



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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

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No. 3

WEEKLY REPORT

July 29, 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 tracking within the expected range based on the pre-season forecast levels of abundance and pre-season timing forecast. Sockeye catches in both areas have been at levels less than observed on past cycle years at this time of year, though catches in-river have increased in recent days.

Run Status

DNA analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 20 gillnet test fishery indicated Fraser sockeye contributions of approximately 0% Early Stuart, 16% Early Summer-run, and 78% Summer-run sockeye which mostly consists of Harrison, Late Stuart and Chilko fish.

Management Groups

The Early Stuart migration through the marine approach areas is nearing completion. The estimated escapement of Early Stuart run sockeye past Mission through July 28 is 16,700 fish.

All components of the Early Summer-run group are represented in samples from marine test fisheries. Based on median forecast levels, the Chilliwack component (138,000 fish) is expected to contribute the most to the total return of the Early Summer-run sockeye management group (447,000 fish). However, daily abundances of this component continue to track well below the median forecast level of 138,000 fish if its timing is as expected (median timing through area 20 of July 10). Currently daily abundances of the remainder of the Early Summer run group also appear to be tracking less than median forecast expectations. An in-season update of their abundance will not be available until next week. The estimated escapement of Early Summer run sockeye past Mission through July 28 is 146,300 fish.

Summer-run sockeye are now the dominant management group in marine area samples. 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 28 is 75,400 fish.

Environmental Update

On July 28, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 3,868 cms, which is approximately 15% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark on July 28 was 19.3 °C, which is 1.3 °C higher than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will decrease to near average values for the time of year, while discharge is forecast to decrease to below 3,500 cms by the end of the 10 days forecast period.

Escapement Update

DFO reports that the Early Stuart spawning escapement assessment program has begun. The first sockeye was observed in the terminal areas on July 23 and cyclic surveys began yesterday. The upper Chilliwack

River hydroacoustics site has been operational since July 20. Sockeye are reported in the early stages of migration into the system with several thousand fish holding at the mouth of the upper Chilliwack River.

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: As previously announced, extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, July 27, 2016, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, July 30, 2016.

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, July 30, 2016, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 3, 2016.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is tentatively scheduled to occur on August 1. 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_frnews.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. 29, 2016

Week of: Jul. 24 - Jul. 30, 2016	Sockeye				Total Fraser
	Management Group				
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam)	16,700	146,300	75,400	700	239,100
Catch downstream of Mission	100	3,400	4,600	200	8,300
Accounted run-to-date	16,800	149,700	80,000	900	247,400
Run size adopted in-season ¹	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. 29, 2016

Week of: Jul. 24 - Jul. 30, 2016		Sockeye	
		Total	Fraser
Canada		3,700	3,700
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		3,400	3,400
	Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	3,400	3,400
	Marine	700	700
	Fraser R.	2,800	2,800
	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)		100	100
United States		1,800	1,700
Commercial		1,000	900
	Treaty Indian (TI)	1,000	900
	All Citizen (AC)	0	0
Treaty Indian Ceremonial & Subsistence (C&S)		900	800
All Citizen Recreational		0	0
Alaska *		na	na
Panel-approved Test Fisheries		5,000	4,600
Panel Waters		3,700	3,400
Non-Panel Waters		1,300	1,200
Total		10,600	9,900

* 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.