



ALSEK RIVER - 2021 IN-SEASON SALMON ASSESSMENT AND FISHERY MANAGEMENT UPDATE



Presented to:

Yukon Salmon Sub-
Committee

Transboundary Rivers Operations

July 21, 2021

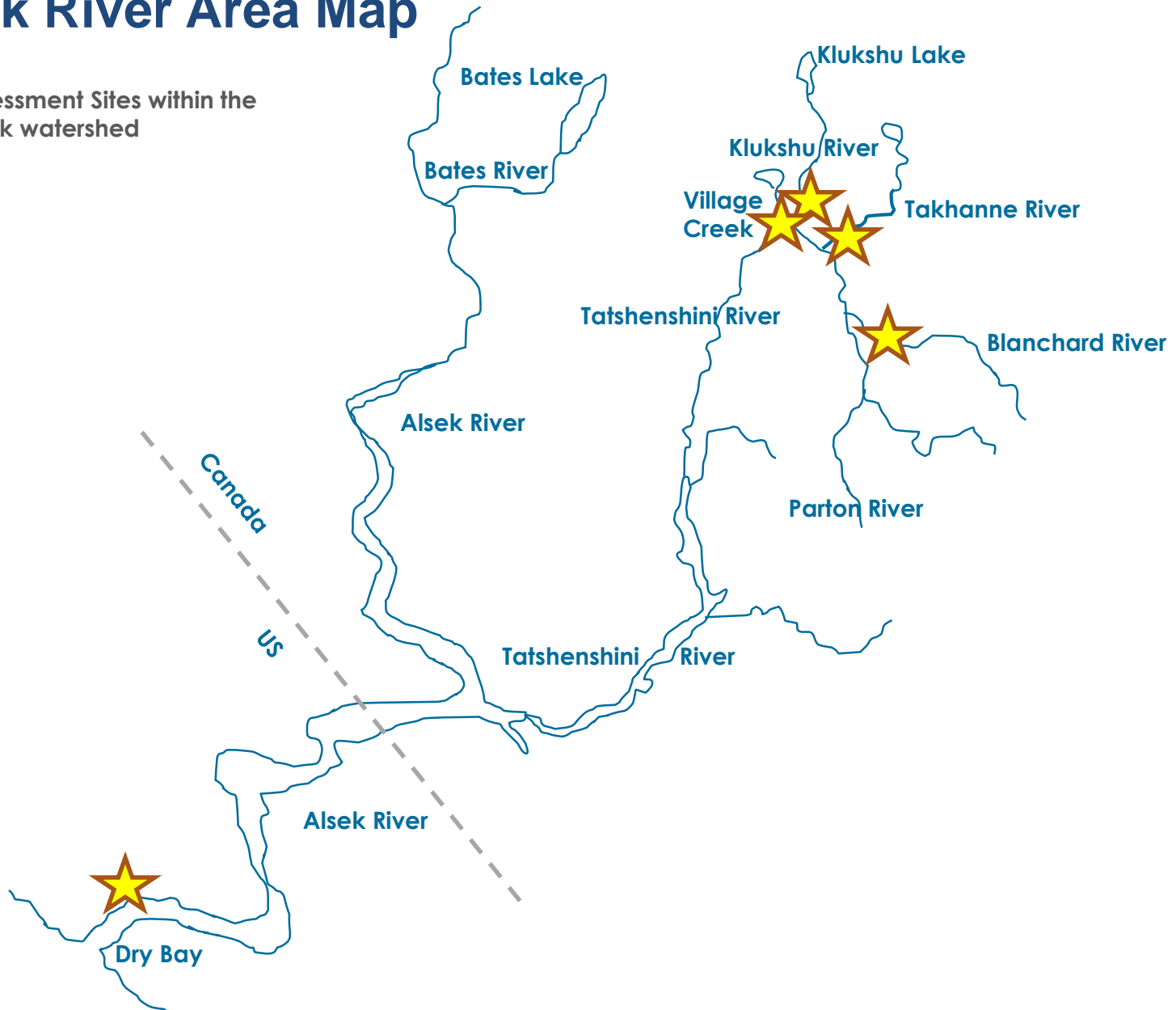
Alsek River 2021 In-Season Update: Overview

1. 2021 salmon stock assessment program summary
2. Review of 2021 outlooks for Klukshu River Chinook and Sockeye salmon stocks
3. Canadian fishery management strategy - Public (angling) and First Nation subsistence fisheries
4. Current information on Chinook and sockeye passage, harvest, run size predictions
5. Coho outlook and fishery management strategy



Alsek River Area Map

★ Assessment Sites within the Alsek watershed



Alsek River Salmon 2021 Assessment Programs



Canada:

- Klukshu River (video-counter) – Chinook / Sockeye / Coho
- Village Creek (video-counter) – Sockeye
- Takhanne River (snorkel survey) – Chinook focus
- Blanchard River (sonar) – Chinook focus

