

Hupačasath Fishery Update Monday May 16th 2016

Updates and Reminders

- FSC catch is to be reported to Graham at the office. This is a requirement of several fishery agreements. If you would like a catch logbook please see Graham.
- Updated Fisher Designation Cards can be printed at the office (see Graham). Most cards that have been issued will be expired. Newly issued cards will have an expiry date of June 2020.
- There will be a fisheries meeting Thursday May 19th at 5 pm in preparation of the upcoming season. Updates on the status of the Tsu-Ma-Uss Fisheries Agreement and other fisheries business will be presented at this meeting. Copies of the draft Tsu-ma-uss Fisheries Agreement will be available at the front desk for anyone wishing to review the agreement.



**FISHERY
MEETING**

THURSDAY MAY 19TH AT 5:00PM
Coffee, Tea & Light Refreshments provided

In preparation of the upcoming Fishing Season we will discuss:

- Update/status of the Tsu-ma-uss Fisheries Agreement
- Other fisheries business will be presented at this meeting.

Copies of the draft Tsu-ma-uss Fisheries Agreement will be available at the front desk for anyone wishing to review the agreement.



Sockeye

2016 is looking to be another strong year for sockeye in Barkley Sound. Pre-season forecasts are predicting a “High” return of Sockeye in the range of 700,000-1,000,000. It



is also expected that the majority of this run will be 5 year olds. Presently environmental conditions are looking more favorable for the returning sockeye that it did last year. There is more snowpack in the mountains now than there was at this time last year which should help keep river temperatures lower and flows higher. Cameras were installed at the Sproat Fishway on April 19th and through May 11th an estimated 550 sockeye have passed through the tunnels. Hupacasath fishers have also started to have some success in the river. All these signs are positive indicators of a good season.

Chinook

After several years of disappointing Chinook returns we are expecting a strong return to the Somass. The current pre-season forecast is predicting a return of 118,000



Chinook of what should predominantly be 4 year olds. In contrast to last year’s return there should be a greater number of larger females which will allow for a less restricted fishery than last year’s openings. It is anticipated that there will be fishing opportunities in late August as well as September. This forecast may be amended during the season as additional information is collected.

Submitted by Graham Murrell
Biologist & Fisheries Manager
graham@hupacasath.ca – 250-724-4041 ext 32