Summary of Scales Collected from Karluk's Sockeye Salmon

Sockeye salmon scales provide valuable data on age compositions and growth conditions of sampled populations. The collection information has immediate interest, but it also has long-term value as records of past populations and environmental conditions that can be reexamined and reinterpreted when biological questions arise. In addition, future advancements in fisheries research and technologies may extract new information from previously collected scales. Thus, scale collections have value beyond their original purpose and should be organized and preserved at a known location or archival facility.

Sockeye salmon scales have been collected annually at Karluk since the 1920s, and a few samples date back to 1914. Typically, 2,000-4,000 adult fish were sampled each year, but sometimes the number approached 10,000. Less regularly, numerous juvenile and smolt scales were sampled. Federal (USBF, FWS, BCF) and state (ADF, ADFG) agencies collected most sockeye salmon scales, but during 1948–58, the Fisheries Research Institute, University of Washington, sampled thousands of Karluk's sockeye salmon.

The following table summarizes the sockeye salmon scale collections at Karluk. Two sources supplied most of the table's data: 1) a 1998 inventory by ADFG biologist Patricia A. Nelson of scales and scale impressions located at ADFG Kodiak, NARA, FRI, and ABL, and 2) a 1996 list by ABL biologist Herbert W. Jaenicke of scales and scale impressions stored at NARA, Anchorage.

In addition to sockeye salmon scales collected by fishery biologists since 1914, fish scales, vertebrae, and other parts have been unearthed in archaeological excavations at Karluk and archived at the Alutiiq Museum, Kodiak. These prehistoric materials may have value for understanding past environments and sockeye salmon populations at Karluk.

Year	Storage location	Number collected	Year	Storage locatio		Number collected	Year	Storage location	N co
1914	Unknown	Some?	1948	NARA ABL	FRI		1982	ADFG Kodiak	
1915	Unknown	None?	1949	NARA ABL	FRI		1983	ADFG Kodiak	
1916	Unknown	382	1950	NARA ABL	FRI		1984	ADFG Kodiak	
1917	Unknown	758	1951	NARA ABL	FRI		1985	ADFG Kodiak	
1918	Unknown	None?	1952	NARA FRI			1986	ADFG Kodiak	
1919	Unknown	103	1953	NARA FRI			1987	ADFG Kodiak	
1920	Unknown	None?	1954	NARA FRI			1988	ADFG Kodiak	
1921	Unknown	211	1955	NARA FRI			1989	ADFG Kodiak	
1922	Unknown	2469	1956	NARA FRI		3236	1990	ADFG Kodiak	
1923	Unknown	None?	1957	NARA FRI			1991	ADFG Kodiak	
1924	NARA ABL	5132	1958	NARA ABL	FRI		1992	ADFG Kodiak	
1925	NARA ABL	5513	1959	NARA			1993	ADFG Kodiak	
1926	NARA ABL	8172	1960	NARA			1994	ADFG Kodiak	
1927	NARA ABL	4963	1961	NARA			1995	ADFG Kodiak	
1928	NARA ABL	4247	1962	NARA		2237	1996	ADFG Kodiak	
1929	NARA ABL	1602	1963	NARA		2022	1997	ADFG Kodiak	
1930	NARA ABL	3617	1964	NARA		2410	1998	ADFG Kodiak	
1931	NARA ABL	7258	1965	NARA		1712	1999	ADFG Kodiak	
1932	NARA ABL	4700	1966	NARA		2233	2000	ADFG Kodiak	
1933	NARA ABL	3867	1967	NARA		1758	2001	ADFG Kodiak	
1934	NARA ABL	655 I	1968	NARA		1702	2002	ADFG Kodiak	
1935	NARA ABL	7152	1969	NARA			2003	ADFG Kodiak	
1936	NARA ABL	7093	1970	ADFG Kodiak		1054	2004	ADFG Kodiak	
1937	NARA ABL		1971	ADFG Kodiak		471	2005	ADFG Kodiak	
1938	NARA ABL		1972	ADFG Kodiak			2006	ADFG Kodiak	
1939	NARA ABL		1973	ADFG Kodiak			2007	ADFG Kodiak	
1940	NARA ABL	7700	1974	ADFG Kodiak			2008	ADFG Kodiak	
1941	NARA ABL	2700	1975	ADFG Kodiak			2009	ADFG Kodiak	
1942	NARA ABL		1976	ADFG Kodiak			2010	ADFG Kodiak	
1943	NARA ABL		1977	ADFG Kodiak	n	one early			
1944	NARA ABL	7350	1978	ADFG Kodiak					
1945	Unknown		1979	ADFG Kodiak	n	one early			
1946	NARA ABL		1980	ADFG Kodiak					
1947	NARA ABL		1981	ADFG Kodiak					

ABL = Auke Bay Laboratory, Auke Bay, AK ADFG = Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kodiak, AK FRI = Fisheries Research Institute, University of Washington, Seattle, WA NARA = National Archives and Records Administration, Anchorage, AK