



North Coast Salmon Update #11 – 6 September, 2022

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

On June 29th, 2021, under the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI), Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced significant commercial salmon closures for the 2021 season. These closures were implemented on an interim basis in 2021 with a commitment to review fisheries for potential longer term closures for 2022. Decisions on fisheries identified for longer-term closures or additional mitigation requirements are provided in Appendix 10 of the IFMP.

More information on PSSI can be found at: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/campaign-campagne/pss-ssp/index-eng.html>

The 2022/23 Northern Salmon IFMP is now available at the following link: <https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/41061093.pdf>

North Coast Troll

The Area F Troll full fleet Chinook Salmon ITQ opening started on Wednesday, August 10th and is scheduled to continue until September 30th. Estimated catch information up to statistical week 36 can be found in Table 1. Participation in this opening is expected to decline to just a few vessels by mid-September.

Table 1. Weekly estimates of effort, catches, and releases in the North Coast Troll salmon fishery.

Area F Troll - 2022 Estimated Weekly Catch and Release by Species												
WEEK	End Date	Effort	Chinook		Coho		Pink		Sockeye		Chum	
			Kept	Rel.	Kept	Rel.	Kept	Rel.	Kept	Rel.	Kept	Rel.
27	2-Jul	9	0	61	583	0	937	0	0	0	0	23
28	9-Jul	57	0	273	3,894	1	10,066	0	11	0	0	75
29	16-Jul	64	0	174	7,059	0	12,690	121	60	8	0	57
30	23-Jul	108	0	673	10,522	2	18,300	279	75	12	0	72
31	30-Jul	98	0	1,286	9,202	3	15,549	872	81	2	0	130
32	6-Aug	99	0	604	5,128	28	16,511	377	27	3	0	151
33	13-Aug	387	20,886	2,721	22,981	115	7,470	4,008	222	897	0	2,264
34	20-Aug	608	16,425	3,179	21,969	20	6,270	5,092	0	974	0	2,644
35	27-Aug	492	14,308	2,293	13,075	41	3,710	2,429	0	513	0	1,537
36	3-Sep	183	2,701	834	5,550	5	434	320	0	118	0	321
Total		2,105	54,320	12,098	99,963	215	91,937	13,498	476	2,527	0	7,274

Note: Effort is reported in vessels-days

Areas 1 & 2 - Haida Gwaii

Terminal Salmon Assessments:

Area 1 and 2 terminal salmon assessments started in the second week of August with a focus on dominant year Pink salmon returns. Assessments of the marine areas have indicated moderate Pink salmon abundance throughout Areas 1 and 2 but no harvestable surplus opportunities were identified. Terminal salmon assessments are ongoing including Pink salmon escapement estimates through September. Chum salmon assessments will also start in mid-September and continue until late October. Terminal salmon assessment updates are provided by Fishery Notice ([FN0914](#), [FN0938](#), [FN0970](#)).



Recreational:

Area 1 and 2 recreational catch estimates are derived from two data sources including the Haida Fisheries creel monitoring program and the DFO logbook catch reporting program, which includes participation from all six of the major lodges operating in 2022. June catch estimates by area and species are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. 2022 Preliminary estimates of recreational fishing catch for Haida Gwaii (Areas 1 and 2). s

2022			Catch By Species							
Month	Area	Effort (Boat trips)	Coho	Chinook	Pink	Sockeye	Chum	Halibut	Lingcod	Rockfish
June	1	4,247	1,321	5,005	879	11	117	4,031	2,839	945
	2E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2W	967	93	2,289	2	0	22	1,236	2,377	654
	June Total	5,214	1,414	7,294	881	11	139	5,267	5,216	1,599

Note: Catch estimates are preliminary and subject to revision.

Preliminary rough estimates of July recreational catch in Area 1, based on fly in Lodge logbook reports and typical catch ratios by community based anglers, are 4,700 Chinook, 14,500 Coho, 400 Pink, 25 Sockeye and 250 Chum salmon. Estimates for non-salmon species include 4,400 Halibut and 2,800 Lingcod.

Revised July catch estimates for Area 1 and estimates for Area 2W will be provided once the Haida Creel estimates become available. Recreational catch estimates for August will be available once all the major fly in lodges have submitted their logbook data in the next several days.

