



## YUKON RIVER SALMON UPDATE

July 2, 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 are summarized below. The Pilot Station sonar estimate to July 1<sup>st</sup> is 40,196, 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 suggest the run is about a week later than normal.

<b>Run Assessment Program</b>	<b>Date (as of)</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Pilot Station Sonar	July 1	93128	average 108,616 (1995-2009)
Lower Yukon Test Fish Index*	July 1	14.12	average 19.22 (1989-2008)
Rampart Rapids Fish Wheel Index*	July 1	64.15	average 520 (2000-2009)

*\*cumulative average number of fish caught per unit effort of fishing (cumulative 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 operational within a few days.

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 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. The first significant pulse of fish is expected to arrive on July 20<sup>th</sup> and the second pulse 3 days later. However, it should be noted these projected arrival dates can be influenced by a number of factors including discharge levels and water temperatures. Based on estimates from the Pilot Station sonar program and preliminary genetic stock identification analyses, approximately 46,500 Canadian-origin Chinook salmon are estimated to have passed Pilot Station as of July 1. The Pilot Station count to date is estimated to represent approximately 65% to 70% of the run.

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

### U.S. Fisheries:

There have been no commercial fisheries directed at Chinook in the US portion of the Yukon River. Summer chum commercial harvesting has been constrained due to the poor Chinook run. An estimated 2000 chinook were harvested in the first 6 hour directed chum fishery in District 1. A 4 hour directed chum fishery took place on July 1<sup>st</sup> in District 2 and a 6 hour directed chum fishery took place in District 1 on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mesh size was restricted to 6 inches or less to minimize Chinook interceptions.

Specific information on the US management of the subsistence fishery can be found at: [www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region3/yukhome.php](http://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 was 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.

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

**For more information please contact:**

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