

Excerpts about harvest in subsistence from 2018 -2020 AMRs

Submitted by Dennis Zadra

2018 AMR

While adding in the numbers I noted that at the bottom of the table (total estimated “species” salmon run on the CR by end user or destination and the 10 yr average chart) it notes that numbers are “reported and expanded harvest from state and federal permits”. I mention this as there is an increase in permits not being returned so they still do not have a completely accurate number for harvest up river. And of course every AMR says “estimated” for sports harvest numbers - if they intend to change fish allocation they need to have more solid numbers and not estimates. Look at all the years that the river was over the upper SEG of 750,000. (that should be in report one or two.) OEG is not just based on SEG it is also based on economics - thats in the definition state regulations provides.

"In 2018, 1,312 dip net permits and 347 fish wheel permits were issued to subsistence users in the Glennallen Subdistrict. Of these, 303 (18.6%) permits were not returned. A combined total estimate of 4,500 Chinook, 39,400 sockeye, and 150 coho salmon were harvested in the Glennallen Subdistrict. Comparatively, the 10-year average was 3,100 Chinook and 62,600 sockeye, and 200 coho salmon for this subdistrict. Fish wheel effort has remained somewhat constant over the last 10 years, and an average of 570 permits were issued (Appendix F11). The number of dip net permits issued has increased over the past few years. The 10-year average of 876 dip net permits is 33.2% less than the number of permits issued in 2018 (Appendix F11). Historically, sockeye salmon dominate the harvest and represent 94.9% of the estimated harvest in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery, followed by Chinook and coho salmon (Appendices A1, A3, A16, and F11). Harvest from the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fisheries was 27.7% GH sockeye salmon (Appendix E4)." **PG 22 AMR 2018**

2019 AMR

"When Miles Lake sonar is not operational before the first opening, early season management of the Copper River District is based on harvest data. Environmental conditions, fishing effort, and salmon distribution, both temporal and spatial, are also considered. In late May, sonar counts and commercial harvest information become the primary factors governing the management of the fishery. By mid-June, aerial indices of sockeye salmon escapement in Copper River Delta systems are also considered when scheduling commercial fishing periods. Because of the many spawning systems in the Copper River Delta, an actual weekly escapement index of selected sockeye and coho salmon systems are compared to a weekly escapement index based on historical run timing. The SEG range for Copper River Delta sockeye salmon stocks is 55,000–130,000 fish (Table 5; Bue et al. 2002) - **Pg 4 AMR 2019**

