

Porcupine-Fishing Branch Fall Chum 2017 Outlook and Management

JTC Presentation to the Panel



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Whitehorse, YT

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Canadian-Origin Outlook – Fishing Branch

Fishing Branch River Fall Chum salmon comprise about 4% of the drainage-wide run

Outlook range 56,000 – 68,000 fish
(midpoint of 62,000)



Fall Chum Salmon Escapements Relative to Run Sizes over 1 Million

Year	Total Run	Fishing Branch	Mainstem	Drainagewide
1981	1,253,257	57,386	47,066	571,000
1983	1,047,216	27,200	90,875	522,200
1985	1,225,681	56,223	62,010	710,200
1987	1,140,043	49,038	80,776	733,900
1989	1,094,366	44,041	35,750	549,200
1991	1,044,896	37,870	78,461	605,800
1994	1,126,725	65,247	98,358	957,500
1995	1,608,180	51,971	158,092	1,147,000
1996	1,138,323	77,302	122,429	877,400
2005	2,171,418	119,058	437,733	1,881,000
2006	1,191,286	30,954	220,898	920,800
2007	1,133,467	32,150	236,987	927,800
2011	1,215,476	13,085	205,566	888,100
2012	1,076,989	22,399	137,662	680,400
2013	1,181,960	25,376	200,262	824,000
2016	1,383,532	29,396	145,267	828,800

KEY

Below Goal Range
Within or Exceeds Goal

- Based on current goals:
- FBR >22,000 (weir)
 - Mainstem Yukon >70,000
 - Estimates of Mainstem after 2006 are based on sonar.
 - Drainagewide >300,000

2016 Season Summary

- Subsistence salmon fishing was closed in the U.S. mainstem Porcupine River on August 31
- Opened to one 72-hour period per week on September 19
 - Based on favorable Porcupine sonar and Fishing Branch weir counts
- Opened to 24 hours per day, 7 days per week on September 30 based on Fishing Branch weir goal being met
- Fishing Branch fall chum escapement = 29,400 fish goal (22,000 – 49,000)

U.S. Porcupine Fall Chum Management

- Likely begin the fall season with some level of restrictions depending on preseason projection:
 - reduced fishing schedule
 - full closure

- Flexibility to adjust schedule as inseason information becomes available:
 - lower river assessment
 - Porcupine sonar
 - Fishing Branch weir

