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No. 2

WEEKLY REPORT

July 16, 2021

The Fraser River Panel (Panel) met today to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye salmon.

Test fishing and stock identification information

For the season to date, test fishing catches have been 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 75% Early Stuart, 18% Early Summer and 7% Summer run. The majority of sockeye en route to the Fraser River are currently migrating through the Juan de Fuca Strait route rather than through Johnstone Strait.

Assessment results

The Early Stuart migration through the marine approach areas appears to be winding down. Early Stuart sockeye estimated to have passed Mission through July 15 is 42,100 fish. The Early Stuart run size is expected to exceed the p50 forecast level of 18,000 sockeye and could reach or exceed the p90 forecast level (47,000). This would imply close to average productivity, instead of the very low productivity Early Stuart and other Fraser sockeye stocks have experienced in recent years. The resulting run size is still very low compared to other years on this cycle line and substantially below the run size needed to achieve the escapement target of 108,000 which would trigger consideration of directed fisheries.

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. To date, 2,700 Early Summer sockeye have passed Mission.

Migration conditions in the Fraser River

The extreme heat wave that affected much of western North America, is likely going to impact migration conditions for Fraser River sockeye. On July 15, the temperature of the Fraser River at Hope on July 15 was 19.0°C, which is 2.2°C higher than average for this date. The Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 4,796 cms, which is 11% lower than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will decrease, and discharge is forecast to decrease to 4,153 cms over the next 10 days. The upstream migration of Early Stuart sockeye is expected to be negatively impacted by these migration conditions.

At Big Bar, the discharge is near average. Sockeye stocks with spawning grounds in the watershed upstream of the rockslide need about 10 days to migrate from the Lower Fraser River to the rockslide location. Based on pre-season timing forecasts for Early Stuart, the earliest of these stocks, we would expect peak migration passing the rockslide around July 21. Two radio tagged sockeye passed the slide on July 14. Also, sonar images upstream of the slide indicate shorter length sonar targets, another indication that sockeye are passing through the slide area.

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 20. 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 https://www.psc.org/publications/fraser-panel-in-season-information/test-fishing-results/
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

Canada: Jennifer Nener, Chair, Fraser River Panel
United States: Lorraine Loomis, Vice-Chair, Fraser River Panel

2021 Run status of Fraser sockeye salmon

Date: Jul. 16, 2021

Week of: Jul. 11 - Jul. 17, 2021	Sockeye				Pink	
	Management Group				Total Fraser	Total Fraser
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late		
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) ¹	42,100	2,700	0	0	44,800	0
Catch downstream of Mission	300	100	0	0	400	0
Accounted run-to-date	42,400	2,800	0	0	45,200	0
Run size adopted in-season ¹	na	na	na	na	na	na
Run size forecasted pre-season	18,000	108,000	1,046,000	159,000	1,331,000	3,009,000
Area 20 timing adopted in-season	na	na	na	na		na
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	5-Jul	24-Jul	5-Aug	13-Aug		25-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.

2021 Catch-to-date by fishery

Date: Jul. 16, 2021

Week of: Jul. 11 - Jul. 17, 2021		Sockeye		Pink	
		Total	Fraser	Total	Fraser
Canada		2	2	0	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		0	0	0	0
	Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	0	0	0	0
	Marine	0	0	0	0
	Fraser R.	0	0	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)		2	2	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		772	621	0	0
Panel Waters		502	429	0	0
Non-Panel Waters		270	192	0	0
Total		774	623	0	0

* Alaska catch is processed post-season and so is unavailable in-season.