late run, the age composition of the 147 Chinook salmon sampled midriver was estimated to be 2.0% age-1.1 fish, 28.2% age-1.2 fish, 23.5% age-1.3 fish, 43.0% age-1.4 fish, and 3.4% age-1.5 fish (Table 7). Females were a larger percentage of the catch in age-1.4 fish, whereas males were a larger percentage in all other age classes. Overall, more males (66.4%) were captured than females (33.6%).

Table 6.—Age composition and estimated midriver run by age class for early-run Kenai River Chinook salmon 16 May–30 June 2013.

Parameter	Age					Total
	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	
Female						
Sample size ^a		1	7	12		20
% Midriver run		2.4%	17.1%	29.3%		48.8%
SE % midriver run		2.4%	5.9%	7.2%		7.9%
Male						
Sample size ^a	3	7	4	6	1	21
% Midriver run	7.3%	17.1%	9.8%	14.6%	2.4%	51.2%
SE % midriver run	4.1%	5.9%	4.7%	5.6%	2.4%	7.9%
Both sexes combined						
Sample size ^a	3	8	11	18	1	41
% Midriver run	7.3%	19.5%	26.8%	43.9%	2.4%	100.0%
SE % midriver run	4.1%	6.3%	7.0%	7.8%	2.4%	0.0%

Note: Values given by age and sex may not sum to totals due to rounding.

^a The sample size goal of 127 valid aged scales was not met.

Table 7.—Age composition and estimated midriver run by age class for late-run Kenai River Chinook salmon, 1 July–17 August 2013.

Parameter	Age					Total
	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	
Female						
Sample size		2	11	37		50
% Midriver run		1.3%	7.4%	24.8%		33.6%
SE % midriver run		0.9%	2.1%	3.6%		3.9%
Male						
Sample size	3	40	24	27	5	99
% Midriver run	2.0%	26.8%	16.1%	18.1%	3.4%	66.4%
SE % midriver run	1.2%	3.6%	3.0%	3.2%	1.5%	3.9%
Both sexes combined						
Sample size	3	42	35	64	5	149
% Midriver run	2.0%	28.2%	23.5%	43.0%	3.4%	100.0%
SE % midriver run	1.2%	3.7%	3.5%	4.1%	1.5%	0.0%

Note: Values given by age and sex may not sum to totals due to rounding.

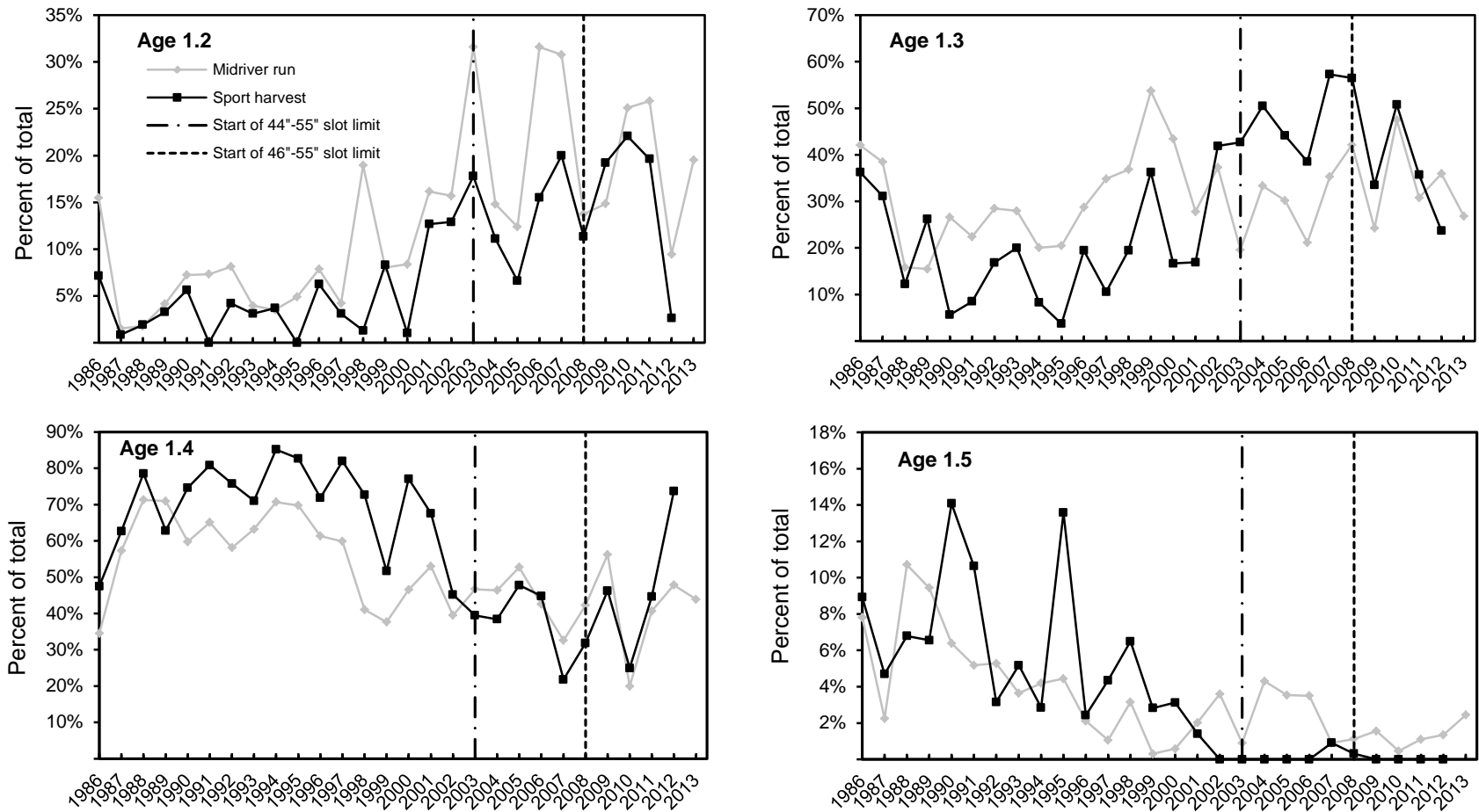


Figure 7.—Age composition of early-run harvest versus early-run midriver gillnets between the Soldotna Bridge and the Warren Ames Bridge for age-1.2 (top left), age-1.3 (top right), age-1.4 (bottom left), and age-1.5 (bottom right) Chinook salmon, Kenai River, 1986–2013.

Note: The 2013 early-run sport fishery was closed to harvest of Chinook salmon 20–55 inches TL from 16 May–19 June and closed to all Chinook salmon fishing 20–30 June. During 1986–2001, only 7.5-inch mesh nets were used, whereas during 2002–2013, both 5.0-inch and 7.5-inch mesh nets were used.

Size of Chinook Salmon Midriver and Nearshore

During the early run, the length distribution of 17 Chinook salmon captured in nearshore nets was compared to the length distribution of 50 Chinook salmon captured midriver (Figure 8). A higher proportion of smaller fish were captured in nearshore nets compared to midriver nets, and the 2-sample K–S test showed a significant difference ($D = 0.41$, $P = 0.03$) between length distributions (Figure 8). A higher proportion of smaller Chinook salmon were sampled at the Killey River and Funny River weirs than were captured in midriver nets, and the 1-sample K–S test showed a significant difference between length distributions ($D = 0.47$, $P < 0.001$; Figure 8).

During the late run, the length distribution of 18 Chinook salmon captured in nearshore nets was compared to the length distribution of 170 Chinook salmon captured midriver (Figure 8). A higher proportion of smaller fish were captured nearshore than midriver but the 2-sample K–S test showed no significant difference ($D = 0.27$, $P = 0.18$) between these 2 length distributions.

LENGTH-AT-AGE COMPARISONS

The age composition of fish captured midriver during early and late runs did not differ significantly ($\chi^2 = 1.04$, $df = 2$, $P = 0.60$) with age-1.2, -1.3, and -1.4 fish considered (Tables 6–7). Age-1.4 Chinook salmon made up the highest proportion of the early run (43.9%, SE 7.8%) and late run (43.0%, SE 4.1%)

METF lengths were compiled by age and sex for the early- and late-run midriver gillnetting (Table 8) and the sport harvest creel survey (Table 9). A graphical depiction of length-at-age is shown in Figure 9. On average, age-1.3 female Chinook salmon were slightly larger than age-1.3 males, whereas age-1.4 male Chinook salmon were larger on average than females of this age.

The age composition of the late-run harvest and the fish captured midriver during the late run did not differ significantly ($\chi^2 = 0.86$, $df = 2$, $P = 0.65$) with age-1.2, -1.3, and -1.4 fish considered (Table 9).

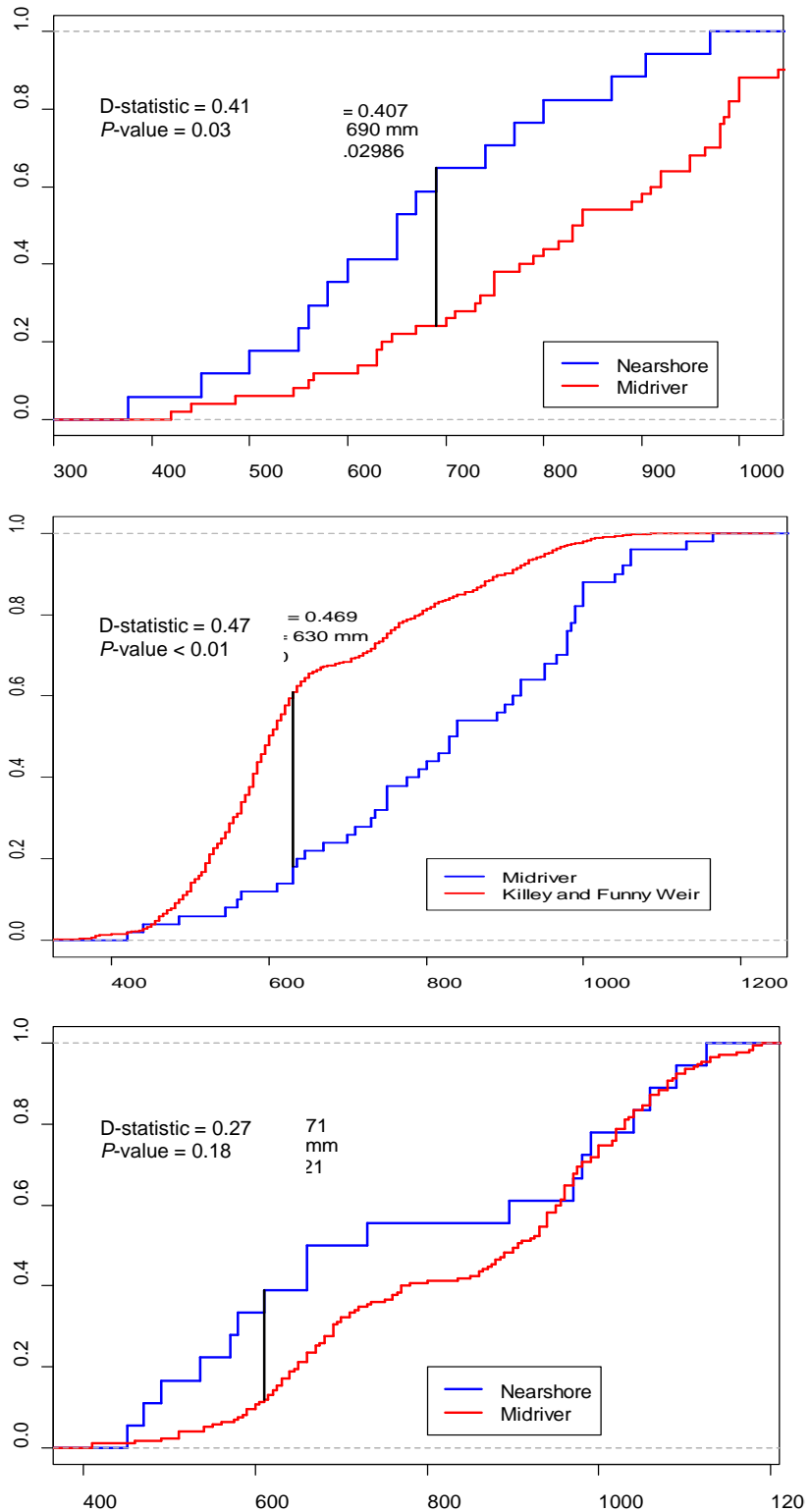


Figure 8.—Cumulative length distributions and K–S test results for Chinook salmon sampled in early-run nearshore versus midriver netting (top), midriver netting versus Funny and Killely River weirs (middle), and late-run nearshore versus midriver netting (bottom), 2013.

