



North Coast Salmon Update #1 – 9 July 2024

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

The 2024/25 Northern Salmon IFMP is currently under review for final approval.

North Coast Troll

Coho and Pink Salmon

The Area F Troll A-B Line (North Dixon Entrance) Pink salmon opening ([FN0550](#)) started on Monday July 1 with Coho retention permitted and Skeena Sockeye bycatch provisions in effect. There are currently 11 vessels hailed into this opening and total effort to July 8th is estimated to be 77 vessel-days. Weekly estimates of effort, catch and releases are summarized in the following table.

Pink salmon CPUE through the first 8 days of the opening has been considerably lower than recent years and but Coho CPUE averaged close to 100 per vessel-day, which is a substantial improvement over the last three years.

Table 1. Area F Troll – 2024 Estimated weekly catch and release by species

WEEK	End Date	Effort	Chinook		Coho		Pink		Sockeye		Chum	
			Kept	Rel.	Kept	Rel.	Kept	Rel.	Kept	Rel.	Kept	Rel.
27	6-Jul	56	0	926	5,318	39	1,206	0	13	0	0	129
Total		56	0	926	5318	39	1206	0	13	0	0	129

Note: Effort reported as vessel-days.

Due to ongoing concerns regarding North Coast Coho abundance, the Area F full fleet directed mixed stock Coho fishery and Central Coast Limited Coho Demonstration fishery will remain closed in 2024.

Areas 1 & 2 - Haida Gwaii

Recreational:

A total of five major fly-in lodges have been operating on Haida Gwaii since the beginning of June, including four in Area 1 and one in Area 2W. These major operations typically account for over 80% of the Area 1 and 2 recreational catch.

Area 1 and 2 recreational catch estimates are derived from two sources. The five major lodges participate in the DFO Logbook Catch Reporting program providing effort and catch data on a monthly basis. Also, the Haida Fisheries creel monitoring program, which started in early June, provides additional monitoring of effort, catch and releases (Chinook and Coho) for the major Area 1 lodges as well as independent anglers fishing out of local communities. This includes residents of Haida Gwaii and visiting independent anglers as well as guided anglers staying at smaller community-based lodges. Creel estimates for June will not be available until mid-July.



NC Chinook Management Plan

The following measures ([FN0615](#)) are in place until the 2024/25 Northern Salmon IFMP is approved:

Areas 1, 2, 142, and that portion of Area 101 west of 131 degrees 40.0 minutes West longitude:

- Effective immediately until July 31, 2024 - one (1) Chinook per day.
- August 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 - two (2) Chinook per day.

Area 3 - Nass River

The Nass River fish wheels have been operating since June 1. In-season run size estimates past the Nass fishwheels are shown in Table 2a. The pre-season forecast TRTC (Total Return to Canada) Nass Sockeye forecast range was 307k to 631k (95% confidence intervals) with a point estimate of 440k, an updated in-season TRTC will be available soon. It is too early for estimates of Pink, Chum, Coho, and Steelhead.

Table 2a. Nass fishwheel in-season run size estimate to date on July 7, 2024, and historical average cumulative catch (1994-2023) to date.

Year	Sockeye	Chinook	Coho	Steelhead
2024	153,125	11,202	-	31
1994-2023 Avg.	89,600	13,690	-	20

**Data provide from Nisga’a Lisims Government Fisheries and Wildlife Department.*

Water levels at the Gitwinksihlkw Fishwheels were 2.42m on July 7, 2024, the mean monthly level of 2.7m were approximately 0.6m lower than mean water levels of 3.3m (1994-2022). The mean water temperature of 8.6C for June was slightly higher than the long term mean of 8.4C (1994-2023).

Nass River salmon stock assessment updates from the Nisga’a Fish and Wildlife Department will be available here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/ahrrza0aplzcnamatapar/h?dl=0&rlkey=n51s6qgu0yze0vrphue8dk4ap>.



Nisga’a Fisheries:

Table 2b. Nisga’a Nation cumulative domestic (FSC) and total catch summary for Nass salmon and steelhead, 2024.

