

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

Canadian Fisheries:

Commercial

Statistical week 26 (SW 26) marked the beginning of this season's directed sockeye fishery. The opening was posted for two days starting Sunday June 20. The maximum permissible mesh was reduced from 8 inches to 5.5 inches to reduce the bycatch of chinook. The pre-season forecast for Taku sockeye was for a terminal run of 205,000, below the average of 227,000 fish. Based on this, the weekly guideline catch was 1,800 fish, with a cumulative of 3,300. The river level was well below average but rising over the course of the opening. The fishery was extended by one day based on catch rates and room in the guideline. At closing, the sockeye catch was 2,019, with a cumulative of 2,100. The number of licences averaged eight; catch rates averaged 84 fish per boat-day (fbd), compared to the recent ten-year average of 77 fbd. The chinook catch for the week was 333; catch rates averaged 14 fish per boat-day (fbd), close to the 2005-06&09 average of 15 fbd. For comparison, border passage averaged 42,000 chinook for these years.

The sixth joint Canada/U.S. inseason abundance estimate was made after day two (Tuesday). The mark-recapture estimate of the in-river run (i.e. border passage) to date was 30,000 fish. Using this, adding the US sport catch through the previous week (1,200 fish), and expanding by average estimated run timing (87%) gives a terminal run projection of 35,500 fish. This is similar to last week's projection and below the pre-season forecast. At this run size, all the allowable catch (AC), i.e. 3,800 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 4,900 fish to date. Based on this run assessment, a total of 25,500 fish have passed the commercial fishing area en route to spawning grounds; this projects to an escapement of 26,000 fish, assuming that run timing is average, and that all the BLC is taken.

The fishery for **SW 27** opened on **two days** starting Sunday June 27.

First Nations – Food Social and Ceremonial (FSC) Fishery

Species	Catch To Date	Season Total	
	2010	2009	10 yr. Avg.
Chinook	119	202	157
Sockeye	7	106	160
Coho	-	154	323

Total of 119 chinook and 7 sockeye through last week; all in the lower river.

U.S. Fisheries, District 11:

The D11 gillnet fishery opened for three days with no mesh restrictions. Effort was on the light side for the this initial opening; the 50 boats fishing were 79% of the ten-year average with slow fishing pretty much universally reported. Sockeye, pink, and chum catches were below average, coho were average and the chinook catch was well above average for the week. On the grounds interviews indicated a sockeye CPUE around half of average for the week, with the boats using sockeye gear only slightly more productive than the boats deploying six-inch gear. Inriver indicators are mixed with Canyon Island fish wheel catches below average and the Canadian inriver fishery CPUE above average, but both of these indicators are influenced by the low water levels prevalent earlier in the week (FW efficiency goes down with low water while inriver gillnet effectiveness goes up). With no mesh restrictions, a few boats fished chinook gear but nearly half the fleet wound up using six-inch gear to target chum.

With poor D11 fishery sockeye CPUE, mixed inriver indicators, and anticipated increase in fleet size, Section 11B was opened for two days in SW 27 with no mesh restrictions.

The estimated sport catch of chinook through last week is 1,195 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	751	626	898
Sockeye	292	230	769
Coho	-	-	-
Pink	-	-	-
Chum	-	-	-

The fishwheels had an average daily catch of 12 chinook this week; this was 75% below average. Netting below the canyon was conducted for 3 days of the last 7, with an average daily catch of 12 chinook (20% above average). The netting in Flannigan Slough has wrapped up for the season, with a total of 534 caught (not included in the total above). The fishwheels averaged 22 sockeye per day; this was 74% below average. Low water tends to have a negative influence on fishwheel effectiveness.

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 but catches are down to less than 20 fish per day, for a cumulative of 15,500 to date. Most 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.](#)