

**PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION  
JOINT TRANSBOUNDARY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**SALMON MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT  
PLANS FOR THE STIKINE, TAKU  
AND ELSEK RIVERS, 2012**

**REPORT TCTR (12)-1**

This plan was finalized at the April, 2012 meeting of the  
Transboundary Technical Committee

May 2012

## ACRONYMS

AABM	Aggregate abundance based management
AC	Allowable catch
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
BEG	Biological Escapement Goal
BLC	Base level catch
CAFN	Champagne & Aishihik First Nation
CPUE	Catch per unit of effort
CTC	Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission
CWT	Coded-wire tag
DFO	Department of Fish and Oceans, Canada
DIPAC	Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc.
ESSR	Excess Salmon to Spawning Requirements
FN	First Nation
FSC	Food, social, ceremonial
GSI	Genetic stock identification
MSY	Maximum sustained yield
$N_{MSY}$	Spawning escapement goal point estimate
PSARC	Pacific Scientific Advice Review Committee of DFO
PSC	Pacific Salmon Commission
PST	Pacific Salmon Treaty
SCMM	Stikine Chinook Management Model
SEAK	South East Alaska
SEPP	Stikine Enhancement Production Plan
SMM	Stikine Management Model
SPA	Scale pattern analysis
SW	Statistical week
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TCTR	Transboundary Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission
THA	Terminal Harvest Area
TIFN	Tahltan & Iskut First Nation
TRTFN	Taku River Tlingit First Nation
USFS	United States Forest Service

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## INTRODUCTION

Management of transboundary river salmon to achieve conservation, allocation and enhancement objectives, as stipulated by the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST), requires a co-operative approach by Canada and the United States. It is important that both Parties have a clear understanding of the objectives and agree upon procedures to be used in managing the fisheries, including the criteria upon which modifications of fishing patterns will be based. This document is intended to facilitate co-operative salmon management, stock assessment, research and enhancement on transboundary stocks of the Stikine, Taku, and Alsek rivers conducted by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), the Tahltan and Iskut First Nations (TIFN), the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN), the Champagne & Aishihik First Nation (CAFN) and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

The report contains, by river system and species, the 2012 salmon run outlooks, spawning escapement goals, a summary of harvest sharing objectives, and an outline of management procedures to be used during the conduct of the 2012 fisheries. Numerical forecasts are presented for: Stikine sockeye and Chinook and Taku Chinook, which are required by the PST; Taku sockeye and coho; and Alsek sockeye and Chinook salmon. Outlooks for other stocks are given qualitatively with reference to brood year escapement data where available. The report also contains joint plans for fry plants and egg collections and a detailed list of proposed field projects for 2012, identifying agency responsibility and contacts for the various functions within the projects.

## STIKINE RIVER

### *Chinook Salmon*

#### **Preseason Forecast**

The final preseason forecast for the Stikine River Chinook salmon terminal run<sup>1</sup> is 40,800 fish.

Similar to 2005-11, the 2012 forecast is based solely on the sibling forecast with no credence given to the stock-recruitment forecast. (Previous to 2005, the Chinook forecast was based on the average of the sibling and stock-recruitment methodologies; however the stock recruitment component has been discarded due to poor performance.) The sibling forecast predicts the following components: the terminal return of age-5 fish based on the number of age-4 fish in 2011; the terminal return of age-6 fish based on the number age-5 fish in 2011; and the terminal return of age-7 fish based on the number of age-6 fish in 2011. The sum of the age-specific predictions (age 5 to age 7) generates an estimate of the terminal run.

The age-specific outlooks are based on the following linear regressions:

- age-4 in 2011 ( $N_{\text{age-4}(y-1)}$ ) to predict the number of age-5 in 2012 ( $N_{\text{age-5}(y)}$ ):

$$N_{\text{age-5}(y)} = 3.223 * N_{\text{age-4}(y-1)} + 4,718 \quad [1]$$

The correlation coefficient ( $r^2$ ) of this relationship = 0.91, df=16;

- age-5 in 2011 ( $N_{\text{age-5}(y-1)}$ ) to predict the number of age-6 in 2012 ( $N_{\text{age-6}(y)}$ ):

---

<sup>1</sup> The Stikine River Chinook salmon terminal run size = total Stikine Chinook run size minus the US troll catch of Stikine Chinook salmon outside District 108

$$N_{\text{age-6}(y)} = 0.686 * N_{\text{age-5}(y-1)} + 5,586 \quad [2]$$

The correlation coefficient ( $r^2$ ) of this relationship = 0.83, df=16;

- age-6 in 2011 ( $N_{\text{age-6}(y-1)}$ ) to predict the number of age-7 in 2012 ( $N_{\text{age-7}(y)}$ ):

$$N_{\text{age-7}(y)} = 0.021 * N_{\text{age-6}(y-1)} + 33 \quad [3]$$

The correlation coefficient ( $r^2$ ) = 0.21, df=16.

On average, the run consists of 11% age-4, 46% age-5 and 42% age-6 Chinook; other ages include age-3 and age-7 which make up the remainder. The total estimated number of terminal Stikine Chinook age-4 in 2011 was 6,331 fish; age-5 was 14,790 fish; and age-6 was 8,108 fish. Substituting these values into each of the respective equations [1] through [3] above and summing the results, yields a predicted terminal run of approximately 40,800 large Chinook salmon in 2012. This outlook, which constitutes a below average run size, does not include Chinook salmon of age-4 or less. The performance of the pre-season forecast compared to post-season run size is detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. Stikine River Chinook salmon preseason run forecasts vs. post season run size estimates from 1995 to 2011, and the 2012 preseason forecast.

Year	Pre-season Forecast	Post Season Run Size <sup>c</sup>	Forecast Performance <sup>d</sup>
1996 <sup>a</sup>	32,747	34,203	-4.45%
1997 <sup>a</sup>	37,662	33,978	9.78%
1998 <sup>a</sup>	25,760	30,337	-17.77%
1999 <sup>a</sup>	26,833	25,547	-4.69%
2000 <sup>a</sup>	42,049	32,675	22.29%
2001 <sup>a</sup>	72,638	71,868	1.06%
2002 <sup>a</sup>	50,530	57,570	-13.93%
2003 <sup>b</sup>	46,325	46,917	-1.28%
2004 <sup>b</sup>	65,877	62,137	5.68%
2005 <sup>b</sup>	80,258	89,615	-11.66%
2006 <sup>b</sup>	60,605	66,952	-10.47%
2007 <sup>b</sup>	37,355	37,497	-0.39%
2008 <sup>b</sup>	46,100	35,986	21.94%
2009 <sup>b</sup>	31,928	16,073	49.66%
2010 <sup>b</sup>	22,900	20,323	11.25%
2011 <sup>b</sup>	30,000	20,684	31.1.0%
2012	40,800		

Notes

a) retrospective forecasts based on the sibling relationships from 1996-2009.

b) current year sibling forecast

c) 2002-2011 from TTC 2011 preliminary report; 1996-2001 based in inriver run size from the TTC report and an estimated US marine catch based on avg h/r.

d) relative to the actual run size determined from post season run reconstructions. Positive values indicate the forecast was higher than post run size estimates; negative values, the forecast was below post season run size estimates.



## Escapement Goals

The current MSY escapement goal point estimate ( $N_{MSY}$ ) for above-border Stikine River Chinook salmon is 17,400 fish (greater than 659 mm mid-eye to fork length) with a range of 14,000 to 28,000 fish (Bernard et al 2000). This goal is subject to periodic review by the Parties.

The target escapement range for Little Tahltan River Chinook is 2,700 to 5,300 large fish with a point target of 3,300 large fish. Target escapements goals for other stock groupings including, but not limited to, the Tahltan, Little Tahltan, mainstem Stikine (between Butterfly and Flood rivers), and Iskut rivers have not yet been established. A 2005 radio telemetry project indicated that these four stock groupings represented 41%, 13%, 8% and 14%, respectively, of the combined Stikine River spawning population.

### *Escapement Goal Background*

Prior to 1999, the interim index escapement goal was 5,300 large Chinook salmon through the Little Tahltan River weir (at that time L. Tahltan represented approximately 19% of total Stikine Chinook escapement). A new goal of 3,500 L. Tahltan Chinook salmon was proposed to the TCTR in a joint paper: Bernard, D., S. McPherson, K. Pahlke, and P. Etherton. 1999 draft. *Optimum production of Chinook salmon from the Stikine River*. The TCTR recommended the paper be subjected to additional peer reviews by the Pacific Scientific Advice Review Committee (PSARC) of DFO and internal ADF&G review.

ADF&G (U.S.) peer review recommended accepting the paper's escapement goal range, although some minor errors in the data used were pointed out to the authors. On the other hand, PSARC did not accept the new goal range, but instead recommended developing an escapement floor and a target exploitation rate of 30% in order to get a wider range of returns per spawner for subsequent analyses. In response to the above reviews, the TCTR agreed to a minimum escapement of 4,000 Chinook salmon for Little Tahltan or 20,000 for the total Stikine system for 1999. These escapement floors were near the midpoint of the ranges recommended by the Bernard et al. paper. The TCTR concluded that due the paucity of data regarding marine harvests, it was not yet possible to manage by exploitation rates (hence the development of the Stikine Chinook CWT program which commenced in 2000).

Later in 1999, the Joint Chinook Technical Committee (CTC) of the PSC re-examined the Stikine escapement goal. Results of the analysis appear in the following report:

**Pacific Salmon Commission Joint Chinook Technical Committee Report TCCHINOOK (99)-3. 1999.** *Maximum sustained yield or biologically-based escapement goals for selected Chinook salmon stock used by the Pacific Salmon Commission's Chinook Technical Committee for escapement assessment.*

The goal recommended in this report was 14,000 to 28,000 total Stikine River (above border) Chinook salmon and the point estimate of escapement that produced MSY was approximately 17,400 Chinook salmon. These targets were adopted by the TCTR in 2000. Based on mark-recapture data, the overall escapement goal range translates into a Little Tahltan River escapement goal of 2,700 to 5,300 large Chinook salmon with a point target of 3,300 fish. Since 1985, when the weir was first installed, the escapement has fallen below the lower end of this range five times and above the escapement goal range on eleven occasions.

## Harvest Sharing Objectives

Provisions for harvest sharing and management of directed fisheries for Stikine River Chinook salmon (Chinook greater than 659 mm mid-eye to fork length) were successfully negotiated by the Transboundary Panel and implemented in 2005. These arrangements, with slight adjustments, were adopted in the most

recent round of PST negotiations in 2008. The current agreement is effective from 2009 through 2018 and now forms Paragraph 3(a) (3) of Annex IV, Chapter 1 of the PST.

The catch sharing provisions were developed to acknowledge the traditional catches in fisheries, referred to as base level catches (BLCs), which occurred prior to the new arrangements; these included incidental catches in Canadian and U.S. commercial gillnet fisheries, U.S. and Canadian sport fisheries, the Canadian First Nation fishery and the Canadian test fishery. For the new directed fisheries, the allowable catch (AC) will be calculated as follows:

$$AC = \text{Terminal run} - \text{Base terminal run (BTR)}; \quad [4]$$

where: BTR = escapement target + test fishery BLC + U.S. BLC + Cdn BLC. BLCs are as follows:

- U.S. Stikine BLC: 3,400 large Chinook<sup>2</sup>;
- Canadian Stikine BLC: 2,300 large Chinook<sup>3</sup>;
- Test fishery: 1,400 large Chinook.

Harvest sharing and accounting of the AC shall be as described in Table 2.

Table 2. U.S. and Canadian allowable catches of Stikine Chinook salmon for directed fisheries.

Allowable Catch Range		Allowable Catch Share			
Lower	Upper	U.S.		Canada	
		Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper
0	5,000	0	500	0	4,500
5,001	20,000	501	11,000	4,500	9,000
20,001	30,000	11,001	17,500	9,000	12,500
30,001	50,000	17,501	30,500	12,500	19,500
50,001	100,000	30,501	63,000	19,500	37,000

Within each Allowable Catch Range, each Party’s Allowable Catch Share will be calculated proportional to where the AC occurs within the range. The Transboundary Technical Committee has developed a spreadsheet to calculate specific catch shares. The Parties shall determine the domestic allocation of their respective harvest shares.

When the terminal run is insufficient to provide for the Party’s Stikine Chinook BLC and the lower end of the escapement goal range, the reductions in each Party’s base level fisheries, i.e. the fisheries that contributed to the BLCs, will be proportionate to the BLC shares, excluding the test fishery.

The U.S. catch of the Stikine Chinook salmon AC will not count towards the South East Alaska (SEAK) aggregate abundance based management (AABM) allocation (as described in Chapter 3 of the PST). In particular:

<sup>2</sup> Includes average combined US gillnet, troll and sport catches of Stikine Chinook salmon in District 108.

<sup>3</sup> Includes average combined Canadian Aboriginal, commercial and sport catches of Stikine Chinook salmon.

1. non-Stikine Treaty Chinook salmon harvested in District 108 will continue to count toward the SEAK AABM harvest limit;
2. the U.S. BLC of Stikine Chinook salmon in District 108 will count toward the SEAK AABM harvest limit;
3. the U.S. catch of Stikine Chinook salmon in District 108 above the U.S. BLC will not count towards the SEAK AABM allocation.

Accounting for the SEAK AABM Chinook salmon catches as pertains to transboundary rivers harvests will continue to be the responsibility of the CTC as modified by (a) through (c) above.

### **Management Procedures**

The 2009 Chinook agreement (see Paragraph 3(a) (3) of Annex IV, Chapter 1 of the PST) included the following management details for directed Stikine Chinook salmon fisheries (for Chinook greater than 659 mm mid-eye to fork length) that apply in 2012:

- Both Parties shall take the appropriate management action to ensure that the necessary escapement goals for Chinook salmon bound for the Canadian portions of the Stikine River are achieved. The Parties agree to share in the burden of conservation. Fishing arrangements must take biodiversity and eco-system requirements into account.
- Management of directed fisheries will be abundance-based through an approach developed by the Committee. The Parties agree to implement assessment programs in support of the abundance-based management regime.
- Unless otherwise agreed, directed fisheries on Stikine River Chinook salmon will occur only in the Stikine River drainage in Canada, and in District 108 in the U.S.
- A directed U.S. subsistence fishery in U.S. portions of the Stikine River will be permitted, with a guideline harvest level of 125 Chinook salmon to be taken between May 15 and June 20.
- Management of Stikine River Chinook salmon will take into account the conservation of specific stocks or conservation units when planning and prosecuting their respective fisheries. To avoid over-harvesting of specific components of the run, weekly guideline harvests will be developed by the Parties by apportioning their allowable harvest over the total Chinook season based on historical weekly run timing.
- Commencing in 2009, the Parties agree to develop and implement through the Committee an agreed Chinook stock identification program to assist the management of Stikine Chinook salmon.
- A preseason forecast of the Stikine River Chinook salmon terminal run size will be made by the Committee by December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- Directed fisheries may be implemented based on preseason forecasts only if the preseason forecast terminal run size equals or exceeds the midpoint of the MSY escapement goal range plus the combined Canada, U.S. and test fishery BLCs of Stikine River Chinook salmon. The preseason forecast will only be used for management until inseason projections become available.

- For the purposes of determining whether to allow directed fisheries using inseason information in 2012, such fisheries will not be implemented unless the projected terminal run size exceeds the escapement goal point estimate ( $N_{MSY}$ ) plus the combined Canada, U.S. and test fishery BLCs of Stikine River Chinook salmon. The Committee shall determine when inseason projections can be used for management purposes and shall establish the methodology for inseason projections and update them weekly or at other agreed intervals.
- If the escapement of Stikine River Chinook salmon is below the lower bound of the agreed escapement range for three consecutive years, the Parties will examine the management of base level fisheries and any other fishery which harvests Stikine River Chinook salmon stocks, with a view to rebuilding the escapement.

Fishery openings will be based on weekly run strength and the TAC as defined by the 2009 PST Stikine River Chinook catch sharing agreement. The pre-season forecast will serve as the principal run size estimator up to approximately 26 May. This will be replaced with inseason run projections once a reliable, inseason projection can be generated based on the performance of the Kakwan tagging activities, specifically catch per hour. On average, approximately 25% of the run has passed the Kakwan site (1996-2011) by May 26. The Kakwan-based estimate is generated by the Stikine Chinook Management Model (SCMM). An inseason run estimate before May 26 may be adopted if agreed to by Canada and the U.S. Reliable, weekly mark-recapture estimates are expected to be available by statistical week 23 (May 29-June 04). These weekly mark-recapture estimates may be used as the principal run size estimator or be used in concert with the SCMM in assessing weekly run sizes. Catch performance of the Lower Stikine River fishery in concert with daily water levels will be monitored and may be used to assess run size. There appears to be a fairly sound relationship between catch per unit effort and inriver run size of large Chinook salmon.

For the inseason run projections, abundance estimates will be expanded by timing models which include:

1. The average run timing of large Chinook salmon observed in the Canadian test fisheries in 2000-2003, and the 2005-2011 run timing observed in the Canadian commercial Chinook fishery. (The Canadian commercial Chinook fishery includes test fishing effort in 2010 and 2011, i.e. the commercial fleet served as a test fishery). The inriver timing model is used to expand the point mark-recapture estimate to project the total inriver run sizes. Timing models are not used in the projections based on the SCMM which is a basic regression model, but may be adjusted if run timing behaviour is deemed to be unusual. Inriver timing models are also used to determine weekly guideline harvests for the lower Stikine commercial fishery; and
2. The average run timing of large Chinook salmon in the D-108 gillnet fishery. This is based on the D-108 gillnet catches for 1969-1973, 2005-2008, Canadian test fishery timing data for 2001-2003 lagged by 2 weeks and Kakwan Point tagging CPUE for 1996-97, 2001, 2003-04 lagged by 7 days. (*The select annual Kakwan Point CPUE data used for run timing was based on fishing conditions that were not unduly fettered by extraordinary high water conditions in any particular year.*) The timing model for D-108 is used to expand the cumulative catch to date to project the catch for the season which is added to the inriver run projection to give an estimate of terminal run size. It is also used to determine weekly guideline harvests for the D-108 fishery.

### United States

The pre-season forecast allows for a limited directed Chinook salmon fishery in District 108. The Chinook salmon season will start in District 108 at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 7 (the first Monday in May). Based

on the preseason forecast, the U.S. allowable catch is 5,890 large Chinook salmon excluding the base level catch of 3,400 large Chinook salmon. The allowable harvest for the first two to three weeks of the fishery will be based upon the preseason forecast. The remainder of the fishery will be based on inseason projections. Due to the uncertainty of the preseason forecasts in recent years, a conservative fishing approach will be taken. Initial openings will be limited to 24-hour fishing periods and increased area restrictions may be implemented. Historical run timing will be combined with the forecasted terminal run size and subsequent available U.S. TAC to establish weekly harvest guidelines.

Gillnet openings will occur on Mondays at 8:00 a.m. unless fishing occurs during the week of Memorial Day (May 28), in which case the opening will occur on Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. Openings will begin with 24-hour fishing periods; however, openings may increase in length if reliable inseason run estimates indicate the run is as large or larger than anticipated and the anticipated harvest allows for longer fishing periods. Gillnet mesh sizes used in the Chinook salmon fishery will be restricted to a 7-inch minimum (178 mm) stretched mesh, 60 meshes deep and 300 fathoms (549 m) long.

The Stikine closure lines, which close the flats to fishing, will likely be implemented for the duration of the fishery. These lines close waters inside a line from Babbler Point to Hour Point along the shore of Wrangell Island to Point Highfield to the southern end of Liesnoi Island to the southern end of Greys Island to the small island near the eastern entrance of Blind Slough to the nearest point of Mitkof Island to the prominent point of Mitkof Island nearest Coney Island to the northern end of Coney Island to a point 500 yards north of Jap Creek on the mainland shore. The locations of these boundaries may change in concurrence with inseason assessments. Furthermore, there are a number of small areas within District 8 that will be closed through the second Saturday in June to minimize gear conflicts between sport and gillnet gear. These areas include the waters around Babbler Point, the Wrangell Harbor, Woronkofksi Point, Bear Creek, and Beacon Point/Frederick Point (Figure 1). Additionally, management actions in time and area may need to be taken to ensure adequate escapement of Andrews Creek on the U.S. portion of the Stikine River.

A District 108 gillnet test fishery could occur starting the week of May 7 and continue through June 23. The test fishery would provide catch data in order to maintain a running data series to assess Stikine Chinook salmon run timing and monitor the relationship between District 108 drift gillnet fishery performance and run size. The test fishery would be managed to stay within the available U.S. allowable catch guidelines as dictated by the historical run timing and inseason projections of run size.

The CTC issued the 2012 Chinook salmon preseason abundance index for S.E. Alaska on March 29. The 2012 all-gear harvest target for Southeast Alaska is 266,800 Chinook salmon with a troll fishery allocation of 197,272 fish. The total allocation is approximately 28,000 fish less than the 2011 allocation. The troll allocation is 80% of the all-gear harvest target after the net Chinook salmon allocations (20,209 fish) are subtracted. The remaining 20% is allocated to the sport fishery (49,318 fish).

The time and area for the troll fishery in District 108 is determined by the length of the gillnet openings. In January 2006, the Alaska Board of Fisheries developed a District 8 King Salmon Management Plan for managing Stikine River Chinook salmon. That management plan allows for a 3-day per week troll fishery throughout the district when the gillnet fishery is open for one day or less and a 5-day per week troll fishery when the gillnet fishery is open for more than one day. The first week of the troll fishery will begin at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, May 7 and will continue until 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, as a result of the 24-hour gillnet opener. Subsequent openings have not been set and will be set based on the length of the gillnet openings as described in the gillnet section above. The entire district will be open to trolling except for small closed areas to minimize gear conflicts between sport and troll gear at the northern end of Wrangell Narrows in Frederick Sound and small areas near Greys Island, Babbler Pt. and the Wrangell Harbor area in Stikine Strait. If the mid-season abundance projections drop to levels below which there is no U.S. TAC, extended fishing time to target returning Stikine River Chinook will be discontinued and spring fishery

areas will be managed according to the provisions of the spring troll fishery management plan as was done for the past three seasons and will not be set based on the opening length of the gillnet fishery. Existing regulations allow spring salmon troll fisheries to target Chinook salmon from Alaskan hatcheries. Harvests of non-Alaska hatchery Chinook salmon are capped at levels based on the percentage of Alaska hatchery fish in the harvest; at higher Alaska hatchery percentages, the non-Alaska hatchery Chinook salmon harvest caps increase. If inseason Coded Wire Tag (CWT) results indicate a high proportion of Alaska hatchery fish in any given area, fishing time will be increased as appropriate. If tag results demonstrate low Alaska hatchery Chinook salmon harvests, then fishing time will be restricted. Only fish 28 inches (71 cm) or greater in length may be retained in the troll fishery.

The Chinook salmon sport fishery in District 108 will be liberalized again in 2012 as follows [as per, Title 5, Alaska Administrative Code, Chapter 47, Section 57]: sport fishing may be conducted by the use of two rods per angler; the resident bag limit is three Chinook salmon 28 inches (71 cm) or greater in length with a possession limit of six fish; the nonresident bag and possession limit is two Chinook salmon 28 inches (71 cm) or greater in length; and the nonresident annual limit is six Chinook salmon (compared to five in 2008). The fishery will continue to be monitored through a creel census program.

A U.S. Federal Stikine River subsistence fishery for Chinook salmon will occur for the sixth consecutive year in 2012. A permit issued by the USFS to federally qualified users will be required. The Chinook salmon Federal subsistence fishery will be open from May 15 to June 20 with a guideline harvest level of 125 fish. Fishing will take place upriver from marine waters to the U.S./Canadian border. Fishing will not be allowed in tributaries or at stock assessment sites used by ADF&G and DFO. The allowable fishing gear will include dipnets, spears, gaffs, rod and reel, beach seine, or gillnets not exceeding 15 fathoms (27.4 metres) in length with mesh size no larger than 8 inches (20.3 cm). The fishery will be monitored inseason by USFS biologists who will remain in contact with the ADF&G commercial fishery managers.

### Canada

The preseason forecast of 40,800 fish allows for a directed Chinook salmon fishery in Canada; based on the preseason forecast, the Canadian allowable catch is 6,810 large Chinook excluding the base level catch of 2,300 large Chinook and test fish allocation of 1,400 fish. Should the inseason estimate complement the preseason estimate of 40,800 fish, the Canadian allowable catch will increase to approximately 7,890 large Chinook salmon, excluding the base level catch and test fish catch of 2,300 and 1,400 fish respectively. This shift in TAC is an action resulting from the PST agreement whereby the midpoint escapement goal (21,000) is used during fishing periods governed by the preseason estimate, while the MSY escapement goal (17,400) is used during fishing periods governed by the inseason estimate (PST chapter 1, Annex IV, (3)(x)).

The Canadian lower Stikine River commercial fishery (Figure 2) will be managed on a weekly basis with management actions driven by results of terminal run size projections derived from the SCMM and in-season mark-recapture results. Weekly inputs to the model will include: catch data from Alaska District 108 gillnet, troll and sport fisheries; catch data from the Canadian Stikine commercial, test, First Nations, and sport fisheries; catch and effort from the Kakwan tagging site; and, escapement requirements. Openings will be governed by weekly abundance of large Chinook salmon based on historical weekly run timing. The inriver run timing model for 2012 is based on the average run timing of large Chinook salmon observed in the Canadian test fisheries in 2000-2003 and the 2005-2011 run timing observed in the Canadian Chinook fishery. If the inseason estimate is less than 25,100 large Chinook the commercial fishery will be closed and an assessment fishery prosecuted.

In order to protect Little Tahltan bound chinook, which has seen below threshold escapement goals since 2007, the chinook TAC will be reduced by 30 per cent until an inseason estimate is generated. The initial opening will commence at 1200 hrs. 06 May for a 48 hr. period. Fishers will be permitted the use of only

one net each with a maximum length of 135 metres (430 ft) and a maximum depth of 60 meshes. The maximum mesh size permitted is 20.3 cm (8 inches).

