

Alaska Management 2017 Review and Considerations

Presented by:

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2017 Management and Inseason Assessment Review

Team Outreach

- Increased focus on tribal consultation and community input
- Subsistence Division staff joined the summer team
- Meetings held in season: Nulato, Grayling, Beaver, Fort Yukon
- Other communities visited (funded by TCC): Hughes, Huslia, Alakaket, Koyukuk, Kaltag, Galena, Ruby



Team Outreach

- Facebook Page launched with daily counts and news releases
- Streamlined news releases
- Increased use of toll free hotline
- YRDFA teleconferences attended in person in some villages
- Fish from test fisheries donated to communities when possible



2017 Pre-season Chinook Outlook

- Chinook outlook: 70,000 – 97,000 Canadian-origin
- Drainage-wide :140,000- 195,000 Chinook
- Conservative management approach with increased opportunity for subsistence harvest



2017 Potential Allowable Catch Ranges

Canadian-Origin Chinook Salmon

Based on a Pre-Season Run Size Outlook: 70,000- 97,000

	From	To
Total Allowable Catch	15,000	54,500
Canadian Allowable Catch (23% harvest share)	3,500	12,500
US Allowable Catch (77% harvest share)	11,600	42,000

Escapement Goal (IMEG): 42,500 - 55,000

2016 US harvest of Canadian-origin Chinook 11,500

*numbers rounded to nearest 100

2017 Summer Chum Outlook

- Summer chum outlook : 2.4 million
- 1.5 million potential surplus of summer chum for commercial harvest
- Harvest usually constrained by need to conserve Chinook salmon



2017 Preseason Planning Meeting

Shapes the management strategy with input from fishermen from nearly every Yukon village (R&E funded), discussion included:

- Need to allow Chinook-directed openings if abundance warrants
- Offer Chinook opportunity sooner in the run
- Less short/surgical openings, use regulatory schedule and give plenty of notice
- Fishermen can take conservative actions on their own in addition to restrictions imposed by ADF&G

2017 Subsistence Management Actions

Early season:

- Reduced regulatory subsistence fishing schedule with 6" gillnets & retention from fish wheels
- Salmon fishing closed (once first pulse detected at Pilot)
- Selective gear opportunity for summer chum

Once abundance indicated run above lower end of forecast:

- Reduced regulatory subsistence fishing schedule with 6" gillnets & retention from fish wheels

Once abundance indicated run at upper end of forecast:

- Regulatory schedule with 7.5" gillnets most districts

2017 Summer Chum Commercial Management

- Limited buyer capacity in District 2
- Buyer returned to District 4 (Kaltag live-release fish wheels)
- Need to conserve Chinook salmon early in the season limits harvest of Summer Chum



2017 Summer Chum Commercial Management

- Selective gear types to start: dip nets, beach seines (live release)
- First gillnet openings limited to Y1 with 5.5" by 30 mesh deep
- 6" or smaller mesh gillnets



