Sayt K'il'im Goot - one heart, one path, one nation

## 2013 NASS RIVER SALMON STOCK ASSESSMENT UPDATE - MONDAY 2 DECEMBER

Attached is the final public Nass River salmon stock assessment update for 2013 (pdf format) from the Nisga’a Fisheries and Wildlife Department of Nisga'a Lisims Government. Sayt K'il'im Goot - one heart, one path, one nation.

All data presented in this update are preliminary and subject to change with further assessment information and analyses. Please review final program summary reports prepared by Nisga'a Fisheries for final numbers.

DAILY FISHWHEEL CATCHES AND ESCAPEMENT ESTIMATES FROM THE NISGA'A FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LINK (It is recommended to refresh link (F5) each time \& copy files to your machine before opening):
ftp://ftp.lgl.com/Nass\ Stock\ Assessment\ Updates/

## NISGA'A FISHERIES PRELIMINARY SALMON \& STEELHEAD ASSESSMENT PROGRAM POSTSEASON UPDATE FOR 2013:

GITWINKSIHLKW (GW) FISHWHEELS (NASS TEST FISHERY - 20TH YEAR - STARTED IN 1994):
The Nass River test fishery fishwheels began operation on 2 June (FW2) and 4 June (FW1) for tagging and historical catch index assessments for salmon and summer-run Steelhead and ended operation on 13 September. All fish caught in the GW fishwheels were released alive after tagging and/or counting. Nass River mainstem water levels ranged between $0.54 \mathrm{~m}(11 \mathrm{Sep})$ to 5.25 m ( 27 May). The mean water level in 2013 ( 2.02 m ) was below the historical mean water level ( 2.23 m ) from 1994-2012. A chart of the water levels at the test fishery follow the text summary that show 2013 levels to historical levels. The Nass River water temperature averaged 9.6 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ during fishwheel operations in 2013, ranging between $6.3^{\circ} \mathrm{C}(7 \mathrm{June})$ and $11.1^{\circ} \mathrm{C}(2$ August).

## GREASE HARBOUR (GH) FISHWHEELS:

Three fishwheels (FW3, FW5 and FW6) operated at Grease Harbour (upstream of Ts'im Anwiihlist) in 2013; FW 3 from 9 June-4 Sep, FW 5 from 12 June-11 Sep, and FW 6 from 13 June-4 Sep. These fishwheels were used for inseason mark-recapture tag recoveries, abundance estimates, additional tagging (adult Chinook, Chum, and Pacific lamprey), and for selective harvest of Sockeye and Coho salmon for the Nisga'a Lisims Government's Nass River In-land Demonstration Fishery (Sockeye only) and for NLG treaty fisheries (see harvest summary in NLG catch summary).

NASS FISHWHEEL CATCH SUMMARY (2 June to 15 September 2013):
The 2013 Nass fishwheel catches were above average for large adult Sockeye $(39,184)$, Coho $(15,608)$, odd-year Pink $(24,801)$ and Pacific Lamprey (567); and below average for Chinook $(1,981)$, Chum (52), and summer-run steelhead (612) when compared to the mean catches from 1994 to 2012 (Table 1). A chart of catches by year follows the text summary that shows 2013 catch compared to past catches.

The 2013 fishwheel catches of small (jacks) salmon ( $<50 \mathrm{~cm}$ NFL for Chinook, $<45 \mathrm{~cm}$ NFL for Sockeye, and $<40$ cm NFL for Coho) were above average for Chinook ( 1,346 vs. 600 ), Sockeye ( 8,315 vs. 3,400 ) and Coho salmon (741 vs. 560) when compared to the mean catches from 1994 to 2012. Charts showing catches and number tagged are provided in the attachment for reference.

Other adult species and juvenile salmon catches at the fishwheels in 2013 include: 169 Dolly Varden, 137 Pike Minnow, 111 Whitefish, 79 Cutthroat, 67 Rainbow Trout, 46 Peamouth Chub, 21 Sculpin, 12 Sucker, 9 Red-Side Shiner, 149 salmon smolts ( 74 Coho, 41 Chinook, 34 Sockeye), 2 frogs, and 4 seals. Of the non-salmon fishwheel catches, Pacific Lamprey, Pike Minnow, and Peamouth Chub species were above average when compared to the mean catches from 1994 to 2012. In addition to Table 1, charts of catches by year follow the text summary that shows 2013 catch compared to past catches.

## Table 1. Nass fishwheels catches of salmon and non-salmon species from 1994-2013.

| Year | $\begin{array}{\|c} \# \text { of } \\ \text { Fw } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Start } \\ \text { date } \end{gathered}$ | End <br> date | Total Effort (days) | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Chinook } \\ \text { salmon } \\ (\geq 50 \mathrm{~cm} \\ \mathrm{FL}) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|r\|} \hline \text { Sockeye } \\ \text { salmon } \\ (\geq 45 \mathrm{~cm} \\ \mathrm{FL}) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Coho } \\ \text { salmon } \\ (\geq \mathbf{4 0} \mathrm{cm} \\ \mathrm{FL}) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Pink } \\ \text { salmon } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|r\|} \begin{array}{r} \text { Chum } \\ \text { salmon } \end{array} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|r\|} \hline \text { Summer- } \\ \text { run } \\ \text { Steelhead } \\ (\geq 50 \mathrm{~cm} \\ \mathrm{FL}) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Dolly $(\geq 20$ cm FL) | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Cutthroat } \\ (\geq 20 \mathrm{~cm} \\ \mathrm{FL}) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Rainbow $\geq 20 \mathrm{~cm}$ FL) | White Fish | Pacific Lamprey | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Pike } \\ \text { Minnow } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Peamouth Chub | Suckers | Sculpins | Red-side <br> Shiner | $\begin{gathered} \text { Longfin } \\ \text { Smelts } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1994 | 4 | 7-Jun | 7-Sep | 92 | 2,667 | 24,746 | 6,990 | 12,436 | 250 | 208 | 42 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 47 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1995 | 4 | 8-Jun | 4-Sep | 88 | 920 | 21,090 | 1,837 | 8,881 | 224 | 111 | 101 | 8 | 6 | 42 | 81 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1996 | 4 | 29-May | 22-Sep | 116 | 2,191 | 23,063 | 4,029 | 23,601 | 371 | 485 | 177 | 29 | 21 | 108 | 384 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1997 | 4 | 21-May | 2-Sep | 104 | 3,736 | 27,762 | 1,438 | 13,167 | 130 | 502 | 294 | 27 | 23 | 145 | 388 |  |  | 7 |  |  |  |
| 1998 | 4 | 12-Jun | 20-Sep | 100 | 3,071 | 17,185 | 3,760 | 10,624 | 272 | 707 | 388 | 61 | 9 | 140 | 194 | 84 |  | 38 | 69 |  |  |
| 1999 | 4 | 7-Jun | 30-Sep | 115 | 3,476 | 41,545 | 6,393 | 22,019 | 127 | 641 | 1,189 | 97 | 17 | 155 | 185 | 65 |  | 24 | 24 |  | 3 |
| 2000 | 6 | 11-Jun | 18-Sep | 99 | 5,003 | 33,879 | 8,529 | 10,206 | 241 | 1,476 | 558 | 97 | 5 | 75 | 251 | 53 |  | 34 | 14 |  |  |
| 2001 | 6 | 7-Jun | 14-Sep | 99 | 12,106 | 32,821 | 22,705 | 42,508 | 162 | 1,435 | 347 | 69 |  | 67 | 238 | 75 |  | 42 | 13 |  |  |
| 2002 | 6 | 20-Jun | 9-Sep | 81 | 6,785 | 58,728 | 14,556 | 15,893 | 54 | 1,100 | 429 | 72 | 22 | 51 | 187 | 93 |  | 8 | 17 |  |  |
| 2003 | 6 | 14-Jun | 5-Sep | 83 | 5,802 | 47,556 | 9,460 | 33,560 | 175 | 583 | 524 | 94 | 26 | 99 | 936 | 105 | 9 | 29 | 25 |  |  |
| 2004 | 6 | 11-Jun | 10-Sep | 91 | 3,314 | 43,782 | 11,788 | 35,605 | 242 | 656 | 276 | 71 | 54 | 55 | 1,132 | 137 | 29 | 44 | 11 |  |  |
| 2005 | 6 | 6-Jun | 16-Sep | 102 | 4,111 | 40,320 | 14,508 | 19,788 | 141 | 721 | 150 | 26 | 48 | 55 | 615 | 100 | 73 | 33 | 16 |  |  |
| 2006 | 6 | 8-Jun | 3-Sep | 87 | 9,089 | 50,769 | 9,671 | 2,817 | 158 | 466 | 286 | 62 | 66 | 91 | 363 | 145 | 36 | 33 | 9 |  |  |
| 2007 | 6 | 14-Jun | 20-Sep | 98 | 9,440 | 38,942 | 11,638 | 17,669 | 136 | 783 | 254 | 47 | 69 | 70 | 315 | 140 | 22 | 20 | 31 |  |  |
| 2008 | 5 | 5-Jun | 6-Sep | 93 | 4,331 | 34,702 | 14,640 | 1,932 | 52 | 851 | 193 | 88 | 55 | 55 | 198 | 72 | 9 | 18 | 14 | 6 |  |
| 2009 | 6 | 1-Jun | 12-Sep | 103 | 7,136 | 43,426 | 20,270 | 42,120 | 108 | 1,688 | 328 | 93 | 117 | 119 | 483 | 93 | 46 | 27 | 56 |  |  |
| 2010 | 6 | 1-Jun | 22-Sep | 113 | 1,140 | 25,703 | 12,938 | 4,614 | 78 | 1,197 | 557 | 132 | 161 | 388 | 313 | 126 | 18 | 46 | 21 | 7 | 3 |
| 2011 | 5 | 1-Jun | 17-Sep | 108 | 1,795 | 38,083 | 5,752 | 10,719 | 166 | 991 | 481 | 156 | 86 | 353 | 632 | 181 | 35 | 45 | 17 | 10 |  |
| 2012 | 5 | 1-Jun | 15-Sep | 106 | 4,059 | 62,385 | 15,608 | 7,694 | 106 | 1,525 | 424 | 59 | 45 | 108 | 674 | 180 | 129 | 27 | 22 | 4 |  |
| 2013 | 5 | 2-Jun | 13-Sep | 103 | 1,981 | 39,184 | 14,555 | 24,801 | 52 | 612 | 169 | 67 | 46 | 79 | 567 | 137 | 111 | 21 | 12 | 9 |  |
| 1994 to | 2012 |  |  |  |  |  |  | Odd Yr: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mean | 5 | 6-Jun | 13-Sep | 99 | 4,746 | 37,184 | 10,343 | 23,381 | 168 | 849 | 368 | 68 | 46 | 115 | 401 | 110 | 41 | 30 | 24 | 7 | 3 |
| Min | 4 | 21-May | 2-Sep | 81 | 444 | 9,046 | 466 | 8,881 | 42 | 40 | 42 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 47 | 53 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 3 |
| Max | 6 | 20-Jun | 30-Sep | 116 | 12,106 | 62,385 | 22,705 | 42,508 | 371 | 1,688 | 1,189 | 156 | 161 | 388 | 1,132 | 181 | 129 | 46 | 69 | 10 | 3 |