The fishing zone is bounded by the international boundary upstream to near the confluence of the Porcupine and Stikine rivers. The Iskut River is open to commercial fishing from its mouth upstream approximately 10 km. The management of the lower river commercial fishery will, in all likelihood, switch to sockeye at 1200 hrs., 24 June (statistical week 26), near the traditional start date of the sockeye fishery. Should a Chinook conservation concern occur in statistical weeks 26-28, mesh size restrictions will be adopted, specifically limiting fishers to the use of 14 cm (5.5 inch) mesh size or less.

The achievement of escapement objectives is the foremost priority in management considerations. Inriver allocation priority will be to fulfill the food, social and ceremonial requirements of the traditional First Nation fishery. The commercial fisheries, therefore, will be managed to accommodate these fundamental priorities. The area of most intense management will be within the lower Stikine commercial fishery.

It is anticipated the three primary fishery management responses to in-season Chinook run size projections will include:

1. Adjusting fishing time. Fishing time in the lower Stikine fishery generally depends upon stock assessment and international and domestic catch allocation considerations. Fishing time will be adjusted based on the estimated weekly run size and associated allowable catch in that week.
2. Adjusting the fishing area. Initially, fishing boundary locations will include the Stikine River upstream to near the mouth of the Porcupine River. The section of the Stikine River from the confluence of the Porcupine and Stikine rivers upstream to near the mouth of the Scud River may be opened if the Chinook abundance is well above spawning escapement and First Nation fishery requirements. In the Iskut River, the area will remain unchanged from previous years, i.e. from the mouth to a marker located approximately 10 km upstream from the mouth.
3. Adjusting the quantity of fishing gear. Initially, one drift, or one set, gillnet may be deployed. If there is a need to increase harvest, fishers may be permitted to use two gillnets, one of which can be a drift net. The maximum allowable net length will remain at 135 meters and, in the absence of a directed Chinook fishery, there will be a maximum mesh size restriction of 14 cm commencing noon 24 June to conserve Chinook salmon and permit a sockeye harvest.

In the upper Stikine commercial fishery, the fishery openings will be based on the open times in the lower Stikine fishery, lagged one week. Fishers will be permitted to use one net of the same dimensions as that used by fishers participating in the lower Stikine commercial fishery as noted above. The fishing zone is bounded in the south by the confluence of the Chutine and Stikine rivers, and in the north by the confluence of the Tuya and Stikine rivers. Daily and weekly catches will be collected by a DFO representative on site. The catches will be reported to the Whitehorse office on a weekly basis.

As in past years, restrictions in weekly fishing times in the First Nation fishery are not anticipated. Any reductions in fishing time would be considered only if no other adjustments could be made in the lower and upper river commercial fisheries. Daily and weekly catches will be collected by a DFO representative on site. The catches will be reported to the Whitehorse office on a weekly basis. Biological sampling to assess age, size, and stock identification will be conducted during the latter half of the fishery. Records will be delivered to the Whitehorse office of DFO at season's end.

The Canadian Stikine Chinook recreational fishery is centred around the Tahltan River near its confluence with the Stikine River. Minor recreational fishing occurs in the mainstem Stikine as well as the Iskut River. The Tahltan River will be open to recreational fishing July 01 to November 30. The Iskut River will be open from 01 May to 31 March. Fishers are permitted four Chinook per day, only two of which may be larger than 650 mm fork length. The possession limit consists of a two-day catch quota. The annual harvest by individual anglers is limited to ten large fish. Fishing activity, including harvest numbers and released numbers will be monitored by a field technician stationed near the Tahltan River.

### **Catch reporting**

The U.S. shall report catches and effort in the following strata for each statistical week:

1. District 108 gillnet, sport and troll fisheries;
2. Stikine River subsistence fishery; and
3. test fisheries in District 8.

Canada shall report catch and effort statistics in the following strata for each statistical week:

1. the lower river commercial fishery (all areas);
2. the lower river commercial fishery located near Flood Glacier (if it opens);
3. the upper river commercial fishery;
4. the First Nation fishery;
5. recreational fishery;
6. the lower Stikine River test fishery conducted near the international border; and
7. ESSR or other terminal fishery catches will be reported as data become available.



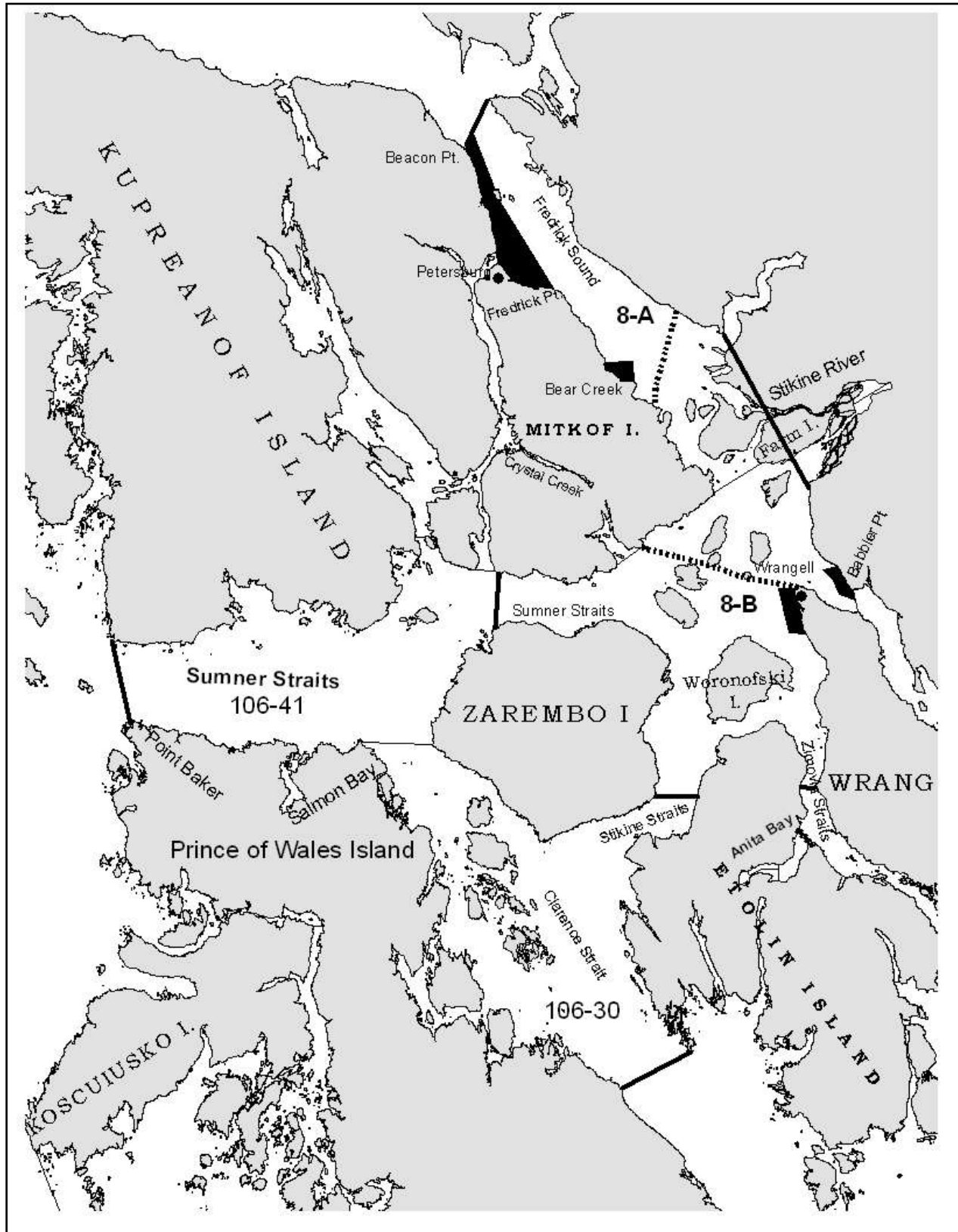


Figure 1. U.S. fishing areas adjacent to the Stikine River.

## **Stock Assessment Program**

Each country shall:

1. report catch statistics for the same strata as sockeye salmon are reported;
2. sample its fisheries for coded-wire and spaghetti tags; and
3. conduct escapement and stock assessment programs as resources permit (see Appendix Table 4 for projects anticipated to be conducted in 2012).

### Stock Composition of U.S. Harvests

The weekly contribution of large, above border Stikine Chinook salmon to Alaska sport and commercial fisheries will be determined inseason by CWT analysis. The size composition of the gillnet harvest will be determined by the applying the size composition of a subsample of measured fish to the overall harvest. Chinook salmon harvested in the Alaska sport and commercial fisheries will be sampled for CWT's. The minimum sampling goal is 20% of the harvest; the target for 2012 is 30%. In addition, a subsample of 200 fish (if available) will be measured weekly to determine the proportion of large Chinook salmon in the gillnet harvest.

The final stock composition of the sport and commercial harvest will be determined postseason. Tissue samples will be taken from the sport and commercial Chinook salmon fisheries in District 108 and processed postseason in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Gene Conservation Laboratory in Anchorage. Genetic stock identification will be used to recalculate actual contributions of above border Stikine River Chinook to the District 108 sport and commercial fisheries. Scales will be collected in-season and analyzed post season to determine the age composition of the harvest.

### Stock Composition of Canadian Harvests

Through funding potentially awarded under the Northern Fund of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, work will continue on developing a complete DNA baseline for Stikine Chinook salmon. It is expected that samples, consisting of two axillary processes, will be collected from spawning Chinook salmon located in Chutine, Craig, Katete rivers, Bear, and Johnny Tashoots creeks. Further details on target samples and sampling protocol for 2012 appear in Appendix Table 7. Mixed stock DNA samples for future stock ID analysis will be collected in Lower Stikine commercial fishery and from fish netted in the Kakwan tagging project. A minimum of 50% of the Chinook salmon harvested in the lower commercial fishery will be sampled for CWT(s).

## *Sockeye Salmon*

### **Stock Definitions**

Stikine sockeye salmon are, for research, management, and monitoring purposes, subdivided into four stock groups: 1) the *wild Tahltan* stock which are those fish originating from naturally spawning sockeye salmon in Tahltan Lake; 2) the *planted Tahltan* stock which are those fish originating from broodstock collected at Tahltan Lake and are subsequently back-planted as fry into Tahltan Lake; 3) the *Tuya stock* which are those fish originating from broodstock collected at Tahltan Lake and are subsequently back-planted as fry into Tuya Lake; and 4) the *mainstem stock* which are all other natural sockeye populations in

the Stikine River. For management purposes, the collective wild and planted Tahltan Lake stocks are referred to as the total Tahltan stock or, sometimes, just Tahltan stock.

### Preseason Forecast

For 2012, the terminal run<sup>4</sup> outlook for Stikine sockeye salmon is 134,000 fish, which constitutes a below average run size. For comparison, the recent ten-year average (2002-2011) total Stikine sockeye run size is approximately 204,000 fish. The 2012 forecast includes approximately 35,500 wild Tahltan (26%), 16,200 enhanced Tahltan (12%), 32,600 enhanced Tuya (24%), and 49,700 wild mainstem sockeye salmon (37%).

The 2012 overall Stikine sockeye prediction is based on the following components:

1. an outlook of approximately 51,700 Tahltan wild + enhanced sockeye of which 16,200 are expected from the enhancement project, and 35,500 are expected from natural spawners. This outlook is based solely on the recent 5 yr average survival of age 2 and 3 year old smolts emigrating from Tahltan Lake in 2009 and 2010 (age 4<sup>2</sup>=2.8%, 5<sup>2</sup>=5.1%, 5<sup>3</sup>=4.0%, 6<sup>3</sup>=7.4%). *A sibling forecast based on regressing the number of age four wild and enhanced sockeye in year-1 production against total production in the following year generated an estimate of 59,800 sockeye. The number is based on substituting the total return of age 4 enhance sockeye (1,355) and age 4 wild sockeye (2,950) in the following equations:  $N_{(total)} = 7,162 * n_{age-4(y-1)} + 15,554$  (enhanced equation,  $r^2=0.60$ ) and  $N_{(total)} = 7,162 * n_{age-4(y-1)} + 15,554$  (wild equation,  $r^2=0.80$ ). In light of the poor performance of the sibling forecast since 2007 it was decided to forego incorporating this forecast in favour of using the smolt forecast, which has shown to be more accurate than the sibling forecast since 2007;*
2. an outlook of 43,100 Tuya sockeye salmon, which is based on 2004-09 average age-specific fry-to-adult survival data for Tuya sockeye (age 4=1.8%, age 5=1.0%, age 6=0.15%); and
3. an outlook of 49,700 mainstem sockeye based on the average of a sibling-based prediction ( $N_{(total)} = 5.103 * n_{age-4(y-1)} + 32,182$ ,  $r^2=0.4$ ) of 59,600 and a stock-recruitment outlook of 39,700 sockeye salmon.

For most of the analyses conducted to produce the run outlooks, age and stock-specific catch and escapement estimates are used to reconstruct annual runs for the Stikine sockeye stocks. Marine catch estimates from Districts 106 and 108 are based on historical stock contribution and run timing; estimates of catch occurring outside these areas do not currently exist. In-river catch estimates from the lower Stikine River are based on a variety of stock identification techniques (egg diameter and otolith data). The contribution of Tahltan stocks to upper river commercial and FN fisheries was assumed to be 90% prior to 1997 and has been estimated from egg diameter analysis since 1997. The contributions of planted Tuya and Tahltan fish to various harvests are estimated from analysis of otoliths for thermal marks combined with analysis of GSI and/or egg diameters. Tahltan Lake sockeye escapements are enumerated at the Tahltan Lake weir, whereas, mainstem and Tuya escapements are calculated. The calculations involve the following steps: reconstructing the in-river Tahltan run (weir count plus the inriver catches of Tahltan sockeye as determined through egg diameters and otolith marks); estimating the total inriver run by determining the overall contribution of the Tahltan stock to the inriver run as determined from the stock composition estimates of the in river run sampling program in the lower Stikine (test and commercial fishery sampling standardized by CPUE); applying the stock composition results based on egg diameters (large egg) to estimate the mainstem component and otolith thermal marks to estimate the Tuya component to the inriver run; and subtracting the estimated in-river catches of Tuya and mainstem sockeye stocks (determined from

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<sup>4</sup> Terminal run size = total run excluding allowance for harvests in marine areas outside the terminal Alaskan gillnet fisheries (e.g. Districts 106, 108 and 111).

the stock composition estimates of inriver catches) from the in-river run estimates of the Tuya and mainstem components.

Due to fluctuations in survival for Stikine sockeye, there is a high level of uncertainty in the preseason outlooks. There have been wide discrepancies between past forecasts and actual runs. For example in 2008, the total preseason run forecast was 228,600 sockeye, whereas the estimate of actual run was only 110,800 sockeye. (*This unexpectedly low run size was probably due to poor marine survival as evident in the Tahltan smolt-to-adult survival of only 2.5% in 2008 vs. an overall average of 6.5 %.*) However, in 1999, the preseason forecast of 126,000 Stikine sockeye salmon was very close to the post-season estimate of approximately 124,600 sockeye. The performance of the preseason forecasts relative to final post-season estimates is summarized in Table 3. Despite problems with preseason forecasting, the outlooks are useful when used in concert with catch performance (CPUE) for management until in-season data becomes available for in-season run size projections.

Table 3. Stikine River sockeye salmon preseason run forecasts vs. post season run size estimates from 1982 to 2011, and the 2012 preseason run forecast.

Year	Pre-season forecast <sup>a</sup>	Post-season run size	Forecast performance <sup>b</sup>	Absolute deviation	Absolute % deviation
1982	84,000	111,196	-24.46%	27,196	24.46%
1983	62,900	77,456	-18.79%	14,556	18.79%
1984	37,500	83,953	-55.33%	46,453	55.33%
1985	91,000	214,494	-57.57%	123,494	57.57%
1986	262,000	75,456	247.22%	186,544	247.22%
1987	114,000	43,350	162.98%	70,650	162.98%
1988	123,500	45,096	173.86%	78,404	173.86%
1989	80,500	90,546	-11.10%	10,046	11.10%
1990	94,000	67,242	39.79%	26,758	39.79%
1991	94,000	154,476	-39.15%	60,476	39.15%
1992	127,338	231,936	-45.10%	104,598	45.10%
1993	135,000	280,730	-51.91%	145,730	51.91%
1994	312,000	208,036	49.97%	103,964	49.97%
1995	169,000	218,728	-22.74%	49,728	22.74%
1996	329,000	372,785	-11.75%	43,785	11.75%
1997	211,000	226,915	-7.01%	15,915	7.01%
1998	218,500	121,448	79.91%	97,052	79.91%
1999	126,000	124,614	1.11%	1,386	1.11%
2000	138,000	78,504	75.79%	59,496	75.79%
2001	113,000	127,255	-11.20%	14,255	11.20%
2002	80,000	76,711	4.29%	3,289	4.29%
2003	184,000	240,977	-23.64%	56,977	23.64%
2004	289,500	311,764	-7.14%	22,264	7.14%
2005	477,120	259,680	83.73%	217,440	83.73%
2006	179,178	268,194	-33.19%	89,016	33.19%
2007	233,600	196,540	18.86%	37,060	18.86%

Table 3. (continued)

Year	Pre-season forecast <sup>a</sup>	Post-season run size	Forecast performance <sup>b</sup>	Absolute deviation	Absolute % deviation
2008	228,600	119,288	91.64%	109,312	91.64%
2009	274,500	180,292	52.25%	94,208	52.25%
2010	187,700	167,030	12.37%	20,670	12.37%
2011	183,000	214,846	-14.82%	31,846	14.82%
2012	134,000				
1982-2011	174,648	166,318	21.96%	65,419	50.96%
2002-2011	231,720	203,532	18.43%	68,208	34.19%

Note:

a) pre-season forecast based on combination of sibling, smolt and stock-recruitment forecast methods.

b) the forecast expressed as % deviation from the post season run size estimate. Negative numbers indicate the forecast was lower than the actual run size.

**The 2012 sockeye run outlook is characterized as below average.** The preseason outlook translates into an expected total allowable catch (TAC) for all Stikine sockeye salmon of 64,900 fish. Of this, approximately 1,800 sockeye are expected to be harvested in test fisheries (stock assessment) leaving approximately 63,100 sockeye to be shared 50:50 between Canada and the U.S., i.e. 31,550 to each country, excluding terminal Tuya catches in Canada. The TAC outlook is comprised of the following components:

1. a predicted TAC of 27,100 Tahltan sockeye (total TAC of 27,700 minus test catch of 600) with an allowable maximum exploitation rate on this stock of 0.53 at the predicted stock size of 51,700 fish and an escapement target of 24,000 sockeye salmon;
2. a predicted TAC of 17,100 Tuya fish (total TAC of 17,500 minus test catch of 400) estimated by applying the allowable Tahltan exploitation rate (0.53) to the Tuya stock prediction of 32,600. This leaves a predicted 15,300 fish surplus for the Tuya stock which potentially would be available for Canadian terminal harvest in the Tuya River; and
3. a predicted TAC of 18,800 mainstem sockeye (total TAC of 19,600 minus test catch of 800) which is based on an escapement target of 30,000 spawners and the expected run size of 49,600 fish.

### Spawning Escapement Goals

Escapement goals have been established by the Transboundary Technical Committee (TCTR) for two Stikine sockeye stock groups: the total Tahltan and the mainstem stocks. The Tahltan and mainstem stocks are considered to be independent; surpluses or deficits in escapement realized in one stock are not used to balance deficits or surpluses in the other. In theory, the Tuya stock, which is planted and has no natural access to spawning and rearing grounds, has a spawning escapement goal of zero. In practice, since the Tahltan and Tuya stocks co-mingle and have the similar migratory timing and distribution, the harvest rate on Tuya fish in traditional fisheries should not exceed that which can be sustained by the Tahltan fish so as not to over harvest the latter stock.

Spawning escapement goals have been established as ranges which reflect biological data and professional judgment regarding stock productivity, the ability of existing management systems to deliver established goals, the accuracy and precision of estimates of escapement generated by stock assessment programs, and the degree of risk considered acceptable.

Subjective management categories have been defined for various escapement ranges. A post-season estimate of escapement that falls within the Green Management Category shall be considered fully acceptable; one that falls within the Yellow Management Category shall be considered acceptable but not desired; and, one that falls within the Red Management Category shall be considered undesirable. The escapement goal ranges by management category represent our best judgment of desired escapement levels.

### Tahltan Stock

In 1993, the TCTR established an escapement goal of 24,000 fish for the Tahltan stock (Wood et al unpublished data), which takes into account an escapement goal of 20,000 naturally spawning fish and up to 4,000 fish needed for broodstock to meet the objectives of the current Canada/U.S. Stikine fry planting program. Escapement goal ranges for the various management categories for the Tahltan stock are:

	<b>TARGET = 24k</b>				
Escapement	0 - 12k	13k - 18k	18k - 30k	30k - 45k	>45k
Mgmt. Category	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red

### Mainstem Stock

Escapement goal ranges for the various management categories for the mainstem stock are:

	<b>TARGET = 30k</b>				
Escapement	0 - 15k	15k - 20k	20k - 40k	40k - 75k	>75k
Mgmt. Category	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red

### Data Exchange

The following data for the Tahltan sockeye stock will be collected and exchanged for use in evaluating escapement goals:

1. spawning escapements, separated by wild and planted components;
2. smolt production, separated by wild and planted components; and
3. stock-specific catches in the various fisheries.

The following relationships for the Tahltan stock will be examined:

1. terminal run as a function of spawning escapement level;
2. smolt production as a function of the number of natural spawners and planted fry;
3. adult production as a function of the number of smolts;
4. terminal run as a function of the return of age-4 sockeye salmon in the previous year; and

5. the relationship between the terminal run estimates to patterns of distribution and timing. This will include comparisons of various estimates (Stikine Management Model (SMM), test fishing vs. commercial fishing CPUE, different stock ID results).

The following data for the mainstem stock will be collected and exchanged for use in evaluating escapement goals:

1. survey counts and escapement estimates based on reconstructions of in-river runs apportioned by stock ID data;
2. the mainstem stock component of catches from the various fisheries; and
3. inventory and assessment data regarding the historical pattern of distribution, abundance, and timing of spawning fish.

The following relationships for the mainstem stock will be examined:

1. total escapement as a function of survey counts of escapement;
2. terminal run as a function of total spawning escapements;
3. terminal run as a function of the return of age-4 sockeye salmon in the previous year; and
4. the relationship of terminal run estimates to patterns of distribution and timing. This will include comparisons of various estimates (SMM, aerial surveys, test fishing vs. commercial fishing CPUE, different stock ID results).

The following data for the Tuya sockeye stock will be collected and exchanged for use in evaluating adult returns:

1. escapement estimates generated from stock ID, CPUE, and inriver run estimates;
2. number of planted fry; and
3. stock specific catches in the various fisheries.

The following relationships for the Tuya stock will be examined:

1. adult production as a function of the number of fry planted;
2. terminal run as a function of the return of age-4 sockeye salmon in the previous year; and
3. the relationship of terminal run estimates to patterns of distribution and timing. This will include comparisons of various estimates (SMM, test fishing vs. commercial fishing CPUE, different stock ID results).

## Harvest Sharing Objectives

The Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) re-negotiated Pacific salmon harvest sharing provisions in January 2008 for the period 2009 through 2018. Stock assessment and harvest arrangements for Stikine sockeye stocks are found in Annex IV, Chapter 1, of the PST and Appendix to Annex IV, Chapter 1 entitled “*Understanding on the Joint Enhancement of Transboundary River Sockeye Stocks*”.

Management plans for the 2012 Stikine harvest are for the TAC of Stikine sockeye salmon, both natural and planted, to be shared 50/50 between the Parties in existing, i.e. customary, fisheries. If the existing fisheries do not manage to catch the entire TAC, terminal catches in Canada will be allowed to target surpluses (relative to escapement goal ranges). Under the new PSC harvest sharing provisions, the TAC will remain 50/50 commencing in 2009 through till 2013. Post 2013 through until 2018, the catch sharing provision will be predicated upon the efforts in carrying out the agreed enhancement activities contributing to years 2014-2018. This information will be documented in annual Stikine Enhancement Production Plans (SEPP) (see Annex IV, Chapter 1 (3) (a) (1) (iii) of the PST).

## Management Procedures

### United States

The District 106 drift gillnet fishery occurs in the waters of northern Clarence Strait and Sumner Strait, in regulatory Sections 6-A, 6-B and 6-C, and portions of Section 6-D. The District 108 fishery encompasses the waters surrounding the terminus of the Stikine River (Figure 1). Due to their close proximity, management of these fisheries is interrelated, resulting in some major stocks being subject to harvest by both fisheries. Two distinct management areas exist within each district: the Frederick Sound (Section 8-A) and Wrangell (Section 8-B) portions of District 108, and the Sumner Strait (Subdistricts 106-41/42) and Clarence Strait (Subdistrict 106-30) portions of District 106. Fishing gear used in Districts 106 and 108 is similar; with common sockeye net sizes of between 5 and 5 ½ inches (130-140 mm) stretched mesh, 60 meshes deep and 300 fathoms (549 m) long. The salmon fisheries in both districts will be managed in accordance with the current transboundary Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) annex provisions.

The sockeye salmon season could open as early as 12:00 noon on Monday, June 11 (SW24), but will likely not open until Monday, June 18 (SW25). The opening on June 18, will be for an initial 48-hour fishing period in District 106 and 108. If the inseason Stikine River Chinook salmon run size estimate is similar to, or greater than, the preseason forecast, then District 108 will open concurrently with District 6. Area restrictions may be implemented during the initial openings of District 108. The first openings in each district are dependent on the final preseason forecast for Stikine River sockeye salmon, specifically the Tahltan component of the return. Extended fishing time and midweek openings in both districts will be based on the preseason forecasts, in-fishery harvest estimates, and stock proportion data during the first three weeks of the sockeye fishery. Preliminary analyses indicate that the preseason forecast for Tahltan sockeye will be below the ten year average. Subsequent openings, extended fishing times, and midweek openings will be based primarily on inseason estimates produced by the Stikine Management Model and other agreed methods for the remainder of the sockeye salmon season. Decreased fishing time may be required to ensure optimum escapement into Tahltan Lake during the initial openers of the sockeye gillnet fishery.

