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No. 11

## WEEKLY REPORT

September 17, 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. Sockeye passage through lower river assessment areas over the last week have mainly consisted of Late run sockeye that initially delayed in the Strait of Georgia but have recently moved into the river.

### **Assessment results**

#### **Fraser River Sockeye Salmon**

As of September 16, 1,541,700 Summer-run and 321,100 Late-run sockeye have been observed in escapement plus catch.

#### **Fraser River Pink Salmon**

The estimated escapement of pink salmon past Mission through September 16 is 7,035,400. Following peak passage observed on September 10 (662,000 pinks), daily passage has declined to around 200,000 per day. Further updates of run size will be dependent on additional confirmation of abundances at Mission.

### **Migration conditions in the Fraser River**

On September 16, the temperature of the Fraser River at Hope was 15.5°C, which is 0.3°C above average for this date. The Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 1,699cms, which is 18% lower than average for this date. 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 1,599cms over the next 6 days, which is 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 15, a total of 1,766,200 salmon have been detected at the Churn Creek telemetry site 40km upstream of Big Bar. In recent days, 35% of the salmon migrating past Big Bar are expected to be pink salmon. A total of 1,002 salmon have been radio tagged to date.

### **Escapement Update**

The counting fence at Scotch Creek has counted 14,276 sockeye past the fence and sockeye are past peak spawning and the fence has been removed for the season. Cyclic visual surveys began for the Early Summer populations in the North/South Thompson system on August 16 and sockeye are past peak spawning. Cyclic visual surveys in the Upper Chilliwack River report that sockeye are past peak spawning and in the Nahatlatch River sockeye are nearing the end of peak spawning. Sockeye in the Upper Pitt River are in peak spawning. The Nadina River spawning channel is operational and 4,375 sockeye have been counted into the channel and are nearing peak spawning. As of September 1, 11,145 sockeye have been recorded at the Nadina River hydroacoustic site. Carcass recovery surveys began September 2, and 15 carcasses have been recovered. Visual surveys of Gates Creek report that sockeye are past peak spawning. An aerial survey of the Upper Bowron river and tributaries reported that sockeye were nearing the end of peak spawning.

The Chilko River hydroacoustic site is operational and as of September 7 a total of 715,709 sockeye have been estimated into the system and are reported to be in the early stages of holding. The Quesnel River hydroacoustic site is operational and as of September 14, 86,357 sockeye have been estimated into the system. Cyclic visual surveys in the Quesnel system began August 25 on the Horsefly River and sockeye are in peak spawning and in the Mitchell River they are at the start of peak spawning. As of September 14, the Stellako River hydroacoustic site has recorded 64,936 sockeye and sockeye are holding. Cyclic visual surveys started August 17 on the North Thompson and sockeye in the Raft River are past peak spawning. The third visual survey of Bridge River was conducted on September 13 and sockeye are past peak spawning. Tagging began on the Tachie River mark-recapture project and 2,316 tags have been applied. Sockeye are reported to be healthy.

The Birkenhead River hydroacoustic site began operations August 20 and 14,622 sockeye have passed the sonar site as of September 9 and sockeye appear to be nearing peak spawning. Cyclic visual surveys in the Harrison-Lillooet report that sockeye in Big Silver Creek are in peak spawning and sockeye in Sampson Creek are nearing the end peak of spawning. The counting fence at Sweltzer Creek (Cultus Lake) was fish tight as of July 26 and 19 sockeye have been observed through the fence to date and 13 sockeye have been retained for broodstock.

### **Regulatory Announcements & Resources**

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

#### **CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

Area 29-6, 29-7, 29-9 and 29-10: Area B purse seine ITQ fishery closing as scheduled at 8pm on Saturday, September 18, 2021.

Area 29-3, 4, 6: Extend Area H troll ITQ fishery from 11:59pm Saturday September 18, 2021 to 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, September 22, 2021. Sockeye non-retention (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details).

#### **UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Relinquish regulatory control effective 23:59 p.m., Saturday, September 18, 2021, as previously scheduled.

