

North Coast Salmon Update #5 - 23 July 2019

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

Areas 1 and 2 – Haida Gwaii

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 (FN0682). 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) and then expanded to open Dixon Entrance and parts of Hecate Strait on July 17th (FN0604). Effort averaged 101 vessels over the first 5 days of the opening with an average CPUE of 93 Coho per vessel day. Current catch is estimated to be 47,855 Coho and 13,505 Pink salmon.

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	45	0	1,065	2,119	1	1,698	64	3	0	0	34
29	20-Jul	383	0	7,735	37,256	150	9,027	2,038	0	124	0	201
30	27-Jul	203	0	2,084	7,599	13	2,603	192	0	19	0	77
	Total		0	11,007	47,855	164	13,505	2,325	9	143	0	323

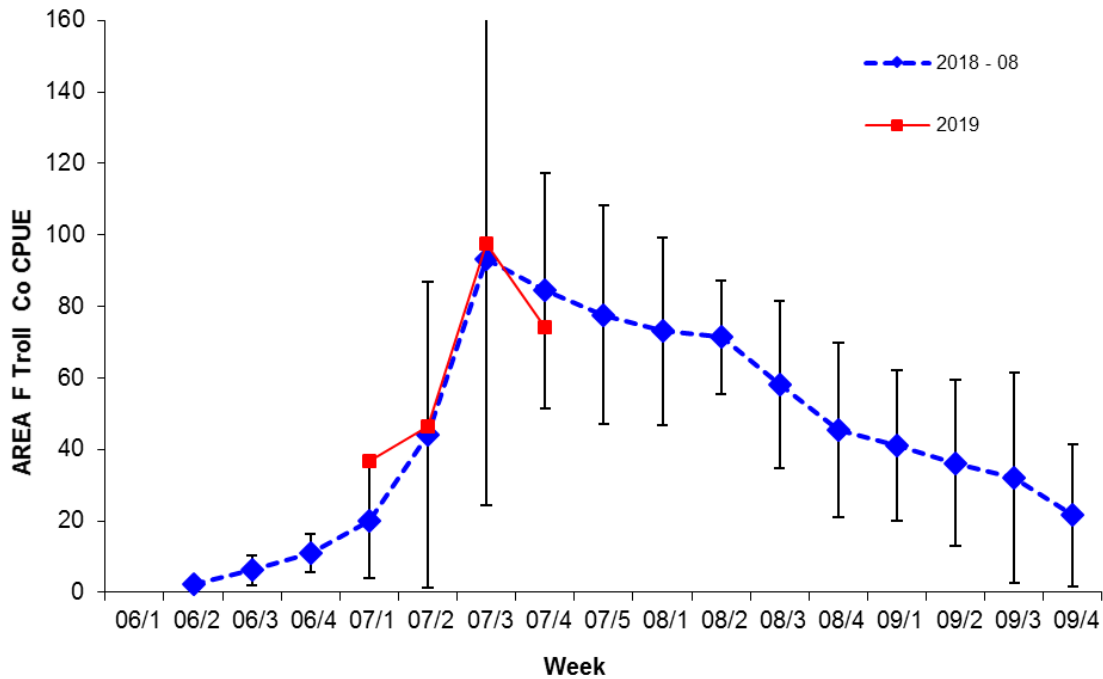


Figure 1: Area F troll coho interceptions per vessel day (CPUE includes retained + releases) by week. Blue diamonds represent mean weekly CPUE for last decade. Black vertical bars represent 1 S.D. Red squares represent 2019 mean values.

Central Coast Limited Entry Coho Demo Fishery

This demonstration fishery was first implemented in 2016 as part of the work to implement updates to the Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework (CSAF). The purpose of this demo fishery is to permit a small scale opportunity for a limited number of vessels to access Coho and Pink salmon in Areas 6, 7 and 8 during the month of August and to gather stock composition data where there is currently poor biological information available. This fishery is a limited effort fishery where effort will be limited to 4 vessels in Area 6 and 3 vessels in Areas 7 to 8 for 2 week periods during the month of August. A random draw was used to select and rank order vessels by time period and area (FN0659). Refer to a following opening notice later this week for details.

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 below.

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

As of July 21, the estimated TRTC are as follows:

- Sockeye TRTC is estimated at **346,000** (range 270k-490k) 59% of the run past with normal timing
- Chinook TRTC is estimated at **24,000** (range 21k-27k) 91% of the run past with normal timing

Water levels at the lower fish wheels remain near record low, while the current temperature is slightly below historical mean to date.