Table 8.—Early-run Kenai River Chinook salmon lengths by sex and age from midriver gillnet samples, 16 May–30 June 2013.

Parameter	Age					Combined
	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	
Females						
Sample size		1	7	12		20
Mean length (mm)		630	806	971		896
SE length (mm)			12	13		24
Min length (mm)		630	750	900		630
Max length (mm)		630	840	1,060		1,060
Males						
Sample size	3	7	4	6	1	21
Mean length (mm)	448	632	740	1,024	1,130	762
SE length (mm)	19	26	25	35		50
Min length (mm)	420	545	670	910	1,130	420
Max length (mm)	485	735	790	1,165	1,130	1,165
Both sexes combined						
Sample size	3	8	11	18	1	41
Mean length (mm)	448	632	782	989	1,130	827
SE length (mm)	19	23	15	15		30
Min length (mm)	420	545	670	900	1,130	420
Max length (mm)	485	735	840	1,165	1,130	1,165

Note: All lengths measured from mid eye to tail fork (METF).

Table 9.—Late-run Kenai River Chinook salmon lengths by sex and age from 1–27 July creel survey and 1 July–17 August midriver gillnet samples, 2013.

Source	Parameter	Age					Combined
		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	
Creel survey							
	Females						
	Sample size			3	9		12
	Mean length (mm)			923	991		974
	SE length (mm)			13	19		17
	Min length (mm)			910	940		910
	Max length (mm)			950	1,120		1,120
	Males						
	Sample size	5	16	9	8		38
	Mean length (mm)	402	578	831	1,036		711
	SE length (mm)	13	16	34	18		37
	Min length (mm)	370	480	660	970		370
	Max length (mm)	440	705	925	1,145		1,145
	Both sexes combined						
	Sample size	5	16	12	17		50
	Mean length (mm)	402	578	854	1,012		774
	SE length (mm)	13	16	28	14		32
	Min length (mm)	370	480	660	940		370
	Max length (mm)	440	705	950	1,145		1,145
Midriver gillnet							
	Females						
	Sample size		2	11	37	1	51
	Mean length (mm)		660	868	989	1,090	952
	SE length (mm)		10	22	9		14
	Min length (mm)		650	700	890	1,090	650
	Max length (mm)		670	940	1,115	1,090	1,115
	Males						
	Sample size	3	40	24	27	5	99
	Mean length (mm)	427	621	779	1,047	1,133	795
	SE length (mm)	17	8	18	13	17	21
	Min length (mm)	410	490	630	940	1,080	410
	Max length (mm)	460	710	960	1,190	1,175	1,190
	Both sexes combined						
	Sample size	3	42	35	64	6	150
	Mean length (mm)	427	623	807	1,013	1,126	849
	SE length (mm)	17	8	16	8	16	16
	Min length (mm)	410	490	630	890	1,080	410
	Max length (mm)	460	710	960	1,190	1,175	1,190

Note: All lengths measured from mid eye to tail fork.

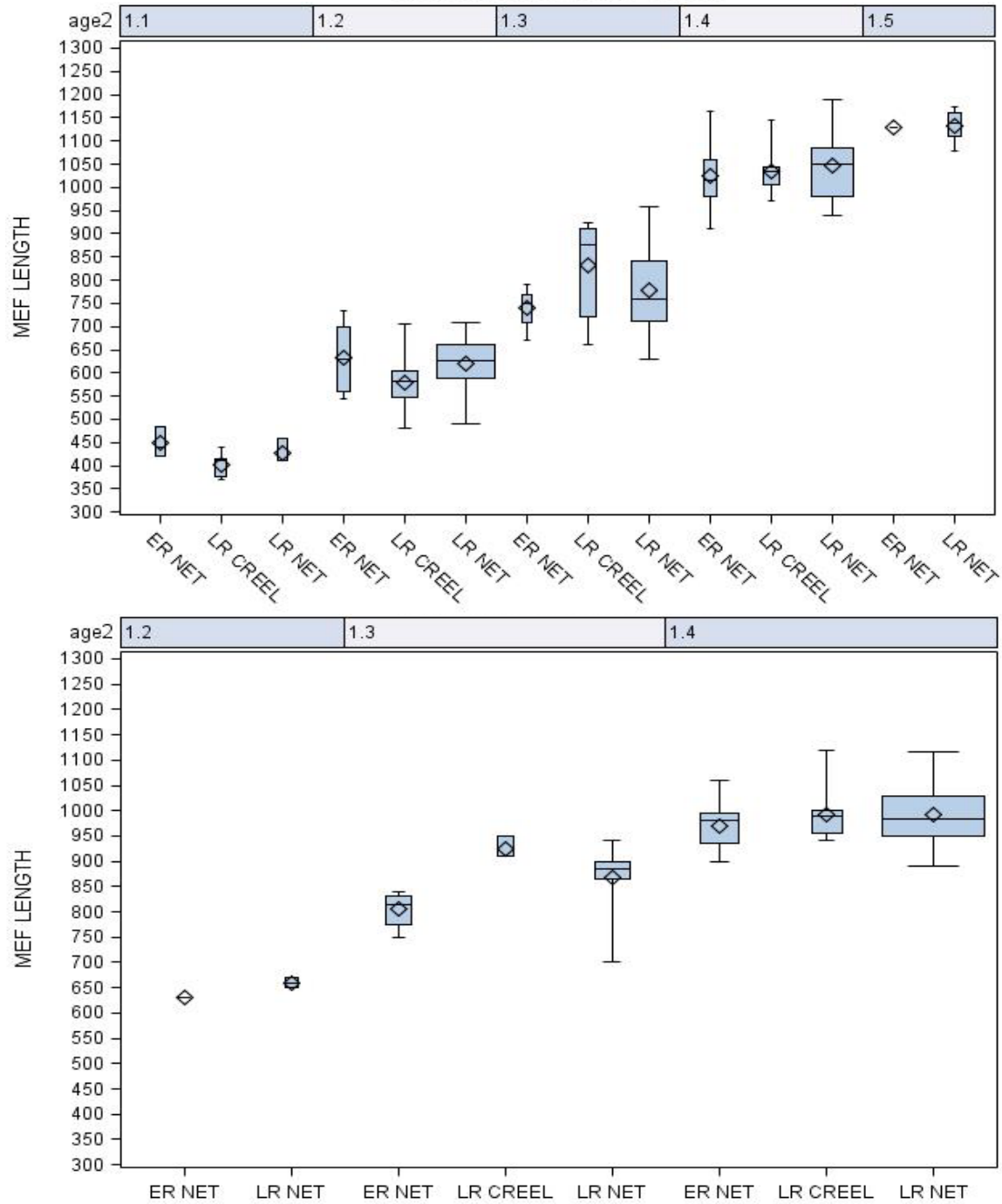


Figure 9.—Box plots of METF length distribution by sex and age of early- and late-run Kenai River Chinook salmon males (top) and females (bottom) from creel survey and midriver gillnetting.

Note: Age categories are given at the top of each graph and sources for samples are given at the bottom. ER NET is early-run gillnetting, LR NET is late-run gillnetting, and LR CREEL is late-run creel survey.

OTHER RESULTS

During 2013, river conditions in the early and late runs were average in water clarity and above average in discharge (Figure 10). Secchi disk measurements of water clarity in the sport fishery (taken at RM 15.3) ranged between 0.3 m and 1.4 m, with the average (0.8 m) slightly below the historical (1987–2012) average of 0.9 m. Secchi disk measurements at the Chinook salmon sonar site (RM 8.6) ranged between 0.3 m and 1.0 m with an average (0.6 m) equal to the historical (1998–2012) average. The discharge average (12,184 ft³/s) was above the historical (1965–2012) average of 10,296 ft³/s.

