
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2015 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 2015.

The **2015 preseason terminal run size forecast for large Stikine River king salmon is 30,200 fish.** The resulting **U.S. Allowable Catch (AC) is 210 large Stikine Kings.** An AC of 210 fish is not large enough to allow for directed commercial fisheries. Inseason terminal run size estimates will be produced starting late May of 2015. Inseason estimates may result in a higher AC that may allow implementation of directed commercial fisheries.

The forecast generated by the Stikine River king salmon forecast model produced a terminal run size estimate of 40,600 fish. In recent years, estimates have consistently overestimated the terminal run; therefore, this year's estimate was reduced by the recent 5-year average percent error of 35%. Other considerations taken into account for reducing the forecast includes poor confidence in the 2014 estimate of 4-year old king salmon and the general poor performance of king salmon stocks throughout the region in recent years.

The **2015 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 AC for either the U.S. or Canada and no directed fisheries will occur in early May. Inseason terminal run size estimates will be produced starting late May of 2015, but it is unlikely any directed king fisheries will occur in District 11 in 2015.

The forecast generated by the Taku River king salmon forecast model produced a terminal run size estimate of 36,900 fish. The recent 5-year average error in the forecast versus terminal run size is 41%. Accounting for this, the revised 2015 forecast of the large Taku River Chinook salmon terminal run is 26,100 fish.

When the first inseason 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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