The preseason forecast of Stikine mainstem sockeye salmon abundance is below the ten-year average. Estimates of mainstem Stikine sockeye salmon escapement indicate that escapement has been within the escapement goal range in 9 of the past 10 years. However, aerial survey counts on key mainstem index



systems were contradictory to the escapement estimates as they were below average for a number years especially so in 2007 through 2009. Due to these factors the U.S. may take a more conservative management approach beginning SW 28 or 29. Management actions due to concerns for mainstem sockeye salmon are not expected to occur in District 106. If management actions are taken, they will occur in District 108 and would most likely be in the form of limiting midweek fishing time and continue through SW 31 or 32. District 106 fishing time may be limited to two days a week during SWs 29 through 31 due to continuing concerns for sockeye salmon escapement to McDonald Lake.

Pink salmon typically begin entering District 106 in significant numbers by the third or fourth week of July. The 2012 S.E. Alaska pink salmon run is forecasted to be weak with an expected harvest of 17 million fish, well below the recent ten-year average. The early portion of the pink salmon fishery will be managed primarily on CPUE. By early to mid-August, pink salmon destined for local systems will begin to enter the fishery in greater numbers and at that time, management will be based on observed local escapements. If escapements are not evenly dispersed throughout the district, area and/or time restrictions may be necessary. Openings throughout August should be comparable to historical average time.

Chum salmon run strength assessments are based upon CPUE in commercial fishery harvests. The chum salmon return to the Anita Bay THA is expected to be significantly higher than the 2011 return and with a forecasted total return of 441,000 fish. Chum salmon returning to Anita Bay will likely attract fishing effort in District 108 (outside of the THA) throughout the month of July. However, during this time period, management actions in District 108 will be based on Stikine sockeye salmon run performance and the U.S. harvest of Stikine River sockeye salmon.

Announcements for gillnet fishery openings throughout S.E. Alaska are made on Thursday afternoons, which begin the following Sunday, except for SW24 and SW25, which will commence at noon on Monday. Announcements for any fishery extensions or mid-week openings will be made on the fishing grounds by 10:00 a.m. of the last day of the regular fishery opening.

A U.S. Federal Stikine River subsistence fishery for sockeye salmon will occur for the ninth year in 2012. The fishery will be managed by the USFS. A permit issued by the USFS to federally qualified users will be required. The fishery will take place on the Stikine River upriver from marine waters to the U.S./Canadian border. Fishing in tributaries or side channels and at stock assessment sites is prohibited. The guideline harvest level for sockeye salmon is set at 600 fish. The open dates are from June 21 to July 31 for the sockeye salmon fishery. The allowable fishing gear includes: dipnets, spears, gaffs, rod and reel, beach seine, or gillnets not exceeding 15 fathoms (27.4 metres) in length with mesh size no larger than 5½ inches (14.0 cm). The fishery will be monitored inseason by USFS biologists that will remain in contact with ADF&G commercial fishery managers.

An Alaska State subsistence drift gillnet fishery, targeting sockeye salmon and encompassing the waters of Sumner Strait near Point Baker, will again be allowed in 2012. The fishery is permitted in the waters of Sumner Strait within three nautical miles of the Prince of Wales shoreline north of "Hole-in-the-Wall" at 56°15.69' N. Lat. and west of the longitude of the western entrance to Buster Bay at 133°29.0' W. Long. The fishery is restricted to Alaska residents only and will be open each week from Wednesday noon through Sunday noon during the period June 13 through July 31, with a limit of 25 sockeye per family per year. Gillnet gear restrictions include a maximum net length of 50 fathoms (91.4 metres). The harvest for the past five years has ranged from 24 to 29 sockeye with two permits fished and it is anticipated that fewer than 100 sockeye will be harvested in this fishery.

## Canada

The Canadian lower Stikine River commercial fishery (Figure 2) will be managed on a weekly basis with management actions driven by results of stock, catch, and escapement projections derived from the SMM, in river catch performance compared to historical catch performance and run size and water levels, and in-season escapement monitoring projects. Weekly inputs to the model will include: effort and catch data from Alaska District 106 and 108 gillnet fisheries; catch, effort and in-season stock composition data from the Canadian lower Stikine commercial and test fisheries; and escapement requirements.

It is anticipated that the management of the lower river commercial fishery will switch from Chinook to sockeye at 1200 hrs. June 24 (statistical week 26) for an initial period of 48 hours. Consideration for Tahltan Lake sockeye stock management objectives should persist through till 21 July (statistical week 29). Thereafter, management attention will be focused primarily on mainstem sockeye stock objectives. As in 2010-11, the mainstem sockeye management period will be moved one week earlier in an attempt at rebuilding this stock component which has been trending downward over the past several years. (Management actions in 2010-11 have resulted in improved mainstem sockeye escapements.) Actual time frames of responses to specific stock compositions may be fine-tuned in-season according to the weekly results of the stock ID program.

The achievement of escapement objectives is the foremost priority in management considerations. Inriver allocation priority will be to fulfill the food, social and ceremonial requirements of the traditional First Nation fishery. The commercial fisheries, therefore, will be managed to accommodate these fundamental priorities. The area of most intense management will be within the lower Stikine commercial fishery.

The four primary fishery management responses to in-season sockeye run size projections will include:

1. Adjusting fishing time. Fishing time in the lower Stikine fishery generally depends upon stock assessment and international and domestic catch allocation considerations. Although the preseason expectation is for a run size capable of providing commercial fishing opportunities, initial fishing periods will likely be of shorter duration due to uncertainty over the preseason run outlook. Once in-season projections become available, caution will be exercised in providing extensions to fishing times.
2. Adjusting the fishing area. Initially, fishing boundary locations will extend from the Canada/US boundary upstream to a location near the mouth of the Porcupine River. The area includes the lower 10 km reach of the Iskut River. The section of the Stikine River upstream from the Porcupine-Stikine confluence will be closed for the initial sockeye fishing periods. Consideration for increasing the fishing area upstream to the boundary sign located approximately 9 km below the Stikine-Scud confluence will only be given if the in-season indicators for both Chinook and sockeye salmon indicate a strong run, escapement targets are expected to be exceeded and harvests are below allocation targets. In the Iskut River, the area will remain unchanged from previous years, i.e. from the mouth to a marker located approximately 10 km upstream from the mouth.
3. Adjusting the quantity of fishing gear. Initially, only one net per licence will be permitted and may be deployed as a set or drift gillnet. Gear may be increased to two gillnets should an increase in exploitation rate be warranted based on inseason terminal run size estimates. The maximum allowable net length will remain at 135 meters and, in the absence of directed Chinook fishery, there will be a maximum mesh size restriction of 140 mm (5.5") through noon July 21 to conserve Chinook salmon.

In the upper Stikine commercial fishery, the sockeye fishery will open on July 01 (statistical week 27) for a 48 hour period. Thereafter, weekly fishing times will generally follow those of the lower river lagged by one week. Management regimes designed to reduce exploitation include reducing weekly fishing times and reducing gear from two nets to one net.

As in past years, weekly fishing times in the First Nation fishery are not expected to be restricted. Subject to conservation requirements, terminal catches in the lower Tuya River and/or at Tahltan Lake may occur under ESSR or other authorizations. In the First Nation fishery, reductions in fishing time would be considered only if no other adjustments could be made in the lower and upper river commercial fisheries.

## **Summary**

Attainment of escapement goals for both the Tahltan Lake and mainstem stocks is the primary objective of Stikine sockeye management. Harvest sharing will be based upon the TAC projections derived primarily from the SMM and other methods. Other factors that may influence harvest management include results from in-season escapement projections, e.g. projected Tahltan Lake weir counts and water levels. The TAC estimates will likely change from week to week as the SMM updates the projected run sizes from the cumulative CPUE's each week. Variations in the TAC estimates will likely be larger early in the season when CPUE is high, than later in the season. Management actions will reflect these week-to-week changes in the TAC estimates. Fishery managers from both countries will have weekly contact in order to evaluate the output from the SMM and other stock assessment tools and to update the outcome of their respective management actions.

## **In-season Data Exchange and Review**

Canada and the U.S. will conduct data exchanges by telephone and/or email on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning of each week during the fishing season. At that time, current catch statistics and stock assessment data will be updated, exchanged, and reviewed. Management plans for the next week for each country will be discussed at this time. It is anticipated that additional communications will be required each week. Weekly decision deadlines will be: a) for Districts 106 and 108, 11:00 a.m., Thursday, Alaska Daylight Time; and, b) for the Canadian Stikine fishery, 10:00 a.m., Friday, Pacific Daylight Time. Weekly summaries of the fisheries results will be conducted frequently throughout fishing periods through telephone calls between management offices of DFO and ADF&G.

DFO field personnel will provide weekly otolith samples from the lower Stikine commercial and test fisheries for pick-up by ADF&G; or, the otoliths may be delivered to Wrangell via select commercial fishers, Tuesday each week for processing and analysis in Juneau. Results from preliminary analysis can be expected by Thursday of the current week.

## **Stock Assessment Program**

This section summarizes agreements regarding the data which will be collected by each National Section and, when appropriate, procedures that will be used for analysis.

### Catch Statistics

The U.S. shall report catches and effort in the following strata for each statistical week:

1. Subdistricts 106-41&42 (Sumner Strait);
2. Subdistrict 106-30 (Clarence Strait);

3. District 108; and
4. Stikine River subsistence fishery.

Canada shall report catch and effort statistics in the following strata for each statistical week:

1. the lower river commercial fishery (all areas);
2. the lower river commercial fishery located near Flood Glacier (if it opens);
3. the upper river commercial fishery;
4. the First Nation fishery;
5. the lower Stikine River test fishery conducted near the international border; and
6. ESSR or other terminal fishery catches will be reported as data become available.

#### Stock Composition of U.S. Catches

Otolith samples will be taken from the catches in District 106-41/42, District 106-30, and District 108 and processed inseason to determine the contribution of planted Tahltan and Tuya sockeye salmon. The in-season run forecast will be characterised as small, average or large and the contributions of Tahltan sockeye stocks to marine catches will be assumed to be similar to historical average stock compositions characterised by: small run sizes (1986-1990, 1998, 2000-2002 with run sizes <40,000); medium run sizes (long term average; run sizes 40,000-80,000); and, large runs (1985, 1991-1997, 2003-2007 with run sizes >80,000). The estimated contribution of wild Tahltan sockeye will be determined by subtracting the enhanced contribution, determined from in-season otolith analyses, from whichever historical average total Tahltan contribution is being used. For mainstem stock contributions, a low run forecast will use the average of the contributions from 1987, 1988, 1990, 1998-2000, 2002 (run sizes <40,000). An average run size (run size of 40,000-80,000) will use the long-term average contributions, and for high run size forecasts, the average of the contributions from 1985, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 2003, 2004 and 2005 (run sizes >80,000) will be used.

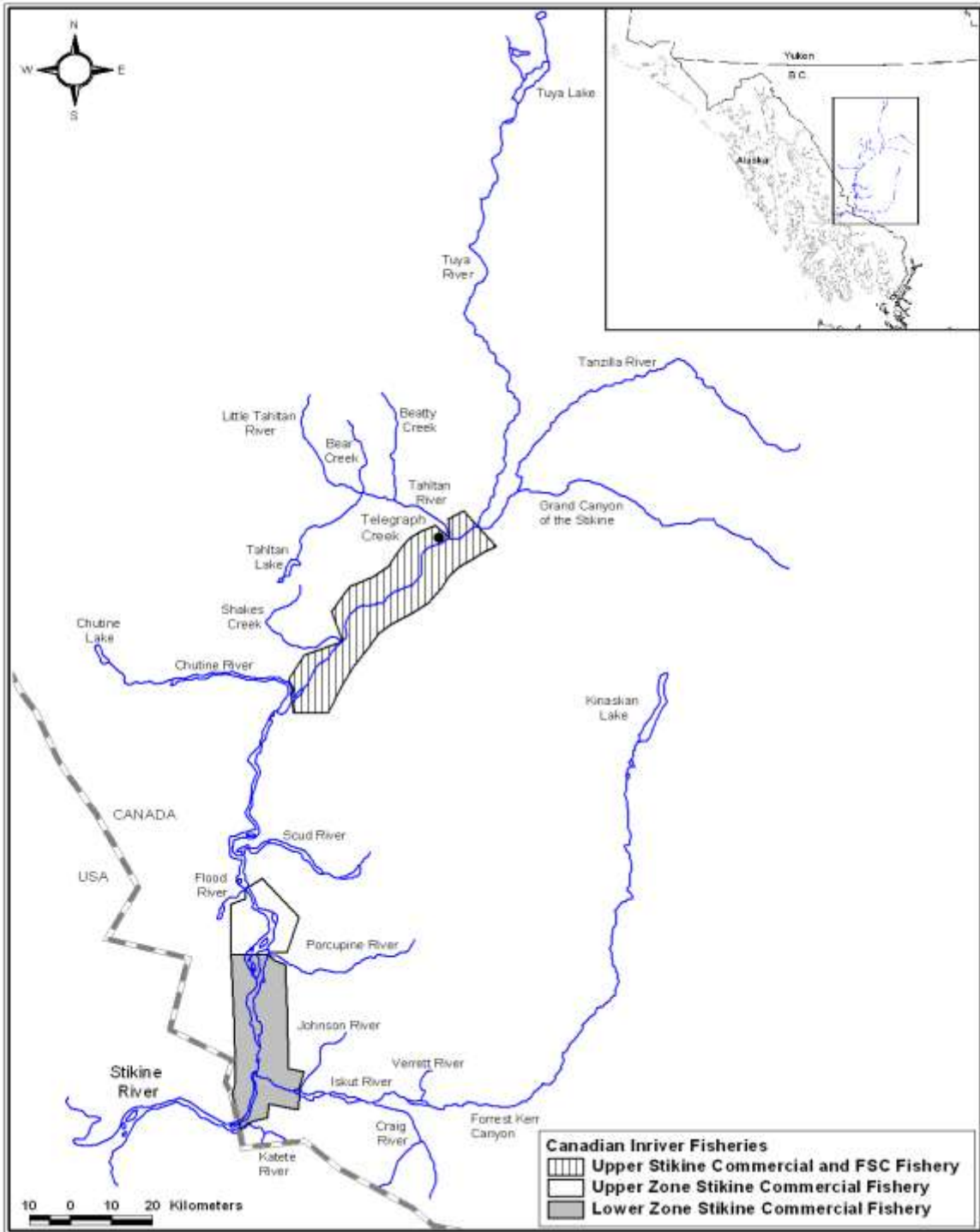


Figure 2. The Stikine River and Canadian fishing areas.

After the fishing season, genetic stock identification will be used to recalculate actual contributions of Tahltan and mainstem sockeye stocks to the catches made each week in each subsection of District 106 (Clarence Strait and Sumner Strait), and District 108. Scales will be collected in-season and the desired sample size from each of these strata is 520 fish per week. It is recognized that small catches in District 108 may preclude temporal stratification at the desired level.

To evaluate the contribution of planted sockeye salmon to U.S. gillnet catches, 520 otolith samples will be collected per week in District 108, and 520 otolith samples/week will be collected from each sub-area in District 106 for in-season analyses. These samples will be matched with genetic tissue and scale samples. Inseason processing of thermal marks will be completed within 2 days of the end of the fishing period. Besides indicating the relative strength of the planted Stikine stocks, results from the otolith sampling will also serve as a check on the validity of the stock composition estimates (based on historical averages) used to apportion catches in District 106 and 108 in the SMM.

#### Stock Composition of the Inriver Canadian Catch

Egg diameter data will be used inseason to estimate the combined Tahltan and Tuya sockeye component versus the mainstem contribution to the lower river sockeye catches during the fishing season. Tahltan fish generally have smaller diameter eggs (<3.7 mm) compared to mainstem fish. The Tuya component will be determined from the analysis of otolith samples collected each week.

In the lower Stikine commercial fishery, weekly sampling targets are 150 matched egg diameter, scale, and otolith samples and 50 otolith samples matched with scales from male fish. ADF&G will analyze the thermal marks from a sub-sample of at least 60 fish each week. Arrangements will be made to ensure timely transfer of samples and notification of results for use in management decisions no later than the week following when the samples are collected. As stated above, weekly pickup/delivery times for the otolith samples from the river will be on Tuesday, unless otherwise agreed. Egg and otolith data will be used both in- and post- season to estimate wild Tahltan and mainstem sockeye and the planted Tahltan and Tuya contributions. A total of 350 sockeye salmon will be randomly sampled each week for scales, size and gender. It will be necessary to match the scale and egg data by fish to develop post-season stock-specific age-composition estimates. In addition, at least 125 genetic samples will be collected each week for future stock composition analysis. If samples are not available in August due to lack of fishing effort, samples may be augmented from the test fishery.

In the upper Stikine fishing area, up to 600 sockeye will be sampled for age, sex, size, egg diameters and otoliths from the combined commercial and First Nation fisheries.

#### Stock Composition and Run Timing in the Canadian Test Fishery

The proportions of Tahltan/Tuya and mainstem sockeye salmon in test fishery catches in the lower Stikine River will be estimated in-season in a similar manner to the commercial fishery, although budget constraints may limit the duration of the test fishery. Should budget constraints apply, the test fishing effort will be weighted toward the latter 60 per cent of the run. Up to 400 sockeye caught in the test fishery per week will be sampled for scales and otoliths, and all females in that sample will be examined for egg diameter (all data to be matched). The test fishery otolith samples will be transferred to ADF&G, as per the arrangements made for the commercial samples, for in-season analysis.

The post-season sockeye stock composition estimates will be based on egg diameter data and associated thermal mark analyses. Similar to the commercial fishery, the planted portion of the catch will be determined post-seasonally from otolith samples.

### Spawning Escapement Estimates

An adult enumeration weir will be used to estimate the Tahltan Lake sockeye escapement. The age composition will be estimated from scale samples, and contributions of planted sockeye salmon will be determined from otolith samples. Approximately 800 fish will be sampled during the season for scales, length, and sex; 400 otolith samples will be taken at the weir (subject to conservation concerns) and an additional 400 otolith samples will be taken from the spawning grounds and/or broodstock.

The mainstem escapement will be estimated post-seasonally using migratory timing information obtained from CPUE and stock ID data from the commercial and/or test fishery, combined with weekly stock compositions estimated from the commercial and/or test fishery catches. Pending budget approval, aerial surveys of six mainstem sockeye spawning indices will be conducted to serve as ancillary escapement information. The Tuya sockeye escapement will be estimated post-seasonally in a similar way.

Pending budget approval, up to 400 Tuya River sockeye salmon will be sampled for age, size and sex composition and otoliths.

### Post-season Stock Composition Estimates

The weekly proportions of wild Tahltan and mainstem sockeye stocks in the commercial fisheries are used post-seasonally, based on GSI, to estimate the respective abundances of these stock groupings in the entire run. Enhanced Tuya and Tahltan abundance will be based on otolith analysis. In time, GSI results may be used to verify and estimate error rates in the historical stock composition estimates derived from SPA and egg diameter analysis.

## **Data Evaluation Procedures**

### Historical Database

Although Canadian commercial fishing began in the Stikine River in 1975, the methodology for estimating sockeye terminal run sizes was not well standardized until 1982. Therefore, estimates of run size after this time are considered to be better than those made prior to 1982 (Table 4). Due to possible changes in efficiency in the commercial fishery, the CPUE data from the lower river *test* fishery, if available, may be used as the main predictor of in-season run strength. If the test fishery data is insufficient (due to no/limited test fish effort), the CPUE from the lower river commercial fishery will be used as the primary predictor. The historical databases from 1985 for the Canadian lower Stikine and Alaskan District 106-41/42 commercial fisheries, and from 1986 for the Canadian test fishery, will be used in the development of the SMM for 2012. (*note: the incomplete fishing pattern and unusual migratory behavior observed in the Canadian Lower Stikine commercial fishery in some years may preclude the use of the data from those years in the model*). The 2012 run size estimated by the model at the end of the fishing season will be replaced in the fall/winter of 2012 using post-season stock composition data for use in the database in future years.

### Stikine Management Model

A model based on the relationship between CPUE and run size has been constructed and updated to make weekly in-season predictions of the total terminal run size and the TAC during the 2012 season. A description of the original model is given in the Transboundary Technical Committee Report: **TCTR (88)-2, Salmon Management Plan for the Transboundary Rivers, 1988**. Many subtle changes have

been made in the model since that documentation was written and a new documentation is in progress. The purpose of the model is to aid managers in making weekly harvest decisions to meet U.S./Canada treaty obligations for harvest sharing and conservation of Stikine sockeye salmon. In concert with the SMM, managers may use other inseason information such as a comparison of current year inriver catch performance by stock grouping against past catch performance and run size, and perceived changes in current year run timing information from the run timing regime identified in the model.

The model for 2012 is based on CPUE data from District 106, the Canadian commercial fishery in the lower river and the lower Stikine test fishery. Actual years to be included in the model will be determined prior to the season (analyses in progress). Linear regression is used to predict terminal run sizes from cumulative CPUE's for each week of the fisheries beginning in statistical week 26 for all three fisheries. Since the run abundance is expected to be below average (low) in 2012, the intercept will be forced to be zero. If the management regime permits two nets and a fishing zone extended upstream to the mouth of the Flood River, as occurred in 2003-2009, the model will use adjusted data for the lower Stikine commercial CPUE which will exclude catch and effort data from the Flood Glacier area, i.e. the extended fishing area fished during 1997-2000, 2004-2007, 2009. In addition, the weekly CPUE data from 1994-2000, 2005-2009 (excluding the Flood area CPUE data) were decreased by 25% to account for the extra gear allowed during this period. This makes the historical CPUE data comparable with the 2012 data.

In the past, three sets of CPUE data have been used to predict the terminal run. These included:

1. The District 106 cumulative CPUE of Stikine sockeye stocks was used to predict the terminal run of Stikine sockeye salmon;
2. The cumulative CPUE from the Canadian lower river commercial fishery was used to predict the inriver Stikine sockeye run. In this year's analysis, the CPUE from 1994-2000, 2004-11 (excluding the upper fishing area catches and when additional nets were introduced into the fishery), will be standardized, depending on the management regime expected to be in place, to ensure the annual CPUE values are comparable. In 2012, the historical CPUE values will reflect those of a one net regime; model inputs of the CPUE from the lower river commercial fishery will be adjusted accordingly depending on whether one or two nets are being fished. In light of the additional gear anticipated in 2012 the CPUE may be adjusted downward in order to compare with historical fishing regimes (i.e. in 2012, as in 2011, 19 licences are anticipated; historically 12 licences have fished).

To estimate the terminal run, the following calculations will be made: 1. the projected inriver run will be added to the projected total season catch of Stikine sockeye salmon in District 108. The projected catch in District 108 will be based on an assumed 90% contribution of Stikine sockeye to the cumulative catch expanded by historical run timing; and 2. the projected District 106 catch will be based on the assumption that 10% of the terminal run will be harvested in District 106, i.e. the run entering District 108 calculated as per paragraph 1 above will represent 90% of the terminal run. The terminal run projection will be the sum of the projections for the inriver run and the District 108 catch expanded by 1/0.9.

3. From 1995 through 2000, the cumulative CPUE from the Canadian test fishery was used to predict the inriver Stikine sockeye run. The inriver run estimate was expanded as per item 2 above to project the total terminal run size. Since that time, projections based on the test fishery have been used infrequently due to the incomplete coverage of the total run. However, the test fishery is used when necessary to estimate a commercial CPUE value for the model in the absence of a commercial fishery (via linear regression of historical test and commercial CPUE).



The 2012 in-season projections of abundance and TAC will be based on the following datasets:

1. Management actions through week 26 (possibly week 27) will be based on the preseason forecast;
2. The forecasts for weeks 27 (possibly week 28) through 30 will be based on the SMM with inputs from the inriver commercial fishery for weeks 25 through 29. The test fishery data may be used to supplant the commercial fishery data post week 32 if the lower commercial fishing effort ends or is radically reduced. [Note: the test fishery CPUE will be converted to commercial CPUE based on a linear regression equation]. Forecasts from District 106 data are generally viewed with lower confidence because weekly regressions of CPUE on terminal run size using the inriver data usually have higher coefficients of correlation compared to those based on the District 106. Predictions from the District 106 data will continue to be made to verify in-season estimates and provide post-season comparisons;
3. After week 30, the SMM will continue to be updated from the lower Stikine inriver test/commercial fishery data; however, run projections tend to be less reliable after week 30 and should be viewed accordingly;
4. Historical timing data will be used to provide weekly guideline harvests for each country;
5. Weekly management decisions may include other considerations such as:
  - a. The lower river commercial CPUE of the Tahltan Lake stock grouping may be used to calculate inriver run size by a linear regression equation independent of the model. The run size of the Tuya and mainstem stock grouping will be determined based on the proportion of the CPUE of these stock groupings in the current statistical week and expanded by run timing (note: water levels and associated changes in exploitation rates will be monitored and used in assessing the run size);
  - b. The current week's inriver run size of Tahltan Lake sockeye may be calculated based on the estimated harvest rate in the lower Stikine commercial fishery expanded by run timing. The harvest rate is estimated based on the historical relationship between effort and inriver run size. The run size projections for the Tuya and mainstem stock groupings will be determined based on the proportion of the CPUE of these stock groupings through the current statistical week and expanded by run timing (note: water levels and associated changes in exploitation rates will be monitored and used in assessing the run size); and
  - c. Catch rates in existing fisheries compared to historical averages, run sizes, and water levels.

Table 4. Stikine sockeye run sizes: 1979 – 2011 (2009-11 data preliminary).

