

## **How Many Fish Does the U.S. Need to Get into Canada in 2010?**

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This year the Interim Management Escapement Goal (IMEG) has been developed as a range of 42,500 to 55,000 Chinook salmon. This goal was adopted by the Yukon River Panel. The IMEG is the number of fish that need to reach Canadian spawning grounds to help keep these runs healthy and sustainable into the future.

This goal means that after a 1,200 mile long journey upriver, between 42,500 and 55,000 king salmon need to pass the Eagle sonar and travel even farther to reach the Canadian spawning grounds and contribute to the next generation of kings. It's a 1-year goal because the Panel recognized that new information may come up in the future and this goal should be revisited as new data arise.

### **The IMEG isn't the whole story though...**

On the Alaskan side of the border, fishers rely on salmon to meet their needs. The same is true on the Canadian side of the border. To ensure that Canadian fishers get their fair share, the Yukon River Salmon Agreement mandates that in addition to the numbers of fish that need to make it to the spawning grounds, the U.S. has to provide additional fish passing the U.S.-Canada border for the agreed Canadian harvest share.

The Yukon River Salmon Agreement mandates that about 23 percent of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) must enter Canada. The TAC is calculated as the total Canadian-origin run size minus the number needed for the spawning grounds. In other words, it's the total number of fish that can be caught by U.S. and Canadian fishers while delivering the required number of fish to the spawning areas. If the 2010 run is near the lower end of the projected run size (77,800 to 113,100 Canadian-origin Chinook salmon), approximately 6,700 fish would also need to cross the U.S.-Canada border as the Canadian harvesters' share. The U.S. share of Canadian-origin fish would be approximately 22,400.

### **When we add this all together...**

The middle of the IMEG range (the number of king salmon that must reach the spawning grounds in Canada) is 48,750. It helps to shoot for the middle of the range because assessment projects are never perfect and this approach gives some room for error. Add the 6,700 king salmon for the Canadian fishers, and the target number of Chinook salmon that we need to get past the U.S.-Canada border is about 55,500.

For more details on the Yukon River Salmon Agreement, visit <http://yukonsalmon.org/whatwedo/YRSA.htm> or contact YRDFA toll free at 877-999-8566, extension 105.