

## **Skeena Sockeye Test Fishery DNA (2016): Report to PSC. March 13, 2017**

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### **Introduction**

The Tyee gill-net test fishery at the mouth of the Skeena River provides daily estimates of the number of sockeye entering (escaping) into the Skeena River each year from mid-June through August. The annual escapement is comprised of numerous sockeye sub-stocks each with its own entry timing (early, mid, late etc). A key component of Skeena sockeye management is estimating annual abundance and harvest/exploitation rates on sub-stocks so that fisheries can be managed with consideration for sub-stock structure rather than just simple aggregate-stock abundance. Currently, estimating catch and escapement for each stock is very difficult as visual escapement assessments are of variable quality and estimates of the catch by stock in various fisheries are not complete. An alternative strategy is to sample (proportionate to abundance) sockeye captured at the test fishing site and determine their stock of origin using microsatellite DNA stock identification techniques (Beacham et al, 2014). Given escapement counts of known accuracy for several Skeena tributary systems, and known proportions of these stocks in the escapement samples from Tyee, allows estimation of escapement to each specific sockeye stock within the Skeena River drainage. As well, stock composition estimates from the Tyee test fishery allow for stock-specific run-reconstruction back through mixed-stock marine fisheries in the Canada and S.S.E Alaskan PSC Northern Boundary Area approach waters. These analyses provide reconstructed run-timing distributions, catch estimates, and harvest rates by sub-stock which are vital to understanding migration routes, timing, and impacts by specific fisheries. To date, sockeye DNA analysis for the Tyee test fishery includes the years 2000-2016...continuation of this program through 2017 is scheduled.

### **Methods**

Sockeye tissue samples (tissues on Whatman paper) were collected proportionate to abundance from fish captured at the Tyee Test Fishery in 2016 following previously established sampling protocols. The tissue samples were shipped to the PBS lab in Nanaimo for analysis (Terry Beacham/John Candy, DFO, Nanaimo). A complete overview of the analytical process followed for Tyee Test Fishery DNA analysis can in the attached references, with their citation lists summarizing relevant methodologies and processing logistics.

### **Results**

Table1 shows the weekly numbers of sockeye samples run for genetic analysis for samples collected at Tyee in 2016. Table 2 summarizes the weekly stock proportions for sockeye sampled at the Tyee test fishery in 2016, Table 3 shows the regional summary by week; ~500 samples, sub-sampled from the total collected in 2016, were run for analysis. An assessment of all the 2000-2016 Tyee test fishery data is now being made to determine annual variability in stock-specific run-timing and abundance patterns.

### **References**

Beacham, T. D., and C. E. Withler, and K. M. Miller. 2000. Application of microsatellite DNA variation to estimation of stock composition and escapement of Skeena River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*). . North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission Bulletin 2: 263-276.

Terry D. Beacham, Steven Cox-Rogers, Cathy MacConnachie, Brenda McIntosh & Colin G. Wallace (2014) Population Structure and Run Timing of Sockeye Salmon in the Skeena River, British Columbia, North American Journal of Fisheries Management, 34:2, 335-348

Table 1. Weekly selected samples for sockeye sampled at the Tye test fishery in 2016.

Species = Sockeye Number of populations = 25 Baseline Description = All_Pacific_161014 Number of loci = 14 Max missing loci = 5									
Number of chains = 10 Number of Reps = 20000 Reps Kept = 1000									
Sample	Vial ID	Year	Gear	Area	Mix Date	N	Excluded		
1	163	2016	gill	SkeenaTye	Jun11	1	0		
2	165-169	2016	gill	SkeenaTye	Jun13-Jun17	2	0		
3	171-176	2016	gill	SkeenaTye	Jun19-Jun24	17	0		
4	178-181	2016	gill	SkeenaTye	Jun26-Jun29	26	0		
5	186-191	2016	gill	SkeenaTye	Jul04-Jul09	47	0		
6	192-198	2016	gill	SkeenaTye	Jul10-Jul16	40	0		
7	199-205	2016	gill	SkeenaTye	Jul17-Jul23	74	0		
8	206-212	2016	gill	SkeenaTye	Jul24-Jul30	81	0		
9	213-219	2016	gill	SkeenaTye	Jul31-Aug06	93	0		
10	220-226	2016	gill	SkeenaTye	Aug07-Aug1	60	0		
11	227-233	2016	gill	SkeenaTye	Aug14-Aug2	30	0		
12	234-239	2016	gill	SkeenaTye	Aug21-Aug2	16	0		
13	241-247	2016	gill	SkeenaTye	Aug28-Sep0	8	0		
14	249-252	2016	gill	SkeenaTye	Sep05-Sep0	3	0		
15	255-257	2016	gill	SkeenaTye	Sep11-Sep1	2	0		
16	all combined	2016	gill	SkeenaTye	2016	500	0		