Year	Inriver Run Size	Inriver Catch <sup>a</sup>	Escapement <sup>b</sup>	Marine Catch	Terminal Run Size <sup>c</sup>
<b>i) Total Stikine Sockeye Stocks</b>					
1979	40,353	13,534	26,819	8,299	48,652
1980	62,743	20,919	41,824	23,206	85,949
1981	138,879	27,017	111,862	27,538	166,417
1982	68,761	20,540	48,221	42,804	111,565
1983	71,683	21,120	50,563	5,782	77,466
1984	76,211	5,327	70,884	7,810	84,021
1985	184,747	26,804	157,943	29,747	214,494

Table 4. (continueud)

Year	Inriver Run Size	Inriver Catch <sup>a</sup>	Escapement <sup>b</sup>	Marine Catch	Terminal Run Size <sup>c</sup>
1986	69,036	17,846	51,190	6,420	75,456
1987	39,264	11,283	27,981	4,085	43,350
1988	41,915	16,538	25,377	3,181	45,096
1989	75,054	21,639	53,415	15,492	90,546
1990	57,386	19,964	37,422	9,856	67,242
1991	120,152	25,138	95,014	34,323	154,476
1992	154,542	29,242	125,300	77,394	231,936
1993	176,100	52,698	123,402	104,630	280,730
1994	127,527	53,380	74,147	80,509	208,036
1995	142,308	66,777	75,531	76,420	218,728
1996	184,400	90,148	94,252	188,385	372,785
1997	125,657	68,197	57,460	101,258	226,915
1998	90,459	50,486	39,973	30,989	121,448
1999	65,879	47,202	18,677	58,735	124,614
2000	53,145	31,535	21,610	25,359	78,504
2001	103,755	29,341	74,414	23,500	127,255
2002	68,635	22,607	46,028	8,076	76,711
2003	194,425	69,571	124,854	46,552	240,977
2004	189,415	88,451	100,964	122,349	311,764
2005	167,570	88,089	79,482	92,110	259,680
2006	193,768	102,333	91,435	74,426	268,194
2007	110,132	61,121	49,011	86,408	196,540
2008	73,773	36,717	37,056	45,515	119,288
2009	116,141	50,516	65,626	64,151	180,292
2010	118,863	55,089	63,711	48,332	167,195
2011	143,829	61,386	82,443	71,035	214,864
<b>ii) Tahltan sockeye run size</b>					
1979	17,472	7,261	10,211	5,076	22,548
1980	19,137	8,119	11,018	11,239	30,376
1981	65,968	15,178	50,790	16,189	82,157
1982	42,493	14,236	28,257	20,890	63,383
1983	32,684	11,428	21,256	5,072	37,757
1984	37,571	4,794	32,777	3,097	40,668
1985	86,008	18,682	67,326	25,197	111,205
1986	31,015	10,735	20,280	2,757	33,771
1987	11,923	4,965	6,958	2,259	14,182
1988	7,222	4,686	2,536	2,129	9,351
1989	14,110	5,794	8,316	1,561	15,671
1990	23,923	8,996	14,927	2,307	26,230
1991	67,394	17,259	50,135	23,612	91,006
1992	76,681	16,774	59,907	28,218	104,899
1993	84,068	32,458	51,610	40,036	124,104
1994	77,239	37,728	39,511	65,101	142,340
1995	82,290	50,713	31,577	51,665	133,955
1996	95,706	57,545	38,161	147,435	243,141
1997	37,319	25,214	12,105	43,408	80,727
1998	27,941	15,673	12,268	7,086	35,027
1999	35,918	25,599	10,319	23,431	59,349
2000	13,803	8,133	5,670	5,340	19,143

Table 4 (continued).

Year	Inriver Run Size	Inriver Catch <sup>a</sup>	Escapement <sup>b</sup>	Marine Catch	Total Run Size <sup>c</sup>
2001	20,985	6,224	14,761	6,339	27,324
2002	24,736	7,396	17,340	2,055	26,791
2003	81,808	28,275	53,533	16,298	98,106
2004	125,677	62,725	62,952	91,535	217,213
2005	110,903	67,857	43,046	63,714	174,617
2006	130,174	76,319	53,855	54,923	185,097
2007	59,537	38,463	21,074	63,330	122,867
2008	28,399	17,883	10,516	17,774	46,143
2009	56,529	25,856	30,673	33,681	90,209
2010	48,091	25,231	22,860	24,931	73,003
2011	64,803	30,216	34,659	38,016	102,820
<b>iii) Tuya sockeye run size</b>					
1995	2,216	1,112	1,104	586	2,802
1996	19,158	8,919	10,239	19,442	38,600
1997	28,738	20,819	7,919	37,520	66,258
1998	31,442	22,911	8,531	15,941	47,383
1999	16,165	13,877	2,288	15,217	31,382
2000	20,779	14,971	5,806	13,255	34,034
2001	27,783	8,985	18,798	12,968	40,751
2002	9,707	7,020	2,687	4,058	13,765
2003	30,814	17,465	13,349	8,760	39,574
2004	4,909	3,645	1,264	4,257	9,166
2005	3,325	1,677	1,648	131	3,330
2006	27,806	17,829	9,977	10,122	37,928
2007	18,176	11,105	7,071	18,050	36,227
2008	24,019	14,281	9,739	17,766	41,786
2009	25,420	15,043	10,377	17,434	42,854
2010	36,779	21,050	15,729	13,355	50,134
2011	28,685	14,489	14,197	17,817	46,503
<b>iv) Mainstem sockeye run size</b>					
1979	22,880	6,273	16,608	3,223	26,103
1980	43,606	12,800	30,806	11,967	55,573
1981	72,911	11,839	61,072	11,349	84,260
1982	26,267	6,304	19,964	21,914	48,182
1983	38,999	9,692	29,307	710	39,709
1984	38,640	533	38,107	4,714	43,354
1985	98,739	8,122	90,617	4,550	103,289
1986	38,022	7,111	30,910	3,663	41,685
1987	27,342	6,318	21,023	1,826	29,168
1988	34,693	11,852	22,841	1,052	35,745
1989	60,944	15,845	45,099	13,931	74,875
1990	33,464	10,968	22,495	7,549	41,013
1991	52,758	7,879	44,879	10,712	63,470
1992	77,861	12,468	65,393	49,176	127,037
1993	92,033	20,240	71,792	64,594	156,627
1994	50,288	15,652	34,636	15,408	65,696
1995	57,802	14,953	42,850	24,169	81,971
1996	69,536	23,684	45,852	21,508	91,044
1997	59,600	22,164	37,436	20,330	79,930
1998	31,077	11,902	19,175	7,962	39,039
1999	13,797	7,726	6,071	20,087	33,884

Table 4 (continued)

Year	Inriver Run Size	Inriver Catch <sup>a</sup>	Escapement <sup>b</sup>	Marine Catch	Terminal Run Size <sup>c</sup>
2000	18,563	8,431	10,132	6,764	25,327
2001	54,987	14,132	40,855	4,193	59,180
2002	34,191	8,191	26,001	1,963	36,154
2003	81,803	23,831	57,972	21,494	103,297
2004	58,828	22,080	36,748	26,556	85,385
2005	53,343	18,555	34,788	28,391	81,734
2006	35,788	8,185	27,606	9,381	45,169
2007	32,418	11,553	20,865	5,027	37,445
2008	21,355	4,553	16,802	10,005	31,359
2009	34,192	9,617	24,575	13,036	47,228
2010	33,993	8,809	25,185	10,064	44,058
2011	50,341	16,682	33,569	15,201	65,542

Note:

Data source: *Preliminary Estimates of Transboundary River Salmon Production, Harvest and Escapement and a Review of Joint Enhancement Activities in 2011*

a) Inriver catch includes test fishery catches.

b) Escapement includes fish later captured for broodstock, sampled and/or taken in ESSR fisheries.

c) Excludes marine catches outside Districts 106 and 108.

Separate projections of terminal run size will be made for the combined Stikine sockeye stocks (wild plus planted), the Tahltan Lake stock (wild plus planted), the planted Tuya stock, and the mainstem stock. This information will be used in-season to assist in fisheries management and, post-seasonally, will be evaluated along with other measures of abundance.

The part of the model which determines total and weekly TAC levels for the U.S. and Canadian fisheries has been formulated in EXCEL® for use by managers in-season. This part of the model uses the coefficients from the linear regression model, the established escapement goals, and PST harvest sharing provisions to determine the TAC for each country. Estimates of weekly TAC and effort are provided as guidelines for the managers and are derived from the 1986-2009 average run timing of the stocks and the corresponding average CPUE levels of each fishery.

### In-season Use

For 2012, the model predictions will set the TAC levels; however, additional information may be used to calculate run size to inform decisions regarding fishery openings. The model output will be evaluated and compared with discrepancies from other information available on the run strength (e.g. inriver Tahltan Lake CPUE and water level). The post-season evaluation will be used to improve the model for the next year.

### Post-season Evaluation

After the fishing season is over, the TCTR will evaluate how well the model performed in predicting the terminal run, where discrepancies occurred, and what might have caused them. The TCTR will also determine whether escapement goals were met according to the Spawning Escapement Goals section of this report. Results from the evaluation will be presented in the annual catch and escapement report prepared by the committee. For 2011, the preliminary evaluation may be found in *Preliminary Estimates*

*of Transboundary River Salmon Production, Harvest, and Escapement and a Review of Joint Enhancement Activities, 2011 (Transboundary Technical Committee, February 2012.)*

## ***Coho Salmon***

### **Preseason Forecast**

The preseason forecast of Stikine River coho salmon is based on multiplying the estimated escapement of female coho salmon by a DFO “biological standard” production factor of 5.7. This factor was generated by the Canadian Salmon Enhancement Program and is used as a general multiplier in assessing potential production in the absence of more precise data.

The brood year escapement information contributing to the Stikine coho salmon run in 2012 was approximately 27,830 (2008) and 32,497 (2009). The escapement estimates were based on the performance of the 2008 and 2009 coho test fisheries compared to the performance of the 2008 and 2009 sockeye test fisheries and the resultant sockeye inriver run size from the latter. For example, the 2008 cumulative average weekly CPUE of coho was 5.69 fish per test drift, while the sockeye cumulative average weekly CPUE was 13.89 fish per drift. The coho CPUE was 41.0% of the sockeye CPUE. The total inriver coho run size, therefore, was estimated to be 41.0% of the inriver run size of sockeye salmon which was 73,773 fish in 2008. The total estimate inriver runs size of coho therefore was 30,228 fish. The inriver coho catch of 2,398 fish subtracted from the inriver run size estimate results in an estimated escapement of 27,830 coho. It should be noted that the applicability of extrapolating coho escapement from the sockeye test fishery and run analysis has not yet been determined.

Based on the 2008-09 brood year escapements of 27,830 and 32,497 respectively, the 2012 return of Stikine River coho is expected to be above average. Brood year aerial survey results, however, indicated that the spawning escapement was below average. Aerial surveys are conducted once annually and are subject to various surveying and run timing variables that may or may not reflect the true nature of the return.

The lack of reliable escapement and marine survival data for Stikine coho precludes the development of a reliable outlook for this stock.

### **Escapement Goal**

The interim escapement goal range for Stikine coho salmon is 30,000 to 50,000 fish.

### **Harvest Sharing Objectives**

The United States’ management intent is to ensure that sufficient coho salmon enter the Canadian section of the Stikine River to meet the agreed spawning objective, plus an annual Canadian catch of 5,000 coho salmon in a directed coho salmon fishery (PST, Transboundary Rivers, Annex IV, para. 3(a)(2)(ii)).

### **Stock Assessment Program**

Each country shall:

1. report catch statistics for the same strata as sockeye salmon;

2. sample its fisheries for coded-wire tags; and
3. conduct escapement programs as resources permit.

## **Management Procedures**

### United States

The drift gillnet coho salmon fishery season will start during late August or early September. Alaskan hatcheries and the remote release site at Neck Lake in upper Clarence Strait contribute substantially to coho salmon harvest in the District 106 and 108 fisheries. Inseason estimates from CWT recovery data will be used to identify the hatchery component of the harvest. Only the harvest of wild coho salmon will be used for fishery performance evaluation.

By regulation, coho salmon may not be retained in the salmon troll fishery until June 1. Spring salmon troll fisheries (from the end of the winter fishery to June 30) are managed to target Alaskan hatchery Chinook salmon and must stay within certain Treaty harvest limits adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Coho salmon are harvested incidentally during the last two weeks of the spring troll fishery and harvests during that time period are typically very low. During the summer salmon troll fishery (July 1 to September 30), the salmon troll fishery in District 108 is open only on days when the drift gillnet fishery is open. When first opened, the summer fishery targets Chinook and coho salmon. When the Chinook salmon harvest target is reached, the fishery is closed to Chinook salmon retention but remains open for coho salmon. The coho salmon season usually remains open through September 20 but may be closed earlier for conservation and/or allocative reasons in July or August. An extension of the coho season to September 30 may occur during years when the department projects escapements will be met.

If there is a conservation concern for Stikine River coho salmon, the District 108 drift gillnet and troll fisheries will be restricted.

A U.S. Federal Stikine River subsistence fishery for coho salmon will occur for the eighth consecutive season in 2012. The coho fishery will be open from August 1 to October 1 with a guideline harvest level of 400 fish. The fishery will take place on the Stikine River upriver from marine waters to the U.S./Canadian border. Fishing in tributaries, or side channels, and at stock assessment sites is prohibited. The allowable fishing gear includes: dipnets, spears, gaffs, rod and reel, beach seine, or gillnets not exceeding 15 fathoms in length with mesh size no larger than 5½ inches (~14 cm). The fishery will be monitored inseason by USFS biologists that will remain in contact with ADF&G commercial fishery managers.

An Alaska State subsistence fishery, targeting coho salmon, will be conducted again in 2012. The fishery is permitted in all streams of District 105 north of a line from Pt. Saint Albans to Cape Pole, District 106 west of line from Macnamara Pt. to Mitchell Pt. and west of the longitude of Macnamara Pt., District 107 and District 108: excluding the Stikine River. The fishery is restricted to Alaska residents only and will be open from August 16 to October 31, with a limit of 40 coho per family per year.

### Canada

Coho management will commence in stat week 35 (26 August to 01 September). Typically, a large number of boats have left the fishing grounds (>50%) by stat week 35 and hence the daily exploitation

rate of a diminished fishing fleet is relatively low. The fishing strategy based on a diminished fleet will be to provide for liberal fishing times until the catch approaches the 5,000 piece quota as articulated in the PST. It is anticipated that fishers will be permitted the use of only one, 135 metre (443 feet) gillnet. The maximum mesh size will be restricted to 204 mm (8"). If there is a conservation concern, the Canadian fishery will be restricted.

## TAKU RIVER

### *Preseason Forecasts*

#### **Chinook Salmon**

The preseason terminal run forecast for large (greater than 659 mm mid-eye-to-fork length) Taku River Chinook salmon in 2012 is 48,036 fish. This forecast is based on sibling returns and is slightly above the ten-year average terminal run of 45,843 large Chinook salmon. The principal brood years contributing to the 2012 Chinook run are 2006, 2007 and 2008. The 2006 escapement of 42,191 large Chinook was above the upper limit of the current goal range. The 2007 escapement of 14,749 large Chinook salmon was below the current escapement goal range. The 2008 escapement of 27,382 large Chinook was within the current escapement goal range. In 2009, the spawning escapement goal was revised to an interim MSY point estimate of 25,500 fish within a target range of 19,000 to 36,000 fish. Although the 2012 preseason forecast is sufficient for directed fisheries in both the U.S. and Canada, the tendency for forecasts to over-estimate the actual run size in recent years will require a precautionary approach in implementing directed fisheries this year (Table 5).

On average, the run consists of 26% age-4, 44% age-5 and 28% age-6 Chinook; other ages include age-3 and age-7 which make up the remainder. The total estimated number of inriver Taku Chinook age-4 in 2011 was 15,216; age-5 was 27,028; and age-6 was 5,700. Note that the forecast model differs from the one used in the past in the following ways:

1. Forecast model is two power functions such that when the run for an age group is zero, the forecast for that age group will be zero (no longer can a forecast for one age be less than zero);
2. The forecast is a median, not a mean;
3. The forecast for 1.4s is based on estimated return of ages 1.2 and 1.3 of the same brood year, not just the 1.3s; and

The result differed only slightly; the previous methodology resulted in a forecast of 49,679. Neither forecast includes fish age-4 or younger.

Table 5. Taku River Chinook salmon preseason forecasts vs. post season estimates, 1997 to 2012. Values for 1997 – 2004 are for spawning escapement; 2005 – 2012 are for terminal run.

Year	Pre-season Forecast <sup>a</sup>	Post Season Estimated	Forecast Performance <sup>b</sup>
1997	106,103	129,141	-18%
1998	47,827	36,188	32%
1999	24,525	23,838	3%
2000	32,130	43,330	-26%
2001	38,559	55,059	-30%
2002	39,947	65,093	-39%
2003	44,166	46,969	-6%
2004	56,451	87,624	-36%
2005	99,610	71,383	40%
2006	64,150	63,633	1%
2007	38,720	19,814	95%
2008	39,406	32,108	23%



Table 5 (continued)

Year	Pre-season Forecast <sup>a</sup>	Post Season Estimated	Forecast Performance <sup>b</sup>
2009	50,164	33,920	48%
2010	41,328	37,461	10%
2011	40,986	32,687	25%
2012	48,036		
2004-2011	Average absolute difference from post season run size		+/- 29%

Note:

Data source: *Preliminary Estimates of Transboundary River Salmon Production, Harvest and Escapement and a Review of Joint Enhancement Activities in 2011*

a) pre season forecast based on sibling data.

b) the forecast expressed as % deviation from post season estimate. Negative numbers indicates the forecast was lower than the actual return.

### Sockeye Salmon

The DFO preseason forecast for the terminal run of wild Taku River sockeye salmon in 2012 is approximately 197,000 fish, which is slightly below the recent ten-year average run size of 218,000 fish. This forecast is the average of a sibling-based forecast of 156,874 sockeye, and a stock-recruitment based forecast of 237,752 sockeye. If the run comes in as expected, the TAC will be approximately 122,000 sockeye salmon.

The sibling forecast is based on the historical (1989-2011) relationship between the number of age-5 sockeye in year (t) and the number of age-4 sockeye in year (t-1):

$$N_{5(t)} = 30,084 + 1.70 \bullet N_{4(t-1)} \quad [4]$$

where:  $N_{5(t)}$  = return of age-5 in year(t); and  
 $N_{4(t-1)}$  = return of age-4 in year(t-1).

The correlation coefficient (r2) of this relationship = 0.52, df = 21. The preliminary estimate of the return of age-4 sockeye in 2011 is 39,030 fish, which, when substituted into equation [4], gives a predicted age-5 return of approximately 96,318 fish in 2012. On average, approximately 61% of Taku River sockeye return at age-5. Based on this, the predicted age-5 return expands to a total terminal run sibling forecast of 156,874 wild sockeye in 2012. It should be noted that the 2011 run size estimate used to develop this forecast is still preliminary.

The stock recruitment forecast for wild fish is based on the historical relationship between the number of spawners (composite of all Taku stocks) and the subsequent returns, described by the following equation:

$$\ln (R/S) = 2.301 - 0.000015 \bullet S \quad [5]$$

where:  $R$  = total adult return; and  
 $S$  = number of spawners.

Equation [5] above is based on the estimated return of spawners from the 1984 to 2005 brood years and the subsequent age-specific returns from these escapements.<sup>5</sup> The relationship is significant at a level of  $\alpha=0.05$ . The estimated numbers of spawners from the principal brood years were 77,835 in 2007 and

<sup>5</sup> Escapement estimates for 1981 and 1985 on were based on the Canyon Island mark-recapture program. Annual age-specific returns were estimated assuming the inriver age composition, determined from sampling in the Canadian commercial fishery, was representative of the entire run.

66,545 in 2008. The calculated returns per spawner for these years based on equation [5] are 3.1 and 3.7, respectively. Assuming that the fish from these brood years mature as per the average age-at-maturity (61% age-5, 30% age-4, 4% age-6, and 5% age-3), the forecast terminal run size for 2012 is 237,752 wild sockeye, based on stock-recruitment data. Historical performance of the pre-season forecast compared to post-season run size is detailed in Table 6.

Table 6. Taku River sockeye salmon preseason run forecasts vs. post season run size estimates, 1994 to 2011 (2009 - 2011 refer to terminal run; previous years are total run).

Year	Pre-season Forecast <sup>a</sup>	Post Season Run Size	Forecast Performance <sup>b</sup>
1994	237,500	241,828	-2%
1995	211,300	238,434	-11%
1996	219,000	322,263	-32%
1997	285,200	174,565	63%
1998	238,100	139,824	70%
1999	202,884	176,764	15%
2000	273,168	246,954	11%
2001	250,451	396,678	-37%
2002	293,113	251,634	16%
2003	303,802	328,884	-8%
2004	231,153	204,015	13%
2005	272,106	188,245	45%
2006	169,284	232,368	-27%
2007	211,733	169,364	25%
2008	181,038	160,982	12%
2009	213,028	118,610	80%
2010	195,887	158,143	24%
2011	230,685	203,761	13%
2012	197,313		
1994-2011	Average absolute difference from post season run size		+/- 28%

Note:

Data source: *Preliminary Estimates of Transboundary River Salmon Production, Harvest and Escapement and a Review of Joint Enhancement Activities in 2011*

a) pre season forecast based on an average of sibling and stock-recruitment forecasts except for 1995 and 2007-2010 which were based solely on stock-recruitment.

b) the forecast expressed as % deviation from post season estimate. Negative numbers indicates the forecast was lower than the actual return.

**Tatsamenie sockeye salmon:** The outlook for Tatsamenie sockeye is for an above average run. The escapements to Tatsamenie Lake in 2007 and 2008, the primary brood years for 2012 returns, were 11,187 and 8,976 fish, respectively. For comparison, the previous ten-year average was approximately 8,600 fish. Combining forecasts for wild and enhanced components of the run, the 2012 forecast is approximately 20,400 sockeye, which is well above the average run size of 14,900 fish estimated using assumptions outlined in the following.

The 2012 forecast for the terminal run of enhanced Tatsamenie Lake sockeye is 5,300 fish, which is above the recent ten-year average of 4,400 fish. This outlook is the average of smolt- and sibling-based forecasts. The smolt-based forecast, 7,395 fish, uses out-migration estimates at Tatsamenie Lake over the period 2007-2010, average age-at-return of 19%, 72%, 8%, and 1% for age classes 4, 5, 6, and 7 respectively, and the recent five-year average enhanced smolt to adult survival of 5.6%. The 2009 and 2010 out-migrations of 105,000 and 247,000 enhanced smolts, respectively, are expected to be the primary contributors to the 2012 run, returning as age 4 and 5 fish. The forecast does not factor in fish from the on-shore rearing trial in 2009 (103,000 in 2009 and an unknown number in 2008) which outmigrated without overwintering since there is little data for predicting their return rates or schedules.

Smolt size has been shown to be positively correlated with survival; the body weights of the 2009 and 2010 smolts were 4.0 and 5.2 grams respectively, which are below the previous five-year average of 5.7 grams. Regarding the sibling forecast, the return of enhanced age 4 fish in 2011 is estimated at 500 fish; using the sibling relationship ( $r\text{-square} = 0.75$ ), a total of 2,311 age 5 fish can be expected in 2012. Expanding this based on the average age-at-return noted above, results in a sibling-based forecast of 3,218 fish. Note: for the purposes of this forecast the freshwater age of all enhanced fish (excluding the non-overwintering fish referred to above) is assumed to be age 1 since freshwater age is not readily available for returns and on average age 2 fish comprise less than 2% of outmigrants.

The estimated outmigrations of wild smolts from Tatsamenie Lake in 2009 and 2010, the primary outmigrations contributing to the 2012 run, were 325,000 and 321,000, respectively. In comparison, the previous five-year smolt outmigration averaged 249,000 fish. Assuming that the recent five-year average survival rate of wild smolt is comparable to that of enhanced smolt (5.6%), and using an estimated age composition of 30%, 1%, 62%, and 7% for age classes 1.2, 2.1, 1.3, and 2.2 respectively, a run of about 15,200 wild fish is expected in 2012. For comparison, assuming the average exploitation rate for wild fish is the same as that for enhanced fish, the average run size of wild fish is approximately 11,800 fish (average escapement of 6,800 wild fish divided by average exploitation rate of 0.58). The body weights of age 1+ wild smolt in 2009 and 2010 were 4.2 and 4.8 grams, respectively, which are below the previous five-year average of 5.0 grams.

The escapement of sockeye salmon to Tatsamenie Lake has the potential to affect the U.S./Canada egg take program. Based on the average fecundity of approximately 4,000 eggs per female, equal sex ratios, a broodstock holding success rate of 80%, along with the guideline that no more than 30% of the escapement can be utilized for enhancement purposes, an escapement of about 4,000 sockeye salmon would be needed to achieve the maximum egg take of 2.0 million referred to in the 2012 Taku Enhancement Production Plan..

A small number of additional enhanced fish are expected from Trapper Lake egg-takes associated with the Trapper Lake barrier removal feasibility study. In the spring of 2007, a total of 896,000 fry was planted into the lake; it is unknown how many of these fish survived to the smolt stage. Age 1.4 fish will be returning in 2012. Assuming a survival of 5% to the smolt stage, 8% to the adult stage, and a maturity schedule as per Tatsamenie enhanced fish (i.e. 19% return at age 1.4), the return would be approximately 700 fish. This would bring the forecast for the total return of enhanced fish (Tatsamenie and Trapper) to 6,000 fish.

## **Coho Salmon**

The forecast for the total run of Taku River coho salmon in 2012 is 164,078 fish. This forecast was generated using the relationship between the CPUE in smolt tagging and the total run estimates seen over the past fifteen years. The management intent of the U.S. is to ensure a minimum inriver run of 38,000 Taku River coho salmon as detailed by the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The recent 10-year average total run of Taku River coho salmon is 212,609 fish.

The 2012 total run forecast is similar to the 2011 and 2010 forecasts of 165,268 and 160,435. The 2011 pre-season forecast over estimated the final return by 50% (the 2011 total return was about 83,300 fish) and the 2010 forecast under estimated the final return by 27% (the 2010 total return was about 246,800 fish).

The estimated spawning escapements in the two primary brood years that will contribute to the 2012 coho run were 95,360 fish in 2008 and 104,321 in 2009. These both exceeded the interim escapement goal

range for Canadian-origin Taku coho of 27,500 to 35,000 fish. Taku coho salmon escapement has averaged approximately 107,300 over the 2004 to 2011 period.