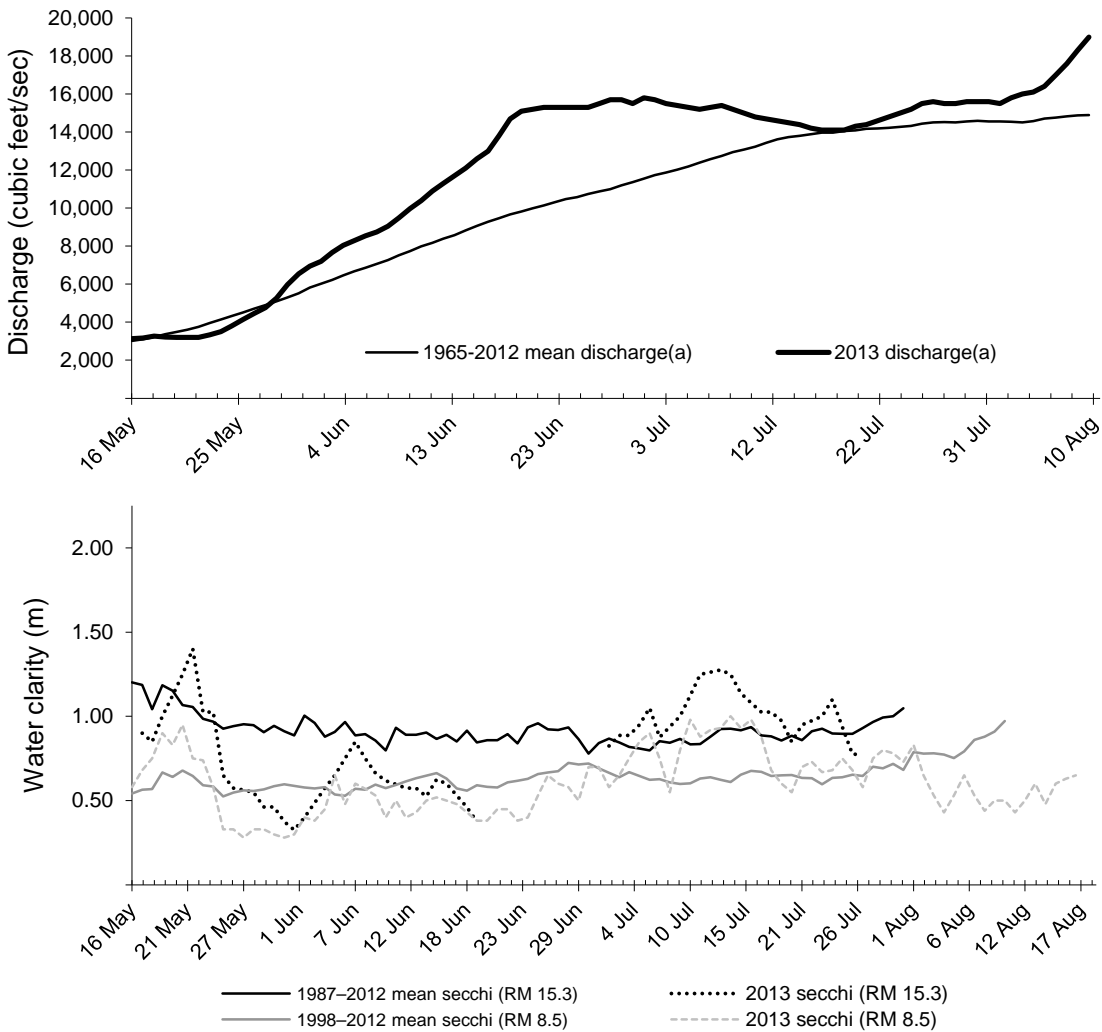


Figure 10.–Kenai River discharge (top) and water clarity (bottom), 16 May–17 August, 2013.

Note: Discharge data downloaded from USGS 15266300 KENAI RIVER AT SOLDOTNA AK 2014-09-26 11:20 EST <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ak/nwis/dv>. Water clarity measurement for 2013 Secchi (RM 15.3) collected only when fishery was open.

From 1996 to 2006, there was an overall increase from 5% to 25% in the percent of total late-run Chinook salmon harvest that was downstream of the Chinook salmon sonar site (a tidally influenced section of river), but that percentage decreased from 19% to 2% between 2007 and 2013 (Figure 11). The percent of the total late-run Chinook salmon harvest that is downstream of the Chinook salmon sonar site has remained below 10% for the past 4 years (2010–2013).

There was no reported harvest of Chinook salmon 55 inches TL or greater.

Genetic tissue samples were collected from 234 Chinook salmon sampled from inriver gillnets (52 early run, 182 late run), and 56 tissue samples were collected from Chinook salmon sampled from the creel survey during the late run.

A total of 191 Chinook salmon received an esophageal radio transmitter during the inriver gillnetting study (both midriver and nearshore) from 16 May through 17 August at RM 8.6 (61 early run, 130 late run). No radio transmitters were recovered from harvested Chinook salmon during creel survey sampling.

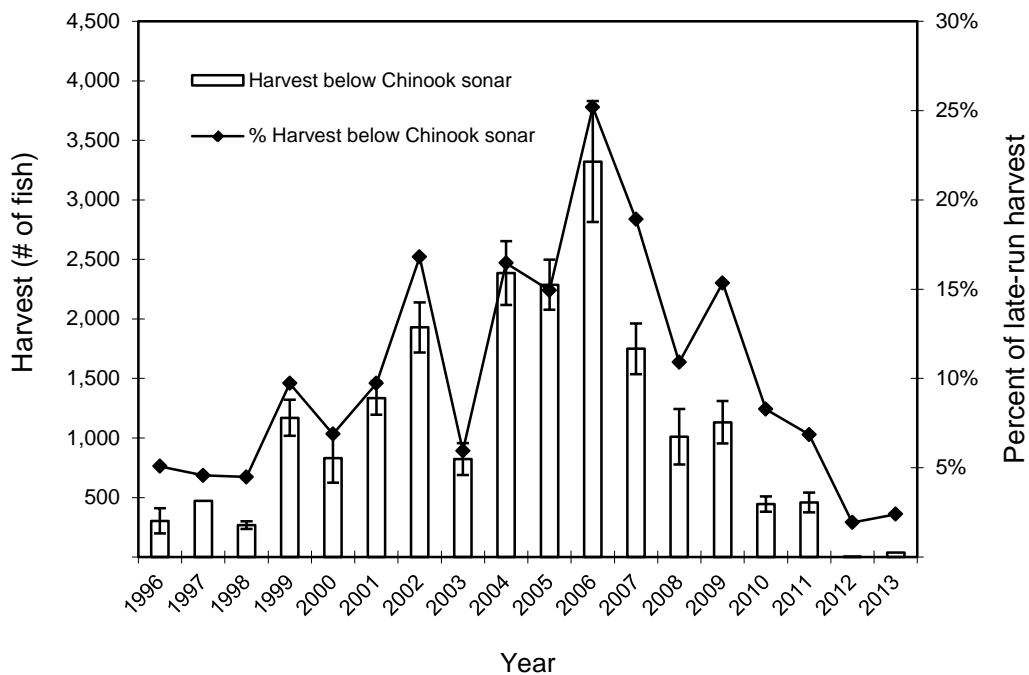


Figure 11.—Estimated number of fish and percent of late-run Kenai River Chinook salmon sport harvest between the lower Chinook salmon sonar site (RM 8.6) and Warren Ames Bridge (RM 5.2), 1996–2013.

Note: Error bars show ± 1 standard error. Precision estimates are unavailable for 1997.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CREEL SURVEY

To achieve early- and late-run escapement goals during 2013, inseason management actions were imposed to restrict harvest of Kenai River Chinook salmon monitored by the creel survey. Early-run effort and harvest were the lowest on record, while late-run effort and harvest were among the lowest observed (Figures 3–4). During the early run, the sport fishery was restricted to catch-and-release trophy fishing, and all fish caught were released (Appendix B2). Prior to catch-and-release trophy fishing restrictions imposed in the late run (starting 25 July), approximately 29% (calculated from Appendices B3–B4) of Chinook salmon were released in the sport fishery. After the catch-and-release trophy fishing restriction was implemented during the late-run, 100% of Chinook salmon caught were released.

The late-run driftboat Monday fishery grew in popularity since its inception until 2008 (Perschbacher 2012d). However, during 2009–2012, late-run Monday index estimates of unguided angler effort and harvest were less than 5% of the total late-run effort and harvest and were less than 1.5% of the total late-run harvest during 2013. It is anticipated that as Chinook salmon runs rebound, so will angler effort and harvest on Mondays. This unique portion of the fishery should continue to be monitored annually. Periodic calibration of the index estimation method will be necessary to ensure relative accuracy.

Currently, CPUE in the creel survey is used with other indices by fisheries managers to gauge run strength and run timing of Kenai River Chinook salmon. The creel survey, coupled with management tools used for inseason estimates of run strength, timing, and abundance (such as the inriver gillnetting project, ESSN fishery, and the DIDSON sonar), is critical for inseason and postseason assessment of Kenai River Chinook salmon.

INRIVER GILLNETTING

Since 2007, inriver gillnetting has been scheduled to begin sampling as close to the high tide as possible without interfering with the gillnetting crew's ability to drift the net effectively. Compared to previous netting schedules, greater sonar fish passage has been observed during the current midriver netting schedule (Perschbacher 2012d); in addition, the schedule change from netting centered around low tide (years 2002–2006) to netting closer to high tide (years 2007–2013) has resulted in higher interception rates of sockeye salmon during the early- and late runs. In 2013, Chinook salmon and sockeye salmon catch rates differed significantly during different hours of the tidal stage and between nearshore and midriver areas (Figure 6).

The nearshore netting study in 2013 caught a disproportionate number of small Chinook salmon in the nearshore noninsonified area compared to the midriver insonified area, especially during the early run. Because early-run Chinook salmon primarily spawn in tributaries of the Kenai River, this may explain the discrepancy between the length composition of early-run Chinook salmon captured midriver and those sampled at the Funny River and Killey River weirs in 2012 and 2013. During the late run, there was no difference between the length distributions of Chinook salmon caught nearshore and midriver. However, it is important to note that sample sizes were small and the power to detect a difference was low. A more rigorous nearshore netting study will be implemented during 2014 to examine potential size differences, especially during the early run. If it becomes feasible to net nearshore and midriver with equal effort, shoreline to shoreline, this would allow better correspondence with the future RM 13.7 Chinook salmon

sonar site, which will insonify the entire water column. Because the Chinook salmon sonar site is being relocated from RM 8.6 to RM 13.7, investigating a possible site for netting upstream of the current RM 8.6 netting area is also warranted. With respect to dissimilar catch rates during different tidal stages, a fixed schedule (i.e., 0800–1600 hours) to examine tidal effects on catch rates should be employed. Ideally, all tide stages would be fished for both midriver and nearshore regions, and catch rates for sockeye and Chinook salmon by hours of the tide would suggest an optimal time frame for netting that would produce the largest catch rates and unbiased length composition estimates of the inriver run.

The inriver gillnetting study has been located at the RM 8.6 sonar site since 1998 and has been budgeted to end each year on 10 August, coinciding with the seasonal end of the sonar project. In 2012, the inriver gillnetting study was extended 5 days through 15 August because of a later than usual Chinook salmon run timing. Approximately 8% of the late-run Chinook salmon sampled in the inriver gillnets were captured 11–15 August (Perschbacher 2014). In 2013, netting was extended 7 days from 11 through 17 August, sampling approximately 6% of the total late-run Chinook salmon captured in the inriver gillnets. In the future, the inriver netting study should be budgeted through 15 August and end when less than 1% of the total late-run Chinook salmon gillnet catch is captured for 3 consecutive days.

Since 2011, managers have relied more heavily on inseason inriver gillnetting data as ADF&G transitions from the split-beam sonar to DIDSON/ARIS¹⁰ multi-beam technology for estimating Kenai River Chinook salmon abundance. The inriver gillnetting program continues to be an integral part of Kenai River Chinook salmon stock assessment and is critical to both inseason and postseason management of Kenai River Chinook salmon.

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¹⁰ Adaptive Resolution Imaging Sonar (ARIS) is the next generation of multi-beam sonar technology producing images comparable to DIDSON or better.

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**APPENDIX A: GUIDED AND UNGUIDED BOAT ANGLER
COUNTS**

Appendix A1.—Guided and unguided boat angler counts by geographic strata during the early-run Kenai River Chinook salmon fishery, 17 May–19 June 2013.