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

The one day gill net opening in Area 3 on July 16 showed a hailed effort of 74 boats. The resulted showed that fishing was similar to the previous week with low catches of Sockeye and Chum, and moderate catches of Pink. Sockeye retention was allowed, but the boundaries were adjusted to avoid encounters of Skeena Sockeye. There were no gill net openings this week.

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 23-Jul-2019

Management Area 3		Report Details by Subarea or Portion											Status	
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	
		17-Jun	80	1673	0	0	124	8	1	11	8	0	163	Reviewed
		Total for Week	80	1673	0	0	124	8	1	11	8	0	163	
		24-Jun	101	3697	0	0	175	182	14	117	19	0	152	Reviewed
		Total for Week	101	3697	0	0	175	182	14	117	19	0	152	
		01-Jul	101	4106	0	0	217	2334	6	335	46	0	211	Reviewed
		02-Jul	81	2068	0	0	166	896	5	368	16	0	55	Reviewed
		Total for Week	182	6174	0	0	383	3230	11	703	62	0	266	
		07-Jul	74	4166	0	0	147	6543	0	2266	171	0	77	Reviewed
		08-Jul	56	1797	0	0	112	3261	0	738	43	0	55	Reviewed
		Total for Week	130	5965	0	0	259	9804	0	3024	214	0	132	
		16-Jul	74	1946	0	0	101	6168	80	434	134	0	34	Reviewed
		Total for Week	74	1946	0	0	101	6168	80	434	134	0	34	
Total for Management Area 3 in Period			567	19785	0	0	1042	16522	106	4289	437	0	747	

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

Seine Fisheries

A one day opening occurred on July 22. Fishing effort increased from 13 boats participating in the first opening on July 9, to 24 boats yesterday. Sockeye retention was not permitted due to conservation measures. Fishing was slow and catch totals were the lowest compared to the previous two openings this season, thus a second day did not proceed.

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 23-Jul-2019

Management Area 3		Report Details by Subarea or Portion											Status	
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	
		06-Jul	13	0	476	0	184	5026	0	3024	0	0	69	Reviewed
		Total for Week	13	0	476	0	184	5026	0	3024	0	0	69	
		16-Jul	21	321	0	0	343	17069	0	8220	0	0	99	Reviewed
		Total for Week	21	321	0	0	343	17069	0	8220	0	0	99	
		22-Jul	24	0	88	0	108	1888	0	616	0	0	40	Preliminary
		Total for Week	24	0	88	0	108	1888	0	616	0	0	40	
Total for Management Area 3 in Period			58	321	564	0	635	23963	0	11660	0	0	208	

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

Demonstration Fisheries

The NCSFSNS pink directed seine fishery proceeded on July 18th and 19th with the same boundaries and retention rules as previous Area A openings. One vessel participated in this opening. The Department allowed for the allocation be exceeded in this opening in recognition that further allocation would be generated and applied to the overage from the Area A seine opening on July 22nd.

The Gitanyow Fisheries Authority sockeye directed demonstration fishery was licenced to occur in the Nass mainstem July 17th – 20th.

Meziadin Fishway

The Meziadin Fishway observed 2,406 Sockeye to July 22. This falls below of the historic mean for this date of 41,080 adult Sockeye. At 1.18m and 16°C, water levels continue to be lower than normal, and temperatures remain higher; however these values are approaching normal. 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 ($r^2=0.73$): 121,000 large Sockeye (95% CI: 106,000, 136,000).

Kwinageese Weir

Kwinageese weir total counts to July 20 are 9 Chinook (1 tagged) and 7 Bull Trout. Approximate historical mean counts for date: 65 chinook and 18 sockeye.

Alaska Fisheries

District 1 Gill Net Fishery

The District 1 gill net fishery in Alaska opened for four days of fishing commencing on July 14, 2019. Effort was below average with 40 vessels participating. Catches for all species were below the 10-year average. General reports indicated that fishing has continued to be slow throughout Southeast Alaska, not just in the Ketchikan area. Pink escapements have been improving in most of the District 1 systems. The Tree Point fishery opened for two days in Section 1-B starting July 21, and has been extended for an additional two days.

Species	District 1 Catch – Week 29	10-Year Average
Chinook	30	110
Sockeye	1,000	4,400
Coho	200	1,500
Pink	20,000	34,000
Chum	14,000	36,000
Effort	40	48
Fishing Days	4	4

District 4 Seine Fishery

Week 29 saw two fisheries in District 4. The second opening was shorter, and pink catches improved from earlier in the week. Due to poor returns of Skeena Sockeye, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has suspended seine fisheries in District 4.