### **Pink Salmon**

Pink salmon returning in 2012 will be the product of the 2010 escapement. Based on the 2010 Canyon Island fish wheel catch of 8,868 pink salmon, relative to the previous ten-even year average of 14,200 fish, the escapement is believed to have been below average. Therefore, the return in 2012 could be below average in magnitude.

### **Chum Salmon**

Canyon Island fish wheel chum salmon catches in 2007 and 2008 (482 and 350, respectively) suggest that the 2012 parent year spawning escapements were slightly above average. The previous ten-year average Canyon Island fish wheel chum salmon catch is 311 fish and the run appears to have been depressed since the early 1990's. The 2012 fall chum run is expected to be similar to the recent ten year average.

### ***Escapement Goals***

Annex IV, Chapter 1 of the PST required the Parties to review an appropriate escapement goal for Taku Chinook salmon by January 15, 2009 and to pass a jointly prepared technical report through accelerated domestic review processes in time for a revised goal to be applied to the 2009 season. Detailed analyses of harvest and spawning abundance by age class and smolt production were used to generate a recommendation for a 19,000 to 36,000 adult fish (3-5 ocean and mid-eye to fork length of >659 mm) escapement goal range with a point goal of 25,500 large Chinook (McPherson et al 2010). This goal was in place on an interim basis for the 2010 fishing season pending finalized review in the fall of that year. The escapement goal report did receive thorough review by the Chinook Technical Committee and Centre for Science Advice Pacific (CSAP; previously known as PSARC) and the analysis was determined to be sound. The TTC adopted the revised goal.

Escapement goals for other Taku River salmon species are based on limited analyses of historical harvest and escapement data. These escapement goals are considered as 'interim goals' and are subject to change as additional stock-recruitment data and detailed analyses are performed. In 1999, the PST called for developing a revised escapement goal for coho salmon no later than May 1, 2004. A detailed analysis of the Taku River coho salmon escapement goal was completed in 2004. Staff who conducted that analysis recommended that a modified escapement goal not be adopted until production from the very high escapements in 2002 and 2003 could be included in the analysis. The recently revised Transboundary Chapter of Annex IV of the PST obliges the Parties to develop an agreed MSY escapement goal prior to the 2010 fishing season. This work is still in progress although a preliminary report was reviewed by CSAP in the fall of 2010. It was determined that additional information should be included in the analysis and the report was not finalized at that time.

Current escapement goals accepted by the TCTR for salmon spawning in Canadian portions of the Taku River are as described in Table 7.

Table 7. Escapement goals for Taku River salmon.

Species	Year established or status	Interim escapement goal ranges	
		From	To
Sockeye	1985	71,000	80,000
Coho	under review	27,500	35,000
Chinook	2011	19,000	36,000
Pink	1985	150,000	250,000
Chum	1985	50,000	80,000

### *Harvest Sharing Objectives*

Harvest sharing agreements between Canada and the United States for Taku River sockeye and coho salmon are in place as a result of negotiations of Annex IV, Chapter 1 of the PST most recently concluded by the Pacific Salmon Commission in February 2008. Those harvest sharing arrangements are in effect for 2009 through 2018. The Transboundary Panel originally negotiated harvest sharing provisions for Taku River Chinook salmon (Chinook greater than 659 mm mid-eye to fork length) in February 2005 for the period 2005 through 2008. Most of these arrangements have been carried forward and are now included in Paragraph 3(a) (3) of Annex IV, Chapter 1 of the PST. The details of the harvest sharing arrangements for Taku River Chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon in 2012 are summarized below.

#### **Chinook Salmon**

The catch sharing provisions were developed to acknowledge the traditional catches in fisheries, referred to as base level catches (BLCs), which occurred prior to the new arrangements; these included incidental catches in Canadian and U.S. commercial gillnet fisheries, U.S. and Canadian sport fisheries, the Canadian First Nation fishery and the Canadian test fishery. For the new directed fisheries, the allowable catch (AC) will be calculated as follows:

**AC = Terminal run - Base Terminal Run (BTR); where**

**BTR = escapement target + test fishery BLC + U.S. BLC + Cdn BLC**

BLCs are as follows:

- U.S. Taku BLC: 3,500 large Chinook<sup>6</sup>
- Canadian Taku BLC: 1,500 large Chinook<sup>7</sup>
- Test fishery: 1,400 large Chinook;

Harvest sharing and accounting of the AC is detailed in Table 8.

<sup>6</sup> Includes average combined US gillnet and sport catches of Taku Chinook salmon in District 111.

<sup>7</sup> Includes average combined Canadian Aboriginal, commercial and estimated sport catch of Taku Chinook salmon.

Table 8. U.S. and Canadian allowable catches of Taku Chinook salmon for directed fisheries.

Allowable Catch Range		Allowable Catch Share			
Lower	Upper	U.S.		Canada	
		Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper
0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
5,001	20,000	1	11,000	5,000	9,000
20,001	30,000	11,001	17,500	9,000	12,500
30,001	50,000	17,501	30,500	12,500	19,500
50,001	100,000	30,501	63,000	19,500	37,000

Within each Allowable Catch Range, each Party's Allowable Catch Share will be calculated proportional to where the AC occurs within the range. The Transboundary Technical Committee has developed a spreadsheet to calculate specific catch shares. The Parties shall determine the domestic allocation of their respective harvest shares.

When the terminal run is insufficient to provide for the Party's Taku Chinook BLC and the lower end of the escapement goal range, the reductions in each Party's base level fisheries, i.e. the fisheries that contributed to the BLCs, will be proportionate to the BLC shares, excluding the test fishery.

The U.S. catch of the Taku Chinook salmon AC will not count towards the South East Alaska (SEAK) aggregate abundance based management (AABM) allocation (as described in Chapter 3 of the PST). In particular:

1. non-Taku Treaty Chinook salmon harvested in District 111 will continue to count toward the SEAK AABM harvest limit;
2. the U.S. BLC of Taku Chinook salmon in District 111 will count toward the SEAK AABM harvest limit;
3. the U.S. catch of Taku Chinook salmon in District 111 above the U.S. BLC will not count towards the SEAK AABM allocation.

Accounting for the SEAK AABM Chinook salmon catches as pertains to transboundary rivers harvests will continue to be the responsibility of the Chinook Technical Committee as modified by (a) through (c) above.

### **Sockeye Salmon**

Sockeye arrangements for the 2009-2018 period as specified in the PST include the following:

1. Directed fisheries on Taku River sockeye salmon will occur only in the Taku River drainage in Canada, and in District 111 in the U.S.
2. Annual abundance of the wild run of Taku River sockeye salmon will be estimated by adding the catch of wild run sockeye salmon in U.S. District 111 to the estimated above-border passage of wild run sockeye salmon. The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of wild run Taku River sockeye

salmon will be estimated by subtracting the agreed spawning escapement goal from the annual abundance estimate.

3. The management of U.S. and Canadian fisheries shall be based on weekly estimates of the TAC of wild sockeye salmon.
4. For inseason management purposes, identifiable enhanced Taku River origin sockeye salmon will not be included in the calculations of the annual TAC. Notwithstanding paragraph (vi) below, enhanced sockeye will be harvested in existing fisheries incidentally to the harvest of wild Taku sockeye salmon.
5. The primary management objective of the Parties is to achieve the agreed spawning escapement goal. If the projected in-river escapement of wild run sockeye salmon is greater than 1.6, or other agreed factor, times the agreed spawning escapement goal, Canada may, in addition to its share of the TAC, harvest the projected surplus in-river escapement apportioned by run timing.
6. It is anticipated that surplus enhanced sockeye salmon will remain unharvested in existing commercial fisheries due to management actions required to ensure the wild spawning escapement. Canada may implement additional fisheries upstream of the existing commercial fishery to harvest surplus enhanced sockeye salmon.
7. Both Parties agree to the objective of increasing sockeye salmon runs in the Taku River. The United States long-term objective is to maintain the 82% U.S. harvest share of wild Taku sockeye salmon only adjusted based on documented enhanced sockeye salmon returns. Canada's long-term objective is to achieve an equal sharing arrangement for sockeye salmon. The Parties agree to continue to develop and implement a joint Taku enhancement program intended to eventually produce annually 100,000 returning enhanced sockeye salmon.
8. The Parties annual TAC share of Taku River sockeye salmon will be as described in Table 9.

Table 9. U.S and Canadian harvest shares of Taku River sockeye salmon.

Enhanced Production	U.S. TAC Share	Canadian TAC Share
0	82%	18%
1 – 5,000	80%	20%
5,001 – 15,000	79%	21%
15,001 – 25,000	77%	23%
25,001 – 35,000	75%	25%
35,001 – 45,000	73%	27%
45,001 – 55,000	71%	29%
55,001 – 65,000	69%	31%
65,001 – 75,000	68%	32%
75,001 – 85,000	67%	33%
85,001 – 95,000	66%	34%
95,001 – 100,000	65%	35%

The Parties' performance relative to these catch shares will be based on the post season analysis of documented production of enhanced sockeye salmon.

9. A Taku Enhancement Production Plan (TEPP) shall be prepared annually by the Committee by February 1. The TEPP will detail the planned enhancement activities to be undertaken by the Parties and the expected production from site specific egg takes, access improvements and all other enhancement activities outlined in the annual TEPP. The Committee will use these data to prepare an initial enhancement production forecast based on the best available information.
10. The Panel shall review the annual TEPP and make recommendations to the Parties concerning the TEPP by February 28.
11. The Committee shall annually review and document joint enhancement projects and activities undertaken by the Parties, including the estimated returns of identifiable and unidentifiable enhanced sockeye salmon, and present the results to the Panel during the annual post season review.

### **Coho salmon**

Coho salmon arrangements for the 2009-2018 period as specified in the PST include the following:

1. ... the Parties agree to implement an abundance-based approach to managing coho salmon on the Taku River. The Parties agree to develop a joint technical report and submit it through the various Parties review mechanisms with the aim of identifying and establishing a bilaterally agreed to MSY goal for Taku coho prior to the 2010 fishing season.
2. Until a new abundance-based approach is developed, the management intent of the United States is to ensure a minimum above-border inriver run of 38,000 coho salmon, and the following arrangements will apply:
  - a. no numerical limit on the Taku River coho catch will apply in Canada during the directed sockeye salmon fishery (through statistical week 33);
  - b. if inseason projections of above-border run size are less than 50,000 coho salmon, a directed Canadian harvest of up to 3,000 coho salmon is allowed for assessment purposes as part of the joint Canada/US Taku River mark-recapture program;
  - c. if inseason projections of above-border run size exceed 50,000 coho salmon, a directed Canadian harvest of 5,000 coho salmon is allowed;
  - d. if inseason projections of above-border run size exceed 60,000 coho salmon, a directed Canadian harvest of 7,500 coho salmon is allowed;
  - e. if inseason projections of above border run size exceed 75,000 coho salmon, a directed Canadian harvest of 10,000 coho is allowed.
3. The annual catch limits specified for the Canadian harvest of coho salmon in the Taku River in paragraph 3(b)(2)(ii) above may be exceeded provided that bilaterally agreed in-season run assessments indicate that salmon passage into Canada has exceeded or is projected to exceed the specified Canadian harvest limit plus bilaterally agreed spawning requirements.



### ***Management Procedures***

The management co-ordination between U.S. and Canadian fishery managers will involve weekly communication between designated members or alternates. Canadian and U.S. fishery managers will conduct data exchanges by telephone and/or email on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning of each week during the fishing season. At that time, current catch statistics and stock assessment data including mark recapture data will be updated, exchanged, and reviewed. Management plans for the next week for each country will be discussed at this time. It is anticipated that additional communications will be required each week. Weekly decision deadlines will be: a) for District 111, 11:00 a.m., Thursday, Alaska Daylight Time; i.e. noon Pacific Daylight Time; and, b) for the Canadian Taku fishery, 10:00 a.m., Friday, Pacific Daylight Time. Weekly summaries of the fisheries results will be conducted frequently throughout fishing periods through telephone calls or email between management offices of DFO and ADF&G.

### **Chinook Salmon**

The 2009-2018 Chinook agreement (see Paragraph 3(a) (3) of Annex IV, Chapter 1 of the PST) includes the following management details for directed Taku Chinook salmon fisheries (for Chinook greater than 659 mm mid-eye to fork length):

- This agreement shall apply to large (greater than 659 mm mid-eye to fork length) Chinook salmon originating in the Taku River.
- Both Parties shall take the appropriate management action to ensure that the necessary escapement goals for Chinook salmon bound for the Canadian portions of the Taku River are achieved. The Parties agree to share in the burden of conservation. Fishing arrangements must take biodiversity and eco-system requirements into account.
- ... management of directed fisheries will be abundance-based through an approach developed by the Committee. The Parties agree to implement assessment programs in support of the abundance-based management regime.
- Unless otherwise agreed, directed fisheries on Taku River Chinook salmon will occur only in the Taku River drainage in Canada, and in District 111 in the U.S.
- Management of Taku River Chinook salmon will take into account the conservation of specific stocks or conservation units when planning and prosecuting their respective fisheries. To avoid over-harvesting of specific components of the run, weekly guideline harvests, or other agreed management measures, will be developed by the Committee by apportioning the allowable harvest of each Party over the total Chinook season based on historical weekly run timing.
- Commencing 2009, the Parties agree to implement through the Committee an agreed Chinook genetic stock identification (GSI) program to assist the management of Taku Chinook salmon. The Parties agree to continue the development of joint (GSI) baselines.
- The Parties agree to periodically review the above-border Taku River Chinook spawning escapement goal which will be expressed in terms of large Chinook fish (greater than 659 mm mid-eye to fork length).

- A preseason forecast of the Taku River Chinook salmon terminal run<sup>8</sup> size will be made by the Committee by December 1 of each year.
- Directed fisheries may be implemented based on preseason forecasts only if the preseason forecast terminal run size equals or exceeds the midpoint of the MSY escapement goal range plus the combined Canada, U.S. and test fishery base level catches (BLCs) of Taku River Chinook salmon. The preseason forecast will only be used for management until inseason projections become available.
- For the purposes of determining whether to allow directed fisheries using inseason information, such fisheries will not be implemented unless the projected terminal run size exceeds the bilaterally agreed escapement goal point estimate ( $N_{MSY}$ ) plus the combined Canada, U.S. and test fishery BLCs of Taku River Chinook salmon. The Committee shall determine when inseason projections can be used for management purposes and shall establish the methodology for inseason projections and update them weekly or at other agreed intervals.
- When the terminal run is insufficient to provide for the Party's Taku Chinook BLC and the lower end of the escapement goal range, the reductions in each Party's base level fisheries, i.e. the fisheries that contributed to the BLCs, will be proportionate to the Taku Chinook BLC shares, excluding the test fishery.
- When the escapement of Taku River Chinook salmon is below the lower bound of the agreed escapement range for three consecutive years, the Parties will examine the management of base level fisheries and any other fishery which harvests Taku River Chinook salmon stocks, with a view to rebuilding the escapement.

To foster cooperative Chinook salmon management inseason, once mark recapture data results in a joint inseason inriver run estimate of sufficient magnitude to permit directed fishing, weekly projections of the terminal run will be made using the following calculations:

$$TR = [(P_t + Cus_{(t-1)})/p_t ]$$

Where: TR = the projected terminal run of large Chinook for the season;  
 $P_t$  = the inriver population estimate from the mark-recapture program through week "t";  
 $Cus_{t-1}$  = the cumulative US Chinook catch to week "t-1", i.e. US catch lagged one week to account for migration timing;  
 $p_t$  = the estimated cumulative proportion of run through to week t determined from the average inriver run timing based on historical catch data from Canyon Island. (Both Parties must agree prior to adjusting run timing estimates in-season).

The PST harvest sharing provisions will be applied to the weekly Chinook AC projections to guide the management of the Parties respective commercial fisheries. Run timing will be used to apportion the Parties allowable catches each week to provide guideline harvest levels for use in management.

### Catch reporting

The U.S. shall report catches and effort in the following strata for each statistical week:

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<sup>8</sup> Terminal run = total Taku Chinook run size minus the US troll catch of Taku Chinook salmon outside District 111.

1. District 111 gillnet, sport and troll fisheries;
2. Taku River personal use fishery (season estimate); and

Canada shall report catch and effort statistics in the following strata for each statistical week:

1. the Taku commercial fishery;
2. the First Nation fishery (season estimate);
3. recreational fishery (season estimate); and
4. test fisheries conducted near the international border.

### **Stock Assessment Program**

Each country shall:

1. report catch statistics for the same strata as sockeye salmon are reported;
2. sample its fisheries for coded-wire and spaghetti tags; and
3. conduct escapement and stock assessment programs as resources permit (see Appendix Table 4 for projects anticipated to be conducted in 2012).

### Stock Composition of U.S. Harvests

Chinook salmon harvested in Alaska will be sampled for CWT's. The minimum sampling goal is 20% of the harvest; the target for 2012 is 30%.

Tissue samples will be taken from the directed Chinook salmon fisheries in District 111 and processed postseason in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Gene Conservation Laboratory in Anchorage as funding allows.

For sockeye salmon, otoliths will be sampled weekly to determine contributions of enhanced sockeye salmon to the catch. The origin of wild sockeye will be determined post-seasonally using genetic stock identification.

Coho salmon will be sampled for CWT's to determine the contribution of Taku origin fish.

### Stock Composition of Canadian Harvests

Weekly sampling of sockeye otoliths will be conducted to determine the contribution of enhanced sockeye salmon to the commercial catch. Through funding awarded under the Northern Fund of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, work will continue on developing a complete DNA baseline for Taku Chinook and sockeye salmon. Further details on target samples and sampling protocol for 2012 appear in Appendix Table 7. Mixed stock Chinook and sockeye DNA samples will be collected in Taku commercial fishery for future stock ID analysis. A minimum of 40% of the Chinook salmon harvested in

the commercial fishery will be sampled for CWT(s). Commercial and test fisheries will be sampled for coho CWT's. Further details on these sampling programs are summarized in Appendix Table 4.

### **Sockeye salmon**

A similar management process as described for Chinook salmon will be followed for sockeye whereby inriver population estimates from the joint mark - recapture program will be used to project inseason run sizes. Management agencies will collaborate to work toward joint in-river mark recapture estimates with agencies alternating as the lead each week and the U.S. to initiate the first inseason estimate. A similar approach will be taken for projecting terminal run sizes. The 2009 sockeye salmon agreement (see Paragraph 3(b) (1) of Annex IV, Chapter 1 of the PST) included the following management details for directed Taku sockeye salmon fisheries:

- Directed fisheries on Taku River sockeye salmon will occur only in the Taku River drainage in Canada, and in District 111 in the U.S.
- Annual abundance of the wild run of Taku River sockeye salmon will be estimated by adding the catch of wild run sockeye salmon in U.S. District 111 to the estimated above-border passage of wild run sockeye salmon. The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of wild run Taku River sockeye salmon will be estimated by subtracting the agreed spawning escapement goal from the annual abundance estimate.
- The management of U.S. and Canadian fisheries shall be based on weekly estimates of the TAC of wild sockeye salmon.
- The primary management objective of the Parties is to achieve the agreed spawning escapement goal. If the projected in-river escapement of wild run sockeye salmon is greater than 1.6, or other agreed factor, times the agreed spawning escapement goal, Canada may, in addition to its share of the TAC, harvest the projected surplus in-river escapement apportioned by run timing.
- For inseason management purposes, identifiable enhanced Taku River origin sockeye salmon will not be included in the calculations of the annual TAC. Notwithstanding the last bulleted paragraph below, enhanced sockeye will be harvested in existing fisheries incidentally to the harvest of wild Taku sockeye salmon.
- It is anticipated that surplus enhanced sockeye salmon will remain unharvested in existing commercial fisheries due to management actions required to ensure the wild spawning escapement. Canada may implement additional fisheries upstream of the existing commercial fishery to harvest surplus enhanced sockeye salmon.

A coordinated management focus will occur on Tatsamenie sockeye in Taku Inlet in the U.S. drift gillnet fishery during SW 30-32 (July 22 - August 11) and during SW 31-33 (July 29 - August 18) in the Canadian fishery. Management measures during these periods will attempt to ensure adequate numbers of sockeye salmon escape to Tatsamenie Lake to support wild production and egg-take objectives.. If conservation concerns arise, e.g. due to depressed CPUE in fisheries and/or inriver assessment programs, management actions may include conservative and/or reduced fishing time. Given the outlook for an average to above average Tatsamenie run in 2012, it is not anticipated that weekly fishing times will be limited during the time when Tatsamenie stocks are most abundant in respective fisheries as described above. The fishery managers of the two countries will exchange weekly fishing plans and potential extensions of fishing time in each country's fisheries prior to implementation.

## United States

The 2012 bilaterally agreed on preseason forecast of 48,036 large Chinook salmon provides an Allowed Catch (AC) of 6,703 large Chinook salmon for the District 11 directed Chinook salmon fisheries. Directed Chinook drift gillnet openings in Section 11-B may begin, by regulation, on the first Monday in May. The department anticipates weekly openings will initially consist of no more than one, 24-hour, fishing period per week until inseason information is available. There will be no openings on weekends or holidays. The length of openings and amount of area open will ultimately depend upon the numbers of boats fishing, the numbers of Chinook salmon harvested, and results from stock assessment projects. Commercial troll areas in Section 11-A and 11-B will open each week on the same day as the drift gillnet fishery opens. Troll openings will begin at 12:01 a.m. and end at 11:59 p.m. on the days specified. Commercial troll areas will be open for commercial trolling for three days in a week when drift gillnetting is open for 24 hours, and for a maximum of five days in a week that drift gillnetting is open for more than 24 hours.

Regulations adopted by the BOF in 2006 provide for a 7-inch (17.8 cm) minimum mesh size, with no maximum mesh restriction through the third Sunday in June for the District 11 gillnet fishery. The standard 200-fathom (~364 meters) length and 60-mesh deep net restrictions will be used in this fishery.

Chinook salmon less than 660 millimeters (mid-eye to fork length) that are harvested in the commercial drift gillnet fisheries may be retained and sold as usual. Chinook salmon less than 660 millimeters (mid-eye to fork length) and those of Alaska hatchery origin will not be counted against the Alaskan share of the allowable harvest. Due to current U.S. regulations, only fish 28 inches (approximately 711 millimeters) in total length (tip of snout to tip of tail) or greater may be retained in the troll fishery.

The waters open to directed Chinook salmon fishing are the waters of Section 11-B north of the latitude of Grave Point and south and east of a line from a point at 58° 12.33.00' N. latitude, 134° 10.00' W. longitude to Point Arden. The waters open to commercial trolling in Section 11-A are south and east of a line from Piling Point to Middle Point, and south and west of a line from Marmion Island Light to Circle Point. In Section 11-B, the waters open to trolling are south of a line from Marmion Island Light to Circle Point. [Note: the Marmion Island Light to Circle Point line allows trollers some area to transit between Section 11A and 11B without pulling in their gear]. Section 11B from this line to Grave Point Light is open to both trolling and gillnetting. No trolling is allowed in District 11 from May 1 through July 1 unless the return to the Taku River is large enough for an allowable U.S. harvest.

If there is no allowable harvest for Taku River Chinook, the sport fishery regulations in District 11 are the same as the regional regulations that are specified in the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan [5 AAC 47.055]. In 2012 sport fishing regulations in District 11 will be liberalized [5 AAC 47.021 (e)]. Changes to the regulations are summarized in Table 10.

Table 10. Summary of regulation changes for Taku River Chinook in District 11.

Regulation	If AC exists
Taku Inlet north of Cooper Point	open
Resident daily bag limit (daily/possession)	3/3
Non-resident daily bag limit (May/remainder of year)	2/2
Non-resident annual limit	5
Number of rods an angler can fish (spring & summer)	2

For the sockeye season, Section 11-B (Figure 3) will open for a 72-hour fishing period beginning at noon on the third Sunday in June (June 17, statistical week 25). If there is an identified Chinook conservation concern or early sockeye concern prior to this opening, restrictions in time, mesh size, and area may be imposed. The fishery will be managed through mid-August primarily on the basis of sockeye abundance. Run strength will be evaluated using fishery harvest and CPUE data and weekly inriver run size estimates from the Taku River mark-recapture program operated jointly by ADF&G and DFO. Contributions of enhanced sockeye salmon will be estimated inseason by analysis of salmon otoliths sampled from the commercial harvests. For purposes of inseason run size estimation, average weekly historical stock composition data will be used to estimate the contribution of wild Taku River and Port Snettisham sockeye contributions to the harvest. The above data will be used to generate weekly estimates and season projections of total Taku sockeye run size, U.S. Taku TAC and U.S. harvest. The age and stock compositions of the harvest of wild sockeye stocks will be revised after the fishing season by analysis of GSI data from samples from the commercial harvest and escapements.

Returns from domestic hatchery programs are expected to contribute significantly to the District 11 fishery in 2012. The forecast return of Snettisham Hatchery sockeye salmon is 230,000 sockeye salmon. DIPAC's summer chum salmon return to Gastineau Channel and Limestone Inlet is forecast to be 1,216,000 chum salmon. A substantial return of coho salmon is also expected to the Macaulay Hatchery in Gastineau Channel. Portions of these runs will be available for incidental harvest in the directed wild sockeye and coho fisheries in Taku Inlet. Fishing time may be extended in Stephens Passage south of Circle Point during July to harvest hatchery runs of summer chum salmon to Limestone Inlet and during August to harvest returns of Snettisham Hatchery sockeye salmon.

Pink salmon will be harvested in Section 11-B incidental to the sockeye and summer chum fisheries. Fishing time for pink salmon in Section 11-C will depend on the strength of returns to lower Stephens Passage, Seymour Canal, and the northern portions of District 10. Parent-year pink escapements in Stephens Passage and Seymour Canal were within management goals and it is likely there will be surplus pink salmon to escapement needs in 2012.

Beginning in mid-August, management of the District 11 gillnet fishery will be based on the run strength of coho salmon. Inseason management will be based on evaluation of fishery harvest, effort and CPUE relative to historical levels, recovery of coded-wire-tags from fishery sampling, and inriver run size estimates from the Taku River mark-recapture program. As specified in the Annex IV, Chapter 1 agreement, the U.S. will manage its fishery to ensure a minimum above-border run of 38,000 Taku coho salmon.

