

North Coast Salmon Update #2 - 2 July 2019

Please note that catch numbers and estimates are preliminary, and are subject to review.

North Coast Troll

CHINOOK - The 2019 Area F Troll Chinook TAC is 88,400, and will be managed to the maximum 3.2% exploitation objective on WCVI Chinook using an Effort / Harvest Relationship Management Tool. Additional precautionary reductions to support conservation and promote recovery of at risk Fraser River Chinook are planned for the northern troll fishery which currently include delaying the start of the Area F Troll Chinook fishery until late in August. See FN0395 for specifics on coast wide reductions.

COHO - Area F Troll opened at the A-B Line for Coho and Pink retention July 1st (FN0584). There are 4 vessels currently hailed into the fishery. The Directed Coho and Pink salmon fishery is anticipated to open July 17th. Additional area closures are planned to limit interceptions of Chinook. A Fishery Notice with fishery specifics is expected this week.

Area 1-2 Recreational

The majority of lodges commenced fishing operations in early June. Anecdotal reports have indicated improved Chinook abundance over 2018. Detailed catch information will not be available until the 2nd week of July.

Area 3 - Nass River

Nass River Sockeye returns are forecast pre-season to be average to below average with an expected total return to Canada from 429,000 (75% probability) to 484,000 (25% probability) and a point estimate of 456,000(50% probability) based on a sibling-regression model. Nass sockeye returns will be carefully monitored to take into account increasing uncertainty and recent trends towards lower survival.

The Nass River fish wheels have been operating since early June. Current trends in Nass Chinook and Sockeye escapement appear to be stronger than forecast.

As of July 1, the estimated TRTC are as follows:

- Sockeye TRTC is estimated at **486,000** (range 300k-1.23m) 20.4% of the run past with normal timing
- Chinook TRTC is estimated at **32,000** (range 18k-51k) 45.7% of the run past with normal timing

Water levels at the lower fish wheels remain below normal, but have improved. The most recent measurements indicate below average flow, but no longer the lowest recorded for these dates.

Nass River salmon stock assessment updates from the Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Department will be available here: <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/northcoast-cotenord/nass-eng.html>
Or here: <ftp://ftp.lgl.com/Nass%20Stock%20Assessment%20Updates/>

Net Fisheries:

There were two one day Sockeye targeted gill net fisheries on June 17 and June 24. A one day opening was announced for July 1, and given the consistent effort and catch, a second day was provided for July 2. Effort is ~100 boats, and preliminary catch estimates for these openings will be available later this week. The June 24 opening saw a Sockeye catch of 3,997 fish. The first seine opening is planned for July 9.

Management Area 3

[Report Details by Subarea or Portion](#)

Stat Week	Week of Year	Date	Effort	Sockeye Kept	Salmon Rel	Coho Kept	Salmon Rel	Pink Kept	Salmon Rel	Chum Kept	Salmon Rel	Chinook Kept	Salmon Rel	Steelhead Rel	Status
		17-Jun	80	1673	0	0	124	8	1	11	8	0	163	16	Reviewed
		Total for Week	80	1673	0	0	124	8	1	11	8	0	163	16	
		24-Jun	101	3997	0	0	175	182	14	117	19	0	162	11	Reviewed
		Total for Week	101	3997	0	0	175	182	14	117	19	0	162	11	
		01-Jul	101	4148	0	0	53	865	0	98	47	0	57	0	Preliminary
		Total for Week	101	4148	0	0	53	865	0	98	47	0	57	0	
Total for Management Area 3 in Period			282	9818	0	0	352	1055	15	226	74	0	372	27	

Notes:
1. Consult the applicable Fishery Manager or Biologist as to the status of particular catch estimates.

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Meziadin Fishway:

The Meziadin Fishway will be set up this weekend, and is expected to be operational by the first week of July. Historic and 2019 counts will be available here:

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/northcoast-cotenord/meziadin-eng.html>

Kwinageese Weir:

The Kwinageese Weir will be operated by the Nisga’a Fish and Wildlife department again this year. Operation will begin in mid-July.

Alaska Fisheries

District 1 Gill Net Fishery:

The District 1 gill net fishery in Alaska opened for four days of fishing commencing on June 23, 2019. Effort was below average with 35 vessels participating. Coho, Sockeye, Pink, and Chum catches were below the 10-year average. General reports indicated that fishing was slow throughout Southeast Alaska, not just in the Ketchikan area. The Tree Point fishery will be open for four days this week, beginning on June 30, 2019.

Species	District 1 Catch – Week 26	10-Year Average
Chinook	500	462
Sockeye	1,700	7,140
Coho	500	702
Pink	4,000	2,020
Chum	5,000	22,486
Effort	35	50
Fishing Days	4	4

District 4 Seine Fishery:

The first anticipated District 4 purse seine fishery is scheduled for July 7

Area 4 - Skeena River

The qualitative Salmon Outlook for wild Skeena Sockeye is “low” based on the strength of the brood years that went to sea in 2016 and 2017 respectively and the moderate returns of age 4 Sockeye in 2018. The Outlook for enhanced Babine Sockeye is low to modest based on the strength of sibling returns in 2018. The total Skeena Sockeye return is expected to be low to modest with a pre-season return forecast from 0.77 million (90% probability) to 3.8 million (10% probability) and a point estimate of 1.7 million (50% probability) based on the sibling model.

