

## Ninilchik River Chinook Salmon Escapement

Since 2001, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has managed the Ninilchik River Chinook salmon escapement based on a sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 400 to 850 wild Chinook salmon (Table 1). The SEG range was selected based on weir counts from 1994 through 2000 for the weir counts from July 8 through July 24. Weir counts were selected because they were considered more reliable than aerial survey counts; the dates selected corresponded to operation of the broodstock weir, allowing use of partial weir data (prior to 1999).

Table 1. Number of wild and hatchery reared Chinook salmon counted at the Ninilchik River weir from July 8 through July 24, 1994 through 2006.

Year	Number of Chinook Salmon					
	Wild <sup>a</sup>			Hatchery <sup>b</sup>		
	Weir Counts		Percent of Run	Weir Counts		Percent of Run
	July 8 - 24	Total Run		July 8 - 24	Total Run	
1994	423			40		
1995	503			342		
1996	591			264		
1997	235			358		
1998	422			268		
1999 <sup>c</sup>	799	1,644	49	277	641	43
2000 <sup>c</sup>	834	1,634	51	426	853	50
2001 <sup>c</sup>	710	1,414	50	367	673	55
2002 <sup>c</sup>	655	1,516	43	169	559	30
2003 <sup>c</sup>	393	1,258	31	150	425	35
2004 <sup>c</sup>	416	1,525	27	158	536	29
2005 <sup>c</sup>	814	2,241	36	129	462	28
2006	764			128		
5-Yr. Average (2000-2005)	598	1,591	38	195	531	35
SEG <sup>d</sup>	400-850					

<sup>a</sup> Wild = Chinook Salmon that spawned and reared in the Ninilchik River.

<sup>b</sup> Hatchery = Chinook Salmon that were produced from egg takes in the Ninilchik River, reared in a hatchery, then released as smolt into the Ninilchik River.

<sup>c</sup> Weir operated to collect escapement counts throughout the majority of the Chinook salmon migration.

<sup>d</sup> SEG=Sustainable Escapement Goal established in 2001 based on weir counts July 8-  
July 24, 1994-2000. Goal for Ninilchik is based on return of wild fish.

