



600 – 1155 ROBSON STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6E 1B5
TELEPHONE: (604) 684-8081
FAX: (604) 666-8707

No. 2

WEEKLY REPORT

July 21, 2023

The Fraser River Panel (Panel) met today to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye salmon.

Test fishing and stock identification information

For the season to date, test fishing catches have been relatively low and dominated by Early Stuart and Early Summer run. The majority of sockeye en route to the Fraser River are currently migrating through the Juan de Fuca Strait route rather than through Johnstone Strait. DNA analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 20 gillnet test fishery indicated Fraser River sockeye contributions of 6% Early Stuart and 94% Early Summer run.

Assessment results

The Early Stuart migration through the marine approach areas appears to be winding down, and 36,500 Early Stuart are estimated to have passed Mission through July 20. Early Stuart abundances are exceeding the p50 forecast level of 23,000 sockeye but fall below the p75 forecast level of 46,000. This would imply slightly above average productivity for Age-5 fish, which is the predominant age of returning Early Stuart fish this year. The resulting run size is still very low compared to other years on this cycle line and substantially below the run size needed to achieve the escapement target of 108,000 which would trigger consideration of directed fisheries.

The Early Summer run is currently dominated by Chilliwack and Nadina which are earlier stock components of this run. In-season run size assessments of the entire Early Summer-run management group should be available in late-July or early-August after their peak migration through marine areas has been observed. To date, 61,400 Early Summer-run sockeye have passed Mission.

Thus far, the marine migration timing of both the Early Stuart and the Chilliwack component seems much earlier than predicted preseason and one of the earliest timings on the cycle line for both stocks. While this may indicate early timing for some of the later timed stocks such as Chilko, this provides limited to no indication of migration timing for Late run stocks or Fraser River pink salmon.

Migration conditions in the Fraser River

The extreme high temperatures and low discharge is likely going to impact migration conditions for Fraser River sockeye. As of July 20, the temperature of the Fraser River at Hope was 19.0°C, which is 1.8°C higher than average for this date. The Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 2479 cms, which is 50% lower than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will decrease, and discharge is forecast to decrease to 2269 cms over the next 10 days. Despite the slight moderation in river temperature, the upstream migration of Early Stuart sockeye is expected to be negatively impacted by these migration conditions. At Big Bar, the discharge is also below average and current reports indicate good passage of salmon.

Regulatory Announcements & Resources

The Panel announced the following regulations for commercial salmon fisheries in Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remain closed to commercial salmon fishing.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remain closed to commercial salmon fishing.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on July 25. Weekly reports in this series will be provided by the Panel through the Commission every Friday during the in-season management period to inform those interested in the progress of the Fraser River sockeye salmon run. Weekly reports and regulatory announcements can be obtained via [Fraser Panel In-Season Information - Pacific Salmon Commission \(psc.org\)](http://psc.org) or by subscribing to our eNews [Pacific Salmon Commission \(list-manage.com\)](http://list-manage.com). Regulations and resources for fishing schedules, test fishing catch and DFO’s environmental watch program can be found in Table 1.

Table 1. Regulations & Resources

| Fishing Schedule Contacts/Resources | Phone Number/ Website Links |
|--|--|
| United States fishing schedules (Treaty Indian) | 1-800-562-6142 |
| United States fishing schedules (Non-Indian) | 1-800-662-9825 |
| Canadian commercial fishing regulations (from the lower B.C. mainland) | 604-666-2828 |
| Canadian commercial fishing regulations (from outside the lower B.C. mainland) | 1-866-431-3474 |
| PSC Daily Test Fishing Catch (recorded message) | 604-666-8200 Test Fishing Results - Pacific Salmon Commission (psc.org) |
| DFO’s Environmental Watch program | Fraser River environmental watch Pacific Region Fisheries and Oceans Canada (dfo-mpo.gc.ca) |

Note: For species other than sockeye salmon consult the appropriate regulatory agency regarding fisheries regulations in the Fraser River Panel Management Area.

Contacts

Canada: Adam Keizer, Chair, Fraser River Panel

United States: Jason Gobin, Vice-Chair, Fraser River Panel

2023 Run status of Fraser sockeye salmon

Date: Jul. 21, 2023

| Week of: Jul. 16 - Jul. 22, 2023 | Sockeye | | | | Total Fraser |
|---|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| | Management Group | | | | |
| | E.Stuart | E.Summer | Summer | Late | |
| Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) ¹ | 36,500 | 61,400 | 500 | 100 | 98,500 |
| Catch downstream of Mission | 100 | 1,100 | 0 | 0 | 1,200 |
| Accounted run-to-date | 36,600 | 62,500 | 500 | 100 | 99,700 |
| Run size adopted in-season ¹ | na | na | na | na | na |
| Run size forecasted pre-season | 23,000 | 186,000 | 1,167,000 | 188,000 | 1,564,000 |
| Area 20 timing adopted in-season | na | na | na | na | |
| Area 20 timing expected pre-season | 7-Jul | 6-Aug | 17-Aug | 24-Aug | |

¹ Run sizes are usually not adopted until after the peak of the run has passed through marine test fishery areas in Juan de Fuca and Johnstone straits.

2023 Catch-to-date by fishery

Date: Jul. 21, 2023

| Week of: Jul. 16 - Jul. 22, 2023 | | Sockeye | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|
| | | Total | Fraser |
| Canada | | 180 | 180 |
| | Commercial | 0 | 0 |
| | B Purse Seine | 0 | 0 |
| | D Gillnet | 0 | 0 |
| | E Gillnet | 0 | 0 |
| | F Troll | 0 | 0 |
| | G Troll | 0 | 0 |
| | H Troll | 0 | 0 |
| | First Nations | 0 | 0 |
| | Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC) | 0 | 0 |
| | Marine | 0 | 0 |
| | Fraser R. | 0 | 0 |
| | Economic Opportunity (EO) & Demonstration (Demo) | 0 | 0 |
| | Marine | 0 | 0 |
| | Fraser R. | 0 | 0 |
| | Recreational | 0 | 0 |
| | Marine | 0 | 0 |
| | Fraser R. | 0 | 0 |
| | Charter (Albion gillnet test fishery) | 99 | 99 |
| | Other** | 81 | 81 |
| United States | | 0 | 0 |
| | Commercial | 0 | 0 |
| | Treaty Tribes (TRB) | 0 | 0 |
| | All Citizen (AC) | 0 | 0 |
| | Treaty Tribes Ceremonial & Subsistence (C&S) | 0 | 0 |
| | Other** | 0 | 0 |
| | All Citizen Recreational | 0 | 0 |
| | Alaska * | na | na |
| Panel-approved Test Fisheries | | 1,450 | 1,267 |
| | Panel Waters | 1,185 | 1,074 |
| | Non-Panel Waters | 265 | 193 |
| Total | | 1,630 | 1,447 |

* Alaska catch is processed post-season and so is unavailable in-season.

** May include unauthorized directed retention or unauthorized bycatch retention in fisheries directed at other species