NISGA'A NATION CUMULATIVE DOMESTIC (FSC) AND TOTAL CATCH SUMMARY FOR NASS SALMON AND STEELHEAD, 2024.

Reported Week Ending Period		DOMESTIC (FSC) HARVESTS TO WK END - 2024		TOTAL HARVESTS INCLUDING ESTIMATED SALES & RELEASE MORTALITIES 2024	
NASS SPECIES	Wk end	Harvest	Mean	Harvest	Mean*
CHINOOK	29-Jun-24	2,573	3,600	2,573	3,800
SOCKEYE	29-Jun-24	10,513	10,400	33,490	28,000
PINK	29-Jun-24	83	359	184	1,170
COHO	29-Jun-24	47	15	56	19
CHUM	29-Jun-24	590	113	875	113
STEELHEAD	29-Jun-24	27	57	27	57
TOTAL		13,800	14,500	37,200	33,000

* Total mean harvests from 2000-2024 for week end periods also include historical sale fisheries. Total harvests include all release mortality (60% of releases).

Net Fisheries:

Area C:

The Area 3 gill net fishery opened July 8, 2024 ([FN0629](#)) from 06:00 hours to 22:00 hours. Catch information will be provided in future updates once available.

CSAF Demonstration Fisheries:

Two CSAF demonstration fisheries targeting Nass Sockeye have been approved in recent years and were included in the 2023 draft IFMP. Nisga’a Lisims Government and Gitanyow First Nation have both indicated an interest in implementing these fisheries in 2023. These fisheries represent access to 16.02% of harvestable surplus for Nass Sockeye Salmon in 2022.

Two CSAF Demonstration fisheries targeting Area 3 Pink have also been approved in recent years and were included in the 2023 draft IFMP. North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society (NCSFNSS), Lax Kw’alaams First Nation and Metlakatla First Nation have indicated an interest in implementing these fisheries in 2023. These fisheries represent access to 13.53% of harvestable surplus for Area 3 Pink salmon in 2023.

Implementation of CSAF demonstration fisheries is subject to approval of the final IFMP and respective fishing plans, forthcoming.



Recreational Fisheries:

NC Chinook Management Plan

The following measures ([FN0615](#)) are in place until the 2024/25 Northern Salmon IFMP is approved:

- Tidal waters of the Gingolx (Kincolith) River:
- Effective June 23, 2024 at 00:01 hours to July 17, 2024 - Zero (0) Chinook per day.
- Effective July 18, 2024 to March 31, 2025 - One (1) Chinook per day.

Meziadin Fishway:

The Meziadin Fishway operations began on July 1. 543 Sockeye Salmon have been counted at the fishway as of July 7 (Table 3). Water levels at the Fishway on July 7, 2024, are approximately 0.6m lower than mean water levels from 1998-2023 (1.30m vs 1.36m). Water temperatures are 1°C warmer than the 1999-2023 average (16°C vs 15°C).

Table 3. Cumulative Meziadin fishway counts to July 7 and historical mean cumulative adult count to date.

Year	Sockeye	Chinook	Coho	Steelhead
2024	43	0	-	-
1994-2023 Avg.	1,328	1	-	-

Historic and 2024 counts will be available here:

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

Kwinageese Weir:

Kwinageese Weir information will be available for future updates.



Alaska Fisheries

Table 4. Southeast Alaska & Yakutat Commercial Fisheries In-season Estimated Salmon Harvest by Gear to date.

Gear Type	Species	Estimated Numbers	Average Weight	Number of Permits	Number of Vessels
Drift Gillnet	Chinook	6,810	11.05	148	148
	Sockeye	26,683	5.20	168	169
	Coho	716	5.46	58	58
	Pink	479	3.88	36	36
	Chum	678,028	7.69	201	201
Seine	Chinook	5,485	11.79	83	83
	Sockeye	9,781	5.05	87	86
	Coho	339	5.34	55	54
	Pink	7,747	3.01	74	73
	Chum	916,853	6.70	94	93
Troll	Chinook	64,274	10.27	366	369
	Sockeye	55	4.96	32	32
	Coho	2,533	4.95	152	150
	Pink	458	3.02	22	21
	Chum	5,377	7.83	111	110

More information on Southeast Alaskan fisheries is available here:

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

Area 4 - Skeena River

The total Skeena Sockeye return is expected to be below average compared to the long-term average, with a pre-season return forecast from 727 thousand (90% probability) to 3.27 million (10% probability) and a point estimate of 1.54 million (50% probability) based on the sibling model (Table 5, Figure 1).

