



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



Presented to:

Yukon Salmon Sub-
Committee

Transboundary Rivers Operations

October 13, 2021

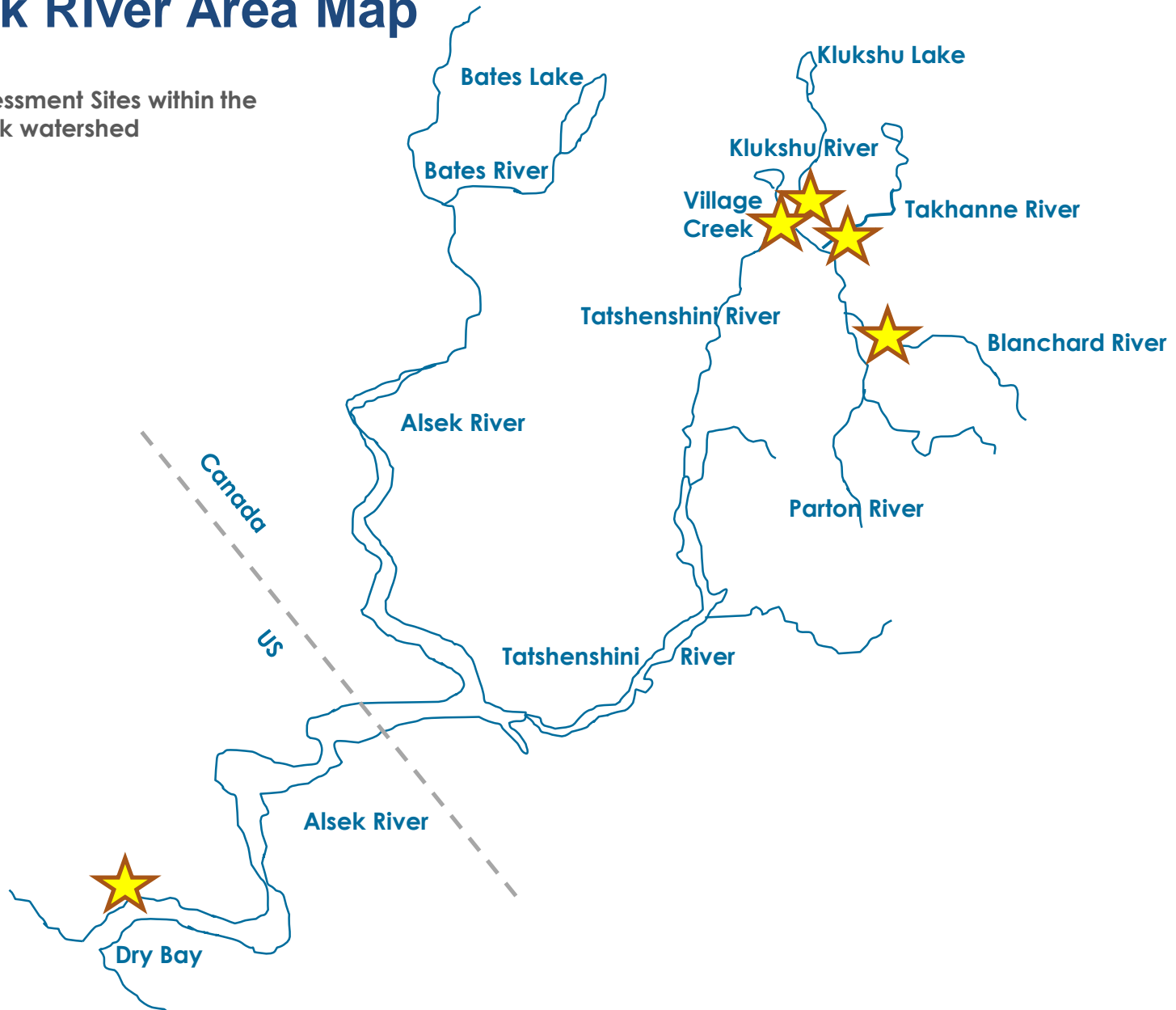
Alsek River 2021 In-Season Update: Overview

