2016 Alaska Management Considerations

Presented by:
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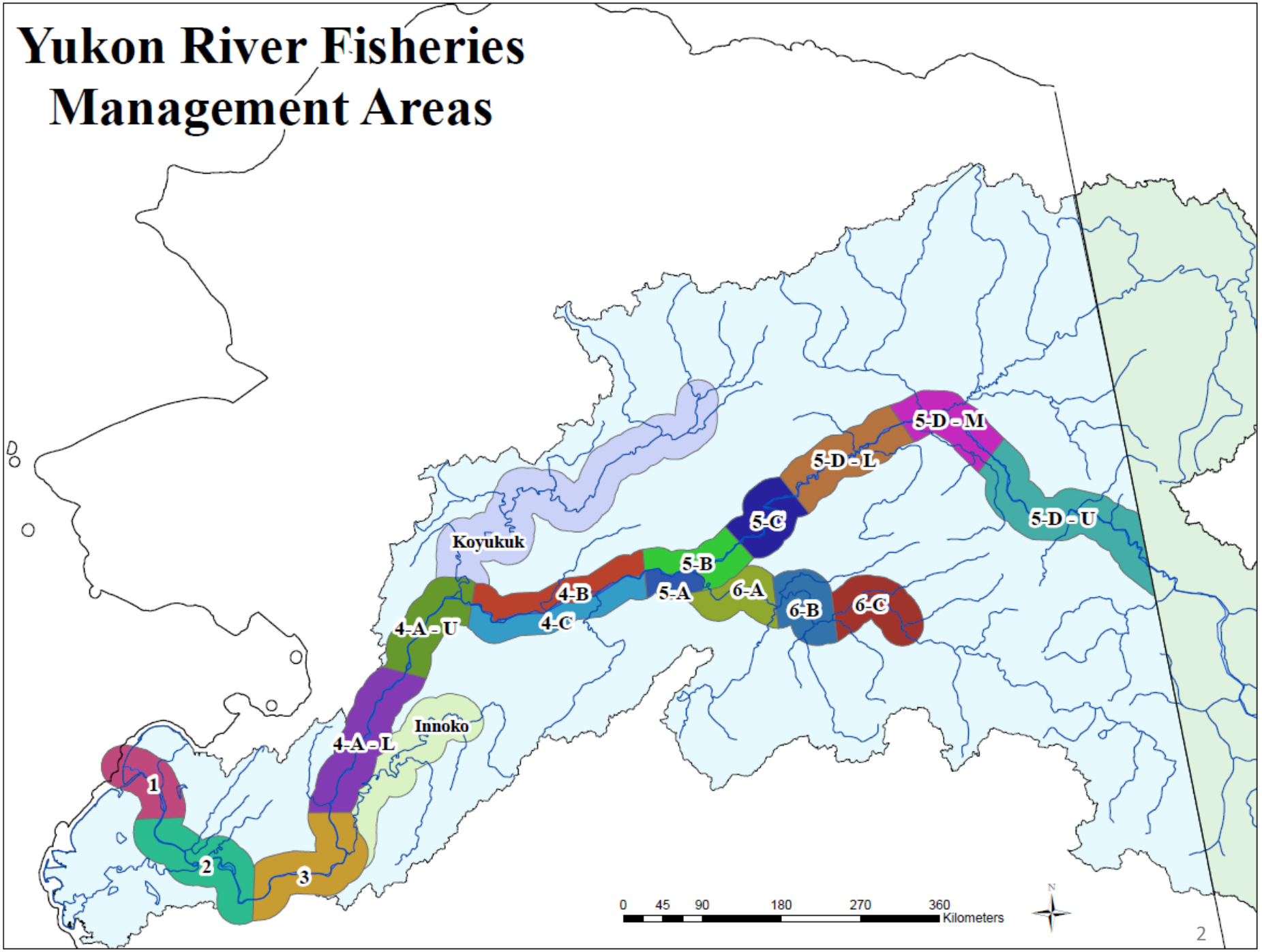
ADF&G – Yukon River Summer Season Research Biologist

