
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 STIKINE AND TAKU RIVERS KING SALMON FORECAST

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information concerning the preseason forecast for king salmon returning to the Stikine and Taku Rivers in 2013.

The **2013 preseason terminal run size forecast for large Stikine River king salmon is 22,400 fish.** A preseason terminal run forecast of this size does not allow for an Allowable Catch (AC) for either the U.S. or Canada. Therefore, **no directed fisheries will occur in early May.** An in-season terminal run estimate will be produced in late May. If the first in-season estimate is significantly greater than the pre-season forecast, limited directed king salmon fisheries could occur.

The forecast generated by the Stikine River king salmon forecast model produced a terminal run size estimate of 32,032 fish. Due to preseason forecasts consistent overestimation of the actual run size, this forecast was reduced by 30%. The preseason forecast has overestimated the run size for the past 6 years and has overestimated by an average of 32% over the past 5 years. Other considerations taken into account for reducing the model produced forecast are the extremely low abundance of 3 year old king salmon in 2012 and the general poor performance of king salmon stocks throughout Alaska in recent years.

The **2013 preseason terminal run size forecast for large Taku River king salmon is 26,100 fish.** A preseason terminal run forecast of this size does not provide an Allowable Catch (AC) for either the U.S. or Canada. Therefore, **no directed fisheries will occur in early May.** An in-season terminal run estimate will be produced in late May and the department will continue to monitor the returning run strength, but it is unlikely any directed king fisheries will occur in District 11 in 2013.

When the first in-season Taku and Stikine River king salmon terminal run estimates are produced, a news release will be distributed as soon as possible with the estimated run size, resulting allowable catch, and information concerning potential directed king salmon fishery openings.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

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