

FRI-UW-9303  
February 1993

# ALASKA SALMON RESEARCH

D. ROGERS, PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR  
T. QUINN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR;  
C. FOOTE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR; AND  
B. ROGERS AND G. RUGGERONE, FISHERY BIOLOGISTS

ANNUAL REPORT—1992  
to  
PACIFIC SEAFOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION

FRI-UW-9303  
February 1993

**FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
SCHOOL OF FISHERIES WH-10  
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98195

## **ALASKA SALMON RESEARCH**

D. ROGERS, PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR  
T. QUINN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR;  
C. FOOTE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR; AND  
B. ROGERS AND G. RUGGERONE, FISHERY BIOLOGISTS

ANNUAL REPORT—1992  
to  
PACIFIC SEAFOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION

Approved

Submitted 1-29-93



Director

# CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF FIGURES .....	iv
LIST OF TABLES .....	v
INTRODUCTION .....	1
FORECASTING .....	1
Pre-season Forecasts .....	1
LAKE RESEARCH.....	3
Kvichak System.....	3
Newhalen River Escapement.....	3
Spawning Ground Surveys .....	4
Sockeye Fry Abundance and Size.....	5
Sculpin Predation on Salmon Eggs .....	6
Rainbow Trout Predation.....	7
Wood River System .....	7
Environmental Observations .....	7
Fry Abundance and Growth .....	8
Char Predation.....	8
Spawning Ground Surveys .....	9
Bear Predation .....	9
LITERATURE CITED .....	10

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Reconstructed daily Bristol Bay sockeye salmon runs.....	12
2. Reconstructed daily Bristol Bay sockeye salmon runs at Port Moller and the daily sockeye salmon index catches, 1989-1992.....	13
3. Summer abundances of zooplankton in Lake Aleknagik during 1991 and 1992.....	14
4. Annual escapements of sockeye salmon to the Wood River Lakes and annual stream survey counts for all Lake Aleknagik creeks and Hansen Creek, 1950-1992.....	15

## LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1. Pre-season forecasts of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon inshore runs.....	18
2. Bristol Bay sockeye salmon runs and the predictions from the Port Moller test-boat catches.....	19
3. Mean lengths of sockeye salmon in the Bristol Bay runs.....	20
4. The 1992 sockeye salmon runs to Bristol Bay river systems and the escapements compared to the management goals.....	21
5. Cumulative daily escapements of sockeye salmon in the Kvichak and Newhalen Rivers, 1988-1992.....	22
6. The Kvichak lake system escapements and the percentages going to Newhalen River and Lake Clark.....	23
7. Age compositions of sockeye salmon on the Kvichak spawning grounds in 1992.....	24
8. Spawning ground estimates of sockeye salmon on 29 selected spawning grounds in Lake Iliamna and the Newhalen River system, 1956-1992.....	25
9. Mean townet catches and lengths on Sept. 1 of sockeye salmon fry in Lakes Iliamna and Clark.....	26
10. Summary of 1992 measurements in Lake Aleknagik.....	27
11. Average counts of zooplankton from 6 stations on Lake Aleknagik in 1992 and the means and ranges in means from past years.....	28
12. 5-day averages of catches of emergent midges and water temperatures at 3 stations on Lake Aleknagik, 1992.....	29
13. Average catches, lengths and growth rates for sockeye fry and age 1 threespine stickleback in Lake Aleknagik.....	30
14. Average townet catches and mean lengths of sockeye fry, numbers of parent spawners, and average catches and mean lengths of threespine stickleback for Lake Nerka.....	31

Table	Page
15. Occurrence and numbers of juvenile sockeye salmon in stomachs of Arctic char collected by hook and line from Little Togiak River during 30 days after ice-out.....	32
16. Ground survey counts of sockeye salmon spawners in the Wood River Lakes, 1992.....	33
17. Age compositions of sockeye spawners in the Wood River Lakes in 1992.....	34
18. Daily counts of sockeye salmon spawners in Hansen Creek in 1992.....	35
19. Summary of Hansen Creek spawning surveys, 1990-1992.....	36

## **KEY WORDS**

Bristol Bay, Egegik, Kvichak, Nushagak, limnology, predation, sockeye salmon, spawning grounds, Ugashik, Wood River Lakes



## INTRODUCTION

Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) was established in 1946 with the financial support of the major Alaskan salmon processors to (1) investigate the causes of the declines in production that had occurred in most stocks since the 1930s, (2) work with the government management agency to increase our knowledge of the biology of salmon and the effects of the fisheries on the stocks, and (3) assist salmon processors by providing a second opinion on matters of salmon fisheries management. These objectives are still valid today, but with the high levels of production since the 1980s, our primary objectives now are to determine how to maintain the high production (what has caused year-to-year variation) and how to harvest/process salmon most efficiently, e.g., accurate forecasts and fishing evenly distributed throughout the run.

We presently have salmon research projects in Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula, Southeast Alaska and Chignik that are funded in part or entirely by the industry. In addition, we have a federally funded high seas salmon project that is concerned with the oceanic distribution of salmon and the vulnerability of North American stocks to foreign fisheries. In recent years, we have also worked at Kodiak and on the Yukon stocks. All of these projects have been carried out in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (high seas), and we have also had cooperative research projects with salmon biologists from Japan and Russia. This past summer we hosted four Russian salmon biologists for 3 weeks at our field stations in Bristol Bay and then visited their research stations in Kamchatka.

This report focuses on our 1992 Bristol Bay research with emphasis on salmon forecasting and research relevant to escapement policies to maximize production. The Southeast pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) research will be reported in a separate report from the University of Alaska, our Chignik salmon research is reported to the National Marine Fisheries Service, and a report on our Alaska Peninsula (False Pass) work will be completed soon.

## FORECASTING

### PRE-SEASON FORECASTS

Forecasts of the 1993 Bristol Bay sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*) runs and catches were provided to participating processors at an October 1992 meeting. They are presented in Table 1 with the ADF&G forecasts and the past forecasts and runs beginning in 1985. The two river system forecasts (FRI and ADF&G) are based on the same data sources, but different analytical methods often have been used. Both 1992 forecasts were for an average (recent years) run and catch, whereas the actual run was above average and the catch (32 million) was the third largest on record. Since 1985, the actual catch has been between the two forecasted catches only once. In the other 7 years, the catch was either higher (6) or lower (1) than both forecasts. The 1992 catch was 45% greater than our forecast, which made it our second worst forecast since 1985.

Our forecasts of the runs to the fishing districts have been closest for the Nushagak, with an average error (percent that the run was above or below the forecast) of 22%, and furthest off for the Naknek/Kvichak, where the average error has been 43%. Average errors in forecasts of the Egegik and Ugashik runs have been 39% and 35%, respectively.

## PORT MOLLER FORECAST

The Port Moller in-season test fishery was conducted by ADF&G during June and early July from 1968 through 1985, with a change in gear in 1985. There was no test fishery in 1986 and, beginning in 1987, we have conducted the test fishery each year. The accuracy of the forecasts since 1987 has been very good. The runs have differed from the forecasts made on June 25 and 30 by an average of 17%, and we have been within an average of 10% on forecasts made about July 3 (Table 2). We have not done as well in forecasting the catch as we have for the runs because river system forecasts and, thus, catches cannot be made until about July 3, when we have the first indication of where the salmon are going. In 1992, the test-fish catches projected that the run would be larger than the pre-season forecasts and the actual run turned out to be exactly as forecast on June 30 (45 million).

The test fishery at Port Moller employs a 200-fathom gillnet that is 60 meshes deep and has 5-in stretched mesh. The web is multistrand monofilament (center core). We have used a 70-ft vessel (*Nettie H*) and fished each day from June 11 through about July 5 (weather permitting). Four stations are fished along a transect about 30 to 60 mi out from Port Moller. Catch, mean length and water temperature data are sent daily by radio to Port Moller and then faxed to Bristol Bay. The vessel comes into port every other day to deliver fish and salmon scales collected by the two to three biologists on board. In 1992, scales and length data were sent periodically to ADF&G in King Salmon, where the scales were aged and the age compositions and average lengths by age were reported.

The statistics from Port Moller in 1992 were again a challenge to interpret, although they ultimately predicted the total run and age composition accurately. The sockeye were exceptionally small for their age, and yet there was a high percentage of 3-ocean sockeye, so the average length of all fish did not accurately reflect the ocean age composition (the same as in 1991). Usually, high percentages of 3-ocean are associated with small runs, but small fish (for a given age) are usually associated with large runs. ADF&G provided preliminary daily catches and escapements for 1992, and from these data as well as published statistics (e.g., Stratton 1991) we reconstructed the run timing in the Bristol Bay fishing districts to compare with past years and with the Port Moller index catches (Figs. 1 and 2). The timing and magnitude of the 1992 run was fairly well predicted by the Port Moller catches assuming an 8-day travel time and that Ugashik fish passed Port Moller at the same time as the other stocks (Rogers 1990).

ADF&G provided preliminary length and weight statistics for 1992, and statistics from prior years were available (e.g., Yuen et al. 1981 and Stratton 1991) for calculating mean lengths in the runs (Tables 3). Sockeye in the 1992 run were among the smallest recorded and similar to the small fish in the 1990 and 1991 runs. We are presently unable to predict the effect of variation in fish

size on the selectivity of the Port Moller gill net in-season; however, the small size of the sockeye in 1992 was not so unusual given the large run. Large runs typically contain smaller fish because of density-dependent growth in their final spring at sea (Rogers 1980).

The Port Moller test fishery in 1992 also provided an early indication to ADF&G management that a large run was on the way; however, the early distribution of the run, heavy to the Egegik District, created some doubt as to the size of the run (40+ million). Although there were still large over-escapements in the Naknek, Egegik, and Ugashik rivers, the escapements in 1992 were closer to the goals than in the past 3 years (Table 4).

## LAKE RESEARCH

During the summer of 1992, we continued our long-term studies of spawner distribution, growth and abundance of fry, and the physical and biological environment for the sockeye salmon of the Wood River (Nushagak) and Kvichak lake systems. Most of our annual observations in the Wood River Lakes extend over more than 30 years and constitute the longest continuous biological and environmental record on any salmon stock in Alaska. In 1992, we also conducted special studies of bear predation on spawning sockeye salmon and stock specific traits of sockeye spawning populations.