Table 2. Weekly stock proportions for sockeye sampled at the Tye test fishery in 2016.

Species = Sockeye Number of populations = 25 Baseline Description = All_Pacific_161014 Number of loci = 14 Max missing loci = 5									
Number of chains = 10 Number of Reps = 20000 Reps Kept = 1000									
	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016
	163	165-169	171-176	178-181	186-191	192-198	199-205	206-212	213-219
	gill	gill	gill	gill	gill	gill	gill	gill	gill
	SkeenaTye	SkeenaTye	SkeenaTye	SkeenaTye	SkeenaTye	SkeenaTye	SkeenaTye	SkeenaTye	SkeenaTye
	StatWk62	StatWk63	StatWk64	StatWk71	StatWk72	StatWk73	StatWk74	StatWk75	StatWk81
	Jun11	Jun13-Jun17	Jun19-Jun24	Jun26-Jun29	Jul04-Jul09	Jul10-Jul16	Jul17-Jul23	Jul24-Jul30	Jul31-Aug06
	1(0)	2(0)	17(0)	26(0)	47(0)	40(0)	74(0)	81(0)	93(0)
	220-226	227-233	234-239	241-247	249-252	255-257	all combined		
	gill	gill	gill	gill	gill	gill	gill		
	SkeenaTye	SkeenaTye	SkeenaTye	SkeenaTye	SkeenaTye	SkeenaTye	SkeenaTye	SkeenaTye	SkeenaTye
	StatWk82	StatWk83	StatWk84	StatWk89	StatWk92	StatWk93	All StatWks		
	Aug07-Aug13	Aug14-Aug20	Aug21-Aug26	Aug28-Sep03	Sep05-Sep08	Sep11-Sep13	2016		
	60(0)	30(0)	16(0)	8(0)	3(0)	2(0)	500(0)		
Code	Stock	Estima SD	Estima SD	Estima SD	Estima SD	Estima SD	Estima SD	Estima SD	Estima SD
79	Alastair	100.0 (28.7)	50.0 (23.6)	29.4 (10.3)	32.0 (9.2)	23.4 (5.9)	5.0 (3.4)	1.6 (1.6)	3.7 (2.1)
82	Kalum	0.0 (6.6)	0.0 (7.2)	0.0 (1.3)	0.0 (0.7)	0.0 (0.3)	2.5 (3.3)	0.7 (1.2)	0.0 (0.2)
436	Kalum_lake	0.0 (6.9)	0.0 (6.9)	0.0 (0.9)	0.0 (0.6)	0.0 (0.4)	2.5 (3.4)	0.5 (1.1)	0.0 (0.2)
80	Kitwanga	0.0 (7.8)	0.0 (5.1)	0.0 (1.0)	0.0 (0.8)	0.0 (0.5)	0.0 (0.4)	0.0 (0.3)	0.0 (0.2)
65	McDonnell	0.0 (7.4)	0.0 (5.8)	11.8 (7.2)	7.7 (5.1)	2.1 (2.0)	2.5 (2.5)	2.7 (1.8)	0.0 (0.2)
76	Schulbuckhand	0.0 (7.2)	0.0 (6.8)	5.7 (7.4)	19.0 (7.8)	1.9 (2.7)	0.0 (0.4)	0.7 (1.2)	1.2 (1.2)
289	Stephens_Kispox	0.0 (8.0)	0.0 (6.0)	0.0 (1.7)	0.0 (0.5)	6.2 (3.5)	0.0 (0.4)	5.1 (2.8)	0.0 (0.3)
68	Swan_Kispox	0.0 (8.0)	0.0 (6.9)	0.0 (1.2)	0.0 (0.7)	0.2 (1.1)	0.0 (0.5)	0.3 (1.3)	0.0 (0.3)
75	Williams	0.0 (9.6)	0.0 (5.3)	6.1 (7.5)	0.2 (1.5)	2.4 (3.0)	0.0 (0.6)	0.6 (1.2)	0.0 (0.2)
