

PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: Alaska

GRANT NO.: F-10-33

GRANT TITLE: Sport Fish Investigations of Alaska

PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

STUDY NO. AND TITLE: S-1-6 Escapement Surveys of Chinook Salmon in Southeast Alaska and Transboundary Rivers

STUDY OBJECTIVES:

1. Collect peak aerial survey counts for the Taku River. Aerial counts will be made in the Nakina, Nahlin, Tatsamenie, Kowatua, and Dudidontu rivers.
2. Collect peak aerial and foot survey counts for the King Salmon River and Andrew Creek.
3. Collect peak aerial survey counts for the Blossom and Keta rivers.
4. Collect peak aerial and foot survey counts for the Unuk and Chickamin rivers.

RESULTS/DISCUSSION:

The Division of Sport Fish successfully obtained aerial and/or foot survey counts on the Taku, Unuk, Chickamin, Blossom, Keta, and King Salmon rivers, and Andrew Creek during August and September, 2017.

Objective 1: Peak aerial survey counts for Chinook salmon in the Nakina, Nahlin, Tatsamenie, Kowatua, and Dudidontu rivers (all tributaries within the Taku River drainage) were 301, 134, 179, 272, and 37, respectively.

Objective 2: Peak survey counts (foot surveys) for Chinook salmon for the King Salmon River and Andrew Creek were 87 and 349, respectively. Foot surveys were conducted rather than aerial surveys (or both in tandem) because water conditions were ideal for a foot survey which often produces more accurate estimates of abundance, especially in short systems with minimal logistical constraints.

Objective 3: Peak survey counts (aerial surveys) for Chinook salmon for the Blossom and Keta rivers were 341 and 903, respectively.

Objective 4: Peak survey counts for Chinook salmon for the Unuk (combination of aerial and foot survey) and Chickamin rivers (aerial survey) were 1,203 and 772, respectively. Escapement to the Keta River was estimated to be within the escapement goal range. Escapements to the Taku, King Salmon, Unuk, Chickamin, and Blossom rivers and Andrew Creek were below escapement goal ranges.

Multiple funding sources were used to support the above objectives on all river systems.

EQUIPMENT:

No equipment was requested during the grant period.

FINAL REPORT STATUS:

This performance report constitutes the final report of activities for study S-1-6 during the F-10-33 contract period.

A draft Fishery Data Series report summarizing this project titled "*Escapements of Chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska and Transboundary Rivers in 2017*" will be available for review in December 2020.

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DATE: August 27, 2018