### KVICHAK SYSTEM

Our 1992 field season in the Kvichak system (Iliamna and Clark lakes) consisted of estimating the sockeye escapement into the Newhalen River in late-June and July, townnetting for juvenile sockeye and threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) in upper Lake Iliamna and Lake Clark in August, and conducting spawning ground surveys in late August-early September to collect otoliths for age determination. We also completed a special study of rainbow (*O. mykiss*)-sockeye interactions (predator-prey) and continued a study of variation in the body shapes of spawning sockeye on different spawning grounds

#### Newhalen River Escapement

The annual escapements of sockeye salmon to the Kvichak lake system are estimated by ADF&G from expanded 10-min counts on each bank of the river at the outlet of Lake Iliamna (Igiugig). In addition, since 1979 we have estimated the escapements up the Newhalen River by expanding 20-min counts on one bank, for each of 10 daylight hours, to a daily count for both banks. We count when and where the visibility is best and assume that the fish utilize both banks equally and that their migratory rate does not change at night. The daily counts at Newhalen are compared to the counts at Igiugig to estimate a travel time; then, by lagging the Newhalen counts back to Igiugig the appropriate number of days, we can calculate the daily proportions of the Kvichak run that went up the Newhalen River.

The cumulative daily escapements for the two rivers, timed to the Kvichak, are given in Table 5 for 1988–1992. In mid-July, milling fish often swim upriver along the banks of the Newhalen and are counted, and then drift downriver in the middle where they cannot be seen, only to swim up river again. This inflates the counts for the escapement; therefore, we have used the average proportion of Newhalen count to Kvichak count for day 5 to day 16 (day one equals the first day of 100,000 in the Kvichak) and the season's total Kvichak escapement to estimate the Newhalen/Lake Clark escapement.

In 1992, we estimated that 1.1 million of the Kvichak escapement of 4.7 million (about 22%) ended up in the Newhalen/Lake Clark system (Table 6). This was a little lower than the average percentage for the past 5 years (30%). The aerial surveys conducted by ADF&G in 1992 provided an estimate of the Newhalen River spawners and, thus by subtraction, an estimate of the Lake Clark escapement of 1.0 million.

### Spawning Ground Surveys

We have collected scales or otoliths from spawned-out sockeye salmon from several major spawning grounds in the Kvichak system each year since 1956. In 1992, eight spawning grounds were sampled, and the age compositions from the samples provided a different pattern than the age composition in the lake system escapement (Table 7). The age compositions of the beach spawners looked similar to the lake system age compositions, but the rivers and creeks had quite different age compositions. Chinkelyes Creek and the Tazimina River had high percentages of age 2.2, the Newhalen River a high percentage of age 1.3, and Copper River a high percentage of age 2.3 sockeye salmon.

We had conducted annual aerial surveys of the Kvichak spawning grounds from 1956 until 1988, when ADF&G took over the surveys. The results of the 1992 surveys were provided by ADF&G and are summarized for 29 selected spawning grounds in Table 8. In recent years the surveys have accounted for smaller percentages of the total (tower count) escapement than was typical for past years. This may have been caused by differences in observers, weather conditions (visibility), or distribution of sockeye salmon on the spawning grounds.

In 1990 and 1991, we conducted studies to determine the life duration of male and female sockeye on Woody, Fuel Dump, and Porcupine Islands. These data, along with accurate transect counts of the number of sockeye present, will allow us to determine more accurately the number of sockeye present on the beaches than can be presently done through aerial surveys alone. In 1992, we refined our estimates by tagging, *in situ*, sockeye arriving on the spawning grounds. This was done by divers using a modified spear gun to deploy individually color-coded Floy Dart tags. With these data, we will now be able to estimate the breeding life span depending on time of arrival.

We expanded our transect counts of sockeye on Fuel Dump Island to examine the possibility of local population differentiation in run timing in association with exposure to different wind-driven currents. The results indicated run timing differences between segments of the local population located within 20 m of one another.

For the second year, we deployed a continuous water temperature monitor at Woody Island at a depth of approximately 3 m (10 ft). This provides us with year-round records of lake temperature. We expect that these continuous, high-resolution records will assist us in understanding the year-to-year variation in growth and survival of sockeye fry in the lake and the patterns of spawning time, incubation rate and survival to emergence of the beach spawning stocks. We also retrieved a monitor near Fuel Dump island that measured water temperature and lake level. This is the first continuous measure of lake level, and it revealed a drop of near 2 m (5 ft) during the winter. Fluctuations in lake level are likely of major importance to the developing alevins of sockeye spawning on shallow beaches.

One of the basic tools of fisheries management is genetic stock identification. Here, natural variation in protein and associated DNA structure among stocks is used to estimate stock composition in mixed stock fisheries. In 1991, we sampled 50 fish from each of six potentially discrete stocks in Lake Iliamna (Gibraltar Cr., Copper R., Knutson Bay, Chinkelyes Cr., and Woody and Fuel Dump islands). In 1992, we repeated the sampling at Woody and Fuel Dump islands, Knutson Bay and Copper River to both refine our original estimates and to get an estimate of inter-year variation within populations. In addition, we collected 50 new samples from sockeye migrating up the Newhalen River in the spring and from spawning sockeye in the Tazimina River in September to determine the degree of differentiation between fish spawning in the Newhalen system and those spawning in Lake Iliamna. Finally, we collected 30 blood samples each from fish spawning at Woody Island Beach, Tazimina River, and Hansen Creek in Lake Aleknagik in order to analyze these populations for potential stock (and lake) specific variation in total genomic DNA.

We continued and expanded our investigations of factors involved in the variation of life history traits observed among populations within the watershed. We are particularly interested in variation in egg size with respect to size of the spawning substrate and associated water current and in variation in total egg number of salmon spawning in different areas. We plan to integrate these data into our information on size and age structure to understand productivity and mortality patterns among populations.

### Sockeye Fry Abundance and Size

We have sampled the sockeye fry (age 0) in the Kvichak system each year since 1962 (1961 brood year) by townetting at night. However, we had a long run of bad weather in late-August of 1992 that made it impossible to townet in the upper end of Iliamna Lake, where most of the fry are concentrated. We did townet in Lake Clark, but as usual we did not sample the fry in Six-mile Lake (upper end of the Newhalen River), where fry from the Tazimina River are likely to concentrate. The geometric means of the catches provide a measure of the relative density (number per 20-min tow), and the mean lengths of the fry are adjusted each year, based on their daily growth rate, to September 1 (Table 9).

The sockeye fry are usually smaller in Lake Clark than in Lake Iliamna because temperatures are usually colder and Lake Clark has a shorter ice-free period. In both lakes, the annual growth of the fry is correlated with water temperatures, which are mostly influenced by spring weather. Cold temperatures typically result in small fry (40–50 mm), which then spend 2 years in the lake before

seaward migration and tend to return as adults 5 years after their parents. Warm temperatures usually result in large fry (over 60 mm), which tend to migrate to sea after 1 year and mostly return 4 years after their parents. The townet sampling has been useful in predicting, 3 years in advance, the main age at return from the larger Kvichak escapements by utilizing the relationship between age at return and mean length of fry in Lake Iliamna.

### Sculpin Predation on Salmon Eggs

Predation by fish on salmon eggs has been observed on numerous occasions in the wild. However, the magnitude and effects of such predation have never been documented. In 1992, we conducted a study to determine the extent of sculpin predation on salmon eggs on the Woody Island spawning beaches in Lake Iliamna. Freshwater sculpins are a relatively small species (<13 cm total length) of the Family Cottidae. Two sculpin species occur in Lake Iliamna: the coastrange sculpin (*Cottus aleuticus*) and the slimy sculpin (*C. cognatus*).

The study consisted of two parts: (1) We monitored sculpin density and size range on twenty-four 1-m<sup>2</sup> plots placed on and just off the known salmon spawning grounds, and (2) we conducted experiments to determine the number of salmon eggs hungry sculpins would consume.

Sculpin density increased on the spawning grounds in accordance with the increasing number of spawning sockeye present and decreased dramatically after all the sockeye had completed spawning. In contrast, sculpin densities changed very little in areas off the spawning grounds. Taken together, these data indicate that the sculpin species were responding (and migrating) to an egg resource that was clumped in space and time. Overall, sculpin densities reached a peak of nearly 13 m<sup>-2</sup> on the spawning grounds, but only 2.5 m<sup>-2</sup> off the grounds. While the number on the spawning grounds appears relatively high and indicative of extensive egg predation, it pales in comparison to the number of sculpins actually observed in sockeye redds immediately after spawning. On average, 21 sculpins were observed in sockeye nests either nearing completion or just after spawning. In the extreme case, over 113 sculpins were counted in a single sockeye nest just after spawning had occurred.

The maximum number of eggs hungry slimy and coastrange sculpins would consume was determined by placing individual sculpins in 0.67 m screen pens, allowing them to acclimate to the conditions, and then by introducing batches of either 40 water-hardened eggs or non-water-hardened eggs (fresh). Salmon eggs expand and develop a strong outer shell when they come in contact with water, in a process called "water-hardening." We considered that this expansion and hardening would both limit the size range of sculpins to which eggs were available (because of their small mouth size) and limit the total number of eggs that could be ingested (because of their size and the inability of sculpins to crush them). The number of eggs consumed by sculpins depended on the species, the size of the individual fish and the condition of the eggs. In general, slimy sculpins with relatively larger mouths were able to consume more eggs per a given-sized fish than coastrange sculpins. In both species, the number of eggs consumed increased with increasing size. Further, both species were able to ingest a significantly larger number of eggs when the eggs were not water-hardened. The maximum number of non-water-hardened eggs consumed in a single 15-min feeding by a slimy sculpin was 48.

Future work will address the egg digestion rates of sculpins in order to estimate the total number of eggs taken during spawning. Further, we will compare the extent of sculpin predation by spawning habitat (gravel size, beach versus river, etc.) to determine the relative cost of this predation to various populations. Ultimately, we intend to relate salmon population characteristics (egg size, length of spawning period) to the extent of sculpin egg predation, to determine if such predation is responsible for observed stock structure.

### Rainbow Trout Predation

Arctic char (*Salvelinus alpinus*) predation on sockeye salmon smolts has been shown to be very significant at predation "bottlenecks" (river inlets and outlets) in the Wood River Lakes. In 1992, we completed a study to investigate whether predation by rainbow trout, Arctic char and lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) accounts for a significant portion of juvenile sockeye mortality in Iliamna Lake (Berejikian 1992). This study was also an attempt to determine whether there was any relationship between rainbow trout growth and the abundance of sockeye salmon eggs, fry, or smolts.

