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No. 10

WEEKLY REPORT

September 10, 2021

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

Test fishing and stock identification information

Most of the escapement estimates produced by the Mission hydroacoustics program currently consists of pink salmon. Levels of sockeye salmon passage through lower river assessment areas have declined this past week. Summer-run and Late-run sockeye equally comprise the majority of sockeye observed in in-river test fisheries. The abundance of pink salmon entering the river has increased substantially.

Assessment results

Fraser River Sockeye Salmon

During the meeting on Tuesday September 7, the Panel adopted a run size for Summer-run which increased the in-season estimate to 1,550,000 with an associated Area 20 timing of August 14 as well as a proportional Management Adjustment (pMA) of 0.18. As of September 9, 1,508,000 Summer-run sockeye have been observed in escapement plus catch. During the Panel call today the run size for all Fraser sockeye run timing groups remained unchanged however the Management Adjustment for the Summer run was reduced from 0.18 to 0.11 as the 31 day MA model was predicting based on improved in-river migration conditions. At this run size and MA there is still no available International TAC for Summer run sockeye, but does allow for some Food, Social and Ceremonial fishing opportunities in Canada.

At Tuesday's meeting, the Panel adopted a Late-run run size of 320,000 with an associated Area 20 timing of August 18 with an adopted pMA of 1.04. With this increased run size there is still no available harvest for Late run. The accounted run of Late-run sockeye to date estimated to have passed Mission as of September 9 is 229,900. Some of the delaying Late-run sockeye entered the river during the last week with more still expected to come.

Fraser River Pink Salmon

The estimated escapement of pink salmon past Mission through September 9 is 4,612,600. Daily estimates at Mission exceeded 500,000 pinks per day on four of the last six days. At Tuesday's meeting, the Panel adopted an in-season run size of 6,000,000 pink salmon with an associated Area 20 timing of August 19. During today's panel call the pink run size was increased to 6.5 million. No change was made to the timing. Further updates of run size will be dependent on additional confirmation of abundances at Mission.

Migration conditions in the Fraser River

On September 9, the temperature of the Fraser River at Hope was 17.3°C, which is 1.1°C above average for this date. The Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 1,580cms, which is 30% lower than average for this date and close to the historical minimum. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will remain at or below the historical average temperature, and discharge is forecast to decrease to 1,437cms over the next 6 days, which is also below the historical average for this time of year.

At Big Bar, the discharge is close to the historical minimum. All salmon arriving at Big Bar seem to be able to pass the slide using the nature-like fishway and there is little or no delay in upstream migration. As of September 8, a

total of 1,595,284 salmon have been detected at the Churn Creek telemetry site 40km upstream of Big Bar. Following a period where abundances at Big Bar was tracking well above Mission (August 27 to September 3) recent abundances at Big Bar have been tracking predicted abundances based on Mission hydroacoustic data and the proportion of the run expected to migrate past Big Bar (September 4 to 6). A total of 932 salmon have been radio tagged to date and 22 of those tags have been applied to pink salmon to monitor whether these fish continue towards the slide site and whether they are entering other tributaries.

Escapement Update

The counting fence at Scotch Creek has counted 13,695 sockeye past the fence and sockeye are in peak spawning. Cyclic visual surveys began for the Early Summer populations in the North/South Thompson system on August 16 and sockeye are in peak spawning. Cyclic visual surveys in the Upper Chilliwack River report that sockeye are nearing the end of peak die-off and sockeye in the Nahatlatch River are in peak spawning. Sockeye in the Upper Pitt River are nearing peak spawning. The Nadina River spawning channel is operational and 2,480 sockeye have been counted into the channel and are in the early stages of spawning. As of September 4, 8,312 sockeye have been recorded at the Nadina River hydroacoustic site. Carcass recovery surveys began September 2, but only two carcasses recovered. Visual surveys of Gates Creek were conducted August 28 and sockeye were reported to be nearing peak spawning. An aerial survey of the Upper Bowron river and tributaries reported that sockeye were in the early stages of spawning.