## MEZIADIN FISHWAY COUNTS (1 July to 4 October 2013):

The Meziadin Fishway counts were conducted from 1 July to 4 October 2013. The fishway water levels and temperatures averaged 1.18 m (ranged from 1.09 to 2.01 m ) and $16^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (ranged from $8{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $20.5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ), respectively. Counts at the fishway in 2013 were below average for large adult Chinook salmon (126 vs. 500) and summer-run steelhead (23 versus 40); and above average for Sockeye ( 170,376 vs. 162,000 ) and Coho salmon $(5,934$ vs. 4,300$)$ when compared to mean counts from 2000 to 2012 (Table 2). Counts of small salmon (jacks) were above average for Sockeye ( 12,722 vs. 5,400 ), average for Chinook ( 54 vs. 50 ), and below average for Coho ( 46 vs. 80 ) when compared with mean counts from 1944 to 2012. A total of 27 adult Bull Trout ( $>20 \mathrm{~cm}$ NFL) were also counted in 2013. Escapement targets for adult large salmon at Meziadin Fishway are approximately: 160,000 Sockeye, 475 Chinook and 3,500 Coho. The escapement targets for Sockeye and Coho salmon at Meziadin were reached; but not for Chinook.

Table 2. Counts of large salmon and steelhead at the Meziadin Fishway, 2000 to 2013.

| Meziadin Fishway ( $\sim 149 \mathrm{~km}$ from tagging site): |  | Adult large salmon counted |  |  |  | Tags counted |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Year | Period of Operation | Chinook | Sockeye | Coho | Steelhead | Chinook | Sockeye | Coho | Steelhead |
| 2000 | 29 June to 13 October | 416 | 137,042 | 1,423 | 46 | 30 | 2,964 | 35 | 2 |
| 2001 | 4 July to 15 October | 613 | 116,192 | 5,942 | 72 | 66 | 2,982 | 173 | 9 |
| 2002 | 1 July to 15 October | 464 | 332,442 | 5,082 | 41 | 21 | 6,027 | 99 | 2 |
| 2003 | 2 July to 10 October | 479 | 196,852 | 3,907 | 30 | 18 | 4,650 | 91 | 1 |
| 2004 | 3 July to 3 October | 490 | 140,923 | 4,172 | 58 | 20 | 4,417 | 154 | 12 |
| 2005 | 1 July to 15 October | 638 | 142,751 | 7,189 | 85 | 33 | 3,819 | 259 | 9 |
| 2006 | 1 July to 12 October | 721 | 146,954 | 5,466 | 39 | 35 | 4,694 | 251 | 1 |
| 2007 | 1 July to 11 October | 754 | 104,308 | 2,504 | 27 | 34 | 4,082 | 67 | 2 |
| 2008 | 1 July to 9 October | 518 | 150,396 | 3,861 | 29 | 17 | 5,016 | 167 | 2 |
| 2009 | 1 July to 6 October | 336 | 168,392 | 5,423 | 18 | 15 | 4,887 | 96 | 2 |
| 2010 | 1 July to 23 October | 315 | 159,120 | 4,138 | 81 | 3 | 2,670 | 129 | 7 |
| 2011 | 1 July to 6 October | 330 | 167,524 | 2,336 | 12 | 28 | 4,213 | 44 | 1 |
| 2012 | 1 July to 4 October | 255 | 144,923 | 4,980 | 34 | 42 | 6,112 | 246 | 5 |
| 2013 | 1 July to 4 October | 126 | 170,376 | 5,934 | 23 | 19 | 3,726 | 128 | 0 |
| Average (2000-12) |  | 500 | 162,100 | 4,300 | 40 | 30 | 4,350 | 140 | 4 |

MEZIADIN GROUND SURVEYS: The Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Department, in collaboration with the Gitanyow Fisheries Authority (GFA), conducted three snorkel surveys on the Meziadin River in 2013. With recent low escapements through the Meziadin Fishway, it was recognized that it would be valuable to assess if Chinook salmon were jumping the falls, bypassing the fishway, and therefore resulting in an underestimate of escapement in the fishway counts. Three snorkel surveys were conducted on 29 August, 22 September, and 10 October 2013 with respective raw counts of 63,86 and 18 Chinook salmon. Four sites between the fishway and the lake outflow were swum as known Chinook spawning areas. A minimum escapement of $\mathbf{1 3 7}$ Chinook salmon was calculated for Meziadin River ( $\mathbf{9 0 \%}$ CIs of $\mathbf{1 0 8 - 1 7 7}$ ). This estimate was generated using the AUCmonteMASTER2.05 based on a mean residency time of 41 days (CSAS 2371) and a standard deviation of 5 with 1000 iterations. We recommend that the AUC estimate be used as the final Chinook salmon escapement estimate for Meziadin River for 2013 to account for fish jumping the falls.

## KWINAGEESE WEIR NET UPSTREAM COUNTS (13 July to 11 October 2013):

The Kwinageese weir operations started on 13 July. The water levels and temperatures at the weir averaged 0.22 m (ranged from 0.09 m to 0.57 m ) and $13.5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (ranged from $8{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $18^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ), respectively. The weir was functional during the entire monitored period (i.e., was not topped by high water). Net upstream counts were below average for salmon (Chinook, Sockeye and Coho) and near average for Steelhead (Table 3) when compared to the average counts for years not impacted by the past downstream blockage. A total of 43 adult Bull Trout ( $>20 \mathrm{~cm}$ NFL) were also counted. Seven salmon jacks (4 Chinook and 3 Coho) were also counted at the weir in 2013. A total of $\mathbf{7 6 3}$ adult Coho salmon and $\mathbf{2 0 8}$ summer-run steelhead were counted through the Kwinageese River video weir. It is uncertain how many more of these species would have subsequently passed the weir after operation, therefore these counts should be considered minimum escapement estimates for 2013. Two helicopter inspections (3 July and 29 August) of the 2011 blockage site on the lower Kwinageese River were surveyed by the Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Department and DFO in 2013. The surveys confirmed the concrete structures installed in August 2011 were still in place and functioning well by 'pooling' water at the base of the barrier. Daily counts of fish indicated good passage by the falls in 2013. Charts showing daily numbers by species are provided after the text summary.

Table 3. Counts of large salmon and steelhead at the Kwinageese Weir, 2002 to 2013.

| Kwinageese Weir ( 208 km from tagging site): |  | Adult large salmon counted (net upstream) |  |  |  | Tags counted (net upstream) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Year | Period of Operation | Chinook | Sockeye | Coho | Steelhead | Chinook | Sockeye | Coho | Steelhead |
| 2002 | 17 July to 17 October | 1,893 | 5,891 | 1,283 | 267 | 114 | 86 | 8 | 8 |
| 2005 | 12 August to 22 October | 538 | 3,186 | 2,663 | 304 | 19 | 37 | 59 | 25 |
| 2006 | 25 August to 5 October | 410 | 2,700 | 1,582 | 129 | 27 | 123 | 51 | 6 |
| 2009 | 12 July to 15 October | 895 | 107 | 60 | 33 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 2010 | 9 July to 19 October | 131 | 48 | 191 | 110 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 7 |
| 2011 | 10 July to 5 October | 740 | 10,273 | 226 | 50 | 87 | 240 | 10 | 0 |
| 2012 | 19 July to 11 October | 715 | 3,688 | 155 | 296 | 204 | 141 | 5 | 28 |
| 2013 | 13 July to 11 October | 813 | 397 | 763 | 208 | 109 | 4 | 13 | 7 |
| ADJUS | OUNT AT KWIN (2002,05,06,11) | 1,020 | 6,120 | 1,510 | 220 | 90 | 100 | 30 | 20 |

KWINAGEESE / FRED WRIGHT WATERSHED GROUND SURVEYS for Sockeye salmon were conducted on 28 August, and 9 \& 26 September 2013. As no count was conducted at Bonney Creek on 26 September, the number of spawners was estimated from the number of spawners on 9 September and the ratio of the 26 September count to the 9 September count on the Upper Kwinageese River in 2013 ( $88 \%$ ). Escapement estimates were calculated using a survey life of 14.6 days ( $\pm$ standard deviation of 2.3 days) based on the average of Gingit Creek Sockeye salmon tag life curve-based survey life estimates since 2004 ( $\mathrm{n}=8$ ); zero count dates were estimated using AUCMonteMaster2.04. Combining the AUC escapement estimates for Upper Kwinageese River (363; 90\% CIs $\mathbf{3 0 7 - 4 5 3}$ ) and Bonney Creek ( $\mathbf{1 0 1 ;} \mathbf{9 0 \%}$ CIs 76-145) resulted in an overall Sockeye salmon escapement estimate of 464 for the Kwinageese Fred Wright System. This estimate was similar to the video weir count on the upper Kwinageese River (398). We recommend that the weir count be used as the final Sockeye salmon escapement estimate for the Kwinageese/Fred Wright system.

Chinook salmon carcass surveys were conducted in the Kwinageese River downstream of Fred Wright Lake on 29 August and 5, $10 \& 14$ September 2013. Twelve marked carcasses were recovered from a total of 103 examined. Live Chinook counts were conducted from Fred Wright Lake to Second Lake and from Second Lake to the old weir site on each survey date. A total of 578 live adult Chinook salmon and 9 carcasses were counted on 5 September. Expanding the live count for observer efficiency produced a peak live plus dead count estimate of 860 adult Chinook salmon for the Kwinageese River. An AUC estimate was also calculated for Kwinageese River
using the same survey life as for Damdochax River (27.8 days) and assuming that fish first entered the survey area 7 days after the first fish were counted at the weir. The resulting AUC escapement estimate for Kwinageese River Chinook salmon was 1040 ( $\mathbf{9 0 \%}$ CIs 812-1324). As in 2012 there was a very close match between the estimated peak count of spawners and the Kwinageese Video weir count (813). In future years we recommend that if the video weir is not operated a simple observer efficiency expanded peak live plus dead count be used to estimate Chinook salmon escapement to the Kwinageese River. We recommend that the weir count (813) be used as the final Chinook salmon escapement estimate for the Kwinageese/Fred Wright system in 2013.

