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No. 2

WEEKLY REPORT

July 17, 2020

The Fraser River Panel (Panel) met today to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye salmon. Discharge at Big Bar continues to be high and within the range of historical maxima; however, discharge is declining and is forecast to decrease further. For Early Stuart, the earliest Fraser River stock, we would expect peak migration past the rockslide around July 20. The current high discharge and debris within the Fraser River does seem to have slowed down the upstream migration and at this time no Fraser sockeye have been observed within the slide area. At this point, there is no information regarding the expected success of Early Stuart sockeye migration past the Big Bar landslide but the high discharge levels, both within the slide area as well as in the rest of the Fraser River watershed, are expected to negatively impact the survival of Early Stuart.

Run Status

For the season to date, test fishing catches have been very low and dominated by Early Stuart and Early Summer run. DNA analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 20 gillnet test fishery, where most of the migration is occurring, indicated Fraser River sockeye contributions of approximately 7% Early Stuart, 78% Early Summer and 15% Summer run. In-season run size assessments of Early Summer-run sockeye should be available in late-July or early-August after their peak migration through marine areas has been observed.

Management Groups

The Early Stuart migration through the marine approach areas is winding down. The estimated escapement of Early Stuart sockeye past Mission through July 16 is 8,500 fish. While the run size for Early Stuart is still uncertain given the limited catch samples on which the run size estimate is based, the run size is not expected to exceed 20,000 sockeye, which is a very low run size compared to other years on this cycle line.

Environmental Update

On July 16, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 8,072 cms, which is approximately 51% greater than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark on July 16 was 14.8°C, which is 1.7°C lower than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will increase, while discharge is forecast to decrease to about 7,297 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 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
Province of B.C.: Big Bar Landslide Incident	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/fish/fish-passage/big-bar-landslide-incident?keyword=big&keyword=bar&keyword=landslide
DFO: Salmon counts at the Big Bar landslide site	https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pacific-smon-pacifique/big-bar-landslide-eboulement/smon-count-denombrement-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