U.S. management will consider fall chum salmon concerns during statistical weeks 35-36 (August 21–September 3). Actions may include limited fishing time in Taku Inlet in the U.S. drift gillnet, in conjunction with measures taken in the Canadian fishery to ensure stocks pass through for escapement. Fishing time in Taku Inlet may be limited to not exceed historical effort as expressed in boat-days during weeks 35-36.

A personal use fishery in U.S. portions of the Taku River was established by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 1989 and will operate during the month of July in 2012. The legal gear type is set nets, not to exceed 15 fathoms in length. The seasonal bag limit is five sockeye salmon per person or ten sockeye salmon per household. Fishing is not allowed within 100 yards of the U.S./Canada research fish wheels.

## Canada

As in past years, restrictions in weekly fishing times in the Canadian First Nation fishery are not anticipated. Any reductions in fishing time would be considered only if no other adjustments could be made in the commercial fishery. Catches will be collected by TRTFN representatives and reported to the Whitehorse office of DFO on a weekly basis.

The Taku recreational fishery takes place primarily on the Nakina River; some additional fishing occurs on the Tatsamenie Lake outlet stream and other Taku River tributaries. The Nakina fishery will be closed to recreational fishing July 20 through August 15. The Tatsamenie Lake outlet stream will be closed from December 1 through June 30 and then from August 20 through September 15. Fishers are permitted four Chinook per day, only two of which may be larger than 65 cm fork length. They are also permitted four coho per day, only two of which may be larger than 50 cm fork length. The aggregate daily limit for all species of Pacific Salmon excluding kokanee is four fish and the possession limit is eight fish. The annual harvest of Chinook over 65 cm fork length is limited to ten fish.

The Taku River commercial fishing area extends from approximately 50 metres (165 ft) upstream of the Canada/US border to boundary signs located near Yellow Bluff, approximately 18 kilometres (11 miles) upstream and excluding Flannigan and South fork sloughs. The vast majority of fishing effort occurs downstream of the Tulsequah River.

The commercial Chinook fishery will open at a reduced directed fishery level at noon on Monday, April 29 for an initial 48-hour period. Extensions to this, and subsequent weekly fishing periods will be considered if the weekly guidelines are not achieved. Net mesh size will be restricted to between 100 mm (four inches) and 204 mm (8 inches) and net length restricted to a maximum of 36.6 m (120 ft), for both drift- and set-nets. Until an inseason estimate can be generated (typically after three weeks of fishing), management decisions will be based on the allowable catch apportioned by average run timing reduced by 30%. This 30% reduction is in recognition of the fact that that preseason forecasts have been overly optimistic in recent years and Chinook productivity appears to be lower than that predicted in the forecast models. If inseason estimates continue to support an AC, Canada/U.S. weekly projections of terminal run size will be generated and the resulting weekly guideline harvests will be adjusted with the objective of meeting escapement and agreed harvest sharing objectives.

The inseason management of Taku River Chinook salmon depends on abundance estimates generated from the joint mark-recapture program in the lower Taku River with tags being applied at Canyon Island and recoveries being made in the Canadian test and/or commercial fisheries. In the event the run does not return as forecast and there is no AC, the commercial fishery will be reduced to a strictly assessment mode and serve as the test fishery identified in the PST agreement.

For the sockeye season, the Taku River commercial fishery will open 12:00 noon Sunday, June 17 for an initial 48-hour period, unless otherwise modified based on Chinook salmon considerations. As per the Chinook fishery, the maximum net length will be 36.6 m (120 ft) for both drift- and set-nets. If there are Chinook conservation concerns, a maximum mesh size restriction of 140 mm (approximately 5.5 inches) will be in effect through statistical week 27 (ending July 7). Canadian sockeye management decisions for the Taku River fishery (Figure 3) will be based on weekly projections of terminal run sizes of wild and enhanced fish, TAC, and the escapement of wild stocks.

The weekly sockeye TAC projections (wild stocks) will be made using the following calculations:

$$TAC_{(w)} = [(E_{w(t)} + C_{w(t)} + A_{w(t-1)}) / \rho_{w(t)}] - E_w$$

Where:  $TAC_{(w)}$  = the projected total allowable catch of wild  $w$  sockeye for the season;  
 $E_{w(t)}$  = the cumulative escapement to week  $t$  based on mark-recapture data;  
 $C_{w(t)}$  = the cumulative Canadian wild catch to week  $t$ ;  
 $A_{w(t-1)}$  = the estimated cumulative U.S. catch of wild Taku sockeye salmon to the preceding week  $t-1$  (preceding week used to allow for migration time).  
 $\rho_{w(t)}$  = the estimated proportion of run through to week  $t$  determined from the average inriver run timing based on historical CPUE data from the Canadian fishery. (Run timing estimates will be adjusted in-season according to in-season CPUE data relative to historical data in both U.S. and Canadian fisheries); and  
 $E_w$  = the system-wide escapement goal for wild stocks. (A value of 75,000 will be used which is close to the midpoint in the interim range of 71,000 to 80,000).

The PST harvest sharing provisions will be applied to the weekly wild sockeye TAC projections to guide the management of the commercial fishery. Run timing will be used to apportion the projected Canadian allowable catch each week and to make projections of the total escapement. The Canadian catch will be adjusted with the objective of meeting escapement and agreed Canada/US harvest sharing objectives. Since it is expected the production of enhanced sockeye will be greater than 5,000 fish, Canada's harvest share will be 21% of the TAC. If inseason projections of enhanced fish drop below 5,000 fish or rise above 15,000 fish, Canada's share will be adjusted as per the harvest sharing provisions of the PST.

During statistical weeks 31-33 (July 29 - August 18), management attention will focus on Tatsamenie sockeye to ensure adequate numbers of sockeye salmon escape to Tatsamenie Lake to support wild production and egg-take objectives.

In mid-August (SW 34), management actions will shift to coho salmon. The in-river coho projections will be based on the following simplified formula:

$$R_{IR(ACI)} = R_{IR(ACI)t} / T$$

Where:  $R_{IR(ACI)}$  = projected total inriver run above Canyon Island;  
 $R_{IR(ACI)t}$  = estimated run size to time "t" based on mark-recapture data;  
 $T$  = average cumulative run timing at Canyon Island through time "t".

Adjustments to fishing time will be made based on the in-season run projections and the PST coho harvest sharing provisions. The annual catch limits specified in the PST for the Canadian harvest of coho salmon in the Taku River may be exceeded provided that bilaterally agreed in-season run assessments indicate that salmon passage into Canada has exceeded or is projected to exceed the specified Canadian harvest limit plus bilaterally agreed spawning requirements.

To address chum salmon conservation concerns, the retention of chum salmon will be prohibited throughout the season. In addition, fishers must release any steelhead caught. It is anticipated the fishery will remain closed for pink salmon unless markets are developed.

The Canadian fishery will be monitored by DFO personnel. Both catch and tag recapture data will be collected daily. This will be relayed to the DFO office in Whitehorse, collated, and shared with a designated ADF&G contact person on an ongoing basis.



## **Stock Assessment Program**

This section summarizes agreements regarding the data which will be collected by each National Section and, when appropriate, procedures that will be used for analysis. Further details regarding the various stock assessment projects appear in Appendix Table 4.

### Catch Statistics

The U.S. shall report catches and effort in the following strata for each statistical week:

1. District 111 (sub-Areas 11- 20, 31, 32, 33, 34);
2. Taku personal use (season estimate) fishery.

Canada shall report catch and effort statistics in the following strata for each statistical week:

1. Taku river commercial fishery;
2. the First Nation fishery (season estimate).

### Stock Composition of U.S. Catches

Otolith samples will be taken from the catches in District 111-31,32 and processed in-season to determine the contribution of planted Tatsamenie, Trapper and Port Snettisham sockeye salmon.

After the fishing season, GSI will be used to estimate actual contributions of wild Taku and Snettisham sockeye stocks to the catches made each week in each of subsections 11-31 and 11-32. Tissue samples will be collected in-season and the desired sample size from each of these strata is 400 fish per week.

To evaluate the contribution of planted sockeye salmon to U.S. gillnet catches, 400 otolith samples will be collected per week in sub-District 11-31 and 32. These samples will be matched with genetic tissue and scale samples. Inseason processing of thermal marks will be completed within 2 days of the end of the fishing period.

### Stock Composition of the Inriver Canadian Catch

In the Taku commercial fishery, weekly sockeye salmon sampling targets are 200 matched scale and length, and 200 otolith samples. ADF&G will analyze the thermal marks from the samples provided each week. Arrangements will be made to ensure timely transfer of samples and notification of results for use in management decisions no later than Wednesday the week following when the samples are collected. Weekly pickup/delivery times for the otolith samples from the river will be on Friday, unless otherwise agreed. Otolith data will be used both in- and post- season to estimate marked Tatsamenie and Trapper contributions. In addition, at least 125 genetic samples will be collected each week for future stock composition analysis. If samples are not available in August due to lack of fishing effort, samples may be augmented from the coho test fishery.

### Spawning Escapement Estimates

System-wide escapement will be determined by the joint Canada/U.S. mark recapture program. Adult enumeration weirs will be used to estimate escapements of sockeye to Tatsamenie, Little Trapper, Kuthai and possibly King Salmon lakes. The age composition will be estimated from scale samples, and contributions of planted sockeye salmon will be determined from otolith samples. Approximately 750 fish will be sampled during the season for scales, length, and sex; 400 otoliths will be taken from Tatsamenie broodstock.

### Post-season Stock Composition Estimates

The weekly proportions of the various sockeye stocks in the commercial fisheries are used post-seasonally to estimate the respective abundances of these stock groupings in the entire run. In time, GSI results may be used to verify and estimate error rates in the stock composition estimates derived from SPA.

### **In-season Data Exchange and Review**

Canada and the U.S. will conduct data exchanges by telephone and/or email on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning of each week during the fishing season. At that time, current catch statistics and stock assessment data will be updated, exchanged, and reviewed. Management plans for the next week for each country will be discussed at this time. It is anticipated that additional communications will be required each week. Weekly decision deadlines will be: a) for Districts 111, 11:00 a.m., Thursday, Alaska Daylight Time; and, b) for the Canadian Taku fishery, 10:00 a.m., Friday, Pacific Daylight Time. Weekly summaries of the fisheries results will be conducted frequently throughout fishing periods through telephone calls and/or email between management offices of DFO and ADF&G.

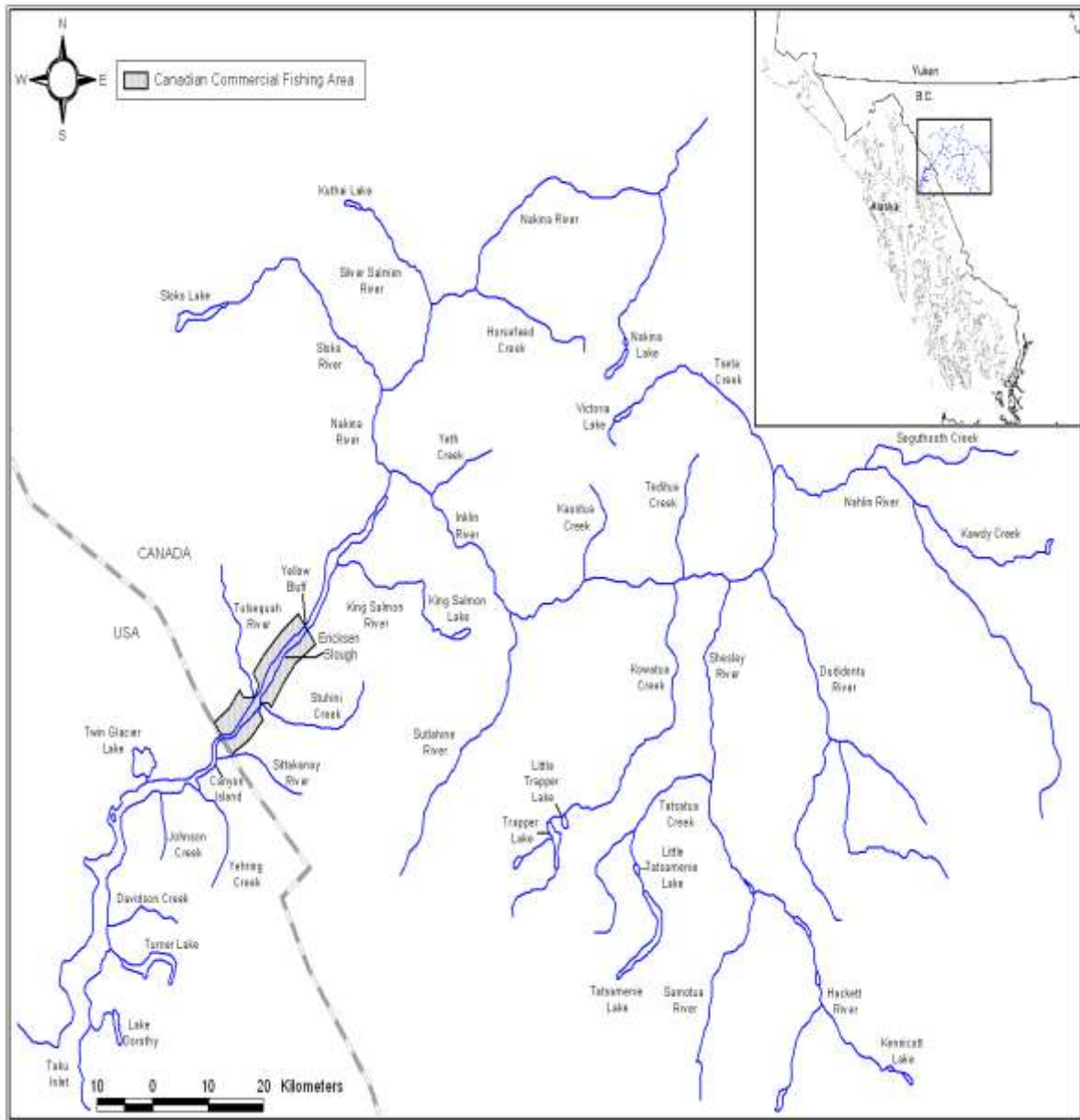


Figure 3. The Taku River showing Canadian commercial fishing area.

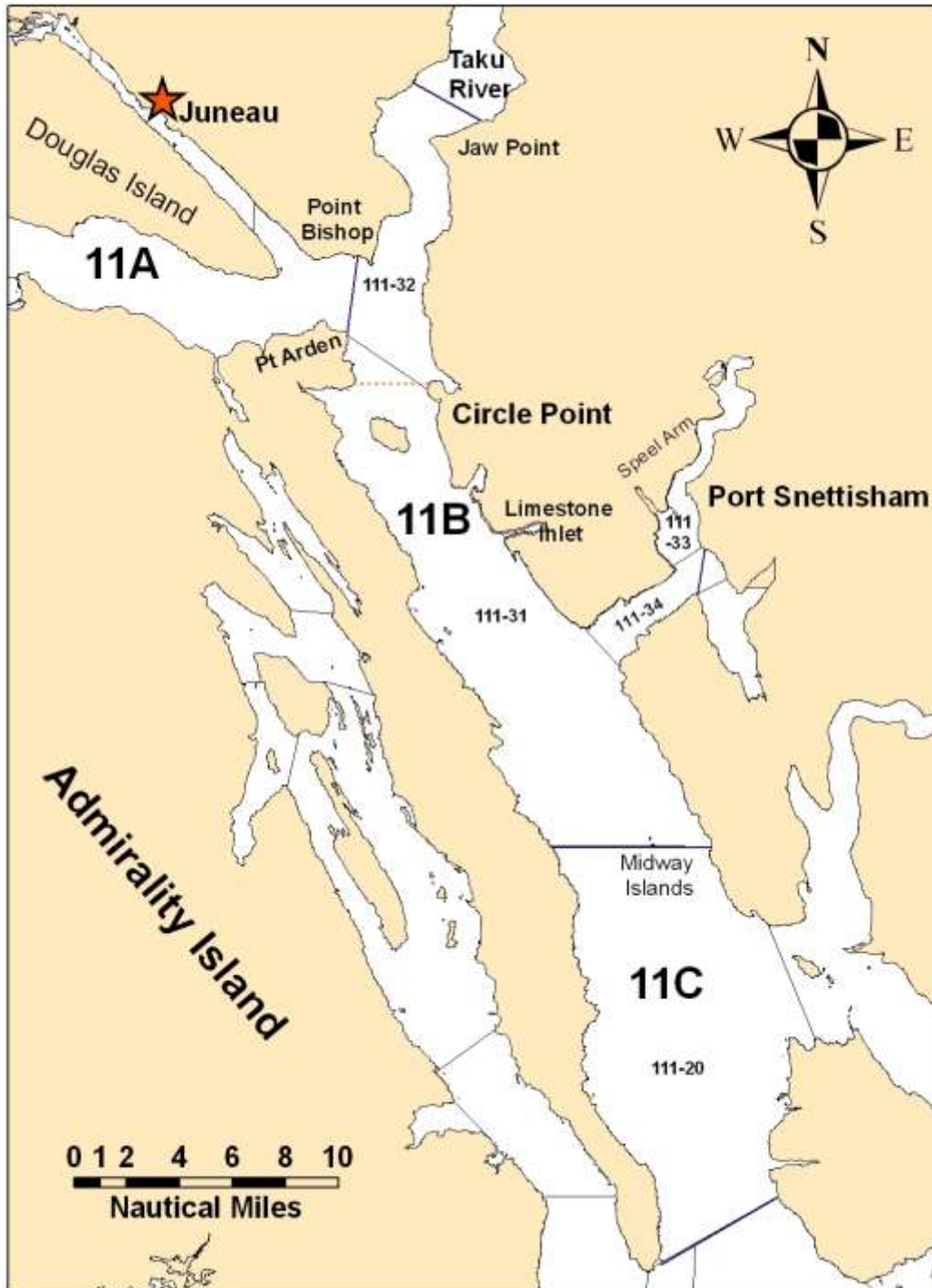


Figure 4. U.S. fishing areas adjacent to the Taku River (see Figure 5 for specific Chinook management areas).

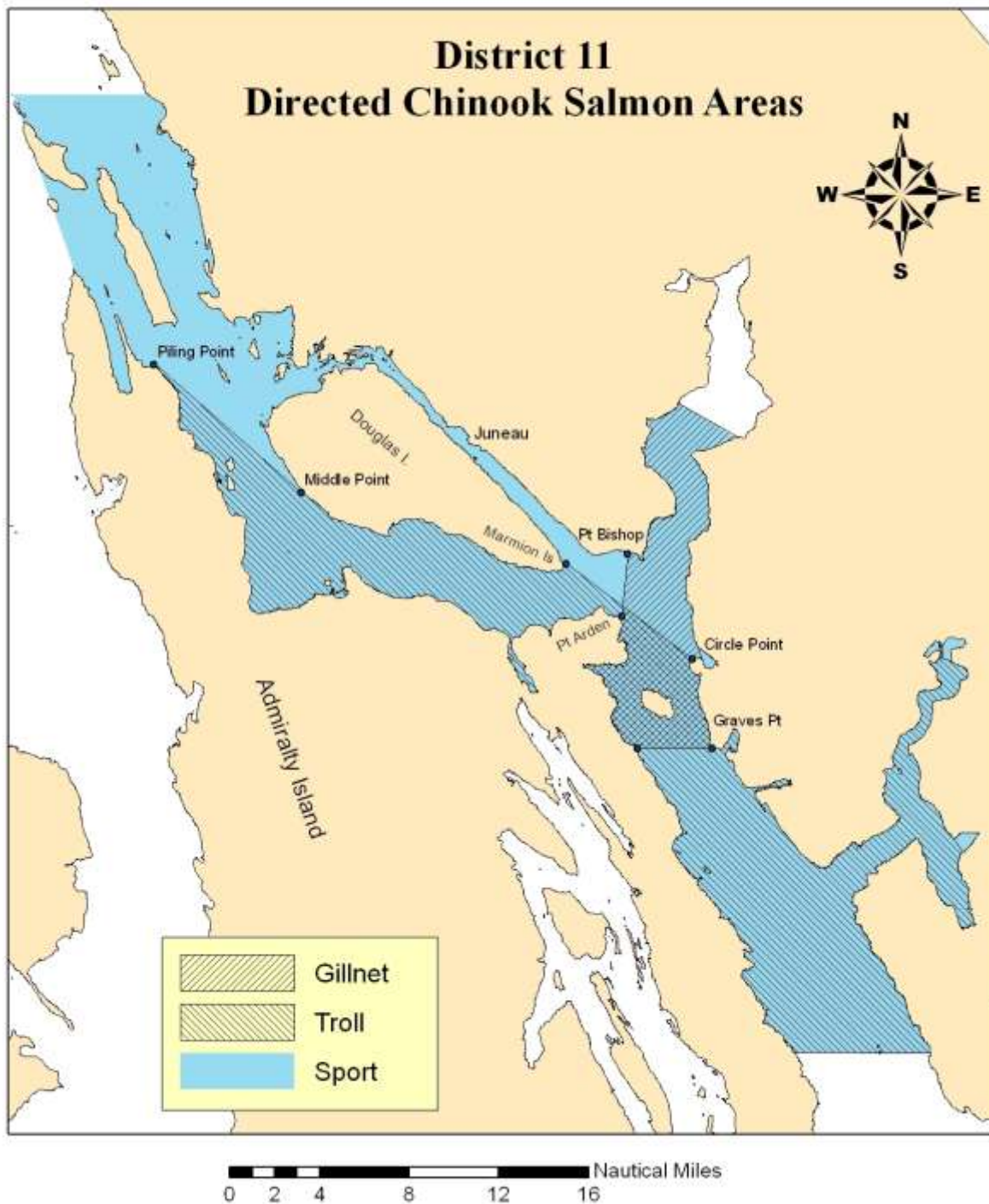


Figure 5. U.S. directed Taku Chinook salmon fishing areas.

## **ALSEK RIVER**

Salmon stocks returning to the Alsek River drainage (Figure 6) are jointly managed by DFO, the Champagne and Aishihik First Nation (CAFN) and ADF&G through the joint TCTR of the PSC.

The principal U.S. fishery that targets Alsek stocks is a commercial set gillnet fishery that operates in Dry Bay at the mouth and within approximately 20 km up the Alsek River. A small subsistence fishery also operates in Dry Bay. U.S. fishers harvest the full mixture of Alsek stocks.

The principal Canadian fisheries occur in the upper Tatshenshini drainage. A traditional aboriginal (FSC) fishery takes place in the upper Tatshenshini drainage. At present, approximately, 100-150 members of CAFN harvest salmon via traditional and non-traditional methods (gaffs, traps, rod and reel, nets, weir), primarily, in the Klukshu River, and to a lesser extent, in Village Creek, Blanchard River, and Goat Creek. Recreational fisheries take place primarily on the Tatshenshini River in the Dalton Post area and on the Takhanne and Blanchard rivers.

Most Alsek Chinook salmon spawn in Canada, but some spawners have been observed in U.S. tributaries. Most sockeye and coho salmon also spawn in Canada, but spawning has been documented in U.S. tributaries as well.

The Parties agreed to examine the current data pertinent to Alsek River Chinook and sockeye salmon biological escapement goals by 2014 [Annex IV, Chapter 1, (c)(i)]. Those analyses were completed in 2010 for Chinook salmon (Bernard and Jones 2010) and 2011 for sockeye salmon (Eggers and Bernard 2011). The Chinook salmon analysis was reviewed, and adopted, by the Chinook Salmon Technical Committee. The analyses for both species were reviewed by the Centre for Science Advice Pacific (CSAP; previously known as PSARC). The bilateral TTC is awaiting final Canadian domestic considerations in order that the escapement goals may be finalized.

### ***Preseason Run Outlooks***

The 2012 overall Alsek drainage sockeye run is expected to be approximately 71,000 sockeye; this is slightly below the recent 10-year average run size estimate of approximately 87,000 sockeye. The outlook for 2012 is based on a predicted run of 16,000 Klukshu sockeye salmon derived from the latest Klukshu stock-recruitment data (2011 Eggers et al.) and an assumed Klukshu contribution to the total run of 23%, based on mark-recapture results (2000-04) and run size estimates using GSI (2005-06). Principal contributing brood years will be 2007 (Klukshu escapement of 8,310 sockeye salmon) and 2008 (Klukshu escapement of 2,741 sockeye salmon); the 2002-2011 average Klukshu sockeye escapement is approximately 14,200 fish. Based on historical stock-recruitment analysis, the range of Klukshu escapements that appeared most likely to produce maximum sustained yields was 7,500 to 15,000 sockeye salmon.

The Klukshu early sockeye run counts in 2007 and 2008 were 2,725 and 43 fish, respectively. The recent ten year average count is approximately 3,400 sockeye salmon which is above the optimum escapement level of 1,500 as determined through separate stock-recruitment analyses of the early run conducted by DFO. The early run to the weir is expected to be slightly above this level in 2012.

The Klukshu Chinook escapements in 2006 and 2007 were 566 and 676 Chinook salmon, respectively. For comparison the recent 10-year average is approximately 1,700 Chinook. The brood year escapements in 2005 and 2006 were below the escapement goal range of 1,100 to 2,300 Chinook

salmon as determined from the historical stock-recruitment analysis. Based on these primary brood year escapements, the outlook for 2012 is 1,800 Klukshu Chinook salmon, above the recent ten year average and within the escapement goal range.

The coho escapements at the Klukshu River weir in 2008 (4,249 fish) and 2009 (421 fish) suggest the run in 2012 will be well above average. (Note: although Klukshu coho weir counts are incomplete, they may serve as a reasonable indicator of escapement.) The recent 10-year average weir count is approximately 2,500 coho salmon.

There is much uncertainty with these outlooks. Recent survivals of Chinook and sockeye have been highly variable and therefore, developing accurate forecasts has been problematic.

### ***Management Approach for the 2012 Season***

The principal escapement monitoring tool for Chinook stocks in the Alsek River is the Klukshu River weir. A joint escapement goal for the Klukshu stock was developed by both DFO and ADF&G, which recommended an escapement goal range of 1,100 to 2,300 Chinook spawners in the Klukshu drainage (McPherson, Etherton and Clark 1998). A review of the recent escapement goal analysis completed by Bernard and Jones in 2010 was conducted in by CSAP. The recommended escapement goal is waiting adoption by the bilateral TTC. The 2010 analysis suggested a revised escapement goal of 800-1,200 Chinook salmon.