LOWER NASS SOCKEYE SURVEYS were conducted at Gingit Creek (a sea-type Sockeye stock) on 20 and 26 July; 2, 9,16 \& 26 August; and 8 September 2013 by a crew of 2 or 3 walking upstream from the old road crossing at $55^{\circ} 13.979^{\prime} \mathrm{N}, 129^{\circ} 05.300^{\prime} \mathrm{W}$ to the head pond at $55^{\circ} 13.236^{\prime} \mathrm{N}, 129^{\circ} 03.516^{\prime} \mathrm{W}$. Along with live adults, jacks and carcasses; reach and tag colour specific counts of live tagged fish, tagged carcasses, and 2013 tags found on the bank or streambed were also recorded. For escapement calculation it was assumed that spawning occurs in an additional 1000 m of habitat downstream of the $3,550 \mathrm{~m}$ survey area at an density $1 / 3$ of that in the survey area. Survey life for Gingit Creek Sockeye in 2013 ( 15.9 days) was estimated using a tag life curve for spaghetti tags applied at the Gitwinksihlkw fishwheels and observed during visual surveys. Survey life was modelled as varying normally with a standard deviation of 2.3 days (this is the standard deviation of the tag life curve based survey life estimates since 2004; $n=8$ ). An estimate of jack Sockeye escapement was also generated assuming the same observer efficiency and survey life parameters as used for adult Sockeye. Escapement estimates of $\mathbf{1 0 , 0 3 5} \mathbf{( 9 0 \%}$ CIs 8,083-12,403) adults and $\mathbf{2 , 3 4 1}$ ( $\mathbf{9 0 \%}$ CIs 1881-3083) jacks were calculated for 2013. The peak estimated (observer efficiency expanded) live count $(5,110)$ occurred on 16 August; the peak carcass count (2126) occurred on 26 August. The escapement estimate for 2013 is the second highest since Nisga’a Fisheries began escapement surveys in 2000 and is above the 2000-12 average (mean=4,000, range: 300 (2002) to 12,500 (2011)).

Sockeye salmon were also observed in 2013 during surveys of the Tseax Side Channel to enumerate Chum and Pink salmon (see below). It is likely that these were also sea-type Sockeye similar to the Gingit Creek population. Adult Sockeye salmon were observed on all Tseax Side Channel surveys and an escapement estimate of $78 \mathbf{( 9 0 \%}$ CIs 65-100) spawners was calculated for 2013. Only Sockeye salmon actually observed in the spawning areas of the side channel were included in this estimate as large schools seen at the mouth of the channel may have been enroute to other spawning areas (possibly Gingit Creek). Surveys of Gitzyon Creek from where it flows into Spencer Lake (part of the Tseax River) to a point approximately 1 km upstream of the Skateen Ave. Bridge (total survey length approximately 2.01 km ) were conducted on 4 August and 10 August. Accounting for observer efficiency an estimated 348 Sockeye salmon spawners (and 20 carcasses) were observed on 4 August and 220 spawners and 18 carcasses were present on 10 August. Applying the average ratio of peak live plus dead spawners to robust AUC escapement estimates for 8 years of Sockeye salmon escapement studies at Gingit Creek since 2004 ( $60 \%$ ) yielded a minimum escapement estimate of $\mathbf{6 1 3}$ Sockeye salmon for Gitzyon Creek in 2013. As it is uncertain whether surveys covered the peak Sockeye salmon spawning in this system this estimate should be treated as conservative.

DAMDOCHAX WATERSHED SURVEYS were conducted by air and ground on 29 August and 5, 10, and 14 September 2013. A total of 27 tagged Chinook were recovered from 161 adult Chinook carcasses examined downstream of the lake. Raw live counts were expanded for habitat not surveyed and reach and survey specific estimates of observer efficiency. An AUC escapement estimate of 1768 Chinook salmon was calculated using a 27.8 day survey life (Koski et al. 1996) and assuming that fish entered the survey area on 4 August. Due to the very long survey life used, this escapement estimate was almost identical to the observer efficiency expanded peak live (1758) plus dead count (4) on 29 August (total 1762). The similarity between peak counts, the weir and AUC estimates for Kwinageese River and Damdochax River respectively in 2012 and 2013 suggest that in future years a well-timed peak count, expanded for observer efficiency, may be an adequate escapement estimate for these systems. We recommend that the AUC estimate of $\mathbf{1 7 6 8} \mathbf{( 9 0 \%}$ CIs 1646-1899) adult Chinook salmon be used as the escapement estimate for Damdochax River in 2013.

Aerial Sockeye salmon counts of Wimnasik Creek between Wimnasik Lake and Damdochax Lake were conducted on 29 August and 5, 10 and 14 September 2013. Raw live counts were expanded by the helicopter observer efficiency expansion factor ( 1.95 x ) developed in 2011 using same day helicopter and ground counts at Upper Kwinageese Creek. The number of spawners on 26 September was estimated from the number of spawners on 10 September and the ratio of the 26 September count to the 9 September count on the Upper Kwinageese River
in 2013 (88\%). The count conducted on 14 September was judged by field crew to have much lower observer efficiency due to greater altitude and over-flight speed, this count was therefore not used in the analysis. An escapement estimate of $\mathbf{3 , 9 5 9} \mathbf{( 9 0 \%}$ CIs $\mathbf{2 , 8 0 7} \mathbf{- 5 , 5 4 5}$ ) Sockeye salmon was calculated using a survey life of 14.6 days ( $\pm$ standard deviation of 2.3 days) based on the average of Gingit Creek Sockeye salmon tag life curve based survey life estimates since 2004 ( $\mathrm{n}=8$ ); zero count dates were estimated using the MonteMaster AUC program. Adult Sockeye salmon were also counted in Damdochax River downstream of Damdochax Lake during Chinook salmon surveys. Counts, expanded for observer efficiency, were 174 on 29 August, 172 on 5 September, 258 on 10 September and 146 on 14 September. The majority of these fish were observed in a pool created by a new (since 2011) landslide upstream of Sansixmor Creek. These fish may have been enroute to primary spawning areas in Wimnasik Creek so no attempt was made to calculate an escapement estimate.

LOWER NASS CHUM AND PINK GROUND SURVEYS were conducted between 1 August and 23 September 2013. For AUC escapement estimation Chum salmon survey life was assumed to be 7 days with a standard deviation of 3 days. The standard deviation estimate was based on the coefficient of variation for Chum salmon survey life (0.42) reported in Perrin and Irvine (1990) multiplied by our estimated survey life of 7 days. Survey life for Pink Salmon was assumed to be 12.6 days and vary normally with a standard deviation of 4 days. These values are based on an average of 7 BC Central Coast streams reported in Perrin and Irvine (1990).

Six surveys were conducted on Ksemamaith Creek in 2013 with Chum salmon counted on three (11, 19, and 27 August). AUC escapement estimates were $\mathbf{2 0}$ Chum salmon ( $\mathbf{9 0 \%}$ CIs 12-60) and 5,477 Pink salmon ( $\mathbf{9 0 \%} \mathbf{~ C I s}$ 3,604-11,314). Seven surveys were conducted on a groundwater-fed tributary of the Tseax Slough (locally known as the Tseax second mouth) with Chum salmon counted on all surveys (1, 11, 19 \& 27 August; and 3, 12, \& 23 September). AUC escapement estimates were 97 Chum salmon ( $\mathbf{9 0 \%}$ CIs 59-282) and $\mathbf{6 6 6}$ Pink salmon (90\% CIs 526-1353).

PORTLAND CANAL \& INLET GROUND SURVEYS: Three Portland Canal systems (Donahue, Belle Bay and Roberson Creeks) and one Portland Inlet system (Chambers Creek) were surveyed close to the anticipated peak of the Pink salmon run in 2013 (15-22 August), and right after a significant rainfall. Donahue Creek was surveyed on 21 August 2013. The creek was surveyed from the estuary approximately 1 km upstream to the start of the canyon. Observer efficiency expanded live counts in this reach were 2,695 Pink salmon and 8 Chum salmon, 18 Pink salmon carcasses were also observed at Donahue Creek. It is uncertain what proportion of the Pink and Chum salmon spawn upstream of the upper limit of these 2013 surveys, so no escapement estimates were determined for Donahue Creek in 2013.

At Bell Bay, Roberson, and Chambers Creeks, surveys covered the majority of spawning habitat. Rough escapement estimates for Pink salmon were calculated for these three systems using a peak count to escapement estimate ratio of 1.61 calculated from surveys at Ksemamaith Creek, Tseax Groundwater Channel and Kincolith River from 2011-2013. These rough escapement estimates were $\mathbf{7 3 0}$ Pink salmon for Roberson Creek, 21,860 Pink salmon for Belle Bay Creek, and 54,180 Pink salmon for Chambers Creek. Exploratory surveys were also conducted on Gitzyon Creek on 4 and 10 August 2013; the peak count expansion method described above yielded an escapement estimate of $\mathbf{3 , 2 7 0}$ Pink salmon for Gitzyon Creek. However, as the peak count date ( 10 August) was earlier than the anticipated peak spawner abundance in this system, this escapement estimate should be considered conservative. Pink salmon adults were present in Chambers and Gitzyon Creeks. No Chum salmon adults were observed during surveys of Belle Bay and Roberson Creeks.

ZOLZAP CREEK ADULT COHO FENCE operated from 6 September to 13 November 2013 to enumerate coded wire tagged and unmarked adult Coho salmon, and to apply marks to facilitate a mark-recapture escapement estimate for Zolzap Creek. The fence was fish tight through the entire period and was never over-topped by high water. Total upstream adult counts at the Zolzap fence were 478 CWT Coho, 518 unmarked Coho, and 3 Sockeye salmon. Of the 996 adult Coho handled at the fence, 989 were marked with a left operculum punch and a cinch up vinyl tag. A total of 326 Coho with intact heads were recovered upstream of the fence by angling, dip netting, or as carcasses. Of these 142 ( $44 \%$ ) had been marked at the fence. Based on these data and accounting for an estimated $10 \%$ tagging related mortality, a preliminary mark recapture escapement estimate of $\mathbf{2 , 0 3 6}$ Coho salmon ( $\mathbf{9 5 \%}$ CI: 1,731-2,398) was calculated for Zolzap Creek in 2013; this is double the average $(1,067)$ for this system from previous years of weir operation (1993-2004, 2011-2012). Due to the high proportion of marked fish recaptured upstream of the fence, the uncertainty around this estimate is low ( $\mathrm{CV}=8 \%$ ). We recommend that when
finalized this mark-recapture estimate be considered the final escapement estimate for Zolzap Creek Coho salmon in 2013. A juvenile fence was also operated in 2013 (25 April to 8 June) where 30,393 Coho smolts were CWT and released.