Date	Day type ^a	Downstream ^b								Upstream ^b								Combined strata								
		Unguided anglers ^c				Guided anglers ^c				Unguided anglers ^c				Guided anglers ^c				Unguided anglers ^c				Guided anglers ^c				
		A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	
17 May	WD	0	0	0		0	0			0	0	0		0	3			0	0	0		0	3			
18 May	WE-H	0	0	0		0	0			0	0	0		2	6			0	0	0		2	6			
19 May	WE-H	0	0	0						0	2	0						0	2	0						
21 May	WD		0	0	0		0	0			0	0	0		12	5			0	0	0		12	5		
22 May	WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	3	3	4		0	0	0	0	3	3	4		
25 May	WE-H	0	0	0	0	0	0			2	6	7	0	5	2			2	6	7	0	5	2			
26 May	WE-H	0	0	0	0					4	4	2	0					4	4	2	0					
28 May	WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	2	0	1	7	12	0		0	2	0	1	7	12	0		
31 May	WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	5	9	0		0	0	0	0	5	9	0		
1 Jun	WE-H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		3	0	2	0	0	0	0		3	0	2	0	0	0	0		
2 Jun	WE-H	0	0	0	0					0	4	2	3					0	4	2	3					
4 Jun	WD	0	0	0	0	0	0			5	8	0	0	13	4			5	8	0	0	13	4			
5 Jun	WD	0	0	0	0		0	0		0	0	3	0		10	8		0	0	3	0		10	8		
8 Jun	WE-H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		3	1	5	0	16	19	0		3	1	5	0	16	19	0		
9 Jun	WE-H	0	0	0	0					2	6	12	4					2	6	12	4					
13 Jun	WD	0	0	0	0		0	0		0	6	6	0		8	2		0	6	6	0		8	2		
14 Jun	WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		2	7	0	6	0	3	14		2	7	0	6	0	3	14		
15 Jun	WE-H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	4	3	11	16	7	0		0	4	3	11	16	7	0		
16 Jun	WE-H	0	0	0	0					10	18	0	0					10	18	0	0					
18 Jun	WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	1	3	25	19	0		0	0	1	3	25	19	0		
19 Jun	WD	0	0	0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0		14	4		0	0	0	0		14	4		
Min (All A–D)			0				0				0				0				0				0			
Mean (All A–D)			0				0				2				7				2				7			
Max (All A–D)			0				0				18				25				18				25			

Note: Blank space in data fields indicates that fishing was closed for guided anglers during the time of this count; therefore there is no data to present.

^a WD is weekday and WE-H is weekend and holiday.

^b “Downstream” is the Kenai River reach from Warren Ames Bridge to the Chinook salmon sonar site; “upstream” is the Kenai River reach from the Chinook salmon sonar site to Soldotna Bridge.

^c Angler count times are as follows: A is 0400–0859 hours; B is 0900–1359 hours; C is 1400–1959 hours; and D is 2000–2359 hours.

Appendix A2.—Guided and unguided boat angler counts by geographic strata during the late-run Kenai River Chinook salmon fishery, 1–27 July 2013.

Date	Day type ^a	Downstream ^b								Upstream ^b								Combined strata							
		Unguided anglers ^c				Guided anglers ^c				Unguided anglers ^c				Guided anglers ^c				Unguided anglers ^c				Guided anglers ^c			
		A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
1 Jul	M	0								6								6							
2 Jul	WD	0	0	0	0	11	0			14	18	23	8	186	132			14	18	23	8	197	132		
5 Jul	WD	0	11	0	0	6	6			16	32	22	8	127	74			16	43	22	8	133	80		
6 Jul	WE-H	0	3	0	0	3	0	0		25	39	28	19	118	115	28		25	42	28	19	121	115	28	
7 Jul	WE-H	0	0	0	0					15	50	58	42					15	50	58	42				
8 Jul	M	0								25								25							
9 Jul	WD	0	0	0	0	0	10	0		35	19	30	4	201	103	42		35	19	30	4	201	113	42	
11 Jul	WD	0	0	4	0	0	2	0		24	35	51	43	161	111	48		24	35	55	43	161	113	48	
13 Jul	WE-H	0	0	0	0	0	0			65	72	52	17	216	167			65	72	52	17	216	167		
14 Jul	WE-H	0	0	13	0					43	103	109	68					43	103	122	68				
15 Jul	M	0								22								22							
18 Jul	WD	0	0	0	0	14	0			70	61	61	22	292	175			70	61	61	22	306	175		
19 Jul	WD	7	0	4	6	6	6			65	64	42	18	264	240			72	64	46	24	270	246		
20 Jul	WE-H	3	0	0	0	3	15	3		106	80	50	27	270	208	41		109	80	50	27	273	223	44	
21 Jul	WE-H	0	8	0	0					142	102	87	42					142	110	87	42				
22 Jul	M	0								30								30							
23 Jul	WD	0	0	0	1	0	7	0		177	74	57	57	406	283	57		177	74	57	58	406	290	57	
24 Jul	WD	0	3	4	0	0	0	0		106	66	79	86	309	243	119		106	69	83	86	309	243	119	
27 Jul	WD	0	3	0	0	0	0			49	29	46	51	105	66			49	32	46	51	105	66		
Min (All A–D)		0				0				4				28				4				28			
Mean (All A–D)		1				3				50				164				51				167			
Max (All A–D)		13				15				177				406				177				406			

Note: Blank space in data fields indicates that fishing was closed for guided anglers during the time of this count; therefore there is no data to present.

^a M is Monday index count (0800–1359), WD is weekday, and WE-H is weekend and holiday.

^b “Downstream” is the Kenai River reach from Warren Ames Bridge to the Chinook salmon sonar site; “upstream” is the Kenai River reach from the Chinook salmon sonar site to Soldotna Bridge.

^c Angler count times are as follows: A is 0400–0859 hours; B is 0900–1359 hours; C is 1400–1959 hours; and D is 2000–2359 hours.

**APPENDIX B: DAILY ESTIMATES OF GUIDED AND
UNGUIDED BOAT ANGLER EFFORT, CATCH, AND
HARVEST**

Appendix B1.—Daily estimates of unguided boat angler effort, catch, harvest, CPUE, and HPUE by geographic strata during the early-run Kenai River Chinook salmon fishery, 17 May–19 June 2013.

Date	Day type ^c	Angler interview data ^a					Downstream ^b								Upstream ^b							
		n ^d	CPUE	SE	HPUE	SE	Counts		Effort		Catch		Harvest		Counts		Effort		Catch		Harvest	
							n	Mean	Est.	SE	Est.	SE	Est.	SE	n	Mean	Est.	SE	Est.	SE	Est.	SE
17 May	WD	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 May	WE-H	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19 May	WE-H	3	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.7	13	16	0	0	0	0
21 May	WD	3	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22 May	WD	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 May	WE-H	10	0.033	0.034	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3.8	75	33	3	3	0	0
26 May	WE-H	2	0.031	0.027	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2.5	50	12	2	1	0	0
28 May	WD	3	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.8	15	12	0	0	0	0
31 May	WD	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 Jun	WE-H	1	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1.3	25	17	0	0	0	0
2 Jun	WE-H	4	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2.3	45	19	0	0	0	0
4 Jun	WD	9	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3.3	65	35	0	0	0	0
5 Jun	WD	6	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.8	15	17	0	0	0	0
8 Jun	WE-H	10	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2.3	45	27	0	0	0	0
9 Jun	WE-H	8	0.039	0.038	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6.0	120	44	5	5	0	0
13 Jun	WD	6	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3.0	60	35	0	0	0	0
14 Jun	WD	4	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3.8	75	43	0	0	0	0
15 Jun	WE-H	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4.5	90	37	0	0	0	0
16 Jun	WE-H	14	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7.0	140	80	0	0	0	0
18 Jun	WD	0	0.250	0.180	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1.0	20	9	5	4	0	0
19 Jun	WD	2	0.250	0.180	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Min	0	0.000		0.000		3	0.0	0		0		0	3	0.0	0		0		0		0
	Mean	4	0.029		0.000		4	0.0	0		0		0	4	2.0	41		1		0		0
	Max	14	0.250		0.000		4	0.0	0		0		0	4	7.0	140		5		0		0

Note: “Catch” is fish harvested plus fish released; “harvest” is fish kept; “effort” is angler hours; “CPUE” is catch per unit effort; and “HPUE” is harvest per unit effort.

^a WD is weekday and WE-H is weekend and holiday.

^b Angler counts were geographically stratified; angler interviews were not. CPUE and HPUE are catch and harvest per hour.

^c “Downstream” is the Kenai River reach from Warren Ames Bridge to the Chinook salmon sonar site; “upstream” is the Kenai River reach from the Chinook salmon sonar site to Soldotna Bridge.

^d On days with less than 5 angler interviews, pooled estimates of CPUE and HPUE from other days in the stratum were used.

Appendix B2.—Daily estimates of guided boat angler effort, catch, harvest, CPUE, and HPUE by geographic strata during the early-run Kenai River Chinook salmon fishery, 17 May–19 June 2013.

Date	Day type ^c	Angler interview data ^a					Downstream ^b								Upstream ^b							
		n ^d	CPUE	SE	HPUE	SE	Counts		Effort		Catch		Harvest		Counts		Effort		Catch		Harvest	
							n	Mean	Est.	SE	Est.	SE	Est.	SE	n	Mean	Est.	SE	Est.	SE	Est.	SE
17 May	WD	2	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.5	18	18	0	0	0	0
18 May	WE-H	8	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4.0	48	24	0	0	0	0
21 May	WD	0	0.029	0.078	0.000	0.000	2	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8.5	102	42	3	8	0	0
22 May	WD	4	0.029	0.078	0.000	0.000	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3.3	40	3	1	3	0	0
25 May	WE-H	4	0.029	0.078	0.000	0.000	2	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3.5	42	18	1	3	0	0
26 May	WE-H	2	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3	0.7							3	3.3						
28 May	WD	6	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6.3	76	45	0	0	0	0
31 May	WD	2	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4.7	56	34	0	0	0	0
1 Jun	WE-H	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Jun	WD	4	0.010	0.012	0.000	0.000	2	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8.5	102	54	1	1	0	0
5 Jun	WD	0	0.010	0.012	0.000	0.000	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9.0	108	12	1	1	0	0
8 Jun	WE-H	10	0.014	0.014	0.000	0.000	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	11.7	140	67	2	2	0	0
13 Jun	WD	4	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5.0	60	36	0	0	0	0
14 Jun	WD	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5.7	68	39	0	0	0	0
15 Jun	WE-H	4	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7.7	92	39	0	0	0	0
18 Jun	WD	8	0.023	0.023	0.000	0.000	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	14.7	176	69	4	4	0	0
19 Jun	WD	4	0.019	0.018	0.000	0.000	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9.0	108	60	2	2	0	0
	Min	0	0.000		0.000		2	0.0	0		0		0		2	0.0	0		0		0	
	Mean	4	0.010		0.000		3	0.0	0		0		0		3	6.3	77		1		0	
	Max	10	0.029		0.000		3	0.7	0		0		0		3	14.7	176		4		0	

Note: “Catch” is fish harvested plus fish released; “harvest” is fish kept; “effort” is angler hours; “CPUE” is catch per unit effort; and “HPUE” is harvest per unit effort.

^a WD is weekday and WE-H is weekend and holiday.

^b Angler counts were geographically stratified; angler interviews were not. CPUE and HPUE are catch and harvest per hour.

^c “Downstream” is the Kenai River reach from Warren Ames Bridge to the Chinook salmon sonar site; “upstream” is the Kenai River reach from the Chinook salmon sonar site to Soldotna Bridge.

^d On days with less than 5 angler interviews, pooled estimates of CPUE and HPUE from other days in the stratum were used.

