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No. 9

WEEKLY REPORT

September 8, 2023

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

Assessment results

Fraser River Sockeye Salmon

As of September 7, 1,561,600 Fraser River sockeye salmon have passed Mission, which is very close to the preseason median forecast of 1,564,000. The current in-season run size estimate for total Fraser River sockeye based on adopted run size estimates for the individual management groups is 1,606,000 sockeye. Observations of Late run in in-river test fisheries has been increasing and approximately 103,000 Late run sockeye are estimated to still be delaying their entry into the Fraser River. In general, delayed upstream migration of Late run stocks increases the probability of successful migration to the spawning grounds given the lower water temperatures later in the season.

Fraser River Pink Salmon

The abundance of pink salmon entering the river has increased substantially in the last week and substantial numbers of pink salmon have also been observed passing Qualark and Hells Gate. To date, 5,089,900 pink salmon have been observed migrating past Mission.

Migration conditions in the Fraser River

As of September 7, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 1,561 cms and remains similar to the historical minimum. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark has been declining given the time of the year but remains high and similar to historical maxima at 17.7°C. Over the next 10 days temperatures are however expected to remain stable at 17.4°C.

Escapement Update

The counting fence at Scotch Creek has been operational since August 11 but no sockeye have passed through. As there is an evacuation order due to wildfires, the fence was left open August 17 to allow for fish passage until crews are able to access the site. An aerial survey and ground survey is scheduled this week. Visual surveys in the North/South Thompson system began August 17 and wildfire restrictions in the South Thompson are subsiding to allow for surveys that were temporarily suspended. In the Upper Barriere, sockeye are predominantly spawning. In the lower Fraser, visual surveys on the Upper Chilliwack River started August 1 and water levels are characterized as very low for this time of year. Sockeye in the upper Chilliwack River have started to die off in the upper reaches, but are still in peak of spawn in the lower reaches. Surveys of the Nahatlatch River and the Nahatlatch Lake system continue to be suspended due to wildfire activity, but an aerial survey is scheduled. As of September 5 an estimated 85,823 sockeye have migrated past the Nadina hydroacoustic site. As of September 6, 15,818 sockeye have been loaded into the channel and they appear to be healthy. Sockeye in the upper Bowron River are reported to be entering peak spawning. A visual survey of Gates Creek was conducted September 2 and sockeye are in the early stages of spawning.

At the Chilko River and Quesnel River hydroacoustic sites 162,860 and 38,798 sockeye have migrated past the respective sites as of September 5. Visual surveys in the Quesnel system began August 23 and observed sockeye in Horsefly River are primarily holding with some early stages of spawning observed. At the Stellako River hydroacoustic site, an estimated 102,756 sockeye have migrated past the site as of September 5. Sockeye observed in the Raft River during visual surveys of the North Thompson system are in or approaching peak spawning. A survey of the Bridge River on September 5 indicates sockeye are primarily spawning.

The Birkenhead hydroacoustic site has been operational as of August 16 and 9,329 sockeye have passed as of September 5. A visual survey in the Harrison-Lillooet area indicated sockeye in Big Silver Creek were primarily holding. The counting fence at Sweltzer Creek (Cultus Lake) has been fish tight since July 25 and night video recording started July 27. One sockeye has been counted through the fence and three sockeye have been retained for broodstock as of September 4. The water temperature is 21.0°C.

Regulatory Announcements & Resources

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

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Areas 29-3, 29-4, and 29-6: Open for Area H troll ITQ fishery not earlier than 00:01 Saturday, September 2, 2023. Non-retention of sockeye. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details)

Areas 29-3, 29-4, 29-6, 29-7, 29-9 and 29-10: Open for Area B seine ITQ fishery not earlier than 06:00 Sunday, September 3, 2023. Non-retention of sockeye. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details)

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY TRIBAL FISHERY:

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Relinquish regulatory control effective 11:59 p.m., Saturday, September 9, 2023.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Extend for net fishing from 9 a.m., Saturday, September 9, 2023 through 9 a.m., Wednesday, September 13, 2023. Sockeye must be released.