LOWER NASS COHO GROUND SURVEYS were conducted in 2013 on the following systems:

- Zolzap Creek: Eight ground surveys of the spawning grounds were conducted at the time of this summary (29 September, 13, 20, 27 October and 2, 10, 18 and 23 November), live Coho were observed on all but the September survey. The MR estimate of escapement $(\mathbf{2 , 0 3 6})$ is $199 \%$ of the habitat-capacity estimate for 2013.
- Ansedegan Creek: Eight ground surveys were conducted at the time of this report (29 September; 13, 20 \& 27 October, 2, 10, 18 and 25 November); live Coho were observed on all but the September survey. The peak count to date was 502 adult Coho salmon on 20 October. A preliminary AUC escapement estimate of $\mathbf{1 , 1 4 2}$ Coho salmon ( $\mathbf{9 0 \%}$ CIs 875-1,565) was calculated using a survey life of $19 \pm 3$ days and running 1000 iterations in AUCmonteMASTER2.04. This is the highest escapement on record and is well above 2000-2012 average for this system (400). The AUC estimate is $241 \%$ of the habitat-capacity estimate for 2013.
- Diskangieq Creek: Eight surveys have been conducted to date (30 September, 12, 19, 26 October, 3, 9, 16 and 23 November); live Coho were observed on all but the first survey. The peak count, expanded for observer efficiency was 11,268 adult Coho on 12 October. A preliminary AUC escapement estimate of $\mathbf{1 4 , 6 7 4}$ Coho salmon ( $\mathbf{9 0 \%}$ CIs $\mathbf{1 1 , 5 2 2 - 1 9 , 7 8 1 )}$ ) was calculated using a survey life of $19 \pm 3$ days and running 1000 iterations in AUCmonteMASTER2.04. This is the highest escapement on record and is well above 2000-2012 average for this system $(2,200)$. The AUC estimate is $1276 \%$ of the habitat-capacity estimate for 2013.

A final lower Nass Coho salmon survey will be conducted on 5 December 2013. Overall the preliminary results from the 2013 Lower and Upper Nass Coho escapement programs indicate one of the largest Coho returns to the Nass Area streams, comparable to 2009. Charts of Nass salmon returns (TRTC and escapement) by year are provided after the text summary.

## PRELIMINARY NASS RUN SIZE ESTIMATES TO GITWINKSIHLKW AND NET ESCAPEMENT ESTIMATES FOR 2013:

## UPPER NASS ESTIMATES:

Preliminary post-season aggregate estimates for Upper Nass salmon and summer-run steelhead returns in 2013 (Table 4) were calculated from current mark-recapture data (Table 5). The in-season population estimates in 2013 tracked the Upper Nass salmon returns well; the Sockeye salmon estimate was $2 \%$ higher than the post-season estimate, Chinook was $6 \%$ higher, and Coho was $12 \%$ higher. The Upper Nass salmon runs to Gitwinksihlkw in 2013 were above average for Coho, and below average for Sockeye, Chinook, and summer-run steelhead. Based on the 2013 preliminary results, system-wide Upper Nass net escapement goals were not reached for Chinook; but were reached for Sockeye, Coho and Steelhead.

Table 4. Preliminary estimates of GW run size and net escapement for Nass salmon and summer-run Steelhead, 2013.

| Run size estimate to Gitwinksilkw (GW) fishwheels | $\mathbf{2 4 8 , 6 5 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 , 2 4 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 2 9 , 8 8 2}$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| In-season estimate to GW fishwheels | 254,036 | 10,849 | 145,230 |
| \% Difference of in-season to post-season | $2 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $12 \%$ |
|  |  |  |  |
| Net Escapement Estimate Above Gitwinksihlkw | $\mathbf{2 1 0 , 2 6 3}$ | $\mathbf{8 , 0 1 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 7 , 2 6 3}$ |

The preliminary Upper Nass escapement estimates for salmon and summer-run Steelhead to Gitwinksihlkw in 2013 were based on the information presented in Table 5. The preliminary adult summer-run steelhead estimate is based on a fishwheel catch index method. Too few fin-marked steelhead were recaptured $(<10)$ to generate an accurate mark-recapture population estimate. The steelhead fishwheel catch index method involves an expansion of the adult summer-run steelhead catches at GW fishwheels after 1 July by post-season Coho salmon mark rates with adjustments to GW operational effort and mean difference in method to mark-recapture techniques.

Table 5. Mark-recapture estimates for Nass salmon (Chinook, Sockeye and Coho) and summer-run steelhead returns to Gitwinksihlkw and spawning grounds, 2013. Best estimates are bolded.

| Species | Marked (M) | Censored | \% marks removed | Net marks available (M*) | Examined (C) | Marks recovered $\qquad$ | Population Estimate to GW (N) | SE | CV\% | $\begin{array}{\|r} \mathrm{Net} \\ \text { escapement } \\ \text { estimate } \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Chinook-stratified by size | 1,654 | 423 | 26\% | 1,231 | 1,061 | 154 | 10,240 | 659 | 8\% | 8,011 |
| Chinook-pooled | 1,654 | 423 | 26\% | 1,231 | 1,100 | 154 | 10,636 | 643 | 8\% | 8,407 |
| Sockeye | 7,102 | 2,267 | 32\% | 4,835 | 170,376 | 3,726 | 248,650 | 3,581 | 2\% | 210,263 |
| Coho | 3,422 | 935 | 27\% | 2,487 | 6,697 | 141 | 129,882 | 9,709 | 8\% | 117,263 |
| Steelhead (fin marks) | 561 | 41 | 7\% | 520 | 231 | 7 | NA | NA | NA | $N A$ |
| Steelhead (Coho MR index) |  |  |  |  |  |  | 6,803 | 1,101 | 34\% | 6,581 |

\% marks removed are associated with initial handling/capture induced mortality, primary tag loss if applicable, and selective removal in fisheries below Grease Harbour.

## NASS AREA SALMON NET ESCAPEMENT ESTIMATES:

The 2013 preliminary post-season estimates of net escapement for Sockeye, Pink, Chinook, Pink, Lower/Upper Nass and Coastal Coho, and summer-run steelhead were calculated according to methods developed by the Nisga'a-Canada-BC Joint technical committee (NCBJTC) and preliminary results are shown in Table 6. Lower and Coastal Nass Coho escapement estimates were calculated by prorating stream specific results to habitat-capacity model aggregate area estimates (Bocking and Peacock 2004; Coastal=212\% using mean estimates from Zolzap/Ansedegan; Lower $=674 \%$ using mean estimates from Zolzap/Ansedegan/Diskangieq). Based on these preliminary results, escapement goals were reached for all species other than Nass Chinook and Chum salmon in 2013. Nass Area salmon and steelhead run size returns and escapements in 2013 were below average for all species except Coho salmon based on returns from 2000 to 2012.

Table 6. Estimates of GW run size and net escapement for Nass salmon and summer-run steelhead, 2013.

|  | Escapement to GW |  |  |  |  |  | Net Escapement (Coastal, Lower, Middle and Upper Nass) |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Year | Sockeye | Pink | Chinook | Coho | Chum | Steelhead | Sockeye | Pink | Chinook | Coho | Chum | Steelhead |
| 2000 | 243,584 | UNK | 21,617 | 72,175 | UNK | 13,545 | 204,407 | 350,455 | 19,348 | 107,358 | 22,766 | 13,431 |
| 2001 | 206,033 | UNK | 34,703 | 89,536 | UNK | 11,524 | 167,253 | 839,628 | 32,952 | 160,768 | 37,226 | 11,325 |
| 2002 | 470,083 | UNK | 16,081 | 167,829 | UNK | 15,254 | 405,473 | 408,969 | 17,162 | 269,515 | 18,238 | 14,989 |
| 2003 | 328,916 | UNK | 29,462 | 77,574 | UNK | 14,673 | 263,688 | 1,071,399 | 28,478 | 126,021 | 79,791 | 14,429 |
| 2004 | 283,712 | UNK | 17,984 | 60,106 | UNK | 4,308 | 215,857 | 1,363,654 | 17,670 | 72,937 | 61,192 | 4,045 |
| 2005 | 285,916 | UNK | 16,764 | 99,906 | UNK | 7,090 | 224,559 | 1,348,319 | 16,663 | 144,129 | 37,237 | 7,008 |
| 2006 | 296,338 | UNK | 28,618 | 54,730 | UNK | 4,192 | 250,642 | 328,543 | 28,577 | 83,454 | 63,783 | 4,108 |
| 2007 | 195,238 | UNK | 27,173 | 55,944 | UNK | 5,864 | 164,747 | 812,171 | 27,683 | 115,679 | 13,593 | 5,823 |
| 2008 | 235,222 | UNK | 21,687 | 84,817 | UNK | 11,764 | 218,375 | 120,424 | 21,390 | 106,568 | 3,773 | 11,692 |
| 2009 | 281,235 | UNK | 30,262 | 201,684 | UNK | 23,021 | 244,900 | 917,070 | 27,785 | 324,384 | 25,052 | 22,884 |
| 2010 | 261,597 | UNK | 20,706 | 92,134 | UNK | 19,407 | 229,010 | 483,487 | 19,820 | 149,654 | 10,567 | 19,191 |
| 2011 | 308,625 | UNK | 11,477 | 74,108 | UNK | 19,267 | 276,700 | 161,321 | 10,170 | 85,910 | 7,826 | 19,181 |
| 2012 | 239,400 | UNK | 10,785 | 69,383 | UNK | 12,916 | 203,028 | 609,174 | 10,810 | 125,756 | 19,467 | 12,623 |
| 2013 | 248,650 | UNK | 10,240 | 112,149 | UNK | 6,803 | 210,263 | 597,198 | 9,306 | 322,173 | 14,140 | 6,578 |
| Mean 00-12 | 280,000 |  | 22,000 | 92,000 |  | 13,000 | 236,000 | 678,000 | 21,000 | 144,000 | 31,000 | 12,000 |
| Targets | 275,000 |  | 13,000 | 60,000 |  | 4500-10500 | 200,000 | 225,000 | 15,000 | 60,000 | 45,000 | 4000-10000 |

## PRELIMINARY HARVEST ESTIMATES FOR ADULT NASS SALMON \& STEELHEAD

ALASKAN FISHERIES IN SE ALASKA (information courtesy from ADFG's website):
Alaskan gillnet fisheries in Districts 101 (Tree Point) and 106 (Sumner and Upper Clarence) started on 16 June and 17 June 2013, respectively. Alaskan seine fisheries start dates in 2013: Districts 101 (Lower Clarence/Revilla) opened on 7 July, 102 (Middle Clarence) on 16 June, 103 (Cordova) opened on 21 July, and 104 (Noyes/Dall) opened on 7 July. The table below shows the in-season catch estimates of salmon in Alaskan net fisheries in Districts 101-104 (and mean catch comparisons between 2000 and 2012) based on data from ADFG's notices.