Appendix B3.—Daily estimates of unguided boat angler effort, catch, harvest, CPUE, and HPUE by geographic strata during the late-run Kenai River Chinook salmon fishery, 1–27 July 2013.

Date	Day type ^a	Angler interview data ^b					Downstream ^c								Upstream ^c							
		n ^d	CPUE	SE	HPUE	SE	Counts		Effort		Catch		Harvest		Counts		Effort		Catch		Harvest	
							n	Mean	Est.	SE	Est.	SE	Est.	SE	n	Mean	Est.	SE	Est.	SE	Est.	SE
2 Jul	WD	6	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	15.8	315	67	0	0	0	0
5 Jul	WD	25	0.022	0.015	0.000	0.000	4	2.8	55	64	1	2	0	0	4	19.5	390	96	9	6	0	0
6 Jul	WE-H	9	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4	0.8	15	17	0	0	0	0	4	27.8	555	81	0	0	0	0
7 Jul	WE-H	24	0.054	0.022	0.045	0.021	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	41.3	825	160	44	20	37	18
9 Jul	WD	2	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	22.0	440	132	0	0	0	0
11 Jul	WD	2	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4	1.0	20	23	0	0	0	0	4	38.3	765	86	0	0	0	0
13 Jul	WE-H	13	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	51.5	1,030	167	0	0	0	0
14 Jul	WE-H	28	0.045	0.019	0.037	0.017	4	3.3	65	75	3	4	2	3	4	80.8	1,615	298	72	33	60	30
18 Jul	WD	4	0.057	0.033	0.033	0.032	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	53.5	1,070	163	61	37	35	35
19 Jul	WD	25	0.060	0.021	0.030	0.017	4	4.3	85	34	5	3	3	2	4	47.3	945	133	57	21	28	17
20 Jul	WE-H	26	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	4	0.8	15	12	0	0	0	0	4	65.8	1,315	187	10	10	10	10
21 Jul	WE-H	26	0.053	0.026	0.040	0.023	4	2.0	40	46	2	3	2	2	4	93.3	1,865	253	98	50	74	44
23 Jul	WD	19	0.032	0.017	0.000	0.000	4	0.3	5	4	0	0	0	0	4	91.3	1,825	426	59	33	0	0
24 Jul	WD	20	0.022	0.016	0.011	0.011	4	1.8	35	21	1	1	0	0	4	84.3	1,685	174	37	27	18	19
27 Jul	WE-H	20	0.040	0.020	0.000	0.000	4	0.8	15	17	1	1	0	0	4	43.8	875	109	35	18	0	0
	Min	2	0.000		0.000		4	0.0	0		0		0	4	15.8	315		0		0	0	
	Mean	17	0.026		0.013		4	1.2	23		1		0	4	51.7	1,034		32		17		
	Max	28	0.060		0.045		4	4.3	85		5		3	4	93.3	1,865		98		74		

Note: “Catch” is fish harvested plus fish released; “harvest” is fish kept; “effort” is angler hours; “CPUE” is catch per unit effort; and “HPUE” is harvest per unit effort.

^a WD is weekday and WE-H is weekend and holiday.

^b Angler counts were geographically stratified; angler interviews were not. CPUE and HPUE are catch and harvest per hour.

^c “Downstream” is the Kenai River reach from Warren Ames Bridge to the Chinook salmon sonar site; “upstream” is the Kenai River reach from the Chinook salmon sonar site to Soldotna Bridge.

^d On days with less than 5 angler interviews, pooled estimates of CPUE and HPUE from other days in the stratum were used.

Appendix B4.—Daily estimates of guided boat angler effort, catch, harvest, CPUE, and HPUE by geographic strata during the late-run Kenai River Chinook salmon fishery, 1–27 July 2013.

Date	Day type ^a	Angler interview data ^b					Downstream ^c								Upstream ^c							
		n ^d	CPUE	SE	HPUE	SE	Counts		Effort		Catch		Harvest		Counts		Effort		Catch		Harvest	
							n	Mean	Est.	SE	Est.	SE	Est.	SE	n	Mean	Est.	SE	Est.	SE	Est.	SE
2 Jul	WD	43	0.006	0.005	0.006	0.005	2	5.5	66	66	0	1	0	1	2	159.0	1,908	324	12	9	12	9
5 Jul	WD	27	0.040	0.018	0.029	0.013	2	6.0	72	0	3	1	2	1	2	100.5	1,206	318	48	25	34	18
6 Jul	WE-H	2	0.018	0.021	0.014	0.015	3	1.0	12	10	0	0	0	0	3	87.0	1,044	302	19	23	15	17
9 Jul	WD	54	0.020	0.008	0.017	0.007	3	3.3	40	49	1	1	1	1	3	115.3	1,384	400	28	14	23	12
11 Jul	WD	25	0.113	0.032	0.066	0.024	3	0.7	8	10	1	1	1	1	3	106.7	1,280	279	144	52	84	36
13 Jul	WE-H	72	0.021	0.006	0.012	0.005	2	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	191.5	2,298	294	48	16	29	12
18 Jul	WD	23	0.075	0.022	0.047	0.018	2	7.0	84	84	6	7	4	4	2	233.5	2,802	702	209	81	131	61
19 Jul	WD	8	0.053	0.045	0.053	0.045	2	6.0	72	0	4	3	4	3	2	252.0	3,024	144	161	136	161	136
20 Jul	WE-H	21	0.029	0.018	0.029	0.018	3	7.0	84	59	2	2	2	2	3	173.0	2,076	617	60	41	60	41
23 Jul	WD	11	0.079	0.057	0.063	0.044	3	2.3	28	34	2	3	2	2	3	248.7	2,984	891	235	184	188	142
24 Jul	WD	40	0.016	0.007	0.013	0.007	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	223.7	2,684	487	43	21	34	19
27 Jul	WE-H	4	0.029	0.068	0.021	0.048	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	85.5	1,026	234	70	30	0	0
	Min	2	0.006		0.006		2	0.0	0		0		0	2	85.5	1,026		12		0		0
	Mean	28	0.042		0.031		3	3.2	39		2		1	3	164.7	1,976		90		64		64
	Max	72	0.113		0.066		3	7.0	84		6		4	3	252.0	3,024		235		188		188

Note: “Catch” is fish harvested plus fish released; “harvest” is fish kept; “effort” is angler hours; “CPUE” is catch per unit effort; and “HPUE” is harvest per unit effort.

^a WD is weekday and WE-H is weekend and holiday.

^b Angler counts were geographically stratified; angler interviews were not. CPUE and HPUE are catch and harvest per hour.

^c “Downstream” is the Kenai River reach from Warren Ames Bridge to the Chinook salmon sonar site; “upstream” is the Kenai River reach from the Chinook salmon sonar site to Soldotna Bridge.

^d On days with less than 5 angler interviews, pooled estimates of CPUE and HPUE from other days in the stratum were used.

**APPENDIX C: ESTIMATED EFFORT, CATCH, AND
HARVEST ABOVE AND BELOW RM 8.6**

Appendix C1.—Estimated effort, catch, and harvest above and below RM 8.6 during the early-run Kenai River Chinook salmon fishery, 16 May–19 June 2013.

Fishing periods ^b	Downstream ^a creel estimates						Upstream ^a creel estimates						Downstream %		
	Effort		Chinook salmon Catch		Chinook salmon Harvest		Effort		Chinook salmon Catch		Chinook salmon Harvest				
	Hours fished	SE	No. fish	SE	No. fish	SE	Hours fished	SE	No. fish	SE	No. fish	SE	Effort	Catch	Harvest
	16–19 May														
Guided WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	25	0	0	0	0	0.0%	NA	NA
Guided WE	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	24	0	0	0	0	0.0%	NA	NA
Unguided WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA
Unguided WE	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	16	0	0	0	0	0.0%	NA	NA
21–27 May															
Guided WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	284	106	8	12	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	NA
Guided WE-H	0	0	0	0	0	0	84	25	2	5	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	NA
Unguided WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA
Unguided WE-H	0	0	0	0	0	0	188	48	6	4	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	NA
28 May–2 June															
Guided WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	264	85	0	0	0	0	0.0%	NA	NA
Guided WE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA
Unguided WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	27	0	0	0	0	0.0%	NA	NA
Unguided WE	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	25	0	0	0	0	0.0%	NA	NA
4–9 June															
Guided WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	420	79	4	3	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	NA
Guided WE	0	0	0	0	0	0	140	67	2	2	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	NA
Unguided WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	160	90	0	0	0	0	0.0%	NA	NA
Unguided WE	0	0	0	0	0	0	165	52	5	5	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	NA

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Fishing periods ^a	Downstream creel estimates ^b						Upstream creel estimates ^b						Downstream %		
	Effort		Chinook salmon Catch		Chinook salmon Harvest		Effort		Chinook salmon Catch		Chinook salmon Harvest				
	Hours fished	SE	No. fish	SE	No. fish	SE	Hours fished	SE	No. fish	SE	No. fish	SE	Effort	Catch	Harvest
	11–16 June														
Guided WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	256	76	0	0	0	0	0.0%	NA	NA
Guided WE	0	0	0	0	0	0	92	39	0	0	0	0	0.0%	NA	NA
Unguided WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	270	81	0	0	0	0	0.0%	NA	NA
Unguided WE	0	0	0	0	0	0	230	88	0	0	0	0	0.0%	NA	NA
18–19 June															
Guided WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	284	91	6	5	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	NA
Unguided WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	9	5	4	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	NA
Day type subtotals															
Guided WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,544	199	18	14	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	NA
Guided WE-H	0	0	0	0	0	0	364	85	4	5	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	NA
Unguided WD	0	0	0	0	0	0	480	124	5	4	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	NA
Unguided WE-H	0	0	0	0	0	0	666	117	11	6	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	NA
Angler type subtotals															
Guided	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,908	216	23	15	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	NA
% Guided	0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		62.5%		59.2%		0.0%				
Unguided	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,146	171	16	8	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	NA
% Unguided	0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		37.5%		40.8%		0.0%				
Early-run total	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,054	275	39	16	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	NA

Note: NA means not applicable.

^a The sport fishery was closed to harvest of Chinook salmon 20–55 inches TL on 16 May–19 June and closed to all Chinook salmon fishing 20–30 June.

^b “Downstream” is the Kenai River reach from the Warren Ames Bridge to the Chinook salmon sonar site; “upstream” is the Kenai River reach from the Chinook salmon sonar site to Soldotna Bridge.

Appendix C2.—Estimated effort, catch, and harvest above and below RM 8.6 during the late-run Kenai River Chinook salmon fishery, 1–27 July 2013.