Yukon River Panel Meeting, April 2016


Yukon River Fisheries Management Areas
5-D - M
5-D - L
5-D - U
5-C
5-B
5-A
6-A
6-B
6-C
4-B
4-C
4-A - U
4-A - L
Koyukuk
Innoko
1
2
3
0 45 90 180 270 360
Kilometers
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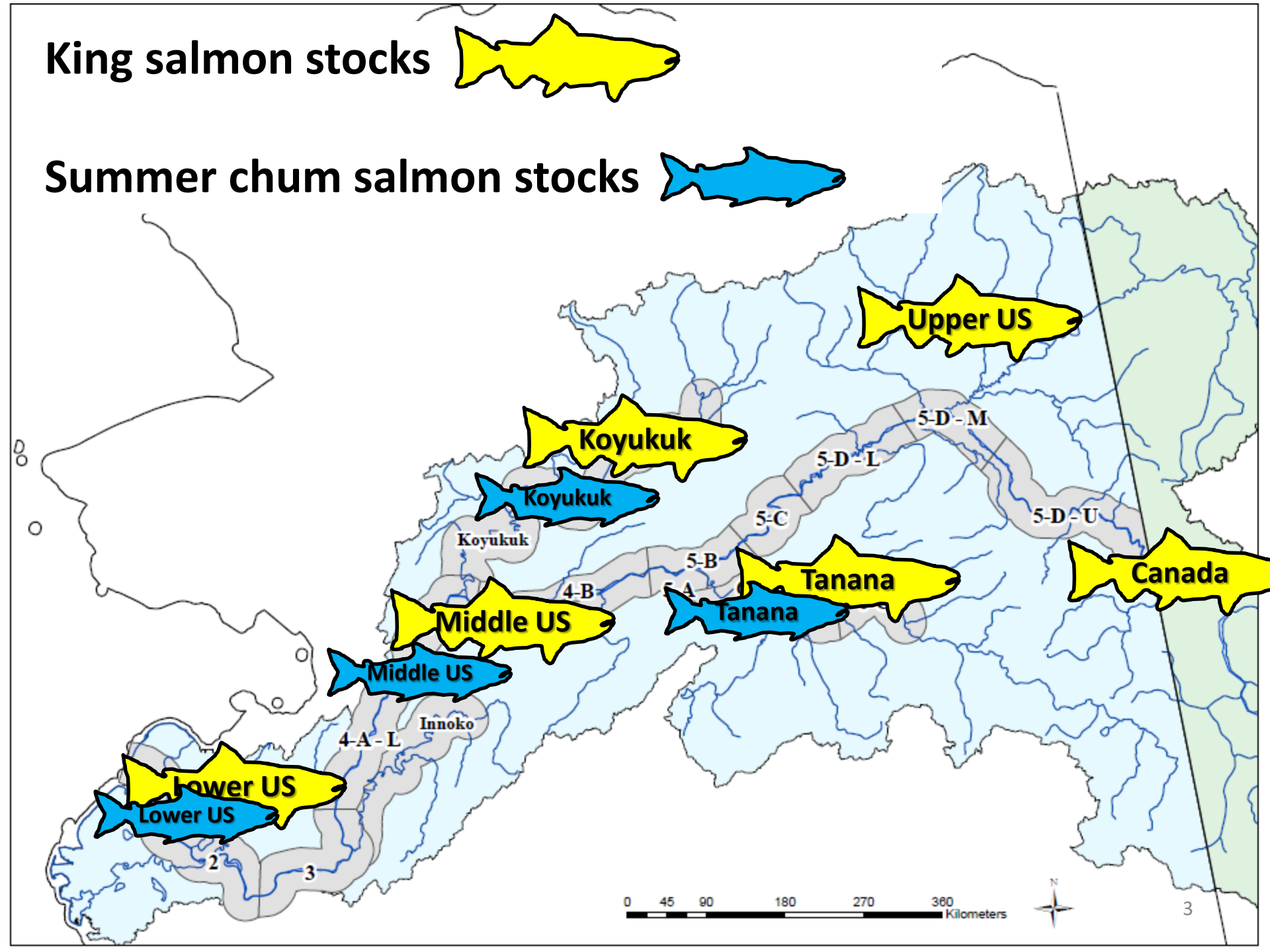