Rainbow trout and Arctic char were the primary predators on sockeye salmon smolt near the outlet of Iliamna Lake. Both species preyed on smolt at similar rates; however rainbow trout supplemented their primary diet of smolt with mostly insects, whereas char preferred other fishes during the smolt outmigration. Throughout the summer, rainbow trout consumed a relatively constant amount of insects but utilized pulses of additional food, like smolts during the smolt outmigration and eggs during salmon spawning.

Growth of rainbow trout to age 3 appeared to be important in determining the subsequent growth to ages 4 and 5. For fish in their 5th growing season, the abundance of smolt and salmon eggs (as measured by escapement) provided additional nutrition that led to increased growth. Apparently, rainbow trout in Iliamna Lake were dependent on sockeye and other salmon for their nutritional requirements, but they were not a major factor in regulating sockeye salmon smolt production near the outlet of the lake.

## WOOD RIVER SYSTEM

The Bristol Bay research program of FRI began with spawning ground surveys in the Wood River Lakes in 1946 to determine where, when, and how many sockeye spawned there. During the early 1950s, methods were established to enumerate and sample the commercial catches, escapements (towers), and the smolts produced. By the late 1950s, we had established several important measurements, which we have maintained to the present in order to characterize each year's environment for spawning adults and rearing juveniles.

### Environmental Observations

The spring of 1992 was typical for Bristol Bay, and ice breakup was just 2 days later than average in Lake Aleknagik (Table 10). Although ice breakup was average, water temperatures were cooler than average except in early August. This was because solar radiation (sunlight) was below

average during most of the summer. Lake levels were about normal until late August, when heavy rainfall caused a moderate increase. Standing crop of phytoplankton (chlorophyll) was about average during the summer, whereas zooplankton abundance was well below average both in number of individuals and volume (Table 11 and Fig. 3). Zooplankton are the main source of food for juvenile sockeye salmon after they move offshore in late July. Insects (mainly pupal and adult midges) are the main source of food in the spring, when the fry are inshore. Midge abundance in the spring of 1992 also appeared lower than average; however, the abundance in late July was greater than normal (Table 12).

### Fry Abundance and Growth

The sockeye fry in Lake Aleknagik in 1992 were a little shorter than average in June, but their growth during July and August was very poor and on September 1 they averaged only 46 mm, the second shortest that we have recorded (Table 13). Their abundance as measured by beach seine and townet sampling was above average, and although we do not have an estimate of the total number of parent spawners (an aerial survey was not done in 1991), there was a record high count of spawners in the Aleknagik creeks in 1991 (Fig. 4). The small size on September 1 indicates that the very abundant fry cropped down their main food supply, especially the larger forms of the zooplankton such as calanoid copepods and *Daphnia*. The poor growth in 1992 will likely result in a substantial holdover of yearlings in Lake Aleknagik in 1993.

The mean lengths of sockeye fry in Lake Nerka indicated that growth was also below average in 1992, but not as severe as in Lake Aleknagik (Table 14). Zooplankton volumes in Lake Nerka during late August were about 60% of average, where as in lake Aleknagik it was 44% of average. The fry in Lake Nerka will likely migrate to sea in 1993 as relatively small age 1 smolt. No townet sampling was conducted in the upper lakes (Beverley and Kulik) in 1992; however, zooplankton volumes in 1992 were 78% of average (1968-1991) and growth of sockeye fry was likely to be only a little below average.

Juvenile sockeye salmon in the Wood River Lakes system exhibit density-dependent growth, and we are analyzing our long-term data set for Lake Aleknagik to determine the relative effects of physical and biological factors in the lake on the growth of the sockeye salmon fry. In addition, we are examining year-to-year variation in zooplankton population composition with annual variation in sockeye salmon fry and threespine stickleback abundance to determine the extent to which the fish alter their food resources. We hope the information from these studies will help explain the observed variability in the freshwater phase of the sockeye salmon.

### Char Predation

We have sampled the Arctic char in Little Togiak River each spring since 1972 to follow the rate of predation on juvenile sockeye, especially smolts. This short river flows from Little Togiak Lake into Lake Nerka, and the smolts are very vulnerable to the char for the few minutes it takes them to move from one lake to the next. Large char usually eat more juvenile sockeye than small char. The char caught in 1992 were about average in length and they consumed an average of 2 smolts per day (Table 15). We were surprised to find no sockeye fry in the char stomachs in 1992, since

our sampling began soon after the ice was out. Perhaps fry emergence in the river was earlier than normal or the numbers of fry were low in 1992. There are about 5,000 char in and around the river mouth, so that at just two sockeye smolt per char per night for a migration of 20 to 30 days, a significant number of smolts are lost from the production of this small lake in the system.

### Spawning Ground Surveys

Sockeye salmon spawning ground surveys have been conducted annually in the Wood River lake system since 1946; however, it was not until the early 1950s that all of the major spawning grounds were included. We collect otoliths from the major spawning grounds for age determination and make ground counts of the number of spawners in the small streams. ADF&G estimates the numbers of spawners on the lake beaches and in the interconnecting rivers by aerial surveys; thus, the total escapement to the lake system can be apportioned to the individual lakes or type of spawning ground (creek, river, and beach). The distribution of spawners among the lakes is used in forecasting the Wood River runs. Even escapement distributions tend to produce large returns and uneven distributions tend to produce small returns.

Aerial surveys were not conducted by ADF&G in 1990 and 1991 because of inadequate funding. We provided funding for 1992, and the surveys were conducted; however, we have not yet compiled the aerial survey counts to estimate the escapements to the lakes. The ground survey counts and the age compositions for the major spawning grounds in 1992 are given in Tables 16 and 17. Spawning ground counts were again high in Lake Aleknagik but were below average in most creeks on Lake Nerka. Sockeye of age 1.2 (1 yr freshwater and 2 yrs at sea) were the most abundant age group in the escapement to the lake system and also to most of the spawning grounds except for the small creeks on Lake Aleknagik, where age 1.3 sockeye were most numerous. It was unusual in 1992 that fish of age 1.2 were most numerous in the two large rivers (Agulowak and Agulukpak), because these rivers typically produce 3-ocean sockeye salmon. Perhaps this signals a large return of 3-ocean sockeye in 1993.

### Bear Predation

We completed the third year of our bear/spawning sockeye interaction study in Hansen Creek, a small tributary of Lake Aleknagik where predation by bears is high relative to larger creeks. During 21 July to 21 August, a large number of sockeye were again observed in Hansen Creek (the third year in a row). Daily count and removal of sockeye killed by bears indicated that 1,301 (18%) of 7,292 spawners were killed by bears in 1992 (Table 18). These estimates excluded dead fish from previous daily surveys that might have been attacked by bears (decisions to exclude fish were based on gill and body coloration, body firmness, and body deterioration). Number of sockeye killed by bears in 1992 was less than in 1990 or 1991; however, the percentage of sockeye killed by bears in 1992 was intermediate to the percentages in 1990 and 1991 (24% and 16%), when approximately 6,700 and 16,300 sockeye salmon were observed in the creek (Table 19). We plan to continue the daily surveys in Hansen Creek until we obtain counts for a year when number of spawners is near the median number (2,500) and a year when there is a small number of spawners (<1,000).

The daily counts on Hansen Creek are also providing us with estimates of the percentages of the total number of spawners that are counted on a single "peak survey" date and, thus, a means of adjusting our annual survey counts to equal the true number of spawners. Hansen Creek has been surveyed most often on August 6 in past years; but in 20% of the years, the survey was done on August 1 or earlier. The Hansen Creek sockeye are about the earliest spawners in the lake system, and the fish usually first enter the creek about July 22-25. From the daily counts in 1990-1992, we determined that had the surveys been conducted on the single date of August 6, the "peak survey" counts would have been 72% to 89% of the totals, and if the single surveys were done on August 1, the counts would have been 38% to 78% of the actual number of spawners (Table 19). The percentage counted in 1992 on August 1 (78%) was relatively high because spawning was early, with the fish first entering the creek on July 18.

### LITERATURE CITED

- Berejikian, B.A. 1992. Feeding ecology of rainbow trout with comparisons to Arctic char in Iliamna Lake, Alaska. M.S. Thesis, Univ. Washington. 72 p.
- Rogers, D.E. 1980. Density-dependent growth of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon. Pages 267-283 *in* W.J. McNeil and D.C. Himsworth (eds.), *Salmonid Ecosystems of the North Pacific*. Oregon State Univ. Press, Corvallis.
- Rogers, D.E. 1990. Stock composition and timing of sockeye salmon in the False Pass fishery. Report to Area M Fishermen. Univ. Washington, School of Fisheries, Fish. Res. Inst. FRI-UW-1990. 40 p.
- Stratton, B.L. 1991. Abundance, age, sex and size statistics for Pacific salmon in Bristol Bay, 1990. ADF&G Tech. Fish. Rep. 91-15. 153 p.
- Yuen, H.J., B. Bue, and C.P. Meachum. 1981. Bristol bay sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus*) age, weight, and length statistics, 1957 to 1977. ADF&G Tech. Data Rep. No. 67. 155 pp.

