



## NVE EDUCATIONAL FISH NET

NVE has applied for and procured a permit for an educational fish net since 1998. This permit's purpose is to allow the elders and families of NVE to pass on knowledge about catching, processing, and preparing salmon. Use of the net is open to all Eklutna Tribal members, not just those who reside in the village. There are three locations for the educational fish permit to be used; one west of the pow-wow grounds in

Eklutna; one across the inlet at Goose Bay (within the Fish Creek Terminal Harvest Area, THA); and one on the Eklutna River, downstream of the Glenn Highway Bridge. Both the Eklutna location and the Fish Creek THA location are for the net, while the Eklutna River location is for only traditional fishing methods (Dena'ina style fish traps, spears, etc.).

Every year, the Land and Environment Office at NVE applies for the permit on behalf of the tribe. The permit dates are determined by the ADF&G and have been from July 1st to September 30th since 2008. Prior to 2008, the permit was awarded from May 1 - September 30. Currently the only salmon species that are allowed on the permit are silver (Coho), reds (Sockeye), dogs (Chum), and humpys (Pink). King salmon, or chinook, were also allowed to be caught prior to 2008. The number allowed at each site is also predetermined by the ADF&G. This number is derived from statistics on the previous years' salmon catch and the salmon populations in the Cook Inlet area. The permit requires NVE to keep records of how many fish were caught each week throughout the season, and to document what was learned during that week.

The numbers of salmon that tribal members have caught with the net has varied throughout the years. The main reason why the numbers vary is the amount of salmon in the runs and the time that they are running. There is some variation as to when the salmon run starts and ends near the village, but it is consistent that the majority of the fish are caught in late July-early August.

The 2018 total for the number of fish caught (n=136) is the second lowest since data has been recorded for the educational fisheries permit. The salmon run was not as strong this year, with low numbers being caught on the Eklutna site. No one fished on the Goose Bay (Fish Creek THA) during the 2018 season.

To date, there is no record of tribal members fishing in the Eklutna River with aboriginal gear under this permit.

Every year, NVE Land and Environment Department keeps data on the Fish Permit. This data spans 20 years and allows the department a look at trends in the fishing in the area. This data is only for the Educational Fish Permit sites and cannot be used to extrapolate the entire salmon population in the area.



*Above: teaching kids how to fillet fish, 2009*

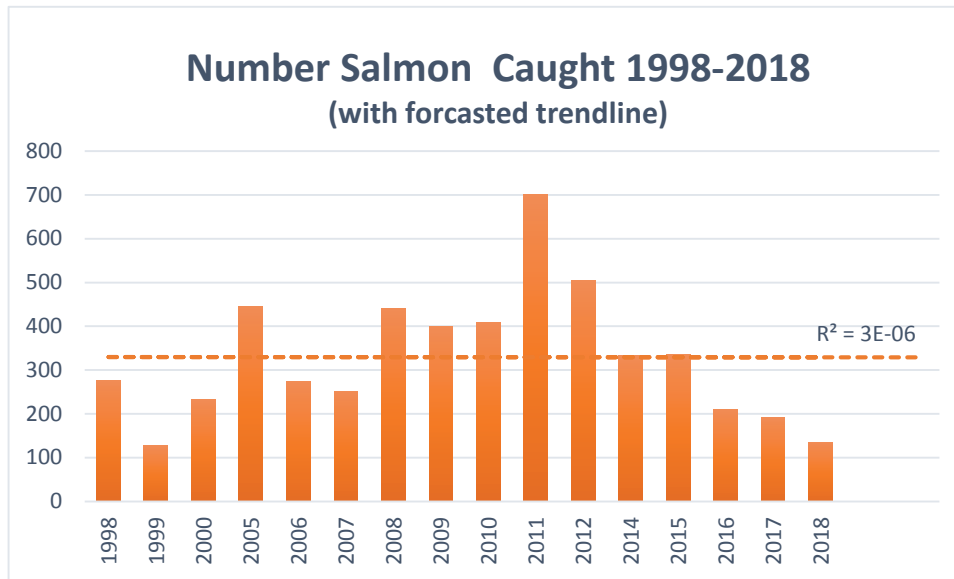
*Below: Pulling a fish out of the net, 2011*



