

North Coast Salmon Update #3 - 7 July 2020

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

North Coast Troll

CHINOOK - The 2020 Area F Troll Chinook TAC is 92,600 and Chinook retention will be delayed until August 15th. Time restrictions in July are aimed at protecting at risk Fraser River stream type Chinook, to allow passage of Fraser River not at risk Chinook for FSC purposes, and to avoid Skeena Chinook. Time restrictions in the first half of August are also in place to limit exploitation of WCVI Chinook to a maximum 3.2% exploitation objective.

COHO - Area F Troll opened at the A-B Line for Coho and Pink retention July 1st (FN0568). There are currently 6 vessels hailed into the fishery and preliminary catch data are not expected until early next week. The directed Coho and Pink salmon fishery is anticipated to open on August 1. Additional area closures are planned to limit interceptions of Chinook. A Fishery Notice with fishery specifics is expected by late next week.

Areas 1 & 2 - Haida Gwaii

Recreational:

At the time of reporting, Queen Charlotte Lodge in Naden Harbour (Area 1) has indicated that they intend to start operations on July 10. There are no other Haida Gwaii lodges operating at this time.

Area 3 - Nass River

The Nass River fish wheels have been operating since early June. Current trends in Nass Chinook and Sockeye are lower than average. As of July 5, 15,138 Sockeye have been estimated to have passed through the Gitwinksihlkw Fishwheels, compared to the 20-year average of 84,800. Similarly, 3,097 Chinook are estimated to have passed through the Gitwinksihlkw Fishwheels compared to the 20-year average of 14,410. Water levels have remained high, peaking on July 2nd and are now receding. The fish wheels remained operational throughout the last week despite the high water levels.

As of July 5, the projected TRTC using in-season to final regression are as follows:

- Sockeye TRTC is estimated at **308,000** (range 228,000 to 387,000) 31% of the run past with normal timing
- Chinook TRTC is estimated at **33,000** (range 21,000 to 41,000) 67% of the run past with normal timing.

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:

Area C gill net fisheries in Area 3, initially planned for late June, have been delayed due to poor escapements observed past the fish wheels. Escapements will continue to be monitored closely, and an updates will be provided by Fishery Notice.

The first Pink targeted seine opening occurred on July 6 (FN0605), with a hailed effort of 13 boats. Preliminary catches are included below.

Management Area 3														Report Details by Subarea or Portion			
Stat Week	Week of Year	Date	Effort	Sockeye Salmon Kept	Sockeye Salmon Rel	Coho Salmon Kept	Coho Salmon Rel	Pink Salmon Kept	Pink Salmon Rel	Chum Salmon Kept	Chum Salmon Rel	Chinook Salmon Kept	Chinook Salmon Rel	Steelhead Kept	Steelhead Rel	Status	Last Updated
		06-Jul	13	0	212	0	94	2753	0	2728	0	0	161	0	0	Preliminary	07-Jul-2020
Total for Week			13	0	212	0	94	2753	0	2728	0	0	161	0	0		
Total for Management Area 3 in Period			13	0	212	0	94	2753	0	2728	0	0	161	0	0		

Meziadin Fishway:

The Meziadin Fishway commenced operations on July 1. To date, no fish have passed through the fishway. The historic cumulative count for adult sockeye returns to July 6 is 417. Meziadin River water levels and temperature were 1.38m and 12°C respectively. Water levels are near mean values and temperatures are lower than mean values for this date. The Meziadin in-season forecast will be presented when available.

Historic and 2020 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

District 1 Gill Net Fishery:

The District 1 gill net fishery in Alaska opened for four days of fishing commencing on June 28, 2020. Effort was below average with 25 vessels participating, and catches of all species was below the 10-Year average. The Tree Point fishery opened again this week for four days, starting July 5.

Species	District 1 Catch – Week 27 (CPUE)	10-Year Average (CPUE)
Chinook	500	320
Sockeye	2,500 (25)	7,650 (40)
Coho	600	850
Pink	2,000	11,000
Chum	10,000 (100)	30,500 (158)
Effort	25	48
Fishing Days	4	4

Preliminary catches and 10-year averages provided courtesy of 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>

District 4 Seine Fishery:

The District 4 purse seine fishery scheduled for July 5 did not proceed.

Area 4 - Skeena River

The current preliminary estimate of run size based on the Tye test fishery is 189,868 Sockeye, assuming average run timing. The range of estimates falls between 84,061 (1 week early) and 452,967 (1 week late). It is still early in the season, at 9.3% of the run estimated to have passed, however these early indications suggest a continued precautionary approach is warranted and returns are being evaluated daily. As more data are collected these estimates will likely improve, and it is expected that estimates generated with probability bounds will be available after this week.