Area 3 - Nass River

The Nass River fish wheels have been operating since June 1. High-water and discharge rates (>2500- 3000 m³/s) occurred from June 1-13, 18-23, and June 26 to July 6. During this period, one or both of the fishwheels were shut down and salmon movement upstream is expected to be very limited, confirmed with abundance monitoring programs upstream in Grease Harbour.

In-season run size estimates past the Gitwinksihlkw fishwheels are shown in Table 3. The current in-season TRTC Nass Sockeye forecast is from 479 to 490k (95% confidence intervals) with a point estimate of 484k. Current estimates of Nass Chinook suggest a return of 21k (21k – 22k, 95% confidence interval). The TRTC estimates for Coho, Pink, and Chum salmon are 188k (176k to 200k, 95% confidence interval); 479k (289k to 669k, 95% confidence interval), and 85k (63k to 106k, 95% confidence interval), respectively.

Table 3. Nass Gitwinksihlkw fishwheel in-season run size estimate to date on September 4, 2022, and historical average cumulative catch (2000-2021) to date.

Year	Sockeye	Chinook	Coho	Steelhead
2022	441,755	14,424	115,277	7,225
1994-2021 Avg.	282,000	18,800	79,252	10,150

*Data provided by Nisga'a Lisims Government Fisheries and Wildlife Department.



Water levels at the Gitwinksihlkw Fishwheels on September 4, 2022, are approximately 1.1 m higher than mean water levels from 1994-2021 (2.5 m vs 1.4 m). Water temperatures are 0.9°C warmer than the 1994-2021 average (9.8 °C vs 8.9°C).

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: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0jrnv9ucslmxvbz/AAA2FqFre2BomarTx6oHnvIEa?dl=0>.

Nisga’a Fisheries

The total harvest summary of Nass salmon and Steelhead to August in all Nisga’a fisheries can be found in Table 4. The marine sale fishery proceed for four days to date on August 10, 11, 13, and 14.

Table 4. Nisga’a fisheries harvest summary for 2022 to date.

Fishery	Sockeye	Chinook	Coho	Pink-even	Chum	Steelhead
Marine Sale Fishery	1,547	CLOSED	623	5,088	358	CLOSED
In-river Sale Fishery	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
NGL Communal Selective Treaty Fishery - Fishwheels	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
NGL Communal Selective Treaty Fishery – Seine	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Domestic FSC Gillnet Fishery*	41,244	3,925	1,552	5,631	101	139
NGL Sockeye Demonstration Fishery Harvest	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Grand Total	42,681	3,917	2,123	10,699	457	131

*Week end September 3, preliminary

Meziadin Fishway:

The Meziadin Fishway operations began on July 1. To date, 317,632 Sockeye salmon have been counted at the fishway, over double the 1994-2021 cumulative count to date (Table 5). Chinook abundance remains low to date compared to longer-term average (Table 5).

Table 5. Cumulative Meziadin fishway counts to date and mean cumulative adult count to date (September 5).

Year	Sockeye	Chinook	Coho	Steelhead
2022	317,632	76	2,809	1
1994-2021 Avg.	144,006	277	1,274	2

*Data provided by Nisga’a Lisims Government Fisheries and Wildlife Department.



Meziadin River water levels are higher than the long-term average to date at 1.31 m (1998 – 2021 average for this date = 1.20 m). Water temperatures are above the long-term average to date at 15.0°C (13.9°C, 1999-2021).

Historic and 2022 counts will be available here:

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

Kwinageese Weir:

The Kwinageese Weir, operated by the Nisga’a Fish and Wildlife department, began salmon enumeration via video-counts on July 22 and scheduled to end operations on October 15. As of September 4, 660 Chinook and 4,617 sockeye salmon have been counted at the weir (Table 6).

Table 6. Cumulative Kwinageese weir counts to date (August 28) and mean cumulative adult count to date.

Year	Sockeye	Chinook	Coho	Steelhead
2022	4,617	660	1,147	48
Longer-term Avg. ¹	4,140	705	150	6

¹Longer-term averages calculated from 2002, 2005, 2006, 2011-2021.

*Data provided by Nisga’a Lisims Government Fisheries and Wildlife Department.

