

North Coast Salmon Update #4 - 16 July 2019

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

Areas 1 and 2 – Haida Gwaii

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 August 20th. See FN0650 for additions to coast wide Chinook reductions to address impacts on upstream Chinook passage at the Big Bar landslide on the Fraser River.

COHO - Area F Troll opened at the A-B Line for Coho and Pink retention July 1st (FN0584). There are 11 vessels currently hailed into the fishery with an average CPUE of 40.8 Coho per vessel day over the past week. Current catch is estimated to be 3,667 Coho and 2,928 Pink salmon. 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.

Table 1. Summary of Area F catch (Kept) and releases (Rel.) by week.

WEEK	End		Chinook		Coho		Pink		Sockeye		Chum	
	Date	Effort	Kept	Rel.	Kept	Rel.	Kept	Rel.	Kept	Rel.	Kept	Rel.
27	6-Jul	25	0	124	881	0	177	30	6	0	0	12
28	13-Jul	48	0	1,224	2,349	1	2,093	65	4	0	0	39
29	20-Jul	19	0	101	438	0	658	4	0	14	0	0
	Total		0	1,449	3,667	1	2,928	99	10	14	0	52

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 Table 2 on the next page.

Table 2. 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 - Sept.	1	1795	7920	120	15	15	3150	1525	1800
	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. Chinook estimates have stabilised but Sockeye estimates have been declining.

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

- Sockeye TRTC is estimated at **365,000** (range 270k-580k) 48% of the run past with normal timing
- Chinook TRTC is estimated at **24,000** (range 21k-29k) 86% of the run past with normal timing

Water levels at the lower fish wheels remain near record low.

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/>

Gill Net Fisheries

There was a one day gill net opening in Area 3 on July 16. Preliminary information shows a hailed effort of 80 boats, with preliminary reports suggesting fishing has slowed. Sockeye retention was allowed, but the boundaries were adjusted to avoid encounters of Skeena 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 16-Jul-2019

Management Area 3

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		
		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	4108	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	4198	0	0	147	6643	0	2286	171	0	77	3	Reviewed
		08-Jul	56	1797	0	0	112	3261	0	738	43	0	55	1	Reviewed
		Total for Week	130	5995	0	0	259	9904	0	3024	214	0	132	4	
Total for Management Area 3 in Period			493	17839	0	0	941	13324	26	3855	303	0	713	40	

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

Seine Fisheries

The first seine opening occurred on July 9. Fishing was slow, and did not warrant a second day. A second seine opportunity is taking place today, July 16. There are 17 boats participating in today's fishery, and preliminary reports suggest that fishing remains slow. Catch information will be available later this week. Sockeye retention was allowed, but the boundaries were adjusted to avoid encounters of Skeena Sockeye.

Fishery Operations System
Commercial SALMON SEINE In-Season Estimated Catch-by-Area (Pieces)
 for Area A (North-PR) and
 for Period 01-Apr-2019 to 16-Jul-2019

Management Area 3

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		
		09-Jul	13	0	478	0	184	5026	0	3024	0	0	69	92	Reviewed
		Total for Week	13	0	478	0	184	5026	0	3024	0	0	69	92	
Total for Management Area 3 in Period			13	0	478	0	184	5026	0	3024	0	0	69	92	

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

Demonstration Fisheries

An allocation for the NCSFNSS pink directed seine fishery was generated during the July 9 seine opening. It was decided that this allocation would be carried over and included in allocation generated from the seine opening on July 16. There is a possibility for a NCSFNSS pink directed demonstration fishery to occur towards the end of the week.

The Gitanyow Fisheries Authority have elected to proceed with a sockeye directed opening at sites on the main stem of the Nass River from Wednesday July 17 to Saturday July 20, with a modest allocation.

Meziadin Fishway

The Meziadin Fishway observed 310 Sockeye to July 14. This falls below of the historic mean for this date of 16,114 adult Sockeye. At 1.23m and 18°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 projection to the fish way based on current sockeye counts and linear regression of in-season to final counts to date from 1994 to 2018 ($r^2=0.48$): 136,000 large Sockeye (95% CI: 118,000, 154,000).

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 July 7, 2019. Effort was below average with 40 vessels participating. Catches for all species 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 14, 2019.

Species	District 1 Catch – Week 28	10-Year Average
Chinook	100	183
Sockeye	2,000	5,655
Coho	300	1,380
Pink	16,000	31,572
Chum	17,000	46,094
Effort	40	50
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. Another one day opening occurred on July 14, and while Sockeye catches remained slow, Pink catch improved. A 10-hour opening is planned for this Thursday, July 18.

Species	District 4 – Week 28	District 4 – Week 29 (to date)
Chinook	0	0
Sockeye	900	1,900
Coho	2,600	2,800
Pink	6,300	20,100
Chum	2,000	4,700
Effort	30	12
Fishing Hours	12	12