Fishing periods ^a	Downstream creel estimates ^b						Upstream creel estimates ^b						Downstream %		
	Effort		Chinook salmon Catch		Chinook salmon Harvest		Effort		Chinook salmon Catch		Chinook salmon Harvest				
	Hours	SE	No. fish	SE	No. fish	SE	Hours	SE	No. fish	SE	No. fish	SE	Effort	Catch	Harvest
	fished						fished		fish		fish				
2–7 July															
Guided WD	276	94	7	4	5	3	6,228	1,182	121	63	93	43	4.2%	5.2%	5.1%
Guided WE	12	10	0	0	0	0	1,044	302	19	23	15	17	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
Unguided WD	110	119	2	3	0	0	1,410	196	17	15	0	0	7.2%	12.4%	N/A
Unguided WE	15	17	0	0	0	0	1,380	180	44	20	37	18	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%
9–14 July															
Guided WD	96	84	3	2	2	2	5,328	705	344	182	214	102	1.8%	1.0%	1.1%
Guided WE	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,298	294	48	16	29	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Unguided WD	40	43	0	0	0	0	2,410	511	0	0	0	0	1.6%	N/A	N/A
Unguided WE	65	75	3	4	2	3	2,645	341	72	33	60	30	2.4%	3.9%	3.9%
16–21 July															
Guided WD	312	120	20	11	16	8	11,652	1,061	740	234	584	215	2.6%	2.7%	2.6%
Guided WE	84	59	2	2	2	2	2,076	617	60	41	60	41	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%
Unguided WD	170	129	10	8	5	4	4,030	346	235	60	126	55	4.0%	4.2%	3.9%
Unguided WE	55	48	2	3	2	2	3,180	315	108	51	84	45	1.7%	2.0%	2.0%
23–27 July															
Guided WD	28	34	2	3	2	2	7,720	1,042	419	198	222	144	0.4%	0.5%	0.8%
Guided WE	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,026	234	71	69	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	N/A
Unguided WD	70	27	2	1	0	0	5,260	473	165	47	18	19	1.3%	1.3%	2.0%
Unguided WE	15	17	1	1	0	0	875	109	35	18	0	0	1.7%	1.7%	N/A

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Fishing periods ^a	Downstream creel estimates ^b						Upstream creel estimates ^b						Downstream %			
	Effort		Chinook salmon		Harvest		Effort		Chinook salmon		Harvest					
	Hours	SE	Catch	Harvest	Hours	SE	Catch	Harvest	Hours	SE	Catch	Harvest				
	fished	SE	No. fish	SE	No. fish	SE	No. fish	SE	fished	SE	No. fish	SE	No. fish	SE		
Day type subtotals																
Guided WD	712	177	32	12	25	9	30,928	2,026	1,623	362	1,113	281	2.3%	2.0%	2.2%	
Guided WE	96	60	3	2	3	2	6,444	783	197	85	103	46	1.5%	1.3%	2.5%	
Unguided WD	390	183	15	9	5	4	13,110	802	418	78	144	59	2.9%	3.4%	3.6%	
Unguided WE	150	92	6	5	4	4	8,080	510	260	67	181	57	1.8%	2.2%	2.2%	
Angler type subtotals																
Guided	808	187	35	12	27	9	37,372	2,172	1,820	372	1,216	285	2.1%	1.9%	2.2%	
% Guided	59.9%		63.1%		74.0%		63.8%		72.9%		78.9%					
Unguided	540	205	20	10	10	6	21,190	951	678	103	325	82	2.5%	2.9%	2.9%	
% Unguided	40.1%		36.9%		26.0%		36.2%		27.1%		21.1%					
Late-run total	1,348	277	56	16	37	11	58,562	2,371	2,498	386	1,541	297	2.3%	2.2%	2.3%	

Note: NA means not applicable.

^a The sport fishery was closed to harvest of Chinook salmon 20–55 inches TL on 16 May–19 June and closed to all Chinook salmon fishing 20–30 June.

^b “Downstream” is the Kenai River reach from the Warren Ames Bridge to the Chinook salmon sonar site; “upstream” is the Kenai River reach from the Chinook salmon sonar site to Soldotna Bridge.

**APPENDIX D: NUMBER OF CHINOOK AND SOCKEYE
SALMON CAUGHT IN INRIVER GILLNETS**

Appendix D1.—Number of Chinook and sockeye salmon caught midriver in 5.0-inch and 7.5-inch mesh gillnets during the early-run Kenai River Chinook salmon sport fishery, 16 May–30 June 2013.

Date	Inriver drift gillnetting catch											
	5.0-inch mesh					7.5-inch mesh					Combined total ^a	
	No. drifts	Time fished (min)	Chinook salmon No. fish	Sockeye salmon No. fish	Total No. fish	No. drifts	Time fished (min)	Chinook salmon No. fish	Sockeye salmon No. fish	Total No. fish	Chinook salmon No. fish	Total No. fish
16 May	11	129	0	0	0	12	126	0	0	0	0	0
17 May	9	109	0	0	0	10	105	0	0	0	0	0
18 May	10	118	0	0	0	9	88	0	0	0	0	0
19 May	10	98	0	0	0	10	102	0	0	0	0	0
20 May	8	92	0	1	1	8	83	1	0	1	1	2
21 May	10	112	0	2	2	10	106	0	0	0	0	2
22 May	10	111	1	4	5	9	95	0	1	1	1	6
23 May	9	90	1	2	3	10	92	0	1	1	1	4
24 May	10	100	1	4	5	10	92	0	1	1	1	6
25 May	11	101	0	0	0	12	91	0	0	0	0	0
26 May	10	90	0	4	4	9	74	0	1	1	0	5
27 May	9	83	0	9	9	10	88	0	1	2	0	11
28 May	8	72	0	16	17	8	74	0	1	1	0	18
29 May	11	83	0	9	9	12	88	0	5	5	0	14
30 May	10	93	0	16	16	10	89	0	4	4	0	20
31 May	10	86	0	14	14	10	88	1	5	6	1	20
1 Jun	10	92	1	8	9	10	92	0	2	2	1	11
2 Jun	8	73	0	30	30	8	77	0	5	5	0	35
3 Jun	10	86	0	20	20	9	82	0	5	5	0	25
4 Jun	8	59	0	34	34	8	74	1	1	2	1	36
5 Jun	12	102	0	23	23	11	91	0	8	8	0	31
6 Jun	10	81	0	10	10	10	81	2	2	4	2	14
7 Jun	12	93	2	5	7	12	98	2	1	3	4	10
8 Jun	10	72	0	20	20	12	84	6	2	8	6	28

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Date	Inriver drift gillnetting catch											
	5.0-inch mesh					7.5-inch mesh					Combined total ^a	
	No. drifts	Time fished (min)	Chinook salmon No. fish	Sockeye salmon No. fish	Total No. fish	No. drifts	Time fished (min)	Chinook salmon No. fish	Sockeye salmon No. fish	Total No. fish	Chinook salmon No. fish	Total No. fish
9 Jun	10	71	1	10	11	9	61	2	3	5	3	16
10 Jun	11	80	0	6	6	12	92	0	0	0	0	6
11 Jun	12	80	1	10	11	12	85	1	3	4	2	15
12 Jun	11	63	2	9	11	12	63	1	3	4	3	15
13 Jun	12	65	1	12	13	12	59	1	5	6	2	19
14 Jun	14	73	1	21	22	14	69	1	6	7	2	29
15 Jun	16	86	0	14	14	16	80	1	4	5	1	19
16 Jun	12	80	0	5	5	12	69	1	0	1	1	6
17 Jun	12	82	1	3	4	12	80	1	0	1	2	5
18 Jun	15	80	0	5	5	16	81	1	1	3	1	8
19 Jun	16	92	2	9	11	16	84	0	3	3	2	14
20 Jun	16	75	1	3	4	18	86	0	1	1	1	5
21 Jun	14	81	0	3	3	13	69	3	2	5	3	8
22 Jun	16	81	0	2	2	16	82	0	1	1	0	3
23 Jun	12	72	0	1	1	12	72	1	1	2	1	3
24 Jun	15	81	0	2	2	16	86	0	2	2	0	4
25 Jun	18	96	0	1	1	17	95	1	1	2	1	3
26 Jun	12	68	0	5	5	12	70	2	3	5	2	10
27 Jun	16	92	1	3	4	15	88	0	0	0	1	4
28 Jun	10	63	0	15	15	10	60	3	25	28	3	43
29 Jun	10	58	2	23	25	9	53	3	13	16	5	41
30 Jun	11	68	0	34	34	12	70	0	7	7	0	41
Total	527	3,908	19	427	447	532	3,811	36	130	168	55	615
Min	8	58	0	0	0	8	53	0	0	0	0	0
Mean	11	85	0	9	10	12	83	1	3	4	1	13
Max	18	129	2	34	34	18	126	6	25	28	6	43

^a Combined total is number of Chinook salmon and total number of fish caught in 5.0-inch and 7.5-inch mesh gillnets.

Appendix D2.—Catch and CPUE of Chinook and sockeye salmon and proportion of Chinook salmon caught midriver in 5.0-inch and 7.5-inch mesh gillnets for replicates with at least 1 drift from each mesh size during the early-run Kenai River Chinook salmon sport fishery, 16 May–30 June 2013.

Date	Inriver drift gillnetting catch												
	Reps ^a	No. drifts	Time fished (min)	Chinook salmon			Sockeye salmon			Total		Chinook salmon	
				No. fish	CPUE ^b	SE	No. fish	CPUE ^b	SE	No. fish	CPUE ^b	Prop. ^c	SE
16 May	6	23	255	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000		
17 May	5	19	214	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000		
18 May	5	19	206	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000		
19 May	5	20	200	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000		
20 May	4	16	175	1	0.006	0.006	1	0.007	0.007	2	0.011	0.47	0.41
21 May	5	20	218	0	0.000	0.000	2	0.011	0.011	2	0.009	0.00	0.00
22 May	5	19	206	1	0.004	0.004	5	0.023	0.008	6	0.029	0.16	0.14
23 May	5	19	182	1	0.005	0.005	3	0.026	0.014	4	0.022	0.17	0.19
24 May	5	20	192	1	0.004	0.004	5	0.027	0.009	6	0.031	0.13	0.13
25 May	6	23	192	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000		
26 May	5	19	163	0	0.000	0.000	5	0.030	0.019	5	0.031	0.00	0.00
27 May	5	19	171	0	0.000	0.000	10	0.054	0.037	10	0.059	0.00	0.00
28 May	4	16	145	0	0.000	0.000	17	0.116	0.019	17	0.117	0.00	0.00
29 May	6	23	171	0	0.000	0.000	14	0.071	0.019	14	0.082	0.00	0.00
30 May	5	20	182	0	0.000	0.000	20	0.108	0.039	20	0.110	0.00	0.00
31 May	5	20	174	1	0.006	0.006	19	0.112	0.035	20	0.115	0.05	0.05
1 Jun	5	20	184	1	0.006	0.006	10	0.057	0.040	11	0.060	0.09	0.04
2 Jun	4	16	150	0	0.000	0.000	35	0.238	0.082	35	0.234	0.00	0.00
3 Jun	5	19	168	0	0.000	0.000	25	0.204	0.080	25	0.149	0.00	0.00
4 Jun	4	16	133	1	0.006	0.006	35	0.285	0.045	36	0.271	0.02	0.02
5 Jun	6	23	192	0	0.000	0.000	31	0.155	0.035	31	0.161	0.00	0.00
6 Jun	5	20	162	2	0.013	0.008	12	0.076	0.028	14	0.086	0.15	0.05
7 Jun	6	24	191	4	0.021	0.011	6	0.032	0.015	10	0.052	0.39	0.18
8 Jun	5	20	145	6	0.041	0.020	21	0.146	0.048	27	0.187	0.22	0.06
9 Jun	5	19	132	3	0.022	0.009	13	0.098	0.027	16	0.121	0.18	0.07
10 Jun	6	23	172	0	0.000	0.000	6	0.034	0.017	6	0.035	0.00	0.00

