

Orutsararmiut Native Council (ONC) Inseason Harvest Monitoring Weekly Report

June 21, 2019

Summary of Interview Activities

On Saturday, June 15 and Wednesday, June 19, our fisheries team visited a total of 48 fish camps from Oscarville slough up to the bluffs and conducted surveys at the Bethel boat harbor.

During the June 15 opportunity, five respondents claimed there were too many boats on the river and it was combat fishing. Four fish camps claimed it was an early run and that Chinook salmon catches were the highest they've been in many years. One fish camp commented on the small size of their Chinook catches and several fish camps expressed gratitude and joy about the opportunities and abundance of fish in the river. We also were given recommendations to have fishery openings closer together and later in the day.

During the June 19 opportunity, three fish camps were happy with the fishing opportunities and their catches, while another three fish camps requested more openings and wanted restrictions to be over. Three fish camps commented on illegal fishing and requested more enforcement and closing the non-spawning tributaries. One fish camp reported their net being ran over. Two fish camps commented on the small size of Chinook salmon harvested with one of those camps stating the larger Chinook salmon are still coming in. Two fish camps commented on the lack of chum salmon in the river. One fish camp family had their fish confiscated earlier this month due to confusion and lack of markers distinguishing the mouth of the Kuskokwim river and the area just outside of the mouth. Four fish camps expressed gratitude for our team and were happy to see youth involved in fisheries monitoring.

Table 1. Average number of salmon harvested by surveyed Bethel area fish camps and Bethel boat harbor from the June 15 fishing opportunity.

Data Source	Number of Surveys Conducted	Average Chinook Salmon Harvest	Average Chum Salmon Harvest	Average Sockeye Salmon Harvest	Average other harvest
Bethel Area Fish Camps	34	13.6	<1	2.8	<1
Bethel Boat Harbor	113	7.2	<1	~1	<1

Table 2. Total number of salmon harvested in the non-spawning tributaries reported by Bethel area fish camps and at the Bethel boat harbor during the June 15 fishing opportunity.

Non-Spawning Tributary	Number of Fishing Trips	Total Chinook Salmon Harvest	Total Chum Salmon Harvest	Total Sockeye Salmon Harvest	Total other harvest
Johnson	10	61	5	8	1
Tuntutuliak	2	32	0	4	0

Table 3. Average number of salmon harvested by surveyed Bethel area fish camps and Bethel boat harbor from the June 19 fishing opportunity.

Data Source	Number of Surveys Conducted	Average Chinook Salmon Harvest	Average Chum Salmon Harvest	Average Sockeye Salmon Harvest	Average other harvest
Bethel Area Fish Camps	34	19.4	3.2	5.7	<1
Bethel Boat Harbor	93	11.4	1.4	2.7	<1

Table 4. Total number of salmon harvested in the non-spawning tributaries reported by Bethel area fish camps and at the Bethel boat harbor during the June 19 fishing opportunity.

Non-Spawning Tributary	Number of Fishing Trips	Total Chinook Salmon Harvest	Total Chum Salmon Harvest	Total Sockeye Salmon Harvest	Total other harvest
Gweek	3	34	0	15	0
Johnson	8	135	16	22	1

Fishing Progress Information

This past survey period, we asked eight fish camps the following question: “How close are you to achieving your Chinook, chum and sockeye salmon harvest goals?”

Table 5. Fishing progress by surveyed fish camps for Chinook, chum and sockeye salmon from the June 19 fishing opportunity.

Salmon Species	Not at all	Under Half	Halfway	Over Half	Goal Met
Chinook salmon	17% (n=5)	7% (n=2)	31% (n=9)	24% (n=7)	21% (n=6)
Chum salmon	83% (n=24)	7% (n=2)	3% (n=1)	0% (n=0)	7% (n=2)
Sockeye salmon	72% (n=21)	17% (n=5)	3% (n=1)	3% (n=1)	3% (n=1)

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

Thus far this season, there are 27 interested samplers from the Bethel community, and we’ve received samples from 13 of those individuals.

Fish Distribution

From June 9-June 19, we’ve delivered 154 Chinook salmon, 8 chum salmon, 7 sockeye salmon and 2 whitefish to Bethel area Elders, disabled and widows as well as ONC Senior Services department to provide salmon for the meals on wheels program. These fish served an estimated 125 Elders, disabled and widows in Bethel excluding those registered with the meals on wheels program. These fish were caught by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game Bethel Test Fishery.