

Taku Salmon Fisheries Management and Stock Assessment Update: June 18, 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 24** (SW 24) was posted for one day starting Sunday June 13, based on a guideline set pre-week of 427 fish. The catch was 406 fish and the fishery closed as scheduled. Water levels dropped significantly over the course of the opening and are currently close to record low. The average number of licences fishing was 9.

Catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 45 fish per boat-day (fbd), compared to the 2005-06&09 average of 23 fbd. For comparison, border passage for these years averaged 42,000 fish. The favourable river conditions likely contributed to the good catches.

The fifth joint Canada/U.S. inseason abundance estimate was made after closing (Monday). The mark-recapture estimate of the in-river run (i.e. border passage) to date is 28,000 fish. Using this, adding the US sport catch through the previous week (1,000 fish), and expanding by average estimated run timing (79%) gives a terminal run projection of 36,000 fish. This is below both last week's projection and the pre-season forecast. At this run size, all the allowable catch (AC), i.e. 4,200 fish, go to Canada. The AC is based on the revised interim spawning escapement goal of 25,500 fish. In addition, Canada is allocated a base level catch (BLC) of 1,500; the U.S. is allocated 3,500 fish. Canada has harvested a total of 4,500 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; this projects to an escapement of 26,500 fish, assuming that run timing is average, and that all the BLC is taken.

Next week marks the beginning of the sockeye fishery. Run indicators are currently well below average for this species.

The fishery for **SW 26** will **open on two days** starting Sunday June 20, with a maximum mesh restriction of 14 cm (5.5 inches) to conserve chinook.

First Nations – Food Social and Ceremonial (FSC) Fishery

Species	Catch To Date	Season Total	
	2010	2009	10 yr. Avg.
Chinook	103	202	157
Sockeye	5	106	160
Coho	-	154	323

Total of 103 chinook and 5 sockeye through last week; all in the lower river.

U.S. Fisheries, District 11:

The D11 gillnet fishery is scheduled to open for three days next week, with no mesh restrictions. The estimated sport catch through last week is 1,003 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	624	542	774
Sockeye	89	22	240
Coho	-	-	-
Pink	-	-	-
Chum	-	-	-

Fishwheel function has been compromised somewhat, due to low water velocity. They had an average daily catch of 11 chinook this week; this was 10% below average. The netting below the canyon continued with an average of 18 chinook per day. The netting in Flannigan Slough averaged 5 chinook per day, with a total of 456 caught to date (not included in the total above). The fishwheels averaged 9 sockeye per day; this was 65% below average.

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 were >150 for a few days but have dropped back down to about 30 fish per day for a cumulative of 15,000 to date. Current projection based on expansion of mark-recapture results is approximately 400,000 outmigrants.

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