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No. 6 **WEEKLY REPORT** **August 17, 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 continues to increase. Marine area test fishing catches continue to indicate that high fractions of Fraser sockeye are migrating via the Juan de Fuca route. 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 11% Early Summer-run, 47% Summer-run (mostly Chilko and Quesnel sockeye) and 42% 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 29%.

Management Groups

Data collected to date indicate that the Early Summer-run run size is near the median (p50) forecast of 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 16 is 852,500 fish.

Assessments for the Summer-run group are ongoing, and data collected to date indicate that the Summer-run run size is near the p50 forecast of 4,344,000. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 16 is 1,156,200.

Late-run sockeye abundances are increasing in marine areas and some Late-run sockeye have migrated past Mission. Assessments of the Late-run sockeye abundance are beginning with an estimated 283,000 currently holding in the Strait of Georgia. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through August 16 is 171,700.

Environmental Update

On August 16, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 2,731cms, which is approximately 17% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark on August 16 was 19.2°C, which is 1.2°C above average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will increase to 19.5°C by August 22, while discharge is forecast to decrease to about 2,489cms 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. If the current pattern river temperatures continues, an increased fraction of the run may be required to compensate for in-

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. To date fish condition throughout the Fraser river has been good.

Escapement Update

DFO reports that the Early Stuart cyclic visual surveys began July 23, and most sockeye appear to be past peak of spawn. Sockeye appear to be in good condition; however, pre-spawn mortality levels have increased.

For the Early Summer run, a fence at Scotch Creek has been operational since August 9, and 611 sockeye have passed through the fence to date and the Eagle River sonar site estimates 2,006 sockeye past the site through August 15. Visual surveys started August 15 in the South Thompson. Visual surveys have also been occurring on the Lower Fraser since August 7. Sockeye are continuing to hold in the Upper Chilliwack River. Due to wildfire activity, the Nadina River Channel is not operational, but the water in the channel has been turned on allowing the sockeye to enter the channel passively without a counting fence. A hydroacoustic site has been operational on the Stellako River since August 1 and 74,479 sockeye have been estimated as of August 15. Most of these fish are likely Nadina River bound.

For the Summer run, sonar systems have been operational on the Chilko and Quesnel Rivers since August 3 and August 7, respectively, with the system at Chilko estimating 5,188 sockeye and that at Quesnel estimating 51,648 sockeye as of August 14.

For the Late run, the counting fence at Sweltzer Creek has been operational since July 31 and eleven sockeye were counted through the fence as of August 15. 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 following meetings this week:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 18-1, 18-4, and 18-11 and Area 29-1 to 6: As previously announced, 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 10:00 a.m. to 18:00 p.m. Tuesday August 21, 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: Extended for drift gillnets 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 18, 2018, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 22, 2018

All Citizen Fishery:

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to purse seines from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, August 17, 2018

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to drift gillnets from 2:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Friday, August 17, 2018

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to reefnets from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, August 18, 2018

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on August 21. 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

2018 Run status of Fraser sockeye

Date: Aug. 17, 2018

Week of: Aug. 12 - Aug. 18, 2018	Sockeye				
	Management Group				Total
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	Fraser
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam)	121,400	852,500	1,156,200	171,700	2,301,800
Catch downstream of Mission	1,800	556,500	1,293,900	627,500	2,479,700
Accounted run-to-date	123,200	1,409,000	2,450,100	799,200	4,781,500
Run size adopted in-season [1]	**125,000**	**na**	**na**	**na**	**na**
Run size forecasted pre-season	84,000	2,155,000	4,344,000	7,398,000	13,981,000
Area 20 timing adopted in-season	**4/Jul**	**na**	**na**	**na**	
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	2/Jul	8/Aug	11/Aug	17/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.

2018 Catch-to-date by fishery

Date: Aug. 17, 2018

Week of: Aug. 12 - Aug. 18, 2018	Sockeye	
	Total	**Fraser**
Canada	**1,829,500**	**1,821,090**
Commercial	**1,399,600**	**1,393,900**
B Purse Seine	730,800	728,300
D Gillnet	187,900	184,800
E Gillnet	444,900	444,900
F Troll	0	0
G Troll	0	0
H Troll	36,000	36,000
First Nations	**429,230**	**426,460**
Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	345,640	342,980
Marine	135,400	132,700
Fraser R.	210,260	210,260
Economic Opportunity (EO) & Demonstration (Demo)	83,600	83,500
Marine	17,700	17,600
Fraser R.	65,900	65,900
Recreational	**0**	**0**
Marine	0	0
Fraser R. *	0	0
Charter (Albion gillnet test fishery)	**680**	**680**
United States	**728,100**	**724,900**
Commercial	**718,700**	**715,600**
Treaty Indian (TI)	455,600	453,600
All Citizen (AC)	263,100	262,000
Treaty Indian Ceremonial & Subsistence (C&S)	**9,400**	**9,400**
All Citizen Recreational	**0**	**0**
Alaska *	**na**	**na**
Panel-approved Test Fisheries	**94,770**	**93,710**
Panel Waters	**56,720**	**56,300**
Non-Panel Waters	**38,050**	**37,410**
Total	**2,652,330**	**2,639,720**

** 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.*