



ALSEK RIVER SALMON UPDATE

Note: This update is intended as a message to fish harvesters. Information provided in this update is preliminary and subject to change. For more information contact the individuals listed at the end of this update.

Wednesday, 10 October 2018

Fisheries Management (Chinook):

For the 2018 season, the Klukshu River assessment program (video enumeration) was used to guide in-season fishery management actions. The trigger points for in-season fishery management actions outlined below are based on spawning escapement requirements into the Klukshu River and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Basic Needs Level (BNL) obligations. Fishery management priorities for Alsek River Chinook salmon, in order are: 1. Spawning escapement; 2. First Nation BNL allocation; and 3. Public angling (recreational) allocation. Restriction of BNL harvest is only recommended if it is unlikely that the lower end of the spawning escapement goal range will not be achieved. Allocation and harvest opportunities are only provided for the public angling (recreational) fishery if the abundance of Chinook salmon is likely to exceed both spawning escapement and the BNL allocation.

Chinook Salmon Fishery management thresholds are as follows:

- Chinook: <800 (First Nation fishery threshold); <1,000 (Public (recreational) fishery threshold); decision point on or after July 18.

Fishery Actions:

Fishery	Status	Comments
First Nation	Closed	CAFN has passed a no-fishing resolution for members.
Public (Recreational)	Retention of Chinook salmon prohibited	Angling for Chinook salmon not recommended / discouraged due to low abundance.

Fisheries Management (Sockeye):

The Klukshu River assessment program (video enumeration) was the principal escapement monitoring tool for the Alsek during the 2018 season and was used to guide in-season management actions. The trigger points for in-season management actions outlined below are based on escapement requirements into the Klukshu River and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Basic Needs Level (BNL) obligations. The general approach is to consider First

Nation restrictions whenever it appears the lower end of the respective escapement goal ranges will not be achieved. The triggers for the recreational fishery are intentionally set higher than the FN fishery to reflect the priority for the FN fishery.

Management thresholds leading to potential restrictions are as follows:

- Early sockeye: <1,500 (First Nation fishery threshold); >4,500 (Public (recreational) fishery threshold); decision point on or after July 18.
- Total sockeye: <7,500 (First Nation fishery threshold); <10,500 (Public (recreational) fishery threshold); decision point on or after September 06.

Fishery Actions:

Fishery	Status	Comments
First Nation	Closed	CAFN has passed a no-fishing resolution for members.
Public (Recreational)	Retention of sockeye salmon prohibited	Angling for sockeye salmon not recommended / discouraged due to low abundance.

For specific openings and closures consult posted fishery notices. If you have access to a computer and the internet you are encouraged to subscribe to the Fishery Notification System where you will receive automatic notifications about your fishery of interest via email. To subscribe to the Fishery Notification System follow this link: http://www-ops2.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fns-sap/index-eng.cfm?pg=pub_reg

Fisheries Management (Coho):

Currently, the recreational fishery retention limit for coho is up to 2 per day and 4 in possession. Harvest opportunities are anticipated for the month of October.

U.S. Fisheries:

Regular updates on fisheries occurring in U.S. waters can be found on the following website:

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

Stock Assessment

Chinook

The Klukshu River assessment program (video enumeration) is the principal escapement monitoring tool for Alek Chinook. The preseason forecast for Klukshu Chinook salmon was 700-1,250 (Alek: 5,000) which is below the ten-year average of 1,400 fish and brackets the escapement goal range of 800–1,200 Chinook salmon. A total of 1,078 Chinook migrated past the counters in 2018, and the escapement goal has been met.

Assessment Program	Date (as of)	Count/Catch	10-yr Average
Klukshu River	September 25	1,078	1,138
U.S. Dry Bay Fishery Index	September 25	88 (48 large and 40 jacks)	~400

Sockeye

As with Chinook, the Klukshu River assessment program (video enumeration) is the principal escapement monitoring tool for Alek sockeye. Additionally, the sockeye escapement into Nesketahin Lake was monitored using a video counter installed in Village Creek. A post season estimate of the sockeye escapement into the Alek River will be made using a combination of genetic stock identification and counts from the Klukshu River Assessment program. The preseason forecast for Klukshu sockeye salmon was 6,500 (Alek: 28,000) which is below average. The Klukshu escapement goal range is 7,500 – 11,000 sockeye salmon.

The 2018 assessment project is now complete and the video counter was removed on October 4. A total of 7,035 sockeye was enumerated. Although this was below average, it exceeded the preseason forecast and was near the lower end of the escapement goal range. It was also well above the primary brood year escapement of ~3,900 fish. The Village Creek run is also complete, with a below average count of 97 sockeye.

Assessment Program	Date (as of)	Count/Catch	10-yr Average
Klukshu River	October 4	7,035	10,566
U.S. Dry Bay Fishery Index	September 25	1,357	~15,000
Village Creek	September 18	97	286 (5-yr average)

Coho

The Klukshu River video counter provides some measure of Alsek coho abundance but the assessment program is terminated prior to the completion of the run. Therefore, total abundance of coho is not estimated in the Alsek River system. Counts on the Klukshu River up to October 4, when the counter was removed, were below the recent ten-year average.

Assessment Program	Date (as of)	Count/Catch	Average (as of date)
Klukshu River	October 4	870	1,535

Contacts

This is the final update for the 2018 season. For questions about the information provided, or additional information please contact:

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