Alaska Fisheries

District 1 Gill Net Fishery:

The district 1 (D1) gill net fishery in Alaska opened for four days of fishing in week 36 commencing on August 28, 2022, catch information is below (Table 7). The D1 fishery opened at noon on September 4, 2022, for an additional four days of fishing.

Table 7. Alaskan D1 gill net fishery harvest and catch per effort (CPUE) for stat week 36 in 2022, stat week 36 the 10-year average catch and effort, and the cumulative catch for 2022.

Species	District 1 Catch – Week 36 (CPUE)	10-Year Average (CPUE)	2022 Cumulative Total to Date
Chinook	0	7	1,785
Sockeye	100	405 (3)	25,500
Coho	2,500 (42)	8,360 (55)	11,800
Pink	6,500 (108)	4,160 (27)	330,100
Chum	10,000 (167)	11,091 (73)	285,800
Effort	15	36	362
Fishing Days	4	4.2	48

*Data provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

District 4 Seine Fishery:

The district 4 (D4) purse seine fishery closed on August 26 for the remainder of the 2022 season.

Table 8. Alaskan D4 purse seine fishery harvest in 2022 and ten year average.

	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Boats	Hours
2022 Cumulative Total to Date	12,600	454,000	65,700	2,374,000	326,300	332	329



2012-2021 Average Total	6,935	288,835	75,452	5,383,204	171,544	324	322
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**Data provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game*

More information on Southeast Alaskan fisheries is available here:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishing.main>

Area 4 - Skeena River

Based on results from the Tye test fishery to September 5, the estimated Total Return to Canada for Skeena Sockeye is 4.25 million. Based on average run timing (1985-2021), 99.63% of the run is estimated to have passed Tye by September 5. If the run is one week early the estimated TRTC is 4.23 million. If the run is one week late, the estimated TRTC is 4.38 million.

Tye Test Fishery:

The test fishery began operation on June 10th, 2022. As of September 5, the estimated number of Large Sockeye past Tye is 3,494,096. Cumulative 2022 index values to date for all salmon species are listed in Table 9.

Table 9. Tye test fishery cumulative index as of September 5, 2022, and longer-term averages (2000-2009; 2010-2019; and 2017-2021) to date.

Year	Sockeye	Coho	Pink (even)	Chum	Lg. Chinook	Steelhead
2022	2,819.71	48.49	453.85	35.05	150.04	62.31
2021	870.29	45.94	-	7.67	76.48	21.55
2020	1,075.52	35.04	190.47	4.91	84.95	61.14
2019	644.10	37.04	-	42.36	91.55	62.66
2018	1,375.06	14.50	54.92	30.88	105.00	176.85
2017-2021 Avg. to date	989.88	38.98	122.70	22.36	83.60	78.60
2010-2019 Avg. to date	1,393.05	44.71	372.89*	37.72	119.78	132.09
2000-2009 Avg. to date	2,207.43	76.39	286.98*	50.51	283.38	150.64

**Even years only*

The 2022 Tye test fishery daily and cumulative sockeye escapement estimate data, along with 2022 daily and cumulative escapement indices by species, are available here:

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

CSAF Demonstration Fisheries and Excess to Salmon Spawning Requirements:

Three ESSR fisheries in the Skeena River watershed have been approved in 2022: Babine Jack Sockeye, Babine Large Sockeye, and Bulkley River Pink. The Bulkley River Pink ESSR opened on July 20 (FN 0762) and closed for the balance of the season on August 31, with 56 Pinks harvested. The Babine Jack Sockeye ESSR opened at the Babine River counting fence August 4 – 10 with a total harvest of 363 pieces, August 11 – 24 with a total harvest to date of 1,607 pieces, and again August 25 – September 7 with a total harvest to September 5 of 1,021 pieces,



closing for the balance of the season September 7. The Babine Lake Large Sockeye ESSR fishery, targeting enhanced Fulton River spawning channel fish, opened on August 19 (FN0921) with a preliminary estimated catch of 99,150 Sockeye, current to September 5.

Babine Fence:

The Babine Fence began operations on July 16 in 2022. As of September 5, a total of 2,732,558 large sockeye have been counted, which includes both escapement and harvested large Sockeye (Table 10). In the past seven days of fence operation, water levels and temperatures have ranged from 0.7 – 0.84 m and 15.2 – 17.9°C, respectively.

