

Species monitored



King Salmon



Fall Chum Salmon

Eagle sonar site operations begin July 5 and end October 6.

Some of the salmon monitored at the Eagle sonar site migrate a total of 2,000 miles through Alaska and Canada. Yukon River salmon are important to the native heritage of 12,000 Alaskan and 4,000 Canadian subsistence fishermen.

To learn more about ADF&G sonar sites visit:
www.AlaskaFisheriesSonar.org

Have a question, comment or suggestion?
Contact us by phone, e-mail or snail mail.



ADF&G Sonar Sites

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|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. Kenai (RM 8.6) | 6. Crescent | 11. Yukon (Pilot) |
| 2. Kenai (RM 19) | 7. Nushagak | 12. Aniak |
| 3. Anchor | 8. Kvichak | 13. Anvik |
| 4. Kasilof | 9. Copper | 14. Sheenjek |
| 5. Yentna | 10. Chilkat | 15. Yukon (Eagle) |



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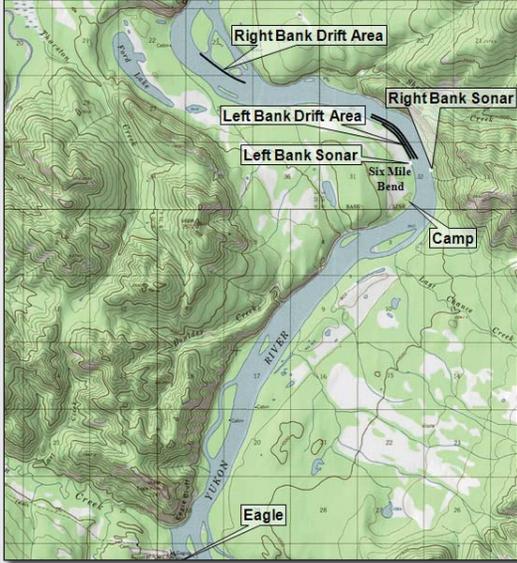
Yukon River Salmon Sonar Project at Eagle

How biologists use the Yukon River sonar site at Eagle to generate king and fall chum salmon estimates.



At the Yukon Eagle River sonar site, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates the escapement of king salmon and fall chum salmon.

Where the site is located



The sonar site is located at approximately River Mile 1,210 of the Yukon River at a place known as Six Mile Bend.

The site is also about seven miles downstream of the town of Eagle and 18 miles downstream from Alaska's border with Canada.



An international fishery

In the Yukon River, about 50 percent of king and 25 percent of fall chum salmon come from Canadian-origin stocks. These salmon are managed under an agreement between the US and Canada to ensure enough of them cross the border to spawn and provide fishing opportunities on both sides of the border. Eagle sonar site estimates are key to ensuring the terms of the agreement are met.



Eagle sonar operations



DIDSON transducer

transducers. Both use sound waves to detect fish, but at different frequencies.

ADF&G has been detecting fish using sonar at the Eagle Yukon River site since 2005. The sonar site deploys two types of sonar transducers into the river to detect fish— Dual frequency IDentification SONar (DIDSON) and split-beam sonar

Sonar site gillnet project

King salmon arrive at the Eagle sonar site early in the season and chum salmon arrive late. At the tail end of the king salmon run and beginning of fall chum run, some overlap occurs. Sonar cannot be used to distinguish fish by species. To determine the best time to begin classifying the sonar counts as chum salmon ADF&G relies on observations of fish caught in a test gillnet project at the site.



Gillnet catches also provide an opportunity to collect length, gender, age and genetic data from a sample of the king and fall chum salmon migration.



Captured fish are handled carefully to minimize mortalities. Most are returned to the river and any mortalities that occur are distributed to local residents.