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No. 4

WEEKLY REPORT

August 3, 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 increased over the past week. Catches of sockeye have been similar to those observed on past cycle years at this time of year with the exception of Cottonwood which is higher than average for this time of year and Area 13 which has been lower than average for this time of year. The observer at Hells Gate has reported very good sockeye migration over the past week.

Run Status

DNA analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 20 purse seine test fishery indicated Fraser sockeye contributions of approximately 2% Early Stuart, 30% Early Summer-run, 43% Summer-run (mostly Chilko and Quesnel sockeye) and 25% Late-run sockeye.

The estimated diversion rate, which is based on recent gillnet and purse seine test fishery catches in the two approach areas, of sockeye salmon through Johnstone Strait is 37%.

Management Groups

The Early Stuart migration through the marine approach areas is nearing completion. The estimated escapement of Early Stuart run sockeye past Mission through August 2 is 121,200 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. Assessments of Early Summer run are ongoing, but data collected to date are consistent with the median pre-season forecast (2,155,000). 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 August 2 is 433,700 fish.

Most components of the Summer-run group are represented in samples from marine test fisheries. Currently, the most abundant stocks are Chilko and Quesnel sockeye. Assessments for the Summer-run group are ongoing. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 2 is 321,000.

Assessments of the Late-run sockeye abundance are beginning. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through August 2 is 25,600.

Environmental Update

On August 2, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 3,252 cms, which is approximately 2.2% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark on August 2 was 20.7°C, which is 2.7°C higher than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will decrease to 19.5 °C by August 8, while discharge is forecast to decrease to about 3,001 cms over

the next 10 days. Sustained water temperatures in this range can cause severe stress to migrating sockeye and may lead to significant en-route mortality. Prior to the season, the Fraser River Panel increased the lower river escapement target for the Early Summer-run aggregate (which are the dominant group migrating up the Fraser River at this time) by more than 20% to compensate for pre-season expectations of en-route loss. Migration conditions for Fraser sockeye will be monitored closely over the next several weeks and if appropriate, additional management actions will be taken.

Escapement Update

DFO reports that the Early Stuart spawning escapement assessment program has begun. Cyclic visual surveys began July 23, and sockeye appear to be in good condition. 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 two sockeye were counted through the fence as of August 1. The water temperature in Sweltzer Creek is very warm at 26.0°C.

Regulatory Announcements & Resources

The Panel announced the following regulations for commercial salmon fisheries in Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 18-1, 18-4, and 18-11 and Area 29-1 to 6: Open to Area H troll ITQ fishery from 12:01 a.m. Monday August 6, 2018 until further notice (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details)

Area 29: Portions of 29-3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 to 17: Open to Area E gillnets from 7:00 a.m., Wednesday August 8 to 7:00 a.m., Thursday August 9, 2018 (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details)

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Treaty Indian Fishery:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: As previously announced, extended for drift gillnets 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 01, 2018, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 04, 2018

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 04, 2018, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 08, 2018

Areas 6, 7, 7A: As previously announced, open for net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Thursday August 2, 2018 to 9:00 a.m. Friday August 3, 2018 and from 5:00 a.m. Saturday August 4, 2018 through 9:00 a.m. Sunday August 5, 2018

Areas 6, 7, 7A: Open for net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Tuesday August 7, 2018 to 9:00 a.m. Thursday August 9, 2018

All Citizen Fishery:

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to purse seines from 5:00 a.m., to 9:00 p.m., Friday August 3, 2018

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday, August 6, 2018

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to drift gillnets from 8:00 a.m., to 11:59 p.m., Friday August 3, 2018

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to drift gillnets from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Monday, August 6, 2018

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to reefnets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday August 6, 2018

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 8, 2018

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on August 7. 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