Table 5. 2024 in-season run size estimate probability for Skeena Sockeye as of July 8, 2024

Species	Stock	Escapement Target	TRTC	2024 In-season Run Size Estimate Probability (TRTC)				
				10%	25%	50%	75%	90%
Sockeye	Skeena	1,050,000	Mean			1,935,289		
			Median	4,590,627	2,951,506	2,009,682	1,500,839	1,192,395

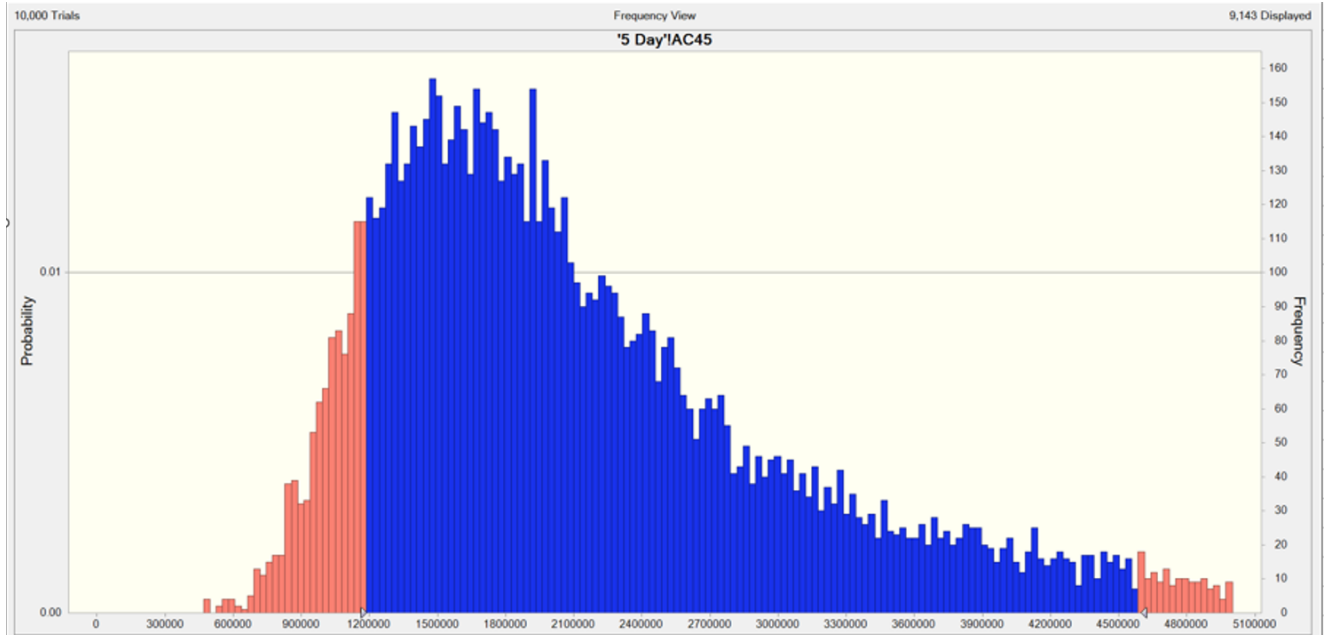


Figure 1. Total return to Canada run size probability distribution to July 8 2024.

Net Fisheries:

Area C:

No Area C fisheries have occurred in Area 4 to date this season.

