

Taku Salmon Fisheries Management and Stock Assessment Update: May 21, 2010.

Canadian Fisheries:

Commercial

For the first 31/2 weeks of this season, the commercial chinook fishery has operated 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 (AC), Canada and the U.S. agreed to limit gillnet harvest until the forecast was supported by in-season data.

Weekly targets and actual catches were as follows:

Week	Week Starting (Sunday)	Test Catch	10% Allowable Catch (AC)	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	304

Fishing commenced for the season on April 28, statistical week (SW) 18, with two 20 hour openings. The following week had two 24 hour openings and week 20 had a ten hour opening followed by a five-hour opening. This SW (21) started with a ten hour opening; this was followed by a four hour opening on Monday afternoon.

The first in-season run assessment was made after this opening. The mark-recapture estimate of the in-river run to date is 12,100 fish. Adding the US sport catch up to the previous week (280 fish), and expanding by average run timing (32%), gives a terminal run projection of 39,000 fish. This is close to the pre-season forecast.

Based on the revised interim escapement goal of 25,500 fish, the AC associated with a run of 39,000 fish is 7,500, with 5,700 allocated to Canada and 1,800 allocated to the US. Apportioning Canadian AC by run timing gives a weekly guideline for Canada of approximately 1,100 fish. As a result, the fishery was re-opened on Thursday for 24 hours. Based on an approximate catch of 120 fish after 20 hours of fishing, the fishery was extended to Saturday noon.

Water levels have been low, but started rising significantly mid-week. The number of licences fishing initially was 10.

Catch per unit effort (CPUE) for the early part of the week was 52 fish per boat-day (fbd), compared to the 2005-06,09 average of 32 fbd (these are years with directed commercial fisheries). For comparison, border passage for these years averaged 42,000 fish.

Next week (SW 22) is posted for two days starting at noon on Sunday May 23.

First Nations – Food Social and Ceremonial (FSC) Fishery

Species	Catch To Date	Season Total	
		2009	10 yr. Avg.
Chinook	19	202	157
Sockeye	-	106	160
Coho	-	154	323

Total of 19 chinook caught to date; all in the lower river.

U.S. Fisheries, District 11:

The D11 gillnet fishery did not open this week; it is not scheduled to open next week either, as the weekly guideline associated with the AC noted above is considered to be unmanageably small. The sport fishery

has the following limits as long as an AC exists. The estimated sport catch through last week is about 280 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

More information on Alaskan fisheries can be accessed on the internet 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	204	259	251
Sockeye	-	-	-
Coho	-	-	-
Pink	-	-	-
Chum	-	-	-

The cumulative set-net catch of chinook is 19% below average. There is now sufficient water to operate the fishwheels. The bulk of the additional netting/ tagging identified last week as taking place just upstream of the canyon at Flannigan Slough is actually taking place just downstream of the canyon, opposite the existing set-net site; catch to date is 302 fish.

Taku Smolt Coded Wire Tagging

Species	Tagged To Date	
	2010	10 yr. Avg
Chinook	27,000	28,000
Coho	21,000	30,000

Chinook projection based on average timing (75%) = 36K; target = 40K.

Coho projection based on average timing (81%) = 26K; target = 30K.

Rising water has brought favourable trapping conditions to an end for the time being.

Tatsamenie Lake Smolt Enumeration Program

Fyke-net is fishing efficiently due to low water but smolts had not yet started moving as of Monday.

Please note that these updates are posted on the Fisheries and Oceans Canada website on the [Yukon/Transboundary Fisheries Management Homepage.](#)