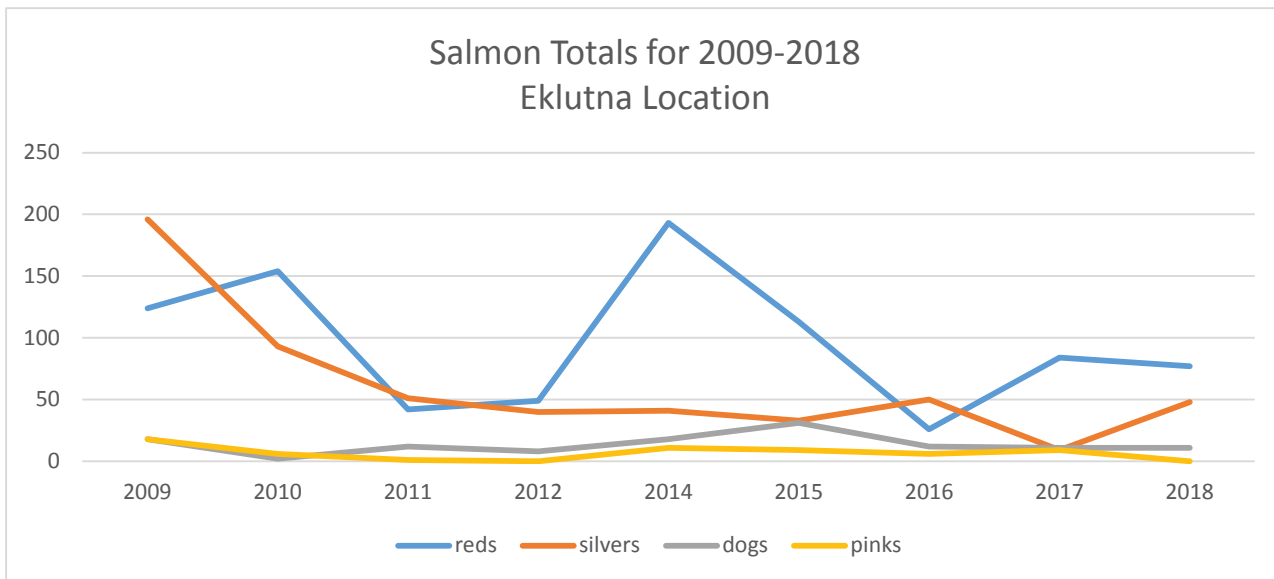
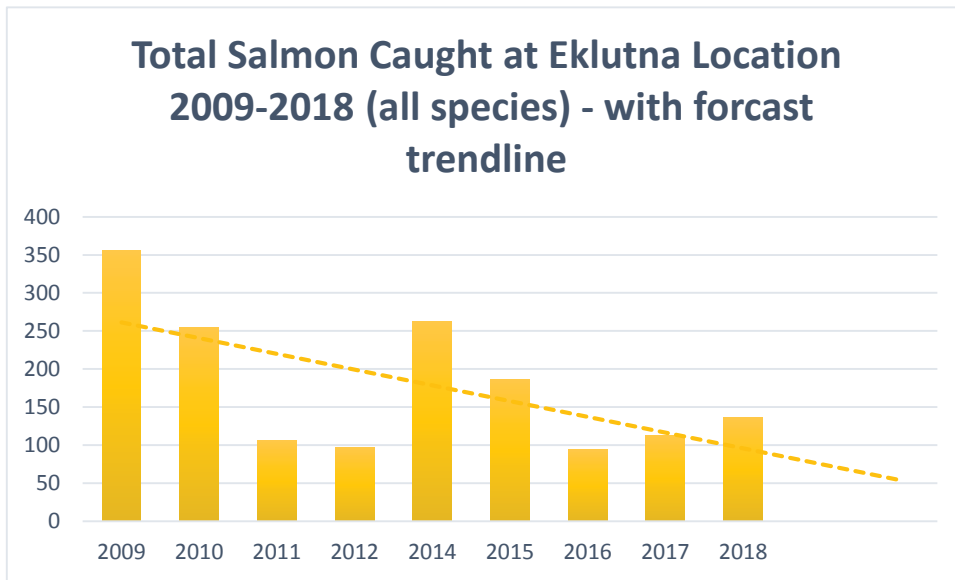
**Total Salmon Caught Under the Educational Fisheries Permit 1998-2018**

