

3-1. Migration and Distribution of Salmon (Oral-6)

Stock-Structured Distribution of Immature Sockeye Salmon Populations South of the Aleutian Arc during the Summer

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The Bering Sea and the North Pacific Ocean provide the major feeding habitats during the summer for sockeye salmon stocks originating from throughout the Pacific Rim. A better understanding of stock-specific distribution throughout these areas may clarify the mechanisms of salmon population response to recent environmental changes. Stock distribution of immature sockeye salmon in the Bering Sea during the summer has been documented using both tagging data and more recently with genetic data. The genetic data provided more detailed and more extensive coverage than the tagging data. The distribution of stocks just south of the Bering Sea, both in the Gulf of Alaska and in the eastern North Pacific has only been gleaned through tagging studies. We will use genetic data to analyze fish captured on BASIS surveys south of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Arc to provide context to the previous findings of stock distributions within the Bering Sea.