CSAF Demonstration Fisheries and Excess to Salmon Spawning Requirements:

Four CSAF demonstration fisheries targeting Skeena Sockeye have been approved in recent years, as well as one additional approved demonstration fishery new to 2023, and all were included in the draft IFMP. North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society (NCSFNSS), Metlakatla First Nation, Lax Kw'alaams First Nation, Gitanyow First Nation, and Lake Babine First Nation have all indicated an interest in implementing these fisheries in 2023. These fisheries represent access to 16.02% of total allowable commercial catch in 2023.

Three ESSRs in the Skeena River watershed have been approved in recent years and were included in the 2024 draft IFMP: Babine Jack Sockeye, Babine Large Sockeye, and Bulkley River Pink fisheries.

Implementation of CSAF demonstration fisheries and ESSRs is subject to approval of the final IFMP and respective fishing plans.

Recreational Fisheries:

Area 3 and 4 Creel Survey

The North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society began their creel survey operations in May of 2024. They performed 372 interviews totalling 1,069 anglers, with a reported catch of 689 Chinook, 1 Pink and 5 Coho. These numbers are expanded and produce a catch estimate of 2,630 Chinook, 4 Pink, and 27 Coho for the month of May.



In May of 2023 they performed 407 interviews totalling 1,141 anglers, with a reported catch of 481 Chinook, 2 Pink and 1 Coho. These numbers are expanded and produce a catch estimate of 1,091 Chinook, 7 Pink, and 2 Coho.

NC Chinook Management Plan

The following measures ([FN0615](#)) are in place until the 2024/25 Northern Salmon IFMP is approved:

Areas 3 to 5, 103 to 105, Subarea 102-1, and that portion of Area 101 east of 131 degrees 40.0 minutes West longitude:

- Effective June 14, 2024 at 00:01 hours to June 22, 2024 – One (1) Chinook per day.
- Effective June 23, 2024 to July 17, 2024 - Zero (0) Chinook per day.
- Effective July 18, 2024 to August 10, 2024 - One (1) Chinook per day.
- Effective August 11, 2024 to March 31, 2025 - two (2) Chinook per day.

Tyee Test Fishery:

The test fishery began operation on June 10, 2024. As of July 8, the estimated number of Large Sockeye past Tyee is 217,964.

Table 6. Tyee test fishery cumulative index to date July 8, 2024 and ten-year average (2014-2023) to date.

Year	Sockeye	Coho	Pink (even)	Chum	Lg. Chinook	Steelhead
2024	167.35	0	0	0.15	35.16	5.73
2023	22.15	0	-	0	61.43	0.88
2022	212.61	0.12	0.19	0	81.25	1.05
2021	84.79	0	-	0	38.39	0.23
2020	23.63	0	0.21	0	35.55	0.24
2014-2023 Avg.	130.45	0.04	0.26	0.13	49.35	2.26

The 2024 Tyee test fishery daily and cumulative Sockeye escapement estimate data, along with 2024 daily and cumulative escapement indices by species, are available here:

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/northcoast-cotenord/skeenatyee-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: www.gitanyowfisheries.com

Sustut Weir:

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



Area 6

CSAF Demonstration Fisheries

One CSAF demonstration fishery targeting Area 6 Pink has been approved in recent years and was included in the 2023 draft IFMP. Implementation of this fishery is subject to approval of the final IFMP and fishing plan.

Areas 7 to 10 - Central Coast

Net Fisheries:

The 2024 Chinook-directed commercial fisheries in Area 8 have concluded for the season. There was a total of three openings on June 3, June 10, and June 17, as well as one CSAF demo fishery on June 25. The preliminary catch is 142, the CSAF demo fishery is 30 Chinook.

Recreational Fisheries:

Data will be provided when available later in the season.

The Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xai'xais, Nuxalk, and Wuikinuxv Nations, under the direction of the Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance (CCIRA) continue to collect data through a creel survey and over-flight program. The program will assess recreational and First Nations' Food, Social, and Ceremonial (FSC) fisheries in marine portions of Areas 6 to 9, and in the Bella Coola River system within freshwater Region 5B Survey. Survey work will occur through September 2024. Recreational and Indigenous fishers should be aware that they may be approached by creel surveyors from the Nations to collect important data from these fisheries.