

Taku Salmon Fisheries Management and Stock Assessment Update: July 23, 2010.

Canadian Fisheries:

Commercial

Statistical week 30 (SW 30) marked the fifth week of this season's directed sockeye fishery. The opening was posted for two days starting Sunday July 11. The mesh size restriction of 5.5 inches was lifted as the chinook run is now complete; this helped to reduce the bycatch of pink salmon. The catch on Day 1 was about 1,200 sockeye. The fishery was extended one day. The river level was record low, rising only slightly over the course of the opening. Catches almost doubled on Day 2 and were even higher on Day 3. At closing, the total sockeye catch was 5,937 fish. Eleven licences fished; catch rates averaged 180 fish per boat-day (fbd), more than double the recent ten-year average. The chinook and coho catches for the week were 11 and 697 fish, respectively.

The current projection for the terminal run of sockeye is 164,000 fish, assuming average run timing. This is above last week's projection but still below the preseason forecast of 205,000. Subtracting the escapement goal of 75,000 fish from this projected run size gives a TAC of 89,000 fish. The treaty arrangement links the Canadian harvest share to the number of enhanced fish produced. The projected 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. 18,000 fish based on the current run projection. Based on the historical average, 55% of the run has entered the river by now – this gives a cumulative guideline harvest of 9,900 fish. The actual harvest to date is 13,500 fish. The corresponding figures for the US are: allowable catch 71,000 fish, 68% of the run through, cumulative guideline harvest 48,000 fish, actual harvest 27,000 fish. The current escapement projection is 106,000 fish.

The fishery for **SW 31** will open on **two days** starting Sunday July 25.

First Nations – Food Social and Ceremonial (FSC) Fishery

| Species | Catch To Date | Season Total | |
|---------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| | 2010 | 2009 | 10 yr. Avg. |
| Chinook | 139 | 202 | 157 |
| Sockeye | 70 | 106 | 160 |
| Coho | 225 | 154 | 323 |

Totals of 139 chinook, 70 sockeye, and 225 coho through last week; all in the lower river.

US Fisheries, District 11:

The SW 30 update is not yet available. Catches and effort were as follows:

| | |
|---------|---------|
| | SW 30 |
| King | 50 |
| Sockeye | 16,500 |
| Coho | 2,500 |
| Pink | 20,000 |
| Chum | 165,000 |
| Boats | 120 |
| Days | 2 |

Please note that these figures are not restricted to Taku stocks.
Next weeks fishery is posted for 2 days.

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 | 1,354 | 2,084 | 2,809 |
| Coho | 107 | - | - |
| Pink | 3,978 | 6,488 | - |
| Chum | 4 | - | - |

The fishwheel sockeye catch improved to about 80% of average this week; the cumulative catch is now 50% below average. Low water tends to have a negative influence on fishwheel effectiveness. Pink are now present 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 16,200 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 totals of 268 and 1,000 fish through respectively. The Kuthai count projects to about 2,000 fish; projections are problematic for King Salmon – the current count is about 3 times the average for this time.

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