	<b>Kings</b>	<b>reds</b>	<b>silvers</b>	<b>dogs</b>	<b>pinks</b>	<b>totals</b>	
1998	32	104	116	51	6	277	may 1- Sept 30, kings allowed
1999	11	80	25	20	3	128	may 1- Sept 30, kings allowed
2000	17	76	85	51	21	233	may 1- Sept 30, kings allowed
2005	72	166	242	29	8	445	may 1- Sept 30, kings allowed
2006	43	53	202	7	11	273	may 1- Sept 30, kings allowed
2007	49	113	130	9	0	252	may 1- Sept 30, kings allowed
2008	24	42	378	17	3	440	may 1- Sept 30, kings allowed
2009	0	135	221	23	20	399	July 1-Sept 30, NO KINGS
2010	0	216	155	30	7	408	July 1-Sept 30, NO KINGS
2011	0	341	282	47	32	702	July 1-Sept 30, NO KINGS
2012	0	218	222	56	9	505	July 1-Sept 30, NO KINGS
2013	0	112	58	18	2	190	July 1-Sept 30, NO KINGS
2014	0	248	48	24	13	333	July 1-Sept 30, NO KINGS
2015	0	237	41	48	9	335	July 1-Sept 30, NO KINGS
2016	0	94	88	19	10	211	July 1-Sept 30, NO KINGS
2017	0	128	24	31	9	192	July 1-Sept 30, NO KINGS
2018	0	77	48	11	0	136	July 1-Sept 30, NO KINGS

\*Data is missing from 2001-2004. 2013 had only 4 weeks of fishing before it was stopped for the year.

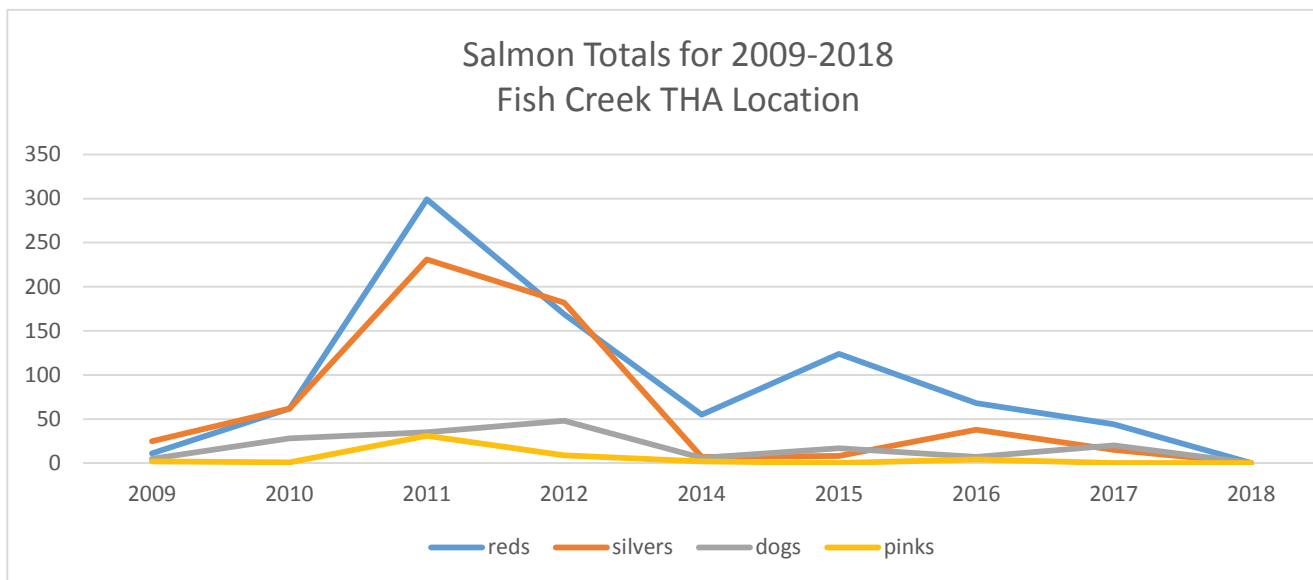
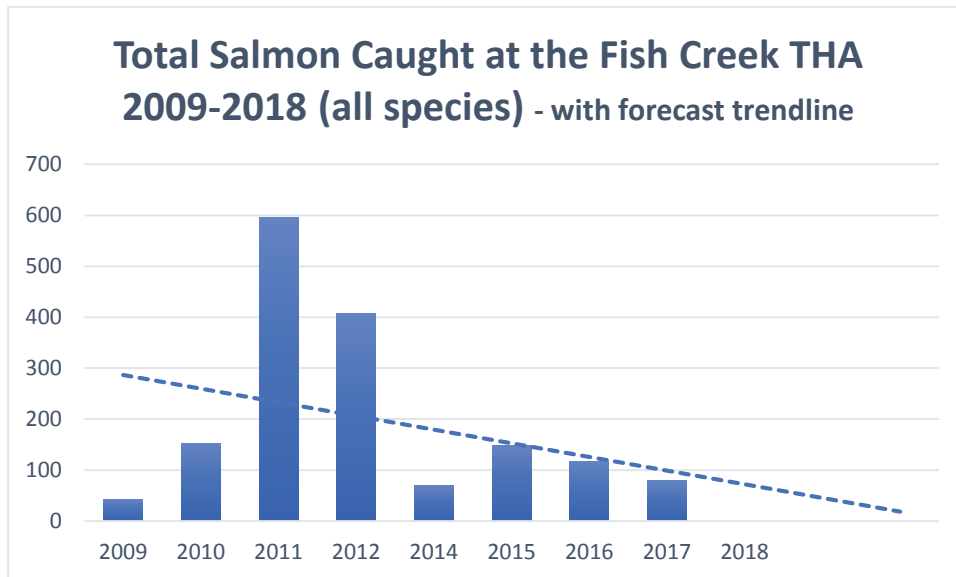


