

**Taku Salmon Fisheries Management and Stock Assessment Update: July 16, 2010.**

**Canadian Fisheries:**

*Commercial*

**Statistical week 29** (SW 29) marked the fourth week of this season's directed sockeye fishery. The opening was posted for two days starting Sunday July 4. The maximum permissible mesh was 5.5 inches to reduce the bycatch of chinook. The river level was below average, rising the first day and then dropping. The fishery was extended one day. At closing, the sockeye catch was 2,622. Nine licences fished full gear, with an additional two fishing set nets only; catch rates averaged 87 fish per boat-day (fbd) based on ten licences, matching the recent ten-year average. The chinook and coho catches for the week were 63 and 255 fish, respectively.

The current projection for the terminal run of sockeye is 122,000 fish, very similar to last week's, and well below the preseason forecast. Subtracting the escapement goal of 75,000 fish from this run size gives a TAC of 47,000 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 corresponds to a 20% share of the TAC, i.e. 9,400 fish based on the current run projection. Based on the historical average, 45% of the run has entered the river by now – this gives a cumulative guideline harvest of 4,200 fish. The actual harvest to date is 7,600 fish. The corresponding figures for the US are: allowable catch 38,000 fish, 55% of the run through, cumulative guideline harvest 21,000 fish, actual harvest 14,000 fish. The current escapement projection is 81,000 fish.

The fishery for **SW 30** will open on **two days** starting Sunday July 18.

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

Species	Catch To Date	Season Total	
	2010	2009	10 yr. Avg.
Chinook	139	202	157
Sockeye	21	106	160
Coho	-	154	323

Totals of 139 chinook and 21 sockeye, through last week; all in the lower river.

**US Fisheries, District 11:**

Effort increased in D11 to an above average 115 boats this week. Harvest of sockeye and pinks were well below average, chums a little above average and coho well above the average for the week. Sockeye CPUE improved some to 65% of the average, and the CPUE for chum was a respectable 178% of average. Canyon Island fish wheel catches though still well below average have improved some from last week, but the continuing low water levels significantly reduces their efficiency. The harvest of enhanced summer chum increased over last week with the return performing close to expectations at this time. The Speel weir in Port Snettisham is fish tight and jumpers are reported in Speel Arm. The Crescent Lake sonar has recorded encouraging counts in its first week of operation.

With sockeye harvest and CPUE in the fishery well below average and weak inriver indicators, Section 11B will be open for two days in SW 30. 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 29	10-year Average
King	50	76
Sockeye	7,500	20,666
Coho	1,300	508
Pink	3,000	15,216
Chum	115,000	111,233
Boats	115	105
Days	2	4

Please note that these figures are not restricted to Taku stocks.

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	880	1,647	2,211
Coho	32	-	-
Pink	1,431	-	-
Chum	1	-	-

The fishwheel sockeye catch continues to be 60% below average. Low water tends to have a negative influence on fishwheel effectiveness. Pink are now showing up in significant numbers.

#### **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.

**Kuthai Lake and King Salmon Lake** weirs are now in place, with a total of 36 fish reported at Kuthai.

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