Alaskan net catches in 2013 were below average for Sockeye, Chinook, and Chum; and well above average for Pink ( 1.8 times) and Coho salmon (1.3 times). Alaskan Pink fisheries ended on 8 September. District 101gillnet fishery closed on 3 October. Of the total in-season Sockeye catch reported in Alaskan net fisheries $(232,500)$, approximately $65,500(28 \%)$ are estimated as Nass origin based on mean stock composition estimates from 1982 to 2011. The 2013 in-season harvest estimate is below average ( 145,000 (range: $47,000-300,000$ )) based on mean harvests of Nass Sockeye in Alaskan fisheries from 2000 to 2011.

Table 7. In-season salmon catch estimates in Alaskan net fisheries in Districts 101-104, 2013.

| IN-SEASON SE ALASKAN CUM. SALMON CATCH ESTIMATES (ADFG WEBSITE) - 2013 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | WEEK END: |  | 5-Oct-13 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DISTRICTS | AREA | $\begin{array}{r} \text { SOCK } \\ \text { CATCH } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { AVG (00- } \\ \hline 12) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { CHIN } \\ \text { CATCH } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { AVG (00- } \\ 12) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { PINK } \\ \text { CATCH } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|r\|} \hline \text { AVG ODD } \\ (00-12) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { CHUM } \\ \text { CATCH } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { AVG (00- } \\ 12) \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|r\|} \hline \mathrm{COHO} \\ \mathrm{CATCH} \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { AVG (00- } \\ \hline 12) \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| DIST 101 GN | TREE PT | 52,000 | 81,000 | 2,000 | 1,400 | 662,200 | 421,800 | 262,000 | 254,000 | 93,600 | 47,400 |
| DIST 106 GN | UPP. CLAR | 45,000 | 96,000 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 487,000 | 157,900 | 81,000 | 191,000 | 148,900 | 138,200 |
| DIST 101 SN | LOW CLAR | 24,000 | 60,800 | 100 | 800 | 12,395,000 | 5,391,000 | 184,000 | 277,000 | 63,400 | 37,600 |
| DIST 102 SN | MID CLAR. | 30,000 | 34,800 | 800 | 730 | 9,187,000 | 3,886,500 | 395,000 | 492,000 | 69,800 | 50,600 |
| DIST 103 SN | CORDOVA | 12,500 | 26,000 | 220 | 500 | 8,105,000 | 6,290,000 | 77,500 | 137,000 | 36,700 | 30,000 |
| DIST 104 SN | NOYES/DALL | 69,000 | 263,000 | 3,200 | 6,500 | 10,325,000 | 7,312,000 | 92,000 | 182,000 | 72,700 | 64,100 |
| CUMULATIV | TOTAL | 232,500 | 561,600 | 7,820 | 11,430 | 41,161,200 | 23,459,200 | 1,091,500 | 1,533,000 | 485,100 | 367,900 |

## CANADIAN COMMERCIAL HARVEST DATA:

IN-SEASON AREA 3 GILLNET AND SEINE CATCH DATA (information courtesy from DFO Prince Rupert):
The total openings conducted by the DFO commercial net fisheries in Area 3 in 2013 were 16 gillnet and 20 seine. The 16 gillnet openings were conducted between 18 June and 30 July, and the 20 seine openings between 8 July and 20 August. Sockeye salmon were not permitted for gillnet retention in commercial fisheries from 12-24 July in Area 3, the anticipated peak of the Kwinageese Sockeye migration that is in a stock rebuilding phase after a spawning ground migration barrier was detected and remediated in 2011 (DFO’s 2013 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan). Sockeye retention in the Area 3 seine fishery was only permitted on 8-9 July. Commercial net harvest and release data for salmon and steelhead caught in Area 3 are shown below.

Table 8. In-season salmon and steelhead gillnet and seine catch estimates in DFO commercial net fisheries in Area 3, 2013.

|  |  |  | Data |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| GEAR |  | AREA 3 | Vessels | SO-harv | SO-Rel | CO-HARV | CO-Rel | PK-HARV | PK-Rel | Chum-harv | Chum-Rel | CH-harv | CH-Rel | STEEL-Rel |
| ■GN |  | 3-12 | 1404 | 73,688 | 0 | 2,472 | 754 | 170,739 | 738 | 0 | 2,717 | 618 | 1,026 | 289 |
|  |  | 3-7A | 594 | 38,166 | 0 | 1,137 | 306 | 82,984 | 293 | 0 | 2,293 | 327 | 336 | 129 |
|  |  | 3-7B | 428 | 24,465 | 0 | 744 | 802 | 29,851 | 208 | 8,351 | 254 | 184 | 216 | 36 |
|  |  | BOSTON ROCKS | 31 | 1,077 | 0 | 76 | 93 | 5,987 | 24 | 2,442 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
|  |  | TRACEY BAY | 24 | 666 | 0 | 27 | 70 | 3,748 | 16 | 1,138 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| GN Total |  |  | 2,481 | 138,062 | 0 | 4,456 | 2,025 | 293,309 | 1,279 | 11,931 | 5,264 | 1,129 | 1,595 | 454 |
| $\square$ SN |  | 3-12 | 5 | 0 | 256 | 365 | 6 | 44,882 | 0 | 0 | 468 | 0 | 11 | 0 |
|  |  | 3-7A | 8 | 0 | 341 | 547 | 12 | 53,939 | 0 | 0 | 450 | 0 | 11 | 1 |
|  |  | 3-7B | 107 | 3,419 | 12,420 | 6,611 | 90 | 894,433 | 0 | 13,300 | 8,284 | 0 | 629 | 69 |
|  |  | BOSTON ROCKS | 90 | 1,382 | 4,883 | 5,436 | 62 | 787,253 | 0 | 13,038 | 5,395 | 0 | 262 | 53 |
|  |  | TRACEY BAY | 63 | 2,126 | 2,779 | 3,607 | 31 | 452,582 | 0 | 15,653 | 3,355 | 0 | 189 | 39 |
|  |  |  | 273 | 6,927 | 20,679 | 16,566 | 201 | 2,233,089 | 0 | 41,991 | 17,952 | 0 | 1,102 | 162 |
| SN Total |  |  | 2,754 | 144,989 | 20,679 | 21,022 | 2,226 | 2,526,398 | 1,279 | 53,922 | 23,216 | 1,129 | 2,697 | 616 |

LABELS: SO=SOCKEYE, PK=PINK, CO=COHO, CH=CHINOOK; STEEL=STEELHEAD, HARV=HARVESTED, AND $R E L=R E L E A S E D$.

## PRELIMINARY POST-SEASON NET, TROLL, AND RECREATIONAL CATCH ESTIMATES FOR NASS SALMON STOCKS:

COMMERCIAL CATCH ESTIMATES OF NASS SALMON: Preliminary harvest estimates of Nass salmon in commercial net and troll fisheries for 2013 are approximately: 134,000 Sockeye, 225,000 Pink, 1,100 Chinook, 55,000 Coho, and $<\mathbf{1 , 0 0 0}$ Chum based on preliminary data from DFO Prince Rupert and methods developed by the NCBJTC (Table 9). Commercial catches were below average for all Nass salmon species with the exception of average catches of Nass Pink and above average catches on Nass Coho when compared to the mean catches from 2000 to 2012.

Table 9. In-season commercial net and troll catch estimates of Nass salmon in DFO commercial fisheries in Areas 1-5, 2000-2013.

|  | COMMERCIAL (GILLNET \& SEINE) |  |  |  |  | COMMERCIAL (TROLL) |  |  |  |  | TOTAL COMMERCIAL CATCH ESTIMATES |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Year | Sockeye | Pink | Chinook | Coho | Chum | Sockeye | Pink | Chinook | Coho | Chum | Sockeye | Pink | Chinook | Coho | Chum |
| 2000 | 239,022 | 205,149 | 1,826 | 1,656 | 11,534 | 0 | UNK | NA | NA | UNK | 239,022 | 205,149 | 1,826 | 1,656 | 11,534 |
| 2001 | 131,879 | 982,403 | 928 | 2,367 | 31,192 | 0 | UNK | NA | 4,111 | UNK | 131,879 | 982,403 | 928 | 6,478 | 31,192 |
| 2002 | 725,478 | 239,403 | 3,838 | 2,367 | 9,767 | 0 | UNK | 2,142 | 9,519 | UNK | 725,478 | 239,403 | 5,980 | 11,886 | 9,767 |
| 2003 | 615,584 | 183,096 | 3,585 | 2,367 | 13,718 | 0 | UNK | 2,491 | 19,857 | UNK | 615,584 | 183,096 | 6,076 | 22,224 | 13,718 |
| 2004 | 317,649 | 530,455 | 6,270 | 4,979 | 8,365 | 0 | UNK | 419 | 22,142 | UNK | 317,649 | 530,455 | 6,689 | 27,121 | 8,365 |
| 2005 | 173,573 | 353,920 | 2,685 | 14,955 | 2,714 | 0 | UNK | 430 | 19,230 | UNK | 173,573 | 353,920 | 3,115 | 34,185 | 2,714 |
| 2006 | 291,650 | 36,604 | 3,240 | 8,295 | 9,251 | 0 | UNK | 1,273 | 7,503 | UNK | 291,650 | 36,604 | 4,513 | 15,798 | 9,251 |
| 2007 | 130,920 | 302,555 | 3,443 | 2,574 | 1,070 | 0 | UNK | 588 | 8,752 | UNK | 130,920 | 302,555 | 4,031 | 11,326 | 1,070 |
| 2008 | 59,975 | 3,655 | 340 | 9,789 | 204 | 0 | UNK | 45 | 4,475 | UNK | 59,975 | 3,655 | 385 | 14,264 | 204 |
| 2009 | 102,572 | 69,956 | 849 | 2,367 | 1,289 | 0 | UNK | 274 | 16,460 | UNK | 102,572 | 69,956 | 1,123 | 18,827 | 1,289 |
| 2010 | 85,862 | 5,167 | 554 | 2,683 | 244 | 0 | UNK | 268 | 13,440 | UNK | 85,862 | 5,167 | 822 | 16,123 | 244 |
| 2011 | 107,768 | 15,022 | 821 | 2,925 | 475 | 0 | UNK | 383 | 17,870 | UNK | 107,768 | 15,022 | 1,204 | 20,795 | 475 |
| 2012 | 113,420 | 47,930 | 372 | 2,882 | 998 | 0 | UNK | 422 | 20,500 | UNK | 113,420 | 47,930 | 794 | 23,382 | 998 |
| 2013 | 134,436 | 224,927 | 904 | 3,927 | 725 | 0 | UNK | 178 | 51,098 | UNK | 134,436 | 224,927 | 1,082 | 55,025 | 725 |
| Mean 00-12 | 238,000 | 229,000 | 2,000 | 5,000 | 7,000 |  |  | 1,000 | 14,000 |  | 238,000 | 229,000 | 3,000 | 17,000 | 7,000 |

