**Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council (OTNC) Inseason Harvest Monitoring Weekly Report**

*June 27, 2018*

**Summary of Interview Activities**

OTNC conducted surveys with46 fish camps from Sunday, June 24 through Monday, June 25, 2018. Overall, people seemed happy at fish camps and our fisheries crew noticed many fish racks at occupied fish camps were beginning to fill up or already completely filled with fish. Five fish camps commented on the abundance of fish this season, with one fish camp respondent claiming he/she hasn’t seen this many large Chinook salmon in over 10 years. Two fish camp respondents were surprised about the abundance of Chinook salmon this late in June and were grateful. Six fish camps commented on the regulations, two of which did not agree with the Sunday opener and one fish camp respondent claimed the 12 hour opener is “harassment.” We also received one report of chum salmon chucking in which the respondent claimed non-local fishermen were chucking chum salmon catch back in the water and only keeping the larger Chinook salmon. A group of fish camps were confused about the regulations and thought the entire river was open 24-7 as of Tuesday, June 26. One fish camp recommended conducting law enforcement in the late night and early morning. Four fish camps reported becoming closer to achieving their goals as a result of fishing in the non-spawning salmon tributaries. One recommended monitoring the harvest occurring in nearby non-spawning salmon tributaries due to the higher number of nets he/she observed when fishing on the main Kuskokwim was closed. This life-long fisher hadn’t observed this much effort prior to this summer.

**Chinook Salmon ASL (Age-Sex-Length) Sampling Program**

We recruited one more ASL sampler this past week, bringing our total recruitment to 29 ASL samplers.

**Fish Distribution**

As of June 24, we’ve distributed 193 Chinook salmon, 59 chum salmon and 18 sockeye salmon to Bethel elders, disabled and widows caught from the ADFG Bethel Test Fishery. KRITFC assisted with distribution on three separate occasions and YDNWR distributed fish to Kasigluk and Atmautluak.

**Harvest Summary**

*June 24, 2018 Opener*

We collected data from 28 unique fishing trips. Most fishing trips (n=25) occurred from Napaskiak to Akiachak.

**Table 1.** Gear type, mesh size range and soak time reported from June 24 fishing opener.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Drift Nets** | **Total Set Nets** | **Mesh Size Range** | **Average Soak Time (hours)** |
| 25 | 3 | 5.5”-6” | 2.3 hours |

**Table 2.** Average number of salmon harvested by surveyed fish camps from June 24 fishing opener.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Average Chinook Salmon Harvest** | **Average Chum Salmon Harvest** | **Average Sockeye Salmon Harvest** | **Average other harvest** |
| 12 | 11.7 | 3.7 | <1 |

**Fishing Progress Data**

This past survey period, we asked fish camps the following question: “How close are you to achieving your Chinook salmon, chum salmon and sockeye salmon harvest goals?” 30 fish camps had responses for their Chinook salmon fishing progress and 29 fish camps had responses for their chum salmon and sockeye salmon fishing progress. Those that did not respond to this question had no specific goal for salmon and “get as many as they can.”

**Table 3.** Fishing progress by fish camp users for Chinook salmon, chum salmon and sockeye salmon following the June 24 opener.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Salmon Species** | **Not at all** | **Under Half** | **Halfway** | **Over Half** | **Goal Met** |
| Chinook salmon | 23.3%  (n=7) | 30%  (n=9) | 16.7%  (n=5) | 16.7%  (n=5) | 13.3%  (n=4) |
| Chum salmon | 20.7%  (n=6) | 24.1% (n=7) | 17.2%  (n=5) | 10.3%  (n=3) | 27.6%  (n=8) |
| Sockeye salmon | 48.3%  (n=14) | 24.1%  (n=7) | 10.3%  (n=3) | 10.3%  (n=3) | 6.9%  (n=2) |