



FOR RELEASE
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Yukon government commends Yukon River chinook managers

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon deeply appreciates the effort made by First Nation, tribal, state, and federal governments for their responsible approach to managing this year's Yukon River chinook salmon run, Minister of Environment Currie Dixon announced today.

"The Yukon government recognizes and appreciates the sacrifices First Nation citizens are making to conserve chinook salmon," Dixon said. "This conservation approach bodes well for future returns. We are hopeful that the strong commitment we've seen this year on both sides of the border will continue well into the future, so that we will once again have a sustainable Yukon River chinook fishery."

As of August 13 the sonar site at Eagle, Alaska estimated a passage of more than 64,000 chinook across the Yukon border. Up until the mid-1990s it was not unusual for 150,000 chinook to make it to Canada.

The Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee has noted, however, that while this year's passage exceeds the upper end of the escapement goal, it is still one of the lowest runs on record. With male fish accounting for 70 per cent of the 2014 run, there will be fewer eggs laid in spawning areas than would ordinarily occur with a run of this size.

In contrast to the chinook run, chum salmon returns have been robust this year. The summer chum run in Alaska was very strong and the number of fall chum is expected to be above average. The first pulse of chum salmon is likely to arrive in Canada near the end of August. Chum make their way as far upstream as Kluane Lake, Hootalinqua and the Boswell River.

Learn more:

Visit the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee website or call 867-393-6725

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