



YUKON RIVER SALMON UPDATE June 24, 2010

RUN SIZE ESTIMATES

Alaskan Portion Run Assessment: Chinook

Available in-season assessment information from U.S. programs on the lower river is very preliminary. It suggests that the 2010 Yukon River Chinook salmon run into Canada will be below average; this is consistent with the preseason outlook. Data from the Pilot Station sonar program, lower river test fisheries and Rampart Rapids fish wheel index program is summarized below. The Pilot Station sonar estimate to June 24 is 40196, approximately 63% of the 1995-2008 average estimate to this date of 64,076, and 66% of the 2000-2009 average estimate to this date of 60,841. However, Chinook entry into the mouth of the river was delayed by ice conditions, adding to the level of uncertainty in the early season estimate. Run timing data so far suggests the run is about a week later than normal.

Run Assessment Program	Date (as of)	2009	Comments
Pilot Station Sonar	June 23	40,196	average 64,076 (1995-2009)
Lower Yukon Test Index*	June 23	8.0	average 13.3 (1989-2008)

**average number of fish caught per unit effort of fishing (CPUE) – gives relative abundance for comparison among years.*

Canadian Portion Run Assessment: Chinook

The 2010 assessment of Chinook salmon entering the Upper Yukon River drainage will be determined from a joint U.S./Canada sonar program located near Eagle Alaska. This will be the third year that this program has guided Canadian management actions. The sonar program should be ready to begin counting next week.

Based on the information from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game programs on the lower river, the first Chinook salmon is expected to arrive at the border July 5th-10th and the first significant pulse of fish is expected to arrive 4 or 5 days later. Based on estimates from the Pilot Station sonar program and preliminary genetic stock identification analyses, approximately 19,700 Canadian-origin Chinook salmon are estimated to have passed Pilot Station as of June 23. The percent of fish past Pilot Station is currently estimated at 30% of the run, but this there is a high level of uncertainty associated with this preliminary estimate.

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

U.S. Fisheries:

There are currently no commercial fisheries on Chinook in the US portion of the Yukon River and commercial opportunities on summer Chum will likely be constrained due to the poor Chinook run.

Subsistence fisheries are being restricted in some areas along the Yukon River to reduce Chinook harvest. Specific information on the US management of the subsistence fishery can be found at: www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region3/yukhome.php

Canadian Fisheries:

Management of Canadian fisheries will be based on projections of total run size and the number of salmon passing into the Canadian section of the upper Yukon River. In season projections based on the Eagle sonar estimates will commence after fish have started to reach the border. Until then, the preseason run outlook will be used in conjunction with inseason data provided from Alaskan assessments to guide management actions. The preseason run outlook is for a below average to average run with a total run size of 77,800 to 113,100 and a border escapement of 50,600 to 61,300 chinook salmon.

At this time, the lower Yukon run indicators in Alaska are below average and suggest that the 2010 Chinook salmon run size will be towards the lower end of the preseason outlook ranges. This would place the run in the YELLOW management zone.

Canadian Management actions for Chinook salmon Projections in the various zones are as follows:

The Red Zone is a Border Escapement Projection in the 1-30,000 range: this will result in closure of all fisheries except a test fishery;

The Yellow Zone is a Border Escapement Projection in the 30,000 to 51,000 range: this will require closures in the commercial, domestic and recreational fisheries and restrictions will be considered in the First Nations' fishery; and

The Green Zone is a Border Escapement Projection greater than 51,000: this will allow for a "normal" (unrestricted) First Nations fishery and commercial, domestic and recreational fisheries will be allowed but managed according to available abundance within the Green Zone.

Fishery	Status	Comments
Upper Yukon First Nations Fishery	OPEN	
Recreational Fishery	OPEN	daily catch and possession limits to be reduced if projections continue in Yellow Zone.
Domestic Fishery	CLOSED	
Commercial Fishery	CLOSED	

For more information please contact:

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