Table 10. Cumulative Babine Fence counts (total escapement and harvest) to date (September 5).

Year	Sockeye (Jack)	Chinook (Jack)	Coho	Pink	Steelhead
2022	2,732,558 (87,821)	1,765 (557)	6,747	46,171	25

**Data provided by Lake Babine Nation*

Historic and 2022 counts will be available here:

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

Kitwanga Weir:

The Gitanyow Fisheries Authority are operating the Kitwanga weir again this year. The fence became fish tight on July 23. Additionally, the Kitwanga smolt fence will be used to count adult Sockeye through a camera system. As of August 26, a total of 1,034 Sockeye have been counted at the smolt fence (KsF). As of August 29, a total of 576 Sockeye have passed the Kitwanga River adult salmon enumeration facility (KSEF) (Table 13). There have been 966 Chinook counted past KSEF as of August 29 (Table 11). Based on average run timing for Kitwanga Sockeye, and Chinook approximately 51.9% and 94.9% of the run should have passed the KSEF, respectively.

Table 11. Cumulative KSEF salmon counts to date (August 29).

Year	Sockeye	Chinook	Pink	Chum	Coho
2022	576	966	10,128	209	218

**Data provided by Gitanyow Fisheries Authority*

Updates provided by the Gitanyow Fisheries Authority will be available here:

www.gitanyowfisheries.com

Sustut Weir:

The Province of BC installed the Sustut Weir on August 1, cumulative number of fish counted to August 28 are below (Table 12).

Table 12. Sustut weir salmon counts to date (August 28).

Year	Sockeye	Chinook	Coho
2022	2,122	537	51

**Data provided by Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Fish and Wildlife Branch.*



Areas 7 to 10 - Central Coast

Central Coast Assessments & Charter Patrol:

Fish management overflight assessments of the Central Coast continued on Sep 1. The Dean, Kimsquit, Kwatna and Koeye Rivers were observed. Viewing conditions were poor on the Dean and Kimsquit due to turbid water. Pink and Chum numbers continue to be below average in Kwatna and Koeye. The next assessment flight is scheduled for September 8.

Charter patrol continues to report low abundance of salmon in Area 7 key streams. The first overflight is scheduled for Sep 7.

Snootli Creek hatchery completed the Bella Coola Chum egg take last week and is now focusing its efforts on the Atnarko River Chinook.

Nuxalk Nation led lower tributary Chum creek walks complete, but a formal escapement estimate will not available until later in the season.

Recreational Fisheries:

For the 2022 season, there are 13 recreational operations occurring in Areas 7-9. Angler count and catch information currently available to August 31 is provided in Table 13, data is incomplete with not all operator’s catch information submitted at this time. Data subject to change upon receipt of additional catch reports and/or edits.

Table 13. 2022 Central Coast (Areas 7-9) recreational operator’s catch and effort information.

STAT WEEK	No. of Anglers	Coho		Chinook		Pink	Chum
		Marked	Unmarked	Marked	Unmarked		
20-23	150	0	3	0	33	0	0
24	397	0	6	18	195	0	0
25	568	0	43	32	281	0	0
26	528	0	97	37	221	1	0
27	573	0	96	26	192	1	0
28	968	0	176	19	234	14	2
29	1,339	0	725	27	272	62	2
30	1,526	0	842	13	204	89	1
31	1,568	2	616	12	214	69	2
32	1,518	1	1,122	20	299	117	8
33	1,719	3	1,658	23	322	105	22
34	1,370	1	1,956	16	338	20	8
35	1,152	2	1,374	5	221	13	11
Grand Total	11,450	9	6,801	248	2,634	428	55



The Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xai'xais, Nuxalk, and Wuikinuxv Nations, under the direction of the Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance (CCIRA) continue to collect data through a creel survey and over-flight program. The program will assess recreational and First Nations' Food, Social, and Ceremonial (FSC) fisheries in marine portions of Areas 6 to 9, and in the Bella Coola River system within freshwater Region 5B Survey. Survey work will occur through September, 2022. Recreational and Indigenous fishers should be aware that they may be approached by creel surveyors from the Nations to collect important data from these fisheries.