

North Coast Salmon Update #3 - 10 July 2018

Please note that catch numbers and estimates are preliminary.

North Coast Troll

The 2018 Area F Troll Chinook TAC is 93,900 pieces. Management measures have been taken to reduce impacts on expected low returns of Chinook. This fishery is managed to the maximum 3.2% exploitation objective on WCVI Chinook using an Effort - Harvest Relationship Management Tool. The A-B line Coho fishery has been open since July 1. The northern troll fishery opens today (See FN0516). Preliminary catch data is anticipated for next week.

Areas 1 & 2 - Haida Gwaii

Recreational Fisheries:

To address Chinook conservation concerns, DFO has implemented a precautionary 25-35% reduction in exploitation rates for Chinook stocks of concern to support conservation and promote rebuilding.

Restrictions to Chinook targeted recreational fisheries in Areas 1 and 2, and those waters west of Rose Spit were relaxed on July 10, with a limit of two chinook per day. Please see FN0555 for more details.

Summary of Recreational Catch and Effort in Areas 1 and 2:

Date	Avg. Anglers	Avg. Boats	Chinook Unmarked	Chinook Marked	Coho Marked	Coho Unmarked
May	16.4	7.4	548	59	0	2
Jun	52.9	22.5	4249	254	5	1779
Total	43.0	18.5	4797	313	5	1781

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 343,000 (75% probability) to 415,000 (25% probability) and a point estimate of 377,000 (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 June 1. In-season projections have declined over the last week. As of July 9, the estimated Sockeye TRTC is now at **250,000** (with a range of 170k-470k), and the Chinook TRTC is at **12,000** (with a range of 9k-18k). These TRTC are based on harvest and run size data and mean run timing to date (Sockeye 37% and Chinook 73%) to Area 3 with standard deviation range estimates from 1994 to 2017 returns.

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 was two days of gill net fishing in Area 3 on July 2-3. These were Sockeye targeted openings, with no Chinook retention allowed. Fishing improved from the previous week with increases in both Sockeye and Chum catch; however, overall fishing was slow. The Kwinageese closure is now in effect, and there will be no gill net opportunities in Area 3 from July 9-22.

Area 3 Gill Net Summary:

Management Area 3

[Report Details by Subarea or Portion](#)

Stat Week	Week of Year	Date	Effort	Sockeye Salmon		Coho Salmon		Pink Salmon		Chum Salmon		Chinook Salmon		Steelhead
				Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Rel
		25-Jun	120	3521	0	8	1	0	0	1254	36	0	169	4
		26-Jun	57	1285	0	0	0	9	0	364	8	0	38	4
		Total for Week	177	4806	0	8	1	9	0	1618	44	0	207	8
		02-Jul	103	3770	0	36	2	306	1	5119	455	0	84	8
		03-Jul	99	3051	0	49	2	503	6	1769	25	0	50	11
		Total for Week	202	6821	0	85	4	809	7	6888	480	0	134	19
		Total for Management Area 3 in Period	379	11627	0	93	5	818	7	8506	524	0	341	27

Notes:

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

The first seine opportunity took place in Area 3 on July 5. This was a Pink targeted fishery. There will be another seine opportunity on Wednesday, July 11. This fishery will not include sockeye retention.

Area 3 Seine Summary:

Management Area 3

[Report Details by Subarea or Portion](#)

Stat Week	Week of Year	Date	Effort	Sockeye Salmon		Coho Salmon		Pink Salmon		Chum Salmon		Chinook Salmon		Steelhead
				Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Rel
		05-Jul	21	141	0	9	1	285	0	1237	0	0	95	50
		Total for Week	21	141	0	9	1	285	0	1237	0	0	95	50
		Total for Management Area 3 in Period	21	141	0	9	1	285	0	1237	0	0	95	50

Notes:

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

Meziadin Fishway

The Meziadin Fishway started operating on June 30 and have observed 548 Sockeye by July 11. This falls well short of the historic mean for this date of 5,959 adult Sockeye. Historic and 2018 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

Tree Point Gill Net Fishery

The Tree Point gill net fishery in Alaska opened for four days of fishing commencing on July 8, 2018 (Week 28). Preliminary reports suggest that terminal Chum harvests in Nakat Inlet continue to be the primary driver for the fishery. A summary table of the Tree Point gill net harvest to date shows consistent effort in the three openings prior to this week.