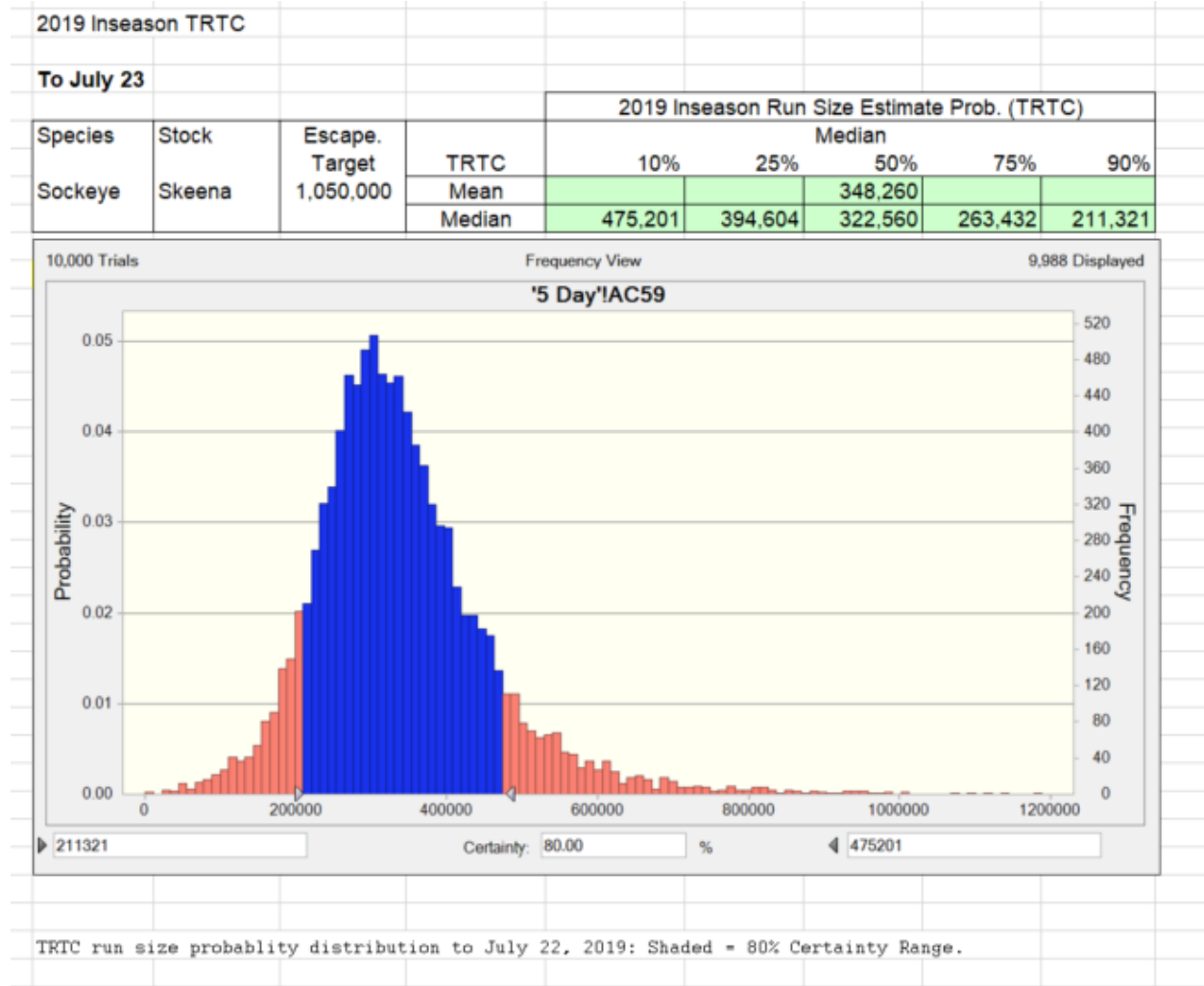
Species	District 4 – Week 29 (Jul 14)	District 4 – Week 29 (Jul 18)
Chinook	0	0
Sockeye	1,900	6,000
Coho	2,800	3,500
Pink	20,100	78,000
Chum	4,700	6,500
Effort	12	16
Fishing Hours	12	10

Southeast Alaska Troll

Southern Inside Troll Area 6 Coho CPUE showed improvement from initial weeks from the end of the initial chinook retention period, but is still below historical averages for the mean average CPUE.