2019 Skeena Pre-season Forecast								
			2019 Forecasts for reference probabilities					
Species	Stock	Escapement Target	Median					
			10%	25%	50%	75%	90%	
Sockeye	Skeena	1,050,000	5 yr average	3,267,013	2,442,930	1,861,231	1,418,043	1,060,351
			Sibling Mode	3,798,645	2,597,163	1,713,846	1,130,952	773,241

Tyee Test Fishery:

Sockeye have started showing in the Tyee test fishery over the weekend. As of July 1, the estimated number of Large Sockeye past Tyee is 8,361 fish. It is too early for a reliable Skeena Sockeye TRTC estimate. Estimates should become more reliable into mid-July. The index values of Chinook encountered to date are lower than this point in 2018, although higher than this date in 2017.

Tyee Test Fishery Cumulative Index to July 1:

	Sockeye	Coho	Pink (odd)	Chum	Lg. Chinook	Steelhead
2019	8.23	0	0	0	20.54	0
2018	6.73	0	n/a	0	29.42	0.24
2017	20.62	0	0	0	20.99	0.25
2009-2018 Avg.	54.87	0	0	0	31.24	5.25

The 2019 Tyee test fishery daily and cumulative sockeye escapement estimate data, along with 2019 daily and cumulative escapement indices by species, are available here:

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/northcoast-cotenord/skeenaatyee-eng.html>

It is too early to evaluate the pre-season forecast with current in-season data, it is expected that in-season estimates will be generated starting next week.

Net Fisheries:

Commercial fisheries are anticipated, and will be informed with in-season assessments of Sockeye returns.

Demonstration Fisheries:

In 2019, two ESSR fisheries and eight CSAF Demonstration fisheries have been proposed for the Skeena and Nass watersheds. Implementation of these fisheries is subject to area approval of the

respective fishing plans, and the Department is currently working with the proponents to finalize these details.

Recreational Fisheries:

Area 3 and 4 Creel Survey

For 2019, the North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society began their creel survey operations in May. They performed 370 interviews totalling 952 anglers, with a reported catch of 470 Chinook and 4 Coho. These numbers are expanded and produce a catch estimate of 2,262 Chinook and 29 Coho for the month of May. This is the first year that the creel survey has happened in May, subsequently there is no historical data with which to compare. Preliminary data for the first half of June show 2,513 Chinook retained and 1,430 boat trips.

Kitwanga Weir:

The Gitanyow Fisheries Authority will be operating the Kitwanga weir again this year. It is typically operational by early July. Updates provided by the Gitanyow Fisheries Authority will be available here: <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/northcoast-cotenord/docs/kitwanga.pdf>

Slamgeesh Weir:

The Gitksan Watershed Authorities will be operating the Slamgeesh Weir again this year. It is typically operational in late July.

Sustut Weir:

The Province of BC will be operating the Sustut weir this year. It is expected to be operational by August.

Area 6

The first Area 6 seine opening is anticipated for mid-July. Gill net opportunities will be dependent on Kitimat River hatchery chum abundance.

Areas 7 to 10 - Central Coast

Net Fisheries:

The Chinook directed gill net openings are now complete, and this week saw the first Chum assessment fishery. Effort remained normal on consistent for the Chinook directed fisheries, and the June total is 2,561 Chinook retained. Effort was normal for these openings, starting with 15 boats in the first week, increasing to 21-27 in following openings. Catch and effort estimates to date openings are listed below. The preliminary hail data shows 121 boats hailed into the July 1 fishery. There will be a second assessment opening on July 8.

The Nuxalk Nation conducted their CSAF Demonstration Chinook directed opening on June 29 and a total of 199 Chinook were caught. The total allocation for the season was 300 Chinook, the Nuxalk Nation opted to fish only the one day.

Area 8 Gillnet Catch Estimates:

Management Area 8

Stat Week	Week of Year	Date	Effort	Sockeye Salmon		Coho Salmon		Pink Salmon		Chum Salmon		Chinook Salmon		Steelhead Rel	Status
				Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel		
		03-Jun	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	0	2	Reviewed
		Total for Week	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	0	2	
		10-Jun	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	156	0	0	Reviewed
		Total for Week	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	156	0	0	
		17-Jun	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	0	195	0	0	Preliminary
		18-Jun	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	0	169	0	0	Preliminary
		19-Jun	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	63	0	1	Preliminary
		Total for Week	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	114	0	427	0	1	
		24-Jun	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	222	0	400	0	0	Preliminary
		25-Jun	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	388	0	500	0	0	Preliminary
		26-Jun	14	0	0	0	0	0	1	709	0	1023	0	0	Preliminary
		Total for Week	66	0	0	0	0	0	1	1329	0	1923	0	0	
		01-Jul	44	8	1	0	13	2	0	1216	0	363	0	2	Preliminary
		Total for Week	44	8	1	0	13	2	0	1216	0	363	0	2	
		Total for Management Area 8 in Period	209	8	1	0	13	2	1	2665	0	2924	0	5	

Notes:
1. Consult the applicable Fishery Manager or Biologist as to the status of particular catch estimates.

Recreational Fisheries:

Area 7 has two lodges operating so far this year. Preliminary data shows moderately improved catches for both Chinook and Coho when compared to the 10 year average. Area 8 has on lodge operating as of the end of June, with two more scheduled to open in early/mid-July. Area 9 has one operation working since early June, with four more scheduled to operate starting in July. Preliminary data suggests Area 9 Chinook and Coho CPUE are moderately improved from the 10 year average.

Data will be provided when available.