## FIGURES

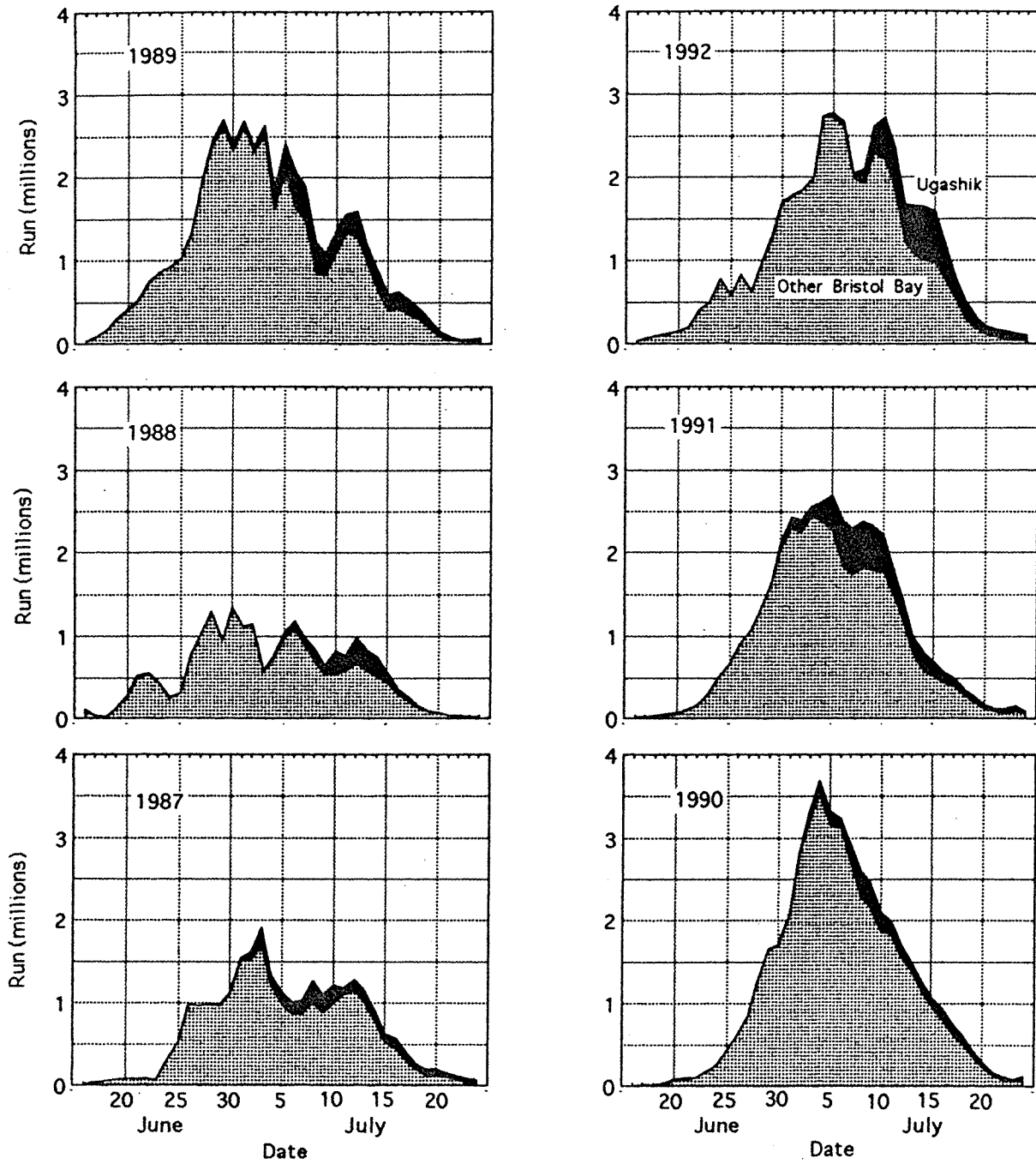


Figure 1. Reconstructed daily Bristol Bay sockeye salmon runs; Naknek/Kvichak, Egegik and Nushagak combined plus the Ugashik District, 1987-1992.

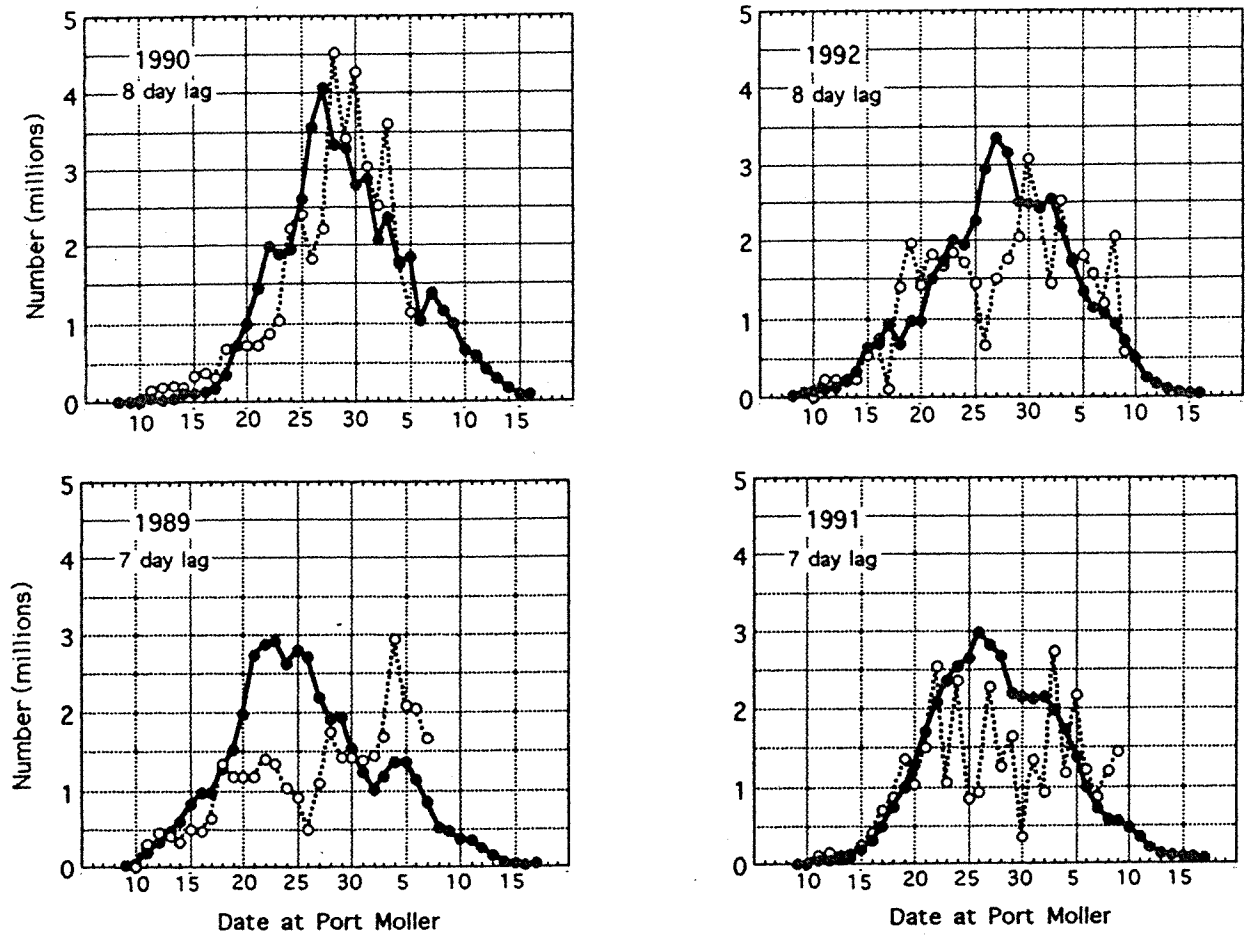


Figure 2. Reconstructed daily Bristol Bay sockeye salmon runs at Port Moller and the daily sockeye salmon index catches, 1989-1992.

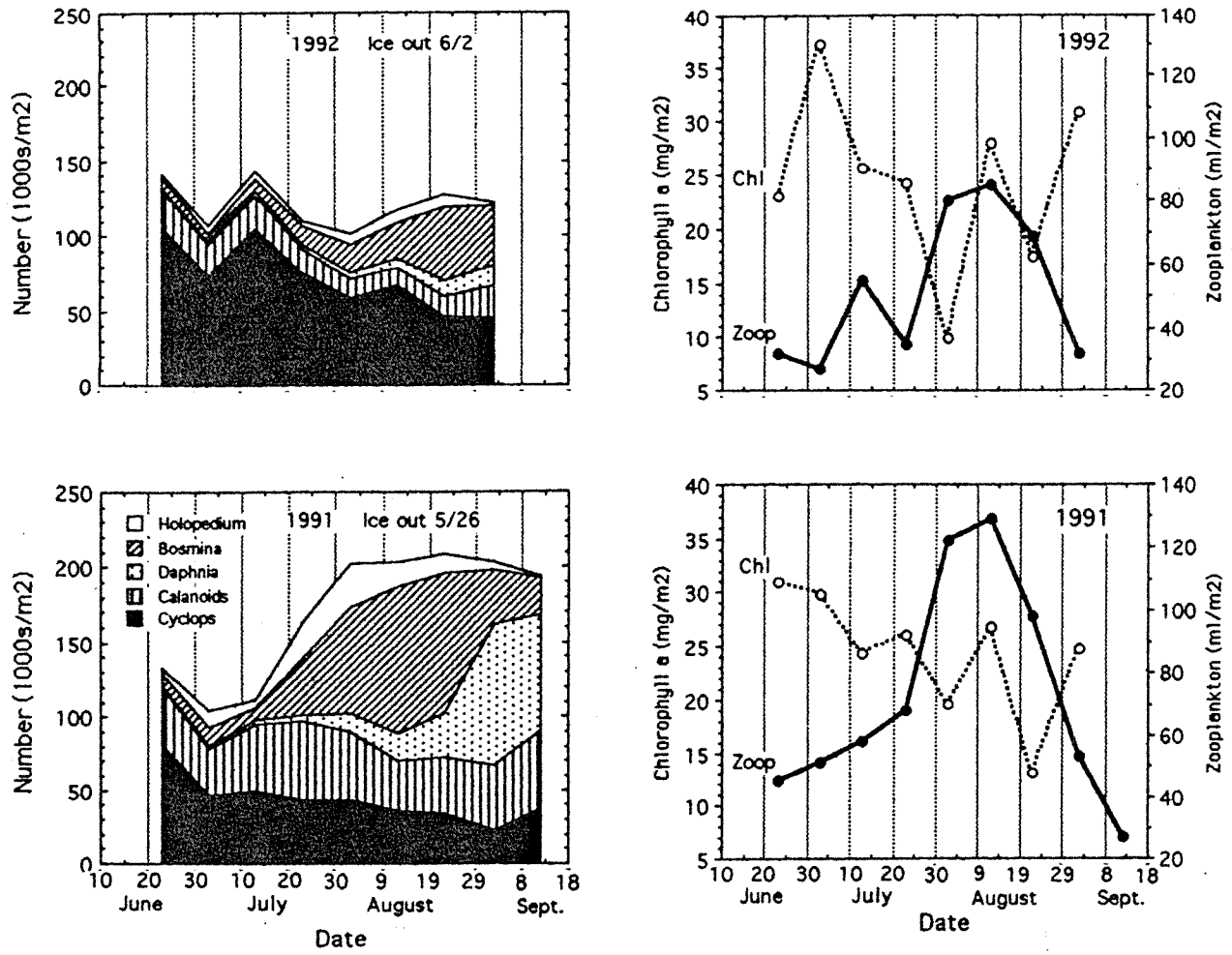


Figure 3. Summer abundances of zooplankton in Lake Aleknagik during 1991 and 1992.