Week	District	Days Open	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
Week 25	District 1	4	34	450	1,100	40	20	7,500
Week 26	District 1	4	30	470	1,800	40	25	13,000
Week 27	District 1	4	36	200	1,500	100	1,500	22,000

Summary of 2018 Tree Point Gill Net Fisheries (source – Alaska Department of Fish and Game)

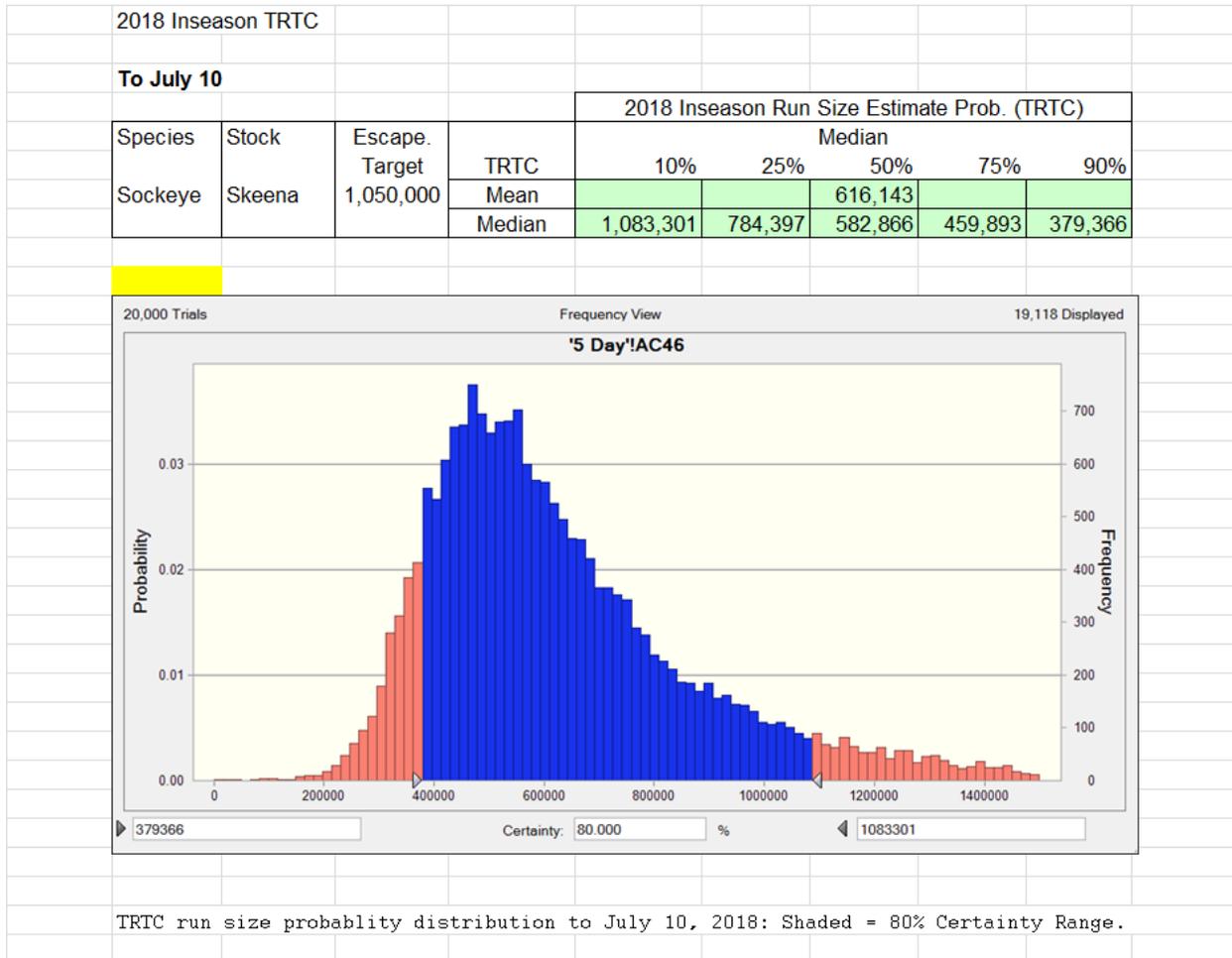
Noyes Island Seine Fishery

The first anticipated District 4 (Noyes/Dall Island) purse seine fishery is anticipated for Sunday, July 15, 2018. Due to the poor TRTC estimates, these fisheries will be closely monitored by Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fishery Managers to stay within the allocations described in the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

Area 4 - Skeena River

The qualitative Salmon Outlook for wild Skeena sockeye is “poor” based on the strength of the brood years that went to sea in 2015 and 2016 respectively and the poor returns of age 4 sockeye in 2017. The total Skeena sockeye return in 2018 is expected to be poor with a pre-season return forecast estimate of 645k (50% probability) based on the sibling model.

Based on results from the Tye test fishery to July 10, the current run size estimate ranges from 379,000 – 1.08 million Skeena Sockeye (80% certainty), with a mean (point) estimate of 616,000. While it is still early in the season (with average run timing, only 13.85% of the run has passed Tye on July 9), these numbers are reason for a continued precautionary approach. This probability range is expected to narrow as more data are available.