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, Sockeye, and Coho salmon passage, harvest, run size predictions



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)



Alesek 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 15
- Retention prohibited for duration of the season

Champagne and Aishihik First Nation Subsistence Fishery:

- Harvesting permitted

Alsek River Chinook Salmon 2021 In-Season Abundance Estimates (*Current as of October 5*)

Abundance (Migration / Escapement) Estimates:

Klukshu River: **1,405** (*run complete*)

Blanchard River Sonar: **TBD** (*project complete - July 16 to August 27*)

Takhanne River Snorkel Survey: **189** (*project complete - August 10*)



Alsek River Chinook Salmon 2021 Fishery Harvest Estimates (*Current as of October 5*)

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 15
- Retention initially prohibited but due to better than expected abundance, retention was permitted beginning September 4 (limited to 1 per day and 2 in possession and limited to the Tatshenshini River upstream of Village Creek)
- Effective September 15, as the abundance was confirmed to greatly exceed conservation and First Nation Fishery allocation requirements, the catch limit was increased to 2 per day and 4 in possession.

Champagne and Aishihik First Nation Subsistence Fishery:

- Harvesting permitted

Alsek River Sockeye Salmon 2021 In-Season Abundance Estimates (*Current as of October 5*)

Abundance (Migration / Escapement) Estimates:

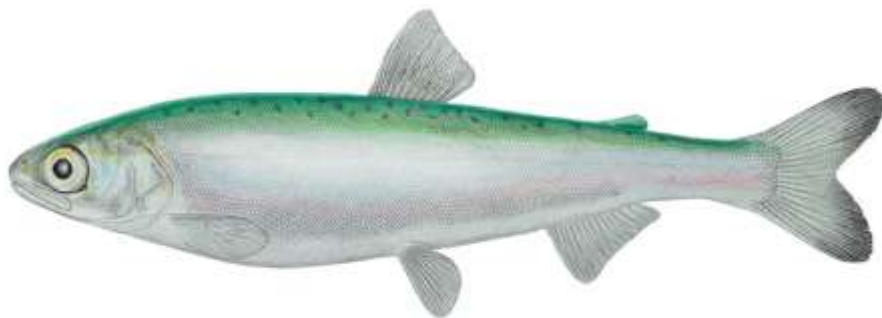
Klukshu River: **26,402** (*Run Timing: 99% complete*)

Village Creek: **679** (*Run complete*)

Preliminary Alsek River Estimate: ~90,000

Current Alsek River Escapement Goal (PST): 24,000 to 33,500

PST Management Objective: 29,700



Alsek River Sockeye Salmon 2021 Fishery Harvest Estimates (Current as of October 5)

Fishery Harvest:

Canada:

Public Fishery: **<50 (to be confirmed post season)**

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

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

Commercial Fishery: **8,597 (average: ~12,300)**

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

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



Alsek River Coho Salmon

2021 Outlooks and Fishery Management

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

Assessment: Anticipated end date October 13



Canadian Fishery Management Strategy:

Public Angling Fishery:

- Permitted (post - August 15)
- Standard retention limits (2 daily, 4 possession)
- Beginning September 22, catch limits were increased to 3 per day and 6 in possession in areas of the Tatshenshini River upstream of Village Creek (in response to a better than anticipated return)

Champagne and Aishihik First Nation Subsistence Fishery:

- Harvesting permitted

Alsek River Coho Salmon 2021 In-Season Abundance Estimates (*Current as of October 5*)

Abundance (Migration / Escapement) Estimates:

Klukshu River: **2,215** (*average to date: 1,827*)



Alesek River Coho Salmon 2021 Fishery Harvest Estimates (*Current as of October 5*)

Fishery Harvest:

Canada:

