

Harvest Estimates: 6/12/2018 Subsistence Opportunity

Kalskag - Aniak

Prepared by USFWS

This document presents harvest and effort estimates as well as fisher-trip information for the subsistence salmon fishery opportunity on the Kuskokwim River that occurred on June 12, 2018 within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (YDNWR) boundaries. The data used to produce this estimate were collected by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Division of Subsistence. **These estimates encompass harvest taken the portion of the main-stem Kuskokwim River between and including the villages of Kalskag and Aniak.** Harvest and effort estimation was conducted by USFWS staff using the same methods as in 2016 and 2017. Please contact Ben Staton (benjamin_staton@fws.gov) if you have any questions regarding these estimates.

Opportunity Details

The YDNWR federal in-season manager, with authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board and in consultation with the KRITFC, announced a subsistence fishing opportunity for Chinook salmon within the YDNWR waters for federally-qualified subsistence users. The opportunity was 12 hours in duration, starting at 10:00AM June 12 and ending at 10:00PM June 12. The special action can be found [here](#), and the corresponding news release [here](#).

Data Sources

- A total of **20** fisher interviews were used in this analysis.
 - All **20** fisher interviews were collected by ADF&G Division of Subsistence stationed in Kalskag and Aniak.
- **20** interviews were from drift boat fishers.
- **0** interviews were from set net fishers.
- ADF&G flew **3** aerial surveys to count drift boats and set nets, and conducted **3** boat-based surveys.
 - **1** of the aerial surveys was discarded as it was flown during the same time as the second boat-based survey.

Effort Estimates

- A total of **32** drift boat trips were estimated to have occurred during the opportunity.
- During effort surveys between Kalskag and Aniak, ADF&G observed:
 - **10** drift boats between 12:23PM and 1:13PM (boat-based count),
 - **13** drift boats between 2:01PM and 3:23PM (boat-based count),
 - **10** drift boats between 5:12PM and 6:16PM (boat-based count),
 - **18** drift boats between 6:59PM and 7:17PM (aerial-based count), and
 - **15** drift boats between 7:18PM and 7:35PM (aerial-based count).
- Of the drift boats counted on the second survey, an estimated **71%** were also counted during the first survey.
- Of the drift boats counted on the third survey, an estimated **43%** were also counted during the second survey.
- Of the drift boats counted on the fourth survey, an estimated **67%** were also counted during the third survey.
- Of the drift boats counted on the fifth survey, an estimated **100%** were also counted during the fourth survey.
- **7** drift boat trips were estimated to have began and ended during times that were not surveyed by boat or airplane.
- ADF&G observed **5** set nets fishing during the opportunity.

Harvest Estimates

- An estimated total of **190 (120 - 270)** salmon were harvested.
 - An estimated total of **120 (70 - 190)** Chinook salmon were harvested.
 - An estimated total of **60 (30 - 100)** chum salmon were harvested.
 - An estimated total of **0 (0 - 10)** sockeye salmon were harvested.
- No set net interviews were available, so a set net harvest was not produced.

Figure 1. Distribution of relevant quantities from all collected drift boat interviews.

