

Chum salmon length and weight monitoring from 1972-1996 at Fish Creek (Hyder, AK), Chilkat River (Haines, AK), Olsen Creek (Cordova, AK), and Quilcene River (Quilcene, WA) - Auke Bay Laboratories

As part of Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis (EMA) team, scientists from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Ocean Carrying Capacity (OCC) program conduct four annual in-river surveys to collect biological information from chum salmon carcasses from stocks ranging from south central Alaska to Washington. The biological time series extends from 1972 to present. Data collected includes scales for age and growth and measurements of length and weight from up to 150 males and 150 females per survey. The goal of the OCC/EMA research surveys is to understand mechanisms underlying the effects of environment on marine species in the North Pacific Ocean. Primary objectives of EMA include: 1) understand and predict the effects of climate change on the biology of marine species, 2) to develop indicators for climate events, shifts, and states in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, 3) to develop indicators for the carrying capacity for salmon in the ocean, 4) to develop indicators for stock assessment-use biological indicators for environmental conditions experienced by commercially important species in the Gulf of Alaska, and 5) to develop hypotheses for mechanisms for environmental influences on the biology of marine fish species.