

Taku Salmon Fisheries Management and Stock Assessment Update: May 14, 2010.

Canadian Fisheries:

Commercial

The commercial Chinook fishery is operating at an assessment level using the test fishery target (1,400 fish) plus the allowable catch reduced by approximately 90% (600 fish). Although the pre-season forecast of 41,000 fish is associated with an allowable catch, a conservative approach is being taken to the fishery in light of over-forecasting in recent years.

Weekly targets and actual catches are as follows:

Week	Week Starting (Sunday)	Test Catch	Reduced Directed Catch	Total Catch	Actual Catch
1	April 25	93	26	119	104
2	May 2	185	67	252	345
3	May 9	277	101	378	279
4	May 16	270	116	386	

Fishing commenced on April 28 with two 20-hour openings. Week 2 had two 24-hour openings and Week 3 had a ten-hour opening followed by a five-hour opening. A ten-hour opening is scheduled for this Sunday, May 16, to start Week 4.

Effort was initially 6 licences and is currently at 9 licences. The river opened early; now, water levels are below average.

The first inseason run projection will be produced next week. If it demonstrates that the run is returning with enough strength, a normal commercial fishery will be implemented. If not, fishing will be cut back to strictly test fishery levels.

First Nations

Species	Catch To Date	Season Total	
		2009	10 yr. Avg.
Chinook	16	202	157
Sockeye	-	106	160
Coho	-	154	323

Limited catch to date.

U.S. Fisheries District 11:

The D11 gillnet fishery is not open due to the conservation reasons noted above. The sport fishery has the following limits as long as an allowable catch (AC) exists. The estimated catch through last week is about 100 fish.

Regulation	If AC exists
Taku Inlet north of Cooper Point	open
Resident daily bag limit (daily/possession)	3/3
Non-resident daily bag limit (May/remainder of year)	2/2
Non-resident annual limit	5
Number of rods an angler can fish (spring & summer)	2

Information on Alaskan fisheries can be accessed on the web at [2010 Inseason Alaska Salmon Summary: Division of Commercial Fisheries - Alaska Department of Fish and Game.](#)

Index Catches – Canyon Island

Species	Count		
	2010	2009	10 yr Avg.
Chinook	122	96	150
Sockeye	-	-	-
Coho	-	-	-
Pink	-	-	-
Chum	-	-	-

The cumulative catch of chinook is 20% below average. Fishwheels are in place, but not yet functioning due to low water. Additional netting/ tagging is taking place just upstream of the canyon at Flannigan Slough; catch to date is 149 fish.

Taku Smolt Coded Wire Tagging

Species	Tagged To Date	
	2010	10 yr. Avg
Chinook	21K	26K
Coho	20K	30K

Chinook projection based on average timing (66%) = 32K; target = 40K.
Coho projection based on average timing (69%) = 28K; target = 30K.
Trapping conditions are favourable due to low water.

Tatsamenie Lake Smolt Enumeration Program

Project starting this week; lake open early.