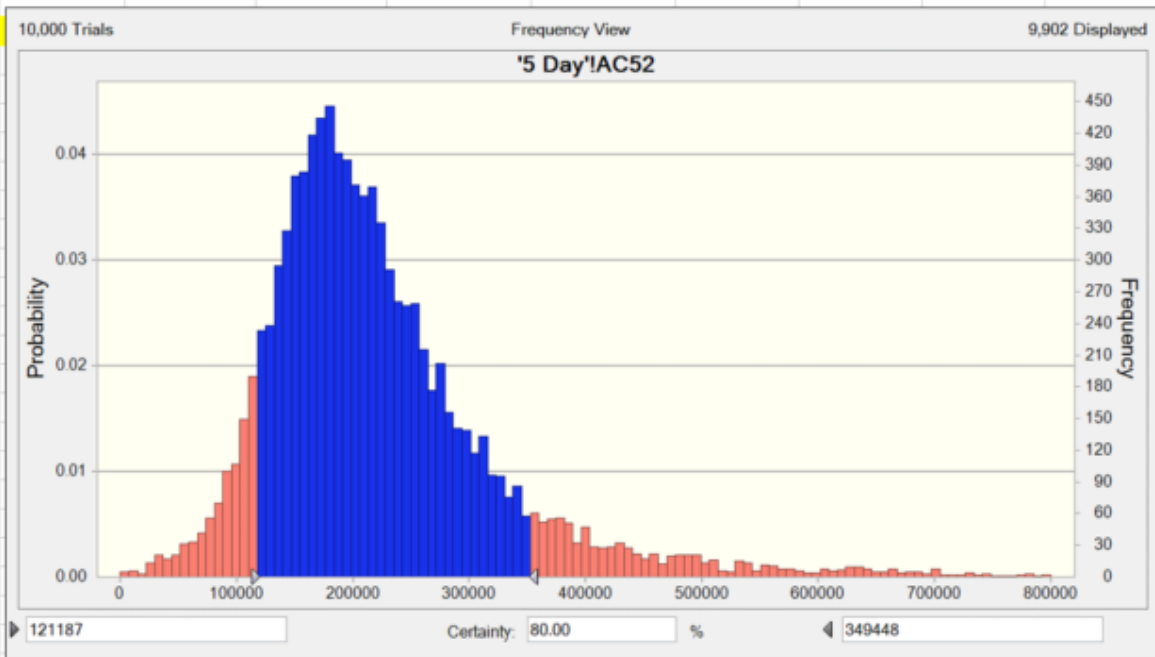
Southeast Alaska Troll

The Southeast Alaska troll fishery completed their first Chinook retention period of the season on July 5 after five days of fishing. CPUE showed significant improvement over 2018. Starting after July 5, the troll fleet has been targeting Coho. Preliminary reports suggest that both effort and catch is down from normal. To date, there have only been three landings reporting from the Boundary assessment area.

Area 4 - Skeena River

Based on results from the Tyee test fishery to July 15, the current run size estimate ranges from 121k – 349k Skeena Sockeye (80% certainty), with a mean (point) estimate of 242,081. With average run timing, 25.6% of the run has passed Tyee on July 15.

2019 Inseason TRTC								
To July 15								
Species	Stock	Escape Target	2019 Inseason Run Size Estimate Prob. (TRTC)					
			TRTC	Median				
				10%	25%	50%	75%	90%
Sockeye	Skeena	1,050,000	Mean	349,448	264,543	242,081	156,420	121,187
			Median					



TRTC run size probability distribution to July 15, 2019: Shaded = 80% Certainty Range.

Tyee Test Fishery

Sockeye escapements have remained relatively consistent through the Tyee test fishery over the week. As of July 15, the estimated number of Large Sockeye past Tyee is 61,505 fish. While escapements have slightly improved in the last couple of days, a significant increase would be required to exceed the identified conservation target of 400k. The index values of Chinook

encountered to date are lower than this point in 2018, although continue to track higher than this date in 2017, and short of the decadal average.

Tyee Test Fishery Cumulative Index to July 15:

	Sockeye	Coho	Pink (odd)	Chum	Lg. Chinook	Steelhead
2019	60.68	0.26	8.16	0.15	50.41	1.77
2018	244.71	0.17	n/a	0.48	70.41	29.97
2017	130.76	0.19	0.32	0.5	37.97	3.37
2009-2018 Avg.	293.99	0.24	16.97	0.08	70.41	15.87

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/skeenatyee-eng.html>

Net Fisheries

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

Demonstration Fisheries

No Area 4 demonstration fisheries are anticipated at this time.

Recreational Fisheries

Due to the very poor in-season forecast Total Return to Canada estimates for Skeena Sockeye, from July 11, all recreational fishing for Sockeye in Area 4 and 5, as well as the Skeena River Watershed has been closed, until further notice.

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

Area 6 commercial opportunities will be directly informed by in-season assessments of abundance.

Areas 7 to 10 - Central Coast

Net Fisheries

There was a one day Chum targeted fishery for both gill net and seine in Area 8 on July 15. 192 gill net vessels participated in the opening, with preliminary Chum catch being ~103 fish per boat. 16 seines participated in fishery, with preliminary averages of 499 Chum and 47 pinks.

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

Management Area 8

Stat Week	Week of Year	Date	Effort	Report Details by Subarea or Portion										Status	
				Sockeye Salmon		Coho Salmon		Pink Salmon		Chum Salmon		Chinook Salmon			Steelhead
				Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	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	226	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	165	55	7	0	167	63	4	20074	0	843	2	11	Reviewed
		Total for Week	165	55	7	0	167	63	4	20074	0	843	2	11	
		15-Jul	83	42	2	0	198	25	1	8682	0	384	0	7	Preliminary
		Total for Week	83	42	2	0	198	25	1	8682	0	384	0	7	
		Total for Management Area 8 in Period	542	140	12	0	431	108	6	34489	0	5119	3	35	

Notes:

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

Recreational Tidal Fisheries

Area 7 has two lodges and two charter operators going so far this year. Area 8 had one lodge start operations on June 20th, with the remaining three lodges opening this week. We are waiting to receive data from this area at this time. Area 9 has had one operation working since early June, two that started at the end of last week and 2 more scheduled to open next week. For both Area 7 & Area 9, preliminary data shows improved catches over last year and when compared to the 10 year average for Chinook and improved catches over last year for Coho. The preliminary data indicates that the Coho CPUE for the past few weeks is better than last year but is currently below the 10 year average.

Data will be provided when available.