2020 AMR

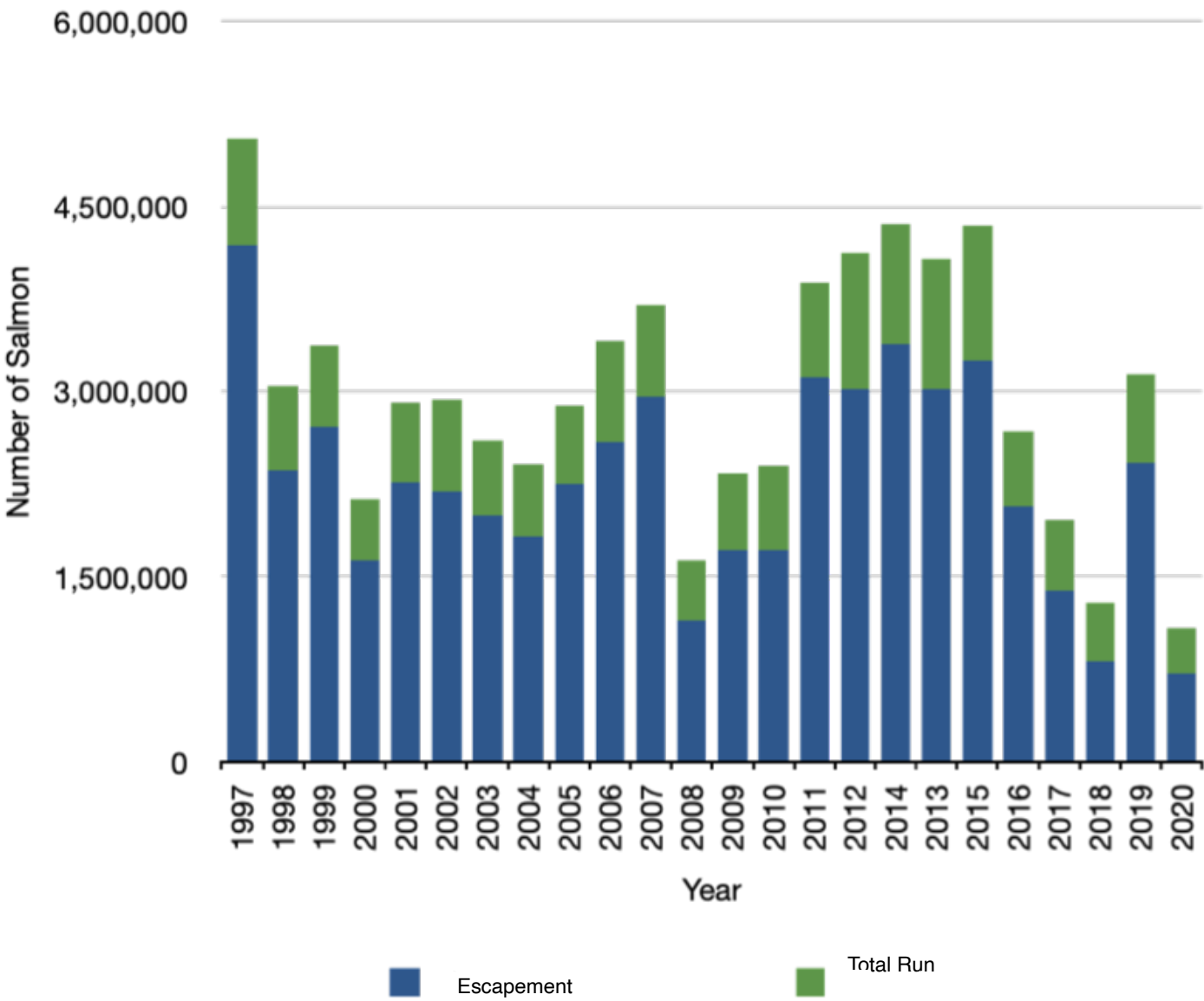
The 2020 season was noteworthy for historically low sockeye salmon runs to the Copper River that necessitated conservative management, resulting in low commercial and inriver harvest, with escapement within and below sockeye salmon escapement goals. The 2020 Copper River sockeye salmon total run was 726,000 fish, of which 77% were wild Upper Copper River fish, 4% were hatchery Upper Copper River fish, and 19% were Copper River Delta fish. Of these 726,000 fish, 104,000 (14%) were commercially harvested and sold, 1,460 were commercially harvested and retained as homepack, 7,090 (1%) were harvested in the Copper River District subsistence fishery, and 145,000 (20%) were harvested in state and federal freshwater fisheries. Only Copper River District subsistence and Chitina Subdistrict federal subsistence harvest were above the 10-year (2010–2019) average. Upper Copper River sockeye salmon spawning escapement was 364,000 fish, which was 1% above the 360,000-fish lower bound of the SEG; and Copper River Delta sockeye salmon escapement was 111,000, which was 16% below the recent 10-year (2010–2019) average (Appendix A1). Additionally, 10,800 fish returned to the GH release sites. (pg 6 – AMR 2020)

In 2020, a total of 1,290 dip net permits and 375 fish wheel permits were issued to subsistence users in the Glennallen Subdistrict. Of these, 301 (18.1%) permits were not returned. A combined total estimate of 2,220 Chinook, 34,600 sockeye, and 67 coho salmon were harvested in the Glennallen Subdistrict. Comparatively, the 10-year (2010–2019) average was 3,450 Chinook, 63,600 sockeye, and 186 coho salmon for this subdistrict. Fish wheel effort has been declining over the last 10 years (2010–2019), with an average number of 514 permits issued. The number of dip net permits issued has increased over the past few years. The number of permits issued in 2020 is 23.8% more than the 10-year (2010–2019) average of 1,042 dip net permits (Appendix F11). Historically, sockeye salmon dominate the harvest, representing 95% of the estimated harvest in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery over the previous 10 years (2010–2019), followed by Chinook and coho salmon (Appendices A1, A3, A15, and F11). Harvest from the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fisheries was 10.2% GH sockeye salmon (S. Haught, PWS Area Research Biologist, ADF&G, Cordova, unpublished data, 2021). - AMR 2020 pg 25 glennallen sub (fish wheel vs dip.)

Since 2010, commercial fishery participants retained more Chinook and sockeye salmon from their commercial harvest as homepack during seasons of larger runs, whereas seasons with weak returns, such as 2018 and 2020, homepack retention declined AMR 2020 Pg. 23

