



600 – 1155 ROBSON STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6E 1B5
TELEPHONE: (604) 684-8081
FAX: (604) 666-8707

No. 1

WEEKLY REPORT

July 11, 2025

The Fraser River Panel (Panel) of the Pacific Salmon Commission has developed management plans for 2025 Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon fisheries in Panel Area waters and met today to review in-season assessment data.

Pre-season Expectations

In February 2025, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) provided forecasts of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon abundance to the Panel. DFO also provided an explanation for setting sockeye and pink spawning escapement targets at different run sizes.

The 2025 forecasts for Fraser River sockeye salmon are subject to considerable statistical uncertainty and exhibit significant variability. The total Fraser sockeye median forecast (50% probability level; p50 forecast) is 2,974,000 fish, which is similar to the cycle average. To put the forecast uncertainty into context, there is a one in four chance that the post-season estimate of returning sockeye will be less than 1,404,000 fish (25% probability level; p25) and there is a one in four chance that the post-season estimate of returning sockeye will be greater than 6,392,000 fish (75% probability level; p75). For pre-season planning purposes, the Panel used the median Fraser sockeye forecast abundance for all management groups, recognizing that there is an equal probability of the post-season estimate being higher or lower than the median forecast.

The p50 forecast for Early Stuart sockeye is 116,000 fish (ranges from 72,000 to 202,000 fish at the 25% and 75% probability levels, respectively). The p50 forecast for Early Summer-run sockeye is 220,000 fish (ranges from 103,000 to 449,000 fish at the 25% and 75% probability levels, respectively). The p50 forecast for Summer-run sockeye is 2,137,000 fish (ranges from 992,000 to 4,748,000 fish at the 25% and 75% probability levels, respectively), with Chilko and Late Stuart sockeye expected to contribute nearly 72% to the total Summer-run sockeye return. The p50 forecast for Late-run sockeye is 468,000 fish (ranges from 237,000 to 993,000 fish at the 25% and 75% probability levels, respectively), with Birkenhead and Weaver sockeye expected to comprise 83% of the total Late-run return.

The pre-season forecast for Fraser River pink salmon is traditionally highly uncertain, due to variability in both freshwater and marine survival rates, combined with shifts in adult enumeration methodology over time. In 2024, the fry outmigration was the highest on record, but the discharge at freshet was the lowest on record which may have increased fry catchability. For pre-season planning, the Panel used the p50 forecast of 27 million fish, which would be the highest return on record if it materializes. To put the pink run size forecast uncertainty into context, there is a one in four chance that the post-season estimate of returning pink salmon will be at or below the 25% probability level forecast of 17.7 million fish and there is a one in four chance that the post-season estimate of returning pink salmon will be at or above the 75% probability level forecast of 39 million fish.

Marine timing expectations are based on historic time series of migration timing as well as environmental time series and statistical models. The 50% migration timing of Early Stuart sockeye through Area 20 is forecasted to be July 8, which is later than the median timing of July 4 (1982-2024). The 50% timing forecast for Chilko sockeye through Area

20 is August 14, which is five days later than the median timing (1982-2024). Chilko sockeye run timing is used to forecast timing for Early Summer, Summer-run and Late-run sockeye. The forecasted proportion of Fraser River sockeye salmon diverting their migration through Johnstone Strait is 64% (range: 55 to 70%). The forecasted migration timing for Fraser River pink salmon is August 21, with estimates ranging from August 18 to August 22. The preliminary forecast for the diversion rate of pink salmon is 73%. Given that the best diversion rate forecast models for pink salmon rely on June environmental data, the diversion rate forecast will be updated in mid-July.

Pre-season expected abundance-timing curves for Fraser River sockeye stock groups and pink salmon are shown below (Figure 1). Overall, sockeye and pink salmon migration overlap substantially. The expected run size and timing for Fraser sockeye and pink salmon may change as forecasts are updated based on in-season data.