RECREATIONAL CATCH ESTIMATES: Preliminary harvest estimates of Nass salmon in recreational fisheries for 2013 are approximately: 31 Sockeye, 990 Chinook, and $\mathbf{8 , 9 0 0}$ Coho based on preliminary data from Nisga'a Fisheries, DFO Prince Rupert, and methods developed by the NCBJTC (Table 10). The recreational catch estimates of Nass salmon that are shown in Table 10 are considered minimum and based on many assumptions (e.g., relative stock composition of Nass salmon in total recreational catches in Area 3 and Area 4 (tidal only). The recreational harvest estimates for 2013 indicate average catches of Nass Sockeye, below average catches of Nass Chinook, and above average catches of Nass Coho when compared to mean estimates from 2000 to 2012 (Table 10).

In-river recreational catches were monitored by Nisga'a Fisheries at four systems in 2013 from July to end of September to generate minimum in-river catch estimates. Systems monitored in 2013 included: Kincolith River ( $\sim 10$ Chinook kept), Tseax River ( $\sim 200$ Chinook and $\sim 30$ Coho kept), Cranberry River ( $\sim 155$ Chinook kept), and Meziadin River ( $\sim 35$ Sockeye and $\sim 50$ Chinook kept). These system estimates combined with a historical harvest rate method were used to generate minimum estimates of the Lower Nass and Upper Nass in-river harvests for Nass Chinook ( $\sim 80$ ) and Coho ( $\sim 235$ ) in 2013. In-river monitoring results for 2013 indicated average and below average catches of Nass Sockeye and Nass Chinook/Coho, respectively, when compared to mean estimates from 2000 to 2012 (Table 10).

Table 10. Preliminary post--season Nass salmon harvest estimates in recreational fisheries, 2000-2013.

|  | In-river Recreational Catch |  |  |  |  | Tidal Recreational Catch |  |  |  |  | Total Recreational Catch |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Year | Sock. | Pink | Chin. | Coho | Chum | Sock. | Pink | Chin. | Coho | Chum | Sock. | Pink | Chin. | Coho | Chum |
| 2000 | 15 | UNK | 1,237 | 275 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 986 | 1,376 | UNK | 15 | UNK | 2,223 | 1,651 | UNK |
| 2001 | 3 | UNK | 1,050 | 411 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 1,705 | 7,418 | UNK | 3 | UNK | 2,755 | 7,829 | UNK |
| 2002 | 25 | UNK | 870 | 340 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 1,116 | 4,125 | UNK | 25 | UNK | 1,986 | 4,465 | UNK |
| 2003 | UNK | UNK | 1,190 | 157 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 1,167 | 4,495 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 2,357 | 4,652 | UNK |
| 2004 | UNK | UNK | 930 | 171 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 1,925 | 4,370 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 2,855 | 4,541 | UNK |
| 2005 | UNK | UNK | 773 | 453 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 1,542 | 4,844 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 2,315 | 5,297 | UNK |
| 2006 | UNK | UNK | 1,311 | 76 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 983 | 4,147 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 2,294 | 4,223 | UNK |
| 2007 | UNK | UNK | 1,518 | 519 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 1,810 | 3,945 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 3,328 | 4,464 | UNK |
| 2008 | UNK | UNK | 1,317 | 148 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 1,620 | 5,102 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 2,937 | 5,250 | UNK |
| 2009 | UNK | UNK | 1,296 | 1,727 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 1,316 | 5,931 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 2,612 | 7,658 | UNK |
| 2010 | 119 | UNK | 547 | 225 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 399 | 3,822 | UNK | 119 | UNK | 946 | 4,047 | UNK |
| 2011 | 7 | UNK | 569 | 219 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 898 | 4,789 | UNK | 7 | UNK | 1,467 | 5,008 | UNK |
| 2012 | 0 | UNK | 550 | 164 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 494 | 2,145 | UNK | 0 | UNK | 1,044 | 2,309 | UNK |
| 2013 | 31 | UNK | 472 | 259 | UNK | UNK | UNK | 518 | 8,641 | UNK | 31 | UNK | 990 | 8,900 | UNK |
| Mean 00-12 | 30 |  | 1,000 | 400 |  |  |  | 1,200 | 4,300 |  | 30 |  | 2,000 | 5,000 |  |

## GITANYOW HARVEST ESTIMATES:

Preliminary harvest estimates of Nass salmon in Gitanyow fisheries in the Upper Nass River were reported by the Gitanyow Fisheries Authority to week ending 14 September as: 10,779 adult Sockeye (164 tags recovered), 66 adult Chinook (52 large (4 tags) and 14 small), and 46 adult Coho ( 2 tags recovered). The total adult Sockeye harvested includes a commercial harvest of Sockeye $(3,098)$ below the Meziadin Fishway as part of DFO's Inland Demonstration Economic Fishery that occurred between 5 August and 12 August 2013. Harvests in 2013 were above average for Sockeye ( 10,779 vs. 7,000 ), below average for large Chinook ( 52 vs. 200) and Coho (46 vs. 200) and based on mean harvests from 2000 to 2012.

|  | Gityanow |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Year | Sock. | Pink | Chin. | Coho | Chum |
| 2000 | 2,884 | 0 | 49 | 98 | 0 |
| 2001 | 2,544 | 0 | 195 | 399 | 0 |
| 2002 | 6,958 | 0 | 151 | 26 | 0 |
| 2003 | 3,472 | 0 | 181 | 68 | 0 |
| 2004 | 2,622 | 0 | 230 | 44 | 0 |
| 2005 | 10,113 | 0 | 179 | 718 | 0 |
| 2006 | 6,460 | 0 | 456 | 392 | 0 |
| 2007 | 1,325 | 0 | 24 | 127 | 0 |
| 2008 | 9,406 | 0 | 174 | 54 | 0 |
| 2009 | 8,172 | 0 | 148 | 327 | 0 |
| 2010 | 9,154 | 0 | 88 | 193 | 0 |
| 2011 | 13,091 | 0 | 103 | 18 | 0 |
| 2012 | 14,298 | 0 | 105 | 187 | 0 |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 , 7 7 9}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{5 2}$ | $\mathbf{4 6}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ |
| Mean 00-12 | $\mathbf{7 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ |

## NISGA'A NATION CATCH ESTIMATES:

The 2013 Nisga'a domestic (FSC) salmon fishery was monitored from 1 May to 31 August as part of the Nisga’a Fisheries salmon and steelhead catch monitoring program. Incidental salmon and Steelhead catches after 31 August were added from the non-salmon catch and recreational catch monitoring programs. Tables 11 and 12 show preliminary harvest estimates of Nass salmon and steelhead in Nisga’a fisheries in 2013. Total harvests were: 73,432 Sockeye, 4,352 Chinook, 19,370 Coho, 36,081 Pink, 111 Chum salmon, and 433 steelhead (includes winter-run catches in May and summer-run catches from June to August).

Of the total Nisga'a harvests of Nass salmon in 2013, 6 marine and 12 in-river individual-sale (IS) gillnet fisheries were conducted and 41,573 Sockeye, 9,920 Coho, and 16,869 Pink salmon were harvested with restricted sale fishery periods (12-24 July marine and 16-28 July in-river) to allow for Kwinageese Sockeye to pass upriver (Tables 11 and 12). Total IS fisher permits issued in 2013 were 174 (including 43 elder permits). Permits issued by community: 49 Gitlakdamix, 34 Gitwinksihlkw, 26 Gingolx, 23 Laxgalts’ap, 15 Prince Rupert, 15 Terrace, and 9 from other areas. Total IS fishers that participated were 2013 were 112 (including 27 elder permits). Permits fished by community: 26 Gitlakdamix, 25 Gitwinksihlkw, 19 Gingolx, 15 Laxgalts’ap, 12 Prince Rupert, 10 Terrace, and 5 from other areas.

Table 11. Nisga'a individual-sale (IS) fisheries conducted in 2013.

| NISGA'A MARINE SALE FISHERY: |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NUMBER OF NISGA'A MARINE FISHERIES (16 HR OPENINGS): | 6 | 22, 23, 30 JUNE; 7, 10, 28 JULY |
| DATA FROM 22 JUNE FISHERY (25 BOATS - 30 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 6700 SOCKEYE |
| DATA FROM 23 JUNE FISHERY (25 BOATS - 36 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 6903 SOCKEYE |
| DATA FROM 30 JUNE FISHERY (25 BOATS - 29 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 4571 SOCKEYE AND 277 PINK |
| DATA FROM 7 JULY FISHERY (25 BOATS - 28 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 2882 SOCKEYE, 3701 PINK, AND 25 COHO |
| DATA FROM 10 JULY FISHERY (17 BOATS - 20 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 734 SOCKEYE, 2589 PINK, AND 20 COHO |
| DATA FROM 28 JULY FISHERY (17 BOATS - 20 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 1565 SOCKEYE, 10,302 PINK, AND 357 COHO |
| NISGA'A IN-RIVER SALE FISHERY: |  |  |
| NUMBER OF NISGA'A IN-RIVER FISHERIES (10 HR OPENINGS): | 12 | 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 30, 31 JULY; 22, 23, 26, 27 AUGUST |
| DATA FROM 5 JULY FISHERY (42 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 3268 SOCKEYE |
| DATA FROM 7 JULY FISHERY (30 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 1624 SOCKEYE |
| DATA FROM 9 JULY FISHERY (25 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 2081 SOCKEYE AND 2 COHO |
| DATA FROM 11 JULY FISHERY (28 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 2273 SOCKEYE AND 10 COHO |
| DATA FROM 13 JULY FISHERY (25 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 1390 SOCKEYE AND 8 COHO |
| DATA FROM 15 JULY FISHERY (25 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 1512 SOCKEYE AND 13 COHO |
| DATA FROM 30 JULY FISHERY (24 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 2954 SOCKEYE AND 793 COHO |
| DATA FROM 31 JULY FISHERY (27 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 2123 SOCKEYE AND 586 COHO |
| DATA FROM 22 AUGUST FISHERY (18 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 434 SOCKEYE AND 2738 COHO |
| DATA FROM 23 AUGUST FISHERY (12 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 268 SOCKEYE AND 2114 COHO |
| DATA FROM 26 AUGUST FISHERY (12 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 135 SOCKEYE AND 1855 COHO |
| DATA FROM 27 AUGUST FISHERY (11 FISHERS) - FINAL |  | 75 SOCKEYE AND 1399 COHO |

In addition to IS fisheries, Nisga’a communal selective fisheries were also conducted in 2013 at the Grease Harbour fishwheels ( 82 Sockeye and 5629 Coho harvested) and by a contracted Nisga'a seiner ( 7 Sockeye, 2 Chinook, 234 Coho, and 12,184 Pink harvested) in the Nass marine area to fish treaty allocations of Nass Coho and Pink salmon (Table 12).

