



# PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY TREATY BETWEEN CANADA  
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
MARCH 18, 1985

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No. 5

WEEKLY REPORT

August 12, 2016

The Fraser River Panel met today to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye salmon. Test fishing catches continue to indicate that the abundances of sockeye remain less than expected for the time of year relative to pre-season expectations of abundance and arrival timing.

## Run Status

DNA analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 20 seine test fishery indicated Fraser sockeye contributions of approximately 0% Early Stuart, 5% Early Summer-run, 50% Summer-run which mostly consists of Chilko fish and 46% Late-run sockeye.

The estimated diversion rate of sockeye salmon through Johnstone strait has increased to 71% based on recent seine test fishery catches in the two approach areas which is not unexpected for this time of year.

## Management Groups

The Early Stuart migration through the marine approach is complete. The estimated escapement of Early Stuart run sockeye past Mission through August 11 is 17,900 fish.

At Tuesday's meeting, the Fraser River Panel adopted an in-season estimate of 250,000 Early Summer-run, which is between the p25(217,000 fish) and p50(447,000 fish) level forecast. The estimated median timing thru marine areas is July 21. The estimated escapement of Early Summer run sockeye past Mission through August 11 is 216,000 fish.

Age proportions of age 4 Summer run sockeye in marine and in-river continue to be quite low which is consistent with a low run-size. The Panel further reduced the run-size estimate at Tuesday's meeting to 700,000. At today's meeting the Panel adopted a further reduced run size estimate of 600,000 which is slightly less than the p10(640,000) level forecast. The estimated median timing thru marine areas is July 31. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 11 is 295,900 fish.

To date, 31,400 Late-run sockeye have been estimated to have migrated through marine assessment areas. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through August 11 is 20,600 fish.

## Environmental Update

On August 11, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 3,002 cms, which is approximately 17% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark on August 11 was 20.2°C, which is 2.1°C higher than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will increase to levels near daily historic maximums for the time of year, while discharge is forecast to decrease to below 2,830 cms by the end of the 10 days forecast period. Observations of fish condition suggest that river conditions are not having a significant impact on sockeye migration in most areas of the watershed at this time, but water temperatures are predicted to increase and this may impact the condition of fish observed in the coming days. At Tuesday's meeting, the Panel was

apprised that in-season river conditions confirmed the difference between estimates for Early Summer-run sockeye expected and adopted pre-season. In addition, as specified by Canada's escapement plan, the low return estimate for the Summer-run management group triggered the implementation of a low abundance exploitation rate limit of 10%. Thus despite the forecast change in environmental conditions, the Panel did not change the management adjustment factors for either the Early Summer or Summer-run management groups since there are no management implications. Management adjustments are additional fish that are removed from identified allowable harvest levels and instead allowed to escape upstream to help achieve spawning escapement targets for Fraser River sockeye.

### **Escapement Update**

A number of spawning escapement assessment programs have begun. The following summarizes DFO's third weekly report. Early Stuart sockeye are approaching peak of spawn in several creeks as migration into the system continues. Sockeye are reported to be in good condition, but there has been some evidence of pre-spawn mortality. The counting fence at Scotch Creek has been in place since August 9; however, no sockeye have passed through the fence to date. Steady migration of Chilliwack sockeye continues into the river and the observed fish are reported to be in the early stages of spawning and in good condition. The Chilko River hydroacoustic site has been operational since August 5. Sockeye are in the early stages of migration and a total of 107 sockeye have been estimated past the sonar site through August 9. The counting fence at Sweltzer Creek has now seen 52 sockeye through August 10. Water levels are lower than average and are continuing to drop at this site. The water temperature is 20°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 16. 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/news\\_frpnews.htm](http://www.psc.org/news_frpnews.htm) 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 <a href="http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing.htm">http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing.htm</a> .
DFO's Environmental Watch program	<a href="http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw-rfo/index-eng.html">http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw-rfo/index-eng.html</a>

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

**Contacts**

United States: Kirt Hughes, Chair, Fraser River Panel

Canada: Jennifer Nener, Vice-chair, Fraser River Panel

**2016 Run status of Fraser sockeye**

Date: Aug. 12, 2016

Week of: Aug. 7 - Aug. 13, 2016	Sockeye				Total Fraser
	Management Group				
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam)	17,900	216,000	295,900	20,600	550,400
Catch downstream of Mission	100	11,400	48,400	5,300	65,200
Accounted run-to-date	18,000	227,400	344,300	25,900	615,600
<b>Run size adopted in-season<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>
Run size forecasted pre-season	36,000	447,000	1,677,000	111,000	2,271,000
<b>Area 20 timing adopted in-season</b>	<b>3/Jul</b>	<b>21/Jul</b>	<b>31/Jul</b>	<b>na</b>	
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	3/Jul	21/Jul	6/Aug	14/Aug	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

## 2016 Catch-to-date by fishery

Date: Jul. 29, 2016

Week of: Jul. 24 - Jul. 30, 2016		Sockeye	
		Total	Fraser
<b>Canada</b>		<b>3,700</b>	<b>3,700</b>
<b>Commercial</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	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
<b>First Nations</b>		<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,400</b>
	Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	3,400	3,400
	Marine	700	700
	Fraser R.	2,800	2,800
	Economic Opportunity (EO) & Demonstration (Demo)	0	0
	Marine	0	0
	Fraser R.	0	0
<b>Recreational</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>
	Marine	200	200
	Fraser R. *	0	0
<b>Charter (Albion gillnet test fishery)</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>United States</b>		<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,700</b>
<b>Commercial</b>		<b>1,000</b>	<b>900</b>
	Treaty Indian (TI)	1,000	900
	All Citizen (AC)	0	0
<b>Treaty Indian Ceremonial &amp; Subsistence (C&amp;S)</b>		<b>900</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>All Citizen Recreational</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Alaska *</b>		<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>
<b>Panel-approved Test Fisheries</b>		<b>5,000</b>	<b>4,600</b>
<b>Panel Waters</b>		<b>3,700</b>	<b>3,400</b>
<b>Non-Panel Waters</b>		<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,200</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>10,600</b>	<b>9,900</b>

\* 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.