

North Coast Salmon Update #3 - 9 July 2019

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

Area F Troll Update

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 6 vessels currently hailed into the fishery with CPUE's ranging from 56 to 25 Coho per vessel day over the past week. Current catch is estimated to be The directed Coho and Pink salmon fishery is opening July 17th (FN0604) with the west side of Haida Gwaii closed south of Cape Knox to limit interceptions of Chinook.

Summary of Area F catch (Kept) and releases (Rel.) by week.

Estimated Weekly Catch			Chinook		Coho		Pink		Sockeye		Chum	
WEEK	End Date	Effort	Kept	Rel.	Kept	Rel.	Kept	Rel.	Kept	Rel.	Kept	Rel.
27	6-Jul	27	0	126	813	0	126	40	6	0	0	14
28	13-Jul	10	0	40	177	0	398	0	0	0	0	23
	Total		0	166	990	0	524	40	6	0	0	37

Area 1-2 Recreational

The majority of lodges commenced fishing operations in early June. Anecdotal reports have indicated higher Chinook and Coho abundance over last year. June catch summary provided in the Table on the following page.

Estimated Areas 1 and 2 recreational catch to the end of June.

Month	Area	Coho	Chinook	Pink	Sockeye	Chum	Halibut	Lingcod	Rockfish
May	1	5	170	0	1	5	100	75	50
	2E	0	200	0	0	0	100	0	0
	2W	5	230	1	0	0	150	275	200
May Total		10	600	1	1	5	350	350	250
June	1	1790	7750	120	14	10	3050	1450	1750
	2E	0	100	0	0	0	100	50	100
	2W	550	3250	50	0	0	1150	1200	950
June Total		2340	11100	170	14	10	4300	2700	2800
May -	1	1795	7920	120	15	15	3150	1525	1800
Sept.	2E	0	300	0	0	0	200	50	100
	2W	555	3480	51	0	0	1300	1475	1150
Season Total:		2350	11700	171	15	15	4650	3050	3050
% of total catch by source	Log Book	95%	77%	98%	100%	80%	81%	86%	91%
	Creel	3%	20%	1%	0%	7%	13%	10%	4%
	Estimate	2%	3%	1%	0%	13%	5%	3%	5%

Note:

- i) Estimates are rounded to nearest 50.
- ii) Data sources include lodge logbooks, Haida Creel and anecdotal information for Area 2E.

Area 3 - Nass River

The Nass River fish wheels have been operating since early June. Current trends in Nass Chinook and Sockeye escapement appeared to be stronger than forecast at the beginning of the season, but subsequently have weakened.

As of July 8, the estimated TRTC are as follows:

- Sockeye TRTC is estimated at **417,000** (range 280k-810k) 35% of the run past with normal timing
- Chinook TRTC is estimated at **24,000** (range 19k-35k) 74% of the run past with normal timing

Water levels at the lower fish wheels remain below normal. The most recent measurements indicate below average flow.

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/>

Area 3 Net Fisheries:

There were four Sockeye targeted gill net fisheries on July 1 and 2, and again on July 7 and 8. Effort was relatively low with 101 boats on July 1, declining to 74 on July 7. The July 1 and 2 openings saw total catch of 6174 Sockeye, 3230 Pink, and 704 Chum. Preliminary information shows consistent catches, however more up to date information will be available this week. The first seine opening occurred on July 9, with a hailed effort of 13 boats. This opening was limited to one day with non-retention of Sockeye. Catch information will be available this week. July 9 marks the start of the sockeye non-retention period to protect Kwinageese Sockeye.

Fishery Operations System
Commercial SALMON GILL NET In-Season Estimated Catch-by-Area (Pieces)
 for Area C (North-PR) and
 for Period 01-Apr-2019 to 09-Jul-2019

Management Area 3

Stat Week	Week of Year	Date	Effort	Report Details by Subarea or Portion												Status
				Sockeye Kept	Sockeye Rel	Coho Kept	Coho Rel	Pink Kept	Pink Rel	Chum Kept	Chum Rel	Chinook Kept	Chinook Rel	Steelhead Rel		
		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	152	11	Reviewed	
		Total for Week	101	3997	0	0	175	182	14	117	19	0	152	11		
		01-Jul	101	4106	0	0	217	2334	6	335	46	0	211	2	Reviewed	
		02-Jul	81	2088	0	0	166	896	5	368	16	0	55	7	Reviewed	
		Total for Week	182	6174	0	0	383	3230	11	703	62	0	266	9		
		07-Jul	74	2874	0	0	116	4104	0	1056	192	0	56	3	Preliminary	
		Total for Week	74	2874	0	0	116	4104	0	1056	192	0	56	3		
		Total for Management Area 3 in Period	437	14718	0	0	798	7524	26	1887	281	0	637	39		

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

Meziadin Fishway:

The Meziadin Fishway observed 84 Sockeye to July 8. This falls below of the historic mean for this date of 2,717 adult Sockeye. At 1.26m and 20°C, water levels continue to be lower than normal, and temperatures remain significantly higher. Historic and 2019 counts will be available here: <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/northcoast-cotenord/meziadin-eng.html>

The Meziadin Sockeye in-season forecast will presented when available.

