

Kenai River all fish king salmon estimates data request

From: "Lipka, Colton G (DFG)" <colton.lipka@alaska.gov>

Date: 03/28/2022 02:46PM

To: "sabaka@ptialaska.net" <sabaka@ptialaska.net>

Cc: "Marston, Brian H (DFG)" <brian.marston@alaska.gov>, "Begich, Robert N (DFG)" <robert.begich@alaska.gov>

Paul,

I was under the impression I had fulfilled your data request from the AC meeting with the exemption of the exact process for estimating all fish numbers which is in process. My apologies if I had missed this along the way and yes I was at home sick last week so I was not in the office. I can generally always be reached via email.

For all size late-run king numbers the attached AMR from 2017 has Kenai Late-run king estimates from 1986 – 2016 on page 103 and 104 and reflect previous escapement goals, assessment projects, and management regimes.

Below are the estimates of all fish using the mixture model analysis from 2013 – 2021 at RM 14 sonar site.

Kenai River late-run direct estimates of large Chinook and mixture models estimates for all Chinook salmon regardless of size, by year at river mile 14.

Year	Large	All
2013	12656	19373
2014	10871	16871
2015	17687	28918
2016	17447	22537
2017	22133	24436
2018	16957	25143
2019	11868	18093
2020	11499	18908
2021	11832	16677

The mixture all and direct large estimates by sonar at river mile 14 for 2013 through 2016 can be found in the following reports.

[Chinook salmon passage in the Kenai River at River Mile 13.7 using adaptive resolution imaging sonar, 2013. \(alaska.gov\)](#)

[Chinook salmon passage in the Kenai River at River Mile 13.7 using adaptive resolution imaging sonar, 2014. \(alaska.gov\)](#)

[Chinook salmon passage in the Kenai River at River Mile 13.7 using adaptive resolution imaging sonar, 2015. \(alaska.gov\)](#)

[Chinook salmon passage in the Kenai River at River Mile 13.7 using adaptive resolution imaging sonar, 2016. \(alaska.gov\)](#)

2017 – 2021 unpublished sonar data the 2017, 2018 and 2019 river mile 14 Chinook salmon sonar report is at publication as a 3-year report.

The 2020 & 2021 report is being drafted.

Additionally I have attached the most recent AMR which has the detailed history of the late-run king management and escapement goals on pages 14-18.

If you have further request or questions please email me directly with the specific request and keep in mind the reasonable timeliness that certain request can be fulfilled.

Please respond to this email so I know you have received it.

Thank you,

Colton Lipka

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Northern Kenai Peninsula Management Area

Area Management Biologist

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From: sabaka@ptialaska.net <sabaka@ptialaska.net>
Sent: [Saturday, March 26, 2022](#) 3:52 PM
To: Marston, Brian H (DFG) <brian.marston@alaska.gov>
Subject: Updated Salmon Tables for Cook Inlet

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March 25th, 2022

Mr. Marston,

Please acknowledge that I am requesting current and past tables, analysis and reports relative to Cook Inlet salmon runs.

Specifically any updated reports relative to the current East Side setnet BGP to be heard at the current Statewide meeting, March 26th to April 2nd 2022 in Anchorage, Ak. Board of Fisheries meeting.

It has come to my attention that (all) salmon tables are now available that have been updated from the 2020 CI regulatory meeting. Please supply this requested information in any form that may be available.

If there is any other additional or current numbers for Kenai River late run returns of King salmon I would like that information as well.

I also requested from Sport division (Colton Lipka) updated tables for the last thirty years for total return estimates of all late run Kenai King salmon returns in a table format (raw numbers if available). Mr. Lipka supplied some raw data for percentages of returns at the most recent Kenai/Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee meeting. He informed me that some of the figures presented needed to be verified and the updated figure would be forthcoming. I have not seen this updated data and Mr. Lipka has been unavailable this past week. I visited the local Soldotna F&G office March 23rd and 24th to receive this updated information. Mr. Marston informed me that he did not have that specific data on this occasion and on several others verbal requests starting from July Of 2021.

