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No. 3

WEEKLY REPORT

July 28, 2023

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

Test fishing and stock identification information

Recent sockeye catches indicate a shift in migration route from Juan de Fuca Strait to Johnstone Strait – currently 61% northern diversion rate. DNA analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 12 purse seine test fishery indicated Fraser River sockeye contributions of 48% Early Summer, 50% Summer and 2% Late run. Pink salmon test fishing catches in marine areas have been dominated by non-Fraser pinks (e.g., only 7% Fraser pink salmon from a recent Area 12 sample).

Assessment results

Fraser River Sockeye Salmon

The Early Stuart migration through the marine approach areas appears to be winding down, and 39,900 Early Stuart sockeye are estimated to have passed Mission through July 27. The Panel adopted an in-season run size of 43,000, for Early Stuart sockeye, with an associated Area 20 run-timing of July 2. This is greater than the median (p50) forecasted run size of 23,000 and 5 days earlier than the pre-season forecasted timing. In addition, a proportional Management Adjustment of 1.70 was adopted for Early Stuart sockeye, indicating current environmental conditions of high temperature and record low water levels may negatively impact successful Early Stuart migration to the spawning grounds to a larger extent than average.

As of July 27, 129,900 Early Summer-run sockeye have passed Mission. The Early Summer run is currently dominated by Chilliwack and Nadina which are earlier stock components of this run. To date, very few Early South Thompson fish have been observed indicating this component of the Early Summer run may be much smaller than the forecast of 41,000 or later timed than currently anticipated. In-season run size estimates of the entire Early Summer-run management group should be available next week.

For Summer run sockeye, a very limited number of fish have been observed in the marine and in-river test fisheries. The Summer run escapement past Mission, as of July 27, is 12,100 sockeye.

Fraser River Pink Salmon

It is still very early in terms of pink salmon assessments and in-season pink salmon assessments are expected to be available in the latter half of August.

Migration conditions in the Fraser River

The extreme high temperatures and low discharge will likely impact migration conditions for Fraser River sockeye. As of July 27, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 2,447 cms, which is 47% lower than average for this date and below the historical minimum. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark was 19.6°C, which is 1.5°C higher than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will decrease, and discharge is forecast to decrease to 2,118 cms over the next 10 days. It is expected that the

continued high river temperature will negatively impact Early Stuart migration success.

At Big Bar, the discharge is also below average and current reports indicate good passage of salmon. No further reports are expected from Big Bar as the last day of sonar operations is Sunday, July 30.

Escapement Update

Visual surveys for the Early Stuart spawning escapement assessment program began July 23 and sockeye are reported to be vigorous and healthy with water levels in Middle River/Trembleur tributaries near normal levels but lower water levels have been observed in Takla tributaries. Carcass recoveries to date have been predatory kills. The Stellako River hydroacoustic site has been operational since July 26 and in season estimates will be available with the next update. The counting fence at Sweltzer Creek (Cultus Lake) has been fish tight since July 24 and the temperature is 24.0°C.

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 August 1. 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). Resources and contacts for fishing schedules, regulations, 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. 28, 2023

Week of: Jul. 23 - Jul. 29, 2023	Sockeye				Total Fraser
	Management Group				
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) ¹	39,900	129,900	12,100	300	182,200
Catch downstream of Mission	200	1,900	700	0	2,800
Accounted run-to-date	40,100	131,800	12,800	300	185,000
Run size adopted in-season ¹	43,000	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	2-Jul	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. 28, 2023

Week of: Jul. 23 - Jul. 29, 2023		Sockeye	
		Total	Fraser
Canada		262	262
	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)	110	110
	Other**	152	152
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		3,175	2,841
	Panel Waters	2,210	2,004
	Non-Panel Waters	965	837
Total		3,437	3,103

* 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