

Taku Salmon Fisheries Management and Stock Assessment Update: June 11, 2010.

Canadian Fisheries:

Commercial

Commercial fishing commenced at an assessment level the last week of April and increased to a normal (directed) level after 3.5 weeks. Catches are compared with those from directed fisheries which took place in 2005, 2006 and 2009.

The fishery for statistical week (SW) 24 was posted for two days starting Sunday June 6, based on a guideline set pre-week of 798 fish. Each day saw a catch of about 500 fish, and the fishery closed as scheduled, with a total catch of 1,025 fish. Water level dropped significantly over the course of the opening. The average number of licences fishing was 8.5.

Catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 60 fish per boat-day (fbd), compared to the 2005-06&09 average of 19 fbd. For comparison, border passage for these years averaged 42,000 fish. The favourable river conditions likely contributed to the good catches. Until last week, CPUE has been slightly below average in 2010.

The fourth joint Canada/U.S. inseason abundance estimate was made after closing (Tuesday). The mark-recapture estimate of the in-river run (i.e. border passage) to date is 27,000 fish. Using this, adding the US sport catch through the previous week (950 fish), and expanding by average estimated run timing (71%) gives a terminal run projection of 39,000 fish, slightly below last week's projection and the pre-season forecast. The allowable catches (ACs) associated with this run size are 5,600 and 1,600 fish for Canada and the U.S., respectively. These ACs are based on the revised interim spawning escapement goal of 25,500 fish. In addition, Canada and the U.S. are allocated base level catches of 1,500 and 3,500 fish, respectively. Canada has harvested a total of 4,100 fish to date. Based on this run assessment, a total of 23,000 fish have passed the commercial fishing area en route to spawning grounds.

The fishery for SW 25, starting Sunday June 13, will open on one day.

First Nations – Food Social and Ceremonial (FSC) Fishery

Species	Catch To Date	Season Total	
	2010	2009	10 yr. Avg.
Chinook	93	202	157
Sockeye	-	106	160
Coho	-	154	323

Total of 93 chinook through last week; all in the lower river.

U.S. Fisheries, District 11:

The D11 gillnet fishery is not scheduled to open again next week, as the weekly guideline associated with the AC noted above is considered to be unmanageably small. The estimated sport catch through last week is 953 fish. The sport fishery has the following limits as long as an AC exists.

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	474	525	673
Sockeye	27	5	62
Coho	-	-	-
Pink	-	-	-
Chum	-	-	-

Fishwheel catches were about 30% below average this week. The netting below the canyon was re-instated for a couple of days with the low water, in order to boost tag application rates. This resulted in a catch of 38 chinook. The Flannigan Slough netting averaged only seven chinook per day, with a total of 431 caught to date. The sockeye run has started.

Taku Smolt Coded Wire Tagging

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

Project complete. Both chinook and coho were below respective targets of 40,000 and 30,000.

Tatsamenie Lake Smolt Enumeration Program

Fyke-net is fishing efficiently. Catches averaging 300 smolts per day for a cumulative of 14,000 to date.

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