What I specifically requested from both Mr. Marston and Mr. Lipka for sometime now was a running estimate (historical) number of ALL LATE-RUN KENAI RIVER KING SALMON from the past 30 years until present. The purpose was to compare the current SEG or OEG goals to which the Department and BOF had managed (sustainable management goals) for prior to the implementation of the large late run Kenai King goals.

I would appreciate any assistance in acquiring this information and I am available to clarify or streamline any of the requested data.

Thank you,

Paul A. Shadura II
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sabaka@ptialaska.net

Attachments (2 files, 10.9 MB)

- FMR17-06 2017 NKPMA Sportfish AMR.pdf (5.4 MB)
- FMR20-01 2020 NKPMA sportfish AMR.pdf (5.5 MB)

Paul,

I appreciate your concern and well wishes, I am feeling much better this week and am back at the office.

The large king SEG's and associated historical stock information was converted to large fish using run reconstruction techniques detailed in the link below to the corresponding report.

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMS17-02.pdf>

For question 1)

The numbers provided below are inriver run estimates from the sonar. No harvest upstream has been removed nor downstream spawning added. I do not follow your rationale regarding ratios. The mixture model has known bias that will influence its comparability to direct estimates of large fish that are the standard now. The abundance numbers provided in RC 2 table 283.1 are escapement which has upstream harvest and downstream spawning accounted for and will not match the inriver estimates below.

Please feel free to clarify if I did not answer your question.

Fishery Manuscript Series No. 17-02

**Spawner-Recruit Analyses and Escapement Goal
Recommendations for Kenai River Chinook Salmon**

by

Steven J. Fleischman

and

Adam M. Reimer

January 2017

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Revised escapement goals for Kenai River Chinook salmon based on fish 75 cm METF and longer will be implemented during the 2017 season. The recommended escapement goals will have approximately the same expected yield characteristics as the current goals for Chinook salmon of all sizes, except that expected yield performance at the upper bound of the early-run goal will be improved.

Inseason assessments will be more accurate and more easily produced in a timely manner. Kenai River Chinook salmon 75 cm METF and longer can be assessed directly by the sonar at RM 13.7 and do not require netting data or complex statistical methods.

The effect of the recommended goals on fishery management will depend upon total run abundance and the size composition of future runs. During years with small runs dominated by small Chinook salmon, the recommended goals may reduce fishing opportunities compared to the *status quo*.

Implementation of the recommended goals will focus management on the largest, oldest segment of the population. Kenai River Chinook salmon 75 cm METF and longer include approximately 89% of all females.

The escapement goals for Kenai River Chinook salmon will be periodically reviewed. All Pacific salmon escapement goals in the state of Alaska are subject to triennial review to allow for consideration of recent data and changes in stock productivity. By the next review, prior to the 2020 Upper Cook Inlet BOF meeting, we will have 3 more years of direct assessment data and it will be possible to quantify the recruitment from the low escapements of 2013 and 2014.

AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The escapement goal review team included the authors, Robert Begich, Tim Baker, Bob Clark, Nick Decovich, Jack Erickson, Jim Hasbrouck, Ed Jones, Tracy Lingnau, Tim McKinley, Brian Marston, Matt Miller, Andrew Munro, Jason Pawluk, Patrick Shields, Bill Templin, Mark Willette, and Tom Vania. Final recommendations were established by a subcommittee consisting of Jack Erickson, Steve Fleischman, Jim Hasbrouck, Tim McKinley, Andrew Munro, and Bill Templin. Ed Jones supplied the fecundity data. David Evans, Matt Evenson, Steve Heinl, Tyler Polum, and Mark Witteveen provided S_{msy} estimates for other Alaska Chinook salmon stocks. Numerous ADF&G staff collected the stock assessment data over the decades.