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No. 2

WEEKLY REPORT

July 20, 2018

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 modest to date. Catches of sockeye in test fisheries in both areas have been similar to those observed on past cycle years at this time of year. The observer at Hells Gate has reported steady sockeye migration over the past week.

Run Status

DNA analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 20 gillnet test fishery indicated Fraser sockeye contributions of approximately 14% Early Stuart, 67% Early Summer-run (mostly Nadina and Early South Thompson), 9% Summer-run and 9% Late-run sockeye. The currently available data is consistent with an Early Stuart return above the median pre-season forecast (84,000 fish; one in two chance that the return will be between 54,000 and 133,000).

The estimated diversion rate, which is based on recent gill net test fishery catches in the two approach areas, of sockeye salmon through Johnstone Strait is 50%. This is similar to previous years on this cycle line.

Management Groups

The Early Stuart migration through the marine approach areas is winding down. At Tuesday's meeting, the Fraser River Panel adopted an increase to the Early Stuart run size to 106,000, with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of July 3, and at today's meeting the Panel adopted a further increase in run size to 120,000 with July 3 timing. Despite this increase in abundance there is still no International total allowable catch (TAC) for this management group and management actions continue to be based on a low abundance exploitation rate (LAER) of 10%. The estimated escapement of Early Stuart run sockeye past Mission through July 19 is 106,300 fish.

Most components of the Early Summer-run group are represented in samples from marine test fisheries. Currently, the most abundant stocks are Nadina and Early South Thompson sockeye. Early Summer-run sockeye run-size estimates should be available in mid-August after their peak migration through marine areas. The estimated escapement of Early Summer run sockeye past Mission through July 19 is 61,900 fish.

Environmental Update

On July 19, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 3,902 cms, which is approximately 23% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark on July 19 was 19.0°C, which is 2.2°C higher than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will decrease but remain above average levels, while discharge is forecast to decrease to about 3,535 cms over the next 10 days.

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 24. 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

United States: Kirt Hughes, Chair, Fraser River Panel

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