



2017: Post Season Analysis
Prospect and Forecast for Yukon Chinook Salmon Timing
Lower Yukon River (Area Y-1), October 17, 2017

How Did the Qualitative 2017 Timing Prospect Perform?

The [2017 timing prospect](#) (issued June 1) was on target. The prospect anticipated the first significant pulse (15% point of the migration) on the delta at around **June 10, and the observed 15% point was June 11, which is earlier than average.** The prospect called for the half-way point (50%) to be a little early to average, occurring about **June 19, and the observed 50% point was June 20, a little earlier than average.** The April mean air temperature at Nome this year (-0.7C or 30.7F) was substantially warmer than the long-term average 1961 – 2017 (-6.8C or 19.8F). In keeping with the very warm early spring conditions in northwestern Alaska, the spring (March 19 – May 31) sea ice concentrations (45.3%) were lower than the long-term average (56.3%). The effects of warmer than average early spring conditions were moderated by near-average later spring conditions in May. Mean sea surface temperatures as modeled just off the delta (-0.3C or 31.4F) were only slightly warmer than the long-term average sea surface temperatures (-0.4C or 31.2F) in May.

How Close Was the Timing Forecast for 2017?

The [2017 timing forecast](#) was very close to the actual timing (see Table). Chinook began to arrive at the end of May. The run developed as expected with the middle of the migration occurring June 20. Please visit the [project web site](#) for a copy of all data and more details about the forecast.

Percentage Points	Predicted Dates	Observed Dates	Obs – Pred (Days)
Fifteen	June 10	June 11	1
Twenty-five	June 13	June 13	0
Fifty	June 19	June 20	1

Credits

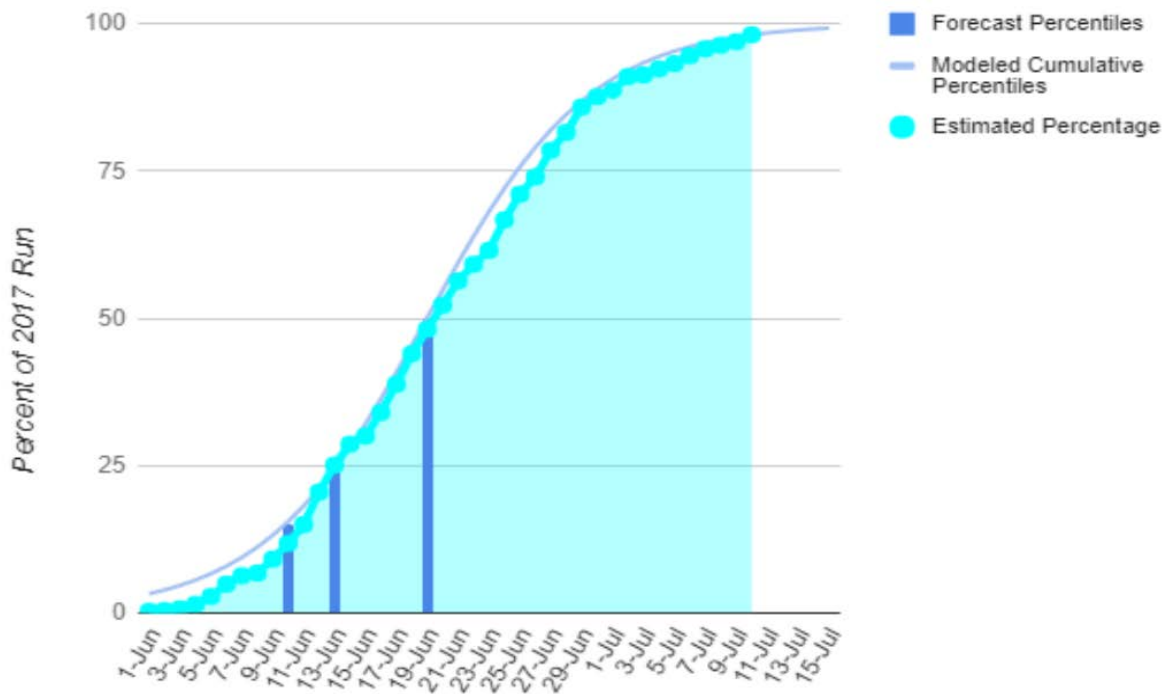
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TABLE OF OBSERVED TO MODELED TIMING, AND ERRORS OF FORECASTS, 2012 – 2017
ON PAGE FOLLOWING

Year	Percentile	Date Observed	Date Forecast	Obs - Fcst
2012*	15	June 22	June 17	-5
2013	15	June 21	June 21	0
2014	15	June 12	June 11	1
2015	15	June 15	June 17	-2
2016	15	June 9	June 9	0
2017	15	June 11	June 10	1
2012*	50	July 2	June 25	-7
2013	50	June 28	June 28	0
2014	50	June 21	June 19	2
2015	50	June 23	June 26	-3
2016	50	June 19	June 19	0
2017	50	June 20	June 19	1

Source: 2017 Table of Forecasts Observed and Expected for power point.docx

2017 Chinook Forecast : Chart1



Source: AOS web site [linked here](#)