The above chart shows the actual numbers of the fish caught from 1998-2018. The years from 2001-2004 are missing. The data from 2013 is only for the month of July, with the netting season closed at the end of that month. The graph above shows the same numbers graphed out. A trend line was produced on the graph showing the projected trend of total fish caught. The trend does show the number decreasing, but so slowly that the average wouldn't be noticed. Take in mind, that this takes the averages of the high years with the low years to produce a trend line.



The above bar graph shows the decline at just the current Eklutna Village site. The number of total fish caught have been declining on average from 2009, with a forecast trend for further decline.

The above line graph shows this decline by species. The yellow (pink salmon) and grey (dog salmon) lines have remained constant low numbers at the Eklutna site, while the orange (silver salmon) have shown a steady decrease in numbers caught. The blue (red salmon) line jumps more with population changes, but shows an overall decrease in numbers caught as well.



The above bar graph shows the decline at Fish Creek THA (Goose Bay) fishing site. The number of total fish caught has been declining on average from 2009, with a forecast trend for further decline.

The above line graph shows this decline by species. The yellow (pink salmon) and grey (dog salmon) lines have remained constant low numbers at the Fish Creek THA site, while the orange (silver salmon) have shown a sharp decrease in 2014 with the numbers staying low. The blue (red salmon) line shows a population change in 2011, with a steady decline since.

The numbers for both sets of graphs have not been compared to the salmon data in the area and are just extrapolated from the data that has been collected with the data sheets turned in from the Educational Permit usage. The story that the statistics tell is one that many who participate in the Eklutna Educational Fish Program have been suggesting – it may be time to adjust the fishing spots to new locations. Some theories as to why the fishing is declining are; the deep channel has changed location, which doesn't bring as many salmon close to the shore; the salmon numbers overall are decreasing [due to changing ocean conditions]; commercial fishing is not letting as many fish enter Cook Inlet; commercial fishing in Cook Inlet is decreasing salmon populations overall. All these theories have been heard from Eklutna members. Change is natural. Let's hope for change to increase the salmon catch and a strong salmon run next year!