



Preliminary Post Season Analysis

2013 Outlook and Forecast for Chinook Salmon Timing

Lower Yukon River (Area Y-1), July 17, 2013

The Lower Yukon Chinook test fishing season ended on July 14, so it is now safe to say that both the Outlook and Forecast were right on target in 2013. The Chinook run to the Yukon River was a good deal later than average, as described in the Outlook of May 31. Much colder than average Spring temperatures and ice cover lasting much longer than usual in the marine areas contributed to a 2013 Chinook timing that was 6 – 7 days later than average. The forecast of the dates of the key percentage points of the run, as measured by the Lower Yukon Test Fishery on the Yukon River delta were correct to the day. The forecast of May 31 projected the 15%, 25% and 50% points of the test fishery to occur on June 21, 23, and 28 respectively, which was the case in 2013 (Yukon Daily Summary July 16, 2013). The 2013 forecast of all the daily percentiles (see Figure) was not exactly perfect, however, as the Chinook run wasn't spread as evenly throughout the season as the forecast had anticipated. The incoming test fish catches (bright blue circles and line) started slowly, running under the forecast (smooth blue line), then accelerated rapidly after the mid-point of June 28 to overshoot the forecast for about a week before returning to match the forecast exactly in the end. For more information on the joint ADFG/NOAA/AOOS forecast, go to <http://www.aos.org/2013-yukon-chinook-forecasting/>

Chart 1. Forecast of the cumulative percent of the Chinook run in Y-1 (Yukon River delta) on each date from June 1 through July 15, 2013. Blue bars are forecasts of the 15%, 25% and 50% run percentiles derived from a daily model that coincides with the forecast dates. The bright blue line with solid circles shows 2013 cumulative CPUE converted to percentages.