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: Open for purse seine fishing 5:30 a.m. through 9 p.m., Saturday, September 9, 2023; 5:30 a.m. through 9 p.m., Sunday, September 10, 2023; 5:30 a.m. through 9 p.m., Monday, September 11, 2023; and 5:30 a.m. through 9 p.m., Tuesday, September 12, 2023. Sockeye must be released.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open for drift gillnet fishing from 8 a.m. through 9 p.m., Saturday, September 9, 2023; 8 a.m. through 9 p.m., Sunday, September 10, 2023; 8 a.m. through 9 p.m., Monday, September 11, 2023; and 8 a.m. through 9 p.m., Tuesday, September 12, 2023. Sockeye must be released.

Area 7: Open for reef net fishing 5:30 a.m. through 9 p.m., Saturday, September 9, 2023; 5:30 a.m. through 9 p.m., Sunday, September 10, 2023; 5:30 a.m. through 9 p.m., Monday, September 11, 2023; and 5:30 a.m. through 9 p.m., Tuesday, September 12, 2023. Sockeye must be released.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on September 12. 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 [Fraser Panel In-Season Information - Pacific Salmon Commission \(psc.org\)](#) or by subscribing to our eNews [Pacific Salmon Commission \(list-manage.com\)](#). Resources and contacts

for fishing schedules, regulations, 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 Test Fishing Results - Pacific Salmon Commission (psc.org)
DFO’s Environmental Watch program	Fraser River environmental watch Pacific Region Fisheries and Oceans Canada (dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Note: For species other than sockeye salmon consult the appropriate regulatory agency regarding fisheries regulations in the Fraser River Panel Management Area.

Contacts

Canada: Adam Keizer, Chair, Fraser River Panel

United States: Jason Gobin, Vice-Chair, Fraser River Panel

2023 Run status of Fraser sockeye salmon

Date: Sep. 8, 2023

Week of: Sep. 3 - Sep. 9, 2023	Sockeye					Total Fraser
	Management Group					
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late		
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) ¹	40,900	322,700	890,300	287,600		1,541,500
Catch downstream of Mission	200	3,900	11,400	4,600		20,100
Accounted run-to-date	41,100	326,600	901,700	292,200		1,561,600
Run size adopted in-season ¹	41,000	335,000	950,000	280,000		1,606,000
Run size forecasted pre-season	23,000	186,000	1,167,000	188,000		1,564,000
Area 20 timing adopted in-season	2/Jul	26/Jul	13/Aug	17/Aug		
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	7/Jul	6/Aug	17/Aug	24/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.

2023 Catch-to-date by fishery

Date: Sep. 8, 2023

Week of: Sep. 3 - Sep. 9, 2023		Sockeye	
		Total	Fraser
Canada		16,662	16,662
	Commercial	0	0
	B Purse Seine	0	0
	D Gillnet	0	0
	E Gillnet	0	0
	F Troll	0	0
	G Troll	0	0
	H Troll	0	0
	First Nations	0	0
	Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	0	0
	Marine	0	0
	Fraser R.	0	0
	Economic Opportunity (EO) & Demonstration (Demo)	0	0
	Marine	0	0
	Fraser R.	0	0
	Recreational	0	0
	Marine	0	0
	Fraser R.	0	0
	Charter (Albion gillnet test fishery)	683	683
	Other**	14,657	14,657
United States		3,881	3,877
	Commercial	0	0
	Treaty Tribes (TRB)	0	0
	All Citizen (AC)	0	0
	Treaty Tribes Ceremonial & Subsistence (C&S)	3,353	3,353
	Other**	528	524
	All Citizen Recreational	0	0
	Alaska *	na	na
Panel-approved Test Fisheries		17,038	16,503
	Panel Waters	11,514	11,226
	Non-Panel Waters	5,524	5,277
Total		37,581	37,042

* 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