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No. 4

WEEKLY REPORT

August 4, 2017

The Fraser River 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 tracking at levels consistent with the lower range of the pre-season forecast abundance distribution unless marine arrival timing is significantly later than expected. Sockeye catches in both areas have been 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 purse seine test fishery indicated Fraser sockeye contributions of approximately 14% Early Summer-run, 77% Summer-run, which mostly consists of Late Stuart/Stellako and Chilko fish, and 8% Late-run sockeye.

The estimated diversion rate of sockeye salmon through Johnstone Strait has increased to 58% based on recent purse seine and gill net test fishery catches in the two approach areas.

Management Groups

The Early Stuart migration through the marine approach is almost complete. The estimated escapement of Early Stuart run sockeye past Mission through August 3 is 45,300 fish.

The Early Summer-run run size remained unchanged at the p25 forecast (166,000). As a result, there is no International total allowable catch (TAC) for this management group. The Pitt run-size component has added some uncertainty to the in-season Early Summer-run run size as the timing for Pitt appears to be much later than the historical timing (with the exception of 2005). At this time the Early Summer run is currently tracking somewhere between the p10 forecast (95,000) and the p25 forecast (166,000). The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 3 is 52,900 fish.

Summer-run sockeye are now the dominant management group in marine area samples. Daily abundance levels are tracking at levels well below the pre-season p50 forecast (3,407,000) and much closer to the p10 forecast level (1,065,000). Summer-run sockeye run-size estimates should be available in mid-August, after their expected peak migration through marine areas. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 3 is 69,100 fish.

To date, only 7,000 Late-run sockeye have been estimated to have migrated through marine assessment areas. The current data are insufficient to generate credible in-season estimates of run-size for the Late-run aggregate. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through August 3 is 400 fish.

Environmental Update

On August 3, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 2,870cms, which is approximately 31% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark on August 3 was 18.6°C, which is 0.6°C higher than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will increase to above average values for the time of year, while discharge is forecast to decrease to below 2,574cms by the end of the 10 days forecast period. Extreme air temperatures and extremely low river discharge are forecast which has resulted in extreme river temperature forecasts (20.0°C), but recent forecasts of high river temperature have not materialized likely due to the smoke cover throughout the province from wildfires.

Escapement Update

DFO reports that the Early Stuart spawning escapement assessment program has begun. The first sockeye was observed in the terminal area on July 28 and cyclic surveys began July 26. Sockeye have been observed in several creeks that are part of the Early Stuart aggregate. The counting fence at Sweltzer Creek has been operational since July 31 and the first sockeye was observed downstream of the fence on August 1.

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 8. 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. 4, 2017

Week of: Jul. 30 - Aug. 5, 2017	Sockeye				Total Fraser	Pink
	Management Group					Total Fraser
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late		
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam)	45,300	52,900	69,100	400	167,700	0
Catch downstream of Mission	200	800	2,400	100	3,500	2,500
Accounted run-to-date	45,500	53,700	71,500	500	171,200	2,500
Run size adopted in-season¹	50,000	166,000	na	na	na	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	3/Jul	na	na	na		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. 4, 2017

Week of: Jul. 30 - Aug. 5, 2017		Sockeye		Pink	
		Total	Fraser	Total	Fraser
Canada		1,670	1,670	30	0
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		1,670	1,670	30	0
	Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	1,670	1,670	30	0
	Marine	0	0	30	0
	Fraser R.	1,670	1,670	0	0
	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)		0	0	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		4,090	3,750	8,590	2,540
	Panel Waters	2,510	2,230	2,500	420
	Non-Panel Waters	1,590	1,510	6,090	2,120
Total		5,770	5,420	8,620	2,540

* 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.