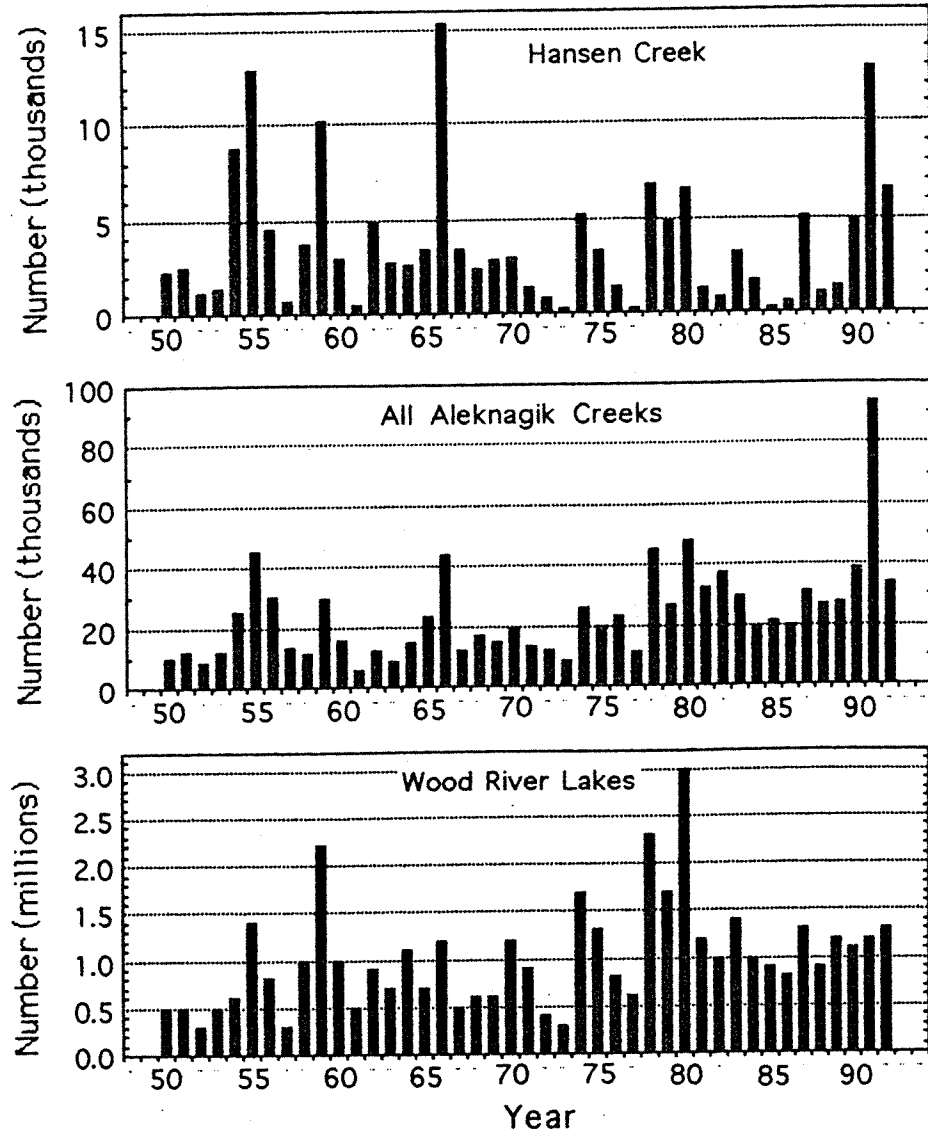


Figure 4. Annual escapements of sockeye salmon to the Wood River Lakes and annual stream survey counts for all Lake Aleknagik creeks and Hansen Creek, 1950-1992.



## TABLES

Table 1. Pre-season forecasts of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon inshore runs.

Year	Forecast/run	Kvichak	Naknek	Egegik	Ugashik	Nushagak	Total run	Catch	%Error
1985	FRI	12.2	5.3	5.8	4.4	4.3	33.0	18.2	29
	ADFG	12.2	4.9	6.6	5.6	4.3	35.0	20.3	
	Actual run	13.4	3.7	8.6	7.4	3.0	36.6	23.5	
1986	FRI	9.2	4.5	5.9	6.7	4.8	32.1	19.4	19
	ADFG	4.5	3.2	5.4	4.9	3.8	22.5	13.3	
	Actual run	2.0	3.9	6.2	5.9	4.9	23.7	15.8	
1987	FRI	2.8	2.0	5.8	3.1	5.1	19.5	12.4	29
	ADFG	2.7	2.1	4.9	3.1	3.3	16.8	9.3	
	Actual run	9.6	2.4	6.7	2.8	5.1	27.3	16.0	
1988	FRI	12.3	3.1	6.2	3.1	5.0	30.6	20.8	33
	ADFG	9.3	2.5	5.6	3.2	5.6	26.5	16.8	
	Actual run	6.8	1.8	8.0	2.2	3.2	23.4	14.0	
1989	FRI	20.4	3.6	6.7	3.0	3.4	38.0	25.4	13
	ADFG	12.5	3.1	5.6	3.6	3.1	28.9	16.2	
	Actual run	19.8	3.2	10.3	4.9	5.0	44.0	28.7	
1990	FRI	10.1	4.8	6.6	3.0	4.6	29.8	19.0	75
	ADFG	8.9	3.6	5.6	3.1	3.5	25.4	14.7	
	Actual run	17.4	8.4	12.3	2.9	5.7	47.7	33.2	
1991	FRI	12.0	4.6	8.9	3.6	6.9	36.7	25.0	5
	ADFG	7.6	6.0	8.2	3.5	3.8	30.0	21.2	
	Actual run	8.1	10.0	9.6	5.5	7.7	42.2	26.2	
1992	FRI	10.2	3.2	10.4	4.0	4.3	33.0	22.0	45
	ADFG	12.2	4.2	10.7	4.3	4.6	37.1	26.3	
	Actual run	10.4	5.0	17.6	5.5	5.2	45.1	32.0	
1993	FRI	9.1	3.6	18.2	5.5	6.0	43.3	31.9	
	ADFG	11.7	3.4	15.8	4.9	5.1	41.8	32.0	
	Actual run								

Total run and catch include Branch River and Togiak District.

Table 2. Bristol Bay sockeye salmon runs and the predictions from the Port Moller test-boat catches.

Year	Bristol Bay		Run pred. on 6/25			Run pred. on 6/30			Run pred. on 7/3			Catch pred. on 7/3		
	Run	Catch	Pred.	R-P	%ofP	Pred.	R-P	%ofP	Pred.	R-P	%ofP	Pred.	C-P	%ofP
1987	27	16	27	0	0	27	0	0	26	1	4	15	1	7
1988	23	14	15	8	53	15	8	53	22	1	5	12	2	17
1989	44	29	50	-6	-12	37	7	19	42	2	5	28	1	4
1990	48	33	42	6	14	56	-8	-14	39	9	23	25	8	32
1991	42	26	48	-6	-13	37	5	14	37	5	14	21	5	24
1992	45	32	49	-4	-8	45	0	0	41	4	10	29	3	10
Means	38	25	39	0	6	36	2	12	35	4	10	22	3	16
absol.				5	17		5	17		4	10		3	16

Numbers in millions of fish.

R= run, P= predicted and C= catch.

absol. = absolute error, ignoring the sign.

%ofP= the percentage that the actual run differed from the prediction.

Table 3. Mean lengths of sockeye salmon in the Bristol Bay runs.

Year	BB run (millions)	2-ocean			3-ocean			Both age groups	Percent 3-ocean
		Male	Female	Combined	Male	Female	Combined		
1958	6	527	508	517	586	562	572	544	48
1959	13	522	502	512	585	562	571	522	16
1960	36	496	480	489	580	553	562	498	12
1961	18	525	512	519	583	562	572	554	66
1962	10	527	508	518	582	566	574	535	30
1963	7	529	512	520	594	570	580	546	44
1964	11	517	499	508	584	564	571	522	22
1965	53	506	487	497	574	552	561	502	8
1966	18	514	503	508	581	561	569	554	75
1967	10	534	518	526	592	570	579	544	34
1968	8	516	503	510	594	572	581	535	36
1969	18	524	510	517	591	571	580	525	22
1970	39	511	497	504	572	549	558	509	9
1971	16	530	516	522	584	563	572	552	60
1972	5	521	505	514	583	562	572	543	51
1973	2	522	513	518	601	575	587	575	82
1974	11	525	508	518	581	566	574	528	19
1975	24	518	499	509	587	564	574	523	21
1976	12	531	514	523	592	568	578	543	36
1977	10	533	517	525	597	573	584	556	53
1978	19	520	502	512	595	570	582	539	38
1979	40	537	524	530	586	567	576	538	18
1980	62	519	503	511	583	553	567	525	26
1981	34	536	523	529	588	566	577	555	54
1982	22	522	508	515	587	566	576	561	75
1983	46	530	514	521	574	557	565	529	17
1984	41	515	501	508	580	561	570	526	30
1985	37	527	512	520	583	567	575	543	41
1986	24	535	521	528	583	561	571	553	58
1987	27	521	506	513	590	567	577	538	39
1988	23	525	513	519	592	571	581	554	56
1989	44	525	507	515	586	564	575	538	27
1990	48	507	491	499	578	557	566	528	43
1991	42	508	493	500	573	547	560	536	60
1992	45	511	496	504	568	544	557	531	52
Averages									
58-67	18	520	503	511	584	562	571	532	36
68-77	15	523	508	516	588	566	576	539	39
78-88	35	526	511	519	585	564	574	541	40
88-92	45	513	497	505	576	553	565	533	46

Table 4. The 1992 sockeye salmon runs to Bristol Bay river systems and the escapements compared to the management goals.

River system	Run	Escapement	Escapement goals		Excess escapement	
			Mid	Upper	Mid	Upper
Kvichak	10.40	4.73	6.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
Naknek	5.00	1.61	1.00	1.40	0.61	0.21
Branch	0.49	0.22				
Egegik	17.61	1.95	1.00	1.20	0.95	0.75
Ugashik	5.52	2.17	0.70	0.90	1.76	1.56
Wood	2.52	1.29	1.00	1.20	0.29	0.09
Igushik	0.81	0.30	0.20	0.25	0.10	0.05
Nuyakuk/Nush.	1.85	0.70	0.50	0.76	0.20	0.00
Togiak	0.81	0.22	0.15	0.25	0.07	0.00
Totals	45.01	13.19			3.98	2.66

Table 5. Cumulative daily escapements of sockeye salmon in the Kvichak and Newhalen Rivers, 1988-1992.