In addition to treaty fisheries, Nisga’a Lisims Government (NLG) were successful in negotiating the leasing of 40 Area C commercial gillnet licenses to participate in DFO’s Inland Selective Demonstration Fishery Program in 2013. DFO allocated weekly gillnet catches of Sockeye to NLG’s inland selective fishery program based on a license sharing formula from commercial gillnet catches in Area 3. These harvests were additional to Nisga’a Treaty Allocations (and IS targets) and had to be caught selectively (no gillnets). The Grease Harbour fishwheels were used to harvest these additional catch shares as arranged by NLG and Nisga’a Fisheries Limited. DFO allocated 5,008 Sockeye to NLG for selectively harvesting from the GH fishwheels based on Area 3 in-season commercial gillnet catches in 2013. Harvests started on 5 July, with a closure period from 22 July to 3 August to allow Kwinageese Sockeye to pass, and ended on 12 August when the allocation of 5,008 was reached (Table 12).

Table 12. Preliminary Nass salmon and steelhead harvests in Nisga'a fisheries, 2013.

| NISGA'A TOTAL HARVEST SUMMARY | SOCK | CHIN | COHO | PINK-ODD | CHUM | STEEL |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| MARINE SALE FISHERY TOTAL | 23,355 | CLOSED | 402 | 16,869 | CLOSED | CLOSED |
| IN-RIVER SALE FISHERY TOTAL | 18,218 | CLOSED | 9,518 | 0 | CLOSED | CLOSED |
| INDIVIDUAL SALE (IS) FISHERY TOTAL | $\mathbf{4 1 , 5 7 3}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{9 , 9 2 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 6 , 8 6 9}$ | CLOSED | CLOSED |
| NLG COMMUNAL SELECTIVE FISHWHEEL FISHERY | 82 | CLOSED | 5,629 | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED |
| NLG COMMUNAL SEINE SELECTIVE FISHERY | 7 | 2 | 234 | 12,184 | CLOSED | CLOSED |
| DOMESTIC (FSC) GILLNET FISHERY | $\mathbf{2 6 , 7 6 2}$ | $\mathbf{4 , 3 5 0}$ | $\mathbf{3 , 5 8 7}$ | $\mathbf{7 , 0 2 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 1}$ | $\mathbf{4 3 3}$ |
| SUB TOTAL (NLG TREATY FISHERIES) | $\mathbf{6 8 , 4 2 4}$ | $\mathbf{4 , 3 5 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 , 3 7 0}$ | $\mathbf{3 6 , 0 8 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 1}$ | $\mathbf{4 3 3}$ |
| NLG SOCK DEMONSTRATION FISHERY | 5,008 | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED |
| GRAND TOTAL | $\mathbf{7 3 , 4 3 2}$ | $\mathbf{4 , 3 5 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 , 3 7 0}$ | $\mathbf{3 6 , 0 8 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 1}$ | $\mathbf{4 3 3}$ |

Preliminary Nisga'a entitlements for 2013 were below average for Sockeye, Pink, Chinook, and Chum, and above average for Coho salmon based on mean entitlements from 2000-2013 (Table 13). Preliminary Nisga'a harvests in 2013 were below average for Sockeye, Chinook, and Chum salmon; and above average for Pink, Coho, and
steelhead based on mean catches from 2000 to 2012. Nisga’a catch estimates for steelhead not only include summer-run stocks caught from late June onward but also winter/spring run stocks caught in May and June. Note that there are currently no defined Nisga'a entitlement for steelhead (winter or summer-run); but domestic harvests are permitted. The Nisga'a entitlement estimates for 2013 shown in Table 13 are based on preliminary data to date and include entitlement adjustments from any over harvests in all fisheries as calculated from the Nisga’a Final Agreement.

Table 13. Preliminary Nisga'a entitlement and harvest summary for Nass salmon and Steelhead, 2000-2013.

|  | Nisga'a Entitle ment |  |  |  |  | Nisga'a Harvests |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Year | Sock. | Pink | Chin. | Coho | Chum | Sock. | Pink | Chin. | Coho | Chum | Steel |
| 2000 | 93,855 | 42,118 | 6,935 | 9,241 | 12,601 | 93,179 | 6,086 | 9,326 | 1,950 | 1,067 | 495 |
| 2001 | 66,781 | 257,071 | 10,447 | 15,878 | 7,071 | 77,183 | 79,378 | 11,764 | 14,706 | 1,617 | 403 |
| 2002 | 195,288 | 67,129 | 6,315 | 19,200 | 2,899 | 140,666 | 2,043 | 5,431 | 9,016 | 132 | 557 |
| 2003 | 161,879 | 162,877 | 9,198 | 12,440 | 7,506 | 140,861 | 18,949 | 6,709 | 14,882 | 318 | 445 |
| 2004 | 117,388 | 257,556 | 6,928 | 8,187 | 5,647 | 145,241 | 10,528 | 5,548 | 20,337 | 1,030 | 512 |
| 2005 | 89,454 | 227,874 | 5,940 | 15,599 | 3,412 | 113,345 | 4,519 | 6,015 | 14,969 | 698 | 244 |
| 2006 | 111,590 | 23,466 | 9,049 | 8,509 | 5,931 | 88,021 | 3,753 | 7,250 | 8,425 | 1,110 | 251 |
| 2007 | 56,245 | 139,993 | 8,776 | 11,883 | 455 | 53,863 | 6,159 | 6,724 | 9,515 | 932 | 116 |
| 2008 | 47,754 | 39 | 6,160 | 9,773 | 161 | 45,444 | 4,372 | 4,450 | 3,450 | 506 | 179 |
| 2009 | 68,094 | 123,149 | 7,792 | 19,200 | 324 | 69,446 | 24,572 | 5,435 | 13,794 | 139 | 266 |
| 2010 | 60,733 | 42,427 | 5,514 | 14,399 | 79 | 67,691 | 2,493 | 4,581 | 10,292 | 102 | 709 |
| 2011 | 75,380 | 15,662 | 6,455 | 8,641 | 156 | 60,441 | 45,719 | 4,584 | 2,635 | 210 | 193 |
| 2012 | 62,430 | 71,304 | 5,366 | 13,708 | 299 | 68,759 | 20,224 | 3,547 | 12,082 | 316 | 542 |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{6 8 , 9 4 6}$ | $\mathbf{9 9 , 3 5 8}$ | $\mathbf{5 , 4 3 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 , 2 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 0}$ | $\mathbf{6 8 , 4 2 4}$ | $\mathbf{3 6 , 0 8 1}$ | $\mathbf{4 , 3 5 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 , 3 7 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 1}$ | $\mathbf{4 3 3}$ |
| Mean 00-12 | $\mathbf{9 3 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 0 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{7 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 3 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{4 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{9 0 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 8 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{6 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{4 0 0}$ |

## PRELIMINARY NASS SALMON TOTAL RETURN TO CANADA (TRTC) ESTIMATES FOR 2013:

The preliminary TRTC estimates used by the Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Department for tracking Nisga'a salmon entitlements for 2013 are: 429,000 Sockeye, 858,000 Pink, 15,800 Chinook, 411,000 Coho and $\mathbf{1 5 , 0 0 0}$ Chum. The preliminary TRTC salmon estimates were higher than the pre-season estimates for Sockeye ( 429,000 vs. 344,000 ), Coho ( 411,000 vs. 172,000 ) and Chum ( 15,000 vs. 12,000 ); and below average for Pink $(886,000$ vs. 858,000$)$ and Chinook ( 15,800 vs. 20,000 ). Nass salmon returns in 2013 were all below average with the exception of Nass Coho based on mean returns from 2000 to 2012. Charts of the 2013 TRTC, escapement, and Nisga'a catches compared to past years are provided in the attachment that follows this summary.

Table 14. Preliminary Total Return to Canada and total harvest estimates for Nass salmon, 2000-2013.

