



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

No. 2

WEEKLY REPORT

July 21, 2017

The Fraser River Panel (Panel) met today to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye salmon. The migration of sockeye through both marine and Fraser River assessment areas has been low to date. Sockeye catches in both areas have also been at levels less than observed on past cycle years at this time of year.

Run Status

DNA analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 20 gillnet test fishery, where most of the migration is occurring, indicated Fraser sockeye contributions of approximately 21% Early Stuart, 53% Early Summer-run, and 26% Summer-run sockeye (mostly Harrison and Late Stuart). The currently available data is consistent with an Early Stuart return at the lower end of the pre-season forecast range (one in two chance that the return will be between 42,000 and 64,000).

The estimated diversion rate of sockeye salmon through Johnstone strait has remained relatively low at 16% based on recent gill net test fishery catches in the two approach areas. The Panel agreed to begin the purse seine test fishery in Areas 12 and 20 next Monday, July 24, and Tuesday, July 25, respectively, as a measure to verify the low abundances seen in the marine area gill net test fisheries.

Management Groups

The Early Stuart migration through the marine approach areas is winding down. No changes were made to the Early Stuart run size estimate of 50,000 with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of July 03. The estimated escapement of Early Stuart run sockeye past Mission through July 20 is 40,000 fish.

Most components of the Early Summer-run group are represented in samples from marine test fisheries. The Early Summer-run group is tracking below the p25 forecast of 166,000; however, it is too early to make a formal run size change at this time. Due to the low daily abundance levels estimated for the Early Summer-run group, there are currently no sockeye directed fisheries being planned by either country. If this pattern continues, the Panel will likely adopt a run size for the Early Summer-run group at its next meeting on Tuesday, July 25, which would eliminate any total allowable catch (TAC) for the Early Summer-run group. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through July 20 is 15,500 fish.

Environmental Update

On July 20, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 3,784cms, which is approximately 24% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark on July 20 was 17.3°C, which is 0.4°C higher than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will increase but remain near average levels for the time of year, while discharge is forecast to decrease to about 3,367cms over the next 10 days.

Escapement Update

DFO has released their pre-season plan for spawning ground assessments (see <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/fraser/docs/Escapement/sockeye-rouge-eng.html>). Brief summaries of DFO's in-season reports on spawning ground arrivals will be provided in this section beginning August 03.

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 <http://www.psc.org/publications/fraser-panel-in-season-information> or by subscribing to our eNews <http://tinyurl.com/PSCeNews>. 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 http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing.htm .
DFO's Environmental Watch program	http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw-rfo/index-eng.html

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

Contacts

Canada: Jennifer Nener, Chair, Fraser River Panel

United States: Lorraine Loomis, Vice-chair, Fraser River Panel