Tye Test Fishery:

As of July 6, the estimated number of Large Sockeye past Tye is 17,722 fish. The index values of Chinook encountered to date are lower than this point in 2019, and although higher at this point in 2017, remain lower than averages recorded previously.

Tye Test Fishery Cumulative Index to July 6:

	Sockeye	Coho	Pink(even)	Chum	Lg. Chinook	Steelhead
2020	16.72	0	0.21	0	29.27	0.24
2019	22.28	0	N/A	0	31.39	0.35
2018	35.79	0	0	0	46.87	4.60
2017	53.40	0	N/A	0	27.88	0.74
2010-2019 Avg.	124.00	0.1	0	0.16	49.03	1.56

The 2020 Tye test fishery daily and cumulative sockeye escapement estimate data, along with 2020 daily and cumulative escapement indices by species, are available here:

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

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>

Sustut Weir:

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

Net Fisheries:

Commercial fishery opportunities will be informed with in-season assessments of Sockeye returns.

Demonstration Fisheries:

In 2020, 2 ESSR fisheries and 8 CSAF Demonstration fisheries have been approved through the IFMP process for the Skeena and Nass watersheds. Implementation of these fisheries is subject to Area A and C fishery openings and area approval of the respective fishing plans. The Department is currently working with the proponents to finalize these details.

Recreational Fisheries:

Area 3 and 4 Creel Survey

The North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society continued their creel survey operations in June. They performed 541 interviews totalling 1,602 anglers, with a reported catch of 638 Chinook and 226 Coho. These numbers are expanded and produce a catch estimate of 2,583 Chinook and 993 Coho for the month of June. For comparison, estimated expanded catches for in June 2019 were 5,689 Chinook and 1,521 Coho.

A summary table of 2020 preliminary catch estimates for both May and June is included below. Please note these numbers are not final and subject to change through post-season review processes:

			Area 3	Area 4
May	Chinook	<i>Retained</i>	83	1,168
		<i>Released</i>	89	874
	Coho	<i>Retained</i>	0	0
		<i>Released</i>	0	0
June	Chinook	<i>Retained</i>	979	1,604
		<i>Released</i>	1,037	1,051
	Coho	<i>Retained</i>	522	470
		<i>Released</i>	174	27

Area 6

The first Area 6 seine opening is anticipated for mid-July, but will be informed by in-season assessments. Gill net opportunities will be dependent on Kitimat River hatchery chum abundance.

Areas 7 to 10 - Central Coast

Net Fisheries:

There was one 16 hour Chum directed gillnet fishery in Area 8 on July 3 (FN0621) with 111 vessels hailed out in the opening. The reported catch was 2,669 Chum and 968 Chinook Salmon. There is an ongoing opening today (July 7) (FN0634), catches will be available in next weeks update. Subsequent gill net and seine fishery opportunities will be announced by fisheries notice on Thursday.

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

Area 8 Gillnet Catch Estimates:

**Commercial SALMON GILL NET In-Season Estimated Catch-by-Area (Pieces)
for Period 01-Apr-2020 to 06-Jul-2020**

Management Area 8

Bella Coola Gillnet Area

Stat Week	Week of Year	Effort	Sockeye Salmon		Coho Salmon		Pink Salmon		Chum Salmon		Chinook Salmon		Steelhead		
			Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	
06/3	25	Total for Week	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	1	111	0	0	0
07/1	27	Total for Week	43	1	1	0	1	241	1	1237	0	658	0	0	3
Total for Bella Coola Gillnet Area in Period			67	1	1	0	1	241	1	1279	1	769	0	0	3

Fisher/Fitz Hugh Net Area

Stat Week	Week of Year	Effort	Sockeye Salmon		Coho Salmon		Pink Salmon		Chum Salmon		Chinook Salmon		Steelhead		
			Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	Kept	Rel	
07/1	27	Total for Week	64	68	9	0	31	213	0	1432	0	310	3	0	11
Total for Fisher/Fitz Hugh Net Area in Period			64	68	9	0	31	213	0	1432	0	310	3	0	11
Total for Management Area 8 in Period			131	69	10	0	32	454	1	2711	1	1079	3	0	14

Recreational Fisheries:

A number of lodges and charter operators have indicated they will not operate in the 2020 season. More information will be included in the update when it becomes available.