Public Fishery: **<30 (to be confirmed post season)**

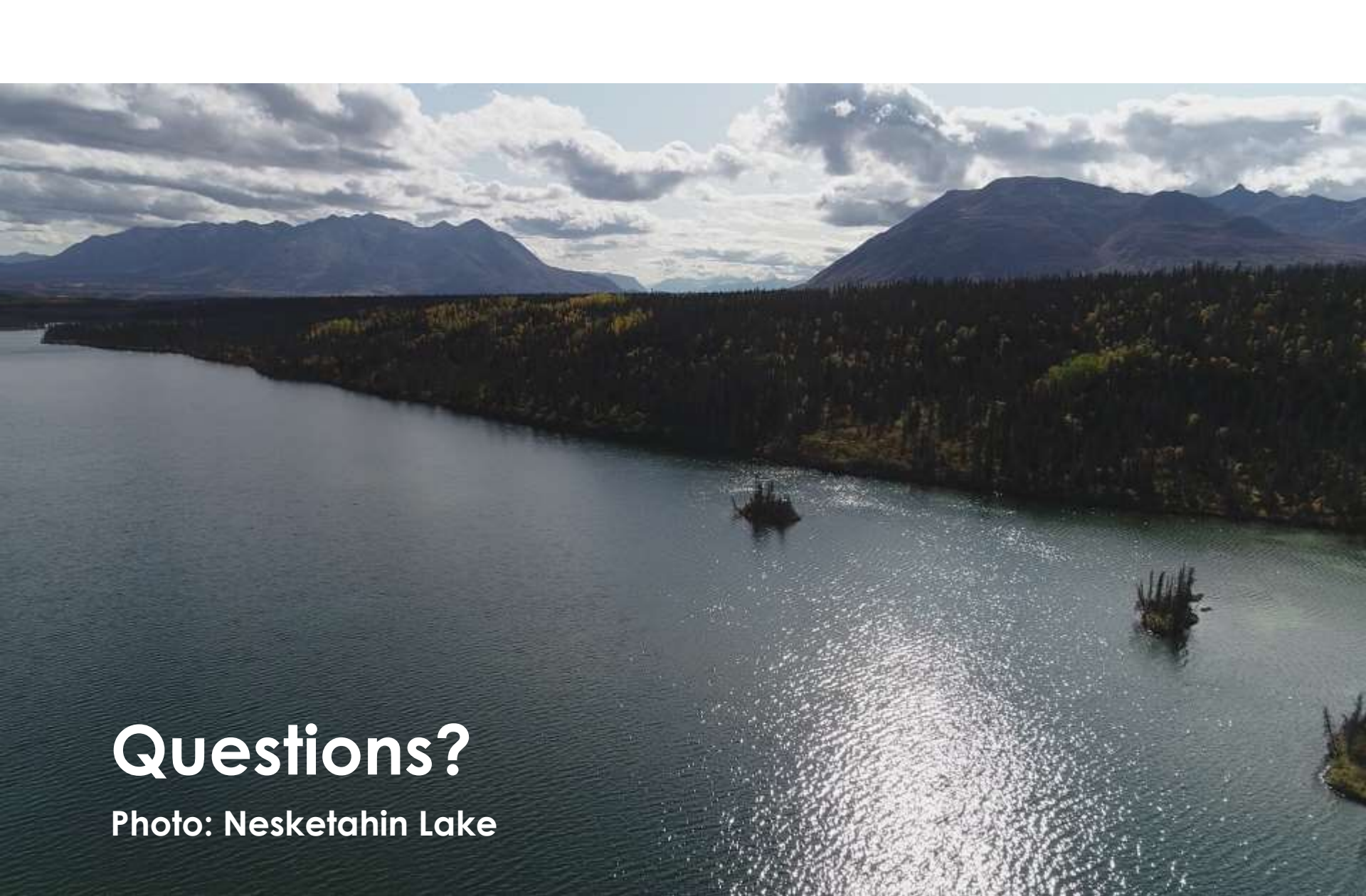
First Nation Fishery: **Not yet available (post season)**

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

Commercial Fishery: **0 (average: ~1,000)**

Subsistence Fishery (State and Federal): **Not yet available
(average: ~20)**





Questions?

Photo: Nesketahin Lake