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No. 2

WEEKLY REPORT

July 18, 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.

Test fishing and stock identification information

For the season to date, test fishing catches have been relatively abundant and dominated by Early Stuart and some Early Summer and Summer run. 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 analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 20 gillnet test fishery indicated Fraser River sockeye contributions of 72% Early Stuart, 16% Early Summer and 12% Summer run. 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 the marine approach areas appears to be winding down, and 586,100 Early Stuart are estimated to have passed Mission through July 17. Early Stuart abundance through marine areas and in the Fraser River has greatly exceeded preseason expectations, given the median forecast of 116,000 sockeye, as well as the abundance in the 2021 brood year of 79,000 sockeye. This is the highest return for Early Stuart since 1997 and implies well above average productivity for Age-4 fish, which is the predominant age of returning Early Stuart fish this year. Early Stuart may however experience major migration challenges in the Fraser River given the high temperatures and extremely low discharge (see next section). Early Stuart is considered an endangered stock by COSEWIC ([2021](#)) and the higher than expected returns this year will be an important boost to stock rebuilding efforts. Based on Canada's spawning escapement plan, these fish will remain managed in a low abundance exploitation rate (LAER) regime. At today's meeting, the Panel adopted an Early Stuart run size of 725,000 with an associated Area 20 timing of July 6. In addition, they adopted a proportional Management Adjustment (pMA) of 1.86 which takes into account that based on past years with similarly high water temperatures, 65% of the run may not make it to the spawning grounds.

Thus far, limited Early Summer run sockeye have been observed, both in marine areas and in the river. A total of 5,100 Early Summer run are estimated to have passed Mission through July 17. However, these abundances are in-line with preseason expectations given the median forecast of 221,000 sockeye and the forecasted run timing of August 3.

Migration Conditions in the Fraser River

On July 17, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 3,593 cubic meters per second (cms), and approximately 32% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Hope on July 17 was 18.7°C, which is 1.9°C higher than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will decrease to 18.3°C, while discharge is forecast to decrease to about 3,478 cms over the next 10 days.

At the Chilcotin River, there is continued elevated turbidity downstream of the slide site (Farwell Canyon), as well as elevated turbidity in the Fraser River downstream of the Chilcotin River confluence compared to upstream of the confluence. High turbidity can have an impact on fish migration and health. However, fish passage rates continue to increase past the slide area. More detailed in-season updates can be found on the TNG website ([Communications - T̓ilhqot̓in National Government](#)).

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 22. 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. 18, 2025

Week of: Jul. 13 - Jul. 19, 2025	Sockeye				Pink	
	Management Group				Total	Total
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	Fraser	Fraser
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) ¹	586,100	5,100	900	0	592,100	0
Catch downstream of Mission	3,400	200	100	0	3,700	0
Accounted run-to-date	589,500	5,300	1,000	0	595,800	0
Run size adopted in-season ¹	725,000	na	na	na	725,000	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	6-Jul	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. 18, 2025

Week of: Jul. 13 - Jul. 19, 2025		Sockeye		Pink	
		Total	Fraser	Total	Fraser
Canada		39	39	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)	39	39	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		5,098	4,706	0	0
	Panel Waters	3,758	3,599	0	0
	Non-Panel Waters	1,340	1,107	0	0
Total		5,137	4,745	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