US (Alaska):

- Fishery harvest monitoring and reporting
- Dry Bay fishery tissue sample analysis – Sockeye / Chinook
 - Determines Canadian versus U.S. origin and Identified stock (i.e. Klukshu)



Alsek River Chinook Salmon 2021 Outlooks and Fishery Management

Pre-season Forecast: 1,000 Klukshu River stock (*average ~1,200*)



Escapement (Management) Target: 1,000

Escapement Goal Range: 800 - 1,200

Canadian Fishery Management Strategy:

Public Angling Fishery:

- Salmon angling (including catch and release) prohibited until August 15th
- Retention of prohibited for duration of season

Champagne and Aishihik First Nation Subsistence Fishery:

- Harvesting permitted (subject to conservation requirements)

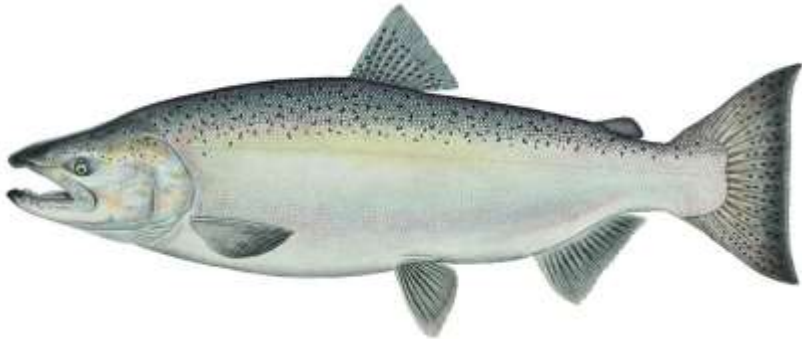
Alsek River Chinook Salmon 2021 In-Season Abundance Estimates (*Current as of July 15*)

Abundance (Migration / Escapement) Estimates:

Klukshu River Video Counter: **20** (*Run Timing: 12% of run complete*)

Blanchard River: **Sonar** (*Installation complete July 16*)

Takhanne River: **Snorkel survey** (*Scheduled to be completed between July 25 and August 5*)



Alsek River Chinook Salmon

2021 Fishery Harvests

(Current as of July 15)

Fishery Harvest:

Canada:

Public Fishery: **0**

First Nation Fishery: **Not yet available (post season)**



U.S. (harvest of all Alsek River stocks, not only Canadian-origin):

Commercial Fishery: **0** directed harvest

191 incidentally caught in sockeye fishery

Subsistence Fishery (State): **Not yet available** (*average: ~30*)

Subsistence Fishery (Federal): **Not yet available** (*average: ~6*)

Alsek River Sockeye Salmon 2021 Outlooks and Fishery Management

Pre-season Forecast: 10,000 Klukshu River stock (*average ~13,000*)

Escapement (Management) Target: 9,700

Escapement Goal Range: 7,500 - 11,000



Canadian Fishery Management Strategy:

Public Angling Fishery:

- Salmon angling (including catch and release) prohibited until August 15th
- Retention currently prohibited
- Post-August 15th fishery opportunities may be considered contingent on late-season run abundance

Champagne and Aishihik First Nation Subsistence Fishery:

- Harvesting permitted (subject to conservation requirements)

Alsek River Sockeye Salmon 2021 In-Season Abundance Estimates (Current as of July 15)

Abundance (Migration / Escapement) Estimates:

Klukshu River: **2** (*Run Timing: 12% of run complete*)

Village Creek: **0** (*Run Timing: 21% of run complete*)



Alsek River Sockeye Salmon

2021 Fishery Harvests & Abundance Estimates

(Current as of July 15)

Fishery Harvest:

Canada:

Public Fishery: **0**

First Nation Fishery: **Not yet available (post season)**

U.S. (harvest of all Alsek River stocks, not only Canadian-origin):

Commercial Fishery: **3,600** (average: ~9,200)

Subsistence Fishery (State): **Not yet available** (average: ~130)

Subsistence Fishery (Federal): **Not yet available** (average: ~60)



Alsek River Coho Salmon 2021 Outlooks & Fishery Management

Pre-season Forecast: Uncertain abundance (*regionally below average*)
Average Klukshu Run: ~2,000 (*as of early October*)

Assessment: Contingent on weather conditions, plan is to extend the Klukshu River assessment program later into season

Canadian Fishery Management Strategy:

Public Angling Fishery:

- Permitted (post - August 15)
- Standard retention limits (2 daily, 4 possession)
- Consideration for potentially liberalizing retention limits or fishing areas



Champagne and Aishihik First Nation Subsistence Fishery:

- Harvesting permitted (subject to conservation requirements)

Questions?



Klukshu River Enumeration Site