The Chilko River hydroacoustic site is operational and as of September 7 a total of 387,266 sockeye have been estimated into the system and are reported to be holding. The Quesnel River hydroacoustic site is operational and as of September 7, 56,958 sockeye have been estimated into the system. Cyclic visual surveys in the Quesnel system began August 25 on the Horsefly River and sockeye are nearing peak spawning. Water levels in the Quesnel system are well below seasonal average. As of September 7, the Stellako River hydroacoustic site has recorded 26,991 sockeye. Cyclic visual surveys started August 17 on the North Thompson and sockeye in the Raft River are nearing the end of peak spawning. The second visual survey of Bridge River was conducted on September 7 and sockeye are in peak spawning. Tagging began on the Tachie River mark-recapture project and 599 tags have been applied. Sockeye are reported to be healthy.

The Birkenhead River hydroacoustic site began operations August 20 and 1,004 sockeye have passed the sonar site as of August 23 and sockeye appear to be in the early stages of spawning. Cyclic visual surveys in the Harrison-Lillooet report that sockeye in Big Silver Creek are in the early stage of spawning and sockeye in Green River and Sampson Creek are nearing peak spawning. The counting fence at Sweltzer Creek (Cultus Lake) was fish tight as of July 26 and three sockeye have been observed through the fence to date.

Regulatory Announcements & Resources

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

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Areas 29-6, 7, 9:

Open for Area B purse seine Assessment fishery from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily from Sunday, September 12, 2021 until Tuesday, September 14, 2021. Limited to 2 vessels, mandatory observers, non-retention of Sockeye. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details).

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Open for drift gillnet fishing from 12 p.m. (noon), Saturday, September 11, 2021, through 12

p.m. (noon), Monday September 13, 2021. Sockeye non-retention, all efforts must be made to release sockeye alive.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A in the area southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the Iwersen Dock on Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the Georgina Point Light at the entrance to Active Pass in the Province of British Columbia: Open for net fishing from 5 a.m., Saturday, September 11, 2021, through 9 a.m., Monday, September 13, 2021. Sockeye non-retention, all efforts must be made to release sockeye alive.

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:

Areas 7: Open to reefnet fishing, with non-retention of sockeye, from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, September 11, 2021 and 5 a.m. to 9p.m., Sunday, September 12, 2021.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on September 13. 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: Ron Charles, Vice-Chair, Fraser River Panel

2021 Run status of Fraser sockeye salmon

Date: Sep. 10, 2021

Week of: Sep. 5 - Sep. 11, 2021	Sockeye				Pink	
	Management Group				Total	Total
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	Fraser	Fraser
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) ¹	69,200	112,900	1,496,000	228,000	1,906,100	4,612,600
Catch downstream of Mission	500	1,400	12,000	1,900	15,800	187,700
Accounted run-to-date	69,700	114,300	1,508,000	229,900	1,921,900	4,800,200
Run size adopted in-season ¹	69,000	115,000	1,550,000	320,000	2,054,000	6,500,000
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	5-Jul	4-Aug	14-Aug	18-Aug		19-Aug
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: Sep. 10, 2021

Week of: Sep. 5 - Sep. 11, 2021		Sockeye		Pink	
		Total	Fraser	Total	Fraser
Canada		45,574	45,574	5,985	3,029
	Commercial	0	0	130	23
	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	130	23
	H Troll	0	0	0	0
	First Nations	24,256	24,256	5,801	2,953
	Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	24,256	24,256	5,801	2,953
	Marine	0	0	4,667	1,819
	Fraser R.	24,256	24,256	1,134	1,134
	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)	425	425	54	54
	Unsanctioned**	20,893	20,893	0	0
United States		2	2	232,492	182,484
	Commercial	0	0	232,492	182,484
	Treaty Indian (TI)	0	0	103,605	82,801
	All Citizen (AC)	0	0	128,887	99,683
	Treaty Indian Ceremonial & Subsistence (C&S)	2	2	0	0
	All Citizen Recreational	0	0	0	0
	Alaska *	na	na	na	na
Panel-approved Test Fisheries		17,977	17,570	7,256	3,443
	Panel Waters	11,673	11,511	4,157	2,432
	Non-Panel Waters	6,304	6,059	3,099	1,011
Total		63,553	63,146	245,733	188,956

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

** May include unauthorized directed retention or unauthorized bycatch retention in fisheries directed at other species