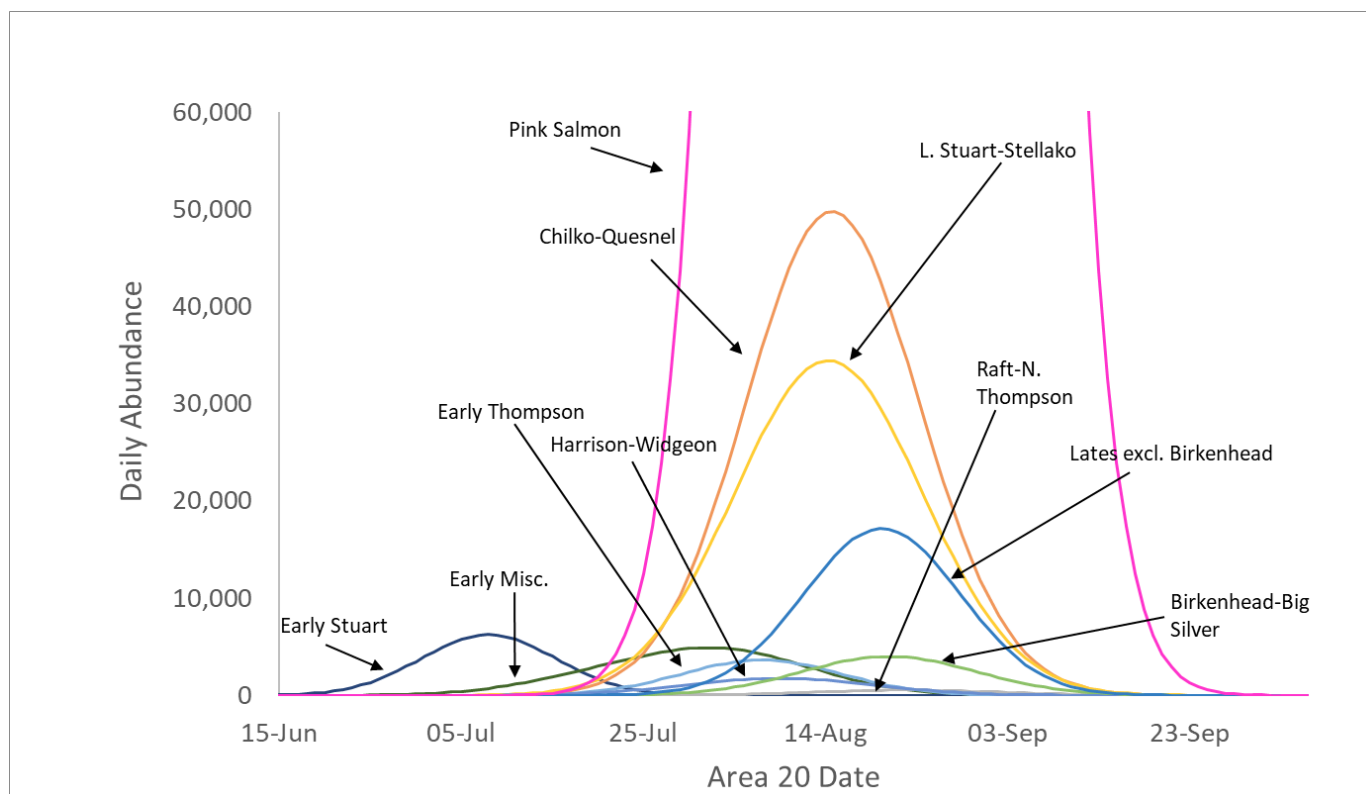


Figure 1. Expected abundance timing curves for Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon.

Migration conditions in 2025 are expected to be challenging. Flow in the upper Fraser River is the main driver for the discharge at Hope during the mid-summer period. As of June 1, the snowpack was low throughout the watershed. Fraser River discharge levels are forecast to be below historic mean levels during the sockeye migration period. Air and water temperatures are forecast to be above average this summer and the expected low flows will decrease the water temperature buffering capacity to hot or cool weather. Also, extensive smoke from wildfires can influence air to water heat transfer processes.

A major landslide occurred on the Chilcotin River on July 30, 2024 that dramatically and immediately impacted sockeye and Chinook returning to the Chilcotin watershed to spawn. In response to the slide, the T̓ilhqot̓in National Government (TNG) formed a technical tripartite Emergency Salmon Task Force comprised of BC, DFO and TNG's indigenous technical partner, the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance (UFFCA) to assess the impacts on returning salmon and prepare mitigation measures to reduce risks and impacts for the 2024 salmon season. Post-season analysis has shown that the landslide had significant negative impacts on both sockeye and Chinook

populations, and the impacts on salmon abundance are anticipated to be significant and ongoing for years. TNG and the Task Force initiated refined and expanded monitoring in 2025 to monitor the full suite of returning salmon stocks and associated environmental conditions related to the landslide – critical information to inform both in-season response and recovery planning. In-season updates can be found on the TNG website ([Communications - T̓silhqot̓in National Government](#)). Frequent in-season updates to the Fraser River Panel will ensure the Panel will be able to take the migration conditions in the Chilcotin River into account when making fisheries management decisions.

Management Constraints and Expectations

The escapement targets and forecasts for the different management groups of Fraser River sockeye has been a dominant factor in developing the pre-season fishing plans for 2025. The median forecasts and Canada's escapement targets for Early Stuart and Late run management groups are small enough to trigger the implementation of a low abundance exploitation rate (LAER) for these groups, which significantly restricts directed sockeye harvest opportunities. While there is limited harvestable surplus for Early Summer and Summer run (less than 10,000 sockeye at the median forecast), there is not enough for international TAC. Under these conditions, the Fraser River Panel will prioritize achieving Fraser sockeye escapement goals. Given the constraints imposed by low returns to all management groups and the potential for adverse Fraser River conditions, pre-season plans were developed assuming that both Canada and the United States do not expect to have TAC for sockeye salmon at the median forecast.

