
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2016 STIKINE AND TAKU RIVERS CHINOOK SALMON FORECASTS

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information concerning the preseason forecast for Chinook salmon returning to the Stikine and Taku Rivers in 2016.

The **2016 preseason terminal run size forecast for Stikine River large Chinook salmon is 33,900 fish.** The resulting **U.S. Allowable Catch (AC) is 1,100 large Chinook salmon.** An AC of 1,100 fish allows for limited directed commercial fisheries to occur in District 8 beginning May 2. News releases announcing specific opening times and areas will be released in mid-April, 2016.

The **2016 preseason terminal run size forecast for Taku River large Chinook salmon is 29,200 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 2016, but it is unlikely any directed fisheries will occur in District 11 in 2016. When the first inseason Taku River Chinook 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 Chinook salmon fishery openings.

Forecasts for both rivers have consistently overestimated the final terminal run size estimates in the near past; therefore, the Stikine and Taku River forecasts were each reduced by their respective recent five-year average percent error of 39% and 12%. An additional consideration taken into account for revising the forecasts is the general poor performance of Chinook salmon stocks throughout the region in recent years.

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

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