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 30, 2019. Effort was below average with 40 vessels participating. Coho, Sockeye, 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 July 7, 2019.

Species	District 1 Catch – Week 27	10-Year Average
Chinook	500	308
Sockeye	2,000	8,449
Coho	200	944
Pink	10,000	11,287
Chum	6,000	35,795
Effort	40	49
Fishing Days	4	4

District 4 Seine Fishery:

The first District 4 purse seine fishery occurred on July 7. Early reports suggest very poor fishing for all species, but more complete data will be made available next week.

Area 4 - Skeena River

The current estimate of run size based on the Tyee test fishery is 257,000 Sockeye, assuming average run timing. Should run timing be either one week early or late, the range of estimates generated falls between 120,000 and 612,000 fish. For management purposes, the 257k estimate will be used. As more data are collected these estimates will likely improve – estimates with generated probability bounds will be available after this week. While it is still relatively early in the season (with average run timing, only 11.97% of the run has passed Tyee on July 8), these low numbers are reason for a continued precautionary approach.

Tyee Test Fishery:

Sockeye escapements have remained consistent through the Tyee test fishery over the week. As of July 8, the estimated number of Large Sockeye past Tyee is 30,514 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, and well short of the decadal average.

Tyee Test Fishery Cumulative Index to July 8:

	Sockeye	Coho	Pink (odd)	Chum	Lg. Chinook	Steelhead
2019	30.1	0.13	0.85	0	33.82	0.72
2018	68.86	0	n/a	0	52.94	4.22
2017	64.91	0	0	0	30.39	1.23
2009-2018 Avg.	138.25	3.85	0.67	0	56.69	5.25

The 2019 Tye 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/skeena/tyee-eng.html>

Net Fisheries:

Commercial fisheries will be informed by in-season escapements past Tye.

Demonstration Fisheries:

The first North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society (NCSFNSS) Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework (CSAF) pink directed seine demonstration fishery opening is expected to occur later this week. An allocation for this fishery will be calculated as a share of the Area A seine commercial catch. This is a Pink targeted fishery with Chum retention, with the same fishing boundaries as the Area A fleet. Implementation of other demonstration fisheries is subject to area approval of the fishing plans.

Recreational Fisheries:

Area 3 and 4 Creel Survey

The June 2019 North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society Creel Survey results were made available last week. They performed 619 interviews totalling 1,788 anglers, with a reported catch of 1,119 Chinook and 328 Coho. These numbers are expanded and produce a catch estimate of 5,689 Chinook and 1,521 Coho for the month of June. This compares to 1,452 Chinook and 59 Coho in 2018, and 5,071 Chinook and 1,966 Coho in 2017.

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:

This week was the second week of planned Chum assessment fisheries in Area 8. Preliminary reports suggest effort increased on July 8 to ~160 vessels in the Bella Coola Gill Net Area, from 123 the week before. The July 1 fishery retained 4,237 Chum, while preliminary estimates suggest more than double that catch on July 8. Catch and effort estimates to date are listed below. Openings for next week will be announced by Fishery Notice on Thursday.

The Nuxalk Nation CSAF Demonstration Fishery did not take place last week.

Fishery Operations System

Commercial SALMON GILL NET In-Season Estimated Catch-by-Area (Pieces)
for Area C (Central) and
for Period 01-Apr-2019 to 09-Jul-2019

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	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	166	0	0	Reviewed
		Total for Week	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	166	0	0	
		17-Jun	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	0	195	0	0	Reviewed
		18-Jun	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	0	169	0	0	Reviewed
		19-Jun	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	63	0	1	Reviewed
		Total for Week	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	114	0	427	0	1	
		24-Jun	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	228	0	423	0	0	Preliminary
		25-Jun	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	412	0	570	0	0	Preliminary
		26-Jun	15	0	0	0	0	0	1	738	0	1132	0	0	Preliminary
		Total for Week	71	0	0	0	0	0	1	1376	0	2125	0	0	
		01-Jul	123	43	3	0	66	20	0	4237	0	1119	1	14	Reviewed
		Total for Week	123	43	3	0	66	20	0	4237	0	1119	1	14	
		08-Jul	88	24	5	0	70	22	4	10748	0	450	0	5	Preliminary
		Total for Week	88	24	5	0	70	22	4	10748	0	450	0	5	
		Total for Management Area 8 in Period	382	67	8	0	136	42	5	16481	0	4342	1	22	

Notes:

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

Recreational Fisheries:

Area 7 has two lodges and one charter vessel 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 had one lodge start operations on June 20th, with the remaining three lodges scheduled to open in mid-July. Area 9 has one operation working since early June, with four more scheduled to open in mid-July. Preliminary data suggests Area 9 Chinook and Coho CPUE are moderately improved from the 10 year average. Data will be provided when available.