



# STIKINE RIVER SALMON UPDATE

**Thursday, September 9, 2021**

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.

## **Fisheries Management:**

### **Lower Stikine Commercial**

The lower Stikine River Coho salmon commercial fishery opened on September 05 for an initial 5 days with a 2 day extension. Next week the fishery will be open for Coho salmon on September 12<sup>th</sup> for 5 days. Additional fishing time will be dependent on Coho salmon catch rates and incidental Sockeye salmon harvest numbers. It is anticipated the fishery will span a 2-3 week period in order to harvest Canada’s allowable catch of 5,000 Coho salmon.

### **Upper Stikine Commercial**

The upper Stikine River Sockeye salmon commercial fishery is closed.

### **Food Social and Ceremonial Fisheries (First Nations Fisheries)**

Currently open but fishing complete for the season.

### **Fishery Actions:**

<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Harvest to Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Commercial	Opening for directed Coho salmon fishing on September 05 (7 days in	Sockeye: 453 Chinook: 0 Coho: 2,862 Pink: 2 Chum: 68	Canada’s allowable coho salmon catch is 5,000 as per provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty.
Chinook Assessment	No fishing for 2021		
FSC (First Nation Fishery)	Open but no effort anticipated for the remainder of the season.	Sockeye: 4,094 Chinook: 182 large; 333 small Coho: 0	
Recreational	Restricted	NA	Coho retention permitted (daily quota 2 over 50cm)

## 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 pre-season run size of large Chinook salmon was estimated at 9,900 fish. Stock assessment projects are underway to assess in-season run sizes. Current inseason information suggests the inriver Chinook salmon run is consistent with the preseason forecast.

<b>Assessment Program</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Number to Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Little Tahltan Chinook Enumeration	June 18 to August 16 (extended to August 19) <b>Complete</b>	Large: 1,037 Small: 440 CWT: 57 Tags: 26	Delayed weir installation as a result of high water; weir fish tight July 07; First fish: July 10; project extended to August 19
Kakwan Chinook Tagging	May 05 to July 10 <b>Complete</b>	210 large tagged; CPUE 40% of average	Above average river levels. 2021 field component completed by ADFG.
Stikine Juvenile Tagging	April 15 to May 31 <b>Complete</b>	62.3k Chinook tagged 8.7k Coho tagged	Targets: 50k Chinook; 10k coho. Tagging targets achieved in 2021; 2021 field component completed by ADFG

### Sockeye

The preseason terminal run forecast for Sockeye salmon was 56,000 fish. This is well below the 10 year average Stikine River Sockeye salmon terminal run size of approximately 143,000 fish and below the 10 year average of 107,600 excluding the enhanced Tuya Lake fish. The post season estimate for Stikine sockeye salmon will be available later this fall.

<b>Assessment Program</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Number to Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Tahltan Lake Sockeye Count	July 07 to September 15	43,190 (as of September 05)	Weir fish tight: July 07 First fish: July 20

Assessment Fishery (non-lethal)	June 20 to August 28 <b>Complete</b>	Set Net Catch: 1,069 Drift Net Catch: 76 (as of August 27)	
Tahltan Lake Smolt Count	May 04 to June 28 <b>Complete</b>	Count: 1,860,257 (preliminary)	Project completed June 28. Forecast was 1.8 million.
Aerial surveys			Scheduled for Sept 12

### **Contacts**

For questions about the information provided in this update or additional information please contact:

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