|  | Total Return To Canada (TRTC) |  |  |  | HARVEST TOT ALS (ALL FISHERIES) |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Year | Sock. | Pink | Chin. | Coho | Chum | Sock. | Pink | Chin. | Coho | Chum |
| 2000 | 541,471 | 561,690 | 33,023 | 115,517 | 36,309 | 335,100 | 211,235 | 13,424 | 5,355 | 12,601 |
| 2001 | 380,692 | $1,901,409$ | 49,749 | 198,478 | 71,566 | 211,609 | $1,061,781$ | 15,642 | 25,301 | 32,809 |
| 2002 | $1,280,600$ | 650,415 | 30,073 | 314,618 | 29,975 | 873,127 | 241,446 | 11,406 | 15,874 | 9,899 |
| 2003 | $1,023,605$ | $1,273,444$ | 43,801 | 155,500 | 93,827 | 759,917 | 202,045 | 12,832 | 21,969 | 14,036 |
| 2004 | 681,369 | $1,904,637$ | 32,992 | 102,335 | 70,588 | 465,512 | 540,983 | 14,903 | 29,901 | 9,395 |
| 2005 | 521,590 | $1,706,758$ | 28,287 | 194,986 | 40,649 | 297,031 | 358,439 | 11,194 | 35,939 | 3,412 |
| 2006 | 636,773 | 368,900 | 43,090 | 106,364 | 74,144 | 386,131 | 40,357 | 13,240 | 21,335 | 10,361 |
| 2007 | 350,855 | $1,120,885$ | 41,790 | 148,533 | 15,596 | 186,108 | 308,714 | 13,519 | 16,680 | 2,002 |
| 2008 | 333,200 | 128,452 | 29,336 | 122,164 | 4,483 | 114,825 | 8,027 | 7,901 | 18,543 | 710 |
| 2009 | 425,090 | $1,011,599$ | 37,103 | 365,306 | 26,479 | 180,190 | 94,528 | 9,044 | 24,146 | 1,428 |
| 2010 | 391,836 | 491,147 | 26,257 | 179,993 | 10,913 | 162,826 | 7,660 | 6,169 | 17,215 | 346 |
| 2011 | 458,007 | 222,062 | 17,528 | 108,013 | 8,511 | 181,307 | 60,741 | 6,975 | 10,586 | 685 |
| 2012 | 399,505 | 677,328 | 16,300 | 171,345 | 20,781 | 196,477 | 68,154 | 5,068 | 17,460 | 1,314 |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{4 2 8 , 9 4 1}$ | $\mathbf{8 5 8 , 2 0 6}$ | $\mathbf{1 5 , 7 8 2}$ | $\mathbf{4 1 0 , 8 5 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 4 , 9 7 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 1 3 , 6 7 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 6 1 , 0 0 8}$ | $\mathbf{6 , 2 9 8}$ | $\mathbf{3 2 , 2 4 3}$ | $\mathbf{8 3 6}$ |
| Mean $\mathbf{0 0 - 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{5 7 1 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{9 2 5 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{3 3 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 7 6 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{3 9 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{3 3 5 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 4 6 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{8 , 0 0 0}$ |

## PRELIMINARY NASS SALMON TOTAL RETURN TO CANADA (TRTC) AND NISGA'A ALLOCATION PRE-SEASON FORECASTS FOR 2014:

Based on the preliminary Nass salmon return and age information from 2013, preliminary forecasts for Nass salmon and Nisga'a allocations for 2014 were calculated using pre-season forecast models (Table 15). Forecast models are a combination of sibling (Sockeye and Chinook only) and 5 year mean returns that project $25 \%, 50 \%$, and $75 \%$ probability point estimates.

Pre-season TRTC forecasts (50\% probability estimates) for 2014 suggest an improving return for Nass Sockeye but below average ( 539,000 vs. 571,000 ); below average returns for even-year, Nass Area Pink ( 496,000 vs. 700,000 ), Nass Chinook ( 24,000 vs. 33,000 ), and Nass Chum ( 15,000 vs. 39,000 ); and an above average return for Nass Coho (219,000 vs. 176,000 ) based on mean TRTC estimates from 2000 to 2012.

Nisga’a entitlement pre-season forecasts for 2014 are about average for Nass Sockeye ( 93,000 vs. 90,000 ), below average for Nass even-year Pink ( 43,000 vs. 70,000), Chinook ( 5,000 vs. 7,000), and Chum ( $<100$ vs. 4,000 ), and above average for Nass Coho ( 18,000 vs. 13,000).

Table 15. Preliminary Total Return to Canada and Nisga'a Allocation forecasts for Nass salmon for 2014.

| TRTC | SOCKEYE | PINK | CHINOOK | COHO | CHUM |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $75 \%$ prob. | 449,000 | 260,000 | 18,000 | 151,000 | 11,000 |
| $\mathbf{5 0 \%}$ prob. | $\mathbf{5 3 9 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{4 9 6 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 4 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 1 9 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 5 , 0 0 0}$ |
| 25\% prob. | 661,000 | 948,000 | 31,000 | 317,000 | 20,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NISGA'A ENTITLEMENT | SOCKEYE | PINK | CHINOOK | COHO | CHUM |
| $75 \%$ prob. | 73,386 | 6,200 | 3,780 | 12,080 | 0 |
| $\mathbf{5 0 \%}$ prob. | $\mathbf{9 3 , 3 0 8}$ | $\mathbf{4 3 , 0 1 6}$ | $\mathbf{5 , 0 4 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 7 , 5 2 0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ |
| 25\% prob. | 114,740 | 113,528 | 6,510 | 19,200 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nisga'a Cum. overage $(-) /$ underage <br> $(+)$ status from 2000-2013 <br> allocations | 2,078 | - |  |  |  |

Special thanks to all of the staff from the Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Department and Nisga'a Lisims Government for their dedicated efforts that enabled these updates to be produced and helped achieve the majority of the aggregate escapement goals for Nass salmon and steelhead returns in 2013. Thanks also to the staff from the various governmental and other organizations (DFO (Prince Rupert), BC Fisheries (Smithers), ADFG, LGL and GFA) that provided information or supported the in-season tracking of the Nass salmon returns in 2013.

Respectfully,
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LGL Limited (website: http://www.lgl.com)






Nass Summer-run Steelhead Returns to mouth















Nass Pink TRTC Returns - 1985-13 \& Forecast 2014


Nass Chum TRTC Returns - 1985-13 \& Forecast 2014


2014 NASS SALMON PRELIMINARY FORECASTS: TRTC AND NISGA'A ENTITLEMENT

| TRTC | SOCKEYE | PINK | CHINOOK | COHO | CHUM |
| :--- | ---: | :---: | ---: | :---: | :---: |
| $75 \%$ prob. | 449,000 | 260,000 | 18,000 | 151,000 | 11,000 |
| $\mathbf{5 0 \%}$ prob. | $\mathbf{5 3 9 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{4 9 6 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 4 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 1 9 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 5 , 0 0 0}$ |
| $25 \%$ prob. | 661,000 | 948,000 | 31,000 | 317,000 | 20,000 |


| NISGA'A ENTITLEMENT | SOCKEYE | PINK | CHINOOK | COHO | CHUM |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $75 \%$ prob. | 73,386 | 6,200 | 3,780 | 12,080 | 0 |
| $\mathbf{5 0 \%} \%$ prob. | $\mathbf{9 3 , 3 0 8}$ | $\mathbf{4 3 , 0 1 6}$ | $\mathbf{5 , 0 4 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 7 , 5 2 0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ |
| $25 \%$ prob. | 114,740 | 113,528 | 6,510 | 19,200 | 0 |


| Nisga'a Cum. overage (-)/underage <br> $(+)$ status from 2000-2013 allocations | 2,078 | - |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |

NASS FISHWHEEL SALMON AND STEELHEAD CATCH CHARTS - 1994 TO 2013



NASS FISHWHEEL NON-SALMON CATCH CHARTS - 1994 TO 2013


|  | GW |  | GW Total | GH |  |  |  | GH Total | Grand Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Data | FW1 | FW2 |  | FW3 | FW4 | FW5 | FW6 |  |  |
| Chin-adult catch | 156 | 456 | 612 | 395 | 0 | 632 | 342 | 1,369 | 1,981 |
| Chin-tagged | 142 | 426 | 568 | 312 | 0 | 489 | 285 | 1,086 | 1,654 |
| Chin-recaps | 16 | 12 | 28 | 50 | 0 | 123 | 75 | 248 | 276 |
| Chin-Jacks | 135 | 212 | 347 | 275 | 0 | 433 | 291 | 999 | 1346 |
| Sum of CH Harv | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sockeye-adult catch | 4,492 | 8,355 | 12,847 | 8,333 | 0 | 11,020 | 6,984 | 26,337 | 39,184 |
| Sockeye-tagged | 2,558 | 4,544 | 7,102 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7,102 |
| Sockeye-recaps | 224 | 145 | 369 | 178 | 0 | 315 | 200 | 693 | 1062 |
| Sockeye_jacks | 668 | 1185 | 1853 | 1464 | 0 | 3261 | 1737 | 6462 | 8315 |
| Sum of Sk Harv | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2006 | 0 | 1978 | 1106 | 5090 | 5090 |
| Coho-adult catch | 2,638 | 1,733 | 4,371 | 2,065 | 0 | 5,455 | 2,664 | 10,184 | 14,555 |
| Coho-tagged | 1,982 | 1,440 | 3,422 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,422 |
| Coho-recaps | 79 | 66 | 145 | 48 | 0 | 244 | 97 | 389 | 534 |
| Coho-jack | 26 | 22 | 48 | 138 | 0 | 376 | 179 | 693 | 741 |
| Sum of CO Harv | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1076 | 0 | 3026 | 1527 | 5629 | 5629 |
| Steel-adult catch | 36 | 100 | 136 | 106 | 0 | 266 | 104 | 476 | 612 |
| Steel-Adipose marked | 35 | 95 | 130 | 98 | 0 | 237 | 96 | 431 | 561 |
| Steel-unmarked | 1 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 0 | 29 | 8 | 45 | 51 |
| Steel-recap-total | 4 | 4 | 8 | 14 | 0 | 45 | 8 | 67 | 75 |
| Pacific Lamprey-catch | 29 | 29 | 58 | 79 | 0 | 319 | 111 | 509 | 567 |
| Lamprey-tagged | 27 | 25 | 52 | 47 | 0 | 225 | 67 | 339 | 391 |
| Lamprey-released | 2 | 4 | 6 | 32 | 0 | 94 | 44 | 170 | 176 |
| Lamprey-recaps | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 6 | 18 | 18 |
| River Lamprey | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pink-adult-catch | 8265 | 6338 | 14603 | 2235 | 0 | 5929 | 2034 | 10198 | 24801 |
| Chum-adult-catch | 18 | 16 | 34 | 6 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 18 | 52 |
| Chum-tagged | 17 | 14 | 31 | 7 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 20 | 51 |
| Chum-punched | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Chum-recaps | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 8 |
| Dolly Varden | 58 | 90 | 148 | 4 | 0 | 9 | 8 | 21 | 169 |
| Pike Minnow | 4 | 3 | 7 | 33 | 0 | 74 | 23 | 130 | 137 |
| Whitefish sp. | 6 | 16 | 22 | 22 | 0 | 50 | 17 | 89 | 111 |
| Cutthroat sp. | 31 | 39 | 70 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 79 |
| Rainbow Trout | 17 | 19 | 36 | 4 | 0 | 18 | 9 | 31 | 67 |
| Peamouth Chub | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 28 | 6 | 42 | 46 |
| Sculpin | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 1 | 17 | 21 |
| Sucker | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 12 |
| Red-Side Shiner | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 9 |
| Sum of chin_smolt | 15 | 6 | 21 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 11 | 20 | 41 |
| Sum of co_smolt | 24 | 17 | 41 | 11 | 0 | 6 | 16 | 33 | 74 |
| Sum of sk_smolt | 18 | 3 | 21 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 13 | 34 |

## Daily Water Level at Gitwinksihlkw Fishwheels 2013