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Date	Inriver drift gillnetting catch												
	Reps ^a	No. drifts	Time fished (min)	Chinook salmon			Sockeye salmon			Total		Chinook salmon	
				No. fish	CPUE ^b	SE	No. fish	CPUE ^b	SE	No. fish	CPUE ^b	Prop. ^c	SE
11 Jun	6	24	166	2	0.011	0.007	13	0.080	0.025	15	0.090	0.12	0.09
12 Jun	6	23	125	3	0.023	0.011	12	0.090	0.029	15	0.120	0.20	0.07
13 Jun	6	24	124	2	0.016	0.016	17	0.137	0.050	19	0.153	0.11	0.11
14 Jun	7	28	142	2	0.014	0.009	27	0.187	0.034	29	0.205	0.07	0.04
15 Jun	8	32	166	1	0.006	0.006	18	0.106	0.023	19	0.114	0.06	0.04
16 Jun	6	24	149	1	0.007	0.007	5	0.029	0.014	6	0.040	0.20	0.20
17 Jun	6	24	162	2	0.013	0.008	3	0.018	0.008	5	0.031	0.42	0.19
18 Jun	8	31	161	1	0.006	0.006	6	0.035	0.011	7	0.044	0.13	0.12
19 Jun	8	32	176	2	0.012	0.008	12	0.071	0.021	14	0.080	0.14	0.07
20 Jun	8	32	157	1	0.006	0.006	3	0.017	0.008	4	0.026	0.27	0.24
21 Jun	7	27	150	3	0.021	0.010	5	0.030	0.012	8	0.053	0.42	0.14
22 Jun	8	32	163	0	0.000	0.000	3	0.017	0.012	3	0.018	0.00	0.00
23 Jun	6	24	145	1	0.007	0.007	2	0.013	0.008	3	0.021	0.35	0.31
24 Jun	8	31	167	0	0.000	0.000	4	0.023	0.018	4	0.024	0.00	0.00
25 Jun	9	35	191	1	0.005	0.005	2	0.009	0.006	3	0.016	0.34	0.17
26 Jun	6	24	138	2	0.015	0.009	8	0.055	0.013	10	0.073	0.21	0.10
27 Jun	8	31	180	1	0.004	0.004	3	0.016	0.008	4	0.022	0.20	0.20
28 Jun	5	20	123	3	0.026	0.011	40	0.305	0.135	43	0.349	0.08	0.03
29 Jun	5	19	111	5	0.043	0.021	36	0.319	0.091	41	0.369	0.12	0.06
30 Jun	6	23	138	0	0.000	0.000	41	0.324	0.078	41	0.297	0.00	0.00
Total	269	1,055	7,704	55	0.369		555	3.790		610	0.0792	NA	NA
Min	4	16	111	0	0.000		0	0.000		0	0.000	0.00	
Mean	6	23	167	1	0.008		12	0.082		13	0.0792	0.13	
Max	9	35	255	6	0.043		41	0.324		43	0.1687	0.47	

Note: NA means not applicable.

^a A complete replicate (rep) consists of 4 drifts (2 mesh sizes, 2 banks). Only reps that had at least 1 drift from each mesh size were used in this table.

^b CPUE is catch per minute.

^c Proportion of combined total catch equals Chinook salmon CPUE divided by the combined total of all species CPUE.

Appendix D3.—Number of Chinook, sockeye, coho, and pink salmon caught inriver in 5.0-inch and 7.5-inch mesh gillnets during the late-run Kenai River Chinook salmon sport fishery, 1 July–17 August 2013.

Date	Inriver drift gillnetting catch															
	5.0-inch mesh							7.5-inch mesh							Combined total ^a	
	No. drifts	Time fished (min)	Chinook salmon	Sockeye salmon	Coho salmon	Pink salmon	Total	No. drifts	Time fished (min)	Chinook salmon	Sockeye salmon	Coho salmon	Pink salmon	Total	Chinook salmon	Total
1 Jul	14	85	1	15	0	0	16	13	76	0	9	0	0	9	1	25
2 Jul	13	84	1	8	0	0	9	14	87	2	5	0	0	7	3	16
3 Jul	8	52	3	39	0	0	42	7	41	4	16	0	0	20	7	62
4 Jul	10	56	0	31	0	0	31	10	52	1	25	0	0	26	1	57
5 Jul	14	77	1	18	0	0	19	13	66	1	17	0	0	18	2	37
6 Jul	12	69	2	11	0	0	13	12	58	3	10	0	0	13	5	26
7 Jul	14	73	1	6	0	0	7	13	68	3	3	0	0	6	4	13
8 Jul	11	66	1	8	0	0	9	12	70	4	17	0	0	21	5	30
9 Jul	12	72	1	8	0	0	9	11	63	8	29	0	0	37	9	46
10 Jul	10	56	2	42	0	0	44	10	49	5	45	0	0	50	7	94
11 Jul	14	78	0	21	0	0	21	13	77	3	39	0	0	42	3	63
12 Jul	16	89	0	2	0	0	2	16	86	2	4	0	0	6	2	8
13 Jul	14	76	0	20	0	0	20	13	64	7	16	0	0	23	7	43
14 Jul	9	52	1	36	0	0	37	10	60	14	14	0	0	28	15	65
15 Jul	10	59	0	38	0	0	38	10	56	3	59	0	0	62	3	100
16 Jul	11	59	0	80	0	0	80	12	55	4	57	0	0	61	4	141
17 Jul	8	48	2	47	0	0	49	8	45	3	28	0	0	31	5	80
18 Jul	8	47	4	120	0	0	124	8	47	1	34	0	0	35	5	159
19 Jul	12	42	2	102	0	0	104	12	57	4	19	0	0	23	6	127
20 Jul	12	55	0	77	0	0	77	12	66	2	11	0	0	13	2	90
21 Jul	12	47	1	71	0	0	72	11	54	1	18	0	0	20	2	92
22 Jul	13	68	1	56	0	0	58	14	73	2	13	0	0	15	3	73
23 Jul	10	55	4	82	0	0	86	10	53	1	14	0	0	15	5	101
24 Jul	12	67	2	38	0	0	40	12	66	4	4	0	0	8	6	48
25 Jul	14	75	2	20	0	0	22	13	69	0	5	0	0	5	2	27
26 Jul	11	59	2	64	0	0	66	12	59	3	27	0	1	31	5	97

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Inriver drift gillnetting catch

Date	5.0-inch mesh							7.5-inch mesh							Combined total ^a	
	No. drifts	Time fished (min)	Chinook salmon	Sockeye salmon	Coho salmon	Pink salmon	Total	No. drifts	Time fished (min)	Chinook salmon	Sockeye salmon	Coho salmon	Pink salmon	Total	Chinook salmon	Total
27 Jul	14	79	1	52	0	0	53	13	70	2	24	0	3	29	3	82
28 Jul	11	65	3	30	0	0	34	12	64	6	6	0	0	12	9	46
29 Jul	12	73	2	40	1	0	43	11	53	5	14	1	0	20	7	63
30 Jul	13	80	0	22	0	0	22	14	81	8	5	1	0	14	8	36
31 Jul	10	67	2	21	2	0	25	10	60	4	10	4	0	18	6	43
1 Aug	11	58	4	22	16	0	43	12	59	4	8	1	0	13	8	56
2 Aug	10	63	2	22	5	0	29	10	70	1	4	2	0	7	3	36
3 Aug	10	73	1	26	4	0	31	10	74	1	7	1	0	10	2	41
4 Aug	10	65	4	17	7	0	28	10	59	0	5	6	0	11	4	39
5 Aug	10	70	1	14	8	0	23	10	67	0	6	4	0	10	1	33
6 Aug	12	69	2	4	7	0	13	11	64	3	6	10	0	19	5	32
7 Aug	10	62	2	11	18	1	32	10	76	3	2	8	0	13	5	45
8 Aug	10	61	0	10	11	0	21	10	59	2	2	6	0	10	2	31
9 Aug	13	62	1	6	8	0	16	14	73	4	2	8	0	14	5	30
10 Aug	14	75	0	13	44	0	57	13	67	1	2	24	0	27	1	84
11 Aug	9	54	1	3	12	0	16	10	59	1	6	11	0	18	2	34
12 Aug	10	66	2	5	10	0	17	9	58	0	4	6	0	10	2	27
13 Aug	13	80	0	2	19	0	21	14	84	0	2	5	0	7	0	28
14 Aug	12	68	3	7	27	0	37	11	60	4	1	7	0	12	7	49
15 Aug	12	74	0	3	44	0	47	12	79	1	4	6	0	11	1	58
16 Aug	14	82	0	9	25	0	34	13	74	0	3	10	0	13	0	47
17 Aug	11	66	0	4	5	0	9	12	83	0	2	9	0	11	0	20
Total	555	3,176	65	1,403	273	1	1,746	552	3,113	135	663	130	4	934	200	2,680
Min	8	42	0	2	0	0	2	7	41	0	1	0	0	5	0	8
Mean	12	66	1	29	6	0	36	12	65	3	14	3	0	19	4	56
Max	16	89	4	120	44	1	124	16	87	14	59	24	3	62	15	159

^a Combined total is the number of Chinook salmon and the total number of fish caught in 5.0- and 7.5-inch mesh gillnets.

Appendix D4.—Catch and CPUE of Chinook, sockeye, coho, and pink salmon and proportion of Chinook salmon caught midriver in 5.0-inch and 7.5-inch mesh gillnets for replicates with at least 1 drift from each mesh size during the late-run Kenai River Chinook salmon sport fishery, 1 July–17 August 2013.