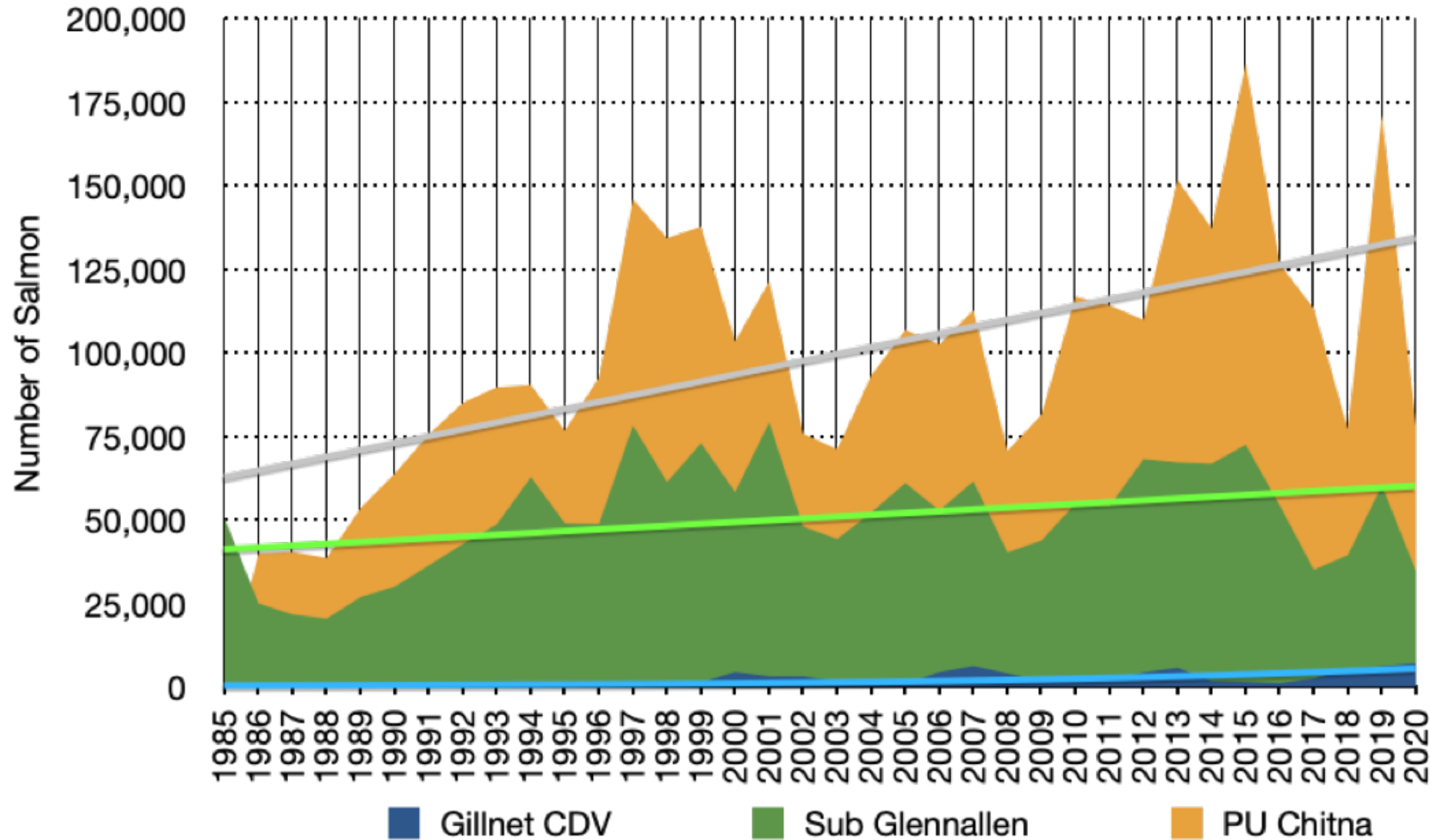
Graph submitted by Dennis Zadra

Escapement Vs Total Run of Sockeye on the Copper River



	Total Run	Escapement	% escape-ment	RC016 % harvest
1997	4,187,463	863,823	21	79
1998	2,358,040	685,585	29	71
1999	2,708,888	668,074	25	75
2000	1,633,508	498,494	31	69
2001	2,264,981	646,784	29	71
2002	2,192,172	738,000	34	66
2003	1,998,866	610,045	31	69
2004	1,822,014	592,825	33	67
2005	2,252,314	635,099	28	72
2006	2,593,215	811,076	31	69
2007	2,961,748	733,893	25	75
2008	1,141,936	495,419	43	57
2009	1,721,848	618,461	36	64
2010	1,715,967	679,055	40	60
2011	3,110,000	775,000	25	75
2012	3,020,000	1,100,000	36	64
2014	3,386,773	963,714	28	72
2013	3,020,000	1,050,000	35	65
2015	3,250,000	1,090,000	34	66
2016	2070000	606,000	29	71
2017	1,390,000	577,000	42	58
2018	819,000	479,000	58	42
2019	2,420,000	720,000	30	70
2020	726,000	364,000	50	50

Sockeye Salmon Subsistence Harvest by district



Chitna PU has seen a strong Increase in harvests over the years. Glennallen has also seen increased harvest, while the Copper River Flats have remained mostly consistent with a Small increase starting around 2009.