Date	19 88		19 89		19 90		19 91		19 92	
	Kvichak	Newhalen	Kvichak	Newhalen	Kvichak	Newhalen	Kvichak	Newhalen	Kvichak	Newhalen
6/25	1	0	58	17	1		0		2	
26	4	5	298	97	2		1		9	
27	75	85	525	162	3		3		16	
28	264	128	653	200	5	0	50	7	81	5
29	313	140	892	454	8	1	125	46	255	18
30	328	187	1509	641	39	2	277	95	446	67
7/1	364	244	2052	712	46	37	588	146	635	88
2	778	456	2566	785	219	66	901	188	754	104
3	1193	632	3287	892	825	90	1256	330	798	132
4	1598	676	4378	1185	1412	110	1581	517	1093	196
5	1901	784	5418	1287	1874	139	1925	620	1663	273
6	2079	1076	5947	1358	2399	204	2141	805	2244	329
7	2189	1313	6611	1567	2901	304	2208	1132	2688	406
8	2232	1505	7182	1962	3509	375	2277	1531	2880	534
9	2272	1629	7518	2317	4061	459	2355	1721	2960	661
10	2389	1721	7670	2478	4692	648	2633	2048	2985	840
11	2775	1868	7708	2614	5081	790	3080	2202	3175	977
12	3473	2106	7755	2728	5388	961	3460		3662	1057
13	3753	2372	7806	2829	5803	1079	3724		4066	1158
14	3840	2657	7860	2944	6208	1193	3822		4330	1258
15	3948	2848	7914		6418	1297	3909		4438	1434
16	3990	2976	8060		6510		3999		4517	1491
17	4020	3094	8130		6603		4063		4578	
18	4046	3203	8164		6674		4098		4626	
19	4057	3313	8205		6733		4132		4685	
20	4062	3435	8245		6781		4166		4695	
21	4065		8273		6827		4193		4710	
22	4065		8287		6876		4213		4720	
23			8295		6915		4220		4726	
24			8302		6941					
25			8312		6970					

Table 6. The Kvichak lake system escapements and the percentages going to Newhalen River and Lake Clark.

Year	Kvichak system escapement (millions)	Newhalen/Lake Clark escapement (millions)	Percent of Kvichak (%)	Newhalen River spawners (millions)	Lake Clark escapement (millions)	Percent of Kvichak (%)	Tazimina River aerial count (thousands)
1979	11.22	9.00	80	0.56	8.44	75	504
1980	22.51	7.50	33	2.64	4.86	22	128
1981	1.75	0.26	15	0.03	0.23	13	28
1982	1.14	0.34	30	0.13	0.21	18	31
1983	3.57	1.08	30	0.41	0.67	19	212
1984	10.49	3.20	31	0.67	2.53	24	366
1985	7.21	1.62	22	0.15	1.47	20	186
1986	1.18	0.29	25	0.01	0.28	24	7
1987	6.07	---	—	1.46	—	—	246
1988	4.06	2.41	59	0.29	2.12	52	83
1989	8.32	2.59	31	0.10	2.49	30	30
1990	6.97	1.09	16	0.07	—	—	4
1991	4.22	1.93	46	0.10	—	—	49
1992	4.73	1.05	22	0.01	1.04	22	13

Table 7. Age compositions of sockeye salmon on the Kvichak spawning grounds in 1992.

Spawning ground	Sex	Sample size (n)	Age composition (%)				
			2.1	1.2	2.2	1.3	2.3
Copper River	M	18		38.9	22.2	5.6	33.3
	F	29		20.7	20.7	20.7	37.9
Chinkelyes Creek	M	98		9.2	83.7	4.1	3.0
	F	98		8.2	81.6	8.2	2.0
Newhalen River	M	97	1.0	12.4	46.4	39.2	1.0
	F	97	1.0	8.2	53.6	37.1	0.0
Tazimina River	M	62		17.7	77.4	4.8	0.0
	F	98		15.3	74.5	9.2	1.0
Woody Is. beaches	M	49		63.3	20.4	12.2	4.1
	F	48		64.6	8.3	14.6	12.5
Fuel Dump Is. beach	M	46	2.2	28.3	43.5	17.4	8.7
	F	49		59.2	26.5	8.2	6.1
Knudson Bay beach	M	90	2.2	26.7	45.6	14.4	11.1
	F	79		30.4	39.2	21.5	8.9
Knudson Creek	M	17		11.8	58.9	17.5	11.8
	F	24		16.7	58.3	12.5	12.5
Kvichak escapement (ADF&G,Igiugig)	M	1216	0.7	31.5	40.5	16.8	9.0
	F	1815		31.8	46.8	15.0	5.4

Table 8. Spawning ground estimates of sockeye salmon on 29 selected spawning grounds in Lake Iliamna and the Newhalen River system, 1956-1992.

Year	Aerial survey counts (1,000s)					Tower count escapement (1,000s)	Aerial count/ Escapement (%)	Aerial observer
	Rivers	Creeks	Beaches		Total			
			Mainland	Island				
56	775	—	—	—		9443		1
57	170	—	—	—		2843		1
58	44	—	—	—		535		1
59	84	—	—	—		680		1
60	841	—	—	—		14630		1
61	246	40	50	127	463	3706	12.5	2
62	140	52	21	12	225	2581	8.7	2
63	31	13	5	7	56	339	16.5	2
64	36	38	3	21	98	957	10.2	2
65	734	538	261	1352	2885	24326	11.9	2
66	248	153	134	46	581	3776	15.4	2
67	370	63	85	16	534	3216	16.6	3
68	131	64	14	64	273	2557	10.7	3
69	192	168	40	102	502	8394	6.0	3
70	790	574	216	506	2086	13935	15.0	3
71	177	194	27	50	448	2387	18.8	3
72	89	50	15	9	163	1010	16.1	3
73	35	18	6	6	65	227	28.6	3
74	294	269	72	122	757	4433	17.1	3
75	936	440	225	412	2013	13140	15.3	3
76	144	55	19	45	263	1965	13.4	3
77	124	20	88	28	260	1341	19.4	3
78	510	100	42	6	658	4149	15.9	3
79	1424	372	252	81	2129	11218	19.0	3
80	2189	317	77	201	2784	22505	12.4	3
81	187	85	16	20	308	1754	17.6	3
82	255	68	27	9	359	1135	31.6	3
83	743	123	75	9	950	3570	26.6	3
84	1902	359	597	84	2942	10491	28.0	4
85	672	296	260	247	1475	7211	20.5	4
86	57	16	12	5	90	1200	7.5	5
87	1313	111	397	123	1944	6100	31.9	5
88	481	94	116	15	706	4065	17.4	6
89	396	111	31	8	546	8318	6.6	6
90	141	47	19	26	233	6970	3.3	6
91	229	43	18	19	309	4223	7.3	7
92	214	63	36	19	332	4726	7.0	7
61-92 Means	482	155	102	119	857	5810	15.8	

Table 9. Mean townet catches and lengths on Sept. 1 of sockeye salmon fry in Lakes Iliamna and Clark.

Brood Year	Kvichak escapement (millions)	Lake Iliamna		Lake Clark	
		Mean catch	Mean length	Mean catch	Mean length
61	3.7	90	53	13	50
62	2.6	12	45	54	50
63	0.3	5	54	3	50
64	1.0	7	62	2	50
65	24.3	170	53	23	52
66	3.8	67	57	15	47
67	3.2	78	62	47	59
68	2.6	43	62	9	50
69	8.4	386	61	11	55
70	13.9	127	44	20	38
71	2.4	4	50	15	41
72	1.0	3	58	17	48
73	0.2	2	71	12	57
74	4.4	491	54	80	55
75	13.1	252	49	105	49
76	2.0	16	53	—	—
77	1.3	11	61	—	—
78	4.1	339	62	65	56
79	11.2	282	53	60	48
80	22.5	134	61	26	59
81	1.8	37	52	58	46
82	1.1	9	68	18	57
83	3.6	242	64	40	56
84	10.5	147	46	84	51
85	7.2	63	54	16	49
86	1.2	10	60	—	—
87	6.1	79	63	11	56
88	4.1	22	58	21	48
89	8.3	181	55	19	47
90	7.0	336	54	—	—
91	4.2	—	56	20	47
92	4.7	—	—	—	—

Lake Iliamna tows in areas 7 and 8 only.

Table 10. Summary of 1992 measurements in Lake Aleknagik.

Measurement and first year measured	Dates	Past years		
		1992	Average	Range
1. Date of ice breakup 1949-		6/2	5/31	5/14-6/16
2. Water temperature, 0-20m (C) 1958-	6/23	4.7	5.8	3.7, 9.2
	7/13	7.1	8.3	5.7, 12.0
	8/3	10.9	10.7	7.7, 14.0
	9/2	10.8	11.2	9.3, 13.0
3. Water transparency Secchi depth (m) 1962-	6/23	7.5	8.2	5.3, 10.5
	7/13	7.3	8.2	5.0, 10.9
	8/3	7.4	9.3	6.3, 11.9
	9/2	7.3	8.7	5.8, 12.1
4. Water conductivity (micromhos/cm) 1968-	6/23	37.4	38.7	34.7, 52.1
	7/13	38.0	37.4	33.5, 42.6
	8/3	38.2	37.1	32.5, 40.5
	9/2	38.8	38.3	34.8, 42.5
5. Average daily solar radiation (gm/cal/cm) 1963-	June 1-15	394	409	305, 588
	June 16-30	396	410	265, 572
	July 1-15	326	393	284, 543
	July 16-31	309	354	194, 481
	Aug. 1-15	266	301	203, 402
	Aug. 16-31	164	255	170, 421
	Sept. 1-15	213	210	114, 282
6. Lake level (cm) of Lake Nerka 1952-	June 1-15	127	141	84, 222
	June 16-30	149	152	97, 218
	July 1-15	147	133	75, 199
	July 16-31	105	107	54, 172
	Aug. 1-15	90	86	34, 173
	Aug. 16-31	113	83	30, 184
	Sept. 1-15	133	83	29, 161
7. Chlorophyll "a", 0-20m (mg/m <sup>2</sup> ) 1963-	6/23	23	30	10, 45
	7/3	37		
	7/13	26	28	10, 43
	7/21	24		
	8/3	10	23	6, 36
	8/12	28		
	8/21	12		
	9/2	31	24	12, 37

Table 11. Average counts of zooplankton from 6 stations on Lake Aleknagik in 1992 and the means and ranges in means from past years.