The principal escapement monitoring tool for sockeye stocks on the Alsek River is the Klukshu River weir. The biologically-based escapement goal for the Klukshu stock is 7,500 to 15,000 fish (Clark and Etherton, 2000). Similar to the Chinook goal review, the escapement goal analysis completed in 2010 by Eggers and Bernard was reviewed by CSAP. As with the Chinook goal, the recommendation for sockeye is waiting adoption by the bilateral TTC. The 2010 analysis suggested a revised escapement goal of 7,500-11,000. The Department of Fish and Game will manage the Dry Bay commercial set gillnet fishery to achieve the agreed upon escapement goal range plus 3,000 sockeye salmon as per the 2009-2018 agreement reached during successful Transboundary PST negotiations in February 2008.

### **United States**

In 2012 the U.S. fisheries will open downstream from a marker located three miles below the southern end of Alsek Basin on June 3 for one day. The remainder of this fishery will be managed on sockeye salmon run strength which is expected to be about average. The BEG for sockeye salmon was not attained in 2008 and 2009; therefore, management strategies were very conservative in 2010 in an attempt to meet the BEG. In 2010 the BEG for sockeye salmon was met and well above the recent 10-year average. Management strategies in 2011 returned to traditional regimes and will be continued in 2012. Weekly openings will initially be set for 24 hours. The duration of weekly fishing periods will be based on comparison of current fishery performance data (CPUE) to historical fishery performance data, along with the Klukshu weir data.

The U.S. fishery opens after the peak of the Chinook salmon return has passed through Dry Bay; the peak timing appears to be in late May based on past fishery data (McPherson, Etherton and Clark, 1998) and tagging data. Chinook salmon tagging studies conducted from 1997 through 2003 indicated that approximately 15-30% of the Chinook salmon passing through Dry Bay are bound for the Klukshu drainage. U.S. Alsek Chinook harvests have been less than 1,000 Chinook salmon each year since 1981, and the 2012 harvest most likely will not be greater than this amount. Although the BEG was not achieved in 2005-2008, Chinook returns have been within or above the BEG since 2009.

The U.S. will conduct an Alsek River Chinook salmon test fishery in 2012 as provided in the current Annex. Because the Chinook salmon escapement goal of 1,100 fish in place at the time of the fisheries was not attained in 2005 through 2008 the test fishery was suspended in 2009 and 2010 in order to facilitate Chinook salmon escapement. Escapements improved markedly in 2009-2011 and were well above the upper end of the escapement goal range so a test fishery was again conducted in 2011.

Coho salmon will be managed by monitoring fishery performance data and comparing it to historical fishery performance data. The 2012 CPUE will be compared to historical CPUE for a given opening; time and area openings will be adjusted, similar to the plan for sockeye salmon.

### Canada

Canadian fisheries for Alsek salmon will proceed similar to regimes in recent years. Next to conservation, the priority in management will be to provide for the basic food, social and ceremonial needs of the CAFN. The basic needs levels are 200 Chinook and 3,000 sockeye salmon, as documented in the CAFN final land claim agreement. As in recent years, some First Nation's salmon harvest will be allowed to occur at the weir which will also provide opportunities to collect biological data and samples. Restrictions in the First Nation fishery will be considered if the projected Klukshu weir counts are below 1,100 Chinook salmon, 1,500 early sockeye and/or 7,500 total sockeye. Decisions to implement restrictions will take into account management actions taken to conserve stocks in both the Canadian recreational fishery and the U.S. Dry Bay fishery.

In the recreational fishery, the following closed/open times will be in effect for 2012: the Dalton Post area of the Tatshenshini River will be open seven days per week; the closed times for Klukshu River, Nesketahin Lake and Village Creek will be from June 15 to November 30; the salmon non-retention periods on the Takhanne and Blanchard rivers will be from July 24 to August 31; and salmon non-retention in Klukshu Lake will be in effect year round. Normal Chinook limits of one per day, two in possession will be in effect subject to conservation concerns. In the event that the run size into the Klukshu River is well above the minimum target (a Klukshu weir count of 1,300 Chinook salmon), Canadian managers may liberalize harvest opportunities. If run forecasts are below the minimum weir target, further restrictions in the recreational fishery will be considered. Non-retention of sockeye will be in effect through mid-August to conserve early runs and address domestic allocation priorities. However, if the early sockeye run size into the Klukshu River is projected to be greater than 4,500 sockeye salmon; Canadian managers may allow sockeye retention in the recreational fishery prior to August 15. After August 15, normal sockeye catch limits of 2 per day, 4 in possession will be in effect. However, if the projected total sockeye weir count is less than 10,500 sockeye, catch restrictions may be necessary. For coho salmon, additional harvesting opportunities through increased catch limits in the recreational fishery may be provided subject to conservation concerns.

### ***Stock Assessment Program***

The escapements of Chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon through the Klukshu weir and sockeye salmon through the Village Creek electronic counter serve as an in-season indicator of stock strength. Adjustments to above border fisheries may be made on the basis of these counts. Aerial surveys (subject to funding and weather conditions) are used to augment escapement information on Chinook and sockeye stocks in the Alsek drainage and are reported in the TCTR post-season annual report. A summary of the anticipated field projects in the Alsek River drainage is presented in Appendix Table 5.



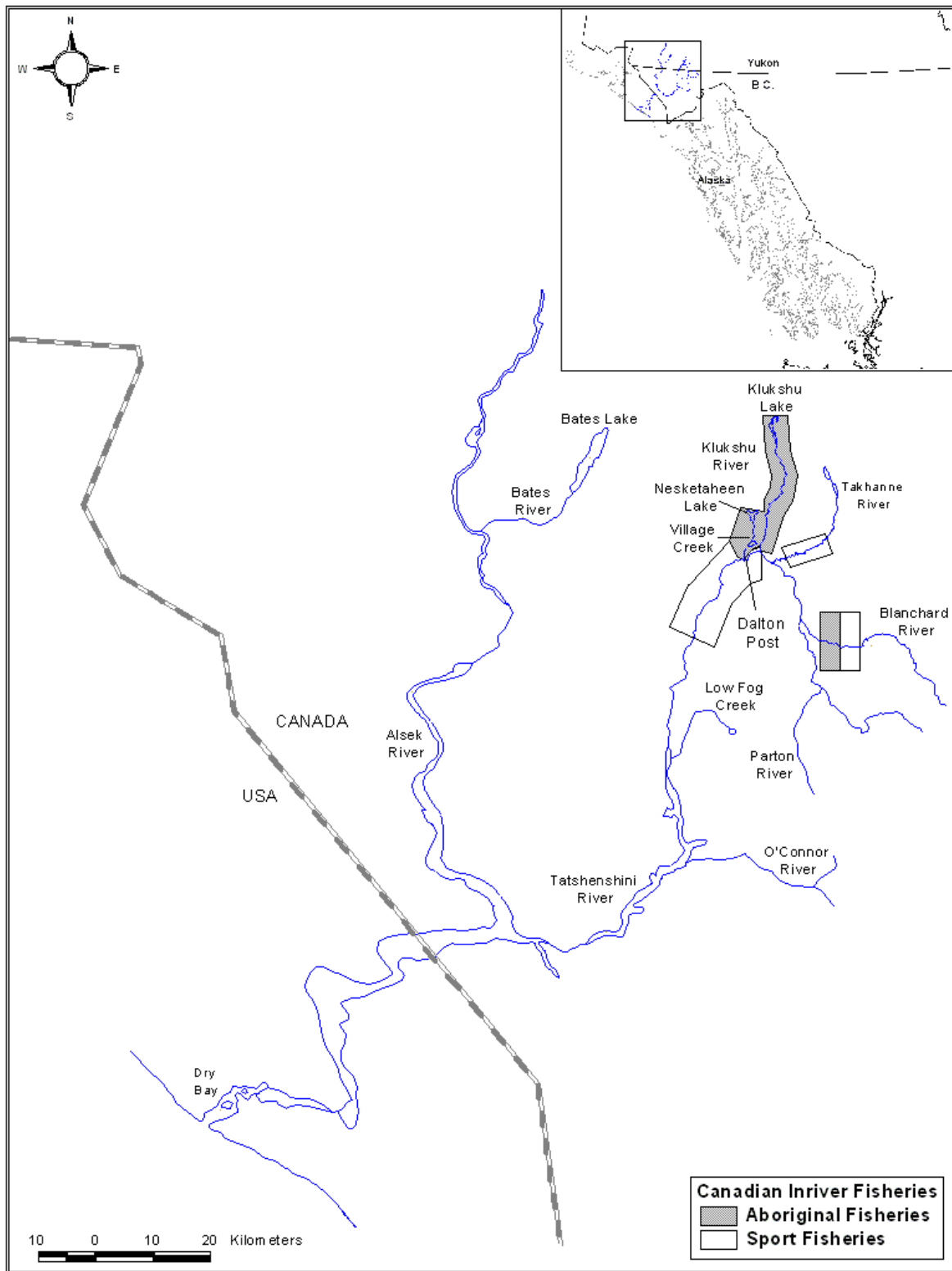


Figure 6. The Alsek River and principal U.S. and Canadian fishing areas.

## TRANSBOUNDARY ENHANCEMENT PLANS

### *Overview*

Joint sockeye enhancement projects are conducted on the Stikine and Taku rivers. Broodstock are collected in Canada at Tahltan Lake in the Stikine drainage and from Tatsamenie Lake in the Taku drainage. The eggs from these sockeye salmon are incubated and thermally marked at the Snettisham Central Incubation Facility in Alaska. The fry originating from Tahltan Lake broodstock are back-planted into Tahltan and/or Tuya lakes (both Stikine drainage); fry from the Tatsamenie Lake egg-take are returned to their lake of origin. Two other projects of interest on the Taku River include: the investigation of the suitability of Trapper Lake for anadromous salmon production; and feasibility of broodstock capture in King Salmon Lake. An application for environment assessment is being developed for long term access improvement to Trapper Lake with the intent of establishing a self-sustaining sockeye population.

As part of the current agreement the parties agreed that:

1. A Stikine Enhancement Production Plan (SEPP) and a Taku Enhancement Production Plan (TEPP) shall be prepared annually by the Committee by February 1. The SEPP and TEPP will detail the planned enhancement activities to be undertaken by the Parties and the expected production from site specific egg takes, access improvements and all other enhancement activities outlined in the annual SEPP and TEPP. The Committee will use these data to prepare an initial enhancement production forecast based on the best available information.
2. The Panel shall review the annual SEPP and TEPP and make recommendations to the Parties concerning them by February 28.

The agreed SEPP and TEPP for both 2011 and 2012 are presented below:

<b>2011 TEPP Outline</b>			
<b>Enhancement Project</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Expected Production</b>	<b>Technique to document production</b>
Tatsamenie Lake	Egg take with target of 30% of available broodstock (expected Tatsamenie weir count 3k) ~ 1.5 million. (Approx. 225K fry for subsequent on-shore / in-lake extended rearing and remainder for lake out-planting)	3,100 adults from out-planting (3.7% green egg - smolt, 6.8% smolt-adult)  10,700 adults from ext. rearing (72% fry - smolt, 6.8% smolt-adult)	Thermal mark
Trapper Lake	Egg take with target of 150k (for planting eggs into Trapper Lake)	480 adults from Trapper Lake (80% green egg - fry, 5% fry - smolt, 8% smolt - adult)	Fry assessment
King Salmon Lake	Egg take with target of 250 K –pending funding, review of assessment activity, and permitting.	3,200 adults from out-planting (80% green egg - fry, 20% fry - smolt, 8% smolt - adult)	Thermal mark
		<b>Total 17,480</b>	

<b>2011 SEPP Outline</b>			
<b>Enhancement Project</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Expected Production</b>	<b>Technique to document production</b>
Tahltan Lake	Egg take with target of 6 M. Collection methods would be reflective of those utilized in 2010, with alternative broodstock collection options being investigated. Guideline for last fishing day will be Sept. 25 (Fry to be planted into Tuya and/or Tahltan)	100 K (80% green egg - fry, 25% fry-smolt, 8% smolt-adult)	Thermal mark
		<b>Expected Total Production 100k</b>	

<b>2012 TEPP Outline</b>			
<b>Enhancement Project</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Expected Production</b>	<b>Technique to document production</b>
Tatsamenie Lake	Egg take with target of 30% of available broodstock ~ goal of up to 2.0 million. Approx. 225K fry for subsequent on-shore / in-lake extended rearing and remainder for lake outplanting	4,400 adults from out-planting (3.7% green egg - smolt, 6.8% smolt-adult) 1,530 adults from ext. rearing (10% fry - smolt, 6.8% smolt-adult)	Thermal mark
Trapper Lake	Further assessment activity may be required subject to CEAA review of the barrier removal application.	None	None
King Salmon Lake	Egg take with target of 250 K – pending funding and permitting. (Northern Fund)	Up to 3,200 adults from out-planting (80% green egg - fry, 20% fry - smolt, 8% smolt - adult)	Thermal mark
		<b>Expected Total Production 9,130</b>	

<b>2012 SEPP Outline</b>			
<b>Enhancement Project</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Expected Production</b>	<b>Technique to document production</b>
Tahltan Lake	Egg take with target of 6 million Guideline for last fishing day will be Sept. 25 (Fry to be planted into Tahltan and/or Tuya Lake(s))	100,000 adults (80% green egg - fry, 25% fry-smolt, 8% smolt-adult)	Thermal mark
		<b>Expected Total Production 100,000</b>	

A number of assessment projects are conducted to monitor the recipient lakes (e.g. plankton, water chemistry) and the survival of outplanted fry (e.g. smolt enumeration, hydro-acoustic surveys, fry sampling).

A summary of the enhancement field and incubation projects is presented in Appendix Table 4.

### *Fry Plants*

Fry plants from the transboundary sockeye egg-takes in 2011 are scheduled to occur in May and June 2012. It is expected the following number of sockeye fry will be out-planted:

Stikine drainage:	Tahltan Lake: 2.6 million Tuya Lake: 2.6 million
Taku drainage:	Tatsamenie Lake: 1.3 million unfed fry (traditional release) Tatsamenie extended rearing: 0.225 million

At Tahltan Lake, the plan is to transport fry on several flights during the period from May 20 to May 30. Fry will be held for approximately 24 hours in net pens for observations. Fry destined for Tuya Lake are expected to be transported on several flights during the period of June 1 to June 15 and released directly.

At Tatsamenie Lake, the plan is to transport fry on several flights during the last two weeks of May. The 2012 extended rearing program will involve holding and feeding 225,000 fry in a series of on shore-based fish tanks designed to capture flow from an unnamed, salmon free, and presumably pathogen free stream. The fish will be transferred to floating net pens once a threshold weight of 3 grams is achieved. The fed fry will be released at a site located in the mid-lake area (pelagic zone) approximately 2 km upstream from the outlet of the lake in August. The fry that are not subject to the grow-out experiment will be released near shore at various sites within the north section of the lake.

### *Egg-Take Goals*

Target sockeye eggtakes for the fall of 2012 are as follows:

Tahltan Lake: 6.0 million.

- In consideration of the desire for some natural spawning to take place at the adult collection sites, the last date that eggs will be collected at Tahltan Lake is September 25.

Tatsamenie Lake: –up to 2.0 million.

- It is expected that 30% of the estimated three thousand fish returning to Tatsamenie weir will be used for broodstock. A total 225,000 fry will be used in the Tatsamenie extended rearing project with the remainder going to lake outplanting.

King Salmon: up to 0.25 million

The tentative plan is to take up to 250 thousand eggs for fry out-planting into King Salmon Lake pending funding, review of assessment activity, and permitting. Egg-take plans are dependent on approval by the Canadian Transplant Committee and funding.

### *Special Studies*

#### Tuya Terminal Harvest Improvements:

Canada with Alaska Fish and Game participation intends to continue to examine the improvement of terminal harvest capability in the Tuya River. Emphasis this year will be on: designing and costing out a fish weir structure which will be used in conjunction with a trapping apparatus to harvest sockeye salmon in the Tuya River upstream from the camp; and surveying an access trail to the weir site.

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## APPENDIX

### 2012 ANTICIPATED TRANSBOUNDARY FIELD PROJECTS

Proposed projects regarding the Stikine, Taku, and Alsek salmon stocks are summarized in Appendix Tables 1 to 3. Enhancement projects are given in Appendix Table 4. For each project listed, information regarding the dates of operation, primary objectives, and agency roles are described. Contacts are listed at the bottom of each table. The agencies will endeavor to achieve the proposed field projects detailed below. The agencies acknowledge these projects or elements thereof are subject to funding shortfalls from time to time. In the event there is a deviation from the elements described the agency will provide advance notification, where possible, to the other agency.

Appendix Table 1. Proposed Stikine River field projects, 2012.

Project/ Approx.Dates	Function	Agency	Involvement
<b>Stikine Chinook Mark-Recapture</b>			
4/30 - 7/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tag a target of 445 large Stikine River Chinook salmon captured from Kakwan Point drift net site.</li> </ul>	ADF&G/ DFO/TIFN	All aspects except tag recovery.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect GSI samples (from each fish tagged) separated by week.</li> </ul>	ADF&G/ DFO/TIFN	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recover spaghetti tags and CWT's from: Canadian fisheries; Little Tahltan weir; and from Iskut tributaries (Verrett). Tags may also be recovered from other spawning sites (e.g. Shakes, Craig, Tashoots).</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recover CWT's from the fish caught at the tagging site.</li> </ul>	ADF&G/ DFO/TIFN	All aspects
<b>Tahltan Lake Smolt Estimation</b>			
5/5 - 6/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enumerate Tahltan Lake sockeye smolts.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sample up to 800 smolts for age, size, and otoliths.</li> </ul>		
<b>Upper Stikine Sampling</b>			
6/11 - 8/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sample up to 600 sockeye for matched age, sex, size, egg diameters and otoliths proportionally from the TIFN and commercial fishery at Telegraph Cr.</li> </ul>	TIFN/  DFO	Collect samples and data. Data analysis
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sample up to 500 Chinook for age, sex, size, CWT's and spaghetti tags. ASL all CWT'ed Chinook.</li> </ul>	TIFN  DFO	Sampling  Data analysis

Appendix Table 1 (continued)

Project/ Approx. Dates	Function	Agency	Involvement
<b>Little Tahltan Chinook Enumeration</b>			
6/18 - 8/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enumerate Little Tahltan Chinook salmon from a weir located at the mouth of the river.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enumerate and record tags observed.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample target of 2,000 fish for marks (CWT, spaghetti, secondary marks), sex and size; sample 650 of these fish for age. Attempt to sample all clipped fish for CWT recoveries. CWT samples to go to DFO, unless other arrangements are made. ASL all CWT-ed Chinook.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN	All aspects
<b>Test Fishery in Lower Stikine</b>			
5/21 - 10/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct test fisheries for Chinook, sockeye and coho as required (to fill in when no commercial fishing) to assess run size and run timing.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample all Chinook for tags/ tag loss, CWTs and for age-sex- size. CWT samples to go to DFO lab in Vancouver, unless other arrangements are made.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample up to 400 sockeye per week for otoliths matched with scales and, for females, with egg diameters. Transfer otolith samples to ADF&amp;G weekly for in-season processing. For inseason analysis, a combined sample of 60-200 otoliths per week from the lower river test fishery will be analyzed for stock ID.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN, ADF&G	All aspects, Otolith analysis
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect up to 200 weekly GSI samples from Chinook and sockeye.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample all coho for CWTs; test fishery sampling target is 500 for age-sex-size. CWT samples to go to DFO lab in Vancouver, unless other arrangements are made.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN	All aspects



Appendix Table 1 (continued)

Project/ Approx. Dates	Function	Agency	Involvement
<b>Commercial Inriver Fishery Stock ID Sampling</b>			
5/6 – 6/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial catch sampling for Chinook to include up to 200/week for age-sex-size and secondary marks (opercular punch), plus observe 50% of the catch for adipose clips. Collect heads from all clipped fish observed. CWT samples to go to DFO lab in Vancouver, unless other arrangements are made. Wrangell port sampler will sample a portion of the lower river harvest delivered to Wrangell.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN/ ADF&G	All aspects
6/24 - 8/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial catch sampling for sockeye to include 200/week for age-sex-size, plus up to 200 otolith samples including 150 matched egg-diameter/otolith samples. Otolith deliveries to be arranged with ADF&amp;G and will require delivery by boat to Wrangell. Analyze 60 to 200 sockeye otolith samples per week. Collect sockeye GSI samples as part of NF project (125 per week).</li> <li>Incidental commercial catch sampling for Chinook during targeted sockeye fishery to include up to 200/week for age-sex-size and secondary marks (opercular punch), plus observe &gt;50% of the catch for adipose clips. Collect heads and ASL information from all clipped fish observed. CWT samples to go to DFO lab in Vancouver, unless other arrangements are made. Collect 120 GSI samples/week.</li> </ul>	ADF&G  DFO	All aspects,  Otolith analysis
8/27 - 9/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample all adipose clipped coho for CWT's and ASL; commercial fishery sampling target is 500 for age-sex-size. CWT samples to go to DFO lab in Vancouver, unless other arrangements are made.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN	All aspects
<b>District 106 &amp;108 Stock ID Sampling</b>			
5/23 - 10/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample a minimum of 20% of Chinook catches per district for CWTs; sample Chinook for scales (for aging), sex, and size (scale sampling goals are 600 for the season for D108 and D106). Collect GSI samples from Chinook in D108 during the season. Sampling target is 120/week if directed fishery occurs. Goal for non-directed incidental catch is 80/week.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects

Appendix Table 1 (continued)

Project/ Approx. Dates	Function	Agency	Involvement
<b>District 106 &amp; 108 Stock ID Sampling (continued)</b>			
(6/11 – 8/11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect 300 sockeye samples/week for ASL, GSI, and otoliths matched samples in each of Districts 106-41, 106-30, 108A and 108B.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample a minimum 20% of coho catches per district for CWT and sample 600 coho for ASL (sampling goals are 600 per district for the season).</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
<b>Andrew Creek Salmon Enumeration</b>			
8/6 - 8/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey Andrew Creek, count all species and recover tags opportunistically.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample a minimum 200 Chinook for age-sex-size, spaghetti- and coded-wire tags.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
<b>Tahltan Lake Salmon Enumeration</b>			
7/7 - 9/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enumerate Tahltan Lake sockeye entering the lake at weir.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Live-sample a minimum of 600 sockeye for age, sex and size and an additional 125 fish per day for sex.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Endeavour to conduct terminal fishery at Tahltan Lake if escapement targets are likely to be exceeded.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If escapement goal is achieved, sample up to 400 sockeye for both otoliths and egg diameters (400 additional fish will be sampled from the brood stock take). If the return is weak, fish will not be sacrificed for otoliths. Attempts will be made to obtain samples from broodstock or carcasses.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample available post-spawn Chinook in Johnny Tashoots Creek for age, size, sex and spaghetti tags and CWT's. Collect GSI baseline samples to top up inventory.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN	All aspects
<b>Tuya Terminal Harvest Feasibility</b>			
5/4 - 12/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess access and fish harvest possibilities above blast site via Tuya Steering Committee.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN	All aspects

Appendix Table 1 (continued)

Project/ Approx. Dates	Function	Agency	Involvement
<b>Tuya Terminal Harvest Feasibility (continued)</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop cost estimate of road/trail access to potential harvest site and conduct environmental assessment/statement of work.</li> </ul>	DFO	& All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design engineering and estimate costs of fish harvest structure (weir/trap combination).</li> </ul>	DFO	& All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample up to 400 sockeye for otoliths, age-sex-size, and egg diameters.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN	All aspects
7/20 – 7/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a test fishery in the mainstem Stikine between the mouths of the Tuya and Tahltan rivers to assess the feasibility of capturing the majority of Tuya bound sockeye salmon. Sample 500 sockeye for otoliths and egg diameters. Release all live Chinook.</li> </ul>	DFO/TIFN	All aspects
<b>Chinook and Coho Coded Wire Tagging</b>			
4/18 - 5/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targets are 30k Chinook smolts and 10k coho smolts.</li> </ul>	ADFG/ DFO/TIFN	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample every 100<sup>th</sup> CN and 115<sup>th</sup> CO smolt for length (FL)</li> </ul>	ADFG/ DFO/TIFN	All aspects
<b>Sport Fishery Sampling</b>			
6/06 - 8/06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey anglers in the Tahltan River (and sample FSC fish at same sites).</li> </ul>	TIFN/DFO	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample for spaghetti- and coded-wire tags, age, size, sex.</li> </ul>	TIFN/DFO	All aspects
4/21 – 7/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct creel censuses and sample Petersberg, Wrangle, Sitka sport fisheries and sample for CWTs, age-sex-length and maturity.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
4/28 – 7/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample Juneau sport fisheries for hatchery contribution (CWTs) and conduct post season surveys (State-wide survey) to obtain harvest data. Target is to sample 20% of catch for CWTs. Includes derby sampling.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects

Appendix Table 1 (continued)

Project/ Approx. Dates	Function	Agency	Involvement
<b>Chinook Aerial Surveys</b>			
7/25 - 8/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enumerate Chinook salmon spawning in Andrew Cr.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
<b>Coho and Sockeye Aerial Surveys</b>			
9/07, 11/02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enumerate Stikine R. sockeye and coho salmon spawning in index areas within the Canadian portion of the river (subject to in-season funding).</li> </ul>	TIFN/DFO	All aspects

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**Contacts: Stikine Projects**

Pete Etherton/ Bill Waugh/Marc Labelle	(DFO)	All DFO projects.
Steve Smith	(DFO)	All DFO projects.
Cheri Frocklage or Carmen McPhee	(TIFN)	Inriver sampling projects.
Phil Richards/Troy Jaecks	(ADF&G)	Chinook tagging and surveys; Andrew Creek sampling.
Kathleen Jensen/ Jim Aniel	(ADF&G)	106&108 samples, stock assessment.

