
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Tom Kowalske

Phone: (907) 874-3822
Fax: (907) 874-2364

Wrangell Area Office
16 Sing Lee Alley
Wrangell, AK 99929
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2014 STIKINE RIVER KING SALMON FORECAST

Wrangell. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information concerning the preseason forecast for king salmon returning to the Stikine River in 2014.

The **2014 preseason terminal run size forecast for large Stikine River king salmon is 26,000 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 inseason terminal run estimate will be produced in late May. If the first inseason estimate is significantly greater than the preseason forecast, limited directed commercial king salmon fisheries could occur.

The forecast generated by the Stikine River king salmon forecast model produced a terminal run size estimate of 37,700 fish. Due to preseason forecasts consistent overestimation of the actual run size in recent years, this forecast was reduced by average forecast error over the previous 5 years of 45%. The preseason forecast has overestimated the run size for the past 7 years. Other considerations taken into account for reducing the model produced forecast includes a poor confidence in the 2013 age 1.2 king salmon abundance estimate and the general poor performance of king salmon stocks throughout the region in recent years.

When the first inseason Stikine River king salmon terminal run estimate is 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.

The bilateral forecast for the 2014 Taku River king salmon is not yet available. The Taku River forecast will be released as soon as it becomes available.

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

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