Date	Reps ^a	No. drifts	Time fished (min)	Inriver drift gillnetting catch															
				Chinook salmon			Sockeye salmon			Coho salmon			Pink salmon			Total		Chinook salmon	
				No.	CPUE ^b	SE	No.	CPUE ^b	SE	No.	CPUE ^b	SE	No.	CPUE ^b	SE	No.	CPUE ^b	Prop. ^c	SE
1 Jul	7	27	162	1	0.005	0.005	24	0.137	0.031	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	25	0.155	0.04	0.03
2 Jul	7	27	171	3	0.017	0.008	13	0.079	0.046	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	16	0.094	0.18	0.14
3 Jul	4	15	94	7	0.090	0.030	55	0.550	0.103	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	62	0.662	0.14	0.06
4 Jul	5	20	108	1	0.011	0.011	56	0.513	0.014	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	57	0.528	0.02	0.02
5 Jul	7	27	143	2	0.014	0.009	35	0.235	0.050	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	37	0.259	0.06	0.04
6 Jul	6	24	127	5	0.065	0.038	21	0.166	0.056	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	26	0.205	0.28	0.14
7 Jul	7	27	141	4	0.031	0.011	9	0.060	0.022	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	13	0.092	0.34	0.08
8 Jul	6	23	136	5	0.034	0.017	25	0.176	0.049	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	30	0.221	0.16	0.07
9 Jul	6	23	135	9	0.072	0.022	37	0.260	0.090	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	46	0.341	0.22	0.09
10 Jul	5	20	105	7	0.070	0.031	87	0.836	0.201	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	94	0.896	0.08	0.02
11 Jul	7	27	155	3	0.018	0.013	60	0.362	0.075	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	63	0.407	0.05	0.03
12 Jul	8	32	176	2	0.013	0.009	6	0.033	0.014	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	8	0.046	0.29	0.20
13 Jul	7	27	140	7	0.052	0.024	36	0.266	0.031	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	43	0.307	0.16	0.07
14 Jul	5	19	112	15	0.142	0.060	50	0.404	0.113	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	65	0.579	0.26	0.09
15 Jul	5	20	115	3	0.027	0.011	97	0.866	0.246	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	100	0.871	0.03	0.02
16 Jul	6	23	114	4	0.061	0.042	137	1.107	0.271	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	141	1.236	0.05	0.04
17 Jul	4	16	94	5	0.055	0.028	75	0.807	0.110	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	80	0.855	0.06	0.03
18 Jul	4	16	94	5	0.058	0.023	154	1.622	0.468	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	159	1.696	0.03	0.01
19 Jul	6	24	99	6	0.084	0.034	121	1.843	0.551	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	127	1.285	0.04	0.02
20 Jul	6	24	121	2	0.016	0.010	88	0.866	0.190	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	90	0.743	0.02	0.01
21 Jul	6	23	100	2	0.026	0.017	89	0.947	0.143	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	91	0.908	0.03	0.02
22 Jul	7	27	141	3	0.019	0.009	69	0.461	0.090	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	72	0.510	0.04	0.02
23 Jul	5	20	108	5	0.043	0.019	96	0.929	0.224	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	101	0.935	0.04	0.02
24 Jul	6	24	133	6	0.043	0.016	42	0.321	0.067	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	48	0.360	0.12	0.04
25 Jul	7	27	145	2	0.013	0.008	25	0.164	0.053	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	27	0.187	0.07	0.05

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Date	Inriver drift gillnetting catch																		
	Reps ^a	No. drifts	Time fished (min)	Chinook salmon			Sockeye salmon			Coho salmon			Pink salmon			Total		Chinook	
				No.	CPUE ^b	SE	No.	CPUE ^b	SE	No.	CPUE ^b	SE	No.	CPUE ^b	SE	No.	CPUE ^b	Prop. ^c	SE
26 Jul	6	23	117	5	0.053	0.024	91	0.699	0.223	0	0.000	0.000	1	0.009	0.009	97	0.828	0.07	0.04
27 Jul	7	27	149	3	0.019	0.009	76	0.483	0.119	0	0.000	0.000	3	0.020	0.020	82	0.550	0.04	0.02
28 Jul	6	23	129	9	0.071	0.021	36	0.267	0.085	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	45	0.349	0.20	0.03
29 Jul	6	23	126	7	0.081	0.026	54	0.400	0.117	2	0.017	0.012	0	0.000	0.000	63	0.498	0.16	0.07
30 Jul	7	27	161	8	0.053	0.018	27	0.153	0.060	1	0.005	0.005	0	0.000	0.000	36	0.224	0.25	0.10
31 Jul	5	20	127	6	0.048	0.022	31	0.241	0.097	6	0.049	0.016	0	0.000	0.000	43	0.339	0.14	0.05
1 Aug	6	23	118	8	0.070	0.026	30	0.226	0.082	17	0.155	0.036	0	0.000	0.000	55	0.468	0.15	0.07
2 Aug	5	20	133	3	0.026	0.017	26	0.219	0.047	7	0.059	0.017	0	0.000	0.000	36	0.271	0.09	0.04
3 Aug	5	20	147	2	0.015	0.009	33	0.223	0.070	5	0.034	0.016	0	0.000	0.000	40	0.272	0.05	0.04
4 Aug	5	20	124	4	0.032	0.015	22	0.174	0.059	13	0.106	0.028	0	0.000	0.000	39	0.315	0.10	0.04
5 Aug	5	20	138	1	0.008	0.008	20	0.144	0.062	12	0.083	0.024	0	0.000	0.000	33	0.240	0.03	0.04
6 Aug	6	23	133	5	0.030	0.022	10	0.068	0.024	17	0.121	0.057	0	0.000	0.000	32	0.242	0.14	0.09
7 Aug	5	20	137	5	0.034	0.016	13	0.099	0.028	26	0.201	0.041	1	0.009	0.009	45	0.328	0.10	0.03
8 Aug	5	20	120	2	0.015	0.010	12	0.097	0.041	17	0.136	0.060	0	0.000	0.000	31	0.259	0.06	0.04
9 Aug	7	27	134	5	0.039	0.020	8	0.058	0.027	16	0.107	0.031	0	0.000	0.000	29	0.216	0.18	0.05
10 Aug	7	27	142	1	0.008	0.008	15	0.104	0.029	68	0.481	0.120	0	0.000	0.000	84	0.591	0.01	0.01
11 Aug	5	19	113	2	0.018	0.011	9	0.078	0.047	23	0.196	0.069	0	0.000	0.000	34	0.300	0.06	0.05
12 Aug	5	19	123	2	0.014	0.009	9	0.071	0.013	16	0.125	0.043	0	0.000	0.000	27	0.219	0.07	0.05
13 Aug	7	27	164	0	0.000	0.000	4	0.023	0.012	24	0.140	0.036	0	0.000	0.000	28	0.170	0.00	0.00
14 Aug	6	23	128	7	0.053	0.023	8	0.059	0.015	34	0.263	0.045	0	0.000	0.000	49	0.382	0.14	0.07
15 Aug	6	24	153	1	0.006	0.006	7	0.051	0.021	50	0.392	0.201	0	0.000	0.000	58	0.380	0.01	0.02
16 Aug	7	27	156	0	0.000	0.000	12	0.078	0.020	35	0.230	0.079	0	0.000	0.000	47	0.302	0.00	0.00
17 Aug	6	23	150	0	0.000	0.000	6	0.056	0.025	14	0.143	0.043	0	0.000	0.000	20	0.133	0.00	0.00
Total	284	1,107	6,289	200	1.773		2,066	18.081		403	3.043		5	0.038		2,674	0.425	NA	NA
Min	4	15	94	0	0.000		4	0.023		0	0.000		0	0.000		8	0.086	0.00	
Mean	6	23	131	4	0.037		43	0.377		8	0.063		0	0.001		56	0.425	0.10	
Max	8	32	176	15	0.142		154	1.843		68	0.481		3	0.020		159	0.905	0.34	

Note: NA means not applicable.

^a A complete replicate (rep) consists of 4 drifts (2 mesh sizes, 2 banks). Only reps that had at least 1 drift from each mesh size were used in this table.

^b CPUE is catch per minute.

^c Proportion of combined total catch equals Chinook salmon CPUE divided by the combined total of all species CPUE.

Appendix D5.—Catch and CPUE of Chinook, sockeye, coho, and pink salmon caught nearshore in 5.0-inch and 7.5-inch mesh gillnets during the early-run Kenai River Chinook salmon sport fisheries, 20 May–28 June 2013.

Date	Early Run											
	No. drifts	Time fished (min)	Chinook salmon		Sockeye salmon		Coho salmon		Pink salmon		Total	
			No. fish	CPUE	No. fish	CPUE	No. fish	CPUE	No. fish	CPUE	No. fish	CPUE
20 May	8	245	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000
22 May	8	143	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000
27 May	14	125	0	0.000	6	0.056	0	0.000	0	0.000	6	0.048
31 May	18	258	0	0.000	4	0.014	0	0.000	0	0.000	4	0.016
3 Jun	17	102	2	0.020	51	0.503	0	0.000	0	0.000	53	0.520
6 Jun	20	116	3	0.025	55	0.498	0	0.000	0	0.000	58	0.500
10 Jun	12	61	2	0.033	36	0.642	0	0.000	0	0.000	38	0.623
13 Jun	21	93	4	0.061	29	0.265	0	0.000	0	0.000	33	0.355
17 Jun	26	261	1	0.008	16	0.121	0	0.000	0	0.000	17	0.065
19 Jun	26	115	5	0.044	9	0.079	0	0.000	0	0.000	14	0.122
25 Jun	29	154	0	0.000	13	0.083	0	0.000	0	0.000	13	0.084
28 Jun	27	150	1	0.007	31	0.207	0	0.000	0	0.000	32	0.213
Total	226	1823	18	0.198	250	2.468	0	0.00	0	0.00	268	2.546
Min	8	61	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0
Mean	19	152	2	0.017	21	0.206	0	0.00	0	0.00	22.3	0.212
Max	29	261	5	0.061	55	0.642	0	0.00	0	0.00	58	0.623

Note: CPUE is catch per minute.

Appendix D6.—Catch and CPUE of Chinook, sockeye, coho, and pink salmon caught nearshore in 5.0-inch and 7.5-inch mesh gillnets during the late-run Kenai River Chinook salmon sport fisheries, 1 July–16 August 2013.

Date	Late Run											
	No. drifts	Time fished (min)	Chinook salmon		Sockeye salmon		Coho salmon		Pink salmon		Total	
			No. fish	CPUE	No. fish	CPUE	No. fish	CPUE	No. fish	CPUE	No. fish	CPUE
1 Jul	32	112	0	0.000	10	0.089	0	0.000	0	0.000	10	0.089
5 Jul	30	123	1	0.008	22	0.171	0	0.000	1	0.008	24	0.195
9 Jul	21	108	2	0.019	59	0.576	0	0.000	0	0.000	61	0.565
11 Jul	32	125	2	0.016	14	0.112	0	0.000	0	0.000	16	0.128
15 Jul	19	50	5	0.099	300	6.572	0	0.000	1	0.024	306	6.120
18 Jul	20	75	0	0.000	354	4.614	0	0.000	0	0.000	354	4.720
24 Jul	24	128	1	0.007	17	0.140	0	0.000	0	0.000	18	0.141
25 Jul	20	132	3	0.023	43	0.303	1	0.007	0	0.000	47	0.356
29 Jul	24	87	1	0.012	151	1.720	0	0.000	2	0.023	154	1.770
1 Aug	26	112	0	0.000	191	1.694	4	0.035	0	0.000	195	1.741
5 Aug	24	145	0	0.000	44	0.260	6	0.036	0	0.000	50	0.345
7 Aug	25	164	0	0.000	15	0.084	12	0.068	0	0.000	27	0.165
14 Aug	24	119	1	0.009	25	0.216	51	0.439	0	0.000	77	0.647
16 Aug	24	121	3	0.025	16	0.133	29	0.241	0	0.000	48	0.397
Total	345	1,601	19	0.218	1,261	16.684	103	0.826	4	0.055	1,387	17.378
Min	19	50	0	0.000	10	0.084	0	0.000	0	0.000	10	0.089
Mean	25	114	1	0.016	90	1.192	7	0.059	0	0.004	99	1.241
Max	32	164	5	0.099	354	6.572	51	0.439	2	0.024	354	6.120

Note: CPUE is catch per minute.