

Mountain Village Fall Season Gillnet Test Fishery

R&M# 10-08

Project Proponent: Michele Henzler, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, 110 W 15th Ave., Unit A Anchorage, AK 99508, michele.henzler@bsfaak.org

1. Introduction:

Objectives:

The objective of the project is to estimate the run timing, age composition and relative abundance of fall chum and coho salmon in the Yukon River near Mountain Village.

2. Study Area:

The study area was on the Yukon River near Mountain Village, approximately river mile 87. Test drift gillnet sites are approximately 3 to 4 miles upstream of the village.

3. Methods:

Gear: The Mountain Village test fishermen used a 25 fathom salmon gillnet with 5 and 7/8 inch mesh and 35 meshes deep. The nets are equipped with two buoys.

Test Fishing Drifts: The test fishery consists of three drifts. One drift was conducted at each of three different sites. Drifts lasted about 5 to 10 minutes.

4. Results:

The 2008 summer season project operated for a total of 56 days from July 17 to September 10. Four local fishermen from Mountain Village were hired to perform the testing. One fisherman hired for the project worked the previous test fishing season. Their names are John Queenie, Oscar Johnson, Larry George and Paul Beans. There were no cancellations due to the weather for all of the 56 days of gillnet test fishing.

Nets from last season were used, which are in good shape and can be used for next season. After each fishermen completed his test fishing for the day the recorded data was faxed to the Emmonak Fish and Game office. In Emmonak the ADFG personnel forwarded the data to different organizations for Asacarsarniut Tribal Council. When the project was near completion ethanol was sent to Mountain Village to collect genetic samples beginning on September 5, 2008. When all the samples were collected they were sent down to Anchorage's AK Department of Fish & Games office.

Dates of Operations: July 17 to September 10, 2008