King salmon stocks
Summer chum salmon stocks
Upper US
Koyukuk
Koyukuk
Koyukuk
5-D - M
5-D - L
5-C
5-D - U
5-B
4-B
5-A
Tanana
Tanana
Canada
Middle US
Middle US
Innoko
4-A - L
Lower US
Lower US
2
3
0 45 90 180 270 360
Kilometers
N

2015 Management Summary

- Total Canadian-origin run size: 87,000
- Fisherman were integral to conservation efforts
- Conservative management actions : first pulse closure, selective gear
- Some subsistence harvest opportunity provided: District 5 fished on the “trickle” and 6” gillnet opportunity allowed in “surgical” openings to allow for chum harvest in most districts

= All goals drainage-wide were met or exceeded for Chinook and summer chum

Preliminary 2015 Chinook Harvest in Alaska

District	Total 2015	% Canadian-Origin	Total Canadian-Origin
Coastal	966	45%	435
Y-1	1,981	45%	892
Y-2	1,166	42%	484
Y-3	447	48%	212
Y-4	698	43-53%	320
Y-5	1,535	66-95%	1338
Y-6	*437*	*0*	*0*
Koyukuk River	*73*	*0*	*0*
Yukon Area Total	~ 6,800	54% of total	~3,700

2005-2014 US harvest average: 25,000 (Canadian-origin)

Potential 2016 Allowable Catch Ranges Canadian-Origin Chinook Salmon

	Lower	Upper
Pre-Season Run Size Outlook	65,000	88,000
Spawning Escapement Goal (IMEG)	42,500	55,000
Total Allowable Catch	10,000	45,500
Canadian Allowable Catch	2,300	10,500
US Allowable Catch	**7,700**	**35,000**

Harvest shares established by the Yukon River Salmon Agreement are:
US 74 to 80% (77% used as the mid-point)
Canada 20 to 26% (23% used as the mid-point)
*numbers rounded to nearest 100

Subsistence Management Considerations

After first pulse closure, openings determined based on inseason run assessment and subsistence fishing reports

- **If below lower end of preseason forecast:**
  - Selective gear opportunity

- **If above lower end of preseason forecast:**
  - Selective gear opportunity + short openings with 6” gillnets & retention from fish wheels (similar to 2015)

- **If near/exceed upper end of preseason forecast:**
  - Reduced regulation subsistence fishing schedule with 6” gillnets, fish wheels
  - Consider opportunity with 7.5” gillnets

2016 Summer Chum Outlook

- Run outlook : 1.3 – 1.8 million
- Escapement goals and subsistence needs likely met
- Potential surplus for commercial harvest of 450,000 to 950,000

Commercial Management Considerations

Summer chum salmon

- Dependent on strength and timing of Chinook salmon run
- No sale of Chinook salmon
- Selective gear types to start: dip nets, beach seines, fish wheels (live release)
- 6” or smaller mesh size gillnets will be considered if Chinook salmon escapement goals will be met

