

**Taku Salmon Fisheries Management and Stock Assessment Update: May 28, 2010.**

**Canadian Fisheries:**

*Commercial*

For the first 31/2 weeks of this season, the commercial chinook fishery 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:

<b>Week</b>	<b>Week Starting (Sunday)</b>	<b>Test Catch</b>	<b>10% Allowable Catch (AC)</b>	<b>Total Catch</b>	<b>Actual Catch</b>
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

\* Early part of week only.

The first in-season run assessment was made mid-Week 4. The mark-recapture estimate of the in-river run to date was 12,100 fish. Adding the US sport catch up to the previous week (280 fish), and expanding by average run timing (32%), gave a terminal run projection of 39,000 fish, close to the pre-season forecast.

As a result the fishery was opened for two additional days in Week 4 (SW 21) and posted for two and extended one in SW 22 starting Sunday May 23. The catch for the week was 624 with an average of nine licences. Catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 23 fish per boat-day (fbd), compared to the 2005-06&09 average of 27 fbd (these are years with directed commercial fisheries). For comparison, border passage for these years averaged 42,000 fish. The spring freshet, currently about average in magnitude, has reduced catch rates.

The second in-season run assessment was made on after closure. The mark-recapture estimate of the in-river run to date is 20,200 fish. Adding the US sport catch up to the previous week (496 fish), and expanding by average run timing (49%), gives a terminal run projection of 42,000 fish, again close to the pre-season forecast.

Based on the revised interim escapement goal of 25,500 fish, the AC associated with a run of 42,000 fish is 10,500, with 6,500 allocated to Canada and 4,000 allocated to the US.

Next week (SW 23) is posted for three days starting at noon on Sunday May 30.

*First Nations – Food Social and Ceremonial (FSC) Fishery*

<b>Species</b>	<b>Catch To Date</b>	<b>Season Total</b>	
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>10 yr. Avg.</b>
<b>Chinook</b>	66	202	157
<b>Sockeye</b>	-	106	160
<b>Coho</b>	-	154	323

Total of 66 chinook caught to date; all in the lower river.

**U.S. Fisheries, District 11:**

The D11 gillnet fishery did not open this week and is not scheduled to open next week, as the weekly guideline associated with the ACs noted above are considered to be unmanageably small. The estimated sport catch through last week is about 500 fish. The sport fishery has the following limits as long as an AC exists.

<b>Regulation</b>	<b>If AC exists</b>
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**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Count</b>		
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>10 yr Avg.</b>
<b>Chinook</b>	301	461	294
<b>Sockeye</b>	-	-	-
<b>Coho</b>	-	-	-
<b>Pink</b>	-	-	-
<b>Chum</b>	-	-	-

Fishwheel catches have been about average for the past week. The standard netting has been halted by the freshet; some supplementary netting is still taking place with 362 fish caught to date.

### **Taku Smolt Coded Wire Tagging**

<b>Species</b>	<b>To Date</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>2010</b>	<b>10 yr. Avg</b>
<b>Chinook</b>	30,000	28,000
<b>Coho</b>	23,000	30,000

Chinook projection based on average timing (90%) = 33K; target = 40K.  
Coho projection based on average timing (94%) = 25K; target = 30K.  
Catches have dropped considerably due to the spring freshet.

### **Tatsamenie Lake Smolt Enumeration Program**

Fyke-net is fishing efficiently due to low water and smolts are outmigrating but it is too early to assess run.

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