465	Damshilqwit	0.0 (7.8)	0.0 (5.9)	0.1 (1.4)	0.0 (0.6)	0.0 (0.5)	0.0 (0.5)	0.1 (0.6)	0.4 (1.1)
66	Motase	0.0 (9.0)	0.0 (5.4)	0.0 (1.0)	0.0 (0.4)	0.0 (0.3)	0.0 (0.4)	0.0 (0.2)	0.8 (1.3)
78	SalixBear	0.0 (8.2)	0.0 (6.3)	0.4 (2.3)	0.0 (0.7)	2.2 (2.1)	0.1 (0.8)	1.2 (1.3)	2.0 (2.1)
470	Slamgeesh	0.0 (9.0)	0.0 (6.3)	0.0 (0.9)	0.0 (0.7)	0.0 (0.8)	0.0 (0.5)	0.1 (0.5)	0.6 (1.5)
173	Sustut	0.0 (8.0)	0.0 (5.3)	0.0 (0.9)	0.0 (0.6)	0.0 (0.5)	2.5 (2.5)	1.4 (1.3)	2.5 (1.7)
73	Nanika	0.0 (7.8)	0.0 (5.2)	0.0 (1.0)	0.0 (0.8)	6.4 (3.5)	5.0 (3.3)	2.7 (1.9)	1.2 (1.2)
123	Four_Mile	0.0 (8.6)	5.2 (14.3)	9.5 (15.1)	20.8 (15.8)	2.3 (5.4)	23.0 (15.0)	7.3 (6.2)	12.9 (6.1)
71	Fulton_L	0.0 (8.1)	1.6 (9.1)	1.0 (4.5)	0.4 (2.2)	1.7 (6.1)	0.6 (2.5)	55.0 (14.7)	32.4 (11.5)
72	L_Babine	0.0 (8.3)	5.0 (14.1)	8.8 (12.9)	0.1 (1.3)	0.3 (1.6)	2.9 (5.1)	0.4 (1.7)	0.2 (1.0)
74	Morrison	0.0 (8.5)	13.5 (20.2)	2.1 (4.9)	0.5 (3.0)	5.5 (9.4)	11.2 (13.8)	9.2 (14.0)	22.9 (13.3)
77	Pierre	0.0 (6.9)	19.7 (21.7)	19.7 (19.5)	17.6 (16.4)	4.7 (9.2)	20.0 (15.6)	1.4 (4.0)	0.2 (1.0)
70	Pinkut	0.0 (8.0)	0.0 (4.8)	1.2 (5.3)	0.2 (1.9)	22.2 (13.5)	0.6 (2.3)	0.7 (2.6)	0.2 (0.8)
67	Shass	0.0 (7.7)	3.3 (11.6)	3.5 (8.5)	0.0 (0.8)	0.0 (0.7)	0.3 (1.8)	0.3 (1.5)	0.1 (0.6)
125	Tahlo	0.0 (8.9)	0.1 (6.6)	0.1 (1.7)	0.6 (2.5)	17.8 (9.9)	18.8 (12.8)	1.8 (4.2)	0.4 (1.8)
118	Twain_Cr	0.0 (7.5)	0.0 (5.5)	0.3 (2.0)	0.7 (2.5)	0.3 (1.8)	0.5 (2.0)	0.1 (0.6)	0.1 (0.5)
69	U_Babine	0.0 (8.9)	1.7 (9.6)	0.3 (2.7)	0.0 (0.8)	0.2 (1.4)	1.9 (4.0)	6.2 (6.0)	18.3 (9.5)



**Budget Summary by Fiscal Year April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017**

<b>Fiscal Year – 2016-2017</b>	<b>PSC</b>	<b>DFO</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>Financial Contribution to DFO*</b>	<b>Direct Share of Costs</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Lab processing</b>			
500 fish samples @ \$20.00/sample (CDN)	<b>10,345</b>		
Original projection Was 1080 samples	<b>(\$21000)</b>		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10,345</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,345</b>