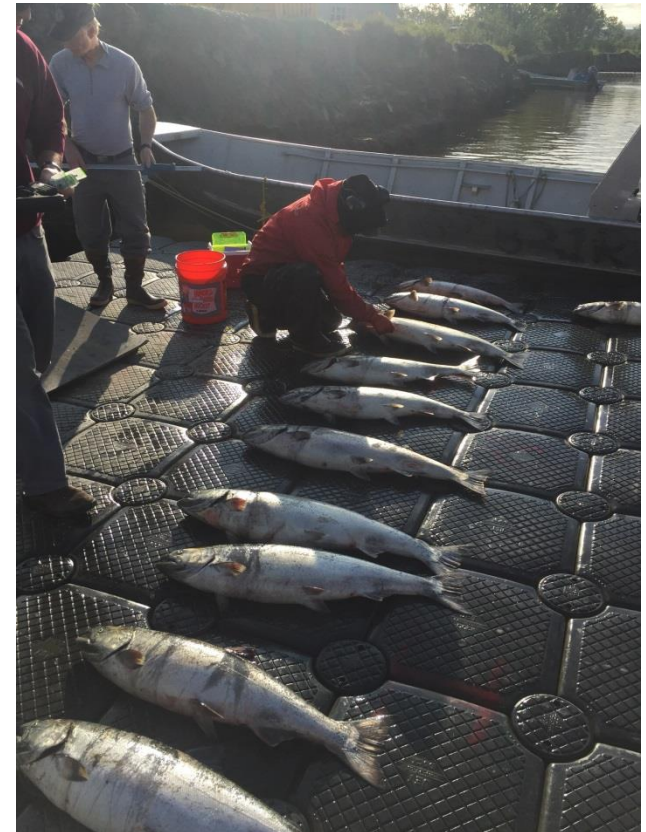
2017 Summer Chum Commercial Management

- No sale of Chinook salmon during the summer season
- During first opening in fall season, 168 incidentally-caught Chinook salmon sold
- 99% of Chinook run had passed the Pilot Station sonar project
- Decision reconsidered and Board of Fisheries guidance sought

2017 Inseason Run Assessment

- Started early in anticipation of early run, but high debris loads
- Frequent reports from subsistence fishermen and catches in LYTF indicated fish were swimming deep and/or offshore
- Above average water temps and high water levels most of the season
- CPUE's much lower than 2016, and below average until first quarter point

Lower Yukon Test Fishery



2017 Pilot Station Sonar Performance

- Chinook estimate : 263,000
- C.I. range: 234,000 - 292,000
- Summer Chum: 3.1 million
- C.I. range: 3.0 M – 3.2 M
- Genetic Stock ID in test fishery (Funded by YRP R&E) sampled approximately 600 Chinook
- Inseason projections based on estimated proportion of Canadian stock matched up very well with passage at Eagle



Post Season Assessment



Mainstem Commercial Harvest

Gear	Summer Chum Harvested	Chinook Released Alive	Chinook Kept for Personal Use
Dip Net & Beach Seine and Y4 wheels (selective)	286,400	4,700	
Gillnet	264,600		5,600
Total	551,000		

(not including any salmon caught in Fall, or the Tanana River)

