

Taku Salmon Fisheries Management and Stock Assessment Update: July 9, 2010.

Canadian Fisheries:

Commercial

Statistical week 28 (SW 28) marked the third week of this season's directed sockeye fishery. The opening was posted for three days starting Sunday July 4. The maximum permissible mesh was 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 2,500 fish, with a cumulative of 8,100 fish. The river level was record low, rising only slightly over the course of the opening. The fishery was not extended. At closing, the sockeye catch was 1,410, with a cumulative of 5,000 fish. Seven licences fished full gear, with an additional two fishing set nets only; catch rates averaged 59 fish per boat-day (fbd) based on eight licences, compared to the recent ten-year average of 62 fbd. The chinook catch for the week was 110 fish.

The current projection for the terminal run of sockeye is 121,000 fish, well below the preseason forecast. Subtracting the escapement goal of 75,000 fish from this run size gives a TAC of 46,000 fish. The treaty arrangement links the Canadian harvest share to the number of enhanced fish produced. The preseason forecast of the number of enhanced fish returning in 2010 is between 0 and 5,000 fish; this permits 20% share of the TAC, i.e. 9,200 fish based on the current run projection. Based on the historical average, 31% of the run will have entered the river by now – this gives a cumulative guideline harvest of 2,900 fish. The actual harvest to date is 5,000. The corresponding figures for the US are allowable catch 37,000 fish, 55% of the run through, guideline harvest 5,000 fish, actual harvest 6,800 fish.

The seventh joint Canada/US inseason abundance estimate of chinook was made after day three (Wednesday). The mark-recapture estimate of the in-river run (i.e. border passage) to date was 33,000 fish. Using this, adding the US sport and gillnet catch through the previous week (1,200 and 400 fish respectively), and expanding by average estimated run timing (98%) gives a terminal run projection of 36,000 fish. This is similar to the SW 26 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 US is allocated 3,500 fish. Canada has harvested a total of 5,300 fish to date. Based on this run assessment, a total of 28,000 fish have passed the commercial fishing area en route to spawning grounds.

The fishery for **SW 29** will open on **two days** starting Sunday July 11.

First Nations – Food Social and Ceremonial (FSC) Fishery

Species	Catch To Date	Season Total	
	2010	2009	10 yr. Avg.
Chinook	122	202	157
Sockeye	8	106	160
Coho	-	154	323

Totals of 122 chinook and 8 sockeye through last week; all in the lower river.

US Fisheries, District 11:

The SW 28 update is not yet available. The following refers to the SW 27 fishery.

Effort was light again in D11; the 55 boats fishing were 70% of the ten-year average. The harvest of all species but coho was below average for the week, with the CPUE of kings, coho, and chum above average. On the grounds interviews indicated sockeye CPUE overall quite poor, but a sizeable percentage of the fleet was using 6" mesh and most boats were targeting chum salmon. Those boats fishing sockeye gear and targeting sockeye had CPUE close to the ten year average. Based on the near average sockeye CPUE for those boats targeting sockeye, the small fleet, prevalence of 6" gear, and the most common sockeye stock in the area being the end of the smaller sized fish Kuthai run, a 24 hour extension was granted on the grounds Monday afternoon, bringing the total time for the opening up to three days. Inriver indicators are weak at this time with Canyon Island fish wheel catches improving but still only two thirds of the daily

average. This week's projection of the Taku above border sockeye run size is 68,655 fish, about 50% of the ten year average at this time.

With sockeye CPUE in the fishery below average, weak to poor inriver indicators, and anticipated increase in fleet size, Section 11B will be open for two days in SW 28. Limestone Inlet will be open to the inner markers to provide opportunity on returning enhanced DIPAC chum, and a six inch minimum mesh restriction will be imposed south of Circle Point for the entire opener to conserve for wild Port Snettisham sockeye now transiting the area.

	SW 27	10-year Average
King	250	378
Sockeye	2,500	11,831
Coho	100	83
Pink	1,000	7,221
Chum	40,000	48,255
Boats	55	78
Days	3	4

The estimated sport catch of chinook through SW 27 is 1,200 fish.

The D11 gillnet fishery will open on 2 days in SW 29 starting Sunday July 11.

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	618	839	1,528
Coho	-	-	-
Pink	-	-	-
Chum	-	-	-

The fishwheel sockeye catch is 60% 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

Smolts continue to trickle out of the lake for a cumulative of 15,700 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.](#)