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No. 7

WEEKLY REPORT

August 25, 2017

The Fraser River Panel (Panel) met today to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon. Test fishing catches continue to indicate that the abundances of sockeye salmon remain less than expected for the time of year relative to pre-season expectations of abundance and arrival timing. Levels of sockeye salmon escapement past lower river assessment areas are also tracking less than pre-season expectations. Pink salmon catches in the marine area purse seine test fishery located in Juan de Fuca Strait have decreased since their peak on August 15th and current estimates suggest that less than half of the migration is occurring via Johnstone Strait.

Run Status

DNA analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 20 purse seine test fishery indicated Fraser sockeye contributions of approximately 1% Early Summer-run, 53% Summer-run, and 46% Late-run sockeye. Analyses of recent DNA samples collected from the Area 12 test fishery indicate that 51% of the pink salmon encountered are of Fraser River origin, 15% are from Puget Sound, and 34% are from South Coast stocks.

The estimated diversion rates of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon through Johnstone Strait have decreased slightly since last week to 72% and 37%, respectively, based on recent purse seine test fishery catches in the two approach areas.

Management Groups

Fraser River Sockeye Salmon

The Early Summer run is near completion. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 24 is 153,500 fish.

At the meeting today, the Panel adopted a decrease to the Summer-run run size from 1,250,000 to 1,000,000 with an updated 50% marine timing of August 11. Small changes to future estimates are possible as the migration through assessment areas is not yet complete. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 24 is 848,100 fish.

Daily abundances of Late run sockeye continue to track below median forecast levels. The adopted run size of 247,000 was unchanged. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through August 24 is 66,200 fish.

At the run sizes listed above, there continues to be no total allowable catch for Fraser River sockeye.

Fraser River Pink Salmon

Current Fraser River pink salmon abundance data are insufficient to generate a credible in-season estimate of the total return at this time. If the peak migration timing through Juan de Fuca Strait is August 28 as per the pre-season plan, the earliest in-season update of run size would not be expected until later next week. The estimated escapement of pink salmon past Mission through August 24 is 317,200 fish.

Based on very low sockeye encounter rates along the Juan de Fuca migration route, fisheries directed at Fraser River pink salmon began in U.S. Fraser River Panel waters this week. As announced, Treaty Indian fisheries were opened with sockeye retention for ceremonial and subsistence purposes only. All Citizen reef-net fisheries were also opened with non-retention of sockeye. The potential incidental mortality of sockeye encountered in the conduct

of fisheries directed at Fraser River pink salmon will continue to be a factor in the Panel's decision-making process regarding future proposed fisheries, and impacts on Fraser River sockeye will be limited to low abundance exploitation rates (LAER) specified in Canada's spawning escapement plan.

Environmental Update

On August 24, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 2,088cms, which is approximately 26% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark on August 24 was 18.6°C, which is 1.0°C higher than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will decrease but remain at above average values for the time of year, while discharge is forecast to decrease to 1,821cms by the end of the 10 day forecast period.

Escapement Update

A number of spawning escapement assessment programs are underway throughout the Fraser watershed. The following summarizes DFO's fourth weekly report. Final surveys which included live counts, dead recovery and water temperatures were conducted on the Early Stuart run on August 22. Visual surveys continue in the North and South Thompson and all sockeye observed in the Upper Barriere River are reported to be holding. A total of 118 sockeye have passed through the fence at Scotch Creek. Sockeye in the Upper Chilliwack River appear to be nearing the end of peak of spawn. The Gates Creek spawning channel which has been operational since August 14 has no sockeye in the channel to date but sockeye have been observed in the creek. The Nadina River spawning channel has been operational since August 23 and 181 sockeye have been counted into the channel to date. A total of 20,137 Chilko sockeye and 5,629 Quesnel sockeye have passed their respective sonar sites as of August 22. All sockeye observed in the Raft River are reported to be holding. Visual surveys of the Harrison-Lillooet population began August 21. Sockeye in Big Silver Creek are reported to be holding. At Sweltzer Creek (Cultus), a total of 48 sockeye have passed through the fence. Sockeye reports from all assessment areas state that the salmon appear vigorous and healthy.

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:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: As previously announced, open to drift gillnets 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 23, 2017, through 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 26, 2017. Sockeye may be retained for ceremonial and subsistence purposes only.

Area 7: As previously announced, open to reef nets 5:00 am – 9 pm, Saturday, August 26, 2017. Sockeye may be retained for ceremonial and subsistence purposes only.

Areas 6/7/7A: As previously announced, open to purse seines and gillnets from 5:00 am, Friday, August 25, 2017 to 9 am, Saturday, August 26. Sockeye may be retained for ceremonial and subsistence purposes only.

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:

Areas 7: As previously announced, open to reef nets with non-retention of sockeye, 5:00 am – 9pm, Friday, August 25, 2017, and 5:00 am – 9pm, Saturday, August 26, 2017.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on August 28. 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

2017 Run status of Fraser sockeye

Date: Aug. 25, 2017

Week of: Aug. 20 - Aug. 26, 2017	Sockeye				Pink	
	Management Group				Total Fraser	Total Fraser
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late		
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam)	46,400	153,500	848,100	66,200	1,114,200	317,200
Catch downstream of Mission	200	1,900	15,000	3,500	20,600	26,300
Accounted run-to-date	46,600	155,400	863,100	69,700	1,134,800	343,500
Run size adopted in-season¹	46,000	150,000	1,000,000	247,000	1,443,000	na
Run size forecasted pre-season	99,000	343,000	3,407,000	583,000	4,432,000	8,693,000
Area 20 timing adopted in-season	4/Jul	2/Aug	11/Aug	18/Aug		na
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	1/Jul	20/Jul	6/Aug	14/Aug		28/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.

2017 Catch-to-date by fishery

Date: Aug. 25, 2017

Week of: Aug. 20 - Aug. 26, 2017		Sockeye		Pink	
		Total	Fraser	Total	Fraser
Canada		39,430	39,340	23,720	14,420
Commercial		0	0	0	0
	B Purse Seine	0	0	0	0
	D Gillnet	0	0	0	0
	E Gillnet	0	0	0	0
	F Troll	0	0	0	0
	G Troll	0	0	0	0
	H Troll	0	0	0	0
First Nations		39,360	39,270	23,680	14,390
	Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	39,360	39,270	23,680	14,390
	Marine	9,000	8,900	23,320	14,030
	Fraser R.	30,340	30,340	360	400
	Economic Opportunity (EO) & Demonstration (Demo)	0	0	0	0
	Marine	0	0	0	0
	Fraser R.	0	0	0	0
Recreational		0	0	0	0
	Marine	0	0	0	0
	Fraser R. *	0	0	0	0
Charter (Albion gillnet test fishery)		70	70	0	0
United States		0	0	0	0
Commercial		0	0	0	0
	Treaty Indian (TI)	0	0	0	0
	All Citizen (AC)	0	0	0	0
Treaty Indian Ceremonial & Subsistence (C&S)		0	0	0	0
All Citizen Recreational		0	0	0	0
Alaska *		na	na	na	na
Panel-approved Test Fisheries		12,000	11,590	31,630	12,270
	Panel Waters	6,570	6,260	17,730	8,990
	Non-Panel Waters	5,430	5,330	13,900	3,280
Total		51,430	50,930	55,350	26,690

* Recent LFA Recreational catches may be projected based on a scalar applied to Mission Escapement.

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