

Harvest Estimates: 6/6/2018 Set Net Subsistence Opportunity

Prepared by USFWS

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES PENDING REVIEW

This document presents harvest and effort estimates from the 4-inch set net opportunity on the Kuskokwim River that occurred on June 6, 2018. **These estimates encompass the portion of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (YDNWR) between and including the villages of Tuntutuliak and Akiak, and apply only to the main-stem Kuskokwim River.** 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 or methods.

Opportunity Details

The ADF&G Kuskokwim Area Management Biologist opened the Kuskokwim River between the YDNWR boundary at the river mouth to the Holitna River mouth to the use of set nets limited to 4-inch or less stretched-mesh, 45 meshes deep, and 60 feet in length with the intent of targeting non-salmon species. The opportunity was 12 hours in duration, starting at 11:00AM June 6 and ending at 11:00PM June 6. The Emergency Order that implemented this opportunity can be found [here](#).

Data Sources

- A total of **20** fisher interviews were used in this analysis.
 - **10** fisher interviews collected by KRITFC/BSFA community-based monitoring efforts were used.
 - **10** fisher interviews collected by OTNC from Bethel area fish camps were used.
- USFWS flew **1** aerial survey to count set nets.
- Given the small number of interviews obtained, all catch data were pooled and applied to the set net counts made in each geographic stratum.

Effort Estimates

- A total of **88** set nets were estimated to have fished in the main-stem Kuskokwim River during the opportunity.
- During the aerial survey flight between Tuntutuliak and Akiak, USFWS observed **70** set nets fishing between 2:00PM and 4:00PM.
- Given only one flight was made, there was no need to account for double-counted set nets.
- **18** set nets were estimated to have been set and retrieved during times that were not flown.

Harvest Estimates

- An estimated total of **100 (70 - 150)** salmon were harvested.
 - An estimated total of **100 (60 - 140)** Chinook salmon were harvested.
 - Very few chum and sockeye salmon were estimated to have been harvested.
- An estimated total of **290 (210 - 390)** fish from non-salmon species (i.e., sheefish and other whitefishes) were harvested.

Table 1. Breakdown of relevant quantities by river stratum (area).

Stratum	Interviews	Set Net Count	Set Net Estimate	Chinook Harvest	Non-Salmon Harvest
Tunt-Johnson	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson-Napaskiak	8	16	20	20	70
Napaskiak-Akiachak	9	35	44	50	150
Akiachak-Akiak	3	19	24	30	80
Total	20	70	88	100	300