



**2005 COMMERCIAL NET SUMMARY
AREAS 3 to 6**

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NORTH COAST CHARTER PATROL**

General Management Restraints & Pre-season Commitments

- Nisga'a Treaty
- Canada/U.S, Pacific Salmon Treaty
- Allocation by gear and sector
- Skeena Coho conservation
- Chinook and Steelhead escapement goals
- Non-enhanced sockeye escapement goals
- Wild chum conservation concerns

General Management Actions

- Day light only fisheries
- Time & Area Closures (3-1, outside 4 & 5 , and A-6 Gil Island Gill net closure).
- Seines: Mandatory brail, sort and release.
- A4 Half length GN and 20 min. soak times.
- Non-retention of incidental species.
- Fishing to harvest and exploitation rates.

Area 3

- Above average returns were forecasted for Nass sockeye. Available commercial fishery surplus after Nisga'a Treaty obligations is 300,000 to 400,000 sockeye. Pink return expected to be average.

In Season Management

- Nass sockeye and pink returns were moderate.
- Skeena sockeye returns were poor.
- First Gill net opening (June 7) with 150 vessels participating.
- Peak Gill net fleet (July 11) with 421 vessels.



A3 GN In season management cont'd

- ❑ July 11, ribbon boundary around Wales Island to reduce incidental Gn Chum catch.
- ❑ July 12 & 28: ribbon boundary extended to include the Pearse Island shore.
- ❑ Total of 16 openings for 3,968 vessel operating days compared to the ten year average of 27 openings and 3,890 vessel operating days.
- ❑ Gill net fishing terminated July 29 in Area 3 as catches of Nass sockeye decreased and Area 3 chum escapements became a concern.



A3 Sn In Season Management

- First Seine opening occurred July 11 with 22 vessels participating.
- On July 18, A3 opened to Coho Ret. for the duration of the season as a result of improved Coho returns to A3 and the acknowledgement that outside A3 (Skeena Coho area) would not likely open because of poor Skeena returns.
- July 18 & 21, seines permitted to retain chum because of high catches . This was a test to see what was better fishing 2 days per week retention or 4 days non-retention.
- After the 21st in order to harvest pink and sockeye it was decided to fish 4 days a week non-retention.

A3 SN In Season Management cont'd

- Peak Seine fishing took place July 28 & 29 with 39 seines actively fishing.
- August 22 - Last seine pink fishery.
- Total of 18 openings for 436 VOD's compared to the ten Year avg. of 21 openings and 944 Vessel operating days.

Area 3 Results:

- Total hailed net catch of 181,239 Sockeye and 2,499,501 Pinks compared to the ten year average of 471,889 Sockeye and 2,186,683 Pinks. (odd 5 yr. avg.)
- The net catch of Coho was 43,744 for seines & 4,008 for gill nets.

Area 4

Skeena River Gill Net Chinook fishery:

- ❑ June 10 & 11 for 30 hours, 98 GN for a total catch of 851 Chinook.
- ❑ June 17 & 18 for 18 hours, 101 GN for a total catch of 909 Chinook.
- ❑ Total Chinook catch for the two openings was recorded at 1,760 pieces.
- ❑ Generally poor Chinook fishing due to low returns of Chinook to the Skeena River.

Area 4 Sockeye:

- ❑ Area 4 was closed to Gill Nets and Seines due to Low sockeye figures past the Skeena Tye Test fishery.
- ❑ Gill net ten year average of 11 Openings, 6,599 Vessel operating days and 791,137 Sockeye.
- ❑ Seine ten year average of 10 Openings, 442 Vessel operating days, 303,011 Sockeye and 597,031 last 5 odd year Pinks.

Area 5

- ❑ Area 5 pink returns were expected to be good with a surplus of 0.5 million.
- ❑ Area 5 chum returns were expected to be very poor.

In Season Management

- ❑ No gill net opportunities due to lower than expected returns of sockeye to the Skeena River.
- ❑ First Seine opening delayed until August 8 due to Skeena sockeye. Non-retention sockeye as well as coho, chum and chinook.
- ❑ Peak Seine fleet occurred on August 15 with 10 vessels taking part.

A5 In Season Management cont'd

- ❑ Local area pinks were below forecast.
- ❑ Poor Skeena sockeye and good Skeena Pink returns.
- ❑ Last Seine opening August 22.
- ❑ Total of 6 openings for 31 Vessel operating days compared to the ten year average of 14 openings and 101 vessel operating days.
- ❑ Total catch of 191,219 pinks compared to the ten year average 239,724 pinks. (5 odd year average).

Area 6 In Season Management

- ❑ Area 6 Pink returns were expected to be good with a surplus of 3.5 million.
- ❑ A forecast of weak wild Chum and a small surplus of Kitimat enhanced Chums.
- ❑ First Gill net fishery took place (July 11) with one vessel actively taking part.
- ❑ Hatchery chum returns much better than forecasted.
- ❑ Peak Gill net fleet for total area was 153 vessels on July 25.

A6 In-Season Management cont'd

- ❑ (August 1) Foche and Giltoyees boundary change due to Wild chum stock concerns.
- ❑ (August 1) Dala and Kildala boundary change due to Wild chum stock concerns.
- ❑ (August 1) Kitimat Arm boundary extended up to Wathslo Creek in order to harvest hatchery surplus.
- ❑ Total of 16 Gn openings for 1,396 Vessel operating days compared to the last 10 year average of 17 Openings and 499 Vessel operating days.
- ❑ The last Area 6 Gill net opening occurred on August 9th.

A6 Sn In-Season Management

- ❑ July 11, First Seine opening with non-retention Coho, Chum, Chinook and steelhead.
- ❑ The season was dominated by strong return of Pinks, better than forecasted returns of hatchery chum and a continued wild chum conservation concern.
- ❑ Peak Seine effort in Area 6 occurred (July 21) with 70 vessels.
- ❑ July 18, Coho retention was in effect for both Gill net and Seine. As per the pre-season plan good returns seen along with reduced commercial troll time.
- ❑ Total catch for Douglas channel was 7,270 Chums & 245,601 pinks from a total of 11 Openings of which 7 had any recorded effort.

A6 Sn In-Season Management (Gil Island)

- ❑ July 18, Gil Island fishery/retention chum- due to high incidental chum catch.
- ❑ July 18 & 21 large fleets/fishing time was reduced by half. Returned to non-retention chum to increase fishing time to harvest pinks.
- ❑ July 28, Chum catches high/retention permitted for the last 6 hours of the opening and the next day with reduced time to minimize impact on chum.
- ❑ All fisheries following July 29 were non-retention chum.

A6 Sn In-Season Management cont'd

- ❑ July 29, Eagle Bay fishery opened for two hours to harvest surplus pinks migrating through to the Kildala arm. ~ *42,000 pinks were harvested.*
- ❑ Total of 18 openings for 589 Vessel operating days compared to the ten year average of 9 Openings and 189 Vessel operating days.
- ❑ August 15, Last Seine fishery.

A6 In-Season Management Results

- ❑ Total Gn catch was 146,401 Chums compared to the ten year average of 81,007.
- ❑ The Coho Gill net catch was 1,363 pcs.
- ❑ Total hailed Seine catch of 4,510,843 Pinks and 86,759 Chums compared to the last five odd year average of 1,355,652 and ten year average of 81,642 Chums.
- ❑ The Coho catch for seines was 35,949 pieces.