International TAC is forecast for pink salmon under Canada's escapement plan at the median forecast but given run timing overlap between retuning sockeye and pink salmon, pink-directed fisheries will also be constrained to limit fishing induced mortality of Fraser sockeye. Conservation concerns for other species and stocks as identified by Canada and the United States will be taken into account throughout the management season.

If in-season conditions are consistent with pre-season expectations, low impact fisheries directed at pink salmon would be expected to commence in late August in Panel Waters. The actual start dates, and duration of fisheries will depend on in-season estimates of timing, abundance, diversion, and agreed management adjustments as well as concerns for other co-migrating species.

Test fishing and stock identification information

Marine test fishing in Area 12 and Area 20 commenced on July 8 and 10, respectively. Catches in both Area 20 and 12 have exceeded catches in recent years on the same cycle. The majority of sockeye en-route to the Fraser River are predominately migrating through the Juan de Fuca Strait route rather than through Johnstone Strait, as is typical this early in the season. DNA results from data recently collected from the Whonnock gill net test fishery will be available next week, but scale information of the same samples indicates Fraser River sockeye contributions of 98% Early Stuart, and 2% Early Summer. Gillnet test fishing began in the Fraser River on June 25 in Area 29d (Whonnock) and July 10 in Area 29b (Brownsville Bar). In-river catches have increased in the last week and exceed catches in recent years and are dominated by Early Stuart fish. Hydroacoustic estimates commenced July 4 at Mission. Daily in-season test fishing catch updates are available on the PSC website in an interactive visual application ([Fraser River Data Application](#)).

In-season Assessment Information

The Early Stuart migration through marine areas and in the Fraser River seem to be exceeding the preseason median forecast (116,000). Early Stuart may however experience major migration challenges with the Fraser River given the high temperatures and extremely low discharge (see next section). At this point, the management of Early Stuart remains in a low abundance exploitation rate (LAER) regime, meaning that no fisheries will be directed at Early Stuart sockeye.

Migration Conditions in the Fraser River

On July 10, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 3,318 cubic meters per second (cms), which is below previously recorded minimum discharge levels and approximately 42% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Hope on July 10 was 17.6°C, which is 1.5°C higher than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will increase to 18.3°C, while discharge is forecast to decrease to about 3,021cms over the next 10 days.

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:

Remain closed to commercial salmon fishing.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on July 15. 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 \(list-manage.com\)](#). 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 Tribes)	1-800-562-6142
United States fishing schedules (All Citizen)	1-800-662-9825 Option 1
Canadian fisheries opening and closures	604-666-2828 1-866-431-3474 (toll free)
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 or pink 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

2025 Run status of Fraser sockeye and pink salmon

Date: Jul. 11, 2025

Week of: Jul. 6 - Jul. 12, 2025	Sockeye				Pink	
	Management Group				Total	Total
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	Fraser	Fraser
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) ¹	302,900	6,800	0	0	309,700	0
Catch downstream of Mission	600	0	0	0	600	0
Accounted run-to-date	303,500	6,800	0	0	310,300	0
Run size adopted in-season ¹	na	na	na	na	0	na
Run size forecasted pre-season	116,000	221,000	2,136,000	468,000	2,941,000	27,000,000
Area 20 timing adopted in-season	na	na	na	na		na
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	8/Jul	3/Aug	15/Aug	20/Aug		0/Jan

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.

2025 Catch-to-date by fishery

Date: Jul. 11, 2025

Week of: Jul. 6 - Jul. 12, 2025		Sockeye		Pink	
		Total	Fraser	Total	Fraser
Canada		31	31	0	0
	Commercial	0	0	0	0
	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	0	0
	H Troll	0	0	0	0
	First Nations	0	0	0	0
	Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	0	0	0	0
	Marine	0	0	0	0
	Fraser R.	0	0	0	0
	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)	31	31	0	0
	Other**	0	0	0	0
United States		0	0	0	0
	Commercial	0	0	0	0
	Treaty Tribes (TRB)	0	0	0	0
	All Citizen (AC)	0	0	0	0
	Treaty Tribes Ceremonial & Subsistence (C&S)	0	0	0	0
	Other**	0	0		
	All Citizen Recreational	0	0	0	0
	Alaska *	na	na	na	na
Panel-approved Test Fisheries		1,170	950	0	0
	Panel Waters	761	664	0	0
	Non-Panel Waters	409	286	0	0
Total		1,201	981	0	0

* 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