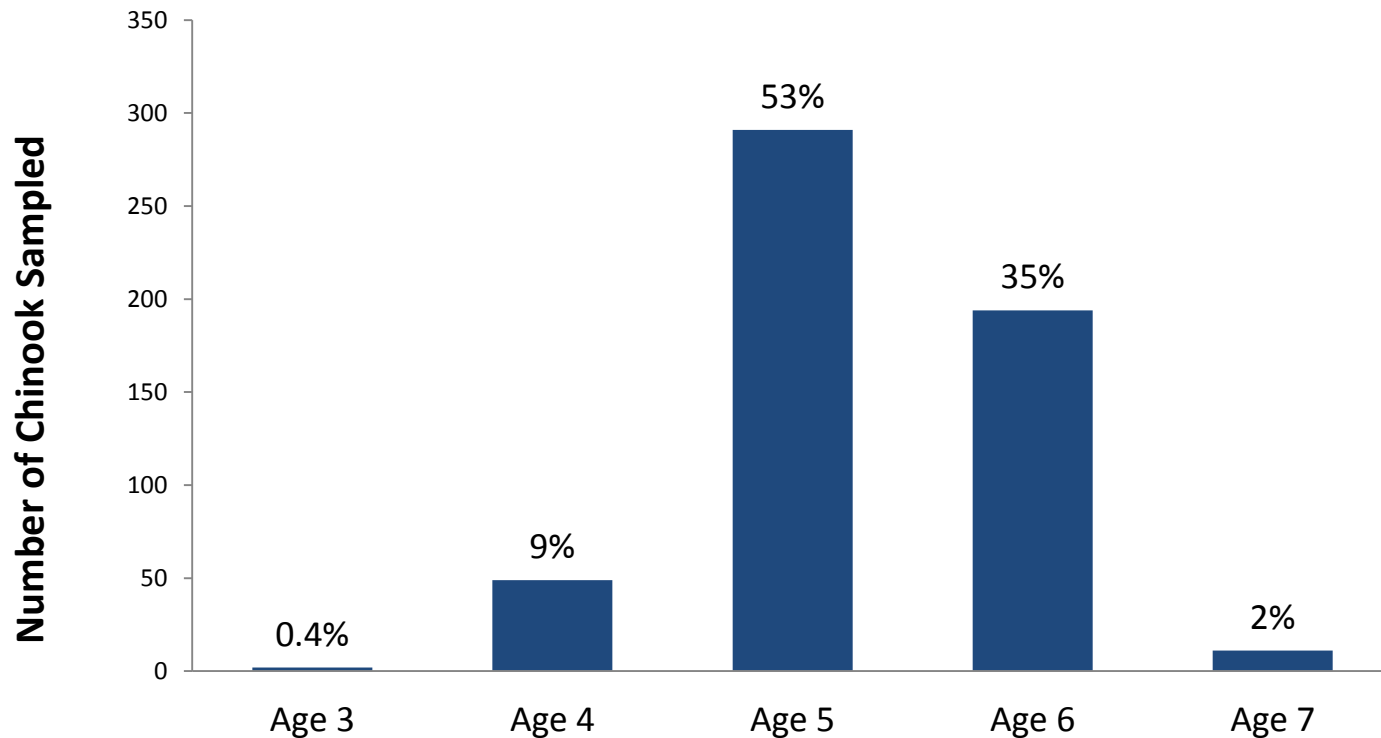
2017 Summer Chum Escapement

Escapement project	Current goal	2017 Estimate
EF Andreafsky River Weir	>40,000	55,500
Anvik River Sonar	350,000–750,000	415,000
Drainage-wide	500,000–1,200,000	3 Million +