Canadian staff associated with Stikine projects that may be crossing the Canadian/US border:

Peter Etherton, Cheri Frocklage, Alex Joseph, Andy Carlick, Bill Waugh, Kyle Inkster, Kerry Carlick, Jassin Godard, Carmen McPhee, Jared Dennis, others

US staff associated with Stikine projects that may be crossing the Canadian/US border:

Kathleen Jensen, Jim Aniel, Troy Thynes, Kevin Clark, Sara Gilk-Baumer, Stephanie Warnement, Tom Kowalske, John Der Hovanisian, Phil Richards, Peter Bransen, Micah Sanguenetti, Stephen Todd, Ed Jones, Troy Jaecks, Chris Ford, Jeff Williams, others

**Appendix Table 2. Proposed Taku River field projects, 2012.**

Project/Dates	Function	Agency	Involvement
<b>Canyon Island Marking Program</b>			
mid April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up camp, build and place fish wheels.</li> </ul>	ADF&G/ TRTFN	All aspects
4/20 – 9/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish wheel/ gillnet operation.</li> <li>Mark all Chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon with spaghetti tags. Tagging goals for each species are:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>750 large, 500 medium and 250 small Chinook – 25-30% precision goal;</li> <li>4,000-5,000 sockeye – precision goals 50% for weekly estimates, 10% for post season;</li> <li>2,500 coho – try for 25% precision, (95% rp).</li> <li>Gillnet effort to 4 hours/day for Chinook when fish wheels inoperative.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Sample for age-sex-length information:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>260 sockeye/week throughout sockeye run,</li> <li>600 coho for the entire season,</li> <li>all Chinook.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Sacrifice all adipose-clipped Chinook and coho caught for CWTs. CWT samples to go to ADF&amp;G lab.</li> </ul>	ADF&G  TRTFN  ADF&G/ TRTFN	3 staff  1 staff
<b>Smolt Tagging – CWT lower Taku (project will be split per discussions between parties)</b>			
4/2 - 6/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CWT-ing goals are 40,000 Chinook and 30,000 coho smolt.</li> <li>Sample every 100<sup>th</sup> CN and 115<sup>th</sup> CO smolt for length (FL) and weight</li> <li>Sample 300 CO smolt for age (12-15 scales)</li> <li>Experiment with additional beach seining/other methods.</li> <li>ADF&amp;G staff will work from existing smolt camp and capture fish in lower river below Tulsequah. CDFO staff will work out of Ericksen’s Slough camp and capture fish in upper sites.</li> </ul>	ADF&G  DFO	All aspects 5 staff  2-4 staff
<b>Canadian Aboriginal Fishery Sampling</b>			
5/1 - 10/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect and record FN catch information.</li> </ul>	TRTFN	All aspects
<b>Nahlin Sampling</b>			
8/1 - 8/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample 200 sockeye and a minimum of 250 Chinook (target: minimum of 4 recoveries) in Nahlin River for age-sex-length, spaghetti tags/tag loss, and (Chinook only) CWTs. and (sockeye only) GSI tissue samples. CWT samples to go to DFO lab.</li> </ul>	ADFG  DFO	All aspects

Appendix Table 2 (continued)

Project/Dates	Function	Agency	Involvement
<b>Dudidontu Sampling</b>			
8/8 - 8/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample a minimum of 300 Chinook (target: minimum of 4 recoveries per site) in Dudidontu River for age-sex-length, CWTs, and spaghetti tags/tag loss. CWT samples to go to DFO lab.</li> </ul>	ADFG DFO	All aspects
<b>Canadian Commercial Fishery Sampling</b>			
4/29 - 10/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect and record commercial catch information; forward to ADF&amp;G Juneau via Whitehorse.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample Chinook, sockeye and coho salmon for age-sex-length and secondary marks, 200 per week for sockeye; 520 per season for coho; 50 -150 scale samples per week for Chinook. Examine a minimum of 40% of Chinook and 20% of coho catch for adipose clips and secondary marks.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample 120 Chinook and 125 sockeye per week for GSI samples.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect 200 sockeye otolith samples per week to estimate contribution of enhanced fish; send otolith samples to ADF&amp;G for processing via Canyon Island.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-season otolith analysis.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect and record all spaghetti tags caught in commercial fisheries, pay fishers for tag recoveries.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect salmon roe as required for CWT program.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
<b>Canadian Chinook Test Fishery (as necessary)</b>			
4/29 - 6/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capture and examine a total of up to 1,400 large (&gt;659mm MEF) Chinook for spaghetti tags and adipose-clips as per weekly targets.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample 50% fish for age; 100% for sex-size, CWTs, spaghetti tags/tag loss. Scales will be collected from all ad-clipped fish. CWT samples to go to ADF&amp;G Juneau.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
<b>Canadian Coho Test Fishery</b>			
End of commercial fishery to 10/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capture and inspect up to 700 coho per week for spaghetti- and coded-wire tags. Sample 520 coho for the season for age-sex-length and tag scars. CWT samples to go to ADF&amp;G Juneau.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
<b>District 111 Fishery Sampling</b>			
5/7 – 10/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect and record commercial catch information; forward to DFO Whitehorse via Juneau.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects

Appendix Table 2. (continued)

Project/Dates	Function	Agency	Involvement
<b>District 111 Fishery Sampling – cont'd</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample a minimum of 20% of Chinook and coho catches for CWTs; all species except pinks for age-sex-length, as well as Chinook for maturity (600 per season for Chinook, chum, and coho).</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample commercial Chinook catch for GSI samples; target is 120/week if directed fishery occurs. Goal for non-directed incidental catch is 80/week.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect and record all spaghetti tags caught in marine fisheries, pay fishers for tag recoveries.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect 400-800 matched genetics/scale/otolith samples per week from sockeye with sub-district specific goals.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
<b>Kuthai Sockeye Sampling</b>			
7/1 - 8/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operate the adult sockeye salmon weir at Kuthai Lake; enumerate and sample for age-sex-length-spaghetti tag loss (750 samples) and recover spaghetti tags.</li> </ul>	TRTFN	All aspects
mid-Sept.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct an aerial survey in Kuthai Lake to enumerate sockeye and compare with weir count.</li> </ul>	TRTFN	All aspects
<b>Improved Chinook M/R elements (LOA project)</b>			
05/01 – 07/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At Canyon Island operate heavier gauge set net gillnet to live-capture Chinook – target is as many as possible. Examine all Chinook for CWT's, Spaghetti tag all untagged Chinook and apply secondary mark.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
07/28 – 08/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine tag:untagged ratio in headwater location – Tseta Creek with intensive on ground sampling effort. Chinook to be sampled via snagging and/or carcass sampling. All Chinook to be sampled for spaghetti tags and secondary marks, CWT's and ASL. Opportunistic sampling for genetic samples from spawned out sockeye and ASL. Sample up to 400 (target: minimum of 4 recoveries) Chinook for age-sex-length, CWTs and spaghetti tags/tag loss.</li> </ul>	ADF&G DFO	

Appendix Table 2 (continued)

Project/Dates	Function	Agency	Involvement
<b>Little Trapper Weir</b>			
7/20 - 9/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operate the adult sockeye salmon weir at Little Trapper Lake; enumerate and sample for age-sex-length-spaghetti tag loss (750 samples) and recover spaghetti tags.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
<b>King Salmon Weir</b>			
7/01 – 9/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operate the adult sockeye salmon weir at King Salmon Lake; enumerate and sample for age-sex-length-spaghetti tag loss (750 samples) and recover spaghetti tags. Brood stock will be sampled for sex and length matched with scale samples.</li> <li>Conduct an aerial survey in King Salmon Lake to enumerate sockeye and compare with weir count.</li> </ul>	TRTFN	All aspects
<b>Aerial Chinook surveys</b>			
7/21 - 8/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aerial surveys of spawning Chinook salmon in the Nakina, Nahlin, Dudidontu, Tatsatua, Kowatua, and Tseta rivers.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
<b>Sport Fishery Sampling (Marine)</b>			
4/21 – 7/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct creel censuses and sample Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka sport fisheries and sample for CWTs, age-sex-length and maturity.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
4/28 – 7/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample Petersburg and Wrangell sport fisheries for hatchery contribution (CWTs) and conduct post season surveys (State-wide survey) to obtain harvest data. Target is to sample 20% of catch for CWTs. Includes derby sampling.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
<b>Troll sampling</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample goal is a minimum 20% of troll catch for CWT. 100 Chinook per week if directed fisheries opportunistically otherwise.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
<b>Nakina Chinook Escapement Sampling</b>			
7/27 - 8/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operate the Chinook carcass weir on the Nakina R.</li> <li>Examine all Chinook salmon for sex-length, spaghetti tags/ tag loss, and adipose clips; collect heads or extract CWTs from all clipped fish. CWT samples to go to DFO lab. A sub-sample of 600 will be sampled for age.</li> <li>Opportunistically obtain genetic samples from Nakina sockeye (target is 200 over long term).</li> </ul>	TRTFN	All aspects
		TRTFN	All aspects
		TRTFN	All aspects



Appendix Table 2. (continued)

Project/Dates	Function	Agency	Involvement
<b>Tatsamenie Sockeye Weir</b>			
8/3 - 9/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enumerate adult sockeye through weir and sample for age-sex-length-spaghetti tag loss (750 samples), recover spaghetti tags. 400 brood stock will be sampled for sex and length and matched otoliths.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
<b>Tatsamenie Area Chinook sampling</b>			
9/1 - 10/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at upper Tatsamenie, sampling target is 100-200 Chinook for age-sex-length, spaghetti tags/tag loss, and CWTs. CWT samples to go to DFO lab.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
8/20 - 9/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>operate the carcass weir at Lower Tatsamenie and sample all Chinook recovered for age-sex-length, spaghetti tags/tag loss, and CWTs. Target sample size is 600-900 all sizes.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
<b>Kowatua Sampling</b>			
9/1 - 10/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample a minimum of 200 Chinook (target: minimum 4 recoveries) for age-sex-length, spaghetti tags/tag loss, and CWTs.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects

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**Contacts: Taku Projects**

Ed Jones	(ADF&G)	Smolt tagging, adult Chinook escapement sampling.
Jim Anadel	(ADF&G)	Canyon Island adult tagging.
Kathleen Jensen	(ADF&G)	All ADF&G Com Fish Research Programs.
Phil Richards	(ADF&G)	Chinook surveys.
Sara Gilk-Baumer	(ADF&G)	Genetics
Marc Labelle	(DFO)	All DFO Taku programs
Ian Boyce	(DFO)	All DFO Taku programs.
Steve Smith	(DFO)	All DFO Taku programs.
Cheri Frocklage	(TIFN)	All TIFN programs.
Nicole Gordon	(TRTFN)	All TRTFN programs.
Richard Erhardt	(TRTFN)	All TRTFN programs.

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Canadian staff associated with Taku projects that may be crossing the Canadian/US border:

Ian Boyce, Kirstie Falkevitch, Mano Fontaine, Julie Bernier, Mike Lake, Mike Martin, Natasha Ayoub, Jassin Godard, Richard Erhardt, Mark Connor, Lino Battaja, Patrick O'Shea, Vernon Williams, Keith Carlick, Trevor Carlick, Sabrina Williams, Brian Mercer, Mark Labelle, Steve Smith, others.

US staff associated with Taku projects that may be crossing the Canadian/US border:

Jim Anadel, Kathleen Jensen, Ed Jones, Dale Brandenburger, Sara Gilk-Baumer, Kent Crabtree, Kevin Monagle, Dave Harris, Scott Kelley, Phil Richards, Mike LaFollette, David Dreyer, Ron Josephson, Brian Frenette, Jeff Williams, Norm Miller, Aaron Vachowski, others.

**Appendix Table 3. Proposed Alek River field projects, 2012.**

Project/Dates	Function	Agency	Involvement
<b>Klukshu River Sampling</b>			
6/7 - 10/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enumerate Chinook, sockeye and coho salmon at weir.</li> </ul>	DFO/CAFN	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimate sport and aboriginal fishery catches.</li> </ul>	DFO/CAFN	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunistically collect age-sex-length information from sockeye caught by First Nations (600 scale samples per species) except Chinook, see below.</li> </ul>	DFO/CAFN	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunistically sample 200 Chinook in each of sport and aboriginal harvest for scales, sex, length (MEF), and CWTs.</li> </ul>	DFO/CAFN	All aspects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample 600 Chinook, sockeye, and, coho at weir for scales, sex, length.</li> </ul>	DFO/CAFN	All aspects
<b>Village Creek sockeye enumeration</b>			
6/15 - 9/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enumerate sockeye salmon using an electric counter at Village Creek – subject to availability of counter.</li> </ul>	DFO/CAFN	All aspects
<b>Lower Alek Sampling</b>			
6/5 - 9/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect age-sex-length (MEF), GSI data (sockeye-800, Chinook-600, coho-500 no GSI) from Dry Bay commercial fishery.</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
<b>Escapement Surveys</b>			
8/1 - 8/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aerial surveys of spawning sockeye salmon in index areas of Cabin, Tanis, Muddy and Basin creeks (in Alaska) – depends on weather and aircraft availability</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
10/1 – 10/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aerial surveys of spawning coho salmon in index areas of Cabin, Tanis, Muddy and Basin creeks</li> </ul>	ADF&G	All aspects
<b>Chinook Test Fishery</b>			
5/19 – 6/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target is 500 Chinook spread over run</li> <li>Sample as per above</li> </ul>	ADF&G	

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**Contact: Alsek Projects**

Bill Waugh	(DFO)	All DFO projects
Steve Smith	(DFO)	All DFO projects
Phil Richards	(ADF&G)	Chinook aerial surveys
Marc Labelle	(DFO)	All DFO projects
Kathleen Jensen/Jim Aniel	(ADF&G)	Lower Alsek and East Rivers commercial catch sampling
Gordie Woods	(ADF&G)	Sockeye and coho aerial surveys & Dry Bay fishery
Nicole Zeiser	(ADF&G)	Dry Bay fishery
Linaya Workman	(CAFN)	CAFN projects

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Canadian staff associated with Alsek projects that may be crossing the Canadian/US border:

Mark McFarland, Bill Waugh, Peter Etherton, Shawn McFarland, Linaya Workman, others

US staff associated with Alsek projects that may be crossing the Canadian/US border:

Gordie Woods, Phil Richards, Kathleen Jensen, Jim Aniel, Richard Chapell, others

**Appendix Table 4. Proposed 2012 enhancement projects for transboundary Stikine and Taku Rivers.**

Project	Function	Agency	Involvement
<b>Tahltan/Tuya Enhancement Project</b>			
5/5 - 6/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enumeration and sampling of smolts from Tahltan Lake (Stikine River, in Canada) and collection of otolith samples to determine planted contribution.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
5/15 - 6/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Backplant sockeye fry from Snettisham Hatchery into Tahltan and Tuya lakes.</li> </ul>	DIPAC/ADF&G	All aspects
6/01 – 6/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuya smolt sampling – if funding available</li> </ul>	DFO/TFN	All aspects
6/1 - 8/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limnological samples from Tahltan Lake monthly.</li> </ul>	DFO	All Aspects
6/1 - 9/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two limnological surveys of Tuya Lake to evaluate success of fry outplant (spring and late summer).</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
8/24 - 10/05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect up to 6.0 million sockeye eggs from Tahltan Lake and transport to Snettisham Hatchery in Alaska. (Dates are subject to onsite conditions). Implement additional programs resulting from Enhancement Sub-committee recommendations regarding improved broodstock collection measures (see <i>Special Studies</i> section) if approved by Panel chairs and funding is provided.</li> </ul>	DFO	Egg-take and transport
8/24 - 10/05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample 200 male and 200 female adult sockeye from Tahltan Lake broodstock for otolith samples.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
<b>Tuya Straying Assessment</b>			
9/1 – 9/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey Shakes Creek spawning area for incidence and success of sockeye spawning</li> </ul>	DFO– support from TFN	All aspects
<b>Tatsamenie Lake Enhancement Project</b>			
5/10 – 8/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample smolt out-migration from Tatsamenie (Taku River, in Canada) and conduct mark-recapture program on smolt from Tatsamenie Lake.</li> </ul>	DFO – funding	All aspects
5/24 - 5/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Back-plant sockeye fry from Snettisham Hatchery into Tatsamenie Lake.</li> </ul>	DIPAC/ADF&G	All aspects
6/1 – 8/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Onshore extended rearing - net pen rearing of ~ 200,000 sockeye fry. Expected growth from 0.35 g to 4.0 grams.</li> </ul>	DFO/ADFG	All Aspects

Appendix Table 4 (continueud)

Project	Function	Agency	Involvement
6/1 - 9/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect plankton samples from Tatsamenie Lake; conduct hydroacoustic and limnological surveys at Tatsamenie Lake to evaluate the success of fry outplants.</li> </ul>	DFO	All aspects
8/15 - 10/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect up to 30% available brood stock (~1.5 million sockeye eggs) from Tatsamenie Lake and transport to Snettisham Hatchery in Alaska.</li> </ul>	DFO	Egg-take and transport
<b>Trapper Lake Enhancement</b>			
6/1 - 9/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect plankton samples from Trapper Lake; conduct hydroacoustic and limnological surveys at Trapper Lake to evaluate the success of fry outplants. Beach seining and other sampling to better define distribution of enhanced and wild fish in Trapper Lake.</li> </ul>	DFO thru Northern Fund	All aspects
8/15 - 10/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect up to 0.15 million sockeye eggs from Little Trapper Lake and plant in Trapper Lake</li> </ul>	DFO thru Northern Fund	Egg-take and transport
<b>King Salmon and Kuthai Lake Investigations</b>			
9/10 – 9/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spawner count and distribution mapping at King Salmon and Kuthai Lakes</li> </ul>	TRTFN	All aspects
7/1 – 9/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operate Adult Weirs at both systems</li> </ul>	TRTFN	All aspects
9/12 – 9/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pilot egg take (~250K) at King Salmon Lake</li> </ul>	TRTFN pending funding	– All aspects
<b>Salmon Egg Incubation</b>			
9/1 - 6/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incubation and thermal marking of juvenile sockeye (eggs &amp; alevins) collected from Tahltan Lake (Stikine River), Tatsamenie and King Salmon (Taku River) lakes at the Snettisham Incubation Facility in Alaska.</li> </ul>	DIPAC/ ADF&G	All aspects

Canadian staff that may be crossing the Canadian/US border:

Flight crew and egg-take crew

US staff that may be crossing the Canadian/US border:

Snettisham Hatchery Staff, Eric Prestegard, Garold Pryor, Ron Josephson flight crew from Ward Air airline

**Appendix Table 5. Proposed Genetic stock ID field projects, 2012.**

Project/Dates	Function	Priority	Agency
<b>Stikine Chinook baseline samples (sample goal 200 per population)</b>			
Farragut– need 65		M	ADF&G/NMFS
East or North Bradfield – need 164		H	ADF&G/NMFS
Harding – need 155		M	ADF&G/NMFS
Tahltan R. – need 0			DFO/ADF&G
Chutine – need 200		M	DFO
Tuya – need 176		M	DFO
Beatty – need 200		M	DFO/ADF&G
Bear – need 200		H	DFO
Johnny Tashoots Creek – need 120		H	DFO
Craig - need 87		M	DFO
Katete - need 200		L	DFO
Stikine (above Chutine) - need 200		L	DFO
Stikine (below Chutine) - need 200		M	DFO
N. Arm (US section) - need 182		L	ADF&G
Goat (US section) - need 177		L	ADF&G
Alpine/Clear (US section) - need 100		L	ADF&G
Kikahe (US section) - need 177		L	ADF&G
<b>Stikine Chinook fishery samples</b>			
Lower Stikine commercial fishery – target is 120 per week			DFO
Kakwan Pt tagging site – collect tissues from each fish			ADF&G/DFO
D-108 GN – 120/wk (directed); 80/wk (non-directed)			ADF&G
D-108 sport - Petersburg target sample is 450; Wrangell is 200 spread over season.			ADG&G
D-108 spring troll - Petersburg target sample is 100; Wrangell is 300 spread over season.			ADF&G
<b>Stikine sockeye baseline samples (sample goal 200 per population)</b>			
Scud – need 0			DFO
Porcupine – need 92		H	DFO
Tahltan R – need 200		L	DFO
Stikine mainstem – Andy Smith – need 164		H	DFO
Stikine mainstem – Fowler – need 129		H	DFO
Verrett River – need 123		H	DFO
Iskut – Verrett Slough – need 93		H	DFO
Iskut – Inhini Slough– need 200		H	DFO
Iskut - Bronson Slough/Bugleg– need 184		L	DFO
Iskut - Twin – need 200		L	DFO
Iskut – Craigson Slough - 157		H	DFO
Iskut – Craig – need 151		H	DFO
Chutine Lake – need 0			DFO
Chutine R. – need 0			DFO
Christina Lake (lake spawners) – need 137		H	DFO
Christina Lake (inlet spawners) – need 200		H	DFO
Katete – need 200		M	DFO

Appendix Table 5 (continued)

Project/Dates	Function		Agency
<b>Stikine steelhead baseline samples</b>			
	Collect bulk samples opportunistically from inriver fisheries.		
	Shakes Sl (US section) – need 146	L	ADF&G
	Andrew Cr (US section) – need 197	L	ADF&G
<b>Stikine sockeye fishery samples</b>			
	Lower Stikine commercial fishery – target is 120 per week		DFO
	Lower Stikine test fishery – target is 120 per week		DFO
	Upper Stikine test fishery – sample goal is 200.		
	D-108 – sample goal for Petersburg and Wrangell 520/wk/combined		ADF&G
	D-106 – sample goal for Sumner and Clarence is 520/wk/ea – 106- 30, 106-41		ADF&G
<b>Taku Chinook baseline samples</b>			
	Yeth- need 144	H	DFO
	King Salmon- need 183	H	DFO
	Sloko- need 200	M	DFO
	mainstem Taku- need 200	L	DFO
	Sutlahine- need 196	L	DFO
	Tseta- need 0		
<b>Taku Chinook fishery samples</b>			
	Taku assessment fishery – sample target is 120/wk		DFO
	Taku commercial fishery – target is 120/wk		DFO
	D-111 – sample target is 120/wk (directed); incidental non- directed, n=80/wk		ADF&G
	Juneau area sport – sample target is 600		ADF&G
<b>Taku sockeye baseline samples</b>			
	King Salmon - need 0		DFO/TRT
	Taku Mainstem (look alike) –		
	Yellow Bluff – need 118	L	DFO/ADF&G
	Tuskwa Creek- need 75	L	DFO/ADF&G
	Takwahoni – need 26	L	DFO/ADF&G
	Yonakina – need 193	L	DFO/ADF&G
	Other Taku mainstem – opportunistic	L	DFO/ADF&G
	Hackett- need 6	L	DFO
	Nahlin – 116	M	DFO
	Nakina– need 193	M	TRT
	Fish Cr (US section) – need 0	H	ADF&G
	Yehring (US section) – need 19	H	ADF&G
	Johnson (US section) – need 200	L	ADF&G
	Samotua - need 200	L	DFO
<b>Taku steelhead baseline samples</b>			
	Collect bulk samples opportunistically from the fish wheels and inriver fisheries.		

Appendix Table 5. (continued)

Project/Dates	Function	Agency
<b>Taku sockeye fishery samples</b>		
Taku Inriver commercial fishery – target is 125 per week		DFO
D-111 – sample target is up to 800 weekly		ADF&G
<b>Alsek Chinook baseline samples</b>		
Goat Cr. – need 89	H	DFO
Lofog – need 198	L	DFO
mainstem Tatshenshini (middle, i.e. Kudwat) – need 127	H	DFO
mainstem Tatshenshini (lower) – need 200	H	DFO
mainstem Tatshenshini (upper) – need 200	H	DFO
mainstem Alsek – need 200	L	DFO
Tweedsmuir – need 195		DFO
Situk (adjacent) – need 200	H	ADF&G
<b>Alsek sockeye baseline samples</b>		
Klukshu River early – need 0		DFO
Blanchard Lake- need 21	H	DFO
Takhanne R. – need 200	H	DFO
Goat Cr – need 188	M	
Mainstem Tatshenshini (upper) – need 22	H	DFO
Mainstem.Tatshenshini (lower) –		DFO
Tats Lake- need 187	M	DFO
Detour- need 196	L	DFO
Kudwat- need 58	M	DFO
Stinky- need 160	M	DFO
Alsek mainstem (Can) – need 15	H	DFO
Vern Ritchie – need 0		
Tweedsmuir – need 51	M	
Alsek mainstem (US) - need 163	L	ADF&G
Border Slough – need 57	M	
Tanis (US section) - need 200	L	ADF&G
Basin (US section) - need 200	H	ADF&G
Ahrnklin R- need 10	L	ADF&G
Akwe- need 7	L	ADF&G
Italio- need 200	L	ADF&G
Lost- need 13	M	ADF&G
Dangerous- need 0		ADF&G
<b>Alsek fishery samples</b>		
Chinook test fishery – all fish		ADF&G
Dry Bay commercial – Chinook and sockeye – target is 800 sockeye and 600 Chinook spread over run.		ADF&G



Appendix Table 5. (continued)

GSI sampling protocol:

- the target sample size is 200 adult samples per population.
- the preferred tissue to sample is the axillary appendage. For baseline samples, each fish will be sampled for two appendages; one to be sent to the DFO lab and the other to the ADF&G lab. For fishery samples, each fish will be sampled for one axillary appendage which will be shared if requested.
- if opercular punches are taken, two punches will be taken from each fish, again one for each of the respective labs. To eliminate problems associated with potential delamination of punches in composite samples i.e. where punches from one population and/or location are all stored in one vial as has been the practice, opercular punches will now be stored in individual labeled vials.
- Axillary appendages and opercular punches will be stored in ethanol (full strength) and each sample appropriately labeled (date, location (**GPS**), species, number of samples, fixative and volume thereof, collector, contact name, agency, phone number).
- although it is recognized that there are potential efficiencies in terms of effort, time, storage, shipping and archiving associated with using scale samples for GSI, this should not be a tissue of choice when obtaining fishery or other samples for GSI (e.g. out of a tote) but may be used as last resort.