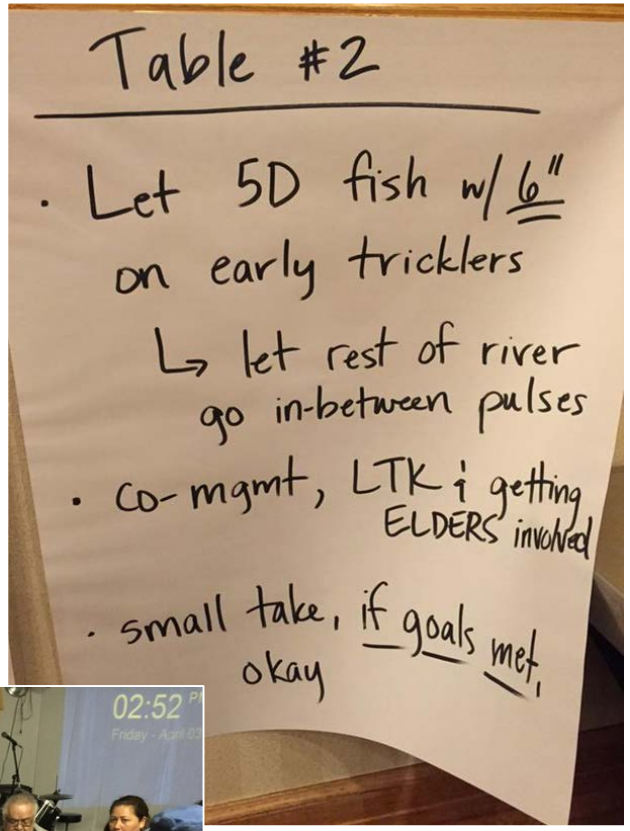
Pink Salmon

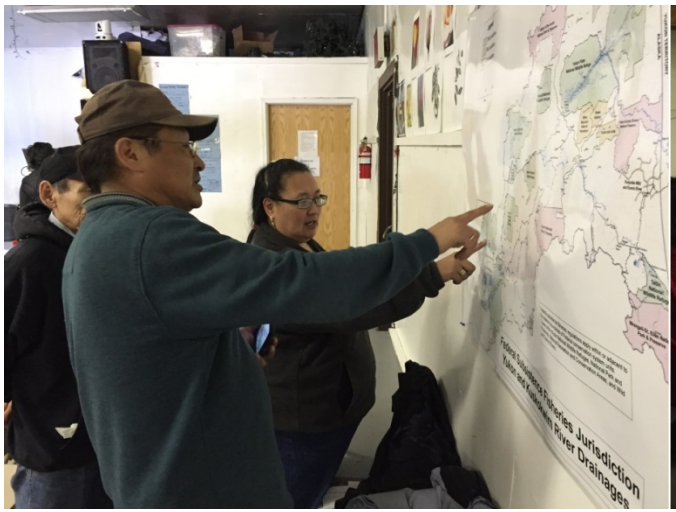
- Only District 1 with 4.75” or smaller gillnets if harvestable surplus is present

2016 Alaska Management Communications

Upcoming:

- State AC meetings
- Yukon Advisory Group
- Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association preseason planning meeting
- Village meetings during the season





2016 Management Considerations Summary

- 2016 Chinook outlook: 65,000 – 88,000 Canadian-origin Chinook salmon
  - Drainagewide : 130,000- 175,000 Chinook
- Likely to achieve escapement goals and harvest sharing objectives
- Conservative management approach with some increased opportunity for subsistence harvest if the runs strength warrants it
- Management will be driven by inseason assessment of run

Questions?

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Preliminary Alaska Subsistence Chinook Harvest

District	Avg. 2005-2014	Total 2015	2015 test fish	% from test fish
Coastal	1,200	966	0	0%
Y-1	4,600	1,981	621	31%
Y-2	6,800	1,166	158	14%
Y-3	3,500	447	0	0%
Y-4	8,800	698	22	3%
Y-5	10,500	1,535	205	13%
Y-6	*1,000*	*437*	*40*	*9%*
Koyukuk River	*300*	*73*	*0*	*0%*
Yukon Area Total	37,000	~7,300	~1,050	14%

79% Reduction

Escapement project	2015 Chinook Escapement	Current goal
EF Andreafsky River Weir	6,705	2,100 – 4,900
WF Andreafsky River Aerial	1,356	640 – 1,600
Anvik River Index Aerial	2,616	1,100 – 1,700
Nulato River Aerial	1,564	940 – 1,900
Chena River Tower	~6,800	2,800 – 5,700
Salcha River Tower	~6,879	3,300 – 6,500
Eagle sonar estimate	**84,015**	
Prelim spawning escapement	**82,674** (41% ♀, ~ 34,000 ♀)	**42,500 – 55,000**