Category	Date	1992	Past years, 1967-1991		
		Mean	Mean	Lowest	Highest
Cyclopoid copepods (1000s/m <sup>2</sup> )	6/23	105	106	51	188
	7/13	104	111	50	188
	8/02	59	111	43	170
	9/02	45	81	23	194
Calanoid copepods (1000s/m <sup>2</sup> )	6/23	25	24	3	61
	7/13	22	29	10	55
	8/02	12	36	7	96
	9/02	22	44	13	88
Daphnia (1000s/m <sup>2</sup> )	6/23	1	3	0	19
	7/13	3	7	0	31
	8/02	4	20	3	75
	9/02	14	40	5	95
Bosmina (1000s/m <sup>2</sup> )	6/23	7	9	3	35
	7/13	8	22	4	93
	8/02	19	62	19	148
	9/02	39	101	36	150
Holopedium (1000s/m <sup>2</sup> )	6/23	2	4	0	31
	7/13	6	9	1	30
	8/02	7	17	2	48
	9/02	2	5	0	17
Total number (1000s/m <sup>2</sup> )	6/23	140	144	74	285
	7/13	144	178	101	323
	8/02	100	246	157	405
	9/02	125	269	154	435
Settled volume (ml/m <sup>2</sup> )	6/23	32	55	22	181
	7/13	55	85	47	200
	8/02	80	130	69	238
	9/02	32	71	36	110

Table 12. 5-day averages of catches of emergent midges and water temperatures at 3 stations on Lake Aleknagik, 1992.

5-day period	Catch per day							Water temperature (C)						
	1992				1969-91			1992				1969-91		
	W	H	B	Mean	Mean	Min	Max	W	H	B	Mean	Mean	Min	Max
6/1-5	0	0	0	0				2.6	2.6	4.1	3.1	2.3	0.0	9.8
6-10	2	0	3	1	13	0	70	4.9	5.1	7.4	5.8	5.0	0.0	10.4
11-15	2	18	1	7	13	1	53	5.3	6.5	9.2	7.0	6.4	1.0	9.2
16-20	3	16	1	7	18	1	168	7.0	6.4	9.3	7.6	8.0	3.9	12.7
21-25	0	1	1	1	7	0	42	7.3	9.7	10.1	9.0	8.5	4.8	12.8
26-30	0	2	1	1	5	0	12	6.5	9.0	10.1	8.6	9.9	6.0	13.9
7/1-5	0	2	1	1	5	1	15	7.9	10.7	12.1	10.2	11.1	7.7	15.5
6-10	1	2	2	2	9	2	24	8.8	8.8	11.2	9.6	11.9	9.7	15.8
11-15	4	2	15	7	14	1	34	10.3	12.4	12.8	11.8	12.2	9.2	15.9
16-20	4	3	60	22	14	2	36	10.5	14.0	14.4	13.0	12.0	8.5	17.0
21-25	12	9	200	73	19	2	50	12.0	12.2	14.2	12.8	12.6	7.9	17.2
26-30	32	8	94	45	30	8	58	14.0	13.9	12.3	13.4	13.2	8.9	15.7
31-4	39	8	10	19	30	4	77	11.9	13.2	13.9	13.0	13.5	10.2	17.5
8/5-9	35	2	6	14	22	3	80	13.0	14.6	14.3	14.0	13.5	10.5	17.1
10-14	21	2	3	9	16	2	54	11.3	13.4	14.1	12.9	13.3	9.5	18.8
15-19	13	1	5	6	15	2	70	10.1	12.5	12.6	11.7	13.2	11.0	15.7
20-24	6	0	4	3	7	1	28	7.8	10.5	10.8	9.7	13.7	12.0	15.4
25-29					5	1	11					13.1	11.3	14.7

Table 13. Average catches, lengths and growth rates for sockeye fry and age 1 threespine stickleback in Lake Aleknagik.

Year	Sockeye salmon fry					Sockeye Escape- ment in year-1 (1000s)	Threespine stickleback					
	Mean beach seine catch	Mean length on 6/23 (mm)	Mean length on 9/1 (mm)	Growth rate (mm/ day)	Mean tow net catch		Mean beach seine catch	Mean length on 6/23 (mm)	Mean length on 9/1 (mm)	Growth rate (mm/ day)	Mean tow net catch	Age 0 tow net catch
58	-	-	62.1	-	14	88	-	-	44.6	-	36	<1
59	-	-	62.7	-	13	63	-	-	46.7	-	136	10
60	-	-	55.5	-	111	205	-	-	43.4	-	53	2
61	-	-	58.4	-	103	85	-	-	42.0	-	38	<1
62	334	31.7	54.1	.31	54	153	317	31.0	43.5	.17	139	5
63	-	-	62.1	-	24	48	-	-	46.4	-	46	1
64	227	31.1	60.4	.42	24	31	352	31.2	43.1	.17	272	1
65	549	31.2	53.6	.32	103	155	202	29.1	39.5	.15	182	1
66	395	30.2	47.5	.25	219	220	258	27.1	39.4	.18	150	0
67	339	30.7	43.4	.18	49	287	426	28.2	41.3	.19	61	5
68	46	31.8	57.9	.37	10	92	212	30.8	43.4	.18	268	169
69	96	31.7	61.4	.43	78	177	215	33.4	44.2	.16	81	<1
70	164	31.4	59.0	.40	43	160	156	32.1	44.8	.18	87	<1
71	408	30.6	54.6	.35	17	302	261	29.6	43.4	.20	3	<1
72	126	30.6	54.8	.35	10	182	45	28.0	44.4	.24	12	1
73	30	29.0	66.7	.54	3	98	62	29.3	49.5	.29	8	1
74	47	35.3	62.8	.39	44	162	125	33.1	50.1	.24	119	<1
75	111	29.1	55.3	.39	8	242	69	32.5	42.4	.15	132	<1
76	178	30.1	49.8	.29	394	457	279	27.7	39.6	.17	30	<1
77	223	30.1	48.0	.27	25	314	184	29.3	40.8	.17	36	<1
78	34	32.8	62.7	.43	6	152	64	31.7	47.5	.23	21	1
79	312	31.6	51.5	.28	130	612	82	33.2	42.3	.13	50	18
80	46	31.0	56.4	.35	3	354	32	31.0	44.9	.19	24	<1
81	423	32.4	51.3	.27	6	1230	217	34.7	45.5	.15	12	<1
82	53	30.0	52.2	.33	131	454	63	30.2	43.2	.19	12	0
83	43	32.1	63.9	.45	22	337	12	30.9	48.4	.25	64	12
84	16	36.2	64.2	.41	3	247	54	35.9	48.8	.19	200	155
85	102	31.0	56.3	.36	1	311	109	34.3	40.9	.09	2	0
86	32	32.2	58.4	.37	10	184	24	31.4	45.0	.19	11	0
87	69	29.7	57.5	.40	3	330	27	31.7	44.9	.19	67	<1
88	31	31.2	58.8	.40	2	335	42	32.4	48.5	.23	8	1
89	45	31.4	55.4	.34	18	276	26	32.6	47.0	.21	17	1
90	100	32.7	57.7	.36	20	478	129	31.2	48.1	.24	27	1
91	63	30.1	52.9	.33	14	-	108	31.3	42.2	.16	41	1
92	242	30.0	46.1	.24	52	-	200	27.9	39.4	.17	222	<1
Means	163	31.3	56.0	.35	49	289	145	31.1	44.3	.19	78	11

- 1) Beach seine catches at 10 stations for four dates during 6/22-7/14.
- 2) Tow net catches for 5-min hauls, two at each of six stations during Sept. 1-5.
- 3) Lengths measured to nearest mm on preserved fish, means adjusted to live measurement.
- 4) Threespine stickleback catches are for all ages (0-4), but mean lengths for age 1 only.

Table 14. Average townet catches and mean lengths of sockeye fry, numbers of parent spawners, and average catches and mean lengths of threespine stickleback for Lake Nerka.

Year	Sockeye salmon fry						Sockeye salmon spawners			Threespine stickleback	
	Mean tow-net catch			Mean length (mm) on 9/1			in year-1 (1000s)			Mean tow-net catch	Mean length (mm) on 9/1
	South	Central	North	South	Central	North	South	Central	North		
58	4	4	10	62	60	61	73	57	52	26	44
59	17	9	4	66	61	61	163	58	188	35	43
60	62	42	42	58	55	51	564	332	395	11	42
61	108	57	64	59	56	54	231	137	214	8	41
62	2	7	26	64	59	59	49	50	143	6	47
63	58	18	55	62	60	62	97	73	126	9	48
64	3	7	44	57	55	64	56	65	110	8	45
65	15	8	93	57	54	54	110	159	161	9	40
66	4	7	70	57	54	54	60	77	184	6	44
67	8	18	58	64	58	59	149	141	246	12	46
68	4	11	8	68	64	65	44	64	114	25	48
69	15	4	27	65	61	60	46	103	150	14	46
70	2	5	21	64	65	63	51	56	266	5	43
71	3	9	197	54	52	58	141	132	229	4	42
72	2	11	8	57	55	55	68	73	178	8	45
73	1	3	11	61	61	61	37	82	109	4	45
74	5	4	34	69	64	64	19	29	83	107	50
75	7	15	9	59	55	53	236	141	242	60	44
76	1	9	40	52	49	45	128	69	297	17	40
77	19	50	143	55	54	51	77	69	176	17	42
78	<1	<1	4	56	61	63	67	65	173	18	46
79	3	17	50	64	54	58	151	181	460	61	47
80	1	14	37	52	49	47	246	142	287	33	41
81	3	16	13	59	55	55	219	224	566	6	46
82	1	6	38	54	56	54	89	169	348	24	45
83	2	4	4	66	63	63	29	43	396	1	48
84	1	11	2	72	61	63	67	79	247	14	50
85	1	2	123	61	56	55	62	84	377	2	45
86	2	16	12	50	54	64	56	110	494	2	42
87	1	7	21	57	56	55	39	63	258	4	43
88	<1	2	7	64	57	57	87	218	307	2	49
89	1	3	16	57	51	59	66	162	196	5	48
90	1	7	3	63	62	58	83	167	375	3	48
91	27	22	32	61	57	56	-	-	-	27	44
92	4	16	10	57	55	55	-	-	-	4	41
Means	12	13	38	60	57	58	111	111	247	17	45

Table 15. Occurrence and numbers of juvenile sockeye salmon in stomachs of Arctic char collected by hook and line from Little Togiak River during 30 days after ice-out.