Area 4 - Skeena River

Based on results from the Tyee test fishery to July 22, the current run size estimate ranges from 211k – 475k Skeena Sockeye (80% certainty), with a mean (point) estimate of 348,260. With average run timing, 45.2% of the run has passed Tyee on July 22.



Tyee Test Fishery

Sockeye escapements have increased slightly through the Tyee test fishery over the week. As of July 22, the estimated number of Large Sockeye past Tyee is 156,549 fish. The TRTC estimates are still expected to be below 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 22:

	Sockeye	Coho	Pink (odd)	Chum	Lg. Chinook	Steelhead
2019	154.48	2.60	32.80	0.59	68.94	80.48
2018	586.26	0.82	n/a	1.64	87.37	29.97
2017	288.23	2.11	18.59	2.26	45.14	7.56
2009-2018 Avg.	632.25	1.76	165.01	1.45	86.89	25.00

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.

July Creel updates will be made available in early August. Kistumkalum Creel will be shared when available.

Kitwanga Weir

The Gitanyow Fisheries Authority will be operating the Kitwanga weir again this year. Data will be shared when available. 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.

Babine Fence

The Babine fence began operations on July 12. As of July 21, a total of 2,564 Sockeye have been counted, as well as 65 jacks. Water temperatures have ranged from 13.7 – 15.4 °C and levels from 0.79-0.86 meters.

Sustut Weir

The Province of BC will be operating the Sustut weir this year. It is expected to be operational on August 1.

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. 195 gill net vessels participated in the opening, Chum catch being ~103 fish per boat. 16 seines participated in fishery, with preliminary averages of 469 Chum and 46 Pinks.

Fishery Operations System
Commercial SALMON SEINE In-Season Estimated Catch-by-Area (Pieces)
 for Area A (Central) and
 for Period 01-Apr-2019 to 23-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		
		15-Jul	15	0	195	0	316	692	0	7038	0	0	140	11	Preliminary
		Total for Week	15	0	195	0	316	692	0	7038	0	0	140	11	
Total for Management Area 8 in Period			15	0	195	0	316	692	0	7038	0	0	140	11	

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

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 23-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	160	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	178	87	12	0	298	62	1	18312	0	867	1	11	Reviewed
		Total for Week	178	87	12	0	298	62	1	18312	0	867	1	11	
Total for Management Area 8 in Period			637	165	22	0	531	145	6	44119	0	5602	4	39	

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

For the week of July 21 – 27, 2019 there will be no commercial opportunity in Area 8. Assessments to date have not observed any significant numbers of Chum salmon within the Bella Coola River or tributary creeks.

Concerns over the current low numbers and the potential for poor Chum return to the Bella Coola River and Area 8 systems warrants a precautionary approach.

Water conditions on the local systems have improved and daily assessments are being conducted. Further openings will be subject to the results of those assessments.

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

Recreational Tidal Fisheries

Recreational Tidal Fisheries:

Area 7 has two lodges and three charter operators this year. Preliminary data for Chinook shows a similar catch to last year and an improvement over the 10 year average catch/week up to Week 29 (July 14 to 20). The Chinook CPUE in Area 7 is stronger than last year and the 10 year average. Preliminary data for Coho shows improved catches over last year and indicates that the Coho CPUE for the past few weeks is better than last year but is currently below the 10 year average.

Area 8 (Hakai Pass) has four lodges operating this year. Preliminary data for Chinook shows a lower catch than last year and an improvement over the 10 year average up to Week 29 (July 14 to 20). The Chinook CPUE in Area 8 started lower this season (between Weeks 25 & 27) and has increased to be above last year & the 10 year average in Weeks 28 & 29. Preliminary data for Coho shows similar catches to last year and indicates that the Coho CPUE for the past few weeks is better than last year and the 10 year average.

Area 9 has 4 public lodges and one private lodge operating this year. Preliminary data for Chinook shows slightly lower catches than last year and an improvement over the 10 year average catch/week up to Week 29 (July 14 to 20). The Chinook CPUE in Area 9 has fluctuated above and below last year's weekly CPUE but remains above the 10 year average. Preliminary data for Coho shows improved catches over last year and indicates that the weekly Coho CPUE is better than last year and is currently above the 10 year average for Weeks 28 & 29.

Data will be provided when available.