Areas 6, 6A, and 7: Relinquish regulatory control effective 11:59 p.m., Saturday, September 18, 2021.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on September 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 <a href="https://www.psc.org/publications/fraser-panel-in-season-information/test-fishing-results/">https://www.psc.org/publications/fraser-panel-in-season-information/test-fishing-results/</a>
DFO's Environmental Watch program	<a href="http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw-rfo/index-eng.html">http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw-rfo/index-eng.html</a>
Province of B.C.: Big Bar Landslide Incident	<a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/fish/fish-passage/big-bar-landslide-incident?keyword=big&amp;keyword=bar&amp;keyword=landslide">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/fish/fish-passage/big-bar-landslide-incident?keyword=big&amp;keyword=bar&amp;keyword=landslide</a>
DFO: Salmon counts at the Big Bar landslide site	<a href="https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pacific-smon-pacifique/big-bar-landslide-eboulement/smon-count-denombrement-eng.html">https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pacific-smon-pacifique/big-bar-landslide-eboulement/smon-count-denombrement-eng.html</a>

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. 17, 2021

Week of: Sep. 12 - Sep. 18, 2021	Sockeye				Pink	
	Management Group				Total	Total
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	Fraser	Fraser
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) <sup>1</sup>	69,200	113,700	1,529,600	319,200	2,031,700	6,824,000
Catch downstream of Mission	500	1,400	12,100	1,900	15,900	211,500
Accounted run-to-date	69,700	115,100	1,541,700	321,100	2,047,600	7,035,400
<b>Run size adopted in-season <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>69,000</b>	<b>115,000</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>2,054,000</b>	<b>6,500,000</b>
Run size forecasted pre-season	18,000	108,000	1,046,000	159,000	1,331,000	3,009,000
<b>Area 20 timing adopted in-season</b>	<b>5-Jul</b>	<b>4-Aug</b>	<b>14-Aug</b>	<b>18-Aug</b>		<b>19-Aug</b>
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	5-Jul	24-Jul	5-Aug	13-Aug		25-Aug

<sup>1</sup> 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. 17, 2021

Week of: Sep. 12 - Sep. 18, 2021		Sockeye		Pink	
		Total	Fraser	Total	Fraser
<b>Canada</b>		<b>55,205</b>	<b>55,205</b>	<b>18,088</b>	<b>14,245</b>
<b>Commercial</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,430</b>	<b>7,436</b>
	B Purse Seine	0	0	8,300	7,413
	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
<b>First Nations</b>		<b>32,796</b>	<b>32,796</b>	<b>9,406</b>	<b>6,557</b>
	Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	32,796	32,796	9,406	6,557
	Marine	0	0	4,667	1,819
	Fraser R.	32,796	32,796	4,739	4,739
	Economic Opportunity (EO) & Demonstration (Demo)	0	0	0	0
	Marine	0	0	0	0
	Fraser R.	0	0	0	0
<b>Recreational</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	Marine	0	0	0	0
	Fraser R.	0	0	0	0
<b>Charter (Albion gillnet test fishery)</b>		<b>433</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>252</b>
<b>Unsanctioned**</b>		<b>21,976</b>	<b>21,976</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>United States</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>246,578</b>	<b>196,107</b>
<b>Commercial</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>246,578</b>	<b>196,107</b>
	Treaty Indian (TI)	0	0	115,914	93,933
	All Citizen (AC)	0	0	130,664	102,173
<b>Treaty Indian Ceremonial &amp; Subsistence (C&amp;S)</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>All Citizen Recreational</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Alaska *</b>		<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>
<b>Panel-approved Test Fisheries</b>		<b>18,114</b>	<b>17,707</b>	<b>7,804</b>	<b>3,991</b>
<b>Panel Waters</b>		<b>11,760</b>	<b>11,598</b>	<b>4,581</b>	<b>2,856</b>
<b>Non-Panel Waters</b>		<b>6,354</b>	<b>6,109</b>	<b>3,223</b>	<b>1,135</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>73,321</b>	<b>72,914</b>	<b>272,470</b>	<b>214,343</b>

\* 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