Year	Date of ice out	Range in sampling dates	Number of char examined	Mean length (mm)	Percent of char with:		Mean number per char		Sockeye escape. year-2
					Fry	Smolt	Fry	Smolt	
72	6/17	6/26-7/10	82	446	34	60	2.8	4.5	55
73	6/08	6/19-7/03	121	446	34	44	1.9	2.9	24
74	5/27	6/11-25	64	429	19	39	0.8	1.6	14
75	6/15	6/22-7/13	71	415	9	36	0.2	1.8	14
76	6/17	6/19-7/13	96	418	11	56	0.4	2.2	48
77	6/13	6/11-7/11	325	403	30	17	7.0	0.4	30
78	6/02	6/07-25	316	437	7	42	0.2	1.5	18
79	5/24	6/06-22	178	438	32	25	1.8	1.2	26
80	5/27	6/09-25	278	459	27	81	1.4	9.4	45
81	5/28	6/12-25	124	415	3	31	0.1	1.4	44
82	6/15	6/17-7/05	105	450	18	61	1.8	6.4	81
83	5/27	6/19-7/03	78	424	0	14	0.0	0.3	60
84	5/26	6/20-7/02	56	408	0	18	0.0	0.4	36
85	6/17	6/15-7/06	60	437	22	30	1.6	1.2	31
86	6/04	6/16-7/05	61	437	21	56	0.4	2.7	17
87	6/01	6/14-7/05	51	451	6	78	0.1	4.9	21
88	6/05	6/16-29	43	431	7	26	0.1	0.8	21
89	6/17	6/20-7/15	105	388	37	38	2.2	1.3	15
90	5/28	6/07-24	72	391	35	11	1.8	0.3	19
91	6/07	6/20-7/07	48	415	4	35	0.9	3.2	15
92	6/13	6/15-7/11	79	425	0	46	0.0	1.9	
72-91 means	6/05		117	427	18	40	1.3	2.4	32

Table 16. Ground survey counts of sockeye salmon spawners in the Wood River Lakes, 1992.

Location	Date	Estimated off mouth	In creek				Total	1950-1991		
			Live	Dead	Natural	Bear kill		Mean	Min.	Max.
Aleknagik										
Yako	8/02	1500	2849	137	129	8	4486	1600	100	6900
Hansen	8/06	50	3518	2886	1948	938	6454	3700	200	15300
Bear	8/06	300	2490	726	482	244	3516	3800	1000	10200
Happy	8/07	500	3531	4354	4124	230	8385	4200	200	25700
Ice*	8/09	200	6557	3512	3124	388	10269	8000	1100	35500
Eagle	8/10	25	70	29	15	14	124	1400	100	7400
Mission	8/16	0	509	626	584	42	1135	600	<100	2400
Whitefish	8/13	3	337	103	43	60	443	1000	100	4200
Nerka										
Fenno	8/11	50	3379	3012	2794	218	6441	2900	400	15600
Lynx	8/27	150	1109	753	650	103	2012	2800	100	17000
Stovall*	8/25	0	56	10	10	0	66	5500	200	75000
Pick	8/13	5	5646	962	250	712	6613	11700	2500	85000
Kema*	8/26	0	69	280	140	140	349	4700	500	20000
Hidden Lake	8/26	0	116	221	44	177	337	2400	100	16000
Beverley										
Moose*	8/12	500	1679	198	97	101	2377	3900	400	25600
Kulik										
Grant River*	8/22	20	3595	503	350	153	4118	9600	500	40000

\*Partial count; entire stream not surveyed

Table 16. Ground survey counts of sockeye salmon spawners in the Wood River Lakes, 1992.

Location	Date	Estimated off mouth	In creek				Total	1950-1991		
			Live	Dead	Natural	Bear kill		Mean	Min.	Max.
Aleknagik										
Yako	8/02	1500	2849	137	129	8	4486	1600	100	6900
Hansen	8/06	50	3518	2886	1948	938	6454	3700	200	15300
Bear	8/06	300	2490	726	482	244	3516	3800	1000	10200
Happy	8/07	500	3531	4354	4124	230	8385	4200	200	25700
Ice*	8/09	200	6557	3512	3124	388	10269	8000	1100	35500
Eagle	8/10	25	70	29	15	14	124	1400	100	7400
Mission	8/16	0	509	626	584	42	1135	600	<100	2400
Whitefish	8/13	3	337	103	43	60	443	1000	100	4200
Nerka										
Fenno	8/11	50	3379	3012	2794	218	6441	2900	400	15600
Lynx	8/27	150	1109	753	650	103	2012	2800	100	17000
Stovall*	8/25	0	56	10	10	0	66	5500	200	75000
Pick	8/13	5	5646	962	250	712	6613	11700	2500	85000
Kema*	8/26	0	69	280	140	140	349	4700	500	20000
Hidden Lake	8/26	0	116	221	44	177	337	2400	100	16000
Beverley										
Moose*	8/12	500	1679	198	97	101	2377	3900	400	25600
Kulik										
Grant River*	8/22	20	3595	503	350	153	4118	9600	500	40000

\*Partial count; entire stream not surveyed

Table 17. Age compositions of sockeye spawners in the Wood River Lakes in 1992.

Location	Males						No. of fish	Females						No. of fish
	1.1	1.2	2.2	1.3	2.3	1.4		1.1	1.2	2.2	1.3	2.3	1.4	
Hansen	0.0	16.1	1.6	82.3	0.0	0.0	255	0.0	10.4	0.5	89.1	0.0	0.0	201
Happy	0.0	22.8	3.0	76.2	0.0	0.0	101	0.0	35.1	0.0	64.9	0.0	0.0	97
Bear	0.0	37.3	0.0	59.8	2.9	0.0	102	0.0	41.2	0.0	58.8	0.0	0.0	102
Ice	0.0	44.7	1.1	54.2	0.0	0.0	94	0.0	42.7	1.0	55.3	0.0	1.0	103
Agulowak	0.0	71.7	0.0	25.3	2.0	1.0	99	0.0	51.7	0.0	46.6	1.7	0.0	60
Wood	2.2	63.3	0.0	34.5	0.0	0.0	90	0.0	78.5	0.0	21.5	0.0	0.0	107
Fenno	1.0	71.8	0.0	27.2	0.0	0.0	103	2.1	75.3	0.0	22.6	0.0	0.0	97
Stovall							2							5
Lynx	1.0	88.6	0.0	10.4	0.0	0.0	105	0.0	83.8	1.0	15.2	0.0	0.0	99
Pick	1.0	46.1	0.0	52.9	0.0	0.0	102	0.0	67.0	0.9	32.1	0.0	0.0	109
LT River	0.0	86.0	0.0	14.0	0.0	0.0	57	0.0	73.0	0.9	26.1	0.0	0.0	111
N4-N6 beach	0.0	66.7	3.3	30.0	0.0	0.0	30	0.0	58.5	1.9	39.6	0.0	0.0	53
Kema	0.0	73.1	0.0	26.9	0.0	0.0	93	0.0	74.0	1.9	24.1	0.0	0.0	104
Hidden Lake	0.0	73.3	0.0	26.7	0.0	0.0	15	0.0	79.0	0.0	21.0	0.0	0.0	62
Anvil Bay beach	0.0	51.6	1.1	42.3	0.0	0.0	95	1.1	42.5	3.2	53.2	0.0	0.0	94
Agulukpak	0.0	78.3	0.0	19.8	0.0	1.9	106	0.0	86.0	0.0	14.0	0.0	0.0	57
LT beaches	0.0	54.8	4.8	40.4	0.0	0.0	42	0.0	60.0	3.7	33.8	2.5	0.0	80
Moose	2.4	69.0	0.0	28.6	0.0	0.0	84	0.0	77.4	0.0	22.6	0.0	0.0	93
Grant River	0.0	77.8	0.0	21.1	0.0	1.1	90	0.0	86.4	0.0	13.6	0.0	0.0	103
Unweighted mean	0.4	60.7	0.8	37.4	0.3	0.2	1665	0.2	62.4	0.8	36.3	0.2	0.1	1737
Wood River ADF&G tower	0.4	65.7	1.8	29.9	1.5	0.3	1216	0.2	74.4	1.8	21.1	1.4	0.5	1788

Other = males: age 0.2 (0.1%), age 0.3 (0.1%) and age 0.4 (0.2%); females: age 0.3(0.2%), age 0.4 (0.4%)

Table 18. Daily counts of sockeye salmon spawners in Hansen Creek in 1992.

Date	Estimate off mouth	In creek			In ponds			Cumulative dead	Live + cum. dead
		Live	Natural dead	Bear dead	Live	Natural dead	Bear dead		
7/18		60	4	44	0			48	108
19									
20		55	5	153	80	0	0	206	341
21		31	0	22	85	0	0	228	344
22		512	15	83	115	0	0	326	953
23		1064	19	80	155	0	0	425	1644
24		1592	6	23	195	0	0	454	2241
25		1737	17	24	285	0	0	495	2517
26		2846	15	56	400	0	0	566	3812
27		2924	25	26	560	0	0	617	4101
28		2848	25	67	675	0	0	709	4232
29		2829	35	30	750	0	0	774	4353
30		2510	31	28	750	0	0	833	4093
31		3717	96	60	850	0	0	989	5556
8/1		3994	65	31	600	0	0	1085	5679
2		3461	192	40	975	7	0	1324	5760
3	500	3695	221	30	nc	3	0	1578	(5944)
4	200	3789	334	34	nc	9	2	1957	(6417)
5	100	3428	380	54	nc	7	0	2398	(6497)
6	50	3150	429	49	368	10	0	2886	6404
7	20	2974	446	32	340	6	2	3372	6686
8	15	2499	406	87	nc	23	1	3889	(6873)
9	40	2264	387	13	275	13	0	4302	6841
10		2044	439	15	150	18	0	4774	6968
11		1546	326	13	149	0	1	5114	6809
12									
13		1020	600	59	97	35	0	5808	6925
14		734	388	15	80	20	0	6231	7045
15		305	349	37	35	8	0	6625	6965
16		225	183	32	56	20	3	6863	7144
17		112	106	21	35	23	0	7013	7160
18									
19		32	107	11	10	8	0	7139	7181
20									
21		1	121	23	1	7	0	7290	7292
Totals			5772	1292		217	9		

Table 19. Summary of Hansen Creek spawning surveys, 1990-1992.

Year	Date first fish entered	Survey date	Survey counts				Total from daily surveys	Percent peak count of total	Mortalities		
			Mouth	Live	Dead	Total			Natural dead	Bear- kill dead	Percent bear- kill
1990	7/28	8/1	??	3570	201	3771	6733	56	5139	1594	24
		8/6	25	4105	743	4873	6733	72			
1991	7/21	8/1	??	4460	1664	6124	16296	38	13671	2625	16
		8/6	500	8670	3735	12905	16296	79			
1992	7/18	8/1	??	4594	1085	5679	7292	78	5991	1301	18
		8/6	50	3518	2886	6454	7292	89			