Chinook Age Composition

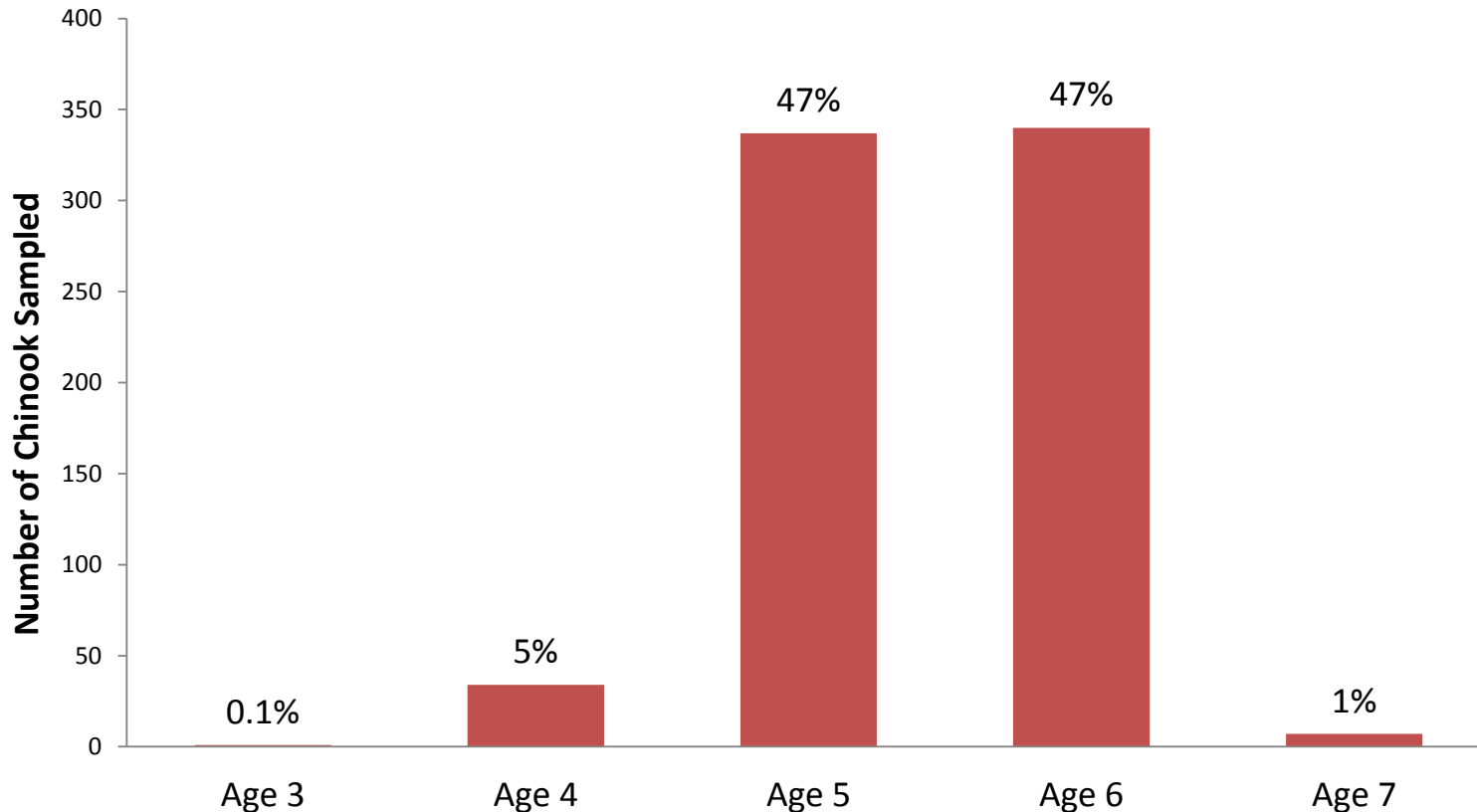


Chinook Age Composition Pilot Station



- Includes Lower River, Middle River, Upper US and Canadian stocks

Canadian Chinook Comp at Eagle Sonar



- 719 samples, second largest sample size since 2005
- 51% female (highest proportion female since 2005)
- Chinook were about 17 mm larger than 2005-2016 average length

2017 Chinook Escapement

Escapement project	Current Goal	2017 Estimate
EF Andrafsky River Weir	2,100 – 4,900	2,970
WF Andrafsky River Aerial	640 – 1,600	942
Anvik River Index Aerial	1,100 – 1,700	1,101
Nulato River Aerial	940 – 1,900	943
Chena River Tower	2,800 – 5,700	1,785*
Salcha River Tower	3,300 – 6,500	3,534*

* Partial Tower counts; sonar counts available post season

2017 Chinook Escapement

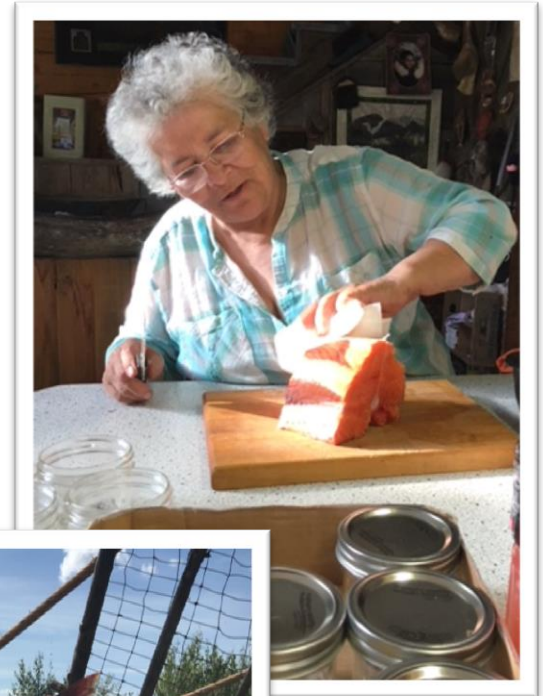
Project	Current IMEG	2017 Estimate
Eagle sonar	42,500 – 55,000 (51% ♀, ~ 37,400 ♀)	~73,000

- Preliminary U.S. harvest above sonar: 1,500

- Preliminary Canadian harvest: 3,500

Preliminary Spawning Chinook Spawning escapement: ~ 68,000

Stories from the River



A photograph showing several salmon fillets and racks of salmon hanging vertically in a curing facility. The fillets are bright orange-red, and the racks are made of many small pieces of salmon stacked together. The background is dark, and the lighting highlights the texture of the fish.

**With special recognition to the YRP
members for their dedicated
collaboration and conservation of
Yukon River salmon runs for more
than 15 years**

Questions?

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