



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY TREATY BETWEEN CANADA
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MARCH 18, 1985

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No. 2

WEEKLY REPORT

July 22, 2016

The Fraser River Panel met today to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye salmon. The migration of sockeye through both marine and Fraser River assessment areas has been low to date. Sockeye catches in both areas have also been at levels less than observed on past cycle years at this time of year, though catches in marine areas have increased in recent days.

Run Status

DNA analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 20 gillnet test fishery, where most of the migration is occurring, indicated Fraser sockeye contributions of approximately 0% Early Stuart, 51% Early Summer-run, and 49% Summer-run sockeye (mostly Harrison). The currently available data is consistent with an Early Stuart return at the lower end of the pre-season forecast range (one in two chance that the return will be between 22,000 and 59,000).

Management Groups

The Early Stuart migration through the marine approach areas is nearing completion. On July 19, the Panel approved a run size estimate at the p25 forecast level of 22,000 with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of July 3. The estimated escapement of Early Stuart run sockeye past Mission through July 21 is 15,200 fish.

Most components of the Early Summer-run group are represented in samples from marine test fisheries. Early indications suggest that the Chilliwack run is tracking below the median forecast level of 138,000 fish if its timing is as expected (median timing through area 20 of July 10), as is the rest of the Early Summer run. The estimated escapement of Early Summer run sockeye past Mission through July 21 is 75,600 fish. Early Summer-run sockeye run-size estimates should be available in late July, after their expected peak migration through marine areas.

The proportion of Summer-run sockeye in marine area samples has increased. Summer-run sockeye run-size estimates should be available in mid-August, after their expected peak migration through marine areas. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through July 21 is 9,200 fish.

Environmental Update

On July 21, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 4,302 cms, which is approximately 12% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark on July 21 was 18.6 °C, which is 1.6 °C higher than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will remain near current levels, while discharge is forecast to decrease to about 4,000 cms over the next 10 days.

Special Announcement

Expected abundance-timing curves for Fraser River sockeye stock-groups based on forecasts provided by DFO have been updated with July pre-season forecasts (Figure 1). The curves supplant those released in Weekly Report No. 1.

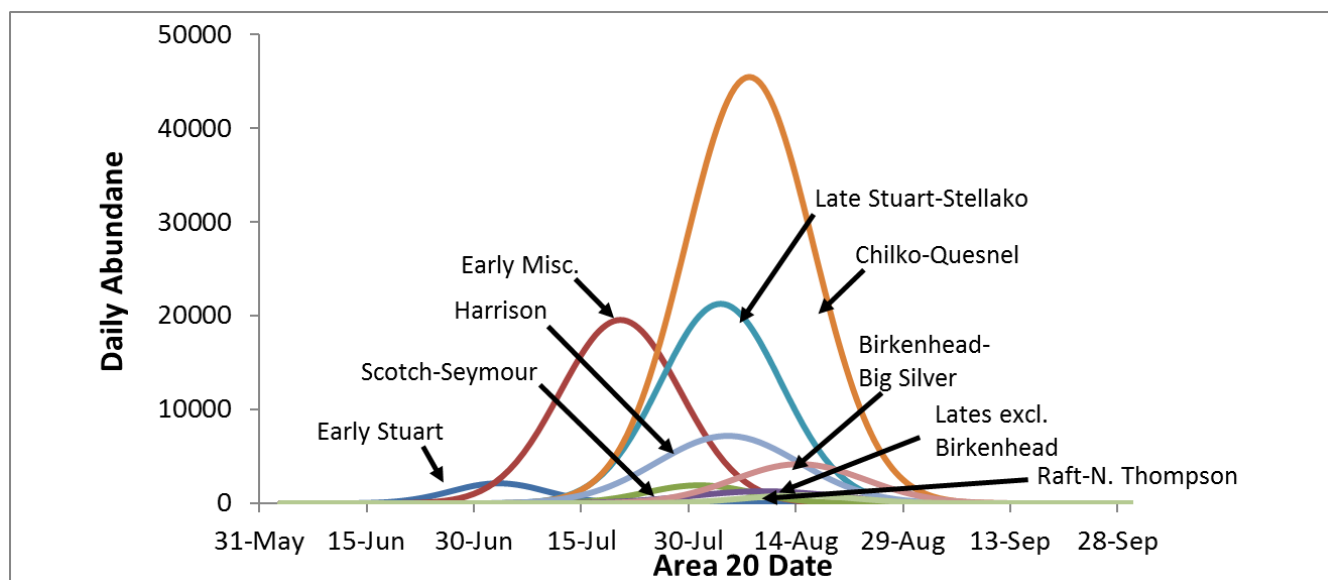


Figure 1. Expected abundance timing curves for Fraser River sockeye.

Escapement Update

DFO has released their pre-season plan for spawning ground assessments (see <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/fraser/docs/Escapement/sockeye-rouge-eng.html>). Brief summaries of DFO's in-season reports on spawning ground arrivals will be provided in this section beginning July 29.

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:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Open to drift gillnets 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, July 23, 2016, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, July 27, 2016.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on July 26. 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/news_frpnews.htm 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

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

2016 Run status of Fraser sockeye

Date: Jul. 22, 2016

Week of: Jul. 17 - Jul. 23, 2016	Sockeye				Total Fraser
	Management Group				
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam)	15,200	75,600	9,200	100	100,100
Catch downstream of Mission	100	1,300	900	0	2,300
Accounted run-to-date	15,300	76,900	10,100	100	102,400
Run size adopted in-season¹	22,000	na	na	na	na
Run size forecasted pre-season	36,000	447,000	1,677,000	111,000	2,271,000
Area 20 timing adopted in-season	3/Jul	na	na	na	
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	3/Jul	21/Jul	6/Aug	14/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.

2016 Catch-to-date by fishery

Date: Jul. 22, 2016

Week of: Jul. 17 - Jul. 23, 2016		Sockeye	
		Total	Fraser
Canada		400	400
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		200	200
	Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	200	200
	Marine	0	0
	Fraser R.	200	200
	Economic Opportunity (EO) & Demonstration (Demo)	0	0
	Marine	0	0
	Fraser R.	0	0
Recreational		200	200
	Marine	200	200
	Fraser R. *	0	0
Charter (Albion gillnet test fishery)		0	0
United States		400	300
Commercial		0	0
	Treaty Indian (TI)	0	0
	All Citizen (AC)	0	0
Treaty Indian Ceremonial & Subsistence (C&S)		400	300
All Citizen Recreational		0	0
Alaska *		na	na
Panel-approved Test Fisheries		2,100	1,800
Panel Waters		1,600	1,500
Non-Panel Waters		400	300
Total		2,800	2,500

* Recent LFA Recreational catches may be projected based on a scalar applied to Mission Escapement.

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