Net Fisheries:

Commercial fisheries are not anticipated, but will be based on in-season assessments of actual sockeye returns.

Recreational Fisheries:

To address Chinook conservation concerns, DFO has implemented a precautionary 25-35% reduction in exploitation rates for Chinook stocks of concern to support conservation and promote rebuilding. These additional reductions are planned to address conservation concerns for Nass River, Skeena River and many small wild Chinook populations in Northern BC.

Restrictions to Chinook targeted recreational fisheries in Areas 3 to 5 and those waters east of Rose Spit were relaxed on July 10, with a limit of one chinook per day. Please see FN0555 for more details.

Plans for re-opening portions of the mainstem of the Skeena River to Coho directed recreational fishing are currently being prepared for consultation in the coming week.

Tyee Test Fishery:

This past weekend saw an increase in Sockeye past Tyee. As of July 9, the estimated number of Large Sockeye past Tyee is 85,297 fish. Over half of these fish were recorded the weekend of July 7-9. As noted previously, the current TRTC for Skeena Sockeye is 616k. The index values of Chinook encountered to date remain higher than 2017, but are still significantly lower than averages recorded previously (see table below). This trend is as expected considering the actions taken to reduce Chinook exploitation rates.

The 2018 Tyee test fishery daily and cumulative sockeye escapement estimate data, along with 2018 daily and cumulative escapement indices by species, are available here:

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

Tyee Test Fishery Cumulative Index to July 9:

	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Lg Chinook	Steelhead
2018	91.13	0.0	0.2	0.35	55.45	10.49
2017 <i>(2016 for Pink)</i>	68.81	0.19	1.37	0.0	30.69	1.23
2000's Avg.	336.70	0.08	0.47	0.03	178.49	1.38
1990's Avg.	231.13	0.06	0.38	0.16	161.45	3.38

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/kitwanga-eng.html>

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 first Area 8 chum-directed occurred on July 2-3. Effort information shows effort of ~110 vessels, with total two day catches of 32,000 Chum and 1700 Chinook. A one day assessment opening took place on July 9, with ~190 vessels hailed into the opening. The results of these

openings will inform future opportunities in Area 8 for both gill net and seine fisheries. Please contact the Fishery Manager Brad Koroluk for more information.

Area 8 Gillnet Catch Estimates:

Management Area 8

Bella Coola Gillnet Area

Stat Week	Week of Year	Date	Effort	Sockeye Salmon		Coho Salmon		Pink Salmon		Chum Salmon		Chinook Salmon		Steelhead	Status
				Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Rel	
06/1	23	04-Jun	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	48	0	0	Preliminary
Total for Week			17	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	48	0	0	
06/2	24	11-Jun	19	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	84	1	0	Preliminary
Total for Week			19	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	84	1	0	
06/3	25	18-Jun	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	384	0	186	0	0	Preliminary
Total for Week			27	0	0	0	0	0	0	384	0	186	0	0	
06/4	26	25-Jun	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	2738	0	259	0	0	Preliminary
Total for Week			28	0	0	0	0	0	0	2738	0	259	0	0	
07/1	27	02-Jul	58	6	0	0	2	0	0	10171	0	388	0	6	Preliminary
		03-Jul	56	10	0	0	4	0	0	8447	0	333	0	3	Preliminary
Total for Week			114	16	0	0	6	0	0	18618	0	721	0	9	
Total for Bella Coola Gillnet Area in Period			205	16	0	0	6	1	0	21746	0	1298	1	9	

Fisher/Fitz Hugh Net Area

Stat Week	Week of Year	Date	Effort	Sockeye Salmon		Coho Salmon		Pink Salmon		Chum Salmon		Chinook Salmon		Steelhead	Status
				Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Rel	
07/1	27	02-Jul	54	157	15	0	31	2	1	5014	0	223	1	51	Preliminary
		03-Jul	52	204	26	0	25	1	1	5192	0	201	3	63	Preliminary
Total for Week			106	361	41	0	56	3	2	10206	0	424	4	114	
Total for Fisher/Fitz Hugh Net Area in Period			106	361	41	0	56	3	2	10206	0	424	4	114	
Total for Management Area 8 in Period			311	377	41	0	62	4	2	31952	0	1722	5	123	

Notes:

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

Central Coast Recreational Fisheries:

Updated data will be available later in the month.

Area 7 – Three of the usual lodge/charter operators have commenced fishing as of June 21. Total effort to date in Area 7 is lower at this point when compared to last year, as is Chinook CPUE.

Area 8 – One lodge operating as of June 21, no data has been provided yet.

Area 9 – One lodge operating as of June 21, Chinook CPUE is up from last year, with similar effort to 2017.